



# The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

## Competitors Ready to Shine at Morris the Horse Trials

— PAGE 3



PHOTO: LIZ CRAWLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

TR&HC Board Member Beth Perkins at 2020 Horse Trials.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 | Upcoming Events
- 6 | Pony Club
- 10 | Saddle Fitting 101

- 11 | Tryon Hounds
- 15 | Divertimentos & Dressage
- 17 | Gordon Wright Remembered



5 | Any & All Dog Show



7 | Young Rider Profile



12 | Charity II Show



21 | Horse Country Happenings

# Reflections on a Great Year

## TR&HC BOARD PRESIDENT: Terry Lynch



This will be my last column in the Quarterly as my term as President concludes at the end of the year. It has been an eventful three years leading this amazing, historic organization, preceded by two years on the Board. On our website, we list all the Club presidents dating back to Carter Brown in 1925 and it is humbling to try to follow in his and many other important individuals' footsteps.

I attempted to guide the Club along three pillars. The first is Tradition, as we have endeavored to sustain our classic events. This year we successfully ran (or will run) the 73rd Block House, 93rd Charity Horse Show, 46th Horse Trials, and 88th Any and All Dog Show. We even brought back the Horse & Hound Show, first run in 1926.

The second pillar is Philanthropy and community support. The Club has given back over \$50,000 in each of the past 3 years to various equestrian and community organizations, namely FENCE, PEER, FERA, TROT, Foothills Humane, Thermal Belt Ministries, Guiding Reins, and many more.

Lastly, we have tried to bring back the Fun. This has proven to be most difficult under the strain of COVID, but we are trying. This year, we managed the return of a pre-steeplechase Super 60's concert in Tryon's Roger's Park, and we created a new family fun Mane Event at Harmon Field. We also re-instated the Carter Brown BBQ in '18 and '19 before it became a COVID casualty in '20 and '21.

It is my sincere hope that the Club continues to move forward toward our Centennial 100th Year in 2025 with great new leadership. Please join us!

*Terry Lynch*

Terry Lynch  
President, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club

SAVE THE DATE!

## Horse Country Calendar

- October 8-10: Green Creek Hounds Performance Trials, Hoffman, NC
- October 21: An Evening of Divertimentos & Dressage, Motlow Creek Equestrian Center, Campobello, SC
- October 23-24: 46th Annual TR&HC Morris the Horse Trials, FENCE
- October 29-31: BRHJA Classic, FENCE
- October 31: Green Creek Hounds Halloween Hunter Pace
- November 7: TR&HC 88th Any and All Dog Show, Harmon Field, Tryon
- November 20: Green Creek Hounds Opening Hunt
- December 3: TR&HC Morris Wreath Hanging/Tryon Christmas Stroll
- December 7: 96th Annual TR&HC Meeting/Holiday Party
- December 8: Annual Tryon Christmas Parade, Tryon

Also visit [tryon.com/allevnts](http://tryon.com/allevnts) for a complete listing of TIEC events.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2019, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club has supported 28 local charities and nonprofit organizations with over \$95,000 in donations.

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

### Newcomer, Late Bloomer



I am one of those people who arrived to Tryon Horse Country late compared to our local legends who for decades colored this area with their own horse sense. They give us a unique legacy that is ours to nourish and keep safe and front of mind for future generations.

I am also something of a newcomer to riding. After raising a daughter—who now, as a young, working mom, continues to compete—it is my turn. Albeit late, I am working my way up the ladder to being a competent rider thanks to the overwhelming patience and knowledge of

my trainer, Gerald Pack. With the right horse, the right time, and in the right place, I am looking forward to my first fox hunt in the area!

Each morning I wake up fully appreciating where I am—in life and life-style. Working with the TR&HC, I hope to continue to add color to the area and preserve its rich heritage. And I hope to invigorate all of you who feel the same. If you ride or just love all the richness that is unique to this area, please join us. There is lots to do—horse-wise and community-wise. Just call us!

*Sybil Jones*

Sybil Jones  
TR&HC Board member & Editorial director

## SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 23RD & 24TH

# 46th Annual TR&HC Morris the Horse Trials Return with New Division and New Awards



*“The annual horse trials are an important part of the TR&HC history...”*

— TERRY LYNCH, TR&HC PRESIDENT



The TR&HC just elevated the status of their annual Horse Trials with a new division and new awards.

The new division is Prelim/Training; the new awards, courtesy of The Farm House, are Master Amateur Award for competitors over age 40 and the Junior Low Score Award. The new and improved 46th Annual Morris the Horse Trials will be held October 23-24 at FENCE.

“The annual horse trials are an important part of the TR&HC history, and we are pleased to carry on the tradition,” says Terry Lynch, TR&HC president. “This year our new Prelim/Training division allows competitors to ride the Training XC course and the Prelim dressage and show jumping tests. This new addition will be lots of fun for the competitors.”

Typically, the event attracts competitors of all ages from over 10 states with divisions ranging from Starter through Preliminary.

