



January 2007

Working Students... The Toughest and Best Job You'll Ever Love

By Erin Mullen

"Working Student." For most people outside of the horse world that title probably would bring to mind a teenager who works after school at the YMCA, or at Starbucks, or the grocery store, or even in their parent's office. To dressage or eventers or hunter jumper riders though, it means something entirely different and even exciting. Some people might still be wondering though, just what does a working student do? Two and a half years ago I wouldn't have known either. But that's when I traded in private school for home school and became a working student for Karyn Becerra of Iron Horse Farm. Since then, I've learned it's the toughest and the best job I could ever imagine having, and I wouldn't trade the experience and the education I've gotten for anything in the world.

Whether you've ever thought about being a working student for a trainer, or just wondered what a work-

ing student does all day, maybe this article will answer some of your questions. Since I've only been a working student for a few years I wanted to get the opinion of some working students who have become very successful riders like their trainers.

A couple of years ago, I was lucky enough to stay with Lendon Gray for a few days and shadow some of her working students at Glen Eden as they went through their day. I couldn't believe how hard they worked! They work 10 to 12 hrs a day, 6 days a week rain or shine, hot or freezing cold, doing everything from taking care of the horses, to bandaging their legs to preparing them and all their food and equipment for shows, to riding several horses a day. But the whole reason they do it is they also get a lesson every day with Lendon, a chance to ride incredible horses, go to clinics and shows and get tons and tons of great experience.

Alison End was a working student for Lendon for two years. She graduated in June from Dartmouth College with a major in Neuroscience. She is a USDF Certified Instructor through 2nd Level and has competed through Intermediare I. She competed at the NAYRC in both 2001

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Karyn Becerra warms up Erin and Zhivago for Children's Jumpers at the 2006 UNC-Benefit Show



Attention All NCDCTA Members!

Your help is needed for our Gala slide show. We need pictures of this year's NCDCTA show season. All pictures are welcome. Competitors, Horse of the Year Winners, grooms, volunteers, or anyone who makes our shows possible. In addition, because we are celebrating our 30th anniversary any pictures of past events and members would also be appreciated. Please make sure to send information with all pictures which identifies persons, horses, events, year that event took place and 2006 Horse of the Year award winners.

Please send pictures to:

Patricia Roberts
700 Richmond Rd.
Mebane, NC 27302
fenridge@mindspring.com



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NCDCTA Annual Gala

Save Hobby Field

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Photos for Gala WANTED!

New! Trainers Directory

Many Entry Forms & Clinics



The web
address
is

www.ncdcta.org

NCDCTA members get free
classified advertising on
the website.

Members can link to the new
Bulletin Board from
the website.

**The NEWS is an official publica-
tion of the North Carolina
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Association**

All newsletter material must be
typed and received by the 10th of
the month for publication in the fol-
lowing month's newsletter.

Rates

Ads:

\$75 page \$50 half

Show prize lists, entry forms, and clinics:

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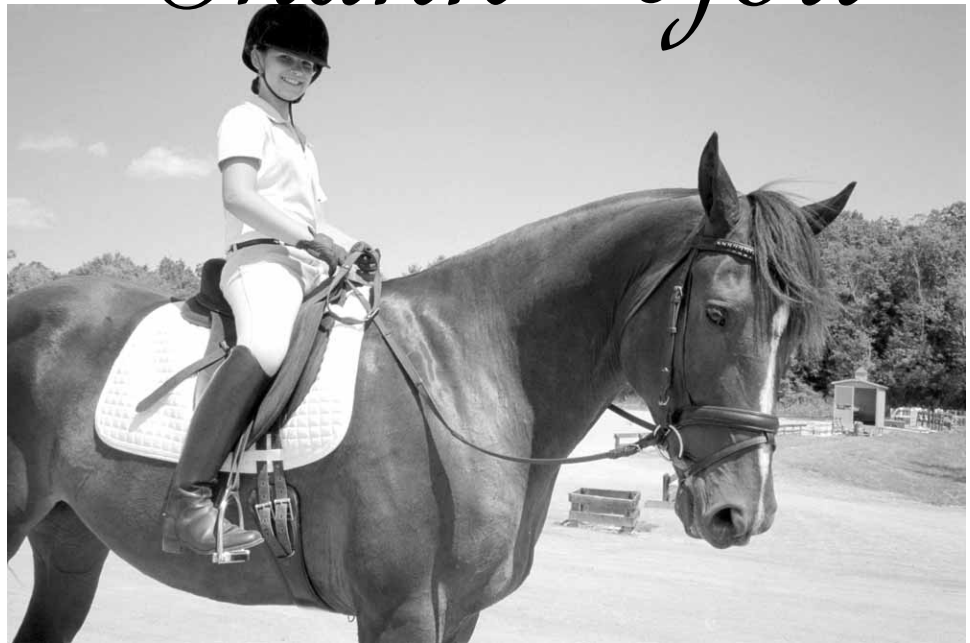
Wendy Cracovia
8807 Oxfordshire Ct.
Huntersville, NC, 28078

