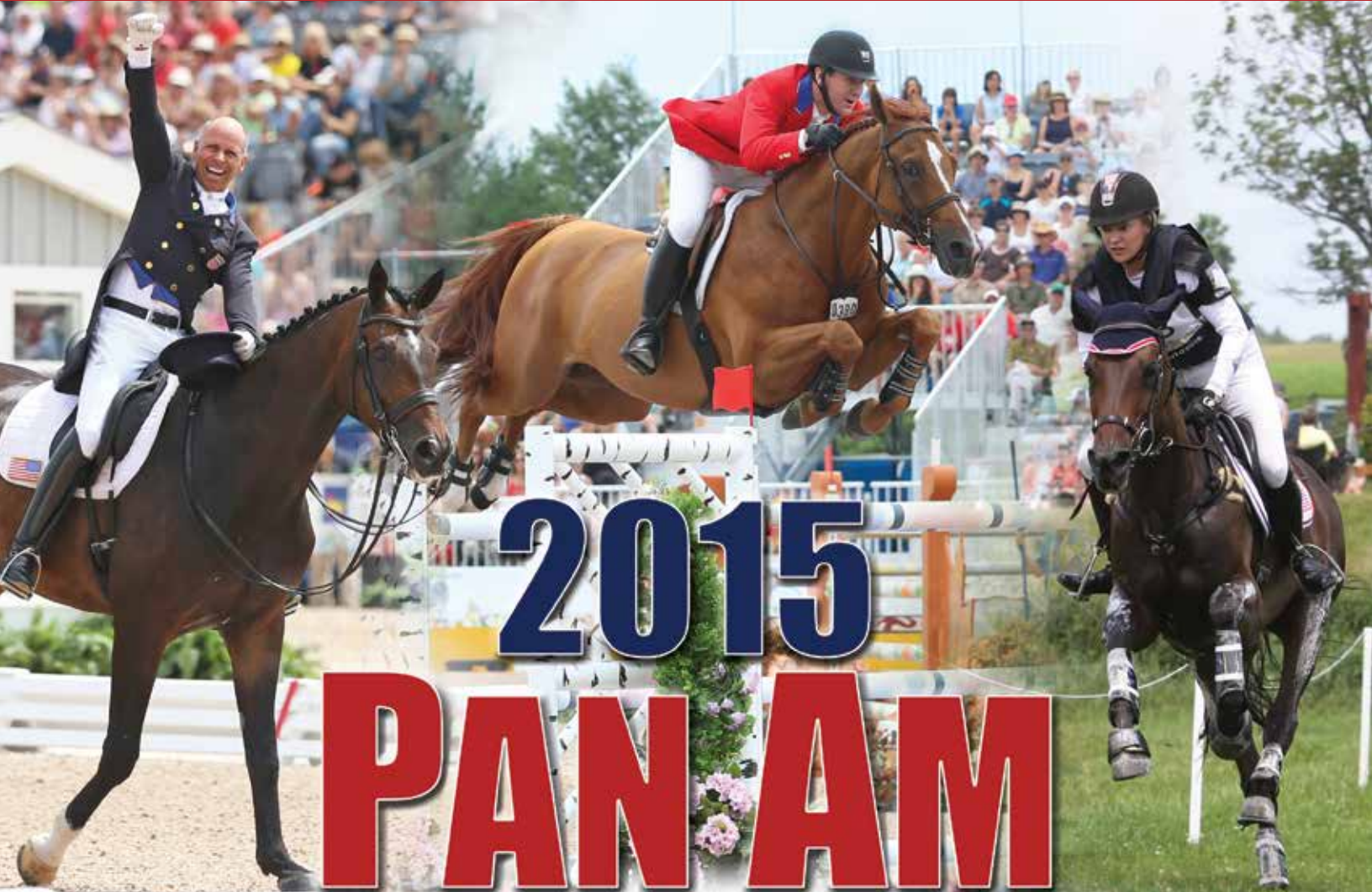




USET Foundation NEWS



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION • VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2015



Photos by Rebecca Walton and Mary Adelaide Brakenridge for Phelps Media Group



Officers

Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

S. Tucker S. Johnson
President and CEO

W. James McNerney, Jr.
Vice President

Philip Ernst Richter
Treasurer

Elizabeth Juliano
Secretary

Board of Trustees

Sherry Adams

Georgina Bloomberg

Kimberly Boyer

Jane Forbes Clark

William Coleman, Jr.

George Davis

Debi Dobbs

Margaret H. Duprey

Richard M. Feldman

Bertram R. Firestone

Brianne Goutal

E. Hunter Harrison

Elizabeth L. Johnson

Murray Kessler

Anne Kursinski

Lyle Lovett

Beezie Madden

Jacqueline B. Mars

Debbie McDonald

Mary Anne McPhail

Frank G. Merrill

Gwendolyn Meyer

Elizabeth Miller

Misdee Wrigley Miller

George H. Morris

Signe Ostby

Robin Parsky

M.K. Pritzker

Wendy Raether

Juliet Reid

Patti Scialfa

Eric L. Straus

Chrystine J. Tauber

Jeannie Tisbo

Chester C. Weber

William H. Weeks

Anthony Weight

Jack Wetzel

Abigail S. Wexner

Akiko Yamazaki

USET Foundation Staff

908-234-1251

Bonnie B. Jenkins

Executive Director, ext. 215

Trish Millon

Executive Assistant, ext. 208

Mark P. Piwowar

Chief Financial Officer, ext. 200

Sara Ike

Major Gifts Officer, ext. 209

Michele Zanzonico

Director of Annual Support, ext. 205

Mary-Ellen Milesnick

Database Manager, ext. 204

Catherine Pane

Accounting Supervisor

& Office Manager, ext. 203

Maureen Pethick

Communications Coordinator, ext. 207

Clifton J. Cotter, Jr.

Director of Facilities, ext. 202

Eric Cohan

Facilities, ext. 206

Rebecca J. Walton

Phelps Media Group

Newsletter Editor

Miriam Morgan

Graphic Designer

Dear Friends,

This July, the United States Equestrian Teams traveled to Toronto for the Pan American Games with a mission; to qualify the Dressage and Eventing teams for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, and we can proudly declare, "mission accomplished"! Not only did the teams qualify for Rio, but Dressage and Eventing brought home team Gold medals, while Steffen Peters captured the individual Gold in Dressage and Laura Graves the Silver. In Eventing, it was Marilyn Little who secured the individual Gold.

