



American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. *E-Newsletter*

Newsletter 007-07

March 2007

Message from the President...

Dear Fellow Hippo Enthusiasts,

We are getting close to the first ever Hippotherapy Conference here in the US – April 20-22 in Atlanta. We hope all of you will be able to attend. We have some very familiar names as speakers and we are lucky to have a significant group of international presenters. There are some restrictions in meeting room sizes so we have a limited attendance so I strongly encourage you to register now.

There is a specific opportunity for you to contribute at the conference. Saturday, April 21st, right after the last presentation, we will have an open forum to discuss hippotherapy related topics. There will be a couple of facilitators, but it is primarily for you to get your questions answered, share your ideas and let us know how AHA can help you. So be involved. We need your input.

See you in Atlanta,
Karen McPhail, MOT OTR HPCS

Hope to see you there...

2007 AHA NATIONAL CONFERENCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

**MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS NOW!
DISCOUNTED ROOM
RATES NOT AVAILABLE
AFTER MARCH 30TH!**

April 20 – 22, 2007
Crowne Plaza-Ravinia
Atlanta, GA

**Presentations from around the globe!
12 Contact Hours**

CEUs applied for: ASHA and the OT and PT Associations of Georgia

Go to the AHA website to download the schedule and registration form

Regional News.....

Region I

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

Greenlock Therapeutic Riding Center in Rehoboth, MA will be hosting the following AHA approved courses:

Equine Skills Level I: May 17-18, 2007 and Treatment Skills Level I: May 18-20, 2007. The faculty will be Liz Baker, PT, HPCS, and Mary Helene Chaplin, PT, HPCS. Early Registration price is \$325.00 per course, prior to April 17, 2007. After April 17, 2007, the cost is \$350.00 per course.

Also, we are very excited to announce the following faculty for our AHA Level II courses for Fall 2007: Ruth Dismuke-Blakely, MS/CCC-SLP, HPCS, and Liz Baker, PT, HPCS, teaching Equine Skills II: November 1-2, 2007 and Treatment Skills II: November 2-4, 2007. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Ruth and Liz together, as Ruth does not get up to the Northeast to teach very often! Early registration is prior to October 1, 2007, \$325.00 per course. After October 1st, registration is \$350.00 per course.

For complete course descriptions and registration forms: log on to www.greenlock.org or call Greenlock at (508)252-5814.

Greenlock is also having its annual Spring Horse Show for our hippotherapy and therapeutic riding clients on April 29, 2007. This is a wonderful family social event that our participants and their families look forward to each spring. Soon after that on May 6, 2007 is our annual "Greenlock Goes Gourmet" fundraising dinner, which is an outstanding event each year that is a major support to our center. For ticket information for this event call Greenlock at (508) 252-5814.

Riding To The Top (RTT), in Windham, Maine, is pleased to announce that Patty Carton, PT has joined our staff as Program Manager. Patty is the founder of RTT and we are thrilled to have her as part of our staff. Her expertise in the area of physical therapy will be an asset to our programs--both our therapeutic riding program and our hippotherapy program.

RTT is also hosting a NARHA Registered Instructor Workshop and Certification at our Pineland Farms facility June 19-21, 2007. Patti Coyle, NARHA Advanced Instructor and Marny Mansfield, OTR/L will be our faculty for this workshop and certification. For more information about this upcoming course, visit our website: www.ridingtothetop.org to download a course registration brochure.

The NARHA Region I conference is being hosted by T.H.E. FARM, Inc and Windrush Farm Therapeutic Equitation, Inc. on April 13-15, 2007 in Tewksbury and Boxford, Mass. The conference is offering a host of workshops to meet the diverse needs of professionals who work in the field of Equine Assisted Activities. Presentations include the following topics: THR and Driving to support Motor Vehicle Operation in Young Adults with Disabilities, Visual Communication Aids, Vaulting, Brain Gym, and Advanced Instructor Certification, Financial and Budget basics, Project Management, Fundraising and much more. There will be a pre-conference "Survive and Thrive" Administrative Workshop on Friday, April 13th. For more information about the conference, go to <http://www.narha.org/PDFFiles/Region1/Region1Brochure2007.pdf>

Region II

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

Meredith Bazaar, CCC-SLP, HPCS, was a guest lecturer at New York University (NYU) in March 2007. She spoke to the speech and language pathology graduate students about incorporating hippotherapy into a speech and language pathology practice. Meredith will also be having a graduate student from NYU complete one of her practicum placements with her this summer. Starlight Farms, in Ringwood, New Jersey is hosting its annual Hoe-Down on May 6, 2007. For more information, please contact Rie Longo at (973) 728-6376.