The trials will be held over a cross-country course designed by Greg Schlappi and a stadium jumping course designed by Robert Williamson. The club is also adding a new Adult Team Challenge: Riders can identify their own team, or ask the show secretary to place them in a team to add a spirit of camaraderie to the day.

Last year, for the first time, the event was re-named for Morris, the Town of Tryon's iconic horse. This year's competitors and volunteers will all receive Morris the horse commemorative gifts. Local sponsors include The Farm House, Lisa Seger Insurance, Land Rover and the Tryon Equine Hospital.

To register or volunteer for the upcoming horse trials, visit: [tryonridingandhuntclub.org](http://tryonridingandhuntclub.org), call (828) 351-9709, or email: [office@trhc1925.org](mailto:office@trhc1925.org).

*Last year, the event was re-named for Morris, The Town of Tryon's iconic horse.*

VOL 1 | NO 3 FALL 2021

The HorseCountry Quarterly is the official publication of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, published four times a year. Visit [TryonRidingandHuntClub.org](http://TryonRidingandHuntClub.org) and click JOIN to receive The Quarterly. Send comments, article ideas and calendar events to [SJones@sybiljonesandco.com](mailto:SJones@sybiljonesandco.com)

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### YOUNG RIDER: KENNEDY GRIFFITH

By Catherine Hunter

# Stepping Up in Short Stirrup!

On a misty Saturday morning, Kennedy Griffith's mother, Amanda Griffith, ties a bright red ribbon onto her ten-year-old daughter's braids. Kennedy's new pony, Picasso, stands next to the horse trailer, his skewbald coat polished to a high sheen. It's another show day for Kennedy and Picasso.

"Kennedy loves showing so much. When we're packing up from one show, before we can leave, she's asking when the next one is," says her grandmother, longtime TR&HC member Amy Cooke.

Cooke and Kennedy ride together and Cooke takes Kennedy and her pony to the hunter/jumper shows, including the spring TR&HC Horse and Hound Show, where Kennedy's mother and her father, Taylor Griffith, cheer her success. Kennedy trains and shows with Clearview Farm in Landrum. She also has a D2 rating with the River Valley Pony Club and loves participating in Pony Club meetings and events.

Cooke says Kennedy has learned a lot from both the Clearview instructors and through Pony Club, including how to take care of her horse herself. "She tacks up and takes care of her horse at the shows," Cooke says.

According to Kennedy, she has loved horses since she can remember. Like most girls, Kennedy started playing with model horses, graduated to a mini at age three and, at age five, started riding lessons. "Now I do everything with Picasso," she says.

Cooke loves encouraging Kennedy's passion for horses. As a middle school teacher, Cooke believes riding helps children learn goal setting, structure, responsibility and how to work hard. "Saturdays she [Kennedy] gets up at 6 a.m. to trailer from our farm in Bostic to Clearview for a lesson," Cooke says.

According to her grandmother, Kennedy isn't yet sure if she wants a career with horses. After placing in the Harmon Classics Derby Mania, her dream is to qualify for the U.S. Equestrian Federation Pony Finals in Lexington, Ky.



Kennedy Griffith placed seventh in this year's Harmon Classics Derby Mania on her former pony Logan.

Amy Cooke (left) supports her granddaughter's love for horses by helping trailer Kennedy and her pony to lessons, horse shows and Pony Club events.



Kennedy and her new large pony, Picasso, enjoy showing hunter/jumper and trail riding with her grandmother.

# 88th Annual Any & All Dog Show Set for November 7

It's almost that time of year when our beloved 4-legged companions can 'strut their stuff' at the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's (TR&HC) Any and All Dog Show (AADS). No pedigree required, just a loving family member at the other end of the leash. Registration for this just-for-fun show is set for noon, Sunday, Nov. 7, at Harmon Field's basketball pavilion. Admission is free and all dogs welcome — big or small, young or old.

"This year's show is dedicated to the memory of Drew Brannon, who served the community and TR&HC in many capacities including past



president and as Chair of the AADS," says Karl Alexander TR&HC board member and this year's Committee Chair. "Drew believed activities such as the AADS would provide an easy way for people in the Tryon area to engage in community events which foster new friendships. This dog show was one of his very special and favorite events."

The show has a proven track record of family fun bringing big smiles to everyone. Participants have many classes to choose from for children and adults and it is easy to find the most suitable class to enter. Ribbons will be awarded to winners in each class.

To help participants prepare for the show, the following is a list for which ribbons will be awarded:

- Biggest and Smallest
- Best Trick
- Best Costume
- Dog That Would Rather Be at Home on the Sofa
- Dog That Looks Most Like Its Owner

The Any & All Dog Show will showcase the DareDevil Dogs from Lincolnton, N.C. who will perform a thrilling stunt show! There will also be food trucks and face painters on site.

Classes are \$1 each with proceeds going to charities. Registration starts at 12 pm at Harmon Field. Call the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club at 828-351-9709 for more information.




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PNY CLUB

By Catherine Hunter

# More than Just Riding



Members of the River Valley Pony Club gather for games practice.

