

UPDATE

Spring 2010



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SCHC UPDATE

Spring 2010

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2010 Board of Directors and Officers

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The SCHC was formed by equestrians as a statewide organization and is a member of the American Horse Council. Regardless of the breed, riding discipline or segment of the horse community with which the member identifies, the SCHC is working to keep opportunities open for all. The Board of Directors is composed of volunteer members as are all committees. SCHC activities and events are planned and coordinated by member volunteers. The Council is devoted to guaranteeing a future which continues to include horses, horse sports, and equine-related businesses in SC.

We encourage all SCHC members to volunteer for one or more of our committees. The success of this organization depends completely upon volunteers giving of their time and talents to the activities that our members have said they want us to conduct. Only through the personal participation of actively engaged members, can we take this organization to the level we all want it to achieve. Check out our current active committees and then call or email us and let us know how you would like to become involved.

(<http://www.schorseouncil.org/committees.htm>)

Reflections

Spring is in the air and it is time to get rid of the winter time blahs and get outside. The trees are beginning to bud and bloom and the ground is starting to get green. The SC Horsemen's Council is eager to get to work on this year's objectives. But before we get started on this year, let's reflect a little on the past year.

We started 2009 in January with participation in the Equine Economic Summit in Camden, SC which included excellent speakers and participants from neighboring states.

We held our Expo and Annual Meeting at the beautiful Circle M Arena in Pelzer, SC on Feb 7, 2009. We appreciate the hospitality shown us by the McCleer family. We had a great expo with lots of horses and horse stuff. At the Expo, we passed a new set of By-laws that enable us to apply for a 501-C-3 organization. This classification was granted to us by the IRS in November, 2009. This enables individuals to deduct contributions to the Horsemen's Council from their income taxes.

We set up a booth and participated in the SC Legislative Taste of SC on the State House grounds in April. This was an overwhelming success and enabled us to make contact with lots of legislators and government officials.

We worked hard against Bill #3889 which would have placed ridiculous restrictions on movement of horses across the state line. This bill was defeated.

We held our Board of Directors planning Session in April and updated our strategic plan for the Horsemen's Council.

We had several members represent the SCHC and attend the SETC conference held in Gainesville, FL July 9-11.

Adam Mathis was the proud recipient of this year's \$1200 SCHC scholarship award. at the SC State Fair in October. We were privileged to have the largest group of scholarship participants ever – and they were an outstanding group of young men and women. South Carolina has much to be proud of here

We initiated a new committee to determine what the role of the SCHC should be in addressing the Unwanted Horse situation in SC. This committee has met several times and is developing a strategy for our organization that should help educate more people on this issue.

We had our SCHC Trail Ride at Lakeview Plantation in November and were privileged to have SC Dept of Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers and his lovely wife, Blanch, participate on the ride with us. It was a great weekend.

Our Board members participated on state & national level committees, manned SCHC booths at various equine events, spoke at local equine organizations, hosted local equine events, supported numerous SC organized trail rides, and worked with other equine organizations across the state.

We just finished an excellent Expo in Camden at the SC Equine Park on Feb. 6, 2010. They were gracious hosts and worked hard on their facilities for this event. We had record attendance and vendor participation. Thanks to all who made this our best Expo yet.

We just held our annual Planning Session in Columbia on March 8. We have clarified our goals for 2010 and are busily working on them.

If you have not joined the SCHC, or have friends who are not members, get those memberships in so we can keep working to improve the Equine Industry in SC.

We sincerely appreciate the support of all who have helped our Council in so many ways: monetarily, participation in activities, workers at events, and countless hours of committee activity and other SCHC work, etc. etc. This is a true volunteer organization and our success reflects what interested and dedicated people can accomplish through cooperative efforts.

Please accept my very sincere thanks to all of you!!
Carol Deacon – President SC Horsemen's Council

2010 EXPO AND ANNUAL MEETING

by Kaye Watkins, Secretary SCHC & Chairman, 2010 Expo, Hartsville

2010 SCHC EXPO & ANNUAL MEETING by Kaye Watkins



Camden, SC - The SCHC held it's Expo and Annual meeting on February 06, 2010, in Camden, SC at the SC Equine Park. After a heavy, cold rain all day Friday, Saturday arrived with no rain, just damp and chilly. There was plenty of mud from the downpour on Friday, but the rain held off all day until we were wrapping things up around 4:30pm.

Gates opened around 9:30 and the folks began pouring in with a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. We had between 950 – 1000 attendees.



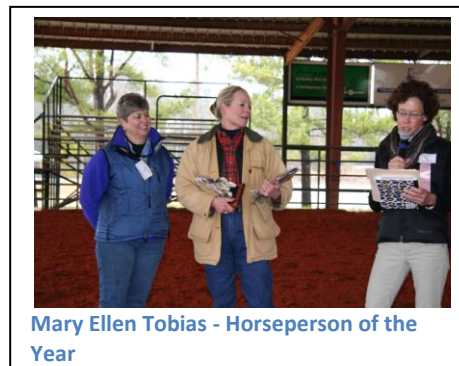
Bruce Anderson & Shire

Carol Deacon the President of the SCHC and Kaye Watkins, Expo Chairman, opened the event. Representative Laurie Funderburk gave the official welcome on behalf of Camden and Kershaw County. The Palmetto Posse presented the American flag and Jim Edwards led us in the pledge of allegiance and opening prayer. The SCHC recognized their Volunteers with the presentation of special plaques for their service. Among these were Holly Baker, Anne Edwards, Chris Prindle, Carole Bale, George Patterson and Debra Weber. These folks help year after year. It is because of their help along with the many dedicated Board members, that the Expo is so successful.



Most Popular Man at the Expo

The SCHC presented the 2010 Horseperson of the Year Award to Mary Ellen Tobias, SC Agriculture Department Equine Specialist. Mary Ellen has been very supportive of the SCHC and countless other equine organizations, activities, and groups throughout SC.



