



October 2005 Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

October 5, 2005

About a week before our June 18, 2005 Annual Meeting, Clinic and Seafood Picnic we got a telephone call with bad news from our clinician Bob Skradzio. Bob had suffered a devastating hernia injury which put him in the hospital. So we were sort of stuck without a clinician and scrambling to find somebody on short notice to fill in for Bob. (He has since fully recovered!)

Fortunately our local pinch hitter, Reuben King, CJF, stepped up to the plate hit a home run. Reuben provided us with an expert LIVE DEMONSTRATION of modern shoeing for Standardbread race horses. The horse that Reuben used for the demonstration was a "trotter" provided by one of his customers.

Reuben King is a full time AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier who specializes in shoeing harness race horses. We are delighted that he was able to deliver such an outstanding demonstration on short notice. Or hats are off to Reuben King, CJF! Thank you for a job well done.

We asked Terry Turcotte of **Turks Farrier Supplies** to give us a sample of every style of shoe that he sells for Standardbread race horses. He provided the DFA with over 50 pairs of shoes for our display table. Actually the display filled two tables! Most of the farriers attending the clinic had never seen this type of shoeing up close and personal. Many were surprised at the vast array of shoe styles and options that a farrier needs to know how to apply in order to work in this highly specialized area of shoeing. Another surprise was the level of precision and attention to detail goes into the job.

By the way, **Turks Farrier Supplies** also sells saddle horse shoes, tools, and just about everything else a farrier needs. So if you are looking for a local supplier and top notch customer service, stop by Turks.

Terry Turcotte
Turks Farrier Supplies
910 Jackson Ditch Road
Harrington, DE 19952
(302)270-3549

After the race horse shoeing demonstration, Tom Bloomer, CF provided a live shoeing demonstration of the AFA Certified Farrier standard. Actually tom cheated because he used his own horse, "Mr. Tommy Blackburn" (Tommy)—a 4 year old registered American Paint Horse—for the demonstration. This was the first time this horse had ever been shod . . . hot fit and hot seated, Tommy (the horse not the farrier) provided us with an

an excellent example of *how a well trained horse can stand for a farrier*. The take home message from this demonstration was, "Getting a horse to stand for the farrier is very easy when you begin teaching a horse to stand square and pick up its feet THE DAY IT IS BORN." We all need to remind our customers of *their responsibility* to train their horses to stand square and pick up their feet from an early age.

What else went on at the June Meeting?

We had Dunkin Doughnuts sweets and coffee in the morning. Then Keith Fearins served up some delicious fresh steamed crabs and shrimp. Dave Crockett and Phil Anderson brought along potato salad, burgers, dawgs, and sundry picnic fixins. Thanks guys! **NOBODY GOES AWAY HUNGRY FROM A DFA EVENT.**

We held our annual meeting and election of new officers. Since nobody else wanted their jobs, our officers remain the same.

President - Mat Taimuty, CJF
Vice President - Phil Anderson
Secretary - Dave Crockett
Treasurer - Tom Bloomer, CF
Board Member at Large (AKA the LARGE Board Member) -Keith Fearins

There was a lively discussion about ideas for future clinics and many of our members provided valuable input and ideas on how we should plan future events and who we should invite to be our clinicians. Because our membership has grown large enough, we are now ready to bring in some "big names" for our future clinics. Here are some of the clinicians that the DFA discussed contacting for future clinics:

Bob Skradzio Sr., CJF
Mitch Taylor, CJF
Danny Ward, CJF
Dr. Steven O'Grady, CJF (Equine Surgeon and Farrier)
Bruce Daniels, CJF
Jim Keith, CJF
Dr. Susan Mende (Equine Surgeon and Choropractor)
Dr. Jim Rooney (Equine Pathologist)

If you know of someone that you would like to have put on
(*continued on page 2*)

a clinic for the DFA, contact one of our board members and let us know so that we can begin planning.

DFA Exhibition at Tuckaho Outlaw Days

(Reported by Matt Taimuty, CJF)

The DFA had a presence at Tuckahoe Outlaw Days on September 10th, 2005.

Rubin King, CJF and Matt Taimuty, CJF "held court" under a few nice shade trees near the main arena. They shod one horse, made a few shoes and talked to the crowd.

As always happens, the sound of hammer on anvil brought out the curious. Sort of like ringing a dinner bell in a room of hungry folks.

Rubin was accompanied by a young farrier from British Columbia Canada. Leon Lytton who was visiting with Rubin through the AFA Cultural Exchange Program.

After the horse was shod, Rubin forged a hand made roadster hind shoe and Leon forged a hand made Draft front shoe. Matt provided the striking horsepower for both operations.

A good time was had by all, especially considering the nice weather that blessed the event. Much good will was spread and a few new friends were made. All in all, it was a successful endeavor for the DFA.

The DFA purchased a full page ad in the Tockaho Equine Services Directory. The ad included our logo and a list of our current members. This directory is distributed to everyone who attends the Tuckaho Outlaw Days event.

Presidents Message:

Fall already! I, for one, relish the cooler weather. Being a spoiled pansy of a California boy (sunshine and sea breezes), Delmarva summer heat and "Mr. Matt", as the kids call me, don't see eye to eye.

So far we have had a pretty good year. The forging clinic last November was a treat for all. The composit clinic was the best farrier clinic I have ever attended. I am still hearing good things about it from those who attended, and using new skills I learned.

I was unable to attend the general meeting in June, due to a death in the family. The reports I received were all good.

So we are three for three. Not bad for a first full year.

