

For Immediate Release –

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Master Farrier Kearney Hillard Shares Pre-Purchase Pitfalls at Sho Clothes “Shop Talk”

Wellington, FL - Master Farrier Kearney Hillard has shod a stable full of famous horses and he shared some of his experience at the recent “Shop Talk” hosted by Sho Clothes and co-sponsored by the Gold Coast Dressage Association.

Hillard has been the farrier for many famous Olympic, World Cup and Pan Am Games equines as well as the official farrier for the Fall Gold Cup Grand Prix for 27 years. Hillard has also been the farrier for Sho Clothes co-owner Betsy Rebar Sell’s horse Wonderful Walden for many years. Wonderful Walden, now in his 20’s, was Rebar Sell’s partner when she won the Gold Medal in the 1999 Pan Am Games. Walden continues to compete at the Grand Prix level today. “Walden’s longevity is a testament to the quality of Kearney’s work,” Rebar Sell said.

Some of Hillard’s famous clientele includes the A circuit hunters and jumpers For The Moment, Jet Run, Royal Blue, Circuit Breaker, Touch the Sun, My Fair Lad and Idol Dice. His dressage favorites, in addition to Wonderful Walden, include horses owned by Belinda Baudin (now Nairn), Ellen Dixon and Gunnar Ostergard.

With over 50 years of farrier experience to his credit, Hillard talked to the audience members about what to look for when purchasing a horse. He also showed a DVD full of the hoof scenarios he has worked on over the years. Hillard showed that not all hoof issues are caused by poor shoeing, and in one example showed a horse with quarter cracks and interference that was caused by a sore back.

“Kearney is an excellent farrier and he really demonstrated his in-depth knowledge of his trade,” said Michele Hundt, who co-owns Sho Clothes with Sell. “Everyone really enjoyed his presentation as well as his thoughts on the farrier and blacksmith community of today.”

Sho Clothes hosts the monthly “Shop Talk” as a way for equestrians to gather and learn from top professionals in the equestrian industry. Specializing in dressage apparel, Sho Clothes is located in Wellington and their mobile boutique is a fixture on the Florida Dressage circuit. Hundt and Rebar Sell are proud of the community response Shop Talk has created. “We have had such a good time co-hosting Shop Talk,” said Hundt. “The response from clients, friends and riders, old and new to the sport, has been overwhelming.”

Shop Talk is free and the public is welcome. For more information on Sho Clothes visit their website at www.shoclothes.com.



Photo: Master farrier Kearney Hillard shared over 50 years of farrier wisdom at Sho Clothes' recent "Shop Talk" in Wellington. Hilliard has shod some very famous horses, including Wonderful Walden, the Gold Medal Pan American Games horse owned by Sho Clothes' own Betsy Rebar Sell. (Photo courtesy of JRPR – no photo credit necessary)