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## **Certified Horsemanship Association Awards CHA School Horse of the Year Award to AQHA Gelding Ida Liked a Dun from Steinbach, Manitoba**

*(November 2016)* – Every year, the Certified Horsemanship Association honors exemplary riding instructors within its membership. And each year, one special four-legged riding instructor is honored with the CHA Stone School Horse of the Year Award. The horses that students ride, drive, or vault with are probably the most patient of all riding instructors. This October, at the Awards Banquet at the CHA International Conference in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Ida Liked a Dun from Cloud 9 Ranch in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada, won the CHA School Horse of the Year Award, sponsored by Stone Horses, out of many exemplary school horses that were nominated. The award was presented to owner Tara Reimer, who is a CHA Master Instructor, Clinic Staff, EAGALA certified, and the 2013 CHA Instructor of the Year. She and her husband, Derek, own Cloud 9 Ranch. The couple received a Stone Horse model of Ida Liked a Dun created by the Peter Stone Company.

“I was overwhelmed and in tears to have our AQHA gelding, Ida Liked A Dun, “Arnie”, announced as winner of the CHA Stone Horse School Horse of the year,” said Reimer. “It gives our students and clients at Cloud 9 Ranch in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada, confidence to work with such a special horse. We also know that our programs are nothing without the horses and feel so amazingly blessed to be able to work with such talented equine partners.”

Ida Liked a Dun is a 15-year-old registered American Quarter Horse gelding. He currently teaches students of all ages who are learning Western, English, Jumping, Vaulting, and Therapeutic Riding. Reimer bought Arnie during the Manitoba Superhorse 50/50 Futurity and Sale when he was a weanling. She then trained him, and he has been a successful show horse for her and others. The pair came in fourth in the Manitoba 50/50 Superhorse Two-Year-Old Futurity, which is Canada’s richest two-year-old western futurity. Arnie was also the 2009 American Buckskin Registry Association Reserve World Champion Open and Amateur Aged Halter Gelding and earned his AQHA Superior in Halter. Also, in 2009, he was third in the nation for AQHA’s Select Rookie Division with Gayle Swynar, Reimer’s mother.

“He is as well-rounded horse I could ever ask for—beautiful, quirky, gentle, strong, very responsive to cues, caring of vaulters and therapeutic riders, a champion in the show pen and

lesson arena, calm on the trails and parades, and he is built like Arnold Schwarzenegger, thus his name ‘Arnie’ since he was a weanling,” said Reimer.

One nominee called Arnie an amazing lesson horse, who always forgives and just keeps going. “While teaching vaulting, he rarely puts a foot wrong, which is extremely important to the balance of the vaulters who trust him completely,” the nominee wrote. “They do all sorts of tricks on his back, and he never questions any of it. He combines a steady pace and endless energy without ever going too fast. He also is used in English and Western riding lessons and excels at both, giving a challenge to those with more experience or doing everything perfect for those who aren't so advanced... Besides all this, he is a beautiful horse and has a quirky personality that is easy to love.”

The CHA School Horse of the Year Program honors all of the wonderful equines that spend their days being patient with new riders and not-so-new riders. The sponsor of the program, Stone Horses, creates “model horses for real horse people” and has been a longtime partner of CHA for this award. Each equine finalist received a plaque from CHA and were honored at the Awards Banquet. The Top Five finalists included:

- Gabe’s Perfection, from Maple Wood Farm in Hurleyville, New York
- Ida Liked a Dun, from Cloud 9 Ranch in Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada
- Maggie, from Life Adventure Center of the Bluegrass in Versailles, Kentucky
- Pongo, from Carriage Hill Riding Center in Yellow Springs, Ohio
- Westwind Cheyenne, from YMCA Camp Y Noah in Clinton, Ohio

For more information about the 2016 CHA International Conference and the 2017 one to be held October 2017 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, visit [http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/47/International\\_Conference.html](http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/47/International_Conference.html).

*CHA Instructors Change 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 largest certifying body of riding instructors and barn managers in North America, Certified Horsemanship Association, please visit [www.CHA-ahse.org](http://www.CHA-ahse.org) or call 859-259-3399. To find a certified horseback riding instructor or accredited equine facility near you, visit [www.CHAINstructors.com](http://www.CHAINstructors.com).*