

Whinny

MAGAZINE

A publication for St. Louis area equestrians and pet lovers.

FEBRUARY
2006



Truffle keeps her eye on her hunting pack as she waits to get going.



Bridlespur huntsman Eleanor Hartwell leads the hounds out on a hunt Dec. 26.

The Bridlespur Hunt Club offers a look at the world of fox hunting and encourages participation. **Pages 5-10.**

Therapeutic Horsemanship has moved into a new facility, which provides more opportunities, but also added responsibility. Sandy Rafferty talks about her 30 years with the program. **Pages 18-24.**



Therapeutic Horsemanship's new home is on 96 acres in Wentzville.

Rhodes Riverside Ranch in Labadie is this issue's "Barn Beautiful" photo essay. **Pages 14, 15.**

Several area barns offer summer camp programs for children and adults. **Pages 11, 12.**

Dressage clinic

Winter event draws crowd despite cold temperatures



Dressage enthusiast and longtime SLADS official Martha Yates (right) talks to another dressage rider in the viewing room of Hamilton Stables at the Paul Belasik clinic Dec. 11.

A frosty start to the Paul Belasik clinic at Hamilton Stables in December did not deter riders or auditors from showing up and enjoying the instruction. Eleven riders were scheduled each day. Auditors could sit at the end of the indoor



Rider Deb Goleman and Ramsey finish their dressage lesson with clinician Paul Belasik on Dec. 11 at Hamilton Stables. Goleman has an artificial hip, which she received two years ago after an accident. The clinic was her first sitting trot work with the hip. She says she can feel the hip — sometimes it even gets a little sore — but it's very functional. Ramsey, 20, is a former Grand Prix dressage horse from Bloomington, Ill., who loves to work. He's 17-1 hands. Deb calls him a very safe horse.

arena or inside the viewing room, both of which had speakers hooked up to Belasik's microphone.

The low temperature Saturday morning was 17 degrees; the afternoon high was 39. Sunday was a bit warmer.

Belasik, who trains his own clients at his Pennsylvania Riding Academy at Lost Hollow Farm, said he gives 30 clinics a year all over the world. He leaves Friday afternoon and gets back Sunday night, so he doesn't miss anything at home.



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Also inside

WHERE'S THE HAY? *Insiders talk about the national and local hay markets, especially the key factors that are driving up the price of a bale.*

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PICTURE PERFECT *A photo wall hanging has captured one beloved animal so well, it's almost too real. The reproduction exceeds expectations. But hanging the tapestry is proving to be a challenge.*

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Mission: To provide Missouri animal lovers with news and stories that inspire and inform.

Whinny

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Dedicated to a dog named Whinny | 1997-2005

From the editor

Whinny magazine has had an interesting affect on my horse life. There's simply less time for being outside. Or so I thought, until something happened recently that reminded me why I need to keep going outside.

I had one of those frustrating days where scheduling conflicts basically ate the day. It was already a grim, cold wintry day, where the horses and human were equally grumpy from the start, and now I had wasted a lot of time waiting for something that turned out to be nothing.

I'm a schedule-oriented person by habit, trained well by my animals, and, for years, the usual day has included walking the family's stallion, 31, in the afternoon (by walking, I mean walking him around the neighborhood until he reaches a patch of grass he wants to eat, where we hang out until I've had enough and drag him home).

New responsibilities have led me to excuse myself from this walk more than once, especially when there's something obvious to use — rain, cold, wind — weather that never stopped us before. This was going to be another one of those days. Sorry, ol' boy. Until I went out at 3 p.m. to hay, and he was out of his shed, staring at me with fixed, disapproving eyes, as if to say, "You are not blowing me off, again, Missy."

Who can ignore a command like that? I slipped on his halter and off we went. There was no grazing on this day; he was taking me for a joy walk. He started at a brisk march, then a trot; soon he was galloping on the bank of grass next to the road, bucking and playing and picking up speed, while I was doddering along behind him in my mud boots, trying not to let go of a lungeline that I was now clutching by its end. It was not horsemanship to be proud of — certainly not attractive. Hopefully, no one will turn up with a video of this comedy. But, it was just plain fun. He was so happy, and I was happy watching him find his coltish soul once again.

After I put him away, it was as if the day started anew. It wasn't wasted at all. The clouds were gone from inside my head, and I had all sorts of energy to go back indoors and get things done. It was a needed reminder that, when life speeds up, don't forget about the four-legged friends. Despite the time crunch, it will be an outing well spent and an emotional boost that no office work can give.

— **Joanie McKenna**

Three weeks after this outing and a few hours after another walk, the stallion went into severe distress and ultimately needed to be put down. The column still seemed appropriate, maybe even more so.



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Local news

Suspect is identified in horse dragging case

St. Louis Police have identified a suspect in connection with the dragging of a horse Jan. 1, 2005.

An arrest warrant was issued for Michael Koopman, 37, who is facing misdemeanor charges of animal abuse and animal neglect. Police are not releasing his home state.

The dragging incident happened on a Saturday night at a gas station at 6020 North Broadway.

Witnesses reported seeing a chestnut mare fall out of the back of a horse trailer. The driver said the horse was having a seizure and had to be removed from the trailer, which was full of more than a dozen horses.

The man, along with

another man, dragged the fallen horse onto a side street using a second pickup. The man reportedly told witnesses he had to take the other horses to Mississippi. His vehicle carried Nebraska license plates, reports said. His face was caught on video at a nearby ATM, and Fox TV News aired his image repeatedly.

Following the incident, the mare had to be euthanized within two days.

She was rescued at the scene by the Humane Society and transported to a local veterinarian, but her condition worsened despite extensive care. The mare had external and internal injuries, reports said.

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Dances with hounds

Fox hunting offers big change of pace from arena work and trail riding



Lil Lewis, who served as Bridlespur master from 1985 to 2000, trots through a field on Dec. 26. At 80, she says she's a little slower at getting ready than she used to be, but she still loves it. Lil started hunting in 1962, when her husband, Ed Lewis, was running the St. Louis Country Club stables.

By Joanie McKenna
Whinny Magazine Editor

The Bridlespur huntsman has a message for all area equestrians: Throw out any preconceived notions about fox hunting and come try it.

"They need nothing; just show up," says Eleanor Hartwell, a New York native who took over care of the Bridlespur hounds in May 2002. "I want it to be something for anyone who wants to do it."

Hartwell was speaking on Christmas Eve as she finished giving Bridlespur's 60 hounds their evening snack and preparing for a Boxing Day hunt Dec. 26.

She said expanding the group of fox hunting enthusiasts, especially getting more children involved, is important not only for Bridlespur, but also for the future of the sport as a whole.

What new riders will find is a mystery each time out, according to several riders who rode on Boxing Day. The object is to watch and follow the work of the hounds

Continued on next page



Huntsman Eleanor Hartwell talks with members before the hunt begins.

Boxing Day, on Dec. 26, gets its name from a 19th-century English custom of gifts, or boxes, being given to those less fortunate the day after Christmas.

Bridlespur Hunt

Continued from previous page

as they pursue foxes and coyotes.

"You never know what you're going to get," said Mary Hensel, who, as one of the whippers-in, is responsible for keeping the hounds from wandering off or into traffic.

"It's an adrenaline rush" to follow the hounds when they find a scent, added Jill Wagenknecht, also a whipper-in. Both said riders do things on a hunt they wouldn't normally do if just out on a trail ride.

Hartwell, as huntsman, directs the hounds throughout the ride.

Werner Kugler, field master of the "A field," or more advanced riders, keeps the group far enough behind Hartwell to avoid interfering with the hounds, but close enough to see what's going on.

Kugler's wife, Gerda, who is field master of the "hilltoppers," keeps watch of riders who don't want to jump.

Some hunts are full out gallops,



Left: Mary Hensel, a master and whipper-in, laughs at a joke by another rider as they get ready to hunt. Right: Gene Deutch also is a master. Despite the morning being cold and damp and the ground slushy due to a recent snowfall, the group was full of humor and laughter and brought the grounds to life.



and it's a struggle for the field to keep up. Others are long walks. Hunts can last from three to six hours, although no one is required to stay out the whole time, according to Hensel. Riders may get cold, have a young horse or have a horse pull a shoe, and need to go in.

Testing the waters

Hartwell was serious when she

said equestrians from all disciplines are welcome, wearing any clothes and any tack, but in reality, participants need a few essentials: Proper head gear, which is a helmet; a hunting license; a current Coggins test; and payment of a \$50 "capping fee," which goes into the general fund that helps pay the bills.

