



Introducing Karen Orloff-Yatsko

Karen is a very talented and gifted teacher of horses and their people; she is devoted to her students whether they are adults or young people. She is passionate about what she does and shares all of her heart, soul, and knowledge in everything from her musical exhibitions to her seminars, clinics, and workshops.

Together, Karen Orloff-Yatsko and her husband Harry B. Yatsko created Peaceful Valley Equestrian Center, Inc. in 1994. Their mission is to make horses and horsemanship accessible to everyone especially those who are not able to own their own mount. Karen's expertise and experience enable her to bring to modern horse enthusiasts her interpretation and application of in-hand techniques. She has subsequently developed *Riding Your Horse From the Ground*[™] to help riders understand the techniques they have learned in her classes and clinics. Karen uses a "holistic approach" to horses by including a horse's mind, body, and spirit in their training. This approach gives horse owners the opportunity to form special bonds of communication and mutual understanding with their equine partners.

Karen and Harry are currently working with Peaceful Valley Preservation Nokotas, a non-profit organization, to preserve and train the Nokota horses. In addition to the preservation breeding program, Karen has developed a program of gentling and training Nokotas, taking these unique horses, rough and ready from their native Northern Plains and refining them, readying them for the disciplines suited to their proven intelligence, sound temperament, structure and versatility. Click on the Nokota link to learn more about the history of the Nokota horses.

Karen's horse career began in South Florida when she was just 8 years old. She successfully showed horses in Western Pleasure and then went on to become successful in the Hunt Seat divisions, excelling in Hunt Seat Equitation and Equitation over fences.

Karen trained weekly for several years with Nancy Baker, an FEI trainer and instructor. She attributes most of her success to Nancy's principles and methods of Dressage. She continued her education in Portugal with Georges Malleroni, Director of Escola de Equitaco de Alcinca and former student of Maestro Nuno Oliveria. As part of her instruction in Portugal, Karen had the opportunity to ride the exceptional FEI schooled Lusitanos. She has also trained with FEI Trainer Hokan Thorn, a developing rider for the USA Olympic Team, and with world-renowned horseman and clinician Philippe Davenport who brought Spain to the Olympics in 1996.

