

Catalpa Corner Charity Horse Trials Report

On August 13, 2006, the adrenaline and excitement were palpable for the organizers and volunteers alike, who had worked for many months to bring to fruition the Catalpa Corner Charity Horse Trials in honor of a young man, Madison Brigham. More than thirty riders from surrounding states participated in the event, from juniors to the "fossil" crowd!

Barb Pooley, show secretary, cheerfully greeted riders as they arrived. Dressage, the first phase of the competition, was judged by Ground Jury President Vicki Rauwolf. USEA Technical Delegate, Bill Coester, had previously approved the groomed cross-country course, which brought a wealth of education and excitement for our riders during the second phase. The water complex, donated in part by Dr. Charles and Donna Abraham of Abraham's Equine Clinic, proved challenging at all levels and offered great spectator viewing. Riding through the covered bridge went smoothly without hesitation from the horses and offered an element of days gone by. As the last horse jumped over the *Apples n Oats* feed bins, we were able to break for lunch, generously supplied by Dr. Donald and Nancy MacFarlane.

Announcers Jim Powers and Jeff Riecke brought us back together for stadium jumping, where we were able to watch riders guide their horses over brick and stone walls, jalapeno pepper planks, a forest of birch rails, Bessie the cow, and a waterfall with canoes, to name but a few.

Nan Barta and Barb Pooley provided superb scoring skills.

Bags of feed, given as class prizes, were donated by Nutrena.

Behind every organization is a list of individuals who are indispensable as they bring skills, and best of all, needed humor. Our course designer, Phil Sawin, a big-hearted Texan, deserves our infinite praise and appreciation for his expertise. We are deeply grateful to Sandy Edwards for her tireless efforts in the field and the countless hours spent organizing the organizers. The Dooley and Farnsworth families from TRPC were prominent in clearing woods and setting our first natural obstacles. Curt Pooley, on the backhoe, made short rift of the many dangerous thorny locust trees and created paths where no horses had traveled before. Jump builders Dan Stark, Paul Welsh, Dr. Pat Cancilla, Jay Wetmore, Steve Snyder, Field Day's Jay Stockhausen, Steve Wildman and Blaine and Brandon Crock were true artisans in creating safe obstacles and inviting portable jumps.

Many thanks to EIDEA members for their support. Their volunteers and many others from the horse community painted and assembled jumps, and turned blocks of wood into art! We are deeply indebted to Cindy Clapp, Nick Loughren, Tom and Barbara Hall, Diane Mesiti, Dr. Barrie Anderson, Jessica Deaderick, Dr. Lyse Strnad, Deb Galbraith, Belinda and Shayleen Jones, Sandy Edwards, Liz Freeman, Nancy Williams, Andria Pooley, Cassia Scott, and Elise and Haley



Susan Brigham & Jim McNutt

Fillpot for their skills. Riders from Bill Coester's Wind's Reach brought years of knowledge and fun, and we thank Lisa Marie, and Craig and Collin Bishop for their tireless efforts.

We needed night vision goggles to find Celesta Albonetti who spent countless hours mowing to groom the trails. Our riders felt safe with outriders Steve Snyder, Dr. Charles Abraham and his son Chip.

We are so thankful for the loan of portable stalls from Kirkwood Equestrian Center. Additionally, Catalpa Corner received a tremendous gift of support from Mr. Russ Bailey of Southeast Iowa Ambulance Service, Inc. Mr. Bailey found the atmosphere so inviting that he donated his services and will continue to do so in the future.

We were blessed with wonderful volunteers who did a superb job as jump judges by monitoring the more than 25 obstacles on the cross-country course.

We have high praise for Kate Hladky, Barbara Hughes, Dr. Barrie Anderson, Lisa Marie Bishop, Kara Evens, Abbey Kirberger, Belinda and Shayleen Jones, Sara Hauschild and friends, Sterling Benz, Jane Morse, Sue Chapman, Cassia Scott, Diane Mesiti & students, Sharon and Alex Dooley, and Elise and Haley Fillpot. Our "Tool Girl," Andria Pooley rode a riot on her ATV to sweep the jump records and deliver hammer and nails when needed. All in all, Derith Vogt, Carol Eilers, and Barb Hall were able to capture the spirit of our riders and supporting community in rewarding photo moments, and most generously donated their proceeds. We are forever indebted to Paul Welsh, our "Mr. Poppins," whose talents are infinite and dedication unrelenting. We truly could not have done it without him! We are fortunate to have been supported by our extended family, especially Mrs. McNutt for her gift of land, and Colonel and Mrs. Thomas Harrold for their guidance and energetic activities. We are also grateful for those that have gone unnamed through our error and offer our apologies.

This fall we have been open for schooling, and as Camie Stockhausen envisioned, "if you build it, they will come." We have had a steady show of horses and riders training at all levels from around the state and we hope to maintain this open policy. Presently, we are in the process of placing "steps" on the hillside, and have several portables planned, as well as permanent obstacles. We look forward to our first schooling show June 2-3, 2007 with the addition of a Training/Prelim combination.

And...we are pleased to announce that we have been "Approved" for recognized status for August 2007, date pending USEA, likely August 4-5, or 11-12.

This has been truly an amazing and rewarding year! Jim and I want to thank the horse community immensely for their generosity of spirit in allowing our dreams to be realized and a son remembered.

- Jim McNutt and Susan Brigham

