

Hoof Beats

Newsletter of The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable

Fall, 2020



Late Bloomers

Many riders begin as “horse girls,” dreaming of a pony in the backyard. Parents are pleaded with and sometimes a life-long love begins there. There are many however, who, because of lack of resources, interest or opportunity, do not get bitten by the horse “bug” until later in life. Hoofbeats decided to talk with a few LSS riders who did not begin riding until after age 50. Here are three stories of “late bloomers.” We begin with Teri Lyman.



I was never one of those little girls who was “horse crazy”. That was my best friend. Her favorite TV shows were about horses, mine were mysteries. I did develop a brief enthusiasm for riding one summer when I had the chance to ride at day camp when I probably eight or nine. They might have been ponies. After that summer, I moved on with no regrets.

Post-divorce at age 51, I was visiting relatives in Virginia over the Christmas holidays. I met a MAN with a capital “M”. He was a charmer...very Southern, who was military—all very exotic to me. His father had been a cavalryman. He grew up on a horse farm; he played recreational polo. He had done some professional steeplechasing until getting hurt. He regaled me with exciting tales of his equine experiences. We dated long distance.

By March it seemed imminent that I would be meeting some horses face to face - not the pony kind, but high-energy thoroughbreds. Yikes, I thought! I decided I had better find out if 1) I was allergic to horses, and 2) if I would be afraid to actually ride one. A close friend advised me to investigate the Somerset County stable that she thought was near The Environmental Center and Raptor Trust.

So, one sunny Sunday afternoon in March, with the trees turning to leaf and Spring fever in the air, I took a drive over to find Lord Stirling Stable. The birds were singing as I walked into the unassuming office...not intimidating at all.

After my hesitant inquiry about taking beginner lessons, the very friendly and helpful woman behind the counter offered up the fortuitous information that -YES, they had an ADULT beginner class about to start the following week and YES there was one spot still open. I had to make a decision then and there. The price was right. I figured that if I didn’t enjoy the lessons I could afford to just drop out. That impulsive decision was life-changing for me.

At LSS, my beginner adult classmates became friends. We all supported each other. We cheered each other on as we each finally figured out how to post. We urged each other forward so we would move up to the next level together. The volunteer assistant in the class, Barbara (and her pre-teen daughter) was patient and encouraging. One evening- this is after I had made it to “Beginner 2 or 3” level- I was chatting with Barbara and she offered the wise advice that if I really wanted to improve my riding abilities I needed to ride more than once a week.

So, I signed up for more classes. Two times a week. Then three times a week. I was riding evenings and



Teri and her gelding, Mickey

continued

Late Bloomers, continued

weekends. I signed up for even more lessons...and riding seminars, all at Lord Stirling. I began to hang out and watch more advanced riders in their classes. I got plenty of tips from those more experienced, building my confidence. I moved from level to level, sometimes stalling and getting frustrated, but being coached through the setbacks by both my instructors and the friends I was making at LSS. Some of the riders I have gotten to know well at LSS over the years have become dear friends outside of the stable setting.

I also met and rode many different horses who each had their own personality, and each requiring subtly different approaches to find that perfect level of communication. Lord Stirling became a good escape from the stresses of career and other normal concerns. When you are on the back of a horse, you should be intent on listening and feeling all its signals, adjusting to the horse as much as the horse adjusts to you. There is no time to worry about conflicts at work or projects due. For an hour lesson, you are just focused on the horse...a state of mind I have come to value greatly.

Fifteen years have ticked by. Lord Stirling is my go-to place for most of my free time. That Southern gentleman from Virginia who piqued my interest in riding is *long* gone from my life. But with thanks to him, he introduced me to my now life-long passion for horses. That has led me to LSS where I have gained perspective, found a place of warm camaraderie, and made true friends.

Teri Lyman

We continue with Nancy Conner, another late blooming LSS rider.

A Dream Come True at Lord Stirling Stable

By Deb Fonteix

From the time she was a child, Nancy Conner dreamed of riding a horse. She devoured books about horses and tried to convince her mother that their backyard was big enough for a pony.

Unfortunately, as a youngster growing up in Perth Amboy, NJ, the closest she came to climbing onto a saddle was on a mechanical horse at the local Woolworth's store. "I had to content myself with horse toys from a toy shop," Nancy sighed.

