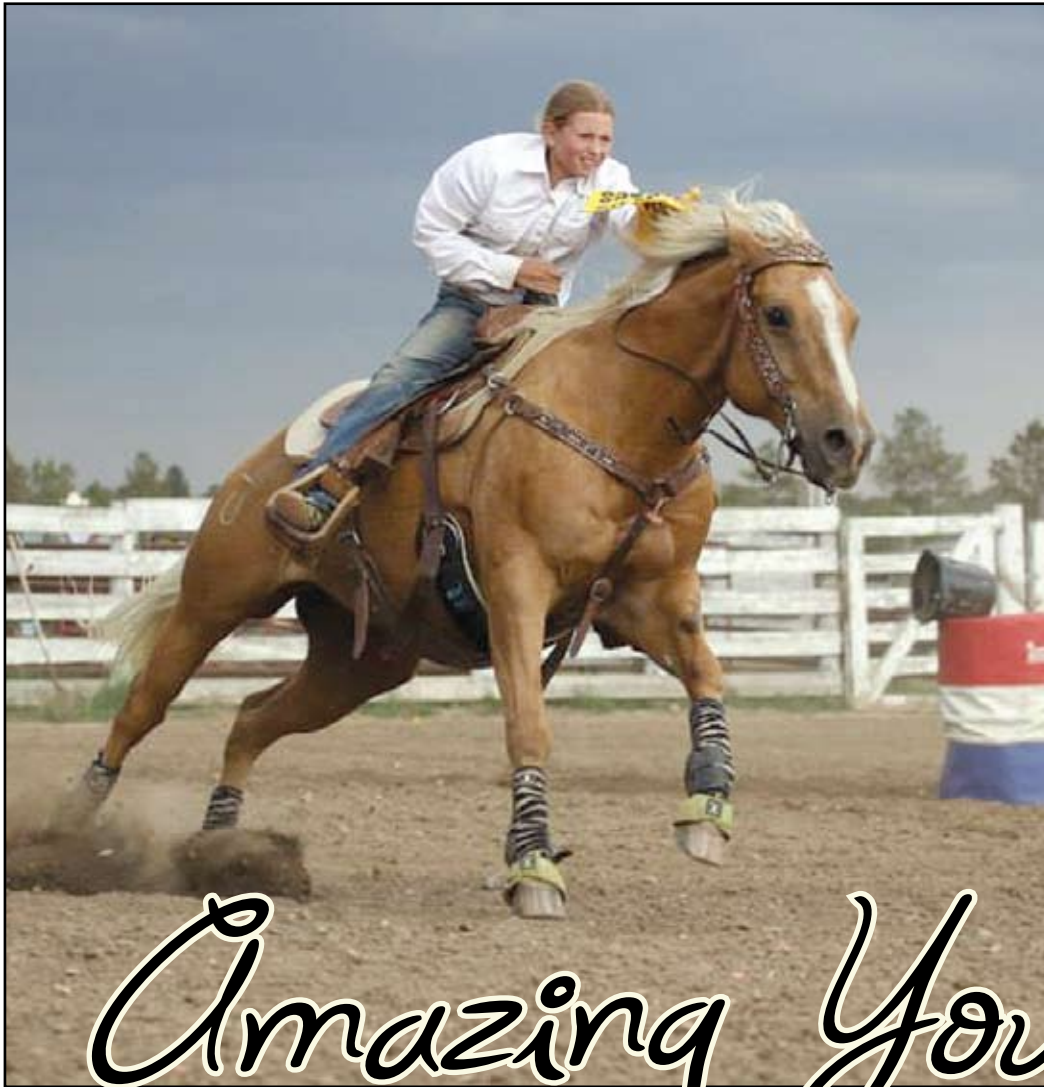


All Breeds,  
All Disciplines,  
All the Time!

# The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Your resource for equestrian news, events and information

September 2013



*Amazing Youth!*



**What's Inside:**  
Registering Clones, Saving Wild Horses,  
Unwanted Horses, and Horse Slaughter  
**Introducing:** 'For the Hoof of It' Farrier Tips



*7th Annual*  
**Minnesota EquiFest**  
October 12-13, 2013  
Minnesota State Fairgrounds  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
*Region's Premier Fall Equine Event*

**EquiFest Equine Extravaganza**  
*Saturday night entertainment*

**Equine Trade Show  
Great Christmas Shopping  
Breed Demos • Lectures  
Pony Rides • Tack Sale  
Much More!**

**Anne Council  
Marc Johnson  
Larry Whitesell  
Anita Howe  
Dennis Auslam  
Deb Racheter  
Dr. Tom Tweeten  
Cassie Sprenger  
Nita Jo Rush**

763-421-5750  
info@MinnesotaEquiFest.com

[www.minnesotaequifest.com](http://www.minnesotaequifest.com)

**Put Your Horse on the Fastrack  
to a More Productive Life**

**CONKLIN** Stassi Pyne, Michigan  
2011 & 2012 International Professional  
Rodeo Association World Champion

**John Fillbrandt**  
cell: 218-329-7997  
john.fillbrandt@conklinibo.com

**Minnesota Horse Council Offers  
Scholarships, Grants, Funding & Awards**

These programs are funded from the proceeds of the Minnesota Horse Expo.

**Scholarships:** the MHC/Tony Gasser Memorial Scholarships are offered for high school seniors, undergrads, graduate, and vocational students, to be used toward education that would further the applicant's career in and contributions to the horse industry in Minnesota. Applications are due by November 1st. At least ten \$3000 scholarships will be presented at the MHC annual meeting in January. For more info, contact Trina Joyce at 612-729-7798 or Trina-Joyce@earthlink.net.

**Grants:** of \$7,000 maximum per grant are given to Minnesota charitable/non-profit equine-related organizations as 'seed money' to inspire new projects or capital improvements, or

for expansions of existing projects or services. Applications are due by October 1st. Grants are presented at the MHC annual meeting in January. Funds will be paid out as your project progresses. Contact Tim Bonham at 612-721-1007 or Treasurer@Mn-HorseCouncil.org for info.

**Direct Funding:** The Minnesota Horse Council offers direct funding assistance (up to \$500) to any non-profit horse related organization that develops or organizes any public clinic, program activity, or publication that advances the goals of the Minnesota Horse Council. Applications accepted any time during the year, response generally within 30 days. Contact: Mark Ward, MarkWard@MNHorseCouncil.org, 651-436-6557.

**Sponsorships:** As part of the MHC advertising budget, the MHC will sponsor your event in exchange for advertising. Events can be

horse shows, club dinners, trail rides, educational events, and fundraisers, etc. For more info, contact Jennifer at 612-669-7564 or jeniwillie@hotmail.com.

**Awards:**  
**Horse Person Award:** Each year, MHC honors someone as the "Minnesota Horse Person of the Year", and places his or her photo in the Horseman's Hall of Fame at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. The Council is seeking nominations of people for this award. This person should be an outstanding person in the horse industry -- someone who stands above the rest for long-term contributions to many areas of equine activity. Nominations are accepted all year, but must be received by November 1st to be considered each year. The person selected will be announced at the MHC annual meeting in January. Contact: Dawn Moore, dmoore834@comcast.net, or 952-949-6659 with any questions.

*10th Anniversary*  
**DAKOTA 50/50**  
**SALE, FUTURITY & MATURITY**  
OCT. 31, NOV. 1 & 2

2012 Futurity Champion: Willy Be a Cruiser, Owned/Ridden by Nichole Mathiason; Breeder: Kelly and Ruby Stuart

2012 Maturity Champion: KNM Golden Boy, Owned/Ridden by Kim Kraft; Breeder: Keith and Nikki Medalen

2012 High Seller: Zips Aim Four Fame, Breeder: Kelly & Ruby Stuart; Buyer: Kinsey Larson

**Futurity Purse \$19,293.75!**  
**Maturity Purse Jackpot 60% of entry fees, plus \$2756.26 added!**

- Plus: Highpoint Amateur Saddle sponsored by Lost Spur Trailers, Highpoint Youth Buckle sponsored by Alkali Ranch & Clay Ranch, Participation Awards for All Youth sponsored by Langan Performance Horses, and many top 10 prizes!
- Plus: Handmade Saddle by Cliff Langerud to Grand Champion, Highpoint Youth Buckle sponsored by Oak Creek Stables & Medalen Ranch.

**Schedule of Events:**

- Oct. 31 Maturity Show (4 and 5 year old horses)...12 p.m.
- Nov 1 Futurity Show (2 year olds).....12 p.m.
- Mane Event Social.....8 p.m.
- Doublewood Inn, Fargo (3333 13th Ave. S.)
- Nov 2 Futurity Show.....8 a.m.
- Sale.....one hour after show

For Catalog: Nikki Medalen  
701-537-3486, nikki@medalenranch.com

[www.dakota50-50.com](http://www.dakota50-50.com)

Location: NDSU Equine Center, 5180 19th Ave. N. Fargo, N.D.



# The Valley Equestrian Newspaper

Vol. 7 No. 9

PO Box 64  
Sabin, MN 56580  
theVENews@gmail.com  
(320) 209-8523

Owner/Publisher/Editor  
Ley Bouchard  
(701) 361-8648  
leybou@gmail.com

Strategic Marketing Director  
Heather Benson  
(605) 660-6599  
valleyequestriannews@gmail.com

Marketing Specialist and Copy Editor  
Kari Hagstrom  
(320) 766-2620  
Kari.venews@hotmail.com

Contributing Writers  
Orv Alveshere  
Chris Barrows  
Erika Berg  
Dr. Juliet Getty  
Kari Hagstrom  
Janice Ladendorf  
Fran Lynghaug  
Annise Montplaisir  
Charles Wilhelm

The Valley Equestrian News is published monthly January through December.

Copyright © 2013  
LeKreations LLC  
All Rights Reserved

See the complete VEN distribution list at:  
www.theveonline.com

## About the Cover

Photos from left clockwise: Anna Jorgenson at the Watford City Li'l Wrangler Rodeo August, 2013; Savannah Meyer, from Stanley, N.D. at the Ray Youth Rodeo June 2012; Paige Delaney at sunset taken at Alexander, N.D., Ashton Frei kissing his horse at the Ray Youth Rodeo, July 2013. See stories about other youth on page 12, 15 and 19.

Photos by Judy Jorgenson, JJ's Photos at www.jjphotos.org.



Contributing writer and author Fran Lynghaug writes about the training techniques of industry giant Richard Shrake, page 9.

## What's Inside?

- Pg.2** MHC Offers Scholarships, Grants, and Awards
- Pg.5** Editorial Fergus the Horse
- Pg.6** Adopt-A-Horse
- Pg.7** Charles Wilhelm: Dealing with a Horse That Kicks and Bites
- Pg.8** Cowboy Poetry with Orv Sassy: An Oldest Horse Story
- Pg.9** Training Insights with Richard Shrake by Fran Lynghaug
- Pg.11** Farrier Tip by Chris Barrows
- Pg.12** Pretty in Pink Protect Pollinators Presenting the Presenters
- Pg.13** Black Horse Trainers by Janice Ladendorf Pioneer Days Parade
- Pg.14** Cowboys, Cowgirls, Cattle and Thorough-
- Pg.15** Horse and Human Connection by Erika Berg Dr. Getty: Cecum Exit Defies Gravity
- Pg.16** From the Horses Mouth: Industry News
- Pg.17** MHARF Trainer's Challenge Resu;Its
- Pg.19** Superhorse Sidekicks by Annise Montplaisir



Pioneer Days Parade, page 13.

## Editorial Information

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper welcomes free-lance articles, cartoons, artwork, poems, photographs, etc. that we might use in the publication. We accept no responsibility for the material while in our hands. Materials will be returned if sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographs or graphics electronically submitted should be in color and must be at least 200 DPI resolution and four inches wide.

