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What does it take to start an equine therapy program using rescued horses? A lot of faith, and in this case, “blind faith.” The protagonist, who defines herself in terms of “worry and trust,” is more often heard to think or pray that “God will provide.” But the difficult tasks she faces often demand a lot more human effort and preparation.

This is the heartwarming true story of a blind Appaloosa named Joey. At the height of his show career, this Appaloosa’s stature, strength, and willingness to work made him the perfect partner. But when an injury cost Joey his show career, he moved from one owner to the next, ultimately experiencing severe abuse and neglect. A rescue group found Joey nearly dead from starvation—and blind.

Then he came to Hope Reins—a ranch dedicated to helping hurting kids who had been abused, emotionally wounded, or unwanted. By teaching these children to care for rescued animals, the Hope Reins staff members were convinced they could reach kids with love and hope.

But could the financially struggling ranch afford to take care of a blind horse, and other rescued horses, that had no place else to go? Yes, hosting a fundraiser helps to temporarily halt the imbalance of costs and income.

Throughout the book Joey is portrayed as a horse who has an amazing influence on the children who come to Hope Reins, as well as on the volunteer workers there. He has a way of turning his head and neck to a person standing next to him so that he seems to embrace the person.

The volunteers at Hope Reins are very diligent in their caring for the horses, as well as the client children and their families. However, their attempts at training Joey and his pasture mate Speckles are often uninformed by real horse training techniques, employing a “learn as you go approach.” Sometimes it works, but the lack of experience at managing horses does get Joey hurt.

Bleakley writes: “Hope Reins is based upon 2 Corinthians 1:3-5: God comforts us in our time of need, so that we can comfort others in their time of need.” That comfort is not just for the hurting children, but it is also for the volunteers and to everyone who donates to Hope Reins. Even though it is a constant battle to manage everything—especially the costs, “walking in blind faith is not for wimps,” the protagonist concludes.

**About the Author:** Jennifer Bleakley has worked as a child and family grief counselor. She has a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in counseling. She leads a women’s Bible study in her hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina.

### Saddle Up with the Arts

**Brought back for a second year,** Gallery on Main, at 128 West Main Street in Richmond, Kentucky, is hosting the “Saddle Up with the Arts” exhibition, with featured artist—photographer Kim Owens.

**Artist’s Reception** is Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 5:30-7pm. See artwork by the featured artist, and other regional artists; hear live music; support the Gallery through a silent auction; and enjoy hors d’oeuvre. The exhibit runs through June 5, 2018.

Find more information at: [http://www.galleryonmain.us](http://www.galleryonmain.us) Richmond, Kentucky is located just 27 miles south of Lexington, Kentucky and about 150 miles north of Knoxville, Tennessee.
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Tennessee Equine Hospital HOW

By Lauren Wells

On Thursday, March 8, 2018, Tennessee Equine Hospital in Thompson’s Station, Tennessee hosted a Horse Owner’s Workshop, sponsored by Purina and Williamson Farmer’s Co-Op. The three speakers at this event included Rusty Bane, Equine Specialist with Purina, whose topic was “Innovations in Equine Nutrition.” Dr. Mike Caruso, Associate Surgeon for Tennessee Equine Hospital, discussed “Preparing the Equine Athlete,” and Lauren Wells, Livestock Production Specialist for Williamson Farmer’s Co-op, provided a demonstration on body condition scoring for your horse.

Around 55 people attended the event, which included dinner at the workshop: a taco bar catered by Moe’s.

There were several fun door prizes, and an opportunity to socialize and meet other horse owners. Attendees got to tour the clinic at the end of the evening. Purina and Williamson Farmer’s Co-Op are very grateful for Tennessee Equine Hospital’s hospitality and assistance in making the event possible.

Purina partners with feed dealers across the nation to bring information from their nutrition research farm and from local experts about topics important to horse owners.

Find more information about the Horse Owners Workshops at: https://www.purinamills.com/horse-feed/events/how-horse-owners-workshop
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UTCVM Horse Owners Conference
By Nancy Brannon, Ph.D.

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine offered its annual Horse Owners Conference on March 24, 2018 on the UTCVM campus. This year’s theme was Spotlight on Laminitis, with presentations from expert veterinarians, nutritionists, and a farrier on every aspect of the disease. Dr. Megan Graves moderated the day-long program.

Overview of Laminitis
Dr. Eric Martin began the program with an Overview of Laminitis. Dr. Martin has expertise in metabolic disorders such as Cushing’s and Equine Metabolic Syndrome, among other specialties. His extensive overview of the disease covered the equine foot – structure, function, and normal vs. laminitis. He categorized the states of laminitis: developmental, acute, sub-acute, and chronic. Then he described the causes of laminitis and various treatment options.

Laminitis is the inflammation of the sensitive laminae. This is what connects the Coffin bone (P3) to the hoof wall. Founder is the mechanical change within the hoof: sinking of the Coffin bone, rotation of the Coffin bone, or both.

Endocrine-related Laminitis
Dr. Melissa Hines followed, describing Endocrine-related Laminitis. She explained Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID, Equine Cushing’s Disease) and Equine Metabolic Syndrome, and how both are related to laminitis.

Colitis-related Laminitis
Dr. Megan McCracken covered Colitis-related Laminitis. Colitis is an inflammation of the large bowel that includes the cecum and large colon. There are multiple causes, both infections and non-infectious. The main clinical sign is severe diarrhea, which causes significant problems including excessive fluid loss and dehydration. The heart has more difficulty in pumping the blood, which is thick or sludgy, so less oxygen transported to all parts of the body; lack of oxygen can cause cell death. Other consequences include secreting large amounts of fluid and protein into the bowel lumen; reduced absorption of water, electrolytes, and nutrients; and the mucosa of the inner most layer of the colon wall becomes “leaky.” As this happens, bacteria and their toxins can move out of the hind gut lumen and into the blood stream, whereby colitis becomes a whole body disease, causing sepsis and endotoxemia. This, then, kicks in the body’s immune system.

Sepsis is the body’s extreme response to bacterial infection. Endotoxemia is the body’s extreme response to a certain part of the cell membrane of Gram negative bacteria. The horse’s body responses to sepsis/endotoxin result in massive inflammation, which kills the bacteria, but also causes significant collateral damage to the body.

Sepsis and endotoxemia are the components of colitis that can lead to laminitis. Current research looks at increased inflammatory mediators in the lamellae and the failure of the epithelial cell adhesion molecule that is responsible for holding the lamellae together. If the lamellae are not holding, then laminitis and effects on the coffin bone rotation occur.

One of the common treatments applied for laminitis is cryotherapy or icing. A landmark study by Van Eps and Pollitt (2004, 2006) showed that horses could tol-
erate long periods of hypothermia (having their leg immersed in ice water). Ice therapy decreased the blood flow and resulted in decreased inflammatory mediators in the foot and decreased laminitis development. It revolutionized treatment of sepsis and endotoxemia associated laminitis.

More recent research by Van Eps, et al. (2014) further looked at the effects of hydrotherapy (ice water) on sepsis/endotoxemia induced laminitis and found less cellular damage and lamellar separation in the iced limb. However, the disadvantages of using ice boots are that they’re very labor intensive, require 24-hour care, and the horse must tolerate the ice boots. Treatment must also include other therapies that address the sepsis/endotoxemia and related dehydration, poor oxygen circulation to decrease the potential for laminitis.

Treatments include mechanical support, such as Soft Ride boots, IV fluids, antibiotics, and anti-inflammatory medicines. In conclusion, Colitis is a serious, potentially life threatening disease. It leads to sepsis/endotoxemia, which leads to laminitis. It revolutionized treatment of sepsis in decreased inflammatory mediators in the foot and decreased laminitis development. In this situation, the prognosis is poor.

An alternate diagnostic tool is venogram, which measures the blood flow to the foot. Treatment starts with resolution or control of the primary condition. Treatment continues with medications and diet changes. Systemic treatment includes icing in the early stages and laminar support (Soft Ride boots, deep sand bedding, and wedges/pads).

The one surgical option should be a last resort, a salvage procedure: a tenotomy. The aim is to reduce shearing stresses on the dorsal lamella. The deep digital flexor tendon is surgically cut mid-metacarpal. Post-operative treatment lasts about 6-8 weeks so that, hopefully, a normal hoof/pastern axis is possible. The survival rate of the horse is tentative, with only 59% at 2 years.

**Laminitis: a Surgical Perspective**

Dr. Ellie Cypher explained laminitis from a surgical perspective. Her concerns were morbidity and mortality of the horse and long term complications and management.

To reiterate: laminitis is the inflammation and dysfunction of the laminar epipithelium. Anatomy consists of the epidermal hoof and all its connective tissues; cartilage, digital cushion; navicular bone, P3 (coffin bone), and distal portion P2; associated ligaments, tendons, and synovial structures. All these are continuous with the epidermis of the coronary band.

The laminae, working like Velcro, hook the Coffin bone to the hoof wall. At the same time, the deep digital flexor tendon and superficial flexor tendon are pulling the bone away from the hoof wall.

Causes of laminitis include sepsis, metabolic/endocrine causes, and mechanical causes: laminitis of the unaffected supporting limb as a result of a painful condition, such as fractures and joint infections (as happened with Barbaro). A good deal of the rest of her presentation covered this support limb laminitis. To illustrate the results of this type of laminitis, she showed radiographs of hooves with laminitis with rotation and sinking. Some of the radiographs showed drastic changes in the horse’s hoof within just one week! Severe rotation can occur, but with sinking, the whole bony structure is pushed down to the sole. In this situation, the prognosis is poor.

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**Tribute Equine Nutrition**

Tribute Feed nutritionist Nicole Rambo, Ph.D. explained how quality nutrition leads to healthier horses and better performance with less feed and fewer supplements. As a horse owner herself, she recognizes the importance of and results from good quality balanced horse feed. Tribute Feed is a family-owned company, Kalmbach, based in Ohio since 1963. The company first formulated horse feeds in 2004.

What constitutes quality feed, she says, are: fixed formulations, a balanced amino acid profile, organic trace minerals, antioxidants, prebiotics and digestive enzymes, Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids, formulations with added Glucosamine and MSM.

Nutrition begins with forage first: legume and/or grass forage. Then consider a horse’s special needs, like metabolic conditions, obesity, hyperactivity, digestive challenges, muscle conditions, and breeding.

