

THE PERFECT STORM OF NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP

BY VICKI LONG

Texas is about to face a perfect storm as some of the nation's top natural horsemanship trainers converge on arenas from Amarillo to Brenham and points east and west. It all began in late September when Pat Parelli brought his road show to the main arena of the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton.

Counting Parelli, six of the world's top trainers will be here over a period beginning the weekend before Halloween and ending just before Christmas. Prices for the events range from free to hundreds of dollars for a five day total immersion experience.



Wes White

warmth and good humor to the round corral in a teaching experience grounded in his deep spiritual beliefs and sprinkled with a healthy dose of cowboy poetry.

White's appearance is in conjunction with the park's annual Ranch Heritage Weekend celebration. For more details, go to www.texashorsetalk.com. The entire weekend, including the Wes White clinics on Saturday and Sunday is free.

Following close on the heels of the Wes White clinic Linda Tellington Jones comes to the Hill Country when she brings her "Tellington-Touch" show to San Marcos. The venerable clinician will be promoting her new book, *The Ultimate Horse Behavior and Training Book*.

Jones' method of training and healing has been taught for four decades. She is one of America's longest serving and most respected clinicians. Her method touts the ability to communicate with horses in a "deeper more compassionate way."

In it, Jones uses a variety of movement and body language targeting behavior, performance, and health in a way that doesn't provoke anxiety.

The event will be held at The Whole Horse facility in San Marcos beginning with a one day demonstration clinic open to the public. The next day, Jones begins her TTeam training and continues for three more days. For information on the one day demonstration, call Penny Stone at (512) 917-1866 or write to her at wholehorsetwoman@yahoo.com. To participate in the TTeam training (800) 854-8236 or go to www.ttouch.com.

Arizona's Craig Hamilton returns to Texas for a series of November appearances beginning November 2-5 at the posh Dos Brisas Inn near

Kicking off the run is *Texas Horse Talk* columnist Wes White, who will bring his practical, homespun round pen work to Bandera's Hill Country State Natural Area for back to back clinics October 26-27. If you don't know his background, Wes once worked for Ray Hunt. Unlike his mentor, he brings



Linda Tellington Jones

Brenham and a horse chip's throw from the delightful hamlet of Chappell Hill. Never shy, Craig boasts "I can tell you more in 5 minutes about the relationship with your horse than you can get in five years anywhere else." We tend to agree. When *Texas Horse Talk* first met him for a cover story last spring we were tremendously impressed by this former rodeo cowboy who still works his family's enormous ranch in the desert.

Hamilton promises you will have a life altering experience, a bold statement, until you know his story. The former PRCA cowboy tells his audience of his journey from the harsh "old cowboy way" to the natural horsemanship of today. The cost for the Brenham event is \$595 per rider.

Hamilton takes his clinic to the Texas Hill Country with back to back clinics in Dripping Springs. Like the Dos Brisas event, the first clinic there will be on horsemanship November 9-11. The following week, Craig hosts a weekend roping clinic on November 16-18. The cost for both Dripping Springs events is \$495 per rider.

To register, call Tara at (323) 945-6448, or email her at taramoore70@gmail.com. For more on Craig Hamilton, go to www.craighamiltonhorsemanship.com.

Texans will get a very special treat in the San Antonio area when Road to the Horse winner Chris Cox brings his "Come Ride the Journey" tour to the San Antonio Rose Palace in Boerne. Road to the Horse is the popular colt starting challenge that is gaining in popularity. Cox also just served as a judge for Fort Worth's Extreme Mustang Makeover. The Rose Palace event will be the final stop on Cox' 11 city U.S. tour - the clinic is free, underwritten by Rockin' J Stalls.

Cox also hosts a popular program on RFD-TV, the popular satellite channel which targets country folk. Although born in the U.S., Cox is often thought of as an Australian trainer, but you'd never know it from his country twang.

"I was born in Florida and raised in Australia," Cox told *THT*. At 18, he returned to this country and began his career as a horseman. After a while, he became a contract employee with the Bureau of Land Management starting wild Mustangs.

"They came to me after they had heard I could start a horse in an hour-and-a-half or so," he says. "I met with them in Washington and we went from there."

Cox' career moved along. He also did a video along the way, and ul-



Craig Hamilton



Chris Cox