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Announces Winners at 2011 Awards Banquet**
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**Certified Horsemanship Association Announces
Winners at
2011 Awards Banquet**

(November 2011) The Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) honored top individuals, horses and organizations at the annual awards banquet held at the International Conference at The Marriott Griffin Gate Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky on October 29, 2011.

**Clinic Instructor of the Year is Terry Williams from
Blanchester, Ohio**

Without our clinic instructors CHA would not be able to grow and accomplish its mission. The CHA Clinic Instructor of the Year Award goes to a CHA clinic instructor who has shown outstanding service to CHA by conducting meaningful clinics and influencing

the careers of numerous instructors over many years. Terry has been a CHA member since 1992 and a Clinic Instructor since 1996. She is CI for both CHA Standard (English and Western) and Equine Facility Manager Certification programs, as well as serving as a CHA Accreditation Site Visitor. She has served as the Regional Director for Region 4 for many, many years and has scheduled exception Regional Conferences. Terry also is an upcoming member of the CHA Board of Directors. Terry has certified and trained untold numbers of other Clinic Staff, including two previous winners of the Clinic Instructor of the Year Award.

“I was very pleasantly surprised to find out that Terry has been selected as this year's Clinic Instructor of the Year,” says Jim Glunt – CHA Past President. “I have known her as a friend and co-worker for nearly twenty years. Her efforts are characterized by a strong work ethic and a thorough knowledge of the horse. She consistently puts the welfare of the student and the horse above her own. Hats off to you Terry!”

“As a certified CHA Instructor I always pushed myself to be a better instructor and meet the guidelines that CHA set before me,” says Terry. “As a CHA Clinic Instructor I strived to make the value of CHA certification and the clinic process as much of a

value to others as it was to me. I always left every clinic with newfound knowledge and new friends. To be awarded the Clinic Instructor of the Year Award puts even more value into my commitment to CHA and its mission. Being recognized by the organization that puts safety first is an honor that I will treasure. More importantly, I treasure all the memories of meeting all the professional instructors and horsemen that I have met through CHA the past 25 years that I have been clinic staff, who also value safety in the equine industry.”

The CHA Partnership in Safety Award Goes to SaddleUp Safely – University of Kentucky HealthCare

For many years CHA has recognized an outstanding individual or organization that has helped not only the equine industry and CHA, but the community at large to promote safety and awareness. SaddleUp Safely is doing a lot in the local community and beyond to promote safe practices around horses. CHA has been very involved with this group helping them with educational brochures and answering questions on the blog that is open to all horse enthusiasts.

<http://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/saddleup/>

“What a thrill to receive the CHA Partnership in Safety Award on behalf of SaddleUp Safely!” says University of Kentucky Director of Strategic Marketing Bill Gombeski. “The award is a testimony to the impact SUS has been able to achieve by working with over 40 plus horse and medical organizations. One of our first partners was CHA and we have benefited immensely from its staff and members expertise and insights as we rolled out our programs and publications. We are very proud to have CHA as a member and are fortunate to have such a passionate, knowledgeable horse riding safety partner.”

CHA Instructor of the Year is Megan-Rai Ferguson of Saint Andrews, Manitoba

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. AQHA Professional Horsemen, CHA Assistant Clinic Instructor, equine massage therapist – these are just a few of the titles that Megan holds.

“A good teacher makes a difference, a great teacher changes your life,” says Carole Marshall. “I didn’t trust myself or my horse, but I trusted Megan as my instructor. She has limitless patience,

positive support, practical instruction and enthusiastic faith.”

“Her knowledge of rider biomechanics, horse conformation, training techniques and movement of the horse is so extensive it is staggering,” says Selene Doan. “Most importantly, she has the skills to pass along this information to those of us who want to learn!”

The CHA School Horse of the Year is APHA Gelding “Chewy” from Living Water Ranch in Fairbanks, Alaska

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.

Imachutoo, known as “Chewy” around the Living Water Ranch in Fairbanks, Alaska, is a registered American Paint Horse gelding. He does a little bit of everything for the ranch including teaching riders to jump, work cattle, trail ride, pack, drill ride, parade ride

and just plain learn how to sit on a horse!

“From an instructor’s perspective, he is a breath of fresh air,” says Living Water Horsemanship Director Teddy Franke.

“Discernment is a priceless trait in a school horse and Chewy knows when to move out for the subtle cues of an advanced rider and when to remain calm amidst the drumming of young, impatient legs. Working cows, ranch roping, vaulting, jumping, harness and packing are just a few of his talents. He performs in parades and rides in the backcountry of Alaska. In short, Chewy instills trust because of his reliability, versatility, discernment and relaxed nature.”

His students say this about him –

“I love Chewy so much. He is so good on trail rides. Chewy is the most amazing horse in the world, he is so cute and his colors are so pretty. He’s adorable and obedient and great in every single possible way on this whole round earth.”

Top Five Finalists for the 2011 CHA School Horse of the Year Award are:

Beauty from Middleton Stables in Charleston, South Carolina

Chewy from Living Water Ranch in Fairbanks, Alaska

Mini from Cloud R Ranch in Steinbach, Manitoba

Stella from Root Farm in Verona, New York

Ten Thirty from Clover Ten Thirty in Santa Rosa, California

The Volunteer of the Year is Tammi Gainer of Alliance, Ohio

Having grown up around horses, Tammi began her professional equine career in 1989 as a trail guide at a large ranch camp where she was first exposed to the world of equestrian vaulting and attended her first CHA Standard Instructor Certification Clinic. Tammi joined the instructor staff at Pegasus Farm, one of the largest therapeutic equestrian centers in the US, in the spring of 1995. While working at the Farm part-time and home schooling her three children, Tammi also spent much time working under several trainers in both reining and dressage and achieved NARHA instructor certification. In 2000, she achieved CHA Master Level Instructor and clinic staff status and has since earned CI status in the IRD and Vaulting programs as well. In 2005 Tammi was promoted to Equestrian Director at Pegasus Farm where she now manages all aspects of the equestrian programs that include 250 plus students each week participating in areas such as horsemanship, driving, vaulting, veterans, and work

programs.

An active committee member and board member, Tammi is always willing to lend a hand at CHA regional and international conferences and has put together the CHA Regional Directors binder as well as updated the IRD and Vaulting Coach certifications. Tammi has been attending Equine Affaires and working the CHA booth there for many years and is the current Secretary for our board.

TEAM CHA Horse Connections Rewards Winner – Jenny Sdrenka of Cape Coral, Florida

TEAM CHA is the youth arm of CHA and the Horse Connections Rewards program awards youth that turn in hours of working with horses, taking riding lessons and learning about horses. This year's winner is Jenny Catherine Sdrenka of Cape Coral, Florida who owns AQHA gelding The Rockin' Doc, or Doc for short. Jenny is 11 years old and in sixth grade and loves to ride hunter pleasure, jump, go bareback, and do everything that is fun to do on horseback! Jenny has been a part of TEAM CHA for two years and is excited to keep being in TEAM CHA until she turns 16 and can attend a clinic to gain her Assistant Riding Instructor certification. Congratulations!

SAVE THE DATE! The 2012 CHA Annual International Conference is set for October 11 – 14, 2012 at Canyonview Equestrian Center and College in Silverton, Oregon. 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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