



Working to keep the ride alive!

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www.virginiahorsecouncil.org

July 2007

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Welcome to Our Newest Members

Kimberly Beck
Melinda Freckleton, DVM
Jim Goad
Ginger Jabs
Barbara Learned
Karen Murphy &
Mark Wilson of
Blue Hill Enterprises, LLC
Debby Thomas



Fireworks Display at finale to the America's Cup of Polo

Message From the President

Summertime Reading

Bittersweet thoughts race through my mind as I sit in my upstairs, air-conditioned, office writing this memorandum and contemplating our disparate but wonderfully exciting horse industry. "Bittersweet?" you ask: "Why" Well, I'm nursing a broken fibula (splint bone to equine enthusiasts) and a re-set sprained ankle now loaded with titanium. Like you, I anticipate riding often in the summer and playing on my farm. Sadly, it is not going to happen this summer for me. Perhaps I should have consulted the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center earlier to deal with my malady. Do you know that it was the first equine hospital in the eastern United States to have a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) system to diagnose bone and soft tissue injuries?

What else have I learned while moping around on crutches this summer? Well, it takes my Dell Computer 11/100ths of a second to access a list of 684,000 "Equine News in Virginia" links. Try it, and you will learn much. That's how I learned about the MRI system in Leesburg.

I read *Covertside's* July 2007 article on "Managing Coyotes: Another Approach." Thought provoking, and it confirms opinions from *Virginia Wildlife*, January, 2007, that biologists now believe that prudently managing families (packs) of coyotes can lessen the total coyote population, while wholesale slaughter attempts actually may be increasing pack numbers.

From the Soil and Conservation Districts, I have read that plenty of cost-share and tax credit schemes remain to provide financial incentives for horse farms to practice better nutrient management and to even convert cropland to pasture or hay land. Check with your local Farm Service Agency or your regional Soil and Water Conservation District.

To enjoy your trail riding experience, always check the Department of Conservation and Recreation's website, (VaParks.net) for parks that allow riding. Also try Rockbridge Hunt's website, (rockbridgehunt.org.)

(see **Summertime Reading** – on page two)

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Summertime Reading –from page one—

Choose among two dozen trail events with lots of socializing, occurring between now and Labor Day. In October, by the way, we shall hear from Governor Timothy Kaine about the linking of some of our major trails in Virginia, to unite Scenic Trails, the East Coast Greenway, the Great Eastern Trails (formerly Atlantic Crest Trails) and the Trans-Virginia Southern Trail System (which will attempt to link Cumberland Gap to the Chesapeake Bay). We shall keep you apprised of future announcements and public meetings, but meanwhile, convince yourself to attend any and all public meetings, in order to ensure that horses are not excluded from these ambitious projects.

I often use our own organization's site (VirginiaHorseCouncil.org) to reference events and information. You will find twenty links to equine periodicals, and a couple score of miscellaneous and general information links.

Hmmm. . . I might even add one on proper nutrition and eating habits that can encourage rapid bone healing. Can you tell that I am bored? I miss my horses. I hope you are not missing yours. Enjoy your summer in the saddle, or if you are like me, enjoy your summer reading.

Gene Hansen



Gene Hansen (center) with VHC board members Bette Brand and Cathette Plumer at the 2007 Legislative Trail Ride.

VHC Hosts Lawmakers At Legislative Trail Ride & America's Cup of Polo

The Virginia Horse Council's months of intense activity in planning its 2007 Legislative Trail Ride culminated in an unforgettable weekend.



Trail Boss David Lamb escorts two legislators during the 2007 Ride. Shown are Sen. Ed Houck (District 17) and Sen. Emmett Hanger (District 24).

Trail Ride Chair Heather Heider pulled out all the stops to make it a smash hit with legislators, VHC members and distinguished guests.

The dozen or so lawmakers who accepted VHC's invitation to ride enjoyed fine weather and lovely scenery on their Friday afternoon and Saturday morning rides on the grounds of historic Morven Park in Leesburg.

That evening guests took part in a barbeque picnic supper hosted by the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center, enjoyed a wonderful dance band, and an appearance by prominent horseman David O'Connor.

The veterinarians at the Equine Medical Center hosted informative tours of the medical facility, and guests continued to enjoy the music of the band "Cold Hard Cash" the rest of the evening.

On Saturday morning, after another trail ride, the participants were bussed to the polo grounds at Morven Park's Equestrian Center, for

the historic match between the U.S. and England. (The Brits won.)

The afternoon ended with a performance of the band "Journey," and a grand finale fireworks display.

