



**My Story by Bonnie Williams,
Instructor for ISRB
(International Society Rider
Biomechanics)**

Wanting a pony all my life it started when my daughters turned out to be naturally talented equestrians like my Mom and Dad (who is resting in Horseman's Heaven). I soon discovered that I had to work much harder, study more, read and practice everything I could

to keep up. Working at various barns to pay for both of my daughters riding lessons, I listened, learned, and practiced on my own when given the chance. I went from a mere side walker/groomer to an Assistant Instructor very quickly for both able-bodied and Therapeutic Riding at Chariot Riders in Manchester, New Jersey. As an extra set of helping hands at Lyn Kamer's Mustang Ranch in Jackson, New Jersey, I also learned a lot about horse handling, training, horse care and nutrition. As part of the mentoring system for the BLM at Mustang Ranch, and now owning Majestic Meadow Stables in Stevensburg, Virginia I continued my work with mustangs. By observing and using the gentling process to build trust, teach groundwork, begin under saddle training it helped me to develop the patience, persistence, and understanding of the horse. Playing with the horses at liberty in the pasture and getting them to join up is still my greatest joy.

Soon after the purchase of my own farm my first exposure to the Parelli Natural Horsemanship method was at a yearly Expo held in Timonium, Maryland. When I saw Pat Parelli with his horse Magic dancing so softly, that's when I knew I was on the right path and wanted that kind of relationship with my horses. I am a devoted student and follower of the Natural Horsemanship methods of training and teaching, which eventually led me down the path to Colleen Kelly. I was thrilled with the opportunity to learn directly under Colleen's tutelage that I signed up immediately. Now partnered with Colleen Kelly, I received my Level One Coaching certification. I am not only a student and teacher of Rider Biomechanics, but I plan on continuing to advance my education level within that program due to the positive benefits I have seen in myself and others who experience learning Colleen's methods. In addition, I have followed Sally Swift's Balanced Seat and Centered Riding which has also complimented my style of instructing. Both Colleen and Sally's visual and simple approach to teaching and use of imagery is an extremely effective method.

I've been a demo rider for many well known clinicians at regional and well as local Horse Expos, such as Horse World Expo in Timonium, Maryland, Equine Extravaganza here in Virginia, Piedmont Horse Expo in Culpeper, Virginia, and local Farm Tours throughout the counties. My demos provide the audience with a view of possibilities with bareback & bridle less riding, riding in harmony and being connected. Reading a horse and understanding their feelings, thoughts and ideas is my love and has always been so. My education in Rider Biomechanics has not only helped me, but many of my lesson students and others willing to learn. The method can be applied to ANY horse, rider and discipline. It has become my new passion and I can't wait to share it with you!

My teaching methods:

After 20 years of training and teaching, I still find room to grow and learn myself. It has always been my pleasure to share what I have learned with others. My method of teaching is simple. I begin with a little verbal lesson, but you have to get up and work with the horse (yours or a lesson horse). Doing is learning. I do not have high pressure tactics, I'm very laid back and don't believe in pushing you or your horse to do something you are not comfortable with or ready for. Lessons and Clinics are at your own pace and customized to fit your club, riding group, or individual needs as a rider. Becoming frustrated impedes listening and learning. I want everyone who learns from me to have a positive, fun, educational experience.

For more information about Rider Biomechanics and Colleen Kelly please visit:

<http://www.colleenkellyriderbiomechanics.com> or visit my website at:

<http://www.balancedventurehorsemanship.com>

“Lets be Naturally In Balance...Together!”

Qualifications/Certifications/Memberships:

Certified Level 1 Riding Instructor Rider Biomechanics

Member International Society of Rider Biomechanics

Official Level 2 Graduate Parelli Natural Horsemanship Program

Rider Instructor for disabled and able riders for over 20 years

Stable Owner and Manager for **11** years

4-H Adult Advisor, Dragon Riders Horse Club

Member of the Board of Directors for the Piedmont Horse and Dog Expo

Member, Virginia Presidential Paso Fino Association

Member, International Gaited Horse Association

Member, Culpeper Horse Owners Association (local trail riding club for mostly gaited horse owners)

Member, Backcountry Trail Horse Association