

# MOTHER'S DAY 2016 . . . WHERE'S THE HORSE RACE?

**WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE**—There are only so many Sundays in the Spring racing season.

Fans of the Willowdale Steeplechase in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, know it as a Mother's Day tradition. But this year, Point-to-Point at Winterthur in Delaware will run on Mother's Day with Willowdale running the following Sunday.

Why did it change this year? The last time this happened was in 2011, and it has to do with the calendar, leap year, and the National Steeplechase Association's (NSA) schedule. NSA is the governing body of the professional sport of steeplechasing and has designed the race conditions (also known as schedules and rules) for the sanctioned races based on a number of criteria. Purse monies distributed to winning owners, location, and the course conditions can determine which horse will run at a particular race.

What is constant is that Point-to-Point at Winterthur is **always** the Sunday right after the Kentucky Derby. The Kentucky Derby is **always** the first Saturday in May. Willowdale is **always** the Sunday after Winterthur; usually, that's Mother's Day. Not so this year. 2016 is a Leap Year. The first Saturday in May is the 7<sup>th</sup>. Mother's Day falls on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, the Winterthur Race will be on Mother's Day since that is the day after the Kentucky Derby and the Willowdale Steeplechase will run on the following Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

How do the Race Directors of Winterthur Point-to-Point and Willowdale feel about this change?

"A few years ago, Winterthur Point-to-Point restructured the event to make it more convenient, family friendly, and enjoyable. We will offer a wonderful day to spend with family and friends, and we are going to make it easy and a fun day to treat moms!" says Jill Abbott, Winterthur Point-to-Point Race Director.

"Change is great!" says Leslie White, Willowdale Steeplechase Race Director. "While Willowdale is known as a Mother's Day tradition, a change in date creates an opportunity for people who have not been able to attend Mother's Day, due to other family obligations, to come to the races! Fans of Willowdale won't miss a thing – they will still enjoy their much loved community event, exciting racing and fun activities, all while having a day in the country!"

Regardless of the date of each race, fans of both are sure to have a wonderful day of racing and fun while supporting a variety of important community charities. Both races have so much to offer, be sure to add these dates to your calendar now!

The tradition may have been interrupted, but it will continue in 2017 when Winterthur reverts back to the first Sunday in May and Willowdale will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary running, once again, on Mother's Day.

**Contact Jill Abbott, Winterthur Race Director, for details about the 2016 Winterthur Point-to-Point Steeplechase, [jabbott@winterthur.org](mailto:jabbott@winterthur.org), 302.888.4992.**

**For more information on Winterthur, visit [winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org) and for Willowdale, [willowdalesteeplechase.org](http://willowdalesteeplechase.org).**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winterthur's Point-to-Point Steeplechase Will Be May 8, 2016 (Mother's Day) With Willowdale Running the Following Sunday, May 15, 2016. Courtesy of Winterthur, Photo by Bob Hickock.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11.

## Museum hours

10:00 am- 5:00 pm, Tuesday- Sunday.

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit [winterthur.org](http://winterthur.org).



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