

SOUND ADVOCATE

THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR GAITED HORSES

MAY/JUNE 2011
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

John Brandeth and
2010 Horse of the Year,
Kansas Kowboy D

FOR THE
SHOWRING
PG 5

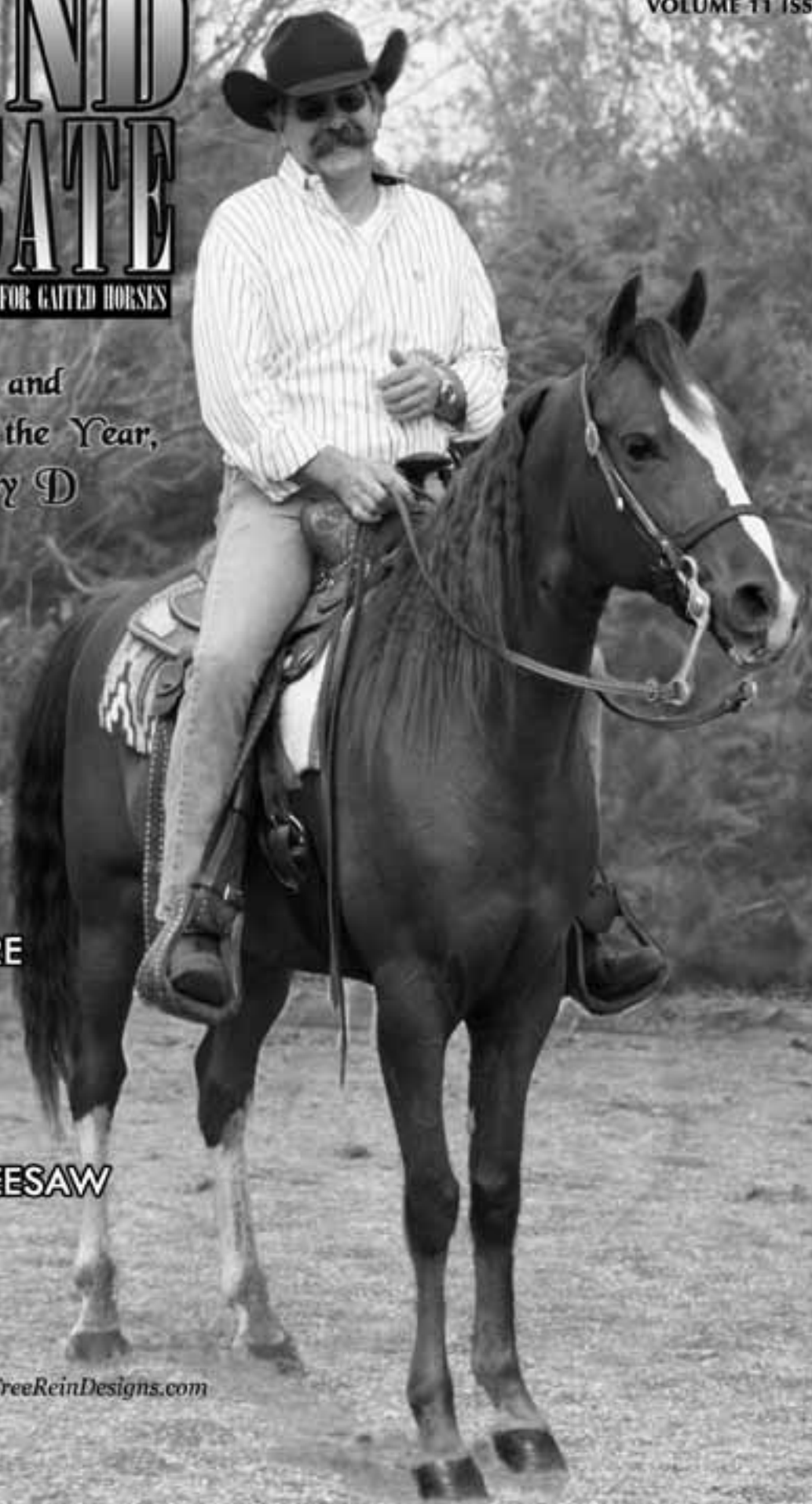
MEET A
CLINICIAN
PG 12

COVER FEATURE
KANSAS
KOWBOY D
PG 18

THE EQUINE SEESAW
PG 25

WORKING
WITH A
FOAL PG 30

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MAILING ADDRESS:

6614 Clayton Rd #105 • St. Louis, MO 63117

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SOUND ADVOCATE

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Cris Van Horn: editor@fosh.info;

Teresa Bippen: tbippen1957@yahoo.com; or

Desirai Schild: desiraischild@yahoo.com

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Submit all ad requests to Desirai Schild at desiraischild@yahoo.com, 208-237-6413. All ad payments should be made out to FOSH and mailed to Desirai Schild, PO Box 5429, Chubbuck, ID 83202. All advertisements must be paid in advance by check, money order or credit card. **ADVERTISING RATE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE:** 2 issues = 10% off ad price; 4 issues = 15%; 6 issues = 20%.

For help with your ad design, contact Sandy McCart: sandymccart@yahoo.com. Ads will be accepted in Quark Xpress, InDesign 2.0, tif, pdf, or jpg. Text files can be sent as .doc or .rtf. **MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENTS WITH PHOTOS EMBEDDED WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Photos must be emailed separately and at 300 dpi. Please email camera ready ads at 300 dpi.

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FOSH Mission Statement:

To promote all "sound," naturally gaited horses, with a specific emphasis on Tennessee Walking Horses. ("Sound means not "sored") Importance is placed on education regarding the humane care for the emotional, mental and physical well being, training and treatment of all gaited horses. FOSH will only support flat shod or barefoot horses, and will never endorse any event that uses stacks and/or chains as action devices, nor any mechanical, chemical or artificial means to modify the natural gaits of the horse.

FOSH Focuses on three areas for gaited horses:

1. Educating people on sound training principles
2. Supporting sound shows, events & activities
3. Working to end soring

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There certainly is some interesting news coming our way from Tennessee. First, William and Sandra Johnson were put on one-year suspension for all of 2011 by the USDA for violating the Horse Protection Act, including "financing others to show." On the Waterfall Farm website, the farm owned by the Johnsons is described as "an industry showplace for more than a decade" standing a line-up of over 12 World Grand Championship stallions.

Just on the heels of that news, a Federal Grand Jury in Tennessee indicted Barney Davis and two others on charges of horse soring, falsifying records and an entire conspiracy which could carry a maximum jail sentence of three years in prison.

This is a time of great unrest in the "traditional Tennessee Walking Horse world" due to the expected decertification of certain HIOs that have refused to honor recommended penalties, fighting and distrust between some HIOs and show groups, and uncertainty in the financial futures and leadership stability of these organizations.

It's especially gratifying, during this time of unrest in parts of the industry, that FOSH can announce receipt of our second largest-ever donation, unexpected, from an informed source that has been following our progress over the years. This surprise generosity was a wonderful boost to help us succeed at the goals we have planned. We also just welcomed a new volunteer with an outstanding legal background and mind, to help with our data analysis and research projects.

We are outlining plans for the next Sound Horse Conference and are considering November 2 & 3, 2012, in Nashville, Tennessee. Anyone who would like to help plan this event is encouraged to contact me at Lori@Northrup.com.

I was amazed at the Road to the Horse competition, held in the Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in February. To see a sold-out crowd of over 8,000 equine fans cheering, crying, clapping and totally enthralled watching three natural horsemanship legends compete for three full days was quite rewarding. It gave me a sense of encouragement for the horse world

— Lori Northrup, President



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IN HAND – IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

FOR THE SHOWRING

This is our second installment in a series of articles designed to educate FOSH exhibitors on a wide variety of topics about winning in the FOSH show ring. Information is being gathered from IJA judges, seasoned exhibitors, show managers and others to help you brush up on your "show" knowledge.

No matter the breed or type of horse show, the classes that are usually scheduled first and very early in the morning are the In Hand classes. These classes are neither ridden nor driven; the horse wears a bridle or a halter; and the horse is exhibited by a person on the ground. The horse is impeccably groomed and turned out. You see the whole horse without the distraction of a saddle or a rider: you see body and natural movement without the influence of the rider; you can study the beauty of the unadorned horse.

Many exhibitors view In Hand classes as unimportant and an opportunity to "sleep in". Such attitudes fail to recognize the importance of In Hand classes. To those interested in the breed standard and in breeding horses to that standard, "In Hand" classes are perhaps the most important classes of the show. The winners of "In Hand" Classes have been evaluated according to the written breed standard and deemed to be the closest to that standard at that show. To a serious breeder, the title of Champions Halter or Grand Champion Halter is one of the most prestigious titles to be won.

There are many "In Hand Classes, but the ones most familiar to those in the gaited horse world are Model and Halter. Many people believe both classes are the same and are interchangeable. They are mistaken. The judging parameters for Model and Halter classes are similar but not the same--judging parameters differ in one significant way. In the simplest sense, Model classes are judged on conformation (Form) and Halter classes are judged on conformation and movement (Form and Function).

Under Independent Judges Association (IJA) Rules (exception MFT classes), horses in Model classes are judged on type, conformation, substance, quality, and turnout. Horses are led into the ring and lined up at the direction of the Ring Steward, frequently, lined up head to tail. The horse is examined standing still for qualities that correspond to the breed standard. Some people consider the Model Horse to be the picture of the breed and believe the horse should be without fault. They believe that any blemish should be counted

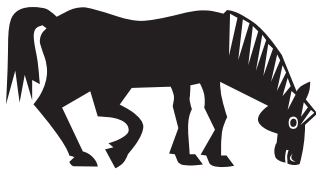
against the horse. Under IJA Rules, any transmissible weaknesses and/or unsoundness must be severely penalized and surface blemishes may be overlooked.

Under IJA Rules, in addition to being judged on conformation, substance, quality and turnout, horses in Halter Classes are evaluated on the way of going. Evaluation of way of going is what differentiates the Halter class from the Model class. Contrary to popular opinion, and the practice of some judges, it is not necessary that the exhibitor be "walked to the point of exhaustion" to evaluate the movement of the horse. The judge requires a view of the horse coming toward the judge and going away from the judge in addition to a moving side view of each horse. This can be done in a variety of ways that do not "exhaust" the handler. After the movement is evaluated, the horses are lined up either head to tail or side by side for the other portion of the judging.

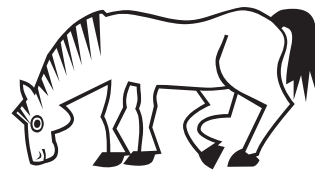
In Hand classes are judged according to individual breed standards. Judges check horses for transmissible weaknesses (club foot, undescended testicles, parrot mouth etc) that can be passed on through breeding which will be penalized. When a horse is stretched or overly parked out, it is difficult to accurately evaluate conformation: therefore, exhibitors may be asked to square up their horses for judging. Under IJA rules, the Western horse should not be parked. All horses are expected to be clean and well groomed. Unless it is indicated in individual breed rules, IJA Rules do not mandate that horses be trimmed in any particular way. Trimming is the choice of the individual and the choice will not be penalized. In the interest of safety for both exhibitors and other horses, unruly horses will be dismissed from the ring.

