



MCTA *Maryland* Eventing Newsletter

Spring 2010

MCTA MEMBERS DONATE HELMETS TO MONGOLIAN CHILDREN

By Leslie Bertram

Last year, MCTA lifetime member Ruth Frey was de-cluttering her barn, after having occupied it for a very long time along with her sister Mardi, who had recently



Ruth Frey at the MCTA Banquet

passed. While sorting through what she describes as “90 combined years’ worth of accumulated horse stuff,” she uncovered a growing assortment of riding helmets of various vintages that had not seen the sun in years. Knowing she could not sell them, despite their good condition, she resigned herself

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can't believe we have had snow on the ground for a month. Some are lucky and have indoors, other are either waiting for spring, went south before the snow, or are walking/jogging the plowed paths legging up their horses. We all have hopes we can compete again by April. Ruth's calendar of activities is the biggest it has ever been and we have been experimenting with Google calendar as well. Give us your thoughts, we are eager to hear from you! There are so many options to choose from every weekend within a few hours drive. Did you make a New Year's resolution to be more confident and consistent in quality this year? Consider some cross training to make the pennies go further and our eventing experiences more successful. The dressage test are new this year, so consider doing your tests 2x at a dressage show to work out the timing. The comments from the judges make for great homework assignments. Always getting a rail in show jumping? Consider some of the jumper shows where you can jump multiple rounds at different heights. Consider not for speed, but for control, accuracy, and keeping the rails up. Horses ridden in the indoors all winter are sometimes a bit frisky when they do their first events of the season. I hate to see people getting bucked off or run away with. Consider a Hunter Pace where you can go for an hour or so with a buddy around a much longer XC course at a much slower pace and in company so he does want to run home. Looking forward to Spring! Chris D.

MCTA MEMBER WINS USEA WORTH THE TRUST SCHOLARSHIP

By Leslie Bertram

One phone call turned “an ordinary day into a memorable one!”

MCTA member Anna Schmitt, 19, of Parkton, MD said she received the call during a break between classes at school. When she learned she had won the USEA Worth the Trust Young Adult Scholarship, she said, “I wasn't even nervous about the exam that I had been stressing about having to take that afternoon,

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Anna Schmitt and Liam competing at MCTA Jenny Camp HT

Worth the Trust Scholarship

because I was so excited about having won the scholarship."

While recuperating from an injury last winter, Anna was reading and re-reading a lot of horse books and magazines when she saw the article written by the winner of the 2009 Adult Amateur Scholarship in the USEA magazine. Since she was on winter break and her injuries prevented her from riding, she decided to apply. "It occurred to me that while I actually had the time to write the entry essay, applying for the scholarship would be a really good opportunity to further my education."

Liam is Anna's primary ride, a dun Connemara cross gelding she bought 4 years ago as a project. "He was a bit of a terror when I got him," she admitted. "I could barely keep him under control outside of a ring, he spooked at everything, and wouldn't jump anything." It took about a year, then something seemed to click. "I think all he needed was someone who would make everything very clear, and give him something else to think about besides how nervous he was," Anna said. "He's really come around a lot now, and enjoys his job."

Anna and Liam won the Junior Novice Rider division at MCTA HT at Shawan Downs in 2008, and placed respectably at Training level at Morven Park, Waredaca and Fair Hill in 2009. They are also a familiar pair at local dressage shows.

Anna plans to use the \$3000 scholarship to continue taking dressage and jumping lessons with her coaches, and attend clinics with such notables as

Sharon White, Stephen Bradley, and Jimmy Wofford. "It will just be such a thrill to be able to get some new insights as well as having more consistent lessons so that I can make more steady progress," says Anna. "I'm also so excited just to be able to take advantage of some of the clinics and things that I have seen in the past that were always too much of an extravagance to be able to participate in."

Balancing a busy academic life with horses "can definitely be a challenge sometimes, especially during the spring and fall when the horse trials really pick up," Anna says. "Sometimes I feel like I spend more time driving around to the barn, lessons and horse trials than I do riding!" She admits to being very organized, and "a bit of an obsessive list maker."

Anna hopes to compete at Prelim in the fall, stressing "my most important goal is to stay safe." Anna will graduate in 2011 with a degree in business, but says, "I'm really hoping to put off joining the real world for a year and try the working student thing, and I guess I'll see where that takes me."

