



Let's Drive !

June, 2023



Delmarva Driving Club,
Inc

Bits and Pieces—Club Information

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Combined driving (also known as horse driving trials) is an equestrian sport that has three phases: dressage, cross-country marathon and obstacle cone driving, and is most similar to the mounted equestrian sport of eventing. On June 2nd thru 4th Fair Hill Maryland was the site of the Elk Creek CT (Combined Test which includes only Dressage and Cones) and a HDT (Horse Driving Trial) which features Dressage, Cones, and a Marathon. The marathon is the most thrilling phase to watch. There are obstacles or "hazards" throughout the course to test the speed and agility of the horses, and the driving ability of the whip. Obstacles may include water, tight twists through trees or man-made obstacles, and various types of terrain. Drivers are scored on how quickly they can negotiate the obstacle by finding the fastest route. Penalty points are given if too much time is spent in an obstacle or if the team does not make the preset optimum time for the whole course (however the marathon is not a race for speed). The DDC was well represented at this event and Congratulations go to: For the CT (Combined Test), Marcy Eades driving Aslan took 3rd Place in the Preliminary Single Pony; John Layton driving Eris K took 4th Place in the Preliminary Single Horse; Judith Hartman won 1st Place in Training Single Pony with Copper Beach and her pony named Severn Rainbow scored a 2nd Place in Intermediate Single Pony with Claire Lacey driving; Kate Pantelione driving Maui won 1st Place in Training Single VSE; and James Wood took a 5th Place in Training Single Horse in Dressage (unfortunately he was eliminated in the Cones). In the HDT (Horse Driving Trail), Katelin McConkey Cook drove Freya in the Training Single Pony (they performed well, but unfortunately they were eliminated); John Layton took 5th Place in Preliminary Single Horse and Josh Gale won 4th Place in Training Single Horse with GW Brute. Helen Heinzer drove in the Training Single Horse with her Morgan, but unfortunately she was eliminated. Linda Thomas was the navigator for Pam Hess in Preliminary Single Pony and they took 2nd Place with Wowzer.

Attention!!

* DDC Board Meeting on **Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting is open to the Membership—members may speak on a subject, but they may not vote. This will be a Zoom Meeting—look for an invitation one week prior.



Elk Creek CT and HDT, cont.



Marcy Eades and Aslan



Kate Pantelione grooming for Suzy Stafford



Judith Hartman and Claire Lacey with Judith's Welsh Ponies



Erin and Josh Gale with GW



John Layton driving Eris K



James Wood with Zeus

The Devon Horse Show

Sunday, May 28th was a great day for the Devon Horse Show Carriage Marathon in Devon, PA. The Show, in its 127th year, is a charitable event that benefits Bryn Mawr Hospital and is the oldest and largest outdoor multi-breed horse show in the United States. The Carriage Marathon is an approximately 4 mile drive through the streets surrounding the Devon Horse Show grounds. The drive starts at St. David's Church and concludes at the famous Dixon Oval. This year the DDC was well represented! Congratulations to: Mary and Ken Lehberger who entered the Horse, Two Wheeled Division. Ken drove Big Ronda to a 3rd Place win; Jane Oehler drove her pony, Skyes the Limit, to a 4 Wheeled cart and won 4th Place; and George Clardy drove his Highland Pony Pair to a 2nd Place finish.



**George Clardy and his
Highland Ponies**



Ken Lehberger driving Big Ronda



**Jane Oehler and her Florida Cracker
Pony named Skyes the Limit**



Members Out and About



Shannon Gandee and Beau



Linda Thomas and Nick

Caitlyn Reardon and Archie



Charlie Purnell and Olive Oyl



Members Out and About



Martha Duchnowski



Josh Gale and Brutus at Gladstone



Phoebe Drury and Brooke Baker in the Rusty Rider Class at the DEC Show



Michele Brauning and her pair hitched to a Doctor's Buggy





Sunshine Corner

The Sunshine Corner is Back! It was established to express congratulations, sympathy or concern to members of our Club in the event of illness, bereavement or milestone events. Frances Baker has graciously volunteered to be our Sunshine Coordinator—if you know of someone needing “Sunshine”, please contact Frances at 302-381-2979 or email her at francesbaker65@gmail.com. This month **Sunshine** has been sent to:

Thinking of you/Get Well Wishes were sent to: Billy Klein who is undergoing some medical testing/procedures; Erin and Josh Gale who were in a truck accident (they were hit by a drunk driver—they are OK, but their truck didn't make it)

Congratulations were sent to: Jess and Rainier Tanglao on the birth of their son, Rainier III; Tammy Carpenter and Michele Brauning have new members to their families through weddings—Tammy gained a daughter-in-law and Michele gained a son-in-law. Christinia Dayton-Wall welcomed a new equine member to her family—a foal named Eli

Sympathy was sent to: Carol Seiler on the loss of her 18 year old cat named Boo Kitty



From Donna Hurst: Thank you to all my DDC family for your thoughts and prayers. I very much appreciate all, and would like you to continue. I'm hoping to be more involved with our Driving Club and see everyone soon!

Welcome New Members!

Madeline Kurz is originally from Montana and has relocated to Denton, MD where she is the Assistant Trainer at Tanglao Carriage Driving. She comes from an extensive equine background with experience especially in Preliminary Eventing (Dressage and Jumping 4 feet). She specializes in breaking young horses and working with horses that have had bad experiences and prides herself in building strong foundations on young ones and giving them positive life experiences.



Jane Oehler is from Skippack, PA and drives a Florida Cracker Pony named Skyes the Limit. She loves Pleasure Driving and frequently competes—most recently at the DDC Show and Devon Horse Show.

Alex Driscoll is a Junior Member from Westampton, NJ. She loves riding, especially eventing, however she has recently been exposed to the world of driving through John and Colleen Layton. She even drove in her first HDT (Horse Driving Trial) using the Layton's Shetland Pony Jazz.



Upcoming Events

Always call ahead to ensure an event is still scheduled to be held

- 6/10/23 Brandywine Valley Driving Club Cones Clinic with Laura DeFazio at Fair Hill. Registration form on next page or download: <https://bvdc.org/s/Cones-Clinic-Registration.pdf> or register online at <https://www.bvdc.org/cones-clinic-registration>
- 6/24-25/23 CAA SPORTING DAY OF TRADITIONAL DRIVING, Morven Park, Leesburg, VA. Info: <https://www.carriageassociationofamerica.com/travel-with-the-caa/>
- 6/24/23 Brandywine Valley Driving Club is hosting a Driving Derby at Fair Hill, MD; Link to ONLINE REGISTRATION: www.bvdc.org/derby-registration
- 6/29-30/23 LANCASTER COUNTY CARRIAGE & ANTIQUE AUCTION, Bird-in-Hand, PA. Info: www.bihfire.com or email amywissing@birdinhandfire.com
- 7/1/23 Trinity Equestrian Center Driven Dressage Show and Clinic 7280 Sterrettania Rd, Fairview, PA 16415; For clinic information contact: Suzy Stafford ponydriverss@aol.com 302-540-5162, For show information: Contact Gail Aumiller gailaumiller@gmail.com 717-372-2650
- 7/9/23 Conesapalooza at Stafford Carriage Driving beginning at 9 am.
- 7/13-15/23 Talbot County Fair in Easton, MD would like the DDC to provide information on or do a carriage demonstration—Contact Deb Dawkins @ 410-310-9569 if you are interested
- 7/14-16/23 LORENZO DRIVING COMPETITION, Cazenovia, NY. Check out ADS Omnibus link: <https://www.americandrivingsociety.org/docs.ashx?id=1038061>
- 7/21 -7/30 Cecil County Fair will be offering driving classes for VSEs
- 7/22/23 Dressage Clinic with Dana Bright at Canvasback Farm, 1380 Hopewell Rd, Port Deposit, MD 21904; register online (preferred) at <https://www.bvdc.org/dressage-clinic-registration>
- 8/19/23 Drive and Cones Course at Hollyville Farm in Harbeson, DE - details to follow
- 10/5-8/23 Garden State CDE at the Horse Park of New Jersey—details to follow
- 10/7/23 Celebration of the Horse at Tuckahoe Equestrian Center—details to follow

Please help us fill in the Upcoming Events page with things you would like to see the club participate in. All you need to do is contact any Board Member or the Editor of the Newsletter/Facebook and we can help make your idea a reality. We have club members with experience that can help you plan/host a drive or event. This is your club—so let your voice and ideas be heard.

