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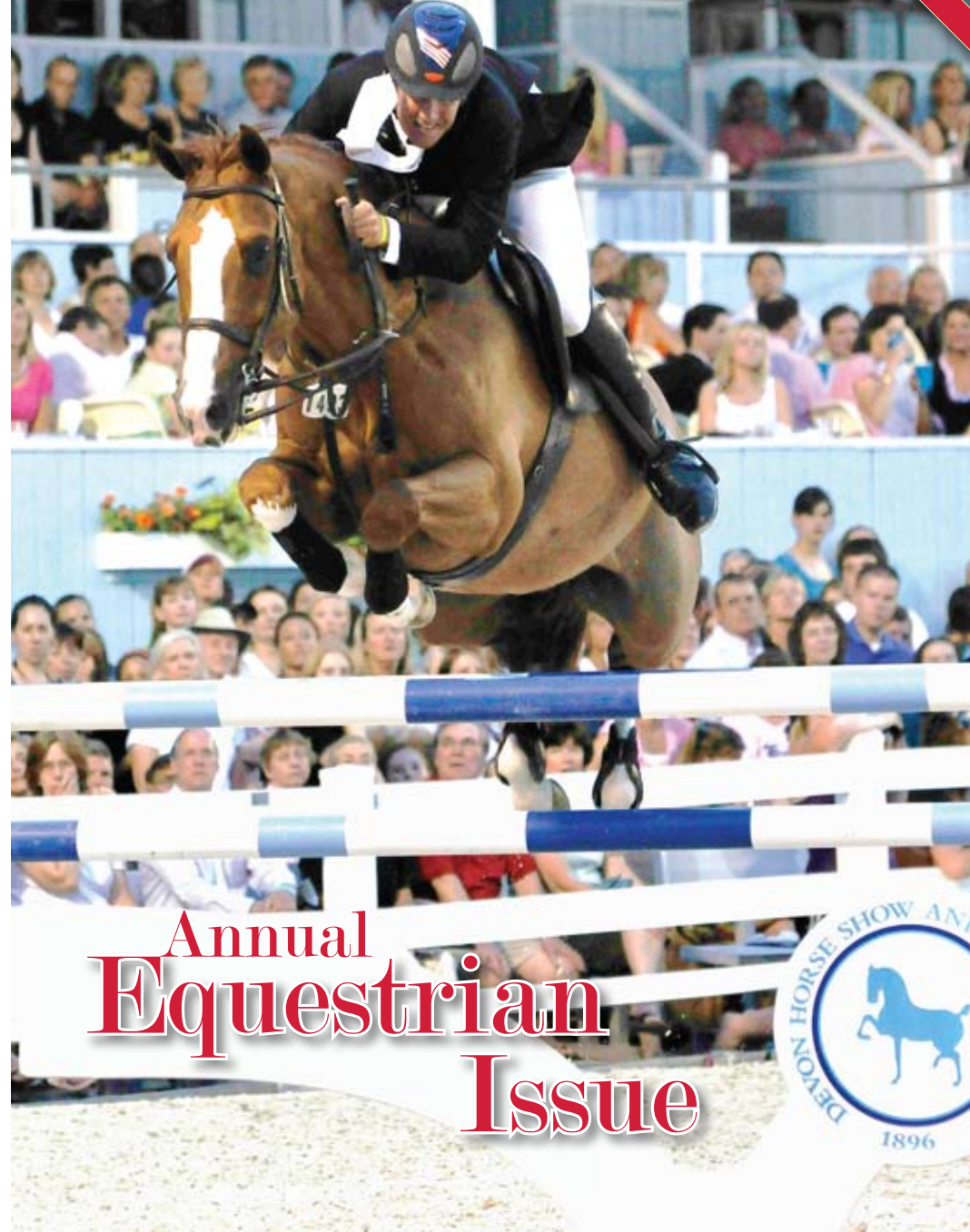
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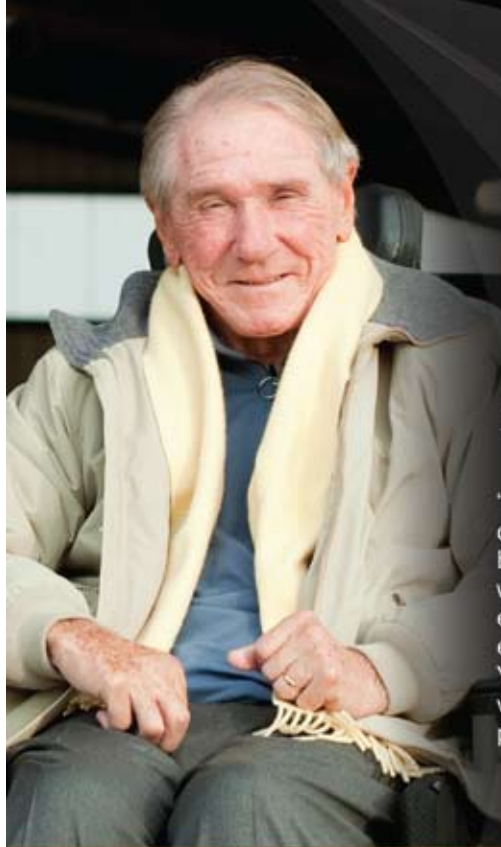
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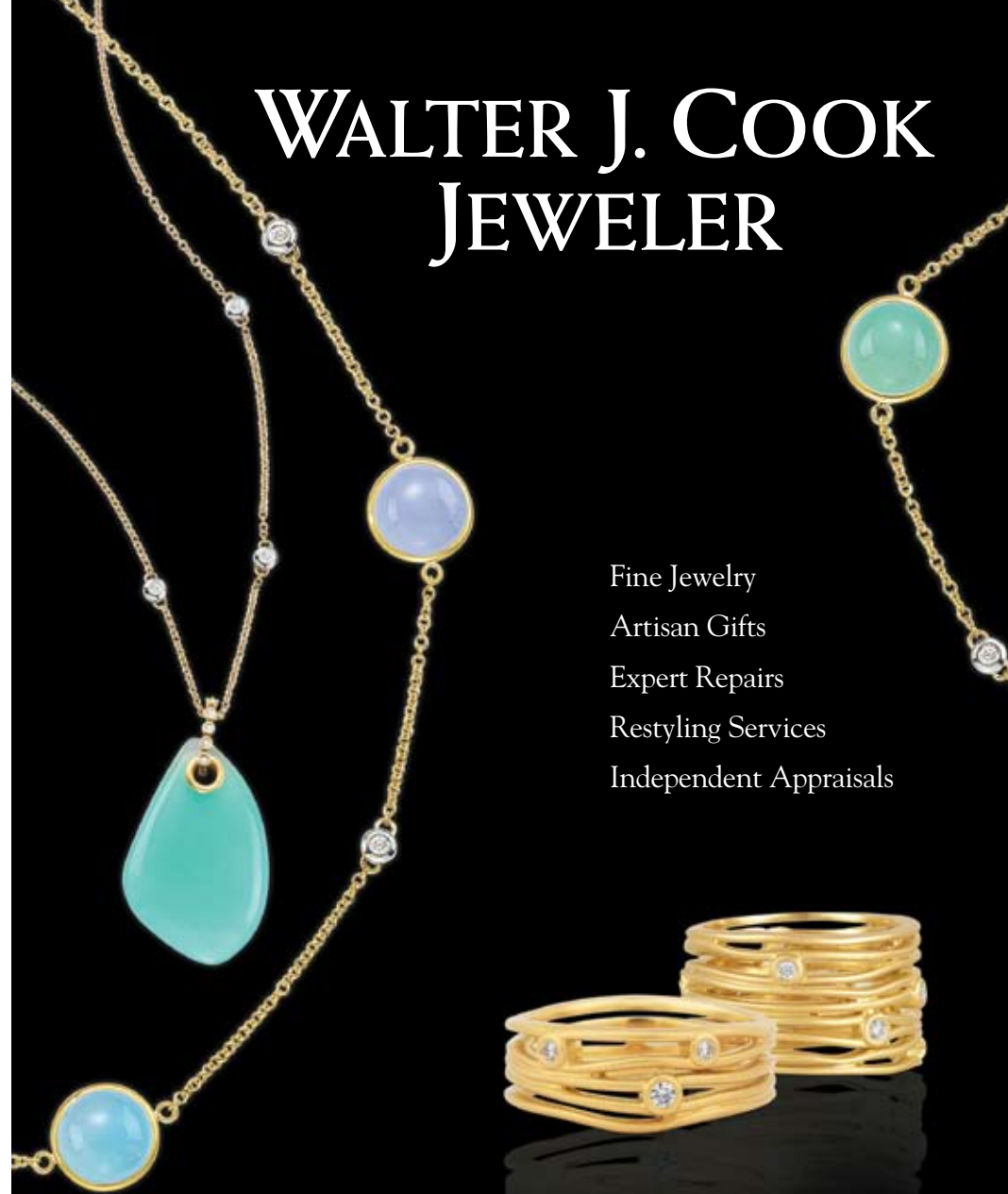


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County Lines



MAY 2011

Volume XXXIV, Number 9



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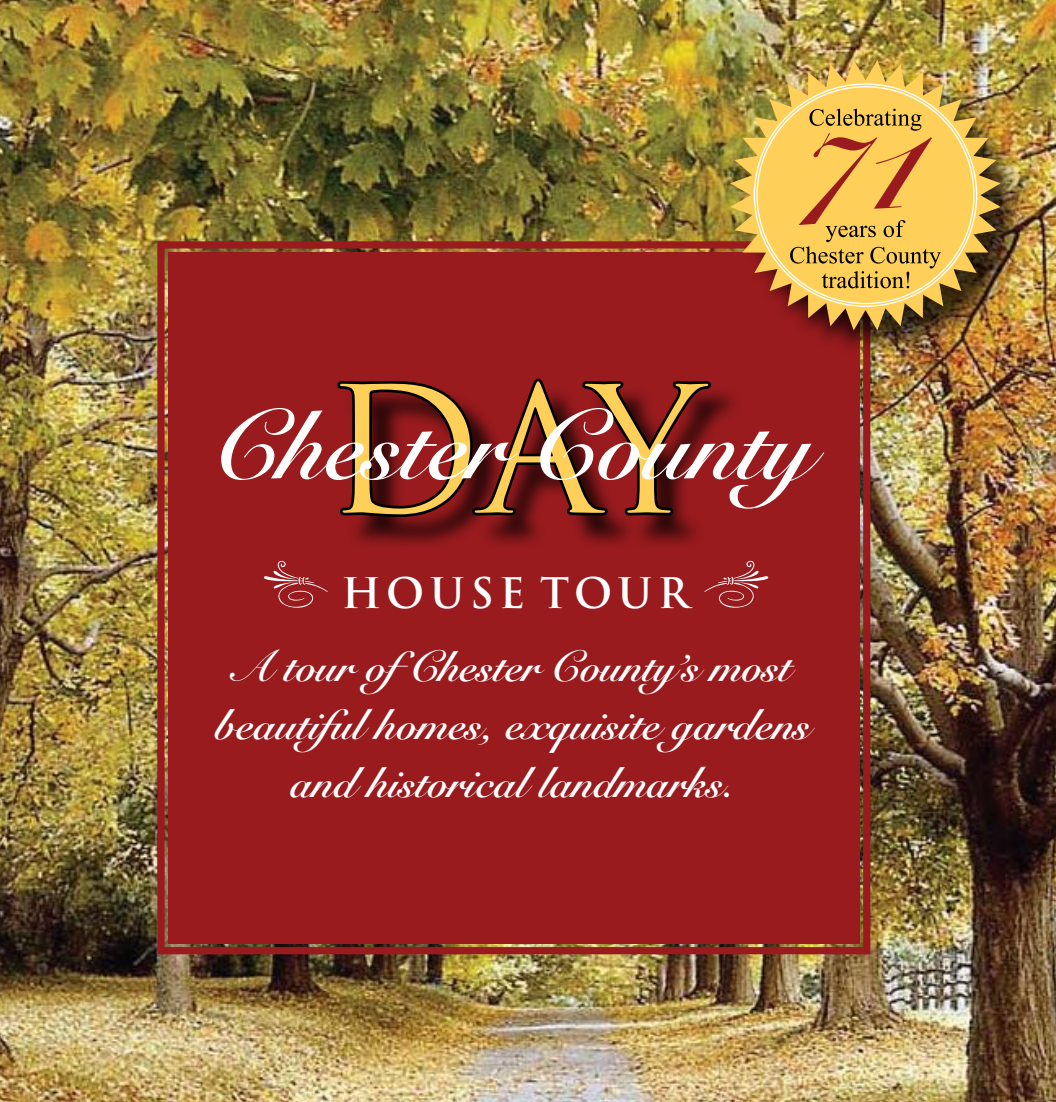
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Cover photo of Devon's Grand Prix and contents page photo of the Pleasure Carriage Drive by Alix Coleman.



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Get To Know . . .



Bill Hughes, Sr. VP & Chief Lending Officer
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Malvern Federal Savings Bank

A Chester County native from a banking family, Bill Hughes is a great fit for Malvern Federal Savings Bank, which prides itself on its community bank reputation. Born and educated in West Chester, Bill joined Malvern Federal's accounting department in 1977 and is now its Chief Lending Officer. Two of his three children have worked at the bank.

From its first Malvern branch in 1887, the bank has grown to seven offices and was chosen best community bank for the past four years. Bill cites the hometown advantage as a local bank and the employees' active involvement in the community as reasons for these awards.

Bill and other bank employees help with efforts like the Berwyn Victory Run (May 21), Malvern Library fundraisers, and Goodworks, Inc., a Habitat-like project that repairs rather than builds needed housing. Not surprising that a banker with a large portfolio of residential mortgages is drawn to this charity.

When asked about the future, Bill says, "We're still here, we're stable, and we're still lending." Good news for Chester County! MalvernFederal.com.

Dragonfly Decor

Open less than five years, Dragonfly Décor is already known as the best place for hostess gifts – think specialty candles, wine bags, gourmet treats. No surprise, since owner Sandy Faust-Mesropian has spot-on taste from years of shopping with family and friends and developing an eye for mixing styles and finding signature pieces that make a room, an outfit or a perfect gift.

Happy that shoppers still buy gifts, Sandy has seen her focus evolve from fine furniture and jewelry to fun pieces to brighten a look or a mood. From hand-painted salad bowls to Abbott's Caramels from her home state of Indiana, Sandy's store is filled with reasons to shop.

Her guiding principle, "I won't buy it unless I like it," helps Sandy collect an eclectic mix of furniture, accessories, jewelry and things you don't know you need until you see them. And once you see the stylish displays and unique items in this distinctive specialty store, you'll know you've found your new favorite shop. DragonflyDecorHome.com.



Sandy Faust-Mesropian, Dragonfly Décor

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OF SPECIAL NOTE . . .

The Who's Tommy *Through May 22*

The teenager with an uncanny knack for pinball becomes a superstar. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Wed-Thurs, 7:30 p.m.; Fri-Sat, 8 p.m.; Wed, Sat, 2 p.m.; Sun, 3 p.m. \$22-\$42.50. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



Bucks County Designer House & Gardens *Through May 29*

Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Old Glory Farm, 3719 Indian Spring Rd., Buckingham Twp. Mon-Wed, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thurs-Fri 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sat, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sun, 12 to 6 p.m. \$25. Benefits Doylestown Hosp. and the Village Improvement Assoc. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

28th Annual Immaculata University Art Show *May 13-22*

Over 200 original works by regional, national and international juried artists. Also new for the 2011 Art Show is the expanded selection of indoor and outdoor sculpture to be displayed in the new sculpture garden café. Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. May 13, Preview Party, 7 to 10 p.m. \$75. Show hours: Mon-Thurs, Sat, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun, noon to 5 p.m. 610-647-4400; Immaculata.edu/ArtShow.



Brandywine River Museum's 40th Annual Antiques Show *May 27-30*

More than 30 outstanding antiques dealers from around the nation offer high quality American and English furniture, folk art, quilts, Oriental and European porcelain, rugs and fine collectibles. Booth talks Sun-Mon, 11, 11:45, 12:30 and 1:15. Benefits the Museum Volunteers' Art Purchase Fund. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Preview Party Fri, May 27, 6 to 9 p.m. featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music, \$125; reservations required. Show: Sat-Mon, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$12. 610-388-8318 (preview); 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.