Many congratulations went to organizer Heather Heider for her creative programming and attention to detail, and to new board member Charlie Muldoon, head of Development at the Morven Park Equestrian Center, who was the star player on the U.S. Polo Team.

VHC President Gene Hansen thanked all the volunteers and sponsors who made the 2007 ride "an outstanding success."

Don't miss the photos on page four for a full flavor of the Trail Ride events.

Fifth Annual Equine Forum Set for July 16 at Medical Center

For the fifth year, the Virginia Horse Council and the Virginia Thoroughbred Association will conduct the Virginia Equine Forum, this time at the Marion Dupont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg July 16.

Jay Hickey of the American Horse Council will be on hand to give an overall national update to the group. Other issues to be addressed include the Feed Check-off funds update, the Virginia Equine Survey, the Virginia Equine Ambassadors Program, and VHC's 2007 Legislative Report and 2008 Legislative Agenda.

VHC Calendar of Events

2007

July 16 – **Virginia Equine Forum** – Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center, Leesburg, -- 10AM

July 19 – 22 – **Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference** – Knoxville, Tennessee

July 26-29- **American Quarter Horse Association Region 5 Experience**, Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, VA.

Sept. 27- Oct. 7 – **State Fair of Virginia** Virginia Raceway Complex

Oct. 26-28 – **Virginia Equine Extravaganza** Richmond Raceway Complex

**A Horseman's Holiday!
Scenes from the 2007 LTR
& America's Cup of Polo**



Bette Brand, Chief Sales Officer of Farm Credit of the Virginias enjoys the social life at the America's Cup of Polo Match. Bette is a long time VHC member

and board member and was also an energetic volunteer at the Trail Ride weekend



VHC board members Debbie Hanson, Gene Hansen (President) and Glenn Ritchey at the Friday night Barbeque



Del. Chris Jones (House District 76) brought his daughter to the Polo Match



Trail Ride Chair Heather Heider enjoys a light moment at the Polo Match with Del. William Janis (House District 56.)

VHC board member Ron Frank and wife Nancy are all decked out with badges to attend the America's Cup festivities.



Thanks to our Blue, Red, Yellow and White Ribbon Sponsors!

The Virginia Horse Council's Sponsorship program is a necessary and beneficial activity for both the VHC and its sponsors. Our Blue Ribbon sponsors participate in the annual Legislative Reception, the Legislative Trail Ride, and have their logos on our website, as well as on our display boards when we participate in other events. Red, Yellow and White Ribbon sponsors are also included in many of these benefits. Please support and patronize our Sponsors!



Helping you is what we do best.



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For information on how to become a Virginia Horse Council Sponsor, go to VHC's web site, www.virginiahorsecouncil.org, or contact the VHC office at 1-888-467-7382.

'Region 5 Experience' Includes Show, Clinics For Quarter Horses

**By Cathette Plumer
VHC Board member**

Region Five of the American Quarter Horse Association is hosting its third Annual Region 5 Experience at the Virginia Horse Center, Lexington, Va. July 26-29. Region Five includes the states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. There are 10 Regional Experience events each year—one in each region.

The event includes a horse show open to owners of American Quarter Horses who reside in the region. The horse cannot have placed in the top ten at any of the AQHA World Shows such as the Open, Youth and Amateur World. No points will be awarded, but there is more than \$130,000 in prizes.

New for this year is team penning and sorting. See the web site for the class schedule, at www.regionfiveexperience.com.

Clinics are also scheduled. Curt Pate will be giving a clinic on Thursday, July 26 at 6 PM, entitled, "Create a True Partnership With Your Horse." On Friday, famed Quarter Horse trainer Lynn Palm will give two clinics, one at 9 AM on showmanship and one at 5 PM on Hunter Hack and Equitation Horsemanship. At noon on Saturday, July 27, Steve Meadows will hold a clinic on Western Pleasure.

On Saturday from 9 AM to 12 noon there will be a free Test Ride, to offer those who have never ridden a horse a chance to ride an American Quarter Horse.

Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning include a trail ride on the Virginia Horse Center trails. There will also be opportunities to shop the vendors at the trade show. Several national sponsors, such as Nutrena, John Deere, Exiss and Sooner Trailers,

Montana Silversmiths and several others will have displays.

For more information and updates check the website www.regionfiveexperience.com or call me, Cathette Plumer, at 804-370-8631, or email me at Cathette@aol.com.

SETC Set for July 19-21 in Knoxville Tennessee

The Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel July 19-22.

