

An Equine Educational Conference

“For the Good of our Horses”

February 27, 28th 2010

**Hobby Horse Farm
Spittal Road
Coldbrook, Nova Scotia**

An educational opportunity has been designed for horse enthusiasts in the dead of winter when we are all starved for things to begin anew! Come learn about Saddle Fitting, Long Lining, Centered Riding, Chiropractic, Nutrition, Massage, Balancing the Hoof from Nova Scotian experts. The passion, dedication, skill, experience, education and depth of knowledge of the presenters will be a privilege to experience and leave participants hungry to know more.

**Organizer: Sue Ross
Equinemassagetherapy.ns@gmail.com
or
justforme@ns.sympatico.ca**

902 680 5733

**Registrar: Deanna Johnston
Deanna.johnston@ns.sympatico.ca**

67 Welch Rd. Wolfville, NS. B4P 2R1

902 542 9591

Storm Date: March 6, 7 2010

Saturday February 27th

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.	Registration Drop of items at sale/swap table Coffee, tea in kitchen
9:00 a.m.	Sessions
9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.	Muscles Anatomy, Soft Tissue, Lines of Compensation and Massage
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 a.m.	Why a balanced hoof is so important.
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch (provided) with the professionals. Exhibits and sale/swap table
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	How chiropractic can be incorporated to improve the horse's function and balance
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Centered Riding
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits and sale/swap table
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own (see details page for list of eating establishments in the area)
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Film and Social @ Rosie's Restaurant private Function room, Kentville.

Sunday February 28th

8:30 a.m. - 8:55a.m.	Coffee!! tea, swap/sale table, exhibits
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Equine Nutrition
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Long Lining (Indoor arena, bring warm clothing)
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch (provided) with the Professionals. Swap/sale table
1:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Saddle Fitting For Horse and Rider
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Wind Up and good-byes

Session Descriptions and Biographies

Saturday

Muscle Anatomy, Soft Tissue Lines of Compensation and Massage Therapy

Sue Ross

We demand great feats from our athletic equine partners and inadvertently we can cause unnecessary stress and strain on the horse's musculoskeletal system. Participants will learn how muscles work, the role of other soft tissues and the anatomy of muscle. We will discover how the horse's environment, riding techniques, equipment and repetitive work can affect the balance of the equine body's muscle and soft tissues developing lines of compensation resulting in muscle discomfort, strains and "knots. Sue will show you how massage therapy can normalize and rebalance tissues restoring freedom of movement and comfort. Lastly Sue will emphasize that the problems will reoccur if a change is not made to the initial causes of the muscular imbalance, as well as the importance of utilizing rehab exercises and correct use of muscles under work to redevelop equalized muscle strength and movement.

Sue Ross

Sue Ross has been passionate about horses since she was given her first pony at the age of eight. As a youth she was a member of the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers and had the great fortune to ride in the musical ride. In recent years she obtained her NSEF Instructors and teaches private dressage and jumping lessons in the Valley. She attended The Prairie Winds School of Equine Massage Therapy in Loveland, Colorado, USA and has been treating horses and giving lectures and clinics in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Sue continues to deepen her education both in massage through attending clinics, self study and bringing clinicians to Nova Scotia and in riding through lessons with well know local, national and international coaches.

Why a Balanced Hoof is so Important

Susan Stark

Susan Stark's session will show us the importance of balancing the horse's hooves. How the balanced or imbalanced hoof affects the horse's body and the environment. Attendees will leave with a number of practical methods to use to determine if the hoof is balanced. Susan will further deliver fascinating information on the hoof structures and the amazing way they are engineered to work together; the effects of how confirmation, diet and injury impact the hoof by reading the clues the hoof gives us including flares, imbalance, hoof rings and more. The impact of stress on the horse's body will also be explored.

There will be a sharing of practical ideas for making the horse's living environment more interesting, balanced and hoof friendly via the "Paddock Paradise Model" adapted to Nova Scotian challenges.

Susan Stark

Susan Stark is a Natural Hoof Care Practitioner based near Halifax. She trims horses from minis to draft crosses. Certified by The Association for The Advancement of Natural Horse Care Practices lead by pioneering trimmer and author Jaime Jackson, Susan has worked with over a dozen clinicians and professional trimmers in the United States and Canada. Susan has studied stress in horses under Professor of Neurobiology, Dr. Bruce Nock, tenured neurobiologist at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri. In September 2008, she was honoured to be asked to be a guest speaker for the University of Guelph's 'Groom One' course online.

**How Chiropractic Care can be incorporated
to improve the horse's function and balance**

Dr. Brad Rusaw

The focus of Dr. Rusaw's presentation will enlighten participants as to how chiropractic can be incorporated to improve the function and balance and comfort of our horses.

