



Jeremy Tudor

February 1992 -
March 2008

Jeremy's history with the SPUR program is a long one. He began riding at Huber Woods in 1999 at the age of seven. For Jeremy, horseback riding combined his love of animals and the outdoors. His love for riding was most obvious one grey day when he laughed and smiled through the light mist that fell for much of his lesson.

In 2002, Jeremy and his family followed the SPUR program when it moved to its new location at Sunnyside. The new indoor arena meant that his lessons would no longer have to be cancelled due to the rain and cold.

Over his years of riding, Jeremy got to know many different instructors and volunteers. He met each one happily, always ready to ride and have fun. Along with his human friends, Jeremy bonded

with his equine companions. He first met Halik and then, as he grew, he began to ride Titan.

During his lessons, Jeremy was always smiling and laughing. It was common to hear his mother's voice carrying across the arena with words of praise and encouragement during his lessons, blowing kisses as he passed by. On days when Jeremy's father was able to attend, he would look on proudly as Jeremy rode and sing Jeremy's favorite songs to encourage him to sit up tall.

Jeremy and his family were happy to be a part of the advertising and support of the SPUR program. You can see Jeremy in many photographs throughout the SPUR facility and its publications.

Jeremy passed away this past March at the age of 16. Our hearts go out to Jeremy's family. He will be missed.

Meet the Newest NARHA Certified Instructors at Sunnyside!

As a way to cultivate new instructors and build our Sunnyside instructor staff, an Instructor Training program was developed and implemented in 2007. The program was designed to prepare individuals who are interested in becoming therapeutic riding instructors not only for employment at Sunnyside, but also to complete the NARHA Registered Instructor certification.

The first two instructor training candidates, Christine Landuyt and Sara Van Ness, began the process in February 2007. They completed the training with flying colors and passed their NARHA Registered Instructor certification with ease at the end of last year.

Christine began her experience at Sunnyside as a volunteer. She then joined the staff as a Youth Horseback Riding instructor in September 2006. From there she continued by joining the Instructor Training program at Sunnyside.

Christine grew up on a farm in Zimbabwe, living and breathing horses. After completing college, she lived a life without horses for 20 years. She then looked for a way to return to working with horses and found Sunnyside.

When she started volunteering as a leader and side walker she thought, "It doesn't get any better than this." Then she decided she was wrong. She began teaching Sunnyside's Introductory Youth program. From there it was a short step to becoming a therapeutic riding instructor.

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A Message from the President

Greetings from Sunnyside! Things are running smoothly at the barn and with the SPUR program, with no major news to report. We currently have 70 riders for the fall session – 12 with full scholarships (\$312 per rider) and 1 with a partial scholarship (\$156 per rider). SPUR had 58 riders over the summer, with 15 riding on scholarship (\$4,680). The 8-week fall session began on September 15. There will also be a small 8-week intersession (or “extra” session) beginning December 1st.

Fondly, we have said goodbye to two old friends this year. Aries passed in April due to complications from pneumonia. Barnegat, who is no longer able to be ridden but still has many wonderful years left ahead of him, left Sunnyside in July to live at Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. You can see a picture of Barnegat on their website: www.ryerss.org. Presently, SPUR has 14 horses/ponies working in the program. You can see them all on the SPUR website: www.spuronline.org.

The new initiatives at Sunnyside that are planned for later this fall and spring ‘09 include the pilot solar project and the SPUR Horses for Heroes program. Liz Haenchen has developed the SPUR Horses for Heroes program, which offers therapeutic riding to active military personnel and veterans with disabilities. Of a more structural nature is the pilot solar program of the Monmouth County Park System. A grant was obtained from the State of New Jersey for approximately half the cost of this pilot program and, if all goes well, Sunnyside will be going green. We hope the sun will continue to shine brightly on the farm!

Warmest Regards,
Kate Gotterup
President, *SPUR Board of Directors*

Newest NARHA Certified Instructors at Sunnyside

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Sara Van Ness



Christine Landuyt

Christine began the instructor training program early in 2007. “I now get to work not only with my beloved horses but also with the wonderful students of SPUR,” says Christine. February 2008 started Christine’s first year as a NARHA certified instructor.

Sara Van Ness started out as a volunteer with the SPUR program in 2004. Sara has been riding since she was ten years old and owns two horses, Java and Pizzaz. She was first drawn to SPUR because the program combined her two passions: helping children and working with horses.

Outside of SPUR, Sara is a full time student at Monmouth University where she finished her degree in English and Secondary Education in the spring of 2008. She is continuing her education in graduate school to obtain a Ph.D. in English, hoping to one day teach on the college level.

Sara has taught in a variety of settings. She has done such things as helping students with test preparation, teaching writing skills in an afterschool program, and teaching a course to gifted and talented children.

In 2007, Sara started down a new path of teaching and helping students the Instructor in Training program at Sunnyside. She completed her training in November and passed the NARHA certified instructor exam just weeks later! In 2008, Sara began her first year of teaching as a certified therapeutic riding instructor.

Congratulations Christine & Sara!

For more information on the Instructor Training program at Sunnyside, please visit www.spuronline.org

Just a note... Our next issue is Spring 2009. We publish our semi-annual newsletter to keep you informed about all the SPUR news, as well as upcoming events and fund-raisers.

Instructor Spotlight

Each instructor at Sunnyside Equestrian Center is a unique asset to our team of dedicated and talented individuals. They have each come to us from different backgrounds and in different ways, but they have all become equally important parts of the teaching staff.



Nancy Forsyth, a NARHA Registered Instructor, joined our staff in February 2006. She started her equestrian experiences at age five. She trained and competed

at Watchung Stables in New Jersey and became a top rider in their Troops. Competing with her horses, Nancy won numerous awards in eventing, hunter/jumper and equitation classes.

