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360 Taylor Hill Road
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THE HORSE'S MAINE & NH



Maine *and* NH's Own Equestrian Newspaper

February 2020

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Halt at X and Salute a Winning Pair

David Botana & Lord Locksley

- * Industry News: Bits & Bytes
- * Horse Trailer Maintenance 101
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- * Community Action: Update on Rescue Horses

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Happy Endings - Miss Maine Finds a Home!

by: Susan Pendleton

Miss Maine (Missy) is a Standardbred horse bred in Maine. She never raced, and at age three was sold and spent the next 12 years of her life as a Pennsylvania buggy horse. In March 2019 Missy was rescued from the kill pen at the New Holland sales stable in Pennsylvania. The kill pen is where horses purchased at auction by "meat buyers" are held before being shipped, slaughtered and sold for meat. Many horses end up in this situation when they are no longer wanted. It's an ugly business.

Not much is known about Miss Maine. She's marked with a freeze-brand tattoo identifying her breeding and racetrack history. In a video of her in the kill pen she appeared sound and healthy, with a kind eye. And there was that name – Miss Maine. How did this horse end up here? How could anyone leave her there?

An incredible network of people monitor the auctions and work with individuals and rescue organizations to save horses. After Missy was rescued, a volunteer drove to PA and brought her back to Maine. She was skinny, withdrawn, and had rubs along her sides from the shafts of the carts she pulled for years. She was quiet and carefully watched her new surroundings. Eventually, she came out of her shell and showed herself to be gentle and calm.

Once out of quarantine Miss Maine's rehabilitation and training began. She gained weight, learned to lunge and accepted being ridden under saddle. Through the patient efforts of her rescuer, foster home, and volunteers who worked with her, Miss Maine learned quickly and blossomed into a well-mannered riding horse.

Although several people were interested in adopting Miss Maine, nothing panned out. However, in late summer her luck began to change! In September, Miss Maine was selected as one of the participants in the Cumberland Fair World of Horses exhibition, an annual show that highlights different breeds. Miss Maine represented Standardbreds. One of the

volunteers had a brilliant idea and contacted the real Miss Maine 2019, Carolyn Brady, and asked if she'd be willing to appear at the show alongside the rescue horse of the same name. To the delight of everyone involved, Carolyn said yes!

Not wanting Missy to be upstaged by the real Miss Maine, efforts were immediately underway to outfit her appropriately. A flounced ballgown was fitted to flow along her body, a silver crown was attached to her bridle, and a beautiful satin sash was draped around her shoulders, proudly displaying her name. Some horses might be frightened of such fancy trappings, but Miss Maine proudly wore her costume with regal dignity.

On the night of the show, Missy performed a practice walk around the arena. True to her calm nature, she paraded around the ring like a queen surveying her subjects. When Miss Maine 2019 arrived, looking beautiful and wearing her own crown and sash, we reviewed a few safety procedures with her in case Missy became scared. Then into the arena we went! The bleachers were full and the crowd was excited. Carolyn had chosen special music for the event, and she and Missy trotted about the arena smiling and waving at the crowd. At one point, Missy became nervous and jiggered a little, sending Carolyn running while the crowd roared with laughter! It was a jubilant and lively occasion.

At the end of the show, the horses returned to the arena for a meet-and-greet with the crowd. It was there a miracle happened. A young woman working her way down from the bleachers approached one of the volunteers. "My name is Alice," she said, "and I would like to adopt this horse!"

When love happens, it's as if time stands still. In Alice's words, "The second I saw her walk out into that arena, I was brought to tears and I knew that she would be my horse. The connection I felt with her was so strong. I talked to one of the volunteers and had them bring her over to me. I placed my hand under her muzzle

to let her smell me then I gently patted her forehead. Her kind eyes spoke to me, and I knew how she'd been through so much. She was perfect for me. I called my best friend and started crying into the phone, telling her 'I just met the most beautiful horse and I'm going to try to adopt her.'"

Alice came out to the farm to see Missy and spent some time with her. She returned the following week with her trainer, who approved of the match, and the adoption process began. By late October,

everything was settled and Missy moved to her new home. When she arrived, she walked off the trailer and into her new life, calmly and with grace. Inspecting her new stall, she smelled the fresh bedding, surveyed her turnout area, and looked gratefully out on the pasture. It took a village to save this horse, train her, and find her a home where she'll be safe and cared for. But all of this was lost on Miss Maine. Never one for drama, Missy let out a big sigh, and began eating hay.



Miss Maine at the Cumberland Fair World of Horses with the real Miss Maine 2019, Carolyn Brandy.



Miss Maine at her new home settling in with her new stablemate and friend



Miss Maine upon her arrival from the kill pens at New Holland sales in Pennsylvania.



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A monthly newspaper for, by, and about Maine and NH residents. We encourage everyone to submit news from their association, barn, clinic, or show at no charge.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily express the opinions of *The Horse's Maine & NH, LLC*. We cannot check the accuracy of all ads and make no claims, or guarantees concerning them.

Deadline is the tenth of each month. Email articles, ads, photos, and calendar dates to editor@horsesmaineandnh.com, for inclusion in the next month's paper. *The Horse's Maine & NH, LLC* reserves the right to edit material for length and clarity, and might not print all material.

Photographs are welcome and can be black & white, or color. Email photographs to editor@horsesmaineandnh.com.

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Our goal is to bring the news to the local equestrian community. We are dedicated to providing quality articles, and exceptional customer service, to our advertisers, and readers.

Article Submission Guidelines

Submitting articles to *The Horse's Maine & NH* is easy - email your articles and photos to editor@horsesmaineandnh.com. Articles must be news; news about your group or your barn, and events that have happened. You can mention future events, but they cannot be advertised in articles.

If you are submitting photographs, we need to know who to give photo credit to. We need the highest resolution possible. 300DPI is best. Cover shots need to be 8" tall and 10" wide and standard images should be 3" tall x 5" wide. Vertical shots will only be used in rare instances.

Please email or mail calendar dates. We cannot take calendar dates over the phone. Due to space limitations, we do not include camp dates in the calendar.

Feature articles and cover photos should be by or about Maine or NH residents. We love seeing submissions from new writers and photographers!

While *Horse's Maine & NH* ALWAYS recommends wearing appropriate safety tested helmets, we will post pictures, in rare instances, without helmets. However, it is not our opinion of safe riding methods.

Please DO NOT ride without a helmet!

Please email your news & dates

to

editor@horsesmaineandnh.com

Any **Maine or NH** organization, or barn, is welcome to put their news into

The Horse's Maine & NH at no charge

All submissions are printed, as space allows and may be edited for fit or clarity.

ON THE COVER



Lord Locksley, a 16.2 H Trakehner Stallion owned by Margaret Stevens and Susanne Hamilton.

Susanne Hamilton USDF Gold Medalist, FEI Trainer and R Judge.

David Botana Para Equestrian Team USA, In the US David is ranked in the top 4 riders.

Suzanne Botana, David's very dedicated mother has been supporting David through his equestrian accomplishments and is his number 1 fan.

Good luck to David and his team!

We hope to see him in Tokyo at the 2020 Paralympics.

Susanne Hamilton, Crystal Spring Farm, Dressage Trainer for both Able Body and Para Athletes Montville, ME and Loxahatchee, FL 207-249-8078



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Community Action

Rescue Horse of the Month – Colby

Colby is an adorable little 4 year old pinto gelding with one brown eye and one blue eye, and stands at about 36 inches tall. He was originally rescued by a wonderful horse rescue in Virginia and transferred into Home At Last Farm rescue to work on his manners and finding a proper home. He arrived at Home At Last Farm July 2019 as a recently gelded 3 year old without any real training or life skills. His original name was Sassy Pants because he was full of it! He did not understand human touch, how to pick up his feet, how to yield with pressure, or how to lead without rearing. He has worked so hard over the last almost 6 months to learn how to have the best manners. He actually worked so hard at this that he outgrew his former name Sassy Pants.

Colby has learned to trust people and has learned so many great skills. He proudly stands like a gentleman for the vet, farrier, and dentist. He picks up his feet and does not try to kick the farrier. He loads and unloads like a professional. He is also quite fearless and has a lot of confidence. Colby is also gentle with kids, but would do best in a home with experienced handlers as he is still very green. Colby is very smart, willing, healthy and he is hoping there might be a home out there willing to teach him how to drive. He thinks it would be fun. One of Colby's favorite things to do is cuddle with humans. He is very much in your pocket and now that he is used to attention, he craves it.

