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Volume 2602 - February 2014  
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# Sidelines

February 2014

## The Beautiful World of Dressage

Mary-Haskins  
Gurganus and  
Richmond

**Inside This Issue:**  
**One BIG Pony-Size Secret**  
**Jean Kopperud's Musical Talents**  
**Hillary Simpson Destined for Success**



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**About the Cover:** Mary-Haskins Gurganus and her stallion Richmond.

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# Letter from the Editor

It's hard to believe that our February issue is already here – which means the winter show season is in full gear throughout the country. We are kicking off the February issue of *Sidelines* with cover girl Mary-Haskins Gurganus and her stunning stallion Richmond. Mary-Haskins, or M.H., took time off from riding to be a mom but is now back and combining motherhood and her dressage career. She's doing a great job at both and we are glad to see her back in the spotlight.

M.H. isn't the only one who has returned to the ring. Jamie Krauss Hess, daughter of TV journalist Joan Lunden, is also back. I know you will enjoy her story called "Return To Riding," including her words of wisdom on discovering the "value of the journey." I think many riders will be able to relate to what Jamie has learned about the joy of riding and having a horse in your life.

This issue is action packed – just like the show season. We have great dressage stories, from Olympic rider Tina Konyot, to a comeback story on a dressage horse named Sirtaki to the passion of dressage rider and trainer Jordan LaPlaca. If you are a dressage enthusiast, make sure you check out our story on the Global Dressage Forum – an event that will be bringing a star-studded line-up of dressage riders to South Florida.

You definitely don't want to miss our story on Julia Davis and her big secret. In this "don't try this at home" story, Julia bought a very inexpensive and malnourished pony without telling her parents and proceeded to hide it from them for several months. Not only did she keep the pony a secret, Julia had almost no riding experience and the pony was very green. With a lot of determination, courage and luck, this dynamic duo made it to the top – competing at Devon, Pony Finals, and the NAL Finals. Each person on my staff who read the story as we were getting this issue ready for print had the same reaction – "wow, what a crazy story!"

I love hearing from the equestrian community – especially when they email me with the inside scoop on a story like Julia's. Thanks to Ashley Gasiorowski in North Carolina for sharing the story with me. Speaking of the inside scoop, Marissa Degner, daughter of *Sidelines* writer Doris Degner-Foster, attended the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program (EAP) and gives us a behind-the-scenes account of what the EAP is all about. I know young riders

will enjoy this glimpse into the world of the Emerging Athletes Program.



Julia Davis jumps from a secret to success.

Photo by Sierra Walt

4 SIDELINES FEBRUARY 2014

will enjoy this glimpse into the world of the Emerging Athletes Program.

*Sidelines* writer Lauren R. Giannini also gives us a glimpse into another world, thanks to her travel story on her adventure in Africa. Lauren needed to get away from it all – and she certainly did. With any luck, Lauren's story might inspire you to head out on your own adventure. Lauren also shares another adventure with us in this issue in her story on Alice Debany Clero called "Jumping from the U.S to Paris to Dubai." Alice grew up in New York and during her junior career rode with George Morris. Alice's equestrian travels resulted in a friendship with Princess Haya, who asked Alice to coach the Dubai Show Jumping Team. Talk about adventure!



*Sidelines* loves it when our readers Catch the Sidelines Spirit – and Indiana rider Alli Thompson has caught the spirit and is our February mascot. We welcome her aboard. We also want to give a shout out to Whit Watkins of Moody, Texas. Whit won the fifth annual USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award at the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships and received a \$5,000 award. Way to go Whit!

Whether you are showing on the winter circuit, working with your horse at home or still dreaming of owning your own horse – just don't follow Julia's example! – I hope you are finding adventure in 2014, especially the equestrian kind.

Catch the Sidelines Spirit!

Jan Westmark

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Whit Watkins wins the Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award.

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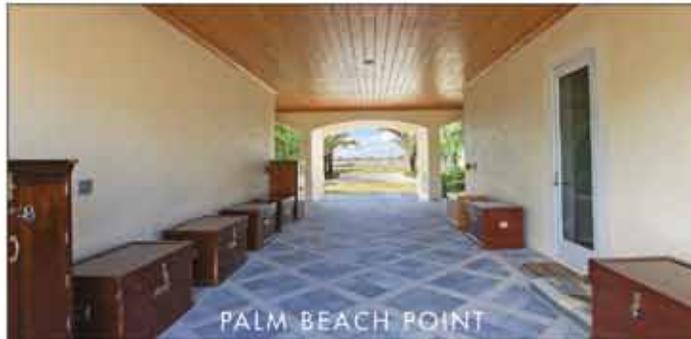
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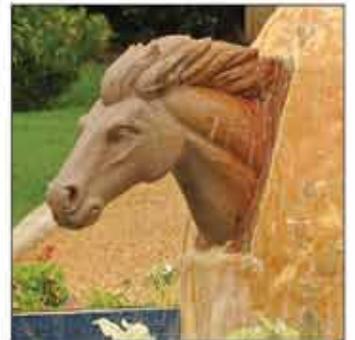
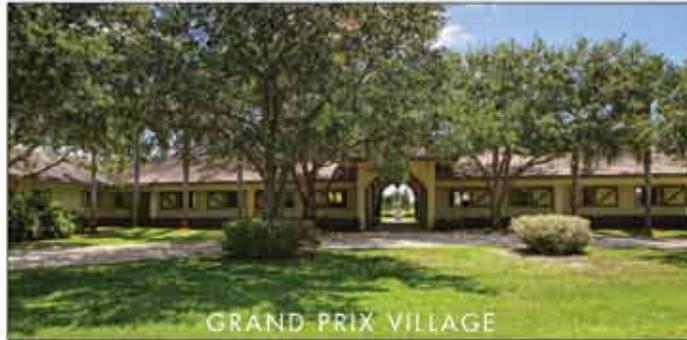
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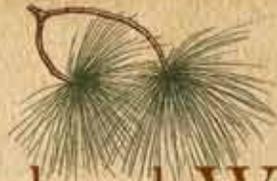


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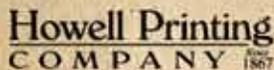
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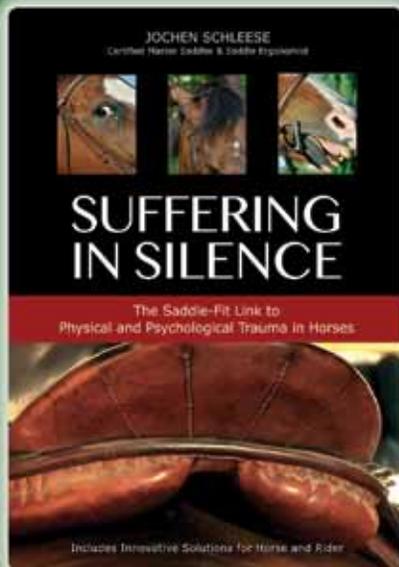


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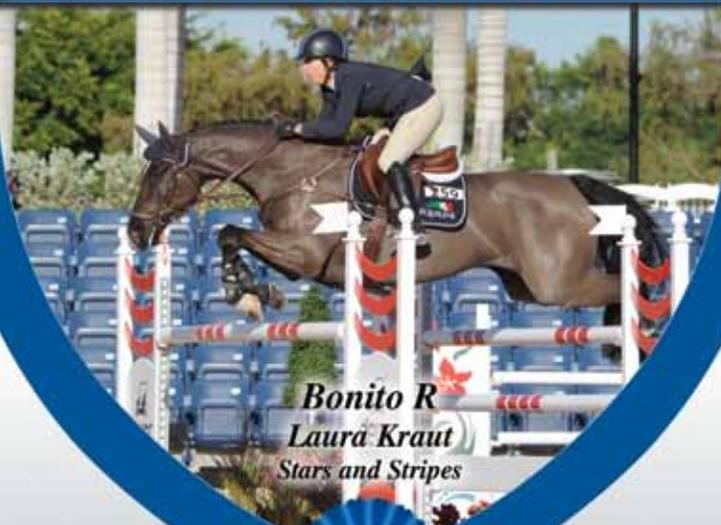


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# Beating The Odds

By Lindsay McCall

In 1997, Kelby Barranco was born with the odds stacked against him. Just after giving birth, his mother Monica was given the diagnoses that her son Kelby had Microcephaly. This was discovered when the doctors tested and measured Kelby's head size. One hemisphere of his brain was very small while the other side was fully developed. That test result would be accompanied at eight-and-a-half months with a diagnosis of cerebral palsy.

At three-and-a-half years of age, Kelby was enrolled in equine therapy. Monica sought out a barn in Delray Beach, Florida where Kelby began to ride during the week. Monica recalled, "Riding really improved his strength. He was basically unable to walk or talk until he started riding."

Noticing Kelby's love for riding, Monica purchased a horse for him. Kelby rode and showed aboard his first horse Princess for 10 years before the mare passed away in 2011 at age 35.

Back in 2006, Standardbred harness trotter Emma's Pearl was born in Florida. Emma's Pearl was deemed a dummy foal, meaning while in the womb she was deprived of the oxygen needed to arrive in the world normally. She arrived with a club foot and the diagnoses of anhydrosis, which is the inability to sweat. Despite all the odds being against her, she was a successful trotter and made a young career out of her track life. Luanna Beeson, her owner and trainer, believed in the mare who eventually race-timed at her best ever 1:58.3 in her last run.

While searching for the perfect horse for Kelby in 2011 after his mare Princess passed away, the Barrancos were introduced, by their farrier Joe White, to Emma's Pearl. Owner Luanna Beeson was happy that Emma's Pearl could be such a great fit for the Barrancos and Kelby fell in love with the five-year-old immediately. Unfortunately, the horse had never been trained under saddle. That didn't stop Monica's determination to create a new partnership for her son and Emma's Pearl.

For years, Monica has worked many of the international horse shows in Wellington, Florida. During that time, Kelby had volunteered alongside his mom. Kelby has created relationships with equestrians like Italian grand prix rider Silva Rizzo, who he says is his favorite rider. His volunteer roles have included ring steward, traffic manager and horse quarantine management. According to the USDF, Kelby logged more than 750 hours of volunteering in 2013 at Wellington Classic Dressage, Gold Coast Dressage and International Horse Sport shows.

With a network of equestrians at Monica's fingertips in Wellington and a need for a trainer that would be the perfect fit for Emma's Pearl, Monica got an idea. She talked with one of her

favorite riders named Jules Anderson. She asked Jules if she could work with Emma's Pearl. Months later, Jules showed Emma's Pearl as the first-ever

*Kelby, his mom Monica Barranco and Emma's Pearl.*

Photo by Lindsay McCall



*Kelby with his favorite equestrian – Italian grand prix rider Silva Rizzo.*

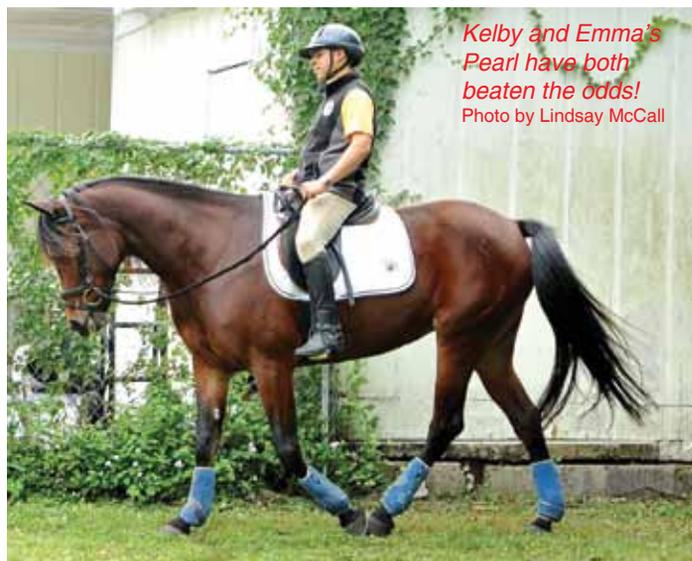
Photo courtesy of Monica Barranco

Standardbred to be entered at the Gold Coast Dressage Show.

The past 16 years have been full of challenges and triumphs for Kelby. Most recently a triumph occurred – Kelby earned the USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, sponsored by the USDF Youth Programs Advisory Subcommittee. Kelby will be presented with a perpetual trophy, donated by the Akin family of Warwick, New York, in honor of Lendon Gray, which is permanently on display in the Roemer/USDF Hall of Fame.

In 2013, Emma's Pearl and Kelby have been working hard together with dressage trainer Robyn Weston. Kelby is currently nationally recognized as a para-dressage rider but he will be formally classified at the 2014 Adequan Global Dressage Festival CPED13\* in Wellington. He is planning to enter and compete in the Grade II Para-Equestrian Dressage competition. While the odds may have been stacked against Kelby and Emma's Pearl from the beginning, this horse and rider team continues to conquer it all.

*About the writer: Lindsay McCall is a lifelong hunter/jumper rider originally from Ohio. She is a talented photographer and makes it her career to advocate for the equestrian sport through photojournalism. Lindsay and her family own many horses in multiple disciplines and she enjoys spending her free time with her husband, horses and Labrador Retrievers.*



*Kelby and Emma's Pearl have both beaten the odds!*

Photo by Lindsay McCall



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# Judy Kelly's Recipe for Success

*Judy and Benise showing their elegant canter work at the inaugural National Dressage Championships in November 2013 in Kentucky. The pair took first in the Prix St. Georges Open/Adult Amateur class with a 71.184 percent.*

Photo by SusanJStickle.com



*Judy shares a quiet moment with her nine-year-old Hanoverian mare Benise (Breitling W – Rubenstein I) at the Dressage at Waterloo Show in Michigan.*

Photo by Kim MacMillan/  
MacMillan Photography

By Kim MacMillan

Mix together a strong Midwestern work ethic, a good measure of practicality, a pinch of intensity and a large portion of passion for horses and dressage and you come up with Judy Kelly of Clarkston, Michigan. Judy has been teaching and training at her Topline Dressage since 1981 and has achieved her United States Dressage Federation's bronze, silver and gold medals along the way.

Judy started riding at an early age. "The most consistent riding I did early on was in 4-H when I was 11 or 12. In fact, my husband's mom was our 4-H leader. I love telling that story; we grew up about a half a mile from one another. I just did Western then – games and pleasure classes mainly. My first horse was a little Quarter Horse named Sir Don, a.k.a. Donald. He was a great kid's horse!"

"I did that for about two years and got a little bored so I wanted to learn English riding. I grew up in Farmington, Michigan, and just down the road from us in West Bloomfield was Centaur Farms where I took lessons with Dave Lackey. I started taking English riding lessons there on school horses and did a little jumping and a little dressage. I was not a brave kid, so I didn't like jumping so much. That is how I started dressage. From age 13 until I was 19 I rode at Centaur," explained Judy.

The Maestro was Judy's first dressage horse. She bought him when she was 14 and took him all the way to the grand prix level. She and Maestro placed fifth in 1979 at the selection trials for the Pan American Games. They were also invited to compete at Goodwood in England. "I was able, just by the blessing of the horse, to make it to grand prix. I kept him for the rest of his life. Once I started back as a professional rider in 1981, he was my school horse and he was really, really good too! He was 25 when

he had to be put down," she said.

After two years off for college, Judy decided to turn pro. "In college I studied many things, because I was trying to decide what to do when I 'grew up.' Math and sciences were my forte. It makes me an analytical rider," she said.

Early in her dressage career she rode with a number of respected names including Steffen Peters, Christine Traurig and Betsy Steiner. She also participated in a developing rider clinic with Guenter Seidel. In the late 1980s, she rode with Jan Ebeling when he was giving clinics in Michigan and later re-connected with him when she went to the Los Angeles Equestrian Center to watch a Klaus Balkenhol clinic and saw Jan there. She's been riding with him for nearly 12 years now.

"Since I had already ridden with him in the clinics I asked him if he would be interested in coming out to Michigan again to work with me and he said he would. He has been the most influential person in my riding. He pushes me when I need to be pushed. His instructing and the way he explains things are great – he lets you work things out, but then he'll say 'well, I would have done it this way.' He really cares about the success of you and your horse. It's just a great relationship. He's stuck with me whether he wants to be or not," she laughed.

Judy's philosophy of creating an individual training program that suits each of her students and their horses has made her a popular instructor at her farm just north of Detroit. She and her husband of 25 years, Sean Kelly, own and operate Topline Dressage. Their barn has 33 stalls and they regularly have 25 – 30 horses at the farm at any one time. Judy teaches around 30 students per week at home and coaches many of them at shows. She also trains and shows horses for her clients and has at least one show horse

*Continued on page 23*

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of her own in the pipeline most of the time. Occasional off-farm lessons and clinics round out her portfolio.

In 2013, Judy had three students compete at the National Dressage Finals: Carolyn Kotila with Leonardo, Adult Amateur Grand Prix; Chris Graye with Samurei, Adult Amateur Intermediaire-2; and Barbara Butman with Falkland Dragonfly, Adult Amateur Intermediaire-2. Another student Nancy Bryant and her horse Handsel were the 2013 Michigan Dressage Association Champions at Third Level and debuted at Fourth Level.

Judy's had success with the two horses so far that Jan has helped her pick out. The first horse was Rakker, an imported Dutch Warmblood gelding by Gribaldi (the sire of Moorland's Totilas) and out of a mare by Saros. She and Rakker showed through grand prix and earned a number of USDF Region 2 Year-End Championships at Intermediaire and Grand Prix and finished in the top 12 nationally at Intermediaire in 2011 and the top nine in 2010. He is retired from competition now, but some of her students ride him occasionally.

Her current FEI horse is a German Hanoverian mare named Benise (by Breitling W, out of Rubina by Rubenstein I). In 2013, she and Benise were USDF Region 1 Champions at Prix St. Georges and seventh in the nation. They also competed at the inaugural U.S. National Dressage Championships in Kentucky where they won one Open Prix St. Georges class and finished fifth in the other. Jan also helped her find her recently imported four-year-old German Hanoverian mare Biscaya by Breitling W. She purchased her sight unseen on Jan's recommendation. Biscaya came out of quarantine in late August 2013

## Getting To Know Judy:

### *If you could interview anyone in the world who would it be?*

Jon Bon Jovi, only because I would love to sit in a chair across from him. I told my husband, Sean, that I'd leave him for Jon Bon Jovi. I like his music, but it's mostly that he's gorgeous. That's not anything new; Sean will laugh at that one.

### *What is one of your biggest pet peeves?*

When people leave the lights on in the barn.

### *What is your definition of happiness?*

Be content in the moment. That's what I've figured out as I've gotten older.

### *Who are your biggest fans?*

My parents, but they were two different people in the way they showed it. Mom was a great mom, because she'd say 'just do your best and we love you anyway.' My mother also used to kiss Maestro on the nose. I'd get all ready for my test and she'd be helping me getting the boots and hat and so on. She would have her pink or red lipstick on and she'd kiss him. I'd be going down the centerline with this kiss spot on his nose. I wouldn't know until I got off. When you are 15 or 16 years old, you don't want that kiss spot on your horse's nose in the show ring! Dad was the scoreboard watcher, so we never had to check the scores. He would come back to the barn and say either, 'you got a great score and you won the class' or 'you got this score and you were third.' My husband Sean is also my biggest supporter.

# This Cookie Doesn't Crumble

By Dani Moritz

One year. That's how long Pauline "Cookie" Cook, who was born and raised in England, was supposed to be in the States. Fast-forward 50 years and she's still here – continuing to devote her time and talents to the industry.

When a friend asked Cookie to accompany her on a one-year trip to the States to work for Allendale, a barn in Kansas City, Cookie happily agreed. One work visa and six weeks later, Cookie had arrived.

Working on a 150-acre horse farm with 80 horses (half boarders and half school horses), Cookie was in love. "We thought we had died and gone to Heaven," Cookie recalled with a laugh.

Obviously, Cookie decided to stay. She eventually began working at the barn full-time as a riding instructor – previously she had done mostly office work. "It's like a totally, totally different culture here," Cookie said. "If I had stayed in England, I would have been working at the doctor's office and would just do the horses on the side because I didn't come from money. I'm doing a lot now that I never would have had the opportunity to do in England."

Soaking up the opportunity, Cookie stayed at that farm until 1980 – quite a bit longer than the original one-year agreement.

After saying goodbye to Kansas City, she moved to Houston to work for Bear Creek Arena, which she eventually took over the lease of and established Britannia Farm. She took it over in 1987. Sadly, the doors closed in '96.

Cookie, of course, pressed on. In 1997, she got a job offer at Great Southwest Equestrian Center – where she continues to work. Although she has retired from full-time, she is now happy to be the senior equestrian consultant. "They didn't have very much business," she said. "I have gradually built this place into what it is now."

Today, Cookie has put her days of teaching, training and sales behind her. Always one to have an open mind, she now enjoys working as the senior equestrian consultant, running horse shows, judging and stewarding. In addition to focusing on hunters and



*Cookie competing in Oklahoma City at the Go Show in the '70s.*  
Photo by Marilyn Morris

jumpers, Cookie is also involved in the Quarter Horse industry, as a horse show manager, judge and steward. "I'm really enjoying it [this side of the industry]," she said. "It's a great business to be in. I enjoy the people. We have a lot of great customers."

She enjoys getting to know all different sides of the industry. "I enjoy meeting everybody. The stewards and judges – everyone is just so nice. It's good to see both sides of when you're judging, when you're stewarding and when you're running the horse shows. I do a little bit of every part of it."

Although Cookie explains that the horse show management side of the industry entails a lot of hard work and hours, she says it almost always turns out great – which makes the time she puts into it well worth it. She also has a lot of experience doing the showing and teaching which helps her create competitor-friendly horse shows. Two years of business school certainly doesn't hurt either.

Last year, Cookie was rewarded for her efforts by winning the 2012 Texas Hunter/Jumper Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Although, you could say her greatest achievement is the legacy she leaves with the success of the shows she runs – such as The Great Southwest shows and (her favorite) The Spring Gathering Charity Horse Show – which she runs with Peter Pletcher.

Cookie also offers a bit of advice to up and coming equestrians – advice that goes a long way not just in the horse world, but also in everyday life: "Keep an open mind and try to widen your scope. Do not just look at teaching, but if you can and if you're interested, look at the overall picture of the horse business. I think everybody in the world needs to keep an open mind and not be closed-minded. When somebody gives you a new idea, go for it."

After all, that's what has kept Pauline "Cookie" Cook going. It's what inspires her, at 71-years-old, to keep giving back to the industry that has made her the woman she is.



*Sue and Rick Whinery celebrating with Cookie (center) at her banquet for earning the THJA Lifetime Achievement Award.*

Photo courtesy of Pin Oak Charity Horse Show

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# Mary-Haskins Gurganus is Back in the Spotlight

**She was on the fast track to international glory when life brought her plans to a halt. Now she's back and ready to rock the FEI arena.**



*Mary-Haskins and her stallion Richmond enjoying a beautiful Fall day.  
Photo by Brad Styron, [www.BradStyron.com](http://www.BradStyron.com)*

By Dani Moritz

Looking back at her career, it was obvious the next logical step for Mary-Haskins Gurganus was the international arena. Her lifelong goal of making a U.S. team was finally within reach. A two-time national champion for Young Riders at Gladstone and winning the 2003 NAJYRC Championships opened the doors to a world of opportunity. The then young rider was ready to go for it – to give it her all.

But then something unexpected happened – life.

Mary-Haskins, who prefers the name M.H., met and married the man of her dreams and they soon started a family. As most parents can relate to, her life began to change – drastically.

Although M.H. never stopped riding and competing, the international arena had to wait. She had three more important things to attend to – her husband, Scott Gurganus, and two young children, Banks (7) and Liles (5).

It's difficult for her to explain just how hard – and yet amazing – having a family has been for her. "I'm not in a wheelchair and

I'm not facing any huge difficulties in my life, but as far as being a professional rider it's been a struggle and, at the same time, a huge blessing."

M.H. explained how difficult it is to put on hold something you've wanted your entire life. M.H. grew up riding and always knew deep down that she belonged in the saddle. She went to college and pursued a degree in education, but always came back to horses when it came to her career.

So, as happy as she was to be a mom, it was difficult to fade out of the spotlight and disappear into the woodwork. Yet, M.H. has always maintained a positive attitude. "In hindsight, I believe it has taught me appreciation and patience. It has taught me the importance of making your own great horses. I feel as though I have to basically start from scratch and climb my way back up. And I have worked and fought every day to get there again."

As M.H. emerged back into the limelight, she struggled to get back to where she was – and find her way into the international spotlight. She essentially had to start from scratch, literally cold-calling people in hopes of finding the right horse to campaign. She got a lot of yeses – and a lot of nos. But she didn't give up.

*Continued on page 30*

- 2013 Region 1 GAIG Open Intermediare 1 champion
- 2013 Region 1 BLM Open Prix. Saint George champion
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Eventually she found a colt, named Richmond, with the potential to bring her up the ranks. Now nine-years-old, the stallion is the answer to her prayers.

Together, M.H. and Richmond had a successful campaign in 2013. They rode their first CDI together, winning Intermediare-1. They also earned a career high of 75 percent from one judge in the Open Prix. St. Georges division, helping score them the Region 1 CBLM Open Prix St. George Championship. That same year, they were also Region 1 GAIG Open Intermediare-1 Champion. How's that for returning to the spotlight?

She is also busy bringing along clients' horses and riders at any given time, as well as showing her own four-year-old gelding, Ramone. M.H. says she also has two special youngsters of her own, a Sir Donnerhall filly and Charmeur colt, and several sales horses available. Of course, she is actively seeking sponsorship to further develop herself and her horses. She is training out of Rollover Downs in New Bern, North Carolina. She, herself, trains with Shawna Harding.

Thanks to her own journey, one of M.H.'s passions revolves around helping others – and giving back the industry that has given so much to her. She hosts an annual young rider fundraiser clinic in which she raises money to send one deserving junior rider in Eastern North Carolina to ride with an international dressage rider.

With big goals for 2014, she now looks forward to riding in Florida this winter in the CDI tour and reminding the industry what she already knows – she has what it takes. M.H. will not let her hiatus stop her from achieving her dreams. Now equipped with even more determination and will to succeed, this mom is more ready than ever to take on the world and, once again, rise to dressage fame.



(Above) Mary-Haskins Gurganus and Richmond.  
Photo by SusanJStickle.com



Mary-Haskins and her daughter, Liles, enjoy a moment together at a horse show.  
Photo by WNC Photography



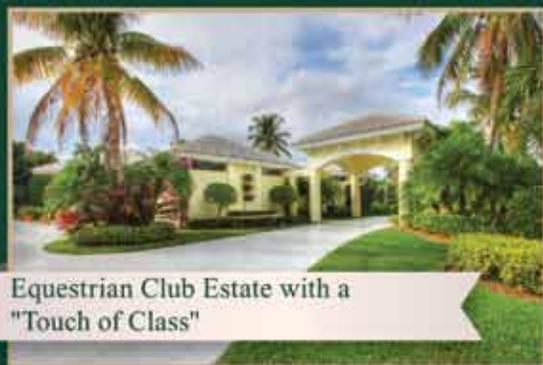
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**Sara Hufstader** recently relocated to Wellington, Florida to start her new equestrian venture **EquiThink**, [www.equithink.info](http://www.equithink.info), just in time for WEF 2014. EquiThink provides sports counseling and training strategies for equestrian athletes. Good luck with your new business, Sara!

**Lorne Michaels**, legendary producer of **Saturday Night Live**, according to recent reports, is indulging his 12-year-old daughter **Sophie** and particularly her love of horseback riding by paying out \$12 million to buy a four-bedroom property in one of the country's leading centers of the sport, Wellington, Florida.

*Sidelines* is sad to announce the death of photographer **Shawn McMillen**. Shawn contributed photos to *Sidelines* for many years and was a delight to work with. Our condolences go out to his family. He was a talented, kind and generous person and he



Girls just want to have fun – and they do. These ladies were recently spotted enjoying some time off by enjoying a game of pool. Even the busiest of riders have to have some time to breathe! Left to right: **Elizabeth Plummer, Melissa Burns, Cyndi Griffith, Margie Engle, Kay Finsness, Dominique Coffman and Jill Townsend.**

will be missed. Shawn lost his battle to cancer on November 21, 2013.

Our condolences to the family of **Ann Thornley Metcalfe (Nancy)**, age 92, died peacefully at her residence in St. Louis, Missouri, on December 4, 2013.

Our condolences also go out to the family of **Debby Beach Stanton**, age 68, of Southport. The beloved wife of 40 years to Dr. Robert A. Stanton passed away peacefully in her home on November 21, 2013. Debby was an avid equestrian and showed competitively as a hunter-jumper on the A Circuit for over 25 years. An active member of the Fairfield County Hunt Club, she chaired the June Horse Show for several years raising thousands of dollars to benefit numerous national charitable organizations including Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and Pegasus. Debby was also an active member of the Nantucket Yacht Club, the Green Boundary Club in Aiken, South Carolina and the International Polo Club Palm Beach in Wellington, Florida.

*Continued on page 34*

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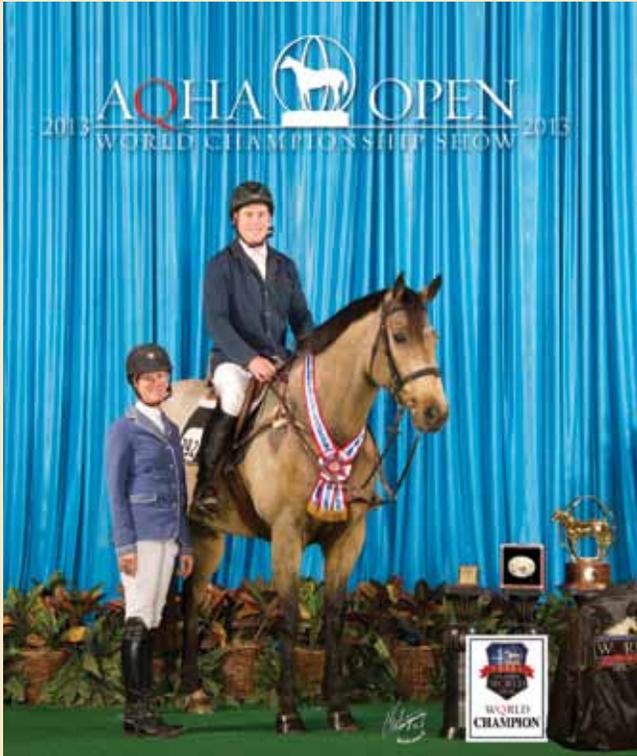
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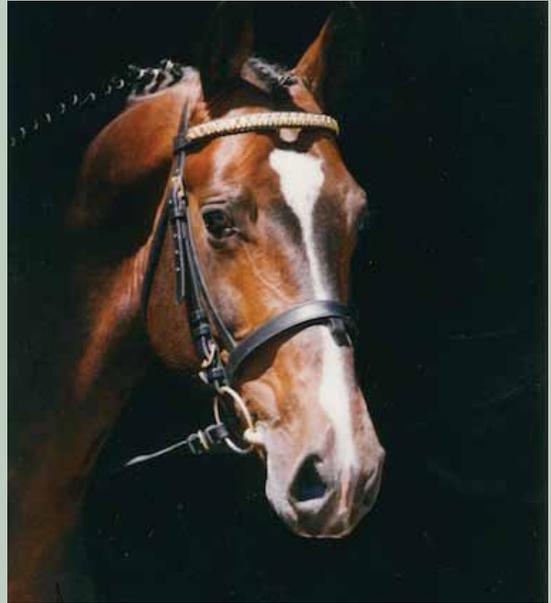
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Way to go Carrel family! **Charlie and Hilary Carrel**, owners of **Colts Unlimited**, continue to be more and more successful. Most recently, they secured the championship in the open jumping division at the AQHA world show. Nice work!

Charlie and Hilary take part in the awards presentation for the Champion in the Open Jumping at the AQHA World Show in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on Ike Cadillac Cash.



R.I.P. **Frohwind** (Furioso II/Windstille/Weltmeister), the five star Oldenburg stallion jointly owned by **Helmut and Margret Schrant** of **Meadow Brook Farm**, Illinois and **Ron and Vanessa Carlson** of **Woodridge Farm**, Oklahoma, quietly passed away from natural causes on November 10. He was 29-years-old. Frohwind was one of the top producers for the Oldenburg registry, siring over 300 foals, and was the 2000 and 2003 USEF Leading Sire for Half-Arabians. He was a true all-around athlete, excelling in dressage, eventing and jumpers, and he had the heart of a champion. He will be missed.

