Hello Vermont PATH Intl. Centers & Members!

Greetings from your State Chair, Sue Miller –

We had a fabulous VT/NH combined State Meeting on October 25, 2014 with nearly 40 people in attendance. UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center in Goffstown, New Hampshire was our host. Participants were treated to Laughing yoga, Horse Massage/stretching-Lynn Eastman ESMT, CMT & IET, PATH announcements and Progress Reports & Goals Attainment Scaling.

As the Vermont State Chair, I would also like the opportunity to come and visit your Centers and/or stables in 2015. This will give me a chance to have a visual of your locations and learn more about what your programs have to offer, as well as an opportunity for you to pick my brain about PATH Intl. committees and events, Region 1 and Vermont activities, program or membership information and how I can better serve YOU! You can reach me at millerfarm@tops-tele.com or 802-222-4638. I hope to meet you soon.

Center News From Vermont

Rhythm of the Rein Therapeutic Riding and Driving Program Receives Grant From HSUS in their “Now THAT’S a Walking Horse!” Campaign

Rhythm of the Rein in Marshfield, Vermont uses 4 walking horses in their program – Tango’s Topper, 28 years young, Mayden Voyage (Grace), age 11, a home bred walker on the host farm, Water Tower Farm along with her brother Majo’s Dos de Mayo, age 15, and Painted Snow Star, owned by rider, volunteer, and board member Dick Chase. Walkers have been a cornerstone of the program since it's inception – their insight, calm demeanors and special gaits have made them indispensable when the walk and trots of the other horses in the program are not indicated. The $2,000.00 from HSUS has been put to very good use in our scholarship program and supporting our equine partners.

Instructor Dianne Lashoones has been a 25 year veteran of breeding and training walking horses, having served in the past on the TWHBEA international board of directors, and can attest to the versatility and value of walking horses outside of the show ring. This breed shines brightest when it has the opportunity to interact one on one with their human partners.

Painted Snow Star
Major’s Dos de Mayo
Tango’s Topper
Mayden
ELIZABETH BELOTE JOINS RHYTHM OF THE REIN AS IT’S NEW THERAPEUTIC DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

Congratulations to Beth Belote in attaining her Level 1 Certification as a PATH, Int’l Driving Instructor. PATH, the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International, certifies instructors and programs to provide high quality, safe Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies to adults and children with physical, psychological, and emotional challenges. By using a cart or carriage, therapeutic driving provides students with different and new opportunities to work with horses. Driving can provide recreational activities for individuals who otherwise may not be able to participate in riding; however, behavioral, cognitive, social, and psychological goals can also be achieved through therapeutic driving. Horses can pull more weight than they can carry on their back and this allows for individuals who are wheelchair bound to ride and participate in driving activities.

We are excited to be able to add our driving program to our current offerings of hippotherapy (physical and occupational therapy), our Equine Services for Veterans, and our therapeutic horsemanship programs. Our 2 driving horses, Luna and Apollo, generously donated by Gene and Jane Sevi, are ready to start work in our new easy entry cart. These two horses are experienced Cleveland Bay / Standardbred crosses that have done cross country driving for years and have decades of experience between the two of them.

Rhythm of the Rein is now the only certified program in Vermont to offer therapeutic driving, and remains the only program to have a PATH registered therapist on staff. Several of our current clients are eager to start in the driving program. This is an activity that might be of interest to anyone who cannot for any reason not ride a horse in the mounted program.

Apollo, with Beth Belote on right and driving student Dick Chase on left.
Also you can see the news feed that channel 44 did on Rhythm of the Rein and their driving program.

http://www.mychamplainvalley.com/story/d/story/rhythm-of-the-rein-offers-unique-therapy-for-those/36389/IFQPDnNKuyuZzMeFp8Zg#.VLihqRwGwIM.facebook

High Horses has been busy trying to make connections with the Vermont Veterans Affairs office. High Horses and Rhythm of the Rein were able to present information on their programs to administrators and program directors at Norwich University. The powerful video by Rob Foly was shared http://vimeo.com/92670725.