Colby was recently returned to Home At Last Farm due to no fault of his own. His hopeful adopters had him for a few weeks when unfortunate unforeseen events occurred which meant Colby had to come back to HALF. He is still hopeful his forever home is out there. Do you think Colby could be the one for you? Visit www.homeatlastfarm.org today to inquire about him.





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MSPHO 2020 News

Maine Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization



January 26, 2020 @ 1:00 PM
Awards Banquet held at Buxton Town Hall
Ceremony and Lunch open to members and anyone who is interested in becoming a member or to learn more about Standardbred Pleasure Horses.

April 19, 2010
Fun Day Show @ Hollis Equestrian Park
Join us in preparing your horses for Show Season. Dressage instructors and demos along with an Obstacle course to help desensitize your horse with spring fever.

Save the Dates:
June 14, 2020 – Dressage Show
September 2020 – World of Horses



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MHA News, Notes, and Nickers

by Dollie Hutchins, MHA Administrator

With winter's snow, sleet, rain, ice, wind and unidentifiable precipitation impeding barn chores, the Maine Horse Association is busy preparing for the upcoming show season. Leading 'his herd' is newly elected President, Robert (Bob) MacDonald from North Berwick, ME. Bob began his equine career on the MHA circuit and has now taken the reins to give back to MHA and Maine. He also has just earned his NEHC judging credentials with a '1' rating in the Western division. In the First Vice-President position is Cohne Goodwin, Bowdoin, ME. She is thrilled to have moved her Royal Silks Equestrian Center into the brand new Clearbrook Equine Center in Bowdoin. Diane Kane, Scarborough, ME, has stepped into the Second Vice-President role. She operates Kane Kountry Farm and is an avid supporter of all hunter and dressage disciplines. Returning as Recording Secretary is Courtney Grant, Acton, ME. Courtney and her equine partner Jean Pool are fresh off their victory in the inaugural NEHC Amateur Adult Saddle Seat Equitation Medal Finals held in West Springfield, MA in late October. Yours truly, Dollie Hutchins, Sanford, continues her role as Administrator and Treasurer, handling memberships, show affiliations, website updates, prize list edits along with point scoring and anything else that comes up. MHA welcomes Shannon Cole, Scarborough; Nicole Currier, Brunswick; and Morgan Schlaack, Brunswick, to the Board of Directors. They join Board Members Jo Hight, Scarborough; Regan Grant, Acton; Nancy House, Scarborough; Sylvia Corbett, Gorham; Leigh Drummey, Kennebunk; Pam Lear, Wells; Peggy Drummey, Springvale; and Jo-Ellen

Grondin, Scarborough.

MHA strives to keep up with current horse world trends as well as serve the needs of its members. Thus, this year MHA has instituted a number of rule changes. First and foremost is show qualification for year end awards. Given showing expenses, changes in the pleasure show circuit, and the large size of Maine, exhibitors will need to pin in TWO shows (rather than three) to qualify for year end awards. This way, MHA will further promote all breeds and all disciplines.

The Trail Division has been given a significant makeover with class specifications updated to reflect current practices. The walk, jog/trot, lope/canter Trail Horse Division can now be held as Open or divided into English and Western classes. Whether or not it's divided at the shows, points will automatically be sorted for separate year-end English and Western awards. With the increasing popularity of eleven-and-over walk-trot classes, we have added an Eleven and Over Walk-Trot Trail class. It may be offered as 11 & Over or divided into a junior exhibitor (11-17) and an adult section (18 & over). Combinations eligible for the eleven-and-over pleasure division on the MHA circuit are eligible for this class which accrues to one year-end award. There is still a separate Ten and Under Walk-Trot Trail Class available.

Also due to the popularity of the Eleven and Over Walk-Trot Pleasure and Equitation classes, shows may now offer separate sections for the junior exhibitors and adults or divide at the show if entries warrant. Plus, MHA will now automatically give separate year-

end awards for each age group in both equitation and pleasure.

Everyone is reminded that for MHA, the 11 & over pleasure walk-trot division is for horse/rider combinations who do not canter or lope in any competitive discipline at any level during the current show year. This allows an exhibitor to show a horse in a walk-trot class and also to show a different horse in classes requiring canter or lope, thus

encouraging additional entries for our shows. Eleven and over equitation, however, is ONLY for riders who do not canter/lope at all in any competitive discipline or at any competition level on ANY horse or pony.

For the hunters, MHA has added two new divisions. The first is a Long Stirrup Equitation Division for riders 13 and over with fences not to exceed 18". Adult riders must be amateurs. This complements the already existing Short Stirrup Equitation division for riders 12 and under. All these riders are also eligible for the 18" Easy Does It Division in which professionals may also compete. Coming onto the horizon and now recognized by MHA is the Pre-Green Hunter Division, fences 2'-2'3", which is open to all riders regardless of status. This fills in a gap for professional riders working horses and ponies up the divisions. Entries may show in this division for a maximum of two years. Previously, pros had Easy Does It at 18", but then had to move the entry up to Special Hunter which is a 2'6" division; since the Schooling Hunter Division is limited to junior and amateur adult riders.

Other "tidbits": **By the time this article is read, there will be a new look to MHA's website! It is be far more 'phone friendly' - easier to pull up info on the various phones. (mainehorseassoc.com) **Show affiliations at the time of writing this article are as follows: ASAM Long Horn in Hollis, April 26; ASAM Specially Designed in Hollis, May 10; Downeast Horse Congress in Skowhegan, June 19-21; Pine Tree Sizzler Benefit in Hollis, August 16; Highview in Cumberland, August 23; Acton Fair Hunter in Acton, August 30; and ASAM



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MHA News continued pg 7

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continued MHA News, Notes, and Nickers from pg 6



Did that human REALLY win the In Hand class?

Summer Spectacular, September 4, -6, in Deerfield, NH. ** Please remember that each MHA affiliated show sponsor/management chooses the classes it wants to offer. If you have special class requests, do contact the manager or secretary of the show. Shows are very receptive to requests. For points to count for MHA, the request needs to be at least three weeks prior to the show; because for points to count, members must be notified a minimum of two weeks before the show. Class added within the two

week time frame or at the show will not count for points. **Don't forget that MHA's membership discount of \$10 off regular membership price ends on February 19th. Membership forms are on line or you can contact Dollie.

Enjoy the rest of winter as we wear the badge of the coming warmer weather with shedding fur everywhere!



Daniel Murphy
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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAINE & NEW HAMPSHIRE?

Acknowledge your love of horses, farms, barns and people!

Any Maine or New Hampshire resident is welcome to send photos, stories, and poetry, as well as, birth, wedding, and graduation announcements to:

editor@horsesmaineandnh.com

Also, if you have a farm that you have updated, learned something new, or if you have tips and tricks to share:

Please submit your photos, stories and other information you would like to have added to the Community Update:

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAINE & NEW HAMPSHIRE

Horse Trailer Maintenance 101

Spring is coming. This is the time of year that we look forward to exciting, off the farm adventures, and opportunities to enjoy warmer weather. Spring is the perfect time to start thinking about preparing your horse trailer for the coming season. An ounce of prevention has never been more important than before you embark on a road trip with your horse. Proactive preparations will ensure your peace of mind. In addition, trailer maintenance increases the safety factor for your horse, and your safety too. Quality horse trailers are investments. Regular care and maintenance will add years to your trailer's life.

Never underestimate the importance of taking your trailer to an authorized dealer or qualified mechanic each spring. Bringing your trailer to an expert allows you to be sure all the major systems, from brakes to brackets, are safely operational. As the trailering season continues, you can become accustomed to spot checking the basics each time before hauling. Let's get started.

TIRES:

Regular inspections of your tires should occur each time you haul. Inspections should include the tires on the trailer as well as your spare. Look for uneven wear, and to be sure they are properly inflated. The pounds per square inch or (psi) can be found on the side wall of the tire. Tires that are properly inflated maintain their temperature on hot road surfaces. Cool tires are less likely to flex and blowout when hot. Flat tires with a horse on the trailer are the stuff equestrian nightmares are made of.