Mary Ellen Tobias - Horseperson of the Year

We had about 60 vendors on hand for the day. There was a good mixture of for-profit and non-profit organizations represented. There were a lot of things to choose from to take home for yourself and for your favorite equine. There was a lot of educational information concerning health related topics, the SC Transport Police, and rescue of animals.



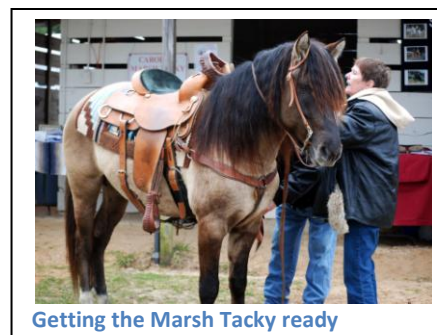
Mullet Hall Booth

Special educational demonstrations were provided by Bruce Anderson of Natures View in Camden, SC on "Helping Horses Help People", and Anne Kennedy of Camelot Farms of St. Helena Island, SC, who demonstrated round pen and ground work on "Who is in Charge".

Other demonstrations included the Palmetto Posse of Hartsville, SC, under the leadership of Kim Gainey. Charlotte Cannon of Rock Hill was back with her Parelli Kids. These groups are great to watch and are highly entertaining as they put their horses through some difficult maneuvers.

The Parade of Breeds, as always, was a crowd pleaser. With the massive Shire, the beauty of dressage by the Belgium Warmblood, to the Marsh Tacky and the Tennessee Walking Horse, there was something for everyone. Many other breeds were represented among which were the Racking Horse,

Quarter Horse, Arabian, Paint Horse, Mule, Andulsian, Rocky Mountain Horse, Kentucky Mountain Horse, Barrel Horse, Reining Horse and Mustang. The 2010 Expo was a great success for the Camden area, the SE Equine Park, the SCHC and South Carolina equine. Thanks to all who contributed.



Getting the Marsh Tacky ready

Hilton Head Horse Expo by Anne Kennedy District 5

Each year in late March Dr. Sandy Termatto organizes the Hilton Head Horse Expo to showcase the equestrian community in the area. The event is strictly for charity and attracts numerous corporate sponsors and a variety of equine enthusiasts from the area. This year's gray drizzle did little to dampen the spirits of the participants and there were dignitaries in horse drawn carriages, a parade of luxury automobiles -- all blessed with enthusiastic, umbrella'd tailgaters out for a wonderful afternoon.

Dr. Termatto is a polo enthusiast and there is typically an abbreviated polo match. Unfortunately the polo demonstration had to be cancelled due to poor footing caused by the rain, but a host of dogs and red-clad hunt-seat riders demonstrated the exhilarating discipline of the fox hunt.

There are dressage demonstrations, a parade of breeds, hunter-jumpers, show jumping demos, usually some barrel racing and always a horse race as the grand finale. Heroes on Horseback always participates with lots of volunteers, the Savannah School of Art and Design brings their equitation team, and both should be commended for the quality and quantity of their volunteerism and dedication to the horse.

Camelot Farms participated as in past years, along with Cocoa, our international champion Rocky Mountain Horse mare. We shook lots of hands and talked about your Horse Council, as well as took the pictures accompanying this article -- our mare is ridden by our friend Karen Wendell. Any of you who are in the Hilton Head area at the last couple of weeks of March need to include the Expo in your weekend planning. It is always a first class effort with a host of interesting vendors, participants, classic and luxury automobiles and lots of good food.



Coco and Mark from Camelot Farms

SCHC AND 501(c) 3 - Tax Exempt Status by Cecil Watkins

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL
is a 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Organization

As reported last quarter, we have now received our approval as a 501 c 3 non-profit organization. This means that individuals as well as businesses may deduct gifts to the SC Horsemen's Council from their income taxes. This also makes our organization eligible for some prospective grants from certain charitable organizations. So get out those checkbooks and make a donation to your favorite non-profit organization (that would be us). Donations may be designated for the general fund to defray operating expenses or to the scholarship fund for recognizing deserving students. Please give thanks to Betty Rankin and Carol Deacon for doing most of the work necessary to enable us to achieve this status.

Youth Scholarship and Unwanted Horses Win Big at Silent Auction

by Bettv Rankin District 2

The Silent Auction and used tack sale at the 2010 Expo brought in over \$4,000 to benefit youth and horses. An unprecedented number of donations produced over 100 baskets of items. Romantic Charleston weekends, beach rides at Camelot Farm, Marsh Tacky rides at Fairfield Plantation, Two hour guided tour at Fox Pipe Farm, fall racing weekends in Camden and Aiken, golf packages in York County and Aiken, culture weekends in Laurens and York County, were just a few of the selections. In addition, Seldom Rest Quarter Horse Farm in Kershaw donated a breeding to San Joe Playboy for one lucky bidder's mare. There was something for all, even those who didn't want to bid. The five and ten dollar tables presented jigsaw puzzles, jewelry, and many other gift items for that special Valentine. Thank you to those who donated; to those who purchased; and to those who made it all possible.

Hobcaw Barony Marsh Tacky Historical Trail Ride by Betty Rankin District 2

The SCHC was well represented at the Marsh Tacky Historical Trail Ride on March 21. B.B. Weavil, Carole Bale, David Grant, and I were part of the 30 riders who experienced the guided historical trail rides and hospitality of The Belle W. Baruch Foundation's Hobcaw Barony. This 17,500 acre research



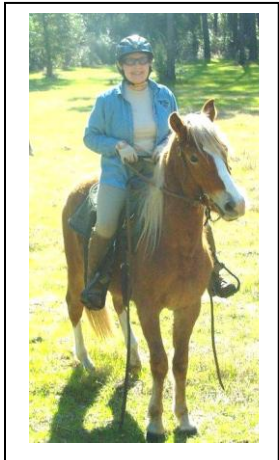
reserve is surrounded by water on 3 sides and is located on the Waccamaw Neck between the river and the ocean. It's rich history includes the Marsh Tacky horses, 11 rice plantations, and winter retreats for millionaires and presidents.



