

REGION 9 AHA 2011 HORSEMAN'S AWARDS

NOMINEE BIOS

Adult Amateur 18-39 (Female) –

Jessica Everitt -

I have had a passion for Arabian horses ever since I began riding them ten years ago. When I was younger, we had our horses at our house, so I grew up doing daily chores and riding every day. This taught my sister and I that horses are a privilege and worth working hard for. I currently have a Half-Arabian Country Pleasure horse that competed in the Junior Horse, AAOTR 18-39, and AATR classes at the 2011 Region 9 Regionals. We were thrilled when he earned two Reserve Championships and a Top Five at the show. In the past ten years, I have competed in Country Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Native Costume, Saddle Seat/Hunter Pleasure Equitation, Show Hack, and Sidesaddle. I have won multiple Region 9 Reserve Championships and Top Fives and at the 2010 U.S. Nationals, my first year attending, we earned Top Ten in Half-Arabian Native Costume. My passion for horses has also expanded into my volunteering and career choices. I have volunteered and worked at Waller Equine Hospital for the past two years and still continue to do so when time permits. I am also currently obtaining my undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University and plan to attend Veterinary school there as well. At Texas A&M, I am involved in the Horseman's Association, Pre-Veterinary Society and volunteer at a horseback riding program for disabled children. Along with going to school and continuing to show, my family has started breeding for purebred English horses. We have one yearling now and are expecting two more foals, out of IXL Noble Express and Afire Bey V, for the Spring of 2012. Breeding has made working with Arabians that much more fun and rewarding. I look forward to continuing to work with Arabian horses and to continue to promote the breed in the future.

Rachel Ginter –

I have been involved in horses since the age of 5, fast forward another 5 years and that's when I began showing regionally and nationally. I have been competing at the Region 9 show since I was 10 yrs. old. Throughout the years I have been involved in the Region 9 youth club, and in school I am involved in a sorority. I constantly promote my breed with getting my sisters involved to come out to the shows and watch. When I was a youth I was active in representing Region 9 through the golf cart competition they have at the Youth National Show. Ever since I started showing at Region 9 I have constantly gotten a Top 5 or better at the show. I have gotten 7 National Top Ten's, the most recent from the U.S Nationals in 2010. As an adult I have been Region 9 Reserve Champion and Region 9 Champion and Top 5 in every class I competed in. Even though I am not a youth anymore I still like to take part in the North Texas Arabian Horse Club Youth Group and participate as a Mentor and help the other youth riders with any questions. Being involved in horses is something I always plan to do and something I love very much it's my true passion in life. I collect any and all Arabian Horse Times I can get my hands on. This has been something I've done since I was 10 and I don't plan to stop.

Annalise Himmel –

Annalise Himmel has been involved with showing Arabians since she was three years old. Progressing through all youth divisions, Annalise now competes in Amateur classes in all disciplines. During her youth career, Annalise served as her local club's president, multiple Region 9 youth officer positions including Region 9 Youth Director. On the national level Annalise served as the AHYA Vice President and AHYA President in 2009. Annalise was named second runner up AHA Youth of the Year after being nominated by the Region 9 Youth association for two years. After graduating from the youth division, Annalise became a board member of the Louisiana Arabian Horse Association and continues to help her mom, Debbie Himmel, coordinate the Region 9 Youth activities. Annalise continues her show career while maintaining her studies towards graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training at Nicholls State University. Annalise was recently inducted into the Iota Tau Alpha Gamma chapter for her academic achievements in the classroom. Keeping in tow with her love for leadership, Annalise is currently the Vice President of the Nicholls Student Athletic Training Society. She is also a member of Phi Mu Fraternity. Annalise feels that her love for the Arabian horse has created many opportunities in life, and she knows that she will forever be a part of the Arabian Horse Community and Region 9.

Taylor Kraft –

Up until the end of my term this past August, I was the Region 9 Youth Director for about 2 years. Getting to participate at the AHYA Convention's was a great experience and I enjoyed getting more youth members involved. I have competed in country English pleasure, saddle seat equitation, hunter pleasure and equitation, reining, and hunter over fences. This year I was Top Ten three times at Youth Nationals, and I went Reserve National Champion at Canadian Nationals on a horse I only rode once before the show. At my family's barn at home, I teach beginner riding lessons, and enjoy introducing people to the Arabian Horse that otherwise wouldn't be exposed. I also volunteer as a counselor for my barn's horseback riding summer camp every summer. I graduated from high school in May with Magna Cum Laude honors and at school I was involved in National Honor Society, honor roll, and a club called F.I.S.H, which stands for "Freshmen In Senior Hands". The school's most involved and academically successful seniors help incoming freshmen become accustomed to the major transition into high school and mentor the freshmen. I also work with an organization called Invisible Children, which is a movement that is dedicated to end Africa's longest running war and rescues the child soldiers that are forced into the military force. We fundraise to help rebuild schools, rehabilitation centers, and other necessary things. My high school raised over \$18,000 in two weeks for this organization from our fundraisers that I helped organize and run. I also volunteer at the closest Equine Hospital whenever I have free time to try and learn as much as I can about horses.

Tiffany Meites –

I have been fortunate to be involved with horses for much of my life. As a five year old, I started my show career as a sidesaddle leadline rider with my father's Western pleasure gelding. As a walk-trot rider with my parent's Country Pleasure mare, I learned the basics of showing and won my first National Top Ten. I remained actively involved with showing horses throughout my youth, showing in both Country English and Western Pleasure, winning several regional Top Fives and Championships. Indulging my interest for all things equine, I competed in and won three Top Tens in the Hippology Contest at Youth Nationals. During college, I continued competing in Country English Pleasure. I also rode for the Harvard College Dressage Team my junior and senior year, placing 6th in training level for the region my senior year. In the last four years, I have enjoyed competing with a Half-Arabian mare that my family bred and cheering on my family with their horses. Together we have earned Scottsdale, Regional, and Canadian National placings, e.g., Canadian National Top Ten H/A English Pleasure AAOTR. In addition to riding, recently I have been a freelance writer for two of the major Arabian magazines; I have also written daily blog entries for AHA on U.S. and Canadian Nationals. Currently I am pursuing my Ph.D. in clinical psychology. My research focuses on developing a better understanding of the cognitive risk factors for depression. I am also completing a rehabilitation psychology practicum, where I work with inpatients in a university hospital to identify emotional concerns and complete cognitive screens. I am also training my Papillon to become a therapy dog and earn his first rally title. Finally, I have served on the local Lutheran Campus Ministry Board as vice president for the past 18 months.

Lindsay Williams –

My earliest memories in life involve a Palomino Shetland pony that I had to keep out of the feed bin while my mother fed her horses. I was never very successful. At the age of 3, I wanted to ride, and I'd do it any way I could - even if it meant doing so on an aptly named stubborn Shetland name "Prissy." I've experienced so much joy riding horses, and that joy has presented itself in so many ways. I would not be the person I have come to be today without the many important lessons that Arabians have taught me. I've helped horses that were stolen and slaughter-bound live to see rehabilitation and wonderful lives through an organization that saves horses from illegal slaughterhouses. Watching horses literally come back to life taught me to see that even when everyone else thinks that all hope is lost, it still means something to try. I've seen the joy in children's faces when they get to meet "The Real Black Stallion" on farm visitation day with the Black Stallion Literacy Project. Their excitement when they realize that the world of make believe can exist in the real world has taught me to hold on to even the loftiest of dreams. And showing at the regional and national level with horses others had given up on taught me to put your whole heart into what you are doing, regardless of what others tell you is or is not possible. It seems these lessons have seeped into every facet of my life. Professionally, I am constantly calling on the skills I learned on the back of a horse - keeping a level head, not overreacting to a mistake, and climbing back on after that rather humiliating fall, have all been invaluable lessons learned in a profession that is adversarial by definition. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to continue to ride and show Arabian horses, and I look forward to someday teaching my children all of the wonderful lessons there are to

learn, both in life, and from the back of a horse. There is truly no greater joy in life than sharing a dream come true with an Arabian horse, a dream I hope to share with generations to come.

Adult Amateur 40 & Over (Female) -

Joy Buck –

First and foremost, my passion is breeding and competing with my Arabians in the Western Pleasure and Reining disciplines. Of course, everyone likes to win but that's not what I enjoy the most. I love the camaraderie that exists in our training barn; the "fun" of showing, and the many friendships I've developed as a result of my association in the Arabian breed. Don't get me wrong I do love to win and I have won several Reserve Championships and Top 5 awards on a Regional level. I think I could make a quilt with the many class "A" multi-colored show ribbons I've won. I never tire of seeing Arabian horses that I have bred competing in the show ring with their owners. That is an exhilarating moment for me. Unfortunately, I will not be able to complete this year at the U.S. Nationals in the Western Pleasure Amateur 40+ division because I lost my two best show friends (horses) in a barn fire in August, 2011. It will take some time but you will see me again in the ring working hard to give my fellow competitors a run for their money. Besides my involvement with showing and breeding I do take the time to perform volunteer work to promote our breed. I served as secretary for the Montgomery County Horse Council for 3 years, continually help children in Future Farmers of America (FFA), and actively participate in Region 9 activities, i.e. fund raisers, shows, events. It would mean the world to me to win the Region 9 Horseman's Award for 2011 - Adult Amateur 40 & over (female) category. I hope you will "vote" for me.

Tracy Caruth –

For the past two years, Tracy has set out to make dreams come true for a few very lucky kids. She took them to show at class A shows, then to Regionals and on to Youth Nationals in Albuquerque. In addition to providing outstanding horses for some to ride, and all of the equipment they could possibly need, she also maintained the horses in training. Tracy paid all of the trainer's fees, as well as vet and shoeing costs on her horses. Without Tracy's support, these kids would never have had the opportunity to show a horse to this level. She did this out of the kindness of her heart, to make the dreams of kids come true. The gifts of discipline, encouragement and self-pride are ones that will carry the kids forward for the rest of their lives.

