

Inside this issue: Banquet, Rhythm Beads, Sidesaddle Soundness, Chapter Updates, Virtual Show

THE PHOENIX



American Sidesaddle
Association
Lighting the way aside



THE PHOENIX

FROM THE EDITOR, GAEL ORR

It's springtime and ASA is engaged in continuous improvement. We want to hear from you! Please fill out our [survey](#) and tell us what you think. If you are reading this from your computer, you can just click the blue survey hyperlink above. Otherwise you can locate the survey on the ASA website at <https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/>

For those who fill it out, there is an option to include your name and contact details to enter into a drawing for a free prize. Your feedback is heard and listened to! Over the last two years, ASA has worked tirelessly to streamline communication for all of the members and volunteers. We've built a robust website and database, are developing content for our podcasts and newsletters, and have stayed in touch with you on our social media channels. We've worked hard this past year at streamlining the membership process, organizing events, getting documentation updated, and the list goes on. And why do our volunteer leaders spend endless hours fielding questions about saddles, creating opportunities for social interactions, hosting virtual ride challenges and creating workshops to enjoy? It's because we all share this common goal to preserve the art of sidesaddle riding.



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The common thread among all of us in ASA, members and volunteers alike, is this beautiful sport and art of aside. I've met members from all walks of life, backgrounds, genres of riding, some with horses, some without. I've met members just getting started with aside and some with decades of experiences. I've met members that are as seemingly far apart in lifestyle as two stars, bond over one commonality, the sidesaddle. There is something special about the historic art in which we are all involved. It's mysterious and beautiful, and for those who first see someone in a sidesaddle, their eyes light up in awe at the very nature of it. Even likeminded equestrians often tremble at the thought of what courage it must take to climb into a sidesaddle, not fully understanding, but appreciating the athleticism of the sport. I think back to my own first reaction of the sidesaddle. Like a child, I eagerly climbed into the saddle, my curiosity overpowering everything else. I image it's like seeing a unicorn, awe, inquisitiveness, and caution all while one marvels at the power of it. And while I have never seen an actual unicorn before (ha, ha, ha!) if a unicorn were to embody an equestrian sport, certainly this is it. So cheers to all of us, this wonderful, crazy, and beautiful blessing of unicorns! I thank you for adopting me into the herd, I marvel at you all!



You may email content to: Gael Orr marketing@amsidesaddle.com


VISION:

To make the American Sidesaddle Association financially sustainable and profitable through recruitment, fundraising initiatives, and membership support.




MISSION OF ASA

The American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) was formed to preserve, promote, and expand the elegance and historical art of riding sidesaddle. The ASA wishes to promote enthusiasm for sidesaddle riding among the equestrian public. Founded in 2008, the ASA is a network of regional sidesaddle clubs located throughout the nation. The Association supports all forms of riding and rider safety; we honor the women who came before us but are also inclusive of all people throughout society.




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Remember you can catch Maggie McAllister (President) and her Co-Host Audrey Sears (a JIC) on one of their podcasts. Enjoy the library of podcasts hosted on ASA's website at this location: <https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/podcast/>



From the President's Desk

By Maggie McAllister

Spring has sprung and so has trade show season. American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) has set up booths at Indiana Equine Roundup in Cloverdale, Western New York Equifest in Hamburg, Midwest Horse Fair in Madison, Wisconsin, and Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio. I hope everyone who attended these events had a great time, learned something, and got some good deals on all the things you didn't know you needed. For those who helped out at the ASA booths, many thanks for helping. Representing and promoting our organization takes a lot of work. If you joined ASA during one of these events, then welcome to American Sidesaddle Association! We're happy to have you along.

I've been busy with both ASA and my home club, Southern Ohio Ladies Aside events (SOLA). SOLA will be hosting the annual banquet this year, so we've had a few lunch meetings to get ready. Okay, so we mostly ate and chatted, but we called it a meeting! Several SOLA and NEOLA members attended the Ohio Regimental Military Ball in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. It was a wonderful day of Civil War Era education, dancing, and fun. I even got the First Laddie, Bryan McAllister, to take waltz lessons with me and later attempted waltzing. About three quarters of the way through the song one of us stepped on the other one and we both got the giggles. Several of us went trail riding and camping on a beautiful weekend in April at Paint Creek State Park. That trip brought back many memories of when I hosted competitive trail rides there in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Spring also brings planning season for me. Bryan and I will be traveling through New England again in August. I will be teaching clinics in Grand Isle, Vermont; Monmouth, Maine; Athol, Massachusetts; Bloomville, New York; and Akron, New York. I'm currently working on details for an evening mini-clinic somewhere on Long Island. Hopefully, Bryan and I will be able to get some fishing in that week. Squeak the cat gets to go since we'll be taking the camper. If you can't make it to a clinic, we might be able to squeeze in a few private lessons and saddle fittings along the way. I've got a few weekends still open in July if anyone within a day drive of southern Ohio would like a clinic. Other instructors may also be available, also.

Gael tells me this issue will be huge, so I'll keep my letter short. I hope to see all of you down the trail this year!

Semper Obliquo,
Maggie McAllister, President



American Sidesaddle Association (ASA) Banquet weekend, May 19-21, 2023

The awards banquet, held in 2023 for the previous year's awards, will be hosted by the Southern Ohio Ladies Aside (SOLA) in Chillicothe, Ohio. Chillicothe is an active restored Victorian town, on the Smithsonian's list of the top ten must-see small towns in America. One of the buildings is the oldest continuously operating theater west of the Alleghenies. The downtown area offers shopping, restaurants, antiques, and trolley transportation. During the banquet weekend, participants will receive points for each separate attended activity. Several planned events are on the agenda for Friday and Saturday. Attendees must register separately for each one. Any funds collected above the actual costs will be donated to the ASA. Register: <https://americansidesaddleassociation.com/2022-awards-banquet/> Please pay Vicki Pritchard for your banquet registration now. Each event on banquet weekend is separate and please pay Vicki DIRECTLY for the following ones that you wish to attend: clinic = \$25 library dinner = \$25 banquet luncheon = \$45 please send your PayPal payment directly to Vicki and let her know what you are paying for. Send your payment to this email address: cvp1193@twc.com or you may call Vicki at 740-656-5856 for help and questions.

Friday, May 19, 2023, 1PM

Attendees may wish to arrive in time to attend the Instructor Certification and Saddle-Fit Clinic, by Maggie McAllister, ASA President. This will be held from 1PM to 4PM in the horse barn at the Ross County Fairgrounds, 344 Fairgrounds Road, Chillicothe, Ohio, 45601. Horses will be provided for the demonstration. Those who are seeking certification can lease a horse on site. If you bring your own horse, stabling must be arranged with Maggie, so be sure to contact her. There will be no jumping at the clinic. All participants must sign a waiver and, if needed, a lease agreement for horse and/or tack. The cost of the clinic will cover the venue rent. There will be a sack lunch provided. This is a separate registration. Cost per participant is \$25.

Hotels and Accommodations, 2 nights

Check into your hotel or other accommodations after 3PM on Friday. The closest airbnb to the banquet venue and in the heart of downtown is the newly renovated, The Principal, 79 N. Paint St. There is off-street parking and 3 bedrooms to sleep 6. This apartment has already been paid for and reserved for ASA. The cost is \$200 per person, for the weekend, with check-in on Friday and check out on Sunday. This is a separate reservation. Be sure Vicki Pritchard cvp1193@gmail.com has your phone number when you make a reservation, so that Maggie, Bryan, or Vicki can be on hand to ensure that you get a smooth check-in for this apartment. There are other bed and breakfasts and airbnb's in the town, should you wish to use one. Hotels in the town's outskirts are as follows: Holiday Inn, Christopher Inn, Best Western, Hampton, Fairfield, Quality Inn, and America's Best Value. Make your own reservations for these.