People often expect the same horse to win the Model and Halter Class and are shocked when that is not the case. They fail to recognize the additional element in the Halter class – evaluation of movement or way of going. The winner of the Halter class is the horse with the best combination of model characteristics and movement. The Model winner may not move as well as some of the other exhibitors. The other factor that many people forget is that each class is a new class. There is no horse that can perform exactly the same way in each class, stand as still or as straight or be as alert, etc. IJA judges do not judge on the past performances of the horse but on how the horse performs in each class; consequently a previous winner is seen as another entry, not as a previous winner.

In Hand classes are among the most important classes at every show – they are the classes that guarantee the breed standard is being followed.



NEWS BITES



APPRECIATION FOR DONATIONS

FOSH would like to thank the following for generous donations. Nya Bates of Idaho for donation of proceeds from her gaited clinic work; Larry Whitesell of Tennessee for donation of proceeds from video sales; and the Pure Pleasure Gaited Horse Association of Oklahoma for an annual donation.

FOSH OFFERS \$250 CASH REBATE TO GAITED HORSE SHOWS

FOSH is pleased to announce a \$250 cash rebate for show managers who sanction and affiliate their gaited horse shows with FOSH in 2011. Sanctioning a show with FOSH means using the Independent Judges Association (IJA) rulebook which contains rules for 15 different breeds of gaited horses.

Here is how it works: If a show sanctions with FOSH and hires an IJA judge, the show is eligible for a \$150 Rebate. If a show sanctions with FOSH, hires an IJA judge and uses a FOSH DQP, the show is eligible for a \$250 Rebate. Intent to apply for the Rebate must be made to:

FOSH Director of Show Sanctioning

Ed Ogg

14610 Rancho Drive

Reno, NV 89508

1-775-750-7934 (Pacific Time)

FAX 1-775-969-3830

oggone@TurboUSA.com

Funds are limited, and requests will be honored on a first come basis.

“HOW TO TEACH YOUR HORSE STALL MANNERS”, THE NEW HORSE LOVER’S 2 MINUTE HOW-TO VIDEO

How do you know when it’s safe to enter a horse’s stall? Have you taught your horse to respect your space in its stall? Is your stalled horse pushy or aggressive at feeding time? Even a gentle, well-meaning horse can injure an unwary human in the confined environment of a stall. Watch Charles Wilhelm address these training issues in Bay Area Equestrian Networks’s (BAEN’s) newest 2 Minute How-To video, <http://www.bayequest.info/2minvideo/102.htm>. Note, the techniques demonstrated in this video should not be attempted by inexperienced handlers.

Charles Wilhelm is the creator of Ultimate Foundation Training; equine training techniques that combine traditional, classical and natural horsemanship into a methodology that is applicable to every riding discipline. His extensive background of over thirty five years of training includes Dressage, Working Cow Horse, Reining, Western Pleasure and Trail class. Charles believes that “it’s never, ever, the horse’s fault” and his training methods reflect that belief. Contact Charles at <http://www.charleswilhelm.com>.

REMINDER: DEADLINE FOR HIGH POINT!!!

FOSH HIGH POINT REGISTRATIONS MUST BE SENT BY JUNE 1ST 2011!!! FORMS ARE ON THE FOSH WEBSITE & CAN BE E-MAILED TO: FLATWALK11@AOL.COM OR SNAIL MAILED TO:

NANCY HARDING

12745 CLIFTON RD

SAVANNAH, TN 38372

LIFETIME MEMBER HONORED

FOSH’s newest Lifetime member, Frank Neal, was honored with a Presidential Award from the Walking Horse Owner’s Association (WHOA) at their February Board meeting. *Congratulations & Welcome!*

SOUND HORSE CONFERENCE UPDATE

Audio proceedings and slide show material of the entire third Sound Horse Conference are available at the Conference website: www.soundhorseconference.com FREE of charge.

The third Sound Horse Conference (Nov 2010) consisted of two days of educational panel discussions on the Horse Protection Act, humane training practices, horse show judging, the latest hoof research, future United States Department of Agriculture enforcement, drug testing and much more. Speakers included veterinarians, leaders of animal welfare organizations, researchers, attorneys, farriers, horse show judges, former “big lick” trainers, current sound trainers and individuals using former show horses for non-showing riding activities.

THE WHOLE HORSE SYMPOSIUM

For equine enthusiasts, October in Missouri is off to a great start! In addition to the North American Pleasure Gaited Horse Championships on October 13-15, 2011 the Whole Horse Symposium – **Mind, Body & Spirit presented by The Equine Sciences Academy** will be held

October 15-17, with both events at The National Equestrian Center at Lake St. Louis, Missouri. The Symposium is an educational experience for the public to learn how every part of the horse and his environment is inextricably connected to every other, and how common, everyday horse keeping practices may be working against the horse. That hock problem could be a dental issue caused by feeding practices, or that hoof problem could be a stress issue caused by confinement.

It will be a rare opportunity to see and hear world class equine professionals in many disciplines help tie it all together in a "whole horse" and holistic way, and learn about many of the key aspects of horse care and management presented in a way you haven't seen before. Two full days of presentations and demos with "meet and greet" sessions with the speakers on October 15-16, followed by an additional choice of five full day intensive clinics on October 17.

Seating will be limited and great discounts apply to those who register early! Early birds will also receive a FREE one year online subscription to Equine Wellness magazine.

For more information, please contact Derry McCormick at info@thewholehorse.org or visit www.thewholehorse.org and www.equinesciencesacademy.com

12th North American Pleasure Gaited Horse Championships

New Location and More Fun!

The Show Committee for the Twelfth North American Pleasure Gaited Horse Championships (NAC) has been brainstorming a fun event for its exhibitors in 2011. Although the location remains central—in Missouri, there is a different venue—the National Equestrian Center in Lake St. Louis, Missouri. The NAC was held in Lake St. Louis in 2002, 2003 and 2005, and many exhibitors are excited to return to this great facility. The dates are October 13-15, Thursday-Saturday.

Returning breed classes are for Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, Missouri Fox Trotters, and Open Gaited Breeds. New breed classes are Paso Finos and Mangalarga Marchadors. Rail classes are wide and varied enough to provide classes for everyone. Due to popular demand and the foresight of prior Show Committees, Thursday will continue to be Versatility, Friday mostly Western and Saturday mostly English.

The judges selected are Debbie Rash, California; Diane Sept, Pennsylvania; and Julie Moore, Missouri. Bill Coon, Utah, will serve as Equipment Steward.

The Hi Seven Payback Challenge has been updated with new rules and minimum payouts and \$500 total in award money will be paid for EquiTheater winners. Due to a generous donation, a cash prize will also be awarded to winners of the TWH English Pleasure and Trail Pleasure Grand Championships provided a minimum number of entries from qualifying classes compete. More classes have been added for Missouri Fox Trotters along with new classes such as the MFT Heritage class. All winners will earn triple points towards the FOSH High Points award. The Silent Auction is returning from 2009 and a complimentary exhibitor dinner and educational session is planned for Wednesday evening prior to the show start.

NAC exhibitors may have a much larger audience this year as the National Equestrian Center is also the host for "The Whole Horse" symposium October 15 and 16. The Show Committee has informed symposium organizers that their participants are welcome to attend the NAC and enjoy observing sound and natural gaited horses earning top national honors.

For more information, please visit www.naghc.com or email tbippen1957@yahoo.com.



THE WHOLE HORSE

Come and learn how every part of your horse and his environment is inextricably connected to every other. Perhaps that hock problem is really a diet issue, or his toe dragging is really a dental issue. More often than not we are seeing and treating the symptom, instead of finding and addressing the cause.

A rare opportunity to see and hear top equine professionals in many disciplines help tie it all together for you in a "whole horse" and holistic way.

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Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Dentistry
- Bodywork
- Hoof Function
- Vets on Hoofcare
- Grass, Laminitis and Forage
- Alternative Therapies.

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Equine Wellness is an official sponsor of The Whole Horse Symposium

Dr. Temple Grandin offered her unique insights on everything from classroom education to horse handling at a recent seminar at Idaho State University, Pocatello, Id.



Temple Grandin visits Idaho State University

POCATELLO, ID—Dr. Temple Grandin, PhD, attracted standing room only crowds at Idaho State University on March 9, 2011.

Grandin is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, best-selling author, the topic of an Emmy-winning HBO bio-pic and was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in 2010. Diagnosed at four as autistic, Grandin gained world recognition by earning college degrees then authoring numerous books on the world from her perspective.

She is famous both for her unique insight into other autistic people and for revolutionizing the animal slaughter world. She did this by using her own autism to see how animals perceive the chutes, flooring and other factors in slaughter houses. "There is no question that animals are going to be slaughtered," Grandin said. "Looking at things the way they do can make the process more humane and improve productivity." Her autism-based insights helped Grandin develop a successful career as a livestock-handling equipment designer. Half the facilities where cattle are handled in the United States were designed by her. She also consults for

such firms as Burger King, McDonalds and Swifts.

Grandin is often asked to use her unique insights to help in horse training. "Horses should never be started too young, like the race horse who broke her leg," she said. "I have nothing against racing. Just wait until the horse is mature enough both physically and emotionally to handle the job." She also has a lot against the soring of gaited horses for the show ring. "I really don't approve of that--that's awful," she said. "An animal should not be hurt to try to accomplish something the human wants. Everything about that is wrong."

Grandin is often asked to use her unique insights to help people understand their horses better. She has been a guest on *The Horse Show* with Rick Lamb on RFD TV. "Force should never be used with horses," Grandin said. "That will just create more fear and resistance. Find out why the horse is not doing what you want and work that out." She said watching a horse's ears will tell the handler or rider what it is bothering the horse. "The ears will point at what the problem is," Grandin said. Watch to see the whites of their eyes or the swishing of a tail. Those are fear indicators, too. Try to see the way the animal does and you will have better insight into what they are thinking. Anyone can do it if they try."

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FOSH BOOTH AT IDAHO HORSE COUNCIL HORSE EXPO NAMPA, IDAHO APRIL 15, 16, 17, 2011

Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH) had a booth during the April 15-17, 2011, Horse Expo in Nampa, Idaho. FOSH members Nya Bates, Lori Moore, Eddie Riggle, Terry Bennett and Martha Clausen donated their time to educate and speak to the public about FOSH. The booth was shared by members of the Southern Comfort Gaited Horse Club which also provides education, clinics, trail rides and activities for the gaited horse community in southwestern Idaho. Despite the fact that most horses used in that part of the world are trotting breeds, the booth was busy with people discussing horses, events and the future of gaited horses. The use of DVDs on a large screen viewer definitely brought folks to the booth and many were amazed at the versatility of the gaited breeds.

There is a definite interest in the use of gaited horses for field trial, trail, pleasure and recreation so it is especially exciting to share the gaited breeds with other horsepeople. This year Nya Bates was able to further educate interested parties on gait recognition, achieving gait and general information on all gaited breeds in two seminars which were very well attended. The Horse Expo also featured other clinicians, educational seminars, round-pen and all breed challenges, exhibitions, stallion parades and vendors.

