

# BIT-BY-BIT EQUESTRIAN

## MANE EVENTS • DECEMBER 2009

NPASS CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Bit-By-Bit Equestrian Center

Volume 2, Number 2

December 2009

### Bit-By-Bit Equestrian Center Riders Take Home Ribbons At Inaugural ESDCTA Eventing Championships



ABOVE: Kelly Kromer, on her Thoroughbred, Hope To Prosper, soars over a fence during the Championships. INSET: Meghan Ludicello, Assistant Trainer at BBB, guides Genuine Gent over a fence during the Cross Country portion of the competition.

REVERE, PA—Long-time BBB students Kelly Kromer and Meghan Ludicello—along with their horses Hope to Prosper and Genuine Gent—showed their stuff at the Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association's first annual Eventing Championship on November 8, 2009. Bucks County Horse Park, tucked away along scenic Route 611, hosted the event.

With perfect Stadium and Cross Country rounds, Kromer was named Champion at the Novice Level. Ludicello placed third at Novice Level, with a Dressage score of 34.5, which pulled her up in the placings after a dropped rail in the Stadium portion.

Kromer and Ludicello have been students of Bit-By-Bit Head Trainer Melissa Morehouse since they started riding more than eight years ago.

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### New Addition Coming Soon To the Bit-By-Bit Family!

WIND GAP, PA—Early in January, 2010, Bit-By-Bit Head Trainer Melissa Morehouse and her husband Jeff will welcome their first *human* child.

Baby Boy Morehouse will join big brothers Zach, Rodney and Winston, but Jeff assures everyone that he will NOT have to sleep in a crate or a stall!

BBB friends and family attended a lovely surprise shower, thrown by Meghan Ludicello, at the home of Mary and Mike Haas. "A big thank you to everybody who came, we had enough food for four showers," remarked Chrissie Radaker, who also helped organize the November event.

Melissa opened dozens of adorable gifts, including a high-chair from the Marino family, nursery essentials and baby clothing—even an outfit designed



and sewn by our resident fashion designer, Sarah Weisel.

She also received two baby-wipe warmers, and to no one's surprise was immediately moved to consider whether or not they could be used to warm bit-wipes in the winter! ■

**EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS— from page 1**

Eventing is a grueling, Olympic-recognized sport, which requires horse & rider to participate in a Dressage test, complete a Stadium Jumping course and a Cross Country course. The final score is derived from an average of the three events, after jumping and time penalties are deducted. ■

**Students Excel at 2009 Regional Championships!**

ALLENTOWN, NJ—Eight students and Bit-By-Bit Equestrian Center Head Trainer Melissa Morehouse qualified for this year’s Regional Dressage Championships held by the Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association (ESDCTA) at the New Jersey Horsepark in Allentown, New Jersey. To qualify for the September 20 event, horse/rider teams needed to secure a score of 60% or higher at an ESDCTA-recognized show.

Danielle Marino riding My Last Good Fortune and Christine Farrell on Forgotten No More placed 3rd and 5th respectively at First Level. Elizabeth Hochmiller and her pony Daddy’s Dollars rode to a 6th-place finish in the Training Level division.



Clockwise: Christine Farrell and Forgotten No More; Danielle Marino and My Last Good Fortune; Elizabeth Hochmiller and Daddy’s Dollars; Melissa Morehouse riding Ritunja, owned by Jacqueline Barnathan.

Two mother/daughter teams—Debi Metcalf and her daughter Alison and Sally Drosnock and her daughters Alyssa and Danielle—qualified for the event, but were unable to make the trip. Kelly Kromer, Jacqueline Barnathan, Sarah Weisel and Meghan Ludicello also earned a spot to compete but could not attend.

BBB has sent riders to Championships for the past four years, according to Morehouse. "I am very proud of ALL of the Bit-By-Bit students, and wish continued health and success to them, their families and their horses as we look forward to the 2010 show season." ■

**College Calls for Many Long-Time BBB Students**

Last Spring, BBB said goodbye to long-time student/training assistant Kristin Stahl, who left to attend the Equestrian Studies Program at the University of Findlay in Ohio. This past Spring, Alison Metcalf and her horse Monty went off to Nazareth college in New York, while Sarah Witmer brought Tucker with her to Bethany College in West Virginia.

