

Colorful ranch hand

Connie Overhalt of Perkasio, Pennsylvania, uses her 1997 gelding Dream Strawy for turning back cows at National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) shows on the East Coast.

Connie and “Dreamer” became acquainted six years ago when she saw an ad in the paper for him, tried him out and thought he’d brighten up any cutting pen. He naturally took to cattle and loves his job as a cow pony.

Connie also owns Quarter Horses and Paints, but says that Dreamer’s proven himself to be a great all-around horse at her cattle ranch.



Connie Overhalt and Dreams Strawy

Holistic healer



Missy Axton-Wryn and Paco

Missy Axton-Wryn of Estacada, Oregon, uses her foundation Appaloosa CLM Lucky Feathers, or “Paco,” in her “W”Holistic Natural Horsemanship Woman to Woman clinics, which focus on deepening the exchange of trust and confidence between women and their horses with a special emphasis on empowering young girls.

“Paco assists me in helping my clients gain their confidence after an accident or wreck with their own horses,” Missy says. She usually rides the 1995 gelding (Toby’s Lucky Moon x CLM Dancin-feather) bareback with just a piece of

twine around his neck.

Using “W”Holistic Natural Horsemanship methods, owners, riders and handlers learn about the source of behavior and training problems while applying natural horsemanship safety techniques and prey-animal psychology.

“My clinics are hands-on. I ask audience members to participate,” she says. “It’s very empowering for a 7-year-old girl to have control over a 1,000-pound animal.

“My motto is ‘Problems are not always training issues,’” Missy continues. “My client base is 95 percent-plus women ages 35–65 who typically have had a wreck with their horse and are in great need of confidence, leadership and safety techniques.”

Here’s where Paco steps in. He’s Missy’s healing horse, providing comfort and stability along with a “yes ma’am” attitude that goes a long way for these shaken women. He takes folks on the trail, keeping them safe and listening when they get scared. He shuts down with the slightest squeeze of the reins and never complains about how long or arduous the trip is.

“As a clinician and “W”Holistic Natural Horsemanship trainer, I think Appaloosas are one of the best breeds and I personally like to highlight them at my clinics. Paco’s the best horse I’ve ever had in my life,” Missy adds.

Corrections



In the May 2007 feature “The champions of 2006,” the wrong photo was used for open versatility champion Leavum Zipped. The correct photograph is shown above.

Leavum Zipped, nicknamed “Levi,” is a 1999 gelding by Unzipped and out of Leavum Passing (AQHA). He was bred by Kathleen Young of Orangeville, California, and is owned by Judith Gerardot of Clements, California.

(Corrections continues on page 51)