



GMHA News

The Newsletter of the Green Mountain Horse Association

June 2011

Special Events Aboard This Summer!

Team Jumper Challenge & Lobster Bake

GMHA's third annual Team Jumper Challenge will be held on July 14, just prior to our Summer Hunter/Jumper Show. GMHA welcomes our new event sponsor, Suffolk Construction of Boston, MA. This event has proven to be a spectator and rider favorite, with entries doubling from the first to second year. We expect to have a great crowd once again!

This year's Challenge offers an \$800 3'6" division, \$800 3' division, and a \$500 2'6" division, giving riders of all abilities an opportunity to participate. Competition will take place throughout the day, culminating with the exciting 3'6" class, which



will run during our fabulous Lobster Bake. The Lobster Bake will take place right next to the ring, giving spectators a great view of the action.

Tickets for the Lobster Bake are available to the public for \$30. Please contact the office if you are interested in joining us!

The Summer Hunter/Jumper Show, one of our largest events of the season, will follow on July 15-17, offering three rings of hunter, jumper, and equitation competition.

40th Annual Dressage Days

GMHA is very excited to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our Dressage Days Competition on July 22-24, 2011.



The first Dressage Day show was held in 1972. This show was recognized by the AHSA and was sponsored by the Pony Club, and offered Training Level through Grand Prix competition. Since that time, Dressage Days has grown into one of the largest and most popular dressage shows in New England. It is a destination event for many riders, and a local favorite!

This year's show is a USEF/USDF Level 3 competition, and we will have over 200 competitors showing in five competition rings. The Musical Freestyle competition, always a highlight, will be held on Saturday afternoon, July 23.

To celebrate this important anniversary, GMHA will be hosting a party on July 22.

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Chef's Night: Courses & Horses

We are pleased to announce that GMHA will again bring together the finest of culinary delights and the elegance of horsemanship for our 5th Annual Chef's Night on Monday, August 1, 2011 from 5pm - 7:30pm.

Chef's Night is a celebration of the area's unique and diverse culinary talent. Local area chefs, restaurateurs, caterers and purveyors of the freshest and finest foods, will again offer tastings of their specialties from the exotic to the every day. Local microbreweries and wineries will also join in with samples of their products. This year the equestrian event will be a jumping extravaganza, complimented by dressage performances. This will be very exciting for the guests.

Last year's event attracted more than 38 area restaurants, breweries and wineries who provided the finest of cuisine, good cheer and camaraderie.

The Fifth Annual GMHA Chef's Night will showcase three exciting equestrian elements as part of a very festive evening under the big top tent.

The Pas de Deux

A pas de deux is an equestrian performance using two horses. The horses perform dressage movements mirroring each other showcasing the great skill of the riders and the horses. The riders, Keith and Kaylee Angstadt, are both very accomplished, and will put on an incredible show.

The Dressage Freestyle

The freestyle dressage element will be performed by Emily Kannenstine. Emily is a USDF bronze, silver and gold medalist who trains out of her family's farm, Rivendell Stables, here in Woodstock. Emily began riding when she was 4 years old. Her competitive career began in eventing as a teenager and she turned to dressage in 1987. Since then she has had the opportunity to work with many top trainers, and has trained many horses both for herself and others. Emily defines her musical ride as an FEI Freestyle with a bit of a "twist and flair".

The Team Jumping Extravaganza

The final performance will be a team jumping event similar to last year's jumping extravaganza. As this will be a team event, there will again be syndicate buying opportunities for everyone to get involved. Riders scheduled to appear include Kylie Lyman, Denny Emerson, Sue Berrill, and Peter Atkins, along with several up and coming young riders.



All of these performances are sure to please all in attendance and will provide great entertainment while guests sample the fine food and beverage showcased at the event.

Tickets for Chef's Night may be purchased at www.gmhainc.org, or by contacting Reese Brown at reese@rdbevents.com.



Please Support our Vendors (as of 6/9/11)

A Catered Affair	A to Z Cakes
Baba-A-Lois Bakery	Bentley's Restaurant
Delicata Catering	Farrell Distributing
G. Housen	Farms for City Kids
Hanover Inn & Zins	Harpoon Brewery
Isagenix	Juniper Hill Inn
Kedron Valley Inn	Long Trail Brewing
McNeill's Brewery	Melaza
Travelin' Willy B's	Vermont Chocoloatiers
Woodstock Farmer's Market	

From the Executive Director

New Signs

When our parking area is full, which is often the case, it's hard to even see our new sign outside the office, but it's worth taking a moment and taking it in.

With the new parking area tested and used continuously last year, we added three board fencing to both ends and along the roadway. Our plan to add a finishing touch to our entryway was replacing the old sign that had faded and weathered over many years.