As for the clothes and the tack, it's not that Hartwell is throwing out the old traditions, something held dearly by many Bridlespur members.

Hartwell believes that, over time, guests will want to join the club and conform to the more established fox hunting dress code or they will drop out; there's only one way to find out.

"So many men have said, 'I won't wear those silly, tight pants,' only to become ardent fox hunters," Hartwell says.

When it comes to dress, in fact, Britain has been the aggressive proponent of loosening clothing requirements, according to Horse and Hound Online.

The cost of becoming a

Continued on next page



Jill Wagenknecht lets her horse, Modesty Blaise, stretch her legs before the hunt begins. The mare was bred and raised to fox hunt. Wagenknecht and Hensel were part of the Meramec Valley Hunt, which merged with Bridlespur in 2001.

Bridlespur Hunt



Whipper-in Lee Deutch takes off toward a field where the hunt will be heading to prepare for hounds who go astray.

Continued from previous page

Bridlespur member and hunting is “minimal,” Hartwell says, especially when compared with showing, and the benefits include use of the grounds, plus participation in a sport that doesn’t require competition.

“It’s between you and you,” Hartwell says.

The open invitation is just part of a new era for Bridlespur in the 21st century. Land development and societal changes have led to a transition in fox hunting the world over.

Bridlespur’s chief concern has been a dwindling number of riders, as older members have stopped hunting and a younger generation of enthusiasts has yet to materialize. Currently, one junior is hunting regularly.

The club’s history

The Bridlespur Hunt Club was founded in 1927 by August. A. “Gussie” Busch Jr. on property northwest of Manchester Road and Lindbergh Boulevard, what is now Huntleigh Village.

The club moved to its current location at 4151 Benne Road in St. Charles County in 1960.

For nearly half a century, the fox hunters have been a moving painting in the countryside near New Melle, having access to thousands of acres through the goodwill of area farmers. The club’s members have been some of the most well-known names in St. Louis.

A second hunt club, the Meramec Valley Hunt Club, was established in 1981 and recognized by the national Masters of Foxhounds Association in 1988. It was started by Wayne Kennedy, former St. Louis County parks director, to serve the Franklin County area. There was strong interest in the 1980s for fox hunting, and both clubs thrived.

The Bridlespur grounds also were central to the horse show world, being the only major facility in the area for years. The Bridlespur Charity Horse Show was a big annual hunter/jumper event, and the grounds were used for other competitions, from Pony Club, to dressage, to schooling

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Hunting terms

Hunt: May be a private pack owned and supported by an individual, or a subscription pack, in which members pay a fee to hunt and the hounds are owned by a club or a hunt committee. The majority of American hunts are subscription or membership packs. The members either elect a master or hunt committee that then appoints the master or masters.

Masters: Maintain cordial relationships with landowners, oversee maintenance of land; schedule the hunt meet locations; appoint the hunt staff; and supervise the hound breeding program. A master can hunt the hounds but often appoints a huntsman to fill this role, sometimes a professional. A master can lead the field himself or appoint a field master.

Huntsman: Hunts the hounds.

Field master: Keeps the field of riders close enough to enjoy watching the hounds, yet not so close as to interfere with the hounds.

Whippers-in: An extension of the huntsman, usually far out on the flanks, used to prevent hounds from running onto roads or land not open to hunting.

Hunt secretary: Collects capping fees (fee paid by nonmembers to ride); also takes care of administrative requirements such as checking to see that horses have current Coggins tests.

Bridlespur Hunt

Continued from previous page

and fun shows. Many local riders get nostalgic when talking about their first show, which almost always was at Bridlespur.

In 1994, the Olympic Festival was held at the club. The main arena was expanded by 90 feet and rebuilt with a mixture of fine limestone and sand, replacing the grass surface it had been up to that point.

Development brings change

In 2000, the opening of the horse park in Lake St. Louis, now the National Equestrian Center, took the showing spotlight off Bridlespur, as many groups opted to move to the indoor facility and get out of the weather.

Housing development began to reach explosive levels around New Melle, and members became more nervous about trying to work the hounds while keeping a wary eye on construction trucks driving breakneck



The Bridlespur Hounds watch members gather for the start of the Boxing Day hunt. The hounds are mostly crossbreeds of American and English Foxhounds. A festive Scotsman is among the group on this day.

speeds down area highways.

In 2001, the Meramec Valley Hunt Club merged with Bridlespur to combine both land and human resources, making one strong club and spreading out the work a little. It is now the only fox hunting club in Missouri.

And in November 2005, Bridlespur closed on selling its current property to William "Billy" Busch after purchasing a 1,392-acre piece of land in

northern Lincoln County. Busch has said he plans to keep the Benne Road property much as it is and use it for part of his growing polo operation in the area, which includes polo fields across Benne from the club.

Bridlespur's plans for its new land include building new kennels and a new clubhouse. Hartwell says the club will move when the kennels are finished, but

Continued on next page

Fox hunting facts

Only one Missouri hunt — the Bridlespur Hunt — is registered with the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America. The Virginia-based MFHA was established in 1907 to govern fox hunting in the United States and Canada. There are 171 organized clubs in North America.

Fox hunting is defined by the MFHA as: The sport of mounted riders chasing wild quarry with a pack of hounds. It is a union of humans and animals in the beauty of nature's setting. Man is an observer mounted on a horse, the vehicle that allows him

to follow and observe the hounds as they hunt the fox.

The MFHA goes on to compare a hunt to a theatrical production, with the hounds and fox or coyote as the actors, and the riders as the audience; the plot is never the same.

American foxhunting has existed since Colonial days. The first record of hounds arriving in this country was June 30, 1650, when Robert Brooke moved to Maryland with his family.

George Washington was an avid fox hunter, who owned his own pack of hounds and hunted on land near the nation's capital.

North American fox hunting is

noticeably different from that in Britain, with the emphasis on chasing, rather than killing, the fox, according to the MFHA.

In Britain, the goal really is to kill the fox.

Rabies does not exist in the British Isles, and populations of fox are extremely high. Farmers with sheep herds want the fox numbers controlled.

In America, a successful hunt ends when the fox is accounted for by entering a hole in the ground, called an earth. Once there, hounds are rewarded with praise from their huntsman. The fox gets away and is chased another day.

Bridlespur Hunt

Continued from previous page

there is no set date. The hunt has been traveling quite a bit to other “fixtures,” or hunt sites, to have more room. There will be some traveling at the new home, but Hartwell said it will be scaled back.

She said she is looking forward to the move — one that will give the club open country, a return to rural neighbors and great hunting.

Huntsman’s responsibilities

Hartwell has more than the usual responsibility for a huntsman. She trains and hunts the hounds; takes care of the hounds in the kennel; and also is in charge of the horses.

She began hunting at age 7 with her Shetland pony in Millbrook, N.Y., and was a whipper-in for her mother, a professional huntsman of the Millbrook Hunt for 28 years. Hartwell went on to hunt hounds in Virginia; she also was pursuing a career as an artist.

She tried to quit fox hunting but was encouraged to go back by her husband, who recognized an unfulfilled need and felt she should get back into it before it was too late.

Hartwell found the Bridlespur job opening through the MFHA office. She also was pursuing another opening on the East Coast but chose St. Louis because she liked the people here.

“It was a promising situation. I wanted to be able to come here and establish something special. I could see that in the dedication of the bosses. That’s what they wanted.”

The bosses are the Bridlespur

Fox hunting in Britain since 2005 ban took effect

The Boxing Day hunts in Britain at the end of 2005 looked much the same as always, according to The Associated Press, despite the British government banning the use of dogs to kill prey in February. Turnout was called equal to the previous year, when a record number of riders turned out.

The Hunting Act was passed last year after an ugly battle in Parliament, with supporters saying fox hunting was a critical method of controlling predators, and critics saying it was cruel and unnecessary.

The restrictions

Under the ban, the fox is still killed, but it is shot by one of the sportsmen, rather than being killed by hunting dogs.

Hunters must restrain all but two of their hounds when a fox is discovered. The two dogs can flush the fox into open ground but not harm it.

The other option for the hunts is to run a “drag,” or scented sock.

Boxing Day turnout was not a surprise, since attendance was huge in early November, as hundreds of thousands of supporters joined the more than 300 hunts across England and Wales for their opening meets.

Few in the country expected to see increased support for hunts, according to Horse & Hound Online, and the message was clear: determination to retain the infrastructure of

hunts and hunting, and to prove beyond all doubt that the Hunting Act will not stand the test of time.

