



Horse Tales

Issue 20

Fall 2009

Pop The Cork – Our 6th Anniversary At SVF

November 1st marks our 6th year at Saddle Valley. Moving to PA from NYC has been a real adventure. We love our new life with horses and all that has brought -- new friends, a tranquil environment, working with neighbors on improving the community, and most of all – the many children now in our lives brought here by our lesson, camp, shows, and boarding. It's been amazing to see Alex working with Splash, and our yearling Summer, and some of our lesson horses; using the natural horsemanship techniques he has learned since we came here. It has served him very well, making our horses calmer, and more willing to trust you as their leader.

I can't say that our journey to this point has all been smooth sailing. Over the years we have hit some bumpy roads. Some day I would love to write a book - it will be called "As the Barn Turns" and will have a cast of characters that I could not invent. Generally, just when we think things are perfect, we undergo a big upheaval. But we have learned that it is always for the best and - as they say - when one door closes, another opens. We just went through such a period and are very excited with the new direction we are headed (see below).

Gray Dapple Thoroughbred assistance Program* relocates To Saddle Valley Farm

Gray Dapple, founded and run by Amanda Sorvino, is a horse rescue that assists in the placement of thoroughbreds spanning the entire color spectrum, always including horses who have any relationship to the thoroughbred world, such as nurse mare foals and off-track "pony horses." But specialty is gray dapple thoroughbreds. When you adopt a horse from Gray Dapple, you save the next one from slaughter. One of Gray Dapples moving rescues of nurse mare foals was recently featured on National Geographic's cable network. We are proud that this wonderful group has decided to make SVF home.

We welcome Amanda and her horses to SVF and look forward to working with her to achieve Gray Dapple's rescue mission. Many of our lesson students have asked if they can come and help out at the barn. We are excited that now there is the perfect opportunity. If you want to help with grooming and care of these rescue horses talk to Elaine.

With 75 stalls, there is ample room at SVF to accommodate these wonderful horses. They'll be living in the rear back and center aisles and will not interfere with boarders or our lesson area. They will be using the pastures up the hill – behind the barn so will not be involved with the normal operation of our farm. It is a great use of our extra barn space. As a safety measure, **all horses go into quarantine at an Amish farm for 3 months before coming to SVF.**

* Visit: <http://www.graydapple.org> - to learn more about Gray Dapple Thoroughbred Assistance Program *and adopting a horse.*

HORSE SHOW INFO

October Barn Show –

A great time was had by all

At Saddle Valley, in addition to the 3 formal Penn/Jersey horse shows we host each year, we hold regular barn shows for our students. October 25th turned out to be the perfect day for our fall barn show. It was sunny, warm enough for our BBQ lunch and the foliage was glorious. The show was well attended and the riders all did a terrific job. They worked hard earning their ribbons and showing family and friends how far they have come. Our Judge Devon McNamara, a senior member of the Delaware Valley College Equestrian Team did a great job. And Kudos to our great instructors/Show coaches, Anastasia Garzillo, Kayla Hildebrant, and Nancy Jennings. We are planning to hold a barn show each quarter with the following schedule:

2010 Barn Show Schedule	
January 31 st	April 24 th
July 31 st	October 31 st

Stay Tuned for 2010 Penn/Jersey Show Dates

Although dates are not yet set, we generally have our Penn/Jersey shows in May, August and September. The barn shows are scheduled to be a good way to practice for them (for students wanting to show more formally). Our students were in the ribbons in the 2009 show season.

Join the SVF Horse Show Team: Any students wanting to show more regularly should contact Elaine. We have two instructors who will be bringing riders to various local shows on a weekly basis.

Summer Day Camp 2010 Sign Up Early and Save

Our very low ratio of campers to instructor (2 to 4 campers per instructor) allows us to tailor the riding instruction to your child's experience - whether first time riders or experienced. Either way, Saddle Valley Summer camp will bring her or him to the next level. The week ends with a horse show where you will be able to see for yourself how far they have come.

We are tentatively setting the dates for our 2010 camp sessions to enable you to factor us into your summer plans. The cost of a one-week session is \$350. Sign up by May 1st and receive a \$50 discount -- camp will cost \$300. If you sign up for more than one session you will receive 10% off the second session (whether or not you sign up early).

SADDLE VALLEY FARM
SUMMER RIDING DAY CAMP
5 DAYS OF FUN WITH HORSES*
Beginner and Intermediate
Ages 7 - 12

Sessions* - 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
June 21 - 25, July 5 - 9, , July 12 - 16
July 26 - 30, Aug 9 - 13, Aug 16 - 20
Early drop-off and late pick-up available

- Riding 2X each day
- Horse Anatomy, Breeds, Confirmation and Markings
- Daily Care, Safety, & "Horse Sense"
- Grooming, Bathing, Coat Care
- Hoof Care & Shoeing
- Tack Preparation, Care and Use
- Understanding Horse Behavior and Body Language
- Leading, Walking, and Handling
- Crafts, Games, and

Tons of Fun with new Riding Buddies

*dates may change based on demand

Save the Date

**SVF Annual Holiday Tree Trimming, BBQ
and fun with horses Party**

Sunday, Dec. 13th -- 11AM - 2PM

**GIVE THE GIFT OF RIDING
AT SADDLE VALLEY FARM**

**SVF GIFT CARDS
FOR THE HOLIDAYS
LESSONS OR TRAIL RIDES
ANY SEASON - ANY REASON**

Trail Riding "Lessons"

We started Trail riding this spring - creating additional trails through our woods. Our trail riding program provides a leisurely ride through 100 acres of woods, pastures and farmland. We limit groups to 5 riders and provide instruction to ensure safety. Rides are one-hour long and cost \$30 per person for 2 or more, and \$40 for one rider. Share the experience with your friends or family, you'll love it.

Give a gift card - birthdays/holidays

(Check out our web site for more information.)

Cost Effective Options for riding more often:

4-week package of 2 lessons a week -- \$60 per week (instead of \$80) - (half price for the second lesson) - \$240 for 4 weeks instead of \$320.

(Subject to your instructor having open hours.)

Practice Rides - Lesson students approved by their instructors and capable of saddling up by themselves can take a horse and ride for an hour on their own to get some independent riding time at a cost of \$30 for the hour. Riding must be done when an instructor is around - to ensure safety.

Semi-Private Lessons - When you are ready - riding with a riding buddy is a great way to learn. Semi-private lessons are \$30 an hour instead of \$40.

Girl Scouts Horse Fan Badge Clinics

Saddle Valley recently hosted several Girl Scout Horse Fan clinics. The girls learned:

- Barn rules and horse safety,
- Caring for horses: feeding, grooming, shoeing,
- Horse handling,
- Clothing and equipment,
- Types of riding, and horse careers.

They had hands on experience in grooming and leading horses. It was great fun for us and we would love to have your troop come for a clinic.