



Working to keep the ride alive!

**VIRGINIA HORSE COUNCIL HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING,
HONORS HORSEMAN OF THE YEAR**

The Virginia Horse Council's 2005 Annual Meeting held March 18th in Chantilly, VA, was an evening filled with information and activities highlighting the important goals and work of the Council. More than 70 horse people representing various clubs, disciplines, and areas across the state participated in the meeting.

The Awards Celebration kicked off with David Lamb of Orange County being named the Virginia Horse Council Horseman of the Year. David has been the major supplier of horses for the VHC Legislative Trail Rides and also supplies horses for the fall Congressional Trail Ride. David is also a member of the Virginia Quarter Horse Association and an ardent supporter of 4-H activities. David and his wife Sally are full time horse people who earn their living on a daily basis from the horse industry. At their farm in Gordonsville, they buy, sell, train, give lessons and offer trail rides.

Other VHC Award winners honored at the 2005 meeting included:

1. Sue Alvis of Richmond- Volunteer of the Year,
2. Connie Collier of Richmond- Lifetime Achievement,
3. Tom Meacham of Blacksburg - Lifetime Member.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Mike Jennings of Professional Auction Services in Leesburg. Mike spoke on "Focus: the 2005 Horse Market," addressing the current and future horse market. Mike provided his personal insight on horse prices and trends and also offered sound advice for horse buyers and sellers.

The VHC Annual Meeting coincided with the Equine Event East held that weekend at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The VHC appreciates the sponsors who made the Annual Meeting possible: Southern States Cooperative, Equine

Continued on Page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VHC Annual Meeting	1
Points of Contact	2
President's Message	2
Mare Center New Director	3
Calender of Events	4
Across the State	4

Visit

Virginia Horse Council's
website at
www.virginiahorsecouncil.org
for the
Trails Report.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Newsletter Editor

Janet Werndli, 757-340-4465, jfwerndli@att.net

Officers

President - Patrick Mullins, 540-872-2523, mullins2@ns.gemlink.com

First Vice President - Cathette Plumer, 804-370-8631, Cathette@aol.com

Second Vice President - Heather Heider, 703-753-5175, hheidaer@virginiahorsecouncil.com

Third Vice President - Eugene "Gene" W. Hansen, 757-721-6736, ewhansen@hotmail.com

Secretary - Nancy Frank, 540-544-7471, rfrank@pemtel.net

Treasurer - Sue Alvis, 804-741-1482, whoaliljoe@aol.com

Standing Committees

Communications Chair - Sue Alvis, 804-741-1482, whoaliljoe@aol.com

Educational Advisor - Dr. Mark McCann, 540-544-7010, mmccann@vt.edu

Issues Chair - Tom Meacham, 540-552-2063, tmeacham@vt.edu

Legislative Issues Chair - Patrick Mullins, 540-872-2523, mullins2@ns.gemlink.com

Legislative Reception Chair - Cathette Plumer, 804-370-8631, Cathette@aol.com

Legislative Trail Ride Chair - Ron Frank, 540-544-7471, rfrank@pemtel.net

Past President - Beryl B. Herzog, 804-449-6243, berylbherzog@aol.com

Trails Development Chair - Sally Aungier, 804-379-9829, saungier@mindspring.com

Youth Chair - Debbie Agnew, 804-550-1303, dagnew@virginiahorsecouncil.org

Marketing Chair - Dr. Julia McCann, 540-7010, ismccann@vt.edu

Regional Directors

Southeast

Janet Werndli, 757-340-4465, jfwerndli@att.net

Eugene "Gene" W. Hansen, 757-721-6736, ewhansen@hotmail.com

Northeast

Susan Seward, 757-866-8710, boxwoodstables@aol.com

Carol G. Dawson, 804-462-9916, cdawson@rivnet.net

Northern

David Sanders, 703-222-2324, david@thesandersranch.com

Jeff Shoup, 703-754-4981, jshoup@quixnet.net

West Central

Bette Brand, 540-772-0798, Bbrand@AgFirst.com

Sue Hecht, 540-348-5779, vshecht@ntelos.net

East Central

David Lamb, 540-832-2350

Glenn Ritchey, 540-987-8564, glennritchey@aol.com

South West

Dr. Jim Bowen, 540-6978, jimbowl@vt.edu

Eugene T. Stone, 276-930-2607, stone_gene@hotmail.com

Ex Officio

Andrea Heid, 804-786-5842, aheid@vdacs.state.va.us

Administrative Assistant

Keli Harold, 888-467-7382, kharold@virginiahorsecouncil.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the main missions of the Virginia Horse Council is to establish and maintain contact