The years went by, but as she and her husband raised their family in North Plainfield, her dream persisted. "During that time, I had been receiving comprehensive news mailers from the Somerset County Parks Commission offering a variety of programs and activities, including Lord Stirling Stable's myriad riding lessons," she explained. "I didn't know where Basking Ridge was, but I knew this was what I had been searching for."

Nancy signed up for beginner lessons, along with rental boots and a helmet.

As she stood in line with other riders in the barn on the first day of her lesson, Nancy was mesmerized by horses and riders coming and going, staff members pushing wheelbarrows of horse manure down the aisle, and other staffers calling out names as they crossed out each name on a sheet of paper tacked to a wall.

"My name was called, and suddenly I had the reins of a horse in my hand," Nancy recalled. "I had an OMG moment. I stood there like, 'now what?'"

She was directed to go to the dressage ring. "I was terrified. I didn't know which side of the horse to stand on, or how to hold the reins. I didn't know what or where a dressage ring was, or what to do when I got there," Nancy said.

"I vaguely remember my first lesson, I don't remember what



Nico and Nancy



Nancy and Kashew

continued

Late Bloomers, continued

horse I rode, and I have no idea how I made my way to that ring,” she said. “I just remember deciding that this was something I would continue forever.”

After that first lesson, Nancy dragged her husband to a local riding outlet and bought a helmet, paddock boots, a crop, a pair of pants (at the time she wasn't sure what they were called – jodhpurs? breeches?) and splurged on leather half chaps that she still owns and has had repaired. No more rental equipment for her!

“Riding has taught me to not be afraid to jump into something unknown. It's taught me that if you fall off you get back up -- as long as nothing is broken and you CAN get back up! Not only do you get back up, you get back ON. You never ever stop learning when you're around horses,” she said.

As a lifelong animal lover, and more importantly a horse lover, Nancy can attest that Lord Stirling Stable gave her the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream.

“I'll always be grateful to the staff at LSS, and I now volunteer with Friends of Lord Stirling Stable, working with new riders, assisting on the newsletter and signing up to assist with special events,” she said. “Along the way I've made many friends.”

And finally, we hear about Robin Marion, another late bloomer, but who came to riding from a different place altogether.

Around the World on Horseback

By Deb Fonteix

When she was 61 years old, Robin Marion rode a horse for the very first time. It wasn't at Lord Stirling Stable, or at any stable in New Jersey.

It was high on a mountain top in Kyrgyzstan, a small country in central Asia bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and China.

“I was on vacation, drinking vodka in a yurt (a round tent covered by skins) with a few vacationers and a herding family,” explained Robin. Because she and her fellow travelers roomed in the yurt and not at a hotel, the vodka was paid for by the vacation travel company, and flowed freely.

The group's revelry was momentarily interrupted by a tour guide who asked if anyone was interested in a horseback ride the following day. Robin, perhaps bolstered by the medicinal effects of the vodka, tentatively raised her hand.

The next morning she was on a horse, riding across majestic mountains with spectacular views of lush valleys and crystal-clear alpine lakes.

“It was then that I realized that the best way to see a foreign country is on horseback,” said Robin. Her life-changing moment opened up a whole new world of adventuring for Robin. “My purpose in riding was to ride as many horses as possible in their natural riding habitats.”

Over the years Robin has traveled the globe, experiencing the thrill of riding nearly 20 different breeds of horses. Her adventures included:

- Riding through the Sacred Valley of the Incas on a Peruvian Paso, which is a light saddle horse known for its smooth ride with a natural, four-beat, lateral gait called the paso llano.
- Traveling to Italy to watch the Palio di Siena, a mixed-breed horse race where jockeys wear colorful outfits and ride bareback. After the races, Robin visited and rode through Tuscany.
- Riding a Marwari mare named Jirmi through northwest Indian villages. A Marwari is ceremonial horse that features an unusual inward-curving shape of the ears.



Decked out in Indian finery, Robin poses on Jirmi, a Marwari dancing horse used during Indian weddings, with the horse's trainer. Note how Jirmi's ears touch.

continued

Late Bloomers, continued

- Enjoying a Sundowner Ride in Namibia in southern Africa along the Atlantic Ocean. “As the sun set over the horizon, the riders and horses stepped out onto a promontory to enjoy the view while sipping in cocktails from the mobile bar,” Robin explained.

