

Santel Farms' Horse & Rider Wellness Seminar Big Success

Santel Farms knows how to stage an event! With 60 people in attendance, the March 22 Santel Farms' seminar in Fort Wayne, IN, was a day full of learning and people coming together for the wellbeing of their horses. Santel Farm owners, Sandy and Tom Elwood, who are from Michigan originally, welcomed the group to their new 40-acre facility.

Sandy commented on the day, "I have been blessed to have been taught by several all-around horsemen and horsewomen over the years, including USDF Hall of Fame member Major Robert Borg who coached many U.S. Olympians over the years. Our goal at Santel Farms is to continue share this tradition of true horsemanship with others by bringing in high-caliber clinicians from all facets of the horse industry. We were happy to welcome so many wonderful people who were eager to learn at our seminar. I think we all came away from the day having learned many helpful things. We would like to help as many equestrians and horses as we can to become partners in harmony and balance in all aspects of their lives together."

The seminar attendees hailed from four states (IN, OH, MI and NY) and four countries (USA, Canada, Germany and Africa). Two faculty members from Purdue University and one staff member from Michigan State University were also among those who attended.

Dr. Philip Mshelia, a visiting veterinarian from Nigeria, Africa, accompanied Dr. Mark Russell, Indiana Cooperative Extension Horse Management Specialist and professor in the Animal Sciences Department at Purdue. Dr. Mshelia, an equine specialist, told us about horse sports in his part of Africa which included primarily racing and polo.

The four-speakers and their topics for the day were:

- Jochen Schleese, German Master Saddler, SaddleFit4Life & Schleese Saddlery – "Saddle Fitting to Benefit the Horse & Rider", info@saddlefit4life.com, www.SaddleFit4Life.com
- Jane Manfredi, DVM, MS, PhD Candidate, Michigan State University – "Fitting of Bridles & Bits to Keep Your Horse Happy & Healthy", manfred1@cvm.msu.edu
- Rebecca Phend, CMT/ACMT, Beccassage – "What Massage Can & Cannot Do For Your Horse", [phone for appointments at 260-750-6017](tel:260-750-6017)
- Cindy Pyscher, Pulse Magnetics – "Introduction to Pulse Electro-Magnetic Therapy", getpemf@gmail.com

The program, which was a mixture of Power Point slide programs, lectures and demonstrations using live horses and other "show and tell" items, was eligible for USDF University credit. Horses owned by Diana DuPont, Santel Farms and Diana and Fred Vandeman's Salida del Sol were "models" for the speakers – thank you to their owners for allowing them to be a part of the program!

Besides the four action-packed learning sessions, the seminar participants enjoyed a soup and sandwich luncheon in the Santel Farms' heated lounge. The lunch was sponsored by: the Kochensparger Family; Loon Creek Enterprises – Home of the Approved Trakehner stallion Zulu MV; MacMillan Photography; the Nickeson Family; Santel Farms, and the Whinery Family.

To add extra fun to the day welcome packets full of goodies and door prizes were generously sponsored by: Cavalor Feeds; Sauder/TDI Feeds; Schleese Saddlery and SaddleFit4Life; Sidelines magazine and Warmbloods Today magazine. Eight lucky door prize winners came away with one of several donated gifts: magazine subscriptions to *Sidelines* and *Warmbloods Today*; a Schleese dressage bridle; a bucket full of Cavalor products, and a signed copy of the book *Suffering in Silence* by Jochen Schleese. All participants of the seminar also received a copy of Mr. Schleese's DVD "Beyond the Nine Points of Saddle Fitting".

"Tom and I would like to thank the four superb speakers, everyone who attended, the sponsors of our lunch, welcome packets and door prizes, and our staff and volunteers, for making the seminar a wonderful day! We are so happy to have so many people interested in understanding their horses better," concluded Sandy.

Santel Farms is located to the west of Fort Wayne on Leesburg Road two miles north of U.S. Highway 30. They offer dressage training and showing for horses of all ages, as well as lessons and clinics in dressage, dressage for eventers and general horsemanship. For more information go to www.santelfarms.com or e-mail santelfarms@gmail.com or call 248-640-0887.

Thanks to our other sponsors, commercial exhibitors and volunteers for the day (in alphabetical order):

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Thank you to the Seminar Volunteers:

Sandy & Tom Elwood; Dan & Dee Kochensparger; Allen & Kim MacMillan; Grace, Hannah & Ellie Nickeson; Diana Vandeman & the Salida del Sol Farm Staff; Larry & Nancy Whinery, and the Santel Farms Staff, Cindy, John & Tina