

2015 Special Awards - Stories

Father of the Year-Jim Nosen

The man I am nominating for father of the year is truly a person who puts everyone else's needs in front of his own.

For years, he has supported our equine children and me without even the slightest question, regardless of the expense or exhaustion involved. On a daily basis, without being asked, he helps with chores in feeding, mucking out stalls, fixing fences and making sure "the kids" have everything they need, including a multitude of treats. He never hesitates to pitch in and help with tacking up, loading, bathing or any other of the never ending tasks that go along with being an "equine dad". In fair weather and in foul, he is completely responsible.

During times of emergency, he has been a rock. From walking a horse with colic for hours, to helping to bandage a bleeding mare, his support and concern for their well being is honest and heartfelt. He'll hold a lead rope for a farrier, a chiropractor, or a vet and never complain. He extends this caring and treatment to not only his equine kids, but to all people and animals that pass through his life. As rigorous and stressful as horse show season can be, he is the ultimate in support and encouragement. He spends 90% of his summer either helping me paint houses to pay for the shows, or attending them, supporting not only me, but every member of our barn. For hours he can be found holding horses at the gate, helping get them and riders ready, and aiding with all chores involved, always with an encouraging tone. Countless times he has returned late to the show grounds for wrapping, cleaning stalls or walking horses just to turn around early in the morning and return to start it all over again. I am lucky to have him in my life. **Jim Nosen** is a wonderful father to all our equine, canine, and feline children.

Junior Sportsman-Campbell Ray

Campbell Ray is an almost impossibly mature spirit for so young a person. The warmth of that spirit and her smile can't help but draw others to her. She always has a greeting and words of encouragement for everyone. At a horse show, when she isn't in the ring competing, she is watching and cheering on her fellow riders, the young and the more mature, all appreciate her support. She has had her share of setbacks, horse and rider, including a recent broken hand, but she is never one to complain and has never let those problems slow her down.

Campbell is mature beyond her years which is apparent in her behavior and in her commitment to improving her riding ability and helping her horses perform at their best.

Campbell's conduct and attitude are befitting an exceptional sportswoman: fair play, courtesy, striving spirit, and grace in losing.

This award goes to student that exemplifies the virtues of sportsmanship including fairness, courage, and persistence. This person is a good sport meaning they are able to be a good winner as well as being a good loser. The winner of this award is also a model of horsemanship, which is the idea of working in sympathy with a horse. This person always puts the horse's needs and well being above their own.

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Senior Sportsman-Vicki Zacharias

True sportsmanship is putting other's needs before oneself. The nominee has gone above and beyond putting other people first. Despite two bouts of devastating news simultaneously, this person chose to go about her weeks of horse showing without letting her clients worry about her and not let on what she was dealing with. She says that the horse shows were "not all about her" and did not want to negatively impact her clients' riding.

This nominee has lost her sister who is also her best friend to dementia and been diagnosed with cancer but continues on with poise and strength. She never takes a day off, she goes to horse shows, she teaches and she rides all the while saying to herself and the universe that she is "not sick." Her positive energy and her tenacity continuously humble me and astound me. When I feel a little off on a day, I ask myself, "how does she do it?" and try to emulate her positivity.

I have been impressed with how this community has banded together to support this amazing individual and ask that we band together again to present this year's Senior Sportsmanship award to **Vicki Zacharias**.

Mother of the Year - Martha Brooks

My mother supports me above and beyond the call of duty. She is there for me every day. Not only does she act as cook at horse shows, she helps me clean stalls and take

care of the horses on a daily basis. This exceptional woman puts aside her physical pain caused by knee problems to help me out however possible. In addition she remains positive despite her difficulties and brings light to those around her. She not only supports me, she supports my young cousin in this sport by sponsoring her showing. By sponsoring my cousin, she keeps her engaged and provides a reason for her to do her school work. A lifetime horsewoman, my mother has been involved in every faction of our sport. She competed, she trains, she volunteers her time with OHSET, Pony Club, the Southern Oregon Hunter jumper Association and OHJA. She supports me and the organization. I could not ask for a more giving mother. Even now as I embark on a new adventure of becoming a professional, she is there for me providing advice and support and giving me every opportunity to fulfill my goals. This is why I nominate my mother, Martha Brooks.

Horse welfare-Joe Regan

"In riding a Horse, we borrow freedom"...

"There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man"...

If we merge both quotes, we find the essence of a rare and special Horseman. Someone who is not only grateful for what the glorious equine offers humanity, but truly puts the needs of this magnificent creature at the same or greater level of the human's needs. The good found at the core of his caretaker does indeed reflect the exterior of the horse himself. A person dedicated to keep a horse at its optimal condition both internally and externally, mentally and physically, is indeed a genuine Horseman, to be thanked by not only his equines in his care, but his fellow Horseman as well.

"Lead by example". If only it were that easy. Some are simply better leaders and examples than others. Joe Regan exemplifies extraordinary Horsemanship with selflessness. Anyone who has ever had the opportunity to view Joe in action while attending to our equine friends, will know that they are indeed seeing a man of pure dedication to the Horse. Personally, I have had this opportunity to view Joe attend to a variety of horses over the decade that I have known him. His kind demeanor, patience and unstopping will to be certain that the horses are cared for are among the numerous beautiful traits that this man has gifted to anyone who has had the opportunity to share moments spent with him.

Regardless of the place in this world that a horse has, Joe is there to make their place the best place ever, no matter what. I have seen **Joe Regan** rescue horses and provide them with glorious remaining days on this earth. I have seen him watch horses go to their heaven. He is dedicated to all of them. His heart and soul are invested in every horse that comes into contact with him.

Volunteer-Kathy Hall

The OHJA Volunteer of the Year Award has a long tradition of hard working and self-sacrificing nominees. This year's recipient more than meets and continues that tradition.

A dedicated horsewoman, this person has given so much to OHJA and the horse community at large. She has served on the OHJA board for over a decade, she is a horse owner and competitor, she is usually the first one to step up to sponsor fund raising events, and she is a member of the board of Oregon Horse Country. While it is expected that a board member will generously donate their time during their term of service, this year's recipient has gone above and beyond that expectation. While juggling the responsibilities of a family and a successful legal practice, she has still always been available with words of advice and clarity of thought, able to pick up the occasionally dropped ball, as well as giving her financial support to OHJA. Without Kathy's dedicated and determined hard work this past year we would not have the outstanding new website, moving OHJA's web presence into the 21st century. I am very pleased to nominate Kathy Hall for the OHJA Volunteer of the Year Award.