

Pegasus Post

Fall 2014



PEGASUS

Pegasus student Allison and her jack-o'-lantern show off their best Halloween faces at the 2014 Pumpkin Party.



Congratulations, Marny and Kate!



On October 31, PATH Intl. recognized two members of our Pegasus community as outstanding international representatives of therapeutic riding. Pegasus Clinical Coordinator **Marny Mansfield, OTR**, was named the 2014 PATH Intl. Professional of the Year, and Pegasus student **Kate Ucker** was named the 2014 PATH Intl. Youth Equestrian of the Year. Congratulations to Marny and Kate on their well-deserved awards, and many thanks to Kate's instructor, **Emily Wygod**, and Kate's parents, **Susan and Bill Neithardt**, for all their help and support. Pictured above are (l. to r.) Marny, Kate, Susan, Emily and Bill at the PATH Intl. awards banquet, which took place at the annual PATH Intl. conference.

Casablanca Hosts Event for Pegasus

Many thanks to **Serendipity** magazine and **Casablanca** international clothing and polo equipment company for co-hosting an event to benefit Pegasus on October 29. Their shop-for-a-cause cocktail party at Casablanca's Greenwich location raised \$250 in support of our programs and helped us spread awareness about our mission. We greatly appreciate their generosity and look forward to working with them again!

Our New Website and Social Media

Pegasus has been very busy online this year. In addition to our Twitter feed ([@PegasusNYCT](https://twitter.com/PegasusNYCT)) and Facebook page (facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT), we now have a Pegasus channel on YouTube and a LinkedIn profile. Best of all, you can get to all four sites from our new Pegasus website (pegasustr.org)!

Our new Internet home is packed with photos, news, events, horse profiles and other program information, and it links to our YouTube videos right from the home page. For Pegasus participants, volunteers and staff, it's the first place to look for weather-related scheduling changes or other important announcements. Come on by the new site and see what we've been up to lately!

Calendar for a Cause—Our Horses!

Ahoj, mateys, the 2015 Horsing Around calendar is here! This year's theme is silly and obscure holidays, and as you can see, our boy Chip makes a mighty fine pirate—a pirate Chip, actually! Calendars are \$20



each (plus shipping), and all proceeds will benefit Chip and his fellow therapeutic horses. In our humble opinion, they are some of the most amazing creatures on the planet, and they deserve all the TLC they can get. The Horsing Around calendar is a fun, inexpensive holiday gift for any horse lover, and it benefits a great cause. To purchase yours, stop by the administrative office at Pegasus Farm, contact **Christine Fitzgerald** at (845) 669-8235 x108 or cfitzgerald@pegasustr.org, or message us on Facebook.

Haviland Hollow Charity Cup 2014

Many thanks to **Sam and Fabiana Ramirez** of Haviland Hollow Farm in Patterson, N.Y., for hosting a fantastic charity polo event on September 20 to benefit our Wings program and The Rider's Closet.

The event included several exhibition polo matches, a gourmet luncheon catered by Farmer & the Fish, a silent auction and a DJ dance party to end the day. More than 250 guests came out to support the event and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful fall weather at the farm. We look forward to an even bigger and better Charity Cup 2015!

Special thanks to all of Sam's colleagues who assisted with the planning, our team of dedicated Pegasus volunteers who helped out during the day, and the many generous sponsors and guests who supported our programs.



Pegasus Hosts PATH Intl. Workshops



Pegasus hosted a series of PATH Intl. instructor workshops and certifications in October, and a number of Pegasus staff members were among the participants who earned their certifications. Several other staff members also earned certifications this year at PATH workshops hosted outside of Pegasus.

Congratulations to **Kate Hickcox-Howard**, **Kelly Slonaker**, and **Laura Stringer**, who are now Registered Level Instructors; **Liz Fortes** and **Danielle Yacko**, who earned their PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certifications; and **Emily Wygod**, who earned her Advanced Level certification, completed the mentor training course and joined Liz in completing the evaluator training course.

Congratulations as well to **Jen Spanedda**, who completed her instructor-in-training teaching hours at Pegasus and earned her Registered Level certification.

Thank you to **Marny Mansfield** and **Lorrie Renker** for organizing and conducting the workshops.

Fall News from Our Regional Chapters

FOX HILL FARMS – Pleasantville, NY

We have a small but close-knit group of participants and volunteers at Fox Hill this fall, and everyone is having a lot of fun. Instructor **Lynn Peters** notes that the horses have been wonderful, the volunteers are very dedicated and the students each have made fantastic progress with their riding skills. Special thanks to **Trish Ridenour** for assisting Lynn in the barn and the ring.

KELSEY FARM – Greenwich, CT

Instructor **Emily Wygod** thanks all her Greenwich volunteers, especially **Kamilla Mrozek**, who soon will be moving to Poland. Kamilla has been a big help in the barn and as a leader and sidewalker in program, and she also assisted with our recent PATH certification. Thank you and we'll miss you, Kamilla!

OX RIDGE HUNT CLUB – Darien, CT

Program is humming right along at Ox Ridge this fall. Instructor **Lois Brockmann** reports that riders and volunteers had a great time at this year's Halloween activities and loved guessing which apple their horse would eat during apple bobbing. It's not only a crowd pleaser, it's Jessie and Classy's favorite activity!

Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Board of Directors

John Carberry
Joe Cusato

Susan Kozera
Sue McGraw



The Rider's Closet Wish List



The Rider's Closet is currently most in need of women's tall and paddock boots sizes 7-10, men's tall and paddock boots sizes

10-14, and women's show jackets sizes 16-20. To make a tax-deductible clothing donation (no helmets, please) or to request items, visit pegasustr.org/trc for info.