Tracy's love for the Arabian horse extends beyond the show ring. For many years she has worked with the Dallas Mounted Police as a champion for their cause. She has worked tirelessly to promote them and see that their importance is appreciated and maintained. Four of Napitov's sons now proudly patrol the streets of Dallas as members of the Dallas Mounted Police. Each year, Tracy supports the Unit in various ways, to help promote their successes. In 2011 she once again promoted them through the Dallas Irish Festival held at Fair Park. Making it possible for the Unit to be on the Dallas Morning News and center stage as literally thousands poured in for the festival. This year she extended her reach to Albuquerque where she spent a month training with the Mounted Unit, becoming certified to ride with them. She has facilitated the two units to work together both in their training, promotion and sharing ideas.

Another opportunity to expose the general public to the Arabian horse has been through involvement in the Mesquite Rodeo. Tracy has taken one of her National Champion Half Arabians horses and turned him into the official Flag Bearer for the World Famous Mesquite Rodeo. Together they enter the arena to a standing ovation, posting the colors under spotlight as the crowd cheers. Tracy is using this forum to develop a reading program based on the Rodeo which will center on her horse LC Napdancer ("Dude") and Tracy.

While many amateurs are good at riding horses that excel in a particular discipline, Tracy has crossed all boundaries. Tracy is one of the few riders who in the span of just one Regionals or Nationals, has quick changes from Halter, to Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, to Park, and from Costume to Reining.

Through her farm, Caruth Arabians, Tracy has bred a multitude of champions by her outstanding foundation stallion, DA Napitov+/. Producing over 200 foals by Nap out of mares from various breeds, Tracy has made a mark on the Arabian Breed that will stand for many generations of foals to come.

Tracy and her horses have a special bond that makes them successful. This August Tracy's personal horse, that she alone has ridden, CA Mini Mouse, was celebrated as she won the Canadian National Reserve Champion in Half Arabian Native Costume. Just last year they were National Champion in Half Arabian Park. In 2010, Tracy rode her "kids" to Ten United States Equestrian Federation Champions and one Grand Champion Horse of the Year! All of these horses were sired by DA Napitov+/ and bred and ridden by Tracy Caruth.

Tracy gives of herself, her resources and her horses out of love for the Arabian Breed. That love is shared through all of these wonderful ways, unselfishly, expecting nothing in return and for the most part, greatly unrecognized.

Judy Cunningham –

Arabian horses have been a part of my life for 38 years, starting in 1974 with my first horse, a Half Arabian gelding, who won his Legion of Merit. Through the years I've enjoyed the companionship of these amazing horses, whether it's showing or just being with them. I'm now showing a Purebred gelding who was Region 9 Reserve Champion Select AAOTR and Top 5 AAOTR Western Pleasure 55 and Over in 2008. We had two more Top 5's in 2010 and 2011 in the same division also at Region 9. The Amateur division is very competitive, which makes for better riders and horses. I enjoy competing at the local Class A shows where I have had numerous wins and look forward to the Region 9 show. I'm the membership chairman for GCAHC and am serving on the Board of Directors. I also volunteer at S.I.R.E. the therapeutic equestrian organization which is a very rewarding and inspiring experience.

Karlan Downing –

What an honor to be a Nominee! Karlan has shown Arabian & H/A horses for over 54 years, breeding them for 37 years. She currently shows both Main Ring and Sport Horse in Sport Horse Under Saddle, Show Hack, Carriage Driving, Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Trail, Hunter Hack, Sidesaddle, Dressage and In Hand classes. She has numerous wins and Championships this year with her H/A mare in WP and Trail; with her PB Mare in WP, Trail, Hunter Hack, Sport Horse under Saddle, Sidesaddle, Dressage, and Carriage Driving; and with her H/A gelding in Hunter Pleasure, Sport Horse under Saddle, Dressage and Show Hack. She was Top 5 at Regionals with all 3 of her Trail horses, but a hand injury precluded showing at Sport Horse Regionals. She won a US Top Ten in Trail last year at US Nationals. Karlan is very active in Region 9 and AHA activities. She is president of her club, has been a delegate to convention for over 25 years, is on the Youth Foundation Board and the Working Western, Equine Stress, and Sport Horse committees. She works with the Region 9 Stallion Service Auction and donates breedings to her stallions every year & donates items and services to silent auctions. She worked with the Region 9 Horseman Awards for the past 3 years, and headed up fundraising projects for the Sport Horse Regional Show. Despite her rigorous schedule as an Emergency Physician she finds time to invite outsiders to her farm with many new people learning to love Arabian horses. She encourages young riders to show by loaning the use of horses, equipment, and expertise. A young girl who started this year went Regional Championship in Trail Walk/Trot with Karlan's 31 year old gelding. It is hard to say who was most excited - Hannah, her parents, or Karlan!

Linda Fontana –

My years in the Arabian industry have brought me through many aspects of our breed. Earlier years were spent with a heavy involvement in the breeding and veterinary fields. Managing a breeding farm and doing seminars to promote the functioning of a successful breeding program such as; Artificial Insemination, Embryo Transfer and basic mare & stallion care. Many years were spent at U.S. National's promoting through exhibitor booths as well as the show ring. I am currently on the Board of the GCAHC and have served in this capacity for a number of years. I have also attended the Arabian Horse Conventions as a delegate and will be attending this year also. My concerns have always been to support and nurture the Arabian Horse and to contribute to my fellow Arabian community. My involvement with the Gulf Coast Board has brought tasks within our horse shows such as chairing our patron's program and being part of our show committee when needed. We are constantly trying to improve on our programs and having a club that members can be proud of. My career in the show ring has been blessed

with some wonderful horses and I have enjoyed showing in many divisions such as Halter, English, Country Pleasure, Show Hack, Hunter, and western. I have also had National titles in Country, Hunter, Show Hack & Side-Saddle, with the most recent being named, 2010 Reserve National Champion Half-Arabian Country English Pleasure 55 & Over. This year, under the great guidance of Chase Harvill, my gelding and I were named 2011 Region 9 Unanimous Champion in AAOTR Half- Arabian Country Pleasure 40 & Over. The best part of this phase of my life with Arabians is all of the wonderful people that I get to share it with whether it is just riding at the barn or competing on a National level. Our horse community and these amazing horses make it a pleasure every day. It is an honor to have been nominated for this award.

Beth Friske –

My love of Arabian horses began as a young girl, spending summers in Austin with my Granny. I found a photo of her with “Billie, a Half-Arabian bay mare that was my Mom’s babysitter. Granny embroidered “Billie’s” image on my pillow case. I slept on it for years dreaming that I would one day own an Arabian horse. When my daughter’s fifth birthday arrived, she too was dreaming of horses. I took her to an Arabian trainer for her first ride, and the dream became our “girl time”. We began showing in open shows at the old Great Southwest Katy Mansion Arena. We purchased our first purebred gelding in 2003, which led us to the “big A rated” shows, followed by Region 9 Championships and Nationals. I began competing as an Amateur 7 years ago and have been successful in both “A” Rated and Regional competitions showing at both hunt and western seats. I received Top 5 Honors in both 2008 and 2010 in Purebred and Half-Arabian Hunter classes, and will compete at US again in October 2011. In February of 2009, we welcomed our first Arabian foal to our farm. We are proud to be promoting the future of the Arabian breed, and look forward to watching him bloom in Region 9. As a Kindergarten teacher, I enjoy introducing my students to these beautiful and gentle animals. I volunteer at our show barn, organizing area events including our yearly Barn Show & Expo, and Christmas Open House. I also volunteered in 2010 and 2011 at Youth Nationals' Youth Convention and Resale. I have recently volunteered as Youth Coordinator for GCAHC. Our members participated in fund raising for both their club, and the Goslin-Nix Training Center. Thank you for this incredible honor and your consideration.

Debbie Himmel -

Currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Arabian Horse Association, Region 9 youth coordinator, and Chairperson of the AHYA Youth Committee. I love working with the youth of Region 9 and the youth of AHYA, especially as a volunteer for the many AHYA youth activities at Youth Nationals. I also volunteer to help at the AHA National Judging Contest held at US Nationals and a volunteer for the AHYA Silent Auction at AHA Convention. I am proud to be a horse show Mom and am probably better known as Annalise's Mom and Mark's wife. Although I have always enjoyed competing in Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure, and Ladies Sidesaddle, I decided I wanted a new goal and a challenge, so I recently began a new show career competing in HA Country Pleasure Select Rider. I was so honored to have been selected a winner at the 2010 R9 Championship show. I will be showing at my first US Nationals this year. I feel so blessed to have Arabian Horses in my life.

Becky Nash –

I purchased my first Arabian and began showing horses approximately 10 years ago. I currently compete in the Western Pleasure (Half-Arab and Purebred) and Hunter divisions. I have had success at the regional levels and at Scottsdale and have competed at Nationals as well. My husband and I currently own 8 show horses. We have been very active in our barn activities and supporting all of the amateurs that are showing there. This year we “loaned” my purebred Hunter to one of our walk trotters and she won National Champion in the Hunter division and Reserve Champion in the Western Pleasure division at Youth Nationals. We couldn’t have been prouder of her and our precious gelding. Last year at Nationals I coordinated the first annual “Wine Walk” to benefit the Arabian Horseman’s Distress Fund. It was very successful and raised over \$10,000 for the fund. I will be coordinating the event this year again at Nationals and hopefully generating additional donations for the fund. In addition, I am on the charity selection and corporate sponsorship committees for the Arabian Horse Celebration Horse Show that will be held in Louisville, KY in 2012.

Denise Nichols –

I have been breeding, raising, training, and showing Arabian horses for over 20 years. Previous to that I showed for many years as a youth and amateur rider. Horses have always been an integral part of my life as my grandfather bred and raised horses and I showed for him as I was growing up. Since moving to Texas, even my family has been involved in the care and showing of our horses. It is truly a family affair and we try to do the majority of the work ourselves. Due to a health issue, I have not done much showing for the past few years, so I was truly fortunate in 2011 to have some good rides at the Region 9 show in June. My Half- Arabian western horse was Reserve in her class and my Half- Arab country horse earned a Top 5. This October will be the first time for me to show at "Big" Nationals in many, many years. I am really looking forward to it!

