

# LAKEFIELD LEAD LINE



## News From Lakefield Farm

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### Barn side

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the end of summer. Ours was extremely busy. We enjoyed clinics and got a lot accomplished around the farm. Leanne's show team had an extremely successful season and the lesson program is in full swing. Don and I started out our summer by attending a Buster McLaury clinic and continued Cashmere and Drifter's education in the quiet early morning hours. Unfortunately that ended up stalling my riding for a bit. One morning when the dew was heavy on the grass, and the ground was hard, I turned Cashmere a little too sharp.

She lost her balance, her hind legs slipping out from under her, and we both went down hard. Luckily Don was there and saw it happen. Our wonderful staff took care of the horses, while Don took me to the hospital. Five broken ribs, a concussion, and a bruised face are all healed. It feels great to be back in the saddle. Don spent a lot of the summer putting up new fence lines, increasing the size of the arena viewing deck, and replacing the flooring in our old barn loft. Leanne put up a beautiful new hunt course giving her students new challenges, headed up the show team and had a lot of children enjoying "Day of Horseplay" and "Horsing Around". Even with some of the setbacks we had this summer, it was a great summer. We've met so many wonderful people, we see people making great progress with their horses and most of all enjoying the time with their large companions. Looking forward, there will be clinics, lessons, and of course our "Ladies of Lakefield" get **together**. Don still has a few more improvements to get done before the snow flies, Leanne has many students to teach, and I have some catch up to do! We hope to see you at our clinics and events. Wishing you many good things along your journey.

See you Barnside,  
Rosanne

### Ladies of Lakefield Fun



Top Left: Tucker and Francine

Top Right: Cuervo and Marilyn

Bottom Left: Snowman and Wendy

Bottom Right: Little Joe and Katie

### STAR Out of the Box



So much has changed since I wrote my last column in March. The seasons have changed, my coat has shed and grown back and I am enjoying the cooler weather. There are new horses--all of them are bigger than me and all of them are most certainly younger. Welcome. I am mostly concerned these days with staying away from the flies. It is that time of year when you never know what to expect. One day it is warm, the next it may be cold. The same tree that has started the color change every year since 1999, has provided the first color of the season once again. The woods have been very pleasant to ride through lately, especially if you go early in the morning before it is warm enough for the flies. I can actually say I appreciate the ride although I have never been fond of soccer which rears its ugly head during part of the ride. Yikes! Who invented that mess? Here's hoping all of your trail rides are uneventful and you get a chance to relax as did my gang late one summer day. Don't work too hard, soon it will be winter.

*Star*

## Buster McLaury Clinic

I'm sure many of you have no idea who Buster is. We came across Buster many years ago through a number of other clinicians who were impressed with his work. We then had the opportunity to see him at Midwest Horse Fair and couldn't help but notice the connection he had with the horses he was working with. We saw him start colts at a Ray Hunt tribute in Texas. It was after that, Don decided he wanted to ride with him. There was a weeklong clinic in Texas, riding through rough country that Don attended along with Little Joe and Cuervo. Little Joe was just turning 3 at the time. Don rode him 5 out of the 7 days and Joe came back with a lot more behind him than horses 3 times his age. Don thoroughly enjoyed himself and again was very impressed with Buster as a horseman. When we found out that Buster was doing a four day clinic at Sunflower Farms in Bristol, we signed up with Cashmere and Drifter. They are both young and this was a first for them. They were certainly not used to being stuck in stalls or being ridden 3 hours a day 4 days in a row. They handled it better than I anticipated. Our goal for these relatively green horses was to help build their confidence, gain skills and become softer and more responsive. In general we wanted to get them closer to becoming a well broke horse. Yes, pretty lofty goals for 4 days, but something to strive for. Buster started the clinic by telling many stories. At first I felt like nothing was getting accomplished. As the clinic progressed, I realized that all the stories had some correlation to what he had seen in some of the participants or a skill that we would be working on. One story that really stuck with me, was a story that he told about Ray Hunt. Buster said he was with a group of people when Ray was on a horse and he told them that he could have his horse walk over the fire. Buster said the fire was a big camp fire and Ray's horse didn't want to come near it. The horse was snorting and trying to go from side to side but certainly not straight up to it. Ray continued to calm his horse, building its confidence, getting it a little closer, inch by inch. Finally the horse was quite close to the fire, and Ray just let it stand there calmly. He then asked the horse to start walking into the fire, which the horse at that point was willing to do. Ray stopped the horse and walked it away from the fire, stating "he just walked over the fire". Ray had the horse's confidence and the horse was willing, but he wasn't going to put the horse in a position to hurt itself. He knew if had to go through it, the horse would have gone. It is so important that we can build our horses trust so that we can take them where we need them to go, whether it is over a jump, through a river, or across a bridge.

