

# Junior Exhibitor Jumble

## Kentucky

Good Luck. That's what March is about. Lots of green, four-leaf-clovers, leprechauns, and good luck. Many people carry good luck charms to help them win and stay safe. For myself I go out, do my best, and just have FUN. Show season is starting, so a little good luck comes in handy.

### Three new teams for 2007

**Name:** Sarah James Sessoms.

**Age:** 16.

**Horse's Name:** Memorize.

**Barn Name:** "Tom" I decided to call him that because we bought him from Arrowhead Farm from Melinda Moore and I named him after her dad, The Late Great Tom Moore. (Actually, it's kind of cool because Nelson worked for Tom at Arrowhead Farm when he was younger.)

**Horse's Age:** 6.

**Where I Ride:** Nelson Green Stables under the direction of Nelson Green.

**Division:** Junior Exhibitor Five-Gaited.

**How I got "Tom":** We had sold all of my horses, and I was in need of a new one. We looked around at a couple, but Nelson had his eyes on Memorize for me. In fact, Nelson had loved this horse since he was a three-year-old. We tried him at Arrowhead Farm, and bought him the following weekend. We plan on debuting in the spring, and I can't wait!

**Name:** Rachel Kelley.

**Age:** 17.

**Horse's Name:** Roseridge's All Mine.

**Barn Name:** Ali.

**Horse's Age:** 4.

**Where I ride:** Tammy DeVore Stables.

**Division:** Junior Exhibitor Five-Gaited.

**How I got "Ali":** We bought him from Ms. Deknatel, who had him stabled with Mike Tunstall. We went to Mike's to try horses, I got on Ali, and the rest is history! It was an instant match. We plan on debuting at River Ridge!

**Name:** Ashley Davidson.

**Age:** 13.

**Horse's Name:** Can You Ever!

**Barn Name:** Carson.

**Horse's Age:** 5.

**Where I Ride:** Signature Stables at Rock Creek.

**Division:** Junior Exhibitor Show Pleasure.

I would like to share with you a prayer I found at an Art Fair in Louisville:

### The Horse's Prayer

*To Thee, my master, I offer my prayer.*

*Feed me, water and care for me, and when the day's work is done, provide me with shelter, a clean, dry bed and stall wide enough for me to lie down in comfort.*

*Always be kind to me. Your voice often means as much to me as the reins. Never strike, beat, or kick me when I don't understand what you want, but give me the chance to understand you. Pet me sometimes, that I may serve you the more gladly and learn to love you.*

*Make sure that I am properly shod that I may serve you in comfort. And finally, Oh My Master, when my useful strength is gone, do not turn me out to starve or freeze or sell me to some cruel owner to be slowly tortured and starved to death; but do thou, My master, take my life in the kindest way and your God will reward you here and hereafter. You will not consider me irreverent if I ask this in the name of Him who was born in a stable.*

AMEN

Author Unknown

Please send anything you would like to see in upcoming articles, new horses, pictures poems, etc., to:

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## Midwest

It's now March and spring is just around the corner! It's time to pull out your show outfits and boots and get ready for the upcoming show season! Some may be disappointed, but others, like me, are as happy as could be! ;)

This month, I had the privilege to go with my trainer, Rick Wallen, and visit Knollwood Farms. There I got to visit with Nancy Turner, Michelle Krentz, Emily Wiersma, Lindsey Kellner, Angela Darrow, Ramsey Skaepenski, Mikayla Tenorio, and Lexxi Rokvic.

At Knollwood Farms, they have 26 lesson horses, and give 300 to 400 lessons a week, depending on the time of year. Knollwood is open to lessons seven days a week, with a private lesson lasting 30 minutes, and a group lesson lasting 45. Nancy Turner has been a riding instructor at Knollwood for three years. In one day, Nancy teaches about six to seven lessons, or about 20 to 25 people. After about a year of riding, Knollwood begins to encourage the riders to show in academy. Personally, Nancy has taught six to seven riders that have become champion riders, and about 15 to 20 riders who do well on the A Circuit. Once a rider becomes almost a pro in academy, they will move on to the B-Circuit until they purchase a show horse of their own.

