

## **OHJA BIOS 2011**

### **Rebekah Swan**

She began riding when she was five years old in Massachusetts. At the age of ten, her family relocated to California where Beka spent the next eight years riding and competing in Woodside, California under the guidance and mentorship of trainer, Lisa Peek. She showed successfully in Pony Hunters & Jumpers, Hunters & Jumpers, and Junior Equitation. While training with Lisa, she had the opportunity to ride with several other renowned trainers: Carrie Atkinson, Andrea Correl, and Laura Gerst. Beka spent a summer working with John Bragg at Bridgeport Farms, which further developed her horse knowledge and experience.

Beka moved to Oregon for college where she finished her degree in Social Sciences with a Minor in Psychology at Portland State University. She worked for Debbie Brawley for a year and a half as the Assistant Trainer. After taking a short break to finish her degree, Beka returned to the horse world working for Jen Cox of Stone Hedge Farm as the Assistant Trainer. After leaving Stone Hedge Farm, Beka began her own training program, Swan Training. She enjoys the opportunity to work with students of all levels. In 2008, Beka and her husband, JR purchased the prestigious Whip 'N' Spur farm. The facility is shared with World Cup rider and trainer Rich Fellers. Beka strives to further herself as a rider and a trainer while developing riders of all ages and levels. She loves being part of the Oregon hunter/jumper community. Beka will continue to be involved with the future of the horse community on all levels.

### **Joelle Tavan**

Joelle Tavan is an attorney at Miller Nash LLP and focuses her practice on employee benefits.

She earned her bachelor's degree at Portland State University and her law degree at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Joelle has extensive experience volunteering and serving on boards. During law school, Joelle served as the law school's Honor Board representative. Joelle also volunteered her time with the Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Multnomah Defenders Inc., and served as a high school mentor for the ASPIRE program.

Joelle has been passionate about horses her whole life and started riding in France, where she was born and raised. Although fairly new to the Oregon hunter/jumper community, Joelle would love the opportunity to serve on the OHJA board. She is eager to bring new ideas and help promote OHJA to the best of her abilities.

### **Kelly Smith**

With over 15 years professional experience, Kelly Smith presents a strong background and outstanding credentials.

As a professional horsewoman, Kelly's experience is well rounded and includes training, coaching and showing at every level, from Futurity Hunter Champions to the Grand Prix Ring. Some of Kelly's career highlights include being named the 2001 World Champion Hunter Rider and winning the 2002 Legacy Cup.

Kelly believes that a strong foundation with an emphasis on solid equitation and overall quality horsemanship directly relates to success in any equestrian discipline.

Kelly has proven the success of her program time and again with numerous Medal Finalists, USEF and Regional Association Year-End Champions and Horse of the Year Awards. Some of Kelly's fondest championships were accumulated at such prestigious shows as: Capitol Challenge, Lake Placid, Cleveland, Legacy Cup, Menlo Charity, Pebble Beach, Thermal, Country Heir, Chagrin Valley Farms...

### **Amy Gaylord**

Amy has dedicated most of her life to horses. She rode her first horse at age six, was training ponies by the age of ten, and teaching at the age of fourteen. After working five years for top judge and trainer Julie Winkel, where she attended clinics with Olympic Gold Medalist Joe Fargis, legendary George Morris, and Ray Texel, she moved to the Northwest.

She is passionate about teaching both horses and riders, and is an intense competitor. Her philosophy that equitation and horsemanship combine to make successful riders and horses has proven itself through her students and horses who have won championships and year-end awards.

### **Courtney Reid**

My name is Courtney Reid and my business is Crossroads Training, LLC. I have been teaching and training Hunters and jumpers for the past 22 years and have had my own business for over 9 years. I would be very excited to have the opportunity to serve on the OHJA board. I have some great ideas and would love to have the chance to be a part of making our association work better for all of its members. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Mary von Zimmermann**

My name is Mary von Zimmermann and I have had a long standing with OHJA. I served on the OHJA Board from the late 1990s to 2005. For the past 7 years, I have been enjoying being a mom and currently turning my efforts to being the Northwest County Saddle representative. I am ready to get back into being involved with OHJA. I feel my past experience on the OHJA makes me a good choice for your vote.