Nazareth High School Senior Sarah Weisel has been accepted into the Fashion Design program at the Art Institute of Philadelphia, and will attend classes there in the Fall of 2010. Sarah already designs and sews many of her own clothes, and is sure to do well in Philadelphia, where she will be close enough to visit her horse Rio for frequent rides. Fellow NAHS student Danielle Marino has been accepted at Marshall University in West Virginia and is waiting to hear from Towson University and York College of PA.

College-age riders must carefully weigh the pros and cons of having their horse with them at school. "Don't bring him if you can't give him the time he deserves; he and your grades will suffer," says Morehouse. If you must leave your best friend at home, you can always consider part-leasing to another student, which will help out financially and give your horse some much-needed attention while you are away! ■

**DON'T MISS A THING!**

Receive the BBB MANE EVENTS Newsletter, as well as announcements about BBB shows, the NPASS Show Series and future clinics with world-renown trainers. Just send an email to [mmorehouse@epix.net](mailto:mmorehouse@epix.net) and we'll sign you up! Please include your name.

(Select GARIELLE ARMANDO clinic dates still available in January & February, call or email to schedule now!)

## Strong Showing for Bit-By-Bit Students at Inaugural NPASS Championships

KUNKLETOWN, PA—A gorgeous Fall day was the backdrop for the first annual **Northeast PA Show Series (NPASS) Championships**, held at Hidden Creek Equestrian Center on October 3, 2009.

NPASS was born when three Northeastern Pennsylvania show barns—Bit-By-Bit Equestrian Center, Hidden Creek Equestrian Center and Twin Lake Acres Equestrian Center—joined together to present a nine-show series that would focus on Dressage and Combined Training.

"We wanted to give local riders a chance to save money by showing close to home—and also keep dollars flowing into our local economy," explains BBB Head Trainer Melissa Morehouse. "I think we accomplished that, all without sacrificing the quality of competition, which was really top-notch at all nine events."

At the Championship event, Morehouse was impressed with the intensity of the competition. "Judges Amy Gimbel (L\*) and Lisa Tannehill (L\*) saw a lot of talented riders," said Morehouse, who's students included three Division Champions, one Reserve Champion and a Third-place award.



Left to right: Alyssa Drosnock on Mardi Gras Girl (Chloe); Danielle Drosnock on Solomon and Elizabeth Hochmiller and Daddy's Dollars (Jimmy).

Division #1A - Starter Walk/Trot Senior  
3rd: Debra Metcalf (Sapphire in the Rough)

Division #1B - Starter Walk/Trot Junior  
CH: Alyssa Drosnock (Mardi Gras Girl)

Division #2 - Starter Walk/Trot/Canter  
CH: Elizabeth Hochmiller (Daddy's Dollars)

Division #3 - Training Level Junior  
CH: Danielle Drosnock (Solomon)

Division #5 First Level  
RES CH: Danielle Marino (My Last Good Fortune)

To qualify for the Championship Show, competitors needed at least two

scores of 60% or higher at two different NPASS show grounds in front of two different judges.

Jill Kuc, owner and Head Trainer at Hidden Creek, also organized a "Ride 4 Hope Quadrille Challenge" competition.

"Our Ride 4 Hope Quadrille Challenge raised nearly \$3000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital," says Kuc. "Both teams received an amazing score of 77%, but The Never Landers won more spectator votes than The Sorcers. Both performed amazingly, and we are truly blessed to have such talented riders at Hidden Creek. I thank everyone who donated to this worthy cause!"

### Bit-By-Bit Equestrian Center 2010 ESDCTA-Recognized Show Schedule

Contact LINDA HOCHMILLER at 610-746-5828 or BBB at 610-863-6616 with questions. Please feel free to leave a message—we will return your call!



