



MARCH/APRIL

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST MONTH AND WHAT'S TO COME!

SPRING IS HERE AND THE WEATHER IS GORGEOUS!

Construction as started again on the lesson barn. We are projecting to be finished with all construction by May 10. It will give us a few welcome additions. Such as a bathroom in the lesson barn, additional covered wash racks and improvements to the boarding barn.

The weather is heating up. All riders need to hydrate before a lesson and bring plenty of water with them. Dress for warm weather.



BEGINNER SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp registration is open. Please register for camp soon we are almost full in one camp already and fully expect the other camps to fill up too. All summer camp information can be found on our website www.magnoliaacres.info

SHOW TEAM MEETING

Are you interested in seeing what showing with Magnolia Acres is all about? Join us for a show team meeting Saturday May 11 @ 10-11:30am. This is a requirement if you think you would like to show with us. We have lots of details and information to share with you. Please RSVP to your instructor.

HORSE SHOWING CAMP

July 8-12 from 8:30am-1:30pm All current riders age 10 and up. It is highly recommended that you attend if you would like to show with Magnolia. This camp is being led by both our instructors and will be covering everything about showing as well as learning more detailed show patterns. Register in the barn office.

ALL CAMPERS WILL RECEIVE \$100 OFF ANY CAMP WHEN REGISTERING THE WEEK OF APRIL 28-MAY 5. EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM SPECIAL.



THE INSTRUCTORS CHAT

THIS QUARTER'S CONVERSATION WITH INSTRUCTOR KIM HALEY IS ABOUT ONE OF OUR FAVORITE TOPICS JUMPING.

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR RIDING EXPERIENCE?

I had my first riding lesson at 7, I knew from that moment on horses were going to be a major part of my life. By the age of 9 I had my first pony and we began showing on the A and AA rated show circuits. At the age of 12 we purchased my heart horse, which I still have to this day. I spent 15-plus years traveling the country to horse shows and competing. But out of my 20-plus years of riding experience, my favorite part was training my horse at a young age. It was so rewarding and challenging.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING A RIDING INSTRUCTOR?

My favorite thing about being a riding instructor is seeing those moments when the lightbulb goes off and everything just clicks between a rider and their horse. Watching two athletes progress together as a team is pretty cool to watch.

LEAST FAVORITE THING ABOUT BEING A RIDING INSTRUCTOR?

My least favorite thing about being a riding instructor is watching students be so hard on themselves. This is a very difficult sport so keeping an open mind and having perseverance is a must in this sport.

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN IT IS TIME TO TEACH A RIDER TO START JUMPING?

I've never attempted to teach anyone jumping who doesn't have a secure, balanced seat in walk, trot and canter, good hands, and showing a sufficient level of 'handling' (ie, bending, performing effective circles and serpentine etc).

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE SOMEONE TO ACHIEVE JUMPING?

How long it takes anyone to achieve a secure, independent seat is not possible to say. Too many factors are involved - your innate talent for riding, how often you take lessons, how much you practice every week, and even how good an instructor you have.

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT SEAT?

The rider can stay balanced with their horse through different speeds and gradients. For example, able to ride walk/trot, trot/canter, and canter/trot transitions without falling forwards or backward in the saddle. The rider does not resort to gripping with the legs or pulling on the reins to help them to balance. Each of the rider's limbs can be controlled independently, enabling the rider to give the aids (signals/cues) clearly and concisely. Symptoms that a rider does not yet have an independent seat include losing the stirrups, hands that won't stay still, gripping knees, wobbly (disengaged) legs and bouncing, etc.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALLOWING RIDERS TO JUMP WITHOUT THESE BASICS IN PLACE FIRST?

Having an instructor who is willing to give in to your whims at the expense of your overall development may seem like a good thing at the moment. Unfortunately, we seem to want instant gratification these days. I've seen some instructors teaching people to jump who had no business jumping. Their position was just not safe. As an instructor, I don't allow my kids to jump unless they have acceptable leg strength and position (which translates to acceptable balance). I would much rather keep a rider working on flat work safely than letting them advance too quickly and risking serious injury.

EXPLAIN WHY SOME RIDERS WHEN THEY START RIDING LESSONS AT MAGNOLIA THEY GET BROUGHT DOWN TO THE WALK EVEN AFTER THEY MAY HAVE BEEN JUMPING AT THEIR PREVIOUS FACILITY?

You should not be jumping until you have a solid, secure, independent seat on most horses. For many riders, the development of their seat was not a priority when being taught to ride. Therefore, they have developed rider problems that do not go away without some special attention. For example, being told to keep their legs still or keep their hands down will not help a rider do this. The root of the problem must be diagnosed and then handed through before an instructor can really improve.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT RIDERS WHO WANT TO JUMP BUT ARE BORED WITH FLAT WORK?

You go to lessons, and pay good money, to have someone pick apart our riding and fix what you are doing wrong. Everything is fixed at the flat. Sure, I want to go to a lesson and ride a full jumper course - because it's 'fun'... but you can't do that, until you have got the basics down 110%. And if I find that process boring - then, I am definitely in the wrong sport and should probably take up knitting. Riding horses is hard - there is nothing easy about it at all. If you want to get anywhere, you HAVE to work hard and you might not like some of the journey, but that is where the true horse people get split from the rest of the crowd.

WHAT IS FLAT WORK?

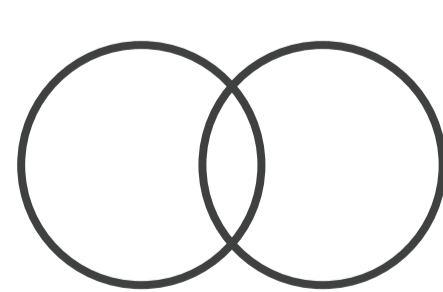
Flat Work is the basic movements required for a ridden horse to be able to do its job correctly. It takes the skills you learn in flat work to get around a course safely and efficiently. Without you put yourself and your horse at risk for serious injuries. When you have any problems jumping you take everything back down to the flat to correct the problem.

HOW IMPORTANT IS FLAT WORK AND WHY DOES MAGNOLIA NOT JUMP THEIR HORSES EVERY LESSON?

As stated above, Flat work is extremely important..... We do not jump Magnolia horses every lesson as that is a lot of wear and tear on their entire body and joints. Imagine being told to run for an hour straight for several hours a day/several days a week. Eventually you start to break down. It is the same for the horses that are asked to jump. A jump is icing on the cake, again everything is done at the flat.

So... if you are a rider or parent and are wondering why you/rider are not jumping yet or jumping bigger go ahead and ask your instructor why she won't. You may be surprised at her answer, and it may make you a better rider in the end.

LEVELING UP



THESE RIDERS HAVE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING LEVELS. CONGRATULATIONS!

- ELLIANA KEARNS - RED
- BELLA MOEWE - YELLOW
- IZZY ORTIZ - YELLOW
- SUMMER ALGEE - YELLOW
- EMERIE JEFFERSON - YELLOW
- ELLA PAEGERT - YELLOW
- MADDIE HAYDEN - GREEN
- LYLA LINTON - GREEN
- SIENNA PEREZ - GREEN

WARMEST REGARDS,
STEPHANIE HUMPHRIES AND ALL THE STAFF AT MAGNOLIA.

FOLLOW US



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