Show Jumping qualified for the Olympic Games last year in Normandy with their Bronze medal at the World Equestrian Games, but that did not lessen their competitive drive and goal to also take home the Gold medal. While the team finished up with the Bronze medal, McLain Ward dug deep and showing once again that he is a true champion, winning the individual Gold medal.

Our home in Gladstone has been a source of great activity over the first half of the year. The master, George Morris, was here in May for the "Gladstone Program" to help this country's rising show jumping riders take their skills to the next level on their way to hopefully one day representing this country in international competition. My thanks go to Suzanne and BG Porter and Diane Carney for supporting this incredible program.

We had the dedication ceremony for the naming of the "Joan and Corwith Hamill Rotunda" in June at the headquarters. The Hamill family of Jon Hamill, Nancy Winter and Betsy Bramsen along with friends and supporters gathered for an incredible evening, where we celebrated and remembered their parents Joan and Corwith for their commitment and dedication to the USET.

A few weeks later we hosted the "Gladstone Gathering", with over 200 people from the surrounding community in attendance. It was a wonderful day to enjoy the camaraderie of friends and talk about exciting collaborations with the USEF and Gladstone Equestrian Association to promote and support continued equestrian activity at the Hamilton Farm facility, as well as in the surrounding area.

I would also like to thank USET Foundation Trustee Betsy Juliano for taking the lead and making a generous commitment to launch the USEF's Human Sport Science and Medicine program. The "Elizabeth Juliano and Havensafe Farm Challenge" will provide the incentive for others to join her in providing the support to establish a program that will help our athletes achieve the necessary focus on fitness that can truly make the difference in winning medals.

My sincere thanks to all of you who provide the support that allows us to achieve our mission of supporting athletes, promoting international excellence and building for the future. Hope to see you at the USET Foundation's Rockin' Rio Olympic and Paralympic benefit on January 22, 2016 in Wellington!

Sincerely yours,

S. Tucker S. Johnson
President and CEO



Photo by Rebecca Walton/Phelps Media Group

Cover Headline Photos Courtesy of the USET Foundation Archives, Karl Leck, Waltenberry, SusanJStickle.com, Terri Miller, www.hippoevent.at, GenieSS Inc., Lauren Giannini

STEFFEN PETERS AND U.S. DRESSAGE TEAM RIDE TO PAN AM GOLD

The United States Dressage Team was on a mission at the 2015 Pan American Games (PAG) in Toronto (CAN), and after returning home with team Gold, individual Gold and individual Silver medals as well as a guaranteed starting spot at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, they can safely consider that mission completed.

To qualify a team for Rio, the U.S. needed to defeat all nine other PAG team competitors with the exception of the Olympic host country, Brazil. With so much hanging in the balance, the U.S. Team had to pull out all the stops and post several personal best scores to defeat their main rival, Canada, who put up a stiff challenge over two days of team competition July 11-12 at the Caledon Equestrian Park in Palgrave, Ontario.

"I couldn't get this thought out of my mind that we might not be going to the Olympics," said Steffen Peters, the defending PAG double Gold medalist who anchored the U.S. Team. "It just got me fired up to put in the performance that we did. I have to tip my hat to the Canadians, because they gave us a hell of a run."

Leading up to the PAG, the U.S. sent eight horse and rider combinations to Europe to train and prepare with Chef d'Equipe Robert Dover. The European competitions played a key role in selecting the final team, which included a mixture of big tour and small tour pairs.

Peters on Four Winds Farm's Legolas 92 (big tour), Kimberly Herslow on Kiroli Enterprises LLC's Rosmarin (small tour) and Sabine Schut-Kery on Alice Womble's Sanceo (small tour) all showed in the international events and earned their tickets to Toronto. Laura Graves and her own Verdades, the second big tour combination, received a bye from the European trip and instead trained in Idaho over the summer under the guidance of Debbie McDonald.

Team competition at the PAG stretched over two days and included the Grand Prix or Prix St. Georges and the Grand Prix Special or Intermediaire I. The U.S. Team started strong, jumping out to take the overnight lead by a margin of four points over Canada. Peters and Legolas led the way with the highest score of the



Kimberly Herslow, Steffen Peters, Sabine Schut-Kery and Laura Graves

first day, 77.240 percent.

"It was a flawless test, one of his best of his career," Peters said after the Grand Prix. "That I can deliver this for my team - this is exactly what I was hoping for."

With the Canadians close behind, the U.S. competitors knew they had to shine again on the second day. The first three riders – Schut-Kery, Herslow and Graves – raised the bar even higher, improving their scores from the day before. Their outstanding rides clinched the Gold medal for the U.S. before the final competitor, Peters, even entered the arena.

Graves admitted to feeling the pres-

sure given how much was riding on her performances, but being able to count on the rest of the team helped lessen the stress.

"It's great to have teammates that are scoring so well," Graves said. "The pressure is a little bit relieved when you know you have such a strong team and you don't feel like you have to carry it. It's a really wonderful team to be on."

After enjoying their time on top of the podium, joined by Canada with the Silver medal and Brazil with Bronze, the top three U.S. competitors – Graves, Herslow and Peters – shifted their focus to the July 14 individual final.

continued on page 5



Steffen Peters and Legolas 92



Steffen Peters and Legolas 92



Kimberly Herslow and Rosmarin



Kimberly Herslow and Rosmarin



Sabine Schut-Kery and Sanceo



TORONTO 2015

Although Schut-Kery's score was high enough to qualify, only three riders from each country could move on to the final, so she instead served as the test rider at the beginning of the day's competition.

All athletes started on equal footing, and the 1.5 percent bonus given to big tour riders in the team events was no longer in play. The technical and artistic merit of each rider's Grand Prix Freestyle or Intermediaire I Freestyle performance determined whether they would achieve a place on the podium.

