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https://mdhorsecouncil.org

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To submit photos and stories to
The Equiery, email editor@equiery.com.

To advertise in *The Equiery*, call
1-800-244-9580.

The Equiery is brought to you by
The Maryland Horse Council
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)
mdhorsecouncil.org

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nagate@mdhorsecouncil.org

Membership Coordinator: Emily Nessel
membership@mdhorsecouncil.org

To join the Maryland Horse Council, go
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The Equiery is published 12 times a year (monthly), and is distributed, free, in tack shops and feed shops in & around Maryland. For more information on equestrian services in Maryland, please call 1-800-244-9580 or 410-489-7826.

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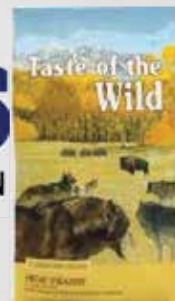
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Vacation

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From staycations to vacations, *Equiery* readers found creative ways to spend some quality time with family and friends this summer. Here are a few travel photos from our *Equiery* readers.



For his 16th birthday, Colin Parker and his family visited Wyoming. Colin is pictured here with the Grand Tetons in the background.



Connie Baker made a day trip to Assateague Island National Seashore to visit with the ponies.



Alyssa Peddicord took a horseback tour through the Ozarks of Mountain View, Arkansas.



Beth Collier visited Sotterley House and its gardens in Hollywood, MD.



Marie Downey and friends took a hack through the historic Gettysburg National Military Park in PA.



Before the world shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Linda Molesworth and Mary Russell of Lucky Cricket Farm rode through the Andes Mountains. They are pictured here at the Argentine/Chilean border in January 2020.



Daphne Schauber enjoyed a summer evening sunset while riding Misty at Valley Meadows Farm B&B in Hancock.

As of press, Paige Erudite Turner still hadn't come back from the beaches of Rhode Island!

Sandra Cartagena Powell found some different four-legged friends while traveling through Capon Spring, WV.

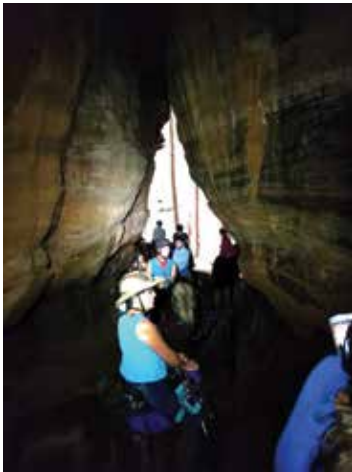




Alex Abella and friends spots a lone pony running across the beach at Assateague Island National Seashore while setting up for a summer evening bonfire.



Christina Dale snapped this photo of a rather large Moose while hiking in the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.



Becky Heffner spent part of the summer exploring on her horse Cisco. She is pictured here in the 21 Horse Cave in Hocking Hills, Ohio.



Jenn Emmart took this photo of the Devil's Marblyard near the Natural Bridge in Virginia.



Suzanne Anderson taking in the view of the Grand Tetons' Sawtooth Ridge in Wyoming.



Diane Zrimsek found a cool spot to relax in Montana.



Amanda Allen took this photo while visiting Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.



Amanda Braun took in the views during a cross-country road trip to Yellowstone National Park. Pictured here is the Devils Tower en route to Yellowstone.



Carolyn Rowland took this photo of an Assateague Pony scratching on a tree.



Toyah Houck Nastanovich outside the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

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Park Overlook

Speaking Up for Diversity in the Horse World

by Katherine O. Rizzo

In the September News & Views section of *The Equiery* we reported on Nation Media's Diversity Scholarship. This month, we have followed up with the three Maryland scholarship winners asking them to share their stories on why they applied for the scholarship and what sort of feedback they have received since their stories were published on eventingnation.com.

Each woman represents different backgrounds, different experiences and different view points, but together, along with all 21 scholarship winners, they offer first steps towards a more inclusive competitive horse world.

