

# LAURA RUTLEDGE

Laura Rutledge has been in love with horses ever since she started riding at age 4. She was an active 4-H member, competing in Chester County. She started volunteering at Thorncroft Equestrian Center as a teenager. In 1994, she graduated from Penn State, and worked as a recreation therapist in a sub-acute rehab Brain Injury unit. Two years later, she was working with teens in a drug and alcohol treatment center.

After taking time off have 2 children, Laura continued to pursue training in professional riding instruction and therapeutic riding. In 2000-2003 she worked for Lancaster County Therapeutic Riding, and became Vice President. During that time she also completed instructor requirements for PACTH (PA Council on Therapeutic Horsemanship). In 2003, she took a 30-week Instructor's Course at Thorncroft. In 2005, she was certified by NARHA. In 2006, she completed an International Clinic, and studied in Kurten-Biesfeld, Germany, under Marietta Schulz and Barbara Heine. In 2008, she started her Advanced Instructor training at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding (CT). Laura is currently on the Board of Directors for PACTH, and is the NARHA State Representative.

*"I wanted to be an instructor in therapeutic riding since 1985, after seeing the amazing results while volunteering as a teenager. My parents thought I was crazy... I believe strongly that continuing education with course work, clinics, lessons, and networking, are of the utmost importance if you want to stay current with the research in the field of therapeutic riding."*

This philosophy is what motivated her to start her own program in 2006, named Triangle Therapeutic Riding, for the triangular style of teaching that was learned in Germany, and for serving the trio of counties – Lancaster, Lebanon, and Berks.

Laura lives with her husband, Tim, 2 children, Brent and Bethany, and 2 dogs. She loves to ride her Mustang, go camping/hiking with the family, and sailing and cycling when the time allows.