

Horsemen's Association of

Millstone Township

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 2

Winter 2005-2006

Millstone Day 2005

~ By Betty Bailey

Millstone Township held their annual celebration (Millstone Day) on September 18, 2005. Many township organizations, including HAMT, participated in this special affair. In fact, this is the 5th year our organization has participated. What a beautiful day it turned out to be. The weather couldn't have been better. The day was sunny with blue skies and low humidity.

Members from HAMT generously volunteered their time to help. HAMT had two tent booths at the fair, which consisted of the Information Booth and the Pony Ride Ticket Booth. Our Information Booth was located inside the park. This booth was mainly setup to answer any questions regarding our organization and to promote the newly approved 25 MPH Horse and Rider Speed Limit Sign. It also sold water, Snapple and horse related toys. Our HAMT photo album was placed on the table for anyone who wished to glance through and see photos of the special events and rides held by our club during the past several years. Also, placed on the table was a petition to STOP SENTATE BILL S2475 from passing. This Bill (if passed) would allow hunting on Sundays. Marion H was extremely instrumental in getting a few hundred signatures by courageously walking the entire park (with petition in hand) --- going up to people and asking them if they would like to sign this petition. She met with some unkind comments from some - but never wavered --- and just continued on her way to collect more signatures. Marion mentioned what kept her going was the people she would meet who were more than happy to sign the bill. This made it all worthwhile in the end.

Our Second Booth was the Pony Ride Ticket Booth located in the back of the park. This booth also sold drinks and toys but most importantly --- it sold the pony ride tickets. Streams of parents stood in line with their very excited children waiting to buy that "special" pony ride ticket. For many children, this would be their very first pony ride. A memory some would cherish forever.

As for the HAMT volunteers who led the ponies around hour after hour --- this can be quite tiring but not a single member ever complained in fact, they seemed to enjoy walking the ponies around almost as much as the children enjoyed riding them. As for the ponies, they were all very sweet and they too worked very hard all day long without any complaints. All they wanted was fresh water, some hay, a little pat on the neck and a rest period from time to time.

Set off to the side of both booths was the newly approved 25 MPH Horse & Rider Speed Limit sign. This sign generated many looks, questions and comments. Many people were unaware of the new speed limit law and sign. Fellow horsemen walking past our booth were thrilled to learn of this new law and pleased to know that Millstone would soon be the very first town in New Jersey erecting these signs throughout the area. All in all - this sign educated and generated many positive responses.



At the end of the day the volunteers were pretty tired and ready to go home and hit the hay --- but deep down you could almost sense a feeling that every one of us had fun that day and also took pride in what we had accomplished; HAMT had made a Net Profit of \$531.00. A portion of this money will pay for the cost of the 25 MPH Speed Limit signs our organization has donated to Millstone Township BUT best of all --- the volunteers had all worked together to make this possible. So I wish to thank all the volunteers that helped that day. I'd also like to thank the HAMT Millstone Day Committee members (Betty & Bob B, Manny B, Marion H, Carol H, Sue K, Kim M and Bev T) who spent countless hours in preparation for this event.

So, if you're reading this article and feel you've missed out on all the fun of being a volunteer for Millstone Day this past September --- REMEMBER: There's always next year. Mark your calendar now for September 2006. We could always use the help.

Team Penning!

~ By Cindy Bartkowski

Several adventurous club members traileered out to Riataman Ranch in Farmingdale, NJ on Nov. 12 for an exciting day of team penning. The morning event kicked off with welcoming remarks from our host, Juan Marrufo, who spouted words of encouragement to the group. The cattle ranged in sizes, shapes, colors and markings, some with horns, others without. Reid, a gringo with team penning experience, assisted novice riders and spooked horses to first "gain confidence" by walking around the pen. After spending some slow and quiet time with each of us pushing a cow or two, most of the snorting and balking equines began to settle down. I did state *most*, not *all* of them.

