

THE MINNESOTA HUNTER & JUMPER ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. 45, ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2014





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# NEWSLETTER

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## PUBLISHING SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

ISSUE	ADS & ARTICLES DUE	MAILED
Summer	May 23	June 30
Fall	August 1	September 30
Winter	November 16	December 22
Spring	February 6	March 13

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Article submissions are appreciated and accepted year-round. If you would like your article to be considered for an upcoming issue of the newsletter, please contact [news@mhja6.org](mailto:news@mhja6.org) for submission details, or call Betsy Kieffer (763.494.8458) or Heather Parish (651.492.6300).

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Tracy Grandstrand, MHJA President

I hope this finds all of you warm! This winter has been a trial for all of us and I know we are looking forward to summer.

The BOD has made the much discussed and difficult decision to not hold the MHJA show in May 2014. This decision was made due to financial reasons and low attendance. We have retained the dates and will revisit the feasibility of hosting a show in 2015. We are also researching other management possibilities and would welcome any members interested in helping with the show or sponsorship.

I would like to thank all of the Board members who give so much time in their volunteer positions. The MHJA show, the banquet, the newsletter, the Harvest show, to name just a few, could not happen without these hard working and dedicated volunteers. I would encourage membership to be more involved with our local community and the MHJA.

Thank You,

*Tracy Grandstrand*



From the Editors

## SPRING IS COMING - WE PROMISE!



*Heather Parish*  
interim editor

In this issue you'll find this years new rules and regulations. Brenda Roloff catches us up with Grand Prix Rider Andrew Welles. Do you have ideas for "Where Are They Now?" Let us know! We've said it before...send us your ideas!!!

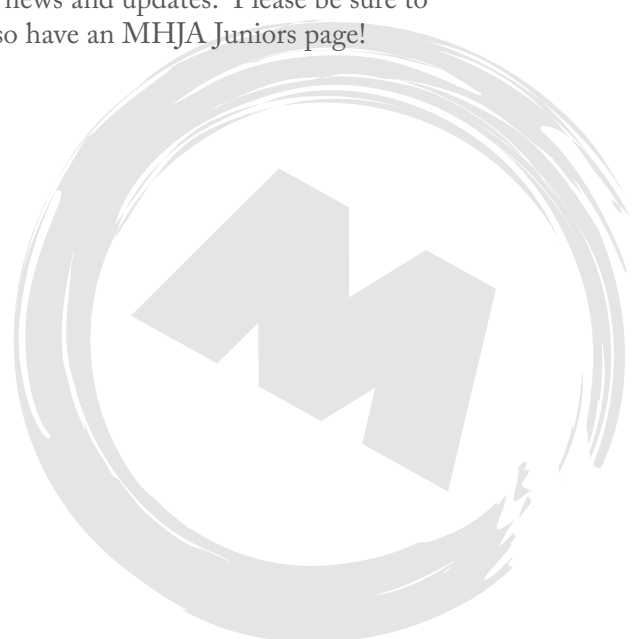
We are excited to have Lee Gremillion head the MHJA Website Committee. Be sure check out [www.mhja6.org](http://www.mhja6.org) regularly for news and updates. Please be sure to like MHJA on Facebook, and the juniors also have an MHJA Juniors page!

Looking forward to a fun show season!



*Betsy Kieffer*  
associate editor

*Heather Betsy*





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# TENTATIVE 2014 MHJA CALENDAR

MHJA Recognized Shows

**THIS IS A VERY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – LISTS ONLY THOSE  
SHOWS THAT ARE ON THE USEF CALENDAR**

**Midstates Spring** | May 28- June 1 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Midstates Summerfest** | June 4-8 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Midstates Summer** | June 11-15 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Alpine Farms Classic** | June 18-22 | A rated | Long Lake, MN | Alpine Farms 763-473-1361

**Alpine Farms Preview** | July 9-13 | A rated | Long Lake, MN | Alpine Farms 763-473-1361

**Alpine Farms Equestrian Fest** | July 16-20 | A rated | Long Lake, MN 763-473-1361

**Two Rivers Summer Fest I** | Cumming, IA | July 30 - August 3 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Two Rivers Summer Fest II** | Cumming, IA | August 6-10 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Two Rivers Summer Fest III** | Cumming, IA | Aug. 13-17 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Minnesota State Fair** | August 20-22 | A rated | St. Paul, MN | Patty Humphries 952 442-5321

**Otter Creek Farm** | August 27-31 | A rated | Wheeler, WI | Lena Werner 715 658-1602

**Mid States Fall** | September 10-14 | A rated | Mason City, IA | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Madison County Fall Classic** | Cumming, IA | September 17-21 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Madison County Fall Challenge** | Cumming, IA | September 24-28 | Libby Hott 515-981-1699

**Minnesota Harvest** | September 30-October 5 | A rated | MN State Fair Grounds | St. Paul, MN | Barb Ahrens 763 477-6640

**Note the change in date for the Mid States Spring Horse Show**

**IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A PRIZE LIST FOR A SHOW,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE PERSON LISTED.**



MHJA 2013

# AWARDS BANQUET

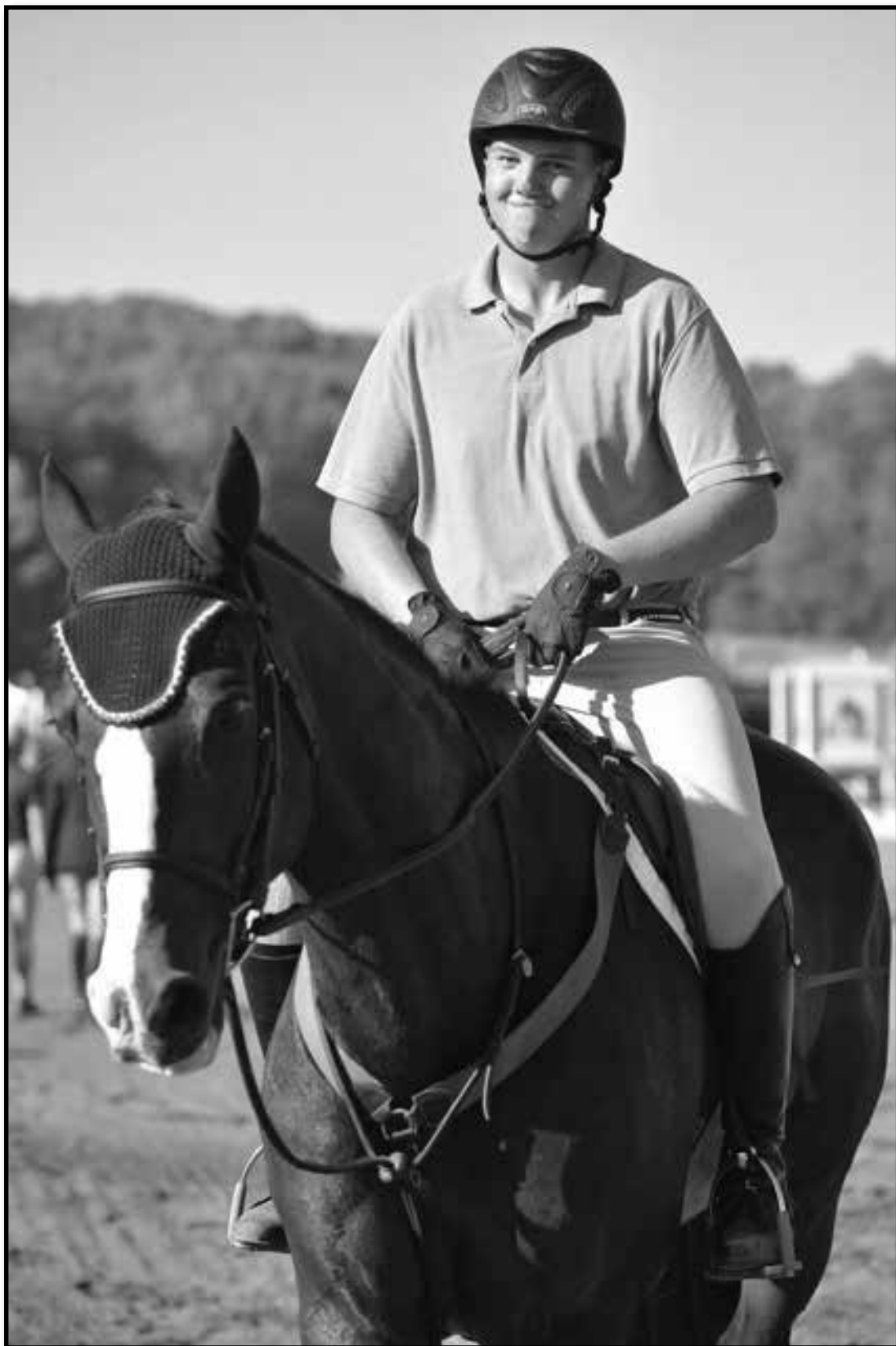




# THE TEAM TO BEAT: MICHAEL WILDUNG AND BUZZ

Meet Michael and Moonshine a pair that haven't been together long but have made a big splash in the MHJA by becoming its Low Adult Amateur Champions. This last year has been a busy one for these two as they've made the rounds in several horse shows before finishing strong at the Fall-Mason City Show.

Despite riding horses since he was six years old, he was unable to show until recently due to constantly outgrowing his horses. First was the pony Win Again, Michael outgrew him in less than four months. His first horse was Stevie (Main Man) who at 16.2 hands tall was a perfect fit at the time, but, his aunt Wendy predicted Michael would outgrow Stevie as well. His aunt was proven right as Michael grew seven inches in eighteen months. The hunt for his next horse lasted until a horse show in Bend Oregon. Michael had originally come to watch his brother Matthew compete in his first grand prix, but while at the show Michael met Maplewood Stables owner, Julie Winkle, who insisted she had found the perfect horse for Michael. The horse in



question was Buzz, a 17.2 American warm blood who had green behind the ears, but had a great heart and mind with a willingness to jump anything set in front of him. Buzz adopted Michael into his herd and the Wildung family adopted Buzz into theirs.

Finally with a horse he wouldn't outgrow, Michael worked with trainer Pat Vogel to help lay the groundwork for future seasons. Michael eventually moved to Gypsy Farms, whose trainer Nick Novak helped whip both rider and horse into shape for the upcoming show season. After a lot of patience and hard work it was time for them to debut at the Mason City Summer show. It was at this show that Michael learned two very important things: Buzz can take a joke, and that Lana is PUURDDY!

Next came the show at Alpine where Michael did his first Jumper Derby and had a blast. Maffitt Lake as a bit of a struggle with Nick working some of his magic to get Michael and Buzz back on track. The Otter Creek Show was where he had his second jumper derby and quickly became one of his favorite shows. After seeing the course including some of the most solid fences he'd ever encountered, Michael's nerves got the better of him; luckily Nick and Michael's family were there to help him rally back into the ring. The capstone of the season came in the Mason City Fall Show, made even more memorable by the fact that Michael's brother



Matthew was back in town and competing as well. Despite competing in different categories, the brothers maintained a rivalry throughout the show with both of them taking home ribbons. Having ended the season on a high note Michael is now looking forward to having a chance to compete against his brother directly, now that Matt is here to stay. Even so, Michael is thankful to Nick, and Wendy and everyone who helped him along the way.



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# MEET A 2013 YEAR END CHAMPION

## **Gone Country - High Point Hunter, Low Pre-Green Hunter and Rusty Stirrup Champion.**

When Handsome Is passed away in 2002 at the age of 33, I wanted to honor his memory, and what better way than by donating a perpetual trophy for the already established High Point Hunter award? In Handsome's 15 years on the MHJA show circuit, he had won the High Point Hunter three times. Since then two of my horses have won the High Point Hunter Award: Heart and Soul in 2008 and Gone Country in 2013. (A third horse of mine, Solo, won the award in 1999 before I gave the trophy.)

