



June 2018

Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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Rutledge Farm Hosts the Olympic Sessions Featuring Attwood Equestrian Surfaces

What do McLain Ward, Chris Kappler, Will Simpson, and Leslie Burr-Howard all have in common besides Olympic medals? They will all be teaching at Rutledge Farm, in Middleburg, Virginia over the course of the next 6 months.



Leslie Burr-Howard
Mid-November 2018



McLain Ward
June 6, 2018



Chris Kappler
November 2-4, 2018



Will Simpson
August 2018

Rutledge Farm's owner Aleco Bravo said, "2018 is going to be an exciting year for us as we debut our Olympic Gold Medalists equestrian clinic series. It's a one of a kind opportunity to train with some of the world's most elite high performance riders.

We intend for the clinics to be held in Rutledge Farm's outdoor arena. If the weather is just right, then we might even do it on one of Rutledge Farm's Grand Prix field. If the weather forces us to go indoors, then the clinic will be in Rutledge Farm's indoor arena. Both arenas have premiere, state-of-the-art Attwood Equestrian Surfaces footing. We are offering riders a truly world-class training experience."

The first clinic will feature McLain Ward who won the Gold Medal at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games, in Athens, as part of the United States team, in Team Jumping, together with Peter Wylde, Beezie Madden, and Chris Kappler. He continued to compete as an Olympian, again winning a Gold Medal, as part of the United States team, in Team Jumping, at the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games, along with Laura Kraut, Beezie Madden, and Will Simpson. At the 2016 Olympic Games, in Rio de Janeiro, McLain won a Silver Medal, as part of the United States team, in Team Jumping, along with Kent Farrington, Lucy Davis, and Beezie Madden. Additionally, McLain has earned two Pan Am Games Gold Medals, as well as a bronze. 2017, McLain won the Gold Medal, at the FEI World Championships, in Omaha, Nebraska.

“This is a unique opportunity to showcase our footing to the some of the very best riders in the world,” said Nick Attwood, President of Attwood Equestrian Surfaces. “We’ve been helping Aleco make his vision of a world-class training facility become a reality. This is going to be awesome!”
For further information on clinic dates, registration and auditing please go to www.OlympicSessions.com.

Harrie Smolders shines!



(CNN) - Defending overall champion Harrie Smolders booked his spot at the inaugural Longines Super Grand Prix at the end of the season by taking the title in Hamburg. The Dutchman and his stallion Don VHP Z outpaced rising German star Maurice Tebbel on Chacco Boy and Swiss star Martin Fuchs with Chaplin to win the latest leg of the Longines Global Champions Tour.

His win in Hamburg means Smolders, who dominated the 2017 LGCT season, qualified for the inaugural Longines Super Grand Prix in Prague at the end of the season.

"I am very pleased with that. I only did two Globals so far, but we will for sure be there at St Tropez and Cannes and hopefully, we can climb up the leaderboard."

The next leg of the LGCT takes place in St. Tropez, France from May 31 through June 2. After five legs of the 16-leg competition, Britain's Scott Brash remains in the lead in the overall standings with 131 points after Edwina Tops-Alexander failed the qualify for the jump-off. The Australian is lying in second place with 119 points, followed by Ben Maher, also from Britain, with 103 points.

Both Brash and Tops-Alexander are trying to become the first rider to win the overall LGCT championship three times.

For the entire article, please visit this [link](#).

Attwood creates a new arena to accommodate the expanding competition



New Attwood arena for Stable View being installed. Photo courtesy of Nick Attwood.

With the addition of a CIC3*, CIC2* and CIC1* to the Stable View Advanced Oktoberfest Horse Trials this fall, Attwood Equestrian Surfaces is busy creating a new arena to accommodate the expanding competition. Tucked in between the covered arena and the “Silva” arena on the north side of the property, the new arena will also be incorporated into the cross country course design by Mark Phillips.

“It’s pretty heady how much has changed since we first came here to do the footing for the covered arena (Pinnacle) just a few years ago. Since then we have installed another 125,000 plus square feet of footing. The property just keeps expanding!” said Nick Attwood, president of AES. “Barry Olliff has quite a vision for his farm. Working with Mark, Richard Jeffries, Barry ... it’s a game changer for the town of Aiken when you have this ‘A’ list team of people to work with.”

And the footing? A custom blend of EuroTex, made specifically for Stable View. EuroTex is a unique composition of Geopad felt and Cleff elasticated fibers combined with specially selected sand. The sand selection is very important taking in account climate and the amount of use the arena will see. The result is a stunningly consistent footing that provides just enough cushion, just enough grip, creating a truly safe surface. EuroTex is also the footing used in the “Silva” arena and the Attwood International Competition Arena.

Read more at the [link](#).

