

News from WAHA



Reminders:

- WAHA Spring Clinic: "Horses 101" March 20
- Midwest Horse Fair: April 16-18,
- MAAB Sponsored Event: April 24—Bilgrien Arabian Ventures.

Features:

"Horses 101"	2
Letter in Equestrian!	3
Double Points at Open Shows	3
MAAB Seminar Event	4
Volunteer Opportunity	5
WAHA Mentoring	5
Youth Achievement	6
New Members and Calendar of Events	7

President's Message

It's no secret that the horse business has suffered greatly from the economic downturn. Horses are expensive to own and maintain, and luxuries like showing constitute still larger outlays.

The country as a whole has far less wealth and fewer dollars of disposable income to spend on recreational and luxury items than it did three years ago. Most of us recognize that horses compete with a myriad of other recreational pursuits, from boating to biking to car racing. Name any other sport or luxury diversion you can think of—we compete with all of them for a limited number of disposable income dollars.

Most of us have also long recognized that one of our other challenges is to introduce newcomers to horses, lessons, and to potential ownership, but we consistently fall short in knowing how to do this. Most Americans are multiple generations removed

from agriculture and rural life. Close contact with horses and livestock is now at least a generation removed for most kids.

WAHA has a new Mentoring Committee that seeks to provide part of the answer to these challenges. It was the brainchild of Debbie Alt, who now chairs the committee, and a Mentoring Clinic is planned for March 20th at Kathy Findley's Whispering Willows Farm in Racine. Janet Ekenberg will be leading another TAIL program at the clinic, and outreach efforts are underway to various groups and through the media. We hope to have MANY newcomers there and to help inspire them about the Arabian horse. Consult the flyer in this newsletter or go to the WAHA website for more details.

Additionally, WAHA will also be leading the Arabian breed promotion at the upcoming Midwest Horse Fair,

and we need MANY volunteers to help in the barn and at the booth. Contact Juli Larson at FOXHLW@aol.com or Stacey Dunn at SDunn@mountprospect.org to volunteer.

I challenge all of our members to think outside the box about ways to share your horses with newcomers. It can be as simple as sharing photos of your horse at social events, or it can be more involved, such as inviting friends or groups out to your farm to meet your horses.

The horse market is at a depressing low right now, but one thing I know with certainty is that our Arabian horses are all treasures. We need to share them with as many people as possible. Please feel free to contact me at any time at 262-672-9742 or via e-mail at jcts@jvlnet.com.

Jessica Cole, WAHA President

Wisconsin Arabian Horse Association

2010 Spring Clinic:



Total Arabian
Interaction
& Learning

“Horses 101”

Saturday, March 20 1:00-4:00

At Whispering Willow Farm, Franksville, WI

Topics Include:

*Pre-Purchase Exams *Hoof Care for Equine Athletes *Nutrition for Your Performance Horse *Alternative Therapies (Massage and Chiropractic) *Special Presentation of the Arabian Breed

WAHA is excited to present first-class speakers and offer multiple learning opportunities to both the new-comer and those interested in learning more about performance horses.

We invite you to spend the afternoon learning about horse care and meeting some of our beautiful, talented Arabian horses. From the show ring, to the racetrack, to the trail, to companionship, **Arabians do everything and they do it well!**

Whispering Willow Farm is located at 21134 West 7 Mile Road, Franksville WI, 53126; Approximately 6 miles west of I-94, @ the corner of 7 Mile Rd & Hwy 45. Please contact Kathy Findley @ 262-895-6978 for Directions or Jessica Cole, WAHA President & Clinic Chair @ 262-672-9742 for more information!

For more information on the TAIL Program, please contact: **Janet Ekenberg** at arabiantail@live.com

USEF Offers New Varsity Lettering Program for High School Equestrians

Reprinted from January USEF Competition Secretaries and Managers Newsletter

You don't have to be a record-setting quarterback, point guard or track star to letter in high school sports anymore. The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) is writing a new chapter in the recognition of high school sports — one that honors Equestrian athletes. The USEF's High School Equestrian Athlete program will offer specially designed emblems and pins, exclusively for equestrian athletes in grades 9-12.

