



Horse Capital of the World®

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horse

HORSE CAPITAL DIGEST • 2023 WINTER SPECIAL EDITION

Live Oak International

Driving & Show Jumping

3

MTRA

Anniversary Celebration

5

Pleasant Acres

New Stallion Jafmil

6

Grandview International

Draft Horse Show

7

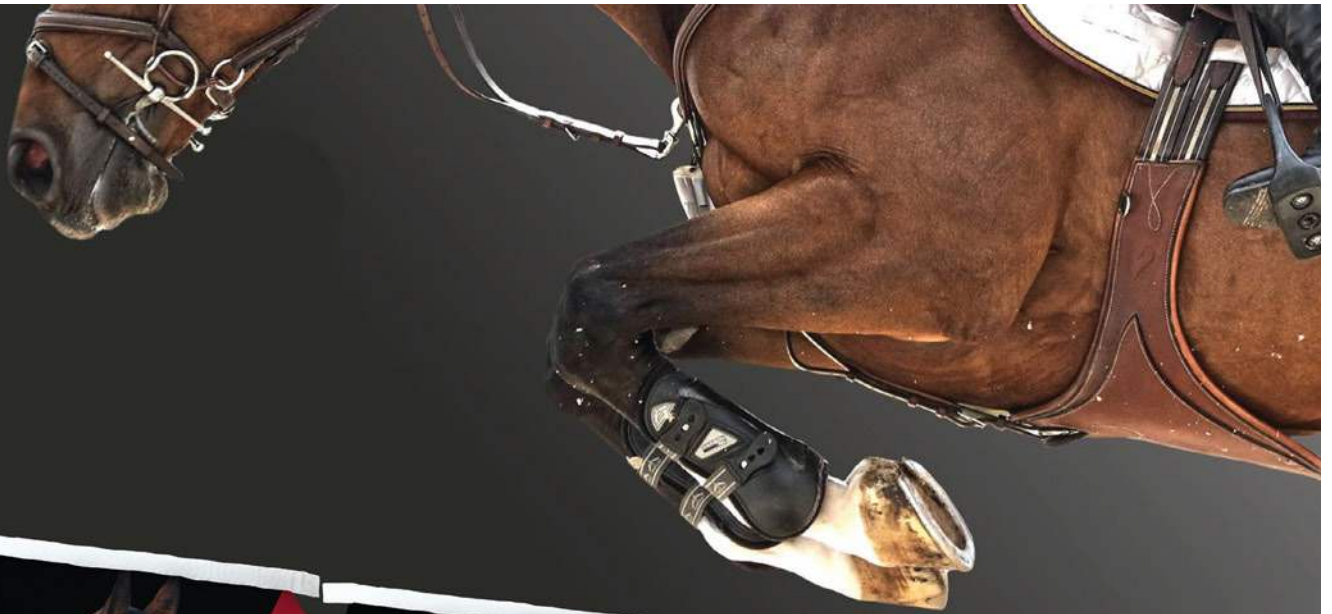
Horse Country Carriage Company

Carriage Tours

9



Live Oak International • Erin Gilmore Photography



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Combined Driving and Show Jumping Unite at Live Oak Event

Live Oak International is the largest international-level combined driving and show jumping tournament in the country and this year welcomes the leading drivers, riders, trainers, coaches and owners from Europe and North America on March 16-19.

In 1990, Charlotte Weber and her son Chester C. Weber were approached about hosting the marathon portion of a club-level driving competition being held at the Ocala Arabian Complex. The Weber family welcomed this invitation and the beautiful Live Oak Stud was first utilized as the grounds to host a competition. After observing the tournament at his family's property, Chester Weber, world champion four-in-hand driver, first competed at LOI in 1995 in the Horse Pair Division. In 1997, Weber began devoting his time to developing the combined driving sport in the United States. Now co-president alongside his sister, Juliet W. Reid, and his niece Chloe D. Reid, Chester is one of the most exciting drivers to watch.

While on a visit to the family-hosted tournament, Chloe asked why the world-class facility couldn't host her equestrian discipline of choice, show jumping, thus

in 2012, Live Oak International expanded to international show jumping.

The competition has grown throughout the years, and now regularly hosts the U.S. Equestrian Federation combined driving national championships as well as the final leg of the qualifier for the Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League. With show jumping came ringside hospitality and world-class entertainment.

