

THE MIDWEST EQUESTRIAN

SPRING 2023

COMPLIMENTARY

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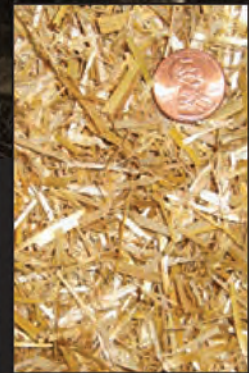
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The Many Faces of Spring

When I started to write this letter, it was a beautiful day with prisms of sunshine settling on three inches of newly fallen snow. Within two days it was fifty degrees with puddles of melted snow pocketing the ground. As I finalize this several days later, it is rainy, dreary and windy; A typical Midwestern Spring full of constantly changing weather. I relish these changes as I find Spring is a good time to just go with the flow and change with the Season.

If you are looking for a change as you come out of hibernation this Spring, why not try volunteering at a therapeutic riding facility? It's rewarding to help others and a great excuse to get out and be around horses. Volunteer Judi Zangs' article on volunteering gives us a glimpse of what it takes to be a volunteer and why she does it.

On assignment for Judi's article, I attended a volunteer orientation meeting by Jean Maraist of Main Stay Therapeutic Farm. I was amazed at the various ages and types of people in attendance. There are many volunteering positions available at therapeutic riding facilities and these potential volunteers were there for a gamut of positions from cleaning stalls to grant writing to side walking. Main Stay even has a garden you can help in. There is something for everyone. If you have the time and want to volunteer, I highly suggest finding a facility near you.

I think Ruby is also itching for a change. Totally bored from Winter, she's amped up and looking all about on our rides. There is an Equine Trail Sports event at Gibbs Lake Park Equestrian Obstacle Course and I think I might get her ready for it. Find out more about it and Gibbs Lake Park in our Trail Trekking section.

When you are done volunteering or riding, relax, grab a book and enjoy the rest of your day. *Never Trust a Sneaky Pony* by Madison Seamans is a newfound treasure. Grab it while you can!

Like the furry coats of Winter, we bid you adieu. We do post occasionally on Instagram and Facebook, #themidwestquest, if you would like to follow us on our travails between issues.

Take care and enjoy your Spring!



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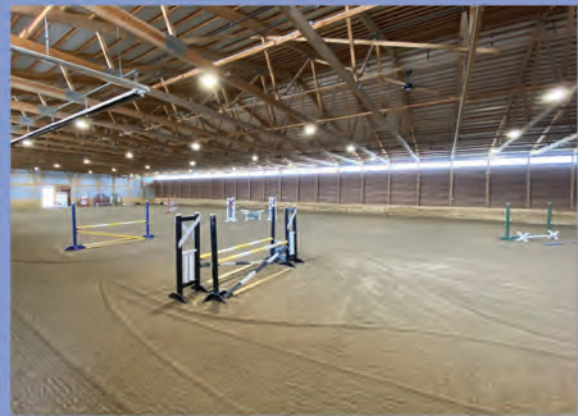
Cover Photo by Janice Fischer

Excalibur, a 14 year old Lusitano gelding, owned by Ava Sands

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MORE THAN A STABLE



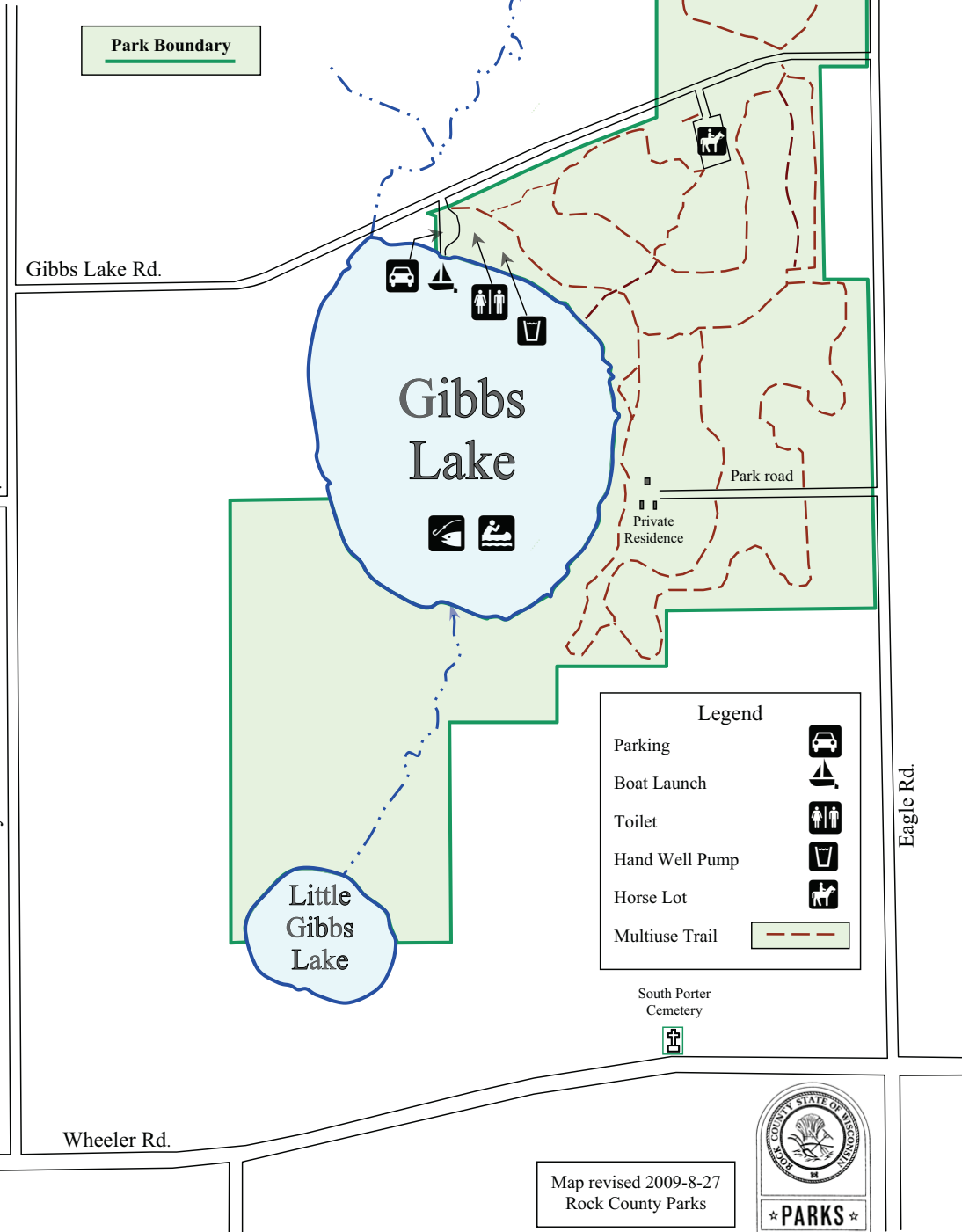
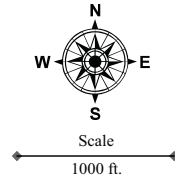
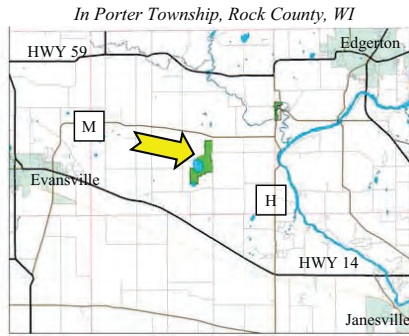
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Gibbs Lake County Park

Editorial and photos by Debra Rubel



Map revised 2009-8-27
Rock County Parks





Gibbs Lake Park is a county park in Rock County, Wisconsin. For those of you unfamiliar with Wisconsin, this is the county on the Illinois state line, north of the city of Rockford in Illinois. This is also the Wisconsin county west of Walworth County.

Gibbs Lake Park takes its name from the shallow lake that is the centerpiece of the park. This lake contains walleye, bass and pan fish. A creek attaches Gibbs Lake to Little Gibbs Lake but due to a surrounding swamp, this smaller lake is inaccessible. In the main parking lot there's a boat launch for boating on Gibbs Lake. East of the boat launch there's a path to a swimming area for people on Gibbs Lake.

Gibbs Lake is Rock County's largest park. It's one of two Rock County parks with horse trails, the other being Magnolia Bluff which is very hilly and has fewer trails.

TRAILS

Although not huge this 299-acre park has a lot to offer. There is a 5-mile multi-use trail open to horse riding. One mile of this trail lies north of Gibbs Lake Road and can be accessed by a street crossing off the trail east of the equine parking lot. The trail north of Gibbs Lake Road is predominantly prairie with a small winding side-trail through trees at the north end. The main trail is wide mowed grass and has gently rolling hills. There are 3 obstacles on this trail that are part of the equestrian obstacle course.



Rock County, WI

trail trekking in the midwest



The trail along the lake is picturesque because you're on a ridge overlooking the lake and you can see the lake through openings in the trees.

The majority of the trails are south of Gibbs Lake Road and on the east side of Gibbs Lake. Trails along the lake are packed dirt while the remainder are generously wide, mowed grass trails through trees and open prairie. This is a good park if you want to ride in a group with a lot of people abreast of one another. It's also a good park if you want to ride at a faster pace. You can see the upcoming trails through the trees at the corners which allows you to slow down if other riders are approaching. I rode there during full summer foliage and I wouldn't call any of the corners blind corners.

It's best to take a trail map from the kiosk or print a map in advance to use as a

reference while riding. The trail system is not that complicated or overly large. You can see many of the parallel trails through the trees as you're riding. There are a lot of good landmarks that can be used for orienting. Gibbs Lake is to the west, Eagle Road is to the east and Gibbs Lake Road is to the north. A park road with private residences cuts through a loop of trails to the south.

The trails are really beautiful. My favorite area to ride is the southern-most trails where the trees are big. The trail along the lake is picturesque because you're on a ridge overlooking the lake and you can see the lake through openings in the trees. There

is a path off the trail that allows you to ride your horse down to the lake's edge. It's a well-worn path. There are some thin trails to the lake's edge. These are deer paths and should be avoided because they're not easy to turn around on and return.

OBSTACLE COURSE

This park has six horse-riding obstacles on the trails to test your trail riding skills. They offer more than the standard zig-zag around something or ride through a tight opening. There are 3 step-up type obstacles which will test your horse's ability to walk up onto obstacles upon request. For trail horses, this is a useful and commonly used skill worth honing. The obstacles are simple for a seasoned trail horse but sturdy, well-made and safe for practicing with a green horse.

