Cindy Piper H (952) 476-1045
cell (612) 868-2190 with questions

Jumps sold to date:
Cathy Andrews & Rick Stoller-
  Cathy & Rick at Westend
Carol Brooks
Jerry Brost - Wakefield
Marsha Brown — Salto Cielo
Eric Canton – In Honor of Eric
Ellie Crosby - Bandit
Donahoe Family — Natasha & Kahlua
Mary Kay Jans – In Honor of Shadow
Tracy Kooman – Adams-Koomen
Bob & Polly McCrea
Cliff Otten – Otten
  Conan
Paradise Family
  Cindy Piper – Pied Piper
    - For All the Junior Hunters
Stene Family – Stene’s Foxwood
  Farm
Wortman/Talalla/Bemdt & Moser

We are getting close to our goal!
  Buy a jump today!

Bring: Gloves, portable/electric screw drivers; A willingness to work and have fun! Dress accordingly.

Goal: Repair and rebuild 10 coops. Build 20 coops from scratch.

Buy: A jump to build and place in a designated spot. Cost is $100. Name plaque will be mounted on the upper right-hand corner (both sides).

Contact: Cindy Piper H (952) 476-1045
cell (612) 868-2190 with questions

Yes, this does count as country keeping for those who owe from last year!

Directions: From Hwy 55 and County Rd. 19 traffic light, proceed north on CR 19 through the first stop sign to Strehler/Salem Rd. Turn left. Proceed to Grace Lane and turn right. Go to cul-de-sac, 8720 Grace Lane, blacktop driveway.

April 2006
RETIRING YOUR HUNT HORSE
By Beth Luther

As Foxhunters, we develop a special bond with our mounts that other horse owners may never know. The conditions under which our horses carry us are often extreme—bad weather, bad footing, trappy jumps, long and exhausting runs. They never complain because they seem to love following hounds as much as we do. This makes it all the more difficult to part with our trusted companions when their advancing age or injuries make it impractical for them to continue hunting.

If you have your own farm, you are in the enviable position to retire your hunt horse to a life of leisure in green pastures. However, many of us live in the city and board our horses. Financial or other circumstances may dictate a need to find a new situation for our equine friends. Since I undertook this daunting and emotional task not long ago, I thought I would share some of the information I discovered.

If your horse is extremely quiet and “bomb proof,” you have quite a few options. These horses are in great demand for children and beginners in both private situations and riding schools. Usually word of mouth or posting a notice at the local tack shop or feed store should produce interested parties. The We Can Ride Program in the Twin Cities Metro area also accepts these gentle souls, and the donation is tax deductible.

However, if your 20-year-old hunt horse still wants to run and jump and is 17 hands, he might be a bit much for a child or beginner rider! You may be able to find an adult amateur who wants a pleasure horse, but this could be challenging, as the majority of intermediate riders are looking for horses that they can show, hunt or otherwise “move up” on. You don’t want to surrender your retiree to a situation where he would be misused.

People occasionally seek a pasture companion for their horses. Be careful to consider your horse’s temperament when choosing his new home. For instance, if he’s herd-bound and hates being left alone, he won’t like being a companion if his buddy goes to a horse show and leaves him alone!

An ideal situation for a horse that relishes companionship could be a college riding program. After searching the internet, I found that quite a few colleges offer equine studies. I contacted those in Minnesota and neighboring states. Check out what I found out in the sidebar entitled Colleges Offering Equine Studies.

To begin checking out this option, start with a phone call. Many of these colleges want to see a current video of your horse and then may arrange to come try him. Keep in mind that the program directors, curriculum and policies can change, so do your homework. If they have no immediate need, don’t give up. If their school string is full, give them (Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 4)
The good hunt member knows that good turnout is of vital importance because it is seen as a compliment to those who give the Hunt permission to ride over their land. It certainly makes sense that the Hunt should be seen as an entity, conforming to rules, and not a rabble of ill-assorted people. The Hunt should be a pleasure to look at, and the picturesque nature of foxhunting has enabled it to continue to command support and admiration through the years. The Hunt should be a cheerful, stirring sight; an attractive spectacle when it appears as a "guest" on privately owned land.

Remember, you as an individual hunt member, are part of what makes that "spectacle" attractive in the greater scheme of things. We all have the responsibility to "turn out" as best we can, not only for our own hunt, but for the continued good of the sport of foxhunting!

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**Colleges Offering Equine Studies**

**University of Wisconsin, River Falls**
This is a well known program and they receive a lot of donations so they can afford to be choosy. They will accept younger horses that are 100% sound for hunter/jumper and western pleasure, but they will not accept older retirees.

