

RUTH GRAVES BIOGRAPHY

Ruthie is a lifelong horsewoman who has worked in several equestrian disciplines throughout those years. Her driving experience initially came in the Standardbred industry in her home state of Massachusetts many years ago.

Like so many who become interested in the carriage discipline later in life, she decided to revisit the driven horse after years of competition in a breed environment because she wanted to embrace an equine endeavor that would include her husband and grandchildren. The diversity of breeds suitable to drive and the friendliness of those involved in carriage had a great deal of appeal.

She has since become seriously involved in carriage sports on both the local and national level, as a competitor in both combined and pleasure driving, as well as an event organizer, and as an American Driving Society official with a registered card in pleasure and a recorded driven dressage card. She served for four years as the ADS Southwest Regional director, two terms as the Licensed Officials Chair, and currently serves as an ADS At Large Director.

She is a founding member of one of the state of Texas' very active local driving clubs, the Tejas Carriage Association; serving as the Chair of the Working Committee for several years, organizing competitive events and educational opportunities for its members.

She has organized the only ADS approved pleasure driving show in the SW region for 15 + years, the Cedar Creek Pleasure driving event, now the TCA Carriage Classic, and has attended multiple CAA conferences and Learning Days to further her education in the driven tradition.

She competes in as many pleasure driving shows as time and distance allows, and does her best to encourage the development of more pleasure driving shows, especially in the SW region.

Ruthie is passionate about educating potential drivers to assure safety and full enjoyment of this wonderful horse sport, and feels pleasure driving competition has much to offer all carriage drivers in the diversity of classes offered and the expression of our beautiful traditions.