

North Carolina Horse Council



Membership Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 5

www.nchorsecouncil.com

September-October 2008

NCHC
Board Meeting
Hunt Horse Complex
Raleigh, NC
September 3rd—
7:00pm

NCHC Officers:
President: Bob Sanford
VP: Bill Parton
Treasurer: Tom Bennett
Secretary: John Thomson
Executive Dir: Sue Gray

- Inside this issue:**
- 2 Executive Director Update
 - 3 Grants Awarded
 - 4 Economic Impact Study
 - 5 Legislative Update
 - 6 Trail News
 - 7
 - Trail Certification Course
 - Southern Horse Festival
 - 8 SETC
 - 9 Trails Projects
 - 10
 - RMI Show
 - Membership Drive
 - 11 Hurricane Season



Letter from the President **Bob Sanford**

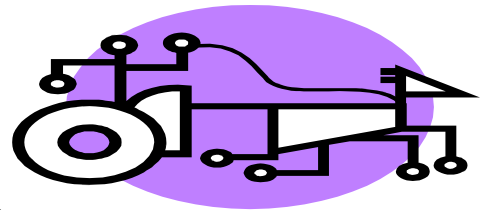
As we head into the Autumn Season we are excited about the many projects that the NCHC has been privileged to work on and the people that we have worked with this year on your behalf. A few of these projects include the following:

- Made it easier to join NCHC or advertise your business on our web-site using your credit card. www.nchorsecouncil.com.
- Reorganized and made it easier for applicants to apply for and receive Grants from NCHC.
- Applied to State Legislature for NCHC License Plate.
- Were successful (thanks to you) in renewing the Equine Feed Referendum.
- Met with Dr. John Ort and Dr. Marshall Stewart seeking ways to enhance the cooperation between NCSU and NCHC.
- Joined forces with many equine enthusiast and NCSU personnel to seek ways to preserve trails and riding privileges in Hill Forest.
- Sought common grounds for agreement with the NCDA and NCSU on our Research Stations across the state.
- Attended the Land Trust Alliance Conference as a means of learning how to better preserve and utilize our diminishing land resources.
- Attended the American Horse Council meeting in Washington, DC. This allowed us to converse and discuss equine issues across the country.
- Created a Trails Grid to help equine owners identify trails and their amenities in North Carolina. Go to www.nchorsecouncil.com.
- Applied for and received money from legislature to enhance the facilities at the Hunt Horse Complex.
- Joined forces with concerned people seeking to create and enhance trails at Eno River, Falls Lake and other sites.
- Worked with the Unwanted Horse Coalition to bring recognition to their cause.
- Sponsoring a Trails Design and Construction workshop with our own Trails Consultants, Barb Oslund and Jim Halsey.

Continued on Page 4



Horsepower.... Thoughts from the Executive Director



Accomplishments

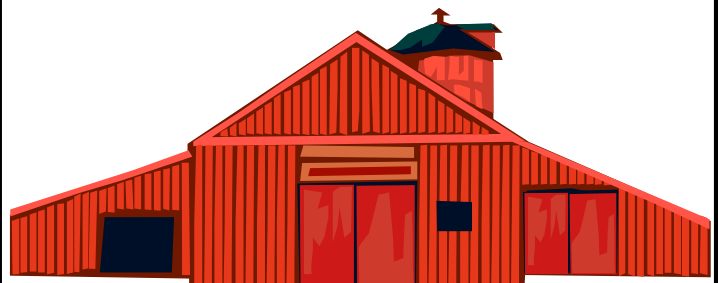
- Legislative Agriculture Leaders Meeting
- Equine Disaster Planning
- Met with Economic Development Officer of Martin County, Travel and Tourism and Ag. Center Staff of Martin County to plan for the SHF
- Meetings with Western Carolina University Staff of the Equine Economic Impact Study
- Attend AHA National Issues Forum
- Funded Health Grants
- Judged 4-H presentations
- Staffed the NC Equine Extravaganza
- Met with State Trails Consultants
- Met with NCSU Officials regarding new Memorandum Of Agreement
- Met with Ag. Department to discuss legislated expenditure at the Hunt Horse Complex
- Recruiting for new Regional Managers in Region One, Region Five and Region Six

