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## **Professional Horseman Van Hargis to Be a Keynote Speaker at the 2015 Certified Horsemanship Association International Conference**

*(June 2015)* – The Certified Horsemanship Association is thrilled to announce professional horseman Van Hargis as the Keynote Speaker on Saturday, October 24, during the Awards Banquet at the 2015 CHA International Conference. This year’s conference is scheduled for October 22-25 in Amarillo, Texas, at the AQHA Hall of Fame and Museum and at West Texas A&M University. The conference is open to anyone who registers for the event.

Hargis is a popular clinician and trainer, and his work with horses spans both English and Western disciplines. He will speak earlier in the day about “Solving Problems by Reducing to the Ridiculous.” Then the keynote address, “Are You Focused Toward Success?” will expand upon his first talk. The audience will learn to solve problems by focusing on parts of the problem at appropriate times vs. becoming overwhelmed by the larger issue.

“This presentation teaches us to simplify things from the horse’s perspective,” says Hargis. “Things that may seem miniscule to us may be real disconcerting to our horses. The step-by-step approach to solving any problem helps us to overcome adversity and look at problems as opportunities to become better horsemen. From the classroom or the arena, this presentation forces us to look deep into ourselves. Because our horses have such keen senses and self-preservation instincts, their fear or perception of ‘problems’ can be interpreted as a lack of trust and confidence in themselves, their environment, and most importantly, their handlers and riders. I will address how to be trustworthy in the eyes of our horses and perhaps others.”

Hargis has been training since the young age of 12 when, after riding for only eight years, he got his first professional training job for the wife of famous saddle maker Billy Cook. While he worked on cattle ranches in Texas, he started taking his

horses and his client's horses to shows and rodeos. He has specialized in ranch horse versatility and has also competed in western pleasure, trail classes, calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling, and timed rodeo events.

Hargis began sharing his knowledge of horses with others in New Zealand in 1991 when he started his horsemanship seminars. A year later, he returned to his home state of Texas to open his own training facility. However, Hargis was destined to travel across the country. As his popularity as a clinician and speaker grew, his audiences expanded to include English and Western riders. Riders interested in western pleasure, hunter jumper, dressage, and working ranch horses all gained new insights into their discipline and horsemanship skills after listening to Hargis' seminars.

Hargis firmly believes that horses help us learn more about ourselves and can help us become better people. He often shares the message, "Horsemanship is an opportunity to practice humanship every day." He shares this message with audiences through his seminars, in radio and television interviews, and in his podcast, "Ride Every Stride with Van Hargis." Hargis has been featured in *Western Horseman*, *Horse & Rider*, *Professional Horseman*, *Quarter Horse News*, and in regional publications. His practical tips about horsemanship and creating a solid foundation in horse training and in life will offer attendees ways to improve their interactions with their horses after they put his techniques to work.

With this presentation to the CHA audience, Hargis continues to advance his mission, which is written on his website, VanHargis.com: "It is the mission of Van Hargis Horsemanship to educate, motivate, inspire, and entertain, through superior horsemanship and humanship, those involved in or aspiring to be involved in the horse industry."

Don't miss out on Hargis' presentations at this year's CHA International Conference. Register online today at [http://cha-ahse.org/store/categories/CHA\\_International\\_Conference/](http://cha-ahse.org/store/categories/CHA_International_Conference/) In addition to Hargis Keynote presentation, there will be lessons from Master Level Certified Instructors and top veterinarians, horse trainers, farriers, equine behaviorists, and other equine professionals. In addition, the ever-popular mounted workshops will give participants the chance to ride during an educational session.

For more information on the CHA International Conference visit [http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/47/International\\_Conference.html](http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/47/International_Conference.html). For questions, please contact CHA's headquarters in Lexington, KY, at [859-259-3399](tel:859-259-3399) or [info@CHA-ahse.org](mailto:info@CHA-ahse.org).

*CHA Changes Lives Through Safe Experiences with Horses. The purpose of CHA is to promote excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the horse industry. CHA certifies instructors and trail guides, accredits equestrian facilities, publishes educational manuals, produces educational horsemanship DVDs and YouTube Safety shorts, and hosts regional and international conferences. For more information on the Certified Horsemanship Association, please visit [www.CHA-ahse.org](http://www.CHA-ahse.org) or call [859-259-3399](tel:859-259-3399). To find a certified horseback riding instructor or accredited equine facility near you, visit [www.CHAINstructors.com](http://www.CHAINstructors.com).*

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