Copyright Notice: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper (VEN) is copyrighted and protected by federal copyright law. No material may be copied, faxed, electronically transmitted or otherwise used without our express written permission. Requests for reprinting must be submitted in writing to the editor.

Disclaimer: Articles that appear in The Valley Equestrian News do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff, officers or employees. Publication of any article does not constitute endorsement of the views expressed. Accuracy of all information is the responsibility of the authors.

Advertisements published in The Valley Equestrian do not constitute endorsement or recommendation of such product or service. The VEN does not condone the alteration of horses in any photograph that appears in advertisements in the newspaper and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the photographs used in the advertisements supplied by others than its own staff. The onus is on the reader to satisfy themselves about the appearance or conformation of a horse before making a financial decision.

Errors: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper shall be responsible for errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement to the extent of the space covered by the error.



Wild Horse Education continues litigation against BLM; see the story on page 16

Check out these new distribution sites:

Get your free VEN at:

Lillegard Inc.  
Wahpeton, ND

WillStar Riding Academy  
Bemidji, Minn.

# At Issue: Registering Clones, Saving Wild Horses, Unwanted Horses, and Horse Slaughter

### (What is at risk? What is of value that is at risk? What values are at risk?)

By Kari Hagstrom

It seems absurd to be debating the validity of registering clones and their offspring, when there are so many horses at risk and that need help. Should the owner of the Clydesdale colt (pg. 17) clone him to get a shiny brand new one? What about the injured colt? Should he be discarded? That brings up the whole issue of valuing the damaged, the not-perfect. Maybe that colt has a destiny and a mission through this experience. What about the potentially thousands or millions that this story could help and effect? I think we need to be really wary of this notion, of the idea of perfectionism, and the greedy hoarding of one thing (horse) that worked well.

We already know that this idea of "perfect" has spawned "not good enough," which has caused any number of social ills: anorexia, bulimia, low self-esteem, bullying, suicide, etc. The only way we (humanity) will be able to heal, stop this craziness we have indulged in, is to recognize and value the unique and the individual for whom and what they are.

Why are there Trainer's Challenges of the Un-

wanted Horse (pg. 17), if not because of excessive breeding (and other issues, too)? In my opinion, it is the uniqueness of each horse that makes them interesting and special. It isn't about "perfect." At the Arabian Ranch, we once had a really homely jug-headed, stocky horse turned-up. Turned out he had been stolen, then released when his brand was discovered, and was a champion roping horse. So you never know what is the hidden potential and purpose that is contained within one individual. And how the loss of that potential could affect the Whole: one loose thread can cause the unraveling of a giant tapestry. We just don't know or have the perspective to know the implications of what we do or don't do.

Are we going to clone another Kennedy, another Martin Luther King? Would they be taken as

seriously as the originals? Would they be as respected as the originals? And that's the key: they were original, the original, the origin, the nexuses of their times. Does it matter, is anyone really going to care as much as they first did, when Clayton the son of Scamper (the second cloned horse) wins the same

stuff over and over? No, it will be boring and derivative of the original. We crave the new, the exciting, the interesting, the original. As much as we want the security of the old, we must have growth—it's like oxygen.

We violate ourselves and our world when we don't value what is. Nature, the Universe,

the Divine by any name, does have a plan, and it seems to have worked thus far. The Universe can take the most damaged, inconsequential, unlikely and unvalued of things and make it into something magical, heroic, inspiring, special and unique. Look at Seabiscuit. Not just the horse, but the story of those around him: his owner, his trainer, and his jockey. Look at how many lives were touched back in the '30s (millions), and today, because of the book and the movie (millions and millions, probably billions). Would a clone of Seabiscuit serve the world in quite the same way? His story, and the story of those around him demonstrate that it is worthwhile to value what is, to love it as it is, and to help (not push, but to facilitate the right conditions) it grow into it's potential. That's where magic and miracles reside.

We are at a turning point here, a point of choosing. Are we going to choose to value life, or are we going

to choose to value production. This is an opportunity, here at the convergence of these issues, to plot the course of where we decide to go and how we decide to get there. There will be far-reaching consequences for our choices, with tremendous implications. Think: If big corporations hadn't been allowed to patent (claim ownership) of certain plants (life), would we be in the pickle we are in now regarding GMO foods, with farmers virtually held hostage to using GMO seed and chemicals? Would there be the down-playing in the media and in the courts of natural medicines and natural healing modalities, and many other issues?

Think: During World War II, when the Polish Arabian Stud was endangered, a handful of people took the bloodstock mares, foals, and stallions in small groups into hiding in the woods and throughout the countryside. These people risked their lives to save these beautiful, precious,

unique animals, from being killed by the Nazis or the war itself. Would these horses have been as valuable, as precious, and as special as they now are if those choices had not been made? If the horses didn't matter and have value, intrinsic value, with those people, would they have made the same choices? Would the story have been as impactful, meaningful and inspiring if the people attempting to save and preserve the breed had instead taken a few hairs from each horse, and said, "Well, we can clone them later"? Would it have mattered as much, if at all? I think that it does matter to and for all of us in the long run, in the end. It is the choices we make that matter to all of us in the end.

Photo: Prometea (foreground), the world's first cloned horse, grazes next to her surrogate mother and identical twin Stella Cometa as a filly.

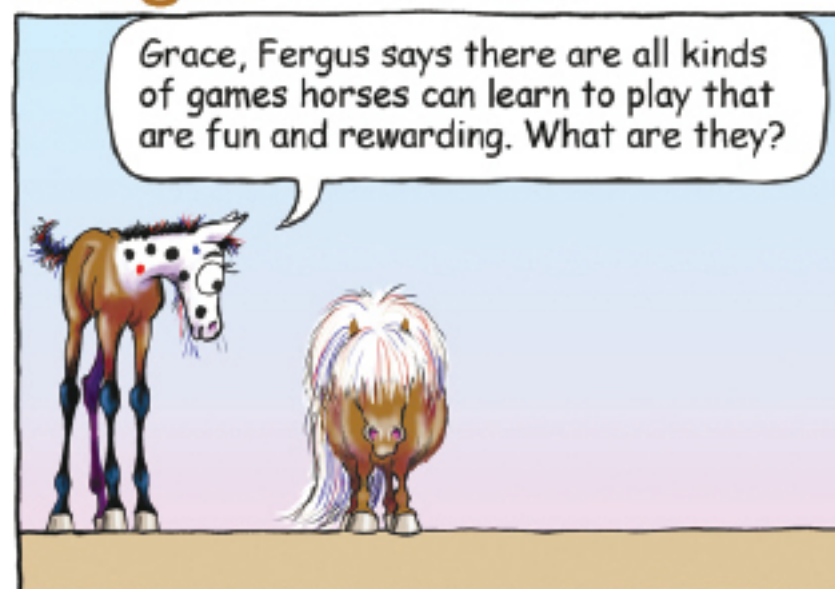
## Stories From YOUR Valley!

4H, WSCA, IHSA, Collegiate, Saddle Clubs, Breed Organizations, and more ... send us your NEWS!

thevenews@gmail.com

## Fergus BY JEAN ABERNETHY

Sponsored by the Minnesota Horse Council





# A VEN Unwanted Horse Project Adopt - a - Horse!

High Tail Horse Ranch & Rescue  
chart@loretel.net  
ranch # 701-526-3734  
Hawley, Minn.

## Cinder

Cinder has been in her foster home since December 22nd. She came to us being shy with humans, mainly men. She wasn't big on having people work around her nose/head, but we work on that every day. Since she has come to her foster home she has been doing wonderful. She will now walk up to all people when you go out to check on the horses, she is very curious as to what you are doing and if she can "help", I am using the word help very loosely here..haha :) We have been working on halter work, and she will need a confident person to keep working with her on everything. She isn't sure about walking with us when we are leading her, but with the right person she will keep learning. She is young (around 3-4) and has some great potential. We work on petting her and brushing her all over. We do work also on picking up her feet and cleaning them. She doesn't like to stand for the farrier all the time, so that is being worked on. Since being turned out with the 3 resident horses she is gaining more confidence. I call her and Echo our one resident mare the curious trouble makers :) She wasn't even afraid of the 4-wheeler when she saw it, in fact she would not move out of the way of the 4-wheeler! :)



With love and patience Cinder has been learning a lot and has come a long way since she first came to us in December. She will need a home with a confident person to keep working with her. She is just a big beautiful sweetie :)

For more info please contact the  
**Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue**  
PO Box 47, Zimmerman, MN 55398  
(763) 856-3119 or  
info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org

## Tater Chip

Meet  
Tater Chip:

this handsome pony gelding is friendly and kind. He has wonderful ground manners and will be quite easy to train as he is intelligent and eager. Tater Chip stands 13hh and was foaled around 2006. He could easily be registered Pinto and would make a super-fancy show pony under saddle or in harness. He is a very pretty mover! For more info on adopting Tater Chip please call (763) 856-3119 or email info@mnhoovedanimalrescue.org. Please visit us on the web at www.mnhoovedanimalrescue.org to see all of our available horses, ponies and mules!



## Charles Wilhelm: Ultimate Foundation Training from Start to Finish --Dealing With a Horse That Bites or Kicks--

What causes a horse to start biting or kicking? What can we do about it? A horse will bite or kick most frequently in an enclosed area like a stall, a stall and paddock or in cross ties. Every time you approach your horse, you have an opportunity to "read" your horse. As you approach the stall, the horse's ears may be back or there may be some aggressive behavior like pawing. This may be because you brought a treat and the horse is anxious and demanding. The horse is getting a little cranky, telling you to hurry up and give him the treat. The demeanor of the horse is not pleasant. Sometimes we do not recognize this behavior as a red flag. We pass it off thinking that the horse just wants his treat or to be fed. The horse has just bit or kicked you and you just didn't recognize it.

When a horse exhibits this type of behavior, it will become a pattern and the horse will become more aggressive. This behavior may have been going on for years or maybe it only started a month ago. You approach the stall and the ears go back. You don't think anything about it, but just push your way into the stall and hal-

ter your horse. But, the thought is as good as the deed, and one day the horse will actually bite or strike out. When you approach the stall and the horse exhibits a negative attitude, he is demonstrating how he is thinking about you. There is no respect for you and the horse is not greeting you in a friendly way. If you don't deal with it, the aggression will increase.

I learned this lesson the hard way over many years. I remember once I went through the same situation and I failed to recognize the signals. I entered a stall and fortunately I had on a leather jacket because as I turned my back to the horse, he bit me on the shoulder and actually tossed me across the stall. Since then, I have become more aware of the body language of the horses I work with. I keep in mind that the thought is as good as the deed.

Another situation that may occur is that as you approach the stall the horse turns his hind quarters to you or, as you approach, the horse pins his ears and turns presenting his hind quarters. If you ignore the behavior and enter the stall, the horse will get more protective of his stall. The aggression will

increase until the horses bite or kicks you.

Kicking and biting are very natural ways that horses deal with each other in the herd environment. We are way too frail to allow this behavior and the way to solve this problem is very simple. I've had a lot of good comments from people who walk through my main barn. There are 25 horses and at any given time, even when they all know it is feeding time, they do not exhibit aggressive behavior. They are not lunging against the stall

doors. They are not pawing or kicking or showing any impatient behavior.

When I have a horse that exhibits negative behavior as I approach, I have a halter with me and pitch it right at the stall. The idea is not to hit the horse or hurt the horse but to startle it. In other words, to distract its thoughts because remember, the thought is as good as the deed. When you approach and the ears are back or the hind quarters are turned toward the door, throw a halter or something at the door.

Make enough noise to distract the horse. A plastic bucket also works well for this. The horse may jump or go to the other end of the stall but you have distracted the thought. You have to do this each time the horse exhibits the behavior. You have to be consistent. Every time you approach the stall and the horse exhibits negative behavior you must respond and distract the horse.

