

# Wild Horse & Burro Summit

## Equine Affaire Ohio

Ohio Expo Center Columbus Ohio

April 9 – 12, 2026



### U Clinics & Demos

- U Thursday 4:45pm / Saturday 2pm / Sunday 1pm
- U Meet Mary Kitzmiller & Mary Miller-Jordan
- U Visit the Wild Horse Summit – Voinovich Center
- U Fun for the Whole Family at Equine Affaire

717 East 17th Ave, Columbus, OH 43211



MEDIA PRODUCTIONS



[www.mustangsummit.com](http://www.mustangsummit.com)



## About the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | Wild Horse Summit

The EQUUS Film & Arts Fest is the first event of its kind to offer a home to the storytellers of the horse world, with films, documentaries, videos, commercials, and shorts from around the world and cultural elements of fine equestrian art and literature. In 2025 EQUUS will host 12+ events from the Yukon to the UK. Looking toward a 2027 EQUUS Film Fest in Mongolia!

**The Wild Horse Summit** has been added to the program as an educational platform to raise awareness and understanding about the Wild Horses in holding, auction yards, or just waiting, who available for adoption. A horse who has a safe and quiet start can be trainable and become a good partner. It is our mission to bring awareness to Wild Horses who need homes. Focusing on and highlighting the work taking place in the healing and equine assisted learning fields with horses. Providing resources for all who want to learn about the Off-Range wild horse.

Founded in 2013 by Lisa Diersen, Director/Organizer, an equestrian, who has spent her life in the company of horses. Lisa's mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities or disabilities. She resides in Saint Charles, Illinois, with her Jack Russell, Amore and her Lusitano, Urano.

Julianne Neal, with JA Media Productions, joined the team in 2016. As the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Director of Production and Education. Julianne is a gifted storyteller and an important member of the team. Her ability to bring stories and events to life at the festivals and summits is an invaluable component of our events.

*Every horse has a story, it's our mission at the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest to share those stories, through film, art and literature.*

The EQUUS Film Fest [Channel You-Tube](#), streaming to all your devices.  
Visit our website at: [www.equusfilmfest.com](http://www.equusfilmfest.com) and our [FaceBook](#) page.  
[www.mustangsummit.com](http://www.mustangsummit.com)

### PR AND/OR SPONSOR CONTACT:

Lisa Diersen [lisa@equusfilmfestival.net](mailto:lisa@equusfilmfestival.net) +1-630-272-3077

**Additional Info:** Julianne Neal [julianneneal@me.com](mailto:julianneneal@me.com) +1-803-351-0223

Assistant to the Director: Julie Martin

### SOCIAL MEDIA

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/EquusFilmFestival>

You-Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/@equusfilmfestival772/featured>



# Lisa Diersen

## EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | Wild Horse Summit Founder / Director

Lisa Diersen is an equestrian; riding since she could sit in a saddle, Diersen has a great appreciation for all types of equestrian disciplines. She is the Founder and Director of the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> season and the Wild Horse Summit. The EFF empowers storytellers to show horses' rich history and diverse tapestry in human culture through equestrian content, film, art, and literature. The EQUUS Film Festival is the first film festival oriented around equestrian-themed content from all over the world that also travels the world. Screening feature films, documentaries, shorts, music videos, commercials, training educational materials, art, and literature, covering all equestrian disciplines, creating a home for the storytellers of the horse world.

Created for Horse Lovers... by Horse Lovers!

Her mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities, or disabilities. Lisa is passionate about the education and enlightenment of others to the wonderful world of horses and everything they can do to enrich our lives.

Producer and writer credits on the DOWN Syndrome equine documentary “A Pony And His Boy: The Story Of Berry & Josh” for the EQUUS Film Festival in New York City and the National DOWN Syndrome Congress 2019 with SPOTLIGHT Rescue Series partner and film director Julianne Neal. Working on additional SRS documentaries to add to the series she and Neal started in 2017. The Mustang Discovery Ride Project is now in production. Adding the “Wild Horse Summit” to the EQUUS programming in 2022. With a focus on educating the public about Wild Horses and their importance in the world today.

She is a published equine author with many articles to her credit. Diersen spent the early part of her career with General Motors in engineering, then moving into the subdivision development and home/barn building market, winning an Illinois Home Builder Award, before returning to her first love..... working with horses! She spends her time, when not promoting equestrian film, having fun promoting Classical Dressage, Lusitanos, and Wild Horses, and spending time with her faithful Jack Russell Terrier, Amore, and her Lusitano, Urano.

[www.equusfilmfest.com](http://www.equusfilmfest.com)

[www.mustangsummit.com](http://www.mustangsummit.com)

[lisa@equusfilmfestival.net](mailto:lisa@equusfilmfestival.net)

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# Julianne Neal



**JA Media Productions  
South Carolina**

**Podcast Producer/Editor/Host Documentary Filmmaker  
EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Director of Production and Education**

WEBSITES: [www.jamediaconnections.com](http://www.jamediaconnections.com)  
[www.naturesview.us](http://www.naturesview.us)  
[www.amustangstory.com](http://www.amustangstory.com)  
<https://themarleyproject.org>

Julianne is the owner of JA Media Connections, LLC and the Producer/Director of A Mustang Story, the documentary/docuseries covering The Mustang Discovery Ride and other Mustang-related stories. She works in partnership with Bruce Anderson to provide Equine Assisted Services through Nature's View, Inc. and The Marley Project, Inc, a non-profit 501(c)(3) providing equine education and public service. The Marley Project is a member of the EQUUS Foundation Equine Welfare Network and has been a charity partner with Horses for Mental Health since 2023. The organization works to connect horses with individuals, educational groups, law enforcement officers and management training professionals. The recent work involving Mustangs led to a K-12 curriculum and arts integration component in the non-profit's Wellness Through Mustangs® program. Julianne is a designated professional with Arenas for Change, holding a dual certification in Education and Horses.

Julianne retired in 2022 after a 35-year career in Arts Education and K-12 Administration. A life-long horse lover, she owns and operates Thornfield LLC, a boarding and training facility in South Carolina. She combines her love of all things equine, educational experience and arts focus to bring clients and projects together through the boutique creative production company, JA Media Connections. Julianne completed the Director's Program through the Manhattan Film Institute in 2016 and began working with film production through a partnership with The Art of Storytelling (AOS), an international agency specializing in transformational stories. Their first collaborative project, "THE EDGE: Bruce Anderson - Natural Humanship™" is an award-winning documentary providing insight into Anderson's work

JA Media Connections LLC produces a catalogue of podcasts. The initial podcast, "Whinny Tales: Horse Stories, Pony Legends and Unicorn Yarns" has featured such organizations as the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest, Equitana USA, Horses and Humans Research Foundation and Creative Spirits UnLeashed. As a member of the EQUUS Film and Arts Fest Team, she serves as Director of Production and Education, producing and directing the Spotlight Rescue Series and the documentary film, A Pony and His Boy, as well as hosting the festival podcast. Other shows in the JA Media catalogue include a bi-weekly podcast for Brooke USA: On The Road, Tiny Horse Talk and the Mustang Discovery Ride. JA Media produces LIVESTREAM content during festival events, with programming for the panel discussions, training demos and on the scene interviews. The podcast catalogue and links to other content may be found on the JA Media website.