The new sign was placed and sized the same as the old one to conform to local zoning regulations. Hand carved and gold leaf mark the let-

ters Green Mountain Horse Association. The sign was made by veteran sign maker Jeremiah Burns of Vermont Hand Carved Signs in Hartland, VT. The posts where the sign hangs were spruced up with several coats of paint to match the sign and new plants were placed at the base of the sign to finish the project.

Other new signs can be seen on E-Barn, which was built at the end of 2009 for our 2010 season as part of GMHA's capital campaign. The barn now has a sign which recognizes Peter Campot, former GMHA board member and president, as the one who made construction of the barn possible through his generous contributions. Thank you, Peter, for all your support of GMHA.

While not exactly signs, we are pleased to report that we have installed nearly ten stones in the Enjoy the Ride Walkway behind the White Ring. The stones are made of Vermont granite and are engraved with the sentiments of those who wanted to remember favorite people or animals in their lives. If you would like more information on ordering one, please see our web site or call me.

Our season is in full swing and I hope to see you this summer or fall. Please stop by and say hi, if you have time.

—Marty Hunt

Special Summer Events

Continued from page 1...

The celebration will be an old fashioned Hoedown, complete with music, BBQ, beer, wine, and soft drinks. The party will take place on the Youth Center lawn (inside if it is raining!) from 5:30-8pm. The party will be free to all competitors, however donations are encouraged to help defray expenses.

In addition to the party, we are working on a Historical Showcase display, to include photos and memorabilia from the last 40 years of Dressage Days. **We would love to borrow your old photos, ribbons, show programs, or any other Dressage Days related items for the showcase!** Please contact Jamie Fields at jamielfields@vermontel.net if you are able to share your items with us.

We hope that many of you will come out and help us celebrate in style!

Hunter Derby

GMHA is thrilled to be hosting our first annual Hunter Derby on August 18, in conjunction with the new August Hunter/Jumper Show (held on August 19-21). The Hunter Derby will take place in GMHA's legendary cross-country course, open for the first time in many years to our hunter/jumper competitors.

GMHA welcomes our neighbor, the Kedron Valley Inn, as the sponsor for this exciting new event. Classes will include a \$500



3' class, and a \$500 2'6" offering. The Derby will consist of two rounds, to be jumped over a course of traditional hunt-type obstacles. The first round will be a classic course. The top 12 riders will advance to the second round, which will consist of a handy course at the same height.

To add to the festivities, a ringside Luau will be held in the evening, complete with a Hawaiian shirt contest! The partygoer sporting the best hawaiian shirt will win a \$75 GMHA credit. **The Luau is open to the public, and offers an excellent view of the Derby field!** Tickets are available for \$30 from the GMHA office.

For more information on these or any other GMHA events, please visit our website, www.gmhainc.org.

From the Trails...

Tending the Trails

On Saturday, June 4, the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day 2011 brought together outdoor enthusiasts from across the country to celebrate America's magnificent trail system. With leather gloves, chain saws, and trimmers in hand, GMHA trail volunteers helped to celebrate our own uniquely magnificent system of equestrian trails with the first Trail Work Day of the year.

While Mother Nature's spring rains still have many trails too wet to ride, there is plenty of maintenance to be done now and through-out the year. Clipping back brush, tossing fallen branches, raking water bars, unplugging culverts, and cutting and clearing toppled trees provide a never ending cycle of projects. If you are a trail rider, you understand just how vulnerable the trails are to the weather's whims. The level of effort required to keep the trail system in good working order is impressive indeed.

The hundreds of miles of GMHA's equestrian trails run through private property and public roadways. Our trail maintenance objective is to provide horses and riders with safe passage over environmentally-sensitive trails. We have 50-60 trail volunteers; among them, 20-30 sign up as Trail Stewards. Each spring a meeting is held, where Trail Stewards may select specific trails in their area to walk or ride regularly. They are able to clear fallen branches and water bars immediately, but are asked to report more serious work to GMHA.

We very much depend on the watchful eyes and feedback we receive from our Trail Stewards. When cutting, trimming and more involved maintenance is required, property owners are notified and the issues are addressed in a timely manner. If special equipment and/or material are needed, we hire professional contractors with our Trail Maintenance Funds. **Remember: Your donations to this Fund are greatly appreciated and tax deductible!**

As in all things in our busy lives, we are often greatly tempted to assume that someone else will do what needs to be done. When you are out on the trails this summer and fall, enjoying the tranquility of your surroundings and filling your senses with everything good, take a moment to ask yourself: *Am I doing my fair share to make this experience possible?*



Roy Snell of South Woodstock helps to cut and clear a large maple branch.

