Thorncroft Lobstah Bake!

Join us on September 28th in the Jimmy Moran North Arena along with a live band "The High Balls", pots of lobster, platters stacked high with grilled chicken, salad, corn on the cob and drinks. It's the 5th annual Thorncroft Lobstah Bake! Rain or shine we hold this event with our Lobster Queen Betty Moran welcoming us all into this family fun event.

RSVP today at www.thorncroft.org
You can walk in but your lobstah can't!



Hats (and Boots) Off to You!

Thanks to YOU we are able to dress our riders safely with boots and helmets! Many of the young students that come to us ride thru our scholarship program and become the grateful recipients of your gently used boots. KEEP them coming! Helmets (new only – we are not permitted by law to recycle) are also always welcome. As always... thank you for taking care of our young upcoming equestrians!





Welcome New Staff Members!

Thorncroft is excited to welcome new staff members **Maria Nozzi** and **Stephanie Shaul**!

After almost three years as our Barn Manager **Jerusha Dyson** moved on to a great position with Boyd and Sylvia Martin. We will miss her, and in the same breath, we are SO very proud!

Maria Nozzi has been working part time in the barn for about a year. Maria comes to us with years of experience in the horse world both riding and



caring for horses. Her love of horses and people show in her work. Managing working students, staff and the health and welfare of 34 horses is not simple... we are grateful that Maria has chosen to join us as our resident Barn Manager.



Stephanie Shaul, recently introduced to us by one of our Board Members, has just joined Thorncroft us as our new Development Associate. Her life experiences began as a preschool teacher, working with children both with and without special needs. She quickly migrated to the organization "Best Buddies" where she matched up students in adolescent and adult

friendships creating the pact of "best buddies". Best Buddies quickly moved her into special events and the world of development. Her well rounded background makes her a great asset to the Farm and our Development Office.

Fall Riding Lessons

The **fall lesson schedule** is filling fast! Call our Office Manager, Amy Davis, and book your school time slot. Lessons are available Monday – Friday 8:30am – 8:30pm, Sat. 8:00am – 5:00pm. Remember during the week after 3:30 is tight so call today!

Thorncroft teaches riding to students of all abalities on the flat, cross country in our outdoor arena or in either of our 2 covered arenas. Take a walk around the "pony path" and discover the fun to be found on the new "Sensory Trail".





Thorncroft

190 Line Road Malvern, PA 19355



Fall 2014 | Winter 2015 Volume 28/No. 2

www.thorncroft.org

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Summer Camp - A Fun Time with Friends!

For eight weeks, six Counselors in Training and twelve campers gathered daily at Thorncroft for a summer of "Ride - Swim - Play". Thanks to the amazing efforts of this year's counselors **Mackenzie Haverdink** and **Julie Cecco**, riders honed their skills in the north arena, experimented in different media of arts and crafts, explored the fields, swam in the pool

and of greatest importance - left each week with a sense of new found success and friends.

The old phrase comes back again and again... at Thorncroft we teach riding, and we are proud to say we teach it well, but we also teach life skills... and a way of life with your friends both two-legged and four.







Come Explore the Sensory Trail

Over the past few months and off in the distance we have been listening to the banging of hammers, watching the digging of holes and stringing up of ropes - what's going on down in the woods!

Take a walk down the back drive, follow the path thru the woods and around the "pony fields". A beautiful walk thru the woods that was cleared two years ago by friend Ranney Moran has gone thru yet another transformation, taking on a new life.

The woods have been further cleared, the grass mowed and yes...

look twice there are multi colored noodles hanging from the trees! Look again and you'll see an oversized tic-tac-toe board along the fence line,

"follow the signs", bean bag toss into the buckets, wind chimes and containers full of "tactile" surprises for tiny little hands to explore. The "Sensory Trail" is a place for riders old and young to explore their abilities. Tiny riders stretch their tightened muscles in anticipation of reaching for the

stuffed frog on a limb, eager eyes and hands must work together challenged by their instructor at tic-tac-toe, brave riders urge their horses thru the multi colored noodles letting them gently glide across their backs, a visually impaired adult will stop and listen to the wind... and the chimes ringing softly in the trees.



On a cool summer evening students are offered more choices. Now they can walk the paths to the orchard, take a loop to the lower fields or explore the feel and touch of the games and activities as they are guided thru the sensory trail.

