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RED HILLS HORSE TRIALS BRINGS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO TALLAHASSEE

Capital City Hosts World-Renowned Riders, Design Team and Builders

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 14, 2016) – Thousands of spectators and more than 150 riders and 250 horses from around the world contributed to another successful Red Hills International Horse Trials at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park on March 11-13. Many of the world’s top riders participated in this three-day Eventing competition in their effort to qualify for the Olympics this summer in Rio de Janeiro. Red Hills had the distinction of being the first qualifying event held in the United States.

Eventing involves three distinct disciplines: Dressage, Cross Country and Stadium Jumping. These three phases vary in difficulty, depending on the level of competition and the winner is the one with the lowest combined score.

Winning the highest level, the CIC Three-Star, was former Olympian Phillip Dutton, riding *Fernhill Fugitive*. Earning second place was Jennie Brannigan on *Catalina*, followed by Hannah Sue Burnett riding *Harbour Pilot*.

Lauren Kieffer, winner of the CIC Three-Star event in 2015, won the Advanced Division riding *Veronica*.

The CIC Two-Star Division was won by Australian native Clayton Fredericks riding *FE Bowman*. Hannah Sue Burnett won the CIC One-star Division on *Alonzo III*.

“Since its inception in 1998, Red Hills has become a well-respected Eventing competition that attracts competitors from around the globe because of its commitment to world-renowned course designers and builders,” says Jane Barron, co-organizer of Red Hills Horse Trials.

Michael Etherington-Smith, the designer of the Sydney and Beijing Olympics cross-country courses, designed Red Hills’ three-star course. David O’Connor, a U.S. Olympic Team Coach, designed the two-star and one-star courses. Each designed courses that offered horse and rider long gallops and improved footing.

Implementing the new cross-country designs were international course builders Tyson Rementer and Levi Ryckewaert who are also building the courses for the Olympics this summer in Rio.

As an event for all ages, Red Hills provided educational programming this year through Community Day. Students from three local schools enjoyed a half-day of hands-on learning experiences about Eventing and horses, including discussions with veterinarians and grooms as well as viewing a life-size exhibit of a horse's digestive tract.

“Through the tremendous support of the City of Tallahassee, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, Visit Tallahassee, numerous sponsors and our community, Red Hills Horse Trials is able to provide a first-class experience for our out-of-town visitors and athletes,” said Marvin Mayer, co-organizer for Red Hills. “This event brings international attention to Tallahassee, creates economic opportunities for our community and is a fun event the entire family can enjoy together.”

A sporting event for the entire Tallahassee community, Red Hill Horse Trials bolsters Tallahassee's economy each spring. The most recent Economic Impact study shows that Red Hills brings about \$3.3 million to the local economy and crowds as large as 15,000.

Red Hills International Horse Trials is a United States Eventing Association annual event held at Elinor Klapp-Phipps Park in Tallahassee, Florida. Red Hills Horse Trials, Inc. is a 501c3 organization. It is a cooperative effort by many, including Red Hills Horse Trials, Inc., Visit Tallahassee and the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Tallahassee, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District. For more information, visit www.rhht.org.