SOUND ADVOCATE DEADLINES



July/August Late Summer
June 15, 2011
September/October –
NAC issue
August 15, 2011

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*Thank you for
your gracious support*

FOSH 2010 TRAINER OF THE YEAR



Nya Bates of Melba, Idaho was selected as the FOSH Trainer of the Year for 2010. FOSH is extremely proud and lucky to have Nya as a trainer, teacher, owner and breeder in the FOSH, sound gaited horse world! Tennessee Walking Horses are Nya's breed of choice, though she now includes many of the other gaited pleasure horses in her training program. She truly is a trainer of the sound and natural horse, considering the entire horse in its training, physically as well as mentally. The letters and testimonials that FOSH Director of Versatility and High Points, Nancy Harding, received from Nya's friends, clients and students were of great insight into just how special Nya is. No gimmicks, no shortcuts, no nonsense, putting the horse first and understanding that not every horse has the same needs or abilities. Nya is fair, clear and consistent with her horses and her people. This is a woman who promotes FOSH every day by being herself every day.

Nya became involved with Tennessee Walking Horses while she was stationed as an Army Nurse in Alabama in 1974. Since that time she has been active in breeding, training and promoting the natural horse in venues such as the show ring, parades, stallion parades/expos, field trials, trail and pleasure activities. Back in those days the natural barefoot TWH was relegated to the back burner (so to speak) while the Big Lick/Padded walking horse was 'en vogue'. She made it her personal mission to place the true TWH in the forefront and started showing and promoting barefoot TWHs in such flat shod venues as the Plantation Walking Horse Association and the National Plantation Walking Horse Association of California.

Her stallion, Go Boy's Windwalker, was a 5 time Champion in those clubs during the 1980's and many of her training horses, which were trained and exhibited under her banner/barn, were Champions and/or Futurity winners. She also made it a point to show her flat shod (and often barefoot) TWHs in other venues such as the PCWHA and other TWHBEA/NHSC shows in order to showcase the natural TWHs in a primarily Big Lick venue. It was

her opinion that the audience needed to see that the flat shod horse still existed and, save for her entries, many would not have been aware of this fact.

As a TWH breeder/trainer/owner, she has become familiar with all breeds of gaited horses and has branched out her training program to include these breeds and their disciplines. She trains Mountain horses, Missouri Foxtrotting Horses, Peruvians and Paso Fino Horses as well as Tennessee Walking Horses for trail, field trial, hunting, pleasure, show and ranch work.

Her basic training regime begins with biting up the horse. When the horse is accustomed to the bit and headstall as well as yielding to the bit (turning each direction), stopping and backing up, she introduces elasticized side reins and repeats the procedure before progressing to ground-driving to insure that the horse is confident and familiar with the individual cues. After ground-driving, she starts the youngster under saddle with the driver on the ground and a light passive rider in the saddle with the same cues. She then continues working the horse under saddle and generally with an educated and patient equestrian friend to solidify the procedures and trail maneuvers. She finds that this basic training aids in the basic framework and skills for all horses regardless of the intended discipline or task.

Since she feels that the horse is the most important thing in the trainer's equation, she has learned that a trainer must be for the HORSE rather than the owner, seller or buyer. She has also learned that, in order to be a good horse trainer, it is imperative that one is able to understand how the horse learns, what they are instinctively and that man's ways are not necessarily the horse's ways.

Teaching the horse with positive reinforcement works far better than teaching the horse through fear and intimidation. The best

'partners' that she has worked with are willing horses that desire to learn and have a desire to be a team with her. With trail, hunting, field trial and pleasure horses, she has found that having a true partner that allows her to show them what she wants without fear allows for a mount that is willing to listen and defers to her when confused, frightened or frustrated.

In the past thirty-five years, she has rehabilitated many big-lick/padded Performance and flat-shod show horses of many gaited breeds. They have been retrained and placed into such diverse disciplines as field trial, pleasure, ranch work, trail, lesson and endurance riding. A few of the more psychologically and/or physically damaged horses have become successful as breeding stock.

Nya feels that the safest horse for any intended use is one that is well fitted with appropriate tack, physically suited, mentally prepared and educated. She feels that furthering her education through discussion, clinics, reading and visual materials has added to her training methods. Major influences in Nya's education have been Tom Dorrance in introducing the concepts to better understand the horse psychologically; Klaus Hempfling in basic dressage; Helen Crabtree in show equitation; and Bruce Nock in bio-mechanics. Horses themselves have been her greatest teachers. For more information on Nya Bates, please visit www.batesgaited-horses.com

FOSH is honored to have Nya as a member and trainer. FOSH commends and applauds Nya as the 2010 FOSH Trainer of the Year!!

MEET A GAITED HORSE CLINICIAN

Featuring Larry Whitesell



1. What is your history with horses in general; with gaited horses—length of time and show, trail, events, etc?

I have trained horses for 30 years. I showed horses for many years, won many regional and national championships. I no longer show horses but train and do clinics. I work at training horses classically.

2. What is your current specialty (breed, discipline, show or trail etc)?

I train mostly gaited horses, all breeds. I don't specialize in any discipline, I prepare horses physically and emotionally to do any job the horse may be called upon to perform.

3. Do you train horses, people or both and why?

I train both. It does the horse no good to be educated if the riders who use him don't understand how he has been taught to communicate.

4. Who did you study with to obtain your knowledge?

I have learned from many. I am friends with many of the well known natural horsemen and often get a chance to spend time with them. I primarily learned what I do from Domonique Barbier, Mark Russell, Bettina Drummand, all of whom rode with Nuno Olivera in Portugal. I rode many years with Ron McLoughlin who rode with Monty Foreman. I continue to ride with these people every year. I take classical riding lessons from these people as well as Wendy Murdoch, a world famous riding instructor. I also attend clinics with famous classical trainers whenever I have an opportunity.

5. How long have you been training (or doing what you do)?

20 yrs. working at the classical art.

6. Has your training philosophy changed from when you first became involved in horses?

When I first started I used typical gaited training methods because that's what I could find. Through the years, I have become much more educated about the horse and correct training, so my training continues to evolve.

7. How would you describe your current training style / methods / philosophy?

I stick as close as I know to the classical methods and philosophy. Many people claim to train classically, but it is an art. It is training for the benefit of the horse. Understanding how he mechanically works and creates locomotion in a nonstressful way. Balance is very important. Teaching the horse how to carry the rider and submit to the rider in balance and relaxed.

8. What do you consider to be "sound" training principles?

I would consider training that strengthens the correct muscles, teaches balance, and educates the horse to the rider's aids, so the

horse can become confident under saddle, as sound training. I believe that many people consider sound training any method that is not physically abusive to the horse. However, many people train horses to be safe for the rider without considering what the horse needs to know to be comfortable when ridden. Many exercises are taught to horses that have very little meaning to the horse, he just learns what he needs to do to satisfy his trainer.

9. How many horses do you train at a time? What is the minimum amount of time you will take a horse in training?

At my farm in Tennessee, Jennifer Bauer and I will take a maximum of 6 horses. That is an 8 hr day. We have a minimum of two months and prefer three. We will not take a horse unless the owner agrees to spend a minimum of 2 or 3 days with us and the horse. We will only take horses from people who have attended a clinic. They do not have to ride in the clinic, they can audit. We feel if they attend a clinic, they know what we are about and what to expect from training. We also need to know their attitude.

10. What do you do to continue your education each year and what do you learn?

Jennifer Bauer and I spend at least a week with one or more of our classical teachers each year. We spend 3 to 4 weekends a year taking riding lessons. We also attend clinics whenever we are able, several times a year. We constantly read books and watch videos from classical trainers and others also.

11. Many are under the impression that you must ventro-flex a gaited horse in order for the horse to gait. What are your thoughts and experiences regarding this?

I actually have an article in the November 2010 issue of TRAIL BLAZER magazine talking about how ventro-flexing is damaging to the horse. Gaïting is something we want our horse to do for us, for our comfort. The horse could care less if he ever gaits. I am not going to damage my horse so he can do me a favor. My horses are taught to gait in roundness.

12. When you train a horse, do you have a support program for the owner and how would you describe it?

We insist that owners spend time with us during training. We also travel yearly to every part of the country and offer clinics for continuing education. Owners may attend clinics or set up times to come to

the farm and spend a few days after we have trained the horse.

13. What age do you start a horse under saddle?

In hand training can start at birth. Preparation to the saddle can also be done early in life. Actual work with the rider up should probably wait until age three or even later.

14. In your opinion, what attributes make a good trainer/clinician/educator?

Too many trainers and clinicians have knowledge of starting or basic education of the horse. They have not thoroughly learned the horse's skeleton, muscles, joints and how locomotion is created. People feel they are all right to learn from because they know more than they do. They don't know how to create collection or upper level movements. Would you send your 3rd grade child to be educated by a 5th grader? He definitely knows more than your child. Or do you only want a college degree teacher educating your child. Why, then do you let a person who has not gone through the finishing process, start your horse?

15. Where are you located?

We are located in Cookeville, Tennessee.

16. Where can a gaited horse owner see you in action? Do you travel to expos or conduct clinics?

We do expos around the country and have 3 and 5 day clinics all over the U.S. and Canada. Our schedule can be found at www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com

17. What is the best advice you can give to a gaited horse owner?

Learn to ride correctly. Good riding instruction is hard to find. Good riding instruction should teach you how to use your aids to communicate with your horse in a way he is comfortable with. It will improve your balance and your confidence.

18. Do you have any published materials that gaited horse owners may purchase?

We have a set of DVDs. We are currently working on a rider's manual

19. How many gaited horse owners contact you per month? Per year?

Probably one or two hundred per month.

20. How may gaited horse owners contact you?

info@whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com

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FOSH 2010 Region 2 High Point Champion



Greyboy's Dixie Chick, an 11 year old Missouri Fox Trotter (MFT) mare, owned by Mary Ellen Frantz, won the FOSH Region 2 High Point Champion. Mary Ellen said it was her "goal to be a contender for the FOSH Region 2 Hi-Point Champion especially since Missouri is included in Region 2. After

all, the Missouri Fox Trotter is the State Horse of Missouri." There are 18 States and 2 Canadian Provinces in the Region 2 territory. So, Dixie and Mary Ellen set out on their quest in this multi-gaited breed community.

According to Mary Ellen, "We showed and won many of the classes we entered. The most memorable class was at the Show-Me Especial Multi-Breed Gaited Horse Show held at the Kansas Coliseum. After winning the breed specific championship, Dixie qualified to compete in the Best Gaited Horse of Show Championship. What an honor to be the MFT competing with all the other gaited horses and win Reserve Champion. Dixie also won the Grand Championship at the Dixie-land show. I set my goal for 2010 and Dixie came through! I couldn't be more proud of her. Dixie is my equine partner and soul mate. I hate to break the news to Dixie, but "we" are not done showing. I guess she'll figure that out when she goes to a show and they call us in at a foxtrot!"

Mary Ellen extends a special thank you to Clifton and Nancy Matlock, stating "Ten years ago, they told me they had just the horse for me. They were right on the money with that comment! Nancy, no one can groom a horse better than you. Thanks for getting Dixie to shine. Clifton, what can I say? Only you know how many long hours you worked to get Dixie to be the horse of my dreams."

The Missouri Fox trotter truly is fabulous! As the saying goes, "To ride one is to own one!"



