



## A Look Back...

This year was a very busy one here at Spring Willow Farm. We had many events for our students as well as ones that were open to the public too. Some months we had an event scheduled every weekend.

In March we started the year by hosting an open event for AAPHne which went very well.

In May we started our "Open Field Day" competitions that ran once a month until October. This open event was a lot of fun. Several of the dates drew riders from the Hopkinton 4-H club and a couple of the area farms. Hopefully this event will become more popular next year. It offered awards for the

whole series and some of our riders won championships.

Adri also ran a Mix & Match 2-Phase in April. This event was also open so we had a few area riders enter. Overall response was very positive. Riders can custom make their own 2-Phase, any Dressage test with any jumping height. There was another one planned for September but lack of entries caused us to cancel it.

In June we hosted our 2nd AAPHne Open Schooling Meet. Entries were low but we did have more than we did at the first one. Interest is growing for this association

we helped get started. Check out the website [www.aaphorsemanship.org](http://www.aaphorsemanship.org) next time your surfin' the web.

In addition to these new events we still held some of our old favorites like; February & April School vacation Horseplay Days and our week long Summer Horsemanship Programs. The tag sales in the spring and fall, winter lectures and our Halloween party.

We did have some sadness too. Recently we had to say good bye to two of our wonderful horse friends Lily and Lynx both due to colic.

Yes, a very busy year all round. Well this is our last newsletter for 2005 the next issue will be for our 2006 season.

## FALL STUDENT SHOW



Left: Sam Mc Isaac with her blue ribbon & Trophy. Above: A group of riders waiting for the results of their class. Right: Irving Jumping with Celina Collins in the beginner jumping class.



We were very lucky with our weather for our fall show. Saturday was rather chilly but thankfully sunny. Sunday was warmer. Adri did a great job of organizing everything. She managed most of this show by herself and deserves most of the credit for its success. It was great to see all the riders turned out in their riding habits. The students did their best to make the horses look good too although it wasn't easy because we couldn't let them give the horses baths due to the cold weather.

Our judge for Saturday Mr. Brad Martone did a great job scoring all our Dressage test and jumpers along with our riders that participated in the trail obstacles class. Sunday's Judge Kandie Au-

clair did equally as well with the equitation and games classes. She found it especially challenging to choose the winners in the lead line and costume classes. She said she would like to give blue ribbons to all of them.

Both judges were complementary to all horses and riders. Even our new school horse George did well winning two second place ribbons among the ribbons he won for his riders.

A big thanks to all volunteers that made the weekend a success.

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# Winter Programs & Lesson Scheduling



This winter we will be offering our Winter Lecture Series again. These lectures will take place at the farm. We are only scheduling four dates this year. They will be every other Saturday afternoon starting January fourteenth and they will continue to the end of February. Participants will need to pre-register for each lecture. One topic will be "Horse Shows Explained" a subject a few parents were interested in. The list of lecture titles with their dates will be posted in the barn. Both parents and students are encouraged to attend.

Another program we will be offering is a six week course of horsemanship for adults. This program is for anyone interested in knowing more about the horse from their instinctual behavior and how this knowledge can help us when we interact with them. Participants can, but

don't have to, have any prior experience. So if you are a Mom or Dad and you would just like to know a little more about what your child is doing when they are riding or handle the horse, then this course might interest you. This program will be a flexible format adapted to the interests of the participants. It will take place every Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11 am starting January seventeenth. Look for a flyer on the bulletin board in the barn or call the farm.

Well winter cold can be quite intimidating especially when it comes to continuing your riding. However if you take certain precautions and make some time and clothing modifications it can still be quite fun.

First we try to take advantage of having a heated tackroom as much as

possible then we also cut back on the preparation and finish up time with the horses on the crossties. We can do this mainly because we blanket all our school horses so they stay relatively clean enough to tack up quickly. We then bring all equipment to the warm tackroom ASAP when finished rather than doing some of the cleaning with the saddles still on the horse. This actually cuts the interaction with the horse back by about half an hour. Hopefully keeping students and horses more comfortable on the chilly days.