Charlotte Runge -

I have been a member of the Arabian Horse Association within Region 9 since 1987. My first involvement with horses began with my children who were actively involved in horse showing for years. I started going to multiple breed shows in order to help decide which breed was best suited for the disciplines that I wanted to show in and found the Arabian horse. Years had passed and the children were now looking to venture into college and that meant that I would have some pretty lawn ornaments. That's when I decided to try and take over showing the horses for myself. Upon announcing my plans to the family they laughed and stated that "Mom, you're going to get killed". I have been fortunate enough to work with many of the trainers within Region 9 that helped me to achieve the success that I set out for. My success has been at the class A and Regional levels. The Arabian horse has fulfilled every dream of horse ownership for each of the disciplines that I have showed in. As each of the horses that I have owned has taken me to the full extent of their ability, I look forward to the purchase of a new prospect to help me further my achievements until I am no longer able to ride. Then I look forward to being able to try and accomplish the endeavor of the breeding aspect of the Arabian horse. I give a big thank you to all my friends and trainers (past, present and future) along with my family members that have inspired me along the way to get to this point in my life. I appreciate the consideration for the nomination of this prestigious award.

Adult Amateur 40 & Over (Male) –

Mark Henson –

Mark Henson began breeding Arabian Horses with his wife, Anne-Marie, in 2003. He began showing in 2008 in the Sport Horse Division. Mark's show career started at the urging of his trainer and coach, Ginny Nokes. Ginny said that with his long legs he needed to be out running horses. Within Mark's first full year of showing he yearned multiple class A championships and 2 National Tops 10's. These wins were with horses that he bred and also with friends horses who asked him to show for them. Mark is a kind a generous person that when someone needs help he is always there. Over the years many competitors who were unable to show their horses have asked Mark to help out and he always has done so and with success. Mark has been successful in the show ring with his own horses as well as his friends. With the horses he owns and has bred he has won 3 Regional Championships, 1 Reserve Regional Championship, 2 Regional Champion Jackpots and a National Top 10 as well as numerous Class A wins. This year at Sport Horse Regionals Mark won 1 Championship, 1 Jackpot Championship, 2 Reserves and a Top 5. Mark lives in Taylor, Texas and his favorite part of showing Arabian horses is watching his children compete and hanging out at the shows with his friends. He also is involved in the community and coordinates Helping Heros every September 11th. This is a service project in which volunteers feed and help around the local fire departments. Mark also volunteered at the Lost Pines Riding club during the Bastrop Fires.

Herbert Meites, M.D. -

For the past 30 years, I have been a member of our local Arabian horse club serving in every capacity from president to show manager. Most recently I have served as a delegate for Region 9 at the AHA National Convention as well as the State Representative to the Regional Board. Additionally, I have helped judge local "playday" shows run by the club and given presentations at club meetings. Over the years I have shown English and Western Pleasure, and Halter winning multiple Regional and National titles, including a U.S. National Top Ten and a Canadian National Halter AAOTH Championship.

Throughout my show career, I have participated in multiple aspects, from building stall fronts to body clipping and grooming my horses. During the years, we have had a small breeding program and sought to produce individuals who are successful both in the halter and the performance arenas. We are now showing the grandchildren of our foundation horses. Our latest four have been shown by my wife, daughter, myself and a youth rider. All have won Regional and National titles, including Region 9 Reserve Champion Show Hack, U.S. National Top Ten H/A Stock/Hunter Gelding, Canadian Reserve Champion H/A English Pleasure Open and Top Ten AAOTR, and Youth Nationals Reserve Champion H/A Show Hack 13 and under; three have obtained their Legion of Honor in the past year. In October we will again show in Tulsa. As I have an interest in understanding the pedigrees of my horses and understanding the differences between the European and North American bloodlines and show presentation, last year my family and I were fortunate to be able to attend the Polish National Show and Sale. When not occupied with our horses, I am a general surgeon and the medical director of the adult burn unit in our state, as well as the director of our wound care and hyperbaric medicine department. I also serve in an advisory capacity on a major medical research company.

Bob Nash –

Neither my wife nor I had ever owned, ridden or shown horses(except on vacation trail rides once every 4-5 years) until approximately 2000. Dale Harvill sold us my first Arab (Kiev) and I began showing in 2001. Very little success with my first three western horses (mostly rider problems), but Becky and I were hooked and we kept trying to find the right horses. Success finally fell on me when we purchased MC Picasso. Three National Top Tens, Region 9 unanimous Champion, Scottsdale Champion and Reserve Champion. Unfortunately, at age 8, he developed serious leg issues and can no longer be ridden. Other than the wins, one of my greatest moments was making my first cut at Nationals and having Josh yell “why are you crying----Oh my God, this is the first time you’ve made a cut”. We were again very fortunate to purchase Mateo and won a Scottsdale Champion and Reserve Champion in our first year. He was off a year, made a great recovery and we are now looking forward to 2011 Nationals. Becky and I have become very active in Josh and Jennifer’s Colonial Wood barn and are trying to become more active at a National level. Last year, Becky coordinated the first annual “Wine Walk” to benefit the “Horseman’s Distress Fund and it was a great success. She is doing it again this year and watch for ME—that idiot “sandwich board person” walking around advertising and coercing people into buying tickets. Last, but not least, we are very proud of Sarah Porter and Prescott (my third western horse that I had trouble riding and currently Becky’s hunter horse). They were “walk trot” National Champion Hunter and Reserve Champion Western. Thanks for the opportunity to participate in your Arab world.

Coach of the Year –

Sterling Bradley –

As a child, I dreamed of riding horses for a living. Today, thanks to a lot of hard work, I am living my dream and enjoying all the challenges that come with it. For me, horses are more of a lifestyle than a just a job. I am a horse show junkie. The competition inspires me, especially the big shows. I have had the pleasure of working with some great youth and amateur riders and have been blessed with some great horses and great owners, as well. Many of my proudest moments have been watching my students realize their goals and dreams. Although I show in all divisions, reining is my passion. Showing reining is a thrill that still gets me pumped every time. With its high-speed maneuvers and precise patterns, there is just nothing like it. Training the Arabian Reiner is a challenge I enjoy. They are physically amazingly capable, as well as sensitive and smart, which I believe helps the rider develop more feel than other breeds. Over the years, I have had numerous Class A and Regional wins, as well as Scottsdale and National Top Tens in reining. Most recently, I was Canadian Reserve National Champion in Half- Arabian Reining.

Kat Stevens –

I have been showing only Arabians since I was ten years old. I started in CT and actually rode for about 5 years and did not show. I rode anything and everything at my cousin’s farm because my parents could not afford a horse for me. In 1994 I went to work for Mary Trowbridge, for 5 years I lived and breathed the Arabian horse business. In 1999, I gave birth to my first child and started my 3 year hiatus from the

horse business. In 2001, I found my way to Texas to take over the reins as performance trainer at a major farm. Again another change came to my life in December 2009 I started my own training business. I attend several shows within Region 9 plus both Region 9 Champs and Region 9 Sport Horse Champs. I am highly active with my adult and youth riders, I believe in instructing the art of riding and basic animal husbandry. I consider these nominations a great honor and happy to have started my business in Texas and also call Texas home.

CJ Wagner –

Although I have 20 years' experience training horses, I started riding horses purely by chance. When I was 17 I saw an ad in the classifieds, "lease a horse for the summer"; I leased that old Appaloosa named Domino, and I was hooked! After graduating from William Woods College in 1991, I went from riding Saddlebreds in college to work with Michele Blackwell-Betten, where I found my love for Arabians and western horses. I have had the opportunity to learn from and work with many respected trainers, and over the years I have had many Regional and National wins for me and my amateurs in several divisions. In 2006 my husband and I decided it was time to start a family, and with that came a hiatus from the horses. My first daughter came later that year, followed by twin girls 19 months later. In 2010 an opportunity arose at an upstart performance horse breeding farm, D&D Farms. I returned to the show scene, getting some horses ready to compete initially just for Cowtown, but ended up continuing on through the season. By 2011 I had a training program firmly in place, and started expanding in both horses and number of shows we were attending. We had a very successful show season in 2011, including wins at A Shows, Region 9, and Youth Nationals. I pride myself on tailoring my training program to fit each individual horse, and evaluating what they need to reach their greatest potential. I love to teach people the theory and mechanics of horses and training; not just what to do to get around the ring, but why certain things work, and other things don't. I feel it is important for amateurs, especially youth, to be proud of their ride and their accomplishments, and not just proud of blue ribbons. Having come from a non-horse family and not growing up around them, I am enjoying introducing my 3 girls to the horses. They have all started showing lead line, and I can't wait for my oldest to start in the walk-trot division in 2012! I feel very fortunate to have been able to pursue my passion of horses again, and am very honored to be recognized with these nominations.

Kathie Williams -

My experience with Arabians has certainly taken a course full of many twists and turns. I believe I am one of the few trainers that started showing as a rank beginner, as an adult. I call my beginnings "Adult Onset Crazy". I was one of "those" people - the passionate, overzealous, bitten hard by the bug of Arabians. I had always wanted Arabians, as a child growing up, but there wasn't any opportunity to explore that passion. When I was 22 years old, I moved to Sunnyvale Texas, and literally woke up one morning and said "I can have a horse". I had just visited the Texas State Fair, and walked thru the barns of the Arabian horse show, and saw these beautiful, exotic creatures and my life was forever changed. I promised myself then and there, I would be at the Texas State Fair, the next year, with my Arabian. I couldn't wait to find my horse. I pictured a beautiful dapple gray Arabian. I knew absolutely nothing about horses. My entire experience consisted of riding horses at a summer camp. I knew nothing. Zero. Zip. Nada. I was so determined I went out and bought a lovely gray Arabian mare named Cartessa. The owner said he could no longer care for her as he had recently broken his leg, and was in a huge cast. I still don't know to this day, why I never asked him the important question of how he broke his leg. I took one look at Cartessa, wrote a check, and bought her on the spot. Then came the thoughts of - now what? I found someone to bring her to my newly selected boarding stable, found a feed store, bought some hay and grain and thought - well that's easy. My new beautiful girl came to her new home. The man unloaded her, and she promptly drug him across the pasture, and with assistance, he and 2 other men, got her in a stall. Over the next few days, I became very skilled at throwing her grain and hay over the top of the stall door so that I didn't have to go inside. I seriously had no clue. Over the next year, I learned that there were horse trainers, lessons, every different kind of equipment. I learned to ride (barely) and I didn't make my goal of the Texas State fair until 2 years later, but I did make it. I showed Cartessa in a 7 horse English pleasure class, and fell off. I tried one more time, and rode to show again.. and I won. I still don't know how. I still have that picture, and for you cynics out there, there were 4 in the class. The very next day, sweet Cartessa, coliced and passed away 5 days later. I have wondered, many times, what would have happened if I had not won that class. If I had not loved that sweet mare so very much. What would have