This ride was a dream come true for me. Not only was I experiencing the unique opportunity to ride at Hobcaw and learn more of the history and ecology of the area, I was also riding the living history on a Marsh Tacky provided by David Grant.

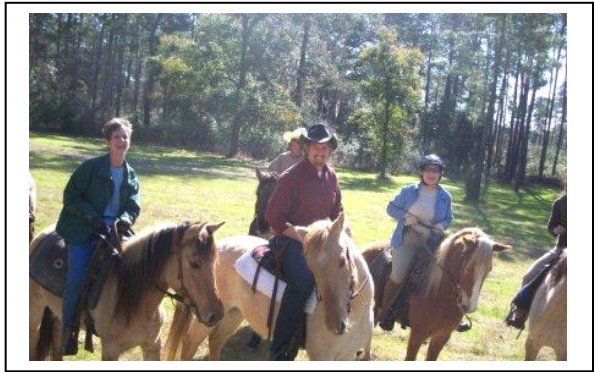
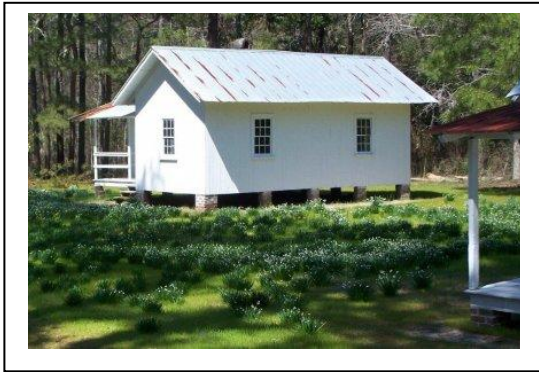


I have had horses for over 50 years, including the Thoroughbred, Arabian, and Quarter Horse I had left at home. Any of them would have been fine on this ride; however, they would not have been in their "native" environment of the marshes. This little horse named Tebo, seemed to sense he was in his element and as I rode I became enchanted by this breed and the 500+ years of history it represents to our state. Two Bills have been introduced in Columbia to name the Marsh Tacky as the



SC Heritage Horse. For more information about these Bills and the Marsh Tacky go to www.MarshTacky.org

FYI, Hobcaw Barony offered 3 opportunities this year for individuals to bring their horses and ride one of two trails. This program filled quickly. For additional information go to www.hobcawbarony.org and click on tours and programs to see when rides will be held.



Thanks to the Marsh Tacky Association for hosting this wonderful ride.

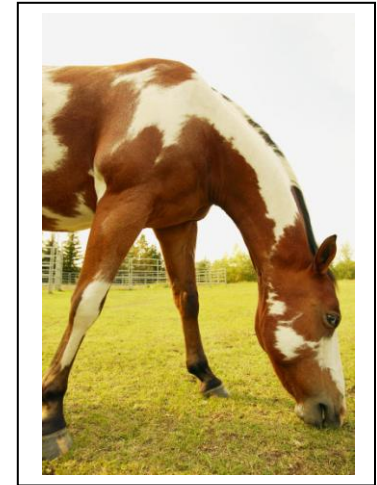
Carolina Laminitis Symposium by Anne Kennedy District 5

Animal Health Foundation and Laminitis Research to benefit from inaugural event held in Pickens, SC, February, 2010.

Julie Capaldi, Kate Bond and Linda Symborski have owned horses most of their lives. Laminitis was something that happened to “other people”. All three women experienced the ravages of laminitis. Bond lost her endurance mare in 2006, Symborski’s seasoned dressage horse and promising broodmare succumbed to progressive Cushing’s disease after recovering from laminitis with the help of her veterinarian and farrier, and Capaldi’s beloved Arabian gelding Buddy was diagnosed with laminitis in July, 2009. They quickly learned that this is a complex, expensive and devastating disease.

Capaldi met Dr. Don Walsh, a veterinarian from St. Louis, MO and founder of the Animal Health Foundation, during her internet search for answers to the many questions that plagued her; why did her horse “founder”, what did she do wrong and would he ever recover to usable soundness. Dr. Walsh’s paper, “Laminitis Attack- The First Line of Defense”, was her bible. When Capaldi emailed Dr. Walsh to thank him, he was totally accessible, and never tired of the many questions she fired at him mostly in the middle of the night when she worried about Buddy.

Slowly Buddy began to improve as she followed Dr. Walsh’s instructions to the letter. To say she was indebted was an understatement. Capaldi vowed to repay that kindness.



As a professional fundraiser with over 25 year’s experience, Capaldi realized there was a way she could help. When she asked Dr. Walsh to articulate his ultimate dream, he said it was to travel around the country in a big bus, educating the horse owner about laminitis.

Although there is no bus (yet), Capaldi enlisted the help of Bond and Symborski and together they created the Carolina Laminitis Symposium to provide the latest research to the horse owner.

The Carolina Laminitis Symposium will be held on May 15, 2010 at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, SC. Dr. Walsh and Katy Watts, a forage researcher funded by the Animal Health Foundation will be the featured presenters. The program will be modeled after the Animal Health Foundation’s “Master class: Laminitis in the Horse”, which was held in St. Louis on November 21, 2009. The difference is that Dr. Walsh will translate the latest research findings into simple language that the horse owner can understand.

The cost of the symposium is \$50 per person which includes a box lunch. All proceeds from the Carolina Laminitis Symposium will be donated to the Animal Health Foundation to fund vital laminitis research.

For more information or to register, visit www.carolinasymposium.org. You can also register by mail. Send checks made payable to “Carolina Laminitis Symposium” and mail to Carolina Laminitis Symposium (CLS), 1200 Cherry St. Ext. Pendleton, SC 29670. The symposium is limited to 200 so please register early.

