



# THE "NEIGH"-BORHOOD NEWS

from Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center

Volume 11, Issue 1 -- June 23, 2011

## In this issue:

Horse Bowling  
Bridles & Bow Ties 2011 Recap  
Barn Spotlight  
Staff Spotlight  
Volunteer Spotlight  
UPCOMING EVENTS  
From The Horse's Mouth  
New Landscapes for D.C.  
New Horse Power  
Rotary Golf Tourney  
The Director's Corner  
Congrats are in order  
Leave a Legacy  
How to Help

## Our Most Successful Bridles & Bow Ties Yet!



On Saturday May 21st, Dream Catchers hosted its 3rd Annual Bridles & Bow Ties Event! This year's event was chaired again by the remarkable Patty Holt, who "dreamed up" the name of Bridles & Bow Ties when she chaired the event in 2009!

## Here's the latest...

### Horse Bowling

Skip Mollenhauer, is not only our Horse Resource Manager, but is also a very creative and ingenious certified riding instructor! One afternoon, Skip was teaching Sarah how to introduce new skills and new objects to her horse Macy.



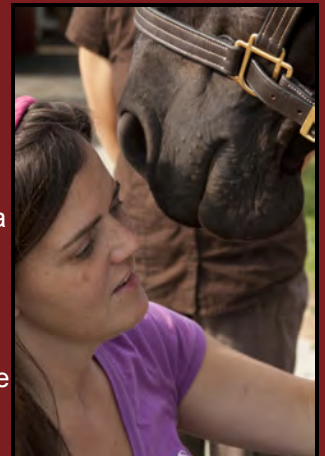
Sarah picked a giant ball to introduce to Macy. With Skip's guidance, Sarah became the horse trainer and soon Macy learned not to be afraid of the giant ball. Macy began pushing the ball with her nose and bumping it with her legs like an equine soccer player. Sarah and other students, including JD

& Elizabeth, were soon teaching their horses new games with the giant ball on the ground and while riding. Sarah and Macy's ball games have now advanced to a fun new game of horse bowling!

### Barn Spotlight - Jake and Deb

When you come to Dream Catchers, one member of our herd literally looms bigger and taller than all the others. "Big" Jake, who stands 17 hands tall, is the largest horse in the barn. His imposing stature does not intimidate his riders, however, as he is known to be a gentle giant with a tender heart.

You might think that since Jake is so big, that he carries only adults or larger riders, but this is not the case. He has given many little girls and boys big smiles as they have climbed on top of his back and sat taller than anyone else around. Recently, though, he has developed a unique relationship with one of our very special riders.



Deb is an adult who began riding with us over the winter. She grew up barrel racing, and has even practiced a few of her old barrel patterns on Jake. She has come to love Jake dearly, and he loves her equally well. He stands patiently with his head in her lap while she sits in her wheelchair and cleans his face while the instructors tack him up for the lesson. He does not even flinch when we tighten his girth, he is too

Patty has worked for years, along with other former event Chairs, Barbara Cummings & Cheryl Warren and fellow Committee Members, to make the event what it is today! Check out the [home page](#) of our web site to view the special **Bridles & Bow Ties 2011** video which was created by our own Stephanie McKinney!

Special thanks to our student riders who practiced with our dedicated staff for hours and hours to make sure the riders and their horses knew their patterns! We also appreciate the families of our student riders, who made so many extra trips to the Center and patiently watched practices over and over again.

Revenue from **Bridles & Bow Ties** represents approximately 17% of our annual operating budget, and is a year-long project for the staff, the event Chair and the event Committee. We are forever grateful for the efforts of so many individuals and corporations whose generous donations of both time and financial resources enabled us to host this special evening of celebration of our students and our programs! Our sponsorships for this year's event were doubled from prior years and record ticket sales made for a near sell-out crowd! The auction contained exciting once-in-a-lifetime packages which were purchased by very generous patrons! Our Dream Rider Scholarship Fund also received generous support, and we are thrilled to be able to offer these scholarship opportunities to very deserving families in the upcoming fiscal year.