In her spare time, Julianne loves to ride her Warmblood/Shire cross, Winston, as well as her "wildies," Willie and Mustang Congaree.



# Ronda Gregorio

## Gregorio Photography - Virginia

### Wild Heart, The Mustang Book Project



While searching out my creative path I have found myself, again and again, working with my first love, horses. Currently I am working on "WILD HEART" #TheMustangBookProject, it is a book and documentary that is focusing on wild mustangs in the fabric of the performance horse world. In addition to equestrian, I also photograph weddings, special events, parties, horse shows, animals, and commercial products.

I work with clients all over the world, including The Smithsonian, NOVICA (owned by National Geographic), Nicole Lapin and Sotheby's. My images have been featured in such notable publications as Red Book, US Equestrian, Dover Saddlery, Destination Weddings and Honeymoons, Caribbean Brides, The Scout Guide and The Knot.com to name a few. Also, I contract with "The Smithsonian" and have work on permanent display at one of their facilities, The Smithsonian Conservation and Biology Institute.

Although I am based out of Virginia, I will accompany my clients to wherever their hearts desire. I would love the opportunity to share my vision with you. Please contact me to inquire about custom packages or special requests.

<https://lily-khaki-wmsx.squarespace.com/wild-heart>  
<https://www.facebook.com/photogregorio>



**Wild Heart, The Mustang Book Project**, Ronda's beautiful tribute to the Mustang and the amazing Mustang Trainers who work with them, coming soon..... Pre-Order yours now.

[Ronda@GregorioPhotography.com](mailto:Ronda@GregorioPhotography.com) (703) 282-9135

**Wild Horse Summit** - <https://themustangsummit.com/>

- Lisa Diersen – Wild Horse Summit
- Julianne Neal – JA Media Productions / Bruce Anderson – Nature’s View
- Ronda Gregorio – Gregorio Photography

**Wild Horse Refuge** - <https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>

- Scott Beckstead

**Forever Branded** - <https://foreverbranded.org/>

- Ann & Jim Souders

**Mustang Adoption Academy (at our booth)** - <https://www.mustangadoptionacademy.com/>  
(Thursday Only)

- Sky Epperson
- Daniella DeSilva

**Mustang Valley Sanctuary** (at our booth) – <https://mustangvalleysanctuary.com/>  
(Thursday Only)

- Mary DeBonis

**Wild Rose Mustang Advocacy Group** (will have booth) <https://www.wildrosemagic.org/>

- Stephanie Swanson

**Kitzmiller Horsemanship** - <https://www.marykitzmiller.com/>

- Mary Kitzmiller

**I Am Herd Sanctuary** - <https://iamherd.com>

**Mary Miller Jordan** (will bring 2 Mustangs) : <https://marymillerjordan.com>

- Mary Miller Jordan

**Equine Wisdom Institute / H.O.O.V.E.S.** – <https://www.hooves.us> / <https://ewim.org>

- Amanda Held

**Havens Hideout Ranch** (will have booth) - <https://www.havenshideoutranch.com>

- Doug Havens

**Gavin Huffman Horsemanship** (will have booth) Eastern Mustang Trainer

- Gavin Huffman

**Wild Horse Demos**

- Ariana Noel Sakaris – Ariana Sakaris Horsemanship
- Taryn Hillman – Wild Hearts Rescue – (2 horses)
- Kelsey Spencer-Briggs – Wild Ride Equine – (1 horse)
- Amy Lent – Demo Horse – (1 horse)
- Mary Miller Jordan – (2 horses)



# WE ♥ MUSTANGS

We are proud to sponsor the **EQUUS Film Festival** & **Mustang Summit** on their mission to connect mustang owners & support this exceptional breed!



[www.etalondx.com](http://www.etalondx.com)

## 2026 ALL EQUUS Film & Arts Fest and Wild Horse Summit Events

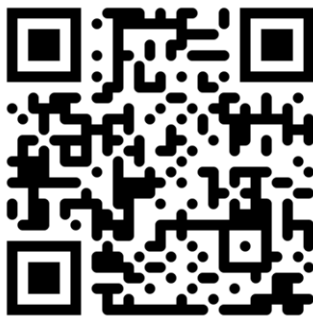
January	SGPL Film Fest	January 14, 2026	Sugar Grove, IL
February	EQUUS UK	February 7, 2026	Helmsley UK
April	Equine Affaire Ohio	April 9-11, 2026	Columbus, OH
May	SGPL Film Fest	May 13, 2026	Sugar Grove, IL
June	Western States Horse Expo / Mustang Summit	June 6-8, 2026	Sacramento, CA
June	Trail of Faith Wild Horse Summit	June 12-14, 2026	Trenton, NC
June	Rupert Isaacson – Horse Boy Midwest Training Series	June 26 – 28, 2026	Barrington Hills, IL
July	BreyerFest EQUUS Film Festival at the Kentucky Horse Park	July 10-12, 2026	Lexington, KY
August	5000 Miles 5000 Mustangs Film Screening	August 5, 2026	Steamboat Springs, CO
August	Colorado Wild Horse Refuge Wild Horse Summit	August 5-8, 2026	Craig, CO
September	SGPL Film Fest	September 3, 2026	Sugar Grove, IL
September	Mustang Valley Wild Horse Summit	Sept 11-13, 2026	West Fulton, NY
October	Libertyfest EQUUS Film Fest Alltech Arena	October 8-11, 2026	Kentucky Horse Park Lexington, KY
October	Tennessee Wild Horse Summit	October 16-18, 2026	Fall Creek Falls Equestrian Center Pikeville, TN
November	EQUUS Film & Arts Fest Midway Kentucky	Nov 19-22, 2026	Lexington, KY
2027 May	EQUUS Film Festival Mongolia and International Wild Horse Summit	May 27 thru June 5	Ulaanbaatar Mongolia