*"Until you admit to yourself that that way you have been doing things could be improved upon, it's hard to get much better.."*

We just have to remember that we don't want to get them in a situation where they will get hurt or push them too hard before they are ready.

Another thing that really stuck with me from the clinic was dealing with trusting your horse. A situation that I am sure most of you have experienced is the following scenario. You are riding with a number of other horses in the arena and then they all leave. Your horse gets a little wound up and is very nervous. We experience this a lot with the young horses. Or, the horse becomes spooked at something on one end of the arena. Typically what happens to a lot of riders is, they become tight, gripping the reins tighter and not allowing the horse to handle the situation. Buster really stressed that you can turn your horse around, either away from where all the other horses went, or back again to where it was spooked, and then trust that the horse will just walk on a loose rein. If the horse doesn't, well you can just turn the horse around again and then let it walk away. This builds confidence in the horse that you will allow him to move his feet, but not get him all wound up and tight. He let us practice this skill by using a flag. It is so important to practice some of these things in a controlled environment so when you really need your horses trust and you need to trust your horse, things can come out positive. Don and I were very pleased with our horses and felt it was a great experience for all of us. We didn't learn anything fancy, but we put a lot more foundation into our horses which is far more important to us. The foundation will give us the opportunity to teach the more intricate maneuvers as they get older.





## Show Team Wrap up

Once again the Synergy Equine Show Team had a great year with a lot of improvements and plenty of wins. This year's team Roster led by Leanne, included:

- Cheryl Anderson on Twisted Blue (Husky)
- Lauren Kasun on Duramax Diesel (Max)
- Madi Kasun on Long Overdue for You (Cinnamon)
- Kimmie Mayer on Cool Indian Heartbeat (Indy)
- Amanda Ziegler and Meghan Bailey, both on Not Your Average Joe (Joe)
- Ari Sotiriades on Dun in Hockeytown (Admiral)
- Charlotte Knight on He's a Dandy Man (Dandy)
- Lisa Lach on Rosabelle Blue Fox (Twinkle)



### Capital City Classic – Madison, WI

The year started off on the first weekend in May. Cheryl, Lauren, Madi and Lisa represented the team at this new show on the B-circuit. It was an exciting show, because Lauren and Max were tackling the jumper ring for the first time. They took it by storm, ending up with plenty of blue ribbons and taking the Grand Champion in the Puddle Jumpers division!

Madi and Cinnamon also had a great show in the Long Stirrup Division. Cheryl and Husky, and Twinkle and Lisa took to the ring for the Child/Adult Hunters, where they each put in solid showings.



Lauren & Max



Madi & Cinnamon



Lisa & Twinkle



Cheryl & Husky

### Run of the Mill – West Bend, WI

A big group came to Run of the Mill this year! The team was represented by Amanda, Charlotte, Ari and Lisa in the hunters, and Lauren in the jumpers. After a rocky start to the show, Leanne and Lisa decided to drop Twinkle down to a lower height division, which meant that Ari, Lauren and Lisa all competed in the Limit Hunters, with solid showings in a large class. Once again, Lauren rocked the jumper ring with Max, this time in the 2'6-2'9" division.

Charlotte looked adorable in her hair ribbons, and Dandy was a gentleman as usual. Amanda and Joe also had a good show, as they continued to build their partnership.