Robin’s most memorable experience was on the South Island of New Zealand, riding a former movie star horse named Cane. “We cantered through four-foot tall lupines of lavender, blue and pink. It was absolutely breathtaking,” she said. “It truly was life at its grandest!”



Robin is ready to ride on Traviata, an Andalusian at the Epona Stables near Seville, Spain

Closer to home, Robin has been riding at Lord Stirling Stable for many years and is a lifelong member of Friends of Lord Stirling Stable. “My first ride at the stable was on Hercules, who had a reputation for being very good at standing in the middle of the ring,” she smiled. Her instructor was Anne Ewan; Paige Gilberti was the aide.

Horses will always be a part of Robin’s life. “I’ve learned that being with horses has made my life much richer,” she said. “I’ve been lucky to have had the experience of feeling as one with my horse. It doesn’t happen often but when it does the bonding is astonishing.”

She also learned balance, not just on a horse but in everyday life, including proper posture while sitting or standing.

“There is so much value to riding, and anyone can learn to ride at any age,” she said. “Becoming a rider gives you another circle of friends who may have a different outlook on life. The more circles you belong to, the better your outlook becomes, and the more tolerant you become of the many different ways people view life.”



It is never too late to enjoy horseback riding. Adventure, relationships with beautiful animals, exercise, physical balance and strength, peace of mind, focus on the moment, enjoyment of nature, human friendships are all benefits of riding. Best wishes and “ride on” to all of our “Late Bloomers.”

What Lord Stirling Stable Means to Me....

It is not too late to participate in the FLSS collection of “What Lord Stirling Stable Means to Me” testimonials. Please let us know what you’ve found in your Lord Stirling Stable days that has mattered to you. We’d love to hear your experiences. If you would like to participate, please send your thoughts by snail mail or email to the addresses below. Or, you can go to our website button, <https://www.flss.org/memories> to participate.

FLSS

Attn: “What LSS Means to Me”

PO Box 240, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

*(or) email letters to
Secretary@flss.org.*

OUR MISSION

To promote, support and supplement the educational and recreational programs at Lord Stirling Park Riding Stable, which is part of the Somerset County Park Commission

To educate the general public as to the benefits and facilities available at Lord Stirling park Riding Stable and the Somerset County Park Commission

To educate the general public on outdoor recreation, including walking, hiking, birding and horseback riding

To carry out any and all activities in furtherance of the above purposes.

The *Friends of Lord Stirling Stable* is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Contact Information

Friends of Lord Stirling Stable
P.O. Box 240
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Letter from Our President

Dear Friends,

What a joy it has been to participate in the Saturday morning FLSS Dog Walks at Lord Stirling Stable. These days, especially! The trails appear to be in the best shape ever, with beautifully manicured, lush meadows and grass, and Autumn leaves falling gently everywhere. What a great way to get back out on the trails, clear your mind, or visit with friends, enjoying some exercise on the loveliest trails in New Jersey. Come out and walk with us! More and more people and dogs are joining us every weekend for the one-hour walks, (with or without a canine partner), and check out another newsletter story about a special guest who has joined our dog walks.

While we reflect on how far we've come during this most difficult year, let's continue to try and come together as only Friends know how, encouraging more people to visit the park and experience what Lord Stirling Stable really means in our hearts. We have been assured that the stable will reopen with equestrian programming. For that, we are thankful. For now, let's stay positive, count our blessings and enjoy what we can. See you soon!

Nancy Brown
President, Friends of Lord Stirling Stable
president@flss.org
908-334-9265



General FLSS Membership Meeting

Sunday, November 15, 2020

2:00 PM

FLSS Trustees Meeting

Sunday, December 13, 2020

2:00 pm

Look for the link in your mailbox!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As the wheels of government turn and plans for re-opening the stable are discussed, investigated and considered by the County Park Commission and the County Freeholders, the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable met to contribute ideas about the future of the stable and the Friends organization. In an open meeting in September held at Pleasant Valley Park, the group first heard “where we are now” and then focused on the future by contributing thoughts – reasonable and wild – with two (not mutually exclusive) primary foci: fund raising and thinking of ways to welcome more of the public to our beautiful county park. Listed below are the general categories of these ideas with a few specific examples.

