

North Carolina Horse Council



Membership Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 8

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May - June 2007

NCHC

Board Meeting

**Hunt Horse
Complex**

Raleigh, NC

**Wednesday,
July 11 '07**

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

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Welcome New Agribusiness Sponsor:

**The Bondegard
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 Your Guide to
 everything Equestrian!

Letter from the President Bob Sanford

Well it's my favorite time of the year again, flowers are blooming, mares are foaling and optimism is everywhere in the form of a new season. The same is true at The North Carolina Horse Council. We are excited about the new ideas, projects and procedures that the Executive Board has approved to move us forward.

If you haven't checked out our web page lately, please do so. We hope you will like the changes that have been implemented and agree that the information is better organized, more available and updated much more frequently. Further improvements are our goal and we expect this to be an ongoing process. We are striving to improve our information technology and thereby our ability to better communicate with each association, organization, member and agri-business partner. We believe it is important that everyone in the equine industry be aware of the challenges and opportunities that exist. This too will be an ongoing challenge and your comments and suggestions will be welcomed. Our legislative presence has been elevated considerably since hiring our Lobbyist. As our state and industry grows, new challenges and opportunities spring up. Our goal is to become more aware of these happenings and with your help try to better protect and enhance the equine community. Two present priorities are the Equine Economic Impact Study and the placing of Regional Equine Specialist around the state under the auspices of Ag Extension. As we become more active in the legislative arena, the need for increased membership becomes even more important and as legislation becomes more specific and sometimes restrictive, the equine community needs a recognized voice to represent its interest on a state-wide basis. The North Carolina Horse Council is your recognized voice.

We are actively seeking new members and need your help in spreading the word. As we strive to have a voice in every county, memberships are essential. Check out the membership page on our web site and take advantage of the opportunity to earn money for bringing in new members.

As we move forward, we are aware that there are many of you doing great things for the equine industry and we think we are doing good things for you and the industry. In order to "Know what is happening in the horse world", we are adding an additional page to our newsletter to report your undertakings and spread the word to everyone. We hope to have one or two reports in each newsletter. So help us with letters of what you are doing to enhance our sport. And last but not least, we are announcing our First State Wide Raffle. You and your friends will have the opportunity to choose between a John Deere Gator, John Deere Zero Turn Mower a Golf Cart or \$4500 in Cash. All monies earned from the raffle will go toward improving our presence and participation in equine events throughout the state.

So here's hoping that each of you will saddle up and join us as we ride into the 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

Ethics reform, \$20 million budget and more than 3,700 bills introduced in the 2007-2008 General Assembly Session and more to come! Speaker Joe Hackney continues his goal to re-establish public confidence in the public's work by public servants in Raleigh. Current legislation of priority and concern by the NCHC includes the following:

- HB204 (SB187) Equine Industry Study Funds
- HB990 (Sb1522) Land & Water Conservation Bond Act of 2007 (Land for Tomorrow)
- HB1731 Equine Agricultural Agents
- HB505 Wildlife Resources Commission Study Sunday Hunting
- Golden Leaf Foundation Study Funding Application

I'm pleased to report that HB204 and SB187 Equine Industry Study Funds have met with good receptivity within the General Assembly and currently is included in the House Appropriations budget proposal. A special thanks should go to Senator Weinstein for his untiring efforts to secure this funding and also an acknowledgment to the House sponsors-Representatives Pierce, Faison, Underhill, Walend, E. Warren, Williams and Yongue. Representative Nelson Cole also continues to be a leader in our efforts for funding. The secret to the success of the study funding is to keep it in the House budget when it goes to the Senate and then retain it during budget conferees meetings with the Senate and House leadership until final budget approval by both houses of the General Assembly.

Land for Tomorrow legislation introduced last Session and again this year, HB990 and SB1522 Land & Water Conservation Bond Act of 2007, seeking a \$1 Billion bond proposal for land and water conservation appears to be coming up short again this year even in view of an unanticipated \$260,000,000.00 state revenue windfall.