MAY EVENTS

Noteworthy This Month

THROUGH MAY 15

2011 Yellow Springs Art Show. More than 170 professional artists exhibit in a variety of media. Special events: **Through May 15**, "Art Quest for Kids," a treasure hunt with prizes stimulates observational skills and appreciation for fine art; **May 6**, Happy Hour, 5 to 8 pm, free wine and cheese. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Show hours: daily 11 to 5; Fri, until 8. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.



MAY 4-SEPTEMBER 28

Stroll, Shop, Dine — Dining Under the Stars in Media. Wednesday is the night to dine out in Media. Restaurants offer outdoor dining along State Street, which will be closed to traffic from Jackson to Orange Sts. Plus entertainment and children's activities on each block. 5 to 11 pm. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

MAY 13-14

Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta. Thousands of student athletes visit the city of Philadelphia for the largest collegiate rowing competition in the U.S., with over 100 colleges and universities participating. Held on the Schuylkill River, parking along Kelly Drive and in remote parking areas with shuttle service to the grandstand. For information, 215-542-1443; DadVail.org.

MAY 20-22

28th Annual Chester County Hospital May Festival. Food, fun, friends and entertainment for the whole family with amusements, children's activities, shopping, games, Battle of the Bands, a wellness tent and more. Chester County Hospital Grounds, 701 E. Marshall St., West Chester. Fri, 4 to 9:30; Sat, 10 to 9:30; Sun, 11 to 5. Free. 610-431-5329; CCHosp.com/MayFest.

Antiques

MAY 20-21

Greater York Antiques Show & Sale. Quality dealers featuring a variety of Americana participate at this show, now in its 41st year. Memorial Hall East, York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave., York. Show hours Fri, 11 to 7; Sat, 11 to 5. \$10. 717-872-2778; JimBurkAntiqueShows.net.

MAY 21

Spring Philadelphia Vintage Book & Ephemera Fair. Exhibitors from throughout the Northeast offer fine rare and unusual old books, maps, autographs, prints, posters, playbills, ephemera and more. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. 9 to 4. \$3-\$6. 603-509-2639; FlamingoEventz.com.

MAY 27-30

Brandywine River Museum 40th Annual Antiques Show. See "Of Special Note."

JUNE 4

Antiques & Arts Festival at 34th Annual Lansdale Day. Antique dealers and a juried showcase of fine artists and crafters, music, entertainment, food and a community marketplace. Main St., Lansdale. 10 to 4. Rain date, June 5. Free. 215-699-8117; SLSShow.com.

Art Shows & Exhibits

MAY 3-28

Serpentine Art Gallery Exhibit. Chester County artist, Bill Freeland, "Beginnings." The first exhibition since his passing, featuring late works never exhibited as well as formative early works inspired by the artist's early years in West Chester. 138 E. Gay St., West Chester. Tues-Sat, 11 to 5. 610-344-3992; SerpentineGalleryWC.com.

MAY 7-8

Lancaster Art Walk. A biannual event celebrating the eclectic mix of independent galleries that thrive in downtown Lancaster. Enjoy meet-the-artist events, seminars, workshops, kids activities and more. On the corner of Prince and Walnut Sts. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 4. Free. 717-431-8706; LancasterArtWalk.org.

MAY 14-15, 21-22

Elephant's Eye Bucks County Artists Studio Tour. Showcasing artists who make two- and three-dimensional work in various media, including oils, photographs and more. Some studios will feature visiting artists and demonstrations take place at select locations. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. 215-340-0964; ElephantsEyeTour.org.

Crafts

MAY 7-8

Pennsylvania Guild Craft Market. This outdoor festival features 40 juried contemporary and traditional artisans offering American fine art and crafts during Lancaster's Art Walk (see ARTSHOWS). Meet the artists and learn about

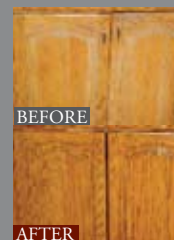


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JUNE 5

46th Media Art Exhibition & Craft Fair. Juried artists and craftspeople line State Street in downtown Media from 9 to 5. Rain date June 12. 610-583-4432; VisitMedia-PA.com.

Design / Home Shows

THROUGH MAY 29

36th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. See "Spring Home & Garden Tours" article in this issue.

MAY 11-30

Stonebridge — Oxford Arts Alliance Decorator Showhouse & Gardens. See "Spring Home & Garden Tours" article in this issue.

Equestrian

Be sure to see the "Jump Into Steeplechase Season" article in this issue for details about Willowdale Steeplechase, Winterthur's Point-to-Point, Radnor Hunt Races and Fair Hill Races.



THROUGH SEPTEMBER – Tuesdays

Penn Veterinary Medicine New Bolton Center Lecture Series. The large animal campus of Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center, hosts an ongoing series of lectures on topics of interest to horse owners and caregivers. 382 W. Street Rd., Kennett Square. First Tues. of the month, 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Free. 610-925-6500; Vet.UPenn.edu/FirstTuesdays.

MAY 1

Kimberton Hunt Club's 66th Annual Horse Show. This annual spring tradition, which is the first outdoor USEF "C" rated show of the season in the region, is considered by many as the first "warm up" show for the Devon Horse Show. Vendors and homemade fare. Radnor Hunt Pony Club Grounds, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 8 am. Free. 610-469-0227; KimbertonHunt.org.

MAY 1

2011 Radnor Hunt Races Preview Party & Auction. Annual event featuring many fabulous items. Food stations will be provided by some of the area's finest caterers. Open bar. Benefits the Open Space Programs of the Brandywine Conservancy. 4:30 to 7:30. For more information and location, phone 610-388-8324.

MAY 26-JUNE 5

Devon 2011 — The 115th Annual Devon Horse Show & Country Fair. This great outdoor horse show includes hunter, jumper, saddlebred horses, roadsters, harness, coaching, junior and lead line classes. The Devon Country Fair offers family fun with rides, games, Devon fudge, the Tea Cart and lemon sticks and over 40 shops. Benefits Bryn Mawr Hospital. Special events: **May 7**, Black Tie & Boots Ball, see listing for this date under FUNDRAISING; **May 25**, First Night at Devon, guests enjoy an art show, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres the night before the official opening, phone for details; **May 26**, Family Day; **May 28**, Children's Day; **May 31**, Guided Back Barn Tour, a behind-the-scenes walking tour around Devon; **June 1**, Devon Hat Parade. Devon Horse Show Grounds, Rt. 30, Devon. Mon-Sat, 8 am to 11 pm; Sun, 11 am to 11 pm. \$5-\$50. See "Devon Horse Show Advance Schedule" in this issue. 610-688-2554; TheDevonHorseShow.org.

Family Fun

MAY 1, 6, 8

Players Club of Swarthmore Children's Series — "Sleeping Beauty." Players Club of Swarthmore, 614 Fairview Ave., Swarthmore. Fri-Sat, 7; Sun, 11 am. \$10. 610-328-4271; PCSTheater.org.

It's First FridayTime

See the First Friday article in this issue.

MAY 6, JUNE 3

First Fridays Events. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Berwyn**, 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. **Kennett Square**, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City**, 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **A Main Line ARTitude**, with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. **Phoenixville**, 484-880-1530; PhxFirstFriday.com. **Wayne**, 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester**, 610-738-3350; DowntonWestChester.com.

Eat, Drink & Be Merry

MAY 7

10th Annual Philadelphia Wine Festival. Fine wineries offer hard-to-find vintages and rare blends. Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market St., Philadelphia. VIP Tasting, 5 to 6:30, \$225; Grand Tasting, 6:30 to 9, \$125. 800-595-4TIX; PhiladelphiaWineFestival.com.

MAY 13-OCTOBER 23

Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore Farm Dinners on the Shore. Dinners take place right on a farm, using produce and other products from that farm and surrounding farms, prepared by accomplished chefs from the region. **May 13-14**, Priapi Gardens; **June 24-26**, Crow Farm; **Sept. 9-10**, Galena Blooms Farm; **Oct. 21-23**, Lockbriar Farms. Benefits the Eastern Shore's rural environment. 410-810-4898; FarmDinners OnTheShore.com.

MAY 14

3rd Annual BrewFest at Mount Hope. Music, food and all that is ale. Two sessions: 11 am to 3 pm and 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Mount Hope Estate & Winery, 83 Mansion House Road, Rt. 72 & PA Tpk. Exit 20, Manheim. \$40 in advance; \$45 at the gate. 717-665-7021; PAREnFaire.com.

MAY 14

The Brandywine Valley Craft Brewer's Festival. A premier showcase of handcrafted products from 25 local breweries with all proceeds donated to the Media Youth Center. Live music all day. Iron Hill Brewery, 30 E. State St., Media. 1 to 5 pm. Rain or shine. \$45-\$50. 302-468-5935; IronHillBrewery.com.

MAY 21

Kennett's Beer and Wine on Broad Street. Enjoy tastings from handcrafted microbrewers and local wineries, great food and live blues. 1 to 5. \$35 includes a \$5 food voucher. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

MAY 28-29

The Great Pennsylvania FlavorFest. Not just your average food and wine festival, FlavorFest dishes up fine PA culinary specialties and fine artisan crafts. Lessons in pairing beer and wine, chef competitions and entertainment. Mt. Hope Estate & Winery, 83 Mansion House Rd., Manheim. 11 to 6. Free. 717-665-7021; PADutchCountry.com.

JUNE 3-12

Philly Beer Week. More than 500 events at over 100 venues throughout the city and suburbs, highlighting the region's diverse beer scene, its world-class breweries, neighborhood taverns, restaurants and rich beer culture. For venue information visit PhillyBeerWeek.org.

JUNE 4

Longwood Gardens Wine & Jazz Festival. Live jazz, fine regional wines and local fresh fare. Longwood's glorious outdoor stage overlooking the picturesque meadow comes alive at this annual event. Rt. 1. \$25-\$40. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MAY 5-6, 17-18

DuPont Theatre Children's Series. **May 5-6**, "Stuart Little," E.B. White's heroic character. Gr. K-5. **May 17-18**, "Duck for President," and Other Short Stories. Gr. P-4. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 9:30 and noon. \$6. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

MAY 7

16th Annual Trout Rodeo. Ponds will be stocked with 12- to 24-inch trout. Tagged fish, a fly tying demonstration, bait and fishing supplies, a raffle, prizes. Benefits Anson B. Nixon Park, N. Walnut St., Kennett Square. 8 to 4. 610-444-0792.

MAY 8

WCU Live! "Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical." Based on Mo Willems' Caldecott Honor-winning picture book with music by Michael Silversher. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, S. High St. & University Ave., West Chester. 2 pm. \$8-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.edu/Live.

JUNE 2-SEPTEMBER 1

Swingin' Summer Thursdays in West Chester. Great food, live music, clowns and more, this street festival takes place in downtown West Chester on Gay St., the first Thurs. of the month. 6:30 to 9:30. 610-436-9010; DowntownWestChester.com.

Festivals & Fairs

THROUGH MAY 1

7th Annual West Chester Film Festival. An International Short Film Festival. Meet filmmakers, attend workshops and see great films. Closing Night Awards Party, Sun, 6 to 10 at The Note, \$20. Downtown West Chester Borough venues. \$8; \$50 for a weekend pass, online or at the door. WestChesterFilmFestival.com.

MAY 1

West Chester Festival of the Arts & May Day Festival. A festival of the arts with arts and crafts, live entertainment, pony rides, May Pole Dancers, clowns and jugglers, children's make-it-and-take-it, a moon bounce and much more. Everhart Park, W. Union St. & S. Bradford Ave., West Chester. 11 to 4. 610-436-9010; WestChester.com.

MAY 3

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Kennett Square. Celebration of Mexican culture with food, music, children's activities. Noon to 5. Downtown Kennett.

MAY 3-5

2011 Chester County Envirothon. An educational event for Chester County students mea-



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sureing their knowledge of environmental subjects such as wildlife, forestry, aquatics, soil and current environmental issues. Theme: "Salt & Fresh Water Estuaries." Hibernia County Park, 1 Park Rd., Wagontown. 610-344-5930; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

MAY 7

Green Valleys SpringFest 2011 — "Landscapes for Life." Family event highlights sustainable watershed practices, renewable energy, green building, sustainable agriculture, land conservation, alternative transportation and hands-on activities and hikes. Welkinweir, 1368 Prizer Rd, Pottstown. 10 to 4. 610-469-4900; GreenValleys.org.

MAY 14

Warwick Kids Trout Rodeo. Ages 15 and under may register to fish along a 1/4-mi. stretch of the French Creek. Volunteers will be on hand to assist those who do not have experience. Prizes awarded. Refreshments. Warwick County Park, 328 County Park Rd., Pottstown. 8 to 3. \$5. 610-469-1916; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

MAY 16-21

60th Anniversary Phoenixville Dogwood Festival. A wonderful community festival and parade with food, live music, games, family entertainment and amusements. **May 21,** Dogwood Parade, 1 pm. Reeves Park Bandshell, 2nd & Main Sts., Phoenixville. Mon-Fri, 6 to 10 (Mon & Wed are Family Nights, special prices for rides); Sat, noon to 10. 484-928-0052; PhoenixvilleJaycees.org.

MAY 30

Memorial Day Parade in Kennett Square. The parade begins at Cypress St. and Mill Rd. 10 am. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

MAY 30

Media's Memorial Day Parade. The parade will travel State Street beginning at 10 am. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

JUNE 2-5

Brandywine Hospital's Annual Strawberry Festival. Rides, entertainment, children's games and activities, craft fair and fireworks display on Friday night. Brandywine Hospital, at the Rt. 30 Bypass, Coatesville. Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri, 5 to 11; Sat, 11 to 11; Sun, noon to 6. Benefits The Brandywine Health Foundation, Coatesville Rotary and Public Library, Thorndale Fire Co., Brandywine YMCA. 610-380-9080; BrandywineStrawberryFestival.com.

JUNE 4

Salisbury Twp. Annual Gourmet Gala and Music Festival. Silent auction, great music and entertainment. Salisbury Township Park, Rt. 897, Gap. Benefits the historical society. 4 to 7. \$5-\$10. 717-442-8118.

JUNE 5

143rd Annual Malvern Memorial Day Parade and Family Fun Day. Featuring live music, great food, military color guards, military and antique vehicles, floats, fire trucks and a decorated bicycle procession. The festivities begin at Monument Park, Warren Ave., at 8:45 am with a kids fun run and continues through the afternoon with the parade starting at 1:30. For a complete listing of events, MalvernMemorialParade.com.

Local Farm Markets

Anselma Farmers & Artisans Market, 1730 Conestoga Rd., Chester Springs. Wed, 2 to 6. 610-827-1906; AnselmaMill.org.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lot 7, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. Sat, 10 to 2. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Market, downtown. Fri, 2 to 6. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Lancaster Central Market, 23 N. Market St. Tues, Fri, 6 am to 4; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; CentralMarketLancaster.com.

Lititz Farmers Market, Water St. 8 until noon. 717-626-6332; LititzFarmersMarket.com.

Media Farmers Market, State St. between Monroe and Gayley Sts. Thurs, 3 to 7. 610-566-5039; MediaFarmersMarket.com.

Oxford Village Market, 3rd & Locust Sts. Tues, 2 to 6. 610-998-9494; OxfordMainStreet.org.

Parkesburg Farm and Community Market, 315 W. First Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-857-2616; Parkesburg.org.

Phoenixville Farmers Market, under Gay St. Bridge accessed by Taylor Alley. Sat, 9 to 1. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Swarthmore Farmers Market, 341 Dartmouth Ave., at Swarthmore Co-Op. Sat, 9:30 to 1:30. FarmToCity.org.

West Chester Growers Market, corner of Chestnut and Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

West Chester Wellness Growers Market, 2 locations: Courthouse patio, High & Market Sts. and Government Services Center, Westtown Rd., West Goshen. Fri, 11:30 to 1:30. DowntownWestChester.com

West Grove Farmers Market, Harmony Park, Harmony Rd. Thurs, 2 to 6. 610-932-5468; WestGroveBorough.org.

Wilmington's Urban Farm Stand, 12th and Brandywine Sts. Sat, 10 to 2. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

JUNE 7-11

Annual Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Experience a bit of Greece and enjoy the wonderful food, dancing, musical entertainment and culture at this popular festival. 808 N. Broom St., Wilmington. Daily 11 to 11. 302-654-4446; GreekFestDE.com.

Fundraising

MAY 7

6th Annual Devon Black Tie and Boots Ball. The Devon Horse Show & Country Fair hosts this kick-off event for the world-renown horse show with live bands, open bar, an auction, dining and dancing under the stars. Bryn Clovis Farm, Brushwood, Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 7 to 11 pm. \$125. 610-525-2533; DevonHorseShow.org.

