

SCOTSGROVE FARM HUNTER PACE  
Saturday, June 3, 2017

By Lynn Fitch & Leslie Scott

The morning began sunny and cool making it the perfect start for the final competition of the Western Carolina Hunter Pace Series held at Scotsgrove Farm, Inman, SC on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The folks at Scotsgrove Farm had obviously been working diligently to ensure an excellent ride and a good time for all competitors. As always Bob and Leslie Scott, owners of Scotsgrove Farm and their faithful workers were well organized and available for assistance to everyone!

The ride began in the riding arena adjacent to the barn and connected to trails that were well manicured, easily identified and well-marked. Whether riding through shady woods or along wide, mowed corridors, the trails were a totally enjoyable experience. Riders experienced a variety of woodland trails rode beside a lake filled with water lilies, and enjoyed open fields. The footing was excellent and often the trails were wide enough to ride two or three abreast. The occasional optional jumps were inviting and offered an interesting element to the entire ride. The half-way point was located under large shade trees giving horse and rider an opportunity to feel refreshed.

Laurie Ridgeway, Scott Tate, Katie Tighe and Leslie spent 3 weeks pruning the trails and opening a new loop of trail in the woods near the golf course. Leslie did the mowing of the trails and marking of the course, with signs by Gwen Phifer- Cook and Katie helping on the day! Scott and Sherry Tate ~~did~~ directed the parking, with help from Laurie. Andrea Gentry, Gwen and Leslie took shifts on the registration table.

Timing was done by Samantha Fouse, Lindsey Massey, and Donia Davis. The Halfway Point, located under large shade trees giving horse and rider an opportunity to feel refreshed, was manned by Jackie Smith, AK McMillan, Ashlan Benjamson, and Heather Driver.

The trail left the ring to climb Golightly Hill, and went out to Grand Canyon Rd, down the farm road and out at the bridge on Grand Canyon. Having crossed the bridge, it went along the bottom of the kudzu field, through mature woods on Hunting Lodge trail to the powerline, and across the dam at the water lily pond. For the morning riders, there were white, pink and yellow lilies to admire- they start to close about noon and by 2 pm there is little color to be seen! Onto the old Huntsman's Trail toward the golf course, and the newly created trail to the back of the old orchard, and trails through the "orchards". It was a bit of a maze! Riding three sides of the beagle training pen brought riders to the Halfway Point at the opening of the Pine Nursery. Trails through the Pines led back to a short stretch on Grand Canyon, then circumnavigating Little Orchard pasture, the great views of the Blue Ridge as they also circumnavigated the Overlook pasture and went down Rainy Day Trail to the powerline, leading to the descent of the kudzu field and re-crossing of the bridge. Another maze, on the home farm, and back to the ring and the finish line.

Lunch was catered by Beth Straitiff and her mother Judy Long. Fresh and homemade lunch consisted of egg salad or chicken salad on croissant, fresh veggies with Ranch dressing, bagged chips, assorted cookies and brownies, iced sweet and unsweet tea and water. Benches under the shade of the old pecan tree were convenient for sitting to eat and relaxing while watching riders starting or completing the course.

Ample parking was available and convenient to the starting/finish point and lunch area.

In the Field Hunter division the optimum time was one hour 39 minutes and had nine teams with 14 riders in the competition.

First place was awarded to Christina Goen of Lyman and Emily Mitchell of Greer with a time of one hour, 41 minutes and seven seconds. The Second Place ribbons were given to Angela & Caleigh Reichardt from Jonesborough, TN with a time of one hour, 43 minutes and 17 seconds. A yellow Third Place ribbon was earned by Caroline Coates of Travelers Rest, with a time of one hour, 43 minutes and 54 seconds. Fourth Place went to Marcia Headrick & Richard Neel, from Townville, SC with a time of one hour, 29 minutes and ten seconds. Fifth Place honors were earned by Eden Isbell of Gastonia with a time of one hour, 25 minutes and 29 seconds. Kay Mott, of Greer, took Sixth Place with a time of two hours, 17 minutes and 40 seconds.

Other riders in the Field Hunter division out to enjoy the trails and scattered jumps included Melissa Champion, Debbie Croft, Tim Giles, Brandon Spenser, and Rebecca Tolson.

The Trail Rider division had a calculated optimum time of two hours, 17 minutes and ten seconds and consisted of 20 teams with 39 riders. The results in the Trail Division are as follows:

The first three placements were all less than 40 seconds off the calculated optimum! Jeremy Ahlum and Kristin Hiller, of Simpsonville, won the Trail Division with a time of two hours, 17 minutes and 36 seconds. Second place red ribbons were awarded to Lynn Fitch, of Taylors and Debbie Knebel, of Greer with a time of two hours, 17 minutes and 43 seconds. Only a mere 34 seconds over optimum, Lin Martin, of Campobello took Third Place with a time of two hours, 17 minutes and 44 seconds. Fourth Place went to Katelyn Bearden & Jennifer Wilson, both from Mill Spring, with a time two hours, 18 minutes, 16 seconds. Fifth Place went to Karen Merrill and Teresa Snyder, of York with a time of two hours, 15 minutes and 49 seconds. The green, Sixth Place ribbons were awarded to Patricia Iacomini, of Mill Spring, and Ginny Jennings and Lynn Ronzello, both from Tryon, with a time of two hours, 20 minutes and five seconds. An Honorable Mention to Kathy Garrett, of Fountain Inn, and Natalie Schembra, of Landrum, with a time of two hours, 13 minutes, 59 seconds. (Honorable Mention is given when a team, or teams, are 30 seconds or less off Sixth Place.)

Other riders who came out to enjoy day and Trail Rider division included:

Lisa Alford, Baiba Bourbeau, Bob & Terri Davenport Jill Davis, Delia Driver, Katheryn Eilders, Andre Gentry, Lauren Gohs, Kayla Gonzalez, Kimberly Hannu, Susan Haslam, Nikki Hynes, Jen Keilman, Kathy Knutson, Beatrice Lamb, Arlene Lulavage, Connie Moore, Kailyn Moss, DeAnna Norton, Kim Randall, Ella Grace Skipper, Yasmin Straitiff, Bobby Turner, and Nancy Wiggin.

Scotsgrove was the last competition of the Series, but join us as we will close the Western Carolina Hunter Pace & Trail Ride Series for the season with our Year End Gathering and Awards scheduled for Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at Croft State Park, in Spartanburg. Come play with us!!

Remember to check the website [WCHPace.org](http://WCHPace.org) for all upcoming events, news, articles, photos, placements and contact information.

Thank you to our photographer, Lou Smith, for being at every event to capture the riders and their mounts as they fly over jumps, canter through the fields and enjoy the beautiful area trails. Hit "Store"

on the website to view the pictures and scroll thru the list on the left to find the album you want to check next. If you like, you can place an order online.

For information on the Western Carolina Hunter Pace & Trail Ride Series e-mail Series Coordinator, Jan Smith.