FOSH 2010 Horse of the Year & Regional High Point Results

by Nancy Harding

WOW! WOW! WOW! The FOSH Horse of the Year for 2010 is "The Kansas Kowboy" a Missouri Fox Trotter owned by John Brandeth of Brandeth Farms in Georgia. Congratulations John & Kowboy. They not only won FOSH Horse of the Year, they set a record for total points ever. In addition to 2010 Horse of the Year. The high point results by regions are:

REGION 1

Champion: The Kansas Kowboy owned by John Brandeth
Reserve Champion: Trixie Trax owned by Cathy Warren

REGION 2

Champion: Greyboy's Dixie Chick, an 11 yr old MFT mare; owned by Mary Ellen Frantz
Reserve Champion: Dirty Little Secret, a 7 yr old TWH gelding; owned by Ashley Frones

REGION 4

Champion: Bum's Royal Reflection, a 5 yr old TWH gelding; owned by Victoria Blanchard
Reserve Champion: Simply Miss Scarlet, a 4yr old TWH filly; owned by Victoria Blanchard

Congratulations to everyone who not only won, but everyone who entered FOSH's high point program. There was great competition in the regions represented, but Region 1 was fierce!! Competitors traveled to many areas to accumulate points even in a challenging economy. Next year I would like to see more people competing for FOSH's Horse of the Year. Come join us! This year you only need to get yourself registered by June 1st & from then on we'll keep track of your points on our website. Please go to www.fosh.info for registration forms & program rules. I hear "The Kansas Kowboy" is not competing in high point for 2011. It could be YOUR horse in 2011!

REGION 1 CHAMPION

The Kansas Kowboy owned by John Brandeth (MFT)



REGION 1 RE-SERVE CHAMPION

Trixie Trax, owned by Cathy Warren (MFT)



REGION 2 CHAMPION

Greyboy's Dixie Chick, owned by Mary Ellen Frantz (MFT)



REGION 2 RE-SERVE CHAMPION

Dirty Little Secret, owned by Ashley Frones (TWH)



Wendy Murdoch, author of *Improve Your Riding in a Murdoch Minute* has compiled the first 50 Minutes into her new book **50 Five-Minute Fixes to Improve Your Riding**

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Pride and Leo's feet are so strong and perfect that they only need to be trimmed once a year - they compete barefoot.



Leo winning 19 1st Places and 10 Division Championships in 5 Open Jumping Shows (USEF "AA" "A" "B" and Open).

Shaker's Jamaican Pride - "Leo" & Dr. Alexandra Cooper won -

*2009 MFTBBA World Jumping Championship at 4 years old.

*2010 More USEF Championships in Jumping, Hunter Over Fences, Hunter Hack and Hunter Under Saddle than any other MFTBBA or SSHBEA in history.

*2010 (Leo and Pride) won the 2010 Pinto OCAP Team Penning Horse of the Year

*2010 Pinto OCAP Jumping and Hunter Over Fences Horse of the Year Awards

* 2010 SSHBEA Stadium Jumping and Hunter Pleasure OIP Division Championships

*Earned his Register of Merit for Jumping from the Pinto Horse Association

Later that year, in Nov 2010, Leo won -
SSHBEA

* World High Jumping Championship

*Youth World Jumping Championship

*Reserve World Championship Open Jumping

*Reserve World Championship Youth Poles

*Overall SSHBEA Stallion Sport Horse High- Point World Grand

Championship. (with Dr. Alexandra Cooper & Ashley Bradshaw).

Leo is so gentle that we use him for children's lessons. He babysits the child over the jumps - if he feels they are off-balance he will not take the jump. You can not teach a horse this. Leo is a 6 year old stallion.



Shaker's Spotted Pride is Leo's Sire. He was started at 11 years old and after 3 months under saddle won 3rd out of 13 horses at his 1st show (a USEF Class A Jumping show). The following month he won his first World Championship at the SSHBEA Sport Horse show in Barrel Racing and took home High Point Reserve World Champion Stallion - coming in 2nd to his son.

A week later he won his 1st Open Jumping Division Championship at Chagrin Valley Farms in Ohio - beating out 23 seasoned jumping horses in the 27" division. The following month Pride won the Chagrin Valley farms USEF Class A Jumping show in the 26" division. He is now clearing 4'2". Jumping is a speed event with jumps - making it one of the most athletic of equine sports. Less than 5% of all of the horses in the world can jump over 4 feet - Pride jumps 4'2 and so does Leo. Princess - our newest competitor - jumps 4'5". This is a must see video! www.TXMFT.com



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Pride is TWHBEA, MFTBBA, SSHBEA, PIHA and USEF registered. Leo is MFTBBA, SSHBEA, PIHA and USEF registered. Pride produces spots 90% of the time. Pride is currently located in Ohio and Leo is in Texas... mention this ad and get \$200 off a breeding (until March 2011). Please take a minute to watch a video of them and their awesome foals in action at...

www.TXMFT.com

FOSH 2010 TWH BREEDER & TRAINER OF THE YEAR 2010

It's a double header for FOSH's own Nya Bates of Melba, Idaho. She won not only FOSH Trainer of the Year for 2010, she also won FOSH Breeder of the Year for 2010. She won the Breeder award with a 2010 Tennessee Walking Horse filly named ULTIMATE WIND. Nya sent in pedigrees for the stallion and dam, reasons for that particular cross and pictures. All the criteria required for consideration were met.

Horses for trail pleasure, field trial, hunting and ranch work.

Her considerations in breeding stock are mind, disposition, temperament and gait. Since her stock is used for various disciplines, she finds that the mount must have a good mind that is able to think and absorb training, obstacles and experiences that they might encounter. Disposition and temperament are paramount in having an



Nya has proven she is a responsible & respected breeder of Tennessee Walking Horses, breeding for the standards & qualities the founding breeders had originally bred for--gait, conformation & disposition. FOSH is honored for your contributions to the TWH breed.

Ultimate Wind by Go Boy's Windwalker and out of Ultimate Miss Lady possesses the qualities that the founding breeders had originally bred for. Her conformation, disposition and inherent talent promises to allow her to be trained in natural and humane methods and without any artificial or manipulative manner.

Ultimate Wind (Gale) is a culmination of decades of breeding Tennessee Walking horses for using mounts. Nya breeds and trains Tennessee Walking

animal that will willingly become part of the rider/horse team as well as defer to its handler or rider in frightening or dangerous situations. Preserving the original flat and running walks are important to her rather than following modern trends in the show rings.

Go Boy's Windwalker's pedigree is old foundation TWHs. He is by Go Boy's Little Shadow (Merry Go Boy out of a Brown Allen mare) and out of a Society Man bred mare. His conformation is that of the old type walking horse-stocky, big boned and large footed. Ultimate Miss Lady is by Ultimate Beam and out of an Ebony Masterpiece bred mare. The dam's conformation is more refined with more size and a longer swan-like neck. A huge fan of Merry Boy breeding, Nya has found

that crossing this stud to Midnight Sun mares has produced nice conformation which allows for good gaits. Not a huge fan of a pacing gait, Nya much prefers to see square traveling horses with a bit of swing yet square traveling gait.

Gale's sire is a 5 time NPWHA Champion (Halter, Futurity and Hi-point English & Western) as well as a PCWHA Champion (Halter & Under Saddle). His show record (both with breed shows as well as flat shod exclusive venues) speaks for his gait, talent and ability. He has been well placed by both flat shod exclusive Judges and padded Judges at breed shows. He has been an excellent ambassador for the TWH in such venues as breed and open shows, stallion parades, local parades, team penning and ranch work, field trial, driving, lessons and clinics. Go Boy's Windwalker has been used for first time riders (from children to grandmothers) as well as teaching confidence to timid riders. His disposition and temperament are some of his best qualities. At 29, he is still being used in a moderately active way for lessons and occasional clinics as well as breeding a few mares. He has historically been able to square-up a foal out of a more lateral mare making him a huge asset to many breeding programs. His forte is the ability to pass on his gait, disposition and mind to his foals. His foals are using mounts in such venues as field trials, hunting, ranch work and competitive trail.

Ultimate Wind's dam is a well bred mare that suffered a fractured bone in her foot as a three year-old rendering her a broodmare. Her foals have done well in the Northwestern show circuit. Bred twice to Gen's Silver Sandman which produced In Dreams and Ultimate Silver who did extremely well on the Northwestern show circuit being tied in the top three placings. Although Ultimate Miss Lady's foals have done extremely well in the modern show rings, this mare produces nice quality walking TWHs.

Gale runs in a large pasture with her half siblings and is handled for regular hoof care, working and handling.

FOSH 2010 Horse of the Year

Congratulations to The Kansas Kowboy D, a Missouri Fox Trotter, owned by John Brandreth of Brandreth Farms, for earning the title of the 2010 FOSH Horse of the Year. Kowboy earned more than 1000 FOSH show points and was also the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association's (MFTHBA's) World Grand Champion Open Versatility horse in 2010 with six World Championships, and he won four World Championships in the gaited performance arena in 2008.

"When we left the show grounds in Ava in September of 2008, we developed a strategy to transform The Kansas Kowboy from a Performance horse to a gaited Versatility horse, which meant changing his mindset. He spent two months in the mountains riding trails and bushwhacking, then another seven months at the farm doing anything but getting in an arena. In November of 2009 Kowboy went to Blankenship Stables in Sarasota, Florida, where Tori Blankenship began his transformation," said Brandreth.



In the 2010 FOSH competition Tori Blankenship rode Kowboy at the Tampa, Florida, and the Ava, Missouri, shows, and John Brandreth rode him at the Lexington, Virginia, and Sedalia, Missouri, shows. "It's a thrill to compete against some of the best gaited horses in the country," said Brandreth, a native of Georgia who raises Fox Trotters and Quarter Horses and enjoys raising gaited horses to compete in ranch horse disciplines. "Kowboy demonstrates that you can take a top gaited performance horse that wins demanding 'in breed' competitions for correct smooth gaits and train that horse to excel in versatility horse sports like reining and cutting." Brandreth added, "This breed has produced wonderful horses, and we're proud to demonstrate the talent, athleticism and disposition Missouri Fox Trotters have."

The FOSH Horse of the Year title is bestowed on the horse that accumulates the most points in FOSH-sanctioned shows for gaited horses, which are produced nation-wide and



feature competition in disciplines ranging from classes such as smooth gait performance to trail obstacle, country pleasure, and Western and English pleasure divisions.

For more information, contact John Brandreth at www.brandrethfarms.com.



gaited horse clinics

- * How to improve Gait and Achieve Lightness Without Devices
- * How to Develop the Horse Gymnastically to Facilitate Relaxation
- * How to Create Flexibility and Balance
- * How to School the Horse in Hand and Under Saddle
- * How to Create Engagement to Improve Gait Without Building Resistance
- * How to Ride your Horse and Not Interfere with Balance and Collection
- * Most of these things will allow the horse to let go of defenses such as: buddy sour, spooking and other vices

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The Humane Society of the United States Applauds the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Justice Department, for Obtaining Horse Soring Abuse Indictment under the Federal Horse Protection Act

(March 24, 2011)- The Humane Society of the United States applauds the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Justice Department, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Knoxville, Tenn., for obtaining an indictment against three individuals charged with conspiring to violate the federal Horse Protection Act. The Tennessee residents are to be arraigned on the charges before a federal magistrate in Chattanooga today.

Congress enacted the Horse Protection Act in 1970, making it a federal offense to show, sell, auction, and exhibit or transport a sored horse, or a horse whose hooves have been chemically or physically altered to inflict pain that causes an exaggerated gait common among show Tennessee Walking Horses and other gaited breeds.

