

# North Carolina Horse Council

## Membership Newsletter



Volume 8 Issue 9

www.nchorsecouncil.com

July-August 2007

NCHC

Board Meeting

Hunt Horse  
Complex

Raleigh, NC

Wednesday,  
Sept. '05 7:00pm

### NCHC Officers:

President: Bob Sanford  
Eastern VP: Lorraine Price  
Central VP: Myra Daniel  
Western VP: Bill Parton  
Treasurer: Tom Bennett  
Secretary: John Thomson  
Executive Dir: Sue Gray

### Inside this issue:

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**Welcome New  
Agribusiness Sponsor:**



## Letter from the President **Bob Sanford**

Ladies & Gentlemen:

We are half way through this year and there are still many things on our list to try and accomplish as we strive to move the North Carolina Horse Council into every county in the state. This is not just an effort to become more visible and vibrant, it is an effort to get you more involved.

Since my last letter, we have succeeded in getting our web site updated, not only visibly but structurally. We now can communicate via the web with each and all of you. But the most important feature is that now you can converse with us. This allows us the ability to issue warnings and emergency information on a much more timely and efficient manner. As we continue, we envision our Newsletter being sent out electronically; this will save us time and money allowing us more funds to return to the industry.

This action will allow us to make decisions much faster and take advantage of opportunities as they occur. Our new system allows for taking surveys, sorting by county, association, zip code etc. It will also allow you to pay your annual dues, store purchases and other financial transaction via the internet. These features will assist us in selling advertising on our site and add value to being a member of the NCHC.

A revised and more detailed budget has been generated and this is a tremendous asset as we plan for our future programs. A revised procedure for approving and releasing grants is being implemented and we believe this will eliminate much stress on all parties involved. Many of you attended the July 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting and you had the opportunity to hear of these improvements. We thank you for your comments and suggestions.

As I have stated in prior communications, all of these improvements have minimal impact without your involvement. We need and want each horsemen or equine Enthusiast to become a member of the North Carolina Horse Council. This is particularly true with our Junior Members, they will be our future leaders and we want them well aware of the opportunities and challenges that lie in our paths as we move into the next decade. Our voice in the state legislature is much stronger with you as a member and the greater our numbers the better we are heard. If we are to save "Open Space", preserve trails, keep family farms, sell and grow North Carolina Agricultural products and continue to enjoy our sport as we have known it; then we must become active in supporting and protecting these privileges. There is much more competition for the land, be it public or private than ever before, each group feeling it is theirs to use and in some instances abuse.

Again we are asking for reports of the activities and programs that you or your associations are sponsoring in the equine arena. We would like to expose the efforts and successes that you are experiencing and enable others to improve or began their own programs. We know that we can help in a more positive manner if we are aware of your needs and desires.

So, once again I ask you to Saddle Up and join us as we ride into our future.



## Legislative Corner

### From the Desk of Glenn Jernigan: NCHC Lobbyist

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

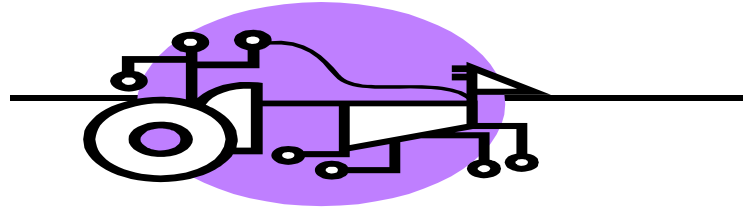
Members of the North Carolina Horse Council should take special pride for the following legislative accomplishments. SB187 Equine Industry Study Funds introduced by Senator Weinstein in the Senate and HB204 Equine Industry Study Funds introduced by Representative Pierce in the House. This legislation is a major accomplishment for the North Carolina Horse Council for a \$500,000.00 equine industry study to be conducted by the Agricultural Advancement Consortium. The funding is for the development of a plan to maximize and identify the economic impact of the North Carolina equine industry. Study Criterion are listed on the NCHC website. The goal is to have the study completed within twelve months after the funds become available. Results of the study will be reported to the Chairs of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees. It is my belief that this study will eventually lead to the utilization of a dynamic growth of the equine industry in North Carolina that will rival Kentucky and Tennessee! I anxiously await the study implementation along with the NCHC.