An elementary art teacher for 35 years for both regular and special education students, Nancy also taught therapeutic riding in Allentown, New Jersey, and developed a NARHA therapeutic riding center in Staten Island, New York. Nancy considers herself most fortunate to have reunited with the SPUR program after many years, having taught during a summer at the former Huber Woods location. Nancy is extremely energetic and builds strong connections with her students. She is always having fun, even when working with the most challenging students. It is obvious that she loves to be at Sunnyside.

In addition to her therapeutic riding lessons, Nancy also teaches three of the six weeks of the Youth Camps. She also teaches Horses Across America, an art class about horses and, R.E.A.D. (Read and Experience Art with Dogs) a reading program for preschools, which she developed.



Sue Radcliffe has been involved with horses for more than half her life — a love that she never outgrew. In the mid-seventies she participated

in a marathon ride for the handicapped which was her first introduction to therapeutic riding.

When she realized the beauty of therapeutic riding, the desire to become involved became a primary goal. She is now a certified therapeutic riding instructor and is involved in evaluating for certification of upcoming registered instructors.

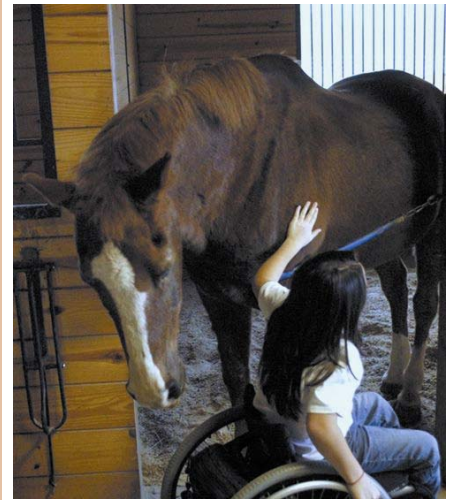
She shared that she first came to SPUR because she was so impressed by the people, horses and facility. She travels quite a distance from her home, but she feels that the joy and satisfaction of working with such a delightful group make it a pleasure.



Melissa Reese began her experience at Sunnyside Equestrian Center in 2003 in the same way many other staff members began: as a volunteer! At age 14, with a great deal of horse experience under her belt already, she attended the volunteer training workshop and started volunteering regularly. Melissa's dedication paid off: in 2004 she was named Junior Volunteer of the Year.

Then, in 2006, Melissa began teaching the Introductory Youth Horseback Riding program. She conducts weekly lessons each session during the winter, spring and fall. In the summer, Melissa has taken on three of the six Youth Summer Camps. She has proven to be a creative and unflappable instructor.

Melissa is quite an amazing young lady. She started riding when she was eight years old and competed in her first horse show when she was nine. She has been riding ever since and now has three horses that she has trained and ridden competitively. She balances with ease her teaching schedule, caring for her horses, and keeping up their showing schedule as well as attending Rutgers University full time as an Animal Science major. ■



Start Me Up "Aries" 1976-2008

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of our beloved therapy horse, Aries. Aries battled a sinus infection that developed into pneumonia. This development led to the decision to humanely euthanize him. He was 31 years old.

Aries was a Quarter Horse/Arabian and was donated to SPUR in 1997 by the Jacob Family of Farmingdale. In March, 2004 he was inducted into the New Jersey Veterinary Foundation's Animal Hall of Fame.

For all of us at Sunnyside it feels as though we have lost a friend, co-worker and family member. The world does not seem the same without Aries in it, and his memory and legacy here will live on. He was a wise teacher and we all learned so much from him.

The staff at Sunnyside would personally like to thank Elden Klayman, DVM and his associates, Laura Perez, DVM and Dante Costagliola DVM (Aries' doctors) for their kindness and dedication to his health and quality of life.



Salt comes to Sunnyside

There is a terrific new addition to the team of therapy horses at Sunnyside, and his name is Salt. Salt completed his 60-day trial period in March of this year and has proven to be a trustworthy mount for many students. He is a 15 hand, quarter horse gelding.

Salt is currently the only horse at Sunnyside who is "on loan" to the Monmouth County Park System. His owners, Portia and Polly Schlegel, love him and wanted him to have a good home with a fulfilling job. In the past, Salt has done event competition and has worked at various farms as a lesson horse. Now in his early twenties, he enjoys working in lessons that require more patience and tolerance than physical agility.

Staff, volunteers and students have come to appreciate Salt for his confidence. He is brave, self-assured and consistent. It is clear to see that Salt is

Barnegat Retires To Ryerss Farm

We are pleased to announce that on July 10, 2008 SPUR therapy horse Barnegat went to his permanent retirement home, Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines located in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Barnegat, age 22, was chosen to go to Ryerss after giving 10 years of service as a therapy horse. He was donated in June, 1998 by Virginia Pelucci.

Always a character around the barn, Barnegat's presence will be missed. We are grateful that he now gets to relax and enjoy his days living in the beautiful Pennsylvania hills with a herd of horses. Ryerss Farm is a wonderful facility where the horses are cared for by staff and many volunteers. For more information and to see Barnegat's admission



Barnegat upon arrival at Ryerss Farm with Cindy Ross, Sunnyside Stable Manager, and Andy Spears, Senior Park Ranger.

photo, visit www.ryerss.com.

Donations to the SPUR therapy horse retirement fund made Barnegat's retirement possible. Thanks to all of you who support this important fund!

happy when he is working and enjoys his time with the students. When he is not busy working in lessons, Salt

enjoys having his belly scratched and running around in the field with his buddy, Blue. ■



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Season for Thanks

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Thank You!