As Peters started down centerline with a clean slate and one chance to claim the Gold, Legolas' freestyle music, set to David Bowie and Queen's "Under Pressure," could not have been more appropriate. The pair's accurate, harmonious performance earned them a score of 80.075 percent and the individual Gold medal.

"The bottom line is it just doesn't get easier," Peters said. "You know how to handle your nerves better, but the pressure is there every single time. When you're done, you feel a huge weight lifted from your shoulders. Your horse and teammates delivered for you - that's the goal."

He added, "I was quite emotional today, and thankful to Legolas, and of course to owners Akiko [Yamazaki] and Jerry [Yang] who allow me to ride such a fantastic horse, to Robert [Dover] who has given 200 percent every single second of every ride, and of course my wife Shannon who has been so extremely supportive. It was an awesome feeling."

Last to go was Peters' teammate, Graves, who was coming off two strong efforts over the weekend on Verdades. Peters' score was within striking distance for Graves if everything fell into place. Verdades was a little less energetic than Graves expected, and they came just short with a score of 79.825 percent to secure

silver over Canada's Chris von Martels and Silberstar, who earned bronze.

"I am so thrilled to have another American on the top of the podium and a Canadian who rode extremely well this morning in bronze," Graves said. "The real highlight of our weekend was that team Gold. That's what we came for, so to finish Silver next to Steffen is amazing."

With a successful trip to the PAG in the books and the Olympic qualification in hand, the U.S. Dressage Team can set its sights on the next goal.

"What could be better as a chef than to bring a team and have them have personal bests at a very important moment?" Dover said. "We have the spot at Rio now, which allows us to relax and put our energy into a medal in Rio." — *Mary Adelaide Brakenridge*



Laura Graves and Verdades



Sabine Schut-Kery and Sanceo



Laura Graves and Verdades



MARILYN LITTLE BLAZES U.S. TRAIL EVENTING TEAM GOLD

The U.S. Eventing Team came to the Pan American Games (PAG) hungry for redemption and aiming to secure their place at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. After experiencing some frustrating results at recent championships, the U.S. Team was more than ready to stand at the top of the podium. They delivered four fluid and accurate dressage tests, four double clear cross-country rides and four competitive show jumping rounds to claim the Gold medal and punch the ticket to Rio for the U.S.

Brazil gave them a run for their money, staying close in the standings throughout and finishing with the Silver medal. Canada also put in a strong performance to take the Bronze. But at the end of three hard-fought days of competition, the U.S. Team stood alone at the top by a margin of more than six points. Adding to the excitement in the U.S. camp was Marilyn Little's individual Gold medal with RF Scandalous, which marked a tremendous achievement for the relative newcomer to the sport.

"This is a very important day, and I will carry this day with me for the rest of my life," Little said. "It's an incredible honor to represent your country, and it's an incredible responsibility. I am grateful for the opportunity and everyone that made it possible. This is a team sport, and this is a team victory."

Chef d'Equipe David O'Connor has been focusing on strengthening U.S. eventing from the grassroots on up, preparing world-class combinations for top international events and championships while also creating a foundation for the program to build upon in years to come. The fruits of his labor are becoming apparent. The PAG Team included veterans and first-time Team competitors alike, and all clearly showed they belonged by putting in great efforts throughout the PAG.

"You have to believe in the program," O'Connor said. "To have these guys perform the way they did shows that a system like this that is built on belief – belief in each other and huge respect for each other – really can win in the end. To have it all come together on the weekend; that's what these championships are about. It was a joy to watch them."

The team members for the Pan American Games represented a mix of backgrounds and international experience. Lauren Kieffer was riding on her first international team along with Little, who made the switch to eventing from the show jumping world six years ago. Phillip Dutton is a two-time Olympic team Gold medalist for the Australian team who now competes under the U.S. flag. Boyd Martin, who is also an Australian transplant, has had a great deal of success in his career, but this was his first medal.

"We had to fight for it pretty hard," Martin said. "It's a very rewarding feeling, because I've been trying for this for a long time, and I finally got it. I was proud to be a part of a winning team."

Dutton added, "It's been a bit of a tough road for American eventing. I think that everybody has stuck to the principles of trying to get better and trying to improve the sport. I'd like to think it's all set to pay off. Obviously this is just one small step to where we want to go, but it's really exciting. It's a credit to David [O'Connor] and to everybody else who's put the time in as well as to the riders and owners that have really supported it, trying to



Marilyn Little, Boyd Martin, Phillip Dutton and Lauren Kieffer

grow the sport to get us back to the top of the world."

Dutton rode Fernhill Fugitive, owned by Thomas Tierney and Ann Jones, and Martin partnered with Pancho Villa, bred in the U.S. and owned by the Pancho Villa Syndicate. Kieffer rode Meadowbrook's Scarlett, bred and owned by U.S. breeder Marie le Menestrel. Little's individual Gold medal mount, RF Scandalous, is owned by Raylyn Farms Inc. and Phoebe and Michael Manders.

The individual title in eventing came down to the very last rider and the very last fence of the show jumping course. As Brazil's Ruy Fonseca entered the arena on Tom Bombadill Too, he held a slim lead over Little, who had turned in a clear round with RF Scandalous to secure team Gold for the U.S. and put the pressure on Fonseca. The Brazilian rider looked like he might be home free as he headed for the last fence, but Tom Bombadill Too



Boyd Martin and Pancho Villa



Lauren Kieffer and Meadowbrooks Scarlett



Phillip Dutton and Fernhill Fugitive



Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous



Marilyn Little and RF Scandalous

caught the rail and brought it down, giving Little a well-earned Gold medal finish and dropping Fonseca back to Bronze.

The thrilling ending capped an exciting three days of competition at the Pan American Games. Little put in a stellar performance in her international team debut, placing third after dressage, second after a double clear cross-country round, and finally first after a flawless show jumping trip. She was clearly emotional on the podium, soaking in the moment and reflecting on what it had taken to achieve the win.

"I was trying not to cry – it didn't work," Little said. "You think about all of the hard work and all of the people that helped get you there, and all of the horses. You only get to stand up there with one, and I am the only person standing up there, but there are plenty of people who made this possible. You listen to the anthem, the same one you have listened to as a child, and the day that it plays for you it is hard not to cry."