Helen Casteel

Helen Casteel of Silver Spring first sat on a horse as a teenager in Massachusetts when she followed a friend to a local barn and started taking lessons. "My dad was a mailman and would pick me up after school in his mail truck and drop me at the barn for lessons," she said with a chuckle. "I just liked horses and wouldn't let it go. The place was an eventing barn and I just loved it!"

Casteel did not actively start competing in eventing until much later in life when she purchased her first horse and began boarding at Waredaca in Laytonsville. "That's when I got serious about the sport," she said. "I'm not a professional [eventer] in any way, but that's ok." Casteel has competed at many different Area II venues, rode at the 2019 American Eventing Championships in Kentucky and spent part of this past winter in Florida.

Casteel stated in her scholarship essay that she feels "very fortunate in my experiences as a Black woman in the horse worlds and specifically as an Eventer. I've always ridden at racially diverse barns and am based now at a place where I've only felt welcome and safe as I train and compete." Casteel went on to write that "being the one that looks different from everyone else is something I've gotten used to but I'm lucky to not have to worry too much about it. Unfortunately, not all other BIPOC in equestrian sport have been as lucky as I have."

This is the reason why she decided to apply for the Diversity Scholarship. "When I first heard about it, I wasn't going to do the essay," she said. "This [diversity issue] has been hap-

pening for years and it has been very easy for most people, as in white people, to not think about it. I started to think 'come on guys, you knew these things were going on and haven't done anything about it.'"

So Casteel began to write her essay, not so much for the scholarship money but because of the platform being offered to speak out on the issue of diversity. "This scholarship idea was a good way to get more people to come forward and share their thoughts," she added.

Overall the feedback Casteel has received since being one of this year's winners has been positive. "Everyone has been lovely," she said, adding, "People I haven't heard from in a while have reached out to me because of the essay." One such friend told her, "having this come from you made me think of things a bit differently," which Casteel feels is the perfect starting point, stating that thoughts on diversity need to change.

Looking back at her essay, Casteel does wish she had spent more time talking about the history of Black Americans in shaping the horse world across the country. "I could have talked so much more about Bass Reeves. I mean he IS the Lone Ranger," she stated. "The Black community's contribution to the horse world across the country is so much more than people think." It is changing the way people think about minorities and horses that will begin to make a difference.

But as Casteel stated in the conclusion of her essay, "However real change will only happen when white people truly prioritize diversity and representation efforts. This has to become your problem to solve."

Dawn Edgerton-Cameron

As a young girl growing up in Queens, New York, all Dawn Edgerton-Cameron really wanted was a cat. "I don't know why, but I just kept begging my parents for a cat and read all the books on cats I could find," she remembered. "And then I moved onto dogs but the answer was still always no."

Somewhere along the line, Edgerton-Cameron's animal obsession turned to horses and her parents said no to buying a horse but after her family moved

to Long Island, NY, she was able to start taking some riding lessons. "I think they liked the idea that the horses couldn't actually come live with us," she said with a laugh.

The first barn she rode at taught Western so that is where her equestrian journey started. She eventually moved to a hunt seat barn and then road for Brown University's Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team. "I remember the exact moment I learned about [the sport of] Eventing," she said, "It was watching the 1984 Olympics. I just really loved the idea of being able to do a sport where you got out of the ring."

Now living in Annapolis, Edgerton-Cameron jumped head first into the Area II eventing scene while dabbling in competitive trail riding with her trainer's, Dyanna Capuano, off-the-track Thoroughbred.

Edgerton-Cameron also was hesitant to write a scholarship essay at first. "I had been watching the comments online and I don't mean this to be harsh but with my busy schedule, I just didn't feel the scholarship amount was worth the time," she explained. Edgerton-Cameron is a financial advisor currently working on transitioning to starting her own firm. "I just knew if I was going to write anything, it would end up being a long commitment because I wanted to not just address the problem at hand but give a way through to achieve an end goal," she added.

As more and more sponsors added their support to the scholarship fund, Capuano kept pushing her student to share her story. "Fourteen hours and five pages later I had my thoughts written down," Edgerton-Cameron said with a chuckle. "And even now as I re-read what I sent in, I keep wanting to add to it and change a word here and there."

