

Free - Take one
please and pass
it around!

Where there are rivers,
There are valleys,
There are horses,
And



All Breeds,
All Disciplines,
All the Time!

April 2011

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Your local resource for equestrian events, news and information.



A Rocky Mountain Spring!

*Photo essay of the
Rocky Mountain Horse Expo
in Denver*

*Introducing
Charles Wilhelm's
Ultimate Foundation Training*

Read about ND Teen Author Mattie Richardson's new book "Appaloosy"

*Dakota Girls and Boys Ranch:
Kids and Horses:
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*Introducing
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Meet Katherine Windfeather Thompson, Psychic Animal Healer

by Victor Wolf

I didn't know about her abilities when I met Katherine Windfeather Thompson at the Colorado Equine Expo in Denver in 2009, but I was intrigued by her poster. We don't get psychic animal healers in rural Southern Colorado very often.

Thompson was in a pen, giving instructions to a woman who had brought in a grey mare. A review of my notes showed that about 45 people could be seated in the portable bleachers near the pen.

Thompson, her right hand on the mare's right shoulder, was explaining how to sense the mare's energy. Now, I've done that much when I work with abused horses, but I noticed something more.

The mare was leaning into Thompson's hand, and was dozing. And there was still something else. Surrounding the pen on three sides were portable stalls. In one of them, a horse constantly whinnied. In another, a horse paced. People passed by, talking or leading horses. But where I stood, I felt as if I were being bathed in comfortable peace, and it was obvious that the mare felt it, too. She was not at all disturbed by the activity around the pen.

I am pleased to let two of her clients, from her files, introduce you to this remarkable, gifted woman:

Linda's Experience
When Linda Higbee, Rough and Ready, CA, examined her newly gelded horse Skipper in March 2001, he wasn't doing so well.

"He wasn't coming around the way I thought he should have been. He was on antibiotics, but he was running a fever. He was off his feed, and he was lame in a back leg."

The vet had done all he could do, so Higbee, worried about Skipper, called Katherine Windfeather Thompson, a Psychic Animal Healer, who had treated Higbee's mare Mattie in November 2000. Thompson said she would get to work.

Higbee tells how she was sleeping a few nights later and sensed Thompson, warm and comfortable, like a blanket wrapped around her. "I woke up, and I could hear her say, 'Everything will be all right; don't worry.'"

"I contacted her in the morning, when Skipper was banging on the stall door—his way of asking for food. He began eating, and the next day, his temperature was down, and he recovered quickly."

Cheri's Experience
Cheri Wine, Bristol, TN, remarkably confirmed the feeling Higbee had experienced.

At Equitana USA in Louisville, KY, Wine had occasion to call on Thompson. "I needed some answers about my horse, Ace, who had started a racing career. He had suffered a severe injury to his right hock. Barbed wire had severed the ligaments and part of the tendon."

Wine continued, "An unorthodox surgical procedure saved him, but this interfered with his ability to perform. He had become extremely girthy, and he balked at picking up his right lead. And there was a

hitch in his left leg movement, which was confusing because the damage was done to the right.

"I had talked to a lot of practitioners, looking for alternatives. And when I saw Katherine's booth, [and her title,] 'Psychic Animal Healer,' well, [I figured] it wouldn't hurt to talk to her."

"Well, almost immediately, she told me things about Ace she could have had no way of knowing. That validated her gift for me. She told me things about my riding that only I knew. She told me that Ace's right leg had been damaged, and she saw barbed wire and scar tissue, which restricted move-



ment in the hock." A week later, Wine called Thompson in California and was told that Ace was having trouble with his right lead because of an abscess.

"I took her word for it and asked for a healing treatment. At the agreed time, I took Ace out to his paddock alone. Katherine was over 2000 miles away, but I felt the energy moving through my own body as she worked on Ace. He had

been grazing, but several times, he jerked his head up and stared rigidly into space. He began breathing deeply. I started feeling queasy and felt heavy pressure in my chest and in my throat. I also felt very emotional. And the results were very amazing!

"Ace cantered in both directions and became very wonderful. He was no longer unbalanced and strong to the right. Katherine also helped with the girthing, and she correctly identified the hitching in the left leg as stringhalt, which was confirmed by my veterinarian. I had never heard the term!"

Wine and Ace won sev-

eral jumping and dressage classes after the healing, and Wine said Thompson monitored Ace's health for some time, until he was found dead in his paddock. It appeared he had broken his neck.

Katherine's Own Experience

Thompson says that she considers herself a Clairvoyant Healer and explained, "Such a healer works in the emotional body, which is where all forms of dis-ease in the animal or human physical body begin."

And how did she discover her gift? Thompson says, "I had a very profound near-death experience when I was about 46. Unexplainable things began to happen to me. I did a lot of reading, then found some people who could put it into perspective for me."

"They were graduates of the Berkeley Psychic Institute, and they were teaching a clairvoyant healing program at The Avalon Institute for Psychic Development and Healing, in Chico, CA. I immediately enrolled."

"As I progressed, animals began coming to me and communicated things they wanted their owners to know, and so I began having people specifically request private readings from me."

Thompson works with humans, too, but because she has been around horses all her life—she began riding at age four on her father's cattle ranch—she was led to specialize in helping horses.

She says, "Of course, being openly psychic in the equine community brought repercussions, but I held firm, and an increasing

number of people have become more receptive to me than when I was first doing horse expos.

"My gift has caused me to re-order my life. I was a racehorse trainer for about 25 years before I became aware of my gift. When my husband died in 1995, I retired from the track, sold our ranch and for 15 years worked a variety of jobs, including long-haul truck driving, to support myself. But each job took me farther from the horses."

"I realized I must make a change, and last year I returned to the racetrack and resumed my former position as a professional trainer. But I keep a pretty low profile and don't discuss my psychic abilities in social circles. Of course, I'm 'on' and 'tuned in' to that sixth sense all the time, but what I 'see' I keep to myself for the most part. As a trainer, there are definite advantages, though."

Thompson explains that her work can't be called a practice, like mainstream medicine. She simply accomplishes healings.

You can meet Thompson at a workshop in the Los Altos Hills of Northern California on April 17. She will also have a booth with The Valley Equestrian News, in Minneapolis, at the Minnesota Horse Expo, April 29–May 3. And she'll have a booth at the Western States Horse Expo, Sacramento, CA, June 10–12.

For more information about rates, workshops, 30-minute readings, and distant treatment, you can reach Thompson at (916)770-9376. Her website is www.katherinethompson.net.

KIDS AND HORSES: Rx FOR HEALTHY HEARTS

By Jan Roers, Horse Program Director, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Sixteen-year-old Lucas came to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, ND, with drug and alcohol issues that had strained his family relations to the breaking point. Since he was no longer in school, his circle of friends now consisted of kids in the same boat as he was—too much time on their hands, and no sense of direction or purpose.

Depression and isolation weighed heavily on Lucas, and it showed in his rounded shoulders and downward gaze. He kept to himself, with no interest in interacting with the other boys he now lived with at the Ranch; his spark seemed to have gone out. Part of Lucas' treatment plan was to work at the barn with horses. You'd think this would be every kid's dream but Lucas said, "I will do anything but that. I am deathly afraid of horses, and they smell."

After a little coaxing, though, he agreed to give it a try.

On Lucas' first day, after sweeping and stall-picking, he met Buster, a beautiful, black 26-year-old quarter horse gelding. Although tentative at first, he picked up a brush and started to groom. Two days later, Lucas wanted to try riding, and Buster was his choice of mount. What a team those two have become!

Today when Lucas walks into the arena, he has a smile on his face. He sits tall in the saddle and talks about the college he would like to attend and the career he might have. Buster stands patiently by, seemingly proud of the man Lucas is becoming.

Lucas is attending school now; he is working hard to overcome his addiction and get his life on track. The last time his mom visited, he asked her to videotape him riding and to send the video to family and friends. Pride and success are powerful catalysts for healing, and for Lucas, they were achieved with the help of a horse.

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a nonprofit, Christian agency started in 1952

whose mission states: "We help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ." The agency is honored to serve and to be supported by people of all cultures and religions. In 2009, they served a total of 1006 youth and families.

Included are youth who are at-risk with emotional and behavioral issues and some with developmental challenges. Programs offered in Minot, Bismarck



and Fargo include residential care, shelter care, transitional living, day treatment and the horse program.

At the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Horse Program, a horse is not just a horse—he or she is a therapist. Kids at the

Ranch reap the psychological, emotional and physical benefits of equine therapy. The DBGR Horse Program is a North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) Member Center; our riding programs are delivered by a NARHA-certified instructor. The DBGR Horse Program currently offers Therapeutic Riding, Hippotherapy and Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy at its campus in Minot.

In Therapeutic Riding, the recreational aspect of horseback riding and the basic care for horses are used to encourage physical, psychological, social and educational benefits for individuals with and without disabilities. Riding a horse provides a unique and often profound experience to people. The child who has the opportunity to build a relationship with a horse can extend this to others and form meaningful relationships with people. The trust and the loyalty of a horse demonstrates to the student how important they are; they learn that there is a direct correla-

tion between action and reaction. Riding helps to empower kids and helps them to connect on a personal level, sometimes for the first time. The unpredictable nature of a horse also creates a real-life environment in which students will be able to confront fears and make adjustments to situations beyond their control. Riding is a motivating activity. It is social, entertaining, enlightening and spiritual. But above all else, it is fun.

Hippotherapy literally means "treatment with help from the horse," from the Greek word "hippo," meaning "horse." Therapy is provided by trained physical, speech or occupational therapists. The DBGR Horse Program offers Hippotherapy in cooperation with Trinity Hospital in Minot. Hippotherapy is a physical, occupational and speech therapy treatment strategy that utilizes the movement of the horse for individuals with, but not limited to, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury, Developmental Delays and learning or language disabilities. Hippotherapy has been shown to improve muscle tone, balance, posture, coordination, motor development and emotional well-being. The horse's walk provides sensory input through movement, which is varied, rhythmic and repetitive, similar to the human movement patterns of the pelvis while walking. The movement of the horse is an excellent tool for increasing trunk strength and control, improving balance, building overall postural strength and endurance, and addressing weight-bearing and motor planning. This movement can be used to facilitate the neurophysiologic systems that support all of our functional daily living skills. The average horse walks 120 steps per minute, thus giving the rider 120 chances to experience this unique movement that cannot be replicated by any other apparatus or equipment.

Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) uses the horse as a tool in a mental health treatment plan with a licensed therapist. DBGR kids participating in EFP use feelings, behaviors and patterns to better understand the horse and themselves. Young people who ordinarily shun physical and emotional closeness with other people can often accept it from a horse. The bond between child and horse can develop mutual trust, respect, affec-

tion, empathy, unconditional acceptance, confidence, responsibility, assertiveness, communication skills and self-control. To succeed with a horse, the kids must exercise patience, understanding, attention, forgiveness and consistency—abilities they will find useful throughout their lives. In Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy, the kids learn to discover solutions, not by being told what they should do, but by being encouraged to develop what works for them.

An example of an exercise used in a DBGR EFP session is "My Story." In this scenario, the participant is asked to use tools such as ropes, buckets, cones, hoola hoops, etc. to create three obstacles in the riding arena. Their instructions are to tell their life story using a horse of their choice. One of the obstacles will represent the past; another, the present; and the last, their future. Once the obstacles are created, they are asked

Riding helps to empower kids and helps them to connect on a personal level, sometimes for the first time.

to take the horse through the course. Rules include no use of halters and lead ropes, bribing or simulating bribing. The discussion that follows involves how the horse responded to different obstacles. Was there a difference between the obstacle representing the past, present or future in terms of the horse's response? Discussion focuses around examining decisions made in the past, how such decisions affected the present, and plans for the future. The kids examine ideas about changing their life course and planning for difficulties they might experience. Horses reflect to the kids their own nature: when they approach a horse in a less-than open-minded fashion, the horse reacts accordingly. When the kids are aware of this, they are able to look deeper within themselves.

One 17-year-old DBGR resident stated, "Anyone having problems should go to horse therapy. Horses don't let you get away with anything, but they accept you no matter what. I try and be tough, but those horses bring out my softness."

The success of the Horse Program at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch would not be possible without our herd of exceptional horses. They range in age from 9 to 26, and in size from 13 to 16 hands. Most of the horses in the program were donated; we have horses from as far away as Nebraska.

The horses we look for are well-broke and sound, with no bad habits. All donated horses are taken on a 30-day assessment. Once a horse is accepted into the program, they are with us until they can no longer participate. The horses enjoy more than 60 acres of rolling hills, all the grass hay they can eat, fresh water at all times and a barn for inclement weather.

We see to all veterinary and farrier needs, and our kids provide the love. We try to keep our herd around 20, but we always have room for another kid-broken horse. If he comes with a saddle, all the better—we also always need quality tack.

For more information, contact Horse Program Director Jan Roers at: j.roers@dakotaranch.org.

The glue that holds all this together is our "herd" of exceptional donors, also known as Equine Angels. The Equine Angel program augments funding for the extra care needed by our horses, many of whom are elderly, as they too become "angels" to our children. Read all about the Equine Angels Program by visiting www.dakotaranch.org, clicking on "Programs of the Ranch" and then on "Horse Program," where you will also find our Wish List and information about becoming a volunteer.

