

2012 Annual Report

ORDER YOUR LICENSE PLATE NOW AND SUPPORT THE NC EQUINE COMMUNITY

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Grant Program expands
- Foundation joins forces with the NCHC and the NCDA&CS
- Southern Horse Festival offers two shows
- Trail options grow for equestrians
- License Plates are available

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NCHC MOVES INTO IT'S 40TH YEAR!

The North Carolina Horse Council (NCHC) moved into its 40th year as a non-profit 501 c (5) organization that puts every dollar received back into supporting and working for our members. We have done so this year alongside our companion non-profit 501 c (3) organization the North Carolina Horse Council Foundation. Working together we continue to serve the interests of all North Carolina Equestrians and Equine enthusiasts.

For the NCHC this year has also marked new broad based efforts with other agricultural and equine associations and our efforts are paying off. We have remained diligent in pursuing favorable policies and

rules which impact all equine owners by participation on two large Watershed Oversight Committees. We successfully planned and conducted three major fundraising efforts. In addition, we applied for and received a federal grant to develop environmental best management practices for Equine Farms.

The Marketing Committee worked diligently to promote the equine specialty license plate as well as develop a strong web and social media presence. Our grants program continued to support all horsemen across North Carolina with such grants as the gelding and euthanasia vouchers, safety net support, educa-

tion and Health and Research. Trail grants were awarded to diverse groups including Back Country Horsemen-Uwharrie Chapter, Wolf Ford Horse Camp, Meherrin River Trail Project and the Rutherford Outdoor Coalition.

New strategic plans were identified in education and health and welfare programs. Highlights of those activities are described in this report.

We welcome all people to join us and be a part of the largest and most active horse council in America.

Come join the Herd!



"A Voice in Every County"

FOUNDATION RAISES MONEY FOR EQUINE FACILITY

The North Carolina Horse Council Foundation teamed up with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and *Carolina Hoofbeats Magazine* to raise the funds to begin the construction of stalls at the new Southeastern Agricultural Event Center in Lumberton,

NC. A total of \$550,000 is necessary to complete this project. Commissioner Steve Troxler supported our efforts stating: "local stakeholders have told us many times in the past that they would welcome a means to contribute to the funding of the stalls...with your assistance this sponsorship

program can become a reality." A name the stall campaign is currently on-going. The program is striving to raise \$100,000 by acquiring 100 - \$1000 donors.

The NCHC gifted all of the profits from the SHF-Cowboy-Up" event to this project.

LEGISLATIVE IN-SIGHTS

Major headway was gained during 2012 with regards to water and nutrient rules which impact horse owners. The NCHC represents horse owners on both the Jordan Lake and the Falls Lake Watershed Oversight Committees. These groups are working to establish what the baseline information is for agriculture in these basins and what best management practices exist or need to

exist.

The NCHC has provided input on policies endorsed by the NC Farm Bureau. Of particular importance is the need for endorsement by the NC Farm Bureau of pastureland as an agricultural product. Assistance with amending the state statute governing agricultural use tax would help eliminate potential ambiguity for assessors across the state.

Development of a State Right to Ride law has also been ongoing during this past year. Language such as reflected in the Federal Right to Ride bill is imperative to protection of our equine trails on state and other publicly held land.

Other legislative issues important to horse owners include local zoning rules and regulations and the inclusion of equine activity as agri-tourism.



Keeping us in the forefront, NCHC Board Member, Dottie Burch, who heads Ragsdale Liggett's Equine Law practice group, has been appointed Chair of the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee.



Dr. Callie Fogle, NCSU Veterinary College representative to the NCHC Board of Directors, works to address the Health and Welfare of our North Carolina Horses and devotes her efforts to the training of our future equine veterinarians

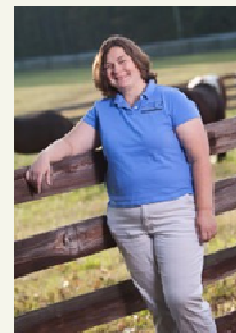
EQUINE HEALTH & WELFARE

A newly invigorated Equine Health and Welfare Committee worked hard this year to improve horse owner's access to information. Areas that they worked on this year were access to disaster planning information and linking with credible health information web sources. In addition, the committee is working with state Animal Control agents to

help train agents on equine abuse and unwanted horse issues.

The NCHC recognized the need to support our young equine veterinary students and provided funding for them to conduct an Equine Health Symposium in early 2013. In addition, the NCHC worked in conjunction with Dr. Callie Fogle, DVM, NCSU Vet-

erinary College and other committee members by partially funding castration clinics in rural North Carolina. This was not only an effort to address the unwanted horse issue but also to provide direct "hands on" training for our future equine veterinarians.