HB731 Equine Agricultural Agents introduced by Representative Dewey Hill seeks to establish seven regional equine agricultural agents and require the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service to work with the North Carolina Horse Council on the implementation and progress of the equine agricultural agent program. My findings are that the bill will not be a priority for appropriations this year.

We continue to benefit from the NCHC's membership efforts and concerns expressed against the Sunday Hunting Study which would have lifted the ban on Sunday hunting. The two studies clearly point out that the majority of North Carolinians are not in favor of removing the prohibition banning hunting on Sunday. I continue to work with the Governor's Office, the Wildlife Commission and legislators on this concern. It is my belief that the ban will not be lifted! A special thanks to the NCHC's leadership for the recent letter to Governor Easley opposing the lifting of the ban on Sunday hunting. The letter magnified the concern not only of the NCHC but also the members in our multi-Equine Association representation. A great job by the Association membership!

I continue to meet with Golden Leaf Foundation leadership Billy Ray Hall and Billy Guillet, Director of the Agricultural Advancement Consortium, to solidify and address any needs to enhance our Golden Leaf grant request to fund an equine study. The leadership of Tom Hendrickson has been essential in this effort.

Many thanks to President Sanford, The Board and members who have been responsive to our legislative efforts. Be back in touch next month. *Glenn Jernigan*



Capturing the bright ideas of our membership

Thoughts from the Executive Director

The past two months since our last newsletter have flown by and just keeping up with all the wonderful and creative ideas of our membership has truly been a challenge. What good news to have! The office staff have been busy working on improving our communications, information databases and financial reporting. I would like to thank all the members of our Executive Committee for their untiring support and in making the NCHC a better and more efficient operation. Below is a recap of what we are working on:

- Developed new logo (Take a look at the front page!)
- New Web page design....click on www.nchorsecouncil.com and check this out! We hope that this design will be more user friendly and provide easier access to all of our information. Please become familiar with this new webpage and get ready to "Join the Herd" as we learn to provide you with e-news, new membership enrollment forms and access to our agri-business partners plus much much more....
- Updated financial programming
- Exciting new membership campaigns. Do you want to earn a little extra money for your association or group? Recruit at least 20 people for membership and receive \$1 for every new member. At the end of the year, the member with the most new recruits will receive \$200. JOIN THE HERD!

I have had the pleasure of meeting with several equine associations across the state and look forward to traveling from the mountains to the sea to help spread the news about the NCHC and to strengthen our membership. I would like to thank the Sauratown Trails Association for having me at their meeting as well as the Mitchell River Saddle Club. These clubs represent just a few of the equine enthusiasts throughout the state. I would love to meet with your club, so just let me hear from you and I will schedule a time to meet with your membership.

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



Sue Gray

News from Across the State

This new column in the NCHC newsletter is intended to bring you news from around the State. In this first article we would like to highlight two NCHC Associations who "Keep things happening Across the State". If you have news that you want to share, please let us hear from you and please join ULTRA and the Pisgah Trailblazers in their work to improve our State for all Equestrians!



The Uwharrie National Forest in the Piedmont of NC has much to offer equestrians. The UTRA, with goals similar to that of the Back Country Horsemen, have been helping to maintain the equestrian trail system in Uwharrie since 2004. Working with land managers our members have logged over 600 much appreciated volunteer hours while forming lasting friendships and enjoying the trails.

In addition to providing feedback on trail conditions and equestrian needs they educate the public on issues in the UNF via their online yahoo group, "UNFVolunteers". Membership is free and in the past they have marked trails, picked up trash; cleared brush, cut dead trees that fall across the trails and even installed high line poles. Nine of the twenty-five trails in Uwharrie have been adopted and they encourage trail adoption by individuals and groups. They are preserving trails for future generations.

The NC Horse Council and the UTRA will be sponsoring National Trails Day at Uwharrie on June 2, 2007. We encourage you to come find out what volunteering is all about. For more information call (910) 572-1275 or trailrider_3e@yahoo.com



WANTED:

Volunteers on Horseback.

The Pisgah Trailblazers was organized in 1990 with the goal of keeping as many trails as possible open for equestrian use.

