

# Pegasus Post

Fall 2013



PEGASUS

WWII veteran Steve makes a new friend in Junior during his Pegasus Patriots session



## Pegasus and the Special Olympics



Congratulations to our Pegasus staff members who are now certified coaches for the Special Olympics! In addition, Pegasus has become an official Special Olympics

New York Training Club, and one of our program participants has already competed in a regional games.

**Katie Ucker**, who rides at Pegasus Farm, registered for three classes on October 5 and won two gold medals and a participation ribbon. Way to go, Katie!

Congrats as well to Katie's coach, **Program Coordinator Emily Wygod**, and cheering section/assistant coaches **Volunteer Manager Lynn Peters**, **Program Director Shelly Pope** and parents **Susan and William Neithardt**. Of course, Katie's therapeutic horse Lilly was a rock star too!

To view photos of Katie and Lilly in action at the Special Olympics, visit us online at [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org) or [facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT).

## Pumpkin Party

Our annual Pumpkin Party on October 19 was a big hit again this year, with all manner of carved and painted masterpieces emerging from humble gourds (Exhibit A, Bella's work of art above). To view a fun slide show, visit us online at [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org) or [facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT).



## We're Now on Facebook and Twitter!



Pegasus has entered the world of social media! We recently launched our Facebook page and Twitter feed, and we're having so

much fun sharing great news, photos and videos with our friends online.

If you're on social media and haven't joined the party yet, we warmly welcome you to like our Facebook page at [facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT) and follow our Twitter feed: [@PegasusNYCT](https://twitter.com/PegasusNYCT). They are the go-to sources for all things Pegasus!

## Calendar for a Cause—Our Horses!

The 2014 Horsing Around calendar is now available, just in time for holiday gift-giving. The limited-edition calendar features our amazing therapeutic horses out and about on Pegasus Farm.



Calendars are \$20 each (plus shipping if required), and all proceeds benefit our Adopt-A-Horse fund to care for our hardworking herd.

Sample photos are posted online at [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org) and [facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT).

Contact **Christine Fitzgerald** at (845) 669-8235 x108, [cfitzgerald@pegasustr.org](mailto:cfitzgerald@pegasustr.org) or via our **Facebook page** to get yours today. Our horses thank you for your support!

## Pegasus Hosts PATH Intl. Workshop



Pegasus hosted our first PATH Intl. instructor certification workshop in October, and we can't wait to do it again!

PATH Intl. is the accrediting body for therapeutic riding organizations such as Pegasus. We are a Premier Accredited Center, the highest level of PATH accreditation. Pegasus is also very fortunate to have several experienced PATH instructors on our staff.

Our most experienced instructor, **Clinical Coordinator Marny Mansfield, OTR**, is not only a PATH Intl. Master Level instructor, she is also a licensed occupational therapist. This is a very rare combination of credentials, and we are privileged to have Marny at Pegasus.

Marny co-taught the workshop with highly experienced PATH Intl. Master Level instructor **Lorrie Renker**. Pegasus **Volunteer Manager Lynn Peters** attended the workshop, and we are very pleased to announce she passed her certification test! Pegasus volunteer Joanna Becker, who completed her training hours at Pegasus Farm, also passed her certification. (An independent instructor administered the tests in Marny's place to avoid any conflict of interest.) Congratulations to all, and many thanks to Marny and Lorrie for sharing their expertise!

To view a slide show of the workshop, visit us online at [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org) or [facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT).

## Join Us in a Warm Pegasus Welcome!

The following staff have joined our team since last fall:

**Linda Powell**, Equine Caregiver

**Kathy Curran**, Equine Caregiver

Welcome aboard, Linda and Kathy!

## Our 2013-2014 Board of Directors

Sue McGraw, President  
Susan Kozera, Treasurer  
Caroline Black, Secretary  
Suzy Berg Bardwil  
Joe Cusato  
Lannie Lipson  
Jamie Prusak

Presidents Emeriti  
Seth Armen (deceased)  
Elizabeth W. Foulk  
Tina M. Theurkauf  
  
Executive Director  
Todd Gibbs

## Fall News from Our Regional Chapters

### FOX HILL FARMS – Pleasantville, NY

The Fox Hill crew is enjoying the fall weather and riding outside. **Barn Staff Member Kate Hickcox** has the Monday program running like a well-oiled machine, and **Program Coordinator Emily Wygod** is excited to be the new Fox Hill instructor. We also welcomed Owen to our Fox Hill team of wonderful therapeutic horses. What a gem! This handsome black Quarter Horse gets along really well with participants **Mark** and **Kathleen**. Mark is all smiles when riding Owen, and Kathleen is doing a great job of learning to be independent on him. We are also thrilled to have such an experienced group of returning volunteers. Joining them is **Christie Sturges**, who jumped in after hearing we were in need of volunteers. She's such a rock star, she stays with us through all our classes!

### KELSEY FARM – Greenwich, CT

Our experienced corps of dedicated volunteers welcomed several new members this fall. We also "hired" two new ponies: Petey, a sweet strawberry roan who loves working in program, and Montana, an adorably fluffy Chincoteague pony who's just getting up to speed. Participants **Nina**, **Daniel** and **Mattie** have joined us this fall, and instructor-in-training **Carly Wieland**, a former volunteer, is working with our most independent riders. All classes are focusing on steering and control this session, and they're doing a great job!

