

# North Carolina Horse Council

## Membership Newsletter



Volume 12 Issue 4

www.nchorsecouncil.com

July-August 2011

***NCHC Annual  
Board Meeting  
Hunt Horse  
Complex  
September 7th—  
7pm***

### **NCHC Officers:**

President: Randy Ratliff

VP: Sammy Jenkins

Treasurer: Tom Bennett

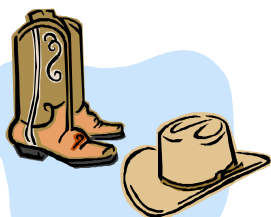
Secretary:

Lucinda Human

Executive Dir: Sue Gray

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## **Order Your NC Horse Council License Plate Today!**

HURRAH! Show your love for horses by ordering the new NC Horse Council License Plate.

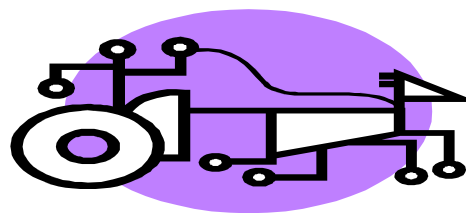
During this past legislative session, the NCHC was successful in achieving the passage of our specialty license plate! Now the real work begins.

**We must receive 300 or more applications for the "NC Horse Council" plate before the plate may be developed.**

Please click on the license plate in the bottom right hand corner of our website and fill out your application today.



## Horsepower.... Thoughts from the Executive Director



### Accomplishments:

- Legislative Issues
- Marketing Campaign
- Trail Issues
- Southern Horse Festival
- Grants
- NCSU Veterinary Foundation
- Jordan Lake Regulatory Committee
- Final IRS Approval for the NCHC Foundation

### Jordan Lake Watershed Oversight Committee

The Jordan Lake Watershed Oversight Committee met again in May and finalized their report on accounting procedures. The Committee will ask the General Assembly to remove 15A NCAC 02B.0272 Jordan Water Supply Nutrient Strategy: Fertilizer Management Rule and for the General Assembly to direct the Division of Water Quality to develop and implement a replacement strategy. In the new strategy, the Jordan Lake Watershed Oversight Committee would assist the Division of Water Quality with the strategy development, provide voluntary training by University Cooperative Extension or the Division of Water Quality to target commercial ornamental and floriculture areas and green house production areas, golf courses, public recreational lands, road or utility right of way, or other commercial or institutional lands, hired nutrient applicators, homeowners and other nutrient applicators in the Jordan Lake watershed.

### NC Back Country Horsemen

The new Uwharrie Chapter of the NC Back Country Horsemen has been established and officers have been elected. The NCHC is committed to continuing our work to support them as they work on trail issues. In addition, we had the opportunity to meet with representatives of DENR to discuss buffer rules. Barb Oslund was able to suggest that we re-write the definition of trails to include all non-motorized user groups which would effectively place equestrians in the group.

### Southern Horse Festival

We continue to work on identifying sponsors for the Southern Horse Festival. The goal for this year's show is to have every class sponsored. Sponsorships begin at just \$20.



**Legislative**—Legislative issues dominated the month of May. A private meeting with Senator Phil Berger, President Pro-Tem, offered the NCHC an opportunity to discuss the needs of the Equine Industry throughout the state. In addition, several misconceptions regarding how the NCHC does business were also discussed and clarified.

Other legislative issues which we continue to discuss include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a state right to ride bill
- agricultural present use value and the equine industry
- zoning regulations
- watershed issues and buffer rules and regulations

We had many successes this year and look for more in the future.

**Grants**—The grant program was totally revised for this years' cycle. While we got off to a slow start, and new interactive grant forms posted on the web, the office is now beginning to receive more requests for grants. I would like to offer KUDO's to Sue Schneider and her committee of Ray Cloninger and Terri Temple for such a quick turn-around on the first Euthanasia Voucher request that we received. In one days' time, the committee received the request, reviewed it and returned their decision to the Council! Great work...so hopefully we can continue to get the word out so others may be assisted.

**Meeting with NCSU Veterinary Foundation**—At the request of the NCSU Veterinary Foundation, the NCHC had the opportunity to discuss the equine industry veterinary needs and how that relates to the College of Veterinary Medicine. Several mutually beneficial programs were discussed, including, but not limited to, the need for equine scholarships, increasing the number of students who wish to practice with large animals and specifically equine, and hands on training opportunities offered at our Land Grant Institutions.

