



Guy McLean, left Master Horseman from Australia, performs at the Saratoga Horse & Tack Expo at Saratoga Race Course held Oct. 15-16. Bobbi Jackson had a booth and did a demonstration at the expo.

NYHP directors planning for 2012 expo

The New York Horse Park Board of Directors deemed their first Saratoga Horse & Tack Expo at Saratoga Race Course held Oct. 15-16, a success.

The event serves as a fund raiser to support the development of the New York Horse Park.

The vendors, tack sellers and other community based businesses were very generous in supplying donations for the raffles, silent auction, and NY Horse Park tack table and event support.

Bobbi Jackson gave a demonstration of Equine Structural Integration using ponies from Angel Meadow Farm Fell Ponies.

"During the evaluation of the ponies, I explained to the audience how equine structural integration can help us to reach higher levels of elegance and grace in our horses in terms of their movement possibilities. I discussed how all horses, even healthy ones, can develop inefficient movement habits. Over time, the horse's body may begin to feel compromised in comfort and movement. The purpose of our body's connective tissue (or fascia) is to connect everything into one working whole. Ideally connective tissue is elastic and gel-like, allowing each

muscle and bone to glide by its neighbor, supporting and working in harmony with each other. But due to injuries, chronic stresses or strains, aging, or even normal wear and tear, the body's connective tissue (fascia) can thicken into adhesions as the tissue repairs itself, often becoming fibrous and glue-like in the process. When connective tissue loses its natural flexible characteristics, movement of joints is reduced, muscles are prevented from lengthening to their full extent and thus fluid movement becomes compromised," Jackson said.

When adhesions are present, it may appear to the rider that the horse lacks flexibility or suppleness. Lack of connective tissue suppleness, could for example, be seen by a dressage rider as not easily being able to ride symmetrical figures, their lateral movements may not be symmetrical either. Hunter-jumper riders may experience difficulty maintaining straight lines while jumping a course or their horses may not round up their backs over jumps. Horses may even become irritable on the ground. During the demonstration, I explained to the audience how sessions can help horses organize themselves to

overcome road blocks which compromise their performance. The effects of Structural Integration Therapy are long-lasting because connective tissue is reprogrammed, it isn't just simply relaxed, Jackson said.

"How is it accomplished? As it restructures and realigns the body, Structural Integration therapy can actually return connective tissue back to its former elastic, gel-like state. When chronic adhesions release their hold, the different layers of connective tissue (fascia) are able to glide effortlessly over one another. That is why it can be useful for rehabilitation therapy as well. A feeling of 'freedom of movement' emerges for us as riders. We can feel and see the changes in our horses as they move more efficiently—freer and more powerfully. This translates into our horses having more potential energy, rhythmic grace and an increased willingness to perform along with their rider," she said.

Planning is already under way for the second annual Saratoga Horse & Tack Expo which will be held Sept. 22-23. Watch nyhorsepark.org and facebook.org/nyhorsepark for more information on the 2012 expo.

Camelot Auction still at odds with NJDA

Weekly sales at Camelot Auction were halted temporarily due to an ongoing dispute between the auction owners and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

Frank and Monica Carper have operated Camelot Sales Auction at their current location in Cranbury, N.J. for 17 years.

Rescues have been working with the auction house to find horses for horses not sold to private buyers at the weekly sale.

According to Monica Carper, the 330-acre dealer's license renewal was due as of July 1. Due to a problem with the paperwork the NJDA refused to renew the license. Since then they have been granting temporary licenses week-by-week and auctions have been held weekly until early De-

ember when the temporary license was not issued.

About 40 horses were on the property but could not be sold to the public on Dec. 7. The Carpers opted to hold on to the horses until they could hold a sale.

Several horse people attended the state Board of Agriculture meeting hoping to see the situation resolved. No action was taken in public at the meeting but a court judge later ruled the horses at the auction could be sold. More than half failed to find private buyers on Dec. 21.

No sales were planned during the holidays. The matter will be back in court early this month.

For information on horses that are still looking for homes see facebook.com/CamelotHorseWeekly

Ludwigs Corner Horse Show dodges a bullet

WEST VINCENT, Pa.—After much outcry from equestrians, on Dec. 16 the West Vincent Township Board of Supervisors rescinded a decision made on Nov. 28 to condemn the Ludwig's Corner Horse Show grounds.

The township hoped to acquire the 33.2-acre property as part of the township's "ongoing effort to fulfill the vision of its Ludwigs Corner Strategic Vision and Community Design Plan for a compact, walkable, traditional village center containing a blend of municipal, commercial and residential uses," according to a press release from the township.

The vote to condemn the property shocked Ludwigs Corner Horse Show Association members. The township claimed negotiations to buy the property failed but the association countered that the township did not respond to their offers to sell development rights for the land, one made three weeks before vote to condemn.

The township planned to build playing fields for local youth sports but promised the Ludwigs Corner Horse Show, held on Labor Day weekend, would be allowed to continue. The association was worried about what might happen to the smaller horse shows and dog events that are also held on the grounds. "While the township's press release suggests they might continue the type of use, the West Vincent Master Plan indicates a significant portion of the property to be used as a commercial site," the association said in a press release sent out before the vote to rescind.

Residents and association members were relieved at the vote to rescind the original agreement. One woman described the condemnation as an abuse of power, and that it made no sense for the township to spend money on preserving the land as open space since that is the intent of the horse show association.

Garland wins Celebrity Trainer Challenge

Tommy Garland won the 2011 Equine Extravaganza Celebrity Trainer Challenge over Chase Dodd and Brock Griffith in Virginia in November.

"These three 'celebrity' trainers were hand selected based on previous victories in colt starting competitions, but more importantly, they were selected based on their exceptional training styles, stellar reputations, and consummate professionalism," said Equine Extravaganza's Program Director Rachael O'Hara.

On Nov. 4 Garland first met his young equine partner and he and the young gelding sized each other up. "He was blowing and snorting as we walked into the arena," said Garland. "I thought 'this guy is pretty nervous' and 'he gave very

indication that he could be on the verge of an impending explosion."

Garland quickly gained the attention, and ultimately the trust, of his young horse as the real work began. Working to establish forward movement at his direction, his horse was soon moving out on command or standing perfectly still at his direction. The end of day one saw a saddled horse with Garland quietly on his back. By day three his horse was standing unflinchingly as whips were cracked about his head and tarpis were draped over his hindquarters while Garland rode him quietly around the arena.

The final obstacle course challenge on Sunday revealed a willing mount crossing obstacles, nudging a giant ball around the

arena, getting correct leads at the canter, and offering his rider complete cooperation.

This year's Challenge winner received a prize of \$1,000 from Presenting Sponsor Guardian Bedding and an exquisitely crafted quality built saddle from Circle Y Saddles and Champion Saddlery. Each contestant received a Spirit Horse sculpture from Mountain Feather Originals.

In other events, Equine Extravaganza partnered with Days End Farm Horse Rescue and United States Equine Rescue League to bring adoptable horses into the spotlight. Horses from both rescues were featured in clinics throughout the weekend and adoptable horses were showcased in the Horse Rescue Adoption Showcases.

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