

ST. CROIX TRAIL BLAZERS

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 21 | APRIL 2021

Sentiments from Sylvia

It has been eight years since my husband, Hollis, designed the Jasmine Meadows riding arena/barn. Upon completion, the Trail Blazers program moved in with about 15 riders. Friends of our family often ask, "How are the Trail Blazers doing?" Although I have no involvement in the operation of the Trail Blazers, other than Enthusiastic support, I respond, "Great! The program has grown to 61 riders ranging in age from grade schoolers to adults." It is the good fortune of the program to have dedicated and talented staff. Since my grandson, Micah, has Autism it is often assumed all participants have Autism. All are challenged in some way, physically or emotionally.

Another question asked, "How did the program survive the pandemic of the past

months?" It was a challenge, of course, but the staff and volunteers followed the guidelines of the CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, and Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship and circumvented the virus. The welfare

of the horses is of concern to friends. "Did they stay outdoors during the very cold days in February?" "Yes, some days they needed their warm blankets and they grew long furry hair, but the horses fared well."

An important feature of the Trail Blazers program which I love to share is their involvement with

Special Olympics every August during a competition held in North Branch, MN. Riders train throughout the year to participate. This distinguishes the program from others in the area. Go Trail Blazers!

-Sylvia

If you fail, never give up because **F.A.I.L.** means **First Attempt In Learning**

End is not the end. In fact, **E.N.D.** means **Effort Never Dies**

If you get no as an answer, remember **N.O.** means **Next Opportunity**

Grant Awarded

Thank you to John C. and Sally S. Morley Family Foundation, Spence Morley, and Cleveland Foundation for awarding us

a grant for the 2021 year. Your support and recognition of the needs of our program are greatly appreciated.

MISSION

St. Croix Trail Blazers' missions are to provide horseback riding, training, and competitive sports opportunities to individuals with special needs in a safe, learning environment through the adaptive equine experience and provide therapeutic riding and activities for active duty or veteran military personnel to enhance their physical, emotional, and social well-being.

In This Issue

Sentiments from Sylvia	page 1	Did You Know	page 4
Grant Awarded	page 1	Make-Up Reminder	page 4
Riders in the Spotlight	page 2	Our Email Addresses	page 5
Meet Our Newest Instructor	page 2	\$50 Off Riding Fee	page 5
Did You Know	page 3	Reminder	page 5

Rider in the Spotlight: Erica

SCTB: How long have you been riding with St. Croix Trail Blazers?

Erica: Four years.

SCTB: What horse(s) do you ride?

Erica: Diezel, Willow, and Mister

SCTB: Do you have a favorite horse?

Erica: Willow



SCTB: What is your favorite thing about riding?

Erica: Being with the horses.

SCTB: Do you have any hobbies?

Erica: Horseback riding, drawing water towers and cell towers to become an architect someday.

SCTB: Do you play other sports?

Erica: No.

Rider in the Spotlight: Johan

SCTB: How long have you been riding with St. Croix Trail Blazers?

Johan: I've been riding for about three years now.

SCTB: What horse(s) do you ride?

Johan: Either Mister or Epic.

SCTB: Do you have a favorite horse?

Johan: Diezel, maybe.

SCTB: What is your favorite thing about riding?

Johan: Being with a horse.



SCTB: Do you have any hobbies?

Johan: Playing video games, board games, watching history videos, and horse riding.

SCTB: Do you play other sports?

Johan: Used to do Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, used to play soccer, and swim for fun.

SCTB: Anything else you want to add?

Johan: I have a cat named Blackie who I rescued in Mexico seven years ago.

Meet Our Newest Instructor

By now, most of you have probably met Allison "Allie" McMahon. She is the latest instructor St. Croix Trail Blazers has added to our awesome team of instructors!

Allie is a 2019 graduate from St. Catherine University where she obtained her degree in communication studies and human resources. She currently works full-time in human resources for a corporation in Bloomington.

Apart from her professional life, Allie enjoys spending time with her family, friends, significant other, and her dog. Her hobbies include hiking, photography, writing, and traveling. Her favorite place in the world is the cabin.

Allie began riding horses around the age of seven when she took English lessons.

