

cattle liaison for the Arizona Cutting Horse Association for more than a quarter century.

"I've been the cowman for about 20 some odd years here," Raftery said. "That's why these shows have been a success out here is availability of really good cattle. I've never written a contract with these people, I've done it all with a handshake and our word, and we maintain a good working relationship with the cattle people here."

Joe Kalt, who has ridden with Raftery for more than 10 years, nominated the trainer for the Zane Schulte Award.

"Scott Raftery is a dedicated teacher of humans," Kalt wrote. "In fact, probably the most commonly heard remark among us who have ridden with Scott is that we don't know of a better teacher and coach. The teaching of his clients is not an afterthought to Scott and doesn't take a backseat to training the horses. Instead, the teaching is a calling and responsibility that Scott invests in and studies constantly."

He said the traits that make Raftery an ideal candidate for the award are integrity, cool-headedness and unselfishness.

Kalt went on to state, "His long and steady service as a director of the Arizona Cutting Horse Association, the Southern Arizona Cutting Horse Association and the NCHA is the product of people forever looking to Scott for his energy, his brains and his wisdom."

Raftery, who has earned \$227,668 in NCHA competitions, prides himself on the success of his amateur and

## Past Zane Schulte Award Recipients

- 2016 Chubby Turner
- 2015 Gaylon Wells
- 2014 Jimmy Orrell
- 2013 Joe Jones
- 2012 Sam Wilson
- 2011 Dave McGregor
- 2010 J.B. McLamb
- 2009 Sam Shepard
- 2008 Allen Crouch
- 2007 Chris Benedict
- 2006 Mike McCarty
- 2005 Jim Reno
- 2004 Buster Welch
- 2003 Al Dunning
- 2002 Bill Riddle
- 2001 Dale Wilkinson

non-pro riders. His website states, "I may have not won a million dollars, but my students have!"

The Zane Schulte Award annually recognizes a professional trainer who exemplifies the character by which Zane is remembered: integrity, service, values, respect of

their peers, contribution to the industry and excellence in the arena. Each year's winner is presented with a special bronze Zane Schulte Award trophy at the NCHA Futurity.

After learning he was the 2017 award recipient, Raftery felt an even stronger desire to help others.

"I think the thing that hit me the most was that it makes an even bigger obligation for me to be that type of person to honor Zane and his memory," Raftery said. "I have to try even a little bit harder than I have in order to maintain that." ★



An ambassador of the sport, Scott Raftery has had plenty of success including wins with Wise Little Pepto, but he'd rather brag on his clients and students instead of himself. PHOTO CREDIT: Ted Petit Photography