

# CQHA News

Save the date

April 23, 2010  
Horse Show

VOLUME II ISSUE I

MARCH/APRIL 2010

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Find out what WCHA is?
- Youth's Banner of Support
- AQHA "Fix My Horse"
- 2010 CQHA Show Dates
- New NEQHA Regional Director

*Celebrating 41 years*

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## Show Season .....

Christine Griffin / cgrif@snet

It's that time of year again, time to pull out the t-shirts, sweatshirts, sneakers, windbreaker, parker, rain boots, Uggs, turtleneck, thermals, winter coat, long johns, scarf, mittens, wool hat, sun visor, baseball cap, tank top, sunscreen, flyspray, and might as well throw in a snow shovel for good measure because you never know what kind of weather we will have at the first show of the **CQHA** season.

Starting Thursday evening April 22nd, through Sunday the 25th. Single judged by Kathy Anderson from Firth, NB the first day with a split combine judged by Michael Swain from Sedalia, MD and Jennifer

Lynn Thompson from Reno, NV on Saturday and Sunday. There will be no **CQHA** qualifying points for **CQHYA** on Friday.



### "Winning Again in 2010"

Check out the **CQHA** website this year and you will be able to print and fill out your entries prior to arriving on the grounds. Contact Ellie Keene for

stall reservations 860-564-5554 or 401-231-1241 at **FCF**.

**Falls Creek Farm** has been investigating ways to improve and simplify the entries and bill paying system along with the support of **CQHA** we hope for a smooth riding show season

As customary there will be the **Battle of the Barns** fundraiser with the Basket Raffle (*Barn affiliates rally your troops*). Also new this season is a **Green Trail Challenge**, enter in **AQHA Green Trail** class Saturday morning and have the opportunity to share in a \$500 payback. Don't forget to stop by for complimentary **coffee** and **doughnuts** Saturday morning under the show office.

## Record Attendance.....

[www.cqha.com](http://www.cqha.com)

**M**embers came out in record numbers to attend the annual **CQHA Banquet of Champions** held at the Marriott in Rocky Hill, and nobody was disappointed. The food was delicious, the music invigorating, the awards spectacular and the members amazing.

With 236 **CQHA** members, family and friends dressed to the nines, the evening started with cocktails followed by dinner and awards ending with dancing the cold January night away.

**CQHA** Congress Queen Roni Hay was on hand to meet, greet and congratulate our winners as they accepted the many awards presented.



Photos courtesy of Heather Lange

The new series in *The American Quarter Horse Journal* will give amateurs a professional perspective on their show-ring skills.



## AQHA UPDATES.....

*The American Quarter Horse Journal*, February 3, 2010—Amateurs who want an expert opinion on their show-ring sometimes wonder where to turn.

*The American Quarter Horse Journal*, the leading American Quarter Horse industry publication, wants to help amateurs by offering them the chance to get advice from an [AQHA Professional Horseman](#).

The series debuted February 1, 2010, with a story in the February issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal* and an accompanying video on [America's Horse TV](#) the How-To channel.

In the first episode, now available, amateur Laura Stevens of Canyon, Texas, is featured with her mare, *Didya Notice*

Me, in a western pleasure class. Stevens questions about how to ride her horse more effectively, and AQHA Professional Horseman [David Dellin](#) answers those questions. Dellin suggests exercises to help Stevens prepare her horse for the show ring and offers advice on presentation for a more competitive ride.

In the second episode, which will air March, amateur Sandra Olson of Panaca, Nevada, asks AQHA Professional Horseman [Clark Bradley](#) about how to fix her horse's spins. Bradley's advice will be in the March issue of *The American Quarter Horse Journal*, and a video of Olson riding *Conquistador Trouble* will be on America's Horse TV on the How-To channel with Bradley's

comments.

The Fix My Horse series will continue through 2010.

The American Quarter Horse Journal is accepting videos of amateurs in other classes as well, including halter and showmanship. To submit a video for consideration, write to [aqhajrnl@aqha.org](mailto:aqhajrnl@aqha.org) with the words "Fix My Horse" in the subject line.

AQHA news and information is a service if AQHA publications. For more information on *The American Quarter Horse Journal*, *The American Quarter Horse Racing Journal* or *America's Horse*, visit [www.aqha.com/magazines](http://www.aqha.com/magazines).

## Region Six News.....

### New NEQHA Regional Director *Equine Journal*, March 2010

After a thorough selection process, Gretchen Mathes of Harwinton, CT, has been chosen as the New England Quarter Horse Association's regional director. Her term began Monday, March 8, in Kissimmee, FL, at the AQHA conven-



tion. The position was held for the past 20 years by Joe McAllister, who will now move on to become director at large.

As regional director Joe McAllister says he was the contact person for all the New England state associations as well as a contact for functions or programs that the American Quarter Horse Association ran.

"That is your main responsibility," says Joe. "that you're there and willing to help." He says that the number one change in the position over the years has been the growing use of the inter-

net.