# 2025 EQUUS Event List



Month	EQUUS Film & Arts Fest	Event	Date	City	State / Country
January		SGPL Film Fest	January 08	Sugar Grove	Illinois
April		Equine Affaire Ohio	April 10 - 13	Columbus	Ohio
April		Farmington Mustang Matinee	April 19	Farmington	New Mexico
May		SGPL Film Fest	May 14	Sugar Grove	Illinois
June		Western States Horse Expo Mustang Summit	June 6 - 8	Sacramento	California
June		Colorado Mustang West Summit	June 25 - 28	Grand Junction	Colorado
July		BreyerFest EQUUS Film Fest	July 10 - 12	Lexington	Kentucky
July		Mustang Challenge 2025	July 10 - 12	Las Vegas	Nevada
July		Barrington EQUUS Film Fest	July 26	Barrington	Illinois
August		Albuquerque Mustang Summit	2026	Albuquerque	New Mexico
August		Roaring Fork Valley HC - Private Films	Aug 2	Aspen	Colorado
August		Walk-On Barrington EQUUS Film Fest	August 7	Barrington	Illinois
August		Author Cheryl Erickson Book Signing	Aug 14 - 16	Saint Charles	Illinois
August		ERAHC Virginia Classic	Aug 20 - 24	Lexington	Virginia
August		Maryland Mustang Mission Mustang Summit	Aug 28 - 31	Bel Air	Maryland
September		Mustang Classic KHP	Sep 4 - 6	Lexington	Kentucky
September		SGPL Film Fest	Sep 10	Sugar Grove	Illinois
September		Wild Kid Acres Maryland Mustang Summit	Sep 19 - 21	Edgewater	Maryland
September		GHS Devils Garden Mustang Challenge	Sep 26 - 28	Huntingdon	Pennsylvania
October		Yukon	TBD	Yukon	Canada
October		Liberty Fest	Oct 9 - 12	Lexington	Kentucky
October		IBERICON	Oct 17 - 19	Ocala	Florida
November		Mustang Summit - Carolinas in 2026	2026		
November		EQUUS Film & Arts Fest Maryland	Nov 14 - 16	Reisterstown	Maryland
November		EQUUS UK	Nov 15	Helmsley	York UK

[www.mustangsummit.com](http://www.mustangsummit.com) [www.equusfilmfest.com](http://www.equusfilmfest.com)



## Dates and Locations we participated at in 2024

38 Mustangs in 2024

Based on information from the BLM Website:

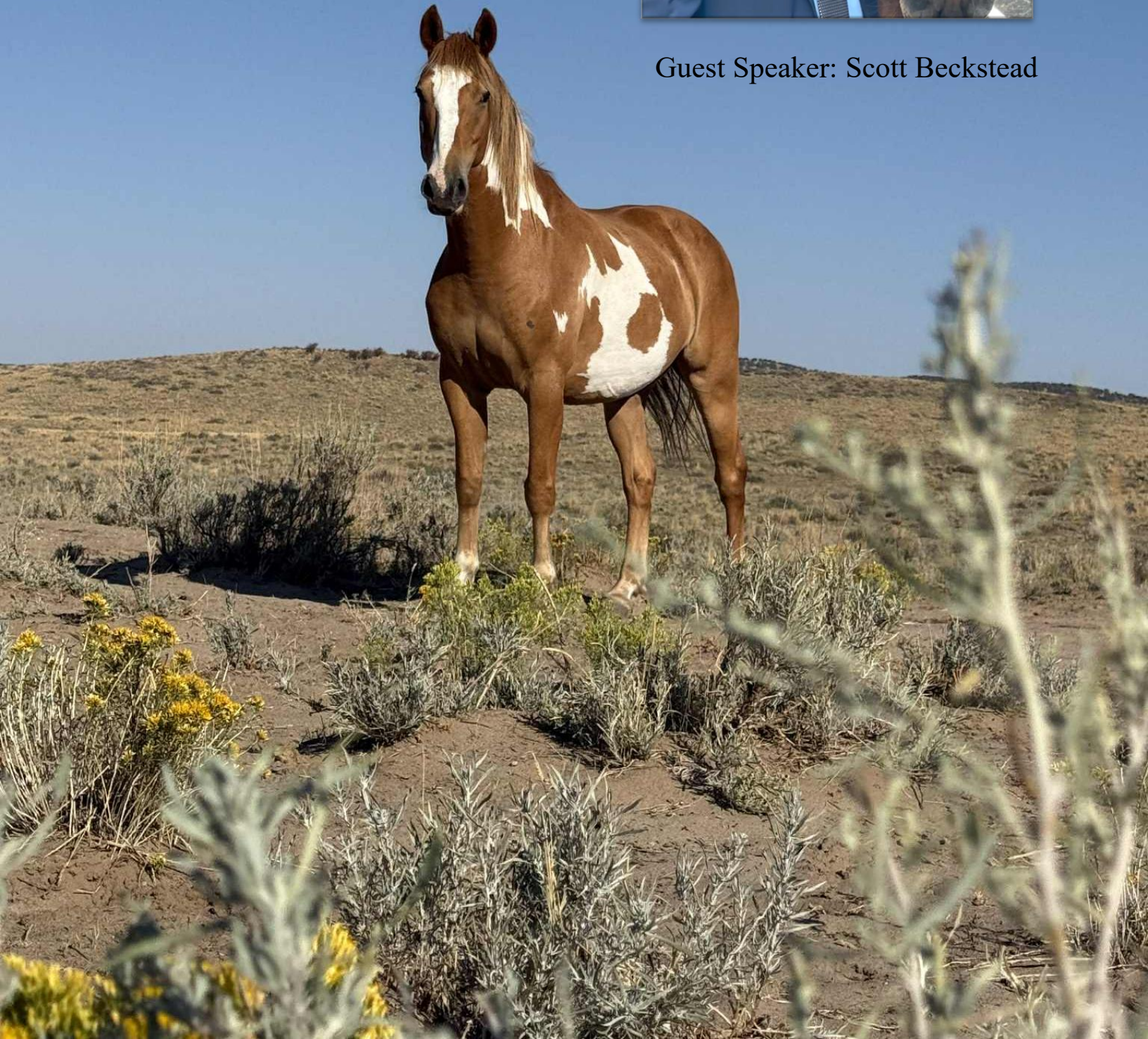
It costs BLM about \$27,500, on average, to provide lifetime care for a wild horse not placed into private care.

- March – Rocky Mountain Horse Expo – Denver Colorado - March 15 – 17, 2024
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- June – Gateway Mustang Summit - Potomac, Illinois – June 7 – 9, 2024
  - Small Event - 4 Mustangs & Films – 4 Mustangs - Adoption Event
- July – BreyerFest – Lexington, Kentucky – July 12 – 14, 2024
  - Small Event – Films – Rescued Hearts – (No Yearlings)
- July – The Leanoz - Aztec, New Mexico – July 26 – 28, 2024
  - Small Event – Films & Art & Panels – Mustangs & Rescues – (No Yearlings)
- July – August – Adams County Fair – Brighton, Colorado – July 31 – August 4, 2024
  - The Mustang Summit - Mustangers Event – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- August 25 – Mustang Symposium – Soulful Prairies – Woodstock, Illinois
  - 1 Day Mustang Symposium – (No Yearlings)
- September – Mustang Classic – KHP – Lexington, Kentucky – September 13-15, 2024
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest – (No Yearlings)
- September – EQUUS Aiken – Aiken Equine Rescue - Aiken, South Carolina – September 19-22, 2024
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- October – Liberty Festival – Kentucky Horse Park – October 11-12, 2024
  - EQUUS Film & Arts Fest – Rescued Hearts | Freedom Reigns – Film Screening – (No Yearlings)
- October – Ibericon – World Equestrian Center – Ocala, Florida – October 17-20, 2024
  - Small Event – Films – (No Yearlings)
- October – EQUUS BC – Anvil Center – New West Minister, BB Canada – October 26, 2024
  - Small Event – Films – (No Yearlings)
- November – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit Main Event – Albuquerque, New Mexico – November 14 – 17, 2024
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event