Riding High Farm Allentown, NJ

RHF's Horsing Around inclusion summer camp 2007 is shaping up with many areas schools are sending groups of their students to further develop their social skills and of course learn about horses.

RHF, through it's affiliation with Fun in Motion LLC, is a field work level I placement program for occupational therapy students. RHF continues to host occupational therapy students and practicing therapists wishing to gain experience in hippotherapy as part of a therapeutic intervention plan.

Special Strides, located in Monroe, NJ, received a "Team Depot" grant from Home Depot to refurbish

their new donated office. They supplied 30 volunteers from Home Depot and materials to paint, replace molding, replace flooring, landscape, supply appliances, make new shutters and make a personalized sign. The Ashley Home Furniture store donated furniture for 2 offices, waiting area, treatment room, conference room and kitchen. Operations have been so much more efficient and the directors appear never to leave! In addition Bonnie Cunningham presented Level I Equine Skills and Treatment Principles to its staff. This proved to be a wonderful educational experience. All of these experiences were made possible by Special Strides wonderful fund raising campaign, \$64,000 was netted from its annual barn dance, "Reining in the Magic". In addition we were able to award \$53,000 to our clients who are unable to afford Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding.

Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center, located in Oldwick, NJ, is having a great spring season. SHHRC is beginning an exciting new partnership with Matheny School and Hospital in May. The program will be coordinated by Kathy Brennan, Program Director at SHHRC and overseen by Gina Taylor, MS, OT. SHHRC is also in the planning phases of providing vaulting as a group therapy program as well as a transitional program from hippotherapy to therapeutic riding. Currently SHHRC is hosting the AHA, Inc. Level I Equine Skills and Treatment Principles workshop March 29 through April 1st. The AHA, Inc. Level II workshop will be held October 25-28, 2007. In addition to these wonderful workshops, SHHRC is also offering offer Level I and full-time Level II fieldwork placements for occupational therapy students. SHHRC continues to expand their equine assisted therapy program and continuing education opportunities for therapists interested in working in this area of practice.

In November 2006 Brian Hughes, The Mercer County Executive, presented a proclamation of appreciation to two Special Olympians for their participation and success in the HRH Open Horse Show and Special Olympics held at the Horse Park of NJ, Oct 28, 2006. The recipients were Christopher Sikorski and Nicole Patnick, both riders at the Mercer County Equestrian Center. In addition, Kevin Bannon, Director of Mercer County Parks Commission, presented Deborah Gates-Maten, MS, PT, HPCS, with a certificate for Employee of the Month for her work in Hippotherapy at the Mercer County Equestrian Center.

Region III

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

Membership in Region 3 is growing! There were 18 in attendance at the March 10th AHA meeting held at the NARHA Region 3 Conference in Laurinburg, N.C. There was much good discussion with the following three needs agreed upon: 1. More opportunities arranged for therapists to problem solve treatment concerns. 2. A simple, "in a nutshell" research method taught for documenting the benefits of HPOT. 3. Clarification regarding which NARHA Registered therapists are eligible to take the Level III Course...i.e., how about those who were "grandfathered in" after taking the Introduction to Hippotherapy Workshop in 2002.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to host a Level II Course in Region 3. Please phone Cathy if you would consider taking this challenge!

In North Carolina, Marybeth Osborne, PT, the AHA State liaison, presented the Introduction to Hippotherapy curriculum in a lecture to the Duke University DPT students in November 2006.

In West Virginia, we send our thoughts and wishes to our AHA State liaison that lost her home and all material possessions in a tragic fire this past February. The horses, thankfully, are fine.

In Virginia, an AHA state liaison is still needed. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Dudley (Region 3 liaison) at 540-992-3162. A job description is available.

Region IV

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

We have a new hippotherapy clinical specialist in Michigan! Deb Hauser passed the HPCS exam! Congratulations to Deb from all of us!

Attention Michigan Area Hippotherapy Providers: Our HPOT Networking Meetings will be held 3x a year

(Fall, Winter, and Spring). Save the date for our Spring meeting, Sunday April 1, 2007 from 1:30-3pm at Great Strides Therapy in Chelsea Michigan with hosts Liz Watson, OT and Victoria Haehl, PT. The meeting topic will be "Selecting the Hippotherapy Horse." Join us for a tour of Great Strides Therapy and informal Q&A. All are welcome! Great networking opportunity for those involved in Hippotherapy or those interested in Hippotherapy. Contact Liz for directions at greatstrides@earthlink.net (www.greatstridestherapy.com) or Becky Cook OTR HPCS for general questions about our group at beckycook1@Juno.com.