CAROLINA LAMINITIS SYMPOSIUM

When:

May 15, 2010 – Saturday

Time:

8AM – 5PM

Where:

*SC State Museum
301 Gervais St. Columbia, SC*

Cost:

\$50/person

(includes a box lunch)

All proceeds to benefit AHF

Contact:

Julie Capaldi

Allgood Bridge Rd.

Pickens, SC 29671

864-878-3061

**julie@mysaddlefits.com or
www.carolinasymposium.org**

The Story of the Animal Health Foundation

The goal of the Animal Health Foundation (AHF) is to find the cause and way to prevent laminitis-founder complex in horses.

The foundation donates funds to major researchers in the field of laminitis. AHF also offers information to help horse owners prevent their horses from becoming victims of the painful, crippling disease.

Lowcountry Trails submitted by BB Weavil District 5

We're on the cusp of spring at last! And what a wet and cold winter we have had. Not too many opportunities for trail riding with the weather we have had in the last several months unless you happen to be a fan of mud and river riding.



At last a slight warming trend and clear skies made for a second opportunity to ride Botany Bay Plantation on Edisto Island. I wrote up my first trip last spring and was really impressed with the landscape and vistas of the ride. I am glad to report I came away again finding this a true jewel of a maritime forest. The lush grass along the trails made me want to jump down and enjoy with my horse as he grazed on this veritable feast when we took a sort pause to enjoy a beautiful meadow of daffodils, narcissus, and snowdrops. Although I did not experience the sight of dolphins feeding off Jason's lake and Picnic Pond, I am told it is an amazing sight to behold as you sit astride your mount. One must be lucky enough to hit the tide just right. What a rare and wonderful opportunity!

Botany Bay Plantation is a Wildlife Management Area consisting of 4,687 acres which originally was home to two plantations, Bleak Hall and Sea Cloud. In 1849 John Townsend combined the two. During the 20th century, the owners harvested timber, farmed the open fields, and managed habitat for wildlife. Today the area is a mix of hardwood forests, agricultural fields, coastal wetlands, and a two mile stretch of undeveloped shoreline. The driving and cycling trail on which horses are allowed covers 6.5 miles. Numbered markers and stops along the way tell a history of Botany Bay. You will delight in the oak tree canopies, the fern overlays in the pine forests, the picnic pond and the ride along the Ocella Creek and salt marsh. There are views of the shoreline, but riding is prohibited to horses. You may tie your horse up at your trailer and walk down to the shore, if so inclined. There is no overnighting on the premises.

Only day rides are permitted and you must sign in at the entrance kiosk. For more

information on visiting Botany Bay go to the SC Department of Natural Resources website

(www.dnr.sc.gov). From out of town, a suggestion might be to overnight at Mullet Hall Plantation (843-768-5867 on John's Island, which has hook-ups and stalls and trailer over to Botany Bay which is



about a 45 minute trip. Be sure to call ahead for reservations at Mullet Hall.

Let me hear about your trail adventures in the Lowcountry. You can e-mail me at bbweavil@msn.com. I'm always looking for trails I've yet to discover and ones I can share with our membership.



Happy Trails to all – BB Weavil

SC TRAILS REPORT by Jim Edwards VP External Activities

The South Carolina Horsemen's Council is pleased to announce the development of a new book of trail maps. Plans are underway to map all equine trails in South Carolina. The current schedule includes mapping of trails in the following order:

- A. US Forestry Trails
- B. Sections of the Palmetto Trail open to horses
- C. SCPRT Trails
- D. Public-use trails controlled by non-governmental entities
- E. Others as they become available

SCHC members are encouraged to give input about trails they would like to see mapped and particular features they would like included.

Plans are to make the maps as detailed as possible. Special viewpoints, historic features, natural/environmental features, and points of general interest are to be noted.

Please send your comments and/or suggestions to Jim Edwards at jim.edwards1@yahoo.com or phone: (864) 683-5757.

USDA Announces New Framework for Animal Disease Traceability

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will revise its proposed National Animal Identification System (NAIS), in effect starting over in the planning process. This announcement follows the USDA's national listening tour which prompted USDA to offer this new approach.

USDA appears to be scaling back its approach, but the Department is just at the beginning of the new process. Rather than attempting to identify every animal, every premise and every animal movement to achieve traceback within 48 hours of a disease outbreak, the new USDA approach appears to be aimed at designing a simpler program to achieve basic traceability with simpler identification means, including branding, to respond to a disease outbreak.

The NAIS was not fully embraced by the livestock community (the USDA spent \$120 million on NAIS with only 36% of producer participation) and generated numerous concerns surrounding confidentiality, liability, cost, privacy, and religion. In response to these concerns, the new USDA program will narrow its approach. The USDA stated the new animal disease traceability program will:

- Only apply to animals involved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations, with Federal support, to provide more flexibility;
- Allow for maximum flexibility for States, Tribal Nations, and producers to find identification solutions that meet their needs;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology;
- Ensure traceability data is owned and maintained by the States and Tribal Nations; and
- Be implemented through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

In response to the suggestions and criticisms voiced by many in the livestock community, the USDA will modify the prior animal identification program to achieve animal disease traceback.

First, the USDA will convene a forum with animal health leaders from States, Tribal Nations, and producer groups to discuss how best to achieve a coordinated approach to animal disease traceability. The USDA has scheduled an initial meeting with State and Tribal animal health officials next month (March 18th and 19th) in Kansas City, MO. Also, the USDA has directed the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health to concentrate on specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability. USDA indicated it will share the costs of the new program with States. The Department expects to publish a new animal disease traceability section in its regulations in about one year.

Please see the below sites for additional information on the USDA Framework for Animal Disease Traceability and Questions & Answers regarding the new framework. We will provide further information once it becomes available.