The venue of Live Oak Stud offers a picturesque setting and the 5,000-acre property is home to hundreds of cattle, as well as Live Oak Stud, an award-winning Thoroughbred breeding, training and racing operation. Racing under white silks with red polka dots and black sleeves, homebreds from the program have enjoyed success in the Breeders' Cup World Championships wins, Eclipse Awards, Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association awards and multiple Grade 1 wins on the dirt and the turf. In 2018, Live Oak Stud celebrated 50 years of excellence and has been named Florida's Thoroughbred breeder and owner of the year multiple times.





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Therapy Riding Celebrates Fortieth

The Marion Therapeutic Riding Association has been serving Marion, Lake, Sumter and Alachua counties for 40 years. A celebration will take place on Feb. 4 at CF Vintage Farm from 6 to 10 p.m. MTRA provides equine assisted services to individuals with physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. Programs include therapeutic riding, equine assisted learning, PTSD psychotherapy for Veterans in partnership with the Ocala Vet Center and speech and language pathology through hippotherapy in partnership with Advent health.

“Community support is what has driven this organization to a successful 40 years of service,” Executive Director Pam Morrison said.

MTRA relies heavily on the generosity of the community and businesses through donations, grants and other funding. MTRA has provided therapeutic horseback riding or Equine Assisted Therapy sessions to thousands of individuals. In recent years the program has seen an increase



Katie Kaizer Photography

in demand for services. The goals for 2023 are to improve and increase services by 30%; to continue to develop and improve community partnerships to enhance programming and to improve the facility to accommodate growth. MTRA’s overall goal is to be able to provide services to anyone in need regardless of ability to pay. MTRA is a Path Premier Accredited Center and 501c3. For information about this event please contact Jenna Rovira at development@mtraocala.org. Visit [MTRA website](#) or the [MTRA Facebook](#) page for more information.



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Join the Winner Circle Learn About Florida Thoroughbreds



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Pleasant Acres Stallions

Jafmil Joins Stallions at Pleasant Acres

Jafmil joins thoroughbred breeding stallions Amira's Prince (Ire), Bucchero, Curlin's Honor, Gone Astray, Gunnevera, Leinster, Long On Value, Magic On Tap, Neolithic, No Never No More, and Sweetontheladies, at the 220-acre Pleasant Acres Stallions located just northwest of Ocala.

He is a son of Distorted Humor out of the multiple stakes winning Storm Cat mare, Pleasant Temper, by Storm Cat. His sire has 55 graded stakes winners and 15 Grade 1 winners to his credit with \$132 million in progeny earnings.

His dam, Pleasant Temper, finished on the board 22 of 33 career starts amassing nearly \$850,000. She has produced five winners from six starters.

For more information on Pleasant Acres Stallions, visit www.pleasantacresstallions.com.

Stallion incentives in the State of Florida includes no tax on stallion seasons. Florida has a tax friendly, pro-business environment with additional incentives, including sales tax exemption for horses purchased from their original breeder and a greenbelt exemption providing property tax breaks for Florida horse farms. Feed and animal health items are also tax exempt.



HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD®

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Draft Horse Show Creates New Fans

The Advent Health Grandview Invitational Draft Horse Show thunders into the Florida Horse Park Feb. 3-5 featuring three days of equestrian showmanship with world-class hitch wagons and drivers that demonstrate the unique talent of draft horse breeds. Top North American hitches drawn by clydesdales, percherons and belgians will take over the park's covered arena now in its fifth year as the county's only all-draft horse show. Gates open at 8 a.m. The show runs noon until 3 p.m.

Put together by Hall of Fame clydesdale breeders Shannon and Karen Cobbs, Grandview Invitational brings in a showcase of breeds often underrepresented in Horse Capital of the World® as most hitches exist in the Midwest. The Cobbs have been showing drafts for more than 40 years and own Grandview Clydesdales in Dunnellon, a tour site for one of the largest clydesdale breeding operations in North America and renowned



Grandview International • Michelle Randolph

for black clydesdales in addition to the traditional bays. The Invitational was created out of their love of the draft equestrian sport and a desire to bring a truly unique horse show experience to Marion County.