Closest Airport

Fly into John Glenn International, Columbus, Ohio (all major airlines) or Rickenbacker Airport (Allegiant Airlines). One of the SOLA members can pick you up at the airport. Both airports are less than one hour from Chillicothe and both have rental car venues.

Friday evening, 6PM

Dinner at the ASA Library, 355 Sunset Drive, Chillicothe, Vicki Pritchard's house, where the library is housed. Enjoy a meal and beverages (alcoholic too) with the gang, peruse the library, and participate in the yearly in-person business meeting. This is a separate registration. The cost is \$25 per person for the catered meal. Please note any dietary needs. This is a separate registration.

Saturday, May 20 th , 11AM to 4PM

The Annual Banquet luncheon meal will be held in the City Park at the Pump House Center for the Arts, 1 Enderlin Circle, Chillicothe. The cost is \$45 per person. Please specify dietary needs. This is a separate registration. After the meal, the earned and nominated awards from last year's high point participants will be presented. Those present will have their awards in hand and members not in attendance will have theirs mailed. There will be a White Elephant sale to benefit the club. Tickets for the raffled white elephant items will be sold. The items do not have to be equine-related. Please bring a nice item for the white elephant. Last of all, there will be a fashion show, so wear your favorite costume or riding habit. Prizes will be awarded.

Saturday evening and Sunday morning

On Saturday evening, relax and visit together. Maggie will have something fun planned and several suggestions of things to do. Check-out Sunday morning. Some members may want to accompany Maggie on a tour of the Adena mansion or of the Hopewell Culture National Park. Adena Mansion is the 1807 home of one of Ohio's first Senators and 6th governor. Beautifully restored home, gardens, and farm. The view from the front yard was the inspiration for the Great Seal of the State of Ohio: \$12 adults, \$11 seniors, \$6 children ages 6-12 Axe throwing is \$30.00 per person on Saturday at 6:00 pm in Downtown Chillicothe.

Banquet Thanks!

The American Sidesaddle Association would like to thank all of its donors for the Annual Awards Banquet. These members contributed money and gifts in kind to make the awards banquet, extra special. Karol Kafka even made a special donation in honor of her current favorite horse! It's not too late to donate if you'd like to.

Donations may be sent to Vicki Pritchard and mailed to:
355 Sunset Dr
Chillicothe, OH 45601-1888

or sent via PayPal to Vicki at: cvp1193@twc.com

Many thanks to the following wonderful people:

Chapter		
SOLA	Liz	Buchanan
CA_Aside	Wendy	Pruden
TNSS	Sue	Duncan
NAGS	Geisha	Elsa
PLA	Margaret	Juergensmeyer
CA_Aside	Karol	Kafka
WNY	Chapter	Donation
SOLA	Vicki	Pritchard
SOLA	Samantha	Reeves
SOLA	Dawn	Mason
SOLA	Morgan	Reeves
NEOLA	Nancy	Murnyack
GSS	Erica	Parriott
	Tracy	Corwin



About horse, Brownie

By Karol Kafka

The photo above is my horse Brownie, registered name, Final Commander. I wanted to contribute to an award in his honor simply because he is such a great companion and partner. The photo was taken about five years ago when he was enjoying some liberty time. He is a foundation Quarter Horse gelding, now nearly 28 (birthday in May), so he was somewhere early- to mid-20s at the time of the photo. He is 14.3 and is very much the short, stocky foundation-style QH.

Brownie's personality is a bit reserved, but he has more confidence when I am with him. Then he likes other people to pet him and feed him treats. He seems very observant of nature and enjoys trail rides. He puts up with occasional arena work, but I don't think he really likes it.

I feel Brownie has paid his dues, so my goal is to spoil him in his senior years. I like him to have as much play time as possible. He gets a little bit of grazing (not too much because he has Cushings) and I indulge him with carrot bites and scratch all his itchy spots for him.

Nominated Awards

Helping Hands: Senior #1=Mike Orr (Senior #2=tie for Gael Orr and Eric Volkmar (WNY)

Helping Hands Junior #1=Cuylar West (WNY)

Velcro Award: Samantha Reeves (SOLA)

Bottoms Up: #1=Tiffany Waters (WNY), #2=Liz Juba (WNY)

Bad Ass: Tina Louie (AZA) for her amazing rim-to-rim ride in the Grand Canyon

Tom Tom: Gael Orr (WNY) driving through a Texas tornado for a clinic.

Court Jester: Maggie McAllister (SOLA) and Kelley McCarty (NEWS) for breaking and entering into Kelley's house.

Rookie Person: #1 Gabby Smart (SANE) #2 Teresa Runyon (SOLA)

Rookie Horse: #1= Miss River (WNY) deceased, #2=Miss Bunny (WNY), #3 Samson (WNY)



Jessy Sears (WNY Chapter) riding her winning horse, River sidesaddle at the Pike Fair Parade.

2022 Awards Senior Division:

Grand Champion- Gael Orr

Reserve Champion- Audrey Sears

Clinic Care-

Laurie Post

(tie) Gael Orr, Bryan McAllister

Exhibitionist-

Audrey Sears

Gael Orr

Media Outreach-

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

Most Active JIC-

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

Overland Trail (number of events)-

Gay Schuldt

(tie) Kristina Brereton, Erin Peterson

Wet Saddle Blanket (Trail Mileage)

Tina Louie

Gay Schuldt

Trail Hours

Tina Louie

Julie Normand

Show off-

Samantha Chamberlin

Deb Knudson

Virtual Show Off-

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

Social Butterfly-

Gael Orr

Jen Rogers

Street Cruiser-

Gael Orr

(tie) Liz Juba, Mike Orr

Practice Makes Perfect-

Gael Orr

(tie) Suzzanna Richardson, Delaney Kenney, Adrienne Klicker

Draft Horse Award (heavy workload)- Lori Volkmar, Suzzanna Richardson, Mike Orr, Bryan McAllister, Carrie Hedges

Board Members workload- Gael Orr, Audrey Sears, Maggie McAllister, Vicki Pritchard, Monica Chapman

Bad Ass Award- Tina Louie for her sidesaddle ride across the Grand Canyon

Top Ten:

Gael Orr

Audrey Sears

Suzzanna Richardson

Bryan McAllister

Jen Rogers

Elizabeth Juba

Laurie Post

Mike Orr

Delaney Kenney

Debra McNicholas

Chapter High Point

Western New York- Gael Orr

Southern Ohio Ladies Aside- Laurie Post

Columbia River Sidesaddle Society- Delaney Kenney

Northern Illinois Sidesaddle- Diana Kocunik

Friends of the West- Samantha Chamberlin

Garden State Sidesaddle- Erica Parriot

Kentucky Sidesaddle- Linda Klein

Wisconsin Sidesaddle- Erin Peterson

Northeast Ohio Ladies Aside- Kristen Wade

North East Women's Sidesaddle- Kelley McCarty

Sidesaddle Around New England- Nancy Cecil

Tennessee Sidesaddle- Sue Duncan

Side Saddle Sisters of Oklahoma- Frankie Wood-Black

Mid-South Sidesaddle-Pam Gamble Anderson

Hoosier Ladies Aside- Sarah French

Arizona Aside- Tina Louie

Lone Star Sidesaddle Association- Jennifer Scates

California Aside- Megan Titus

Prairie Ladies Aside- Tracy Dykstra



Junior Division:

Grand Champion- Katie McAllister
Reserve Champion-Trenton Konzel

Clinic Care-
 (tie) Amelia Murphy, Haley Atwood

Exhibitionist-
 (tie) Katie McAllister, Clayton Sears

Media Outreach-
 (tie) Clayton Sears, Maggie Tallman

Trail-
 Katie McAllister

Show Off-
 Katie McAllister

Virtual Show Off-
 (tie) Cuylar West, Aiden Kenney

Social Butterfly-
 Katie McAllister,
 Trenton Konzel,

Street Cruiser-
 Trenton Konzel
 Katie McAllister

Practice Makes Perfect-
 Katie McAllister
 (tie) Annabelle Reynolds, Naomi Stewart

Draft Horse Award- Trenton Konzel, Katie
 McAllister, Cuylar West

Top Ten:

Katie McAllister
 Trenton Konzel
 Cuylar West
 Clayton Sears
 Tytus Sears
 Naomi Stewart
 Maggie Tallman
 Annabelle Reynolds
 Aidan Kenney
 (tie) Amelia Murphy, Emily King, Gabriel
 Stewart, Haley Atwood, Jessy Sears,
 Liam Benedette, Teagan Batt



Evaluating Saddle Soundness

By Sam Reeves

So you found a sidesaddle at a consignment shop. The leather is dry, but she's more than 100 years old, and probably hasn't seen care in years. Plus, she's \$50 because no one knows what she is. You buy her, because even if she doesn't fit you or your horse, you can't pass up a deal like that.

Now what?

The first test that should be done is for the soundness of the tree. Grab the front and rear of the saddle firmly, and gently flex side to side, with your hands alternating directions. There shouldn't be any wiggling, creaking, or popping. Now take the front of the saddle, at the points, and gently flex inwards and outwards. If too much force is applied, you can break one of the points. Again, listen for creaking, popping, or if there's flexion when you apply pressure. If there is give in the center of the seat, but no other movement, it's likely the tree is intact, but the seat webbing is broken. This will be covered later.

If the tree is suspected to be broken, you have to do some serious thinking. Tree repair is not easy or cheap! It's generally not worth it to repair a catalog saddle, unless there's sentimental value, or it otherwise fits like a glove. These make great teardown projects to show the inner workings and construction of a saddle, though, so they're not useless. If you have an old name saddle, it could be worth the effort and expense to fix. This is not an assessment to be made by an amateur, though. Consult with an American Sidesaddle Association recommended saddler for more in depth evaluation.

In this case, you got lucky and the tree is intact. It's time to examine your saddle in detail. From horns to panels, give her a good looking over. Is the leather visibly cracked or torn? Are there small holes, like nail holes, in the leather? Is the hardware corroded or damaged? Are the panels intact, damaged, or nonexistent? Do the pommels appear to be intact and in good condition? If present, does the leaping horn unscrew with a left hand thread?



(Photo courtesy of the University of Kentucky and JT Leather)

If you find holes in the saddle like the photo on the left, stop what you're doing, bag the saddle in heavy garbage bags. This is indicative of borer beetles, which can infest your home and other tack. Take your bagged saddle and freeze it for several days. Let it warm up quickly, and then freeze again. Repeat this cycle several times to make certain the borer beetles and larvae are dead. This method is recommended and used by the Kentucky Horse Park's archival staff on damaged saddles they acquire.



Check the billets for soundness. Take each billet in your fingers and flex it back against itself, making a loop. The leather should not crack visibly, or “whisper” audibly with the fibers breaking. If they do, the saddle needs new billets. This is very, very common, and is generally recommended on all antique saddles, particularly if the billets are original. The good news is that billet replacement is easy on most saddles, and is one of the more inexpensive repairs you'll find. (Photo from Maclean Equestrian)

If the panels are damaged or missing, they will need to be replaced or repaired. Do not cut the panels off and throw them away! They're valuable for pattern pieces, and your saddler will thank you for not making their work harder. This is another job that's not meant for a novice, and consult the list of saddlers again for someone who can make the repairs.

On an English saddle, you'll sometimes see a divot, dip, or dent in the seat. This isn't always a sign of a broken tree. Between the sides of the tree, there are heavy webbing straps that run side to side. These straps give the seat support and keep it from being too squashy, or like sitting on a rock. Sometimes, the straps can break, generally from many hours of riding. This is referred to as a “sweet spot”, and doesn't cause any detriment to the saddle over the long term. If it's an original, vintage saddle, you may find the sweet spot doesn't quite fit your tuchus. In that case, it would be beneficial to have the seat re-webbed, but be aware, that is an extensive tear-down. (Photo from Ciara O'Connell)



There are many ways a saddle can be damaged, but in the vast majority of cases, the damage is cosmetic. Cosmetic repairs can still add up, of course, but they are not life threatening to a saddle or rider. When in doubt, consult with an experienced saddler. If there is not one in your area, check with your local ASA Judge-Instructor-Clinicians for assistance.

Good luck and happy riding!

Booklet (small old) booklet reviews from the ASA library

By Vicki Pritchard

Sheilds, JHL. 1983. "To Handmake a Saddle". This booklet was written because the author feared for the loss of traditional craftsmanship in an age of mass-production. The illustrations and tone of the booklet are clear and easy to follow for those who have only hand tools. There is no mention of sidesaddles.

DeBussigny, HL. 1900. "Hand-Book for Horsewomen". This small pocket-sized book is fragile. An interesting take on ladies' supposed inability to maintain proper control of the horse. There are many warnings to maintain safety; however, no mention of the fact that the two-horned saddle had no leaping head to assist in maintaining a firm seat. Hunting and cavalry riding styles are each discussed. Capt. M*** (no actual name given). 1840. Small handbook dedicated to His Royal Highness, Prince Albert. "The Equestrian: Hints on Horsemanship". This somewhat tattered delicate old book is illustrated throughout and covers many topics, including driving. The chapter titled "Address to the Ladies" is very interesting because of the notions of the day and the tack that was in use.

Kendall, BJ. 1880. "A Treatise on the Horse and his Diseases". Veterinarians would love this book. Folk medicine abounds and tales of actual situations and case studies.

Summerhays, RS. 1930. "Riding for All". Photo illustrated pocket-sized booklet of the day, for instruction in all things related to horseback riding and showing. Kerr, WA. 1906. "Ladies' Riding". This author's small pocket-sized booklet, shows him as the 'second in command of the 2nd regiment southern maharatta horse' of England, giving a slightly prejudiced writing against women, and especially against the use of the sidesaddle. This would have been at the beginning of the time when ladies first began to ride aside, despite the knowledge of the leaping head. Kerr, WA. 1891. "Riding for Ladies". His first booklet tells many a tale about ladies not being able to keep up with men when riding for a long distance. Of course, no mention of the fact that the saddles for ladies were insufficient and unsafe.

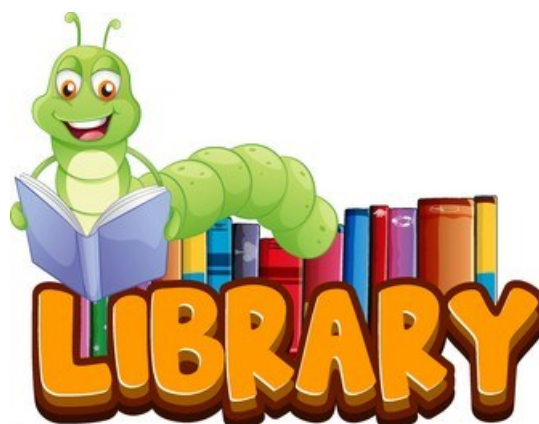
Book review from the library

"Civil War Era Etiquette" by Peter Bach et al, a 1988 reprint from the original 1866 book by Louis Martine. Black and white illustrations from Godey's Ladies' Book and other contemporary to the era. There are also illustrations for men's clothing and for war uniforms. Some quotes:

"The great charm of conversation consists less in the display of one's own wit and intelligence, than in the power to draw forth the resources of others."
 "A well-dressed man does not require so much an extensive s a varied wardrobe.... A costume for every season and occasion.... Expensive dressing is no sign of a gentleman... Well-made clothing and shoes, and clean gloves make passing muster as gentleman.... Cleanliness and neatness are the invariable accomplishments of good breeding."