Three obstacles are located on the 1-mile loop north of Gibbs Lake Road. If you ride the loop clockwise, the first obstacle you'll come across before the trail turns north is

the Tire Serpentine. This obstacle is made with two side-by-side rows of tires with their bottom ends buried in the ground so they stand upright. You're supposed to walk a serpentine through them.

At the northern most tip of the loop is obstacle #2. If you decided to ride the narrow tree trail in the northwest corner of the loop, when you exit this path turn right to get to obstacle #2. Obstacle #2 is identified as the Wooden Bridge. I'd describe it as more of a wooden staircase with two steps up, a small landing on top

and two steps down. From the side it looks like a two-step mounting block with a step on each side. This one is one of my favorites because it's challenging. The steps are not overly wide so it takes an attentive horse to walk up and over the obstacle.

At the eastern most part of the loop is obstacle #3. This is two shallow steps with a large step off on the other side. Approach from either side and then walk up and over.

The remaining three obstacles are along the eastern-most trail alongside Eagle Road, south of Gibbs Lake Road. If you're

traveling this trail north to south, obstacles #4 and #5 are next to one another on a portion of the trail that curves west. Obstacle #4 is 4"x 4" lumber forming a chute in an L shape. You're supposed to walk through it forward and then back through it to the beginning. It's a very narrow L. Obstacle #5 is 4"x 4" lumber placed to form a small box. You're supposed to place your horse's front feet in the box and perform a turn on the forehand or place your horse's back feet in the box and perform a turn on the haunches, without letting the feet in the box step out.

Continue south on the trail to reach obstacle #6. When you reach the first intersection, turn left and continue south. At the next intersection, turn left and continue east towards Eagle Road before the trail turns south again. At a spot on the trail that curves west is obstacle #6. Obstacle #6 is a large tractor tire laying on its side with the center filled with

For those competitive types looking for something different to do, there will be a Trail Obstacle Course competition hosted by Equine Trail Sports at Gibbs Lake Park on May 13, 2023.



trail trekking in the midwest

sand. This is another one of my favorites because it's challenging. You're supposed to guide your horse to step up onto the tire and then step down on the other side. It's challenging because the tire offers a rounded front rather than a flat face like a step. A horse that's uncomfortable with the task will attempt to walk around it or only want to put two feet up. With some patience and practice, the task can be done.

A lot of thought went into the trailhead. It offers wonderful amenities for trail riders. It's a perfect spot to host events or to relax and have a picnic after a trail ride.

PARKING LOT

This park has two parking lots. One has a boat launch and is not meant for horses. The other is a very nice equestrian lot, installed and maintained by the Rock County Multi Use Trail Group. A lot of thought went into this trailhead and it offers wonderful amenities for trail riders. It's a perfect spot to host events or to relax and have a picnic after a trail ride.

You can park your trailer on the gravel in the lot or you can back it up into the grass. There are shady spots under trees. Fence post bollards outline the boundaries of the parking area. There is an information kiosk with a map box next to the donation box. Donations collected here go to the Rock County Multi Use Trail Group and are used to maintain and improve the Gibbs Lake trails, the parking area and other Rock County Park equestrian areas.

There is a single pit-toilet building. It's clean and well-maintained. There's a picnic shelter with picnic tables, lights and electrical outlets. The picnic shelter can be reserved for events. Call 608-757-5450 to make reservations. There are additional picnic tables distributed about the parking area. Under a big oak tree is a bench and a fire pit. The odd little building with the window and the blue pipe sticking out of it is a well for water. The well can be activated using a timer in a box on the side. Be ready with your water bucket.

GIBBS LAKE COUNTY PARK SUMMARY

LOCATION:

9103 West Gibbs Lake Road, Janesville, WI 53534.
12 miles NW of the city of Janesville.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION:

5-miles. Gently rolling in spots. Wide, grass and packed dirt trails through prairie and trees. Portion of trail travels along the shoreline of a lake and has an access path to the lake to water the horses.

TRAIL DIFFICULTY:

Flat and easy. Shoes not necessary for horses.

TRAIL HEAD:

Large gravel parking lot. Back up on grass into shade of trees. Lots of amenities: Pit toilet, kiosk, picnic shelter with lights and electrical outlets, picnic tables, running water, one fire ring.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Open year round but may be closed if trails are wet. Park open 5am to 10pm. Trails open sunrise to sunset.

FEES:

None required but there is a donation box for trail maintenance at the kiosk.

HORSE CAMPING:

Not available at this park.

INFORMATION:

Rock County Park Services: 608-757-5450, www.co.rock.wi.us

TRAIL MAPS:

www.co.rock.wi.us/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/34/178

DIRECTIONS

From the city of Janesville, Wisconsin, take Hwy-14 west for 7 miles. Take Eagle Road north for 3 miles. Fox Road is the road right before Eagle Road. You'll see signs to direct you to the park at the intersection of Hwy-14 and Eagle Road. On the corner of Eagle Road and Gibbs Lake Road will be a brown park sign for Gibbs Lake Park, Rock County. Take Gibbs Lake Road west. The park entrance to the equine parking lot will be clearly marked with a sign and the lot will be on the left. If you continue beyond the lot, the parking lot to the boat launch will be the next parking lot on your left.

TRAIL OBSTACLE COURSE COMPETITION

For those competitive types looking for something different to do, there will be a Trail Obstacle Course competition hosted by Equine Trail Sports at Gibbs Lake Park on 5/13/2023. You can compete by either leading or riding your horse through the course. If interested, see www.equinetrailsports.com/events/ for details. You still have time to check out the course and practice in advance!

I hope you enjoy riding at this park as much as I did.

Happy Trails! 🐾



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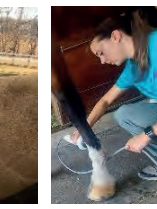
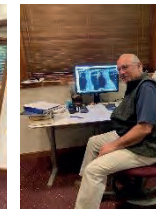
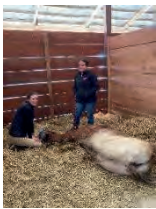
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EQUINE COLIC

What You Need To Know

By Cecelia Gebien, DVM



Listening for gut sounds in the left paralumbar fossa. You should hear 1-3 borborygmi per minute in a healthy horse.

What is colic?

Colic is when a horse has abdominal pain of gastrointestinal origin. It is a general term and is not meant to specify which portion of the gastrointestinal tract is the culprit.

What are the signs of colic?

Colic signs can range from mild (looking at sides, disinterest in feed, laying down) to severe (pawing, pacing, rolling, thrashing). Horses tend to be very motivated eaters, so going off feed can often be the first sign we notice!

What are the causes/types of colic?

The most common cause of colic is gas or spasmodic colic,

which usually resolves with time +/- a dose of banamine.

Another common cause of colic is impaction. A major change in weather or extremely cold water source may cause a horse to drink less than he or she normally does. This can lead to food getting impacted in the gut (usually the large colon). Other causes of colic include ulcers, enteritis, enterolith(s), small intestinal volvulus or strangulation, large colon displacement or volvulus, peritonitis, etc.

As you can see... the causes for equine colic are abundant and aren't always easy to diagnose! Your veterinarian will put together various puzzle pieces (age, breed, history, level of pain, rectal findings, etc.) to figure out what the most likely diagnosis is.

What can I do before my veterinarian arrives?

- ▶ Try your best to keep your horse calm and quiet (if they are very agitated or want to roll it may be safest to move them to an empty indoor arena)
- ▶ Pull any food out of their stall including hay and grain (although it may be tempting to offer them a treat or food it is best to fast them before they are evaluated)
- ▶ Offer access to fresh clean water

Common myths

“Feeding or watering my horse after exercise will lead to colic” – it is unlikely that offering food or water after exercise will lead to signs of colic. Warming your horse up and cooling them down adequately after exercise is most important in reducing post-exercise complications.

“I have to keep my colicky horse walking otherwise they will roll” – it is most important to keep you and your horse safe. This may mean allowing them to lay down or roll in the indoor arena rather than taking a chance that they get cast in their stall or lay down in the aisle.

Approaching the patient with a nasogastric tube. This is what we use to gain access to the stomach.



Checking mucous membrane (gum) color, moisture, and capillary refill time.

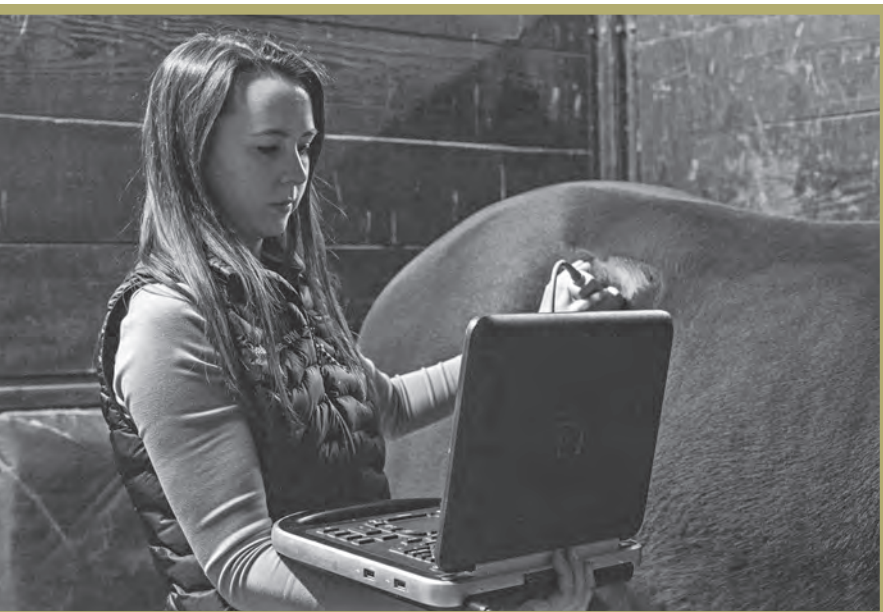


What can your veterinarian do in the field?

Physical Exam – Your veterinarian will start with a thorough physical exam. This will help them to understand how painful your horse is and can provide insight into possible causes. Next, they will sedate your horse and administer banamine (if it has not been given already) +/- Buscopan - a smooth muscle relaxant, which helps to relieve spasming of the large colon wall.