Legislative

- June was a busy time as the Legislative short session considered the state budget. Several Equine related issues were under consideration. These included a request for non-recurring funds for improvements at the Hunt Horse Complex, non-recurring dollars to fund an equine facility in Lumberton, funds to support an Equine Facility at NC A&T , recurring state funds to support 7 Equine Specialists, and a bill to allow a new NCHC Specialty License Plate. I attended several legislative committee meetings and spoke with multiple members of the legislature in support of our requests. I also wrote several letters of support to the members of our General Assembly to not cut funding for NCSU and NCDA&CS programs.
- We were successful in achieving \$900,000 to fund the construction of a new barn(s) at the Hunt Horse Complex. In addition, \$2.4 million was allocated to construct an equine facility at NC A&T as well as dollars were allocated to fund a facility in Lumberton. We were not successful in our request for a specialty license plate and the 7 Equine Specialist positions. These items will be considered for our legislative agenda for 2009.

Equine Events

- The RMI Benefit Horse Show Committee has met several times and finalized the sponsor categories and forms. Letters were mailed to agri-businesses requesting support. Emails were sent to all Board Members requesting sponsorship and/or providing names of potential sponsors.
- The SHF show committee met to edit the Show Booklet and discuss potential judges. Sue Meyer was contacted to judge the Saddleseat division. Sue judged this division last year and donated her fee. She has agreed to do the same this year! A Sponsor request form was distributed for the SHF. The SHF Show Manager and I met with several representatives of Martin County, including the Office of Travel and Tourism, Economic Development and Bob Martin Center Manager to discuss potential sponsorship and support of the SHF.



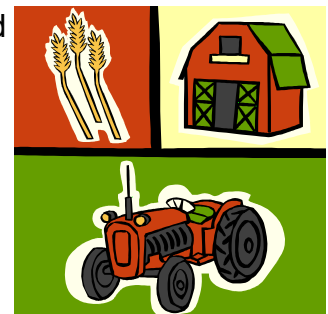
Thoughts from the Executive Director Continued from Page 2

Trails

- The Friends of Hill Forest (FOHF) is actively engaged in negotiation with NCSU regarding a recreational use agreement. The issue of liability insurance continues to be a problem. The office staff, Board Member Curtis Potter and our Eastern Trails Consultant and Chair have been very active in working with FOHF.
- We have also been engaged in discussion about equine trails at Lake Myra in Wake County.
- The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) has adopted the Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Strategy despite comments from the NCHC. No change to the 5 horse threshold limit is in the proposed rule. However, the proposed rule did add a specific equine representative to the Watershed Oversight Committee.
- On our Western Front, I have had the opportunity to visit Lake Norman State Park and begin discussions on possible equine trails. Several western projects have been discussed. These include: Stone Mountain State Park, Rendezvous Mountain Education State Forest, South Mountains State Park, Tanglewood Park Trails Revitalization, Davidson County Horseman's Association Landfill Trails, and Ashe County Pond Mountain Game lands Development..

Other News

- The NCDA&CS is currently recruiting for a new manager at the Hunt Horse Complex and asked us to assist in the recruiting process. We have posted this position on our webpage.
- NCSU officials have been negotiating with the NCHC to enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement. Initial meetings have been held with a draft agreement to be reviewed in September.
- We have reviewed several NC trail publications and looking towards the production of new trails brochures and materials to be potentially distributed via the NC Office of Travel and Tourism.
- Finally I have been actively involved in organizing our West Region One. Multiple contacts have been made and one Regional Meeting has occurred to recruit a Regional Manager and District Representatives. An organizational meeting has also been arranged for our Eastern Region Five which will be held in early August.