**Tractor Supply Promotion**—The NCHC initiated a new marketing campaign with The Tractor Supply Company. All 46 NC stores will be participating. With less than one month to procure the materials, mail the supplies and begin marketing work...this campaign got off to a successful start on June 1, 2011. A big THANKS to Bob Sanford for negotiating the campaign with the District Managers of TSC! This is but one effort to promote the equine industry and to build alternative funding for the Council.



**NCHC Foundation**—Finally...its official, the NCHC Foundation received their approval letter from the IRS. Let's get those dollars rolling in!



## North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center—Sensory Trail Report

The North Carolina Therapeutic Riding Center was awarded a grant by the North Carolina Horse Council to develop a Sensory Trail for its therapeutic riding and hippotherapy participants. The purpose of the Sensory Trail is to provide an enriched environment while participating in riding classes and therapy sessions by targeting four of the five senses: Touch, Hearing, Vision and Smell. Sights, sounds, textures and smells in the natural environment as well as from man-made objects will help participants expand their language, focus, attention and emotional connections. In addition, riding along a trail will offer different challenges to the participants' balance and help strengthen postural muscles as the horses move along uneven terrain.

A group of Occupational Therapy Students from the University of North Carolina designed a sensory trail for our riding center, incorporating 4 areas: Terrain, Discovery, Music and Herbs. They provided the riding center with a detailed plan for implementing the trail, including suggestions for specific stations in each section of the trail. They also included a map, based on the area on the farm that had been designated for the sensory trail. This area includes an open meadow area bordering on a grove of trees with a creek running through it.

The \$500 grant provided by the North Carolina Horse Council was used to purchase items for the new trail and included cow bells, wind chimes, mail boxes and other items.

The sensory trail is now ready for use and once the horses are taken through the trail by our instructors and volunteers to familiarize them with the trail stations, we will be able to begin taking participants on trail rides.



## Legislative Update

### Legislation that passed this Session is as follows:

**HB289 Authorize Various Special Plates** ~ *TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE VARIOUS SPECIAL PLATES.* Introduced by Representative Gillespie on March 9th. **The NCHC finally has its very own special license plate!** Much credit should be given to Representative Gillespie for his perseverance, hard work and commitment for the bill's success. Please take some time to thank Representative Gillespie for his efforts on our behalf. His contact information is: [mitch.Gillespie@ncleg.net](mailto:mitch.Gillespie@ncleg.net).

**HB329 Bldg. Codes/Expand Equine Exemption** ~ *TO EXPAND THE EXEMPTION FROM BUILDING RULES FOR FARM BUILDINGS TO INCLUDE FARM BUILDINGS USED FOR SPECTATOR EVENTS.* (Introduced by Representatives Horn, Dixon, Faircloth and Burr on March 1<sup>st</sup>.)

This bill was an attempt to address spectator events held on the farm. Many equine farms conduct large lesson programs which often entail more than ten people in the facility at one time. In addition, larger equine farms open their doors for local horse shows or other types of equine events. These are not major commercial facilities, but rather, privately owned farms which could accommodate these types of needs for our equine community. So the solution seemed to be to try to build on our success and this year we moved to expand the exemption from building rules for farm buildings to include farm buildings used for spectator events.

The specific language deleted the number 10 and moved this to 50 people present at one time. We also need to accommodate larger crowds. To do this we added language that states if the public present is over 50 in number a permit is issued by the fire marshal of the county in which the building is located to the owner or lessee of the property in accordance with G.S. 26 153A-357. Approval shall be granted after the fire marshal has verified the temporary nature of the event, the outstanding unsafe conditions have been mitigated, and a fire watch has been established. For purposes of this section, 'temporary' shall be defined as an event that is held not more than four times per calendar year in the building and the period of continuous use does not exceed 24 hours.

We hope to continue to "build" on the success of this legislation. Please take some time to thank the legislators who sponsored this bill.

[Craig.Horn@ncleg.net](mailto:Craig.Horn@ncleg.net)

[Jimmy.Dixon@ncleg.net](mailto:Jimmy.Dixon@ncleg.net)

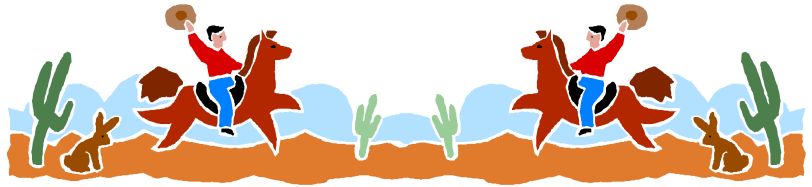
[John.Faircloth@ncleg.net](mailto:John.Faircloth@ncleg.net)

[Justin.Burr@ncleg.net](mailto:Justin.Burr@ncleg.net)

### Bills Remaining in Committees:

**SB705 Require NC Use-Value Ad Bd Manual for PUV** ~ *TO REQUIRE COUNTIES TO USE THE NORTH CAROLINA USE-VALUE ADVISORY BOARD MANUAL IN ADMINISTERING THE PRESENT USE VALUE PROGRAM* (Introduced by Senators Tucker and Walters on April 19th.). The bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee on April 20th where it still remains. We will remain watchful on this legislation. Another state successfully passed legislation which identified pastureland as an agricultural product and this may be something that the NCHC will consider in the future as we address equine farms and their inclusion in the present use value program.