We at DBGR are thankful for the blessings we receive. At the barn, we are most thankful for our wonderful horses, who without complaint or hesitation minister to our kids. "A poem by Willis Lamm sums it up; see inset below.

LET ME TEACH YOU

When you are tense, let me teach you to relax.
When you are short-tempered, let me teach you to be patient.
When you are short-sighted, let me teach you to see.
When you are quick to react, let me teach you to be thoughtful.
When you are angry, let me teach you to be serene.
When you feel superior, let me teach you to be respectful.
When you are self-absorbed, let me teach you to think of greater things.
When you are arrogant, let me teach you humility.
When you are lonely, let me be your companion.
When you are tired, let me carry the load.
When you need to learn, let me teach you.
After all, I am your horse.

Help for Strapped Horse Owners

WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU NO LONGER CAN AFFORD TO KEEP YOUR HORSE

By Barbara Wright Harmony HorseWorks

1. Don't panic by waiting so long that the proverbial horse manure has hit the fan. Plan ahead and prepare for this emergency so it isn't such a big one.

2. Don't automatically assume you can dump your horse at the local horse rescue. They are overloaded, undercapitalized, and understaffed. Your horse has a much better chance through private placement if you commit to do the work.

3. Take photos and write a biography. Be honest about good and bad points. Make a statement about

what type of owner would be a best fit. Post the notice at your local feed store, supermarket, anywhere that accepts such advertising. If you don't know how to create a flyer, ask your friends and relatives. Someone is good at this in your circle of contacts.

4. Create an email and send it out to everyone you know, horse-person or not, and ask them to send it out to everyone they know. Include horse rescues and sanctuaries on your email list as they have a wide list of contacts, too. Make sure you include your veterinarian on your list of potential contacts to spread the word. Again, if you can't do this, turn to one of your computer-savvy contacts.

If you are not, you are in the minority. Most people nowadays know how.

5. Contact the Colorado Unwanted Horse Alliance (CUHA) about help in getting the word out that you are in need. One of their missions is to mitigate these situations. Their contact info is: 1805 S. Bellair Street, Suite 400, Denver, CO 80222. Tel: (303) 744-8296. www.counwantedhorse.org. At Rocky Mtn. Horse Expo, they are unveiling their Equidopt web page where people seeking horses to adopt can search their database whose input comes largely from the rescue community in Colorado. If you are a

rescue, this is where to put your horse's bio and photos.

6. If you find an adopter, check out the horse's new home; interview the prospective owner. In other words, do due diligence so you are not just dumping your horse but ensuring a good chance of his future.

7. Contact the Colorado Horse Hay Food Bank. They offer interim and long-term assistance in supplying hay to strapped owners. Contact them through their web site at www.horsefoodbank.org. If you live outside Colorado, you can search the Internet with the keywords "horse hay bank" and come up with a similar organization

near you.

8. Watch out for impostors and poseurs who tell you they are going to find a good home for your horses, especially if it is a string you are trying to place, as they are usually killer buyers waiting to haul the horses to Mexico and Canada for a bloody and inhumane death. This is why due diligence is so important.

9. Ask your local horse rescue for assistance in finding an adopter. They have contacts most people don't and can help spread the word. They are NOT your first line of defense!

10. If your horse is 30-

plus years old, untrained, and a backyard pasture ornament, chances are you won't find a home for him. Failure to thrive on his part means euthanasia is a humane option. Starvation and neglect are not options.

11. If your horse has potential as a companion or a riding/sports partner, do everything you can to give him a chance at a future life.

12. Colorado Horse Rescue has recently implemented a program where they will provide \$250 in hay money for strapped horse owners. Information is available at their web site at www.chr.org.

BECOMING AN EQUINE ANGEL

The Therapeutic Riding Program at the Ranch has been an integral part of helping our children work through their issues for decades. When you become an Equine Angel, you're helping the children by helping the horses.

The Equine Angel program augments funding for the extra care our horses need—many of whom are elderly, as they too become "angels" to our children. It costs approximately \$1,000 to care for each horse, however, many levels of giving are available. Our wish is to have one Equine Angel for every horse...or a few for every horse! See all our horses and their bios at: www.dakotaranch.org/programs/horse.php

Equine Angel Program Levels of Giving has three levels of sponsorship, but gifts in any amount are joyfully accepted:

- (please check appropriate category)
- _____ \$25/week for _____ (# of) weeks
- _____ \$100/month for _____ (# of) months
- _____ \$1,000/year for _____ (# of) years

For becoming an Equine Angel, you will receive:
- a Certificate of Sponsorship with a picture of your horse
- a tax deductible donation receipt
- personalized periodic updates on your horse
- annual recognition in the "Ranch Voice" magazine (Watch for all the Equine Angels to be listed in our early spring issue)
- your name and horse on the barn "Wall of Fame"

We also hope you will visit your horse at the Minot Campus!

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

For even more information, call 1-800-344-0957 or return this form to: Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, C/O Equine Angels, PO Box 5007, Minot ND 58702-5007

www.dakotaranch.org • www.dbggift.org



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About the Cover

Horses calmly graze their pasture along County Road 77 outside Jefferson, CO. Further down the road rock hounds will have a great time seeing and photographing fantastic rock formations - a gift of the Creator and erosion.

Photo by Ley Bouchard

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ND Teen Author
Announces
second book
"Appaloosy"
Page 10

The Valley Equestrian Team is pleased to introduce Charles Wilhelm to our readers. Wilhelm is an internationally known and respected horse trainer who teaches individuals to train their own horses using his "Ultimate Foundation Training" methods. With over thirty-five years of training experience in many disciplines and breeds, he is one of the few clinicians who is known for his superb skills in communicating and motivating people as well as his astounding natural abilities with the horse. He believes that "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault" and his training methods reflect that belief. See his article on Page 5. Here he is pictured with his Grandson Vincent. Wilhelm resides in California and travels nationally and internationally as a trainer.



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Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training

The Concentrated Circles Exercise

By Charles Wilhelm

The exercise we call "concentrated circles" is a critical foundation training exercise. This exercise teaches the horse to bend around you which improves suppleness. It also provides important schooling of the go-forward cue. With a new or young horse, I normally do not begin training with concentrated circles. The horse is fairly close in this exercise and it is important to have already established respect and a forward cue to minimize the risk of being kicked or run over. Once I feel it is safe, I put the horse on a twelve-foot line and begin to lunge. I start with some basic change of direction work out at the end of the line. This gets the horse focused on going forward, stopping his feet and paying attention to what I am asking him to do. When the horse is fairly consistent in his response and is focused on me, I take the slack out of the line and move my hand up to the snap to begin the concentrated circles.



horse will be circling to the right, hold the line in your right hand. Keep your arm straight out in front of you and level. It is important to not let your elbow bend.

Stand across from your horse's shoulder with the stick or cane at your side. Direct the horse forward with your basic verbal go-forward command and the hand holding the line at the snap. This is a pre-cue. If your horse does not go forward, you must follow through by adding pressure. The type of pressure you choose will depend on the personality and emotional level of your horse. To add pressure you can:

1. Lift the training stick or cane from your side and point it at the horse's hip.
2. Whip the ground with the lash of the stick or cane

to make a noise to add pressure.

3. Take the stick or cane and tap the hip. Increase the strength of the tap as needed.

Before you begin this exercise, you should know that there are three parts to a horse that give you directional control: the nose, shoulder and hindquarters. The horse will follow its nose, then the shoulder, ending with the hips and hindquarters. Visualize your horse moving in a circle around you and how you control each of these parts.

For this exercise you may use a web or rope halter on your horse. A rope or "cowboy halter" as I call it, has more bite. You will also need a training stick or cane. To begin the exercise, hold the line at the snap. If your horse will be circling to the left, hold the line in your left hand. If your

As the horse moves forward, turn in place so the horse will follow. Do not walk forward and around with the horse. I try to keep my feet in place, moving off one heel so that the horse goes around me. At first, your horse will not move in a perfect circle around you and you will need to watch which parts need adjustment. The following tips will help you to be successful with this exercise.

Stand in the center of the circle and do not move out or back. Pretend your feet or at least one, are glued to the center. Keep your arm level and your hand steady while directing the horse's nose. Imagine yourself in the middle of a wagon wheel. The horse should be yielding to you, bend-

ing around you and staying off the contact of the line.

If the horse pulls the line tight, maintain the contact until the horse gives. It is critical to release immediately when the horse gives. This follows the basic training principle of pressure/release. Continue to ask the horse to go forward until he is soft and yielding for at least several circles in one direction without stopping. When the horse is soft and consistent in one direction, switch hands and ask the horse to go the other way.

If the horse presses in toward you with its shoulder and/or its hip while it is circling, direct the horse outward. The horse should not be in your personal space. Check your arm position to make sure your arm is fully extended.



The horse should be bending and circling you in an arc. If the shoulder or hip is in toward you, the horse is not in an arc and is not doing the exercise correctly. Additionally, this is a safety and respect issue as well. Correct this behavior immediately. Tap the shoulder to drive the shoulder away and tap the hip to drive the hindquarters out. You must do this every time a part of the horse comes too close to you. It must be clear to the horse that this is not acceptable. Use only as much pressure as you need to immediately get the horse out of your space.

Watch out for kicking. It is common for a horse to kick when you tap it on the hip for the first time to make it go forward. There are several dynamics that may occur and cause this. The reaction may be the horse not liking the pressure on his hindquarters or you may be using too much pressure. The horse may not like

being asked to go forward while you are holding the snap, or may not like being asked to work. The exercise is work for the horse and he must move his feet laterally to make the arc around you and this may be a new movement for the horse. Kicking is never acceptable and must be corrected immediately. Tap the horse fairly hard on the lower portion of the leg that kicked. This is not a punishment. It is applying the right amount of corrective pressure to change the behavior. Think how an alpha horse would go after a new horse that kicked it — it would be very tough on the new horse. We need to be as adamant and to act immediately. If you don't act immediately, the horse will miss the cause and effect and there is no point making the correction.

When you have your horse moving around you and you are ready to stop, say whoa and pull the line up toward the horse's hip. Take the slack out of the line and make contact until the horse stops his feet and faces you. This movement causes the hips to swing over and the horse to stop and line up facing you straight on. At this time you may want to ask the horse to pause and then back up a few steps. Then you can start the exercise in the opposite direction.

Give your horse every chance to succeed. Always begin with a verbal pre-cue, a kiss or a cluck or whatever you use as your basic go-forward command. If the horse does not respond, increase the pressure. The worst thing you can do is to half-heartedly tap, tap, tap while the horse ignores you. This teaches the horse to ignore you and become used to the pressure while failing to respond. This is how horses get heavier in response to commands, instead of lighter. Determine how much pressure your horse needs and be consistent about applying it.

Letter to all horse owners and horse people

My name is Marian Robinson. I am a director on the Minnesota Horse Council board and chair of the MHC Disaster Response team.

I am sending this letter to let you know that Minnesota Disaster Response people from all agencies are gearing up for what could be the worst flood season Minnesota has ever had. I want you to really be prepared for it. It's not just going to be the Red River Valley, the Minnesota River, and the Mississippi River, but ALL the smaller rivers and creeks. Even Minnehaha Creek in the Minneapolis area will be really flowing over its banks, and residents are being warned about it on the news.

Even if you never get hit by a disaster of any kind with your pets, horses, or livestock, please keep in mind those who will be flooded out, and herds getting stranded. We will need donations to help these folks through the season. We have sources of hay from dealers, but cash donations are very welcome

in order to buy even more hay.

Here's hoping that you folks keep your animals, kennels, and hay/feed, etc. high and dry. If you are in low areas, please move your animals and their food to higher ground. Even folks who don't live near a creek or stream can be affected by overland flooding from a far distance.

If you don't have horses at your place but board them at a stable, please be sure the stable has an evacuation plan that can be shared with the boarders. If you don't own a horse but know of those who do, please pass the word on.

Starting Tuesday, March 8th, Stillwater will be busy sandbagging in crucial areas to protect the town. They are preparing ahead of time.

Sincerely,

Marian Robinson
Chair of MHC
Disaster
Response Team

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COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV ALVESHIRE

LOST BETWEEN BARN AND HOUSE IN A BLIZZARD

SNOW CAN FIND YOU: CAN YOU FIND THE HOUSE?
Lucky he had just arrived home to the farm; Fast changing weather gave extreme cause for alarm. He had just returned from an urgent trip to town. Overcast clouds darkened the low sky like sundown; Suddenly the wind bore down with a vicious sound! The blinding snow was blowing sideways, coming down! Checking horses and cows, a time he did allow; That day he was wearing a brand new Mackinaw.*

VIOLENT VELOCITY, WALKING INTO HEADWINDS
History records that on that cold winter day Seventy-one mile-per-hour gusting winds came that way! In moments he couldn't see where he was going Against the vicious velocity it was blowing. But there was some distance from the barn to the house That he must trudge to get to his waiting spouse. He couldn't see through a nearly snow-caked eyebrow. He pulled up the collar of his new Mackinaw.

NO TURNING BACK IN ZERO VISIBILITY
Leaning against strong head winds to stay on his feet; Aware it was not the time to think of retreat. Losing body heat, walking slow against the wind; He could feel it freezing all of his exposed skin. He was deathly afraid of getting lost that night As he pulled his long coat and cap and mittens tight. But he realized he must struggle on somehow. It was luck he was wearing his new Mackinaw.

