



Regional Conference

September 8-10, 2023

Presented by: PATH Intl. Region 2

**Hosted by:
Green Chimneys
Brewster, New York**

PATH Intl. Region 2 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in New York & Connecticut. Your registration fee includes refreshments on Friday and full breakfast and lunch on both Saturday and Sunday.

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Friday/Saturday

Ethan Allen Hotel

21 Lake Ave Ext.
Danbury, CT 06811

Sunday

Green Chimneys

400 Doansburg Road
Brewster, NY 10509

LODGING

Ethan Allen Hotel

21 Lake Ave Ext
Danbury, CT 06811

\$150.00/night*, reserve by August 25, 2023

*King suite rooms with king-size bed and sitting room w/ a queen-size pull-out sofa bed. An extra bed will be brought in if asked.
Call (203) 744-1776 and say you are with the PATH Intl. Region 2 conference

PATH INTL. REGION 2 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available July 7, 2023, through August 25, 2023. After August 25, 2023, registration will need to be completed on-site.

IF YOU ARE A PRESENTER OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER, DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER WITH YOUR CODE!

Registration July 7, 2023 through August 25, 2023:

Full Conference \$170 members \$220 non-members

Registration on-site after August 25, 2023:

Full Conference \$200 members \$250 non-members

Refund Policy:

No refunds due to weather unless the conference is canceled.

Written cancellation request is required for refund. Email manderson@pathintl.org

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **August 25, 2023.**

Deadline for 50% Refund - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **September 10, 2023.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by September 10, 2023 will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 8.5 hours of continuing education requirements.

COVID-19 Information:

Green Chimneys follows all CDC and State of New York guidelines regarding COVID-19 virus protocols. If you are ill or have been exposed to the virus at the time of the conference, we ask that you not attend. Please see the refund policy.

AGENDA

Friday, September 8, 2023

Ethan Allen Hotel

Silent auction opens at 4 pm!

2 – 5 pm **Registration & Visit Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Center nearby!**

5 – 6 pm **Welcome with Refreshments and Announcements**

6:15 – 7:15 pm **Facilitated Networking Sessions**

7:30 pm **Dinner on your own**

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Ethan Allen Hotel

Silent auction runs until 4 pm!

7:30 – 9 am **Breakfast with the PATH Intl. Update and Field Test Standards Update**

9 – 9:10 am **BREAK – Check out the silent auction!**

Session A

9:10 – 10:10 am

A1, Ring Setups For Success **CE**

How to design and create a variety of ring designs to meet the skill levels of all riders. With a bit of creativity, your ring set up can accommodate different levels of riders throughout your day whether individual or group lessons. No more changing the ring set up for each lesson.

Sue Adams has been involved in EAS for over 30 years. She has a BS in education and is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI, Mentor, and Accreditation Lead Visitor. She has founded two PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers. She is a former chair of the PATH Intl. Certification Sub Committee and former member of the PATH Intl. Accreditation Committee.

Stefanie Green has been involved in therapeutic riding for over 10 years. She has a bachelor's degree in equine science and management, specializing in breaking and training. She is a PATH Intl. CTRI, ESMHL and Mentor. She has been the Executive Director with Hearts TRC, Inc. in New Jersey since 2020. Hearts is now a proud PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center.

A2, Bombproof, Burnout or Heart of Gold? CR All

Join us for a fun-filled discussion on what to consider when adopting out or rehoming your therapeutic program horses. Whether the horse is ready for full retirement or needing a second career, potential adopters need to be aware of the specific needs of the former EAS horse. Hear about my journey with Macintosh - a burnt out program horse with some behavioral habits who I fell in love with and adopted. Learn from our struggles and victories as I took my training techniques to new places to bring back his enthusiasm and joy for having a job. While some horses benefit from a full retirement, others can find excitement in a second career.

Samantha Arevalo has been the equine program coordinator at Green Chimneys School in Brewster, NY for the last 12 years. She has spoken at several conferences and workshops throughout the United States on topics ranging from equine welfare to training and handling techniques specific to the EAS industry. She graduated in 2012 from Post University with a degree in equine business management. Samantha's passion for studying equine behavior combined with her interest in training and handling has allowed her to develop a caring approach to equine welfare within the EAS industry.

