



The Riding Centre News

THE RIDING CENTRE • 1117 E. HYDE RD., YELLOW SPRINGS, OH 45387 • WWW.RIDINGCENTRE.ORG • SPRING 2010



Scenes from Riding Centre's 50th Anniversary Celebration last October: Top left, left to right: Riding Centre Board members and friends Janetta Lewis, Jim Nealon, Katie Moore, Susie Nickels, Marsha Casdorff, Vikki Hazelbaker, Nina Myatt, Carolyn Bailey, and Jalyn Roe. Top right: festive fare for the 50th greeted visitors heading in to the Riding Centre. Bottom left: Carly Bailey cuts the cake for the crowd. Bottom middle: Whisper and Chance enjoy the company of Elliot Wiggins and Windom Mesure. Bottom right: Unfortunately, no chance of Chance getting any of that cake. Alfalfa patties, anyone?

A Time To Remember; A Time To Celebrate

By Jalyn Roe

Oh what a day! It had to be a wonderful day because this day had 50 years of memories and miracles that led up to it. It was Oct. 3, 2009. We all gathered. We came from near and far. There was an undercurrent of excitement and anticipation. After all, we were celebrating the golden anniversary of childhood memories, dreamy summers and horse-filled afternoons. We were celebrating Louise Soelberg and her Riding Centre!

Over 75 people showed up with photos in hand. Like that of many who were there that day, my Riding Centre roots are deep and the memories are vivid. I remember Paint, Don't Tell, Ringo, and Mr. Big Stuff (aka Pinocchio)—the endearing names given to the school horses of my day.

I remember the "Blue & White" imposing bright color scheme spreading out against the aged 100-year-old barn. We

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to share their experiences
... the memories were
personal, yet collective.*

had blue and white lead ropes, trotting poles and cavalettis; the barrels in the ring sported the Centre's "team colors." The school horses even had blue & white headbands that glared through their forelocks. Louise herself often wore a blue blouse with white pearl earrings, no doubt reflecting an elegance that was left over from a more sophisticated era in her life in another place and time.

One by one, people came to the microphone to share their Riding Centre experiences and personal memories. We applauded, nodded our heads while stories

were being told, laughed and even cried at some of the thoughts shared—the memories were personal yet collective.

Current Cuisine provided refreshments, the Back Forty Blues Band sang in the background, and who can forget the blue and white Riding Centre M&M's? This truly was a special day; it truly was a special time.

Louise's daughter Jessica sent a letter to help paint a picture of her mother for this new Riding Centre generation. She wrote about her mother rediscovering her love of horses when Jessica became horse crazy as a young girl.

She shared a story in her letter about Louise: "She used to tell me about the time during her childhood in Seattle when she and a friend would wait (on their horses) at the edge of a busy road and when the cars

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would come by, they would ride pell-mell down the steep hill next to the road just to scare the people in the cars. This was probably around 1915 or so”

There was silence among our Centre reunion audience because I don't think any of us, in our wildest dreams, could picture Louise Soelberg riding “pell-mell” down a hill—laugh! But it was nice to visualize in one's mind, juxtaposed against the exquisitely elegant Louise we all remember.

Jessica wrote about the courageous step Louise took when she approached Antioch College with the idea that grew into the Riding Centre.

She also talked about the house with no electricity (Louise called it the “hovel”). And we all know the “sledgehammer story.” If there was a fireplace behind the wall, Louise would move in. There was; she did. Jessica introduced us to the horses of her day—Trooper, Big John, Pepper, Dandy, Bonfire, Sandman, and of course, Tosca.

She explained that Louise believed the young people of Yellow Springs needed somewhere to come and learn the techniques and discipline of English riding. As

a dancer, Louise knew that discipline and hard work were important if you were going to succeed at something. Jessica asked us to forgive her for her “reminiscing,” but after all, isn't that why we were there?

Yes, the school horse names may have changed to Salty, Honey Pepper, and Chipper (we had a Mr. Chips), but Louise's essence remains. As the day was winding down, Lori, a new Riding Centre mom, leaned over and said softly, “Look. Carolyn has on pearl earrings.” We both smiled.

People may pass through your life for only a moment, but their memory can last a lifetime. And so it is with Louise Soelberg.

I would like to personally thank the Riding Centre Board, the riding students and horse boarders, and close to my heart,

Carolyn (Myatt) Bailey for keeping Louise's dream alive and well.

Every dream has wings, and Louise Soelberg gave us ours. And for that, I say “thank you.”

If you missed this extraordinary anniversary celebration but would still like to show your support, I encourage you to please send your tax-deductible contributions to the Riding Centre to help other young riders “dream.”