After Juan provided a brief explanation of the team penning rules, we were ready for the next stage of training. Teams of two riders were tasked with "cutting" a cow out of the herd, then convincing it to move away from its buddies and get into a 10 by 10 foot pen at the opposite end of the arena. All of the cows were numbered on both of their sides so riders could locate the designated bovine as called out by Juan once the first horse passed midway of the arena. With only 45 seconds to get the job done, the task was sometimes easier said than done. First, riders trotted up to the herd and walked behind the cows cautiously navigating their way to the pen. Many exhausted the time allotted without much success, but others were lucky, drawing a willing cow that almost raced them to the pen.

After a break for lunch where everyone munched on hoagies provided by the host, we anxiously remounted for more team penning competition. Now, more riders were cantering up into the herd and cantering back to the pen in hot pursuit of the cow. Juan had a final competition for the group and even gave out ribbons to the top 6 teams. At the end of a day with fabulous weather, ambitious

riders, brave mounts, and some good all-around cowboy camaraderie, we all found out that "**you can do it, team penning**".

The VP's Horse Awareness Sign Update

~ By Manny Blanco

During a Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township (HMT) meeting, a concern was voiced about the actions of motor vehicle drivers when passing horses on a roadway. It was decided that there should be public education regarding horses and that a sign was needed, so a committee was formed. Long nights and many discussions eventually led to the sign's design. Contact was then made with Approved Fire Protection of South Plainfield N.J. (908-755-2222) to determine cost and production time for the signs.

Since Municipal and County governments are the only ones authorized to place road signs on their respective roads, the President and Vice President of HMT presented their case to the Millstone Township Council (MTC). We spoke about the safety concerns for all parties involved and that these signs are an educational tool for those who know very little about horses and to preserve a way of life enjoyed by neighbors, friends and to allow children the opportunity to interact with horses walking in front of their home. Coincidentally, N.J. motor vehicle statute 39:4-72 was amended on 12-7-2004... Section A. states the following, "When approaching or passing a person riding or driving a horse, a person driving a motor vehicle shall reduce the vehicle's speed to a rate not exceeding 25 miles an hour and proceed with caution." Hand signals from rider are to be obeyed by the motorist. The motor vehicle law also specifies that such information will be placed in the New Jersey Driver Manual and there is a fine of \$150 for violators.

HMT agreed to purchase 15 signs if MTC would provide the labor and posts for eventual placement of these signs. The

Council unanimously agreed and HMT proceeded to work closely with the township's engineer. With his assistance the State Police and Department of Transportation were notified for input and authorization. After receiving both, the sign company proceeded to create a prototype. Millstone Twp. Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Twp. Engineer were so pleased with the sign that they ordered 25 additional signs. In addition, the Millstone Trailblazers ordered another 10 signs for trails that cross-township roadways. A total of 50 signs were presented to MTC during a monthly meeting.

The first sign was just recently installed by Millstone Township Public Works on Bittner Rd. Millstone Township Mayor Elias Abilheira, Deputy Mayor Nancy Grbelja, Engineer Matt Shafai, and Administrator James V. Pickering were present along with 5 HMT members and their horses. Also present were reporters from the *Asbury Park Press*, *Examiner*, *Horse News* and *Today's Horse*. HMT has suggested 16 additional locations for Township approval. We are currently working with the Township to continue a dialog with Monmouth County's officials to have the signs installed on county roads.

HMT has created a second committee to assist other groups who would like to see horse awareness signs installed in their township. E-mails can be sent to BlancoM@optonline.net. To date, we have presently spoken to residents of Colts Neck Township, Upper Freehold Twp., and members of the Garden State Horse & Carriage Association.

Seely Signs of Farmingdale N.J. (732-751-8573) and Atlas Flasher and Supply (856-423-3333) are reported to be producing the sign created by HMT at a reduced cost. A prototype has not yet been received by either group.

HMT wishes the best to all horse groups and government leaders who are working together for a safer community. Hopefully, this article will assist you in the placement of signs in your community. SAFE RIDING TO ALL! ***

Ron McLoughlin

Clinic – Oct '05

~ By Kate Fling & Shelly Aaronson

Shelly and I signed up for a 2 1/2 day Ron McLoughlin Clinic held at Hickory Ridge Farm. I should say that Shelly signed me up for a 2 1/2 day clinic! Shelly had done over twenty of Ron's clinics before, over a riding career of some 16 years. Me? I've been riding for about 3 years and this was my first clinic and, potentially I thought, my last. Although more than a little intimidated, I pressed on as Shelly giggled about it all.

