



The mission of Naples Equestrian Challenge is to improve the lives of children and adults with special needs through therapeutic riding and other equine-related programs.

SCENE & HERD

FALL 2012

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13TH ANNUAL SUMMER HORSEMANSHIP CAMP MADE OUR SUMMER!

NEC had a great summer hosting six weeks of Summer Horsemanship Camp for 64 amazing campers, who experienced horseback riding, horse care, grooming and fun activities. Open to children ages 4-18, NEC's Summer Horsemanship Camp welcomes children with or without disabilities to study horsemanship while learning the more important life-lessons of respect, teamwork and diverse friendships.

"We knew we were offering a really fun and exceptional summer camp when so many of our campers asked if they could sign up for an additional week of fun at NEC," said Missy Saracino, program director.

Daily camp activities included horseback riding lesson in the morning with arts, crafts and games in the afternoon. Campers especially enjoyed the nature walks, playing Red Light, Green Light and painting with the horses' tails to create their Horse Picasso paintings for their families.

"The campers always amaze me with how well they interact with each other, being supportive of one another and helpful, whether they are best friends

or just met that day," said Lea Haven, PATH-certified therapeutic riding instructor and camp instructor.

Some campers have had some horseback riding experience and for others this was their first opportunity to ride a horse. No matter what the level of experience, NEC's camp instructors, Lea Haven and Robin Heroth, conduct lessons that make riding fun for all. This year, the instructors set up new obstacle courses for the riders to move their horses through and a new game called, Traffic Jam, was a big hit too.

Each week of Summer Horsemanship

Camp culminates on Friday with Horse Show Day. The morning of the show, campers are busy in the barn getting ready for the horse show by painting patterns and pictures as well as writing names on their equine buddies. When everyone is ready, the campers wear their creatively designed tie-dyed shirts, and ride their "decorated" equine partners in the horse show to demonstrate what they have learned to their proud families and friends.

Some campers are signed-up already for 2013 Summer Horsemanship Camp. If you would like more information on NEC's Summer Horsemanship Camp, please email Missy Saracino at missysaracino@naplesequestrianchallenge.org.



Patrick, Avery and Olivia proudly accept their trophies at the camp Horse Show



Sam shows off her leading skills with Sundance at the camp Horse Show



Campers and counselors having fun in the arena

COME "TRICK OR TREAT" WITH THE HORSES AT THE NEC FAMILY FALL EVENT

NEC Riders & Families are Invited to the Family Fall Event.

DATE: Sunday, October 28, 2012

TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please come in your Halloween costume – the horses will be dressed up for the occasion too! Enjoy a special "Trick or Treat" in the barn with the horses, play some fun games, activities and more! Apple cider and other refreshments will be provided.



NEC Instructors Robin Heroth and Deb Antonelli and Program Director Missy Saracino welcome families to the barn at the 2011 Family Fall Event

NEC Volunteers & Their Families & Friends are Invited to NEC's Fall Open House.

DATE: Sunday, October 28, 2012

TIME: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Immediately following the Family Fall Event, NEC will be hosting an Open House especially for our volunteers, their families and friends to enjoy some "Trick or Treating" with our horses, barn tours and photos with our dressed-up horses! This is an opportunity for our volunteers to bring their families and friends to show them where they spend a lot of their time and introduce them to the NEC horses that they take care of every week.



Volunteer Linda Hutzler dresses up Sundance as a Flower Child

NEW EFL & EFP PROGRAMS AT NEC

NEC is pleased to announce the addition of several new Equine-Facilitated Learning (EFL) and Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP) programs that began this fall. EFL is a hands-on educational program that uses the interactions and developing relationships between horses and humans in an environment of learning and self-discovery. It is designed to promote personal growth and the development of positive social/life skills in a fun and supportive environment.

EFP is defined as a form of experiential psychotherapy that includes a number of mutually beneficial equine activities such as handling, grooming, lunging, riding, and vaulting. EFP is a treatment approach that provides the participant with opportunities to enhance self-awareness and re-pattern maladaptive behaviors, feelings and attitudes.

NEC has collaborated with other non-profit organizations to offer these services to children and adults with attention deficit disorders, autism spectrum disorders, emotional and mental disabilities, addiction as well as at-risk children who may be homeless, or victims of abuse.

Currently, NEC is offering these programs to children from the PACE Center for Girls, Friends of Foster Children, New Beginnings and Beacon High School as well as adult clients of David Lawrence Center's Crossroads program.

