



American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. *E-Newsletter*

Newsletter 007-08

June 2007

Message from the President...

Dear Fellow Hippo Enthusiasts,

This is the month for our membership drive and I encourage you to continue to support AHA and then share your talents by spreading the word about hippotherapy. Our Hippotherapy magazine continues to be a phenomenal asset and after you read it – share it with another therapist. It is a great way to extend the knowledge base for therapists interested in learning about hippotherapy. Our AHA Liaisons are another resource for our members and we encourage you to stay in contact with them.

This year we had our first AHA Hippotherapy Conference in Atlanta and it was an outstanding success. Our next educational opportunity will be our all day workshop at the NARHA Conference in November. The topic will be Feldenkrais techniques for humans and horses. Our presenter, Mary Debono, takes Feldenkrais beyond its typical uses because she has developed a system that applies the same principles to horses. Please see additional information on the workshop in this newsletter.

Once again, just a reminder, AHA has been very active on the behalf of all therapists interested in hippotherapy. We have accomplished a lot this year and need your continued support through your membership and willingness to be involved. We are only as strong as our membership.

Karen McPhail, MOT OTR HPCS

Hope to see you there...

**AHA Pre-Conference Workshop
NARHA Conference
Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Anaheim, CA**

**Feldenkrais and Hippotherapy
Presented by Mary Debono.**

A life-long horse woman, Mary Debono is a Guild Certified Feldenkrais® Practitioner and the creator of the SENSE Method sm. She specializes in helping improve the comfort, athletic ability and freedom of movement of people and animals.

The Feldendrais Method is based on “Awareness through Movement” exercises. We will get to explore various movements and new functional options based on everyday activities. This presentation will provide you with specific insights for your patients, help you with your own riding and be suitable for the instructors who work with you.

For registration information about the AHA Pre-Conference Workshop please contact NARHA directly, www.narha.org or 1.800.369.7433.

Regional News.....

Region I

Sarah Bronson, PT – 207.892.2813 – sbronson@ridingtothetop.org

Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center, MA, News: Mark your calendars and get registrations in early for Greenlock's Level 2 AHA courses. **RUTH DISMUKE-BLAKELY, MS/CCC-SLP, HPCS** and **LIZ BAKER, PT, HPCS** are teaching **EQUINE SKILLS 2: November 1-2, 2007** and **TREATMENT SKILLS 2: November 2-4, 2007**. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Ruth, as she does not get up to the Northeast to teach very often! We are so excited to have the Ruth and Liz teaching together! The courses are filling up fast so don't delay if you are hoping to attend. Early registration prior to Oct. 1, 2007, \$325.00 per course. After Oct. 1, registration is \$350.00 per course. For more information and registration, log on to: www.greenlock.org or call Greenlock at (508)252-5814.

Riding To The Top (RTT) in Maine hosted two workshops in June--a NARHA On-Site Workshop and Certification for Registered Level Instructors and a three day NARHA Vaulting Workshop. Patti Coyle and Marny Mansfield, OTR/L were the NARHA Certification faculty for the Instructor Workshop and Gisela Rhodes-Heimsath and Liz Harris were the NARHA faculty for the Vaulting Workshop. RTT looks forward to hosting a Vaulting Certification when it becomes available. In other news, RTT has posted the position of Executive Director due to restructuring of senior staff positions. Sarah Bronson, PT will be continuing in the capacity of Program Director, a goal that she has had for a long time! If you are interested in learning more about this position, the full job description is posted at www.ridingtothetop.org.

Region II

Liz Chauvot, PT, HPCS – 518.872.2736 – chauvots@prodigy.net

Quest Therapeutic Services, Inc. in West Chester, PA has started a pilot study in partnership with A.I. duPont Hospital for Children looking at the effects of hippotherapy on gross motor function in a child with cerebral palsy. It is our intention to submit the case study with a grant request to do a more in-depth study with a sample size of approximately 30 children. Also, Quest was a training site for Special Olympics, and 3 of our children went on to competition at the state level, and experienced the thrill of competing in a large horse show. Two of our therapists attended the AHA conference in Atlanta GA in April, and found it to be a great resource for networking with other therapists interested in research, learning and excellence in the field of hippotherapy.

Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center (SHHRC) concluded a wonderful spring session this June. A program was provided to Matheny School and Hospital students. Video and data was gathered throughout the seven weeks of treatment. SHHRC is beginning a small vaulting program through the summer for participants transitioning from hippotherapy to therapeutic riding lessons. SHHRC will also be offering the AHA, Inc. **Level III Equine Skills Workshop on August 11-12**. This promises to be a fantastic workshop to improve the participants' horse handling techniques and to learn long lining skills important to producing quality movement in hippotherapy.

