

Julia Campbell-Spatt Diversifies To Win At Arapahoe Hunter Trials

The future looks bright with these multi-talented juniors in the hunt field.

Marc Patoile

Most juniors in high school look forward to spending their summers relaxing. Not Julia Campbell-Spatt.

Earning the Pine Cliff Challenge Bowl high-point trophy and the junior hunter championship from the Arapahoe Hunter Trials, Sept. 22 in Elizabeth, Colo., were just a few more feathers in the cap for

then competed at the Wellpride American Eventing Championships (Ill.), finishing on their dressage score in the junior/young rider training division.

But Campbell-Spatt's



(Tricia Bernhardt/Photo)

Julia Campbell-Spatt rode Surroyalist to win the Pine Cliff Challenge Bowl and the junior hunter championship at the Arapahoe Hunt Hunter Trials.

Campbell-Spatt, 15. She and Surroyalist added those honors to their Pony Club and eventing pursuits.

Campbell-Spatt and Surroyalist represented her Rocky Mountain Pony Club region at the USPC Eventing Championships (Ky.) in July, where their team finished fifth at training level.

And Campbell-Spatt and the Thoroughbred gelding collected many training level ribbons before they moved up to the preliminary level in September and jumped clean around the North Colorado Horse Trials. They

roots are in the hunt field, as she showed at the Hunter Trials. She's had Surroyalist for two years, and the bay gelding has been a well-seasoned hunt horse with the Arapahoe Hunt (Colo.) for many years.

Surroyalist and Campbell-Spatt won the working hunter and the working hunter appointments classes, placed second in the working hunter handy class, and third in the under saddle class for the Pine Cliff Challenge Bowl honors. They also combined with Grant Carey on Buddy and Tracey Meissel on Defying Gravity to win the hunt teams class.

She had to awake early that morning, as she groomed and braided him herself, with her mother Dr. Kim Campbell in tow. She has hunted Surroyalist three seasons now and is a regular fixture in the Arapahoe field.

"The funniest thing is that he is really nasty to other horses while hunting. He always pins his ears at the other horses," Campbell-Spatt, of Centennial, Colo., said.

Campbell-Spatt began riding with Tom Mallard, an honorary whipper-in to the Arapahoe pack and a professional trainer at the Village Club, in Cherry Hills Village, Colo. She recently trained with event rider Jim Moore.

Bryce Eaton, also a junior, looks to be well on his way to continuing Campbell-Spatt's diversity and winning ways. He earned the Pine Cliff Championship Trophy and the Junior Foxhunter Perpetual Trophy for being the youngest competitor.

Eaton and Tango topped the junior/adult hunter class, took second in the beginner hunter class, and then placed third in the low hunter section. He and Campbell-Spatt also teamed up for second in the working hunter pair class.

Eaton, 13, recently upgraded to a 12-year-old horse, Tango, from his Welsh pony, Firebolt. He hunted Firebolt for most of last season and also rode him to ribbons last year at these trials. Firebolt was no stranger in the hunting field, as he had hunted him for the last five years, sometimes passing the Field Master, as his name suggests, like a ball of fire.

"We like the chase—especially galloping across the wide open countryside with other people on horses," Eaton said.

Eaton, of Castle Rock, Colo., and Tango completed three beginner novice events this summer. Eaton also traveled to the USPC Championships, where he won the intermediate boys division of the tetrathlon.

