



The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

Be a Weekend Winner at Morris the Horse Trials

— PAGE 3



Emily Thomas at the 46th Morris the Horse Trials. LIZ CRAWLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 | Horse Country Calendar
- 2 | Welcoming a New Editor
- 4 | Restoring Abused Horses

- 15 | Scholarship Winners Announced
- 17 | Trims, Clips, Shaves and Shears
- 18 | Chronic Iron Overload



6 | Young Rider Profile



8 | Trail Riding Tradition



10 | Any & All Dog Show



11 | Local Legend: Beth Perkins

TR&HC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Months Ahead Filled with Great Events



As we head into fall I look forward to enjoying a roster of old and new TR&HC activities. Along with the traditional Morris the Horse Trials and the Any and All Dog Show, we debuted "The Mane Event" in 2021. The Mane Event, this year on September 24th at Harmon Field, was a fun afternoon of equine themed activities for all ages. The cost of admittance was a canned good that goes to stock the food pantry for Thermal Belt Outreach Ministries.

Last year we collected literally over a ton of canned goods and were surprised with several generous cash donations as well.

Community philanthropy has always been a main pillar of TR&HC's mission. We give back in many ways, such as supporting local charitable and civic causes that include animal welfare, student scholarships and grants, land conservation, hunger relief and other community aid services. In recent years the club has increased its average community donations to \$50,000 per year.

One cause that I would like to highlight in this letter is equine rescue. Tryon is blessed with several equine rescue organizations that serve to aid equines in need. These organizations are specialists in the "emergency" stage of rescue. Once the animals are removed from harm's way and any emergency care is administered, there is a great need for foster care homes — people who have the room and time to help stabilize these rescues until they are healthy enough to be adopted.

Please read the article for more details but let this serve as a community wake up call for action. For those who do not have extra "room in the inn" of course financial donations are always needed and most appreciated!

I hope to see you at one of our fall activities, either as a competitor or spectator...and always, if you have any questions, or concerns please reach out, we always welcome your input!

Angie Millon

Angie Millon
President, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club

"Good Cross Country instincts can't be trained - it takes riding cross country courses constantly to learn how to react. You need all that experience to get to the upper levels where the stakes are so high. You have to have the acreage to do that and it's disappearing." —BETH PERKINS



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The Horse Country Quarterly is the official publication of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, published four times a year. Visit TryonRidingandHuntClub.org and click JOIN to receive The Quarterly. Send comments, article ideas and calendar events to SJones@sybiljonesandco.com

TR&HC PresidentAngie Millon
Editorial Director Sybil Jones
Art Director Stephen Bleezarde
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SAVE THE DATE!

Horse Country Calendar

- Sept. 24-25: XC Schooling Days, FENCE
Sept. 24: The Mane Event, Harmon Field
Oct. 15-16: CCC Pleasure Show, Harmon Field
Oct. 22-23: 47th Morris the Horse Trials, FENCE
Nov. 6: Any & All Dog Show, Harmon Field
Dec. 2: Morris Wreath Hanging, Downtown Tryon
Dec. 7: Tryon Christmas Parade, Downtown Tryon
Dec. 9: Annual Meeting/Holiday Party, TBD

Visit tryon.com/allevnts for a complete listing of TIEC events.

Laughable!

Each day Sahara returns to her stall (and her ball!) after a stressful day keeping her companion company.

Sahara is owned by Robin Ruhnke.

Got a shot that brings a smile?

Send it to us at: office@trhc1925.org and let us share it with our readers.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Turning Over the Reins

It started as a glimmer of an idea in an area where nothing quite like it existed. Then before we even published our first issue, folks were not just excited, but supportive. Four photo-heavy pages turned to eight and then quickly to 24 as it premiered in April 2021. Now, Horse Country Quarterly has roots portraying the richness of our area through wonderful photography and with an undeniably dedicated following.

Having given birth to this publication, I am delighted and excited to now put it in the very capable hands of Michelle Yelton, a local lady whom many of you know from her previous position as marketing and communications director for The Tryon International Equestrian Center. Truly their loss was our gain!

For TR&HC and the community, she brings talent, professionalism and passion to the publication and its readers. It will not only thrive with photos and stories that memorialize our way of life, she will make each issue richer and better than the last.

