



## **SANA WEST RARE BREEDS SHOW**

### **MEET THE JUDGES AND CLINICIANS!**

Obstacle and In-Hand Clinician, Obstacle and Akhal-Teke judge, Dr Molly Nicodemus



**Dr. Molly Nicodemus**, Associate Professor of Animal & Dairy Sciences, is the head researcher for the Gaited Horse Locomotive Research Program at Mississippi State University. Originating from the McPhail Equine Performance Center at Michigan State University, Dr. Nicodemus's research on equine gaits has been able to grow and develop addressing many different breeds of horses performing gaits the horse industry is less familiar of. Dr. Nicodemus completed her bachelors at Missouri State University where she competed on the horse judging and equestrian teams along with interning for multiple horse trainers learning to train and show cutting and gaited horses. Working on her Master's program at Sam Houston State University, she began her research on gaits of the performance horse while working as a professional judge and trainer. As a part of her dissertation research at Michigan State University, she was the first to research the three-dimensional motion of gaited horse breeds. During this time, she became actively involved with the local horse community giving clinics and demonstrations concerning the gaits of the performance horse; and when not busy working with the horse community, she was assisting with coaching responsibilities for the collegiate horse judging and equestrian teams. At Mississippi State University she continued her coaching responsibilities with the collegiate teams along with teaching multiple equine courses ranging from horsemanship courses to equine evaluation courses. During that time period, she was the first to document kinematics in the western pleasure, country pleasure, hunter pleasure, and park horses along with various gaits performed by gaited horse breeds. When she is not teaching college students or researching equine gaits, Dr. Nicodemus trains her own horses and coaches youths for competition at stock breed shows. Her horses and youths have produced multiple national and world championships including holding the title for the past three years for Top Performance Horse and Top 13 & Under Youth in the Palomino Horse Breeders of America.



## **SANA WEST RARE BREEDS SHOW**

**Dressage and Western Dressage Clinician and Judge, Sue Bartholomaus**



**Sue Bartholomaus** has been a well-known hunter/jumper and dressage rider, teacher, and trainer for almost four decades here on the West Coast. Before that, as a native of New York and later Virginia, she rode and taught extensively in these disciplines, as well as Eventing and Foxhunting. It was the importation of her first German Warmblood stallion in 1977 to start her breeding program at Cross Fields Farm that caused her to narrow her personal focus on higher level dressage. Starting the Farm's resulting young horses encouraged her interest in studying Natural Horsemanship and she has been teaching that, in addition, since 1990. A lifelong learner, Sue is often described as an "eclectic teacher" due to her very extensive equestrian background. She believes that good horses come in many packages and can be used and enjoyed in more than one discipline, regardless of breed. Cross-training is to everyone's benefit, both mentally and physically, so in addition to attending clinics with renowned dressage or jumping instructors, it would not be unusual to see her with her students—generally in their English saddles astride their FEI Warmbloods, Thoroughbreds, QH's, Mustangs, even the occasional gaited horse—at a Trail Trials, cattle sorting, roping clinic, Cowboy Dressage show, or camping for a long weekend in the High Sierras.



## **SANA WEST RARE BREEDS SHOW**

**Jumping Clinician and Judge, Nicole Fowler**



**Nicole Fowler** has always had horses in her blood. Her mother rode hunter/jumper until she was 6 months pregnant, and Nicole started riding at 2 years of age. She has competed in Eventing, driving Welsh ponies and Miniatures, parades, TWHs, sidesaddle, dressage and hunter/jumper. She has trained and shown her own Thoroughbreds from off the track to many championships in the hunter/jumper ring. In her capacity as a trainer and teacher, she has taught people of all ages and backgrounds to ride. Her teaching philosophy is simple - give students a strong foundation, then go beyond the fundamentals. Riding just isn't about hopping on – it's about all aspects of caring for your horse, and therefore, getting the most out of your ride. Nicole received her SAHJA (Sacramento Area Hunter Jumper Association) judging card in 2009 and her California State Horseman Association English judging card in 2015.