Pony Club is about so much more than just riding, said River Valley Pony Club District Commissioner, Louise Palmer. "It's about camaraderie, building a team and working together," she says.

This year club members enjoyed many fun and successful events, such as sending two members to the Pony Club Festival in Lexington, Ky., swimming horses in the lake and going tubing.

While most pony club activities do involve horses, Palmer believes it's important to include non-riding activities, such as the August tubing trip. She believes such group activities help build teamwork and friendships.

"I still call on friends I met as a child in Pony Club," she says.

Pony Club has changed a lot since Palmer was young. Today's education, activities and competitions have expanded to include polo cross, tet-rathlon, even Western dressage and Western trail. Today there is no age limit for membership and the adults ride alongside the younger members.

Founded in 1992, River Valley Pony Club has members from the Asheville area, upstate South Carolina and, of course the foothills. They meet at least twice a month, sometimes more. In addition to fun and games, meetings include both mounted and dismounted educational clinics and events.

Palmer says River Valley educational clinics and meetings include all aspects of horsemanship from nutrition to jumping and foxhunting. Club members also work hard to raise money so most of the activities are free, or very little cost to the members.

*The club invites anyone interested in joining or volunteering to visit a meeting or activity. For more information call 772-678-8063, email [rivervalleyponyclub@gmail.com](mailto:rivervalleyponyclub@gmail.com) or visit [www.rivervalleypc.com](http://www.rivervalleypc.com).*



Hazel Wade reaches for a flag while practicing the flag race at River Valley Pony Club's August games practice.



Harry palmer (left) watches as Mimi Whiteman Bacon navigates the buckets used for steppingstones in games practice.



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INTERVIEW: BETTY OARE

# Up Close with a Hunter Legend

If you are steeped in hunter world, you know the iconic Betty Oare. Her storied history of riding and competing spans decades. Her inspirational show career has taken her to major competitions up and down the east coast. Her engaging personality and enthusiasm are infectious, and her love of horses and people propels her into the hearts and lives of all whom she touches.

Betty's family operated a show and fox hunting stable in Tryon in the 1950s. She started off riding pleasure ponies at age 5 and began showing and fox hunting when she was 13. Betty attended Tryon Elementary and remembers getting out of school early on Wednesdays to go to the afternoon show at Harmon Field.

In late August, she answered a few questions for us about her life in the fast lane of the hunter world:

**Q: Who has had the most influence on your riding career?**

**A:** My Dad and brother Bucky. I was privileged to learn things the right way. Dad started me out and Bucky continued it. Dad was in the horse business, and he was great about setting me up with some excellent horsemen like Gordon Wright.

**Q: What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

**A:** Boy, that's a tough one. I've been very fortunate to have some nice horses and have some good luck in the ring. At Blowing Rock this year, Ashley Hodges and Vicky Autry presented me the Toltec Award for sportsmanship. It was a huge surprise and very special to me! Horses have given me such a good life and great friends!

**Q: Who are your favorite horses you have owned and ridden?**

**A:** Navy Commander was an amazingly brave Thoroughbred. Red Frazier found him for us, and I initially got to ride him because he had a sensitive back and I was lighter than Buckey. I showed him in the 1st Grand Prix in the country. He loved Madison Square Garden and always did great there. Now I have a horse named Sidenote whom I love. We started out in the hunt field and just showed him a little, but he started getting better and better in the ring. He's never going to hunt again. I'm so lucky to have him!



got tired of me, he would just head back to the barn and dump me! One day we were out on cross country and we came to a creek. He put his head down to drink and I dropped the reins. Everyone was just standing there watching as Smokey refused to lift his head and my reins just floated in the water!

**Q: What is your most embarrassing moment?**

**A:** There are so many! When you ride horses, you have to just move on and learn from your mistakes. I do remember a time when I was a kid and we lived in Tryon. Every day after school we rode cross country out in old Tryon hunting country. I had a pony named Smokey and usually, when he



**Q: What is something you miss about the old horse shows?**

**A:** We always showed on outside courses, and I loved that. You really got to gallop around at a good pace just like out in the hunt field. Most of Dad's horses hunted, but Dad was great about keeping some mares out of the field so I could horse show.

**Q: What about the current shows – what do you like?**

**A:** I love the shows today – we are so lucky to have very good course designers, plus the shows are better organized and the stabling is good. The footing is usually great too. Most people won't return if the footing isn't good, but of course, that adds to the cost. I hope that the shows don't become so expensive that people can't afford it.

**Q: What is your favorite childhood memory?**

**A:** We used to have the Virginia Horse Show Association Medal Class. It was their main equitation class and it had 3 phases: over fences, under saddle and written. The first year it was held at Washington International I won it and was interviewed by *Sports Illustrated*. It was a very exciting experience!

**Q: What characteristics do you look for in a horse?**

**A:** I love a horse with a good mind, but I also want a good mover that is comfortable to ride. The first time I ever tried Estrella I knew she was special. When she started trotting, I realized that she was a very athletic mover. She also had the mind to go with it and she was brave. Back then (20 years ago), she won everything.