She has over 20 years' experience in the horse world and communications. She holds a BA in Communications and French from Lenoir-Rhyne and an MA in public communications from American University.

Please welcome Michelle!

Sybil Jones

Sybil Jones
TR&HC Vice president & Editorial director



Michelle Yelton

OCTOBER 22 & 23, 2022

Morris The Horse Trials Return to FENCE

As Morris the Horse Trials enters its 47th year, it's new and improved. A few changes have enhanced the historical event making it more fun than ever! Morris the Horse Trials will take place at FENCE on October 22 & 23, 2022.

New Course Designer

Local eventer and trainer Beth Perkins, a past TR&HC Board Member, has brought her talent to bear as the new course designer. Beth holds a USEF "R" license for course design. She has ridden at the highest levels of eventing, and has built her reputation as a course designer at TIEC and Carolina International among other venues.

In addition to adding Beth, Dylan Barry joined the team as the XC Course Builder. As a course builder, he has worked internationally at the Pan Am Games in South America and Bromont in Canada. Closer to us, he has worked alongside Beth at TIEC, and Aiken.

New Levels Added

"To encourage more competitors and sustain both Morris and the sport of eventing, we are offering a lower level where jumps will be 18 inches or less," explains Board member Donna Younkin. "The course will be suitable for horses or riders who are green or mature, who want to build confidence, or those looking to try out to the sport."

Morris will also be hosting both an Intercollegiate Team Challenge and an Interscholastic League (7th-12th grades). Teams of 3 or 4 riders - who can be at different levels - form a team that encourages group spirit. Morris will offer a free tack stall to each team that competes.

Making It Fun for All

"Plus, we'll host a barn decorating contest," Donna adds. "We encourage teams to sport their team colors and maybe a quarter mark reflecting their logo. We love teams' enthusiastic participation!"

More information can be found on the US Eventing Association webpage about team formation and registration: http://GeniusURL.com/TRHC/Morris

Spectators are welcome to attend Morris. It makes for a wonderful autumn day out! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office: 828-351-9709



PHOTOS: LIZ CRAWLEY PHOTOGRAPHY



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Call (828) 351-9709 for more information.

CARING TEAMS TO THE RESCUE

Recovering & Restoring Abused Horses

Out of harm can come healing – with the right touch. And terrible circumstances can have a happy ending – but only if caring, committed people are prepared to act.

A Tragic Need for Rescue

In February 2022, after repeated investigations, a horrific discovery was made at a boarding farm in Bostic, NC (Rutherford County): over two dozen horses were found abandoned, neglected and starving. PEER (Polk Equine Emergency Rescue) and FERA (Foothills Equine Rescue Assistance) quickly went to work helping authorities free and treat the victimized horses. Having only 24 hours to serve a warrant to seize the animals on the property, a volunteer truck-and-trailer convoy with skilled handlers convened at TIEC to transport the horses that could be saved. Sadly, many could not. PEER Director Dianne Joyce recalled, “I was on location on that very long day, and honestly saw things I wish I could unsee. It was deplorable . . . Suffering, injured horses (some dead) were everywhere.”

Importantly, PEER and FERA collaborated with The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run and other regional rescue organizations to rehab and re-home horses to safe and comfortable foster environments with conscientious horse owners. “The logistics to rescue and relocate 23 horses in new homes with care and speed was a challenge,” says PEER volunteer and Tryon Equine vet tech Anita Williamson. “But the cooperation between Polk and Rutherford County Sheriffs and Animal Control was tremendous. Thankfully, the dedication of PEER, FERA, Red Bell Run and Tryon Equine Hospital have helped the majority of the animals find stable situations.”

Fostering is Critical

Two PEER volunteers who were part of the emotional Bostic rescue also embraced the chance to foster pregnant mares — first helping the mares recover, then assuming additional responsibility for the healthy birth of three foals. Chris Allan created a new paddock on her Rutherfordton farm to ensure proper safety and nutrition for 20 year-old Sienna; she also installed a stall camera that enabled her to monitor the mare and witness the birth of a filly (Tipper) while on vacation in Ireland. Allan says, “The long-term joy knowing you’ve saved an animal from a terrible circumstance is so fulfilling . . . it far outweighs the effort and expense to manage their rehab.”

