

Kids Korner

Towering, Gentle Walking Horse Giants Enthrall Allentown Fairgoers



Brittany Snyder, 6 and mom Pam from Allentown pet the gentle Tennessee Walking horse at the Allentown Fair.



Amanda, with mom Chris, admires Diamond Chips T at Allentown Fair.



Kaitlin Marle Van Buskirk, 5, left checks out the piglets with friend Jean-Marle, 4½, at the Allentown Fair.

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.) — They have prize-winning names: Diamond Chips T and Nugget Strike Gold.

The Tennessee Walking horses, that is.

A few of them galloped around the show ring, and kids could walk up to the horses under the judging tent at Allentown Fair last week and pet them.

That's what kids like Lorissa Lazarus, 7, did. To Lorissa, and to Brielle Twitty, Maria Amador, Brittany Snyder, and even the rider, Angela Schlott, the horses were giant, gentle creatures who could neigh and even grab a bite to eat from your hand.

Children of all ages can see more of the giant, gentle horses and have a lot of other fun, too, at the North American Plantation Classic. The Classic is scheduled the weekend of Sept. 13-14 at the Quentin Riding Club in Quentin, near Lebanon.

The horses at Allentown Fair will join many others across the country at the Classic, which will have more than 80 classes and feature more than \$1,800 in prize money, plus coolers and championship trophies.

For kids, some events include a stickhorse class. Children can bring along a stickhorse of any style and "pretend they're riding just like the competitors in the show," said Jeannie H. McGuire, horse instructor and trainer from Pottsville.

McGuire is president of the Pennsylvania Pleasure Walking Horse Association, which is presenting the Classic.

The stickhorse competition will be held on the Saturday of the show, McGuire noted. Ribbons will be awarded in the stickhorse class.

The competition will cover all sorts of pleasure walking horse types of riding, including Western and English classes.

There will also be an Antebellum show, breed history, ladies riding side-saddle in costume, and other events. There will be other kids' games, lots of vendors, artwork, clothing, and plenty of food.

Quentin is located about three miles south of Lebanon on Rt. 72. For more information about the Classic, contact Jeannie McGuire at (717) 385-2867.



Lorissa Lazarus, 7, daughter of Rhonda and Les Lazarus, enjoys the Tennessee Walking Horse demonstration at Allentown.



Riding Nugget Strike Gold is Angela Schlott. From left, Maria Amador, 12; at far right is Brielle Twitty, 6; and in center is Linsey, 9.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Plastic clothes?

When you're out shopping for school clothes, pay close attention to the tags on those oh so popular polyester duds. They could be made from 2 liter soda pop bottles.

It's not as far fetched as you might think. Polyester is a special kind of plastic that has all sorts of uses. Soda bottles are made from the highest grade of polyester called polyethylene terephthalate. That's tough to say, so people just call it PET for short.

To recycle plastic bottles, manufacturers first remove the caps, labels and bases and sort the plastic by color. Then they chop the bottles into little pieces, wash them and dry them. The plastic pieces are heated, purified (that's a scientist way of saying they're made REALLY clean) and extruded into pellets. To extrude the melted plastic, they spin the stuff around so fast that the liquid pushes out through tiny holes in the sides of container.

The purified polyester is extruded one more time, into fine fibers that, when they cool and solidify, are used to spin into thread. The thread is then woven into fabric.

People have been commercially recycling plastic pop bottles for about five years. They've found ways to incorporate the special polyester into material used for jeans, t-shirts, outdoor clothes, backpacks and thermal underwear.

And the best part of soda pop clothes? It fits the three R's of helping the environment — reduce the amount of packaging by buying big bottles, recycle the plastic, and reuse it in your clothes!

Scientifically yours