2008 Health Grants Awards

The 2008 Health Grants have been received, reviewed and awarded. The maximum amount of funding available for Health Grants was limited to \$6,000 per grant. Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2008 Health Grants Awards:

- Dr. Jennifer Davis, College of Veterinary Medicine
Pharmacokinetics of Intravenous and Sublingual Buprenorphine in Horses
- Dr. Samuel Jones, College of Veterinary Medicine
Prevalence of Bartonella henselae Infection in North Carolina Horses
- Dr. Paul Siciliano, NCSU, Department of Animal Science
Prediction of Pasture Dry Matter Intake in Horses

As soon as information on the 2009 Grants becomes available, it will be posted on the NC Horse Council website at www.nchorsecouncil.com.

Letter from the President

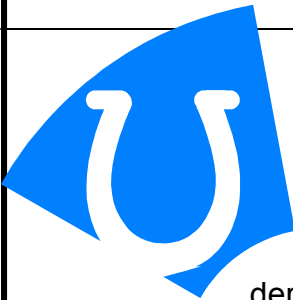
Continued from Page 1

- Committed to sponsoring the Southern Horse Festival Horse Show in Williamston this year.
- Sponsored and promoted the Equine Economic Impact Study, This could be the most important thing we will do all year because it will benefit every equine owner state wide.
- Issued NCHC Membership Cards --- Only card holders to receive some future benefits.

These are but a few of the issues and topics that your Horse Council has been involved with this year. We hope that an area of interest to you has been enhanced, and with your continued support and assistance, we see our agenda expanding. If you are a member of the NCHC for 2008 and have not received your Membership Card, please call us at 1-800-529-9206.

I talked to you in the last letter about voting and being observant of issues in the legislature that affect or impact the equine industry. I will reiterate that request. The short session is over in the legislature and we will have to wait until the next session before some of our requests come back up on the table. Our NCHC License Plate bill did not get acted upon during the session and we will be pushing hard to get this done early next year.

Our next big task is to settle on a budget for 2009 and we will need your help in trying to accomplish all of the tasks and goals that will be set in motion for 2009. So, once again I ask that you saddle up and ride into the future with us. Join NCHC today!!



Equine Economic Impact Study

The Equine Economic Impact Study is now available on-line. If you haven't taken the time to complete the on-line survey, please do so now. The results of the Study will be an important tool for future funding for the horse industry in North Carolina. Responses must be received by July 31st in order for the data to be analyzed and recommendations made. The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center is administering the study with the help of university, government and private consultants. Results of the survey will be available in January, 2009.

Visit the website below to complete the survey:

<http://survey.ecu.edu/perseus/se.ashx?s=0B87A6562862A907>

For information or questions regarding the Study, please contact the NC Rural Economic Development Center at (919) 250-4314. Thanks to everyone who participates in this important Study.



Legislative Corner

For more information or questions, please contact NCHC Executive Director Sue Gray (919) 854 1990 or email suegray@nchorsecouncil.com

Portions of the NC State Budget FY 2009 which may benefit the Equine Industry

General Funds:

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

- Governor James B. Hunt Horse Complex receives \$900,000 for the construction of Horse Barn
- Veterinary Lab System Study \$620,000

Non-General Fund Capital Improvement authorizations Section 27.4.(a) The General Assembly authorizes the following capital projects to be funded with receipts or from other non-General Fund sources:

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services:

- Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center: Capital Improvements = \$500,000
- WNC Agricultural Center-New Vision Plan = \$900,000

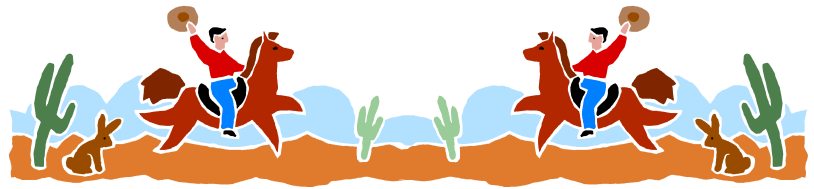
Special Indebtedness Projects Section 27.8. (a) The state, with the prior approval of the State Treasurer and the Council of State, as provided in Article 9 of Chapter 142 of the General Statutes, is authorized to issue or incur special indebtedness in order to provide funds to the State to be used, together with other available funds, to pay the capital facility costs of the projects described in the subsection. In accordance with G.S. 142-83, this subsection authorizes the issuance or incurrence of special indebtedness:

- In the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$2,438,000 to finance the capital improvement costs of acquiring land and constructing capital facilities for a horse park in Rockingham County for North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.
- In the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$8,100,000 to finance the capital facility costs of Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services capital improvements. Sales proceeds shall be allocated between the projects in the following manner:
 - Davis Arena renovation and expansion at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center = \$7,450,000
- Southeastern North Carolina Agriculture Center Pavilion
Authorizes the issuance of certificates of participation for a 60,000 square foot pavilion building for equine, livestock, and trade show events. The total project cost is \$3.7 million. Total debt authorized is \$3.7 million.

A project of interest :

In the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$50,000,000 to finance the capital improvement costs of acquiring State park lands and conservation areas for the Land for Tomorrow initiative in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Proceeds shall be allocated to support the conservation priorities of the One North Carolina Naturally program.

News from the Trail



Western Trails Activity Report—Jim Hallsey

Trails Inventory List Revision Continues – Jim and Barb continue to evaluate a draft version of a horse trails list (information grid) for possible publication or web posting by the NCHC. Trail data sources and accuracy are being researched to determine what is in the public domain and what is copyrighted material. Of particular interest is whether a consensus exists in describing a trail's level of difficulty. Ideally, difficulty includes many factors affecting both horse and rider and can be labeled with simple terms that are universally understood. We have found that the typical designations of “easy”, “moderate”, and “difficult/strenuous” have widely varying meanings that may be confusing to some riders, especially novices.

Equestrian Design Guide Published – The U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation have released the much anticipated “Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds”. Thirty-two nationally recognized equestrian trail leaders and several regional, county and city planners shared their expertise and trail plans to form one authoritative technical manual. You can order a copy of the guide from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Recreational Trails Program Web site at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/trailpub.htm>. It is also available electronically at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/publications.htm>.

Iredell County—Work continues to form a steering committee of Iredell County horsemen to explore trail potential in the county and region. Research has also been conducted on the Carolina Thread Trail plan and organization for possible application to equine trails in the broader region.

Eastern Trails Activity Report—Barb Oslund

Barb is trying to make contact with the author of the most recent Guide to Horseback Riding Trails in NC (Martha Holden) to see if she might be interested in a collaborative effort with NCHC to update her book. Barb has also found a few examples of guides published by other states.

NCHC continues to stay involved with Friends of Hill Forest, and the group has received a lease agreement from NCSU. However several issues remain unresolved.

The Falls Lake Trail Riders submitted a formal request in mid-June to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to change to the section of the North Carolina Administrative Code that specifically prohibits equestrian access to the Butner-Falls of the Neuse gamelands. NCHC has endorsed this effort, and to date the group has received over 300 signatures of people who support this effort.

Barb has been contacted by a Columbus Co. extension agent about equestrian trail issues at Lumber River State Park. Columbus Co. horsemen are also interested in hosting a meeting with NCHC in September.

Taken any pictures lately?

The NC Horse Council wants to feature riders and their equine partners engaged in activities ranging from the show ring to the great outdoors.

Show off your horse at his/her finest! Send in those pictures today!



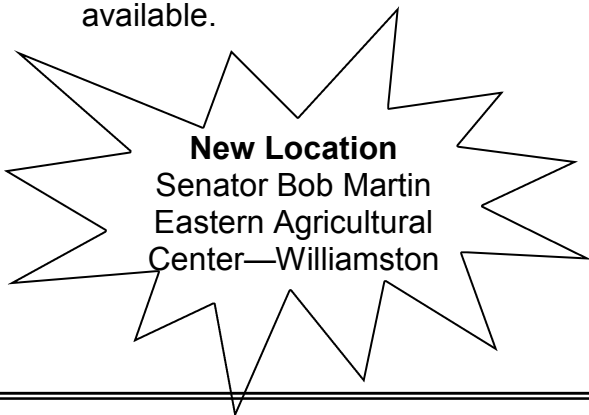
Email your photos to:
cheryl@nchorsecouncil.com.