*Continued on page 36*

## Penny Reilly

Real Estate Broker / Associate

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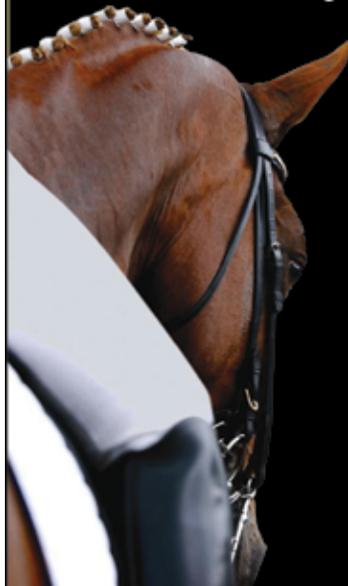
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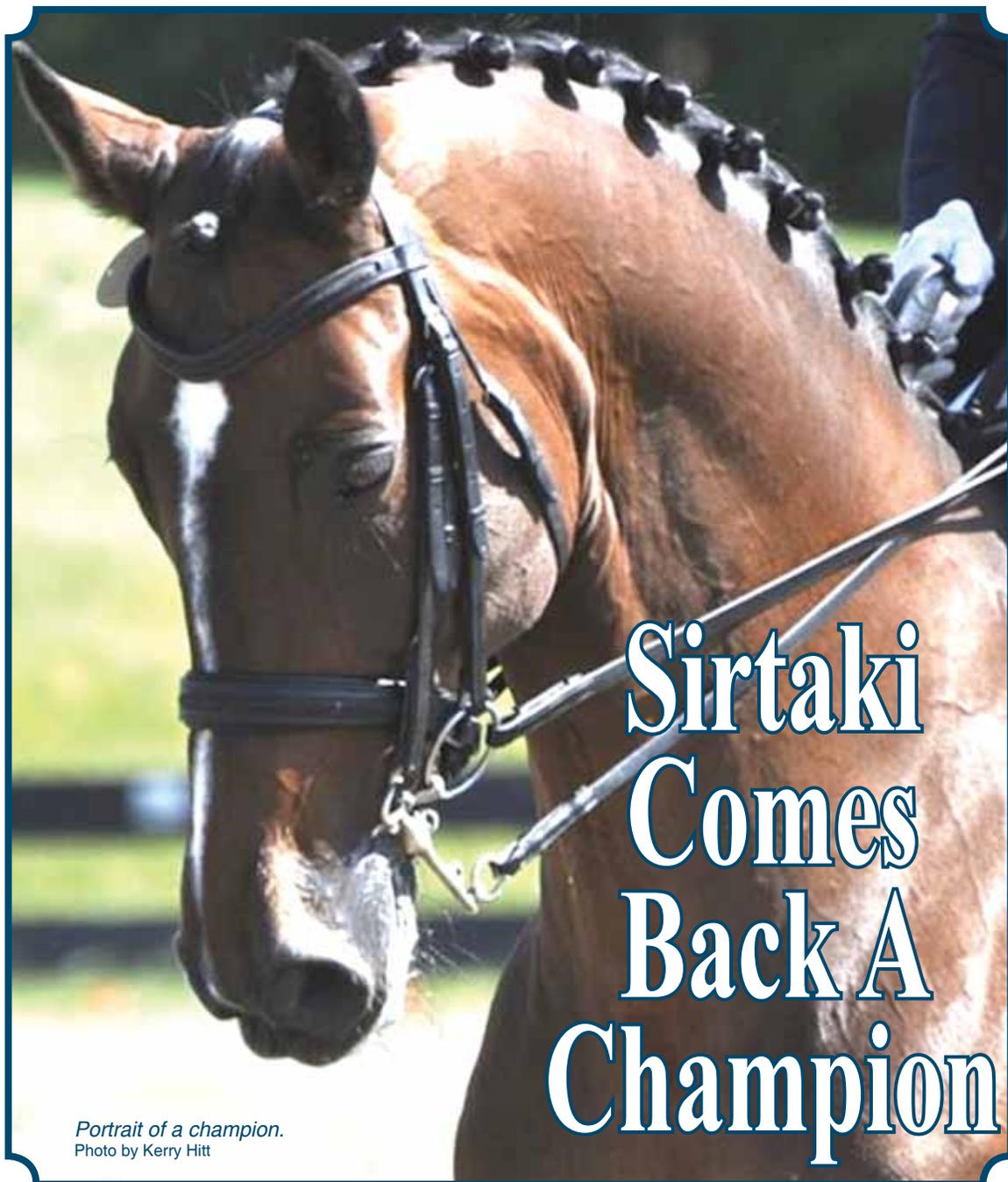
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*Portrait of a champion.*  
Photo by Kerry Hitt

# Sirtaki Comes Back A Champion

By Lauren R. Giannini

When Sirtaki suffered what appeared to be a career-ending injury in 2009, his adult amateur FEI-level owner-rider, Jeanne Van Nuys-Hitt, did not give up. The small animal veterinarian put her scientific mind to work alongside her passion for horses to seek answers. She found them, thanks to the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Veterinary Center. Technological advances and the power of love resulted in a miraculous recovery.

In February 2013 Sirtaki returned to competition, scoring 71 percent to win his Prix St. Georges class at his very first show, the Global Dressage Festival National Show #4 in Wellington, Florida. In fact, Sirtaki and Jeanne posted the highest PSG score of the entire show.

"It was Sirtaki's first test coming back from injury and it was absolutely the thrill of a lifetime! I was overwhelmed with joy – for Sirtaki to put in such a solid performance was beyond all my 38 SIDELINES FEBRUARY 2014

expectations," Jeanne said. "He just kept getting better. During the spring and summer, we won almost all of the Amateur Owner Intermediare 1 classes we entered. We also qualified and showed successfully in the small tour at Dressage at Devon."

At the NEDA Fall Dressage Festival in Saugerties, Sirtaki and Jeanne won the ABIG/USDF AA Intermediare 1 Region 8 Championship on a score of 70 percent, which qualified them for the inaugural U.S. Dressage Finals at Kentucky Horse Park where they placed third nationally in the AA I-1. "For an amateur, riding at the U.S. Dressage Finals was both an honor and a thrill," admitted Jeanne. "Riding in the Alltech Arena for my national championship class and placing third was like riding in the Olympics. The arena was spectacular with all the stadium seating, flowers, flags and even TV cameras."

*Continued on page 40*

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Good luck to all competitors this winter season!



*Jeanne and Sirtaki competing at the U.S. Dressage Finals in Kentucky.*  
Photo by SusanJStickle.com



*Sirtaki, during convalescence, being loved on by Jeanne.*  
Photo by Kerry Hitt

### **Bitten by the Horse Bug**

Jeanne earned her U.S. Dressage Federation bronze and silver medals and competed through Intermediaire with her first upper level horse, Finaal. Silke Rembecz, her trainer for 15 years, found Sirtaki, an Oldenburg, in Germany. Jeanne bought the four-year-old gelding about 10 years ago, around the time she married Kerry Hitt, president/CEO of his own manufacturing company, who “learned a lot and he doesn’t ride, but helps me every chance he gets.” They have seven horses, six cats, and a dog and divide their time between Pennsylvania and Florida.

“I became an absolute horse nut when I was about eight,” recalled Jeanne. “I grew up on a large dairy farm in New Jersey and the girl next door had this black and white pony that I fell in love with. She brought it over to our farm one day and asked me if I wanted to get on. I was absolutely bitten. I pestered my parents for a pony and the Christmas when I was nine, there was a box of feed under the tree with a note that said ‘Find me, Jeanne.’ I ran around to all the barns until I found this little bay pony, Blaze. Ever since I’ve had horses in my life.”

Jeanne took lessons, got into equitation and jumping in 4-H, then moved to Pony Club. Her horse at the time wasn’t much of a jumper, but he did well in dressage. “I was a teenager and my horse had this particularly good extended trot – I’ve been interested in dressage ever since,” admitted Jeanne, who was a founding member along with Lazelle Knocke of the ESDCTA, Eastern States Dressage & Combined Training Association.

“For me, it’s always been about the bond with the horse – to be able to communicate with these huge, lovely creatures and to learn to do that with riding captivated me,” explained Jeanne. “Sometimes I call him Tick-Tock. He’s so sensitive that he can feel like I’m riding a time bomb that could explode at any moment! The cool thing is that I am his one ‘person’ and he trusts me more than anyone else when I’m in the saddle. This makes our bond all the more special.”

Whatever happens, Sirtaki had found his forever home with Jeanne. After all, Finaal lived to be 28: his final resting place is the Hitt’s front lawn at their farm near Harrisburg. But until the day Sirtaki came out of his stall lame, Jeanne nurtured high hopes of achieving the grand prix level with her seriously talented horse.

### **Reality Check**

In 2009 Jeanne and Sirtaki were competing at FEI levels, Prix St. Georges and Intermediaire 1, and schooling grand prix. “Sirtaki went from sound one day to totally lame coming out of his stall the next,” recalled Jeanne. “It was summer, we were up north, and it was devastating. The bond you create with these horses over the years is phenomenal. For years you’ve been working and

hoping to get to the top level and then to be cut short of that – the disappointment was huge, not only to be cut off from your goal, but to think that you might lose the horse that you love.”

It took Jeanne one year to get a 100 percent diagnosis of the problem. Sirtaki was on stall rest much of the time. “He’s very high strung and has a big dramatic personality – at times it was very trying,” she admitted. “During rehab, he was allowed hand walking at times, but not all the time. When his therapy started, putting him on the treadmill helped a bit.”

After that first year of treatments didn’t resolve Sirtaki’s lameness, Jeanne took him to New Bolton, crediting Dr. James Orsini, Associate Professor of Surgery, and Dr. Elizabeth Davidson, Associate Professor of Sports Medicine, with helping her horse return to competition soundness. Part of his therapy included glue-on shoes and corrective trimming by Pat Reilly, Chief of Farrier Services at New Bolton. To this day, Sirtaki wears glue-on shoes and is shod in Florida by Seth Parker. Silke continues to oversee his training.

“We had already done one MRI, but in Sirtaki’s case a standing MRI didn’t give us enough information,” explained Jeanne. “When the vets at New Bolton did the MRI with Sirtaki under anesthesia, they diagnosed him with an approximate 50 percent tear in the deep digital flexor tendon at its attachment to the coffin bone in his right front. They said it was 50-50 whether he could ever come back and be sound. Not great odds and, in vet terms, a very poor prognosis for return to competition.”

More determined than ever, Jeanne asked Drs. Orsini and Davidson to keep trying. Prior to their definitive diagnosis, PRP injections (stem cell therapy) didn’t do much. IRAP therapy resulted in an inexplicable reaction after two injections, but after a few weeks Sirtaki looked about 75 per cent sounder: too off to ride, but more comfortable. “The vets did several injections of hyaluronic acid, which helped to bring him back all the way,” Jeanne said. “We started out very slowly with him walking on a horse gym treadmill until I got the okay to get on.”

In spite of every precaution, in early 2012 Sirtaki blew a check ligament in the same leg. After three months rehab, he started all over again, making his stellar comeback in 2013. As a reward, horse and rider recently took a few months to enjoy each other without the pressures of competing.

“I might start playing with the grand prix again and see if there’s a chance we can go on with it, but I don’t want to press him so hard that I re-injure him,” said Jeanne. “I achieved so much with Sirtaki in the past year – he doesn’t owe me anything. If I never show him again, that’s fine. I’ll enjoy him on my own land and trail ride him. He’s very good on the bridle paths.”



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# Diane Creech: Ready to Rock Wellington

By Sue Weakley

Canadian grand prix dressage rider Diane Creech will be very busy during the 2014 show season in Wellington, Florida. With five horses owned by Doug and Louise Leatherdale of Leatherdale Farms competing at various levels, Diane will ride an array of tests on a palette of colorful horses this winter - her fourth season in Wellington.

Diane, of Caistor Centre, Ontario, is no stranger to the highest levels of dressage competition. She contributed to the Canadian team's silver medal at the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and was named the alternate for Canada's Olympic team in 2012. Now, with impressive recent results on her grand prix horse Devon L and a number of promising horses coming up through the ranks, Diane is poised for a strong season.

She and Devon L, a 13-year-old chestnut Hanoverian gelding, made headlines in November, 2013 when they won the \$20,000 Royal Invitational Dressage Cup at the Royal Horse Show in Toronto, Ontario. Diane and Devon L started the competition with a second place finish behind David Marcus and Chrevi's Capital in the grand prix. In the grand prix freestyle, Diane and Devon L



*Diane and Devon L's extensions help them claim first in the Grand Prix Freestyle at the \$20,000 Royal Invitational Dressage Cup.*

Photo by Ben Radvanyi



*Diane and Devon L at the jog during the 2012 London Olympics.*  
Photo by SusanJStickle.com

took it up a notch, earning a score of 75.417 percent that secured the win of the coveted Canadian prize.

Diane is hoping to use the winter show season to rack up some qualifying scores on Devon L for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy, France. "This year is an important year as far as preparation for the Games," she said. "That's our main goal: to be on the World Equestrian Games team." After their successful 2013 season, which included top finishes in several North American CDI competitions, they will be key contenders for a position on Canada's team.

Not only will she ride the handsome chestnut Devon L during the Wellington season, but she also has a gray, a black and two bays in her rainbow horse lineup. "I have a few really good young horses coming up," Diane said. "Florida is a perfect place to bring the young ones. The shows are just around the corner."

The gray, Robbie W, is a 10-year-old Oldenburg gelding by Rubin Royale. "I'm also going to start him in the national grand prix this winter," Creech said. "He's a really honest, wonderful, spectacular horse." She laughed and added that Robbie is very chatty and always greets her with a nicker. "He talks a lot. When I have a conversation with him, he will always talk back. It's fun to have him around because he really communicates."

The black is Hallmark 3, a nine-year-old Hanoverian by the Leatherdales' late stallion His Highness. "He did the small tour for two years," Diane said. "He is starting to do all the grand prix work and I think he's almost ready. He's a year younger than the other two, so I think I'm going to give him another year's time to get stronger."

Diane and Hallmark 3's 2013 season was highlighted by small tour wins at the Angelstone International CDI3\* in Rockwood,



*Robbie W demonstrates his strong gaits with Diane at the International Horse Sport Champions Cup show at Equestrian Estates in Florida.*

Photo by Susan J. Stickle

Ontario. They also competed successfully in Florida and at Dressage at Devon. Diane said that Hallmark reminds Louise Leatherdale of His Highness, a horse that was very dear to her heart.

"It would make me feel very special to give something to Louise and bring him out at the grand prix level," she noted. "His Highness never had a chance to do it. He died from a fractured right hind hock way too early, and he could have been fabulous. If I can get Hallmark out there, that would be special for me and for Louise."

Chrevis Christo, a 10-year-old Danish gelding, is one of the bays, and he competed in 2013 at the small tour level. His season included an impressive first place finish with a score of 72.456% in the Intermediaire I at May's Angelstone Spring Tournament CDI3\* in Rockwood, Ontario. "He's also going to be quite spectacular," Diane said. "He's a super talented horse; the piaffe/passage are so easy for him. He's very willing."

She said that the gelding is also Mr. Personality. "He's an exuberant guy. He's very lovable. He will stick his nose on your neck and kiss and nudge you. Then, when you take him out into the arena, he's as flamboyant as

can be."

The youngest crewmember and the other bay is Diana C, a six-year-old mare by Damsey, the Leatherdales' top Hanoverian stallion. Diana won the dressage division as an Elite Hanoverian Mare at the Herwart von der Decken show in Germany as a three-year-old because of her brilliant type and outstanding movement. "She is a queen," Diane said. "A very girly girl, but a strong girly girl. She's also very talented and always willing. She's like her dad: spectacular and expressive."

Diane plans to take Diana into third level competition in Wellington. Her eventual goal for the mare is the Pan American Games.

Diane trains with Lars Petersen, a Danish Olympic rider now based in Loxahatchee, Florida. "Lars is incredible with all the horses at all the levels," she explained. "From young horses to grand prix horses, he has a really good eye and such a big love for them. He knows when to stop, when to keep going, when to push and when to back off."

"Nobody can do it on her own," she continued. "What is a rider without a horse? What is a rider/horse team without the owner? Without a trainer? It's really teamwork, and I'm so fortunate to be part of the partnership between Doug and Louise and Lars and myself. It just makes all the difference. We all want to be on the World Equestrian Games team and the Olympic team, and we all want to do our best, but we all still love the horses. The horses always come first. It's a great partnership between all of us."

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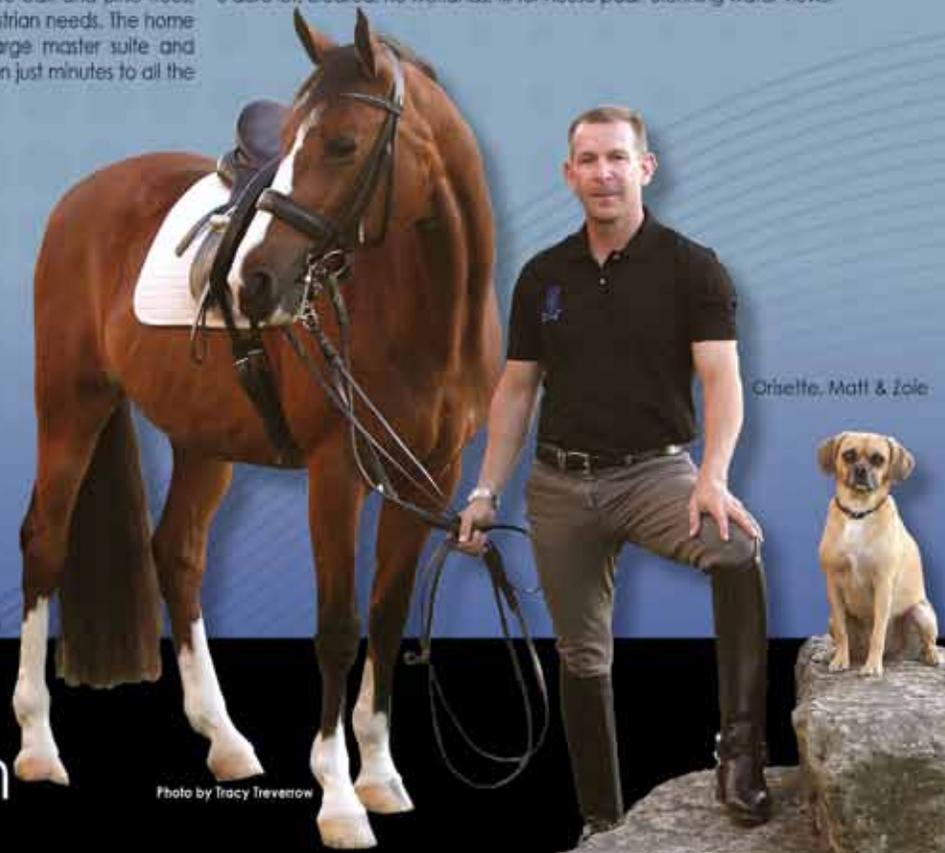
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# One **BIG** Pony-Sized Secret



*Julia and Rita have jumped their way from a secret to great success.*  
Photo by Shawn McMillen

***How Julia Davis hid her pony from her mother, trained her via RFD-TV and books and competed her on the national circuit. No kidding.***

By Katie Navarra

**S**uccess on the A circuit is often equated with expensive horses and full-time professional training. There is no denying that this combination is critical to the success of many; however, every now and then riders like Julia Davis of Apex, North Carolina remind us that perseverance, courage and a little bit of luck can also bring victory.

Like most teenage girls, Julia wanted a horse. She often walked to the stable near her home to visit. She decided her 13th birthday present would be a riding lesson.

Once seated in the saddle, she was scheming to buy a horse of her own. The very next day, she searched online ads but, with only \$200 cash, her options were limited. Weanlings, stallions and 30 year-old lesson horses were the only choices.

Though completely inexperienced herself, Julia wanted a young horse to grow-up with. She nearly ended up with a four-year-old stallion, but when the seller asked to speak with her parents she quickly ended the call. Julia had no intention of telling her mother she was buying a horse.

Eventually, she found the ad she was looking for – a two-year-old, 15.2 hand, sorrel mare named Fly Me To The Moon, or Rita. An unregistered Quarter Horse, Rita was described as unruly and untrained. The seller warned that Rita cow-kicked and bit too. Once the sale was final, Julia found a hauler on Craigslist to bring the mare home.

Rita arrived at a neighbor's place, a few doors from Julia's home. "My neighbor had lots of animals – goats and chickens – that he let me come over and play with any time I wanted," she

said. "He always told me I could bring an animal there."

He never expected her to bring a horse.

He agreed to let Rita stay and promised not to call her mother. "When Rita got off the trailer I thought she looked small, but I didn't know what 15.2 hands meant," Julia reminisced. "I later learned she is only 14.1 hands." She also learned the shaggy coat Rita wore was not to keep her warm, but were actually signs of neglect and malnourishment.

Even with the sale finalized and Rita on the property, Julia never told her mother she owned a horse. She cautions others not to pursue the same path to ownership. "It was a terrible idea," she admits. "You have to make sure you have a solid place to have a pony and know how to take care of it before buying one."

She relied on horse books, RFD-TV and online training videos to learn how to care for, ride and train the green mare. When questioned about her sudden interest in horses, Julia told her mother the neighbor had bought an untrained horse and allowed her to help with the training.

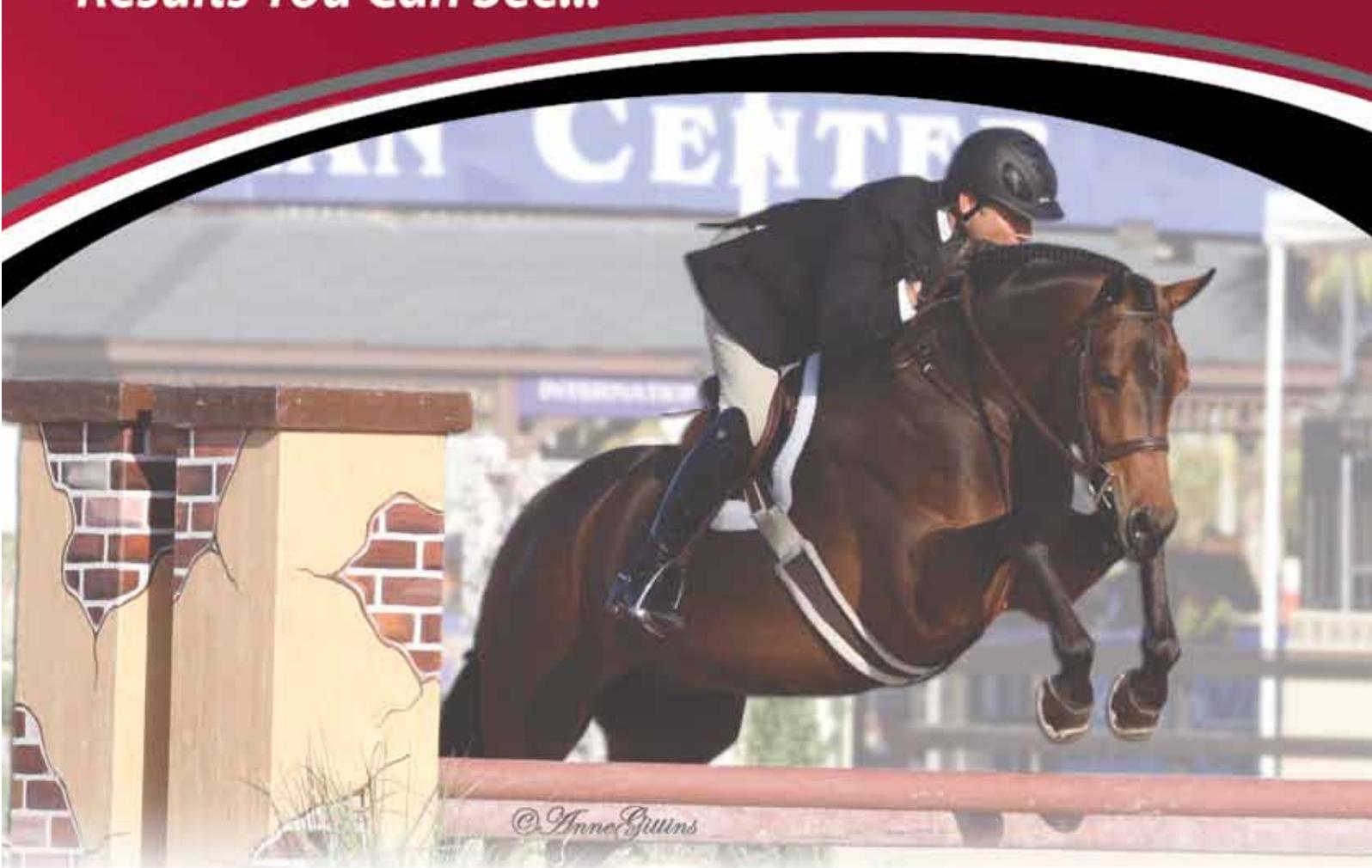
Both of Julia's parents suffer from devastating illnesses. When Julia was a toddler, her father was placed in long-term care after suffering from a debilitating aneurism. Her mother battles her own health issues, including degenerative disc disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Since both parents were preoccupied, her mother never questioned Julia's explanation.

So, the charade continued for three months. Until the neighbor tired of chasing Rita and repairing fences after she'd escape. He called Julia's mother and told her the horse had to go. Her mother, of course, argued that it was his horse, not Julia's.

*Continued on page 52*

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*Julia and Rita competing at the Devon National Horse Show.*  
Photo by Jill Belshaw

Shocked to learn her daughter had purchased and kept a horse in secret for months was too much to take in. "My mom didn't yell, normally she does," Julia recounted. "She looked at me and asked me if I had bought a horse." When Julia confirmed this, her mom locked herself in her room for a few hours.

"It scared me, I didn't know what she was going to do," she said. When her mother was ready to discuss the situation she told Julia her punishment was 100 percent financial responsibility for

everything this horse was ever going to need.

Julia knew she could do it. After all, she had managed to purchase the horse, transport her and care for her for three months all on her own. She was determined to make the situation work long term.

Earning enough money to support Rita was not Julia's largest hurdle to overcome – it was her lack of knowledge. Local trainer, Linda Bennett, offered Julia lessons on scholarship to teach her the important fundamentals of horsemanship. "My mom couldn't always drive me because of her back so the lessons were on and off, but a big help," Julia said.

In the beginning, Julia rode western and intended on running barrels. But when she moved Rita from her neighbor's house, the barn she chose had jumps and she decided to give it a try. She competed at a few local shows in the green large pony hunters division, but the jumpers really caught her attention. Early in 2011, the duo transitioned to jumpers and found their niche. Rita could jump the moon and the two steadily improved.

For years, competitors told Julia she would never get anywhere because Rita wasn't a fancy pony, wasn't in full-time training and didn't wear shoes. Julia's enthusiasm never wavered. In 2013 Julia turned 18, which marked her final year of eligibility for the Junior Pony Jumpers division. Intent on making the year a memorable one, she graduated high school a semester early to devote all of her time and energy to competing.

And a memorable year it was. Julia traveled with the USHJA Zone 3 Team to top level competitions including the Devon National Horse Show, the National Pony Jumpers Championship Pony Finals and the North American League Finals held at the



*Rita when she first arrived.*

Photo courtesy of Julia Davis



Julia and Rita show off their winning jumping style.  
Photo by Shawn McMillen

Pennsylvania National Horse Show and others, coming home with ribbons every time.

She and Rita were even in the running for the Horse of the Year Award.

Despite all her critics, the pair has attracted a lot of attention. Julia has received several offers from individuals interested in buying the mare with one offer totaling \$50,000, enough to pay her college tuition. "I turned them down and they thought I was crazy," she laughed, "but I couldn't sell her. She puts up with me!"

Though Julia can't keep Rita in full-time training, she credits folks who graciously helped her along the way including Rachel Kennedy, co-owner of ESP Farm in Brookville, Maryland, and Brittany Tasho, assistant trainer, who coached her at shows and the zone finals.

"I got really lucky with this pony," Julia recognized. "Rita has the best brain and that's what got us this far. Other horses won't put up with that (an inexperienced rider)."

Julia started classes at a local community college in the fall of 2013 with plans to transfer to a four-year school to major in psychology and minor in business. While attending school, she plans to keep Rita and begin training for eventing.

Though others were skeptical, Julia never faltered in her devotion to riding or to Rita. She benefited from the generosity of those who wanted to help her develop as a rider and has proven there are other ways to succeed.

About the writer: Katie Navarra has worked as a freelance writer in the horse industry for 12 years. She has been a lifelong horse lover and recently purchased a Quarter Horse mare with hopes of re-entering the show ring in 2014.

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# Follow Your Instincts

## (And Your Husband's Advice)

*Drs. Scott and Kristy Lund with Shorty (left) and Gummy (center) who were in the fire. Goldie Junior (right) wasn't in the truck.*



*Kristy's truck after the fire. The fire was a result of a seat heater that malfunctioned.*



*Gummy – he made it!*

*Goldfish, known as Goldie, unfortunately perished in the truck fire. Goldie was taken to a pound about a year ago and the pound asked Kristy to foster him. "They brought him to me and he never left. Being on the farm he was eventually able to walk without the wheelchair," Kristy said.*



*Shorty – he made it!*

By Kristy Truebenbach Lund, DVM

**E**very once in awhile, an event happens in your life that makes you stand back, slow down and take a look at your place in this world and your relationship with those who surround you. This is one of those events and this is my story.

Having just come off several wins at the Region 3 Championships in Atlanta, Georgia and an uneventful trailering trip behind me, planning a trip to Nationals in Kentucky didn't seem like a big deal. I had towed my own truck and trailer to Kentucky before and since I was bringing three horses, it seemed economically better to ship

myself so I could also stay in my living quarters.

Well, I should have seen the signs the week before I was ready to ship out. All the electric in the trailer went haywire and the TV broke. On the way back from the repair shop the brakes failed ... with just 48 hours to the scheduled departure time. With just 24 hours to departure everything seemed back in working order ... until I hooked up my trailer at 5 a.m. and got stuck in the South Florida sugar sand. Finally loaded, I headed down the road by my farm on the way to Kentucky. My husband followed alongside on his golf cart and told me later he had a gut feeling to make me stop

*Continued on page 56*

**"My Story" is a first person account of life in the equestrian world. Would you like to write your story for Sidelines Magazine? To be considered, send a brief description of your story to [editor@sidelinesnews.com](mailto:editor@sidelinesnews.com)**



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*Kristy and Reel Adventure.  
Photo by Tina Valant*



*Despite an emotionally tough weekend, Kristy's horses, including Fabio, rose to the challenge, helped relieve stress and even ended up in the ribbons.*

and come back, but knowing me and my stubbornness, he knew I would never listen. I wish I had.

All was great until I hit Gainesville, Florida – that's when the first tire blew. No big deal, I have trailer insurance and they fixed it and I was back on my way. I called ahead and ordered four more tires to be put on in Georgia the next morning, figuring if one blew, the others might. The second one blew shortly after entering Georgia and with it blew out all my running lights. Knowing I was running out of daylight, I luckily found a horse hotel. They were kind enough to even offer to come pick my horses and me up. Instead I made it to the tire place, got two more replaced and was met by the owner of the horse hotel and guided for my overnight stop. I went to hook up for the night and, again, all the electric in the trailer wasn't working.

The next morning I left as soon as it was light and made it to the Kentucky Horse Park without any more problems - except for the rain. I parked and my trainer and friends started helping unload the horses. I had a Corgi and two Chihuahuas in the truck, but since it was 55 degrees out I felt it was safer for them to stay in the truck until we were set up.

An hour into the unloading, a man screamed that smoke was coming out of my truck. Frantically I screamed that my dogs were in there and we all opened the doors and started getting the dogs out. A fellow competitor who is also a vet helped me administer shock medication and the fire truck had oxygen masks for pets. Total strangers helped locate the emergency clinic and friends drove us there while more friends helped take care of my horses.

Unfortunately one of the dogs died the following day from seizures caused by brain swelling. The other two survived thanks to the local hyperbaric chamber and the emergency vet Dr. Dawes who is also a dressage rider. She personally took them for their daily treatments knowing I did not have a truck and as she put it "needed to ride."

What caused the truck fire? The seat heater malfunctioned even though the truck had been turned off for over an hour. The seat looked like a barbecue. This is a problem that is fairly common and

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if you research it online you will discover it is not being addressed by our National Transportation board.

So now what? Pack up and go home? I decided that I had gone through hell and come out the other side so I decided to stay and ride. My horses have always been my stress relief in life so I turned to them to pull me through and they did not disappoint. Reel Adventure won the Intermediare 2 amateur division; Akvavit was reserve champion in the fourth level freestyle; and my grand prix horse Fabio placed sixth in the grand prix freestyle with my trainer John Zopatti.

The truck was totaled so I was stuck in Kentucky with three dogs, three horses and a giant trailer. Friends came to the rescue and, borrowing trucks, I got the trailer fixed and a friend towed it to his local farm (and yes it did get stuck in the snow once). Friends transported me and my dogs to Tampa, Florida, where my husband picked me up. My local friend offered to put up my horses at his farm until I resolved the trailer issue, but my gut told me to get them home so I had them shipped commercially. Two days later, the barn my horses would have been in burned to the ground!

So my story taught me many life lessons – definitely trust your gut feelings – they usually are not wrong. And, sometimes, do listen to your husband. The biggest thing I learned is that in this fast paced world there are still people who care, total strangers willing to help those in distress. Being extremely independent, I was thrown into an awkward position to ask for help and realized it's okay to lean on others every once in awhile. Even though our sport is sometimes portrayed as elitist and filled with dressage divas ... we are not. Horse people are a caring community that in times of need take care of their own. And I am grateful for that.

*About the writer: Dr. Kristy Truebenbach Lund, along with her husband Dr. Scott Lund, owns Blue Marlin Farms in Wellington and Lund Animal Hospital in Boca Raton, Florida. An amateur dressage gold medalist and winner of numerous regional and national titles, she has made dressage her life-consuming hobby since the age of four.*

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# Who Says You Can't Paint Horses?



By Dani Moritz

*"Four Horse Rush," oil on canvas 21 x 48.  
All photos courtesy of Susan Sheets*

**W**hen Texas-native Susan Sheets took her work to an art gallery in Houston, she was told her piece probably would never sell. Reluctantly, the man at the gallery agreed to display the piece – but not before informing her that people “don’t buy that kind of stuff.” Why? Because he didn’t think horses would sell.

The obviously horse-deprived man nearly had Susan convinced. As three months slowly trudged on with no word of an offer, she drove to the gallery to pick up her painting – head hung low. When she arrived, however, she was struck with utter surprise and delight.

That same day, three different people tried to buy that painting. So much for people not being interested in horses.

For Susan, her passion for painting started when she was young. Her parents always encouraged her to do art, ensuring she always had supplies available and sending her to museum schools over the summer to practice.

As a high school student, she remembers purchasing her first bit of oil paint. “I bought a little set of paint for myself that I could afford and it was so small and it cost so much that I was afraid to  
*Continued on page 62*



# Cool and Stylish Activewear

Designed by Charlotte Jorst



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D E N M A R K



*Texas artist Susan Sheets.*

put it on the canvas," she recollected. "I was afraid to use it up."

She continued her passion for painting throughout college. Although she started her collegiate career at Baylor, thinking she wanted to be a nurse, she soon discovered that there was only one suitable career path for her – art.