Jasmine Pierce was angry when she witnessed the devastating scene first-hand, and realized she had to help. She is fostering Ruby and Scout, who recently delivered a colt and filly on her Green Creek property. Pierce knew the mares would need careful care and feeding and was prepared for that significant investment, but admits fostering “has



PEER and FERA coordinated a volunteer 15-trailer caravan, shown departing from TIEC, to rescue 23 animals from the Bostic abuse case.



PEER Lead Rescue Chief, Anita Williamson.

been interesting, but also a little terrifying.” She is convinced that more equine owners will make a big difference if they can foster an abused horse. “We probably need 100 more foster farms, even if we go to surrounding counties. It’s so rewarding to finally see these horses happy, healthy and safe,” Pierce says.

Williamson recently visited the mares and newborns in a checkup of all the fostered horses, observing “It’s like they’re totally different animals now . . . These horses are getting more than food and shelter, they are receiving love.”



The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run

Mary Adams operates The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run in Columbus, where horses with serious medical issues or factors that make adoption unlikely are able to enjoy the rest of their lives. With a staff of 50 full and part-time caregivers, she hosts more than 150 animals – including the most serious problem cases from the Bostic rescue. Though The Sanctuary receives some donations toward vet fees and medical treatments, Adams covers the rest of the expense herself—including feed, staffing, facility upkeep and fuel/transportation. It has been a lifelong labor of love.

Working with multiple rescue groups across the U.S., Adams sees an alarming trend: horse neglect and inquiries about surrender are up by more than 33% so far this year. “The price of hay, feed, fuel, pasture board, vet care . . . you name it, if it has to do with keeping a 1,000 pound animal, costs are WAY up and going higher.

Before and after photos of 20+ year old gelding “Pops” following his treatment and care at The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run.

That financial hardship will lead to more abandonment,” she laments. But Adams also sees potential solutions to the problem — from horse owner education, to breeding discipline, to more stringent enforcement of animal cruelty statutes with vigorous local-level prosecution. “Mainly, our society needs to show more kindness for living things, especially the defenseless. The donors, volunteers and fosters in our equestrian community have that type of concern. It’s remarkable, really; their generosity restores your faith,” she says.

Horses rescued from the Bostic abuse case chow down — a healthy diet on their first steps to recovery (right).

Other rescues enjoying a better life — momma Sienna with foal Tipper, while more Bostic rescues, Buddy and Star, experience kindness and care from foster mom TR&HC Excutive Director Leigh Borreson (below).

A Worsening Problem

Another tragic story of animal cruelty occurred in Spartanburg County when Environmental Enforcement seized 35 Arabian horses after a veterinarian’s assessment and warrant was issued. The owner was charged with 10 counts of ill-treatment of animals, and given a \$10,000 bond. A court case is pending, but Dianne Joyce believes enough is enough. “From where we stand it is obvious that the laws regarding animal cruelty need to be strengthened. The perpetrator of the horrible Bostic crimes is still at large (only) charged with misdemeanors, even with all the witnessed sufferings and deaths.” Joyce asserts, “Elected officials must also be held accountable to carry out stiffer penalties for animal cruelty.”



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Time to Act

The inescapable conclusion is this: Equine abuse and abandonment in our region is dire, and getting worse. The good news is, if you have a caring heart for horses, and wonder if you can help – you CAN. Leaders of rescue teams know their resources and organizations are only as effective as the community they serve . . . so ACT!

Learn more online about fostering opportunities, training, education programs or how to donate:

Polk Equine Emergency Rescue (PEER): peernc.org
Foothills Emergency Rescue: ferancsc.org
The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run: redbellrun.org

You can also contact The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club office (828) 351-9709 to learn more about rescues in our area.

YOUNG RIDER: MICHAEL KOCHER

by Catherine Hunter

Past TR&HC Scholarship Winner Goes National

Michael Kocher says, though he always had access to horses, he didn't really get serious about riding until age 13. Kocher grew up in a Tryon equine family. His father, Kelly Kocher, and mother, Susan Kocher, own Block House Sport Horses in Tryon.

"They [Kocher's parents] didn't push me into it," Kocher says. "They let me develop interest at my own pace. They never forced me."