**University of Minnesota, Crookston**
They have a large program, beautiful facility and they accept all kinds of horses. I saw this facility first hand, spoke with the professors at length and feel confident their horses receive very good treatment. The horses have large box stalls, turnout during the day in good weather, and individualized care.

**Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls, Iowa**
A smaller program but they do have stables, so they will accept horses for donation depending on the size of their current school string. They keep their horses outside with shelter night and day and do not clip or blanket in the winter. Based on my conversations with the program directors, it sounds like the horses receive good care here as well. However, I did not visit this facility.

**Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa**
Apparently, they also have a beautiful new facility. They will accept horse donations, but they ask for a 3-month trial of your horse to make sure he is sound and suitable for their program. You may consider this to be a little risky, but they might be open to negotiation.

**St. Cloud State and Carlton Colleges**
Although these colleges have riding programs, they have no stables. Therefore, they cannot accept donated horses.

**Sioux Falls Home for Boys, South Dakota and University of Wisconsin, Madison**
Friends suggested these two, however, I did not research them.

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—Beth Luther

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**Hunting in Ireland (from l to r): Linda LeDray, Willie Leahy, Sue Mills and Kimberly Carlson. Not pictured are Susan Bower, Jr Lehman and Cindy Piper.**

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Where have you hunted lately?

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Hunting in Ireland (from l to r): Linda LeDray, Willie Leahy, Sue Mills and Kimberly Carlson. Not pictured are Susan Bower, Jr Lehman and Cindy Piper.
MFH’s. Historically in most hunts there was a Master, who may or may not have also been an amateur huntsman. As times have changed and the demands on people’s time have become more precious, hunts have appointed multiple Masters to cover all the tasks needed in running a hunt. Midland Hunt in north Georgia has six Masters. The most well-known is Ben Hardaway, who still calls many of the shots but the other MFH’s do the work. In the 2005-2006 season, thirty new MFH’s were appointed to serve the 168 hunts recognized in North America. The number of MFH’s has steadily increased by 3% to 5% for the last five years.

The newcomers need guidance and to accommodate this the MFHA has added a MFH Seminar on Saturday, April 8 from 12:00-4:00 pm. The Biennial Seminar will convene with a dinner that evening and a full day of lectures on Sunday, April 9. Lennie, Jon, Bridgett and myself are planning on attending. I will report on the meeting in the next Babbler.

So we begin the 2006 season shortly. It is our 47th season as we were registered in 1959 and recognized in 1960. There is a deep and rich history to our hunt. Don’t hesitate to talk to the “oldies” such as Kitty Crosby, Ellie Crosby, Louise Otten, Bob McCrea and myself. Call us “relics” but we have seen a great deal over the years.

Happy Hunting!

HOUND WALKING
Hound walking on foot will begin on May 9. We have the ten new puppies to train. They are on couples and marching around the field and in need of human attention in the form of a “field.” We will be going out on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. Come get your exercise over with as it consists of 45 minutes of walking. Good aerobics!

TRAILBLAZER EVENTS
Last year LLH huntsman, Lennie Williams, Whippers-in Jon Martinson and Briana Johnson, plus dedicated volunteer Sam Nelson trekked to Cannon Falls with hounds, horses and full livery. While the weather was awful, over 700 Boy Scouts walked past our group and asked questions about what we did with our “dogs and uniforms!”

We were awarded a plaque for effort at the MFHA NYC meeting.

This year there are two Boy Scout TRAILBLAZER events, one on Saturday, April 15, in St. Paul and one on Saturday, April 22, at Camp Ripley. The U.S. Sportsman Association and the MFHA have asked that we participate. We are looking for volunteers. Please call Cindy Piper (952) 476-1045 H, (612) 868-2190 C, or e-mail repip2@aol.com if you can help.

ANNUAL MEETING
Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 30, 5:00 p.m. at the kennels. It will be a potluck meal and a chance to meet and greet each other after the “long” winter. We will report on the success of the 2005 season and share plans for the 2006 season. Plus, you get to see the puppies you named last July. They aren’t very cute anymore. They have grown up!

EDUCATION DAYS
MFH Jennifer Schuck and Whipper-in Cathy Belzer will host two sessions for prospective members and/or those who just want to see what hunting is all about. The sessions will be held at Pine Meadow. The dates are Saturday, June 3, 11:30 a.m. discussion, 1:00 p.m. mounted; and Wednesday, June 28, 5:00 p.m. discussion, 6:00 p.m. mounted. Encourage your friends to come see what it is you do. The cost is $25 for mounted and the discussion is free!