Uneven tire wear may indicate the tires need to be rotated. However, it can also mean your trailer has a problem with the way the trailer tires ride on the road. Uneven weight distribution can also be due to a mechanical problem with your trailer. Trailer tires should be rotated every 5,000 miles. A professional should thoroughly check the tread and sidewalls of your trailer's tires every 6 months.

WHEELS:

Check your wheel bearings (properly greased) or hubs to be sure they are ready for travel. Lug nuts and

bolts should be checked routinely for tightness. An authorized trailer dealer or mechanic can check the tightness with a torque wrench. Checking your wheels is especially important with a new trailer, or if you recently mounted new tires on your trailer.

TEST YOUR BRAKES:

Testing your brakes is more than making sure your brake lights are operational. Electric or surge brakes should be tested before loading your horse, to verify they are properly functioning. Mechanically sound shoes and drums are necessary for safety. When your dealer or trusted mechanic has your trailer in for regular maintenance, request that they thoroughly examine your brakes. It is vital they are adjusted correctly for your towing vehicle.

*Always consult the trailer dealer or owners-manual for any maintenance instructions specific to our trailer. Brake repairs that may be required should be performed by your trailer dealer or a mechanic you trust.

BRAKEAWAY BATTERY AND SWITCH:

Does your trailer uncouple from your tow vehicle? When not connected, the breakaway battery supplies the power to operate the trailer brakes. Always check to be sure the battery is fully charged all the connections are clean, including the switch operation. Most breakaway systems have a self-charging feature. Many make an audible sound, such as a quiet buzzing sound when it's charging. The breakaway system should be checked before every trip. Breakaway systems in proper repair are very important for your safety and your horses.

GREASE THE BALL HITCH, LANDING LEG AND JACK:

To help reduce wear and ensure proper operation, coat the trailer's ball hitch with a thin layer of automotive bearing grease. Many professional haulers will reapply grease before each tow. For those that trailer less often, reapply grease at least once each month. As you apply the grease, examine the ball hitch for any cracks, flat spots or corrosion. Be sure to check both the ball and coupler. If you discover

any imperfections contact a maintenance professional. The landing leg and jack should also be greased on a regular basis. Many trailers have a grease nipple to fully grease the gears inside the component.

LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS:

Before taking your trailer on the open road, always check the lights. Not only does exterior illuminate your trailer, but signals are how you communicate your driving intentions to others. Turn signals, brake lights and running lights need to work with the vehicle you're towing with. Don't assume a properly functioning light set up on your tow vehicle can make up for one that isn't operating properly on your trailer.

Of course, to adequately check your lights, you'll need a second person to help. When lights don't work properly: check for fuses, bulbs and plug connections first. If you continue to have problems contact a professional. Reliable and functioning lights are not negotiable.

FLOORS:

Some of the most devastating trailer accidents feature weak, rotting or highly corroded trailer floors. Such accidents are often preventable with routine inspection and maintenance. Inspect your aluminum floors for signs of corrosion. Wooden flooring can crumble, which is a sign of dry rot. Don't forget to look at the beams which support the floor underneath the trailer. A professional can examine your floors annually during inspection. Cleaning of your trailer of urine and manure will help with the longevity of your trailer floors, and the support beams.

KEEP YOUR TRAILER CLEAN:

Keeping your trailer clean inside and out will help to extend its life. Well maintained trailers of all varieties also retain their resale value. If you use your trailer in the winter months be sure to thoroughly wash your trailer immediately after exposure to road salt and de-ice fluid. This will help to prevent corrosion of the aluminum or steel.

MATS, WALLS AND FLOORS NEED

CLEANING:

Horse urine and manure is very corrosive. Depending on how often you use your trailer, be sure to completely remove the rubber mats and thoroughly wash both sides of them. In addition, clean the inside walls of your trailer, and the trailer floor thoroughly, with soap and water. The trailer's floor and mats should be dry before replacing them. Cleaning presents a great opportunity to examine your trailer's floor for wear and weak areas.

DOORS, ROOF, WINDOWS AND HARDWARE:

Doors, Hardware, roof and windows are often overlooked during safety checks. We don't think of them as having the ability to "malfunction" the way other systems can. Always look at your sliding window's and roof vents. Promptly remove any build-up to keep them working properly. Hinges should be kept clean and lubricated, especially after storage. Talk to your professional to see what kind of grease or spray lubricant would be best to use, and how often lubrication is recommended. Check your latches and look for wear. Inspect hinges, doors, and dividers so confirm that they are safe and in good working order.

Don't forget the ceiling! Ceilings as well as the overhead and other nooks and crannies are ideal for bee-hives and bird's nests. Angry bees in a loaded horse trailer can spell disaster.

DOUBLE CHECK BEFORE LEAVING OR RETURNING HOME:

Before hitting the road double check that all hitches are properly secure and coupled correctly. Verify that lights still plugged in, emergency chains are connected, and brake box battery is charged.

A simple "walk around" to look over your trailer might prevent a breakdown, or worse.

Trailering your horse should be an enjoyable and stress-free experience. A basic proactive approach to spotting potential trouble (before it becomes a headache) is the best approach.

Safe Travels.



Photo #1. Be sure to check all doors, roof, windows and hardware. Photo courtesy of On-The-Road Trailer Sales located in Warren Maine.



Photo #2. Clean the inside and under mats for longevity of your trailer. Photo courtesy of On-The-Road Trailer Sales located in Warren Maine.

Riverview Farm February Update

by: Jojean Keller

In celebration of the holidays, Cheryl and I spent a happy several days photographing the farm's horses and, in some cases the owners. What an interesting array of personalities! Some of the horses were supermodels with their ears forward and the look of eagles, others weren't excited about standing quietly and flicked their ears back and forth with the speed of light, others were happy to get up-close and personal with the evergreens around their necks. "Not only am I getting my picture taken but I get a snack too" they seem to be thinking. The final count was 16 beauties photographed!

Here are a few of our super stars!



Healing Hearts Update

by: Jojean Keller

For one of our horse lovers, Molly, Christmas brought a dream come true! Molly's Christmas surprise was one of our rescue horses, Phil. Phil was featured in the November issue of Horse's Maine and New Hampshire! He and Molly are having fun developing their relationship and getting ready for the riding and lesson season! Molly has had some experience with jumping and would also enjoy learning more about barrel racing.

Molly and Phil are shown enjoying their celebratory photo session!



HALT AT X and SALUTE A WINNING PAIR

DAVID BOTANA & LORD LOCKSLEY

PORTLAND MAINE

Para-equestrian has his eye on Tokyo in 2020

May we introduce to you :David Botana who is a Grade 1 International Para Dressage rider from Portland, Maine. I'm sure many of you have seen or know of David but we decided to do an update on him. For those who don't know David we'll catch you up to speed. David is competing on the US Para Dressage Team with his partner Locksley owned by Margaret Stevens. Locksley is a 16.2 H Trakehner stallion that has been campaigned by Susanne Hamilton in the FEI Grand Prix for years. Who would ever guess that a Grand Prix Stallion could become a Para horse, but with Susanne as their trainer, David and Locksley are setting their goal for the Para-Equestrian competition in Tokyo Japan for this year 2020 Paralympics.

David's Story started in 2016:

Presently at age 17, David excels at school and will attend Northwestern University studying biomedical engineering in the fall. David is passionate about animals great and small. David's best friend is "Rocky" his 12 hh., 9 year old Pony of the America's



who moved with his family from Indiana in 2016. In Indiana, David and Rocky rode together in 4h in Western Pleasure classes. Upon arriving in Maine, Rocky was stabled at Carlisle Academy Integrative Therapy and Sports in Lyman, Maine. While at Carlisle, David met Canadian Para Dressage coach, Clive Milkins, who persuaded David to try Para Dressage. David had never heard of "Para" dressage but he was willing to try and Rocky was delighted with the simple patterns they rode. - Rocky seemed to enjoy the mental challenge of dressage vs. the rail work of western pleasure.