Rectal Palpation – Once your horse is appropriately sedate rectal palpation will be performed to feel for distension, impactions, anything that may be out of place, etc. Keep in mind not all organs are palpable through the rectum so we are only able to get a window into the abdomen!

Nasogastric Intubation - Next a nasogastric tube will be passed. This is a plastic tube that gets passed through the nose, swallowed by the horse, then gently passed into the stomach. “Tubing” a horse allows the veterinarian to evaluate the stomach contents (amount and quality) lavage the stomach and administer mineral oil, water, electrolytes or anything else your horse may need. Keep in mind that this is a general work-up in the field. Every colic is different and not all horses will need the same diagnostics and treatments!



Insuring your horse is a great way to provide peace of mind. This can be done through an insurance company or through programs such as Platinum Colic Coverage® and ColiCare by SmartPak®.

Performing abdominal ultrasound. The area to be imaged is first coated in alcohol to improve the image quality.

ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT OPTIONS:

Bloodwork:

SAA – stands for Serum Amyloid A, marker of inflammation produced by the liver, normal value is < 50, an elevation in SAA can indicate inflammation in the abdomen or elsewhere

Lactate – measure of metabolic waste, can be measured in blood or peritoneal (abdominal) fluid, normal value is < 2.0mmol/L, an elevation in lactate can help to guide prognosis and need for surgical intervention

CBC/Chemistry – can be helpful in diagnosing a peritonitis, electrolyte abnormalities, abnormal liver values, etc. but is not typically warranted in mild cases of colic

Abdominocentesis – procedure to collect a sample of peritoneal fluid (fluid surrounding the abdominal organs) using a spinal needle or sterile teat cannula inserted into the ventral aspect of the abdomen. Abdominal fluid should be light yellow and translucent in a healthy horse. A change in fluid color, cloudiness, lactate, total protein or white blood cell count can indicate a more serious problem.

Abdominal Ultrasound – sometimes your veterinarian will perform a “FLASH” scan (Fast Localized Abdominal Sonography of the Horse) to help further assess the abdominal organs. Abnormalities such as dilated loops of small intestine,



thickened colon wall and inability to visualize the left kidney can help your veterinarian reach a diagnosis.

IV Fluids – if your horse shows evidence of dehydration (tacky mucous membranes, skin tent, increase in PCV – packed cell volume) intravenous fluids may be warranted. An IV catheter is placed into the jugular vein to administer various fluid types, most often isotonic fluids such as Lactated Ringers Solution (LRS). Depending on your horse’s size and level of dehydration they may receive anywhere from 5-20 liters. Keeping in mind that the typical 1,000 lb. horse has a blood volume of ~35-40L!

“Phenylephrine and Jog” – if a displacement is suspected, especially a left dorsal displacement of the large colon, phenylephrine may be administered intravenously followed by a 5–10-minute jog in the arena. Horses have a VERY large spleen that can at times get in the way of other organs. Phenylephrine shrinks the spleen by causing it to release its store of red blood cells thus making more room in the abdomen. Jogging the horse may jostle the displaced large colon back into its proper place. This procedure is not guaranteed to work but can be a viable option especially if surgery is not.

When is it time to take my horse to the hospital?

If your horse returns to pain after being evaluated in the field by a veterinarian, it may be time to bring them into the hospital. A common misconception about hospitalization is that it is only for horses who need surgery. There are additional diagnostics that can be performed in-hospital (ultrasound, abdominal radiographs, abdominocentesis, etc.) as well as additional treatments (continuous IV fluids, additional rounds of sedation, “phenylephrine and jog”, etc.) that can be better performed in a hospital setting.

How can I get my horse to the hospital?

It is always a good idea to have a plan for your horse in case they need to be taken to a referral facility...

- ▶ Insuring your horse is a great way to provide peace of mind. This can be done through an insurance company or through programs such as Platinum Colic Coverage® and ColiCare by SmartPak®.
- ▶ Have a hospital in mind – it is helpful to know which equine hospital is closest to your horse’s barn. Keep in mind that this may be a university with a veterinary hospital.
- ▶ Have a method of transport – it is helpful to have the name and phone number of a hauler on hand if you do not have access to a truck and trailer.
- ▶ Regular truck and trailer maintenance – so that you are ready to hit the road if an emergency arises!

How do I know if surgery is an appropriate option for my horse?

Indications for surgery include intractable pain (especially after multiple rounds of sedation) abnormal rectal or ultrasound findings, changes to abdominal fluid and elevations in either blood and/or abdominal lactate. However, there are other aspects that should be taken into consideration such as age of the horse, use of the horse, prognosis for the suspected lesion, concurrent diseases and owner finances. Cost for abdominal surgery will vary from hospital to hospital but can cost up to \$8,000 to \$10,000 for uncomplicated cases. A minimum 3 to 4 month post-op rehabilitation plan can also be expected after surgery. A discussion between you and your veterinarian will help you to decide if surgery is an appropriate option for your horse.



Colic signs can range from mild (looking at sides, disinterest in feed, laying down) to severe (pawing, pacing, rolling, thrashing). Horses tend to be very motivated eaters, so going off feed can often be the first sign we notice!

What can I do to prevent colic?

- ▶ DON'T change your horse's diet rapidly.
 - Any changes to a horse's diet should be done gradually over a period of weeks to months.
- ▶ DO provide access to fresh, clean and in the winter... warm water at all times!
 - A salt block is a helpful tool for encouraging water intake
 - Electrolytes can be added to grain or administered as a paste when major changes in ambient temperature are expected.
- ▶ DON'T overexert your horse. Rigorous exercise without adequate warm up and cool down could lead to muscle and abdominal discomfort.
- ▶ DO have a regular deworming program in place for your horse. Yearly fecal egg counts will help to guide how often you deworm and what dewormers you choose. 🐾

Miss the turn?

Why Managing Your Finances in a Shifting Landscape Matters

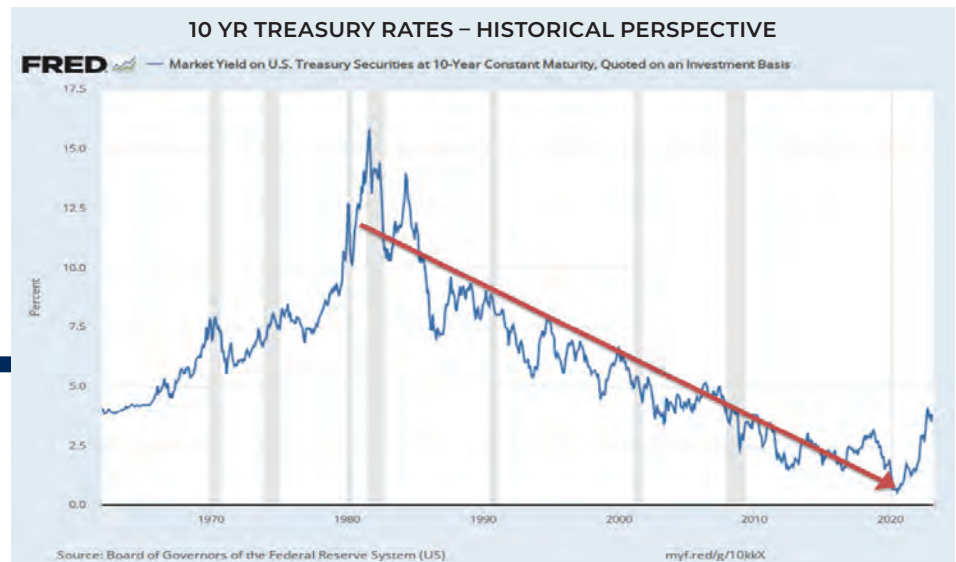
How do you manage your business and personal finances when the landscape shifts substantially? Do you have a strategy to recognize the new environment or might you “miss the turn” and not make the necessary changes to be positioned to thrive in the new environment?

The Federal Reserve pumped money into the economy at unprecedented levels and in unprecedented ways over the last several years, accelerating the 40-year race to zero for interest rates in 2020 and 2021. For borrowers, this trend has been beneficial in lowering debt costs, raising asset values and encouraging borrowing for business growth. While there have been many bumps along the way the overall direction has been consistent since the early 1980s.

However, as they have had to accommodate ever-increasing levels of fiscal stimulus, first for the Great Recession and recently for the pandemic, the low rates have come at a cost of accelerating inflation and unsustainable activity levels across the economy. The Federal Reserve has rapidly increased short-term rates and started to shrink their holdings of debt, both of which are designed to moderate economic activity and cool inflation.

What is surprising to us is how many market pundits and business people are debating the duration of the Fed's tightening push, under the apparent assumption that once inflation is controlled rates will revert to the very low levels of 2021 and early 2022. To manage your finances well you need to be asking which the anomaly is, 10-year rates near zero or closer to 6%? If it is the former, you should be taking steps now to prepare for the implications the higher rates will have on your cost structure over the long term.

In general, it can be useful to think through several different but rather extreme scenarios



STEPS TO TAKE NOW

- 1** Project your cost of debt over each of the next five years if your term borrowing costs will become 8% or more. It is wonderful if you were able to borrow for your land or equipment over the last couple of years at the low rates that were available, but if that debt matures within the next few years what will that do to your cost structure?
- 2** Get your borrowing house in order. What can you do to make sure you have the maximum flexibility to finance when rates are attractive and not be forced to borrow when they are not? Prepare for impending debt maturities or re-pricings a couple of years before they occur.
- 3** If possible, begin setting aside funds invested in liquid short-term accounts paying more than your existing loan rates. These funds can then be used to either subsidize the roll-over loan rate when renewal comes or can pay down the principal at that time thereby mitigating the effect of the higher rate on the debt.
- 4** Make plans for maximum offense and maximum defense. Between the Fed's fight against inflation and a variety of geopolitical risk factors, the one thing we can say with confidence is that the conditions of today are unlikely to persist. Should the Fed over-tighten and create a deep recession or if a major geo-political event were to occur, rates might plummet again. Or if the inflationary pressures continue to build, perhaps due to the extraordinary labor market conditions, rates may rise well above current levels. Have you thought through how you would react in either scenario? Are you in a position, either because of cash balances or borrowing capacity, to be able to move quickly?

and their potential impact on your finances. While none of the scenarios you identify may occur, preparing for them as if they might will put you in the best position to react, as you see actual events unfold in one direction or another. The status quo is unlikely to remain stable – don't make plans as if it will.