MAY 12

Mommy's Light Lives On Fund Event, "Hearts for Mommy." A tapas-tasting event featuring live music and silent auction. Riverstone Café, 143 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton. 7 pm. \$50. 610-594-2233; HeartsForMommy.com.

MAY 14

St. Michael's Annual Fundraising Event — Preppy for Life or Just for a Night! A fun evening of great food, drinks and silent auction. Benefits the school's scholarship fund. University & Whist Club, 805 N. Broom St., Wilmington. 6:30. \$100. 302-656-3389; St.MichaelsDE.org.

MAY 20

One For the Books — Ardrossan Event for Radnor Memorial Library. A fundraising event for the library with music, wine tasting, open bar, gourmet food, a silent auction and raffle. Ardrossan, Newtown Rd., Villanova. 7:30 pm. \$125. RadnorLibrary.org.

MAY 21

HomeAID for Africa Benefit Concert and Picnic. Area bands perform at this benefit for the women and children of Malawi. Bring your own food or purchase there. West Chester Friends Meeting, 415 N. High St., West Chester. 5 to 8 pm. \$5; \$15/ family. 610-399-0823; HomeAidForAfrica.org.

Gardens & Workshops

See "Spring Home & Garden Tours" article in this issue for garden tours and plant sales.



THROUGH JUNE 2011

Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens Presents Wind Through the Trees Outdoor Kinetic and Auditory Sculpture Exhibit. Featuring 67 sculptures in a botanical setting. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. Daily 8 am to sunset. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 30

Chanticleer. Thousands of bulbs in spring, orchards of flowering trees, a vegetable garden, cut-flower garden and fruit trees. 786 Church Rd., Wayne. Wed-Sun 10 to 5. \$10. 610-687-4163; ChanticleerGarden.org.

MAY 20-21

Pottstown Area Garden Club's Standard Flower Show. "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." Frederick Mennonite Comm., Rt. 72, Frederick. Fri, 3 to 6; Sat, 9 to 2. Free. 610-323-2272.

JUNE 1

Jazzing Up the Goodstay Gardens. A relaxing evening of great music, wine, beer and peak spring blooms at one of the oldest gardens in Delaware. Cash bar. University of DE, Wilmington campus, 2600 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington. 6 to 8. \$10. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.



Museums

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25

Delaware Art Museum. Through May 22, "Battle of the Sexes," a participatory exhibition that tests gender preconceptions about art. **Through Sept. 25,** "Perception / Deception: Illusion in Contemporary Art," an exhibition exploring the relationship between reality and our sense of sight. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH JUNE 5

Philadelphia Museum of Art: "Roberto Capucci: Art into Fashion." Revered by contemporary designers for his innovative silhouettes and masterful use of form, color and materials, this exhibition — featuring over 80 works — is the first survey of Capucci's work in the U.S. 26th St., and Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia. Tues-Thurs, 11 to 5; Fri, 11 to 8:45; Sat-Sun, 10 to 5. \$7-\$22. 215-235-7469; PhilaMuseum.org.



THROUGH JUNE

Brandywine River Museum. Through May 22, "Barry Moser: Bookwright." **Through June,** Andrew Wyeth works that have rarely been on public view; **May 27-30,** Brandywine River Museum Antiques Show, see "Of Special Note." Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$10. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

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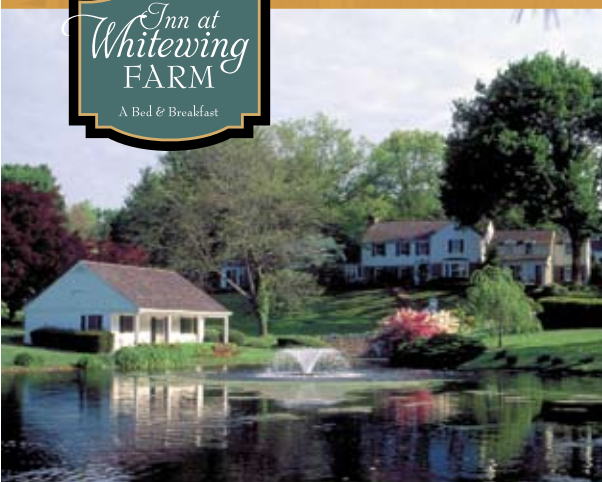


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THROUGH MAY 30
Delaware Museum of Natural History Presents
"Tarantulas: Alive and Up-Close." Challenge your preconceptions about tarantulas, their diversity and natural beauty, while providing engaging learning opportunities. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Mon-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30; Sun, 12 to 4:30. \$5-\$7. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2012
"Paint, Pattern & People: Furniture of South-eastern PA, 1725-1850" at Winterthur Museum. Featuring nearly 200 objects focusing on the culture and creativity of the area's English- and German-speaking inhabitants. Winterthur, Rt. 52, six mi. NW of Wilmington. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$18. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2012
"Wedding Traditions of the du Pont Family, 1813-1915" Exhibit at Hagley Museum & Library. Visit Hagley to explore the origins of well-loved wedding traditions and those that the du Pont family cherished. The exhibit showcases weddings of du Pont family members during the 19th- and early-20th-centuries. Main entrance, off Route 141, Wilmington. Daily from 9:30 to 4:30. \$4-\$11. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

Music

ONGOING




Kennett Flash. An all-ages concert venue where national, regional and local recording artists perform in an intimate setting. All genres of music and family shows. Sun, Open Mic Nights. Mon, Blue Monday Jam. **May 14**, Steve Forbert; **May 20**, Live At The Fillmore; **May 21**, Aztec Two-Step. 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17
Longwood Gardens Special Events. May 28-Sept. 4, Festival of Fountains, Thurs-Sat evenings. Fireworks & Fountains shows: **May 29, June 18, July 3, July 23, Aug. 13, Sept. 3. June 14-Sept. 17**, 2011 Summer Concert Series. Rt. 1. \$6-\$16. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MAY 1
Delaware County Symphony Concert. "Light and Dark," the music of Benjamin Britton and Peter Tchaikovsky. Neumann Univ., Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. 610-356-5673; DCSMusic.org.

MAY 8
Point Entertainment Presents The Nils Lofgren Acoustic Duo. Rock guitarist, singer, songwriter and instrumentalist performs at The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7:30 pm. \$22-\$39.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

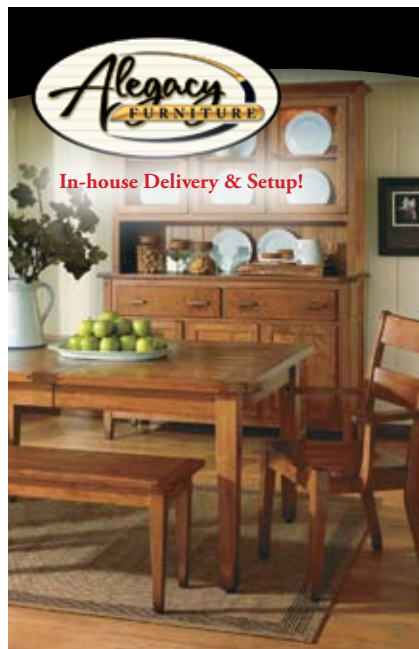
MAY 14-15
Chester County Choral Society. "War and Peace: A Commemoration of The Tenth Anniversary of 9/11/01" featuring Randall Thompson's "Testament of Freedom" and Vaughn Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem." Sat, St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 S. Valley Forge Rd., Wayne, 7:30 pm. Sun, Church of St. Monica, 601 1st Ave., Berwyn, 3 pm. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

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MAY 20

Valley Forge Educational Services hosts "A Special Concert for Special Children." The program features a 42-piece orchestra and special soloists. Immaculata University Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. Benefits programs for children with special needs. 7:30. \$50-\$150. 610-296-6725; VFES.net.

MAY 21

Turtle Dove Folk Club Presents **Lori McKenna**. Singer-songwriter who has toured with Faith Hill and Tim McGraw. West Grove Friends Meetinghouse, 153 E. Harmony Rd., West Grove. 8 pm. \$20. 802-431-3433; TurtleDove.org.

Outdoor Activities

THROUGH MAY 31

Schuylkill Scrub. The goal is to clean as many miles of road, stream and parkland, which will help prevent trash from making its way into our drinking water sources and keep our land clean litter-free and beautiful. To sign up, 484-288-0536; SchuylkillScrub.org.

THROUGH JULY 4

Road Cycling League Super Series. A series of bicycle races through Chester and Lancaster County communities. **May 21**, Oxford Road Race; **June 11**, Tour of Mt. Nebo; **July 3-4**, Coatesville Classic 2-Day. For information 717-391-9722; RoadCyclingLeague.com.

MAY 1

Walk MS at East Goshen Township Park. A 1-mi. walk, 5K run or fun run for the kids. Party follows. 1655 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 9 am. \$25. 215-271-1500; Walk4MS.org.

MAY 1

32nd Annual Blue Cross Broad Street Run. A 10-mile, point-to-point course that starts at Central High School Athletic Field at Broad St. and Somerville Ave. and finishes inside the Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 8:30 am. 215-683-3594; BroadStreetRun.com.

MAY 14

"Run By The River." A 5K run on the Schuylkill River Trail. Great out and back course; a 1-mi. fun walk is also available. Longford Park, Port Providence Rd., on the Schuylkill River Trail. 9 am rain or shine. Benefits the Good Samaritan Shelter in Phoenixville. Entry, \$22; \$25 day of race. 610-933-9305; GoodSamShelter.org.

MAY 14

The 22nd Annual Kennett Run. Events for all



age groups including a 1-Mile Fun Walk, 1-Mile Kids Run, 5K Race Walk, 10K and 5K Runs and a PoweRun biathlon. Race at 9; post-race party on N. Walnut St. with refreshments, food, music and awards ceremony. Benefits local charities. 610-388-1556; KennettRun.net.

MAY 21

10th Annual Malvern Federal Savings Bank Berwyn Victory Run. Sponsored by the Veterans Assoc. of Easttown & Tredyffrin Twps. Race begins and ends at Johnson Park, Bridge & First Ave., Berwyn. Registration 7:30 am. Race 8:30, Kids Fun Run, 9:15. BerwynVeteransMemorial.com.

JUNE 5

The 27th Running of the Philadelphia International Cycling Championship. One of the biggest special sporting events in the country. The day also includes the Liberty Classic with women cyclists competing in a 57.6-mile race held during the men's International Championship on the same course. ProCyclingTour.com.

Special Events

MAY 14, JUNE 11

Second Saturdays in Media. This is Media's version of First Friday. 6 to 9. 610-566-5210; MediaArtsCouncil.org.

Theater

THROUGH MAY 22

The Who's "Tommy." See "Of Special Note."

MAY 10-15

"Beauty and the Beast." This classic musical love story is filled with unforgettable characters. The DuPont Theatre, DuPont Building, Wilmington. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Wed, Sat, 2. \$50-\$75. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

MAY 26-27, JUNE 10-11

The Savoy Company Performs "**Iolanthe**." A fairy opera by Gilbert and Sullivan that is one of the best known and best loved of the Savoy operas. **May 26-27**, Academy of Music, Broad St., Phila. 8 pm. \$10-\$50. **June 10-11**, Longwood Gardens, Rt. 1, Kennett Square. 8:30 pm. \$25. 215-735-7161; Savoy.org.

MAY 11-JUNE 5

"Dividing the Estate." The Broadway hit making its Philadelphia premiere at People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30 Fri-Sat, 8; Sun, 7; matinees: Wed, Sat, Sun, 2. \$25-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org. ♦

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THORNCROFT Equestrian Center

Hold your horses! We've got the perfect way to enjoy a sunny May day and support a great cause. On Saturday, May 28, join the Thorncroft Equestrian Center in Malvern for their **32nd Annual Handicapped Riders Division of the Devon Horse Show**.

At this nationally respected and historic competition, over 150 riders from the Northeast will compete on the flat, over fences, on trails and in dressage. Sponsored by Brushwood Stable in Malvern, the show also features food, horse show souvenirs, and a special performance by the **Thorncroft Mainstreamers**, a team of 10 riders with and without disabilities who perform musical drills on horseback.

One of the country's largest and oldest shows for riders with disabilities, the Handicapped Riders Division will award over 10 trophies to winning riders. Trophy winners, who make up the Championship Class, are invited to participate in the award ceremony and

to compete for the coveted Hope Montgomery Scott trophy at the Devon Horse Show Grounds on Sunday, May 29.

Thorncroft Equestrian Center, a facility where both handicapped and non-handicapped people come to ride, learn and relate to one another in an accepting environment, is supported by proceeds from its annual events and contributions.

Specializing in therapeutic horseback riding for mentally, emotionally and physically disabled children and adults, Thorncroft's team of over 150 dedicated volunteers strongly believe that horses improve students' balance, strength, mobility and self-esteem all while taking students places their wheelchair cannot go!

Giddy-up and gear-up for this great event! ♦ ~ Kaitlin Tito

May 28 at Thorncroft Equestrian Center, 190 Line Rd., Malvern; May 29 at Devon Horse Show Grounds, Lancaster Ave., Devon. For information, 610-644-1963; Thorncroft.org.

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Oxford Arts Alliance Showhouse & Gardens May 11-30

Photo: JohnWerry.com

As the stunning Vassar showhouses fade from memory, the Oxford Arts Alliance proudly unveils a new Decorator Showhouse and Gardens at the Stonebridge mansion in Chadds Ford. From May 11-30, the artistry of 30 interior and landscape designers will be showcased in the impressive three-story, historic 1914 Georgian stone home set on over seven acres.

With the assistance of an army of volunteers, the Oxford Arts Alliance, the event sponsor, will create the first showhouse of this caliber the area has seen in years, says Tina Skinner, event organizer and Art Alliance managing director.

Debra Ferrier, interior designer and self-proclaimed showhouse addict, explains that the event gives her an opportunity to pull out all the stops, free of clients' budget and taste constraints when it comes to design. Debra also pioneered the Designer Tag Sale that will be part of the event, an up-scale garage sale with high-end materials from area designers – a great chance to find a new signature piece for your home. Showing alongside Ferrier is Sandy Brown of Winterthur Design Associates, a name synonymous with style and elegance.


With over seven acres as their canvas, seven participating landscape designers have room to dazzle. W.D. Wells & Assoc. is creating a kitchen garden for herbs and edibles, and artist Carol Maurer, who helped build the popular labyrinth at the Delaware Art Museum in Wilmington, is constructing a walking labyrinth for showgoers to experience. Make sure to explore the grounds during your visit.


Proceeds from the showhouse go toward the Arts Alliance's "Cultivating Community Through the Arts" program and providing an art gallery that serves as a hub for Oxford's lively First Friday Art Stroll and other cultural programming.

While Tina Skinner is thrilled for this opportunity to "reach out to the broader cultural community," Stonebridge owner Donald J. Weiss is excited for potential buyers to see this magnificent home, which is for sale.

And we should all be happy about the return of the showhouse season to our area. Here's hoping we can enjoy Showhouse 2012! ♦ ~ Robert Waterman

Stonebridge is located on Route 1 at Webb Rd., Chadds Ford. For showhouse updates, visit ShowHouseAndGardens.com.





