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## KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

# HORSE PARK HAPPENINGS

by Anne Guillory

### OCTOBER 2013 MUST-SEE EVENTS

- 1-5 Paso Fino Grand National Championship, [www.pfha.org](http://www.pfha.org)
- 2-5 Fall Classic Saddlebred Show, [www.kentuckyfallclassic.com](http://www.kentuckyfallclassic.com)
- 4-6 Kentucky Classic Combined Driving, [www.kentuckyclassiccde.com](http://www.kentuckyclassiccde.com)
- 5-6 Thoroughbred Show, [www.tbhorseshow.org](http://www.tbhorseshow.org)
- 9-12 Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association Championships, [www.kmsa.com](http://www.kmsa.com)
- 9-13 National Carriage Drive, [www.nationaldrive.net](http://www.nationaldrive.net)
- 10-13 Kentucky Dressage Association I and II, [www.kentuckydressageassociation.org](http://www.kentuckydressageassociation.org)
- 18-20 Hagyard Midsouth Three-Day Event and Team Challenge, [www.hagyardmidsouth.com](http://www.hagyardmidsouth.com)
- 19-20 PMHA Morab Show, [www.puremorab.com](http://www.puremorab.com)
- 21-25 National Mounted Police Colloquium, [www.kyhorsepark.com](http://www.kyhorsepark.com)
- 26 CKRH Halloween Trail Ride and Used Tack Sale, [www.ckrh.org](http://www.ckrh.org)
- 26-27 US Mounted Games Association, [www.usmga.us](http://www.usmga.us)
- 29-3 Alltech National Horse Show, [www.nhs.org](http://www.nhs.org)

*For more information visit [kyhorsepark.com](http://kyhorsepark.com) and [khpfoundation.org](http://khpfoundation.org)  
See [TopsinLex.com](http://TopsinLex.com) for photo coverage of these and other events*

## THE KENTUCKY FALL CLASSIC HORSE SHOW

The American Saddlebred is as old as the United States. Colonists in the early 1700s started crossing Thoroughbreds with an easy-gaited breed known as the Narragansett Pacer. The result was a sturdy horse with a comfortable lateral gait. With the addition of Arabian and Morgan blood, the "Kentucky Saddler" was and is prized for its beauty,



*Jane Jacobs*  
© 2012

3-time 5-gaited World's Grand Champion, Courageous Lord ridden by Dr. Owen Weaver for owners Fox Grape Farms, Inc.

intelligence, stamina and pleasant temperament. They were the favorite mount of both sides during the Civil War, and portraits of General Robert E. Lee often show him mounted on his gray Saddlebred, Traveller. Today the Saddlebred is seen most frequently in the show ring. In addition to the walk, trot and canter, some Saddlebreds are taught two man-made gaits, the slow gait and rack. The ability to do learn and perform both gaits is inherited. They are comfortable for the rider and display the athleticism and intelligence of the breed. In addition to traditional horse shows, Saddlebreds are also gaining popularity in sport-horse disciplines such as endurance, combined driving and dressage.

In 1985 the American Saddlebred Horse Association was the first breed registry to take up residence at the Kentucky Horse Park. The ASHA's presence, along with that of the American Saddlebred Museum, makes the Horse Park a special and historic home for one of the oldest American-made breeds. In early October, Alltech Arena welcomes back the beautiful and exciting American Saddlebred, along with Hackney ponies and Standardbred roadsters, as part of the twenty-sixth annual Kentucky Fall Classic Horse Show. The Fall Classic is sponsored by Chapter 9 of the United Professional Horseman's Association and benefits Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital. Past show chairs include UK Basketball legend Joe B. Hall who is a great fan and supporter of the breed. Last year's Fall Classic raised \$7,500 for Cardinal Hill, making it a great way to enjoy the Horse Park while also giving back to the community.

The Fall Classic is a popular stop for many competitors, as the Kentucky show circuit winds down for the winter. With the crisp air of the early fall, this is an ideal time for a day trip to take in the Horse Park and the Fall Classic. This year the show will have evening sessions on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and morning, afternoon and evening sessions on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. With more than 300 entries expected, it features something for everyone from high octane five-gaited horses to speedy roadsters to the always popular pleasure horses. Thursday evening will feature the Junior Five-Gaited class with \$6,000 in added prize money available to qualifying owners and breeders courtesy of the Kentucky Breeders Incentive Program. There will be adorable kids piloting their trusty four-legged partners in the Walk & Trot and Leadline classes, as well as Academy classes for riders and drivers of all ages. Academy classes offer new and/or returning riders an opportunity to compete on school horses. It is a fun way to enjoy showing without the expense of owning a performance horse and being in traditional "suit" classes. It's also a great way to celebrate the hard-working school horses that teach us to ride and keep us "legged up."

