



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2010

The Road to Kentucky Continues

FIFTEEN HORSE/RIDER COMBINATIONS SELECTED FOR WEG SHOW JUMPING LONG LIST

BY JESSICA MARIE NEMZOFF

For the United States Equestrian Teams, the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) hold unprecedented significance as the fifteen-day long event is set to take place in the United States for the very first time. This coming September, Lexington, KY will welcome the world's paramount equestrians as athletes and horses hail from over 60 countries to compete across eight disciplines at the Kentucky Horse Park. Embarking on the Road to Kentucky, United States show jumping riders vied for one of fifteen coveted slots on the World Equestrian Games Long List over the course of five United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) WEG Selection Trials at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL, February 25 – March 7, 2010.

Securing a spot on the Long List is only the first of many tests riders must pass in order to become eligible for consideration on the final US Show Jumping Team for WEG. The arduous selection process will continue amongst the fifteen Long Listed horse and rider combinations as they represent the United States in competitions across Europe this summer. Come September, the top four

riders (and one alternate) will be chosen based upon the summer's Meydan FEI Nations Cup European competition performances. Those five riders will comprise the Team that leads the United States to a new chapter in the history of show jumping for this nation.

USEF Selection Procedures stipulate that nine of the fifteen Long Listed horse and rider combinations are to be decided based upon their final overall placing in the Trials. However, in addition to those top nine combinations from the Trials, the USEF Selectors Committee also has the ability to choose six additional horse and rider combinations at their discretion. Although there were six discretionary choices available, Selectors opted to exercise just three of the byes for the Long List. After exhibiting remarkably consistent success in 2009, McLain Ward and Sapphire were granted the first of three byes before the Trials even began. Following in Ward's footsteps for the remaining two Long List byes were Laura Kraut with Happy Hill Farm's Cedric and Lauren Hough with Laura and Meredith Mateo's Quick Study.

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Lauren Hough
and Quick Study





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Dear Friends:

Preparations for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) are underway with our equestrian athletes and horses honing their competitive edges to earn positions on our World Championship teams and win medals for our country. The detailed strategic plans developed by our athletes, coaches and High Performance committees to maximize our WEG performances have begun with training sessions and selection trials across all the High Performance disciplines. The

WEG effort surpasses the Olympic effort as the United States fields teams in eight different disciplines: Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping, Driving, Endurance, Reining, Vaulting and Para Equestrian. This is when the USET Foundation's grants provide critical resources for our athletes to meet the enormous logistical and operational challenges required to produce winning World Championship performances.

The five 2010 WEG Show Jumping Selection Trials were held in Wellington, FL from February 25th to March 7th, and the quality and depth of our show jumping athletes demonstrate the fruits of the USET Foundation's support and the US Equestrian Federation's programs. Competing over two weeks, the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe and Trial courses yielded the strongest group of 15 horses and riders our country has ever seen. Our accomplished and veteran show jumpers have been joined by new and equally talented stars that grew out of our Developing Riders programs. Our show jumping athletes will now compete in the Meydan FEI Nations Cup series in Europe this summer in final preparation for entering the arena in Lexington, KY this fall.

Our dressage and eventing athletes have also begun preparation for their WEG selection events later this year. The recent CDI Masters in Wellington, FL was a spectacular event with our riders going head to head with the best of the international dressage world. If the CDI Masters is any indication of what we are going to see in Lexington, then hold onto your top hats because we are in for both personal and world best performances by our US Dressage athletes. Our eventers are currently focusing their efforts on the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event coming up in April, after which they will settle into their final WEG preparations.

Athletes for our WEG teams in Combined Driving, Endurance, Para Equestrian, Reining, and Vaulting are also in the midst of training and selection processes. There is hardly a more exciting time in the quadrennial equestrian calendar than a World Equestrian Games year with all the international disciplines coming together so the world's best can compete and new world champions can be crowned. I hope you will continue to support and follow our talented athletes as they pursue gold for America.

Sincerely,

Armand Leone, Jr.
Chairman
USET Foundation

USET Gold Medal 30-Year Donors: Jane Forbes Clark and Bill Steinkraus

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation would like to thank Gold Medal Club members Jane Forbes Clark and Bill Steinkraus for their honorable dedication to the Foundation. As members of the USET Foundation's Gold Medal Club, Clark and Steinkraus have been instrumental in enabling the USET Foundation to fulfill its mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future.

Jane Forbes Clark is the current USET Foundation President and CEO and has had a lifetime of involvement with horses, growing up in a family that owned race-horses, steeplechase horses, and polo ponies throughout her childhood.

Clark's love for horses grew when she attended Bennett College in Millbrook, NY, and first met Carol and Jim Fallon, who ran the school's riding program. She began riding and showing in the Amateur-Owner divisions and became completely captivated by show jumping grand prix horses. The Fallons introduced Clark to show jumping legends Frank Chapot, George Morris, and Leslie (Burr) Howard, and Clark's interest in show jumping evolved, developing into the dedication and support that can be seen through her involvement today.

"The USET has always been important to me, and you can imagine coming into the sport with Leslie, George and Frank, that is where your focus is," Clark stated. "It was an important part of their lives then, it is still an important part of all of our lives now, and I really think that my dedication to the sport comes from that. That is where I started, and it was the earlier influences that got me into show jumping as an owner."

Clark feels honored that she has had the opportunity to provide thirty years of support and dedication to the sport. "It is actually very humbling because I love the Team, I have loved all of my years with it, and I have loved all of the experiences and wonderful moments that being associated with the USET have given me in these thirty years," Clark acknowledged. "I feel like it is me who should be saying thank you to them."

William "Bill" Steinkraus first joined the US Equestrian Team (USET) in 1951 and won a Team Show Jumping Bronze medal in his Olympic debut the following year. In 1968, he made history in Mexico City when he became the first US competitor to win an Individual Gold medal in equestrian sport. In his long competitive career, he also won two Olympic Team Silver medals and many international competitions. A member of six Olympic Teams, Steinkraus was appointed riding Team Captain in 1955, and held the post until his retirement as an active competitor in 1972. Elected USET President in 1973, he became Chairman in 1983 and Chairman Emeritus in 1992. He is currently Chairman Emeritus of the USET Foundation.



Photo Courtesy of USET Foundation

As a rider on the Team, it was natural for Steinkraus to donate both time and financial support to the USET during his many years of participation with it. Steinkraus became active in the formation of a civilian team when the Army Cavalry withdrew from competitive horse sports after the 1948 Olympics. "I was very much engaged in the effort to create an organization that would be able to step into the breach the Cavalry left when it dropped out," Steinkraus stated. "Thus, I was involved with the USET even before

it existed as such, because I was committed to the idea that it was important for our country to be represented at our own international horse shows, as well as the Olympic and Pan American Games."

Steinkraus explained his rationale for supporting the Team throughout his many years of competition and beyond. "For a long time I was a direct beneficiary of what the USET was created to do," he commented. "It was paying for the whole cost of our training and participation both at home and abroad, and this requires a lot of money. Thus, it was a most natural thing for me to want to support the Team financially to the extent I was able. I have contributed to the Team and its Gold Medal Club since its very beginning, and am very glad that I did; I only wish I could have done more."

■ – Lauren Fisher



Photo Courtesy of USET Foundation

The first of five United States Equestrian Federation Show Jumping Selection Trials for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games Selection Trials commenced under the lights of the International Arena at the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center (PBIEC) the evening of February 25 in Wellington, FL. The five trials were not only a test of scope and endurance, but also a test of technical ability as course designer Guillermo Jorge presented horses and riders with challenges akin to those they will face in Europe over the summer, and in Kentucky this coming fall.