A3, Communicating With Our Participants DE

In this presentation, attendees will learn about the basics of communication, the difference between speech and language, the differences between the five domains of language, and barriers to communication. Attendees will also learn strategies on how to be better communication partners with participants who utilize augmentative and alternative communication and how the concepts of presuming competence, autonomy, and privacy, play an important role in being an effective communicative partner in and out of the arena. After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to: compare and contrast speech versus language, identify three domains of language, recognize the importance of honoring all forms of communication, and develop lesson plans that incorporate opportunities for riders to utilize augmentative and alternative communication.

Melanie Dominko-Richards, MS, CCC-SLP, HPCS is a New Jersey licensed speech-language pathologist. She received a bachelor's in education and a master's in speech-language pathology from Seton Hall University. She has training in PROMPT, DIR/Floortime, and is a board-certified Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist. Melanie is currently a speech-language pathologist for an organization that provides services to adults with developmental disabilities as well as working part-time at an outpatient pediatric therapy clinic that incorporates equine movement as a treatment tool. Melanie is currently the President of the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. Board of Directors. She is also a PATH Intl. Registered Therapist, CTRI, Mentor, ESMHL, and an EAGALA Certified Professional.

10:10 – 10:20 am

BREAK – Check out the silent auction!

Session B

10:20 – 11:20 am

B1, Creative Arena Layouts CE

A riding arena offers instructors a lot of opportunity and provides a safe space for lessons to be successful. However, an empty arena can be intimidating when an instructor must consider not just one upcoming lesson, but multiple. This presentation will touch on several considerations when putting together your arena layout for the day in order to match your objectives. Instructors will come away from this presentation and discussion with a new perspective of their riding arena layouts, be more mindful of arena layout variability, and feel more confident in using their arena space effectively.

Claire Oestreich was introduced to PATH Intl. and the therapeutic riding industry at Lake Erie College, from which she graduated with a degree in equine studies. After graduation, she quickly completed her PATH Intl. certification and jumped into the industry. Claire has taught at several therapeutic riding centers over the past 10+ years and is currently an instructor at Green Chimneys.

B2, Equine-Assisted Services and Veterans: Personal Testimony and Academic Research CE

EAS is becoming a more accepted therapeutic intervention and Veterans have had many benefits from participating in a program. Veterans are having issues getting the help they need from the VA and most are not interested in traditional therapies or medications. This presentation brings information about EAS for Veterans from a Veteran that found healing through a program using personal experiences, volunteering for a program, assisting with running a program, an EAS degree, and academic research about EAS for Veterans. Learn about the types of programs that can be done, the benefits to Veterans, ways to find Veterans, and some dos/don'ts.

Corey Briggs, a veteran that spent seven years in the United States Marine Corps, was medically discharged after many failed procedures to correct a medical issue. He did a deployment to Afghanistan and returned with a few medical problems. After being discharged from the military, where he had hoped to make a 20-year career, he was left to figure out a life outside of the Marines. He found healing from a veteran's program and a new passion and direction for his life. He decided to learn more about horses and EAS which led him to Centenary University. He just received a degree in equine business management and equine-assisted services and is working on becoming a PATH Intl. CTRI and an ESMHL.

B3, Harnessing the Power of Silence: Enhancing Equine-Assisted Services CE

In this presentation, we will explore the power of intentional silence in EAS. Learn how silence through quiet laps and introspective interactions can enhance the horse and rider connection, promote reflection and relaxation, and improve the overall experience for clients.

Dana Speft, MSW is the founder and executive director of Pony Power Therapies, a nonprofit, fully accessible EAS facility that "Uses Horses to Help People." She has recently entered the organization into a regenerative landscape design renovation that seeks to remove what is harmful to the space and restore the land to its most balanced state. This infusion of regenerative design practice has impacted the environment, the human and non-human animals positively. Dana received her bachelor's from New York University, and her master's in social work from Wurzweiler at Yeshiva University. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University School of Social Work with an expected graduation date of May 2023. At Rutgers, she focuses her research on EAS and social work practice.

