

Ginger Schinktgen was raised on a dairy farm in Sturgeon Bay. Her mom and dad had always wanted horses but as children their parents wouldn't allow. Ginger's dad filled the horse void with oxen that he trained to drive and would participate in parades. Her parents got married and took over the family farm and it was time for horses. Every kind, Drafts, Mules, Arabians, you name it they had it. Gingers horse education started at birth almost being born in a stage coach in a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade! Her first pony's name was Trixie a Shetland pony that was handed down from her sister. She would rider her down the isles in the dairy barn. Ginger grew a little and it was time to go on pony adventures around the neighborhood and participate in parades. Riding lessons started and 4-H became her first venue.

Ginger was introduced to saddleseat at a 4-H show when she was 9. That's where she first spotted Ooh La La. A Hackney pony that was ridden saddleseat and she was fancy!!! To make a long story short Ginger's dad was the one who bought her and the rest was history. That same year she was introduced to the Saddlebred and it wasn't long before Ginger had a Hackney and Saddlebred. The next 9 years Ginger showed in 4-H, open shows and had made her way up to the class A Saddlebred and Arabian shows.

It was time for college. Ginger attended Marian University and graduated with a major in communication. Ginger became a professional horse trainer in 2000. She worked at Royal Crest farm for 2 years. At the time Royal Crest was one of the largest breeders of American Saddlebreds in the Mid-West. Ginger broke colts and learned how to develop show horses in large quantities. Lots of numbers of horses meant lots of lessons learned and they were wild ones!

Ginger became certified in therapeutic Riding and taught at Free Spirit Riders. She taught there for 12 years along with teaching at REINS. Throughout Gingers professional career the special need riders have kept her grounded while running a show barn.

Ginger opened De Equus Stable in 2002 and started her business. During that time she developed horse and riders to go on and win tittles at our national world championships in huntseat, saddleseat, western, working western and roadster pony driving. Judging horse shows is also a love of hers. Ginger has judged school shows to class "A" American Saddlebred shows. This year she has been given the opportunity to judge a draft show!

After 10 years leasing a barn it was time for ownership. Forward Farm was purchased in 2010. Renovations and remodel were completed and it was time to bring in the horses! Forward Farm is the top riding academy in the Manitowoc area. In the months June through August Forward Farm will provide lessons to over 1,000 riders! Most of the riders are new to the horse world. Forward Farm specializes in lessons, special need lessons, camps, groups, horse shows, retreats and raising their own prospects to show. Forward Farm is operated by Ginger and her assistant and riding instructor Lisa Simonis. The farm has a Dream Team of just over 10 lessons horses. The Dream Team consists of Percherons, Hackneys, Saddlebreds a Welch pony and even a Mule. Forward Farm also operates out of Rainbow Ridge Farm in Sturgeon Bay (Ginger's home farm) multiple times a year for camps and retreats.

Ginger and her husband have 2 little boys who love to ride and enjoy growing up on a Farm. Ginger's husband has been a part of her crazy animal adventures and supports her even if there is a goat in his car once in a while... Ginger is excited to share her knowledge and learn from more horse crazy people like her!