



Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

March 2020

YOUR NEIGH-BORHOOD HULLABALOO

The Old Man and his Horse (a.k.a. Sai Wing Shi Ma)

Beware the Ides of March....or so the famous line goes in Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar. The *ideas* of March go back to ancient traditions and superstitions and are ultimately believed to be unlucky. I am not one to believe in bad luck—rather I believe in being out of sync with the Universe in such a way you have lost your trajectory and this is something inately personal and part of an individual's journey. I am reminded of the Chinese parable "The old man and his Horse", a story that reminds us what can often seem like a misfortune can turn into a very good thing. Here is how the story goes:

Once there was an old man who lived in a tiny village. Although poor, he was s envied by all, for he owned a beautiful white horse. Even the king coveted his treasure. A horse like this had never been seen before—such was its splendor, its majesty, its strength.

People offered fabulous prices for the steed, but the old man always refused. "This horse is not a horse to me," he would tell them. "It is a person. How could you sell a person? He is a friend, not a possession. How could you sell a

friend." The man was poor and the temptation was great. But he never sold the horse.

One morning he found that the horse was not in his stable. All the village came to see him. "You old fool," they scoffed, "we told you that someone would steal your horse. We warned you that you would be robbed. You are so poor. How could you ever protect such a valuable animal? It would have been better to have sold him. You could have gotten whatever price you wanted. No amount would have been too high. Now the horse is gone and you've been cursed with misfortune." The old man responded, "Don't speak too quickly. Say only that the horse is not in the stable. That is all we know; the rest is judgment. If I've been cursed or not, how can you know? How can you judge?"

The people contested, "Don't make us out to be fools! We may not be philosophers, but great philosophy is not needed. The simple fact that your horse is gone is a curse." The old man spoke again. "All I know is that the stable is empty, and the horse is gone. The rest I don't know. Whether it be a curse or a blessing, I can't say. All we can see is a fragment. Who can say what will come next?" The people of the

village laughed. They thought that the man was crazy. They had always thought he was a fool; if he wasn't, he would have sold the horse and lived off the money. But instead, he was a poor woodcutter, an old man still cutting firewood and dragging it out of the forest and selling it. He lived hand to mouth in the misery of poverty. Now he had proven that he was, indeed, a fool.

After fifteen days, the horse returned. He hadn't been stolen; he had run away into the forest. Not only had he returned, he had brought a dozen wild horses with him. Once again, the village people gathered around the woodcutter and spoke. "Old man, you were right and we were wrong. What we thought was a curse was a blessing. Please forgive us."

The man responded, "Once again, you go too far. Say only that the horse is back. State only that a dozen horses returned with him, but don't judge. How do you know if this is a blessing or not? You see only a fragment. Unless you know the whole story, how can you judge? You read only one page of a book. Can you judge the whole book? You read only one word of one phrase. Can you understand the entire phrase?"

Continued on back page...

A Horse that Paints

Equine Art Exhibits Straight from A Horse's Mouth! (from 2008)

A horse who paints with his mouth is to have his work exhibited at the Venetian art gallery, Galleria Giudecca 795.

The 23 year-old-horse named Cholla uses his mouth to hold a brush and paints on an easel-mounted canvas in his paddock.

Cholla's paintings have sold for more than \$2,000 and one of his paintings was even acquired by the American celebrity, Martha Stewart.

Cholla's owner Renee Chambers says that she discovered the horse's talent four years ago when he would follow her around as she painted his enclosure. She said that he seemed to be extremely interested in what she was doing, so her husband made the suggestion to give the horse a paint brush.

Cholla's art has been sold in 31 states and 5 countries!



Cholla was a Mustang/Quarter horse gelding born May 20 1985, 15.2 hands tall that had a rough start in life before he was acquired by Renee in 1990, her first and only horse. Cholla passed away on March 22, 2013 at the age of 28.

Cholla's behavior is considered "of scientific interest" by the ethologist, Mainardi, (one who studies scientific animal behaviors) who writes about Cholla in his new book "The Intelligence of Animals": "I admired Cholla in some videos, running free, and at the easel. He picked up the brush and spontaneously began drawing his signs. His most astonishing behavior is shown in a sequence when at first he experiences some difficulties in holding the brush with his mouth, then spontaneously begins moving it using his tongue and teeth, until he succeeds reaching the desired position; only at this point he starts working at his painting. Believe me, this is not a little thing. It seems to show consciousness and intention, because the horse acts without any obligation. He does it because - this is what it seems - he wants to do. Cholla does not behave like a trained animal."