Jalyn (Jones) Roe, along with Gale Brown was the first certified instructor for the Riding Centre's Therapeutic Riding Program. They raised the start-up funds to launch the program that continues to thrive today under the instruction of Riding Centre Director, Carolyn Bailey. 🐾

50 Years Of Serious “Fun”—raising

2009's fundraising season began with what we like to do best—eat. Susie Nickels organized a day at City Bar-B-Q in Beavercreek. The Riding Centre got 25% of the purchase proceeds from anyone who had our special coupon. Easy, fun and yummy!

Marsha Casdorff runs the spring and fall Centered Riding clinics like a well-oiled machine. **Elaine Meredith Steele's** reputation is spreading, making the clinics more and more popular. With **Mark French** donating his frequent flier miles, they are very successful fundraisers.

Dressage shows at The Riding Centre are becoming a must for area enthusiasts. **Charlene Carlson** is an expert at scheduling, so the spring and fall shows run smoothly. We have quite a colorful turnout of different breeds and types. It's fun to watch the distinct styles of each horse and rider.

The Hunter show is always exciting. We had perfect weather this year and a huge turnout. **Carolyn Bailey** and her crew of volunteers managed to keep it organized and moving, while judge, **Jim Nealon**, kept it safe and controlled. We were all glad to have survived the day!

Susie Nickels got the used tack sale going again at the spring shows . . . always a big success.

Our biggest fundraiser this year was **The Riding Centre's 50th Anniversary cel-**

ebration. The response to the \$50-for-50 campaign was wonderful. Many thanks to **Jean (McCally) Tebay** and **Jenny Cowperthwaite-Ruka** for coming up with so many addresses of past and present Riding Centre supporters to make a database that can be used for years to come. Carolyn and company pulled off a great party!

Helping us become even more technologically current, **Vikki Hazelbaker** and **Elizabeth DeForest** spent many hours putting together a wonderful power-point presentation. Much better than our old slide show!

The **Springfield Foundation**, **The Springfield Rotary Club**, **The Della Selsor Trust** and **The Dayton Foundation** continued their loyal support of The Riding Centre. Many thanks to **Vikki Hazelbaker**, **Janetta Lewis**, **Carolyn Bailey** and **Gail** and **Joe Deering** for keeping the grants coming!

And, of course, we continue to thank the **Glen Helen Ecology Institute** for allowing us to reside in the beautiful glen.

At the 50th Anniversary party, it was evident that the passion for The Riding Centre sparked by Louise Soelberg 50 years ago is still burning strong today. Our volunteers, staff and supporters show this in their continued dedication that keeps us on a strong foundation even in troubled times. Thank You! 🐾

The Riding Centre

Staff Members:

Carolyn Bailey,
Manager and Head Instructor
Carly Bailey, Greg Fry, Sara and Yana Garing, Jody Garrett,
Ona Harshaw, Adriene Kramer,
Emily Moore, Katie Moore,
Elizabeth Rigsby

Board of Directors:

Janetta Lewis, *President*
Jim Nealon, *Vice President*
Marsha Casdorff, *Secretary*
Charlene Carlson, Vikki Hazelbaker,
Katie Moore, Susie Nickels

Newsletter:

Editor: Jim Nealon
Contributors: Carolyn Bailey,
Marsha Casdorff, Adriene Kramer,
Janetta Lewis, Jalyn Roe
Photographer: Joe Herbert
Design & Production: Matt Minde

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Centered Riding at the Riding Centre— A Profile of Elaine Meredith Steele

By Adriene Kramer,
Level II Centered Riding Instructor

It was while working at a guest ranch in north Idaho that I had the privilege of meeting Elaine Meredith Steele. She was working as the barn manager and head instructor. After many long days of work, it came to light that Elaine was originally from Dayton. More importantly, she still has family within Greene County. We brainstormed an idea where she could visit her relatives while donating a Centered Riding® clinic to the Riding Centre. That was in the spring of 2002. The first clinic was well received by everyone involved. Elaine has been returning every spring and fall since then.

Elaine became involved with Centered Riding when she was living in Michigan and her children were in 4-H. She brought the Centered Riding concept with her to the guest ranch in Idaho. The ranch em-

**Every time she visits us,
Elaine re-establishes
the basics...and brings
something new.**

braced the ideology. The owners and staff quickly noticed the benefits received by the guests and horses alike. The horses were happier at their jobs, more sound and were carrying the guests up and down the mountains with more ease. Happy horses make for happy guests!

Centered Riding is an innovative way of explaining the classical principles of riding. Created by Sally Swift, it utilizes body awareness, centering, and imagery to allow clearer communication between horse, rider and instructor. Sally was able to apply these ideas to her riding when she was diagnosed with scoliosis. Centered Riding is based upon knowledge of human and horse anatomy, balance and movement. It uses centering and grounding techniques as in oriental martial arts. Centered Riding helps us to replace bad habits with a more balanced and coordinated use of self, which allows both horse and rider to



Elaine Meredith Steele and hooved co-worker.

move more freely and comfortably. It was through years of body awareness lessons that Sally Swift was able to shed her back brace that she wore for many years. Centered Riding can help all styles of riding.

