



Lake Washington Saddler

March 2017

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Nature's Diary

Riding out in the woods today I had a sense of how our forest can go from being so friendly on some days, to being kind of ominous on others. The wind was blowing hard, and the trees were groaning, with soft crackles of small twigs snapping. The sky was dark, and the ground, which through the still mostly bare trees could be seen in its full, sculpted landforms, seemed at times to be the shape of a sleeping gnome, under layers of moldering duff and moss. The horse spooked when he saw some kind of animal in the undergrowth, before I saw it. I could not tell what it was; only that its coat was furry and mottled, and it 'scurried' in a creepy sort of way. Both my horse and I felt it best to head back to the barn and cut our ride on the short side.

But, on another day, riding alone, the forest felt much less malevolent. I saw a *Pacific winter wren* sneak out of her hole-in-the-trunk nest, and it seemed as if she stopped on a branch, looked back at me as if to say, "you didn't see that. Pretend you didn't see where I keep my babies". But, I heard them cheeping. However, I'll pretend.



Later, coming home, I saw a shadow pass over, and I knew that only a large bird casts a shadow large enough to notice. When I came upon the bird, it was a huge, glossy black raven drinking from a puddle in the path. Only at the last minute did he succumb to my approach and fly up to a broken off tree trunk, perching on the top to regard me with his glass bead eyes. His beak was truly impressive, seeming as large as a Bald Eagle's. Rarely do you have an opportunity to take a really good look at a Raven. Oh, we see their paltry cousins the crows all the time. But the Raven? He is royalty, and as such he does not deign to hang around us and eat our suburban garbage.

I fancy myself a bit of a mimic, and tried to 'speak' Raven to him. The good part is that I didn't scare him off, and he cocked his head as if listening. The bad part is that he didn't speak back to me. Maybe I just wasn't saying it right. What a special animal! It's no wonder the Indian Peoples of this area regarded him so highly. Links to hear what a real Raven sounds like:

Raven: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Common_Raven/id

Winter wren: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Winter_Wren/sounds

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Take a sec ,and as they say, "Just do it!" I did, and it's so easy. Here's the link:

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/membership.html>

New Board Members!

We are truly excited to announce that we have two new members on the board! These fresh volunteers bring a wonderful energy and passion to our group. It's always invigorating to get new perspectives and ideas. It is something that keeps the overall group healthier and happier. And we could not have gotten two nicer new Board Members:

Please welcome **Stephanie Nicholson** and **Corrie Scalisi**. Stephanie has been helping out in the Hunter/Jumper shows for some time, doing everything from A to Z. Her three towheaded daughters always clean up at the awards banquet. And Corrie is relatively new to the club. She wants to become involved in supporting the equestrian lifestyle of Bridle Trails. She and her husband have two horses and trail ride regularly.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

Remember, we are offering scholarships to cover **show entry fees** . Details and entry forms:

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/entry-fee-scholarship.html>

College Scholarship

We also offer an annual \$1000 scholarship for college expenses to a student who wishes to pursue a career in equine related fields, or in environmental sciences. The winner will be announced at the Annual Awards Banquet in the fall. For the full application information, go to:

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/college-scholarship.html>

Things are quiet now, but the showing season is right around the corner. Here's what is up in the next couple of months:

Upcoming events at a glance

April 15, Easter themed Scavenger Hunt!

April 22 Bridle Trails Park Foundation Earth Day volunteer work party

April 23 Equestrians Institute Dressage show

April 29/30 Hunter Jumper clinic

For the full schedule of shows, clinics and events, go to :

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/park-calendar.html>

Easter themed Scavenger Hunt - Saturday, April 15 !!!



Registration opens at 9:30am. First rider out at 10:00am, last rider out at Noon. Prizes awarded at approximately 3:00pm. Riders will follow a marked trail and log all the Easter related items they notice along the trail. Prizes awarded to those who find the most items. Entry fee is \$10.00 for LWSC members, \$15.00 for non-members. No dogs or stallions allowed.

[Lunch available for \\$5.00 IF pre-ordered. To order lunch click here.](#)

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Jennifer Duncan:

president@lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org

Hunter Jumper Clinic - Sat/Sun April 29/30 with Noel Clark!

