

Co-owner of Brentwood Stables dies

11/30/04

Richard E. Backer III, co-owner of Brentwood Stables, home of the Alfred University equestrian program, died unexpectedly Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004. Dick and his wife, Becky, who is the AU equestrian team coach and an instructor in physical education, have owned the Angelica, NY, stables since 1990. While Becky coached and taught riding, Dick helped to manage the farm and stables. Born January 19, 1946 in Dover, NJ, Dick Backer was the son of Richard E. and Betty Morse Backer. He married the former Daphne R. "Becky" Hammond on May 16, 1970, in Ithaca, NY. A graduate of Ithaca, NY, High School, Dick received his bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and for several years worked in the advertising department of the American Agriculturalist magazine, and then as an equipment salesman for New Idea farm machinery in Central New York. The family has resided at 2 South Street in Belfast, NY, for a number of years. Dick was a past member of the Belfast Volunteer Fire Department and a past member of the Farm Bureau. He was an avid reader and loved to hunt and fish. In addition to his parents and his wife, Dick is survived by a son, Joseph D. Backer, and a daughter, D. Gretchen Backer, both of Belfast; two brothers, Joseph William (Roxanna) Backer of Castile, NY, and Jeffrey A. (Allison) Backer of Atlanta, GA; two sisters, Karen Lynn (Edmund) Dellert of Ithaca and Susan (Jeffrey) VanDeCar of Hinsdale, NY; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, Richard E. Backer IV. Friends may call at the Treusdell Funeral Home on Main Street in Belfast from 2-4 and 7-9 pm Tuesday. Services will be held at the funeral home at 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 1, 2004. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Belfast. Memorial gifts in Dick Backer's name may be made to the Belfast Rescue Squad. Condolences may be sent to Becky Backer, 2 South Street, Belfast, NY 14711.