– Mary Adelaide Brakenridge

WARD CAPTURES INDIVIDUAL GOLD BRONZE FOR TEAM USA



McLain Ward and Rothchild

For the top Show Jumping Teams at the 2015 Pan American Games (PAG) in Toronto, Ontario, it was only fractions that separated the medal winners as they competed in the Team Nations Cup. While it is usually rails that separate the winning and losing teams, it was strides, or rather fractions of a second, separating those who took home medals. After a disappointing first round, the riders for Team USA stepped up their game the second time around and came home with a Bronze medal for their country.

The team included two-time Olympic Gold medalist McLain Ward as the lead rider with Sagamore Farms' Rothchild, Georgina Bloomberg making her international championship debut with Gotham Enterprizes, LLC's Lilli, Lauren Hough and The Ohlala Group's Ohlala, and in the anchor position, Kent Farrington, currently ranked third in the world, aboard Gazelle, owned by Farrington and Robin Parksy.

During the first round Ward, Hough and Farrington all had rails at the combinations, and Bloomberg had a block off the wall with Lilli. Farrington also had a time fault, as was the case for 39 of the 50 entries, and was the drop score, giving the U.S. a sixth place ranking on 12 faults.

"All four horses jumped well, I think all four riders rode well," noted Ward. "It was little things here or there. Of course we're dejected, but I think you have to have perspective and realize the horses jumped well and the people rode well. It wasn't big errors. There isn't some big problem, it's a one day class."



All four riders returned to the ring for the second round prepared to dig their way out of the hole they had created for themselves, and they delivered. Four clear rounds meant that they would keep their score at 12 faults, and they were able to capture the Bronze medal over Brazil and Columbia, whose time faults kept them out of contention.

"You really feel the team spirit between rounds when you're not winning," concluded Bloomberg. "I think it's very easy to feel that team spirit when you're on top, but when you're in the trenches, you need to pull together a little bit more. I think we all went in there and were determined to fix our one mistake."

As the day came to a close, Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland concluded, "We're happy with a medal, but this wasn't the medal we came here for. From a competition standpoint, we dug ourselves in a pretty deep hole, and we did exactly what we needed to do to get out of it, and that was it. That was a great testament to all four of them. We're all proud of the effort."

The Individual Final on Saturday was a fresh new playing field for Ward, Hough and Bloomberg, who all returned with scores of a zero and a clean slate. In a stunning turn around, McLain Ward claimed the first individual championship of his career with his veteran partner Rothchild, who completed three clear rounds, including a nail biting jump-off.

"I've waited a long time," smiled McLain after earning his Individual Gold medal. "I've had great team experiences. It's cer-



McLain Ward, Georgina Bloomberg, Lauren Hough and Kent Farrington



Georgina Bloomberg and Lilli



Lauren Hough and Ohlala



Kent Farrington and Gazelle

Photos by Rebecca Walton for Phelps Media Group

tainly something I've dreamed about and worked toward. It's a very special thing. This little horse keeps beating the odds."

After two rounds, Ward and Venezuela's Andres Rodriguez each had scores of zero, and returned for a jump-off to determine their medal rankings. Rodriguez was first and set the fastest time of the day, but a rail at the combination left the door open for Ward.

The pressure of the moment to earn his first individual championship was not lost on Ward. Rothchild was all heart though, clearing every obstacle and crossing the finish with his third clear round of the day to win his first individual Gold medal.

Rothchild is well known for his unique way of going, but Ward believes that's part of what helps the gelding be a champion. "His appearance is probably a little bit fiercer than his character. He just revs himself up, and that's how he does it. He's just a really competitive horse. I think he has to go a certain way to find the jump and the power to do it. His heart's as big as they come.

He gives you everything he has."

The Bronze medal jump-off between the five riders with four faults came down to rails, with the United States' Hough producing the lone clear round to capture the individual title.

"I think Ohlala performed beautifully the whole time," expressed Hough. "I couldn't be prouder of her. I'm absolutely thrilled. Thanks to my teammates and the whole team behind us for a great week. We have such a great support system."

At the 2015 Pan American Games, the level of the sport, the Caledon Equestrian Park and all of those involved have received rave reviews. Ward concluded, "I think the level of the jumping was very high today. It was 5* grand prix anywhere in the world. It was great to see and also great to have so many different countries be able to answer the test pretty well. It's a testament to the sport in the Americas and at this competition."

— Rebecca Walton 

PHILLIP DUTTON

Rides Off With Pinnacle Cup for Fourth Time


Olympian Phillip Dutton made history at the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI**** this spring, winning the prestigious Pinnacle Cup for the fourth time – more than any other rider since the award began in 1998.

"This is a great honor to win the Pinnacle Cup for Fernhill Cubalawn and myself," said Dutton. "Thank you to the USET Foundation for providing this award."

The trophy is presented annually to the highest-placed American rider at Rolex Kentucky. Dutton, of West Grove, Pennsylvania, and Aiken, South Carolina, previously won the award in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

He and Fernhill Cubalawn, a 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding owned by USET Foundation National Advisory Committee member, Tom Tierney, and Simon Roosevelt, finished fifth at Rolex Kentucky 2015. They received a total score of 54.1, just behind Michael Jung (with two horses), Tim Price and William Fox-Pitt. Purchased a year ago from Paul and Alex Green, "Cuba" has been a consistent mount in all three phases of eventing and Dutton said he looks forward to what lies ahead.

"I couldn't be more pleased with Cuba," said Dutton. "Rolex was his first four-star, so he has an exciting future. The tentative plan for him is to run at this year's CIC three-star in Aachen and the CCI three-star at Fair Hill."

In July, Dutton represented the United States as a member of the Gold medal eventing team at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada aboard Fernhill Fugitive, who Dutton rode to ninth place at this year's Rolex Kentucky event. – *Aemilia Phillips* 



Phillip Dutton and Fernhill Cubalawn

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

SAVE THE DATE!