A good lender should be able to listen intently to your objectives and help you select the loan terms that best permit you to take advantage of today's rates and structural alternatives. While many banks may not be able to offer the full range of long-term fixed rates currently available, McHenry

Savings Bank, through its relationships with FarmerMac and other leading farm lenders, can provide a full menu of attractive financing alternatives. Please feel free to contact us to discuss your situation or address any questions you may have.

Author:

Don Wilson, Chairman, President & CEO
Tim Kempel, SVP – Agribusiness Banking,
NMLS# 586675
tkempel@mchenrysavings.com or
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It's a Win-Win

BY JUDI ZANGS



SMILES volunteer Jean Schriever assists as Paul Nadjowski on Buster negotiates an obstacle course at a SMILES horse show.



Volunteer Cathy Farrell helps Main Stay clients interact with the mixed herd of therapy animals.

In 2004, Cathy Farrell read a newspaper article about volunteering at a therapeutic riding center in Barrington Hills, Illinois. She had always loved horses but been away from them for a long time. She called right away.

“I remember the first time I went to the farm – all the familiar smells brought back such good memories,” she said. “I knew it was where I wanted to be.” In 2008 when that riding center closed, she started volunteering at Main Stay Therapeutic Farm in Richmond, Illinois.

Fourteen years later, that dedication has earned her the “2023 Region 7 Volunteer of the Year Award” from the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) organization. Covering five Midwestern states, it is given annually to an individual whose contributions are of the highest quality, who consistently follows through with

commitments, has helped enhance the ability of the organization to provide equine assisted services and has a long history of volunteer service. A national winner will be chosen at the 2023 PATH Intl. Conference in October.

“I don’t feel I deserve the award,” she said. “I get more out of it than I put in. At Main Stay I love our clients, the animals, the staff and other volunteers.”

Cathy is just one of thousands of volunteers across the United States who give their time to assisted equine therapy riding programs that include physical, occupational and speech therapy which incorporate the movement of the horse as

part of the treatment strategy. There is also equine assisted psychotherapy. This type of therapy incorporates unmounted and mounted activities which are beneficial for individuals with various diagnoses. These include individuals with autism, depression, conduct disorder and much more. All these programs have a great need for volunteers.

In the 1970s, my sister was in an accident that left her paralyzed. After months of rehab, she spent time at The Chicago Rehabilitation Center where she was introduced to Therapeutic Riding. When she returned home to Oklahoma, our riding instructor started a program that is still ongoing today. In my late teens I got my first taste of what it meant to volunteer as the horses performed their magic on people with disabilities. I always knew that someday I would do that again.

Newly retired in 2022, I told anyone who asked about retirement plans that I was going to volunteer at BraveHearts in Poplar Grove which is only minutes from

volunteering

BraveHearts volunteer Judi Zangs leads Poptart as student Tanner practices posting at the walk while holding his arms straight out.





There is a variety in the programs offered but the bottom line is the same for all; the horse is the common denominator. Whether it is using the horse's walking gait to replicate that of a human walking, or the horse's intuitiveness to connect with someone who needs a bridge to communicate with their therapist, the horse is a remarkable animal.

my home. Within two months I had gone through their new volunteer training and I was hooked.

My joy comes not only from seeing progress and new confidence in the students but also watching the parents in the viewing stand who are there to support their child in whatever way they can. One moment stands out. The therapist was encouraging a young man in the saddle to put his arms straight up over his head; not an easy thing for him

to do. As he reached his arms up, I looked over to where his parents were watching and there was his father, standing up with HIS arms straight up over his head. He was there to encourage his son in any way he could. To witness that kind of love and support, and in a small way help to make it happen, is incredibly fulfilling.

I checked with several other programs in my area and all have the same dedication to training their volunteers to be as safe

and productive as possible. All programs focus on the physical and mental aspects of equine assisted services. SMILES in Darien, Wisconsin uses all group lessons while most of the others offer sessions with individuals or small groups. Main Stay helps their clients achieve goals related to the areas of physical, cognitive or social/emotional growth. Equestrian Connection in Lake Forest, Illinois and BraveHearts have specific programs for veterans. In fact, BraveHearts has the largest program in the country for veterans and their families offering those services at no cost.

There is a variety in the programs offered but the bottom line is the same for all; the horse is the common denominator. Whether it is using the horse's walking gait to replicate that of a human walking, or the horse's intuitiveness to connect with someone who needs a bridge to communicate with their therapist, the horse is a remarkable animal.



Leader Eric Weaver and sidewalker Bonnie Travis (with the bubble bottle) enjoy a delightful moment with Equestrian Connection's Nancy Knippen-Carreno as they watch young Rumi Paiman reach for the bubbles.

“Our typical volunteer is compassionate and friendly,” says Nancy Knippen-Carreno, Equestrian Connection’s Volunteer Coordinator. “It is someone who wants to make a difference in peoples’ lives. They do not need experience with horses or people with special needs, but they will quickly fall in love with both.”

But without volunteers the staff would never be able to do their important work. Every facility I talked with needs between 60 and 200 plus volunteers a week.

Jean Maraist, Director of Programming and Community Engagement at Main Stay, is a strong advocate of the mission to enrich mind, body and spirit through powerful connections with horses, other animals and nature.

“Main Stay relies on our dedicated and caring volunteers to offer programming as we operate with a small paid staff,” Maraist said. “Volunteers make 2-legged and 4-legged friends and help our clients achieve their goals.”

“You get to work with horses, meet new people and make a difference in someone else’s life. Studies show volunteering improves self-confidence, counteracts the effects of stress and anxiety and provides an individual with a sense of purpose.”

Amanda Bethards, Volunteer Coordinator for BraveHearts echoed those sentiments.

“BraveHearts brings hope, joy and unlimited possibilities through the healing power of the horse,” said Bethards. “Volunteers have an important role which directly fuels our mission.”

Equestrian Connection is proud of their motto “Best Days Happen Here”. That applies not only to their clients, but also to the volunteers. According to one of their volunteers quoted on their website, “My best days at Equestrian Connection happen the moment I pull up.”

“Our typical volunteer is compassionate and friendly,” says Nancy Knippen-Carreno, their Volunteer Coordinator. “It is someone who wants to make a difference in peoples’ lives. They do not need experience with horses or people with special needs, but they will quickly fall in love with both.”

“Our volunteers come from all walks of life; students, retirees, professionals and everyone in between,” said Katie Luessenhop, volunteer coordinator for SMILES. “I have heard from many volunteers that sometimes they feel they are receiving more benefits than the clients they work with.”

“Volunteers have the opportunity to learn new skills,” she added. “There are also physical benefits as you are walking more than a mile just in one class. You get to work with horses, meet new people and make a difference in someone else’s life. Studies show volunteering improves self-confidence, counteracts the effects of stress and anxiety and provides an individual with a sense of purpose. It’s a win-win!” 🐾

There are many Equine Assisted Services programs in Illinois and Wisconsin. Only a few are highlighted in this article – their contact information is listed below.

More programs can be found at the PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) website: www.pathintl.org

BRAVEHEARTS

Harvard and Poplar Grove, IL
www.braveheartsridding.org
Amanda Bethards, Volunteer Coordinator
815-765-2113

EQUESTRIAN CONNECTION

Lake Forest, IL
www.equestrianconnection.org
Nancy Knippen-Carreno, Volunteer and Office Coordinator
847-615-8696

MAIN STAY THERAPEUTIC FARM

Richmond, IL
www.mainstayfarm.org
Jean Maraist – Director of Programming & Community Engagement
815-382-9374

SMILES

(Special Methods in Learning Equine Skills)
Darien, WI
www.smilestherapeuticriding.org/volunteers
Katie Luessenhop – Volunteer Coordinator
262-882-3470, option 1

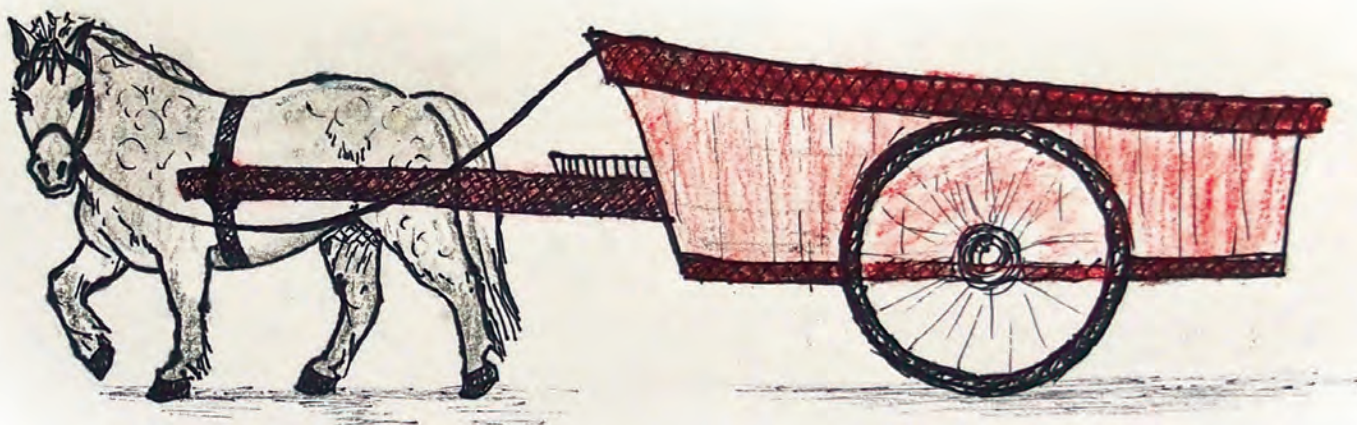
Main Stay’s Director of Programming Jean Maraist leads a new class of volunteers.



MATH PROBLEMS

Willow is a snappy and dashing dapple-gray miniature pony. His birthday is July 4, 2014. He stands at 34" and weighs about 250 lbs. Farmer Bob adopted Willow on August 4, 2018 to help out around the farm. They have a harmonious and symbiotic relationship. The

young children ride Willow and he pulls a cart to haul things for Farmer Bob. Farmer Bob provides Willow with shelter, food, treats and lots of love. Farmer Bob regularly takes Willow and the cart to Farmer Ned's farm to pick up supplies such as hay, straw and apples.



