

Melanie Smith Taylor's Bio

Olympic Team Gold Medalist, Melanie Smith Taylor is an internationally recognized rider and trainer. She was successful in amateur/owner classes before entering the grand prix arena. In 1978 she won the American Grandprix Association's Overall Rider of the Year and Lady Rider of the Year, and her mount, Val de Loire, was named the AGA Horse of the Year. That same year, she became one of only two riders to win the "Triple Crown of Show Jumping" after riding to victory in the American Invitational, the International Jumping Derby and the American Gold Cup. Other accomplishments include winning Team Gold at the Pan American Games, Individual Bronze at the 1980 Alternate Olympics and Champion and Reserve Champion at World Cup Finals. In 1982 she was named the United States Olympic Committee's Sportswoman of the Year and was inducted into the Tennessee Hall of Fame. The Show Jumping Hall of Fame inducted her in 1998. In 2007 she served as the Chef d' Equipe for USEF Young Rider team and was named the USEF Developmental Coach of the Year. Melanie continues to serve the industry as a television broadcaster, course designer, judge, trainer and clinician. She operates Wildwood Farms in Germantown, Tennessee.