



# HORSE POWER HEALING CENTER

by Linda Konichek



Wendy and Linda Konichek have established a new therapeutic riding center in Eagle, Wisconsin, using their Jericho Creek farm and their Morab horses. Here is a recent update on the progress of this new entity.

It is hard to believe that we are already over halfway through our first summer session of lessons at HPHC. The second session starts in August. What an incredible journey it has been! In less than six months we became a Wisconsin Non-Profit Corporation, built a new riding arena, desensitized the lesson horses, held a barn open house, and trained a truly wonderful group of volunteers to help the first seven students in our program of Equine-Assisted Therapeutic Riding.

Our profound thanks to the local newspapers and businesses who helped us spread the word with wonderful articles and free space for our flyers, and those who donated to our first Silent Auction: Chiropractic Care Center of Hartland, Tracie Berndt, Louise Barthel, Deb Kincaid, Hickory Hollow Framing, Jericho Creek Farm, Deb Bacon, Drs Foster & Smith, Papa Steinke's Greenhouse, Tom Shropshire, and Michelle Baumgartner, HPHC is well on the way to becoming an important community asset. We were thrilled with the weather and the large attendance at the Open Barn in May; all of us working with the program have been blessed with increased knowledge and true affection for all the wonderful people involved.

Special thanks to our Executive Director, Jodi Olenski and her boyfriend, Larry, who have made the long trip from Rhinelander to Eagle, many weekends and have worked every step of the way to establish HPHC. Both Jodi and Larry are trained volunteers and have helped with lessons, as well as all the maintenance work around here, and all the work before the Open Barn, everything from painting to building fences to bathing

horses. They are both totally committed to the program and such an important part of everything.

Thanks hardly seem enough for our multi-talented Therapeutic Riding Director/Instructor, Liz Eaton Partridge, who has taught us all so much and worked so hard, along with Wendy, to launch HPHC. I have always been interested in this type of therapeutic riding, but had never attended seminars, and I can't believe all I have learned from Liz, not only during lessons, but during the training sessions. Her love and patience with the students is endless, and she is a born teacher whether the group is large or small; we at HPHC are so blessed to have her.



HPHC owner Wendy Konichek and volunteers give a ride to Brindly Martin.

We are using six of our older Morabs for lessons, and Wendy and Liz had a great time de-sensitizing them with a ball, bubbles, swim noodles, walkers, noises, plastic and other things. Liz was surprised at how easy Morabs were to train, and she is definitely a fan of the breed, but her favorite horse is Dylan, a Thoroughbred-Oldenburg cross, who is retired from Dressage and was donated to the program. Liz worked for many years as a Dressage trainer, before her accident and still has her own retired warmblood, so she was happy to have a chance to work with Dylan.



Some of the folks who attended the Open Barn Day at HPHC.

Truthfully, all of us have fallen in love with Dylan; he is about 16.3 hands, which makes him the biggest horse here, but he is just like a giant puppy, comes when called

and loves all the people and attention. Dylan seems to think about what we want, and then works to please. Liz reports that he was the only horse whose eyes widened when he saw the bubbles from the bubble wand, and then tracked them as they floated away, by moving his head, so he wouldn't miss anything. He will be great for larger, heavier riders as they progress, and for anyone who wants to pet or groom a really big, sweet horse.

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Wendy Konichek continues to amaze with all the work she does, from barn work and building fences, to designing and creating flyers and websites, to training and walking horses and directing volunteers.

Our incredible special students are Brindley Martin, Lori Manke, Kelsey Messner, Alex Krysiak, Amelia Tadsak, Taylor Dings, and Matthew Woyahn-Henke; every week we are impressed by their hard work and progress, in so many ways.

Besides our truly courageous students and their wonderful families, our team of volunteers continue to amaze us with their dependability and dedication. Special thanks to our farm carpenter, Jamie Grund, whose barrel-horse has been so helpful in assessments (and for kids to play on), and who built such terrific mounting platforms for everyone. Lots of thanks to Tracie Berndt of Eagle, who has been tireless in handing out pamphlets and information all over the area, and is here for lessons or anything else we need, whenever we need her; Louise Barthel of Hartland, who is, not only a side-walker, but who also helps with the flower beds and this year's abundant crop of weeds; seventeen-year-old, Whitney Krestan of Eagle, who not only helps with lessons, but shows up most days to help with chores and play with the cats; our neighbor, Jill Natrop, who works part-time at the farm and loves to clean stalls just to be around the horses, and also does a great job side-walking; Liz's neighbor, Cheryl Koepke, of Sullivan, who once knew nothing about horses, but is learning quickly, and is always willing to help wherever she can; Alli Chase, director of the Eagle Library, who continues to do everything she can to spread the word about HPHC, who was once afraid of horses, and is now taking lessons and trained as a walker; and of course, Robert Kokan, Brindley's stepdad, who is always available for lessons, and his mother, Anjie Kokan, who has helped so much in spreading the word about HPHC and brought great cookies to the Open Barn event; also to Anne Roemke, our consulting physical therapist,



Instructor Liz Eaton Partridge.

who helped with the demonstrations at the Open Barn and will be working with Liz on those riders who may need physical therapy for riding.

Other trained volunteers are Betty Pecha of Waukesha, Debbie Bacon of Eagle, fifteen-year-old Callie Tichel of Burlington, and thanks to our two photographers, Tyler and Gina Tichel, also Kathy Lundy, of Waukesha, Jamie Berndt, Lin and Jim Berndt, of Merrill, Dave Partridge, of Sullivan, Lester Grund of Merrill and Matthew and Norm Konichek, who helped with the parking, setting up chairs, and other chores at the Open Barn. I can't help smiling, as I write about these new and old friends and family, who are already such an important part of HPHC and so supportive and important in helping us meet our goals.

Our next fundraiser for HPHC will be the All Breed Open Pleasure Horse Show at the Jefferson Fairgrounds on August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, with many classes for Morabs, Morgans and Arabians. A portion of the proceeds and money from the silent auction will go the general fund at HPHC. By the time you read this, the show will be over, but watch for photos and an overall report on the show in the spring issue of the MP.



### Message from the IMBA E-Newsletter Editor Michelle Feder

Hello! I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! We've been really busy in the Feder house since school started on the 9th of August; Kayleigh is a high school senior this year. Looking at colleges has taken up a huge part of our already short summer. Added to the chaos, Bill had a nasty car accident a couple of weeks ago that totaled his car; he is very lucky that he walked away from it with minor injuries. Because he travels so much we have not had much opportunity to car shop, leaving us with only my truck to get four people to where they need to go.

On the horsey side of things, I had a great (yet unexpected) opportunity to purchase a lovely four-year-old, black Arabian mare. She arrived in mid-April and has been a real delight. Her groundwork was started immediately, and we are now working under saddle at the walk and trot, both in the arena and on the trails. She has shown what a great brain she has, a real want to please attitude and gives 120% in what she does. She has been crossing streams, rivers and walking over downed trees. I am really excited about her. Gabrielle has been doing really well with her horse, Memphis. They have done very well in their shows together. It's fun to see how much Memphis enjoys showing off.

It is with great regret that I inform you that my term on the Board is done in November, and I will not be running again. It was a very difficult decision for me. I will, however, continue to put out the bi-monthly e-newsletter. I have really enjoyed doing this, and appreciate your support and contributions.

Blessings to you.

Michelle.

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