“There is a general feeling of disgust that the Government spent so long legislating on such a trivial issue to achieve little. Less than half of public opinion now supports a ban, and even fewer consider that hunting should be dealt with by the police as any kind of priority,” Horse & Hound Online said.

Harassment of animals

Not all has gone smoothly, however.

The League Against Cruel Sports continues to follow hunts around the countryside, turning in reports of alleged abuse. Many so-called monitors have gone beyond that role to show up wearing scary clothing and to try to intimidate and harass hunts.

In November, hunt saboteurs were suspected in an arson attack on the Essex and Suffolk Hunt kennels, during which many hounds and four horses were let out, and a dustbin and fence set on fire. The frightened animals had not gone far when the huntsman arrived. He said it was lucky they did not go trotting off and cause an accident.

The Essex and Suffolk Hunt has been the target of other sabotage, such as hunting horns used to call the hounds onto the roads.

masters, who oversee the organization as a whole. They are:

Marilyn Carney
Gene Deutsch
Mary Hensel

Werner Kugler
And Jill Wagenknecht
Lil Lewis and Dr. R. Bruce McCloskey are masters emeritus,

Continued on next page

Bridlespur Hunt

Continued from previous page

Edwina Lewis Graham is hunt secretary, and Armand Hoffstetter is treasurer.

Hartwell said that, everywhere she goes — restaurants, grocery stores, etc. — people are just nice. And the hunt group she works with is quite relaxed and colorful.

Hartwell takes care of six horses at Bridlespur, four are her hunt horses; one is her 4-year-old daughter's pony; and one is a boarder.

The club hunts two days a week (Wednesdays, and then Saturdays or Sundays) mid-September to mid-March, weather permitting (the wind chill must be above 20 degrees), with about 30 regular members and an average field of 12 to 15 riders. The group also goes out on some holidays. Riders generally eat together afterward, with someone volunteering to bring lunch for the day. There is no age limit on attending a hunt, but a young child's ability would determine the field with which the child rode.

Hartwell said all kinds of horses are used for hunting — walking horses, draft crosses, whatever works.



Werner Kugler, field master of the "A field," keeps a distance from the hounds as he starts the hunt on Boxing Day. Kugler has held the position since 2000.

"I prefer a thoroughbred for its endurance and speed," she said.

Hensel was riding a hunt horse she had owned for a month after having to replace her longtime mount due to injury. The new horse has been perfect, she said, and she feels lucky to have found him. She said the number one thing to look for is a good mind. The other stuff can be taught, but the horse has to have a level head.

For those who question the ethics of chasing animals for sport, a position that forced controversial government changes in Great Britain a year ago, Hartwell says not to worry. The animals being hunted are fast and smart

and do a good job of staying out of the way of the hounds.

Hartwell's mission, she says, is to make the sport more user friendly so people will say, "This is fun."

When asked again about how far that invitation to hunt extends, she said: "Anyone who calls me and says, 'May I?'"

For more information on hunting with Bridlespur, call Hartwell at 314-302-5747.

The club's Web site is www.bridlespur.com. Hartwell's artwork of hunting scenes is featured on the site, which also includes a link to her own Web site, www.eleanorhartwell.com.

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Magazine seeks soldier

Whinny Magazine is interested in talking to a soldier, particularly an animal lover, about his or her experiences overseas. If you know of someone back from a tour of duty and willing to be interviewed, please contact the magazine.

Summer camps

Equestrian options are plentiful in St. Louis area

Several local barns responded to a request for summer camp information. The offerings include a broad variety of activities for different age groups.

Baskin Farm Summer Camp

Dates: Will send out later; usually six sessions of one week.

Location: Baskin Farm, Inc., 18124 Baskin Farm Dr., Wildwood, Mo., 63038.

Phone and e-mail address: 636-458-5053, baskinfarm@aol.com.

Price: \$375 per session; early bird discount of \$25 by March 31.

Age requirement: Ages 6 to 14.

Activities: The camp is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hunt seat riding. Provide before and after care for campers.

Deadline: Tend to fill all beginner level camps by the end of April. Additional information provided in brochure, which can be obtained from Baskin Farm.



Doubletree Farm Seminars

Dates: Daily programs and group seminars throughout summer.

Location: Doubletree Farm, 1700 Pond Rd., Wildwood, Mo., 63038.

Phone: 636-273-6877

Price: \$65 for full day, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or \$60 for private lesson.

Age requirement: 4 years and up.

Activities: Horse care and riding.

Deadline: No deadline for signup. Small program, call for appointment.

Ridgefield's Summer Riding Camps

Dates: Check Web site for dates to be announced and availabilities.

Location: Ridgefield Arena, 1410 Ridge Road, Wildwood, Mo., 63021.

Phone and Web address: 636-527-3624, www.ridgefieldarena.com

Price: \$325

Age requirement: Beginner through advanced. Must be over 6 years old.

Activities: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Grooming, riding, handling, conformation, tack parts and uses, clipping, course setting, games, arts and crafts, farrier and veterinary presentations.

The Drew Crew

Dates: Will start in May.

Location: Drew Training Stables, P.O. Box 334, Troy, Mo., 63379.

Phone and e-mail address: 636-528-7477, drew_training@yahoo.com

Price: \$150.

Age requirement: Geared toward adults or mature young riders.

Activities: Hourly personal training session at the gym in the morning, riding, management classes, video evaluation after dinner. "Spend a week training like you had no other obligations, children, job, household, etc.," Drew Training says.

Deadline: Sign up by February. If we fill one session, we will add another. Ten students per weekly session.

Kee West Summer Camp 2006

Dates: June 5-9 and 14-18, July 3-7 and 10-14.

Location: Kee West Farms, 2101 Ossenfort Rd., Glencoe, Mo., 63038.

Phone: 636-458-3113.

Price: \$375 per week, \$175 deposit due at signup.

Age requirement: Ages 7 and up.

Activities: 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., private and group riding lessons, ground lessons, vaulting, horse-related crafts, games. Friday horse show.

Deadline: Up to week before camp session.

Camps continued on next page

Horse fun

Dublin Farms Summer Horsemanship Program

Dates: June 5-9, June 12-16, July 17-21; Adult camp Aug. 11-13.

Location: Dublin Farms, 8498 Byrnesville Rd., House Springs, Mo. 63051.

Phone and Web address: 636-285-2810, www.dublinfarms.net.

Price: \$325 per week.

Age requirement: Ages 8 to 16.

Activities: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday; guest lectures, horsemanship, riding once a day, sometimes twice.

Deadline: At least two weeks prior to each session.

Ridge Creek Ranch Summer Riding Program

Dates: Every other week, June through August.

Location: Ridge Creek Ranch, 31 Willow Creek Rd, Winfield, Mo., 63389.

636-566-6029, ridgecreek@aol.com

Price: \$475 per week; \$237.50 is due at signup.

All ages and riding levels.

Activities: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; general horsemanship and sportsmanship, specific riding and training skills.

Deadline: Camps close when six to eight riders are signed up.

Critter chatter

The Internet has provided unprecedented access to animal news around the world. Here are a few favorite stories from near and far.

Jamaican dog sled team sees snow for first time

Several news services reported that a Jamaican sled-dog racer who had never seen snow competed in Europe's biggest husky racing event Jan. 21-22 at Aviemore, Scotland.

Devon Anderson, 42, and his four-dog team finished 27th out of 40 competitors. A spokeswoman for the event said he did quite well.

Anderson hopes to compete in the world championships and eventually the Winter Olympics in 2010. His efforts are reminiscent of the Jamaican bobsled team, which took part in the 1988 Games in Calgary.

Anderson's team is made up of mixed-breed dogs rescued from a local pound. At home, without snow, the dogs pull three-wheeled rigs for practice.

Wild stallion is returned to freedom for breeding

The Farmington Daily Times in Farmington, N.M. reported Jan. 22 that a wild paint stallion captured as part of an adoption program had been set free again in the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory.

The 6-year-old, nicknamed Scotty, was captured in late December, along with his band to reduce the number of wild horses

in the territory — estimated at 220. Officials were trying to reduce the number to between 50 to 75 due to lack of vegetation.

Scotty's quiet, friendly disposition and beautiful conformation convinced his captors that he was the kind of horse who should continue to pass on those genes.

After 30 days of confinement, he was returned to his old stomping grounds and turned loose.

Donations to pet charities soar after Katrina

The Sacramento Bee reported Jan. 11 that record-breaking donations have poured into animal rescue charities in the aftermath of Katrina — \$25 million to the Humane Society of the United States and \$13 million to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The donations were only a small percentage of the nearly \$3 billion donated to the general relief effort, but pet charities said the gifts reflect a growing desire by donors to help pets as well as people.

