



# The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

## Opening Meets – A Sight to Behold!

— PAGE 4



PHOTO: MARK JUMP PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Angie Millon Takes the Helm

## TR&HC BOARD PRESIDENT: Angie Millon



It is a great honor and privilege to take over the presidency of the TR&HC. A framed list of past presidents hangs in the TR&HC office, and the list is impressive – a literal “who’s who” in the Tryon community. It is both daunting and inspiring to have my name added to that list!

I’d like to thank our outgoing president, Terry Lynch, for his dedication and hard work over the past three years. His passion, bottomless enthusiasm, and accomplishments

have set the bar high. I know I have big shoes to fill.

For those who don’t know me, I am a lifelong equestrian (show hunters), retired pediatrician, wife and mother. Depending on who I am addressing, I often vary the order of those descriptors! I have lived, ridden and made friends in this area for over 20 years, and am going into my 6th year on the TR&HC Board. I feel blessed to be inheriting a club coming off a stellar 2021 year, and to be surrounded by an exceptional group of Board members — a true mix of the old and new with the common goals of honoring the Club’s rich history, putting on quality events and supporting the Tryon equestrian community, all while juggling the delicate balance of preserving the past and pushing TR&HC’s mission into the future.

If I haven’t already, I look forward to meeting you! I will welcome any feedback and “constructive advice” the community has to offer. I promise to be a good steward of the TR&HC during my tenure as president. Stay tuned, I predict a very bright 2022!

*Angie Millon*

Angie Millon  
President, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club

# Holiday Cheer News



Angie Million and Terry Lynch at ceremonial Wreath Hanging on Morris in early December with Romeo the pony decked out for the holidays.



Outgoing TR&HC President Terry Lynch accepts a departing gift of appreciation for his dedicated service to the Club and community.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## Horse Country Calendar

**April 15:** Block House Steeplechase Pre-Race Party

**April 16:** 74th Block House Steeplechase

**April 23-24:** TR&HC Horse & Hound Show

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

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

## Ushering in the New year



While I was never one to make new year’s resolutions, I have always been retrospective. I believe that if you look hard enough at history, that the path going forward only gets better.

As most already know, the Club is steeped in history. We constantly reflect on what was done many decades ago, while cherishing old photos memorializing local traditions. We also reflect on what we did just last year, or even yesterday, to glean what we can do better going forward.

In one single pandemic-colored year, we have made big strides in serving our members and the community with horse-related events, community events and philanthropy. The HCQ is part of the Club’s effort to keep you and the community informed. Can it get better? Can our events and philanthropy get better? You bet! And you can help—simply by lending your voice!

This New Year, please join the momentum and help make 2022 a truly historic year!

*Sybil Jones*

Sybil Jones  
TR&HC Board member & Editorial director

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Blockhouse Steeplechase was first run as a single race in 1946 at Harmon Field.



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SAVE THE DATE:

# The 74th Running of the Block House Steeplechase, April 16

Hear the thunder of hooves, the roar of the crowd and be a part of history. The 74th running of the Block House Steeplechase is April 16, 2022.



One of the oldest steeplechases in the United States, Carter Brown first started the event in 1934. The race stopped during the depression and WWII, but Brown revived it in 1946. It was halted again in 2019 when the new track was not suitable to race, and in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Last year, as Covid restrictions relaxed, it ran in June rather than its customary time in the spring. "This spring, it will be back in blazing glory," predicts TR&HC president Angie Millon. "Everyone should reserve their spot early to get the best vantage point."

The event is known for fun festivities such as the children's stick horse races, the best hat contest, the "Go-to Hell" pants contest and tailgate parties.

Tickets go on sale to the public January 17: Visit [tryon.com](http://tryon.com).



Festivities begin the night before with the pre-race Super 60s concert and dance party in Rogers Park April 15, 2022. For individual or group tickets or for sponsorship opportunities, contact the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club at 828-351-9709 or visit online at [tryonridingandhuntclub.org/inspire\\_events/tryon-block-house-steeplechase-races](http://tryonridingandhuntclub.org/inspire_events/tryon-block-house-steeplechase-races)

## Attention High School and College Students! Win \$1,000 and Make History with Your Art

Tryon Riding & Hunt Club is excited to invite area students to participate in our search for a work of art that best captures the excitement of the 2022 running of the Block House Steeplechase. We are asking students from area schools to participate. The selected work of art will become part of the unique iconic history of the Block House Steeplechase.

This year for the FIRST time, students can compete for cash prizes — \$1,000 for 1st place; \$500 for 2nd place; and \$250 for 3rd place.

**MAKE HISTORY WITH YOUR ART**



The artwork will be used on an 18" x 24" poster. Any medium can be used. The deadline for entries is February 15. Winners will be announced soon thereafter. Winning artwork will become the property of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club and may be auctioned.

For more information, contact TR&HC's Leigh Borreson at (828) 351-9709.

SAVE THE DATE:

## Horse & Hound Show, April 23-24

After a rainy, but still successful 2021 Horse and Hound Show, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club will host yet another show April 23 -24, 2022. This year's show will be a two-day event at FENCE with Lewis Pack as horse show manager and course designer.



PHOTO: MARK JUMP

The Hound Show will start at 8 a.m. Saturday morning and go through the afternoon. It will feature over a dozen classes. Entry fee is \$50.



PHOTO: LIZ CROWLEY

Stalls are also available. Hound Show Committee members include Gerald Pack, Tot Goodwin and Terry Lynch.