Illustrations by Jennifer Ross

1. How old was Willow when Farmer Bob adopted him?
2. Willow can safely carry 20% of his body weight. How much would that be?
3. Willow can pull three times his weight. How many pounds can Willow pull?
4. Farmer Bob needs hay. The bed of the cart is 6 feet by 6 feet. The hay bales are 2'x2'x3'. If Farmer Bob can only stack the bales 3-high on the cart, how many bales of hay can he carry on the cart?
5. Farmer Bob and Willow need to make a second trip to Farmer Ned's farm to pick up some straw for Gigi the goat. Gigi needs straw to bed her shelter. The straw bales are smaller and measure 18" x 18" x 36". Using the same cart, if Farmer Bob can only stack the bales 3-high on the cart, how many bales of straw can he carry on the cart?
6. If the hay bales weigh 50 lbs each and the straw bales weigh 35 lbs each, which load is heavier?



EXTRA CHALLENGE QUESTION:

Farmer Ned stores apples from Fall in his cellar. Farmer Bob's wife Annie is planning to bake pies for an upcoming bake sale and needs lots of apples.

7. Farmer Bob and Willow need to make a third trip to Farmer Ned's for apples. Farmer Bob would like to fill up his cart with apples. The bed of the cart has a 1-foot side. If the angle of repose for a pile of apples is 10° , how many bushels of apples can he dump into the cart if each bushel holds 1 cubic foot of apples?

(Answers on page 27)

Spring Beginnings

Illustrations by Jennifer Ross

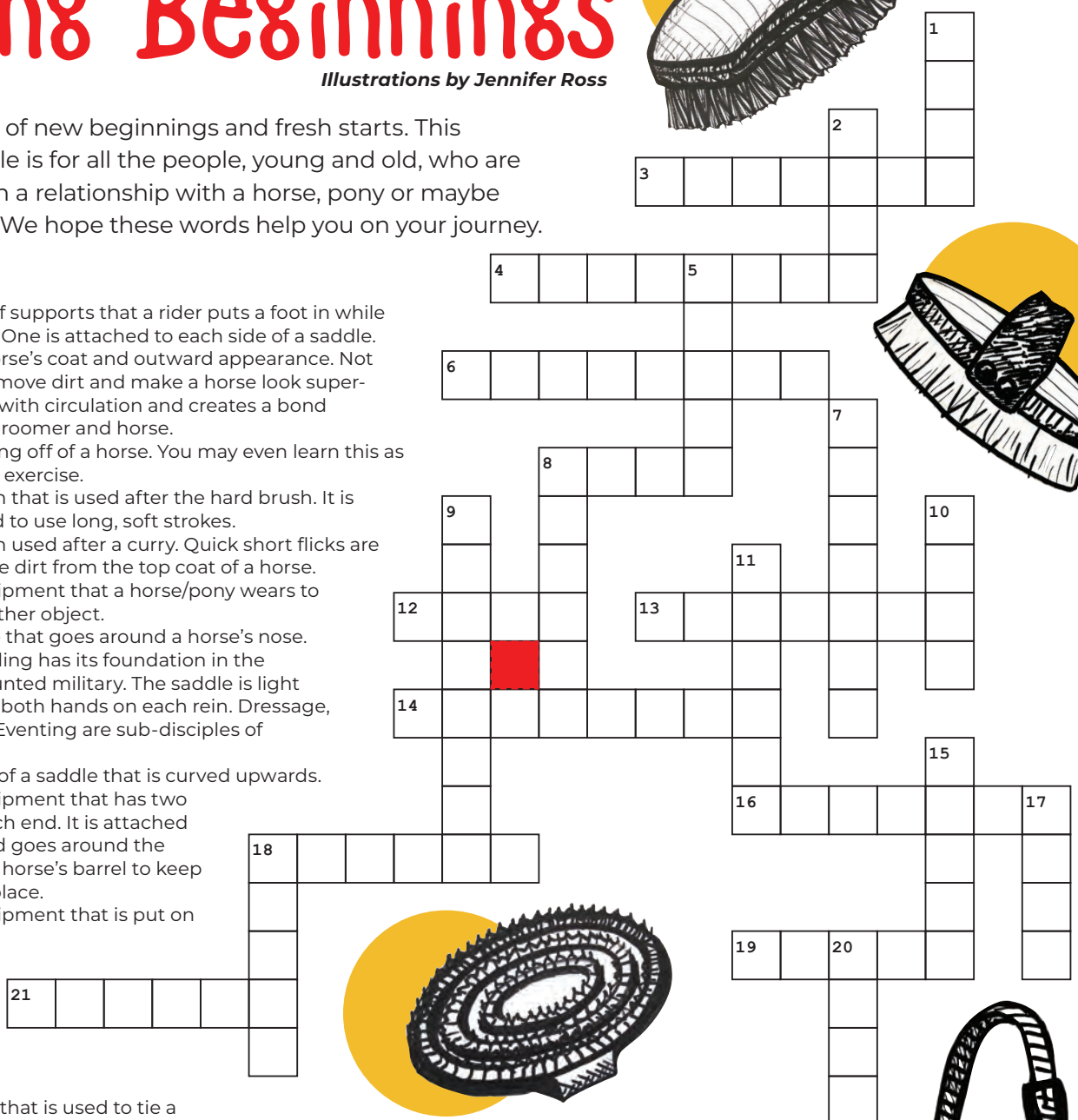
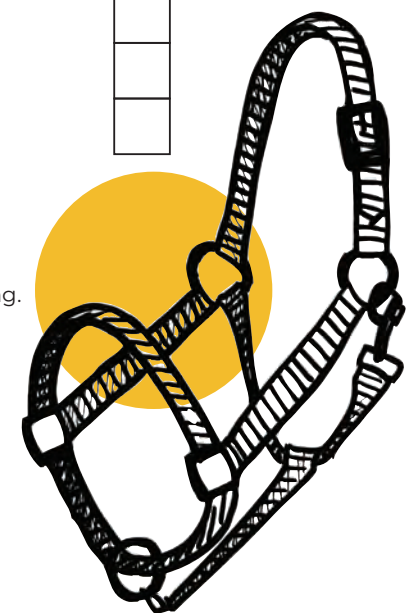
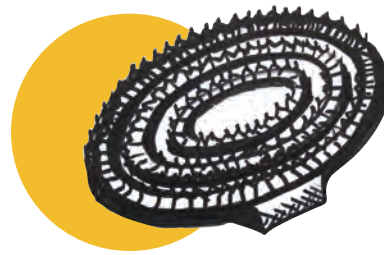
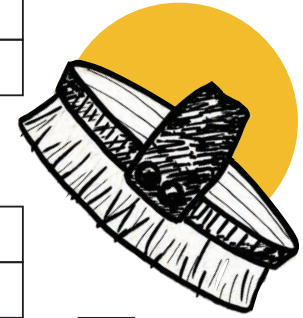
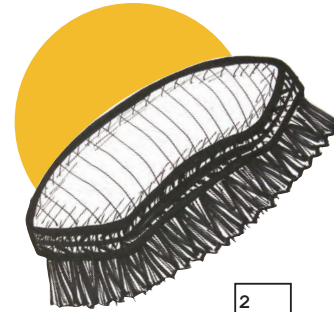
Spring is a time of new beginnings and fresh starts. This crossword puzzle is for all the people, young and old, who are looking to begin a relationship with a horse, pony or maybe even a donkey! We hope these words help you on your journey.

Across

3. One of a pair of supports that a rider puts a foot in while riding a horse. One is attached to each side of a saddle.
4. Caring for a horse's coat and outward appearance. Not only does it remove dirt and make a horse look super-sharp, it helps with circulation and creates a bond between the groomer and horse.
6. Action of getting off of a horse. You may even learn this as an emergency exercise.
8. A type of brush that is used after the hard brush. It is recommended to use long, soft strokes.
12. A type of brush used after a curry. Quick short flicks are used to remove dirt from the top coat of a horse.
13. A piece of equipment that a horse/pony wears to pull a cart or other object.
14. Part of a bridle that goes around a horse's nose.
16. This style of riding has its foundation in the European mounted military. The saddle is light and riders use both hands on each rein. Dressage, Jumping and Eventing are sub-disciplines of this style.
18. The back part of a saddle that is curved upwards.
19. A piece of equipment that has two buckles on each end. It is attached to a saddle and goes around the underside of a horse's barrel to keep the saddle in place.
21. A piece of equipment that is put on a horse/pony for leading, grooming and other such tasks.

Down

1. A type of knot that is used to tie a horse to a post or other object.
2. Located on the underside of a horse hoof, it is a wedge shaped "pad" that aids the horse with circulation in the hoof, shock absorption and traction. It is also a scent gland.
5. A verb that means to get on a horse.
7. A riding style that evolved from cattle ranching and the skills cowboys needed in their daily lives. There are various sub-disciplines for this style including barrel racing, cutting and reining.
8. A "seat" that a rider sits in while riding a horse. It is traditionally made of leather, but newer versions are made of lighter synthetic material.
9. Cutting across the arena at an angle.
10. The motion of rising up and down in a saddle.
11. A piece of equipment worn around the head of a horse while riding or driving. It may or may not have a bit.
15. A piece of equipment that keeps a saddle in place. It is usually fastened on one side of a Western saddle. The other side has a buckle in which a long strap is fastened through the buckle and then tightened to the saddle.
17. The hard covering that protects the toes of many animals such as the horse and deer.
18. A type of comb used to groom a horse. It is rubbed in a circular motion.
20. A strap(s) that goes around a horse's neck and is attached to a bit or bridle. It is used to control a horse while riding or driving.



(Answers at themidwestequestrian.com)

PENELOPE RIDES AGAIN

The 100th Anniversary Edition

Not many people can resist the charm of a pony and I bet there are fewer that can resist the charm of a 'Thelwell Pony' – a chunky, short-legged pony with a bushy mane and tail, topped off with a sly grin and a mischievous temperament. Meet Kipper the quintessential Thelwell pony.

Norman Thelwell was a cartoonist born in Birkenhead, Cheshire on May 3, 1923. He published his first pony cartoon in 1953 for *Punch*, a magazine known for its satire and humor. The cartoons were a huge success and Thelwell soon became famous for these satirical equestrian cartoons about a devilish pony and his owner, a young girl besot with him.