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION YET?
The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America is the governing body of organized fox, coyote and drag hunting in the United States of America and Canada. Among its activities are: the promotion of the sport, the publication of a Foxhound Stud Book, the recognition of organized Hunts which have met its standards, the recordation of countries and boundaries for organized hunting establishments, the Registration of Hunts as a preliminary step toward Recognition. Receive Covertsider with every $35 annual dues membership.

Masters of Foxhounds Association of America
PO Box 363
Millwood, VA 22646
Phone: (540) 955-5680
www.mfha.org.
What's going on here?

Let the games begin!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 8-9</td>
<td>MFHA Biennial Seminar, Chantilly, VA “How to get the most most out of a pack of hounds”</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>MFHA Request LLH represent foxhunting to Trailblazer Group – Cannon Falls, MN Northstar Boy Scouts of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>MFHA Request LLH represent foxhunting to Trailblazer Group – Camp Ripley, MN Central Minnesota Boy Scouts Council</td>
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<td>April 22-23</td>
<td>Year of the Jump Assembly 10:00 a.m. Hosted by Sue Mills and Junior Lehman</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Annual Membership Meeting  5:00 PM at Kennels—Potluck supper</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Hound exercising on foot for members (Tues–Thur) and Sat) Open to all members and prospective members</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>MFHA request LLH represent foxhunting to Trail Blazer Group-Sartell, MN North Star Youth Houndsmen</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>Hound Exercising begins on horseback (Wed &amp; Sat) Open to all members and prospective members 7:30 AM</td>
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<td>June 3</td>
<td>Larking and Hunting School at Pine Meadow 11:30 Discussion 1:00 Mounted Session (How to Ride Coops Safely)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Larking and Hunting School at Pine Meadow 5:00 Discussion 6:00 Mounted Session (How to Ride Coops Safely)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>Cub Hunting begins Wed. &amp; Sat. 7:30 AM</td>
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<td>July 23</td>
<td>Country Keeping Day – Post Cub hunting</td>
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<td>August 6</td>
<td>Polo Classic</td>
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<td>August 9</td>
<td>Country Keeping Day Post Cub hunting</td>
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<td>August 12</td>
<td>Junior Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>Country Keeping Day Post Cub hunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>Country Keeping Day – Post Cub hunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Opening Meet (Formal Hunting begins) Blessing of the Hounds at David and Kitty Crosby’s</td>
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<td>September 16</td>
<td>Junior Hunt</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>Proposed joint meet with Twin City Polo members – Polo Field</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>Master’s Pace at Dan &amp; Jill Johnson’s</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>MEA Hunt for Juniors</td>
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<td>October 20-21</td>
<td>Drag Hound Hunt Trials, Elizabeth, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20-21</td>
<td>MFHA Centennial Foxhound Performance Hound Trials (drag), Wayne Du Page Hunt, Elizabeth, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Junior Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4-5</td>
<td>Travel Weekend, Moingona Jt Meet</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Colors Party at B’s on the River, Watertown, MN 5:00 PM</td>
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We’ll miss you, Dreamer

In an email from Bethe Hattara, about Dreamer: “He was such a great little guy and taught so many young ones so much. The Gorecki’s loved him, just like the Ikes, Kelleys, Hattaras and, of course, the Stenes. He will be missed but fondly remembered in our many photographs and our hearts. I feel so sad for Alison, as they made a wonderful team. Hopefully, they can find another suitable mount for her, but there was only one Dreamer.”

THE FOX
Foxes are small animals of the dog family, and they can be found all around the world. Here in the United States the two most common species of fox are the grey fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus) and the red fox (Vulpes vulpes), by far the better known of the two.

The Vulpinae, or fox “subfamily” of the Canidae, split from the rest of their doggy brethren about 12 million years ago. Those original vulpines are long gone, but their descendants are among the most widespread of mammal groups in the world. Grey foxes are among the oldest species, having remained unchanged for about six million years.

THE LONG LAKE HOUNDS HUNT HOTLINE
Are the LLH Hounds going out? Information available on inclement weather, location and times during walking, country keeping, cubbing and regular season. This is an unmonitored number so please do not leave messages.

(952) 472-2743

THE LONG LAKE HOUNDS

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The Babbler will be published quarterly (October, January, April, July). All submissions should be sent to Joanie Stene at jmastene@aol.com. If you wish to have your photos and work credited to your name, please state so. If photos are not sent electronically, and you wish them returned, please include SASE. We reserve the right to edit all copy received for typographical and grammatical error and to shorten pieces as necessary. We also reserve the right to decline to use or to hold an item for publication in a later issue. For items to be considered for publication, they MUST be submitted at least one month prior to the publication date.
ONLY TWO KINDS OF FOX HUNTERS EXIST—

THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN

—AND THOSE WHO WILL!