Plans are underway for the 2008 Southern Horse Festival (SHF) and it looks like it will be an exciting event this year. At the open horse show there will be halter, hunt seat, saddle seat and western divisions.



December 12—14, 2008

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the Southern Horse Festival. Watch the Newsletter and the NCHC website for all the exciting details as they become available.



Class Sponsorships—only \$50

Show proceeds to benefit education for North Carolina students in North Carolina schools

Trail Certification

Reservations are currently being accepted for the trail certification courses being offered. The instructor for the courses will be Mike Riter of Trail Design Specialists. Space is limited, so call today to secure your spot.

<p>Dates: September 25—28 Location: South Mountain State Park Connelly Springs, North Carolina</p>	<p>Dates: November 13—16 Location: Medoc Mountain State Park Hollister, North Carolina</p>
--	--

The course will be held from 9 am—4 pm each day.

Cost for each course is \$100 per person (\$90 per person for NCHC members)

- Cost includes:
- Lunch and snacks each day
 - Classroom materials
 - Trail work tools for use during the course
 - Certificate of completion



Lodging and other meals are on your own. Information on registration, location, etc. will be posted on the NCHC website

Agribusiness Sponsors

Become an Agribusiness Sponsor today. The Agribusiness Sponsor program was developed with the business owner in mind. Some of the benefits of being an Agribusiness Sponsor include the following:

- Membership in the NCHC
- Your Company's name and logo on our webpage
- Opportunities for your company's promotion in our Newsletter
- A voice in legislative and regulatory issues facing the Equine Industry

Your sponsorship has the potential to reach thousands of horse owners across the State. There are horse activities in all 100 counties in North Carolina. Our goal is to network the Agribusiness Sponsor with the horse owners and horse enthusiasts located in North Carolina. Sponsorship levels range from \$250 to \$1,000 per year.

Become a part of the exciting Equine Industry by supporting the North Carolina Horse Council as an Agribusiness Sponsor. Additional information can be found on the Horse Council website or by contacting the NCHC Office.



Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference

The North Carolina Horse Council was a Silver Sponsor of the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference, held at the end of July, in Charleston, SC. As such, one of the trails consultants, a new NCHC Regional Manager, and one of the long-standing members of the trails committee attended. The conference theme was "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – Providing for Future Equestrians". As in previous years, the conference was a gathering of equestrian trail advocates, land managers, and technical experts.

There were opportunities for several pre-conference workshops and tours. Conference topics included using GPS and GIS as tools for trail design, low impact/leave no trace equine camping, several case studies of equestrian trail projects and access issues on public lands, financial and cultural threats to future equestrian access, and promotion of riding opportunities in the host state of South Carolina. Speakers were from the Federal Highway Administration, US Forest Service, National Park Service, several SC state and local parks, Trail Rider magazine and RFD-TV's Best of America by Horseback. The 2009 conference will be held in July in Florida.



Trails Project List 2007—2008

Eastern Trails List

Access and Advocacy

Hill Forest
 Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Plan
 Jordan Lake Recreation Master Plan revision
 Lumber River State Park
 Uwharrie National Forest revised Land
 Management Plan
 Cape Hatteras National Seashore
 Falls Lake Gamelands Rule change

Getting More Trails on the Ground

Brunswick County Nature Park
 Hoke County Community Forest/Conservation
 Fund
 Hoke County USDA McCain Tract
 Harris Lake County Park/Piney Woods tract
 Medoc Mountain State Park
 Tanglewood Park (may actually be Western
 region)
 Lake Myra County Park (*new – may need to
 be on the list*)

