

Hayes Is for HorsesTM



Tim and His Horse Austin

By Tim Hayes

This is the twelfth article I have written for this magazine. I have enjoyed writing all of them and I'm deeply grateful to all of you for letting me know how much you have learned from them. This issue also marks my second year of teaching Natural Horsemanship on Long Island. I have loved living here and have learned a great deal about our 120-mile island of humans and horses.

Having spent years out West, I thought real horse country were places like Idaho, Colorado and Montana. I was astounded to learn the location of the largest number of horses per square mile in the USA is; are you sitting down; Long Island! I'm not surprised anymore. I've seen them and they're everywhere. Thousands of backyard companions, beautiful stables, many boarding over 100 horses of all breeds, riding schools, racetracks, breeding farms and Deep Hollow Ranch in Montauk, the oldest cattle ranch in America.

The wonderful thing about teaching Natural Horsemanship is being able to work within so many different equine activities: Jumping, Reining, Dressage, Trail Riding, Barrel Racing and Drill Teams.

It also allows me to work with and compare all the

unique characteristics of many different breeds: Thoroughbreds, Warmbloods, Quarter Horses, Arabians, Paints, Halfingers, Mustangs and Ponies.

With all this equine diversity I am frequently asked if what I do is very complicated. My answer is always the same. Working with horses is simple, working with humans is challenging. Once I understood the true nature of the horse, understanding and communicating with them was very straightforward. They need to know they're safe, they need to feel comfortable, they need to have a leader and they communicate with each other with touch, feel and body language. They don't have egos, they don't have mixed feelings and they never lie. These facts are identical for every breed of horse on the planet.

Working with humans can be very complicated. We have egos, are capable of mixed emotions, and are sometimes known to not be completely truthful (read, "lie"). We have a long list of wants and needs, including, praise, recognition, material things, schedules and agenda's. These are of no value to our horses.

The fascinating thing is that even with these major differences, the key to having a good relationship with a horse is identical to having a good relationship with a human. The same "Golden Rule" applies to both: Always treat the other as you would like to be treated yourself. Horses and humans want, need and positively respond to love. I define love as being and acting with: patience, kindness, trust, respect, tolerance, honesty, fairness, understanding, compassion and forgiveness.

The nobility of the horse that is even when they are working on their relationships by establishing a pecking order, they don't need to learn or remember to be loving with each other. This is the way they are all the time. We can create wonderful partnerships with horses if we allow them to teach us some of these qualities. Horses are dying for humans to learn this so they can feel safe, trusting and comfortable with us as their leader. If their leader is always the better horse, then we become a better human in the process.

Be a better human, be a better horse — Tim Hayes '02

All my events are listed in the event section of this magazine and on the net at www.Llequine.com.

To host a clinic, demonstration or for more information visit:

www.hayesisforhorses.com

or call Tim at 631-329-5840

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