

Unequivocally Equine

BY VICKY MOON

Some folks in Middleburg play tennis, others play golf. But deep down the soul of this charming countryside has always been about the horse. These parts are reserved for paddocks, cornfields and riding rings – no putting greens please.

Take a recent late autumn week. The nine veterinarians (who specialize in everything from equine dental care to surgery) of Piedmont Equine Practice hosted an open house at their new clinic, which has a surgical suite. Things were also gearing up for the Washington International Horse Show. Several big time show jumping riders brought their horses to the area for training sessions followed by some fresh air and relaxation: **Laura Kraut** stayed at Pelham with friends **Viviane** and **Pat Garner**.

Norman Dello Joio booked into **Maureen Hanley's** Fox Chase Farms where equestrian **Kathy Kusner** had flown in from Los Angeles to give a clinic to local riders.

Paige Johnson (whose mother **Sheila Johnson** served as president of the show this year) took her jumpers – La Martinee, Amagedon 3 and Kadena R – from Salamander Farm into the Verizon Center and won nice ribbons. **Laura Cramer's** horse American Idol, ridden by **Sandra Conchar**, won the \$10,000 Ladies Side Saddle Stake, sponsored by **Monica** and **Hermen Greenberg**. Many will recall Monica's days in the winner's circle in this ever-so-elegant event.

Meanwhile **Ashley Kennedy** had a very busy week. First, she and her horse Larkspur competed in the amateur owner hunter classes and took third, fourth and seven place ribbons. Then on Saturday evening, Ashley was dressed in black Chanel for a spectacular post-wedding bash to celebrate her marriage to **Jim Whitner**.

The newlyweds along with **Lou** and **Bill Kennedy** hosted the party. It's safe to say an event like this matches something during Oscar week (which we will get to in a moment) or the Super Bowl.



Clockwise: The champagne at Peake Wood chilled in the silver punch bowl known as the John Barton Payne Challenge Trophy from the Warrenton Horse Show / Event planner Virginia Fout flew back home from L.A. to orchestrate the Peake Wood Pharm party for Jim Whitner and Ashley Kennedy / Newlyweds Jim Whitner and Ashley Kennedy at their post-wedding celebration at Peake Wood Pharm