For more information, call Terry Lynch at (513) 314-1146.

The Horse Show will also start at 8 a.m. Saturday with a traditional SCHJA/BRHJA schedule of hunter and jumper classes and culminate with a day of hunter derbies on Sunday offering a \$2,500 TR&HC derby at the 2'6 or 3' and a \$1,500 Mini-Morris Derby for nonprofessionals at the 2'. A best turned out award and a \$1,000 bonus split between the top three junior/amateur riders is offered along with the \$2,500 main derby.

Lastly, a champagne brunch is planned under the tent on the hill on Sunday to accompany the derby. Registration will be required. Please check the Harmon Classics website for more details, prize lists, and entry forms as the date gets closer.

For now, save the date and spread the word! A good time is guaranteed for all exhibitors and spectators alike!

# Tryon Horse Country Celebrates 95 Years of Fox



PHOTO: DON WEST PHOTOGRAPHY

“Without the landowners, we’re stuck in a dirt ring like so many others,” said Green Creek Hounds Joint Master of Foxhounds (MFH), Anna Dalton. “Without the landowners, who value open land, we don’t have a sport.”

Green Creek Hounds and Tryon Hounds both celebrated their opening hunts this November, marking 95 years of foxhunting tradition in the Foothills.

This year, Green Creek Hounds awarded the Master of Foxhounds Association “Fairly Hunted” award to Dixie Howell. DJ Jefferies then presented colors to Seamus Sheehan, Shalise Gallaher and to photographer Mark Jump.

“Though he doesn’t ride, he’s so active and instrumental in helping the hunt, we wanted to recognize him [Jump],” says Dalton

On Thanksgiving Day, Father Mickey Mugan offered prayers for the Tryon Hounds blessing ceremony. Approximately 50 riders participated in three flights. Amanda McDonald and Alan Taylor hosted the stirrup cup. Tryon Hounds Huntsman, Beth Blackwell, hunted eleven and a half couple Pen-Mary-Dels.

“We had a great day with two to three runs,” says Hunt President and Whipper In, Susan Haldeman.

Goodwin Hounds in Mill Spring is holding their opening hunt ceremony in January.



PHOTO: MARK JUMP PHOTOGRAPHY

“Without the landowners...we don’t have a sport”



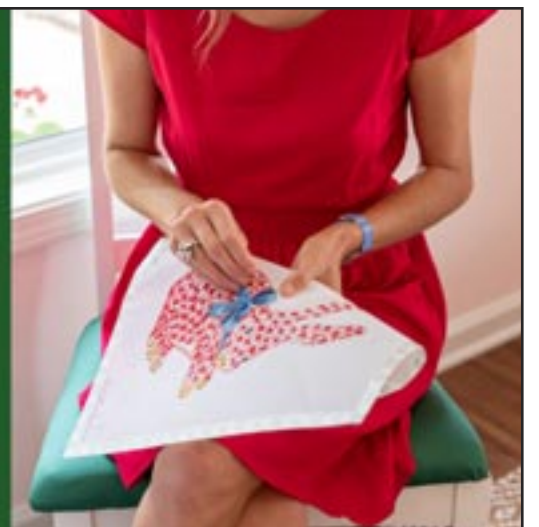
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# hunting Tradition



PHOTO: MARK JUMP PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: MARK JUMP PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: MARK JUMP PHOTOGRAPHY

On Saturday, November 20, approximately 50 riders turned out for the ceremonial Blessing of the Green Creek Hounds by Father Mickey Mугan of Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Tryon. DJ Jefferies toasted landowners Roger and Jennifer Smith, Green River Farm, the Green River Farm staff and foxhunting landowners around the world.



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MORRIS THE HORSE TRIALS

# Taking Center Stage at FENCE

October saw 46 years of tradition continue at TR&HC's Morris the Horse Trials under beautiful autumn skies. More than 70 competitors participated, including teams such as the Clemson Tigers, UGA Red, The Intolerant Contemptibles, Free Britany, and Tacos over Pumpkin Spice - who won 1st place!

The adult teams were a new addition to the event this year and proved popular. Also adding to the competition was the awarding of a Master Amateur Award and a Junior Low Score Award. These lucky competitors received beautiful, hand-painted platters and ornaments courtesy of The Farm House. Special recognition goes to The Farm House for also donating prizes for the top three competitors in all of the divisions.

While this event draws competitors both locally and from neighboring states, it has especially strong local support and involvement. The show is held at FENCE, and the cross-country course is designed by Greg Schlappi of Landrum. The River Valley Pony Club assisted, and, over 50 volunteers from the area supported the officials and staff.

This year also featured a unique addition to the cross-country course. It was exciting to see a Land Rover vehicle become part of the water complex for the cross-country phase. Land Rover of Asheville was a sponsor along with the local businesses of Lisa Seeger Insurance, Tryon Equestrian Hospital and The Farm House.

The show was also supported by The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Incentive Program which encourages the retraining of Thoroughbreds into new careers. Known as "T.I.P.", this program provides awards and ribbons to high placing riders and their Thoroughbreds. Morris the Horse was delighted to make multiple awards on behalf of The Jockey Club through many levels of the competition.

"It was fun to see the competitors and volunteers alike leave with a much in demand special gift of a *Morris the Horse* baseball cap. Memories were made!" says Terry Lynch, TR&HC outgoing president.