Kocher says when he was growing up, he played sports such as football, baseball, soccer and basketball. Then, after a couple of years riding, he got serious and wanted to focus on showing horses.

"I went the equitation route as junior," Kocher says, including finals in regional and national competitions. Later he went into show jumping, including wins on the national level, such as the 2020 winter classic at the World Equestrian Center in Wilmington, Ohio.

Kocher credits his success to being focused, while at the same time, versatile. "I think I have a pretty narrow focus and an idea of progression to get to where I want to be," he says.

His versatility is evident in his work, breaking babies, teaching students, and enjoying developing and selling horses for the

shows. Kocher says it's important for young people to have a goal and a dream to work towards – even if it's lofty and unrealistic. "You need that goal and drive when things are tough and slower than you anticipated," he says.

Though Kocher often helps his father by riding and teaching when needed, he leases a farm in Rutherfordton where he trains and sells show jumpers. He's also coaching a select group of riders for this year's fall and winter shows in Tryon and Wellington.

Kocher and his brother, Andy, are the only siblings who became professionals in the equestrian industry. Their brother, Matt Kocher, is a contractor in Pittsburg, Pa. and their sister, Emily Kocher, is a law student at the University of North Carolina.

For more information about Kocher visit his Facebook page, "Michael Kocher Showjumping" or email him at mkocher528@gmail.com




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Trail Riding: A Foothills Equestrian Tradition

by Catherine Hunter

“We want to protect the area as a rural horse community,” says Gowensville Equestrian Neighborhood Trail System (GENTS) member Candy Clapp. “We’re [GENTS trails] in Greenville County [South Carolina]. Land prices are exorbitant. The developers keep encroaching on us.”

For many years groups such as the Foothills Equestrian Trail Association (FETA), the Collinsville Equestrian Trail Association (CETA), the Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (FENCE), the Gowensville Equestrian Neighborhood Trail System (GENTS), and the North Pacolet Association (NPA) have worked to preserve the area’s trail riding tradition.

As an equestrian sport, trail riding in the Foothills dates to the early days of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club. Riders and carriage drivers have been enjoying area trails with horses since the 1920s.

Many of the area’s trails were originally older back roads, or even routes used by the Native Americans. Today, the trails are located on private land, many with permanent easements to protect the trail systems.

“We have people moving into the area that think these are public lands and open for public use,” says FETA President, Kathy Nebel. “They don’t realize they have to be a member to ride.” The FETA system incorporates approximately 125 miles of trails. Its history includes the

old Hunting County trails from the 1920s and the New Hunting Country trails used by the Tryon Hounds until the 1980s. The system encompasses approximately 15 square miles running between Highway 108 on the north side, Highway 14 on the south, and highways 176 and 9 in the west and east. The trails are near the towns of Tryon, Landrum, Columbus, Lynn, and the Green Creek area.

FETA is the one system in the area that allows non landowners to join. Memberships are open to Polk County, Landrum and Campobello residents, and to those who board their horses in those areas. Since FETA is connected



Jennifer Gruhn (left), Kathy Gruhn (center) and Bette Mann (right) pause in their ride to appreciate one of the most photographed spots in the FETA trail system, the magical Falling Waters waterfall.

PHOTO IVEY SUMRELL



to FENCE, Nebel reminds FENCE members that they also need a FETA membership to ride the trails. For membership and other FETA information, visit www.fetatrails.org/home

CETA, GENTS, and NPA are only open to those owning property adjacent to the trail systems or boarding on trail-adjacent farms. All three are in the Landrum and Gowensville area.

CETA includes thousands of acres around the old Collinsville Farm District. Landowners formed CETA in 1998 to preserve trails developed and used for hunting by the Tryon Hounds Hunt,

until the 1980s. For membership and other CETA information, visit www.cetatrails.com.

Both the GENTS and NPA trails systems are reserved for adjacent landowners and as hunt country for the Tryon Hounds. Motorized vehicles such as motor bikes and four wheelers are prohibited on all the Foothills’ private trail systems—most of which are reserved only for horses.

In order to continue protecting these trail systems for equestrian activities, area trail organizations are encouraging landowners to place their properties into trail easements. The Foothills area is one of the few in the country that offer private trails systems exclusive to horses.



Rachel Garcia on CETA trail.

