

An Introduction to Equine Affaire's Outstanding Presenters



Todd Jay Andrews

The son of a horse trainer and judge, Todd Andrews knew that he would always be working with horses. After trying out training and deciding it was not for him, Mr. Andrews transitioned into horse shoeing. He took a particular interest in identifying how anatomy, gait faults, and lameness were interconnected in the horses he worked on. A skilled farrier, Mr. Andrews often handmade or customized shoes to better fit the individual horses he worked on. He also carefully studied the horse's physical environment to see if any changes made there could have a positive impact on the horse. Outside of creating horseshoes, Mr. Andrews is a successful blacksmith who was named Champion in season five, episode 29 of the *History Channel* show "Forged in Fire". Though officially retired, Mr. Andrews still enjoys working with horses and currently resides in Eighty Four, PA.



Sara Ballinger

Sara Ballinger has owned and operated her own business, SEB Equine Appraisals LLC, since 2012. A life-long equestrian, she has a bachelor's degree in equine science and biology from the University of Findlay and has competed on the hunter jumper circuit for more than twenty years. A two-time Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Champion, Ms. Ballinger now competes in top hunter jumper shows across the United State as an amateur. With her experience in the industry, Ms. Ballinger discovered a need for equine appraisers to assist both professionals and amateurs in making business decisions with their horses. Focusing on appraising competition and sport horses, Ms. Ballinger operates SEB Equine Appraisals out of Marion, OH. While she handles many different types of appraisals, the majority of her business comes from writing appraisals for horses being donated to non-profit programs for tax purposes.



JT Benitez

J. T. Benitez has been raising poultry for nearly his entire life. He got his start by raising laying hens, broilers, ducks, geese, and turkeys in his backyard and was heavily involved in 4-H programs. This involvement in 4-H soon led to him interning for the organization and eventually building a career from it. After earning a master's in management from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2011, Mr. Benitez began working for Purdue University Extension in Harrison County. Two years later, he moved to Union County as a 4-H Educator. In addition to his varied job duties as a 4-H Educator, Mr. Benitez worked as the Indiana State Fair 4-H Poultry Show Manager for six years. In early 2019, Mr. Benitez moved to Ohio and started work as an Extension Educator in Agriculture and Natural Resources for The Ohio State University Extension in Butler County.



Amanda Berges

As a certified independent saddle fitter, Amanda Berges uses her wealth of experience in the equine industry to assist her clients with their saddle fitting needs. She got her start as a horse trainer and riding instructor, certified by the American Riding Instructors Association for dressage and huntseat, before becoming a judge in Ohio and the surrounding states. Ms. Berges decided to pursue custom saddle fitting after struggling to find an appropriate saddle fit for her own horse. In 2015, she was certified in saddle fitting from the School of Saddle Fit and Flocking in England. Once she came back to the States, Ms. Berges started her business, The Saddle Tree, in Johnstown, OH, which specializes in hard-to-fit horses via custom design, tree adjustment, and custom flocking. She now works with riders in Ohio and surrounding states on finding the best saddle fit for themselves and their horses.