

KHJA News

The Newsletter of the Kentucky Hunter Jumper Association

2023 KHJA
Medal Finals
Winners:
Emilie Smith
and Fitzgerald

KHJA
Scholarship and
LegUP Grant
Winners!



Inside: 2023 Year-End Awards!



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A Note from the KHJA President, Ashley Watts

Welcome to the start of a new year! As always, I'm going to remind you to take the time to reflect on the people and horses who helped you throughout the previous year. Remember to say "thank you" as you start setting goals for the upcoming year.

Whether you're showing the same horse in the same divisions, or a new horse in new divisions, these people will continue to be your support system and it's so important to display gratitude whenever possible.

If you're moving on from your equine partner, say "thank you" for the lessons he or she has taught you. Without that horse or pony, you wouldn't have gained more tools for your riding toolbelt! Thank you for your continued support of KHJA and please know that this association is doing its best to support our members!

Cover photo: 2023 KHJA Medal Finals winner Emilie Smith riding Fitzgerald Photo by Shawn McMillen



Photo: Elegant Equus Photography

The 2024 KHJA Board will be announced at the Awards Banquet.

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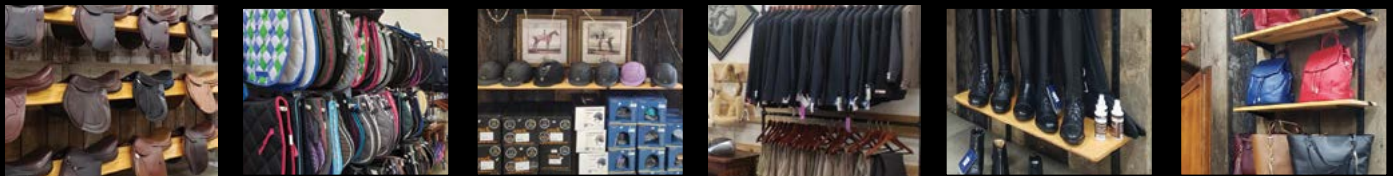
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2023 KHJA YEAR-END AWARD WINNERS

Green Hunter 3', Regular

Champion: TC E2, Sophie Carlin
Reserve: Bernard, Sarah Lothmann
3. Qua-Z, Maria Kneipp
4. Limerance, Elaine Schott
5. Bourbon Trail, Jennifer Kraemer
6. TC Alta 1, Sophie Carlin

Junior Hunter 3'3", Regular

Champion: Fitzgerald, Emilie Smith
Reserve: Prince L, Kitty Walters
3. Budapest, Ainsley Russell
4. Clayton 35, Sarah Steele
5. Dalliance, Charlotte Kunes
6. Lucky-One, Ellie Welte

KHJA Medal 2'

Champion: Wendy Zuber
Reserve: Ella Pitzer
Reserve: Rylie Cann
3. Morgan Taleff
4. Stephanie Lee
5. Katherine Bowman
6. Marian Foster

Amateur Owner Hunter, Regular

Champion: Hilton II, Keely McIntosh
Reserve: MVP, Tess Fortune
3. After Hours, Robin Owens
4. Inne Van De Plataan,
Keely McIntosh

Small/Medium Pony Hunter, Regular

Champion: Sugar Rush,
Corrigan Janiak
Reserve: Sugarbrook's Too Blue,
Eliza St. George
3. Fozzie Bear, Eliza St. George
4. Champlains Heart Of Gold,
Caroline Potter
5. Bluetiful, Avery Hore

Short Stirrup Equitation, Local

Champion: Hilda Jernelid
Reserve: Gianna Bailey
3. Evelyn Hills
4. Hannah Cahill
5. Ryan Cann
6. Lillian Stackhouse

Children's Hunter Pony, Local

Champion: Custom Vibes, Finley
Scheffel
Reserve: Blue's Clues, Lillian
Stackhouse
3. Pay Per View, Elena Nowaczyk
4. Encore, Julia Cauthen

5. Sugarbrook Boogieboard,
Annabelle Wood
6. Mini Bar, Ashlyn Kraemer

Adult Amateur Hunter 36 and Over, Regular

Champion: Bourbon Trail,
Jennifer Kraemer
Reserve: Gottobeperfect, Meghan
Carney
3. Je T'aime, Lauren Klehm
4. Macauley RGS, Amy Bailey
5. Diacudo, Catherine Schumann
6. HP Arondight, Larissa Hufnagel

Long Stirrup Equitation, Regular

Champion: Bridget McNeese
Reserve: Peggy Columbia
3. Maeve Sheldon
4. Leah Cooper
5. Brittany Sellings
6. Samantha Miller