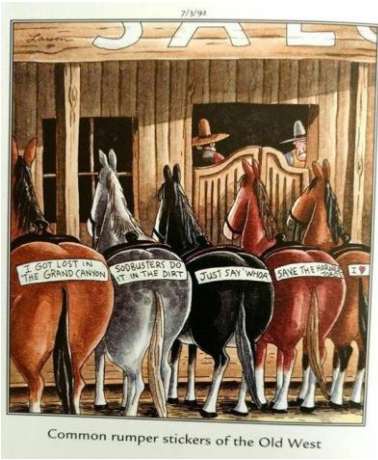
Our store is open 11:00am – 6:00pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday



Shop online!
www.thenoblehorsevintage.com
www.theurbanequustrian.com

New Items for March





What do you get if you cross a horse with a bee?
Neigh Buzz

What kind of horse likes to be ridden at night?
A nightmare
Where do horses shop?
Old Neigh-Vy!

"Mom! Hunter keeps saying I'm not a thoroughbred. Can you show him my papers?"



Why was the horse naked?
Because his jockey fell off

A policeman in the big city stops a man in a car with a miniature horse in the front seat. "what are you doing with that horse?" he exclaimed, "You should take it to the farm."

The following week the same policeman sees the same man with the horse again in the front seat, with both of them wearing sunglasses. The policeman pulls him over.

"I thought you were going to take that horse to the farm!"

The man replied, "I did. We had such a good time we are going to the beach this weekend!"



WILDWOOD FARM B&B



This is your moment.

Today at Wildwood Farm B&B



An IT Manager
Discovered that nature has its own rules, learned that horses have innate intelligence – and in the washed colors of a sunrise was reminded beauty is everywhere

Immerse yourself in the equestrian world at Wildwood Farm B&B located on beautiful Whidbey Island.

Our ranch has a long history of igniting the spark between horses and humans, whether you want a small introduction or total immersion.

Come experience the power of possibility with these magnificent creatures and explore the abundance of silent repose.

www.wildwoodfarmbandb.com

WILDWOOD FARM HAS IT ALL!

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RIDING ACADEMY



WILL YOU?

Learn from me and take my wisdom with you as a safe secret tucked into your pocket?



WILL YOU?

Allow me to tell you who you really are so you can move forward and paint your own portrait?



WWW.PNWRiding.com

Test your St Patrick Smarts!

Please turn in your entries by 4/15/2020

1. What would you pour on top of an Irish Coffee? _____
2. What are the Twelve Bens? _____
3. What does the circle at the very center of Celtic Cross represent? _____
4. What did St. Patrick supposedly chase out of Ireland? _____
5. Which traditional musical instrument was adopted as a logo by Guinness? _____
6. How many leaves does a shamrock have? _____
7. Name the famous kind of glass that is made in Southern Ireland: _____
8. When did the Irish Potato Famine occur? _____
9. Who was the very first King of Ireland? _____
10. Which fierce warriors invaded Ireland during the 9th and 10th centuries? _____
11. In which language was the Book of Kells written? _____
12. Kissing the Blarney stone is believed to confer what? _____
13. Name the famous Irish actor who played James Bond: _____
14. What is the official color of Ireland? _____
15. What type of creature is a leprechaun? _____
16. What color was originally associated with St. Patrick? _____

St Patrick Smarts Contest is open to all

Name: _____ Age: _____

Phone: _____

The winner will be announced in our April Newsletter and will receive a Gift Certificate to Toppins in Oak Harbor. (Try to do this without GOOGLE!)

Congratulations to Torian Chavis for his winning Valentine's Smarts entry from the February Newsletter

Nutrition Corner

TRIPLE CROWN NUTRITION LAUNCHES NEW, ADVANCED LINE OF HORSE FEED FORMULAS.

The New line is Triple Crown Gold with three formulas: Senior, Performance and 30% Balancer.

All of Triple Crown horse feeds are super-premium, packed with the right levels of nutrients for horses to thrive. But sometimes, a horse needs even a little bit more. This is where the idea for Gold came about.