In addition, the Fall Classic is a great place to see the breed's current World's Champions who were crowned at the World's Championship Horse Show in August. Last year, visitors were treated to performances by Dr. Owen Weaver and her three-time Five-Gaited World's Grand Champion and 2012 Amateur Five-Gaited World's Champion, Courageous Lord and by Mary Gaylord McClean and her then two-time Ladies Three-Gaited World's Champion, Mr. Center Stage.

The historic nature of the Horse Park and the privilege of showing at the Fall Classic aren't lost on the sport's junior exhibitors. Sophia Giuffre, age 15, is excited to show at the Fall Classic for the first time. She and



Alde-Mar's Crystal Illusion ridden by Johanna Kapioltas for owner Janet M. Kellett

her new teammate, chestnut mare Sophie Tucker, will show in Junior Exhibitor Show Pleasure. This has been a year of firsts for Sophia, who describes Sophie Tucker as taking good care of her while also having plenty of "get up and go." It is Sophia's first year showing in suit classes, her first year riding Sophie and her first time showing at the Horse Park. Sophia thinks the Horse Park is special and said that "anyone is really lucky to get to show there." Sophia's sentiments were echoed by her friend and barnmate, Natalie Sams, 17. "How cool is it to get to show at the Horse Park?!" For Natalie, the atmosphere is what makes the show. "Showing can get really intense, but you can walk outside and see horses grazing," Natalie said it reminds her of why she fell in love with horses in the first place. She will also show in Junior Exhibitor Show Pleasure with Riders On The Storm. Both girls ride under the direction of Chad and Michelle Cole of Signature Stables at the historic Rock Creek Riding Club in Louisville.

In addition to junior exhibitors like Sophia and Natalie, the Fall Classic also spotlights other fresh faces – the young horses showing in the Bluegrass Futurity classes. The Bluegrass Futurity was started by Melissa Moore in 2002 as a way to reward breeders for their investment in the breed. The concept is simple. It is a way to reward breeders for the time and money they invest in their horses. Breeders pay a fee to nominate their stallions, mares and resulting foals to the Futurity. The foals are then eligible to compete in lucrative weanling-in-hand and two-year-old fine harness classes held during the Fall Classic. Money raised from the nomination fees and from an auction of donated stallion seasons is paid out to the top placing horses in each class. Since 2002, the Bluegrass Futurity has paid out over \$900,000 in prize money. Last year's weanling class alone offered over \$40,000 in prize money.

For breeders like Fred Sarver of Cornerstone in Carlisle, Kentucky, futurities are “an opportunity... to present examples of the horses that they are producing,” and a great way to promote breeding stallions. This year, Sarver plans to showcase two fillies in the Bluegrass Futurity weanling class. The first is Totally Rocks (Charmed and Bewitched x Rock this Town) who is owned by Carolyn Garrett of San Antonio, Texas. The second is Sarver’s homebred Cornerstone’s Sky Queen (Mountainview’s Heir to Fortune x Mountainview’s Sky Queen). Along with the weanlings, Sarver expects to bring a few other horses to the show because he believes “it is important to support horse shows in our area.” Totally Rocks and Cornerstone’s Sky Queen will help close out the Fall Classic in the final class on Saturday night.

In addition to the traditional saddleseat classes, the Fall Classic is also proud to be able to display the versatility of the American Saddlebred. The colorful Western Pleasure division has become very popular and competitive with a record 25 entries at the recent World’s Championship Horse Show. The Fall Classic will feature four Western Pleasure classes, including the Saddle & Bridle William Shatner Western Country Pleasure class. Riders in the Shatner class will compete for an invitation to the Finals for the William Shatner Perpetual Trophy. The Finals are held at the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show. Mr. Shatner is a long-time fan of the American Saddlebred and actively competes on the Kentucky circuit. He even drove his World Champion Fine Harness stallion CH Call Me Ringo in the Opening Ceremonies of the World Equestrian Games in 2010.

The Fall Classic also has added two new classes for the growing Hunter Pleasure division. Suitability as a hunter and manners are paramount in these classes. Horses will show at the walk, trot, extended trot, canter and hand gallop. They will also be expected to halt on the rail and back readily in the lineup. In addition to showing off the versatility of the breed, competitors in the inaugural Bluegrass Futurity Hunter Country Pleasure Classic on Saturday night have a chance to earn prize money paid out by the Bluegrass Futurity. Competitors pay fees to nominate their horses to the class. The nomination fees and entry fees are then added to the purse money and divided among the top placing horses. With 40% of the purse going to the winner, the Hunter Classic is sure to be a popular addition to the show.

One team looking forward to the new Hunter Pleasure classes is Karen Thompson and her multi-talented gelding, Shakespeare in Love, or “Will.” The new Hunter Pleasure classes will mark the fourth different division for Will and Karen at the Fall Classic. For Karen, showing at the Fall Classic and the Horse Park is “bigger than just going to a horse show – it’s about being part of the larger equine community and competing at the same venue as great horses from all disciplines.” At age 14, Will is a great breed ambassador for that larger equine community. After years of successfully competing in traditional pleasure divisions Karen decided to try something new and transition Will to Hunter Pleasure. In 2011, under the guidance of trainer, Keith Harger, this team made the transition and hasn’t looked back.