Crossrails Equitation, 8 & Under, Local

Champion: Abigail Miller
Reserve: Piper Duncan
3. Reagan Durham
4. Reynolds Bonner
5. AnnLawrence Allen
6. Emmaline Kinder

Low Adult Hunter, Local

Champion: Change Order, Michele
Power
Reserve: Taylored To Fit, April
Whitlock
3. Czechmate, Marcella Dhority
4. Cool Sailor, Aaron Edelson
5. Wroyal Affair, Aimee Kemper
6. Leisurely, Sabina Chambers

Thoroughbred Jumper, Local

Champion: Monarch, Phoebe Konopka
Reserve: JR Mint, Riley McDonald
3. Iniseo, Rebecca Maker
4. Ulfberht, Amy Coleman
5. Top Shelf, Kelly McAninch
6. Backstretch Lady, Lindsay Greenway

15-17 Equitation, Regular

Champion: Ellie Welte
Reserve: Ainsley Russell
3. Sarah Steele
4. Emilie Smith
5. Kitty Walters
6. Lily Beck

Low Children's/Adult Jumper, Regular

Champion: For Fashion, Kitty Walters
Reserve: Melody B, Megan Manubay
3. Visto's Bespoke, Sophie Carlin
4. Kasper, Kayden Gundry
5. Cardinale 23, Addy Osgood
6. Calvidor YSF, Reagan Franks

Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3", Regular

Champion: Hutson, Vanessa Mazzoli
Reserve: Cosmo Cool, Grace
Hildebrand
3. Cabochon, Sophie Carlin
4. No Salt All Sugar, Madelyn Kuhn
5. Discreet, Georgia Keogh
6. MVP, Tess Fortune

Crossrails Equitation, 9 & Over, Local

Champion: Emerson Irby
Reserve: Kennedy Brown
3. Rory Powers
4. Isabela Kennard
5. Ella Shelby
6. Annalee Tonn

Adult Equitation, Local

Champion: Jennifer Kraemer
Reserve: Eileen Cody
3. Georgia Keogh
4. Madison Purcell
5. Isabel Kaiser
6. Sabina Chambers

Large Junior Hunter, Regular

Champion: Lucky-One, Ellie Welte

Thoroughbred Jumper, Regular

Champion: Veritas, Alicia Harbin
Reserve: HE Tenque, Alicia Harbin
3. Clean Slayte, Alicia Harbin

Junior/Amateur Owner Jumper, Regular

Champion: Pumpkin, Vanessa Mazzoli
Reserve: Venturo 9, Emma Paley
3. Belle Des Claux, Ella Norman
4. Carleon LS, Anabel Ricigliano
5. Concorde, Karston Gundry
6. Quarterletto, Mary Cunningham

Baby Green Hunter, Regular

Champion: Wroyal Affair, Aimee
Kemper
Reserve: TC Gaston, Sophie Carlin
3. Fabulous Platinum, Nori Scheffel
4. Sergio CTF, Katherine Campbell

5. Mais Oui Manny, Jayme Klosterman
6. Rebel Sol, Sydney Thomas

KHJA Medal 2'6"

- Champion: Ava Thrun
Reserve: Madison Hufferd
3. Dakota Dunn
 4. Lila Beshear
 5. Rylee Knehr
 6. Addison Morgan

Low Adult Equitation, Local

- Champion: Michele Power
Reserve: Sabina Chambers
3. Tiani Ibbotson
 4. April Whitlock
 5. Samantha Stegen
 6. Lexi Alford

Adult Jumper, Regular

- Champion: TC Latina 262, Charlotte Oulanoff
Reserve: Carleon LS, Anabel Ricigliano
3. Cassonetti, Charlotte Oulanoff
 4. Inda Club, Riley Franks
 5. Cinderella, Leea Bridgeman
 6. Stealing Home, Elizabeth Sullivan

Adult Amateur Hunter, 35 & Under, Local

- Champion: Gratitude, Taylor Christoff
Reserve: Counterpart, Lilli Power
3. Discreet, Georgia Keogh
 4. Rio Chimeras, Carys Wasil
 5. Master Class, Eileen Cody
 6. American Bear, Madeline Ronningen

Short Stirrup Hunter, Local

- Champion: Touched By An Angel, Hannah Cahill
Reserve: One In A Minion, Hilda Jernelid
3. Miss Behavin', Liam Dhority
 4. Blue's Clues, Lillian Stackhouse
 5. There's An App For That, Maci Gehring
 6. Johnny B. Goode, Evelyn Hills

