

Spotlight On: Wallace Heck Jr.

Bringing Louisiana fun to the halter family.

WHAT KEEPS ME IN HALTER? THOSE BABIES OUT THERE – I enjoy the thrill of seeing the babies. My most fun time of the year is when we sit down and take a list of our mares and decide how we are going to breed them for the year, always trying to come up with a better cross.

A **great halter horse** is one that can stand up, first. I don't like anything that's wobbly-legged or bad-legged. I'll cull a lot of stallions because they pass that trait on. I'm not interested in that; I'm in it for the long term.

I like them with a big hip, wide girth – I guess I'm more into the stocky, old breed type than the tall, lean ones that remind me more of a Thoroughbred. If I'm going to have Thoroughbreds, I'm going to have them on the track and run them.

I've got some good geldings, because I'm not afraid to take a good stallion and make a better gelding out of him.

Best advice from a trainer: Don't buy that horse; it's not worth it – from Monte Horn (Terry, Mississippi).

My proudest moment was at the (2007 Bayer Select World)

when I won a world championship with a horse that was born and raised right here (Bar Hoppun)

I'd never won the world before. Winning the world in itself is a great feat: A lot of people try many years and don't do it. I was happy about that. But the fact that it was with something that we put together here at the farm – I hadn't gone out and spent untold dollars to try to ensure a win – I just get a big sense of accomplishment out of that.

It's almost like one of your kids, you know? Your child goes out and accomplishes this feat, and you're really happy. These horses are kind of like my kids as well.

It was out of the first halter mare that I ever bought – a horse called Glowing Reality I bought from (AQHA Pro Horseman) Jerry Wright (Judsonia, Arkansas).

One of my reasons for being in the World Conformation Horse Association is to try to develop some halter industry rules that hopefully will filter over into all our shows. The WCHA was set up to try to develop what we perceive as a group of horse people should be the perfect conformation horse and from there set up certified judges for halter.

Heck Yea! Quarter Horses connections (left to right): Monte and Anna Horn, Wallace Heck Jr., Allen Browder, Brian Causey and Nancy Howard.



CHRISTINE HAMILTON

We had a party in the stalls in (Fed Ex Open Week at the 2007 AQHA World Championship Show). Some of our friends are in the stalls right around us, and on different days, we have parties. It's almost like we rotate around. So I had one from Hooters.

I was there for amateur week and went home for a few days, and my son and I came back for the open. Just as we landed,

one of my best friends passed away, so I got back on the plane and flew back home that night. I got to miss my own party.

From all the pictures I saw, it was a pretty big hit. They didn't believe I'd do one from Hooters, but I had to do something different. We're going to do it next year, so you can get the word out! 🐾

WALLACE HECK JR.

Family – Five daughters and one son; two show – Mary Katharine and Wallace III, “Tripp.”

Day job – Heck Industries Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has been in the concrete business for more than 50 years.

How long a halter man? – About 12 years, but barrel horses, briefly, before that. He and his late father, Wallace Heck Sr., had a Thoroughbred racing farm.

Farm – Heck Yea! Quarter Horses in Terry, Mississippi. Begun in 2003, it's roughly 60 acres with a stallion barn, foaling barn and mare motel, and a covered exercise track in the works.

Horses – Approximately 50 head of broodmares, show horses and embryo transfer recipient mares. The farm stands Wallace's stallions, A Legend At Last and Gangstah, and Allen Browder's Cool Tall One.

Trainer – Monte Horn. Monte's parents, Bruce and Mary, manage Wallace's farm.

Typical year show schedule – Dixie National, March to the Arch, International Quarter Horse Show, local Mississippi shows, Palomino World, Ford AQHYA World Championship Show, Bayer Select World Championship Show, All American Quarter Horse Congress, AQHA World Championship Show, Sugar Bowl Classic