The animal groups said they spent much of the money on the relief effort itself — rescuing, treating, sheltering, and, in many cases, reuniting pets with their owners.

Smarty Jones begins legacy with filly

Several news sources have reported that the first foal of Smarty Jones — a filly — arrived shortly after midnight Jan. 10 at Stone Farm near Paris, Ky.

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Critter chatter

Continued from previous page

The filly is out of Shopping-withbetty, 9, and is described as beautiful. There were 91 other mares in foal to Smarty Jones.

Smarty Jones stands at Three Chimneys Farm in Midway, Ky., for a fee of \$100,000. Smarty's owners, Roy and Pat Chapman, retained a substantial interest in the horse when he went to stud.

Shoppingwithbetty is by Danzig, a Pennsylvania-bred stallion, and out of the mare Buy the Firm, who won five graded stakes. Smarty Jones is the winner of the 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes.

Town in Texas helps vet injured in horse rescue

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Jan. 19 that the town of Saint Jo in north central Texas has rallied to help Sharon Gaston, a small-town veterinarian with a huge heart who always found homes for needy dogs and treated animals for free when clients were strapped.

On New Year's Day, Gaston, 51, was trying to help a friend rescue horses caught in wildfires. She was loading the last of several yearlings onto a trailer when one bolted and knocked her backward, according to the paper. She hit her head on the barn's concrete floor. Other horses ran off trailer and at least one may have stepped on the side of her head. She has been in a coma ever since but is showing signs of improvement, the newspaper reported.

Two veterinarians have volunteered to work at her clinic for free to keep the business going. A client created a

Web site in support of her (www.sharongaston.com). And friends put on a two-day benefit.

Gaston was a biology teacher before deciding to go back to school to become a veterinarian.

Finance issues cause setback for Maryland horse park

The Washington Post reported Jan. 22 that a proposed \$100 million state-run equestrian center in Maryland was given a setback when Gov. Robert Ehrlich Jr. withheld a bill to finance the project.

The governor is bowing to concerns of Anne Arundel County, where the center will be based. County officials said they've been told that their share of the project could be as high as \$30 million, not including the cost of road improvements.

The governor instead will push a resolution asking the county and the Maryland Stadium Authority, which would build and oversee the park, to resolve their funding differences. The 875-acre site in Gambrills — a former Naval Academy dairy farm still owned by the Navy — was chosen in October over locations in five other counties.

Guide dog who changed Senate rules has died

The Washington Post reported Dec. 28 that Beau, a guide dog who gained notoriety for testing disability laws in the nation's capital, had been put to sleep after suffering from arthritis and breathing problems at age 13.

Beau, a yellow Labrador, belonged to Moira Shea, an aide to Sen. Ron Wyden, D.-Ore. Shea got Beau when he was 18 months in 1994 after she developed a genetic disorder that

causes progressive blindness and hearing loss.

In 1997, the Senate barred Shea from bringing Beau onto the Senate floor. The Senate had no rule allowing service dogs in the chamber, and an objection to the dog was raised anonymously.

The Senate, however, had voted two years earlier that Congress must live by the work-space rules it imposed on other employers. This included the Americans with Disabilities Act, allowing guide dogs in the office under most circumstances.

Wyden soon introduced legislation to allow disabled people to bring supporting services, including dogs, onto the floor, and eventually a rules change was made.

Cattle herds are being downsized

Miniature horses have new competition in the munchkin kingdom, according to The Associated Press, which reported Jan. 3 that the latest downsized herd is mini-cattle. Smaller heifers and bulls, a third of the size of normal breeds, are making it easier for backyard farmers to raise cattle for milk, meat or just fun.

Full miniature cattle are defined as those below 42 inches at the hip when fully grown, while mid-size miniatures are up to 48 inches. Miniature calves are more expensive than the standard size because they are still relatively rare, costing as much as \$1,600 for female calves and \$1,000 for bulls, compared to \$500 to \$600 for normal calves. They are sold primarily as pets.

For more on miniature cattle, go to www.minicattle.com. The Web site manager knew of no breeders in Missouri.

Barn beautiful

Rhodes Riverside Ranch

The picturesque full-care equestrian facility in Labadie, opened in October 1999 by Julie and Keith Rhodes, was designed with both the horse and human in mind. It caters to all disciplines and encourages equestrians to spend the day in an environment structured to feel like a country club.



The outdoor all weather arena is 80 feet by 200 feet with sand footing and an underlayment of drains.



The lake and fountain serve as the centerpiece of the farm, with the main barn in the background. The indoor arena sits between the barn and lake and the horse pastures all look onto this setting.



The jumping field is on the far side of the lake from the barn and offers horses the opportunity to stretch their legs on a soft, open surface.



A group of riders takes advantage of a nice day, soaking up the tranquil setting in Labadie.

Photos courtesy Julie Rhodes of Rhodes Riverside Ranch.

Barn beautiful



The viewing lounge for the indoor arena is designed to allow boarders to feel like they're at a country club.



The central barn aisle runs north to south, with three perpendicular stall aisles.



The Rhodes enjoy collecting Indian pieces, which are showcased in the barn and office.

Rhodes Riverside Ranch | Equestrian Center

112 Riverside Drive, Labadie, Mo. 63055

www.rhodesriversideranch.com, trplr@mindspring.com

Owners: Julie and Keith Rhodes **Phone:** 636-451-5384

Features:

- The facility is open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the year.
- The main barn houses 40 stalls, plus washracks and grooming stalls.
- A viewing lounge looks onto the indoor arena, which is 72 feet by 120 feet with a rolled limestone base.
- The all weather outdoor arena is 80 feet by 200 feet with sand footing and an underlayment of drains.
- The 12-by-12-foot stalls, with automatic waterers, are lined

with Woody Pet "Equine Comfort Mattresses," a rubber mat with a lot of cushion, and topped with Woody Pet stall bedding.

- The daily turnout schedule currently allows each horse to have its own pasture area.
- Two tack hallways provide boarders with private lockers.
- Julie Rhodes provides instruction in English and Western, and Marsha Hostetler trains students and horses through second level dressage.
- The facility serves as an overnight horse motel for horses with proper vaccinations.



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Double Delight, Lake St. Louis Hunter/Jumper Show, Dec. 14-18, 2005.

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Michelle Biron,
Fun and Frolic Show, Nov. 19, 2005.



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Columbo
Lake St. Louis Hunter/Jumper Show,
Dec. 10, 2005



Zoe
Gateway Agility Club
Dog Agility, Nov. 25-27, 2005



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Winchester
Lake St. Louis Hunter/Jumper Show,
Dec. 18, 2005



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Sandy Rafferty tosses a ball back and forth with a student Dec. 21 at the Therapeutic Horsemanship facility in Wentzville. The tossing movement helps eye/hand coordination and balance and builds core strength.

Sitting tall

Riding program for disabled

moves into new home, counts its blessings while also looking ahead

By Joanie McKenna
Whinny Magazine Editor

Therapeutic Horsemanship started in St. Louis 30 years ago as Sandy Rafferty using her own horses in her yard to help those with disabilities.

Some 10,000 students later, Rafferty sits in her heated office at the program's spacious new facility in Wentzville and reflects on how grateful she is for all the help she's received over the years and where Therapeutic Horsemanship goes from here.

The riding program moved into its new barn in 2003, then added

an office complex that was completed in 2005. The \$2 million project is the culmination of a journey that started in 1991 when Rafferty realized the program was getting so big, it needed a place of its own.

Making it happen was the result of "terribly hard work" by a team of very dedicated volunteers, she says. Building their dream home took many federal grants, a lot of pledges and donations, and supporters who wouldn't quit in their efforts to raise money.

Rafferty said she didn't want to cut corners; she wanted to do it right. Therapeutic Horsemanship

found the money to meet those needs.

Home is now a state-of-the-art horse complex on 96 acres south of the Mid-Rivers Equine Centre; Mid-River's driveway off Highway Z also serves as the entrance to Therapeutic Horsemanship.

The complex includes a 225-by-85-foot indoor arena, with crumb rubber and sand footing; a viewing room for family members, with a play area for siblings; and office space for six full-time staff members, plus open areas for meetings and

Continued on next page

In depth



Therapeutic Horsemanship moved into its new barn in 2003 and added an office complex completed in 2005. The facility was constructed by Damien Construction of Wentzville.

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seminars. There are 11 stalls, 12 feet by 12 feet, three paddocks and seven pastures, which serve the program's 17 resident horses and five ponies.

