

2018 Honorees

Tracey and Brannon Hershey

Tracey was born in Canada and Brannon was born in Baltimore. Tracey and Brannon are both “retired” -- Tracey worked at Twin Creeks for 6 years and Brannon was with the Houston Fire Department for 33 years. Tracey and Brannon have been married for 31 years and have two sons – Ryan and Casey.

As parents, Tracey and Brannon became involved with 4-H in 1998 when Ryan was in 5th grade and learned about Spring 4-H through a family friend. Between the two boys, they raised rabbits, roasters, broilers, pigs, a goat and numerous arts and crafts/horticulture projects. Casey started out by participating and winning the Pee Wee Showmanship Swine buckle and showed officially from 3rd grade through graduation.

Tracey took on a leadership role with Spring 4-H when Jo Ann Elmore asked her to be Co-Manager in 1999. When Sandra Elmore graduated the next year, Tracey reluctantly stepped up as Manager. Talking in front of a group is not one of Tracey’s favorite things to do so she made sure she had an exceptional officer team to do most of the talking. She enjoyed those years with the officers and how well they ran the Club. At one point Spring 4-H had 75 to 80 members. Tracey and Brannon attribute Spring 4-H’s success at that time to a great group of parents and volunteers - Peggy Townsend, James Turner, Jim and Torri Morell – just to name a few. Tracey served as 4-H leader from 2000-2009. Tracey stated what she enjoyed the most about being a 4-H leader was seeing the kids help each other. Tracey and Brannon have continued at various times over the years to help with 4-H Officer elections and interviews for the 4-H Mahaffey Scholarship.

Both Tracey and Brannon were very active at the 4-H Barn and helped students prepare to show by shearing pigs and lambs. They both recall how long it took to shear their first pig but became pretty good at it after a while. Marsha Cook recalls her daughter Kelsi’s first Tri-Club show and how Tracey and Brannon offered to shear her pig. Being new to the livestock world, it was quite interesting to watch Tracey and Brannon team up and get down and *really* dirty. There is just nothing like the sound of a pig being snared. Tracey remembers when shearing their first pig, the 4-H barn neighbors at the time came over to see what was going on!

Once you become so involved with your Club, it’s only a matter of time before the powers that be at Tri-Club will swoop in and start asking you to help out in preparing for the Show. Before she knew it, Tracey had served on the Auction Committee for about 6 years, which lead to serving on the Entry and Registration Committee for approximately 5 years, and before long Tracey and Brannon were working as a team with Photo Committee (in a couple of stints)

for around 6 years, the Scholarship Committee for 5 years, and the Awards Committee for 4 years. Brannon had the pleasure of lining up exhibitors for Auction for several years. Neither Brannon nor Tracey can recall exactly how many years they each served on Tri-Club Committees because according to Brannon “we just filled in the holes where needed.” And that they did!

Tracey and Brannon just can't seem to stay away. Tracey continues to sit with the Auctioneer during the Live Auction. They both continue to help out during the livestock shows with Tracey announcing the sometimes lengthy rabbit show and Brannon taking on the very difficult task of selecting the Pee Wee Showmanship winners. Tracey and Brannon share that they want to continue to help where needed so that Advisors and Parents can focus on their kids and that if the Show is to continue we need volunteers. Brannon says it has been a fun journey all the way through. They both do such a great job and we appreciate all of their support.

Tracey and Brannon are founding members of the Dirty Dozen Buyers Group. The group has only been around about 4 years but were included in the Top 10 buyers by their second year and were the top buyer in 2017. This is an accomplishment the Hershey's are very proud of. Tracey shares that they helped sponsor a student along with Jim and Torri Morell, Elizabeth Williams and Mark Vasquez and then the next year they decided to form a more formal group to be able to help more students.

If you do not know Tracey and Brannon, that's because they are just quietly in the background helping where needed and stepping up in any way they can to support Tri-Club and our Exhibitors. JT reaffirms this by sharing: “Way back when, too long ago to mention, when my daughter first joined Spring 4-H Tracey was the leader. Tracey was a wealth of knowledge in all things 4-H, and a true role model for my child and many others. She has always made herself available to kids and parents alike. Ready to lend a hand, answer a question or calm a fear. She has even dried a few tears in her time and I'm sure she still does. I honestly think the show barn would implode on show day if she weren't here. Tracey and Brannon are the dream team when they are asked to take on a task during the show. Brannon is ready and willing to pitch in anywhere and in anyway that is needed. He is the calm in the storm and the voice of reason that many children and parents alike have depended on. Through the years Tracey and Brannon have done many jobs for the show, from check-in to load out. As their kids grew up and graduated, they stayed on to help with the show. I believe our show would not be what it is today without them. Tracey and Brannon are founding members of The Dirty Dozen buyers group, and through this group they have expanded their efforts to help the kids of Tri-Club. Tri-Club and its kids are better off because Tracey and Brannon chose to make a difference. I feel like I'm a better person for having the privilege to know them. Most important, I am proud to call them my friends.”

The Spring Tri-Club Officers and Board of Directors are honored to have Tracey and Brannon Hershey as the Spring Tri-Club 2018 Honorees. And we Thank You both for your 20 Years of Service!