Evin Ellis, "Year after year this is the best event I attend"



We admit it! We copied Kentucky and put a Land Rover at our water jump!



A special thanks to the River Valley Pony Club for their volunteer help!



Many horses and riders stopped by to pay homage to Morris.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 In 2021, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's philanthropic efforts gave a total of \$39,500 in scholarships to students and to local charities.

## HARMON CLASSICS, LLC



### 2022 Schedule

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>BRHJA Spring Premiere</b><br/>                     March 18-20, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC, PSJ<br/>                     Harmon Field, Tryon, NC</p> <p><b>Harmon Classics Spring Challenge</b><br/>                     March 25-27, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC, PSJ<br/>                     SCEP, Camden, SC</p> <p><b>TR&amp;HC Spring Fling</b><br/>                     April 23-24, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC<br/>                     FENCE, Tryon, NC</p> <p><b>BRHJA Mother's Celebration</b><br/>                     May 6-8, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC, PSJ<br/>                     Harmon Field, Tryon, NC</p> | <p><b>Harmon Classics Derby Mania</b><br/>                     June 16-19, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC<br/>                     Harmon Field, Tryon, NC</p> <p><b>Harmon Classics Labor Day Spectacular</b><br/>                     September 8-10, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC<br/>                     TIEC, Mill Spring, NC</p> <p><b>BRHJA Classic</b><br/>                     October 28-30, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC, PSJ<br/>                     FENCE, Tryon, NC</p> <p><b>Holiday Classic</b><br/>                     December 9-11, 2022<br/>                     BRHJA, NCHJA, SCHJA, HC<br/>                     TIEC, Mill Spring, NC</p> |
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**ROGER SMITH**

# The Maven Change Maker

A wise man once said life is about trusting your feelings, taking chances, finding happiness, learning from the past and realizing everything changes. Meet Roger Smith, a wise man in our midst who epitomizes a life based on similar principals.

Most horse people in Tryon Horse Country know Roger as one of the founding partners who built the Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC). This state-of-the-art facility reflects Roger's vision brought to life, and as he predicted, it has undeniably brought new life to the community he fondly calls home.

Roger's vision was fueled by his early involvement in the equestrian world. His charismatic personality helped him achieve formidable personal and professional successes. Somewhat of a newcomer to the Foothills, Roger's love of rural life brought him and wife, Jennifer, to the area almost two decades ago.

"Change is inevitable," Roger believes. "And whether you like it or not, you can't stop it. Best not get too comfortable with the way things are because change is inevitable."

**MAN OF ALL SEASONS & A STUDENT OF LIFE**

A past VP of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, Roger is known for his tireless zest for adrenaline laced adventures — from motorcycles to fox hunting and eventing to speed boats and piloting planes. He was born and raised in the Buckhead section of Atlanta. At age eight, he found his life-long love of horses at Chastain Park where he would visit and lend a hand with barn chores along with friends who had harness racers.

On weekends, he would trail ride into the Blue Ridge Mountains for overnight escapes from the

city — the quiet woods, rolling meadows and shallow streams offering spiritual awakening more than an adrenaline rush.

Roger's rural life began when he bought a small farm in Canon, GA after college, but it wasn't until later that Roger and Jennifer came to the Foothills. "I started coming up here in the mid-80s to fox hunt and event and horse show," he

*"Change is inevitable...  
And whether you like it  
or not, you can't stop it.  
Best not get too comfortable  
with the way things are..."*

says. "I liked it — the rural-ness. I wanted to try the small-town life. That was the impetus for me coming here." In 2001, Roger drove his wife down the winding gravel road to what was to be Green River Farm.

**GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Roger says he has two great achievements. "First is meeting and marrying the love of my life Jennifer," he says. Jennifer came into his life when he was looking for a trainer to help with his thoroughbreds at his Georgia farm. Jennifer, a hunter competitor from Rhode Island who had been working as marketing director for Marriott, enthusiastically



took the job. It didn't take long before her status elevated from trainer to wife and partner destined to share their lives and their passions.

His second greatest accomplishment is completing his vision for the TIEC in Mill Spring—a vision that began with the Route 9 track of land that now is home to the Block House Steeplechase. "Initially we wanted the show grounds to be the interior of the 1.1-mile track. Quickly deemed too small, Roger then purchased land off Pea Ridge Road that is now home to the equestrian center. "It was our brainchild," says Roger.

Now, TIEC has grown as a world class facility offering every conceivable horse sport and drawing competitors from across the globe.







**PRESERVING TRADITIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Thanks to the Smith’s generosity, their farm is host and home to the Green Creek Hounds—an important benefit nowadays when fixtures can be fraught with landowner issues. “I have always believed in giving back,” Roger says. While TIEC was initially destined to be exclusive to high level shows, now Roger says they see an opportunity to fill a void by providing a state-of-the-art facility for local competitors.