Volunteers are needed to work with the Forest Service to keep multi-use trails open and safe for everyone in Pisgah National Forest, DuPont State Forest and Croft State Park. Please, join them! Enjoy the beauty of the forests, the camaraderie of the club and the satisfaction of making a difference to preserve our heritage.

They do trail work, litter pickups, monthly work weekend campouts and other projects in order to keep our trails open. Their monthly meeting is held at a local restaurant on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm to eat and 7:30pm to meet. Contact Rick Henderson: rrhenderson1@netzero.com for more information.





It's About Health

What probiotics are recommended for performance horses and do they work?

(This question was submitted by Mrs. Cathy Heaton, a member of the North Carolina Arabian Horse Association. Would you like to ask a question and see your question answered in our next newsletter? You can submit your question to: suegray@nchorsecouncil.com)

Probiotics, also known as direct-fed microbial or DFMs, are dietary supplements containing live naturally occurring microorganisms (bacteria, fungi and/or yeast). The microorganisms are intended to arrive alive in the hindgut (the part of the digestive tract that comes after the small intestine), establish residence and do good things. The concept of probiotics originated about 100 years ago when a Nobel Prize winning scientist suggested that beneficial bacteria from yogurt could colonize the gut, displacing pathogenic (disease-causing) bacteria and extend the life of the yogurt eaters! Indeed, the lactobacillus bacteria, like those found in yogurt, are still the most popular probiotic species.

In addition to displacing pathogens, probiotics may help regulate the conditions in the horse's gut tract. The grass and legumes in your horse's diet are mostly made up fiber. Horses cannot digest fiber and, instead, rely on the microorganisms that live in their hind gut to breakdown the cellulose and convert it to volatile fatty acids which can be absorbed and used by the horse for energy. Probiotics may promote conditions that favor the growth of fiber digesting microbes, allowing the horse to extract more energy from his diet.

The microorganisms in probiotics produce various compounds as part of their life processes. These include organic acids, vitamins, amino acids, enzymes and antibiotics. All of these by-products end up in the material they are grown (fermented) in. This fermentation product is part of the probiotic supplement. With certain less hardy species, the fermentation product with dead microbes may be sold as a supplement. Technically, this is not a probiotic.

Performance horses are in a state of stress from exercise, from transport, and, often, from their diet which is relatively high in grain and low in fiber. These factors can affect the fermentation process and also render the horse more susceptible to gut pathogens.

There are well over 100 DFM's listed for horses in the "Direct-Fed Microbial, Enzymes & Forage Additive Compendium." Most have no objective research to support their use. The FDA puts DFM's in a class called "generally recognized as safe" or GRAS. This designation means the FDA believes these products cause no harm. It does not mean they do any good. DFM's cannot legally claim to treat any disease or condition, establish viable colonies in the gut, or affect any structure or function of the animal.

The potential for benefit from feeding probiotics to performance horses certainly exists, but hard evidence is in short supply. There is not much economic incentive for the DFM suppliers to fund research, since they can sell their products based on customer testimonials and data from other species. This type of research on existing microorganisms would almost certainly have to be funded by horse owners.

John E. Thomson, Ph.D., PAS
Nutritionist & Procurement Manager
Wilson Milling LLC



**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

Come Join the Herd...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
 Western Trails Consultant

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

Eastern Trails Report

Trail Crew Leader Training

- NCHC is sponsoring an intensive 4 day course covering trail design, construction, and maintenance
- Scheduled to be held September 20-23, 2007 Central NC location to be finalized. Stay tuned and check the webpage for new information
- Taught by Mike Riter from the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), an internationally recognized expert in the design, construction, and maintenance of alltypes of recreational trails.

