



The Riding Centre News

THE RIDING CENTRE • 1117 E. HYDE RD., YELLOW SPRINGS, OH 45387 • WWW.RIDINGCENTRE.ORG • SPRING 2012

'Mary Ann's Fund' to Benefit Riding Centre

By Marsha Casdorff and Lynda Hardman

To honor the life of former village resident Mary Ann Alexander, a fund to benefit young equine enthusiasts has been set up at the Yellow Springs Community Credit Union. The purpose of the fund is to assist budding equestrians, who may otherwise not be able to afford it, in starting or continuing riding lessons from the capable staff at the Riding Centre.

Mary Ann, the daughter of Roberta, Jim and Virginia Alexander, had a life-long passion for all creatures, but in particular for horses. She began riding lessons at the Riding Centre under the watchful eye of

The purpose of the fund is to assist budding equestrians

Louise Soelberg in the early 1960's at the age of 8 or 9. By the time she was a pre-teen, she had her own horse, "Colt," who was the mother of "Billy," one of the Riding Centre's long-time lesson horses and a student favorite. In young adulthood, Mary Ann worked for many equine facilities in the area, including Whitehall Farm, Gayhart Farm, Bill and Elaine Brown's stable, Glenview Farm, and the former Windy Knoll Farm. Her calm and quiet demeanor, as well as her meticulous record keeping and keen eye, ensured that any horse in her guardianship would get the best possible care and attention it deserved.

Mary Ann left Yellow Springs in the early 1990's, heading to the Millbrook, New York area, once again to pursue work with horses. Millbrook is well known as a "horsey" community with many prominent dressage and hunter/jumper farms, and Mary Ann and her friend, Trish Helmer, quickly fit in and



Mary Ann Alexander, ca. 1993

made many new friends. They even traveled with a client's horses to Holland for several months, of course taking Mary Ann's beloved German Shepherd, Mikey, with them in their adventures overseas.

Mary Ann's life was tragically cut short by illness in January of 2001. Her many friends in Yellow Springs and Millbrook honor her life by setting up this benefit fund that will hopefully help many young horse lovers in the area as they begin to hone their riding skills at the Riding Centre just like Mary Ann did over 40 years ago.

In 2011, all proceeds from the Riding Centre's always successful Ride-A-Thon were placed in Mary Ann's Fund. This money will be used to provide scholarships to schools that bring special needs students to the Riding Centre's therapeutic riding program. Mary Ann's Fund scholarships will allow schools having financial difficulty to continue to participate in this worthwhile program. Proceeds from Mary Ann's Fund will also be used

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Centered Riding® at the Riding Centre

By Marsha Casdorff

Centered Riding techniques can help riders discover how to use their bodies better for improved balance and harmony between horse and rider. For the past eight years, the Riding Centre has hosted spring and fall Centered Riding clinics with Level III Centered Riding clinician, Elaine Meredith Steele. These clinics are used as fundraisers, with all proceeds going to the Riding Centre. This year, the spring clinic will be on May 5-6, and the fall clinic will be on October 20-21.

Along with these fundraising Centered Riding clinics, the Riding Centre is also excited to host an Open Centered Riding/Jumping Clinic with world renowned clinician, Susan E. Harris, on July 7-8. Susan is an international clinician, riding teacher, equestrian author, and artist from Cortland, New York. She has taught all seats and styles of riding and has trained, shown, and prepared horses and riders for competition in many equestrian disciplines, including hunters, jumpers, dressage, equitation, eventing, western pleasure and performance, saddle seat, and the pleasure and versatility breeds.

A senior Centered Riding instructor and clinician, Susan apprenticed with Sally Swift, the founder of Centered Riding. She teaches clinics in Centered Riding and in horse gaits, balance, and movement for instructors, trainers, judges, and riders of all levels and riding interests.

Susan is also the author and illustrator of popular horse books, including *Horsemanship in Pictures*; *Horse Gaits, Balance, and Movement*; *Grooming to Win*; the three U.S. Pony Club Manuals of *Horsemanship*; and the USPC Guides to *Longeing, Bandaging, and Conformation*. She writes a regular column in the publication, *Equus*, called "Commonsense Horsemanship with Susan Harris." With Peggy Brown, she produced two DVDs:

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Mary Ann's Fund

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to provide therapeutic riding scholarships to a group of veterans who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Participation in the Ride-A-Thon was great, with over half of our weekly students joining in the fun by gathering pledges and navigating their way through ten challenging riding skills. We wish to thank the following participants:

McKenna	Ally McCue
Banazak-Moore	Harper & Windom
Kasey Baugh	Measure
Olivia and Zack	Anna Mullin
Brintlinger-Conn	Hillary & Kaitlyn Quast
Spencer Christie	Forrest & Meredith Rowe
Maddy Combs	Joel Shaffer
Lela Dewey	Maritza Slattery
Isabelle E llis	Kathleen Spencer
Abby Graver	Lizzie Stoermer
Kayla Helmick	Sydney Trimbach
Lydia Holmes	Beck Wagner
Grace Jacobs	Marya Weigand
Jaden Johnson	Stephanie Welch
MaKenna Jones	Anna Williamson
Lyndsey Kissell	Brielle Willis
Hanna Lawson	Sara Zendlovitz
Jaden Mahle	
Evan Martin	

If anyone wishes to donate to Mary Ann's Fund, checks may be made payable to The Riding Centre, 1117 E. Hyde Road, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387. Donations may also be made online at www.riding-centre.org. Please add a note to designate the donation "for Mary Ann's Fund." All donations are tax deductible, and a receipt will be sent to the donor. 🐾

Did you Re-Member?

Have you renewed your membership for 2012? For insurance purposes, no one outside the lesson program is allowed to ride on Riding Centre property unless they are a current member. This includes guests. A guest membership can be purchased for \$10 a day.

Riding Centre property includes the McCally Barn and arena, the hunt field, the woods beside the hunt field, and the commons area. **A helmet must be worn at all times while mounted on Riding Centre property.**

Fundraising: Behind the Scenes

By Janetta Lewis

2011 marked another successful year of fundraising at the Riding Centre. Let's take a closer look at the work that goes into that success.

The Spring and Fall Hunter and Dressage Shows are always well-attended by members of the local horse community. Carolyn Bailey starts working on these shows by attending meetings of the Dayton Local Show Circuit. Riding Centre show dates are coordinated with other barns, judges are picked, rules are set and programs are printed.

Once in order, Carolyn and volunteers begin preparing the Centre for contestants, fans, and any visitors just looking to spend their afternoons in the sunshine. Judges and concessions must be booked, ribbons ordered, jump courses planned,

stalling arranged and volunteers placed. Charleen Carlson takes care of setting ride times for the dressage shows.

Some volunteers paint the jumps and set up the dressage arena, others tidy up the Centre for the events, and others organize the tack sale.

On the day of the shows, volunteers work as score keepers, scribes, gate keepers, runners, announcers, ring stewards, entry and registration desk attendants, ribbon givers, etc. Also on hand is the tractor, ready to pull out any trailer that gets stuck.

At the end of each weekend, what went up, must come down. Those with any energy left clean the stalls, pick up the pasture and sort trash for recycling. When the sun sets over the pasture, everyone returns home knowing that all of this hard work goes into making the Riding Centre the special place that it is.



Centered Riding®

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Anatomy in Motion™ I: The Visible Horse, and Anatomy in Motion II: The Visible Rider™. Susan designed the art for the Breyer "Anatomy in Motion" model horse and has illustrated many popular horse books.

Susan's study of equine and human anatomy and movement as an artist and as an equestrian has given her a unique perspective on how horses and riders balance and move together. Susan's knowledge of horse gaits and movement and wide experience in various breeds and disciplines enable her to help all kinds of riders and horses improve their balance, comfort, movement, and performance. Her friendly and positive teaching style and visual approach help to make learning clear, understandable, and enjoyable for English and Western riders of all ages and levels.

For more information about these clinics, please go to our website: www.riding-centre.org or contact Marsha Casdorff at mlcasdorff@sbcglobal.net. 🐾

The Riding Centre

STAFF MEMBERS:

Carolyn Bailey, *Manager and Head Instructor*

Carly Bailey, Regina Brecha, Marsha Casdorff, Greg Fry, Yana Garing, Jody Garrett, Ona Harshaw, Adriene Kramer, Janetta Lewis, Zoey McKinley, Grace McCoskey, Emily Moore, Jim Nealon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Janetta Lewis, *President*
Jim Nealon, *Vice President*
Marsha Casdorff, *Secretary*
Charlene Carlson, Vikki Hazelbaker, Sylvia Ellison, and Regan Parker

NEWSLETTER:

Editor: Jim Nealon
Contributors: Carolyn Bailey, Marsha Casdorff, Janetta Lewis, Lynda Hardman, Adriene Kramer
Design & Production: Matt Minde

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(937) 767-9087 • www.ridingcentre.org



Hot dogs? Bogey ponders the concessions stand menu at the Riding Centre's horse show last year.

It's a Dog's (& Cat's) Life

By Marsha Casdorff
for Bogey

There are so many facets of the Riding Centre: the members, the students, the workers, the horses. Did you know the Riding Centre is also home to other animals besides horses, including four cats and a very special dog? If you don't already know him, we'd like to take this chance to introduce him, in his own words. Don't forget to visit him and the other animals when you come by!

