



Joan Harms

Joan and husband Tom own and operate Copper Bit Ranch, a teaching and boarding establishment where they raise, train, and show a variety of horse breeds based on their individual talents. She has been judging, offering riding instruction, and working with horses in hunt seat, jumping, western, trail, and saddle seat plus in hand and showmanship for more than 50 years. She has also been active in eventing and dressage as well as participating in competitive and pleasure driving. During the Fall, she has always enjoyed the sport of traditional fox hunting with Cornwall Hounds and Oak Brook Hounds and successfully competing in the Chicagoland Hunter Trials. She also presents judging clinics and equine educational seminars along with teaching equine courses for community colleges and writing magazine articles. She finds it satisfying to act as a consultant in horse appraisals for horse owners and buyers.

Joan has been judging for 40+ years. She was selected Wisconsin Judge of the Year in 2005. She has also received national recognition from the International Buckskin Horse Association, Pony of Americas Club, and the American Miniature Horse Association.

She has had the honor to judge many Regional, National, and International Championships for the International Andalusian/Lusitano Horse Assn. and the International Friesian Show Horse Assn. Judging for numerous Breed associations and many multi-breed equestrian events broadens one's scope of comparison and appreciation for the concept of "form to function". The aim is to provide a positive experience and fair consideration for each exhibitor.

Joan also officiates for the Federated Equine Inspection Tours, judging conformation and movement. Many breeds are evaluated, including Gypsy Vanners, Friesians, Sport horses, Andalusians, Arabians, Pony breeds of Great Britain, Fjords, and quality Part-Breds destined for disciplines for which they are best suited.

As a long time 4-H leader and coach, she guides youth with equestrian dreams. Joan coaches horse judging, horse bowl, public speaking, and hippology competitors. Her numerous teams and individuals have won titles at the Regional, State, and National Level as well as at the Arabian Nationals and the Quarter Horse Congress. Knowing the horse inside and out enables owners and exhibitors to relate to him at the highest level. By attending, not only judging and riding clinics, but also anatomy, physiology, and psychology seminars, Joan is dedicated to maintaining and improving her judging skills and promoting equine welfare.

Having recently retired from teaching in middle school., Joan has been able to travel abroad and enjoy the wonderful opportunity to school in dressage at the Epona Equestrian Center in Spain and advance in jumping in Ireland. Visiting the national stud farms has been a valuable learning experience. Traveling across Europe has expanded her knowledge of various breeds in their native homelands, entrenching the philosophy of versatility throughout our equine world.

Judge's Cards held:

United States Equestrian Federation:
"R" Andalusians/Lusitanos: IALHA
"R" Friesians: IFSHA
USEF English Pleasure Division
Gypsy Vanner Horse Society
Pony of Americas Club
International Buckskin Horse Association
American Miniature Horse Association
Color Breed Horse Council
American Stock Horse Association
Illinois State Horse Council
Iowa State Horse Council
Wisconsin State Horse Council

Synopsis of Education and Experience:

M.S. in Guidance and Counseling
B.A. in Psychology
Accredited Secondary School Teacher:
6-12 grades, concentration Language Arts
Wisconsin Horse Show Judge of the year 2005
Horse Show Exhibitor: 50+ years
Horse Trainer: 50+ years
Certified Riding Instructor: 50+ years
Coach of youth teams: 40+ years