

Missouri Quarter Horse Association Member Spotlight

Lydia Whetstine

My name is Lydia Whetstine. I am 17 years old, and I am from Cabool, Missouri. I started taking riding lessons at age seven from Linda Risner. That is where I really developed a passion and love for horses as well as riding. I joined MQHA in 2005, which was also when I began showing walk-trot. I started showing all around shortly after with an amazing horse, Abbys Invitation, aka Charlie.

Charlie was a great teacher and helped me grow not only as a rider but also as a person. Charlie and I had the opportunity to train under Linda Risner, as well as Steve and Sharon Lyons. When I moved into youth, we purchased Artful Lad. 'J.B.' was a horse that I definitely won't forget simply for the fact that he made me work for everything that he did. I had an incredible experience getting to be coached by Kendra and Blake Weis while I had J.B. They definitely helped shape me into becoming a better rider. After the Youth World last year, I decided I was ready for a change. We donated J.B. to the Oklahoma State Equestrian Team, and in September I began riding cutting horses under the guidance of Jerry Hampton. I fell in love with the cutting and have been so blessed to have found Retsinas Wood, a 5-year-old sorrel mare my parents purchased for me in February. 'Red' has a ton of heart and can work really well in front of a cow. Every time I ride her I am reminded of why I love to ride.

These past two years I have become more involved with MQHYA. I can honestly say that I consider them my second family and always look forward to the YES Seminar and the Youth World. So far my goals for this year are still somewhat undefined. That being said, I have been so blessed to be given the opportunity to ride and be involved with MQHA and hope to be for many years to come.



Photo Courtesy of Lydia Whetstine