Dr. Rebecca Stinson, NCHC Board Member, worked with Dr. Fogle on providing castration clinics

2012 HIGHLIGHTS

1. Assisting with the search for a new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and faculty member to fill the vacant equine husbandry position.
2. The receipt of two grants from local travel and tourism offices to support the Southern Horse Festival "Cowboy Up" Event in Lumberton and the SHF Williamston Event. Two billboards were posted on major highways showcasing the events as well as the NCHC.
3. A grant for the development of environmental management practices for horse farms.
4. Caucus were held in the southeastern region and the western region to assist in developing our strategic plans for 2013.
5. The development of new marketing materials for NCHC Board Members.
6. Increased support from our NCHC Board Members.

TRAIL WARRIORS



NCHC Board Member, Tom Thomas

Many NCHC members including Deirdre Lightsey, Barb Oslund and Tom Thomas, have worked tirelessly to improve and expand our equestrian trails across the state. Projects of special note include:

1. Addition of trails in Bryan Park...big thank you to Guilford Equestrian Trails Alliance
2. Work with Rutherford Outdoor Coalition Equestrian Division on developing a private equestrian trail system
3. Continued work with Back County Horsemen of North Carolina, specifically the Pisgah, Uwharrie and Blue Ridge Chapters
4. Trail negotiations with groups including Ravens Rock State Park and Union County Parks and Recreation,
5. Continued work with the Friends of Hill Forest
6. Support of the Elkin Valley Trails Association and the NC Rails to Trails Conservancy in planning and developing a regional trail system
7. Leadership on State Parks Bicycle/Equestrian Committee to develop state strategic plan
8. Negotiations to open new trails including Carriage Trails on McCain Tract owned by the NCDA&CS
9. Support of the Walthour-Moss Foundation opposing U.S. Highway 1 bypass through this historic equine property



SOUTHERN HORSE FESTIVAL GROWS

The Southern Horse Festival (SHF) was expanded to two locations in 2012. A new "Cowboy Up" SHF was held in Lumberton, NC with all profits being donated to the NCHC Foundation for the Stall Development project at the Southeastern Agricultural Event Center. The event hosted over 500 horses who participated in barrel racing, ranch sorting,

roping and a trail challenge.

The SHF in Williamston expanded the event to become an Eastern North Carolina Horse Festival. A new Miss Southern Horse Festival contest was held and the newly crowned Queen will represent the NCHC at multiple events during 2013. Also added were dressage clinics, training and riding demonstrations, a

"Dancin' in the Dirt", parade of Veterans, a "No-Bling" NCQHA All Amateur Show and an all breed show. Over \$20,000 in prizes were awarded with every first place winner receiving a specially designed belt buckle.

The proceeds from this show benefit all horsemen across North Carolina.



Barrel Racing joined the line up of events at the Southern Horse Festival

FORGING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

New partners joined the NCHC this year to assist in expanding the equine industry. A special thanks goes to Rose Cushing, Editor of *Carolina Hoofbeats Magazine*, for working in conjunction with the Council to develop and grow our Southern Horse Festival. The Border Belt Horsemen's Association joined the NCHC in promoting the Stall Donor Program at the

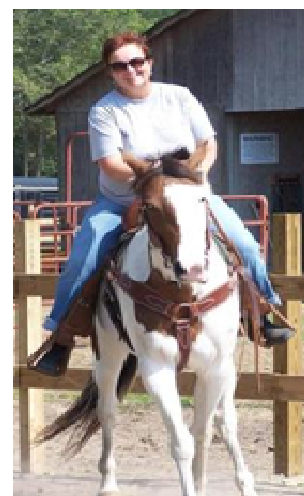
Southeastern Ag Center.

The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provided increased support with assistance from their Marketing Division in producing promotional materials. Special thanks to Tom Slade and all his staff!

Other new partners included: American Horsemen's Chal-

lenge; Jerry King, Cutting Horses; Brock and Leisha Griffith Training; Jackie Turnbull, Great American Trail Horse Sale; Mary Jordan Miller, Winner of America's Favorite Trail Horse Challenge; and Tom Seay, of Best of America By Horseback.

The Golden Corral Buffet and Catering of Lumberton joined us as a new corporate sponsor. Thank you Dalton Stocks and Amanda and Tom Marks for your continued support!



Rose Cushing, Editor, *Carolina Hoofbeats Magazine*, NCHC Board Member and Chairperson of the Marketing Committee

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YOUR EQUINE PLATE TODAY! GO TO
WWW.NCHORSECOUNCIL.COM AND
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**SUPPORT
NORTH CAROLINA
HORSES**

Your purchase of the North Carolina Horse Council plate promotes:

- A Thriving Horse Industry
- A United Voice for all Horsemen
- Protection of Horses at Risk

NORTH CAROLINA HORSE COUNCIL

www.nchorsecouncil.com

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

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List your Business on the Equine Directory
Buy your Equine Gifts from the NCHC Store
Ask others to come Join the HERD



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