## News from the Trail



**Guilford County:** The Guilford Equestrian Trails Alliance (GETA) is continuing to work with the County Parks and Recreation staff to develop equestrian trails in Bryan Park (north of Greensboro near Browns Summit). There may be additional trail available after the Lake Townsend Dam renovation project is completed. The GETA is also involved with the planning for the equestrian route of the Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway, and trail master planning for the Town of Summerfield. ***This group is an excellent example of equestrian trail advocacy in a growing urban area.*** Please contact Betsy Rice [bluefarm11@yahoo.com](mailto:bluefarm11@yahoo.com) or Paula Nelson [pasharr@triad.rr.com](mailto:pasharr@triad.rr.com) for more information.

**Brunswick County:** The Eastern NC Trail Riders (ENCTR) has been formally established as a partner with Carolina Classic Horseman's Association, a 501(c)3 organization. There is a dedicated page on the CCHA website: <http://www.thecccha.net/trailriders.htm> and they are seeking members for work on the Brunswick Nature Park and other possible projects in Eastern NC counties. You can also contact Ann Donaldson at 910-470-3291 or [adonaldson@charterbuildinggroup.com](mailto:adonaldson@charterbuildinggroup.com)

### Uwharrie National Forest:

The new **Back Country Horsemen of NC Uwharrie Chapter** elected officers on May 4:

Wayne Britt, President [tallrider@embaqmail.com](mailto:tallrider@embaqmail.com)  
Holly Dwyer, Vice-President [dwyerholly@aol.com](mailto:dwyerholly@aol.com)  
Carolyn Burnette, Secretary [cmymule2@centurylink.com](mailto:cmymule2@centurylink.com)  
Mike Stewart, Treasurer  
Pat Willett, Director  
Dean Hudson, Director

The group has been busy with getting the organization up and running (getting a bank account, developing by-laws, etc). There are over 60 paid members at this time, and the next general membership meeting will be June 29, 2011, 7 PM at the Hibachi Grill in Asheboro, NC. Please contact **Carolyn Burnette** for more information about joining.

Also, the Uwharrie National Forest **Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement** are now available for public comment at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsnc/uwharriplan>

The public comment period will be open until **September 10, 2011**. The Forest states that the intent of the proposed plan is to "restore native ecosystems, better manage heritage resources, and provide for outstanding and environmentally friendly outdoor recreation opportunities with excellent trails and facilities".

**Transylvania County:** Wilderness Ranger David Finnan of the Pisgah Ranger District hosted an equestrian "Leave No Trace" Train the trainer workshop for the Back Country Horsemen of NC in Pisgah in May. Graduates will be accredited to teach the "Leave no trace" short course to their respective chapters.

**Henderson County:** Wild South is undertaking a data gathering project on the Pisgah Ranger District trail system, including all trail types (multi use, hiking only, wilderness, etc) This project will assist Rangers to analyze their trail mileage assets, and further in the trails classification that is mandated by USDA Forest Service. This will be a 3-6 month project and is funded by the National Forest Foundation. Volunteers from the Back Country Horsemen of Pisgah will be working side by side with Rangers, hikers & mountain bikers to accomplish this task.

**Rutherford County:** Rutherford Outdoor Coalition - Equestrian Division (ROC) is gaining momentum & making inroads into a "FETA" type equestrian only trail system in Rutherford County. The plan is to begin with two areas (Green Hill/Gilkey & Bostic) and expand the trail systems to meet one another. Long term goals are to hook up to neighboring counties (Polk, Cleveland) and help to facilitate a long range trail system.