Ron McLoughlin, as you may know, has developed a rider-training program and teaches this program at the Ron McLoughlin Horse Handling School [all the more reason for me to be intimidated!]. The school is located in Pearce, Arizona. But, most of Ron's time is spent traveling the world teaching clinics and, yes, he's even willing to come to little Allentown, NJ!

The clinic included 22 willing riders who Ron split into smaller groups. The method he used to divide the groups remains a mystery but no matter what group you were in, Ron strived for riders to focus on themselves and their horses. The groupings became irrelevant after a while. It was much like a [big] group lesson but longer [much longer] and more intense. Ron had us all using our legs, using our hands, our voice, our seat, and, yes, even our heads! And, after all this effort on the riders' part, the horses actually did stuff. They went forward, they turned circles, they reversed, they did roll-aways [who knew they could?!], they turned on their haunches, they turned on the forehand, and, as if that wasn't enough, they also stood perfectly still in the center while watching other horses get put through their paces.

It was an awesome experience for both my horse and I. Here's what I learned:

*That ring work and flat work are important, no matter how much I think I hate it; it has its purpose and practice we must!

*That I am not responsible for my horse's feet and legs. I am responsible for his head! I cannot keep the horse from stumbling [one of my biggest issues, dare I say FEARS, with my horse Leo, also know as "puppy"]. But I can keep his head in the game so that he has to focus on his legs and THAT will keep him from stumbling! I learned this after falling off my horse on the first day the clinic [how embarrassing, thank you!]. He stumbled and I fell off, did a somersault [who knew I could do that?]. I got up, got on, checked my horse for soundness, and proceeded with the clinic. At break time, I asked Ron what had happened to my horse. Ron said, "Nothing happened to your horse. Your horse is just lazy." See, I knew it was his fault that darn horse! Then he asked if I wanted to know why my horse is lazy. Of course, I was very interested so I said, "Yes, please!" Then Ron said, "Because you're a lazy rider!" NUFF SAID!!

*That my horse knows more than I think he knows. He could do a lot of movements that I didn't know he could do and he did them willingly and seemed to enjoy himself. If he coulda, he woulda smiled!

*On day 2 of the clinic, he didn't stumble even once, even with the fancy footwork...FOCUS! And, in case you're wondering, I managed to stay in the saddle too!

Now I'll report what Shelly said she learned:

*When I first did clinics, I was more concerned about what the other riders were doing and where I ranked among them in terms of ability. At this clinic, I learned that that is not important at all. What IS important is what my horse and I are doing together!

*I learned the meaning of "focus" and how important it is to your riding. Focus is a

concentrated effort by the rider to bring all his/her abilities to the task of riding his/her horse. Legs, hands, seat, all working in unison with the horse to achieve harmony and ride as one. This feeling is the best!!

*The right equipment, used CORRECTLY, can aid a rider and horse. Equipment alone or equipment used inappropriately is useless and can be detrimental.

*This was the first clinic for my current horse, Mojoe [age 6]. I was extremely proud of his willingness to do everything I asked of him.

We both learned that Ron's teaching style is not to give his students direct instruction on how to get their horses to do a particular thing. His method is to ask you to DO the maneuver with your horse and learn through the experience. This is not everyone's way of learning but we feel if you can be open to it, it can work!

We'll let the HAMT membership know when the next clinic is scheduled and maybe more of you will join us! It was great camaraderie and fun!!

Tips & Tidbits

~ **Horsehair jewelry** website – custom made jewelry and barrettes made with your horse's mane & tail hair www.suzannestorms.com

~ **West Nile Virus** information link <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/westnile.htm>

~ **Country Supply** Country Care Program will donate 5% of your purchase back to HAMT www.countrysupply.com
Customer Code: HAMT

~ **Horse Dessert Recipe – Sweet Success**

1 Apple

1 Carrot with the green tops

Molasses

Core the apple, making sure the hole is big enough to fit carrot through, so it sticks out both ends. Then dip it entirely in molasses and chill it until hard. Leave the green tops on the carrot as a decorative garnish.