We continued our successful efforts in opposition to the lifting of the ban on Sunday Hunting and introduced HB1731 Equine Agricultural Agents under the sponsorship of Representative Dewey Hill, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. This legislation is an act to appropriate funds to establish seven regional equine agricultural agents and to require the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service to report to and work with the North Carolina Horse Council on the implementation and progress of the equine agricultural agent program. The bill introduction was not timely and affected our efforts in an adverse way but will allow us to review strategy for another effort in the future that should include coordination with the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and NC State University regarding funding allocation for these agents plus better coordination of their duties and reporting guidelines.

Legislative action was also directed to Land & Water Conservation Bond Act concerns as well as efforts to clarify NC Department of Revenue classification regarding N.C.G.S. 105-277.2 dealing with property tax exemptions plus N.C.G.S. 106-581.1 dealing with zoning – both of which are important to the equine industry.

Bottom line - - - we had a great legislative Session! Many thanks to President Bob Sanford, Executive Director Sue Gray, Glenn Petty, Tom Hendrickson, Mike Yoder, Board members and members who were kind enough to give time and effort to our legislative program this year. I thank you for allowing me to serve you.

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



The summer heat is on! As we approach mid year, I would like to provide the membership with a brief report of our accomplishments, but more importantly, were we might be headed for the remainder of the year. I prepared a presentation for the past NCHC Board meeting and have made this available for your review or use. You can find this at: [www.nchorsecouncil.com](http://www.nchorsecouncil.com) and click on newsletter.

Major emphasis for the remainder of 2007 will include:

- Increasing our connections with Travel and Tourism
- Beginning a new budget process in September to increase financial effectiveness
- Promote the Regional Managers and District Representatives
- Build our Member and Board databases
- Promote Junior members and their accomplishments
- Promote Equine Associations and their accomplishments
- Actively pursue Agribusiness Partners
- Join forces with other Associations with like needs and interests
- Plan and conduct the annual President's Meeting
- Increase communications with the Board of Directors
- Develop a new Grants procedure
- Educate selected legislators on the needs of the Equine Industry via e-mail and personal communications
- Review and up date By-Laws
- Increase Trail and land conservation activities

As you can see we have lots to do yet in 2007. If you have not sent in your Board Biographies please do, let us know your strengths and where you can be most helpful in serving the NCHC.

In closing, I can't wait to hear your ideas....please remember that this is your association and we are your VOICE. As our membership grows our strength and influence grows. Help us to ensure a "VOICE IN EVERY COUNTY"

Do you want to be more involved?  
Contact: [suegray@nchorsecouncil.com](mailto:suegray@nchorsecouncil.com)



## News from Across the State

### **HAPPY TRAILS!**

Effective August 10th, Shannon Hoffman, who has served as the Administrative Assistant within the North Carolina Horse Council, has resigned. Shannon has served the Council for the past four years. We would like to wish Shannon the best of luck in her new endeavors!



### Member Highlight

The North Carolina Horse Council Staff and Officers would like to give a special thanks and recognition to one of our long time Board Members who has saddled up and gone the extra mile for the Council. Bev Duval, of the Sauratown Trails Association, has sent out a request to the trails club members asking for information that would help the NCHC increase our visibility and meet the needs of their members. What great responses we are getting and each and every suggestion is helpful! Keep it up...and remember....we need everyone to be a member to increase our "Horse Power" across the state. If you have information that would help us, want to help spread the news, have news that you want to share, or simply want to get involved in shaping the direction of the council please contact: [suegray@nchorsecouncil.com](mailto:suegray@nchorsecouncil.com) and get involved.