She explained that Tribute is a nutrition company, not just a feed company, with the main operation located in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Horse feeds made in a separate feed mill, which is ionophore free. Ionophores are commonly added to feed for cattle to improve weight gain and are used in poultry and goat rations as a coccidiostat to control protozoa infections. Ionophores function by increasing cell membrane permeability. But horses are much more sensitive to ionophore poisoning than other species. Ionophore toxicity inhibits sodium and potassium ion transport across cell membranes, which can kill cells—especially muscle cells—leading eventually to total system failure and death. Signs of ionophore poisoning in horses includes poor appetite, diarrhea, muscle weakness, depression, wobbling, colic, excessive urination, sweating, lying down and sudden death.

Rambo emphasized the fact that Tribute feeds use fixed ration formulas, meaning the ingredients and the amounts do not change; all bags have exactly the same ingredients in the same proportion. Compare feed tags with non fixed formula feeds, she said, which use broader terms in describing their ingredients. The ingredients can change because feeds are mixed on a “least cost” formula.

Robert Step was also on hand, representing Tribute Feeds and Knox County Co-op, to answer feed and nutrition questions.

After lunch, the focus turned to treatment and management of the laminitic horse – first with barefoot trimming and then with shoeing.

**Managing the Laminitic Horse Barefoot**

Dr. Neal Valk holds a DVM from the University of Tennessee, a certificate from the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, and certification in natural hoof care and acupuncture. He says the key to managing laminitis is to first identify the triggers (causes). “The horse has an innate ability to heal and we try to optimize that ability to heal,” he said.

He first was introduced to natural hoof care in 2004 and, in his presentation, showed photos of wild horse feet, that are rounded with toes short, heels low, hoof walls straight, and who live in a rough, stony environment. These wild horses spend a lot of hours per day traveling to find food. In explaining the difference between founder and laminitis, he used the analogy of hitting one’s fingernail (accidently) with a hammer. This is laminitis – getting a hematoma under the nail. If the nail comes off the nailbed, this is like founder. In the worst case of founder, a horse can slough off a foot.

The results of founder on the coffin bone can be: (1) rotate; (2) sink; or (3) rotate and sink.

Valk explained that Jaime Jackson, father of natural hoof care, said treating laminitis is analogous to a snake shedding its skin. As new hoof growth comes out, it will be in alignment with the coffin bone (however it has rotated). “So we mechanically optimize the hoof through trimming, and then wait for the hoof to heal,” Valk said.

While the goals for the patient are always the same, there are different ways to treat laminitis. He has not found just one good way that always works.

He argues that shoes are peripheral loading devices, i.e., they make the horse bear weight entirely on the hoof wall, which is not a good thing with laminitis. Rather than being forced to suspend all of the body weight by laminar attachment, he wants to spread the load to the rest of the hoof – not just the hoof wall, but also the bars, frog, etc. His approach is to unload the hoof wall, unload the laminar attachment and let it heal.

Looking at the bottom of the foot, the white line – juncture of the wall and sole – is a good place to see signs of normalcy or laminitis. If there is a stretched white line, this is a sign of laminitis and a slowly rotating coffin bone. One can also see changes in the hoof wall angle as new hoof grows out above the fever lines.

He doesn’t agree in the surgical option – severing the deep digital flexor tendon. He says this is the one case that allows the coffin bone to move forward.

Valk went on to describe the various types of boots and footing for hoof protection. When a horse wears hoof boots, he wants the horse to spend at least 2-4 hours a day in deep pine shavings. They dry out the moisture (continued on p. 10)
that accumulates in boots and the pine oil is therapeutic. With acute laminitis, use ice and/or medication to relieve pain.

Alternatives to boots include casting, clogs, and deep sand footing. Pea gravel is also good because it conforms to the hoof and has a "massage" effect, stimulating hoof growth.

For recovery and rehabilitation, "movement is life," he says. Get the pain under control, and then get the horse moving. He is not a big proponent of keeping a horse in a stall long term. He believes giving the horse freedom to move at will is a better option.

The last part of his presentation was on maintenance, feed changes. “Remove the triggers, trim the foot, and provide protection” for the hoof. “At the end of the day, it’s all about the quality of life for the horse.”

Managing the Laminitic Horse With Shoeing

Jeremy Davis is a Certified Journeyman Farrier, has achieved all the top qualifications for a farrier, and is the resident farrier at UTAVCM. To treat the laminitic horse, understanding the structures and their function in the foot is very important. Treatment includes: frog support, hoof capsule stabilization, removing pressure from the toe region, trimming to minimize stress on the Deep Flexor Tendon, trimming to help realign the Palmar angle and Coffin bone, and protecting the sole of the foot.

He covered the three phases of laminitis: acute, sub-acute, and chronic.

The acute stage is the onset of laminitis, where one sees the horse in the rocked back stance. The sub-acute phase is when the majority of the changes to the coffin bone occur; the horse has a bounding pulse and often an infection in the foot due to bacteria. The tearing apart of the white line and the laminae occurs. In this stage, monitor the digital pulse closely. In the chronic stage, most of the pain has subsided, rotation has taken place, and the foot starts to show changes in appearance and shape. Founder rings start to appear. One can see misshapen hooves and founder rings.

In the acute phase, the shoer is very conservative. The veterinarian is heavily involved to determine the cause(s), get the horse stabilized, and utilize medications and cryotherapy (cold therapy). “The farrier can’t prevent or stop changes within the foot until the horse’s system is stabilized,” he said.

Several options in this stage include: packing with a foam board in the caudal aspect of the foot; lily pads; Soft Ride boots; and a stall with deep sand. “Shavings don’t offer as much support as sand; it’s firm but compressible footing.

In the sub-acute stage, the horse will be lying down a lot, he said. This good, and if the farrier can do the work while the horse is lying down, that’s better.

The chronic phase is where most of the farrier work takes place. He explained and showed examples of the various types of shoes a farrier uses, beginning with the W shoe and the alternative Clog for frog support. Another type of shoe minimizes the stress on the deep flexor tendon. It transfers weight bearing to the superficial flexor tendon and suspensory ligament. He also uses a rail shoe, a rocker/roll shoes, depending on what works for the horse.

He has done a lot of the same things with clog shoes. The goal is protecting the thin sole. And before any type of shoe is placed, the trim must be absolutely correct.

To finish the day, Nicole Rambo, Ph.D. with Tribute Feeds was back with a presentation on Feeding for the Ideal Body Weight. Dr. Diana Unzaga gave a Case Presentation. And after all the presentations were completed, attendees could tour the UTAVCM facilities. All in all, there was plenty of sound information, lots of food and refreshments, and a delicious lunch.
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4-H Youth Compete in Tenn. Horse Bowl and Hippology Contests

By Jennie I. Ivey, PhD, PAS, Assistant Professor and Extension Equine Specialist

During the last weekend of February (23-24), 2018, youth from the three regions of Tennessee gathered in Knoxville, Tennessee to compete at the State 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest. County teams qualified at their regional contests, with the top four teams from the Junior (4-5th grades), Junior High (6-8th grades), and Senior (9-12th grades) traveling to the State level contest. Counties represented included Bedford, Blount, Dyer, Gibson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, Lincoln, Loudon, Madison, Marion, Maury, Montgomery, Putnam, Rutherford, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner, Weakley, and Williamson.

Horse Bowl

A total of 135 youth competed in Horse Bowl; a quiz-bowl style contest where contestants are tested on their equine knowledge and must “buzz-in” before answering the questions in a head-to-head round with another team. Congratulations to all the teams that competed in the contest! Results of the contest are as follows:

- The Junior Division was won by the Blount County A team consisting of Brylee Morgan, Morgan Lakey, and Sadie Roach. Second place was secured by the Sumner County A team made up of Cynthia Burns, Dustin Burns, Kenasi Miller, and Aniston Townsend. Junior division third place was awarded to Marion County A, with team members of Brady Higdon, Jacie Davenport, Kacey Colvin, and Abby Dodson. Fourth place was earned by Madison County A team members Josie Mansfield, Gabby Thompson, Hudson O’Neill, and Samuel McCarver.

- The Junior High Division was won by the Rutherford County team of Emma Jo Shamburger, Liza McQueen, and Jayden Hayes. Second place was secured by the Lawrence County A team consisting of Kylie Barnett, LeilaniBennette, Baylee Otey, and Josiah Dixon. Blount County B was awarded second place, with team members including Brylee Morgan, Morgan Lakey, and Sadie Roach. Third place in the division was earned by the Lincoln County A team of Carrie Brigham, Kaylee Sells, and Brooke Biles.

- The Senior Division was won by the Madison County A team of Zach McCarver, Taylor Perry, Hannah Brasher, and Katherine Ann Thierfelder, who went undefeated in the contest. The Madison County team will represent Tennessee at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup Contest in Louisville, KY, and at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships in Perry, GA. Second place in the division was earned by the Madison County A team of Zach McCarver, Taylor Perry, Hannah Brasher, and Katherine Ann Thierfelder. They will also represent Tennessee at the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championships. The Loudon County A team of Sarah Harper, Abbey Ivey, Mary Marlimo, and Camille Phillips were awarded third place for their efforts.

- Taylor Perry, from Madison County, was awarded the Steve McNeil Horse Achievement Award for her high individual score in the Senior Division Hippology Contest. Ms. Perry earned this award in 2017 also, and continued to demonstrate her extensive equine knowledge in the 2018 contest. Other top Senior Division individuals included Rachel Ottinger (Blount Co., 2nd), Madeline Parr (Blount Co., 3rd), Sienna Spayner (Blount Co., 4th), Morgan Short (Sullivan Co., 5th), Zach McCarver (Madison Co., 6th), Amber Thornton (Sumner Co., 7th), Sarah Harper (Loudon Co., 8th), JoBeth Scarlett (Jefferson Co., 9th), and Camille Phillips (Loudon Co., 10th).

Appreciation for all the county extension agents, volunteers, parents, and coaches that work with the 4-H Horse Project youth is warranted, as the program would not exist without the efforts of these individuals. Special recognition to Neal Smith, UT Extension Western Region 4-H Area Specialist, and Tonya Bain, UT Extension Crockett County, for their efforts to make the contest a success.

For more information on how to become involved with the 4-H program, contact your local county extension agent.
Coming Attractions in the MSHR

Our May issue is our annual summer horse camp issue. We will have an article about the summer horse camps in the Mid-South with information about each camp. This is a one-stop reference to help find the right summer horse camp for you. (suggestion: show this article to the grandparents.) For those barns hosting a camp, be sure to send us your camp information and please consider advertising your camp. A display ad will get a lot of attention and could bring you a lot more campers this year!

We will also have extensive coverage and photos of the Kentucky 3-Day Event taking place April 26-29 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky.

