

Giuseppe's Gazette May 2020

Greetings from Giuseppe! It's nice to be out of blankets and sheets and be able to roll in the mud! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!) Everybody is getting dirty, even me! And that means that it's warm enough for baths! I don't know why our people bother, the first chance we get we're out there rolling again! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

Remember, May 10th is Mother's Day – to the adults - don't forget to thank your mom for the great job she's done. People who are into animals and us equines are terrific! And, to all the kids – thank your mom for introducing you to the wonderful world of us equines! So, remember the treats for your moms and us equines! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

We're hoping that the lockdown will be over soon and we will be seeing more of our friends. We thought it would be fun to share what we can learn from our animal friends so we have lists of what one can learn from our dog and cat friends. The three most important things that you can learn from donkeys are:

1. Have a distinctive, recognizable and loud voice! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw)
2. One good roll always deserves another! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)
3. One good treat deserves another! And another! And another! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw)

We received a great email from one of our Oxbow alumnae. *Sophie Dean* and her sister, *Elizabeth* were members of the Oxbow Riding Club and the Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club. They credit their involvement with us in helping them get into college. (They both graduated from Mt. Holyoke). Elizabeth was president in 2003-'04 and was a member for 5 years. Sophia was president in 2004-'05 and 2005-'06 and was a member for 6 years. Sophia reached out to Tara to express her appreciation for the great times she had at the barn.

Hi Tara!

I know it's been years and years, but I wanted to reach out and say hi!

It's taken me a long time to get back to it after Tecca (their horse) died - but I'm finally riding horses again. I am now living out in Idyllwild, California, I'm married, and working at an animal sanctuary. I am riding mostly western right now and helping a friend of mine train her three BLM mustangs. I've somehow turned into a mountain cowgirl, ha-ha.

The reason I'm emailing, aside from saying hi and that I hope you're doing well is because with my return to riding a lot of memories of Oxbow have been resurfacing.

I wanted to say that I am so grateful for everything you did for me throughout my time at Oxbow. The experience was one of the most defining elements of my life. I attribute my overly zealous work ethic, my blunt/no-nonsense attitude, and my strong leadership skills entirely to the Saturday Program, 4-H, and regular lessons with you.

The more experience I gain of the world, the more I realize that Oxbow was truly a unique and special place. You treated us like adults, held us to high standards, and yet allowed us to goof off and have fun. I loved everything about Oxbow and was so sad as things changed and friendships ended over time. But regardless of where we all are now - I wanted to just convey to you how appreciative I am for everything you did.

I keep trying to explain to my husband, Thomas, what my life was like on a daily basis at Oxbow. He was astonished that every week you'd create intricate spread sheets - The Schedule - for us to use throughout the day. There are so many things that, as a kid, I didn't truly appreciate that you did to corral us all together but now I see the immense amount of work that it all took.

I hope all is well. I'm always curious as to which horses are still around at Oxbow - I'm sure some of them are still alive

and still amazing school horses.

I plan on coming out to the East Coast in May for my 10 year college reunion and was hoping to make a stop by at Oxbow to say hi. Please let me know if that would be okay and if you'll be around. I hope to hear back soon!

Best,
Sophia

[So, that's why we do what we do! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)]

May Birthdays

Greetings go out to Riddle (4), Legacy (9), Andrew Montaro (17), Darby Callahan (24), and GIUSEPPE (27)!

Spring Calendar

6/7	Tara Bowles XC Clinic	6/27	Gymkhana & Barbecue
6/21	Oxbow Show / Closing Date: 6/11	6/29	Session #1 of the Summer Program

Our Condolences

Our condolences go out to Darby Callahan who had to have Starbeam put down on March 29th. She would have been 32 years old on June 17th!

Calling all volunteers

As of right now, we're planning on holding our show in June; that's **June 21st**. We'll be holding all three phases: dressage, show jumping and cross country. Horse Trials require a lot of volunteers because of cross country. We need your help!

What's a horse trials, you ask? It used to be called "Combined Training" and now is called "Eventing". Originally used to train horses for the military, it is very much like a triathlon, with three phases. The first phase is the dressage test, the second is the cross country and the third is show jumping. Cross country may be run before or after show jumping.

What makes this competition so "volunteer intensive" is the cross country phase. Ridden outside of the arena, horses and riders gallop and jump over natural terrain. They may encounter such natural obstacles as water, banks and drops. A "fence judge" is needed at individual obstacles because it's not possible to see all the obstacles from one vantage point. It's a fun job and not difficult. One doesn't need any special expertise.

So, plan to come out and help on **June 21st**. You'll have fun. I promise! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

Gymkhana & Barbecue

Come join us on **June 29th** for our last day of the school year Saturday Program. We'll have a fun barbecue and gymkhana. And, of course, the best gymkhana race stars me – post-a-part on the donkey! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

Summer Program

We are getting calls for our summer program which starts on **June 29th**. Check the 2020 Schedule for specific weeks or give Tara a call, (973-903-3722).

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM A DOG



Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

Take naps and stretch before rising.

Run, romp and play daily.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig for it

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

Thrive on attention and let people hug you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout – run right back and make friends.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.



ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM MY CAT



Life is hard, and then you nap.

Curiosity never killed anything except maybe a few hours.

When in doubt, cop an attitude.

Variety is the spice of life: one day ignore people, the next day annoy them.



Climb your way to the top – that’s why the drapes are there.

Never sleep alone when you can sleep on someone’s face.

Find your place in the sun - especially if it happens to be on that nice pile of warm, clean laundry.

Make your mark in the world – or at least spray in each corner.

When eating out, think nothing of sending back your meal 20 or 30 times.

If you’re not receiving enough attention, try knocking over several expensive antique lamps.

Always give generously – a small bird or rodent left on the bed tells them. “I care”.

Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club

Since we shouldn’t be getting together in the same room, we’re not having any 4-H meetings at this time. Please continue to work on your public presentations at home so you’ll be ready to go when we can get back together. Remember, stay healthy, wash your hands and practice social distancing – that’s one horse length apart or two ponies apart!

Kimie Coscia
Reporter

4-H Schedule

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Quotes of the Month

“The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but to reveal to him his own.”

- B. Disraeli

