

# Stacey McColgan

I began horseback riding when I was 6. My first riding instructor, taught me to use my corners and not be content to follow the rest of the class. That lesson and work ethic has stayed with me, and I try to instill it in my students today. I was a member of the 4H Curry Combs for years and I learned a great deal about horses. Some of my favorite memories are of trail riding on warm sunny days with one of my 4H friends. I volunteered for SPUR at Huber Woods when I was in high school.

I stopped riding in my early 20's and it wasn't until many years later, after I left a job that was making me miserable, that I came back to riding and to SPUR. It was a gut wrenching decision to quit a job without having another lined up, but in retrospect it changed the direction of my life and I am so glad I took that chance. With my husband's support and prodding, I started riding again.

My parents had always taught me that giving back was important so back to SPUR I went. Pat must have heard the need in my voice as I sold my qualifications to volunteer and she squeezed me into the Winter 2007 session. I was lucky to be placed in Nancy's lesson, and she planted the seed in my head that I should speak with Liz about becoming an instructor. I owe her a debt of gratitude.

Sharing my passion for horses with my students has become very important in my life. I have to say a special thank you to Liz, Cindy and Christine. They encouraged, dragged, cajoled and supported me through the NARHA certification process. I could not have done it without each of them. The rest, as they say, is history. I can't imagine my life without SPUR or horses again. Not only have I found the right horse philosophy for me at SPUR, I have made true friends and consider myself very lucky.

I lead an extremely busy but fulfilling life with my wonderful husband, Kevin, and 3 Italian greyhounds, Bump, Sandy and Terzo.