Thoroughbred Hunter, Regular

- Champion: Purely Grateful, Kelly Fleming
Reserve: Clean Slayte, Alicia Harbin
3. This Is Me, RAH Bloodstock
 4. Gottobeperfect, Meghan Carney
 5. Catchphrase, Lilli Power
 6. Carpe Diem, Riley Whelan

Intermediate Children's/Adult Jumper, Local

- Champion: Red Queen, Austin Saloum
Reserve: Blizzard Beach, Rylee Eilerman

3. Revere, Alexandra Ronningen
4. Turnagain, Bradley Ruther
5. Search Warrant, Teagan Milar
6. Montana, Michelle Galbavy

Crossrails Equitation, 9 & Over, Regular

- Champion: Kennedy Brown
Reserve: Ava Hacker
3. Emerson Irby
 4. Brittany Sellings
 5. Rory Powers
 6. Chloe Jurgensen

12-14 Equitation, Local

- Champion: Ava Roof
Reserve: Ava Thrun
3. Allie Hill
 4. Addison Morgan
 5. Makenna Kuhn
 6. Morgan Taleff

Junior/Amateur Hunter 3'3", Local

- Champion: Lucky-One, Ellie Welte
Reserve: Discreet, Georgia Keogh
3. Budapest, Ainsley Russell
 4. Fitzgerald, Emilie Smith
 5. No Salt All Sugar, Madelyn Kuhn

Walk-Trot Equitation, 9 & Over, Regular

- Champion: Kennedy Brown
Reserve: Rory Powers
3. Sandy Wilson
 4. Hayden Trowbridge

Adult Amateur Hunter 36 & Over, Local

- Champion: Bourbon Trail, Jennifer Kraemer

Green Hunter 3'3", Regular

- Champion: TC E2, Sophie Carlin

Children's Working Hunter 14 & Under, Regular

- Champion: Guest List, Ava Roof
Reserve: Chandler Z, Zoe Johnson
3. Gustavo Dudamel, Sophia Grose
 4. Chanel De Normandie, Piper Gray
 5. Punchline, Danica Porter
 6. Cornets Design, Delanie Borders

Large Pony Hunter, Regular

- Champion: Empire's Sun, Ava Roof

Children's Hunter Pony, Regular

- Champion: Coming Up Gold, Sophia Grose
Reserve: Kissed By The Bay, Gabrielle Reichard

3. Custom Vibes, Finley Scheffel
4. Encore, Julia Cauthen
5. Blue's Clues, Lillian Stackhouse
6. Hale Storm, Rylie Cann

KHJA Medal 3'

- Champion: Riley McDaniel
Reserve: Georgia Keogh
3. Nadia Shurley
 4. Madeline Ronnigen
 4. Ainsley Russell
 5. Jennifer Kraemer
 6. Taylor Christoff
 6. Emilie Smith

Open Jumper, Regular

- Champion: HJ Blind Date, Molly Kindness
Reserve: BH Komara, Molly Kindness
3. TC Latina 262, Charlotte Oulanoff
 4. Tori's Always Wright, Elaine Schott
 5. Carleon, Anabel Ricigliano
 6. Cinderella, Leea Bridgeman

Novice Jumper, Regular

- Champion: Q'Pid SCF, Gracie Stamper
Reserve: Waterfall Des Negres, Rylee Eilerman
3. King Solomon, Emily Reynolds
 4. Gideon, Annabelle Wood
 5. On My Honor, Emily Reynolds
 6. Contenders Blessing, Jenna Lowe

Walk-Trot Equitation, 9 & Over, Local

- Champion: Kennedy Brown
Reserve: Rory Powers
3. Sandy Wilson
 4. Nora Schaaf
 5. Adeline Gentry
 6. Anna Withrow

Low Children's Equitation, Regular

- Champion: Mira Platt
Reserve: Eva Krawcheck
3. Rowan Bickel
 4. Ava Roof
 5. Madison Hufferd
 6. Piper Gray

Green Hunter, 3'9", Regular

- Champion: Cabochon, Sophie Carlin

Low Children's Hunter, Local

- Champion: Beowulf M7, Dakota Dunn
Reserve: Celia Weelia, Ava Thrun
3. Home Alone, Mira Platt
 4. Play It Again Sam, Rylee Knehr
 5. Nectar Des Pres, Anna Phelan
 6. Bet The Grey, Addison Morgan