As the premiere selection event, the first Trial was restricted to horse/rider combinations of the United States. Thirteen of the forty-four starters went clean, but it was Todd Minikus who clenched the win aboard his own Pavarotti over Margie Engle and Hidden Creek's Campella after posting a time of 83.240. Standings for the Trials were based on faults, not placings; thus, thirteen riders were technically tied for first place in the standings as they each carried zero faults heading into round two of the trying selection process.

Embedded in the first round of the \$75,000 Fidelity Investments Grand Prix, the second Trial broke the thirteen-way tie in more ways than one; eleven of those thirteen riders accrued an assortment of faults, while two of the thirteen earned byes after posting the only clear rounds of Trial Two. The bye-earning clear rounds were posted by Lauren Hough aboard Quick Study and Laura Kraut with Cedric. After the second Trial, three of the fifteen Long List spots had evaporated as Hough, Kraut, and Ward earned their respective byes, meaning just twelve slots remained for contention as riders switched venues going into Trial Three on The Stadium's grass field.

Trial Three turned out to be a true test of scope as Jorge's course posed a sizeable 1.60m track that resulted in just six double clear horse/rider combinations. Topping those six combinations, McLain Ward and Sagamore Farms' Rothchild were the fastest with a time of 74.07 seconds to take the win and move into fourth on the standings list with a total of nine faults over three Trials. Richard Fellers aboard Harry and Mollie Chapman's Flexible, finished second, Bezie Madden and Abigail Wexner's Danny Boy were third, while fourth place went to Ashlee Bond with Little Valley Farms' Chivas Z. Following Bond, Jeffery Welles and Triton Ventures Farm Inc.'s Armani stood in fifth, and rounding out the six clear rounds was Nicole Shahinian-Simpson aboard Ilan Ferder's Tristan for the sixth place award.

While Ward climbed to the top of the \$40,000 1.60 class in Trial Three, Richard Spooner of California climbed to the top of the overall standings list aboard Show Jumping Syndication's Cristallo after adding only one time fault to their five existing faults for a total of six faults over three Trials. The saga began to unveil as riders were neck and neck in the standings after Trial Three drew to a close. At that point, the top of the standings were as follows: Spooner/Cristallo led the way with six faults, Candice King/Skara Glen's Davos and Nicole Shahinian-Simpson/Tristan were



Beezie Madden, Nicole Shahinian-Simpson, Laura Kraut, Lauren Hough, McLain Ward and Richard Spooner following the final selection Trial at the Winter Equestrian Festival

right behind him, tied for second with eight faults, Hillary Dobbs/Quincy B had nine faults to tie for third with McLain Ward/Rothchild, fourth place was a four-way tie between twelve-fault finishers Mario Deslauriers/Urlico, Charlie Jayne/Athena, and Bezie Madden with both Danny Boy and Mademoiselle. Ashlee Bond/Chivas Z stood fifth with fourteen faults, and Rich Fellers/Flexible had sixteen faults along with Jeffery Welles/Armani to tie for sixth.

Based on these standings, twelve horse/rider combinations occupied and were tied across the top six spots on the standings list. The test of Trial Three was scope, but with a race like the one going into Trial Four, Jorge opted to change the dynamic of the challenge from scope and power to speed and technicalities. Returning to



Hillary Dobbs and Quincy B



Richard Spooner and Cristallo



Candice King and Skara Glen's Davos



Rich Fellers and Flexible

the International Arena, Trial Four welcomed twenty-six starters, four of whom went clean and three of whom had one time fault. Despite the change of course, Spooner and Cristallo adapted well, and the versatile twelve-year-old Holsteiner gelding left all the jumps up, completing the fast track just under the time allowed to maintain the duo's lead as the fifth and final Trial approached. Just as Trial Two broke the ties of Trial One, so too did Trial Four break the ties of Trial Three. Spooner/Cristallo remained at the top of the standings with the same six fault total, but after Trial Four, it was Nicole Shahinian-Simpson/Tristan in second with a total of nine faults, followed by Hillary Dobbs/Quincy B with eleven faults for third. Mario Deslauriers/Urigo sat in fourth with twelve faults, fifth place was a thirteen-fault tie between McLain Ward/Rothchild and Beezie Madden/Mademoiselle. Sixth place went to Madden too, this time aboard Danny Boy, with a total of sixteen faults.

The first round of the \$150,000 CN U.S. Open Grand Prix marked the conclusion of the United States Equestrian Federation's Selection Trials for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games as the fifth and final 2010 Trial. Nearly half way through the order of go, Nicole Shahinian-Simpson and Tristan posted the first clear round of Trial Five. Shahinian-Simpson was right behind Spooner going into the final Trial, but an eight-fault finish by Spooner left the door open for Shahinian-Simpson to take the lead. The last Trial stood as a determining factor for many riders' WEG fate as the course posed challenges that only allowed six to go clean, and led a multitude to incur faults that would move them down in the standings. The course presented the fifty-five starters with everything from liverpools, to triple bars, to the open water and demanded an impressive performance of those horses and riders looking to make the Long List. Topping the field, Kraut and Cedric went double clear and posted the fastest jump-off time with 48.040 on the clock to take home the win in the \$150,000 CN U.S. Open Grand Prix. Beezie Madden piloted Abigail Wexner's Danny Boy to a double clear second place finish in 48.190 seconds. Capturing the third spot in the class, Nicole Shahinian-Simpson and Tristan also secured the top spot in the standings after posting double clear rounds and a jump-off time of 51.240 seconds.

Upon the conclusion of the Selection Trials, the fifteen horse/ rider combinations and five alternates listed below were chosen to continue on to Europe this summer and compete at the following CSIOs: La Baule, Rome, St. Gallen, Rotterdam, Falsterbo, Aachen, Hickstead, and Dublin. Come next fall, the USEF Selectors will then decide which five of the fifteen horse/ rider combinations will represent the U.S. at WEG based upon the totality of their respective performances in Europe. ■



McLain Ward and Sapphire

RANKING OF TOP 15 HORSE/RIDER COMBINATIONS

Place	Rider	Horse	Owner
1	McLain Ward	Sapphire	McLain Ward/ Blue Chip Bloodstock
2	Laura Kraut	Cedric	Happy Hill Farm
3	Lauren Hough	Quick Study	Laura & Meredith Mateo
4	N. Shahinian-Simpson	Tristan	Ilan Ferder
5	Richard Spooner	Cristallo	Show Jumping Syndication Int'l
6T	Mario Deslauriers	Urigo	Jane F. Clark
6T	Beezie Madden	Danny Boy	Abigail Wexner
8	McLain Ward	Rothchild	McLain Ward Inc
9	Hillary Dobbs	Quincy B	Hillary Dobbs
10	Beezie Madden	Mademoiselle	Abigail Wexner
11	Candice King	Skara Glen's Davos	Skara Glen Stables
12	Richard Fellers	Flexible	Harry & Mollie Chapman
13	Todd Minkus	Pavarotti	Todd Minikus Ltd.
14	Cara Raether	Ublesco	Trelawny Farm
15	Robert Kraut	Graf Lando	Meghan Kraut

Alternates

1A	Ashlee Bond	Chivas Z	Little Valley Farms
2A	Georgina Bloomberg	Fiedi 3	Gotham Enterprises, LLC
3A	Jeffery Welles	Armani	Triton Ventures Farm Inc
4A	N. Shahinian-Simpson	Kilkenny Rindo	Kilkenny Crest
5A	Charlie Jayne	Athena	The London Group



Mario Deslauriers and Urigo



Todd Minikus and Pavarotti



Laura Kraut and Cedric



Nicole Shahinian-Simpson and Tristan

USET Foundation Names Five New Members to Board of Trustees



DEBI DOBBS

Debi and her husband, Lou, have been involved with horses for more than 25 years. Debi, a former CNN Sports anchorwoman, rides for pleasure at their horse farm in Sussex, NJ. They have five children who all grew up with horses, including rising Grand Prix star Hillary Dobbs. In 2009 at age 21, Hillary was the youngest person ever to win the \$250,000 FTI Hampton Classic Grand Prix. She was also the winner of the USET Foundation's prestigious Lionel-Guerrand Hermès Trophy in 2008. Debi is very involved with the show jumping world's administration side, serving on the FEI Jumping Owner's Club and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Horse Show as well as the Sussex County (NJ) Horse Show Committee.



