



Annual Report 2017

"Working together...Stronger than Ever"

North Carolina Horse Council

Tel 919.854.1900
Fax 919.854.1989

4904 Waters Edge Drive Suite 290
Raleigh, NC 27606

www.nchorsecouncil.com
suegray@nchorsecouncil.com

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“We appreciate all horsemen and women across the state who help us grow a strong equine community.”

*Tom Thomas,
President*



“Nothing would get done if we didn’t work together. The Horse Council truly represents all aspects of the industry.”

*Rose Cushing,
Secretary*



To Our Members

Strategic Highlights

- Horse owners across the state overwhelmingly pass the horse promotion act
- A new NC Youth Horse Council was formed
- Increased Grants in all award categories
- The NCHC sponsored the NCSU-CVM Health Symposium, NC Agricultural Awareness Day at the State Legislature, US Animal Health Association Meeting, The Coalition of State Horse Councils June and Fall Meeting and the FFA Equine Program
- Continued activity with Wildlife Resource Commission and Outdoor Cultural Resource Board to increase public access to equine trails and create new trails
- Reviewed and developed new strategic plan
- Held multiple special events including the Trail Challenge and a Hunter Pace

Financial Highlights

- Began new \$4 a ton collection in July
- The budget projection on the sale of the new NC Equine License Plate was met
- A new warning sign was added to our NCHC Store

Legislative Highlights

Successfully passed the 2017 Legislative Agenda which included an improved impoundment procedure for horses abandoned at Boarding Facilities. In addition, grazing fees were approved as qualified income towards present use value taxation requirements. Equine therapy and rescue facilities were also classified as exempt from the state building codes.

Looking Ahead

We will be working on improved coding for workers compensation, increased access to farm liability insurance, and adding equine to all existing legislation regarding improved access to public land. “Come Join the Herd”.

Sue M. Gray
Executive Director
2017

Several of our youth founding members came together to promote the new council in the southeastern part of the state. Over 1400 youth from multiple counties stopped by to find out what it was all about and fill out an informational survey. High Five to all our founding youth members!”



Our founding youth members promoting the new NCYHC

NCHC Board of Directors

North Carolina Youth Horse Council

The goal of the new Youth Horse Council is to provide leadership and resources that will serve and promote youth and their involvement with the equine industry. Their motto is From Youth, To Youth, bringing our voice to the equine industry.

The vision of the North Carolina Youth Horse Council will be a visible and connecting force in a vibrant and growing youth equine industry. The NCYHC will strive to support the youth equine industry with factual and quality educational materials, and to engage all breeds and disciplines within the industry. The NCYHC will seek to illustrate the value of the human-horse experience. Through these objectives the NCYHC believes that the youth equine industry will grow both numerically and monetarily as educated and committed participants enjoy the benefits of equine activities.

Overall Goals:

- Provide opportunities for networking and cooperation among adult and youth leaders in the equine industry
- Grow and engage our membership
- Validate the measurable impact of equine experiences on youth
- Compile, develop and distribute high-quality educational resources
- Become a more visible presence in the equine community and increase public awareness
- Maintain and improve the future stability of the industry
- Suggest solutions to improving youth involvement with horses

The intended impact:

- Insure access to educational materials including: A NC Horse Industry Handbook, NC Safety Manual and Potential Careers Information
- Research, survey and qualify the impact of equine experiences on youth
- Host annual summit – a unique event facilitating education and shared experiences, including showcasing youth equine service projects
- Provide Grant funding for annual youth and youth leader equine programs

Special Events



Extreme Trail Horse Challenge

This was the fifth year of the Trail Horse Challenge. The NCHC initially began this series to help promote the trail horse. Since the inception of the series, multiple groups across the state have picked it up and are conducting trail events.

The NCHC wishes to thank all of our wonderful volunteer judges, trail hosts and sponsors!

Hunter Pace

The NCHC partnered with Eastern North Carolina Trail Riders Association and Carolina Hoofbeats TV to conduct a Hunter Pace to benefit equestrian trails in Howell Woods. This activity generated \$5000. The NCHC wishes to thank Julie Congleton and Ann Donaldson for all of their efforts in making this event such a huge success.

North Carolina State Fair

The NCHC participated in the NC State Fair but in a limited capacity. The NCHC remains committed to assisting the NCDA&CS in identifying ways to highlight the horse industry during this largest agricultural event in the State.

Other Special Events

The North Carolina Horse Council would like to give a special thank you to Rose Cushing and Cushing Media for providing multiple opportunities for the NCHC to be highlighted.