CHALLENGED NOT TO LOSE DIRECTION
Leaving the barn, he followed the long steel well pipe That would lead him to the windmill (vertical type). Knowing that would shorten the distance by one-third. But the loud roar of the storm was all that he heard. He tied a big blue handkerchief over his nose; He couldn't get his breath and he tugged at his clothes. Mortally afraid he'd veer off in the wind so raw, He was barely warmed by his new Mackinaw.

PACKED WITH SNOW
He opened one eye and squinted and searched in the night; Then saw the glimmer of...yes, the kitchen light. Visibility was zero, just one big blur; She was glad to see him. He was grateful to see her. The family was happy, all were safe in the house; Dad took off his winter coat with help from his spouse. But a strange mystery: no one can explain how A layer of snow was inside his Mackinaw!?

* = a long, heavy winter coat
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By Orv Alveshire

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Do You Really Need a New Saddle?

By Victor Wolf

The Arabian gelding was led out to the parking lot by a hand, and the horse stood patiently until he saw the saddle in his guardian's hands. He planted his forefeet and settled back, eyes wide and the whites showing. He snorted angrily.

A woman, standing by the open gate of her van laughed softly. She spoke to the woman holding the saddle: "Well, he can't tell you any better. That saddle is a problem."

The guardian took the lead rope and gave the saddle to the hand, who carried it away. The horse relaxed, eyes soft.

The visitor was a popular local saddle-maker. She examined the gelding's back, talking softly to him. Then she reached inside her truck, removed some templates, and began

sliding them across the horse's back. She measured, made notes, then put everything away. Next, she produced a catalog for the guardian to browse through.

The two women spoke together, and though I didn't hear the details, an agreement was made. A custom English saddle, guaranteed to correct the saddle-fit problem, would be delivered in two months.

I checked the saddle-maker's website later. Prices for custom work began at \$3750.

Now, buying a saddle just isn't that easy for most of us. Curious to see what else could be done, I turned to the internet and "Googled" a variety of search words and found an education waiting at "saddle pad shims."

Included in the mix was a series of color photographs showing horses injured by poorly fitting saddles. I also found detailed information about using shims. And I learned that the price of saddle pads runs from \$25 to \$225.



Articles appear here also. In "Saddles, Pads & Shims," Linda Parelli describes horse language for "Nope, I don't like that saddle." She points out that "most horses have trouble with their saddle because it pinches as soon as he moves."

Parelli says, "Shims can make up for atrophied muscles, hollowed backs, and downhill posture where withers are lower than hips." A narrow saddle can be widened, and a wide saddle can be narrowed.

Another article, "Saddle Pad Shims," describes how shims can be used to custom-fit a saddle to your horse to ensure that he or she is ready to ride when you are. And while shims are sold with the saddle pad, you can also purchase them separately if you need them.

You'll also find a discussion about saddle pad material, but the best discussion—about price—can be summed up as "If it's difficult to fit your horse to a saddle or even a pad, shims might be your best choice."

I'm here for the horses. Do your horse—and yourself—a favor. Search "saddle pad shims" on the internet. You just might find you don't need a new saddle after all, and you could be in for a dream ride. And before you buy anything, be sure to get the details about the return and warranty policies.

Horses and children,
I often think, have a lot of the good sense there is in the world.

~Josephine Demott Robinson

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THE AMERICAN AZTECA: MEXICO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD

By Fran Lynghaug

The American Azteca inherits beauty, temperament, pride, and spirit from their Andalusian blood and its strength, heart, and speed from the Quarter Horse. The possibility of Paint coloring also brings added flashiness to an already spectacular horse. This combination creates a horse many are proud to own.

The Azteca breed originated in 1972 when the Mexican charros (cowboys) began a quest to produce a horse that would represent Mexico as their contribution to the equine world. They required a horse with agility, quickness, and cow sense to work on their cattle ranches and yet it needed to retain the elegance needed for exhibition, rodeos and parades. For this they chose the Andalusian to cross with their Quarter Horses and Criollo mares.

The results were astounding. The horse that emerged was gifted with athleticism, a willing attitude, speed, heart, stamina, grace, riveting beauty, harmony of form, outstanding disposition and a great talent to learn. Not only did it possess the ability to work on cattle ranches, but also the versatility for many other uses. The Azteca was born, and in the years following, acquired so much recognition it earned

the title as the National Horse of Mexico.

It became such a popular horse that inevitably it was noticed by other countries. Horse lovers in the United States were among the first to appreciate the Azteca. It was here that the breed took an interesting turn and developed in a slightly different manner. Although its bloodlines continued to be based on the original Azteca of Mexico - a combination of Quarter Horse and Andalusian - the American Azteca breeders also allowed "Quarter Horses with color" - Paint Horses - in their breeding program. Since the Paint Horse is derived from the Quarter Horse, essentially it is a Quarter Horse with color. Thus it could be used to produce American Aztecas, provided their bloodlines are Quarter Horse and don't have more than 25 percent Thoroughbred blood.

Foundation Breeds: Quarter Horses and Paint Horses are popular breeds originating in the United States and are known for their great athletic ability. Most are used as pleasure horses, but both breeds are especially renowned as working ranch horses. They are quick, maneuverable and even tempered, having natural cow sense and often working cattle without much guidance from the rider. Attractive and compactly built, they

feature large powerful hindquarters, strong shoulders, and short muscular backs. Quarter Horses were named for their quick burst of speed at quarter-mile races, while Paint Horses were named for their colorful markings.

Andalusians are an ancient and rare breed with great strength, long sloping shoulders, natural collection, and sturdy legs and hooves. Sought after for their quiet temperament and extreme intelligence, they are easily handled, yet have a reserve of energy available when called upon.

Throughout history Andalusians were revered for their abilities as warhorses. These same skills were used in Spain and Portugal to work cattle and the notorious fighting bulls. Andalusians are still used in those capacities today, carrying their riders in the bullring with unimagineable grace and speed.

The Andalusian is the working ranch horse of Spain and Portugal, just as the Quarter Horse is in the United States. Today 80 percent of all modern breeds trace back to Spain and Portugal's illustrious Andalusian, including the Quarter Horse and Paint Horse. Thus utilizing Andalusian blood is not something new, but a reintroduction of a bloodline that is already present in the Quarter Horse.

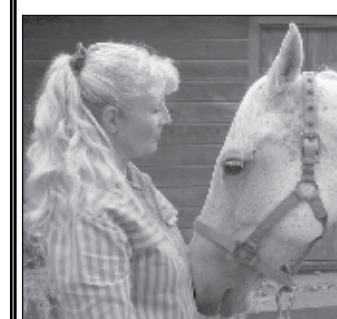
The Registry: Although the

Azteca began as a breed in Mexico, the culture and tastes in the United States called for a little different type of horse to fit its needs. The American Azteca

American Aztecas. This signifies that they are the American version of the fabulous Azteca

Continued on Page 15

Clairvoyant Readings -near or far- for you & your animals!



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NATURAL ANGULAR LIMB DEFORMITY TREATMENT USING PHOTONIC THERAPY AND THE TOUCH AND TORCH METHOD™

BY JANET CROW -NATURAL HORSE POWER, LLC

The Touch and Torch Method (TTM)™ of natural healing was originally developed to treat foals born with angular limb deformity (ALD), also known as contracted tendons in foals, and has since proven successful in many tendon, ligament, and joint conditions. TTM is a combination of photonic and massage therapy applied as a direct treatment. I would like to share the stories of two foals that had ALD in common, and their very different outcomes.

Cloud was born on May 8, 2008, with ALD and received her first TTM treatment on May 9th, at one day old. Her treatment was unremarkable in the world of TTM because the treatment was optimum in every respect. The treatments were given at one, three, and five days old, and results were seen with each treatment. The owner was conscientious about conjunctive care, and at five days old, Cloud was completely healed and was able to grow naturally throughout her entire life to the strong and sound two-year-old she is today.

On the other hand, this treatment was truly remarkable in the world of traditional medicine for the fact that no drugs, wraps, casts, hoof extensions, surgery, or any other form of treatment was used, and the healing process was complete within the first week of life, naturally.

Snooks was born on May 26, 2009, with ALD. Her owners were not aware of TTM and turned to traditional medicine for care. Snooks was given drugs and wore wraps and casts during until

she was 7 months old, without success. At 7 months old, surgery was recommended, a tenotomy on both forelegs. A superior check desmotomy on the right foreleg was also performed to correct the deformity. After the surgery, her condition worsened, and she continued to deteriorate more than before, to the point that the only option left seemed to be to put her down.

I was called in as a last resort, even though the owners, as well as Snooks, had given up all hope at this point. When I first saw her, I knew that the only humane thing that could be done for her was to end her suffering, one way or another. Of course, I had to try to save her!

Snooks received her first TTM treatment on Jan.6, 2010, at 8 months old, one month after her surgery.

When she was born, she had been forward at the knee in both legs. Her owner said that her legs looked like a "C" from a lateral view. Over the months, as the tendons and ligaments continued to contract and pull the joints out of alignment, her legs had to compensate for each other, and the deformity became different in each leg. After just three weeks, the body accepts a condition as permanent and "builds scaffolding" for support in the best way it can. If one leg is going to the left, the other will have to go to the right to try and balance, and so forth.

The conditions from the original deformity and the surgeries

were vast and severe. All tendons and ligaments in the forelegs were severely contracted, and all the joints in her forelegs were under constant stress, and pulled out of alignment. The forearm muscles in the left leg were completely atrophied, and the right leg muscles were rigid and excessive. Scar tissue had formed behind both knees from the surgery, and on the cannon bones, both legs were chapped and bleeding from the rubbing of the casts. The issues to be dealt with from the surgeries were cut and severed tendons and ligaments, massive scar tissue, and severe inflammation. Because she had never, over her eight months, been able to extend and straighten her forelegs and stand up straight, her entire musculoskeletal system was involved. Her chest had narrowed to approximately two inches, with atrophied pectoral muscles, and she was standing up on her toes on both hind legs.

Since the day Snooks was born, she had only been able to walk (not well), no trotting or cantering, running, bucking, rearing, or playing. Her entire musculoskeletal system was unable to strengthen and grow normally and naturally. Her mental health had also deteriorated from eight months of pain, and she had finally given up all hope.

Conditions this severe must be treated in layers. The first thing needed was to reduce and remove the inflammation. Her forelegs were so swollen that they were hard to the touch. With the first TTM treatment, I concentrated on the inflammation,

which was the first layer. I could not see or feel the tendons, ligaments or joints until the inflammation was reduced and removed. With the second treatment, two days later, the inflammation was removed on approximately 80% of both legs, and reduced in the areas that had incurred the most trauma, the joints and surgery sites. The next layer was to lengthen the contracted tendons and ligaments. The legs cannot extend, and the joints cannot align until the pressure is taken off the too-short tendons and ligaments.

The first six treatments were painful for her at and around the surgery sites, with the pain decreasing a little at a time after the second treatment. In the beginning, treatments were done two times per week for three months, and then were reduced to one time per week. As the tendons and ligaments began to lengthen, the swelling on the joints reduced and they re-aligned, even better than I had anticipated due to the severity and length of severity. Once the tendons and ligaments no longer had to support the legs, the muscles were able to begin to support their load, and began conditioning. When her legs were able to straighten, her chest started to widen, her back leveled out, she came down off her toes in the rear legs, and she started to tone up in the correct areas.

On February 1, 2010, one month after beginning treatment, 9 months after birth, Snooks cantered for the first time in her life. It was only four strides, but they were the most beautiful four strides I had ever seen. I am

treating her two to four times per month now, with lots of conditioning, building, and strengthening going on. We are still working on the left suspensory tendon that was so severely damaged due to the club foot on that leg and the scarring from the casts. This too, is still progressing as she rehabilitates.

Snooks was kept in a small corral initially because she couldn't walk, and also to restrict movement until the tendons and ligaments were lengthened. In April, she started getting turnout in a small grazing area; after a few weeks, in an arena; and now, in a large pasture. She has been a real trooper with her own rehabilitation, and seems to know what she needs and can endure. I passively stretch her front legs for her, but ever since she has been able to straighten her legs, several times a day she rocks back and stretches her legs out in front of her. I think it still amazes her that she can straighten them, and it must feel SO good. Over the past month, she has progressed to galloping and playing around in the arena, fast bursts of speed, bucks, and even roll-backs.

You can see a video of Snooks on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9AOiHVJOU.

To learn more about healing with photonic therapy and the Touch and Torch Method™, visit www.naturalhorsepower.net or contact Janet Crow at (970) 590-3875 or janet@naturalhorsepower.net.

Leading Edge: Progressive Approaches to Horses and Riding

Bend in Order to Go Forward and Through!

By Julie Penshorn

What does it mean to really bend? How does it relate to going forward? What does all this have to do with "thoroughness"? These are probably the least understood and maybe the most difficult concepts for any student.

It requires the bending of all the joints of the hind legs and the involvement of the horse's back for a horse to be truly forward and through. In its definition, "thoroughness" means the "supple, elastic, unblocked, connected state of the horse's musculature and a willing mental state that permits an unrestricted flow of energy from back to front and front to back (circle of the aids)..." It is also characterized by "lively impulsion..." (see the 2010 USDF Directory).

