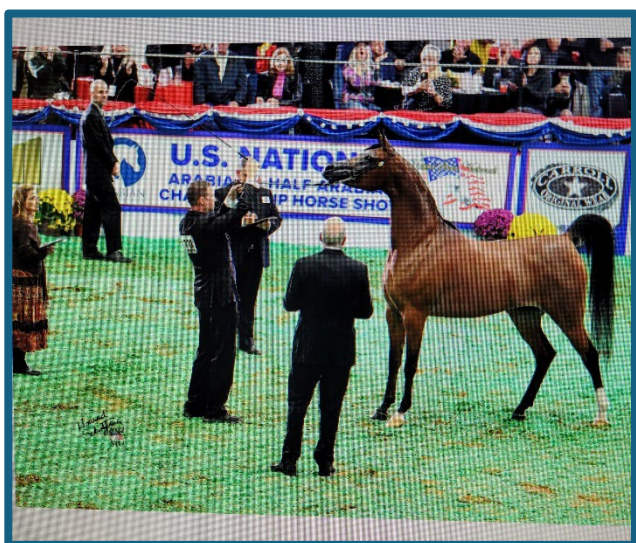




Brian Ferguson

- Licensed Arabian Judge from 1982 through 2025
- Judged local, regional, and national levels plus international competitions.

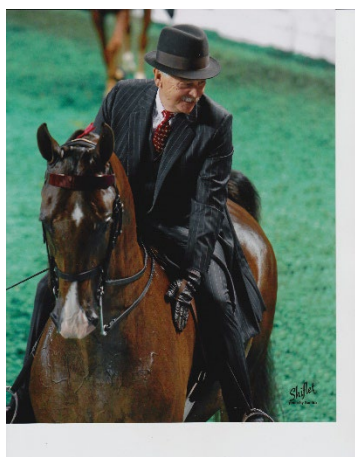


In 1982 I drove to Michigan to test for my small “r” Arabian judge’s card, having spent the prior few years judging open and 4 H shows. Once in the testing room, I looked around at the pillars of the judging world: Dayton Sumner, Joe Vanario, and Lyman Orcutt to name a few. They



were all good-naturedly swapping stories amongst themselves about the testing and the interviewing. I was on pins and needles over the test that would decide my future. I thought, “When are these guys going to retire so that I can judge some shows?” I did pass and accepted any and every judging assignment that was offered ~ no matter how small or how far. It wasn’t easy becoming established as a judge, given my amateur status and coming from Upstate New York. I tried to always make myself available no matter the time of year or the location of the show. After a few years, I was getting more efficient, and I started to get some two and three day shows. I was turning my cards in with the likes of judging notables such as Peter Cameron, Jim Fisher, and Bill Hughes.

Being hired to judge Region 4 opened the door



to judging National events and gave me exposure to shows



with multiple judging systems. Suddenly I was working alongside many more ‘A listers’. Bruce Wolf, Leon Matthias, Judy Delongpre, Shannon Armstrong, and Richard Petty come to mind. In turn, many of these judges became close personal friends. I would look forward to seeing these fellow judges at shows and judging seminars, sharing experiences and swapping stories like the judges that had gone before. To now be honored among other

notable judges in the Arabian Hall of Fame is indeed humbling and rewarding. I would be

remiss if I didn't thank the many breeders, owners, exhibitors and trainers who have shown under me over these past four decades. It has been an honor to witness your many successes.



Additionally, I must thank the members of the EEC for their tireless devotion to honing the expertise and skills of all judges. Likewise, I am indebted to the Judges and Stewards Commissioners: George, Stan and Mary Jane along with their assistants, Pat Thompson and Mary Smith, for their guidance and leadership through the years. And finally, I thank my wife and daughter, Dianne and Taylor, for enabling me the

freedom to pursue my passion, even though it often meant leaving them with a barn full of horses during those infamous New York winters. To all the younger judges who have been looking over at the 'grey-haired' table, as I once did, wishing we would retire ~ your wish has been granted. Tomorrow night I will sign my final card and step aside so the newer judges can have my place in center ring. May you love and cherish the job and the friendships as much as I have!