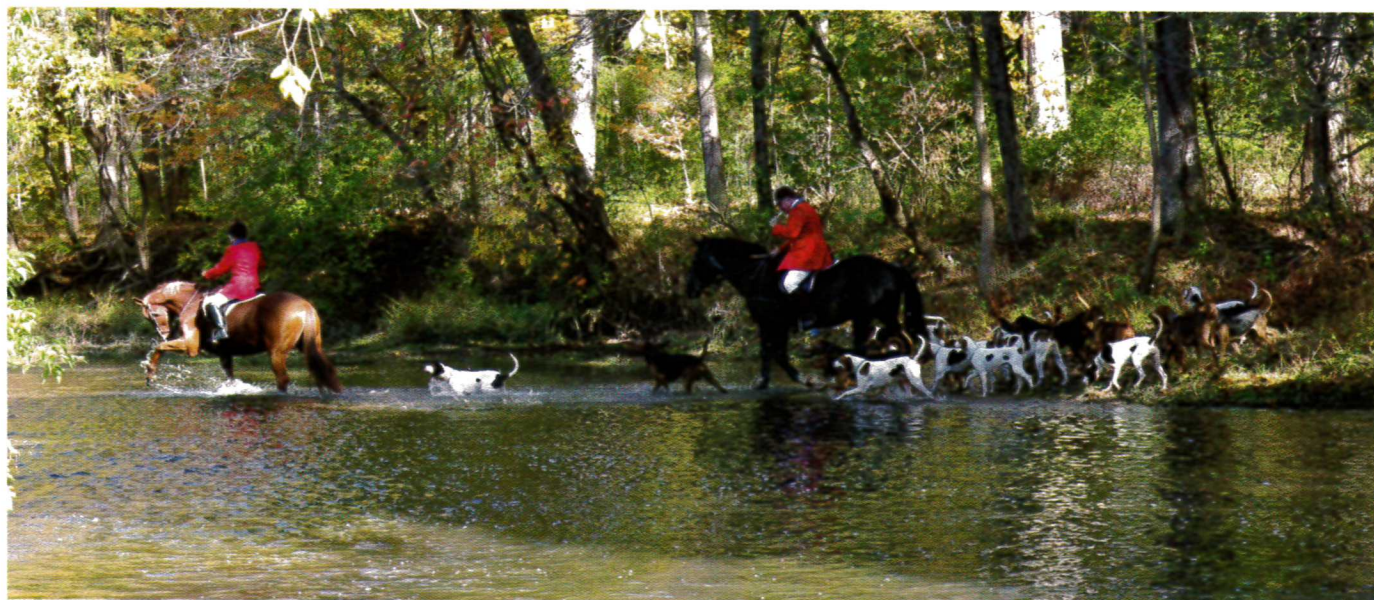
Jennifer Rogers beat Jerry Burk for the Hunt Member's Special Perpetual Bowl on Dharma, a horse she has owned since Dharma was 6 months old. Dharma is a PMU foal from Wilf McKay in Manitoba, Canada.

Rogers and Dharma won the special working hunter and special handy hunter classes, then placed third in the special hunter appointments class for the championship.

Rogers said the mare is an enthusiastic hunter. "She jumps up and down waiting for the hounds to go to work!"

A professional trainer, Rogers hunts "to help other members have solid hunt horses. I take great pride and pleasure in turning out safe horses. The benefit for me is the chase. I have been hunting in between pregnancies since 1991."

Dr. G. Marvin Beeman showed the Arapahoe pack of English foxhounds, to the delight of the crowd. The highlight of the



Whipper-in Patti Renner (left) and MFH Richard Harris (right) led the Huntingdon Valley's pack of Penn-Marydel hounds across Little Neshaminy Creek on opening meet.

show was their holding up together with their huntsman on top of the 20'x20' bank jump, bearing testament to the training time that Beeman and the Arapahoe staff spend during their exercising of hounds each morning.

ELIZABETH, CO—SEPT. 22.

PINE CLIFF CHALLENGE BOWL CH: Surroyalist, Julia Campbell-Spatt.

RES: North-Again, Linda Powers.

PINE CLIFF CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY CH: Tango, Bryce Eaton.

RES: Spice Twice, Trish McNamara.

HUNT MEMBERS' PERPETUAL BOWL CH: Dharma, Jennifer Rogers.

RES: Aspen Flight, Jerry Burk.

JUNIOR HUNTER CH: Surroyalist, Julia Campbell-Spatt.