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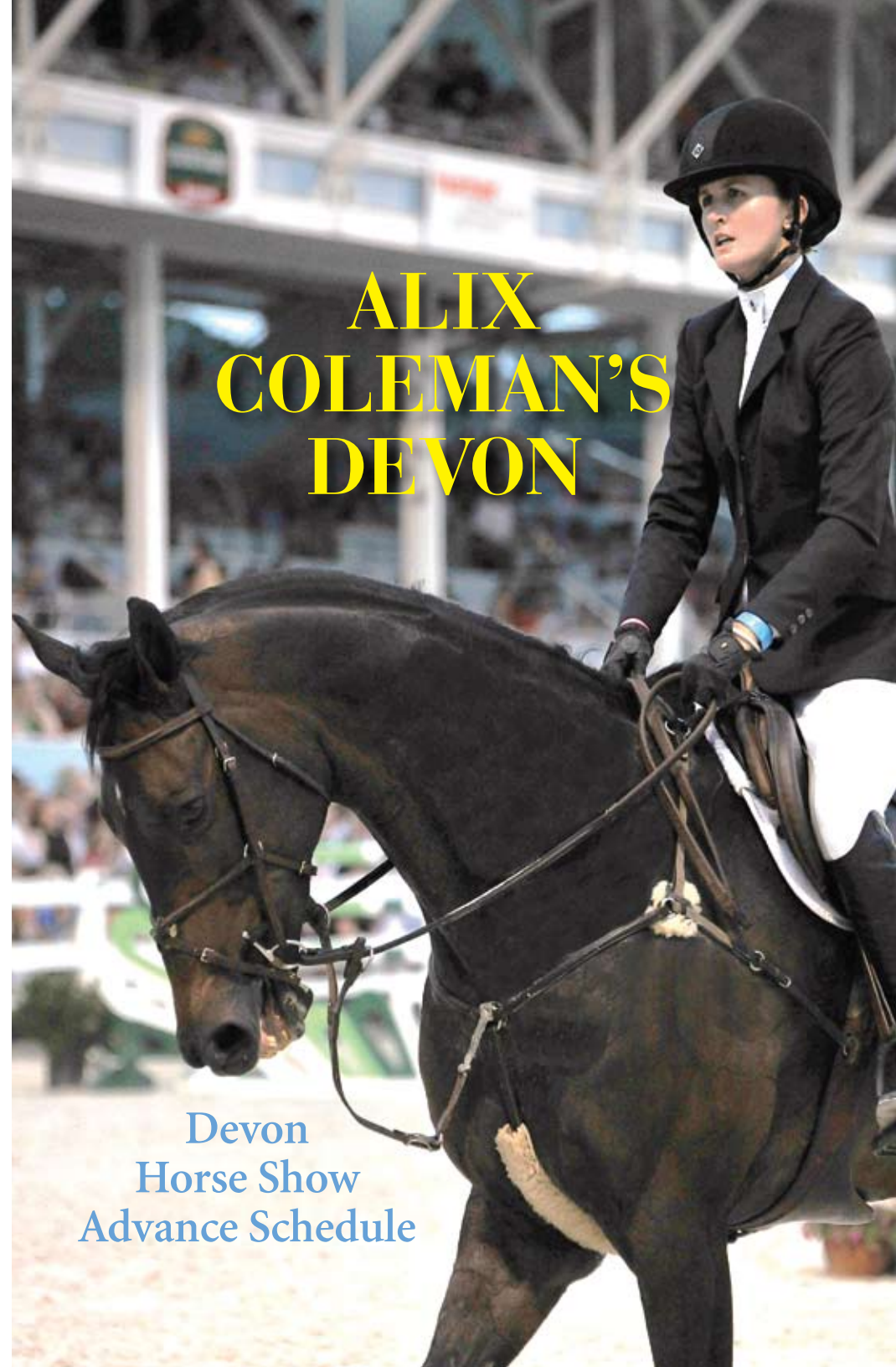


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ALIX COLEMAN'S DEVON

Devon
Horse Show
Advance Schedule

THURSDAY – May 26 - Junior Weekend

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- USEF Show Jumping Talent Search
- WIHS Equitation Classic - Jumper Phase

Gold Ring – 7 a.m.

- Hunter Pony Breeding Classes
- Hunter Pony Championship
- Best Young Pony
- PBHA Trophy
- Leading Pony Breeder / Handler Award
- Pessoa/USEF Medal

FRIDAY – May 27 - Junior Weekend

Dixon Oval – 7:30 a.m.

- ASPCA MacLay
- R.W. “Ronnie” Mutch Equitation Ch.
- Junior Jumpers
- Junior Hunters

Gold Ring – 8 a.m.

- Pony Models
- Pony Hunters

Dixon Oval – 8 p.m.

- Junior Jumper - Gambler's Choice

SATURDAY – May 28 - Junior Weekend

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- Junior Hunters
- Pony Jumper

not before 1 p.m.

- Lead Line, under 4 and 4-5 years
- Junior Hunters
- Devon Grand Jr. Hunter Championship
- Best Child Rider on a Horse Award

Gold Ring – 8 a.m.

- Pony Hunters
- Devon Grand Pony Hunter Championship
- Best Child Rider on a Pony Award
- Pony Sportsmanship Award
- Pony Hunt Teams

Dixon Oval – 7 p.m.

- Junior Jumper SJHOF Classic
- Junior Jumper Championship
- Leading Junior Jumper Rider Award
- Junior Jumper Style of Riding Award
- Horse Hunt Teams
- Parent and Child
- Family Class

SUNDAY – May 29

Dixon Oval – 1 p.m.

- Special Awards & Mainstreamers
- Dog Contest
- Carriage Pleasure Drive
- Pony Jumper



Dixon Oval – 6:30 p.m.

- NAL Pony Jumper
- Pony Jumper Championship
- Pony Jumper Style Award
- Open Tandems - Horse or Pony

MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY – May 30

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- Hunter Classes
- Scurry Driving
- Adult Jumper

Dixon Oval – 7 p.m.

- NAL Adult Jumper
- Adult Jumper Championship
- Pair Pony - Pleasure Driving Exhibition
- Coaching - Appointments
- Pair Pony Scurry
- Pair Pony Championship

TUESDAY – May 31

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- Hunter Classes
- Open Unicorns
- Adult Jumper
- 7 & 8 Year-Old Young Jumpers

Gold Ring – 9 a.m.

- 5 & 6 Year-Old Young Jumpers

Dixon Oval – 7 p.m.

- Open Jumper
- Single Horse Pleasure Driving
- Coaching & Coach Horn Competition
- Single Horse Scurry Driving
- Single Horse Driving Championship
- Open Jumper

WEDNESDAY – June 1

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- Hunter Classes
- Regular Working Hunter Stake
- Regular Working Hunter Ch.
- Regular Working Hunter Leading Lady Rider Award
- Leading Mare Award
- Devon Grand Hunter Championship
- Devon Leading Hunter Rider
- Ladies Side Saddle Hunter Hack
- Ladies Side Saddle Over Fences
- 7-8 Year Old Young Jumpers
- Open Jumper

Gold Ring – 9 a.m.

- 5 & 6 Year-Old Young Jumpers

Dixon Oval – 7 p.m.

- Open Jumper - Hit & Hurry
- Ladies Side Saddle U/S
- Ladies Side Saddle Championship
- Harness Pony - Open
- Five Gaited - Lady to Ride
- Western Country Pleasure
- Fine Harness - Open
- Park Horse Amateur
- Roadster Pony - Open
- Three Gaited - Lady to Ride
- Coaching
- Three Gaited - Open
- Saddlebred Pleasure Driving
- Hackney Pony - Open



- Friesian Pleasure - Open
- Roadster Horse - Amateur
- Five Gaited - Open

THURSDAY – June 2

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- PA Breeding Classes
- Best PA Bred Horse
- Leading PA Handler
- Thoroughbred Breeding Classes
- Non-Thoroughbred Breeding Classes
- Mare Suitable to Produce
- Best Yearling & Best Young Horse
- Leading Handler Award
- Amateur Handler Award

Gold Ring – following amateur handler

- Young Hunter Under Saddle

Dixon Oval – 4:30 p.m.

“Devon at Sunset”

- Hackney/Harness Pony - Amateur
- Country Pleasure Driving
- Hackney Horse - Open
- Roadster Pony - Amateur
- Three Gaited Show Pleasure - Adult
- Coaching - Timed Obstacle
- Three Gaited - Amateur
- Hackney Pony - Amateur
- Park Horse - Open Exhibition
- Country Pleasure - Adult
- Fine Harness - Amateur
- Roadster Horse - Open
- Friesian Pleasure - Amateur
- Five Gaited - Amateur

Dixon Oval – 8 p.m.

- * **The Grand Prix of Devon**
- McDevitt Style Award

FRIDAY – June 3

Dixon Oval – 7:30 a.m.

- Amateur Owner Jumper
- Amateur Owner Hunter
- Hunter Country Pleasure
- Three Gaited Pleasure - Jr. Exhibitor
- Roadster Pony - Limit
- Three Gaited - Jr. Exhibitor
- Five Gaited - Jr./Novice
- H/H Pony Pleasure Driving
- Five Gaited Pleasure
- Country Pleasure - Jr. Exhibitor
- Harness Pony - Limit
- Amateur Owner Jumper
- NAL Open Jumper

Gold Ring – 8:30 a.m.

- Local Hunter/Local Hunter Owner to Ride
- A/O Hunter / A/O Hunter U/S

Dixon Oval – 7:30 p.m.

- Open Jumper - Gambler's Choice
- Coaching - Timed Obstacle
- Coach Horn Competition
- Coaching Championship
- Park Horse Stake - Amateur
- Western Country Pleasure Ch.
- Fine Harness Championship
- Hackney Pony Ch. - Amateur
- Friesian Pleasure Championship
- Three Gaited Stake
- H/H Pony Ch. - Amateur
- Pleasure Driving Championship
- Roadster Pony Championship
- Five Gaited Stake

SATURDAY – June 4

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- Amateur Owner Hunters
- Devon Grand A/O Hunter Ch.
- Devon Leading A/O Hunter Rider
- Park Horse Stake
- Hunter Country Pleasure Championship
- H/H Pony Pleasure Driving Ch.
- Five Gaited Pleasure Championship
- Three Gaited Stake – Junior
- Roadster Pony Championship - Amateur
- Country Pleasure Driving Championship
- Hackney Horse Championship
- A/O Jumper SJHOF Classic
- A/O Jumper Championship
- A/O Jumper Leading Rider Award

Gold Ring – 8:30 a.m.

- Local Hunter Stake, U/S & Championship
- Local Hunter Sportsmanship Award
- A/O Hunter Handy, Stake and Champ.

Dixon Oval – 7 p.m.

- Three Gaited Stake - Amateur
- Hackney Pony Championship
- Country Pleasure Championship
- Fine Harness Championship - Amateur
- Three Gaited Pleasure Ch.
- Roadster Horse Championship
- H/H Pony Championship
- Five Gaited Stake - Amateur
- Open Jumper Stake
- Open Jumper Championship
- Leading Open Jumper Rider

SUNDAY – June 5

Dixon Oval – 10 a.m.

- Working Fox Hunter
- USHJA Hunter Derby ♦





Photograph © Jim Graham



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Sunday, May 15th



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Show Biz at Devon

Cooky McClung
Photos by Alix Coleman



Lead line is the first rung on the horse show ladder and great bonding for mothers and sons.

*Taking young riders to horse shows is a snap.
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Ah yes, I remember those days well. Admittedly, I am responsible for starting it all by buying my boys ponies to ride on our new farm. My thought was that they just might like to join their friends competing in the most novice of equine competitions.

"Wouldn't you like to go to shows with your friends?" I asked. And so it began.

It All Begins With Lead Line

Indeed, they would and did enjoy the shows, beginning at the easiest level in lead-line classes at local equestrian competitions in rural Maryland. It seemed innocent enough.

I realized early on that lead line was

aptly named as the first rung on the horse show ladder, leading to short stirrup, pony hunter, junior hunter and junior jumper classes. Each class, of course, calls for increasingly better riding skills, more talented horses and much higher levels of mothers' patience.

We began with small schooling competitions. These "fun" shows, as they were called back then, were warm-ups to more challenging classes as the boys began to set their sights on the "big time," a.k.a. Devon, one of the best-known horse shows in the world.

"Please mom, that's the best show in the universe. Please can we go?" they begged in unison. And so we did.



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Best Show in the Universe

Anticipation for our inaugural trip to the big time kicked into high gear with approximately 22 trips to the tack shop to find the boys matching jackets, riding britches and handsome new hard hats unscarred by low hanging branches and water pistols battles.

It was also essential that their mother buy a new ensemble, preferably monogrammed with ponies and topped off by a spiffy straw hat, under which she could unobtrusively stand at ringside biting her fingernails.

Obviously, the ponies were also in need of an updated wardrobe. This makeover included new bridles and halters of butter-soft leather with tiny brass nameplates, and light blankets, embroidered on the side with their names — their real names, not the ones I called them when trying to catch them in the pasture.

Nor could the ponies be expected to ride in a trailer unless it had fresh paint, brand new floorboards, rotated tires and the farm name elegantly hand-stenciled on the side.

After all, we were going to *Devon*!

Devon Bound

Packed up and mostly organized, we were heading for the revered Pennsylvania show grounds before dawn. Normally a three-hour drive, it took us six, including a snack stop, lunch break, four restroom pauses (none of which coincided with food stops) and a 45-minute delay at the toll booth.

It was mid-afternoon when we pulled into the Devon show grounds, low on patience and even lower on gas. The station wagon had averaged approximately 800 feet per gallon while pulling its load. As I turned into our designated parking space, the car radiator and I heaved simultaneous sighs of relief.

We had arrived at *Devon*.

Though the lure of the Ferris wheel and Country Fair games was more powerful than the prospect of bedding down cranky ponies, all dimes and nickels were withheld until the ponies were bathed, groomed and tucked in for the evening. The braiding yarn was hanging in readiness to be woven in their freshly shampooed gray and black manes.

And oh, how I'd worked learning to braid properly, practicing at all those



This proud mother led her munchkin to win a coveted ribbon in the lead line competition.

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early schooling shows. I was now well aware that the usual six fuzzy clumps knotted together with rubber bands wasn't going to cut it. After all, this was *Devon*.

Before heading for the hotel, we double-checked entries, toured the fairgrounds one more time in case we'd missed anything, and gave the ponies their good night carrots and hugs.

The first walk/trot class was scheduled for 9 a.m. the next morning, which meant rising before dawn. So, two pillow fights and half a "Swamp Thing" movie later, we were all sound asleep.

Magic of the Oval

Dressed in their show-ring finery an hour before sunrise, the boys' help consisted of standing propped up against the stable wall in a mostly successful attempt to remain unsullied, while I tidied stalls and braided brightly colored yarn in the ponies manes.

With a "leg up" in the saddle as the "walk/trot on your own" class was announced, I wished the boys good luck and watched them trot smartly into the ring.

I longed for a nap.

Then, automatically, the magic of Devon kicked in as a dozen or so

A little help from Dad.



Matching bow ties add to the look.

fresh-faced youngsters astride their spanking clean ponies entered that very special Dixon Oval, where little hooves have echoed over countless decades.

Beginning that moment and lasting all weekend, my young riders shared the delight of Devon fun (and Devon fudge). They enjoyed the thrill of hearing their numbers announced among the winners, but managed brave smiles when their numbers weren't called.

It was an unforgettable weekend of too little sleep and too much pizza, a smorgasbord of fairground fun against a staccato of hoof beats as novice and world-class riders strutted their stuff.

Propped up against the fence, straw in my hair and rub rag hanging from my pocket, I knew then that every minute had been worthwhile. And I still do. ♦

Watch the Lead Line at Devon on Saturday, May 28, at 1 p.m. You'll be glad you did!

115 Years of the Devon Horse Show

Cooky McClung



Get a glimpse of the Devon Horse Show's rich history and help collect and preserve the story.

Over a century ago, a group of foxhunting enthusiasts who owned some fancy horses pooled their resources to purchase a swath of prime Chester County property suitable for hosting horse shows, creating a venue where they could strut their stuff in style and to promote the breeding of superior horses for new area residents.

Today more than 400 equestrian enthusiasts own coveted Devon Horse Show boxes, which are passed down from generation to generation. And more than 100,000 paying guests attend the country's oldest and largest outdoor, multi-breed show here each May, helping to add to the nearly \$14 million contributed since 1972 to Bryn Mawr Hospital, the current event beneficiary.



By 1914, the Devon Horse Show had become the largest outdoor show. 1919 photo

Starting from Scratch

Starting literally from scratch, the group organized the first competition in 1896, creating a two-day show that drew competitors from as far as Lionville and West Chester to the former Devon Race Track and Polo Grounds.

Bringing their own seats, food and competitive spirit, enthusiastic riders offered spectators a total of 28 classes of events that included "a little bit of everything for everyone," from harness and saddle horses to heavy and light hunters and children's ponies, foreshadowing the variety at today's Devon.

One report of this inaugural year boldly stated, "The hobnobbing of the belles of the town with the rugged rustics is one of the picturesque incidents which demonstrated how beneficial such efforts are in bringing human elements together for the attainment of proper and humanizing civilization."

Largest Outdoor Show

Although no show was produced throughout the decade of war years between 1900 and 1910, its greatly anticipated revival the next year offered competitors and spectators a one-day event that, by 1914, had grown to become the largest outdoor horse show in the world and raised more than \$9,000 in emergency aid for soldiers overseas.

"History reveals no older friend of man than the horse, helping increase funds necessary to comfort and well being of our men 'over there,'" read a report from the Devon archives. The show was so successful that it continued as a "worthy charity," funding numerous beneficiaries over the years.