Elaine's unique and wonderful instruction benefits everyone within earshot (including the casual passerby). She currently travels worldwide to teach clinics. Elaine is kind, has an infectious laugh and is eager to share what she is currently working on. Every time she visits us, Elaine re-establishes the basics of Centered Riding and brings something new for us to try out. It is rewarding and inspiring to watch the partnerships between horse and rider blossom under Elaine's knowledgeable eye.

Continuing with the tradition, we are going to see Elaine in 2010. Her spring clinic will be held April 30th through May 2nd and she will return in the fall from October 22nd through the 24th. Not only are the clinics fun and personally challenging, but the information can be applied to every day living. We love being able to practice our "riding" when we are driving in a car or sitting behind a desk. Even if you do not ride a horse, it is likely you'll pick up a helpful hint or two. Please feel free to come by, meet Elaine, watch a session and see what you might learn. It will be worth your time to see the joy Elaine has for Centered Riding and life. 🐾

Our List of Contributors...

...and how you can join it!

- Adopt a Horse (yearly)\$1200
- Adopt a Dog (yearly)\$50
- Adopt a Cat (yearly)\$35

Donate towards:

- Endowment, Buildings,
- Special Projects,
- General Fund.....(Any amount)

Become a Member

- Lifetime\$500
- Corporate (yearly)\$1000
- Blue Ribbon (yearly)\$100
- Supporting (yearly)\$25

Riding:

- Family (yearly)\$100
- Individual (yearly)\$75

Special thanks to:

Brad Luckenbill, Ralph Jones, and Allen Metz who keep our horses up and running. Also, Cedarville University for providing volunteers for our therapeutic program. Without these folks we could not do such wonderful work.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS:

Lifetime Members

- Mary Agna
- Jessica L. Andrews
- Adrian & Joysan Edwards
- Pat Funderburg
- Vikki & Dale Hazelbaker
- Adriene Kramer
- Nina Myatt
- Ann Taylor
- Jean McCally Tebay
- Timothy W. Toothman

- Mark French & Jim Nealon
- Birch Robinson-Hubbuch & Jocelyn Robinson

Individual:

- Annette Biehler
- Jenna Boettcher
- Beverly Brown
- Lynn Caldwell
- Ann Cooper
- Candice Frank
- JoAnn Gentry
- Rebecca Gentry
- Joe Herbert
- Debra Huelsman
- Sue Hughart
- Judy Keefner
- Janetta Lewis
- Brooke Lundberg
- Sarah Maxwell
- Grace McCoskey
- Liz Mersky
- Laurie Miller
- Brandee Naff
- Susie Nickels
- Jill O'Banion
- Linda Parsons
- Celeste Robinson
- Alma Shipley
- Jyl Snyder
- Christine Stewart
- Lizzie Stoermer
- Stephanie Williamson
- Diane Wilson

Contributing Members

Blue Ribbon:

- Francesca, Regina, Bob Brecha & Katie Seidl
- Cindy Minton & Steve Piatt
- Jenifer Cowperthwaite
- Ruka & Raymond Ruka
- Jane & Arnold Scott

Rider Members

Family:

- Carly, Carolyn & Chris Bailey
- Anna Williamson & Marsha Casdorff
- Nora & Patty Erhardt
- Sara & Yana Garing
- Kenny, Zoey, Rachel & Doug McKinley

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

Businesses

- AC Service
- Ball Corporation
- Burly Man Cleaning
- City Barbeque
- Cooper Industries
- Cooper Security
- Current Cuisine
- Dale R. Hazelbaker
- DDS
- Kelley & Co.

- Ocean Marketing
- The Tacky Horse
- OSU Vet Hosp.

Foundations and Organizations

- Della Selsor Trust
- Dayton Foundation
- Morgan Family Foundation
- Springfield Foundation

Shooting for the Moon—

The Riding Centre's Big Wish List

Thanks to many donors, the Riding Centre continues to improve its facilities. Often contributors ask, "What else do you need?" We can answer that! The following list contains items that we could really use:

Overhead Wash Rack Arm—To use in our washing area to keep hoses off the ground and horses safer ~ \$100

Water King—To water our new sand

and rubber outdoor arena, ~ \$2,000

Gently used tack—To be sold at our tack sales

Great Retirement Homes for Our Horses —Priceless!

If you would like to donate an item, or make a contribution to help acquire one or more, please contact the Riding Centre, (937) 767-9087.

Just wondering—

Cold dogs, cool cats

We know all the horses at the Riding Centre are well-set when bitter winter weather comes around, what with warm stables and snug blankets. But what about the other creatures who call the Centre home? Well, cats Elliott and Hobo mostly sleep all winter in the tack room on a soft pad. Our vet once said that he wanted to come back as a Riding Centre cat! Bogy, the black lab-border collie mix, also has his bed in the tackroom, but comes out regularly to nose around.