Our June issue is our annual Germantown Charity Horse Show preview and Iroquois Steeplechase issue. We will be at the steeplechase in Nashville on May 12 taking photos of the race. If you have never been to the Iroquois, we recommend it for a fun day in a beautiful setting of horse racing and socializing.

We will be at the Germantown Charity Horse Show June 5-9 covering all of the classes. This is the largest all-breed horse show in America, featuring a little something for every horse lover. Extra copies of the June issue will be available free at the horse show. This is a great issue for congratulatory ads for your GCHS princess!

Print media is a safe, reliable form of communication. Online and Internet advertising and social media are great ways to communicate, but they do have their downside. Print media cannot be hacked and your personal information or photos won’t be stolen!

See you next month!
By Alice Collins for Jennifer Wood Media, Inc.; Photos by Susan J. Stickle

Wellington, FL — March 18, 2018 — The sixth annual Florida International Youth Dressage Championships (FIYDC) were the highlight of competition on the final day of week 10, Sunday, March 18, of the Adequan® Global Dressage Festival (AGDF) at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) in Wellington, Florida.

The 2018 Florida International Youth Dressage Championships — presented by Terri Kane, Hampton Green Farm, Sarah Davis, USEF Owners’ Dressage Task Force and Dressage 4Kids — took place alongside senior competition in week 10 at the AGDF. It featured competition for riders in the under-25, Young Rider, Junior, Children and Pony divisions, offering them a chance to compete on the big stage and showcase their talent at one of the world’s largest and most high-profile dressage competitions.

There were five youth division winners, with 16-year-old Natalia Bacariza from Spain winning the overall trophy for the highest average score. She beat six other Junior riders, winning all three classes with over 71% on the Yeguada De Ymas’s 11-year-old Don Crusador gelding, Dhanie Ymas — former ride of her trainer Juan Matute Guimon and his kür gold medal-winning 2015 Junior European Championships partner.

It was another win for Spain in the under-25 division, with Rodrigo Encinas Fuentes and Van The Man leading the field of 10 entrants. The horse is owned by Cesar Parra, who rode the now 16-year-old gelding by Obelisk at grand prix at AGDF in 2013, 2014 and 2015 before handing the reins over to his young pupil.

Fuentes won only one of the three young rider tests, with Natalie Pai (USA) winning the other two on Unlimited, but his average score of 68.094% edged out Pai’s 67.746%.

It was Canada’s Beatrice Boucher who came out on top of the 17 competitors in the Young Rider division. Riding Gilles Bergeron’s 15-year-old Del Piero gelding Delfiano, she averaged 69.415% across the three tests.

The youngest division winner came in the form of 13-year-old Tori Belles from Pennsylvania riding PJ Rizvi’s pony Prince Z to an average score of 67.498%.

The final winner was another to hail from Canada. Lily-Rose Lemaire, 14, rode the former broodmare World Lady, 18, to the Children’s title.

Jennifer Baumert made it three wins from three starts on Handsome in week 10. Baumert posted 75.2% on Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ Juliano’s 13-year-old Hochadel gelding, with fellow American Jodie Kelly-Baxley on Caymus, by Sir Sinclair, slotting in to second (74.175%) and Canada’s Brittany Fraser filling third with Jill Irving’s Sir Donnerhall gelding, Soccer City (72.875%).

Baumert, who was competing Handsome at the AGDF for the second successive year, usually returns to her Ohio base in April, but is staying on in Wellington this year.

This concludes action in week 10 of the 2018 AGDF, which was the largest dressage show ever held outside Western Europe. The circuit hosted its final week of competition on March 28-31, and includes the Stillpoint Farm FEI Nations Cup team event. For more information and results, visit www.globaldressagefestival.com.
Tori Belles on Prince Z
(photos by susanjstickle.com)

Natalia Bacariza won the overall trophy for the highest average score.

(left) Rodrigo Encinas Fuentes and Van the Man.
(photo: susanjstickle.com)

MDA Circus-themed Dressage Show

The Mid-South Dressage Academy, Hernando, Mississippi, started the 2018 show season with a circus-themed schooling show on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Following are some selected results.

Training Test 2 Jr/YR winner was Sydney Doss riding Hooked on You, scoring 64.808%.

First Level Test 3 Open winner was Lori Hudson with Noble Gold, scoring 65.157%. The pair scored 65.469% in First Level Test 2 Open.

Prix St. Georges Adult Amateur winner was Ansley Stanfill riding A S Godiva, with a score of 60.658%.

Intro Test B was one of the more popular classes, with 8 entries. Claire Webby and Happy Feed scored 67.813 in the Jr/YR division. Missy Carlisle and Caution Wet Paint scored the same in the Adult Amateur division.

Caitlyn Massey, riding Mikato, was the top scorer in Jr/YR Intro Test C: 68.000%. Claire Webby and Happy Feed scored a close second, 66.500%. And Allison Stewart scored 63.500% on Summer Vacation.

Full results of the show are posted at www.foxvillage.com.

The next show at MDA will be the spring Bunny Hop USDF show, April 7-8, 2018. Find more information at: www.midsouthdressageacademy.org and on facebook.

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“Take pride in how far you have come
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--Ruby Reithel Head Trainer, USDF Bronze Medalist

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This year (2018) marks the 70th anniversary of the Germantown Charity Horse Show (GCHS), with special events planned for the celebration, and a new venue for the Ball. This year’s Ball was held at the Holiday Inn University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee — a change from the traditional Woodland Hills venue in Cordova, Tennessee. It was well-attended, with the GCHS Royalty presentations the highlight of the event. After the presentations, there was dinner and dancing to the music of Jeremy Shrader’s Octocats – playing swing, jazz and big band music. The young folks dominated the dance floor, showing the older folks some new ways to cut a rug!

As in previous years, the GCHS charity beneficiary is The Exchange Club Family Center. This year marks the 20th year the show has raised funds to help support this organization that works to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect. Find more information about the show at: http://gchs.org/.

The 2018 Germantown Charity Horse Show Queen is Elizabeth Rhymes, “Bebe,” Chancellor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Martin Chancellor and granddaughter of Past President Jimmy Chancellor. Bebe is a sophomore at Fordham University-Rose Hill in the Bronx, New York, with a double major in anthropology and religious studies. This fall, Bebe hopes to study abroad at the University of Ghana in Legon, Ghana. Bebe served as GCHS Princess three years ago and has been involved in the horse show since she was a little girl.

The 2018 Princesses are:
- Miss Anneliese Luiza Ballo, representing Hunters Edge Stables
- Miss Kelsey Rhea Douglas, representing the Germantown Lions Club
- Miss Julie Raye Earnest, representing Pegasus of Germantown
- Miss Gina Grace Gasko, representing the Germantown Symphony Orchestra
- Miss Lillian Clare Gillespie, representing the Junior League of Memphis
- Miss Mary Kate Hale, representing the Germantown Garden Club
- Miss Taylor Renee Hiatt, representing Southern Blues Equestrian Center
- Miss Olivia Lauren Lawhorn, representing Nashoba Carriage Association
- Miss Carey Grace McKinster, representing the Heritage Women’s Club
- Miss Anne Elizabeth Matheny, representing Les Passees, Inc.
- Miss Jessie Aileen Nabors, representing the Kimbrough Woods Garden Club
- Miss Paige Liberty Palmer, representing Longreen Fox Hounds
- Miss Caroline Hayes Pierotti, representing the Suburban Garden Club
- Miss Abigail Tate Sellers, representing Minis on the Move, Inc.
- Miss Rachel Christine Sutton, representing West Tennessee Hunter Jumper Association
- Miss Mary Katherine Grace Thomas, representing Kiwanis Club of Germantown
- Miss Rebecca Elizabeth Wills, representing Michael Tokaruk Show Stables
- Miss Hannah Grace Wirth, representing Autumn Chase Farm

Queen Elizabeth has the first dance with her dad, David Chancellor
(PHOTO BY NANCY BRANNON)

Princess Jessie Aileen Nabors dances with her dad Forest Nabors II.
(PHOTO BY TOMMY BRANNON)

Princess Julie Raye Earnest dances with her dad James Jeffrey Earnest.
(PHOTO BY TOMMY BRANNON)

Princess Lillian Clare Gillespie dances with her dad Marion Boyd Gillespie
(PHOTO BY TOMMY BRANNON)
Celebrating 70 Years of Champions, Charity, and the Love of Horses

Germantown Charity Horse Show
1948 - 2018
June 5-9, 2018

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MegFord I Horse Show

MegFord Schooling Shows were back at the Show Place Arena in Memphis, TN to start the spring show season. The March 23-25, 2018 show offered a warm up opportunity for the early April WTHJA shows, with over 100 horses entering the three-day show under near-perfect spring weather. The new schedule for 2018 includes Sunday classes, and jumpers on both Friday and Saturday. The hunter schedules on Saturday and Sunday were same, so there were double the opportunities to earn points toward year-end awards. The Classics offered $200 in prize money. Friday nights are hospitality nights, with different sponsors at each show.

The Best Child Rider at this show was Emmalee Lentile, who rode Wishful Thinking and White Zip.

Rusty Stirrup Champion was Melissa Maravich on Jewels.

Leadline winner was Dean Luca, riding Dresden Rose.

Saturday’s 2’ Mini Medal winner was Kirsten Monmaney, riding Bella Ragazza.

Saturday’s 2’6” Mini Medal winner was Lucie Bell, riding Panache. The pair also won Saturday’s Indoor Hunter Classic and swept the Modified Children’s/Adult Hunter 2’6” division on Saturday.

Sunday’s 2’6” Mini Medal winner was Ruby Nahimas, riding Brando.

Noemi Quatraro won Friday’s Jumper Classic with Belle of the Ball.

Charlotte Blondis won Sunday’s Indoor Hunter Classic on Cut To The Chase.


Additional MegFord shows this season are June 15-17, August 24-26, and November 2-4, 2018. All will be at the Show Place Arena in Memphis, Tennessee.
Tennessee Valley Hunt Ball

Photos by Nancy Brannon

Tennessee Valley Hunt (TVH) celebrated their 2017-2018 season with The Hunt Ball on March 24, 2018 at Cherokee Country Club in Knoxville, Tenn. The Hunt Ball culminates the regular hunt season with social festivities, fund raising for the hounds, and dancing to live music provided by the very talented “Nationwide Coverage” band.

