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Announces Winners at 2010 Awards Banquet**
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**Certified Horsemanship Association Announces
Winners at
2010 Awards Banquet**

(October 2010) The Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) honored top individuals, horses and organizations at the annual awards banquet held at the International Conference at The Oaks Equestrian Center in Lake City, Florida on October 23rd.

**Clinic Instructor of the Year is Heidi Potter from
Guilford, Vermont**

Clinic instructors are the CHA Master Level Instructors that are clinic staff and certify instructors for CHA throughout North America. At the end of each clinic, participants write evaluations of the clinic staff, it is from these evaluations that this winner is chosen. Heidi is a Master Level Certified Instructor and Clinic

Instructor for CHA and a Centered Riding Instructor and one of 16 Level III CR Instructor/Clinicians in the United States. Heidi is especially thankful for the times that she was able to study with Centered Riding founder, Ms. Sally Swift, who resided in nearby Brattleboro. She continues to train in the martial art disciplines of Shorin Ryu Karate and Aiki-Budo, along with Ashtanga Yoga. All of these activities have a strong influence on her work with horses and humans.

"Great safety awareness - good eye for details and all of her workshops are interesting and interactive," says Julie Goodnight CHA Spokesperson and past Program Director. "Heidi has great evaluation skills and is very kind and tactful but to the point. People skills are very much a strength and Heidi is very mature, professional and down to earth."

"At the Conference awards banquet I was surprised and honored to receive the award of 2010 Clinic Instructor of the Year," says Heidi Potter. "I felt gratitude for being part of this great organization as I looked out across the room into the faces of so many dedicated, talented, and wonderful instructors. I would like to thank the CHA staff and its members for their commitment to helping provide education and ensure the safety to those involved in equine related activities across the continent."

CHA Distinguished Service Award goes to Patrick Mullins of Bumpass, Virginia

This is a lifetime achievement award for an individual who has gone above and beyond through the years promoting and upholding the mission of CHA. Pat has been a CHA member since 1995 and a life member since 2007. He has attended over 20 CHA International Conferences and has served on the board of directors as parliamentarian, director, president elect, president and past president. Pat got involved with CHA working for Markel Insurance Company.

“Pat Mullins is an outstanding individual who has offered unlimited support to CHA,” says CHA Immediate Past President Tara Gamble. “He has been active on the board for many years and his dedication to the mission of CHA has been supported by his generosity and service. Thank you Pat for all of your hard work, time, effort, monetary contribution and leadership to CHA - you are greatly appreciated!”

The CHA Partnership in Safety Award Goes to Troxel Performance Headgear

This award is given to an outstanding organization that has

demonstrated excellent commitment to safety in equestrian endeavors. Troxel has been in the performance headgear business for many years and works closely with CHA to donate product for silent auctions, TEAM CHA youth awards, and event give aways. Troxel is constantly striving to improve its headgear for equestrian sport by keeping it as safe as possible and affordable.

“It is a great honor for Troxel to be awarded the CHA Partnership in Safety Award,” says Shay Timms CEO for Troxel. “I sincerely appreciate CHA's work, commitment and purpose. Through the years of distributing all sorts of injury prevention products, Troxel has learned that changing perspectives on helmet use and safety comes from organizations like CHA and individuals such as your instructors that make a personal difference.”

CHA Instructor of the Year is Mitzi Summers from Fort Plain, New York

This award is given to an outstanding CHA certified instructor who demonstrates safe, effective and fun lessons. Students from around the continent send in nominations about their instructors and why they should be awarded this honor. Mitzi had so many letters of support sent in for her from not only North America, but from around the world! She is a CHA Master Level Instructor

and also conducts CHA clinics where she certifies other instructors. Mitzi attended the Northern School of Equitation in Ormskirk, England. Among Mitzi's many accomplishments she has shown extensively in jumping, dressage, and in western pleasure circuits. She rode with the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show and is licensed with the American Judging Association and judges many shows around the United States each year.

“Despite her high-powered credentials, Mitzi’s manner is cheerfully supportive of everyone, child or adult, beginner or Grand Prix rider,” says Lynn Acton CHA Instructor from Berkshire, New York. “Mitzi’s commitment to safety is unwavering, and she is unfailingly considerate of the horses, always putting their welfare first. Teaching is not just Mitzi’s profession; it is her calling.”

“Mitzi can work with all different kinds of riders and horses, she is an all round instructor!” says Margreet Bouwmeester from The Netherlands.

The CHA School Horse of the Year is Cinder from Center Lake Bible Camp in Tustin, Michigan

We often recognize people and organizations that have done great

things in the horse industry, but what about the horses themselves? The CHA School Horse of the Year Program is about these wonderful animals that spend countless hours being patient with new riders and not-so-new riders. The winner of this award, not only gets recognition, but is immortalized into a Stone Horse model thanks to the generosity of Peter and Elaine Stone.

Cinder is a 26-year-old registered Appaloosa mare that teaches summer camp and beginner western lessons, takes students on trail rides and helps riders with disabilities.

“It doesn’t matter whether we are out on the trail or in the arena, she never lets me down,” says Jackie Samuels instructor at Center Lake Bible Camp. “I have had riders who were scared and once I’m able to get them up on Cinder it’s like she sends a message to them saying don’t worry, I’ve done this many, many, many times and I’ll take care of you.”

“Thank you so much for selecting Cinder as this year’s CHA School Horse of the Year,” says Sue Cochran CHA Certified Instructor. “I appreciate CHA for recognizing and celebrating the school horse. Without these great, gentle horses our jobs as instructors for new riders would be impossible. I feel very

fortunate that I had the privilege to work with Cinder and teach so many to ride, appreciate and love horses!”

Finalists for the 2010 CHA School Horse of the Year Award are:

Bennie of Ceres, California

Chip from The Oaks Equestrian Center in Lake City, Florida

Shurroco from Rockin’ L&D Ranch in Escondido, California

Wilbur from Sugar Foot Farm in Utterson, Ontario

The CHA Volunteer of the Year is Ann Streett-Joslin of Dolores, Colorado

Ann has been a part of CHA for 10 years as a certified instructor, clinic instructor and board member. Attention to detail, consistency and getting the job done are all phrases that describe Ann perfectly. This year CHA updated the *CHA Standards for Group Riding Programs* to include vaulting, driving, instructors of riders with disabilities and more trail standards. The book even got a face lift and a title change to *Standards for Equestrian Programs*. Without Ann’s leadership as the committee chair of Research and Development on this project it would not be getting completed and printed in time for the 2011 clinic season.

“Ann took this project on and has not looked back,” says CHA CEO Christy Landwehr. “I have had the pleasure to work with Ann at CHA certification clinics, as a board member and now as a committee chair. She is dedicated to horsemanship safety and the new *Standards for Equestrian Programs* is a testament to this dedication.”

The 2011 CHA Annual International Conference is set for October 27 – 30 at The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. It is open to the public. The purpose of the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) is to promote excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the horse industry. CHA certifies riding instructors, vaulting coaches, barn managers, drivers and trail guides; accredits equestrian facilities; publishes educational equine manuals, produces educational horsemanship DVDs, and hosts regional and international educational conferences that are open to the public. For more information please visit www.CHA-ahse.org or call toll free 1-800-399-0138. To find a certified horseback riding instructor or accredited equine facility near you visit www.CHAINstructors.com.

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