with and to build relationships with members of the Virginia General Assembly and to lobby with these elected officials on legislation which has an impact on the Virginia equine community.

The annual Legislative Reception, chaired by Council Vice President Cathette Plummer, and the annual Legislative Trail Ride, which this year will be held at the beautiful Virginia Horse Center and is chaired by Council Past President Ron Frank and Nancy Frank are valuable tools in carrying out this mission.

In January members of the Virginia Horse Council gather in Richmond and personally carry our Virginia Horse Council Legislative Agenda to every member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia State Senate.

This year we had seven priority legislative items and I'm happy to report to you that our elected officials approved five of these priorities, which in baseball terminology, is a "pretty good batting average."

* One of our prime agenda items was securing legislative approval for the Virginia equine community to conduct a referendum on a feed check off plan, which would generate nearly \$150,000 annually for the VHIB to allocate in grant requests and marketing funding.

Our request to hold this referendum was approved.

* Another major legislative item was full funding of the Virginia Horse Centers annual debt payment of \$890,000. The House/Senate Conference Budget Committee, on its last action of the Session, approved this funding and the General Assembly and Senate voted its passage.

* We were opposed to a bill that would have placed a 10-year moratorium on additional voting on the location of a pari-mutual wagering facility once the original referendum was defeated.

This bill was not reported out of Committee.

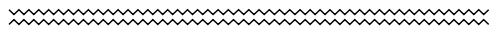
* We lobbied for funding for additional Extension office positions and these positions were funded by the General Assembly.

* We lobbied for funding for the State 4-H Horse Show and this funding was approved.

* We also requested reinstatement of funding of the Breeders Incentive Fund and requested an increase in the Racing Commission's funding to the VHIB, but both of these requests were denied.

I wanted you to be aware that the Council is constantly looking after and speaking out on the interests and concerns of all the varied segments of our Virginia equine Community.

We have been successful in this regard, not only this year, but in past years, and we take very seriously our responsibility of serving as the leading advocate and the umbrella Association for our Virginia equine community



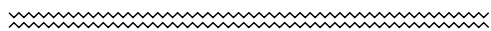
Annual Meeting, Continued from Page 1.

Event East, Sundowner Trailer Sales, Grand Champion Trailer Sales, Shuck Fence, Interstate Building and Tim Barkley Law Offices. The VHC also recognized the media in attendance and thanked them for their support: Paul and Daniel Huffman of Donn-Engle Marketing, representatives for *Southeast Equine*, and Lois Baird and Jessica Taylor of *Horse Talk Magazine*.

The Horse Council also elected officers for 2005 at its annual meeting: President - Pat Mullins; 1st Vice President - Cathette Plumer; 2nd Vice President - Heather Heider; 3rd Vice President - Eugene Hansen; Secretary - Nancy Frank; and Treasurer - Sue Alvis.

Other Board of Director members include: Sally Aungier - Trails Chair, Ron Frank - Legislative Trail Ride, Cathette Plumer - Legislative Reception, Debbie Agnew- Youth Chair, and Sue Hecht - Awards Chair.

To learn more about the VHC and VHC activities, visit the website at www.virginiahorsecouncil.org, call the toll free number at 1-888-HORSEVA, or send an e-mail to kharold@virginiahorsecouncil.org



**NEW DIRECTOR OF MARE CENTER
Middleburg, VA
April 11, 2005**

Dr. Gayle Sommer has been named Director of the Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center (MARE Center), succeeding Dr. Wendell Cooper the former Superintendent from 1993 - 2003 and Dr. Jim Bowen who served as Interim Director since March, 2004. The MARE Center is a component of Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences. Its mission is to do research on the nutritional needs of animals, particularly studying pasture systems that improve the performance of

grazing horses while at the same time protecting the land. Current research focuses on the study of nutrition, bone growth and development in young Thoroughbreds, the use of electrolytes in the exercising endurance horse, avoidance of laminitis in the grazing pony.