Great Strides Therapy, LLC and The Right Step, LLC, near Ann Arbor, MI are collaborating to offer a hippotherapy internship to assist therapists in obtaining their hours to become a NARHA registered therapist or to attend the AHA Level II courses. The internship is available for 1-2 weeks offering 40-80 hours of treatment and instructional time. The owners of these practices treat a wide variety of diagnoses year round and housing is available on site. They offer an invaluable experience in setting up and making a private practice in hippotherapy profitable. Please call Liz at 734-475-4304 for further information.

Region V

Jessica Moore, PTA – 770.443.4956 – mckennafarms@aol.com

In Florida, The Smith Center for Therapeutic Riding, founded by AHA member Mary Nastan, has a new name. The decision was made that "In Stride" would be a more accurate reflection of the center's mission. And all the parts for the new covered arena are in the field waiting for the last of the permits to be approved. The covered arena is the first in a series of buildings planned for the 76 acre site in Florida. There will be a twenty stall barn and a building with a family center and space for office and clinic.

Congratulations to Nicole Walker's program, in Gainesville, for the favorable coverage in the AJC Pulse section (for medical professionals).

McKenna Farms Therapy Services, in Dallas, Georgia, received a Home Depot Team Building renovation in November 2006. A few of the projects included renovating an apartment above our barn, volunteer training/lounge, and a therapist's office area. They also moved their outpatient clinic to the farm. They had donations of flooring (Dupont), paint (Glidden), and doors (Masonite).

In Georgia, the program, Dream Power, has moved and joined with the program Equest.

Region VI

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

A big welcome to our new South Dakota AHA rep OTR Lori Dump, hearts1257@yahoo.com. Lori is looking forward to becoming more involved in AHA activities.

Nature's Edge in Rice Lake, WI will be hosting a Level II workshop June 5-8, 2007, contact WI state rep Becky Lundeen at jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net for more information.

Many attended the AHA forum at the Region 6 NARHA conference in Sioux Falls where much of the Q&A focused on hippotherapy standards for centers that are getting programs off the ground. See you in Atlanta!

Region VII

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

No news reported

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

In Washington, Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center (near Seattle, WA) will be hosting an AHA Approved

Level II Equine Skills June 28-29th and Level II Treatment Principles June 30-July 1st. Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS and Pippa Hodge, PT, HPCS will be faculty. For more information please contact Erin (erin@littlebit.org or 425-882-1554).

In continuing efforts to reduce the waiting list and increase the number of therapists incorporating Hippotherapy in their practice Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center is pleased to welcome Amy Fairchild, OT as our first paid intern. This internship program is one year long with the goal of resulting in a staff therapy position.

Region X

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

In Colorado, the Pegasus and Hoofs N Paws programs had to shut down operations effective Feb 28th due to the lack of a facility. However, both programs are hoping to collaborate and are pursuing a possibility of working with the University of Denver.

In New Mexico, Stacey Soos, the State Liaison, reported that she has been answering many questions from parents or prospective patients. Some of the questions have been "where is the closest therapist that incorporates HPOT, is this an effective treatment for a child with my child's diagnosis, etc". She continues networking within the state.

Region XI

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

The JF Shea Center in San Juan Capistrano, CA, will be having a dedication event to dedicate the new facilities that have been completed in the past 18 months, including the new barn, large covered arena, small covered arena and a third uncovered arena.

The JF Shea Center will host the Eckart Meyners Balimo Seat Symposium March 31-April 1st.

The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT) in Woodside, CA, announced early this year that they received a multi-million-dollar contribution from longtime Woodside residents Thomas and Stacey Siebel. With this contribution, NCEFT will relocate the organization to a new state-of-the-art facility in Woodside, as well as provide a major endowment to fund its ongoing operations. The Siebel gifts will significantly enhance and support NCEFT's mission and ability to provide Equine Assisted Therapy for children and adults with disabilities. With this gift, NCEFT will assume ownership of Dearborn Stables, a modern, high-quality equestrian facility on Runnymede Road in Woodside. The property, currently owned by the Siebels, will be renamed in honor of the Siebel family.

The Siebel family also donated an additional \$2 million to the organization, establishing an endowment to fund the Center's ongoing operations and maintenance of the new facility. The additional \$2 million will ensure that NCEFT remains the premiere treatment and educational facility of its kind in the world, far into the future. Based on third-party appraisals and the amount of the cash contribution, the value of the gift is in excess of \$6 million. The move to the new location is expected to take place in July 2007.

NCEFT will be starting up a new Interactive Vaulting Program after our staff attends the NARHA Interactive Vaulting Workshop at Little Bit in late March.

NCEFT will be hosting a Level II Equine Skills and Treatment Principles Workshop in October at our new site. Please check NCEFT's website, www.nceft.org to download a brochure or contact Lori Garone, PT, HPCS, and Program Director at lori@nceft.org for details. You can also access the information from the AHA website under the Education Tab.