Contributed by Erin Appleyard of Ontario, Canada

"A Gift of Kate for Chandelle"

~ By Chandelle Spargo

I am Kate. I am a noble Thoroughbred broodmare and I am finally home. At Home with all my ancient ancestors.

I began my life one dark night in a stable. My first recollection was that of soft voices and the nickering of my mother. Such care she took nuzzling and licking me as if to say welcome. The soft human voices were urging me to stand up. I got up on my shaky little legs and found my mother for the first time. She stood with pride and looked at me with her beautiful brown eyes. I was officially here and a member of the foals of the season. My mother encouraged me to nurse, telling me that my life for the next months was dependant on this. After searching around I found the gift of life, her warm bag of milk. The soft voices were pleased and after a while, they left my mother and me to be with each other. How warm and comforted I felt.

As I lay quietly in the straw by her side she told me the story of the horse, ancient and noble. She told stories of running free with the wind in our mane across vast high mountain plains and green valley's of lush grass. Sunrise with dew on the woodland grasses sparkling like diamonds, the warmth of the sun at noonday and of the painted sky at sunset, of crisp fall mornings with hoar frost across the ground, of winter snows, and the rebirth of life in the spring, of woodland creatures big and small, and of our relationship with the soft voices present at my birth.

Over the next months I stayed by my mother's side. Such pleasure this gave me, warmth, comfort and learning from her all that I would need to know. We spent the long spring and summer days grazing in the warm sun with other mares and their foals. What fun this was to run and play with all my new friends. This was a blissful time.

And then things changed. One morning, I did not go with my mother, I went instead with my young friends and did not have the comfort of my mother's milk, her nickering and nuzzling, I was on my own. I saw her a few times after being separated and she told me that she had work to do and would be bringing me a sister or brother in the coming spring and that she had taught me everything that I

needed to know and that I was now Kate, noble and proud.

The soft voices (which were no longer soft) had begun to play a big part of my life. I went to a strange place the voices called a training farm. It was all very different from the blissful days I spent with my mother and on days when I felt the gentle breeze across my back or look into the sky and see the wind driven clouds I would think of her and those blissful days. The voices were now talking about how fast I could run, or about my strong legs, or what a beautiful bay I was. I ran as fast as I could all the time imagining the stories that my mother had told me on that first night she and I spent together. I did my best to do what the voices wanted me to do.

After the training farm, I found myself at an even stranger place called a race track. The voices would put us into shoots on an oval track and we would hear a bell and then all run as fast as we could around the track. In looking back, it seems silly and would have been more fun to be running with my friends free in the lush green valley's. I could run very fast and was now what the voices called a race horse. Oh how monotonous this was, round and round. The soft voices were not the same as those in the stable where I was born. These spoke of being fast and winning races, they did not speak of my mother's stories.

And then one day, I had a very bad accident. I do not remember the accident, only that I was no longer to be a race horse and that my front legs no longer felt the joy of running. I was taken to a farm where I recovered and was told that I was to become a broodmare. I now knew my mother's story as she too was a broodmare. The following spring I had my first foal. It was a fine strong baby and such pride and joy I felt. I, as my mother before me, told the story of the horse, ancient and noble and the stories my mother told to me on that first night I spent with her.

Since my first foal, I have had many more and had become tired for I miss the soft voices of my birth. Surely, they must be somewhere. And just as I had given up hope, a magical thing happened. As I was standing in my stall I heard the magical soft voices of my birth and it was getting closer and closer. I couldn't believe this was happening. And then there she stood as soft and as beautiful as my mother. Standing looking at me with a voice full of song and hope she stroked my neck and looked into my eyes and I knew that she knew my mother's story of the horse, ancient and noble and that I would go with her and that my most special and last Gift of Kate would be for her.