"Dr. Sommer brings a wealth of training and practical experience to her new post. We are happy to welcome her to Middleburg, and look forward to her coming contributions to the work of our MARE Center," said Tom Beddall, Chairman of the Center's Advisory Board.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Gayle Sommer received Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto. She earned her DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, in 1975. Dr. Sommer completed her residency in equine reproduction at the University of Saskatchewan.

Since graduation, she has combined managing a horse breeding farm with a veterinary practice, focusing on equine reproduction and mare health, and has operated Sommer Laboratories, assaying progesterone and other hormones for equine practitioners.

"I'm excited about coming to Middleburg," said Dr. Sommer. "Broodmares and equine reproduction are my passions.

"The MARE Center is located in the middle of America's most diverse concentration of performance horses of many breeds and disciplines, so it is exposed to the needs of every variety of horse and horseman. The 420 acres of protected land given by Mr. Mellon allow study of large samples of animals living in pasture environments, an unmatched opportunity for nutritional research.

"The proximity to the Equine Medical Center in Leesburg (also an arm of Virginia Tech) allows cooperative effort when nutrition and clinical veterinary matters intersect. I'm particularly interested in narrowing any gap there may be between the practical needs of the horse breeder and the MARE Center's research agenda, so I look forward to working with local horsemen."

As a start in that direction, Dr. Sommer is planning to establish a colostrum bank at the MARE Center. As a service to the equine community and operating like a blood bank, it would make colostrum available to breeders in cases where the newborn foal

is unable to receive this protective milk from its own dam.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

May 20-21 - Legislative Trail Ride, VA Horse Center, call Ron Frank for further information at 540-544-7471.

June 11 & 12 - Civil War Re-enactment of Hunter's Road on Lexington where the VMI Cadet Corp came out to defend Lexington at the Virginia Horse Center. Four thousand reenactors have been lined up. The traditional three day encampment, the battle starts at 1:00 pm, viewing is across the highway on the hillside looking out over the valley.

Sept 15, 16, 17, & 18 - State 4-H Horse Show, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington.



ACROSS THE STATE

The City of Suffolk is underway in developing a master plan for an outdoor athletic/festival facility at the former US Naval Communications Station site at Driver. The property was transferred to the City in the late 1990s through the Federal BRAC process. The site is located west of Sleepy Hole Road, south of Kings Highway, north and east of the tributaries to the Nansemond River, in the northern quadrant of the City of Suffolk.

Specifically the City is proposing that the property be redeveloped to include an athletic Complex, Active recreational Areas, Passive recreational areas, Natural Resource Areas, a Festival Site and an **Equestrian Center**.

The project site consists of approximately 350 acres of generally flat, open terrain that slopes and drains into the Nansemond River via several vegetated drainage channels. A wildlife refuge borders the facility directly to the west, outside the internal loop road. Other adjacent land uses include residential, agricultural, and recreational. Primary and secondary site access points are located along Sleepy Hole Road, and a complex of buildings associated with the former military base is located north of the primary site access point. Several of these buildings are in various states of disrepair and are in the process of being demolished. Other buildings are to remain, including a police storage building and garage, and the 50,000sf+/- central administration building.

PROJECT TEAM

- Owner: City of Suffolk Parks & Recreation
- Prime Consultant: CHA Sports, A division of Clough, Harbour & Associates LLP
- Architectural Consultant: Cannon Design
- Traffic Consultant: Kimley-Horn & Associates

The proposed Equestrian facility would include:

- 2400 seat indoor arena
- 2 outdoor riding rings (500 seat capacity)
- 4 stable buildings (400 stalls)
- Trailer/RV parking (400)
- Auto parking (800)
- Overflow parking (500)

Check out the webpage at www.driversportscomplex.com and post your support.