David and Rocky moved to Susanne Hamilton's Crystal Spring Farm when Coach Milkins term ended at Carlisle Academy. Susanne is a USDF Gold Medalist, FEI trainer, and R judge. From the spring into the fall of 2017 Susanne worked with David and Rocky. While competing Rocky at a national para dressage show, David set a goal of competing at the Paralympics for para dressage. Rocky was by no means capable of competing at the Paralympics level so the search for a horse that could take David to National's began. Susanne believed that with the right horse, David could make it all the way. It didn't take long for David's family to realize that a horse of that caliber was above their financial means.

Introduction to Locksley and CPEDI 2018:

While Susanne was packing for the annual migration to Florida for the winter (2017) she said, "Why don't we try Locksley?" This was an offer that started David on a whole

new adventure. It was a very successful ride that day in spite of David's apprehension due to Locksley's enormous size and stature. Right after that ride Locksley and Susanne headed south followed by David (January 2018). There David trained for his first CPEDI (Concours Para-equestre de Dressage International). Their first competition went well though David will admit he was really just beginning to learn all that was involved in FEI level competition, and David continued to train and compete after the January 2018 CPEDI through the next few national competitions in Florida.



Alternate to US Para Dressage Team:

David and Locksley were becoming a well-oiled machine working together gaining each other's trust. Months later the pair were selected as an alternate on the US Para Dressage Team for the January 2019 CPEDI. Working with Michel Assouline, (US Para Dressage Coach), David learned where to push Locksley and where not to, how to get his walk really big and basically how to get a grand prix horse to do a Grade 1 test, which is not easy for any horse to do. Between January 2019 and present it's been a whirlwind for David Botana but he's proven to hold his own and beyond.

As of...December 31, 2019:

As of December 31, 2019 David was seventh at the FEI Para Dressage World Individual Rankings for Grade 1. There are 44 international para athletes in his division.

January 12, 2020;

The Adequan U.S. Para Dressage Team kicked off the 2020 competition season with a win at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival 1 CPEDI3*. Chef d'Equipe Michel Assouline led the team of David Botana, Rebecca Hart, Kate Shoemaker, and Roxanne Trunnell to top honors in the team competition in Wellington, Fla. The respective FEI Team Tests and FEI Individual Tests on Thursday and Friday, counted for the team competition, while Saturday's FEI Freestyle Tests were an individual competition for the top one-third of the combinations per grade.

In the US, David is ranked in the top four riders, following three riders who represented the US at the World Equestrian Games (Roxanne Trunnell, Kate Shoemaker and Rebecca Hart.)

Botana (Portland, Maine) gave strong performances with Lord Locksley for the U.S. team, starting off with a score

games which are August 25-September 6.

We hope to see you marching in the Opening Ceremony David!



Photo credit: Queca Franco

of 72.381% to place fourth in the FEI Grade I Team Test. He and the 19-year-old Trakehner stallion owned by Margaret Stevens and Susanne Hamilton tallied a score of 71.548% in the FEI Grade I Individual Test to place second. They closed out the competition with a fourth-place finish in the FEI Grade I Freestyle on a score of 73.000%.

David's next competition is in Florida Jan 22-26, followed by a return to Tryon North Carolina in June. The USA Paralympic team will be selected in July and the team moves into quarantine in August, and then off to Tokyo for the

Follow US Equestrian in Florida thru April 2020: Stay up to date with the Adequan U.S. Para Dressage Team through USA Para Dressage on Facebook and US Equestrian on Twitter and Instagram. Use #USAParaDressage. Follow David's journey on his athlete page <https://www.facebook.com/2020ParalympicDream/>

David's Disability Explained: David has VATER Syndrome, a set of birth defects that often occur together, they are believed to be casually linked.

The word VATER stand for vertebrae, anus, trachea, esophagus and renal (kidneys). A person doesn't need to have all the five characteristics to be classified un VATER syndrome, but most diagnosed have a constellation of problems involving many of these areas of the body. VATOR is not genetically transferred, but it is thought to be a genetic abnormality that develops very early on in pregnancy. David's has the following characteristics: Vertebral: Just about every vertebral body is misshapen, resulting in a spinal fusion at ages two and six. The fusion impacts trunk, hip and neck rotation. and can cause pain when walking. David has scoliosis and an unbalanced walk. He also experiences unusual weakness throughout his body it is difficult for him to walk, so he uses a power wheelchair most of the time. Because David can't turn his head very much, be sure to look right at him when talking.

Trachea and Esophagus: When David was born, his trachea and esophagus didn't go anywhere in his body, so on the first day of life he had surgery so that he could eat and breathe.

Renal: David is missing his left kidney. His right kidney is healthy and it is fine to have just one kidney.

Misshapen Bones: Not related to VATER, but the double whammy. David is missing his left arm radial bone and has a four-fingered left hand. His left arm is weaker than his right so David wears a brace to keep his left arm in good position. David's left arm is about a third shorter in length than his right. David was born with an amniotic band severing his right bicep, so he had surgery very early in life to release a restriction on his nerves and muscles. His right arm appears better than his left, he is actually impaired in both.

VATER impacts the development of the whole body, It is common for people with VATER syndrome to have an overall different appearance. David is quite small and it's likely he will remain under five feet tall. David has also been in occupational and physical therapy most of his life to learn and condition his adaptations.

For his adaptations in riding, the US Equestrian Federation permits David

certain dispensations. A "dispensation" is a certificate that allows for and lists all appropriate compensating aides and adaptive equipment that a para athlete is permitted to use in competition. The aids are compensatory in nature and do not provide any advantage.

David has the following dispensations:

- Voice Commands
- Not required to wear gloves
- Looped reins
- Double bridle adapter
- Minimal salute

And as for Rocky? Thanks to Lord Locksley's grand Prix travel and training schedule, David enjoys plenty of time for a hack. And whenever they can't ride, David always has time to feed him carrots. After all, he's just a typical young man, devoted to his best friend.

Contributions Welcome: Training for the goal of Tokyo comes at a great cost. Competitors have a trainer, horse, rider and sponsorship, Last year David was limited by finances and missed one CPEDI, missing a competition is difficult, because maintaining and improving his standing is dependent on competing as much as possible. New partnerships for grooming products with Exhibitor's Equine, and feed from Lucerne Farms and Windham Blue Seal Feed, and a very comfortable saddle from Custom Saddle have helped quite a lot. David is a grant recipient from the American Trakehener Foundation, Challenged Athlete Grant, and Disabled Sport USA.

Still, the financial costs of travel, training, and competing are quite a lot and he would welcome your support.

Those interested in sponsorship can contact Suzanne Botana directly at smbotana@mac.com or 630-632-1536. There are tax deductible options. You can also support David through Paypal at his Southern California Equestrian Sports page.

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RIDING WITH A PURPOSE

by: Lousie Lester

From the earliest I can remember I've been horse crazy. My older sister got a horse first because she was "the oldest" and was horse crazy too. Because of this and the usual sisterly competition, I didn't get much of a chance to get involved with her horse, Hagan Vly, a retired Standardbred. During this time I took every opportunity to be around horses, rode whatever anyone would let me and hung out at the local horse riding establishment who did trail rides by the hour. I also watched anything on horses on the then rather new TV and went to movies etc. My education about horses was next to nothing short of my practical experiences and hit or miss results with Hagen after my sister found boys during her high school years and when I finally got him.

After marriage my husband went to the University of Arizona and of course I went along too. Arizona was an eye opener for me and Duce where we were caught up in the western life style including his classes at the U of A Agriculture School. We weren't in Tucson for more than 6 months when we bought our first Quarter Horse long yearling colt. The only thing that kept us alive with this very rambunctious stallion was Ralph. We boarded the horse

with him and his experience of over a lifetime of cowboying saved our butts. I think that Ralph asked us monthly if we wanted him to geld our colt! We got involved with the local QH Association and those people took us under their wings with more help that was so needed.

Three years later we found ourselves back in Maine with 7 Quarter Horses and a plan on breeding them and making our living. Duce had taken the horseshoeing course at the university so he started his business of on the road farrier. Two years later we had a barn and 50x100 indoor arena so now I was in the horse business with riding lessons, boarding, and of course breeding horses. Because we were so busy trying to make our horse business go we didn't have much time or finances for education but we picked up whatever we could from the professionals around us. With a gift from my father and mother I was able to take the Horsemasters' course at Potomac Horse Center in Maryland and began to know just how much I didn't know.