The Hunt Ball featured dinner and a live auction of some fun activities. Blackberry Farm offered two special activities: a Blackberry Farm Brewery Tour and a Private Whiskey tasting party, both including dinner at The Walnut Kitchen in Maryville, TN. Next on the auction block was a private rabbit hunt with Larry Bright and his National Champion Octorara Beagles, followed by Frogmore Stew Boil at Three Sisters on Blackberry Mountain. To clarify, the Frogmore Stew Boil contains NO frogs, but is a South Carolina Low Country one-pot meal with shrimp, corn, sausage, and potatoes cooked with a combination of seasonings.

Other items were: horseback riding lessons with the huntsman’s wife, Casey Baldock Johnsey; an Easter Egg Hunt at Hunter Valley Farm in Knoxville, TN; a party opportunity with dinner and dancing to live music at Pure Water Farm; a week’s getaway at a penthouse apartment in New York City just three blocks from Central Park; and a photography session with portrait photographer Laura Pierpont. All proceeds from the auction went towards supporting the Tennessee Valley foxhounds.

Tennessee Valley’s hunt season begins with cubbing in September and October, followed by the formal season November through mid-March. The hounds go out three times a week, and there are multiple hunt fixtures in east Tennessee. In addition, TVH participates in joint meets and hound trials throughout the season.

A new kennel is under construction near New Market, Tennessee, about 30 miles east of Knoxville. Some hunts in the 2018-2019 season will originate from the new kennel.

Find more about the Tennessee Valley Hunt at: http://www.tvhfox.com
Pletcher Wins Second Rebel Stakes with Magnum Moon

By Jennifer Hoyt; Photos by Coady Photography

Hot Springs, AR (Saturday, March 17, 2018) – Robert and Lawana Low’s Magnum Moon secured 50 points towards Kentucky Derby eligibility and provided trainer Todd Pletcher with his second straight victory in the $900,000 Rebel Stakes (G2) with his authoritative win before a record crowd of 37,500. Pletcher won the race last year with Malagacy.

Forwardly placed early, Magnum Moon tracked Title Ready through fractions of 23.42 and 47.15 for the first half mile. He began his bid on the far turn, shook free of the field through the stretch and finished 3 ½ lengths in front of even money favorite Solomini to remain undefeated in three career starts. Combatant, the runner up in both of Oaklawn’s Smarty Jones and Southwest (G3) Stakes overcame a rough trip to finish third. The winning time for 1 1/16 miles was 1:42.68 over a fast track.

“We felt like we had a very talented colt,” Pletcher said via phone. “We were very pleased with his first two races. But, this was a step up in class and running against accomplished, seasoned colts. We were confident that he was training very well, coming into it in great shape and just hoping he could handle the continued rise in class.”

The pacesetter Title Ready held on for fourth and was followed by Sporting Chance, Zing Zang, High North, Higher Power, Pryor and Curlin’s Honor.

Magnum Moon, a Malibu Moon colt, has now earned $577,800. He returned $8, $3.60 and $3 as the 3-1 second choice in the field.

The Rebel Stakes winner is now ranked fifth on the Kentucky Derby list with 50 points. Solomini is now ranked ninth with 34 points, Combatant is 13th with 22. The Derby field is limited to the 20 starters with the most points.

Pletcher said that the $1 million Arkansas Derby (G1) April 14 is the next logical step for Magnum Moon, who could earn an additional 100 points by winning that race.

“We felt like we had a very talented colt. Very pleased with his first two races. But this was a step up in class and running against accomplished, seasoned colts. We were confident that he was training very well, coming into it in great shape and just hoping he could handle the continued rise in class,” said Pletcher. He said the Arkansas Derby is the “most likely and...”
Chester Weber won a record 15th USEF Four-in-Hand National Championship title Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Live Oak International. Leading from start to finish, Weber and his team earned an impressive 40.11 in dressage, blazed brilliantly around the marathon with just 123.58 points added, and had only one ball in the third phase to win. Weber also earned the Jean Keathley Perpetual Memorial Trophy for the best FEI dressage score.

Lisa Stroud, Kennett Square, PA, held onto the reserve championship position after a competitive cones course. She and her team had three balls down and picked up 0.34 time penalties for a total of 190.21 points. James Fairclough, Newton, NJ, also remained in his marathon position. One obstacle fault and 2.09 time penalties gave him a third place result with a score of 194.43.

This is the first year that U.S. Equestrian offered Intermediate Combined Driving National Championships.

Single Pony overnight leader Jennifer Keeler, Paris, KY, piloted her own Zeppo to victory, adding nothing through the obstacles phase for a final result of 144.7.

After taking over the lead of the Intermediate Pair Pony Championship on marathon day, Katie Whaley, Paris, KY, solidified her win with a faultless trip around the cones course. She finished the weekend on a final score of 140.29.

Jennifer Thompson, Lodi, WI, carefully maneuvered her own Funnominial C.G. to take home the Intermediate Single Horse Championship title. Her 0.21 time penalties brought her to a three-day result of 140.94.

Scott Adcox, Sarasota, FL, piloted Nupafeed Auto Pilot and Pepe to the Intermediate Pair Horse title. Looking to gain experience for his pair, Adcox had three cones faults and 10.44 time faults for a weekend score of 185.39.

In addition to the Jean Keathley Perpetual Memorial Trophy won by Chester Weber, the Anne Bliss Perpetual Memorial Trophy was earned by Four-in-Hand driver Misdee Wrigley-Miller as the most elegant lady rider. The Ed Young Memorial Trophy was presented to Anne Marie Turbe as the Most Valuable Official.

Visit www.liveoakinternational.com
The Legacy of Legends held its 8th annual gathering at the Will Rogers Arena in Fort Worth, Texas, March 9-11, 2018, a benefit for the Legacy of Legends Scholarship Program. This colt-starting event demonstrates what the recipients have learned after spending time with a horseman, clinician and/or trainer who adheres to the philosophy of Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt. Their approach uses the self-preservation of the horse to build a relationship of trust with the human. This event pays tribute to what Ray Hunt considered the foundation for everything else to come in a horse’s life.

Six clinicians that represent this gentle approach were chosen from the 2017 scholarship program horsemen and horsewomen to start two-year-old colts from the six ranches represented in this year’s event.

BUSTER McLaurie had a bald faced mare that his daughter Tiffany was riding, who blew up with every phase of handling. His interpretation was that she was not comfortable inside the round pen and saddled better outside in the open. But she had to learn, even though he had addressed her claustrophobia. In the round pen, Buster mounted his steed and moved her around the pen with the other horses to get her feet moving, using upward and downward transitions. Smooth transitions are important and have a calming effect. When it came time to saddle, she had to have support from him mounted, as he led her around and brought her in close to be petted. The same was true when the rider mounted her. That support allowed her time to decide on her own that it was safe. With this same approach she was ridden on the third day in the round pen and outside.

Buster grew up with horses and worked on the 6666 Ranch out of high school. He is a convert to Ray Hunt’s philosophy and treats each horse by reinforcing these simple principles. He was working with the colts from Rocker B Ranch in Barnhart, Texas.

JATON LORd is Ray Hunt’s grandson, starting his first colt at age 15. He has worked on ranches with trainers and now conducts clinics and rides horses for the public. He has a passion for learning and takes special interest in working with interns. As his grandfather would say, “I am the best because I learn more.” This year he brought some of his own colts. Carlos from Mexico and an Israeli girl teamed up with him to guide the participants in his group. Getting the horse in a learning frame of mind was stressed. Wait for them to settle while you are asking them or you will teach them to spook.

ANTHONY DESREAUX is from Australia and left home at age 14 to work on large stock camps. Having not worked with Ray directly, he is an example of someone who learned from others who learned from Tom and Ray. He worked with the colts from Muleshoe Ranch in Gail, Texas. He emphasized petting the horse as you do ground work by using a brush to stroke and touch the horse. A coiled rope or a flag can also be used. He had a buckskin horse that kept going crazy in his group, so he worked the hind foot with a rope to break the pattern of bucking.

JOE WOLTER worked with Ray out of high school at the Soldiers Meadow Ranch, as well as doing clinics with Tom Dorrance. He works with jumpers and dressage horses. His group worked with the horses from Flying R Ranch in Zillah, Washington. He helped one of the participants with a horse who wanted to pull back when asked to go forward. The point was to teach her that it was her idea to release pressure. When riding a horse like this do not drive and direct at the same time. They will go better if you shift from one side to the other to unstick the hind feet. The stickiness begins with fear.

Buck Brannaman is cofounder of the Legacy of Legends, along with Carolyn Hunt. The two have worked to continue the vision of teaching the next generation’s horsemanship. He is an example of how Ray’s clinics changed his horsemanship and life, and he has followed in Ray’s footsteps to help other people with their horses. He worked with the colts from Froelich Quarter Horses from Gail, Texas.
Selfridge, North Dakota. His daughter, Reata, was in his group as well as Ricky Quinn. Both had challenging horses that demonstrated fear through “sticky” feet. Working the hindquarters and bringing the front quarters through in one move is the goal of separating the front end from the hind end. When this is done with good feel and good timing, there is forward motion with smoother transitions.

WAYNE ROBINSON grew up in Australia riding colts as a teenager and came to the U.S. to work colts with Ray Hunt. His group worked with stud colts from Bosque Performance Horses in Walnut Springs, Texas. His group included Luke Nubert who worked the colt’s hind foot to break up the resistance of moving forward. The arrangement of the panels included a holding area, where colts were gentled and then allowed to play in the open area, while Luke was in the round pen, mounted and ready to assist. The horse was haltered and lead by the handler, while Luke worked the tied hind foot (at the fetlock) from his daily point on the saddle. When the colt understood that he was to yield his hindquarters when asked, then the colt moved forward and could be led around the pen and learn to bend.

Spectators purchased tickets, which fund the scholarship program, to watch the interpretation of what these young trainees have learned in the three months with a mentor who emulates the philosophy of Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt. Generous sponsors also help fund this program. Buck Brannaman’s explains: “The idea is for the next generation of horsemen coming up to be able to ride with good hands and to continue Ray’s and Tom’s vision for the horse.”

In the smaller venue at the Will Rogers Arena, spectators could get closer to the action. One group at a time worked in a single round pen, set up in the arena to allow room to ride outside the pen. The main idea was to set up a learning environment for the horse, unhindered by too much going on at one time. The groups worked with a small herd of 2-year-olds handled enough to be haltered and led, but had spent their life in the pasture. This setup gave the observers a larger view, while the clinicians mounted on horseback gave a description of what was going on with each horse paired with a participant.