Guest Speaker: Scott Beckstead



sales@stablefeed.com

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## REAL FOOD CREATING REAL CHANGE

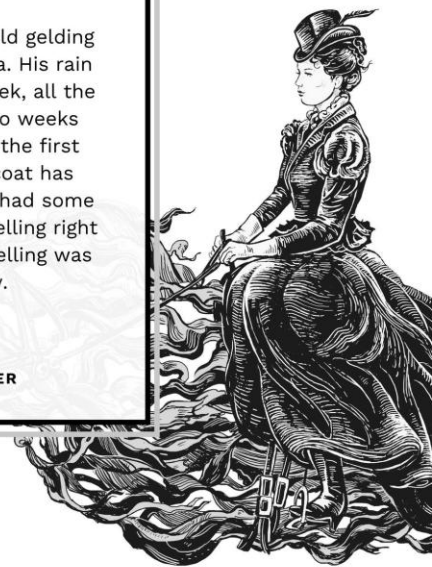
StableFeed is an innovative all-natural horse feed and supplement company that uses science to harness the power of real whole foods to promote and maintain systemic health in today's equine athletes. We focus on clean, real whole foods imbued with health giving properties. Decades of research shows that the consumption of combinations of minimally processed foods creates a synergy that may result in improved health and improved performance over supplemental nutrients fed in isolation.

Utilizing this information, each of our products supports and promotes multiple ameliorative effects for the skin, hair, bone, joint and hooves.



I just started my 26 year old gelding on the loose Spirulina Chia. His rain rot cleared up within a week, all the hair grew back within two weeks and he's got dapples for the first time ever! His summer coat has come in gorgeous! He has had some insect bites with some swelling right after but I noticed the swelling was gone the next day.

~ SHANNON S.  
SATISFIED CUSTOMER



www.stablefeed.com

# Interesting EQUUS Film & Arts Fest Press Links

<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/29/movies/cat-film-festival-dog-film-festival-equus-f al.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/29/movies/cat-film-festival-dog-film-festival-equus-f al.html</a>	<a href="https://www.horseillustrated.com/equus-film-and-arts-fest-2019/">https://www.horseillustrated.com/equus-film-and-arts-fest-2019/</a>
<a href="https://www.chronofhorse.com/article/year-horse-gets-red-carpet-treatment-true-new-york-style-star-studd/">https://www.chronofhorse.com/article/year-horse-gets-red-carpet-treatment-true-new-york-style-star-studd/</a>	<a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/teresagenaro/2014/11/20/equine-film-festival-makes-harlem-debut/">https://www.forbes.com/sites/teresagenaro/2014/11/20/equine-film-festival-makes-harlem-debut/</a>
<a href="https://www.theirishfield.ie/sport-horse/sport-horse-news/from-snowman-to-slaughtered-the-equus-film-festival-had-something-for-all-195368">https://www.theirishfield.ie/sport-horse/sport-horse-news/from-snowman-to-slaughtered-the-equus-film-festival-had-something-for-all-195368</a>	<a href="https://montyroberts.com/meet-montys-team-at-equine-affaire-and-equus-film-festival-nyc/">https://montyroberts.com/meet-montys-team-at-equine-affaire-and-equus-film-festival-nyc/</a>
<a href="https://www.theplaidhorse.com/2025/11/17/equestrian-docuseries-inside-the-ingate-is-a-2025-equus-film-fest-winnie-award-winner/">https://www.theplaidhorse.com/2025/11/17/equestrian-docuseries-inside-the-ingate-is-a-2025-equus-film-fest-winnie-award-winner/</a>	<a href="https://equenews.com/article/horseball/about-the-third-annual-equus-film-festival-in-nyc">https://equenews.com/article/horseball/about-the-third-annual-equus-film-festival-in-nyc</a>
<a href="https://equusmagazine.com/news/horses-and-the-science-of-harmony-heads-to-big-screen">https://equusmagazine.com/news/horses-and-the-science-of-harmony-heads-to-big-screen</a>	<a href="https://nwhorsesource.com/feature-film-running-wild-makes-new-city-debut-2016-equus-film-festival/">https://nwhorsesource.com/feature-film-running-wild-makes-new-city-debut-2016-equus-film-festival/</a>
<a href="https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2021/12/28/maryland-horse-industry-board-short-film-wins-award-at-equus-film-arts-fest/">https://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2021/12/28/maryland-horse-industry-board-short-film-wins-award-at-equus-film-arts-fest/</a>	<a href="https://www.horsenation.com/2020/10/14/equus-film-arts-fest-2020-virtual-event-to-take-place-november-13-22-2020/">https://www.horsenation.com/2020/10/14/equus-film-arts-fest-2020-virtual-event-to-take-place-november-13-22-2020/</a>
<a href="https://sedonafilmfestival.com/equus-film-festival-2019/">https://sedonafilmfestival.com/equus-film-festival-2019/</a>	<a href="https://rewildingeurope.com/news/tarpan-film-won-the-best-short-documentary-award-at-the-equus-film-festival/">https://rewildingeurope.com/news/tarpan-film-won-the-best-short-documentary-award-at-the-equus-film-festival/</a>
<a href="https://thinlineglobal.com/blog/unbridled-the-movie-to-screen-september-17-in-the-equus-film-festival-at-the-world-equestrian-games">https://thinlineglobal.com/blog/unbridled-the-movie-to-screen-september-17-in-the-equus-film-festival-at-the-world-equestrian-games</a>	<a href="https://equineinfoexchange.com/recreation-lifestyle/fantastic-films-emerge-amidst-controversy-at-the-equus-film-festival-in-nyc">https://equineinfoexchange.com/recreation-lifestyle/fantastic-films-emerge-amidst-controversy-at-the-equus-film-festival-in-nyc</a>
<a href="https://horsesport.com/horse-news/equus-film-festival-lands-ontario/">https://horsesport.com/horse-news/equus-film-festival-lands-ontario/</a>	<a href="https://www.americanfarriers.com/articles/8102-farrier-documentary-earns-equus-film-festival-invite">https://www.americanfarriers.com/articles/8102-farrier-documentary-earns-equus-film-festival-invite</a>
<a href="https://www.equinechronicle.com/new-documentary-focuses-on-young-boy-with-down-syndrome-and-his-pony/">https://www.equinechronicle.com/new-documentary-focuses-on-young-boy-with-down-syndrome-and-his-pony/</a>	<a href="https://www.nj.com/horsenews/2016/12/quus_film_festival_presented_b.html">https://www.nj.com/horsenews/2016/12/quus_film_festival_presented_b.html</a>
<a href="https://equisearch.com/news/equus-magazine-directors-panels-blockbuster-lineup-coming-equus-film-festival-nyc-november-29870/">https://equisearch.com/news/equus-magazine-directors-panels-blockbuster-lineup-coming-equus-film-festival-nyc-november-29870/</a>	<a href="https://midsouthhorsereview.com/article/5925">https://midsouthhorsereview.com/article/5925</a>
<a href="https://www.horseillustrated.com/horse-news-2014-12-horse-movies-given-center-stage-at-equus-film-festival/">https://www.horseillustrated.com/horse-news-2014-12-horse-movies-given-center-stage-at-equus-film-festival/</a>	<a href="https://horse-canada.com/free-rein/equus-film-festival/">https://horse-canada.com/free-rein/equus-film-festival/</a>
<a href="https://www.michigansthumb.com/news/article/A-Sunday-Horse-Named-Official-Selection-at-Li-L-7271551.php">https://www.michigansthumb.com/news/article/A-Sunday-Horse-Named-Official-Selection-at-Li-L-7271551.php</a>	<a href="https://timidrider.com/2017-equus-film-festival/">https://timidrider.com/2017-equus-film-festival/</a>
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfMfRtPJZxA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfMfRtPJZxA</a>	<a href="https://www.horsenation.com/2016/12/08/editorial-the-equus-film-festival-nyc-sponsorship-controversy/">https://www.horsenation.com/2016/12/08/editorial-the-equus-film-festival-nyc-sponsorship-controversy/</a>
<a href="https://www.horsenation.com/2016/12/01/highlights-from-the-equus-film-festival-nyc/">https://www.horsenation.com/2016/12/01/highlights-from-the-equus-film-festival-nyc/</a>	<a href="https://equus-blog.com/equus-film-festival/">https://equus-blog.com/equus-film-festival/</a>
<a href="https://issuu.com/equusfilmfest/docs/2023_equus_west_cliffe-co_program-in-progress_insta">https://issuu.com/equusfilmfest/docs/2023_equus_west_cliffe-co_program-in-progress_insta</a>	<a href="https://equinemonthly.com/a-pony-and-his-boy/">https://equinemonthly.com/a-pony-and-his-boy/</a>
<a href="https://www.suu.edu/news/2016/01/film-about-suus-history-wins-national-competition.html">https://www.suu.edu/news/2016/01/film-about-suus-history-wins-national-competition.html</a>	<a href="https://horse-canada.com/magazine/miscellaneous/hot-horse-docs/">https://horse-canada.com/magazine/miscellaneous/hot-horse-docs/</a>
<a href="https://www.theirishfield.ie/sport-horse/pony-tales/zara-s-planet-lands-equus-contract-207038">https://www.theirishfield.ie/sport-horse/pony-tales/zara-s-planet-lands-equus-contract-207038</a>	<a href="https://www.imdb.com/news/ni59208329/">https://www.imdb.com/news/ni59208329/</a>