"Maryland Therapeutic Riding, Inc. (MTR), located in Crownsville, MD, just purchased its 25-acre farm and is undertaking major facility expansions including the construction of a large indoor riding arena. The land purchase was made possible in part by a generous grant from the France Merrick Foundation. MTR is a NARHA Premier Accredited Center that offers both hippotherapy and therapeutic riding programs

Stable Movements, in, Broome County, New York, is a premier hippotherapy/therapeutic riding facility. We have just partnered with Stable Movements Inc. the non for profit organization to apply for NYS OMRDD HOME AND COMMUNITY BASE WAIVER PROVIDER STATUS. We hope to be running our OMRDD funded program at the end of this year. Our volunteer staff is growing each month and we are collaborating with Binghamton University pre-vet society. Some other future plans are to publish a HPOT session book for our participants to share. It will make a good fundraiser for scholarships. We

also are planning to sponsor a booth at our local speedie fest balloon rally in August. At the end of summer we are planning a (pony pullza) for fundraising with local musicians, food, and fun. We are still having a tough time getting school districts to understand the academic relevance of hippotherapy and therapeutic riding, if you have any info for us please forward it.

EBC Therapy Center in Berne, NY continues to grow. We are primarily seeing clients for hippotherapy, however we have some therapeutic riding students as well. We are offering the Level I Equine Skills and Treatment Principles course September 20-23 with Bonnie Cunningham, PT. We've been using our Sundays to keep our horses fresh with Parelli Play Days and Centered Riding lessons. We've been able to reward our volunteers with an occasional trail ride or riding lesson. We look forward to more growth and we're REALLY looking forward to the next AHA conference!!!!

Region III

Cathy Dudley, PT – 540.397.3982 – Duds242brt@cs.com

No report

Region IV

Lisa Dean, OTR/L – 502.338.0216 – LMDkidpower@aol.com

Kentucky is in the mist of planning the NARHA region IV conference and as in 2006 we hope to have a strong therapist track. The conference will be in Lexington, KY, at the horse park.

The Spring Michigan Area Hippotherapy Providers meeting was held April 1, 2007 at www.greatstridetherapy.com with Host Liz Watson, OTR. We congratulated Deb Hauser, PT on successfully completing the HPCS exam, reviewed the National Provider Therapy ID process, gave all attendees a gift for "April is OT month", and looked over Deb Taylor's Hippotherapy Book for families. Our host, Liz Watson, OTR is also the AHA Michigan Liason and updated us on happenings in AHA. She then gave us a guided tour of her magnificent hippotherapy facility and program and provided an excellent outline and demonstration on Hippotherapy Horse Selection. Discussion included Michigan hosting the Level 1 and Level 2 AHA courses. Level 1 sites could possibly be the Michigan Abilities Center and the Cheff Center. Liz is interested in hosting a Level 2 course. If you are able to help in this area, please send an email to beckycook1@juno.com and she will forward this onto the rest of our group. Our next meeting will be on a Sunday in early October (date to be announced) in Chesterfield, Mi. with host Sue Vergilio of Stable Possibilities, www.stablepossibilities.com.

www.sponsorfund.org is a Michigan non-profit organization designed to promote sponsorships and research into Equine Assisted Activities. Research grants are awarded up to \$500 for approved and published studies. The Sponsor Fund is set up for Paypal and YOU are invited to contribute by making a research donation to the Sponsor Fund.

The SURVEY SAYS: The Hippotherapy Business Survey results can be viewed at:

www.surveymonkey.com/DisplaySummary.asp?SID=3714372&U=371437254357

Survey designer Rebecca Cook OTR, HPCS was excited to review the safety record of the Hippotherapy statistics and has already submitted a summary article to AHA on the topic of Hippotherapy as a Safe Treatment Technique.

In the most recent issue of Exceptional Parent magazine, C.H.U.M., a Dansville, MI hippotherapy and therapeutic riding facility was featured and Rebecca Cook, OTR, HPCS contributed to the article with her clarification of the differences between hippotherapy and therapeutic riding."

Region V

Jessica Moore, PTA – 770.443.9672 – mckennafarms@yahoo.com

Georgia was very proud to host the first AHA, Inc national conference and glad it was such a success. All those in Georgia give kudos to Marie Dawson and Rose Crivolio for all their work.

Region VI

Janet Weisberg, OTR – 763.595.7108 – janet@holdyourhorses.org

Hold Your Horses, MN, is about to meet its one year anniversary in August 18. They have had several

new clients and many have been success with insurance reimbursement. Owner Janet Weisberg, MS OTR/L and her staff will celebrate with a horse camping trip.

