

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

NORTH CAROLINA HORSE COUNCIL

Overview

The North Carolina Horse Council (NCHC) was established in 1972. We are a non-profit 501 c (5) organization that puts every dollar received back into supporting and working for our members. We are a volunteer organization that is supported by people who are passionate and provide energy to the equine community. We welcome all people to join us and be a part of the largest and most active horse council in America.

Since 1972, the NCHC has established an impressive track record of creative, flexible and innovative work and is well respected by its partner organizations. The NCHC is located in Raleigh, NC housing an Executive Director and an established Board of Directors including a strong group of advisory council members from related equine, educational and agricultural organizations.

The NCHC serves the interests of all North Carolina Equestrians

and Equine enthusiasts by the monitoring and lobbying for state legislation and regulations which impact horse owners and serving in general as the "Voice of the Equine Industry". Examples of some of the laws and rules where the NCHC has helped are:

- Equine Liability Law
- Building code exemptions for Barns and Stables
- Tax Benefits for agricultural land
- Water & Nutrient rules
- Right to Ride Legislation

Other services the NCHC provides are:

* Promote self regulation of animal care and welfare standards so that outside organizations such as Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) do not control how we maintain or care for our animals.

* Assist in times of emergency or disaster providing solutions to the equine community on a state-



wide basis.

* Work very closely with NC colleges and universities. We share information and provide financial support where possible.

* Provide grants to youth groups and therapeutic riding centers, trail associations and community education programs.

* Serve as the "411" & "911" to the horse community. With an established office, we provide information to all callers and assist equine owners with referrals for such problems as finding a veterinarian, farrier, trail information, etc.

* The NCHC is strengthening working relationships with state agencies such as the NCDA&CS, NC Farm Bureau, The Grange, Pork Council, Cattlemen's Association, Poultry Council and other Agri-business.

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Special points of interest:

- Establishment of the NCHC Foundation
- NCHC Specialty License Plate
- Tractor Supply Raffle

Accomplishments in 2011



State Horse of NC: Wild Spanish Mustangs in Corolla, North Carolina.

“There are over 53,000 households who own horses. If we ban together there is power in numbers!”

- Successfully established the NCHC Foundation as a separate 501 c (3) organization
- Worked with NCDA&CS and other equine groups to complete improvements to the Hunt Horse Complex
- Finalized our first Memorandum of Understanding with the Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina
- Joined with other US Horse Councils to produce a bi-monthly newsletter of the newly formed Coalition of State Horse Councils. This national endeavor will help build a “toolbox” for all state horse councils...sharing information, discussing mutual problems and designing new programs
- Developed a new grants program to include additional areas of funding for gelding vouchers, euthanasia vouchers, safety-net feed programs, educational scholarships and development grants
- Conducted Regional Caucuses throughout the state to develop our legislative agenda and shape the NCHC strategic plan
- Trained staff and board members on Animal Welfare Issues via learning how to develop “shared values” responses to media personnel and others who might not understand our role on farming or controversial issues such as animal rights
- Successfully conducted a statewide vote renewing our Feed Assessment to support the business of the NCHC
- Developed a new store front to assist our financial growth
- Assisted in establishing a new chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of NC in the Uwharrie Forest
- Received a Grant to provide educational programs and financial assistance to equine farmers initiating Best Management Practices protecting our water supply
- Appointed membership on local water and nutrient control committees to represent the equine industry
- Joined with NC Tractor Supply Company to conduct a successful raffle with all proceeds benefiting the NC Equine Community
- Designed a new NCHC Membership Brochure
- Successfully lobbied to pass legislation establishing NCHC Specialty License Plate
- Successfully lobbied to pass legislation expanding the exemptions from the state commercial building code for privately owned equine facilities
- Provided written comments on multiple public land trail plans and worked with other trail user groups to begin to develop a statewide plan on trails and greenways
- Participated in the NC Farm Bureau Policy review day helping shape policies regarding the equine industry
- Conducted focus groups across the state to discuss the role of the NCHC and help develop marketing materials to grow the equine community
- Expanded the annual Southern Horse Festival Open all Breed Show to include a new NCQHA “No Bling” all amateur show, educational seminars and a combined training and Dressage show to run concurrent with the Open All Breed Show