Rafferty is full-time program director. Perhaps the one burden lifted from her shoulders is Therapeutic Horsemanship now runs on its own. No longer dependent on Rafferty for every detail, the program would be just fine if she retired tomorrow, she says.

She's not retiring.

Far from it. She plans to expand the use of the facility as a training ground for international-level athletes.

Competing at the top level for the disabled has become just



The indoor arena is 225 feet by 85 feet and has a crumb rubber and sand footing. It is unheated but stays about 40 degrees, even when outdoor temperatures plummet.

as competitive as open competition, she says.

And the rewards are just as rich. For example, riders participating in the Paralympics, following the Olympics every four years, are treated as equals

to the other Olympic athletes, wearing the same team outfits, living in the same quarters, having opening and closing ceremonies in the same venue and receiving the same medals.

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In depth

Things to know

FUNDRAISER: The major annual fundraiser for Therapeutic Horsemanship is the Mane Event dinner auction. This year's party will be held March 18 at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. For more information, call 636-332-4940.

CONTRIBUTIONS: The group still relies on contributions for all of its expenses, so any amount is welcome, no matter how small. There are still many naming rights available in the new building. This is the first year the riding program will be the beneficiary of the Bridlespur Charity Horse Show, which will be held at Bridlespur.

DONATING A HORSE:

Therapeutic Horsemanship always is looking for good horses, which must be quiet, sound and healthy. Soundness is key, because symmetrical movement of the horse is what helps the riders. Many local riders and trainers have donated wonderful horses to the program.

VOLUNTEERING TIME: The program needs more volunteers. One must be 14 years old and donate three hours at a time once a week. One doesn't need to have experience with horses; training is provided. Volunteers start out as sidewalkers and then advance to leaders and horse handlers.

RIDING: Any person with a disability is eligible, with some specific restrictions. People with brittle bones or hip dislocations would not be able to ride. One must have permission from a physician, then be evaluated by the program for the necessary lesson structure. Lessons are offered in three time periods, spring, summer and fall, for \$28 to \$45, which covers about a quarter of the cost.



There are 11 stalls in the barn.

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At the Paralympics in Athens, there were 130 equestrian riders out of 3,806 athletes from 136 countries. The U.S. team had five equestrian members. The Paralympic Organizing Committee paid for three U.S. horses to be flown to Greece for the Games, and the United States borrowed two additional horses from Holland, who were driven there by their Dutch owners.

Rafferty understands the international scene well, having been one of the builders of the U.S. disabled program and then serving as team coach and later an international official.

Now, the team falls under the domain of the United States Equestrian Federation and the Federation Equestre Internationale. Rafferty sees her latest role as looking for international-level talent.

Therapeutic Horsemanship will host a USEF training camp,

one of three across the country, in the summer of 2006, with top level dressage instructors set to evaluate potential competitors.

Paralympic riders compete only in dressage at the moment, but discussions are under way to expand to stadium jumping. Driving is included at the world championship level.

Therapeutic Horsemanship has one Paralympics hopeful — Danielle Giuffrida, who has three years to prepare her riding and raise money for the trip. It costs thousands of dollars for a rider to train for the Paralympics, but if one makes the team, the trip is paid for by the Olympic Committee.

The final selection trial for the Summer Games in Beijing will be at Gladstone, N.J., in June 2008.

The international participants are graded on their level of ability and put into different categories. Danielle would ride in the toughest category and

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In depth

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have to perform at the second and third level of dressage. She trains with Therapeutic Horsemanship as well as takes private lessons with Darla Green and Chris Donaghy of Illusions Stables.

Humble beginnings

Rafferty grew up wanting to be a missionary in the Southwest. She loved horses as a child but didn't get her own until she was 21.

The St. Louis native went to California in 1967 with her first husband, who was in the U.S. Navy. The marriage ended, but Rafferty stayed, attending San Francisco State University to get a teaching certificate to work with the orthopedically handicapped and a master's degree in special education.

She was working as an occupational therapist at Sonoma State Hospital in 1969, when she was sent to help out with its camp in the Sonoma Mountains. The patients were all severely disabled and in wheelchairs. The camp offered the usual fare — tents, crafts, some swimming — plus a horse for petting.

Rafferty thought some of the campers might like to sit on the horse. When she saw the emotional response of the adults, she knew she was on to something.

In fact, the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association already had been founded in 1969 in Denver. And therapeutic riding had been used since the early 1940s in Europe for war veterans and people with cerebral palsy and polio.

Rafferty had discussions by phone with her mother in



Tim Shurtleff films a student's session for his doctorate in occupational therapy at Washington University. He is studying improvement in core strength and upper extremity functioning of riders with cerebral palsy after they participate for 12 weeks in hippotherapy. Shurtleff also is the Therapeutic Horsemanship's driving instructor.

St. Louis about wanting to do a riding program for the disabled. Her mother happened to go to the same St. Louis church with the mother of the first president of NARHA. With all the coincidences, Rafferty says it seems like "it was just meant to be."

Rafferty contacted NARHA and was able to attend one of its training programs.

She was the first to use the name Therapeutic Horsemanship in the country — a name now included in the title of most programs.

She tried to get a program going in California but received no interest from the horse community. She moved back home to be near her parents and found a lot of interest in St. Louis.

She started in her yard in Eureka, Mo., with her own horses: Suncie (a quarter horse/thoroughbred cross), and her mother, Star (a thoroughbred). Suncie was with the program through 2001 and died just three years ago at age 33. She also had a full

career in open competitions, particularly horse trials.

During the building years, Rafferty also managed to get re-married, to Ron Walchshauer, and raise two children. Her family was very supportive and patient in her efforts to make this happen, she said.

Rafferty's program was one of the first 10 to be accredited in the country. The Easter Seals covered the cost of lessons in those early days, at \$2 per child. Rafferty paid the bills by continuing in her full time job as teacher in the Special School District.

She also trailered the horses to other venues for lessons, including High Trails, then run by Austin Roper, in Eureka, and Trails End Stables, now J.M. Pierce Stables, in Chesterfield.

In the meantime, Rafferty was making new friends, and one friend, Jan Spink, led to another, Laura Carpenter Balding, whose family owned Three Creek Farm and bred Connemara horses and

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In depth

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ponies in Weldon Spring.

Therapeutic Horsemanship moved to Three Creek in 1976 and stayed for 14 years, being allowed to use the Connemaras and the covered ring without needing to get involved in all the details of daily horse management. The little schoolhouse by the ring served as a meeting hall, and picnics often were held nearby.

"If it weren't for the Connemaras, for Laura and D.J. (Moore, Laura's mother), the program would have fallen flat on its face," Rafferty said. "We were so lucky."

As student participation increased, the program needed more arena time and ultimately outgrew the private farm, Rafferty said.

Therapeutic Horsemanship moved to the new Wessels facility in Weldon Spring from 1990 to 2003 and that experience served as the training ground for the program to move



Norman is a former hunter pony from Baskin Farm who has been with the program for two years.

out on its own. Therapeutic Horsemanship at first leased some horses from Wessels, then purchased five of them and leased one of the two barns.

"We had to take care of everything," Rafferty said. She still has Stoney the Pony from Wessels and, at age 30-plus, he still happily gives lessons.

There are other unrelated therapeutic riding programs in the St. Louis area, including Jamestown New Horizons, which serves North County; Exceptional



Cass is a quarter horse who was given to the program by a local owner.

Equestrians of the Meramec Valley, which is in Washington; Ride on St. Louis, which covers the southern metro area; and Equine Assisted Therapy, in Eureka. Rafferty helped some of those get started. She said all are excellent programs; each has its own focus.

"What makes us different is our attention to hippotherapy," Rafferty said. Hippotherapy is a treatment strategy that uses the horse's movement for specific therapeutic goals, such as improving balance, strength and coordination. The hippo program has six therapists on staff with a total of more than 55 years experience in the use of the horse as a therapy partner.

The new facility also gives lessons to children without disabilities in the form of Pony Pals for ages 4 to 7; Barn Buddies for 8 to 12; and Stable Mates for 12 on up. After that, the students are sent to the bigger training barns in the area to continue learning. The lessons were started for the siblings of clients who wanted their own riding time.



Sandy Rafferty helps a student mount before his lesson. He had to use his own strength to pull his right leg over the saddle and get in position.

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In depth

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The program also now offers Equilates classes for adults.

Rafferty sees the new facility as one for all. She would like to bring in well-known instructors to give clinics to area riders on a regular basis.