"This decision sends a clear message to anyone who sores a gaited show horse that the U.S. Department of Agriculture can and will take allegations of violations of the Horse Protection Act seriously," said Keith Dane, director of Equine Protection for The Humane Society of the United States. "We hope this indictment signals a renewed U.S.D.A. resolve to prosecute alleged abusers of Tennessee Walking Horses and other victims of soring."

Dane, who has been tracking the issue of horse soring for more than 25 years, said that alleged violators of the Horse Protection Act are rarely indicted on charges. Despite more than 40 years of Horse Protection Act enforcement, the lack of an effective deterrent against soring has allowed the widespread practice to continue. From 2007 to 2009, U.S.D.A. veterinarians found an average of nearly 500 violations of the law per year - even though they attended only about 6 percent of all shows at which Tennessee Walking Horses and related

breeds were exhibited due to limited agency resources.

On Friday, a federal grand jury in Chattanooga returned a four-count indictment against Barney Davis, 38, of Lewisburg, Tenn.; Christen Altman, 25, of Shelbyville, Tenn.; and Jeffery Bradford, 33, of Lewisburg. According to the indictment, Davis, Altman, and Bradford have all been charged with conspiring to violate the federal Horse Protection Act by "soring" horses and deliberately falsifying entry forms and additional related paperwork. Davis was additionally charged by indictment with knowingly shipping and transporting a sore horse, Jose is My Daddy, for show, and with entering the same sore horse into a show—both violations of the Horse Protection Act. The U.S.D.A.-Office of Inspector General investigation into the alleged crimes began in August 2010.

USDA-Office of Inspector General Special-Agent-in-Charge Karen Citizen-Wilcox said in a department-issued press release, "The USDA-OIG will continue to aggressively pursue violations of the Horse Protection Act in order to protect horses and competitors from illegal and unfair acts and practices."

Soring is the practice of applying chemical irritants to burn skin or inserting screws or other foreign objects into the sensitive areas of a horse's hooves, causing severe pain to the front legs or feet. Because of the pain, horses raise their front legs immediately after touching the ground, thus producing the exaggerated gait rewarded in show rings of the Tennessee Walking Horse and other gaited breeds. Horses who are sored often live in constant and extreme pain, unable to stand or move comfortably.

Horseback Riding Safety for Pit Bull Encounters

By Joy Bruce – Rider and Dog Trainer

Recently I wrote my story of being attacked by a pack of Pit Bull dogs while riding my Missouri Fox Trotter, Sundance, on the Santa Margarita trail near Fallbrook, CA in May 2010. I shared my story to expose the dangers, encourage open discussions, and solicit solutions... hopefully some proven successful.

Regrettably, I did not receive many success stories offering solutions that worked. Instead, I received mail from all over the world of savage attacks by these dogs, all too often resulting in severe mutilation or a fatal wounding of a human or pet animal. Reading their stories, I was eerily reminded how 'lucky' my horse, Sundance, and I were to escape with teeth scrapes and torn jeans.

While it is ALWAYS the OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY, it is little consolation when your child, grandparent, horse or other pet is savagely attacked, mutilated or killed by a dog

The best safety tip is to stay far away from the Pit Bull dog or any dog that resembles him while horseback riding and assume its owner is irresponsible until demonstrated otherwise. Ignoring this is at your own peril. They can squirm right out of their collar if leashed or expertly climb over a fence and could be dangerous. You'll never know which one will attack and which one won't. They can appear friendly one moment and in a split second turn on you or your horse.

Don't listen to the owner if they tell you "my dog wouldn't hurt a flea"...that statement has made a liar out of thousands of Pit Bull owners, according to Diane Jessop of Canine Aggression Research.

Be armed. I can't stress this enough! Carry a can of bear spray that shoots a stream 25+ feet and a gun of some type, like a tazer or baseball bat or small steel bar... all of which have been used with varying success. Do NOT use a 22, it will only make him mad. Whatever you choose, make sure you would use it without hesitation.

If the owner is present, whether the dog is leashed or not, firmly ask them to take their dog a distance away for safe passage if you cannot move off the trail. If the owner gets belligerent, you can spray them with pepper spray also and get out of there.

Remember, your safety is your responsibility and putting your safety in the hands of a belligerent person with a Pit Bull is neither a good nor safe bet.

Your cell phone, a pommel rope to grab onto and a blunt end whip might be useful too. Wear Western or English leather boots to reduce potential damage of a bite.

Do not count on your friends to help you, their horses may have run off or thrown them off. Picture this: a Pit Bull has a vice-grip bite hold on your horse's chest, the horse is whirling around like a reining spin, the dog air borne...what can your friends do? They couldn't safely shoot just the dog without endangering the horse, their horses probably won't go towards the wildly spinning horse so that they could grab its reins and stop it, even if they could stop it, they likely couldn't pry the dog's jaws loose to get it off the horse and they are afraid of being bitten too. You are basically on your own, according to 38 year veteran gaited horse trainer, Hope Adams at Double AA Ranch in Anza, CA.

If you see a Pit Bull, don't panic. Tell the dog "NO" or "Bad Dog" with great conviction in the strongest voice you have says Diane Jessop. Usually a good tactic with other dogs, rarely does this work with Pit Bulls and is worth trying only if the Pit Bull is a distance away. If it keeps coming towards you, it will likely attack, so use whatever you have armed yourself with for a pre-emptive strike. You'll not likely have another opportunity to do anything but hold on for the rodeo ride.

Remember that an attacking/charging dog can reach you from 11+ feet away before you can draw a gun or bear spray, according to LAPD mounted officers, so DO NOT WAIT until the Pit Bull is any closer.

If you have a gun and use it, be prepared to shoot 8-10 times. Pit Bulls ignore pain while attacking, similar to people in a bar room brawl, so if you shoot, shoot between the eyes. If there is more than one Pit Bull you'd better be a quick draw. Check out Scott Hansen's website @ www.Horsethink.com for his article on training your horse to defend himself in an 'other breed' dog attack. See also Scott's video on how to handle a person attacking you on horseback.

Practice shooting off your horse and get him used to the sound of spray going off.

If you get thrown from your horse, the Pit Bull will attack your face and neck as he is bred to do. Feed the Pit Bull the 'opposite arm you write with' according to my veterinarian. Protect your face and the jugular in your neck. Do not struggle scream and pull, or beat the dog; doing so will only increase the damage. Your bones will get crushed and your flesh ripped and torn but hopefully you can save the hand you use most, your face, neck and jugular. If it is at all possible, roll over on top of him, pressing your good arm and full body weight against the top of his head and hold on for dear life. Do not let go until rescuer's take the dog off you safely. Remember the Pit Bull was bred to hold and take down an enraged bull!

Call 911, get names, driver's license/addresses and take pictures and seek out witnesses if at all possible. Report it to authorities ASAP! If no authorities have come to your rescue, be sure and write down all pertinent facts as soon as you've reached safety, while it's fresh in your mind and file a report at soonest possible time.

I'm not an expert on what to do when attacked by a Pit Bull, so I've relied mostly on the potential life saving tips offered by Diane Jessop of Canine Aggressive Research Center, Scott Hansen mounted police officer, LAPD mounted officers, my veterinarian, nurses, other riders and trainers who've personally been attacked by Pit Bulls and my personal experience. These are only ideas meant to alert you of some potential options and are certainly not guaranteed or complete.

Very few people comprehend the brutal savagery a Pit Bull can deliver until they see it for themselves...then it's too late, thus, owners rarely train them for 100% obedience under stress and temptation at a distance, or consistently keep them leashed and muzzled when off their property, or constantly restrain them around children or other dogs, or carry extra liability insurance, or house them in in-escapable quarters, or give them enough mental stimulation, attention and exercise that these incredibly smart powerful dogs need.

No matter who you are, where you go or what you do, you are prone to an attack by a Pit Bull type, Presa Canario, Cane Corso or other similar dogs bred to kill. Visit www.dogbitelaw.com, yourpurebredpuppy.com/reviews/americanpitbullterriers.html and www.dogsbite.org to gain further insight.

Be pro-active and ride safely. Happy trails!

FOSH 2010 Runner Up Trainer of the Year

by Nancy Harding

Nola Giddings of El Sobrante, California was selected as Runner-Up for FOSH Trainer of the Year 2010. FOSH is honored, once again, to have someone like Nola to promote, train and ride sound and natural horses. She is kind and patient as well as a talented and capable trainer and teacher. FOSH Director of Versatility and High Points, Nancy Harding has ridden with Nola in the mountains in California on her Peruvian Horses who are soft, willing, wonderfully gaited and trustworthy mounts. Nola is also a trainer and teacher who is first and foremost for the horse. She has given and continues to give untold joy and knowledge to many of FOSH's youth, as well as adults, through her horses and horses that she trains. FOSH thanks and applauds Nola for being the runner-up for 2010 FOSH Trainer of the year!!

Nola Giddings grew up in Arizona and began riding at age 2, spending every possible second learning from her grandfather, who maintained a ranch of 150 horses of all breeds. Later in life, she found herself in Plumas County running her own riding stable and organizing guided trail rides through the Sierras with her husband, Lou. Now, located in the San Francisco Bay Area she carries on her grandfather's legacy and works with horses of all breeds. She has years of experience working with Peruvian Horses as well as other gaited and non-gaited breeds. While she is well known in the Peruvian Horse Show circuit for her work with junior riders, she teaches students of all ages from 2 to 75 years young. She has trained many horses and junior riders that have gone on to win numerous Championship and High Point titles at both the regional and national level. Nola also recently became a carded judge through the Independent Judges Association (IJA) of FOSH.

Nola teaches the horse and rider to develop a symbiotic relationship, where they work together as a unit. The horse & rider learn to develop a mutual respect for one another and to trust one another. Nola's students learn to read cues from the horse and react appropriately and the horse learns the same of its riders.

Nola believes in training a horse to be an all around horse - one that you can take on a trail ride one day, go into the show ring the next day, and go cattle sorting, barrel racing or anything else you want to do the day after that. Nola advocates sound training principles from the ground up. All horses are barefoot and receive regular hoof care and trimming. No artificial devices are used during training - the horse is allowed to find it's natural gait and Nola helps to bring that out with time and patience. The bond and understanding that she shares with the horses she works is rarely seen in others. Nola truly has a gift.

Her involvement in the Peruvian horse world is extensive. She has been honored at the National Show level for involvement with junior riders. Her dedication to junior



riders goes from picking them up for lessons all the way to housing them in her camper at her horse shows and everything in between. Her love for the horses and kids has inspired her to actively participate in various events in the equestrian community, as well as local events including the following: Peruvian Paso Breed Demonstration at Western States Horse Expo; El Sobrante Stroll; Annual New Year's Day Trail Ride at Point Pinole Regional Shoreline; Annual All-Gaited Junior Benefit Horse Show in Vallejo; Gymkhana Demonstration at 2010 Grand National Rodeo at Cow Palace in San Francisco; Miscellaneous Gymkhanas, Playdays, Cattle Sorting, Trail Trials, Barefoot Clinics; and Horse Camping, and various Gaited Horse Shows.

Her dedication to training horses following the principles of FOSH speaks for itself when you see how happy & willing her horses are and the smiles on her students' faces. Congratulations on being selected at the FOSH 2010 Runner Up Trainer of the Year. For more information on Nola, please visit www.ngpph.com.

FOSH thanks Nya and Nola for being out there and being two of the best. FOSH Director of Versatility and High Points, Nancy Harding also wants to thank Bobbie Clark Rapp & Martha Chatten for their help in selecting the Trainer of the Year. This was the pilot year for these two new FOSH programs--Trainer of the Year and Breeder of the Year. FOSH is very proud to have two bright stars to mark the new programs. Please visit www.fosh.info to read the criteria for eligibility for one or both of these programs. FOSH invites you come out and play with us!



FOSH Directory

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Email: Ponies4Grownies@aol.com

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FOSH Directory

Looking for your next trail horse, trainer, or breeding stallion?
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An advertisement for a DVD titled "Imagine A Horse: Master And Trainers FUNDAMENTALS I". The main image shows a person in a cowboy hat working with two horses in an outdoor setting. The text "Imagine A Horse" is at the top in a stylized font, with "Master And Trainers" underneath. Below that, "FUNDAMENTALS I" is written in large, bold letters. At the bottom, it says "For DVDS visit: imagineahorse.com". There is a small logo in the bottom right corner that says "Imagine A Horse" with a horse silhouette.

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THE PURE PLEASURE GAITED HORSE ASSOCIATION OF OKLAHOMA

The PPGHA provides fun, fellowship, social and educational activities for owners and admirers of the naturally gaited pleasure horse and presents a positive image of the naturally gaited pleasure horse to the community and the public at large through PPGHA activities; contributes wherever and however possible to charitable organizations involved with the welfare and protection of the horse; encourages through education and example the use of humane care, training and treatment of all gaited horses; so that the gaited pleasure horse can be recognized as a contributing member of the equine community. For more information, contact Cris Van Horn at 918-688-1898 or 2cloudsdancing@tds.net; www.ppgha.com

SOUTHERN COMFORT GAITED HORSE CLUB

www.gaitedhorseclub.com

Southern Comfort promotes activities highlighting the smooth ride and versatility of all gaited horse breeds. Pursuits include trail riding, competitions, shows, exhibitions, clinics and many other equine activities. The club promotes horse safety and friendship for all that are interested in horses. Owning a horse is not a requirement.

SCGHC is based in South Western Idaho and is a flat shod exclusive club with members contributing and supporting varied interests using sound natural horses.

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Website: www.twhanj.com

Contacts: Martha 609-743-1094, Kathy 856-358-8872, Roger 856-447-3097, Vicki 609-628-2075

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THE EQUINE SEESAW

- HOW THE HORSE COUNTERBALANCES HIS HEAD

By Wendy Murdoch; Copyright© 2011. All rights reserved.
www.murdochmethod.com

THE EQUINE SEESAW

In the last article I had you walk around with something on your head to feel what it is like to walk with good alignment. It is not so easy to put a "basket" on top of the horse's head in order to see whether he is carrying his head efficiently. To understand equine skeletal alignment I will use a seesaw analogy. This simple concept can illustrate different possibilities for the ways horses move. Even this analogy can get complicated very quickly. Please bear in mind that the seesaw is not entirely accurate yet it does help to convey the basic idea.

To begin, let's start with the components of a seesaw and how they relate to the horse. A seesaw is made up of a board, a fulcrum and children, which add weight and drive the seesaw up and down. The board is equivalent to the horse's spine mentioned in previous articles. The top-side of the board represents the top line of the horse. The underside of the board represents the underline. Therefore, the top line and underline must work together to stabilize the spine.

The fulcrum is the object the board sits on creating a pivot point. This is the equivalent to the center of gravity of the horse, which is located approximately at the 11 - 12th rib. The children (stick figures in the following drawings) represent the weight located at either end of the spine, the head and pelvis, as well as the legs of the horse.

You could move the fulcrum closer to one end of the board or the other. For now the board will remain centered over the fulcrum. Also, the rider will stay sitting on the board over the fulcrum. Keep in mind it is possible to have the fulcrum and the rider in different locations along the board. One cause for this is the saddle and another is poor riding position.

I am not going to specifically discuss saddle fit and how it affects the horse here. However, it is important to realize that incorrect saddle fit can negate this entire analogy! If the saddle is too far forward or back the rider's weight is not over the fulcrum. This will definitely affect how the spine functions.

While the spine of the horse needs to act like a rigid board to transmit push from the hind legs, it must remain flexible. Therefore, anything that impinges on the function of the spine blocks the transmission of force through the vertebrae. When the saddle and rider are over the center of gravity with the weight properly distributed along the ribcage, the spine can transmit that force like the transmission in your car.

If the pressure is not evenly distributed on the ribcage then the spine becomes unevenly inflexible. It is like breaking the board into little pieces and trying to

scotch tape it together. It will never be strong enough to bear weight. Often horses with splintered boards will have "traveling mystery lameness" as they try to accommodate the weight of the rider on their back. Therefore, correct saddle placement and fit are critical to the spine acting like a board or transmission.

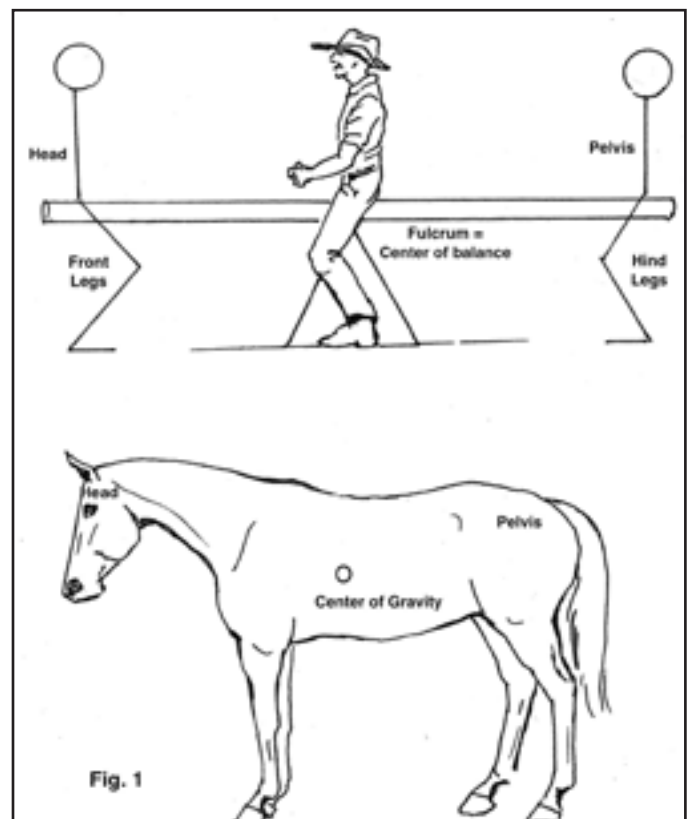
In the following illustrations the stick figures on either ends of the seesaw are going to have two roles. The upper portion of the stick figure to the left represents the head. The legs represent the front legs. The upper portion of the stick figure on the right represents the pelvis. The legs of this stick figure represent the hind legs of the horse.

When the spine acts like a board (figure 1.)

When the horse is in a level frame both stick figures are sitting on the ends of the seesaw with their feet on the ground and a soft bend in their joints. The weight is essentially equal at the two ends and neither child is trying to force the other one down or up. They could gently seesaw a little bit one way and then the other, lowering the front end of the board and then lowering the back of the board but it is easy to return to the middle.

Essentially the board goes unnoticed because there is no loss of connection from the front to the back. It instantly

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THE EQUINE SEESAW

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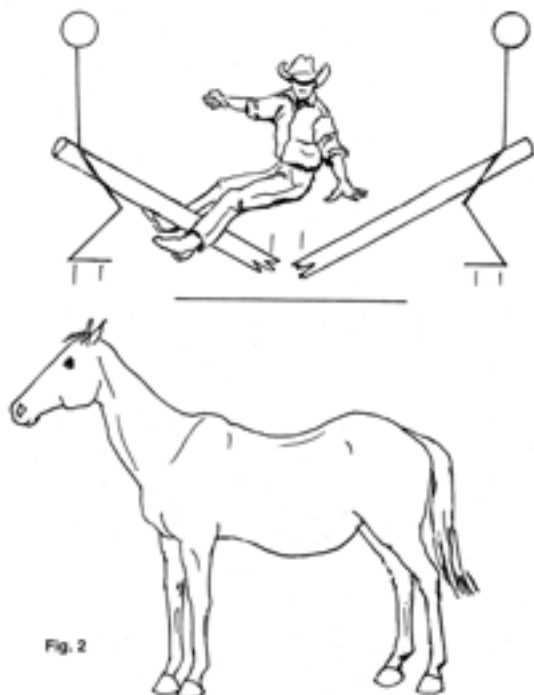
transmits the alternate closing and opening of the leg joints at each end. The rider in the middle feels a slight swing as this is happening and the ride is fairly smooth. Coming to a halt the board remains level and balanced with soft joints in the legs.

The pelvis balances the weight of the horse's head. This is similar to the example of you moving with an object on your head in the last article. You might use the expression that the horse is "through the back" because any change at either end transmits through the board instantly. It is the ability for the horse to transmit signals through the entire system from the rider's hands to the hindquarters and from the hindquarters to the horse's head that allows for immediacy of response to our aids and requests. Essentially the lines of communication are open and response time is instantaneous because there is no loss of connection from back to front and visa versa.

A horse can be "through the back", immediate transmission of information from one end to the other, in any discipline and in any outline from a pleasure horse to Grand Prix Dressage. When the spine acts like the board of a seesaw the horse is "through the back".

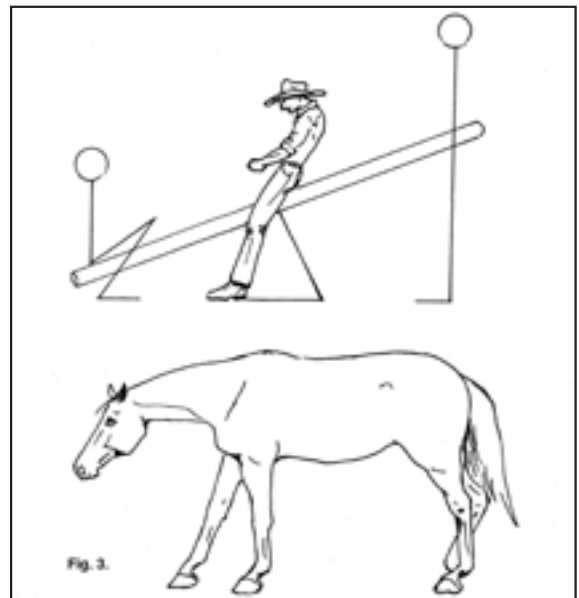
When the board is broken (Figure 2.)

When the board is broken at the fulcrum then the board can no longer transmit information from one end to the other, nor can the board support the horse's head. There are numerous reasons why the board might be broken. Again, poor saddle fit is often the culprit. Other reasons for this scenario run the gamut and include anything that causes back pain. The more uncomfortable the horse's back is the more he will attempt to get away from the pain,



deepening the pattern.

