



"BOWLEGGED H" MAGAZINE

SPRING 2021 • HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™



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ON THE COVER



A young dairy cattle exhibitor with his eye on the prize. Photo from 2019.



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INCOMING COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATE:

Janeen Comer is the incoming chair of the Trailblazer Committee. She was inadvertently left out of the incoming chair article in the previous edition and we apologize for the oversight.



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AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT

WESTERN HERITAGE



from the CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

As a 40-year volunteer with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, I've seen many changes over the years. I can honestly say that, never in my wildest imagination, could I anticipate the challenges and changes we face today with the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it was a heartbreaking decision to make, Rodeo leadership agreed that planning the Junior Livestock Show and Horse Show competitions in March as private events, and canceling the remaining events, is the right thing to do.

As I see it, we have three critical enablers in place that give us a solid foundation to withstand difficult times and motivate us as we move forward. Strong leadership, a belief in our mission, and support and patience from our volunteers and surrounding community.

History has shown us that strong leadership is critical during uncertain times. I cannot say enough about the men and women who serve in leadership positions at the Rodeo. Our committed

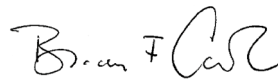
leaders explored various scenarios and out-of-the-box solutions, while keeping the health and safety of our volunteers, staff and community at the forefront. This took an incredible amount of work and time, and I am extremely grateful for their dedication.

This brings me to our mission. The mission is the "why." Our leadership and volunteers are profoundly committed to the mission of the Rodeo and showcasing agriculture during our Junior Livestock Show and Horse Show in March.

In keeping with our mission, I couldn't be more proud of our 2021 educational commitment of more than \$21 million to support Texas youth and statewide educational programs.

And, through all of this change, your steadfast support has remained strong and unwavering. This is one constant that keeps us grounded. This year will be different, we know, but our volunteers come through in times of need. In fact, in recent months, Rodeo volunteers assisted the Houston Food Bank with meal distributions, assisted the City of Houston and Memorial Hermann with vaccine distributions, and offered to help fellow volunteers after the brutal winter storm. It is no surprise to me that you stepped up to answer the call to serve others. That is what we do, and I'm proud of you.

The Rodeo has remained a valued tradition in our community since 1932, and we are proud of this vital role we play. Next year, the Rodeo will celebrate its 90th anniversary, and our plans are already underway to celebrate this milestone. As the City of Houston Mayor Turner stated, "Houston and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo are synonymous. It is hard to imagine one without the other." It is this community support that fulfills us.

In closing, now, more than ever before, we appreciate each and every one of you. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy, and I look forward to hosting the biggest and best Rodeo ever for our anniversary celebration. 

Sincerely,

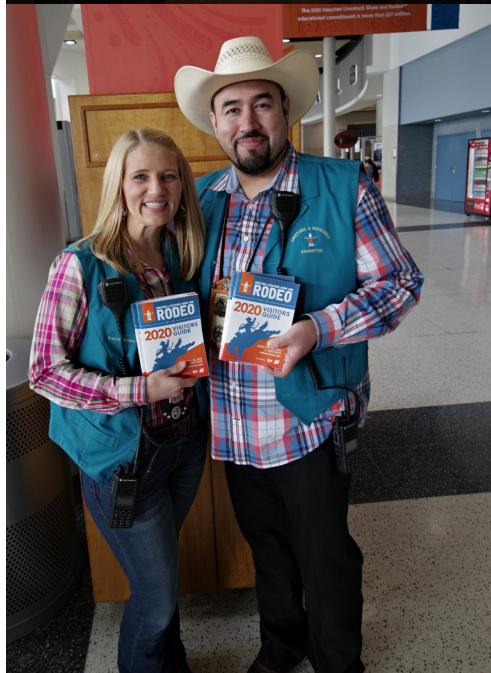
Brady Carruth



THANK YOU, HOUSTON!