Special Note: The NCHC takes pride in mentioning Carolina Hoofbeats Magazine. It has been a privilege working with the Magazine staff and we want to thank them for fulfilling one of the recommendations from the Regional Caucuses to have a statewide Equine Magazine. The NCHC wishes you great success!



The NCHC Supports Young Equestrians as the future leaders of our Industry



Specialty License Plate

In 2011, we were successful in getting our specialty License Plate approved through the NC Legislature. Now the real work begins. We must pre-sell at least 300 plates before we can produce one.

The special plate will be a great way to raise awareness and funds for the NCHC. Every year the NCHC will receive funds from the NC Department of Motor Vehicles from

the sale of our plate. This will help us to promote and protect our horses.

We hope that every horse owner and those who just love horses, will be one of the first to display the plate on their car, truck or trailer!

Help show your passion for horses...fill out the application now. You can find it at:

www.nchsecouncil.com/license-plate-application

Remember to order today and be among the first to sign up and get the personalization that you want. For example, you could display the words: Ride, or perhaps, JUMP, or HHHH (4H that is) or MULE...the possibilities or endless?

Special Thanks to our NC Legislators who made this happen. Now come on horse people...let's show them our horse power by purchasing the plate today.



NCHC Plate Design

Tractor Supply Store Raffle

Bob Sanford, Past President, successfully negotiated an agreement with the Tractor Supply Company to conduct a raffle benefitting our NCHC programs. The month long campaign, conducted at all 45 TSC Stores throughout North Carolina, sold tickets to win four \$500 shopping sprees. A drawing was held in early August and the winners were notified.

The winners were: Ruby Adams from the Eden Store, Mike Bowers and Gary Harkey from the Statesville Store and Juan Hernandez from the Lexington Store. In addition the top two selling stores were each awarded \$50 to reward their sales team. The campaign earned over \$11,400 for the NCHC.

Do you have a unique

fundraising idea? Let us hear from you and perhaps your campaign will be highlighted next year.



The Equine Industry in North Carolina has a 1.9 billion dollar economic impact.

NCHC Foundation

The Equine Industry has deep roots in North Carolina. The first horses arrived in the state during the 1500's where they were used, as they are today, for work, pleasure and companionship. North Carolina's equine population encompasses 306,000 horses, ponies, mules, donkeys and burros. While the equine

industry is large, equine enthusiasts tend to segregate by favored breed or type of activity such as trail riding, showing, jumping, racing or working horses. This segregation leads to misinformation, lack of ability for improved economic benefit and sometimes to the lack of proper care and treatment of the animal.

The NCHC Foundation was formed for exclusively charitable and educational purposes to enhance and develop the equine industry. Donations are tax deductible as we are a 501 c (3).



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Opportunities to get involved

Join the Council and Volunteer
to serve on one of the
following Committees:

- Trails
- Equine Health and Welfare
- Facilities
- Marketing and Promotion
- Membership and Development
- Legislative and Regulatory
- Education

Support and assist us by:

- Becoming an Agri-Business Sponsor
- Listing your Business on the Equine Directory
- Buying your Equine Gifts from the NCHC Store
- Asking others to come Join the HERD!
- Purchasing our NCHC License Plate



2011 Board of Directors



President: Randy Ratliff

Vice-President

Sammy Jenkins

Secretary

Lucinda Human

Treasurer

Tom Bennett

Past President

Bob Sanford

Executive Director

Sue Gray

Administrative Assistants:

Cheryl Bennett

and

Tina Batchelor

Directors

Casey Armstrong
Trent Benton
Phil Blalock
Dottie Burch
Ray Cloninger
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Linda Falls
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Greg Liles
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Buck McColl
Amanda McGuire
Kaye Myers
Gayle Nifong
Susan Schneider
Rebecca Stinson
Patrick Sullivan
Doug Tate
Terry Temple
Tom Thomas
Nancy Wilson
Laurie Wood

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Trail Report Addendum

Successful grassroots organizing has been one theme of 2011. NCHC has assisted in getting several groups organized to save, expand or build new trails with equestrian access.

