

Kerry Bradac

2022 NDQHA Hall of Fame

Kerry Reichert Bradac, originally from Billings, Montana, was born on April 10, 1969. She graduated from Billings West High School in 1987 and attended Montana State University in Bozeman. On July 22, 1995, Kerry married Scott Bradac and moved to Bradac Ranch in Marmarth, North Dakota. Her husband's family was involved in breeding horses and brought in some of the state's first American Quarter Horses which, at that time, were shipped by train.

Kerry was a North Dakota Quarter Horse Association member for many years and served as a NDQHA Director from 1997-1999. She competed at NDQHA horse shows, and under the guidance of Bill Bormes, Kerry was the NDQHA Reserve High Point Novice Amateur in 1996 showing Minstrel Sam, a 1984 gelding. The following year she earned the NDQHA Reserve High Point Amateur Award.

In 2012, after years of raising horses in the rugged badlands of southwestern North Dakota, Kerry and her husband decided to establish another horse operation in a warmer climate and settled on Ocala, Florida, where Bradac Ranch South evolved. They felt Ocala was an ideal location and is now just minutes from the World Equestrian Center. At the heart of the Bradac Ranch South breeding program have been two very talented, yet very different, sires: Hot Diggity Joe and Open For Suggestion. Over the years these well-known and highly-respected stallions have made a significant impact on the AQHA breeding industry.

Hot Diggity Joe, a 1998 sorrel stallion by multiple World Champion Blazing Hot and out of Jodie Fivette, was one of the first foals raised by Kerry and the first stallion she stood to the public when she lived in North Dakota. She believed wholeheartedly in him from the very beginning. Hot Diggity Joe is a Congress Champion, an AQHA World Show Top Five Champion in Senior Hunter Under Saddle and Senior Pleasure Driving, and has AQHA Superiors in Open and Amateur Hunter Under Saddle and Open Western Pleasure. Hot Diggity Joe and Kerry had many trainers throughout his show career: Peter Frost, Scott Neuman, Chris Brown, Allison Clark McDonald, Brett Clark, Rick Skelly, Ashley Dunbar and Sarah Diamond. All contributed to his development into a world class all-arounder.

Hot Diggity Joe has sired 230 foals with total earnings of \$93,775 and 5,700 points in AQHA competition. In addition, his foals have earned 13 AQHA Superior Awards and 77 AQHA ROM Awards. He has sired multiple Congress Top-Ten Champions, a Congress All-Around Champion, 2 AQHA Reserve World Champions, NSBA World Champions, and region/novice show champions.

At twenty-five years of age, Hot Diggity Joe is happily retired and living the good life at Bradac Ranch South. Kerry treasures each day she has with him.

TheCrowdJoesWild, a 2007 palomino stallion by Hot Diggity Joe and out of A Golden Dimension, was also bred and raised by Kerry. He was injured as a 2-year-old and never shown. However, he has sired 58 foals with earnings of \$33,104 and 834 points in AQHA competition. In addition, his foals have earned 19 AQHA ROM Awards. He has sired a Congress Champion and an AQHA Reserve World Champion. One of his foals is still the highest money earning NSBA Sale graduate, and several others are multiple ABRA World Champions.

Open For Suggestion, a 2007 red roan stallion by Open Range and out of Fancy China by Zippo Jack Bar, was purchased by Kerry in 2013. This promising AQHA sire had already proven himself in the show arena, recording over \$10,000 in earnings and placing fifth in the 2009 Congress Masters Western Pleasure and tenth in the Reichert Celebration 3-Year-Old Open Western Pleasure the following year. He was also an AQHA World Show Finalist.

In those first years standing Open For Suggestion to the public, Kerry attracted the attention of many of the industry's leaders, breeding some of the best mares in the country. She limited his book to 50-65 outside mares, putting more focus on breeding mares whose foals could successfully compete in Western Pleasure. Kerry opted to keep Open For Suggestion at her farm for the 2017 breeding season, a move that allowed her to really get to know her stallion. Believing that great broodmares are the success behind any breeding program, she has assembled a special group of broodmares of her own, and in 2018 she closed Open For Suggestion's book to outside mares.

Unfortunately, in August of 2019 Open For Suggestion sustained a hip fracture in a paddock accident and was humanely euthanized and laid to rest at Bradac Ranch South. Kerry does have frozen semen from Open For Suggestion, and she has kept several of his daughters back for her broodmare band with plans to continue raising his foals in the years ahead. To date, he has sired 184 foals with earnings of \$32,500 and 988 points in AQHA competition. In addition, his foals have earned 56 AQHA ROM Awards. He has sired a Reserve Congress Champion (tied), multiple Congress Top-Ten Champions, and an AQHA World Show Top-Ten Champion. Even though Open For Suggestion's life came to an abrupt and unexpected end, it isn't over. His legacy will continue with his talented foals.

Recently Kerry began breeding registered miniature horses. The first miniature she purchased was to put in Open For Suggestion's paddock, because it was difficult for her to drive by and see it empty. Since then, she has added eight more miniature mares and a blue roan miniature stallion she calls "Little Wayne." Kerry refers to all of them as her "Littles."

Kerry grew up playing with Breyer Horses and dreaming of owning a horse farm. She started her program in what most consider "the middle of nowhere." It wasn't easy, but she remained focused and kept working hard at turning her dream into a reality.

One of Kerry's favorite quotes is, *"Life isn't about every breath you take. It's about the moments that take your breath away."* The Bradac Ranch South breeding program, although not as large as it once was, is still producing prospects that will continue to create breathtaking moments for their owners and exhibitors for many years to come.