Uwharrie National Forest

- Draft Forest Management plan– 90 day comment period has ended
- NCHC has submitted formal comments basically requesting; an expanded (e.g. more miles) designated trail system; a wide variety of trail types (including primitive back-country trails); dispersed trail access points that would disperse trail traffic; more volunteer work evetns and volunteer training opportunities
- NCHC representatives attended the fee proposal public meeting to hear comments about the proposed daily/annual equestrian trail fee
- NCHC sponsoring a National Trails Day project on June 2, 2007 at the Badin Horse Camp...VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

Chatham County

- Proposed stream buffer ordinance would prohibit all horse, mountain bike, and hiking trails within 60 ft. to 200 ft. of stream banks, (including ephemeral streams) in developments across the entire County
- NCHC has sent written comments, made public meeting comments, and submitted several scientific studies that address erosion, nutrient, and invasive species issues raised by opponents

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News from the trail continued

Chatham County news...

- NCHC emphasizing that trail location, soils, slope, design, etc. affects impacts; though some riparian zones may not be suitable for trails, it is not a good reason to prohibit trails in all stream buffers
- NCHC members have attended all meetings of the committee appointed to write the ordinance
- NCHC cooperating with Triangle Off-Road Cyclists (TORC) to oppose the trails prohibition part of this ordinance
- Prohibition currently being upheld by the newly formed Environmental Review Board, but the ordinance is not yet final
- Chatham County equine owners are encouraged to write to County Commissioners opposing the prohibition on recreational trails and can email Barb Oslund for more information richbq@mindspring.com

Brunswick County

- NCHC supporting County efforts to develop future equestrian trails at two different County-owned facilities

Hoke County

- NCHC discussing equestrian trail opportunities with the Conservation Fund of North Carolina

Croatan National Forest

- NCHC Trail Committee members recently attended a fundraiser trail ride sponsored by BITS (Benefiting Intra-coastal Trails) and local REINS volunteers

Durham/Person County– Hill Forest: Press Release

The NCSU College of Natural Resources (CNR) is conducting a project to develop an outdoor recreation management plan for the Hill Forest. Issues involving erosion, safety, vandalism, and interference with educational, research and timber management objectives have led to the decision to develop a recreation plan. Faculty and students from CNR's Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, as well as from the College of Agriculture and Life Science's Natural Resources Leadership Institute will conduct the study. NCSU envisions an adaptive management plan that calls for immediate actions to address pressing concerns while gathering information on visitation rates, environmental impacts and stakeholder perspectives that will guide future management of the Forest. One phase of the study will involve interviewing members of the equestrian community who utilize the Hill Forest (many of whom attended the initial 2006 Hill Forest meetings), and setting up facilitated discussions as to how the various types of recreation might be accommodated within the framework established by the College's forest managers. The project started in March, 2007, and the discussions are expected to be held in late spring and early summer, 2007. The NCHC appreciates NCSU's effort to conduct this study and hopes that the value of the Hill Forest to area equestrians can be preserved while supporting NCSU's management plans for the forest. Written comments may be submitted to Dr. Steve Smutko: steve_smutko@ncsu.edu

Western Trail News

Bev Duval, Western Trails Committee Co-Chair and Jim Hallsey, Western Trails Coordinator continue to support a number of local equestrian trail initiatives:

Stone Mountain State Park

- We have had inquiries from Wilkes Horse Owners Association regarding the ongoing reconsideration of future plans for horse trails at Stone Mountain State Park. Jim Hallsey and Michael Hutchinson have been flagging alternative trail locations in the park for consideration by park staff. State park planners have also been re-evaluating their proposed closure of the horse trails there. We are optimistic that a consensus decision will be reached to provide for improved equestrian trails at Stone Mountain State Park.

Davidson County

- The Davison County Horsemen's Association recently received approval from the County Commissioners to pursue planning for a proposed horse trail on buffer lands of a county owned landfill site. Clint Nyfong and Jim Hallsey are working with various agencies to develop detailed plans. This is a first for North Carolina and an excellent example of motivated volunteer club leaders seeing an opportunity for trails and making the case before decision makers. Congratulations DCHA!

Clay County

- Concerned local horse trail advocates contacted Jim Hallsey regarding possible loss of National Forest trails adjacent to a 50 acre inholding in the Nantahala National Forest. Jim will assist in a review of the situation and possible alternatives for keeping a viable network of trails.

