



Twin Oaks Valley

Equestrian Association

Serving the Twin Oaks Valley and surrounding communities

Summer 2017

In this issue: Horse Heritage Conservancy, Community Champions, Common Ground Clinic, Community Forum, Horse Heritage Festival.

Horse Heritage Conservancy

Twin Oaks Valley Equestrian Association is proud to announce that after a two year journey, the Horse Heritage Conservancy has received a 501(c)(3) status from the IRS. The proposal to create a non-profit began back in 2015 during our TOVEA Community Open Forum. The TOVEA organization recognized that we needed a better way to encourage involvement and support of our efforts to further preserve and expand on the Walnut Grove Horse Park. After clear support from the community, the TOVEA leadership team set out to make it a reality. Leading the organization for 2017 is Patty Morton as President, Lynne Malinowski as Treasurer, Dawn Haake as Secretary, Michael Bustillos as member of the board, and Pat Rowe as member of the board. Through the Horse Heritage Conservancy, we now have a clear mandate to rally the community to support the preservation of our Horse Heritage in the Twin Oaks Valley, as well as in our surrounding communities, supporting our common goals and missions. We look forward to working with you in future fund raising, land preservation, trails, and horse park development efforts. We would like to thank everyone who participated for their tireless commitment to this very important goal!

A Warm Welcome to our most recent Lifetime Members!



Fallbrook Pony Club
Kristy Fowler
Meghan Fowler
Cherie Lankford
Emily Taylor

Community Champions!



Community Champions Sandi and David Johnson have been creating 'Mini Horse Meetups' to provide fun activities for Mini Horse enthusiasts who gather from as far away as Julian, Riverside County and Imperial Beach to come and play for a good cause. Last year, Sandi and David organized their first "Mini" event at Walnut Grove Park in San Marcos to benefit the So Cal Mini Horse Sanctuary a 501(c)(3) organization that rescues rehabilitates and rehomes Mini Horses. This year's themed "All American" Obstacle Challenge and Costume contest benefited Heart and Hooves Therapy – a 501(c)(3) organization that uses Minis to provide therapy for children and adults of any age and ability.

Sandi and David have lived in the City of San Marcos on a 1 acre "animal property" for 21 years. Their menagerie includes chickens, turkeys, Gypsy Vanners, a Mini Horse, dogs, and cats. The couple are career animal lovers; David recently retired as a Deputy Director of Medical Services from SD County Animal services in Carlsbad and Sandi is a Registered Veterinary Technician for the sick and injured at Animals services for 14 years now.

They love the small town feel of San Marcos, finding an eclectic, unique mixture of rural and city with lots of fun things to do close by. They appreciate the central location of our horse hub at Walnut Grove Park and are frequently seen playing with their horses at the park.

A creative team, Sandi designs the obstacles for their event and David figures out how to build them. Sandi appreciates how Minis provide people with a "down sized" horse connection! More meetups are scheduled including fun with Gypsy Vanners on Fiesta Island this summer! We appreciate their passion for play dates and support of the Horse Heritage Festival. To learn of upcoming events please email Sandi at:

sj808@cox.net

Common Ground Clinic/Horse Sense 101

Held Sunday May 21, 2017
at Walnut Grove Park



Thank you 2017 Clinicians!

The sun was out and shining on Sunday, May 21 when the equestrian community gathered at Walnut Grove Horse Park for the sixth annual Common Ground Clinic. Thoughtfully organized by the Twin Oaks Valley Equestrian Association (TOVEA), this event was composed of three separate classes which individuals could participate in: hunter/jumper, groundwork, and tactful transport.

Kristy Fowler started the day off with a thrilling hunter/jumper class. With a background in managing a show barn and series of Grand Prix horses, Kristy currently teaches riders of all ages from beginners to Grand Prix level in hunters, jumpers, and equitation. During the clinic, she focused on developing a balanced program from which each rider could benefit. Her participants' horses ranged from very high-energy to dull and slow. Kristy began her session with a group warm up before slowly adding in jumps and eventually creating a course for riders to complete one by one. She handled the vast variety of energies by providing insightful instructions on how to maintain a horse's speed, pace, and focus while remaining a calm and consistent rider.

The second class was led by Emily Taylor, whose experience includes English, Gymkhana, Natural Horsemanship, Polo, and working with rescue horses. Groundwork consists of sensitizing and desensitizing horses through a series of exercises. Emily's approach to groundwork follows the philosophy of natural horsemanship; horses learn from pressure and the release of pressure, not from pain or fear. She explained how effectively teaching groundwork earns respect and ultimately makes it easier and safer to teach a horse while riding. With her rescue horse, Emily demonstrated how to obtain his attention by moving the hindquarters around while keeping his head facing the handler. This exercise became a change of direction when the horse was being lunged. The importance of lunging is to get the horses focused on the handler and listening to voice cues.