Wanamaker Oval

Delighted with the show's resurgence after the war, top equestrian competitors

1910 Horse Show had the judges pavilion in the center ring.





Vice President Calvin Coolidge (center) won a box of 100 cigarettes in a 25¢ raffle at the 1922 Devon Horse Show. Mrs. Coolidge, Mrs. Archibald Barklie, Mrs. George Wharton Pepper, VP, Isaac Clothier, Jr., Samuel D. Riddle.

from across the country traveled to the newly organized Devon Horse Show, eager to compete in the famous Wanamaker Oval, named for prominent horse show founder, William H. Wanamaker.

In addition to the generosity of the Wanamaker family, other major contributors have assured Devon's expansion and continued success. Eugene "Fitz" Dixon's magnanimous contributions spurred the show's local expansion as

well as its international reputation. In 1990 the center ring was renamed in Dixon's honor.

Hope Montgomery Scott, a grand dame of the Main Line, will always be remembered as "the heart of the horse show." Longtime Chair and Executive Director of the Show, Mrs. Scott was also an accomplished rider whose equestrian expertise assured her a share of trophies won over six decades of com-



Hope Montgomery Scott was chair of the Board at Devon for many years.

peting. Noted as the inspiration for the character Tracy Lord in the Broadway play and film "The Philadelphia Story," Mrs. Scott's free-spirited style and elegance underscored her reputation as the original "IT" girl.

Also known as an extraordinarily good sport, she once hopped on a Texas Longhorn, riding him around the Dixon Oval to resounding applause. It was "great fun" said Mrs. Scott, who also delighted spectators with equally entertaining trips around the Dixon Oval on an ostrich and a trained buffalo.

Country Fair

Devon's appeal was also enhanced when, in 1919, the Country Fair became an essential part of the event. An "Easy Street" of thatched roofed shops was created in "Happy Village" to house a cafeteria, market house, shops and amusements. That first year the Fair donated \$26,000 to benefit Bryn Mawr Hospital, a good start toward its \$14 million in contributions.

Since those early years when the Fair was run exclusively by women who made the food and filled the volunteer positions, this unique organization now "has nearly 100 Chairmen and 3,000 volunteers," says Bobbi Cowley, a volunteer since 1981 and Executive Committee member since 1991, who is creating a history of the Fair.

Going through old scrapbooks and archives, Bobbi is working to preserve and protect the rich history of the Fair.

History of Wells Fargo 2011 Devon Horse Show Sponsor

Henry Wells and William Fargo would have felt right at home at Devon. Tough Western pioneers and superb horsemen, the duo carved an indelible and lasting name for themselves by delivering mail and goods by pony express during our young country's wild and woolly 1800s.

Expanding their services, the duo then created the first regularly scheduled long distance six-horsepower stagecoach business, delivering gold, goods and mail back and forth across the often dangerous frontier. Thundering across rough terrain at a flat out 5 m.p.h. with their precious cargo, the drivers changed to fresh horses every 12 miles at "home stations."

Their reputations for carrying money and valuables on their coaches made for treacherous traveling, and between 1870 and 1884 a total of 347 robberies were attempted. Relentlessly pursued by fearless agents, however, 226 of the felons, including the infamous Black Bart, were eventually captured.

By 1888, Wells Fargo had the distinction of becoming America's first nationwide express company, and by 1918 an astounding 10,000 of their offices were scattered across the globe.

As they continued to expand across 3,000 miles of Western Union territory, Wells Fargo phased out the pony express in favor of deliveries by steamships and the railroad.

But it's still the stagecoach that most people forever link to Wells Fargo, and indeed, many of their horse-drawn fleet are still "working" today. Ten original six-horse coaches remain on display in Wells Fargo's history museums, three authentic reproductions are showcased in their office buildings and a fleet of 17 roll across the countryside for events most weekends.

Shifting to modern times, such updated conveniences as drive-up tellers, banking online and ATM credit cards are all Wells Fargo initiatives. Recently Wachovia Bank became part of the Wells Fargo family, adding their 63,000 banking stores around the country.



1912 photo captures ladies riding sidesaddle before the covered grandstands.

Brandywine River Museum

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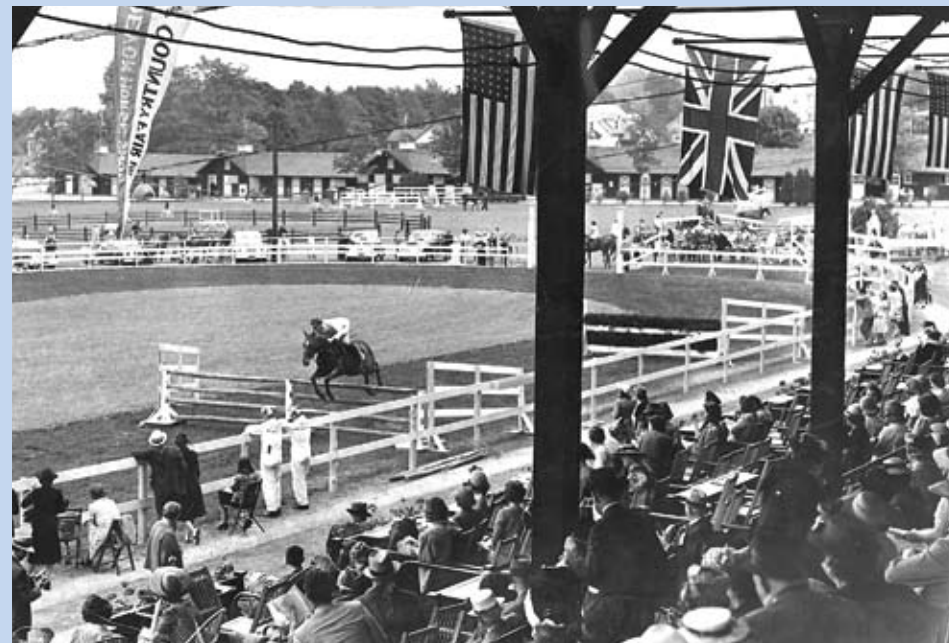
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This 1941 Philadelphia Inquirer photo shows the crowd in the grandstands watching a Hunter-class competition in the Wanamaker ring.

A National Horse Show

The fourth American horse show to be designated as a U. S. Equestrian Federation Heritage Competition, member of the National Show Horse Hall of Fame and multiple recognitions as the Horse Show of

the Year, Devon's success lies in its extraordinary appeal to spectators whose interests range from small pony lead line classes to international Grand Prix jumping competitions with Olympic riders, a popular event added in the 1960s.

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1931 photo from Philadelphia Inquirer shows the Country Fair in the background.

Highlights for 2011

Noted exhibitors this year include accomplished equestrian, Jessica Springsteen, daughter of renown musician Bruce Springsteen. Jessica looks forward to coming to Devon every year. "It's a fun horse show," she said. "I love the Fair, and the shops. ... It's really well done. ... I enjoy it a lot."

Also returning is the daughter of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Georgina, who is looking forward to competing again after a serious accident in a Syracuse, N.Y. Explaining she'd come by her love of horses naturally, Georgina said, as a youngster, her father worked in a barn in exchange for riding lessons, and her mother has always had a love for horses. Her newly published book, *The A Circuit*, is the first in a planned series of teen novels.

And look forward to seeing Olympic calibre talent on Grand Prix night, June 2, a highlight of the show.

Delights for All Tastes

Devon's magnificent Carriage Marathon, traditionally held the first Sunday of the show, complemented by pony and horse driving classes throughout the week, delights a vast audience of "horse and buggy" enthusiasts.

In past years, "star power" guests have included Dick Clark, Roy Rogers, "Hopalong" Cassidy and Gypsy Rose Lee. Each added an extra perk to the nine-day equine extravaganza.

And, once again this year, the wildly popular Dog Contest promises spectators a bow-WOW of a time.

"One of the best things about Devon is there are so many things to do and see, even if you're not a horse person, you can really enjoy yourself," said Patricia Caloia, who travels from out of state each May just so she can attend the horse show with her grandchildren. "I always watch the jumping classes," she said, "but I'm a 'fairground fanatic' so we never run out of things to do."

Continuing Progress

Beautifully maintained and improved over the decades for the enjoyment of competitors and spectators, this year



Volunteers at a new 1947 Country Fair booth featuring antiques. Mrs. Harold Browlee, left, committee chair.

Devon offers a new hospitality complex, grandstand renovation and improved stadium lighting.

"We're just trying to make it better all the time," says Leonard King, a founding member and first president of the American Grand Prix Association. King's promotion of show jumping over the past decades has quadrupled support and interest in the sport. Current capital improvements continue to develop the exhibiting areas, stalls and fairgrounds.

King admits, "It's always a work in progress. But it's Devon, and there is no other show like it in the world." ♦

Photos courtesy: Temple Urban Archives and Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society.

Special thanks: Bobbi Cowley, Devon Horse Show; Roger Thorne, Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society; Devon Horse Show Archives.

For further information about the Devon Horse Show history project, contact Bobbi-Cowley@hotmail.com or info@TEHhistory.org

If You Go

What: The Devon Horse Show features hunters, jumpers and assorted entertainment.

Where: Devon Horse Show Grounds, Lancaster Ave., Devon

When: May 26 through June 5, gates open at 8 a.m. and close at 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$5-\$50.

Information: DevonHorseShow.org



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Brenda Carpenter
Photography

Art Gallery at Devon

Jamie Wyeth, 2011 Devon Poster Artist, adds a special draw.

No doubt some Devon Horse Show visitors will head straight for the Tea Cart, the Country Fair's oldest shop, while others make a bee-line for rides on the Midway, and still others browse the 40-some shops that create a lively village atmosphere.

But the Art Gallery at Devon has a draw all its own, increased this year by the very special artist whose work graces the 2011 Devon Poster: Jamie Wyeth.

Visiting the Gallery

Among the many traditions that make this 115th year of the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair a highlight of the spring season, the Art Gallery of Devon is a relative newcomer. Yet in just a dozen years since its start in 1999, the Gallery has become a magnet for artists, art lovers and collectors.

Set in a charming clapboard cottage, the Gallery features almost 500 pieces



of art, all for sale, from 65 regional and national artists. A beautiful, color program will guide you to oils, watercolors, sculpture and more works from renowned artists in this juried show that includes equestrian pieces, landscapes and fabulous art for all tastes and all budgets. (See examples on these pages.)

The Gallery's growing popularity makes it one of the top grossing contributors to Bryn Mawr Hospital, the beneficiary of the Country Fair.

Unveiling the Poster

The usual excitement surrounding the unveiling of the official 2011 Devon Poster at the First Night celebration is heightened this year because of Jamie Wyeth's participation as the official poster artist. Mr. Wyeth, a third-generation American artist and son of Andrew Wyeth and grandson of N.C.

Wyeth, is renowned as a sensitive observer of his rural surroundings. His work has been commissioned by the U.S. Postal Service, President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, and the U.S. Mint, among others.

In describing the featured painting used in the poster, Mr. Wyeth said of "Connemara Four": "That's Phyllis and her four Connemara ponies. ... I wanted it to be an 'official' portrait of each one of the horses. I liked the relationship of the driver [Phyllis] to each of the animals. They would respond to her voice commands, after turning one, or both ears, in her direction."

Stop by the Gallery to see what you think of this year's poster.

Enjoying First Night

Held May 25th, the night before the official opening of the Horse Show, First Night at Devon allows guests to enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, while being treated to a special preview of the art, including the first look at the Devon Poster.

Guests also get the first chance to purchase the art on display and share the excitement as the Devon grounds come alive with horses and riders preparing for the next day's grand opening. ♦

The Art Gallery is open May 26th to June 5th, 10 a.m. until closing of the show, around 10 p.m. For information, call 610-525-2533.

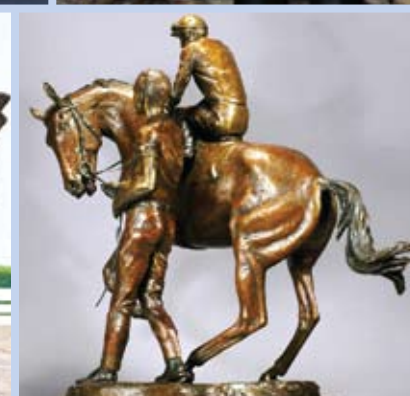
Paintings, clockwise from top right

***Cheek to Cheek* by Wendy Morgan Espenlaub**

***In the Paddock* by Kathleen M. Friedenberg**

***Black Dressage* by Jamie Cummins**

***Light and Shade* by Sandra Severson**





Willowdale Steeplechase
Photos © Jim Graham 2010

Jump Into Steeplechase Season

*May is here and great races are waiting.
On your mark, get set ... GO!*

Robert Waterman

Colored silks and flying manes blaze past to the beat of thundering hooves. The thrill of competition unfolds before the enraptured audience, of which you are a part. All the while, you eat and drink your favorite mid-afternoon delights with family, friends and your tailgate neighbors.

Soak in the sights, sounds and tastes that attract thousands every May for the excitement that is steeplechase season. Join the tradition!

Why the Steeple?

Steeplechase wasn't always the grand attraction it is today. With humble beginnings in 18th-century Ireland, it's said steeplechase started as a friendly wager on which man had the faster horse. Cornelius O'Callaghan and Edmund Blake raced four miles from Buttevant Church to St. Mary's Church, Doneraile, the highest visible landmark in the next town. They barreled over obstacles in the landscape toward the church steeple, making steeplechase the name for horse races involving jumping over hurdles or timber. Today there are 250 steeplechase races in the United States.

19th Annual Willowdale Steeplechase

On May 15, the 19th annual Willowdale Steeplechase arrives boasting a host of race-day activities the whole family can enjoy. Start your fun at 11 with the famous Jack Russell Terrier races, for which every equestrian enthusiast has a soft spot. Crowd-pleasing pony races take off at 12:15, with three levels for young jockeys 18 and under — small ponies, large ponies and junior horses.

Throughout the day, Willowdale will feature horse-drawn carriages, antique and classic car exhibits, and shopping under a large tent. Visitors to the tent will find interactive demonstrations for kids of all ages provided by the event's beneficiaries. Willowdale has helped raise over \$250,000 for charities benefiting animals and children with disabilities.

Let's not forget Willowdale's landscape of rolling hills, providing a wide variety of choice views for your tailgating experience. For peak excitement, try the area by the West Water Jump. Willowdale's signature jump, as well as the only water jump in North America,



the obstacle spans 12 feet and drops 18 inches in elevation — a challenge for riders and a thrill for viewers.

When: May 15; gates open at 10 a.m., first race at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Rts. 82 & 926, Kennett Square
Info: 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org

Tickets: \$20-25, under 12 free; Tailgate \$150-\$600

Benefits: Stroud Water Research Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine New Bolton Center, Quest Therapeutic Services

Tip: Pre-order tickets for a discount

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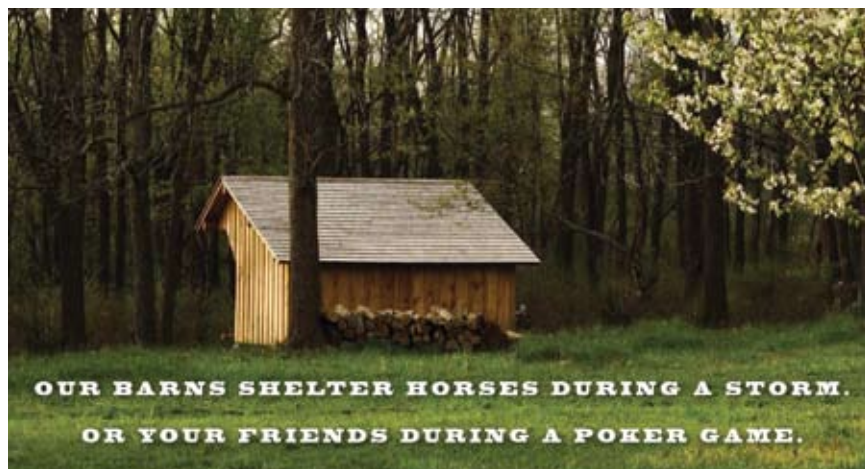


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Winterthur Point-to-Point
Photo by Pat Crow
Photo right and below, by Bob Hickok



antique autos exhibit from the Marshall Steam Museum.

And for the younger set, the Kid’s Corral is filled with activities for the little ones including the Winterthur (scavenger) Hunt, dog obstacle courses and stick-horse races.

During your tailgate, keep alert for secret tailgate judges, who will be choosing the best tailgate as winner of the Winterthur Plate.

You’ll find more excitement at the Winterthur Point-to-Point races before 4 o’clock than at a week of Mother’s Day dinners, and all with an air of refinement perfect for the big day.

When: May 8; gates open at 10:30 a.m., first race at 2 p.m.