happened, had I not been that simple minded young lady, who simply believed in a horse. If you would have ever told me then that 20 years later, I would have trained Arabians to over 100 National top 10's, and over a dozen National Championships and Reserves, I would have never believed you. I have started equine rescue groups, years ago, when there were no horse rescue groups. I have worked as President of The Arabian Horse Club of Texas for 4 years. I have helped put on countless Arabian shows. Raised thousands of dollars for various Arabian related projects. I have more blessed experiences than I could ever recount and memories that will keep me smiling for my lifetime. My own children, and many clients children have won over fifty thousand dollars in scholarship money for their college educations. These Arabian horses have changed so many lives for the better. I really liked your suggestion that this award is not a high point award. It's such an honor to be considered for such an award. It seems this award is about what we have contributed towards the goals and dreams of others. This is a philosophy that I believe and try to incorporate in to daily practice. I was that completely unskilled, starry eyed beginner. I know how very much these horses, and these dreams mean to so many people. I do smile, with certainly older, wiser eyes, when that fresh new face comes bouncing into my barn. I always remember where I started and it is a journey I wouldn't have changed for the world. I always tell my riders, I can't promise you where you will go on your journey, but I do promise it will be a wild ride. Thank you for your consideration.

Dressage Competitor –

Natasha Costello –

I started riding when I was 5 years old because my best friend did. From the first moment I was hooked. Even when she quit, I continued with the sport that has changed my life. It was not until I moved to Texas in the 5th grade that I rode my first Arabian horse. My trainer exposed me to many riding disciplines and helped me ribbon at the class A and Regional level. I went to Youth Nationals in 2008 in hunter pleasure, hunter equitation, working hunter, hunter hack, training and first level dressage, mounted native costume, and English show hack with two horses. Receiving 2 Top Tens and some finalist ribbons has been one of the biggest accomplishments of my life. After that show, change came along and I started taking lessons with Mrs. Debbie Cinnotto. Without her, I would still just be sitting and holding the horse together. She has helped me turn my finicky Country Pleasure horse into a willing, happy, Dressage horse. We are currently showing at training and first level with scores in the 60s. At the Regional Sport Horse Championship this July, we Top Fived in all 4 Dressage tests we entered. As a member of the Legacy Arabian Horse Club, I try to go to all of the fun shows that I can. I have shown in them, helped with the gate and ribbons, and worked the concession stand. The fun shows are the perfect way to introduce people to the Arabian breed while having fun. Along with riding horses, I am a flute player in my high school's marching and concert bands. Flute is also something I am really passionate about but it can be hard to balance band and horses. On top of that, I take school very seriously. I keep up my grades and am a part of National Honor Society. Most of my service hours for NHS come from horse related things because doing service for something you love makes it even more enjoyable.

Granger Durdin –

My name is Granger Durdin, and I have been nominated for two separate categories: Dressage Competitor and Sport Horse Competitor of the prestigious Region 9 AHA 2011 Horseman's Award program. I am a 33 year old female (2010) and an active member of the South Central Arabians Club of Texas. My contact information is cell 281-932-3643 and email is Granger@parkwayfamily.com. If I am selected as a finalist, I will be present at the Region 9 Awards Banquet. My family owns a small boarding stable in the Houston Metro area. We have been breeding Arabians since 1982 and moved our operation from Florida in 1989. I love everything about the Arabian breed. Over the years, I have learned many new disciplines in order to present our horses to the public. I work full time in a non-horse related career and my love of my horses is a hobby that I enjoy every day. I advertise our facility in several local and regional magazines, in premium books, division sponsorships, class sponsorships and Sport Horse Regionals. It is important to me to introduce people to the versatility of the breed. I do this through offering our facility and horses to beginners through our lesson program with our resident trainer. As part of community outreach, we also donate lessons for charitable events. It is very important to me to help those less

fortunate. I serve as a Committee Chair and organize two galas a year to raise money for small local charities. I participate in at least six shows a year. We take our boarders and our trainer's clients to local shows. This provides us with a great sense of family and camaraderie. In the past two years, I was Region 9 Sport Horse Champion twice, Reserve Champion eight times and Top 5 eleven times. It is an honor to be considered for these awards!

Wendye Gardiner –

Many class A wins in Dressage through Third level with several show high scores including a National wining reining horse with less than 2 weeks of retraining in Dressage winning 1st and 2nd place awards in his classes. Region 9 Reserve Champion Training Level Dressage as well as Top 5 on a different horse in the same class. Proving the versatility of the breed, took a Western Pleasure champion mare with only one Dressage show to her credit and took Reserve Champion First level Dressage and Top 5 in second level Dressage. Competed in other regions representing Region 9 taking home several top 5's in several levels. Headed to Sport Horse Nationals in Kentucky after a very successful Sport Horse nationals in 2010 in Idaho. Write monthly how-to column for Arabian Horse World covering amateur-friendly advice on how to prepare horses for the show ring, etc. Attend local all-breed shows to advocate the Arabian breed and show that Arabians are wonderful.

Kristen Moore –

I knew my Arabian gelding was talented and smart but he has truly shown me how versatile he is! Just 2 years ago we were competing at Youth Nationals in Show Hack, Native Costume, Side Saddle, etc. and this year we qualified for Youth Nationals in Training AND First Level Dressage! The past year and a half have been an amazing experience for both of us! It was like starting my equestrian skills all over again! I gained a new appreciation for a discipline that I never dreamed I would be competing in! It has been wonderful taking my Arabian to Dressage shows where there aren't many and showing the other competitors that Arabians have the talent to compete and be good at Dressage! He looks so small compared to the Warmbloods and the Hanoverians but he has a big heart and always does the best he can! We even placed 16th at First Level Test 3 at Youth Nationals! I was so proud of him! We have scored in the high 60's on many Tests! At least with Dressage we get feedback from the Judges that helps me know what I need to work on! It's like doing a 5 – 6 1/2 minute equitation pattern, solo in the arena, and no other horses to hide behind! The Judge sees everything! I am so lucky to have the horse that I do! We may not have won many Blue Ribbons in Dressage but I have always believed "I ride for the ride – not the ribbon." I know learning to ride Dressage has made me a better, more complete equestrian! I am a member of the Alamo Arabian Youth Group and I am also involved as "Education Director" with the Alamo Dressage Association Youth Group. We recently volunteered at the "Triple H" therapy horse ranch by helping with chores and taking care of horses. I am currently working on my 3rd Year Varsity Letter Award sponsored by the USEF! I have off-campus P.E. with my horse so we can prepare for competitions. Dressage has allowed me to keep my very first horse a little longer than I expected! I am very thankful for that, because he is the best thing that has ever happened to me!

Halter Handler (Female) –

Jenna Dillin –

Arabians have been part of my life since the day I was born. I vaguely remember my first Half-Arabian Pinto my mom lead me around on until I was four. Then "Powder" came into my life! A little girl couldn't have asked for a better best friend. There isn't much I haven't tried with her, goat tying, barrel racing, bareback, trail riding, and trick riding(when mom wasn't around). Powder and I still take off for adventures every time we get the chance! Last year, I had the privilege of getting my Half-Arabian show gelding named WC Khoronado. Over the past year, he has taught me to be a better rider, a good sport, that winning isn't everything, and to strive to be the best you can be is a prize all on its own. I have had the pleasure of showing halter for past five years and this year was especially fun due to the fact that my mom let me show her nationally decorated purebred mare, WC Ciao Bella. I have won blue ribbons with "Bella", won Region 9 Reserve Champion, and had the privilege of capturing a Reserve National Championship at Youth Nationals this year! When I'm not working at the ranch, I'm pet sitting to help pay for my show fees and show supplies. I also help my elderly neighbors with chores, yard, etc... I am

spending my freshman grade year at Trinity Christian Academy, in Willow Park, TX. I'm a straight A student and love school. I always tell my friends about the Arabian breed and invite them out to the barn. I am a member of the Legacy Arabian Horse Club and try to attend as many meetings as possible. I enjoy volunteering at shows in our region. I will always love the Arabian breed and promote them as well as I can.

Wendye Gardiner -

Several Class A show championships in Purebred mares, Purebred Stallions, Half- Arab mares, Region 9 Champion Half-Arabian Sweepstakes Filly, Champion Stallion service Auction Filly, Top 5 Purebred Sweepstakes Fillies, Top 5 Purebred Sweepstakes colts, Top 5 Purebred Stallion and Top 5 Half-Arabian mare. Write monthly how-to column for Arabian Horse World covering amateur-friendly advice on how to prepare horses for the show ring, etc. Attend local all-breed shows to advocate the Arabian breed and show that Arabians are wonderful.

Chantelle Lewis –

I have had Arabian horses since I was a child. I have been in the Arabian Horse business for 23 years. My husband and I have a training facility that we have been running since 1994. I really enjoy teaching the horses the halter. The discipline involved helps them in every aspect of their lives and makes their ground handling over all so much better and safer. Watching them learn how to express themselves within the discipline boundaries is really fascinating. Since they learn it on cue, I take great pride in being able to hand them over to one of my students and know that they will behave as well as have fun with the showing process. It is also very important to me that the horse, when taking time off from their halter work, can go home and become solid citizens in their horse community with their behavior and knowledge. This year, my students and I have had multiple Class A Championships, Reserve Championships and blue ribbons culminating in a Regional Top 5 Open Half Arab Gelding in Hand, Regional Top 5 Showmanship 14-17yr ATH and Regional Champion Arabian Stallion AOTH! I love watching my students learn and grow in the show ring! The evolution is such an extraordinary process to watch. I am involved as a parent in the NTAYHC. We also use one day schooling shows as an opportunity to teach our horses about the show experience with less pressure, as well as teach the other non-Arabian exhibitors about the inner and outer beauty of the Arabian horse and help dispel the "crazy" myths that have haunted them.