"Some ladies, perhaps believing they are deficient in personal charm, and are willing to make their clothes their the spell of their attraction. ...Elegant dressing does not depend upon expense. ...grace adaptation and harmonious blending...Men are but indifferent judges of the material of a lady's dress....A modest countenance and pleasing figure would win more attention than effrontery clad in the richest silks...."

Dinner table parties, the art of conversation, the art of introductions, evening parties, visiting, domestic etiquette and marriage are all discussed. Vulgarisms in conversation are outlined in detail. For example, never say "fizzle" when you mean "fail or not performing adequately".





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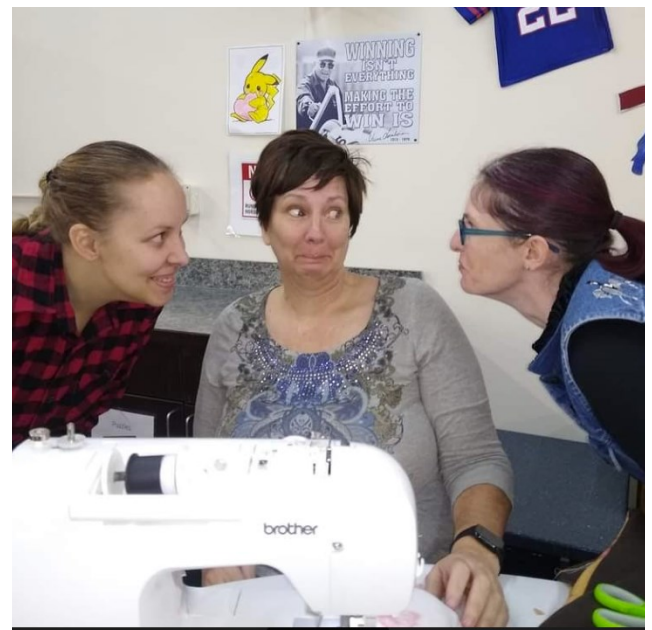
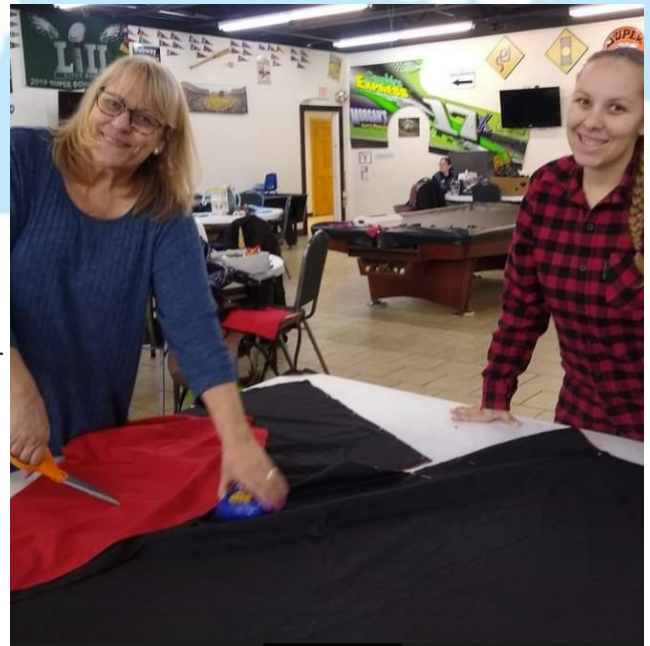
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WNY Chapter Updates

By Gael Orr

WNY Sidesaddle Chapter has had a busy winter! We kicked off December with a Christmas Parade, shortly thereafter by our yearend awards luncheon. Our luncheon was the second week of January with a HUGE turnout of more than half of our members! Most of our awards express appreciation to all of our hard working volunteers and members, along with those we dub, should-be-members. Our should-be members are mostly husbands who pitch in a lot of hours trailering horses, side walking and prepping farms for clinics, or helping with our fundraisers, but aren't actually an ASA or chapter member. We did a lot of fundraisers this year, and because of it, our club was able to purchase two charra sidesaddles and we are super excited about that! But I digress, the awards also highlighted funny things that happened to some of us throughout the year. This social event also included a gift exchange too.

In February, our chapter had a sewing day this winter making reversable sidesaddle skirts for our parades with red on one side and black on the other. We managed to crank out about six skirts in 3 hours, that might be a new record! I hope to get a YouTube video made soon of how to make these, they are super fast and easy to make, and you don't need a pattern either!

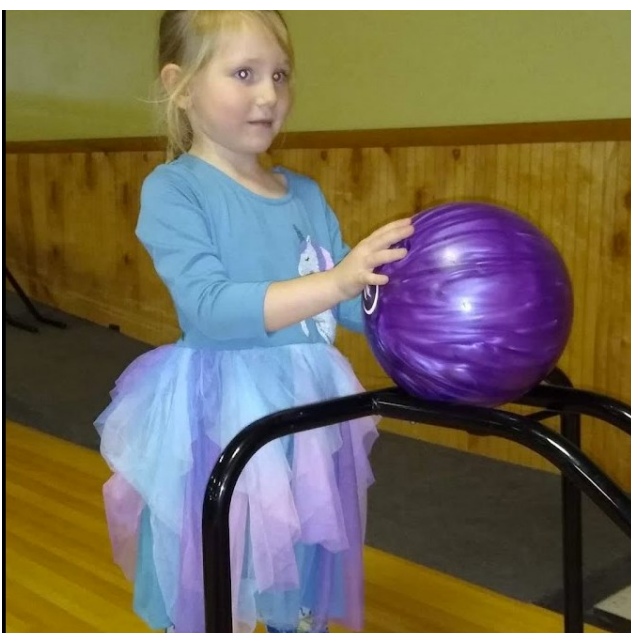


WNY Chapter Updates Continued...

All of the sewing brought about a lot of laughter and conversations around Gettysburg, ballgowns and hoop skirts, which brought about extra enthusiasm for our "Bowling in Ballgowns" event! Our ladies dressed in their ballgowns and hoop skirts and got together, or rather I should say, took over, Mt Morris Bowling Alley! And while no one had a great bowling score, not even the ladies with the bumper lanes, Suzzanna Richardson gets the prize for the cutest technique. Sue would get her hips swinging to the left, and seconds before rolling the ball, she'd kick her hoop over with her right foot! It was hilarious and adorable at the same time!

And no WNY event could be complete unless a random sidesaddle showed up too! Our local tack shop that resells used equipment got in an old sidesaddle and just before our bowling event, contacted us to see if we wanted it. Audrey took it and will get to repurpose its leaping horn. In addition, the ladies hosted the Love Your Horse Virtual show in February, and are running the Spring into Action show that benefits ASA.

March brought in the Equifest event. In April we had our Ride with the Rattlesnakes trailride at Rattlesnake Hill, our rhythm beads workshop, and planning for the Lilac Festival Parade in May where our ladies will dress up as fairies riding their unicorn dressed horses. Jen Rogers, is so excited to ride her horse dressed as a unicorn, she refuses to wait!



Equifest

By Gael Orr

The weekend of March 18, WNY Sidesaddle attended Equifest in Hamburg, New York. Audrey managed to “break her elbow,” too! Imagine my surprise to arrive on Sunday to see Audrey in a sling! She had fallen on the ice the evening before and spent most of the night in an ER. In spite of her arm being out of commission, she did an amazing job.

