

## **IJA Annual Judges Training Seminar Returns to Florida**

The Independent Judges Association is pleased to announce the 2010 Annual Judges Training Seminar will return to Tampa, Florida February 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

Classroom instruction, peer instruction, practical experience and heated discussion are the corner stones of an IJA judges clinic. Knowledge, kindness, honesty and passion are always present. IJA clinics not only focus on the standards required under IJA Rules, but on the ethical standards implicit in administering and interpreting rules. IJA judges and apprentices recognize that judging is a combination of aptitude, attitude and philosophy. The combined energy is amazing as they consider the whole horse – emotionally, mentally and physically while applying the rules of competition. They proudly represent the FOSH mission, vision and values to the horse community.

The classroom portion of the clinic is February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Florida State Fair Grounds. IJA Judges training focuses on judging all gaited breeds. Every year one gaited breed is a designated guest breed. Through cooperation and collaboration with the Paso Fino Horse Association, 2010 is the first IJA Judges clinic where the Paso Fino Horse is the guest breed. We are honored that Dr. Jose M. Laracuate will present the Paso Fino standards on Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A horse show held in conjunction with the clinic provides auditors, apprentices, and judges the opportunity to take the classroom into the practical arena – to turn theory into practice. An integral part of the Judges Training Seminar is a Gaited Horse Show on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Florida Rocky Mountain Horse Association. This FOSH sanctioned and affiliated show is held during the Florida State Fair. In addition to Open Gaited Breed and Versatility Classes, there are classes for Paso Fino Horses, Peruvian Paso Horses, Missouri Fox Trotters, Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, Racking Horses and Mountain Horses.

The horse show will be judged by an IJA Judge who holds multiple gaited licenses – IJA, KMSHA, RMHA, UMH, MFTBEA, PFHA and NACPHA. The show provides participants at the clinic the opportunity to further learn judging standards, procedures and expand their understanding of specific breed decisions based upon rules.

Auditors are an important component of the IJA clinic and are welcome to attend. If they choose, they may participate in the show on Thursday and/or Friday.

For further information on participating or auditing, contact IJA Director of Judges at 403-271-7391 or [ddlittle @ telusplanet.net](mailto:ddlittle@telusplanet.net)

*IJA is a subset of Friends of Sound Horse. FOSH is a national leader in the promotion of natural, sound gaited horses and in the fight against abuse and soring of Tennessee Walking Horses. For more information about FOSH or to become a member, please visit [www.fosh.info](http://www.fosh.info) or call 1-800-651-7993.*