I bought Gone Country in 2011, at the suggestion of Kelly Fedt and the urging of my then pro, Seth Clayton. Much as I dearly loved riding my thoroughbred, Heart and Soul, I had to admit I was a little too big for him. Seth and I had kind of started looking, and Kelly knew I was in the market. She had a three year old named Garfield she thought would be perfect for me. Seth was supposed to go up to look at him, and after a little procrastination, he finally made it up to Brookside. The report was great, so I went up the next week. A walk, trot, canter and a few jumps and I thought, "Well, he's half thoroughbred and I think I can ride him." Besides, he had a great jump and already had automatic lead changes.

Kelly delivered him a week before the Midstates Spring Show. I had already entered Hoagy and taken off from

work, so we decided Garfield might as well go to Mason City in Hoagy's place. Now he just needed a new name. Garfield reminded me of snarky comic cats and dead presidents. Since Garth is sired by a Hanoverian named Gaylord, I was trying to stay with a name beginning with "G." I've boarded at River Bend for over 30 years, and have listened to nothing but country music at the barn. As I was pondering a new name, Alan Jackson's song "Gone Country" came on and Garfield became Gone Country in the show ring and Garth in the barn.

Our first show was interesting. We had gone down just for experience, but after a light lunge on Monday, Seth asked if he could school Garth on Tuesday. Of course, that's why we brought him down. He walked in the sand ring and cantered around like this was perfectly normal. So then Seth asked if he could show him on Wednesday. Why not? Garth walked in the ring, laid down a great trip and won his first class. He ended the show champion in the Young Hunter and Baby Green.

That's been Garth's demeanor. He's a great amateur horse because he can take a joke and pretty much forgets your big error on the last fence by the time you get to the next one. Jessica has done a great job with him after Seth decided to not come back from Florida. This last year they paired up to be

Pre-Green champion at most of the shows. My favorite class was the Poise and Brilliance Class at Mason City Fall, which he won. Banks? No problem., Tight turns? No problem.

Garth's a great guy and I want to thank Kelly for thinking of me and making it possible for me to buy him; Jessica for doing such a great job with him and with me; and Gaylord for taking such good care of him at home.

We'll see you at the shows!





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW: ANDREW WELLES

In the late 1990s, a youngster appeared at the local horse shows with his father in tow and his mother often showing in the hunters or jumpers herself. He started in the ponies, had some incredible hunters, a great equitation horse, and then some jumpers that were as amazing to watch as he was. Little did we know that about two decades later, this blond haired, energetic boy would turn into a fine young man, talented horse trainer and accomplished professional rider.

Now at age twenty-six, Andrew Welles is the son of Peter Welles and Kristin McClanahan. Many of you know Kristin, who still lives in Minnesota and rides with Raven Ridge Farm. Andrew attended The Blake School in Minneapolis from Kindergarten through the twelfth grade and then attended Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL to pursue a Political Science degree. He and his longtime girlfriend, Alexandra Duval, run a business based in Wellington, Florida in the winter, and Lexington, Kentucky, in the summer. Besides the horses, they have a golden retriever named Maizy; and their newest canine family member, courtesy of Danny and Ron's Rescue, is Crouton.

Andrew was exposed to the hunter/jumper world at an early age since his father and mother had both grown up with equine sports. Notwithstanding this pedigree, he remembers a specific instance which seems to have drawn him in for good. "I had a friend on my soccer team that was taking lessons from Jimmy (Nancy Colburn) at Skyrock Farm. I went and took a few lessons with him. He ended up quitting a few months into it, but here I am today!"

After starting with Jimmy and then Bill Nunn at Sky Rock with his pony It's Windy Out, he rode with Gail Nederostek for a few years and had a great run with a Childrens' Hunter named Brando and his first jumper, Bull Run's La Gloria. For his last few years in Minnesota, he rode with Kim Barone. Sporting United (a/k/a "Sporty") provided a lot a fun for both Kim and Andrew, and Kim ended up taking Andrew to his first Equitation Finals and then to the Winter Equestrian Festival in Wellington. While in Minnesota, Andrew's most notable mounts were Sporting United, Brando, Grimaldi, Best Boy and Fair Play. When he was sixteen, Andrew's focus in life narrowed dramatically from a "normal" school, football



*Andrew competing Zinnia at Lexington, KY.*

and hockey life to all things equestrian. That winter in Wellington, he began to ride with Missy Clark who runs North Run Farm in Vermont. He also trained with Morgan and Nora Thomas. After three years with Missy, Andrew had the opportunity to ride with Chris Kappler and George Morris at Hunterdon Stables in New Jersey. Because George was the United States Equestrian Team's Chef d'Equipe, he worked primarily with Chris - but still received valuable coaching from George as his time allowed. During this period, some of his more notable mounts were his Junior Jumper/Young Rider equitation horse named Kartouche, Samson, and his first Grand Prix horse named Maestro. Andrew fondly recalls: "I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from all of them and am very thankful for the base that each of them gave to my riding."

Since turning Professional in 2010, Andrew's most special Grand Prix mounts have been Cypria 6, who was the first horse he rode in representing the United States on a Nations Cup team (and the first horse the rode to a top twelve placing in a five-star Grand Prix); Cadanio Z; Tornado; and Vancouver (who later went on to win Young Riders with Katie Dinan). Currently, his top horses are Boo Van Het Kastanjehof, a thirteen year-old who is coming off a great year which included a second place in the Grand Prix of Devon; Zinnia who is rising in the Grand Prix ranks and just beginning to compete at the international level; and XM, the speedster of the group! Andrew enthuses that "we also have a great up-and-coming group of young horses as well as some good sale horses. I have been extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to not just find but also ride such great horses that have helped get me to where I am today."

Catching up with Andrew during a busy winter WEF Season, he was kind enough to answer a few questions and share some insights with us.

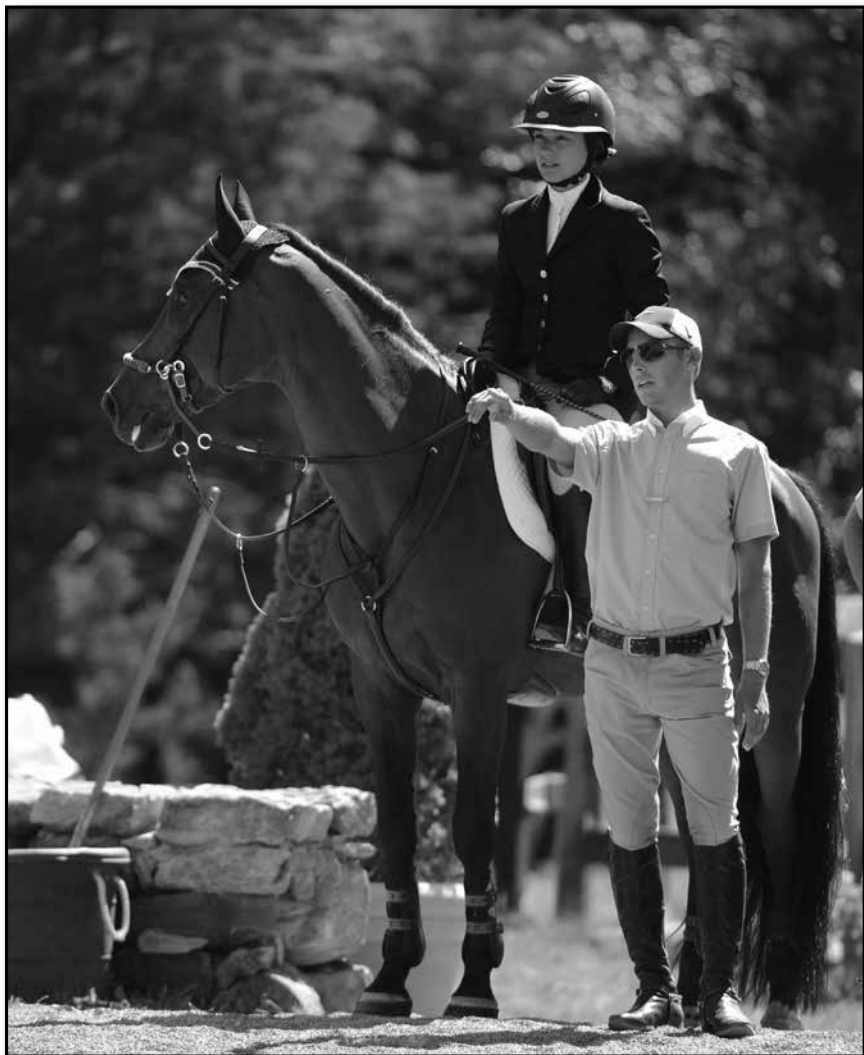
*Can you tell us a few key things that you have learned from other trainers in the horse industry?*

"To dive into specifics on this might take up another whole article because I have worked with so many great horsemen in my riding career. Some highlights would be though, the importance of a system in everything you do - something that will always be engrained in me from my days at Hunterdon. The second and most important thing that I have learned from many top professionals, especially Norman Dello Joio and Eddie Macken, is how the

balance and rhythm of the canter is so crucial to jumping clear rounds."

*When did you first compete in Europe and what are some of the major differences between Europe and the US?*

"I competed there for the first time in 2004 in three shows in Holland, including the Global Champions Tour show in Valkenswaard and then in 2009 was selected for the first time to represent the United States in Nations Cup competitions in Linz, Austria and Lisbon, Portugal. Europe has an amazing horse culture. It is different in the sense that you don't go to a show with a stable of horses and students but rather a select group of horses for a day or a weekend. When you compete over in Europe, there is a real sense of competing in a sport, similar to that of Spruce Meadows. What I like most about being in Europe is the amount of action that is going on in the sport at any given moment regardless of where you are. There could be 3 or 4 small national shows, a 3\* international show and a 5\* international show all within an hour drive, all on top of a horse business that never sleeps!"



*Andrew Welles coaching Alex at the American Gold Cup.*



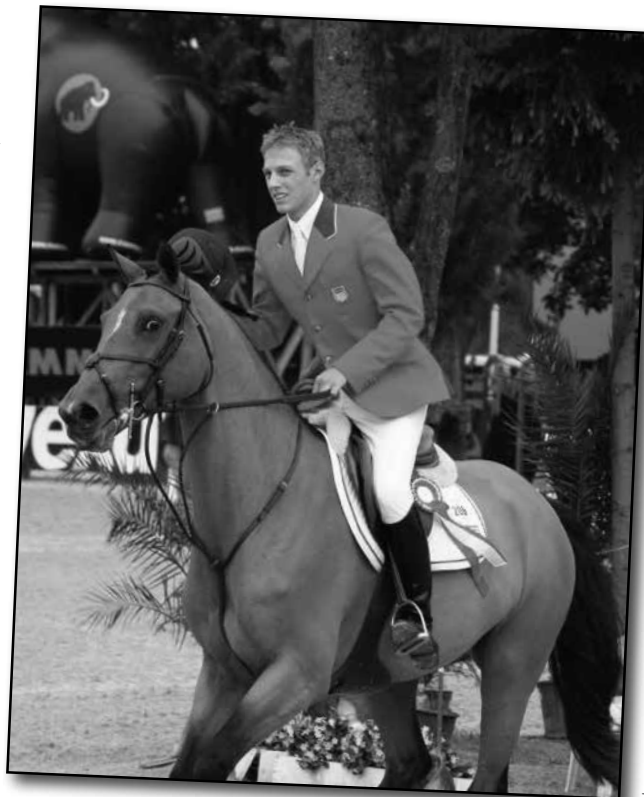
*Well, since you mentioned Spruce Meadows, what are your thoughts about that Canadian venue?*

Spruce Meadows is my favorite place in the world to show! The weather for the first two weeks can sometimes be a bit rough but the show holds up perfectly and the competition is still as good as ever. I have spent three summers competing there; and after missing out on it the last two seasons, I cannot wait to go back this year. In my first riders meeting at Spruce Meadows, the chairman stood up and said, "This is not a 'horse show'. It is a tournament." This is reflected in the operation of the "show" every single day. On top of having the best facility in the world with six state of the art grass competition arenas, the competition committee goes to the greatest lengths to create something special. For example, on a Thursday, for the 1.10 jumper class, the riders wear their whites, salute the judge upon entering the ring, always come out for a jump off, the top 10 is lead into the arena by the Royal Canadian Mounted Patrol for an awards presentation where the riders meet and thank the sponsors, hear their national anthem played as their nations' flag is raised and then led around the ring for a victory gallop. As a rider you feel like you are a part of something incredibly special, especially when jumping in front of 60,000-70,000 fans, and you leave there unbelievably inspired. If you are someone who truly loves the sport, there is no place like Spruce. Whether you watch the videos at home, get a chance to visit one day or are fortunate enough to compete there, take any opportunity you can!"

