

Inaugural Recipient of Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award – Dr. Marnie Gamm

This brand new award - conceived last fall by a UMECRA member and in honor of Dr. Bob Beecher - is to celebrate the tireless service of ride managers and veterinarians to our organization.

Dr. Marnie Gamm was named the first recipient at the January 2014 awards banquet. She received 3 separate nominations. Below is the one of the nominations by Pam Cotton:

Over the years I have seen Dr. Marnie Gamm be nothing but pleasant and friendly to riders and horses, in quiet and stressful times at rides. She is willing to take extra time to explain things to new riders to the sport – ensuring our sport will continue to grow in membership, and that new riders have a positive first experience in the sport. I value her customer service skills as a ride manager, and the entire organization should value this as well. In August of this year, we used a brand new vet at Northern Highlands. As head vet, Marnie took Katie under her wing and spent the weekend discussing protocol and process, what to expect during different times of the day, how to examine a horse, how to fill out the reporting cards, how to keep documentation organized, etc. By Sunday, one would have had no clue that it was Katie's first ride because she demonstrated a great deal of confidence in her examinations of horses and discussions of with riders. Marnie was also instrumental in using the rules to settle a dispute that occurred at the ride and helped both ride managers and riders come to a resolution that was fair to all involved. At Colorama, Marnie was responsible primarily for the 100 mile riders on Saturday, and worked and unspeakably long day (22 hours or more?) with a smile on her face to make the ride a positive experience for everyone involved. Marnie never complains, can laugh and smile when others might not maintain their composure, and is encouraging towards experienced and newbie riders alike. I cannot imagine managing rides without her participation!