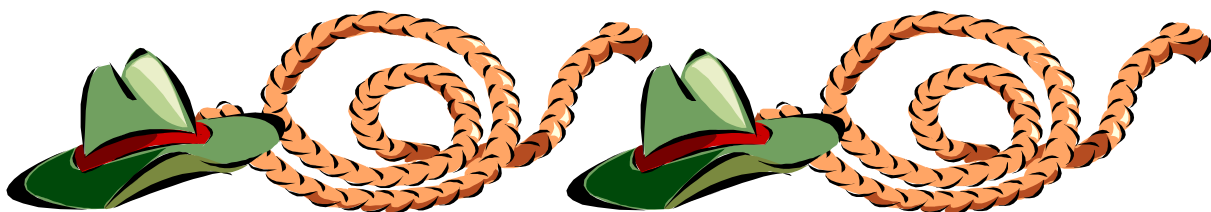
**Cleveland County:** Plans are underway to host a "Leave no trace" train the trainer workshop at South Mountain State Park. Please contact Deirdre @ 828 288-3911 or neverest@bellsouth.net for further information.

**NC State Parks:** As a result of comments by the NCHC and the equestrian community, State Park Planning staff has formed an Equestrian and Bicycle Trail Task Force to examine the feasibility of trails in State Parks across the system.

Also, the Master Plan for Carvers Creek State Park has been revised to include equestrian trails, thanks to the comments of several interested trail riders. The public comment period on the draft master plan runs from June 8, 2011 to June 22, 2011. Written comments may be submitted through June 22, 2011 via email at [max.rogers@ncdenr.gov](mailto:max.rogers@ncdenr.gov) or mailed to: State Parks Planner, N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation, 1615 MSC, Raleigh, NC 27699-1615. You can access the documents here: <http://www.ncparks.gov/visit/parks/cacr/main.php>.

**Buffer Regulations:** Existing and planned nutrient and water quality regulations require the establishment of buffers in developments along most rivers in several NC watersheds. These preserved corridors of land are often great locations for trails. The NCHC and mountain bike enthusiasts met with the Division of Water Quality to discuss revisions to the proposed regulations to make it clear that equestrian and mountain bike trails are allowable uses within buffers.

Trail News continued on Page 8



## Trail News

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**US Forest Service:** The NCHC submitted the comments below on the USDA FS "proposed Planning Rule". Many individuals including Dr. Gene Wood from Clemson SC, and the Back Country Horsemen (from all over the US) also submitted comments.

(Submitted on May 14, 2011) The North Carolina Horse Council represents the equine industry in this state, which is home to four National Forests in our Coastal Plan, Piedmont, and Mountain regions. It is fair to say that a majority of our members are trail riders, either exclusively or as a diversion from other equine sport. Our state is projected to double its population over the next few decades. Statistics in this and other states indicate that equine population and use generally increases around the exurban fringes of population centers. This creates a high demand for trail destinations on a shrinking land base. Our National Forests will be vitally important as a destination for equestrians to ride and camp in a natural, minimally developed setting.

Our NC State Parks system has conservation and preservation as priorities, with general recreation as a lesser priority. Our State gamelands currently provide almost no trail riding opportunities. There currently are very limited long distance equestrian trail opportunities on our State-owned lands. Our NC National Forests will present the only opportunities for equestrian trail riders to enjoy a "back country" experience in an urbanized state.

The proposed Planning Rule (36 CFR part 219) is a complex and voluminous document that appears to integrate science and public interest to develop plans for sustainable forests. This is a commendable objective, though implementation will be the true test of how often conflicting public views and new science can be successfully meshed. Our concerns are as follows:

The Planning Process needs to be tailored to local needs.

- For NC equine interests, this will mean developing more miles of sustainable trails and campgrounds that can attract riders and families of all abilities. We do not want the planning process to ultimately result in further limits on recreation opportunities in the face of increased demand.
- Planning for natural and cultural resource conservation should not be limited to the Forest boundaries, but should consider efforts of nearby land conservancies and parks, so that recreation on vast sections of the state are not limited due to preservation. One of the finest ways to get deep into the forest is on horseback, and limiting those opportunities also means limiting public appreciation for the very resources being preserved.
- Recreational use needs to have equal weight with other functions of the natural forest.

The Planning Process is complex, requires a substantial amount of staff effort and related funding, and is dependent on monitoring and data collection. This requires sustained or increased funding in economic times where funding seems unlikely to be available for several years, if not decades.

- Maintaining and increasing equine recreation opportunities cannot be stifled by a lack of funding to implement planning and construction. The planning process needs to be flexible enough to be streamlined to reduce cost and achieve results, when appropriate.

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## New Grant Programs Implemented

The North Carolina Horse Councils' mission is to serve as the collective voice of the North Carolina horse community through education, communication and representation. Our strategic goals are to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and promotion program, expand and strengthen the industry's legislative presence, increase the involvement of horse owners throughout the state, enhance educational and research programs, improve the business and regulatory environment, and manage and maintain a statewide program to promote trail riding and trail access.

