

It gives me great pleasure to nominate **Kate Perrin and Chelsea McNeill**. I have been riding with Kate and Chelsea for three and a half years and cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award.

Kate and Chelsea both are extremely knowledgeable and experienced coaches and horse trainers, but what distinguishes them above all the other trainers (and I've had my share over the years) is their endless patience. I have never seen them lose it or get angry with a rider. They never blame a rider for not getting something or make a person feel stupid. Instead, they treat mistakes as a natural, indeed necessary, part of the learning process.

As a result, the teaching and learning environment at Perneill Training is extremely positive and supportive - but never complacent. Both Kate and Chelsea are constantly thinking of things to help riders achieve their goals - whether that is simply to ride more consistently, to jump the next fence a little better, or to be a winning competitor. Lessons are always highly individualized and challenging. Objectives are clear and straightforward. They never force things or overwhelm the rider with too much information. Rather, they are extremely focused and precise, which allows the rider to absorb new ideas and to try new things when she's ready. In short, both Kate and Chelsea have a unique knack for allowing the learning process to feel like a discovery - as though we riders have come to things all on our own even though we know we could never have got there without our coaches.

I ride primarily in the jumpers with Kate but sometimes I also take lessons with Chelsea. In addition, Chelsea schools my horse with Kate's help on the ground. This is an amazing, highly productive combination. Although Kate herself no longer rides, she thinks like a horse and has a perfect eye and deep, intuitive understanding of the riding experience. My horse absolutely loves her and gets extremely excited when she shows up at lesson time. The horses also love Chelsea and the way she allows them to express themselves. I have learned so much from watching the two of them school horses together.

Finally, on a more personal note, I came to Perneill Training after a bad experience with a good coach who was not right for me. My confidence was shattered and I was on the verge of giving up the sport altogether. Kate and Chelsea have helped put that experience completely behind me - with their knowledge, expertise, endless support, and, above all, tireless patience, generosity, and kindness. I am able to trust my coach again and, as a result, I also believe in my horse and myself as a rider. Thanks to them, my passion for jumping and the sheer joy of horses has been fully restored. I recommend Kate and Chelsea wholeheartedly and without reservation for.