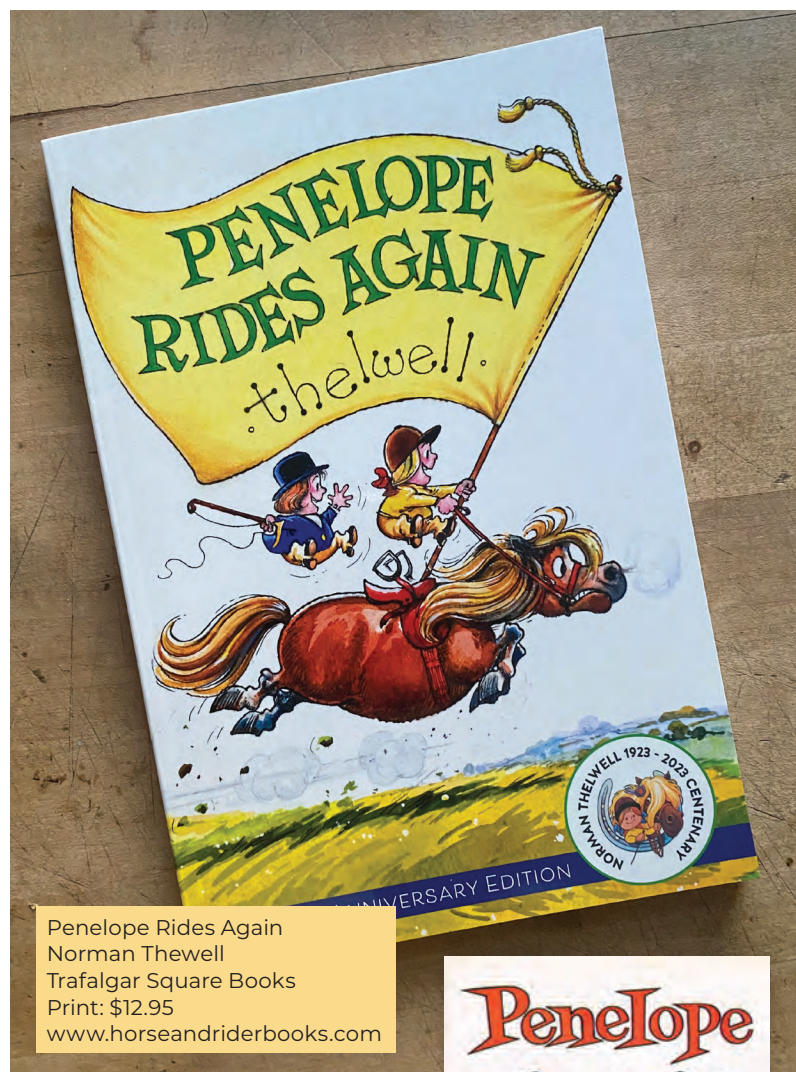
The main characters in his cartoons are Penelope and Kipper, with a sub-character Fiona. Penelope is the devoted owner, caretaker and sometimes rider of Kipper. Kipper is the devilish pony constantly bucking riders, munching incessantly, romping in the mud, basically just being a pony. Fiona is Penelope's friend and fellow theorist on the life of an equestrian with a pony as a counterpart. They traipse about the English countryside enduring the trials and tribulations of owning a pony.

Thelwell captures the relationship between a rider and child with his detail-oriented illustrations and accompanying text. The cartoons are black and white illustrations that are so well done you can feel the bucks and snorts. His expert use of cross-hatching makes you see in color.

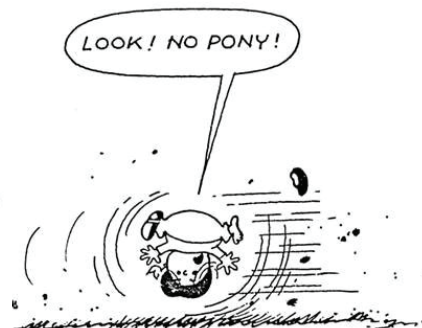
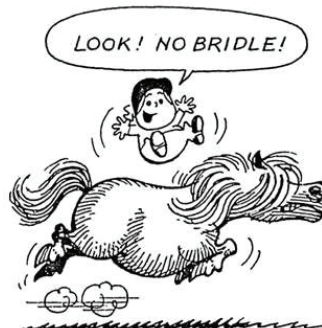
In 1972 some of his cartoon clips were published in the book, *Penelope*. Seventeen years later another set of his cartoons were printed in the book *Penelope Rides Again*, which has since been out of print. In honor of Thelwell's Centenary, Penelope and Kipper have been brought back to life, in print that is, in this 100th Anniversary edition.

Not every pony is a Thelwell pony, but every pony could be a Thelwell pony. Thelwell captures the essence of a typical pony – cute, stubborn yet loving. No matter age or generation a Thelwell pony is for everyone.

For more on Norman Thelwell: www.thelwell.org.uk



In 1972 some of Thelwell's cartoon clips were published in the book, *Penelope*. Seventeen years later another set of his cartoons were printed in the book *Penelope Rides Again*.





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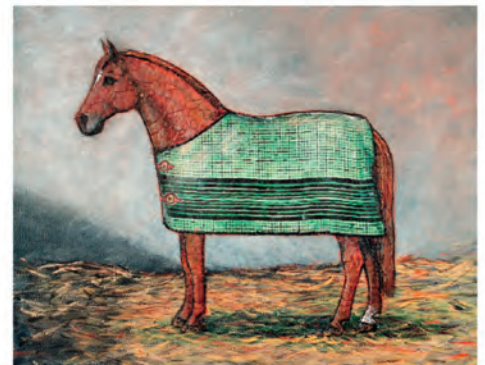
www.jenniferrossart.com



The Horse Whisperer
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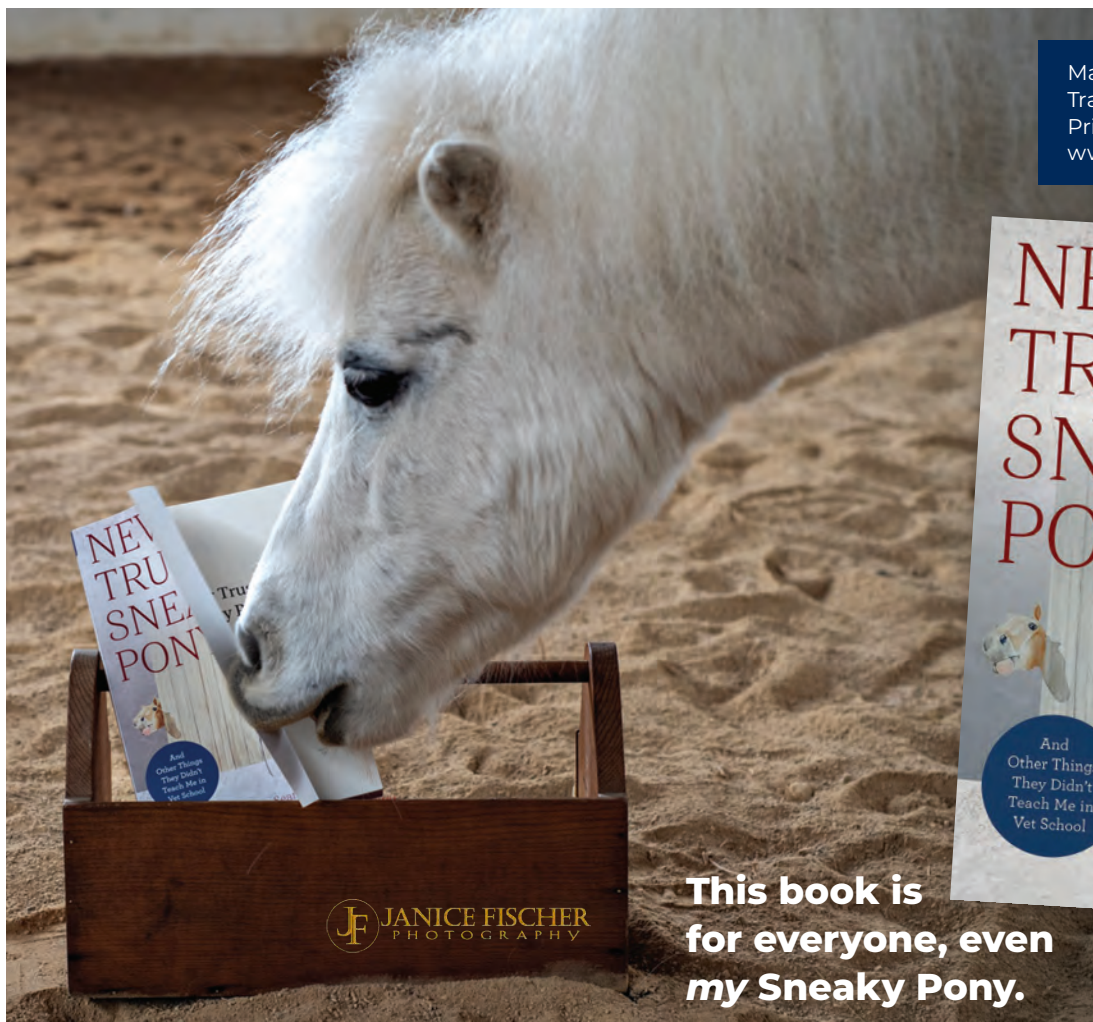


Rowan-Commission
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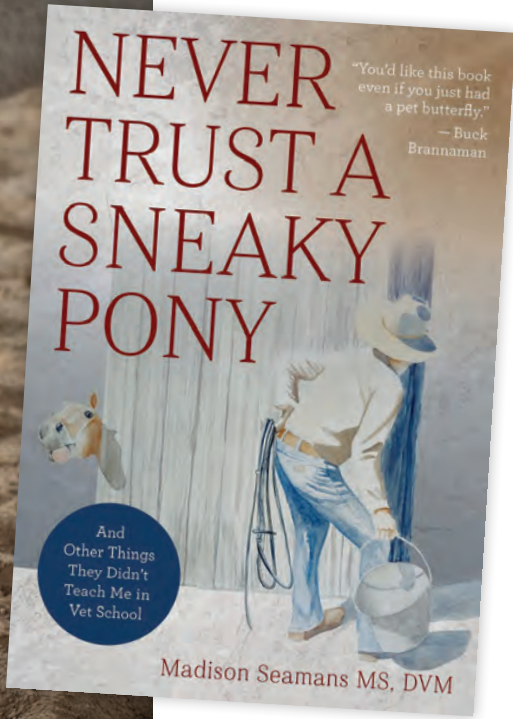


The Clothes Horse #3
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NEVER TRUST A SNEAKY PONY, *And Other Things They Didn't Teach Me in Vet School*



Madison Seamans, MS DVM
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www.horseandriderbooks.com



**This book is
for everyone, even
my Sneaky Pony.**

Never Trust a Sneaky Pony; what a clever title. It definitely grabbed my attention. The combination of trust, sneaky and pony is definitely a formula for something extraordinary. This book is not about a particular pony, rather it is a book of short stories compiled by equine vet Dr. Madison Seamans. His stories are as intriguing as the title and while the title may get your attention it is his extraordinary wit and humor that will keep it.