▲ **Wkg. Htr. Pairs** - 1. Best Bette, S. Hickey & Val, M. McCormick; 2. Tango, B. Eaton & Surroyalist, J. Campbell-Spatt. ▲ **Beg. Htr.** - 1. Spice Twice, T. McNamara; 2. Tango; 3. Justin, J. Weir. ▲ **Htr. U/S** - 1. Spice Twice; 2. Mary Kristie, J. Burk; 3. Dutchman's Music, A. Allen-Shinn. ▲ **Low Htr.** - 1. Justin; 2. Denominator, J. Rogers; 3. Tango. ▲ **Jr./Adult Htr.** - 1. Tango; 2. Spice Twice; 3. Mary Kristie. ▲ **Htr. Department** - 1. Stoker, F. Riahi; 2. Oakley, D. Wedmore; 3. Shiraz, D. Lincoln. ▲ **Take Your Own Line** - 1. Val; 2. Best Bette; 3. Equal Pockets, J. Rogers. ▲ **Special Wkg. Htr.** - 1. Dharma, J. Rogers; 2. River Dance, R. Patoile; 3. Aspen Flight, J. Burk. ▲ **Special Handy Htr.** - 1. Dharma; 2. Aspen Flight; 3. Dutchman's Music. ▲ **Special Htr. Appointments** - 1. Aspen Flight; 2. Dutchman's Music; 3. Dharma. ▲ **Owner/Rider, 31 & over** - 1. North-Again, L. Powers; 2. Fontaine, H. Matt; 3. Buddy, G. Carey. ▲ **Wkg. Htr.** - 1. Surroyalist; 2. North-Again; 3. Marvin Gardens, S. Dallow. ▲ **Wkg. Htr. Handy** - 1. North-Again; 2. Surroyalist; 3. Fontaine. ▲ **Wkg. Htr. U/S** - 1. Defying Gravity, T. Meissel; 2. Equal Pockets; 3. Surroyalist. ▲ **Wkg. Htr. Appointments** - 1. Surroyalist; 2. Defying Gravity. ▲ **Hunt Teams** - 1. Surroyalist, Buddy & Defying Gravity; 2. Marvin Gardens, Equal Pockets & Fontaine.



Huntingdon Valley Hunt

c/o Richard B. Harris, jt.-MFH
1395 Swamp Rd., Box 48,
Furlong, Pennsylvania 18925.
Established 1914.
Recognized 1915.

Huntingdon Valley Opens With A Banner Day

One of the most fascinating aspects of fox hunting is scent. We organize our country and carefully breed our hounds to provide the sport we desire, but the one thing we can never control is scent.

Every day we go out "knowing" that it is going to be one of the best days we have ever had. There is no scent. Foxes pop out of every covert and hounds cannot run them. Then, when we go out convinced that we are going to have a long trail ride with absolutely no sport, the hounds fly.

On Oct. 21, Huntingdon Valley Hunt's 94th opening meet was just that kind of day. We met at 10 a.m. to try to get out before the mid-day sun destroyed any vestiges of scent, but by the time the introductory remarks were offered, the hounds were blessed and the stirrup cup was served, the temperature was already in the 70s. There was a high bluebird sky and the prospects for sport looked dim.

We hacked to Dark Hollow, crossing the Little Neshaminy Creek. Richard B. Harris, MFH and huntsman of the Huntingdon Valley, drew the heavy cover along the creek.

Andrews Bridge Tango, a wonderful old bitch drafted to the Huntingdon Valley by Bob Crompton, MFH of Andrews Bridge (Pa.), began a line which she and several of the older hounds worked slowly but steadily through very thick cover and then out in the open through a soybean field where they finally lost, confirming our worst fears that there just was no scent. However, unbeknown to us, the hounds were simply working a very old line.

Little Neshaminy Creek makes a horseshoe bend through this portion of our country and we drew back along the cliffs of the far side of the horseshoe hoping to pick up the line of the fox, but it was not to be. We crossed the creek again below Wicen's shooting range and began drawing north along the far side of the creek.

Our car followers on Mozart Road viewed

a fox out of the covert. The hounds began working a line that we all expected would come out of the covert where the fox had been viewed and then evaporate. But just as they were ready to emerge from the covert, the cry of Huntingdon Valley's Penn-Marydels exploded.

There were two foxes and our pack was close behind the second fox. Hounds were flying after their pilot. The cry couldn't have been better as they charged along the stream bank toward the Chain Bridge.

But just as they got to the bridge, our fox doubled back and crossed the creek. Hounds followed charging up through the woods as our fox twisted and turned trying to elude his pursuers. The hounds were not to be denied and emerged from the woods into several large cornfields, where they continued after their fox, finally putting him to ground after 45 minutes of superb sport.

In the heat of the day, horses and hounds were both cooked, so our Master gathered hounds and hunted slowly back to the meet.

We had 30 riders in the field, including eight juniors, all of whom had a great time. But one of the most rewarding parts of the day was that as we hacked in, we passed the home of Betty Salada, whose daughter had hunted with us when she was a child. She was thrilled to see the hunt.

Drew Azara, who lives just above the Chain Bridge and whose daughter hunted with us, heard the hounds and was out cheering on the hunt. It is always wonderful to have the support of the community as well as a strong membership, including many juniors, to share the day.

Steve Harris