The same is true with a horse who turns his hind quarters as you approach. I take it further than distracting and teach the horses to face me as I go into the stall. I have a hard time putting a halter on a horse's hind end. I always make sure they turn and face me and present themselves politely. To get the horse to turn and face you, bang the gate and make a noise. If the horse does not turn, tap it on the hind quarters with a lunge stick just until the horse moves his feet and turns. This is what I call stall manners. Some people think the stall belongs to the horse and he can do anything he likes. I disagree with that. When I walk into a stall, I want good behavior, positive behavior, I want the horse thinking about me in a respectful way.

Remember, if you get bitten or kicked for the first time, it really wasn't the first time. It started days, weeks, months or even years ago because the thought is as good as the deed. Also, remember that it is never, ever the horse's fault.

Internationally known and respected horse trainer Charles Wilhelm is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training which combines the best of traditional, classical and natural horsemanship. This method is applicable to every riding discipline. Charles is one of the few clinicians who is known for his superb skills in communicating with and motivating people as well as horses. His training methods reflect his motto, "It's Never, Ever the Horse's Fault".

Charles' warm and relaxed demeanor has made him a favorite at regional and national clinics and demonstrations. His training center in Castro Valley, California is among the top equine educational facilities in Northern California. Charles offers extensive hands-on learning programs for every level of horsemanship. Learn more at [www.charleswilhelm.com](http://www.charleswilhelm.com)



Theodore Roosevelt National Park Wild Horse Sale  
September 28, 11 am  
Wishek Livestock Sales, Wishek North Dakota

for more information on horses contact:  
Marylu Weber, marylu.weber@gmail.com or  
Deb Fjetland, dlfelch@msn.com

<http://www.wisheklivestock.com>  
For photos and descriptions see [www.trnphorses.phanfare.com](http://www.trnphorses.phanfare.com)

**PROFESSIONAL FARRIER PROGRAM**  
**MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF HORSESHOEING**

6250 Riverdale Drive NW  
Ramsey, MN 55303  
763-427-5850  
800-257-5850

[www.mnschoolofhorseshoeing.com](http://www.mnschoolofhorseshoeing.com)

LEARN WHY IT'S NEVER EVER THE HORSE'S FAULT

## Charles Wilhelm

HORSEMANSHIP, CONFIDENCE, PERFORMANCE

**DVD SPECIALS:**

- Ground Manners, Leading & Loading
- Colt Starting
- Round Pen Logic
- Suppling & Riding Exercises
- Trick Training
- Ranch Versatility
- Solving Trail Problems
- Snaffles, Bridles & Hackamores: Proper Bit, Proper Fit
- Solving Pullback Problems, Cinchiness, Handling Feet & Legs

**2013 price - Buy any 4 for \$99.95**  
Check out our website for more Specials!

Charles Wilhelm Training, in partnership with:

**New! De-spooking and Crossing Objects Video**

Watch Charles on HRTV DISH TV Channel 404  
Shows air Sunday at 6:30 pm & 9:30 pm PST

[www.charleswilhelm.com](http://www.charleswilhelm.com)  
510.886.9000

Advertise Your Products  
and Services in the  
Valley Equestrian  
Newspaper  
and  
**REACH YOUR  
TARGET MARKET**

For Reasonable and Competitive Rates  
Contact:  
Kari Hagstrom @ (320) 766-2620  
Kari.venews@hotmail.com  
Ley Bouchard @ (701) 361-8648  
leybou@gmail.com



# COWBOY POETRY WITH ORV

## BOARDED A TRAIN WITH PITCHFORK AND A SUITCASE (AT VERNDALE, MN.)

### LATE FOR WORK? DEFINE SLOW

Sore backs and headaches from 300 miles they'd logged, They had slept on that slow train, as it jerked and joggled; They were pitching bundles as high as they could reach; Blisters and aches were real, not figures of speech. Although sunburned, they welcomed the orange setting sun As their first bundle pitching day was finally done. They were both overtired, but they had no remorse; Because they had said, "There were as healthy as a horse."

### DEW WE THRESH OR DEW WE WAIT?

The moist dew in the morning, caused a slight delay; As the kernels would be difficult to shell that day. The steam engine was set with it's back to the wind; The 'spike' feeder pitchers were steady and disciplined; They were spacing the rising bundles, like clockwork; They must keep the feeder full, they must not shirk. The whirling cylinder 'ate' the bundles and twine; While another load waited, powered by equine.

### THE WIND AND THE EQUIPMENT CHANGE DIRECTION

When the wind switched the threshing machine was shut down; After clanging decibels there now was no sound. The big steamer took a half acre to get turned. It was huffing and puffing from the coal it burned. Then reset the thresher so it could blow a while; Blow the straw with the wind, to form a straw pile. It seemed that whenever the wind would change it's course In the commotion, someone held a skittish horse.

### BEARS AND CHAFF WERE NO LAUGHING MATTER

The breeze blew the light chaff, though only a speck In one's pockets, eyelids, hair, mouth, and down one's neck. It wasn't worth itching, as it was soon replaced, By more blowing chaff and dust and evenly spaced. The bundle haulers came in from the farthest end To turn the load over, to spike pitchers, to tend. It seemed there was one in every crowd, of course, Refusing to go near the noise, that skittish horse.

### WILD HORSES 'COULD' KEEP THEM AWAY

Some horses were scarcely broke or what they called green; They backed, bucked and balked at the loud threshing machine. Somewhat trained 'wild horses' could keep them away, they said; It was the grinding, rumbling metal they would dread. The bridle's blinders prevented them from knowing What's behind them. But the raging chains showing, And sprockets were in-their-face and it caused remorse For anyone that brought a half-broke, skittish horse.

### MOST LIKELY A GHOST

My great uncle walked home very late by moonlight, Took a short-cut through a cemetery that night. Bone-tired from threshing he found something he had to prove, When he saw something 'white' and then saw it MOVE! He chased after it, cornered it and with one leap He caught it. It wasn't a ghost, it was a sheep! Here was a guy who at that time spoke only Norse; For his next trip home from threshing, he rode a horse.

### CULTURE SHOCK?

Some employees met people that were extra nice; For some it was a hobby, their only 'life's spice.' Pen pals, addresses, jokes and stories were passed on. Friendships and meals remembered long after they're gone. Some young German soldiers were prisoners of war; So this folklore will your faith in humans restore. They worked beside Americans without remorse, As they were released to join the threshing workforce.

© Copyright Orv Alvshere, Fargo, N.D.


# Sassy: An Oldest Horse Story

Here is a picture of my horse Sassy. She is 32 years old. Her full name is Miss Sassy Nodak. The horse with her is her last colt, Nodak; he is 20 years old!

\*\* Note (This Spring was pretty hard on Sassy. She had a back leg injury and and, as you can see, isn't keeping weight on it like she did the year before. The first picture was taken in 2012; the last one was taken about a month ago.

Sassy was born in May of 1981. We were given Sassy to us by my parents when we were married in 1988, so we have owned her for 25 years! Nodak is my brother's horse. They have had an easy life of luxury going on a few trail rides. They have both been spoiled and have spent most of their lives as pasture ornaments!! We love them both dearly.

Submitted by Roxanne & Todd Baumgartner Litchville, ND

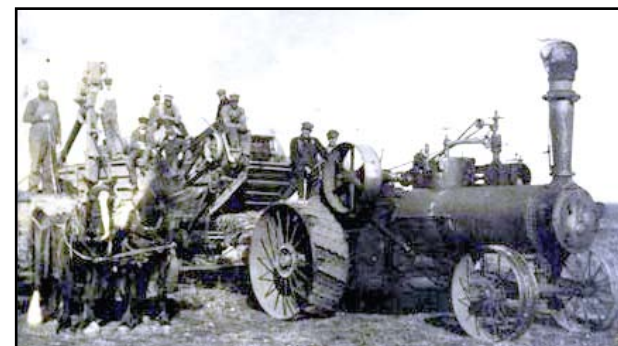
## The Oldest Horse

**The Valley Equestrian Newspaper loves older horses! Tell us about yours!**

**Send a photo and description (short or long) of your old horse (age 25 or 30+) for publication in an upcoming issue of the Valley Equestrian Newspaper.**

**Email: thevenews@gmail.com or mail a photo (with stamped returned envelope) to: The VEN, PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580**

Right: John Starsved, Sr. by the tractor's wheel and threshing crew near Hendrum, Minn. Family archives



# Training Insights with Richard Shrake

## By Fran Lynghaug

I spent some time with renowned trainer, Richard Shrake at the 2013 Minnesota Horse Expo. Shrake is well known for his numerous professional successes and I have much respect for him. For the last 35 years he has judged major breed shows and is well known for his Resistance Free® training techniques.

Regardless of his many accomplishments, I found Shrake to be down-to-earth, personable, and unpretentious. He genuinely cares about helping people and their horses and I watched him easily connect with horse owners as they asked him questions about their equine problems.

He emphasizes that he is a teacher, not an entertainer. His purpose in running clinics is to help owners with their horses, not to entertain a crowd. Without a lot of people around, the atmosphere is more relaxed and owners and horses can concentrate.

He likes to teach owners one-on-one and prefers to help those who aren't planning to sell their horse. This is very important because it can mentally affect the horse if the owner intends to sell it. Owners should genuinely like their horse and truly care about it.

Shrake reads the body language of owners as well as their horses and can spot problems with an owner's equine relationships as well as problems with their riding. If an owner has a problematic way of riding, it can confuse and upset the horse. A major concern is when an owner asks a horse to do something it knows it can't do, but the owner is unaware of it. That is why Shrake emphasizes the need to learn about the reactions of prey animals such as horses and how they think.

Shrake takes seriously the questions that owners may ask, such

as why it is important to teach a horse to disengage it's hind end (because if it uses it's hind end, it will develop it's hind end). He teaches why his techniques work and the absolutes of Resistant Free® training, which is a gentler way of training horses. He wants owners to understand the process and asks them

questions as they are progressing.

I listened as Shrake coached a client on techniques to use with her off-the-track Standardbred horse. The client had seen Shrake's demos and we both listened closely as he explained briefly the basics of his training.



Richard Shrake teaches in many settings and in many different ways through lecture, storytelling and demonstration. Photos by Ley Bouchard

He defined three different training "zones" a horse will identify with mentally. The "green zone" is the comfort zone where the horse is eating and relaxing, his endorphin levels are high, and he enjoys it there. The "yellow zone" is where the horse is actively working or training and he will try to learn quickly when he is there so he can get back to the green zone. The "red zone" is where the horse is misbehaving or otherwise acting like something explosive is about to happen.

Shrake remarked that it is wonderful when an owner looks to a pro for help with their horse.

Shrake has instructed over 40 World Championship youth and amateur winners, judged 16 World Championship Shows for five major pleasure breeds, and the list goes on. For more information, contact www.richard-shrake.com or call 541-593-1389.

Fran Lynghaug is a co-author of the book, "Dennis Brouse on Horse Training: Bonding With Your Horse Through Gentle Leadership", Quayside Publishing. Her website is www.equestrian-horses.com

Available now! DENNIS BROUSE ON HORSE TRAINING Bonding With Your Horse Through Gentle Leadership

The new book by Saddle Up! host Dennis Brouse with Fran Lynghaug

INCLUDES A 30-MINUTE TRAINING DVD!

This new book covers Brouse's pioneering and unique training methods, focusing on cooperation, encouragement and partnership. All the key horse training topics are covered with clear and concise direction and photography. Help fix your horses - not "break" them!



## Heat Alert!

The Valley Equestrian Newspaper reminds you to protect your horse, dog, cat and small children who travel with you this summer:

- Park in the shade.
- Be sure to keep trailers, trucks and cars well ventilated--open those windows. The best option: Leave them at home. Don't let sentiment override safety. Vehicle interiors can become dangerously hot in minutes, resulting in the death of your pet.
- Take pets along only when going to the vet, or a known destination where they can exit the vehicle. They don't need to go shopping with you!
- Err on the side of caution. Live to enjoy another day!