## **Ohio Equine Liability Act**

Under Ohio law (Ohio Revised Code Section 2305.321), horse owners and other parties are protected against liability for injuries that occur as a consequence of an inherent risk of equine activity.

# Mary Kitzmiller

## Mary Kitzmiller Horsemanship Texas

[www.marykitzmiller.com](http://www.marykitzmiller.com)



Perhaps my greatest of equine teachers has been the American Mustang. Mustang training can be an incredibly humbling experience as they do not readily hand you their trust and their heart. You must earn it. In 2011 I began competing in Extreme Mustang Makeover events which require trainers to work with a Mustang for 3-4 months and then compete with their mounts. In 2012, I placed 4th in the finals and 2013 I was awarded 5th place and \$50,700 in the first ever Mustang Million competition. I was the highest placing woman of the event. I have such an immense love and respect for Mustangs and am so grateful to the wonderful Mustangs in my life that opened up a world of opportunities for me.

[marykitzmiller@gmail.com](mailto:marykitzmiller@gmail.com)



# Mary Miller Jordan

## I Am Herd Mustang Horsemanship North Carolina

Mary Miller-Jordan

[HearYourOwnHeart@gmail.com](mailto:HearYourOwnHeart@gmail.com)

910-712-4823

<https://marymillerjordan.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MaryMillerJordanMustangs>



Mary was rocked to sleep on the backs of her grandfather's gentle Tennessee Walking horses as a baby. The horse has always been her safest place: that space where she feels most at home with her truest self.

As a young adult Mary entered the Inaugural Supreme Extreme Mustang Makeover--a 100-day wild horse gentling challenge to help older, previously unadoptable wild Mustangs find forever homes. Mary's success with the wild Mustangs led to over \$70,000 in lifetime earnings, her wild horse gentling methods being featured on National Geographic television, and her first Mustang partner being immortalized as a Breyer Model Horse.

Together with her heart-herd of formerly wild Mustang partners, Mary founded I AM HERD Mustang Sanctuary. A non-profit with the mission to provide a safe space for more wild horses in need and those drawn to the magic of their inner peace. [www.IAMHERD.org](http://www.IAMHERD.org)



**I AM HERD**  
*Mustang Sanctuary*

# Scott Beckstead

## Wild Horse Refuge Colorado



Scott Beckstead, the Chief Equine Programs Director at the Wild Horse Refuge in Colorado. Developing a new standard for wild equine sanctuaries, the Wild Horse Refuge is a world-class sanctuary that is home to hundreds of wild horses and spans more than 23,000 acres and provides a safe, natural environment where horses can roam freely away from the threat of urban encroachment and human interference. The horses share this vast swath of rangeland with multiple native wildlife species, providing a balanced and diverse ecosystem for all. Attendees will learn about the sanctuary's comprehensive approach to wild equine care, land and wildlife stewardship, and the crucial role of community involvement and support. The Wild Horse Refuge not only aims to provide sanctuary for Colorado wild horses, but also to educate the public and promote sustainable coexistence with wild horses and the other wild denizens of the range.

<https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>



# Bruce Anderson

## South Carolina

### TIP Trainer –South Carolina

### Natural Humanship™



Bruce Anderson is a passionate and enthusiastic trainer and clinician who firmly believes not only in the power of the horse, but also in our responsibility to help horses acclimate into our modern world. Bruce grew up on the West Indian islands of Trinidad and Tobago and it was there on the family cocoa and coffee estate that he began his relationship with horses. He learned to ride on the estate and then represented his country on the National Show Jumping Team. From there he moved on to breeding farms at home, in the U.K. and in the U.S. While in England, he earned an agricultural degree at Merristwood College and in the U.S. where he worked in the Thoroughbred racing industry. He eventually moved into the hunter/jumper “A” show circuit, working in Camden, SC where he is now established as a trainer.

Bruce is certified through the Mustang Heritage Foundation's Trainer Incentive Program and enjoys working with Mustangs, but also appreciates working with owners and their horses to assist them in building better relationships. Bruce's gift is centered in his unique system of Natural Humanship™ developed over a lifetime of work with all types of horses. His recent experience working with feral horses has taken the system to another level. One of Bruce's most powerful and influential work settings took place in 2015 when he was called to the Bahamas to work with Nunki, the last feral mare in the line of Abaco Island Wild Horses, now extinct. That experience was the catalyst for a documentary featuring Bruce's life and work, “The Edge: Bruce Anderson's Natural Humanship™.” A selected presenter for the 2018 World Equestrian Games and 2020 EQUITANA USA, Bruce works with counselors and mental health professionals, law enforcement agencies, school and church groups across the southeastern US to provide Equine Assisted Services with partner Julianne Neal through Nature's View, Inc. and The Marley Project 501(c)(3).