Education and Outreach

Trail Crew Leadership Courses
 Trail presentations through Ag extension

Western Trails List

Access and Advocacy

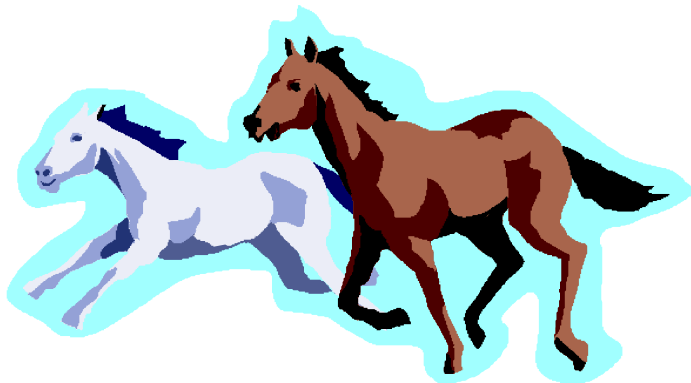
Region B – Land of Sky Regional Trail Plan
 Region D – High Country Regional Trail Plan
 Region I – Northwestern Piedmont Trail Plan
 Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation
 Master Plan – Latta Plantation
 Village of Marvin Parks and Greenways
 Master Plan
 Blue Ridge Horseman's Association – Wilson
 Creek camp lease
 Pisgah Trail Blazers – DuPont Educational
 State Forest
 Sauratown Trail Association – Mountains to
 Sea Trail

Getting More Trails on the Ground

Stone Mountain State Park
 Rendezvous Mountain Educational State
 Forest
 South Mountains State Park – Master Plan
 Revision
 Tanglewood Park Trails Revitalization
 Davidson County Horseman's Association –
 Landfill Trails
 Iredell County – Lake Norman State Park
 Trail Feasibility
 Ashe County – Pond Mountain Gamelands
 Development (new)

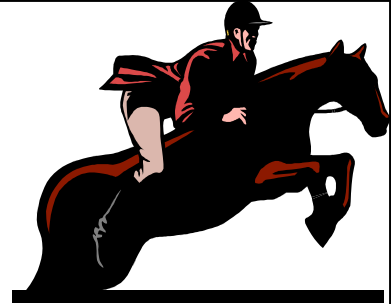
Education and Outreach

Listing of Public Horse Trails in North
 Carolina
 Trail Crew Leader Course – South Mountains
 State Park, 2008
 Federal Horse Trail and Facility Design
 Standards Promotion
 Informational Meetings with State Parks
 Leadership



RMI Benefit Horse Show

When: November 14—16, 2008
 Where: Hunt Horse Complex, Raleigh
 What: Hunter Jumper Benefit Horse Show



Plans are coming together for the upcoming RMI Hunter Jumper Horse Show benefiting the North Carolina Horse Council. Other groups that are working towards a successful show include the NCSU Equestrian Club and Chapel Ridge Farm.

If you are interested in helping with this show, please contact the NCHC Office. As additional details become available, they will be posted in the Newsletter and on the website.

Membership Drive

Watch for information on how YOU can join the North Carolina Horse Council. The membership drive for 2009 will be under way soon. More details will follow in the newsletter and on the website. Don't forget, in order to vote at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors which is held in January, you must be a member of the NC Horse Council.



Events

If you haven't checked out the NCHC Event Calendar you could be missing out on a lot. Events are listed in order by date to keep you informed of the happenings in the horse world throughout North Carolina and surrounding areas. If you are hosting an event, i.e. trail ride, open show, etc., please let us know.

Visit the NCHC website and click on Events (located on the Home Page More on this site) or go to this web address: <https://www.nchorsecouncil.com/events/>.

It's easy to get your event posted on the website. Simply email (or mail) event information to Cheryl@nchorsecouncil.net. Be sure to include the following:

- Date, time & location of event
- Event contact person or website
- Brief description of event, including costs

Every effort is made to keep the Event Calendar up to date.
 So, let us, and everyone else, know what you're up to!

Hurricane Season is Here Again!