**The Valley Equestrian News** wishes you a safe and fun summer with your animals!

See the entire Valley Equestrian Newspaper at:

## www.theveonline.com

Check out our Facebook page for news during the month!



# ROASTED TO PERFECTION

**Nevala Ranch and Adeline Nevala proudly feed Roasted to Perfection to our champions!**

We feel this feed is a great match for our performance horses. We are on the road competing almost every weekend of the year and we have found while feeding RTP our horses are able to continue to compete at a high level week after week. Before trying RTP, our horses just seemed to run out of energy. Our horses look great, maintain their weight (even with all the stresses of hauling and competing) and stay sane. We highly suggest this feed for your horse program and would love to talk to about RTP and our experience with it!

2013:  
BBR Youth Champion- Oklahoma City, OK  
National Jr High School Rodeo Finals- Third Place Overall Barrel Race & Reserve AQHA Girls Horse of the Year - Gallup, NM  
Fast Time - Race for The Roses - Fergus Falls, MN  
Multiple Go Round Winner at Jr High Rodeos and BBR/UBRA/WPRA Barrel Races

2012:  
TS Productions Derby 1D Average Winner  
LD Ranch Derby 1D Average Winner-plus fast time of the weekend  
Overall TS Productions/LD Ranch High Money Earner 1D Derby Saddle Winner  
MBRA Maturity Average Winner  
Cowgirl Tuff Slot Race 1D Saddle Winner  
Cowgirl Tuff 1D Average Winner  
Northern Region Barrel Futurity Tour - 1D Derby Champion - Saddle Winner  
Minnesota Barrel Racing Association Rodeo Division Saddle Winner (record earnings)  
WPRA Great Lakes Circuit Junior Champion  
UBRA MN Youth Champion- Saddle Winner

"A balanced diet promotes a healthy, long lived, content horse that will be up to the task it is asked to perform."



Put your horse in the **Pink** with **Roasted To Perfection** horse feed.

Works for all ages and disciplines.

Go to [www.RoastedToPerfection.com](http://www.RoastedToPerfection.com) for dealer info.

Nothing will be attempted if all possible objections must be first overcome.  
--Samuel Johnson



## Adventure RV Center

Exit 343 on I-94  
Horse Trailers  
Priced to Sell!  
RVs, too!



2013  
Bison  
8310  
Stratus  
Express:

\$48,642.00



2013  
Bison  
8010  
Stratus  
Express:

\$48,620.00



2013  
Bison  
Stratus  
8412  
Express:

\$48,620.00



2013  
Horse  
Trailer  
7380  
Bison  
Stratus LT  
Express:

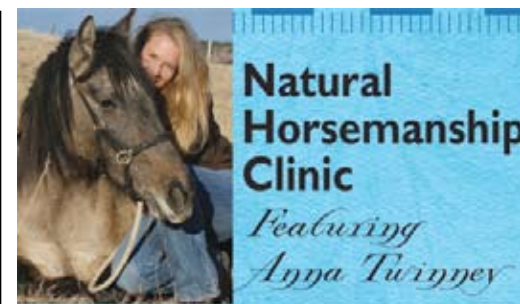
**On Order**  
\$32,987.00

[www.adventurervsales.com/](http://www.adventurervsales.com/)  
701-277-1165

## For the Hoof of It: Farrier's Tips for You and Your Horse

During very hot, dry weather conditions, a good way to keep your horse's hooves from becoming dry, brittle, and cracked is to over-flow your water tank. Soak up the area near your water tank where your horse normally stands, so that she has to stand in the moist, muddy earth. This will help to keep your horse's feet moisturized and healthy, and you won't have to go out so often to apply Hoof-Flex. It will also make your farrier's job easier the next time he trims your horse's hooves--they won't be cracked, dried-out, and hard to cut. It can take several soakings, just letting the water hose run on the ground to get it nice and muddy, and to keep it that way. Notice how far away from the tank your horse stands: some will try to avoid getting their feet wet and stand further out, so you may need to soak-up a bigger area.

From Chris Barrows,  
Chris Barrows Farrier Service



**Natural Horsemanship Clinic**  
Featuring  
Anna Twinney

Internationally renowned Natural and Holistic Horsemanship Clinician Anna Twinney will share her insights on trust-based partnership between humans and horses, and lead a discussion on animal communication. It will change the way you look at your horse!

November 22-25, 2013

Friday  
Animal Communication

Saturday & Sunday  
Natural Horsemanship Clinic

Monday  
Private Lessons

Participate with your horse or audit. Visit our website for details and pricing.

[www.SpiritHorseCenterInc.com](http://www.SpiritHorseCenterInc.com)  
218-825-4944  
[info@spirithorsecenterinc.com](mailto:info@spirithorsecenterinc.com)  
8386 50th Avenue, Brainerd, MN 56401



# POWER PACKAGE

**0% INTEREST FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS**  
OR 0/0/0 FINANCING. PLUS, UP TO \$500 IN REBATES WHEN YOU BUNDLE IMPLEMENTS WITH YOUR TRACTOR!



**PACKAGE SPECIAL**  
MODEL 3616 CAB W/LDR  
\$360 PER MONTH  
\$0 DOWN PAYMENT, 0%  
Save big when you purchase a Mahindra tractor and 2 Mahindra implements. Hurry in while supplies last!

**INCLUDES OUR 5-YEAR POWERTRAIN WARRANTY**  
With the Mahindra Pride - Military Appreciation Program there are additional discounts available for our service members and veterans. \*No interest and no payments until January 1, 2014. Interest and payments begin January 1, 2014 (based on contract date). Interest/payment-free period is not in addition to contract term. With approved credit. Discounts may vary by model. Program restrictions may apply. See dealer for details. Offer expires September 30, 2013.

## Lillegard Inc. Mahindra Rise.

17851 Hwy 13 West • Wahpeton, ND  
(701) 642-9129 • [www.lillegardinc.com](http://www.lillegardinc.com)  
Mahindra is the world's #1 selling tractor.

2013 Max 22 Hydro 4WD w/Loader	\$0 down 0% 84 mo. @ \$177/mo.	
2013 4010 Hydro 4WD w/Loader 40hp	\$0 down 0% 84 mo. @ \$296/mo.	
2013 3016 Hydro 4WD w/Loader 30hp	\$0 down 0% 84 mo. @ \$241/mo.	
2013 5010 Hydro 4WD w/Loader 80hp, cab, AC/htr.	\$0 down 0% 84 mo. @ \$400/mo.	

"Big or small ... we feed 'em all."

**DRIVE-THRU FEED**  
651-463-4793  
Joe & Marilyn Palma  
Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm / Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
26009 Galaxie Avenue • Farmington, MN 55024

Serving Canterbury Park Horses for Over 25 Years.  
Tack • Gifts • Specialized Feeds • Delivery

[www.palmafeed.com](http://www.palmafeed.com)

**Chris Barrows Farrier Service**  
Quality Hoof Trimming and Shoeing

Chris Barrows  
Certified Farrier

Parkers Prairie, MN 320-219-1204

Happy Hooves Makes A Happy Horse

**'Roasted To Perfection' Available Here**

**Farmers Elevator**  
225 E. Hampden Ave.  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
(218) 736-3301  
**Jeff Springer**  
Feed Manager

**Anderson Horsemanship** Building a Lasting Relationship

• Colt Starting • Training • Therapeutic Riding • Lessons  
• Clinics • Day Camps

**David Anderson**  
27217 560th Ave.  
Alberta, MN 56207  
Ph: (218) 205-7331  
Email: [andersonhorsemanship@gmail.com](mailto:andersonhorsemanship@gmail.com)

**WillStar RIDING ACADEMY**

WillStar Riding Academy Northern Minnesota's Only Certified Riding Academy Offering: • Lessons by Experienced and Certified Riding Instructors • Education for Horse Enthusiasts including Equine Science Courses • Equine Nutrition • Saddle & Bridle Fitting • Equestrian Athlete Physical Training, plus much more • Structured and Organized Lesson Curriculum so riders know before they take lessons what they will learn.

• All-in-one courses from Beginners to Advanced Equestrians.  
US Pony Club Center and Certified Horsemanship Assoc. Center.  
• Onsite Performance Tack Store: Cowgirl Tuff Clothing, Back on Track Horse Products, Classic Equine, Cashel & Martin. We ONLY carry High Quality Fixed Ration Horse Feeds that include Roasted to Perfection and Triple Crown Horse feeds.

WillStar Riding Academy L.L.C.  
WillStar Performance Tack and Feed  
[www.willstarridingacademy.com](http://www.willstarridingacademy.com)  
2344 Balsam Rd NW, Bemidji, MN 56601  
[Willstar@paulbunyan.net](mailto:Willstar@paulbunyan.net)  
218-444-8626 NEW PHONE NUMBER

**ROASTED TO PERFECTION**



## Pretty in Pink!



You may not be able to see it here in black and white, so check it out in full color on our web site: [www.theveonline.com](http://www.theveonline.com). This young lady has a pink headband, shirt and boots while her horse Izzy is decked out in a pink bridle, headstall, reins, wraps, saddle blanket and possibly more than that we don't see. She is sure to make a fashion statement now and in the future!

This little gal is intense! Megan Larson, 7-year-old daughter of Sally and Brandon Larson of Hoople, N.D. rounds the barrel with her horse, Izzy, a 7-year-old half Arab/Quarter Horse cross. Megan has been riding independently since she was 4 years old and been running Izzy on barrels for a little more than a year. "Megan is a very determined little girl and loves to ride horse," said her Mom, Sally. "These two are a team." Megan was riding at the MayPort Arena near Portland, N.D. Facebook fans speculate about what Megan is saying to her horse in this photo. Sally says, "I'm sure it's 'Yeah!' [There's] never enough speed for Megan and always nerve racking for mom."

Photo by Janet Meyer

## Presenting the Presenter at the Minnesota EquiFest

*Editor's Note: The Valley Equestrian Newspaper features presenters from the MN EquiFest, Oct. 12-13. In this segment, meet Nita Jo Rush.*

VEN: Did you train with Parelli?

NJR: Yes, I've taken many courses from Pat, from 10 weeks long to one week. I've taken colt starting courses from him as well as "fundamentals of performance" courses. Fortunately for me, I also spent two winters in Florida studying with him and riding his horses. He's a fantastic teacher! I've also studied many weeks with Linda Parelli, as well as taken several clinics from one or two of my fellow instructors who have more experience than I do or expertise (like cow working) that I don't have.

VEN: How long have you been a certified Parelli trainer?

NJR: Since 1997. I've advanced up the ladder and have been one of about twenty 4-Star instructors in the U.S. since 2010. There

are about 300 instructors world-wide. I'm also a "Horse Development Specialist" which means I have Pat's endorsement to work with young horses as well as take them through development of a foundation.

I discovered Pat's book in a tack shop in August, 1995, bought it. Two years later, I was accepted into the instructor program (now called the Parelli Professionals' Program) and took the one filly (a lovely Quarter Horse), by then a three-year-old, to Pagosa Springs for my first course there.

VEN: Who is your typical student?

NJR: The typical new Parelli student is a recreational rider, usually a woman, who's either run into problems she can't solve on her own (like trailer loading, or a horse who won't go, or won't "whoa", bucks, bites, etc.), has perhaps been hurt and lost confidence, or simply wants to become handler. I do get young people and some

oldsters--and now and then a guy! There are students of Parelli who were once successful competitors or sport specialists. Julie Krone, the hall-of-fame woman jockey, studied with Parelli when she quit racing, for example.



VEN: What are you presenting at the Minnesota EquiFest?