Cherie Lankford's 'Tactful Transport' class covered nearly every necessary aspect of trailering. For over a decade, Cherie has been commercially transporting racehorses across hundreds of thousands of miles, keeping them sound and safe the whole way. Her session began by going over the importance of securely hitching the trailer, using the proper truck, always triple checking for any errors, and several other pointers worth noting. The participants each took turns loading a horse into the trailer, clipping the horse in, closing the door behind them, and finally leading the horse back out. Each horse reacted differently, one hesitant about walking up the ramp and one anxious about being clipped inside the trailer. Cherie provided helpful tips for each and reminded participants to remain calm and patient.

In addition to those three classes, the Fallbrook Pony Club came out and discussed basic horse care such as properly fitting tack and how to wrap a horse's legs for trailering. They also demonstrated how to braid horses' manes and tails for shows. Their presentation concluded the Common Ground Clinic and left everyone feeling well informed. All who attended received something valuable from each session. In the end, whether jumping a course or loading a horse into a trailer, everyone learned that staying calm and clear is key to keeping your horse focused and trusting.

Written by: Hannah Suhovecky



Community Forum held April 3rd, 2017

Each year, TOVEA hosts this forum bringing together representatives from various community groups and agencies. The dialog that develops between the speakers and audience is informative and ideas are presented that help to form positive planning solutions to prepare for the future of our rural community. This year, we heard from 6 speakers.

Buck Martin, *City of San Marcos Community Services Director*. Buck discussed the timeline for Parks and Trails master plan updates and answered questions about the expansion of the equestrian footprint of Walnut Grove Park to acreage across Sycamore Drive.

Doug Grove, *PROS Consulting*. PROS is updating the City Trails Master Plan. This plan looks at the big picture for trails – connectivity projects are planned and prioritized, points of interest are noted and easements are evaluated. Recommendations for future development have been proposed as part of the study.

Tom Kumura, *County of San Diego TOV Community Sponsor Group*. Tom spoke to current issues within the TOV area. He emphasized that the City and the County have different ways of doing things and it is important to understand terminology used when discussing land use for parks and trails. Funds have been collected for a County park locally but they have not been spent in our area. One attendee noted that there is a movement afoot to establish special districts for taxation that would go into the maintenance of parks. Connectivity is lacking between City and County trails and pathways.

San Marcos High Future Farmers of America – Officers from FFA presented an overview of the program and their involvement at the State Conference. FFA is engaged in fund raising to support the program and to cover expenses for participation in the State Conference.

Tanis Brown, *San Marcos Historical Society*- the keepers of the history of San Marcos. If you have a story to tell about the community, come by and see Tanis, as SMHS is actively seeking new information and artifacts (art, photos, stories) to help build out the San Marcos history, especially between the 30s and 50s. Tanis reminded the attendees that every activity that happens today in our community is history in the making!

Twin Oaks Valley Equestrian Association. Presented opportunities: Develop Master Plan for Walnut Grove Horse Park, Trails plan implementation and connectivity within the City and County, free youth educational programs, represent our Equine Industry at the local level, provide input at planning level for development projects that impact our community, partner with business and community groups. TOVEA is proud to announce that on March 30, 2017, the IRS granted the Horse Heritage Conservancy a 501(c)(3) non-profit status. The HHC has been a long term goal to expand TOVEA's vision and mission.

The community forum was well attended and the opportunity for this dialog was very valuable and appreciated by all.

Tractor Stolen from Walnut Grove Park on Saturday Night June 10th!

The Tractor is a New Holland Workmaster 33. The last four of the serial number of the tractor is 2346. The loader also has a serial number and it is 62578.

If you have seen this tractor please contact:

Pauley Equipment Rental
951-676-5751



Support through Membership - Visit our membership page at www.keepitequestrian.org

Volunteer positions available for the Horse Heritage Festival coming up in October
email: twinoaksvalleyequestrian@gmail.com for more information.

Save the Date!

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Walnut Grove Park, San Marcos
Horse Heritage Festival



Family Fun Activities from 10 to 3
Pony Rides - Petting Corral - Pumpkin Patch - Food
Prizes - Demonstrations - Crafts - Frontier Games

TERI TACK SHACK
benefiting TERI, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Program

11th Annual Ride & Stride

Saddle up your horse or lace up your sneakers and enter the Ride & Stride to benefit Walnut Grove Horse Park. Ride the 3 mile trail or walk with your favorite companion. Dogs Welcome!
Riders & Walkers check-in 8:30 am at the park. Prizes!



More info and Ride & Stride forms at:
www.HelpTheHorsepark.org