NEW FRAMEWORK FOR ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY:

www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: NEW ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY FRAMEWORK:

www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/faq_traceability.pdf

SC Officials Note Importance of Agriculture (from The Rock Hill Herald) by Betty Rankin

COLUMBIA --- Officials in South Carolina want to remind residents that agribusiness is a \$34 billion industry accounting for about 200,000 jobs. The reminder came on Saturday (March 20), National Agriculture Day. Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers said that with the spinoff, the agriculture business accounts for about one-fourth of the South Carolina economy. The day closed a week of observances noting the importance of agriculture to the nation.

SC Horses = \$C Business

New Unwanted Horse Committee Up and Running by BB Weavil

The South Carolina Horsemen's Council responding to its responsibility to SC horses, SC horse owners and the SC horse industry has formed an Unwanted Horse Committee. This committee was created to *Connect, Communicate, and Educate*.

Today's reality holds too many unwanted horses. Unwanted horses may be sick, injured or old. They may be unmanageable or dangerous. They may be horses that an owner is no longer economically able to care for. This is especially evident in today's economy. Horses may no longer be wanted because they have become more of a burden than a joy which may lead to neglect or abuse. Or, they may simply be horses that an owner does not know what to do with.

Regardless of how horses reached this state, every owner and the horse industry at large, has a responsibility to ensure that everything possible is done so that no horse becomes unwanted.

We on the Unwanted Horse Committee encourage your involvement to help us connect our horsemen across South Carolina in times of hardship so that we may reach out to extend help where needed. We are in process of gathering information to create a network of helping organizations and facilities county by county. We are also trying to gather some numbers on the unwanted horses in our state. Further, we hope to offer articles for member awareness of the many issues involved in the problem of unwanted horses. These will not be meant to be conclusive of all opinions out there on the subject for there are many. We hope to provide information about programs available to those facing a problem with unwanted horses as we discover new avenues of help.

The following actions have been put before the Board of Directors and have been adopted by the Board:

1. Create an Unwanted Horse link on our SCHC website.
2. Create a directory under this link that lists organizations, programs, and rescue operations with their contact information.
3. Ask all District Directors to send contact information for facilities and/or organizations within their counties that offer help for unwanted horses.
4. Provide educational seminars on "Owning Responsibly" through partnering with universities, colleges, technical schools, vets, farriers, and equine specialists.
5. Create an Assistance Fund.

We invite all our SCHC members' involvement and suggestions for our committee. This is a huge undertaking and effort on the part of SCHC. Our committee members to date are: B.B. Weavil (chairman), Betty Rankin, Carol Deacon, Bill Steele, Elizabeth Steed, Julie McCrary, Wanda Wood, Debbie Poole, Harriet Kiehl, Katie Holmes, Pam Runnels, and Jan Carter. To contact the committee email bbweavil@msn.com or call 843-224-9114. Our next scheduled meeting is 3:30 PM, April 12, 2010, at the Dan Ramage Center, 1001 Bluff Road, Columbia, SC.

Join us to *Connect, Communicate, Educate!*

SCHC Stable of Stick Horses "Struts It's Stuff" by Betty Rankin

The SCHC stick horses continue to be a huge success at events. Each horse sold is registered and the proceeds benefit the SCHC Youth Scholarship Fund and the Unwanted Horse Program. Children of all ages, including young at heart adults seem to thrive on the "Strut Your Stuff" opportunity at events. Most recently 40 fine SCHC horses were sold at the EXPO in Camden and their new owners kicked up their heels in the main event covered arena. All entries were eligible for prizes including the grand prize donated by Tractor Supply of Rock Hill. Former SCHC scholarship recipient, Adam Mathis, assisted with the class. Participants and spectators had a strutting good time!



Results of Officer Elections 2010 by Cecil Watkins

Elections for vacant Board seats were held at the Annual Meeting in Camden on Feb 6, 2010.

Following were elected:

President – Carol Deacon elected for one year term 2010-2011

District 5 Director – Tommy Doyle elected for 3 year term 2010-2013

Director at Large – Elizabeth Steed elected for 3 year term 2010-2013

Director at Large – Kip Bowman elected for 3 year term 2010-2013

Editor – Larissa Blick elected for 3 year term 2010-2013

The following are profiles on new board members. Profiles on incumbent board members are available on the website at www.schsecouncil.org

District 5 Director – Tommy Doyle - Charleston



Tommy Operates Palmetto Carriage Works, LTD of Charleston. Tommy has been involved with horses and carriage operations since the tender age of 5 in the family business. He truly exemplifies our SCHC bumper slogan, “SC horses mean SC business.” Tommy serves as President of the Carriage Operators of North America. In that capacity, he participated in and addressed the American Horse Council Forum on the Welfare of the Horse, convened in Washington, DC, this past June. Tommy explained the standards of care for carriage horses and how they monitor them constantly to ensure they are fit to work in their local conditions. He also serves on the Board of the Animal Welfare Council and on

the Board of the Unwanted Horse Coalition. His wife, Herdi and Son, Thomas reside in Charleston. A true spokesman for the horse, Tommy Doyle is a great addition to the Board of Directors for the South Carolina Horsemen’s Council. We look forward to his input as our council strives to promote, protect, and improve the horse industry in South Carolina.

Director at Large– Elizabeth Steed – Ravenel

Elizabeth is married to Kelly Ross Steed and they have a daughter, Anna Hendrix. Elizabeth was raised on a working farm on Johns Island, South Carolina. She learned every aspect of equine care, training, and breeding from her grandfather and, in later years, through veterinarians she worked with. Elizabeth has witnessed the improvement of equine care as well as more humane training techniques over the last 42 years and would like to help continue this improvement through service.

