

## **Inner Bay LLC / Mary and Neil O'Connor**

21226 Unison Road, Middleburg VA 516-769-5142 InnerBayLLC@gmail.com

### **2021 Internship position available at Inner Bay LLC:**

Inner Bay Equestrian is a small farm in Middleburg VA, producing 1-3 jumper-bred foals every other year from our small mare herd. While some foals are sold, we typically raise and train our young horses, preparing and participating with them in Hunter Breeding, Young Horse Show qualifiers, and registry inspections.

Inner Bay owners Mary and Neil O'Connor, are former A-circuit jumper grooms. They are both USEF competition officials; Neil is an FEI jumper judge whose schedule each year includes WEF, the Hampton Classic, and the fall indoor circuit. Mary judges at both local and rated shows in hunter, jumper, and equitation divisions. She is a USHJA Certified Trainer, was a founding member of USSHBA, serving as President through 2020, and now chairs the group's marketing committee. She is a licensed educator and works for the school system as a substitute teacher in all grades.

In "foal years" we offer an internship at Inner Bay, of 2-1/2 to 3 months in length, providing participants an opportunity to gain experience with a diverse group of 6-8 horses, from neonates to seniors. Our 2021 group will include one mare and foal pair, breeding mares, a 2 yo in ground work as preparation for backing, and a 4 yo already in training and starting to jump. Two "keeper" riding horses include our first homebred and a former RRP OTTB; these two train and compete in jumper sections at rated and local shows. A former 4' jumper in his mid-20's serves as a "mentor gelding" and rounds out the group.

Our intern will of course assist with typical daily barn chores, including but "not limited to" stalls, turnouts, feeding, tacking, bathing, tack care, etc. Each of our foals is well handled, and horses are cared for at a high standard. Once these chores are completed, there are endless projects that range from equipment organization, groundskeeping, setting up jumps, website and social media maintenance, and sponsor relations. We ensure that we provide our interns with opportunities to establish contacts with and spend time at the nearby farms of our coach and mentor Joe Fargis, our next door neighbors, top hunter trainers Johnny and Kitty Barker at Eight Oaks, Inc., and our young horse trainer, Martin Douzant/The Frame.

Our 'hometown' horse show is Upperville, which often coincides with the recent arrival of our interns and birth of foals, with the result that we are all swimming in the deep end right away. The upside is that networking opportunities are immediate, and the rest of the summer always seems easier after that!

**2021 Internship position available at Inner Bay LLC:**

- Mid-May-through early to mid August
- Room, board, stipend of \$150/week
- Riding possible, not required
- In lieu of stipend, reduced board rate or dry stall for horse is possible depending on availability
- No smoking on premises / no pets
- Interns are required to sign our standard liability waiver, and to carry their own health insurance.
- Formal arrangements for college credit / evaluations and feedback gladly accommodated.

*This year's challenges will of course include CoVid protocols that must be taken to protect all concerned. We are fortunate to be involved in a sport where we are outside the majority of the time, and being at a smaller farm provides us with some measure of security as vaccinations become more widespread.*

Contact:

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