

# On Course with Catherine Tyree

By Jan Westmark-Allan

The Tyree sisters, Catherine and Lauren, are from Chicago where they ride and train at Kappler Farms. Catherine is 18 and a senior in high school, with her sights set on college. "I'm planning on going to college and continuing to ride. However, I'm unsure if I'll take a gap year or not next year," she said.

Catherine has been riding with Katie Kappler since 2001, and while she still rides with Katie and her brother, Kris Kappler, Catherine expanded her horizons this winter and began riding an equitation horse for Missy Clark and John Brennan. "My current riding goal is to win an equitation final," she said.

Catherine's riding career started like so many other young riders.

"My mom used to drag my sister and me to the barn with her when we were younger. One day we asked to sit on a pony and the rest is history."

Sidelines caught up with the Catherine and her younger sister Lauren, while they were competing in Wellington for the winter. The two powerhouse sisters are riding and winning their way through the show rings - having fun all along the way. Read about Lauren in this issue of Sidelines, also!

**Sidelines:** Who do you train with?

**CT:** I started riding with Katie Kappler in 2001, and then, in 2007, Nora and Morgan Thomas began helping me, along with Katie, in the junior hunters and equitation. Katie's brother, Chris Kappler, has been helping me in the jumpers for the past five years or so. Now I am also riding with Missy Clark and John Brennan.

**Sidelines:** You compete quite a few horses – who goes in which division?

**CT:** I ride Savant in the older large junior hunters and I



Catherine Tyree and Savant

have three different horses that I ride in the junior jumpers -- Can Can, Memphis Du Park and Triton. I ride Patrick, Triple Lutz, Co Co Pop, Lancelott and Leukos in the equitation.

**Sidelines:** What do you consider your career highlights?

**CT:** Winning the 2010 Hunterdon Cup, getting third place at the 2010 ASPCA Maclay Finals and placing 7th at the 2011 ASPCA Maclay Finals. I won the 2011 Region 4 Maclay Regionals, was 6th at NAJRC 2010, Reserve Champion at the 2010 Pennsylvania National Horse Show in the Younger Large Junior Hunters and Reserve Champion at the 2009 Devon Horse Show in the Younger Small Junior Hunters.

**Sidelines:** What have you liked best about your junior career?

**CT:** The best parts of my junior career have been the horses I've been able to ride and all of the people who I've been able to work with. My progression from medium ponies to the equitation, junior hunters and junior jumpers would not have been possible without the horses I've been lucky enough to have and the people who have helped along the way.

**Sidelines:** Have you had a favorite horse over the years?

**CT:** I love all of my horses and try not to pick favorites; but if I were to choose one, it would be Triton.

**Sidelines:** What do you do when you aren't riding?

**CT:** When I'm not riding, I like spending time with my friends, reading or simply relaxing.

**Sidelines:** Describe yourself in 10 words or less.

**CT:** Ambitious, kind and quiet.



Catherine Tyree and Memphis Du Park