"I've met so many great people through the years. The regional participation and the support on the local level is what brings you up to the national level," says Joe about the importance of regional shows and encouraging people to start at a local level.

Joe said what he most enjoyed was being able to travel and meet new people.

"I want to congratulate Gretchen on being appointed director," says Joe. The process for choosing a new regional director begins with each state nominating a representative. Out of the six New England states, only two people went before the board. "They were two very, very well qualified people," he says. After much consideration, Gretchen was chosen.

Gretchen grew up in Harwinton, where she began to compete in local 4H shows at a young age. She purchased her first Quarter Horse filly at a production sale at Westonhook Farm around 13 years of age. It was at this farm that she was introduced to Sandy Vaughn, the McAllister family, along

with Al and Gail Cibelli.

"From that point on, I lived and breathed Quarter Horses." At a young age Gretchen purchased her life membership to the AQHA with her own money.

Through the years, Gretchen worked at Grand View ranch and with Al and Gail Cibelli, who helped her train her filly. After graduating high school, Gretchen began an apprenticeship with Sandy Vaughn. At just 17 years old Gretchen became a professional horse trainer and in 1984 earned her judges card. Gretchen participated in shows throughout New England and built her business through hard work and honesty.

"I've always aspired to this position," Gretchen says "I feel that it was a way of giving back to the association and I've been very fortunate to be able to grow up in this great Quarter Horse environment and grow my children up in this great environment."

Gretchen's two children, Cole, 15 and Johnna 18, both enjoy attending shows. Johnna is currently attending the University of South Carolina on an

equestrian scholarship. Gretchen feels that attending shows is a great way to share time with her family.

"It teaches them hard work and it helps a child grow up and become a responsible adult. I can't say enough about what it has done for all the kids I've taught and my own kids, I think the rewards are great."

Gretchen has always been an active member in the association by speak-

ing out on rule changes she felt strongly about and encourages other members to do the same. She was on the original committee to form **R6 Affiliate**, the **Professional Horseman** committee and is currently on a member of the **Stud Book and Registration Committee**. After many years breeding, showing and judging, Gretchen is knowledgeable on how the association functions.

"I am thankful for this involvement, that

I can bring these things to the region and I can show how wonderful this horse is and the association that governs it." *for continuation go to the [www.EquineJournal.com](http://www.EquineJournal.com)*



Oneco, CT  
Home of CQHA  
Shows

## Calendar of Events\*

**March 27, 28 10am—5pm,**  
**Connecticut Horse Symposium,** UConn Campus  
**CQHA 2010 Show Season**  
**April 22(Thurs eve) 23,24,25**  
**CQHA,** Oneco,CT  
**Up coming show dates**  
May 21—23  
June 18—20

July 15—18  
Sept 10—12  
**Region Six Show Date**  
July 8th—11th, Springfield, MA

*Be sure and mark your calendar!*

**April Show— Highlights**  
**Battle of the Barns—Basket raffle**

**Green Trail Challenge—Saturday**  
\$500 payback  
**Coffee and Donuts Saturday**  
Morning—Sponsored by CQHA

*\*Subject to change*



## Live, Learn and Pass it On.....

"When I hear somebody talk about a horse or a cow being stupid, I figure it's a sure sign that animal has outfoxed them". *Tom Dorance*

"Every time you ride, you're either teaching or un-teaching your horse." *Gordon Wright*

"Want to end up with a million bucks in the horse business? Start out with five million." *Anonymous*

*Continue to check CQHA's website for updates and information between newsletters!"*

## Bits & Spurs.....

**Gretchen Mathes: WCHA Area Director.....**

As the Area Director for **The World Conformation Horse Association**, I would welcome your thoughts and questions about **The Conformation Horse** and our newly formed organization, **WCHA**.

The halter horse, to many portrays the image of huge muscled monsters. However it is true conformation, balance, structure and breed type

which can come in many sizes and should be evident in all our disciplines.

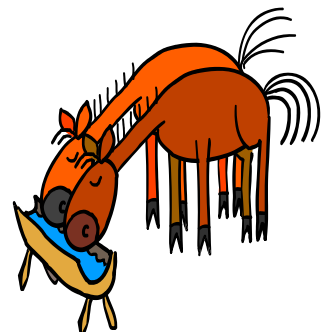
Halter is also a class you can prepare and show in without a trainer on the regional level. The average horse can be prepared at home with very reasonable amount of work; proper feed, exercise, grooming and practicing.

To show a halter horse well you need to be aware of your horse's strong points and weaknesses, you need to learn how to **SHOW** that horse. It is

a lot of fun and as you proceed you will realize it is an art that you can master. Watch those professionals, they really work hard to win.

Feel free to email me with any questions and remember Conformation Counts.

[gretchenmathes@yahoo.com](mailto:gretchenmathes@yahoo.com)





## CQHA Board News

The **CQHA** board of directors held a board meeting on Monday March 1st and it was hosted at Whitney Lagace's home. Discussion included the upcoming show season and goals for the club, also the

restructuring of the current point system to do away with double pointing in some of the categories.