Michelle Krentz owns CH Louisville Lass and Day's Grecian Gray. Now that she is considered an adult, she doesn't know what class she's going to show in this year. She has been riding with Knollwood for ten years.

Emily Wiersma owns Harlem's Irish Dancer, or Rose. She has been riding for seven years and has been with Knollwood the whole time. She has owned "Rose" for over a year and she shows her in 14-17 show pleasure.

Lindsey Kellner owns CH Callaway's Don't Panic and Crimson's Dance Card. She has been riding for seven years and has been with Knollwood the whole time. Lindsey shows CH Callaway's Don't Panic in show pleasure, and she shows Crimson's Dance Card in five-gaited country pleasure.

Angela Darrow owns some very nice horses as well, including CH Trapp Mountain and her two new horses, Tango Till Dawn and Freaky Links. She has been riding for six and a half years, and is coming up on her fourth season of showing. She has been riding with Knollwood her whole riding career.

I also talked with academy riders Ramsey Skaepenski and Mikayla

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Tenorio. Ramsey Skaepenski has been riding for three years. She shows Dexter, Maude, and a lot of the other lesson horses in academy equitation and pleasure. She says that she has a lot of fun at Knollwood and enjoys helping out the newer riders.

Mikayla Tenorio has been riding for two years; one year in hunt seat and the other in saddle seat. Mikayla used to show in the academy walk trot classes, but now she shows in walk, trot, and canter. When she shows, she usually rides Zeus, Trevor, or Louis. She said that she has learned a lot this past year with Knollwood, and she thinks that saddle seat is a lot more fun than hunt seat.

Lexxi Rokvic shows on the B-Circuit on Shamrock's Apropos, or "Shamrock". She shows in country pleasure and equitation. She has been riding since she was four years old, and now she is 17 years old. She has been riding with Knollwood for 11 years.

Knollwood has a great riding program, and I would definitely suggest visiting there sometime.

This month I had one new horse reply:

**What is your name?** Angela Darrow.

**Who is your trainer?** Scott and Carol Matton.

**Your horses' show and barn name — First:** Tango Till Dawn. We call her "Bella Mia" but "Bella" for short (we named her Bella Mia in honor of my old horse, Chimere, who we called Mia, because she died in November) and **Second:** Freaky Links. We're calling him "Freaky" (I also own CH Trapp Mountain).

**What divisions will you be showing in?** Tango Till Dawn: Hopefully equitation and probably a couple of junior horse classes. Freaky Links: 14-17 five-gaited.

**What are your goals with your horses?** Bella is just learning and she hasn't been shown under saddle before, so I'm just hoping that she keeps learning over the winter. I don't really know what to expect this season for her, but she's a beautiful horse and she's a blast to ride! With Freaky I just want to be able to show him at his best ability and to be successful in the juvenile five-gaited division, which is an extremely competitive class.

When I met Angela at Knollwood, she said that "Freaky" is a lot of fun to ride. They have started working on equitation patterns with "Bella", and she will start showing her this show season. Congratulations, Angela! We all wish you the best of luck with the 2007 show season!

Last month I asked everybody what kind of riding exercises they do to get ready for the show season. Here are some of your responses:

**Sarah Hinds:** *I work out 30-45 minutes every day. Sometimes I run a mile on my treadmill, and then do some other strength training exercises, like push ups and sit ups.*

**Anna Cole:** *Put a ball or a book or something between your knees and squeeze, or while your riding put sponges or paper money between your knees and see how long you can go around the ring before you drop the money/sponges. To help keep your shoulders back, put a yard stick or broom in the inside of your elbows and across your back.*

**Lindsey Merrill:** *I practice without stirrups a lot to help strengthen my legs. It helps for equitation and keeps my legs steady. I also ran track before that.*

