

Laurie Messner, Randy Patton, Pam Purdy and Amber Wright are the riding Instructors at winning Strides. They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their lessons. Their love for teaching is evident through their satisfied students.

-Laurie Messner –

Laurie began her love for horses when her family moved to a farm when she was four years old. She had a variety of childhood ponies and horses at her families' horse boarding stable. Laurie considers herself fortunate to have to receive her first riding instruction from legendary horse professionals Art and Ron Anderson, Bill Collins and Roger and Doris Heintz. She was also strongly influenced by Hans Kollwyn, Morgan Lybbert, Marilyn Smith, Jerry Hansma, Les Timmons, Wayne and Sharon Latimer and Karl Krueger in her early years.

Laurie's first summer horse job was with Kerry Colbourne at Orton's Appaloosa farm in spring bank, Alberta. In the early eighties she graduated to work for quarter horse industry leaders Scobey Sissy Hartley of Deerwoods Farms. Following this time she ventured into an entrepreneurial business making custom designed western riding apparel.

A move to the United States in 1986 saw her experience the thrilling world of the cutting horse industry. Laurie received rich learning during his time through Cutting horse greats Bill Riddle, Lindy Burch, Paul and Winston Hansma. At this time, she was exposed to Bill and Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt. Following this five –year period she returned home.

Glad to be back in Canada Laurie settled in Nanton, Alberta where she resides today. For the next 5 years, she took a departure from working with horses but remained in agriculture taking a job at the Cattlemen's Corner Livestock Feed store. After this, she pursued another entrepreneurial venture this time with retail business for wild bird and nature products. This was a rewarding business enterprise but an offer by Lindy Barron of Cayley; Alberta to teach beginner- riding lessons brought Laurie reluctantly back into the horse business.

Under the guidance and mentoring of Lindy Barron and Ron Echlin, she acquired the experience to develop her own riding program. Laurie is extremely grateful to her husband Randy Patton of Nanton for making this possible. Through teaching riding, Laurie discovered her great love for working with children. In addition to teaching riding, she works at AB Daley Elementary School as an educational assistant with special needs children.

As of 2006 Winning Strides is a thriving equine business including horse boarding western and English riding Lessons and hosting seminars.

Laurie's passion continues to be for all things equine. However, as all great instructors do, she continues to learn from others. Currently, she is taking clinics from

other experts including Josh Nichol, Dr. Deb Bennet and Dave Elliot. In turn, this is expanding her knowledge that enables her to share new ideas with her students.

As Laurie grows as a person, she recognizes the need for a different approach to the traditional human- equine relationship. She is moving away from the conservative ideas of the human domineering the horse- to a more equitable partnership, in which there is a relationship of clarity and leadership from human to horse. In effect, giving the horse a choice in the partnership.

On this journey of her own horsemanship exploration, she is re-enthused by connecting with her horses in an essential spiritual manner. Laurie is reinventing the way she teaches, in a way that will benefit all students and their horse partners. She has re- found the joy in her equine explorations and looks forward to sharing this peace with her students and colleagues in the equine world.

-Pam Purdy-

Pam has been involved with horses all her life. She has enjoyed several different riding styles: competitive trail riding, eventing, hunter/ jumper, gymkhana, team roping, team penning and was a lead rider in the Rocky Mountain Rider's musical ride and local parades.

Pam is proud of her CHA Level II English/Western Certification and has been instructing since 1996. She continues her professional development by participating in lessons and clinics presented by other professional horsemen.

She teaches safe horsemanship in English or Western riding disciplines to all who are interested in horses. Pam has a strong desire for people to overcome their fears, and to enjoy being a partner with their horse.

-Amber Wright-

Amber has been involved with horses nearly all her life. She was a horse crazy young girl and that passion continues today. Amber has participated in several different disciplines, including gymkhana, trail riding, team roping, jumping, dressage and barrel racing. Always a student herself, Amber is currently learning about traditional vaquero horsemanship and its value in modern horsemanship. She continues to be active in barrel racing.

Amber will be completing CHA certification in May 2010. She also continues her personal and professional development by participating in clinics and lessons with other professional horsemen.

One of the things Amber loves about horsemanship is that it is a lifelong journey. In order for students to want to continue on that journey it is important that they have a safe, fun and positive introduction to interaction with horses. Amber enjoys introducing beginners to horses and watching them experience the same joys and lessons that she has.