

## 26<sup>th</sup> Northeast Benefit Horse Show

The 26th running of the Northeast Benefit Horse Show, June 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 fielded nearly 300 horses and ponies. Held at the Northampton Three County Fairgrounds in Massachusetts, this show is a favorite stop on the summer horse show circuit in New England.

Trainers and exhibitors alike enjoy the comfort of the three all new barns featuring 100 fully matted box stalls each with outside paved wash racks, great electrical hookups and lighting. The equitation/jumper ring has been expanded and exhibitors were treated to seating and tables at ringside in the covered seating modules that provided cool shade with a great view. Hunter ring II has been enlarged and resurfaced and the indoor arena, which is the main Hunter ring, was set with beautiful courses designed by the show's course designer Rob Gage of Fallbrook California. Judges for this year's show were Carol Coleman of Wellington, FL, Meg Schulman of Littleton, CO, and Peter Van Guysling of Guilderland NY.



Show managers Debbie Tate and Fred Hunt achieved their usual high standards and created an excellent horse show for all involved. The jump crew, Equestrian Management Solutions of Duxbury MA kept the fences up and paddock masters Russell Stewart, Ron Clohecy and Jackie Gazzara , along with announcer Melissa Brown kept the rings running smoothly.

Tuesday was Northeast Benefit Equitation Day held in the main jumper ring, with Judge Peter Van Guysling handling a full card of equitation for the juniors beginning with novice through all of the Medals including the ASPCA Maclay, MHC, NEHC, Ariat, THIS Children's, USEF Talent Search and Huntseat Medals.

Wednesday was pony day and pony rider Abigail Brayman had a successful day piloting "Take



Me Home" to a clean sweep of The Small Pony Hunters, "Champlain Trimble" to Green Pony Champion, and "Dreamland" to the Large Pony Championship, along with winning the Equisport/USEF Pony Medal aboard "Take Me Home". Annabelle Revers road her "April Rose" to the Medium Pony Hunter Championship and piloted her "Jeremiah P. Duck" to win the Northeast Benefit Pony Hunter Classic. Short Stirrup Hunter Champion went to "Goldbug" and rider Laurel Smith.

Thursday dawned bright and sunny with a full schedule of classes. Children's Hunter Champion went to "Captain 23" and Nicholas Horgan who also won Saturdays Junior/Amateur Equitation Classic. In the jumper ring the day brought the hotly contested "\$150 Ride and Drive" class which consisted of riding a jumper course, then hop off and hand your horse to a waiting

handler, jump into the parked golf cart and drive a course between cones with tennis balls on top of them, all while being timed through the whole route.



This class is a great favorite of spectators and competitors alike with the golf cart portion proving to be one of the most difficult to go clean. A valid driver's license is a must, however a designated driver could be appointed for non-licensed riders. Several competitors presented some very interesting leaping dismounts in an effort to shave seconds from their time

between golf cart and horse, and coupled with varied golf cart driving skills kept everyone whooping, laughing, and applauding. Tricia O'Connor took home the blue along with the check and a free golf cart rental for next year's show.

Friday dawned hot and sunny and the competition was just as hot. The Northeast Benefit Children's Hunter Horse Classic Winner Was "Treffor" and Taylor Kimball, the Children's Hunter Pony Classic winner was "Leap Of Faith" and Bryce Hall, and Children's Hunter Pony Champion went to "Holiday Lights" and Hannah Woolley.

In the jumper ring, defending Champion Alyssa B Kinsey and "Grisset" again took home the \$5000 Northeast Jumper Classic prize money and cooler. The \$1000 Northeast Children's Adult



Jumper Classic went to "Ready to Go" and Alexa Riccio. After the day's competition ended the exhibitor party was held in the arena in conjunction with a USHJA Zone 1 meeting.

Saturday brought an opportunity for the Juniors and Amateurs to shine in the Main Hunter Ring. Congratulations go to "Equador" and Olivia Van der Meer and trainer mom Cyndy, Junior Hunter Champions! The Children's/Adult Hunter Classic winner was "Snap Shot"

and Meghan Moran.

Younger Adult Hunter Champion went to "Gama Coronado" and Molly Yake, and the over 35 Adult Hunter Champion was "Rain King" and Nora Keefe.

Winning the Northeast Benefit Adult Hunter Classic was "Fraser" and Sarah Grogan and the \$800 2'6" Hunter Derby was won by "Werbeau" and Julie Letourneau.

Congratulations go to Tricia O'Connor and her nice young horse, "Vintage" on their win of both The Pre-Green Hunter Championship and \$1200 Northeast Benefit 2'9" Hunter Derby!



For more information, visit [www.NorthEastBenefitHorseShow.com](http://www.NorthEastBenefitHorseShow.com)