We sincerely appreciate ALL of our Sponsors and they are all featured in the **Bridles & Bow Ties** section of our web site! We would like to spotlight our three major sponsors for this year's event. Our \$5,000 Title Sponsor, Land 'Or International, and its President, John Holt have been extraordinary supporters of Dream Catchers for many years! John – we love you & Patty - and we appreciate ALL that you do for us!

Dominion Virginia Power's \$5,000 Student Riders Demonstration Sponsorship, which was introduced this year, was a big bonus and we are grateful for their exceptional support! And Riverside's repeat

enamored by her attention. When she rides, he wears his bright pink bandana on his noseband proudly proclaiming to all that "Jake Loves Deb" and she wears her matching one that announces, "Deb Loves Jake."

It never ceases to amaze us how our horses know instinctively how to respond to the riders that they bond with. Jake senses Deb's needs and adjusts accordingly. If she shifts her balance one direction, he responds to keep her centered in the saddle. If she asks him to do a running walk, he does it willingly and stays in a straight line on the rail to make it easier for her. They move together in a harmony like a beautifully orchestrated piece of music, each one communicating with the other in that special silent language between horse and rider. Even though Deb spends most of her day confined to a wheelchair, she finds freedom and grace when she is riding Jake and he becomes her "legs" for that time. What a beautiful gift that a horse can give to a person. In turn, she gives him lots of love in the form of kisses, hugs, and ginger snaps, his favorite treat.

Deb's and Jake's relationship is a perfect example of how the Dream Catchers horses enrich the lives of our students. Thank you for supporting Dream Catchers in order to make such unique relationships possible.

The DGD Cancer Schmancer!:) Scholarship has been established in Deb's honor to provide scholarships to students riding at Dream Catchers with an active diagnosis of cancer. Dream Catchers is a PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) previously known as NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped) Premier Center. [www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org](http://www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org)

### Staff Spotlight – Goodbye Wendy!

We are sad to say goodbye to Wendy Cahoon, staff member at Dream Catchers who has served in numerous capacities over the past two years. She has worked in the office, with facilities and barn crew, and helped coordinate volunteers. She has also been our on-call photographer at times and a general "go-to" person for whatever the biggest need is at the moment. Wendy always had a smile on her face and a kind word for anyone who entered the barn. She served our students and horses with great passion, and she is going to be missed by all of us – human and equine alike!

We wish Wendy the best as she and her husband Mark move to sunny Florida for some fun in the sun, and just can't thank her enough for her many contributions to Dream Catchers. Wendy, you will be missed!



### Student Riding Demo



We are very proud of our eight students who participated in this year's **Bridles & Bow Ties Student Riding Demonstration** sponsored by Dominion Virginia Power! Several instructors worked for months to develop the choreography for this crowd favorite part of the event. The girls, Brittany Bracy, Mollie Trainum, Maggie Hayes and Freedom Smith "wow-ed" the audience with their pattern which was performed to the tune of "What Is It With Girls and Horses." The boys, JD Tressler, Mathieu Trezza, Eric Gonsalves and Sefi Retzlaff displayed

sponsorships of \$3,500 for our Live Auctions in 2010 and 2011 have been instrumental in the event's continued success!

We are also eternally grateful for our priceless volunteers who contribute the most precious gifts of all – their time and passion!



their riding skills to the song "Mamma Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys." And finally, with the song "Firework," our talented students performed a very intricate drill pattern with three independent riders trotting around the arena! Congratulations to our riders for such a memorable

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 27 - July 04, 2011 • No LESSONS

Jun 28, 2011 • Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Jul 05, 2011 • Summer Session Begins

Jul 05 - 09, 2011 • Ice Cream Week

Jul 09, 2011 • New Volunteer Orientation, 2 - 4 pm

Jul 16, 2011 • Grooming and Tacking Clinic, 2-4pm

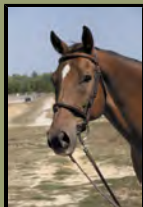
Jul 26, 2011 • Annual Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Aug 27 - 28, 2011 • Annual Horse Show

Sep 27, 2011 • Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Oct 25, 2011 • Board Meeting, 5:30 pm

Nov 29, 2011 • Board Meeting, 5:30 pm



### **"From the Horse's Mouth"**

*by Lelia Tench*

#### **Summer Slobbers**

As the seasons change and summer rolls back around, horse owners pack away those winter blankets, stock up on fly spray, and hang up stall fans. Here at Dream Catchers, we bring in our horses during the day to offer them a moment of peace from the sun's rays and pesky flies. At night, however, they are free to roam their pastures and become the culprit of one messy problem.

