



FMF Griffin

BY EMILY DAILY

Owner: Karen Fulton
 Rider: Grace Fulton
 Age: 13
 Height: 14.1 1/2 hands
 Breed: Quarter Horse



"GRIFFIN'S BEST QUALITY IS THAT HE IS ALWAYS TRYING," says his rider GRACE FULTON. "Take one look at his cute face and you can just tell that he is."

Last year, twelve-year-old Grace had a dream year aboard her pony FMF Griffin, dominating Beginner Novice Junior divisions all across Area II.

Grace and the 13-year-old Quarter Horse gelding capped off their successful season at the USEA Annual Meeting and Convention, clinching the Beginner Novice Junior Rider of the Year, Beginner Novice Horse of the Year, and overall Pony of the Year titles.

Since their partnership began last March, Grace and Griffin have won four events, placing in the top six in all eleven shows

in 2010. "Griffin originally came from a horse rescue in Pennsylvania. We then got him through some friends of ours," Grace explained.

"The highlight of the year was probably the AEC," admitted Grace, referring to her and Griffin's fifth place finish (out of 65 horses!) in the competitive Beginner Novice Junior division. "Winning the Capt. Mark Phillips Pony Award was really cool, too, especially since I got to meet him!"

LEFT: Grace Fulton and FMF Griffin thoroughly enjoying themselves at the Full Moon Farm Beginner Novice Three-Day Event. MIKE MCNALLY PHOTO. ABOVE: Grace and Griffin earned the Capt. Mark Phillips Pony Award at the 2010 Land Rover USEA/AEC. JOANIE MORRIS PHOTO.

The sturdy bay gelding is a powerhouse on cross-country, and reminds Grace of a cartoon character at times. "Griffin would probably be Popeye, with his big muscles and helpfulness. It's only fitting!"

As Grace is quickly outgrowing Griffin, the pint-sized pony will be moving on to a new partner next year to introduce them to the sport.

Eventing is a full-time family business for the Fultons, who run an active event barn in Finksburg, Maryland. Older sister Savannah, 15, is enjoying new-found success at Preliminary with Regal Wood, who competed

through the CCI2* level with his owner Laura Jones. Grace's father, Stephen, is a local farrier showing as an adult amateur at the Intermediate level, while his wife Karen is an instructor at their Full Moon Farm. On a daily basis, it's all hands on deck for the Fultons, whether it be helping out with the day-to-day operations of their farm or assisting each other at local events. In their "free time" the Fultons also offer unrecognized events at the training facility, including educational long-format Novice and Beginner Novice divisions.