*When you're not competing internationally, what are your favorite stateside shows?*

"I think to answer this question properly I would have to include Wellington because of the level of competition, the learning that takes place there and the fact that it has quickly become the epi-center of the equestrian industry. While it is a great show, it definitely has its share of faults as it, like many other facets of the industry, has been on a trend that focuses more on quantity versus quality. Devon is one of my absolute favorites. The amount of history

that it has and the traditions that it upholds makes it truly special. For the big classes, there is a crowd like no other in the United States and the atmosphere is electric. I was second in the Grand Prix there this year and it was an experience I will always remember. The Kentucky Horse Park is a fantastic facility. It is always a very well run horse show and the Alltech National Horse Show is possibly the best show we have in the US. The American Gold Cup has had a resurgence in the last two years with its new location at Old Salem Farm in North Salem, NY. It is a fantastic field and they are doing all of the right things to make it a very special show for the future. Others worth mentioning are The New Albany Classic, Harrisburg (Pennsylvania National Horse Show) and Horse Shows By The Bay in Traverse City, Michigan (a great place to bring up young horses and students)."



*Andrew at the Nation's Cup in Linz, Austria.*

*When did you decide that you wanted to become a Professional?*

"As I spent more time in the sport, becoming a professional clearly evolved into a career aspiration. It was my time at North Run with Missy Clark though, that really pushed me in that direction. I loved being a part of a team there and realized how much satisfaction there is when all the work finally pays off. Regardless of whether you're winning something big yourself or your student is having great success, it is an amazing feeling when it all comes together."

*Where do you keep your horses?*

"For the 6-7 months we spend in Wellington we have a great base in Palm Beach Point, just behind the horse show. In the summer months when we are not at competitions we rent a great farm in Lexington, KY - our favorite place!"

*Is your true love hunters or jumpers?*

"Jumpers all the way! I have a lot of respect for the hunter ring but show jumping is such an amazing sport. I don't necessarily feel that one is better than the other - they are just different. However, I do love that the clock and the rails never lie."



*How many people on your “team”?*

“It varies somewhat depending on how many horses we have in at any given point. I like to keep our number of horses around fifteen, and never more than twenty. I like to be able to really spend time with the horses we have in the stable and to be involved with them on a daily basis. With any more than that number, it is very difficult to do. That being said, I like to keep a ratio of no more than three to four horses per person. I have two phenomenal core staff members who take care of the horses, one who helps manage and the other helps to ride when necessary. My girlfriend Alex is also very involved in the daily operations and helps with a lot of the riding so it is very easy for us to be flexible if we need to split the horses up for a week or two to do specific shows.”

*Do you prefer to focus on training and showing, coaching, or selling horses?*

“I think most people who have made a career out of horses really love riding first and that is what motivates them. I have high aspirations in this sport and work every day to achieve them. But I really do love teaching. I get way more nervous when one of my students goes in to show than when I do myself. I think that teaching is a great exercise

to become a better rider yourself. Just through explaining a concept to someone, you may find a new way to explain it to yourself. Even if it is just constant reiteration, it is beneficial to your own riding. Working with a student, having a great dialogue and back-and-forth interaction and then having that produce a result is as satisfying as it comes. I really enjoy finding great horses and matching them up with the right riders. Sales are where most of the income in the industry comes from so it is important to keep them going and to sell good horses especially, not just the ones you decide are not good enough to keep!”

*What are some of the best and worse things about being a professional?*

“I think the best things are what you see on the surface, waking up every day and doing what you love for a living, getting the opportunity to compete often and at high levels, engaging with students and being involved in their success, and of course working with the animals. I wouldn’t say there is a ‘worst’ part because we are all lucky to be able to do what we love, but it is incredibly stressful to have to be responsible for so many things, especially when so many of those things are out of your control because you are dealing with another living creature.”



*If you could change one thing about horse showing, what would it be?*

"More quality and less quantity. There are too many mediocre shows these days and not enough great ones. With shows every week of the year, if you want to qualify for something special like the ponies, junior hunters or junior jumpers at indoors, there is a constant pressure to show to keep up in the points. This causes people to over use themselves and their horses at shows that don't strive to be better. It is not very realistic but I would love to see a show circuit that focuses on having fewer, more quality shows than just as many as possible. It would attract more people to the sport, keep them in it long term, create better riders by giving them the opportunity to work on things between the shows, and most importantly create better horsemanship."

*What words of wisdom would you give to a Junior Rider who is thinking about becoming a Pro?*

"Stay open minded and never miss out on an opportunity to learn. The best part about this sport is that you learn something new each day, even if it is something very small. That is why you saw Ian Millar win his first Olympic medal at his tenth Olympic games at the age of 62. It is a life long sport. Never think that there is only one way to work with horses or that you know the right answers. Watch, learn, and most importantly don't be afraid to put yourself out there and/or ask questions!"

*What words of wisdom would you give an amateur who is entering the ring and terrified of screwing up her horse or falling off?*

"Riding is incredibly mental and the approach that you take mentally can have a major impact of the likelihood of a successful round. A few years ago, McLain Ward gave me a book entitled 'A Golfers Mind' by Dr. Bob Rotella and Bob Cullen. There are many similarities in the psychological approach to golf and riding. On the back of the book there is a quote that says 'play to play great, not to not make a mistake.' I changed that mantra to 'ride to ride great, not to not make a mistake' and it is something I say to my students as they enter the arena and something that I say to myself every round on the way to the first jump."

*Do you ever get nervous, and if so, what do you do to overcome it?*

"I think everyone deals with nerves to some degree - it is only human. I try to separate myself for a few minutes before I get on for a big class, go off for a walk or somewhere where I can be alone, close my eyes for a

minute, visualize the round and just let everything slow down around me so I can just take things a step at a time."

*Who or what inspires you?*

"Every time I see someone win a class it inspires me to work harder to be a better rider to put myself in that position in the future. I also probably stay up way past when I should most nights watching old videos of the greatest horses, riders and/or classes of all time...YouTube is pretty amazing."

*If someone was asked to describe you, what would you hope they would say about you (besides you are one of the hottest trainers out there!)*

"I would hope they would say that I am someone who is passionate about the sport, and all aspects of it; not just the surface success that we are all privy to, but also the day-in and day-out work that gets a rider to the top."

*Our horse industry has been through some rough times these past years. Do you believe we are over the hump and where do you see it going in the next five years?*

"I do believe we are over the hump in some areas and not in others. I think that the quality of shows is slowly getting better which is good for the sport, much of which can be attributed to the formation of the North American Riders Group (NARG). I encourage everyone to at least be aware of what they stand for and the criteria that are important to them, even if you feel that it's something that does not directly affect you. It is our job as exhibitors to hold things to a higher standard. Where I am a bit troubled is that I don't see as many goal-oriented juniors, who are the future of our sport. Whether it is Medal/Maclay finals, Prix Des States or Young Riders, these are fantastic building blocks to the future and served me very well. I hope that the trend of disassociation with these year-end goals turns around soon because I would love for the young riders who are coming up in this country to have the same experiences that I had."



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# MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBER: THEA BAILEY

Like most little girls I dreamed of having my very own pony and riding through lush fields every day until the sun went down. It took years of begging before my parents agreed to allow me to take riding lessons at Diamond T ranch. Needless to say, I was thrilled! I learned how to groom, tack up, and race around barrels. It was exactly what I had imagined, and I soaked up anything anyone would teach me.

About a year later my youngest uncle married a lovely lady whose mother, Martha Gagnon, owned and showed horses. As soon as she found out that I was completely horse crazy, she invited me out to a schooling show at Brookside Farm.

My mind was completely blown! I distinctly remember thinking to myself, "Horses jump?! I am so doing this!"

With my auntie Martha's help, I convinced my parents that I should be riding at Brookside. That's where I first met Heather Parish.

Heather was a junior rider at the time, and had just started giving beginner lessons. We hit it off from the start, and over the next year I took lessons and even showed at Brookside's schooling show (I still have my ribbons!).

The following winter I took a tumble off of a pony named Snip. At the insistence of my father, I got back on my pony and finished my lesson. At the insistence of my mother, I went to the hospital



and found out that my leg was broken and I needed surgery.

It took a year before I was able to ride again, and by the time I went back to Brookside, Heather had left for college. Luckily, Mary A. was willing to take me as a student, and Auntie Martha had a herd of horses for me to ride.

It was a wonderful time for me, I learned a ton, rode and spent time with Auntie Martha.

After a while, I yearned to have horse friends that were my age. So, I moved over to the Miner's to ride with Elzabeth. At the time it was just myself and the Penny girls, Bits and Sarah. We had a blast together riding ponies, trail riding and goofing around. Memories that I hold dear to my heart.

Around the time that Elzabeth moved over to the "old" Arbor Hill, I decided to take a break from the horses. Life was getting busy, and I was looking for a change.

What was meant to be a short break, turned into 5 years. But when the horses are in your blood, you always find a way back to them. And find them I did.







**Date** April 12, 2014

**Time** 11 am - 2 pm

**Location**

Eisenhower Community Center

1001 Hwy. 7

Hopkins, MN

**On-Site Drop Off**

Friday, April 11 from 5-9 pm;

Saturday, April 12 from 7:30-10 am

**Items Accepted** Saddles, bridles, fittings, blankets, halters, grooming supplies, books, riding apparel, etc. Any & all horse related items!

**Lots of Stuff to Sell?** Call or email Heather Salden at 612.360.0848 or sly\_h\_s@yahoo.com and have tags mailed to you ahead of time. Drop your stuff off already tagged! Small quantities of tags available at St. Croix Saddlery & Stone Ridge Equestrian for pickup.

**Saddle to Sell? Donations?** Contact Heather Salden at 612.360.0848 or sly\_h\_s@yahoo.com with your saddle or donation information.

**Consignment Cost** \$5.00; 15% commission on all items sold; unsold items & checks available after sale at 4 pm; items must be picked up before 5, or they become the property of CSDEA.

**Dealers Welcome** Contact Heather Salden before the day of the sale at 612.360.0848.

**Volunteers** Please email Lin Nelson-Mayson at: lnelsonm@gmail.com or 763.257.2852.

**Off-Site Collection** April 5, 2014; 1-4 pm

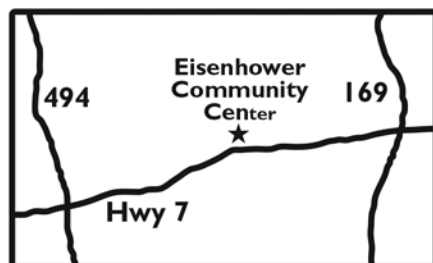
West Side: Stone Ridge Equestrian;

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I landed at Shadow Creek Stables and rode with Mary Konu. It was a lovely transition back into the sport, and it was here that Heather and I reconnected at a schooling show.

Before long I was Heather's working student, running from barn to barn with her. Riding anything that she let me, learning anything anyone would teach me, and loving every second. I began grooming and braiding so that I could afford to take time off of work to travel and show.



Even my son Ben, who was very little at the time, was riding. It was a family affair!

