

2019 ApHC Racing Hall of Fame

Robert A. Lapp

Robert "Bob" Lapp's path to becoming an accomplished horseman began at age 10 working on his uncle's operation in Nebraska where he learned everything from fence-mending to colt-breaking. He even rode saddle bronc for a time but quit before he got hurt. Among the Quarter Horses on that property were a few Appaloosas that captured his imagination and in 1984 he bought his first spotted mare.

His path to becoming a recognized expert in research, published author and co-author began in college and was shaped by his time as a U.S. Army Specialist 5 (equivalent to Sergeant), for which he was decorated, and continued through his Ph.D. work at Southern Illinois University, Asst. Directorship of Forensics at the University of Wis-

consin-Eau Claire, and his management consulting business.

These paths merged nicely when he took an interest in ApHC history. Since 1984 he has served the ApHC at every level from regional support to two terms on the national board, committee involvement to the board of the Appaloosa Youth Foundation, on which he currently serves.

His association with George Hatley and Bob Blair and other pillars of the breed have aided his on-going research into club history and particularly Appaloosa racing history. He partnered on publications with other noted experts Frank Holmes, Gene Carr, and Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, did research for two editions of Spotted Pride and has been a regular contributor to Appaloosa Journal since 1994. He has presented work on a variety of subjects including: Appaloosa milestones, color genetics, the CPO program, and the history of Appaloosa reining and cutting.

Bob's accuracy and thoroughness turned his interest in Appaloosa racing into a years-long project of piecing together its complete and correct history. Appaloosa racing's heyday was before computers and for myriad reasons the data are scattered and at times conflicting. Drawing on many resources he has been compiling the official chronicle of the sport.

While his contributions to the betterment of the breed over the years have been many, perhaps his most important work has been to correct the records, fill in the gaps, and preserve the true and vibrant history of Appaloosa racing for posterity. We are proud to elevate Robert Lapp into the Appaloosa Horse Club Racing Hall of Fame.