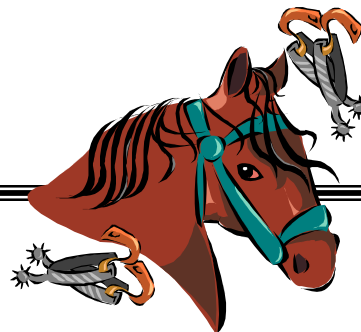
The NCHC Horse Industry Grant Program is charged to solicit and fund strong horse industry proposals which enhance our mission and support our organizational goals and strategic plan. In order to better accomplish these goals this new grant structure has been adopted.

### Grant Categories

By re-defining the grant categories the NCHC increases our potential to impact the average member of the equine community state-wide. As the trends have been to fund repeat organizations, our dollars may not be reaching new or unique members of our community. A complete description of each category can be found by visiting the NCHC website at [www.nchorsecouncil.com](http://www.nchorsecouncil.com) and clicking on the Grants link.

The following is a list of the new grant categories and includes the funds available:

- Gelding & Euthanasia Support Programs
- Equine Safety Net Program
- Trail Program
- Education/Community Program
- Development/Scholarship Fund
- Health/Research Grants



## Trail News

Continued from Page 8

The public input and collaborative process needs to always include equine representatives. Almost every state in the US has a "horse council" of some type that represents the equine industry, and there are Back Country Horseman of America chapters in most states with National Forests. Though these groups try to be vigilant about Forest Planning efforts, The Forest Service should make every attempt to reach out to the equine community and have knowledgeable representatives on planning committees. Omission of this important group of recreationists and conservationists will result in a flawed planning process.

Greater efforts need to be made by the Forest Service to engage and retain volunteers for trail and facility planning, construction, and maintenance. This effort may gain greater public understanding of the FS planning process and constraints, and provide a valuable resource in times of limited financial resources.



The North Carolina Horse Council announces the “No Bling” NCQHA All Novice Show in conjunction with the all breed Open Horse Show

**When:** November 11—13, 2011

**Where:** Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center, Williamston, NC

**What:** Open Horse Show

New for 2011.... The Southern Horse Festival All Breed Open Show Saturday and Sunday, November 12—13, 2011, and the new one day SHF “No Bling” All Novice NCQHA Show Saturday, November 12th.

This unique opportunity will offer the novice equestrian the chance to experience an all breed open show as well as a breed show in one weekend!

All dollars raised to benefit NC equestrians via NCHC programs.

**Educational Seminars**

**High Point Prizes**

For additional information:

NCHC Office: (919) 854-1990  
Sammy Jenkins, Show Manager, at  
(919) 201-3606  
Linda Falls: (910) 740-1943

**Great Prizes**

**Payback Classes**

NCHC Member # \_\_\_\_\_

# Invoice 2011 Membership

January 1—December 31, 2011



## North Carolina Horse Council

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Options for 2011

Check the type of NCHC 2011 membership you are joining under:

- Lifetime Membership (includes "in-excess" insurance coverage 1st year only)..... \$360
- Individual Membership (includes "in-excess" insurance coverage)\*\*\* ..... \$37
- Individual Membership (no insurance coverage)..... \$12
- Student/Junior Membership (individuals under 18 years old)..... \$6
- Riding Club/Breed Association (more than 100 members)..... \$100
- Riding Club/Breed Association (less than 100 members)..... \$50
- In-excess Insurance Coverage for Lifetime Members..... \$25

\*\*\*If you choose "in-excess" insurance, coverage begins January 1, 2011\*\*\*

Your membership joins with others across North Carolina to promote everything horse. Legislators are influenced by numbers, so join the herd and BE heard! Some things to ponder:

- Only members of NCHC can vote in the annual Board meeting held in January.
- Riding Clubs/Breed Associations who join can appoint a representative to the Board.
- You can make a difference for as little as \$12.
- Volunteer opportunities are available.
- NCHC is the only statewide organization that works to serve the needs of the entire horse industry, regardless of breed preference, riding style, or activity.

North Carolina Horse Council, 4904 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 290, Raleigh, NC 27606  
(919) 854-1990 or Toll Free at 800-529-9206 [www.nchorsecouncil.com](http://www.nchorsecouncil.com)

North Carolina Horse Council  
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Raleigh, NC 27606  
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www.nchorsecouncil.com



# NCHC Store

The NCHC Store has a new look! The store has been totally revamped and items can now be purchased on-line. There will be a greater selection of products that can be ordered, from cups and stickers to sweatshirts, t-shirts and jackets.

Liability Signs are still available from the NCHC Office or can be purchased on-line through the website.

Check out the NCHC Store today!