**Kelsey McDonald:** *I definitely think that riding with no stirrups is a good way to get in shape. Sometimes I'll work with this thing called a ThighMaster that strengthens the inside and outside of your calves. I do pilates.*

**Elena Breeden:** *I run track, which is great exercise if anybody has an*

*opportunity to join a track team! Also, if you just squat for a few minutes, you'll really feel the burn in your thighs.*

**Katie Cunningham:** *During the off season, in the fall, I play field hockey and cheer. In the winter I play basketball and cheer again. Then, in the spring I run track. I tried pilates and yoga and it really helped with my flexibility. It will also help with your abs and your balance for no stirrup work. It sure will make you sore for the days after though!*

Thank you to everyone who replied! All of these exercises are GREAT things to do.

This month, Krystal would like to share information about Emperor!

## **A Legend and the Master Showman**

By the great Supreme Sultan and out of Empress Wing, CH Emperor is certainly the most celebrated five-gaited gelding of all time. "Perry" was bred by Wanda Wilkinson, and foaled March 11, 1974. Mr. Don Harris and his beloved companion Perry thrilled audiences everywhere they went. Perry was known for his trademark slow gait and his beautiful presence.

"Perry was VERY game and very brave; he never put an ear back but he didn't see 'ghosts,'" said Angela Harris, Don's daughter. Don never carried a whip while showing Perry. After Perry became a seasoned show horse his training during show season consisted of getting him ready for Louisville. Don would jog him four to five miles a day for endurance and would ride him once a week. Two weeks before Louisville, Perry's jogging miles were cut down to about one to two miles per day to keep him a little more fresh.

The great show ring rivalries of CH Sky Watch and CH Emperor first took place 25 years ago and are still talked about today. And will continue to be talked about for many years to come. The noise level has never been as high in Freedom Hall as when CH Sky Watch and CH Emperor had their great battles. These times are thought to be the "years of the super horses." For those who haven't seen the great battles in person know how the people who did feel. Watching that video will send chills up your spine. It is absolutely incredible.

One of Don's best shows with Perry was at the American Royal the first year Sky Watch beat him at Louisville. Don started to prepare Perry for another duel with Sky Watch, but Mitch and Sky Watch weren't at the Royal. Don showed Perry and "uncorked" him to put a show on for the huge crowd of people.

The American Saddlebred Museum recently released a limited edition bronze statue to honor CH Emperor. The statue is a part of the 2005 Legends in Bronze edition. Each year the museum produces a collectible statue of one of the breed's most accomplished horses. CH Emperor now joins two other gaited legends, CH Wing Commander and CH My-My, who were honored in previous years.

Ironically, Mr. Harris and Perry shared the same birthday which is March 11. After Perry retired to the Horse Park, Don would go visit him. Even after Perry had been there for years, Don could walk up to Perry's fence and he wouldn't have to whistle or call for him. Perry would come over and put his head in Don's chest just like he would do when he was still in the barn. Sadly, Perry passed away in October of 1997 at the age of 23. But the stories and the memories of this great one will live on forever, and he will always be remembered for his incredible presence and being shown by the Master Showman!

Thank you, Krystal! Emperor is definitely a legend that no one will

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ever forget.

This month I would like to ask: *Who do you think will be a hot pair this show season and why?* You can e-mail me your answers or visit my website!

Well, that's it for this month! Have a great month and enjoy the warmer weather!

I would like to thank my trainer, Rick Wallen, for taking me to Knollwood. I would also like to thank everyone at Knollwood for their warm welcome and the time they spent with me. I had a wonderful time and I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming shows. Best wishes to all of you in the show season!

*A stubborn horse walks behind you, an impatient horse walks in front of you, but a noble companion walks beside you.*

E-mail Haley your answers on who you think will be a hot pair this year, Rider of the Month information, New Horse information, stories, drawings, etc., to:

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Try visiting our new website at  
www.freewebs.com/juniorjumble

Also, visit Knollwood's website!  
www.knollwoodfarmltd.com/index.htm

If you would like to e-mail Krystal, you can contact her at:

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## Missouri

Hi everyone! Happy St. Patrick's Day! It's still rather cold here in the Midwest, but gradually we're starting to see subtle hints of spring. Good luck to everyone in the 2007 show season—it's just around the corner!