“Thanks to local horse owners for helping build new trails at Mason Pointe”



Barb Oslund, Trails Consultant, NCHC

“We must preserve and protect our historic right to ride. Working together with other trail groups improves are success!”



Sue Gray, Executive Director, NCHC

Trail Report

Mason Pointe

The NCHC focused most of our attention on the horse trail opportunity on a portion of gameland near Jordan Lake at the Chatham/Durham County line which will be at least 11 miles in length. We have permission from WRC to complete the trail in two approximate 5.5 mile loops, and will first focus on completion of the upper loop. We are aiming to have the project completed in 2018.

The Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Association (JLTCA), a non-profit that was formed nearly 15 years ago to support a horse trail project that never came to fruition, has been resurrected. This group is open to all and will have a key role in maintaining the trail. They have a Facebook page (search JLTCA) and are maintaining an email distribution list. The information is also posted on the NCHC Facebook page. If anyone is interested in finding out more, contact kate.e.heim@gmail.com or BLOQResources@gmail.com or the NCHC office.

The importance of this project cannot be over-emphasized, as this is the first collaborative effort between the NCHC and the WRC, along with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and it is in a part of NC where private and public trail riding opportunities are scarce. The success (or failure) of this project will set a precedent for future gameland access.

In order for this project to be a success, it is important for trail riders to understand that this effort does not mean open access to the entire Jordan Lake (or any other) gamelands; the trail is NOT yet approved or open for riding; and, respect for the limitations set by WRC will be critical. Trail use will be subject to some limitations that respect the active hunting seasons, and riding access will only be on the constructed trail in this section of gamelands.

New Trail Opportunity

We are also working with the WRC on the preliminary planning for another potential trail project in Beaufort County that would have nearly 15 miles of trail shared with retriever training activities and competition trials (similar to H. Cooper Black in SC). We are very excited about these new trail opportunities in partnership with the WRC. This trail would be on the old Voice of America property.

More Trail News

- Deirdre Lightsey has represented NCHC in the Pisgah Nantahala planning process.
- The NCHC has provided feedback to NC State Parks for new horse trail planning on recently acquired property adjacent to Hanging Rock.
- The NCHC continues to represent equine interests on the Falls Lake Watershed Oversight Committee and the State Trails Committee



Legislative Actions

North Carolina Farm Act

This bill included three major sections for horse owners including changes related to the impoundment of equines, further clarification of income sources eligible for Present Use Value taxation and clarification of exemptions from the state building code for equine therapeutic riding facilities.

First, the statute was expanded to give boarding facilities and others who are custodians of Horses certain rights in the event the horse's owner is not known or fails to pay the custodian for goods or services provided to the horse. In summary, North Carolina General Statute §68-17 has been amended to provide that custodians of livestock (including equines) are able to sell, transfer or humanely dispose of livestock abandoned at the custodian's facility for more than two months without boarding fees being paid PROVIDED that (a) the custodian has given the livestock's owner advance written notice of the stable's rights under this statute; AND (b) the custodian has made reasonable attempts to collect any past-due fees during the two-month period.

Second, the statute was expanded to further clarify what income can be used to qualify for Present Use Value taxation. Many horse farms were being denied present use value based on not meeting the \$1000 required income. Income from boarding and training fees were not acceptable under the current law. The new clarification offers an additional source of eligible income from a grazing fee. All boarding fees should include an identifiable grazing fee to be eligible under this new clarification.

The third amendment impacting horses was to define therapeutic equine facilities and to clarify that certain farm buildings related to their facility were indeed exempt from the state building code.

Outdoor Cultural Resource Board

New properties are being identified for equine use. This includes the potential for equestrian trails on the Voice of America Property in Eastern North Carolina. The OCR Board is working hard to be inclusive and expose young people to our outdoor activities. Plans are underway to identify full time staff to continue working with the Board.

The NCHC wishes to thank our lobbyists, John Cooper and Jackson Stancil for a successful 2017.

Grants and Sponsorships

Grants are a major function of the NCHC and this year we awarded dollars in all grant categories



Special grant recognition for our youth groups included the FFA Horse Judging Competition



Gelding Grant to the CVM



4- H Grant for the Eastern Regional Competition

Grants remain one of the most critical functions of the North Carolina Horse Council. During 2017 we supported youth development programs such as Horsemen's Youth Day at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The NCHC provided dollars to support an Equine Health Symposium which was open to not only equine professionals but also equine owners and participated in the Veterinary School Open House. The NCHC also funded the Eastern Regional 4-H Conference during 2017 and the FFA Horse Judging Competition.