To get this, one place to start that helps tremendously in developing a forward freeness and a connection "from back to front," as in thoroughness (see quote above), is BENDING. Now, the version of bending I'm describing is, importantly, with the inside hand clearly off the neck so it's an opening, not a direct rein. Often one will need to lay the whip on the horse's side or tap with it on the inside of the horse (made easier to do with the opening inside rein), so the horse activates at least that one hind leg. The other hind leg will come along for the ride, once you get the inside one moving under the horse's body.

You will receive the horse in the outside rein and begin to make the connection so essential to roundness and thoroughness. Your outside hand needs to be soft and inviting, not blocking. But it needs to be sensitive and responsive as well, so the connection can be maintained. Guard against "blocking" the horse on the outside by pulling without releasing and/or relaxing.

NOTE: Many teachers say "half halt on the outside rein." I believe that is a ridiculous statement. You don't half halt on a rein; you can pull on it and release, but a half halt is much more comprehensive and is not something you do "on a rein." You do it with your whole body and involve the horse's whole body. A half halt requires additional activity of the hind legs and often some shortening of the stride. It is a call to attention for the horse. It is a momentary rebalancing. If you try to do a half halt with reins alone, you create an un-forward horse that is likely to be behind the bit.

Start with the walk and yielding the horse to your leg. The free walk is one of the most important places to insist on a forward urge. One wants to feel as if the horse is going so easily forward, you don't want to go any faster or more forward! It has to be really easy. The walk flows; you don't have to kick, squeeze or tap your horse, but you are walking at his max capability without rushing.

Once this is achieved, adding some rein to go to the medium walk causes complications. Now the rider has to keep the same free-flowing walk but get it more packaged. Many will pull on the reins to position the head where they think it needs to be, but no head position can be correct if the horse isn't ridden forward into the bridle, which, of course, the horse has a vested interest in NOT doing—it smacks way too much of work. Remember, the horse can't be intellectually convinced, like a human can, that this work is "good for him... helps him develop stomach and back muscles... furthers his development as a dressage horse... makes him more beautiful."

Turns on the forehand can augment this work beautifully. Start by moving the horse away from your right leg slightly back, while keeping your right hand well off the neck. Make him move smartly away. Once this is easy, add a bit of motion, so the forehand begins to describe a small circle (instead of being on the spot as in a turn on the forehand) and the horse is well-bent around the leg. Test your work by releasing the inside rein. Does he hold his position for a second? Good.

Because of the way most horses are crooked, when you go to the left, you are more likely to need your inside leg in a more forward position and may need some more support with your outside leg in the back position. Most horses are concave or hollow on the right and this means they carry their hind ends toward the right. If allowed to continue to do that, they will become weak or, worse yet, lame.

The aids described above can be used at the free walk, medium walk and, in fact, in any gait. Forcing yourself not to use an indirect, or even a direct, rein with your inside rein helps tremendously in the thoroughness/impulsion department, and insisting that the horse be active and quick with the hind legs through use of your whip gets the horse to perform in an "unrestricted" way.

By using your inside rein in a backward or upward (or a combination of both) direction, you effectively block the action of the hind legs and hold up the horse so he doesn't have to do it himself. These rein aids are useful for advanced jumpers on a fast

course, but if used when not needed, they reflect the truism of the Native American adage (I'm paraphrasing): "If you do for the child (in our example, horse) what he can do for himself, you make him weak."

Plus, you're doing all the work of balancing the horse laterally, and he's doing very little. Thus, he's not really improving his technique, balance, bend, suppleness or forward urge. Instead, you're improving your arm strength!

So, let go of the inside rein and see what happens! If your horse falls in, he's been depending on you to hold him up. If your horse immediately loses his bend, you haven't done enough to convince him to move away from your leg/whip. Usually you'll find that both of these things happen. So, take the inside rein off the neck while training your horse to bend. Think of opening the door and showing him where you want his nose to be, then nudging him briskly with your legs into your outside rein and into the funnel made between the reins. If he straightens out and leans in on your inside leg, that's a sign you waited too long to remind him to stay standing on his own four feet, and/or you never had him off the inside leg in the first place.

For this work to have its greatest benefits, get those feet moving! A sluggish horse is most often a disobedient horse. Remember not to block with the outside rein. You can "catch" him, but not block. Think: "invite him." Go forward and have fun with your more obedient, balanced and through horse.



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LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY—Thanks to the generosity of the Brennan family, Pony Club Instructors or Examiners are eligible to receive scholarship assistance to attend USEA Instructor Certification Program Workshops at a greatly reduced cost. The scholarship, funded by the Eleanor Brennan Fund, is intended for those who are regularly teaching Pony Club lessons. Several scholarships up to \$500 will be awarded in 2011.

To be considered for the ICP workshop assistance, please submit the scholarship application and reference forms available on the USPC website, www.ponyclub.org under Opportunities/Grants. Connie Jehlik, USPC Instruction Director instruction@ponyclub.org or 859-254-7669, ext. 223, will be happy to answer any additional questions.

Remaining 2011 ICP workshops:

Date: May 10-12
Levels: III/IV Workshop
Place: Meadow Run Farm, Florence, AL

Date: May 23-25
Levels: I/II Teaching of Dressage Workshop; Place: The Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO

Date: July 01-03
Levels: I/II Teaching of Jumping Workshop; Place: The Colorado Horse Park, Parker, CO

For more information about the ICP program, visit the U.S. Eventing website at www.useventing.com. To ask questions about the Instructors' Certification Program or to find out how to sign up for ICP Workshop(s), contact Nancy Knight nancy@useventing.com or Sue Hershey shwershey@cs.com.

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ND COWBOY HALL OF FAME NOMINEES SELECTED FOR 2011 BALLOT

Members of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Center of Western Heritage and Cultures: Native American, Ranching and Rodeo selected 12 individuals and 2 events for their 2011 ballot. The nominees were selected from more than 60 submitted for consideration. Seven of the fourteen will be selected by the group's Trustees for induction into the NDCHF Hall of Honorees in June.

NDCHF Executive Director Darrell Dorgan says, "Ballots will be sent in April to the more than 200 Hall of Fame Trustees, and the seven 2011 inductees will be selected from six categories, including Pre-1940 Ranching, Modern-era Ranching, Pre-1940 Rodeo, Modern-era Rodeo, Cowboy Long Rider and Special Achievement divisions."

Dorgan says, "The names of the inductees selected for the Hall of Honorees in 2011 will be announced Memorial Day weekend, and the new inductees will join the more than 130 others who have been inducted since 1998." He also says it's notable that two of the six rodeo nominees this year are women.

The names that will appear on the 2011 ballot include (some may be from your area):

Modern-era Rodeo
4 nominated, 2 will be selected

Maude Kirk Gullickson of Center was born in Washburn in 1911 and started riding as a toddler. She rode nearly every day until she was 73 years old. Gullickson trained and rode barrel horses, competed in local and regional rodeos and won the NDRA State Champion Barrel Racer title in 1955. She continued to compete in Old Timers events until age 70 and was named "Old Timers Rodeo Queen".

Gullickson volunteered her time and expertise to 4-H clubs, assisting and teaching girls who entered horse shows and attended horse camp. Several of the horses she raised went on to win championships in events as far away as PA. Gullickson once said, "I've won enough buckles to make a whole belt." Gullickson died in 2005.

Joan (Hecker) Lennick of Belfield and Bismarck is not only a cowgirl, but was also a rodeo queen. She grew up near Belfield, ND, dreamed of being a trick rider. On Speedy, a fast Quarter and barrel racing horse, Lennick racked up the ND High School Barrel Racing title in 1956, three NDRA barrel racing state titles (in 1959, 1961 and 1962) and, in 1960, the National American Collegiate Rodeo Association barrel racing and all-around titles.

Persuaded by others to enter the Miss Rodeo North Dakota contest, she won the state title and was selected by The Western Horseman magazine as the featured horsemanship contestant at the national pageant. In 1965, Lennick ended her arena competition career and began coaching others. Through the years, she has assisted with horsemanship and rodeo queen seminars and judged dozens of horse shows and pageants.

Lennick taught middle school and elementary grades for 30 years while raising her three children. Now retired from teaching, she and her husband reside in Bismarck and round out their days with volunteer opportunities.

Bruce Northrop of Grassy Butte and Medora was raised near Grassy Butte and, in 1950, at 17 years old, Bruce left home to work for Fettig Brothers Rodeo. The Fettig outfit trailed rodeo stock to events until 1953 when they began trucking. During this time, Northrop started competing in saddle bronc, bareback, calf roping and wild horse races, even though he was not a full PRCA member.

In 1968, Northrop started going to jackpot ropings and join the U.S. Team Roping Champion Association in order to compete. He took home his first buckle in 1955 and has tallied up more than 25 saddles during the past 40 years.

Northrop worked winters as a ranch hand for Jim Tescher and Don Short and

rode for the Figure Four on a couple of fall round ups and was hired as a surveyor for the Bureau of Public Roads at the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. Northrop hosted many team ropings at his Medora arena. He was employed by the Gold Seal Company and the National Park Service from 1964 through 1993.

He winters in AZ where he ropes three to five days a week, returning to Medora in the summer to spend time with his sons and help area ranchers with cattle work. Eugene "Pete" Pedersen of Mandan and Glendive, Montana, has led a busy life. He started riding saddle broncs during high school in Mandan, but later found his niche in roping and bull dogging. During WW II, the U.S. Army sent him to horse shoeing school in KS. Recuperating from war injuries sustained in the South Pacific, Pedersen obtained a degree in Ag Industry at Montana State in 1949 and founded the college's first rodeo in 1947.

Pedersen won the ND calf roping championship at Dickinson in 1952. He organized the horse show division of the Glendive Spring Exposition and taught "On-the-Farm Training" for Army veterans and worked as cattle and ranch inspector, a private cattle buyer and raised his own cattle and bred Quarter horses.

For 23 years, Pedersen was an approved AQHA judge and, for 28 years, a NCHA judge. From 1949-1987, he participated in rodeos all over ND and MT. In 2005, he was honored at the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum in Amarillo, TX.

Pedersen and his wife reside on their ranch near Glendive, MT, where they raised five children. They are busy attending rodeos where their grandchildren compete.

Pre-1940 Rodeo
2 nominated, 1 will be selected

Henry G. "Hank" Baker of Garrison, McClusky and Minot was born in a log cabin southeast of Garrison in 1907. After his marriage to Alice Tower in 1927, he ranched on the Fort Berthold Reservation and on his parents' homestead until taking over his in-law's spread in 1931.

Baker rode saddle broncs in various rodeos during the 1920s and '30s. His proudest rodeo accomplishment occurred in 1930, on the Fourth of July when he took first place in the saddle bronc event at the Schmochers Coulee Rodeo in McLean County.

Baker operated a livestock trucking business in Garrison, worked as a carpenter on the Garrison Dam and, in 1955, established a ranch near McClusky where he raised Herefords and grain crops. He enjoyed conducting his own cattle drives to ship his cattle to market.

After moving to Minot in 1965, Baker continued to buy and sell horses. He also served as a rodeo judge for the Dakota Boys Ranch rodeos in Minot, and he and Alice were both active members of the Minot Trail Riders Club. In 1977, he built a replica of the cabin he was born in and furnished it with antiques. It is now in Garrison's Heritage Park. He died in Minot in 1982.

Guy Anthony Fox of Fort Berthold was born in 1902 and lived his entire life on the Fort Berthold Reservation. He went to school at Shell Creek and Pipestone Indian School in MN. A member of the Flint Knife clan, his first name was Yellow Dog and then Bright Wings.

Eventually, Fox was allotted 320 acres of land and ranched and farmed successfully. He built a practice arena southeast of his Shell Creek home where many native cowboys could practice bronco busting, bulldogging and roping.

Fox married Grace Parshall, and they raised a family of 15 children, several of whom became outstanding rodeo cowboys. His forte was in saddle bronc riding; he won at the Cannonball Rodeo in 1930 and was a contestant at the Van Hook Rodeo in 1938 and 1939. He also partici-

ated at both the Sanish and Van Hook rodeos on the Fourth of July 1947.

Fox served on the tribal council during the 1950s and on the Mandaree School board. He was active in the NDRA. He died in 1971 and is buried in Mandaree.

Modern-era Ranching
2 nominated, 1 will be selected

LeRoy "Bud" Perry of Killdeer was born in Drake, ND, on the Fourth of July 1907. His parents moved to the Killdeer area where Perry graduated from the eighth grade. Bob Wilcox offered him a job on the beef round up, and Perry's life as a cowboy began at 11 years old. He worked on several ranches in the area, including for Wilse Richards and Bob Wilcox.

In 1926, Perry began working for Hans Christensen on the Figure Four Ranch, while establishing a herd of his own. Fred and Vic, Hans' heirs, let him run his cattle with the Figure Four stock. Later, Perry became ranch foreman. He married Mabel Mathistad, and they had one son, George, known as "Buddy".