Audrey Sears was the key note speaker in a sidesaddle demonstration. She brought two of her horses. Audrey brought her standardbred mare, Blush ridden by future JIC, Liz Juba; and her quarterhorse gelding, Sluggo, ridden by Chrissy Gibson. While the ladies demonstrated aside riding, Audrey gave a beautiful rendition of sidesaddle history. In addition, she spoke about rider safety, the best breeds for consideration of our sport, and equipment considerations. In addition, Audrey spoke about the importance of safety stirrups, saddle fit, and invited people to attend a clinic being hosted in WNY Labor Day weekend, hosted by Amanda Polanski. In addition to the riding demonstration, WNY set up a booth and fielded all kinds of saddle questions and we even let the Burger King, try out our club Elan saddle! We had a huge turn out of our club in attendance with nearly half of our chapter there!





Equifest continued from previous page...

The club also sold items as a fundraiser for our club selling equestrian safety scarves, unicorn horns, homemade goat soaps from [Windy Ridge Farm](#), and jewelry along with [Once Again's](#) nut butters. But we weren't the only ones at Equifest with a booth. Two of our club members also hosted their own booths. Linda Kellish hosted a booth selling all kinds of handmade clay items and jewelry. Amanda Polanski hosted a booth filled with breathtaking drawings of horses and animals of all kinds. Both of these artists had some of the prettiest booths as the event. The overall traffic of the event is also noteworthy. We were busy all day both days. We are super grateful for our Sidesaddle friends who did more than just drop by our booth, but stayed and helped out. Big shout out of thanks to Judy Manchester, Jen Rogers, Suz Richardson, Lori Volkmar, Eric Volkmar, Chris and Mike Gibson, Amy Murat, Liz Juba, Sandy Morrow, Bryan Sears and Mary Gerlach.



Contact Audrey Sears if you want to buy a unicorn horn. ftgypsy@gmail.com

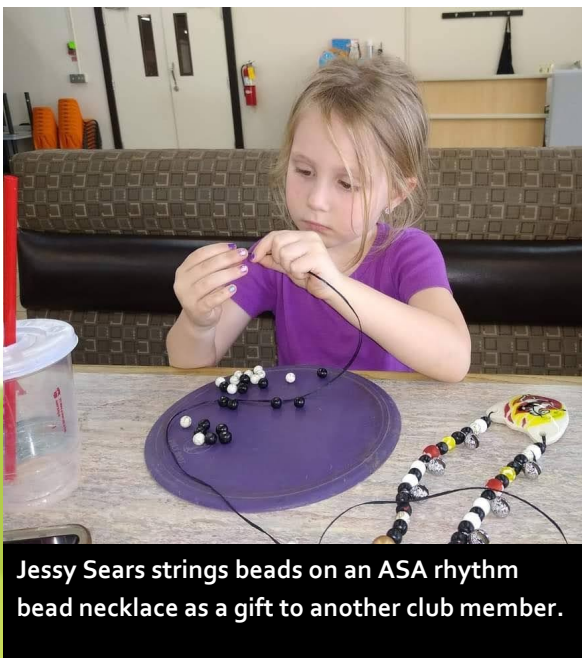


Rhythm Beads

WNY hosted a rhythm beads workshop in mid-April. Linda Kellis was the artist who hosted our workshop. We enjoyed her charming personality and skill and she taught us how to make these.

Horse Rhythm Beads are perfect to help calm anxious riders or nervous horses. The Rhythm Beads are designed to fit around the horse's neck like a necklace and create a soft jingle sound as the horse moves and they attach directly to your horse's mane with an alligator clip, the leather ones can fasten to your saddles D rings. The soft jingle of the bells helps to relax the horse, build confidence, and create connection. Rhythm beads also give great feedback to the rider on the increase and decrease of rhythm of their horse. They are excellent for trail riding to give warning to wildlife and others, therefore there is less chance of spooking or surprises. And let's face it, they are simply beautiful, great for parades, trailrides, and arena work.

Linda Kellis was approached to host the event where people from the club got together to make ASA and custom rhythm bead "necklaces" for their horses. Linda took the ASA logo and created a template design, hand painted all of the center pieces and fired them in her kiln. The clay turns white after it is fired and provides a beautiful handmade centerpiece for everyone's set of rhythm beads. Linda brought with her thousands of beautiful colorful beads for everyone to choose from. Many of our ladies made homemade ASA rhythm bead necklaces, in addition to personalized ones strung with their favorite colors. We had 17 people show up for this event. We also had ladies purchase kits to make at home on their own. A great time was had by everyone.



Jessy Sears strings beads on an ASA rhythm bead necklace as a gift to another club member.





Linda brought thousands of beads and dozens of artistically made badges for everyone's rhythm bead sets. Shown right, you can see the process in which Linda makes these by clay and hand painted them. If you would like to order a set of rhythm beads for your horse, either preassembled or not, please reach out to Linda Kellish at: earthstardesigns@gmail.com





Love Your Horse Virtual Show and Challenge Winners

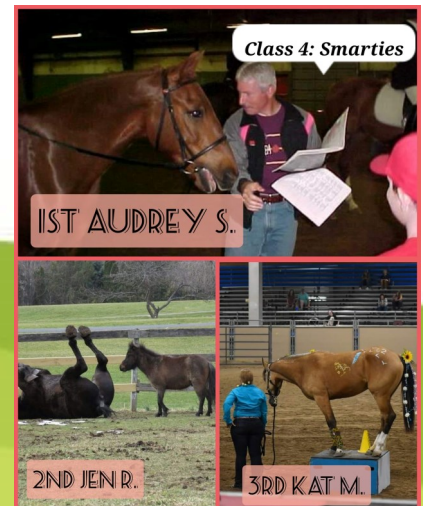
By Gael Orr

In February we ran the Love Your Horse Virtual Ride Challenge and Photo show. Enjoy the winning photos. In addition we had our ride challenge and gave ribbons to the top 3 people who logged the most time in the saddle. Julie Normand also won our drawing for posting photos of her horse ribbon.

Challenger Winners	Time in Minutes
1. Karol Kafka	3218
2. Susan Crowe	1410
3. Samantha Chamberlain	1375



Class 1: The Pony Pucker division
1: Suzzanna Richardson
2: Audrey Sears
3: Julie Normand
Class 2: Selfie!
1: Gael Orr
2: Julie Norman
3: Liz Juba
Class 3: The Valentine's category-
1: Delaney Kenney
2: Suzzanna Richardson
3: Diana Kocunik
Class 4: The Smarties photo
1: Audrey Sears
2: Jen Rogers
3: Kat Mautz
Class 5: The bad-ass division
1: Kat Mautz
2: Diana Kocunik
3: Susan Crowe



Love Your Horse Winners Continued...

Class 6: Something pretty

- 1: Liz Juba
- 2: Delaney Kenney
- 3: Delaney Kenney

Class 7: Winter wonderland

- 1: Liz Juba
- 2: Gael Orr
- 3: Jen Rogers

Class 8: Costume

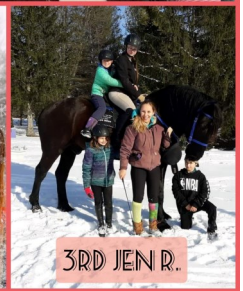
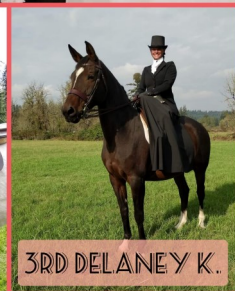
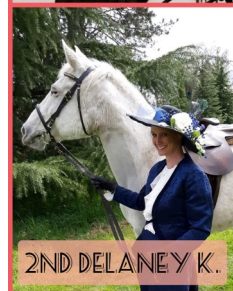
- 1: Karol Kafka
- 2: Maggie McAllister
- 3: Jen Rogers

Class 9: Horse Friends

- 1: Gael Orr
- 2: Liz Juba
- 3: Susan Crowe.