She transferred from school to school until finally settling down with an interior design degree. Although all she really wanted to do was paint, her advisors kept warning her that there was no money in studio artwork. So, for several years she utilized her passion for studio art to inspire her interior design, which in return continues to inspire her paintings today.

Still convinced she could make a living out of painting, Susan dedicated herself to teaching so that she could support herself while developing her painting skills. She taught for 23 years and enjoyed every second, but found it difficult to find time for her own paintings.

"I worked all the time [on my paintings] at night and I worked on weekends. My big plan was that I woke up at 4 a.m. on Sundays so I could do art work all by myself and that's what I did every Sunday for 23 years. I had to work at odd hours and then I retired."

Along the way she earned a grant to go to Gatlinburg, Tennessee's Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. There, she learned about something that captivated her – residency programs.

A woman there told her how she had spent three months on a national park residency. She had a cabin and a studio. She was delivered three meals a day and enjoyed complete solitude.

Susan knew that was what she needed to become an even better artist.

She applied for a residency in Sheridan, Wyoming called the Jentel Artist Residency. Of course, she was accepted, and was launched into a journey that would propel her even further.

Susan laughed as she recalled a conversation she had with a fellow artist in the program. "When you came here you were kind of an average artist," the lady told her. "Now you're leaving a kickass artist!"



*"Spring Awakening," oil on canvas 29 x 44.*

While some may have viewed the comment as left-handed, Susan completely agreed with the outspoken woman. "I was just kind of dabbling in it, working hard on it, but not getting too far," Susan said. "But in Wyoming, everything changed."

She then completed another residency in Saratoga, Wyoming, where she drew inspiration from the landscape around her and from the beautiful horses she, and the other artists (which included writers, painters, composers and the like), were able to ride.

She also drew inspiration from attending a 1,000-acre ranch in New Mexico with her husband for his Boy Scout trips. There, she took thousands of photos and enjoyed the land from horseback.

From her trips to these ranches and from her days of childhood riding lessons, she developed a passion for painting equines. "All artists start off drawing human figures and thinking the balance of the human figure is perfection and that's what you have to paint, but then you see an animal like a horse in performance and in action. It's fantastic to see them carry themselves with such power and energy... in every aspect, the animals are handsome. Horses – their nostrils are beautiful, their ears are beautiful, the hooves and they way they balance their legs, and they have beautiful legs!"

She continued, "Every aspect of a horse is awesome. In my composition, they are really up close so we press the edges

*Continued on page 66*



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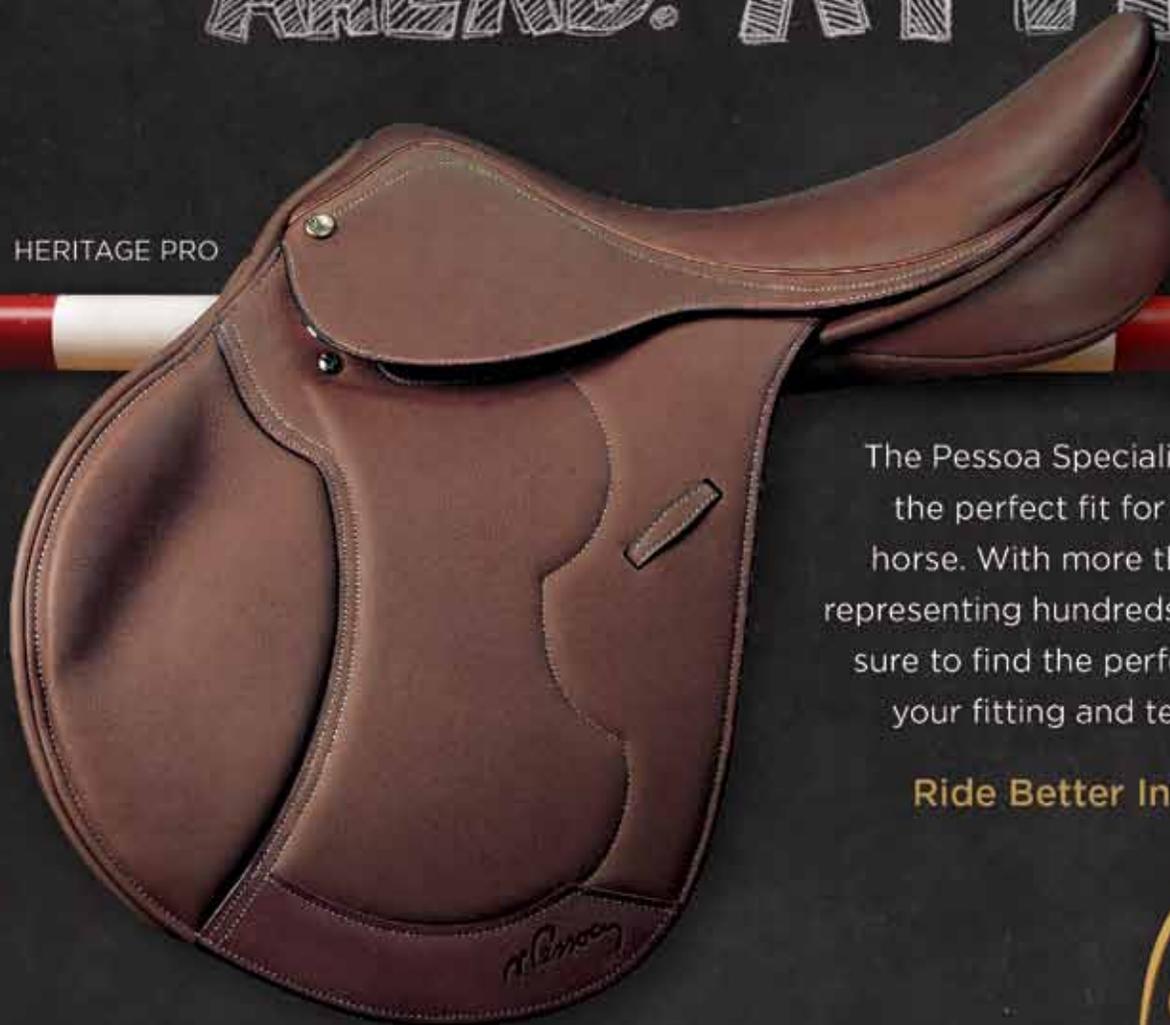
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*"Glorious Run," oil on canvas 29 x 44.*

of the canvas with the image and that makes for attention and excitement."

Susan prefers to zoom in on her compositions to focus on the natural folds in the horses' bodies. She also looks for interaction between the horses and with herself, the photographer, and learns about their individual personalities. "You have to hang around quite a while to get their attitude and figure them out and then, when you see the photos, you get their unique behaviors and that's what I want to paint. I want to capture the whole confirmation within the frame of the painting. That's what inspires me – the animal itself."

Although Susan adores horses and would love to own one, she says she relies on other people's horses to be able to ride. "I paint horses instead, because it's a lot cheaper," she laughed.

She enjoys displaying her pieces in galleries across the U.S. and working with owners to commission paintings that capture the spirits of individual horses.

She enjoys her work so much that she had adapted a unique model of painting commissioned pieces. When commissioned for a private painting, she takes about 300 photographs of the subject, develops them all and then paints as many as her heart desires. "One time I painted as many as 10 from one group," she explained. "Then, I'll run down to the gallery and I'll say, 'see what you want to take and what you want to buy.' That way it gives them [the owners] some freedom and they're not afraid to buy anything."

She added, "Owners should be able to enjoy the art and not worry about being confined by a commission."

This way, Susan continues to expand the breadth of her portfolio and clients can have that perfect – or, in some cases, several perfect – painting(s) of their beloved equine partner. That pleases Susan as much as it does her clients.

As for Susan's goals, she doesn't plan on extending her signature on paintings hung up on hotel walls across the country. Instead, she plans on something a little different. She actually plans on stepping up her commissioned work so that someday people like George Strait will call her and ask her to photograph and paint their horse.

Good luck, Susan! We hope George calls you soon!

For more information on Susan and her paintings, visit her website at [www.susansheets.com](http://www.susansheets.com).

*About the writer: Dani Moritz is a graduate of William Woods University with majors in Equine General Studies and Communications and is currently pursuing a Masters In Strategic Leadership at Stephens College. She is the assistant editor and distribution manager for Sidelines Magazine and the proud owner of a beautiful Paint/Arabian mare named September. She is also the 2012 American Horse Publications Student Award winner.*

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# Still Riding & Training & Dancing On Horseback

By Lauren R. Giannini

Kassandra Barteau enjoyed stellar young rider success: three national titles, NAYRC individual freestyle gold medal and representing the United States at the FEI Young Rider Dressage World Cup in Germany, to name a few. After competing successfully as an adult, Kassie, 23, opted to leave the security of her family's KYB Dressage in Illinois. She continued to develop her skills and discovered a great outlet for her passion for riding. In April 2013 she began working with several Al-Marah Arabians and in November signed on as head trainer.

"When I was younger, my step-dad Kim and my mother Yvonne worked a lot with the owner of Arabian Nights, Mark Miller, who is now the owner of Al-Marah," Kassie explained. "That's how I got the connection. I used to ride Arabs when I was 12, 13, and 14, out in Scottsdale, Arizona and at some of the larger national shows. I just got back into it this year and I'm very excited about it."

Mark's mother, Ruth "Bazy" Tankersley founded Al-Marah Arabians LLC in Arizona in 1941. Her career in publishing necessitated relocating the horses to Maryland, but in the early 1970s she moved the breeding operation back to Phoenix. Last February, the lady behind the famous Al-Marahs passed away at the age of 91, entrusting the unique line's continuation to her son.



*Kassie and her Warmblood dancing partner, Aramo.*  
Photo by fireandearthphoto.com

"Al-Marah has a great reputation in the horse world and it's a great company to work for," said Kassie. "I really enjoy working with the Arabs. They're extremely smart and they're very trainable because they are so smart. I do mostly dressage with them. I also do some in hand and sport horse under saddle. Their bodies are so small and limber – they're like driving a sports car."

Kassie was winning small tour classes and Brentina Cups in open adult competition, but she needed a change. In 2011 she decided to become a working student with Steffen and Shannon Peters in California. It wasn't easy to leave the comfort and stability of riding 8-10 horses daily, competing and serving as assistant trainer at KYB under the tutelage of her parents, Yvonne and Kim Barteau.

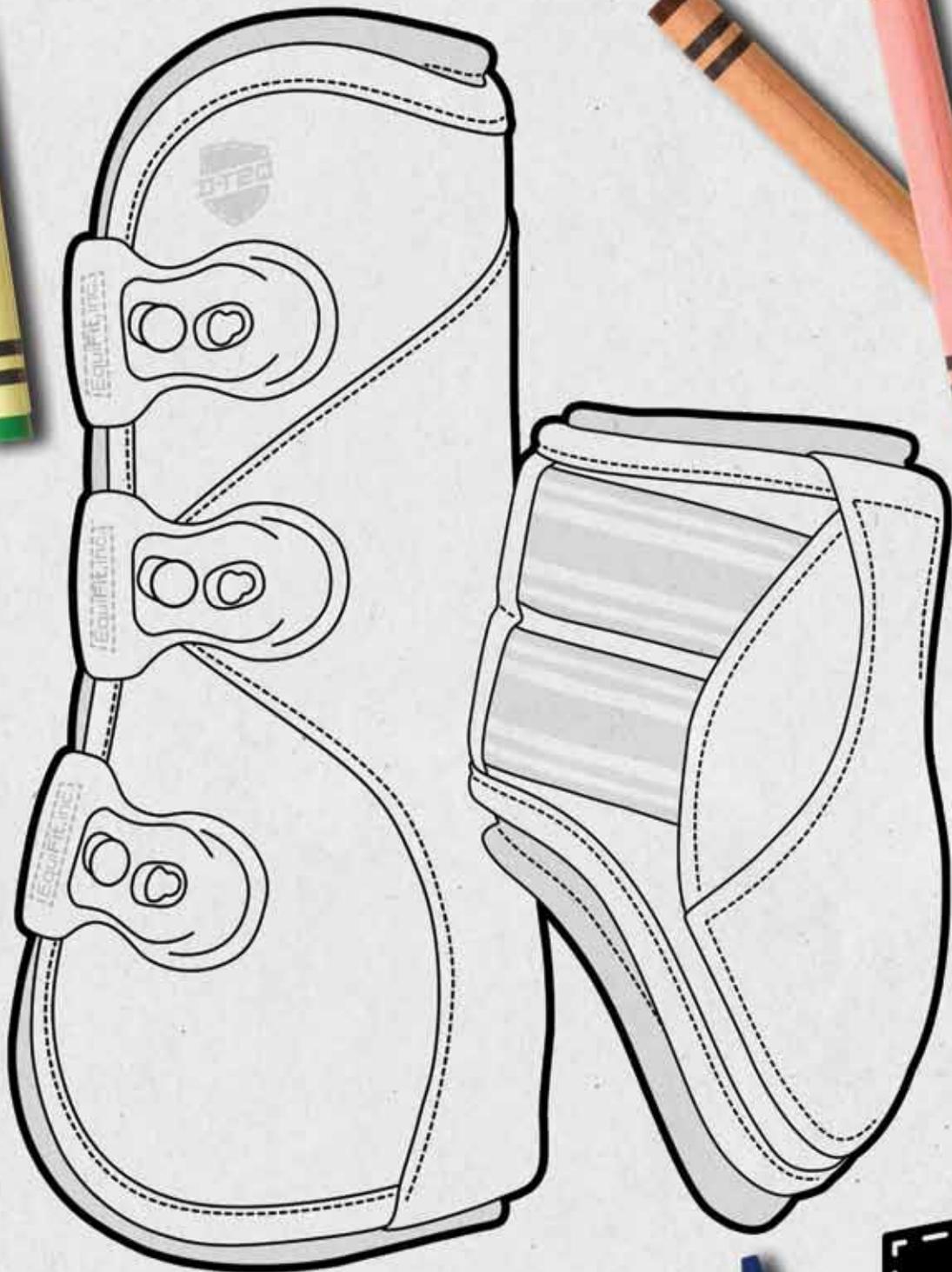
"To be honest, because I was home-schooled, I didn't have the usual high school or college experiences, and I had always been sheltered by my parents even though it was wonderful and I had a great growing up," Kassie explained. "I kind of wanted that independence, because I never got to have it when I was at home. I was always with my parents. I wanted to take a little break from competing and do normal person things."

When she arrived at Steffen and Shannon Peters' barn where she didn't really know anyone, Kassie felt a little lost and homesick. "I didn't



*Kassie and Aramo.*  
Photo by SusanJStickle.com

*SusanJStickle.com*



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By EquiFit

# The Secret to Kelley Farmer's Success? Keep it Simple!

By Marissa L. Quigley

The name Kelley Farmer has become synonymous with the winners circle in the hunter rings so it doesn't come as a surprise that Kelley was named the Leading Hunter Rider at every major indoor show in the fall of 2013. She earned the title at the Alltech National, the Washington International Horse Show, Harrisburg and Capital Challenge, and is the first rider to join the USHJA Million Dollar Club.

For Kelley, the hunter ring has always been a natural fit. She said that while she enjoys an occasional visit to jumper land, she has always been drawn to the hunters and felt that she could be successful there. Kelley is probably most known for her repeated success in the increasingly popular hunter derbies, where, for example, in the fall of 2013 she claimed four of the top six spots at the \$50,000 USHJA Hunter Derby in Chicago.

This success is no dumb luck, but rather the product of a solid foundation. Thanks in large part to the support from her mom, Bibby Farmer (who was interviewed in the June 2013 issue of *Sidelines*), Kelley grew up riding and was trained by the top names in the business – including Don Stewart, Bill Cooney and Frank Madden. Kelley said, "Without my mother I would not be here. She's done everything in her power – and then some – for me to be able to ride, and has given me nothing but unbelievable support."

Today, Kelley is surrounded by a team of individuals at Larry Glefke's Lane Change Farm, based out of Keswick, Virginia, where she has ridden since 1999. Kelley calls Larry a "true horseman" and attributes her achievements to him and the rest of the Lane Change staff. "It's a team effort, every day, all day," Kelley said. "They have my back all the time. I couldn't do anything without all the people who stand behind me."

Kelley's training philosophy is, in her own words, "quite simple."



*Kelley is all smiles during the presentation in which she became the first hunter rider to surpass one-million dollars in earnings through the USHJA Rider Lifetime Money Won leaderboard.*  
Photo by Larry Glefke



*Kelley jumps her way to another victory.*  
Photo by The Book LLC

Rather than overcomplicate matters, the team at Lane Change believes that "less is better." This means starting with good horses, and finding out what each horse wants to do. Kelley tries not to overdo, which means starting the youngsters off right, getting them acclimated to life on the circuit with only a couple of early shows and, for her more seasoned mounts, trying her best to stay out of their way. She says that horses like consistency, so she tries not to change too much simply because it's a new ring or a new day. While Kelley knows not every rider would subscribe to this simple plan, she insists most horses would agree with her!

She also attributes her consistent success to a string of really talented horses. As with anything else, Kelley recognizes that success takes practice, which means having a routine of being in the ring, competing at the top levels, all the time. Having multiple horses isn't just a numbers game though. We all know that horses have great days and bad days, and some courses or challenges lend themselves more to the strengths of certain horses over others. Kelley explains, "With multiple entries in every big class, there's never too much pressure on one horse or





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# The Legacy of Tina Konyot

By Lauren R. Giannini

Tina Konyot is funny, articulate, intelligent and amazingly talented in the equestrian arts. Her training methods produce happy horses whose “dancing” is world class. She is intensely honest, no BS, sometimes painfully truthful, but compassionate. She genuinely cares about horses and people and cherishes her small group of clients: they reciprocate fierce loyalty. Here are some revelatory glimpses into this amazing equestrian’s mind.

## International Competition & Calecto V

“This horse is my baby – I wish I could have him in the house with me,” Tina says. “I call him Smoochie.”

Unsupported by major financial sponsorship, totally on her own, Tina trained her stallion Calecto to grand prix. They won his debut in a class of 29 in Wellington, Tina riding with 10 screws and two plates in her right ankle, a special boot, a dummy spur and the stirrup leather four holes longer. They continued to win nearly every grand prix after that first class en route to earning the 2010 USEF National Grand Prix championship and winning all four classes in the Selection Trials, which secured their place on the U.S. Dressage team for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. In 2011, they were national reserve champions. In 2012 they finished second in the U.S. Olympic Selection Trials, garnering the national reserve championship, which earned their ticket to London where the U.S. team finished sixth.

With Calecto incredibly responsive to his dancing partner’s aids entering at A, he is the epitome of horsepower. When they make mistakes, Tina shoulders all responsibility for pilot errors. When asked about her Olympic experience, Tina’s response reflected the importance of performance peaking at the right time via careful planning. “I feel my horse and I would have done much better in London if the approach and preparation had been different,” states Tina. “We needed to be abroad earlier so we could do two or three

big shows before the Olympics, but we went from the selection trials to London. It’s about timing in front of a major competition and the planning – we needed to be in Europe sooner.”

## Happy Horsekeeping

“They are horses – not machinery, not racecars,” Tina emphasizes. “They have their days of feeling good and bad. They can wake up on the wrong side of the shavings. I want my horse to be a horse. I have never had a horse that I have not been able to train or teach to safely be turned out. It takes creativity and time and whatever protective gear is necessary. We watch them: you don’t just turn a horse out and leave. Right now, I’m in the kitchen and I see Calecto outside. Sometimes you have to take the extra time to sit out there and help them to adjust.”

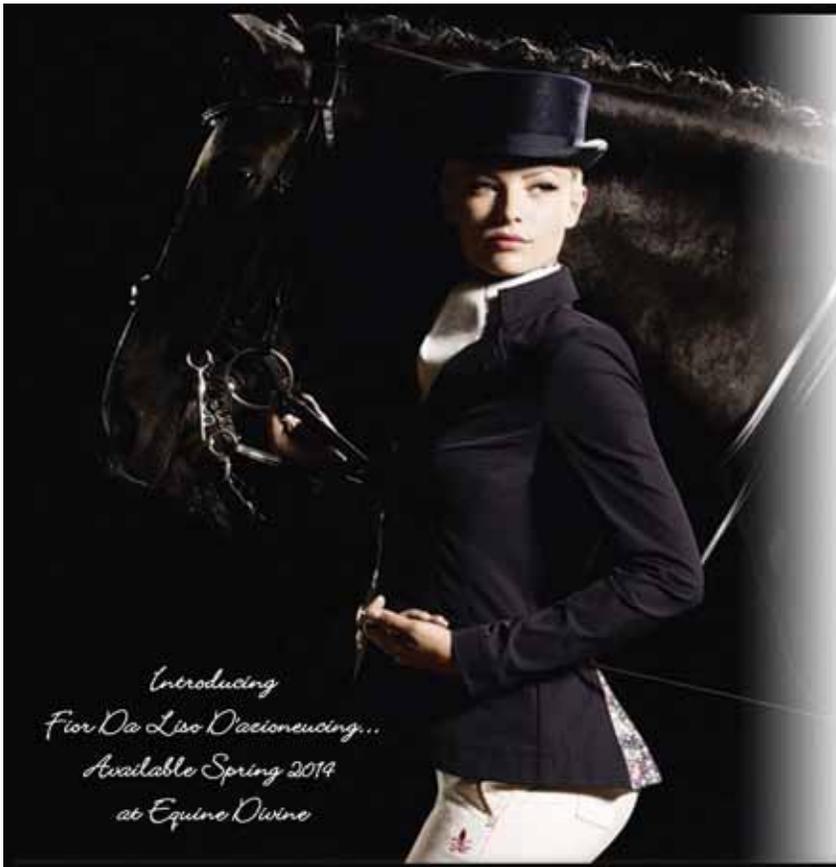
When Calecto came into Tina’s life, he had not been turned out in years. She sat on the ground in the middle of his paddock, talking to him. “He didn’t know how to relax and graze, but he learned,” she recalled. “He loves his turnout. I believe that you have a happier and healthier horse when they are able to go out to play. Every time I finish riding Calecto, I take him out in his halter so he can go for a roll before his bath. Rolling is a natural chiropractic adjustment.”

Calecto is in top form and preparing for the 2014 competition season. Tina is meticulous about monitoring every aspect of his care, nutrition, fitness and conditioning on a daily basis.

## Developing Young Horses & Cross-Training

Last summer when Tina and Calecto returned from competing for eight weeks in Europe, they brought back a young horse. “I was looking for horses to purchase – I’m still looking for horses to purchase, but one dear client purchased this beautiful four-year-old Hanoverian gelding, Dimantino,” Tina says. “It’s very special when someone buys a young horse for me to train, because they’re

*Continued on page 74*



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buying the future and believing in me. As with all my horses, I will take my time, because I enjoy riding and training.”

Dimantino arrived in Canada, home for Tina and her significant other, Roger Attfield, Hall of Fame Thoroughbred racehorse trainer, when they aren't at their place in Florida. “He's a very sensible young horse, but he didn't know what to do about anything,” recalls Tina. “To develop a youngster, I think it's important to establish confidence so that the horse feels good about himself and enjoying himself, walking around out in the open, so that they bring that confidence into the arena. The first time I rode him to the back field at our farm in Canada, Roger went with me on an older horse and Dimantino was like, OMG, I'm out here – no fences, it's all wilderness! I was riding him, smiling. He was so cute: look at THIS! It has to make you smile.”

Dimantino didn't know about turnout either. In Canada, Tina has round pens constructed with sturdy mesh fencing. “They're very safe and Diamond started out in there – it took a little time, but then I moved him to the next paddock where he goes out and plays,” Tina explains.

Just recently, Tina took on re-training a jumper for new clients. “This horse has the potential for dressage and I'm very excited about working with him,” Tina says. “We have no idea if he has what it takes to be a grand prix horse, but the progress he has made since he arrived in October indicates that he might be able to go all the way. This might lead to spending some time in the summer months training my horses in New York where I have friends and clients.”

Tina uses natural terrain to train her horses and they all trail ride at least once a week. “They go into the woods, into fields, through creeks. There's a big lake – I know the bottom is safe – Calecto plays in the water, takes a little swim,” she says. “All of my horses



Tina and Calecto V

Photo by SusanJStickle.com

in training learn to do this. I don't just go for a trail ride: we work. I'll go down a trail and do some tempi changes, some piaffe, some passage – practicing basics for wherever they are in their training. Sometimes we do what I call tree work, little circles and turns. You're training them, but you're not in a 60 x 20 arena surrounded by the alphabet. I would be bored to death in the ring all the time. Horses get bored, too. It's called ring sour for a reason.”

### The Future

More of the same: champagne and; teaching and training; hacking out; enjoying Smoochie, strengthening the dynamic partnerships with all her horses; being in the now, totally “getting” the minds of horses entrusted to her care and training; enjoying life to the max; many more moments of shameless joy with horses and dogs.

Tina has more than talent: she has fifth generation genes from an incredible horse and animal-training family. Her mother always told her: “You are just like your father” – the renowned horseman, Alex Konyot. “I learned so much from my father,” Tina says. “I would love to teach more people about the rich background of horsemanship that I lived. It was engrained in me as a child. Robert Dover, who was a great fan of my father, always told me that what I learned is irreplaceable. I would love to honor my father's memory by sharing that knowledge.”



Tina believes in letting horses be horses – even Olympic horses like Calecto get to enjoy a splash in the water.

Photo courtesy of Tina Konyot



Tina and Dimantino

Photo Courtesy of Tina Konyot

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# Destined for Success

Surrounded by horses from the time she was born, it is no wonder that Hillary Simpson was drawn to them. Still, that alone never guarantees success as a rider and trainer. It takes a special ability to ride well and to train horses and riders so that they achieve their full potential and that is an ability that Hillary clearly has.

The daughter of renowned trainer Christina Schlusemeyer, Hillary launched her competitive riding career at a young age and quickly established herself as a talented horsewoman. In 1986, while only seven years old, she was the overall grand champion at Pony Finals, a national championship open to riders up to the age of 18.

She had many more accomplishments as a junior rider, including being the top ranked junior jumper at the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington, Florida in 1993 at age 15 and winning two of the country's major equitation championships in 1996, when on consecutive weekends she won the USET Talent Search Finals and the AHSA (now USEF) Medal Finals.

Following her wins in the major equitation finals and success in junior hunters, Hillary narrowed her focus to the jumper ring. During her studies at Rollins College she spent two seasons at Hunterdon, riding with George Morris and Chris Kappler. While focusing on both her studies and her jumper ambitions, she achieved numerous wins in the amateur-owner division, as well as top placings in the grand prix ring.

In addition to learning from her mom, George and Chris,

Hillary has worked with several other of the industry's top professionals including Peggy Wallace, Bobby Braswell, Frank Madden, Bill Cooney, Tom Wright, Mike Heneghan, Barney Ward, Jeff Cook and Norman Dello Joio.

After graduating from Rollins with honors, Hillary took time to explore other opportunities in her new home of Southern Pines, North Carolina. She chose to go into business with her now husband, William Simpson, and worked with him for six years in the restaurant and gourmet food industry. The business was sold in 2006 when Hillary realized that it was time for her to get back in the saddle and fulfill her dream of riding internationally and hopefully going to the Olympic Games. In 2007, she started her own business - Palmyra Enterprises, in Southern Pines.

In 2009, at the beginning of her winter season in Wellington, she was thrown from a newly imported horse, leading to emergency surgery to repair a shattered hip and broken femur. This was the first major injury for Hillary and she took it seriously. Instead of rushing back to the ring, she listened to her physicians and took nearly eight months off from riding. It was during that time that Hillary found her passion for teaching.

She spent the following two years working with her own clients and helping her mother with hers at Quiet Hill Farm. At the beginning of 2011, Hillary and her mother took the first step to getting her back into the grand prix ring with the purchase of two mounts, Cantus D and Nopus du gue Joubert.

*Continued on page 78*



*Hillary and Arkansas at the  
2013 Hampton Classic.  
Photo by The Book LLC 2013*

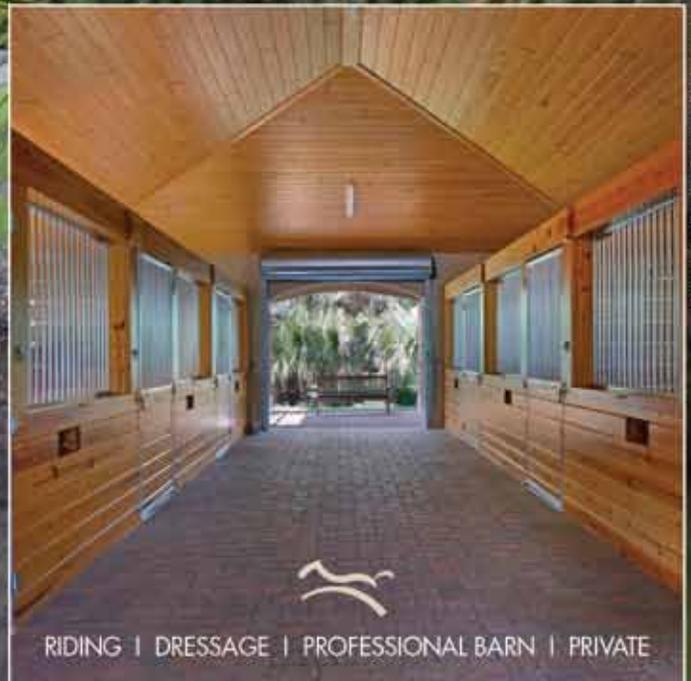
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Hillary achieved a great deal of success competing both horses in 2011 and 2012. She had numerous ribbon-winning performances in the grand prix ring, several successful starts in some of the biggest classes on the East coast, and competed in many FEI World Cup Qualifiers, and CSI\*\*\* Grand Prix. She finished 2012 with a win on Arkansas in the Duke Children's Benefit Grand Prix in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Hillary added to her record of grand prix success in 2013. Riding Nopus du gue Joubert, Hillary placed sixth in the \$100,000 Woodlea Farms Grand Prix at the I Love New York Horse Show in Lake Placid. Less than a month later, Hillary piloted the 10-year-old Thoroughbred gelding, Arkansas, to victory in the Mount Equinox Grand Prix in Vermont.

It is with Arkansas, on whom she narrowly missed repeating her win at Duke last November when Hall of Famer Joe Fargis edged her out in the jump-off, that Hillary is making a lot of things happen. Last October, she and Arkansas participated in the Retired Racehorse Training Project's *Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium* at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore and then a month later Arkansas won the Leading Thoroughbred Award, presented by The Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation at the Alltech National Horse Show.

"Arkansas is a very special horse," said Hillary. "He has a good brain and plenty of power and speed. He believes he can do anything and he gives you 100 percent every time he goes in the ring."

Hillary predicts a bright future for Arkansas. "Originally, Arkansas was brought in to be a fun project. I like having a few Thoroughbreds in the barn," she said. "He's a really good match for me and I think he's going to be a really special horse for me for a very long time."



*Hillary and her mom, Christina Schlusemeyer.*  
Photo by Marty Bauman/Classic Communications

Hillary's sights are set on moving Arkansas, and her other mounts, into the international levels. She also has plans for finding, training and competing a new set of grand prix horses as well as teaching clients and acting as a buying and selling agent for show horses. Her growing success is proving that she is absolutely on the right track.



*Hillary and Arkansas at the Retired Racehorse Training Project's Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium at Pimlico Race Course.*  
Photo by Isabel Kurek

*Arkansas won the Leading Thoroughbred Award, presented by The Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation at the 2013 Alltech National Horse Show. Hillary joined Arkansas' owners, Robert and Maria Kogen, in accepting the award.*

Photo by Mary Adelaide Brakenridge/Phelps Media Group





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*Kassie with Becca Bella, an Al-Marah mare: they won the National Championship Half-Arabian Training Level JR horse.*  
Photo Courtesy of Al-Marah Arabians

ride much out there – I rode my horse that I brought and a horse I bought for \$1, but he was really green and difficult to work with,” she recalled. “Mostly, I stayed in the barn, doing chores and horse care. It made me appreciate competing and working with my parents. I learned a lot, of course, and Shannon taught me how to polish myself up better.”

Rest assured, Kassie still has several Warmbloods in her life, in addition to the Arabians, and continues to work with longtime trainer and mentor Cathy Morelli. She spent a fair amount of time with Cathy in Georgia in 2012 and the summer of 2013, reporting that Aramo, her eight-year-old Dutch Warmblood, who could be a bit challenging, was coming along great.

“All last year Arie scored in the mid-70s and he went to nationals with me and was third in the country at Third Level Freestyle,” said Kassie. “He’s schooling Prix St. Georges and I hope to do Developing Young Horse with him. He’s from Olympic bloodlines, Flemming and Krack C – 18 hands, huge, and a really hot horse. I’m pretty tall, so we’re a good match.”

Moving to Georgia, however, put Kassie back on the radar. “Once people knew I was there, my name carried me enough that I got pretty busy,” she said. “I was running a 10-stall barn, cleaning all my stalls, feeding and riding 10 horses a day as well. I competed a bit less, but I never stopped riding.”

It’s in her blood. Kassie is growing into herself, finding her groove. While riding and training will always be a major element in her life, she thinks about having children and a family of her own.

“I have a steady job, health insurance, and I get to ride and compete and focus on my career,” Kassie said. “I’ll be showing a lot more this year. I want to learn reining – my boss says that’s completely possible. I want to get more into jumping. I loved it when I was younger. I want to get into cross-sport. I have to concentrate on the dressage, of course, that’s my job. There are so many different things you can do with Arabs: western trail, reining, western pleasure as well as the English divisions. To be honest, Arabs are a nice family breed. Someday, my whole family will ride and compete with me.”

80 SIDELINES FEBRUARY 2014



*Kelly in the winner's circle at The Capital Challenge horse show.*  
Photo by The Book LLC

one person. Knowing I have another shot makes it easier on me and the animals.”

In developing the herd of winners that Kelley has showcased in the hunters, Kelley looks for horses with both ability and desire. Ability, for a hunter, means not only athletic talent but also looking like they belong in the hunter ring, having a winning presence and the kind of good looks that will set the right stage when the horse walks into the ring. Desire means not only the will to win, but also the innate desire to be careful, handy and jump well. When evaluating a new horse, Kelley and her team try to imagine the horse winning in the ring at a big show.

