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JULIE GOODNIGHT JOINS CURT PATE TO HEADLINE ILLINOIS HORSE FAIR MARCH 2-4

Haverty, Tolbert, Farrell, Speck host riding clinics

Curt Pate will be joined by Julie Goodnight and renowned reining, barrel racing, Western and saddle seat equitation clinicians at the 19th annual Illinois Horse Fair, March 2-4, for an outstanding educational program presented by Purina Mills, Midway Trailer Sales, John Deere and Morton Buildings at the state fairgrounds in Springfield. In addition to expert trainers and clinicians, the three-day all-breed expo and industry tradeshow presents breed and sport demonstrations, Stallion Row and Parade, 100 horses in the HorsesForSale aisles, 140 equestrian vendors, more than 100 horse trailers on display for sale and a full schedule of educational seminars and workshops.

Horse Fair opens on Friday 3 – 9 p.m. when early bird shoppers get access to vendors' full stock of merchandise plus save money on special Friday-only promotions and reduced admission charge...and see training demos by Curt Pate on solving three common problems: head shyness, catching and mounting.

Curt Pate teaches how to adapt ranch-horse-training techniques

Headline clinician at AQHA's ten Regional Experience events this year and last, as well as the AQHA World Show in 2006, Curt Pate is author of *Western Horseman* magazine's popular book, "Ranch Horsemanship: How to Ride Like the Cowboys Do." This Helena, Montana rancher is the real deal. He doesn't just look the part of an American icon, the cowboy, he is one. He teaches the "ranch horsemanship" he lives and is an easy-to-follow teacher with an entertaining delivery born of personal experience – someone who knows what he's talking about and can explain it simply, directly, effectively.

Principles not found in philosophies of other trainers and clinicians

Pate grew up on a working ranch in Helena, he says, where his mentors were his two grandfathers, both horse traders. "One grandfather was 'really good at conditioning a horse' and the other 'had a good eye for buying horses and making money at it,' he explained. "He'd buy problem horses, and we'd try to fix their problems. That was really a great thing for me because I got to ride a lot of different horses." Pate developed a natural feel for horses, and today applies principles not found in the philosophies of other trainers and clinicians.

Since the early 1990s, Pate has used the skills and horse-training techniques he learned as a ranch cowboy as an equine clinician, and his experience as a rodeo announcer and auctioneer help his presentation delivery. In addition to his book for *Western Horseman*, Pate's resume includes the role of equine technical advisor for the film, "The Horse Whisperer," (at the invitation of his friend and mentor Buck Brannaman) and the highly respected position of certified AQHA Professional Horseman.

At Horse Fair, in addition to the three Friday sessions, Pate will do two sessions daily in the Coliseum: two-hour round pen demonstrations in the morning (Colt Starting on Saturday, Ranch Roping/Cattle on Sunday) and training sessions in the afternoons using the full arena ("Horse Sense-Based Horsemanship" Saturday and "Trailer Loading" Sunday), plus host Q&A sessions in the Livestock Center Seminar Hall.

Goodnight: outstanding communicator with logical teaching style

Julie Goodnight, Poncho Springs, Colorado, is an outstanding communicator with an upbeat, logical teaching style, known for her ability to bridge natural horsemanship concepts with the principles of classical riding. Her training and teaching techniques are frequent features of *Western Horseman*, *Equus*, Certified Horsemanship Association's *The Instructor* and many other excellent equine publications and websites. She has been a full-time equine professional for 25 years, with a varied background ranging from racing, reining, colt-starting and wilderness riding to dressage and jumping. Owner of Goodnight Training Stables, Inc., she specializes in starting young horses under-saddle and re-educating older horses.

The title of her demonstration on ground manners puts Julie's succinct teaching style into character – "Horse, this is your captain speaking." She also will demonstrate how to advance your horsemanship skills, explain all about the canter, and help every rider understand the fundamentals for all disciplines. Two of her special subjects include coping with a fear of horses and helping riders determine the right horse for themselves.

New Barrel Racing clinic with Chuck Tolbert

National Barrel Horse Association five-time Senior World Champion Chuck Tolbert will host the new barrel racing clinic in two-hour clinic sessions both Saturday and Sunday in the Coliseum, followed by Q&A sessions for clinic riders and interested observers in a meeting room.

Fee is \$125; up to 10 riders will be accepted. For information on riding in the Chuck Tolbert Barrel Racing clinic, contact Dave Jostes at (217) 972-7416, or email dj@heaths.com.

Popular Reining, Western, Saddle Seat Equitation clinics return

National Reining Horse Association Hall of Famer **Clint Haverty**, Krum, TX, will host the 7th annual Reining Clinic during the Illinois Horse Fair. Haverty, who has been training horses for more than 35 years, was inducted into the NRHA Hall of Fame in 2005 with career winnings approaching \$500,000. He has earned more than 100 National and World titles. His early experience includes ranching, rodeoing, jockeying and blacksmithing. In the mid 1980s, his focus turned to reining and the National Reining Horse Association for which he has been an executive board member, judge and competitor. When asked by *The Reiner* to name his all-time favorite horses, Haverty immediately responded, "Gunner (2003 NRHA Hall of Famer)... he's phenomenal." "Right now my favorite is Who Whiz It...the best horse we ever raised."

