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SWITCH WILLO STABLES NEWSLETTER



HELLO MARCH!

Congratulations to Switch Willo Year End Award winners pictured at left at the Centex Awards Banquet!

L to R: Kylie Wiggins, Ashley Myers, Gwen Gleinser, Ginger Lillie, Lauren Slade, Lindsey Mortimer and Michelle Simmons.

Below: Catherine Moorhead at WEC in Ocala on Cartano K, "Arthur".

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MARCH 11-12: IEA ZONE FINALS/SAN ANTONIO
- MARCH 15-26: WEC WINTER SPECTACULAR/OCALA
- APRIL 4-16: PIN OAK/KATY
- APRIL 9: EASTER EGG HUNT AT SWS
- APRIL 15-16 TRINITY HILL SHOW/WILCO EXPO CENTER



HORSEMANSHIP CLASS: FUN AND LEARNING

Grooming, learning parts of the horse and tack, and tacking up? All in a day's work for our Horsemanship Class! Pictured below are Joe and Poco helping Ashley Myers with a lesson in tacking up. Our Horsemanship Class is a nine-week program that prepares new riders for our Lesson Program. This section of students started on February 4th and are having lots of fun while getting ample practice in important fundamentals of riding and horse care.



SUMMER TRIP: LAMPLIGHT EQUESTRIAN CENTER

We'll be escaping the heat by traveling to Chicago's beautiful and storied Lamplight Equestrian Center June 18-25. Famous for its charm and called "a true equestrian oasis in the heart of America", Lamplight offers rich history, beautiful grounds and a high level of competition. Add your name soon on the sign up sheet in the Main Barn as these shows sell out!



/Phelps Media Group

IEA TEAM SUCCESS AT REGIONALS!

Our IEA Team rocked regionals with the Middle School Team and the following individuals qualifying for Zone Finals: Cole Marshall, Lily Marshall, Lydia Vine, Lauren Slade, Ginger Lillie, Natalie York and Elle Locke. Good luck to Brie Cunningham, Ginger Lillie, Natalie York and Katherine Siemes who will be representing the team at Zone Finals on March 11 and 12 in San Antonio!



Above Front: Katherine Siemes, Brie Cunningham,
Abi Cunningham, Natalie York, Reese Wilson,
Hadeel Salman

Above Back: Lydia Vine, Lauren Slade, Lily Marshall,
Ginger Lillie, Elle Locke, Grace McCarty, Cole
Marshall.

Congratulations to Coaches Lindsey Mortimer and
Kylie Wiggins and team!



RIDER SPOTLIGHT: CATHERINE MOORHEAD

Catherine Moorhead started riding when she was six years old in Switch Willo's lesson program. She remembers her first Special Beginner rounds on Surf's Up, "Roxy" (pictured R). She started riding at the encouragement of her mom and says "I can't even begin to thank her enough!"



Moving up to her own pony Houdini, "Dino", (pictured L with Glenn Johnson and below) brought much success and...adventure? As Catherine says, "Dino was so much fun, and he was for sure a character. I remember one time at the Summer circuit show, he bucked me off no less than 5 times in the warmup ring, but I kept getting back on because I insisted that it didn't hurt... but really, I think I just wanted to do my first course of verticals instead of cross rails!"





Catherine always arrived early to the shows "because I had begged Michelle to let me be her groom and help her tack up her horses. I felt super cool that I got to spend time around Michelle at the shows and have an excuse to follow her around and learn from her."

Her hard work paid off--she qualified with Dino for Pony Finals and piloted him to excellent Year End THJA ribbons (pictured at L with Kirk Berlin).



Catherine rode another very special Switch Willo pony, Sugar On Top, "Strawberry", to great success in the Medium Pony Division before moving on to horses. And yes--in case you were wondering--those are the same Dino and Strawberry who are still at Switch Willo helping other kids learn to ride and horse show!