"While we were optimistic that moving our Rodeo to May would provide a better opportunity to host our annual community event that Rodeo fans have come to love and expect, unfortunately, it has become evident that the current health situation has not improved to the degree necessary to host our event," said Chris Boleman, president and CEO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. "While this is an extremely heartbreaking decision for our Rodeo volunteers and the larger Rodeo community, we believe this decision is in the best interest of the health and well-being of our community."





"Throughout these uncertain times, we have remained committed to upholding our mission and our support of Texas youth and education," Boleman said. "We are proud to host Texas 4-H and FFA members, as well as the Horse Show exhibitors, who will all be participating this March. And, thanks to the support of our 35,000 dedicated volunteers, we were able to commit nearly \$21.7 million in 2021 educational support."



"The Rodeo and our volunteers are committed to continuing to provide fans with a community event that all can be proud of," Boleman said. "We look forward to welcoming Rodeo fans back to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in 2022 for our 90th anniversary celebration."

Quotes from Feb. 3, 2021



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™



COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION



Black Heritage Committee



Agricultural Education Committee



Speakers Committee

BLACK HERITAGE COMMITTEE: SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

BY ABIMBOLA FARINDE

Photo courtesy of Gina Goosby-Harris

Many people know about Black Heritage Day, celebrated each year at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ with a star-studded concert performance. What they may not know is that this celebration extends across NRG Park, with festivities that include performances on the Stars Over Texas Stage from Houston's finest bands, choirs, dance teams, cheerleading teams and fine arts groups; special entertainment at the Champion Wine Garden and in The Hideout; and historical and educational displays around the grounds of NRG Park. What's more, not only does the Black Heritage Committee produce this action-packed day, but they also work all year long to educate area students and raise funds for college scholarships.

The Black Heritage Committee has a longstanding history with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. According to Chair Gina Goosby-Harris, in 1993, Howard Middleton, lifetime director, and what she described as "50 founding members united to better serve Houston's African American community" formed the Black Go Texan Committee, which later became the Black Heritage Committee. The group exists to promote the Rodeo in the African American community through awareness and participation while highlighting the pioneer and Western heritage of black individuals in Houston and throughout the state.

The committee's educational component started in 2018 in select HISD middle schools as a result of a call to action from U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. The original goal was to educate young men in underserved communities about agriculture. The program, which now serves male and female students, targets the Rodeo's agriculture and education principles by teaching youth about the vital role black cowboys play

in shaping our Western heritage. Young people also learn the importance of agriculture in everyday lives — even right here in the middle of the nation's fourth largest city. Five middle schools participate in Black Heritage Day. Three of those schools participate in the more in-depth educational sessions held in classrooms before the Rodeo. When forming the new program, the committee targeted these schools as a strategic place to start, as they are feeder schools of high schools with well-established agriculture education programs.

The three in-school sessions of the program teach more than 100 students about ranching, farming, livestock, technological advances in agriculture and ag-related career opportunities. The culmination of the sessions includes the students presenting a project that they have worked on all year. Students visit the Rodeo grounds on Black Heritage Day to present their project to a panel of judges, including the committee chair and the officer in charge. Unfortunately, the 2020 event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but everyone is hopeful for plans to resume in 2021.

To fund their scholarship program, committee members raise funds and awareness through two signature events — the Fall Roundup Dance and the Western Gala. In 2020, the committee granted 21 scholarships, the most the committee had ever awarded.

Thanks to the incredible work and dedication of the 175 members of the Black Heritage Committee, Houston-area youth learn about agriculture and receive much-needed funding for their educational pursuits after high school. Moreover, thousands of Houstonians and Rodeo visitors are learning about the impact that black individuals have in our community and in forming our Western Heritage. †



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE — EMPHASIS ON SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

BY STEPHANIE EARTHMAN BAIRD

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Lamb



Connection to people is one of the greatest assets of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ and fundamental to the Agricultural Education Committee's new charge. Connecting with students at Houston-area schools became the committee's primary focus in 2020. Committee volunteers step into the classroom to introduce young students to the Rodeo, while supporting its mission through their educational presentations.