Don’t let all this talk about results fool you into thinking that Kelley is completely all business, however. Although most of us only see her mounts braided and groomed to perfection, Kelley has a barn full of big personalities. Her equine partner, Taken, for example, turns out to be a bit of a brat! According to Kelley, “Taken won’t go *anywhere* without a carrot.” Kelley laughs and says, “It all started when I first got him. We showed him the week after we bought him, and he was just off the plane from Europe. He had never been to a horse show before, let alone jogged. I grabbed a carrot, and now he’s decided he just won’t go anywhere without one!” Quotable, whose barn name is Richie, will eat anything, and is particularly fond of donuts. Kelley says he “Lives for the show ring, and knows the crowd loves him.” Kelley says that Mythical, who was recently sold and will be appearing in the junior ring in the future, is “the the sweetest, kindest horse I’ve ever had in my barn. You can send a small child in his stall with a bucket of carrots.” It’s nice to know that even these famous animals appreciate a little spoiling now and again.

Kelley’s advice for aspiring hunter riders and derby competitors is, like her training philosophy and her program, quite simple: “Keep working!” Kelley attributes part of her strength as a rider today to the fact that as a junior rider she would ride anything she was offered, and respected those riders who came before her in this sport and taught her what they knew. The lessons learned from this experience are basic, but valuable: “Appreciate the animals, develop a strong work ethic, be a horseman above all else and keep the passion.”

*About the writer: Marissa has been a fan of all things horses since before she could walk. She and her horse, Tucker, live in New Jersey and take very good care of each other. For video features and more on this story, visit her Tucker the Wunderkind blog on the Sidelines website.*

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# Jumping from the U.S. to Paris to Dubai

By Lauren R. Giannini

Alice Debany Clero has experienced an amazing course through life. She grew up in the family riding school business in Bedford, New York. Her mother Pat Debany halted her career as a professional jumper rider to have 10 children. Alice, the second youngest, was nearly four when her father died suddenly, leaving her mother to carry on, raising the children and running the business.

Alice started schooling ponies as a five-year-old. At 10 she took weekly lessons for a year with Barney Ward, and at 15 rode with George Morris, who was in the process of handing his junior business to Frank Madden and Bill Cooney, so they also taught her. She catch-rode for Anthony D'Ambrosio.

Alice has been groomed to ride, train and teach by some of the best in the world. For the last nine years she has divided her time between her family and their training farm in La Baule and coaching the Dubai show jumping team.

## Turning Pro

Shortly before her last year as a junior, Barney Ward called and asked Alice to work for him. "It was a decision that certainly changed the rest of my life," she said. "Going pro at 17 was a financial necessity and a career maker."

One unexpected bonus turned out to be Paul Greenwood, who was buying horses from Barney for Katherine Burdsall. Paul also kept two of his own amateur jumpers at Barney's. "He came for lessons everyday, and soon Barney asked me to teach him," Alice recalled. "Paul was my very first student, and I quickly realized how much I enjoyed teaching."

If you're a fan of Equine Trivial Pursuit, you probably remember

*Continued on page 84*

*Alice and Amareusa (8-years-old, by Baloubet du Rouet out of Le Mexico), owned by Creno Horses at Chantilly CSI\*\* in April 2013.*

*Photo by Michel Chretienat Photography*

## Popeye

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At his 30-Day test in Germany, Popeye earned 9.5 for his walk and 9 for character. In 2007 he was the Reserve Champion for the USDF East Coast Stallion Finals at Dressage at Devon. He has shown through Fourth Level with scores into the 70s, was the 2010 USDF All-Breeds Champion at Third Level, and was the 2011 Reserve Champion at Fourth Level at the BLM Finals. In 2013 Popeye began eventing with top placings at Novice and Training Levels. Popeye has sired a high percentage of Premium offspring and has multiple Breed Show winners to his credit. His oldest offspring have proven exceptionally easy to start and are winning under saddle.



Photo by Stacy Lynne





*Alice and CEO in the Derby of La Baule. "For a horse that was a super water jumper, but terrified to step in a puddle, I was amazed at his trust in me to jump in to this lake for me. It was a moment my mother and I will never forget," Alice said.*

Photo Jean Morel



*Alice and Queen Elizabeth II after Alice won the Queen Elizabeth II Cup in Calgary 1990 with The Natural.*

Photo by Tish Quirk

The Natural, the first jumper to earn a million dollars. When he was injured, his rider moved on. The Natural's owners, Paul and Robin Greenwood, didn't have to look far to replace Katherine. They already knew that Alice could ride. Paul had given her one of his amateur horses, Tarco: a hot, nervous, flat jumper, which never bodes well for keeping painted rails on shallow cups.

"I found a way with Tarco – he ended up being my first grand prix horse and I gained a tremendous amount of experience with him that prepared me for the chance of my lifetime," Alice said. "I thought surely The Natural would go to Conrad Homfeld or

Michael Matz. Much to my shock, Paul and his wife Robin decided to give him to me."

The Natural put Alice on the international map. She realized another dream by training with Conrad Homfeld and Joe Fargis and said, "Certainly, I made some mistakes due to my youth, but we had some very nice success – getting to meet Queen Elizabeth by winning the first Queen Elizabeth II Cup in Calgary, among other grand prix wins during our three years together."

Thanks to Paul, Alice also had a college career. "He was always like a father figure to me, so when he offered me a job, he insisted that I go to school as well," she said. "This was the greatest gift I had ever received. I started at Fairfield University and transferred to New York University. I went to school at night and all day Mondays for five years. I was constantly sleep-deprived, and the commute from Old Salem Farm to downtown Manhattan was brutal."

After graduation Alice decided to start her own business. "I had worked at Old Salem Farm for seven or eight years and it was there that I found my feet as a teacher," she recalled. "I wanted more freedom to travel around the world."

### Travel Perks

A few years earlier Alice's mother Pat bred a horse that she thought would go grand prix. CEO, by Debbie Dolan's VIP, became a mother-daughter project, which succeeded against all odds. "CEO was born in a coma and somehow survived, but the minute he opened his eyes, it was clear that he hated people," Alice recalled. "I think he was negatively imprinted by his traumatic birth. He was the spookiest animal, but I worked with him because it meant so much to my mother."

Alice had bought a four-year-old with some owners, and Crackerjack proved very helpful, leading CEO everywhere. "I even used Crackerjack on the landing side of CEO's first water jump, because CEO would go wherever Crackerjack went," Alice said. "I started riding with Katie Prudent in Florida when Crackerjack was eight and CEO was seven. Crackerjack was the superstar young horse of the circuit and CEO was just starting to jump his first official courses. Katie and Henri were very patient with CEO, but they didn't think he would turn out to be anything special."

One year later, CEO, now eight, was fifth in the CSIO La Baule 1.50meter grand prix. At nine he jumped clear in the Paris Bercy



*Alice with support staff at the UAE National Day festivities: (left to right) Marwa Mohammed Salem, Alice and Alia Al Marri.*



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*The Dubai Show Jumping Team: (left to right) Mohammed Ketait, Arif Ahmed, Ahmed Falaknaz, Alice, Omar Khoory, groom Nassar Mohammed and Abdulla Al Marri.*

World Cup qualifier, and later jumped a clear round in the Nations' Cup final in Madrid. At the height of his career, he was about number 59 on the world ranking list for horses. "CEO's modest success makes me as proud as any of The Natural's achievements and it was a real mother-daughter-horse love story," admitted Alice.

Meanwhile, Alice participated in International Student Riding. She took an organized trip to Belgium, another to Egypt where she won, showing great skill on borrowed horses, so that the judges invited her to a friendly professional jumper competition in Cairo two weeks later. That led to a job in Germany, which started in July 1995. On her way back to the United States, Alice met her future husband, Remi Clero, while switching planes in Amsterdam. They fell in love, but Alice was determined to try the job in Germany for a year, and Remi didn't try to stop her. Alice moved CEO, Crackerjack, her dog, her possessions and gave away her business.

"I hated the job. I didn't like who I was working for," Alice said. "The people who rented me a room were still angry about the war. Crackerjack was fine, but CEO was rotting away as a five-year-old. Even my dog was unhappy." A marriage proposal from Remi spurred Alice to return to the U.S. with horses, dog and possessions. They eloped, opting to buy a house instead of a huge wedding for all their relatives.

"Remi had never touched a horse before he met me and he embraced my horse life style very quickly," Alice explained. "He was there with CEO and Crackerjack at the unrecognized shows at 1-meter high, all the way to the 5-star circuit in Aachen, Cannes, Rome, La Baule, etc. After two years of marriage Remi, an aerospace engineer, was head-hunted out of Pepsi and hired

to run Paco Rabanne. He was excited to be CEO of a large company, and a European show jumping career sounded great to me. We moved to Paris in 1997."

### **Children & Careers**

After the birth of their first child in 1999, Alice went on the Sunshine Tour in Spain and became acquainted with another jumper rider, HRH Princess Haya of Jordan. "At the end of the tour, Princess Haya asked Katie if she could work with her," Alice recalled. "Katie was very busy with another client and suggested that Princess Haya work with me in Paris until Katie's prior contract was over. Haya knew me well already and how I worked and trained from spending six weeks together in Spain."

Princess Haya and Alice clicked right away, both professionally and personally. "Princess Haya was so down to earth, we became great friends," Alice said. "She was very gifted, actually, and while we were at the 5-star San Patrignano horse show in Italy, I explained a concept to her on Saturday of the show. She got it immediately and jumped a meter-50 course clear. I allowed her to go in the grand prix – she had never done a meter-60 class – she jumped clear, and it earned her a very unexpected invitation to the Sydney Olympics in just a few months time. Katie and Henri met us there and we trained her together. When Sydney was over, Katie wanted her to come to Florida, but Princess Haya wasn't ready to spend all that time away from Europe and the Middle East. She decided to stay with me and qualified one year early for the WEG, but eventually she moved on and married Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. She has been president of the FEI, a mother of two, and an extremely popular First Lady of Dubai. She is truly an extraordinary woman and I am honored to



call her a friend.”

After the birth of their twins, Alice was teaching riding in Paris. Three years later in 2005 Princess Haya called with a job offer. “She wanted me to spend two weeks out of every month, except summers, in Dubai, training five young local Dubai riders,” Alice recounted. “I have the most accommodating, supportive husband in the world. Remi said I could never give up that chance. I started in 2005, so I am now beginning my ninth season with almost all of the same riders.”

Princess Haya told Alice to dress and act as she does normally. For the first six months Alice set standards about being on time, how to dress, teaching them to get their hands dirty caring for the horses, setting courses for themselves, and to be proud of it. “I was empowered to be as strict as necessary to get results,” Alice said. “They live in a very service-oriented society. I wanted them to be better horsemen and not be ashamed to be able to groom their horses, put on bandages and clean tack. I am sure my level of discipline was a shock, but results came very quickly, and the Dubai Team soon became the most respected team in the region.”

In 2008, Abdulla Al Marri won the World Cup Arab league, beating even the more experienced Saudi riders. The Dubai team riders now buy young horses and are learning to produce them themselves. That may be where Alice’s greatest strength as a rider and trainer manifests. The young prospects are eight and will soon start to jump in grand prix. Her riders were 18 to 20 and now they are pushing 30. They have students of their own. “They are carrying on my system, mixed with their own accents, just as they have different personalities,” Alice said. “I am proud of all of my riders and what kind of professionals they have become. They are also very good people.”

What goes round, comes round. Alice’s passion for horses and work ethic goes beyond the norm. Her children ride. Her husband Remi is in his third year of running the CSIO 5-star horse show in La Baule. Alice’s Dubai riders continue to evolve. “I think my biggest strength is producing horses,” she said. “I’m not Meredith or Beezie or McLain, but I’m comfortable with who I am and what I do. If my riders go to the Olympics and become stars in the horse community in Dubai, I will be happy if I have made a lasting influence. If those riders hand down what they learn from me, that will be part of my legacy.”



Alice and her twins at a lunch with Ahmed Falaknaz’s family.  
Photo Courtesy of Alice Debany Cleric

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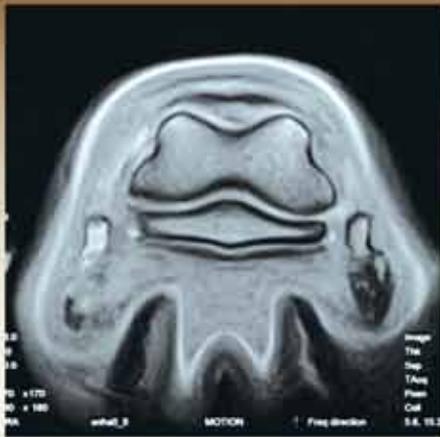
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By Kat Wojtylak

## **“There is no love sincerer than the love of food.” – George Bernard Shaw**

What a smart man! Of course, I’m probably biased and a bit obsessed with food, but we do need food to survive.

In saying it out loud however, I think it should be more than just survival instincts. When was the last time you sat down for a meal without the phone, iPad, computer or TV running? Honestly I’m as much to blame as the next person. I’ve lived in Missouri a year and I’m just getting a dining room table. It’s kind of pathetic, really.

This “revelation” to savor the moment applies to our horses, too. You may be competing in South Florida right now with barely a moment to spare. Between traveling, work and/or school, training both at the gym and in the saddle and then competing, what’s left of the day gets quickly lost. Just typing that schedule out in that sentence was exhausting! For those up north or in cooler climates, we work or go to school, and a few nights a week we

manage to get out to the barn. We brush our horses down in record time, hop in the saddle and head home. There is little time left to enjoy and savor any moments no matter what our zip code is.

Our recipes this month are elegant looking, but relatively effortless and you can enjoy them at home, whenever you make it there. Both the Pecan Crusted Tilapia and Decadent Spiced Chocolate Cake are baked, not fried, and don’t contain any gluten so it’s great on your waist. Whether you’re with company or by yourself, these recipes can hopefully give you back a few moments of bliss in the kitchen, but also some great time to reflect and savor the moments. And this is just exactly why I love my tagline, “to full plates and eating your tarte out.”

*About the writer: Author Kat Wojtylak is a horse enthusiast turned food blogger. She maintains a day job in the horse world handling marketing and brand support to various companies, while enjoying her evenings and weekends writing recipes and blogging all about her culinary experiences. Visit her blog at [EatYourTarteOut.com](http://EatYourTarteOut.com) or email her at [tartechic@eatyourtarteout.com](mailto:tartechic@eatyourtarteout.com).*

### **Pecan Crusted Tilapia**

Ingredients: 1 1/2 cups of pecans, two tilapia filets, three tablespoons mustard, preferably Dijon (divided), two tablespoons mayonnaise, a quarter cup of sour cream, two tablespoons of honey.

In a non-stick skillet on medium heat sans oil, heat pecans. Cook four to five minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with a Silpat mat or parchment paper. Brush oil lightly over surface.

Place pecans into a food processor and grind down. Place them into a small bowl and set aside. In another small bowl, combine mayonnaise and two tablespoons of mustard. Salt and pepper the Tilapia filets. Coat a Tilapia filet in mustard mixture. Place into pecans and coat evenly, lay onto baking sheet. Repeat process.

Bake filets for 8-10 minutes. Meanwhile, in a small bowl combine remaining mustard, sour cream and honey. Place mixture into a Ziploc bag and snip the edge to be able to drizzle over filets. Serve immediately.



*Pecan Crusted Tilapia with steamed asparagus and buttered lemon red rice.*

### **Decadent Spiced Chocolate Cake**



Ingredients: Four ounces of good quality chocolate, 1/2 cup of butter, unsalted, 3/4-cup sugar, three eggs, 1/2 cup of cocoa powder, sifted, 1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon of salt.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees and butter an eight-inch springform pan. Line bottom with parchment paper and butter paper.

In a large bowl, melt chocolate with butter, stir till smooth. Whisk sugar into chocolate mixture. Add eggs one at a time and whisk quickly to incorporate. Add cocoa powder, cinnamon and salt into chocolate mixture, whisking till just combined. Pour batter into pan and bake for 20 minutes, or until top has formed a thin crust. Cake will be domed, and during cooling will invert.

Once cooled, dust with powdered sugar and cinnamon. Best eaten with ice cream and/or fresh fruit.

Photos by Kat Wojtylak

*Decadent Spiced Chocolate Cake with ice cream.*

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# A Shining Northern ★ Star ★

By Kim MacMillan

Quebec's Naima Moreira Laliberté has hauled home her share of precious metal from her last two years competing at the Adequan FEI North American Junior Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC) in Kentucky. So far she has earned two Junior team gold medals (2012 and 2013), an individual Junior silver medal (2013) and a Junior freestyle medal (2013) in dressage. She's a tough competitor even though her easy smile and gentle, sportsmanlike manner might lead you to think otherwise.

The oldest of the five children, Naima, 17, started riding at age five taking lessons at a local Pony Club near her home city of Montréal. Her sister Moani and stepsister Ina have also started riding, but her brother Kami, stepbrother Noa and her parents are not "horsey." She currently is in the sport program at the National Cirque School, a governmental secondary school.

Eventually dressage became her preferred sport and for a number of years Naima has ridden at the barn owned by her teammate Laurence Blais Tétréault's family. "My home coach is Albrecht Heidemann. He has been working on the Canadian Junior-Young Rider scene for more than a decade and I feel very fortunate that we have such regular access to his coaching," said Naima.

## **Tell us about the horses you have ridden at the NAJYRC.**

Last year I rode a horse named Tolando, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding by Krack C, out of Narina by Rubenstein, owned by Brittany Fraser. This year I competed with Windbreaker, a 12-year-old Westphalian gelding [FEI name Windbreaker 3, by Windspiel As, out of Flora by Feiner Graf, bred by Karin Storkamp, Germany, and owned by Arnold Wintermuhle, Germany]. Windbreaker is 17.3 hands. He is a very powerful, very forward-thinking horse. I really had to make an effort to figure out how to hold him in balance, mainly by my seat. He is extremely friendly to all other horses and greets them with a whinny. He loves to cuddle and you can ride him around the property bareback with a halter. I don't think he has a favorite treat – he will gobble up any treat you give him or even go checking your pockets for treats. I've only been riding him since middle of April.

## **What does it feel like to represent Canada and win a medal at the NAJYRC?**

Of course it was an exciting feeling to realize that I won a medal when I stood on that podium, but the true realization that "wow, we had three medals!" actually came a few days later.

## **Were you more or less nervous when competing at NAJYRC**

92 SIDELINES FEBRUARY 2014



*Friends, competitors and teammates after their medal-winning rides in the junior dressage freestyle - Naima (left) with Laurence Blais Tétréault.*

Photo by Dee Kochensparger/MacMillan Photography

## **this year than last year?**

This year, I was much less nervous than last year, but I have to admit that going down the ramp from the warm-up area to the main stadium, I suddenly got quite nervous for a moment. Particularly on the day of the individual competition, I remember having to pull myself together as I was entering the ring.

## **I know you are good friends with Laurence and Mathilde Blais Tétréault. Do you compete against them in shows at home?**

I don't compete against Mathilde because, for now, we are not at the same level. Laurence and I are most of the time in the same class at shows, often even back-to-back, so we barely ever get to see each other's rides. Personally, I don't find it hard even though it is an individual sport; both Laurence and I go down centerline with the conviction to do our personal best.

## **What other horses do you ride?**

I still have my first horse I got when I was ten years old, a Lusitano gelding named Nao. I started dressage with him. He is really more the family pet. He is 11-years-old now and a very kind, but a sensitive, nervous horse. It's my personal challenge to show him at the Young Rider level one of these days, but just on a national basis. My other competition horse is Diamond, a 12-year-old Hanoverian gelding. I also showed him at the junior level this year and next year we will try our first season at Young Rider level.

## **Tell us about your pets.**

At my dad's house we have two adopted dogs named Jack and Soyuz. Soyuz is a blond dog adopted from the streets of Russia. He is very trim and excited and I have no idea what breed he may be. Let's say he comes from many generations of street dogs. Jack is a black German Shepherd-Labrador cross who was adopted from the SPCA in Montréal. He spends the whole winter season with me in Florida. I honestly think he is the best dog. We also have two cats who are sisters adopted from Russia. Their names

Continued on page 94



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Naima, riding Windbreaker 3, took home three medals from the 2013 Adequan FEI North American Junior Young Rider Championships. They were members of gold medal junior team from Quebec and won Junior individual and freestyle silver medals.

Photo by Allen MacMillan/MacMillan Photography



On the podium with her silver medal, Naima waves to the crowd during the awards ceremony at the 2013 Adequan FEI North American Junior Young Rider Championships in Lexington, Kentucky.

Photo by Allen MacMillan/MacMillan Photography

are Dotshka and Tifé. Last, my mom has a crazy pug named Bou.

**Besides riding, what other things do you like to do?**

I am quite interested in the arts, be that paintings, sculptures or performances. I also enjoy skimming through all kinds of music, since it's very helpful to classify and identify matching pieces for freestyles.

**If you had to pick a hero, who would it be and why?**

The people I look up to the most are, to mention just two, Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr., but there are also many others. I think what appeals to me so much about the aforementioned men is that they stood up relentlessly for their cause and for other people.

*About the Writer: A graduate of Purdue University with degrees in Agriculture Journalism and Animal Science, Kim MacMillan has been writing about horses and equestrian competition, science, agriculture, history and travel for over 30 years. Also an accomplished photographer, she and her husband Allen own MacMillan Photography & Media Services. They live on an 84-acre farm in Northeastern Indiana where they raise Warmblood horses and sport ponies.*

**Fergus** BY JEAN ABERNETHY





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**SOUTHFIELDS - FIELDVIEW WAY**

Custom built private gated estate and stables just a moments drive or hack to the Winter Equestrian Festival Jumping and Dressage shows. Enjoy gorgeous sunset and Polo field views from the home which boasts 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 5 car garage, billiard room, formal dining, safe room and the highest end finishes throughout. Outside amenities include the stable, arena, paddocks, elegant pool, spa, deck, and outdoor kitchen, ideal for entertaining. **Priced at \$2,295,000**

**Paddock Park 2**

Fully appointed Dressage farm located in a peaceful setting at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac with the finest show quality footing and a full width mirror. Nicely remodeled, open floor-plan home, with an abundance of French doors overlooking the screened pool and spa. Also available for seasonal lease at \$20,000 per month.

**Priced at \$1,195,000****PALM BEACH POINT - NATURES POINT - 10 PLUS ACRES**

One of the last great opportunities! Prime location, directly adjacent to Grand Prix Village with many upgrades already installed. This tree lined property is fully irrigated and includes a serene lake and boat dock. No expense has been spared on the sand arena and a one-of-a-kind international Grand Prix field with water jumps, liver pools, bank jumps, and many other natural obstacles. The electric, water drainage, and building pad are in place and just waiting for you to build your dream house and barn.

**Priced at \$4,500,000****ARABIAN DRIVE - FOX TRAIL**

No stone has been left unturned on the remodel of this 4 bed/3 bath main house plus detached garage with 2 guest apartments, all within 10 miles of the Winter Equestrian Festival and Global Dressage Show Grounds. Top of the line appliances, finishes, fixtures, and generator have all been recently completed. Located on 5 acres with lush landscaping just waiting for your custom stable. Outdoor gazebo and pool area are ideal for entertaining.

**Priced at \$829,000**

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**PALM BEACH POLO - GOLF BROOK**

Lovely 4 bed/3.5 bath home with a separate detached guest cottage located on one of the most exclusive lakefront lots in Palm Beach Polo. Numerous upgrades have already been completed. Extremely private setting with expansive sunset views from all living areas, as well as from the oversized deck, lap pool, and spa. **Priced at \$1,595,000**



**BENTLEY BAY - MIAMI BEACH**

2 Bed/2 bath condo in the heart of South Beach with 700 sq. ft. travertine wrap around terrace/balcony. This condo has been fully upgraded with floor to ceiling glass windows and doors, wood paneled walls, beautiful marble floors, Lavastone kitchen with stainless appliances, and custom lighting. Panoramic views from the 18th floor of the Miami Skyline, Star Island, and the Atlantic Ocean. Wake up to sunrises over the ocean and sunsets over Miami in this full service building with doorman, valet, oversized lap pool, two spas, and a gym. Ideal location, close to 5th street and walking distance to the ocean, Lincoln Rd, and all the shopping and dining that SoBe has to offer. **Priced at \$985,000**



**ISLES OF WELLINGTON**

Stunning lake front home in the Estates section of The Isles. House has gorgeous upgrades throughout, including travertine marble & wood floors, added 5th bedroom with separate office. Enjoy beautiful sunsets from the oversized covered screened patio and lakeside outdoor pool and spa. **Priced at \$729,000**



**SHORES AT WELLINGTON**

Why rent each season when you could own this beautifully remodeled condo located at the back of a quiet neighborhood with lake and canal views. Owner has recently updated kitchen, appliances, baths, flooring, wet bar, and condo is ready to move right in. French sliders open to a hurricane window glass enclosed sunroom that adds 300 Square Feet of sunlit living to the already spacious 2 bedroom condo. Community has elevator, pool, tennis, club house, and gym. **Priced to sell at \$163,000**



**GRAND VIEW AT CRESTWOOD**

Tastefully remodeled 3 bedroom condo located in gated community with all the amenities; two resort style pools, fitness center, children's play areas, tennis and basketball courts, serene walking path with barbecue grills around the lakes, car washing area and much more. Owner has upgraded, freshly painted, and tiled all living areas and baths. Nice balcony overlooking green area. Very close to Wellington Horse Shows, dining, and shopping. **Priced to sell at \$134,900**



**SHORES AT WELLINGTON**

Fully furnished condo - Turnkey and ready for Winter season! Located on the first floor and ideal for pets. Condo has an oversized screened in porch with roll down hurricane shutters, large laundry room, formal dining room, and built in master/guest bedroom walk-in closets. Community has elevator, pool, tennis, club house, and gym. One of the last great buys in Wellington. **Priced to sell at \$124,900**

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**PB Polo Club**

Gorgeous derby field and lake views with all new hurricane double-impact, floor-to-ceiling windows that let in tons of natural light and keep the property extra quiet on the inside. Oversized, quartz center island gourmet kitchen with SubZero, Viking and Wolf appliances with wine cooler. Vaulted ceilings throughout main section of villa. Every room and bath has been tastefully remodeled in 2011. Master has dual sinks, steam shower and separate jacuzzi tub. New landscaping and patios with entrance gate/door to make this villa feels like a private home.  
**Priced at \$800,000**



**PALM BEACH POLO – BAGATELLE**

This 2 bed/2bath condo has been completely renovated and freshly furnished with new granite kitchens and baths. The one bedroom side has a private separate entrance from the studio and the doors have been sealed off with extra insulation. This 1st floor condo is perfect for pets and is an ideal property to use as an investment.  
**Priced at \$265,000 – Fully Furnished/Turnkey**



**SAINT ANDREWS AT POLO**

Nestled in the quiet back corner of Saint Andrews sits this gorgeous condo overlooking a scenic pond and polo field, with panoramic views from every window. Kitchen and baths have been fully upgraded with Granite, Cherry Cabinets, and Marble. Porcelain tile throughout. **Priced at \$244,000.** Also available for seasonal or year round rental.



**AEROCLUB - PRIME LOT**

Surrounded by multi-million dollar homes, this prime estate lot is situated in the ideal location. Build your dream home and hangar on a quite cul-de-sac, next to the taxiway and just 2 doors down from the brand new 3900 ft paved runway. Owner financing and plans available.

**Priced to sell at 383,000**



**PALM BEACH POLO – TENNIS LODGE**

Lowest priced Tennis Lodge in Polo Club. Will not last long! Kitchen has been tastefully remodeled. Condo is ideal for investor or for owner to live in the one side while renting out the other side for extra income. Lovely pool, spa, miles of walking trails, and gated community are just a few of the amenities that come with this condo.  
**Priced at \$230,000 Fully Furnished**



**PALM BEACH POLO – LAS CASITAS VILLA**

3-bedroom villa sitting on one of the largest lots in Las Casitas. Over ¼ of an acre with a private Zen-like setting and small dipping pool with a waterfall. An abundance of French doors bring the serene outdoor feel into this tastefully finished villa. The kitchen and baths have been remodeled and the porch enclosed to increase the size and give an open feeling throughout. **Priced to sell at \$395,000**



**SAINT ANDREWS AT POLO**

Move right in! Fully furnished & beautifully upgraded with 2 master suites. The perfect location; close to pool, spa, and fitness center. Granite kitchen w/ upgraded cabinets, appliances and under mount sinks; heated towel racks, ceiling fans in all rooms, central alarm system, as well as garage and private parking for 2-3 additional cars or trucks.

**Priced at \$259,000 Furnished**

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## Off Centerline

Congratulations to **Whit Watkins** of Moody, Texas, on receiving the fifth annual “**USDF Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award**” at the Great American/USDF Region 9 Championships held in Bryan, Texas. Whit received a \$5,000 award for demonstrating adherence to sound dressage principles and the ability to communicate these principles so that students develop themselves and their horses in a logical, progressive and humane way up through the levels. Way to go Whit!

The **California Dressage Society** Horse of the Year High Percent Stallion (Tambu Memorial Trophy) was awarded to **Susan Treabess** and the eight-year-old PRE stallion **Kamiakin** owned by **Katie Hill** of the Netherlands. Susan is a 2010 World Equestrian Games Para-Dressage rider aiming for the 2014 World Equestrian Games.

At this year’s **Adequan Global Dressage Festival**, music will be a highlight for spectators - and not just freestyles! Highlighting the “Friday Night Stars” programs are musicians from the **Frost School of Music at the University of Miami**. The Frost School of Music, one of two schools established in 1926 when the University of Miami was founded, is one of the largest and best music schools located in a private university in the U.S. Ensembles such as jazz bands, chamber orchestra, a capella jazz singers, a gospel choir, and more will be featured during the Friday evening competitions.

On Friday, January 17, a special “**Wild West Show**” will be the “mane event” at **The Stadium at PBIEC**, featuring trick riders, comedy acts, barrel racing competition, a roping act, Roman riding teams and more for a full western rodeo atmosphere!

**Kim Boyer’s Grandioso** is the highest rated PRE in the world (ahead of every American except **Steffen Peters**) and her



Dressage Daily’s **Mary Phelps** is driving in style! She recently acquired two new driving ponies named **Al Capony** and **Bugsy Malony**. Mary purchased them from **Johnny Robb** and **Gary Yeager** and has big plans for these two identical buckskin pintos. Happy driving Mary!

homebred Vaquero is also at the top of the list of six-year-olds in Spain! Fabulous news – congratulations Kim.

What a team! **Shannon Dueck** has partnered with **Sally Alksnis** on not one but two spectacular horses hand picked by the **Carl Hester**. **Allegro II** (barn name **Alfie**) is a fun seven-year-old that Shannon describes as a bouncing baby boy! The second soon-to-be superstar for this pair is six-year-old **Serpico**. Congratulations on the new boys!

**Leslie Morse** is now in Wellington from California with a small herd of horses, but Leslie didn’t buy hers – she bred them. All four are protégée of her two superstar stallions, the late **Kingston** and **Tip Top 962**. Leslie shared her fun tales of raising a new generation of super stars with the audience at the recent **ShopTalk at Show Chic Dressage**. There were tears and laughter and no doubt she has a new set of fans who will be cheering her on at the winter CDIs!



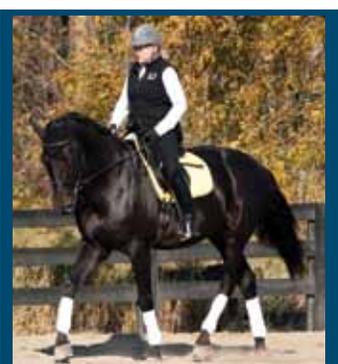
Congratulations from the **American Trakehner Association** to the newly approved stallions from 2013: **Feiner Prinz** (Perechlest – Cornus, bred by Dr. Renate Wernke-Schmising, Germany) owned by Dr. Margaret MacGregor, Holders Hill, Auburn, Illinois; **Hart Throb** (Hailo \*Pg\*E\* - Martini \*Pg\*E\*), bred and owned by Jean Brinkman, Valhalla Farm, Wellborn, Florida, and **Heroic Measures** (Platinum vom Rappenhof \*Pg\* - E.H. Biotop, bred by Connie Kempter, Canada), owned by Jay and Melissa Yager, Lenoir City, Tennessee. Also in 2013 the ATA Board of Directors posthumously approved the Thoroughbred stallion **Coconut Grove** for use in the Trakehner breed. Pictured: **Feiner Prinz** (left to right) handler **Dieter Felgendreher**, **Feiner Prinz**, Dr. Margaret MacGregor and **Jason Elvidge**. Photo by Allen MacMillan/MacMillan Photography

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**Loon Creek Enterprises** sends out congratulations to dressage rider **Nancy Bryant**, of Oxford, Michigan, and her Trakehner gelding **Handsel \*Pb\*** (Advocate \*Ps\* - Ethos, bred by Loon Creek) on their successful 2013 season at third level and their debut at fourth level! Nancy and **Handsel** were Michigan Dressage Association 2013 Champions at third level. Nancy also earned her USDF bronze medal and **Handsel** earned his Performance Bronze designation (\*Pb\*) from the American Trakehner Association. Photo by Kim MacMillan/MacMillan Photography





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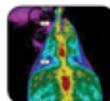
**McLain Ward:** Olympic rider, two-time Olympic gold team medalist; Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008

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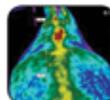
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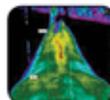
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# John Gobin – A Real Team Player

By Lauren R. Giannini

John Gobin was 14 when polo inspired him with impassioned focus to excel, setting the tone for the rest of his life. He became a professional polo player, contributing to historical USA and international victories. He achieved the distinction of a 7-goal rating (10 is the highest). In 2007 he became general manager of Great Meadow Polo in The Plains, Virginia. His assets include diehard work ethics, enthusiasm, professionalism, sportsmanship and a lifelong love for horses and the game.

