

Ray Wargacki (Rayboks) —Hoof Redevelopment Specialist

TESTIMONIALS

Please check back monthly we will be adding photos, videos and new testimonials. Some of the horses mentioned have never taken a lame step but with proper shoeing are capable of performing to their great potential and protecting them from injuries or lameness in the future.

I was referred to Ray 2 years ago but was afraid of change. In January 2008, I had the opportunity to have Ray evaluate and shoe 2 of my horses. The first horse he shod for me he asked me why I had pads on the front feet. I remarked he has always had pads on the front feet and I tried to take them off several times in the past and he would go completely lame. This gelding has 2 white legs in the front and even with the pads he consistently had bruising on both fronts and sometimes even abscesses.. Ray assured me he didn't need the pads. My eyes got huge and filled with tears. Ray told me if he wasn't sound he'd put them back on. I trusted him. He reset my gelding and he jogged down my blacktop aisle ears forward and never missed a beat. I was totally amazed. Since this time not only does he not have pads but he hasn't had any abscess or bruising and is completely sound.

Ray started on my next gelding. This gelding was my show horse. I've had him since he was 2 and know when I bought him he had good feet under him. He is now 9 and has been in training for 7 years that I owned him with several different farriers. His feet looked awful. One front looked clubby the other front looked dishd and he even looked like he was over at the knees. When I first met Ray in January he looked at his feet and told me exactly what I was feeling when I rode him. (At the time, I was to the point that no bit was fixing the problem.) The only time he would stay in frame was with draw reins. After all this training he would fade in and out, was not consistent at any gate and I was getting totally frustrated. After the first set of shoes with Ray, it was totally amazing. My horse was underneath me, he wasn't dropping his shoulders, and was giving me 110% both ways of the ring. It's been 10 months now and each time he gets better and better (mentally and physically) I figure it took him 7 years of farriers to get like this so my patient level is extremely high. I am seeing and feeling the greatest feeling in the world. There is no doubt in my mind that Ray's shoeing techniques have made both of my geldings more solid moving. This is the first year I have not had any vet bills for x-rays and diagnoses or medications. By the way the second gelding for 2 years fought supposedly kerititus. I was told it was stress related. Since using Ray he has had no new symptoms and is off all medications which were \$300.00 per month and the 2 white spots in his eye are completely gone. I can't say enough for what Ray has done for the quality of life my horses have now and will have in the future.

Thank you so much Ray (Rayboks),
Linda C. Griswold

I met Ray at a friends' barn in 2005. I had heard he "worked magic" on horses feet. I stood next to him while he was working on a horses feet, asking several questions as to why, how, and what for? His answers were not only logical, but the way he explained each and every question made perfect sense! I admired him because not only did he explain everything, he physically showed me the differences on a horse. Whether it was a distorted hair line, or a worn shoe pattern that wasn't level, or the structure of the horses legs, he took the time for me to understand, and to make each horse he worked on comfortable. The moment I found total respect for him was when he told me "There's no such thing as corrective shoeing. Its shoeing a horse correctly".

When I was looking for a new show horse, I had found one that I fell in love with but he had severe hoof issues. He was mule footed, had very little hoof to work with, was way too high on his heels, and instead of his foot bellung out from the top of the hoof down, it slanted in. My decision of purchasing this horse relied on Ray being the farrier for him. After we talked, he agreed to work on my horse. The first time, he hacked nearly 3" of heel from his hind end. I almost died! I thought for sure this man was a loud crazy lunatic who knew nothing about pleasure horses. He must have sensed my thoughts, when he explained, he would rather have the horse sore once, and let muscle memory set in correctly, than have him sore 3 times if he were to take an inch at a time over 3 trims. I let him do his thing, and he spent a remarkable amount of time with my gelding. He would wait, and let his hoof settle before going to another foot. He wanted to see the horse move, before, and after each hoof. After being shod, he had me crawl on my gelding and ride him around. The difference, after one shoe job, was amazing! My horse for the first time, floated. He was underneath himself, he dispensed his weight more evenly, and moved more correct than ever! We have made major improvements in the past 3 show seasons, and his hair lines are now correct, and the horse stands calm for the farrier now, instead of thinking its going to hurt. We could not be as successful as we are today in the show pen, without Rayboks!

Another gelding, my brothers 9 yr old Palamino rope horse, who had recently been retired due to a diagnosis of high ring bone is another success story of Rayboks. I spoke with Ray about the diagnosis, and of the heart this horse had. He loved his job, and even though he hurt, he would go out there and track steers better than sound horses! Ray started working on the yellow horse, and he went from pasture pony, to back in the roping pen. With a joint supplement, Ray providing the ability for the horse to be comfortable, and a little maintenance, the yellow horse is no longer gimpy, and can get back to enjoying his cows.