Elizabeth attended Sea Island Academy and St. Johns High School where she graduated in 1983. She attended Baptist College and has taken various legal secretary and veterinary technician continuing education programs. She has been involved in equine training, care, and rescue since childhood. Her love for children and horses led her to develop and operate one of the largest and most respected children’s entertainment companies, Carrousel and Castles, in South Carolina. She sold the company in 1995 in order to focus on her young children. She entered the legal secretary field in 1995 and was employed by two prominent Charleston attorneys, G. Simms McDowell and Steven A. James. She later used her office skills to manage Edisto Equine Clinic for Dr. John Malark at which time she began veterinary technician training including anesthesia and emergency surgery work. She was employed by Dr. Mark Shambley, DVM, for several years in the same capacity. During her full time employment over the past 20 years she has rehabilitated over 100 horses, dogs, and other farm animals. Her passion for such work led her to assist Colleton County when they seized 47 horses in May of 2009. She took in 33 of the 47 horses and, realizing the growing need for this type of service, founded Livestock and Equine Awareness and Rescue Network, L.E.A.R.N. which is a recognized non-profit corporation in the State of South Carolina and in the process of obtaining 501c3 status. She believes that education is the key to ending the cycle of animal abuse and neglect. Elizabeth continues to run a children’s entertainment business, trains horses/mules, provides guided trail rides throughout the Low Country, as well as gives riding lessons.



Elizabeth’s 20 year old son was killed in an automobile accident on December 30, 2007. She joined Families of Highway Fatalities so that she could spread the message to wear seatbelts, do not drink and drive, and remember it can happen to you or someone you love. She speaks at schools and court ordered programs around South Carolina. She attends Christ St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and James Island Christian Church. She enjoys spending time with friends and family. She babysits for several young families and cherishes the time she spends with the children. Elizabeth is a welcome addition to our board.

Results of Officer Elections 2010 (cont'd) by Cecil Watkins

Director at Large - Kip Bowman – Hollywood, SC

Kip and his wife, Michelle have three daughters: Madison(13), Audry(11), and Clara(4) and one son Tyler (8). They have a 27 acre farm in Charleston. Kip is a graduate of the Citadel with a BS degree in Civil Engineering. He has worked as a Surveyor, a Road Engineer for SCDOT, a Military Pilot, a Commercial Pilot for American Airlines, a Commercial Broker, and a Developer. Kip serves as a Charleston County Planning & Zoning Commissioner and a board member, of St Pauls Dixie Youth. He enjoys flying, historic renovation, skiing, tennis, motorcycles, coaching baseball, and dressage. Kip has expressed an interest in working to enhance our website. We are delighted to have him participate with the council.

Editor – Larissa Blick – Greenville

Larissa is single. She lists her family as Kathleen & Harold Blick (parents), Kimberly & Daniel (younger siblings), and Chase (her black lab mix). Larissa attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. where she obtained a BA in psychology. She attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia and received a Master of Mass Communication – MMC with a focus on integrated marketing communications. She has been working with Erwin Penland Advertising (Greenville, S.C.) since January 2008. She serves with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Upstate & Hands on Greenville volunteer. Larissa started riding when she was 8 years old. She has shown in Hunter/Jumper classes. She rode on the collegiate club team for a year at The College of William and Mary. Larissa enjoys running with her dog Chase, spending time out on the lake, reading, hiking, red wine, and good food. Larissa has agreed to serve as Editor of our newsletter. We are delighted to have someone with her skills and background to serve in this capacity.



AHC Releases Report on Equestrian Access by Cecil Watkins

Today, March 9, 2010, the American Horse Council released its 2009 Report on Equestrian Access on Federal Land. The 2009 report is intended to provide a brief overview of the responses the AHC received from equestrians to its ongoing access survey in 2009. The report can be viewed and downloaded from their website. <http://www.horsecouncil.org>

In July of 2009 the American Horse Council launched an effort to collect information regarding equestrian access issues on federal lands. This effort was prompted by a growing concern among recreational riders around the country that they were seeing a reduction in the number of trails and trail heads open to equestrians on federal land.

The center piece of this effort has been an AHC online form riders can use to report their personal experiences regarding trails on federal lands that have been closed to them or other access issues. This online form is located at <https://www.horsecouncil.org/survey.php>

Hundreds of thousands of Americans use horses and pack stock to enjoy America's great outdoors each year. However, it is an experience that cannot be enjoyed without access to public land, trail systems, and trailheads.

"The AHC will use this report to illustrate some of the challenges facing recreational riders," said AHC President Jay Hickey." "Our federal land managers work hard to provide recreational opportunities and we need to make sure they have adequate resource and equestrians need to work with them at all levels. However, sometimes there are issues and conflicts that need to be documented and brought to their attention. This report is just one part of our efforts to ensure equestrian continue to have recreational opportunities on federal land.

The AHC asks all recreational riders to visit the AHC website and continue to report any access issues they have had using the electronic form.

Contact AHC@horsecouncil.org

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- 3 admission tickets SCHC Expo

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- ¼ page ad in SCHC newsletters
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- Contact link on SCHC website
- Vendor Space at SCHC Expo ½ price
- Recognition at SCHC Expo
- 2 admission tickets SCHC Expo

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For more information contact:

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schorseouncil1@aol.com

or

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Written by Madalyn Ward, DVM

Owners of laminitis horses are starting to chew their fingernails because spring is just around the corner. Despite record cold weather in parts of the country, green grass and other signs of spring are popping up regardless. This, of course, makes people who have laminitis horses quite nervous!

If you are one of those people, don't panic. Luckily for you, there are a lot of horse health care steps you can take to prevent your equine buddy from experiencing laminitis symptoms ... or at least keep them to a minimum. The same is true for horses who are insulin-resistant, or otherwise on the edge of falling into laminitis.

In this article I cover some basic steps you can take to keep your laminitis or laminitis-prone horse healthy this spring.

Before spring really hits, horse owners can take steps to ensure that their laminitis horses are healthy and ready for warmer weather and greener pastures. Assuming that your horse is currently not experiencing any symptoms of laminitis, here are three steps you can take to ensure that he's ready for the coming season.