Long Stirrup Hunter, Local

Champion: Can Do, Stephanie Lee
Reserve: Valentina, Lily Olexia
3. Wolf Rock, Tiani Ibbotson
4. Last Beat Of The Band, Morgan Taleff
5. Sweet Profit, Marian Foster
6. HH Fendi, Adriel Wilson

Adult Equitation, Regular

Champion: Grace Hildebrand
Reserve: Madelyn Kuhn
3. Tracy Beavers
4. Larissa Hufnagel
5. Jennifer Kraemer
6. Carys Wasil

Beginner Rider Hunter, Local

Champion: Chase The Blue, Ella Pitzer
Reserve: Up Up And A Bay, Wendy Zuber
3. Serendipity, Brittany Monroe
4. Teddy Roosevelt, Macie Zuber
5. Last Beat Of The Band, Morgan Taleff
6. Music To My Ears, Isabella Minton

Low Children's Hunter, Regular

Champion: Home Alone, Mira Platt
Reserve: Mariposa Reina HH, Emma Skowronek
3. Chicago 185, Lucy White
4. Cornets Design, Delanie Borders
5. Chanel De Normandie, Piper Gray
6. Helium, Madison Hufferd

Novice Jumper, Local

Champion: Rochebelle, Madeleine Jayme
Reserve: Pele, Eve Tachney
3. Dragon, Jack Painter
4. Revere, Alexandra Ronningen
5. Cabin Currency, Marlee McGaw
6. Q'Pid SCF, Gracie Stamper

Three-Year-Old Hunter Breeding, Local

Champion: A Just My Crown, Alex Johnson
Reserve: Write This Down, Melissa Murphy
3. Pizzazz, Joy Milne
4. Custom Swagg, Nori Scheffel
5. Jackson Heights, Traci Williams
6. Dive Time, Hannah Cyrus

15-17 Equitation, Local

Champion: Emilie Smith
Reserve: Ainsley Russell
3. Rylee Eilerman
4. Riley McDaniel
5. Anna Kuhn
6. Larissa Paduchik

11 & Under Equitation, Local

Champion: Gianna Bailey
Reserve: Macie Zuber
3. Ella Pitzer
4. Lillian Stackhouse
5. Phoebe Konopka
6. Zoe Long

Long Stirrup Equitation, Local

Champion: Morgan Taleff
Reserve: Stephanie Lee
3. Katherine Bowman
4. Lily Olexia
5. Tiani Ibbotson
6. Grace Conley

Children's Working Hunter 15-17, Regular

Champion: Artano, Finley Scheffel
Reserve: Corina, Rachel Losch
3. Belucci, Larissa Paduchik
4. Cornets Design, Delanie Borders
5. Prince L, Kitty Walters
6. Clayton 35, Sarah Steele

Children's Jumper, Regular

Champion: Just A Dream, Ella Norman
Reserve: Havana AD, Emma Paley
3. Pele, Leonetta Tate
4. For Fashion, Kitty Walters
5. Quarterletto, Mary Cunningham
6. Kasper, Karston Gundry

Intermediate Children's/Adult Jumper, Regular

Champion: Q'Pid SCF, Gracie Stamper
Reserve: Nectar Des Pres, Shelby Reynolds
3. Red Queen, Austin Saloum
4. Chanel De Normandie, Piper Gray
5. Zippo II, Madeline Gober
6. Casino, Hillary Ocampo

12-14 Equitation, Regular

Champion: Zoe Johnson
Reserve: Ava Roof
3. Piper Gray
4. Lucy Deskins
5. Campbell Cauthen
6. Addison Morgan

Modified Children's/Adult Hunter, Local

Champion: Top Shelf, Kelly McAninch
Reserve: Backstretch Lady, Lindsay Greenway
3. Zillions Of Promises, Lila Beshear
4. Counterpart, Lilli Power
5. JR Mint, Riley McDaniel
6. Presidante, Jackie O'Rourke

Walk-Trot Equitation, 8 & Under, Local

Champion: Reagan Durham
Reserve: Reynolds Bonner
3. Giselle Mansergh-Wallace
4. Elle Gish
5. Emmaline Kinder
6. Abigail Miller

Long Stirrup Hunter, Regular

Champion: Calisandro, Samantha Miller
Reserve: PS Copy That, Brittany Sellings
3. Valentina, Lily Olexia
4. Snapdragon, Maeve Sheldon
5. Cabana Boy, Peggy Haynes
6. Unbridled Faith, Kassidy Kostkan