NJR: I'll be doing demonstrations as well as giving classroom presentations. How to teach a horse to load himself in the trailer, calmly and easily, will be one demo topic for sure. There will be classroom discussions on topics such as "horsenality" (the Parelli term for a horse's personality) and what that means for training.

Check out the MN EquiFest web site: [www.minnesotaequifest.com](http://www.minnesotaequifest.com)

## LITTLE KNOWN BLACK HORSE TAMERS OF THE OLD WEST

by Janice M. Ladendorf

Some black cowboys showed a special affinity with horses. One mustanger understood mustangs so well that he could be accepted by a wild herd. Another cowboy could gentle most horses by persuading them to cooperate with him.

Bob Lemmons became a legend in his own time. He had developed an unusual method of catching mustangs. Once he had selected a herd to follow, he kept his scent the same by changing neither his clothes nor his horse. Cowboys knew they should not come near him, but would leave food for him in a tree. He always approached the herd downwind so they could catch his familiar scent. After the herd accepted him, he acted like a wild horse. He smelled for danger, snorted when he found it, and led the stampede away from it. He gradually took over leadership of the herd until they followed him into captivity. His method kept the horses in good condition and avoided injury. His white neighbors both

respected and liked him. Natural horsemanship probably did not begin in the twentieth century. A black cowboy may have used this approach to horse taming in the late 1800's. He worked for the Lang horse ranch in the North Dakota Badlands. They ran about five hundred horses in their operation. The owners did not believe in bronc busting because it all too often broke the horse's spirit. They believed in gentling and found a mulatto named Williams who could handle horses the way they preferred. He was "a past master of the art - cool, collected, apparently fearless - if there was anything he didn't know about handling horses, we never found it out. Moreover, if there was a horse in the range country who could throw him, nobody ever produced one. None the less, it was never his way to exert his supremacy forcefully unless compelled to do so. On the contrary, it was his idea to establish friendly relations with his pupils. Nine times out of ten he succeeded, having ways of his own that horses seemed to like and understand. ...As far as I ever

knew, Williams was the first to introduce sane horse-breaking methods into our section of the country."

Sources: Dobie, J. Frank. *The Mustangs*. Austin, University of Texas Press, 1934, pp. 235-240.

Lang, Lincoln. *Ranching with Roosevelt*. J.B. Lippincott Co., 1926. pp. 286-7.

For over fifty years, Janice Ladendorf has been studying horsemanship and training her own horses. She is the author of three books, *Practical Dressage for Amateur Trainers*, *A Marvelous Mustang: Tales from the Life of a Spanish Horse*, and *Heart of a Falcon*, as well as many articles about using humane training methods to build a partnership with your horse. She has a B.A. in History and a M.A. in library science. In her advanced studies, she has focused on inter and intra species communication. She has been a librarian, an inventory analyst, and an accountant. She is currently retired and lives in St. Paul, MN.

## Covered Wagon Parade Starts Pioneer Days

WEST FARGO, ND Bonanzaville celebrated their 55th Annual Pioneer Days August 16-18. The 2nd Annual Crossing of the Red River Ceremony began on Friday, August 16th. This ceremony celebrates the settling of North Dakota with pioneers on five covered wagons, driven by the members of the Red River Harness and Saddle Club, with outriders, crossing the Red River and making their way to Bonanzaville! Viewers watched the wagons begin their voyage at the 1st Ave N Bridge at 3:30 p.m.

As the wagons crossed the bridge and entered into North Dakota, they were welcomed and presented with the North Dakota flag. The pioneers

then began the two-hour journey to Bonanzaville bearing the North Dakota flag as a ceremonial symbol of the settling of our great state. Upon arrival at Bonanzaville, there was a closing ceremony and a street dance from 6 to 8 pm by the band Poitin to kickoff Pioneer Days!

This year's event included a production of the "Orphan Train," a Native American Powwow, an accordion band, costume contests, demonstrators, vendors, food, entertainers and performers, children's games, pony rides, Dakota Kid Clown, Barrel Train Rides, Horse Drawn Wagon Rides, a presentation on European migration to the Red River Valley, and much more!

Bonanzaville is a pioneer village and museum oper-

ated by the Cass County Historical Society, with a mission to collect, display and interpret artifacts relevant to the history and cultural heritage of the Red River Valley. It is the region's largest historical attraction with 43 buildings, and more than 400,000 artifacts. The collections include a car museum, air museum, tractor museum, model railroad, Fargo's First House, the Case Eagle, and the Houston House among the many things to experience when visiting Bonanzaville.

For more information on any upcoming events, to volunteer, or to plan a special event on site, please contact Emily Wehlander at (701)282-2822 or at [ewehandler@bonanzaville.com](mailto:ewehandler@bonanzaville.com)



Members of the Red River Harness and Saddle Club drive their wagons with outriders for the 55th Annual Pioneer Days Parade through Moorhead, Minn., Fargo and West Fargo, ND, Aug. 16.

Photo by Kim Utke

## Protect pollinators while trying to protect your crops

Ag News Wire  
By Robert Koch and Marla Spivak, Entomologists, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. PAUL, Minn. (8/13/2013)--Honey bees and native bees forage in and near soybean and cornfields, especially during dry weather. When treatment decisions are being made for pests of these crops, it is important to consider minimizing the risk to these pollinators.

Bees are the most important pollinators of our fruits, vegetables, and crops including alfalfa hay that feed our farm animals. Honey bees and thousands of native bee species rely on the flowers they pollinate for good nutrition and health. Bees are being pushed to the tipping point by various factors, such as disruption of natural habitats, diseases and parasites, and widespread overuse of pesticides.

Producer knowledge of basic bee biology can help protect bees from pesticides. Bees forage throughout the growing season from sun up to

sun down when temperatures are above 50 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Honey bees fly an average of two miles on each foraging trip, searching for flowers over an 8,000-acre area surrounding the hive or apiary. Native bees generally fly within half mile of their nest. If flowers are blooming, bees will forage on them.

Beekeepers cannot close up the hive during a pesticide application because the bees will suffocate. Moving the bees is not a viable option because bees return to their original site unless they are moved out of their foraging range, which is more than three miles away. Locations to place bee hives are difficult to come by, and it is even harder to find locations where the bees are out of range of pesticide application.

In a July 3, 2013 article in the NDSU Crop and Pest Report, Janet Knodel provided several general recommendations for reducing pesticide risks to pollinators:

- Know and communicate with beekeepers about pesticide application schedules and products.

- Use economic thresholds and other IPM strategies. Economic thresholds ensure that pesticides are used only when crop losses prevented by pesticide use are greater than the cost of the pesticide and the application.
- Use pesticides with low toxicity and low residual to bees. For example, avoid using dusts or wettable powder insecticide formulations because they generally are more toxic to bees.
- Evening or early morning applications are the least harmful to bees because fewer bees are foraging.
- Never apply pesticides outdoors on a windy day (winds higher than 10 mph) which could cause spray drift problems.

Honey bees and native bees visit the flowers of soybean and many flowering weeds growing in and near soybean fields. As soybean aphid populations continue build-

ing throughout the state, aphid management should take these pollinators into consideration.

The University of Minnesota recommends making treatment decisions based on scouting program (i.e., getting into the field and counting aphids) and the following economic threshold for R1 (beginning bloom) to R5.5 (seeds expanding in pods) soybean: treat if populations are increasing, the majority (at least 80%) of plants are infested, and average aphid counts exceed 250 aphids per plant. This threshold can protect yields, reduce costs, conserve natural enemies of aphids and other pests, and reduce the risk of pests developing resistance to pesticides.

Treating soybean aphid populations when they exceed this threshold will minimize unnecessary pesticide applications and reduce pollinator exposure to pesticides.

Honey bees and native bees can be found foraging in cornfields, especially when pollen is available during tasseling and silking. Pesticide applications made during these growth stages may put pollinators at risk. The emerging problem of corn rootworm resistance to Bt traits may result in increased pesticide applications during these crop growth stages when the adult rootworm beetles are active. Furthermore, these growth stages are critical for protection of sweet corn against

certain caterpillar pests. Consider pollinators when making management decisions for certain corn pests. When using pesticides, always read and follow the label directions. Labels for some products/formulations with high toxicity to bees will provide specific directions for minimizing risk to pollinators. The label is the law.

Keeping these recommendations in mind will help you to protect honey bees and other pollinators while you use pesticides to protect your crops.

To learn more about bee health from Extension, visit <http://www1.extension.umn.edu/garden/honeybees/>



Books by  
*Janice Ladendorf*  
[www.jladendorf.com](http://www.jladendorf.com)

Available at Amazon.com or BN.com

**Social Media**

Does it have you  
**Jumping for Joy**  
or jumping out the window?

**Let us make it better.**  
Marketing-Social Media Management-Public Relations  
Specifically tailored for the equine industry  
[www.backfortymarketing.com](http://www.backfortymarketing.com)

**BACK FORTY**  
Media and Marketing



# COWBOYS, COWGIRLS, CATTLE, AND THOROUGHBREDS TO CUT LOOSE AT PIMLICO

When the Retired Racehorse Training Project announced that 26 Thoroughbred ex-racehorses would appear at Pimlico Racecourse in Baltimore, Maryland to demonstrate their talent for second careers, nobody envisioned a western invasion of Maryland hunt country.

The majority of the demonstrations at the October 5 and 6 Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium will feature the traditional English sports that Thoroughbreds have excelled in for centuries, but today R RTP announced that the western disciplines will move in on Pimlico in a big way.

"When one of our trainers, Dale Simanton, requested some cattle for his demonstration at Pimlico, we all thought he was kidding," said R RTP president Stuart Pittman. "We didn't think our friends at Maryland Jockey Club would let cattle anywhere near their race-track, but we were wrong. So we had a conference call with Dale and his crew and decided he should not bring just one ranch horse,

he should bring as many as he could fit in his trailer so we could host a full ranch rodeo demonstration."

Dale's South Dakota ranch is home to Gate to Great, a program that retrains Thoroughbreds off the track to do the ranch

that will now be making an appearance at the R RTP Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium. In addition to his Makeover horse, Drake's Dancer (aka Duck), Dale will bring four off-track Thoroughbred geldings that are fully trained in ranch work and

Dale won't be alone in bringing a Makeover horse that knows how to work cattle. To top off the western flavor of the weekend, Saturday will also feature an off-track Thoroughbred barrel competition that includes Thoroughbred Makeover contestant Nikki and Symphonic Cat. Like Dale, Nikki also hails from the west, she is a native of Paso Robles, California. And while she is training Symphonic Cat for barrel racing and

gymkhana, she has also done a cattle drive and a team penning competition with him. "It's what we do with our horses out here," said the twenty-two year old Nikki, "and Thoroughbreds off the track are my horse of choice."

The barrel race will also feature the winner and four runners-up from this

at www.retiredracehorse-training.org.

*Dale Simanton and Drake's Dancer--Photographer Dorothy Snowden*

*Nikki Egyed and Symphonic Cat--Photographer Double S Ranch Photography*

The R RTP Thoroughbred Makeover and National

and in special demonstrations from top horses in many of these disciplines. The weekend includes a trade fair and an evening celebration with Thoroughbred Storytelling by very special guests.