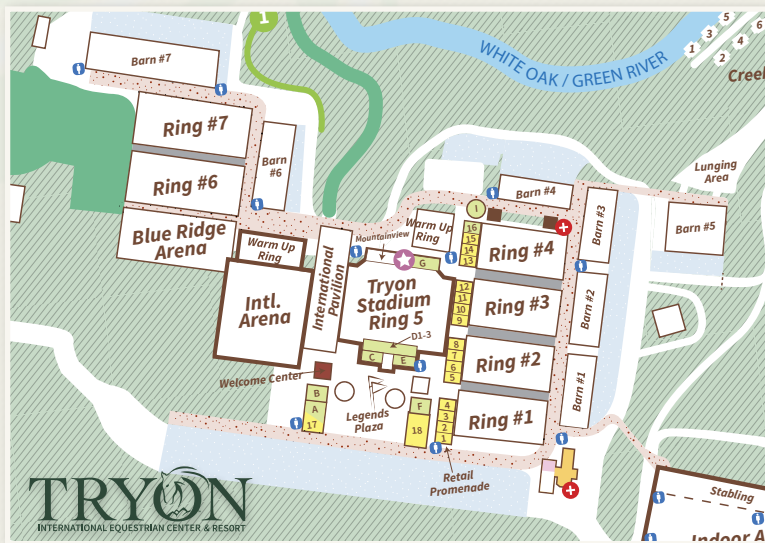
For nine years prior to the Club moving to offices on Trade Street in Tryon, the Smiths graciously allowed the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club use of an office adjacent to the steeplechase track. Tapping into her own love of hunters, Jennifer helped grow the success and prestige of the Club’s Charity Horse Shows. Like Roger, she too has served on the Club’s board.

This past year, Roger describes how TIEC turned their indoor arena over as vaccination center when Covid-19 vaccinations became available. “We also hosted the Polk County High School graduation in 2021,” he explains. The list of community events is extensive and available to everyone—horse lover or not. Visit Saturday Night Lights during the show season where the public can see first class, high stakes jumpers; or summer’s Night in the Country Music Festival; and now the current WinterFest with an incredible Christmas light-show drive-through put to holiday music. “You don’t have to know anything about horses to come out and enjoy any of these events,” Jennifer adds.

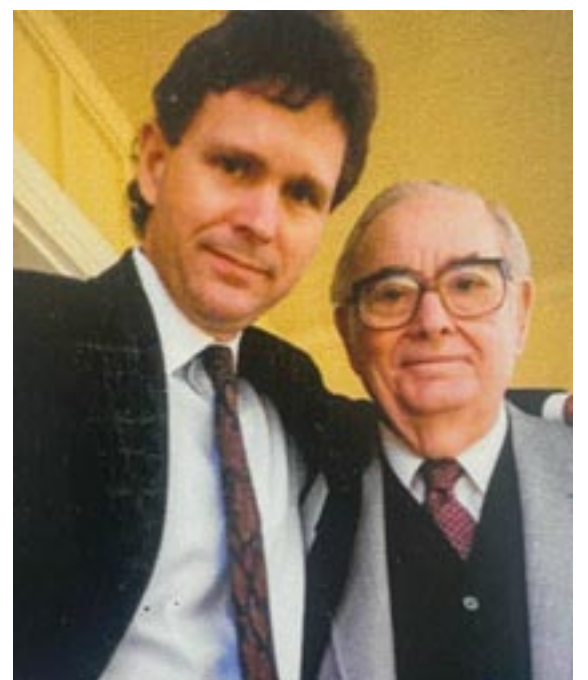
This winter, if you happen to be out fox hunting with the Green Creek Hounds, check out who’s in first flight. You might see Roger way up front. He’s just doing what he does best — living his vision.



**TIEC: ATTRACTING HORSE LOVERS AT HOME AND ABROAD**



Preserving traditions while moving forward is a common challenge faced by many quaint communities that lack industries to not only provide living wages for people who love where they live, but also to attract and keep the next generation of like-minded residents. Located in Mill Spring, TIEC provides jobs for hundreds of local people and ranks as one of the top three employers in Polk County.



## VOLUNTEERS: Our Lifeblood

“We couldn't run it without them,” says Club President Angie Millon. “Some of our volunteers for the horse trials, the dog show and the horse shows have been with us for years, which is really cool.”

Angie explains that volunteers are the lifeblood of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's activities, particularly for the Morris the Horse Trials, in which they use almost 70 helpers.

TR&HC newly appointed Board member and volunteer, Donna Younkin says, “Many competitors express their appreciation to the volunteers during the course of the competition. They realize you couldn't put on the shows without the volunteers supporting the sport.”

In addition to helping with the September cross-country schooling day at FENCE, Younkin, and her husband, Clyde, took on much of the organization of the horse trials this year.

While the Younkins have horse and eventing experience, it is not required to help out with TR&HC. Volunteer Linda Tolar says, though she doesn't ride, she likes to help because she's drawn to the horses. Linda helped with the summer's Charity Horse Shows and with administrative support in the office. A long-time horse mom for her now equine professional daughter, Theresa Tolar, she, her daughter and her son, J.T. Tolar, also helped with the TR&HC Mane Event in September.

To learn more about volunteering with TR&HC visit [tryonridingandhuntclub.org/volunteer](http://tryonridingandhuntclub.org/volunteer).



Volunteers extraordinaire, Donna and Clyde Younkin on vacation.

**CAROLINA FOOTHILLS**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## TR&HC Announces New Board Members

The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club is pleased to welcome five members to its board of directors. During their term, these volunteers will serve the club to advance its mission and vision, using its core values as a guide.

The board members are:

**Lee Cone** – For more than 36 years, Cone has been the owner/operator of Windbrook Farm, a hunter/jumper show barn in Landrum, SC. In addition, he was president of the South Carolina Hunter Jumper Association for four years, and honored by the Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association multiple times as trainer of the year.