Where: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Wilmington

Info: 302-888-4994; Winterthur.org
Tickets: \$50, free under 12. Tailgate \$250 and up

33rd Annual Winterthur Point-to-Point

Falling on Mother’s Day this year, Winterthur’s Point-to-Point is pulling out all the stops on May 8, combining two great traditions in one unforgettable experience.

Coveted spots by the finish line are reserved for the Mother’s Hunt Brunch, a VIP trackside event specifically for Mom, featuring a catered menu, elegant table settings and a gift from Nordstrom. While she enjoys the races, surprise your favorite Mother with a gigantic tribute — a picture and a message on the Jumbotron screen.

Keep in mind that not all horses at this event are race horses. Be sure to enjoy the elegance of the horse-drawn antique carriage parade. Or for another form of horsepower, check out the

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Tip: Advance ticket sales only

81st Annual Radnor Hunt Races

The Radnor Hunt Races show a passion for the sport through a rich history as one of the first steeplechases in the U.S. With an expected turnout of 20,000 for the event, Radnor Hunt's 77 acres of land will be dedicated to six races with purses totaling \$180,000.

For a perfect day at this picturesque countryside race venue, bring a fancy picnic and your Sunday best, or keep it casual for a family outing and explore the grounds. Competition at Radnor isn't limited to the horses, with an

award going to the tailgate picnic that best interprets this year's theme, "The Great American Novel." Take a stroll through the tailgate section to see the entries!

Check the schedule of events to make sure you see the antique carriage parade and the foxhound parade — highlights of the day. And find a place where you can catch a glimpse of the action on the gigantic Jumbotron screen for those by-a-nose finishes.

Now in its 81st year, the Radnor Hunt Races have created a tradition for many, including their beneficiary The Brandywine Conservancy, which has protected 43,000 acres of land to date. Race-goers can feel good about joining this Race for Open Space.

When: May 21; grounds open at 10 a.m., first race at 1:30 p.m.



Radnor Hunt Races
Photos by Rusty Kennedy



Where: Radnor Hunt Grounds, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern
Info: 610-388-8383; RadnorHuntRaces.org
Tickets: Field parking \$50/car includes passengers. \$125-500 tailgate
Benefits: Clean water and open space programs of the Brandywine Conservancy
Tip: Arrive by noon for infield parking or risk missing the first race

77th Annual Fair Hill Races

The largest single-day event in Cecil County, MD, the Fair Hill Races draw crowds of 15,000 to watch the action unfold. Continuing an esteemed equestrian tradition, Fair Hill is the only

steeplechase left in the U.S. that still offers pari-mutuel wagering, so bring your wallet. Large screens show race odds for those who are interested.

Jack Russell Terrier races, Kids Korner and a Best Tailgate contest round out the fun. Races end at 5 p.m., sending another steeplechase season back to the stables.

When: May 28; gates at 10 a.m., post time 1 p.m.

Where: Rts. 213 & 273, Cecil County, MD

Info: 410-398-6565; FairHillRaces.org

Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the gate, under 10 free

Benefits: Union Hospital's Family Centered Emergency Department Project

Tip: Propane grills permitted in the tailgate area ♦



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Fair Hill Races

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First Friday Festivities

Thank goodness it's First Friday season!

Now that the weather is ripe for evening strolls, Chester County and beyond is gearing up for First Fridays on the Main Streets of area towns. Held the first Friday of the month (or Second Saturday for Media), the events celebrate each town's unique flavor and draw residents and out-of-towners to get to know local galleries, shops and restaurants.

Inspired by the art gallery open houses started in 1991 in Old City Philadelphia, our local, free, fun, family-friendly Friday festivities typically begin in May and run until winter's chill calls a halt. (Some eager towns already started the events in April.)

To mark First Fridays, galleries, shops, businesses and restaurants offer extended hours, sponsor entertainment, serve refreshments and feature sales and other specials. From live music and shopping to art exhibits and restaurant specials, it's easy to find the perfect way to enjoy a night out on these towns!

Here are some highlights from around County Lines Country.

Kennett Square

For a taste of small-town America, look no farther than Kennett Square, a charming, historic borough nestled in southern Chester County. Boasting a

reputation for friendly hospitality, Kennett Square is also known as the Mushroom Capital of the World for its annual production of over a million pounds of the fungi and a not-to-be-missed Mushroom Festival in September.

On First Fridays, shops and galleries stay open late for artisan demonstrations, special exhibits, refreshments and live music. These festivities also feature special Art Strolls, where downtown galleries and gift shops offer new art exhibits, artists' receptions and refreshments.

A "Beach Party" theme launched April's First Friday, and next up is May's "Cinco de Mayo," so come ready to celebrate. August's events center around the popular "Murder Mystery" Art Stroll, where visitors can solve the "who-dunnit" with help from characters played by the Kennett Amateur Theatrical Society (KATS).

Where: State Street area

When: 6 to 9 p.m.

Information: 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com

Media

Proudly called "everybody's hometown" by residents, Media makes sure visitors feel welcome by its friendly atmosphere. The last suburban town in

America with a trolley running down its main street, Media also offers brick sidewalks and tree-lined streets to make walking another inviting option.

As an alternative to First Fridays, Media rolls out the welcome mat on Second Saturdays each month. Over 30 businesses on and around State Street stay open late as part of a free arts event. Shops, galleries, restaurants and cafés host local musicians and display works by local artists.

During summer months, Media's Wednesday nights celebrate "Dining Under the Stars," another reason to visit this great town.

Where: State Street area

When: 6 to 9 p.m.

Information: 610-566-5039; MediaArts Council.org

Phoenixville

Situated on the Schuylkill River and bisected by French Creek, this borough is known for its country charm and its celebration of the sci-fi movie "The Blob" each July during Blobfest. From art galleries and friendly shopkeepers to a landmark theater and fine dining along its restaurant row, Phoenixville is an ideal spot for your First Friday adventures.

Rain or shine on First Friday, Phoenixville's shops, restaurants, businesses and volunteer community groups hold special events and host street musicians, entertainers and outdoor concerts.

Each First Friday has its own theme, with May's "Pet Stroll" being a purr-fect

start for pet-lovers. Mark your calendar for June's "Dads and Grads" theme.

Where: Bridge Street area

When: 5 to 9 p.m.

Information: 484-880-1530; PhxFirst-Friday.com

West Chester

Named "one of the world's most perfect small towns" by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, downtown West Chester combines small-town charm with cosmopolitan tastes. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the entire downtown area represents a piece of history — from the building where Abraham Lincoln began his quest for the presidency to the place where American folk artist Horace Pippin lived and painted.

A special First Friday in June will feature a Gallery Walk, where galleries stay open late and feature art, artists, wine and live music. New this year, the Gallery Walk presents an exhibit "Size Matters," with art from the Chester County Art Association, along with performances by Build-A-Band Music Education. This nonprofit music organization seeks to share the gift of music by helping musicians of all ages play in a rock band and learn the music they love.

Can't make Friday? Try West Chester's Swingin' Summer Thursdays on first Thursdays in June through September. Enjoy a free street festival on Gay Street with great food, live music, clowns, dancers and much more!

Where: Gay & Market Streets area

When: 5 to 9 p.m.

Information: 610-738-3350; Downtown-WestChester.com

Lancaster

With a thriving urban center that's home to almost 300 unique boutiques, restaurants, art galleries and entertainment and cultural venues, downtown Lancaster mixes a rich heritage with a surprising upscale, downtown vibe.

Started in 1999, Lancaster's First Fridays focus on showcasing the arts at over 70 arts venues, with new exhibitions, live music, theatrical performances, artist receptions and surprises that draw thousands to the events.



From gallery walks and museums to restaurants and theaters, you'll find the perfect way to experience Lancaster and enjoy its vibrant arts community.

And on third Fridays from May to September, Downtown Lancaster and WXPB host Music Friday, with changing musical performances at locations around the city.

Where: Prince & Orange Streets area

When: 5 to 9 p.m.

Information: 717-509-2787; LancasterArts.com. ♦ ~ Kaitlin Tito



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Combine interior and exterior delights at the 64th Annual Wilm-
ington Garden Day, featuring a self-guided tour of 15 gardens, a
colonial farmhouse property and more! Or head north for the 35th
Bucks County Designer House & Garden Tour.

To spice up your herb garden, visit the 72nd Annual Herb Society
of America Herb Sale in Chester Springs for the herb of the year –
horseradish – and thousands more. For native plants and seeds,
head for the 30th annual sale at the Brandywine River Museum or
the Delaware Nature Society's sale.

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Through May 29

Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Old Glory Farm, 3719 Indian Spring Rd., Buckingham Twp. Mon-Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs-Fri 10 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 12 to 6. \$25. Benefits Doylestown Hospital and the Village Improvement Assoc. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

Through October

Gardens of the Susquehanna Tour. Experience the natural beauty of over 60 private gardens. Sponsored by the Wheatland Garden Club. Benefits President James Buchanan's Wheatland. The \$20 Rose Book booklet is your ticket to multiple visits to the gardens open specified weekends during spring, summer and fall. 717-392-8721, ext. 222; LancasterHistory.org.

May 1

Malvern Blooms. Fun for the entire family with vendors offering home and garden items, farmer's markets, antiques, children's activities, live music and a food court. King St. and Burke Park, Malvern. 10 to 4. Malvern-Business.com.

May 1

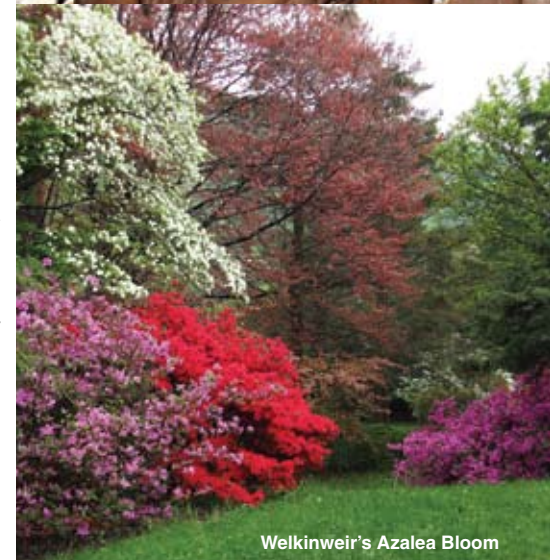
7th Annual Wildflower Celebration at Mt. Cuba. Stroll the gardens at your leisure, enjoy live music, learning stations and activities for the whole family. Especially for kids, "The Journey from Caterpillar to Butterfly." 3120 Barley Mill Rd., Hockessin. 10 to 4. Free. 302-239-4244; MtCubaCenter.org.

May 1

Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale. Over 300 rare and unusual varieties of native wildflowers, trees and shrubs. Some from the nearby Mt. Cuba



Wilmington Garden Day



Welkinweir's Azalea Bloom



Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Plant Sale



Greater Philadelphia Gardens Tour
Osage Orange at Hagley Museum & Library

Center, many attract birds and butterflies. Coverdale Farm at Burrows Run Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville. Noon to 4. 302-239-2334; DelawareNatureSociety.org.

May 1

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Annual Plant Sale. One of the largest plant sales in the area, the arboretum has thousands of perennials, wildflowers, ferns, rhododendrons, azaleas and more. Sponsored by the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 11 to 3. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.

May 1

14th Annual Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival. Vendors showcasing home and garden merchandise, food courts, live entertainment, children's events, carousel, rock wall climbing, al fresco dining and more. Germantown Ave. (Willow Grove to Rex Aves.) will be closed to traffic for all events. 11 to 5. 215-247-6696; ChestnutHillPA.com.

May 5-7

91st Annual Wilmington Flower Market. Benefits the many nonprofit children's agencies in Delaware. Carnival rides, art, plants, gifts, live entertainment. Rockford Park in Wilmington. Daily 10 to 7. Rain or shine. 302-995-5699; WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.

May 6

3rd Annual National Public Gardens Day. A nationwide effort to raise awareness of our public gardens and the value they add to their communities. The American Public Gardens Association has named Tyler Arboretum the 2011 Official Local Garden; visit TylerArboretum.org for details. Many area gardens participate with events and activities. NationalPublicGardensDay.org.

May 6-7

Historic New Castle's Annual May Market. Garden sale featuring unusual plants, shrubs and herbs. Benefits Arasapha Garden Club. Market Square and at the Presbyterian Church, Christian Ed. Bldg., 2nd St., New Castle. Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 9 to 4. 302-322-7895; Arasapha.org.

May 6-7

Wilmington Community Gardens Plant Sale. Locally grown vegetable starts

and flowering plants that flourish in an urban environment. **May 6**, Hattie Phelan Community Garden, 10th & Pine Sts., 3 to 6 pm; **May 7**, Valley Community Garden, 8th & Jefferson Sts., 9 to 2 pm. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

May 6-7

25th Annual Landis Valley Museum Herb & Garden Faire. Stands of over 70 vendors of heirloom plants, including tomatoes, roses, native plants, annuals, perennials and art for the garden. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 9 to 5. \$8. 717-569-0401; LandisValleyMuseum.org.

May 7

64th Annual Wilmington Garden Day. A self-guided tour of some of the Brandywine Valley's most glorious gardens and gracious home interiors. Rain or shine. Benefits children in need, specifically Friendship House, Inc. and St. Michael's School & Nursery. 10 to 4. \$30-\$35. WilmingtonGardenDay.org.

May 7-8

30th Annual Brandywine Museum Wildflower, Native Plant and Seed Sale. Hundreds of varieties for sale to benefit the Brandywine Conservancy's native plant gardens. Conservancy staff available to answer questions. Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 9:30 to 4:30. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

May 7-8, 28-29

Willistown Conservation Trust's Early-Bird Plant Sale. Get a head start with vegetable and flower seedlings early in the month, then come back later for summer favorites. Rushton Farm, Goshen & Delchester Rds., Newtown Square. 11 to 3. RushtonFarm@WCTrust.org.

May 8

Welkinweir's Mother's Day Tea & Azalea Bloom. Grab your camera and take a stroll through the colorful flowering gardens, incredible azalea collection, and the historic estate house at Welkinweir. Then enjoy a springtime tea on the terrace while taking in the dramatic view overlooking the valleys and the lake below. 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown. Advance registration required. Seatings: 1 to 3; 3 to 5. \$20/person; 6-12 years \$5; under 6 free. 610-469-7543; Welkinweir.org.



Westtown Garden Tour



Brandywine River Museum
Native Plant Sale



Mt. Cuba Center
Wildflower Celebration

Shipley School's
Secret Gardens Tour

May 11

The Shipley Secret Gardens 37th Annual Tour. Tour local gardens and enjoy a catered luncheon, shopping in the boutique and admiring the custom en plein air art of selected gardens. Spring Boutique and Garden Luncheon at Appleford, reservations req., \$25. Box luncheon at the site of your choice, \$15. Tour, \$45. 9:30 to 4. 610-525-4544; ShipleySchool.org/SecretGardens.

May 11

DE Center for Horticulture Green Streetscapes Tour. Stroll through gardens and past green streetscapes maintained by The DCH in the Trolley Square neighborhood of Wilmington. Start at the center and walk at your own pace. Volunteers will be on hand to explain how these beautiful but hard-working landscapes improve our environment. 1810 N. Dupont St. 5 to 7:30 pm. \$15. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

May 12

72nd Annual Herb Sale of the Phila. Unit of the Herb Society of America. Thousands of herbs, roses, herbal gifts, garden items and native plants. The 2011 Herb of the Year is Horseradish. Historic Yellow Springs, Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Luncheon, \$15, reservations only. 10 to 1:30. 610-399-0954; HSAPhiladelphia.org.

June 4

Gardens of Octorara 8th Annual Garden Tour. This is a self-drive tour of several private gardens in the upper Octorara region (western Chester County). Benefits Atglen Public Library, Moores Memorial Library, Parkesburg Library. 10 to 4. \$10-\$15. 610-716-3404; GardensofOctorara.com.

June 4

14th Annual Bayard Taylor Home and Garden Day. Eight homes and gardens in SE Chester County are featured, ranging from the late 1700s up to modern construction. Artists will be painting in the gardens and guests can enjoy treats by local chefs. Luncheon will be offered at Oberod, a lovely site on Rt. 52, \$15. Benefits the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library. 10 to 4. \$35. 610-444-2702; BayardTaylor.org.

June 4

New Hope Historical Society 18th Annual Garden Tour. Six private Bucks County gardens are on this self-guided

tour. Benefits the Parry Mansion Museum in New Hope. Map, directions and description of gardens with ticket. 10 to 4. \$30. 215-862-5652; NewHopeHS.org.