The ground work techniques, of moving the hindquarters away and bringing the front end through, were used in preparing the horse for the saddle pad and saddle. As the horse was led, attention was given to the movement of the feet, with the release of pressure being the point of learning. The unspoken contract is to give up the notion of dominance and, instead, relate to the horse as a partner. Shaping the will of a horse must include movement and control of their feet to get them seeking and thinking, which leads to understanding. The outside of the horse tells you what is going on inside their mind.

Getting the horses ready to saddle involved all the time allotted on the first day. With the saddle pad they could locate spots that were sensitive to where the saddle would be, preparing them for what came next. Expression of the eye, position of the ears, tightness in the jaw, position of the head, hollowing of the back, stiffness of the feet, particularly the back feet - all were clues to how the handlers were being received. Sometimes the horses got upset by bucking, kicking, or whirling away in the opposite direction. Still, the goal was to get the colt/filly in a learning frame of mind by putting your hands up to keep them off you, staying calm when they lost their way, and using the lead rope to direct their feet while they were trying to understand what was asked. Sometimes just waiting for the horse to settle after they got the wrong answer was needed.

Buck emphasized throughout the three days that it has to be the horse’s idea. Seeking the horse’s needs and making them your own was one of Tom’s motivational points. It could apply to the horse being comfortable with the saddle or moving the horse forward.

Lateral work was introduced and was used to prepare for the vertical flexing. So much of the work was started with the hindquarters moving over. Stepping back with the outside hind foot allows crossing of the inside hind foot, which then shifts the weight back so the front end can come through and become the balance point for the horse. When done in sync with the lateral flexion of the head, a lateral bend is created upon release. The riding on day two was started in this way by throwing the rope over the horse’s head to work on bending each side.

On day three you could see all the work come together to produce a foundation of riding the horse forward, backward, left, right, a roll back, and a stop. With horse and human meeting each other half way, a partnership is achieved.

www.midsouthhorsereview.com • Mid-South Horse Review • April, 2018 23.
Tenn. High School Rodeo

By Nancy Brannon

Teens from all over Tennessee, and a few neighboring states, had the Show Place Arena rocking and rolling at the Memphis Challenge Tennessee High School Rodeo, March 10-11, 2018. This was the second rodeo for the 2018 season, the first being February 17-18 in Scottsville, Alabama.

Check in was early on Saturday, 8:00 a.m., with the slack starting at 9:00 a.m. That action was completed in short order, leaving plenty of time for competitors to enjoy the warm spring day.

Bronc Riding

Action started again Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. with the bareback bronc riding. Stetson Bierman had a good long ride to start the night’s performance. After finishing his bucking spree, the horse still didn’t want to leave the arena. Enjoying the “limelight” I suppose. For Saturday, Dawson Moore had the best ride (score 52) in Bareback Bronc.

Next in the saddle bronc was Stephen Grueffen on a little paint horse that did some pretty good crow-hopping. But, eventually, the horse just ran out of steam and stood still, being unsuccessful at dumping his rider. It hadn’t been too hard for the cowboy to stay on the allotted time.

Barrel Racing

First up in barrel racing was Harley Staggs of Collinwood, TN on her blue roan horse (15.964). Next was Riley Edwards of Jasper, Alabama (20.542). Then Kassie Carpenter of Mason, TN barreled into the arena turning the barrels in 14.571 seconds and earning a second on Saturday. Kailey Schmidt of College Grove, TN was next on her paint horse (15.864). Then came Hailey Azbill of Wildersville, TN on her buckskin horse (15.421). Following were: Rachel Holt of Byhalia, MS (20.212); Megan Griffin of Union City, TN (17.403); and Jennifer Johannes of Knoxville, TN (16.101). Finishing up the barrel racing for the evening was Lindsay Yates of Charlotte, TN, with a time of 14.828 seconds, earning her fifth place.

Calf Roping

Next up were the calf ropers, with Brett Deere leading out of the chute, followed by Cole Walker of Cookeville, TN. Third to go, Jesse Keyser of Culleoka, TN roped and tied the calf in record time (13.020) for first place. Then Kota Wilhite of Rienzi, MS showed how it’s done, finishing the job in good time for third place (16.520). Justin Sailors of Maryville, TN just missed roping his calf, as did Jake Petit of Buchanan, TN. (Cont. next page)
Cannon Smith of Monroe, TN roped and tied his cream-colored calf in fast time – 15.770 seconds for second place. But Blayne Saine of Detroit, AL couldn’t surpass Smith, just missing his calf. But Ethan Tays of Crossville, TN tied up the evening’s calf roping with a fine time of 22.400 seconds for fifth place.

**Pole Bending**

Everything at a rodeo is fast paced, and the cowgirls were back in the arena for some fast pole bending runs. Haley Heaton of Cullman, AL had a good ride on her bay horse, who just happens to have some interesting paint marks on him (20.113) for third place. Next to go was Emma Kate Wilder of Millington, TN with a time of 20.950 for fifth place. Avery Lee of Nesbit, MS (#41) had a time of 21.540 for ninth place.

Winners of the pole bending on Saturday were: first, Cody Dowell of Olive Branch, MS (19.976); second, Kyla Matthews of Athens, TN (19.991); fourth, Taylor Dunlap of Dyer, TN (20.594)

**Team Roping**

Team roping was next on the agenda, with two cowboys or cowgirls working together to rope the calf at both ends. The cowboy/cowgirl team of Kailey Schmidt of College Grove, TN and Jake Petit of Buchanan, TN showed great style in “almost” getting the job done. But it was Damon Gardner of Sparta, TN and Blayne Saine of Detroit, AL who were one of the fastest teams, with a time of 10.000. Next out, Johnson Yarbro of Wildersville, TN and Miller Bartlett of Hornbeak, TN were even more efficient, getting the job done in 7.510 seconds. They were very pleased with themselves! But it was the Cowan brothers – Cooper and Cade of Lamar, MS – who stole the spotlight, roping the calf in a time of 6.400 seconds. Another cowgirl/cowboy team, Bou Reich of Wildersville, TN and Taylor Dunlap of Dyer, TN were right on track, but finished with 32.100 and Taylor roping just one of the calf’s hind legs. The last cowgirl/cowboy team to rope were Mattie Pinkerton of Cottage Grove, TN and Brett Deere of Reagan, TN.

**Breakaway Roping**

Continuing the roping was the cowgirl’s breakaway roping, with Blaize Deere of Scotts Hill, TN first up, after finishing first at Scottsville Feb. 18th. Taylor Dunlap of Dyer, TN roped her calf in a time of 14.720. Harley Staggs of Collinwood, TN just missed her calf, as did Avery Lee of Nesbit, MS. Riding in on a white horse, roping a cream-colored calf in 3.010 seconds was Kailey Schmidt of Cottage Grove, TN, placing third on Saturday. Another fast roper was Jaide Ellick of Rodgersville, AL with a time of 3.230. Wearing a red-white-and-blue star spangled hat, Clarey McCallister of Dickson, TN tried her best, but just missed her calf. Then came Kellee Garton, also of Dickson, TN and finishing this event was Jennifer Johannes of Knoxville, TN. Saturday’s breakaway roping winner was Kyla Matthews of Athens, TN, scoring 2.120 and second was Emma Kate Wildr of Millington, TN with a time of 2.730.

**Steer Wrestling**

Steer Wrestling, also known as bulldogging, is not an easy thing to do. The hazer has to keep the calf in just the right place as the wrestler’s horse has to be equally in the right place. This turned out to be more difficult than usual, with more than one cowboy hitting the dirt as he totally missed his mark. There is a 30-second allotment, so even if they missed the mark the first time out, some cowboys continued to chase the calf hoping for another opportunity – which didn’t pan out either. Jesse Keyser of Culleoka, TN had good luck bulldogging his spotted calf, scoring 4.150 for first place.

**Goat Tying**

The next event – goat tying, is a not-so-favorite activity for the goats. Mattie Pinkerton of College Grove, TN led, tying her goat in 13.880 seconds. Next up was Owen Gibson of Gaadsen, TN with a time of 11.180. (photos #0360-0369). Avery Lee of Nesbit, MS had a time of 16.270. (photo # 0365) Emma Kate Wilder of Millington, TN had a time of 15.030. (photos #0370-0371) Abby Shultz of Orlando, TN had a time of 10.720. (photos #0372-0376). Blaize Deere of Scotts Hill, TN had a time of 10.780. (photos #0378-0381). Then Kailey Schmidt of Cottage Grove, TN (photos #0382) had the fastest time of the night – 8.950 for second place. Finishing out the goat tying was Ana Grace Brown of Humboldt, TN with a time of 10.460. (photos #0387-0392). Saturday’s winner of goat tying was Jaide Ellick of Rogersville, AL with a score of 8.500.

**Bull Riding**

The grand finale of any rodeo performance is the bull riding. Peyton Doner was first out of the chute with a very short ride on a tough Brahma bull. (photos #0393-0395). Then Caleb Agee of Munford, TN drew a bull who had some good bucking and spinning moves. (photos # 0396-0406). Sage Iomn of Hedges, AL drew one of those bulls who comes out of the chute and just spins and spins and spins. That gave the cowboy time to make that 8-second ride, scoring 58.0 for first place.

After the performance there was a silent auction to raise additional funds for the TNSHRSA. The auction raised over $2500, to help pay for the top four riders to go to the National Finals Rodeo.

The teens were back for another performance on Sunday morning, after cowboy church. The next rodeo will be in Franklin, TN on April 14-15.

Find more information about TNSHRSA and scores for both performances at http://tnhsra.com/
The Volunteer Ranch Horse Association (VolRHA) brought its second show of the 2018 season to the Show Place Arena in Memphis, TN on March 16-18, 2018: the VolRHA March Madness! Tammy Bledsoe, VolRHA secretary, said they expected 450 horses to show through the weekend. “The facilities have a lot to offer here,” she said. “We are very pleased with the turnout.” She explained that this show was the first time that four organizations were represented in classes – all in one show: ARHA, NRCHA, AQHA Ranch Versatility, and AQHA Ranch Riding. The show had classes going in both the outdoor covered arena and the large indoor arena. The group will be back at the Show Place Arena for their Spring Fling show on April 13-15, 2018.

Friday’s classes were roping, with tie down, heading, and heeling, and repeating on Saturday morning.

Saturday in the indoor arena riders showed in a variety of working cowhorse classes; in the outdoor arena were trail, ranch riding, and ranchmanship. Sunday’s classes completed the show with VRH ranch cow work and conformation, NRCHA hackamore and bridle classes.

Complete information about the show classes and winners from the various divisions are posted at the VolRHA website: http://www.volrha.com/.