Halter Handler (Male) –

Anthony "Tony" Steiner -

I have spent a lifetime in the Arabian horse industry. My youth was spent working and training horses for my parents breeding operation that included a stallion that was one of the original 50 nominated sires to start the National Show Horse Registry. After graduating from high school and then getting a business degree, I operated my own training facility for nearly 20 years. I have enjoyed my move to Texas and Region 9 this year joining the team at Kim Morgan Arabians. I have become a member of the North Texas Arabian Club. This year I showed at several class A shows in Region 9 and then presented horses at the Region 9 Championships for the first time. I was excited to win one Championship and a Reserve. My training has been defined as being quiet, fair and non-abusive with an eye on the horse's long term future. My greatest thrills and accomplishments have come from working with owners and handlers to give them the skills they need to compete in the show ring. Seeing numerous handlers win and place Top Five or Top Ten at Class A, Regional, National, Youth National, Scottsdale, NSH, Gold Star and Minnesota Breeders over the years has been very gratifying. Outside the horses my life is dedicated to my wife of 17 years Cindy and my two children, Scott age 13 and daughter Katelynn age 8. I enjoy all their school, sports and church activities. Personally, I coached both my kids' basketball teams last year and have served on church council for several years leading stewardship and one year as council president.

Hunter Pleasure Trainer (Female) –

Jessica Belt –

No Bio Available

Sandy Bentley –

Sandy Bentley joined BayWood Equestrian Center in 2004 as an experienced, successful trainer. She creates a fun, positive atmosphere where the student can achieve their goals in a timely manner. She is very meticulous in training the horses to be well-mannered, uncomplicated while being highly competitive in today's show ring. The students receive confidence, a true sense of sportsmanship and the ability to become a true horseperson. Her focus is on putting horse & rider together as a team; this allows the amateur rider to take an active part in advancing their riding skills. Sandy feels that riders are much more competitive and knowledgeable when they truly learn to ride. Sandy has been training horses in Texas since 1977 and has not only gained the reputation of being a very successful trainer but one of the best riding instructors in the DFW area. She and her students have accumulated over 20 National Championships and Reserves, 100 National Top Tens and 125 Regional Championships. While these numbers may speak to the actual show ring successes the real prize is her passion for teaching.

Laurie Long –

No Bio Available

Hunter Pleasure Trainer (Male) –

Randy Anderson –

No Bio Available

Sterling Bradley –

As a child, I dreamed of riding horses for a living. Today, thanks to a lot of hard work, I am living my dream and enjoying all the challenges that come with it. For me, horses are more of a lifestyle than a just a job. I am a horse show junkie. The competition inspires me, especially the big shows. I have had the pleasure of working with some great youth and amateur riders and have been blessed with some great horses and great owners, as well. Many of my proudest moments have been watching my students realize their goals and dreams. Although I show in all divisions, reining is my passion. Showing reining is a thrill that still gets me pumped every time. With its high-speed maneuvers and precise patterns, there is just nothing like it. Training the Arabian Reiner is a challenge I enjoy. They are physically amazingly capable, as well as sensitive and smart, which I believe helps the rider develop more feel than other breeds. Over the years, I have had numerous Class A and Regional wins, as well as Scottsdale and National Top Tens in reining. Most recently, I was Canadian Reserve National Champion in Half- Arabian Reining.

Jr. Exhibitor Walk-Trot 10 & Under –

Catie (Catriana) Hall -

Hello, I'm Catie Hall and I'm honored to have been nominated in the Walk-Trot 10 & Under category for the Region 9 Horseman's Award. I love everything about horses! They always make you happy when you're sad and they are always glad to see you. I love Arabians' perky attitude, cute personalities and intelligence. The only problem with them being smart is that sometimes they try to outsmart you! I ride H/A Country English Pleasure and used to ride Hunter. I have won five Regional Top 5s, two Regional Reserve Champions, one Regional Champion, and two Youth National Top 10s. The things I like most about showing are spending time with horses, working hard to do the best I can, and hanging out with my horse show friends. I've learned it's important to be gracious, whether I win or lose, and to be kind to everyone. I love my sweet mare so much. I love how she cuddles up to me, nibbles at my hair or

pockets, and gives me a little nudge saying, "Hey! I want some cookies!" She always makes me happy. I wish she could live in my backyard! I'm a member of the NTAHC Youth Club and have been the cookie coordinator for two years. The money we raise by selling cookies lets us do fun things, like going on a retreat and having a Christmas party. It's fun getting to know other kids who love horses. I often tell my non-Arabian friends and other people how wonderful Arabians are. I bring friends out to the barn as often as I can. I even brought my 24 member Brownie troop out there! Thank you for considering me for this award. I am thrilled to have been nominated and wish the other nominees luck, too. Thanks again!

Hannah Jones –

Hannah has recently finished her last year in walk/trot and is eagerly looking forward to the canter division next year. This show season Hannah competed in walk/trot western, hunter, and country pleasure and equitation for all seats as well as showmanship and walk/trot trail on 6 different horses. She was Region 9 13 and under champion in showmanship and Top 10 in showmanship and section finalist in hunter pleasure with her usual horse at youth nationals. She made Top 10 western seat equitation on a borrowed horse lent through the kindness of strangers when her horse developed a health issue at the Nationals. Hannah has begun to teach her younger cousin to ride western and is very excited about getting to teach her. She has learned kindness and empathy this year which was evidenced when she offered to give up some of her Regional classes on her horse so a friend could show instead when it was uncertain that the friend's horse would be able to go to the show. Hannah is a good fifth grade student at Northwood Elementary. She is an active member of the Alamo Arabian Youth Club. Hannah is in charge of equine and canine feeding in the evenings. She gets up every day ready to ride.

Hannah Alayne Oubre –

Since I was a baby, my dad would take me to watch different Arabian horse shows. I always asked him, "Do you think it's possible for me to show horses one day?" In 2010, I was offered the opportunity of becoming a junior rider! I love riding, bathing and grooming horses and giving them carrots, apples, and cookies. I don't mind cleaning stalls and helping around in the barn. We went to the shows to support my coach. Little did I know that the next time I would be at the Regionals, I would be a Champion at the Walk-Trot 10 and Under Trail Class, riding the oldest horse in the competition! God is good... all the time! In December 2010, dad and I got the best present ever... our very own Arabian horse! I won several awards in Costume, Showmanship, and Walk-Trot (Trail, English, and Western) at various horse shows. Winning is just a bonus. These experiences help build my character, provide opportunities to meet new friends and learn from the hardworking horse show people. Best of all, I get to show with my dad! I wish that more kids could be at the shows. I talk about it at school all the time and invite my friends and their parents. Three of them are currently interested in showing horses. I've been a part of our community civic theatre (Fiddler on the Roof, Miracle on 34th Street, and Brigadoon), represented Texas in various dance and figure skating competitions, won many awards in the Heart of Texas Academic Fair & Rodeo and Kid's Karaoke. During summer, I help grandma with Meals on Wheels and volunteer at mom's school. It's a great honor to be nominated to the prestigious Region 9 AHA 2011 Horseman's Award program. To God be the glory!

Jr. Exhibitor 11-13 –

Sydney Andersen –

No Bio Available

Mary Catherine Ellis –

A/B honor roll, Member of Debate Team, Member of pink club (breast cancer awareness), Region 9 Class Sponsors, Church Altar Server, Donate time serving homeless at 'Some Other Place', Region 9 Awards: Reserve Champion and Top Ten, Youth Nationals Patron Sponsor (2), Class Sponsors and two Top Ten awards at Youth Nationals. Share information to my teachers, friends, and family regarding how much I love my Arabian, and Half-Arabian Horses. I explain how to show horses, and I show everyone my photos and ribbons, and trophies. I also help our trainer feed, water, and work my horses, as well as other clients.

Sarah Elizabeth Ellis –

A Honor Roll, Jr. National Honor Society, MVP Female All Sport Athlete, MVP Basketball, MVP Volleyball, Cheerleader, Region 9 Class Sponsor, Region 9 Awards:

- > Half Arabian Country English Pleasure JOTR 13 & under Champion
 - > Half Arabian Country English Pleasure JTR 13 & under Reserve Champion
 - > Arabian English Pleasure JOTR 17 & under Unanimous Champion
 - > Arabian English Pleasure JTR 17 & under Reserve Champion
 - > Arabian Mounted Native Costume JTR 17 & under Reserve Champion
- Youth Nationals Patron Sponsor (2), Class Sponsors

Youth Nationals Awards:

- > Half Arabian Country English Pleasure 13&under Finalists
- > Arabian Country English Pleasure 13&under Top Ten
- > Arabian Country English Pleasure 13&under Finalists
- > Arabian English Pleasure JTR 13&under Unanimous National Champion
- > Arabian English Pleasure JOTR 13&under Top Ten
- > Arabian Mounted Native Costume JOTR 13& under Top Ten

Church Altar Server, Donate time serving homeless at 'Some Other Place'.

Share information to my teachers, friends, and family regarding how much I love my Arabian, and Half-Arabian Horses. I explain how to show horses, and I show everyone my photos and ribbons, and trophies. I also help our trainer feed, water, and work my horses, as well as other clients. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Emily Schwing –

No Bio Available

Emma Sitzman –

No Bio Available

Jr. Exhibitor 14-17

Andrew Andersen –

No Bio Available

Megan Ferris –

For the past four years I have enrolled in many agriculture classes including Canine Science, Intro to Veterinary Technician, and Veterinary Medical Sciences 1. Along with my agriculture classes I took World History AP, AP English and AP U.S. History. My GPA during my freshman year was 4.0 and during my sophomore year it was 3.9. I joined the FFA organization during my freshman year and have participated in it since, and have also participated in their SAE program by raising a goat. I learned so many things throughout that experience and made so many new friends. I have had the privilege to go to Corpus Christi for the FFA State Convention the summer of 2010, and earlier that year I went with my FFA chapter to go and help feed the homeless at the Salvation Army. In the horse world I have won numerous awards including the Horseman of Merit Champion in 2008, High Point Scholarship winner of NTAHC Shootout, and Region 9 High Point Award Top 8 for 13 under. I've also competed and won in many shows including Region 9 Champion in Showmanship 13 and under, Top Ten at Youth Nationals, and Champion at the Freedom Classic show. In 2010 I took part in OSU's Horse Symposium and learned many different topics like Colic Prevention, Estrogen Suppression in the Performance Mare, Equine Vaccination Protocol, Skin Diseases, Laparoscopic surgery demo, hands on parasitology, and toxic plant identification. Since 2005 I have babysat my neighbors' dogs and have earned over \$100 each year since.