Class 10: Pure Love

- 1: Diana Kocunik
- 2: Suzzanna Rrichardson
- 3: Susan Crowe





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This One

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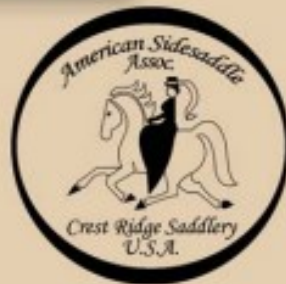


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- ◆ Vintage styling from the heyday of western sidesaddle
- ◆ Adjustable shim pockets on the underside of the bar
- ◆ Handmade quality, one saddle at a time

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About our cover photo

This is Delaney Kenney, president of Columbia River Sidesaddle Society in Oregon. Her photo shown right, isn't just our cover photo, but it also took 3rd place in the Valentine's division in the Love Your Horse virtual show we had in February. Delaney took this photo when she was trying on her dress for future events. Her hope is to one day use it for historical reenactment. She described the purchase of her dress as a "sketchy online purchase." But truly, she looks stunning in this outfit. In hand is her Oldenburg mare named AisyInn who is carrying Delaney's Martin and Martin sidesaddle. She described about both her dress and her saddle, "It's come in handy for online shows."



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our new Judge, Instructor, Clinicians (JIC's)

Elizabeth Juba, WNY Sidesaddle

Tyler Graham, Southern Ohio Ladies Aside

Kristen Wade, Northeast Ohio Ladies Aside

Up coming events for 2023

- April 30 — Kentucky Derby Festival
- May 13 — West Virginia Strawberry Festival
- May 19-21 — ASA Banquet Weekend
- June 2-4 — North Dakota Horse Expo
- June 6-10 — Germantown Charity Horse Show
- July 14-16 — Breyerfest
- November 18 — Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade



Up coming clinics for 2023

- April 23rd in Northwest OH
- May 27th in Rancine WI
- August 26 in Monmouth Maine
- August 27 in Athol Maine
- September 2 in Richmondville NY
- September 3 in [Newstead NY](#)

Please check back often or check out our [Facebook](#) page for updates



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Grooming

Audrey Sears

Grooming your horse is a wonderful activity. It's an excellent way to check for injuries, health concerns, and spend time doing basic training. It also allows you to build an emotional bond with your horse. Correctly grooming a horse can be more beneficial than a bath, especially when spring weather can be unpredictable. Having the option of a good grooming session could get you ready for a show or clinic and give your horse a more professional and polished look.

1. Feet. I always start with picking and cleaning my horse's feet. By doing them first, you can save time by learning if your horse has thrown a shoe or has a stone bruise before you spend the next 20 minutes tacking up. This quick tip can save you cancellation fees and make your horse so much happier. If you have your horse at home, picking out your horse's feet on a daily basis can make their feet easier to handle and keep your barn cleaner.

Remember to use your hoof pick in a downward motion from heel to toe to minimize the possibility of injuring the frog or other sensitive areas. A good stiff bottle brush or old piece of carpet can be used to brush mud and dirt from the outside of the hoof wall.

2. The curry comb. Next, it's time to get all those mud spots, green stains, dusty areas, and thick hairy spots with your curry comb. I personally like to use a gel curry or a rubber curry. I don't like to use metal curries on my horse for fear I may scratch or cut my horse. A rule of thumb is if you would use it on you, then use it on your horse. Some thinner-skinned horses may not like the curry comb, so it is important to only use enough pressure as your horse can take. A good tip for the curry comb is to use it in a circular motion to loosen all the mud, dirt, and extra hair.

3. Dandy Brush or Hard brush. Use the Dandy brush in short flicking strokes helps to remove the loosened dirt from the curry comb on the surface of the horse's coat. The curry and Dandy brush steps can be used alternately. You can also use the curry comb to keep the Dandy brush clean.

4. Medium Brush, Following the curry comb and Dandy brush, a medium brush can be used in long strokes. The medium brush is used to lay the horse's coat down and reach the deep dust and dander that the Dandy brush

missed. This brush is typically a soft-bristled nylon brush or can be a horse hair brush.

5. Soft brush or polishing brush. This brush allows for that shiny look. It's almost always a hairbrush. You can also use a microfiber rag to help make your horse's coat really sparkle.

6. Face brush. The face brush is normally a very small, very soft brush. Remember the rule if you wouldn't put it on yourself, don't put it on your horse. The face brush should be used in slow strokes to really cover the area and use it to shine your horse's face and clean the eyes and muzzle area.

7. Mane and tail. You can use a comb or a brush depending on your preference and your horse's preference. Start at the bottom and work your way up through the tangles. For the tail, remember to stand at your horse's side for safety. I like to split the horse's tail in half and work on half at a time.

With the mane, I start at the withers and work my way up to the horse's head ending with the forelock.

Other Grooming tips.

Dryer sheets! You can use dryer sheets like a rub rag. This will help dissipate the static in your horse's tail and on their body when using blankets.

A rag is your friend! Keep a microfiber rag or a small hand towel in your grooming kit. You can use this to apply fly spray to your horse's ears and face. Use it to apply baby oil in manes, tails, and lower legs to help keep stickers, burrs and mud from sticking.

Does your horse have bad dandruff? Try using mouthwash! It breaks down the dead skin better and makes it easier to comb out. It's also a safer choice for your horse's pasture mate if they are playing and grooming each other than if they ingest the expensive medicated shampoo.

A little elbow grease can go along way! So be prepared for a little bit of work but know that your horse will be thankful for the time and the good scratching.

CLUB PINS– WEAR THEM PROUDLY!

By Vicki Pritchard

Exciting news ladies! We have the American Sidesaddle Association's club pins ready to order! These pins are super cute and quite colorful, and let's face it, they help support a great cause, our Association! If you'd like one, we are ready to distribute them to members. It's simple to get one really, just send us \$15.00 to defray the cost of the pin, packaging, and mailing. Please send us your donation via PayPal to: Amsidesaddletreasurer@gmail.com. Remember to write the comment "club pin" in the comments section when you send your \$15.00.



Homemade Fly Spray:

In a quart sprayer combine:
2 cups white vinegar or apple cider vinegar
1 cup Skin-So-Soft oil (original product by Avon)
1 cup water
1 tablespoon eucalyptus oil.
1 teaspoon of Dawn dish soap.

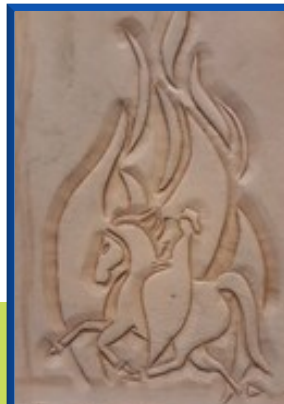


Homemade "Show Sheen" Recipe:

1/4 (one quarter) cup hair conditioner
1/4 (one quarter) cup baby oil
2 tablespoons vinegar (to keep flies away, this is optional)
1/4 (one quarter) cup water
Mix and use as you would any other store-bought spray.
1 teaspoon of Dawn dish soap.



RaeLynn, WNY Chapter, shows off her new saddle named, Miss Gussy, and her cowgirl boots!