Check Weight and Insulin Levels

Overweight horses and insulin-resistant horses are both prone to laminitis. Before you turn your laminitis horse out on pasture, make sure that he is at a healthy weight. Overweight horses tend to develop mechanical laminitis, meaning their hooves can't stand the weight of their bodies. If your horse is overweight, you probably need to help him lose weight before spring. If he still has his winter coat, you may have to run your fingers through his coat to see if he's fat or just furry. If he is fat, you can help him lose weight either by feeding him a more appropriate diet (see the section on diet below) or exercising him more, or both.

This is also a good time to have some blood work done on your horse to check on insulin levels. Insulin-resistant horses may or may not be overweight, but are prone to grass founder or laminitis. Signs of insulin resistance include a cresty neck and unevenly distributed fat over the withers and base of the tail. A preventative blood test now to check insulin levels can save you grief this coming spring.

Double Check Overall Health

Because laminitis horses tend to experience symptoms when they are generally unhealthy, check for signs of overall health. Signs that your horse isn't healthy include poor hair coat, eye discharge, change in temperament, stiffness, sensitivity to hot or cold weather or weather changes. If your horse shows any of these signs of poor health, now is the time to increase his nutritional program, and restore his overall health. The combination of one ounce of XanGo mangosteen juice plus Simplicity Essentials seems to work well for most horses.

Avoid Over-Vaccination and Drugs

Vaccination is a normal part of most barn routines, and yet over-vaccination can be one of the main causes of laminitis. In addition, laminitis horses are extremely sensitive to drugs or vaccinations in their bodies, and even one round of "normal" vaccination can trigger a laminitic episode.

Managing Laminitis Horses During the Spring

Once spring has well and truly arrived, there are more horse health care steps you can take to protect your equine friend from a laminitis episode. Laminitis horses have to be carefully managed in terms of diet and nutritional supplements, hoof care, and pasture turnout.

Diet for Laminitis Horses

The best diet is simple, low in carbohydrates, and high in fiber. Small amounts of equine senior feed are acceptable for some laminitis horses, while others do well on a small amount (8 ounces) of oats or barley. At the same time, some laminitis horses cannot tolerate any grains. A probiotic/enzyme supplement like FasTrack or Simplicity Spectrabiotic supports the digestive function and limits the production of endotoxins. Simplicity blue-green algae provides a source of food-based vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Small doses of antioxidants such as coenzyme Q10 may be indicated. You should not need to give more than 60-120 mg a day of a good quality Q10 product like those produced by Simplicity, Nutramax Comal, or Thorne brands. Generic brands of Q10 may not be active.

Laminitis Horses: How to Manage Their Health Care This Spring (Cont'd)

Hoof Care for Laminitis Horses

Spring is also the time many people pull their horses up and put shoes on. However, if possible it is best to keep laminitis horses barefoot for as long as possible. They must be trimmed regularly. If their toes are allowed to grow long or their heels are allowed to get too high, then the normal mechanism of the hoof is impaired. Overly correcting angles on overdue hooves creates unnecessary discomfort for the horse and sets back his effort to establish new laminar attachments. If your horse must have shoes, you might try a heart bar shoe or a shoe with a Theraflex pad for at least one shoeing period. If contracted tendons are the main problem then wedge pads are used to raise the heels. A reverse shoe may suffice if the tendon tightening is mild. I always shorten the toe to ease breakover. I rarely if ever lower heels. Shoeing must be done by a competent farrier who has worked before with foundered horses. These horses have special needs which may require beveling the inside shoe rim to protect the sole and clips to take pressure off the nails and hoof wall. The shoeing interval must be regular and tailored to the horses needs. Amazingly, owners will spend thousands of dollars to save a foundered horse but neglect hoof care after the crisis is past.

Pasture Management for Laminitis Horses

Turn out on lush grass should be approached cautiously. Many horse laminitis cases have hormone imbalances that affect their sugar metabolism. Fast-growing, lush grass is high in sugar. In the spring, laminitis horses should be closely-monitored for an increase in digital pulse if turned out on pasture. The safest time to turn out laminitis-prone horses on pasture is late at night or early in the mornings, when the grass is not in a flowering stage of growth or stressed by drought or frost. It's best to turn these horses out in pastures that have not been sprayed with artificial fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides. While I prefer horses to be grazed on unfertilized, native grass pastures, grasses in nutrient-poor soil are often under stress and produce high levels of sugars. Since steadily growing grasses tend to deplete their sugar levels (which is a good thing), regular mowing to encourage this kind of growth can help control sugar levels. Regular mowing also helps control weeds.

Keeping Laminitis Horses Healthy

I hope these tips help you keep your laminitis horse healthy this coming spring. It's been a trying winter for most of the country, so having a healthy happy spring would be a wonderful blessing for horses and humans alike.