Shannon Friske –

I can't imagine my life without a horse. My world began when my Mom took me to ride for the first time. It was as if I were flying. I was just 5 at the time...but I knew I was meant to be on the back of an Arabian horse. My experience that day was the beginning of an exciting adventure. I began showing on a borrowed Half-Arabian pony at local open shows. Soon after, I began showing at rated shows. Just after my 11th birthday, I went to my first Region 9 Championship. Since 2008, I have competed at multiple "A" rated shows. Regionals has become the kick off for my Summer vacation and Nationals signals that Summer will soon end. I have received many Top 5 and Top 10 honors in Hunt Seat Equitation and Pleasure, as well as Western Horsemanship. I was recently elected as GCAHC's Youth Director. I was honored to begin fund raising for our club and our membership's desire to reinstate the Gulf Coast Youth Challenge. Our group also raised funds for the Goslin-Nix Training Center through a garage sale held at an area barn. I was also elected to the position of Youth Director for Region 9. Our barn hosted the golf cart decorating party prior to the Parade of Regions at Youth Nationals in August 2011. I also have served as a delegate at the Youth Convention for the past several years. I am currently a Junior in High School and play Varsity Soccer. I am responsible for feeding our family's horses at our farm. My current project is raising and training our first foal; a nearly 2 year old Arabian gelding. I hope to have him ready for the show arena in the next year or two.

Megan McLean –

No Bio Available

Laken Snyder –

My day begins at 5:30 a.m. when I go to my barn to feed and take care of my horses. Next, my mom drives me to work where I take care of rescue horses. I quickly change hats and go to High School where I am a cheerleader and participate in one-act play, poetry, journalism, FCA and track. After school I come home, finish homework, train my horses then go back to school for practice or games. On Tuesdays and Saturdays I get to take riding lessons and directions on what to work on the next week. I was given my first Arabian two summers ago and immediately started training him as a hunter/jumper. We won one hunter hack class then I changed him to Western in hopes of competing in both eventually. This past year we competed in the western classes and finished our "A" show season as the grand champion. I also show a friend's horse in Western Horsemanship. After attending the A shows I was fascinated with the English classes. I had never ridden English but I talked my dad into buying an English horse from an internet auction last August and I began my adventure. It took several months for my horse and I to successfully trot and move forward correctly but we worked really hard and finally put everything together. We began competing in March in Country English and Show Hack then added Native Costume in April. We placed first or second in the A shows and moved on to Regionals. At Regionals, we had a great show and came home with a Top Five in Show Hack, Native Costume, and Western Horsemanship. Inspired, we practiced every day preparing for Nationals and were rewarded with a Reserve Championship in Native Costume and the opportunity to compete in the Western Horsemanship finals.

Connor West –

I started riding when I was 7. I took western riding lessons for a year, then decided to switch to English. This is where I met an Arabian trainer and my love of Arabians and competing began. I began competing at Legacy Arabian horse shows as a 9 year old. My first Class "A" show was Mayfest on my mare. I moved right up to 13 and under with my mare and we competed in hunter, equitation, hunter hack, sport horse, dressage, sidesaddle, and in-hand. My first big win was at State Fair my first year as a 13 and under. We competed at Sport Horse Regionals two summers and got Top 5's in sport horse under saddle JTR, in-hand and show hack. When I was 13 we bought my gelding. He is a half Arabian/half Saddlebred. We started doing country with him first. We competed in country, show hack, and costume. We had a great time but were not very competitive so we dropped him down to hunter and sport horse. Our first show was the last Freedom Classic. We started winning like crazy. That summer we competed at Sport Horse Regionals and had 1 Champion, 2 Reserve Champions, and 2 Top 5's. We showed at many class "A" shows throughout the year and continued our success. This summer we competed in Region 9 Regionals and Top 5'd in equitation. I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Region 14. I showed main ring halter and western for the first time. I was Reserve Champion in both classes. Over the years I have spent a lot of time at shows passing out ribbons and working end gates. I can never get enough time at a horse show.

Claire Wimberly –

Hi, my name is Claire Wimberly, and I am so honored to be nominated for the Junior Exhibitor 14-17 award. Arabian horses have been a substantial part of my life since the age of 6, when I started riding. In the ten years since then, I have been blessed to receive numerous awards, including 11 Region 9 championships, 20 Youth National Top Tens, and 2 Reserve Youth National championships. This year, I was overjoyed when I received my first Youth National Championship, in Arabian Western Horsemanship 14-17! Outside of the horse show world, I am a member of National Honor Society, Best Buddies, Interact and I am the secretary in my high school's FFA chapter. I also raise goats and turkeys. I am a proud supporter of the Region 9 Arabian Horse Association and I am grateful for all the opportunities that it has provided for me!

Hannah Wimberly –

Hannah Wimberly is truly honored to be nominated for the Horseman's Awards. She has been riding and showing Arabian horses for 11 years. Hannah will tell anyone who will listen about how wonderful Arabian horses are and has introduced many people to the breed. Her school activities include: National Honor Society, Interact (a community service club), all 'A' student Honor Roll, Best Buddies and serving as the local FFA Chapter Treasurer. Outside of school she volunteers at a local veterinarian's office at least once a week. In addition to showing horses, she has shown/raised goats and plans on showing turkeys this year at the Galveston County Fair. She has won seven National Top Tens on seven different horses in hunter pleasure, hunter seat equitation, showmanship, saddle seat equitation, and native costume. She has won four Regional Championships and five Regional Reserve Championships as well.

Saddle Seat Trainer (Female) –

Melissa Barter-Bradley –

I am new to Texas and Region 9, but not to the Arabian world. I was born into a horse family in Arco, Idaho and started riding at age 4. I won my first ribbon at the age of 6 - it was a 4th in English pleasure, 17 and under and I've never looked back. While growing up, we had 60 to 100 Arabians at all times and my family showed all over the country in all divisions. After college, I took over the horse operations of my family's ranch, Lazy MD Arabians, doing all of the showing, breaking, breeding and sales. I loved every minute of it. As an Amateur I won 3 National Championships and 4 Reserve National Championships on horses we bred and raised. After my father passed away in 1993, Sterling and I became a team and continued to run Lazy MD for 18 years with great success. I gave up my amateur status 12 years ago to become a trainer. It was a tough decision, but now I would not change a thing. I love sharing my talent, knowledge and passion for the Arabian horse and showing. I feel my contribution to the industry is getting people excited about showing. I believe if they work hard and love to ride, I can get them there. I try to encourage people to enjoy their horses and do whatever they are good at. It takes all kinds to make up a show pen. As a trainer, I have Regional and National wins in hunter, sidesaddle, show hack, costume, park, country, and English pleasure. Most recently, I rode a longtime client's horse to a Reserve National Championship in Half-Arabian English Pleasure at Canadian Nationals in August. In 2010, Sterling and I moved to Texas to be in the middle of horse country and we love it here. The shows and horses are such high quality and it's a pleasure to compete in this region. I look forward to our future here in Region 9.

Jessica Belt –

No Bio Available

Sandy Bentley –

Sandy Bentley joined BayWood Equestrian Center in 2004 as an experienced, successful trainer. She creates a fun, positive atmosphere where the student can achieve their goals in a timely manner. She is very meticulous in training the horses to be well-mannered, uncomplicated while being highly competitive in today's show ring. The students receive confidence, a true sense of sportsmanship and the ability to become a true horseperson. Her focus is on putting horse & rider together as a team; this allows the amateur rider to take an active part in advancing their riding skills. Sandy feels that riders are much more

competitive and knowledgeable when they truly learn to ride. Sandy has been training horses in Texas since 1977 and has not only gained the reputation of being a very successful trainer but one of the best riding instructors in the DFW area. She and her students have accumulated over 20 National Championships and Reserves, 100 National Top Tens and 125 Regional Championships. While these numbers may speak to the actual show ring successes the real prize is her passion for teaching.