I would like to remind everyone of the 2007 Midwest Photo Contest. The rules are basically the same as last year. You must be a junior exhibitor to participate; you can submit no more than two photos (of any breed of horse); and the photo(s) MUST be taken by YOU. There are two age groups: 13 and Under and 14-17 years old. A judge will choose three photos from each age group (if you submit two, only one can be chosen) and the photos will then be on display at the MHSA Kick Off Show for the public to vote for their favorite! Prizes will be awarded to the top three in each division. The submission deadline is April 13th. Please do not e-mail your photos; preferred size is 8 x 10". Don't hesitate to e-mail me if you have any questions. Good luck!

This month, I interviewed Alicia Harris as the **Rider of the Month...**

Alicia Ann Harris rides with Jim Miller at Spirit Horse Farms. She owns three Hackney ponies and one five-gaited Saddlebred; **Tijuana Playboy** (Bubs) Hackney pony pleasure driving/under saddle, **Knight's Lady Of Lace** (Lacey) road pony to bike/under saddle, **Seamair Captivator** (Cap'n) Hackney pleasure driving/under saddle, and **Finally Morning** (Gracie) five-gaited junior exhibitor. Alicia is involved in FFA, 4-H, her church youth group, photography and making things out of duct tape. Her biggest influences are; *"Shamrock Farm of Smithfield, Ky., for getting me interested in road ponies and Saddlebreds in the first place; Jim Miller for helping me along in my riding and driving, and for never giving up on me, even when the task at hand seemed almost impossible; and my parents, who helped me along every step of the way, from my first*

*leadline class on my miniature pony all the way up to where I am now."*

Alicia is a freshman at Richmond High and her favorite subjects are Spanish and anything math related. Her favorite color is blue.

Her most memorable experience with her pony was riding it down an old dirt road and *"...hitting her speed with the wind blowing in our faces...that was so much fun!"* Alicia still owns her first horse, Pony Bee, a rescued gray and white miniature horse. Her favorite horse show is the Missouri State Fair. When asked who her favorite horse was besides her own, she replied, *"Wow, I really don't know, there are so many great horses to choose from!"* And if one exists, Alicia would like to know what it's like to ride the "perfect horse." Her ponies' favorite treats are apples, carrots, peppermints, French fries, and Icees. She would most like to show in the five-gaited division, which is what she'll be showing in this year.

When she is not showing or taking a lesson with her horses, *"I like to scratch them all over and watch them wiggle their nose and 'smile'! I also like to sit next to them when they're laying down sleeping in their stalls and rub and talk to them."*

When she grows up, Alicia would like to be either an equine chiropractor or a photographer.

Thanks, Alicia! Good luck with your ponies and horses this show season!

I would like to thank Miles Drummond for sending me a story on his horse, **Sir Love A-Lot, aka Bubba**.

What's a Bubba? BUB-BA (bub'a) n. 1. A trustworthy friend. 2. Honest, as in true-blue. 3. Tough, durable. 4. Salt of the earth. 5. Backbone of this country. 6. Economical, no frills. 7. Dependable. 8. Hard working. 9. Proud. 10. Take your pick, there's a lot left over.

Bubba has been my best friend since I was very small. He taught me how to groom, clean feet, lead a horse, ride and be a friend. He has taught so many people how to ride and show that I don't think anyone but Bubba knows what the number is. Bubba is very proud, and although he has trouble getting up now from his naps, he accepts our help with a kiss, a soft nicker, and then goes on about the business of eating, drinking and exercising as though nothing out of the ordinary happened. He just turned 29 and he is the most respected member of our barn. He has won two national championships, but more importantly, he has taught so many to ride, love horses and to believe in themselves. That is the best thing about Bubba. He always knows how to make you feel better. He is the best.