The **Worth the Trust Scholarship** was founded by Joan Iverson Goswell, owner of retired eventer "Worth the Trust" who among the many accomplishments of his storied career won Rolex K3D in 1997 with Karen O'Connor. For information about the Worth the Trust Scholarship visit www.useventing.com.

DITCH THE WINTER BLUES!

By Samantha Allan and
Jennifer Clover

The excitement is growing as the first bits of warmer weather are signaling to us that the event season is almost upon us. The problem is that with the winter we have had, most of the cross country schooling areas are closed at the moment. If you are lucky, you have been stuck in an indoor, or if not, practicing in the mud of the melting snow. This exercise is a fun change of pace to bring some cross country into your show jumping area.



Jennifer Clover on "Sam Slick"

When we just can't get out and practice over real ditches, we like to pull out the fake ditch and jump them in the ring! It is very easy and the exercise can then be made into a trahkaner, ditch and wall, suddo coffin and even a liverpool for more experienced horses. You will need two poles that are at least 10 feet in length and two standards to start with. The ditch itself can be made out of pieces of cardboard, plywood, or any firm but pliable plastic, much like the plastic temporary

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Mongolian Helmet Drive, continued from page 1

that they would likely soon occupy a place in the local landfill. Ruth was hoping for a better resolution, and it came in the form of a message from a friend, who told her about a Letter to the Editor in the April 2009 issue of *Equus Magazine*: an appeal for equestrian headgear by a Peace Corps worker in Mongolia.

While working at the Baruun-Urt Children's Development Center, volunteer Alex Yang wrote about the annual Naadam Festival during which 30,000 child jockeys compete in a traditional horse race over 12 to 28 kilometers. She wrote: "... countless children embark on these races without proper protective gear, such as helmets." Alex requested anyone able to send "any functional used helmets or [donation of] a new helmet" to contact her.

Ruth carefully clipped the letter, holding it until later in the summer. When she tried the email address that appeared in the letter, she discovered a gracious and enthusiastic Alex Yang on the other side of the world. So began an interesting dialog, and Ruth shipped her nine spare helmets to her new friend overseas.

When Ruth brought her story to the MCTA executive board, her colleagues enthusiastically agreed to support the cause, deciding the club's annual banquet in January would provide an excellent drop-off and collection venue for helmets. MCTA past president Connie Bison arranged with Troxel to partner with MCTA to provide helmets at a special price for members to purchase for donation. At the MCTA Annual Banquet, more than 50 helmets were donated. A few days later, a special display was included in the MCTA booth at HorseWorld Expo by coordinator Lexa Hubbard.

Alex shares photos with her contacts, and shares our photos with the children she serves in Mongolia. She said, "I'm constantly surprised by how enthusiastic people are in helping with this project."

For information about the **Horse Helmets for Children** project visit
<http://www.advancehumanity.com/peacecorps/buhorsehelmets>.

GEAR UP FOR THE SEASON WITH A HUNTER PACE

A Hunter Pace defined. A hunter pace is a low-key competitive event derived from foxhunting. Teams of two or three riders follow an outdoor course laid out over terrain which is meant to simulate the riding conditions encountered during a foxhunt - that is, a mixture of gaits that a foxhunter typically uses as a fox's scent is found and followed by hounds through open country and along wooded trails. There is no set length for a hunter pace course, although courses are typically 5-10 miles and can take up to two hours to complete.

It is up to each team to guess what the organizers of the pace have decided is an ideal time to complete the course and to adjust its progress accordingly. The ideal time is determined by sending out one or more test teams to ride the course before the event. On the day of the event, the team which completes the course in a time closest to the ideal is placed first. Most hunter paces are divided into two divisions, with different ideal times based on experience. Although jumps are found along the course, taking them are usually optional. Even though there is a competitive aspect to a hunter pace, most riders simply regard it as an enjoyable way to spend a day in the countryside with their mounts and congenial company. The placings are almost secondary. *-From Foothills Equestrian Nature Center*
<http://www.fence.org/equestrian-center/disciplines/hunter-pace>

CROSS COUNTRY CLINIC WITH SALLY COUSINS

Tuesday, May 4th at SHAWAN DOWNS, 1401 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030

\$60 MCTA Members / \$70 non-MCT members

Join international competitor, **Sally Cousins**, for a cross country clinic over the MCTA course at Shawan Downs in Novice, Training and Preliminary levels.