Perry purchased his own spread in 1950, the 4,000-acre Roscoe Hadden Ranch north of New Town, dubbing it the YK Ranch. Perry practiced careful land management and never overgrazed his pastures. He married Emma Christensen from the Figure Four outfit and, after her death, married Edna Henderson, Earl's daughter. Eventually, the YK was sold, and the Perrys moved to New Town.

He belonged to the ND Stockmen's Association and was a charter member of the fabled 50 Years in the Saddle. In 1983, he was presented with a clock in honor of being the last surviving, active charter member of that group. Perry relished the reservation round ups, rode in local rodeos and would strap on his accoutrement and ride across the Little Missouri to play and sing at socials. He died in March 1984.

Roger Stuber of Slope County was born in 1940 on the ranch established in 1909 by his grandfather. The Stuber Ranch borders the HT, Logging Camp, TP and Burke ranches. Stuber and his brother Richard continued to brand their Herefords with the iron their father registered back in the day—the S over 5.

Stuber attended the University of Wyoming, earning a degree in Animal Science and Business Administration. In 1963, the brothers bought the Schaefer place west of their folks and, a decade later, the home place from their parents. In the 1950s, the Stubers had a small herd of 15 brood mares. They broke the two-year-old horses, using the geldings for range work until the 1970s.

The Stubers run about 1,000 head of cattle, keeping meticulous performance records for the past 50 years. The first Stuber Ranch bull sale took place in 1969. Their cattle have been sold all over the U.S. and in Canada, Mexico and Argentina.

Stuber has been named "Agriculturalist of the Year" twice—in 1980 by the NDSU Saddle & Siroin Club and in 2007 by the Bowman Chamber of Commerce. Beef Magazine gave him the "Trailblazer Award" in 1993 and, a year later, the ND Stockmen's Association awarded him their "Top-Hand Award". A lifetime member of the American Hereford Association, he served as national president in 1977 and served on the executive board for the NCBA.

Pre-1940 Ranching
2 nominated, 1 will be selected

Angus W. Bell of Jamestown and Medora was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1876. His parents moved to Jamestown when he was young, and he was educated there. When he was 15 years

old, he went west to Medora and got a job breaking horses at the Eaton Brothers Dude Ranch.

Bell later filed on a homestead west of Medora and developed a ranch. He married a Jamestown girl, and they lived on the ranch out west and raised one son, Edwin.

Highly respected and well known as a rancher, Bell not only ranched for more than 30 years, but also trained horses and ran a livery stable in Medora. Movie star Tom Mix depended on Bell to train and board his horses. Lucky and/or skilled in poker, Bell won the Rough Rider Hotel in a card game and became its proprietor for years.

Bell died in 1935 and is buried in the Medora Cemetery.

Archie Campbell of Wells and Eddy counties was born in 1897 and spent most of his life in Wells and Eddy counties. He traveled to New Brunswick, Canada, in 1914 and, while there, met Jessie Gilliss. They married in 1917, returned to the ND and, by 1932, had established Crystal Springs Ranch, a spread that eventually included 11,000 acres near Warwick.

They started out with horses, mules and 100 Black Angus cattle. During the Depression, the Campbells sold mules to the U.S. Army. They purchased the best prize-winning animals at the Valley City Winter Show. By 1980, they were running 2,300 head of cattle, 250 horses and one retired team of 37-year-old mules.

The Campbells also owned a large road construction company and relied on several foremen and ranch hands to handle livestock chores. Vernon Knudson, DVM, remembers what fine and hospitable people the Campbells were and that Archie always wore a Stetson hat, no matter how cold the weather.

The Campbells didn't have children, but took good care of their employees. The crew was well-fed and never had to work on Sundays. They even underwrote funeral and burial expenses for area cowpokes. When someone in the area needed medical care, the foreman of Crystal Springs Ranch was dispatched to transport the injured or ailing to the hospital. Campbell died in 1980.

Continued on Page 13

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NORTH DAKOTA'S TEEN AUTHOR MATTIE RICHARDSON PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK

For Mattie Richardson, there's always a story to tell, and at the ripe old age of 17, she's gotten her second novel published. This one's called *Dusty's Trail*, and it's a story about the Pony Express as told by an American Quarter Horse. Her first book, *Appaloosy*, has sold about 350 copies since she self-published it in the spring of 2010.

Richardson enjoys the art of writing, talking to others about writing, and sharing what she has written with others.

"My favorite part definitely is telling the story and getting it all down on paper from my head. I also like researching the time period that I'm writing about. I'm fascinated with history, and I love developing new characters to put there. I don't like the marketing part so much, but it really is good practice for if I want to be an author someday," says Richardson.

She also speaks to groups and schools when she's not writing, her most recent engagement being at Thompson Public School in Thompson, N.D., where she spoke to about 100 elementary kids about writing and publishing. Her next speaking engagement is scheduled for April 14 at a school in Crookston, Minn.

Dusty's Trail, which is historical fiction, is specifically geared toward kids ages 8-12, but horse lovers of any age will enjoy the story. Even older readers with good imaginations like the story.

Continued on Page 18



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GUY MCLEAN WOWED CROWD OF THE MANE EVENT AT THE RMHE MARCH 12



Rocky Mountain Horse Expo photos by Ley Bouchard

Above: Guy McLean performs at the RMHE Mane Event March 12 at the National Western Complex in Denver, CO. McLean and four Quarter Horses perform freestyle while he rides one (or two!) and guides the others with mere gestures and voice commands. As seen in this photo, McLean directs the first horse to lie down while he and the other horses come from the back side and straddle the horse which is on the ground. More images of this amazing act may be found at the VEN website: www.theveonline.com and our Facebook page.

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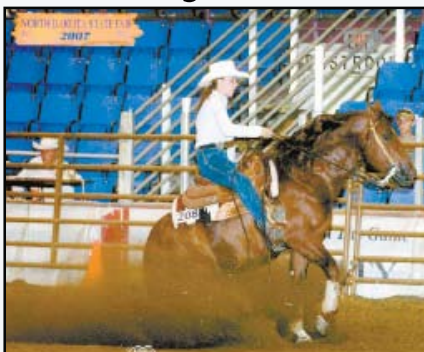
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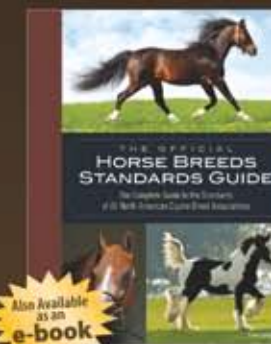
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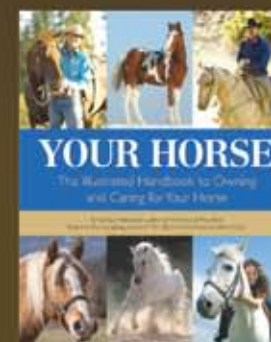
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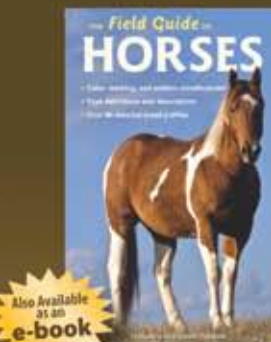
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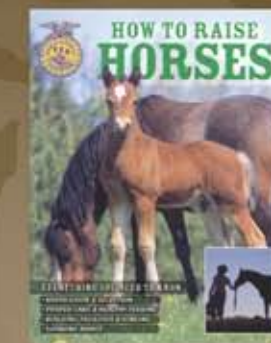


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Once integration is achieved, we can then tap our innate potential and convert this powerful source into "energy to succeed." The secret lies in removing the energy blocks and balancing the stored energy of both sides of the brain.

The horses facilitate here as they have their logic and instincts balanced and, therefore, do not have "emotional baggage."

To "succeed," we had been told, we need to hone our I.Q. and intellectual approach to situations, but we now see that this is not enough and that many people are not coping in life by using "logic" alone. For instance, many adults do not cope well with relationships due to a dysfunctional Emotional Intelligence not been addressed early in life.

The human mind is mostly in the logical "Beta" state with racing thoughts, resulting in stress and scattered thinking, which ultimately affects our self-esteem, ability to make decisions, and ability to cope with life generally.

Conversely, we see in the horse a quiet "Alpha" strength of mind, dogged determination, and confidence—the horse never questions who he is because he does not have an emotional component second-guessing his every move.

The horse sees so-called "negative emotions," such as anger, frustration, and guilt, held in the body's aura as "unexpressed energy." My gelding made me aware of how horses can "see" human auras many years ago. As a colt, he would snort and back away from some people, while he would happily walk up to others.

When our emotions are not understood and released, they can become stifled or internalised. If they are not communicated in a healthy manner, this often causes frustration and anger, which, if later exter-

nalized, more often than not are projected onto others. Worse still, this process can cause disease, unhappiness, and depression, which is this same "energy" internalized.

Horses show us where our thoughts, ideas, and wishes are not congruent with how we act, and that "intelligence" is not just a function of the mind but includes gut intelligence, instincts and a deep sense of "knowing."

The ability to "make our dreams happen" is our spirit and is directly related to, and can be negated by, a low sense of self-esteem—i.e., low emotional intelligence.

Early on, as we started to attract clients and students, it became clear that something very powerful was at work here.

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Anyone who has ever worked with a horse will know that "asking" or "wanting" him or her to do something is just not enough; we need a level of commitment, a level of determination, an "energy" that resonates with the horse.

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Horses need to learn to walk before they run

By Phil Odden

Horses need to learn to walk before they learn to run. Once you have accomplished all the groundwork and preliminary steps needed to saddle and ride your horse, or to hitch your horse to something to pull, and the horse seems reasonably comfortable with the task, it is important to be mindful of how you proceed. So the horse should already know how to stand quietly, stop when asked to "whoa" and turn right and left. You have steering, brakes and a park. Reverse isn't real important yet, but the horse should have been introduced to the "back" command during the groundwork.

During each training session (every time you handle your horse you are training it, or the horse is training you), I like to start with a calm walk after we have stood quietly for a period of time after mounting the saddle or the cart

or carriage. Perhaps the horse will start out with its head high and very alert. I want the horse to be aware and willing, but I want the horse's head to be in a relaxed, athletic position. I am looking for a relaxed, flat-footed walk to begin with. Eventually the walk should be relaxed and rhythmic.

I want my horse to take contact with the bit as it walks rather than avoiding it. When the horse has accepted contact with the bit, and has a nice, relaxed and rhythmic walk, then some trotting strides are in order. If the horse continually avoids contact with the bit, maybe you need to make adjustments with the bit you have or try a different bit. I have come to believe that a bit that offers tongue relief is important for Fjord Horses. Whatever it takes, your horse needs to learn to walk well before it can learn to run. It needs to learn to walk straight, and it needs to learn to walk in comfortable circles both right and left.

RODEO QUEENS ROCK THE RMHE

Queens graced the arenas, paddocks and booths of the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo (RMHE) March 11-13 at the National Western Complex in Denver, CO. Helping Virginia Phillips with the many toddler and youth events, Buckaroo Roping and Stick Horse Rodeo, held at the Junior Rodeo Arena. Phillips, a retired teacher, has been organizing the events for little tikes for the RMHE for more than a decade, giving little ones safe and fun activities while their folks visit the booths, exhibits, clinics or presentations at the expo. 4-H and other Rodeo Queens help Phillips with the little ones. Phillips and her team has raised funds for cowboy hats, chaps, stick horses and all the equipment needed for the toddlers to perform the patterns with their stick horses, just like their folks do on their real horses.



Top: Deer Trail Princess Ashley Baller leads the stick horse parade. Bottom left: Teala Mears, center, with her Grandmother Val Funk, left, and mother Elyssa White, right. Bottom right: Hunter Horn, 2-year-old son of Khristy and Lyle Horn of Brandby, CO side passes with his stick horse under the supervision of Queen Nicholle Hatton at the Jr. Rodeo at the RMHE.

Photos by Ley Bouchard



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Mustangs, Burros Available for Adoption in Red Bluff, Chico

North Valley residents will have the opportunity to provide homes for wild horses and burros when the Bureau of Land Management brings its adoption program to Red Bluff and Chico on two weekends in April.

Animals will be available Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3, at the Tehama County Fairgrounds in Red Bluff, and Saturday, April 16, at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds in Chico. Both adoption events run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with previews from 2 to 6 p.m. on the preceding Fridays.

Each event will feature 30 mustang mares, geldings, colts and fillies ranging in age from about a year old to five years old, and 10 wild burros of all ages.

"Most of these animals are from the Twin Peaks Herd Management Area northeast of Susanville, Calif.," said Nancy Haug, the BLM's Northern

California District manager. "They have been vaccinated against a range of equine diseases, including rabies and West Nile virus, and they are ready to train."

To qualify, adopters must be at least 18 years old and residents of the United States. Adopted animals must be kept in corrals that offer at least 400 square feet per animal and are surrounded by six-foot pipe or board fences (five and a half-foot fences are allowed for horses under two years old; four-foot fences are allowed for burros). Two-sided roofed shelters are required.