Eventually we moved over to Mary Jo Cody's farm, Spring Meadow, and that is where I am today. Still riding anything Heather will let me, still learning anything John Nordgren will teach me, grateful for all of the support and friendships that our sport has given me, and above all I'm still loving every second.





# 2013 YEAR END AWARDS PHOTOS



*Jordan Green and Unconditional  
Owner: Tracy Grandstrand  
Short Stirrup Champion*



*Marissa Damone and Bismarck  
Owner: Hatty Schiele  
Reserve Champion Children's Hunter*

# MIMI LYONS



*Mimi and Scooter Spring '10*

Possibly the most significant and cherished equestrian award Mimi Lyons has earned in her six years of competitive riding was presented without Mimi and her horse even entering the show ring! In the summer of 2012 at Pony Finals, her pony, Scooter, became lame and had a serious reaction to a prescribed medication. Devastated and unable to compete, Mimi





*Above: Mimi with Elizabeth. - Always concentrating.*

*Right: Mimi with her support crew Pony Finals 2010. From left, TJ, Carter, Sheri, and Tommy with Mimi and Breezy.*



chose to make the most of a very difficult situation by pitching in and helping other competitors. Noticed by many trainers for her positive attitude and helpful work ethic, Mimi was selected for the Pony Finals Sportsmanship Award. As Mimi's equestrian trophies and ribbons continue to accumulate, this Sportsmanship Award stands out as exemplifying the true character of Mimi Lyons.

As an elementary school student Mimi began riding at a summer camp known as "Down on the Farm." Not discouraged by barn chores or mucking stalls she sought to move on to riding with a professional trainer. Six years ago by sheer chance Mimi's mother, Sheri, inquired of a neighbor the name of a lesson stable on the east side of St. Paul. Given the name of Arbor Hill Farm, Mother and daughter visited the Hugo barn which had only recently opened for business. On meeting the barn trainer, it didn't take long for mother and trainer to recognize that they were high school friends but unaware



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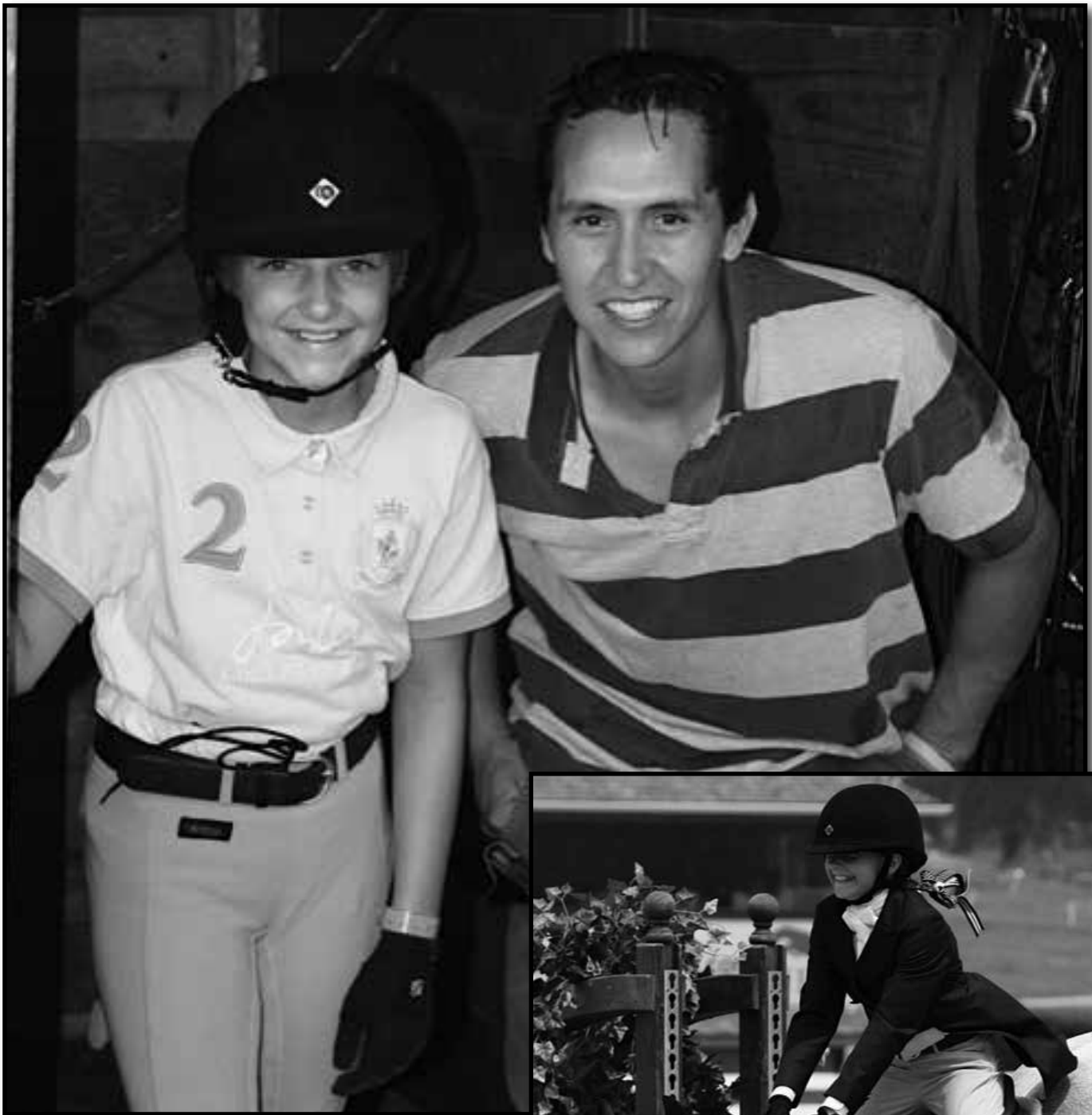
of their respective married names! Now, six years later Sheri and Tommy Lyons are wonderful supporters of Arbor Hill Farm and their daughter, Mimi, is one of the barn's leading riders.

As a freshman at Mounds Park Academy, (where both Sheri Lyons and Elizabeth Lampert graduated a few years ago,) Mimi thrives in the small school setting. While riding lessons and competitions are time consuming for any 15 year old, Mimi additionally enjoys being active as an Admissions Ambassador, as a member of the Dance Line, as a player on the varsity tennis team and as a class representative to the Student Government. Strong organizational skills and a supportive family allow Mimi to participate positively in all these activities. And, yes, she



*Sheri, Mimi and Scooter*





*Above: Mimi and Bubar at Pony Finals '10*

maintains an academic honors average as well!

The chronology of her ponies and horses brings forth names familiar to readers of this newsletter. Shannon Riley was first to lease a medium pony named Wizard to Mimi in 2008. A year later following a trip to Kentucky the family leased another medium pony, Breezie, from Mindy Darst and they competed successfully to earn a spot at Pony Finals in 2009. Scooter, a large pony, came next and the pair had a very successful two years stepping up to the Large Pony Division. Now Mimi rides Mikey in the Children's Hunter and Equitation divisions. In the 2014 season she is eager to enter the Large Junior



*Mimi and Breezy, always smiling!*



division. Mimi likens the challenge of Hunter Classes to a puzzle with each course and jump fitting together to reach a successful ride. It is the internal satisfaction that comes with a "ride well done" that appeals to Mimi and not just ribbons and trophies.

Mimi's trainer, Elizabeth Lampert, describes her young rider as a hard working, goal oriented student. "Mimi is fun to teach - she really wants to learn; she listens well. I think one of her best qualities is determination," observed Elizabeth. "At times I think she is too hard on herself but that is not all that bad a fault." The hard work Lampert referenced had its reward last fall when Mimi and Mikey

entered the Hunter Derby at the Minnesota Harvest Horse Show and finished within the top ten riders, including both professional and adult competitors. Elizabeth is also quick to note Mimi's personal qualities: "She is kind, outgoing, polite, considerate and always willing to help" - qualities which Elizabeth encourages in her program. "Mimi sets a positive role model for others in our Arbor Hill riding program," added Elizabeth.

There is a refreshing maturity to Mimi Lyons, well beyond her 15 years. She approaches her responsibilities and activities in a balanced, thoughtful manner. Her reflections about equestrian competition

*continued on page 37*



# 2013 USHJA ANNUAL MEETING

The 2013 Annual meeting of the USHJ was held the first week of December in Atlanta, Georgia. The MHJA always sends representatives to this meeting, and I was privileged to be the MHJA's representative again this year. Actually, I've attended every annual meeting since the USHJA was formed, so it's been interesting to watch the progression of these meetings.

The last few years have been pretty peaceful, but the 2013 meeting was a return to the adversarial atmosphere of the early meetings. There were an awful lot of issues that flew back and forth and took up an incredible amount of time to deal with. I arrived for the first Zone meeting on Sunday at noon, and I didn't leave the hotel to even get out for a walk until I left on Wednesday to go to the airport. Meetings ran over, they started while we ate breakfast; they continued through lunches, they ran into dinners. USHJA Vice – President Mary Babick did a great job of reorganizing the time schedule, and moderating the meetings. The big issues were Drug Rules Best Practices; horse micro-chipping or permanent ID of some sort; the new Pre-Green/Green rule; and the theory that every horse sold who participates in a USEF show will need to have a bill of sale on file with the USEF.

Usually Zone 6 has a large contingent at the Annual Meeting, but this year Melinda Antisdell, Louise Otten and I were the only representatives from Zone 6. Because a lot of the meetings are held at the same time, I had to pick which ones I wanted to attend. (Sorry Elizabeth, I missed the one on pony and junior hunter measurement!)

If you're interested in what rules actually passed to be effective Dec.1, 2014 for the 2015 season, and there are some that are interesting ones, visit the USHJA web site, scroll down the home page to the bottom and hit the silver button in the middle. The Chronicle of the Horse also has a couple of very good articles regarding what happened at the meeting. What I want to do is discuss what appears to be the direction the USEF is going, and dragging the USHJA (and the USDF, USEA, Reining, Endurance and Vaulting) along with it, will-nilly.

A little background first. USEF is now the National Governing Body (NGB) for equestrian sports in the United States as declared by the United States Olympic Committee. Because USEF is the NGB, they now have all sorts of rules they have to follow and implement. As

they move forward, sometimes they appear to be trying to emulate the Federation Equestre Internationale, which governs horse sports world-wide. But as the NGB, governed by the USOC, (which is in turn governed by the Ted Stephens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, passed by Congress in 1998) the USEF now has to abide by a number of rules that may seem very odd to the average horseperson.

In addition, as some of the less savory practices of the horse industry hit the media this year, the USEF, along with Racing and other horse sports, have decided it's better to be proactive and govern themselves, rather than have a legislature do it for them, as has happened in some states regarding the regulation of horse sales.

As members of the USHJA, we should be prepared to see more rulings regarding "Best Practices." The five big areas are drugs and medications, horse identification, sales and agency, risk management, and Safe Sport. The rule change proposals for the first three were withdrawn, but I'm sure they have only gone back to the drawing board and we will see them again in the future.

The last two are more interesting, and have already had and will have great effects on our sport. Risk Management, as practiced by the USEF, is the reason why we have golf car driver rule, the helmet rule, the cell-phone rule... The USEF is trying to protect itself, and its member associations, from unnecessary legal defense. Safe Sport is probably just coming onto our radar. This is the rule that protects people in the sport from sexual predation, bullying and discrimination. If you have a kid who plays soccer, you may have heard of this from their coach.

All licensed officials will be required to pass a criminal background check before they will receive a license. Stewards will be required to report abusive behavior in schooling rings, the show ring, or the in-gate. The Yellow Warning Card system has been strengthened. Do not be surprised to see, down the road, that trainers will require a license before they can participate in USEF approved shows.

While some horse people may regard this as interference in their right to do business as they please, we might as well get used to it, and work with it to see that the rules are in our best interests, not instituted by some legislator who doesn't have a clue about equines.