Did you Re-Member?

Have you renewed your membership for 2010? For insurance purposes, no one outside the lesson program is allowed to ride on Riding Centre property unless they are a current member. This includes guests. A guest membership can be purchased for \$10 a day.

Riding Centre property includes the McCally Barn and arena, the hunt field, the woods beside the hunt field, and the commons area. **A helmet must be worn at all times while mounted on Riding Centre property.**

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

(continued from Page 3)

- Springfield Rotary
- YSCC
- YSCF
- Individuals**
- Mary & Jim Agna
- Phyllis & John Ashworth (In memory of Joann Mahle)
- Carly Bailey
- Carolyn & Chris Bailey
- Rosemary & Jim Bailey
- Bob Baldwin
- Myra & DJ Banion
- Sharon & Russell Bell
- Katherine Berg
- Daphne & Fred Berge
- Annette Biehler
- Barbara Boettcher
- Kathleen & Nick Boutis
- Katie Seidl & Bob Brecha
- Regina Brecha
- Beverly Brown
- Charleen & Jim Carlson
- Eamonn Cary
- Polo Chaikwang
- Hanora & Chuck Cloz
- Pam Conine
- Ruth Cowperthwaite
- Gail & Joe Deering
- Elizabeth DeForest
- Donna Demchuk
- Liz Dunn
- Diane Dubose
- Sam & Eddie Eckenrode
- Joysan Edwards
- Jon Ellison
- Patty & Peter Erhardt
- Clara Ezekiel
- Laurel Finch
- Bob Funderburg Jr
- Yana & Dave Garing
- Jody Garrett
- Lari Graver
- Liz Blacklock & John Grote
- Ona Harshaw
- Vikki & Dale Hazelbaker
- Ann Cooper & Bruce Heckman
- Lori Kuhn & Karl Hendrickson
- Molly Hendrickson
- Joe Herbert
- Betty & Martin Hileman
- Sarah Hileman
- Cara & Chris Hume
- Patsy Kahoe
- Pam King
- Anna Kingsbury
- Marjorie Kingsbury
- Bonnie Knuckles
- Jane Krause
- Shirly Kristensen
- Janetta & Jeff Lewis
- Adriene Kramer & Jeff May
- Sarah Maxwell
- Christina Cassell & Mike McCally
- Grace McCoskey
- Lisa & Terry McCoskey
- Trish McCoy
- Jane McGuinnis
- Judy & Dan McGregor
- Kathleen McMillan
- Liz Mersky
- Sylvia Ellison & Craig Mesure
- Vicky Owens & Gene Milgram
- Katie Moore
- Suzanne Wagner
- Morand
- Mary & Ross Morgan
- Nina Myatt
- Jean & James Nealon
- Mark French & Jim Nealon
- Susie & Rick Nickels
- Margaret & Larry Ostroski
- Regan Parker
- Cindy Minton & Steve Piatt
- Gilah Pomeranz
- Melinda & Jeff Quast
- Celeste Robinson
- Jocelyn Robinson
- Jenny Cowperthwaite
- Ruka & Raymond Ruka
- Jalyn & Steven Roe
- Emily Hollister Seçen
- Andrew Sherwood
- Alma Shipley
- Donna Silcott
- Jane & Arnold Smith
- Elaine Meredith Steele
- Christine Stewart
- Libby & Mark Stewart
- Melinda & Bill Stoerner
- Ann Taylor
- Jean McCally Tebay
- Jessica L. Andrews & Timothy W. Toothman
- Megan Trolander
- Patty & Quint Turner
- Carol VanAusdal
- Maria Varandani
- Nancy & Rick Viramontes
- Jeri & John Weikle
- Mary Anna & Gary Welch
- Monica & Richard Whitty
- Bambi Williams
- Anna Williamson
- Marsha Casdorff & David Williamson
- Debra Williamson
- Gloria Wolff
- Sandy Love & Sam Young

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 17	OperaCadabra magically reappears!
May 1-2	Centered Riding Clinic with Elaine Meredith Steele
May 22	Dressage Show & Tack Sale
23	Hunter Show & Tack Sale
September 11	Dressage Show
October 22-24	Centered Riding Clinic with Elaine Meredith Steele
December 5	Riding Centre Assoc. Members' Meeting & Potluck

For Dayton Local Show Circuit dates, call The Riding Centre at (937) 767-9087

THE RIDING CENTRE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING FOUNDATIONS:

Yellow Springs Community Council, United Way, Glen Helen Ecology Institute, Springfield Foundation, Dayton Foundation, Springfield Rotary Club, Morgan Family Foundation, and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation

