

Rhiannon Farm, N. Salem, NY

Jennifer Giacopelli, the owner of Rhiannon, is thrilled with her new home at Chase Meadows Farm in N. Salem, NY. Giacopelli, who has been in the horse business for over five years, calls the scenic facility "a dream come true."

Her business philosophy is, "to create a supportive environment by which you can further your riding career at any level." All levels are taught at Rhiannon, from lead line to upper equitation as well as adults. Her highlights are not a particular victory. Rather they are seeing a student progress. "Every time someone achieves a goal and moves forward is a highlight." Giacopelli went on to say "I absolutely love teaching and I love working with the students' horses."

The love she has for the horse world comes as a result of seeing what horses and riding can bring to people's life. "There are so many facets. So much of it is a life lesson—helping people to develop as individuals. They learn respect, sportsmanship."

Giacopelli must be doing something right for her business has grown fourfold. But she doesn't want it to get too big. "We offer individualized custom programs. We try to cater to each person as an individual and support our clients as a team." Assisting her in doing so are Lisa Johnson and Siri Kent. They also run both recognized and schooling shows at Chase Meadows.

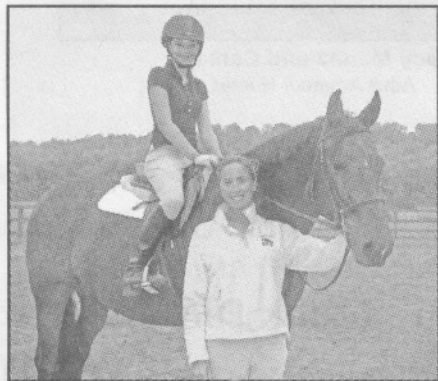
She noted that a number of potential first time horse buyers come to her. "I always try and walk them through the steps and get the best match at their level. I do a lot of that. I try to create very happy matches."

Regarding the horses, Giacopelli said "it's so important to see each horse as an individual. Each horse has to have a specific training regimen, a specific feeding regimen. It's extremely important not to lose sight of that."

The native of Ridgefield, CT showed as a junior and then attended the University of Connecticut-Storrs where she was on the IHSA team. At UConn she trained under Janice Callahan, a major influence on her. "She helped me shape my riding," Giacopelli said.

Asked what she does to get away, Giacopelli laughed and noted that she doesn't really get away from horses. Her husband, Paul, owns a Thoroughbred racing stable. "I just go to a different aspect of the horse world. He races in New York, Florida, and Kentucky."

According to Wikipedia, the name Rhiannon comes from Welsh mythology. She was beautiful goddess who traveled through the earth aboard a white horse whose canter was so fast that no other horse and rider could catch them. Ω



Jennifer Giacopelli with her student Emma Goodman aboard Accolade.