Ph: 704-948-0400

Cell: 704-778-6190

Visit us at: www.ncdcta.org

Thank You



Dear NCDCTA organization,

I just wanted to thank you so much for the experience your generous scholarship donation provided. New York was more than just a horse show. It was a chance to learn and gain knowledge I couldn't have gotten anywhere else. The trip would not have been possible without all of our sponsors, and I can't thank you enough. I can't believe all the opportunity that has been offered to me and I am excited to find out what else life has to offer.

Thanks again,
Natalie Blikslager

There is a Difference Between Trainer and Coach

By Sue Smithson

According to the U.S. Equestrian Federation rules, a **TRAINER** is the adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody, or performance of the horse. The **COACH** is the adult who receives remuneration for instructing, teaching, schooling, or advising a rider.

Here are instances where it's important to know the difference:

On the signature part of the entry form, adult riders may and should sign the trainer blank, even though you may not regard yourself as a "trainer". It just means you are the adult responsible for the horse, and has no bearing on amateur status. If the drug testers find evidence that your horse has been administered a banned substance, the

trainer is considered the primary responsible party. A minor without a trainer should have a parent sign, and the parent is not required to be a USEF member.

The only case in which your riding instructor should sign the trainer blank is if your horse is in training at their barn, and they are responsible for its care.

Another confusing issue is GR804 - conflict of interest. Kathy Rowse, a busy and popular "S" dressage judge in Southeastern Virginia, hosts monthly Jim Koford clinics at her farm. The rules state clearly that a judge may not judge their trainer, or their trainer's clients. She recently received clarification on this from the USEF, and explained:

"Jim is considered a coach as he is instructing us, as opposed to our trainer,

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Nunn Finer Than Carolina Eventing Series

By Abbey Dondanville

Nothing is finer than North Carolina in the springtime—warm days, blue skies, and a new year of horse trials. To start the season off with a bang, one new and three established USEA events in the state are coming together to host a new horse trials series reminiscent of the old Sandhills Series. Southern Pines I, the Ark, the Fork, and Longleaf Pines (March and April 2007) have joined forces with the support of John Nunn and Bit of Britain to create the Nunn Finer Than Carolina Eventing Series to showcase some of the best courses and facilities in the state.

The Nunn Finer Than Carolina Eventing Series kicks off at the new Southern Pines I Horse Trials (March 10-11) at Carolina Horsepark. Horse Trials at the Ark (March 24-25) and the Fork (April 17-18) flesh out the middle of the schedule, and Longleaf Pines (April 22-23) brings the series back to Carolina Horsepark for its finale. Horse and rider combinations in Open/Adult and Junior/YR divisions can earn points at

Beginner Novice, Novice, and Training Levels at each of the four events. However, pairs must compete in a minimum of two series events to qualify for series-end awards. In addition to winning Nunn Finer products at each of the host events, Series Champion and Reserve Champions will also win special Bit of Britain prize packages.

By targeting only Beginner Novice through Training level horses and riders, series organizers are hoping to draw a mix of amateurs and professionals to each of the four events, and create incentive for riders to patronize additional Areall events. If successful, the Nunn Finer Than Carolina Series will become a regular part of the USEA calendar.

For more information about the series or the individual events, please visit the USEA on-line omnibus at:

www.useventing.com/competitions.php?section=calendar.

www.bitofbritain.com

www.carolinahorsepark.com

www.whynotanamercanark.com

www.forkstables.com



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Please Help Save Hobby Field

The horse community in Southern Pines is suffering a spike in development pressures since the death of major landowner Virginia Moss, MFH, last January.

At the Moore County Hounds opening meet Thanksgiving Day, the Sandhills Area Land Trust kicked off a campaign to save a landmark 60-acre hay field, known as Hobby Field, from certain development. Anyone who has ever visited the Southern Pines horse country remembers the big hayfield on Youngs Road. Hobby Field, photographed, painted, admired, and enjoyed for decades, is an icon of the Sandhills sporting scene.

If SALT is successful, an equestrian easement will be placed around the perimeter for driving, galloping, and hacking all months of the year. During

the summer, hay will be produced and baled in the interior. During the winter, the entire field will be available for traditional horse sports, including the Thanksgiving Day opening hunt, the Moore County Point-to-Point Races, Hunter Paces, and other events. A federal grassland conservation easement will be attached to the property, banning sale, division and/or development forever.

Donations are urgently needed. SALT is a 501(C)3 tax-exempt entity, and donors will be listed on a permanent monument at the site. Anonymous donations are also welcomed, with all information held confidential. Naming rights will be offered to the significant contributor. For additional information, contact Katie Walsh at 910-695-1386 or visit.