June 4-5

Westtown School's Garden Sampler: A Garden Tour & Preview Party. June 4, enjoy an evening reception/garden party at a beautiful 19th-century manor with fresh and seasonal local foods. Preview photos of the gardens on the tour. 5 to 8. \$100. June 5, tour several private gardens in Chester and Delaware Counties, as well as Westtown School's mini-farm. Each garden is unique and exquisite. Boxed lunch available, \$12. Noon to 5. \$25. 610-399-7916; Westtown.edu.

June 10-12

28th Annual Demuth Garden Tour & Party. This year's tour features several exclusive Lancaster locations, offering a variety of creative urban gardens and unique home interiors. The tour kicks off with the Demuth Garden Party on June 10, featuring live music, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and an art sale at The Conestoga House Gardens, 1608 Marietta Ave., Lancaster. Reservations req. Sat-Sun. \$15-\$18. 717-299-9940; Demuth.org.

June 11

Pottstown Area Garden Club's "The Art of Gardening Tour." Seven private gardens and Pottsgrove Manor will be on the tour. The club will also be sponsoring a garden photography contest. Winners will be selected during the tour by popular vote of the garden visitors. 10 to 4. \$12. 610-662-2642.

June 25-26 (tentative)

13th Secret Gardens of Strasburg Tour. Private gardens in and near the historic village of Strasburg are on the tour. Phone or visit their website the end of May for more information. Benefits historic places in Strasburg. Sat, 9 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$10 in advance; \$12 tour days. 717-687-3534; StrasburgHeritagePA.org.

July 23

DE Center for Horticulture Water Gardens Tour. This self-guided tour features the area's premier water gardens. Co-sponsored by The DCH and Gateway Garden Center. Directions, garden descriptions and map included in ticket price. \$20. 9 to 4. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org. ♦

Make Big Plans

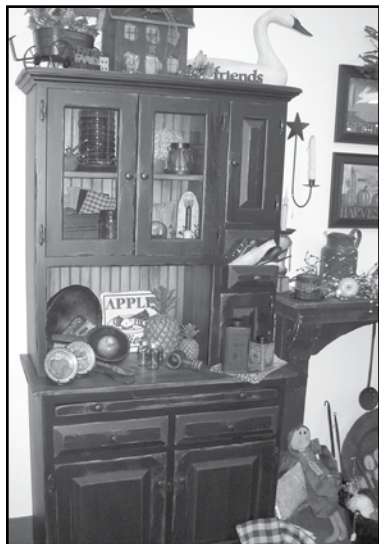


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New Listing

MARSHALLTON: The c.1740 stone home overlooks a neighboring pond, the barn and a long, scenic vista over the Stroud Preserve. This 4BR, 2.1BA home sits on 9.97 acres and has been painstakingly maintained. You'll love the fabulous new Kitchen and Baths plus the stunning in-ground pool! **\$1,490,000**

OVERLOOKING ELK RIVER: Enjoy summer cocktails from the dock of this spectacular 6BR, 4BA home on a very private 5.5 acs. complete with a long list of spectacular amenities such as an in-ground pool & a 1BR, 1BA guest house. Call Gus Brown @ 610-633-7292 for details. **\$1,260,000**



New Price



New Price

CHESTER SPRINGS: Situated on an exceedingly quiet road is this Ann Capron-designed, 5BR, 3.1 BA home on 3.7 private acres. The home has a grand Great Room with stone fireplace & elegantly appointed rooms, most of which have views of the private rear yard, the wonderful in-ground pool and hot tub. **\$733,500**

WARWICK TOWNSHIP: This sunny & bright, 5 yr. young Megill built 4BR, 2.1BA home is nestled on 1.57 private acres & abuts 90+ acres of perpetual open space! The property shows like a model home with a stellar formal Living Room & Dining Room and vast areas of hardwood flooring. The entire property is meticulously maintained. **\$699,900**



New Listing

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| NEW LONDON TOWNSHIP: 5.5 level & lightly wooded acres. | \$225,000 |
| NEAR CHESLEN PRESERVE: South facing 2 Acre lot. | \$249,999 |
| WALLACE TOWNSHIP: 11 Acre wooded lot in great area. | \$315,000 |
| UNIONVILLE AREA: 26 Acre parcel in equestrian area. | \$539,900 |
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Home of the Month

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Laurel Anderson

An equestrian dream estate on 50 acres in Unionville.

May is when the Brandywine Valley comes alive with equestrian excitement — steeplechase races, Devon Horse Show and more.

And it's the perfect time to indulge a dream of owning a Chester County equestrian estate, with a classic stone farmhouse, eight-stall barn and almost 50 acres in the heart of Unionville's horse-county heaven.

Just One Look

After falling in love with Unionville, a former polo player and a prize-winning western rider found the ideal property for their dream house. The husband warned his wife not to look at the property unless she was ready to commit to building their next home there.

Both fell in love immediately with the country views. And as luck would have it, they knew the perfect architect for this project. The owner had played polo with local architect Richard Buchanan for years. With help from Griffith Construction, Buchanan soon translated the couple's dreams into reality.

Classic Design, Modern Amenities

Combining local fieldstone, reclaimed antique oak flooring, period hardware and hand-forged lighting fixtures with ten-foot ceilings, spacious rooms, gourmet kitchen and high-quality construction, the main house mixes the best of classic design and modern amenities. Built just five years ago, this four-bedroom, four+ bathroom, two-story home is meant to be enjoyed.

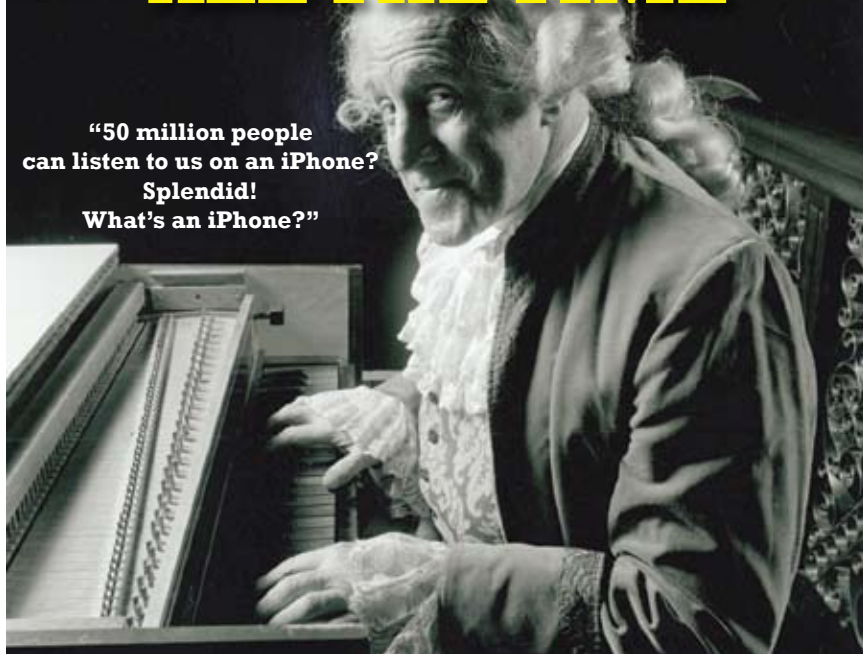
The property's conservation easement, which allows for construction of a tenant house, ensures that the unobstructed 180-degree sunset views will be preserved. Even the swimming pool was placed so views from the home focus on the property beyond the pool — even though the elegant pergola and gardens were inspired by designs from a visit to Monet's Giverny Gardens.

Spectacular Views


A long, curving drive leads to the stately main house, of such timeless design that it seems part of the landscape. But inside the Grand Foyer, ten-foot ceilings and large, modern-proportion

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tioned rooms make clear this house is designed for modern living.

A view of the spacious Great Room pulls you into the main living area, toward scenic westerly vistas through walls of windows in the adjacent Sunroom. Designed for comfort and elegance, the Great Room has Old-World details – reclaimed oak floors, crown molding, pocket doors, and a corner fireplace with half-moon marble hearth and dovetail floor details. Yet the proportions and light-filled space make the room modern and livable.

Seven large windows and a beamed cathedral ceiling frame the view from the Sunroom to the pool and property beyond. Easy access to the flagstone Terrace that connects the Sunroom to the Kitchen allows for easy flow to the outdoors, perfect for entertaining and family life.

A formal Study with a wall of custom bookshelves and cabinets, corner fireplace and crown molding is reached through pocket doors. Useful as a home office, quiet retreat or formal dining room, this space is off the Grand Foyer.

Double pocket doors connect the Great Room to a chef's eat-in Kitchen, shaped to echo the Sunroom, with the same spectacular views through another wall of windows. Granite counters, butcher-block center island, top-of-the-line appliances, custom cherry cabinetry and beamed cathedral ceilings make this a room both cook and guests will enjoy.

Flowing seamlessly from the modern kitchen is the cozy Breakfast Area. Anchored by a large, fieldstone fireplace, complete with cooking crane and custom cherry mantle, this hearth room evokes an 18th-century manor house. Meals in this special space must taste better. Although no room is currently used as a formal dining room, the Study is elegant enough to serve that purpose, with built-ins for storage and display. Or the adjacent Great Room has ample room for a large dining table and is convenient to the Kitchen, through pocket doors to separate the spaces.



Other rooms on the main floor include a full bath with vaulted ceiling, an enormous Mudroom off the rear entry with a wall of closets, large walk-in pantry and custom soapstone farm sink the owners had recreated after admiring one in a Unionville shop.

Second Level

A graceful staircase leads past a lovely brass chandelier and hand-wrought wall sconces to four bedrooms, three full baths and laundry room on the second floor. Two bedrooms share a well-appointed hall bath, featuring custom cherry cabinetry.

The Master Suite is secluded at the opposite end of the hallway and enjoys sunset view through many windows. His-and-her dressing rooms with separate closets boasting many built-ins (20 drawers on "his" side) make for happy coexistence. Luxurious his-and-her bathrooms are separated by a large marble shower, with state-of-the-art showerheads and marble bench. A chandelier, claw-foot soaking tub, and marble-topped custom vanity are a few amenities on "her" side. A back exit is on "his."

Situated over the three-car garage, the fourth bedroom is an enormous private space with its own exit, perfect for an au pair, in-law or teenager's suite. With plumbing roughed in, this could become a separate apartment, with

space for additional rooms. An unfinished attic provides even more space.

Lower Level

For entertaining and family fun, the large, finished lower level offers a billiards room, card room and multi-media room, plus many storage closets, space for the home's utilities and room for a wine cellar. With high ceilings, bead-board wainscoting and natural light from glass blocks set into the patio floor above, this space is also ideal for showcasing your equestrian trophies.

Barn, Apartment and Pastures

When a horse-loving architect designs a barn for horse-lovers, the result is amazing. Built to resemble an 18th-century Chester County barn, this stone and board and batten structure houses eight roomy box stalls, wash stall, tack room with laundry, tractor storage and large hay storage area. Plus a two-bedroom apartment, with its own Great Room and laundry, on the second floor!

Add the large fenced pastures, many with run-ins, your own 50 acres and access to riding trails on surrounding properties, and this really is an equestrian paradise. ♦

This unique home and barn on 50 acres in Unionville is offered at \$3,730,000. For information, contact Holly Gross Realty, 484-678-0367; HollyGross.com.



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Lise Monty

The turn-of-the-century charm of Disney World's Main Street came to mind when we drove into historic downtown Phoenixville. But that's just too Hollywood. It's more Norman Rockwellian, the real thing, with appealingly diverse architecture framing the well-maintained and attractive streetscape and lively urban vibe.

The National Register of Historic Places has honored this heart of the town, which includes the former Phoenix Iron Works, with its im-

matur. So has Discover Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia, which identifies "unique communities with rich histories where everyone can build a promising future."

In the past few years, the restaurant scene has blossomed along with the town. Bistro on Bridge is a prime example. In business since June 2009, it's a happening, popular spot that serves uptown Mediterranean-inspired American cuisine in an attractive dining room and lively sports bar. With good

weather here, the restaurant takes it outdoors, setting up bistro tables and even couches on the sidewalk, with umbrellas and heat lamps as needed. It's a stylishly contemporary spot for al fresco dining.

The weather didn't cooperate when we visited, but we had the next best thing — a window seat with a clear view of the appealing Bridge Street scene. Dark wood furniture, high-backed booths, white linens and charger plates in avocado green and deep gold shades add fine-dining touches to the modern-bistro environment. Wine-themed artwork hangs on walls painted in rich brown and terra-cotta tones.

From the Pacific to the Mediterranean

Co-owner Zach Hoffman says his mother's cooking influenced his love of Mediterranean dishes, many showing up on the Bistro menu. Also included are those Far East flavors we've grown to love in dishes like *Asian Lettuce Wraps* (\$8). The appetizer's colorful and tasty sauté of diced chicken, bell peppers in various colors, water chestnuts, with a tasty soy/ginger/garlic sauce was a winner. We couldn't decide whether the crispy lettuce for do-it-yourself roll-ups was the Boston or Bibb variety, but we agreed it was a perfect size. Add shrimp, and the cost is \$10.

The same can't-miss flavor blend gave the *Grilled Asparagus and Pepper Salad* (\$6.50) its pleasing Asian personality. Slender, tender stalks of asparagus crowned the sautéed red onions and peppers sprinkled with sesame seeds and served with a heap of white crispy rice noodles on the side. Other Asian starters: sesame-encrusted tuna served with seaweed salad and wasabi drizzle and salmon bites tossed in a ginger peanut sauce with a toasted sesame wonton cracker.

Mediterranean influences show up in appetizers like Caprese — grilled rustic bread topped with mozzarella, tomatoes, basil and kalamata olives; risotto balls stuffed with mozzarella; and prosciutto-wrapped shrimp with grated parmesan. Plus, steamed shrimp,

Reuben egg rolls, steamed clams, fried oysters, oysters on the half shell, mussels picante, sesame-encrusted tuna and Cubano egg rolls that include marinated pork and Black Forest ham. Rounding out the diverse list: soups like Italian sausage orzo, cream of crab and French onion, and salads, among them Caesar, Buffalo chicken, fall harvest and Bistro. The 12 different salad dressing choices emphasize the something-for-everyone theme.

Dinner was off to an excellent start.

Turf & Surf

Compound butter flecked with zesty bits of lemon and lime brought out the best of the *Citrus Hangar Steak* (\$17), grilled to a perfect medium rare and full of flavor. Slices of the juicy steak sat on lightly sautéed spinach sporting a little oomph of garlic. The steak is one of Bistro's best sellers.

There's something about saffron that always appeals and not only because it's the world's priciest spice. It's that distinctive taste and how it colors as well as flavors food. A shining example was the *Saffron Crab Salmon* (\$22), a gently blackened, moist fillet topped with a saffron cream sauce that was a beautiful shade of yellow dotted with bites of crab. Delicious. Compatible partners were saffron risotto and plain steamed broccoli, which was perfect because there were so many good things going on with the salmon. Bistro's wine-pairing suggestion for the salmon, Steele Shooting Star Chardonnay (\$6.50), was a bit citrusy, slightly acidic and right on.

Best selling entrees, says Hoffman, are no-filler crab cakes with fresh citrus remoulade; lobster ravioli finished with baby spinach, bell peppers, bacon and roasted-garlic Alfredo sauce; and portobello stuffed with crabmeat and shrimp. Other options include prosciutto and asparagus pasta, asiago meatloaf, chicken marsala, seafood paella, flounder roulades and pecan-crusted chicken.

In addition to offering choices on side dishes, Bistro encourages guests



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to tweak entrées by adding items to the basic preparation. Roasted Vegetable Pasta is a good example. You can go with the sautéed seasonal vegetables in a garlic butter and parmesan sauce over bowtie pasta or you can add chicken, shrimp or both.

There's more on the something-for-everyone menu, including "café specials" like chicken fingers and buffalo shrimp, plus a variety of pizzas, quesadillas, paninis and burgers. Everything is available in the sports bar as well as the dining room. Hoffman says the chef constantly changes the menu, keeping on top of seasonal trends and customer preferences.

Sweet Things

All-American favorites like chocolate cake, bread pudding and peach cobbler tempted, but we opted for *Carrot Cake* and *Tiramisu*, each \$5. The hefty slice of moist cake, just sweet enough, sat on a square plate, each corner decorated with chocolate swirls. Chocolate and coffee flavors mingled appealingly in the Americanized version of tiramisu.

There's More

Hoffman's an enthusiastic promoter of his community and industry, organizing popular events such as Restaurant Week, the St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl and Oktoberfest. As Mojito season approached, he touted Bistro's many varieties, "all with fresh fruit."