Now I'm jumping ahead 30 years to say that Duce had to get a "real" job because his shoulders were not capable of shoeing any more,

and I got a "real" job because our family had grown by two kids which we had to support and educate. We still had the horse business but it was reduced to just boarding and still is. As I've noted in previous articles my horse sport was and is competitive trail riding which is an education in itself. After over 3500 miles in competition I'm still learning from my horses and the sport itself. But since I'm not getting any younger I decided a few years ago that I needed more education and a plan for after my energy level won't keep up with my desire to ride competitive trail. I had audited several clinics during the years but in 2010 I rode in my first Buck Brannaman clinic. I had a real eye opener. I absolutely loved what he was teaching and the reaction of my horses to it. Since then I have ridden with several trainers similar to him and plan on continuing my education. I've also found that I want to attend every clinic I can no matter what the subject. I can't get enough of it. Recently I attended the clinic hosted by Dr. Dave Jefferson, DVM and Dr. Lila Solomon DVM. It was for basic horse care and triage of injured horses. A longtime friend of mine in attendance asked me why I was there since I probably already knew anything that would be covered. My answer was that I want to be

involved and knew that I would learn something I didn't know before – and I did!

Don't stop learning at the particular horse sport in which you have chosen to participate. A dressage rider can learn from a western rider. A polo player can learn from a trail rider and visa versa. While you hire professional help learn anything you can about your horse so you can communicate with the farrier or veterinarian your concerns and understand what they are communicating to you about the care of your horse.

My request to you is to get education/information however and where ever you can. Use the people and professionals around you and don't be hesitant to ask questions. Go to as many clinics and seminars as you can. Absorb knowledge which will hold you in good stead for your life with horses. It will pay off in the end.



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Danielle Runions
Suzanne Pearson

Danielle is well known in the hunter jumper circuit. At the age of 21 she received her USEF procard. She has extensive experience in training both riders and horses.

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Suzanne is a dutch trainer, who just moved to Maine. She has trained many riders and horses. Her specialty is working with the biomechanics of rider and horse in mind.

Suzanne's program often involves rehabilitation and training the horse as well as teaching the rider.

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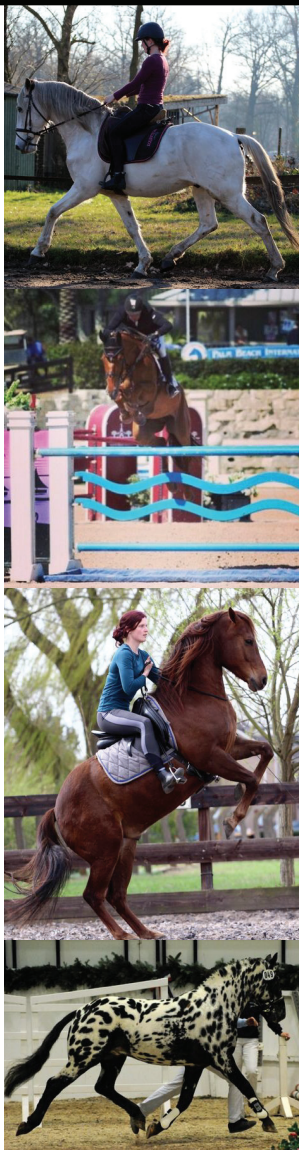
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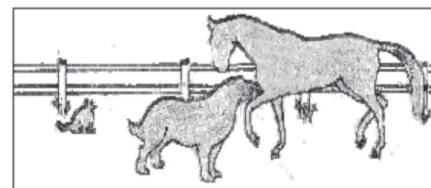
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NEW REAL ESTATE SECTION COMING IN OUR APRIL ISSUE

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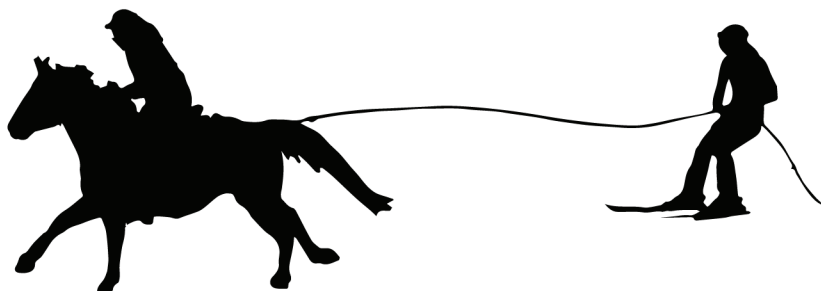
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2019 CENTRAL MAINE DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION YEAR-END AWARDS

Here are the results of this past weekend's Central Maine Dressage Association 2019 Year End Awards: held at Mallet Hall, Pownal, Maine

INTRODUCTORY LEVEL - ADULT AMATEUR

- 1st What's The Reason Joanne Spiers 70.94%
- 2nd Isar Sarah Sweet 69.22%
- 3rd Captain Jack Linda Hitchborn 68.75%
- 4th Fionna Nicole Shipp 68.44%
- 5th Life Of Reilly Alyssa Vieira 66.41%

TRAINING LEVEL - OPEN

- 1st DaVinci Wadean Chadwick 72.04%

TRAINING LEVEL - ADULT AMATEUR

- 1st Bellboy Of Runchkin Brittany Jacques 69.91%
- 2nd What's The Reason Joanne Spiers 68.05%
- 3rd Kennebec Elegance Elizabeth Sanborn 66.61%
- 4th Lets Go Impressum Linda Hitchborn 66.41%
- 5th Life Of Reilly Alyssa Vieira 64.71%

TRAINING LEVEL - JUNIOR/YOUNG RIDER

- 1st Agamemnon Da Raposa Margaret Hamar 72.29%
- 2nd Sherman Phoebe Keliher 71.40%
- 3rd What's The Reason Sofia Mitchell 67.94%
- 4th Oz Ruby Slippers Elia Boulette 67.39%
- 5th Nachu Peakin Xavier Cummings 63.28%

FIRST LEVEL - ADULT AMATEUR

- 1st Tommy Twotone Katey Simpson 68.66%
- 2nd Dandyllion Erin Luck 67.57%
- 3rd Kennebec Avery Nina Roth-Wells 63.13%
- 4th Watch Me Go Selma Powers 60.24%

FIRST LEVEL - JUNIOR/ YOUNG RIDER

- 1st Sherman Phoebe Keliher 65.54%
- 2nd Cajun Way Abigail Gardner 61.79%

SECOND LEVEL - OPEN

- 1st Dynastie Carol Poulin-Taylor 64.95%

SECOND LEVEL - ADULT AMATEUR

- 1st Dandyllion Erin Luck 63.45%
- 2nd Octavius Ann Grenier 61.96%

SECOND LEVEL - JUNIOR/ YOUNG RIDER

- 1st Phoebe Keliher Scooby Doo 67.84%

INTERMEDIATE A - OPEN

- 1st View From Katahdin Nicole Pollock 70.59%
- 2nd Valdi's Majestic Bo Wadean Chadwick 63.16%

INTERMEDIATE 2 - OPEN

- 1st View From Katahdin Nicole Pollock 69.71%

ELEMENTARY 2-PHASE - OPEN

- 1st Nachu Peakin Xavier Cummings 31

BEGINNER NOVICE 2-PHASE - OPEN

- 1st Cajun Way Abigail Gardner 36.58

GRAND CHAMPION - OPEN

- DaVinci Wadean Chadwick

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION - OPEN

- Dynastie Carol Poulin-Taylor

GRAND CHAMPION - ADULT AMATEUR

- What's The Reason Joanne Spiers

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

- Bellboy Of Runchkin Brittany Jacques

GRAND CHAMPION -JUNIOR/ YOUNG RIDER

- Agamemnon Da Raposa Margaret Hamar

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION - JUNIOR/ YOUNG RIDER

- Sherman Phoebe Keliher

HIGH SCORE RIBBONS

4-May

- What's The Reason Sofia Mitchell 67.59%

6-Jul

- Deanerys Matt Baillargeon 73.71%

3-Aug

- View From Katahdin Nicole Pollock 73.82%

Kur

- Apollo Tara Morrison 69.38%



Joanne Spiers Ch AA



Wadean Chadwick Open Ch



Junior overall CH



Awards Table

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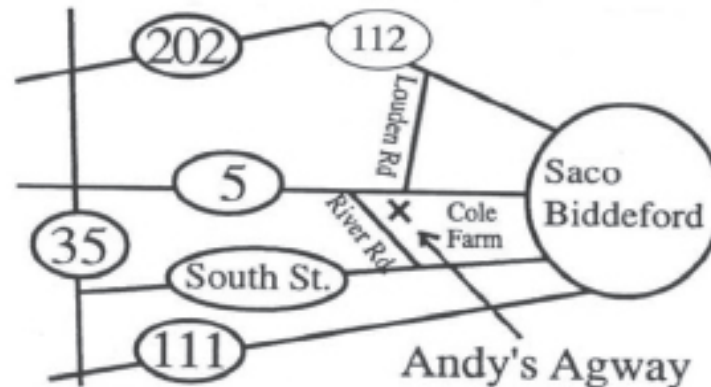
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Proper Etiquette

