



STABLE VIEW SPOTLIGHT: DIANE BIRD



Diane Bird is a familiar face for many event riders. She is typically seen at the start box as well as decorating the cross country jumps. She shared, "I have been part of the decorating team at Stable View for the past several years with Anne Dearborn and a few other people. I have helped flag, place bushes, and distribute pine straw in the past, but have exclusively worked with the flowers/decorations for the past year and a half or so."

In addition to her volunteer duties, Diane has an equine stained glass business called Equiglas. She said, "I am kind of artsy, so working with the flowers is fun for me and I really enjoy decorating the course. I try to make it a bit different for each show and have incorporated seasonal themes when I can. I am very lucky that Barry and Cyndy allow me pretty free rein, and are willing to buy what I need to do the best decorating possible for each show." Diane wanted to make the USEA Intercollegiate and Interscholastic Championships and Alumni Cup extra special for all the teams. She shared, "I had volunteered for the show when it was at the Virginia Horse Center so was aware of lots of the activities involved, but didn't remember anyone ever decorating the x/c jumps for the attending schools and groups. I knew I could do that with some help from the groups sending some decorating materials and with Cyndy getting me the proper color flowers to match the team colors." She is hoping next year even more teams send decorations and the course can be better than ever.

Diane caught the horse bug at age six when her sister taught her to ride. She got her first horse at age twelve and kept him until she went to college. She was horseless for over a decade but got another one at thirty-two. At the time Diane was an elementary school teacher in New Jersey and she and her husband, Art had been married for nine years. She said, "Art had no clue, and had no idea what he was in for! Got a horse then, and have had horses ever since."

The couple lived in New Jersey until 1999 before they moved to Lexington, Virginia. In 2017 they made the move to Aiken. She said, "We currently board our four horses - a retired 34-year-old Quarter Horse, a retired 28-year-old OTTB, my 24-year-old

Arabian mare, and Art's 24-year-old paint/draft cross mare, both of which are still rideable. We have adopted several corgi dogs over the years, and currently have just one."

In addition to Stable View, the couple spends their time volunteering and giving back to the sport at multiple venues. She shared, "Art and I have been volunteering for horse trials for over thirty-five years. We started volunteering at Stable View before we moved here, and still do. Most of our volunteer hours are now earned in Area III, although we still go up to Loch Moy in MD and VHC in Virginia where we were on the organizing committee for almost twenty years. We are heading there for Memorial Day weekend to dressage steward, fence judge and start their cross country. We did volunteer at the World Games held in Tryon a couple of years ago and were glad to get back to our home base at Stable View. Definitely our favorite venue." Next time you see Diane and Art be sure to thank them for everything they do for the sport.