The book is comprised of nine chapters, each one beginning with a beautiful pencil illustration, done by Seamans, accompanied by a thought or definition of the topic being addressed. He shares his experiences from vet school to practice through educational and witty storytelling.

If Seamans were a songwriter he would be a cross between John Prine and Hayes Carll. His stories are full of funny one-liners, which like a good verse, keep coming to mind over and over again. For example, "My Texan ears have difficulty translating English sometimes." That is classic. I can't get that line out of my mind.

In trying to dispel an old wives-tale about a twisted gut he explains the gut to a client: "The gut is a really a fairly simple structure, even though it is capable of some amazingly complicated functions. It's just a hundred-foot-long tube made of smooth muscle, lined with a thin sponge so it can absorb water and nutrients...This is the hundred-foot-trail that turns alfalfa to road apples in just five or six days." The gut has a whole new meaning to me after reading that.

In his forward, Seamans states that, "teaching by anecdote is what I hope to achieve with this book." I think he accomplished that because his real-life stories paired with his wisdom has helped me to understand some veterinary procedures and terminology I normally would have difficulty understanding.

When I first started reading this book I offered to pass my copy on to others, but the more I delved into it the less inclined I was to part with it. This is the type of book that you want to keep around to randomly pick-up for a good story, a good chuckle or even a bit of knowledge. Just like a favorite album that is played over and over again, this book will be read over and over again. ♡

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Highlighted Accomplishments:

2022 - collaborated with a community group and The Land Conservancy to purchase and preserve 300 acres of land in Bull Valley for conservation and public use including horseback riding.
2019 - partnered with Visit McHenry County to promote equestrian activities.
2018 - advocated for and led fundraising efforts to build a horse trailer parking lot in Woodstock.
2017 - hosted educational forum for horse owners.
2016 - advocated for opening 5 miles of new public bridle trails in Woodstock.

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**Answers to math questions
on page 22**

1: Four years and one month

2: 50 lbs

3: 750 lbs

4: 18 bales of hay

(6 bales of hay per layer x 3 = 18)

5: 24 bales of straw

(8 bales of straw per layer x 3 = 24)

6: Hay

(Hay = 18 bales x 50 lbs = 900 lbs)

Straw = 24 bales x 35 lbs = 840 lbs)

7: 42 bushels

(Portion of cart with sides will hold 6' x 6' = 36 cubic feet of apples.

Heaped upon this is a pyramid with an angle of repose of 10°.

$\tan^{\circ} = y/x$. The height of the pyramid is $3 \tan 10 = 0.5289$.

The volume of a pyramid is $\frac{1}{3}(H)(\text{area of base})$
 $= \frac{1}{3}(0.5289)(6)2 = 6.347$

Total volume = volume of cart + volume of pyramid on top
 $= 36 + 6.347 = 42.347$ cubic feet

If a bushel is 1 cubic foot, the cart can hold 42 bushels of apples.)



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EQUINE TRAIL SPORTS OBSTACLE EVENT

Liberty Lane Stables,
N5090 Bowers Road, Elkhorn, WI
Contact: andi.fiebig@gmail.com

APRIL 13-16
LEDGES WINTER SERIES "A" SHOW

Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road,
Roscoe, IL Contact: 847.717.6653
showplaceproductions@gmail.com

APRIL 14-16
MIDWEST HORSE FAIR

Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI
Contact: www.midwesthorsefair.com

APRIL 21-23
SHOWPLACE WINTER "B" SHOW

Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road,
Roscoe, IL Contact: 847.717.6653
showplaceproductions@gmail.com

APRIL 21-23
NIHJA SHOW

Fields & Fences,
36550 N. Hunt Club Road, Gurnee, IL
Contact: 847.244.4121
anita@fiieldsandfences.com

APRIL 22
WQHA SPRING TUNE-UP CLINIC

West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.,
W4812 Highway 20, East Troy, WI
Contact: 262.642.4272 info@west20.com

APRIL 27-30
LEDGES SPRING WARM UP I "A" SHOW

Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road,
Roscoe, IL Contact: 847.717.6653
showplaceproductions@gmail.com

APRIL 29
PEAW BENEFIT HORSE SHOW

West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.,
W4812 Highway 20, East Troy, WI
Contact: 262.642.4272 info@west20.com

APRIL 29
TACKAPALOOZA

9am-3pm HAHS 10804 McConnell Road,
Woodstock, IL Contact: 815.337.5563
info@hahs.org

APRIL 29
SCHOOLING & WESTERN DRESSAGE SHOW

Sorensen Park, W1700 Saint Peter's Road,
East Troy, WI Contact: 262.642.4222
shows@sorensenpark.com

APRIL 29-30
DRESSAGE CLINIC WEEKEND with
Michael Peters & Brittany Burson
Fox Valley Saddle Association,
44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire, IL
Contact: www.fvsa.org



MAY 4-7

LEDGES SPRING WARM UP II "A" SHOW

Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road, Roscoe, IL Contact: 847.717.6653 showplaceproductions@gmail.com

MAY 4-7

RAFAEL SOTO ANDRADE CLINIC

Tempel Farms, 17000 Wadsworth Road, Old Mill Creek, IL Contact: 847.244.5330 info@tempellipizzanas.com

MAY 5-6

DRESSAGE SHOW

Sorensen Park, W1700 Saint Peter's Road, East Troy, WI Contact: 262.642.4222 shows@sorensenpark.com

MAY 6

SPRING SHOWDOWN HORSE SHOW

Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI Contact: www.borderrunhorse.wixsite.com

MAY 6

EQUINE TRAIL SPORTS OBSTACLE EVENT

Phantom Ranch Bible Camp, W309S10910 Cr-I, Mukwonago, WI Contact: krista@phantomranch.org

MAY 6

RACE & TASTE

4:30-9pm Ravinia Green Country Club, 1200 Saundeers Road, Riverwoods, IL Contact: info@equestrianconnection.org

MAY 10

PLEASURE SHOW & OPEN SPEED SHOW SERIES

Fox Run Farm, 10130 West County Road K, Beloit, WI Contact: stablenews@netzero.com

MAY 10-14

LAMPLIGHT HUNTER/JUMPER SPRING CLASSIC

Lamplight Equestrian Center, 6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL Contact: www.hitsshows.com

MAY 12-14

TIEVOLI FARM "B" SHOW

Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road, Roscoe, IL Contact: 847.774.5660 tievolifarm@hotmail.com

MAY 12-14

DRESSAGE SHOW

Silverwood Farm, 28426 98th Street, Trevor, WI Contact: 847.235.6410 dressage@silverwoodfarm.net

MAY 13

WALENTON'S ROCKIN'B RANCH SPEEDSHOW

Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI

MAY 13

EQUINE TRAIL SPORTS OBSTACLE EVENT

Gibbs Lake Park, 9103 W. Gibbs Lake Road, Edgerton, WI Contact: luckyduck116@yahoo.com

MAY 13-14

WORKING EQUITATION SHOW

Fox Valley Saddle Association, 44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire, IL Contact: workingequitationoregon@gmail.com

MAY 14

ENGLISH/WESTERN PLEASURE SHOW

Spring Grove Horse Show, 8105 Blivin Street, Spring Grove, IL Contact: 262.586.9986 springgrovehorseshow@mail.com

MAY 19-20

DRESSAGE SHOW

Silverwood Farm, 28426 98th Street, Trevor, WI Contact: 847.235.6410 dressage@silverwoodfarm.net

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calendar of events



MAY 17-21
LAMPLIGHT HUNTER/JUMPER SPRING CLASSIC

Lamplight Equestrian Center,
6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL
[Contact: www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com)

MAY 20
OPEN PLEASURE HORSE SHOW

West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.,
W4812 Highway 20, East Troy, WI
[Contact: 262.642.4272 info@west20.com](mailto:info@west20.com)

MAY 20-21
LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE OPERATIONS
HAHS 10804 McConnell Road,
Woodstock, IL [Contact: 815.337.5563 info@hahs.org](mailto:info@hahs.org)

MAY 20-21
DRESSAGE AT LAMPLIGHT
Lamplight Equestrian Center,
6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL
[Contact: www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com)

MAY 21
PLACE TO START (PTS) HORSE SHOW
Cross Winds Farm, 8905 S. Grant
Highway, Marengo, IL
[Contact: 815.923.7400 cwfboss@gmail.com](mailto:cwfboss@gmail.com)

MAY 21
FVSA HORSE SHOW SERIES
Fox Valley Saddle Association,
44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire, IL
[Contact: www.fvsa.org](http://www.fvsa.org)

MAY 20-21
WISCONSIN RANCH HORSE SHOW
Walworth County Fairgrounds,
411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI
[Contact: www.wisconsinranchhorse.com](http://www.wisconsinranchhorse.com)

MAY 24
PLEASURE SHOW & OPEN SPEED SHOW SERIES
Fox Run Farm,
10130 West County Road K, Beloit, WI
[Contact: stabilennews@netzero.com](mailto:stablennews@netzero.com)

MAY 24-28
LAMPLIGHT HUNTER/JUMPER SPRING CLASSIC
Lamplight Equestrian Center,
6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL
[Contact: www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com)

MAY 26-28
GO FOR BROKE BARREL RACING IBRA SUPER SHOW
Walworth County Fairgrounds,
411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI
[Contact: www.goforbrokeproductions.com](http://www.goforbrokeproductions.com)

MAY 27
SCHOOLING & WESTERN DRESSAGE SHOW

Sorensen Park,
W1700 Saint Peter's Road, East Troy, WI
[Contact: 262.642.4222 shows@sorensenpark.com](mailto:shows@sorensenpark.com)

MAY 27-28
DRESSAGE SHOW
Silverwood Farm,
28426 98th Street, Trevor, WI
[Contact: 847.235.6410 dressage@silverwoodfarm.net](mailto:dressage@silverwoodfarm.net)