Rafferty's success has not gone unrecognized. In 2001, she was given NARHA's James Brady Award, its highest honor, which pays tribute to a professional who has made a significant contribution to the field of equine-assisted activities. It is named after the same James Brady who was injured in the shooting of Ronald Reagan in 1981. Brady used therapeutic riding to aid with his recovery.

Rafferty had to spend some time thinking about how many students she's taught over 30 years. She estimated about 10,000. Ten of those students have competed internationally and about 100 students nationally.

Rafferty's first international competition was in New York in 1984; Balding drove four horses to the venue for her. For subsequent international competitions, the riders borrowed horses at the site and simply had to adjust to whatever they were loaned.

"It was catch riding at its ultimate," said Rafferty, a feat that wouldn't be easy even for other riders.

Times have changed. The opportunities have grown. The support has increased. And Rafferty plans to be at the forefront of riding for the disabled for many years to come.



Rod Hauser works on a painting in the lobby of the National Equestrian Center, where he sets up a booth during shows. He is supervised by his granddog, sitting on his lap. A print of Hauser's grandson, Christian Miller, riding with Therapeutic Horsemanship, is on display nearby. Hauser's work can be seen on his Web site at www.colorimageart.com/ron/index.htm

Artist plans to use painting business to give back to disabled riding group

One wrong step on an icy snow bank in January 2001 sent Ron Hauser tumbling from a comfortable and familiar life into one with a much less certain future.

He ultimately would wind up at the doorstep of Therapeutic Horsemanship with the mission of helping those who had put a smile on the face of his grandson, who is a quadraplegic.

At the time of the fall, Hauser was a 57-year-old workaholic in a business suit who was used to traveling 1,500 miles a week as district marketing manager for Komatsu, a heavy-construction equipment company based in Japan and his employer for 30 years.

The new injuries on top of old ones finally forced him to give up the job, allowing for depression

to set in as he twiddled his thumbs and had one big pity party.

His wife sent him into the basement to paint. As Hauser tells it, two months later, she went down to the basement to view the results and noticed he wasn't painting the walls, as requested, but painting Western scenery, instead.

The sabbatical produced a handful of paintings, and when friends started asking to buy them, Hauser saw the beginnings of a new business.

At the same time, Hauser was getting more involved in helping with his grandson, Christian Miller, born in January 1999 with a rare birth defect that left him a quadraplegic on a

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In depth

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ventillator full time. Hauser became a certified nurse's assistant to assist his daughter, Julie Miller, who needed professional care for Christian for insurance reasons.

In the summer of 2005, Christian started riding with Therapeutic Horsemanship after having a good horse experience on a camping trip in Tennessee. His family had allowed him on a pony ride while they walked be-

side him, and he laughed and smiled so much, that they knew this was something they needed to pursue.



Hauser

Julie asked her dad if he could take Christian for some of his riding lessons, because she needed to work. Hauser started taking him every other week.

"I was so impressed with how those people work," he said.

Christian has two sidewalkers when he rides. His ventilator is in a backpack, and the backpack goes on a sidewalker.

"I asked if they would accept me donating a print (of Christian)," Hauser said. That large canvas print hangs in the entryway of the new facility.

"It just hit me," Hauser said — his new mission is to paint and donate the money to Therapeutic Horsemanship.

He is donating 35 percent of every painting sold locally to Therapeutic Horsemanship and 25 percent of paintings sold elsewhere to the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association.

Rafferty said Christian reminds



Christian Miller gets his glasses adjusted during a riding lesson with Therapeutic Horsemanship in 2005.

her of one of her first students.

"You can tell in his eyes that he loves the horse movement," she said.

When Therapeutic Horsemanship went on break during the winter, Hauser didn't want his grandson to go without. For Christmas, he bought Christian a stuffed, reddish brown horse that holds 60 pounds and whinnies if one pinches its ears.

Getting back on horses

Ron's resilience is a skill he's honed throughout life. Born Ronald Dean Pennington to parents he describes as bootleggers who weren't together for long, he lived in many an interesting home in the Midwest, including a boarding school, orphanage and the farm of a Kansas couple. His favorite years were at age 4 or 5, living with his mother's aunt in Ava, Mo. He once saddled up a horse and rode right through the front door of her store in town.

He says his father kidnapped him three times, and his mother carried a derringer in her purse,

but he credits her with instilling in him "hutzpah," and he believes his grandson, who's battled back from near death more than once, has those same tough genes.

"Christian has touched more lives" because of his courage, Hauser says.

Hauser would like to do more paintings of those with disabilities and capture people as they are, doing what they love.

He paints round the clock now, getting inspired in the middle of the night, and sleeps in the basement. He jokes that his wife, Mary, says she's created a monster but quickly adds she's been most supportive of his new career.

Hauser doesn't want to sell his original paintings. He discovered Giclee prints, a spray process done by St. Louisan Jim Trotter, that duplicates an original painting into different sizes on canvas; that is what he sells.

The painting of his grandson is titled "Cowboy up," which he says means: Get back on your horse.

"That's what we do. That's what Christian does."

In search of hay

Last summer's drought leaves local suppliers short; longterm outlook is better

By Joanie McKenna
Whinny Magazine Editor

There's no easy way to sum up the state of the hay supply this year.

Leading national experts agree that Missouri and Illinois took the biggest hit from the summer drought and may need to bring in hay from other states that had better yields.

According to federal statistics released in January, Missouri hay production in 2005 totaled 6.72 million tons, 29 percent below the record crop in 2004. Missouri hay yields averaged 1.68 tons per acre, compared with 2.17 tons in 2004.

Nationally, production of all dry hay for 2005 is estimated at 151 million tons, down 5 percent from the previous year.

That drop does not concern industry officials; U.S. hay production is considered fairly stable, and fears that hay supplies are dwindling because farms are turning into housing developments are unfounded, according to officials.

There may be fewer farms growing hay, but they're producing a lot more of it, according to Travis Thorston, hay specialist for the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Donald Kieffer, executive director of The National Hay Association in Florida, agrees, and adds that the nation has such a strong hay industry, it's become a big exporter of hay to several countries in the Pacific Rim.

Missouri hay production (all hay)

Year	Harvested	Yield per acre	Production
2003	4,250,000 acres	1.91 tons	8,122,000 tons
2004	4,350,000 acres	2.17 tons	9,420,000 tons
2005	4,000,000 acres	1.68 tons	6,718,000 tons

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Local stores

A random phone sample of local feed stores showed that several carry hay; the price varies quite a bit; most don't think they will run out, but at least one reserves the right to sell hay only to regular customers if the supply gets short.

All this good news is little consolation to Missouri and Illinois horse owners, who saw hay fields wither during a scorching summer and knew the winter hay supply would be short.

National Weather Service temperatures for the months of June, July, August and September 2005 show that St. Louis had 56 days of temperatures at 90 degrees or above, with 19 of those days at 95 or above and four days at 100 or above.

Not only has it become more difficult to get hay, but the price of a bale has jumped by as much as \$2 in recent months locally.

St. Louis is not alone in that trend. An online poll by The Horse in early December asked: "Are you paying more for hay this

winter?" A total of 757 people responded, and 67.63 percent said yes. They checked different categories for how much.

- 23.12 percent said they were paying less than \$4.
- 15.85 percent were paying between \$4 and \$5.
- 7.53 percent were paying between \$5 and \$6.
- 4.62 percent were paying between \$6 and \$7.
- 16.51 percent, over \$7.

The poll didn't take into account the size of a bale. Also in the results:

- 11.62 percent said, no, they grew their own hay.
- 20.21 percent said, no, they were not paying more.
- 1.98 percent (or 15 people) said they were not feeding hay.

"The price of hay went up because of \$3 gasoline," according to Kieffer, who said three things drive up the price: fuel, fertilizer and labor.

Not only do higher gas prices make it tougher to move the hay, but the means of moving the hay — trucks — are busy this year

Continued on next page

Farm land use in St. Louis area

County	Farms in 2002	Farms in 1997	Change	Average size of farms in 2002	Average size of farms in 2002	Change
St. Louis Co.	328	350	Down 6 percent	120 acres	148 acres	Down 19 percent
Franklin	1,833	1,808	Up 1 percent	164 acres	171 acres	Down 3 percent
St. Charles	739	782	Down 5 percent	250 acres	257 acres	Down 3 percent
Lincoln	1,102	1,128	Down 2 percent	228 acres	244 acres	Down 7 percent
Warren	670	631	Up 6 percent	211 acres	223 acres	Down 5 percent
Jefferson	764	784	Down 3 percent	163 acres	153 acres	Up 7 percent
Boone	1,388	1,435	Down 3 percent	194 acres	189 acres	Up 3 percent

Source: 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Food supply

Continued from previous page

hauling plywood to the hurricane recovery areas in the Gulf Coast, and it takes more money to get someone to haul hay now, he said.