Congratulation Bev!



## 2007-2008 Extension Horse Short Course and Clinic Series



Offered by:  
 North Carolina State University  
*Proudly co-sponsored by*  
 The North Carolina Horse Council  
*"Your Referendum Dollars at Work"*



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- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| October 19-21, 2007        | <b>NCSU Introductory Level Horse Judging Short Course</b><br>Recommended for New Judges and/or Horse Judging Team Coaches<br>Ramada Inn-Blue Ridge, Raleigh, NC   |
| December 1-2, 2007         | <b>Southern Horse Festival Championship Open Horse Show</b><br>Gov. James B. Hunt Complex, Raleigh, NC<br><i>Sponsored By North Carolina Horse Council</i>  |
| December 5-8, 2007         | <b>NCSU Horse Breeding Management &amp; Transported Semen Short Course</b><br>NCSU Equine Educational Unit, Raleigh, NC<br><i>Sponsored by Exodus Breeders</i>  |
| December 9, 2007           | <b>NCSU Foaling Management Short Course</b><br>Ramada Inn-Blue Ridge, Raleigh, NC   |
| January 5-6, 2008          | <b>NCSU Advanced Level Horse Judging Short Course *</b><br>Ramada Inn-Blue Ridge, Raleigh, NC   |
| January 12-13, 2008        | <b>NC Horse Management and REINS Conference</b><br>Location To Be Determined, Contact Mike Yoder, Extension Horse Husbandry   |
| February 1, 2008           | <b>Ring Steward Program</b><br>Ramada Inn-Blue Ridge, Raleigh, NC   |
| February 2-3, 2008         | <b>NCSU Open Horse Show Judges' Certification Clinic</b><br>Gov. James B. Hunt Complex, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC<br><i>Sponsored by Southern States Cooperative</i>                                  |
| February 2, 2008           | <b>Youth Horse Judging Team Training Clinic</b><br>Holshouser Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC<br><i>Sponsored by the NC 4-H Horse Program</i>   |
| February 29- March 2, 2008 | <b>American Youth Horse Council Symposium</b><br>North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC<br><i>Sponsored by The American Youth Horse Council and NC 4-H Horse Program</i>   |
| March 14-15, 2008          | <b>NCSU Equine Hoof Care and Shoeing Short Course</b><br>Extension Horse Husbandry, NCSU Equine Educational Unit, Raleigh, NC<br><i>Sponsored by Zin Pro Corporation and the NC Horse Shoers' Association</i> |
| May 5-7, 2008              | <b>Horse Protection Officers' Short Course</b><br>NCSU Equine Educational Unit, Raleigh, NC<br><i>Sponsored by Orange County Animal Protection Society</i>  |
| May 15, 2008               | <b>NCSU Horse Feeding Short Course</b><br>Ramada Inn-Blue Ridge, Raleigh, NC  |
| May 16, 2008               | <b>NCSU Horse Forage Management Short Course</b><br>Ramada Inn-Blue Ridge, Raleigh, NC  |
| May 17, 2008               | <b>NCSU Horse Field Day</b><br>Equine Educational Unit, Raleigh, NC   |

\*Must have completed the introductory level and/or currently be an active horse show judge or judging team coach to participate.

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To receive a short course and clinic brochure and pre-registration forms contact:  
 Extension Horse Husbandry, NCSU, Box 7523, Raleigh, NC 27695-7523 p Phone 919-515-5784, Fax 919-515-8518  
 Visit us at our Web Site: [http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an\\_sci/extension/horse/hhmmain.html](http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/hhmmain.html)

Membership in the North Carolina Horse Council costs less than a tank of gas...  
And gives you better mileage!

When did 25 gallons of unleaded buy you these basic benefits?