Love Valley – Jim has received an inquiry from horse trail users regarding trail maintenance and rehabilitation issues at Love Valley. A site review is planned in the near future.

Love Valley

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Happy trails to all and remember...if you have news that you would like to share please contact the NCHC!



Learning More about our Horses and what's going on out there with Education?

The North Carolina Horse Council granted REINS Region 14 with a small grant to support an education Barn Tour on March 24th in Chatham County. We considered this educational opportunity to have been very successful as over 50 people signed in during the morning registration to go on the tour which included the following:

1. A visit to the Heads Up Riding School which demonstrated therapeutic riding for the developmentally disabled
2. Merry Band Farm, home of the No. 1 Oldenberg foal in 2005, was another stop on the tour. This lovely custom built 6 stall barn and riding ring demonstrated excellent solutions to drainage problems.
3. Chapel Ridge Farm, a major hunter jumper barn and home to the North Carolina State University Equestrian Team also is called home for 4-H groups. Members of the local 4-H Club demonstrated horseback riding and handling skills.



Heads Up Therapeutic Riding (left to right) Casey Smith, John Thurman, Julia Haman and James Terll leading the pony.

Barb Oslund, representing the NCHC, spoke with the tour group at lunch providing information on the Council and information on how to preserve our trails in North Carolina. All in all this was a very successful and informative program with the majority of attendees stating that the program meet their expectations and that they would definitely be taking back and using the information at their own facilities or programs. Many shared with the program planners their desire to have future programs including subjects such as: aspects of buying, keeping and selling different breeds in North Carolina, more information on pasture management, business aspects of the horse industry and other topics too many to mention!

Congratulations REINS Region 14 Volunteers....give yourselves a hand and maybe we will see you next year!

VISIT THE NCHC STORE

Sale Items

NCHC Hats, Stonewashed, Embroidered

Color: Khaki

\$10.00 each or 2 Hats for \$15.00 (Plus Tax & Shipping)

NCHC FIRST AID KITS

For emergencies at the Horse Show or on the Trail.

Colors: Black, Brown, Red, Purple, Dark Green, Dark Blue, Light Blue, Turquoise.
Set of Kit & Carry Case \$20.00 (Plus Tax Shipping) Quantity Discount Available!

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Becca Desper copyright Dr. John 2007
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Member Highlight

Teo Zanchelli: NCHC Member, Executive Committee

Mr. Teo Zanchelli comes to North Carolina via New York and the borough of the Bronx. Born and raised in the city, Teo graduated from St. John's University in 1906. After college he made his first move to North Carolina coming to Fort Bragg to serve his country. In 1964 Teo was honorably discharged from the military and began his career with Boroughs-Welcome Pharmaceutical Company remaining with them for 30 years and retiring as Director of Sales. Throughout his tenure with Welcome, he enjoyed the great State of North Carolina and in June of 1994 made his decision to remain in North Carolina and call this home!

It was then that Teo became involved with horses. October of that year he decided to attend a seminar in Lexington Kentucky on owning Thoroughbred Horses. He learned about horse partnerships, racing, breeding and other equine adventures. His first horse was a 2 year old chestnut gelding named "Bold Lachee" who went on to finish 2nd in the Flamingo in 1996. He relates that "Bold Lachee", like many first horses, was his favorite. His first mare was "Distinctly Patti" and her last colt is currently in training in Virginia.

Teo brings a wealth of experience to the NCHC. President Bob Sanford appointed him to the NCHC Executive Committee based on his past experience. As a strong businessman Teo feels that he can serve as a resource to the Board of Directors providing expertise in business practices, effective management and marketing projects. He is a long time member of the North Carolina Thoroughbred Association (NCTA) and has served as the President of the NCTA.

Married to his wife of 43 years, Marie, his entire family and network of friends have followed him to North Carolina. Enjoying horses and building a strong equine business are but a few of Teo's interests. He has engaged in a custom home building enterprise, enjoys golfing and provides elder care to members of his family. Please take a moment at the next Board meeting to speak to Teo or drop him a line to welcome him to our leadership team. Thanks Teo for your willingness to serve the North Carolina Horse Council!

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

