

The Lakeville Journal

Fitch's Corner Horse Trials a 'triumph'

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By Tara Kelly



Heidi White, trainer-in-residence at Town Hill Farm, breezed around the cross-country course in the open preliminary division at Fitch's Corner on Saturday, July 20. Photos by Tara Kelly

MILLBROOK — Fitch's Corner Horse Trials, the three-day competition at the farm of Fernanda Kellogg and Kirk Henckels in Millbrook, concluded on Sunday, July 21, under warm sunny skies and without a single weather incident.

Events that take place outdoors are often about the weather and Fitch's Corner Horse Trials, over the course of its 20-year run, has been subject to some wild extremes: intense heat, spectacular lightning storms, drenching rain.

On its 20th anniversary the sun shone, but not too strongly, and the only lightning storm was a brief squall on Thursday night, which resulted in a double rainbow.

That seemed to set the tone for the fol-

lowing few days. All in all, Kellogg was pleased.

"It was a triumph," she said.

The horse trials, which encompass beginner novice through preliminary levels, tests a horse-and-rider team in three distinct areas of riding expertise: dressage, stadium jumping and cross-country jumping. The same horse-and-rider team competes in each phase. This year Fitch's Corner had 333 entries — more than ever before. That resulted in 17 divisions, including the four Area One championships.

Alice Roosevelt, who trains with Heidi White at Town Hill Farm in Lakeville, won the Barbara S. Meyer Perpetual Trophy, which is awarded to the best-scoring active member of the U.S. Pony Club in the NY/Upper CT region. In addition to the horse competition, Fitch's Corner offered a variety of amusements for spectators; Fitch's Marketplace had more than 60 vendors, and there were eight specialty food carts.

On Sunday, there was a collector car parade and an appearance by the Millbrook Hunt hounds and masters. And for the Spectator Luncheon, the competition seemed to extend to the hats worn by women and men alike.