Edgerton-Cameron's essay reads exactly as she

continued...



Helen Casteel of Silver Spring competing in the Waredaca Classic Novice 3-Day Event in 2019.

GEC Photo



Dawn Edgerton-Cameron at a MidAtlantic Horse Rescue Show aboard Jack.

Perry Cameron

Speaking Up for Diversity in the Horse World, continued...

intended. Looking at the issue of diversity from an MBA mindset, she addressed four key factors and lists many ways to “fix” each factor. The key factors she lists in her essay are exposure, opportunity, perception and reception. “I wanted to bring something to the table that was more than just my personal experiences. I wanted to be able to share some solutions,” she said.

Presenting solutions is what most motivated Edgerton-Cameron to submit an essay saying, “we need steps on how individual horse people can move forward and make a difference.”

Edgerton-Cameron received feedback immediately from *Eventing Nation* Editor-In-Chief Leslie Wylie before the essay was ever formally published. “Leslie sent me an email back saying ‘I just read your essay four times’ and ‘wow,’” Edgerton-Cameron shared.

Once posted online, Edgerton-Cameron stated the feedback has started more and more conversations. She herself is even learning more about other people of color in equestrian sports. “I’ve learned just how many riders of color there are in this sport. I am not alone!” she explained, adding, “there is an entire community out there spread out across the country!”

On a personal level, Edgerton-Cameron has joined several Facebook groups related to riders

of color since the scholarship was announced. “If we continue to come together, we can really make a difference,” she said. Edgerton-Cameron also added, “I really do mean what I wrote in that essay about wanting to join committees addressing this area of conversation. I’m here and willing to do my part.”



Deena Jih

Polo player Lea Jih-Vieira of Middletown

Lea Jih-Vieira

Seeing as how this Diversity Scholarship was first announced on *Eventing Nation*’s website, polo player Lea Jih-Vieira did not think she was eligible to apply. “I get the EN emails and saw one that said ‘scholarship’ and clicked through,” she said. “It was interesting to find out that [the scholarship] was open to all disciplines, not just eventing.”

Jih-Vieira, who is of Chinese and Portuguese descent, remarked that as a child, her mother really wanted her to join some sort of sport. “She tried everything... soccer, softball... I just would sit down and refuse to play,” she said. “Then she signed me up for a riding lesson and I just loved it!”

Her riding beginning was at a show hunter barn but then she tried polo briefly before getting into barrel racing. “Then in high school I started riding polo with Mountain View Polo and just stuck with it,” she stated. “I’m 100% a

polo player now!”

Now playing varsity polo at Cornell University as a sophomore, the Middletown native said, “I personally haven’t seen many Asian players in polo. They are mostly white and then Hispanic. I can count on one hand how many Asian polo players I’ve seen.”

Jih-Vieira addressed in her essay the financial divide that is present in polo as well as many other equestrian sports. “Equestrian sports in general are expensive and to be really competitive in polo, you really need a string of good horses, which just triples the expenses,” she explained. “This is why I really wanted to focus on the socioeconomic problems with the sport in general.”

In her essay, she wrote, “The underlying issue why we have a lack of diversity in equestrian sport amounts to a socioeconomic issue. The historic systems in place, meant to limit people of color, are so interwoven in the fabric of our country that we may not even realize how much they influence our lives today.” She also wrote, “To make equestrian sport more inclusive, we must be mindful of the struggles of these communities.”

Jih-Vieira put out a challenge of sorts to organizations such as the U.S. Eventing Association and U.S. Polo Association to do their part in breaking down barriers for low-income individuals entering the sport. She suggested, “By allocating money to help this population of aspiring equestrians start their careers, these organizations are not only supporting these individuals, but are setting an example for everyone in the community.”

She told *The Equiery*, “I know there were a lot of comments on Facebook criticizing the amount of this scholarship but the thought is good and they needed to start somewhere.”