Minnesota state liaison Linda Finn, PTA had the privilege of spending a day with the newly hired OT at a program in Whangarei, New Zealand. It was a fun day discussing the clients, activities and ideas. Linda is always looking to connect with programs that are running hippotherapy services in connection with medical rehab settings. Contact her at lgfinn@cpinternet.com.

Wisconsin state liaison Becky Lundeen, SLP had a fall fundraiser, the "Youth of Promise" program at her farm with an annual trail ride, carriage ride and tractor hay wagon ride, and food and fun. She also plans to host a Level 1 Hippotherapy course in October. Contact her at Nature's Edge Therapy jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net No news from Canada or the Dakota's. We know you are out there. Give a holler when you can. Janet Weisberg, AHA regional rep, Janet@holdyourhorses.org

Region VII

Monica Fiedler, PT – 815.788.1422 – mccd_monica@comcast.net

KIMMSWICK, MO, May 24, 2007—RIDE ON ST LOUIS (ROSL), a not-for-profit; equine-assisted therapy program uses hippotherapy (therapy with the aid of a horse) to achieve emotional, mental and physical benefits for the developmentally and physically disabled, as well as the disadvantaged youth of the community was recently recognized with additional accreditation as a Premier Center through the North American Riding for the Handicap Association, (NARHA).

ROSL, now in its 9th year of operations has served its 100th student and over 200 volunteers assisted the program, with 9345 volunteer service hours in 2006. Rick Wassman, the Executive Director is hopeful that this "Premier Status" can help achieve much needed additional funding as ROSL can not only depend on the priceless efforts of its volunteers, but is aggressively seeking necessary funding for the maintenance and growth in order to remain a viable resource in the community. To help with this funding need, The Big 550 KTRS Radio Personalities Vic Porcelli and Tim Wilund were "**Masters of Ceremonies**" for the **June 9th -Summer Jazz & Blues Fest II** at the beautiful Anheuser Estate in Kimmswick, MO and home to Ride On St Louis.

Mane Stay Therapeutic Riding Program partnered with Cowboy Dreams of Illinois to host Claudia Morin (MHE, OTR/L, HPCS) and her presentation on Sensory Processing in Therapeutic Riding Part I on June 1st and 2nd. We had a great turn out of therapists and therapeutic riding instructors. Claudia demonstrated how dysfunctions in the sensory systems can impact our riders, as well as how we can impact the sensory systems of our riders in a positive way to improve sensory awareness, visual-spatial awareness, and body integration through our sessions in hippotherapy and therapeutic riding. For more information about the hosting facilities you may visit their websites at www.mstrp.org and www.cowboydreams.org.

Region VIII

Becky Poehl, PT – 409.739.6196 – bpoehl@aol.com

No news reported

Region IX

Tracy Schmidt, PT – 208.255.6693 – kidsinmotionpt@yahoo.com

Darrell Hamill, PT, HPCS and Sheridan Remley, DPT presented "An Overview of Hippotherapy" for therapists interested but currently uninvolved with HPOT.

They included a review of current research, presented 2 case studies with patient demos, and did an overview of equine movement with an opportunity for participants to get on and feel/observe/discuss the 3-D movement along with affect of changes in position with variations in direction, tempo, and stride length. There were 12 attendees from the Federal Way School System and 2 therapists from Children's Therapy Center in Kent who provided with excellent feedback and suggestions for future presentations.

Region X

Robin Bowman, PT – 310.210.7665 - thbowmans4@msn.com

No news reported.

Region XI

Stacey Nelson, MS, ORT – 619.443.0745 – sandiegohippotherapy@cox.net

Region 11 is gearing up for the NARHA Conference in Anaheim (home of Disneyland!). Mary Debono will be doing an all day seminar for the AHA pre-conference on Feldenkrais. In her practice she works on horses (and dogs and cats), people, and then the two together, riding.

The **National Center for Equine Assisted Therapy (NCEFT)** will be hosting a **Equine Skills – Level III Workshop September 15-16, 2007** at their new facility in Woodside, CA

AHA is looking for Regional Liaisons...

AHA is currently looking for Regional Liaisons in various areas throughout the United States. Please check our website for the qualifications and then contact Meredith Bazaar if you are interested. (meredith@msbtherapy.com).

Do you want to be listed under our "Find A Therapist"?

All AHA members who have participated in the Level I and II AHA approved Workshops are welcome to be listed under the Find a Therapist tab. Contact Linda Thiede with your request (lthiede@americanhippotherapyassociation.org). Please include the date and level of the workshop attended along with the e-mail address you wish to use. Remember you must be a current member of AHA to be listed!