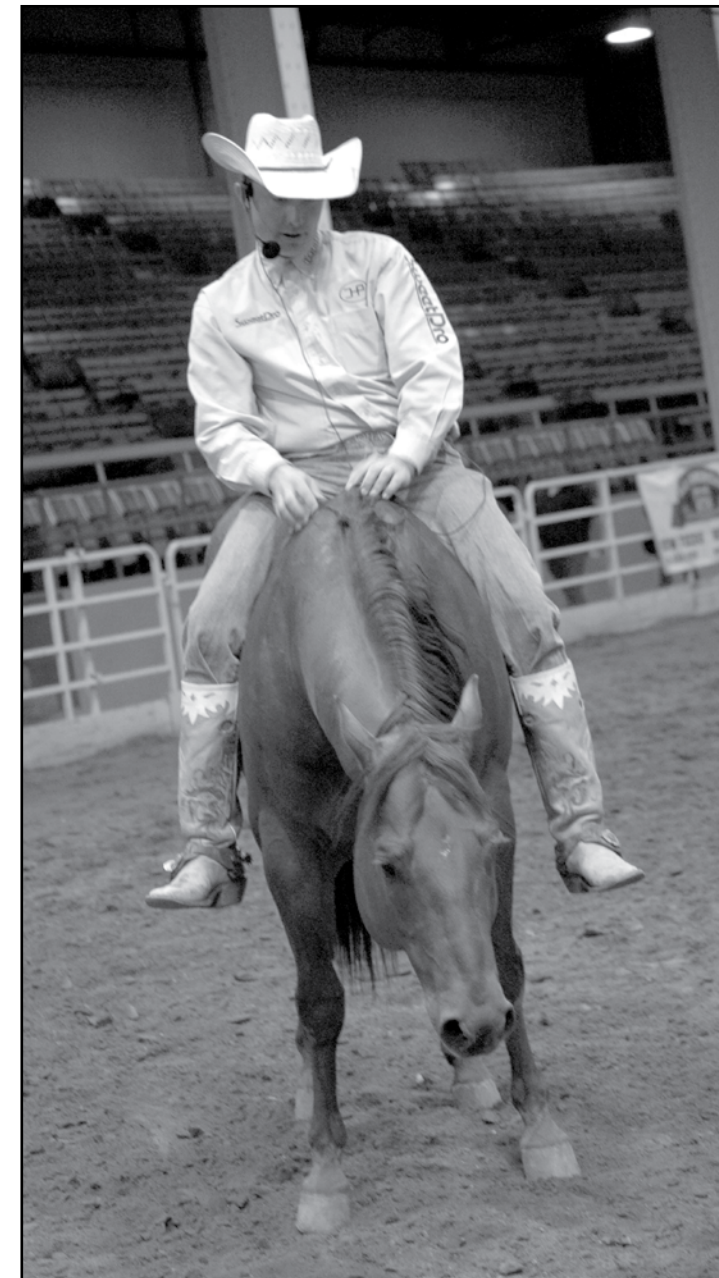
Title to adopted animals initially remains with the U. S. government, but after providing a year of good care, adopters can receive title.

Horses and burros coming to the North Valley were captured from wild herds

whose populations exceeded the carrying capacity of their ranges.

Wild horses and burros are protected by a federal law, the Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act which requires the BLM to maintain wild populations in balance with other range users, including wildlife and domestic livestock, so that food and water sources are sustained.

More information on wild horse management can be found online at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov. Adoption information is available by calling 866-4MUSTANGS.



Left: Aaron Ralston impressed the audience with his control of his horse while riding without bridle, saddle or any tack. Here he is using the gentle touch of his fingers to ask his horse to lower his head. Below: Horses and riders from the Green Mountain Peruvian Ranch perform at the Mane Event of the RMHE the evening of March 12.

ND COWBOY HALL OF FAME NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

Continued from Page 9

Cowboy Long Rider

Dean Kutz of Wells County began racing ponies at age six in his hometown of Sykeston, ND. When he was 12, he started racing the half-mile track at the Wells County Fair. In 1972, he entered the professional circuit and, five years later, was the number one jockey at the Hawthorne Race Track in Chicago.

Kutz was ND's most successful horse-racing jockey, winning 2,835 races, 2,602 second places and third in 2,533 races. His career totaled 21,575 rides, and his mounts earned almost \$34 million throughout his career.

He is well known as the long-time director of the Jockey's Guild, an organization that representing the interests of member jockeys, and dedicated lots of time to "Jockeys Across America", establishing a fund for disabled jockeys and their families. Kutz helped raised \$30,000 for the National Kidney Foundation and volunteered countless hours to "A Chance to Grow", an organization helping children with learning disabilities reach their highest potential.

Along the way, Kutz received the George Woolf and Mike Venezia Memorial awards, because of his character, integrity, sportsmanship and lifestyle. Although his health was failing, forcing him to retire, he was the first rider on Fargo's ND Horse Park track in 2003. He tested the track, but did not race. He was 48 years old when he died in September 2004 in Lexington, KY.

Marie (Cordner) Tyler of Moffit and Bismarck was born on a farm near Moffit, ND, in 1908. Marie graduated from Bismarck High in 1926 and, in 1938, she married Jim Tyler in Poplar, MT. They operated tourist cabins at the foot of the Missouri River's Memorial Bridge and ran Bismarck's Finney Drug Store until 1963. In 1946, the Tylers bought the Ward Ranch along River Road, renaming it the JJ Bar Ranch. It was the perfect place to raise Herefords and show their Quarter horses. Tyler was an excellent horsewoman and became the only North Dakotan--and first woman--to win the Western Pleasure Stake Riding Competition at the 1957 MN State Fair. They went to TX and OK in 1954, shopping for cattle and purchasing brood stock, and one bull, creating the first herd of Santa Gertrudis cattle in ND.

Her involvement with many state and national livestock organizations, eventually culminating in 1985 when she was selected as the first woman to receive the prestigious Golden Spur Award from the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, TX. In 1976, she was the first woman elected into NDSU's Saddle and Sirolo Club's Hall of Fame as the "Man of the Year". Tyler was president of the American National Cowbelles and the ND Cowbelles. She coordinated the National Beef Cook-Off in Bismarck in 1983. Her list of awards and achievements is impressive. She directed the Miss Rodeo North Dakota pageant for several years and the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in 1960.

The Tylers moved into Bismarck shortly before Jim died in 1976. She continued at a busy pace, traveling, entertaining and enjoying her grandchildren born to daughter, Peggy. Tyler died on February 1, 2002.

the ND Winter Show Events Center in Valley City in 1963. J.C. Stevenson produced an NDRA Championship Rodeo in the new arena, hosted by the Winter Show.

The rodeo was sanctioned by the PRCA the next year. Bob Aber, from Beach, ND, has been associated with the event for 48 years, first as stock contractor and now as producer. The ability to attract top contestants and outstanding stock has allowed North Dakotans to enjoy pro-rodeo and to follow the careers of cowboys and cowgirls as they progress toward the NFR and PRCA World Champion titles.

Such performers as Brad Gjermundson, Tex Appledorn and the famous ND "Six Pack" have astonished the crowd who fill the 3,450 seats for each performance, held each year in early March.

Fans say this local event is on par with rodeos in Cheyenne, Pendleton and Houston. Specialty acts and visiting rodeo royalty, such as Brenda Lee Bonogofsky Pickett and Ashley Andrews, have graced the arena each year since 1964. In 1976, a Miss Rodeo North Dakota Winter Show pageant was established, giving young women an opportunity to vie for the Miss Rodeo North Dakota title.

The White Earth Valley Saddle Club and Rodeo began nearly 55 years ago when people in the White Earth Valley area met to discuss organizing a saddle club. Motivated by sufficient interest, the White Earth Valley Saddle Club held its first meeting on Sept. 1, 1956. The Board decided to sell stock at \$25/share to organize a saddle club and build a rodeo arena and to limit the club to 50 stockholders, with membership fees set at \$10 each. Dances and raffles were also held to raise money.

Members were asked to donate time toward building the rodeo arena on the east side of the White Earth Valley Road, which was leased from Cliff Law. In the spring of 1957, volunteers began building the arena and chutes, with posts donated by Bell Telephone and poles and boards for the chutes from Old Sanish.

With advice from the Blaisdell Club, members decided to also have a rodeo. The first rodeo was held on July 28, 1957, with a total of \$1,286 paid out to the participants and 3,000 spectators attending. By 1961, there were 5,000 spectators. For the first 50 years, the event was under the NDRA and, since 2008, with the RRA. The club has grown over the years and improvements made, including addition of a 500-seat covered grandstand in 1964.

Induction ceremonies for the seven selected for the Hall of Honorees will be in Medora on June 24-25.

The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Center of Western Heritage and Cultures is open daily from May through September and by appointment during the winter months in Medora. The Hall of Fame was named the America's Best Cowboy Museum in 2010 and will be open daily 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in 2011.

Its galleries and exhibits detail the history of the plains horse culture. The facility is also used for meetings, reunions, weddings and other events. An attached patio provides room for more than 200 people for catered events. Catered food and beverage services are available.

Fundraising for the project continues. Contributions for the project may be sent to The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, 120 N. 3rd St., Suite 85, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501.

Special Achievement 2 nominated, 1 will be selected

The North Dakota Winter Show Rodeo began after construction of



NW MN RANCH RODEO DATES SET

Ranch Rodeos came about years ago when cowboys would get together on Sunday afternoons and challenge each other to certain events that were just part of everyday life. They probably didn't have the means or the money to compete in actual rodeo, but they did have one thing in common: They all had a competitive spirit. So one thing led to another, and eventually Ranch Rodeo came to be a national competition, like cutting, team penning, etc.

The interesting thing about Ranch Rodeo is that each team that enters competes in a variety of events. Contrary to some of the bigger Ranch Rodeos around the country, we do not have a wild bronc ride or wild cow milking. We are trying to keep our Ranch Rodeos at a level such that just about anyone with a horse and a competitive spirit, including youth, can enter and have a fun day.

Team doctoring in the chute is just like team penning, except that after you pen your calves, you lock them up and catch each one in a chute which is in the pen. Team sorting is sorting out 10 calves in a certain numerical order. Team doctoring in the pasture is heading and heeling a steer

in an open pen. For those who are not real good ropers, one rope is allowed to be put on from the ground. Team branding is heeling a calf and dragging it out of the pen and putting a make-believe brand on it.

The pony express ride is basically a relay. You start out with the team in the pickup and horses in the trailer. The team jumps out, unloads the horses, and one rider at a time rides around the arena, handing off saddle bags to the next teammate. When all three have ridden, the horses have been reloaded and the three riders are back in the pickup, the time ends.

The fastest event of the day is the pasture rustling. The riders gather three calves, herd them to the end of the arena and get them into the trailer. The calves are loaded up front and the horses loaded behind.

People who may not have a full team or rope experience are still encouraged to come because we'll help complete your team. If you like to ride and compete in cowboy-type events, you'll enjoy this!

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Jensen Cattle Co.
3 miles east of Syre on 113, 1 1/2 miles south
Each team competes in 6 events
Team Penning and Doctoring Team Sorting
Horse Relay Team Branding
Team Doctoring in Pasture Pasture Rustling
Each team of 3 people must have at least 1 female on team

Event Starts at 1:00 PM
Western Dress Code Required
Entry Fee \$30 per Person
Awards to Top Teams of the Day, Youth and Adult
Entry Fee Paid Back to Top Adult Team of the Day
PRE-REGISTRATION WELCOMED
20 Team Limit

Buckles Awarded to Top Team of the Season
Youth Teams - Any combination male or female
16 and Under \$15 Entry Fee Year End Buckles
No Payback Must have Parent and Signed Waiver
There will be 4 Ranch Rodeos to earn points at.