Contact Joyce Young at 410-340-4464 or MCTAClinics @ gmail.com to reserve your space.

HELPING HORSES IN NEED

Any time is a good time to donate your time, money, expertise, or unused tack/farm equipment to the many hardworking horse rescue groups. What ever state you live in, you can easily do an online "Google" search and find rescue groups in your area that need donations. There are many deserving groups. My personal favorites are **Days End Farm Horse Rescue** www.DEFHR.org in Lisbon, MD, and the **Equine Rescue League**, Leesburg, VA. www.EquineRescueLeague.org One year the PVDA Chapter I belong to designated a monthly meeting for members to donate un-used blankets, feed tubs, tack, etc., which were all donated to a local group. Many rescue groups also perform outreach programs and large animal rescue training. Most county animal control departments do not have the budget or training to provide these services. As with any charitable non-profit association, be sure to do a little research and make sure your donations are being used in the most helpful way possible—to directly impact horses in need.

Beth Collier

Do you use Southern States or Triple Crown Feed?

CANTER Mid Atlantic, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to helping race horses find new careers has joined the S.H.O.W. program offered by Southern States. By sending in your feed bag labels, CANTER may redeem "points of purchase" located on the back of all Southern States Feeds (Reliance, Legend, Equitech and Triple Crown feeds) for cash to be used as a donation to their program.

Feedbag labels or supply donations are accepted by mail at the following address:

CANTER Mid Atlantic
C/O D. Darsa
13709 Arctic Avenue
Rockville, MD 20853

Cash donations can be made by visiting the website at www.canterusa.org

Visit www.mdcta.com for the latest news in Maryland Eventing!

2010 PASTURE WALK SERIES

Visit the **University of Maryland** Equine Rotational Grazing Demonstration site for a tour and to learn more about best management practices for horse pastures. Each pasture walk will feature a special presentation on a different pasture management topic as well as teach participants a new skill. These events are free, but advanced registration is requested. Educational materials will be provided, and light refreshments will be served. All events will be held rain or shine.

April 22, 2010 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Soil Testing and Amendments

Why should you test your soil and how and when do you do it? Learn how to take a soil test and how to interpret and use soil test results to improve your horse pastures. Tips on fertilizing, liming, and mowing will also be discussed.

June 17, 2010 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Grass Cover & Pasture Improvements

Your pastures are green, but are they made up of grasses good for your horse and for the environment? Learn to identify grass, legumes, and weeds and to determine how much "good grass" your pastures have. Experts will also be discussing planning tips for seeding horse pastures.

August 12, 2010 6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Weed Identification and Control

What weeds are common in horse pastures, and how can you control them? Develop your skills in weed identification and learn which weeds may be toxic. Experts will also be on hand to discuss how to set up a rotational grazing system for horses.

Registration Information

To register for **horse pasture walks**, complete and mail the attached registration form, or simply RSVP to Edith Silvius at esilviou@umd.edu or 301-405-5781.

RESULTS 2009**Morven Park Fall Horse Trials, Oct 2-4****Intermediate OIB**

Sutherland, Katherine	Southern Tango	5
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Novice, NRB

Carter, Raymond	Borris Minor	1
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Preliminary, PH

Wendell, Julia	Picante	6
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Training, AmTR

Foster, Louise	Along Came A Spyder	1
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Training, JYOTA

Schmitt, Anna	Liam	4
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Maryland Horse Trials @ Loch Moy Farm, Oct 10-11**Beginner Novice, JBN**

Fulton, Grace	FMF's Zack-A-Rooni	2
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Beginner Novice, OBNB

Kutteroff, Lora	Our Joe	6
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Novice, OND

Venoski, Ray	Back Street Girl	5T
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Preliminary, JYOP

Curtiss, Alexandra	Checkout The Charmer	1
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Bratton, Sarah	Aztec Gold	2
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Preliminary, OPB

Abe, Julie	Casper II	4
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Training, JOT

Ballew, Mary	General MacArthur	1
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Fulton, Savannah	Regal Wood	6
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Training, OTC

Verzi, Nancy	Journey Leader	1
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Fulton, Stephen	FMF's Manilla Bay	5
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Training, OTV

Foster, Louise	Along Came A Spyder	2
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Waredaca Horse Trials, Oct 22-25**3-Day Training, T3DA**