**Q: You are an inspiration to so many amateurs. What has allowed you to stay in the game so long? Do you have any advice for us?**

**A:** Except for having children and having some broken bones, I've been fortunate to keep riding consistently. I have always just loved it. For me, it has never been a chore. I didn't show as a child – that came much later. In fact, my first show was the TR&HC Junior show. All the shops closed on Wednesday afternoons, and we went to the show. The trophies were engraved soup cans – in fact, I still have one on my mantle! So I just grew up loving horses and riding and was interested in everything surrounding that. That hasn't changed so that is why I still do it. I love the horses and the life they've provided for me.

## Saddle Fitting 101

# Poor Saddle Fit Problematic for Horse and Rider

"An ill-fitting saddle can cause long term permanent damage" says saddle fitter Louise Palmer. According to Palmer, a poorly fitting saddle can cause poor performance, poor muscle development, spinal misalignment, muscle atrophy, even kissing spine and permanent lameness in horses.

Palmer, who is originally from Wales, trained for six months with Mike Scott in Camden, S.C. She then invested more than 400 hours interning with Scott as well as other qualified saddle fitters throughout the entire USA, at a time when there was no other independent fitters in Florida. She moved to Columbus from Florida in 2020.

"I was fully qualified [as a saddle fitter] in 2010," says Palmer who is also an equine massage therapist and studied equine biomechanics

and kinesiology (study of the mechanics of body movements).

As an independent saddle fitter, Palmer maintains that her role is not just about fitting a saddle to the horse; "It's about educating people about saddle fit," she says.

**"It's about having a happy horse and a happy rider."**

Unlike many saddle fitters who sell a particular brand of saddle, Palmer works independently. "It doesn't matter if a saddle costs five hundred or five thousand dollars. It's not about the money," she says. "It's about having a happy horse and a happy rider."

Palmer doesn't just look at the saddle sitting on the horse. She looks at the horse's movement with a rider, after the horse is warmed up and starts to swing through its back. "Statically it [the saddle] can look good," Palmer says. "Dynamically you can really see what's going on."

Horses with an ill-fitting saddle will often put their ears back, paw or try to bite when being saddled, won't stand still for mounting, be reluctant to move forward or will flinch to gentle pressure on their back. Serious cases, or very sensitive horses might even start bucking or rearing.

For more information call or text Palmer at (772) 678-8063 or email her at [louise@palmerequine.com](mailto:louise@palmerequine.com) or Facebook at [facebook.com/louisepalmersaddlesandartist](https://www.facebook.com/louisepalmersaddlesandartist).



**FIRST —** Check the saddle panel to ensure shoulder clearance and tightness and correct tree size.



**SECOND —** Check the pommel clearance to be certain the saddle will not pinch the horse's withers or spine.



**THEN —** Check a saddle for bridging: check to see if the saddle has the correct contour for the horse and check for any unevenness between the saddle and the horse's back.



**FINALLY —** Check to be certain a saddle balances from front to back, ensuring no rocking or shifting.

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## Joanne Gibbs Appointed to TR&HC Board

The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club has appointed Joanne Gibbs of Columbus, N.C., to its Board of Directors. Gibbs fills the open position created by Leigh Borreson, who recently left the Board after being appointed TR&HC executive director.



Joanne on Ivan

Gibbs is a dedicated equestrian who has been riding and showing throughout her life. “As a rider, I feel it is our responsibility to not only keep the rich history of this area alive, but also to work to grow our sport through promotion and increased awareness,” says Gibbs. “With my lifelong familiarity with hunters and jumpers, my corporate background in international business and my previous board experience, I believe I can make a valuable contribution to the active pursuit of these goals.”

A native of Minnesota, before coming to Tryon, Gibbs was a member of the Minnesota Hunter-Jumper Association and a member of United Way-Minnesota. Currently, Gibbs works for the Syngenta Group, Greensboro, N.C., and Minneapolis, Minn., in international Business Operations. Previously, she worked in Syngenta’s Global Trade Compliance and Finance departments.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Horses can understand and interpret human emotions. A Universities of Sussex and Portsmouth study found that horses read human facial expressions and remember a person’s previous emotional state, adapting their behavior accordingly.

## New and Much Needed Equine Ambulance Hits the Road



It may not be a brand new ambulance, but it is new to us,” says Dianne Joyce, Executive Director, Polk Equine Emergency Rescue (PEER), the non-profit which provides the only large animal rescue not only for Polk County, but the entire area. The 2019 Ford, F250 gas, four-wheel drive with full 4 door crew cab replaces their old not-so-dependable diesel truck.

“As PEER has grown as an organization, so has our need for top-of-the-line equipment to help us best serve the large animals we rescue,” says Joyce. “We owe so much to Stephanie Easler of Bryan Easler Toyota. When she heard we were looking for a new truck, she not only helped us find the perfect one, but she very generously chose to sponsor us as well. We are proud to partner with Stephanie and are infinitely grateful to her and Bryan Easler Toyota!”