Though the committee's history stretches back more than 50 years, 2019 pivoted the volunteers in a new direction under a new name. "We've evolved from on-site activities during the Rodeo to bringing AGVENTURE to the classroom," Chair Jennifer Lamb said. "We also welcomed men to our committee. No man stepped in to volunteer under our former name, Ladies' Go Texan. All of the changes are very exciting."

Five themed programs — "The Buzz on Bees," "Animals in AGVENTURE," "Literature in the Garden," "A Day without Agriculture," and "Tour of Texas" — provide pre-k to fourth grade students with hands-on activities designed to introduce them to various aspects of agriculture. "Our programs are a combination of facts and fun activities," Lamb said. "We send volunteer teams into the classroom to bring agriculture to life through challenging, interactive lessons."

"The Buzz on Bees," one of the committee's popular programs, explains the crucial role bees play in the food chain and engages third-grade students in a bee dance. Students also learn how bees see color differently than themselves. Volunteer Regina Garceau has a favorite classroom experience. "I remember getting all the students up to do the bee dance," she said. "The laughter and energy was so fulfilling. After dancing, the students were asking all kinds of questions about bees. When they left the room,

some students were still doing the bee dance." Invested in student education, volunteers participate in a formal training program. Lamb explained that they are also equipped with PowerPoint presentations and props. Students can touch wool and cotton while learning the difference between them. Colorful fruits and vegetables are accompanied by an explanation of their progression from farm-to-table.

The year-round programs are valuable tools for teachers. Lessons align with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, the state grade-level learning standards. Thus, the AEC presentations are advancing students' performance on standardized tests.

Amid the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee successfully presented lessons to more than 25 Houston-area schools, with some requesting all five programs. The virus did not halt their efforts. The outreach touched more than 700 schools when factoring in the activity book distribution around Houston, and as far away as Brenham and Cold Springs. True to their committee motto, "bee flexible," volunteers adapted two programs to online presentations for a virtual summer camp hosted by national nonprofit, Common Threads.

Though the committee transformation is recent, sights are set on the future. Expansion plans include reaching an additional 75 schools near term and broadening programs to upper grade-levels.

Curriculum in agriculture education that imparts basic facts while inspiring a student's connection to food, animals and other natural resources is a formula for success. "I love to see the faces on children when they hear where everyday items come from," Garceau said. "I am proud to serve on AEC because I know I am helping people become better." †

ADAPTABLE AND VIRTUAL: SPEAKERS COMMITTEE NEW SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

BY REBECCA MCGOVNEY-INGRAM

Photo courtesy of Stan Horton

The old adage that the show must go on may have come from the theater world, but the Speakers Committee made it their own with a Western twist. Only a few days after the 2020 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee went virtual.

"One of our members was approached by a friend on another committee on March 25," Speakers Committee Chair Stan Horton said. "On March 27, that committee member gave our first virtual presentation to a business class at Rice University that was studying large charities."

Since then, the committee has been working to adapt their materials to present virtually to businesses, community groups, charities and, most importantly, to schools in Houston and the surrounding counties.

"When COVID hit and in-person activities halted, the committee put a hold on many

scheduled events, including school programs planned through the end of May," Horton said. "Our School Events Team spent the summer communicating with elementary schools across the Houston area to develop a virtual program that fit within each school's curriculum as well as [their] technological capabilities."

The Speakers Committee has created both live virtual programs and pre-recorded virtual programs that cover a range of topics. These include Texas history, agriculture, entertainment, Western heritage, scholarships and more, all while keeping in line with its duty to promote the mission and the message of the Rodeo.

"We expect to begin rolling out the program to schools before the end of the fall semester with the goal of reaching most of those originally on our calendar for the 2020-2021 school year, plus the ones we missed last spring," Horton said. "This also gives us the opportunity to reach schools that otherwise would not have had a chance to hear about the Rodeo this year due to resource limitations."

