



The Apple Tree

*192 Hope Hill Oak Ridge, Missouri 63769
PO Box 154 Jackson, Missouri 63755
Barn Phone: 573 788-2100*

2010 Jackson Chamber of Commerce Ag Tour

About 100 people arrived bright and early July 21st to tour MVTH and see for themselves two of our riders, David Bragg and Jon Votta put Beaver and Doc through their paces. Jesse Stewart, BGWDE (barn guy who does everything) had given showers after lessons on Tuesday evening making both horses look pretty spiffy. They must have felt mighty fine as they posed for pictures and stood quietly to receive hugs and pats from visitors. The barn looked beautiful as did the lovely indoor arena----Thanks Eddy. Our visitors had lots of questions about the horses and the riders and were most impressed by the skill shown by both Jon and David. Side walkers and leaders were pleasantly surprised that Beaver and Doc were polishing their halos and wearing their "best boy" manners, even posing for pictures, Beaver's specialty. A beautiful barn is the work of many hands, all of which are appreciated.



Flourish Fall 2010

Did you see the article in the fall issue of Southeast Missourian's Flourish Magazine? "Horsewomen of Mississippi Valley" by Callie Clark Miller. It was wonderful and featured the lovely and beloved instructors of MVTH posing in front of some of the equine staff. Saturday lady, Leah Shrum, Miss Wednesday Leigh Anne Statler, Thursday's Grayson Erlbacher and Madame President and Miss Tuesday, Betsy Rigdon represented a two page spread of what true dedication can do for our community. We are so proud of our instructors, our volunteers, our parents, our horses, our riders and our facilities. MVTH is love and dedication in action, a living miracle

Spotlight on Horses



Name: Lil' Bit

Breed: Pony

Color: Blanket (literally) Appaloosa

Age: senior

Sex: mare

Specialty: confidence builder, small riders, grooming, ground skills, dress up and LOVE!

Pretty is as pretty does. If you have ever visited the barn in the winter, you might think Lil'Bit is a yak, or that she's wearing a long, shaggy, horrible, blonde coat. It's awful, at least four inches long! And it all has to come off in the spring. Piles of long, dirty, stinky, muddy, smelly, yukky hair. Up to and over your ankles in it. Wheel barrows of the stuff. And she's blind in one eye and hates the clippers. You couldn't give this pony away, right? WRONG! She loves kids. She doesn't kick or bite. She will understand you when you are sad and rejoice with you when you have success. Her patience knows no bounds. And underneath all that hair is an appaloosa pony. Her tiny feet are tender but give no problems. Her little body is strong and healthy with very little food. Watch her weight though, especially when the pasture is lush. Every side walker loves her as do the riders. Lil' Bit is a favorite at MVTH and loves all the games, especially dress up. She has a home forever.

Spotlight on Rider: David Bragg

Or perhaps I should say, Reverend David Bragg! Of course on Doc or Cookie, he is just plain old David who decided to take up riding at the ripe old age of----don't worry, David, I won't tell. Anyway, he's younger than his side walkers! Let's just say that David is a grownup and an ordained minister and married to a lovely lady, Ann. She laughs a lot when we hoist David into the lift and up onto firecracker Cookie (who reads David's mind) or to make him really work, Doc or Beaver.

David pastored four churches and was diagnosed with MS in 1988 but wasn't forced to retire from active ministry until 1999. He is writing and active on his website www.davidbragg.org and Bulletingold. We thought David showed lots of courage coming back to riding in his adult years. It has been great fun watching his balance improve and participating with him in

leaving his chair on the ramp while taking control of his horse. He does all the work now. Well done, Dave. Expect miracles.

Volunteer Workshop, Saturday September 11, 2010 2:00-5:00pm



New and returning volunteers brush up on your horse handling skills or learn new ones, rider safety, barn rules and safety procedures. We need you. We love our four footed friends but they do have definite personalities and moods. Who's cinchy? What is cinchy? What's a flat seat? What's a side pull? Why won't he pick up his foot? And who wants to pick up his foot anyway? Who hates fly spray? Do we really have to catch Ace and Lad? What is the catch pen? All this and more!!!! Your handy dandy and friendly instructors will be happy to show you which side of the horse to stand on and how to be a living wall. Now I ask you, who could ask for anything more? Well, just one more thing----a chance to ride in the lift!!!!!! What a day. All this and it's free. Toilet

cleaning instructions are optional.

SEMO District Fair September 11-18, 2010

MVTH will host a booth at the SEMO District Fair this year near the pony ride closest to the Kingshighway entrance . We will need volunteers to staff the booth. The first two people to sign up to host the booth each evening from 5:00 till 8:00 will receive a free pass to the fairgrounds. Please come and help spread the good work of MVTH to the public. We need you.



MVTH Horseshow Saturday, October 16, 2010

Chairperson Leah Shrum is hard at work on our 3rd annual horseshow! Please watch for special emails!

A Few More Words on Volunteers

Besides the fact that volunteering will change your life, it also makes a difference in other lives. When you become a part of MVTH you have the opportunity to meet so many different and wonderful people. Age and ability, or lack there-of make no difference in the barn. You will find that horses and the barn are the great humbler! Nothing like the slap of a horse's tail to get your attention! Or when you think you think life is too hard to figure out, a seven year old sets you straight with a few mumbled words and a tap of his braces or you remember Mr. Keller pulling the hose into the arena to spray it down for the side walkers while he struggled with his walker. Expect miracles, expect joy and laughter and fun.

Jerre Hall has some great plans for volunteers this year: field trips, clinics, riding lessons.. Everything is possible at MVTH. I wouldn't believe that if I hadn't seen it myself!

"Don't sit under the Apple Tree with anyone else but me!"
Come join us at Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship
It Will Change Your Life!
If You Don't Believe It, Come See For Yourself...

To make a monetary donation please mail to: PO Box 154 Jackson, MO 63755

If you have news for the newsletter, please email to riki@erlbachergear.com

If you would like to have a fund raiser, please call the barn phone and leave a detailed message. 573-788-2100

We welcome visitors to MVTH, especially during lessons. Tours can be arranged by calling the barn number. Our viewing facilities are indoors, heated and air-conditioned. Meeting rooms are available.

Thank you for your continued support of
Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship!!