

# News from the Reining/cow Horse Industries

## RHSF establishes Dale Wilkinson Memorial Fund

It will come as no surprise to reiners and horsemen around the world that the Reining Horse Sports Foundation (RHSF) has instituted a memorial fund fitting for the man so instrumental in the formation of the National Reining Horse Association and promotion of the sport of reining - Dale Wilkinson. The NRHA Hall of Fame's first inductee (1986) and without question one of reining's most well-respected iconic legends, Wilkinson was often referred to as the "Father of Modern-Day Reining." After a three-week stay in Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Ga., Wilkinson died March 12.

An educator with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge about his favorite subject - horses -

Wilkinson was instrumental in forming the University of Findlay Equestrian Program in 1976. He was also

awarded an honorary doctorate degree in Equine Entrepreneurial Management by the University of Findlay. A member of the NRHA, AQHA, NCHA

and Ohio Quarter Horse Association Halls of Fame, Wilkinson was the recipient of the first Zane Schulte Memorial Award in 2001. That award was established

by Tom and Barbara Schulte in memory of their son, Zane, who died after a struggle with bone cancer. It is

given to recognize humanitarian values and character, and to someone who gives back to the horse industry

with leadership and service.

"Right now we are allowing the family to make recommendations [as to how the funds will be spent],"

said Brian Bendele, NRHA's manager of the RHSF & NRHA Youth Programs. "We feel it is important

to have the family's input and this is something we don't want to rush. That being said, we have created

an account where all funds will be kept in his name." For more information or to make a donation,

contact Bendele at [bbendele@nrha.com](mailto:bbendele@nrha.com) or 405-946-7400, ext. 130.

## Youth scholarships available through RHSF

Members of the National Reining Horse Youth Association (NRHYA) are the future of the sport. The Reining Horse Sports Foundation (RHSF) is committed to providing leadership and scholarship opportunities to these youth members. At this time, RHSF is offering \$10,500 in academic and need-based scholarships for seven youth members. Plus, NRHYA is adding \$2,000 in scholarships for participants in its Varsity Reining Club. RHSF President Frank Costantini said that it's an honor to recognize the hard work of these youth members. "The RHSF is proud to award these scholarships to such outstanding individuals," he said. "The youth program of NRHA has made a huge leap forward to really promote the sport among young competitors throughout the world. We hope the scholarship pro-

gram will help recognize our youth members and all

the youth programs NRHA as to offer."

Scholarship recipients will be determined based on

academic achievement, future goals, involvement in

NRHYA and NRHA, and financial need. An applicant must be a senior in high school planning to pur-

sue an undergraduate degree from a two- or four-year

institution or a trade and technical school, and be a

current NRHA member for at least two years.

Applications are now being accepted for the scholarship recipients of the RHSF scholarships are

eligible to reapply for scholarships until they are 25

years old. The scholarship application may be down-

loaded at [nrha.com/scholarships.php](http://nrha.com/scholarships.php).

For more information about the RHSF Scholarship

program, go to [rhsf.com](http://rhsf.com) or [nrha.com](http://nrha.com), or contact the

manager of RHSF & Youth Programs, Brian Bendele,

at [bbendele@nrha.com](mailto:bbendele@nrha.com) 405-946-7400, ext. 130.

## NRCHA Affiliate of the Year kicks off 2010 events

The National Reined Cow Horse Association's 2009 Affiliate of the Year, the Ohio Reined Cow

Horse Association, began a new year at Henderson Arena in Jackson, Ohio, March 26-28.

The weekend show kicked off with Friday herd

work and an NRCHA-sanctioned show on Saturday

and Sunday, which boasted \$1,000 added each day.

The payout for the weekend was \$5,830, with 309

class entries. The payouts for the yearlong events

are on pace to surpass payouts for the 2009 season.

Membership is also growing, from 120 members at

the end of last year to 150 following the first show of

2010.

In its inaugural year, the ORCHA paid out

\$38,195 for the six weekend events of 2009, which

concluded with the Heartbreak Ridge Performance

Horses Derby. The 2009 Derby weekend winners

earned more than \$9,500 in cash and prizes, which

included C.R. Morrison bronzes and plaques, as well

as Tom Balding snaffles.

ORCHA is scheduled to have six shows for 2010

and will include a Bridle Spectacular for its May

21-23 show. Also added to the schedule for 2010 will

be American Quarter Horse Association cutting and

cow horse classes at the June and July shows. Each

weekend's activities will include Friday night herd

work with NRCHA-sanctioned shows on Saturday

and Sunday.

The 2010 show season will once again culminate

with the Heartbreak Ridge Performance Horses

Derby, newly added ORCHA Futurity and Stallion

Stakes, and a clinic by renowned trainer Sandy

Collen, the only woman to win the NRCHA Snaffle

Bit Futurity, Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

New for 2010 is the ORCHA Stallion Auction, in

which breedings can be purchased at a reduced cost

and the resulting foal will be eligible for the ORCHA

Stakes program. One hundred percent of the auction

proceeds will go to the Stakes fund. Bids start at 50

percent of the stallion's advertised fee.

"I see the future of the ORCHA as being very

bright. Our membership is expanding at a tremendous

pace and we strive to better the organization

every day," said ORCHA founder and director

Carrie McBride. "We really strive to have a place for

everyone to experience cow horse at a level which

they are comfortable and we try to come up with

innovative ways to reward riders to keep moving

forward."

ORCHA sponsors include Just Like Starlight,

Roseberry Cattle Company, DAC, Rosell Trailer

Sales, Heartbreak Ridge Performance Horses, Taylor

Performance Horses, McBride Cow Horses, Triple F

Ranch, Veal Performance Horses, Rods and Yellow

Creek Ranch.

Founded in 2008, the Ohio Reined Cow Horse

Association is a nonprofit affiliate of the National

Reined Cow Horse Association. For more informa-

tion on the ORCHA, check out the Web site at

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

## World Equestrian Games ticket special available

Reining will be the featured discipline at the

Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games from Sept.

25-30. Grounds pass tickets for the event, priced at

\$25 each, went on sale April 16. However, from April

16 through May 31, as a special promotion, tickets

will be available for \$20.

Each grounds pass will allow entry to the 2010

Games venue for the selected date of purchase. To

provide for an affordable, family-friendly event,

admission for children 12 years and under will be free

when the child is accompanied by a paying adult.

Grounds pass tickets will give spectators access

to a wide range of activities at the Kentucky Horse

Park venue. Activities include shopping at more than

250 trade show booths; exhibits and entertainment

at the Kentucky Experience pavilion, and the Kentucky

Horse Parks world-renowned exhibits and museums.

In addition, spectators will be entertained and

educated in the Equine Village, which will present

more than 40 exhibitors and some of the world's top

equine entertainment acts and clinicians, including

Pat Parelli, Clinton Anderson and the kid-friendly

Equinamia.

A limited quantity of Flex Grounds Pass tickets

will be available for \$30. The Flex Grounds Pass can

be used for entry on any one day of choice, without

selecting a specific date of attendance at the time of

purchase.

Tickets can be purchased through [www.alltech-](http://www.alltech-equestrian.com/tickets)

[equestrian.com/tickets](http://www.alltech-equestrian.com/tickets), on [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), at

any Ticketmaster outlet and via the Ticketmaster

hotline at 1-800-745-3000. ■