The board reviewed the recommendations made on behalf of **Falls Creek**, on how to improve and simplify show entries and bill paying at **Falls Creek Farm** this season.

This September there will be a full slate of Officer elections to be filled, so please keep this in mind for the future of **CQHA**, there will also be three board seats available.

The Board will be looking for some help for the Banquet Committee for the 2010 season, the date and hall have already been reserved, so that part is already taken care of. Please think about joining this fun committee, as it is one of the highlights of the association.

As always the general membership are welcome and encouraged to attend the board meeting held over the course of the year.

*Now more than ever, your continued support is needed, and only by working together can we make a difference.*

**President:** Amy Rader  
missamy6877@aol.com

**Vice President:** Gretchen Mathes

**Secretary:** Sue Sinott  
sns067@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Natalie Olson  
natalie-olson@cigna.com

## Connecticut Horse Symposium

hosted by the University of Connecticut, is on Saturday and Sunday, March 27-28 from 10 am to 5 pm. The event is a unique opportunity for a weekend of equine-related seminars and demonstrations.

There will be demonstrations on the talent and athleticism of the Western horse with a special focus on the American Quarter Horse. On March 27, a 9 am clinic will be featuring showmanship. In this clinic, Whitney Lagace will be teaching others the art of showing the horse in-hand. This will be followed by a 10:30 am clinic on Western horsemanship. Other demonstrations include: "conquering your riding anxiety, natural horsemanship, biting,

UConn Morgan Drill team, barrel racing, polocrosse, UConn Equestrian Team, UConn polo game, UConn Dressage Team, dressage demonstration with Ann Guptill, equine dentistry, disaster management, composting, equine appraisals, acupuncture, chiropractic, quadrille, learn what to look for when buying a trailer/trailer safety, equine law, rescue a horse, take a field trip to area horse farms, and much, much more." The event will also feature a "vendor fair, coloring contest, and silent auction for youth and adults."

The event is only \$10 per adult each day, \$8 per day for ages 9-18, and \$5 per day for 4-H members (no pre-

registration required) and all funds that are raised will be used to support equine research and extension programs at the University of Connecticut.

With so much to do and learn, the event promises to be fun. The 2010 **Connecticut Horse Symposium** will be held at the **University of Connecticut**, Department of Animal Science at 3636 Horsebarn Rd in Storrs (Directions: I-84 to Exit 68 to Rte. 195 S

## Be the Next CQHA Congress Queen

**CQHA**  
**CONGRESS**  
**QUEEN**

Veronica 'Roni' Hay  
2009 Connecticut Quarter  
Horse Association Queen



*Note to Future Contestants:*

Participating in the Congress Queen Contest is a great way to be involved! Connecticut is in need of representation and the tradition of having a Connecticut Queen needs to be revived. I strongly encourage those interested in participating in the All American QH Congress Queen Contest to do so!



**Winning Weekends Equine Events**  
will be hosting their second annual "Show & Tell"  
event on May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> with

**Carolyn Johnson**

Each exhibitor will receive guaranteed  
feedback and a critique of their performance  
from Carolyn in special "Show & Tell" classes.

**New for 2010: AQHA Introductory Show with  
Novice Youth and Novice Amateur classes!**

**Series Show Dates:**

May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> \* May 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> \* June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

**Fonda Fairgrounds Fonda, New York**

**Winning Weekends Offers:**

Halter Championship \* Equitation Championships  
Showmanship Championship \* Day End Awards  
Exhibitor Parties \* Series Awards & Ribbons  
Showmanship with the Stars \* Class Prize \$\$

Best Jr. Rider Award \* Vendor Fair  
Added \$\$ Pleasure Challenge \* Mom & Dad Leadline  
Ride for a Reason Classes \* 9 Divisions  
And so much more...

**Thanks to Our Sponsors:**

Equine Clinic at OakenCroft \* Walker's Farm & Tack  
Cowgirl Couture \* Right at Home Farm \* Tuck-a-Hoe Farm  
RugRatWear \* Funny Farm Designs \* Dodge N Banner Farm  
Triple Crown Nutrition

**Sponsorships & Vendor Space Still Available!**

**Save \$30.00 by purchasing a "Series Stall" before 4/1/10**

**More details available on our website:**

**www.WinningWeekends.com**

**(518) 466-2445**





# Connecticut Quarter Horse Association

CQHA Newsletter Coordinator

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*“Aiding and encouraging the breeding, exhibiting,  
use and perpetuating of American Quarter Horses”*



## CQHA 2010 Battle of the Baskets

Its that time of year!! Gather the troops and join in the fun of the annual *Battle of the Barns*. Put together any theme basket and see which one rallies to the top. Join in the fun and be a part of one of the seasons favorite fund raiser to support CQHA



## CQHA 2010 Banner of Support

CQHA *Youths* are holding the *Banner of Support* fund raiser for 2010. Please show your support and contact a youth member today!



### *Winning Again in 2010*