### **Jill Brooks**

As a member of OHJA for a number of years I've had the pleasure to meet and watch local professionals and members benefit from the organization. Each event has helped me achieve my goals as an adult amateur rider. I have been the recipient of a number of the benefits of the organization and I want to give back by pursuing a position on the OHJA Board. I am particularly interested in ensuring that our new and young members have a rewarding experience as a part of OHJA.

I've worked for Bank of America for over 25 years. Over the years I've managed numerous teams and individuals in call and service centers promoting teamwork and achievement of organizational and individual goals. Today I am an operational risk manager responsible for identifying and mitigating risks associated with operating practices. The role entails understanding the motivation and objectives of individuals and the impact on the decisions of the business. Understanding what motivates a person to act is important in determining what benefits or services are needed to

ensure sustainable performance. I have a Masters degree in finance and studying to take the Certified Public Accountant Exam.

I currently ride with trainers Jill McGraddy, Kathy Kerron, and Angela Wilson at Quiet Rein. I have also had the privilege of riding with Vicki Zacharias at Raincreek and David and Wendy Eith at Winter Hill. Each served as mentors and contributed to my growth and enjoyment as a rider. In addition to the hours of riding, I enjoy skiing and riding motorcycles with my husband Jeff. Jeff and I are expecting our first grandchild in March. I look forward to enjoying many years as a member of OHJA with my future granddaughter.

### **Joe Regan**

I have enjoyed my time as OHJA Treasurer. I would like to again serve the OHJA for the upcoming 2012 - 2013 term. I believe my background in co owning and managing a facility - Arbor Grove Equestrian - gives me great insight in Oregon's Hunter/Jumper community. With over 25 years banking experience I want to continue making inroads in managing the OHJA finances, and would like to continue developing a firm financial standing for the organization as well as the role of Treasurer. It is important for any organization to be financially robust.

## **JUNIOR REPS:**

### **Taylor VanderZanden**

My name is Taylor VanderZanden and I am currently a junior at Jesuit High School. In school I am an honor student, received the health and science awards in my class, and am taking AP and Honors classes. I am 16 years old and ride with Rob Perkins at Arbor Grove Equestrian. My horse is Heaven Sent and I compete in the Junior Hunters, the 3'6 medals, and the International Hunter Derbies. I have competed in the USEF Talent Search West Coast Finals for the last 2 years. I also play competitive soccer. I have been riding since I was 7 years old and have been an OHJA member since I was 8. I was on the OHJA Board for 2011 as one of the two Junior Representatives. I helped put on a silent auction, a JEF sleepover, a dunk tank fundraiser, and I am currently selling tickets for a boot raffle. I want to stay on the board another year as a junior representative because I really enjoyed helping out and being more involved in the horse industry. I fell like having the experience of last year will make me a stronger representative this year, as well as helping a new board member run the fundraisers we started last year. This year was just the beginning of a lot more fundraisers we can do to raise money to send the juniors of the Northwest to many different medal finals. I have many more ideas to improve our fundraisers, as well as adding others. I would love to have this opportunity to help send the talented riders of our area to medal finals so I can give back to the sport that I love.

### **Kendall Pedigo**

My name is Kendall Pedigo and I am asking if you will please consider me for the JEF Scholarship. My lifelong goal is to go to the Olympic Games and then become a trainer; in order to do that I need experience, hard work, commitment and lots of money for this expensive sport. I am currently a Junior Intern at Cornerstone and learning how to teach younger riders. As a Junior Intern I work at the shows tacking

and un-tacking horses, feeding, cleaning tack, laundry, keeping things in place and occasionally hack a few horses. I am grateful to be an intern as I am really enjoying it and learning a lot more than I would if I was just showing. This was my first year being an intern, braiding my own horse and also showing two horses. I was able to not only compete well, but become a better rider and become closer to my life long goal. I qualified for the USEF Talent Search East and West Coast Finals, OHJA Junior Senior Medal Finals, the Maclay Regionals and Nationals, Pickwick Junior/ Amateur Medal Finals and the Pessoa/ USEF Hunter Seat Medal Regionals. I was fortunate enough to compete in the Maclay Regionals and end my season in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. I will always be in debt to my parents and grandparents for how much they sacrificed for me and supported me. I hope to give back to them a splinter of what they have given my siblings and I.

This summer I was able to help with fundraising for JEF by helping with the boot raffle, horsemanship clinic and some concession stands. I am also currently running for JEF representative for 2012 and looking forward to being more involved with OHJA.

I hope you will consider my request for the JEF scholarship for this 2012 show season.