Abigail West, LSW collaborates with horses and the environment while providing EAS. As the program director at Pony Power Therapies and a PATH Intl. CTRI, Abigail uses her expertise to help individuals overcome challenges and achieve their goals. Abigail holds a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and undergraduate degrees from New York University in psychology, child and adolescent psychopathology, American Sign Language, and animal studies. Abigail is a SIFI certified supervisor for social work students on both undergraduate and master levels. Abigail has presented at the National Association of Social Workers Conference, PATH Intl. Annual Conference, Rutgers University School of Social Work, and Columbia School of Social Work.

11:20 – 11:30 am

BREAK – Check out the silent auction!

Session C

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

C1, HEAL-TH (Holistic Equine Assisted Learning-Therapeutic Horsemanship) CE

The future of therapeutic horsemanship is growing! Be a part of the innovative unmounted programs that have more than doubled our mission-centered services. Learn about our experiential learning model utilizing a holistic approach. This program addresses the physical, cognitive, and social-emotional needs of participants.

Jeffrey Rumpf is an executive director with award-winning experience in organizational growth and strategic planning. He has a MSED in experiential learning and counseling and was founder and executive director of YMCA Camp Combe experiential learning center. He is a founder and past executive director for Catholic Charities Little Heroes Camps for 9/11 children who lost a family member, including developing an equine experiential learning and counseling program there. His tenure as executive director of Pegasus resulted in more than doubled services in four years.

Liz Fortes has been a professional in the horse industry for over 40 years as an instructor and trainer, with the last 17 years in therapeutic riding. She is a PATH Intl. Advanced TRI, CTRI, ESMHL, Lead Evaluator, video assessor and Mentor. She is also a Special Olympics Coach, ARIA certified level 3 Hunt Seat, ARIA certified level 2 Dressage, a facilitator for The Equus Effect, and program director at an EAS center.

C2, My Development Director Has Hooves: Fundraising with Horses for Equine-Assisted Services CE

It's no secret that horses cost money. But with the right development plan in place, they can also be some of the best fundraisers on your team. In this session we will define challenges inherent to EAS nonprofits and the value of innovative fundraising; discover creative ways that horses can be their own best fundraisers; and examine considerations in ethical fundraising to maintain integrity to a center's brand, mission, and equine wellbeing.

Jesse Shappell is the executive director at Equi-librium, a PATH Intl. PAC in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. She holds a master's from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a bachelor's from King's College. With a decade of experience in fundraising and nonprofit management, and a lifetime of experience with horses, Jessie is passionate about the challenges and benefits unique to both the nonprofit sector and the field of EASs. Jessie has won several awards for her fundraising events and was named to the Lehigh Valley Business "Forty Under 40" list in 2021.

C3, Driving Instructors Wanted CE

Driving requires knowledge and experience in many areas both on and off the carriage, as well as horsemanship. Gaining the knowledge and experience for driving certification is not insurmountable nor does it have to be expensive. Learn from the former PATH Intl. Driving Subcommittee Chair what you can do to meet the requirements to become a driving instructor.

Major George W. Paffendorf, KCA, U.S. Army Retired has more than 23 years of military service. After the Army he worked with youth at-risk for the State of New Jersey and retired as the state director for youth programs and special initiatives. A lifelong horseman, he is a PATH Intl. CTRI, Driving Instructor, ESMHL and Mentor and an EAGALA Equine Specialist. George has served as the chair of the PATH Intl. Driving Subcommittee, a member of the PATH Intl. Oversight Committee and is currently the PATH Intl. Region 2 Representative. He is certified by Irwin Insights in Equine Assisted Personal Development (EAPD), is a Special Olympics Equestrian Coach and is a licensed New York City Carriage Driver. In addition, George served many years with Therapeutic Riding at Centenary (TRAC) and was the Founder and Director of Operation Centaur, Centenary University's program for Veterans. Recognized for his selfless service he was selected for Knighthood in the Order of Saint George and has been awarded Centenary University's highest honor, The Gold Dome Award. George has an MS in Social Science and an Honorary DHL.