We recommend layering your tops instead of one heavy jacket. A turtleneck shirt with a sweater then a vest and finally a lighter weight jacket. This way riders can peel off outer layers when they heat up during their rides without getting too cold.

Winter riding boots and breeches are best but we find wearing sweats over riding pants works too. Hand & feet warmers are helpful because these are the body parts that feel the cold the most.

Scheduling of winter lessons will start on December fifteenth.

## Barn Updates/News...

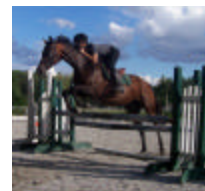


- 9/11/05 2nd Open Mix & Match 2-Phase was cancelled due to too few entries.
- 9/25/05 5th Open Field Day Competition went well with our SWF riders.
- 10/5/05 Congratulations Adri & Allegra for winning first place in the BN division at the USEA Recognized 3-phase event in Plymouth!!
- 10/16/05 6th Open Field Day Competition was cancelled due to weather conditions (field was flooded).
- 10/22/05 Tag Sale & Turnout seminar. It went well in the rain and the tag sale helped a few of our students find some good deals.
- 10/23/05 Congratulations Kevin & Gryffindor for winning fifth place at the Apple Knoll 3-phase.
- 10/29/05 Halloween Party It snowed that night so we had one of our smallest turnouts but it was still fun with all the games and the great hay maze in the loft. We seemed to have a lot of cowgirls this year.
- 10/30/05 Congratulations Karen & Cody for winning a beautiful silver ribbon for riding in the Western/Wayland hunterpace. It was a wonderful day all around.
- 11/8/05 Our beloved Lynx was laid to his final rest due to an irreversible bout of colic.
- 11/9/05 George arrives at SWF He is an answer to a prayer & we love him.
- 11/19& 20/05 Fall Student Show we were lucky with the weather. It was a bit chilly on Saturday but it warmed up for us on Sunday. All in all everything went well.

### Barn Bulletin Board

- \* 12/17/05 Holiday Gathering
- \* 12/21 Last Day of lessons for 2005
- \* 1/4/06 First day of lessons for 2006
- \* 1/14th & 28th 2/11th & 25th Winter Lecture Series

## SWF Horses for sale



For Sale: Tia

16yr old 16.2 hand TB Bay mare \$2000

For Sale: Beau  
(reg. name Gold Ironsides)

8 yr old 16.1 hand reg. Pal QH gld. \$6500



Prices negotiable to SWF student



# New 2006 Calendar

- Calendar features some of the Spring Willow Farm school horses each month plus preprinted dates for 2006 events.
- Would make great holiday gift.
- Orders will be taken 12/1/2005
- Estimated delivery by last day of scheduled lessons
- \$10.00 each

## Calendar Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity:# \_\_\_\_\_ Total\$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Holiday Gathering**

**Who's invited:** All SWF Students

**What is it?:** A fun party with games, music, yummy treats, Yankee swap and yearend awards.

**Where:** At the Mendon /Uxbridge Unitarian Congregational church on Maple street in Mendon .

**When:** Saturday 12/17/05 from 2 to 5 pm

***Bring a wrapped horse related gift (\$5 to &10 value) for the Yankee swap.***



Leadline Corner

Leadline lessons will end when it gets too cold Or 12/21/05. Adri will see some of the leadliner's next spring. Some will be moving on the regular SWF riding program next year.

Call farm for info



18 Blackstone Street  
Mendon, MA 01756

Phone: 508-473-8630

Fax: 508-473-9273

E-mail: [swhf@thecia.net](mailto:swhf@thecia.net)

*Fun & Safety While Learning  
Horsemanship!*

Still working on Website,  
coming soon 😊

## Website up date

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We are very close to having our website on line.

We just have a few minor additions to make.

When it is on line the address will be

[www.springwillowhorsefarm.com](http://www.springwillowhorsefarm.com)

Some of the features it will have are:

- Info on our program policies
- Current rates & services
- Bios on instructors
- School horse pictures & info
- Links to other websites
- Forms to download
- Bulletin board
- Schedule up dates