Can you believe it? Hurricane season is upon us yet again. Go to the grocery stores and buy your bread and water!! (Those of you who have been here for long know what I'm talking about!) If you're a North Carolina native or a long time resident, this is probably "old hat" to you and you've got hurricane preparedness down to a science by now. If you're still fairly new to North Carolina or this is your first hurricane season, then listen up! As we witnessed in recent years with the powerful storms that hit the Gulf Coast, hurricanes are serious business even if you don't live right on the coast. They're unpredictable and can be extremely destructive. It's important that you decide now what actions to take this year when a hurricane approaches our coast... and notice I said "when" and not "if"!

The first thing you need to decide is whether you should stay put or seek shelter elsewhere in the event of a storm. Decide this well in advance (several days!) and not just 12 hours before the predicted landfall. If you live in a low-lying area or in an area where you or your horses may be unsafe in the event of a storm, you should make evacuation plans. The most important part of evacuating is to do it well in advance of the storm, especially when horses are involved. You won't be able to haul horses in the high winds that precede a hurricane so plan to leave several days in advance of the storm's landfall. Find a friend who can board your horses farther inland or take your horses to one of the designated evacuation sites available across the state. Be sure to take copies of your current Coggins along with any medications your horse may need. Have at least 7 days worth of feed on hand, regardless of whether you decide to leave or stay put.

The high winds during a hurricane (along with the not-so-uncommon tornadoes that go along with it) can make a weapon out of any object left unsecured on your property. This includes jumps, trashcans, outdoor furniture, flower pots, etc. Be sure anything that is left outside is secured properly.

Clean drinking water may become scarce after the storm due to power outages or water contamination. Try to store enough drinking water for a seven day supply. Each horse should be allowed 20 gallons per day. Fill up all of your water buckets and troughs. Line your trashcans with plastic bags and fill those up with water too. If your water pump can be run off of a generator, be sure you have plenty of gasoline on hand and check ahead of time to be sure the generator is working properly.



Many people are concerned about where to put their horses during a storm. If your barn is well constructed and sturdy, leave them in. If your barn is not well constructed or is in poor repair, turn them out. Horses have outstanding survival instincts and many can weather the storm quite well. Regardless of where your horses ride out the storm, be sure that you have some form of identification on them that includes your name, address, and phone number. This can be anything such as an ID tag braided into their manes or tails or a phone number spray painted or written on their bodies with a livestock marker. A veterinarian can also insert a microchip into your horse's neck for permanent identification. Horses left outside should wear halters that will break away if caught on something. A fly mask might not be a bad idea either to protect the horse's eyes from flying debris.

Continued on Page 12

North Carolina Horse Council
4904 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 290
Raleigh, NC 27606
In-State 800-529-9206
(919) 854-1990 Fax (919) 854-1989
www.nchorsecouncil.com



Hurricane Season is Here Again!

Continued from Page 11

Some of the biggest problems that we face from a hurricane occur after the storm has come and gone. Be prepared for downed fence lines and prolonged power outages. It doesn't hurt to have some temporary fencing stored away in case you need to replace a section of your fence line.

Bugs can become a big concern after the storm due to large amounts of standing water. It's extremely important to be sure that your horses are up to date on their vaccinations. Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE) and West Nile are a big concern in areas like eastern NC where mosquito populations are high. Horses in these areas should be vaccinated twice a year, six months apart or according to your veterinarian's recommendations.

Also be on the lookout for cyanide poisoning. This can be a possible problem if there are wilted leaves, twigs, bark or seeds from wild cherry trees (*Prunus* species) or also red maple leaves (*Acer rubrum*). Symptoms that your horse may be suffering from cyanide poisoning include weakness, excitability, difficulty breathing, lack of coordination, convulsions, constipation or diarrhea, and bloody urine. These symptoms may eventually result in death. Horses can become poisoned after eating as little as 1 to 2 cups of leaves on an empty stomach.

Most importantly, please just use good judgment! Don't put your life or the lives of others at risk. All we can do is prepare for the worst and hope for the best! And don't forget the bread and water...

Just one more way we hope that you will keep checking back!