# USEF Rule Changes for 2014

The biggest change for 2014 is also the one that caused the biggest uproar at the USHJA Annual Meeting. Prior to the meeting, an extraordinary rule was put through that totally changes the definition of green and pre-green horses. There's no change for horse shown in the U.S. or Canada, it's still the same show over 3'6" and you're no longer pre-green. However, for young horses showing abroad under FEI rules, it's a new game:

- A Green Hunter is a horse of any age in its first or second year of showing in any hunter, jumper, hunter seat equitation or jumping seat equitation classes held at Federation Licensed competitions, Equine Canada competitions and/or FEI competitions in which the specifications require horses to jump 3'6" (1.075m) or higher, regardless of whether or not the fences are actually set at 3'6" (1.075m) or higher. Exception: Horses six years of age and under competing over fences of 3'6" (1.075m) or higher in jumper classes at FEI competitions will retain eligibility as Pre-Green or First Year Green Hunters and horses seven years of age competing over fences of 3'6" (1.075m) or higher in jumper classes at FEI competitions will retain eligibility as Second Year Green Hunters. The green status of a horse is the responsibility of the owner. See HU rules 103-106

People complained it gave an advantage to European horses, or complained they had imported older horses that now would not be eligible to show, or complained that the rule left American bred horses at a disadvantage. This came about after some entries in the \$100,000 Pre-Green Incentive Final proved NOT to be eligible: USEF told USHJA to fix it for 2014. This was the bandage they came up with. Do not be surprised to see it either 1) reworked for 2015 or 2) see these classes divided into two sections, by age and by height of fences. Sort of like the current points or money won HOTY awards in the Performance horses.

## **General Rule Changes**

- The old Non Member fee is now called the "Show Pass Fee."
- In the Hunter/Jumpers AA shows are now called "Premier," A rated – "National," B rated – "Regional I," C rated – "Regional II" and Local stays Local. If you read the rule book, it's changed in most places, but occasionally you'll find references to AA, A, etc...

## **Equitation**

- Stirrups with an all black branch are no longer allowed in Equitation. Riding with an all black stirrup causes immediate elimination.

## **Hunter**

- HU109 defines walk-trot specifications.
- HU111.13 puts in the new Junior Hunter 3'3" section, equivalent to the 3'3" Amateur Owner section.
- HU 132 defines what "Competed" means. In over fences, a horse has competed after his number and a score for the first fence has been entered on the judge's card. In under saddle classes, a horse has competed once they have entered the ring.

## **Jumpers**

- JU108 caps the amount of money that can be offered in a Children's or Adult Amateur class at \$10,000. However, a show can apply for an exception to the rule.
- JU115 New rules on classes restricted by age.
- JU4-120.4 Standards for show levels revised.

I've tried to highlight the changes I thought would be of most interest to MHJA members. If you want to see all the changes, go to the USHJA web page and go to the bottom of the home page. The silver button in the middle will get you to the rule changes for this year and 2015.



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# MHJA YEAR END AWARDS PROGRAM

Each year, the MHJA offers a year-end awards program consisting of overall high point awards for several divisions in Equitation, Hunters, and Jumpers as well as various high point awards for Equitation, Hunters and Jumpers. The original intention was, and continues to be, rewarding riders who regularly participate in MHJA member horseshows.

Participation in the program commences on the date an individual membership becomes active in the MHJA.

Date of membership is recorded by the Membership Chair. It is activated in one of two ways; 1) the postmarked date of an application and payment sent by mail, or 2) the date the application and payment are received by a representative of the MHJA.

For any nomination class that has a Year End Award, regardless of the sponsor, MHJA membership as described below is required.

- For Hunter and Jumper classes, the Owner must be a member of the MHJA, regardless of lease status. If the lease is recorded with USEF, then only the lessee needs to be a member of MHJA.
- For Equitation, the Rider must be a member of the MHJA.

It is the members' responsibility to notify the MHJA of changes in horses' name, riders' name, or ownership.

Points for all classes shall be accumulated according to the following scale:

	Single Points	Double Points
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	10 points	20 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	7 points	14 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	5 points	10 points
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	3 points	6 points
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 points	4 points
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	1 point	2 points

Points will count for year end awards regardless of the number of entries in a particular class or division as long as the horse show holds the class or division.

A division, either combined or split, must be held at a minimum of three MHJA recognized horseshows.

Equitation classes are scored on the Rider, regardless of the horse shown.

Hunter and Jumper classes are scored on the Horse, regardless of the rider.

To be eligible for an Equitation Division award, the Rider **must compete and be judged at a minimum of three MHJA recognized shows, in the division for which the award is given**, once their membership is activated. **For example, if the rider wished to be eligible for an Adult Equitation 35 and Under award, they must compete in an Adult Equitation 35 and Under class in at least three different MHJA recognized horse shows.**

To be eligible for a Hunter or Jumper Division award, the Horse **must compete and be judged at a minimum of three MHJA recognized shows, in the division for which the award is given**, once their membership is activated. **For example, for a horse to be eligible for the Small Hunter award, that horse must compete in a Small Hunter class in at least three different MHJA recognized horse shows.**

Points accrued from "Blue Ribbon Jumper Classes" will not count for either Year End Awards or special trophies.

All divisions for Year End Awards will be awarded. While divisions may be combined at horse shows, the MHJA will award all divisions separately if there is a valid candidate for the award. See above rules for eligibility.

**Except for the MHJA Hunter Challenge, points won in division specific hunter classics will no longer count towards MHJA Year End Awards.**

For Hunter and Equitation divisions, points for under saddle (on the flat) and over fences classes shall count equally. Entry requirements for classes cannot be more restrictive than those required for MHJA Year End Awards. (Medal classes do not count towards Equitation Awards.)

For Hunter divisions, **ties for all places will be broken with the higher placing given to the horse with most points accumulated over fences.**

For Equitation and Jumper divisions, ties will not be broken.

For all divisions, a complete set of Champion, Reserve Champion, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> place ribbons will be awarded (assuming enough qualified participants). This means that duplicate awards and ribbons will be given for ties where applicable.

Year-to-date points will be posted on the MHJA website.

If discrepancies or questions regarding points are found, please contact the Awards Committee Chairperson, Betsy Kieffer at 763-494-8458. Any questions concerning points will be addressed as covered by the By-Laws sections 2.7 and 2.8.

# NOMINATION DIVISIONS FOR 2014 YEAR END AWARDS

## OPPORTUNITY CLASSES

1. Shortest Stirrup Equitation/Hunter, sponsored by St. Croix Saddlery, Inc.
2. Beginner Equitation/Hunter
3. Intermediate Equitation/Hunter
4. Opportunity Jumper

## EQUITATION DIVISION

1. Short Stirrup Equitation
2. Open Equitation on the flat, 11 and under
3. Open Equitation over fences, 11 and under
4. Open Equitation on the flat, 12 thru 14
5. Open Equitation over fences, 12 thru 14
6. Open Equitation on the flat, 15 thru 17
7. Open Equitation over fences, 15 thru 17
8. Adult Amateur Equitation, 18 - 35, flat and over fences
9. Adult Amateur Equitation, 36 and Over, flat and over fences
10. Long Stirrup Equitation, 17 and Under, flat and over fences
11. Long Stirrup Equitation, 18 and Over, flat and over fences
12. MHJA Medal
13. MHJA Mini-Medal

## HUNTER DIVISION

- 1.. 1st Year Green Working Hunter
2. 2nd Year Green Working Hunter
- 3.. High Performance Working Hunter
4. Performance Working Hunter 3'3"
5. Performance Working Hunter 3'6"
- 6. Small Hunter**
7. 3'6" Amateur Owner Working Hunter 35 and under
8. 3'6" Amateur Owner Working Hunter 35 and over
9. 3'3" Amateur Owner Working Hunter
10. Small Junior Working Hunter
11. Large Junior Working Hunter
- 12. Junior Hunter 3'3"**
13. Small Pony Working Hunter
14. Medium Pony Working Hunter
15. Large Pony Working Hunter
16. Children's Working Hunter Horse 13 and under
17. Children's Working Hunter Horse 14 -17
18. Children's Working Hunter Pony
19. Adult Amateur Working Hunter 35 and under
20. Adult Amateur Working Hunter 36 - 49
21. Adult Amateur Working Hunter 50 and over
22. Pre-Green Working Hunter low
23. Pre-Green Working Hunter high
- 24. Best Young Horse**
- 25..Long Stirrup Working Hunter 17 and under
26. Long Stirrup Working Hunter 18 and over
27. Short Stirrup Working Hunter
28. Limit Children's Working Hunter
29. Limit Adult Working Hunter
30. Low Amateur Working Hunter
31. Rusty Stirrup Working Hunter, sponsored by St. Croix Saddlery, Inc.
32. Baby Green Hunter
33. MHJA Hunter Challenge



## **JUMPER DIVISION**

1. .90- .99m Jumper
2. 1.0- 1.04m Jumper
3. 1.05m and 1.10m Jumper
4. 1.15m Jumper
5. 1.20m and 1.25m Jumper
6. 1.30m and above Jumper
7. Pony Jumper - USEF specs
8. Modified Children's/Adult Amateur Jumper - .85m-.95m
9. Low Children's Jumper - 1.0m - USEF specs
10. High Children's Jumper - 1.05m-1.10m - USEF specs
11. Low Adult Amateur Jumper - 1.0m - USEF specs
12. High Adult Amateur Jumper - 1.05m-1.10m - USEF specs
13. 1.15m High Children's/Adult or Modified Junior/Amateur Jumper
14. Junior Jumper - USEF specs
15. Amateur Owner Jumper – USEF specs

FOR HORSE SHOW PURPOSES, THE AGE OF AN INDIVIDUAL ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE CURRENT COMPETITION YEAR (DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> TO NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>). A PERSON BORN ON DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> WILL ASSUME THE GREATER AGE ON THAT DATE. AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS REACHED HIS/HER 18<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY AS OF DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> OF THE CURRENT COMPETITION YEAR IS AN ADULT.



# **Insurance Advisors to the Horse Community**

JANE SPARKS

JON MARTINSON

*Windridge Ltd.*

**WE SEE THINGS FROM  
YOUR POINT OF VIEW.**

**WINDRIDGE LTD., A DIVISION OF HAYS COMPANIES**  
**PO BOX 407 • LONG LAKE, MN 55356**  
**PHONE: (952) 426-9103 • FAX: (952) 426-9224**

# 2014 MHJA CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

## HUNT SEAT EQUITATION DIVISION

ALL CLASSES JUDGED ON HANDS, SEAT, GUIDANCE AND CONTROL OF THE HORSE. FOR COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS, PLEASE CHECK THE EQUITATION SECTION OF THE CURRENT USEF RULE BOOK.