M

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Sanctuary at Maple Hill Farms

Nancy Cecil, Managing Director

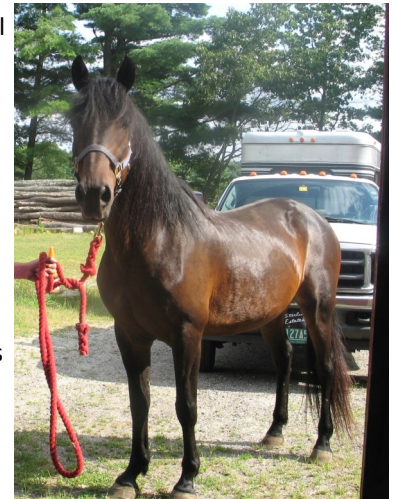
HORSE CORNER

Today we will focus on acquiring a horse through a non-profit. Willoughby, a Morgan gelding, recently found a home and the pictures show him on intake, after rehab, and then in his latest new home.



We've had a lot of interest from side saddle fans who want to know more about our organization and horses. I am delighted to provide information! Since we are entering high riding season, I want to talk mostly about adoptions, both in general and specific to Maple Hill. Kindly note that I rarely use the rescue-word since it is so ill used these days. To me, there is a big difference between rescuing a horse from a building on fire and buying a horse from an online broker, although commonalities exist in both.

We are Sanctuary at Maple Hill Farms, a registered Maine non-profit 501-c3 equine welfare organization, which also provides allied social services and educational programs. We are "Friends of Maple Hill Farms" on Facebook and our website is www.maplehillff.org. Email and PayPal address is MHFSanctuary@yahoo.com. We operate through the generosity of donors and each contribution and measure of support is very important to helping horses, supporting our programs, and keeping us open. We do not receive any government funding, but are blessed with an occasional grant to help bolster the support of individuals and business. We welcome your support even in a small way.



Adoption is really sort of a misnomer since it has no legal standing or set process for animals. It is a popular term though, even if it is often misunderstood. Most adoptions are contractual obligations connected to transferring an animal from one person or organization to another.

Organizations place animals in one of two ways. They either transfer possession only or transfer ownership with possession. Each organization will have its own process, procedures and expected promises, but the goal is generally to keep the horse safe with some oversight. It is up to you to come to an understanding of each process so that it will fit your needs.

Transferring possession is similar to leasing. There may be a payment up front, but legal ownership is retained by the organization. There will be contractual stipulations as to care and responsibilities and the term of the contract. For many organizations, this is the only way they adopt out horses. At Maple Hill, we use a Foster Agreement to transfer possession only. It usually has a time limit and we may share in some expenses with the home.

Continued from previous page...

When a transfer of ownership happens it is usually done with a payment and contractual stipulations as to care, future sale, and a reversionary interest if the deal falls apart. Legal ownership passes unlike in the lease/foster/transfer of possession scenario. I have heard a few folks say stipulations don't hold up in court, but I also have first hand experience that they indeed do. The operational strength of the agreement lies with the willingness of the parties to enforce it, just like any other contract.

Get to know the organization you wish to do business with. Are you comfortable with them? Do you all think along the same lines? Do you want to have a fall back in case you are unable to care for the horse? If you are stuck with the idea that you don't want oversight then you may be better off going to a horse dealer or private party and buying with a straight bill of sale.

Think a minute though. You may be missing out on some guarantees and also an outfit who has spent sufficient time to get to know the horse, and service their medical and training needs. If you have chosen a good non-profit they will be very forthcoming about what they know about the horse. They want a good match and success for both horse and new owner. They may even steer you away from the pretty faced horse that drew you in if that horse is not a good fit for you.

At Maple Hill, our process starts with an application and horse selection. We do not publish a catalog of our horses, preferring to have prospects let us know what they are looking for. We do have public visiting days and events when people can see our horses, but individual appointments are limited to those who have approved applications. We disclose our expectations early on and are polite partners through the process and throughout the life of the horse. Many of our horses have been in their homes for more than ten years and we look forward to hearing from owners. If things aren't going well we want to be the first to know so we can provide assistance. That doesn't mean taking the horse away, but actually helping to remedy the situation in coordination with the owner. Sometimes troubles are not as overwhelming as they may seem and practical solutions can help.

That's the process. Now how about the horses.

In brief, Maple Hill has horses of all ages, breeds, and descriptions. We are big cheerleaders for second, third or fourth careers for horses. Some horses are highly trained, some may need training, some are registered with royal heritage, some have physical or mental limitations, some are only suitable as companions. Not all horses coming from non-profits are used up and sick or have intolerable issues. Serviceably sound horses are sometimes the best match.

Sometimes valuable horses are surrendered to us due to owner illness, disability, change in financial or familial circumstances, or death. We generally look to offer good solid family horses rather than performance horses. We have placed successful endurance, trail riding, dressage candidates, camp horses, driving horses, backyard ponies, light riding, and old soul pasture puffs. Our fees are based on low fair market value which rarely recovers our investment. Free horses are rarely without cost, and that lack of perceived value often puts the horse at risk of being cast out casually.

Next time I will probably write more about riders and matching them to horses, along with information on some of our programs like Special Olympics coaching. I'll leave you now with the idea that asking us for "just a trail horse" means you are asking for the most talented, forgiving horse we are likely to have. We absolutely adore the plain brown solid citizens, and our beloved side saddle and parade Standardbreds are among them.

To donate or get more information you may email Nancy Cecil at: MHSanctuary@yahoo.com or mail your check to: Maple Hill Farms, 464 Maple Hill Road, Auburn, ME 04210

2023 Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event and the Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Parade

By Maggie McAllister, President of ASA

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. Oops. Wrong story. Or maybe not so much.

Our weekend started on Saturday, April 29th, at the Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event. Samantha Reeves and Lisa Sidwell rode sidesaddle as mounted stewards. A steward's job is threefold: watch for loose dogs and drunks on the course, blow a whistle when a competitor is coming down the gallop lane so that the gate guards and jump judges can do their jobs, and schmooze with the crowd. Being the only sidesaddle riders this year, Sam and Lisa drew a lot of attention. Lots of schmoozing to be done. Sam rode Pralines And Cream, a 4 year old draft filly, and Lisa rode Pixie Dust, a 21 year old quarter horse.

I got to visit with several current and former ASA members while we were there and missed a few that I never found. Hope Ingalls was a jump judge. I don't know how she pulled it off, but she got assigned to the Corgi jump! Barbara Dove was a steward afoot. She has ridden one of my horses in the past, but I opted not to make myself crazy hauling horses all over Kentucky this year, so she got a golf cart. Kimberly Cornelius was out and about taking pictures. Victoria Nader stopped and chatted for a bit. I missed new members Amanda Bacon and daughter Annabelle. They were doing shuttle service around the grounds. Laurie Post, Teresa Runions, Erin Peterson, and Katie McAllister were there to check out the shopping and watch some of the competition.

And in the afternoon, it rained. Poor Sam looked frozen in her beautiful green linen habit. Lisa was doing ok, until she touched her apron and it ceased repelling water. Her coat was fairly water resistant. After the last competitor went through, horses went back to the barns, and people trudged the 90 miles back to the parking field. We met up at Cracker Barrel for lunch and enjoyed catching up with old friends and making some new ones. After dinner, those of us riding in the parade headed back to Louisville to do barn chores before bedtime.

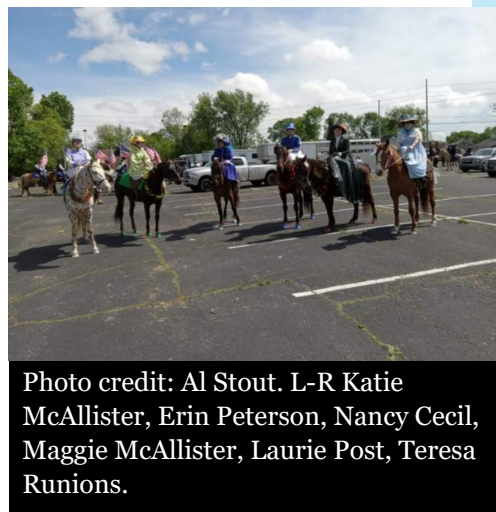


Photo credit: Al Stout. L-R Katie McAllister, Erin Peterson, Nancy Cecil, Maggie McAllister, Laurie Post, Teresa Runions.