Photo by Susan Stickle.com

MARGARET HAMILTON DUPREY

Margaret Duprey grew up with horses in her blood. Born and raised outside of Philadelphia, PA, Duprey began riding at a young age and attended summer camps and Pony Club throughout her childhood, pausing only for her college years. After graduating from Cabrini College, she picked up riding again and never looked back. In the early 1980's, Duprey took up Dressage and now competes at the Prix St. Georges and Intermediaire I levels. She owns Grand Prix level horses ridden by trainer Todd Flettrich as well as steeplechasers with Hall of Fame trainer, Janet Elliot. Duprey and her husband Bob own Cherry Knoll Farm together, with locations in West Grove, PA, and Wellington, FL. Along with the horse business, Cherry Knoll Farm manages an exceptional herd of Black Angus, and has had numerous Grand Champions at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. Duprey supports the cattle industry by sponsoring many of the junior Angus shows throughout the country in an effort to make sure that the children of tomorrow maintain an interest in the farming and agricultural business. Duprey has a strong history of dedication to many organizations, including serving on the Board of Trustees at Cabrini College from 1981 to 2007, including the last seven years as Chair. During those years, Duprey led the school's capital campaign to exceed its \$16.5 million goal. Duprey is currently a Director of the Hamilton Family Foundation in Philadelphia, PA, a Director of the SVF Foundation in Newport, RI, and Treasurer of the Community Clothes Charity in Pennsylvania. Duprey was elected to the USET Foundation's National Advisory Board in 2008, serving two years before being elected to the Board of Trustees. She looks forward to the opportunity to support the Team in its efforts to become the best in the world.



GWENDOLYN SONTHEIM MEYER

Gwendolyn is a wife, mother, horse lover, pilot, and philanthropist. She has been involved with horses since childhood in her native Switzerland, where she participated in trail rides, horse shows, three day eventing, ski-joring, and hunts in both Switzerland and in Ireland with the Black and Tan and others. She came to the US in 1978 for schooling, attending Dana Hall, Menlo College and San Diego State University. Her passion continued as an adult, riding and competing with Robert Ridland for 15 years. During this time, she sponsored Ridland and Innisfree for the 2000 Olympic Trials, and also enjoyed competing in the Amateur-Owner Jumper divisions in Southern California and Canada. She became interested in improving the show jumping community by helping to bring the Cargill Grand Prix of the United States to Southern California for four years running from 2000 to 2004. This horse show became CSI **** rated and held the 2002 World Championship Trials and the 2004 Olympic Trials.

She also sponsored Ballaseyr Royale and Richard Davison, both of whom competed in dressage at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Gwendolyn is the owner of Coral Reef Ranch (CA) and shows in the Amateur-Owner Jumper divisions in California, Canada, and Florida. She holds a commercial multi-engine instrument aviation license and includes aerobatics training from a Blue Angels pilot among her accomplishments. Gwendolyn serves on the Board of Feeding America San Diego and is a Director of a Family Charitable Foundation among her many philanthropic activities. She was elected to the USET Foundation National Advisory Committee in 2005, serving five years before being elected to the Board of Trustees. She and her husband Jay have two children.

PATTI SCIALFA SPRINGSTEEN

Patti was born and raised in New Jersey and knew from an early age that she wanted to make music her life, forming her first band while in high school. She pursued her career with two years at the prestigious jazz-studies program at the University of Miami and finished up with a bachelor's degree from New York University. She performed in New York City and also occasionally at the New Jersey Shore at the legendary Stone Pony Club in Asbury Park. In the late 1970's, she sang with Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, and in 1982 met her future husband, Bruce. She joined his Born in the U.S.A. tour as a backup singer and has been with the E Street Band ever since. She has also produced three solo albums, *Rumble Doll* (1993), *23rd Street Lullaby* (2004) and the just released *Play It As It Lays*. Patti and Bruce have three children, and Jessica, the middle child, sparked Patti's increasing involvement in the equestrian world. Patti enjoys pleasure riding at their farm in Colts Neck, NJ and encouraged the children to ride also. Jessica has risen through the ranks and had a break-out year in 2009 by winning the ASPCA Maclay Finals, the USEF Medal Finals and the George H. Morris Excellence in Equitation championship, narrowly missing a grand slam by finishing second in the USEF Talent Search – East Finals.



Photo by Sheryl Ross

AKIKO YAMAZAKI

Akiko Yamazaki has been passionate about horses since she was six years old. She started as a jumper rider in her youth and represented her country of birth, Costa Rica, in several Junior and Young Rider international competitions in Latin America. After graduating from Stanford University, she started riding again in the US, this time focusing on Dressage. A partnership with Steffen Peters began in 2005, when Akiko sent him her rather "challenging" horse, Lombardi 11, who went on to become National Grand Prix Champion in 2007 with Steffen and finished his career as one of the 2008 Olympic reserve horses. In 2006, Akiko and her husband, Jerry Yang, purchased Ravel with the goal of competing him in the 2008 Olympics. In his first year at the Grand Prix level, Ravel swept through the qualifiers and finished in fourth place individually at the Olympics, missing the Bronze medal by 0.3%. In 2009, Ravel became the first US horse to win the World Cup on US soil and swept through the Aachen CDIO, bringing US Dressage to a new level. For his accomplishments in 2009, Ravel received the titles of Horse of the Year from the USEF, the USDF and The Chronicle of the Horse. In 2009, Akiko also accomplished her personal goal of competing at the Grand Prix level on Kranak, finishing in 8th place nationally in the amateur rankings. Akiko co-founded the Wildlife Conservation Network, which supports entrepreneurial conservationists around the world. She serves on the Board and is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, CA. Akiko was a member of the USET Foundation National Advisory Committee before becoming a Trustee. Akiko and her husband are active supporters of their alma mater, Stanford University.

USET Foundation Dressage Appreciation Cocktail Party

Wanting to start off the New Year in honor of the future of dressage, Arlene "Tuny" Page and Kimberly Boyer hosted a "Cocktails and Conversation" Appreciation Party at the home of Tuny and David Page on January 9, 2010 in Wellington, FL.

Fred Boyer, husband of the co-host and chef of the evening, created culinary works of art for guests to enjoy. In attendance were international dressage competitors Todd Flettrich, Chris Hickey, Courtney King-Dye, Lars Peterson, Betsy Steiner, Lisa Wilcox, and George Williams.

Attendees gathered in the great room of the Page home and listened as Boyer, Page, and Bonnie Jenkins, Foundation Executive Director, thanked them for their generous support over the years. Boyer described the evening as one of celebration and acknowledgement, an evening that would allow the Foundation "to discuss going forward in the New Year with all of those who have been so incredibly influential and supportive of our team, our program, and our successes in the past."