On-going trail grants were extended into 2017. A grant was awarded to The Back Country Horsemen of Pisgah to build the Wolf Ford Horse Camp Containment System.

Two major Health and Research Grants were funded. The first was a continuation grant to study the effect of dietary restriction or low-intensity exercise on weight loss in over conditioned horses. Obesity and related conditions such as laminitis and Equine Metabolic Syndrome are significant problems in the horse industry, with high rates of mortality and morbidity. The second was awarded to Dr. Schnabel to study the Generation of Fluorescent Equine Mesenchymal Stem Cells for in Vivo. This cutting-edge work will continue to place our College of Veterinary Medicine as one of the best in the country.

Other Grants awarded included four Youth Scholarships, two Gelding Vouchers, two Safety Net grants and three additional Educational Grants. The educational grants were awarded to the Halifax County Cooperative Extension Service, Michelle McLaughlin for the NC Horse Show Awards Program and the Chestnut Ridge Camp and Retreat for the Horses and You (HAY) program.

The North Carolina Horse Council also supported our industry through multiple sponsorships this year including, the NC Department of Agriculture Ag Awareness Day at the NC General Assembly, the US Animal Health Association Meeting, the American Horse Council June Meeting, the Coalition of State Horse Councils Fall Meeting and the FFA Career Development Events/Proficiency Awards. For the first time, the NCHC joined the Ag Alliance of NC. This group will further our common interest in Agriculture. The NCHC Board of Directors looks forward to expanding our involvement with other equine associations across the state.

NCHC Officers

2017 Elected Board Members

Allan Harper
Allison Gay
Casey Armstrong
Cindy Fritz
Clara Cahoon
Dottie Burch
Doug Tate
Gayle Nifong
Jerry King
Jim Thomas
Laurie Wood
Mary Constantino
Mary Myers
Michael Boucher
Myra Daniel
Nancy Ferguson
Nathan Tabor
Pat Benton
Patty Nunnery
Randy Ratliff
Rick Peniston
Sammy Jenkins
Todd Erickson
Tom Thomas
Tracey Scheltinga
Virginia Godwin

Administrative Staff

Cheryl Bennett



Tom Thomas
President
Tel 919.854.1990
Fax 919.854.1989
Tthomas262@yahoo.com



Tom Bennett
Treasurer
Tel 919.854.1990
Fax 919.854.1989
Tbenn23@bellsouth.net



Bob Sanford
Vice President
Tel 919.854.1990
Fax 919.854.1989
rwsan@outlook.com



Rose Cushing
Secretary
Tel 919.854.1990
Fax 919.854.1989
rose@southeasthoofbeats.com

NCHC Information

North Carolina Horse Council

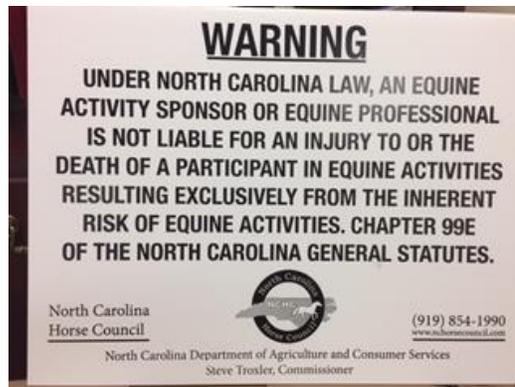
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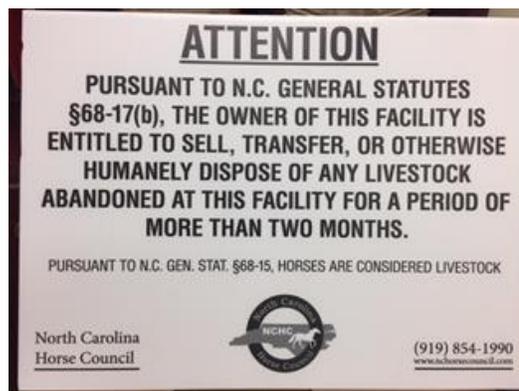
Sue Gray
Executive Director
Tel 919.854.1990
Fax 919.854.1989
suegray@nchorsecouncil.com

Important Information for all Horse Owners

If you own horses and they are located on your property, you should post the following sign in multiple locations:



If you board horses on your property you may wish to post the following sign on your property and include this information in your boarding agreements.



These signs are available to NCHC members at a discount and can be purchased on-line at www.nchorsecouncil.com