

Rae Birr - Dr. Beecher Shining Light Award Winner 2018

Picture this: A young blonde woman blazing through the pine woods of Michigan on her way to glory on a distance ride, stirrup to stirrup with her beau. This is our heroine. She later went to vet school, married, raised a family and became a driving force in Michigan and UMECRA distance riding.

In the early '80's, our heroine actually started vetting rides before she graduated from vet school. She would vet on Saturday and ride competitive on Sunday- LO hadn't been invented then! She began her career near East Lansing, but moved to the UP, actually not far from here, in 1996. She has been a mainstay of UP, but also lower Michigan, vetting ever since. And who wouldn't want to be vetted by our heroine with her bright smile, kind words and superior knowledge of what goes on in the inside and outside of a distance horse?

On weekends when our heroine isn't vetting a ride, she is actively involved in Pony Club, including to going to far parts of our country.

Rae Birr is an icon in the distance riding community, specifically Michigan where there is nothing she can't do from vetting a ride to helping manage a seven day event, but also in UMECRA and AERC.

Rae Birr is the 2018 Shining light.