Thank you, Miles! If you would like to send in a story on a special retired or lesson horse you know, please just e-mail me!

To continue my Careers In the Saddlebred Industry series, I would like to introduce you to one of the most successful equine photographers in the business today, Doug Shiflet.

You could safely say that Doug Shiflet was "destined" to have a career with Saddlebreds. His father, Claude Shiflet, has trained Saddlebreds since his teen years, so Doug was around the horses his whole life.

His interest in photography began after a trip across the United States and Canada. Because of that trip, his photography was directed more towards nature and wildlife.

Around the time of his junior year in high school, he took an elective photography class and became more interested in photography as well as printing and processing his own photos.

Doug observed what kind of cameras other equine photographers

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were using, and then purchased a twin lens *Rolliflex*. He began practicing at his dad's barn when his customers would come to ride.

Doug's interest escalated after more and more practice and some "easy sales" to some of his father's customers. He completed some post-high school education in photography and general subjects, and upon a suggestion from his dad, he decided to seriously pursue a career in equine photography.

"Dad thought I had a natural instinct and ability to capture action photos. He also knew being a Shiflet, I wanted a business of my own. He suggested I call H. Leon Sargeant, the official photographer at Louisville."

Doug did call Sargeant, but he already had his staff in place. At that point, he started talking to friends in the photography business, gaining as much knowledge as he could.

He then started calling horse shows to look for any job opportunities he could. The first show he ever photographed was a one day show in Marietta, Ga., called Pro-Am Benefit. In March, Doug will be making his 29th trip to Pro-Am, which is now a large four-day show held in Perry, Ga.

A few of his photos were printed in the *Saddle Horse Report* after Pro-Am, and H. Leon Sargeant saw some of his work and was impressed. He called Doug and asked if he would be willing to fly to Memphis for some training to prepare him to work Louisville.

"Well, obviously I accepted and I have been blessed and honored to be at Louisville since my inaugural year of 1979," he says. In his first year of business, he photographed about 14-17 shows.

I asked Doug what the biggest challenge he faced as a photographer is, and he replied that it is trying to capture a horse at his or her best, and at the angle that depicts the horse's best assets; and trying always to emphasize the beauty, elegance, power, and animation that characterizes the American Saddlebred. Another challenge, he said, is trying to do the latter for every exhibitor, for everyone wants a special photo of their horse.

When asked what he found challenging about equine photography, he said this; "The challenge I just spoke about. I like challenges. Also meeting people, and traveling." The one thing he disliked about photography was "...all the hours in the dark room," where he developed his photos. Now, of course, that has been eliminated because of digital photography. He says that schedules can become a bit grueling, being gone two to three weeks at a time, as well, even though he likes to travel. Also, constantly having deadlines to meet can be somewhat stressful.

His favorite class to photograph is open three-gaited. "Probably because more of them come into the ring doing what they are supposed to be doing, more balanced motion, fixed in the bridle, and you also have a little more time to choose your angle."

Not surprisingly, Doug's favorite horse show is the World's Championship Horse Show. "Best horses in the world at one location," he says.

Every year, he photographs about 18 horse shows. To any junior exhibitor who is interested in having a career in equine photography, he says this;

"Do as I did. Get in touch with someone doing it and see if you can assist them. Ask a lot of questions to those you think are excellent equine photographers. Practice, practice, practice. "Repetition is the

mother of skill."

Thank you very much, Doug, for taking time out of your busy schedule to complete my interview. I really appreciate it!

On February 3, 2007, over 250 members of the Missouri Horse Show Association braved the single-digit temperatures to attend the MHSA Awards Banquet, held at the Peach Tree Banquet Center in Columbia, Mo. The banquet featured many fun activities for young and old.