**Eric L. Straus** – Currently president of the Equine Sport Group, a multi-disciplinary equine consulting group, Straus previously served in senior executive roles in organizations such as the Tryon International Equestrian Center and HITS, Inc., and as CEO of the Washington International Horse Show Association.

**Nancy Z. Wilson** – As a past president of the TR&HC (2012-15), Wilson focused on implementing changes designed to ensure that TR&HC was stable, profitable, and poised for long-term sustainability and growth. She and her husband Jim Bob own and founded Camp Wayfarer in Flat Rock. In addition, she's been an administrator and educator in the Polk County and Carolina Day Schools.

**Donna Younkin** – Younkin has extensive volunteer experience at major horse showgrounds throughout the east, including Kentucky, TIEC, JFI, Fork, Blue Ridge, FENCE HT, TRHC HT, and NJ. In addition, she served on the Horse Park of NJ Board of Trustees, and as former Director of Special Initiatives at DCF in New Jersey.

“As a nonprofit organization that gives back to the community, we are grateful to board members who donate their time and expertise to our efforts,” says Angie Millon, TR&HC's newly appointed president. “We look forward to entrusting the club's rich legacy to these dedicated professionals who bring their varied leadership experiences to help advance our programs.”



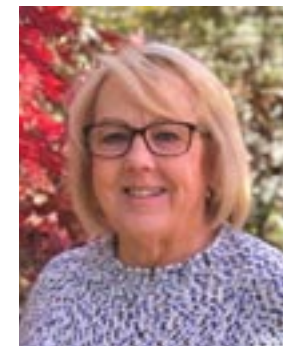
Lee Cone



Eric L. Straus



Nancy Wilson



Donna Younkin



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## THE MAUDE CARR LINEAGE CONTINUES

### Young Rider: Caroline Maude Hedges

Caroline Maude Hedges, a Junior at Spartanburg Day School, is a 3rd-generation equestrian who appreciates the tradition she is part of. Her grandmother, Maude Carr, had a passion for horses and riding that Caroline Maude wholeheartedly shares. She is enthusiastic about competing and is driven to improve her riding skills, yet Caroline Maude is humbled by her experiences and success so far. Caroline Maude is gracious and genuine, with a thankful attitude – she clearly recognizes the value of the support and encouragement from her parents and inspiration from her grandmother to be the best rider she can be.

She recently returned from the fall indoor shows where she competed for her first indoor season. Caroline Maude took a moment from a busy student's schedule before the holidays to share her work-in-progress perspective with us:

**Q: How did you get started riding?**

**A:** My grandmother put me on a pony before I could even talk! She would lead me all around her horse farm. I loved horses ever since that moment, but living in Washington DC, riding was quickly lost to an urban lifestyle. When I turned 12, my family moved from DC to Tryon, so naturally, I fell back into the saddle. I started taking lessons from Jeanne Smith and her amazing team at Clear View Farms, who furthered my passion for horses, teaching me everything about horsemanship, which I still use today to build a bond with my horses.

**Q: Who has been the biggest influence on your riding?**

**A:** I've been fortunate to have a couple of fantastic trainers over the past few years, Especially Ken and Emily Smith, and Brad Spragg. When I started training with Brad Spragg he refined my riding and paired me with my hunters. He also introduced me to Ken and Emily Smith and the Ashland Farms team, who are exceptionally passionate and kindhearted in everything they do.

**Q: What has been your biggest accomplishment so far?**

**A:** I've had several high moments this show season, but my growth over the past year has surpassed all the accolades and been very special. At the beginning of the year I was not only receiving lower scores, but lacking consistency, and to see the improvement in my riding has been incredibly gratifying. Another exciting moment was starting the jumpers this past year!

**Q: Who do you look up to in the horse world?**

**A:** Definitely everyone at Ashland Farm, who I admire for their individual qualities and the effort they put forth every day. Not only are they serious and committed to every aspect of the sport, but they are some of the kindest people I know.



**Q: What is the best advice you ever received?**

**A:** There are two major things that have stuck with me: First, as I exit the show ring, my trainers encourage me to reflect on the positives of the course and then acknowledge the mistakes. This method instills a positive mindset often leading to an improvement in the following round.

Second, as exciting as my first indoor season was, in the beginning, the atmosphere was quite



overwhelming. My trainer's method was key to managing the pressure. Prior to each round, we expressed three to four things to focus on while in the ring. These goals break down the course and helped me remain focused and to concentrate, despite nerves.

**Q: Do you prefer the Hunters or Equitation?**

**A:** I prefer the hunters – there is just something really special about the challenge to make each jump look perfect, and I love the feeling after a course when everything you executed fell into place. I also love my horses who make the hunters so much fun!

**Q: Your most embarrassing moment?**

**A:** There are too many to count! One that stands out happened at a show over the summer when I was wearing my white breeches for a jumper class that was going to be later in the day. In one of my first classes that morning, we landed from a jump and my horse started bucking. I ended up with red mud all over my white breeches, which I proceeded to wear all around the show grounds that day and for my other classes – it was definitely a day to remember!

**Q: What is next for you — do you have a new goal?**

**A:** I'm eager to work really hard this coming year and hoping to be consistent in the equitation and hunter divisions. So far, I've dabbled in equitation, so I am looking forward to exploring more of the equitation this year. Another aspiration of mine is to move into the High Children's Jumpers this year – I've done a little bit in the jumpers and absolutely love it!



