



*Congratulations to*  
**John May**  
*for being Inducted into the*  
**2019 USTPA Hall of Fame!**



# Hall of Fame

## Congratulations to this Year's Inductee!

**John May** was born on August 14, 1961 to Howard and Elaine May in Erie, PA on the family dairy farm milking cows and doing farm chores. At the age of five he became interested in horses and begged his parents for a pony. His great aunt sold ponies to put her kids through school and that's where he purchased his first two ponies for ten dollars. Neither pony was broke, and as a five year old that was a fun challenge. Teaching himself and the ponies along the way is where it all began.



Throughout high school John had different horses, and was quite the lady's man so they say. During his school's football games he'd ride to the school to give pony rides. John also pulled buggies and carriages with his team of horses and was a 4-H member showing everything from gaming to English.



Finishing high school at age 17, John left for the Oklahoma farrier college to become a blacksmith. When he returned home he got in his old Hot Shot truck and started shoeing horses. John continued to help the family with the beef farm and traveled on the weekends to team penning. A year later the Great Lakes Team Penning Association started, and John bought a 4-horse living quarters trailer. The person in his traveling group that had the nicest truck at the time would hook onto it, stuff five horses and ten people in it and hit the road.

John began training and giving riding lessons at age 21. At age 28 he found Team Penning. John was fortunate to know JR Attea from trail riding. One day JR called John and said "We're going team penning out west". Little did John know how many miles, trucks and trailers he would eventually wear out. JR and John were the last two charter members of USTPA and got to ride with the best of the best like Bobby and Billy Atwood, Mike Varsant, Shelly Fitzgerald, David Hall, Jodi Hill, Larry Pancost, and many more. They even rode with the Lesh boys as early as when Jared was only 14.



In 1997 John married followed by two great kids Casey and Kristine. John has promoted USTPA shows in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and several local associations shows as well. Casey plays soccer and the saxophone and is an Eagle Scout. Kristine grew up doing gymnastics and cheer and softball, but what she really loves are the horses. As a family the Mays have competed in USTPA and AQHA shows in almost every region, seen many beautiful places and made some lifelong friends.



Executive Committee for 20+ years. USTPA has given John the opportunity to be an AQHA specialty judge along with the opportunity to go to Venezuela and Italy to give judging tests, clinics, and help others learn to promote shows.



John suffered a severe back injury in a Team Penning accident on May 7, 2018 that was life-changing. He is very thankful for all the support from his many friends and of course his family. John plans to be back Team Penning by 2020. Both of his kids will be graduating from college, and he hopes to get back riding with them and his many other great partners.

John has attended all but one USTPA Finals which was 2018 when he broke his back. He has served under all but one USTPA president and has been on the board or

In the 5th grade John wrote "The Life Time of Cowboy John" with his goal of showing horses all over the United States. After showing in 3 foreign countries, John has won AQHA and USTPA World titles and numerous prizes, but the best part remains the memories and the friendships made along the way.





## USTPA Hall of Fame Mission Statement

1. Honor the Heroes of Team Penning and Ranch Sorting. We shall recognize and honor those individuals who have made an impact on our sport and our members.
2. Celebrate Excellence. We shall enshrine those who excelled and made our sport better.
3. Preserve our History. We shall honor those who sacrificed and worked whenever they were asked without personal reward.
4. Promote USTPA Values. Family, teamwork, leadership, excellence, horsemanship, community and sportsmanship.