PHOTO IVEY SUMRELL

Most trail systems suggest the following safety practices when trail riding:

- Be sure the trail accepts horses.
- Uphill traffic – regardless if it’s horses, hikers, bikers, etc. – has the right-of-way.
- Most hikers don’t know what to do around horses. Tell them where to stand or walk, etc. Be friendly and courteous.
- Let another rider know if you want to pass.
- Find a safe spot to move aide and let another rider pass you.
- Leave gates the way you find them. (If closed, close it. If open, leave it open.)
- When crossing bridges or water, etc. leave plenty of room between the horse in front of you. Horses splash to the front.
- Keep at least one or two horse lengths between you and the horse in front of you.
- Group leaders should be sure all riders are aware and/or ready for a pace increase.
- Indicate slowing down or stopping by holding up a hand.
- Don’t run up on another horse.
- Maintain a speed safe for the terrain.
- Sticking to the trail helps prevent erosion and avoids safety hazards.
- Don’t chase a loose horse. Stand still and let it come to the other horses.
- Don’t litter.
- Most area trails prohibit smoking.
- Avoid riding on cultivated fields, lawns and private driveways.

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ANY & ALL DOG SHOW AT HARMON FIELD — DON'T MISS IT!

Family Fun with Fido

If the old saying is true that every dog has its day, then Sunday, November 6, is just that day! Mark your calendar for the 89th Any-and-All Dog Show, an afternoon with fun, food and Fido in Tryon, NC.

The annual dog show, sponsored by Tryon Riding and Hunt Club, brings out dogs and puppies of all sizes and colors. No pedigree is required, just a leash and a master who loves to show off that furry, four-legged friend. Admission is free, and all dogs welcome.



The fun begins at noon at Tryon's Harmon Field Basketball Pavilion. For \$1 per class, any Fido can enter for the thrill of competition, bragging rights and the ribbons that are awarded in categories such as Biggest and Smallest, Best Trick, Best Costume, Dog That Would Rather Be at Home on the Sofa, and, of course, Dog That Looks Most Like Its Owner. The money raised this year will be donated to local charities to be announced at the show.

"This dog show is a favorite in our community, and we're glad it brings out so many friends and neighbors for some fun and friendly competition," event chair Karl Alexander says. "At the Any-and-All Dog Show, we hear a lot of laughing, some bragging, some apologizing and, yes, even some

barking. It's a fun event for people and their pups." Other activities at the dog show include a dove release at noon, thanks to LJ Myers of Landrum, and Blessing of the Dogs by Father Robert Ard at 1 p.m. From noon-3 p.m., there will be face-painting for kids, food and coffee trucks, and the opportunity to purchase stylish fashions for your favorite Fido.

"This year's Any-and-All Dog Show is going to be an absolute blast," Alexander says. "The largest and grandest of dog shows in Polk County... the envy of all dog shows! This is the day when every dog has its day!"

Call the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club at 828-351-9709 for more information.



LOCAL LEGEND: BETH PERKINS

Eventing Icon Shares Her Passion, Insights

Beth Perkins is truly a living legend! She started riding at a very early age and has trained and competed horses all over the U.S. and internationally. As one of the youngest riders to be invited to join the US Eventing team, Beth competed at the highest levels of the sport.

She has lived in Tryon for the past 20 years and continues to ride and teach, recently coaching Lauren Billys at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Now Beth has a new passion: cross country course design. Next month she travels to Canada to take the FEI level 2 test that will give her the FEI Course Design license. It's professionals like Beth that make Tryon horse country so rich with skill and talent, but above all passion.



invited to a training session at Gladstone with Jack LeGoff. He asked me to stay on and ride with him which I did for 3 years! I got to compete at the '74 World Championship where we came in 6th and I came in 5th at the '75 Pan Am Games.

How did you get started with horses?

Both of my parents (Essie and Read Perkins) rode. Ironically, my mom worked at the Cotton Patch in Tryon before my parents met. Gordon Wright held a selection trial there and she was asked to attend. It was the first year William Steinkraus was also asked to try out. Later when my parents married, Mom taught riding at their farm in New Jersey and then taught at Pony Club after moving to Vermont. So it was in our genes! My sister and I both rode growing up. We started showing ponies and later showed in equitation and Jr. Jumpers. Mom felt that she shouldn't teach her own children but

made sure we had great instruction from an early age. Through Pony Club we were exposed to very good trainers: Gordon Wright, Michael Page, Rick Eckhart, George Morris and Jessica Ranshousen. My first horse was a quarter horse thoroughbred cross who was a fantastic jumper but dressage in those days was sheer torture.

