



HETI

*The Federation of Horses in
Education and Therapy
International*

November 2012 Newsletter

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From the Director

Happy November to everyone. This past season had its share of joy and sorrow.



Watching the sportsmanship and skill of the champion riders at the London Paralympics was a uplifting and affirming experience. This was tempered by the

untimely death of Jonathan Wentz on September 30 which we all feel very deeply. Jonathan's life is an example and inspiration to all, and we should be grateful for the experience of his life.

When you read in this newsletter of veterans in the US benefiting from Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, you will know that our work continues to have an impact in the greater world.

Reflections on the Paralympics



By [Ann Kern-Godal](#)

In 2004 I was introduced to the Paralympics in Athens and to many para-equestrians destined to become friends and colleagues. The equestrian events for Beijing 2008 were held in Hong Kong for reasons of quarantine, so the swimmers, runners, fencing teams, cyclists were missing, as were the jubilant cafeteria scenes each evening as nations counted their medals and cheered their competitors.

But then there was [London 2012!](#) It was something else. The crowds turned out in force for all events. The very picturesque venue at Greenwich was crammed with spectators each day. For me, the special memories are of:

- The record crowd of more than 100,000 spectators and their spontaneous response to requests for "no applause" for some horses - they took to arm waving as one might expect to see at an outdoor concert, showing obvious enjoyment and admiration for skillful riding on beautiful

We welcome your feedback! Share your information, stories and photos with us!

I look forward to hearing from you! Please read on for our President's Report.

Sincerely,

Gisela Rhodes, E.D.
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From the President

Greetings,

The past few months have been very exciting for me. As the President of HETI, I have been meeting and working with individuals around the world, to promote horses in education and therapy.

In July, Gisela Heimsath Rhodes and I were invited by the Hellenic Association for Therapeutic Riding (ELETHIP) to provide Level II training for instructor certification. It was a great experience to once again meet with candidates from Greece and Cyprus and experience the friendship and generosity of our Greek friends.

In August, I returned to Kentucky (USA) as an onsite evaluator the Central Kentucky Riding for Hope (CKRH). I have been an evaluator and clinician for this organization for many years, and was thrilled to once again work in this state-of-the-art program.

In September, I returned to my position as a Professor at Wilson College in Pennsylvania, USA. As the Director of the Equine Facilitated Therapeutics degree program, I am always renewed by the dedication and energy of students in my classes. I am also indebted to my College for their generosity in allowing me extra time to travel and work with centers around the world.



The month of October was very busy.

animals.

- The young British rider Natasha Baker's magical Paralympic record (and second gold medal) winning freestyle - I felt like an intruder watching a private, almost spiritual, horse human dance of shared wonder at each other's ability and enjoyment.
- The Australian rider, Joann Formosa's conquest of the undisputed reigning para equestrian champion, Lee Pearson, and his gracious acceptance during the medal ceremony
- The Austrian, former international cross country rider, [Pepo Puch's](#) extraordinary transformation to a gold medal winning Para sportsman.
- The great German team and in particular their easy going, amusing and understated pride and surprise as they pulled in 2 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- The great sportsmanship of the Norwegians, first as Jens Lasse Dokkar rode his Championship test after a night of serious and painful illness and second Anne Cecilie Ore's very positive response to Ballantine's illness which robbed her and Norway of a possible medal.

Is this therapy? Yes! For the riders, officials and spectators it was the most positive of therapies - awe inspiring horsemanship, the best of competitive sportsmanship and good fun. We all need role models and these riders are mine. When the going gets tough I only have to think of what they have to put into competing.

Although I doubt I'll get to Rio in 2016, perhaps these reflections will prompt others to become involved in Para-equestrian sport as a rider, coach, support team member or official.

Ann Kern-Godal is an Australian, resident in Norway who has worked in Norway and internationally as a para equestrian volunteer. She was a member of the Para Equestrian Appeal Committee in London and works at Oslo University Hospital and is currently studying the impact of horse assisted therapy on addiction outcomes as part of a PhD funded by the Swedish Norwegian Equine Research Foundation.