Sat. May 14, Sat. June 18,
Sat. July 9, Sun. August 28



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April 2: Barron County Tack Swap & Horse Expo at 9 a.m. at Barron WI; call 715-296-8305 for more info

April 3: MN North Star Paint Horse Club Tack Swap at 10:30 p.m. at the Hinckley, MN Community Center

April 3: Houck Horse Company Fun Show at 11 a.m. at the Houck Arena in North Branch, MN. 651-277-1095 for more information

April 9: Hope Rides Saddle Fitting Club Clinic at 10 a.m. at Equine Haven in Stacy, MN call 612-310-6350 for more information

Saturday, April 9th: Medicinal Plant Seminar from 1 to 5 p.m. at Clearlake, MN (approx 1 hour north of the Twin Cities) Cost is \$50.00, contact Michelle Patterson at solidago.michelle@gmail.com or 320-558-6705

April 9 & 10: Olmsted Co. 4H Tack and Clothing Swap at Rochester, MN; call 507-273-1573 for more information

April 9: 4th Annual Houck Horse Company Spring Auction at 10 a.m. in North Branch, MN; call 612-810-5455 for more information

April 9: Northwest Saddle Club Tack Swap at 10 a.m. at the club house in North Branch, MN; call 612-328-9347 for more information

April 9: We Can Ride Annual Tack Swap at 9 a.m. at Edenwood Center in Eden Prairie, MN; call 952-934-0057 for more information

April 9: WGBRA Spring Fling Annual Barrel Race at 8 a.m. at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Black River Falls, WI; call 715-556-7092 for more information

April 9: Coggins Clinic and Tack Swap at 8 a.m. at the Carlton County Fairgrounds in Barnum, MN; call 218-390-0745 for more information

April 10: MN Half Arabian Horse Assoc. Pleasure Show at 9 a.m. at the Oasis Equestrian Center in Lindstrom, MN; call 651-784-3703 for more information

April 10: Houck Horse Company Fun Show at 11 a.m. in North Branch, MN; call 651-277-1095 for more information

April 10: WGBRA Spring Fling Annual Barrel Race at 8 a.m. at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Black River, WI; call 715-556-7092 for more information

April 10: Washington County 4H Tack Swap at noon at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo, MN; call 651-214-3403 for more information

April 15: Rockin Riders 4H Tack Swap at the Buffalo County Store in Buffalo, MN; call 763-234-2596 for more information

April 16: JJ Arena Saddle Club Fun Show at 11 a.m. at the JJ Arena in Balsam Lake, WI; call 715-554-3460 for more information

April 16: WSCA Spring Series Pleasure Show at 9 a.m. at the R&J Arena in Vermdale, MN; call 218-445-5849 for more information

April 16: Jill Houck Barrel Racing Clinic at 11 a.m. at Houck Horse Company in North Branch, MN; call 651-277-1095 for more information

April 16: Forest Lake FFA Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Deadbroke Arena in Hugo, MN; call 651-982-8495 for more information

April 16: Free Castration Clinic at Cold Spring, MN at Siete Leguas Equine Vet Services. Contact Krishona Martinson, University of Minnesota Extension at 612-625-6776, or krishona@umn.edu

April 16: Northwoods Saddle Club Horse Show at 9 a.m. at the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids, MN; call 218-743-6802 for more information

April 16: CSDEA Spring Used Tack Sale at 11 a.m. at the Eisenhower Community Center in Hopkins, MN; call 612-710-1149 for more information

April 16: Rockin Riders 4H Tack Swap at the Buffalo County Store in Buffalo, MN; call 763-234-2596 for more information

April 16: Ladies Day Horsemanship Clinic at 9 a.m. at Rimoe Ranch in New Richmond, WI; call 651-270-1888 for more information

April 17: WSCA Spring Series Game Show at 10 a.m. at the R&J Arena in Vermdale, MN; call 218-445-5849 for more information

April 17: Houck Horse Company Fun Show at 11 a.m. at the Houck Arena in North Branch, MN; call 651-277-1095 for more information

April 23: Coggins Clinic at 8:30 a.m. at the Pine Creek Saddle Club at Rutledge, MN; call 320-233-0010 for more information

April 23: Houck Horse Company Fun Show at 11 a.m. at the Houck Arena at North Branch, MN; call 651-277-1095 for more information

April 23: Rocking D Acres at 9 a.m. at the Rocking D Acres in Clarissa, MN; call 218-756-2576 for more information

April 30: Midstate North Star Saddle Club at 7:30 p.m. at the Isanti County Fairgrounds in Cambridge, MN; call 763-444-5232 for more information

April 30: MN Paint Horse Assoc. Paint Horse Show at 8 a.m. at the Minnesota Equestrian Center in Winona, MN.

April 30: Western WI Horse Sale at 8:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds at Menomonie, WI; call 715-556-3962 for more information

May 1: St. Croix Rides Saddle Club Fuzzy Wuzzy Fun Show at 8 a.m. at the St. Croix Riders Arena in Baldwin, WI; call 715-781-1110 for more information

May 1: Houck Summer Barrel Racing Series at 10:30 a.m. at Houck ARENA in North Branch, MN; call 651-277-1095 for more information

May 7: Cedar Mountain FFA Open WSCA Horse Show at 9 a.m. at Redwood Falls, MN; call Allan at 651-356-5543 for more information

May 7: St. Croix Riders Open WSCA Pleasure Show at 8 a.m. at the St. Croix

Riders Arena in Baldwin, WI; call 715-781-1110 for more information

May 7: Fox Hollow Saddle Club Trail Ride at 11 a.m. at LeSueur, MN; call 612-756-2098 for more information

May 7: Youth CLinic with Jill Houck at 11 a.m. at the Houck Arena in North Branch, MN. Call 651-277-1095 for more information

May 7: Pine Creek Saddle Club Fun Show at 10 a.m. at Rutledge, MN; call 320-233-0010 for more information

May 7: Midwest Western Dressage Clinic at 9 a.m. at Leatherdale Equine Center in St. Paul, MN. Call 763-300-9174 for more information

May 7: Double Bit Riders Saddle Club Game Show at 8 a.m. at the Isanti County Fairgrounds in Cambridge, MN; call 763-434-3522 for more information

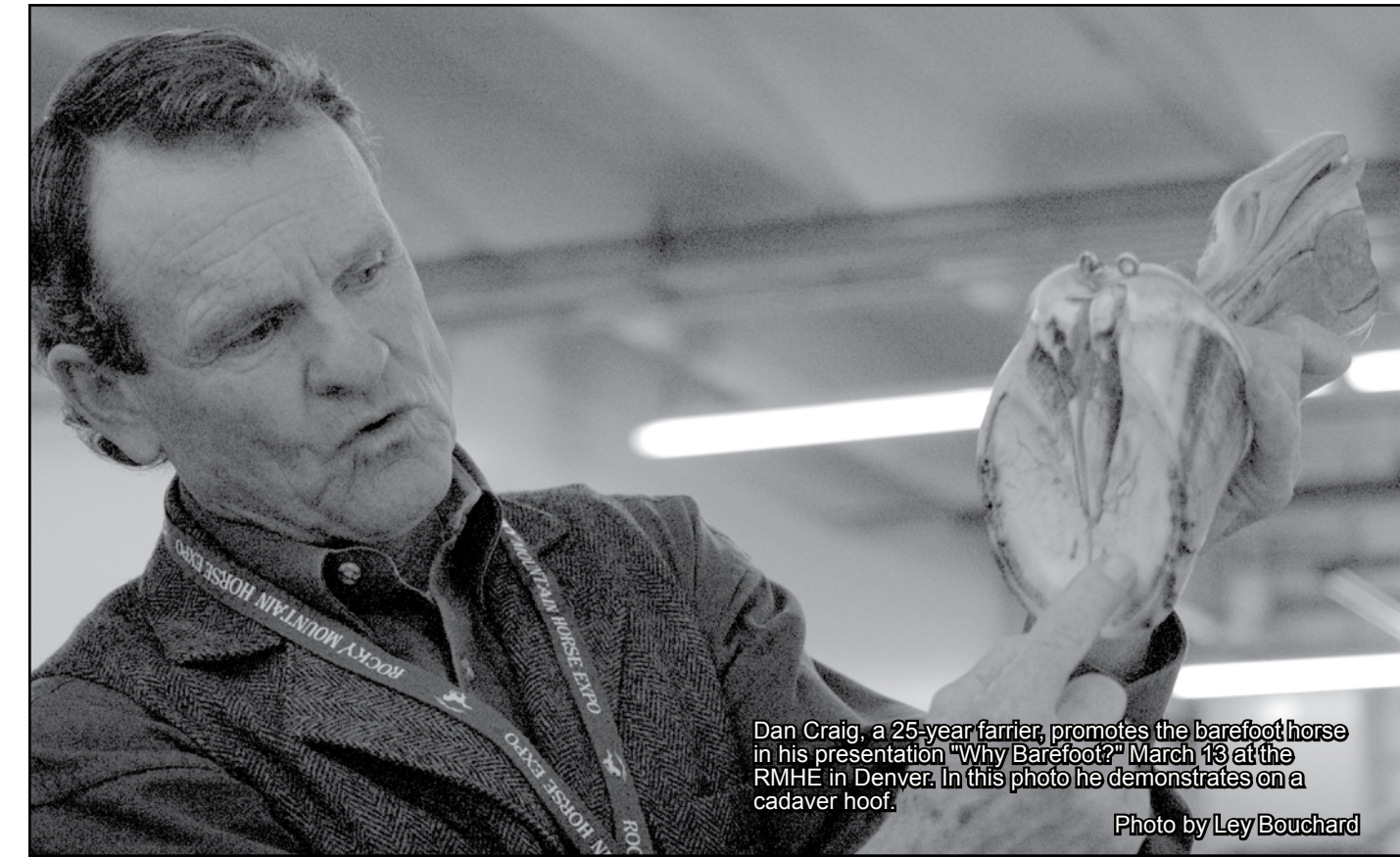
May 7: Winners Edge Riders Open Pleasure Show at 9 a.m. at the Winning Edge Farm in Mondovi, WI; call 715-926-5753 for more information

May 8: St. Croix Riders Open WSCA Game Show at 8 a.m. at the St. Croix Riders Arena in Baldwin, WI; call 715-781-1110 for more information

May 8: Fox Hollow Saddle Club Trail Ride at 11 a.m. in LeSueur, MN; call 612-756-2098 for more information

May 8: Houck Horse Company at 11 a.m. at the Houck Arena in North Branch, MN; call 651-277-1095 for more information

May 8: Sunset Saddle Club SEMSCA Show at 8 a.m. at the Freeborn County Fairgrounds in Albert Lea, MN; call 507-448-0127 for more information



Dan Craig, a 25-year farrier, promotes the barefoot horse in his presentation "Why Barefoot?" March 13 at the RMHE in Denver. In this photo he demonstrates on a cadaver hoof.
Photo by Ley Bouchard

American Azteca: An excerpt from the book, "Horses of Distinction" by Fran Lynghaug

Continued from Page 7

originally created in Mexico. The AAHIA horses, however, are modeled closely after their Mexican cousins in type. The organization still bases the breed on the combination of Quarter Horse and Andalusian blood and promotes a high quality horse. It does not allow more than 25 percent Thoroughbred blood in any Quarter Horse or Paint Horse used to produce an Azteca. The AAHIA traces back four generations, not including the horse itself, for Thoroughbred blood. If any of those generations have more than 25 percent Thoroughbred blood, that horse is not allowed for breeding an Azteca. The registry reserves the right to research further generations if more Thoroughbred blood is suspected. Additionally, horses applying for registration have to be tested for hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (HYPP) disease if they have the Quarter Horse "Impressive" bloodline, and they won't qualify unless the test is negative. Tests results may be: a.) positive, meaning the horse has it. B.) negative, meaning the horse does not have it, or c.) negative/positive, meaning the horse may or may not develop it, but may be a carrier, in which case the horse won't qualify for registration either.

good balance between the two breeds and possess qualities of both. The intention is to create a new type of horse, a new breed that exhibits the best of both ancestor breeds.

With some allowance for variations, the recommended characteristics of the American Azteca are as follows:

Size: Ranges from 14.2 to 16.0 hands.



Color: Both Quarter Horse and Paint Horse markings and colors are acceptable.

Head: The head is of medium size with a straight, slightly convex or slightly concave profile. It has a broad forehead, expressive eyes and medium ears, which are mobile and well placed.

Neck: The neck is well muscled, shapely, and slightly arched with a medium crest. It is broad at its base, where it joins onto a

long sloping shoulder.


Body: The withers are broad and slightly muscled, yet defined. The haunches are strong and well muscled, leading to a medium to low-set tail. A long flowing mane and tail are often present.

Legs: The legs are well muscled with dense bone, good joints and strong hooves.

Movement: Retained from the Andalusian is a free and mobile shoulders and hips, which allow the Azteca to be incredibly athletic and smooth to ride. The movement is naturally collected with a variance of knee action from high and brilliant to long and flowing.

The American Azteca responds exceptionally well to the different equine High School disciplines requiring suspended and elevated gaits. Qualities passed on from both parent breeds also make it a skillful working cow horse or western horse. It excels at many events, making it an extremely versatile horse. The breed is very easy to train and once taught, never forgets.

Fran Lynghaug is the author of "Horses of Distinction" and soon to be published "Official Horse Breeds Standards Guide published by Voyageur Press.



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WILLIE NELSON AND FAMILY SING "WILD HORSES"

March 22, 2011 (Washington, D.C.) – The Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) is honored to announce the exclusive release of the Rolling Stones' classic "Wild Horses" - performed and produced by the legendary Willie Nelson and his family members. Willie & The Nelson Family are donating the proceeds from the sale of the song to AWI's campaigns on behalf of wild and domestic horses. Willie and the entire Nelson family are long-time supporters of AWI and its efforts to end horse slaughter and preserve the right wild horses to roam free.

"The BLM has been rounding them up at an alarming rate, supposedly for their own good. Sadly, there are more wild horses in holding pens than in the wild. Something is wrong with that, so we must act now before the BLM has managed these magnificent animals into extinction," said Willie Nelson. "It's time for the cowboys to stand up for the horses."

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act was enacted in 1971 to halt the disappearance of these iconic animals from public lands in the American West. Since then, however, over 20 million acres of land set aside by Congress for wild horses have been removed from



Wild Horses

their range, even as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—the very agency charged with their protection—claims there is not enough land to support existing herds. The BLM is unnecessarily removing horses based on spurious

claims of damage to range and other adverse impacts. The BLM's mismanagement of America's wild horses is largely designed to benefit a livestock industry that has for decades, exploited western public lands while profiting from massive subsidies funded by taxpayer dollars. Willie & The Nelson Family and AWI are calling on the BLM and the Obama administration to immediately halt all wild horse round-ups, restore the land provided by law to wild horses and to stop warehousing horses on private lands at even greater expense to the taxpayer.

