

# **Liz Haenchen**

## **Head Instructor**

I began riding when I was ten years old, after many years of begging. Though we were never able to own a horse, I found ways to be around them: from regular riding lessons and joining a drill team to working around the barn and volunteering. I studied jumping and dressage, then decided Eventing was the way to go. Throughout college, I spent my time at home working for my trainer at his Irish Sport Horse breeding farm. Working with the foals and broodmares, riding and showing and learning stable management was an amazing experience.

My journey into the world of therapeutic horseback riding began in high school while volunteering with a therapeutic riding program. I immediately knew that this was a career I wanted to pursue!

I graduated from Wilson College, a small woman's college in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, with a bachelor of science degree in Equine Facilitated Therapeutics. The small classes and specialized program gave me the experience I needed to succeed as an instructor.

I began working with the SPUR program in the fall of 2001. I began teaching only two days a week and was hooked immediately, despite the hour it took me to get to Huber Woods from north Jersey. By the following spring I was working five days a week! In 2003 I began working fulltime as the Program Administrator and moved to Monmouth County. Now, as the Head Instructor, I enjoy the diversity of my job. I love that I can come to work everyday and hug a horse, make a student smile or develop a new program. Or all three!