Enjoy a day in the Vermont outdoors—join us on our next Trail Work Day!

Our Work Days are scheduled as needed and are held on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon. Visit: www.gmhainc.org/volunteer-opportunities.com or call 802-457-1509 to sign up, and we'll include you in our emails to let you know date/time, location and equipment details.

Trail and Open Space Preservation Program

Many exciting projects are currently in process through our trail easement work. Stay tuned for details in the Fall Issue of the GMHA Magazine!

Interested in donating a Trail Easement? Join the growing number of property owners who have said YES! to permanently secure equestrian trails. For more information: www.gmhainc.org/trailpreservation or email cyndy@gmhainc.org.

GMHA sincerely thanks all the hard-working and dedicated Trail Volunteers who show up when we express the need—you know who you are!

Cross Country Upgrade Project

GMHA is embarking on an ambitious, multi-year project to upgrade our cross-country course! The project will include footing and site work, installation of new complexes, creation of an Intermediate track, & augmenting our jump inventory.

Maintaining a GMHA Tradition

The discipline of Eventing has a long tradition at GMHA. In 1957, GMHA hosted one of the country's first non-military horse trials. Today, GMHA runs three United States Eventing Association sanctioned horse trials, in addition to a long-format Novice/Training Three Day Event and several schooling trials. The course is also heavily utilized for schooling by equestrians throughout New England.

A committee has formed to manage the multi-year project of upgrading GMHA's cross-country course. The committee is reaching for the goal of hosting an Intermediate division at the 2012 August Horse Trials. This aggressive timetable calls for work to begin immediately following this year's September Horse Trials.

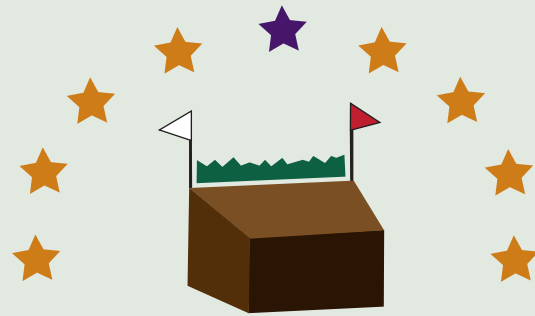
Improving and Expanding our Offerings

All levels will benefit from the upgrades, as long-standing footing and drainage issues will be addressed, permanent complexes installed, current fences repaired and new jumps created ensuring well-built, educational and up-to-standard obstacles across the board.

The past decade has seen a decline of upper-level eventing in Area I, forcing accomplished riders to travel outside of New England to compete and qualify for national championships. Providing a modern, up-to-standard Intermediate course will allow riders at this level to stay on home turf. The re-introduction of the Intermediate level will also serve to educate and inspire those at the lower levels.

Meeting GMHA's Needs

Tremain Cooper has been selected as Course Designer for the project. Cooper, from Bluemont, VA, is an FEI and USEF licensed course designer. He has designed courses for many prominent events, including Millbrook Horse Trials (NY), Morven Park (VA), Southern Pines (NC), Puhinui Horse Trials (NZ) and Poplar Place (GA). Cooper has worked on GMHA's course in previous years and is familiar with the challenges of the terrain in South Woodstock.



GMHA CROSS-COUNTRY UPGRADE PROJECT

He will work with local course designer Janine Preece McClain to ensure that the property upgrades will also meet the needs of the many other levels of competition.

The course improvements will be funded entirely from donations. The committee is thrilled to announce that they have already received a very generous \$20,000 pledge to help kick off the project.

Project details, specific fundraising information and sponsor/donor materials will be available soon- stay tuned for updates on this new and exciting project!

Become a Donor!

Your support will help ensure that GMHA remains viable as a premiere site for equestrian education and competition. There are many sponsorship opportunities and benefits for both business and individuals associated with this project!

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Molly Hutchins at (802) 457-1509 or molly@gmhainc.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

GMHA is looking for volunteers to assist with our busy summer event season! Volunteering is a great way to support your sport, while gaining a front row seat for some of the most exciting equestrian competitions in New England!

In addition to being extremely well-fed (with a tasty breakfast and/or lunch from Travelin' Willy B's!) and receiving a thank you gift, all 2011 GMHA volunteers will be entered in the 2011 Volunteer Raffle!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

July 2-3 Starter Trials

Fence Judges	Timers
Ring Stewards	Scribes
Runners	Parking

Please contact Molly at molly@gmhainc.org.

July 9-10: 25/25/50-Mile Ride and Drive

P&R Takers	Scribes
Timers	Scorers

Please contact Ellen at etully@gmhainc.org.

July 22-24: Dressage Days

Ring Stewards	Scribes
Awards	Runners

Please contact Karey at kmanner@gmhainc.org.