Elevating the electrolyte balance, fat levels, gastric buffering and amino acids to give certain horses, especially those that compete, the edge they need to go from great to winning gold. Creating a new standard for horse feed.

“Triple Crown Gold takes the best of everything we’ve learned over the years and combines it in a feed that gives your horse that extra edge they need to go from great to Gold,” said Rob Daugherty, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Triple Crown Nutrition.

30% Balancer Gold offers 13.5% protein, 4.5% fat, 15% fiber and is Soy-free. The addition of electrolytes, gastric buffering and amino acids brings this low carbohydrate/non-grain feed into the winners circle.

Senior Gold offers 14.5% protein, 12.5% fat, 18% fiber and is beet-pulp based. Developed for active, older horses with higher fat, an expanded amino acid profile and gastric buffering which is ideal for performance horses or those under stress.

Perform Gold offers 12.5% protein, 12% fat and 15% fiber with the inclusion of whey protein which is essential for muscle growth.

WILDWOOD FARM AND TRIPLE CROWN FEEDS.

Our partnership with Triple Crown began in 2014 through a promotion with the USEF encouraging farm members to compare their current feeding programs with Triple Crown products. We have found the TC products to be superior over other products primarily because of the Equi-mix technology and the research support of a leading edge team including independent representatives of Equine Universities, Medical clinics and top level riders and trainers.

In Memory of GOTTA HABIT (aka Hope)

Hope came to Wildwood Farm in the fall of 2006 after she was purchased at the monthly Horse sales auction in Enumclaw. It wasn't just her lovely conformation that caught our attention, but it was the obvious heart and grit this mare had. Sold without papers we thought she was a quarter horse - it was not until we got her home that we saw the tattoo on her upper lip - she was a thoroughbred horse! And what a wreck she was....although she was ridden in the auction we could now see that her shoulders were not even, she had sustained an injury to her wither, she had bone chips on her knee and her front teeth were completely missing - pushed back into her mouth after what must have been a horrific injury. The fact that she was still standing was a miracle.

In addition to all of that someone had attempted to burn off her tattoo, but after much research and false DNA tests we finally found out that our beautiful Hope was born in 2002, was raced 6 times and was a 3-time winner and earned \$76,234.00



What made Hope one of the most amazing horses that I have ever met is when learned her full story and the trajectory her life had taken. I have never admired a horse more than I did Hope.

She was a sprinter and she was extremely fast; her trainer pushed her and pushed her and Hope always answered with “Yes I can”, she was a true fighter in every sense of the word. In June of 2005 she won her first race, and then in August of that same year won her second. The following year (2006) she was raced 3 times - In June, July and September. That spring, prior to her racing, she was in some sort of accident, probably a summersault where she tripped and flipped over-but her trainer continued racing her and she continued to give everything she could. In September she ran her final race and won by 6 lengths - with a smashed mouth and rotated shoulder and bone chip in her knee. The heart this mare had was unbelievable, and they repaid her by taking her to the auction to be sold, where we bought her 2 months after her last race. Because of her injured shoulder she could never be ridden, but she did make a fabulous brood mare and gave us 2 athletic, amazing babies - Nacho Grande and Oliver's Swift. With her second pregnancy she started blowing out abscesses in both front feet and after x-rays were taken we discovered she had bone infections in both front feet due to the stresses she endured as a race horse. With a sad heart we finally bid goodbye to Hope in 2016 and she was laid to rest here at her forever home, Wildwood Farm.

THE INTERVIEW

With Heather Carder, owner/partner Wildwood Farm

What is your idea of perfect Happiness? I think of perfect happiness as being that moment when you are taking a step forward in your life with the solid foundation of your past supporting and encouraging you.

What is your greatest Fear? That my fears remain contained. The more you try and contain your fears the stronger they get.

What historical figure do you most identify with? I think I would identify with any historical artist who saw the world in their own way and did not follow tradition.

What is your favorite journey? My dreams at night. So amazing with bright colors and images that there are really no words to describe. Like visiting a different existence.

What living person do you most admire? I admire people who are genuine and steadfast in their convictions. Dr. Laura Schlessinger comes to mind.

On what occasion do you lie? When I feel that the truth is not going to get you anywhere.