Julianne is an educator with 35 years of experience in Arts Administration and is currently holds a Professional Designation in Education through Arenas for Change. The Marley Project is one of the 65 nonprofit organizations selected for support in the SEEN Through Horses 2023 National Campaign.

Nature's View website: <http://www.naturesview.us>  
The Marley Project website: <https://themarleyproject.org>  
View The Edge: <https://equustelelevision.com/watch/241>  
Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/Naturesviewinc>  
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# Mary DeBonis

New York

Mustang Valley Sanctuary

<https://mustangvalleysanctuary.com>



Mary DeBonis has a passion for both veterans and horses, and that passion is at the heart of Mustang Valley Sanctuary. She started rescuing horses while she was still working in accounting, providing rehabilitation and homes for one or two horses at a time in the early days.

A serendipitous encounter at a coffee shop led Mary to Equine Assisted Learning (EAL), a therapy that combines horsemanship activities with learning and personal growth experiences. She was so moved by the concept that she immediately took a certification course and became an equine specialist in Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Platform (EAGALA). The rest is equine history.

Welcome to Mustang Valley, an equine sanctuary nestled in the rolling hills and wide open fields of West Fulton. Our ranch provides a haven for rescue horses and for vulnerable members of our community including veterans, children, and domestic abuse survivors. Our programs aim to offer healing, growth, and hope to all who visit through the power of the human-animal bond.



# Daniella DeSilva

## Indiana

### MUSTANG Adoption Academy

Mustang Translator – Program Facilitator of the Mustang Adoption Academy (a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit) & the Mustangs of Service veterans' mental health program.

[www.mustangadoptionacademy.com](http://www.mustangadoptionacademy.com)

Daniella has over 30 years of experience working with horses and more than 20 years involved in therapeutic riding programs. She is one of the program facilitator's for the Mustang Adoption Academy, a nonprofit that saves Mustangs and helps Veterans through the MAA's free Mustangs of Service (MOS) mental health program. The deep parallels between mustangs & veterans in the MOS program facilitates transformative moments, when both the wild horse & the veteran start to navigate the pressures of & find safety in this world.

Daniella holds a Master's degree in Counseling, is a certified Life Coach, is level 2 NL-P, EP certified through Natural Lifemanship, has taken courses through the Polyvagal Equine Institute and has completed vast military & trauma-informed trainings - blending her lifelong horsemanship with trauma-informed, relationship based healing.

Find more information at [www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com](http://www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com)

Follow along with the MAA & MOS Veterans Program on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/MustangAdoptionAcadem](https://www.facebook.com/MustangAdoptionAcadem)

or Instagram: @MustangAdoptionAcademy

# MUSTANG



Adoption Academy



# Sky Epperson

Indiana

MUSTANG Adoption Academy – Founder/Director

Mustang Heritage Foundation TIP Trainer

[www.mustangadoptionacademy.com](http://www.mustangadoptionacademy.com)

The Mustang Adoption Academy, Founder, Sky Epperson came to the realization that one of the most important items missing in Mustang adoption is what happens once the Mustang gets home. Many people are just like Sky. They find that not all Mustangs can be helped by the traditional training methods that they have used on domestics. Often, they get their Mustang home and come quickly to the realization or the “oh crap” moment, and suddenly are saying “now what”. The Mustang Adoption Academy wants to help you before you get to this moment and for those that are already there, we can help you, too.

Shortly, After the Mustang Adoption Academy was created it was evident they could help fill another need, many people and Veterans are struggling to fit in to today’s world. Ironically, teaching Brain-Based Horsemanship to these people is helping them find there way out of struggling and how to be happy in today’s world. Mustang Adoption Academy has a partnered with Touchstone .

Follow the Mustang Adoption Academy’s progress on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/sky.epperson> or

<https://www.facebook.com/Mustangadoptionacademy> or on Instagram

@Mustangadoptionacademywithsky

# MUSTANG



## Adoption Academy



# Gavin Huffman

Ohio

## Gavin Huffman Horsemanship

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090539542140>

Gavin Huffman is a veteran mustang trainer with over five years of experience in gentling and competing in Mustang Makeovers and TIP (Trainer Incentive Program) challenges, frequently placing in the Top 10.

Gavin Huffman Horsemanship is an equine training and boarding facility based in Columbia Station, Ohio, specializing in mustang gentling, training, and rider education. Led by experienced trainer Gavin Huffman, the program is well-known for its success in mustang competitions and its focus on building trust-based relationships between horses and humans.

Mustang Gentling: Specializes in taking wild mustangs from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) facilities and training them for domestic life and competition.

Problem Solving: Works with "troubled" horses and those with physical limitations, such as a horse blind in one eye, emphasizing patience and desensitization.



# Amanda Held

Ohio

## H.O.O.V.E.S. | Equine Wisdom Integration Method™

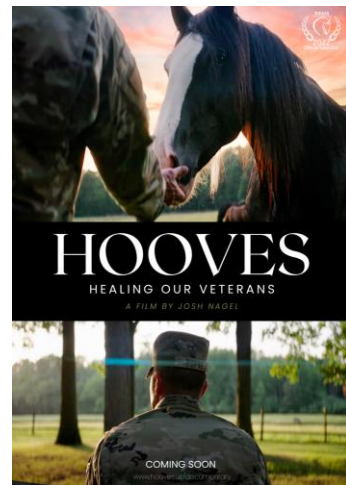
Amanda Held is the Founder of H.O.O.V.E.S. and CEO of the Equine Wisdom Institute. She has spent over two decades developing structured, biologically grounded approaches to the horse human connection.

She is the creator of the Equine Wisdom Integration Method™, Equine Communication Charts, and the EquuSpeak™ app, a digital platform designed to translate equine behavior into structured human insight and integration.

Her work serves veterans, first responders, equestrians, and leaders, guiding them toward greater clarity, resilience, and alignment through direct and digital interaction with horses.

<https://ewim.org/>

<https://www.hooves.us/>



H.O.O.V.E.S. is a private, donor-supported charity that provides fully funded, 4-day non-clinical retreats for veterans, first responders, and their family members nationwide, who are seeking recovery from service-connected stress.

Retreats are led primarily by veterans and family members who have themselves gone through trauma and achieved growth. During retreats, participants are facilitated through a process that integrates past traumas and reveals underlying strengths, as they forge connections with others and ultimately create a mission, vision, and purpose in service to both themselves and to humanity.

# Doug Haven

Pennsylvania

Havens Hideout Ranch

<https://www.havenshideoutranch.com>



Announcing Havens Hideout Ranch's newest endeavor- Havens Hideout Wild Mustang Training Academy! We will teach YOU how to train wild Mustangs and troubled horses.

Applications now being accepted for academy starting in February 2027. More details coming soon! Contact Doug at 719-371-3919 with any questions.