Fulton, Stephen	FMF's Manilla Bay	2
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McElwain, Claire	Que Sera Sera	5
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3-Day Training, T3DC

Ballew, Mary	General MacArthur	3
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Beginner Novice, BNC

Fulton, Grace	FMF's Zack-A-Rooni	4T
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Novice, NCHA

Fulton, Savannah	FMF's Lucinda II	6
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Novice, NMaster

Gore, Jean	Faith II	4
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Preliminary, OPB

Wendell, Julia	Picante	6
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Training, OTB

Ricklefs, Elizabeth	Ray	1
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Training, THA

Herman, Mardi	Go Gilda	6
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Virginia Horse Trials, Oct 30-Nov 1**Intermediate, YOIC**

Sendak, Courtney	Wil 'Ya Love Me	1
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Novice, NATC

Venoski, Ray	Back Street Girl	2
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Training, THA

Coffey, Nicole	Contortionist	4
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Rubicon Farm Fall Horse Trials, Nov 7-8**Novice, JNRB**

Fulton, Savannah	FMF's Lucinda II	6
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Preliminary, JYOP

Bratton, Sarah	Aztec Gold	2
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Training, TRB

Foster, Louise	Along Came A Spyder	1
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Plantation Field Starter Horse Trials, Oct 31**Training Horse B**

Wendell, Julia	Two Terms	1
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Novice Horse B

Martinoli, Teresa	Santiago	3
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Beginner Novice Horse A

Brawner, Betsy	Midnight Swim	2
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Beginner Novice Rider A

Smilko, Claire	Cinnamon	6
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Jenny Camp Combined Test, MDCTA, Nov 7**Novice**

Webster, Katie	Saratoga Punch	5
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RESULTS 2009

Frank, Megan	Cookies 'N Cream	6
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Novice Horse

Clayton, Jennifer	Simon	1T
Martinoli, Teresa	Santiago	1T

Beginner Novice Horse A

Collison, Katie	Das Ends	3
Kirby-Barnes, Wendy	Too Personal (Chance)	5

Beginner Novice Horse B

Wolman, Margot	BFF Codebreaker 1	
Martin, Desiree	Caught Red Handed	3
Ward, Susan	Severn Sky	4
Levering, Alex	Swizzle	5

Beginner Novice Rider B

Breem, Courtney	Elton	1
Basler, Audrey	Gideon	2
Webster, Katie	Sandman	5

Intro A

McGrain, Megan	Pretty In Pink	1
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Full Moon Farm Starter Horse Trials, Nov 22**1A Open Training**

McGuirk, Lia	Aerial	1
Fulton, Savannah	Regal Wood	2
Fulton, Savannah	FMF's Lucinda II	3
Ballew, Mary	General MacArthur	4
Fenwick, Patti	Hero's Tour	5

2A Open Novice Rider

Arches, Emily	Private Benjamin 6	
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2B Open Novice Horse

Martinoli, Teresa	Santiago	1
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3A Starter Novice

Favre, Leslie	Remington	1
Frank, Megan	Cookies 'N Cream	5

4A Beginner Novice Rider-1

Fulton, Grace	Ringwood Sky Dancer	2
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4D Beginner Novice Rider-3

Fagnant, Morgan	Runs With Scissors	5
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4F Beginner Novice Horse-2

Fulton, Grace	FMF's Zack-A-Rooni	2
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5D Baby Beginner Novice Rider-3

Lonegro, Kristin	Secret Grace	3
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5E Baby Beginner Novice Horse-2

Stigile, Tammy	My Royal Star	1
Favre, Madeline	Destiny's Wish	5

2010 MCTA LEADERBOARD

Send in your Year End Awards points as soon as you earn them, and see **your name here!**

**YEAR END AWARDS!**

Send in your results to **Brooke Daneker**, the club **Points Coordinator**. From www.mdcta.com click on the "Year End Awards" tab to find the forms you will need. Each rider needs to compile their results on the new points form, a single sheet of paper, one line for each event. To be posted on the leader board, send your points in as soon as you earn them. All points must be received by Brooke by December 1st, 2010.

Brooke Daneker
1790 Bryansville Rd.
Delta, PA 17314

*MCTA Members and Patrons:
Did we miss you or an event where you rode?
Please email me with all your results throughout
the year, and we will be pleased to add them to
our newsletter.
Betsydenning @ gmail.com*