When did your career start getting serious?

I left high school at 16 and went to England to be a working student for Lars Sederholm. I managed to get two horses to ride and was fortunate to be able to compete in England. When I came home, I was

What is the best advice you ever got?

Mark Phillips helped me with my cross country when I was riding in California. He said "the golden rule of cross country is leg before hand." You have to use your leg first and then balance with your hand. It was great advice that works for all areas of riding.

Who do you consider to be your top riding influences?

Lars Sederholm really helped me. He believed and stressed the importance of the partnership you have with your horse and he helped me understand the psychology of how to get a horse to work with you. He used to put me on the longe line every day with no stirrups! It was tough but it really developed my dressage seat. Jack Legoff taught me the forward riding seat and riding soft. I also got great help with show jumping from Ann Kursinski and most recently, Holli Adams has helped me with the show jumping phase.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

Being able to stay in this business so long without killing myself! (Laughs)

What advice do you have for being successful in Eventing?

A few things really: Get as much good instruction as you can - it is invaluable! Learn good horsemanship; you have to know how to take good care of your horses! And, ride as many horses as you can - the more you can ride, the better you are going to be. Finally, you have to love it - it is a labor of love!



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FEATURED CHARITY: Foothills Equine Rescue Assistance

Equines in Need

“Often they think if there’s green in the field it’s okay for horses to eat, even when it’s just weeds. Others think old horses just get thin. They don’t understand the feeding requirements of horses,” says Margo Savage, Founder and President of Foothills Equine Rescue Assistance (FERA).

The Tryon Riding and Hunt Club (TR&HC) donated funds from the 2022 Charity II Horse Show to FERA to help with costs of rescuing equines in

need. Through the Philanthropy program, TR&HC focuses its giving on local programs that support important needs in the community.

“These funds will go toward the costs of dental and veterinary care, and for farrier work,” Savage says. “Usually these animals have been pretty neglected.”

Savage founded FERA 10 years ago when the Polk County Animal Control Officer asked if she would transport a donkey that was being seized in a neglect case. She realized the officer had no place to put the donkey and took it to her farm in Tryon.

Savage then teamed up with the Foothills Humane Society and began organizing volunteers to receive training as North Carolina Animal Cruelty Investigators. In February of 2019, the humane society decided to focus on small animals, so Savage and other volunteers filed for a 501c3, and FERA became an independent organization. FERA volunteers

take a course at North Carolina State University to become certified as Animal Cruelty Investigators. Upon recommendations from the Animal Control Officer, the investigators can file complaints and petition for custody of animals.

“We try not to confiscate animals,” says Savage, who explained that most of the time the problem is the owners either don’t know how to care for the animals, or are physically or financially unable. In these cases FERA tries to educate the owner about proper feed, equine dental, veterinary, and hoof care. FERA also offers feed and hay assistance through Green Creek Farm Supply and vouchers for help with the costs of castration, euthanasia and burial. FERA also helps owners re-home their equines when they can no longer provide care.



FERA is always in need of foster homes with a stall, shed, paddock and/or pasture. For more information about FERA, to donate, volunteer, foster or adopt an equine, visit www.ferancsc.org or call 864-399-3473.

by Cathering Hunter



Left, Gabby, an OTTB, seen at FENCE in September with new owner Calisa Hughes. Right, Fritz, 38, lives with Sara Lyter at Puddin Pies Place, a rescue organization.



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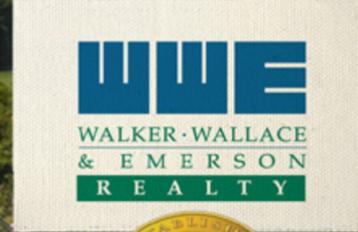
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Daniels and Moorshead Receive TR&HC Scholarships

Each year, TH&HC awards college scholarships to local students who submit applications to a selection committee. This year, scholarships total \$6,500 and have been awarded to Brooke Daniels, Lyman, S.C. and Sarah Moorshead, Simpsonville, S.C. "The scholarship program supports local students as they further their education," says Board member Donna Younkin. "It does so in a way that incorporates the student's role in sustaining the local equestrian community."

