

HORSE-FEED COUPONS NEEDED: Traveller's Rest Equine Elders Sanctuary is collecting horse-feed coupons to give to financially strapped horse owners waiting to find new homes for their animals. The coupons, found in horse-related magazines, or at feed retailers or veterinarians, offer discounts on feed. Those wishing to donate coupons of any type or brand may send them to TREES, Box 2260, Spotsylvania, Va. 22553.

ANTIETAM: One light, one life

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and members of the American Business Women's Association blanket the battlefield, systematically placing 23,110 candles in brown paper bags over a 6-mile portion of the battlefield.

Luminarias are precisely placed in exact rows spaced 15 feet apart, using GPS mapping, compasses, transits and even ropes to ensure position. "Every group has developed its own way of achieving accuracy in the field," Charles says.

Volunteers begin laying candles on-site in 35 quadrants at about 8 a.m., and by 1 p.m. they are finished. Lighting begins at 2 p.m. "With 1,400 volunteers, we can light the entire battlefield in about 45 minutes.

"Our volunteers return year after year. We usually have a 97 percent return rate every year," says Charles. "Some will even return for their 20th illumination this year." Groups including Scouts, history and Civil War buffs, reenactment groups, families,

history teachers and their students, park rangers, youth groups and individuals make up the volunteer corps.

Two weeks prior, another set of volunteers has assembled the luminarias. They shovel from a 1-ton pile of sand into brown paper bags, and drop short, white candles into plastic cups placed in the sand. The bags are then packed 20 to a box for transport by trailer to the battlefield.

For the 20th year, Root Candle Co. of Ohio will supply the 33,000 candles called "Antietam candles," specifically designed for long burning in all types of weather. Of these, 23,110 will be placed at Antietam and 9,000 will be placed at Rest Haven Cemetery in Hagerstown.

Following the lighting, a special ceremony is held for the volunteers, at which visiting dignitaries personally thank them for a job well done. As the sun goes down and darkness envelops the battlefield, the candles come to life. A bagpipe wails, then

taps rings out across the battlefield. "It is a private and reflective time for the volunteers, and it literally stands up the hair on the back of your neck," Charles says.

"It is always rewarding to hear how the illumination has affected people," Charles adds. "One volunteer who started when she was 5 has now worked for the National Park Service at Antietam. We have people who have learned why it is important to preserve our battlefields. We even had an Englishman who visited over the summer, heard about the illumination, and when back home and calculated the exact time we were lighting. He went to his front lawn, spread luminarias and participated in his own illumination in England.

"We're not here just to light candles. We want to help the public interpret in a visual way what happened. Each person take a little piece and adapts it to their own use."

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LINDA BARRETT

A wreath at the Antietam battlefield is a silent symbol.

PET PALS » Dogged loyalty pays off in lounge time for this Stafford family



EVE CARR

Dogs are definitely our best friends—especially when they are willing to endure the hardships of relaxation, as shown here with Millard Carr of Stafford County. When Sweetie Pie (far right) was a puppy, Carr's wife, Eve, trained the dog to join her on the chaise lounge, and as an adult the dog continues to enjoy leisurely comfort. Yorkshire 'terror' Rusty (top) quickly learned to head for high ground just in case Fluffy (center) decides that there is room for her, too. Clearly the Carr family needs a bigger chaise lounge.

—Eve Carr