1. Megan Hulse and Karli Dawson enjoy some quality time together at the 2007 MHSA Awards Banquet. Megan and Show Me The Town were Three-Gaited Show Pleasure Junior Exhibitor High Point Reserve Champions, and Karli was third place in the Academy Saddle Seat Horsemanship, Walk & Trot, in addition to receiving her silver medal in the Academy Achievement program. 2. A very happy academy rider is proud and excited to pose with her medal, well earned from the 2006 Academy Achievement program. 3. Equitation Excellence: The junior and senior Saddle Seat, Stock Seat and Hunt Seat Medallion Champions and Reserve Champions.

photos by Alexandra Layos

Thanks to Callaway Hills Stable and Kelly Hulse, we were fortunate enough to have a guest speaker, Redd Crabtree. What was supposed to have been the Youth Forum turned out to be a full house of kids and adults, listening intently to what Redd had to say.

There were three interesting points Redd made that I would like to share with you...

First, he gave advice to kids who would like to have a career in the Saddlebred industry. "Get in the business early in life...find out if you really want to be in it," he said. Redd suggested to get an education first, and then work for someone who knows what they are doing. Laughter arose when he noted that a horse can teach you how to be a horse trainer; "Horses have a lot of time to stand and out think us."

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(I'm sure many of us can relate!) Redd also mentioned that he could not favor any one of his horses over the other, and that some horses who may not have been the best, tried hard. Redd never "gave up" on any horse; he gave them every opportunity to become good horses. He went on to say that he gave each and every one of his horses personal attention.

As many of you know, Redd was the trainer of Five-Gaited World's Grand Champion and renowned Saddlebred stallion Will Shriver. Redd conveyed to us that Will Shriver had an unbelievable heart; "He tried every single step." There was also something to be said about the horse's amazing ability.

Redd also made a remark (commenting on Will Shriver) that was very thought-provoking to me: "Significance lasts a lifetime." He said that Will may be even more important now than he was when he was winning his World's Grand Championships.

There were two exceedingly noteworthy questions Redd was asked about Saddlebreds as sport horses, and the pleasure horses of the industry. Redd says he supports the idea of Saddlebreds being used as sport horses; if they can't make it as show horses, it's good that they can have another purpose.

He remarked also that, even though pleasure classes are a very significant part of the Saddlebred industry; they are also somewhat a detriment. Redd noted that pleasure classes are not as exciting for the audience to watch as say, a five-gaited or three-gaited class. This is especially true for people who do not know the Saddlebred, and are looking for a thrilling class to watch.

I would like to thank Redd for taking the time to come and give us insight in to his illustrious career as a Saddlebred trainer, and I'm sure everyone who attended the banquet feels the same.

There were 19 2006 Academy Medalists, receiving bronze and silver medallions. The program, started two years ago, recognizes academy riders for their success and accomplishments during the past year based on points earned. Riders receiving silver medals were: Samantha Patterson, Karli Dawson, and Caitlin Wisdom. Riders receiving bronze medals were: Dakota Dupin, Brianne Goans, Richelle Perkins, Ashley Shaefer, Haley Cajanbig, Hannah Cajanbig, Haley Ennis, Betsy Krutek, Morgan LeBaige, Karli Schwimley, Kelsey Schwimley, Kaley Short, Brittany Were, Trevor Drummond, and Melissa Williamson. Congratulations on a job well done! If you're an academy rider, ask your trainer about signing up for the MHSA Academy Achievement program for 2007.

Abigail Mutrux was the 2006 MHSA High Point Saddle Seat Equitation Rider. She received a tri-color ribbon and an embroidered director's chair. Abby was also the 2006 MHSA Saddle Seat Medallion Reserve Champion. Congratulations, Abby, on a winning year!

Several other special awards were presented at the banquet, such as the first ever Lesson Horse of the Year award; with teary eyes, Lynn Frazee presented the plaque honoring Candlewick Of Hearstone, aka "Fred" to an emotional Gayle Lampe, as Fred passed away earlier this year. Twenty-nine year old Sir Love A Lot, aka Bubba, was also honored with a plaque. The 2006 MHSA Horse Person of the Year was my trainer, Kelly Hulse. Kelly, congratulations, because you certainly deserve it! Congratulations to everyone who won year-end awards at the banquet...good luck this year!