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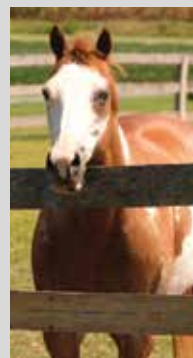
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Sunday, November 15, 2020
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Sunday, November 29, 2020
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OUT & ABOUT

OCT
2020

Maryland



Safe Haven Farm's Kyra Tuite and Heart 2 Heart were the Junior Class Reserve Champions at the PVDA Schooley Mill show in August.



Jazz Napravnik jumps Ghostpeppers Reign over a Beginner Novice cross-country fence at the September MDHT Starter.



Pemberton Equestrian Center rider Sydney Shannon rode Hocus Pocus to the Baby Green championship at the 2020 Colonial Classic Horse Show, New Jersey Horse Park.



Lizzie Hummel and Oliver ride for the ANRC Take it Forward Virtual Freestyle Challenge at the North Fork School of Equitation.



Shaun Gandia teaches Freedom Hill Horse Rescue's Dawson to cross the "pond" during a September volunteer class.



Emily Nelson and Age Is Just A Number competing at CDCTA's Fall Horse Trials in Berryville, VA on September 13.

TROT members (from left) Frank Durilla, Karen Durilla, Jessica Conway, Yancy Carey, Carolann Sharpe, Celine Huettig, Flo Arnold and Katie. Not pictured are Holly Trevino, Jenny Puckett, and Latonya Price at Little Bennet Regional Park on September 19.



Steeplechase trainers, Green Spring Valley Hounds and Elkridge Harford Hunt Club members, show jumper grooms and hunter/jumper riders all teamed up to create the Margarita Polo League which held its finals the end of August.

Reader Contributions - Please send your photos to editor@equiery.com by the 10th of the month. Photos must be at least 300 dpi. Please include the following information with each photo: names of people and horses, location and date where photo was taken, photographer name and contact information. The Equiery is not responsible for any copyright fees associated with the use of professional photographs.

OUT & ABOUT

OCT
2020

Maryland



Hood College's Alexa Grey riding Flower during the ANRC Take It Forward Virtual College Team Tournament.



Erin O'Neill and Mercury, the August 2020 *Equiery* cover pony, placed sixth overall at the 2020 Appalachian Trainer Face Off. After the competition, Mercury's adoption bid "shattered the arena record at the auction," according to O'Neill. He was adopted by someone in Maryland who has placed him back with Erin to continue his training.



Angie Leiby

Alexandra DuPont riding Paloleo at the CDCTA Fall Horse Trials on September 13 in Berryville, VA.



Julia Hartburger with IMA TOYS R US KID are heading to the APHA East Coast National Paint Show this October after earning a reserve champion at the filly's first APHA show in early September.



Gina Hall and Audrey Buoniconti's Wild Mambo at the Maryland Horse & Pony Show in September.

**Send your
Out & About photos to
editor@equiery.com!**



Maryland High School Rodeo Members (from left) Katie Howard (Salisbury), Charliz Stair (Catonsville), Jenna Bryan (Williamsport), Grace Kelly (Reisterstown) and Tegan Allen (Delaware) enjoyed competing at the Wellsville, PA Multi-State Rodeo Labor Day weekend, the first Rodeo of the High School Rodeo 2020-2021 season.

Gemma Radko riding Ty and Alex Konstandinidis on Angela Kemerer's Little John at the September 15 cavaletti clinic at By Chance in Union Bridge.



The 2020 Margarita Polo League finals winners "Willie's Angels" Dr. Molly Muedeking, Daisy Fenwick and William Dowling.