USET FOUNDATION'S OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC BENEFIT EVENT



FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016
Wellington, Florida

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen

"Helping this country's equestrian athletes and supporting the United States Equestrian Teams has been a family affair for us. We recognize the hard work and commitment it take for riders to reach the pinnacle of the sport, and hope that as Honorary Chairs for the USET Foundation's "Rockin' Rio" we can help make this benefit a huge success in support of our riders as they prepare and compete at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio." – Patti Scialfa and Bruce Springsteen

Mark your calendars for this wonderful evening as the USET Foundation continues to raise funds for this country's high performance equestrian programs and United States Equestrian Teams. Invitations will be sent out at the beginning of November. For further information please contact the USET Foundation offices: 908-234-1251, or tmillon@uset.org

ELIZABETH JULIANO

and USET Foundation Launch

Human Sport Science and Medicine Challenge

For equestrians competing at the highest levels of the sport, each aspect of their preparation can make the difference between winning or losing a medal. Recognizing the important role that fitness and injury prevention plays in helping athletes perform their best, Elizabeth (Betsy) Juliano has partnered with the USET Foundation to present the Elizabeth Juliano and Havensafe Farm Human Sport Science and Medicine Challenge.

The goal of the Challenge is to raise funds toward a program that would help prepare the U.S. Equestrian Team for major competitions with a particular eye to the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Human Sports Science and Medicine (HSSM) program aims to produce fitter, stronger, more flexible and injury-free riders who can perform their best when representing the U.S. on the world's biggest stages.

Juliano's generosity is key in making this initiative possible. She will match dollar for dollar all commitments made by November 30, 2015, up to a total of \$100,000. As an accomplished dressage rider herself and the owner of Havensafe Farm in Wellington, Florida, and Gates Mills, Ohio, Juliano understands the physical demands of equestrian sport and saw an opportunity to fill a need for the U.S. Equestrian Team.

"Through the dressage pipeline clinics I supported, I was introduced to some of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC)

fitness experts," Juliano said. "I learned some of what is being done for other athletes in other disciplines in our country. It has always struck me that we should elevate what is available to our elite riders because I don't feel we have concentrated enough on that."

"I think this philosophy and the whole program and what it brings to the riders individually is critical," Juliano said. "The programs would be developed individually for each rider and horse, which I think is the key."

The money raised will support the United States Equestrian Federation's pilot program for HSSM which is vitally important for the riders for the upcoming Olympic Games. The Equine Sports Science and Medicine (ESSM) and HSSM personnel will be working together in a conjoined approach which will allow riders to improve their preparation for, and performance at Rio and other Championships by working on their imbalances and injury prevention. The program will interact with the riders' trainers and SSM personnel so all support provided is coordinated with a focus on performance.

Gift commitments of \$10,000 or more are eligible for the challenge and may be paid over a two-year period (2015 and 2016). All donations are tax deductible. For more information on the USET Foundation and the Challenge, contact Bonnie Jenkins, Executive Director, or Sara Ike, Major Gifts Officer, at (908) 234-1251.

— Mary Adelaide Brakenridge 



Elizabeth Juliano and Big Tyme

Photo by Mary Adelaide Brakenridge



Brownlee O. Curry, Nancy Winter, Jon Hamill, Betsy Bramsen and Philip Richter

FAMILY LEGACY HONORED

Joan and Corwith Hamill Rotunda Dedication

The rotunda at the U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation's landmark headquarters at Hamilton Farm has echoed over decades with the hoofbeats and footsteps of the famous. From Snowbound and Jet Run to William Steinkraus and Bertalan de Nemethy, the iconic entrance to the stables continues to be a crossroads for the success of legends and those aspiring to bring home the gold for their country.

An American flag hangs from the ceiling, the walls are covered with plaques from top shows around the world and the vista from the back of the rotunda is of the spacious ring where so many great competitions and training sessions have been held. It is the fitting location for a permanent tribute to a husband and wife who made a commitment to the fledgling U.S. Equestrian Team, as it began filling the gap left by the end of the army's support for international horse sports following the end of World War II.

The May 30 dedication in Gladstone of the Joan and Corwith Hamill Rotunda honored not only what the late couple did for the team, but also gave thanks for a magnificent contribution of \$1.5 million made in their memory by their children, Jon Hamill, Nancy Winter and Betsy Bramsen.

Foundation Chairman Brownlee O. Currey noted that it was a special day not only for the Foundation and members of the Hamill family, but also for the "horses and riders as they train to prepare to represent the country in international competition."

The occasion felt like a family reunion with many people who knew the Hamills on hand, including eventing multi-medalists Jimmy Wofford and Michael Page. Other supporters, some of whom were childhood friends of the family, came from Illinois to share the joy of the ceremony and salute the Hamills.

The dedication was a time both for remembering and planning for the future. Foundation treasurer Philip Richter, who called the gift "transformational," noted that each of those at the ceremony "has a special tie to this sacred place. This facility means so much to our sport."

He noted, "While the structure has remained remarkably solid, there are capital expenditures that are necessary to update and maintain this facility to the standards it deserves. This gift gets us a long way to achieving that goal," said Philip. His grandfather, Philip Hofmann, served as a trustee of the U.S. Equestrian Team with Joan Hamill, whose husband, known as Corky to his friends, was a member of the finance committee.

The contribution will help refurbish the stables, including work on the stalls and replacing the building's original century-old boiler (they don't make them like that anymore), especially appropriate as the structure nears its 100th anniversary in 2017.

Joan Hamill competed for the Wofford Cup with her daughter, Nancy, in the 1957 National Eventing Championships at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs. Nancy recalled driving there "in our two-horse brakeless trailer" for the event, to mingle with a host of riders who became big names in the sport, including Kevin Freeman and Mike Plumb, as well as Jimmy Wofford and his brother, Jeb.

"These cute boys were the hot thing," Nancy commented with a smile, drawing an appreciative laugh from her audience. "We had a wonderful time."

The experience was not only fun, it was inspirational for Joan Hamill, who went right to work for the team. A trustee from 1976 to 1984, and eventually became an honorary trustee, she often called on her husband to help her in the tasks she undertook for the USET.

Nancy noted her mother, who had “always been a team player” vowed to do “whatever she could for the team.” In that vein, she noted with pride how the Foundation’s mission has grown, now covering eight disciplines, rather than just dressage, show jumping and eventing, as was the case in its early days.