Spectators will enjoy a wide range of classes, from the graceful and elegant "Ladies Cart" class with a single horse and driver to the "Six" and "Eight Horse Hitch" classes creating a powerhouse of up to 168 one-ton horses hitched as teams and at one point all in the ring at the same time. Witnessing some of the most physically pow-

erful horses in the world in the ring all at once is a sensory experience like no other and many are left in awe.

Admission tickets range from \$20 for adult online tickets to \$475 VIP packages for the daytime show at the Florida Horse Park. Each evening the horses also appear at the Grandview World Nights at the World Equestrian Center from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with Happy Hour at 6:30 p.m. and a party at 7:30 p.m. in Arena 5. The last night is the World of Red Party with gala attire. For tickets visit [here](#).



Grandview International • Michelle Randolph



Marion County's Equine Impact

- Equines are 18% of the county GDP
- A top breeding region in the world for thoroughbreds
- Thoroughbreds sold at Ocala Breeders' Sales in the past decade valued at more than \$1.3 billion
- OBS buyers come from 49 states and 2 territories and more than 42 countries

Source: AHC



Kevin Yutani



Live Oak International & Gilmore Photography

Central Florida is Horse Capital of the World®

In 1997, Ocala/Marion County Horse Capital of the World® and Horse Capital of the World® were trademarked by the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association. Ever since, the marks have become synonymous with the FTBOA and its Association services. While others periodically try its use, by trademark and literally, the county is the Horse Capital with more horses and ponies than any other in the U.S. and Florida ranks third as a state in its horse population.

FTBOA trademarked the phrase to create a brand identity for the area and the services it promotes related to equines. The diversity of breeds and disciplines make the area an ideal setting for any horse fanatic, casual horse lover or for services catering to the horse world.

Horses in Florida are more than pretty scenery in a pasture. They are economic drivers for our county and state. The concentration of equines – particularly the thoroughbred

breeding, training and sales industry in Central Florida – is strongly supported by a network of equine services, such as specialized veterinarians, feed and tack retailers, blacksmith, equine dentists, feed mills and major horse transportation companies by land and by air.

This makes Ocala a great place to enjoy equines with its opportunities to attend world-class horse shows and events, equine venues, recreational activities and farm tours at a variety of venues, farms and showgrounds. Visitors have the chance to go on a farm tour, take a trail ride through our numerous parks and national forest, enjoy a carriage ride, learn polo, visit an equine museum or gallery, attend the world's leading two-year-olds in-training thoroughbred sales, watch a horse train at Ocala Breeders' Sales or wager on simulcast horse races from the state's tracks and from across the country. The choices are limitless and local citizens are a daily part of the one-of-a-kind experience that only the Horse Capital of the World® can bring.

Florida Racing's Annual Impact

- \$1.5 billion in direct economic impact and \$2.7 billion overall
- \$400,000+ in payroll taxes
- 20,000+ thoroughbreds engaged in racing
- 23,000+ jobs

Source: AHC



Horse Country Carriage Co.

Visitors Tour Horse Country

Horse Country Carriage Company offers scenic farm tours for small private parties and large groups, with lunch or dinner tours for groups of 10 or more. Kimie Carp, a carriage tour guide, shares her passion for the horses, her wit and love of Ocala on the horse drawn

tours filled with amazing facts and nostalgia.

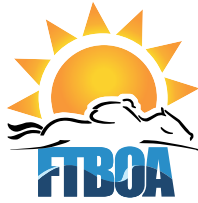
As the tour stops along the way, horses greet the wagon along the fence lines, almost as if they were on cue. Tour guests learn about horses, their behavior and breeds.

The horses Duke and Doc are on site celebrities, having appeared in "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides". They can also be seen on the History channel show *Mountain Men* – Season 3 Episode 1 which aired on June 1, 2014. Mountain Man Tom Oar is father to Horse Country Carriage Company president, Chad Oar.

Libby and Luther are new. Their personalities and eagerness to travel make them a fun team to ride along with, as it is not unusual for them to whinny to their friends in the pastures along the way. Tiny Prince Charming is 18.3 hands tall, and performs carriage rides at Brownwood in The Villages. Chip and Dale, are palomino ponies that like children's parties. Their pint size hitch wagon is reminiscent of the Budweiser beer wagon.



Horse Country Carriage Co.



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