In addition to competing in Hunter Pleasure classes like the ones at the Fall Classic, Will and Karen have started another new adventure this year—combined training. Karen wanted to try to qualify for the Saddle

& Bridle Hunter Seat Classic Finals, in which competitors can be asked to go over a small jump. She began working with Erin Pullen at Go Big Eventing & Dressage to see if Will could learn how to jump. He loved it! They recently completed their first mini-trial which involved performing in dressage, show jumping and cross-country all in one day. It looks like Will and Karen will be Horse Park regulars since they are entered in the Jump Start Horse Trials that take place the weekend before the Fall Classic. Like many Saddlebreds, Will knows his job, loves to learn new things and gets bored with repetition. “At the bottom of it all, however, is a big, big heart. He’s done everything I’ve ever asked of him and surprised me over and over again with what he has been able and willing to achieve.”

For more information and a list of classes, visit [www.kentuckyfallclassic.com](http://www.kentuckyfallclassic.com). American Saddlebreds will back in action at the Horse Park during the Alltech National Horse Show, October 29 – November 3, 2013.



Street Legal GRS driven by Juan Rios for owner Robert L. Pugh LLC

## USHJA INTERNATIONAL HUNTER DERBY

Saturday August 17, 2013, on a lovely summer night under the lights in the The Rolex Stadium, Liza Boyd realized a lofty goal. Finishing in second place last year and third place in a prior year, Liza was victorious in the very competitive \$170,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship with her horse Brunello.

Turning in a beautiful and technically accurate round, in front of an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd, Liza was all smiles and, provided plenty of pats to her partner, Brunello. Liza is the owner of Brunello, a 15 year old Hanoverian gelding. She lives in Camden, South Carolina.

Riders competed in over a big and beautiful course designed by Steve Stephens (husband of international rider, Debbie Stephens). The final round was over a “handy” course meaning it was designed to test a horse’s adjustability, turning, and responsiveness over 11 hunt country type jumps with turns and decorative elements placed around the ring such as carriages and barns.

Fence heights ranged from 3’6” to 4” with higher options (minimum 4’3”) which scored a rider bonus points for their round. Hunters are judged on way of going, suitability, consistency and their jumping form over the fences.



Liza Boyd and Brunello, photo by Kathy Booker

Ms. Kelley Farmer of Keswick, Virginia finished second with Mythical, a First Year Green hunter competing in his first Derby Championship.

Two young riders, Kelsie Brittan, 17, of Westlake, Texas with Argentum and Shawn Casady, 19, of Harriman, TN with Ascot, were first and second respectively in the Tier II USJA Hunter Derby Championship the same day.

This event and the entire International Hunter Derby Series are rapidly gaining in popularity and offer substantial prize money over the year. The Championship is held each year at the Horse Park and will return next year. Be sure to mark your calendars for a truly wonderful evening under the stars and with the stars (both horses and human) of the Hunter Ring.

### ON DECK FOR NOVEMBER AT THE KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

- 1-3 Alltech National Horse Show – Ticket purchase necessary (Alltech Arena), [www.nhs.org](http://www.nhs.org)
- 2 US Mounted Games Association (The Rolex Stadium), [www.usmga.us](http://www.usmga.us)
- 7-10 US Dressage Finals (Alltech Arena), [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)
- 8-10 USEF Young Horse Event – (North Exhibit Hall), [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)
- 15-17 7th Holly Day Market- \$ Junior League of Lexington, [www.hollydaymarket.com](http://www.hollydaymarket.com)
- 22-23 Oleika Shriners Rodeo - \$ (Alltech Arena), [www.oleikarodeo.com](http://www.oleikarodeo.com)
- 21 Southern Lights Stroll – Presented by the KHP Foundation - \$ (Parkwide), [www.khpfoundation.org](http://www.khpfoundation.org)
- 22-Dec 31 Southern Lights - Presented by the KHP Foundation - \$ (Parkwide), (Indoor attractions closed on Nov 28, and Dec 24-31), [www.khpfoundation.org](http://www.khpfoundation.org)
- 29-30 The Spirit of the Horse: A Holiday Equine Extravaganza - \$ (Alltech Arena), KYB-GPE Equine Theater Production Co. – 312-593-4466; [www.kybdressage.com](http://www.kybdressage.com)

*Anne Guillory is a partner in the Louisville office of Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP. Her practice includes civil litigation and equine-related "risk management." Anne fell in love with Saddlebreds when her parents moved next door to a training barn in her hometown of Bowling Green. It wasn't long before she climbed the fence and was put to work grooming horses and cleaning tack. Anne enjoys competing on the Kentucky County Fair circuit and looks forward to partnering with her young mare, Mountainview's Celestial Star.*