Dr. Brad Rusaw

Dr. Brad Rusaw graduated from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto in 2000. In 2003 his involvement with animals led him to seek certification in animal chiropractic from Options for Animals in Hillside, Illinois. He continues to operate a family wellness practice in Chester, Nova Scotia that focuses on the benefits of Chiropractic for the whole family including dogs and horses in many cases.

Centered Riding

Olga Comeau

Olga's session will be a participatory session of off horse work. She will show us techniques which will enhance our body awareness ultimately creating better harmony with our horses while riding. Further studying with Olga will deepen that harmony on the ground as well. Olga will help people understand the importance and the effects of the use of our bodies on the horse and enlighten us to the effects of breathing, balance restrictions of which we are usually unaware.

Olga Comeau

Olga Comeau has been an avid horse person her entire life. She took up riding "seriously" at age nine and has continued to learn, teach and train for the next fifty years.

She began riding and training with Sally Swift (Centered Riding) in 1987 and in 1990 completed a 3 month apprenticeship with her, becoming the first graduate Senior Centered Riding Instructor Level IV in Canada. During this time Olga recognized that it was equally important to be able to help horses as well as riders and thus began studying TTeam and Tellington Touch becoming a certified TTeam Practitioner II. Over the past 19 years Olga has become aware of the great value that horses have as teachers and healers and the profound effect they have on people. This led her to become a certified facilitator in the field of equine assisted/facilitated psychotherapy.

During the 1990's Olga spent considerable time traveling to teach workshops throughout North America and came to recognize the importance of sharing her **Mandala Riding and Awareness Center**. **Mandala** is situated on the North Mountain on the north side of the Annapolis Valley. Here she facilitates and teaches Weekend Workshops and weekly riding lessons with the emphasis self awareness for riders and developing a strong relationship with the horse. Olga also runs a Therapeutic Riding School for people with special needs and co-facilitates **Healing with Horses Psychotherapy Services**.

Film

If Horses Could Speak

Dr. Gerd Heuschmann

(The showing of this film is pending approval from Wu Wei Verlag, Trafalgar Square Books)

Session Descriptions and Biographies

Sunday

Equine Nutrition

Pam Mackenzie

Pam will be speaking about balancing the equine's feed program with a special emphasis on balancing your horse's feed to the 2009 hay crop. Our horses require specific minerals and nutrients to be optimally healthy and perform the athletic jobs we require of them.

Pam Mackenzie

Pam Mackenzie is the Purina Certified Equine Consultant for Clarence Farm Services Ltd. As the Equine Consultant, Pam works throughout Atlantic Canada with both horse owners and stable managers to choose feeds and balance feed programs for individual horses and entire stables alike. Pam is a retired teacher who enjoys her 'feed' job and her own stable of horses. (Some of you may have noticed Pam has a penchant for Drafts.)

Long Lining

Paul Hubley

Under the talented hands of Paul Hubley participants will watch a demonstration of the invaluable and underutilized skills and art of long lining. Paul will show us how long lining can be used from the introductory training of the horse through to teaching the horse high school movements. Long lining allows the horse to learn his sense of balance without putting any weight on the horse's back. Lunging the horse with long reins encourages the horse to drop his neck and learn to bring their hindquarters underneath the body and lift the back. The horse is encouraged to move forward, bend, and accept the bit as well as become accustomed to direct reining before mounting. In this manner the horse can be also put together if he is "acting up" a bit, or is too strong saving on the trainer/rider's strength.

Paul Hubley

Paul had his start with horses in Pony Club here in the Annapolis Valley. In the 60's Paul traveled to England and studied at the Talland School of Equitation and Cabbet Park. Here, working with instructors like Molly Siverwright F.E.I., John Lastater and Major Bolstien, 3 time rider for Sweden, Paul obtained his B.H.S.A.I. and B.S.H.I. (British Horse Society Assistant Instructor and British Horse Society Instructor)

Paul then went on to become the Assistant and then Advanced Instructor of the Potomac Horse Centre, US. He also worked with Betty Howett, F.E.I. and Margaret Gafford of Virginia under Reimer Klimke of Germany. Paul has spent over forty years working in both Europe and North America. In 1968 he qualified for the Canadian Olympic team long list for the 3 day eventing team. Over his career Paul has specialized in working mostly with 'problem' horses. A number of years ago Paul returned to Nova Scotia and has been working and training with young and problem horses in the Maritimes.

Saddle Fitting For Horse and Rider

Rachael Argo

In this session participants will discover why horses need properly fitted saddles.

The effect of a poorly fitted or inappropriate saddle fit is on horse and rider as well as the benefits of well fitted saddles for horse and rider.

Rachael will also cover common misconceptions and pitfalls in saddle buying and fitting.

Question and Answer.