Thoroughbred Hunter, Local

Champion: Queen Of Corona, Sabina Chambers
Reserve: Leisurely, Sabina Chambers
3. Wolf Rock, Allie Hill and Tiani Ibbotson
4. This Is Me, RAH Bloodstock
5. Admiral Nelson, Anna Kuhn
6. Prince Atlantis, Joanne Van Horn

KHJA Adult Medal

Champion: Katherine Sheehan
Champion: April Whitlock
Reserve: Marcella Dhority

Short Stirrup Hunter, Regular

Champion: Touched By An Angel, Hannah Cahill
Reserve: Shannaghmore, Chloe Jurgensen
3. Sweet As Pie, Addie Allnut
3. Snapdragon, Maeve Sheldon
4. Prickory's Sonata, Helen Hundley
5. Blue Sky, Hilda Jernelid
5. One In A Minion, Hilda Jernelid
6. Caerindoll's Picture Perfect, Addie Allnut, Hayden Trowbridge, Hunter Trowbridge

Children's Working Hunter 15-17, Local

Champion: Belucci, Larissa Paduchik
Reserve: Corina, Rachel Losch
3. Budapest, Ainsley Russell
4. Artano, Finley Scheffel
5. New Beginnings, Nadia Shurley
6. Qua-Z, Rosemary Rail

Hopeful Jumper, Local

Champion: EWSZ Olivia, Karl Hancock
Reserve: Waterfall Des Negres, Rylee Eilerman
3. Revere, Alexandra Ronningen

4. Supernatural, Willow Horst
5. Fairfield's Meadow Lark, Samantha Wells
6. Helium, Madison Hufferd

Low Children's/Adult Jumper, Local

- Champion: Kasper, Kayden Gundry
Reserve: Budapest, Ainsley Russell
3. Q'Pid SCF, Gracie Stamper
 4. Bid U Adieu, Kaylynn Berry
 5. Farrah GK, MaraLee Johnson
 6. Carpe Diem, Eilana Wiggenhorn

Performance Hunter, Regular

- Champion: Brighton, Leeann Ingram
Reserve: Dalliance, Charlotte Kunes
3. TC E2, Sophie Carlin
 4. Cabochon, Sophie Carlin
 5. Lincoln, Sarah Gould
 6. Lucky-One, Ellie Welte

Low Children's Equitation, Local

- Champion: Mira Platt
Reserve: Madison Hufferd
3. Dakota Dunn
 4. Ava Thrun
 5. Olivia Rader
 6. Lila Beshear

11 & Under Equitation, Regular

- Champion: Lillian Stackhouse
Reserve: Maeve Sheldon
3. Hannah Cahill
 4. Riley Cann
 5. Avery Hore
 6. Harper Lawson

Walk-Trot Equitation, 8 & Under, Regular

- Champion: Regan Durham
Reserve: Giselle Mansergh-Wallace
3. Reynolds Bonner
 4. Elle Gish
 5. Annalise Fox

Short Stirrup Equitation, Regular

- Champion: Harper Lawson
Reserve: Lilla Downey
3. Addie Allnut
 4. Carter Slone
 5. Hannah Cahill
 6. Hilda Jernelid

Beginner Horse/Pony Hunter, Local

- Champion: Windhover Triple Crown, Missy Jo Hollingsworth
Reserve: Minute Details, Sarah Younger
3. Windhover Revolutionary, Cassie Greiling

4. Dive Time, Hannah Cyrus
5. Music To My Ears, Isabella Minton
6. Turbo Booster, Erin Shea

Low Adult Equitation, Regular

- Champion: Claudia Dattilo
Reserve: Missy Block
3. Catherine Frost
 4. Larissa Hufnagel
 5. Sophie Carlin
 5. Kelly McAninch
 6. Marcella Dhority

Modified Children's/Adult Hunter, Regular

- Champion: Counterpart, Lilli Power
Reserve: Cartier, Lucy Deskins
3. Qua-Z, Rosemary Rail

Children's Working Hunter 14 & Under, Local

- Champion: Guest List, Ava Roof
Reserve: Dragon, Jack Painter
3. Punchline, Danica Porter
 4. Chandler Z, Zoe Johnson

Adult Amateur Hunter Under 35, Regular

- Champion: Thinking Out Loud, Lilli Power
Reserve: Lincoln, Sarah Gould
3. Oh Brother, Vanessa Mazzoli
 4. All I Need, Tracy Beavers
 5. Lukelele, Rachel Kolar
 6. Rio Chimeras, Carys Wasil

Low Adult Hunter, Regular

- Champion: Counterpart, Lilli Power
Reserve: Rainier, Katherine Sheehan
3. TC Gaston, Sophie Carlin
 4. Storyville, Julie Moses
 5. Don't Blink, Chelsea Stillwell
 6. Stratege, Caroline Petrine