The committee's special, all-day school program is its most requested speaking event. Members of the Speakers Committee typically visit 35 schools each year, and there is a three-year waiting list. Horton and other committee leadership believe that the new virtual format will help them reach a broader audience both now and in the future, while giving their committee members greater flexibility.

"We are actively making sure other groups are aware of this option and the flexibility it presents while assisting our members to prepare for this exciting new format," Horton said. "We are confident these new approaches to getting the message out about the Show, while different, will be a terrific success."

The Speakers Committee has a long history of looking for new ways to deliver the message of the Rodeo. The directors of the Houston Fat Stock Show brought a three-piece Western band with them on visits to civic clubs in the 1940s. In 1970, the committee officially was organized by Stuart Lang, Dude Parmley, and J.D. Sartwelle. Today, the targeted outreach to groups both inside and outside the world of agriculture brings entertainment in the form of line dancing, roping demonstrations and rodeo clowns and is all in a day's work for a committee celebrating its 50th year, and looking to the future. †



Making “Progress”

BY MARY BETH MOSLEY

Photos courtesy of Mary Beth Mosley

The 13th annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Progress Show, held Oct. 11, 2020, had all the trappings of a typical show: competitors coaxing heifers or steers into perfect positions, a judge sharing advice and volunteers at the ready. Held at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Brenham, Texas, the event also included the now-familiar additions of 2020: temperature checks, masks and hand sanitizer, as well as an event organizer laser-focused on safety.

“It was the first Rodeo livestock event since we closed down in March,” said Kim Wilson, senior coordinator, Calf Scramble. “We were a little nervous, just to make sure it went well and that we didn’t have any issues — but it was seamless. Everyone was more than willing to embrace all the safety protocols and make it a fantastic event that promotes the mission of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.”

Melinda Betts, mother of one of the competitors, agreed. “We needed this show to show that there is some normalcy,” she said. “Yes, we do have to wear masks and have the hand sanitizer everywhere, but the kids got to show, and that’s what they needed.”

The journey of Michael Betts, Melinda’s 16-year-old son, to the Progress Show was not the typical one. He is on the autism spectrum and not comfortable with crowds, but at the 2020 Show, he set his sights on catching a calf, no matter the challenges. “At Houston, the competition is tough,” said Michael. When the Rodeo closed before his scramble, he thought it was probably the end of his chance at a certificate. It was not.


“At the time of the closure, we had only given away eight days of scramble certificates, and so

we still had 12 days’ worth to give away to the 4-H and FFA kids,” Wilson said. “So we went through the process of holding a scramble lottery. Each scrambler was assigned the shirt number that they would have worn, and then we did a drawing and that’s how they were awarded their scramble certificates. Michael’s mom said he was the most excited she had seen him in a long time when he found out.”

Michael used his certificate to purchase Presley, a Brangus heifer. Presley placed first in her class at the Progress Show, which is held to give certificate winners, many of whom have never shown before, the chance to practice.

In the 20 years that the Betts family has been showing livestock, Melinda said they have never seen the red carpet rolled out like it was at the Progress Show. For that, Wilson gives credit to a team of more than 200, including Karl Hengst, director, Livestock Competitions, Julie Bass, chief mission officer, and the Calf Scramble Arena, Calf Scramble Donors and Calf Scramble Greeters committees.

“I know it is hard to tell that someone is smiling behind their mask, but you could tell they were smiling behind their masks,” said Melinda. “They gave the kids a bag, and it had a mask in it, a scramble t-shirt [and] hand sanitizer. They were already prize-winners before they even showed.”

In addition to winning a rosette, Michael came away with advice to help Presley get ready for the Junior Livestock Show in March 2021. “The judge told me to work on my heifer’s back feet [as] she won’t set her back feet right,” said Michael, who can’t wait to come back to Houston and show Presley’s progress. 





