



Meghan Watt (15 yrs) and her Andalusian gelding Invicto demonstrate movements from the Initiate Phase of Training.

Upcoming Schooling Show Participants Treated to Special Seminar and Demonstration

The Baroque Equestrian Games & Institute (BEGI) is an exciting new organization dedicated to teaching, rewarding and celebrating the elegance and artistry of Classical Horsemanship. Connecticut's first Baroque Equestrian Games Schooling Show will be held in August 2012, and in preparation for this inaugural event, the competitors were invited to an enlightening day of learning on June 30. Well-known Classical trainer Patricia Norcia from Clinton, CT brought a group of her students to Willow Run Stable in Wilton, NY for this special educational event.

With fortunate timing, Rodrigo da Costa Matos (a Senior Rider and Trainer from the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art; www.cavalonet.com/epae) was able to attend the BEGI presentation. Rodrigo was in the US to conduct a series of clinics at Patricia's facility, and we were honored to have him as our guest – and even more honored by his enthusiasm for the BEGI vision: "The Baroque Equestrian Games are excellent exercises for the development of the horse and rider, and they are also great fun as well".

Bruno Gonzales and Tina Cristiani Veder, founders of BEGI, structured the day's curriculum to include a broad range of topics. First, several of the Andalusian and Lusitano stallions of Caballos de los Cristiani were worked on the lunge, and Bruno and Tina pointed out their differences in conformation and gait, detailing which inherent traits facilitate a greater or lesser degree of collection and desirability for higher performance.

This was followed by discussion on the sequential exercises from the Baroque Equestrian Games Classical Schooling (CS) Section, and how, when done correctly, they help develop the balance of any horse.



Tina Cristiani Veder and Bruno Gonzales (riding Lusitano stallion Bariloché) explain and demonstrate key principals of Classical Horsemanship.

Movements from the Initiate Phase were demonstrated by one of Bruno's students, Meghan Watt. Bruno and Tina explained that, in contrast to other types of competitive tests, the CS Patterns are designed to actually improve the horses as they are ridden. Included was a large-screen presentation explaining the history of Classical Horsemanship, which culminated in its highest artistic expression during the Baroque period.

With illustrations and diagrams, the audience learned about collection and balance of the horse, including a series of images showing horses progressing through the phases of training, and the resulting change of balance.

The day culminated with Bruno giving riding demonstrations on three different horses in various Phases of training, showing how to correctly perform a selection of the exercises from the Classical Schooling and the Mounted Maneuvers Sections of the Games. The entire gathering was infused with sparkling enthusiasm and discussion, and excited anticipation for the upcoming August BEGI Schooling Show.

We invite you to join us on this new journey back to the historical foundation of Classical Horsemanship! Visit BaroqueGames.com to learn more. To host a clinic in your area, contact Sharon Madere: smadere@premier.com.