

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Steeplechase Benefits Blue Ridge Hospice **Blue Ridge Fall Races Sets Date for Second Running**

Organizers of the Blue Ridge Fall Races, benefiting Blue Ridge Hospice, have set the date for this year's steeplechase for Saturday, September 20, at Mr. and Mrs. Herb Jonkers' Woodley Farm south of Berryville. Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Hunt, the race meet features timber, hurdle, and flat races, including a pony race this year.

Valley Equine Associates of Ranson, WVA is again the event's premier sponsor. Additional sponsors of the 2007 inaugural event included: Wiseman & Associates Financial Services, Yount, Hyde & Barbour, American National, Omega Drywall, Southern Health, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Smith, Bank of Clarke County, Carroll Construction, Lodge Construction, Winchester Emergency Room Physicians, Valley Health, Shockey, and Budweiser Select.

Berryville area resident Melanie Marks of Wiseman & Associates Financial Services in Winchester, also a Blue Ridge Hunt member, is co-chairing the races with Michael E. Hoffman of White Post, a New York investment banker, Blue Ridge Hunt member, and former steeplechase rider.

"We're very excited to present this annual signature event for Blue Ridge Hospice," said Marks, whose company is a major corporate sponsor. She noted last year's races raised \$53,000, and added, "I'm proud to be part of this exciting new community event supporting Blue Ridge Hospice and its compassionate services for terminally ill patients and their families." Funds from this year's races will support Blue Ridge Hospice's residential centers.

Numerous sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available to businesses and individuals. Sponsor packages include tents, catered food, race naming opportunities, and numerous other benefits. Additional information is available by visiting www.blueridgefallraces.com. For sponsorship information contact Melanie Marks, 540-722-6403, mmarks@wisemanandassociates.com or Nancy Craun, 540-667-5956, nancy@EncoreEventPartners.com,

Background on Blue Ridge Hospice and Blue Ridge Hunt:

Blue Ridge Hospice:

Serving an eight-county area that includes Clarke, Frederick, Loudoun, Fauquier, Page, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the City of Winchester, Blue Ridge Hospice works with terminally ill patients and their families to bring quality care to those affected by death, dying, and loss. Visit www.blueridgehospice.org

Blue Ridge Hunt:

An English emigré, Archibald Bevan, helped to organize the Blue Ridge Hunt in 1888, and he served as its first Master. William Bell Watkins, Alexander Mackay-Smith, and Mrs. George (Judy) Greenhalgh, Jr. were among the Hunt's most influential Masters of the 20th century. The current Masters—Mrs. Harry (Doris) Stimpson, III, Mrs. Wayne (Linda) Armbrust, and

Mrs. William (Anne) McIntosh—have built upon the dedication and know-how of their predecessors and today field a successful pack of English and crossbred foxhounds.