"High school equestrians have earned their place among the most dedicated athletes," shared John Long, USEF Chief Executive Officer. "Not only are they putting in long hours to train for and compete in the sport they love — they do so while taking the concept of teamwork to the highest level, forming a partnership with a horse to achieve their goals".

"Until now, most high school students haven't had the opportunity to letter in equestrian, simply because there are so few school-sponsored programs," Long continued. "We look forward to the beginning of a new tradition, where equestrians are able to earn the recognition they deserve, alongside their fellow athletes and classmates."

The new High School Equestrian Athlete program is open to equestrian athletes in all breeds or disciplines who are enrolled in grades 9-12, and are currently USEF members, or become USEF members. The program will run June 1–May 31 of each year, and will honor those who document their training and competition involvement by awarding emblems and pins. These are designed to be worn

on existing high school letterman's jackets, or any jacket of the athlete's choosing, as a rite of passage and symbol of achievement.

This new program requires enrollment and documentation prior to lettering. For more information, or to complete an enrollment application, simply visit this link on the USEF Youth Programs page:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/Youth/HighSchoolAthlete.pdf>

Please note: current Seniors are offered the opportunity to enroll by January 29, 2010, and complete the requirements by May 31, 2010, to earn their letters on a shortened schedule. For more information on the USEF's High School Equestrian Athletes Program, please contact Mary Vance via e-mail at mvance@usef.org.

Earn Double Points at Open Shows!

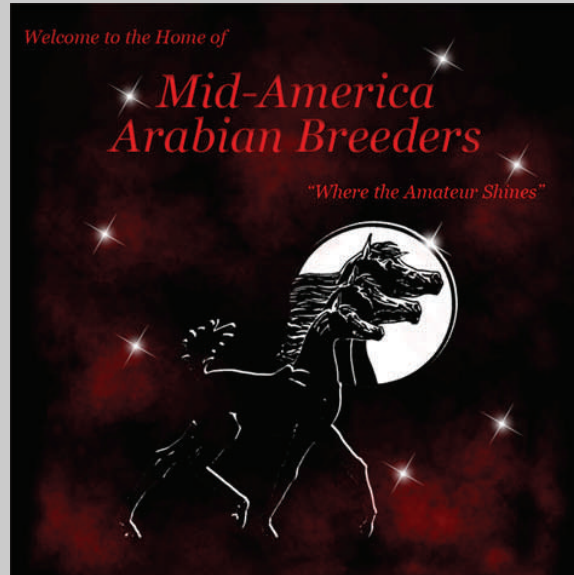
The WAHA board, via their improvement committee, has created another program to sponsor classes at open shows.

Open shows that carry four Arabian classes, namely Arabian and half Arabian halter, English pleasure, western pleasure, and native costume will be designated as having "WAHA approved classes".

Exhibitors will receive DOUBLE point system points, for those classes.

If anyone knows of shows that would like to participate, or have suggestions, please contact Sarah Uhing at surplussales@nconnect.net, and give her contact information pertaining to those shows.

Mid–America Arabian Breeders



Invite you to attend a 2010 MAAB Sponsored Event !!!

April 24th 2010 10:30 a.m.

Admission is Free

Dr. Andy Schmidt of Wisconsin Equine Clinic

10:30 a.m. "Fetal Sexing / Breeding Management"

Jessica Cole & David Bilgrien

1:00 p.m. "What's Under the Dirt", judging young horses for halter and performance potential

Hosted by: Bilgrien Arabian Ventures, David Bilgrien

W8698 Perry Road, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538, 920-318-3303

Lunch and Refreshments Available from the WAHA Youth

WWW.MAAB.ORG

Share Your Pride For Arabian Horses!

Midwest Horse Fair Volunteers Needed—April 16-18, 2010

Every year WAHA has a promotional booth at the Midwest Horse Fair. Breed promotion is the single most important opportunity that WAHA faces and we need your help staffing the booth!

You don't need to be an expert, just a friendly face to welcome attendees to the "Proud Breed" and our fantastic club! Our booth is right next to the AHA booth - the AHA staff person can handle any tough questions regarding registry, sweepstakes, etc...

WAHA needs volunteers in two hour increments each day of the

event. It a great opportunity to talk about horses, meet new people, or just a nice place to rest your feet and put down your shopping bags for a few hours! Of course, if you can offer more than two hours of your time, that would be great ~ And don't forget you earn Volunteer Rewards Points for each shift you cover!

Arabian demonstrations will be held on two of the three days. Remember - we always need extra volunteers to hand out brochures during the demo times too!

The demo times are as follows:

**Friday 4 p.m. Nutrena Arena-
Saturday 11a.m. Coliseum**

We will also be giving 45 minute lectures on the Breed:

Saturday 8a.m.- Andis Round Pen (Live lecture with horses)

Sunday 3 p.m. Nutrena Hall Senior Room - WAHA EVENT - meet and greet, breed history, share your stories!!!

To volunteer, please contact Stacey Dunn at staceydunn3313@aol.com or 847-818-5275 m-f or 608-774-1864 evenings and weekends.

WAHA Mentoring Program—Help us Help Others

WAHA has a new mentor committee that will assist new and existing members with information on where to find quality goods, services and horses. We will be compiling a list from all over the state which will be printed out and given to people at clinics and other functions.

You have already received an online survey once. If you have not completed the survey, please do so by pasting this URL into

your web browser:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RG6F2Y5>

Please fill out this survey at your earliest convenience so we can have a listing to hand out at our Mentor Clinic on March 20th.

Contact Debbie Alt 608-843-0191 or email dalt5940@yahoo.com with questions.



Story Ideas? Submit them to WAHA!

Do you have any articles that you would like to see featured in the WAHA Newsletter? Write a guest editorial! Have any events you would like to publicize to the club? Submit them for publication! We are always looking for content for the newsletter—more importantly, we need pictures of you and your wonderful Arabians and Half-Arabians. PLEASE send your ideas to Maria McGinnis, mmcginnis@uwalumni.com, WAHA newsletter editor.

WAHA Youth Achievement Awards Program

Youth members who register to be part of the Youth Achievement Program earn points for showing at Open and 4-H horse shows. Points are accumulated by a horse and rider team. Annually, a top ten is determined based on the points accumulated in that year. Youth in the program can also receive merit awards based on their cumulative points. Please congratulate the 2009 winners!

Annual High Point Awards:

Champion: Krysten Ekenberg and L W Banquel

Reserve: Katie Pfeil and Ali Oop

Top Ten:

Amber Wyman and T F Supremacy

Karissa Held and Amigos Commander

Sydney Arnold and BA Mirage

Jessica Arnold and A Key to My Mercedes

Krysten Ekenberg and Gafla Mosczarvich

Hannah Halterman and Captive Fire

Kathleen Peterson and Flaming Fury

Outstanding Youth Performance Awards Earned:

Outstanding Youth Performance Awards require at least 60 points earned in one specific performance type. This year four awards were given.

English Merit:

Katie Pfeil and Ali Oop

Krysten Ekenberg and L W Banquel

Sydney Arnold and BA Mirage

Western Merit:

Krysten Ekenberg and L W Banquel

Superior Award of Merit: Amber Wyman and T F Supremacy

Congratulations to all participants in the program. Rules, entry application, and reporting forms for the Youth Achievement program can be found on the WAHA website at: <http://www.wisconsinarabian.com/youth.php>

Please contact Joanne Jones at 608-712-5844 for paper forms of questions.

Welcome New Members!

Sherry Duckett, Beaver Dam

Brian Hunt, DeForest

Adam Jagodzinski, South Beloit

April Kaldenberg, Madison

Louise Lee, Baraboo

Rachel Rodrigues, Oconomowoc

Darcie Strobach, Chippewa Falls

Barbara Suvaka, Caledonia

Diane Zilker, Sun Prairie

Rachael Zilker, Sun Prairie

If you know anyone on this list, make sure to reach out and help get them involved! Remember, volunteering at a horse show or related event is a great way to make connections and meet people in WAHA. Watch your e-mail for opportunities to volunteer.

Important Dates

Event	Date	Location
"Horses 101" Clinic	March 20	Whispering Willow Farm
MAHA Spring Fling	March 26-28	Minnesota Equestrian Center
Midwest Horse Fair	April 16-18	Alliant Energy Center
MAAB Seminar Event	April 24	Bilgrien Arabian Ventures Fort Atkinson, WI