- The NCHC Newsletter keeps you current on the state of the horse industry in North Carolina and across the nation
- Professional lobbyists promote your equine interests at the State Capital
- Legislative and regulatory updates help you make informed decisions
- Listings in the NCHC Membership Directory puts your business in the public eye
- Horse Industry business discounts improve your bottom line.

AND MORE...

- Discount on "Equine Liability signs and other NCHC store items
- Notices about equestrian trail activities
- Voting rights in the NCHC

AND EVEN More...\*

- \$1 million Equine Excess Personal Liability Insurance \* (only available to individual members)
- Eligible to participate in the NCHC recognition program

## Developing Horsepower...put a Voice in Every County!

"Politicians listen to organizations that represent large numbers of voters."  
(Equine Attorney George G. Johnson, Jr. from Western Horseman)  
The North Carolina Horse Council is your voice! Help us Fight for Your Rights!

Become a Member Today!





## News from the Trail

Submitted by: Barb Oslund  
 Eastern Trails Consultant  
 And  
 Jim Hallsey

So many trail issues are on-going we realize that we may miss some updates. If you have any new trail information from across the state please let the NCHC know what is happening.  
 Contact: [suegray@nchorsecouncil.com](mailto:suegray@nchorsecouncil.com)

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### Trail Master Certification Course

Instructor:

Mike Riter of Trail Design Specialists  
[www.traildesign.org](http://www.traildesign.org)

Nationally recognized course for individuals (both professional and volunteer) to receive certification in multi-use trail design, construction, and maintenance, as well as developing expertise in the leadership of trail work crews. The course consists of both interactive classroom sessions and practical field application of the classroom concepts. Emphasis will be placed on covering the latest advances in trail design and construction to minimize erosion, user impact, and user conflicts, along with techniques for long-term sustainability and ease of maintenance.

This Trail Master Certification Course is sponsored collaboratively by the North Carolina Horse Council and the Eno River Association. Graduates of the course will be encouraged to share their trail building skills and expertise with the local trail groups and land managers in their area in the development and maintenance of equestrian, biking, and/or hiking trails.

Dates: September 20-23, 2007 (Thursday-Sunday)

Location: Harris Lake County Park, New Hill, NC (southwest of Raleigh and Apex, NC)

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day

Cost: \$75 per person (This includes lunch each day.)

All classroom materials and trail work tools are provided.

Lodging and other meals on your own (more information provided with registration)

Thanks to a generous grant provided by the Harris & Frances Block Foundation ([www.blockfound.org](http://www.blockfound.org)), much of the \$300/person tuition has been covered. The NC

Horse Council and the Eno River Association were awarded this grant to sponsor a Trail Master Certification Course so that trail expertise can be expanded across the state.

Please register early, as the course has a small class size. To register or for further information, phone or email: Leslie Kennedy (Apex, NC)

Phone: 919-362-4011 (leave message if no answer)

Email: [richbq@mindspring.com](mailto:richbq@mindspring.com)

Please provide name, contact information, and organization (if associated with one). You will receive a response as soon as possible. We look forward to hearing from you.



## News from the trail continued

### Trail News

Brunswick County Brunswick County planners and parks and recreation staff are currently developing plans for the Brunswick County Nature Park. This park consists of nearly 900 acres and will have a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities including several miles of equestrian trails. Brunswick County is using a collaborative planning effort that includes local equestrians and resources provided by NCHC. County staff and the public have enthusiastically supported the equestrian trails and the opportunity it will provide for equestrians in this fast growing coastal area.

Chatham County A collaborative effort between NCHC, the Triangle Off Road Cyclists (TORC), and other local trail enthusiasts has so far been unsuccessful at convincing the local Environmental Review Board (ERB) that recreational trails can be located in stream buffer zones. The ERB has been charged with revising a stream buffer ordinance that will require developers to create substantial undisturbed stream buffers (up to 200 ft on either side of a perennial stream). Despite the many examples of sustainable multi-use trails along rivers and streams, and of other local ordinances that allow trails (including equestrian trails) in stream buffers, the currently proposed ordinance language will only allow trails that can't be located anywhere else and that have undergone a rigorous and expensive professional design process, subject to ERB approval.