Douglas Havens

Owner and CEO of Havens Hideout Ranch, Doug has over 40 years of experience riding and training horses. He grew up on a cattle ranch working cows and horses since he was a young boy. He has worked many rodeos growing up which turned into a passion for training horses. He is part of the Wild Mustang training incentive program through BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and has trained over 10 horses through this program. He began this business to introduce the East to the West and share his love for horses and the Cowboy lifestyle with the residents of PA.



# Amy Lent

## Kentucky

I have been working with horses for over 30 years in 4-H, open shows, A rated, mustang and thoroughbred competitions. I drive my thoroughbreds in freestyle classes which I have won several times. My mustang and I competed in the 2025 Mustang Spectacular in hand and placed 6th. My goal with her is ranch work and possibly driving.

[showjumper1978@yahoo.com](mailto:showjumper1978@yahoo.com)

<https://www.visionsoffuntravel.com>



# Ariana Noel Sakaris

## Filmmaker / Mustang Trainer / Equestrian Kentucky

Over the years, Ariana traveled the world to work with renowned mentors studying the art of Dressage, Liberty, Groundwork, and Horsemanship.

Ariana's journey with horses began at the young age of 5 years old, where she became fascinated with horses and the interactions humans share with them. This led her into a lifelong passion of learning and growing, both in her horsemanship and in her own personal life. She committed many years to traveling both within the U.S. and overseas to gain valuable hands-on experience, and to be mentored by world renowned professionals. She has trained with several respected USDF Gold Medalists and Grand Prix trainers in Dressage, earning her USDF Silver Medal. She has spent time overseas learning about Classical Dressage and spent time learning from greatly valued Horsemanship and Liberty professionals. These experiences helped her gain valuable insight into the love, patience and compassion that goes into bringing horses and people to a point of better understanding both on the ground and in the saddle.

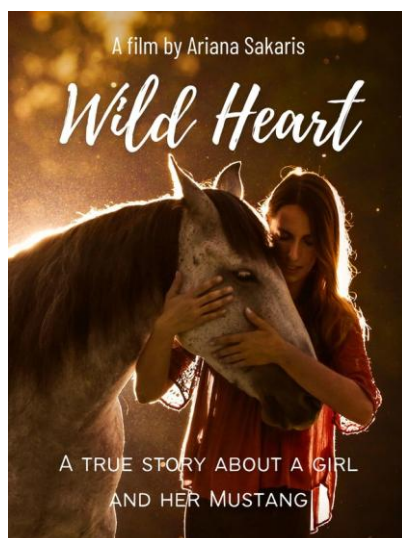
Ariana is based in the horse capital of Lexington, Kentucky with her mares "Mermaid" and "Wild Heart." She teaches, trains, and travels for clinics, focusing on Dressage, Groundwork, Liberty, and Horsemanship. She offers online education and coaching in her "Student of the Horse" Membership, offering over 650 training videos. Her intention is to inspire and help people gain a better understanding of themselves and the connection they have with their horses. Her goal is that this connection helps to grow a greater acceptance of people and animals worldwide.

<https://www.arianasakaris.com/>

[ariana@arianasakaris.com](mailto:ariana@arianasakaris.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/arianasakaris>

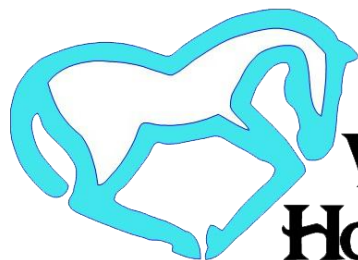
Trailer: <https://youtu.be/VP1KOpROQBw>



# Taryn Hillman

## Colorado

Born and raised in Colorado, Taryn graduated from CSU with a degree in Equine Science and Agricultural Business. She pursued her passion for horses from a young age and has been actively involved in both training horses and teaching lessons for over 20 years. She became a PATH Certified Instructor in 2007, helping individuals with special needs accomplish their goals while learning how to ride. She has participated in multiple Extreme Mustang Makeover competitions and several of those mustangs became partners in her therapeutic riding and lesson program. She has also competed in the Equine Comeback Challenge and several local TIP challenges, consistently placing among the top performers. When training horses she strives to do right by the horse, using natural horsemanship training methods to gain trust and respect while working with the horse to create a partnership with the goal of developing quiet, versatile horses that most anyone can ride



## Wild Hearts Horsemanship

<https://www.facebook.com/wildheartshorsemanship>

<https://wildheartshorsemanship.wixsite.com/whhllc>

<https://instagram.com/wildheartshorsemanship>

# Ann & Jim Souders

Texas

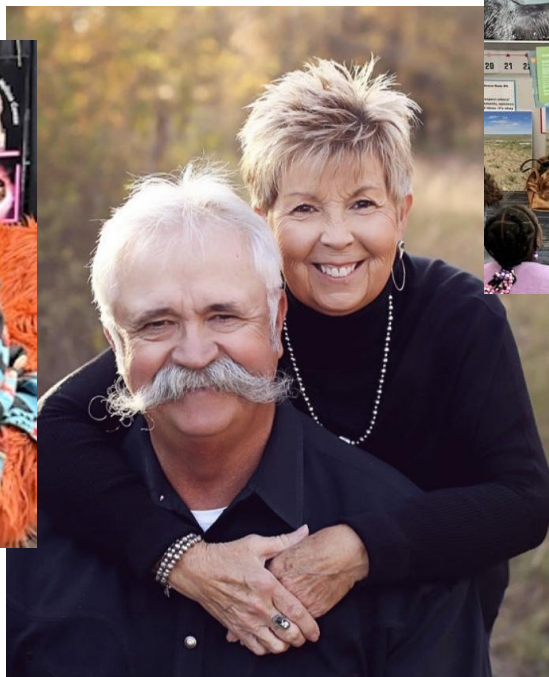
Forever Branded



After many years in corporate America, Ann attended her first Extreme Mustang Makeover in 2007 which inspired both she and her husband to compete the following year. A member of several prominent activist groups, Ann began talking to the BLM and Mustang Heritage Foundation personnel at the EMM events and spending time with many knowledgeable horsemen and women throughout her time training for the EMM. These conversations opened her eyes to another view of the plight of America's wild horses and burros and led her to cut ties with the activist organizations and look for ways to educate others. The art of conversation comes easily to Ann so, in 2009, when Mustang Heritage Foundation invited her to join them, she jumped at the chance.

She began traveling the US with America's Mustang, MHF's educational initiative visiting schools, equestrian events and spreading the truth surrounding wild horse and burro management practices. Ann has attended BLM gathers, holding facilities and met with hundreds of trainers to gain firsthand knowledge to share with the public. Her name has become synonymous with America's Mustang, Mustang Heritage Foundation and now the Director of Outreach and Education for Forever Branded. She is frequently sought after as an expert on wild horses and has appeared as the subject of numerous podcasts, articles, and videos. Because of her unwavering desire to discuss mustangs and share her passion, 'Forever Branded' has a bright future concerning the education and outreach for the American mustang.

<https://foreverbranded.org/>



# Kelsey Spencer

Mustang Trainer

Dalton, Ohio



Wild Ride Equine is a horse training business I started eight years ago. I ran a horse training facility, where I was the manager, trainer, Instructor, vet care tech. I also turned Wild Ride Equine into a Therapy program working with students young adults, helping them work through their trauma, while teaching them the way of the Horse.