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## TRYON HOUNDS: STEEPED IN TRADITION

Fall is not only leaf season, it’s a time when the foothills echo to the musical notes of Penn-Marydel foxhounds. These sweet, talented, colorful foxhounds are the favorite of Tryon Hounds—one of three recognized hunts in the area.

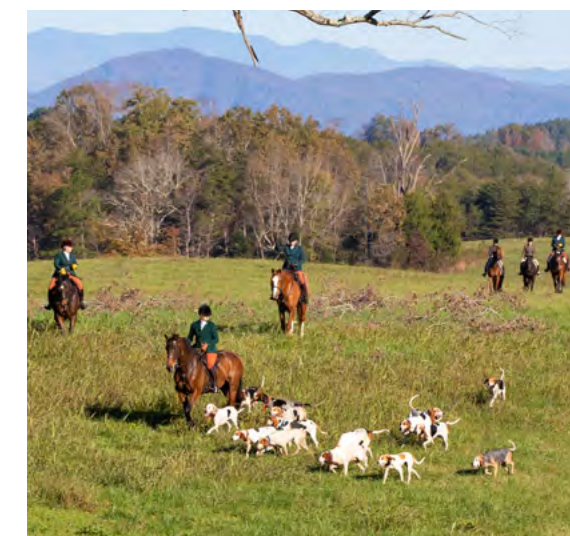
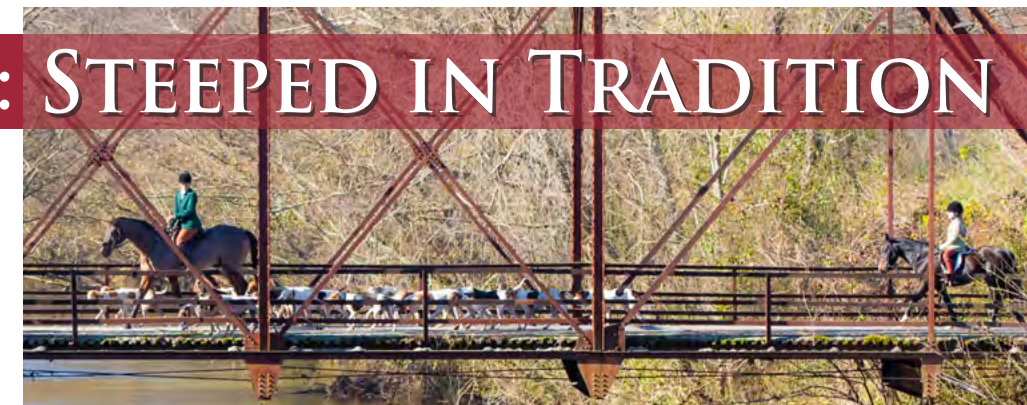
Steeped in tradition, Tryon Hounds was founded by Carter Brown and recognized in 1926.

“Tradition is vital to the sport,” says Joint Master Bonnie Lingerfelt, who has been with the hunt since the 1970s, and has been a master since 1994. “For example, it’s important to have the correct tack for the safety of the rider and the horse.”

Also worthy of note, Tryon Hounds are one of the first hunts to have a female huntsman. Lingerfelt said Huntsman Beth Blackwell has a true ability to connect with the hounds.

While foxhunting is about riding to hounds, Lingerfelt says they also have many non-riding members who enjoy the breakfasts, the Tryon Hounds Horse Show, serving as road whips, the blessing of the hounds and the annual hunt ball. The hunt also has three separate flights to accommodate riders and horses of different abilities.

Pre-season hunting begins in September and opening hunt is traditionally on Thanksgiving Day. For more information visit [www.tryonhounds.com](http://www.tryonhounds.com) or contact the hunt secretary, Roberta McKinney at 864-580-9457, [robertamckinney10@gmail.com](mailto:robertamckinney10@gmail.com).



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## 2021 TR&HC CHARITY II HORSE SHOW

### Record Numbers of Horses and Riders Compete

The culmination of five full days of stiff competition at the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's Charity II Horse show held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center early July was when winners were awarded the Club's grand championship trophies. The Club awarded nine trophies at the event.

The sold-out event brought approximately 1,000 horses and riders from across the country. Adding to the excitement, TIEC hosted the \$137,000 Grand Prix Saturday night attracting top riders from all over the world. "We are into our 6th year of sponsoring and hosting the Charity shows with TIEC, each year the partnership has become stronger," says Angie Millon, TR&HC vice president and show chairman, who also competed at the event. "We try hard to keep the small-town warmth, hospitality and sense of community that the TR&HC shows are known for. The TIEC team manages this huge multi-ring five-day horse show seamlessly."

Millon points out the enormous changes since the TR&HC held its first horse show at Harmon Field back in the 1920s when it was a one-day one-ring event. "Horse showing is now a multi-million-dollar industry. Thanks to our partnership with TIEC, TR&HC's A-rated shows can thrive and continue to grow and improve and continue to positively impact on our local economy."

