

Annual Willowdale Steeplechase May 14

KENNETT SQUARE (Chester Co.)—The top horses and riders on the chasing circuit will arrive here for the eighth annual Willowdale Steeplechase, May 14.

The National Steeplechase Association-sanctioned event, conducted in the heart of America's horse country, Chester County, just 40 miles from downtown Philadelphia, draws more than 10,000 spectators annually.

The event benefits the Stroud Water Research Center, which conducts research to protect the world's most endangered natural resource, fresh water.

Willowdale's beautifully rolling grounds comprise one of the most spectacular natural amphitheatres in horse racing, allowing spectators an unimpeded view of the entire course. The challenging course, designed by Irish course designer Hugh Morshead, uses an uphill approach to fences. Noted as one of the most beautiful courses in North America, its layout features an exciting water jump adjacent to the spectator area along with traditional European

Willowdale's fenced course and family-oriented attractions make it the perfect outing for families. "The ECS Kid's Alley Tent," featuring eight fascinating hands-on experiments about stream life and watersheds hosted by scientists from the Stroud Water Research Center, provides hours of entertainment for children of all ages. In addition, children will enjoy free pony rides courtesy of Gateway Stables, storytelling, crafts, games and more. A carriage parade, antique car display, and vendor tent featuring unique shopping add to the fun.

New for 2000, Willowdale will introduce ready to serve brunch, lunch, and hors d'oeuvres packages, prepared by the gourmet chefs at the Oak Grill at the Marshalton Inn. Spectators can order the food along with their tickets and pick it up on the grounds ready to serve race day. Willowdale's tailgating competition has added fabulous prizes and celebrity judges.

Adult general admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate. Senior and student admission is \$10; children 12 and under are admitted free. Reserved tailgate parking spaces begin at \$100, and sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, phone (610) 444-1582.

hedges and post and rail fences.

Race day begins at 11 a.m., with the first of three pony races scheduled for 11:15 a.m. Jack Russell terrier races begin at noon. The Foxhunters' Chase is run for the Winterking Perpetual Trophy at 1:30 p.m.

The first race, The Folly, for maidens three years old and up, begins at 2 p.m. The two and a half-mile race over 13 modified hurdles carries a \$10,000 purse.

The \$10,000 Landhope Cup, a three-mile, 16-fence timber race for 4-year-olds and up which have never won over timber, carries a purse of \$10,000.

The feature race, the Willowdale Steeplechase, is run third, beginning about 3 p.m. The three and a half mile race over 21 timber obstacles is open to horses six years old and older. The race carries a purse of \$15,000.

The Rose Tree Cup, a starter handicap hurdle race over 13 fences, is for apprentice riders on horses four years old and up which have not won two races. A part of the \$10,000 purse is donated by the National Steeplechase Foundation for the promotion of amateur racing.

The final race is the two-mile Liam Magee Flat Race, open to horses three years old and up, ridden by amateur owner/riders.

Mercer County Teen First Recipient Of State Grange Foundation Scholarship

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—A Granger from Mercer County is the first recipient of the Pennsylvania Grange Foundation Scholarship.

Thomas Courtney, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at Bucknell University, is the first collegiate student to receive the scholarship that was created by delegate action at the 1996 State Convention in Warren County.

Courtney, son of John and Pamela Courtney, Mercer, is a member of Pleasant Valley Grange 1643 and a 1997 graduate of Mercer Area High School.

Courtney's college activities and leadership positions include singing in the men's ensemble called Proclamation, Christian Fellowship, a Bible study leader, Bucknell Bootscooter Linedancing Club, intramural soccer, college technical crew, and others.

A fourth-generation Granger, Courtney is a past assistant steward and gatekeeper at his subordinate Grange and is the reigning Mercer County Grange Fair King.

Courtney will receive a grant of \$500, with no repayment required, and is eligible to receive an additional scholarship next year.

All fourth degree (subordinate

Grange) members in good standing for at least one year, who are entering at least their junior year of college and can demonstrate financial need, are eligible to apply for a foundation scholarship.

Two other Grange members received financial aid in 1999.

Brandon Treichler, a member of Virginville Grange 1832, Berks County, received a Leonard Rhone grant. Karen Sicignano, a member of Friendship Grange 1232, Mercer County, was awarded a Santee student

Treichler, the son of Keith and Suzanne Treichler of Kutztown, is a 1999 graduate of Oley Valley High School. He entered Penn State this fall as a dairy science major.

Treichler is a member of the Community Service Committee at Virginville and filled nearly every station as a prior member of its junior Grange. Treichler was also active in 4-H, FFA, and various dairy judging clubs.

Recipients of Rhone scholarships must be a Grange member in good standing and be endorsed by his subordinate or Pomona (county) Grange Master.

A \$300 grant is available each year. To be eligible, a student must pursue a four-year study in



Thomas Courtney

agriculture or human development and family services at Penn State University.

Sicignano, the daughter of Ron and Eva Sicignano of Hartstown, is a sophomore at Clarion University who plans to obtain a business degree.

She was inducted into Phi-Eta-Sigma, a National Honor Society for freshman, after obtaining a 4.0 grade average her first year.

A 1998 graduate of James-town High School, she was active in various musical clubs in high school and numerous sports.

The Santee loan is \$500 per year and is interest free. Santee loans are repayable starting six months following graduation, upon leaving school or ceasing to be a full-time student.



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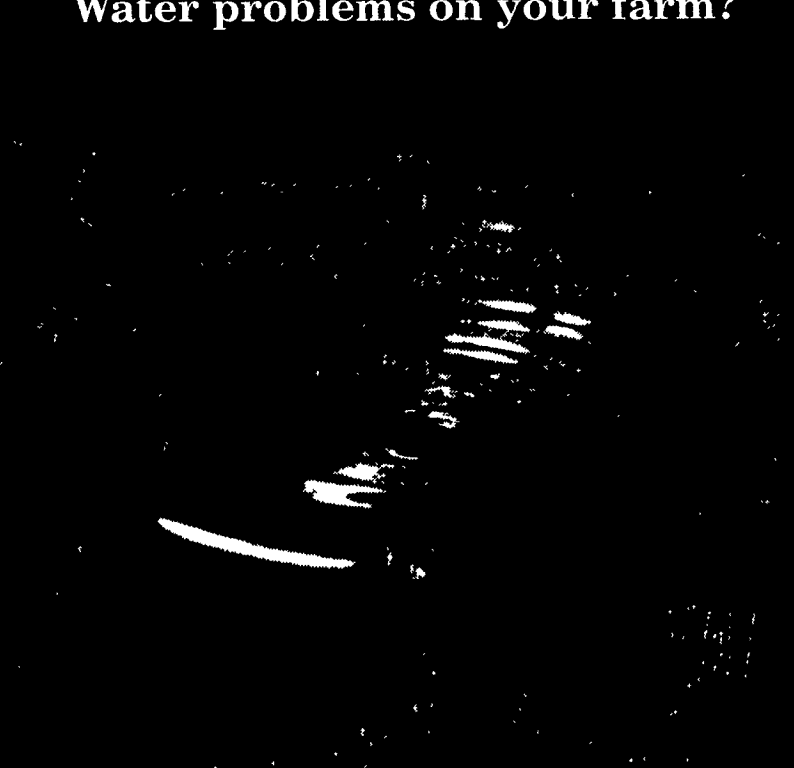
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