Footing Facts: June 2018

Equestrian Sand

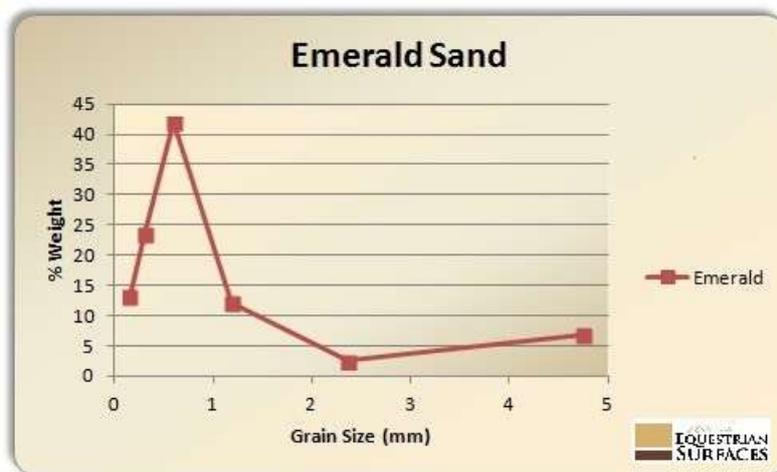
Towards the start of our regular series Footing Facts about four years ago, we took a look at one of the most important components in an equestrian arena, sand. We make no apologies for re-visiting this vital aspect this month because we see so many very expensive mistakes made by customers who have not researched this area.

Most modern equestrian and racing surfaces are based on sand. There are a multitude of surface variants utilising additives such as tyre scrap, and shredded carpet, and coatings such as wax or Attwood’s unique polymers. However the major component is always sand, and many people just don’t realise how significant the sand can be in contributing to the properties of the surface. Many suppliers will cut corners by supplying a surface based on a totally unsuitable, but probably cheap, sand.



The Oxford English Dictionary describes sand as: “a loose granular substance, typically pale yellowish brown, resulting from the erosion of siliceous and other rocks and forming a major constituent of beaches, river beds, the seabed, and deserts.” The key word here is siliceous which means silicon in origin, and in the case of sand refers to silicon dioxide or silica. This is a very hard material that gives good quality sand its hard-wearing properties. But notice also that sand can be derived from other rocks, and this is where lower quality sand comes in. A common alternative rock is calcium carbonate which is a significantly softer material than silica and will easily crush to form finer and finer particles. Scientific measures of Absolute Hardness give a value of 100 to silica, whilst calcium carbonate has a value of only 9.

Typically, sand is a mixture of minerals, but the highest quality sand is composed mainly of silica - usually greater than 95%. Other minerals can give sand its colour such as iron oxide which yields a yellow/brown colour.



A second characteristic of sand is the grain size distribution. Grains can vary in size from around 2mm, down to 0.063mm - particles smaller than this are classified as ‘silt’. Particle size has a profound influence on footing properties.

For instance, bigger grains tend to drain well because the spaces between them are large, and the route down through a layer of sand is less tortuous. However large grains can drain water so well that a footing will dry out too quickly and require excessive watering. Also clearly not all grains will be the same size and the spread of sizes also influences surface properties.

A third characteristic is the grain shape. A classification based on the visual appearance of grains under a microscope is used to describe average grain shape. Two attributes are checked, the sphericity, i.e. how round the grain is, and the angularity, i.e. how smooth the surface is.

						High Sphericity	
							Medium Sphericity
							Low Sphericity
Very Angular	Angular	Sub-Angular	Sub-Rounded	Rounded	Well Rounded		

The shape of the grains also has a large bearing on the way a footing behaves. This is because the grains rub against each other as the surface is compressed by the hoof, and so frictional properties are important in providing the correct level of support and cushioning.

At Attwood Equestrian Surfaces we are experts on sand, and only specify sand that will impart the desired properties and lifetime to a surface. When you talk to footing manufacturers and suppliers, make sure you ask plenty of questions about the sand - it is a vital component!

Green Footing: Product Profile

Our footings are now available in a green shade. This 'Green Pinnacle' as we refer to it has all the properties of our high performing Pinnacle footing. Additionally, the colour resists fading and does not wash out in rain.

Because our Green Pinnacle contains very pure fibres and polymeric coating, and no carpet scrap or recycled rubber which turns the footing black, we believe we are the only company capable of supplying a quality green product that will remain green throughout its life.

Product HighLights :

- Green Pinnacle now available
- Same exceptional properties as regular Pinnacle
- Attractive natural green colour
- Helps in cases of difficult local planning restrictions
- Green TerraNova and Eurotex in the pipeline



Focus on Green Footings:

When we developed our Green Pinnacle footing, one property we knew at the outset it should have, is that the green colour should not wash out in the rain. This was a challenge since our Pinnacle footing is used outdoors in wet climates, and the constant abrasion of sand and fibres could easily lead to loss of the colour. To simulate these conditions we adapted a test we developed many years ago to measure the longevity or lifetime of coated surfaces. The test inflicts the type of wear suffered by outdoor footing subject to the vagaries of weather, in regular use for many years, but

takes place in the lab in a manageable timeframe. Thanks to the test we have been able to prove that the Green Pinnacle product we have developed does not lose any of its colour over the typical lifetime of Pinnacle footing.

Our Social Media Channels



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You can also contact us at info@equestriansurfaces.com, info@attwood.in and enquiries@aesurfaces.co.uk.

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Attwood Equestrian Surfaces provides meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit both the horse and the rider