In addition to the competition, TR&HC sponsored a Thursday evening, open to the public "meet and greet" with hunter rider superstars Liza Towell Boyd and Havens Schatt, and Jack Towell, head trainer at Finally Farm in Camden. They discussed how to produce top international derby horses and fielded questions from the engaged audience for over an hour. Attendees took what they had learned straight to the ring as several competed in the three derbies over the following days - a \$50,000 International Hunter Derby, a \$5,000 National Derby, and a \$10,000 Pony Hunter Derby.



\$50,000 International Hunter Derby winner Harold Chopping on Catchphrase.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTFOT



Grand Pony Hunter Champion Elle Boyd on Baby Blue awarded the Brownland's Graduation Day Perpetual Trophy.

### 2021 TR&HC CHARITY 2 PERPETUAL TROPHY WINNERS

- Grand Prix Trophy**  
2021 Hilton Van de Breepoel & Brittnei Raflowitz
- Eleanor Moffit Trophy**  
(Grand Junior Hunter)  
2021 Attaboy & Elle Gibbs
- Holmberg Trophy** (Grand Green Hunter)  
2021 Private Conversation & Erica Quinn

- Stoney Knoll Trophy**  
(Grand Child/Adult Jumper)  
2021 Sekhmet de Keralys & Kaitlyn Kiely
- Laughin Place Trophy** (Grand A/O Hunter Ch)  
2021 Willie & Sheila Motley
- Brownlands Graduation Day**  
(Grand Pony Hunter) 2021 Baby Blue & Elle Boyd

- Penny Ante Trophy** (Grand Children's Hunter)  
2021 Carentino B & Kendall Blabey
- Will Do Trophy** (Grand Adult Amateur Hunter)  
2021 Contara & Hannah Toohey
- Barbara Jimenez Trophy**  
(Highpoint Adult Hunter from Charity 1 and 2)  
2021 Tantara & Susan Reynolds

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Tryon Horse Country! This is an impressive tract consisting of 72.06 acres and lies exceptionally well. It has breathtaking mountain views. Approximately 62 acres is in pasture with the balance pines and hardwoods. Located in the FETA Trail system area, 8 miles to Tryon International Equestrian Center and a short drive to the horse show venues of FENCE and Harmon Field. No Tract of land in the area is any nicer or has more possibilities than this one. It is about 45 minutes to both the Greenville Spartanburg and Asheville Airports and approx. an hour and a half to the Charlotte Airport. This estate quality tract would make a great horse farm or farms.



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# An Evening of *Divertimentos & Dressage* Returns



PHOTO: RBMPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

After resounding support from the first annual *Divertimentos & Dressage* in October 2019, the Brooke USA Foothills Regional Advisory Council is thrilled to announce that this signature fundraiser is returning to the Motlow Creek Equestrian Center in Campobello, SC, on Thursday, October 21, 2021. The live symphony orchestra will play classical pieces to the choreographed movements of dressage riders and their horses.

"I see riding horses as art, as well as sport. The experience of live orchestral music with musical freestyle dressage is simply captivating, mesmerizing and unlike any other artistic or

athletic endeavor," said Sally Frick, equestrian and flutist for the Spartanburg Philharmonic and other area chamber ensembles.

The Dressage musical freestyle will feature FEI Grand Prix and Brooke USA Foundation Ambassador Jessica Jo (JJ) Tate and Jessica Davis, Ashley Perkins, Trayce Doubek, Tazma Toi Trent and Julio Mendoza to orchestral repertoire that includes works by Vivaldi, Janacek, Bach, Copland, Puccini Rossini and more.

*Divertimentos & Dressage* is an exciting event that supports the life-saving work of Brooke USA, as well as the continuing and expanding programs of the Spartanburg Philharmonic.

Brooke USA strives to alleviate the suffering of working horses, donkeys and mules, and the people they serve in vulnerable communities. The Spartanburg Philharmonic enriches, inspires, and educates the public through live performances of high-quality music.

Starting with registration at 6:00 p.m., guests will enjoy a pre-performance reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. At 7:00 p.m., guests will be treated to a one-hour performance. Individual tickets are \$65 per person.



To purchase individual tickets or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please visit [BrookeUSAevents.org](http://BrookeUSAevents.org).

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## GORDON WRIGHT, 1903-1990

# The Legend Who Lives On

If there is a single person whose name keeps recurring in every issue of *HCQ*, it's Gordon Wright.

Wright left his mark on the lives of so many illustrious, talented horsemen of today both locally and nationally. Just another piece of our rich equestrian history.

Gordon Wright, born in Goshen, Utah in 1903, started his horse career as a cowpuncher and rodeo rider, gaining attention in rodeo and carnival circles by standing up riding two horses at a time, Roman style. In the early 1920s, he joined the Cavalry. Then in 1927, he came east working to build his business in White Plains, N.Y.

When WWII broke out, he reenlisted in the Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan., until the post commandant received a letter from one of his old polo-playing pals, Gen. George Patton. "Next time I hear from you," Patton wrote, "Wright better be an officer."