When planning the 15,000 square feet of space that his business occupies, he included a second-story nightclub, called Club 212, which is open on Friday and Saturday evenings. It can accommodate up to 400 people and is a popular spot for special events. ♦

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DELICIOUSLY DEVON

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Everything tastes better when you eat it outside!" quips Sandra Shinnars, Co-chair of the Devon Country Fair. So true when that "outside" happens to be the grounds of the Devon Horse Show during late spring.

Running May 26th through June 5th, the Horse Show and Country Fair not only celebrates our region's equestrian culture, it offers plenty of opportunities for dining al fresco. In fact, the food is as much a part of the event as the horses, and many foods are so beloved that regular fairgoers dream of them all winter.

As soon as the gate swings wide opening day, Shinnars and Missy Schwartz, whose family has volunteered at the Fair for decades, line up for the Devon Special, a cheeseburger with pickles and ketchup and a generous helping of hand-cut fries. Other folks make a mad dash to the hot dog booth for a dog, a sausage sandwich or lighter fare like hummus and veggies.

Something Sweet

Any sweet tooth in need of a quick fix can find much to satisfy at the Fair. Kids love the soda booth's brownie with ice cream served in a miniature baseball helmet, while people of all ages flock to the fudge booth. The recipe is secret — unless you're a member of the candy committee. For the entire week before the Fair, those lucky volunteers

hold a Fudge-a-Thon, devoting hours and hours to concocting 2,000 pounds of the heavenly confection.

And then, of course, there's the iconic lemon stick — a whole lemon pierced with a hollow candy straw — that offers a taste of nostalgia with every sweet/tart sip. Only at the Devon Fair is "go suck a lemon" considered a fine suggestion!

Something Fancy

Fancier fare is also on the menu. In the early days of the event, ladies used to pour tea from silver urns and nibble on delicate tea sandwiches and cakes. While the silver now resides mostly in memory books, tea, both iced and hot, as well as dainty sandwiches are still very much part of the Devon culinary tradition.

This year's Tea Cart features sandwiches prepared by **Dixie Picnic** in Malvern. Chef/owner Tracey Deschaine creates traditional and contemporary versions so guests can savor the classics — watercress and cream cheese, egg salad — or treat their palate to something new, say, a roasted veggie spread on thin focaccia. Her *Tastiest Summer Tomato Tea Sandwich* is destined to become a Devon favorite, while her from-scratch baked goods, especially *Lemon Poppy Seed Scones*, have folks begging for the recipe. (I've already done the begging for you and printed the recipe below.)

Deschaine also offers her signature Upcakes. A family twist on the cupcake, an Upcake is an upside down cupcake iced on the top and sides — an absolute boon for those who usually eat the top of the cupcake and lose interest when the icing disappears!

Still another option for delicious dining is The Garden Café where guests purchase food cafeteria-style to enjoy at cloth-covered tables arranged under a large pavilion. For the past 15 years, **Philadelphia's Culinary Concepts Catering** has offered fresh soups, salads, entrees and desserts. Jim Israel, the company's director of off-premise catering, kindly shared recipes for two of his best sellers, *Vegetable Chili* and *Lobster Roll*.

For Tailgating

When the Horse Show began in 1896, guests brought their own brown bags or picnic hampers. Today, the "bring your own" spirit is alive in the tailgate competition, a showcase for the Horse Show's most creative cooks whose themed spreads range from flannel-blanket casual to white-linen formal.

Started about five years ago by Missy Schwartz and her brother Larry, the competition goes hand-in-hand with the Antique Carriage Pleasure Drive held the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. Competitors in the Drive set up their parties in the lower field of St. David's Church grounds, while spectators put out their feasts along the preliminary judging ring near the Church's cemetery.

A few years ago, the *County Lines* team served as judges, and I assure you we took our responsibility seriously, sampling and re-sampling every canapé, sandwich and dessert put on our napkins. To this day, we talk about the fondant-draped cakes painted with zebra stripes and leopard spots that won a blue ribbon. And Dawn Mini's zingy *Watermelon Gazpacho* will forever have a place in our palates' memories. Find her winning recipe below as well as more Devon favorites from the *Appetizers at Devon* cookbook. The

cookbook is available at the Fair and on the website (DevonHorseShow.org).

To celebrate sun-filled days and classic summer foods, come to the many tables — and booths — of the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair!

The Tastiest Summer Tomato Tea Sandwich

About these sandwiches, which she'll be serving at the Horse Show, Tracey Deschaine says, "Sometimes it's not a fancy recipe, but the best of nature's bounty that becomes the star! This tea sandwich is amazingly popular down South, and when you try it you'll understand why."

1½ C. butter, softened
2 T. heavy cream
¼ tsp. Dijon mustard
juice of ½ lemon
salt and pepper
10 ruby ripe garden tomatoes,
heirlooms if you can get them!
1 loaf country-style white bread,
Pepperidge Farms or Arnold bread

Blend the butter, cream, mustard and lemon juice into a spreadable paste. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Boil a small pot of water. Cut a cross into the top of each tomato. Using a pair of tongs, drop each tomato into the water for a mere 20 seconds. Remove from hot water and plunge into a bowl of ice water. The skin will peel off like a glove. Cut the tomatoes into quarters and scrape out the goo and the seeds. Pat the tomato lightly with a paper towel to dry.

Spread the country bread with your butter spread. Next, place a single layer of tomato on the spread and top with another slice of bread. Trim off the edges and cut into a fancy shape — triangles, squares or spears. Take a bite and summer has arrived! Makes about 40 tea sandwiches.

Lemon Poppy Seed Scones

Dixie Picnic's owner and chef, Tracey Deschaine learned to cook from her

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When Common Just Won't Do...

Aunt Sadie and other Southern relatives who, above all, loved a good picnic. Her charming prose and helpful cooking tips make her recipe directions a pleasure to follow.

- 1 large lemon
- 2 C. all-purpose flour
- 1 Tb. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 3 Tb. sugar, plus some for sprinkling
- 2 Tb. poppy seeds
- 4 Tb. cold unsalted butter, cut into ¼-inch cubes
- 1 large egg
- 1 C. heavy cream, plus some for brushing on top of scones

Preheat your oven to 425°. Scones need a hot oven to turn out just right!

First, zest your lemon, making sure you don't include any of the bitter white pith. Then mix the flour, baking powder, salt, sugar and poppy seeds in a medium bowl. Add the lemon zest and mix briefly.

Now get your nice cold butter right out of the fridge and cut quickly into small ¼-inch pieces. Don't let it get warm or your scones will be duds! Put the butter in the bowl with the flour mixture and cut butter in with a pastry blender until you have only small pea-size butter pieces remaining.

Now you can get your heavy cream out of the refrigerator, mix it with the egg, and place it in the middle of the flour-butter mixture. Use a large spatula to bring the mixture together.

Now turn the dough out onto a parchment lined pie pan. (It may still need some pushing together). Use the parchment paper to shape the dough into a nice round shape that fits the bottom of the pie pan and to smooth the outside edges. Try not to take too long because you want your butter and cream to stay nice and cold. Once your dough is a flat round circle, pick up the dough using the parchment paper to lift it out of the pie pan and onto a flat surface.

Divide the dough circle into eight equal portions, cutting straight down through the dough when you cut so your scones will poof up nice and pretty.

Tips from a Veteran Tailgater

Missy Schwartz is a pro when it comes to cooking for a hungry crowd of horsey types. The trick to her legendary muffins is adding fresh or frozen fruit to store-bought mixes. In the savory department, she frequently serves filet mignon with a horseradish sauce or a grilled side of salmon, but the dish guests rave about is her spicy, sweet ham. Missy's secrets: get a bone-in ham; it's sweeter. Make sure you include ground cloves in the spice mixture and serve with pickles, Swiss cheese, brown and rye bread and rolls.

Missy's Spicy Sweet Ham

- 1 large ham, uncooked
- 1 C. brown sugar
- 1 C. honey
- ¾ cup mustard (a combination of spicy, yellow or Dijon works well)
- hefty dashes of ground spices: cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, allspice and cloves
- 1 can chunk pineapple in juice

Preheat oven to 350°. Make the glaze by combining brown sugar, honey, mustard and spices.

Place ham so it sits flat in an ovenproof dish or roasting tin. (You may need to cut off a little piece at the bottom to accomplish this.) Using a sharp knife, make a crisscross pattern on the top of the ham. Pour glaze on ham.

Cook 20-30 minutes per pound, basting every 15 minutes with the glaze. If the glaze gets too thick, thin it with pineapple juice. At the end of cooking, add the chunks of pineapple and baste again. Serves 4 per pound of ham.

Take your scones and place them separated on a baking sheet. Brush the tops with some heavy cream and sprinkle with about a tablespoon of sugar (preferably raw sugar).

Pop them in the oven quickly so the heat doesn't lower! Bake for 8-10 minutes or until light golden brown on top. They are especially yummy if you top with fresh lemon curd! Makes 8 servings.

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Vegetable Chili

Jim Israel of Culinary Concepts says this healthy chili is a best seller at the Garden Cafe. He offers it topped with sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese and chopped onion.

- 1½ Tb. vegetable oil
- 1 C. yellow squash, cut into ½-inch dice
- 1 C. zucchini, cut into ½-inch dice
- 1 C. red bell pepper, cut into ½-inch dice
- 1 C. onion, cut into ½-inch dice
- 1 C. carrots, cut into ½-inch dice
- 1½ pints crushed tomatoes
- ¼ C. tomato juice
- 1½ C. chili sauce
- 1 qt. canned red kidney beans, rinsed
- 1½ Tb. chili powder
- 1½ Tb. ground cumin
- 1 bay leaf
- 1½ Tb. Louisiana Crystal Hot Sauce
- 1½ Tb. brown sugar
- 1 C. bulgur, uncooked
- salt and pepper, to taste

In a large stockpot, sauté the cut vegetables in oil for 10 minutes. Add tomatoes, tomato juice, chili sauce, kidney beans, spices and hot sauce. Simmer for 1 hour, adding the brown sugar toward the end of this time. When flavors have blended well, add bulgur and simmer for 5 more minutes. Adjust seasoning to taste. Makes 2.5 quarts or 10 1-cup servings.

Lobster Roll

Culinary Concepts proves that lobster needs little dressing up to be spectacular!

- 1¾ lb. lobster meat
- 1¼ C. good-quality mayonnaise
- 1¼ C. celery, finely diced
- ½ Tb. (or to taste) fresh tarragon, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- ½ head Romaine lettuce, washed and dried well
- 10 hot dog or Italian rolls

Pick the lobster free of shells, and rough chop the meat. Combine all ingredients, except lettuce and rolls. Season

with salt and pepper to taste. Place a lettuce leaf inside a hot dog bun and top with 3 oz. of the lobster mixture. Makes 10 servings.

Blue Ribbon Watermelon Gazpacho

In this chilled soup, Dawn Mini balances sweet, tart and hot with panache. Make the soup the day before. It can last up to 2 weeks in the refrigerator.

- 1 small red onion, roughly chopped
- 1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeds removed, cut into chunks
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 large yellow pepper, roughly chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 6 C. watermelon, seeded and chopped
- 4 Tb. mint leaves, chopped
- 3-5 drops hot sauce
- juice of 3 limes
- 1 Tb. olive oil

In a food processor, purée all ingredients to desired consistency. Chill thoroughly. Makes 8 cups and serves 6-8.

Note: If your food processor is small, process ingredients in steps. Dawn frequently processes the salt and mint together, then watermelon and hot sauce, and last, the veggies and remaining ingredients. After each step, she removes the combined ingredients to a large bowl, and at the end, stirs everything together.

Devon Derby Punch

Served at the Devon Derby Tea every year, this punch will quench the thirst of 30 or 40 of your closest friends.

- orange juice and fresh strawberries, enough to fill a ring mold
- 2 bottles (750 milliliter) Champagne
- 4 quarts ginger ale
- ½ gallon orange sherbert
- 1, 12 oz.-can frozen lemonade concentrate
- 1, 10 oz.-package frozen strawberries

Fill a ring mold with orange juice, and add fresh strawberries. Freeze until solid.

Combine the Champagne, ginger ale,

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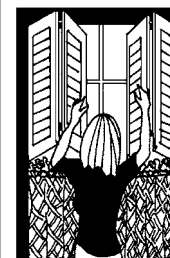
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sherbert, lemonade concentrate and frozen strawberries in a large silver punch bowl and mix gently. Float the ice ring in the punch. Ladle into punch cups.

Blue Cheese Puffs

A favorite of Sandra Shinnors, these puffs are often served in the Blue Room, where the chairpeople of the Devon committees relax and socialize.

½ C. (1 stick) butter
8 oz. blue cheese, crumbled
1, 10-count-can refrigerator biscuits

Combine the butter and cheese in a saucepan and cook over low heat until blended.

Cut the biscuits into quarters. Arrange 2 inches apart on a baking sheet. Put the cheese mixture over the biscuits. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes or until brown. Serves 10-12.

Cocktail Franks in Bourbon Sauce

The funniest recipe in *Appetizers at Devon* gives the following instructions: "Travel to the Lancaster County Farmers Market in Strafford and purchase at least three party dogs per person or more depending on your guest list and whether or not any of them are former Nathan's Famous Champions . . . Serve hot while soaking up the compliments." If you're willing to put in just a bit more effort, follow this classic Devon recipe for little "dogs." Guests with both simple and sophisticated palates will want way more than 3!

2 Tb. butter
1 small onion, finely chopped
½ C. bourbon
¾ C. packed dark brown sugar
2 Tb. cider vinegar
1 C. ketchup
1 Tb. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. Tabasco sauce
1, 14-to-16-oz. pkg. cocktail franks

Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and sauté until tender but not brown. Remove from the heat and stir in the bourbon.

Return to the heat and cook for 1 minute longer, stirring occasionally. Add the brown sugar and vinegar and cook until blended, stirring constantly. Mix in the ketchup, Worcestershire sauce and Tabasco sauce. Cook until heated through.

Taste and add additional bourbon and brown sugar, if desired. Add the franks and stir until coated. Let stand until the franks warm in the sauce and serve. Serves 10.

Bloody Marys on a Stick

For a spicier flavor, add hot sauce and red pepper flakes to these refreshing summer party appetizers.

2 small containers ripe cherry tomatoes
½ bottle (750-milliliter) good-quality vodka
1 tsp. sea salt, or to taste
1 tsp. ground cumin, or to taste

Pierce each tomato in a few places with a wooden toothpick. Combine the tomatoes and vodka in a large bowl and mix well. Stir in the salt and cumin. Marinate for several hours, or for the best flavor, marinate 8 to 10 hours. Drain, reserving liquid for the "real" Bloody Marys.

Serve in a large bowl with wooden skewers. Place small bowls of sea salt and cumin by the tomatoes for additional dipping. Serves 10-12.

Devon Turf Club Miniature Burger Bites

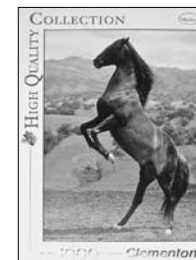
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1 lb. ground beef
salt and pepper to taste
oregano to taste
garlic powder to taste
basil to taste
1 baguette, cut into 24 slices
½ C. sour cream
3 to 4 Tb. horseradish
paprika (optional)

Mix the ground beef with the spices

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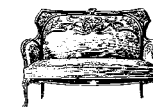
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in a large bowl. Shape into patties just big enough to fit the baguette slices. Place one patty on each baguette slice and arrange on a baking sheet. Broil for 3 to 4 minutes or until cooked through.

Mix the sour cream and horseradish in a bowl and top each burger with a dollop of the mixture. Sprinkle with paprika for a dash of color. Serve immediately. Makes 24.

Caviar Pie

For a truly over-the-top tailgate, wow guests with this decadent spread.

6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
3 Tb. mayonnaise
1½ C. minced onions
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
¾ C. sour cream
2 jars lumpfish caviar, strained
 (Romanoff preferred)
lemon wedges and parsley springs
for garnish

Combine the eggs and mayonnaise in a bowl and spread over the bottom of a greased 8-inch springform pan. Sprinkle with the onions.

Mix the cream cheese and sour cream in a bowl until blended and spread over the prepared layers. Chill, covered, for 3 hours or longer.

Just before serving, spread the caviar over the top of the chilled layers. Run a knife around the edge of the pan to loosen, and remove the side. Garnish with lemon wedges and parsley. Serve with assorted party crackers to 12. ♦

If you'd like to contact Laura Muzzu Brennan, please e-mail her at Laura-Brennan@ValleyDel.com.

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