Lucas Ayers, Steer Stopping winner on Friday & Saturday  
(Nancy Brannon photo)

Jeremy Cox on DC Quejana Pep, first in Senior Working Cow Horse  
(Nancy Brannon photo)

Jeremy Cox on Mr Dual Nic in Senior Working Cow Horse  
(Nancy Brannon photo)

Caleb Bailey on SS Scat Cat in the sliding stop, doing the spin, and working the cow in Youth Working Cow Horse  
(Nancy Brannon photos)

Erin Bledsoe on Feather Oak, winner AQHA Youth Working Cow Horse, in sliding stop and working the cow.  
(Nancy Brannon photos)

Brandy Johnson on Buggy Lights in Senior Working Cow Horse  
(Nancy Brannon photo)
The Tennessee Paint Horse Club’s Music City Classic, held at Miller Coliseum the weekend of March 10 – 11, 2018, was an excellent kick-off for the 2018 show season. There was plenty of competition with over 580 entries showing to the slate of four judges: Kathryn Boggetta, Marty Jo Hays, Mike Short, and Nancy Wilde. The club offered prize buckles in numerous divisions, along with other awards made possible by sponsors, including Robin Hoods given to lucky winners on Sunday.

The youth and amateur divisions, once again, drew the highest numbers of exhibitors. Amateur Halter Geldings had a total of 19 entries with horses coming from numerous states. Show management worked to ensure the schedule flowed well and that the pen was in top shape.

Circuit Awards went to:
- Yearling high Point: Hot Is My Specialty, owner/exhibitor Gina Renee Wilson
- SPB High Point: Lope A Lota Slots, owner/exhibitor Eugene Stewart
- Youth 13 & Under High Point: Whatcha Expect, Kimber Cobbs
- Youth Walk Trot High Point: A Krymsun Legacy, Alexandra Winiewicz
- Novice Youth High Point: Sent Certified, Kinzie Cobbs
- Youth High Point: Ina Mega Sensation, owner/exhibitor Macie Soderquist
- Amateur Walk Trot High Point: Red Hot Lilly, owner/exhibitor Katherine Fromm
- Novice Amateur High Point: Danson The Cha Cha, owner/exhibitor Heather Schonekase
- Amateur High Point: Cool N Candid, owner/exhibitor Karly Funas
- Open High Point: One Good Cowboy, owned by Darcie Winiewicz

The next TPHC show of the season is the Spring Fling on April 28, 2018, a two-judge show at the Tennessee Livestock Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN. Find more information at http://tphconline11.homestead.com/
Cody Nance Wins Ty Murray Invitational

Photo by Bullstock Media/Andy Watson

Albuquerque, N.M. — After an action-packed three days in “The Pit” at the Dreamstyle Arena, Cody Nance (Paris, Tennessee) collected his second PBR (Professional Bull Riders) elite series win of the 2018 season at the PBR 25th Unleash The Beast, Ty Murray Invitational, which ran March 16-18, 2018.

Nance went 4-for-4 over a weekend featuring one of the top bullpens on the tour and won with an 85.75-point ride on Carrot Top (Jane Clark / Gene Owen) in the championship round. The Tennessee cowboy earned 637.5 world points in the victory, moving him from No. 6 in the world to No. 3, and collected a paycheck of $35,775.

Nance is now 154.17 points behind world leader Ramon de Lima. The Top-5 riders are separated by a mere 275 points amid a very tight 2018 25th PBR Unleash The Beast championship race.

“I have a lot of respect for Ty Murray and watched him for years growing up,” said Nance, who also won in Anaheim in early February. “To be able to win his event is such a blessing. Last year, I came up second after Stormy (Wing), and I’m so thankful to finish it off this year.”

TQHA Spring Celebration

Tennessee Quarter Horse Association began its 2018 show season with the Spring Celebration Circuit, March 9-11, at the Roane State Expo Center in Harriman, Tenn. Judges were Tom McBeath, Steve Meadows, Steve Heckaman, and Michelle Tidwell. This show offered special all-inclusive fees at $200 for Novice Youth and Youth, and $275 for 3 classes and a stall for one horse. Every class offered circuit awards in addition to high point awards for Novice Youth and Novice Amateur and All Around Awards for Youth 13 & Under, Youth 14-18, Amateur, Select, and Open.

The show began Friday at noon with trail classes and ranch riding. Friday evening were the reining classes, working cowhorse, barrel racing, poles, and the stake races. Saturday’s show started with a wide array of halter classes, followed in the afternoon and evening by Small Fry, and several categories of western pleasure, western riding, and horsemanship. Sunday was hunter day, starting with working hunters and moving to equitation. Last classes for the show were pleasure driving.

All-Around Winners were:

Open- Gota Good Rodder & Emily Marschand
Amateur - Gota Good Rodder & Emily Marschand
Amateur select- Rumors Only & Joe Whitt
13 & Under- Chipwatch Wonder & Brylee Morgan
Youth 14-18- Sleepin in on Sunday & Taylor Leone
Novice Youth- Mr Bull Zip & Ivy Bell
Novice Amateur- I Know I’m Something & Whitney Turner

A list of the circuit award winners will be available on our website: www.midsouthhorsereview.com.

Next up for TQHA is the Spring Fling Circuit at the Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro, TN on April 13-15, offering dual points.
The Alabama Arabian Horse Association brought their Four Region Qualifier show to the Tunica, Mississippi Expo Center again for the “Riverboat Parlay,” March 21-15, 2018. The show was a qualifier for Regions 9, 12, 14, and 15, offering a wide array of classes for Arabians and Half Arabians: hunter, western, English, halter, show hack, costume, country English for Open, Amateur, and Junior riders, sport horse in hand and under saddle, and dressage. On Wednesday and Thursday were the main classes and championships for Regions 9 and 15, sporting 55 entries. On Friday and Saturday were the main classes and championships for Regions 12 and 14, with 109 entries. Many horses competed in both shows. Then on Sunday were Dressage, Trail and Ranch Riding for Regions 12 and 14.

Judges were: in the Main Ring: Region 9, Jack Thomas; Region 12, John Rannenbert; Region 14, Johnny Ryan; and Region 15, Jim Lowe. In the Sport Horse Ring: Region 9, Leslie O’Neil-Olsen; Region 15, Patty Wright Shoemaker; Region 12, Carole Bishop; and Region 14, Fatima Pawlenko-Kranz. Both Bishop and Kranz are 2018 US Sport Horse Nationals Judges.

There was plenty of hospitality at the show, too, with a welcome pizza party, sponsored by Shamrock Farm on Tuesday. Exhibitors and Trainers got to enjoy a free concert by Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers at Horseshoe Casino on Thursday night. There was a margarita party on Saturday, and coffee and refreshments every morning. Show entertainment included was an AAHA dice toss and an AAHA costume class. A Silent Auction offered a wide variety of items including three tons of feed and breedings to eight stallions.

Some of the Top Arabian Trainers from all over the U.S. came to compete in Tunica. Everyone was very pleased with the facility, even though entries were down compared to last year.

Find more information about the Alabama Arabian Horse Association at: https://www.alabamaarabian.com/
NATRC President’s Cup

Tedzy, a.k.a. Ted, a 17-year-old chestnut Arabian gelding, owned and ridden by Jonni Jewell of Decatur, Texas, was named the winner of the North American Trail Ride Conference’s (NATRC) highest award, the President’s Cup, at its 57th annual convention in Albuquerque, NM, on February 9-11, 2018. The President’s Cup is the North American Trail Ride Conference’s highest award. It goes to the one horse in the nation with the highest total number of performance points.

Three years ago, Ted was 14 when friends gave him to Jonni. With conditioning, he bloomed into a handsome horse with a willing-to-please attitude, who won his first National Championship in 2016, his first year of competition.

Ted is Jewell’s second President’s Cup horse and could not be more different from the first one, a bay Arabian called Hank. Says Jonni, “Hank naturally took excellent care of himself on the trail eating and drinking constantly. Ted never passes up food, but he is not one to drink well on the trail. I tried different methods to get Ted to drink better on the trail, and finally decided he would drink when he was thirsty. Hank always had his own agenda and I had to figure out quickly how to make things my idea. Ted, on the other hand, really does want to please, tries very hard to do what I am asking, and not second guess me like Hank would.”

Throughout the ride year, this winning team was chasing another rider in points. It took trailer ing 9,800 miles and 13 rides, with five firsts, five seconds, two thirds, and one fourth, to clinch the Cup at the final ride. Through this outstanding performance, Ted and Jonni also earned his second National Championship, the combined horse and horsemanship award (Jim Menefee Memorial), 1st overall heavy weight class horse, 1st overall heavy weight class horsemanship, 1st heavyweight class in their region, high point Arabian, and Ted’s 1000 mile award. All this in spite of Ted having been laid off for two rides because of a stone bruise.

Tedzy must be a living example of the old saying, “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth.” What does Jonni think? In accepting the award, she said, “If you have a dream, don’t give up on it. One of my favorite lines from a song is ‘Keep on dreaming, even if it breaks your heart. You just never know when a dream may turn into what you think is impossible.”

NATRC, the U.S.’ oldest and largest long distance competitive trail ride organization, is open to all equine breeds and disciplines. It offers rides with several divisions providing challenges for those new to the sport and for experienced competitors. For more information, visit:
Arbor Days

In Tennessee, the first Friday in March is Arbor Day. In fact, Tennessee was one of the first states to adopt a statewide Arbor Day holiday in 1875. This year, a Tennessee Division of Forestry project involved the planting of 1,100 trees in Greene County, Tennessee, alongside a pasture on the Old Asheville Highway, with Camp Creek Bald as a backdrop. Sunny skies and warmer temperatures on February 27 and March 2 made it possible for a crew of a dozen from the Tenn. Div. of Forestry to complete the job.

Forester Neal White told the Greeneville Sun that the tree seedlings planted – Northern red oaks, flowering dogwoods, Virginia pines, white oaks and yellow poplars – are native to Tennessee and the general area. The seedlings are grown by the Hiwassee River in the Polk County community of Delano, where the state runs its only nursery, White told the Sun.

The Division of Forestry has a variety of assistance programs for forest landowners, including a forest stewardship program focused on the evaluation of forest resources and planning for conservation or utilization. The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program provides up to 75 percent cost-sharing to promote sustainable forest management. The Division of Forestry also oversees the American tree farm system, a conservation reserve program, forest legacy permanent conservation easements, and more.

Order trees through the TN Department of Agriculture at: https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/seedlings.html At this webpage, also find information about the economic and environmental benefits of trees, the seedling nursery, and tree improvement projects. Orders for April 2018 can still be placed by completing the printed order form and sending it to the Department.

