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Battlefield Equestrian Society having fun and helping to preserve our heritage

By LILIANE VAUGHT
Observer staff

The Battlefield Equestrian Society recently held its annual membership brunch at the Evergreen Country Club. The Society is not only very active, but is also growing every year, numbering more than 175 members. During his remarks, Frank Boberek, president, underlined again the most important mission of the group, which is to support and maintain the equestrian trails at the Manassas Battlefield Park. This, along with the Crystal Crown judged pleasure trail ride competition, unites the membership in working to ever improve the opportunity for equestrian events in the Northern Virginia area.

The Crystal Crown events this year are the outgrowth of the Triple Crown rides of 2002. With an even greater support base, the competition will feature five rides rather than the three held last year, and will be sponsored by six equestrian associations. Joining the BES, the Clifton Horse Society, and the Trailblazers from last year are the Nokesville Horse Society, Horsecorps, and the United States Trail Ride organizations. Again, awards will be presented through 10th place but riders will only have to ride in four of the five events. If they so choose, riders may ride in all five events and drop their lowest score. The venues for the rides include the Manassas Battlefield, the Marriott Ranch and Bull Run Regional Park. "The original

public recreation and historical areas. The top finalists in the Triple Crown were presented with their trophies. First place went to Patricia Orr. There was a tie for second going to Betsy Parker and Elaine Reed.

Peter Winants, the guest speaker, is the Director Emeritus of the National Sporting Library and former editor of the Chronicle of the Horse. In a very interesting

speech, he spoke of his ability to actually make a living with horses, something his parents cautioned him not to do. During his long career, he has worked as an equine photographer, writer, and publisher. One of his books, "Jay Trump" is based on the real life story of the rags to riches steeplechase horse. From the bottom of the barrel at the old Charlestown track to winning the English Grand



Frank Boberek, President of the Battlefield Equestrian Society, presents the First Place Award of the Triple Crown Judged Pleasure Ride Competitions to Patricia Orr. This year the society will sponsor the Crystal Crown Series along with five other Northern Virginia equine organizations.

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thought behind the events, besides having fun, was to increase participation in equestrian activities," explained Frank. "It is also an op-

portunity for members of other equestrian groups to meet together and get to know each other," he continued. Commenting on the serious need for continued public support of multi-use trails and the preservation of existing trails Frank explained, "The only way that we can continue forward is to do so as a group. We need to speak as one voice."

The program included the presentation of a \$5,000 check to the Manassas Battlefield Park on behalf of the society. Over the past several years, the group has donated more than \$60,000 to the park in order to help maintain the



Mr. Frank Boberek, President of the Battlefield Equestrian Society presents a check for \$5,000.00 to Karen Cucurullo, Assistant Superintendent of the Manassas Battlefield Park at the recent annual meeting of the organization. BES members are committed to the maintenance of the public and historic areas of the park for all public use.

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National, Mr. Winants traces the exciting events that made an unlikely equine an international champion. In summarizing his experiences Mr. Winants exclaimed, "It was a fun, and pleasurable experience."

The BES rides four times a

year as a group from spring to fall. If you are interested in joining the group or would like to participate in the society rides at the Manassas Battlefield call Luella Van Newkirk at 703-536-5916, e-mail: louellavannewkirk@comcast.net or visit www.fmnbp.org/bes.

Urban tree care workshop series slated

An Urban Tree Workshop Series for tree care workers, landscape professionals, municipality officials and others interested in urban tree issues is slated for Feb 20, 27, and March 6 in Leesburg at the Rust Sanctuary. The three-day workshop is designed to review basic tree biology and consider new ideas.

The three-day workshop is designed to review basic tree biology and consider new ideas the first day, look at specific problems and solutions on day two with the third day focusing on preventing problems

with good planing and maintenance. Each day includes field sessions and hands-on learning opportunities. Participants will be eligible to receive continuing education credits from the International Society of Arboriculture and the Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association as well as earn re-certification credits for commercial applicators pesticide license.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information or to register call Sue Naille at 703-777-0373 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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