

Maple Crest Horse Farm, LLC. Horsemanship and Riding Clinic

June 9, 10, 11, 2023 (Fri – Sun)

Joyce Moyer, Owner of Maple Crest Horse Farm LLC of Castalia, Ohio, welcomed everyone to a 3-day clinic involving natural horsemanship ground techniques, acquiring our Tennessee Walking Horse natural gaits, versatility, and western dressage.



Charlie Roach

Wow! What a “Grand” learning experience was achieved by all the participants from those who rode and those auditing the clinic. The instructors – Charlie Roach (all around horse trainer), Linda Starnes (TWHBEA Certified Riding Instructor) and Larry Starnes (the go to guy for everything) were at the top of their teaching game. They were open in sharing their knowledge, experience, and we were like sponges sucking up every tidbit offered. A special thanks goes to Abigail Maliza for coordinating and making the entire clinic possible and to Sue Johnson, Photographer, New Life Images for the pictures posted here from this weekend clinic.

The goal of their weekend was fun, combining the relaxation of the horse to deeper communication with our horse. We explored the ground work techniques promoted by natural horsemanship programs, then refined these in the saddle through the Roach Approach. There were several expressions of surprise and appreciation as we observed distinct changes in our horses’ response, our personal riding skills, and the understanding of a higher level of communication in a closer relationship with our horses.



Linda Starnes



Dave Patterson

The instructors added to this revelation with skill techniques within a Versatility program in the Maple Crest Horse playground – a riding track, jumping (on purpose) logs, gate, mailbox, platforms, humps – even a teeter totter for the horse. Following instruction, with safety primary, the challenges were approached. Add some frustrations and lots of laughter our horses tried to explain there was no real purpose for this type of play.



Abigail Maliza

Then to put icing on the cake Linda, Larry, and Charlie presented a course in Cowboy Dressage. A refined manner of riding where each movement of the horse is a smooth coordinated effort using a controlled riding technique of positioning following a programmed sequence.

The social aspect was definitely not left to chance. Brenda Chellis was the cooking phenom of the weekend. She prepared home cooked meals of variety and excellence. Needless to say – we ate well.

Conversation is so important. Old and new friends came to audit and participate in the clinic so there was a lot of catch-up talks, laughter, and stories being shared around the luncheon tables. When the instructors called a “stop” at day’s end we all gathered

under the shade trees to re-hash the learning, achievements, and special moments shared throughout the day. Creating memories we will share over and over.



Joyce Moyer, Mel Sberna, Cindy Jewett & Maria Berger



Terry Moyer

Special Moments abounded! During a refined clover leaf dressage movement someone leaned against the squeaky plastic fence surrounding the arena making a horrendous scary noise. My horse immediately communicated to me, the rider, that it was time to leave by ducking, spinning, and side-passing away. Good thing I have quick reactions, a large saddle horn, and an extreme desire to stay in my saddle.



We, at Maple Crest, appreciated Charlie Roach leading us in prayer at start of day asking for blessings of safety for all and the sermon at Cowboy Church on Sunday morning. Attendees offered thoughts and shared experiences to further the moments.

An absolute special moment on Saturday morning prior to the start of the clinic was the presentation of Sky High Command to Lance Pratt by his parents and all involved. This is his first horse—one he has dreamed of, his “Dream Horse”. What we at Maple Crest term a “Heart Horse!” His first response upon realizing Sky was finally his own was to raise his head to God and yell “Thanks”, then to hug the neck of his horse. Joyce needed to remind him to hug his parents also he was so excited. We all suggested he lets his parents ride occasionally, too. That boy smiled all day!



Sky, Scott & Lance Pratt, Joyce Moyer and Cheryl Pratt

This weekend was just the “Best”! The weather was good, the people and horses were great. Charlie, Linda, and Larry were outstanding instructors and patient with us as students. We learned so much from them. It was training in a casual manner which implemented the instructions deeper in our understanding. We and our horses responded in a more relaxed manner and we achieved a clearer, softer, open response to what the horse was sharing.



Joyce and Terry Moyer and Chloe

This clinic was an exceptional success between horse and rider. The riders learned to work harder in an easy manner to assist our horse instead of getting in his way like another obstacle. Watching my horse respond now is like wondering “whose” horse I’m riding--I see that much difference. Just amazing to me!

Thanks to all who shared the clinic, the conversation, laughter, and the blessing of our Tennessee Walking Horse. We truly appreciate the efforts and patience of our instructors—Charlie, Linda, and Larry. Terrance and Joyce Moyer



Debbie Mack, Terry Moyer, Sophie Schoenfelt, Allie Deck, Scott, Cheryl and Lance Pratt with Sky and Chloe, Joyce Moyer, Rachel Lange, Mark Fenn, Abigail Maliza, and Lisa Fenn