Charlotte & Dandy



Lisa & Twinkle



Ari & Admiral



Amanda & Little Joe

## Seoul Creek Sweet Summertime I & II – West Bend, WI

- July brought a busy month of showing, with shows on back-to-back weekends.

- At the first show, Amanda, Madi and Lauren had great success at West Bend. Amanda and Joe got two Reserve Champions in their hunter and equitation divisions. Madi was also the Reserve Champion in the 11 & Under division with Cinnamon. Lauren capped off her season with middle-of-the-pack placing's in the jumpers, before heading off to school.

- At the Second show, Amanda, Ari, Lauren and Meghan showed, while Kimmie came out to support the team and take photos. Lauren and Max showed off their jumpers skills once again with fast times that earned them the Reserve Champion in the division. It was Meghan's very first show, and she and Joe were the Grand Champions! Way to go, Meghan! Amanda and Joe had a great show, too, taking in mostly second and third place ribbons in their classes. Joe has really started to figure out the whole "show horse" thing! Ari and Admiral were looking good and gelled as team, pulling in middle placing's in a large competitive class.



Madi & Cinnamon

Lauren & Max

Amanda & Little Joe

Ari & Admiral



Meghan & Little Joe

Meghan, Kimmie & Ari

Leanne, Lauren & Max

## WHJA Fall Finals – Oshkosh, WI

- The final show of the year is always a lot of fun, and this year, Team Synergy was joined by six of Paula's students as well! Leanne sure got a workout training 11 riders in two different rings ranging from beginner hunters to advanced jumpers.

- Synergy was represented by Madi, Amanda, Lisa, Kimmie and Charlotte. It was Kimmie's first show with her new horse, Indy. He was a very good boy and tried hard for her; it became clear throughout the weekend, however, that Indy may have a talent for the jumper ring instead of the hunters!

- Lisa was very proud that Twinkle had no refusals for the entire weekend. This was a big milestone and had never happened for this pair before. Overall, both Kimmie and Lisa were thrilled with their rides in the extremely competitive Limit Hunter classes.

Charlotte and Amanda both did fantastic, each bringing home very high-placing ribbons and even a Reserve Champion! Amanda and Joe looked very relaxed the whole weekend, which showed a lot of improvement from the beginning of the summer.

- Madi and Cinnamon also finished up their season with high placing's in the Long Stirrup divisions. These two girls did so awesome together this season! She sure represented the Kasuns at the Fall Finals. Lauren was sorely missed by the whole team at this show, and we wish her the best at school!



Kimmie & Indy Lisa & Twinkle

Charlotte & Dandy

Synergy Equine plus Paula's Team

Amanda & Little Joe

Great job to everyone on the team! It was a wonderful year with a lot of success and, as always, a lot of learning. Thank you to Leanne for all of her hard work that she puts into the show team every year!

Show Team Wrap-up By: Lisa Lach



## Trick-or-Treat

Another year has passed and it is time for **Halloween!** Every year Leanne takes kids, adults and of course HORSES Trick-or-Treating in the surrounding neighborhoods. It's always fun for everyone. The kids, adults and horses get dressed up to ensure everyone including the horses get treats.

**Date:** October 31, 2015 (Saturday)

**Time:** Be at the barn at **3:30pm** to decorate you and your horse

We will start trick-or-treating at **5:00pm**

## For Lease: Little Joe

Joe is a wonderful 8 year old paint gelding that is smart, curious and full of personality. He will try his heart out for you. He is great out on the trails as well as in the arena. He rides English as well as Western. He loves having a job as well as a challenge. Joe is always looking for the answer. He has many skills so he could teach you a lot but would love to learn more himself. He started jumping this year on the show team and is beginning to build confidence on the course. Joe is the type of horse that will give you back tenfold what you put into him. If you or your child is looking for a nice, well rounded, well broke horse, Joe is a tremendous opportunity.

**E-mail Rosanne at:**

**Rosanne@lakefieldfarm.com with questions.**



*Until next time.*

*Everyone enjoy this fantastic fall weather!*