At the same location as NCEFT, the BOK Ranch, a NARHA Premier Adaptive Riding Program, was established in August 2006. The BOK Ranch offers Adaptive Riding Lessons in groups and to individuals with disabilities. They are now servicing residential adult group homes in the Bay Area with Horsemanship/Grooming classes and hope to expand that to Adaptive Riding as well for the occupants of the residential group homes. BOK Ranch also hopes to expand and begin programming for Interactive Vaulting and Para Equestrian in the near future.

San Diego Hippotherapy, in Lakeside, CA, received an \$18,500 grant in December from the Grossmont Healthcare District to fund partial scholarships. SDH was also selected as the beneficiary, for the second year of funds from the Wes Whitlock Memorial Roping, to be held May 5-6. Due to such an incredible turnout last year, the roping will be a two-day event for the first time this year.

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

AHA Approved Workshop Calendar...

2007 Level I Workshops

March 29 – April 1, 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

March 29 – April 1, 2007
Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center
1250J East North Eastman PMB #253
Kingsport, TN 37660
Marry Mitten – 423.349.1111
markjmaryd@juno.com
AHA Faculty: Terri Barnes, PT, HPCS

May 3-6, 2007
HorseAbility Therapeutic Riding Program
238 Round Swamp Road
Melville, NY 11747
Tara Eichhorn – 631.367.1646
Tizzy278@verizon.net
AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS

May 4-7, 2007
Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship
211126 Chatsworth Street
Chatsworth, CA 91403
Joann Benjamin – 818.700.2971
joannbenjamin@vdn.com
AHA Faculty: Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS/Ruth Dismuke-Blakley, MS/SLP-CCC, HPCS

May 17-20, 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

AHA Associate Faculty: Mary Helene Chaplin, PT, HPCS

May 31-June 1, 2007

Texas Tech University

University Therapeutic Riding Center

Box 42141

Lubbock, TX 79407

Heather Hernandez – 806.792.4683

heather.hernandez@ttu.edu

AHA Faculty: Karen McPhail, MOT, OTR, HPCS

October 11-14, 2007

Calvin Center

13550 Woolsey Road

Hampton, GA 30228

Cathe McKinnon – 404.583.4591

AHA Faculty: Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS

2007 Level II Workshops

April 26-29, 2007

The Children's TherAplay Foundation, Inc.

9919 Towne Road

Carmel, IN 56032

Raquel Ravinet – 317.872.4166

Raquel.ravinet@childrenstheraplay.org

AHA Faculty: Lori Garone, PT, HPCS/Bonnie Cunningham, PT, HPCS

June 5-8, 2007

Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc.

2523 14 ¾ Avenue

Rice Lake, WI 54868

Becky Lundeen – 715.859.6670

jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net

AHA Faculty: Claudia Morin, OT, HPCS/Lori Garone, PT, HPCS

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 Woodside 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

Related Workshops

June 1 - 2, 2007
Sensory Processing Workshop with Claudia Morin. Sponsored by Main Stay Therapeutic Riding Program & Cowboy Dreams. For more info contact: 815-653-9374, info@mstrp.org or kstern5@earthlink.net.

AHA is Excited to Offer 2 NEW COURSES!

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.

Level III Equine Skills: 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.

NCEFT, in Northern California, will be offering the Level III Equine Skills Course September 15th and 16th. We are hoping to have an east coast course available soon.

Please contact the AHA Office for more specific information about these courses.

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

Help Wanted...

Position available- Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc. of Rice Lake, WI (www.naturesedgetherapycenter.org) is seeking a part-time Physical Therapist and or part-time Physical Therapy Assistant and a full-time Occupational Therapist, all with potential to become WI licensed. Rice Lake, WI- Unique therapy center working with variety of clients, pediatric and adults, specializing in Autism/Brain Injury treatment. We utilize hippotherapy, animal-assisted and horticulture therapy. We are a non-profit rehabilitation center operating year round. OTR's with

sensory integration interest/experience are encouraged to apply! Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits. New grads will be considered. Send resume with cover letter to: Nature's Edge Therapy Center, C/O Becky Lundeen, MA, CCC-SLP Director of Nature's Edge Therapy Center , 2523 - 14 ³/₄ Avenue, Rice Lake, WI 54868. You may also send it via Email at: jimnbeck@citizens-tel.net. For questions please the center at 715-859-6670.

Established Lincoln, MA therapeutic riding program seeks therapeutic riding instructor to work with special needs students. Part-time. Minimum requirement is MA licensed instructor and/or NARHA certified. Ideal candidate is also an OT, PT or SLP. E-mail resume and interest to debby@lovelane.org or fax resume to 781.259.4877.

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.