“John has taken the best of Twilight Polo and made it better,” said Rob Banner, president of the Great Meadow Foundation. “He brought solid family values and sporting values to the job and has made the game far more professional and far safer. Great Meadow Twilight Polo [Saturday evenings, May through September] is a star event on the US Polo Association calendar.”

If you ask John, polo isn't just a job: it's a way of life. Yet, it wasn't the easiest transition when he went from being a full-time professional player to promoting and growing the game at Great Meadow. He just did what he has always done: he gives polo everything he has, and then some. He plays as often as possible, but his rating slipped to four, not bad when you consider how busy he stays during the Great Meadow Polo season.

“As a player you're trying to win tournaments, get your handicap as high as it can go, trying to get the best horses possible,” he explained. “As a manager, you're selling polo, attracting people to get involved as spectators and as student players. When you're a pro, it's all about you. As manager, you're responsible for seeing that the sport grows, that people enjoy polo and want to learn the sport so that Great Meadow Polo becomes part of the community.”

John's passion for polo dates back to when he was a working class kid wanting pocket money. He had never ridden, but he went to a barn near where his family lived and was hired to muck stalls. “A couple weeks after I started, they needed a player for the kids' team and invited me to start playing with the local kids



*Somebunny is funny! John scored the winning goal during an Easter Sunday tournament in Palm Beach.*

Photo by Nate Dailey



*John, the manager of Great Meadow Polo, with Whitney Ross, the Great Meadow Polo School manager.*

Photo by Lauren R. Giannini

who stabled their horses there. That's when I started riding,” he recalled. “I caught on pretty quick. Within six months to a year, I was in the arena. I'd be in deep trouble if I didn't find polo and the horses.”

At 17 John went to Argentina for two years to work on a polo farm where he trained green horses, worked cows, whatever they needed doing. That's where he started playing grass polo. After his return he played as much as possible and was a member of the Budweiser team that won the World Cup, which launched his professional playing career. In 1992, at only 23, John not only played on the U.S. team that defeated England for the prestigious Westchester Cup, he scored the winning goal in double-overtime.

“That was a serious high point in my career – I think I was rated four goals,” he said. “I won Most Valuable Young Player. A lot of the kids who were getting to play and winning were all wealthy kids so I was quite honored to go in there and do what I did.”

Mentors included Jimmy Bachman, Ricky Bostwick, Adam Lindeman, Bill Ylvisaker and Chris Knowles. “Chris from Massachusetts was a huge influence. He was my first coach and got me started,” John said. “Chris taught me everything: how to ride, how to play, how to care for the horses. He emphasized that the horses always come first, that without good horses, you'll never be a good player. He was an amazing horseman.”



*John gets hundreds of kids fired up for Twilight Polo's half-time Tug-of-War.*

Photo by Lauren R. Giannini

His most memorable horse was a mare named Dallas. "She was my first horse and I kept her to the day she died," John said. "She lived to be about 34 and she's buried on our farm in South Carolina. As a polo pony, she was really quiet, honest and extremely fast."

About players who influenced him, he said, "I didn't play much with Memo Gracida, but I studied him and I learned a lot watching him play. I learned from playing polo with Mariano Aguerre [Argentine, rated 10 goals in his prime] – he's a genius on the polo field."

An injured polo pony introduced John to veterinarian Kathleen Timmons. They started dating, got serious and got hitched in 2000. Their daughter Schuyler, 11, rides her pony every day and shows in pony hunters. They usually spend autumn at their farm in Aiken, summer in Virginia and winter in Florida. John still tries to play as much polo as possible. "It's more hectic for John – he runs ragged a lot," Kathleen said. "I'm in Florida for Schuyler's entire school year – education is important."

As for Great Meadow Polo's 2014 season, John said, "We had our biggest crowds last summer, some big nights with 2,500 to 3,000 spectators," he said. "We want to do some tournaments and leagues, have



*John Walsh, left, of America's Most Wanted, and John get "busted" by Fauquier County Deputies before a June 2013 charity match at Great Meadow.*

Photo by Lauren R Giannini

better, faster polo. Draw more people to learn to play – the school is what makes the polo club grow."

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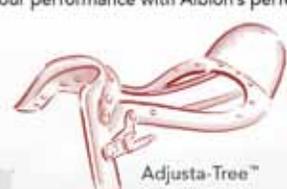
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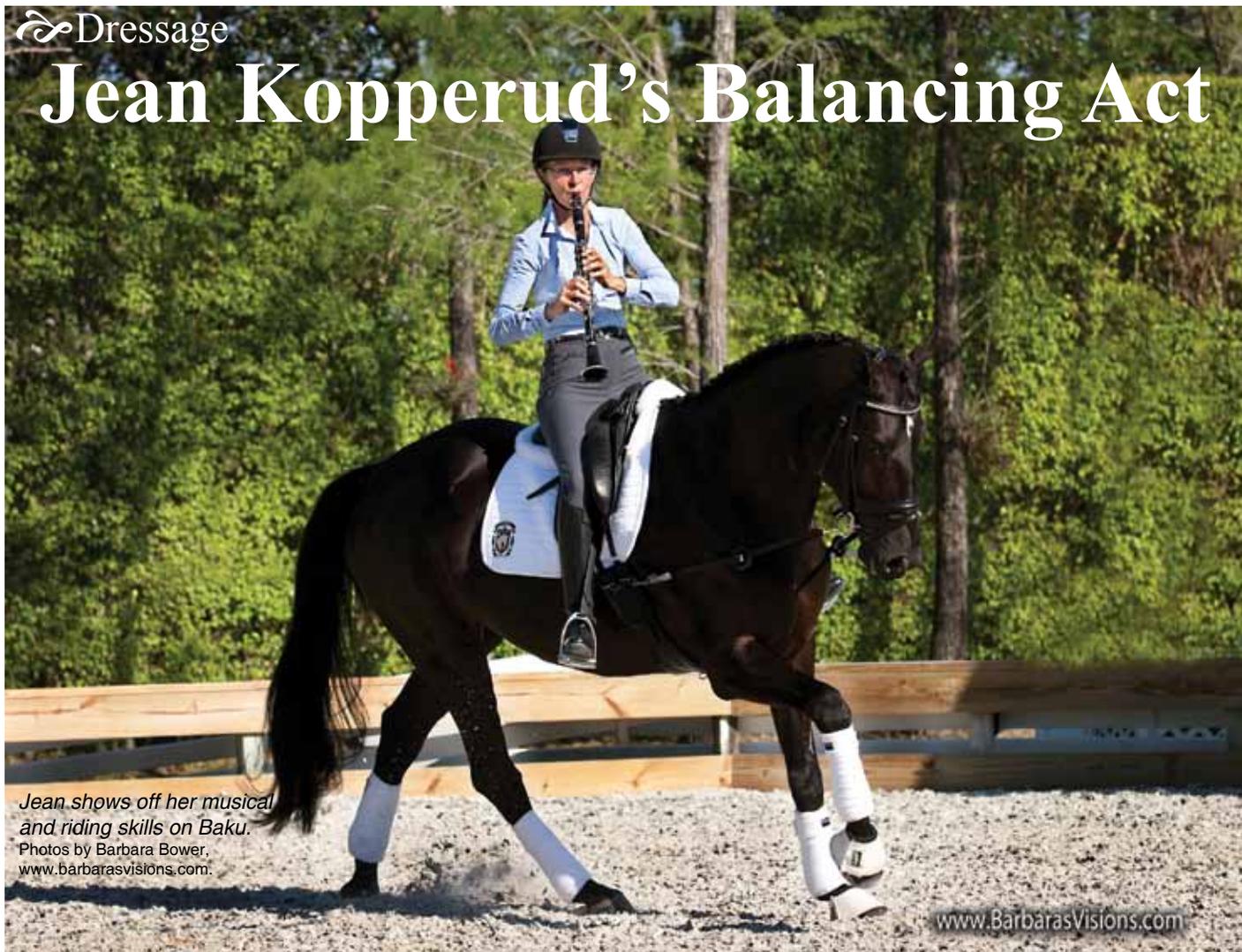

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# Jean Kopperud's Balancing Act



Jean shows off her musical and riding skills on Baku.

Photos by Barbara Bower,  
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www.BarbarasVisions.com

By Lauren R. Giannini

Professional musician, concert clarinetist, avant-garde performer, recording artist, chamber musician and college professor are some of the “hats” worn by Jean Kopperud in her unusual and eventful career. She has even played her clarinet while jumping out of airplanes and dangling from a parachute. She rode western until she was about 15 and got back in the saddle at 43. She did some eventing at the novice level. She hauls her horses to Boston so that eventer Adrienne Iorio can, as Jean says, “very nicely but firmly kick my butt.” She schools at third level in dressage with aspirations to achieve the FEI Level.

With all that, it’s hard to imagine Jean being afraid of anything, but one incident in particular changed the course of her academic focus and impacted her entire life. “I wanted to be a small animal vet – I had a scholarship, but when they started sending information about pigs and cows and there were almost no girls in vet school, I got scared,” Jean recounted. “I ended up changing my major to music and by my sophomore year I was on fire. Music is like riding: it’s really interesting and I was practicing for hours every day. I had a dream about going East for my junior year and I went to Julliard for graduate school. It was all very exciting once I was in school. I loved performing and I was totally hooked.”

Jean had taken piano lessons when she was very young, but

she didn’t enjoy it. “At 10, they offered instruments at school and the band director wanted me to play flute – I said ‘no way – it is a girl’s instrument’ and I left,” she recalled. “The next day I went back and said I wanted to play clarinet. My parents weren’t happy, but I made a deal with them. They couldn’t ask me anything about my clarinet lessons and I didn’t tell them anything.”

Her virtuoso expertise, coupled with the fact that she was a marathon runner, garnered Jean her first performance art job: a 45-minute solo piece for a clarinet player who dances the entire time, entitled “Harlekin” by Stockhausen. “I was working as a musician, but I quit waiting tables, enrolled in dance class, worked with a choreographer and six months later I came out with this humongous piece,” Jean said. “Harlekin was totally

*Jean is respected as one of the most versatile and innovative clarinetists in the world and renowned for her virtuoso performances.*

new in the performance art area and it earned a lot of press. Harlekin is where I discovered myself. I got out of the box and followed a different path with a more

theatrical bent to it.”

Jean stayed really busy for years. She earned her Master’s in Music at Julliard, studied in France with Nadia Boulanger and toured the world – literally – logging lots of air miles as concert soloist and chamber musician while playing in the U.S., Canada, Europe, China, Japan, the Caribbean and Australia. She parlayed her passion for skydiving into a music theatre work called “CloudWalking.”

Continued on page 108

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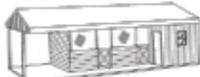
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She is respected as one of the most versatile and innovative clarinetists in the world and renowned for her virtuoso performances which are reviewed with adjectives like “superhuman” and “unforgettably visual” and “magnificent,” to name a few. She has an impressive curriculum vitae, to say the least, and you can experience Jean’s clarinet playing with the Thüringer Salonquintett on the “Live in America” CD and also on the Albany Records’ CD, “Extreme Measures” – for clarinet and piano, which features all of the works commissioned and written specifically for Jean.

Something happened, however, triggering a return to riding and purchasing a farm and just finding a better balance for herself in terms of life in general. The crisis came when Jean was 43, living in a high-rise in New York City, working seven days a week. “I started looking around – I had a lot of recordings, a bunch of concerts – and I thought, is this it? I enrolled in art school, but that didn’t work,” she recalled.

“I read an article about Peter Leone’s Lionshare Farm in Greenwich, Connecticut and I called up and asked for lessons. From that moment on I had found the solution. Six months later, I bought Snickers and my farm in North Salem, New York, which I kept for 10 years while I commuted to my New York City life. I have a full-time job, a concert career, four horses, and I do my own farm work. The horses are the best thing that ever happened to me.

Jean’s life also encompasses her beloved animals. She has two show-quality dogs, Boxers. Her horses include her first ever, Snickers, now 25, and Hanno, now 11, the “pucker” with whom Jean partnered to get her feet wet eventing. Baku is her eight-year-old Trakhener, doing First Level dressage.

I have two farms, a full-time job, a concert career, four horses, and I do my own farm work. The horses are the best thing that ever happened to me.”

Jean has ridden with a number of seriously good equestrians, including eventer Darren Chiacchia and dressage trainer Elizabeth



*Professional musician, concert clarinetist and dressage rider Jean Kopperud with Hanno.*

Niemi. Paula Cahill comes to her New York farm and Jean will ride Avanti in Florida with dressage trainer Marco Bernal. Every six to eight weeks she takes lessons with German dressage trainer Christian Garweg.

“I have known Jean more than 10 years and have been working with her off and on all that time,” said Elizabeth. “She is very fit. She can ride well. She’s a musician. She’s artsy. She wears cowboy boots and she’s a professor, knows how to deal with the public and with college students. She’s very nice. She isn’t your average dressage queen. She’s really into her dogs, her horses and her music.”

If only every mid-life crisis could turn out this well. Jean owns two farms, having bought one next to Wellington last year at the bottom of the market. “It was a great bargain and I had a sabbatical and moved to Florida for the winter with the dogs and horses,” she said. “It was an empty house and I furnished it. I built a barn and dressage arena. I was good to go. Even though I can only go there a couple of months every year, I have it. The realtor described it as a little spot of heaven. It’s gorgeous, perfect.”

Jean still plays the clarinet – very modern, very avant-garde music, what she considers “brand new stuff, wild stuff” and she teaches. “About seven years ago, University at Buffalo (SUNY) offered me a job I couldn’t refuse,” she said. “I’m a professor at UB and I still teach master classes at Julliard every spring. My farm in Clarence is near Buffalo. As a teacher, the thing I’m special at – and this is my love – I work with students who are performing. They’re engineers, dancers, basketball players and actors as well as musicians. I’m only into psychology as an amateur, but I have learned that if you run your life well, you get everything you want. Animals, music, farms – I have gotten everything I want.”



*Jean has played her clarinet while jumping out of airplanes and dangling from a parachute – so playing while on horseback is a piece of cake.*



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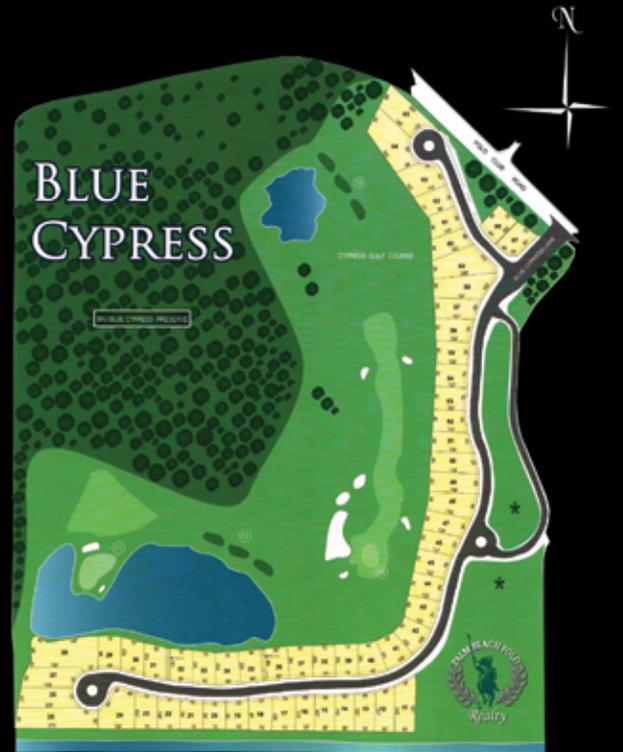
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# The Inside Scoop!

## The USHJA Emerging Athletes Program

By Marissa Degner, as told to Doris Degner-Foster

*If you've heard about the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program (EAP) and wondered what goes on at these training sessions, Sidelines has the inside scoop! Sidelines writer Doris Degner-Foster's daughter, Marissa Degner, was selected to attend the EAP National Training Session and Doris went along for the ride – as mom and journalist. Here's a behind-the-scenes account of Melissa's EAP experience – straight from our own Sidelines mother-daughter team.*

My excitement had been growing since I received word that I would be traveling to The University of Findlay, Ohio for the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program National Training Session. Even a broken wheel on my suitcase and tornado warnings couldn't dampen my enthusiasm. My mom and I figured that surely we wouldn't come from Oklahoma, a state famous for its tornados, to get blown away by one in Ohio, would we?

Dover Saddlery graciously donated supplies, including a grooming kit that had the name of the horse that we would ride in the training session written on the bottom. I drew a horse named Ace, who would be arriving later that afternoon.

Ace was described to me as a hot Thoroughbred jumper, which sounded a lot like my own horse at home. We were given some time to hack our horses, and although I didn't have much time since my horse arrived late, I was looking forward to getting better acquainted with him and jumping the next day in my session with Olympic show jumping gold medalist Peter Wylde, who was the head clinician and is vice president of the EAP program.

The day ended with a welcome reception, where I had a chance to get to know the other riders better. The 16 of us were divided into four groups of four. We would stay with the same group throughout the training session and for the Nations Cup competition on Sunday. My group, which included Michaela Wood, Jackie Flynn, and Connor Siegel, became close friends during the few days we had together.

In the barn, we were completely responsible for the care and keeping of our horses, and I loved coming early in the morning to spend extra time with Ace.

On our first day, my team was jump crew for the first session. By watching the first group ride, I felt more prepared for my ride later that afternoon. Each group had a schedule to follow, and when we weren't in the ring, we were with one of the other clinicians.

I really liked our session with equine physiotherapist Janus Marquis, who talked about



*Olympic show jumper Peter Wylde, head clinician and vice president of the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program, with Marissa.*

Photo by Doris Degner-Foster

things we could do daily for our horses, like stretching techniques and exercises. The stable manager, Ann Thornbury, taught us a lot about how a horse's conformation can affect their soundness.



*Marissa and Ace taking part in the USHJA Emerging Athletes Program National Training Session at The University of Findlay.*

Photo by Tricia Booker/USHJA Archives Photo

Because The University of Findlay has such large number of horses, we had the privilege of seeing some unique things, like shoe boils, club feet, and other issues you often only see in books. We also spent time with Kip Rosenthal, a sports psychologist. She gave us each a chance to bring up what troubled or stressed us when riding and showing.

Friday evening we had a pizza party at the barn where we had a chance to talk to some of the Horsemanship Quiz Challenge participants. Sixteen of them were randomly assigned to groom for us during the Nations Cup on Sunday.

On Saturday, Peter stated he was happy with our group's progress. I felt like I knew my

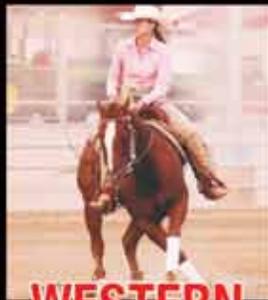
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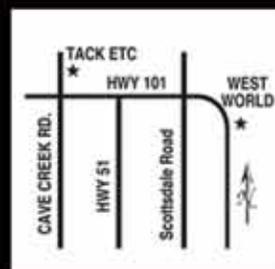
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*Marissa's team at the awards ceremony: (left to right) Cassie Thomas, Marissa Degner, Jackie Flynn, Michaela Wood and Connor Siegel.*

Photo by Tricia Booker/USHJA Archives Photo

horse fairly well by now, and I was excited for the Nations Cup the next day. Peter emphasized the fact that you can never be perfect, but that you should strive for excellence by making a less than ideal situation work in your favor. This piece of advice stuck with me throughout the clinic.

The afternoon ended with setting the course for the Nations Cup. Peter walked the course with us, pointed out tricky spots, and encouraged us to think about our horses' strengths and weaknesses and how these parts of the course would need to be ridden.

That evening, all the riders and Horsemanship Quiz Challenge participants, along with family, attended a banquet. Each team of four riders was given a name, my team's being Touch of Class, after Joe Fargis' 1984 Olympic mount. A drawing was done to decide the order of go for the teams in the Nations Cup the next day. My team ended up drawing to go second.

Sunday morning came too soon. As I dragged my mother out of bed before the sun was up, I couldn't believe it was the last day. Once I arrived at the equestrian center, I focused on completing my chores. My team came together to talk about the course and, before I knew it, it was time for me to get on. My fantastic groom, Kelsi Okun, was right by my side as I warmed up Ace. With mixed emotions of excitement and anxiety, I headed up to the ring.

Ace felt a bit fresher than the previous few days, but with the hectic atmosphere I wasn't surprised. When my time came to show in the Nations Cup first round, I remembered Kip's tricks for warding off nerves in the show ring. As I prepared to begin my course, the buzzer sounded. Apparently Ace knew what that buzzer meant, because we took off for the first jump before I knew it. With his true jumper side really showing through for the first

time in the week, I was a bit surprised that his agreeable, polite self had been replaced by a true fighter whose only goal was to get across the course as fast as he could. During the course, I remembered many things Peter had said throughout the clinic, like bending the horse when half halting to get a better result. Though the course didn't ride quite as expected, I was excited for a second chance in the second round.

After walking Ace around the warm up ring for a while, I handed him to my groom, Kelsi, and was able to watch the rest of the riders in the first round. For the second round, Ace was much more like he had been the previous days. I was very happy with our improvement and was pleased to end the weekend on a good ride. I really enjoyed the opportunity to apply the skills that I'd learned over the past two days in my courses.

A tie for the silver medal resulted in a jump off between my team and another. Connor Siegel secured the title of silver medal for our team, Touch of Class. During the awards ceremony, I was extremely proud of myself, my team, and all the other riders as well.

Participating in the EAP National Training Session was such an honor, and I am extremely grateful to have been able to learn under so many incredible professionals in the industry. Saying goodbye was hard, and though our time together was short, every person left an impression on me that I don't think will ever fade away.

*About the writer: Doris Degner-Foster lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma and rides with Harvard Fox Hounds when she is not interviewing interesting individuals in the horse sport. She also enjoys writing fiction and is working on a middle grade book series about teenagers who ride horses and solve mysteries. Doris also writes the "Notes From The Field" blog on the Sidelines Magazine website – don't miss it!*

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# Danielle Goldstein Leads Israel's New Team

Show jumper Danielle Goldstein owns and operates Starwyn Farms, LLC out of Wellington, Florida. She is a pioneer in her own right, using her international experience with show jumpers to build the first ever equestrian team for Israel and is the founder of the International Equestrian Education program, a unique school for all levels of equestrian enthusiasts. She continues to explore new frontiers for the equestrian industry and Israel, bringing an unmatched level of dedication and passion to both. *Sidelines* caught up with the busy rider to find out more about what's going on in her life.

## 1. Why did you decide to ride for Israel?

I have always wanted to ride for Israel – ever since I was a little girl! And once I had my Bat Mitzvah in Israel when I was 12 I was sure I would one day ride for Israel.

## 2. What goals do you have going forward for promoting Israel on the international stage?

I have many goals – too many to even count, but first and foremost is getting a Nations Cup team together and competing as a real team. We hope to have Israel's first Nations Cup appearance during the Nations Cup competition in March at the 2014 Winter Equestrian Festival.

## 3. What was it like to ride for Israel at the European Championships and to qualify for the 2014 World Equestrian Games?

It was a real honor to represent Israel. I am not the first rider to do so, but for me it was my first championships experience and one I will not soon forget. I was just thrilled to be there and my result was truly wonderful – not only did I have my first European Championships experience, but I qualified for the World Games next summer! It always feels great to represent Israel, but to do so on such a large stage makes it even more special. It's so nice to see the flag hanging from the rafters and hear them announce the country when I walk in the ring – every little bit of exposure for Israel counts and makes it worthwhile!



Danielle and Holly Golightly.  
118 SIDELINES FEBRUARY 2014



Danielle and Carisma competing at the CSI 2\* Marienheem in The Netherlands.  
Photos courtesy of Danielle Goldstein

## 4. What was it like to serve as chef d'equipe for the gold medal winning team at the Maccabiah Games?

It was such an unexpected treat – they asked me to do it just a few days before and I was honored that they would even think of me for the job ... I had a pretty good strategy going into it but since I didn't know the riders very well I got some great help from people on the ground when I arrived. I was riding as an individual too so I had my own competing to think about, but in the end, the team was prepared and the plan worked – I couldn't have been happier!

## 5. Why did you purchase your newest horse, Carisma?

I didn't purchase her, but a very supportive group of people did. I have had my eye on her for a really long time and as soon as I found out she was available for sale I jumped at the opportunity. I didn't want to miss out on a horse that I believe has a great chance of taking me to the World Games next summer – she is a great horse to represent Israel and I hope just the beginning of Team Israel!

## 6. What aspirations do you have for Carisma and your other horses?

My hope is to develop a competitive relationship with Carisma

Continued on page 120





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Danielle and Waliba.

and continue to add a couple more additions to my string in order to bring me closer to the top of the sport. I really feel like I am just at the beginning of my career and on the right path so I hope to use the horses I have to reach that goal.

**7. What is the International Equine Education program?**

The IEE is the first program of its kind to help educate horse enthusiasts about the ins and outs of competitive sport horses. It helps people navigate the rather complicated horse industry and teach them what they need to know in order to properly work in and around sport horses. It covers a varied range of topics from necessary vet skills, grooming, legal contracts, barn management

and proper blacksmith skills.

**8. How do you think the horse industry in general will benefit from the International Equine Education program?**

Honestly, I believe anyone and everyone in the industry should take this course – there isn't a single person who won't benefit from the program overall. I myself learn something every time I sit in on a class! Education is such a necessary skill to progress and this industry is in need of some positive changes. What rider wouldn't want to know how to properly give their horse medication, or owner/parent wouldn't want to know how to properly negotiate a purchase contract or know how to safely lunge a horse? This class teaches the most vital information that everyone involved with horses should know!

**9. Why did you choose to offer scholarships to the program?**

We offer scholarships for the sole reason that we don't want to limit enrollment – we want this to reach the masses of equine enthusiasts. We also feel that equine education is crucial to the younger generations who aspire to professionally work in the industry one day.

**10. What are your goals going forward for Starwyn Farms and the IEE?**

My goal for Starwyn is to continue to develop the brand and expand the farm's activities. I have a few new clients for this upcoming season and I hope to continue to be able to teach both people and horses. As far as my goals for the IEE, we are totally revamping the program this year to include more sponsors and we hope to expand our reach to the whole South Florida horse community.

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### A LOOK AT NITRIC OXIDE

Nitric Oxide is the Master Circulatory Molecule in the body. Its function is to increase blood flow by dilating blood vessels. Nitric Oxide is crucial for key physiological functions, and can act as a hormone, neurotransmitter, and intracellular messenger. It helps curb inflammation, and oxidative stress. It helps increase oxygen.

To produce Nitric Oxide the body needs the amino acid Arginine.

#### Benefits to horses:

Increased circulation is important for tissue healing and repair, as the stimulation of Nitric Oxide impacts cellular responses including collagen synthesis. Think of Nitric Oxide as the body's own internal Shock Wave.

Increased circulation benefits older horses, benefits joint mobility, and can reduce the discomfort of foot syndrome issues including navicular disease, and inflammation of the bursa.

Research into Nitric Oxide has shown how important the amino acid Arginine is in respect to wound healing including collagen formation, cell proliferation and wound contraction. Several studies have highlighted that increased Nitric Oxide speeds wound healing.



#### Nitric Oxide for Athletic Performance:

Since Nitric Oxide plays a vital role in circulation, more and more human athletes are supplementing with Arginine and Arginine-rich foods. Studies have shown that increased Nitric Oxide can reduce the oxidative stress of exercise, and deliver increased oxygen and nutrients to muscles, organs, and tissues.

#### Increasing Nitric Oxide in horses through food:

To stimulate Nitric Oxide you need the amino acid Arginine. Foods for horses that are high in Arginine include: pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, oranges, brewer's yeast, nutritional yeast, and the blue green algae Spirulina. 2 Tablespoons twice a day of pumpkin seeds, or ¼ cup of sesame seeds provides several grams of Arginine.

In Nature, Arginine does not exist without the presence of Lysine, an essential amino acid. This fact has spurred some athletic supplement companies to provide Lysine with Arginine in their formulations.

When you choose food high in Arginine, you get Lysine, plus enzymes and co-enzymes that are essential for the bio-pathway to Nitric Oxide production. ■

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## JONATHON MILLAR

### WHOLE FOOD SUCCESS STORY: JONATHON AND CONTINO

Member of Team Canada at the 2010 WEG, and Team Canada at WEF 2011 Nations Cup in Wellington, Florida, where the pair finished fourth individually and Team Canada finished second. Hometown: Perth, Ontario, Canada.



"I found Contino in Germany when we were over there looking for horses for clients. He was relatively green at the International level. He had stomach and colon ulcers.

"Our competition horses travel a lot. They have stress and as riders we need to have something that balances the stress out. The diet does that. Contino has had no ulcer issues since he got on the whole food diet."

# Return To Riding



Jamie and her mother, TV journalist Joan Lunden, on the red carpet in New York City.  
Photo by Sara Kerens



Jamie and George's wedding in Jamaica.  
Photo by Alan Smith Photography



Jamie and Joan enjoying mother/daughter time at a show in the '90s.

By Jamie Krauss Hess

Most of us would agree that something magical happens when you get on a horse. It can be superbly empowering one day and severely humbling the next. But most of all, once you put your foot in the stirrup, it is the great equalizer. Everything else disappears. Got a great job? Your horse doesn't care. Don't have a job? Same reaction. Feeling fierce and fashionable? Super, he could care less. Bad hair day? He won't judge you.

That's what I love about it... the moment my butt touches the saddle, my focus is single-minded. It is the ONLY time I forget about the stresses of the world and just focus on "the moment."

This is why I had to put riding back in my life as an adult.

I rode as a child and young adult, coming up through the ranks of my junior career with the ambition and determination reserved for the youthful and their hobbies. Back then, the most important thing in the world was winning an equitation final. It was the end-all. When we don't yet have to pay bills or tend to a career or a family, these are the types of goals we can prioritize.

I was blessed with an incredibly supportive mother who not only sat ringside at every show, but also provided me the opportunity

to sit on some amazing creatures along the way. I trained with Kip Rosenthal, who (as George Morris would recommend) I revered as if she were God (isn't she?). I was a passionate, dedicated student and the hard work with Kip paid off in exciting wins, from the WIHS Equitation Finals in 1996 to a silver medal at the North American Young Riders Championships in 1999. Kip would often say: "Winning is great, but I know if Jamie had to hang up her show coat and never compete again, she'd just as happily continue riding for the love of the sport and the animal."

I would smile and nod, but in my head I would wonder: "Is that really true?"

It took me 15 years to figure out the answer to that question. While the thrill of competing is exciting, nothing will help you define your love of the sport more than taking time away from it. I have done this twice.

After graduating college, I gave up riding and joined "the real world." I cultivated a career that means a great deal to me, working in public relations in New York City. My free time was spent at events, nurturing business relationships and building a name for myself. Weekends no longer meant 4 a.m. wake-up calls for the show ring; Rather, I was usually heading home around that time.

*Continued on page 124*

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It was a whirlwind, but one that felt well suited to my personality at the time.

However, after a two-year stint as the public relations director for a major nightclub, I was beginning to get burnt out. Late nights on the town and weekends with no purpose weren't satisfying my spiritual needs the way dedication to a sport does. I missed the ponies and needed a change.

I packed up my life, put my fancy clothes and spikey high heels in storage, and set out on a "sabbatical," leaving NYC and returning to the riding world as a professional.

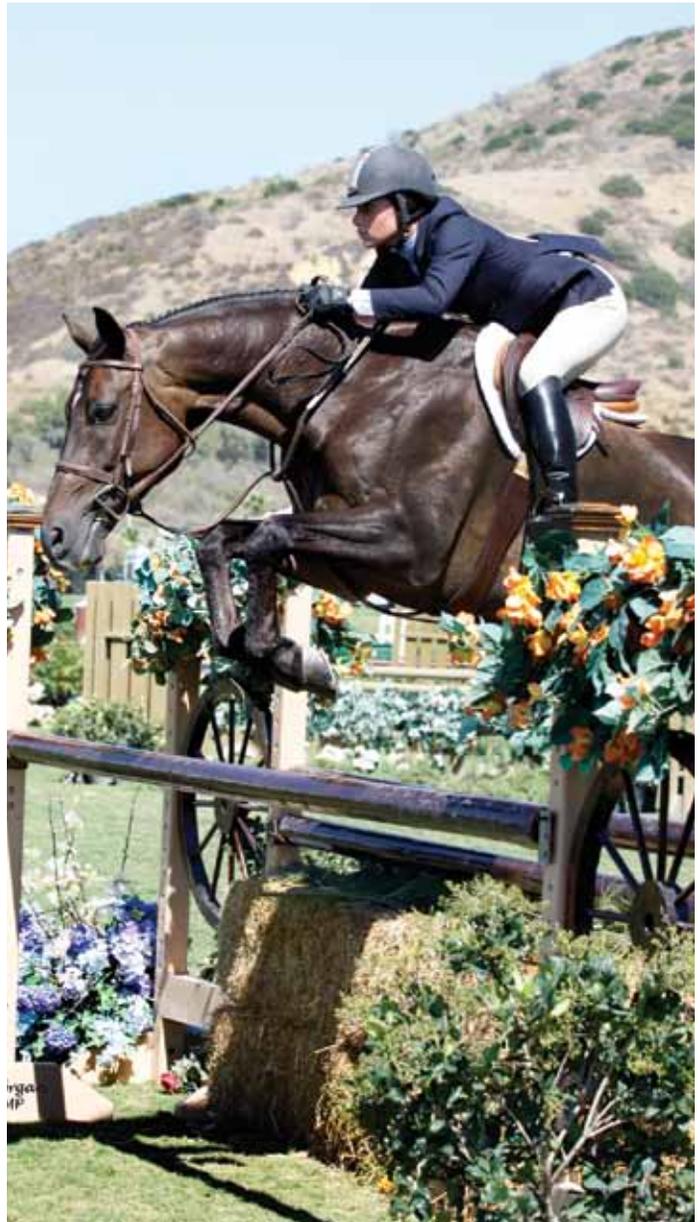
I began by teaching at my childhood summer camp, a wonderful place in New Hampshire called Pony Farm. Once I had my "sea legs" back under me, I got a job in Wellington, Florida and eventually went out West to work for Archie Cox, California's top professional horseman.

