



## A Conversation with Laina Summers of Bayview Farm

Seattle native Laina Summers is the head trainer and founder of Bayview Farm, a premier hunter-jumper training program based in Kirkland, Washington. After growing up in the pony hunters and progressing through the junior equitation and jumper ranks, Laina earned a B.Sc. with Honors from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland before moving to Belgium, where she gained hands-on experience in the European system through breeding, young horse development, sales, and showing. After returning to the U.S., she worked for top hunter-jumper barns in the Pacific Northwest before starting Bayview Farm.

I recently had the chance to catch up with Laina to learn more about the successful program she has built at Bayview. After seeing her compete at Desert Horse Park and knowing the reputation of her horses in the show ring, I was excited to speak with her about the foundation behind her program, her approach to developing horses and riders, and the thoughtful care that goes into creating consistent success.

At Bayview, Laina and her team focus on individualized training, thoughtful horse

care, and long-term development for riders and horses, from beginners to the Grand Prix ring.

**HORSE & STYLE:** *What is the philosophy behind Bayview Farm?*

**LAINA SUMMERS:** The philosophy behind Bayview farm is, first and foremost, love your horse. Secondly, we've found that it is so important to treat this sport as exactly what it is: a sport. This helps the staff team, clients and owners have a unified vision of how we approach horse and rider mentality, training, and competition. Happy horses, happy riders that are prepared and hungry to perform their best. These two elements are what makes our program not only successful in the show ring, but encourages all of our riders to be quality, curious horsemen both in and out of the tack.

**H&S:** *What makes Bayview's approach to training unique?*

**LAINA:** Our program works to treat each animal as an individual. We do this by breaking the narrative of making each horse fit into the same training box/routine.

Instead, we work with each horse and rider combination to find the "box" that best suits them. This comes from listening to the horses and ensuring that they can meet us where they are, and creating the platform for success off that. Some thrive on repetition of exercises, some need a lot of novelty. They are just as different as we are!

**H&S:** *How does Bayview Farm support the care and performance of each horse?*

**LAINA:** We work with a multitude of specialized professionals, similar to an F1 racing team. From bi-annual lameness exams on all of our competition horses, to shoeing as needed, to chiropractic, dental, nutrition, and body work, we have a team of experts to help our horses stay feeling their best. We have an expert staff that handle the horses both at home and at the show. It's incredibly important to have continuity of care, so we try to keep as much "in house" as possible. We manage each horse's records with a database. This creates one place that allows us to pick up on patterns and details that can be critical to supporting that horse.

**H&S:** *Bayview also works with sales,*



investments, and young horse development. What does that program look like?

LAINA: Here at Bayview Farm, we love developing horses into what they want to be. We have had sales horses come to us green and untried and end up at the top of the sport. Others become fantastic amateur horses. Clear as Day is a personal favorite Bayview alumni, sold to Balmoral and is now a winning conformation hunter at shows like Pennsylvania National. We love producing young jumpers as well. We have a client horse, Cheerio BAIE, who came to us as a three-year-old, and won the Crooks Showjumping Four-year-old Final at Thunderbird Show Park; and then had top finishes with his amateur owner as a five-year-old. We have had other investment horses that worked their way through the young jumper pipeline from the 1.10m jumpers to successful finishes in the 10-and-under Futurity classes at Desert International Horse Park. We are so excited to see what they do next!

H&S: What do you hope riders and owners feel when they are part of Bayview Farm?

LAINA: We hope that our riders feel inspired and challenged every day. Growth comes just on the other side of the comfort zone. We believe that success is built on hard work and determination, and we aim to support each rider through their individual goals. From your first horse show, to your first night class and everything in between, Bayview is here to ensure that you are successful, competitive, and having fun along the journey. For our owners, it is a privilege to be entrusted with their horses and investment. We approach ownership as a collaboration, so owners are part of the horse's development process, and we stay aligned in care and goals.

H&S: What is at the heart of Bayview Farm?

LAINA: At the heart of Bayview Farm is a deep love for the horse. We value putting the horse's well-being, partnership, and

spirit at the center of everything we do. We believe growth comes from staying hungry to learn, curious enough to ask questions and explore new ideas, and humble enough to know there is always more to understand.

The horse will always be our greatest teacher. Those values shape not only how we ride and train, but how we support each other both in and out of the tack.

After talking with Laina, it is easy to see why Bayview Farm has earned such a strong reputation. Her program is guided by a genuine love for the horse, a deep respect for each horse and rider as individuals, and a clear passion for developing confident, capable partnerships.

Whether producing young horses, supporting amateur riders, or competing at the highest levels, Laina and her team continue to show that success begins with thoughtful care, hard work, and putting the horse first. H&S