Almost immediately, Wright became a second lieutenant representing the United States in international riding competitions, the last cavalry officer to do so. After the war, he helped estab-

**"Every time you ride, you're either teaching or un-teaching your horse."**

—GORDON WRIGHT

lish the United States Equestrian Team.

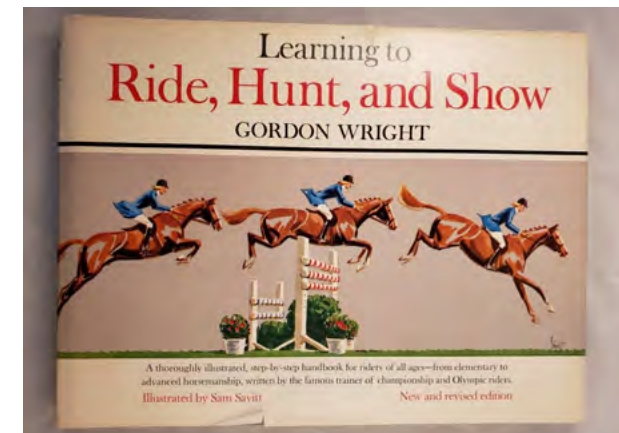
For over 40 years, Wright

ran shows, trained hundreds of horses and riders and earned recognition for his own talents. Wright's greatest contribution was as teacher and clinician. His students are among the who's who in the horse world, including Archie and Hugh Dean, Bill Steinkraus, Victor Hugo-Vidal, George Morris and our own Gerald and Betsy Pack, Jeanne Smith and Betty Oare.

He authored seven books including *Learning to Ride, Hunt, and Show* which was first published in 1950.

Wright was the founder of the forward-seat style of riding and the American system of teaching, which is one of the country's greatest strengths as an equestrian nation and perhaps its greatest contribution to the international riding community.

Living in Landrum, he died at the age of 87 in 1990 in a nursing home in Tryon. He was universally acclaimed as one of the most influential horsemen of his generation.



Gordon's book: A basic primer for all riders.



George Morris, Anne Aspinall and Gordon present the trophy to Karen McKelvy, winner of the 1982 "Gordon Wright Cup" – Class 138, Equitation Classic of the Hamptons.

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GETTING READY FOR FALL

# Economically Balancing Nutritional Requirements of Hay

by Cassie & Chris LeMaster



Cassie LeMaster, Polk County Equine, Livestock and Forage Extension Agent, and Chris LeMaster, Agent—Clemson University/Cooperative Extension Livestock and Forage Extension

Fall is a great time to identify and source your hay supply for the coming winter months. As with any industry, this past year has seen an extreme rise in input costs and difficulty sourcing materials and labor. I would not be surprised to see this reflected locally in hay prices and availability. When we discuss hay selection, we are often asked, "what is the best hay to feed my horses?" Really, the best hay is the one that meets your horse's requirements at the most economical price.

Hay quality can be a little ambiguous among consumers and producers, as it can refer to animal performance, chemical analysis, or its physical attributes. We begin to assess quality by using our senses when we check for the presence of weeds, mold, and color. In fact, your eyes can help evaluate the most critical factor affecting forage quality – maturity - by looking for seed heads, stems, and leaves. Often, we find that a mid-mature to mature cool-season hay (tall fescue, orchard grass, and timothy) will meet the needs of most mature horses; however, there can be more variation within a grass species than across species. For example, there will likely be more disparity in quality comparing early-cut orchard grass to late-cut orchard grass than when comparing mid-mature fescue to mid-mature timothy. This is why a chemical analysis far more accurate and useful in determining the quality of our hay and in matching it to our horse's energy needs and nutrient requirements.

Ideally, a forage sample should represent hay from the same field with similar cutting dates and conditions. Good hay producers manage for consistency and may even have forage results available for different lots of hay. Buying large uniform hay lots is a luxury many of us with storage constraints don't have. Talk with your

supplier about splitting the sampling cost if they don't offer a sample analysis. Your extension agent is a good source for collecting samples, selecting the appropriate tests, and interpretation.

Aside from quality, we need to estimate the quantity needed. Assuming adequate forage in your pasture at other times of the year, we can estimate winter hay feeding for 120 days at 2% of a horse's bodyweight, plus 10% additional in hay waste (5% for feeding, 5% in storage). A 1000 lb. horse consuming 2% of its bodyweight



consumes 20 lbs. of hay per day. Feeding for 120 days requires 2400 lbs. of hay. With the extra 10% for waste, you would expect to use 2640 lb. of hay during the winter. If we assume 40 lb. bales, that's 66 bales for one horse for 120 days.

So as the leaves begin to fall, make your preparations and use forage sampling as a tool to get the best hay for your horse. A hay analysis will help you to make sound nutrition and economic decisions.