Baby Green Hunter, Local

- Champion: Queen Of Corona, Sabina Chambers
Reserve: Fabulous Platinum, Finley Scheffel
3. Serena CTF, Jack Painter
 4. Minute Details, Sarah Younger
 5. Sergio CTF, Katherine Campbell
 6. Surfer Boy, Brittany Monroe

Crossrails Equitation, 8 & Under, Regular

- Champion: Amelia Emison
Reserve: Reagan Durham
3. Piper Duncan
 4. Charlotte Starling
 5. Ashlyn Kraemer
 6. Mackenzie Peters

Beginner Jumper, Local

- Champion: Not Quite Sugar, Grace Conley
Reserve: Lollipop, Ruby Holsapple
3. Risky Town, Joy Milne
 3. Quinn, Catherine Brown
 4. Search Warrant, Teagan Milar and Finn Keating
 5. Teddi Tendergrass, Jessica Harrison
 6. Iniseo, Rebecca Maker

Four- to Six-Year-Old Hunter Breeding, Local

- Champion: Park Avenblue GES, Lauren Ensor
Reserve: Last Beat Of The Band, Morgan Taleff
3. I'll Leave In A Minute, Layne Webster
 4. Counterpart, Lilli Power
 4. Fancy This, Wendy Zuber
 4. Lyrik On Wallstreet, Allison Creek
 4. Mini Bar, Ashlyn Kraemer
 5. EWSZ Olivia, Karl Hancock

Modified Children's/Adult Jumper, Regular

- Champion: King Solomon, Emily Reynolds
Reserve: Havana AD, Emma Paley
3. KT Skyline, Lindsey Jones
 4. Carleon LS, Anabel Ricigiliano
 5. Bid U Adieu, Kaylynn Berry
 5. Venturo 9, Emma Paley
 6. Inda Club, Riley Franks

Green Hunter 3'6", Regular

- Champion: Purely Grateful, Kelly Fleming
Reserve: Clean Slayte, Alicia Harbin

GRAND CHAMPION AWARDS

Regular Grand Champion Hunter, Senior: Hilton II, Keely McIntosh

Regular Grand Champion Hunter, Junior: Artano, Finley Scheffel

Regular Grand Champion Jumper: For Fashion, Kitty Walters

Local Grand Champion Hunter: Change Order, Michele Power

Local Grand Champion Jumper: Red Queen, Austin Saloum

Local Grand Champion Hunter Breeding: A Just My Crown, Alex Johnson



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THANK YOU

KHJA would like to sincerely thank the following organizations and people who provided wonderful donations to the 2023 KHJA silent auction. Proceeds of this auction go toward two \$2,500 annual scholarships awarded to full-time, undergraduate KHJA members in good standing to apply toward their college or trade-school tuition.

Learn more at khja.org.

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- Back cover: \$300

To advertise in the KHJA News, please contact **Jen Kraemer** at **859-414-4154** or email jenstuart01@aol.com.

THIS IS THE MOMENT

When the commitment to be better than yesterday pays off. Working and supporting our equine athletes reach their goals day after day is one of our greatest achievements. We are looking forward to a great season by the side of some of our favorite athletes doing what we do best, fueling champions. Cheers!



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Meet the 2024 KHJA Scholarship Winners

Karston Gundry

A freshman at Midway University, Karston Gundry is a business major who plans to run his own equine business in the future. Though he now is enrolled completely online, Karston had originally planned to attend Midway in person.

“I chose it [Midway University] due to its fantastic horse program that allowed for riders to be granted scholarships based on their riding ability,” he explains. “Midway is also one of the only schools out there that supports their equestrian team as an actual sport where the school pays to have the team, unlike other universities that have our sport as a club.”

Karston was also drawn to the campus and relatively small size of the student-to-professor ratio.

However, after choosing to attend Midway in person, Karston had a change of heart and decided that

he wanted to stay home and ride so he could progress and show his personal horses. Midway allowed him to switch all of his classes and his degree to online-only, allowing him to stay enrolled full-time.

“Having the ability to earn a full online degree that is equal to what I would have obtained in person is probably what I like best about the school,” he says.

Karston has been a KHJA member for as long as he can remember; he was brought up riding on the KHJA local circuit, where he has made some of his best horse show memories. Karston currently shows Concorde in the Low Junior/Amateur 1.20-1.25 meter jumpers.