Finding her place in the Equitation ring, Catherine fondly remembers going to the Maclay Regionals in St. Louis, Medal Finals in Harrisburg and the Maclay Finals in Kentucky aboard her first eq horse Famous Last Words, "Moose", and the talented and at times challenging Casino Royale, "Casino". "Casino was wildly talented and brave, and taught me SO MUCH! But I fell off of him a LOT!" she says.



After high school came four years of riding on Baylor's NCAA Division 1 Equestrian Team which Catherine says was "amazing, a lot of work, and I have too many funny memories to count". She served as Team Captain her senior year and loved leading her teammates. Her favorite memory is winning the Big XXII Championship her freshman year, when Baylor bested host team OSU (pictured L).



In the past year Catherine has had a wonderful time showing Eurokom, "Euro" (L) who she describes as "my best friend" in National Derbies and the Adults. She's especially proud of Euro earning the 2022 WEC Year End Adult Hunter Champion. She's also riding Brunos Bellini R in the international Derbies and 3'3" AO's and having fun and success with Arthur in the 1.30m Medium AO Jumpers.

In summary, Catherine has this to say, "Phoebe, Kirk, Glenn, and Michelle have been my trainers since Day 1, and I can say with confidence that they are the best trainers in the world, and I literally am so thankful for them. Every lesson they have taught me, every show we have gone to together, and having the opportunity to have them to look up to has shaped my love for horses and this sport! I feel blessed every day that I was able to train with such brilliant, talented, hardworking people. I really admire their love for the horse as well as sport and know that they value their riders and horses' wellbeing above all. They have also somehow put up with all of my tears through the years, which is a very impressive feat to say the least".

MARCH PHOTO GALLERY

Clockwise from R: Gwen Gleinser; Horsemanship Class Students; Gwen Gleinser, Ginger Lillie and Lauren Slade; Izzy Branc and Natalie York; Reese Wilson; Ginger Lillie and Natalie York. Center: Ginger Lillie.



2023 Local Horse Show Schedule

March 11-12	Mo Daze – Britania GHHJA	GSEC
April 15-16	Trinity Hill CTHJA	Wilco Expo Center
April 22	Bit by Bit TSSA	Bit by Bit Farm
May 6-7	Trinity Hill CTHJA	Wilco Expo Center
May 20	Box T TSSA	Salado
June 3-4	Classic Horse Show GHHJA	GSEC
July 7-9	Summer Circuit CTHJA	WilCo Expo Center
July 21-23	Summer Circuit CTHJA	WilCo Expo Center
August 4-6	Summer Circuit CTHJA	WilCo Expo Center
September 16	Bit by Bit TSSA	Bit by Bit Farm
October 28-29	Halloween GHHJA	Pine Hilll
November 11-12	CTHJA Final Show	WilCo Expo Center
November 18	Box T TSSA	Salado
November 25-26	Finish Line GHHJA	GSEC

2023 USEF Horse Show Schedule

December 8 – 11	Thanksgiving Show	Waco, TX
January 19 – 22	Blue Ribbon Winter	Waco, TX
March 15 – 19	WEC Winter Spectacular XI	Ocala, FL
March 22 – 26	WEC Winter Spectacular XII	Ocala, FL
April 4 – April 8	Pin Oak Charity Horse Show II	Katy, TX
April 12 - 16	Pin Oak Charity Horse Show III	Katy, TX
May 3 - 7	Great Southwest Round Up	Katy, TX
May 10 - 14	Fiesta Classic	Katy, TX
June 15-18	Blue Ribbon Summer Festival I	Waco, TX
June 22-25	Blue Ribbon Summer Festival II	Waco, TX
July 26 – 30	Ocala Summer Series Week 8	Ocala, FL
August 2 – 6	Ocala Summer Series Week 9	Ocala, FL
September 20 - 24	Southwest Showdown	Katy, TX
Sept 28 – Oct 1	GSEC Fall Classic	Katy, TX
October 19 - 22	Monster Mash	Katy, TX
November 8 - 12	Great Southwest Autumn Classic	Katy, TX
November 15-19	Final Chase	Katy, TX