Volunteers are needed to assist in these special programs. Please contact Missy Saracino at missysaracino@naplesequestrianchallenge.org to learn more and sign-up to attend one of the monthly EFL/EFP Volunteer Training Sessions.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

KRISTYN STETSON – Kristyn has been an NEC volunteer since May 2006. She volunteers as a sidewalker, groom and tacker, leader, and she pitches in when we need help in other areas such as volunteer training, office work, and summer camp.

Kristyn became a volunteer because she attended Summer Horsemanship Camp at NEC when she was eight years old and fell in love with the place. She couldn't wait to turn twelve years old so she could become a volunteer, which she did and trained as a sidewalker. She soon completed the leader and groom and tacker trainings too.

One of Kristyn's best memories is when she was sidewalking with a certain rider week after week who needed two boppy pillows to support herself. The day the boppys were removed, the rider sat up, grasped the surcingle and looked around with a huge smile on her face. Kristyn will always remember this as a very special and amazing moment for both of them.

All of the amazing experiences Kristyn has had at NEC have encouraged her to continue her studies to become an Exceptional Student Education teacher.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

January	Leigh Morris
February	Burt Eisenberg
March	Cassie Mang
April	Gary Gilchrist
May	Shayla Kinsey
June	Mary Jones
July	Kristyn Stetson
August	Carolina Guitierrez-Arnold

GOOD LUCK, ALLIE!



Fourteen-year-old Alexandra Gendron, is a volunteer at NEC and has shown her awareness of the importance of charitable commitment by participating in the 2012 United Professional Horsemen's Association Ribbons of Service Program. As part of this program, she is able to elect her charity of choice and has chosen NEC as the charity she will raise funds for while showing and competing with her horse this year. So, every time Allie and her horse, "Get Crackin," ride through the gate of the show ring, she is helping NEC! Thank you, Allie and "Get Crackin." We hope you win a lot of ribbons this year!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you ever considered all the ways to volunteer with Naples Equestrian Challenge? NEC's dedicated team of volunteers provide support in many ways, including: sidewalking & leading horses for therapeutic riders; grooming & tacking the horses; office work & office cleaning; barn work & repair; property improvements, repairs & beautification; & fundraising? For more information, call Missy Saracino at 239-596-2988 or email her at missysaracino@naplesequestrianchallenge.org.

RIDER SPOTLIGHT

ADAM PENNINGTON – After Adam's mom read an article about the success of therapeutic riding for children with disabilities, she called NEC to enroll Adam.

"The therapeutic riding program at NEC has helped Adam become more independent, confident and social," said Adam's mother, Peggy Pennington-Aten. "He is very enthusiastic about riding, and especially loved his advanced horsemanship class this summer. In addition to the horseback riding, Adam was so excited to go into the barn and care for the horses."



Adam, who has been riding at NEC since fall 2011 when he was only four years old, says he likes trotting the most.

Adam's parents like seeing the joy riding brings him, especially when he is posting in the saddle and chatting with his sidewalkers. From the first day, Adam seemed at home on the horses and was able to sit up straight in the saddle. The therapeutic riding program is a great fit for him.

"There couldn't be a better group of people that work and volunteer at NEC. Our family really appreciates them, and all that they do for Adam and the other riders," said Peggy.

Lessons learned at NEC even carry over into everyday life. For instance, Adam's parents find themselves saying "walk on" to move him along when he is distracted or dawdling during shopping or other activities.

As NEC's volunteer sidewalkers know, Adam almost always has something to say. His wonderful imagination can sometimes quickly transform him into Spider-Man or Iron Man, complete with animated sound effects! But, he just as quickly gets back to reality, and shows he can properly hold the reins or get into jump position when it's time.

RIDER OF THE MONTH

January	AJ Chamorro
February	Jonathon Greene
March	Kaylee McKenzie
April	David W. Appleby III
May	Joshua Ortiz
June	Jacob Maurais
July	Adam Pennington
August	Jacob Ward

FALL RIDING BEGINS WITH EXCITING IMPROVEMENTS!

Summer sure went by fast! As the new school year begins, NEC welcomes back its weekly therapeutic riders for an exciting new year, sure to be filled with new friendships, challenges and accomplishments. More than 50 new and returning volunteers came out to help 122 riders during the first week of fall session, which began September 5th. It was a joy to see some of the riders return after a summer off.