There is no greater voice than Willie Nelson when it comes to speaking for the underdog. For decades, Willie has fought to protect family farmers in America, while also advocating for the humane treatment of horses and other animals," said Chris Heyde, deputy director of government and legal affairs for AWI. "We are so grateful for the support of Willie and the entire Nelson family and we hope this song will raise awareness of the deteriorating situation facing wild horses and help turn things around before they disappear from their lands forever."

For more information about the problems facing wild horses and what can be done to improve BLM's wild horse program, please visit www.awionline.org/wildhorses.

AHC NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM TO FOCUS ON NEW TENOR IN CONGRESS

The American Horse Council has announced that the theme for this year's National Issues Forum is "Congress on a Diet: What It Means for the Horse Industry."

This year's National Issues Forum will be held June 21 in Washington, DC during the AHC's annual meeting. The annual meeting will run from June 19 to 22 at the Washington Court Hotel and also include an update on the national equine health initiative, the Congressional Reception and the annual Congressional Ride-In. This year's meeting will also see the return of the AHC's Breed Roundtable, a popular event that brings together leaders of horse associations to discuss common issues of importance to the industry.

The AHC's various committees, including the Unwanted Horse Coalition, will also meet to discuss issues affecting the equine community.

"The highlight of this year's forum will be presentations from Members of Congress, staff and federal regulatory agencies on the new fiscal realities in Washington. They will discuss how Congress's efforts to deal with the country's deficits may result in cut-backs to federal programs and spending that could affect the horse industry," said AHC president Jay Hickey.

"There is a new paradigm in Washington that will affect all American industries, including the horse industry."

As part of this year's annual meeting, the American Horse Council is hosting a Breed Roundtable. This event was an important part of previous AHC annual meetings and allowed leaders of horse organizations involved in various disciplines to visit with each other and discuss issues of common concern. The AHC Board of Trustees believes it is important to reinstitute the Breed Roundtable this year because of the important issues facing the horse industry.

Welfare issues, disease outbreaks, unwanted horses, and public relations are all concerns. The number of people purchasing horses and participating in the industry is down. As the country emerges from the economic downturn, many horse associations are wrestling not only with how to bring back people who have left the industry but also how to attract new owners, new participants, and new members. The Breed Roundtable will provide an opportunity for industry executives to discuss these issues across breeds and disciplines and learn from each other.

There will also be an update on the national equine health initiative.

"This initiative resulted from the USDA-AHC hosted workshop at last year's National Issues Forum, which provided an opportunity for the horse industry, key federal and state authorities, and others to discuss a coordinated approach to the handling of serious infectious equine diseases that threaten the health of our horses and the commercial health of the industry," said Hickey.

These outbreaks affect the interstate and international movement of horses, which is critical to the horse industry. When barriers to movement are raised by states and foreign countries concerned about the spread of infectious diseases, this affects sales, breeding, racing, competitions and recreation.

The annual Congressional Ride-In will occur on Wednesday, June 22. The Ride-In allows members of the horse community to meet with their elected representatives and their federal officials to discuss important issues affecting them. All members of the horse community are encouraged to participate, even if you don't attend the AHC convention. "The Ride-In puts a face on the \$102 billion horse industry and the millions of Americans who are part of it," said Hickey.

Extreme Cowboy Challenge and Horsemanship Clinic Set for Minnesota EquiFest, Fall 2011

Preparation is well underway for the 5th annual Minnesota EquiFest, to be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds October 15-16, 2011. A broad range of activities covering nearly any type of horse experience will be available.

The Extreme Cowboy Horsemanship Challenge is back by popular demand. Watch cowboys and cowgirls maneuver through a series of 13 obstacles while demonstrating both speed and horsemanship. These obstacles, sanctioned by the North Central Region of the Extreme Cowboy Association (NCR EXCA), are typical of what you will routinely encounter while on the trail or at home on a ranch. The Challenge is specifically designed to interest riders of all levels who want to compete and enjoy the "fastest growing equine sport, the Extreme Cowboy Challenge." Sign up to show off your partnership and skill with your horse!! For entry information, please contact Chris Vinson at 715-928-018 or chris@3S-Ranch.com.

The EquiFest website (www.MinnesotaEquiFest.com) is updated regularly with information about speakers and scheduled activities. Also, please go to it for information regarding booths, stallion row, breed demonstration horses, volunteering, and sponsorships. You may also call the EquiFest office at (763) 421-5750. Join us on Facebook (Minnesota EquiFest) and invite your friends to join. For advertising information, contact Linda Dahl, Dahl Graphics and Printing, at (651) 353-8188.

Also returning this year will be Werner Thiedemann of Thiedemann Performance Horses. Werner will be offering Horsemanship Workshops on four different topics. Participants can choose to participate in an individual workshop or ride in all four. Pre-registration is required at www.Min-

nesotaEquiFest.com. A fourth-generation equestrian from Germany, Werner has a range of show experience with a main background in Reining and Ranch Horse. He draws on his 35 years of experience in the horse industry as he conducts educational clinics and seminars on a variety of topics from horse equipment to horsemanship, with the focus on creating better communication and understanding between the horse and rider.

New this year will be a Saturday evening performance of horsemanship and equine entertainment. The EquiFest Equine Extravaganza will include the presentation of a Roy Rogers 100th birthday tribute, 4H drill teams, carriage driving, a mini cart driving team, and more.

The EquiFest website (www.MinnesotaEquiFest.com) is updated regularly with information about speakers and scheduled activities. Also, please go to it for information regarding booths, stallion row, breed demonstration horses, volunteering, and sponsorships. You may also call the EquiFest office at (763) 421-5750. Join us on Facebook (Minnesota EquiFest) and invite your friends to join. For advertising information, contact Linda Dahl, Dahl Graphics and Printing, at (651) 353-8188.

CARING FOR YOUR RETIRED HORSE

By Nanette Osterhoudt

With proper care, horses can have a high-quality life well into their 20s and 30s. Many horses have had several "jobs" during their lifetime, but there will come a time when they are finished working. Once your horse is at this point in his life, you have some decisions to make.

If you decide to support your elderly horse in his geriatric years, there are some care guidelines you will need to consider.

Health

Many of the most serious issues affecting elderly horses can be effectively prevented or managed through regular veterinary health screens. Your veterinarian will do a thorough exam and may advise periodic blood panels as part of this care.

Dental care

Elderly horses need to have a thorough dental exam at least once a year; in many cases, every six months is best. One main issue is that eventually a horse's teeth stop growing. The teeth wear down and fall out, leaving less and less grinding surface. A dentist professional will be sure the horse's teeth meet properly in order to chew, that there are no sharp edges or hooks causing the horse pain, and that there are no other concerns. If the horse is unable to chew properly, this can lead to serious problems, including colic, choke, and weight loss.

Endocrine Disease

Cushing's Disease (PPID) is an important issue for older horses and a common cause of laminitis. There are many options available for testing and treatment. Symptoms of PPID include long wavy haircoat, abnormal shedding in the spring, chronic laminitis, inappropriate sweating, excessive thirst and urination, muscle wasting, and abnormal fat deposits.

Arthritis

Like humans, many older horses have arthritis. The associated pain can inhibit the horse's normal activity level. It can also cause sleep deprivation because the horse does not want to lie down or get up again. Management strategies that can help horses with arthritis are regular turnout (minimize stall confinement), regular hoof trimming, and maintaining an appropriate weight (a body condition score of 4-6). Treatments include joint supplements, anti-inflammatory medications, herbal medications, joint injections, shockwave therapy, chiropractic treatments, and acupuncture.

Vaccination/Deworming

There is limited information available on the effectiveness of vaccinating and deworming elderly horses. It is generally recommended that they be kept on the same schedule as in their pre-retirement years. At a minimum, most horses should receive core vaccines (rabies, eastern/western encephalomyelitis, tetanus, and West Nile virus). Horses should be dewormed according to a continuous (daily) or strategic (certain times of the year and/or according to fecal egg counts) deworming program, based on your facility's location and management strategy, and the class of horse.

As an added step, you may wish to reduce your geriatric horse's exposure to new pathogens by maintaining him in a facility with a quarantine policy. Work with your veterinarian to develop the best vaccination and deworming approach for your horse.

Sheath Cleaning

Periodic sheath cleaning (annually or biannually, at a minimum) remains important.

Facility

Pasture turnout is generally recommended for older horses in order to maintain activity, thus reducing stiffness and pain and maintaining strength. Shelter should be well-ventilated, as

well as providing shade and protection from wind and precipitation.

Soft footing and/or deep bedding should be considered for older horses with lameness issues.

Elderly horses have a decreased ability to regulate their body temperature. Some horses may benefit from body clipping in the summer and blanketing in the winter.

Nutrition

Generally, maintain your horse on the same diet he was on before he was retired until you have a reason to change it. There is no magical age when a horse should go on a senior diet.

If your horse starts to lose body condition or shows signs of a medical or physical disorder, schedule a health check with your veterinarian before implementing a diet change. Many conditions (such as dental problems, PPID, COPD, or liver dysfunction) can be managed through proper and specific nutrition. Note, however, that some dietary changes can worsen these conditions.

Nutritional requirements for senior horses are closest to that of weanlings.

- * Diet of 14-16% crude protein
- * Dietary calcium of 0.6-1.0%
- * Dietary phosphorus of 0.5-0.6%

Some dietary changes that could be considered (after a health check) are:

- * Adding fat/oil to the diet (up to 10% of the total diet) for extra calories
- * Switching to a senior diet, partially or completely (consider adding soaked hay cubes or beet pulp to increase fiber if less than 15%)
- * Frequent, smaller feedings (less than 0.5% body weight per meal)

Forage typically makes up the majority of a horse's diet, so it is important to know what it is contributing nutritionally. Unless your horse is on a "complete" diet, the best way to know what nutrients he is receiving is to have your forage (hay and/or pasture) tested. Your local Extension Service is an excellent source of affordable, non-biased nutrition information. They can provide you with contact information for laboratories that provide forage-testing services. Contact them for guidance on feeding and appropriate diet according to the current NRC guidelines. Many areas of the country have excess or deficient amounts of specific nutrients. Your Extension Service can advise you on how to address these issues.

Provide unlimited access to temperature-controlled water, and monitor intake closely. Some horses with dental problems may not drink cold water, and some elderly horses may need to be fed water-soaked feeds in order to increase fluid intake.

Companionship

Elderly horses should be turned out with suitable, non-aggressive companions. Pay special attention to ensure that they have full access to feed while turned out with others.

End of Life

Plan for saying goodbye. Research options for euthanasia and removal before the time comes. Set aside funds now, so you do not have financial concerns when the time comes.

Some criteria to consider when evaluating the necessity for euthanasia are:

- * Is the horse in chronic pain?
- * Is the horse a hazard to itself, other animals, or humans?
- * If the horse is treatable, can you afford treatment?

Whether you care for your elderly horse yourself, or entrust his care to a suitable boarding facility, with some extra attention, your horse can enjoy life in his golden years!

Nanette Osterhoudt is the Owner and Manager of Bronken Creek Performance Horse Retirement—a facility in western Wisconsin specializing in care of retired, recuperating, and other non-working horses.

Horses Ponies Miniatures

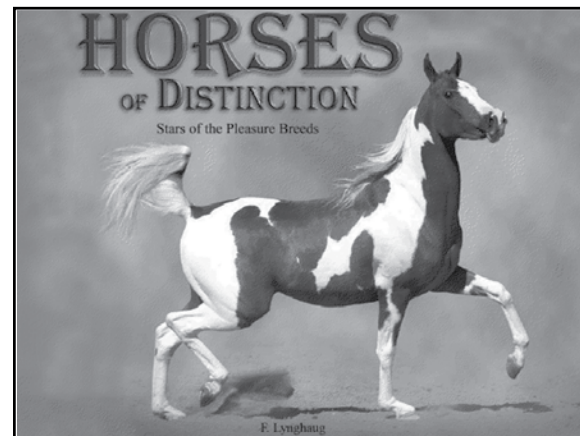
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Above: Jennifer Glass Long Lining with her Lipizaner, doing pesade and ballotade movements for the Mane Event entertainment the evening of March 12 at the National Western Complex of the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo in Denver, CO. The evening was filled with amazing horses and riders. Groups performed theater similar to what one would find at the "Arabian Nights" theatre as well as drills. The Rocky Mountain Icelandic Horse Club performed a traditional "Beer Toast" on horseback to show off their smooth gait of their horses. Wayne Williams announced as one group followed the next. There was freestyle dressage, Ruben Rangel rode his Andalusian Spanish Garrocha and Flamenco. See more photos including vaulters at the Valley Equestrian web site: www.theveonline.com or our Facebook page.

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ND Teen Mattie Richardson Publishes Second Book, "Appaloosy"

Continued from Page 10

she has discovered. The book follows the adventures of Dusty, an American Quarter Horse, and his rider Levi as they work for the Pony Express. Though not a continuation of Richardson's first book, it ties in with the same theme of horses in history.

"I think kids could probably learn something from this book, too, if they're not careful," she says with a laugh. "I try to stick to all of the historical facts."

Richardson's two published books are sold

at local shops in Sheldon, Enderlin and Lisbon, N.D., are coming soon to Amazon and are also available from her personally for \$7.95 plus the cost of shipping and handling. For more information about Appaloosy, Dusty's Trail, ordering information or how you can have Mattie speak at your school, please call (701) 882-3472 or email Mattie personally at redheadkid7@msn.com.

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