If you're ever online, don't forget to check out my new website and



*Poker.*

all of the cool features it has. I recently added a new Missouri Saddlebred Fun Message Board where you can talk to all of your horse show and barn buddies from across the Midwest. Let me know if you have any problems with the site or if you have any ideas or suggestions.

[www.freewebs.com/mosaddlebredfun](http://www.freewebs.com/mosaddlebredfun).

Well, that's all for March...I hope everyone has a fun and safe show season, and if your first show is coming up, good luck! Don't forget the photo contest, and don't forget to send me any ideas, suggestions, news, interviews, stories or puzzles you have. I love getting mail and e-mail! Hasta la vista, (means *until next time* in Spanish!)

#### **Did you know?**

*The tallest horse on record is Mammoth (formerly known as Sampson), a Shire gelding. He was foaled in 1848, and in 1850 stood 21.2 hands. He lived in Bedfordshire, England.*

*"Significance lasts as lifetime."*

— Redd Crabtree

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#### **Northeast**

Hey There! How's it going everyone?

Last month I wrote about the Saddlebred Rescue. I recently spoke to Nealia McCracken from Westwind Stables in New Jersey. She and Pat Johnson rescue Saddlebreds from the New Holland Auction and other places. Nealia shared with us the process in which the horses are set up at the auction and the story of one of these rescued horses.

This process begins in a big arena that is sectioned off in groups. Groups of horses would then be crammed in these little sections. Next people would come and sticker the horses to go to Canada. Before they could be shipped off to Canada Saddlebred Rescue got in and picked two horses out of the crowd. One of those horses was Poker. Poker had a big gash on his one leg and all the horses in his section were licking it. He was just about to go to Canada to be slaughtered when the Saddlebred Rescue saved him. Today Poker is the coolest lesson horse and he loves kids! If you are interested in hearing more about the horses we write about please contact Nealia or Pat at: (908) 362-1880 or (908) 362-8285 and they can tell you more.

Now here's Stacey.

Our rider of the month is Brittany McCausland! Brittany is 16 and lives in Pennsylvania with her mother, grandfather, and grandmother. She has five pets which include: her horse, Jake; dog, Snopper; and

cats, Millie, Nutty, and Harley. Brittany is currently in 10th grade and her favorite subject is English. Her favorite color is red and Saddlebreds are Brittany's favorite breed. Other than riding, Brittany enjoys horse photography. Brittany has been riding for eight years and now trains with Linda Coffen and Joe at J&J Farms. She rides saddle seat on her horse Windracer, nicknamed Jake. Jake is a chestnut Saddlebred, and Brittany's best friend. In this upcoming show season, Brittany and Jake want to have lots of fun! Brittany also mentioned to us that her family has been riding Saddlebreds for over 20 years! Keep the tradition going Brittany. Thank you and Good Luck this year!

Katie and I recently attended the Pennsylvania Saddlebred Horse Association (PSHA) High Point Awards banquet. As always it was a fun-filled time for friends to reminisce about the past show season and talk about the next one. The banquet was held at the Holiday Inn in Fogelsville, Penn., on January 21. The banquet began with a social hour so everyone could mingle, buy Chinese Auction or 50/50 raffle tickets, or relax and enjoy the slide show that Steve Custer put together. Then at 2:00 the banquet officially kicked-off with a few words from Curt Melick, the president of PSHA. Next brunch was served and everyone had last minute chances to buy tickets. Following brunch the high point awards were presented and the banquet continued on with the live auction, Chinese auction, and 50/50 drawing. Congratulations to everyone who showed in the 2006 show season, we hope to see you this year too!