- 1) hosting more outside horse-related shows, experts and demonstrations for entertainment and education. There were many interesting contributions of this sort.
- 2) expanding the opportunities for trail use by both private horse owners and members of the public for riding and non-riding activities like bird-watching, flora and fauna education, dog training, drive-in movies
- 3) virtual programming
- 4) photography opportunities – weddings, proms
- 5) programs for underserved of community – disabled veterans, mental health horse programs, seniors, at-risk children
- 6) open the property for non-horse fitness programming – walks, runs
- 7) open a gift shop

Many of these ideas are wonderful and this is not a complete list. Plans will require permission and help from the Park Commission, organization, probably much adapting, choosing and prioritizing, and volunteer labor. Our FLSS volunteers are talented, skilled and experienced in many of the areas required by these opportunities. As we move forward with re-opening, the twin goals of welcoming the public to the park and finding new ways to support the stable financially can, we hope, be the work of our Friends.

If you have ideas, suggestions, hopes for the what the future Lord Stirling Stable should be, all are welcome to write to the Editor at Newsletter@flss.org.

And Don't Forget!

*If you have not renewed your
FLSS membership
for 2021*

or

*would like to become a member, please go
to*

<https://www.flss.org/membership>

Hoof Beats



Newsletter of The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable

To contact or
contribute ideas or articles:
newsletter@flss.org
Editor: Barbara Smith



Contributors to this issue:

Nancy Brown
Nancy Conner
Deb Fonteix
Katie Kishel
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Anna McLernon
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Martha Wells

Become a Member of the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable

What Does Membership Mean?

- Identify as a supporter of the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable.
- Feel a sense of satisfaction and loyalty when thinking about the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable.
- Value the experience had with the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable and sharing it with future generations of riders and horse enthusiasts.
- Advocate for the future existence of the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable and its mission to support the programs at Lord Stirling Stable.
- Recognize the Friends of Lord Stirling Stable as the indispensable organization it is.

Perks of Membership:

- Discounts on Clinic Entry Fees
- Opportunities to sit in on informative talks at Friends Meetings
- Opportunities to serve in various roles within the organization
- Volunteer opportunities
- An introduction to all things horse-related
- Opportunities to assist with the School Horse Retirement Program

Visit [flss.org](https://www.flss.org) to find membership forms!

Hunter Pace Explained

Like the sound of a thousand drummers drumming, the thunder of horses' hooves rumbling along the groomed trails at Lord Stirling Stable can electrify the hearts of those fortunate enough to participate in a Hunter Pace. The Hoofbeats team wanted to know more about this fun and exciting event, and sat down with Jean Stamey Whitmore, a long-time Friends of Lord Stirling Stable volunteer who has been organizing LSS Private Horse Hunter Paces since 1999. By Deb Fonteix

What is a Hunter Pace?

A Hunter Pace is a competition in which teams of two or three horses and riders follow a marked trail, one team at a time, in an effort to come closest to a time set by an experienced pace team. For the Lord Stirling Private Horse Hunter Pace (PHHP), an anonymous pace team departs at some point during the event and their finishing time determines the "ideal time" for the other riders. The pace team and the ideal time are kept secret until the end of the event.

How is the Hunter Pace run?

Teams depart at three-minute intervals and ride the trail at a walk, trot, canter or gallop at their own discretion. Each team's departure is recorded by a synchronized clock. At a checkpoint midway through the course, riders must pause for at least three minutes. Checkpoint volunteers will then initial a team's Start/Finish card before they move on. This card must be turned in at the finish line.

If a team comes upon a slower team at any point during the course, the overtaking team has the right of way and can pass the slower team.

A team's final finishing time is recorded when the last rider in the team crosses the finish line. The group to come closest to the pace time wins the competition. The closest time may be either over or under the pace time.

Why is it called a Hunter Pace?

It is called Hunter Pace because competitors must gauge their horse's pace as closely as possible to the set pace. It mimics a pace that would normally be set in a fox hunt but is more informal and does not involve foxes, though riders may catch a glimpse of a fox or two on our LSS trails.

When do these events take place at Lord Stirling Stable?

Lord Stirling Stable typically hosts two PHHPs in the spring and fall.

Who can participate?

The Lord Stirling Private Horse Hunter Pace is open to private horse owners.

Do you have to be a jumper to qualify in a Hunter Pace?

No. Riders can register for the Hilltopper division, which is open to non-jumping riders.

What are the divisions?