"The dollar value of a bale hasn't gone up," Kieffer said.

Asked if the price of hay would drop again, Keiffer said, "I don't think so. It's like saying, 'When will gas go down?'"

There are many ways for someone to buy hay: through a neighbor or friend, a hay supplier, feed stores that carry hay, or by trying to find it online. Not all provide the same results.

"Buying hay is like buying bread. We want each loaf to be just like the last one." Kieffer said.

To get that consistency, he recommends developing an ongoing relationship with a year-round seller, so that the supply is constant and consistent.

Statistics produced by the

Missouri farms in 2004

Number of farms:

106,000

Land in farms:

30,100,000 acres

Average farm size:

284 acres

Source: National Agriculture Statistics Service

USDA bear out the theory that production is stable, although it dropped off a little in 2005.

In 2002, hay production was 149 million tons.

In 2003, 157.5 million tons.

In 2004, 158.2 million tons.

In 2005, 150.5 million tons.

A U.S. ton is 2,000 pounds, and bales generally run 50 to 60 pounds.

The number of horses has been rising steadily in the country, reaching 9.2 million in 2005, according to the American Horse Council. The effect on hay production has been better quality,

according to Kieffer.

"I would not say demand for hay has gone up, but demand for good hay has gone up," he said. Alfalfa in particular has been getting more nutritious, and the dairy cow market is driving that more than anything.

About 20 years ago, there were 18 to 20 million milking cows in the United States, Kieffer said. Now, there are 9 million. Those cows are still producing the same amount of milk and that is due in part to their rations getting better, he said.

Most dairies are dry ones now, he said, meaning the cows are in confinement, not out on pastures. They're eating hay every day of the year.

Kieffer said cows used to have a bigger share of the hay market; the gap is closing. Back when there were 18 million dairy cows, there were 3 to 4 million horses. Now, it's about even. The dairy cows probably are still consuming more hay because a lot of horses have

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Food supply

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access to grass, he said.

Beef cattle, numbering in the millions as well, are served by a different hay market. They eat a rougher "grinding" hay to fill their stomachs, Kieffer said. These cattle rely on a grain-concentrated ration, such as corn, for the nutritional boost that helps them gain weight.

The hay is like a salad for beef cattle and does not need to be the high quality alfalfa fed to dairy cows or the alfalfa or grass hay that a horse might eat.

Grinding hay gets its name because the long stems are ground to shorter stem particles for easier chewing, Kieffer said. A farmer who has a crop of unacceptable hay for dairy cows or horses will turn his crop into something usable by the beef cattle industry or another animal group.

"There's something for everyone," Kieffer said.

When asked to look into the future, Kieffer said: "The demand is going to be there." And the country is going to have a pretty good hay source, because people are becoming more conscious that a hay field is good for conservation, and perhaps more importantly, hay has been making money. He added there are no government regulations (or subsidies) for growing hay.

Overseas market

One area of the hay market that is really taking off is selling hay overseas. There are 40 major U.S. companies exporting hay to countries such as Japan, South Korea, Thailand and to a lesser extent Vietnam.

Hay production (all hay) in 2004

County	Acres harvested 2004	Production 2004
St. Louis Co.	2,000 acres	4,000 tons
Franklin	58,000 acres	124,000 tons
St. Charles	12,000 acres	28,000 tons
Lincoln	22,000 acres	49,000 tons
Warren	16,000 acres	35,000 tons
Jefferson	24,000 acres	52,000 tons
Boone	42,000 acres	100,000 tons

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
Statistics for 2005 will not be released until April 2006.

"They are extremely big markets," Kieffer said, because they are "land poor." The land is used for food production for humans rather than livestock.

Other countries buying hay from the United States include Iran, Iraq, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Kieffer said horse lovers in those countries buy expensive race horses from Kentucky, and then also buy their hay from Kentucky.

The hay is shipped out in containers, which were filled with electronics imports when they arrived in the United States and would go back empty otherwise, so hay suppliers get a break on shipping by filling them with hay.

The hay has to be double-pressed. A normal bale that is cured goes into a hay press again, where it is reduced to half its size and retied. A bale that weighs 60 to 70 pounds and that was 4 feet long is now 2 feet long. It allows more bales to fit in a container.

Kieffer said exporting hay is not more widespread because one

has to put in the doublepressing equipment, which can run up to \$1 million. The states of California, Utah and Idaho are also big exporters.

Fewer farms

As for the country having less farms, this is true. The USDA counts every farm and what it produces every five years (it surveys a sample of farms for estimated numbers for the other years). The latest census numbers available for comparison are from 1997 and 2002.

In 1997, 384,000 farms harvested alfalfa; in 2002, the number was down to 344,000 farms.

In 1997, 81,000 farms harvested small grain hay (wheat and oat cut for hay); in 2002, 76,600 farms.

In 1997, 545,700 farms harvested tame hay (not wild, which includes timothy hay); in 2002, it was 504,900.

For more information, go to The National Hay Association at www.nationalhay.org, or the National Agricultural Statistics Service at www.nass.usda.gov.

Local News

MOHJO nominates three members for national awards program

The Missouri Hunter Jumper Organization, as an affiliate of the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association,

was asked to nominate a junior, an amateur and a professional for USHJA sportsmanship awards. MOHJO selected as its nominees: Hadley Graham as the junior; Jane Walters as the amateur; and John Korenak as the professional.

Their names will be considered for overall regional awards in October and their biographies will be published in a yearbook.

The criteria for the awards

included good horsemanship, sportsmanship and integrity for the sport and exhibitors.

For the junior nominee, academics also were important.

Show managers and secretaries, trainers, parents or any member of MOHJO could nominate an individual for an award. Organizations were not required to award all three awards.

Calendar

Feb. 4-5: Excellence in Motion, Dog Agility (Arena B), National Equestrian Center, Karen Winter, 314-440-3623.

Feb. 8-12: Equine Productions Hunter/Jumper Show, National Equestrian Center, Maryann Meiners, 636-398-4623, Tommy McIntyre, 630-842-7650.

Feb. 15-19: Equine Productions Hunter/Jumper Show, National Equestrian Center, Maryann Meiners, 636-398-4623, Tommy McIntyre, 630-842-7650.

Feb. 25-26: Irish Fox Stables Hunter/Jumper Show (Arena A), National Equestrian Center, John and Beth Korenak, 636-398-6868, 636-398-5538, www.irishfoxstables.com.

Feb. 25-26: "All About the Horse" equine education fun day, Greene's Country Store and Feed, Lake St. Louis, 636-561-6637.

Feb. 25-26: Missouri Equine Council Equine Education Celebration, Boone County Fairgrounds, Columbia, Mo., 800-313-3327, info@mo-equine.org.

March 17-19: Missouri All Arabian Show, National Equestrian Center Sandra Lewis, 573-631-0289, clewis@highstream.net

March 18, 2006: Mane Event. The major annual fundraiser for Therapeutic Horsemanship. Hilton St. Louis Frontenac. For more information, call 636-332-4940.

March 29-April 2: Equine Productions Hunter/Jumper Show, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650

April 5-9: Equine Productions Hunter/Jumper Show, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650

April 20-22: Missouri Horse Shows Association Kickoff Show, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Lenard Davenport, Springfield, Mo., lendavenport@prodigy.net

April 21-23: 37th Annual Greater Kansas City Arabian Spring Fling, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Ruth Charpie, Lee's Summit, Mo., 660-530-5600, rcharpie@aol.com

April 22-23: William Woods Spring Dressage Show, Fulton, Mo. Contact: Karen Pautz, Fulton, Mo., 573-592-4343, kpautz@williamwoods.edu

May 5-7: Eastern Kansas AHA 26th Annual Class A Show, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Allen Wilke, Kansas City, Mo., 816-215-8838, awilke@wilkearabians.com

May 10-13: UPHA Chapter V Show, Columbia, Mo. Contact: John Owens, 573-445-8338, info@trh1865.com

May 13-14: Mill Creek Pony Club Horse Trials at Longview Horse Park, Grandview, Mo. Contact: Tara Myers, Tonganoxie, Kan., 913-669-1983, myerst2@usfilter.com

June 1-3: Junior League of Springfield Horse Show, Springfield, Mo. Contact: Lenard Davenport, Springfield, Mo., lendavenport@prodigy.net

June 1-4: Bridlespur Charity Horse Show, near Defiance, Mo., Contact: Edwina Graham, Chesterfield, Mo., pinhead35@aol.com

June 2: SLADS Summer Dressage Festival I, National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis. Contact: Gerri Muldrow, gerri@slads.org.

