

Standardbreds series to return to area fairs

RUS NY, an organization that helps promote the sport and the versatility of Standardbreds, has scheduled its second fair series.

The series will include nine race legs and a championship final race, with points earned along the way to determine final entries. A High Point Rider Award will once again be presented at the final to the rider who has earned the most points, regardless of horse(s) ridden throughout the series. The series will begin July 1 in Sandy Creek at the Oswego County Fair and conclude with the final at Monticello Raceway on Sept. 2.

The series' flagship sponsor, The New York Sire Stakes, has donated \$5,000 as initial purse money. RUS NY will be offering additional sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship information will be added to the RUS NY website, <http://rus-newyork.com>, soon. For more information, contact the group's head of fundraising and sponsorships Jocelyn Gale at galestable@yahoo.com or 250-7402.

Rules and regulations for the series will also be posted on the website soon.

Official dates and locations for the series are as follows:

— Wednesday, July 1: Oswego County in Sandy Creek

— Tuesday, July 7: Tioga County in Owego

— Thursday, July 9: Afton Fair

— Tuesday, July 21: "Little World's Fair" in Hemlock

— Tuesday, Aug. 4: Otsego County in Morris

— Monday, Aug. 10: Wayne County in Palmyra

— Wednesday, Aug. 12: Franklin County in Malone

— Tuesday, Aug. 18: Steuben County in Bath

— Tuesday, Aug. 25: Tompkins County in Trumansburg

— Wednesday, Sept. 2: Final race to be included with the harness race fair finals at Monticello Raceway

Goshen Historic Track will be hosting a RUS race on Sunday, July 5. Riders and horses that participate will earn points accordingly.

Last season the fair series featured six legs and a championship final race. Eleven horses participated in the series with seven qualifying to race in the final. Six horses competed to be named the first RUS NY Fair Series' champion.

It is recommended to become a member of the RUS NY group to participate. There is no fee to be a member. For more information, contact RUS NY President Michelle Miller at mmiller84@gmail.com.

RUS NY is also in the process of working with some pari-mutual tracks

New bird species at Wetland Preserve

SENECA FALLS — Seneca Meadows Inc. has reported that three new bird species were confirmed at the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve in 2014.

Two of the species — the black tern and the golden eagle — are New York State Endangered species. The third species is a red-head. All three bird species were sighted and confirmed by wildlife biologist, Mike McGraw of Applied Ecological Services, during fauna surveys.

"It's been a wonderful experience watching the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve

develop from a virtual monoculture to a diverse habitat," said avid birder and president of the Friends of Montezuma Chuck Gibson. "The number of bird species has more than doubled. The saying, 'build it and they will come' has certainly proven true of this site."

The Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve has become home to several New York state endangered, threatened and species of concern. In October of 2014, the site was designated as an Important Bird Area by Audubon, New York. The honor was awarded due to the

number of breeding pied-billed grebe, American bittern, least bittern and wintering short-eared owls on the site.

"It's great to see the site evolving," said Marcy Neumire, program director for the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve & Education Center. "As the various vegetation matures, we will see even more newcomers to our preserve, so our local birding enthusiasts will have something to look forward to in future years."

The trails at the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve are open daily, from dawn to dusk. In

the winter, trails are groomed for cross country skiers. At the end of August, the preserve hosts the 5K Race for Hunger that benefits local food pantry, the House of Concern.

To learn more about the Seneca Meadows Wetlands Preserve & Education Center, log onto senecameadows.com or look them up on Facebook (search for Seneca Meadows Education Center). Maintaining habitat is just one of the ways that Seneca Meadows is working to be a valued partner and trusted neighbor in their community.



Submitted photo

Newark Central School District hosted the annual Cavalcade of Bands last month.

Newark hosts seven bands

Cavalcade featured nearly 320 student musicians

NEWARK — Nearly 320 student musicians from seven Newark Central School District bands from grades 4-12, played to audience of about 1,200 in the Newark High School gymnasium March 12th.

Each of the bands performed two selections at the annual "Cavalcade of Bands."

- The NHS Concert Band and Wind Ensemble were conducted by Dave Schwind, who is the instrumental music teacher at NHS and also is NSCD music supervisor.

- The Beginning Band (fourth graders) and the Continuing Band, (fifth graders) were conducted by Cynthia Briggs, who is the Kelley School instrumental music teacher.

- The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Bands from Newark Middle School were conducted by Rebekah

Valerio, who is the instrumental music teacher at NMS.

Schwind, who said after the concert how much he looks forward to the "Cavalcade of Bands" concert each year, couldn't have been more pleased.

"The annual District "Cavalcade of Bands" showcases all of our instrumentalists and it is one of my favorite concerts," he said.

"While the acoustics for a concert may not be the best in the gymnasium and the bleacher seats get hard after a while, we can see and celebrate the achievement of all of our musicians in the gym and I feel that overshadows any limitations of the venue. This event provides a great opportunity for all of the parents and students to see the high level of involvement in our instrumental music program and to hear

the tremendous progress that students make from one level to the next. I especially love to hear what the younger students are doing. And I am deeply grateful to be able to work with such fine teachers as Cindy Briggs and Rebekah Valerio."

There was also another conductor on hand at the event, Ethan Wojcik, who on March 13 is concluding his seven-week teaching experience with Briggs. He is a senior from SUNY Fredonia.

"Over the course of seven weeks, Ethan has connected with the students and helped them move forward musically," Briggs said after the concert. "He has made a great impression on the students at Kelley School not only musically but personally as well. Our Band students will miss him and hope he comes back for a visit!"

Newark one of 388 Best Communities for Music Education

NEWARK — For the third year in a row, the Newark Central School District has been designated this year as one of 388 Best Communities for Music Education in the United States by the NAMM Foundation.

The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, based in Carlsbad, Calif., is a nonprofit organization with the mission of advancing active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs from the international music products industry.

The national designation recognizes collaborative efforts of teachers, administrators, students, parents in school districts who continually work to keep comprehensive music education as an integral part of the core curriculum.

Newark received this prestigious designation again after District Music Supervisor Dave Schwind, an instrumental music teacher at Newark High School, completed a comprehensive survey about the district's music program.

Now in its 16th year, the program requires each school district provide detailed information about graduation requirements, music courses, class participation and instruction time; facilities, funding, staffing, commitment to standards, and much, much more. This year, nearly 2,000 schools and school districts participated.

Responses are reviewed by researchers at The Institute for Educational Research and Public Service of Lawrence, Kansas (an affiliate of the University of Kansas) and the Foundation to calculate the designated districts and awarded schools.

Newark was one of 114 school districts in New York state to receive the designation.

Regionally, Palmyra-Macedon and Wayne Central School Districts also received the designation as well as Honeoye Central School District and Honeoye Falls-Lima Central.

"I'm very pleased that for the third year in a row, the Newark Central School District has received the NAMM Foundation designation as one of the Best Communities for Music Education," said Superintendent Matt Cook. "NCS's music program is outstanding, not just because of our talented staff, but also because it engages hundreds of students, parents and other community members every year who contribute in so many ways to make it a great success."

NYCC's Nicchi recognized for exemplary leadership

SENECA FALLS — At the recent Association of Chiropractic Colleges Educational Conference and Research Agenda Conference in Las Vegas, New York



and leadership "above and beyond," said Brian J. McAulay, D.C., Ph.D., president of Parker

tary-treasurer, vice-president and president. Additionally, he has chaired several committees and was instrumental in the formation of the Association's Institutional

president (2011 - 2015), Nicchi was notably engaged in Executive Committee deliberations and was a strong helpful advisor to the two active presidents during this time.