The Hobby Field Acquisition Campaign was kicked off Thanksgiving day at the opening meet of the Moore County Hounds, Southern Pines. The Sandhills Area Land Trust hopes to save the 60-acre field from development, leaving it open and available for traditional horse sports.
Photo by Sue Smithson

Trainers and Coaches cont'd

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when the horse is at his barn and in full or partial training," Kathy said. "Jim is not considered to be our trainer. He is a coach and we are still his clients, but not trainers clients."

The only rule that addresses judging coaches is 804.12. In short, Kathy may not judge Jim if she has had a lesson from him within the past 30 days. This

rule applies even if he gave her a free lesson. But she is not restricted when it comes to judging Jim's students.

"Now, if I had a horse in his barn in training, then I could not judge any of his clients because he would become my trainer," Kathy said. "However, if Jim is only my coach, then there is nothing that precludes me from judging other riders that he coaches."

Attention All Trainers



Welcome to the Trainers' Directory. This is a free service for members to help fellow members find new trainers.

Trainers, please email the following info to me at NCDCTAnews@mac.com:

Name:
Tel # and/or email address:
Facility/Location & Discipline

Lynn Doki
910.281.5795 (home/barn)
843.819.3887 (cell)
Plafferider@aol.com - www.walhallafarm.com
Walhalla Farm / Aberdeen NC
Dressage and starting children

C. Michelle Folden
Cell: (336) 430-5594
eMail: mapwattsdaughter@yahoo.com
Dressage trainer located in greensboro airport area

Chris Hitchcock
Double Diamond Training - 919-697-5536
doublediamondtraining@yahoo.com
www.doublediamondtraining.com
Equestrian Farm/Rougemont, NC
Eventing- USEA Certified Level II

Linda Hoover
910-673-2173 - West End, NC
cornerstones1@earthlink.net
dressage, young horse training,

Vicki Kelley
910-295-0075
vicki@antaresdressage.com
Antares Dressage Farm, Pinehurst
www.antaresdressage.com
dressage

Heather King
919-274-0737
heather@castlefarm-nc.com • www.castlefarm-nc.com
Castle Farm in Knightdale, NC
eventing, dressage, huntseat, jumping

Elizabeth Coviello Moore
Victory Hill Farm
919 363-1897 barn, 919 434-7327 cell
victoryhill@bellsouth.net
www.victoryhillfarm.net
3804 Mason rd. New Hill, N.C. 27562
Dressage, eventing, equitation, pony school.

Katie Poag Roche
843-860-4520
Kproche@hotmail.com
Dressage Trainer
Indigo Stables, Huger SC
Middleton Stables, Charleston SC

Lesley Stevenson
(704) 845-6239
Lstevenson5@carolina.rr.com
Dream Catcher Equestrian
Matthews, NC
Eventing and Dressage

Working Student cont'd

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and 2002 and recently participated in the first Graduate Young Riders Program at Gladstone. Before the NEJYRC became Lendon's Youth Dressage Festival, Alison won the Lalique Fourth Level Championship in 2002 and became a roving trainer for the show in 2003. (She was also our roving trainer, and a wonderful help to our team "The Steel Magnolias" at the 2006 LGYDF.)

The other person I interviewed for this article has also been very successful as a working student for an internationally known trainer: Rebecca Nelles for Kay Meredith. Rebecca is a USDF Bronze, Silver, and now a Gold Medalist too! Rebecca has been training with Kay Meredith for the last five years and now is her assistant trainer and also teaches some lessons. I asked Alison and Rebecca what they thought was the most beneficial part of being a working student, what kind of work goes into it, and what advice they have for someone who might be considering applying for a working student position.

"Being a working student usually requires long hours and a lot of hard work," Alison says of her years with Lendon.

"As a working student, I also had a chance to teach and it was a great opportunity for me to develop my eye

and my teaching methods and style with the help of a trainer. It was incredibly beneficial for me to be in a situation where I could learn by watching a lot of good riding and teaching."

Rebecca Nelles agrees with Alison that one of the best benefits of being a working student is the chance to ride more than just your own horse.

"Take every opportunity to ride any

replied, "Be prepared to work hard and leave your ego at the door. If you sign on to be a working student then be open to the learning process."

Sometimes I have to admit it's hard to get up early in the morning, put on riding clothes, and go to work, but at the end of the day, when I get my lesson, I can feel how much I have improved and how much I have learned in just my two years of being a working student for Karyn. She has taught me so much about how to be patient with young horses, and how to ride all kinds of different horses at different levels of training. It's the kind of experience and training I would never have gotten otherwise.