12:40 – 2:15 pm Lunch Keynote & the PATH Intl. Region 2 Awards Ceremony

Staying on the Trail: Horses, Ethics and our Social License to Operate CE Miyako Kinoshita (bio in session D2)

The concept of equine welfare and what it means to be ethical when working with horses continues to evolve and shift. New training methods and gentler handling practices based on equine behavior data are replacing old school traditions. What the public, social media and our own community see as "best practice" evolves rapidly. Public opinion matters, it is our "social license to operate" and it can be very powerful. Trending stories on social media about thoroughbred racing or a team coach slapping a horse on the rump, drive strong and emotional judgements towards equine activities and those involved. In a matter of hours, the reputation of an organization can be damaged fairly or not. How do we enlist science and facts, admit when we must improve in our work and when do we stand by our convictions? As we encounter emotional and judgmental public perceptions, do we sound credible and are we on the right side of history? What are our positions when it comes to animal well-being in general and specifically in the equine industry? How does evidence of cognition, emotion, sentience and social capacity that horses (and other animals) demonstrate, challenge historical ways of interacting with them? Together we'll look at this topic, see where we stand and more importantly, consider where we are going.

Session D

2:15 – 3:45 pm

D1, Understanding the Equine Reflex Network CR All

Through visual and hands-on information, gain understanding of the benefits of the reflex network anatomy, how it works for the positive or negative, and how it benefits the equine, handler, driver or rider.

Donna Silbaugh is a graduate of Ringling College of Art & Design and is a career professional artist. She has been a horse owner and advocate since early childhood. Donna has been owner and director of Scarlet Oaks since 1995. She is a lifetime member of PATH Intl., on the CECTH Council and certified in Centered Riding, level 1. She is a member of CAA of America, is a certified driving instructor with Olaf Nyby, Norway. She utilizes horses and carriages in living history as well as in her program.

D2, Navigating Equine Euthanasia/End of Life Decisions CR All

Euthanasia of program horses is a sensitive topic at PATH Intl. PAC Green Chimneys. Be it an emergency medical decision, or the slow decline of a favorite old partner, facing up to equine death in a community of caring staff, volunteers, participants and their families can be a challenge. How do we navigate the sometimes complex medical and financial side with our veterinarian and team? What amount of medical intervention is sensible? Who decides? Euthanasia of a horse confronts people with their own emotions. Death, dying and loss can be difficult to experience. Trying to make a euthanasia decision secretly can have a detrimental effect on your staff, volunteers and ultimately supporters and the public. While no one likes to make the decision – and some people may disagree no matter what – equine euthanasia is a fact of life. Join this panel combining the perspective of an equine veterinarian and two program administrators, reviewing a few case examples from Green Chimneys and then opening the floor for a broader conversation.

Jennifer Enger, DVM was born in New York and lived in Waccabuc as a child before moving to southern Texas for 10 plus years. She put herself through Westchester Community College while working at three local animal hospitals (in Danbury, Goldens Bridge, and South Salem) and as a lifeguard in North Salem. After completing a biology major at Pace University in Pleasantville, she attended the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine where she graduated in 1999. Dr. Enger has been the Green Chimneys large animal veterinary care provider for almost 20 years with a patient roster that includes the Bactrian camels, pigs, goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas and herd of over 20 horses, ponies and donkeys. She lives in Sherman, Connecticut.

Michael Kaufmann is the farm & wildlife director and director of The Sam and Myra Ross Institute at Green Chimneys. He directs all aspects of the nature-based therapeutic/educational programs and supervises The Institute, dedicated to education and research on the human connection to animals and the natural world. He serves on the board of PATH Intl., is an advisor to the International Center for Anthrozoology, Norway, is on the advisory council of TAT Center for Human Animal Interaction, Vienna, Austria, Advisor to The Canadian Institute of Animal-Assisted Interventions, serves on the editorial board of People and Animals: The International Journal of Research and Practice, and is on the editorial board of the magazine GREEN CARE, Switzerland.