1. OPEN EQUITATION 11 AND UNDER (FLAT). Open to riders who have not reached their 12th birthday. Tests 1-8.
2. OPEN EQUITATION 11 AND UNDER (OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have not reached their 12th birthday . Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations are prohibited. See USEF Rule EQ111 for course requirements. Tests 1-8.
3. OPEN EQUITATION 12-14 (FLAT). Open to riders who have reached their 12th but not their 15th birthday. Tests 1-8.
4. OPEN EQUITATION 12-14 (OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have reached their 12th but not their 15th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'. See USEF Rule EQ111 for course requirements. Tests 1-8.
5. OPEN EQUITATION 15-17 (FLAT). Open to riders who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday. Tests 1-19.
6. OPEN EQUITATION 15-17(OVER FENCES). Open to riders who have reached their 15th but not their 18th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'6". See USEF Rule EQ111 for course requirements. Tests 1-19.
7. ADULT EQUITATION 18 - 35 (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th but not their 36th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'3". Tests 1-8.
8. ADULT EQUITATION 36 AND OVER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 36th birthday. Fences not to exceed 3'3". Tests 1-8.
9. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION, 17 AND UNDER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to junior riders who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/CEF recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this division and Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, **or any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9"**. A rider who is eligible as of December 1, shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, distances will not be adjusted. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter division are requested to hold at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
10. LONG STIRRUP EQUITATION 18 AND OVER (FLAT AND OVER FENCES). Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday, and who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/CEF recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this division and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, distances will not be adjusted. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter division are requested to hold at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
11. SHORT STIRRUP EQUITATION. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 12th birthday and have not won six first place ribbons over fences 2'6" or higher. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. No rider may cross enter at the same show between Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation and Long Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or between Short Stirrup Hunter/Equitation and any class requiring entries to jump 3 feet or higher. Open to horses and ponies; manners emphasized and extreme speed penalized. Fences not to exceed 2'3", oxers and combinations prohibited. In flat classes no more than 8 entries may canter at one time and hand gallop is prohibited. Shows offering a Short Stirrup Hunter division are requested to hold at least one Short Stirrup Equitation class.
12. MHJA HUNT SEAT MEDAL CLASS. Open to junior and amateur riders who are current members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made directly to the MHJA. To be shown over a course of not less than 8 obstacles not exceeding 3' in height which must include one combination, one change of direction, and one long approach to a fence. Two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-14. Only one rider per horse. Amateur riders in this class may cross enter into classes where fences are 3'6" or higher. Junior riders in this class may not cross enter, at the same show, into classes where fences are 3'6" or higher unless they are in their first year of showing over fences 3'6" or higher; except for the Medal Final class, where they may cross enter if otherwise qualified. First through fourth place winners shall be eligible to compete in the MHJA Hunt Seat Medal Final. The final for this class may be held at a horse show to be announced at the beginning of the year. The Final shall consist of a course of not less than 8 obstacles not exceeding 3' in height which must include one combination, one change of direction, and one long approach to a fence. All exhibitors shall return for a flat phase. Following the flat phase, two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-14. The winner of the final will receive a perpetual trophy. Qualifying for the Medal shall start with the first MHJA Medal class held after the Medal Finals of the previous year and end at the last show prior to the finals of the current year. In the event no final class is held, the perpetual trophy shall be awarded to the rider who has accumulated the most points in the MHJA Hunt Seat Medal class throughout the year.
13. MHJA MINI-MEDAL. Open to junior and amateur riders who are current members of the MHJA. Application for membership must be made directly to the MHJA. Cross entry at the same show into any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9" is prohibited. To be shown over a course of at least 8 fences 2'6" in height. Two tests (USEF Tests 1-8) are required in the first round. If there are 8 or more entries at the beginning of the class, two or more tests of the top four riders are required, USEF Tests 1-8. Only one rider per horse. A final for this class may be held at a horse show designated by the MHJA Board of Directors. Riders who win a first, second, third or fourth place in the Mini-Medal will be eligible for the finals. The final will consist of a first round of at least 8 fences 2'6" in height. The top four riders will return to be tested at the judge's discretion from tests 1-8. Exhibitors who qualify in both the Mini-Medal and the MHJA Medal may ride in only one final. Qualifying for the Mini-Medal shall start with the first MHJA Mini-Medal class held after the Mini-Medal Finals of the previous year and end at the last show prior to the finals of the current year. If no final class is held, the year-end award for the medal will be awarded on points accumulated during the show year.



## HUNTER DIVISION

For divisions 1-24, check the current USEF Rule Book for complete USEF specifications and on-line at [USHJA.org](http://USHJA.org) for Zone 6 specifications.

1. FIRST YEAR GREEN WORKING HUNTER. USEF Rule HU Fences 3'6".
2. SECOND YEAR GREEN WORKING HUNTER. USEF Rule HU Fences 3'9".
3. HIGH PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER. See USEF Rule HU.
4. PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER 3'3" USEF Rule HU.
5. PERFORMANCE WORKING HUNTER 3'6" USEF Rule HU.
6. **SMALL HUNTER USEF Rule HU Fences 3'**.
7. AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER- RIDERS 18 - 35 YEARS OF AGE. Fences 3'6".
8. AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER- RIDERS 36 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER. Fences 3'6".
9. AMATEUR OWNER WORKING HUNTER 3'3" Fences 3'3". USEF rules allow the high amateur-owner, low amateur-owner and junior hunter 3'6" and junior hunter 3'3" to be combined if necessary. See USEF Rule HU.
10. SMALL JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER - UNDER 16 HANDS. USEF Rule HU Fences 3'6".
11. LARGE JUNIOR WORKING HUNTER- 16 HANDS AND OVER. USEF Rule HU Fences 3'6".
12. **JUNIOR HUNTER 3'3" USEF Rule HU Fences 3'3"**
13. SMALL PONY WORKING HUNTER. USEF Rule HU Small ponies not to exceed 12.2 hands. Fences 2'3".
14. MEDIUM PONY WORKING HUNTER. USEF Rule HU Medium ponies over 12.2 but not exceeding 13.2. hands. Fences 2'6".
15. LARGE PONY WORKING HUNTER. USEF Rule HU Large ponies over 13.2 but not exceeding 14.2 hands. Fences 3'.
16. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 13 and Under USEF Rule HU. Zone 6 specs
17. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER HORSE. 14 -17 USEF Rule HU Zone 6 specs  
Open to horses that are to be ridden by Junior exhibitors. To be judged on performance and soundness with emphasis on manners. Extreme speed to be penalized. Fence heights shall not exceed 3', spreads not to exceed the height of the fence. Horses not required to jog for soundness. Horse/rider combinations entered in this division may not cross enter into the Junior Hunter Division at the same show, unless it is the rider's first year of showing in the Junior Division. Riders entered in the Children's Hunter may not cross enter, at the same show, in classes where the jumps exceed 3'6". If entries warrant, it is recommended that this division be split by age into two sections: 13 and under and 14 - 17. Zone 6 specs.
18. CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER PONY. Open to ponies shown by a junior rider. Riders may not cross enter into USEF rated classes at the same show where the height of fences exceeds 3'3". Riders may cross enter into Pony Jumpers regardless of fence heights. To be judged on performance, soundness, manners, way of going, size of rider to mount and suitability as a Children's Hunter Pony. To be offered at two fence heights: 2' for small and medium ponies and 2' 6" for large ponies. Ponies need not be jogged. Zone Award presented annually as one section. Zone 6 specs
19. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 18 – 35: Zone 6 specs.
20. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 36 – 49: Zone 6 specs
21. ADULT AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER 50 AND OVER. Open to horses and ponies ridden by amateurs who are no longer eligible to compete as a Junior exhibitor. Horses entered in this section may compete in the Amateur Owner Hunter section at the same show if ridden by an immediate family member of the adult amateur rider. Horses in the Adult Amateur section may also compete in the Junior Hunter section at the same show. Riders in the Adult Amateur section may ride a different horse in the Amateur Owner section, and may ride in any section for which they are eligible at the same show. To be judged on performance, soundness and suitability. Fence heights not to exceed 3', spreads must not exceed the fence height. Entries not to jog for soundness. To be offered in three age groups –18-35, 36-49 and 50 and over. Zone Awards will be offered in all three age groups. If there are less than three entries in an age group, it is to be combined with the other age group that has the least number of entries. Zone 6 specs apply.
22. LOW PRE-GREEN WORKING HUNTER: USEF Rule HU Fences 3'
23. HIGH PRE-GREEN WORKING HUNTER. See USEF Rule HU Fences 3'3"
24. **BEST YOUNG HORSE – USEF HU186 Open to horses competing in the yearling, two year old and three year old Hunter Breeding Classes.**  
***Horses will earn points from these three age groups. Placings won in Best Young Horse Championship and Best Young Horse Reserve Championship at horse shows not to count for the year end award.***
25. LONG STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER 17 AND UNDER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to junior riders who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/EC recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this division and Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or ***any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9"***. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, manners emphasized, extreme speed penalized. Hand gallop is prohibited in under saddle classes. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter division are requested to offer at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
26. LONG STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER 18 AND OVER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 18th birthday and who have not won three first place ribbons at any USEF/EC recognized show over fences which exceeded 2'9" in height in the past three years, including equitation. No rider cross entry at the same show between this division and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'9". A rider, who is eligible as of December 1, shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. Fences not to exceed 2'6". Combinations prohibited. Open to horses or ponies, manners emphasized, extreme speed penalized. Hand gallop is prohibited in under saddle classes. Shows offering a Long Stirrup Hunter division are requested to offer at least one Long Stirrup Equitation class.
27. SHORT STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER, HORSES OR PONIES. Open to junior riders who have not reached their 12th birthday and have not won six first place ribbons over fences 2'6" or higher. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the year regardless of ribbons won. No rider may cross enter at the same show between Short Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation and Long Stirrup Hunter/ Equitation, or between Short Stirrup Hunter/Equitation and any class requiring entries to jump 3 feet or higher. Open to horses or ponies; manners emphasized and extreme speed penalized. Fences not to exceed 2'3", oxers and combinations prohibited. In under saddle classes no more than 8 entries may canter at one time and hand gallop is prohibited. Shows offering a Short Stirrup Hunter Division are requested to offer at least one Short Stirrup Equitation class.
28. LIMIT CHILDREN'S WORKING HUNTER. Open to horses and ponies ridden by junior riders who have not won more than six first place ribbons over fences 3' or higher at any USEF/EC recognized competition, including equitation. First place ribbons won in USEF Pony Hunter sections not to

count. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the entire show year regardless of ribbons won. To be judged on performance and soundness, with emphasis on manners. Not to jog for ribbons. Fences not to exceed 2'9".

29. LIMIT ADULT WORKING HUNTER. Open to riders no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Amateur certification required. Open to riders who have not won six first place ribbons over fences 3' or higher at any USEF/EC recognized competition, including equitation, in the last six years. A rider who is eligible as of December 1 shall retain his/her eligibility throughout the entire show year regardless of ribbons won. Horse/ rider combinations entered in Limit Adult may not cross enter into Low Amateur Hunter classes, or any class where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Riders may, however, enter the Low Amateur Hunter on a different mount. To be judged on performance and soundness, with emphasis on manners. Not to jog for ribbons. Height of fences 2'9".

If there are less than four entries in either the Limit Adult Hunter section or the Limit Children's Hunter section, they may be combined. If there are four or more entries in both sections they must be held separately.

30. LOW AMATEUR WORKING HUNTER. Open to amateur riders no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor. Amateur certification required. Horse/rider combinations entered in Low Amateur may not cross enter into Limit Adult, and into classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'6". Riders may, if otherwise qualified, enter the Limit Adult on a different mount. Riders may also enter classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'6" on another mount. To be judged on performance and soundness, emphasis on manners. Height of fences 2'9" to 3". Entries not to jog for ribbons. If there are 30 or more entries at the start of the first class of the division, management must split the division and award two sets of ribbons and two championships.

31. RUSTY STIRRUP WORKING HUNTER, sponsored by St. Croix Saddlery, Inc. Open to amateur riders who have reached their 30th birthday. Amateur certification required. No rider cross entry at the same show between this division and any class where the height of fences exceeds 2'6". Fences not to exceed 2'3". Combinations and oxers prohibited. No hand gallop in under saddle classes. Open to horses or ponies, manners emphasized, extreme speed penalized. No jog.

32. BABY GREEN WORKING HUNTER. Open to horses in their first two years of showing. Horses entered in this section may not cross enter into classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'. Fences 2'6". No combinations, no hand gallop, no jog.

33. MHJA HUNTER CHALLENGE. The MHJA will award high point awards through sixth place based on results in MHJA Hunter Challenge events if 3 or more competitions host qualified hunter challenges. Points earned at any Hunter Challenge sponsored by Zone 6 at an MHJA affiliated show will also count toward the MHJA Hunter Challenge year-end awards. USHJA International Hunter Derby competitions will not count toward the MHJA year-end awards. Points earned in USHJA National Hunter Classic classes held at an MHJA affiliated show will count toward the MHJA Hunter Challenge year-end awards. Hunter classics conducted under USEF rules which meet the requirements set forth in this policy will count towards the MHJA Hunter Challenge year-end awards. Year-end awards are subject to MHJA rules: the owner of the horse must be a member of the MHJA, the horse must have been shown in a class which qualifies as an MHJA Hunter challenge at three or more MHJA affiliated shows in the same season, and at least 3 competitions must offer a qualified hunter challenge.