By: Virginia Shaw

“Wanted: Riding Instructor for a busy riding stable. Excellent riding skills and show record required. Must be good with children, prickly adolescents, and overstressed adults of all riding levels. Ability to de-escalate emotional outbursts a plus. Must be available 7 days a week, both in person and over the phone, during lessons and after hours. Additional duties include filling in for unreliable barn help, managing over competitive parents, motivating indifferent kids, and sourcing horses that will never buck, bite, or bolt. One ½ day off per month, except during show season, which runs March thru November. Salary might cover your rent, or it might not. Cheerful attitude a must.”
Andrea Monsarrat Waldo – Brain Training for Riders (A Must read if you ask me)

So let's just say you took my advice and you are going for those lessons, clinics, and maybe even thinking about buying a horse! How exciting for you 2020 here you come! Let's unpack the etiquette of this a bit.

When you look at your horse trainer what a life they lead. Full of fun daily activities that those of you behind a desk can be jealous of. So many of my clients have said to me; “I would trade my day job for yours.” “You are so lucky, you get to do whatever you want and play with horses all day.” What you don't realize is what

that day entails; Wild horses, sleepless nights thinking about clients and their needs, sleepless nights thinking about the horses and their needs, perhaps we got bucked off earlier in the day and we are struggling to stand up and get through the day.

Keep in mind, we are lucky. We have followed our passion and found a way to make a living at it. But when you show up for your lesson respect our time. Be on time, ready to ride with a mindset that allows for learning. Also think about your horse. Make sure you have come early enough to offer them a few minutes in their stall, if they are coming in from the paddock, or time to eat if it's feeding time, and allow for a proper warm-up time. Most of us understand that time can



be limited in our busy lives, but do your best to set yourself up for a good lesson. Don't get everyone else's opinions! When you are done your lesson and gone home and thought about it and maybe you didn't understand something or want clarification. Maybe your trainer said something you didn't really like. GO TO THEM! The only person who can give you clarity is the person teaching you. Chatting with your barn mates can be a helpful thing and also offer you support but when it come to you and your horse ask the person who is in the ring training you when need help.

Make prompt payments. Even though your trainer/barn owner has the job you may want, remember it is still their job and how they make a living. Your horse is still fed even if your bill is unpaid. Your instructor still has bills to pay and probably horses of their own to care for. Be considerate of the fact that we are doing our jobs to the best of our abilities and have spent hours learning our craft so our rates reflect that. Horsemanship is endless hours of learning and it never stops.

Be intentional with the energy and emotions you bring into the barn that day. This may sound harsh but, it is not your trainer's job, nor your horses to fix your life in one ½ hour lesson. When you walk into the barn enter it with the intention

of being a calm, fun, and happy human ready and willing to learn, knowing that anything can happen! Believe it or not you as a client mean more than you already know and most trainers genuinely care about your health, wellbeing, your family, your job etc. When we ask how everything is going we actually want to know and care about you. I notice though that too many people bring their baggage onto the horse. The horse can fix so many parts of us and they become part of who we are, they also accept us for who we are. However it isn't their job to clean up our life's messes.

Enter into the New Year it's so exciting to think about the endless possibilities of all that can happen. Let that drive you, push you to reach the goals, whether big or small. It's important to remember that your trainer should respect you, your goals, and want to see you succeed. Happy Horsin'!

Virginia Shaw
Head Trainer
Behind the Blue LLC

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2020

1	Let's Talk Trails	NH Horse Council Trails Round Table 2020 Topic: Trails (What's Working, What's Not, Networking, Future thoughts) (Sunday Feb.2 as snow day). Location: New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Contact nhhctrails@aol.com
5	Horsemanship Liberty Workshop	Kate Bennett Horsemanship Offered monthly from 6pm-8pm at Solid Ground in Scarborough ME. Workshops are all unmounted. For more information katebennethorsemanship@gmail.com
16	Sleigh Rally	Day outing sponsored by Granite State Carriage hosted by Townsend's Farm located in Lebanon, NH. Snow date Feb. 23, Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org
22	Yankee Tack Supply's Rounding Up Winter Tack Sale	Yankee Tack Supply is hosting its first winter tack sale in Buxton ME. the 29th.
23	Indoor Versatility Challenge	Contry Hill Farm 2020 Versatility Challenge Mason, NH (weather permitting!). DIVISIONS: In-hand, Lead Line, Walk Trot, Experienced (split by green horse, jr/adult, and green rider if entry numbers allow) EMAIL: EJSUMNER@GMAIL.COM FOR ENTRY FORM
23	Winter Series Hunter/Jumper 1	Winter Series Hunter/Jumper I, located at Hideaway Acres, Cumberland Me Points for: DMF, MEHJA, NEJA ** Event will be held in an Indoor Area ** To pre enter please visit our website, www.nejumper-sassociation.com
29	Skijor Skowhegan hosted by Somerset SnowFest	Skijor Skowhegan is Maine's first and New England's only equestrian skijoring race. Competitors will compete for cash prizes and other swag. Held at Skowhegan State Fairgrounds.

March 2020

8	Horse Tack and Clothing Sale	Burkeshire Stables will be hosting a tack and clothing sale. Sale starts at 10am. \$25 per table (bring your own). Wayne ME (207) 931-6024 for more information or to reserve your booth space.
21 & 22	Old House and Barn Expo	Doubletree by Hilton, Manchester, NH Hosted by New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Have fun and learn from the experts at this unusual expo that helps old house and barn owners and enthusiasts with appropriate and affordable solutions.
22	Elite Equestrian Performance Rider Clinic	USEF Certified Physical Therapist Individual Rider Assessments: Hosted by Atlantic Physical Therapy at Peppergrass FarmDixmont, ME Contact Rebecca Reed at (207) 234-7220 for more information.
28	Annual Cabin Fever Reliever Sale	The Tack StopAnson, ME (207) 399-2810 or www.thetackstop.com

April 2020

19	Fun Day Show	@ Hollis Equestrian Park Join us in preparing your horses for Show Season. Dressage instructors and demos along with an obstacle course to help desensitize your horse with spring fever. MaineStandardbred.com
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June 2020

21	Cheshire Fair Horse Show	Cheshire Fair Grounds - For more info: Cheshirefair.org Judy@CheshireHorse.com
6	Drive and Trail Ride	Sponsored by Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Leslie Baxter & Sandy Sims located in Bristol NH. Day outing. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org
13	Clinic	Newbie Green Event -Introduction to Driving Clinic sponsored by Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Eric & Linda Wilking located in Brentwood, NH. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org

Continued June 2020

27	Swap meet/flea market Rain date June 28.	Horse & carriage equipment, wagon rides, and BBQ sponsored by the Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Mary Jo Handley & Neil Harvey located in Deerfield, NH. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org
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July 2020

11	Drive and Trail Ride. Rain date July 12.	Loudon Roads & Woodland Trails sponsored by Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Sandy Sims & Leslie Baxter, located in Loudon, NH. Day outing. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org
12	Cheshire Fair Horse Show	Cheshire Fair Grounds - For more info: Cheshirefair.org Judy@CheshireHorse.com
16 to 19	Multi-day Camping Outing Pre-registration required	Look to the Mountains-Multi Day Camping Outing sponsored by Granite State Carriage Association hosted Cindy Schlener located in Chocorua, NH. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org