Miyako Kinoshita is the farm education program manager of the Farm & Wildlife Center at Green Chimneys. She serves as the key facilitator for over 200 children with psychosocial disabilities currently in residential and day school and facilitates and co-supervises a wide range of animal-assisted programs. She has a master's degree in educational studies and specializes in animal-assisted activity and animal-assisted education. She looks back on over 20 years of working in direct service with children and animals as a PATH Intl. CTRI. Miyako is the former president of the Equine Facilitated Mental Health Association (EFMHA) and a former board member of PATH Intl., serving as chair of the board governance committee and as board secretary. Miyako was instrumental in reintegrating equine-assisted mental health programs back into PATH Intl. She is an author of several chapters in textbooks, including Handbook on Animal Assisted Therapy by Aubrey Fine.

D3, Sticky Situations in Salesforce CE

Are you a Salesforce user? Have you ever had data drama? Have you ever wondered if pressing one button would mess up everything? If so, this session is for you! With 16 years tenure in Salesforce for nonprofits, 8 certifications, and hands-on work with over 200 nonprofits, there is a good chance that Teri Walker, founder and CEO of CommonTeri Services, has seen a sticky situation similar to what you are working through right now. This workshop will first and foremost address the questions posed by the participants in the session plus tips, tricks, and best practices for making constituent data shine in Salesforce.

Teri Walker founded CommonTeri Services in 2014 to combine her passion for technology and her heart for nonprofit professionals. She has 16 years of experience with Salesforce along with 8 certifications. Teri is also certified in Agile Scrum.

3:50 – 4:30 pm **PATH Intl. Region 2 Meeting**

4:30 – 5 pm **Pick up silent auction items**

5 pm **Dinner on your own**

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Green Chimneys

8 – 9 am **Breakfast and State Meetings**

9 – 9:45 am **Tour of GC farm/campus**

9:45 – 10 am **BREAK**

10 – 11 am **Understanding Horse Speak® Part 1 CR All**

Learning to listen and talk to horses in their language, instead of expecting them to comprehend ours, is a milestone in the progressive philosophy of horsemanship, helping find positive solutions to behavior and training problems and ultimately leading to fewer misunderstandings between horses and humans. Sharon and Laura Wilsie will use their experiences to relate examples of problems and how they were solved using their process. Their engaging narrative introduces participants to real life scenarios from different barns, various disciplines, and riders and handlers with contrasting experiences and backgrounds. The Wilsies will highlight their Horse Speak® process, the clues that point to the best course of action, and the steps they take to connect with horses that have shut down, grown confused, or become sulky or aggressive for any number of reasons. Their presentation will provide you with unique ways to connect with your horse and exciting possibilities.

Sharon Wilsie is an internationally known author for her best-selling books, *Horse Speak the Equine Human Translation Guide, 2016*; *First Conversations: Horse Speak DVD, 2017*; *Horses in Translation, 2018*; *Essential Horse Speak: Continuing the Conversation, 2022*, and co-collaborator in the book *Integrating Horses into Healing, 2023*. Sharon has developed an online academy for students from around the world to learn the body language of horses. The education the students receive enhances a deeper understanding of horses, self, and others, via a deeper understanding of body language communication. Sharon has enjoyed a professional career as a horse trainer/rehabilitation specialist, intercollegiate coach, and riding instructor. She is the creator of *Horse Speak®*, which is a practical system for understanding the nuances of horse body language and has created a way for you to learn their language instead of expecting the horse to understand ours. Over the last decade Sharon has developed and implemented many programs and taught hundreds of workshops on her method.

Laura Wilsie is a co-Founder of *Horse Speak®*. She utilizes over 20 years of business management, the art of verbal and body language, computer science, photography/videography, and customer service experience to teach humans and horses new ways to understand each other. Laura works alongside Sharon in all the books, DVD, and online learning, as they evolve their understanding of horses and act as advocates for them because they do not have a voice, just body language. A horse should be present and in a learning state, and her passion for the safety and protection of the horse is first and foremost in all interactions so the horse can be prepared for their human encounter.

11 – 11:15 am **BREAK**

11:15 am – 1:15 pm **Understanding Horse Speak® Part 2 CR All**

1:15 – 2:15 pm **Lunch and Conference Closing**

We look forward to seeing you soon in New York & Connecticut!