PepsiCo Gives Back Once Again

A huge thank-you to the group of volunteers who chose Pegasus for this year's **PepsiCo Gives Back** day of service on October 16. Thanks as well to **Volunteer New York!** for coordinating the visit. The weather nixed all our outdoor projects, but the group spent the day painting, sorting items for The Rider's Closet, and reorganizing our learning lab.



Pegasus Hosts Special Olympics Event

Pegasus Farm hosted a Special Olympics regional equestrian event on June 14, and eight athletes wowed the crowd with their riding and horsemanship skills. Congratulations to **Emily Butler, Bella Luma, Lindsay Rosenbaum, Matthew McCauley, Alex Pring, Mattie Smith, Kate Ucker** and **Hannah Minskoff-Breede**, who each won multiple medals in the English Equitation, Working Trails - English, and Showmanship events. Special thanks to the many Pegasus volunteers and staff members who helped make this wonderful day possible for our athletes, including **Sally Slater**, our Special Olympics show judge.

Two Thumbs Up for the Horse Show!

Hundreds of family members, friends, volunteers and staff celebrated the achievements of 70 participants at our 33rd Annual Pegasus Horse Show on June 6-7. In addition, a number of special awards were announced. In the rider categories, **Kate Ucker** won the Robert M. Stein Challenge Trophy for Outstanding Rider of the Year, **Samantha Sexton** won the Ann Pinkerton Award for Adult Rider of the Year, and **Coby Kilion** won the Michele Arnhold Independent Rider Award. In the non-rider categories, **Dieter Cakavell** won the Peggy & Bill Larned Award for Most Helpful Volunteer; **Ann Garg** won the Seth A. Armen Junior Volunteer of the Year Award; **Fox Hill Farms**, the host of one of our regional chapters, won the Pat Bugg Award for Special Service and Dedication to Pegasus; and therapeutic horse **Lilly**, owned by Pegasus Clinical Coordinator Marny Mansfield, won the Libby Bartnick Award for Pegasus Therapy Horse of the Year. Congratulations again, everyone!



Who We're Serving

Thanks to our many supporters, hundreds of children and adults benefit from our equine-assisted activities and therapies each year. Here is 2014 by the numbers:

Therapeutic Riding: 150
Horses & Me: 50
Pegasus Patriots: 1
Wings: 100
Summer Equine Experience: 10
Minis on the Move: Hundreds

In Memoriam

This past year, Pegasus was saddened by the loss of two longtime members of our community. Co-founder **Florence Asch** and volunteer **Otto Robert Theurkauf** strongly supported our mission and will be greatly missed by all.

Did You Know?

You can easily and securely make your Pegasus gift via our website? Just visit pegasustr.org and click the **Donate** link at the top. Gifts of any size truly make a difference!

Volunteer Appreciation Week



They are high school students, college students, full-time and part-time workers, stay-at-home parents, retired individuals, New

York residents, and Connecticut residents. They are amazing volunteers who have generously donated **more than 10,000 hours** of their time to Pegasus this year, and we truly appreciate them!

Our second annual Volunteer Appreciation Week, from November 17-22, was an opportunity to let our



volunteers know just how important they are to our mission. Words of appreciation, rounds of applause and tasty little treats were the order of the day at all our chapters (pictured here are our Kelsey Farm and Fox Hill Farms volunteers). In this season of giving thanks, we are most thankful for our hundreds of dedicated, talented, irreplaceable volunteers!

Mary Zwecker: Empowered Woman

Over the summer, independent filmmakers **Kim Rybacki** and **Sean Tracy** asked us if we know a volunteer who is an empowered woman making a difference in her community. We happen to know a few *hundred* women who would fit that



description, but we could only choose one, and it was program volunteer **Mary Zwecker**. Kim and Sean created a wonderful 90-second video of Mary talking about her work with Pegasus and her Friday morning riding lessons. The video was submitted to a company named SCA, which is sponsoring an all-female racing team in the 2014-15 Volvo Ocean Race, a 9-month, 38,000-mile sailing competition. SCA created an "empowered women" video contest as part of the marketing. We haven't heard yet whether Mary's video was selected, but stay tuned to our website for further details and a copy of the video once we're cleared to share it. Go, Mary!

Pegasus Volunteer's Artwork Published



Congratulations to volunteer **Anabeth Bostrup**, whose original artwork "Empire" was selected to appear in the prestigious 2014 Junior Gallery of **The Chronicle of the Horse**, the go-to publication for

amateur and professional equestrians. Anabeth became a Pegasus volunteer in early 2012 and has participated in therapeutic riding lessons as a leader and sidewalker, Horses & Me, and our annual horse show. Anabeth is a rider herself, and her artistry is a beautiful expression of her appreciation for the majestic equine we all know and love.

From Volunteers to Instructors

Over the years, we have noticed a wonderful trend at Pegasus. A growing number of our volunteers have been so inspired by this work that they have become certified instructors. Advanced Level Instructor **Emily Wygod** and Registered Level Instructors **Kate Hickcox-Howard**, **Kelly Slonaker** and **Jennifer Spanedda** each began their relationship with Pegasus as a volunteer and soon discovered they wanted to pursue a career in equine-assisted activities and therapies.

The path from volunteer to instructor is a natural one. Through meaningful interactions with participants, instructors and horses, our volunteers directly connect with the heart of our mission. Through this connection, we often see a true passion for the work take root and grow. If this sounds like you, we encourage you to visit pathintl.org and explore whether instructor certification is in your future.

Volunteers Needed for Winter Program!

Horses & Me begins in January. Contact **Lynn Peters** at **(845) 669-8235 x109** or lpeters@pegasustr.org.

We love to hear from all our Pegasus friends! Keep in touch with us at:

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