August 2020

9	Drive and Trail Ride	Rail Trail drive and ride at Potter Place, sponsored by Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Don & Faith Clendenen, located in Andover, NH. Day outing. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org
23	Cheshire Fair Horse Show	Cheshire Fair Grounds - For more info: Cheshirefair.org Judy@CheshireHorse.com
23	Drive and Trail Ride	Sambornton Pemi River drive and trail ride sponsored by the Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Don & Faith Clendenen located in Andover, NH. Day outing. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org

September 2020

13	Cheshire Fair Horse Show	Cheshire Fair Grounds - For more info: Cheshirefair.org Judy@CheshireHorse.com
10-16	Multi Day Camping outing. Pre-registration required.	Meach Cove/Shelburne multi-day outing sponsored by the Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Jean Harvey located in Shelburne, VT. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org
18 to 20	Down East Medal Finals	Please contact Ginger Albert ginger@downeastmedalfinals.com Location: Skowhegan Fairgrounds, ME
19	Benefit Trail Ride	Champion the Challenge trail ride, sponsored by Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center. Enjoy a fall trail ride in Maine while helping to fight cancer, 5 and 10 mile rides. Located in Corinna, Maine. Register today @ ctchallenge.org

October 2020

3	Drive and Trail Ride	Branch Hill Farm drive and trail ride sponsored by Granite State Carriage Association hosted by Cindy Schlener located in Milton Mills, NH. NEHT - Affiliated Event. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org
11	Drive	Seavey Memorial Drive Manchester Water Works sponsored by the Granite State Carriage Association sponsored by Eric & Linda Wilking located in Auburn, NH. Day outing. Contact: www.granitestatecarriage.org

November 2020

15	GSCA Annual Planning Meeting	Location: TBD
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Maine & NH Horse Organizations

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Arabian Horse Association, Inc. of Maine

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Central Maine Dressage Association*

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Central Maine Team Penning Association

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Cumberland County Riding Club

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Farmer's Draft Horse, Mule & Pony Club

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Highview Riding Club, Inc.

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is the official paper of the following affiliated groups:

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Ellis River Riders
Maine Combined Training Association
Maine Driving Club
Maine Hunter/Jumper Association

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Hoof Care Corner

Ribbit- It's all about the Frog

Liselle Batt

Welcome back to the Hoof Care Corner, a series of short articles written to educate horse enthusiasts about a variety of hoof care topics, ranging in scope from "the benefits of barefoot" to "when wedge pads matter". Our topic today is the importance of the frog of the hoof.

Ribbit- It's all about the Frog
February, 2020

As a farrier, if I had to choose only one part of the equine foot to nurture and keep healthy, it would be the frog, located at the back, or caudal, half of the foot. In this article we'll discuss how the frog and the associated structures in the caudal

hoof are so critical to soundness, and how we can help horses grow the healthiest, best-looking frog in the pond.

Blood supply is everything when it comes to growing a healthy foot. It's easy to think of the horse's hoof as an unfeeling, rigid stump and the end of a long leg. The equine hoof, however, is actually so alive with blood vessels that it is sometimes called horse's second heart, because of how much blood pumps through the hooves and back up into the body with every stride. Photo 1 is an actual cadaver cast of the blood vessels from a healthy horse hoof.

The blood supply feeds all operations inside the foot. This includes growth of the protective layers we see and handle every day, like hoof wall, calloused sole,

and frog. But the blood supply also nourishes structures we can't see, like the coffin and navicular bones inside the hoof and their connecting ligaments.

Finally, and most significantly for this article, blood supply feeds soft elastic structures located in the back of the foot, called the unguis cartilages and the digital cushion. These structures provide Nike running-shoe style cushioning for the foot, enabling the hoof capsule to expand and contract under the force of 1000lbs landing on top of it with every step. And with every stride, blood circulates through the foot, nourishing it.

Simply put, a heel-first landing stimulates great blood supply, and this feeds the whole foot.

So what protects the back half of the foot? You guessed it! That's the frog. The frog, so named because its wedge-like shape resembles the back and haunches of a frog, is the bulbous soft structure in the back-half of the foot. It's bisected by a central groove called the central sulcus, and paralleled by two axial grooves called the collateral sulci. These grooves are what you "pick out" with your hoof pick every day. The grooves are important for foot function, as they provide space for the frog to expand and contract under pressure, and they trap dirt and gravel, which then provide natural traction for the horse.

The frog is an amazing piece of anatomy!

Ribbit continued pg 21

Bits and Bytes

Industry News

Upper Pond Stables - New Reins

Former owners of Upper Pond Stables, Bart and Karen Barstis officially handed over the reins to Tina Titus on November 15, 2019.

Upper Pond Stables is located at 147 Upper Pond Road in Litchfield on 24 beautiful acres.

We take pride in offering exceptional 24 hour care to horses boarded at the facility and offer riding lessons for

10 year old daughter, Mackenzie, and her horse "Percy" who in their first year of competition were this year's Reserve Grand Champions in Western Equitation 17 and under class at Tri-County. Mackenzie and Percy also competed at both Maine Event shows this year which they also took home plenty of ribbons under the direction of Leanna.

Kate Brann, barn manager and her husband Kyle live on premises and provide

eventing community. Katie has been at Upper Pond Stables for the last twelve years working and teaching. As an elementary school teacher, she specializes in teaching kids and bringing them along with solid foundational horsemanship skills that will allow them to succeed in any discipline. Many of her students have earned their bronze medals and year end awards through the Maine Dressage Society. Katie focuses on the disciplines of dressage and jumping and continues her own education in those areas.

Upper Pond Stables will be hosting shows and events throughout the year including continuing the tradition of the Halloween Fun Show in October.

The stable will also be offering the facility for use for children's "pony" parties, trail rides, facility rentals for local various riding and driving organizations and informational clinics for its boarders and community.

Upper Pond Stables' mission is to continue the great reputation of "no better care, anywhere" which has been upheld by the previous owners of the stable.

More than ever, we want to provide the horses with the best care possible. Whether they are competition horses or enjoying their retirement at Upper Pond. There is no

better reward than seeing a happy, healthy horse.

Tina and her staff look forward to building upon Upper Pond's strong foundation for exceptional care for which the stable is known for as well as making the necessary improvements to the facility to continue to provide boarders with a fun, relaxed family orientated first class facility. With the support of her dedicated family and her partner, C.J., Tina has been able to chase this dream. If it was not for them and their undying support, this dream would not have come true.

Upper Pond Stables would also like to give a special thank you to Sherrye and John Trafton for bringing us together with Percy (aka "Hot with Invy") and for sharing their vast knowledge of horsemanship and supportive information in bringing this dream to life.

Please stop by and check out our fun, relaxed, family orientated facility or give Tina a call at (207) 841-9922 with any questions. You can also contact Leanna Smith directly at (207) 751-9663 to schedule a time for a lesson or trail ride. Deborah's program is currently full but she can be contacted about lessons in case an opening



all abilities from our three knowledgeable instructors.

Upper Pond Stables offers lessons in Western, English, dressage and competition jumping. We have safe and dependable school horses for all levels. The facility includes a 70' X 120' indoor arena and a 110' X 200' outdoor arena as well as access for riding or driving on well-groomed carriage trails on the Holman Conservation located right behind the stable. Partial or full leases of horses are also available. We feed Poulin grain which is provided twice daily as well as hay 4 times a day.

Instructor, Leanna Smith has joined Upper Pond Stables as a full-time employee. Leanna has been an avid equestrian her whole life, and grew up owning horses here in Maine. She graduated from Morrisville State College with an Equine Science and Management degree in 2016 where she also rode on the IHSA western team. Since graduation she has been teaching riding lessons under Sherrye Trafton, where she was able to build up her own successful program.

Leanna's focus is on teaching primarily stock horse disciplines with an emphasis on western riding, but has experience in teaching dressage, hunt seat, trail as well as groundwork and general horsemanship type lessons. Her program caters to the individual goals of the rider from competitive to recreational riders just looking to enjoy some time with horses. All abilities welcome.

Leanna is a great asset to the Upper Pond team not only as an instructor but as a knowledgeable horse person who is comfortable managing a barn and putting the horses' needs first. Leanna is the proud owner of "Cinco".

Leanna has been the instructor for Tina's

around the clock care. Kate has worked for Upper Pond Stables for 11 years and has lived on the premises for 6 years. Kate has a deep affection for all the horses at the stable and is highly respected and trusted by the boarders at Upper Pond. Kate has grown up with horses her entire life and has been riding since she got her first pony, "Lady" at the age of 5. Her mother, Deborah Remley, has been coaching her since those early years. Kate has also successfully competed with her horse "Dynah" in Dressage who is now living out her retirement at Upper Pond at the age of 29. Not only does Kate lovingly care for each and every horse at Upper Pond, she treats all horses like they are her own.

Deborah Remley has remained at Upper Pond as a lesson instructor. Deb brings her vast knowledge in horsemanship. Deborah has been teaching children and adults basic riding skills and Dressage for over 30 years (8 years at Upper Pond) and has successfully competed client's horses while living in Colorado and her own horse until his retirement last year. Deborah grew up in Augusta, Maine and began riding with Michael Poulin in Fairfield at the age of 8 developing a life-long passion for horses and Dressage. Growing up, all weekends, school vacations and summers were spent working in the barn and riding in Fairfield, eventually purchasing a Grand Prix horse through Michael. Deborah continues to share her love and knowledge of horses and riding with a variety of students in Central Maine. To this day, Deborah continues to ride with Michael when possible. Deb is the proud owner of "Otho".

Katie Liscovitz has also remained onboard as a lesson instructor at Upper Pond. Katie Liscovitz grew up riding and competing in the Maine dressage and



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continued Ribbit from pg 17

It's rubbery, leather-like outer shell protects the sensitive, blood-filled structures underneath it, deep inside the foot. It allows proprioception, which is the ability of the horse to feel and know where their foot is spatially, and it provides excellent natural traction (Photo 2).

As an elastic structure, the frog will also will deform under pressure, and can bear some of the weight of the horse. Farriers will often use "frog pressure" when treating injuries to the hoof wall. This means that the horse is either trimmed or shod so that the weight of the horse is transferred somewhat from the hoof wall to the frog. This can be life-saving for horses suffering painful conditions like laminitis which is inflammation in the hoof wall, or for horses recovering from severe cracks in their wall, like quarter cracks.

Many chronic foot problems begin to develop when the frog becomes unhealthy and loses its ability to protect and support the caudal foot and heel. If the horse becomes "heel sore" and no longer lands "heel-first", diminished blood supply to the foot follows. This means slower growth of sole and hoof wall, and can

even lead to unhealthy, brittle bones (a condition called pedal osteitis).

How can you help your horse grow great frog? Regular farrier care is critical. Your farrier removes heel so that the frog can "feel" the ground upon landing. This pressure causes the frog to deform, and stimulates the blood supply to it. Good circulation means great growth! The farrier will also trim out old and tired frog, allowing the younger, healthier material more contact with the ground.

Preventing infection is also very important, especially in New England, where mud is an actual whole season. Thrush is a bacterial (*Fusobacterium necrophorum*) and fungal infection caused by perennial exposure to wet ground, manure and urine-soaked bedding. Thrush affects the frog and associated sulci (the grooves to either side of the frog and through the middle of it). Black in color, thrush has an associated sweet, sickly odor. Affected sulci may ooze a black oily discharge and will be deeper than usual, sensitive to hoof-picking, and in severe cases may bleed when touched (Photo 3).

A thrush infection alone is painful, but the real problem is that thrush can destroy a healthy frog in a matter of weeks.

Without the supportive cushioning and protection of the frog, the horse may develop a secondary injury, such as an abscess or stone bruise.

When the frog no longer contacts the ground during landing, either because the heels are too high or because infection has destroyed the frog itself, the blood supply will decrease, and the rate of growth of new frog will diminish. The frog becomes atrophied (Photo 3).

Prevention is the best treatment for thrush. Provide your horse with dry footing. Remove manure and urine-soaked bedding and lay down crushed stone or sand in areas of high traffic.

If your horse has thrush, consult your farrier or vet for the right topical treatment, and follow their instructions! Many thrush products have a distinctive green or purple stain that gets on everything, so we KNOW when you actually do it and when you don't.

One of the very best ways to stimulate

healthy frog growth is through movement. Every step your horse takes circulates blood through the foot, and stimulates the frog to grow. Evaluate your horse habitat- how much time does Junior spend standing in his stall, and how much time is he moving? Providing your horse with a companion encourages movement, as do distributed feed stations, and run-in style housing as opposed to stalls. Best of all, ride! Get that blood pumping with a good gallop through your favorite field. Happy trails, everyone.

Contributor Bio
Liselle Batt is a full-time farrier in western Maine. She is accredited through the American Association of Professional Farriers and served as president of the Maine Farriers Association in 2019. Liselle advocates an educated, common-sense approach to hoof care and to that end offers barefoot trimming, steel and composite shoeing, glue-ons and boot-fitting to clients. Additional information about Western Maine Farrier Service is available on her website.



Photo 1: Cadaver cast display showing the hoof's blood supply (copied with permission from a video capture by Susan Walker of Natural Hoof Care)



Photo 2: Excellent frog quality maintained through regular farrier care and a clean environment



Photo 3: Un-trimmed foot showing atrophied frog and thrush in central and collateral sulci

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membership app available at www.centralmainedressage.org
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State of Maine Dressage Association

Membership forms available at: www.mainedressage.com

Subscription Year: Jan 2019 - Dec 2019

SMDA dues (include USDF dues)
Individual: \$40 • Junior: \$38 • Family: \$45
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www.wcrdc.org/

Subscription Year:
June 2019 - May 2020

Please attach paper listing family members (spouse and children under 19)
Children over 18 may be added as "Additional Adults"

Send with check or money order payable to Waldo County Riding & Driving Club to:
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call 338-1788 or email wcrdc@yahoo.com with any questions

Bits and Bytes

Industry News



New Hampshire Horse Council ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING 2/29/2020

Our Annual Members Meeting will be held on Sat. Feb. 29, 2020. Location will be UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center 153 Page Hill Rd., Goffstown NH.

The day will begin at 9:30 am with a welcome and sign-in. Following will be the members meeting to include Council activities report, a Treasurer's report and Committee Report

We will break for a light pot-luck lunch with a chance for members to relax and catch up.

After lunch we are planning some interesting educational items to include:

UpReach demo Barn Safety—How to Prevent Barn Fires

Presented by Roger Lauze, Manager of Equine Rescue and Training at MSPCA

UpReach is a Premier Accredited Center by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) since 2006. They have served individuals with a wide range of physical, emotional, and psychological abilities since 1992 through year-round, equine-assisted activities and therapies, including: therapeutic riding, therapeutic driving, equine-assisted learning, equine-facilitated mental health, and hippotherapy.

They will give a demonstration of what is involved in the work they do.

Roger Lauze, Manager of Equine Rescue and Training Center at MSPCA will present a talk and power point presentation on fire and barn emergency prevention. As the national authority on equine emergency response and rescue, this team travels thousands of miles annually to train veterinarians, human organizations, public safety officials and event officials in rescue and transportation.

We are lucky to be able to secure his services to offer this important look at barn safety.



<http://www.upreachtec.org>



<https://www.mspca.org/adoption-centers/nevins-farm-adoption-center/>



USDA recognizes NH and Maine Counties As Primary Natural Disaster Areas

Agriculture Secretary for the USDA Sonny Perdue has designated counties in Maine and NH as primary natural disaster areas. The natural disaster designation allows the FSA (Farm Service Agency) to extend needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters. Emergency loans are available for various recovery needs. Some of the loans include the replacement of items like equipment or livestock, reorganizing of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts.

New Hampshire counties listed were for producers in Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack and Sullivan. Producers in the contiguous NH counties of Rockingham and Strafford, along with Oxford and York counties in Maine. These are counties designated to have possibly suffered losses from extreme cold and temperature fluctuations resulting in winterkill, between December 1, 2018 and April 20, 2019 they could be eligible for US. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loans.

Deadline to apply for emergency loans is August 17, 2020. FSA will review the applicants based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Farmers interested should contact their local USDA service center for further information on eligibility and application procedure for these and many other programs offered to help farmers recovery from the impacts of this disaster. Additional information is available online at farmers.gov/recover.

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