AHA 2007-8 Membership Drive is now under way...

The 2007-8 Membership Drive is now underway. As a reminder, our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30 every year. Please take a moment to make sure your membership is current. You can either go to the AHA website and renew via PayPal or contact the AHA office for a renewal application. Thanks!

AHA Approved Workshop Calendar...

2007 Level I Workshops

August 17-20, 2007

Stajduhar Stables

826 West L.D. Lockett Road

Colleyville, TX 76034

Michelle Mellander – 847.340.0064

Doublem_6@hotmail.com

AHA Faculty: Karen McPhail, OT, HPCS

August 23-26, 2007

In Stride Therapeutic Riding

1621 Ranch Road

Nokomis, FL 34274

Missy Bowers – 914.412.9333

instridetherapy@verizon.net

AHA Faculty: Carol Huegel, PT, HPCS

September 20-23, 2007

EBC Therapy Center

251 Cole Hill Road

East Berne, NY 12059

Liz Chauvot – 518.872.1870

ebcpt@local.net

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

October 18-21, 2007

The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc.

9919 Towne Road
Carmel, IN 46032
Raquel M. Ravinet – 317.872.4166
Raquel.ravinat@childrenstheraplay.org
AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS

2007 Level II Workshops

June 28 – July 1, 2007
Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center
19802 NE 148th Street
Woodinville, WA 98077
Jenny Nell Schulte – 425.882.1554
programdirector@littlebit.org
AHA Faculty: Pippa Hodge, PT, HPCS/Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS
AHA Apprentice Faculty: Steve McKenzie, PT, HPCS

October 5 – 8, 2007
The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy
5001 Runnymede Road
Woodside, CA 94062
Lori Garone – 650.851.2271 2#
lori@nceft.org
AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS/Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

October 25-28, 2007
Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center
83 Old Turnpike Road
Oldwick, NJ 08858
Kathy Brennan – 908.439.9636
shhrcpd@earthlink.net
AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS/Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS

November 1-4, 2007
Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center
55 Summer Street
Rehoboth, MA 02769
Edith Wislocki – 508.252.5814
Greenlock1@tmlp.com
AHA Faculty: Liz Baker, PT, HPCS/Ruth Dismuke-Blakley, CCC-SLP, HPCS

Equine Skills – Level III Pilot Workshops Now Available on the East and West Coast...

This is a course for therapists and horse handlers who want to improve their lungeing skills and learn to long line horses for hippotherapy. This course is primarily hands on and offers an opportunity to learn the basic ground work skills for the hippotherapy horse. Participants will have to complete the Level II courses and submit a video of their lungeing skills prior to taking the course. Two pilot workshops are available. See schedule below:

Equine Skills Level III Pilot Workshops:

August 11-12, 2007
Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center
PO Box 304
Oldwick, NJ 08858

Kathy Brennan - 908.439.9636

shhrcpd@earthlink.net

AHA Faculty: Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

AHA Adjunct Faculty: Gina Taylor, OTR

September 15-16, 2007

The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy

5001 Runnymede Road

Woodside, CA 94062

Lori Garone - 650.851.2271 2#

lori@nceft.org

AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS/Pippa Hodge, PT, HPCS

For information about attending either of these workshops please contact the hosting facility directly.

AHA is Excited to Offer A NEW COURSE!

Bridges Course: This is a one day course designed for the facility that has a large hippotherapy population. It is an opportunity to bring a fresh approach to treating your patients. This hands-on treatment based course, offers an in-service based format and can be tailored to the needs of your facility. It is recommended that participants have taken the Level I courses. This course is ideal as a "bridge" between the Level I and Level II courses or as a stand alone course.

Do you have questions about being a NARHA Registered Therapist?

Any questions about NARHA Registered Therapist applications and requirements should be directed to Linda Thiede at the AHA office for further clarification.

Searching for the right horse or looking to find a perfect home for one?

DonateMyHorse.com - the perfect website for prospective adopters to view photos and information on horses needing good homes. DonateMyHorse.com offers listings from across the nation with advanced search options to facilitate the match of donor and adopter. All text ads are free and packages are available for different viewing options. From mounted police prospects to potential therapeutic riding horses, DonateMyHorse.com will make the adoption of horses needing good homes both easy and successful - for donors and adopters alike

Would you like to place an ad in the AHA Newsletter?

If you would like to place an ad in the AHA newsletter please contact Linda Thiede at

lthiede@americanhippotherapyassociation.org for information.

American Hippotherapy Association, Inc.

136 Bush Road

Damascus, PA 18415

1.888.851.4592

FAX 1.570.224.4461

www.americanhippotherapyassociation.org