Such caring I had not felt since leaving the warmth of my mother and it was happening to me with Chandelle. The moment she took my lead line and walked me into the trailer I knew that my last days would be special. I knew that spring would bring a new foal and I hoped that I could deliver a fine strong baby. The days with Chandelle were among my best. I was surrounded by the soft voices of my birth and spent my last days in total happiness. The life of a broodmare is not easy. It takes all of your energy and physically is very hard after having so many foals. I know that it will be a miracle to bring this last foal into the world for I know that I am in jeopardy. As my pregnancy grows day by day I have done something that I have not done with my previous foals. Everyday, I tell the story of the horse, ancient and noble and the stories that my mother told to me on that first night of my birth. I do this to ensure that this baby knows the stories if I am not there.

I have now given birth to "Isabella" and she is a fine strong filly full of herself and beautiful. I have told her the story of the horse, ancient and noble and the stories that my mother told to me. Our first night together I have told her that she is well loved and that I will not be there to bring her up but am at ease and peace for I leave her with Chandelle who will take care of her until her story is told and she will never have to look for the soft voices of her birth. This is my most special "Gift of Kate" for Chandelle.

Do Not Cry For Me

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the mornings hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight,
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

- Author Unknown

You ask why I was taken from Isabella? I have been chosen to pass the bond between horses and the soft voices. In order to ensure that the horse is not forgotten we sacrifice a situation like leaving orphan foals as we know that as long as a bond that strong exists between the horse and the soft voices we shall not perish. Chandelle has been chosen as one of the very few special soft voices...

I am Kate

2005 Halloween Ride



HAMT's annual Halloween ride in Clayton Park was a huge success this year! About 25 members and 22 equines gathered for an afternoon of dressing in costume, riding through the beautiful park, and eating 'til their britches burst. Although we don't have photographic evidence, it was rumored that Santa & Mrs. Claus were spotted galloping through the woods on their paint reindeer. Other guests included a pirate and his wench, a prince and his princess, an angel, and a couple of clowns showed up later to crash the party. A big "thank you" to the organizers and food contributors!



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Please submit all advertising requests via e-mail to HAMTNews@aol.com.

ROOMATE WANTED to share home in Upper Freehold. Non-smoker. Horses welcome too. Contact Bev.

BOARD AVAILABLE large grass pasture with run-in shed, tack room, auto heated waterer, quality hay & grain fed. Boarders Assunpink – no roads to cross! Riding ring. Contact Valerie.

HORSES (2) FOR SALE Trakehner broodmare, easy breeder, good for light riding, 15.3h, 19yo. Also 2005 Trakehner colt, gray, will be tall. \$5500 for both. Contact Felix 609-261-2205 or fcabarle@comcast.net

SADDLE FOR SALE Circle Y Trail Saddle, 16" seat, comfortable, dark brown, used only a dozen times. Asking \$650. Contact Stephanie.

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TRUCK FOR SALE 1996 Dodge 3500 crew-cab V10 4x4 dually, 74K miles, 8ft bed w/ liner, gooseneck & class III bumper hitch receivers, new tires, AC, AM-FM cassette. Asking \$9900. Contact Kim 609-371-2380.

Reminder

Don't forget to purchase your permit to use the bridge trails in the 14 wildlife management areas in NJ (i.e., Assunpink) for 2006. If you are stopped while riding in these areas and you don't have your permit on you, you will be fined! Call 609-259-2132 or stop by the Assunpink.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 17th – HAMT Meeting – 7:00pm, Clarksburg Community Center

Saturday, February 11th – Rutgers Horse Management Seminar

Tuesday, February 21st – HAMT Meeting – 7:00pm, Clarksburg Community Center

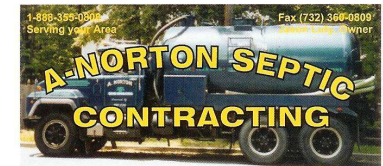
Tuesday, March 21st – HAMT Meeting – 7:00pm, Clarksburg Community Center

Tuesday, April 18th – HAMT Meeting – 7:00pm, Clarksburg Community Center

~ Advertisement ~

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