



## Horsing Around at Pinewood Farm, LLC

It seems I have met quite a few people lately who seem a little bemused by the turns their lives have taken. When I spoke to Joan Kruse of Pinewood Farm recently, she told me she and her husband Norm never expected to end up holding Horsemanship Day Camps. The Kruses were born and raised in Milwaukee. In 1971, they purchased 80 acres in the Town of Jackson and began to raise their family of four children there. That first summer, daughter Debbie, aged three, received a three year old pony for her birthday. She named it Lollipop. The Kruses each had a horse, and one boarded horse made four. Eventually, there were more boarders, Lollipop became a mother and before long, a barn had to be built to accommodate all the horses. When their children entered school, Joan and Norm, a Mequon police sergeant (now retired), became very active in 4-H horsemanship programs, and have remained program leaders. In fact, Joan recently celebrated her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a 4-H leader in horsemanship. The entire family was involved in various 4-H activities. Son John serves as the farm's mechanic - repairing and maintaining all the equipment, skills he learned in 4-H. John received national 4-H recognition for achievement in the petroleum powered engines area. Since Pinewood Farm is a working farm, growing, harvesting and baling 6,000 bales of hay a year, his skills are essential. The girls gravitated toward the horsemanship programs, and excelled in those areas. Through school, 4-H and church activities, Joan had received requests to give riding lessons over the years. In 1994, she was



Norm and Joan Kruse with "Brumbie Jet"

asked to create a day camp, which she organized as a one week event. The next year, she offered two weeks, culminating in the full summer schedule Pinewood Farm now offers. All the horses had been used as 4-H projects, at parades and trail rides for some time. Pinewood Farm horses can be seen in the Cedarburg July 4th and Milwaukee Great Circus Parades, at horse shows and at the Cedarburg County Fair. Since they were all so people friendly, the day camps seemed a natural next step.

Joan has always felt that working with horses teaches responsibility. At the Pinewood day camps, half the time is spent with the horses learning how to lead, groom, saddle, bridle and ride. The other half of the time is spent in learning

about the horse. Joan and her camp staff teach safety, colors, face and leg markings, bathing, tack cleaning, some horse anatomy, etc. They also manage to fit in time for snacks, picture taking, a craft project and a final day performance for friends and family members. Sessions are limited to a small number of riders to insure individualized attention. The camps stress safety and a relaxed — atmosphere, so that even the youngest riders in the "tiny tot" beginner's program can have a positive first experience. Joan says it is a real joy to see the beginners responding to the horses.

Pinewood Farm has an indoor riding arena, so weather is never a problem for lessons or camps.

There is also a large outdoor arena and miles of trails through the woods and fields. Skills are developed through groundwork, riding, mounted games and skill sessions. In addition to day camps, three campout events are offered,

### Mom's Apple Spice Muffins

1 cup/ flour  
1 cup wheat germ  
1/2 tsp cinnamon  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp salt  
3 tsp baking powder  
1 Egg  
2/3 cup milk  
1/4 cup corn oil  
1 cup chopped apples (such as Macintosh)

**Dir: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Generously grease muffin tins. In large bowl, mix dry ingredients together and set aside. In separate bowl, mix thoroughly the remaining ingredients including apples. Pour the liquid ingredients into the dry ingredients. Mix until moistened. Scoop into muffin tins and bake 15-25 minutes. Serve cool to horses and warm to people!**

as well as trail rides, which riders can schedule themselves if they cannot make the pre-arranged sessions. The 10th annual day camp schedule begins June 9, and sessions are scheduled through August (at different skill levels). For one last chance to ride one's favorite horse after the regular season, Pinewood hosts several Holiday Horseplay and Holiday Horseplay tar Tiny Tots sessions in November and December. When asked what has been the most rewarding aspect of running Pinewood Farm, Joan took a minute, and then began to recollect various riding students who have taken up a career involved with horses in some way. A 4-H member who purchased her own horse discovered she was having it checked by a former student of Joan's, now a veterinarian. Jack Curtis of West Bend, who took his first ride on the pony Lollipop, has chosen natural horsemanship training as his profession, as has Emily Kemp of Jackson. I'm Sure there are many more such stories about the knowledge, training and inspiration the Kruses have imparted to their students over the years. Joan gives a lot of credit to that first pony-Lollipop, and all the other horses at Pinewood Farm, for the part they have played in teaching hundreds of area youths the joys of riding, befriending and respecting these wonderful animals.

For a complete schedule of events, pricing or other additional information, call Joan at 262-377-0239. Pinewood Farm is located at 715 Highway 60, just about on the Ozaukee-Washingto<sup>n</sup> County line.

Joan has shared a really fun recipe with us from "The Original Book of Horse Treats." What Joan really loves about the recipe is that it's wonderful for horses or humans! I was glad when the doorbell rang at Joan's home, giving me a chance to page through this great book for horse owners. If not, I might have missed the "stable of contents."