Sam and Lisa Sidwell

Kentucky Derby Festival continued from previous page...

Sunday morning dawned cool and clear. It warmed up fairly quickly as we got horses cleaned up and ready for the big day. We were actually loaded and ready for the police escort early. Since we had only one horse trailer and two cars, we decided to just go on our own to the lineup area.

This year's team consisted of Laurie Post on Casino Royale (Ace), Katie McAllister on Crimson Tide, Erin Peterson on Regina Skyscaper, Nancy Cecil on SB Quents Knight, me on This Is Wyatt, and new Pegasus Parade rider Teresa Runions on Red Fern.

Horses were saddled and the bedazzling was in full swing when it started to sprinkle. It didn't last long, at least. As we got mounted up, the skies started to darken. And darken. We were called to be the next group going down the hill to feed into the parade route, but were quickly called back and told to take cover, there would be a 15 minute hold while the storm passed. Take cover? It takes 15 minutes to get all of us mounted with only one ladder. The wind was really picking up so we opted to ride it out while standing on the leeward side of the horse trailer. The rain was so cold! At least I was fairly numb when the hail hit. The weather settled back down as quickly as it blew up and off we went to Broadway Avenue to greet our adoring fans. Who had mostly gone home.

Well, not everyone. The die-hard parade watchers were there cheering and waving as we went by. The crowd is my favorite part of every parade. I love seeing the kids' faces light up as they scream "look at their toenails!" The stands were mostly empty, but parade watchers were leaning out of windows and from balconies, sitting under popup awnings, and gathered under the I-65 overpass. I had started to get pretty hungry by then and passing by the barbecue stands and food trucks near the end of the parade didn't help any. It all smelled so good!

All good things must come to an end. As we turned down 9th street to get to the dispersal lot, Laurie had to show off how secure sidesaddle can be as her mount tripped over the curb, went to his knees, and then popped back up with a look on his face that said, "no one saw me do that, right?" Moments later, Teresa's saddle finally succumbed to gravity and she almost landed on her feet. At least no one was hurt, just wounded pride. And it started to rain again.



Photo Credit Kimberly Cornelius: Samantha Reeves greets a guest explaining that she is "this many".



Erin Peterson

Decorating Your Helmet for Safety

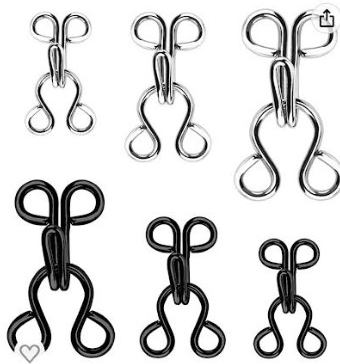
By Rebeca Cordova and Gael Orr

I (Gael) saw my new sidesaddle sister, Rebeca Cordova wearing this gorgeous hair style on Facebook. I immediately had to ping her to get the details on her gorgeous hair and imagine my surprise to learn it's a helmet cover!!! WHAT?!!! Crazy, right?! I immediately sent her a private message to get more details. I'm a safety girl, I prefer to always wear a helmet. In historical reenactment, that doesn't translate well, so I wear a vintage safety bowler, which is better than nothing, but let's face it, it's not as safe a helmet. So here is the discourse between Rebeca and me.



At first I thought Rebeca was somehow permanently attaching these to her helmet, but she actually makes them removeable so you can make different styles for any occasion! She attaches the wig to an actual helmet cover, and if the wig used isn't large enough, she recommends you buy additional hair extensions to add to it. She sews strong eye-hooks onto the helmet itself though. She recommends you purchase curly hair wigs as they work best to visually break up the giant look of the helmet. If the wig isn't big enough, she cuts the wig starting at the back, cutting towards the front about 3/4 of the way and then fills in the back area with hair extensions or a piece from a second wig. Be sure to use hair extensions that are already attached to fabric. Ideally you look for a wig that's stretchy, big, and full enough to stand alone. Then you don't even need a helmet cover to sew this onto, you can just stretch the wig over the top of the entire helmet.

Visit the KACOLA Store
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 Clothing, Sewing DIY Craft, 3 Sizes 23/17/12.5mm, Black
 and Silver



Decorating Your Helmet for Safety Continued...

Pro tip: www.ebonyline.com has a lot of larger wigs.

It is okay to use a handheld steamer to steam hats and wigs that you want to use to help stretch them over the helmet too. You will also need to sew hooks onto your helmet. You can buy the clothing hook similar to what is used on ladies braziers. Rebeca recommends you affix up to 3 hooks on the front of your helmet. However, on the back, she uses a much larger fabric wrapped hook, see image on the right. This gives strength and security to her headpiece. You will need to sew a loop of strong thread or string onto the wig itself to affix to the helmet hooks.

Rebeca explains, "If the wig is big enough you stretch it to the helmet and fasten it to the hooks front and back. It doesn't matter that it doesn't stretch all the way over the helmet at the sides, you just take some matching string or ribbon and tie it to the harness on each side of your helmet. I like to cover my harness with flesh colored fabric." Then, you can either sew or attach a hat with hat pins, it looks nice when you can perch it at a jaunty angle, which also visually breaks up the lines of the helmet.

This project works best if you use a older velvet covered English riding helmet with the harness attachments. You can glue your wig onto the helmet directly if you prefer to, but the hooks are strong enough to keep everything in place as long as you secure it with hooks to the front and back of the helmet, and tie onto the harness at the sides. Rebeca did experiment with painting the helmet's harness a flesh color but found that it didn't cover very well, it made the straps very stiff. Therefore using a flesh colored ribbon works much better, and she used the ribbon to cover the entire harness, with bows and ribbon ties.



Vintage Train Hat Cases

By Gael Orr

Maggie McAllister gets all the credit for getting me involved in historical reenactment. I love old vintage hat cases for toting around my things. If you specifically use the key words “vintage hat box train case” into Ebay, you’ll find a wonderful assortment of



collectables. I confess, I’ve always loved the series, Little House on the Prairie and historical reenactment feeds that inner-child soul of mine.

I stumbled across vintage hat boxes, also known and

vintage train cases on Ebay while looking for something I could put my wigs in for Gettysburg a couple years back. Understand that my hair is cut quite short, and for reenactment I purchased a couple of different style wigs I could wear in the Gettysburg parade, and at the ball. What I found though, is that my hat box stores far more than just a couple of wigs, I find I put all my small items in it for traveling for reenactment.

Gloves, jewelry, crocheted arm warmers, hair ties, etc., are just a few things you might find in my hat box. Depending on what size hat box you get, you can also store your safety bowler inside them if you use one. Why not have something fun to put your historical reenactment items inside of? Many of these hat boxes, also include a peg at the bottom and sometimes a wig stand. Wearing wigs was quite popular. Wearing wigs was a great way to keep up with fashion trends. Historically, in Egypt people even wore wigs to protect their heads from the harsh sun! Obviously wigs were and still are worn to cover up hair loss. And wigs became even more popular when King XIV of France experienced hair loss at the early age of 17, and he hired 48 wigmakers to help combat his thinning locks! Besides fashion and covering up hair loss, lesions, and scarring, people also wore wigs to protect their natural hair. And maybe you remember from your history classes, that lice was a very common occurrence back in the day, so the practice of wig wearing provided the additional benefit of shielding the wearer’s natural hair from the vermin.



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Jen Rogers and her draught, Micky, from WNY Sidesaddle