National Arbor Day is April 27, 2018, a day to plant and celebrate the importance of trees. Find more information at the Arbor Day Foundation, www.arborday.org Read more about planting your Arbor Day trees at the Arbor Day Blog: http://arbordayblog.org/treeplanting/planting-bare-root-trees/

The Tennessee Environmental Council has a Tree-mendous Tennessee Tree Project, having helped plant 360,000 trees in Tennessee since 2007. Find more information about their project at: https://teecn.org/programs/tree/ Resources:


Arbor Days

Evergreen seedling. (photo courtesy of the arbordayblog.org)

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Year of the Bird: 2018

March Was Native Plant Month

The Audubon Society has a handy native plants database at: https://www.audubon.org/native-plants. Just plug in your zip code and find what native plants work well in your area—and the birds they attract.

More native plants mean more choices of food and shelter for native birds and other wildlife. To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. Large, colorful fruits feed birds and, in return, birds spread the plant’s seeds far and wide, supporting whole ecosystems.

Native plants are also important hosts for protein-rich native insects like butterfly and moth caterpillars, which nesting birds need to feed their growing chicks. For their part, birds have shaped their entire life cycles, including their migrations and feeding habits, around plant communities and the seasonal fruits and insects they serve.

Native plants are good for people, too. When you landscape with native species, you can spend more time with the birds and less time with the mower. Mowers and weed-whackers burn gasoline to the tune of 800 million gallons per year, contributing to the store of greenhouse gases and pollutants in the air. The less lawn you mow, the less air and water pollution you create. Less lawn also means less noise pollution.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 30 to 60 percent of fresh water in American cities is used for watering lawns. Native plants have adapted to thrive in their regional landscape, without added water or nutrients.

Cultivating vertical structure in your yard by planting many different species of herbaceous flowering plants, shrubs, and trees creates layers of vegetation that deflect pounding rains, increasing the chance for water to be absorbed by your soil before running off into storm drains and streams.

Less lawn mowing, fertilizing, and pesticide application means cleaner air and water. Homeowners apply nearly 80 million pounds of pesticides to lawns in the United States each year. Lawn chemicals can be carried by storm water runoff and wind, contaminating streams and wetlands many miles away. Native plants are often harder than non-native ornamentals and thrive without pesticides or fertilizers.

Landscaping with native plants isn’t maintenance free—invasive weed species are an ongoing issue in any garden. But with careful landscape planning and plant selection, you can create a garden space that minimizes the ongoing input of time and money. That gives you more time to relax, enjoy the beauty and hear the songs of the birds you’ve attracted. It’s a winning situation for all!

Find more details about native plants at: http://www.audubon.org/news/grow-these-native-plants-so-your-backyard-birds-can-feast

Find out more about the Year of the Bird at: www.audubon.org/yearofthebird

And don’t forget to partake of the rare opportunity to ride your horse at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center on April 7, 2018. Oak Grove Hunt hosts its annual Hunter Pace/Timed Trail Ride at SPAC, starting at 1:00 p.m., with registration at 12 noon. Lunch will be served, and riders can enjoy the 3,000 acres of hardwood forests, wetlands, native grasslands and 15 miles of trails managed by Strawberry Plains from horseback.

Find more information about the events at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center at: http://strawberryplains.audubon.org/. Or contact Mitch Robinson at mrrobinson@audubon.org or 662-252-1155.
Gen’s Black Maverick
Update: Sore

By Nancy Brannon, Ph.D.

The Mid-South Horse Review published articles in October and November 2017 about the suspension and fines on the trainer/exhibitor and owners of 2017 World Grand Champion Gen’s Black Maverick for violations of the Horse Protection Act (HPA).

Bill Callaway, who rode Gen’s Black Maverick to the 2017 World Grand Championship, began an eight-month suspension the day after the Celebration ended – from September 4, 2017 to May 3, 2018 – from any participation in horse shows and was fined $1,100 under a Consent Decision and Order with APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture), filed 3/29/2017. His brother, John Allan Callaway, was also suspended for these same eight months and fined $1,100 under a Consent Decision and Order with APHIS, entered 3/29/2017.

Additional USDA Consent Decisions and Orders filed on January 12, 2017 showed that Gen’s Black Maverick owners Keith Rosbury and Lorraine Rosbury had violated the HPA. The violation occurred on August 27, 2016 when the Rosburys “allowed the entry of a horse [they] owned (Gen’s Black Maverick) in class 84A” at the 2016 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration while sore.

On March 22, 2018, additional documents were made available to Mid-South Horse Review: the USDA Veterinary report; Summary of Alleged Violations from the August 2016 horse inspections of Gen’s Black Maverick at the 78th annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration.

The inspection report, listing trainer Bill Callaway and owners Keith and Lorraine Rosbury and Maple Crest Farm, show that Gen’s Black Maverick was inspected 8/27/16 and found to be “bilateral sore and [in violation of the] scar rule.”

A section on the documents show the horse had lateral sore on the left foot and two places on the medial right foot that were sore. The diagrams also indicate two scars on both front pasterns. The document was signed by Amy S. Adams, DVM 8/28/16.

A second inspection report from the 78th annual Celebration dated 8/27/16, again, showed the horse was sore and in violation of the scar rule, with scars on the backs of both front pasterns. This document was signed by Aaron Rhynor, DVM 8/28/16.

An additional document, the USDA Complaint, dated as received January 12, 2017, named the following in violation of the Horse Protection Act: Brittany Baum, Jacob Baum, Bill Callaway, John Allen Callaway, Trish Harrison-Spivey, Keith Rosbury, Lorraine Rosbury, Vicki Self, and Brad Spivey.

The complaint reads: “The nature and circumstances of the prohibited conduct alleged in this complaint are that Mr. John Allen Callaway, Mr. Bill Callaway, and Ms Self entered one or more horses in a horse show while the horses were ‘sore’ (as that term is defined in the Act and the Regulations), and that Messrs. Baum, Spivey and Rosbury, Ms. Baum, Ms. Rosbury, and Ms. Harrison-Spivey allowed the entry of their horses in a horse show while the horses were sore. …The complaint alleges that each of the respondents violated the HPA.”

The complaint lists the Official Warnings and their dates issued byAPHIS to each of those listed above. There are 51 total warnings and violations listed in the court document, entered December 22, 2016. They are the following:

- **March 18, 2016**: warning to Ms. Baum… having allowed the entry of a horse (Sky Jam) in a horse show on May 21, 2015, which horse APHIS found was sore.
- **March 16, 2016**: warning to Mr. Baum… having allowed the entry of a horse (A Magic Stroke) in a horse show on May 2, 2015, while the horse was bearing a prohibited substance.
- **November 15, 2012**: warning to Mr. Bill Callaway… having entered a horse (I’m K.C. Jazz) in a horse show on August 23, 2012, which horse APHIS found had the length of its toes artificially extended to exceed 50% of the horse’s natural hoof length.
- **January 22, 2013**: warning to Mr. Bill Callaway… having entered a horse (Absolute Proof) in a horse show on September 4, 2009, which horse APHIS found was sore.
- **May 13, 2014**: warning to Mr. Bill Callaway… entry of a horse (A Line Dancer) in a horse show on August 26, 2012, which horse APHIS found was bearing prohibited substances (including o-aminooazotoluene and octyl methoxycinnamate), and the entry of a horse (Samsung) in a horse show on August 28, 2012, which horse APHIS found was bearing prohibited substances (including o-aminooazotoluene, isopropyl palmitate, isopropyl myristate, benzocaine and lidocaine).
- **March 12, 2015**: warning to Mr. Bill Callaway… having entered a horse (The Bourne Legacy) in a horse show on August 29, 2015, which horse APHIS found was sore.
- **May 11, 2016**: warning to Mr. Bill Callaway… having shown a horse (Lindsay Lohan) in a horse show on September 2, 2015, which horse APHIS found was sore.
- **August 12, 2011**: warning to Mr. John Allen Callaway… having entered a horse (O'lainey) in a horse show on August 30, 2010, while the horse APHIS found was bearing prohibited substances (including sulfur, isopropyl palmitate, and cetyltributyl).
EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) Therapy is an evidence-based modality that has become a “treatment of choice” for trauma survivors. The basic premise of EMDR therapy is that when an individual experiences trauma or disturbing life events, the thoughts, emotions, sensations, and beliefs at the time of the trauma get “locked” in the nervous system and remain unprocessed. For the individual, it can feel like they are being “hijacked” by their body, as if the events are still happening (flashbacks, nightmares, hyper vigilance, anger, anxiety, etc.). This modality helps the individual process and release the past, enabling them to live fully present in the moment. To learn about all 8 phases of EMDR therapy, see https://emdria.siteremap.com.

A clinician in Arizona, Sarah Jenkins, combined her love of horses with her expertise in EMDR to create the EquiLateral protocol. Through her training and experience, she knew that horses possess natural abilities and instincts that make them unique partners in the therapeutic process. Bringing the horse into the session provides space for the client to build trust in a way that is often difficult to do with other humans, especially when a human has been the source of harm. For many clients, staying present and grounded in the moment can be a challenge in traditional office settings. The sheer size and presence of a horse, combined with being outdoors in nature, provides tangible opportunities for the client to stay time-oriented in the present.

With equine assisted EMDR, the therapist can facilitate in the moment, hands-on experiences with the client and horse to help the client learn about themselves and their coping patterns. Horses give the client immediate “feedback” through their natural reactions and responses. Experiencing how the horse responds to them helps the client learn to “tune in” to their own body and emotions in the moment. The horse’s natural instincts as a prey animal cause them to be hyper aware of us humans (historically, the horse’s natural predator). They are constantly assessing for danger and respond accordingly. This natural wiring of the horse is extremely beneficial in helping a client gain self-awareness.

A trademark of PTSD is that the body doesn’t know the danger is over. Whereas a horse can get startled by a perceived danger (like a “dangerous” plastic bag floating past them in the pasture), they are able to assess the danger and pretty quickly go back to grazing once they realize the bag isn’t going to hurt them. Conversely, when a trigger happens to humans (something that feels similar to the original trauma), the survival/emotional part of our brain (the limbic system) doesn’t know the danger is over. That’s why a veteran might hit the ground and “take cover” when they hear fireworks around the 4th of July. They logically know that the original danger (war) is over and that they are safe now, but in hearing those fireworks (which can sound like a gunshot), the brain in that moment goes into fight, flight, or freeze mode. It’s not a conscious decision — it just happens. In an equine-assisted EMDR session, the horse provides plenty of opportunities to keep the client in the “here-and-now,” which is critical in order to process and heal from a traumatic memory. If a client is in re-living the trauma, it is neurobiologically impossible to re-process a distressing memory.