### OX RIDGE HUNT CLUB – Darien, CT

Our Ox Ridge chapter welcomed **Candice Krist** and **Joan Huntley** to our volunteer family. In addition, new volunteer **Katie Pannabecker** has joined us on Mondays. We're also excited **Annie McDevitt** will be stopping by over her college Thanksgiving break. Ox Ridge had a lengthy Halloween celebration, and horses, participants and volunteers alike dressed up and enjoyed Ox Ridge's decorations. Activities included spooky musical stalls, haunted mazes, a monster scavenger hunt and the horses' favorite—apple bobbing. This year, Jessie preferred the yellow apples, and Classy preferred the green. Everyone had a great time guessing which color the horses would catch first!

## The Rider's Closet Wish List



The Rider's Closet is currently most in need of women's tall and paddock boots sizes 7-8.5, adult and children's half chaps, and women's show jackets sizes 4-12. To make a tax-deductible clothing donation (no helmets, please) or to request items, visit [pegasustr.org/trc](http://pegasustr.org/trc) for info.

## Pegasus Participants Shine Online

Several media organizations recently have contacted Pegasus to share our mission with the world. If you love inspirational stories and you love our programs, visit us online at [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org) or [facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT) to enjoy brief but moving videos featuring amazing Pegasus participants **Chris Hynes** and **Talbot Clarke** (photo at right). Chris's won an Emmy for News 12 CT reporter Sarah Hagen, and Talbot's made *The Huffington Post*!



MBIA

## Volunteer Power!

Once again this year, Pegasus was fortunate to welcome two hardworking corporate volunteer groups to Pegasus Farm to lend a hand with big projects on our "to-do" list.

On September 20, a group of 25 **MBIA** employees spent their annual Building Community Bonds day of service helping us get the farm ready for fall.

Volunteers stained our new paddock fencing, groomed planting beds, painted the administrative office, assembled furniture for the conference room, and sanded and stained the arena bleachers and several pieces of outdoor furniture.



PepsiCo

On October 25, a dozen hardy souls from **PepsiCo** spent a chilly day at the farm tackling projects as part of their annual PepsiCo Gives Back day of service.

Volunteers stained more new paddock fencing (yes, we have a lot of it) and repainted and assembled both indoor and outdoor furniture.

Many thanks to everyone who participated this year, and thanks as well to **The Volunteer Center of United Way** for partnering us with PepsiCo.

Slide shows of both groups completing their projects are posted to [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org) and [facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT](https://www.facebook.com/PegasusNYandCT).

## What's Better Than a Cat in a Hat?

Why, a horse in a hat, of course! Mr. Blue is here to remind you that winter is on its way, and you need to keep your noggin (and ears) warm! Buy your comfy **Pegasus hat** for just \$12 today and help support our programs. Contact **Debi Turco** at **(845) 669-8235 x100** or [dturco@pegasustr.org](mailto:dturco@pegasustr.org).



## Did You Know?

You can easily and securely make your gift to Pegasus via our website? Just visit [pegasustr.org](http://pegasustr.org) and click the **Donate Now** button. Gifts of any size make a difference!

## Building a Better Pegasus



Launching several new programs and building a talented new herd left us with quite a lengthy to-do list around Pegasus Farm. Thankfully, we have many generous

supporters in the community willing to partner with us to get the job done. Here's a recap of the major projects we've completed over the past year.

In preparation for our annual Pegasus Horse Show this spring, we installed bleachers in our Ann Pinkerton Riding Arena to safely allow guests to watch our programs in action. Over the summer, thanks to proceeds from the **Ox Ridge Hunt Club Charity Horse Show**, several donors who contributed to our program discretionary fund, and some great salesmanship on the part of our staff, we installed new fencing to reconfigure our two largest paddocks into four smaller ones. Once the fencing was completed, we changed out our arena footing with the help of **Lawton Adams**. The horses love the new sand/rubber mix, and the humans say it feels like walking on a tropical beach!

Fall at the farm has been packed with construction activity. Guided by builder **Douglas Adam**, who donated his professional services, we've transformed part of the administrative building's lower level into a classroom. This space will be a great location for our winter unmounted programs, as well as clinics and other events. We've also turned the adjoining space into a welcoming sitting room for guests. Out on the property, we're installing three new paddock sheds and automatic waterers. These much-needed herd management improvements were made possible by donations from a rider family, **The Freed Foundation** and **Bruce and Helen Dixon**. Bruce is a past president of the Pegasus board of directors. Finally, we used funds from our program discretionary fund to purchase a 60-foot round pen, which will help with equine training and conditioning. What a year!

**We sure do love to hear from our friends! Keep in touch with us at:**

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F: (845) 669-5249  
info@pegasustr.org

## Wings Participants Soar



This past January, Pegasus launched a new program called **Wings** for at-risk individuals. Wings is a significant part of our overall plan to expand our programming and serve a wider range of people with needs.

The Wings program, which combines therapeutic riding with Horses & Me activities in a group setting, primarily is designed to benefit disadvantaged youth, adults with developmental disabilities, and abuse survivors, including victims of human trafficking.

Since its inception, the program has grown by leaps and bounds. Over the past year, we have had the privilege of working with many local groups, including **Ability Beyond Disability, Cardinal McCloskey Services** (bottom photo), **Hour Children/Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, Jewish Child Care Association, Lincoln Hall Boys' Haven** (middle photo) and the **REACH Program at St. Christopher's Inc.** (top photo).



At the start of each Wings session, we discuss program goals and session activities with the group's clinical staff. Typical Wings activities include conducting trust exercises,

learning about caring for horses, observing and analyzing herd behavior, practicing horse leading and helping in the barn.



Our Pegasus staff works exceptionally hard to secure grant funding for the Wings program. We deeply appreciate the

support of recent donors **The Riggio Foundation, The Rose Foundation, The Pennsylvania National Horse Show Foundation, and The Angell Foundation.**

If you know a group that would benefit from our Wings program, contact **Program Director Shelly Pope** at **(845) 669-8235 x103** or **spope@pegasustr.org**.