There are five divisions:

Open: Open to all types of riders

Family: Riders must be members of the same family

Junior: At least one member of the team must be under 18

Senior: All riders must be over 50 years of age

Hilltopper: Open to non-jumping riders



*A team ready to depart on their adventure.
That lovely gelding on the left is GEM.*

continued

How do riders keep time during a Hunter Pace?

Riders do not know the ideal time before they begin their ride and so must use their judgment on how fast or slow they can safely ride through the course.

What does the course look like?

The course winds through the Lord Stirling Stable's beautiful and well-groomed trails. There are approximately 30 fences of up to 3' in height along the course. Fences 2'6" and higher are identified with a cone.

For non-jumping teams, there is a way around every fence. The course is friendly to new or inexperienced riders and horses, and is pony-friendly, too.

Who can volunteer to help support an LSS Hunter Pace?

Anyone can volunteer at a Lord Stirling PHHP. Volunteer options include the registration desk, where volunteers check in riders, hand out pinnies and assign team numbers. Volunteers are needed at the checkpoint and starting/finishing gates. Other volunteer activities include manning the parking lot and the hospitality tent.

What is the goal of a Hunter Pace?

The most common goal is to have a delightful ride through beautiful trails in the company of friends and family. More competitive riders strive to match the pace time and take home a ribbon.



*One of the many horse filled trailers that show up for a FLSS PHHP.
They've arrived!*

Familiar Faces:

That's Toni Sauer in the lead on Juliet, Ashley Morgan on Millie and Barbara Smith on Sprite at a FLSS PHHP.



Special Visitors

County Freeholders Melonie Marano and Brian Gallagher visited Lord Stirling Stable this Fall and Somerset County Park Commissioner, Paul Drake, visited in February. They trekked over the park property and visited with horses, staff and riders who board their horses at LSS.



County Freeholder, Melonie Marano chats with Apple and Halifax.



County Freeholder, Brian Gallagher, visits with Roc, JJ the Pony, and Marnie Maciborski.



Park Commissioner, Paul Drake says "Hello" to Nike.



Dog and Pony Show



Petie and Lisa Deo bring up the rear.

The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable Dog walks Committee is pleased to confer the title of Honorary Dog on Comic Book Petie the Pony, who participated in a recent FLSS Saturday morning dog walk. Petie and his assistant, Lisa Deo, completed the entire walk, bringing up the rear of the "less fast walkers" group. Congratulations, Petie! The Committee is proud to demonstrate its commitment to inclusiveness and non-discrimination on the basis of species.

Apparently, Petie is not above bragging a bit about his new distinction. We have since learned that JJ and Ebony have been petitioning the Stable Management to also let them join the dog walks, and our tireless and unflappable barn workers are poised to do whatever it takes to keep the minis happy.

Dog walks on the Lord Stirling Stable riding trails take place every Saturday morning at 10:30 AM, and are free of charge for the remainder of 2020 (donations gratefully accepted). Unaccompanied humans are always welcome.



The FLSS Dog Walks are composed of three groups on each walk. There is the "fast" group, the "medium" group and the "regular" group which is otherwise known as the "group with nothing to prove." Here are a few photos from walks in September and October. See the next page about a special Halloween Dog Walk.



THE FRIENDS OF LORD STIRLING STABLE

HALLOWEEN DOG WALK COSTUME PARADE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31, 2020

@ 10:30 AM

The parade will kick off our weekly Saturday morning dog walk!

Will be held at Lord Stirling Stable:

256 S. Maple Ave.

Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

QUESTIONS? Contact Barbara at

KB2KRX@yahoo.com

From the Archives

Martha Wells, keeper of the FLSS Archives, recently found some wonderful pictures and a 20 year old FLSS Newsletter. She tells us about a very special pony named Shorty.

Lord Stirling Stable's First Pony

By Martha Wells

Upland Spindrift was a grey Welsh Pony mare, known to all who loved her as Shorty. She was born on May 4, 1969, and for many years was part of the Berenger family.

In 1992 Jeannie Perry was the LSS Barn Supervisor. She was also Liz Berenger's sister. So that year when it was time for Shorty to have a career change and help other children to learn love horses and how to ride, she generously came to Lord Stirling Stable and nothing was ever the same again.

Shorty was 23 and now pure white with enormous dark eyes and incredibly wise. She was with us for eight memorable years before passing on to greener pastures in 2000.