This clinic is really something special . Small groups get to work with a great clinician. Two full days of instruction, and a potluck dinner with question/answer session. Complete information at :

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/clinics.html>

Please email your interest or questions to Kate Sharkey

at: hjmanager@lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org

In other Hunter / Jumper news . . .



Hunter Jumper May Horse Show

There are some changes to the way we are doing things in the office this year for the hunter/jumper shows. Please take a look at our FAQs and email our manager, Kate Sharkey (hjmanager@lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org), with any questions. Entries are open now on horseshowtime.com and stalls are selling out quickly! A \$50 deposit and all stall fees must be paid at time of entry.

Horse of the Year Contest

The LWSC has an ongoing annual contest for the "Horse of the Year". You can nominate any horse that you feel is special enough to deserve recognition (and a prize at year end awards!). Please send us at any time before October your nomination essays/photos for YOUR Horse of the Year!

Flint

Why he deserves to be Horse of the Year

Flint is my 10 year old gray roan Thoroughbred. He used to race, but now he does hunter/jumper. Flint's registered name was Tiz I Is and he had 101 starts. When we got him he was skinny, had foot problems, and had trouble picking up his right lead. The first few times I got on him I got nervous which made him nervous. Since then he has been improving a lot.

Flint deserves to win Horse of the Year because he tries his best to do everything you ask him to do even jump the scary jumps that he's never seen. The first few



lessons I had on him it was difficult to walk him, now I'm cantering verticals and trotting small courses. Flint is an amazing horse because he is so grateful that he has a better life and that people who love him are always involved in his daily life. Before, when we first got Flint he was scared and had no personality at all. Now after riding him constantly and spending time bonding with Flint, he trusts me to steer him in the right direction and his cuddly personality really shows. Flint really deserves to be Horse of the Year after all that he has gone through in his life and what he has accomplished in just a year.





Dressage News

Ride and Review Clinic - May 13th with judge Kellie Larsen

Before the actual show season gets underway, why not take advantage of the chance to ride your chosen test, with a certified judge, and get a half hour of individual feedback? Well, that's what you get at the ride and review clinic. Only \$65 for members! Full information and registration on the page: <http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/clinics.html>

First Dressage Schooling show will be June 11th.

Horsemanship from the Heart Clinics - May 24 thru 28th, and July 26 thru 30th

Julie Carpenter
Horsemanship from the Heart 



What brings softness and understanding between horse and rider is clarity.

- Julie Carpenter

Julie Carpenter will be holding two 5-day horsemanship clinics this year; one in late May, and one in late July. The July clinic is nearly filled (6 rider maximum), but there is still a spot for you at this time. Or, the May clinic has room at this printing.

Julie's works to help build better communication between horse and rider, which improves our riding in all disciplines. It's

pretty hard to explain how amazing it is to work with Julie here, in this newsletter. If you have questions, or want to speak with someone whose worked with Julie before, or to register, contact Jennifer Duncan : president@lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org

As in all LWSC sponsored clinics, auditing for members is FREE!!!

An Interesting New Discipline: **Hobby Horse Horsemanship!**

Apparently there are groups of teen girls who love horses (what teen doesn't?), but can't afford to really ride. They have started Hobby Horse riding clubs and even have competitions. They study the moves of the best dressage horses, and mimic these in their own two legs. They work on their own 'position' and rein skills. There is camaraderie, exercise and learning, and, someday they may own a horse and have already developed quite the seat. Many will laugh and say you can't call it a 'sport', and they be right, but anything that gets kids out and prancing and jumping AND learning about horses is pure gold to me.



What do YOU think of this? I wonder if we couldn't get our own chapter going just a thought. We are thinking about having a Club presence in the Kirkland 4th of July parade this year, wouldn't it be fun to have a Hobby Horse Drill Team for that?

Some links with video and write up about this new 'craze':

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/best-in-sew-inside-the-growing-sport-of-hobbyhorse-riding-1490713811>

<http://www.ozy.com/fast-forward/a-horse-is-a-horse-except-sometimes-its-a-hobbyhorse/75088>