Check out rodeohouston.com to learn more.



2021

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW AND HORSE SHOW

The Rodeo was excited to see many of our Junior Livestock Show and Horse Show exhibitors back at NRG Park! While 2021 did not look like a typical year, we were thrilled to host these exhibitors at our private event in March.

The mission of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is to promote agriculture, while supporting Texas youth and education, and we are able to uphold this strong commitment to our mission.

Photos are from 2019 and 2020 Rodeo events.



The most eagerly anticipated event of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is not the release of the top-secret entertainer lineup — it is when volunteers finally receive their gold badges. Although committee members do not receive their badges until just before the Rodeo starts, the process for determining the new badge's design actually begins a year earlier. In fact, it starts before the previous year's Rodeo has even begun. By the time the 2020 Rodeo season ended, the badge design for 2021 was already set.

Each year, the badge design changes. It not only helps prevent duplication but also is used to reference significant events.

"We try to make them a reminder of something important," said Johnnie Westerhaus, retired director of production and presentations. In 2002, the badge featured the Astrodome because it was the last year in that venue. The subsequent 2003 badge featured NRG Stadium. The 2019 badge reflected the new star-shaped stage.

Westerhaus's personal favorite is the 2001 badge that featured a construction hard hat and girders, which are support beams used in construction. "We were trying to remind people the grounds were under construction and to ride the bus — that parking was limited," Westerhaus said. "It's my favorite because it's different, and we were trying to make a point with it." Ideas for badges come from all over and sometimes include previously unused designs, artwork or general Western themes.

"In the last few years, the executive office has provided the concept," said Melissa Hernlund, recently retired director of membership who oversaw the badge design process.

Once the design is approved, Hernlund orders more than 45,000 badges for all the volunteers, board members, auction contributors, donors, judges, champion buyers and others approved to receive a badge. Then, each is customized by number and 44 different titles and distributed to the appropriate groups.

With a new design each year, the badge remains a point of pride for volunteers and a sign of the hard work that earned them the gold badge. "Regardless of the position or the job a person may hold, everyone gets that badge for volunteering," Hernlund said. "It means so much to them." †



BEHIND THE BADGE

BY SARAH TUCKER



Junior Commercial Steer

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT CONTEST

BY DAVID W. SIMPSON

Envision running your own cattle company—everything from securing a loan to feeding and selling cattle. Held in NRG Arena, the Junior Commercial Steer Feeding and Management Contest is a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ competition that combines student education with cattle production. Since 1958, this contest, run by a committee of the same name, has provided Texas youth practical, hands-on experience not available in a classroom. Highlighting the commercial cattle industry, students enjoy a learning experience that emphasizes cattle selection, record keeping, feeding, health and industry standards related to a cattle operation.





The 4-H or FFA students who accept this 150-day challenge develop their entrepreneurial and leadership skills. The event boasts 160 exhibitors divided into two categories: junior exhibitors (ages 13 and under) and senior exhibitors (ages 14–18). The contest is not for the faint of heart and is a financial undertaking when one considers the cost of buying three 700–800-pound show steers for entry. Purchased in September, steers are weighed, and contestants begin keeping detailed records of average daily weight gain, total cost per pound and feed conversion. Exhibitors track all costs associated with the steers, including purchase prices, feed costs and veterinarian bills. “The most impressive thing about the competition is the contestants. These kids are sharp! They run their own cattle company from A to Z. I have been involved in the Rodeo for 25 years, and this contest is one of the coolest things I have seen. Very impressive,” said Chris Underbrink, officer in charge.

During the three-day event, exhibitors compete to receive up to 100 points allocated in multiple categories. Scores are given for a written test covering the cattle industry, an oral interview by committee members, the quality and yield grade of their steers, a record book detailing feedings and weights, and passage of a meat identification quiz. For the written test, exhibitors pour hours into studying the beef market, communicating with agricultural

experts, reading cattle industry magazines and analyzing cattle markets. The eight contestants closest to 100 points move to the finals. There, they face a challenging, one-hour interview before a panel of cattle industry experts, including veterinarians, cattle operators, animal nutritionists and financial experts.