At first, nothing felt better than arriving to work each day in boots and britches instead of a pair of pumps. The joy I felt putting my head on the pillow after an exhausting day at the horse show was utter elation.

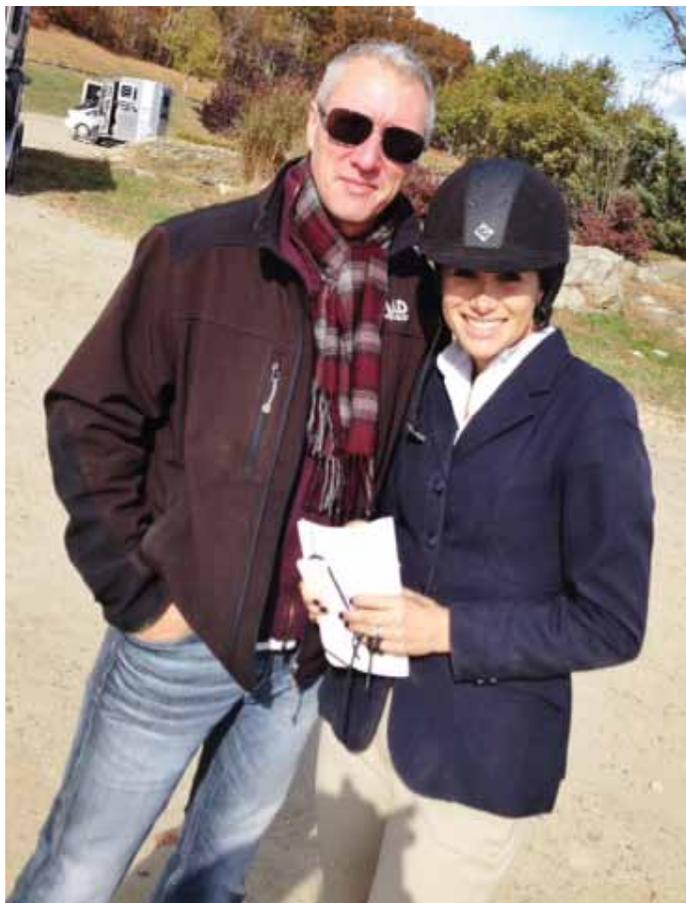
Nothing bad happened. But this is a story about *real life*, and thus it comes complete with personal twists and turns. One day shortly after I turned 30, I just woke up and realized: I miss New York, my family and my career. I knew the sabbatical was over, and it was time to return home.

That was three years ago. In the time since, I moved back to New York, picked up where I left off professionally, and married my soul mate. We live a beautiful, happy life together in the city, but every so often my husband would bring up the elephant in the room: "If you loved riding horses so much, why don't you do it any more?"

I would answer him (perhaps a tad defensively): "You don't just DABBLE in show jumping. You're either IN IT or you're NOT."



*Jamie competing while working for Archie Cox in California.*  
Photo by Captured Moment Photography



*Jamie and her husband, George, at Old Salem Farm.*

The more those words came out of my mouth, the more I knew they were nonsense. I love riding horses. It is in my blood. It is one of the great joys of my life, and it is the only thing in the world that turns off the constant chatter in my brain about work, finances and general life stress. To deny myself the chance to participate in the sport just because I might not be able to compete at a high level anymore is a huge waste. Also, as I inch closer to starting a family of my own, it's not the kind of message I would like to impart to my future children. Sometimes we do things for the sake of personal accomplishment, not for a blue ribbon.

Interestingly enough, it looks like I'm going to get back in the show ring a little bit during the 2014 Winter Equestrian Festival after all. Am I showing a 1.50 jumper? Nope. Probably more like a 3' hunter. But it doesn't matter. I am showing for the fun of it, not for the glory. I am finally, truly understanding the value of "the journey" over "the destination," and for this, I feel happy and blessed. Giddy up!

*About the writer: Jamie Krauss Hess is a Director at the Narrative Group, a lifestyle PR company in New York City. She resides in New York with her newly-coined "horse husband," George, and their Yorkie, Stella.*

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# Global Dressage Forum Offers Star-Studded Weekend

**F**lorida reigns as the horse show and educational capital of the world during the winter season, and this year dressage trainers, riders, officials and dressage enthusiasts from around the globe will gather February 15-16 at the Jim Brandon Center in West Palm Beach, Florida for the second annual meeting of the Global Dressage Forum North America (GDFNA).

Andreas Stano, executive director and founder of DressageClinic.com as well as DressageMeetingOnline.com, is the creator and founder of the GDFNA. The event is expected to be the highest profile educational gathering ever to have been held in the U.S. and Canada.

The stars headlining the GDFNA 2014 are Stephen Clarke, Jan Brink, Conrad Schumacher, Tinne Vilhelmson-Silven with Bo Jenna, Eckart Mayners with Christoph Hess, and six-time Olympian Christilot Boylen with Udo Lange. The Lecturers are Susanne von Dietze, Terry Ciotti Gallo, Sue Leffler and Jochen Schleese. The panelists debating are Charlotte Bredahl, Volker Brommann, Kathy Connelly, Pam Goodrich, Anne Gribbons, Arthur Kottas, Leslie Reid, Mette Rosencrantz, Betsy Steiner and George Williams.

During the Forum, Stephen Clarke will be awarded the 2014 GDFNA Life Time Dressage Achievement Award for his lifelong successes, not only for his own country Great Britain, but also for North America. "A lifelong dedication to the training and development of dressage horses and riders is something that should be rewarded to every individual. We wanted to point out individuals who have not only dedicated their life to dressage, but also people who stood out as examples not just for exceptional horsemanship, but people who had a lot to offer and became examples of hope for young developing dressage riders," Andreas said.

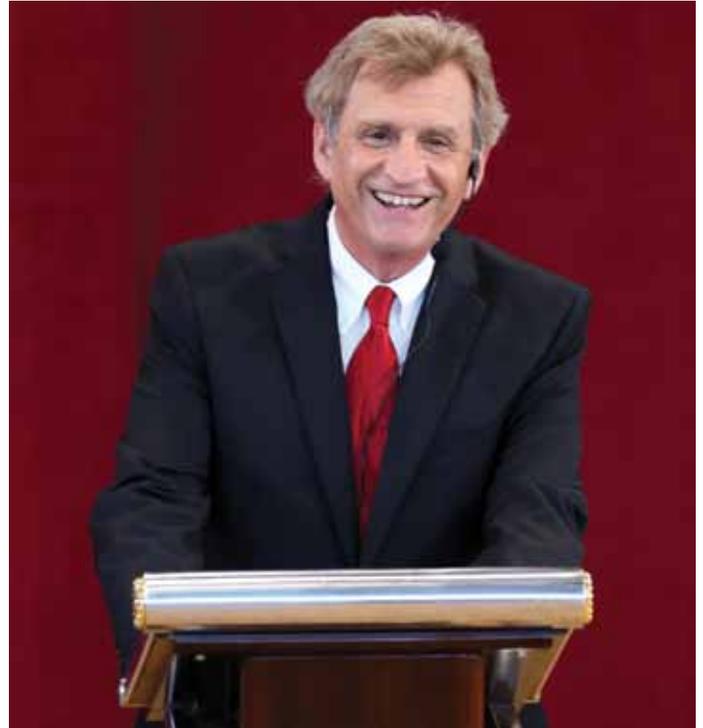
Sidelines caught up with Andreas to find out more about the GDFNA, which will feature some of the world's foremost dressage trainers and experts, in an intense two-day program with receptions, vendors and lots of fun and sun.

## **What inspired you to organize this event for the North American continent?**

I wanted to create an educational event that was climatic for dressage education, beneficial for all serious dressage riders and still lots of fun and in a warm climate. The concept of one or two clinicians addressing an audience has now developed into the creation of the GDFNA presenting, in a time frame of two full days, 22 of the top dressage educators from around the world. To witness all these people working together on stage and sharing their life long experiences is very exciting to any dedicated dressage rider.

## **Tell us about the clinicians and lecturers.**

I wanted to choose clinicians that I thought have exceptional talent and success in the training and development of dressage horses. These are people that I have worked with through



*Andreas Stano, Founder of the Global Dressage Forum North America.*

the years and I know that they are true examples of correct dressage. We have 10 clinicians who are all unique in their own right. Stephen Clarke will be with us with arena demonstrations and panel interaction. Jan Brink and Conrad Schumacher will also be presenting on stage. Eckart Meyners, the creator of the Balimo seat, will present with Christoph Hess. Sweden's superstar Tinne Vilhelmson-Silven, with Swedish Olympic team coach Bo Jenna, will be presenting as well as six-time Olympian from Canada Christilot Boylen with Germany's Udo Lange. As for our panelists, we are presenting Charlotte Bredahl, Voker Brommann, Kathy Connelly, Pam Goodrich, Anne Gribbons, Arthur Kottas, Leslie Reid, Mette Rosencrantz, Betsy Steiner and George Williams. For lecturers, we are presenting author Susanne von Dietze, freestyle expert Terry Ciotti Gallo, centered riding expert Sue Leffler and equine expert Jochen Schleese.

## **Can you share more about the panelists taking part in the program?**

Yes, we have 10 panelists on stage. When the clinician finishes his or her speech and demonstration in the arena, the panelists can ask up to three questions as to what they saw happen in the arena. The questions are for the exploration of the clinician's theories, approaches, philosophies and personal experiences. The audience will also have a chance to ask questions to the clinicians or to any one of the panelists.



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**Will the GDFNA be available on the internet for those who could not attend?**

Yes, DressageClinic.com is our official internet and digital channel on the web and the entire show will be broadcast on their site. We are also producing a DVD series of the Forum for the tack shops.

**Tell us about the GDFNA Master Class Program you're offering.**

The GDFNA Master Class program is designed to give dressage riders a once in a lifetime dream to ride with any of our clinicians presented in our program. The days immediately prior to the beginning of the forum we are holding private one-on-one clinic lessons on the grounds of the Jim Brandon so that anyone who has had a dream of riding with our clinicians can do so. We do not discriminate as to what level they or their horses are. If they want to ride with one of our clinicians, they can do so by just signing up. Last year we had a seven-year-old girl who came with her pony to ride with Ingrid Klimke. We accept any rider to sign up on a first come - first served basis.

**Which organizations have officially recognized the GDFNA and how is this forum different from attending another clinic or symposium?**

The GDFNA is officially recognized by the opening ceremonial presence of the USDF and its President, George Williams, Dressage Canada with Desi Dillingham, and the Dressage Foundation's Judith Noone as they will be giving an update speech on the state of dressage related to their countries or organizations. This forum is a stage/theater type of setting where one can become absorbed by a very interesting and intense two-day program with arena demonstrations, lectures, discussions and debates between some of the world's most famous and successful dressage trainers and educators. This forum is an atmosphere charged with such electrical excitement and opportunity, that anyone who loves this sport will surely agree that this unprecedented experience will be like nothing that has ever been produced before.

**You have several Education Partners for this Forum, can you explain how these Educational Partners benefit?**

When I created this forum, I had in my mind to involve as many GMOs or Dressage Federations as possible, so that these GMOs would receive more nationwide exposure. I wanted



*Stephen Clarke, winner of the Global Dressage Forum North America (GDFNA) is the 2014 Life Time Dressage Achievement Award recipient.*

Photo by Sharon Packer

to bring awareness to the important work these GMOs do for dressage education. USDF offers so much for education. NEDA is one of the country's leading organizers for clinics with their annual Dressage Fall Symposium. Wisconsin's WDCTA holds valuable clinics and symposia as well as the California Dressage Society, Georgia's GDCTA and Illinois' IDCTA with their annual clinics. We are proud to have Dressage Canada represented by Desi Dillingham as an Educational Partner because Canada is so much a part of the Forum. We are also proud to have the Dressage Foundation with us represented by the extraordinary Judith Noone. I wanted to invite these federations to come and join in the fun. We promote them and they help us promote the Forum, but one of the most important benefits these GMOs

receive by being Education Partners is that we give them a discount coupon code they can promote for the benefit of their members and this code offers a 15 percent discount on all tickets with additional advantageous incentives.

For more information or to buy tickets, visit [GlobalDressageForumNA.com](http://GlobalDressageForumNA.com).

*Dressage enthusiasts taking part in the 2013 Forum.*  
Photo by Sharon Packer



# Jemma Constant: Recovered and Riding Again

By Katie Navarra

The summer of 2013 promised to be the best summer any 16 year-old, horse-crazy girl could ask for.

Jemma Constant, of Hadley, Massachusetts, had a busy summer schedule which started at 6 a.m. when she exercised her first horse. Then, she worked a four-hour shift at the Hadley Farm Equine Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. After that, she made a half-hour trek north to a private barn in Miller's Falls to ride a second horse and help the stable owner with chores.

It was the summer of dreams - until one day in early July. In a few short hours, her riding plans changed. Jemma said, "I was at work and I noticed my arm was swollen."

Jemma wasn't in pain and had never experienced significant medical issues before, so she ignored what she saw and continued working. When she arrived home, her parents were concerned. They took her to the doctor where ultrasounds revealed blood clots which resulted in injections with blood thinners and surgery scheduled for the following day.

"It was traumatizing to get hit with all that information. I didn't know what to think," she said.

After surgery, she was discharged with instructions to use injectable blood thinners twice a day until her follow-up appointment one week later. Eager to put the episode behind her, she arrived at her check-up confident she was cured.

Unfortunately, the appointment didn't go as planned; she was told the blood clots had returned. "No one had seen that happen to someone a week after surgery while on blood thinners," she said. She was admitted to ICU, diagnosed with thoracic outlet syndrome and then scheduled for a second surgery to dissolve the blood clots. (Thoracic outlet syndrome is a disorder in which the blood vessels or nerves in the space between the collarbone and first rib become compressed, causing pain in the shoulders and neck and numbness in the fingers.)

Unfortunately for Jemma, medications and surgery to dissolve the clots were ineffective and she had to undergo surgery to remove her first rib in an effort to permanently alleviate compression of the vein.

Despite all of the injections and surgeries, what devastated Jemma the most was that her summer in the saddle was over. "It opened my eyes because before I couldn't go a day without being on a horse and then I had to go three months without riding at all," Jemma said.

Though Jemma's summer plans kept her feet out of the irons and firmly planted on the ground, she took the experience in stride. Although her doctors were unaware, she managed to sneak in a few rides before receiving the official medical approval to mount up in October.

Her mother grounded her jumping aspirations for the summer, but she still managed to ride on the flat. "It really set me back," she said.

Fortunately, she had a wonderful teacher, Josie, a 19 year-old Dutch Warmblood mare who had taught her the importance of fundamentals.

The mare had arrived two years earlier at the private barn in Miller's Falls where Jemma worked part-time. She was brought to the farm for retirement because she was "rotten, biting, kicking and bucking off every rider."

Undeterred, Jemma was on a mission to turn Josie around. "No one wanted her or could ride her," she reminisced. "She was crazy



Jemma and Sealy

Photos courtesy of Jemma Constant

and she would buck me off twice every ride." The two hit it off in the end and Josie became Jemma's horse. They moved her to a stable closer to Jemma's home so the mare could be ridden consistently.

After a year of regular riding, the duo became quite a team and advanced as far as Josie's ability and temperament would allow. Jemma continues to ride Josie once or twice a week, but most of Jemma's time now is focused on advancing her skills on lesson horses, and riding Gucci, a friend's horse, in hunter shows. She also rides on her high school's Interscholastic Equestrian Association Team.

Last year Jemma finished first in almost all of her IEA classes, earning enough points to bump her out of the novice division and into the intermediate division for the 2013-2014 year.

"My team is really close, we want each other to do well," she laughed, "My best friend from the team is in the same division this year and we always say (to each other) 'I want you to win'." The team also rallied around Jemma during her illness, offering support and encouragement for a rapid recovery.

It's no surprise that Jemma's future plans include horses. After all, her love for horses started when she was a young child watching her two older sisters take riding lessons. "I always looked up to them and wanted to do what they were doing," she said. At eight years old, Jemma began riding. "Once I started, I never stopped," she added.

Her passion for animals also came from her father, a veterinarian. "I remember going to farms with him when I was little and watching him perform surgeries," she said. Her father has cared for large and small animals alike, though his practice now focuses on small animals and reproductive health. "I always knew that's what I wanted to do too," she concluded.

*About the writer: Katie Navarra has worked as a freelance writer in the horse industry for 12 years. She has been a lifelong horse lover and recently purchased a dun Quarter Horse mare with hopes of re-entering the show ring in 2014.*

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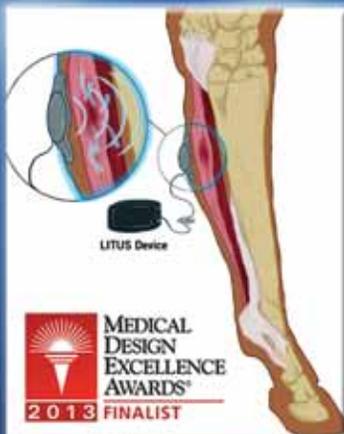


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# Lauren Giannini's AFRICAN Safari Adventure

*She needed to get away from it all. So she took off to Africa. This is the story of her remarkable journey.*

By Lauren R. Giannini

Getting away from it all took on new meaning last summer when I visited Kenya. Tamsin Corcoran, of New African Territories, created my itinerary, which proved to be the safari (journey in Kiswahili) of a lifetime: filled with wonder, learning and self-discovery Kenya was everything I hoped it would be – and more.

Too many 15-18 hour workdays, not enough activity: less horse time had not been good for my health. I was stressed. I needed to make some changes. To be honest, I almost didn't go at all. When I melted down about vaccinations and being away so long, longtime friend Alice Laimbeer defused my objections.

The Laimbeers – Rick's a businessman and joint-Master of Foxhounds at Warrenton Hunt, Alice teaches art at Highland School – introduced me to Tamsin. In June 2012, after networking eco-tourism in New York City, Tamsin spent a week in Virginia's horse country with the Laimbeers. They're all very involved in conservation. The Laimbeers must have shown Tamsin a story I had written about one of their safaris.

Tamsin decided that I had the voice, spirit and vision to write about eco-tourism and the fascinating world behind the luxury tented camps and lodges, gourmet meals (cooked without electricity as we know it) in the beautiful and exotic ambience of Kenya's bush. Eco-tourism is strengthening the mutually beneficial relationship between the local people and the folks who bring in the tourists who, in turn, generate vital income, thereby boosting the economy. Eco-tourism places value on the lives of the wildlife: you don't allow your greatest assets to be poached.

People visit Africa to see elephant, rhino, cape buffalo, lion, and leopard – the "Big Five" –

*Continued on page 134*



*At Sabuk, Lauren rode a camel through the bush with Samburu game guides Robert and Gus. All photos by Lauren R. Giannini*



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considered the most dangerous animals, because of how they react when cornered. Although legislation ended big game hunting in Kenya, elephant and rhino remain at risk. Demand for ivory tusks and rhino horns has created an intensely profitable black market, and poaching is an ongoing problem. Eco-tourism depends on protecting the wildlife, because without the lure of seeing the “Big Five” in their natural habitats, most people would go somewhere else.

Here are several eye-opening lessons garnered during my glorious stay in Kenya. We think we live green and do good things for the environment, but we can't compare to the people of rural Kenya. Outside of the cities, there's no electricity. Granted, you're on the equator and days are 12 hours long, but when the sun goes down, that's it – lights out, but ahhh, the stars...

Some places still use fossil fuel generators, but petrol stations out in the bush are few and far between. Solar panels, however, are relatively common. There is a lesson here: I never missed electricity. Solar power is clean, sustainable and environmentally friendly, and technology has improved battery storage.

Kipalo, a new camp overlooking the Mbulia Conservancy and Wilderness Trust next to Tsavo West, used bucket showers. So did Speke's Camp in the Masai Mara. Bucket showers are great. You let the staff know what time you'd like to take your shower, and all you have to do is turn it on – perfect hot water. On your bedside table and at your sink in the ensuite bathroom, a feature at every lodge where I stayed, there will be bottled water to slake your thirst and for brushing teeth, etc.

Although I have lived in the country for most of my life and try not to waste well water, I became very aware of how precious drinking water is in Kenya. If you ask for water during a meal, be sure to drink all of it. Turn off lights if you aren't using them. At



*Close finish at the Ngong Racecourse: enthusiasts take their racing seriously even though there are only about 25 race meetings per year.*

the lodges and camps, they recycle – plastic bottles, glass, paper – and take everything back to Nairobi on re-stocking trips.

Tamsin encourages visitors to Pack For A Purpose. This non-profit organization based in Raleigh, North Carolina has made a huge difference in children's lives around the world. It provides participating lodges and lists of items that we take for granted. Paper, pencils, pens, rulers, dictionaries, alphabet and math flashcards, jump ropes, soccer balls and inflation devices are priceless treasures. Next time I will pack smarter and volunteer to teach in the local schools.

Kenya's bush was majestic with breathtaking vistas, teeming with wildlife. Driving along a red dust road winding through acacia trees, suddenly you see herds of dik-dik (the size of rabbits), impala and zebra. Bird watchers go crazy. One evening, my guide braked and I looked out my window into the eyes of a bull elephant about 10 feet away (gulp). Cheetah, wildebeests, giraffes – oh, happy day when my eyes learned to spot giraffes,

*Continued on page 136*





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so well camouflaged! Lots of elevations, hills, “kopje” (stone outcroppings) – on a clear day you can see, well, almost forever.

In addition to the wildlife and spectacular scenery, I enjoyed horsey landscapes and got to meet some of Kenya’s sturdy and hardy Thoroughbreds, Thoroughbred-crosses and ponies. However, even in the “suburbs,” livestock must be protected from big cat predation. At night they are kept in stables or bomas (fenced stockades). Human guards might be posted, and special motion lights have proven effective in the ongoing conflict between big cats and domestic livestock, the measure of local people’s wealth.

Tamsin arranged for me to attend the Thoroughbred sales on Saturday and Sunday’s racing at Ngong Racecourse, in Karen, southwest of Nairobi. I enjoyed sharing in the Kenyans’ enthusiasm and passion for horses. She introduced me to Mary Binks, Thoroughbred owner-breeder, who in 1972 moved to Nairobi from New Jersey. In 1996 Mary became the first female member of the Jockey Club of Kenya. A lifelong equestrian, she is active in racing and also chairs FEI Region IX (seven African countries). Their calendar includes clinics and competitions in dressage, show jumping and eventing.

While in the suburb of Karen I spent time with Tamsin and Chris Brennan’s teenaged daughter Kyela, an avid equestrian who takes weekly lessons, attends Pony Club in Nairobi and loves going for trail rides and competing cross-country. Kyela is working with Captain, her young horse, and she still has her wonderful first pony (sadly outgrown), Molo’s Moon. It was great fun talking horses with Kyela.

After racing at Ngong, I flew to Loisaba where I was met by Robert and Gus, Samburu warrior game guides from Sabuk Lodge: super nice, extremely knowledgeable about fauna and flora. For 20 years Sabuk has bred and trained camels for riding treks. I loved it: different, but similar. The lodge overlooks the Ewaso Nyeri, the river lulled me to sleep at night. The month after my visit, co-owner Verity Williams, famous for being one of the first female safari guides, added horse treks to Sabuk’s activities. My plan, when I return: ride a horse and fly camp overnight in the bush. I wept when I left.

Driving to Kipalo with Tamsin was extremely exciting, exotic and fun. I met Mutiso and his wife Dorcas. Mutiso heads and trains the anti-poaching patrols. They risk their lives to protect the elephants. Unfortunately, I was still in workaholic mode: live and learn. Next time I will explore on foot with game guides in the Mbulia Conservancy, bordering Tsavo West, one of Kenya’s National Parks.



*Southwest of Nairobi, the “suburban” community known as Karen: ponies and horses graze in fields behind palisade fences and little girls ride along the lanes.*

I spent five days by myself with Maasai warriors at Speke’s Camp in the Maasai Mara and at Jan’s Camp in the Loitas. The Maasai were great. Lekopien, field manager and chief game guide, was outstanding company. His eyes never missed anything. He even spotted a leopard feasting on impala in a tree. We watched a pride of lions hunting at sunset on my last night in the Mara. It was amazing. From the Mara, Lekopien and I drove cross-country to Jan’s Camp in the Loitas, a hiker’s paradise among gorgeous hills.

My last stop was Delta Dunes, a lovely lodge accessible only by boat, located where the Tana River meets the Indian Ocean. Miles of beach, no other people besides guests and staff, wildlife and views that lift your spirit: as a getaway, it was unique, totally off the beaten track and magical.

My safari was great fun and empowering. Kenya might be wild, but I felt totally safe traveling mostly alone. Everywhere people were friendly, polite and helpful. I wept each time at each kwaheri, rafiki (farewell, friend). Some words of wisdom and advice: You will never eat better food. Don’t use flash to photograph the wildlife. Don’t take work with you. Relax. Enjoy. Get involved in the community: converse, garden, teach what you know. Share what you can with the local people. Pack with a purpose. Be grateful for your blessings. Protect the wildlife. Start planning your return.

*About the writer: Sidelines’ Lauren R. Giannini is an award-winning “wordsmith” specializing in stories and photos about the equestrian world. Crazy about horses her entire life, she lives in the horse and hunt country of Virginia. Lauren’s motto is “write, ride - not necessarily in that order!”*

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World Equestrian Games

Polo at the Deauville International Polo Club.  
All photos by R&B Presse/P.Renaudon

# Get Ready For Polo In Normandy

POLO DE DEAUVILLE  
Depuis 1907



By Darlene Ricker

**W**ill polo become an Olympic sport again? That's been a big question in polo circles since 1936, the last year the sport was included as an Olympic discipline.

If the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy is any indication, the signs are promising. For the first time in the Games history, polo will be showcased as a demonstration event. With more than half a million spectators expected during the Games, this may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to put polo back on the Olympic map.

The venue will be Deauville, an epicenter of polo in northern France, one of the world's top polo-playing nations. France will play a mixed-nations team in an 18-goal exhibition game September 6 at the Deauville International Polo Club. Organizers say the goal of the demonstration is to show people how they can learn to play polo in a club setting and in particular, in France.

"We are very excited that polo will be in the Games. It will be very good for the sport and for Deauville," said Philippe Bouchara, Deauville IPC president, who serves as technical director of the French Polo Federation (FFP). And what if this could herald the reinstatement of polo on the Olympic slate? "Of course, that would be wonderful!"

It certainly doesn't hurt the cause that Fabien Grobon, CEO of the 2014 Games, is an avid polo player. When you speak with him, his enthusiasm for the sport is contagious. "An opportunity was missed to do a polo demonstration at the London Olympics," he said. "If there is one country where you can do that, it's England. Polo is very much a part of its DNA."

The sport is also popular in the United States, where the most recent edition of Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games was held in 2010. Although few people were aware, an exhibition polo match took place there in Lexington, Kentucky. "Apparently the U.S. played Canada in a field somewhere at the Kentucky Horse Park,

Continued on page 140

Players celebrate on the podium at the Chantilly Polo Club.

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but none of us knew where or when,” said Fabien, who learned of the game afterward. “It’s not so difficult to do a polo demonstration; you just need to have an international meeting and then organize it. It’s really about communication – you have to get people there.”

That should be easy in Deauville, an upscale tourist area, where the polo field is a 10-minute walk to the beach. Choosing Deauville for the Games demonstration was an easy decision, according to Fabien. “The history of Deauville is built around polo. It’s one of the most prestigious places in the world to play polo. We want to show the world the culture of polo and portray the sport as more democratic,” he said.

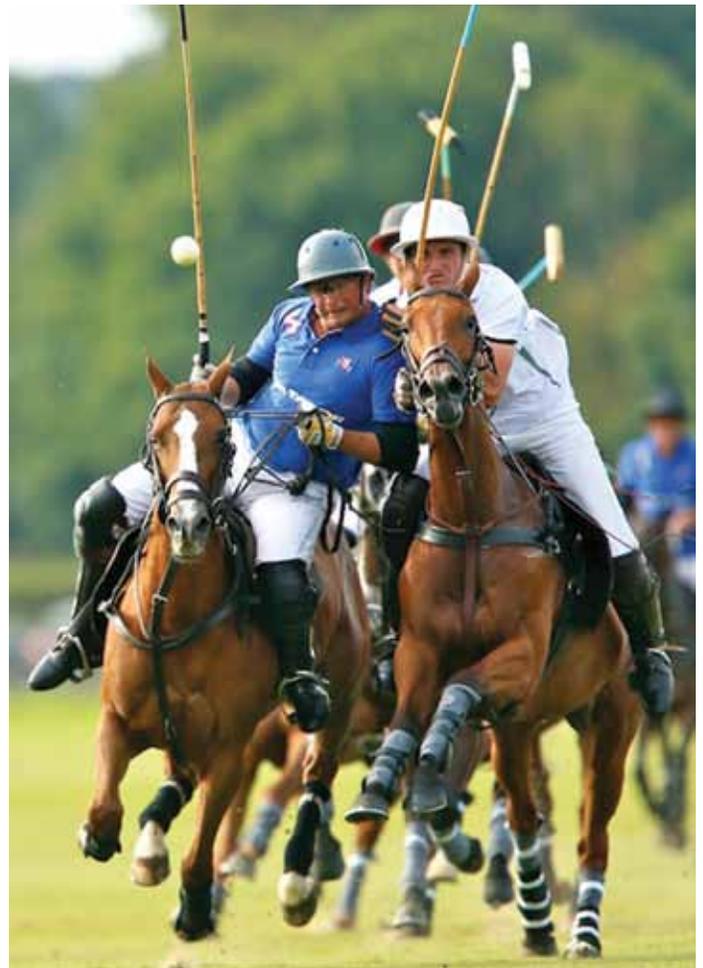
Some renowned polo clubs in the vicinity of the Games, among them Deauville and the Chantilly Polo Club, are already helping with that effort. Officials from both clubs are involved in planning the Games exhibition. Deauville has also come up with a number of innovations that will be attractive to tourists, including snacks at affordable prices and introductory polo workshops for children will take place during matches. Philippe said it will make for an atmosphere that is “convivial and fun.”

Benoit Perrier, event manager at Chantilly, also encourages Games attendees to try their hand at polo, adding that the club’s rental program is even open to those who have never sat on a polo pony. “The spirit and vision of our club is to be a place for everybody to play polo,” he said. “We are open to anyone. We like to practice and play and share the passion of the sport with people from all over the world. We encourage everyone to come take a lesson or play a practice match with us.”

Chantilly has an extensive lesson program and a large string of rental horses for the public. Some weekends, said Benoit, there are as many as 160 rentals. With nine meticulously groomed polo fields, he added, “Chantilly is like a little Argentina in France. People from all over the world take lessons here,” he said. Chantilly hosted the 2004 FIP (International Polo Federation) World Championship, which was a 20-goal match. Every year it hosts the French Open (championship), which draws a crowd of 25,000.

The sport’s popularity continues to grow, said FFP president J.L. Chartier. “As a little blueprint of polo in France, the French championship has increased to 63 teams. That is seven more teams than we had in 2001. And the numbers go up every year,” he said.

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*The action heats up at the Chantilly Polo Club.*

International Airport, the convenience of Chantilly is a plus. Those who arrive for the Games by a different route than Paris can make a day or weekend trip of it, as Chantilly is an easy two-and-a-half hour drive from Deauville.

Summer is definitely the time to see some of the best international polo in France. If you arrive there shortly before the Games, the entire month of August features some legendary tournaments.

The 2014 season at Deauville IPC will begin Sunday, August 3 with an exhibition match by the French team. Then it continues with the two 16-goal tournaments, the Silver Cup from August 4 to 17 and the Gold Cup from August 18 to 31. The finals, which are always the most exciting, take place on the last day of each tournament. In Chantilly, the 2014 French Open starts September 5 (a day before the polo demonstration at the Games) and continues through September 21.

For more information about the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy (including the polo demonstration, tickets and lodging) visit [www.normandy2014.com](http://www.normandy2014.com)

To learn more about polo in France: [www.francepolo.com](http://www.francepolo.com). For information on the Deauville International Polo Club, visit [www.deauvillepoloclub.com](http://www.deauvillepoloclub.com) and for information about the Chantilly Polo Club visit [www.poloclubchantilly.com](http://www.poloclubchantilly.com)



*Trophies shine in Chantilly.*

*About the writer: Darlene Ricker is CEO and Editorial Director of Equestrian Authors, LLC, which produces books and articles on equestrian sports ([equestrianauthors.com](http://equestrianauthors.com)). She was Executive Editor for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2010 and for many years covered polo as a staff writer at the Los Angeles Times and the Boston Globe.*



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**Palm Beach Point:** Hacking distance through Grand Prix Village. 4BR, 4BA plantation style masterpiece with 1BR pool home and top of the line equestrian stable. Outdoor living area has a summer kitchen, fire pit, infinity pool and spa. The 5 acre farm includes a 12 stall barn with large grooms quarters and an oversized all-weather ring. Offered at **\$6,499,000**

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# An Unlikely Artist



A Barry Koster photograph: "Cross-country in daybreaks morning mist."

By Katie Navarra

Barry Koster's career as an artist could have been over before it even began. An elementary school teacher nearly failed him because he had "poor art skills." Not willing to accept this fate for her son, Barry's mother marched into a store and purchased a pad of paper and pastels – determined to improve Barry's skills.

"She [regularly] dropped me off at the museum and I would stay for hours and draw pictures of statues," he said.

Little did that elementary school teacher know, her criticism would ignite a lifelong passion and a professional career for her young student.

Throughout his youth, Barry developed his skills as an artist, spending much of his time drawing and painting. On his 10th birthday, his cousin gave him a camera, inspiring a passion for photography. "It floored me because, until then, I had never been treated like an adult and this made me feel like an adult," he said.

Every surface had potential as a canvas. He once removed the glass door from his mother's shower, placed a perfume bottle on it and photographed the display. He later used the piece during an interview with Avon cosmetics and was hired on the spot.