Hi, my name is Bogey, and I live at the Riding Centre. (I'm the extremely handsome black and white dog who officially greets all visitors to the Riding Centre!) I was asked to tell you a little bit about myself, so here goes! First of all, I'm a mutt, but I am for sure related to Labrador retrievers and border collies, among others. I'm not sure about my age, but Carolyn thinks I'm either 11 or 12 years old now. By the way, Carolyn is my favorite person. She's the one who found me and brought me here.

I came to the Riding Centre in the fall of 2004 from a dog rescue (thank you, Carolyn!). I really don't remember much before then. I'm sure I had a good life though, because I'm so handsome, smart,

and well educated! I can even roll over on command, but I have a little trouble listening when I help with the horses. (I'm not "chasing" them, I'm herding them, Carolyn!)

I live in the temperature-controlled tack room all year long, with my best cat buds Twilight, Hobo, and Elliot. (I keep them on their toes and well exercised by "running" after them, but it's all in fun!) My job is to keep an eye on everything that goes on at the Centre, whether I'm out patrolling the paddocks or keeping my friends company while they do the morning and evening barn chores.

I especially like the kids who come to ride. They pet me and give me treats, which I greatly appreciate. I, in turn, help them catch their horses and watch for the UPS truck to drive by so I can tell it to keep on moving!

My hobbies are chasing Cypress (she loves it!), lying in the sun, lying in the shade, begging for food, and chasing Fluffin (he loves it!). My favorite thing about living at the Riding Centre is getting to meet all the kids, grown-ups, horses, and other animals who come by.

I feel like the luckiest dog in the world! 🐾

Our List of Contributors...

...and how you can join it!

- Adopt a Horse (yearly)\$1200
- Adopt a Dog (yearly)\$50
- Adopt a Cat (yearly)\$35

- Donate towards:**
- Endowment, Buildings,
 - Special Projects,
 - General Fund.....(Any amount)

- Become a Member**
- Lifetime\$500
 - Corporate (yearly)\$1000
 - Blue Ribbon (yearly)\$100
 - Supporting (yearly).....\$25

- Riding:**
- Family (yearly).....\$100
 - Individual (yearly)\$75

Special thanks to:
Brad Luckenbill, Brett Ellis, Kenny Hoyle, Ralph Jones, and Allen Metz who keep our horses up and running. Also, Cedarville University for providing volunteers for our therapeutic program. Without these folks we could not do such wonderful work.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lifetime Members | Marsha Williamson |
| Andi Adkins | Nora & Patty Erhardt |
| Mary Agna | Sara & Yana Garing |
| Jessica L. Andrews | Mark French & Jim Nealon |
| Adrian & Joysan Edwards | |
| Pat Funderburg | Individual: |
| Vikki & Dale | Deborah Almashy |
| Hazelbaker | Annette Biehler |
| Adriene Kramer | Jenna Boettcher |
| Nina Myatt | Bev Brown |
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| Jean McCally-Tebay | Ann Cooper |
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| Ron Hampton | Wagner Subaru |
| Hewitt Packard | Keith Watson MD |
| IHS Pharmacy & Wellness Center | Wibso, Inc. |

A 'Special' retirement

By Sylvia Ellison

Special is retiring from the Riding Centre. She was the kind, gentle introduction to horseback riding for many children. Several years ago, our younger son, Harper, began riding during a school field trip. Each spring, Mills Lawn Intervention Specialist Pat Spracklen takes students from her class to six assisted therapeutic riding lessons at the Riding Centre. For Harper, this was a daunting and exciting opportunity. Getting up on horseback for the first time was an enjoyable success due to Miss Carolyn's expert guidance and Special's welcoming nature. That first positive riding experience was something to build on, and Harper is still riding today.



'Special' retires from the Centre this year.

Though Harper has now ridden almost all the other class horses, Special will always be, well, special, as the first horse to welcome him into the saddle.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

(continued from Page 3)

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- Yellow Springs News
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- Bonnie Knuckles
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- Beth & Jeff Kreidenweis
- Shirley Kristensen

New for 2012! Day-long clinics

Adriene Kramer is excited to offer one day clinics at the Riding Centre! All of the five clinics will be on Sundays throughout the year. Each clinic will incorporate a special theme to correspond with the

season, as well as an emphasis on Centered Riding® concepts. For more information and the registration form, please go to the Events page on Adriene's website: www.adrienekramer.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 5-6	Centered Riding® Clinic
June 2	Hunter Show
June 3	Dressage Show
July 7-8	Susan Harris Clinic
September 22	Dressage Show
October 20-21	Centered Riding Clinic
December 2	Riding Centre Association Members' Meeting & Potluck

For Dayton Local Show Circuit dates, call the Riding Centre at (937) 767-9087

THE RIDING CENTRE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

Yellow Springs Community Council, United Way, Glen Helen Ecology Institute, Springfield Foundation, Dayton Foundation, Springfield Rotary Club, Morgan Family Foundation, and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation



Springfield Foundation
For good. For ever.