Durham County/Hill Forest: The Friends of Hill Forest (FOHF) and the work they are doing with the land manager to maintain trails continues to be a positive example of an organized group of volunteers that formed in the face of the potential closure of all trails at this property managed by NC State University. The Forest manager has developed a mandatory safety course for all volunteers that addresses NCSU's risk management concerns. There have been multiple workdays in 2011, a successful fundraiser, and the development of a trail map. There remains a fee-based permit system and significant restrictions on riding after rain events and during hunting season, but the good-faith efforts of this group has kept this important resource open and available to the equestrian community in northern Durham and Person Counties.

Guilford County: The Guilford Equestrian Trails Alliance (GETA) was formed as an advocacy group specifically to maintain and gain equestrian trail in the general are of Guilford County (after the loss of an area where riding has historically occurred). Their biggest success to date has been working with the County Parks and Recreation staff to layout and start to build over 5 miles of equestrian trails on nearly 900 acres of recently-acquired land associated with Bryan Park (near Browns Summit). They have also been active in planning for equestrian access to the Atlantic and Yadkin Greenway, and trails in Summerfield. They are currently holding regular monthly workdays to help build the trails in Bryan Park (along with significant support from the Guilford County Parks and Recreation Department).

Brunswick County: The Eastern NC Trail Riders (ENCTR) was formally established as a partner with Carolina Classic Horseman's Association, a 501(c)3 organization. This organized group has the goal of increasing equine sport and recreational venues in eastern NC. They intend to break the Coastal Plains eastern NC region down by county and try to get a county representative(s) to work regularly with local governments to start the conversation of planning for horse access in every county. So far they have working ENCTR Coordinators in Columbus County, Brunswick County and Pender County. They have held trail rides and clinics as fundraisers this year. Most significantly, the group signed a volunteer organization agreement with the Brunswick County Commissioners and Brunswick County Parks and Recreation, and was awarded a NC Adopt a Trail grant this year to build bridges needed for the horse trails. They also worked to get matching funds from various local businesses for this project.

Back Country Horsemen of NC Chapters: Two BCH-NC chapters have recently been formed with significant involvement from NCHC members: Back Country Horsemen of Pisgah and Back Country Horsemen of Uwharrie.

The Pisgah chapter participated in an equestrian "Leave No Trace" Train the trainer workshop in May. They supported Wild South in 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. Volunteers from the Back Country Horsemen of Pisgah worked side by side with Rangers, hikers & mountain bikers to accomplish this task.

The Uwharrie chapter was formed in part due to growing concerns about future changes in the management strategy for Uwharrie National Forest, to make sure that the equestrian users have a voice in the process and have access to accurate information about the planning process, and to ensure that local Forest management has a reliable force of equestrian volunteers, to match the OHV and mountain bike volunteers groups that are already well-established in Uwharrie. The chapter application was accepted in early Spring and elections were held in May. The chapter membership is already the largest in NC, and the group has been busy getting the organization up and running (getting a bank account, developing by-laws, etc). This Fall they started regular monthly workdays, and are planning for projects and fundraising events that will extend into next year.

Trail Report Addendum

Rutherford County: Rutherford Outdoor Coalition - Equestrian Division (ROC) was formed to advocate for 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 connect with neighboring counties (Polk, Cleveland) and help to facilitate a long range trail system.