## The Evolution of Photography

As an adult, Barry worked as a commercial photographer

and shot portraits for global companies including JCPenny, Montgomery Ward, J. Walter Thompson Ad Agency and several others.

Being a commercial photographer was a challenging, stressful job. Before the digital age, photographs were shot in large format film, demanding precision and massive equipment. Each size photograph required a specialized camera designed to shoot photos of the selected size. "It took two people to move the cameras and you needed a tripod to hold it up," he reminisced. "Each photograph was carefully calculated and if the image did not come out well, the shot had to be taken again."

He continued, "That is where I really developed my eye. I learned to be a professional photographer on the job doing work for the biggest companies in the world."

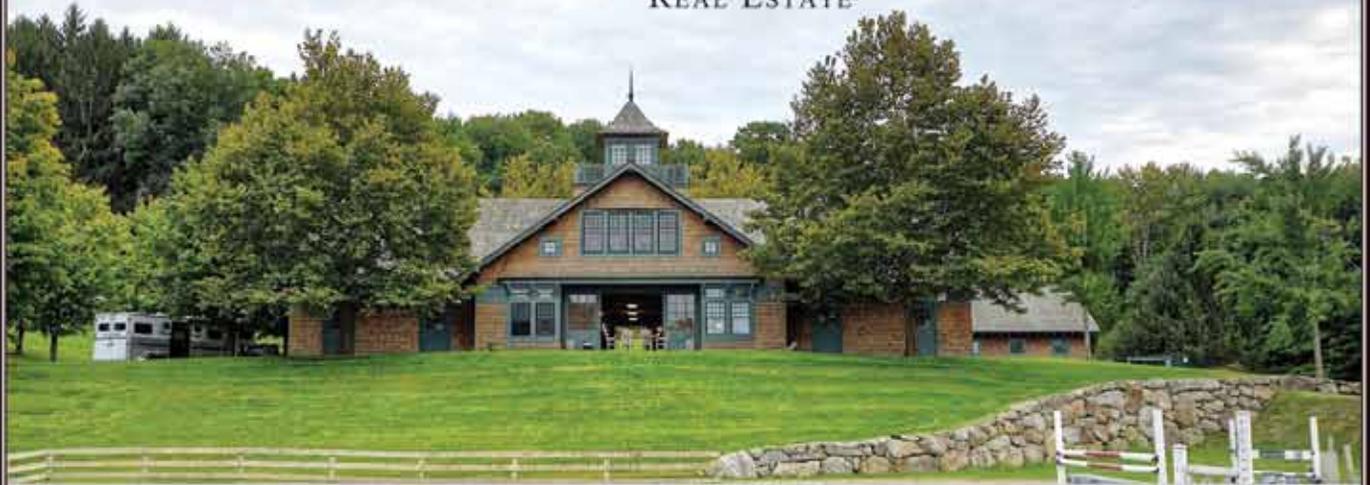
As photography evolved and the 35mm camera was released, Barry remembers thinking, "How am I going to take 36 pictures? A few decades later, the digital age emerged allowing photographers to take thousands of photos in one day."

"Going from that (large format film) to digital and having the ability to correct the image, [photography] is a piece of cake," he said. "If something was wrong with the photo back then, I had to reshoot it. Now in Photoshop, I can click, click and it's fixed."

*Continued on page 144*



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## A Starving Artist

Horses became the focal point of Barry's work when he and his wife, Laura, moved into their current home, a seven-acre farm in Aiken, South Carolina. They needed a revenue source to support Laura's passion for rescue animals.

"We call my wife, Laura, rescue ranger," he said. "If there is a dog [or horse] in trouble or in danger of being put down, we take it in. She regularly volunteers at and supports Danny & Ron's Rescue and the Equine Rescue of Aiken."

With 11 rescue dogs and a barn full of horses, "the feed bill was getting ridiculous." To offset the expense of rescuing the animals, they started a small business out of the house.

Barry began drawing and painting horses and scenes depicting the equestrian life and selling the artwork on eBay. "I take pictures or images of foxhunting I like, I do a painting and put them on eBay," he said. "I've sold thousands of dollars of work on eBay to people all over the world."

The duo also capitalized on the growing popularity of digital photography. Expecting that virtually everyone would become a self-proclaimed photographer and would be searching for ways to create high quality reproductions of their images to display in their



*Acrylic on stretched canvas – Barry's wonderful Dalmatians kissing.*



*Photo montage - Two Aiken Icons, Oak Alley South Boundary Street and Jack Wetzel's four-in-hand.*

homes, Barry and Laura opened a photo canvas business.

"There are more iPhone cameras than all other cameras combined, or some crazy statistic like that," he said. "If we offered the service to print people's pictures, I thought it would be a great business for the future."

What neither of them expected was that clients would rather hire Barry to take the photo and produce it on canvas rather than use a photo they had taken themselves. "The canvas is a great supplement, but it actually gained me more photography work," he said.

The canvas business catapulted Barry's career of shooting equine events from hunters and jumpers, foxhunts to three-day events, carriage driving competitions and private photo shoots.

His talents as an artist are well appreciated in Aiken, a community known for its equestrians and dog lovers.

Word of Barry's talents spread quickly through the region and he has been hired for private commission paintings from several clients. His work is displayed at local shops and is available at Equine Divine and Aiken Dry Goods.

Laura is also getting involved with the photography business. As a former jumper, who trained with Harry de Leyer and Pablo Gamboa, she has a natural instinct for timing each shot perfectly.

"She has great timing and knows how a horse is supposed to look and she is learning the technical side of the camera," he said.

## Every artist has a critic

But while Barry may have a massive fan base, he is not without doubters. Oddly enough, one of Barry's critics is his own son.

One day Barry and his son were having a conversation about his artwork. "We were discussing how good or not so good of an artist I am," he laughed. "I told him, I bet I can do a picture of a horse's ass and sell it."

Excited by the challenge, he went out and shot a photo of an Appaloosa's rump. Then, he went home and did a painting from the photo. He offered it for sale on eBay. "It sold instantly!" he said.

The rapid sale settled the debate. "I see beauty in everything," he said. "Being able to capture it and impact someone is so satisfying."

For more information or to see additional samples of Barry's work, visit his website [www.barrykosterphotography.com](http://www.barrykosterphotography.com) or call his studio at (803) 955-7170.



*Acrylic on stretched canvas - Canadian hounds hunting with the Whiskey Road Foxhounds.*



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# Kristy Miller – Reward Follows Risk



*Kristy teaching Mackenzie Cowles at Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center.*  
Photo Bret St. Clair

By Sophie St. Clair

I first met Kristy Miller last summer when attending a show at the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center, in Huntington Beach, California, where Kristy's barn, Black Star Equestrian, operates. Black Star Equestrian sponsored the classic I won. Kristy, the sponsor for the classic, escorted me to the center of the ring for the prize ceremony. Her warmth and friendliness put me at ease. Right off the bat I knew I'd like to get to know her.

Later that summer, I rode in another classic sponsored by Black Star Equestrian and won that one too. Kristy teased me saying, "Sophie, you are getting used to stealing my money!" Since then, I've bumped into Kristy a few times at the shows, so I decided to ask if she'd like to be featured in my column.

Black Star Equestrian is a full service training and sales business. In addition to owning and managing her barn, Kristy is also a frequent rider in the grand prix on a new horse named Laredo. Prior to meeting her in person I'd seen Kristy on the circuit and had formed an impression of a hard working professional. But it was hearing about the enterprising start to her Black Star Equestrian that permanently solidified that impression.

## **How and where did you start in the sport?**

At the age of four, I had begged my mother and father almost daily as we passed the Lazy Creek Saddle Club in Laguna Beach, California. After Girl Scouts, ballet and other activities couldn't hold my attention, my parents finally gave in assuming a short attention span as well. After 38 years, I think it's safe to say, they made the correct choice.

## **Most influential trainer and why?**

I had the amazing opportunity to ride with the late Mark Mullen and Victor Hugo-Vidal as a junior rider. I had a solid base thanks to Edee Weigel, so the transition to equitation and jumpers came easy. I had the honor of being a working student for the trainers and learned from the ground up what it took to be a horseman. I try to attend as many clinics as possible. In 2013, I rode with George Morris and Markus Beerbaum.

## **When did you become a professional?**

I turned professional in 2004. My older grand prix horse was ready to step down. Being a single mom of a 14-year-old son, at the time, I didn't have the resources to acquire another one. I had contacted Julie Golden to assist her with some young horses, by the advice of my then trainer Mike Nielsen. I showed up for a lesson and she offered me a job. I was working for Vans (Action Sports Shoe Company) corporate office assisting in athlete contracts, event planning and anything else that came my way



*Kristy on the Derby walk at Del Mar International.*  
Photo Cheval Photos/Selena Frederick

and couldn't make the full-time commitment with a teenage son. I worked for Julie part-time for three years, while also continuing at Vans. It was at that time that the president of Vans helped push me out on my own. Mr. Murray reminded me how important it is to follow one's dreams and talents. Taking risks follows with reward. As scary as it was to take that leap, I've never regretted the initial jump – which allowed me to go part-time. I was able to do Vans and Black Star Equestrian on a flexible schedule. As clients came, I kept moving more to the horses and finally went full-time within three months. With the help and support of many great friends and family, Black Star Equestrian was founded in 2007.

## **What do you love about being a professional rider?**

What I love most about being a professional trainer and rider is the feeling of pride I receive when a horse or student and I click. That "ahhh" moment. My motto is "Teaching Responsibility and Reward," which I believe in for all riders, myself included, in addition to my amazing staff.

## **What experience in your development as a rider offered you the most growth?**

In 2013, at the Flintridge West Palms Event, I had the most amazing weekend. It wasn't the ribbons or the horses ... it was the other trainers. I had received many compliments about my training, my business and my riding. By taking the time and putting

in the effort to continuously learn, I had the respect and admiration of my peers. It seems silly, but it was a moment I'll never forget. Right next to Mark and Victor allowing me the experience of the Maclay Finals in 1988 on a quirky OTTB.

**How do you deal with nerves or anxiety? Do you have a pre-show warm-up routine?**

Prior to a big class, if we're able to walk the course, I take a snapshot on my iPhone. I walk it from start to finish and then stand in the middle ... absorbing. I think of each step, each aid I will need and what the expected response is. I am known for riding the more difficult horses so often I'm thinking of what we need to do together to have the most successful trip. I often get input from other trainers, coming up with a game plan. Depending on where I go in the lineup, I'll either get on and offer a relaxed warm-up or, if I'm lucky enough to watch a few, will see if I still agree with my original plan. I try to stay relaxed and organized.

**What advice do you have for young riders wanting to make this their profession?**

Time and experience. I believe we have too many young trainers that hang their sign out the day they turn 18. Even the most accomplished riders don't always have the business skills or maturity to be a full service facility. Ride as much as you can, groom as much as you can, work as much as you can. Watch and learn. Take the positive and the negative and remember how you were treated as a younger rider, what did you like and dislike? Be the best horseman you can be.

When I approached Kristy about this interview we chatted for a moment and she gave me some great perspective on the ups and downs of the sport. I so appreciated her taking the time to share with me some of her hard-earned wisdom. She was so encouraging and truly present in the conversation with me. I saw for a moment what I imagine she must be like with her students. Kristy Miller makes a great impression inside and outside the ring.



*Kristy on Laredo at the Del Mar International Horse Show.  
Maria Morgan - Captured Moment Photography*

*About the writer: Sophie St. Clair is a high school freshman from Southern California. She has an interest in the psychology of high performance athletes. She is also a Junior Ambassador for Children's Hospital Los Angeles where she works to raise funds and awareness for the hospital. Sophie is working toward becoming a professional show jumper but is taking it "one jump at a time."*

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# Passion meets partnership



*Jordan enjoying a moment with Double Domino.  
Photo by Salty Dog Productions*

By Dani Moritz

**W**here passion meets partnership. These few simple words guide dressage rider and trainer Jordan LaPlaca in everything he does – whether in the saddle or on the ground.

Based out of Highland Farm in Pomfret, Vermont, Jordan operates a horse business unlike most others. Although fully capable of coaching riders to the top, Jordan focuses on something much simpler – developing confidence in horses and riders. With a strong foundation, Jordan feels he can give his riders and horses alike the building blocks they need to excel in the sport.

“Whether it’s cross-country or dressage, my gift is bestowing

confidence in a rider, no matter what their discipline is,” he said. “[I enjoy] the foundational work, the simplicity of the foundational work, to develop confidence in the horse and rider so they become a partnership rather than machines.”

Jordan’s philosophy is a product of his upbringing. He didn’t start with FEI ponies or Olympic trainers. He started small, getting his first ornery mare at 16 and having to make his own way.

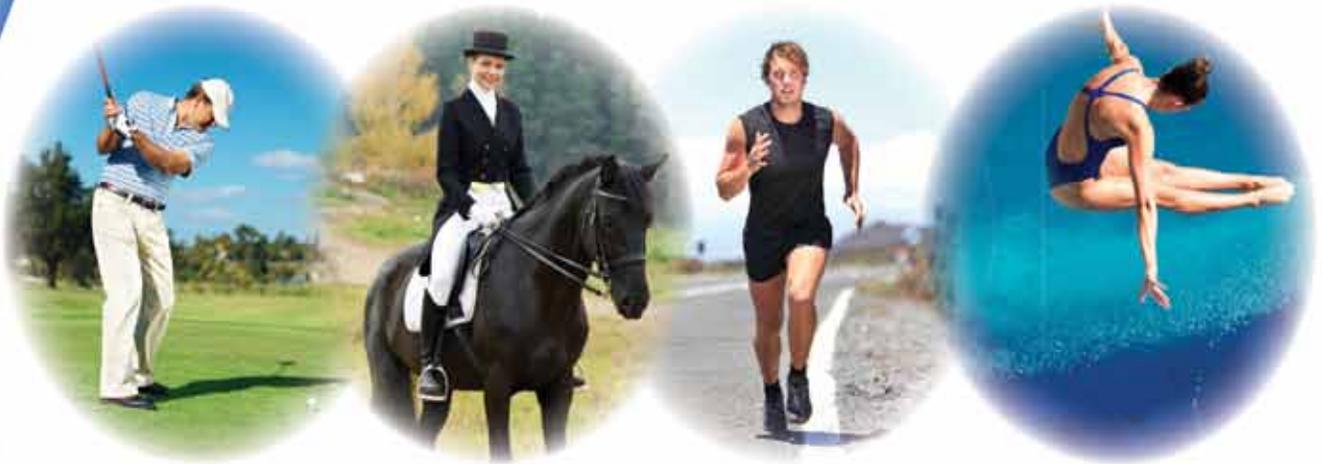
“We [my family] didn’t have a lot of money,” he explained. “My parents allowed me to do the horse stuff, but I had to make it happen. They bought my first horse – she was a \$600 horse – and I took her as my mount and evented her and did open shows and had a lot of fun. She was a rank animal, but I learned a lot of confidence from her. She made me ride. I couldn’t just sit on her.”

*Continued on page 150*

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*Jordan competing at the Mystic Valley Hunt Club Prix St. George with Ghambade.*

Photo by Brenda Cataldo

Jordan jokes that still today he isn't financially made for the sport – but it's what he is destined to do. "Because it wasn't handed to me, it gave me a greater appreciation for the sport. It is a very humbling journey because I so often think I'm not financially made for this, but it's working itself out. It has taught me humility, respect and a deeper appreciation for horses."

He has also learned a lot about horsemanship from his first formal instructor, Carrie Maynard. "She helped me understand horses for what they were," he explained. "Not just the machine aspect of them or what they can do for us, but how they function and how they think. She taught me a lot about the horsemanship and horse management and care and horse psychology."

Jordan has carried this knowledge with him every step of the way. He even devoted himself to a yearlong apprenticeship at the Miracle Mountain Ranch in Spring Creek, Pennsylvania, a program designed to teach character and leadership skills. "The experience broadened my teaching experience and gave me more appreciation for the people behind the horses rather than just the horses themselves," he said.

While there, he also continued to devoted himself to learning everything he could about horses and developing a partnership with them – regardless of discipline. "I immersed myself into all different disciplines ... I wanted to educate myself in everything



*Jordan - always working on developing partnerships.*

Photo by Salty Dog Productions

I could so I could understand people and horses. I've done everything from hunters and jumpers to eventing, dressage and reining. I drive and even did saddle seat for a bit to see what it was about."

Shortly after, he started his current business, Maverick Hill Dressage, where he could utilize his skills in connecting with people and horses in his unique way.

He decided to focus on dressage after seeing the results of how people's confidence and overall riding improved once they became more confident on the flat. Something about the harmony and the connection between horse and rider has always appealed to him.

"It's the whole partnership. It's getting horses so in tune to you that you become one. It's when the movements are no longer tricks and they become a ballet or a dance. That's kind of where and why I focus in what I do. I just thrive off it. People get adrenaline rushes going cross-country and I get it going in circles. I don't understand why," he laughed.

Jordan also attributes his philosophy to the work he has done with Thoroughbreds. "My philosophy as a trainer has really been molded by the experience Thoroughbreds have given me because I've got this wicked talented animal with a wicked fragile

*Continued on page 152*





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brain. How do I train the brain to accept or access the talent? You have to give them time.”

Jokingly, Jordan explains that he was initially attracted to them [Thoroughbreds] because they were free. In all seriousness, however, he does really enjoy working with them and developing them into impressive athletes. He also enjoys breaking tradition. With a laugh, he explains, “There’s more than one way to achieve your goals and it doesn’t have to be on the \$80,000 horse.”

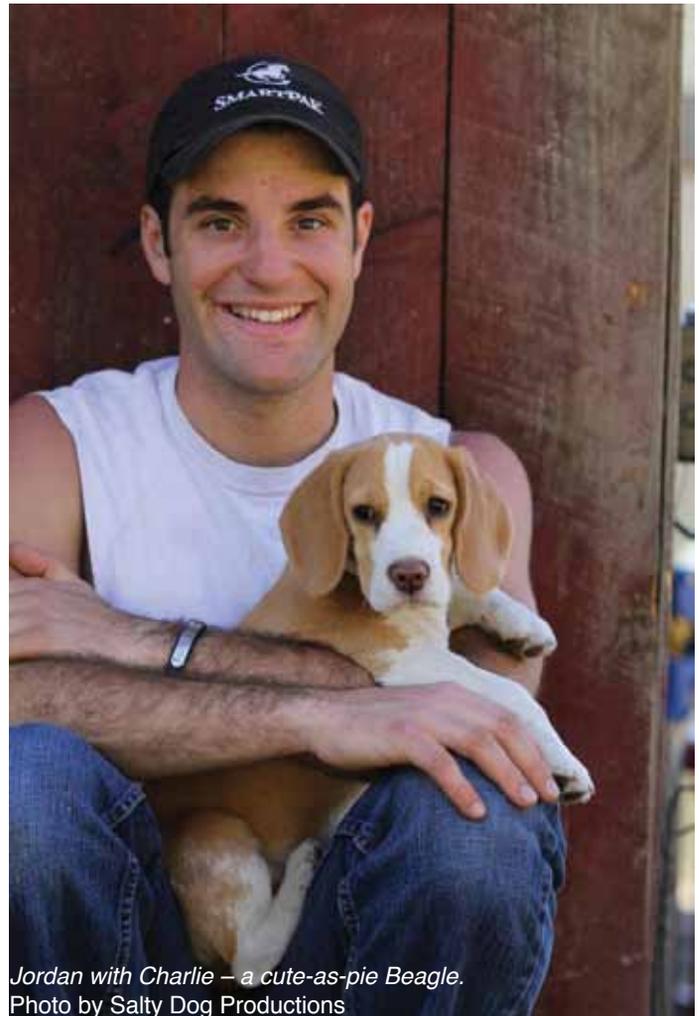
(If you can’t tell already – Jordan enjoys being a bit of a rebel.)

Actually one of his developing horses in an off-the-track Thoroughbred. Double Domino, who was a successful racehorse, is turning out to be quite the dressage mount. Jordan looks forward to taking him through the FEI levels when he’s of age and training.

But for the moment, he simply looks forward to producing happy horses and making happy riders and improving himself. “I’m never satisfied,” he explained. “I’m constantly continuing my education. I’m always traveling and riding with people and attending new educational things that are pertinent to my training. I don’t stay stagnant and think I’m the bees knees. I go and work with some of the world’s top people. I’m really fortunate to be able to work with Michael Poulin and Michael Klimke and really finding good help.”

For more information about Jordan visit <http://www.maverickhill-dressage.com>.

*Author’s note: Jordan would like to extend a thank you to his sponsors KL Select and Salty Dog Productions for their support – along with everyone else who has helped him on his journey.*



Jordan with Charlie – a cute-as-pie Beagle.  
Photo by Salty Dog Productions

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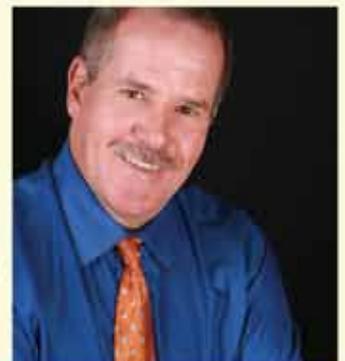
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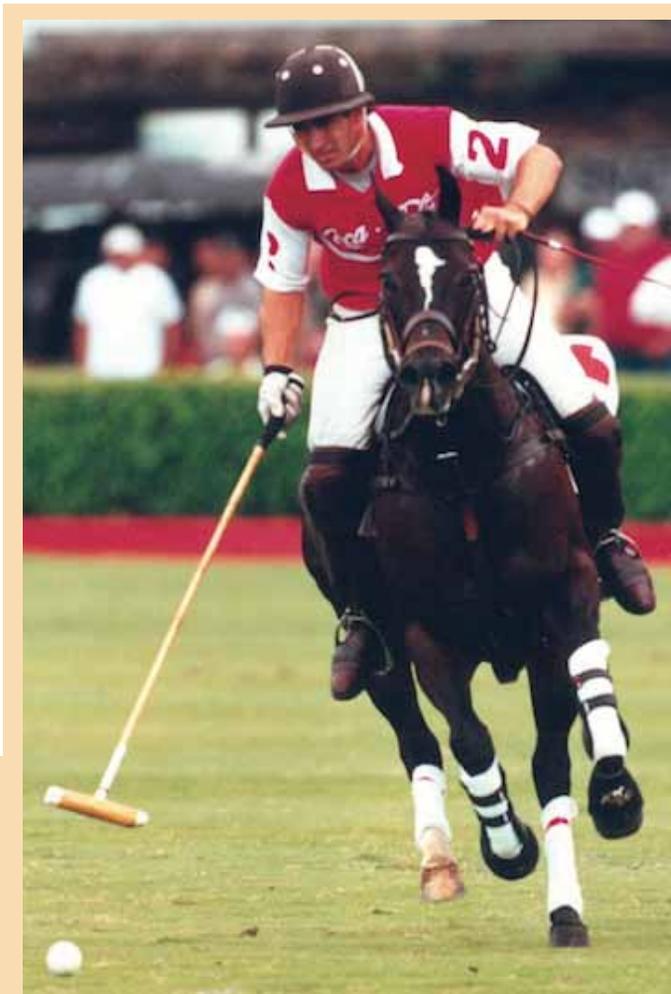


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**FEM Pololympics II** was held in Buenos Aires on December 8th, 2013. International women polo players living in Buenos Aires area, or visiting for the Palermo Open Finals, from various countries teamed up according to their different nationalities. Nations competed against one another for the honor of winning the first **Nelson Mandela Polo 4 Peace Cup**, named in tribute to the visionary champion of Peace Nelson Mandela who made us all winners, may he rest in peace. The U.S. team, left to right, **KC Beal Krueger (c), Courtney Asdourian, Sheryl Sick and Paige Beard**



A significant milestone in polo history will be celebrated February 14th as it will mark the 25th Anniversary of the **Museum of Polo and Hall of Fame Induction Dinner and Awards Gala**. Being inducted this year will be former 10 goal star **Adam Snow, Peter Perkins** - an icon of the 40s and 50s - **Paul T. von Gontard** and **Willie Tevis** for outstanding lifetime contributions to the sport. Horses to Remember will be awarded to **Mike Azzaro's Beetlejuice** and **C. V. "Sonny" Whitney's Fuss Budget**. If you would like to join in the celebration, you may purchase seats for the dinner up to a week in advance. Reservations are \$200.00 each (tax deductible portion \$100.00). The 25th Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction will take place at the Museum of Polo and is the most important fundraising event for the Museum each year, so we hope you will help support your Museum – a 501 (c) 3, not-for-profit organization. Contact Brenda Lynn at the Museum of Polo, (561) 969-3210 or (561) 969-7015, e-mail: [polomuseum@att.net](mailto:polomuseum@att.net) for further details, information, or to make your reservations. Pictured: Living Hall of Fame Inductee Adam Snow on Hale Bopp.

Photo by Shelley Heatley

More Asides on pages 184 and 188

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Our sympathies go out to the **Orthwein** polo family on the passing of their mother, **Ann T. "Nancy" Metcalfe**, age 92, who died peacefully at her residence in St. Louis, Missouri on December 4, 2013. She is survived by four sons and three daughter-in-laws, **Adolphus Busch Orthwein, Jr. (Judy)** of Atlanta, Georgia, **Stephen August Orthwein (Ginny)** of Wellington, Florida, **Peter Busch Orthwein (Beverly)** of Greenwich, Connecticut and **David Thornley Orthwein** of Eolia, Missouri, and eleven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Photo: Tom Hutton

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# USC Aiken's Go To Guy

By Marissa Collins

Brendan Quinn, from Evans, Georgia, is used to being the only guy at the barn and that scenario hasn't changed as he has entered college. A freshman business management major at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA), Brendan is the only male rider on the USCA eventing team.

"It's not really that much different from how it's been my whole eventing career. I've always been the only guy or there may have been one or two others, so I'm used to it. I know when I was younger I felt kind of alienated, but at the same time that may have been more of my fault because I was a lot more shy," Brendan said.

As a member of the USCA eventing team, Brendan has jumped

in with great enthusiasm and taken on responsibilities as the community service coordinator for the equestrian club as well as the eventing team and the coordinator of the eventing team's competitions.

Brendan competes his 15-year-old Thoroughbred, The Macallan - known as Mac - at the training and preliminary level of eventing. He keeps Mac at Fairwinds Farm and trains with Lynn Coates-Holmes.

He may be the only guy on the team, but he's become the "go to guy" as he is always willing to pitch in and get the work done.

*About the writer: Marissa Collins is originally from Cape Cod, Massachusetts but moved to Aiken, South Carolina to attend college at the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA). While in Aiken she has competed her horse up through training level in eventing. She is the vice president of the Eventing Team at USCA and works in admissions helping prospective equestrian students.*



*Brendan and Mac – members of the USC Aiken Eventing Team.*



*Brendan and Mac tackling cross-country – Brendan's favorite phase of eventing.*

Photos courtesy of the Quinn family.

**What do you consider your biggest riding accomplishment to date?**

I received an eventing gold medal at the novice level/top 10 junior horse and rider pair in United States at novice in 2010.

**Biggest riding goal?**

To compete at the international level for the United States.

**Favorite phase in eventing?**

Cross-country.

**Why did you choose USC Aiken?**

The Aiken horse community and the opportunity to compete.

**What is your favorite thing about eventing?**

The bond and trust it requires between horse and rider.

**What do you hope to get from being on the eventing team?**

Experiencing what it feels like to compete in a team competition and to be part of something that is helping to grow our sport.

**Where do you see the team in the future?**

I feel that if we get more people on the team, and more people who will come out and do the dirty work, this team can go far, becoming one of the more competitive teams in the country because of the caliber of riding and training in the area.

**What is the hardest part about riding in college?**

Finding the time to study, ride, compete, do homework and everything else that goes along with horses and college. People always say that the biggest thing about college is time management. I feel like we take time management to a whole new level, though.



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INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB  
PALM BEACH

# Florida Fortnight

January 19<sup>th</sup> - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014



## CANADIAN FORTNIGHT TO PROVIDE ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE TO DRESSAGE ATHLETES AND ENTHUSIASTS

**T**his event, which coincides with the Adequan Global Dressage Festival (AGD) winter competition series, will provide recognition, development, and support to dressage athletes, while also giving dressage enthusiasts, owners, officials, and sponsors the chance to benefit from networking and education-related opportunities such as:

- Equine and human nutrition
- FEI veterinary care
- FEI judging
- Media and self-marketing
- Sport psychology

Lecture sessions are open to the public for a nominal fee. The schedule also includes exciting opportunities like headset commentary by expert riders, trainers and judges during live CDI-level competition.

## MEET SOME OF THE FLORIDA FORTNIGHT ORGANIZERS AND PRESENTERS

**Desi Dillingham** Dressage Canada's Special Advisor was born in Montreal. Her aunt, Barbara Kemp, was the first woman ever to design and build an Olympic cross country course (Montreal 1976). Desi transferred to England with a Canadian Recruitment company for one year term in 1973 and she has stayed in England for 40 years. In the early '80s she began fundraising for the British Equestrian Olympic Team and assisted with marketing and sponsorship, while running her own recruitment business. Dillingham was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Writtle College (University of Essex) for her services to the Equestrian World in 2001. In the mid-1990s the structure of the British Equestrian Federation changed with the onslaught of Lottery Funding/World Class. Dillingham took over the voluntary role of turning British Dressage into a viable company – a six month assignment which turned into ten years (1997 – 2007) Dillingham served as President of the British Horse Society from 2007 to 2011. In 2009 she was awarded a MBE (Member of the British Empire) by Her Majesty the Queen, for her services to the equestrian sector (Dressage). Today, Dillingham is Chairman of the British Equestrian Awards (AHT), on the Committee for the Olympia Horse Show (The World Cup Dressage), Chairman of British Breeders dinner / Supporters Committee and is a Director of Horse and Country TV.

**Victoria Winter** – Chef d'Equipe 2014 World Equestrian Games

**Dr. Volker Moritz** – Internationally Respected Dressage Judge Most successful horse was Ideal, ridden by Jo Hinemann, in the 1986 World Championships, European Championships and World Cup Finals. Dr. Moritz has won many top class dressage tests, including the Grand Prix, and has been awarded the Golden Riders' Badge of the German Federation. Dr. Moritz's judging career has spanned 37 years, the past 20 years as an FEI "O" judge. Some distinguished events he has judged are the Volvo World Cup Finals in Gothenburg (1992), Los Angeles (1995) and Hertogenbosch (1997). At the World Equestrian Games in Rome (1998) and the Olympic Games in Sydney (2000), he was an acting member of the ground jury. From 1972 to the present, Dr. Moritz has been on the ground jury of the Most important CDIO - Event in Aachen. Most recently, Dr. Moritz was President of the ground jury at the 2002 World Equestrian Games held in Jerez, Spain.

**Cara Whitham** accomplishments include: Being named a short and long-listed rider for the Canadian Dressage Team numerous times. Earning Canadian Grand Prix and Grand Prix Freestyle Championship titles. Being appointed Chef d'Equipe for Canada's Dressage team during a four-year European tour leading into the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Lending input into a high performance plan that produced Canada's only Olympic Team Medal in Dressage to date at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Holding a record as the FEI's only official with FEI 5\* judging credentials for both Dressage and Eventing. Receiving FEI Dressage Technical Delegate status. Being appointed to the Dressage Ground Jury for the 2003 and 2011 Pan American Games, 2005 European Dressage Championships and the 2010 World Equestrian Games. Being appointed to the Eventing Ground Jury for the 1998 and 2002 World Equestrian Games, as well as the 2004 Athens Olympics. Being hired as a television commentator for the 2007 World Equestrian Games, and 2004, 2008, and 2012 Olympic Games. Being appointed as the Chef d'Equipe for the Costa Rican Gold Medal Team at the 2013 Central American Games in Costa Rica.

**Mason Phelps** - Phelps Media Group, the nation's leader in equestrian marketing, equestrian press and equestrian public relations. Based in Wellington, Florida, the company caters to a wide variety of clients based in the disciplines of Hunter, Jumper, Show Jumping, Dressage and more.

**Marty Bauman** founded Classic Communications in 1979 and quickly built the company into a well respected public relations, marketing and event management firm. While representing a variety of interests, including serving as Press Secretary for the 1983 Boston mayoral campaign of Lawrence S. DiCara, Marty made equestrian sports Classic's initial focus. After building a reputation for developing and implementing creative and successful programs, Marty was hired in

1990 as Director of Public Relations for the United States Equestrian Team (USET), a position he held until 2004 when the USET became the USET Foundation. During that time, he was selected by the United States Olympic Committee to serve as equestrian press officer at three Olympic Games. In 1998, he served as Chairman of the USOC's Olympic Public Relations Association. He has served as press chief for the last seven Show Jumping World Cup Finals held in the United States from 1989 to 2009. He was also Director of Media Services and Operations for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky.

**David Keefe** CEO of "Up My Game" a program that turns athletes into champions by making video the foundation of every training session. Capture, Analyze and Share on any device. Up My Game makes the process of capturing and reviewing video as easy as possible. Applications are created with realistic training sessions in mind, your technology should never interrupt your session only enhance it. Sometimes video is just not enough, you want to analyze and collaborate, with 2 clicks you can access your video on any device. The Up My Game application is a seamless multi platform sports video tool. The growing list of customers include some of the most highly respected coaches and coaching organizations in the world. With content creation tools you can publish, distribute content and make it available to any organization, team, athlete, or the entire world.

**Dr Gordon Chang** CEO Omega Alpha was handed his Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Toronto, Institute of Biomedical Engineering and he soon decided on a career in OTC pharmaceutical manufacturing for natural health products. With this goal in mind Dr. Chang founded Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Toronto in 1992 and became a custom manufacturer. Consumers soon found out something wonderful about Omega Alpha products – they worked! Whether one is looking for products for human, equine or pet health our dealers and consumers can be assured that we utilize only the best manufacturing ingredients and standards for all products, plus they do not test.

**Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Mansfield, PhD, MSc, RD,** is an avid horsewoman competing in the sport of Eventing, is a Sport Nutrition Specialist, Registered Dietitian and Certified Exercise Physiologist with Peak Performance based in Ottawa. Beth works with Canada's national teams and athletes at the international, national, provincial, regional and professional levels to ensure that they are eating for peak health and performance. Dr. Mansfield also works in the Bureau of Nutritional Sciences at Health Canada.

For complete bio's on all presenters please visit



# CDAAP

CANADIAN DRESSAGE ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – Subject to Change

### Week One – January 19<sup>th</sup> – January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

#### *Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>*

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. C-DAAP Welcome Party – Four Seasons Hotel, Palm Beach, FL -Invitation only event

#### *Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>*

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Branding, Marketing and Media Training - Mock Press Conference – Marty Bouman, and Mason Phelps (Open to public \$)

8:30 – 9:30 p.m. Florida Fortnight Kick-off Party – Sponsored by PSDressage.com

#### *Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>*

All day Athlete Sessions with Dr. Volker Moritz and Chef d'Equipe (Private Sessions)

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Equine Health & Management – Dr. Geoff Vernon (Open to public \$)

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Analyzing Performance – Liz Steacie and David Keefe (Up My Game) (Open to public \$)

#### *Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>*

3:00 p.m. CDI-W Horse Inspection – Headphone commentary for public (Open to public \$)

All Day Chef d'Equipe discussions with Athletes (Private Sessions)

All Day Athlete sessions with Dr. Volker Moritz (Private Sessions)

All Day Warm-up observation sessions (Headphones) (Open to public)

#### *Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>*

All Day CDI-W – with Headphone commentary (provided by top equestrian experts: judges, trainers, riders) (Open to public \$)

All Day Athlete sessions with Dr. Volker Moritz and Chef d'Equipe – Feedback on performances (Private Sessions)

All Day Selected warm-up observation sessions (Headphones) (Open to public)

### Week Two – January 27<sup>th</sup> – February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

#### *Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>*

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Athlete Fitness Testing with Dr. Beth Mansfield (Private Sessions)

All day Mini Tours of WEF (Open to the public \$)

#### *Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>*

Morning Tour Canadian Stables in Florida – Meet and Greet the Canadian Equine Stars Athlete public training sessions (Open to public \$)

12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Athlete Fitness Testing – Results Workshop with Dr. Beth Mansfield (Private Sessions)

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Omega Alpha – Gordon Chang and Patti Hanco (Open to public \$)

4:15 – 5:30 p.m. Sport Nutrition (Equine and Human) – Dr. Beth Mansfield (Open to public \$)

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Benefits of Osteopath - Alexandre Lamarsalle (Open to public \$)

#### *Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>*

All Day General public – local shopping (Open to public \$)

All Day Private athlete sessions with Dirk Stroda (Private Sessions)

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Mental Training (Team Building) Dirk Stroda (Open to public \$)

#### *Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>*

All Day Private athlete sessions with Dirk Stroda (Private Sessions)

6:00- 7:00 p.m. FEI Judge Panel Discussion (Open to public \$)

#### *Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>*

All Day Private athlete sessions with Dirk Stroda (Private Sessions)

#### *Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>*

All Day Private athlete sessions with Dirk Stroda (Private Sessions)

Lunch Florida Fortnight Farewell Reception (Open to public \$)



# CDAAP

CANADIAN DRESSAGE ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# Florida Fortnight

January 19<sup>th</sup> - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014



## 2014 DRESSAGE CANADA FLORIDA FORTNIGHT Session Registration Details



# CDAAP

CANADIAN DRESSAGE ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Registration for the Florida Fortnight will be managed through an online web portal. Please register at: [bit.ly/IHW55Y](http://bit.ly/IHW55Y) or



### Presentation Registration Fees

#### Canadian Athletes

- 2013 Short and Long Listed Riders – Free
- 2014 WEG Declared Riders – Free
- Athletes competing at the international level, but not listed – 50% discount on all registration fees

#### General Public

- \$15 CDN per session (Early Bird fees - if registration is received on or before January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014)
- \$25 CDN per session (if registration is received after January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

#### Group Package

- \$100 CDN for complete package – must be registered by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (includes registration to all 8 presentations)

#### Headset Rental (CDI-W – January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

- \$20 CDN – Includes commentary on the Horse Inspection and on selected CDI-W/1\*/U25/Y/J/P Classes
- \* headsets must be booked by January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Limited number available. A few may be available onsite at a price of \$40.

#### Guided Tour Registration Fees

- TBA – To be announced - Coming Soon

DATE / TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
Jan. 20 <sup>th</sup> –6 p.m.	Branding, Marketing, Media Training followed by the Florida Fortnight Kick-off Party – Sponsored by PSDressage.com	Wanderers Club: <a href="http://wanderersclubwellington.com">wanderersclubwellington.com</a>
Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup> – 4 p.m.	Equine Health and Maintenance	The Coach House (Formerly the Players Club): <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup> – 5 p.m.	Analyzing Performance	The Coach House: <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 p.m.	Horse Inspection – Headsets	Global Dressage Festival
Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	CDI-W/1*/U25/Y/J/P –Headsets	Global Dressage Festival
Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> – 3 p.m.	Omega Alpha	The Coach House: <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> _ 4:15 p.m.	Sport Nutrition (Equine and Human)	The Coach House: <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> – 5:30 p.m.	Benefits of Osteopath	The Coach House: <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.	Mental Training	The Coach House: <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m.	FEI Judge Panel	The Coach House: <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup> – Lunch	Florida Farewell Reception	The Coach House: <a href="http://coachhousefla.com">coachhousefla.com</a>
Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup> – All day	Mini Tours WEF Jumping show grounds	TBA (To be announced)
Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> – Morning	Tour of Canadian Stables	TBA (To be announced)
Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup> – All day	Local shopping	TBA (To be announced)



# Florida Fortnight

January 19<sup>th</sup> - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014



**CANADIAN DRESSAGE ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM / ONTARIO HAS TALENT RIB-FEST 2013  
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For upcoming events & information, visit:  
[www.equinecanada.ca/dressage](http://www.equinecanada.ca/dressage)  
For information on the Canadian Florida Fortnight  
schedule and registration visit: [bit.ly/IHW55Y](http://bit.ly/IHW55Y) or scan



# Protesting A Judge's Decision

By Lisa Hollister, Esq

We all know that the hunter division of the horse show world is by its very nature subjective. However, a real question arises when you do not like the judge's decision and believe that it might be a violation of the USEF rules. Looking at the rules there are judge's actions and decisions which are not able to be protested, therefore, before you go through the trouble and expense of filing a protest you might want to know when filing such a protest would be futile.

## A USEF Licensed Judge's Obligations in Fulfilling their Duties

The most important rule specifying the general obligations of a USEF Judge are specified in GR 1034.1 which covers good judging. Specifically, this rule states that, "A judge serves three interests: his own conscience, exhibitors and spectators. He should make it clear that the best horses win." A judge is hired because of his or her expertise as well as their commitment to help put on a fair and honest horse show and most judges are committed to this obligation.

## When a Judge is Required to Excuse a Horse from Competition

Because handling and riding horses can at times be dangerous, under GR1034.11 a judge is required to order from the ring any unruly horse whose behavior threatens "the rider, driver, handler, other exhibitors or their entries." Similarly under GR 1034.12 a judge is required to order from the ring "any rider, driver or handler who exhibits inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any exhibitor, their entries or safety of class officials." As a result, if your horse behaves dangerously, the judge is under an obligation to have the mount ordered from the ring. Filing a protest under such circumstances would be both a waste of time as well as a loss of your filing fee.

## Issue of Soundness

GR 1034.7a concerns a judge consulting with a veterinarian. Only a judge has the right to call a veterinarian to make an opinion during a class. While judges are encouraged to call a veterinarian if they are deciding on whether to disqualify an entry, they are not required to do so. Specifically, the rule states that if a "veterinarian is not immediately available or not called upon, the judge's decision as to the serviceable soundness of a horse shall be accepted for the purpose of disqualifying a horse from showing in

*Lisa Hollister is an attorney practicing in Cincinnati, Ohio. Questions for Ms. Hollister's column can be addressed to [twinbridgefarm@aol.com](mailto:twinbridgefarm@aol.com).*



that class and shall be final." In hunter classes there seems to be even less emphasis on calling a veterinarian prior to determining whether a horse is sound, in that "the decision of the judge as to the serviceable soundness of a horse in the hunter classes is final, however the competition veterinarian may be consulted."

Under GR 1204.4 and 5, in the event a judge requests an official veterinarian to make a decision as to the serviceable soundness of a horse, then the decision will be final for the purpose of awarding ribbons. The judge then upon having received the benefit of the consultation with the veterinarian, will then place the horses being judged at his own discretion. It is never the place of the veterinarian to make the final call as to scoring the class or placement of ribbons. As a result, if you protest a judge for not calling a veterinarian in to look at your horse when the judge has given you a low score for soundness it is unlikely that you will prevail.

## Non-Protestable Decisions

According to GR 602 5.a "The soundness of a horse when determined by an official veterinarian of the competition or by a judge, is not protestable." As a result, when either a veterinarian or judge decides that a horse is not sound the decision is final, and given the rules discussed earlier in this article such as GR 1204.4 and 5, a judge always has the authority to overrule a veterinarian's decision in this regard and go with his or her own decision. Finally, under GR 602.5b. "A judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference or opinion, is not protestable unless it is alleged to be in violation of Federation rules." USEF gives a lot of latitude to judges to make decisions based on their conscience and make decisions without fear of being protested for making an unpopular decision.

## Conclusion

While you may personally feel that a judge has made a wrong decision regarding placement of competitors, dismissal of a horse or making a determination that a horse is not serviceably sound, you need to realize USEF gives judges a lot of latitude in making these decisions. For the horse shows to work, USEF's rules are both practical and necessary.

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## Eventing

**Flambeau B**

*(Simsalabim X High Counsel xx)*

*Owner: Beth Zeilinski*

*Rider: Sean McQuillan*

*Photo credit: GRC Photography*



## Dressage

**Ali Baba B**

*(Simsalabim X Mischievous xx)*

*Owner: Audrey Narducci*

*Rider: Susan Posner*

*Photo credit: Bob Tarr*



## Show Jumping

**Centurion B**

*(Rebel IZ X Indocro)*

*Owner: Mary Goldman*

*Rider: Lisa Goldman*

*Photo credit: Shaun McMillan*



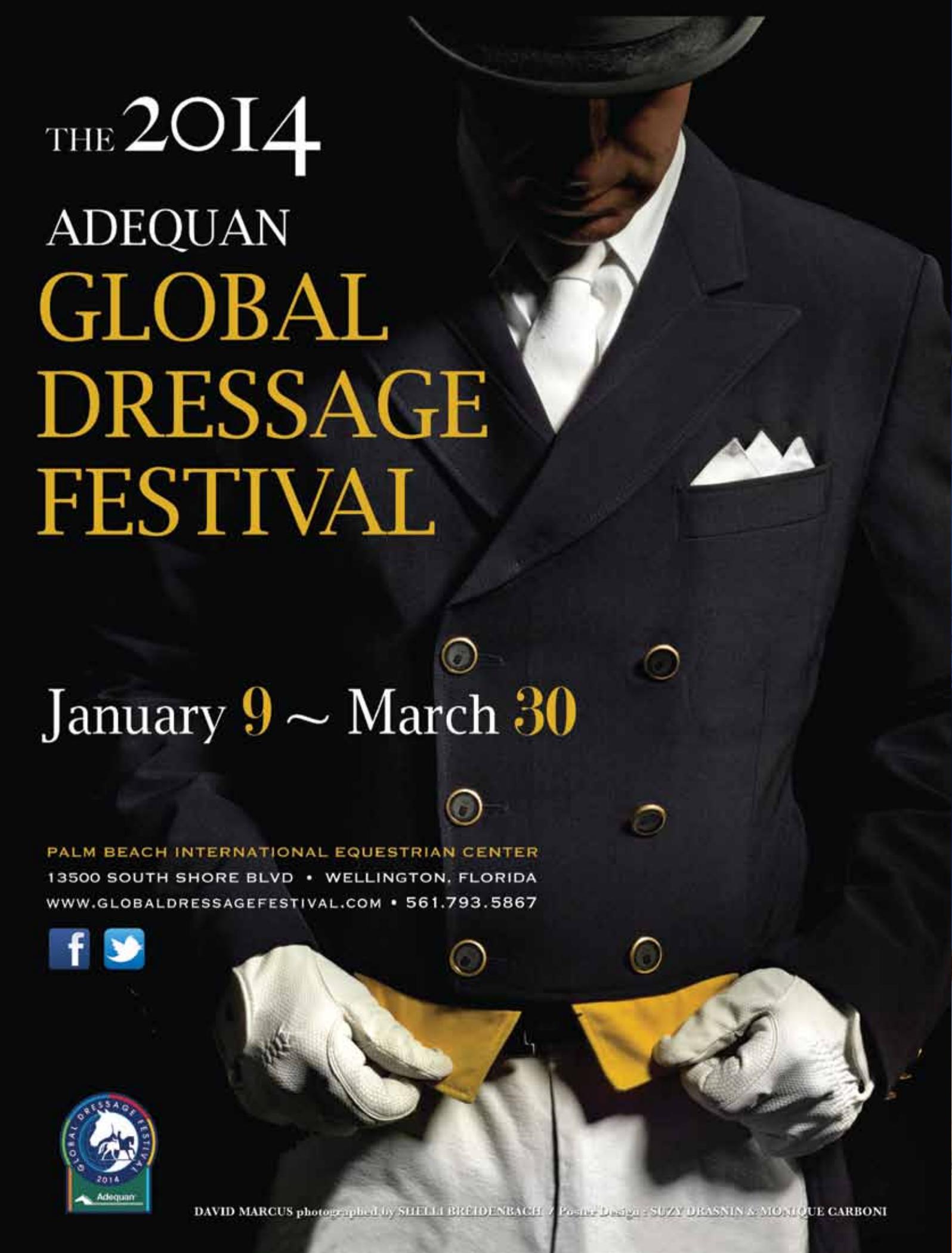
## Breeding Stock

**Jett B**

*(Simsalabim X Chin Chin)*

*Owner: Heather Farmer*

*Photo credit: Equine Media Project*



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January 9 ~ March 30

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DAVID MARCUS photographed by SHELLI BREIDENBACH / Postcard Design by SUZY DRASIN & MONIQUE CARBONI

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## 2014 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS\*

January 9-12

AGDF 1 Dressage CDI W

Presented by MTICA Farm and Everglades Dressage  
(AGDF Grand Prix Freestyle Friday, January 10)

January 16-19

AGDF 2 Dressage National and Gold Coast Dressage CDI

January 23-26

AGDF 3 Dressage CDI W

Presented by US P.R.E. Association  
and Chesapeake Dressage Institute  
(AGDF Grand Prix Freestyle Friday, January 24)

February 1-2

AGDF 4 Dressage National

February 6-9

AGDF 5 Dressage CDI 4\*

Presented by Dutta Corp. and Havensafe Farm  
(AGDF Grand Prix Freestyle Friday, February 7)

February 15-16

AGDF 6 Dressage National

February 19-23

AGDF 7 Dressage CDIO

Presented by Stillpoint Farm and Peacock Ridge Farm  
(AGDF Grand Prix Freestyle Friday, February 21)  
Florida Youth Dressage Championships  
Presented by Dressage4kids

February 27-March 2

AGDF 8 Palm Beach Dressage Derby CDI W  
(Grand Prix Freestyle Saturday, March 1)

March 8-9

AGDF 9 Dressage National 3

March 13-16

AGDF 10 Dressage CDI W and CPEDI 3\*

Presented by Today's Equestrian, GF Enterprise, LLC  
and Mike & Roz Collins  
(AGDF Grand Prix Freestyle Friday, March 14)

March 19-20

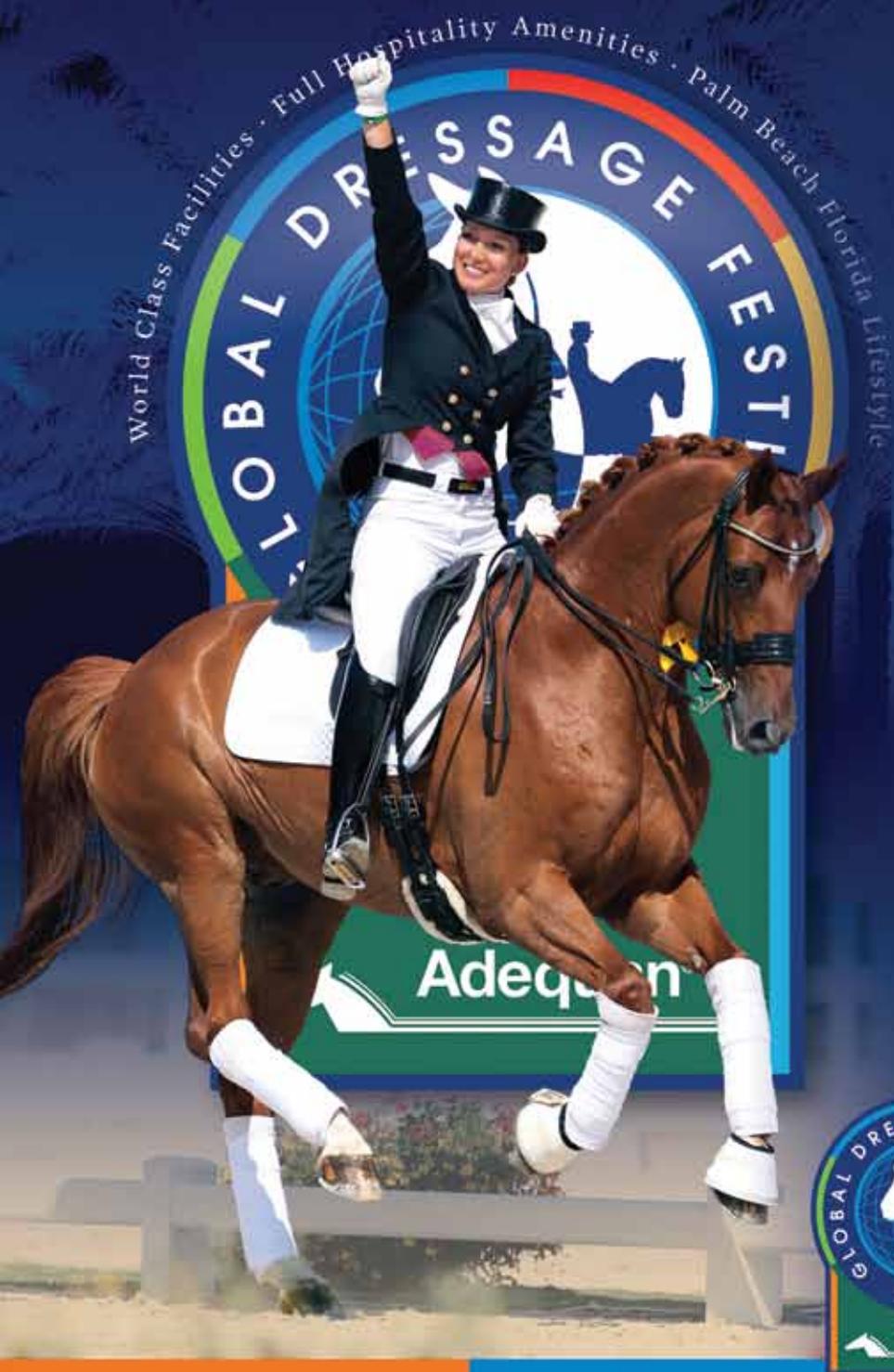
AGDF 11 Dressage National

March 27-30

AGDF 12 Dressage CDI 5\*

Presented by Diamante Farm  
and Wellington Equestrian Realty  
(AGDF Grand Prix Freestyle  
Friday, March 28)

\*Schedule is subject to change.





*Pretty ladies: Rosa Cha W and Silva at the jog for the Palm Beach Derby.  
Photo Courtesy of Silva Wood*

# Dressage & Eventing

By Lauren R. Giannini

## *Silva & Boyd*

**S**ilva Martin may be as celebrated for being married to eventing superstar Boyd Martin as she is for her dressage expertise, but the fact is that both Martins have established themselves as trainers and riders. Silva has earned recognition and awards all the way to grand prix and has proven her versatility aboard all types of horses from Warmbloods to former racehorses.

Her 2013 show record calls attention to her skill in producing young horses: they have won numerous rosettes, classes and championships and dominated at the GAIG/USDF Regional Championships. Silva was the only rider to qualify three mounts for the Young Horse Championships at Lamplight in Illinois. She partnered with Rosa Cha W, 2005 Oldenburg mare, to win the Developing Horse Prix St. Georges and the Intermediaire-1 GAIG qualifier at Dressage at Lexington, placed third in the Prix St. Georges for Developing Horses at Lamplight, and garnered sixth in the Intermediaire Freestyle at Dressage at Devon.

Now a United States citizen, Silva is the product of classical training in her native Germany. She graduated with excellent exam results from the German Riding School in Warendorf and acquired valuable experience with renowned horsemen, including Rudolf Zellinger and Hubertus Schmidt. In this country she has worked with Debbie McDonald, Michael Barisone and Oded Shimoni, among others. She also knows how to ride outside the arena. "I grew up riding wild ponies – I was kind of rough and ready as a child and I always enjoyed that part of it," she admitted. "I did a little bit of eventing in Australia when I lived there and I first met Boyd. He made me do a two-star – so I know about going fast and jumping."

Silva makes sure that the horses get out of the ring, and this practice might be a key to their success. "Mentally, I think it's very important that the horses not go from the barn to the ring

*Continued on page 168*





# 27th Annual Dinner Auction “Pioneering New Frontiers”

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**Time: 6pm**

**Location: International Polo Club  
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*Silva on Cornel, borrowed from Boyd's owners, the Juvonens, with Cheshire Hounds during a Thanksgiving hunt. Photo by Alec Thayer AB3Photography*

and from the ring to the barn all their life," Silva said. "I like them to go out and see things, go up and down hills and maybe jump a few logs in the woods and be a bit of a normal horse. I do use cross-training a lot. It has a lot to do with being with Boyd and the event horses doing a lot of galloping. I don't do the same fitness work, but my horses do hill work as part of their training."

The hills have an easy slope that works very well after the horses learn to handle the terrain. "They trot up and canter down, a very collected canter," Silva explained. "It makes them stronger and teaches them to balance better. With the upper level horses I do a lot of short canters down a slight hill, I think it really teaches them to carry themselves behind. In a collected canter they have to work hard to keep their front end up while going downhill. It's different from going up the hill in the trot. I find that this approach helps the horses to get very strong behind."

Silva isn't into trail riding, per se, but she believes in using different settings like trails and fields to train the horses. "We're lucky enough to be next to a conservancy with thousands of acres, and I like to teach them lots of different things when they are out," Silva said. "They are not thinking about what they're doing the way they do when they work in the arena. This is especially good for a sensitive horse. I keep training my horses, but I try to do it in a fun way so they get a break from the pressure of the arena."

Silva and Boyd are ardent supporters of American-bred horses, producing and developing young prospects to their best potential. Since the Martins' move to the United States, dressage has been changing. "Hugely, to be honest – the horse quality is better and I'm lucky that American breeders have supplied me with many, many good horses to train and to compete – there's some fabulous breeding going on in this country," said Silva.



*Silva and Rosa Cha W competing at Dressage at Devon. Photo by SusanJStickle.com*

"I'm excited also about Robert Dover helping the dressage. I think he's on a really good path and he's trying to plan as many European tours as possible. To be successful in Europe, you have to go there and compete. The same is true of eventing. If Americans keep showing up and performing well..."

Silva speaks from experience. She hopes to debut Rosa Cha W at grand prix this year. The mare's bloodlines and show record indicate serious potential, "I was lucky enough to receive a training grant with Rosa Cha and I'm very excited about that, because I was there when she was born and I have done all the work with her," Silva said. "It's amazing to be recognized and have this support from the federation behind me. I have some fantastic young horses coming up that are going to do the Markel Young Horse series again, like I did last year. So I'm very excited about all these prospects."

*About the writer: Sidelines' Lauren R. Giannini is an award-winning "wordsmith" specializing in stories and photos about the equestrian world. Crazy about horses her entire life, she lives in the horse and hunt country of Virginia. Lauren's motto is "write, ride - not necessarily in that order!"*

# American Heritage School

## American Heritage School Equestrian Program

At American Heritage School of Boca/Delray, students in preschool through grade 12 can pursue their equestrian interests while receiving a superior college preparatory education.

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# Weaving a Web



*Leslie with Harmony's Armani, owned by Harmony Sporthorse. All photos by Lori Ovanessian*

## **Through hard work and dedication, Leslie Webb weaves her way to the top.**

By Dani Moritz

**L**eslie Webb has an impressive list of accolades – including two silver medals from the Pan American games. You would probably never have guessed she didn't even know what dressage was until she was 18-years-old.

Yes – you heard that right. 18. No junior riding career – at least not in dressage.

Leslie's riding career started with bareback freeze tag and trail riding and progressed to hunters, jumpers and, eventually, eventing – and lots and lots of catch riding. At that point, dressage was only a phase in eventing – and it just happened to be her best one.

"When I outgrew my 'bareback horse' and my parents couldn't

afford to buy me a new one, what my trainer did is have me buy a horse from him for a dollar because back then in the juniors you had to own your own horse. So, I would buy one from him, break it and get it going and he would sell it."

She did the hunters, medals and Maclays and ended her jumpi career eventing at training level. "I started moving up the ranks and discovered that I'm a little chicken," she laughed. "I don't have enough guts to be jumping those big huge things that are completely solid. That's kind of when I said I'm strictly doing dressage – I'm not brave enough for that."

As she was transitioning to dressage, everything fell into place.

She was working for her aunt, Vanda Werner, who owns Mile High Horse Ranch in Parker, Colorado and bred Pregelstrand. According to Leslie, Vanda was actually one of the first people import a stallion from Europe. "I thought she was crazy," Leslie admitted. "But, she built a barn and bought Pregelstrand and three mares and I would go out to the barn to help her get her barn going and I absolutely fell in love with Warmbloods."

Still very new to dressage, Leslie participated in a clinic with Erich Bubbel, a retired three-time Olympic coach. "I was one of the very fortunate people to be at the right place at the right time. My aunt brought Erich into Colorado for a clinic and he just fell in love with me and said, 'If you want this stallion to be promoted then you need to send Leslie and Pregelstrand to California and put her in training.'"

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*Leslie with Eisenherz, a stallion owned by Sherry Tourino.*

Vanda did just that – and Leslie's career took off.

She says the journey was incredible. Leslie and Erich started from scratch. She admits that the first four weeks she spent with him were completely on the lunge line and then she gradually was able to start riding more. But who could complain? She had an Olympic coach virtually all to herself for the 12 years she trained with him.

He brought her up through training level and helped her understand what the movements should feel like and how to achieve them. He would go to shows with her and ensure she did everything exactly the way he wanted and then he would sit down with her and they would critique other riders together. "I think that's what made me a good teacher because I learned so much just watching him," she said.

But perhaps the greatest lesson he taught her was how to solve problems through gymnastic exercises. "He taught me that for every problem, there is an exercise to fix it. There was always an exercise to teach and/or fix the problem and that's how I came up with gymnastic exercises.



*Leslie enjoying a quiet moment with Harmony's*

*Continued on page 174*

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Now, Leslie has the opportunity to give back – and she has become the mentor.

She trains out of her private barn in Bakersfield, California, gives clinics and reaches out to students through video and her book, *16 Gymnastic Exercises for Your Horses*.

She gives back by providing riders and horses the one-on-one attention that her mentor gave her. She does have a little help from a groom, but she goes out of her way to do everything she possibly can herself when it comes to working with the horses. “Every horse that I ride I do 100 percent of the riding – I’m the only person on their back. I spend quality time with these horses. I’m riding them; I’m cooling them down. I’m getting off and giving them treats and hugging them on their way to their grass pasture. I put them to bed at night and feed them in the afternoon. I’m very much hands on.”

There’s nothing she loves more than bringing horses and riders through the ranks. For Leslie, there’s just something special about helping athletes going from knowing nothing to competing grand prix.

When she can’t help riders and horses in person, however, she reaches out in other methods – like video and print. Leslie partnered with *Practical Horseman* to publish a series of how-to articles on gymnastics, which were then compiled into her book. After popular demand, she produced a pocket-edition perfect for in the arena.

She was also one of the first trainers to utilize video to teach riders – although she admits it was a bit like “jumping off the deep end without knowing how to swim.” Nonetheless, she lined up riders to perform exercises that would enable her to teach students through second level.

“It helps people who aren’t close enough to a trainer. They can use the videos and then when they have time they can go to their trainer. And it’s not only dressage people. I’ve had hunters and jumpers email and tell me it’s fantastic. I’ve even had Western people email me and say, ‘You can’t believe how much this has helped improve my Western horse.’”

Today, she continues to bring horses and riders up the ranks, adding to a long list of accomplishments along the way.



*Leslie thanking Harmony's Armani for a job well done.*

For more information about Leslie, visit her website at [www.lesliewebb.com](http://www.lesliewebb.com).

*About the writer: Dani Moritz is a graduate of William Woods University with majors in Equine General Studies and Communications and is currently pursuing a Masters In Strategic Leadership at Stephens College. She is assistant editor and distribution manager for Sidelines Magazine and the proud owner of a beautiful Paint/Arabian mare named September. She is also the 2012 American Horse Publications Student Award winner.*



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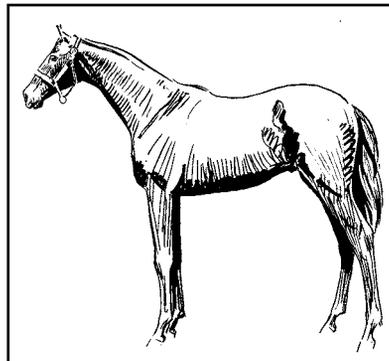
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## Asides

Polo Girls will be hosting their first tournament in December at the **St. George's Polo Club**, located in Wellington, Florida. The tournament will be managed by **Kirsten Braden**, Polo Girls PB Charter leader and CEO of Polo Concierge. Polo Concierge will also host a pre-tournament clinic help riders polish their skills. Join the Polo Girls as they empower women through the sport of polo. For more information on Polo Girls, email them at [pologirlssociety@gmail.com](mailto:pologirlssociety@gmail.com).

*Continued on page 188*



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## February Mascots:

### Alli Thompson and Sham

*Sidelines* Magazine is pleased to introduce our February mascots – Alli Thompson of Springville, Indiana, and her horse Sham. Alli is 16 and started riding when she was a toddler and grew up with Quarter Horses in 4-H. Her dream was to one day own a black horse and two years ago her dream became a reality when Sham, a black Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse, was born. Alli named him Code Blue's Lil Shamrock, Sham for short, and said that as soon as he hit the ground they became inseparable. Alli and Sham recently competed in the Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association Show at the Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park. Alli is thrilled to introduce people to the versatility of the Kentucky Mountain Horse and is looking forward to beginning dressage with Sham. Congratulations to Alli and Sham on becoming our February mascots!



## Mutt of the Month

This is Emerill. He is the one remaining dog from a special rescue Big Dog Ranch Rescue did in New Orleans last year. He is a two-year-old Southern Hound blend. Emerill is the sweetest fellow with a huge heart. He loves his toys so much that he will put them back in the toy box. He is very smart and learns quickly. Sit, shake, and a quick twirl are easy breezy to him. He is house trained and gets along with dogs and cats too. He enjoys a ride in the car and is well mannered when you take him out to dinner with your friends. If you are interested in adopting Emerill, please fill out the adoption form online or contact Big Dog Ranch Rescue in Wellington, Florida at (561) 791-6465 or (561) 309-3311 or email [adoptions@bdr.org](mailto:adoptions@bdr.org).



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Way to go Don! Don Langdon, the Director of Sales at Palm Beach Polo Golf and Country Club since 1991, recently surpassed the celebrated \$1 billion mark in sales and has handled more than 1,000 transactions. In polo parlance, he's a 10-goaler. In other words, a Hall-of-Fame realtor. Nice work!

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**NEXT ISSUE 02/04/2013**  
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*Continued on next page*

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## Off Centerline

Italy's **Silvia Rizzo** will spend the 2014 winter show season in Florida. The grand prix rider was so charmed by life in Wellington after the 2013 World Dressage Masters, she and her partner **Michele Betti** are bringing horses from Europe to compete. Silvia (pictured on **Donnerbube 2** in Jablines, France) and Michele, the former Italian Olympic Eventing Team trainer who has specialized in dressage in Germany for the past eight years, will be available for lessons, training and clinics. Contact them at [info@hofmarabunta.com](mailto:info@hofmarabunta.com) for details.

Photo by Eric Blanco



# **A Picture Paints a Thousand Words**

By Jan Westmark

All of the *Sidelines* staff works incredibly hard – including our equine staff! Junior, owned by Christina Alex, our Social Media Coordinator and Editorial Assistant, is often called upon to pose in pictures. A happy equine employee, Junior was very willing to hold a sign that said “I love *Sidelines*” while Christina took his photo.

Christina started working for *Sidelines* as an intern and now has a title and handles the *Sidelines* Facebook page – and she’s only 16-years-old! Christina is the photographer and mastermind behind all of the original photos that appear on our Facebook page and of course Junior is often the subject. We are so proud to have them on our team and we couldn’t run our Facebook page without them. Thanks Christina and Junior!

If you haven’t become friends with us on Facebook, then do it now. Not only will you get to see Christina’s great photos, but you can take part in contests and win great prizes. There’s no time like the present to Catch the *Sidelines* Spirit!



(Left): Christina Alex with her picture-perfect horse, Junior.  
Photo by Maritherese Trimeloni-Alex

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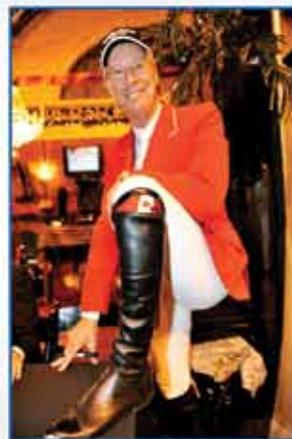
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