Have you ever gone to catch your horse in the morning and seen a long line of drool hanging from his mouth? Or gone to slip the bit in and gotten drenched by a mouth full of sticky saliva? These horses probably have what is appropriately known as slobbers.

In the late spring and during the summer, a large amount of rain can result in the appearance of different kinds of clover and other legumes, such as alfalfa, popping up in fields. The wet weather can produce a fungus called *Rhizoctonia leguminicola*, more commonly known as black patch, which has a symbiotic relationship with the clover. There will be bronze to black spots or rings on the leaves and stems of the forage, and the fungus produces slaframine or the slobber factor. Thanks to this fungus, many horses will return to their stalls drooling profusely.

Thankfully, the fungus itself is not poisonous to horses but horse owners should take care of their horses so they don't get dehydrated, especially in this hotter weather. Provide plenty of water and electrolytes, as horses with a bad case of the slobbers can lose up to twelve or fifteen gallons of water a day. Take your horse off that pasture and provide some hay and the excessive drooling should disappear in two to three days. However, we always need to be careful because horses can also drool from choke, a physical injury to their mouth or jaw, or even a disease called vesicular stomatitis.

So if you've got a drooling pony or two, the Dream Catchers staff and volunteers hope these hints can help you stop your horse from having a nasty occurrence of the summer slobbers. As always, those at Dream Catchers do a wonderful job of taking care of the horses throughout the year.

## Rotary Club of the Historic Triangle Golf Tournament



On Friday May 20th, the Rotary Club hosted their annual golf tournament at Ford's Colony and selected Dream Catchers as this year's charity beneficiary. Our

own Wade Johnson captained the winning team! Other Board Members, Nan Strader and Mike Derrig, also recruited foursomes and supported this

performance! Special thanks to their families, who drove their children to the practices every Monday for 4 weeks prior and sat through repeated drill patterns in 90 degree heat!

## Dominion Virginia Power Delivers "Horse Power" to Dream Catchers

Thirty-five employees from Dominion Virginia Power recently participated in a Volunteer Work Day at Dream Catchers and presented us with a \$5,000 check for a major Bridles & Bow Ties sponsorship! Special Dream Catcher thank you's and "shout outs" for Scott Bracy, Shift Manager – Regional



Operations Center East, who organized the event and for Melanie Beale, External Affairs Manager – Eastern Region, who was instrumental in securing this sponsorship for the Student Riding Demo! We were honored that Rodney Blevins, Dominion Vice President, toured our facility, observed student lessons, presented the \$5,000 check and shared Dominion's philosophy for community partnerships and service!

Five Dominion Virginia Power employees know first-hand the power of Dream Catchers - their children ride in our programs! It was an extra special day for the Bracy and Gonsalves Families who participated in this Volunteer Work Day and shared their success stories about the benefits of therapeutic riding.

Thanks to the efforts of Dominion Virginia Power, our outdoor riding arena is now lighted and we can offer more lessons and extended schedules. In addition to the awesome new exterior lighting, the work day included many landscaping projects which helped to beautify our facility just in time for Bridles & Bow Ties!

## Check out the gorgeous new raised stone landscape beds!

The efforts of three generous donors have teamed up and we now have beautiful new raised stone landscape beds filled with colorful shrubs and cheerful flowers!

- The Green Springs Garden Club provided the funds for Dream Catchers to purchase the plants and flowers for these new beds. (These generous ladies also provided funds last year for us to purchase the cozy furniture on the front porch and under the pergola).
- Extra Mile Landscaping donated the labor and provided the equipment and some of the stone for these handsome new beds.
- And our creative and talented landscape designer/Board Member, Barb Schuler, designed and directed this project which further showcases our incredible facility and property.



Thank you Barb Schuler, Extra Mile Landscaping & The Green Springs Garden Club!