Reining clinic fee is \$225; 10 riders will be accepted. *For information about riding in the Clint Haverty Reining clinic, contact Doug Bogart at (309) 787-4271, or email djbogart7@sbcglobal.net.*

AQHA World, Congress, and Honor Roll titlist **Lisa Farrell**, Durham, CT, is an educator/practitioner who will share her expertise in two-hour Western Horsemanship/Trail clinic sessions both Saturday and Sunday, followed by Q&A sessions for clinic riders and interested observers in a meeting room.

Farrell, who has been training and showing for nearly three decades, has trained, coached and shown multiple Congress and AQHA World Champions and Honor Roll Titles in open, amateur and youth.

Fee is \$200; up to 10 riders will be accepted. *For information about riding in the Lisa Farrell Western Horsemanship/Trail clinic, contact Pam Sigler at (217) 553-1755, or email gpsigler@mwii.net.*

United Professional Horsemen's Association Instructor of the Year and American Morgan Horse Association Woman of the Year **Anne Speck**, Rancho Del Mar, CA, has produced World and National Champion Saddle Seat Equitation riders on Saddlebreds and Morgans and has judged

equitation at the Saddlebred World Championship and Morgan Grand National, plus the UPHA Junior and Senior Challenge Cup Finals, NHS Good Hands Finals, USEF Medal Finals and AMHA Gold Medal and UPHA Finals.

Speck's reputation as a passionate and talented trainer of equitation riders and horses has earned her icon status. Her riders have won World Championships and Medal Finals for the Saddlebred and Morgan breeds, including a double Medal Finals winner who won the Junior UPHA Finals and AHSA Medal Finals the same year at the American Royal. At the Morgan Grand National, five of her riders have won the Saddle Seat AMHA Gold Medal Finals.

Saddle Seat clinic fee is \$150; up to 10 riders will be accepted; adults as well as junior riders are invited to apply. *For information about riding in the Anne Speck Saddle Seat Equitation clinic, contact Joyce Harris at (217) 787-2244, or email Jasurbeck@yahoo.com.*

Horses and riders sought for training demos

Horses and riders are sought for Curt Pate and Julie Goodnight training demonstrations as well as sessions by regional clinicians. To have a horse/rider considered, contact Carrol Rodgers (618) 838-4396 or email rod ranch@uiuc.edu. Fee is \$100-200.

Applications are available for the four riding clinics at the Horse Fair web site, www.HorsemensCouncil.org, or by contacting each clinic coordinator.

All-Youth Horse Judging Trials may want your horse

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois, in cooperation with U of I Extension, is presenting the 2nd Annual All-Youth Horse Judging Trials Saturday (March 3) at Horse Fair. Last year, more than 300 participants came from the ranks of 4-H, FFA and breed associations. Organizers plan to ask horsemen on the grounds to support the Trials by entering a horse in one of six to eight classes presented to these junior judges. Half the classes will be judged on conformation, half on performance. *For information about providing a horse for the Trials (or about having a team participate in the Trials), contact Debra Hagstrom, (217) 333-1785 or email hagstrom@uiuc.edu.*

Preferred seating available for Curt Pate's round-pen sessions

While the Horse Fair general admission pass gives access to all sessions on a first-come basis without additional charge, for those interested in securing a ring-side seat in advance for Curt Pate's Saturday and Sunday morning two-hour round-pen sessions at 9:30 a.m. in the Coliseum, a preferred seat ticket is offered for an additional \$20 per session. Preferred seats are on the arena floor right outside the round-pen, affording an excellent view and permitting viewers to ask questions. General admission seating is in the Coliseum stands.

To volunteer at Horse Fair

Volunteering at Horse Fair is fun, educational and a great opportunity to help put on the largest annual non-racing horse event in Illinois. Volunteers are needed for a variety of responsibilities, ranging from ticket sales to hospitality. You can volunteer for a few hours a day or for a whole weekend. To volunteer, contact Cheryl DeMent at (217) 944-2093 or email paintfilly71@yahoo.com.

To order advance tickets to Horse Fair

Purchasing advance tickets is recommended to avoid long lines at the Horse Fair ticket windows. Adult general admission tickets are \$6 for Friday and \$12 for Saturday or Sunday; children/senior tickets are \$4 and \$6. Weekend passes are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Advance tickets may be charged to Visa or MasterCard; cash only at the door. To purchase advance tickets, download a ticket order form from www.HorsemensCouncil.org, or call the Horsemen's Council office (ask for Bonnie or Kenneth) at (217) 585-1600, or email BChandler@cbha.net. The complete schedule of events is printable from the website.

To exhibit at Illinois Horse Fair

For information on commercial space, contact Joy Meierhans, Horse Fair Manager, at (630) 557-2575, or email *JM@TheMeierhans.com*. For Breed/Sport Demo Package, contact Karen Freese at (217) 677-2152, or email *dkfreese@hotmail.com*; for Stallion Row/Parade, contact Tracy Walters Taft at (217) 726-6406, or email *hitchup6@hotmail.com*; for HorsesForSale Aisles, contact Myles Harston at (309) 208-5230, or email *myles@aquaranch.com*.

Illinois Horse Fair is produced by Horsemen's Council of Illinois, the state's "organization of equine organizations" and individuals. HCI is the state affiliate of the American Horse Council and strives to provide centralized and representative leadership for Illinois' 77,000 horse owners, 213,000 horses and its diverse \$3.8 billion-dollar equine industry.