So whether you are thinking about being a full time trainer, or you just want to really improve your riding and learn a lot about taking care of horses, being a working student is a great way to go. Sometimes trainers put ads in

magazines or in the NCDCTA newsletter for working students. You could even ask some of the trainers you know if they are looking for a working student and work out the details of how much work you do for how many lessons, if you can bring your own horse and so on.

And as Rebecca Nelles says—"The most important thing to remember is to be ready for a highly rewarding experience! Your education and understanding will grow by leaps and bounds!"

"I've learned it's the toughest and the best job I could ever imagine having, and I wouldn't trade the experience and the education I've gotten for anything in the world."

type of horse that comes your way. You can learn just as much if not more from making an average horse better as you can from developing a really nice quality horse. I've learned a ton just watching Karyn ride and teach her students, and even though I don't teach other people, I get to ride a variety of horses, which helps my ability to adjust to different temperaments and breeds."

When I asked Rebecca what kind of advice she had for people thinking about being a working student she

NCDCTA 30th Anniversary Gala



Here is a sneak peek at businesses that will be providing door prizes at the Gala. Don't miss out!

Cabin Branch Tack Shop, Southern Pines

Rocking B Saddlery, Hillsborough

Horse Sense Tack and Apparel, Raleigh

Triangle Horse Sports, Raleigh

M & M Tack Shop, Raleigh

Purgason's, Summerfield

Southern States, Greensboro

Carriage House, Raleigh

Horse & Rider, Greensboro

2007 American Hanoverian Society Annual Meeting to Feature Young Horse Training Symposium with USEF Young Horse Dressage Coach Scott Hassler

Contact: Sandra Werkheiser
AHS Publications Editor and Web Site Director
(610) 261-0345 • sandy@unbridledcreative.com

American Hanoverian Society (AHS) is pleased to announce that a Young Horse Dressage Symposium with USEF Young Horse Dressage Coach Scott Hassler will be held at the Jacksonville, FL, Equestrian Center on January 27, 2007 in conjunction with the Society's Annual Membership Meeting.

The 2007 AHS Annual Meeting will be held January 26-28 at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida. The meeting will offer three days of educational programs featuring seminars on raising stallion prospects, managing limb and hoof deviations in foals, selecting the proper performance venues for young horses, equine nutrition and more. Attendees will also be updated on the work of various AHS Committees and will have the opportunity to brainstorm marketing ideas.

Headlining the meeting is well-respected breeder, rider, trainer and coach Scott Hassler. Hassler has graciously offered to make himself available for a 45-minute open question and answer session on Friday afternoon at the Hyatt, giving breeders, riders and trainers the opportunity to ask him whatever they like. He will then conduct a training symposium on Saturday at the Jacksonville Equestrian Center. The purpose of the symposium is to help breeders, riders and trainers assess the performance potential of young horses and to properly develop youngsters with realistic goal setting and strategies for successful training. He'll offer advice for selecting the best competition venues for young horses and will also address the quality of gaits and training necessary to make the FEI Young Horse Tests a realistic goal. He will lecture from the arena and use top three-, four-, five- and six-year-old Hanoverians to illustrate the concepts. There will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation as well as question and answer sessions after each age group.

To be considered for participation, applicants should submit a 15-minute video or DVD taken within the last year

riding the registered Hanoverian three-, four-, five- or six-year-old (age in 2006) with whom you'd like to participate and include walk, trot and canter. A brief resume of the horse and rider should accompany footage. Video or DVD should be sent to Bettie Carroll P.O. Box 1020 Walkertown, NC 27051 and must be received by December 15, 2006.

Jacksonville is easily accessible by air, and the area offers ideal temperatures, trendy restaurants, specialty shops and easy access to golf, beaches and fun for the entire family. The AHS host hotel is adjacent to Jacksonville Landing, an entertainment complex featuring shops and fun dining. Additional restaurants, nightclubs and museums are a short water taxi ride across the St. John's River. A 30-minute drive will take visitors to historic and charming St. Augustine as well as the famous golf resorts of Ponte Vedra.

For registration information, visit the AHS website at www.hanoverian.org or call the AHS office at (859) 255-4141 for additional information. Pre-registration for the Saturday Symposium with Scott Hassler is \$25 and everyone is welcome, AHS members and non-members alike. Registration for the entire meeting is \$175, and this fee includes the Scott Hassler Symposium, all educational programs, the Awards Banquet, and the increasingly famous Silent Auction, which offers shopping and entertainment well worth the entire registration fee! Information on Hanoverian stallions at stud in the U.S. and Hanoverian horses for sale across the country will also be available.

For more information, please contact Sandra Werkheiser, AHS Publications Editor and Web Site Director at (610) 261-0345 or via e-mail at sandy@unbridledcreative.com. AHS press releases are also available on the society's web site at <http://www.hanoverian.org>.

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