



AMHA

American Morgan
Horse Association

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WALPOLE YOUTH WINS NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN TITLE

SHELBURNE, VT—The American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) is pleased to announce that Rachel Menard of Walpole, Massachusetts, has been awarded with the Gold Medal in Saddle Seat equitation by the American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA). Menard, 17, defeated other top performers from across the country to earn AMHA's highest equitation honor.

Menard earned her gold medal at the 2009 Grand National & World Championship Morgan Horse Show held in Oklahoma City, October 10-17. Sponsored in part by AMHA, this annual showcase brings together top finishers at Morgan horse shows from across the country. Menard qualified for the 2009 Grand National with a first-place finish in the Saddle Seat Silver Medal class at the Connecticut All Morgan Horse Show in June. She also earned blue ribbons at the Maine Morgan and New England Morgan horse shows this past season. Menard also was selected to be a member of Team Morgan, an international saddle seat equitation team, and traveled to South Africa and North Carolina this year for competition.

Equitation is defined as the art of riding a horse intelligently, gracefully, and with the greatest degree of comfort and enjoyment to both horse and rider. These classes are judged on the rider's skill more than the horse's performance. Excellence in equitation is valued by AMHA and is recognized through its Medal classes, held at local and regional Morgan and all-breed shows. All junior riders who are AMHA members are invited to compete on a Morgan horse. AMHA Silver Medals are awarded in each of the six seats: Saddle, Western, Hunter on the Flat, Hunter Over Fences, Reining, and Dressage. Those who place first or second in an AMHA Silver Medal class are qualified to participate in the 2009 Gold Medal Finals at the Grand National. The highest AMHA equitation honor, the Gold Medal, is awarded in each of the six seats.

For more than 30 years, the Morgan Grand National has been an important event for the Morgan breed, featuring more than 1,000 entries from across the country, Canada, and around the world in a variety of disciplines.

Founded in 1909, the American Morgan Horse Association is a non-profit organization serving more than 50,000 Morgan horse owners, breeders, exhibitors, and enthusiasts throughout the United States. AMHA serves as a parent organization to more than 90 recognized Morgan horse clubs and national service organizations.

For more information on America's original horse breed, contact the American Morgan Horse Association, Inc., 122 Bostwick Road, Shelburne, Vermont 05482; (802) 985-4944; www.morganhorse.com.

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