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Calendar

June 3-4: SLADS Summer Dressage Festival II, National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis.
Contact: Gerri Muldrow, gerri@slads.org.

June 2-4: Saddle & Sirloin Hunter/Jumper Show, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dolores Ford, arhj@birch.net.

June 29-30: Shades of Summer I, Sedalia, Mo.
Contact: Claudia Tucker, 417-225-2286, jmtuckers2@aol.com

July 1-2: Shades of Summer II, Sedalia, Mo.
Contact: Claudia Tucker, 417-225-2286, jmtuckers2@aol.com

July 1: Shades of Summer Dressage Show, Ruth Charpie, 417-225-2286, rcharpie@aol.com

July 5-9: St. Louis Festival I, National Equestrian Center, Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650

July 7-9: Missouri Dressage Classic, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kim Kriekhaus, 573-445-8338, willowpondsfarm@hotmail.com

July 12-16: St. Louis Festival II, National Equestrian Center, Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650

July 26-29: Boone County Fair, Columbia, Mo.
Contact: Tracy Mulligan, 573-474-9435, bcf1947@tranquility.net

Aug. 9-12: Missouri State Fair, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Lenard Davenport, Springfield, Mo., lendavenport@prodigy.net

Sept. 6-10: Lake St. Louis Labor Day Horse Show, National Equestrian Center Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650

Sept. 13-17: St. Louis National Charity Horse Show Hunter/Jumper, National Equestrian Center, Marilyn Trokey, 636-561-8080, stlnatlcharityhs@aol.com

Sept. 27-30: St. Louis National Charity Horse Show Saddlebred, National Equestrian Center,

Marilyn Trokey, 636-561-8080, stlnatlcharityhs@aol.com

Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Queeny Park Horse Trials, Ballwin, Mo.
Contact: C. Marvin Harwood, marvinharwood@charter.net

Oct. 7-8: SLADS Fall Dressage Classic: National Equestrian Center, Lake St. Louis, Gerri Muldrow, gerri@slads.org.

Oct. 12-15: Calvary Episcopal Charity Horse Show, Columbia, Mo., Contact: Lenard Davenport, Springfield, Mo., lendavenport@prodigy.net

Oct. 31-Nov. 5: American Royal Hunter/Jumper — Arabian, Kansas City, Paulette Orth, paulette@americanroyal.com

Nov. 8-12: Lake St. Louis Thanksgiving Hunter Jumper Horse Show, National Equestrian Center, Maryann Meiners 636-398-4623 Tommy McIntyre 630-842-7650

Nov. 14-18: UPHA / American Royal National Championship, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: paulette@americanroyal.com

Calendar items for all animal events are welcome. Please submit items as soon as your schedule is set.

Deadline for next issue

The deadline for advertising copy and all other material for the April issue is March 15. For a list of display ad rates, call 636-398-5067, or e-mail Whinnymagazine@aol.com.

Get out your message

Use a business card advertisement to:

- Promote your product or service.
- Sell a horse, or advertise you're looking for one.
- Congratulate a friend, relative or client.
- Thank your trainer.
- Thank your horse.
- Thank your parents.

Directory of Equine Businesses and Services

Boarding / training

Hunter/jumper training, instruction:

■ Baskin Farm

18124 Baskin Farm Dr.
Wildwood, MO 63038
636-458-5053
www.baskinfarm.net

■ J.M. Pierce Stables

2315 Baxter Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
636-394-4733

Dressage training, instruction:

■ Drew Training Stables

Troy, Mo.
636-528-7477
drew_training@yahoo.com

■ Hamilton Stables LLC

3955 Hoffman Rd.
Wentzville, MO 63385
636-398-8121
Hamiltonstables@aol.com,
www.Hamiltonstables.net

Boarding / pasture

■ Horses Boarded:

Spacious, plush pastures.
17' x 9' stalls. Professional care. \$250 monthly.
636-398-8003.

Veterinary services

Large animal / equine

■ Homestead Veterinary Hospital

3615 Bassett Rd.
Pacific, MO 63069
636-451-4655
Homesteadvet@mindspring.com

Feed stores

■ Blair Feed and Grain Inc.

3600 Mill St.
New Melle, MO 63365
636-828-5314

■ Greene's Country Store and Feed

8621 Highway N
Lake St. Louis, MO 63367
636-561-6637

Barn construction

■ R.C. Barns Building Inc.

1573 Sugar Grove Rd.
Troy, MO 63379
636-528-0958
www.rcbarns.com

Other categories

Hay supplier
Bedding supplier
Trailer sales/service
Hauling
Pet portraits / photography

Good home needed

Ready for retirement:

Two horses retired from Baskin Farm in 2005 — Poco and Chicago — are in need of a good home, where they can relax after well-served careers. Chicago can be ridden very lightly, but he has medical issues. Both come with their own rambo blankets for winter. For more information, call Baskin Farm at 636-458-5053.

Pet obituaries

Whinny Magazine encourages those who have lost a loved one to pay tribute to your horse or pet with a classified obituary. A sample would look like this:

IN MEMORY OF CAPPER:

The Dalmatian — a smiling, happy-go-lucky fellow — died at 14 after a life full of travel and adventure. He will be remembered for his beauty, wisdom and sense of humor. Donations in Capper's memory can be made to the Humane Society of Missouri, Tribute Fund, 1201 Macklind Ave., St. Louis, MO, 62110.



Classified ads are \$1.25 per word. Photo of pet's face is free and encouraged.

Wall hanging captures beloved dog

From time to time, Whinny Magazine will report on trying a product, service or offer that might be appealing to readers.

I'm one of those people who watches horse items in catalogs for years but never actually buys them. My hope is that, eventually, they won't be there anymore, and I can move on. I'm also a bit of a photo fanatic — I like having lots of photos of my animals around.

I was in dangerous territory when I started seeing a "custom knit photo blanket" in the Back in the Saddle catalog over and over.

The blankets are produced only in black and white, which might be offsetting to some, but the best photo of our family's stallion is in black and white, so I was more than interested. I almost sent for the mailing instructions a handful of times — even had the check written once.

But the price — more than \$130 — stopped me. That would pay for too many other things. I couldn't part with the money.

When a similar photo item arrived in Greene's Country store in November for \$80, I was in.

I failed to read the package closely enough to see it said tapestry (in big type) as opposed to blanket. It wouldn't have mattered. I wanted something decorative.

The hunt was on for a good color photo. Half a day later, I had torn up the bedroom closet and several boxes in the basement to come up with about 16 horse photos that I really liked, plus four photos of Whinny, my late dog, even though I was determined to use a horse photo for this project.

After four often-interrupted hours of spreading out the photos and cropping them by laying



things on top of them, I kept coming back to the dog photos. There would be another project for the horse photos. But which dog photo would be best? I changed my mind over and over, then finally gave up.

I put all four photos in the provided envelope and wrote a note to the company saying that I didn't care which one was used, just pick the one that would show up the best. I half expected a reprimand for doing that, but I never received one.

About six weeks later, a white box arrived in the mail. It is indeed a wall hanging, a beautiful one that really deserves a more stately house to live in; the reproduction is so sharp, it's as if Whinny is in the room.

For someone who lost her dog recently, that's actually a bit overwhelming, but my hat is off to this company for its processing.

I'm not the greatest decorator. I've been in my home for nine

years and nailed exactly one thing on the wall — partly because I like the Southern pine walls as they are, partly because I'm afraid of making a hammering mistake, and partly because I'm lazy about spending time on things for me when there are plenty of horse chores waiting.

But, suddenly, I'm in need of putting this gorgeous image up on a wall, and I believe that's going to require a trip to a home decor store, because tapestry hanging is its own skill, I'm finding out.

To date, the tapestry is leaning over the wood railing for the stairs, and it looks great there. You probably don't want to ask me in five years whether it's still there.

My advice to anyone interested in turning a photo of a pet into a wall hanging: You are going to love the product. But, you may want to research tapestry hanging kits up front to see if you're up to the challenge.

— Joanie McKenna

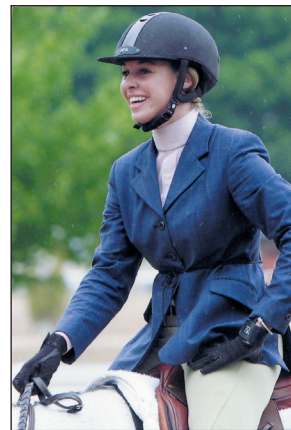
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