*The Retired Racehorse Training Project (R RTP) is a 501@3 charitable organization working to increase*



summer's Extreme Retired Racehorse Makeover Barrel Race held in Ohio. "These girls have more fun with their Thoroughbreds than should be legal," said Jackie Harris, the founder of the Dreaming of Three Foundation and barrel racing promoter who organized the event. "We plan to light up the race track and show the East Coast what their Thoroughbreds can do." The western invasion will take place on Saturday afternoon and evening during the Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium at Pimlico Racecourse. More information and tickets are available online

Symposium will be held October 5 and 6 at Pimlico Racecourse in Baltimore, Maryland. The event will feature two full days of educational seminars, meetings, demonstrations, and the culmination of the Thoroughbred Makeover. 26 trainers from 15 states in ten equestrian disciplines will demonstrate what their horses have learned in just three months of second career training. Polo, dressage, eventing, barrel racing, cattle work, police work, hunters, jumpers, natural horsemanship, and tricks will be featured both by the Makeover horses

*demand for retired Thoroughbred race horses as pleasure and sport horses through public events, clinics, training publications, videos and internet tools. Our mission is to facilitate the placement of retired Thoroughbred racehorses in second careers by educating the public about the history, distinctive characteristics, versatility of use, and appropriate care and training of the iconic American Thoroughbred. More information may be found at www.retiredracehorse-training.org .*



Send to:  
The Valley Equestrian News  
PO Box 64  
Sabin MN 56580  
or email:  
theVENews@gmail.com



**Share your old family photos of horses, homesteads, & equipment with other VEN readers!**

# The Horse and Human Connection

By Erika Berg

A four-year-old girl with cerebral palsy takes her first independent steps; a veteran with PTSD is able to go to the grocery store without panic; a young boy with autism speaks his first words; and a woman with multiple sclerosis finds her legs again. They all share a common experience – and that experience is time with a horse. Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) encompasses a broad range of therapies or activities that involves partnering humans and horses with the intention of a therapeutic outcome. The primary difference between equine assisted therapies and equine assisted activities is that a licensed, credentialed therapist must be directly providing the therapy in partnership with the equine and equine professional for it to be considered equine assisted therapy.

The two primary types of equine therapy are hippotherapy and equine facilitated psychotherapy. Hippotherapy (hippos is Greek for horse) is a physical, occupational or speech language therapy that utilizes the horse's movement to facilitate a functional outcome in the patient (the human on the horse's back). In other words, the therapist may be using the horse's movement to increase core muscle strength and range of motion in the patient's hips, making it easier for them to walk. In hippotherapy the licensed, credentialed professional may be a physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech language therapist, physical therapist assistant (under the direction of a physical therapist) or an occupational therapist assistant (under the direction of an occupational therapist).

Equine facilitated psychotherapy is an experiential psychotherapy that includes mutually respectful equine activities done on the ground, typically without riding. Equine facilitated psychotherapy must be facilitated by a licensed, credentialed mental health professional working with a credentialed equine professional (equine specialist). Mental health professionals specialize in the treatment of individuals with psychiatric, psychological, emotional, or behavioral diagnoses and may include psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers or mental health counselors.

Equine assisted activities include therapeutic riding (may also be called therapeutic horsemanship, adaptive riding, developmental riding or sport riding), interactive vaulting, driving (may also be called therapeutic driving), and equine experiential learning (may also be called equine facilitated learning or equine guided coaching). All of these activities are directly supervised by a properly credentialed equine professional who has a good working knowledge of the diagnoses specific to the population of people they are working with.

In therapeutic riding, the instructor teaches riding skills to individuals with different abilities, and adaptive equipment such as specialized reins or other equipment may be used. Interactive vaulting is described as gymnastics on horseback and provides participants with the opportunity to work on and around the horse at the walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope. Driving may be done with a cart (two wheels) or carriage (four wheels) and the vehicle adapted to accommodate wheelchairs. Equine experiential learning may involve unmounted

and/or mounted activities designed to facilitate self-discovery from the participant's perspective. Horsemanship may or may not be an integral focus of the session.

It should be noted that the number one goal for any EAAT program is safety for both human and equine participants. While horses are incredible partners in the healing process of the mind, body and spirit, their flight or fight nature and incredible strength and power must always be respected. Additionally, in-depth knowledge of participants' diagnoses is essential as EAAT may not be appropriate for everyone. Having properly trained and credentialed professionals directly instructing or providing therapy helps to reduce the risk for injury and ensure the safety of everyone involved.

The primary organizations in the U.S. that offer educational opportunities in the area of EAAT and/or certify instructors or therapists include the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.; www.pathintl.org), Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA; www.cha-ashe.org), Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA; www.eagala.org), O.K. Corral Series (www.okcorral.com), American Hippotherapy Association (AHA; www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org), Wisdom Horse Coaching (www.wisdomhorsecoaching.com) and EPONAQUEST (www.eponaquest.com). Look for more articles highlighting EAAT in upcoming issues!

*Erika Berg is an assistant professor of Equine Science at NDSU where she oversees the interdisciplinary Minor in Therapeutic Horsemanship in the Department of Animal Sciences. She holds her Advanced Riding Instructor Certification through PATH Intl., is a PATH Intl. Faculty Evaluator and the current PATH Intl. Chair for the state of ND. She may be reached at erika.berg@ndsu.edu.*

# Dr. Getty Notes: Cecum Exit Defies Gravity

Little known fact: The cecum in a horse has its entrance and exit at the top.

And you should pay attention to this because... For digested material to exit, it has to actually defy gravity! To process food, the cecum contracts to push the contents out the top. To do this critical digestive function, forage needs to be flowing through the digestive system at all times.

Picture a full toothpaste tube that is open. If you squeeze the bottom of the tube, toothpaste will come out the top because it is full. Picture a half empty toothpaste tube, with the paste at the bottom. Squeeze the tube and no toothpaste comes out the top because there isn't enough inside.

Without enough food matter to "fill the tube" (cecum), sand, dirt, and undigested material can remain at the bottom, lead-

ing to colic. Avoiding this is simple: Feed your horse a continuous supply of forage -- all day, and all night. This will keep the cecum full enough to push the contents up to the exit and send them along the digestive/elimination chain.

Worried about weight gain? No need. Feed a low calorie, low NSC hay free choice, and your horse will let you know how much he needs to maintain his weight. Read Dr. Getty's articles on the easy keeper in the library at www.gettyequinenutrition.com or read the Easy Keeper, part of the Spotlight on Equine Nutrition book series, available now at Dr. Getty's website and on Amazon.

Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. is an internationally respected equine nutritionist avail-

able for private consultations and speaking engagements. She is the Contributing Nutrition Editor for the Horse Journal, and she believes that nutrition knowledge is key to horse health. At www.gettyequinenutrition.com, sign up for her informative—and free—monthly newsletter, Forage for Thought; read articles and search her nutrition forum; purchase recordings of her informative teleseminars, and pick up copies of all her books, including Dr. Getty's comprehensive reference, Feed Your Horse Like A Horse. Dr. Getty will be appearing at Equine Affaire, Eastern States Exposition, November 7-10, 2013 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Contact Dr. Getty directly at gettyequinenutrition@gmail.com

**September Featured Artist**  
**Walter Piehl**  
*Join us for artist talk, appetizers & beverages*  
*Thursday, September 5, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.*



**Walter Piehl Exhibit in September**  
at the Red Door Art Gallery and Museum  
418 Dakota Ave / Wahpeton, ND 58075  
For more info call: 701.591.1010

See this and all VEN pages in full color on our web site: www.theveonline.com

**Get a Club\* or Personal Subscription** to the Valley Equestrian Newspaper \$28 for 12 issues

Now Offering Club Subscriptions!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order to:  
Box 64 - Sabin, MN 56580

\*A Club Subscription would receive 8 copies to one address!  
**Get the VEN to your door each month!**

**GROFT HORSESHOEING**  
Koby Groft  
218.849.5356  
CALL ANY TIME!  
I also trim goats!



# From the Horse's Mouth: Industry News

## AQHA Cloning Lawsuit

The American Quarter Horse Association, August 22, 2013 - Judge Mary Lou Robinson has issued a final judgment in the cloning lawsuit in which she awarded close to \$900,000 in attorney fees to the plaintiffs in addition to entering an injunction requiring AQHA to immediately begin registering clones and their offspring.

AQHA will file a motion to stay the enforcement of the judgment pending the outcome of the appellate process. In the interim, AQHA has started the process of incorporating the court's rules to accept the registration of horses produced by cloning as set forth in the final judgment.

On the subject of actual damages, while the jury found that AQHA violated anti-trust laws, they awarded no damages to the plaintiffs despite the plaintiffs' demand for \$5.7 million in damages.

"Although the jury's verdict found that our Association's decision to refuse to register clones and their offspring was in violation of antitrust laws, we strongly believe in the right of our members and our directors to make such registration decisions on their own. We also believe in this case that there has been no violation of antitrust law" said AQHA Executive Vice President Don Treadway. "Therefore, AQHA will continue to take any and all necessary legal steps in seeking to have the final judgment entered by the court in favor of the plaintiffs reversed."

In addition to filing a motion to stay the enforcement of the judgment pending AQHA's appeal, AQHA will also file a motion for judgment as a matter of law in which AQHA will request the court enter a take nothing judgment in favor of AQHA based upon the fact that the jury's verdict was not supported by the evidence entered at trial.

FREE Advertising of Your Events!  
Send your event info to:  
The Valley Equestrian Newspaper  
Serving 26 States in the USA!  
Send to: theVNews@gmail.com or  
PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580

appeal of this ruling by filing a notice of appeal. This will begin the appellate process as the case heads to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"It is clear from the phone calls, e-mails and posts by our members that they are very disappointed in the verdict" said AQHA President John Dobbbs. "They continue to be against registering clones and their offspring for a number of reasons, and they object to this verdict as it represents a complete shift away from the sire-dam paradigm upon which all of our rules and processes are based, and which have governed our association for nearly 75 years. We appreciate our membership's support, and want them to know that we will continue to fight for their right to determine the rules that govern their association"

"We have received many questions regarding insurance coverage in this case," said Don Treadway. "Like many responsible corporations, AQHA proactively carries insurance and has a policy in the present case. We will keep the membership updated regarding developments in this case."

AQHA news and information is a service of the American Quarter Horse Association. For more information, follow @AQHAnews on Twitter, watch the AQHA Newscast and visit [www.aqha.com/news](http://www.aqha.com/news).

Founded in 1940, the American Quarter Horse Association is the largest equine breed organization in the world. With headquarters in Amarillo, Texas, AQHA has a membership of more than 280,000 people in 86 countries and has registered more than 5 million horses in 95 countries.

## FIRST COLORADO HORSE INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS IN 2013

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – The first reported equine case of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been diagnosed in Colorado as of August 14, 2013. The WNV positive horse is a 3 month old colt from Montezuma County.

"West Nile Virus is a disease that threatens the health of humans, horses, and other animals. This is the time of year when we are most likely to see it reported in horses," said Colorado State Veterinarian, Dr. Keith Roehr. "It is difficult to project how many cases we may see in the coming months."

The transmission of the disease varies from year to year and depends on a number of factors including mosquito numbers. The WNV can be carried by infected birds and then spread locally by mosquitoes that bite those birds. The mosquitoes can then pass the virus to humans and animals.

Infected horses may display symptoms including head tilt, muscle tremors, stumbling, lack of coordination, weakness of the limbs or partial paralysis. The clinical signs of WNV are consistent with other important neurological diseases such as equine encephalitis, rabies, and equine herpes virus; therefore it is important to work with your veterinarian to get an accurate diagnosis through laboratory testing. Horse owners should also consult their private practicing veterinarian to determine an appropriate disease prevention plan for their horses.

Vaccines have proven to be a very effective prevention tool. Horses that have been vaccinated in past years will need an annual booster shot. However, if an owner did not vaccinate their animal in previous years, the horse will need the two-shot vaccination series within a three to six week period.

In addition to vaccinations, horse owners also need to reduce the mosquito populations and their possible breeding areas. Recommendations include removing stagnant water sources, keeping animals inside during the bugs' feeding times, which are typically early in the morning and evening, and using mosquito repellents.

"It is important to protect your horse through WNV vaccination and good management practices," said Roehr.

