

White Fences a couple years ago across the street from Lars. So between the farm, the horses, business school, and my company it is pretty busy and never boring! When I bought Rohannah a year ago I wasn't really looking for a young horse but for a really nice Grand Prix horse. But I could tell that Lars was so convinced of her talent that I changed plans and went ahead and bought her. My goal is to ultimately ride her in the Grand Prix and we will probably wait to bring her back out to the show ring when she's ready for the Prix St. George. She is super in the ring and really lights up, but is very sane in the mind. She has so much presence and the best work ethic you can imagine. She always gives 100% effort and learns very quickly. She has absolutely the most lovely canter I've ever ridden and her trot has developed some really beautiful cadence over the last year."

BLMs in Lexington, VA

The 30th Annual Colonel Bengt Lungquist Memorial Championship Finals and VADA Fall Competition took place October 18-21, 2012, in Lexington, VA. This was an opportunity for the above-mentioned Brandi Benedict to prove she has plenty of depth in her riding and training abilities. She not only excels with young horses, but she can take them through FEI. She qualified for the Prix St. Georges Finals and the Intermediate-1 Finals with her own Fenice (ES Feiner Stern-Rhiannon/), winning her PSG division with 67.237% and was second in the I-1 Final with 66.535%. In addition, Brandi and Fenice won an open division of PSG with 64.211%. Then, with her young horse, Hot Mama (Hot Line-Ladybug/) she placed second in two First Level, Test 2 classes with 72.973% and 73.919%.

Brandi has owned Fenice since he was two, having purchased him from breeder Marefield Meadows, VA. Brandi says he is an amazing horse, although "not the most talented or brilliant horse in the world, he tries his heart out for me!" It was rough going at first. Brandi remembers, "I actually almost lost him twice since I've owned him—once, right when I got him. He

had thrush so bad that my vet thought his career might have been over before it even started. It was awful. Nothing was killing it and it just got worse and worse. Eventually, we were able to get it under control, but I remember wondering if I was ever going to be able to pick out his feet without it being painful for him. Then when he was about four he got this lump by his eye. I took him to a vet that specializes in eyes and she told me not to worry about it. It was probably nothing. For some reason I just couldn't forget about it. I wanted it gone. I really don't even know why. I'm not really bothered by lumps and bumps that are just cosmetic, but this one really had me worried. So, they removed it and found out that it was actually a fairly rare type of cancer and if we had left it alone the tendrils from the cancer would have started to spread out, making it impossible to remove! So, he's kind of my little miracle pony!"

Training Fenice, "has had its ups and downs," Brandi says. "The changes were the biggest stumbling block for him. I remember so many times thinking they would never come...but they did. That's one of the biggest things Fenice has taught me...never give up. If one thing doesn't work try something else, because sometimes you have to think outside of the box to find the answer. Every horse is unique. This year has been a tremendous maturing year for Fenice. He has always been a bit tense and nervous in the show ring. In fact, we actually bought a gazebo and put it outside of my dressage ring at home, because for the first year of his show life I could not get him near a judges box! At every show I would load my pockets with sugar and every time we encountered something 'scary' I would let him smell it and give him a



sugar. I even got my mom to stand, and eventually jump up and down, in the judge's box and give him sugar. He may have been on a sugar high at most of those early shows, but it did seem to help!" As for future plans, Brandi tells us, "I am looking forward to this winter and getting him stronger. Right now he is schooling all the Grand Prix and my hope is that we will be able to show it next season, but I'll wait and see how the winter goes. I've learned that with horses you've got to be very flexible!"

Trainer/rider Phoebe DeVoe-Moore made the trip from Pennsylvania with her assistant Claudia Kleinsmith, several horses, students, and, of course, Phoebe's husband and right-hand man, Chuck. One of the horses in her group was the 12-year-old gelding Brisk (Banter-EM Laudable/) bred by George Walker, III, SC and owned by Suzanne Rittler, MD. Originally purchased from the Walkers as a yearling by Renee DiClemente, FL, Brisk has a background of good training, but had been idle for two years when Suzanne first saw him in July, 2010. "Brisk had been eating four meals a day and supplemented with mangoes, bananas, and kiwis," reports Phoebe. "He was so overweight that the vet called him a tripod in the pre-purchase exam. But after trying over 30 horses in Florida, Suzanne saw something special in him and took the risk that he would come back into shape and be a good partner for her." Unfortunately, Suzanne had