

KDCTA HOOFBEATS

MEET A MEMBER: Nancy "Jan" Medill

Hello, Jan!

How long have you been a member of KDCTA?

I belonged from the mid 1990's to 2002, then rejoined in 2015.

What is one of your earliest memories of loving horses?

I've always been attracted to horses and don't have a clear memory of when it actually started. I started saving money to buy a horse in elementary school and in seventh and eighth grade I took riding lessons from a 4H leader.

How long have you had horses?

I have had a horse since I was 14 years old. I bought my first horse (Red) when I was in 9th grade. She was an 8-year-old Morgan Quarter-Horse cross, 16 hands high and had been used in 4H before I bought her. I rode her in 4H and did a lot of trail riding. My family and I knew nothing about horses so there was a steep learning curve! She was a fantastic first horse and taught me many things.

My second horse was a Quarter Horse named Nacho. I rode him on trails but became interested in learning dressage. I took many lessons over the years and rode him in a few events. He was a confident hardworking horse, an absolute gem.

Tell us about the horses in your life now and what you do with them.

I have a 21-year-old Penn State Quarter Horse named Dancer that I bought in 2007. We mostly did trail riding when I first bought him. About a year later, I started to work with a trainer and became interested in natural horsemanship and liberty work as a platform for doing dressage. Dancer is naturally very athletic and intelligent and loves learning new things. We do our training on the trail.



Jan and Nacho, KDCTA Drill Team, Aug 2020



Jan and Dancer on Tussey Mountain, Sept 2017

Is there anything else you would like to share about your equine experiences?

During the summers I was in college, I was a riding instructor at a summer YMCA camp in western Pennsylvania. Every morning we would saddle up twelve horses and ride/lead them about a mile from the barn to the riding ring. Campers could sign up for three lessons during their stay at camp. They rode in the ring and then they would ride out in single file on trails with about four of us walking alongside. I got to see many horse personalities there.

What is your personal life like? Are you married, have children?

My husband and I will have been married 25 years. He is retired now. He had

horses when he was growing up and loves equine activities. We have a daughter who is a college teacher and a son who is interested in mechanic work on small engines and cars.

Do you have any other furry members of the family?

We have a long-haired cat who is probably 4 years old. She came here as a sickly kitten and tried to open our screen door with her paw. She has claimed this place as her home.

What do you do to support your horse life?

I teach college biology on a part-time basis.

What are some other interests you enjoy other than horses?

We love worship at our church and enjoy spending time with friends there or occasionally having them over.

If you had unlimited money and time to go on vacation, where would you choose to go?

I would go to Europe and do a riding vacation. I think going to England or Scotland and riding through the moors would be wonderful.

What is your favorite food?

I love baked potatoes; they are comfort food.

What could you tell us about yourself that might surprise some people?

I play the piano and I enjoy studying Latin.

What do you think your strongest asset is?

Persistence. I use it in horse training as well as in my everyday life.

What is one of your goals for 2022?

I would like to obtain a steady teaching position.

What are some of your favorite books?

I have been re-reading the James Herriot books. I have also read most of Anthony Trollop, Charles Dickens, and Jane Austen. Occasionally I read nonfiction books about biology, nutrition, epigenetics, and things like that.

What's the one thing you can't live without?

Chocolate! And riding at least once a week. I get cranky if I don't get to ride.

What is on your bucket list?

I want to move beyond training level in my riding!