Shorty, in her youth with Bonnie Berenger, ready for a costume class.



"Shorty" (Photo by Pat Wells)

"Shorty's first assignment at Lord Stirling Stable was school pony. At the time there were no pony rides or pony parties. There were no ponies- Shorty was the beginning. She went to class with the big horses. Jeannie was hard pressed to find someone small enough at a high level to ride her. That responsibility fell to Kristin Milano, who was an A rider at the time. Jeannie brought Kristin and Shorty and a lunge line out to my C3 class to see how she would do. Shorty entertained everyone while on the lunge line by bucking and kicking up and flying around. Then Kristin got on and had a fine time. All the riders and big horses thought the two of them were really cute, although the C3s were all glad Kristin was riding her and not them.

Later on Shorty came to Kristin's A class. We were up in the jumping field. When it came time to jump, we started with the plank to the poles to the tires. The instructions were to jump either the low or high side – rider's choice – but Shorty and Kristin were instructed to jump the low sides. They did the low side of the plank, but evidently neither one of them had heard anything about the low side of the tires. The high side of the tires

The FLSS Newsletter in 2000 was named, "Just Between Friends." Shorty and Nancy Williams shared the responsibility of an advice column called "Nancy and Shorty Explain It All." For the Fall, 2000 issue, Nancy wrote this about Shorty after she passed away in August:

"Because she was such a good pony, she paved the way for Lord Stirling Stable to accept more ponies. When the idea of Lead Line and Pony Parties popped up, Shorty was in her element. She even worked in Junior classes and led the Junior Drill one year. When being a lesson pony got to be too much for her, she retired to Lead Line and Pony Parties.

She really loved the children and was never a problem to lead for any inexperienced parents. She was a "Good Pony". I will miss her cute ears and the way she so enjoyed giving children a ride. She has left a void that will never be filled!"

In the same issue of that Newsletter, Martha Wells wrote,

continued

Shorty, continued

were about 2/3rds of Shorty's height – but over the high side they sailed – with Shorty's hooves in her armpits – landing with big smiles on their faces.

When Junior Drill began, Shorty was one of the drill "horses". Lauren Edwards was her rider. What do you do with a horse and a rider who are ½ the height of everyone else? You put them in front. So Lauren and Shorty led the drill. After the usual spectacular Junior Drill performance, people were heard to remark - "What a wonderful pony to keep up with all those big horses!" Keep up! She set the pace and those big horses had a hard time keeping up with her.

Eventually Shorty calmed down enough to do D2. Again it was up to her to set the pace. The big horses would mill around for awhile, arguing over who would go first. Finally Shorty would sigh and march to the front of the line and class could start. The only problem was Shorty walked so fast that soon she was at the back of the line.

When it came time to practice trotting, Shorty was exuberant. Little kids learned to post like crazy. Many had their first canter and first involuntary dismount thanks to Shorty.

Thanks to Shorty's wonderful example, more and more ponies came to Lord Stirling Stable. A pony paddock and pony shed arose where Moody's house had been. Pony rides became a big feature at Family Fun Day and other events. Future D1s began to have pony parties. The Pony Party Pavilion appeared next to the indoor ring. It became a great honor to retire from school horse duty and be promoted to "pony". Shorty was the leader of a large, mostly female, pony herd. Together they have introduced thousands (yes, thousands) of children to the joys of riding and being with horse. Thank you, Shorty. We miss you."

Out and About with FLSS

Our LSS riders have been visible in our community lately.



Nancy Conner, LSS rider and floral designer was helping with Morristown Medical Center's Women's Auxiliary fundraiser, "Mansion in May" which was, this year, moved to "Splendor in September." The fund raiser is a designer showhouse and garden. A small corner of the showhouse needed an equestrian theme and Nancy supplied her show coat, crop and her LSS champion and blue ribbons for the display.



A group of Friends gathered at the Texas Roadhouse restaurant in North Plainfield to share information about the stable and the work of the Friends. Pictured are Sandy McConekey, Barbara Roche and Anna McLernon.

Friends Update

Hoofbeats has heard from special friends, Katie Kishel and her Olive and Patrick.

