

PRESS RELEASE

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Benchmark year for Young Horse Show Series



Lexington, Kentucky – The Young Horse Show Series will celebrate a benchmark year in 2015, showcasing their fifth anniversary season. Since hosting their inaugural ‘test’ event at Spy Coast Farm, Lexington, KY in 2010, the Young Horse Show Series has already made remarkable progress, especially in the eastern United States, growing from 98 qualified horse in 2011 to 172 in 2014.

The YHS was created in 2009 by Jean Yves Tola, the directors of the North American Studbook (officially recognized by the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses), and other professionals from the sport horse industry, including equestrian entrepreneur, Mark Bellissimo, and Lisa Lourie of Spy Coast Farm

The 2015 YHS season, which began on March 9 in Ocala, FL, will see a total of nine qualifiers in nine different States, and each show will include five divisions, including in-hand, free jumping, dressage and jumping under saddle. Horses may compete in more than one division and/or class within their age-group. (A full schedule can be found on the YHS website: www.younghorseshow.com.) New to this season’s schedule is the introduction of schooling classes under saddle for six- and seven-year-old sport horses.

All the age-group classes are strictly generation-appropriate and judged by a team of professionals that assess the young horses and award marks according to a range of discipline-specific criteria, including gaits, athleticism, scope, technique, willingness, rideability, relaxation, balance, submissiveness, etc. Jos Sevriens, a well-known judge and former international rider who is familiar with the YHS series, is a firm advocate of classical dressage principles: “The Young Horse Show program began at a time of desperate need for sport horse breeders in the United States, offering a more horse-friendly approach and bridging the gap between breeding shed and show ring”.



*Bella du Rouet (Baloubet du Rouet x Accord II)
4yo jump-chute high score, bred by Page Brook
Farms LLC, owned by Rajal Schrubb
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Sevriens continued by saying: “The YHS offers American breeders the opportunity to market their horses through national exposure, and provides a well-rounded program for any discipline, with the focus on type and movement. The YHS has created a successful formula, enabling breeders to make the right

choices, and ensuring that a young horse’s first experience in a show ring surrounds them with capable handlers and judges, as well as the support of sponsors who truly believe in this showcase”.

According to Lisa Lourie, one of the YHS founders and herself a prominent and successful sport horse breeder; “The Young Horse Shows were developed to give breeders and young horse owners the chance to take their young stock to safe, friendly venues for evaluation and educational purposes. These shows serve as networking and showcasing opportunities for those looking to buy, sell or train young horses and the judges and class scoring system provide benchmarks for breeders to evaluate their stock against their peers. Educational opportunities have included free clinic-like seminars on topics such as conformation, breeding technologies and horsemanship as well as frequent commentary from the ring.

“It’s hard to believe that Jean-Yves Tola and I have been partnering on the Young Horse Shows for five years now! In that time frame, we have seen participation grow and the quality of the horses improve dramatically. Likewise the knowledge of breeders and young-horse owners alike. The shows have become a significant networking and marketing opportunity for all involved and have served as inspiration for several other new young-horse show concepts.”

The 2015 YHS finals will take place on November 6/7 at Mark Bellissimo’s newly opened Tryon International Equestrian Center in Tryon, NC. Mark and his wife, Katherine, are both keen sport horse breeders: “We are proud to host the Young Horse Show Series Finals at Tryon International Equestrian Center,” said Tryon Equestrian Partners principal, Katherine

Bellissimo. “This brand-new facility is growing in scope, and we are pleased that we can open it to events of all kinds.”

She continued, “We recently started breeding horses ourselves and recognize the value that the YHS Series provides for those owners, riders, and trainers bringing along young horses in the United States. These are fantastic opportunities to showcase young horses and give them the experience that they will need to continue successful careers. I can't wait to see the talent that will come to Tryon in November”.

DiAnn Langer, an enthusiastic participant, had this to say about the YHS: “The Spy Coast Young Horse Series continues to provide the format that is instrumental to the development of young horses. Not only is it educational, it is a much needed competition that brings breeders together with performance horse riders. The Tryon facility where the finals were held in 2014 has top-quality footing and a great atmosphere. Being conveniently located is just an extra bonus”.

The YHS has been deservedly proud of its success so far in creating an age-appropriate competitive series for young horses that provides a suitable environment for them to begin their careers, embracing and rewarding the pre-eminent qualities of sport horses that have been bred specifically for the Olympic disciplines.

2015 YHS Series dates

March 9/10: Ocala, FL – Cavi-i Farm

April 4: Atlanta, GA – Chattahoochee Hills

May 9: Lexington, KY – Spy Coast Farm

June 27: Wayne, IL – Lamplight

July 18/19: Chestertown, MD – High Point Hanoverian

August 30: Lexington, VA – Virginia Horse Park

September 20: Sedalia, MO – Missouri State Fairgrounds

October 10: Coopersburg, PA – Stone Field Stables

November 6/7: Tryon, NC – Tryon International Equestrian Center (concluding qualifier and finals)

With grateful thanks to all our hosts, past, present and future... and a special mention for AliBoo Farm Inc.

YHS is especially thankful to its sponsors – in particular the major support received from Spy Coast Farm



... As well as the support and participation of the majority of US-based studbooks and breeding associations:



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