The first-place winner receives a new Ford F-150 truck, cash and other prizes, while \$10,000 plus prizes await the reserve champion. These exhibitors raise quality meat that any beef connoisseur would desire. All steers graded choice or prime are sold annually. The proceeds allow students to pay off their initial loan and pocket the rest for next year. The contest makes for an energetic event, as exhibitors are joined by those who supported their journeys, including parents, agricultural teachers and 4-H leaders.

Most committee members competed when they were students and remain dedicated to these exhibitors’ successes. “The contest is unique, providing an opportunity for students to gain beef industry knowledge from the operator’s perspective to the consumer’s expectation, as well as developing valuable life skills, including interviewing, perseverance and a strong work ethic. The contest’s extraordinary success is because of the dedication of its committee members, donors and buyers,” Chair Brooke Cranik said, who was also a prior exhibitor. This real-world experience develops lifelong skills needed to succeed in the cattle industry and builds the next generation of cattle operators. †

Joe “Dad” Fidler

• ESSENTIAL VOLUNTEER •

BY SARAH TUCKER

Photos courtesy of Harry Miller

Every day during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™, Joe Fidler, 91, wakes up at 3 a.m. to cook for the Horse Show. By 5 a.m., he is at NRG Park, firing up the pit and the ovens and the deep fryers. With help from the Horse Show’s Chuckwagon Committee, he will prepare breakfast and lunch for nearly 4,000 Horse Show contestants and committee members each day.



Joe Fidler is one of the Rodeo's longest-serving and most dedicated volunteers. A member since the 1960s, he awakes well before dawn from the Saturday before the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest starts to the Tuesday after the Rodeo ends.

He's also mentored hundreds, if not thousands, of fellow volunteers on the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest and Horse Show committees. Harry Miller, a member of the Rodeo's board of directors and past chair of the Horse Show, is one of those mentees. He considers Fidler one of his best friends, calling him "Joe Dad."

"Joe calls everyone 'dad,'" Miller said. "And, if he says 'hey dad,' there's a project coming in the next breath." Miller vividly remembers when they met at his first volunteer shift with the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest Committee on an early morning some 30 years ago. "I had literally just sat down with my coffee, and Joe comes up saying, 'what the heck are you doing sitting down? We have work to do!'"

The rest is history, and Miller credits Fidler with teaching him and so many other volunteers all they needed to know to serve massive amounts of food to people daily during the Rodeo.

Fidler also was essential in helping the recently formed Chuckwagon Committee

start. Miller had people follow Fidler around to learn his techniques, as well as all the recipes he had memorized. "If he hadn't taught us what he knows, there would be a Horse Show Chuckwagon Committee, but it would have been nine miles of rough county road getting there," Miller said.

Fidler does not necessarily see himself as critical to the operations of the committees with which he volunteers. He simply enjoys staying busy, working wherever he is needed.

"I just enjoy doing it, and it gives me something to do," Fidler said. Up until recently, Fidler would live on-site during the Rodeo, ready to operate the pit and cook for crowds at a moment's notice. "I don't want to be sitting at home. I've got to be doing something," he said.

Because of his dedication, the Rodeo made Fidler a member of the board of directors, but he was "too old for that," he said. Fidler is now an ex-officio member of the board.

Miller jokes that he is going to teach Fidler how to say no one day because he always says yes, giving selflessly to the Rodeo year after year and never asking for anything in return.

"I think if there were a perfect volunteer marriage with the Rodeo, it'd be Joe Dad Fidler," Miller said. "He's the embodiment of a Rodeo volunteer — it's not about you today or tomorrow, it's about the Rodeo." 🤠



Drink in Education

at Rodeo Wine Seminars

BY NATALIE HARMS

Something to look forward to at the 2022 Rodeo!