“My horse is an absolute character,” he says. “He has a crazy obsession with licking just about everything, especially people! There are moments where I am convinced

that he does not know he is a horse. I’m almost 100 percent sure that he believes he is a human just like us.”

Karston rides with his mom, Kim Gundry of Meadowbriar Stable in Newburgh, Indiana.





Riley Whelan

Riley Whelan is also a freshman at Midway University, where she is working toward a Biology major and a minor in Bourbon Studies. Riley is unsure of where her profession will take her and she's open minded to a variety of opportunities.

"What I like best about Midway is how it feels very close to 'home,'" Riley says. "It's close to my family in Owensboro, but still allows me to gain some independence. It's a very small school and you quickly know everyone. The classes are smaller, and it really allows you to have one-to-one [relationships] with your professors.

"I am also on the Midway IHSA team, which is an enjoyable environment, has allowed me to make some great new friends and continue my horse showing [career]."

Riley doesn't currently own a horse, but she has leased horses

in the past. "I was able to learn so many riding techniques and have so many personal riding opportunities through my leased horses," she explains.

"My most recent lease [Carpe Diem] took me all the way from KHJA year-end Reserve Champion in the 2' Long Stirrup to Reserve Champion in the 2'6" Equitation at WEC Ocala to top finishes this year amongst tough competition in the THIS 3' medal and Children's Equitation. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to ride and show him."

Riley has been a KHJA member for 5 years. "I just love all the shows giving all levels of riders an opportunity to show. The KHJA Fall Classic is always one of my favorites." Riley currently rides with Kim Gundry of Meadowbriar Stable.

Riley was also the recipient of the 2023 LegUp grant, which

allowed her to take Carpe Diem to WEC Ocala and show for two weeks. "I am so grateful because those two weeks are one of my favorite memories and I hope to be able to go back soon," she says.



Meet the 2023 LegUp Grant Winners

Wendy and Macie Zuber

“It was truly a blessing for both Macie and me to be awarded the LegUp grant for 2023,” says Wendy Zuber.

“2023 was going to be the first year that both of us, a mother-daughter duo, would have the opportunity to show and lesson together. We were finally able to fully enjoy this sport together, supporting and encouraging one another, as well as competing against each other in the same division.

“The LegUp grant helped make this possible,” she shares. “If it weren’t for the financial support of KHJA’s LegUp grant, this mother would have graciously stepped aside to allow my daughter the opportunity to show.”

Both Wendy and Macie own a horse and keep both of them on self care. This allows them to pinch every penny for lessons and the opportunity to show.

“The LegUp grant has given us the opportunity to share a magical year together, creating memories that will last a lifetime,” Wendy says.



Lilly Stackhouse



Macie Zuber

Lilly Stackhouse

LegUp scholarship winner Lilly Stackhouse had big goals for 2023: “This year I wanted to focus on doing 2’6” with my pony so we could try to qualify for Pony Finals,” she explains.

Unfortunately, Lilly’s Pony Finals dreams were put on hold when pony Steve got some bone bruising in his right front ankle from jumping the bigger fences.

“We had to take some time away from jumping and used our LegUp grant money to train with [dressage rider and] USDF Gold medalist Laura Burkett,” Lilly explained.

“I spent my summer working on dressage and went to the Dressage Pony Cup Championships. I had the best time—we came home Junior Intro Level Champions and fourth in Training Level.

“Now that Steve is healthy and our flatwork is stronger than ever, we’re going to try to qualify for Pony Finals 2024!”



Emily Reynolds



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Emily Reynolds

Another LegUp recipient, Emily Reynolds, used her grant to purchase new tack for her horse, On My Honor (Heidi). Heidi is a 7-year-old Warmblood whom Emily shows in Novice Jumpers; trainer Sarah Meier competes the mare in the High Schooling Jumpers.

“Heidi is a super-sweet mare and a ton of fun,” says Emily. “I have enjoyed this show season.”

Emily also leases King Solomon from Sarah. “Double” is a 13-year-old Thoroughbred. “He is a great guy and we have done pretty well together,” says Emily. “I’m thankful for the LegUp grant as I needed a lot of new tack. This grant helped me get everything that was needed.”





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New Divisions Added for KHJA-Sanctioned Shows

Creation of two new divisions hopes to ease concerns of riders moving up from crossrails.

Two new divisions have been added to the existing roster of year-end awards: Low Beginner Hunter and Low Beginner Equitation. Fence height for both divisions is 18”.

These divisions arose out of a desire for riders to have stepping-stone divisions between Crossrails Equitation and Beginner Rider Hunter.

