

## BUSINESS - MAYER MILL BRASS

### Mayer Mill Brass

Mayer Mill Brass is a small family-owned company, starting out 35 years ago with one item.

Their inventory now exceeds 600 items. They distribute a unique collection of fine gifts and accessories to over 2000 stores worldwide, while maintaining a high standard of quality and service, which may explain why they are still standing while other brass companies have foundered.

Each piece is solid sand-cast brass, handcrafted by artisans in a factory located in New Delhi, India, a factory which the company funded 33 years ago and continues to maintain.

Door knockers range from small bedroom door knocker to massive door knockers suitable for discriminating homeowners. Designs range from traditional, nautical and equestrian to trendy tennis, golf and dog door knockers. Equestrian pieces include English and western designs.

Candlesticks are sold individually, bookends in pairs. Doorstops

are cast from the same molds as bookends, except weightier.

Thirty versions of stocking hooks add to any Christmas decor.

Many brass desk items lend themselves to personalization.

Personal items suitable as men's gifts, include shoehorns, brass boxes, bottle openers and unique golf and tennis pieces.

Trivets have always been a hospitality gift mainstay. There are eleven designs.

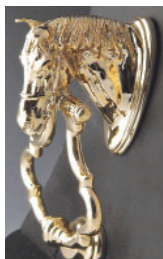
Other pieces include book stands in three finishes, a unique line of hardware including finials,

paper towel holders and fireplace accessories (sets, individual poker with a choice of 15 heads, blow pokes, and andirons).

The company oversees all phases of manufacturing and offer drop shipping, engraving and custom casting in their North

Carolina warehouse.

They continue to add pieces, many of which come from customers. For more information visit [www.mayermillbrass.com](http://www.mayermillbrass.com).



## BREED - NOKOTA

### Rare Nokota horses at World Equestrian Games

Several rare Nokota horses will be performing at the 2010 World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Kentucky in September. WEG organizers were seeking authentic native horses for the Native American group participating in the opening ceremonies and in WEG's Equine Village.

Four Nokotas owned by Felicia Rocholl of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, will be part of the Native Village presentation. Two Kentucky-based Nokotas will also be at the Native Village.

Descendants of wild horses that roamed the Little Missouri Badlands of North Dakota, the Nokota horse's bloodlines are traceable to early North Dakota ranch horses and Indian ponies that the U.S. government confiscated from Lakota people in 1881. With the enclosure of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the 1950s, many of these wild horses were unintentionally fenced in.

Threatened first by crossbreeding and later with removal by the National Park Service, these horses began to rapidly disappear, often, sadly, to slaughterhouses.

Two brothers, Leo and Frank Kuntz of Linton, North Dakota, tried to protect the unique strain of mustangs by purchasing as many of the horses from the National

Park during round-ups and sales as they could.

They dubbed the breed "Nokotas", a tribute to the North Dakota badlands that they call

home. In 1986, the Kuntz brothers joined forces with Dr. Castle McLaughlin, a graduate student and park ranger who researched the horses for the National Park Service. Together, they began a breed registry and breeding program, and began lobbying for the breed's protection and preservation. In 1993, Nokotas were designated the North Dakota Honorary State Equine.



## NEW PRODUCT

### Happy Hoofwear makes a hoof happy

by Tina LoCurto

When I saw these colorful plastic-looking horse shoes at a Horse Expo in North Carolina, I was curious about them. I called Sylvia Norris, CEO and President of Happy Hoofwear, to find out about these colorful horseshoes that everybody seems to love.

Happy Hoofwear is made in the U.S. from start to finish. The shoes are a proven alternative to typical metal horseshoes. Happy Hoofwear shoes are made of polyurethane – like a sneaker for your horse. The shoes

combine science and technology to provide a lightweight, flexible and healthy shoe for horses, with great wear and traction too. They come in nine colors (hot pink, lime green, turquoise, orange, purple, red, blue, black and clear). Both horse and owner win, because they are the best-priced alternative shoe on the market.

After speaking with

farriers who tested the shoes over the last two years, Happy Hoofwear took their advice and created another size option, the extended shoe. Farriers appreciate how simple they are to use, since they can be nailed or glued on and need no special tools.

Happy Hoofwear has been featured in publications like the *European Farriers Journal*. Owners love to give their horse a great shoe while coordinating the colors with their tack and barn colors.

Calder Boyd (shown in picture with JP) knows that you can still be a serious rider and show some personality too – while giving your horse a comfortable shoe while you spin, slide and lope.

Visit [www.happyhoofwear.com](http://www.happyhoofwear.com) and see for yourself. You will stand out, while being comfortable and stylish. Contact Sylvia Norris at 941-343-7087 or [Sylvia@HappyHoofwear.com](mailto:Sylvia@HappyHoofwear.com). Or e-mail me at [tlhorsemagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:tlhorsemagazine@yahoo.com).



Calder Boyd's JP won the 2007 All Florida Reined Cow Horse junior bridle class in Happy Hoofwear.

## DISCIPLINE - DRESSAGE

### Dressage training has roots in the Renaissance

Dressage is the oldest equestrian sport, dating back to the Renaissance and having its foundation in classical Greek horsemanship. Originally trained for use in war, horses carried supplies and fighters: they could also be trained for use on the battlefield, where warriors on horseback were more effective than those on foot.

Dressage was once a series of important training maneuvers. Dressage horses and riders learn a variety of movements designed to protect the rider while allowing him to fight with a sword; movements to evade the enemy, to circle, back and stop, and the most famous ones called "airs above ground".

Dressage is popular with British and French horse aficionados, and is an important equestrian sport in the U.S. The United States Dressage Federation oversees the rules and standards for competitions, which are held at all levels of training. Riders and horses who are just learning dressage compete in smaller events until they gain expertise, at which time

they advance in the competitions. Events are called tests, where riders and horses execute a pattern of movements, on which they are judged. The individual movements of each pattern are scored from zero to ten. Grand Prix and the Summer Olympics games are the highest dressage competitions.

The arena layout is must be a specific size rectangle and has markers that determine where horses will perform particular movements. Arenas include a smaller ring size for lower levels of dressage and a standard size in which all other events take place. Find information and diagrams of marked arenas online. Dressage tests may also include a freestyle section, where horse and rider perform their own patterns set to music.

Warmbloods are most often used for dressage but many breeds compete in the same events. Gaited horses can be trained to dressage as well.

Dressage calling for great discipline and communication between horse and rider.