#### NON YEAR END AWARD DIVISIONS

34. UNRESTRICTED HUNTER 2'6". Open to all horses and riders. To be judged on performance and soundness. No hand gallop in under saddle classes. No Year end award.

35. UNRESTRICTED HUNTER 2'9". Open to all horses and riders. To be judged on performance and soundness. No hand gallop in under saddle classes. No Year end award.

36. Pre-Children's/Adult Hunter. Open to juniors and amateurs. Horse /rider combinations may not cross enter into classes where the height of fences exceeds 2'9".

37. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S/ADULT HUNTER. Open to juniors and amateurs. Horse /rider combinations may not cross enter into classes where the height of fences exceeds 3'.

**JUMPER DIVISION:** All divisions except pony jumpers are open to horses and ponies and are to be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF and Zone 6 Rules and Regulations.

1. .90m -.99m JUMPER

2. 1.0m – 1.04m JUMPER

3. 1.05m and 1.10m JUMPER

4. 1.15m JUMPER

5. 1.20m and 1.25m JUMPER

6. 1.30m and above JUMPER - All classes for 1.30m and above jumpers.

7. PONY JUMPER. USEF rules apply, including cross-entry restrictions.

8. MODIFIED CHILDREN'S/ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER Open to junior and amateur riders. Fence height .85m (2'9") to .95m (3'1").

9. LOW CHILDREN'S JUMPER Open to junior riders. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.0m

10. LOW ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to amateur riders, USEF Amateur certification required. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.0m

11. HIGH CHILDREN'S JUMPER. Open to junior riders. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.05-1.15m

12. HIGH ADULT AMATEUR JUMPER. Open to amateur riders, USEF Amateur certification required. See Zone 6 specifications. 1.05-1.15m

13. 1.15 HIGH CHILDREN'S/ADULT - MODIFIED JUNIOR / AMATEUR JUMPER. All classes for 1.15 High Children's/Adult Jumper - Modified Junior/ Amateur Jumpers must be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF Rules and Regulations. Open to all junior and amateur riders. If the class is titled Children's/Adult Jumper, it must be run under USHJA Zone 6 rules.

*Shows may split or combine Children's and Adult Amateur jumpers, and may offer combined level (progressive) sections of Children's/ Adult Amateur Jumper. Year-end awards will be given in Low Children's Jumper, High Children's Jumper, Low Adult Amateur Jumper, High Adult Amateur Jumper and 1.15 High Children's/Adult-Modified Junior/Amateur Jumper. Regardless of how the class is titled, points earned in classes held at 1.0m will count towards*

*the Low Children's/ Adult Amateur awards and points earned at 1.05m -1.10m will count towards the High Children's/ Adult Amateur awards. Points earned in 1.15 Children's Adult –Modified Junior Amateur Jumper will be counted towards the 1.15 High Children's/Adult-Modified Junior/ Amateur Jumper*

14. **JUNIOR JUMPER.** Open to junior riders. Must be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF Rules and Regulations.

15. **AMATEUR OWNER JUMPER.** Open to Amateur riders, USEF Amateur Certification required. See USEF Rule JP. Must be conducted and scored in accordance with USEF Rules and Regulations.

*Shows may combine or split the Junior/Amateur Owner Jumpers, and may offer progressive sections. Regardless of how a class is titled, for MHJA year-end awards, points earned in classes restricted to Juniors and/or Amateur Owners at 1.20m and above will count towards the Junior Jumper and Amateur Owner Jumper awards. Classes held at 1.15m will be counted towards the 1.15 High Children's/Adult-Modified Junior/Amateur Jumper division.*

## **OPPORTUNITY CLASSES**

**To be eligible for a year-end award from the MHJA, you will need to join the MHJA as a competition member.**

Opportunity classes were developed by the USEF as a place to introduce people to the horse show world without the expensive membership fees.

**To be eligible for a year-end award from the MHJA, you will need to join the MHJA as a competition member to be eligible for points in sections judged on the rider (equitation classes.). For points to count in the hunter and jumper classes, the OWNER of the horse must be a Competition member of the MHJA.** Entries in Opportunity classes are not required to have USEF/USHJA membership or pay non-member fees; and their mount is not required to be registered with USHJA or be recorded with USEF to participate. Entries are required to pay all other fees. If riders or horses enter any other classes at a show, except other Opportunity classes, they ARE required to have all necessary memberships and requirements. Here are the rules/requirements for Opportunity classes:

- Riders in Opportunity classes may not show in any USEF rated classes at that horse show. Riders may cross enter into unrated classes for which you are eligible provided the height of fences does not exceed 2'6", but rider then has to be a USEF/USHJA member or pay the non-membership fees; and pay the drug and zone fees.
- If the rider has **EVER** shown in a USEF rated Hunter, Jumper or Hunt Seat Equitation class they are ineligible to show in Opportunity classes. If they have a question about this, please check with the show secretary.
- You have to show in at least three MHJA approved shows to be eligible for a year-end award.
- For the Opportunity classes, attire may consist of proper hunter/jumper show attire or the following: breeches with paddock boots and half chaps; jodhpurs with paddock boots; or breeches and boots. Jumpers may wear a polo shirt or other shirt with sleeves and a collar. Hunter/Equitation riders may wear a shirt with tie or a show shirt with a choker. Depending on the weather, they may wear a close fitting sweater, jacket or vest. All riders must wear SEI/ASTM approved head gear.
- Any USEF rules regarding walk-trot classes shall automatically become part of the Opportunity specifications.

Equitation classes are judged on control of mount, appropriate pace, steering and effective position of rider.

Hunter classes judged on performance, manners of mount, and suitability at this level of competition.

1. **SHORTEST STIRRUP EQUITATION/HUNTER OPPORTUNITY, SPONSORED BY ST. CROIX SADDLERY.** Open to junior riders who have not reached their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Riders in this division may not cross enter into any other section or class at the same horse show, except classes on the flat and under saddle for which they are otherwise eligible. Classes may consist of unmounted showmanship, walk/trot, walk/trot/canter and cross rails. Cross rail courses shall be 6 to 8 "fences" twice around the ring on the rail, with no diagonal lines. Trotting not to be penalized in cross rail classes. In flat/under saddle classes, no more than 6 entries to canter at one time. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. ALL Shortest Stirrup Classes - Equitation and Hunter- shall be counted equally for one year-end award. If a rider has more than one entry in a Shortest Stirrup Hunter class, only the top placing entry will be counted.

2. **OPPORTUNITY BEGINNER EQUITATION/HUNTER** Open to riders of all ages. Classes may consist of walk/trot, walk /trot /canter, poles on the ground and cross rails. Courses are to be 6 to 8 "fences" twice around the ring on the rail or rail and diagonal lines. In flat/under saddle classes, no more than 6 entries to canter at one time. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. Trotting not to be penalized in poles/cross rail classes. ALL Opportunity Beginner Classes - Equitation and Hunter- shall be counted equally for one year-end award. If a rider has more than one entry in an Opportunity Beginner Hunter class, only the top placing entry will be counted.

3. **OPPORTUNITY INTERMEDIATE EQUITATION /HUNTER** Open to riders of all ages. Classes may consist of walk /trot /canter, and over fences. Courses are to be 6 to 8 "fences", 18" to 24" in height. Fences may be boxes, small verticals, and may be similar to regular hunter fences, oxers prohibited. Courses should remain simple. Manners emphasized and extreme speed to be penalized. Trotting not to be penalized in over fences classes. ALL Opportunity Intermediate Classes - Equitation and Hunter- shall be counted equally for one year-end award. If a rider has more than one entry in an Opportunity Intermediate Hunter class, only the top placing entry will be counted.

4. **OPPORTUNITY JUMPER** Open to riders of all ages, and any horse or pony. (See Opportunity restrictions above.) Fences not to exceed 0.76m (2'6"). To follow USEF rules and regulations.

***Changes to the specifications from 2013 are highlighted by bold, italic printing.***





## 2014 MHJA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Welcome to the MHJA! For 2014 there are 2 types of individual memberships:

- **Competing Membership: Dues of \$60.00 per year.** A Competing Member is entitled to receive all the publications and prize lists, be listed in the directory, participate in MHJA Clinics as a member, and all other regular member benefits, ***plus the Competing Member and all horses owned by the Competing Member will be eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards. In order to be eligible for a year-end award in the hunter or jumper classes, the owner of the horse must be an MHJA Competing Member. If you are riding a leased horse, please be sure the owner is an MHJA member in order for points to count. To be eligible for an equitation award, the rider must be an MHJA Competing Member.***
- **Non-Competing Membership: Dues of \$40.00 per year.** A Non-Competing Member is entitled to receive all the publications and prize lists, be listed in the directory and all other regular benefits, except that **the Non-Competing Membership does not include eligibility for MHJA Year-End Awards.**

Both memberships are from December 1 to November 30, the same as USEF and USHJA. Membership becomes active on its postmark date if mailed or date received by a representative of the MHJA if hand delivered. All memberships expire on November 30, regardless of the date activated. The 2014 membership list will be purged on March 1, 2014. If you have not renewed or joined by then, you will not receive any more mailings or be listed in the 2014 directory. The MHJA sends reminders before the March 1 deadline. **It is the member's responsibility to make sure all the membership requirements are met for eligibility for awards.**

For more information, contact: Lee Gremillion, lee-gremillion@comcast.net, Chair, Membership:

### 2014 MHJA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Save \$5.00 if you join before January 1, 2014, take \$5.00 off the Dues Amount below!**

Check membership type:

☐ Individual Competition Membership - Annual: **\$60.00.** Competing members receive all regular benefits ***and are eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards*** in equitation and any horses owned by the member are eligible for hunter or jumper awards. **(\$55.00 if paid before January 1, 2014.)**

☐ Individual Sustaining Membership - Annual: **\$40.00.** Sustaining members receive all regular benefits, but ***are not*** eligible for MHJA Year-End Awards. **(\$35.00 if paid before January 1, 2014)**

New ☐ Renew ☐ If this is a renewal and the 2013 information was correct, you may list just your name below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age Group as of Dec. 1, 2013: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name (required **only** if horses are owned by a farm or company): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please include area codes)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you have multiple memberships at one address and would like to receive only one mailing.

☐ Check here if you do not want to be included in the directory.

**Please Mail To:**  
**Lee Gremillion**  
**4900 Emerson Ave S**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55419**

**Thank you for joining the MHJA for 2014!**



*Mimi and Wizard '09*

suggest she never forgets the importance of loving and caring for one's horse. It is no surprise, therefore, that Mimi would be honored with such a deserving Sportsmanship award at the prestigious Pony Finals.



*Left, Above and Below: Mimi and Mikey/Lasting Impressions '13*





## Arbor Hill

Arbor Hill Farm has so enjoyed this winter so far! The warm sunshine, the fluffy snow, and the cozy fireplaces are all just a few pieces of why we so love MN. We have enjoyed great lessons, challenging exercises, and constant encouragement from Elizabeth as she teaches with such a new found enthusiasm for our sport in the winter. The horses are looking amazing, with shiny coats, big dapples, and perfectly trained manes. We are ready for show season, and actually wish it would come even sooner than it is scheduled.

PSYCHE! This winter sucks! We are lucky if we get to ride and lesson because most of the time there are horses living in the indoor. The horses

# Eyes & Ears

NEWS OF NOTE FROM AREA BARNS

are wild because they never get more than a day or two outside in a row. They are all furry, as we don't want to clip them before the NEXT polar vortex strikes. And heaven forbid a horse show be on the horizon, as that would require me to get out of her pajamas (which I stay in under my snow pants) to be out in public. UGH!