**event for Dream Catchers! Dream Catchers was presented with a \$3,000 donation by this Rotary Club on June 22nd. Our thanks to Mark Tisone and the Rotary Club for their generosity to us!**

## Dream Catchers Legacy Society

Williamsburg recently celebrated Leave a Legacy Month! Leave a Legacy – Greater Williamsburg is part of the Williamsburg Community Foundation. Legacy Giving (also known as Planned Giving) is critical to the long range planning for Dream Catchers! Your legacy gift helps ensure that the extraordinary programs offered at Dream Catchers will “live on” for future generations. Don’t think that legacy giving is only for the wealthy....we welcome donations large and small....you just need to designate a gift to Dream Catchers in your will or trust. Once you have designated a gift in your will or trust, you will be part of our Dream Catchers Legacy Society. For more information, please call Terry Jacoby at 757-566-1775, or speak with your financial advisor or your attorney.

**Show your support for Dream Catchers with your purchase of t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, travel mugs, coffee mugs, water bottles and more. Stop by the Admin building to say hello and do a little shopping.**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Our riders pay only a portion of the real cost of lessons. The balance of our operating costs is generated through fundraising. Your gift enables Dream Catchers to maintain a safe and thriving equine facility -- happy, healthy horses; knowledgeable, nurturing instructors; and well-trained, conscientious volunteers. We depend on your financial gifts as well as your precious gift of time! We are always looking for volunteers of all ages to support the dreams that our humble organization helps come true!

## The Director's Corner by Nancy Paschall

### Wow! What a SPRING!

Bridles and Bow Ties was enormously successful- thanks to those who sponsored tables, donated auction items and raffle items, bought auction packages, raffle tickets, purchased tickets and made donations! On behalf of every person with special needs who finds freedom on the back of a horse, thank you!

We have finished the school groups for the school year—five groups rode this spring alone! Four of those were part of the research study on autism, communication, sensory integration and therapeutic riding. We are actively seeking funding to continue the study with new groups of elementary school children



who are in self contained classes and are diagnosed with autism. Funding this research is CRITICAL to scientifically documenting the positive changes our students experience because of riding. The total cost of the next phase is \$287,362. We have to raise that amount separately from our operations budget, which is over \$600,000. Our hope is to get some funding from individuals, the civic clubs, and the community so we can start the research in September. We are looking for grants, but we won't have any of those funds until later in the year. The second phase of the research will be the beneficiary of the Ford's Colony Ladies 18 Hole Golf Tournament on August 16th- thank you ladies! The preliminary results of the first phase show significant improvement in communication and sensory integration....when the final data is in we will put it on the website—so stay tuned!

We are grateful to the Mary Morton Parson's Foundation for a grant to install lights around the outdoor arena, large fans in the indoor arena, and remodeling for offices in the barn. We will also be installing propane generators to be used in case of emergencies with these funds. Because we are on a well, we must have electricity to provide water for the horses.

Dream Catchers has grown significantly over the past four years. We are serving more students—and we need more volunteers. Our budget has grown to meet the needs of our students. So, please help us to help our students find freedom on the back of our horses—come volunteer and donate—we can't do it without you!

## BIG DREAM CATCHERS CONGRATULATIONS TO LISA REMINGTON-SMITH!

She has been awarded an inaugural Hands for Service Volunteer Grant for her volunteering efforts in the community. Lisa is a Board Member of Dream Catchers and a precious volunteer as well.

Congratulations for receiving this honor. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU!

If you would like to sponsor a horse, sponsor a child, make a donation in honor of a loved one or friend, or would just like to give, please send your donation to:

*Dream Catchers*  
*P.O.Box 1261*  
*Williamsburg, VA 23187*

Call 757.566.1775 or donate online at [www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org](http://www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org)

Thank you for your continued support.

**Dream Catchers on FACEBOOK!**

**We want you!**

Click the Link and [BECOME A FAN](#)

Please send comments or questions about this newsletter to [dcadmin@dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org](mailto:dcadmin@dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org)

Need a printed copy? We will be happy to oblige!

This Issue of The "Neigh"-Borhood News Sponsored By:

# **Dominion Virginia Power**

**Thank you for supporting Dream Catchers!**

Dream Catchers

at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center  
10120 Fire Tower Road, Toano, VA 23168  
757-566-1775

[www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org](http://www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org)