equestrian lifestyle COLLECTING THOUGHTS

THE BASICS

NAME: Becky Gochman

AGE: 55

BUSINESS: Baxter Hill, LLC

THE FUN STUFF

DO YOU HAVE ANY NICKNAMES?

I don't have any now, but when I lived in Texas I did. Fellow equestrians would call me "Pick-Pick" because I would complain about using my hands too much to find my hunter distances. I liked having it because it reminded me to keep my hands quiet and it was fun.

WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO?

I look up to everyone who is riding over the age of 60 and beyond. That is my goal!

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPER POWER, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would love to have another set of eyes that could magically watch my kids ride in classes that I can't make it to because I'm showing in another ring.

DO YOU HAVE ANY LUCKY CHARMS?

In a small open box in my tack trunk I have a crystal, a plastic pig, and a glass ladybug. I am not sure why, but I think these bring some luck!

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU GET HOME AFTER A LONG DAY?

I love to take an Epsom salt bath with a little bit of lavender essential oil. This is relaxing and replaces lost magnesium in the body.

WHAT IS ONE THING IN YOUR FIRST AID KIT THAT YOU COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT?

Oregano oil is something I like to have on hand. It is a natural antibiotic that helps with wounds, colds, sinus infections, etc.

IF YOU WEREN'T IN THE HORSE INDUSTRY, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING?

I recently opened a healthy food court and sustainable fashion boutique at the Winter Equestrian Festival called Farm Stand. As my kids are growing up, this gives me something else to focus on which hopefully gives back to the community.

WHAT IS ON YOUR RIDING BUCKET LIST?

I am now experimenting with riding in the jumper divisions. While the hunters will always be my special thing, I would love to compete in the low amateur jumpers sometime soon.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HORSE MOVIE?

Harry and Snowman by my friend Ron Davis is great. It shows that anything is possible.

WHAT WAS YOUR WORST FALL OFF A HORSE?

When I was a teenager my friend and I were cantering, riding double on a packed dirt road. We both fell off together, and she landed on top of me! We were both okay, but very sore. I think that is when I had my first Epsom salt bath.

WHAT IS YOUR FONDEST HORSE MEMORY WITH YOUR DAUGHTERS?

My fondest memory is when they were about six and eight. We would drive to the barn after dinner and let them ride around bareback and just play with their ponies.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING A MOM?

I love watching my kids grow with both failures and successes. When they make their own good decisions without our help, I know we have done our job.

OUTSIDE OF RIDING, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PASTIME WITH YOUR DALIGHTERS?

Our family loves to ski, travel, and play ping-pong together.

DO YOU HAVE ANY MOTHER'S DAY TRADITIONS?

Sometimes I get breakfast in bed, and I always receive handmade Mother's Day cards, which hold a special place in my heart.

Becky Gochman

Becky started riding when she was eight years old and became a horse owner at age 11. She competed in local New Jersey horse shows and was active in a 4-H club, before riding in rated shows while training with Sandy Lobel.

Becky's career highlights include the Grand Amateur-Owner Hunter Championship at the Devon Horse Show with Empire and Catch Me, Grand Champion at the Capital Challenge Horse Show with Sambalino and Catch Me, Grand Champion with Last Call at the Washington International Horse Show, and Champion at The National Horse Show with Catch Me. She was the World Champion Hunter Rider Amateur-Owner Rider of the Year in 2015 and 2017. Recently, Becky has also started showing in the adult jumpers. She and her husband, David, enjoy watching their children and Amanda Derbyshire compete.