Kathie Williams -

My experience with Arabians has certainly taken a course full of many twists and turns. I believe I am one of the few trainers that started showing as a rank beginner, as an adult. I call my beginnings "Adult Onset Crazy". I was one of "those" people - the passionate, overzealous, bitten hard by the bug of Arabians. I had always wanted Arabians as a child growing up, but there wasn't any opportunity to explore that passion. When I was 22 years old, I moved to Sunnyvale Texas, and literally woke up one morning and said "I can have a horse". I had just visited the Texas State Fair, and walked thru the barns of the Arabian horse show and saw these beautiful, exotic creatures and my life was forever changed. I promised myself then and there, I would be at the Texas State Fair the next year with my Arabian. I couldn't wait to find my horse. I pictured a beautiful dapple gray Arabian. I knew absolutely nothing about horses. My entire experience consisted of riding horses at a summer camp. I knew nothing. Zero. Zip. Nada. I was so determined I went out and bought a lovely gray Arabian mare named Cartessa. The owner said he could no longer care for her as he had recently broken his leg, and was in a huge cast. I still don't know to this day, why I never asked him the important question of how he broke his leg. I took one look at Cartessa, wrote a check, and bought her on the spot. Then came the thoughts of - now what? I found someone to bring her to my newly selected boarding stable, found a feed store, bought some hay and grain and thought - well that's easy. My new beautiful girl came to her new home. The man unloaded her, and she promptly drug him across the pasture, and with assistance, he and 2 other men, got her in a stall. Over the next few days I became very skilled at throwing her grain and hay over the top of the stall door, so that I didn't have to go inside. I seriously had no clue. Over the next year I learned that there were horse trainers, lessons, every different kind of equipment. I learned to ride (barely) and I didn't make my goal of the Texas State Fair until 2 years later, but I did make it. I showed Cartessa in a 7 horse English pleasure class, and fell off. I tried one more time, and rode to show again, and I won. I still don't know how. I still have that picture, and for you cynics out there, there were 4 in the class. The very next day, sweet Cartessa, coliced and passed away 5 days later. I have wondered, many times, what would have happened if I had not won that class. If I had not loved that sweet mare so very much. What would have happened, had I not been that simple minded young lady, who simply believed in a horse. If you would have ever told me then that 20 years later, I would have trained Arabians to over 100 National top 10's, and over a dozen National Championships and Reserves, I would have never believed you. I have started equine rescue groups, years ago, when there were no horse rescue groups. I have worked as President of The Arabian Horse Club of Texas for 4 years. I have helped put on countless Arabian shows. Raised thousands of dollars for various Arabian related projects. I have more blessed experiences than I could ever recount and memories that will keep me smiling for my lifetime. My own children, and many clients children, have won over fifty thousand dollars in scholarship money for their college educations. These Arabian horses have changed so many lives for the better. I really liked your suggestion that this award is not a high point award. It's such a honor to be considered for such an award. It seems this award is about what we have contributed towards the goals and dreams of others. This is a philosophy that I believe and try to incorporate in to daily practice. I was that completely unskilled, starry eyed beginner. I know how very much these horses, and these dreams mean to so many people. I do smile, with certainly older, wiser eyes, when that fresh new face comes bouncing into my barn. I always remember where I started and it is a journey I wouldn't have changed for the world. I always tell my riders, I can't promise you where you will go on your journey, but I do promise it will be a wild ride. Thank you for your consideration.

Saddle Seat Trainer (Male) –

Chris Morrill –

Chris started riding at the age of 6. His first horse, Mr. Blue, was a 4H extraordinaire and Chris rode and showed in nearly every class he could. To say Mr. Blue could do it all was an understatement. Later as he grew older he began working with Arabians and he trained with Sue Williams of Horizon Stables in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There he won his first Top Ten at Youth Nationals. His family later moved to Baton Rouge and he began working for Joel Gangi. He worked and trained for Joel for over 10 years where he had the unique pleasure of working with some of the best horses in the country. In 2003 Chris departed from Joel Gangi Inc. to take what he had learned and start his own farm. English being his passion, he focused on finding the very best horses for his clients. Since his start with three lesson clients and one horse in training, Chris has been successful with 4 National Champions, 1 Reserve National Champion and several Top Tens in English pleasure, Costume and Hunter. Chris Morrill Training Center is a full service training center for Arabian and Half- Arabian horses. We specialize in Regionally and Nationally competitive shows with the English, Country and Driving Divisions. We also provide services in Mounted Native Costume, Hunter Pleasure and Equitation. We are a unique facility that covers a range of opportunities for the horse enthusiasts. Lesson programs, camps and clinics are all services we provide along with our beautiful facility and great amenities to make your experience the best for both horse and rider. Thank you for the nomination.

Ross Tarkington -

No Bio Available

Select Rider (Female) -

Debbie Himmel -

Currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Arabian Horse Association, Region 9 youth coordinator, and Chairperson of the AHYA Youth Committee. I love working with the youth of Region 9 and the youth of AHYA, especially as a volunteer for the many AHYA youth activities at Youth Nationals. I also volunteer to help at the AHA National Judging Contest held at US Nationals and a volunteer for the AHYA Silent Auction at AHA Convention. I am proud to be a horse show Mom and am probably better known as Annalise's Mom and Mark's wife. Although I have always enjoyed competing in Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure, and Ladies Sidesaddle, I decided I wanted a new goal and a challenge, so I recently began a new show career competing in HA Country Pleasure Select Rider. I was so honored to have been selected a winner at the 2010 R9 Championship show. I will be showing at my first US Nationals this year. I feel so blessed to have Arabian Horses in my life.

Sport Horse Competitor –

Sydney Andersen –

No Bio Available

Karlan Downing –

She was involved with Sport Horse horses before the division was created and bred horses competing in this venue for over 30 years. Her gelding was US Top Ten Jumper, Champion on the Open Hunter circuit and a winner in Eventing, besides having numerous Regional and National wins in Main Ring events. She has shown her mare to Regional Championships and Reserve Championships in Carriage Driving, Reinsmanship, and Hunter Hack, and won numerous Regional Championships and Reserve Championships with her H/A Gelding in Sport Horse under Saddle and Show Hack. Her stallion is twice

Regional Champion Sport Horse in Hand and was high score of the Regional show in 2009. She encourages friends and customers to participate in Sport horse events with numerous Regional wins for them this year. Unfortunately a broken hand forced her to groom and cheer instead of riding at this year's show, but friends helped show her horses and her farm did very well. She always donates goods and services to the show's silent auction, and buys lots of items—loves auctions! She started the Sport Horse Patron Banner project which contributed a significant amount of money to the show for the past two years. She is president of her local club and serves on the Youth Foundation board as well as the Sport Horse, Working Western, and Equine Stress Committees of AHA. She has been a delegate to the AHA Convention for over 25 years. She is active in her Community donating time and services to many local causes. Karlan is tremendously honored to have been nominated for this award. This is her first year to go to Sport Horse Nationals. She and her husband are looking forward to showing horses in Driving, Hunter, and In Hand classes in Lexington.

Granger Durdin –

My name is Granger Durdin, and I have been nominated for two separate categories: Dressage Competitor and Sport Horse Competitor of the prestigious Region 9 AHA 2011 Horseman's Award program. I am a 33 year old female (2010) and an active member of the South Central Arabians Club of Texas. My contact information is cell 281-932-3643 and email is Granger@parkwayfamily.com. If I am selected as a finalist, I will be present at the Region 9 Awards Banquet. My family owns a small boarding stable in the Houston Metro area. We have been breeding Arabians since 1982 and moved our operation from Florida in 1989. I love everything about the Arabian breed. Over the years, I have learned many new disciplines in order to present our horses to the public. I work full time in a non-horse related career and my love of my horses is a hobby that I enjoy every day. I advertise our facility in several local and regional magazines, in premium books, division sponsorships, class sponsorships and Sport Horse Regionals. It is important to me to introduce people to the versatility of the breed. I do this through offering our facility and horses to beginners through our lesson program with our resident trainer. As part of community outreach, we also donate lessons for charitable events. It is very important to me to help those less fortunate. I serve as a Committee Chair and organize two galas a year to raise money for small local charities. I participate in at least six shows a year. We take our boarders and our trainer's clients to local shows. This provides us with a great sense of family and camaraderie. In the past two years, I was Region 9 Sport Horse Champion twice, Reserve Champion eight times and Top 5 eleven times. It is an honor to be considered for these awards!

Wendye Gardiner -

Many class A wins in Sport Horse In-Hand, Under saddle and Show hack with various horses. Region 9 Champion Sport Horse in-hand gelding, Top 5 Sport Horse in-hand mares, top 5 Jackpot colts, Top 5 Jackpot fillies. Wins while representing Region 9 at other regions include Top 5 Sport Horse under saddle, and Top 5 Sport Horse show hack. Write monthly how-to column for Arabian Horse World covering amateur-friendly advice on how to prepare horses for the show ring, etc. Attend local all-breed shows to advocate the Arabian breed and show that Arabians are wonderful.

Mark Henson –

Mark Henson began breeding Arabian Horses with his wife, Anne-Marie, in 2003. He began showing in 2008 in the Sport Horse Division. Mark's show career started at the urging of his trainer and coach, Ginny Nokes. Ginny said that with his long legs he needed to be out running horses. Within Mark's first full year of showing he earned multiple class A championships and 2 National Tops 10's. These wins were with horses that he breed and also with friends horses who asked him to show for them. Mark is the kind of generous person that when someone needs help he is always there. Over the years many competitors who were unable to show their horses have asked Mark to help out and he always has done so and with success. Mark has been successful in the show ring with his own horses as well as his friends. With the horses he owns and has bred he has won 3 Regional Championships, 1 Reserve Regional Championship, 2 Regional Champion Jackpots and a National Top 10 as well as numerous Class A wins. This year at Sport Horse Regionals Mark won 1 championship, 1 Jackpot Championship, 2 Reserves and a Top 5. Mark lives in Taylor, Texas and his favorite part of showing Arabian horses is watching his children compete and hanging out at the shows with his friends. He also is involved in the community and coordinates Helping Heros every September 11th. This is a service project in which volunteers feed and help around the local fire departments. Mark also volunteered at the Lost Pines Riding club during the Bastrop Fires.

Connor West –

I started riding when I was 7. I took western riding lessons for a year, then decided to switch to English. This is where I met an Arabian trainer and my love of Arabians and competing began. I began competing at Legacy Arabian horse shows as a 9 year old. My first Class "A" show was Mayfest on my mare. I moved right up to 13 and under with my mare and we competed in hunter, equitation, hunter hack, sport horse, dressage, sidesaddle, and in-hand. My first big win was at State Fair my first year as a 13 and under. We competed at Sport Horse Regionals 2 summers and got top 5's in sport horse under saddle JTR, in-hand and show hack. When I was 13 we bought my gelding. He is a half Arabian/half Saddlebred. We started doing country with him first. We competed in country, show hack, and costume. We had a great time but were not very competitive so we dropped him down to hunter and sport horse. Our first show was the last Freedom Classic. We started winning like crazy. That summer we competed at Sport Horse Regionals and had 1 Champion, 2 Reserve Champions, and 2 Top 5's. We showed at many class "A" shows throughout the year and continued our success. This summer we competed in Region 9 Regionals and Top 5'd in equitation. I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Region 14. I showed main ring halter and western for the first time. I was Reserve Champion in both classes. Over the years I have spent a lot of time at shows passing out ribbons and working end gates. I can never get enough time at a horse show.

