

NDS NEWSLETTER



Promoting the Equine Sport of Carriage Driving

November 2021

YOU'RE INVITED

to a clinic featuring

JEFF LADUE

**Former Herd Manager
and Driving Trainer at
the Tempel Lipizzans in Illinois**

What: Driving clinic centered on ground work for carriage horses

When: Sunday, **NOVEMBER 14**
from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Jerry Lechner's farm
16318 Rt. 31
Holley New York, 14470

Cost: Free to NDS Members

driving, and safe practices for working from the ground for the carriage horse. There will be a Q and A session at the end. We'll be working with a 13-year-old Morgan horse that has been trained to drive but has not been active in one year. The clinic will be in an unheated indoor arena, so dress for the weather. It will be free for members and their families. Jerry Lechner can be contacted at 585-243-9551 for information. Cider and donuts will be provided.



The Northampton Driving Society is offering a clinic with Jeff LaDue Sunday, November 14 at Jerry Lechner's farm located at 16318 Rt. 31 Holley New York, 14470. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. and continue until 3:00 or as needed. Jeff is a professional trainer and former trainer at Tempel Lipizzans in Illinois. The clinic will center on ground work for carriage horses. Topics will include lunging, ground

NDS Rein and Whip Clinic

Sunday, September 26, 2021 the NDS gathered for a fun and informative whip and rein handling clinic presented by Tara Defendorf, an NDS club member. There were sixteen members present: Jerry Lechner, Audrey Cooper, Tara Defendorf, Donna Defendorf, Marilyn DeMeyer, Clark Romeo, Maureen Romeo, Mary Crinean, Dawn Ziegler, Frank and Judy Kraemer, Bob Brunsdon, Laurie Drouin, Cheryl Yelle, and Terry Brooks,

In speaking of rein and whip handling, Tara said the whole point is to better utilize your aids. The presentation included a full-sized fake horse that was harnessed to a Meadowbrook cart. Audrey added horse shoes to the front ends of the reins to mimic the tension one would put on a live horse. Tara demonstrated and explained why and when one would use a myriad of whip handling techniques. The following are some of the take-away tips from the clinic:

- Wear a good pair of leather gloves- fitting the whole length of your fingers.
- Get a good whip- a fleck whip has some play but is more firm- and the lash is a bit longer than others. For pleasure driving, holly whips are best or bamboo, which are more reasonably priced. Before buying a whip, check its balance in your hand and know the length you need. It should be able to reach the front shoulder of the horse (the horse closest to the cart in the case of 4-in-hand).
- Desensitize the horse to the whip with ground work.
- Add a little rawhide pinky loop at the end of the reins – where they buckle together. Loop this in your pinky finger to keep the reins from getting caught on something.
- Keep a taught rein- no slack.

There was talk about the mindfulness of communicating with the horse – and Jerry Lechner suggested reading *The Inner Game of Tennis*, the premise of which can be applied to any sport. Tara took questions from the audience. Then, we took turns practicing holding the reins and whip with instruction from Tara.

All attendants said they enjoyed the event and learned new things. Many laughs were had, and it was wonderful to get together with members again. (Even the cat had a great time!!) The day was sunny and beautiful. Many thanks to Audrey Cooper for her kind hospitality and the use of her beautiful farm.





SAVE THE DATE!!
NDS ANNUAL MEETING,
BANQUET, and AUCTION
will be
SATURDAY,
JANUARY 29, 2022
more info to follow

Please send in your 2022
membership dues for the
Northampton Driving Society
As Soon As Possible!
If you have not yet received a
membership letter and
envelope, please respond to
lulufan@rochester.rr.com

Websites

The Northampton Driving Association <http://www.northamptondrivingsociety.org>

New York State Horse Council <https://nyshc.org/>