For complete and updated information concerning new WNV equine case information including numbers and location of test positive horses visit:

- <http://www.fightthebitecolorado.com>
- <http://www.cdphpe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/wnv>

## Wild Horse Roller Coaster: Update on Wild Horses and Burros

By Marta Williams, Vice President, Wild Horse Education

The last few weeks have been tumultuous in the wild horse and burro



horses were purchased by rescuers. This move by BLM, Tribal Authorities and the US Forest Service has all the earmarks of a stealth plan for wiping wild horses off the landscape. As Laura Leigh, President of WHE says, "Nothing will change until we change the system." Hence all the court cases WHE currently has against BLM.

Leigh, President of WHE says, "Nothing will change until we change the system." Hence all the court cases WHE currently has against BLM.

WHE has multiple cases in court and

world. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service and Tribal Authorities made an agreement that 700 wild horses could be rounded up from tribal lands adjacent to the BLM Little Owyhee Herd Management Area (HMA) in Nevada. The Forest Service dropped out of the deal, but the horses still got rounded up. Wild Horse Education (WHE) filed for an injunction against BLM which the judge denied. Then WHE and three other advocacy groups filed in court against the Forest Service. The judge granted that injunction and the unbranded horses, presumed to be BLM horses from the Owyhee complex, were to be sorted out. After the dust settled, 467 unbranded, tribal wild horses went to slaughter, about a hundred branded horses were purchased by rescues, and 148 unbranded

has been filing court documents almost daily. The First Amendment case was sent by the lower court back to the Ninth Circuit Court. WHE hopes to win again in the Ninth Circuit and thereby assure the public the right to know and see what BLM is doing from roundup to final disposition with our wild horses and burros. Other cases moving through court could ensure that BLM has to follow strict protocols for humane care and handling of our wild herds.

To learn more about WHE's current activities see our latest blog post <http://wheblog.wordpress.com/2013/08/25/crazy-week-slaughter-auction-roundups-courtroom-drama/>

Photos by Laura Leigh taken at Fallon, NV

Looking for a career?



Want to work from horseback? Needed:

- easy talker?
- desire to help?
- computer?
- phone?

Contact:  
Ley Bouchard  
701.361.8648  
leybou@gmail.com

**ISPMB**  
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros  
needs your help!  
after fighting an extreme drought in SD.  
Can you donate to help us purchase & secure hay?  
[www.ispmb.org](http://www.ispmb.org)  
Follow in our President's footsteps  
Wild Horse Annie  
Saving America's Wild Horses & Burros.

# MHARF Trainer's Challenge Huge Success!

The 6th annual MHARF (Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation) Trainers' Challenge of the Unwanted Horse was held on August 17th at the Leatherdale Equine Center on the U of M campus. Fourteen trainers competed on previously unbroke horses and mules that had come to MHARF from various humane cases around the state. Judy Jenson and Bob Johnson once again volunteered their time to judge the event, along with special guest judge, Ken

McNabb!

It was a day-long event that included 5 classes: Halter, Pleasure, Trail/Obstacle, Freestyle, and Vet/Farrier (also volunteering their time for this last class: Dr. Nicole Eller-Medina and Scott Bue). Lunch by JR's No. 19 Bar-B-Cue, a silent auction of equine art, and a MHARF store selling t-shirts, tack, books, and gifts also kept the crowd of nearly three hundred busy.

The Grand Championship, sponsored by Blatterner Energy, Inc, was won by third time Challenge trainer Sid Zacharias and Cash, a registered Quarter Horse gelding. The Reserve Championship, sponsored by Cinch Chix, Inc, went to first time Challenge participant Leanna Giles and Norma, a strapping Quarter Horse mare. The winners of individual classes were: Katie Hembree and Trickery in the Halter class, Sid and Cash in Pleasure, Leanna and Norma in

Trail/Obstacle and Freestyle, Jenna Jarboe and Hawaii-Phive-O in Vet/Farrier. Of the fourteen horses competing, ten were adopted out at the event to pre-qualified bidders in a silent auction. This came as no surprise, as judges, MHARF volunteers, and spectators all agreed that this was the best-turned out group of horses/mules to ever participate in the Challenge. "These trainers have all done a remarkable job," said Drew Fitzpatrick, director of MHARF.

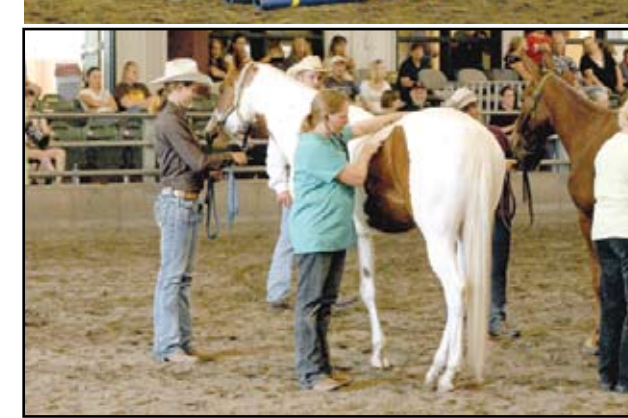
Not surprisingly, quite a few tears were shed throughout the event—by volunteers who had helped care for the horses during their rehabilitation, by adopters with winning bids, and by trainers who were preparing themselves to say goodbye to horses they'd worked with daily for more than three months. One of the more emotional moments was during a very nice display of bareback and bridle-less jumping by Maria Schaal on Dolores, a small dark bay mare of undetermined breeding that had come

to MHARF the day after Christmas, very emaciated and distrustful of people. Another was during the freestyle demonstration of eighteen-year-old returning trainer Chris Walz and his horse, Ramona, a mustang mare. During his display the announcer read a letter Chris had written about how much the experience of training the not-so-easy mare and his involvement in the Challenge had meant to him. Soon after that, Leanna and Norma brought the house down with a freestyle demonstration that included mounted shooting and smoke bombs. Norma brought the highest bid of the day at \$2700.00. Her new owner, who plans to use her as a sheriff's posse horse, burst into tears when she learned she had won the bid.

The Trainers' Challenge has quickly become MHARF's biggest and most successful fundraising event. MHARF is a non-

profit 501(c)3 all-volunteer organization that has been operating in Zimmerman, Minnesota, for over twenty years. For a full list of 2013 Challenge participants, to

make a donation, or to see all of MHARF's available horses, visit their website at [www/mhhoovedanimal-rescue.org](http://www/mhhoovedanimal-rescue.org)



Photos by Victor Medina

Counterclockwise from left: Judge Ken McNabb tells trainers how much they've impressed him; winner presentation to Sid Zacharius; Lenna Giles thanks Norma for a job well done; Brittany Langager holds Bandit for the vet exam; Trickery and Katie Hembree maneuver obstacles in the trail class; Hawaii-Phive-O and Jenna Jarboe greet fans

## Clydesdale colt found tied to fence, bleeding

By Austin Nelson, reprinted with permission from the *Alexander City Outlook* in Alexander, AL

Bill Schuler raises Clydesdale horses as a hobby and has a total of 34 horses on his farm, many of which tout multiple championship wins. But when he went outside Wednesday, one horse – Schuler Farms Quicksilver's Southern Comfort – was out of place. In a small enclosure behind his barn, the 9-month-old stud colt was standing by himself. "We walked up and found the horse bleeding from its left rear leg, not wanting to put any weight on it," Schuler said.

The scene was even grizzlier upon closer inspection. The colt had its leg

tied to a fence, and next to him were two cart whips, used to cajole horses drawn to buggies.

"Somebody went inside our barn and grabbed the two whips out of their holders, and went outside and proceeded to beat the horse," Schuler said. "Then, they tied the horse to the fence and kept whipping it, which made the horse try to run and start jerking its leg. It's not clear yet whether the incident caused irreversible damage, as the horse is still being attended to by Auburn University's top veterinarians. What is clear, however, is Schuler wants to know who is

responsible.

"I am going to offer a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever did this," Schuler said. This was no run-of-the-mill horse. Southern Comfort's father was Torrs Quicksilver, which Schuler purchased from Anheuser-Busch. Torrs Quicksilver was Anheuser-Busch's main breeding horse for some 10 years, siring

the company's legendary Clydesdales.

And Southern Comfort's mother was Greggalea Sensation Ginger, a 2005 and 2006 national champion.

"We were hoping Southern Comfort was going to



be a future star of ours," Schuler said.

Schuler had more plans in store for this colt. Anheuser-Busch only agreed to sell Schuler Torrs Quicksilver if he could manage to secure another champion bloodline – the descendants of Dillars Striker. Striker is the only horse to have ever won the National Stallion Show in Scotland and the Toronto Winter Fair in the same year.

"The plan was to have a separate bloodline of Torrs Quicksilver to the daughters of the Striker bloodline, hopefully putting the best of the best together," Schuler said.

Until the test results come back, however, it isn't clear whether Southern Comfort will recover enough to show and eventually breed.

"What really concerns me about this is not only did they come into my barn, but they went past my house where my wife and children sleep," Schuler said. "If they would do this to a horse, what would they do to a human?" Schuler said those with information can contact the Tallapoosa County Sheriff's Department at 256-825-4264 or the Clay County Sheriff's office at 256-354-2176.



# Upcoming Events

(Call before you haul.)

Sept 6-8 VILLA LOUIS CARRIAGE CLASSIC: Villa Louis Historic Site, Prairie du Chien, WI. www.carriageclassic.com  
Mike Rider, W: 608-326-4436, info@carriageclassic.com.

September 27-29: Jubilee of Color Show at the Minnesota Equestrian Center in Winona, Minn.

Apple Fest. dansre@centurytel.net

Oct 11-13: Discovery Horse presents Pendants & Ponies--A Weekend Retreat for Survivors of Sexual Assault. Equine Gestalt Coaching Method workshop presented by guest clinician Vicki Jurica, author of The Pendant Project: My Journey to

Awareness Through Art by Thurstan Gray. Through art and the healing power of horses, you will be assisted in rediscovering trust, setting boundaries, developing connections and healing. No horse experience necessary, all activities are on the ground. Scholarships available. Accepting scholarship donations. Only 10 spaces available. Held at Spirit Horse Center, Brainerd, MN. \$495. Register online: www.discoveryhorse.com.

Sept. 7: UBRA Houck Sumer Barrel Racing Series \$1400 added at 10:30 a.m. at Houck Horse Company in North Branch, Minn. www.houckhorsecountry.com

October: Dominique Barbier Dressage Clinic, date TBA, at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minn. www.

September 17-18: 74th Annual Minnesota Nutrition Conference at Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in Prior Lake, MN. The day long equine session on September 18 will focus on forage utilization with three University of Minnesota research updates; for more information, visit www.mnnutritionconf.umn.edu

spirithorsecenterinc.com  
Oct 4-6: Apple Festival Fall Drive - Dan and Marti Peterson Washburn. Camping, trails, shuttle to



The Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer committee reports a record-breaking year with more than \$60,000 in donations being received for the Roger Maris Cancer Center in Fargo, ND. Cowboy Up riders totaled 358 and volunteers fed more than 600 people dinner on Saturday, August 17 in McLeod, ND. The committee would like to thank all their sponsors, supporters, riders, volunteers, and shoppers at the silent auction and the Kids for Cowboy Up bake sale. Next year is the 10th Anniversary of the Cowboy Up Ride Against Cancer. Watch right here in the pages of the Valley Equestrian News for upcoming events during the year. The VEN is proud to sponsor this worthy event.

## ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Advertiser	Page No.
Adventure RV Center	10
Anderson Horsemanship	10
Back Forty Turf Club	13
Cannon Falls Trailer Sales	20
Charles Wilhelm Ultimate Training	7
Chris Barrows Farrier Service	10
Conklin/Fastrack	2
Cowboy Leather	16
Dakota 50/50 Futurity and Sale	3
Dennis Brouse Horsemanship	9
Farmer's Elevator	10
Groft Horseshoeing	14
ISPMB	16
Janice Ladendorf Books	12
J&S Farmer's Mill	16
Lillegard Inc.	11
Mn EquiFest	2
MN Hooved Animal Rescue	6
Minnesota School of Horseshoeing	6
Palma Feed	10
Roasted to Perfection Feed	10
Spirit Horse Center	11
TRNP Wild Mustangs	10
Walter Piehl Art Exhibit	14
WillStar Riding Academy	11

Oct 12-13: Minnesota Equifest: Mn State Fairgrounds - Arena Driving Trials <http://minnesotaequifest.com/>

Oct. 20: 5th Annual Halloween Costume Fun Show at 11 a.m. at Houck Horse Company in North Branch, Minn. www.houckhorsecountry.com

Nov. 23-24: Anna Twinney Animal Communication Clinic at Spirit Horse Center in Brainerd, Minn. <http://www.spirithorsecenterinc.com/>

See your events listed here and on our online scrolling event calendar, email us at: thevenews@gmail.com

**"COWBOY LEATHER"**

We Carry a Complete Line of CODY LEATHER Products! Wholesale and Retail Prices

Call Shari Today  
**218.385.3835**

Looking to improve your mileage and engine longevity? Conklin Vehicle Products can help. Call John Fillbrandt at 218-329-7997. [www.conklin.com/site/johnfillbrandt/](http://www.conklin.com/site/johnfillbrandt/)

classified ads

**Black and White Only**  
\$10 for up to 50 words  
\$20 for a photo classified ad

**Color Classified Ad**  
\$30 for a color photo classified ad

To place a classified ad call:  
**701.361.8648**  
or send a check to:  
PO Box 64, Sabin, MN 56580  
along with your ad copy.

**J & S Farmer's Mill**  
104 5th Avenue SE  
Barnesville, MN 56514  
218.354.2247  
Toll Free: 1.877.521.0150  
Home: 218.493.4574

Jim & Sue Heng, Owners

**Quality Feed Pays Off!**

See Jim for all your horse feed!

# SUPERHORSE SIDEKICKS

By: Anise Montplaisir

Every good superhero needs a sidekick. Even the super-powered equine athletes of the racetrack sometimes need a helping hand, er, hoof. Batman may have Robin to watch his back, but the sidekick for a racehorse just happens to be a lead pony. When most people think 'pony,' they probably think of a fuzzy little Shetland romping in a field. A lead pony is in fact, not an actual pony at all, but a horse with a very special job: to warm up racehorses and deliver them calmly and safely to the starting gates. Horses are herd animals, meaning it is part of their survival instinct to be close to other horses. A herd means safety, comfort, and protection. The same mentality can be used for a lead pony. They offer security to an anxious racehorse.

ridden at various tracks explains the process she used to train her lead pony.

"I got [my horse] used to having a horse beside him. I then took him to the race track and just walked and galloped alongside race horses. Then when people would pony in the morning I would go beside them so my horse could get the feel of a race horse, them bucking, kicking etc. Eventually I tried ponying with an older horse that was pretty mellow and just kept moving up. I would make sure he was used to sounds, noises, actions, movements."

Not only does a lead pony need to have the right temperament, but also a strong build. Quarter Horses and off-the-track Thoroughbreds are two popular breeds that are commonly seen as lead ponies. A pony horse has to withstand the biting, pushing, sometimes kicking, and overall feisty antics from excited racehorses, with little to no reaction. Pony horses must also be able to keep up with the racehorses they lead in the post parade, as they must jog and gallop to warm up before the race. Since a lead pony's job is to deliver a racehorse safely to the starting gates, a pony horse that kicks is highly frowned upon. Many people prefer to use geldings as lead ponies, feeling they are less temperamental than mares.

Some people will administer low doses of Acepromazine, or Ace for short, to their lead ponies to keep them calm. Ace is a type of tranquilizer that causes muscular relaxation, and is used as a temporary fix to keep a lead pony composed while exposed to the excitement of a racetrack. Tiffany Mosset, an experienced pony rider who has

that's when things go wrong," says Mosset. "For the 7-10 minutes of the post parade you have to keep your cool."

Before heading out onto a track to pony racehorses, a lead pony and rider combination must have the right equipment. Many pony riders will use their own

Some pony riders will equip their lead ponies with bite pads on their shoulders and hips to protect them from being bitten and bumped.

Some pony riders work freelance, going from barn to barn the morning of a race day, asking if anyone needs a pony rider. They then mark down what

number horse they will pony in each race.

Other riders will work exclusively for one trainer, ponying his or her horses in their races. Some trainers prefer their racehorses to be ponyed by a horse they are comfortable and familiar with, so they will have their own lead ponies for

their pony riders to use.

The super sidekicks of the horseracing world won't end up on the news for saving planet Earth. They won't even be starring in the next Avengers movie, but they perform their job well. A vital asset on the racetrack: the lead pony.



pony rope, a piece of rope or leather strap slipped through a racehorse's bit to lead them with. To protect their hands from rope burn, riders will often wear gloves. While nearly all racetracks require pony riders to wear helmets, some also require the use of protective body vests.



Top: Author acts as pony rider for jockey Tiffany Mossett at North Dakota Horse Park 2013 meet. Bottom: Pony riders and racehorses head to the starting gate at the North Dakota Horse Park. Photos by Annette Montplaisir



**Elite Trailers.  
The Name Says It All.**



**EACH AND EVERY ELITE TRAILER IS CRAFTED WELL BEYOND INDUSTRY STANDARDS WITH EMPHASIS ON RELIABILITY, DETAIL, SAFETY AND COMFORT.**



**Experience the ELITE Difference**



**2008 Elite GN 8'X28'X7'6" Tall Dix 3 Horse w/14' LQ, Sofa Sleeper w/Removeable Table, Rr Kitchen w/Bar & Stools, Dble Stainless Steel Sink, 6 cu Refg, 2 Burner Stove, Micro, TV, AM-FM CD Player w/In & Outside Speakers, Lg Hanging Closets, Pocket Dr, Lg Hanging Closets, Pocket Dr, Lg Bathrm w/Marble Radius Shwr, Porcelain Stool, Vanity, Soft Touch Ceiling & Walls w/Leather Tooled In Seating Area, 2 Step Awning, Hydr. Jack, Western Hardware Pkg, Walk Thru Drs, Stud Divider. Sale Price: \$47,500.00**



**2005 Cherokee Super Chief 5H GN w/8' Solid Oak LQ, 8'X28'X7', Owen Generator, Sofa, TV, Stereo AM-FM-CD, 3.5 cu Refg., Microw, Shower w/Glass Door, Sep. Stool, Lg Hanging Closet, Elect, Jack, Awning, New 235R16 10 Ply Tires, Escape Door, Drop Dwn Feed Doors w/Fold Dwn Bars, 4 Mangers w/4 Manger Doors, Padded Dividers, Rear Tack w/4 Tier Saddle Rack, Bridle Hooks, Brush Tray, 3 Load Lights. Sale Price: \$34,900.00**



**2009 Featherlite GN 7'6"X24'X7'6" Tall Model 8541, 3 Horse w/9'6" to 13'6" LQ, Dinette, 6 cu Refg, Flush 2 Burner Stove, Microw, Ducted Furnace, AC, Soft Touch Walls, Lg Shower w/Glass Door, Sep. Stool, Awning, Dual Electric Jacks, Walk-Thru Door, Escape Door w/Drop Dwn Feed Doors w/Low Mount Handle & Fold Dwn Bars, 2 Mangers, Dble Rear Doors w/Windows, Padded Dividers, Collaps, Rear Tack. Sale Price: \$34,900.00**



**1998 Sundowner 3 Horse GN w/6' LQ 7'X21'X7' All Aluminum, 3 cu Refg, Microw, 2 Burner Stove, Dble S/S Sink, AC, Ducted Furnace, Radio, Lg Wardrobe Closet w/Hat Shelf, Shower, Sep. Stool, Walk-Thru Dr, Drop Dwn Feed Drs w/Fold Dwn Bars, Rump Wall Windows, Padded Slam Latch Dividers, Collaps. Rr Tack w/3 Swing Out Saddle Racks, Bridle Hooks, Blanket Bars, Brush Tray Sale Price: \$19,800.00**



**2003 Kiefer Genesis X3 3 Horse GN 7'6"X18'X7'2", w/4' to 8' Weekender, Solid Knotty Pine, Bn Seat, AC, TV, AM-FM-CD Player w/Int. & Ext. Speakers, Lg Hanging Clst, Refg, Dual Bat., Western Hd, Walk-thru Dr, Esc. Dr, Camper Dr w/Screen, Awning, Drop Dwn Feed Drs w/ Fold Dwn Bars, Coll. Rr Tack w/40/60 Load Drs w/Wndws, Ld Light, Spare Tire, Super Clean Trailer, Well Cared For. Sale Price: \$19,500.00**



**2010 Cherokee 3H GN 6'8"X18'8"X7' Dix Tomahawk 4'8" to 9'2" Dress Rm, Camper Dr w/Scr, Camper Step, Carpet GN-Drop & Flr, Crank Out GN Wndws, Saddle Rk Set, Escape Dr w/ Drop Dwn Feed Dr & Low Mount Latches & Fold Dwn Bars, Alum. Padded Dividers, Rubber Lined Walls Horse Area, Rf Vents, Lg Rump Wall Wndws, Padded Breast & Butt Bar, 2 Ld Lights, Collaps. Rr Tack, 3 Post Saddle Rack-Moveable To Dress Rm, Alum. Bridle Hks & Brush Tray, 235R16 10 Ply Rd Tires Blk Skin. Sale Price \$15,900.00**



**2006 Elite GN 7'X18'X7' Mustang 3H, 4' to 8' Dress Rm Carpet GN-Drp & Flr, 5' Cloth Rod, Lg GN Wndws, HD Dr w/Wndw, Saddle Rack Setting, Blnkt Bar, Bridle Hks, Escape Dr w/HD Fd Drs & Fold Dwn Brs, Insulated & Lined, Sidewalls w/ Rubber 54' High On Rump Wall & 48" High On Head, Padded Dvders, 3 Rf Vents, Lg Wndws Rump Wall, Collaps. Rr Tck, 3 post Moveable Saddle Rck, Bridle Hks, Dble Rr Drs w/Wndws, New Brakes & Bearings Sale Price: \$15,900.00**



**2002 Trails West 4 Horse GN 7'6"X24'X7', w/6' Finished Dress Rm, 7'6"X24'X7', AC, Boot Box, Side Tack w/4 Swing Out Saddle Rack, 8 Blanket Bar, Bridle Hooks, Brush Trays, 4 Manger w/ 4 Manger Doors, Drop Dwn Feed Doors 2/ Fold Dwn Bars, Dble Rear Doors w/Windows, Slam Latch Dividers. Trailer Used 2 Seasons. Like New. Excellent Condition. Sale Price: \$15,500.00**



**2001 Exiss 3H BP 7'X16'X7' Event S530, VNose, Camper Step, Tack organizer, Carpeted BHW, 3 Post Saddle Rk, Water Tk, Blkt Bar, Brush Tray, Bridle Hks, Spare Tire, Cloth Rod, Drop Dwn Fd Drs, Rump Wall Windows, 40/60 Rear Drs w/Windows, Collaps. Rr Tack, w/Removeable CTR Post, Pd Slam latch Dividers, Full Lined-Insulated & Rubber Side Walls, Rubber Floor Mats, Ld Light Sale Price: \$8,500.00**

# CANNON FALLS TRAILER SALES

1 Mile East of Hwy. 52 & Cty. 86 • Chuck Erdahl, Owner/Manager - Dan Erdahl, Sales/Service  
888-263-7212 • [www.cannonfallstrailers.com](http://www.cannonfallstrailers.com)