Western Trainer (Female) –

Wendye Gardiner –

Several Class A show wins in both Purebred and Half-Arabian, Open and Junior Horse at Arabian shows. Philosophy is to put the horse first without taking any shortcuts along the way in their training. Attended local all-breed shows in advocacy of the Arabian breed, with the only Arabian on site - fielding many questions about Arabians and how they are truly not crazy but exceedingly intelligent and sensitive. Write monthly how-to column for Arabian Horse World covering amateur-friendly advice on how to prepare horses for the show ring, etc.

CJ Wagner –

Although I have 20 years' experience training horses, I started riding horses purely by chance. When I was 17 I saw an ad in the classifieds, "lease a horse for the summer", I leased that old Appaloosa named Domino, and I was hooked! After graduating from William Woods College in 1991, I went from riding Saddlebreds in college to work with Michele Blackwell-Betten, where I found my love for Arabians and western horses. I have had the opportunity to learn from and work with many respected trainers, and over the years I have had many Regional and National wins for me and my amateurs in several divisions. In 2006 my husband and I decided it was time to start a family, and with that came a hiatus from the horses. My first daughter came later that year, followed by twin girls 19 months later. In 2010 an opportunity arose at an upstart performance horse breeding farm, D&D Farms. I returned to the show scene, getting some horses ready to compete initially just for Cowtown, but ended up continuing on through the season. By 2011 I had a training program firmly in place, and started expanding in both horses and number of shows we were attending. We had a very successful show season in 2011, including wins at A Shows, Region 9, and Youth Nationals. I pride myself on tailoring my training program to fit each individual horse, and evaluating what they need to reach their greatest potential. I love to teach people the theory and mechanics of horses and training; not just what to do to get around the ring, but why certain things work, and other things don't. I feel it is important for amateurs, especially youth, to be proud of their ride and their accomplishments, and not just proud of blue ribbons. Having come from a non-horse family and not growing up around them, I am enjoying introducing my 3 girls to the horses. They have all started showing lead line, and I can't wait for my oldest to start in the walk-trot division in 2012! I feel very fortunate to have been able to pursue my passion of horses again, and am very honored to be recognized with these nominations.

Western Trainer (Male) -

Randy Anderson –

No Bio Available

John Garland –

John Garland was born and raised in Northern Territory (Outback), Australia on his parent's owned and operated cattle stations and horse training complex. John has been professionally training and showing in an assortment of disciplines for the public for the past 23 years. John moved to the U.S. in 2000 to continue his career in the horse training industry. Since then he has had much success in the NCHA, APHA, AQHA, TACHA and AHA. In October 2007, John was asked to train an Arabian for the Cutting Futurity for the 2008 U.S. Nationals, where he won his first U.S. National title. Since then he has had the privilege to train and show some nice Arabians and has had a lot of success with them, winning a number of High Point Awards and U.S. National titles. Currently, John is leading the TACHA 2011 Year End Standings in the Open, the \$5,000 Novice Horse and the \$1,500 Novice Horse divisions. In 2011, John started training and showing Working Cow Horses again with much success. In 2010, John started holding TACHA & AHA approved Cutting Shows at his ranch. His goal was to deliver added money classes to the competitors and lower the entry costs, it has gone on to be a great success. At his July 2011 show he added Working Cow Horse classes under the new AHA One Day Show rules. John has had the privilege to travel throughout the U.S. doing clinics. In 2010 and 2011 he delivered four clinics in Northern Illinois to Arabian enthusiasts in an effort to promote the Working Western Division of AHA. In July 2011, John donated his time as a clinician for a three day clinic at the Arabian Youth Nationals in Albuquerque, NM, which turned out to be a great success for the Arabian Industry.

Fred Goslin –

I've had the pleasure of training Arabians for more than four decades. During this time, I have had countless numbers of Regional and National championships in Western Pleasure and other disciplines. I pride myself with having a well-respected reputation in the Arabian industry for being a hard working honest trainer. If asked I'd say my biggest achievement is taking people who never thought of competing, much less winning a Top Ten ribbon or National Championship, to Nationals and making what they thought was an impossible dream possible. Plus, you can't beat it when a horse you have bred wins on a Regional and National level with their amateur rider. I actively promote our breed through demonstrations, advertising, word of mouth, by breeding and showing, and through volunteer efforts. My entire family strives to always make people feel "welcome" when they visit our farm so that people perceive our industry as being one with talented beautiful animals and friendly people. I absolutely love training Arabians for a living and feel truly blessed that I have been able to do it this many years. This year has been a tough one for me, with the barn fire and loss of 13 beautiful Arabians, however, friends and family have given me hope and the will to continue to train and show. Winning this prestigious award "Western Trainer (Male)" would certainly lift my spirits during this difficult period.

Working Western Amateur -

Andrew Andersen –

No Bio Available

Karlan Downing –

Karlan has over 25 years of experience in riding working western classes. She is a member of the AHA Working Western Committee and has judged these classes at the national level. She has won a Reserve National Championship and 22 Top Tens in Trail on 4 different horses as well as numerous Regional Championships, Reserves, and Top Fives. She won a Region 9 Reserve Championship in Reining AOTR, and many Class A wins in Cutting open and Non Pro. Her horses have won the Regional

Championship and Reserve Championship High Point award in Trail. She donated to the Half-Arab Cutting Horse Futurity prize money fund last year. In 2011 she showed 3 horses at the Region 9 Show and was Top 5 with all of them, but even more exciting was watching her 31 year old gelding winning the Regional Walk/Trot Trail Championship with a young lady who just started riding this year! Karlan put on a Trail clinic for the region at HorseFest several years ago and is always willing to help junior riders or other competitors who want assistance in understanding the intricacies of the class. She frequently loans her trail obstacles to shows that are willing to put on trail classes, and has pushed hard to get the walk/trot classes going. She is active in Region 9, serving on the board of the Youth Foundation and attending convention for over 25 years as a delegate. She helps with silent auctions, works with the Region 9 Stallion Service Auction/Futurity donating her Stallion's services and helping with the presentation. She worked with the Horseman's Award program for the past 3 years. She promotes the working western classes in the region by participating and by encouraging others to become involved - even loaning the use of her horses for a beginner to "try Trail"!

Megan Sitzman -

When I was three years old, I asked my mom if I could learn to ride a horse. I kept asking until she finally let me learn two years later when I was five. I started with quarter horses until I saw my first Arabian and I was hooked. I started riding dressage, hunter, hunt seat equitation, and showing showmanship. I showed these disciplines as a walk/trotter. When I hit 13 and Under, I began to show country English pleasure, saddle seat equitation, showmanship, side saddle, western pleasure, and working cow. I have won five National Championships, one Reserve National Championship, fourteen Top Tens, four Regional Championships, three Regional Reserve Championships, and fourteen Regional Top Fives. In the area where I live, there is no Arabian horse club. I enjoy working cow so I joined the Arabian Working Cow Horse Association. I want to help the sport grow in the youth program by encouraging others to try this discipline. I help promote the Arabian breed by showing working cow horse at open shows to show people with different breeds that anything their horse can do, an Arabian can do better. I tell people how great the Arabian horse is and how much I love riding them. I let my friends ride my Arabians so they can see how awesome the Arabian horse is. I think community service is important. I am a member of an organization called the Symphony Belles. We help at Safe Place – a shelter for battered women and children, and other community happenings. I also help out at the soup kitchen and my church. I enjoy school and am second in my class. I am a member of National Honor Society and Students in Philanthropy. I was also a member of the 2011 Homecoming Court representing the Junior class. I play bassoon in the band, making the All Region Band 2007 through 2011 and have made All State High School Band the past two years. I have scored a Division 1 on a solo twice and have received the Outstanding Soloist award at the State Solo and Ensemble competition. I am part of a leadership group at my school. Our goal is building leadership skills within the elementary school and earning money to build a greenhouse for our high school.

Working Western Trainer -

Sterling Bradley –

As a child, I dreamed of riding horses for a living. Today, thanks to a lot of hard work, I am living my dream and enjoying all the challenges that come with it. For me, horses are more of a lifestyle than a just a job. I am a horse show junkie. The competition inspires me, especially the big shows. I have had the pleasure of working with some great youth and amateur riders and have been blessed with some great horses and great owners, as well. Many of my proudest moments have been watching my students realize their goals and dreams. Although I show in all divisions, reining is my passion. Showing reining is a thrill that still gets me pumped every time. With its high-speed maneuvers and precise patterns, there is just nothing like it. Training the Arabian Reiner is a challenge I enjoy. They are physically amazingly capable, as well as sensitive and smart, which I believe helps the rider develop more feel than other breeds. Over the years, I have had numerous Class A and Regional wins, as well as Scottsdale and National Top Tens in reining. Most recently, I was Canadian Reserve National Champion in Half- Arabian Reining.

John Garland –

John Garland was born and raised in Northern Territory (Outback), Australia on his parent's owned and operated cattle stations and horse training complex. John has been professionally training and showing in an assortment of disciplines for the public for the past 23 years. John moved to the U.S. in 2000 to continue his career in the horse training industry. Since then he has had much success in the NCHA, APHA, AQHA, TACHA and AHA. In October 2007, John was asked to train an Arabian for the Cutting Futurity for the 2008 U.S. Nationals, where he won his first U.S. National title. Since then he has had the privilege to train and show some nice Arabians and has had a lot of success with them, winning a number of High Point Awards and U.S. National titles. Currently, John is leading the TACHA 2011 Year End Standings in the Open, the \$5,000 Novice Horse and the \$1,500 Novice Horse divisions. In 2011, John started training and showing Working Cow Horses again with much success. In 2010, John started holding TACHA & AHA approved Cutting Shows at his ranch. His goal was to deliver added money classes to the competitors and lower the entry costs, it has gone on to be a great success. At his July 2011 show he added Working Cow Horse classes under the new AHA One Day Show rules. John has had the privilege to travel throughout the U.S. doing clinics. In 2010 and 2011 he delivered four clinics in Northern Illinois to Arabian enthusiasts in an effort to promote the Working Western Division of AHA. In July 2011, John donated his time as a clinician for a three day clinic at The Arabian Youth Nationals in Albuquerque, NM, which turned out to be a great success for the Arabian Industry.

**TO VOTE FOR YOUR CHOICE IN EACH CATEGORY PLEASE
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**If you have any questions, please contact Pat Barton at patbarton1@msn.com, or
call 940-262-0335**