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WEXFORD
TRAINING



Wexford Training



Dear Friends,

Well, I was back on track until my trusty old Mac decided not to fire up one day! Early in August I was having anxiety attacks as my Mac with all the e-mail addresses and customer contact information and e-mails went into the repair shop. I am relieved to tell you that it was only a matter of a bad connecting cord, but I am busy getting all your e-mail addresses and so forth backed up!! What a shock to the system it was to be without my laptop companion.

I also thought that everyone would just think I was busy or had dropped them off the list somehow - so I promise to make sure the newsletter gets out each month. Just another learning experience and perhaps a cosmic warning to take my office work a bit more seriously.

Calendar updates

-Sunday, August 26

Brooksville, FL

Private lesson day, slots still available

contact: Paige Cool at 352-754-1759 or
viking13@bellsouth.net

-Sunday, September 10

Vero Beach, FL

Private lesson day, slots still available

contact: Debbie Vickers at 772-571-7941 or Vickers_D_K@comcast.net

-Sunday, September 17

Daytona, FL

Clinic: Finding your Balance Bareback

contact: June Hannabass at 386-451-0884 or saddle-creekstable@yahoo.com

-Saturday through Tuesday, October 7-10

Salt Lake City, UT

Clinic: Balancing Horse and Rider

contact: Sandy Smith at 801-560-2661 or Sandra.Smith@nurs.utah.edu

-I will possibly be in Arroyo Grande, CA also around the time I am in Utah but it is currently unconfirmed. If you are interested in getting together in California, please let me or the contact person know and I will get that sorted.

Contact: Anita Parra at 805-474-8112 or wickz-

cats@bcglobal.net

News updates

-The clinic in Maryland went really well. More on the format later as I made some changes and it worked beautifully. The organizer of the clinic has mentioned that she would like to have me back up there. So if you are interested in attending a clinic on the outskirts of Baltimore, then contact Sarah and let her know. It helps tremendously with organization if you call her with all your contact details and what you are interested in.

Sarah Wengerut - 410-977-7835 or
sarah@kwlandscaping.com

-STILL working on the web site. It is getting much closer and will be full of great "lessons" and information. Visit
www.wexfordfarm.com

-Did you know that I do carry the full line of BALANCE saddle pads and equipment. I do not sell saddles, but I do sell everything else BALANCE makes such as the Eeey Reins and Hunting breast-

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lates. I also have a really nice selection of rope halters, 12' lines, training sticks and strings, 22' lines, rope reins and hackamores. They are exceptional quality and very reasonably priced. E-mail me at Prima4Pads@yahoo.com if you are interested in any equipment.

-I am currently working with a large facility in Palm City called Palm City Equestrian Center. I think it will become a fantastic place for regular clinics, fun shows and training. I am really excited to have so much room to work and so many stalls available. This means I will finally be able to put together a clinic schedule and even some fun shows. I also now have 8 lesson and lease horses available. For those of you who have wanted to come in from out of town for training, you don't have to bring your horse, although there is room for that too.

-For local students, I am gathering together information and a list of interested people to start up a riding club. So far everyone I have spoken with is very keen to have a club for learning, socializing and having group adventures. I see it as a sort of Pony Club for adults where people can learn all the millions of things there are to learn about horses and horse care and get together with other like-minded people. Call me directly or e-mail me if you are interested. We will kick it off with an informal potluck to discuss the direction and focus of the club.

Kirsten at 561-252-3235 or kirsten@wexfordfarm.com

Training notes

I had so much news and I am so far behind this month, I am not going to be able to do my training section. Just a quick note about the clinics and clinic format and then I will catch up with training tips in September.

All of the "clinics" I have done over the years have always been where all the participants and all their horses are in the arena all day learning about a topic.

While I think this is a great way to focus a group onto one topic and cover it thoroughly, it also has its drawbacks:

-Usually one or more horses or students were not really prepared well for the activity or the group dynamic. This takes time away from the focus of the clinic and sometimes causes safety hazards.

-Learning is tiring for horses and people. When you are in an arena all day long, in the weather and trying to learn and process new ideas, the day can be exhausting. Heat and cold only make things worse.

For the three days I was in Maryland, the group had decided to go one at a time during their clinic. Usually when I visit an area and people go one at a time I call it a private lesson day. Each person gets a private lesson, then off they go. What was different about this day was that each person and horse got a significant amount of private time, but all the participants stayed all day long to watch and discuss each lesson. As a group we were able to visit the clinic topic over and over but see how it was applied to a variety of horses and riders. The participants were asking questions of me and I of them with every student that entered the ring. It was a wonderful experience because each horse and rider got the exact information that they needed to continue on successfully after I left and also got to see what that looks like for someone else with a different riding ability and horse.

The benefits I noticed after this three day clinic were:

-The horses were rested and fresh each day so we were able to make far more progress than what I have seen at regular group clinics by the third day.

-The people were rested and fresh so they could concentrate on the information and absorb it. It takes a while for new ideas and skills to sink in, so the time spent observing was just as important as the time they spent hands on with their horse.

-We were able to accommodate participants from experienced riders with experienced horses to experienced riders with green horses to green riders with green horses. It was fabulous to have the opportunity to show how simple concepts of balance can be applied at a variety of stages or levels and begin to improve things immediately. People got to see how principles overlap with the reality of individual needs by having a variety of participants. But everyone cheered each other on because it was interesting and no one felt as though the "difficult" horse was holding things up! Horses and riders really got exactly what they needed as individuals while still having the group dynamic for learning.

I think this clinic format is what I have been searching for. I am really excited about the concept because it allows me to visit an area and maximize results and learning for everyone, no matter what level they are or issue they are having.

While I am still offering clinic topics and I am still happy to do groups of riders and horses, I do recommend that you think about this "private clinic" format for your area, especially if you have people and horses that may not be appropriate to work together. For groups that have been working together or know that they would be safe in a group and want to focus narrowly on a single topic, then the group clinic would be great. Topics I cover often are listed on my web site and you can call me if you have questions regarding clinics in your area or coming to Palm City for a clinic!

Until next time

My best regards,

Kirsten

Contact info:

Kirsten@wexfordfarm.com

561-252-3235 or 561-252-2884

www.wexfordfarm.com