

Steven Lantvit is one of our premier trainers featured at the 2010 MEC Celebration. Mr. Lantvit resides in LaPorte, Indiana and has been starting and training horses in multiple disciplines for nearly 20



years. He is a CHA certified instructor in English and Western disciplines. He has also spent time being mentored by Craig Cameron. Steven also had the honor of being named the Certified Horsemanship Association Instructor of 2009. Mr. Lantvit typically works with Quarter horses, but has experience with Arabians, warm bloods and gaited horses as well. When asked about his training philosophy, he stated "From starting a young colt to fine-tuning a seasoned horse we believe in a progressive, resistance-free training method which develops a lasting trust between horse and rider.

"There are many different ways that you can be involved in one of Mr. Lantvit's clinics. Horses can be hauled in for training sessions or may stay resident at the Farm for the duration of the training. Also, training is not just about the horse, but about the owner/rider as well. Owner/riders are encouraged to participate in the training sessions as it will help reinforce the lessons learned once they leave the Farm.

Mr. Lantvit further believes that training that delivers results and establishes a strong foundation is only obtained through solid communication and trust. He has found that in many cases an untouched colt or mustang may be actually easier to train because he is dealing with a clean slate. They don't have any previous negative training experiences in their mind. The canvas is clean, their minds are free and open. And in most cases, with these colts, he is able to make better progress and sooner than a previously started horse. He approaches every horse that comes in for training as if they were an un-started colt, no matter what age. He looks for gaps in the foundation so he can begin to understand where this horse is from, in both training and mental/mind perspective. He believes a horse speaks to us through their own language and if we know how to listen (truly communicate) we can begin to understand their fears, strengths, weaknesses, etc... and understand the differences between them. Understanding when the horses is fearful vs. being stubborn, nervous vs. inquisitive. Understanding their language is key. Misunderstanding what they are communicating to you could have an adverse effect. Training a fearful horse is different than a stubborn horse and knowing the difference and adjusting your techniques is crucial.

After the gaps in the foundation have been discovered he will then work to fill those gaps. Once the foundation is established/re-established he then starts working on training for the particular purpose or discipline as defined in your end goal. Are you looking to compete in Hunter/Jumper? Dressage? Eventing? Cow work? Reining? Extreme Cowboy Racing? Versatility competitions? Trail riding? It happens often that horses train for a particular discipline, lack the foundation, and when taken out of that discipline cannot cope. Do you have this problem?

Also refer to website for additional information.

<http://www.highgrovefarm.com>