

# 2014 AHHS Bill G Robinson National Trainer Award RODNEY HICKS

*The following bio appeared in the awards booklet Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the UPHA/ASHA/AHHS Convention in Savannah, Georgia.*



**AHHS President Andy Freseth presented the national trainer award to Rodney Hicks Saturday night in Savannah.**

Rodney Hicks has built a career in the Hackney world that has spanned four decades. Growing up in West Seneca, NY, he completely immersed himself in the business, traveling with his uncle Denny Lang, a renowned trainer of champion Shetlands and Hackneys.

After attending Cal Poly State University for blacksmith training, Hicks moved to Iowa to work for Gib Marcucci and later to Pennsylvania, near Skip Shenker's Little Lexington Farm. Dun Haven Classic Contender was the first big name pony for Hicks. After a brief return to New York, Rodney moved to Connecticut and Somersdream, the farm of good friend Cheryl Innis.

In CT, Rodney married artist Janet Crawford and they had a son Danny. The years in Somers brought much success with open and many amateur champions such as Silver and Gold, Main Performance, Dun Haven Radiant Spirit, Totally Excellent, Luv Letter and Johnston.

In 2001, the Hicks family moved to Sebring Stables in Richmond, Ma. Rodney has enjoyed working World's Champion standouts Mark of Elegance, Heartland River Dance, and Truly Naughty By Nature while in Massachusetts. He has built a close-knit group of clients who have fun with a top string of show ponies. Devon, The Royal, Big E and other shows with large crowds are favorites of his clientele. Hicks is known for having a good eye to pick out prospects for clients, that work within their lifestyle. The Spiderman, The Perfectionist, CB Party Girl, Red Sox Nation, and prim Rose are outstanding performers in the Northeast. Newly crowned world's champion Hackney horse Heartland Good bye and the charismatic junior pleasure world's champion Four Point O, made 2014 an exciting year. His son Danny's work with Jackie O is paving the way for another generation of Hackney exhibitors.

Hicks is renowned Hackney judge, has served on the AHHS Board and volunteers on the Limited Breeders committee. While Rodney is known to be quick to joke or play a prank, he is even quicker to lend a hand to anyone who asks.