We promised lots of education. We are continuing to deliver on that promise. We have a clinic with the legendary Bob Scradzio

rescheduled for December 3rd now that he has healed up from his wreck and surgery. We have Mitch Taylor from Kentucky Horseshoeing School coming early next spring for an anatomy wet lab and dissection clinic. We have a few other things in the cooker we will tell you about when they are finalized.

Our injured farrier program has been utilized twice so far. Nathan Brown and Keith Flemming were both helped in times of need.

Thanks to all those who lended a hand. Each of us knows how tenuous our jobs are when it comes to injury. If we take care of each other, we won't have to lean on anyone else. After all, we are all in this business together, taking the same risks every day.

In your daily travels, please mention our program to any farriers you meet who don't know about it. The program exists for the benefit of all farriers on Delmarva, not just our membership.

Remember to tell them how the program works. Any injured or ill farrier can call me, Matt Taimuty, 410-754-3251 and ask for assistance.

Those of us in the down farriers area will pitch in and help keep his/her clients horses shod in good order while she/he is recovering. All proceeds, less the cost of supplies (which can be supplied by the down farrier), will be forwarded, in full, to the down farrier.

We have a clause in the program that protects the down farrier from having clients "switch" farriers during his/her convalescence. Quite simply, the assisting farriers will not accept those clients should they ask, and we will not entice them in any way to "switch". Doing so would be unfair and compromise the core purpose of the program, which is to help our fellow farriers keep their businesses in tact during the down period, so they don't have to suffer a financial setback along with the injury or illness.

After recovery, there is a 6 month period during which any farrier who assisted the down farrier will not accept any of his/her clients. After that, if a client wishes to switch farriers, they are free to do so. However, the assisting farrier will insist the "switching" client contact the assisted farrier to discuss and hopefully resolve the issues responsible for the switch. If, after such discussion has failed to resolve said issues, the assisting farrier may accept the new client, if conscience will allow. I personally have a great deal of difficulty doing so because I feel like I am hitting a man when he is down and breaking a sacred trust.

(continued on page 3)

Because of the DFA, we are now stronger than the sum of our parts. We can share knowledge and ideas, cover for each other in times of need, and through our combined effort, further our own education to become better farriers, and educate our clientele to make them better customers and horse owners.

In an effort to dispel any nasty rumors floating around about the DFA, consider these points:

- **We are not** trying to take over the farrier industry on Delmarva, only help it get better and stronger.
- **We are not** telling anyone where they have to buy their supplies or how to shoe horses.
- **We are not** badmouthing farriers who haven't joined the DFA. This is a voluntary organization.
- **We ARE** trying to elevate the quality of farriery on Delmarva through clinics and demonstrations. After all, none of us knows everything and each of us can learn something from every other farrier we meet, DFA member or not.
- **We ARE** trying to bring educational opportunities closer to home so us Delmarvans don't have to travel to the ends of the earth to learn something new.

Happy farriery to all.

Matt Taimuty, CJF
President Delmarva Farriers Association

Put December 3rd, 2005 on YOUR Calendar!!!

Bob Skradzio, Sr., CJF is going to be our clinician. This time Bob has promised not to get injured until AFTER the clinic!

An award winning clinician and International Horseshoeing Hall of Famer who's been "nailin' 'em on" for 56 years, Bob Skradzio is legendary. AND, we're bringing him to Delmarva.

Abner Hershberger has graciously offered to host this clinic in his shop which is located just south of Dover, DE.

Back by popular demand, Chef Suzi Bloomer is going to be cooking her famous venison chili AND some of Abner's Amish friends and family are also going to be bringing some home made Amish cuisine to the table. On December 3rd, the best meal on Delmarva WILL BE SERVED AT THE DFA CLINIC!

The DFA will also provide Dunkin Doughnuts and Coffee in the morning

Date and Time: December 3, 2005 9:00am to Dark

Directions to the DFA clinic at Abner's shop: 947 Apple Grove School Road Camden Wyoming, DE 19934

From locations North or South of Dover, DE follow RT-13 to Camden, DE. Camden is just a few miles south of the center of Dover.

- Turn LEFT on E Camden Wyoming Ave [DE-10]
- At the water tower bear LEFT onto Southern Blvd.
- Follow Southern Blvd. across the railroad tracks and continue straight ahead onto Westville Rd.
- About 2 miles from the railroad tracks turn RIGHT on Albins Mill Road.
- Take the first LEFT onto Apple Grove School Road.
- Abner's shop is on the LEFT

From Annapolis and the Bay Bridge or other areas west of Dover, DE follow RT-301 North to Barclay, MD (about 40 miles from the Bay Bridge).

- Turn RIGHT on Barclay Road [MD-302]
- Go about 9 miles and turn RIGHT on Marydel Road [MD-454]
- Go about 11 miles. As it crosses into Delaware, MD-454 becomes Delaware RT-8.
- Turn RIGHT onto Rose Valley School Road.
- Turn RIGHT on Hazletville Road.
- Turn LEFT onto Apple Grove School Road.
- Abner's shop is on the RIGHT.

If you get lost and need directions while driving to the clinic, call Tom Bloomer's cell phone at (302) 222-6404

If you are wondering about the cost of this clinic, it is FREE for DFA members and Spouses. The cost for non-members is \$50, which also pays your membership dues for the year!

Our sponsor for this clinic is Horseshoes Unlimited. For more information see the attached flyer.

How do the DFA Dues work?

The DFA fiscal year runs from June 1st of each year through May 31st of the next year. Membership dues apply to the DFA fiscal year in which they are paid. According to the DFA bylaws, the dues are not prorated.

DFA members get the cost of their dues deducted from the cost of a clinic—so you get your dues back!