If passed, this ordinance will be an unjustified loss of opportunity to create trail systems on undevelopable land through public/private partnerships with developers and private landowners; it will also prevent people from visiting and appreciating the riparian (stream-side) environment. A public hearing on this ordinance is scheduled for August 20 in Pittsboro. Chatham County equestrians and landowners are encouraged to attend and/or write the County Commissioners to express your concerns.

ALL North Carolina equestrians and landowners should take note of this situation, particularly if you live in an area of rapid growth or where the water quality of your local streams is deteriorating due to development. It's very likely that similar ordinances will be developed or are already in place that could limit your current or future riding opportunities due to well-intended but overly conservative environmental protection efforts.

Hoke County Hoke County is anticipating that a large parcel of land, currently being acquired by a land trust, will be available in the near future for use as a Community Forest. The Forest would have many functions, including restoration of native longleaf pine, and would also include several miles of equestrian trails. NCHC resources have been involved with the preliminary planning for this opportunity, and we are currently trying to organize a group of local equestrians to be involved with the future planning and volunteer efforts.

For information on any of the above trail projects or any other trail issues, please contact Barbara Oslund at [richbq@mindspring.com](mailto:richbq@mindspring.com) or (919) 454-8162.

### Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Rules

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) Division of Water Quality has issued for public comment the proposed Jordan Lake Nutrient Management Rules. The rules can be viewed at <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/nps/JordanNutrientStrategy.htm>. Landowners that maintain equines should pay particular attention to Rule .0264, which affects agriculture.

Landowners that manage 5 or more equines would be affected by the proposed rules. The NCHC will be submitting comments to NCDENR regarding the proposed rules, and we are currently working to understand how the rule could affect horse farm management in the watershed, and what modifications to the rule should be recommended.

The NCHC welcomes your feedback on this issue, and we encourage individuals to submit individual comments to NCDENR.

The public comment period closes on September 14, 2007. Public comments can be submitted by regular mail or e-mail to:

Rich Gannon or Jason Robinson  
DENR-Division of Water Quality, Planning Section  
1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617  
Phone (919) 733-5083, ext. 356 or 537, Fax (919) 715-5637  
[Rich.Gannon@ncmail.net](mailto:Rich.Gannon@ncmail.net) or [Jason.T.Robinson@ncmail.net](mailto:Jason.T.Robinson@ncmail.net)



## A Word about Education and Safety

The American Medical Equestrian Association (AMEA) and the Safe Riders Foundation reports that sixty percent of deaths due to riding accidents are a result of head injury. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) has set the standard for the modern riding helmet. It is well documented that wearing an ASTM/SEI approved riding helmet saves lives and protects riders from brain damage in a fall from a horse. But sometimes its not until a loved one is left paralyzed, or loses their life, that we are really struck by the reality that horseback riding is a high risk activity. The risk can be minimized by the simple act of putting on a helmet every time we ride.

The US Pony Club reports their head injury rate has been reduced by 29% since they have made wearing helmets mandatory, and head injuries are fewer among jockeys than recreational riders since the American Jockey Club began requiring they wear safety-approved helmets. In Britain the hospital admission rate for riders dropped 46% after helmets became routine gear for English equestrians.

Most equestrian associations now have rules requiring safety helmets be worn. In Ontario, Canada it's the law that individuals under 18 years old must wear helmets while riding. Parents, trainers or instructors can be fined up to \$5000 if a minor is found not complying with this law.