Essentially the board is snapped at the fulcrum so that the ends wind up in the air. As the middle goes down the two ends go up. The horse is said to be high-headed or "above the bit" but the cause for that is often the back. The pelvis winds up tipped in the equivalent position of forward and down for the person (see previous article). The pelvis cannot support the head. (Remember what it felt like in your neck when you arched your back?) You can't generate thrust from the back end, only speed because the horse can't lift the back. It is much more difficult to raise the front



end (as in jumping) when the board is broken like this.

When the back is hollow, the front legs wind up bearing most of the horse's weight. This results in horses being heavy on the forehand, difficult to stop, turn and start because they are struggling to carry their head. The under neck muscles have to work hard to hold the head up because the spine is no longer able to do the job. The legs become stiff and rigid in an attempt to support the weight at the ends. Often these horses rush forward as they attempt to "catch" their head with their front end. Think plate spinning on a stick leaning forward - you have to run to stay under it.

Many riders attempt to correct the situation with stronger bits to stop the horse and gear to pull the head down. However, if the board remains broken you will only achieve the "appearance" of correct head position. The rider's weight will further compound the problem since the horse cannot bear very much weight with its back in this position.

The bully at the backend of the board (figure 3.)

Ever been on a seesaw and have a mean person at the other end? They stiffen their legs and won't let you up off the ground. This is the equivalent of the horse that is built down hill or is very stiff in the hindquarters. The board is fine and fulcrum is in place but the head is driven down to the ground because the hind leg joints won't bend. The riders have to lean back or arch to prevent themselves

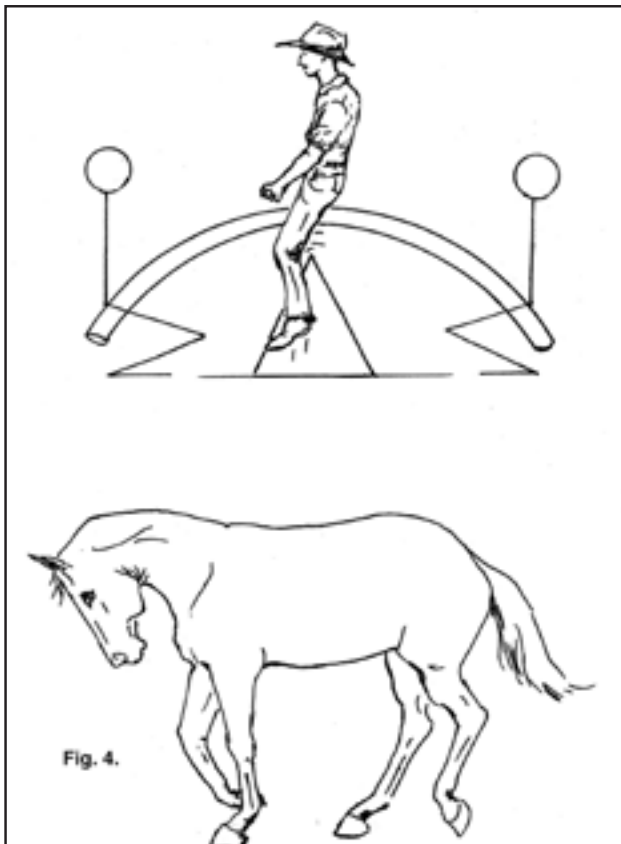
from sliding down the board towards the front end. This puts further pressure on the horse's forehead and makes it even harder for the horse to lift its head. The majority of the horse's weight is on the forehead, which puts a lot of strain on the front legs.

The over flexed board (figure 4.)

This is the opposite of the broken board (figure 2.) In this case the board is over bent and "behind the bit". While it may seem that is a better choice than the broken board the skeleton is still not carrying the head efficiently.

When the board is over flexed the topline is too long and the underline is too short. It is like walking around constantly contracting your abdominal muscles. This pulls your head forward and rounds your back. Now hold that crunch and try to lift your head. You have to strain at the back of your neck because the spine is overly flexed. In order to lift your head you need to straighten your spine. You may have accomplished lowering the hindquarters in an attempt to get more pushing power but it is lost because of the restriction placed on the board and front end.

Often you see horses vacillate between above and behind the bit, bypassing the middle ground ("on the bit" or "on the aids"), because they can't carry their head comfortably in either position. Again, discomfort is often the cause. The horse might be avoiding a bit which is too strong, or a rider who is heavy handed. Horses are often pulled, jerked or forced into a frame rather than shown how to carry their head easily. Horses ridden behind the bit can be seen in any number of disciplines by all levels of riders. Again, the horse will only be able to carry its head effortlessly if we do the same and show them how to achieve this middle ground.



Lightening the forehead - collection (figure 5.)

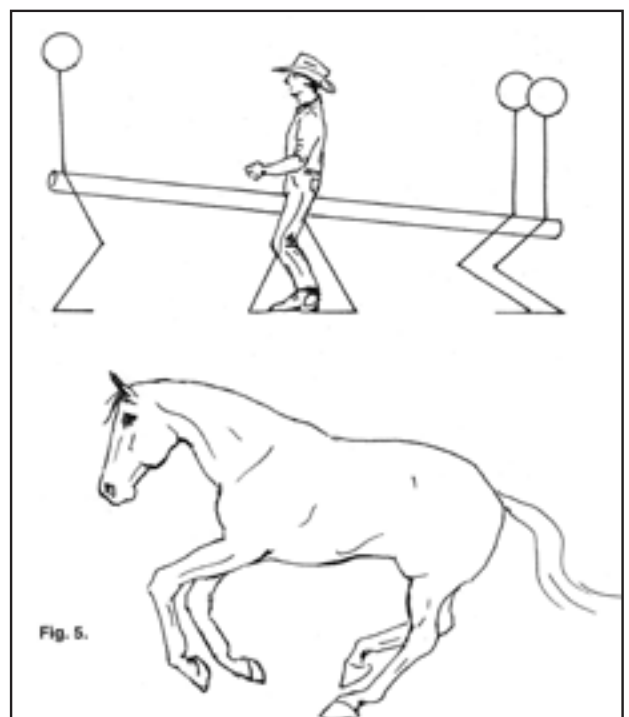
You cannot have true collection unless the horse has achieved the ability for the spine to function like a board. Collection means that the hindquarters take more weight and can therefore lift the front end up.

Think of a seesaw with even weight at both ends - it would be level to the ground (figure 1.). Then add a second person at the back end. The front end automatically goes up, the forehead of the horse lightens. This can only be accomplished when the back acts solid. If it is broken, the two ends don't affect each other. If the joints of the back end are stiff, adding more weight won't change the way the front end is being driven into the ground. If the board is soggy more weight at the back doesn't make any difference in lifting the front. Only when the horse's back acts like a seesaw can the addition of weight at the back end lift the front end.

Shifting the weight back is actually achieved by bringing the hind legs further under the horse's body, which can only be accomplished by supple the joints. We will leave that discussion for future articles.

Suffice it to say that if the horse's skeleton is not able to properly align in gravity, the muscles required to drive the horse from behind are preoccupied in holding the head up. Therefore, the legs are unable to move under and forward towards the center of gravity. This makes true collection impossible.

When the counterbalance of the pelvis works through the horse's back (acting like a seesaw) to lighten the front end and carry the head then the coiling and uncoiling of the hind legs can provide the thrusting power necessary for fast, immediate responsiveness. Gravity appears to be defied when the horse uses its skeleton to support itself in movement. When we combine both bodies in "self-carriage" then together we will move as a partnership in harmony.



Events of Interest

These Events of Interest are provided as a benefit to FOSH members and Sound Advocate readers and are linked to FOSH in some way. The clinicians listed are members of FOSH. The Expos listed will have FOSH supporters distributing sound horse literature and/or will have a FOSH member clinician participating. A FOSH Sanctioned Show is governed by the FOSH IJA Rulebook and will be designated A, AA, AA+, or AAA. All High Point Awards are only earned at FOSH Sanctioned shows. A FOSH Affiliated Show uses FOSH DQPs for inspection. Shows may be sanctioned and affiliated with FOSH. Please check with Show Management to determine the FOSH status of the Show.

MAY

- 6-8 FIESTA OF THE HORSE, USEF MULTI-BREED SHOW, FOSH AFFILIATED, LAEC, Burbank, CA. TWH Classes. Judge Bill Coon. Contact: Karen Ayres at ayreskaren@hotmail.com
- 9-13 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cookeville, TN. Contact Larry at 931-858-0658 or info@whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com. www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 13-15 DIANE SEPT CLINIC, Sableview Farm, Stockbridge, VT. Contact sableview@gmail.com
- 14-15 DAVID LICHMAN CLINIC, Jamestown, CA. Contact Karen James at 770-251-1799. www.davidlichman.com
- 20-22 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Isanti, MN. Contact Melody at 651-380-9072. www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 21 DIANE SEPT CLINIC—SADDLE FIT & CONNECTED RIDING, Our Gang Riding Club, York, PA. Contact Ireider112@comcast.net
- 21-22 VERSATILITY CLINIC with FOSH IJA Judge GINA GARDNER, Sun Meadow Ranch, Woodland, UT. Visit www.ginagardner.net Contact Marion at marion.wheaton@gmail.com
- 21 SHERIFF'S EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION OPEN & GAITED HORSE SHOW. Triple J Arena, Sarasota, FL. www.seashows.com
- 21-22 DAVID LICHMAN CLINIC, Gillsville, GA. Contact Karen James at 770-251-1799. www.davidlichman.com
- 21-22 THREE PHASE EVENT VERSATILITY COMPETITION, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Harrodsburg, KY. Stadium Obstacle challenge, Dressage, Cross Country, Trail Obstacle Course. Contact Kristie Wehmeyer at 859-383-0133 or rednrusty@bessouth.net. Visit www.threephaseevent.org
- 25-29 DAVID LICHMAN CLINIC, Vermont. Contact Karen James at 770-251-1799. www.davidlichman.com
- 26-28 ANNUAL FOSH IJA JUDGE'S SEMINAR. Oak Grove, MO. Contact Dianne Little at ddittle@telusplanet.net
- 28 UNITED PLEASURE WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION (UPWHA) ANNUAL HORSE SHOW. Misty River Equestrian Center, Independence, MO. Judge Sally Frones. Classes for TWH, SSH, MFT, OGB. Show Manager: Ian Wlaker, dirtbiker31@aol.com, 816-738-9485. www.upwha.org
- 27-29 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Castlerock, CO. 8th Heaven Farm. 303-688-5727 or eighthheavenhorses@yahoo.com. www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com

JUNE

- TBD TRAIN THE TRAINER with BRENDA IMUS. One-on-one and small group sessions. Working with trainers to train all kinds of smooth gaited riding horses. Contact Brenda at training@gaitsofgold.net
- 3-4 OKLAHOMA SPRING JUBILEE CHARITY GAITED HORSE SHOW, Kellyville, OK. Judge Vali Suddarth. Contact Sandi Ford at sandi@freedomssaddle.com
- 3-5 DIANE SEPT CLINIC—BACK TO BASICS EQUINE AWARENESS, Invitation only. Contact dianesept@aol.com
- 3-6 BUCKY SPARKS GAITED DRESSAGE CLINIC, Proctor, MN. Contact sallyfrones@yahoo.com or 218-389-6302.