What do you most dislike about your appearance? I wish I was about 30 lbs lighter! There are tradeoffs but when I stopped riding it really made a difference.

Which living person do you most despise? Despise is a word that sucks you in emotionally, so I really don't go there. There are horrific people out there for sure but I don't give them any of my energy, it is too precious.

What words or phrase do you most over-use? I think I use DUDE a bit too much, as well as Umm...No.

What is your greatest regret? Not staying in touch with my sister, she passed away in 2015.

What or who is the greatest love of your life? It is not a person or thing, it is the opportunity we all have here to create a fulfilling life. I love that unconditionally.

When and where were you happiest? Happiness is fleeting and you don't really know what made you happy until you have a chance to look at it from a distance. But one constant is when I was 13 and I had the whole summer in front of me to ride, explore – total freedom.

Which talent would you most like to have? I would love the ability to move things with my mind.

What is your current state of mind? Determined. Grateful. Curious.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? I would really like to get a paycheck again someday !

If you could change one thing about your family, what would it be? My family was never what I would call close; it might be nice to see what a close family was like.

What is your most treasured possession? My Intellect.

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery? An active mind with no way to communicate it.

Where would you like to live? I like open spaces, and although I have lived in the heart of a city and liked being a part of the collective, I really prefer nature. Somewhere by the ocean where the storms come rolling in and you feel small and humble.

What is your most marked characteristic? I would say my

creativity and tenaciousness – cretatiousness?

What is the quality you most like in a person? Intelligence and compassion.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself? I can honestly say I don't deplore anything about myself. I'm a big fan of me and the person I am trying to become.

What is the trait you most deplore in others? Deplore is not a word that helps anyone so I won't use it. What will roll my eyes from time to time are people that will not take responsibility for their own lives, unfortunately rampant in this day and age.

What do you consider the most over-rated virtue? Getting a college degree. Institutional learning is a kind of a lazy way to go about it and does not give room for interpretation. We have to be careful what we know, it can either open the gates wide or slam the door closed!

What is your greatest extravagance? Sparkling water, two-hour facials and cheesecake.

What do you consider your greatest achievement? I would say that owing Wildwood Farm and being a part of all the potential, the challenges, the successes and failures. Setting a vision for this farm has not only been my complete honor, but allowed me to grow in ways I did not foresee.

What is your favorite occupation? I think being an explorer would be amazing; think about un-covering new worlds that no one had seen before, things you did not know existed and leaving your heart open to discovery.

How would you like to die? Breathless, tired and with a full heart.

Wildwood Farm CLIPS & CLOPS Oak Harbor

2326 Happy Valley Rd
Oak Harbor WA 98277

The Old Man and His Horse continued from page 1

“Life is so vast, yet you judge all of life with one page or one word. All you have is one fragment! Don’t say that this is a blessing. No one knows. I am content with what I know. I am not perturbed by what I don’t.”

“Maybe the old man is right,” they said to one another. So they said little. But down deep, they knew he was wrong. They knew it was a blessing. Twelve wild horses had returned. With a little work, the animals could be broken and trained and sold for much money.

The old man had a son, an only son. The young man began to break the wild horses. After a few days, he fell from one of the horses and broke both legs. Once again the villagers gathered around the old man and cast their judgments. “You were right,” they said. “You proved you were right. The dozen horses were not a blessing. They were a curse. Your only son has broken both his legs, and now in your old age you have no one to help you. Now you are poorer than ever.”

The old man spoke again. “You people are obsessed with judging. Don’t go so far. Say only that my son broke his legs. Who knows if it is a blessing or a curse? No one knows. We only have a fragment. Life comes in fragments.”

It so happened that a few weeks later the country engaged in war against a neighboring country. All the young men of the village were required to join the army. Only the son of the old man was excluded, because he was injured. Once again the people gathered around the old man, crying and screaming because their sons had been taken. There was little chance that they would return. The enemy was strong, and the war would be a losing struggle. They would never see their sons again.

“You were right, old man,” They wept. “God knows you were right. This proves it. Your son’s accident was a blessing. His legs may be broken, but at least he is with you. Our sons are gone forever.” The old man spoke again. “It is impossible to talk with you. You always draw conclusions. No one knows. Say only this. Your sons had to go to war, and mine did not. No one knows if it is a blessing or a curse. No one is wise enough to know. Only God knows.”