Following Boyer, Page took the center stage to thank those who have been so generous to the Foundation. Assuring donors "their support is thoughtfully used by the committees," Page promised them that "we are such careful custodians of your support – every decision we make is worked over, analyzed, checked, and double checked."

The evening also introduced and welcomed international dressage judge Anne Gribbons as the new High Performance Dressage Technical Advisor. Speaking of her intentions for the future, Gribbons named her top priorities to be "not only furthering the High Performance Team, but also focusing on the Young Rider programs, as they are "the future of the sport of dressage."

Looking ahead, the integration of the High Performance and Young Rider programs will ensure that the United States has a constant stream of upcoming talent. Beginning this spring, the integration will include top international riders



Frederic Boyer, David and Tuny Page and Kim Boyer

such as Kyra Kyrklund, Steffen Peters, and Guenter Seidel teaming with Development Coach Debbie McDonald to conduct development clinics and symposiums for rising talent. Gribbons also seeks to look as far into developing programs as the next generation of young aspiring equestrians, and in doing so will oversee the new pilot program headed by former Olympian Lendon Grey for the upcoming generations.

In closing, Jenkins welcomed Gribbons aboard, and thanked David and Tuny Page for their generosity, Fred and Kim Boyer for their contributions, and guests for their attendance. Jenkins concluded the speeches of the evening by addressing the audience to say, "Without all of you, these programs just don't happen, so I thank you, on behalf of all of the athletes and our Board of Trustees." ■ – Jessica Marie Nemzoff



Carol Cohen and Anna Tillman



Kim Boyer and Milo Mott



Bruce Duchossois and Margaret Duprey



Kathy Connelly, Anne and David Gribbons



Betsy Steiner, Chris Hickey, Jane MacElree, Janne and Stanley Rumbough

Donor Dollars at Work

Funding the endeavors of seven High Performance United States Equestrian Teams is no small task, nor is winning 41 Olympic medals, 73 Pan American Games medals, and 57 World Championship medals. Over the years, U.S. equestrian athletes, the United States Equestrian Federation and the USET Foundation have worked together hand in hand to emerge victorious, time and again. Marking the start of a new Olympic quadrennium, 2009 posed new and exciting challenges for U.S. Equestrian Teams. Looking ahead to the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) and the 2012 Olympics, the primary focus was on mapping the road to success in Lexington and on to London, for each of the respective international disciplines.

Thanks to the generous contributions of so many individuals, the United States Equestrian Teams made us proud in 2009 as they turned in impressive performances around the world. Traveling the globe to compete at international competitions such as the Meydan FEI Nations Cup series, World Cup Finals, CHIO Aachen, CCI**** Burghley, World Pairs Driving Championships, CHIO Vaulting, World Reining Masters, and the Pan American Endurance Championships can become remarkably expensive. International High Performance programs expenditures for the seven international discipline programs in 2009 totaled over \$3.6 million, with \$2.15 million coming from the sport's largest contributor and most generous supporter - the USET Foundation.

Our international competitive successes would not have been possible without support from the generous individuals who want our U.S. Equestrian Teams to have the opportunities and

funding to be the best in the world. These individuals provided 65% of the funding for the High Performance programs through gifts to the USET Foundation. Foundation grants go directly to program expenditures, and do not go towards USEF administrative/personnel expenses.

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SHOWJUMPING

Meydan FEI Nations Cup Series

Standing as an invaluable component of the Show Jumping High Performance program as well as the most prestigious series in show jumping, the Meydan FEI Nations Cup series is undoubtedly the best indicator of the United States' standing within the world of international show jumping. Finishing with a strong second place finish in the series, Team USA accomplished its 2009 objective of qualifying for the 2010 Meydan FEI Nations Cup series. For 2010, the series will not only be of great importance in developing and seasoning the U.S. show jumping riders, but also critical to the selection process for the 2010 WEG.

Beginning in May of 2009, the series kicked off in France at La Baule. From there, riders and horses continued on to compete at Piazza Di Sienna in Rome (ITA), St. Gallen (SWI), Rotterdam (NED), Aachen (GER), Falsterbo (SWE), Hickstead (GB), Dublin (IRE), and wrapped up with the Meydan FEI Nations Cup League Final, September 17-20 in Barcelona, Spain.



Authentic and Ilian on the van at the Palm Beach International Airport

Taking home the win in Rome, those representing Team USA included Lauren Hough and Quick Study, Ashlee Bond and Cadett 7, Laura Kraut and Cedric, as well as Richard Spooner and Cristallo. At St. Gallen, Bond, Kraut, and Spooner led the United States to victory over Germany, assisted by Christine McCrea and her mount, Vegas. Other notable Team performances included a second place finish at Rotterdam and a fourth at the final leg of the 2009 Meydan FEI Nations Cup in Dublin.



George H. Morris discussing the course strategy in La Baule, France, the first leg of the Meydan FEI Nations Cup Tour, with team riders Ashlee Bond and Richard Spooner.

Rolex FEI World Cup Show Jumping Final

Twenty-two nations, forty-five competitors, and forty-nine horses competed over the course of three days at the Rolex FEI World Cup Show Jumping Final in Las Vegas, Nevada. McLain Ward and Sapphire were the best-placed U.S. combination, finishing second less than one rail behind Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum and Shutterfly.

Additional United States competitors included Ashlee Bond, Hillary Dobbs, Kent Farrington, Rich Fellers, Beezie Madden, Christine McCrea, Todd Minikus, Mandy Porter, Michelle Spadone, Richard Spooner and Danielle Torano.

Show Jumping Developing/Young Rider Tour

Bridging the gap between Juniors/Young Riders and the top Nations Cup Teams, the Show Jumping Developing/Young Rider Tour has been an essential program in creating a pipeline for rising talent for show jumping. Katherine Bardis, Jessica Suida, Laura Teodori, Andrew Welles and Ali Wolf represented the U.S. at two competitions in Linz, Austria, as well as one in Lisbon, Portugal. The Team finished tenth at both Nations Cups in Linz and gained invaluable experience.

DRESSAGE

Rolex FEI World Cup Dressage Final,

Representing the United States, Steffen Peters and Akiko Yamazaki's Ravel rewrote history at the 2009 World Cup Finals with a record-setting performance. After becoming the first American pair to win the prestigious World Cup Grand Prix on U.S. soil, the next day they took home top honors by dominating the World Cup Grand Prix Freestyle Final with a score of 84.95%.

The Rolex FEI World Cup Dressage Finals welcomed eight nations, fifteen competitors, and fifteen horses to vie for the title. Also representing the United States were Jan Ebeling with Rafalca and Leslie Morse with Kingston.

CDIO Aachen, Germany

Held in the Deutsche Bank Stadium, Aachen is one of the world's most prestigious dressage shows. Continuing an impressive winning streak in 2009, Ravel and Steffen Peters topped the field again, winning the Grand Prix, the Grand Prix Special, and the Freestyle. It was another record setting performance for the unstoppable duo as no competitor from the USA has ever won all three classes at Aachen.

EVENTING

*CCI**** Burghley, Great Britain*

Home to a record ten Championship competitions, Burghley stands as the longest continuously running international event in the world. For the United States, Phillip Dutton aboard Ann Jones' and Rebecca Broussard's Truluck finished third, while Bruce Davidson, Jr. finished eleventh aboard Carl and Cassandra Segal's Ballynoe Castle RM.

DRIVING

World Pony Driving Championship

Representing the United States, the all-woman team competed successfully at this year's World Pony Driving Championships held in Greven, Germany. Suzy Stafford drove Julia Leshner's Courage to Lead to the Singles Bronze medal. Additional U.S. Singles competitors included Sara Schmitt driving Julia Greifield's Batman and Sherri Dolan with Smoke.

Pairs Team members included Miranda Cadwell with Rambo, Kabam, Toby, and Boots Wright's Dusty; Tracey Morgan with Singletree Tabitha Twitchit, Farley Coquette, Lizwell Gambling Queen, and Gaylen Romeo; and Kathleen Whaley with Casper, Cees, and Duke. Four-In-Hand members included Allison Stroud with Benjamin, Kilkekerin Edward, Cong Donal, Sir Partick, Mystic, and With Flair; Laurie Astegiano with Primodu Pont Blanc, Liezelhof Dave, Tempeldruid Kronos, Tempeldruid St. Jerneborg, and Tempelrood Monsoon.

Coaching the team was five-time British National Champion and 2008 FEI World Cup Champion, Boyd Exell and the Chef d'Equipe was driver Chester Weber of Ocala, FL.

A six-time U.S. National Champion, Weber became the first American to win an individual medal when he won the Silver at the 2008 World Four-In-Hand World Driving Championships.

FEI World Pairs Driving Championship

The 13th annual FEI World Pairs Driving Championship was held in Kecskemet, Hungary. The U.S. was represented by Larry Poulin from Petersham, MA with Natasha Grigg's mixed warmbloods Wiley, Rivage, and Cody; Lisa Singer of Chadds Ford, PA with her own Tilba and Anne Thorington's Morgans Count on Me and LR Ami Bengali; and Keady Cadwell of Southern Pines, NC with her own Splash, Uniek, and Finlandio. The Team finished twelfth.

VAULTING

CVIO Vaulting

The Mount Eden Sun Vaulting Team finished with a strong sixth place finish at this year's Vaulting CVIO in Aachen. In addition to a strong team finish, Individual Vaulters Mary McCormick of Woodside, CA, Alicen Divita of Redwood, CA, and Annalise Vanvranken of Mays Landing, NJ all put in good performances, finishing seventh, eighth, and twelfth respectively. The Vaulting team was led by Chef d'Equipe Emma Garrod Seely of Saratoga, CA. A world-renowned coach, she has instructed many of the United States' most successful vaulters, including Kerith Lemon, Devon Maitozo, and Megan Benjamin.



Beezie Madden, Jefferey Welles and Laura Kraut celebrate their victory at Aachen.

Photo courtesy of PhelpsSports.com

REINING

World Reining Masters

This past December, Oklahoma City, OK was home to the FEI World Reining Masters. Twenty riders representing eighteen nations competed on twenty reining horses for a \$100,000 purse, making the evening one of thrilling competition. From the United States, Pete Kyle finished third in the Open Division aboard Kaitlin Townsend's Whizs Bronze Star.

ENDURANCE

Pan American Endurance Championships

Competing in Costa Azul, Uruguay, endurance riders Cheryl Van Deusen of New Smyrna Beach, FL, Steve Rojek of South Woodstock, VT, Gabrielle Mann of Bolinas, CA, and Valerie Kanavy of Fort Valley, VA put in a stellar performance, taking home the Silver medal just six minutes off the pace of the Argentinian Gold medalists. Van Deusen, Rojek, and Mann shipped their horses Al Capone, Savvy, and CM Big Easy respectively, to Uruguay, while Kanavy rode LM Francesca Pharr, who had already been training in Uruguay. This was the first Pan American medal the Team had won since 2005 in Argentina.

Competing on the international stage is a daunting task.

In 2009, our United States Equestrian Teams carried the flag to 13 different countries, earning the top spot on the podium in five. Traditionally the year after an Olympics is considered an "off" year in that none of the big three international competitions (Olympics, Pan American Games and World Equestrian Games) are contested. Typically, it is a re-building time for all Teams and a chance for veterans to hone their skills and new faces and young horses to gain crucial international experience. With a solid 2009, the momentum is building as our Teams look forward to the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games to be held on home soil for the first time, starting on September 25 in Lexington, KY. The United States Equestrian Teams need the continuing support of their loyal and generous donors to make Lexington "America's Championship City"! ■

– Jessica Marie Nemzoff



USET Foundation Awards Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy to Jennifer Waxman

The United States Equestrian Team Foundation proudly presented this year's Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy to 18-year-old Jennifer Waxman, Chagrin Falls, OH, during the Foundation's "Road to Kentucky" Benefit Dinner Dance. The award recognizes a Junior/Young Rider who exemplifies the USET Foundation's ideals of sportsmanship and horsemanship. The award was established in 1983 by Patrick Guerrand-Hermès in memory of his son Lionel.

Jennifer Waxman had a successful year in all aspects of the hunter/jumper disciplines, but her success in the jumpers was outstanding. She and her horse Venturo won the Individual Gold medal and Team Silver medal at the North American Junior Young Riders Championships (NAJYRC) in Lexington, KY. Waxman made the step up to the grand prix level, and she and Venturo placed in several grand prix classes throughout the season. What makes Waxman's achievements amazing is



USET Foundation President and CEO Jane F. Clark and US Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe George H. Morris present Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy to 2010 recipient, Jennifer Waxman at USET Foundation Road to Kentucky Gala.

that it was her first time ever competing at Young Riders and in grand prix classes this year.

Of being honored with the Lionel Guerrand-Hermès Trophy, Waxman stated, "I was really surprised to hear that I won. To be recognized and have my name on the trophy with the past winners is really an honor. Everyone that has won it previously has gone on to such big things. Also, the individuals that sit on the committee that decide the winner of this award are true icons in the equestrian world, and that's really an honor to be recognized by them."

Waxman gave thanks to her parents, trainers, grooms, and veterinarians. "It really is a team effort," she remarked. "I'm so involved with my horses, so I appreciate what everybody does. There are so many variables, and so much has to go right for things to go well. I'm so thankful that I have good people around. I'm honored that they chose me for this award." ■ – Lauren Fisher



USET Foundation Awards Whitney Stone Cup to McLain Ward

The USET Foundation awarded the Whitney Stone Cup to McLain Ward of Brewster, NY during the Foundation's "Road to Kentucky" Benefit Dinner Dance. The Whitney Stone Cup is given annually by the USET Foundation Executive Committee to an active competitor who displays consistent excellence in international competition, high standards of sportsmanlike conduct, while also serving as an ambassador for the United States and equestrian sport. The Whitney Stone Cup honors the late Whitney Stone, who served as President and Chairman of the Board of the USET.

McLain Ward has been at the top of the sport for many years and has accumulated two Team Olympic Gold medals. In 2009, he entered another level of winning with his amazingly consistent mount Sapphire, a Belgian Warmblood mare, now 14 years old, owned by Ward and Blue Chip Bloodstock. All in all, Ward won 23 USEF Computer List classes last year. Sapphire won just under \$1 million, and Ward totaled just over \$1.4 million in prize money. Among his many great achievements, Ward ranks his win in the CN \$1 Million Grand Prix at Spruce Meadows in Calgary as the best individual finish of his career.

For those achievements as an incredible representative of the U.S. Show Jumping Team, he is awarded this year's Whitney Stone Cup. Ward was unable to attend the benefit but asked Jimmy Torano to read his remarks and to accept the award on



Jimmy Torano (second from right) accepts Whitney Stone Cup on behalf of 2010 recipient McLain Ward from USET Foundation President and CEO Jane F. Clark (left), Brownlee Curry (second from left), and Armand Leone (right).

his behalf. "It's a great honor," Ward said. "It's a very prestigious award at the highest level of the sport. It's humbling when you read the list of equestrians that have won it. You're a part of that select group for the rest of your life. At the end of the day, I owe this to having a great horse in Sapphire, the owners of all of my horses, and a great group of people behind me." ■ – Lauren Fisher

USET Foundation

Road to Kentucky!

Gathering at the International Polo Club in Wellington, FL, February 5, 2010, horsemen and horsewomen from the international disciplines came together in honor of the United States Equestrian Teams as they continue on the road to Kentucky. The USET Foundation's "Road to Kentucky" Gala was incredibly successful, raising \$325,000 to benefit the U.S. Equestrian Teams competing in the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games later this year in Lexington, KY.

The event of the winter equestrian season brought out 450 of the most influential and avid equestrians of this era. As they entered the sold out event, guests were greeted by USET Foundation President and CEO Jane Forbes Clark, as well as Event Chairs Bruce Duchossois and Robin and Gerry Parsky.

Taking the stage to welcome everyone, Clark reflected on the history of the USET Foundation, its purpose, and its invaluable support of the elite athletes representing the United States of America. "Over the last 52 years, our riders and our Teams have created our legacy by winning 57 World Championship medals," Clark said, "and that is a count that I know will go up after the 2010 World Equestrian Games this October. However, as we all know too well, it takes more than talent and hard work to keep the U.S. at the top of our game - to keep us at the top of the sport, it also takes financial support, and the USET Foundation is incredibly grateful to all of you here tonight who have contributed so generously to our fundraising efforts on the "Road to Kentucky".

Recognizing the equestrian sport's most loyal and generous supporters, the USET Foundation presented 10, 15, 20, and 30 Year Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards and also honored two riders whose amazing successes over the past year earned them a permanent place on the USET's most prestigious trophies: the Lionel Guerrand-Hermes Trophy to Jennifer Waxman and the Whitney Stone Cup to McLain Ward.

International Four-In-Hand Driver and Chairman of the USET Foundation's Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence, Tucker Johnson was also honored for his leadership of this effort. Clark announced the successful completion of the campaign which reached its \$20 million goal and is the most significant source of funding for our



Bruce Duchossois and Mason Phelps



Tres Abbott, Jenny Dunion, John Talley, and Georgina Bloomberg



Louie, Joan, Charlotte and Lou Jacobs



Gerry and Robin Parsky

U.S. Equestrian Teams over the last quadrennium. "The USET Foundation is grateful and appreciative to Tucker for his true leadership of this effort and to all the individuals who participated in this campaign, many of whom are here tonight, for always helping and supporting our U.S. Equestrian Teams. Thank you."

During dinner, guests enjoyed the music of jazz vocalist Nicole Henry and the camaraderie of their friends and fellow supporters. As dinner finished you could feel the electricity in the air build as Tony Coppolla, the auctioneer, and David O'Connor, Olympic Gold Medalist and President of the U.S. Equestrian Federation, fired up the crowd for the live auction. With spirited bidding and the encouragement of the crowd, the USET Foundation and our athletes were the beneficiaries of the most generous support from auction winners Larry Tribble, Jim McNerney, Lawrence Davis, Hunter Harrison, Andy Ziegler, Dennis Dammerman, and Rusty Holzer.

Truly an evening of celebration and great fun as our United States Equestrian Teams head down the "Road to Kentucky"! ■ — **Jessica Marie Nemzoff**

Photos by Phelps Media Group Photographers; Jessica Nemzoff, Lauren Fisher, Rebecca Walton and Lindsay McCall



Bruce and Jessie Springsteen and Sean Crooks



Ron Neal and Sheila Johnson



Tamara Gerber and Tobin Basore



Hillary Dobbs and Debi Dobbs



Phillip and Evie Dutton



Hunter Harrison and John Madden



Robert Lindsay and Eve Lloyd Thompson



Julia McNerney and Jim McNerney



Jacqueline Mars and Lawrence Davis



Sue and Bill Brewer, Doris Barton, Don and Robin Treadway and Jim Barton



Lorraine and Craig Ferrell, Diana and Bert Firestone, John and Bezie Madden



Dennis and Marsha Dammerman



Brownlee and Agneta Currey



David and Arlene "Tuny" Page



Fran Steinaedel, Carol Hoffman, and Anne Kursinski



Armand Leone, Karen and David O'Connor



Caitlin, Andy and Carlene Ziegler



Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang



Nicole Shahinian-Simpson
and Will Simpson



Larry Tribble, high bidder for custom
animal portrait by Laura Ellis



10-Year Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards were presented to Larry and Candy Tribble,
Sara L. Schwartz, Don Treadway (AQHA), Lindsay Harms, Bill Brewer (AQHA)



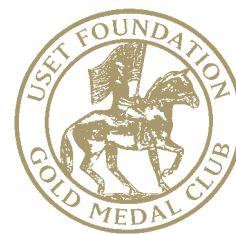
15-Year Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards were presented to Lorraine and Craig Ferrell
and Barbara and Michael Simpson



20-Year Gold Medal Club
Anniversary Awards were presented
to Charlotte and Tucker Johnson



30-Year Gold Medal Club Anniversary
Award was presented to Jane Forbes
Clark by Armand Leone



TEN-YEAR Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards

American Quarter Horse Association
Elizabeth Busch Burke
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Field
Mr. and Mrs. Mark W.B. Harms
Gene N. Koelbel
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Pingree
Mrs. H.L. Schwartz
Barbara A. Tooman
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G. Tribble



FIFTEEN-YEAR Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards

Patricia Colagiuri
Mary H. Delton
Robert Boeckman
Mary Ferguson
Dr. and Mrs. M. Craig Ferrell
Sandra A. Frazier
Natasha Grigg
The Grimshaw-Gudewicz Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Powers
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Simpson



TWENTY-YEAR Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards

Linda Sue Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. S. Tucker Snow Johnson
Mary Alice D. Malone



THIRTY-YEAR Gold Medal Club Anniversary Awards

Anonymous
Jane Forbes Clark
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Steinkraus.



The nation's most talented young riders circle Morris at the Training Clinic in Wellington, Florida.

2010 George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Clinic a Huge Success

Held in the International Arena of the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL, January 5-9, 2010, the George H. Morris Horsemastership Training Clinic provided invaluable insight for pupils and auditors alike. Upon the conclusion of the clinic, the USET Foundation held a luncheon at the White Horse Tavern to honor participating riders and to reflect on the value of educational opportunities such as the George H. Morris Horsemastership Clinic in developing not only the careers of the participating riders, but also the future of the equestrian sport in the United States of America.

Morris was impressed with the aptitude of his pupils throughout the clinic, but at the luncheon expressed his "biggest, and most alarming challenge" to be "what happens to these riders in the next ten years?" Concurring with Morris, USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins reflected on the extraordinary talent seen throughout the clinic, stating "the week was indicative of a bright future for show jumping."

Talent for the future undoubtedly exists, but the question then becomes how to bring the future to fruition, and transform the Olympic dreams of talented riders into reality – into Gold Medals. Responsibility for such successes "falls into the hands of not only the riders, but also of the parents, the professionals, and the supporters," Morris explained. Equestrians of the future recognize the USET Foundation as the greatest supporter of their endeavors

and trust that the Foundation will aid them in following in the footsteps of the equestrian legends that have preceded them.

In doing so, the USET Foundation, as Morris and Jenkins both declared, will require the continued generosity of those who are passionate about this sport. "Without all of you," Jenkins said, "these programs would not exist, so we would like to truly thank you for your support, and want you to know how much it means to the Foundation to be able to continue supporting such impressive athletes."

For riders, the journey to greatness is not short, nor is it easy - sacrifices must be made. At the end of the day, the USET Foundation is the means to Olympic dreams, but what is it that gets riders to the point? From Day One, Morris made it very clear that "aptitude is nothing without attitude," telling riders "we all know you have aptitude, but to truly succeed you will need attitude, which is why this week focuses as much on horsemastership as it does on riding."



George Morris demonstrates no-stirrups to clinic participants.

Photos by Lindsay Y. McCull / PNG



Reed Kessler

The week progressed much as one's riding career would, from flatwork, to gymnastics, to work without stirrups, to completing a full course of jumps.

In addition to mounted sessions, riders also engaged in educational ses-



Chase Boggio

sions with a variety of industry leaders. Regarded highly for their respective specialties, speakers included Olympian

Anne Kursinski, USET veterinarian Dr. Tim Ober, Purina Mills Nutritionist Dr. Mary Beth Gordon, Ph.D., Luitpold Pharmaceuticals Joint Specialist Allyn Mann, and ASPCA President Ed Sayres.

To qualify for an invitation to attend and ride under Morris' tutelage, riders were chosen based on a combination of the USA Equestrian Computer Rankings List and past performances. Topping the USA Equestrian Computer Rankings list was Jacqueline Lubrano, followed by Jessica Springsteen, Zazou Hoffman, Christy DiStefano, and Victoria Birdsall. Matthew Mettall (East) and Theodore Boris (West) were invited after winning the USEF Talent Search Finals this fall. North American Young Riders Individual Champion, Jennifer Waxman, and the USEF National Junior Jumper Individual Champion, Reed Kessler, were also in attendance. Filling the only wild card slot, Chase Boggio received the opportunity to participate based on performances such as



Jessica Springsteen



Zazou Hoffman

his second place finish to Zazou Hoffman in the 2009 ASPCA Maclay Finals at the Syracuse International Horse Show.

Participating riders were not the only ones to benefit from the week's mounted and educational sessions – observing auditors also attended free of charge to watch and learn from equestrian legends. However, Morris pointed out just how much the success of the high performance teams in this country relied upon donations to the USET Foundation. Taking center stage with the microphone, Morris told the crowd "I don't care if you give \$1, \$10, \$100,000, or \$1,000,000, but you need to give something – this is how we get these riders to the Olympics." ■

– *Jessica Marie Nemzoff*



Back Row Left to Right: Chase Boggio, Theo Boris, John Madden, Jacqueline Lubrano, George Morris, Victoria Birdsall, Matt Mettall, Zazou Hoffman.
Front Row Left to Right: Bonnie Jenkins, Christy DiStefano, Bizzie Madden, Jessica Springsteen, Jennifer Waxman, and Reed Kessler



SUCCEED® & Wellington Classic Dressage Host Successful USET Foundation Holiday Gala

Presented by both SUCCEED® and Wellington Classic Dressage, the USET Foundation Holiday Gala was a great success. Spectators had the opportunity to enjoy this one-of-a-kind equestrian event featuring performances, exhibitions and team competitions with Olympians and numerous top equestrian stars. The fundraiser was held at the Jim Brandon Equestrian Center in Wellington, FL, on December 11 and 12, 2009. Through donations, silent and live auctions, and ticket purchases the event raised a generous amount of money to help support the United States Equestrian Federation's High Performance programs.

Gala festivities got underway with a Bridleless Musical Exhibition performed by Lynn Palm and her famous horse Rugged Painted Lark followed by an exciting demonstration by German vaulting champion Kai Vorberg. Other events on the program included: Pony Club Mounted Games that featured Gina Miles,

Cathy Wieschhoff, Hawley Bennett, Karen O'Connor, Jeanne Lambrecht and others; a Dressage Pas de Deux featuring horse whisperer Monty Roberts (the man who listens to horses) and Courtney King-Dye (2008 Dressage Olympian); a Freestyle Dressage to Music presentation by Pierre St. Jacques riding Lucky Tiger; a showcase of reining and Join-up from the saddle featuring Monty Roberts; dressage commentary by Rolex World Cup Dressage winner and 2008 Olympian Steffen Peters featuring demonstration riders Kim Gentry and Stephan Kiesewetter; a Show Jumping Pas de Deux featuring Kate Levy and 2008 Olympian Samantha St. Jacques; a book signing by renowned bestselling suspense author Tami Hoag; a Small World Showcase featuring miniature horses and Shetland



Roberta Williams, Elizabeth Juliano and George Williams



Bruce Duchossois and Margaret Duprey



Allyn Schiavone and Chris Hickey



Chester Weber and David and Karen O'Connor



Janne Rumbough and Tyny Page.



John Flanagan and Noreen O'Sullivan
of Wellington Classic Dressage

ponies; "Finding the Courage Within" presented by Jeanne Lambrecht; and a Grand Finale featuring Four-In-Hand Champion Chester Weber driving the surprise celebrity equestrian Santa, David O'Connor.



Jolie Burrell, Mason Phelps and Kim Boyer

Grand Prix dressage rider Reese Koffler-Stanfield also volunteered her time to help out and support the "team".

Along with the exciting equestrian performances, the Holiday Gala featured a catered VIP dinner and bar along with a fundraising auction with many one-of-a-kind high dollar items. Live auction items included a custom made saddle by Richard Castelow (former Master Saddler to Queen Elizabeth); bridles by Smartpak and Schleese Saddlery; a Day of Training with

Chester Weber; a week of Dressage training in Germany with Stephan Kiesewetter, and many more items.

The Jim Brandon Equestrian Center also hosted a special shopping village with a variety of vendors and products. Many of the guests in attendance contributed their support to the USET Foundation. The participating riders all had a wonderful time and remarked that the event was unique in bringing so many top competitors in various disciplines together. ■

– Lauren Fisher



Lyndsey White of Succeed® and Steffen Peters



Tami Hoag's Novel *Deeper Than the Dead* Benefits the USET Foundation

In 2008, accomplished dressage rider and New York Times bestselling author, Tami Hoag, donated the opportunity for a person to become a character in her new mystery novel, *Deeper Than the Dead*. The donation was part of a live auction fundraiser for the United States Equestrian Team Foundation. The lucky winner of the auction was Jane Thomas, taking home a spot in Hoag's new book for \$20,000.

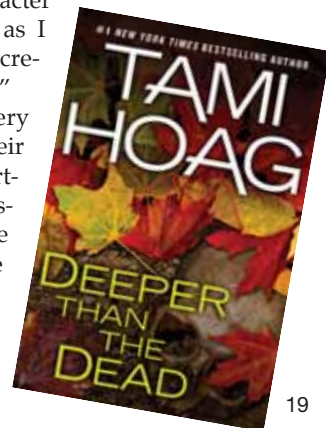
Thomas is the daughter of Peggy and E. Parry Thomas, owners of the magnificent Olympic dressage horse, Brentina, who was part of the 2008 Olympic Bronze Medal Team and winner of the 2003 Dressage World Cup Finals. She also has numerous other national and international awards to her name. During the USET Foundation Holiday Gala Fundraiser, Hoag unveiled her new book, *Deeper Than the Dead*, and new character, Jane Thomas. Hoag based Thomas' character on her real, everyday life, and even included Thomas' black pug Violet. Hoag commented on her website, "I had a lot of fun writing Thomas into the book and was able to support the USET Foundation at the same time."