In the past, riders in Crossrails Equitation could cross-enter into Beginner Rider Hunter, a division in which jump height is 2’. At some shows, the 2’ divisions feature fairly substantial jumps, including those that have significant width (not oxers, but considerable brush, flower boxes, and other filler). Many crossrail riders were not ready for these jumps.

The new divisions will help alleviate some of the

concerns expressed by riders moving up from Crossrails Equitation.

With the addition of these new divisions, new restrictions have been formed. Here’s a breakdown:

■ If a rider shows in the Crossrails Equitation, the rider can show in Low Beginner Hunter and/or Low Beginner Equitation. This rider cannot show in Beginner Rider Hunter.

■ If a rider shows in Low Beginner Hunter and/or Low Beginner Equitation, the rider can also show in Beginner Rider Hunter, but not Crossrails Equitation.

This rule remains the same:

■ If a rider shows in Walk-Trot Equitation, he or she can only cross-enter into Crossrails Equitation, not the new division.

A few local show series already offer these divisions, and they have proven popular.

Only local year-end awards will be given for Low Beginner Hunter and Low Beginner Equitation.

Unsure if this division is for you, your child, or your student? Contact me at mlllewellyn@ker.com if you have any questions.



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2024

Hunter / Jumper Shows

January 20-21	May 25-26	September 1
February 10-11	June 22-23	October 19-20
February 20-21	July 27-28	November 2-3
March 2-3	August 17-18	December 7-8
April 20-21	August 31-	

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Photo: Lesley Ward

If These Stalls Could Talk...

Peppermint Laundry

Here we are, one whole week into the winter season. The crisp mornings, the frost on the pastures, the thin sheet of ice on the pond in the early morning... This can only mean one thing: we are in Kentucky and it will be 60 degrees by the early afternoon. And it will be freezing rain by evening.

The volatility of Kentucky's fall and winter weather typically results in a multitude of daily wardrobe changes for our horse and pony friends as they face the elements in their paddocks and fields.

Some are clipped of all their natural winter fur and require blankets. But not too much blanket when the temperature is between 36 and 48 degrees (plus or minus a couple of degrees on account of windchill). Sometimes they need a lighter blanket. Sometimes a heavier blanket. Sometimes a sheet. Sometimes a sheer negligee. And often-times, they need all of these in a single day.

However, the impact of weather fluctuations is not limited to horses and ponies and their collection of blankets. The people responsible for the well-being and care of these horses and ponies must also navigate the peaks and valleys of the mercury.

After all, when dressing for a frigid January morning, one can work up quite a sweat changing blankets four times a day on a herd of animals.

As any farmhand worth their salt can tell you when preparing to brave the cold, you should

dress in layers: a base layer, the functional layer, the outer garments, the insulators, the accessories. This allows you to add or subtract articles of clothing to coincide with your need to balance your core body temperature in relation to the external conditions to keep you somewhere between "frozen buttocks" and "humid swamp creature".

Nothing is worse than sweating through your long underwear underneath a four inch thick layer of goose feather ski-bib overalls.

Without proper layering, you either suffer through the vegetable steam bag that you have become, or you find yourself doing barn chores in long johns and muck boots like some toothless prospector on his way to the outhouse in an old western movie.

I should point out that with layering of clothes, there exists the issue of losing things in the many pockets you now have.

Whether you wear snow pants over your regular pants, or a jacket, a coat, a vest, or a parka, or coveralls and overalls, you may find it difficult to know where exactly to find your phone, your wallet, your keys, or your ChapStick. And it's not your fault.

People just are not capable to conceptually understand the 24 total pockets on your body. Some of you can really relate if you've ever lost your glasses while they were resting on top of your head.

But the crux to all of this layering goes back to the horses



By Justin Watts

Photo: Elegant Equus Photography

and their need for blanket changes out in the fields.

We've got 40 horses and ponies to get blankets and sheets on, and there is no time to chase them all over the place, working up a sweat in our layers of coats and vests. So we entice them with a little treat, say ... a peppermint. One peppermint out of 30 tucked away in our pocket. Or pockets. 30 peppermints tucked away in our layers of pockets. Some in the pockets of the vest we took off an hour ago. Some in the pockets of the overalls we tossed in the truck. Some in the pockets of the light jacket we are now wearing. Plus all the peppermint wrappers. And all of these layers of clothes got sweaty and dirty and muddy and gross and must be washed, so we wash them.

All of this should help explain why my washing machine and dryer are full of freshly-laundered peppermints and plastic wrappers and one tube of ChapStick.

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Blankets
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Hunt Coats
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Helmets
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And so much more
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