MAY 27-28
HUB CLUB ANNUAL SPRING CLINIC FEATURING MUFFY SEATON
Fox Valley Saddle Association,
44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire, IL
[Contact: lydiagraydvm@gmail.com](mailto:lydiagraydvm@gmail.com)

MAY 28
PEPPERS LEGACY SHOW
Spring Grove Horse Show,
8105 Blivin Street, Spring Grove, IL
[Contact: 262.586.9986 springgrovehorseshow@mail.com](mailto:springgrovehorseshow@mail.com)

JUNE 2-4
LEDGES SPRING "B" SHOW
Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road,
Roscoe, IL [Contact: 847.717.6653 showplaceproductions@gmail.com](mailto:showplaceproductions@gmail.com)

JUN 2-4
NEED FOR SPEED
Walworth County Fairgrounds,
411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI

JUNE 2-3
DRESSAGE SHOW
Sorensen Park, W1700 Saint Peter's Road,
East Troy, WI [Contact: 262.642.4222 shows@sorensenpark.com](mailto:shows@sorensenpark.com)

JUNE 3
OPEN PLEASURE HORSE SHOW
West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.,
W4812 Highway 20, East Troy, WI
[Contact: 262.642.4272 info@west20.com](mailto:info@west20.com)

JUNE 3-4
EQUINE TRAIL SPORTS OBSTACLE EVENT
St. James Farm,
2S541 Winfield Road, Warrenville, IL
[Contact: mdobosz@dupageforest.org](mailto:mdobosz@dupageforest.org)

JUNE 4
IDCTA DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW
Fox Valley Saddle Association,
44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire, IL
[Contact: fvsadressage@gmail.com](mailto:fvsadressage@gmail.com)

CALLING ALL MCHENRY COUNTY TRAIL RIDERS - JUNE 11

Are you looking for a way to spend a beautiful Sunday morning trail riding with your equine partner while also supporting a worthwhile cause? Then check out Pedal Paddle Saddle (PPS) a popular McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) fundraiser held in Glacial Park. Registration fees will be applied to support MCCD's public lands. A t-shirt and box lunch are included.

This charity event has taken place for nearly twenty-five years. It was originally named Pedal Paddle; as it provided only bikers or paddlers an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. About ten years ago the "saddle" portion of the event was added at the request of both the McHenry County Horse Club and the Equestrian Coalition of McHenry County. The impetus for the request was both for inclusion of equestrians in McHenry County's outdoor enthusiast community and to provide a source of funds for equine-related MCCD improvements. For example, horseback rider's PPS registration fees were put towards the now successfully completed project to build a horse trailer parking lot at the McHenry County Conservation District's Brookdale site.

During the Pedal Paddle Saddle event equestrians can ride a 5.5-mile trail. Bicyclists can follow a 12K, 20K or 30K route and paddlers can travel the Nippersink for 6 miles. A dedicated horse trailer parking area is set aside for trail riders. Although you must have your own bike or horse, a kayak or canoe can be rented for a fee if reserved in advance.

For those unfamiliar with Glacial Park the 3,400-acre site includes rolling prairies, delta kames, oak savannas and the tranquil presence of the meandering Nippersink Creek. Visitors can view some of the estimated forty state endangered and threatened plant and animal species, which call Glacial Park home. It is also a popular spot to view migratory wetland birds.

Sadly, the McHenry County Conservation District has decided that 2023 will be the last year for this unique event. If you've ever contemplated attending, this is the year to do it! The date is Sunday, June 11, 2023. Registration is available at mchenryconservation.org.

After exploring Glacial Park from horseback be sure to enjoy a picnic lunch and live music with fellow riders after your adventure.



calendar of events

JUNE 7

PLEASURE SHOW & OPEN SPEED SHOW SERIES

Fox Run Farm,
10130 West County Road K, Beloit, WI
[Contact: stablenews@netzero.com](mailto:stablenews@netzero.com)

JUNE 7-11

LAMPLIGHT HUNTER/JUMPER SPRING SPECTACULAR

Lamplight Equestrian Center,
6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL
[Contact: www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com)

JUNE 10

JEAN CYRA MEMORIAL WESTERN HORSE SHOW

West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.,
W4812 Highway 20, East Troy, WI
[Contact: 262.642.4272 info@west20.com](mailto:info@west20.com)

JUNE 10-11

HUNT CLINIC & MILL CREEK HUNT TRAIL CHALLENGE (AN EQUINE TRAIL SPORTS EVENT)

Tempel Farms,
17000 Wadsworth Road, Wadsworth, IL
[Contact: millcreekhuntclub@gmail.com](mailto:millcreekhuntclub@gmail.com)
alysa_yogerst@yahoo.com

JUNE 11

JEAN CYRA MEMORIAL ENGLISH HORSE SHOW

West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.,
W4812 Highway 20, East Troy, WI
[Contact: 262.642.4272 info@west20.com](mailto:info@west20.com)

JUNE 9-11

DRESSAGE SHOW

Silverwood Farm, 28426 98th Street,
Trevor, WI [Contact: 847.235.6410](tel:847.235.6410)
dressage@silverwoodfarm.net

JUNE 10

COWGIRL CHALLENGE

Walworth County Fairgrounds,
411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI
[Contact: JSA Productions](http://www.jsaproducts.com)

JUNE 11

PTS OPEN SHOW AND USHJA OUTREACH SHOW

Fields & Fences, 36550 N. Hunt Club
Road, Gurnee, IL [Contact: 847.244.4121](tel:847.244.4121)
anita@fiieldsandfences.com

JUNE 11

IDCTA DRESSAGE SCHOOLING SHOW MINI EVENT & COMBINED TEST

Fox Valley Saddle Association,
44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire, IL
[Contact: holzrichterlaw@gmail.com](mailto:holzrichterlaw@gmail.com)

JUNE 14-18

LAMPLIGHT HUNTER/JUMPER SPRING SPECTACULAR

Lamplight Equestrian Center,
6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL
[Contact: www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com)

JUNE 15-16

DRESSAGE SHOW

Sorensen Park, W1700 Saint Peter's Road,
East Troy, WI [Contact: 262.642.4222](tel:262.642.4222)
shows@sorensenpark.com

JUNE 16-18

MIDWEST CARRIAGE FESTIVAL & CT

Walworth County Fairgrounds,
411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI
[Contact: midwestcarriagefestival@gmail.com](mailto:midwestcarriagefestival@gmail.com)

JUNE 17

EQUINE TRAIL SPORTS OBSTACLE EVENT

Senne Farm, 1655 County Road V,
Sturtevant, WI
[Contact: ridersofcaledonia@gmail.com](mailto:ridersofcaledonia@gmail.com)

JUNE 17

DRESSAGE & SPORT HORSE SHOW

Sorensen Park, W1700 Saint Peter's Road,
East Troy, WI [Contact: 262.642.4222](tel:262.642.4222)
shows@sorensenpark.com

JUNE 17

SILVERWOOD SPRING HORSE TRIALS

Silverwood Farm, 28426 98th Street,
Trevor, WI [Contact: 847.235.6410](tel:847.235.6410)
dressage@silverwoodfarm.net

JUNE 17

FOX RIVER SADDLE CLUB HORSE SHOW

West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.,
W4812 Highway 20, East Troy, WI
[Contact: 262.642.4272 info@west20.com](mailto:info@west20.com)

JUNE 21

PLEASURE SHOW & OPEN SPEED SHOW SERIES

Fox Run Farm,
10130 West County Road K, Beloit, WI
[Contact: stablenews@netzero.com](mailto:stablenews@netzero.com)

JUNE 21-25

LAMPLIGHT HUNTER/JUMPER SPRING SPECTACULAR

Lamplight Equestrian Center,
6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL
[Contact: www.hitsshows.com](http://www.hitsshows.com)

JUNE 22

MAIN STAY THERAPEUTIC FARM ANNUAL GALA

6919 keystone Road, Richmond, IL
[Contact: info@mainstayfarm.org](mailto:info@mainstayfarm.org)

JUNE 22-23

DRESSAGE SHOW

Sorensen Park, W1700 Saint Peter's Road,
East Troy, WI [Contact: 262.642.4222](tel:262.642.4222)
shows@sorensenpark.com

JUNE 23-25

IDCTA DRESSAGE SHOW

Silverwood Farm,
28426 98th Street, Trevor, WI
[Contact: www.idcta.org](http://www.idcta.org)



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Stall Fee Sunday Day \$15.00

Register at www.millcreekhunt.org

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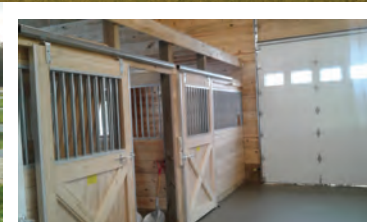
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calendar of events

JUNE 23-25

**DAIRYLAND DRIVING CLUB CLINIC
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Notara Farm, Verona, WI
Contact: www.dairylanddriving.com

JUNE 23-25

SHOWPLACE SPRING II "B" SHOW

Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road,
Roscoe, IL Contact: 847.717.6653
showplaceproductions@gmail.com

JUNE 24

**SCHOOLING & WESTERN DRESSAGE
SHOW**

Sorensen Park,
W1700 Saint Peter's Road, East Troy, WI
Contact: 262.642.4222
shows@sorensenpark.com

JUNE 24-25

WISCONSIN RANCH HORSE SHOW

Walworth County Fairgrounds,
411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI
Contact: www.wisconsinranchhorse.com

JUNE 25

OAK BROOK POLO

Oak Brook Polo Club, Oak Brook, IL
Contact: www.oakbrookpoloclub.com

JUNE 28-JULY 2

**SHOWPLACE SUMMERTIME I "A"
SHOW**

Sporting Horses, 12250 Love Road,
Roscoe, IL Contact: 847.717.6653
showplaceproductions@gmail.com

JUNE 30-JULY 2

GO FOR BROKE BARREL RACING

Walworth County Fairgrounds,
411 E. Court Street, Walworth, WI
Contact: www.goforbrokeproductions.com

JUNE 30-JULY 2

DRESSAGE AT LAMPLIGHT

Lamplight Equestrian Center,
6N940 Dunham Road, Wayne, IL
Contact: www.hitsshows.com

JULY 1-2

WORKING EQUITATION SHOW

Fox Valley Saddle Association,
44W300 Rohrsen Road, Hampshire, IL
Contact: workingequitationoregon@gmail.com



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