



# February 2006 Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 10, 2006

Our Saturday, January 7th Hammer-in at Abner Hershberger's Shop with Reuben King, CJF was a great way to kick off the new year. The DFA would AGAIN like to thank Abner for his hospitality and allowing us to use his shop. Also a big thank you to Reuben for sharing his forging talents with us. We had a pretty good turnout and a few folks signed up for our next clinic which is beginning to fill up.

## **NOTE there is a DATE CHANGE on the DFA Hoof Dissection and Anatomy Clinic**

Old date Saturday March 18, 2006

**New date Saturday March 25th, 2006 9:00am to 4:00pm**

**If you have already paid for this clinic and are unable to attend because of the date change, the DFA will refund your money.**

This clinic is a hands on wet lab with Mitch Taylor, CJF—director of the Kentucky Horseshoeing School. This is your opportunity to take a guided tour of the inside of the horses hoof and lower limb. Mitch Taylor is a well known expert on the anatomy of the lower limb and hoof. This size of the clinic is limited to 20 people so if you want to attend be sure to sign up early.

Each participant will be provided with a hoof cadaver, latex gloves, and a dissection kit. The only tools you will need to bring is a **sharp boning knife and a set of shoe pullers**. If you bring a dull boning knife, ask Tom Bloomer to sharpen it for you . . . and then be very careful with it.

**The registration deadline has been extended to March 18, 2006.**

Clinic cost: \$50 for DFA members - \$100 for non-members. Location—D&M Training Stables

in Bridgeville, DE. See attached map. Bridgeville, DE is located on Delaware RT-13 about 15 miles south of Harrington, DE and about 25 miles north of Salisbury, MD.

D&M Training is located East of RT-13 and South of RT-404. RT-404 is indicated on the map as Seashore Highway. The location of the clinic is marked by a star at the bottom center of the map. There is a Royal Farms located at the intersection of RT-13 and Cannon Rd. Cannon RD is also marked as DE RT-18. If you have problems with finding the clinic, call Tom Bloomer's cell phone—(302) 222-6404

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register for this clinic you must send in a check to the DFA for \$50 (DFA Members) or \$100 for non-members. Registration is on a first come first served basis. This clinic will sell out, so send in your registration fee ASAP. Make your check payable to DFA and write HOOF CLINIC in the memo.

## **DFA Members in the News**

Last month Dave Ferguson of Mintvale Forge hosted a clinic, AFA certification, and forging competition. In addition they held an auction of farrier tools and supplies. All of the proceeds from this event were donated to the Gulf Coast Farrier Relief Fund.

Dave and his cohorts managed to raise over \$3000 with the auction, plus the additional money from the clinic and contest fees.

In case you didn't know it, Dave also raised the initial funding that started the DFA. His fund raising efforts have contributed over \$2500 to the DFA treasury. That is why our annual membership dues are only \$50!!!

## Message from the DFA Treasurer

It has been my honor to serve this association as the treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors for the past two years. I have also kept track of the membership mailing list and written most of the news letters. In addition I have put a lot of time into organizing clinics and making sure that we tend to the details involved in keeping our association running with some semblance of order. It has been a wonderful experience. I have enjoyed getting to know each of you and I have learned something from every DFA member.

Although I intend to participate in future DFA activities, I have business and personal plans which will prevent me from participating in the DFA at the leadership level.

Our current fiscal year ends in June of 2006. Every year we elect our officers and board members at our June annual meeting. This year I will not be running for the position of treasurer nor will I seek a position on the Board of Directors. Therefore someone else must run for this position.

It is the responsibility of the DFA members to elect a Treasurer to oversee the finances of this association. If the members do not elect a new treasurer by June 30th, 2006, I will officially resign as DFA treasurer and turn treasury funds and responsibility over to the Board of Directors.

In addition, someone must take over the responsibility of maintaining the DFA mailing list and producing the DFA newsletter. Any member who has a computer can do these tasks with relative ease. All the DFA needs is a volunteer!

Believe me, I have gotten a lot more out of the DFA than I have put into it. AND I will continue to participate in future DFA activities as a member.

This association has had a very positive impact on my continuing education as a farrier. It has provided me with new friends and a network of

well educated professional associates upon whom I can call for help when I get in over my head—while under a horse.

DFA Members, if you are interested in taking on the newsletter or the Treasurer position, I would be happy to show you the ropes. It ain't rocket science. If you would like to organize a clinic, I would be happy to layout the process and show you how to plan and execute a successful clinic.

Anyone who is interested or has questions about these DFA positions, please contact me. These positions offer some exciting opportunities to give back to this wonderful trade. Your efforts will be rewarded tenfold when you look back at your accomplishments and what you have learned.

Respectfully,

Tom Bloomer, CF  
Blackburn Forge, Inc.  
544 Proctors Purchase Road  
Hartly, DE 19953  
(302)492-0202

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### Note to non members:

Over the past two years the DFA has spent a lot of money on printing costs and postage for our newsletter. In order to save on costs, we will no longer be sending our newsletter to non members.

Anyone who has ever participated in a DFA event will continue to receive this newsletter even if you have not renewed your membership.

If we haven't heard from you in over two years, you won't be getting our newsletter unless you contact us and ask to be kept on the mailing list. We are happy to continue sending out our newsletter to those who want it.

**Dedicated to the Fine Art of Shoeing Horses**  
**R. Steele D.B.A.**  
**HORSESHOES UNLIMITED**

521 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354  
413-863-2443  
ray@bestbuyhorseshoes.com

To Whom it may concern:

I am offering a 20% discount off the reg. Price on all R. Steele, Horseshoes Unlimited, Ray-Guang, Unlimited etc products to individuals who are members of a farriers assoc. or groups. This offer includes, tools, steel, titanium and aluminum horseshoes, studs, leather and plastic pads etc. It will not be across the board, only on my products.

The purpose of this offer is twofold.

1. to introduce my products to the professional farrier.
2. To increase memberships in farrier organizations.

To qualify for this discount a farrier must belong to, and be a member in good standing in a farrier organization that has provided me with and allowed me to use the membership and mailing list of that organization. I must be able to verify membership and will use the list for mailings.

Horseshoes Unlimited products may be viewed at [www.bestbuyhorseshoes.com](http://www.bestbuyhorseshoes.com)

A few examples of possible savings are:

	Reg price	20% off price
RayGuang snow rim pads	\$6.00/pr	\$4.80/pr
R.Steel 4R leather pads	\$5.67/pr	\$4.53/pr
RayGuang Adj. Clenchers	\$118.00/pr	\$94.47/pr
Unlimited 4R urethane pads	\$2.45/pr	\$1.95/pr
RG8 clipped steel shoes	\$4.51/pr	\$3.61/pr

Discounts will be allowed to farriers who are verifiable members of participating farrier organizations and on regular priced merchandise, not sale items. It is intended that this may become a membership "perc" but the discount only applies to purchases made through Horseshoes Unlimited or [www.bestbuyhorseshoes.com](http://www.bestbuyhorseshoes.com)

Please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail with any questions.

Regards,

Ray Steele