



Sugar Hill Spotlight



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In case you missed your opportunity to use the November Sugar Hill Spotlight as a "fish wrapper" I apologize for not providing it for you! There was and is so much going on both here and out-of-town that I didn't get it done. Read on please and I will bring you up to date.

As usual, the days leading toward US Nationals in Tulsa, OK in October was packed with last minute details. Davis and Bliss were already on their way to the show grounds. I was kept apprised of their progress and was notified when everyone, humans and horses, arrived safely. All was well. Check. The most urgent issues on my mind then were ensuring the bills were paid and the banking was current so things would run smoothly for Tara while I was away.

New employee, Pam has joined the SHF team. Pam's experience, eagerness and willingness to learn new ways of doing things makes her an immediate asset.

On Saturday October 23rd, SHF was the host site for the Western New York Dressage Association's (WYNDA) fall clinic known as "Out Of The Box" with Judge Scott Peterson. A dozen riders rode dressage level tests of their choosing for the judge. In an open forum each section or movement of the test was evaluated by the judge and scored aloud with reasons given for the awarded score. This allowed the auditors watching to easily understand the judge's decisions.

This function also served to announce the establishment of a new facet of service available at Sugar Hill Farm. It was appropriate and timely that Chad Basile launch "Dressage at Sugar Hill". Since then, we have welcomed additional new clients to both lesson programs. The programs are growing and the lesson horses are being fully utilized.

Some of our newest students joined the younger riders at the Pumpkin Decorating Party held on October 30th! Photos prove that there is a great deal of artistic talent among our horse loving friends!

Oh yes, Davis and Bliss...I am thrilled to report that both three-year old horses placed Top Ten in the country at the US Arabian and Half-Arabian Nationals in Oklahoma. Never having had horses at this stage of their training careers, I was delighted to see their progress and grateful to observe them happy in their work while also being capable of competitive performances on a national level. It was thrilling to watch!

November has seen the arrival of a new brood mare named Rubie, and additional veterinarians, farriers and other equine professionals servicing the needs of the wide variety of horses here on the farm. Sugar Hill strives to offer the very best of available resources to the horses and clients who entrust their horses to our care.

By comparison, December should be quiet. We are aware that with change comes a new team and thus a refocus on programs to serve the needs of our horses and clients. Please read Chad's bio and introduce yourself when you next visit the farm.

Our annual Holiday Bowling Party is scheduled for Saturday January 8th! Everyone is invited! Watch for more details and sign-up sheets at the barn.

Have a safe and memorable Holiday Season! All of us at SHF are grateful for your friendship, and your presence in our lives. And so are our horses!

Betsy

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Our Lesson Horses

This month I am excited to tell you about Pro-Dynamo+/. Dynamo was born 2/2/1989. His sire was Pro-Fire, a Bask son. Though Dynamo has been in our barn for many years, Sugar Hill Farm purchased him in 2006. At that time his very accomplished show career was a memory, part of his past. He came out of retirement to serve as a lesson horse and has been a willing mount for our beginners since then. The symbols that appear behind Mo's name are indicative of his qualification for the Purebred Arabian Legion of Supreme Honor. His summary of achievements lists the activities he competed in to earn the necessary points for this prestigious award. They include 7 Championships and 6 Reserve Championships, all earned in 5 years of showing! Dynamo continues to live up to the nickname I gave him. He is our energizer bunny! At this time he is utilized sparingly for the smallest of our beginner riders. He is a very special horse.



Chad Basile discovered his love for horses in his early teenage years. He started riding hunter jumpers at a local lesson barn where he soon found a love for training horses and being in the show ring. He has been there ever since.

After many years of instruction from top jumping instructors locally, Chad discovered Dressage. He felt Dressage was the ultimate challenge in horse training- a challenge that he was willing to tackle head on! Chad still incorporates all that he learned from his days as a jumper rider into his Dressage training, but has found satisfaction in Dressage that he was not able to find in the other disciplines of horse sport.

Chad utilizes Classical training methods in all his work with horses. He firmly believes in proper seat position as well as utilizing the Training Pyramid as a guide for training horses properly. Chad works carefully to help horses build properly balanced bodies and minds, always putting the needs of the horses first and foremost.

Chad takes his education in Dressage very seriously. He attends clinics as a rider and as an auditor quite frequently. Most recently Chad attended a clinic at Maplewood Warmbloods with Monica Theodorescu and Michael Klimke to learn classical Dressage from the children of the Masters in the field! Chad has ridden in many clinics all over the country with clinicians from all over the world. Last fall Chad organized and rode in a 3 day clinic with David DeWispelaere that was a great success. He takes horses he trains to shows in order to gauge their training progress in the eyes of the judges and other trainers.

Chad has clients in and around Rochester and Buffalo. He gives clinics on weekends while establishing a home base at Sugar Hill Farm in Victor . Please contact Chad through the Sugar Hill website, on Facebook, or via email at Cebasile@aol.com . Feel free to stop by the farm and visit him in person too. If you know of someone interested in dressage, please let them know Chad is here!

As part of the Sugar Hill commitment to education, we are establishing a lending library. This collection will consist of books, magazines and videos on horses, various riding disciplines, care and management- articles of general interest to those that share the passion of horses!

Students and staff are invited to help clear the shelves and store away previous years accumulation of magazines. Those issues may be of interest to you and you are welcome to take them home to read.

If you have books that you would like to make available to others here at Sugar Hill, please bring them to share with us.

Everyone is welcome to spend time in the lounge, on the second floor of the barn, curled up in the easy chair with a good book or an interesting article! Enjoy and learn!

LESSON STUDENT HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday December 11

2-4 PM

Enjoy Holiday Crafts
and
Treats

*If your child wishes to participate in the optional gift exchange, please bring a small wrapped grab bag gift valued at \$5 or less.

A sign up sheet will be posted in the barn.

IT'S GIFT GIVING TIME!

**GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR
RIDING LESSONS
MAKE A WONDERFUL, EASY TO
GIVE HOLIDAY PRESENT**