The Champion Wine Garden at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ is not just a great place to meet friends and enjoy delicious wines from around the world. It is also where you can sharpen your wine tasting skills by attending one of a series of wine education seminars.

“One of the driving forces we started incorporating in our seminars was to educate our patrons who may be insecure on their wine selections, or perhaps haven’t ventured out of their comfort zone,” Wine Garden Committee Chair Ken Pujats said. “A lot of people don’t know what they like and rely on people to tell them — whether it’s a sommelier, a waiter at a restaurant, a friend or a wine steward at their local wine merchant.”

The seminars, which range in price from \$55 to \$95 per person, cover a variety of topics like pairing wine with chocolate or cheese. There is even a taste bud boot camp, where attendees do blind taste tests of wines to see if they can identify the flavors.





"People just say, 'Wow, I never knew what could enhance the flavor of wine,'" Pujats said. "That's what we're doing. We're trying to enhance any of the wines that they are opening and make it an experience."

All the wines featured in the seminars are available in the Champion Wine Garden so patrons are better equipped at ordering next time they go to pick out a glass or a bottle. Each year, both the seminars and the Rodeo Uncorked!® International Wine Competition feature a specific region, and the 2021 featured region is Sonoma County, California.

"Wine is always a story," Pujats said. "Good wine can taste great, but you want to have a good story to tell. That's the point of sitting around with a glass of wine and talking about it."

The seminars are led by volunteers who are wine experts and love telling stories of wine, like Guy Stout — one of only 160 Master Sommeliers in the world — and Ryan Levy, founder of Houston-based Nice Winery. Levy has a long history with the Rodeo. He was a recipient of a Rodeo scholarship in high school, and one of Nice's wines won the top award at the Rodeo Uncorked!® International Wine Competition, selling for \$140,000 in the Champion Wine Auction.

When Nice Winery's 2013 Notorious Mount Veeder Malbec won the Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show in the 2017 Rodeo Uncorked!® International Wine Competition, Levy learned about the seminars and got involved. Each year, he teaches a few of the classes. "The seminar for me is a way to give back and volunteer time," Levy said. "The reason I'm there is because I'm a scholarship recipient, and I want to give back."

Levy said the seminars are a steal for the price of a ticket. He considers them a free wine seminar with a donation to the Rodeo. The classes are small with only around 30 people in each. And they welcome all wine skill levels.

"I think there's something for everyone — whether you're new to wine or a layman sommelier," Levy said. "I've had people there on date night or groups of ladies who come from work to do it, and I've had a lot of Rodeo volunteers come take the class." 🍷



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

2021 RODEO UNCORKED!®

INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION



2021 RODEO UNCORKED! INTERNATIONAL WINE COMPETITION CHAMPIONS



**GRAND
CHAMPION
BEST OF SHOW**
Alexander Valley
Vineyards CYRUS,
Alexander Valley,
2014



**RESERVE GRAND
CHAMPION
BEST OF SHOW**
Le Chemin Du Roi
Brut, Champagne
AOC, NV



TOP TEXAS WINE
Ron Yates
Tempranillo,
Friesen Vineyards,
Texas High Plains,
2017



TOP RED WINE
Famiglia Pasqua
Amarone Della
Valpolicella
DOCG, 2015



TOP WHITE WINE
William Hill
Estate Winery
Chardonnay, Napa
Valley, 2017



**TOP SPARKLING
WINE**
Moët & Chandon
Imperial Brut,
Champagne AOC,
NV



**TOP DESSERT
WINE**
Harveys The
Bristol Cream
Solera Sherry,
Jerez DO, NV



**TOP REGION
WINE**
Three Sticks
Chardonnay,
Durell Vineyard,
Sonoma Coast,
2017



TOP VALUE WINE
Private Selection
Robert Mondavi
Riesling,
California, 2018

Visit rodeohouston.com/wine for a complete list of 2021 winners.



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