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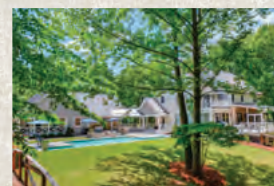
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# Horse Country Happenings

## 25th Annual Carolina Carriage Club Show Offers Thrills and Elegance

On October 16 and 17 the Carolina Carriage Club hosts an event steeped in tradition and excitement for equestrian drivers and spectators. The 25th annual Pleasure Driving and Dressage Show will take place at the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (FENCE) in Tryon.

Spectators will hold their breaths as skilled drivers in elegant Victorian dress, navigate horses and carriages through intricate courses of cones set with tennis balls. One slip, one hoof misplaced, and the tennis balls topple causing the driver to lose points.

In addition to the dressage and cone tests, the show offers obstacle course, reinsman, working pleasure, costume and green classes. Divisions include lady and gentleman drivers, juniors and ponies. Judges will award championships for pleasure, obstacles, green, overall horse and pony, junior driver and CCC Champion. The show also gives points for the American Miniature Horse Registry, the American Shetland Pony Club and the American Morgan Horse Association.

Grounds open at 3:00 p.m. Friday and stalls and camping sites are available. For more information visit Carolina Carriage Club online at [www.carolinacarriageclub.com](http://www.carolinacarriageclub.com).



Carrie Brit warms up for a class in the Carolina Carriage Club's 2019 fall Pleasure Show.



Carolina Carriage Club member, Prize Story, and her pony, Teke, compete in a Horse Driving Trial dressage class. The Club hosts an annual spring CCC Driving Trial at Windridge Farm in Mooresboro, North Carolina.

Club member, Janelle Marshall, skillfully navigates the water obstacle in a marathon course at Windridge Farm in Mooresboro, North Carolina.

## Fun for the Young at Fall Hobby Horse Series

By Sarah Madden for TIEC

Alongside the traditional equestrian sports at the long-awaited Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, another sport received mainstream attention that might have looked familiar to Tryon Horse Country citizens... especially to its children. Hobby horse, which first became extremely popular in Finland and inspired the launch of American Hobby Horse at Tryon International Equestrian Center & Resort (TIEC) in 2017, is one of the most popular ways for children to participate in equestrian activities at "Saturday Night Lights" (SNL) events.

This free, safe, and endlessly fun equestrian activity is hosted Saturdays in July and October at TIEC, just before Grand Prix show jumping in Tryon Stadium, with jumps set from crossrails to two feet. All that's needed to participate is a hobby horse of any kind, and real horse show ribbons are awarded to the fastest and highest flying tiny athletes. Sportsmanship, costume, and hobby horse "turnout" awards celebrate the spirit of American Hobby Horse, where the smiles and cheers are never-ending! Traditionally welcoming children through age 14, an adults' division is rumored to be added to the roster soon.

This fall, American Hobby Horse competitions will be hosted at TIEC Saturdays, October 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Participants must register in advance at [Tryon.com/hobbyhorse](http://Tryon.com/hobbyhorse), where additional information can also be found about divisions, age categories, and more. View the full SNL schedule at [Tryon.com/snl](http://Tryon.com/snl).



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# An Evening of Divertimentos & Dressage



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**Thursday, October 21**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Motlow Creek Equestrian Center  
Campobello, SC**



An evening of dressage set to classical music performed by the Spartanburg Philharmonic and featuring Brooke USA Foundation Ambassador Jessica Jo (JJ) Tate, as well as performances by Jessica Davis, Ashley Perkins, Trayce Doubek, Tazma Toi Trent and Julio Mendoza

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## HomeGrown

In each issue HCQ will run this column, featuring home-grown horsey ideas from you—our readers. Share your favorite horse treat recipe, a home made fly mask, hair ribbons for the short-stirrup young ladies, or even remedies for non-life-threatening ailments. Send your awesome idea(s) to editor, Sybil Jones at [SJones@sybiljonesandco.com](mailto:SJones@sybiljonesandco.com)

### DIY SCRATCHES OINTMENT — HOME REMEDY RECIPE

—Submitted by Angie Millon



From my years as a pediatrician dealing with difficult diaper rash I came up with an easy to make mixture of readily available ointments that cleared up most cases. Most diaper rash is caused by a skin breakdown due to chronic exposure to moisture that can allow a mixture of bacterial and fungal infection to become established. When I thought about this I realized it is very similar to scratches in horses, so I took my home made ointment to the barn and found it works fantastic on routine, uncomplicated cases of scratches.

Take a trip to Dollar General, any generic ointments will work. I mix up equal amounts of the following ointments in a plastic tub:

**Ingredients:**

- Desitin
- Triple Antibiotic ointment
- Antifungal ointment
- 1% Hydrocortisone, ointment or cream

Apply liberally to affected area daily, and do not pick at scabs.

As a preventative, keep pasterns clipped, if able, to allow a lot of air flow and easy drying. It is chronic exposure to wet that sets up the perfect conditions for scratches to develop. If possible, keep pastures bush hogged so morning dew dries quicker.

If for any reason the scratches are getting worse instead of better, I would always give the vet a call!



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