Tryon Riding and Hunt Club is proud to support these deserving young adults.



Brooke Daniels

Brooke Daniels
 Brooke will be entering her final year at Converse College where she has been focusing on a Biology/Pre-Vet course of study. Brooke is involved with the University's IHSA team and has volunteered with the local non-profit HALTER which provides therapeutic riding and other equine assisted activities to children with challenges. She is a lifelong equestrian who competes locally.

Sarah Moorshead

Sarah recently graduated from J.L. Mann High School in Greenville, S.C. and now attends Clemson University. Sarah is a member of the River Valley Pony Club and has recently started competing in recognized horse trials. She volunteers with her youth group and at the Greenville Humane Society and has a goal of one day opening a rescue and retraining facility for off the track Thoroughbreds. She hopes to join Clemson's eventing team and is excited about representing her school in a discipline that she is devoted to.

Brooke and Sarah join a number of area young adults who have benefited from the Club's Scholarship Program. In past years, the awardees have attended Clemson University, USC Aiken, University of Mississippi, Appalachian State, College of Charleston, Berry College, and UNC Chapel Hill among other colleges and universities. The availability of the scholarships is a long standing tradition of the TR&HC to assist local graduating high school seniors or college students with ties to the horse industry.



Sarah Moorshead

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full body, even creating a special design for your favorite animal.

Jenna Metz, program manager with a national tech company, and her husband Josh Metz, a medical device sales rep, formed Metz Equine, LLC, in 2017 to provide the area's best clipping service, combined with the best customer service: attention to detail and obsession for perfection. Whether it's a full-body buzz or a simple trim, the equine barbers will care not about the breed, the age or the discipline of their customer. Now in their sixth season, the couple has clipped more than 1,500 horses (and a mule!) throughout Georgia, South Carolina and, of course, North Carolina. To help with the numerous client referrals, the Metz's hired another expert groomer



who brings exceptional experience, once serving as lead groomer for McLain Ward.

Jenna and Josh initially gained clipping experience during nights and weekends, while maintaining 9-5 jobs. However, Jenna's steady hand at clipping was developed at an early age, when riders would find odd jobs, like clipping or braiding, around the barn. "Most people dread clipping, but it's the ONLY thing in the horse world that is instant gratification," says Jenna, who is expecting

her second child in three months. "It's a fuzzy, itchy, dirty, hot/cold and sometimes dangerous job, but we are thankful we get to do it!"

For more information, go to MetzEquine@gmail.com or check out their Facebook page.

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High Iron Content in Red Clay May Lead to Chronic Iron Overload



By Polk County Equine, Livestock & Forage Agent Cassie LeMaster

Because of the relatively high levels of iron (Fe) in our red, clay soils, there has been some recent concern in the area regarding the level of iron our horses are consuming from their pastures and drinking water, which is most often supplied by wells in the Tryon area.

Iron is an essential micronutrient that in the body, is contained in hemoglobin, contributing to oxygen delivery to various tissues, and is also present in several different metabolic enzymes. Iron is mostly absorbed by the small intestine, although absorption efficiency is low (about 15%) in horses fed adequate amounts. When consumed in excess, iron is stored in the liver with no mechanism for active excretion of excess iron. In most known cases of iron toxicity, it has typically been an acute toxicity associated with supplementation, with horses returning to health shortly after the supplement was discontinued. However, studies which have supplemented iron in ponies at a rate of 50 mg Fe/kg of bodyweight per day from ferrous sulfate over an 8-week period showed no signs of toxicity; and, it was concluded that the administration of that concentration for a period less than 8 weeks would, therefore, not cause iron toxicosis.

In more recent years, research has evaluated chronic iron toxicity in horses and the associated liver damage which occurs after years of excess iron consumption from either water or a feed source.