Davidson County: The Davidson County Horsemen's Association continues to maintain and expand trails at the closed Davidson County landfill property. They received technical assistance this year from NCHC to help plan and prioritize projects planned for the future.

Hoke County: The Conservation Fund (CF) received Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant funds for the trails and facilities in the Hoke Community Forest. The Forest will eventually have horse and hiking trails and fishing access, and is being managed to re-establish a long-leaf pine community. CF staff are finishing the GPS mapping of the trails, and planning a parking area to accommodate horse trailers and cars. However, this project (and other possible opportunities in Hoke County) is an example of a need for a strong equestrian volunteer group. CF will eventually need volunteer labor to help develop and maintain the trails. If an equestrian group cannot be formed to foster this opportunity, other more organized mountain bike and hiking groups are likely to step in and take the lead.

We also advocated for trails and commented on issues of importance to equine trail riders. NCHC submitted written comments, and attend numerous public and private meetings and workshops associated with the following issues:

- The **USDA Forest Service proposed "Planning Rule"**, a complex and voluminous document that whose purpose is to integrate science and public interest to develop plans for sustainable forests;
- Existing and planned **nutrient and water quality regulations requiring the establishment of buffers** in developments along most rivers in several NC watersheds; 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;
- The Uwharrie National Forest **Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement**; we attended the equestrian public meeting with the Forest Service, mustered multiple resources to refute the proposed weed-free hay requirement for equestrians, and submitted detailed written comments.
- The Federal Surface Transportation Program **Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds**, virtually the only source of significant grants to fund trail projects (including equestrian trails) has been under continuous threat of being removed by Congress this year. The NCHC met with a key Congressional Representative to urge restoration of these funds, and submitted multiple support e-mails.
- The NCDOT planning process for the **Moore County Highway US 1 by-pass project** had originally proposed a highway route through the heart of the Walthour Moss Foundation and the Southern Pines Horse Country. NCDOT has backed off this proposal for now, and are working with the citizens of Moore County to gather information on how this project should be done. So far, there is overwhelming community support for preserving this vital equestrian community, and NCHC has participated in workshops and made NCDOT aware that this unique equestrian community is an important cultural and recreational resource to the entire state, not just Moore County.

Also, as a result of our comments submitted last year to the NC State Parks system, 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. The State Parks system heard our position that the equestrian community is underserved by State Parks, and that existing guidelines for equestrian trails may actually result in them not getting built. The results of this task force should be available early next year.

Finally, the NCHC solicited trail grant applications in September, funded by the feed assessment. The NCHC received four proposals for the 2011 grant money, and recommended funding two public trail projects for a total award of \$6,998.

Grants Addendum

Education and Community:

1. North Carolina State 4H Hippology Championship
2. Polk County Sheriff Department Mounted Patrol

Health and Research Grants:

1. North Carolina State Department of Animal Science: Dr. Shannon Pratt-Phillips, MSc, PhD, "Effect of Different Feeding Protocols on Rate of Feed Consumption and Post-prandial Glucose and Insulin Concentrations in Horses"
2. North Carolina State Veterinary School: Dr. Liara Meg Gonzalez, DVM DACVS, "Does large colon resection and anastomosis affect survival in horses with large colon volvulus?"

Scholarship Grant:

1. NCSU Undergraduate Student in Animal Science intending to be an Equine/ Large Animal Veterinarian in North Carolina

Gelding Voucher: Fully funded in partnership with the NC Veterinary School: NCSU CVM and NCHC Castration Clinic, November 11, 2011, Greenville Mobile Equine Clinic, Greenville, NC

Euthanasia Voucher:

1. One applicant funded

Safety Net Program:

1. One applicant funded

Trail Grants:

1. Eastern North Carolina Trail Riders/Carolina Classic Horseman's Association, Development of the Brunswick Nature Park Equestrian Trail System, NC Hwy 133, Brunswick County, NC
2. NC Back Country Horsemen of Pisgah, Horse containment system for the Wolf Ford Horse Camp