Mowing Horse Pastures to Keep Them Healthy

Healthy productive pastures can be a great source of nutrition for your horse, reduce your hay and grain bill by hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, and are great for the environment because they anchor soil and prevent nutrient and soil run-off. An unproductive pasture is one that is weedy with lots of bare soil, whereas a productive pasture has a dense, thick stand of healthy pasture grasses. Here are a few simple steps you can follow to make sure you get the most out of your horse pastures. One of the first steps to enhancing your horse pastures is to make sure the soil has enough nutrients in it to feed the plants, and that the soil is not too acidic. The three main nutrients of concern are nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. The ideal pH for pasture grasses in this area is 6.2 to 6.5. The best way to tell if your soil nutrients or pH need adjustment is to send a soil sample off to a certified soil testing lab. But the main goal in pasture management is to maintain or to enhance grass quality. Mowing is one tool that can be used to better manage pasture, because mowing helps maintain a high-quality, uniform pasture and promotes tillering, which generates dense, leafy vegetation. Mowing pastures is a great means of controlling weeds. Repeated mowing of pasture decreases the competitive ability of a weed to survive in a grass paddock. Keeping weeds the same height of grass will give grass an advantage and prevent weeds from shading and restricting grass growth. Mowing also serves to prevent weeds from establishing seed heads. The control of weeds in a pasture does not occur with a single mowing, but instead is facilitated with multiple mowings. And yes, mowing pastures also makes them look nice.

Mowing at the proper height is an important component in maintaining the health and survival of pasture grasses. Grasses store their energy reserves in the bottom few inches of the plant, so mowing too low reduces the plants' reserves and their ability to regrow. When mowing, maintain a forage height of 2 to 3 inches if the pasture is composed primarily of fine-bladed short-grass species, such as perennial ryegrass and bluegrass. For taller, higher-yielding species, such as orchard grass or timothy, mow to maintain a slightly higher level of 3 to 5 inches. As grass plants grow tall they become fibrous and less digestible. However a grass plant that is cut too short is also prone to stress and might die.

Mowing pastures also reduces grazing patterns. Horses create bathroom areas in the pastures that are full of manure and urine spots. Those areas quickly become weedy, overgrown, unproductive parts of the pasture. To turn those areas back into productive pasture that horses will graze, it is important to drag the manure around the pasture to break up the piles and spread the nutrients. After all, manure is a great source of organic nutrients because it contains nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. After spreading the manure, make sure to mow the entire pasture to 4-6" to help knock down the tall weeds and grasses that were in the bathroom areas. After a nice steady rain and a little bit of rest, those bathroom areas will be regrazed by horses. If a lot of horses are on a pasture, it is a good idea to drag each time the pasture is mowed.

When pastures are allowed to rest and regrow, their root systems become more dense and strong and they can viable for years and years. Once horses graze the pasture down to 3", it is time to move them off to another pasture so that the plants can rest. Most pastures should be rested for about three weeks before they are grazed again. One way to preserve a productive pasture during those times is to develop a grazing plan. Rotate pastures or make small pastures utilizing electric fence, stall your equine for parts of the day, and/or make a sacrifice area. The best approach is to allow a pasture in rest to grow to about 6-8 inches, mow it, and then allow it to regrow to 6-8 inches and then mow it again. After the second mowing, allow the pasture to regrow to about 4-6 inches before putting horses on the pasture. This process will ensure that the species have developed adequate root systems such that grazing horses will not dislodge the species from the soil during grazing. Because renovation requires that the pasture is out of use for several months, it is important to develop a master-plan to allow at least one paddock to be renovated each year.





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If you need to contact the Board of Directors/Officers or Committee Chairs, please use our new Club Email: delmarvadrivingclub1983@gmail.com

Or P. O. Box 415
Delmar, Delaware 19940