Continued on page 3

Continued from Meet Our Newest Instructor on page 2

She then transitioned to Western lessons. She also attended Girl Scout Camp during the summers to take part in their horse programs. In 2016, she became a horseback riding specialist for the Girl Scouts and has continued to help grow their riding programs since. She trains the program horses to fit camp needs, is a trail



guide lead, and teaches everything from horse anatomy, health, equipment, grooming, safety, to ground and riding lessons. Working with people and horses is a great passion of Allie's. She is excited to have joined St. Croix Trail Blazers in 2020 as a volunteer and now as an instructor.

Did You Know...

...that a horse can have a combination of facial and leg markings? Facial and leg markings are great ways to identify a horse. Each marking has a name and is universal among horses. However,

no two combinations are alike and each one reminds us that every horse is unique just like your fingerprints are unique to you. A horse may have no markings at all or a combination of them.

	<p>Bald: A bald face is covered with a much wider white marking. The white area extends from the forehead to the nose and from side to side beyond the eye area to the cheek bones. The whole nose and muzzle area can be white. It is not uncommon to see bald faced horses with blue eyes. This also makes their noses susceptible to sunburn.</p>
	<p>Blaze: A blaze covers the whole bridge of the nose from the forehead down to the nose and is much wider than a stripe. Blazes can be symmetrical or wander down the face unevenly. Horses with a blaze often have a pink nose making them susceptible to sunburn.</p>
	<p>Snip: A snip is a patch of white on the horse's nose. It appears between the top and bottom of the nostrils. It can vary in size.</p>
	<p>Star: A star is a white mark on the horse's forehead between the eyes. A faint star may only appear as a few white hairs or the star can be large enough to cover the entire forehead. The star is the most common mark on the face. It does not have to actually look like a star to fit into this category.</p>

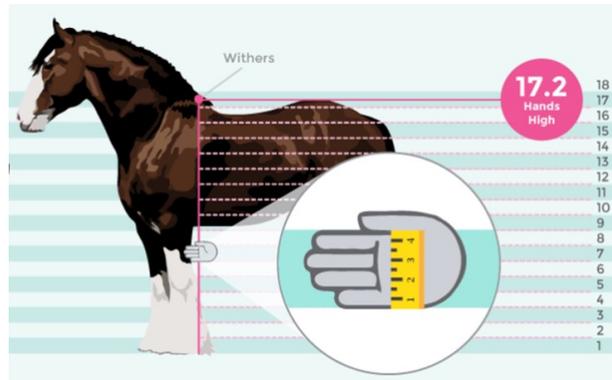
Continued on page 4

Continued from Did You Know... on page 3

	<p>Stripe: A stripe is a band of white that extends in more or less an even stripe down the bridge of the nose. It may connect to a star at the top and extends to the white markings on the horse's nose. It can also be broken so there are three separate facial markings – a star, stripe, and snip. The stripe is never more than two inches wide and stays on top of the nasal bone.</p>				
	<p>Coronet: A coronet is a small band of white just above the hoof.</p>		<p>Full Sock: A full sock is a white mark that extends from the edge of the hoof halfway up the middle of the leg.</p>		<p>Half Sock: A half sock is a white mark that extends from the edge of the hoof two-thirds up the way up the leg.</p>
	<p>Pastern: A pastern is a white mark that extends from the edge of the hoof halfway up the pastern.</p>		<p>Stocking: A stocking is a white mark that extends from the edge of the hoof to the knee or hock.</p>		

Did You Know...

...that a horse's height is measured in hands? When standard measuring tools did not exist, a "hand" was the unit of measurement and continues to be the standard measurement today. One hand equals four inches. The horse is measured from



the ground to the top of the withers. Vanna is 14.1 hands tall or 4'9" tall and

Onyx is 16.1 hands tall or 5'5" tall. Today there are much easier methods to measuring a horse's height such as a measuring tape or horse height measuring stick!

Make-Up Reminder



If St. Croix Trail Blazers cancels your lesson, you will have a make-up lesson. **You have 30 days to schedule that lesson with Kellie.** Please do so by email so there is a written record: kellie@stcroixtrailblazers.org.

Thanks!

Our Email Addresses

You can reach these people at their email addresses:

Karen:
karen@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Kellie:
kellie@stcroixtrailblazers.org



Please remember to check your spam or junk folder for any updates from St. Croix Trail Blazers.



If you bring a new rider who joins the team, we'll give you \$50 off your next month's fee!

Rider must pass evaluation with instructor.



If you're not going to make a scheduled lesson, please call us:
 Karen 651-230-2581
 or Kellie 612-207-4127.



Special People Needing Special Horses

Contact Us



Email:
karen@stcroixtrailblazers.org

Website:
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