While Nancy was in France last year for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, she discussed how to honor her parents with Foundation Executive Director, Bonnie Jenkins.

With the Pan American Games the focus of much of this summer for the Foundation, it was interesting to hear recollections of how the Hamill family was squarely behind the 1959 Pan American Games when they were held in Chicago. In contrast to the sophistication of today’s presentations of such international Games, they did everything from setting up the dressage ring to arranging social events and selling USET souvenirs. Michael Page, the individual gold medalist from those Games, had a lot of memories to share with the Hamills during the reception after the dedication.

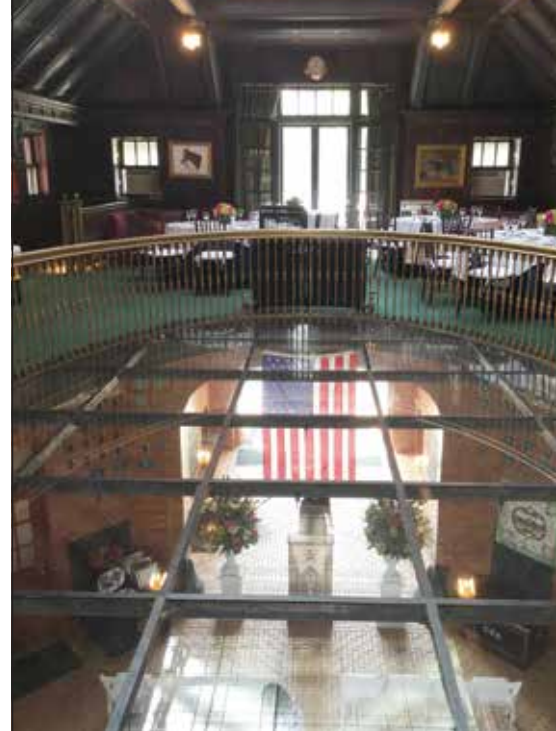
Jack Wetzel, who worked with the Hamills on team efforts in Illinois, remi-

nised, “To be around these people who gave so much, you learned an awful lot. Joan was very strict. When you said you’d do something, you’d better do it, because she didn’t care where you were – you had a job to do.” He noted it was an honor “to see what all that hard work has produced.”

Nancy Winter trained at Gladstone when she was long-listed for the 1986 World Championships. The facility means a great deal to her personally and also on behalf of her parents for their support of the USET.

Her parents, “Would be so proud to be here and see this wonderful farm and to know how well the organization has survived,” she said, before a plaque commemorating their contribution was unveiled.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the stable, the USET Foundation established “The Gladstone Fund” with the idea of preserving the legacy and the historic facility. The Hamilton Farm Stable is central to supporting the Foundation’s mission through providing a world-class facility for Olympic, Pan American and World Championship selection trials, national Championships, training sessions and special equestrian events and exhibitions. 🐾 – Nancy Jaffer



The USET rotunda – second floor



Jim Wolf and Michael Page



Sarah Willeman and Katie Lynch



Hamill Family and friends



Jimmy Wofford



Lou and Terri Piancone



Jack Wetzel and Kim Duchossois

Photos by Nancy Jaffer, Larry Nagy and Sara Ike



"Gladstone Program" Supports Riders For The Future

Every year, George H. Morris invites a handful of the United States' rising show jumping talents to participate in the USET Foundation's "Gladstone Program." The program provides the dedicated riders with an intensive week of training to help prepare them for international competition. With former U.S. Show Jumping Chef d'Equipe Morris at the helm, the program provides athletes with a true glimpse at the effort required to reach the top levels of equestrian sport.

During the first leg of the 2015 Gladstone Program, the USET Foundation's historic Hamilton Farm played host to some of the nation's up-and-coming riders including Lisa Goldman, Haley Gassel, Bowers Cone, Taylor Harris, Sean Leckie, Kilian McGrath, Kate Mulligan, Katie Cox and Sophie Verges, all thanks to a gift from Suzanne and BG Porter.

Riders braved the New Jersey rain, strictly working on the flat and over cavaletti for the first two days. Morris and guest, Dr. Gerd Heuschmann, stressed the importance of having a good seat and driving the horses into the rider's hand with leg. Heuschmann, a German veterinarian, explained to the riders the muscular and skeletal importance of maintaining proper form and use of correct aids while riding.

Both Morris and Heuschmann took turns riding during the first two days, working some of the more problematic horses off their



George H. Morris

Photo by Lauren Baker / Phelps Media Group



Dr. Gerd Heuschmann and Kilian McGrath

legs, making circles, changing directions and riding at different extensions of the trot. Each horse eventually softened and immediately responded to the rider's aids.

Before returning to Germany after the second day, Heuschmann left riders and spectators with some parting advice saying, "Classical riding only works if you love your horse and you love to ride."

As day three dawned over Hamilton Farm, riders transitioned their newly acquired knowledge of classical riding from the flat to the fences. As the riders warmed up, Morris encouraged them to frequently change directions, make transitions and ride shoulder-in and haunches-in, using half halts throughout to help the horses loosen up and engage their hind ends.

The riders then took turns going through a bounce, continuing to work on driving from their legs to their hands. From there, the riders tackled an outside combination and finally moved on to a large liverpool oxer, making a sharp roll-back to a skinny fence.

The riders exercised through the combination, jumping the first jump at an

angle, skipping the middle fence, and jumping out on an angle. After a few times through that, riders jumped the whole line and continued on to make a figure eight over the fence at the top of the ring, working on making the circles smaller each time, getting their horses to listen and engage their shoulders, back and legs.

On the fourth day the riders warmed up, working laterally and returning to straight lines to lengthen and shorten their horse's stride, incorporating the cavaletti as they changed direction around the ring.

Morris explained the upcoming activity for the bounce, which included changing the left hand's position every time he shouted a number. "One!" Left arm out to the side, parallel to the ground. "Two!" Hand to the chest. "Three!" Hand to the hip. "Four!" Hand on the head. "Five!" Arm behind the back. The riders took turns working through the bounce, adjusting their hands to the proper positions as Morris shouted the numbers over the loudspeaker.

After a few repetitions, the riders moved on to an outside triple combina-



George H. Morris

tion, working on adding four strides in a three and pulling up and facing the rail whenever Morris dictated. The horses and riders were learning not to rush, and that speed is never the answer to a sticky situation. Finally, riders finished the day by navigating a full course.

On Saturday morning, riders said a sad goodbye to their stirrups, ready for another informative lesson on the flat. "Riding without stirrups is indispensable in that it produces a seat," Morris explained as the riders walked. "The definition of a seat is the ability to stick to the horse no matter what the horse does."

The riders alternated between sitting and posting, shoulder-in and haunches-in, later incorporating what Morris calls lateral schooling, which includes making figure eights and circles. These exercises help the horse become more responsive, encouraging the shoulders and hind end to move off the rider's legs and hands.

The final day proved to be the ultimate test, with riders jumping a full course that included a water jump, liverpool, triple combination and skinny fence. All of the riders and horses completed the course with flying colors, exceeding Morris' expectations and marking the successful end of the Gladstone Program session.

A few weeks later, the second session of the Gladstone Program began at Annali-Brookwood Farm in Antioch, IL, organized and funded by Diane Carney. The lineup of talented riders included Hunter Holloway, Morgan Dickerson, Kelly Smith, Michael Tokaruk, Liz Atkins, Serah Vogus, Ariel Black, Brandie Holloway and Caroline McLeese.

Like the first set of Gladstone Program riders, this group spent the first two days working on the flat and over cavaletti, absorbing Morris' classical training techniques as Olympian, Anne Kursinski, and top hunter rider, Jennifer Alfano, looked on.

After warming up, the third day was filled with gymnastics, with the groups later moving on to the jumping exercises with a three-stride line oxer to an oxer with a liverpool, finishing with several circles on the backside of the line. "It's not the jumping that's the problem, it's the riding that's the problem," said Morris. "It's between the jumps we need to get better. Most people are inept in how to work a horse. Good horses are ridden with leg."

On the fourth day, riders ditched their stirrups as Morris put the riders and horses through their paces, preparing for

the final day's course. No stirrups exercises included bridging the reins and executing the volte to feel the straightness of the neck of the horse and the outside rein.

As the last day of the program rolled around, riders warmed up on the flat to prepare for the ultimate test, The Grand Prix of Brookwood. Riders then spent time summarizing their week and sharing their future plans at the farewell luncheon.

The Gladstone Program gained rave reviews from riders and Morris himself, for organization, the choice of the various professionals including veterinarians, farriers and media professionals who made presentations to prepare riders for all aspects of the industry and the support of the donors who made the sessions possible for the future team riders. – **Lauren Baker and Brenda Mueller**



Sean Leckie, Lisa Goldman, Kilian McGrath and Katie Cox



Gladstone Program at Annali-Brookwood Farm 2015 (left to right) USEF Young Rider Chef d' Equipe DiAnn Langer, Caroline McLeese, Ariel Black, Harriett Bunker, Kelly Smith, Serah Vogus, Michael Tokaruk, Diane Carney, George H. Morris, Hunter Holloway, Morgan Dickerson, Jennifer Alfano, Ryan Lenn, Liz Atkins and Brandie Holloway

Gladstone Gathering Brings Local Community Together

The Gladstone Gathering brought together more than 200 supporters of horse sport and representatives of equestrian organizations at the U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation headquarters for an evening of fellowship with a purpose.

Those attending the June event renewed old acquaintances and made new friends, all with one thing in common -- the love of horses and equestrian sports, with a wish that they continue to thrive and grow in the region. The party was a first step toward increased utilization of the Foundation's historic facility and increasing equestrian involvement in the wider Somerset Hills, already a center of equine-oriented activities.

Foundation President and CEO Tucker Johnson and U.S. Equestrian Federation CEO Chris Welton spoke in a public display of collaboration. Tucker told the crowd, most of whom had roots in the area, "Without the support of individuals who share our passion for the sport and this facility, we can't maintain the high standard, both here and most importantly, for our international athletes to go abroad and get winning."



Gretchen and Jim Johnson

Chris told his audience how much he appreciates the unique facility at Hamilton Farm. While the USEF works to maximize growth in the equestrian sphere and bring in more young people, "We need to be firmly grounded in the traditions of the sport and the history of the sport," he emphasized.

Calling the stable "beautiful and fan-



James C. Brady III, Sandy Hance, Chris Welton, The Honorable Thomas Kean and Tucker Johnson

tastic," the marketing expert cited the advantage of its "proximity to New York City and its business community."

He explained, "This provides an opportunity for us to have more people with influence, who can support the sport, see it, touch it, and feel it. No matter how much money we had, this facility could not be replicated. You couldn't build another Gladstone. As long as I have a say at the U.S. Equestrian Federation, Gladstone will be an integral part of what we do, in a lot of different ways."

In addition to competitions, which will be staged by entities other than USEF, he sees the Federation having more offerings, such as coaching clinics, sports medicine programs and physiotherapy programs at Gladstone. Chris said the easiest decision he had to make since his first visit to the Foundation in June 2014 was to keep USEF staff in Gladstone.

The revitalized Gladstone Equestrian Association (GEA) also is gearing up to play a role in the effort to have more going on in the Gladstone area.

The new president of the organization is James (Jim) C. Brady III, the grandson of James Cox Brady who built the stable during the golden age when the Somerset Hills was known for its magnificent estates.

GEA is being rejuvenated and expanded because the local community has been "advocating for a local organization to

promote an increase in equestrian activities," according to a GEA document. The late Finn Caspersen, chairman of both the USET and Beneficial Corp., which owned Hamilton Farm, founded the association in 1985. Also involved was attorney Sandy Hance, now GEA secretary-treasurer.



Finn and Emily Caspersen and Karen Murphy

When GEA started, the emphasis was on driving. It staged the 1993 World Pairs Driving Championship, rated the best driving show in the world that year. Over the last decade or so, as driving's popularity in the area waned, so did the influence of the GEA. The initiative to encourage more equestrian activities in the area began a year ago. GEA became multi-discipline.

