

## Giuseppe's Gazette September 2020

Greetings from Giuseppe! Can't believe its September already! The weather is still saying its summer and with the pandemic still upon us school is a bit strange with kids learning virtually or going to school part of the week or a bit of both! What is not strange is coming to the barn and visiting with all your friends and bringing them treats! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

Our Equestrian of the month is **Melissa Sinopoli**. Melissa has really made great progress with her riding and jumping this summer. She and her boy, Legacy, participated in the **Boyd Martin** clinic at Kim Clouse's stable in Lafayette on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Boyd Martin is an Olympic rider in Eventing). Melissa and another rider jumped some stadium fences before heading out to the cross country jumps. She and Legacy really made us proud. They jumped everything that was asked of them as if they had been doing it all along. Great job!

On August 9<sup>th</sup> the duo journeyed to the Ridge Show in Asbury and won the Reserve Championship in the Teeny Tiny Jumper Division. I think we can move Legacy up now, Melissa. You and he are a great team! (Heehaw! Heehaw! Heehaw!)

### September Birthdays

Our best wishes for a very happy birthday go out to Mackenzie Nelson (2), Pola Gospodarzec (5), Barbara Nabors (12), Caprice Tanis (15), Ron Mangin (23), Michael Page (23), Michelle OKeefe (25), Robin Shore (25).

### September Anniversaries

Our best wishes go out to Kevin Arthur (1999), Hannah Bedel-Franklin (2014), Megan Calkin (2015), Ron Mangin (2013), Nancy Nelson (2014), Val Stigler (2011), Karen Soscia (2018)

### Early Fall Calendar

9/7	Labor Day	9/22	First Day of Autumn
9/12	Oxbow Riding Club Fall Program Begins	10/24	Halloween Party
9/13	Oxbow Show (Closing Date: 9/3)	10/25	Oxbow Show (Closing Date: 10/15)

### Interesting & Fun Dates

9/4	National Wildlife Day	9/22	National Elephant Appreciation Day
9/6	National Read A Book Day	9/22	National Ice Cream Cone Day
9/13	National Grandparents Day	9/30	National Love People Day
9/16	National Guacamole Day		

### Oxbow riding Club

The Oxbow Riding Club, aka the Saturday Program has a few openings. If you'd like to join our fun group, please let us know. Registration is ongoing, but we do have a maximum number we can take. Our first session is Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> but you can join at any time. Give Tara a call (973-903-3722).

### August Show

We had another fun show on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Kari Allen judged dressage with **Darby Callahan** stewarding and **Philippa Bowles** scribing.

**Marilia Tanis** scored dressage. **Jo Iacono** judged stadium jumping. **Melissa Sinopoli** was our Stadium Course Designer and **Barbara Nabors, Nancy Nelson, Dave Chauvin** and **Ty Tanis**, our Stadium Crew. **Melissa Sinopoli** was our Cross Country Starter and **Joe & Ela McAdams, Bob Mulligan, Nancy Nelson** and **Melissa Sinopoli** were our cross country judges. A big thank you to everyone who helped out. We literally couldn't have done it without you! The Results:

The Results:

Elementary Horse Trials

**1<sup>st</sup> Capri Tanis & Mariposa (33.800)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sandra Schwinzer & Kontraband (33.800)

3<sup>rd</sup> Eliminated

Individual Tests

**Melissa Sinopoli & Legacy [BN-A] (68.800)**

Heather Bath & Fergie [T-1] (63.200)

Sandra Schwinzer & Kontraband [I-C] (65.200)

Ashley Rosendale & Wesley [I-A] (57.300)

Ashley Rosendale & Wesley [I-B] (60.300)

Combined Tests

1<sup>st</sup> Meg Colaianni & Old Army [BN] (29.500)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Nabors & Loki [N] (37.400)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sophia Kucinski & Ethel's a Heartbreaker [PS] (45.300)

**4<sup>th</sup> Barbara Nabors & Loki [BN] (52.500)**

5<sup>th</sup> Eliminated

Fix-A-Test

Jen Kostiv & Prospero [I-C] (1<sup>st</sup> Test: 63.500), (2<sup>nd</sup> Test: 70.00)

**Hodges Badge Company Contest**

Hodges Badge Company is the company we use for our ribbons and awards. Go to their website at <http://www.hodgesbadge.com/covercontest> to get details on their annual equestrian photo cover contest. The Grand Prize is \$2500 and there are 10 Honorable Mentions of \$100. The winning photo will be the cover of their 2021 catalogue and the honorable mention photos are used throughout the catalogue. The photo has to contain a Hodges ribbon, of course.

**Giuseppe Jottings**

The following is an article written by Anne Gribbons for the *Chronicle of the Horse*. (Anne is an international Grand Prix Dressage rider).