Author Tami Hoag, Reisa Bonetti and Jane Thomas

Hoag has participated in the equestrian world for a long time, and even though she makes her living writing, her true love is dressage. In the book *Deeper Than the Dead*, Hoag gives recognition to Thomas and the USET Foundation on the first page, which says, "My first heartfelt thanks go to Jane Thomas, whose generosity to the cause of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation won her a place in this book. I hope you enjoy your character as much as I enjoyed creating her."

The USET Foundation is very thankful to Hoag and Thomas for their contributions. Without such supporters, the USET Foundation, the equestrian athletes in all disciplines, and the Olympic Teams would not be where they are today. ■ – Lindsay McCall





USET Foundation Announces Completion of \$20 Million Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence



Early in 2005, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation embarked on the Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence. Five years later, the Foundation proudly announced the completion of the \$20 million dollar Campaign at the "Road to Kentucky" benefit on February 5, 2010. Ensuring the continuation of this nation's equestrian legacy requires substantial funding, which is why the USET Foundation has continuously implemented fundraising programs to provide support to our United States elite and developing High Performance athletes.

Foundation President and CEO Jane Forbes Clark recognized the efforts of Campaign chairman Tucker Johnson at the recent "Road to Kentucky Gala" in Wellington, FL. Clark introduced Johnson as a horseman who has "not only experienced excellence in the international arena for the United States, but also took on the leadership of the USET Foundation's first major fundraising initiative in 2005 - our *Campaign to Achieve Competitive Excellence*." Inviting Johnson on stage Clark explained "Tucker chaired the \$20 million effort in order to support the High Performance programs through grants made to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) over the last quadrennium and into this quadrennium. We are so grateful and appreciative to all of you who donated to that Campaign, and we can't thank Tucker enough for his leadership of the effort."



Tucker Johnson and Jane Forbes Clark

Accepting the USET Foundation's gift of appreciation, Johnson said, "I want to take a moment to thank all the wonderful donors to the Campaign whose generosity and hard work made it possible for our riders, drivers, and vaulters to have such incredible success internationally."

Dedicated to preparing the Teams for international success, the Campaign has helped horses and riders achieve excellence at competitions such as the World Championships, Pan American Games, Meydan FEI Nations Cup series, Samsung Show Jumping Super League, FEI World Cup Dressage and Show Jumping Finals, CCI**** Eventing Competitions, and the FEI World Reining Masters. Raising the bar to generate \$20 million has allowed the Teams to secure every possible competitive advantage over the past four years, and continues to do so as Team riders gear up for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY, this fall and on to London for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Development programs are essential if the United States is to remain competitive for many years to come, which is why the USEF took special care to use a portion of the funds to expand the Developing/Young Rider programs, giving upcoming talent the ability to gain the confidence and experience they will need to become the next generation of representatives for the U.S. Equestrian Teams. As United States High Performance Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe George Morris explained, "We cannot prepare our Young Riders at home; they must be a part of the international community. We must give them the experiences and challenges that will prepare them for the rigors of Nations Cup competition on a championship level. Riders proving themselves on these tours will identify themselves and be recognized by selectors and the international community as the future of the United States Equestrian Teams."

The objectives of the Campaign were achieved both on and off the field of play:

- \$20,000,000 raised
- Increased number of international competition and training grants
- Expanded Developing/Young Rider programs
- Expanded coaching programs
- 3 Olympic medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze)
- 17 World Championship medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, 6 Bronze)
- 8 Pan American Games medals (4 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze)

While we applaud this success, the work must continue as we passionately and enthusiastically fulfill the USET Foundation's mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future. ■ – Jessica Marie Nemzoff

Third Annual Aiken Gala: A Smashing Success

The Aiken Olympic Gala held at Phillip and Evie Dutton's True Prospect Farm winter training facility in Aiken, SC, March 11, 2010 was a phenomenal success which benefitted the United States Equestrian Team Foundation.

The third annual Olympic Gala raised over \$20,000 for United States High Performance Eventing riders and drivers and the USET Foundation. Bruce Duchossois and Jack Wetzel not only provided most generous support for the Gala, but also donated the paint pony that gave the crowd a good laugh as he was auctioned off on the dance floor. The pony brought \$3,000 from winning bidder Alexa Seip during the live auction event that turned out to be the "highlight of the evening," hostess Evie Dutton commented.



Bruce Duchossois and Jack Wetzel donated a yearling paint pony which was auctioned off on the Aiken Olympic Gala dance floor.



Bonnie Jenkins with Phillip and Evie Dutton

Nearly 150 people were in attendance as they gathered in honor of High Performance riders and drivers, and for the benefit of the USET Foundation which supports their respective equestrian ventures. Phillip Dutton (United States Leading Event Rider for the past ten years), Boyd Martin (2009 Eventing Rider of the Year), Mark Phillips (Chef d'Equipe of the U.S. Eventing Team) and Bonnie Jenkins, USET Foundation Executive Director, all took the stage to thank guests for coming and to reflect on past successes. ■ – Jessica Marie Nemzoff

USET Foundation Remembers Bob Freels

National Show Hunter Hall of Fame member Robert Freels passed away November 24, 2009, at the age of 80. Beginning his equestrian career in Bristol, TN cleaning stalls and riding horses, Freels evolved as a horseman, eventually turning working with horses into a professional career after his family doctor purchased hunt horses on his behalf. After serving in the army during the Korean War, Freels was working at the Brewster family farm in Southern Pines, NC, which is where the USET discovered his talent and hired him as the Show Jumping Team's stable manager.

Freels worked for the Team traveling to various prestigious international events during the era of legendary coach Bertrand de Nemethy and Team riders Bill Steinkraus, Hugh Wiley, Frank Chapot, and George Morris. Freels was known for the impeccable condition in which he sent the Team's horses to the ring and his use of gymnastics to further the skills of both horse and rider - a methodology still used to this day.

In 1958 Freels, married Jeri Schaal, and soon thereafter the newlyweds set up their own business at the family's Harkaway Farm. When the USET moved to Gladstone, NJ in 1960, Freels began teaching a number of 1965 AHSA Horseman of the Year David Kelley's amateur clients. Working with Kelley's clients, Freels was loved by all for his unique ability to instill confidence in horse and rider, and as such became iconic in the eyes of many horsemen. He was a man of few words and much success.

The Freelses divorced in 1973, but continued to work together with their daughters Susan and Tracy, who would later continue the Harkway Farm tradition after Freels went to work for Insilco. In 2002, Freels was recognized and inducted into the Show Hunter Hall of Fame not only for his work with Insilco in the hunter/jumper arenas, but also for his ability to transfer his knowledge and talent to the dressage and eventing disciplines.

Freels will never be forgotten by his friends, former team members, or numerous acquaintances in the equestrian world, and is survived by his wife Patricia, his daughters Susan and Tracy, his stepchildren, Skip, Buddy, Steve, Leslie, and Meg, as well as several grandchildren.

Memorial donations can be made to the USET Foundation, Box 355, Gladstone, NJ 07934. ■ – Lindsay McCall



Bernie Mann (left) and Bob Freels (right) send Riviera Wonder to Europe.

★ USET FOUNDATION ★

2009 DONOR LIST

CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE (\$250,000 +)

Anonymous
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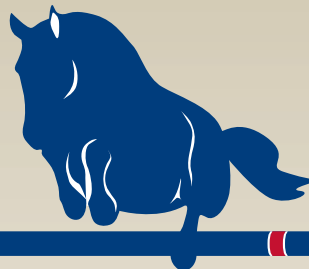
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