

Ponies stormed the Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on Saturday, October 8, at the 2022 Capital Challenge Horse Show. Olivia Sweetnam and Take 3 LLC's Goldmark bested a field of more than 100 small, medium, and large ponies for the Grand Pony Hunter Champion title, sponsored by Pegasus Show Stable & The Endicott Family.

Sweetnam, of Wellington, Florida, piloted Goldmark to third place in the under saddle and conformation over fences classes, which took place in the outdoor arena on Friday, October 7, the first day of the Large Pony Hunter division. On Saturday in the indoor, the pair turned in two blue ribbon performances, scoring 88 and then 89 in the handy stake class. The 28-point total from their placings boosted them to the championship honors in the Large Pony Hunter division, sponsored by Laurel Crown Farms, and was also the most points earned of any Pony Hunter to claim the Grand Champion title.



"He felt great," said Sweetnam of the seven-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding. "He handled the atmosphere of the indoor ring just as well as outside. He was so perfect."

Goldmark lives at Shadow Ridge Farm with trainers Samantha Schaefer and Kate Conover, and Sweetnam meets up with him at shows. They first got together when Goldmark was imported in the spring of 2021 and have had a winning partnership from the get-go.



Olivia Sweetnam and Goldmark. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"Right from the start he was a winner," stated Sweetnam, who trains with her parents, Ali Sweetnam and Irish Olympian Shane Sweetnam, and the team at their Sweet Oak Farm in Wellington, Florida. "Every show we've gone to we've won classes. In all except one show we've been champion or reserve. He's just so amazing, and he really wants to do his best always. He's such a good boy."

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S. PUTAL CHALLER

Clivio and WT Scorsese Score Big in the NAL Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final

Charlotte Clivio of Miami, Florida, and her own WT Scorsese bested a field of 31 competitors to take top honors in the \$10,000 <u>North American League (NAL)</u> Low Junior/Amateur Jumper Final, presented by <u>HorseFlight</u>.

Fourteen riders produced a clear first round to qualify for the jump-off over a course designed by Ken Krome. Clivio and WT Scorsese stopped the clock at 29.349 seconds to take the win. Campbell Brown of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and MMK Equestrian LLC's Diamond finished second with a time of 29.557 seconds. Rounding out the top three was Katie Triantos of McLean, Virginia, and her own Casilla, after they stopped the timers at 30.855 seconds.





"The course was really nice for my horse," explained Clivio. "He has a big stride, so it was really just about keeping him together. He is almost 18 hands, so being in that small indoor arena I had to keep him managed and together, but it worked out in my favor." Clivio was one of the last three riders to return for the jump-off and felt the pressure with

several quick and clear rounds ahead of her.

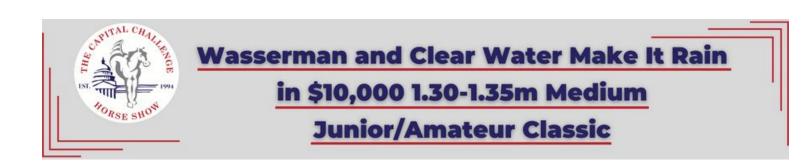


Charlotte Clivio and WT Scorsese. Photo by Shawn McMillen Photography

"I knew that a few had gone clear, and it was a fast jump-off," commented Clivio. "Last year I did the [NAL] Children's Jumper Final and I went a little safe. I think this year I wanted to give it my all. It's my last junior year, so I just decided to leave it all out there." Clivio has been paired with the 13-year-old Holsteiner gelding for two and a half years.

The duo started their partnership showing in the meter jumpers and have moved all the way up to the Low Junior Jumper division.

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The \$10,000 1.30-1.35m Medium Junior/Amateur Classic, sponsored by Turnham Green, closed out the evening competition, with 15 starting horse-and-rider combinations. Eight managed to jump clear to advance to the jump-off, where Stella Wasserman, of Los Angeles, California, and Karen O'Connor's Clear Water turned in an electrifying performance, victoriously crossing the timers in 29.655 seconds.

"I thought the course was great," commented Wasserman of the Ken Krome-designed track. "I thought it all rode really nicely. The jump-off was super fun. My horse is a very good turner, so it was nice for me to do that, because that's where he excels, so I thought I could really show that off today."



