

Horse World Expo Held In Maryland

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billed as America's most popular and trusted horsemanship. The symposiums he developed in 1988 have helped train others to train using his methods. He has been referred to as the *real* horse whisperer, and when he is in the ring with a horse, the reason is evident. He has a touch that is almost magical, one that brings even the toughest horse around. He has toured, covering thousands of miles, with his famous Appaloosa stallion, Bright Zip, a horse he rides without a halter, or bridle, and one that responds to voice commands. Lyons says they are partners, who respect each other, and work together because they *want* to.

Lyons talked about how horse owners buy fancy equipment, tack and accessories for their horse. "But the most important thing you

can put on your horse is love," he said. "Even if he is uglier than a fencepost!"

When Lyons asked the crowd to share some of the names they call their horse when he doesn't do what is asked of him, the list was long ... "lunkhead, Alpo, stupid, jerk, dogfood ..." The list went on and one as the audience got into the spirit of fun, laughing along with Lyons. Then, in a somber tone, Lyons asked the crowd, "If we looked up the word 'partner,' would any of those words be listed? Words can build division," Lyons said, "and division does not build partnership."

Over the three day expo, Lyons' talks focused on many different topics, including partnership, barn sour syndrome, round pen training, dropping the head, and more, but in each, his message was a spiritual one. Lyons makes it clear

that the way he treats horses, is the way he treats humans, and it is the way God expects us all to treat each other. "Your own attitude has so much to do with what you are trying to develop," he said. Heads nodded in agreement when he said that "Horses are like potato chips. You can't love just one."

As a trainer and instructor, Richard Shrake has had more than forty horses and students win World and National top ten championships. He has also judged at many world and national events. Shrake's "Resistance Free Training and Riding" methods have become his trademark in the professional horse world. In the ring with a line of horsemen and their mounts at the expo, he demonstrated ways to recognize how resistance free a mount truly is. By using simple touches, a horseman can determine how open a horse is to training. Both Lyons and Shrake have a number of best selling books, and instructional videos on the market.

GaWaNi PonyBoy grew up in a family of horsemen on a Cherokee Reservation in Cherokee, North Carolina. His natural way with horse became evident early on, as folks began coming to him for advice on how to train and handle horses. He said he learned much of what he knows about Native American horsemanship from the many tribal elders he sought out. Pony, as he prefers to be called, said the presentations, "happened by accident. If you can communicate with animals, you can communicate with people," he said, and that is what he does in his talks with Boy Scouts, in schools across the nation, and at 4-H, and horse events. "I try to impress on people not to focus so much on results, but rather on relationships. This can be a safety issue, too," he said, noting there are times you will need to rely on your horse, and only a good relationship can assure that you can.

GaWaNi PonyBoy has a colorful coffee table type book coming out with Bow Tie Press in the fall, filled with full page photographs of himself and his pinto horse, Koala. Kids at the World Horse Expo exploded with excitement

over Koala, a horse that Pony said is a twin. He entered the ring in traditional tribal dress, his horse painted with symbols which were explained throughout the demonstration.

At the Horse World Expo, hundreds of vendors offered for sale, tack, riding equipment and clothing, food, jumps, trailers, paintings, jewelry and other novelty items for the horseman, and virtually anything else a horseman could dream of owning. There were products and services for all ages and every discipline. A parade of breeds shared some of the

top horse breeds with viewers, showing what each breed is noted for and how they are exhibited. Strolling down Stallion Avenue, visitors could see some of the top stallions of a variety of breeds. Pony rides were available for kids, and an auction was held in the ring for those looking to buy a horse.

"We plan to grow bigger each year," Denise Isaac said. As she looked over the crowds pouring in the double doors, she grinned. "I took out loans to make this happen," she said. "It looks good!" And it did. Everything about the Horse World Expo was good.



Fifteen year old Renata Ramonda of Westminster, Maryland and her Quarter Horse gelding, Ima Better Bailey. Renata opened the Horse World Expo each day by singing the National Anthem from atop her horse.



GaWaNi PonyBoy and his horse Koala. Together they shared Native American Horsemanship with the crowds.

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