The urging leg is used slightly behind the girth to move the horse forward.



The bending or holding leg is used at the girth to move the horse onto the outside shoulder and hind leg in a turn.



The displacing leg is used to move the hind quarters, such as in a turn on the forehand.

## When it Comes to Leg Aids - *Keep it Simple*

Understanding leg aids is fairly simple. If you poke or squeeze a horse in the side, it will move away from whatever is poking or squeezing it. This may sound like an oversimplification, yet it is a good basis for understanding horse/rider communication.

“Squeeze with both legs and the horse goes forward,” says local instructor Gerald Pack. “Push with the right leg and the haunches go left. Push with the left leg and the haunches go right.”

In his book, *Common Sense Horsemanship*, Captain Vladimir Littauer describes three basic leg aids to which all horses will naturally respond—the urging leg, the bending or holding leg and the displacing leg. The application of these legs depends upon the level of education of the horse and/or the rider.

The urging leg is used as one, or both legs (depending on desired direction) slightly behind the girth to urge the horse forward. The bending or holding leg is the inside leg applied at the girth, to move the horse onto the outside shoulder and hind leg in a turn. This helps the horse carry himself and balance better through a turn.

The displacing leg is one leg applied well behind the girth, and is used to move the hind quarters, such as a turn on the forehand.

The application of these basic leg aids is used as a subtle squeeze or pressure for advanced horses and riders. Beginner riders use a more primitive action, such as tapping or kicking, depending on the response of the horse.

Green horses are not usually able to under-

stand, and do not have the muscle agility to correctly respond to a subtle leg. Littauer recommends using a more primitive active leg (tapping or kicking) until the horse can offer a more advanced response.

It is very important for riders to develop a fully functional position before attempting more subtle leg signals. A rider using gripping legs to hold on will confuse the horse and dull its sides, or the horse will continually interpret the squeezing as a go faster signal.

Pack agrees with Littauer that beginners should start with the basics. “You [instructors] have to be careful not to overwhelm beginners with too many facts,” says Pack who added that the basics never change. “Simple is always better.”

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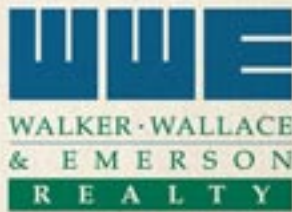
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# Caring for Your Senior Horse This Winter

by Cassie LeMaster



Polk County Equine, Livestock & Forage Agent Cassie LeMaster

Many senior horses struggle with winter weather conditions more so than their younger herd mates. This could be because of metabolic differences, weight struggles, or dentition issues, as well as skin diseases, such as rain rot, that are

able forage or by offering a higher quality forage option like alfalfa. You can utilize your local Extension Service to help you collect samples for a forage analysis, interpret results and develop a nutrition plan for your horse.

Since there is a limit as to how much hay a horse can consume daily, additional calorie sources may also be required. In most cases horses will consume between 2.0-2.5%; however, during times of harsher weather conditions, they might consume upwards of 3% of their body weight per day. If your senior can't chew long-stemmed hay because of dentition problems or can't consume enough calories from forage alone to increase his condition, consider replacing some of his hay with an alternative fiber source, such as beet pulp or soy hulls, which can be more easily digested and absorbed while still offering the added benefit of fermentation and heat production. If there is evidence of dental problems, be sure to have

more prevalent in geriatric horses.

As you begin developing a management plan for your senior this winter, start by accessing their body condition (BCS). A numeric score ranging from 1 to 9 is used to describe the overall condition and fat cover of a horse, with 1 being the thinnest and 9 being obese.

Older horses that are below a 5 BCS and struggle to keep weight on during other parts of the year will have an even tougher time in the winter as more calories are diverted for heat production. Horses produce the heat necessary to maintain core body temperature by fermenting hay in the digestive tract. Therefore, when increasing the calorie content of the diet, start slowly by increasing avail-



*Horses produce the heat necessary to maintain core body temperature by fermenting hay in the digestive tract.*

your senior horse's teeth checked and have sharp points, hooks and loose teeth addressed before continued weight loss occurs. Further calorie increases can be made by adding a fortified grain source and/or fat. Fat is the most calorie-dense feed ingredient and is often supplied in the diet by various seed or vegetable oils, but must be introduced slowly to avoid digestive upset.

In addition to diet, pay special attention to your senior's shelter options this winter. When cold winter temperatures, precipitation and wind are combined, many horses may struggle to maintain core temperatures. Free access to a three-sided shed is often adequate shelter, as most horses prefer outdoors over stall confinement. If stalls are used, be sure to allow for plenty of ventilation to reduce the incidence of heaves (recurrent airway obstruction/COPD) and turnout to exercise stiff aging joints. If blankets are used, be sure to remove them often, as damp conditions underneath can lead to skin diseases such as rain rot.

*As with any health condition, consult your veterinarian or nutritionist for a more tailored management plan. With a little forethought, simple adjustments can be made to your senior horse's diet and management to make him more comfortable this winter.*

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# Memories, Furry Friends & Fun at Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's 88th Any & All Dog Show!

When you combine dog lovers, canine entertainment and a beautiful fall day, you unleash a whole lot of FUN! That describes TR&HC's 88th Any and All Dog Show held last Sunday, as hundreds turned out to enter their pooches to win recognition -- or just hang out and watch the show! This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Drew Brannon, a long-time supporter of the AADS and past President of TR&HC who passed away earlier this year. In prior years when participation began to wane, Drew took over the leadership — his passion and commitment immediately revived and restored AADS to a successful, fun-loving com-



munity event.