In all honesty, the horses and customers are doing well. Everyone has maintained a great sense of humor this winter, and we are all reminded of what our priorities really are. Quality family time and the well being of our horses. It is nice to see the horses getting such great care as always from the amazing Hola, Bubar and Rainy. It is a piece of art how they build those round pens in the indoor to house the 10 outside horses during the polar vortex one night, only to have it all gone before anyone shows up the next morning without so much as a speck of hay to be seen left on the floor. Thank you! The lessons have been fun with the courses designed by Becca Renier, and now that the green boxes aren't covered in snow...Even Mikey is willing to jump them:-) Hopefully there is a new moose coming our way,

so we will post pictures and a birth announcement as soon as it arrives. In the mean time, we enjoy jumping our "M's", "Snow caps", "horse shoes" or whatever the heck you want to call them. (USET Finals won't scare any of OUR horses!)

So, we put on our big people panties, we grab another layer of clothes, and we remind ourselves that winter isn't so bad...as long as it is gone before April!

## Fortuna Farm

Greetings, all!

Let me just get this out there right away. I'm feeling quite envious of those of us who were lucky enough to leave MN, with or without horses, and continue their lives unscathed in warmth. This has been brutal, and I'm kind of crabby about it!

We have continued to have lessons and I am so proud of our hardy dedicated riders! I did cancel lessons 3 times in January myself, due to the frigid temps. This is pretty much unheard of for me. I think those kids would have come to ride if I hadn't. Kudos to them, they keep me going.

Hopefully by the time this spring



newsletter rolls around, we will all have much more to talk about than the weather, and what we have not been able to do. Hibernation, anyone?

## Gypsy Farm

Brrrrrrr.... The chill is in the air at Wintergreen! We hope our MHJA friends are all staying warm. In just a year back to training and riding (after surgical hiatus), Nick Novak/Gypsy Farms has built up quite a team... In fact, our big news is that Nick has leased a barn in Watertown to better accommodate the horses and riders. Tina Chute has graciously let us take over Indigo Farm, and she and daughter Hannah are welcoming us into the herd! We're packing up and heading west, eager to stretch out and relax in our new barn. As expected, Nick is "doing it up right" and we're all proud to be a part of his success. Equally exciting is the purchase of "Jake", Nick's first horse since his beloved Malone. Jake is training hard with Nick and while he's only five, I have a feeling we will see them in the Prix before too long! Also new to Gypsy "Roscoe Z"; congratulations to Julie White on your purchase of Roscoe from Mary Armstrong! Roscoe reminds Julie of her former horse, After Hours "Forbes". She's excited to get back into the adult amateur ring. Anne Healy and Super Sally continue to train for hunters and have promised to not be any trouble at Indigo. :) Mady Offerman and Rocky aged up after Mady turned 18 at the end of the season, with Harvest being Mady's last show as a junior. Erika Dobbs is working with Giles as he recovers from a pasture injury, and Michael Wildung continues to make great progress with Buzz, having had a successful year last year, Buzz's first. After saying goodbye to Romeo, Marissa Creviston has a new mount in six year old "Gatsby", and is moving from hunters to jumpers under Nick's tutelage. Deb Brown and Faith are coming along as dressage riders just because they love

our team, and while we were okay leaving the other dressage queens behind, we really wanted Deb! All of us are excited for show season and warmer days ahead, and a little bit envious of those of you in Florida. We were super jealous of Maydo getting a month off to go home to sunny Guatemala, and appreciate the great job Kirsten did filling in! Naturally Maydo will continue with Gypsy Farms at Indigo, he takes such good care of our horses. We looking forward to seeing all of you in a few months!

## Raven Ridge

As the cold weather hits Minnesota, Kim and Andy have headed to Florida for circuit. Hannah Pattermann, Kami Marcussen, Anne Meyer and Jill Schmidt have all headed down to Florida with their horses. They are all having fun down there and enjoying the sun. Kathy McCuskey has also gone to Florida a few times to visit and ride her horse Indie.

Back at home we are all trying to stay warm, Kate Leis has been busy teaching and riding the horses. Quinn Leslie and Julia Mason are getting ready for their last semester in high school before graduating. Cindy Bulwicz was tired of winter very early in the season. She and Steve extended their Hawaii vacation to three weeks and plan to escape the cold again in March. Sharon Golden also got out of the cold and went on a vacation to Florida! This winter we celebrated Raven Ridge's ten year anniversary, we even had a mechanical bull which added entertainment to the party. Kim also imported a horse from Europe named Sal and is looking forward to riding him. Paige Junker bought a new horse, Impression and they are looking great together! Kami Marcussen also bought a new horse, Bull Runs Guardian and is looking forward to show her this summer! We are all looking forward to warmer weather and show season!

## River Bend Stables

Just waiting for the weather to improve; the snow's okay, the cold, not so much. Think it's a good thing the Mid States Spring show is now the last week of May, given last year's snow and the wonderful weather we've been having this winter.

Welcome to Emmy Frigo and Gunner! Emmy is now the proud owner of Summer Lutgen's Gunner (known in the show ring as Benelli.) Emmy's aiming for the Long Stirrup to begin with, but hopes to do the Children's before too long. Emmy rides with Laura Rohlfing. It will be fun to have an additional rider heading to the shows with River Bend.

Ralph Hill stopped by for his second clinic at River Bend this winter. Rosemary Dixon, Sarah Donnell and Sarah Bowman have been working hard with Ralph. We love looking at the ring after he's left to see what kind of fun gymnastics they've been doing.

Congratulations to Linda Ostberg. She's a grandmother for a second time! Son Nathan and wife Diana had a little boy, Daniel Leo. Linda and Gary are heading out to Boston for multiple visits, hoping to get in and out between snow storms. Linda also visited daughter Kelsey in Wellington, just in time for the big rainstorm.

Despite the cold, Gaylord and the guys have been keeping all the horses happy and safe. Only on a few days have we missed riding, but who wanted to go out when it's that cold anyway?

Phil Kieffer received a large animal surgery residency at the University of Georgia. It's very exciting, as U of Georgia is in the middle of building a brand new large animal hospital.

On a sad note, our condolences go to Sarah Bowman. She lost both her parents within a few weeks of each other this winter. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

## Skyrock Farm

Having had a successful and fun winter showing at Ledges, there is a lot of exciting news to report from Skyrock Farm. Between the polar vortex and many cancelled school days, I have to comment on how committed—and slightly insane—all of our riders are. Snow, sleet, -100 degree (slight exaggeration, maybe) temperatures... nothing could keep them away from the barn! Their hard work and determination persevered at Ledges, with everyone earning top ribbons across the board.

Our hunter contingency consisted of Mikaela Haskins, Bea Buckley, Emily Short, and Elisabeth Henn. These ladies represented us well from the Novice Children's/Adult through the Children's and Medal divisions. One thing that's going to take a while to get use to, however, is the fact that Elisabeth now rides in the ADULT divisions. Where did the time go??

In the jumpers we had some new partnerships compete for the first time, which was fun to watch. Grace Nutting made her debut on the lovely Belle Noir, while Emily Short and her new Wilfly entered the ring together for the first time. Both pairs produced multiple clean rounds, with just one "bobble" on Grace's part. If you see her this spring, just say the word "timers" and I'm sure she'll humor you with the hilarious story that continues to haunt and taunt her...

Rounding out the jumpers was our most seasoned pair, Thinesh Sivapatham and his Cappucino. To think that this horse has only been competing for one year is amazing. Improvement seems to come every time Thinesh rides him, and it's exciting to think about what he'll be like at the end of this season! Jr/AO's, perhaps??

As we prepare for our busy spring and summer show schedule, we want to wish everyone the best of luck, wherever you may be competing. We look forward to seeing you in May!

## Spring Meadow

Complaining about the cold is a bit cliché at this point, and we really can't complain too much but... enough already! Hopefully by the time this issue arrives we have reached steady double digits above zero and April showers are around the corner! Never a dull moment around the farm, between cold spells we put up a new hay barn and redid the footing in the indoor with the help of Tom Powers. MJ has been busy riding all of her horses, but she's having a blast on Phantom, which makes Heather, Kaylyn and Libby particularly happy. Kendahl and Rebel had a major break thru with the help of Kip Rosenthal's rope exercise, and are having a fantastic winter. Congratulations to Kendahl on the purchase of Marchetti, previously "Bob The Bear," who will debut in the baby greens this year.

Congratulations to Jayde Hull who will be attending Colgate next year, and Audrey Fermanich who will be attending UW Madison. Both schools were the first choice for each of the girls. Nice job ladies! Richelle Fermanich and Emily Walker have been busy lessoning and helping hack horses while on J term.

Allie Wolfbauer is back in the tack, looking better than ever!! Jan and Dream are figuring out the routine and we are very excited to have them. Katherine is enjoying the time she has with Jagr before vet school takes over her life for the foreseeable future. Its really exciting having a unicorn in the barn!! Hmmm....

Christine Gremillion is our resident baker, ice cream is her next endeavor. Heather is chomping at the bit... Although Kate Kemp, who recently turned 15, is known to bring chocolate chip pancakes for her trainer on Saturdays, which also guarantees bonus points.

December first was a sad day at Spring Meadow as we said goodbye to

our dear friend, Origine. He moved back to Indiana, leaving the Franz family horseless for the first time in over 10 years. Patty is promising to start taking lessons, so please help hold her accountable! Courtney Heib still comes home and rides most weekends, while Cathy seems to have a knack for dog training!

Rolando and his wife Maria are due with a baby girl, Valentina, in March. Thea's son Ben turned 16 in November and is taking his driver's test any day now, which strangely makes me think we will see her less?? John and Heather loved sporting their fancy antlers and red noses on their cars, courtesy of the Lampert Family. It really helped keep them in the Holiday spirit! We all enjoyed having Zoe and her pony Huck at the farm for awhile this winter! She did a great job riding Chili, Deb, and Tank too!

From all of us at Spring Meadow, stay warm and see you in Mason City!!

## Summit Oak

All of us at Summit Oak Stables are more than ready for this winter to come to a close. The colder months brought with them plenty of challenges that we reluctantly overcame, starting with acquiring enough hay to last until June, making sure our pasture horses didn't turn into popsicles in the polar vortex, and ensuring our walkways stayed plowed and ice free. Despite these challenges, we survived and are looking forward to seeing all of our friends this coming 2014 Horse Show Season! Good Luck to Everyone!

Summit Oak Stables had a terrific 2013 Show Season and we would like to take time to thank our Parents for their unending support throughout the year. We know that without you none of this would be possible! Congratulations to Claire & Lori Garduno, Megan Giese, Shyenne Bryant, Allie Haggerty, Masen Thormodsgard, Teagan Zimmerman,



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Hannah Christian, Bailey Jackson, Sydney & Emily Grossman, and Addie Elliot on a fun and exciting show year!

Towards the close 2013 and the start of the new year 2014, we had the opportunity to travel to Chicago and attend two separate weeks of the Ledges Winter Series. The first week Shyenne Bryant, who is leasing Rachel's jumper Killernan Romeo, rocked the jumper ring, earning several firsts and even winning a medal class! Cathy and Shyenne made the trek down together, and no doubt they jammed out to music the entire drive. The second week, Claire & Lori Garduno took their horses Maserati & Sootar, both earning many great ribbons while having a blast. I suspect this won't be the last time Summit Oak Stables makes an appearance out there.

We would like to welcome some new faces to the Summit Oak Stables Crew! This winter Erika Frake and her girls brought their mare Ashley to join our show team. We also welcomed Michelle Hogler and Abadon, who will also be shown by Addie Elliot! We expect to see that team making a debut in the Jumper arena this spring. Lastly, Lindsey Kuzma and Stan who join us all the way from Nebraska! It's always fun and exciting adding new members to the barn; we look forward to a wonderful year with everyone!

We hope everyone else is surviving the cold and counting down the days until show season starts! Good Luck and Happy New Year!



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