Our riders may notice something new this fall session. To better identify our riders by age and ability level, we have assigned all of our therapeutic riders to teams, with names such as Palominos, Appaloosas, Thoroughbreds, Mustangs, and Clydesdales. We hope this will be a fun way for riders to identify themselves and build camaraderie within the teams.

The NEC PATH-certified therapeutic riding instructors are conducting a pilot of NEC's new Participant Evaluation and Progress Program during these next eight weeks. Each instructor has selected four riders from different ability levels. To provide a baseline for the rider's progress, the instructors conducted



Instructor Deb Antonelli helps a non-verbal rider try one of the new assistive technology devices

an initial evaluation of each rider at the first lesson. During the following seven weeks, the lessons will be designed to work on the participant's specific therapeutic goal. At the completion of the eight week session, a follow-up evaluation will be conducted and progress notes will be made by the instructor. The instructors will then make necessary improvements to the program, and it is our hope to implement the Participant Evaluation and Progress Program with all therapeutic riders in 2013.

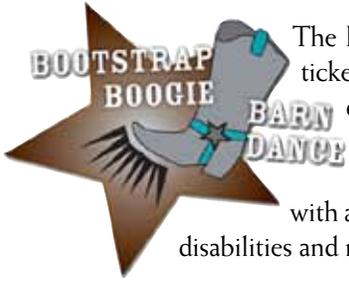
In collaboration with the Collier County Public School's assistive technology director, NEC is now conducting a trial of two different assistive technology electronic devices to help our non-verbal therapeutic riders. So far, most of our non-verbal riders prefer the 3-button talking device which has three large buttons. When pushed by the rider, the green button says, "Walk On;" the red button says, "Whoa;" and, the yellow button says, "Trot on." With the help of grant funds, NEC hopes to purchase five of the preferred devices in 2013 to assist our non-verbal riders.

WELCOME BELLA

We are very pleased to introduce "Bella" as our newest addition to the herd at NEC. Bella, a 14-year-old, Belgian mare, was acquired from a farm in Jupiter, FL. Like all new horses to the NEC barn, Bella completed a 60-day screening process during which she was evaluated regarding how well she fit in with the other members of the herd and how well she tolerated unbalanced riders, objects being tossed at her and off her back as well as standing next to the mounting ramp and waiting for her rider to mount. Bella did very well, and she is now an NEC horse! Before coming to NEC, Bella was used in driving competitions, as a lesson horse and even had some experience in a local therapeutic riding program. Bella is a big, friendly and loving girl who has quickly become one of the favorites in the barn. Bella has hooves the size of pie plates and a heart just as big too! She is enjoying his new job at NEC and knickers to all her friends as they enter the barn.



BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!



The Bootstrap Boogie Barn Dance is a very popular fundraising event of the year. Last year we had a wait list for tickets. So buy your tickets today! This year's event will feature tasty vittles including rib eye steaks hot off the grill, dancing, bull riding, Pony Pie Bingo, live and silent auctions, Western-themed photo booth...and more. The event's VIP guests will enjoy a VIP reception, lounge and after-party. And, back by popular demand, music will be provided by The White House Country Band. This year, the Barn Dance will be held November 10, 2012, with an expected 430 guests. Event proceeds will be used to support the programs of NEC for children and adults with disabilities and mental illness as well as at-risk youth in Collier County.

Please visit www.NaplesEquestrianChallenge.org to purchase your tickets online or call 239-596-2988.

Sponsorship packages are available from \$30,000 to \$6,000, each including benefits such as tickets, advertising and acknowledgements. In addition, VIP tables for 10 guests are available for \$3,500 each. Please call Kim Minarich at 239-596-2988 or email her at kminarich@naplesequestrianchallenge.org to learn more about the benefit-packed sponsorship opportunities available.

THANK YOU TO OUR BARN DANCE SPONSORS!

TEE UP FOR NEC AT THE FNB OF THE GULF COAST GOLF TOURNAMENT



First National Bank of the Gulf Coast will host its 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to be held Saturday, October 13, 2012 at the Hideout Golf Club with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. The bank has generously selected NEC and Special Needs Children's Fund as the two charities that will split the proceeds raised at this year's tournament. Please visit www.NaplesEquestrianChallenge.com to print the registration form.

Put your best foursome together and register for a fee of \$700, or individual players may register for \$175. Sign-up now! It's for a great cause and you have the opportunity to play the course at the Hideout!



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