Special thanks to our staff, volunteers and some of our amazing Vets who have all together volunteered time, efforts and their own money to build this great addition to the Farm. Did Banjo just

walk thru the noodles - or eat them?!?!



Photo Credits: Kersten Flodin



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Thoughts from the Hay Barn

From Board Member Kathy Grentzenberg; we would like to share her conversations with some of the Veterans who are riding at Thorncroft.

On July 29, 2014 the Veterans riding in our new program held a BBQ to celebrate the successful conclusion of the second Veteran 6-Week Introduction to Horsemanship Program. As part of the BBQ, I collected some feedback in brief interviews. It was an honor to be able to share some of their experiences. All of the Veterans spoke of the beauty and peacefulness of Thorncroft, as well as the kindness, consideration and concern of everyone who works and volunteers here.



Mark Porter, one of the original Veterans in our 'Introduction to Horsemanship Program', preparing Charlie for his lesson

They also talked of the achievement of learning new skills, or of returning to a sport they had loved. There was one Veteran with whom I talked who really left an impact. His words were so moving and genuine...

"The military is an environment where you have to 'bottle up' many emotions to do your job. You can't have them... they make you too vulnerable and you put yourself at greater risk of getting killed.

I forgot how to deal with people."

He told me he that he been diagnosed with PTSD. His normal coping strategy was to isolate himself. "Thorncroft is such a peaceful place, not too much coming at you at once... It gives me the opportunity to relearn and socialize without feeling pressure...it is a very accepting environment here....it's good for me".

Before he came to Thorncroft he had never even seen a horse. Now he is working around them with ease and confidence. He is one of several graduates of the program who are planning to continue in a working student role at Thorncroft to further their experiences in the equine world.

Continued Thanks...

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Our most sincere apologies for any errors that may have occurred at the time of the printing. We appreciate all corrections & encourage them by call to 610.644.1963 or via email to sallie@thorncroft.org.

What's Next?

Fall 2014 and Winter 2015

Sept. 12–14: Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance, FMI radnorconcours.org

Sept. 12: Concours Welcome BBQ at Thorncroft, Mainstreamers will perform

in the North Arena

Sept. 13: Chester County Rally – rally drives thru Chester County and stops at Thorncroft Black Tie Dinner at Radnor Hunt Club, Mainstreamers will perform 7:30pm

Sept. 14: A display of rare and significant American and European classic automobiles, race cars, sports cars and motorcycles presented on the lawns of the Radnor Hunt Club.

Sept. 28: 5th Annual Thorncroft Lobster Party and book signing, Mainstreamers will be performing

Oct. 26: Fall Horse Show for riders with special needs,

Mainstreamers will be performing

2015

Feb. 15: Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Limoncello's, Exton

2014 Volunteers meet with Senator Andy Dinneman

February 22: Student Horse Show

March 1: Thorncroft Hosts Combined Test

April 18: 30th Annual Thorncroft Victory Gallop, Park Hyatt at the Bellevue

Pics The 2014Victory Gallop Hosted Temple Grandin - pics sent - you pic!

May 23 & 24: Annual Handicapped Riders Division of the Devon

Horse Show; Saturday at Thorncroft, Sunday Championship Class at Devon.

Mainstreamers will be performing both days

"As Way Opens" The History of Thorncroft

Announcing... the written history of Thorncroft "As Way Opens" by Ellie Schneidman. This is the story about Thorncroft's life and an opportunity to learn about one of the area's oldest equestrian facilities in Chester County. News clippings, pictures, and stories follow the Farm's expansive time line, ranging from early 1960's to future

Author Ellie Schneidman from Alexandria, VA first launched her professional career at Thorncroft back in the Summer of 2012, when she

endeavors.

As Way Opens brought her computer to the office as the Social Media Intern. As the story goes, it wasn't long before Ellie returned in the Fall 2013, this time bringing a wardrobe, shoes, and a computer. She lived on the

Farm for nine months learning and writing about Thorncroft's grace and beauty that was everywhere in the

history she was writing.

The book signing at the Lobster Party will be Ellie's last stop before she heads to Tanzania! "As Way Opens" will be available online and at the Lobster Party in September. •••



Photo: Betsy Arnfield

Thorncrot

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