Some Trail Rides in SC 2010

30-Jan		Audubon SC Trail Ride and Fundraiser at Biedler Forest - Dorchester SC	834-462-2150	T
Mar 6		Audubon SC Trail Ride and Fundraiser at Silver Bluff - Jackson SC	834-462-2150	T
Mar 19-21	31	Manchester Spring Trail Ride - Pinewood SC	803-968-0106	WTDC
20-Mar		Marsh Tacky Ride at Hobcaw Barony	803-730-0735	
Mar 26-28		Big Red Trail Ride - Saluda SC	864-980-9555	WTD
Mar 27		Ride with Rylie 4th Annual March of Dimes Fundraiser - Lorris SC	843-532-9119	TDC*
Apr 1-4		Lakeview Plantation Easter Ride - Fairfax SC	803-584-0689	WTDC
Apr 2-4		Southern Trail Riders Spring Ride - Timmonsville SC	843-346-5192	WTDC
Apr 9-11	39	New Ellenton Trail Ride - New Ellenton SC	803-645-6372	TD
Apr 16-18	10	Bell Farms Wonderful Weekend in Ward - Ward SC	803-685-7301	WTDC
Apr 16-18		Marsh Tacky Ride at Lakeview Plantation	843-858-0181	
Apr 30-May 2		Plum Branch Saddle Club Trail Ride - Plum Branch, SC	803-640-2765	TDC
May 7-9		Wet n Wild Weekend at Double J Ranch - Whitmire SC	803-466-8173	TDC
Sept 10-12		Plum Branch Saddle Club Trail Ride - Plum Branch, SC	803-640-2765	TDC
Sept 10-12		Wet n Wild Weekend at Double J Ranch - Whitmire SC	803-466-8173	TDC
Oct 16-17	40	New Ellenton Trail Ride - New Ellenton SC	803-645-6372	TD
Oct 29-31	31	Manchester Fall Trail Ride - Pinewood SC	803-968-0106	WTDC
Nov 12-14	10	Bell Farms Wonderful Weekend in Ward - Ward SC	803-685-7301	WTDC
Nov 19-21	2	SCHC Ride at Lakeview Plantation	803-584-0689	WTDC
Dec 30 - Jan 2		Lakeview Plantation New Years Ride - Fairfax SC	803-584-0689	WTDC

CODES: T=Trail Riders Only WT=Wagons & Trail Riders
 D=Dance/Party C=Food Vendor on grounds
 P=Potluck Dinner *=Proceeds go to Charity

After twenty-one years of working with the horse industry in South Carolina, I will be retiring this coming June. With retirement there is good news and bad news.

The bad news is that I will not be spending as much time with my friends in the industry. The good news is that I'm going to be spending a lot more time with my horses. I will still be around if I'm needed, but I just may be a little harder to find. Because, now, I will finally be able to ride...and ride I will!

The work has definitely kept me on my toes most of the time. I never knew what was coming next or from which direction it was coming. No two days were ever alike and there was never a dull moment. It has been a wild ride!

Our trip together has encompassed all aspects of the horse world, and what a diverse world it is! There are too many names and not enough pages to list everyone that I have had the pleasure of working with along the way. I can only say that it has been an immense honor and pleasure working with all of you on a lot of very important and landmark issues.

Through the course of time, we've seen the passing of one generation of horsemen and thought, and the birth of a new generation of concepts and practices. Personally and professionally, I was honored to participate in the organization and establishment of the South Carolina Horsemen's Council. Together, we worked on the passage of Limited Liability, 12-month Coggins, Stablemen's Lien, and other legislation of importance and benefit to the equine industry. We lobbied and were successful in getting the first Equine Census in 25 years in 2004, we hosted national events, and we were recognized for our accomplishments on Capitol Hill. We pulled together during natural disasters, led hurricane evacuations and provided aid and relief with hay lifts. The list goes on and on of what we have done together. United we are strong. I am very proud of what the Horsemen's Council is doing today....diligently working for all horses and horse owners in South Carolina.

I want to thank you for your valuable interest, support, and expertise and for accepting me into all aspects of our very diverse industry. I have learned so much from all of you – many of whom have been very patient and diligent teachers. We have laughed and cried, had fun as well as fought, learned and taught, organized, argued, promoted, and, in the end, we all still have one common denominator – the horse or mule or donkey.

Together we have accomplished some monumental things, but there is still much left to do. I sincerely hope our industry will continue to work together....united to achieve great things in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Tobias
Equine Marketing Specialist
South Carolina Department of Agriculture

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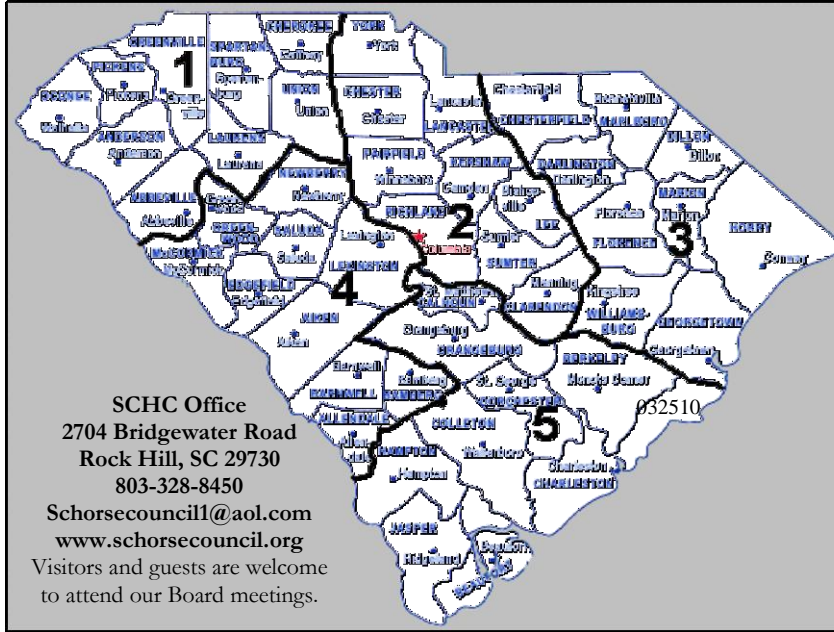
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South Carolina Horsemen's Council Membership Application

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- Association \$35 (3 votes)

Yes, please add our link to SCHC web page \$25—address to add _____

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Are you interested in becoming a volunteer? Yes No If so, what area. _____

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Use back if necessary. _____

Please make checks payable to **SC Horsemen's Council**

Last Newsletter!!!!

For those of you who have not renewed your 2010 membership, you will not be eligible to receive future editions of the SCHC Update. Please send in your membership renewal today, so you can be a part of protecting and improving your equine experience and stay up to date on SC Equine activities. It will be the best \$20 you can invest in your favorite past time or business. Thank you!

Statement of Ownership

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