- 4-5 SHOW-ME-ESPECIAL MULTI-BREED GAITED HORSE SHOW, Kansas Coliseum, Valley Center, KS. Sponsored by the High Plains Paso Fino Horse Association. Judges: Keith Dane & Make Cumming. Classes for TWH, PF, PP, MFT, ICE, MH & OGB. Show Manager: Peggy Tanner, 918-630-9832, ptanner@mcelroy.com or www.highplainspfha.org
- 6-10 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cookeville, TN. Contact Larry at 931-858-0658 or info@whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com. www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 11 NPWHA SPRING FLING HORSE SHOW, McCoy Equestrian Center, Chino, CA. Judge Susan Moses. Contact: Karen Ayres at ayreskaren@hotmail.com
- 10-12 HORSE EXPO With Gaited Horse Clinician DAVID LICHMAN, Sacramento, CA. www.davidlichman.com
- 17-19 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Sundbury, NC. Contact Cheryl at 252-465-4184 or ceason@embarqmail.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 24-26 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Penn Valley, CA. Contact Rancho Toledano at 530-362-1298 or yvettetreavorrow@comcast.net. www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 24-26 GAITED HORSE JUBILEE, Lexington, VA www.gaitedjubilee.com

JULY

- 8-10 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Coldwater, Canada. Contact Glenda at 705-686-3773 or info@pasofinos.ca .www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 10 FREE GAITED HORSE CLINIC FOR YOUTH, Rush City, MN. Sponsored by the Minnesota Walking Horse Association. Featuring WSCA, 4-H Judge Bonnie Peterson. Contact sallfrones@yahoo.com.
- 14-17 DIANE SEPT CONNECTED RIDING CLINIC & LESSONS (Beginners), Eugene, OR. Contact ramonamccoy@mac.com
- 15-17 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Downs, IL. Contact Marjorie at 309-530-0670 or marj.gilmore@frontier.com. .www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 21-24 DIANE SEPT CONNECTED RIDING CLINIC & LESSONS (Intermediate/Advanced), Eugene, OR. Contact ramonamccoy@mac.com
- 23-24 GAITED HORSES NATURALLY WITH DAVID LICHMAN. Farmersplace, Kleindottigen, Switzerland. Contact Marlen Zahner at 056-245-72-09

AUGUST

- 5-7 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Port Clinton, OH. Contact The Ranch Out Back at 419-341-2372 theranch@theranchoutback.com or www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 12-14 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Augusta, WV. Contact North River Ranch at 304-496-8777 or nrnrhorses@hotmail.com www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 26 DIANE SEPT LESSON DAY, Woodridge Farm, Montoursville, PA. Contact llbower@verizon.net
- 26-28 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, St. Croix, WI. Contact Patti at 715-483-9292 or patti@nrnranchandtack.com www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 29-09/02 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, St. Croix, WI. Contact Patti at 715-483-9292 or patti@nrnranchandtack.com www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com

SEPTEMBER

- 3 GAITED HORSE TRAIL TRIALS, Carlton, MN. Hosted by Hobby Horse Farm. Contact sallyfrones@yahoo.com.
- 9-11 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Upton, MA. Contact Jennifer at 508-245-6428 or jennifermw1@yahoo.com www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 16-18 DIANE SEPT CLINIC, Meadow Sweet Farm, Spring Grove, IL. Contact meadowsweet60081@yahoo.com
- 19-23 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Cookeville, TN. Contact Larry at 931-858-0658 or info@whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com
- 24-25 NORTHERN NEVADA GAITED HORSE CLUB ANNUAL ALL GAITED BREED SHOW, Carson City Fairgrounds, Carson City, NV. FOSH Sanctioned. Judges: Bill Coon (IJA) & Kim Montee (NAPHA). Classes for TWH, MFT, SSH, MHPP, PF, & OGB. Show Manager: Ed Ogg. 775-750-7934, oggone@turbousa.com, www.nnghc.com.
- 30-10/02 LARRY WHITESELL GAITED HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC, Pryor, OK. Contact Larry at 918-633-9288 or l.tees@sbcglobal.net, www.whitesellgaitedhorsemanship.com

OCTOBER

- 13-15 FOSH NORTH AMERICAN PLEASURE GAITED HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS (NAC), National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis, MO. All keg shod and barefoot gaited horses are welcome. Classes are offered for Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, Paso Finos, Brazilian Mangalarga Marchadors, Missouri Fox Trotting horses and Open Gaited Breeds. Visit www.naghc.com, Show Manager: Sandy McCart, sandymccart@yahoo.com

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Working with a Foal

– Del Wideman



Del Wideman is a lifelong horsewoman living in Danielsville, Georgia. She started with hunters and Arabians, progressed to jumpers and dressage, showing and training. She studied with Jean Claude Racinet (pupil of Baucher's writings), Nicholas Adametz (Spanish Riding School), the late Major Clifford Goman (US Cavalry) and renowned horseman Dave Seay (follower of Tom Dorrance). Del studied under Dave Seay for 17 years. She learned long ago from her work with natural horsemanship that this type of communication applies to all breeds and all disciplines. She continues to work with gaited horses and their owners, western riders, trail riders, dressage, jumpers and show horses from all disciplines. Having studied and practiced both the "conventional and natural" horsemanship methods, Del helps people "Make the Connection" with their horses in any discipline through the universal methods of "Progressive Horsemanship" (communication, trust and the humane treatment of equines through horse psychology and safe practices) by providing instruction in the art of understanding and communicating effectively with the horse on the ground and from the saddle. As she says, "True communication does not occur until a common language is established. Horses measure people as a part of the herd. Either they lead or they follow." www.delwideman.com

Dear Del:

I'd like some advice on a project I started with a friend who has a 3 week old foal. He can go up to it, scratch its back and rub on it. I noticed a picture on your website where you were using a "towel" to apply light pressure on a young one. What is taking place there? He wants me to help him with this, so I'd like to have a few tools in mind.

The filly in the picture is about 5 months old. I was preparing her for halter breaking. Working with a 3 week old is a little different than working with a 5 month old and that is different still from working with a yearling. I noticed that you said the owner could "scratch" the foal's back, but you did not mention that he could approach the foal in the head area. The foal is keeping his feet in a position to leave by allowing you to approach from behind. He/She feels more in control of the situation and less trapped in that position.

If you want to start with a 3 week old getting some basic handling down, the first thing that needs to happen is that you need to allow the foal to approach you (only one of you). Don't overwhelm the foal by having more than one person to start with. A good way to begin this would be to give the mother some attention, such as brushing and basic care. While you are working on the mother allow the foal to just hang out without pressure from you. In a short time most foals will be curious enough to give you a sniff. Let this progress until the foal feels comfortable being around you some. At this point you may extend your hand to "greet" the foal. Your hand should be palm down, fingers together and curled to look like a muzzle. When the foal will "greet" you by sniffing your hand, you should turn away from the foal to take the pressure off and allow the foal to feel safe with his/her approach to you. Continue this routine until the foal feels comfortable touching your hand and does not feel the need to leave. This may take some time and does not have to be done in one session. Remember a foal at that

age has a very short attention span. Sessions should be no more than 10 to 15 minutes. They can be frequent, as in several times a day but each one should be short.

Your next step is to give the foal one rub on the muzzle or lower nose area below the eyes. If you see that the foal is going to leave as a result of this, try to withdraw your hand BEFORE the foal leaves. Go back to the previous step and then proceed with another attempt. Staying close to the mother during this work will help the foal feel safer about the approach. Do not try and keep the foal from the mother at this point. Once you can give the foal a rub on the face, you are most of the way there. You should then proceed to be able to rub the foal all over with your hand. Use "the retreat" if at any time the foal wants to leave.

The more time you take without rushing things at this stage of the foal's life, the more accepting the foal will be of new things as he/she grows up. With this stage you are teaching the foal how to accept new things in his/her life. It is important that this foundation is solid. Sometimes as humans we tend to be thinking about the end result, i.e. getting a halter on. At this point, putting a halter on is not the important lesson for the foal to learn. I must add at this point that you should be aware that foals can turn and kick very quickly, especially when they feel trapped. That is also a part of their learning and exercise at that age so they kick up playing too. At this point, if this happens you should gently move the foal off by raising your hands or tossing the mother's lead rope gently in his/her direction to let the foal know that is unacceptable behavior. After you can successfully rub the foal all over with your hands with the foal standing comfortably, you can move on to the next step.

You then need to be able to put your arm under and over the foal's neck. Again, keep the policy of retreating before the foal leaves if he/she starts to feel uncomfortable. Once the foal is standing quietly and not bothered by the mo-

tion of your arm or by the feel of your hand all over, then you can start asking the foal to move away from pressure. Start by putting your arm under the foal's neck while you are facing his/her rear. Rub down the foal's back with your other hand and then ask the foal to step the hindquarter over just one step by putting pressure on the side of her hip. You might need to even accept a lean in the right direction. Just use light pressure with your hand and wait for the foal to decide to move away from the pressure. Release the pressure immediately when the foal moves away from the pressure. Do this on both sides until the foal can readily move the hindquarter when pressure is applied. Again, use the retreat action if the foal starts to feel trapped or scared. If the foal needs to move more than one step and go back to her mother allow her to do so. **DO NOT TRY TO HOLD HER THERE.** Just start again.

Once the foal is moving the hindquarter freely you can start asking the front quarter to move. Put one hand on the foal's neck and the other above the muzzle. Do not grip with either hand. Keep your hand soft and apply light pressure to bend the foal's neck in the opposite direction. Once the foal's neck is bent a little wait for him/her to take a step over. Release the pressure immediately when she moves that direction even if it is just a lean. Once you have the hindquarter and the front quarter moving readily upon pressure, you are ready to start with something other than your hand.

Here is where we get to what you saw in the picture on my web site. Start with a small towel and work with the foal on accepting the towel being rubbed all over him/her just as you did with your hand. Follow the same retreat techniques as you did then as well. If the foal is bothered by the approach of the towel work it from a distance before approaching. Allow the foal to take a good look at

the towel then take the towel away. Continue this until the foal can accept the towel then proceed with being able to rub him/her all over. Once the foal is comfortable with being rubbed with the towel all over you are ready to use the towel as a tool. Work with the foal so that you can place the towel on either side of the foal's neck just like you did with your arm, from above and from below. Make sure that you only hold it there only momentarily in the beginning. Again avoid making the foal feel trapped. When the foal accepts the towel being placed around his/her neck, then you are ready to apply a little pressure with the towel around the foal's neck to ask him/her to move the front quarter toward you. Be sure that you place the towel mid way down the foal's neck so as not to pressure the poll area. Foals are very sensitive in the poll area and you want to avoid possibly hurting the foal. As soon as the foal makes an effort to move your direction take the pressure off the towel, remove the towel and walk away from the foal. This will assure the foal that he/she is not trapped there. Then repeat until the foal can readily move away from the pressure of the towel on both sides.

Your next step will be to hold the towel around the foal's neck with one hand and ask the hindquarter to move over with the other just as you did with your arm earlier. Follow the same steps that you did when you were using your arm. Now you are ready to get a new tool. Use a thick soft lead rope and go thru the same steps as your arm and the towel. When the foal is accepting these "tools" well and moving away from pressure readily, then you are ready to begin the haltering steps. Foals are great fun to work with because they are a clean slate. Whatever you teach them they take it very literally. So, remember to never trap the foal, keep the mother near, and always remember that **RELEASE.** Have Fun!

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