Show:	April 10, 2010	July 10, 2010	Aug 21, 2010
Opening:	March 2, 2010	May 28, 2010	July 12, 2010
Closing:	April 2, 2010	July 2, 2010	August 12, 2010
Judge:	Patricia Brosious (L)	Robin Haase (L)*	Patti Thompson (L)*



Congratulations to DANIELLE MARINO and My Last Good Fortune (Justice) for their 4th Place USDF placement at the 2009 Region 1 Junior Team Championships at Morven Park in Leesburg, Virginia!

## Bit-By-Bit Students Accept 2009 Year-End Awards at BHP Banquet

HELLERTOWN, PA—Four students from Bit-By-Bit Equestrian Center received Year-End awards in front of a packed house at the Bucks County Horse Park 2009 Awards Banquet. The Annual Banquet was held on Saturday, November 21st at The Meadows in Hellertown, PA.



Left to right: Elizabeth Hochmiller, Danielle Drosnock, and Isabelle Strauch show off their awards. Not Pictured: Sarah Witmer.

A long established tradition, 2009 marks the 17th year for the Thursday Morning Horse Show Series. Only riders who have competed at six or more TMHS events are considered for Year-End Awards. Danielle Drosnock took home Reserve Champion honors in Itty Bitty Jumper competition on her mare Mardi Gras Girl (Chloe). Elizabeth Hochmiller and her pony Daddy's Dollars (Jimmy) placed 4th in Itty Bitty Jumper competition, and also placed 4th in Children's Equitation in the Hunter division. Isabelle Strauch took home a Reserve Champion trophy aboard Solomon in the Leadline competition.

In the Tuesday Evening Dressage Show Series, Sarah Witmer was Reserve Champion in the Junior Training Level division. She also received a Perfect Attendance Award. Sarah's mother' Linda, owner of TAILSPIN TRANSPORT, attended the banquet to accept their award. ■

### BBB SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE:

DON'T MISS OUT - REGISTER EARLY FOR SUMMER CAMP!

**FULL DAY CAMPS:**

WEEK OF JULY 26, 2010

WEEK OF AUGUST 16, 2010

**MINI 1/2 DAY CAMPS:**

WEEK OF JULY 19, 2010

WEEK OF AUGUST 2, 2010

## BBB Presents A Riding Clinic with Gabriel Armando!

Come and explore your potential through a clinic with international Dressage Judge and competitor GABRIEL ARMANDO! Gabriel is an active international competitor representing his native country, Argentina. He was the silver medalist in the South American Championships in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1998. He was on the Argentinean team at the Pan Am Games in the Dominican Republic in 2003, and the 2007 Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At age 20, he was the national dressage champion in Argentina and again in 1983—the youngest National Champion in Argentina's history. Gabriel moved to the U.S. in 1997, and is married to FEI dressage rider-trainer Suzanne Ross-Armando. They are based at Diamond Creek Farm in Ringoes, NJ.

**PLACE:** Bit-By-Bit Farm, 425 Kromer Rd., Wind Gap, PA

**DATES:** January 16, 23, 30 & February 13

**TIME:** Pre-register by calling Melissa at (610) 730-8016

**COST:** Private lesson \$125 for 45 minute session

**CHECKS TO:** Bit-By-Bit Equestrian Center; send to Bit-By-Bit Farm, c/o Melissa Morehouse, 425 Kromer Road, Wind Gap, PA 18091. (More info: [mmorehouse@epix.net](mailto:mmorehouse@epix.net))

*Thank you to everyone who signed up for the December clinic with USEF Licensed Sport Horse Judge and Bereiter PETER HANSON!*

### SHOW TEAM INTERVIEWS:

Please look for a sign-up sheet coming soon. If you haven't been showing, you don't know what you are missing. If you have an interest, why not sign up and find out what it's all about?!

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**Submit stories/ideas to:** [amarino@orbel.com](mailto:amarino@orbel.com)

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