I respect him as a professional, and appreciate him as a friend. I have learned a lot about hoof care, and the actions and reactions, that we as horse owners sometimes overlook. He genuinely cares for each horse that he crawls under. His ability, devotion, and pure heart make Ray a great farrier!

Ray's track record is one to be proud of. His customers are happy, and more importantly, the horses are happy and comfortable. Whether its in a Western Pleasure pen, running a reining pattern, on the rodeo circuit, running down the race track, or looking for a jump on a cross country course, his horses can perform to the best of their natural ability.

Thanks Ray!

~Lauren L. McCambridge

It has been well over 3 years since I pulled out of the vet's facility and couldn't see the road through my tears. I pulled into a rest area hoping to collect myself and wrap my head around this nightmare. I called my husband, "He's done", I said. I explained what Doc had told me....."We should be able to maintain him for this season, if we're lucky, maybe two." Doc injected his knees, hocks and navicular bones, seemed like every joint the poor horse had, he got poked. "He's navicular, which we know, but, he's got a hard job and he is 15. Time has taken it's toll, Dawn." I was devastated.

I bought Lil Ronnies Brother about 3 years before that trip to Docs. We were well on our way to making a name for ourselves in the barrel racing world. Brother had many championships under his belt, and I had big dreams for this horse. Besides being a great athlete, he was a total gentleman, the complete package. They say we all have "the one" out there somewhere for us, well I finally had him.

From the time I bought Brother, his feet were our biggest problem. He would twist out of shoes constantly, which in turn required more holes in his non-existent hoof wall. Along with the fact he was flat footed and abscessed constantly, his front right was also crooked below the knee and he landed on his outside. I spent more time doctoring abscesses than I did riding. After going through some highly recommended farriers, my husband suggested I call Ray. He has been a good friend of my husbands family for years. I was clinging to hope that someone could help this horse. I knew something just wasn't right, but I couldn't pin point it, and it was getting worse. Brother started bulking when we were entering the alley, he would ring his tail while we were running and just wasn't firing like he should. He was hurting, but no one could pin point the source. I had several different vets, chiropractors, dentists and nutritional advisors that I had collaborated with. No one could narrow the problem down. After Ray came on board, he did make many improvements. We weren't loosing shoes and the abscesses began to decrease in numbers. But, we were still stumped. That is what led me to that particular vet I mentioned. He came highly recommended and specialized in performance horses.

So, a few months after our prognosis, Ray told me he was going to meet with Martin and he was going to tell him about Brother and see what he thought. After spending some time with Martin, Ray came back to the barn and was truly excited. He thought he might be able to help Brother. As I listened to him explaining this method of hoof reconstruction, I wanted to be excited, but I kept thinking "maybe two seasons, he's done." Ray said that I would have to commit to this. Every 4 weeks we were to reset. I was skeptical, but I thought what else did I have to loose? I started to see a difference immediately. After Ray would trim one foot, Brother would plant it square under him. No more pointing, no more tugging on Ray when he had to stand on 3 legs. After we finished the first trim, we turned Brother out in the indoor and he wouldn't leave Ray's side! I was shocked. Brother only did that with me. Ray was laughing and started to walk around the arena in circles and figure eights, and Brother was right behind his every step. By the second reset I had a new horse. Brother was eager to enter the arena, trying to run out from under me at times. He had flattened his running style back out and was hunting his barrels again! No more tail ringing and he was back to stopping the clock and getting in the money.

I was happy with the results, but wasn't completely sure this was the reason for the cure. The time came when Brother was due for his next injections. We decided to wait and see how he would continue to work with out the "maintenance" shots. He just kept running harder and winning more barrel races. Brother is now 18 as of 3 weeks ago and he is out running his times from 6 years ago. This past summer he was ridden by an amateur youth. He has out run some of the best barrel horses on the east coast. Coming in third out of over 200 head at the Tri-State Classic behind the great Joe B Jammin, a multiple World Champion Barrel

Horse and multiple Quarter Horse Congress Sweepstakes Champion, with second being taken by Idaho Doc's Gold (aka Mighty Mouse), multiple WPRA money winner and who is now being offered for sale at \$90,000. Many of Brother's wins can be verified at www.ibra.us/shows/oh. Brother also placed 9th at the All American Quarter Horse Congress out of over 200 horses. All of these accomplishments have been achieved with no injections or invasive procedures as was done before. The only thing that has changed in Brother's training program has been the hoof reconstruction. People are in shock when I tell them that my 18 year old barrel horse doesn't so much as stock up after being stalled for a week with only shavings to cover the concrete while at Congress.

After all of this, people are still skeptical of this process. The competitor in me doesn't mind though. With Ray's help, Brother and I will continue to collect our winnings and I will continue to tell our story. I will never be able to express my appreciation enough to Ray or Martin for what they have done for Brother. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for verification of results at lilronniesbrother@verizon.net.

Dawn McElhane