August 8-14: Training & Novice Three-Day Event & August Horse Trials

Fence Judges	Scribes
Ring Stewards	Timers
Runners	Set-Up Crew
Jump Crew	Parking

Please contact Molly at molly@gmhainc.org.

August 26-28: Combined Driving Event

Hazard Judges	Timers
Runners	Ring Stewards
Scribes	Cones Setters

Please contact Liz Gesler at lgesler@gmhainc.org.

Not available on weekends but want to be a part of the action? Contact GMHA to learn more about our mid-week volunteer needs.

Get Involved! GMHA Needs Your Help.



Volunteers will be entered in the raffle each time they give their time to a GMHA event (half day minimum). Raffle winner will receive their choice of a:

**Wellfleet Snaffle Bridle from SmartPak
(\$220 value)**

or

\$100 Gift Certificate to the Kedron Valley Inn

The winner will be announced at our volunteer breakfast, to be held on October 16. Need not be present to win!

Just one more reason to become a GMHA Volunteer!

GMHA Staff Contacts

- **Executive Director: Marty Hunt**
(802) 457-1509, ext 204 • E-mail: marty@gmhainc.org
- **Office Manager: Robin O'Farrell**
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- **Events and Communications Manager: Karey Manner**
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- **Marketing and Events Manager: Molly Hutchins**
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- **Trail Preservation Specialist: Cyndy Kozara**
(802) 457-1509, ext 220 • Email: cyndy@gmhainc.org
- **Bookkeeper and Trails Manager: Ellen Tully**
(802) 457-1509, ext 205 • Email: etully@gmhainc.org
- **Grounds Foreman: Bruce Salls**
(802) 457-1509, ext 208 • Email: grounds@gmhainc.org

GMHA Raffle: Win a Riding Safari or \$5000!

GMHA is sponsoring our third annual raffle this season. Here's your chance to support GMHA while getting a chance to win one of two spectacular prizes!

Win your choice of a fabulous riding safari for two in Africa or \$5,000 cash!

The trip includes airfare, meals, and lodging while traveling with Offbeat Safaris (valued at \$20,000). Safari trip includes fantastic food, the riding experience of a lifetime, and wildlife sightings like no other!

Tickets can be purchased for \$100 each- only 300 tickets will be sold!

Winner will be drawn at the GMHA Annual Meeting on November 12 (need not be present to win).

Purchase your tickets at the GMHA website (using paypal), or by contacting the office.



Safari Testimonials:

This was absolutely a trip of a lifetime. The riding, the horses, the game drives, the company, new friends, the food, the service, all exceeded any expectations we had. And, to have had this experience in Kenya, in the wilds of the Mara where we saw only each other, and animals, and the wonderful friendly folks of the Masai tribe for 10 days was extraordinary. Someday this is a place I hope to return to again.

- Previous GMHA raffle winner Janet Matz.

The scenery, the wildlife, and the talented and well cared for horses, which could run like the wind and were as brave as any I have ever known, were the perfect recipe for the adventure of a lifetime. I feel so blessed to have been able to experience this beautiful country and meet its gracious native folk.

- GMHA Member Gayle Davis

Important Note: Annual Meeting Date Change & Members' Day Trail Riding Weekend Added

GMHA Members, please note this important change! The 2011 Annual Meeting has been rescheduled! It will now be held on Sunday, November 13 at 10:30am. The meeting will be held in the Youth Center.

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting, GMHA has added a Members' Day Trail Riding Weekend to the calendar. On November 12 and 13, we welcome our members to bring their horses to the grounds and enjoy a bonus weekend of late season trail riding. Stabling will be available for the weekend. We hope to see many of you, and your horses, here in November!

GMHA News

The Green Mountain Horse Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 8
South Woodstock, VT 05071

Welcome to GMHA!

A snazzy new sign welcomes visitors to our grounds.



Upcoming Events

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| June 26-July 5: Junior Horse-manship Clinic | July 19: Ridge Runners |
| July 2-3: Starter Horse Trials | July 22-24: 40th Annual Dressage Days |
| July 6: High Horses Schooling Show | July 25: Members' Day: Dressage |
| July 9-10: 25/25/50-Mile Ride & Drive | July 30-31: <i>Connemara Show</i> |
| July 12: Wheel Runners | August 1: Chef's Night |
| July 14: Team Jumper Challenge & Lobster Bake | August 1-3: <i>USEA Young Rider Camp</i> |
| July 15-17: Summer Hunter/Jumper Show | August 4-7: Western New England Pony Club Clinic & Rally |
| | August 8-11: Training & Novice Level Three-Day Event |

For more info go to: www.gmhainc.org