

## In the News



Sir Sinclair, Keur  
Photo by Terri Miller

Congratulations to Iron Spring Farm's **Sir Sinclair**, Keur, who was the USEF #1 Sire of Dressage Horses for an extraordinary fifth consecutive year (2015–2019). Sir's offspring earned more than 9,800 points in dressage competitions throughout the year, more than 4,000 points ahead of the second place stallion, **Contango**, Preferent, who also stood at Iron Spring. Sir's impressive achievement was made possible by 74 point-earning sons and daughters, including 23 offspring competing at FEI, with six at grand prix. Rounding out the remarkable year for the Iron Spring stallions, **UB40**, Keur, finished third among nearly 800 ranked dressage sires in 2019.



Allan Schwartz, Caroline Robertson Herman, Alexandra Ledbetter and Erin Clemm Ochoa  
Photo by Ron Diehl

More than 250 attendees celebrated the 30-year anniversary of **Days End Farm Horse Rescue (DEFHR)** at the non-profit organization's year-end **Jingle & Mingle Holiday Celebration** at the **Turf Valley Resort** in Ellicott City, Maryland, in December. The event honored the countless volunteers, staff, sponsors and donors who've worked tirelessly to make the rescue a success over the years. Since 1989, over 2,500 horses have been saved from all over Maryland and the surrounding states. Of these horses, 98 percent were successfully rehabilitated and adopted into new homes. "It's an incredible

feeling to see DEFHR not only enduring after 30 years, but thriving and continuing to grow, thanks to our incredible donors and volunteers and this community," said DEFHR's Chief Executive Officer **Erin Clemm Ochoa**. "It's because of them that DEFHR is celebrating 30 years and because of them that we look forward to the next 30!" Learn more about DEFHR's rescue, rehabilitation and adoption programs at [www.defhr.org](http://www.defhr.org).



Laura Connaway and Quite Funny  
Photo by ESI

Amateur grand prix rider **Laura Connaway** has made the move south to Ocala to compete on the winter show circuit. Laura frequently competes her homebreds at the FEI levels and has her sights set on the Great American \$1 Million Grand Prix. As the president of her equine insurance company, **Connaway & Associates**, she loves traveling to shows to cheer on her customers. "Being at shows and actively competing allows me to answer customers' questions face-to-face and develop my brand within the industry that it serves," said Laura, whose company also debuted its new website, [www.connaway.net](http://www.connaway.net), this winter.



Nick Tsang  
Photo by Christine Fitzgerald

**Manhattan Saddlery** is now the official New York City donation drop-off partner for **The Rider's Closet**, an **EQUUS Foundation** program founded in 2006 by **Georgina**

**Bloomberg** to provide donated equestrian apparel to riders in need at any age and every level of the sport. All customers dropping off new or gently used riding apparel (no helmets) made at Manhattan Saddlery, located at 117 East 24th Street, will receive a discount on Manhattan Saddlery merchandise as a thank you. Initially created as an assistance program for scholastic riders who were unable to afford equestrian apparel, The Rider's Closet has expanded over the years to serve a much more diverse community throughout the U.S. While high school and collegiate riders still represent a significant percentage of the recipients, those served now also include pony and 4-H clubs; therapeutic horsemanship participants, volunteers and staff; young equestrians heading off to camp; volunteers and staff working with equine charities; and a variety of individuals who ride or work with horses in other capacities. The common denominator is a desire to participate in horsemanship activities with a need for some assistance in acquiring the necessary apparel.



R. Scott Evans

**Green Is the New Blue**, an environmental organization launched in early 2019 with the mission of helping horse shows become "greener," has appointed **R. Scott Evans** as its new creative director. Green Is the New Blue was founded by **Stephanie Riggio Bulger**, an amateur rider with many years on the hunter-jumper circuit. Stephanie came up with the idea after she was trying to find a spot to graze her horse at a horse show and couldn't find any grass that was not littered with debris. Also noticing that there were no recycling bins or options to fill reusable water bottles or coffee cups at the horse show, she became dismayed, but more importantly, inspired. That motivated Stephanie to create Green Is the New Blue, which focuses on helping horse shows reduce waste and promote sustainability. In addition to educating horse show staff, riders, trainers, vendors and