"It was a perfect day and we all had a great time," says Karl Alexander who chaired the event. "It was an honor to remember Drew this way and involve the whole community!" Proceeds of the event will be donated to STAND T.A.L.L., a local non-profit that raises funds for the Polk County Sheriff's Department. "It was a wonderful event and we were thrilled to participate and honored to be chosen for a donation!" said Ron Kauf-

man, President and Founder of STAND T.A.L.L. "We look forward to the 89th Any and All Dog Show next year!"

The AADS festivities included delicious food, face painting, raffles and, of course, exciting competition. The Polk County Sheriff's K-9 Unit demonstrated the impressive skills of their brave four-legged officers, and the famous 'Daredevil Dogs' performed amazing Frisbee tricks and acrobatics!

Started by Carter P. Brown, the AADS was first held in 1933 and is now one of many TR&HC signature annual events. Over the past 88 years, it has evolved to become the Tryon tradition "when every dog has its day!"



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## 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW AT TIEC

by Sarah Madden for TIEC

*Hunter/Jumper Trends this Season*

The 2021 season at TIEC included remarkable numbers of winning streaks, repeats, and “firsts” by competitors. From March to November, the patterns were undeniable. Most notably, many riders held onto winning streaks for class after class. The longest? Erynn Ballard (CAN).

Ballard and her deep string pulled off a nine-class podium streak over three weeks in the Spring Series: with Ceitasi, in the \$25,000 Tryon Resort Sunday Classic; aboard Really Electra Xango in the \$6,000 Power & Speed Stake CSI 2\* and \$6,000 Speed Stake CSI 2\*; riding Bettina des Celtes in the \$37,000 Power & Speed Stake CSI 3\*; and with Classic Penny in the \$37,000 Horseware Ireland Welcome Stake CSI 2\*.

Classes she didn't win? The \$73,000 Tryon Resort Grand Prix CSI 2\*, riding Classic Penny... where she placed second. Plus, a third place podium finish in Tryon Spring 5's \$37,000 Horseware Ireland Welcome Stake CSI 3\*, riding Gakhir. Gakhir also earned reserve in the subsequent \$37,000 Horseware Ireland Welcome Stake CSI 3\*, and Ballard was reserve in the \$25,000 Tryon Resort Sunday Classic on Verdict De Kezeg for a grand total of NINE podium finishes in a row.

“It never hurts to walk in the ring with three



PHOTO: SHANNON BRINKMAN

wins and one podium finish under your belt,” Ballard admitted. “When you have weeks like this, it's very easy to be confident. It's a lot easier to be confident when you're riding off wins than when you're not. It doesn't happen all the time!”

Ballard is one of many to produce a winning

streak at TIEC this year. We've listed them all - and other trends — in the full Year in Review, from the most consistent horse-and-rider pairs to first-time winners, podium crashers, and more incredible streaks. Visit [Tryon.com](http://Tryon.com) for more!

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The private Southwest-style guest house features an open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, one-bedroom, large bath, loft area and patios. For the equestrians: 8-stall custom center aisle barn with apartment-size tack room with full bath, run-in shed, and equipment storage. Make Hooper Creek Farm your family home. **103 Acres • \$3,399,000**



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# The Bit Debate: Finding the Right Fit

by Catherine Hunter

The debate on whether bits are cruel has gone on for many years. Most knowledgeable horsemen agree that bits are communication tools, not brakes. However, choosing the right bit for a horse is very important and can be confusing for the amateur or new horse owner.

In reality, there are only two basic kinds of bits—snaffle and curb—and all bits are a version of one or the other. The difference between the two bits is the leverage, which is determined by the location of the cheek pieces and the reins.

Reins and cheek pieces attached to bit rings located at the corners of the horse's mouth are snaffles. The bit acts on the bars of the horse's mouth, the tongue and, if it has a joint, the corners of the mouth.

Bits with the cheek pieces attached above the bar (the piece that goes in the mouth), and reins attached below the bar, create more leverage and are called curb bits. Curb bits act on the bars of the horse's mouth, tongue and poll.

Joints add severity as they create action on the corners of the mouth. A low port in a curb bit can remove pressure from the tongue, however, if it is too tall, the port can affect the roof of the horse's mouth. Two joints in a snaffle (known as a French link) is softer than a single joint because it spreads out the pressure across the tongue.

The thinner the bit, the more severe, and twisting—such as a twisted snaffle or twisted wire snaffle—adds severity.

Tryon instructor, Gerald Pack, agrees that lack of good riding basics in the industry is contributing to the increased popularity of new “specialty” or “gimmick” bits disguised as, or labeled as snaffles. Examples of such bits include a “Tom Thumb” snaffle and a three-ring snaffle, which actually function as jointed curbs.

“There’s nothing new, really,” Pack says. “A stronger bit will give you more collection, which gives you more control, but you have to know what to do with it [the control].”



Adding a joint to a bit creates action on the corners of the horse's mouth.



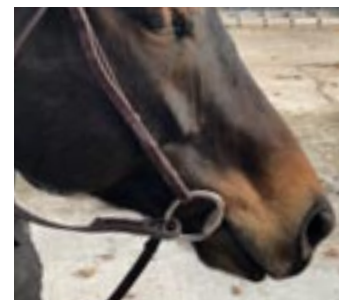
The cheek pieces on curb bits are attached above the bar, and the reins are attached below the bar, creating leverage on the poll, the bars of the horse's mouth and the tongue.



