

I was born on horseback, at least that's what I told everyone up until the 4th grade. There was no way that I wasn't going to love horses; coming from several generations of horse lovers will do that to you though! I was fortunate because by the time I came along my family had found Tennessee Walking Horses and realized there was no better breed. I started riding long before I could remember, had a short leadline career and finally got to show on my own at the tender age of 4. Not long after I was considered a big enough girl to go on trail rides which opened up a whole new window of riding that started consuming every Sunday morning with my mom Wendy Shaw, grandfather Bill Marzinzik and an assortment of friends. I entered my first trail trial when I was 10 and I placed 16th out of around 35 horses but the TWH was well represented with my grandfather placing 2nd!

Showing was my real passion though. Throughout the years I have accomplished many things in the show ring but a few that are my most proud are winning the first ever trail pleasure World Grand Championship in 2001 at the age of 16 and then having a repeat performance in 2003, 2001 winning the International trail pleasure bareback aboard my amateur owned and trained mare Near Dark, in 2002 at the TWHBEA World Versatility show winning the high point Jr. rider award and most recently in 2009 winning the NCWHA High Point Trainer award.

Outside of the show ring I have coached 2 different riders to win the International 11 & Under Championship and taken several other riders to the winners circle. I became a professional trainer in 2006 in southern California and made the move to northern California late in 2007 to pursue my dream of training my on my own. I hope that northern California likes me because I love it and don't plan on leaving anytime soon! Since becoming a professional my trips to the show ring have dramatically slowed down, these days I get more joy out of coaching and watching people bond with and achieve their goals with their wonderful Tennessee Walking Horses. Any chance I get I pull people off their trotting horses and throw them on a Walker and after they ride the smooth gait a lap I know there will be plenty of questions to answer and normally the last one is "Where can I get on of these?"