This past summer I had the privilege of visiting the Kentucky Horse Park. While I was there I was able to visit the Saddlebred Museum. On the sidewalk outside of the building there are donated bricks inscribed with horses' names on them. Before leaving on this trip I had received an idea to contact the owners of some of the horses and interview them. So I wrote down some of the horses' names that were chosen at random. In future issues I will put in the responses of the owners of these horses. Also in upcoming issues, we will be reporting on the New Holland Auction the Horse World Expo, and saddle seat attire.

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has a different mentality, but it is just as fun as any saddle horse. I have learned to listen even better to what a horse is telling me: if I've got too much hold of the bridle, if I need to use more leg or more clucking, etc.," said Watson.

Watson feels that riding hunt seat has helped her in other ways, too.

"I think my balance has gotten better and my leg is definitely stronger as well. Also, in hunt seat it is so important to plan ahead and look ahead to set your horse up for the next obstacle," said Watson.

Watson feels that anything a rider can do to improve their ability as a horse person is a good idea, and that includes learning from other seats.

"The better a rider can learn to communicate with a horse and the better a rider can learn to listen to a horse is always a great thing," Watson said.

Both Watson and Werner would like to thank the William Woods riding instructors, Gayle Lampe, Jennie Petterson, Linda McClaren, and Karen Pautz for all of the opportunities they've been given in riding class.

That's all for this month. Check back soon for the latest happenings "from the Woods."

Also, please don't forget to help us honor the memory of Fred, Ms. Lampe's personal horse who spent 22 years teaching students at William Woods.

At the aforementioned Missouri Horse Shows Association Banquet, Fred was inducted into the MHS Lesson Horse Hall of Fame. He taught many of the professional horse trainers in the saddle seat world, as well as in the dressage, hunt seat and western worlds. We said goodbye to Fred on May 20, but he will never be forgotten.

Donations will go toward a brick in the Saddlebred walkway at the American Saddlebred Museum, and a new exhibit in honor of Fred, encouraging young people to get involved in American Saddlebreds.

Check donations in Fred's memory should be made payable to Katina Layos, and in the memo it should be noted for the "Candlewick of Hearthstone Fund."

Donations may be sent to: Bank Star One, 118 West 5th Street, PO Box 638, Fulton, MO 65251. On the back of the check, please write: For Deposit Only in # 490581. William Woods University is also working on a fund in Fred's honor. All donations will benefit the equestrian program at WWU, to which Fred dedicated his life.

Until next time, "May all your days be blue ribbon ones!"

## Melinda Moore to Judge Des Moines Springfest

Des Moines Springfest is pleased to announce Melinda Moore, Harrodsburg, Ky., as our 2007 judge. Springfest is scheduled for April 26 - 29 at the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, Ia. It is our 10th anniversary show! We are planning a new appetizer party on Thursday evening in addition to your favorite hospitality events! Our exhibitor party at Diamond Jack's will again feature live music. Come celebrate with us!

Springfest is hosting a silent auction for the benefit of Blank Children's Hospital. All proceeds will go directly to the Regional Child Protection Center at Blank for the programs benefitting drug affected babies and children. If you or your company would like to donate an item for the auction please contact susanaschenbrenner@hotmail.com (515-278-2714). Items valued at \$150 or more will receive a page of advertising in the show program. Ad copy must be received by April 2. During our nine years Springfest has donated more than \$50,000 to this wonderful charity.

Iowa Horse Shows Association is pleased to announce the Iowa Equitation Challenge! Junior Exhibitors age 17 and under are eligible to compete for this \$1,000 scholarship. Riders must be a current junior member of Iowa Horse Shows Association and must also show and place in Saddle Seat or Pleasure Equitation classes at three IHSA accredited shows in the state of Iowa. IHSA membership forms and registration forms and rules will be available in the show office at Springfest. Membership forms are also available from Deanne Mundt - Deannesue@aol.com. Finals will be held at the Iowa Fall Classic Horse Show, Sept. 14 -16, 2007 at the Iowa Equestrian Center, Cedar Rapids, Ia.