**RIDING STARTS WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION**

Watching a new generation of dressage riders come along, I cannot help but notice that in spite of all our efforts to educate, help out and sponsor our up-and-coming riders, the final results are almost entirely dependent on having a firm base on which to build.

We all know a house without a foundation simply won't withstand the trials of nature. This image has been used a lot in sermons, but it applies to success in sports, as well as to a healthy spiritual life. Looking back on my own education, I was lucky to have been firmly in the grip of my cavalry officer grandfather and a riding school that left no stone unturned to torture the uninitiated.

Of course, I didn't appreciate the strong discipline back then, especially their obsession with establishing the correct seat and being sure the horse was "on the aids." We riders weren't allowed to start jumping before we'd been fully approved through all the longe lessons and had proven our proficiency at all gaits, plus transitions and basic lateral work.

It seemed to take forever before the much-longed-for jumping equipment was brought out and we could get on with life!

After years in Sweden and some on Long Island (NY) competing in eventing and jumping, I met Col. Bengt Ljungquist at the Potomac Horse Center in Maryland. From there on, I was on a solid dressage track, blessed with the most consistent, honest and all-forgiving teacher. But after eight years of guiding us, Bengt died, and little did I realize how much I had taken him for granted.

When we lost Bengt, I thought in my youthful insolence that I could fly it alone, but, really, I was lost in space. Eventually it became obvious to me that the more advanced hour horse becomes, the more you need an instructor.

Without that ‘human mirror’ to correct or prevent your mistakes, you’ll never get the instant input you need to improve.

Since then, I’ve enjoyed a lot of wonderful assistance from major players and big names, but none could exceed what Bengt and the old cavalry guys put in me when it was so crucial. Ever since, I’ve been able to build, add, improve and even change a few things, but I’ve never felt as if any of the new information would rip the ground out from under me or cause a meltdown.

Sticking with it is the key. Not every day is going to be glorious, or even tolerable; nor is every lesson going to create revelations. Consistency, persistence and a view of the big picture are essential.

What about talent? It’s been said before, but I’ll say it again: Talent without passion and determination is a complete waste of time.

But even mediocre aptitude can be developed to unimaginable heights with the right combination of student, horse and teacher. I have had all kinds of students, and the most frustrating is not the one who struggles, but the student who has it all and can’t be bothered to put in the work. Talent helps, but it will never bring you to the top.

After you have found your niche, the one that works for you, don’t become impatient. Remember that all good things take time, and that everything you learn is yours to keep.

Stay loyal to yourself and to the people who honestly want to support you. Live with the setbacks, and don’t blame your trainer or your horse for your own shortcomings. And, one day when you reach your star, don’t forget to thank the people who believed in you, who gave you a leg up when you knew nothing.

When I was in my mid-20’s, I knew everything. Since then, I’ve come to understand, as the late, great Jimmy Williams is rumored to have said, “It’s what you learn after you know it all that’s important.”

### Giuseppe Jottings

The following article is by Sue Hersey (Co-Chair of the USEA Instructors’ Certification Program) for the *Eventing USA Magazine*.

#### MAGIC MOMENTS – THE ARTS OF RIDING AND INSTRUCTING

What is a “magic moment” of riding? If you are a rider, you know that it is a moment when the sorcery of your aids produces improved relaxation, impulsion, straightness, adjustability, performance, or understanding –i.e. quality!-in your horse.

Such magic moments are most likely to take place when you understand and put into practice the basic principles of riding used by effective and humane riders and instructors, current and past. Through study and practice, these principles have been identified, analyzed, and articulated as a system of general truths: they are the basis of the science of riding and of riding instruction. Today, these principles are well represented for both riders and instructors – for dressage particularly by the German Equestrian Federation books and for jumping particularly by eventing riders and instructors like Karen O’ Connor, Mark Phillips, Jim Wofford and Blyth Tait.

But for many of us, even knowing and understanding these general truths of effective riding are not enough to yield magic riding moments every day. So, what makes them difficult to achieve?

Individuality of rider and horse, precise placement and timing and strength of aids, difficulty of challenges, lack of experience – all of these combine into a real-life mixture of factors that complicate the selection and correct implementation of the best next training exercise. For example, just knowing the importance of relaxation, looseness, acceptance of the aids for flatwork or of balance and impulsion for jumping work is not necessarily enough to yield a real breakthrough for a particular rider on a particular horse on a particular day.

(To be continued in the October newsletter)

### Oxbow Raiders 4-H Club

Rutgers University, which runs 4-H in New Jersey, has suspended all activity because of the pandemic. We will have more news next month as to when things will be starting up again.

### Why Goodness matters

Words are mere bubbles of water, but deeds are drops of gold.

- Chinese Proverb

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If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

- Mother Theresa

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Happiness and love are just a choice away.

- Leo Buscaglia

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Success means we go to sleep at night knowing that our talents and abilities were used in a way that served others.

- Marianne Williamson

