

Name: Marissa Leigh Sylvester

Where Born: New London, CT

Education: Graduated from the University of Connecticut with degrees in Psychology and Gender Studies

Any family? I have a very awesome supportive father who also lives in New London and an older sister who is studying for her Ph.D at the University of Texas

Married? No, but I am accepting qualified applicants

Children? No

How did you get into horses? When I was little I would always want to take pony rides at the local fairs and carnivals. It got to the point where I begged my father to let me ride, he finally caved in!

What is a favorite memory? At the Pines last summer, my students all won champion ribbons in their divisions.

What is a great accomplishment? Training my green pony Knight Light to be an awesome pony! Down the road when he is carrying a child confidently around I am going to know that it is my training that has made him what he is.

What do you find rewarding about teaching? The most rewarding part about teaching is seeing the progress that all my students make. For, example I have a student that I started from leadline and now she successfully competes in the Children's Equitation Division. She rides beautifully and I take pride in the fact that I helped to create a wonderful horsewoman.

What motto would best describe your teaching? Work hard, ride hard, have fun!

Did you show? Yes, and I still do!

Some accomplishments during your showing: Winning the Modified Equitation Division on my leased mount Woodrow in 2003

What is a favorite moment for you teaching/coaching? Coaching the CHSA Children's Equitation Medal Champion at the 2008 CHSA Medal Finals

What other things do you like to do when you are not at the barn? I love to go to the gym, play tennis, and spend time with family and friends. I enjoy traveling, last year I visited France, Ireland, and Egypt! I am also a sports fan and love to watch the Yankees in the summer and the Giants in the winter.