I worked with students who have been in the Stark County Court System that struggled from trauma. I developed a program with Wild horses to help teach them about controlling their fear. Most of the time when anyone acts out it's directly related to having fear related trauma. My program was very intense. I spent the first 3 months teaching the basics with horses and then developed into the fine details of teaching the way of the horse.

This program design taught responsibility, self control, understanding, communication skills, and a drive for a work ethic. My students had 100 days to train a Wild Mustang and take them to a TIP Challenge competition. It was very successful. I would love to continue something like this in the future.

WILD RIDE EQUINE <https://wildrideequine.com/>



# Stephanie Swanson

Wild Rose Mustang Advocacy Group  
Colorado



Stephanie didn't start riding until she was 34, but she's been making up for lost time ever since. After a few years of learning the basics, she went on a quest to find the perfect trainer—someone with eventing expertise and a natural, horse-first approach. That journey led her to Cayla and Wild Rose, and the rest is history!

Her horse family started with Gentleman Jack, whom she still has, but it didn't stop there. Stephanie is now also the proud “mustang mama” of Dougie, Zephyr and Oliver, all adopted from Wild Rose. Add a few dogs to the mix and “Swanson Acres” is always full of excitement, dirty boots, and a whole lot of heart.

By day, Stephanie is a Business Officer at a local University, where she puts her accounting and organizational skills to work. When not at her day job, she uses those same skills to support Wild Rose's mission, helping Mustangs find homes and helping youth trainers succeed. Swanson Acres also provides an important resource for Wild Rose horses by offering space for new arrivals to quarantine, a place for horses to rest and recharge after training, and additional room to support Wild Rose's growing needs when space with our exceptional trainers is at capacity.

<https://www.wildrosemagic.org>





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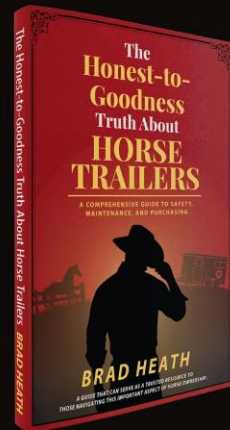


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# Mustang Leadership Partners

## Tennessee Youth & Mustangs



Mustang Leadership Partners (MLP) was established in February 2009 to provide girls and young women with an opportunity to develop, practice, and improve relationship skills, responsibility, social accountability, self-awareness and self-confidence—all of which are mirrored in the mustang's behavior. Providing hands-on science experiences and equestrian training, the MLP program is grounded in the belief that horses are mirrors to our energy systems and teach us important life lessons. The MLP program requires a year-long commitment and dedication to several academic and citizenship standards.

To participate in the MLP program, CGLA students must complete an application and are selected based upon their commitment to the MLP standards and their current academic standing. The program serves up to sixteen students (eight middle school and eight high school).

1219 CARTER LAKE RD  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37405

<https://www.cglasonline.com/student-center/mustang-leadership-partners>



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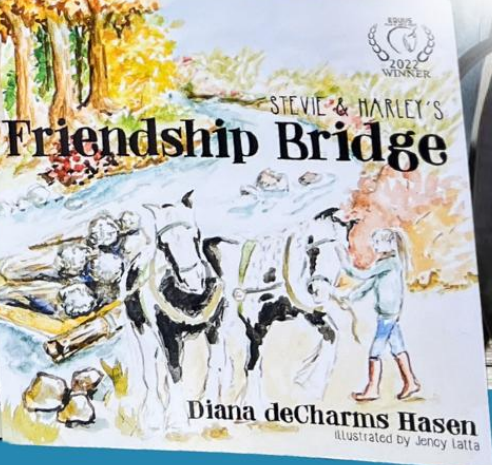
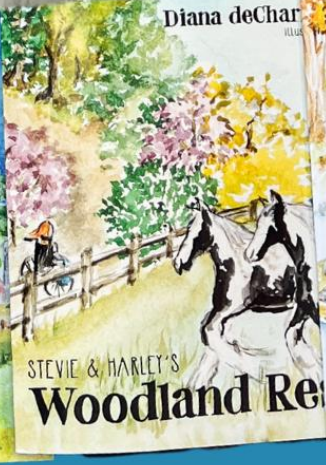
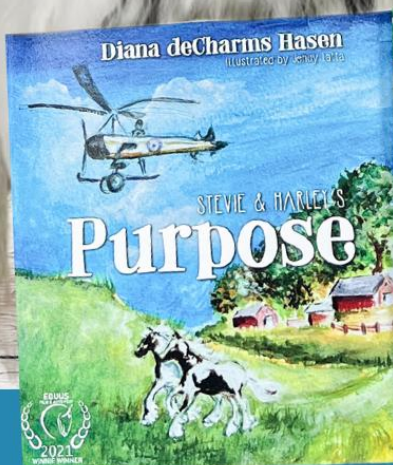
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Takhin is the Mongolian word for the wild horse – it means “honored one” or “revered one”. The Takhin program honors the horse’s need for play, herd socialization, purpose, and bodily and mental development.

It also honors the equine professional who is trying to do their best for their horse and clients, but often lack the time to address both.

Takhin is a program that will enable you to teach your clients with trauma, depression and related conditions to work with equine play, lunging, in hand work and long reins, to not only ensure the horses’s well-being but to also empower themselves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Nbr0aQf1cI>

<https://ntls.co/takhin/>



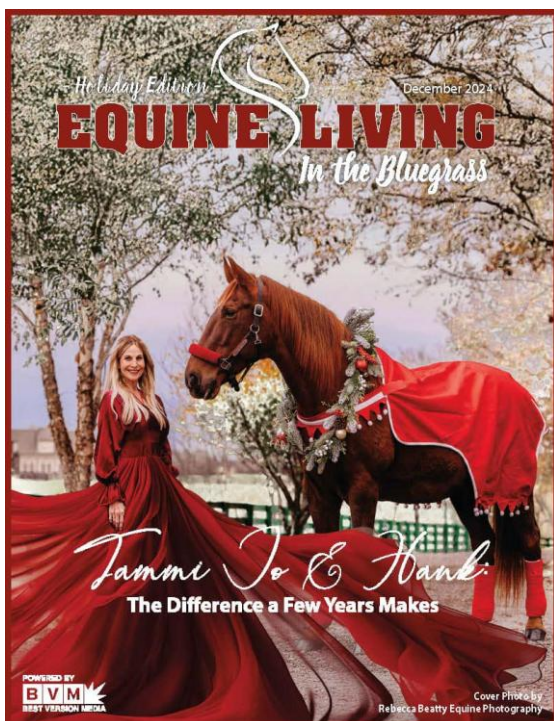
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For Hank's Sake has a steadfast commitment to providing loving care, rehabilitation, and retraining for our herd—offering them meaningful roles as equine ambassadors, coaches, mentors, and role models in our programs and in the communities we serve.

<https://www.forhankssake.org/>



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