A Tribute to Jonathan Wentz 1990-2012

Jonathan Wentz, a member of the U.S. Para-Equestrian team at the 2012 Paralympics and 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, passed away unexpectedly on September 30 at the age of 21 years. He been training and seeking sponsorships for the 2014 WEG in France.



Born with cerebral palsy, he began riding horses as a form of therapy at age five at Equest Therapeutic Riding Center in Wylie, TX. His mother, Christina, a physical therapist, recognized that his special talent would go beyond being merely therapeutic. When he was just five years old, he began riding for sport. He competed in dressage on several different borrowed horses, setting his sights on the Paralympics when he was just 13. NTEC Richter Scale, a 1994 Shire cross gelding, entered Wentz's life in 2009. Wentz and Richter's achievements included qualifying for and competing in the 2010 WEG and

Sorabol College in Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang, Korea organized the 2012 International Symposium on Developmental Strategy for Korean Riding for the Disabled Program. I was invited to represent HETI and provided a presentation entitled "Therapeutic Riding...Past, Present and Future: A Business Perspective." In addition to presentations by AGRINET and the Korean National Assembly, Jodi Enget, President of PATH International and Edward Bracher, CEO of RDA-UK were guest presenters.

Gisela Heimsath Rhodes and I were scheduled to represent HETI at the PATH International Congress in October but due to Hurricane Sandy, all travel was cancelled and neither of us was able to attend. We wish all of our friends on the US eastern seaboard a speedy recovery from the devastation of this massive hurricane.

In November I will be in Zhongli, Taiwan. I have been invited to be a faculty member for an instructor's workshop. While in Taiwan, I will be visiting Danshui, the site for the XV International Congress, and meeting with the local preparation committee at Aletheia University.

While the schedule has been hectic and I admit to forgetting what time zone I am in, I cannot express how important it is that we continue to reach out to individuals and centers around the world to promote horses, education and therapy. If you or your center would like to have a HETI representative attend a workshop, seminar or symposium, please contact the HETI office.

Best regards,

Ann O'Shallie
President
ann@HETIfederation.org

Save the date!

2015 HETI Congress

Taipei, Taiwan



Chinese Taipei Equestrian Federation

winning the 2011 National Para-Equestrian Dressage Championship in Grade 1b.

At the 2012 USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage National Championships in Gladstone, NJ, Jonathan earned Reserve Champion with NTEC Richter Scale.

The pinnacle of his career came when earned one of the four spots on the 2012 United States Paralympic Team. Jonathan seized the opportunity and earned the highest placing overall of any United States Equestrian that competed in London. "It was a dream come true," Jonathan expressed after his final day of competition.

He served on the USEF Youth Council representing para-equestrian and was a member of the USEF Para Equestrian Technical Committee. Additionally, he served as an ambassador for hippotherapy, therapeutic riding and para-equestrian dressage from his earliest years.

Jonathan was in his senior year at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He is survived by his parents Tina and James.

Equine Therapy for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

This is an excerpt from an article on www.disaboom.com a website with information and resources for people with disabilities.

The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs estimates that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder afflicts as many as one-quarter of the troops returning from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The growing field of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy is showing great promise in treating veterans and their families who suffer from the nightmares, anxiety, depression, anger, irritability and other debilitating effects of this invisible, yet very real disability.

In Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, horses are used as tools for military veterans to gain self-understanding and emotional growth. It recognizes the bond between animals and humans and the potential for emotional healing that can occur when a relationship is formed between the two species. Exercises can be as simple as giving the client a halter, and letting them figure out how to approach the horse and put it on.

[Read the entire article](#)

Advertise in HETI's Directory

Dear Members and Friends of HETI,

We are preparing the second edition of our Annual Membership Directory. We would like to offer you again the opportunity to advertise your services, equipment, literature and anything that might be of interest for our audience.

**HETI Membership Directory Advertising rates
2012 - 2013**

Full Page: 8"x 6"



\$175 (Member) \$ 200 (Non Member)

1/2 page horizontal: 3.9"x 6"
\$95 (Member) \$120 (Non Member)

1/4 page vertical: 3.9" x 2.9":
\$50 (Member) \$ 75 (Non Member)

Copy must be received by Gisela by December 1, 2012.

All advertisements will be in colour.

For further information contact Gisela at office@HETIfederation.org

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