The theme for the 2007 conference is "Tomorrow's Horse Trails Depend on You." The Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee and the Blue Ridge Trail Riders are sponsoring this year's SETC.

Participants and guest speakers include forestry and trail experts, and representatives from natural resource agencies, riding clubs and volunteer organizations.

Through sponsorship and grants, the cost of the conference has been kept to a minimum.

For more information, contact:
Joanne G. Mitchell
9013 Coburn Drive
Knoxville, TN 37922
Telephone: 865-693-4308
E-mail: SETC2007@Bellsouth.net

The 2006 SETC was in Roanoke, VA. and next year's conference is scheduled for Charleston, SC July 31-Aug. 2 2008.



VHC board member Debbie Agnew congratulates a Youth Art Contest winner in 2006. This year's competition will be at the State Fair of Virginia.

VHC and State Fair to Showcase Youth Art

The Virginia Horse Council and the State Fair of Virginia have joined together to showcase artwork from Virginia youth who love to draw or paint horses.

Debbie Agnew, VHC's Youth Chair, says the art entries will be judged during the 2007 State Fair. For information on the contest, go to the Virginia Horse Council Youth web page for a link to the State Fair contest rules and an online entry form.

The first three winners will be given "special recognition" at the 2008 Legislative Trail Ride.

Be Alert: Tack Thefts May Be On The Rise

Virginia horsemen should be alert to avoid thefts of valuable tack.

That is the lesson learned by one Stafford County woman, Cheryl Estancona.

Cheryl is the victim of a tack theft that occurred last fall, and she is still attempting to see justice done.

Her valuable saddle, headstall, bit and reins were stolen from her locked trailer in October 2006. After reporting the theft to local law enforcement authorities, she says has since

learned that similar thefts have occurred in the neighboring counties of Fauquier and Culpeper.

Eventually, while surfing on Ebay, the worldwide auction site, Cheryl found several of the stolen items had been sold to unsuspecting buyers. She provided the local Sheriff's office with the information but as of yet, she has neither retrieved her tack nor has the guilty person been brought to justice.

While the county Sheriff's office has been pursuing the case, Cheryl has approached VHC with the hope that other horse owners will avoid a similar fate.

From her experience, she advises that it is important to have photos of your tack, and where possible, to keep copies of model numbers or serial numbers to help identify the stolen items. As the showing season progresses, she advises, it is wise to keep valuable tack out of the reach of thieves. In her case, the tack was stolen from a locked trailer at the barn where she boards, so even such precautions may not be enough.

If a theft occurs, be sure to report it immediately to local law enforcement, she says.

The stolen saddle has not been located. If a reader has any information on its whereabouts, he or she may contact the VHC and we will put you in touch with Cheryl Estancona.

The saddle is a black Crosby All-Purpose "Sofride", wide tree, 18" seat.

Kaine Names Todd P. Haymore Commissioner of Agriculture

Todd P. Haymore, Danville, former Communications Director and Legislative Assistant for U.S. Representative L. F. Payne (5th District), has been appointed by Gov. Tim Kaine as the new Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS).

Donna Pugh Johnson, President of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, praised the appointment and said the Council is anxious to partner with him on advancing the Commonwealth's leading economic industry.

Virginia Couple Will Compete at World Pony Driving Championship



Shelly Temple, Fran Doto and Cooper

Shelly Temple and her husband, Fran Doto, of Powhatan, VA, have been selected to compete for the United States at the World Pony Driving Championships in Denmark, July 18-22.

Their Morgan pony, LR Ami B-Line (also known as “Cooper”) has established a great record at the spring selection trials. They won the Live Oak Combined Driving Event in March, placed a close second at Sunshine State CDE in April, and won at the Garden State CDE in early May.

The American Morgan Horse Institute, Inc. has assisted the couple in raising funds to make the trip to Sweden, the training base for the Championship. Good luck to all three, Shelly, Fran and “Cooper.”

Tech Professors Plan Database of Hiking, Biking and Horse Trails in VA

Two Virginia Tech professors in the Department of Forestry in the College of Natural Resources, with the help of a researcher, plan to develop an internet-based digital repository of existing and planned biking, hiking and horse trails in the Commonwealth.

The project is funded by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Currently, information is developed from different sources, and city and county boundaries can be barriers since the information about trails may be cut off at the county line, says one of the project coordinators.

The Virginia Tech team will convert available trail information into a standard, seamless digital format. The data will be provided first to statewide decision makers and later to citizens via a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) application.