Rachael Argo

Rachael Argo is a Society of Master Saddlers Qualified Saddler and qualified Saddle Fitter. She was privileged to be able to serve her apprenticeship with Master Saddler Andre Bubear who trained at the Household Cavalry and later became Master Saddler at the Metropolitan Police Mounted Branch in London, UK.

The apprenticeship takes 3 years to complete to become a SMS Qualified Saddler and then an additional 4 to become an SMS Master Saddler. Part of Rachael's and the formal exams were undertaken with Mark Romain at the Saddlery Training Centre in England during the first four years of her training.

Before becoming a saddler, Rachael worked as a professional groom at the International League For The Protection of Horses (ILPH) Rehabilitation Centre, Belwade Farm. Here she was able to work with top professionals from the fields of Farriery, veterinary medicine, orthopedics and physiotherapy. During this time she was promoted to the position of Head Groom and later became the Assistant Manager of Belwade overseeing a yard of between 60 and 100 horses and 8 staff.

When Rachael left the ILPH in 2005 she was presented with an award from Her Royal Highness Princess Anne for her dedication to equine welfare.

Rachael also teaches and rides. Her passion is Classical Dressage and the Iberian horse, in particular the Spanish horse. She has also started to ride her mare in Doma Vaquera which is the Spanish working style of riding.

Rachael and her husband have made their home in the Annapolis Valley where they have 3 dogs, and five horses in various stages of training.

Suggested Accommodations:

**Hobby Horse Farm
Spittal Rd. Coldbrook
Nova Scotia**

Description: There are a limited number of beds and cots available in the “Big House” where the conference is being held. Please bring your own bedding or sleeping bag and pillow. Various rooms can accommodate 1 to 4 people.
Non Smoking

Cost: \$30.00/pp/night

Contact: Leslie Wade (proprietor) 902 679 4538

**The Slumber Inn
Exit 12 off Highway 101
New Minas, Nova Scotia**

Description: In an effort to support this educational effort the management of the Slumber Inn has set aside two types of rooms for our participants at a magnificent rate. Rooms contain one queen size bed or two single beds. Max. 3 people per room.

**The Slumber Inn is approximately 12 minutes from Hobby Horse Farm.
Non smoking**

Cost: \$69.00/double occupancy/night + tax
Continental breakfast inc.

Contact: Registration Desk 902 681 5000

Inform the registration agent you are attending the Equine Education Conference and would like a room under the group booking:

Equine Educational Conference 2010

Dining Options Close By

Coldbrook

MacDonald's
Wendy's
Tim Horton's
Vicki's Seafood
Valley Pizza
Goldstar Restaurant
Subway
KFC
Kai-Wing Restaurant

Kentville

Kings Arm Pub
Rosie's Restaurant
Paddy's Brewpub
Pizazz Restaurant
(reservation required)

Gear Sale and Swap

A Sale and Swap table will be set up for participants to bring the extra horse things we all accumulate.

How it will work:

- All items must be **Clean** and in **Good Repair**
- All items must be 1.tagged with the information in this order: in this order 2.owner's name, 3. mailing address, 4. phone number, 5.email address and 6.price
- Bring items to the registration table when you register and a member of the organizational committee will escort your item to the sale table.
- A committee member will man the sale/swap table; receive/store monies and record sales when the table is open.
- Conference registrants are welcome to negotiate swaps with other participants. Please make sure that the swap is recorded by the committee member running the table to ensure all items are always accounted for.
- Monies can be picked up at the end of each day or the committee member may track you down and pay you throughout the day.
- Cash is the preferred method of payment.
- When removing unsold/swaped gear a committee member must be present to record removal
- If possible leaving gear until the end of the conference for retrieval is preferred.

The table will be open: **Saturday**

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

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Registration Form

Please print off and fill out a registration form for each individual attending

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Email _____
Phone _____ home _____ other _____
Student age ___ Parent/Guardian signature if under 18 _____

Registration postmarked February 3rd 2010 or before:

___ Weekend conference	___ student	\$ 150.00	___ adult	\$ 175.00
___ Saturday only	___ student	\$ 90.00	___ adult	\$ 105.00
___ Sunday only	___ student	\$ 75.00	___ adult	\$ 85.00

Registration postmarked February 4th to closing date February 15th 2010

___ Weekend Conference	___ student	\$ 175.00	___ adult	\$ 190.00
___ Saturday only	___ student	\$ 100.00	___ adult	\$ 115.00
___ Sunday only	___ student	\$ 85.00	___ adult	\$ 95.00

Please check off applicable registration weekend or day, student or adult
as listed above and fill in amount here` \$ _____

Vegetarian meal required, please check if yes : yes _____

Food allergies please list: _____

Cheques payable to: Equine Education Conference

Mail to: Equine Education Conference
C/O Deanna Johnston
67 Welch Rd., Wolfville
Nova Scotia B4P 2R1