Junior/Amateur Classic by Diane Douglas, Carlos Sanchez, Haleigh Landrigan, Samantha Schaefer, and Alec Lawler. Photo by <u>Shawn McMillen Photography</u>

Clear Water has a decorated history, with success in the eventing world as well as wins up to the international jumping CSI5\* level. Wasserman just picked up the ride on the 15-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Clearway x Come On only a few months ago, but knew he was "the one" from the moment she first sat on him.

"It's so nice to be able to sit on a horse with that much experience, because you can always put your trust in them and have faith that they're going to put their best foot forward," explained Wasserman. "It's amazing to have a partner that is so accomplished and has done this so many times. He's just a really lovely horse, so it's so great to do this all with him."

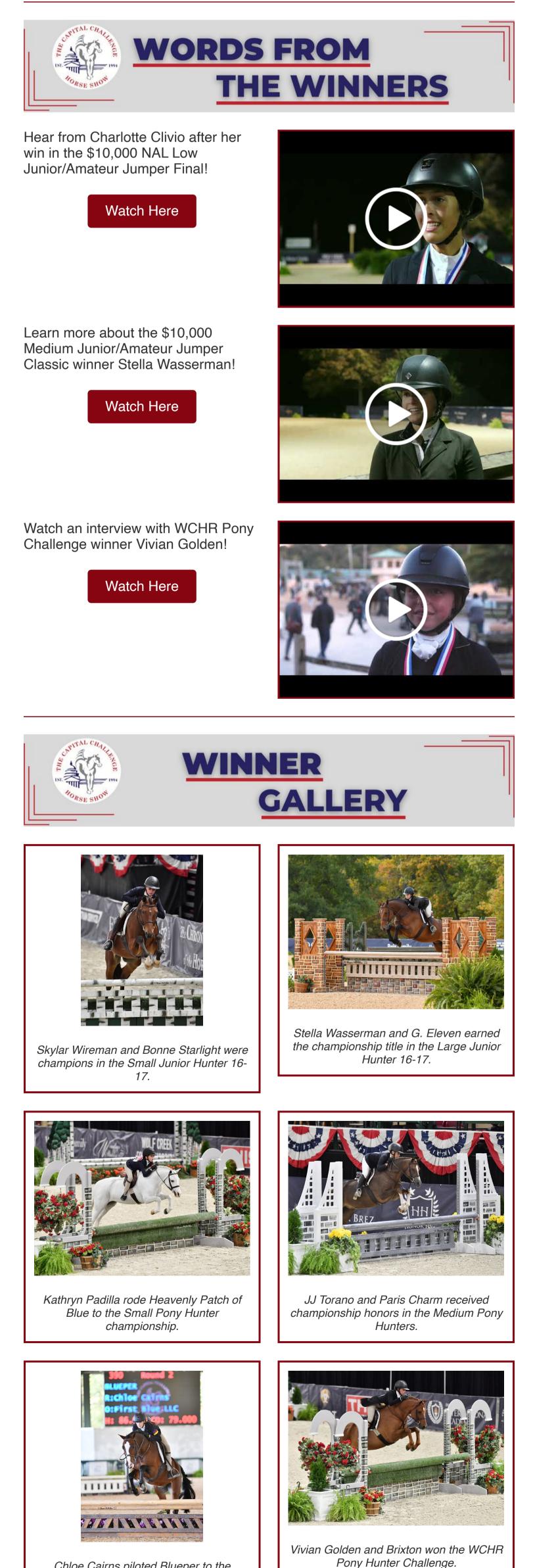


For her awards presentation, Wasserman's team excitedly ran in to join her, and the

talented junior rider emphasized their contribution to her success.

"Shadow Ridge is amazing," she expressed. "They always support me in everything I do and accomplish, and they always have the horses looking ready and prepared to go in the ring. It's so nice to be confident in my team and how they're going to back me up every day."

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Chloe Cairns piloted Blueper to the Children's Hunter Pony championship.

Photos by Shawn McMillen Photography





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About the Capital Challenge Horse Show

The Capital Challenge Horse Show, an official USEF Heritage Competition, has a distinct and unique focus on preeminent hunter and equitation competition. The 2022 edition of the Capital Challenge Horse Show will take place from September 29-October 9. The 11 days of competition will include prestigious equitation events, jumper divisions, the World Championship Hunter Rider (WCHR) Finals, the \$25,000 3' and 3'3" Green Hunter North American Championships, and more, with many of the country's best horses and riders competing in junior, amateur, and professional divisions.

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