Throughout the various phases of EMDR, the therapist can utilize equine-based activities to support the phase of treatment they are in. From the beginning of treatment, the therapist is assessing the client’s “window of tolerance” (are they able to go into some of their story without shutting down or going into re-living). In Phase 2 of EMDR (the Preparation phase), the goal is to ensure that the client has sufficient skills and resources on board before moving into processing a trauma memory. For this phase, the therapist could be in the round pen with the client and a horse and choose activities that assist the client in learning and practicing grounding skills. Examples could be inviting the client to groom the horse or having the client hold the lead rope and walk the horse around the round pen while taking deep breaths. These activities help the client learn to regulate their emotions and tolerate calm.

For many individuals, calm equaled danger in their stories. Because of this, it is critical that the client learn how to build a tolerance for calm without “shutting down” or going into re-living. Each equine assisted activity is chosen with the specific phase of EMDR in mind and the goal of that phase.

People are typically most curious about how the “eye movements” or bilateral stimulation of EMDR is done (Phase 4) when incorporating a horse. This can be done either mounted or unmounted. The therapist can utilize the traditional method of eye movements while processing the image, cognitions, emotions, and body sensations of a specific target memory with the client (while being in the round pen with the horse). The horse can be right next to the client or milling around, just being a horse. Sometimes having the client keep a hand on the horse while re-processing helps the client stay present and not go into re-living. If the therapist observes the client over-accessing the memory and not staying present, the therapist may ask the client to notice the texture of the horse’s mane, listen to the horse chewing grass, etc. – basic, simple sensory experiences to help the client stay oriented to the present.

The horse provides the client with a “dual attention stimulus”— helping them metaphorically keep one foot in the past and one foot in the present while processing the trauma.

Incorporating the horse into the EMDR therapy process supports clients moving out of a “left-brain approach” in trauma therapy (just talking about it) to a more experiential one that facilitates the actual processing and integration of the experience(s).

About the Author: Amber Stevenson is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. She is certified in both EMDR and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and provides therapy to adolescents (14+) and adults. Information about Equine Assisted EMDR and Stevenson’s counseling services in Franklin, TN can be found at www.resiliencyranchcounseling.com.

References:

Photos From Around The Farm

Violets decorate spring lawns and fields, amidst fall oak leaves.


Wildflowers boom around the mid-south in spring, like this Spring Beauty (Claytonia carolinia), and “umbrella plants,” appropriate for the rainy weather.
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Horses Shot in Chickasaw Co., MS: Follow Up

By Nancy Brannon, Ph.D., Editor

Last November (2017), we published an article by Tara Priest about nine horses who were shot and killed in Chickasaw County, Mississippi. The horses had escaped from their confines and had wandered onto a neighbor’s land. Eleven animals, including one mule and ten horses were found shot on September 19, 2017. Two horses survived, but nine died of their wounds.

In March, 2018, one of our readers, going through back issues, contacted us and asked us to follow up on this story. Here’s the latest we have learned.

We contacted the owner of the shot horses, Dalton Christian of Van Vleet, Mississippi, who told us that, so far, “nothing has happened.” Investigations have been done, he said, and “The law knows who did it – four people.”

Christian said that two game wardens came to the site and reported that over 100 rounds were fired, and that they killed the mule first. We were unable to contact the game warden for more information.

Christian further said that he was told, right after the shot horses were found, to get his veterinarian to take a bullet(s) from the horses. “But the county had already buried the horses with the county’s equipment,” he said, before he could get to them. He said the investigator J.R. Kilgore had buried them the next morning and had locked the gate to the property to keep people out.

Christian said that J.R. Kilgore was the first investigator of the incident, along with County Coroner Michael Fowler. Present investigators are Dwight Parker and Terry Ward with the Chickasaw Sheriff’s Department.

We contacted Dwight Parker, the current investigator on the case. He said the case was to be presented to the Mississippi Third District Grand Jury on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. Parker said in a follow-up phone call that the grand jury did not return a “true bill” Wednesday, on the basis that there was not enough evidence to return indictments against the four persons suspected of shooting the horses. That means no indictments were handed down. He told us that investigators could not find bullets of this section. The measure for restitution in money shall be the current replacement value of such loss and/or the actual veterinarian fees, special supplies, loss of income and other costs incurred as a result of actions in violation of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) For purposes of this section, the term “livestock” shall mean horses, cattle, swine, sheep and other domestic animals produced for profit.

In a press release March 22, 2018, Dol Stanley, with In Defense of Animals, stated: “The herd had wandered onto a neighboring property. It was later discovered that the fallen tree took part of a fence down, letting the horses wander onto the neighboring property where workers were harvesting corn. Two seriously wounded horses made it home, but several mortally wounded horses perished; one had been shot five times in the face and head.

“ Authorities had the animals buried the following day, frustrating the Christian family as the numerous bullets that tore through the animals’ bodies had not been retrieved for evidence,” Stanley wrote.

In a statement last year to the Chickasaw Journal, Chickasaw County Sheriff James Meyers said nine of the shot horses died of their wounds. “They were shot with a high-capacity, high-powered rifle that made a lot of noise. The horses had gotten out and apparently found a cornfield that had been cut and were in there,” said Meyers. Some of those horses were shot three or four times.”

Meyers said, “To slaughter these animals like this – it is a felony – if we make an arrest and can get a conviction. If anyone has further evidence about this crime, please contact Doll Stanley, Director at Justice for Animals: (662) 809-4483 or Dwight Parker at the Chickasaw County Sheriff’s Office: (662) 456-2339.
No Frills Shows 2, 3
APR 12-15: Germantown, TN. GCHS Arena. WTHJA Springtime Encore
APR 14: Knoxville, TN. Stonegate Farm. ETHJA Show
APR 18-22: Franklin, TN. Brownland Farm. Spring I
APR 21-22: Knoxville, TN. Fiesta Farm. ETHJA Show
APR 25-29: Franklin, TN. Brownland Farm. Spring II
APR 26-29: Lexington, KY. The Kentucky Invitational CSI*. Info: https://splitrockjumpingtour.com
APR 28-29: Knoxville, TN. Penrose Farm. ETHJA Show
MAY 3-6: Germantown, TN. GCHS Arena. WTHJA Memphis in May I
MAY 4-5: Bristol, TN. Fox Hollow Riding Academy. ETHJA Show
MAY 10-13: Germantown, TN. GCHS Arena. WTHJA Memphis in May II
MAY 12-13: Talbot, TN. Walnut Grove Stables, ETHJA Show
MAY 19-20: Knoxville, TN. Select Sport Horses. ETHJA Show
MAY 19: Lebanon, TN. Meridian Equestrian Education Center. MEEC/LFF Hunter Show. Info: Cristin Jordan 615-289-7539
MAY 24-JUN 3: Devon, PA. Devon Horse Show & Country Fair. Info: www.devonhorse.com
MAY 30-JUN 3: Franklin, TN. Brownland Farm. Nashville Classic
OPEN SHOWS
APR 14: Lebanon, TN. Meridian Equestrian Education Center. Spring Fling Western Open Show. Info: (615)289-7539; Cristin. Jordan@meridianequine.com; or (570) 236-1406; Brittany.Malinoski@meridianequine.com
PAINT/PINTO
APR 28: Harriman, TN. Roane State CC Expo Center. TN Paint Horse Club. Info: Harold Norman 615-351-6765
RODEOS & BULL RIDING
APR 7: Barton, MS. Barton Rodeo. Info: (662) 252-4632
APR 12-14: Martin, TN. UT Martin. Ned McWherter Ag. Pavilion. 50th annual Spring College Rodeo. (731) 881-7207
APR 13-14: Athens, TN. Chilhowee Shrine Rodeo. Info: (865) 565-9154
APR 14: Buchanan, TN. Milan’s Horsebarn, Hwy 218. Pro and Non-Pro Bull Riding and Mutton Bustin. 8pm. Call April 9th, 4-10 pm 731-642-8346; 731-644-5665
APR 27-28: Lebanon, TN. IPRA 2nd Sanc. www.lonestarrodeo.com
MAY 12: Buchanan, TN. Milan’s Horsebarn, Hwy 218. Pro and Non-Pro Bull Riding and Mutton Bustin. 8pm. Call May 7th, 4-10 pm 731-642-8346; 731-644-5665
MAY 25-26: Cleveland, TN. Tri-State Exhibition Center. Outlaw Pro Rodeo
ROPE
APR 27-29: Tuna, MS. Expo Center. NTRL. Info: www.Jx2events.com
MAY 19-20: Harriman, TN. Roane State CC Expo Center. NTRL. Info: Pam Smith 423-575-2295
TUESDAY: Moscow, TN. Team Roping practice, Sonny Gould Arena, 1985 Poole Rd. 6-9 p.m. $25. Info: (901) 491-1678. www.GouldRopingHorses.com
TUESDAY: Humboldt, TN. Goodrich Arena. Calf roping, Breakaway, Gymnastics. 5:30-8 PM. Info: (731) 426-2530
TEAM PENNING/RANCH SORTING
APR 27-29: Tuna, MS. Expo Center. Cinch RSNC
TRAIL RIDES/TRAIL CHALLENGE
APR 7: Holly Springs, MS. Strawberry Plains Audubon Center. Oak Grove Hunt Club Timed Trail Ride/Hunter Pace. 1 p.m. Registration 12 noon. Lunch provided. Rain date: April 8. Info: Marge Nickels (901) 268-9580; nickelpieces@comcast.net
APR 14-22: Waynesboro, TN. Buffalo Trail Ride Trail. Info: 931-722-9170; buffalo.rivertrailride@live.com; www.brtr.com
APR 28-29: Pine Grove, AR. Giddy-Up. Info: Carol Mobley (501)920-0081; bjmobleyj@hughes.net
DEADLINES
Deadline for MAY issue: April 24, 2018 at 5 p.m. MAY is our annual summer camp issue.
PARTING SHOTS: We leave you with some “behind the scenes” photos from this month’s events.

Haley Heaton of Cullman, AL runs through the poles at the Tenn. High School Memphis Challenge Rodeo  
(Nancy Brannon photo)

Erin Bledsoe on Feather Oak in AQHA Youth Working Cow Horse at the Volunteer Ranch Horse Show  
(Nancy Brannon photo)
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