## Educate Yourself: Be Smart and Wear Your Safety Helmet

The following article was submitted by:

Donna Campbell Smith

PO Box 1372

Wake Forest, NC 27588

919-554-2891

[donnacsmith@earthlink.net](mailto:donnacsmith@earthlink.net)

In the United States the horse industry is self-regulating the use of helmets. The USA Equestrian Federation requires that all junior competitors in hunter, jumper and hunt seat equitation must wear ASTM-SEI approved helmets while mounted anywhere on the show grounds. USEF added a rule in article 1713 for eventing, requiring protective headgear at all levels of competition. The rule states a hardhat must be worn when riding on the flat, and when jumping an ASTM/SEI approved helmet with harness secure and properly fitted must be worn.

4-H rules vary from state to state. In Kentucky all 4-Hers when at a 4-H event are required to wear ASTM-SEI approved helmets that are secure and properly fitted anytime they are riding or driving horses. In North Carolina ASTM/SEI helmets are required in hunt seat, short stirrup, and games when mounted on the show grounds. In all other divisions approved helmets are strongly encouraged and approved as optional use.

The United States Pony Club requires that approved helmets be worn at all times when mounted.

A helmet should be examined by x-ray after a fall to be sure the integrity of the helmet is intact. Many helmet companies will examine a helmet and replace it for a small fee. Dropping a helmet on a hard surface can also damage it. Any signs of damage like cracks, dents or holes inside or outside the helmet are reasons enough to replace it with a new one. Even without obvious bumps and bangs the lifespan of a helmet is a maximum of five years. A manufacturer's date is printed inside the helmet. It is not advisable to buy used helmets since the integrity of the helmet cannot be guaranteed.

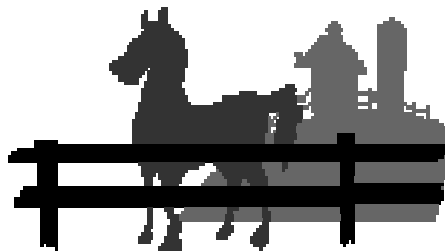
This brings us to the questions: should we require riders to wear helmets when riding on our property? Are we liable if a rider falls and is hurt or killed while riding at our facility? Should instructors require their students to wear helmets?

Barbara A. Halper and Katherine C. Bloomquist are partners in the law firm, Bloomquist and Halper, P.A. In their article "Helmet Safety and Legal Liability," they write, "If you have anything to do with the horse or the property where the horse will be ridden, you need to make sure either the rider wears a safety approved helmet or the rider signs a release specifically regarding helmets. (Of course a guardian should sign the release for minor children.)"

They go even further and say, "If you did not get a release or if you get a release in an area where helmets are required, and there is no helmet worn, you can count on the issue being used against you if there is a lawsuit from an injury." For that reason it is understandable why equine commercial liability insurance providers want to know if an applicant requires riders on their premises to wear a safety approved helmet. Amanda Williams, a representative of Triangle Insurance Group, Inc. says they want to know helmets are required before they will issue liability insurance to a stable owner.

The most commonly heard excuse — especially among young people— for not wearing a helmet is that they look funny. But equestrian safety helmets have come a long way since the mushroom styles of the early models. Today they are safer, lighter, cooler, and more fashionable. By using improved technology manufacturers can produce helmets with a lower profile and improved fit, thus making them more attractive as well as more efficient. Helmets also come in a wide range of colors and styles for every riding discipline.

When all is said and done the price of an ASTM/SEI helmet is cheap insurance when you weigh it against the consequences of riding without one.



## Member Information

We hope everyone has had a chance to take a look at the new webpage design! We are getting lots of positive feedback on this and want to encourage each and every one of you to spend some time viewing the site and letting us know what you think! In addition, we are continually updating our pictures and would like to have you send us a picture of your horse participating in whatever activity or discipline that you enjoy. We want to see you in action. We will be placing these photos on the home page...just one more way we hope that you will keep checking back! Take a look at the photo below to see an example of what we are looking for:



Submitted by: Jim Scarborough jim@jumpthemoonphoto.com

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