Hank Slack of Peapack, a former joint master of the Essex Foxhounds located just down the road from Foundation headquarters, found the initiative, "hugely exciting for these groups coming together to do something with equestrian sport."

"Tucker was very enthusiastic and Chris [Welton] clearly understands Gladstone. I'm very hopeful of what's going to come out of this," Jim said. "The main thing right now is a way to get people re-engaged and getting them involved."

Tucker commented that the scenic area where the headquarters is located has extra significance, due to many residents' enthusiasm for country sports. He looks forward to the Foundation's stable continuing to build on its formidable legacy by hosting more events, whether they are competitions, clinics or other educational opportunities. 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the stable's construction, and the USET Foundation hopes to have an event and a gala celebrating it. Meanwhile, the USET Foundation has applied to be listed on the state and national register of historic sites.

Foxhounds, the Somerset Hills Pony Club and Mane Stream, which offers therapeutic riding. These groups consider the USET Foundation facility to be a key element of one of the country's loveliest equestrian areas, and view its presence in their midst with pride and affection.

– Nancy Jaffer



Bart Poole and Dr. R. Merritt Brown



Pat Murphy and Sarah Lazo



Bob Holtaway, James Brady and Joe Metelski

After enjoying a reception and mingling, guests were treated to a musical freestyle by Kimberly Herslow, who less than a month later would return for the Pan American Games dressage team training camp at Gladstone, then go on to contribute to the Gold medal the squad won in Toronto.

She rode on new state-of-the-art footing in the main arena behind the stable that has hosted many memorable performances over more than a half-century. The guests were transfixed, as many took photos and videos of the performance and afterwards, went over to meet Kimberly's affable mount, Donnermeyer, and pose with him for photos.

Other organizations represented at the gathering included the Essex



Donnermeyer and fans



Pam Jeanes, Mark Biedron and Lizzy Chesson



Ken Olsen and Sharon Olsen

FEI Junior World Vaulting Championships

USA WINS THREE MEDALS



Bodhi Hall and Michelle Guo won the Gold medal in the Pas-de-Deux



*Medal Ceremony
Gold Medalists Michelle Guo and Bodhi Hall
Bronze Medalists Sarah Dunn and Janis Salisburry
Lunger Lasse Kristensen*



Woodside Vaulters won Team Bronze with Squad members Tessa Divita, Sarah Dunn, Audrey Kiernan, Siddhartha Kreaden, Rachel Polati and Miki Yang

Photos by DigiShots

2015 Maxine Beard Award Winner

MICHAEL HUGHES

Each year a top young rider is recognized for their talent and potential in the show jumping arena. With a junior career that has made headlines for wins across the nation, the USET Foundation named 18-year-old Michael Hughes of Allendale, New Jersey, as the recipient of the Maxine Beard Show Jumping Rider Award. Hughes was presented with the trophy during the Winter Equestrian Festival Finale on March 28, 2015.

The selection was based on Hughes's competitive record and potential to represent the United States in international competition. Winning his first grand prix at just 16 years old, Hughes went on to win the 2013 USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East, as well as the 2014 Washington International Horse Show Equitation Championship. He claimed the 2014 Individual Young Rider Silver medal at the FEI North American Junior and Young Rider Championship and was most recently a member of the winning Young Riders team for the second year in a row at the CSIO Wellington Nations



Michael Hughes and Luxina

Photo by Shannon Bower

Cup. He also placed second in the 2015 \$100,000 Sapphire Grand Prix of Devon aboard MacArthur.


The award provided Hughes the opportunity to be credentialed and travel with the U.S. delegation to the 2015 FEI World Cup Finals in Las Vegas, Nevada, held April 15-19, where he observed the operations of an international championship.

"It means so much to win this award," said Hughes. "Looking at all of the past

winners and where they are today is amazing, so it is an honor to just be acknowledged. I am really lucky to have the year I had and to have the horses that I am riding."

U.S. Show Jumping Young Rider Chef d'Equipe, DiAnn Langer, has worked closely with Hughes over the last two years and is thrilled to see his talent recognized with this award. "Michael Hughes is the real deal," stated Langer. "He is incredibly effective on many types of horses, he is personable, he is serious about his work and he's successful in the equitation and the jumpers. I feel that he has a huge international future in front of him."

Hughes trains at his family's Drumnacross Farm, as well as with Missy Clark and John Brennan of North Run. His goal is to one day represent the United States on a senior team internationally. With the talent, drive and determination to be a top-notch competitor, Hughes has proven that he will be a part of the future for show jumping in the United States.

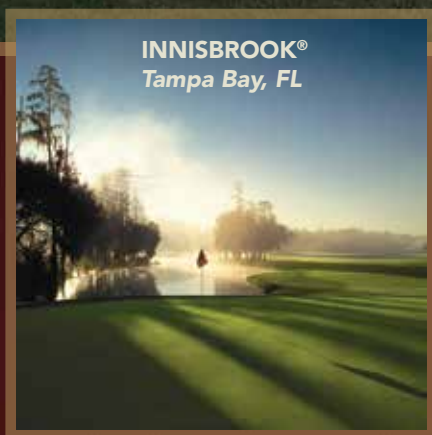
– Rebecca Walton 



REIN IN LUXURY



SALAMANDER® RESORT & SPA
Middleburg, VA



INNISBROOK®
Tampa Bay, FL



REUNION®
Orlando, FL



HAMMOCK BEACH™
Palm Coast, FL

Discover the warmth of Salamander Hotels & Resorts. Take a journey into unlimited luxury, where thoughtful touches embrace, and world-class activities unite. Four unique destinations from unbeatable championship golf in Florida to equestrian perfection in Virginia. Your next adventure awaits.

Plan your visit today: SalamanderHotels.com

Salamander® Hotels & Resorts
SalamanderHotels.com



Salamander® Resort & Spa
Middleburg, VA

Innisbrook®
Tampa Bay, FL

Reunion®
Orlando, FL

Hammock Beach™
Palm Coast, FL





USET Foundation News

United States Equestrian Team Foundation, Inc.
1040 Pottersville Road
P.O. Box 355
Gladstone, NJ 07934-9955

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. postage

PAID

New Brunswick, NJ
Permit #928

Address Service Requested