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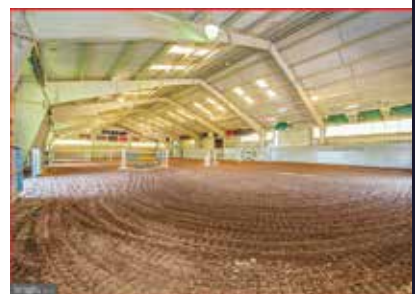
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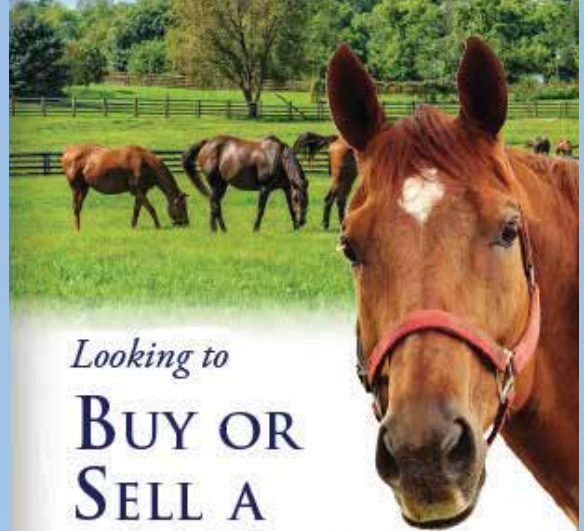
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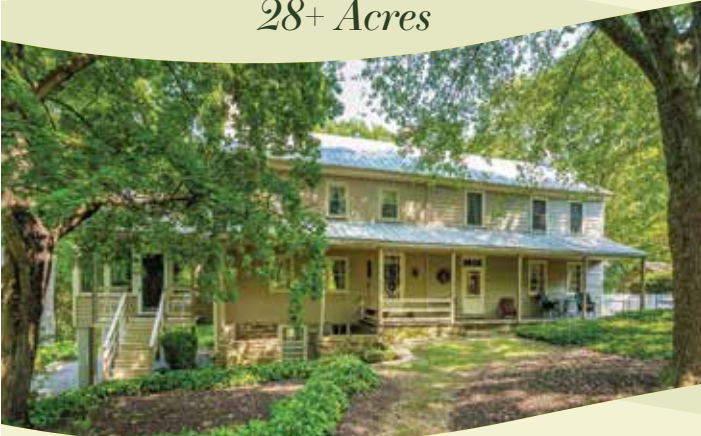
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Oct 3 The 145th Preakness Stakes
Oct 15 - 18 The Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill (Virtual
Oct 24 Event) Jim McKay Maryland Million Day

New event calendar of all of Maryland's Horse Month events.
 Behind the scenes event and daily equestrian videos and webinars.
 New equestrian driving collections of destinations and activities in Maryland's horse country.
 Updated lists of horse farms, stables, trails and shopping venues.

www.marylandhorse.com www.visitmaryland.org/horse www.mpt.org/horse

Horse Month - UMD/EQ webinars

Horse Month selfie horse

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Lifeline Horse Rescue & Rehabilitation, Inc.

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301-318-1686; Leila@lifelinehorsesrescue.org; www.lifelinehorsesrescue.org



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April: 2003 Percheron Quarter Horse Mare. Loves ring work, gaining confidence on trail. 16 hh

adoptions@gentlegiantsdrafthorsesrescue.org; www.gentlegiantsdrafthorsesrescue.org



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410-970-6474; horses@mdequinetransition.org; www.mdequinetransition.org



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302-376-7297; Bev@MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org; www.MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org



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301-305-6440; info@middleridgefarm.com; www.MiddleRidgeAnimalRescue.com



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301-667-2553; whinnywhiskers@thefoxiegfoundation.org; www.thefoxiegfoundation.org



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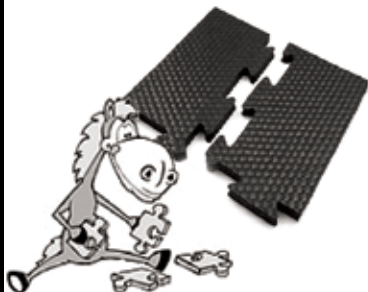
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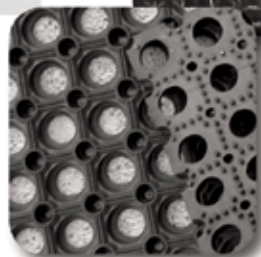
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