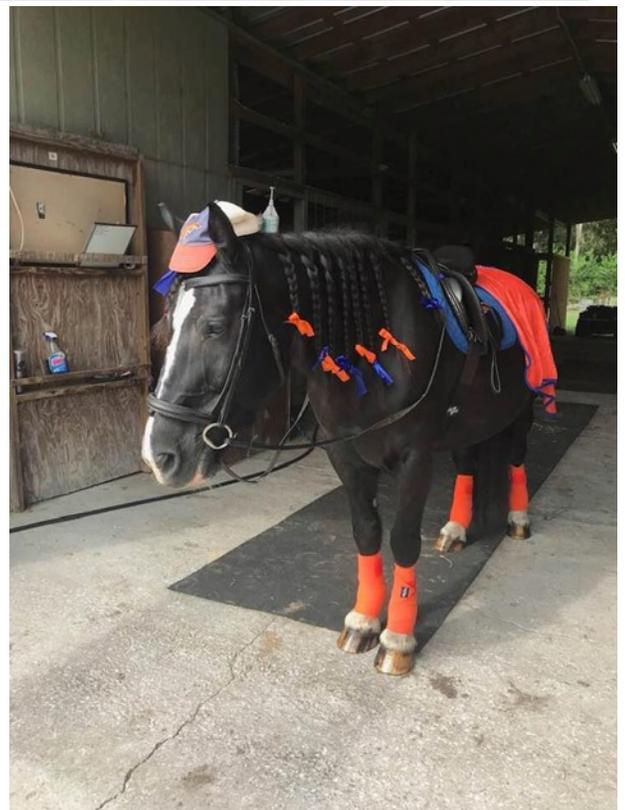
Katie Kishel, LSS rider and former barn staff member, moved to Florida to pursue her PhD. She is very busy this semester teaching classes and doing research for her dissertation. Back in 2012, she had made a new home for her mare, Olive, who was a LSS lesson horse for a little while and then Olive moved with her to Florida. In this spring's dispersal, she invited Patrick to join Olive in Florida where they all live now. Katie writes,

“Patrick has settled into his new life in Florida quite well. He spends his days being loved on by a little girl and giving the occasional riding lesson. He goes out at night (all year round here!) in a nice grassy field with a draft cross mare named Grace. Speaking of draft cross mares...Patrick is now barn mates with Olive, another former LSS lesson horse who moved to FL last year so her mom could go to University of Florida (Olive was, of course, a Florida Gator for Halloween).

Although Pat and Olive disagree on who should be in charge in the field, they enjoy getting baths together in the wash stalls on really hot and sunny Florida days. Watermelon is a favorite summer treat for both of them, and you can find them napping in front of their stall fans during the day. They live in Gainesville, FL, which is about 30 minutes from Ocala, FL, where Kidd and Brownie from LSS now reside!”



*Patrick (left)
and Olive
(right) at
their new
home in
Florida.*



Friends of Lord Stirling Stable

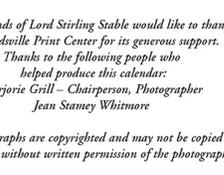
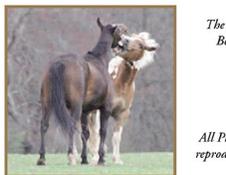
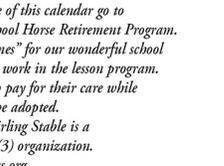
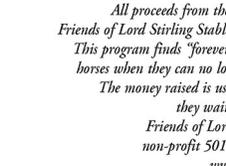
CALENDAR 2021

*“A horse is worth
more than riches”*

Spanish Proverb

Lonestar

*Featuring the Horses
of Lord Stirling Stable*



*All proceeds from the sale of this calendar go to
Friends of Lord Stirling Stable Horse Retirement Program.
This program finds “forever homes” for our wonderful school
horses when they can no longer work in the lesson program.
The money raised is used to pay for their care while
they wait to be adopted.*

*Friends of Lord Stirling Stable is a
non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.
www.flss.org*

*The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable would like to thank
Bernardsville Print Center for its generous support.
Thanks to the following people who
helped produce this calendar:
Marjorie Grill – Chairperson, Photographer
Jean Stacey Whitmore*

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FLSS Calendar

The new 2021 FLSS Calendar is now available for purchase through the Friends website. Let the beautiful horses photographed by Marge Grill help you keep your life organized next year! The calendar is \$25 and can be shipped to you or picked up at a Saturday morning dog walk at the stable.

<https://www.flss.org/product-page/2021-flss-calendar>