As funding allows, the web-based GIS application can be extended and adapted to public use, so anyone will be able to go online, find the desired trail, and then print a detailed map. Contact Ana Constantinescu 540-231-6157 for more information.

Culpeper Horse Owners Urge County to Establish Trails

A group of Culpeper County horse owners has undertaken an ambitious plan to persuade the county government and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to recognize the importance of preserving and expanding horse trails while coping with encroaching development.

Gardiner Mulford, President of the Culpeper Horse Owners' Association, said that the purpose of the group is to establish a permanent 20-mile circuitous horseback-riding trail in the Stevensburg District of Culpeper County. (See “Culpeper Horse owners” – page eight)

Culpeper Horse Owners, from page seven

The group is also attempting to persuade VDOT to construct an underpass for horse and bicycle traffic under the new (four-lane) Germanna Highway. Mulford said that without such an underpass, many historic sites near Stevensburg would be unavailable to riders and dangerous for cyclists.

“The underpass we propose is part of a larger effort to link by trail Brandy Station Battlefield, Kelly’s Ford and Stevensburg. ... Rooftops and roads can exist alongside horse trails and bicycle routes if our elected officials do some forward thinking,” Mulford said.

He points out that such a trail system in Culpeper County would be both recreational and educational. From an economic standpoint it would also benefit merchants, bed and breakfast owners, and other businesses in the area.

Other horse organizations represented at the meeting with VDOT on the underpass were the Nokesville Horse Society, Trailblazers, Battlefield Equestrian Society and the Culpeper Horse Society.

Mulford added that the group wants local government to address horse trails and greenways so that they survive new housing subdivisions, new roads and the breakup of farms into smaller lots.

Mulford observed that trail riding is the single largest equestrian activity in the Commonwealth, representing 45 percent of all equestrian activities.

For further information on the activities of the Culpeper Horse Owners Association contact:

Gardiner Mulford, President
Culpeper Horse Owners Association
22367 Maddens Tavern Road
Stevensburg, Virginia 22741

Please Join VHC

Did you get this newsletter from a friend or pick it up at a display? If you’re a serious horseman, it’s time to join and support your Virginia Horse Council. See membership details on next page.

Spotlight On

Virginia Draft Horse and Mule Association

The Virginia Draft Horse and Mule Association is dedicated to preserving the farming tradition and promoting the draft animal breeds that helped make the U.S. such a great country.

The organization, headed by Roscoe Goode of Richmond, has a full schedule of events for the year. It hosted a Youth Day on June 2 at Fine Felt Farm in Orange County, and will host the Old Dominion Show on August 11 at the Warrenton Show Grounds.

It provides draft animals (horses and mules) for fairs and parades, and enjoys putting the animals to work behind a plow or pulling a carriage or wagon.

VDHMA has a newsletter (five times a year) called *Lines and Traces*, ably edited by Joan Orvis of Centreville. (703-815-9392)

The most recent issue has photos from “Warm Up Working Day” at the Tom Huggins Farm in Warsaw (on the Northern Neck.) The event featured twenty animals in eight teams of different configurations, some three and four abreast. The newsletter tells us that together they plowed up about two acres of prime hay crop.

Lines and Traces has a classified ad section featuring carriage services, breeders of Clydesdales, Percherons, Fjord horses and miniature donkeys. Stud services are advertised for a Spotted Draft, a Belgian, and a couple of Percherons.

If you’ve always yearned to watch these gentle giants at work, or would even like to own one, it is easy to contact the VDHMA.

Contact the President, Roscoe Goode at 804-266-2612 or rfghorses@aol.com, or visit their website at www.vdhma.org.

These people are serious about preserving the big breeds. They deserve support from the Virginia horse community. CD



P.O. Box 665
 Mineral, VA 23117

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 Farm/Business/Corporate Name _____
 Home Phone _____ Work _____ Fax _____
 E-Mail _____ Membership Status New Renewal

Breed/Discipline Interest _____

I would like to volunteer my services to the Virginia Horse Council in the following areas:

Committee (name of Committee preferred) _____

Other Marketing/Advertising Lobbying Speakers Bureau Educational Events

Membership Runs from January 1 to December 31 Each Year

Category—please circle one

Youth \$10.00	*Equine Group or Association (fewer than 100 members) \$50.00	
Individual \$25.00	*Equine Group or Association (over 100 members) \$100.00	
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business/farm \$50.00	White Ribbon Sponsor -----	\$1,000.00
	VHC Sponsor -----	\$500.00

*For groups and Associations, please list your number of members: _____

Mail to: Virginia Horse Council, P.O. Box 665, Mineral, VA. 23117