The recently popular “3-ring snaffle” bit is, in reality, a version of the curb bit because the cheek pieces are attached above the bar, which adds pressure to the horse's poll.



It is important to be aware that specialty or gimmick bits such as a “Tom Thumb Snaffle” are in actuality a jointed curb.



A snaffle bit can be identified by the reins and the cheek pieces attached to the rings at the corners of the horse's mouth. This eliminates action on the horse's poll.

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# TR&HC's Mane Event Draws Hundreds to Harmon Field for Fall Fun

Perfect weather, pony rides, horse drawn carriages, stunning stallions and a great cause attracted hundreds to Harmon Field in September for Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's Mane Event. The Mane Event was part of the Foothills Chamber of Commerce's Feed the Foothills, which raised several thousand dollars to benefit Thermal Belt Outreach and Operation Hope.

According to Leigh Borreson, TR&HC ex-

ecutive director, "The Mane Event collected close to a ton of canned goods and over \$1,200 for the two charities."

"We are thrilled to be included in such a beneficial cause! It was a beautiful day and it was really moving to see all the support from our community," says Jamie Corn, TR&HC board member. Admission was free with a canned good donation and over 400 people came

through the gates to participate in the activities.

"Tryon Riding & Hunt Club was the perfect partner to collaborate with to maximize the impact of our Feed the Foothills campaign," says Don Borreson, executive director of the Foothills Chamber. "The food and monetary donations were overwhelming, and the families and kids attending the Mane Event had a wonderful experience."



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# TR&HC's Philanthropy Program – Giving Back to the Community

One of the many things that makes the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club unique is its enduring commitment to giving back to the community. Since 1928, the Club's sponsorship of the Annual Charity Horse Show, the Block House Steeplechase and a myriad of other events has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the area.

Through the TR&HC Philanthropy program, grants are available to non-profits operating in Polk County and the surrounding areas. These grants are not limited to equestrian-focused activities only. Our mission is to reach both equestrian and community-based groups alike. Some of our past recipients include

Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (FENCE), Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry, Polk Equine Emergency Rescue, Foothills Humane Society, and many others.

Over the last decade, TR&HC has focused on expanding the Philanthropy program and annual donations have more than doubled, from an average of \$20,000 to \$50,000 in recent years.

With the increase in available funding, our Philanthropy committee strives to raise awareness of the grant program, and to reach as many potential partners as possible. Recently, a new grant application process was developed and is available on our website at [tryonridingandhuntclub/philanthropy](http://tryonridingandhuntclub/philanthropy). Grants are typically awarded twice per year in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

For more information on the TR&HC Philanthropy program, please visit our website or contact our Philanthropy committee at [office@trhc1925.org](mailto:office@trhc1925.org).

## TR&HC 2021 RECIPIENTS

- Thermal Belt Outreach
- Steps to Hope
- Pet Angels
- Foothills Humane Society
- Stand T.A.L.L.
- FERA
- Tryon Historical Museum
- FENCE
- PEER
- Hope Remains Ranch
- Red Bell Run



TR&HC Board member Karl Alexander (right) presents a check to Ron Kauffman and Sharon Hanson of Stand T.A.L.L. the charity recipients of the 88th Any and All Dog Show.

## River Valley Pony Club

by Louise Palmer

River Valley Pony Club would like to congratulate Sutton and Sadler Smith on gaining their D3 Eventing Certification, and Chloe Jackson on her C1 Eventing Certification. We are very proud of you!



Chloe Jackson

We have had a busy end of the year with Mounted Meetings with Kevin Greelish, Susan Shelton and Alison Thompson, we are so grateful for the time they spent working with the pony club and the Clubbers all learned so much. We also were thrilled to have Martha Kemmer give a fascinating talk on anatomy. Coming up is our Winter Camp at FENCE in January, and getting ready for a busy Rally season.

For more information, please call Louise Palmer, District Commissioner at (772) 678-8063.



Examiner Alison Thompson with Sadler and Sutton Smith

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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)

## POULTICE TO REDUCE HEAT & SWELLING



Submitted by  
Catherine Hunter

I learned a lot galloping and caring for race-horses. One secret of the backside is a very effective natural poultice from products you may have in your feed room and kitchen. This poultice works for ligament, tendon and joint strains, by drawing out and reducing the heat and swelling. I even used it to draw out a thumbnail size sliver of wood a horse had jammed into the inside of his coronary band.

- 3 to 4 handfuls of mud (poultice mud used at the racetracks work, but clay dirt from your yard works just as well)
- 3 to 4 handfuls of wheat bran
- 4 tablespoons of Epsom salts
- apple cider vinegar
- a generous handful of potato peelings (Yes, potato peelings. Basic Idaho works fine)
- a handful of shaved ginger root

While gathering the ingredients, open a medium size paper bag so it lies flat and soak it in cool water. Place the ingredients in a bucket and add enough apple cider vinegar to make a paste. Pull the paper bag from the water and spread the mixture onto the paper bag. It should be somewhat flat.

Place the bag with the poultice directly onto the horse's affected area. Pad with cotton (or bandage quilting) and wrap with a standing or spider bandage as applicable. Leave on for 36 hours. The horse should be stall rested and walked about 10 minutes twice a day.



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