Excess iron can cause oxidative stress in the body and is the underlying mechanism by which iron overload causes liver damage and potential damage to other organs. Iron overload also increases the susceptibility to infections, has been linked to insulin insensitivity in other species, and interferes with zinc and copper absorption. In a Dutch study, researchers looked at 22 unrelated equids (21 horses and one donkey) from 8 farms with evidence of chronic iron overload in blood or liver tissue.

Symptoms

Symptoms included signs of jaundice, weight loss, rough hair coat, and dullness. The researchers tested water samples from the farms, all of which had high iron levels ranging from 0.74 to

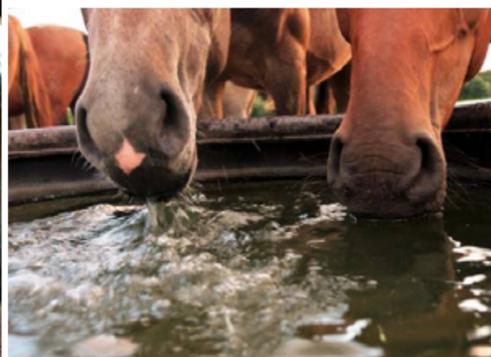
72.5 mg Fe/L—above the maximum acceptable limit of 0.3 mg Fe/L (ppm)—and were deemed unsuitable as drinking water for animals.

Veterinarians treated affected equines based on their clinical signs and with supportive therapy, including electrolyte infusions, corticosteroids, antibiotics, NSAIDs, opioids, vitamin E supplementation, and/or omeprazole. They euthanized five affected animals ultimately diagnosed with liver failure. Four other horses' clinical signs continued to worsen, and they were euthanized nine months to 4.4 years after diagnosis. Post-mortem examination revealed the affected equids' livers were smaller than normal, rusty-brown in color, and often had a nodular appearance. The researchers also discovered iron

accumulation in other organs, including the pancreas, lungs, spleen, brain, kidneys, intestines, thyroid, and adrenal glands.

Recommended Daily Dietary Amounts

The required daily dietary iron amount for horses is estimated to be 50 mg/kg of dry matter (DM) for growing foals or pregnant and lactating mares or 40 mg/kg DM for mature horses (or about 400 mg per day for an average sized adult horse). Common feedstuffs should meet these requirements and supplements high in iron should be avoided (especially long-term). If you have a concern about your horse's iron intake, have your feed, forage and/or water tested. We have testing kits available at the Extension office for Clean Water Labs and can always help you obtain your feed and forage samples for testing and balancing.



Contact Cassie at the Extension Office at 828-894-8218 or by email Cassie_LeMaster@ncsu.edu with questions or if you need assistance designing a grazing plan that is best for your horse.



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An Evening of Divertimentos & Dressage

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\$25 admission for children and teens under 16 with discount code **2022PONY**. Pony Clubbers and members of the Spartanburg Philharmonic Youth Orchestra are encouraged to attend.

Don't Miss an Evening of Divertimentos & Dressage

by Sally Frick, Spartanburg Philharmonic Floutist and Chair of Brooke USA's Regional Advisory Council.

As a member of the Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra, coupled with my fervor (ok, obsession) with horses, and my role as the Chair of the Brooke USA Foundation's Foothills' Regional Advisory Council, Divertimentos & Dressage was, at first, visualized, then designed and ultimately performed in October of 2019.

I can neither look into the eye of a horse, nor listen to orchestral music without being inspired. There is something so beautiful, purposeful, consequential, and relevant about these two seemingly divergent passions. Bringing these two concepts together, live orchestra and classical free-style dressage, has been a mission of mine for many years.

Divertimentos & Dressage was an endeavor, wrought with many variables, undertaken in October of 2019 on behalf of both the Spartanburg Philharmonic and Brooke USA. For all of us who took a chance on presenting this performance, knowing it could fail due to circumstances beyond our control (live horses, live musicians, outdoor elements, etc.) we ultimately succeeded in presenting a memorable and mesmerizing performance. The music was excellent, the horses and their riders were spectacular, and we raised \$35,000.

Enter Covid 19. Sadly, everything came to a // (musical symbol for abrupt stop), or to put it in horsey lingo, HALT. We all know that the loss of funding to these, and many other, 501(c)(3) organizations was devastating. It's hard

not to reflect on this devastation with anything but a sense of incredible loss and concern for the future. Yet, Spartanburg Philharmonic and Brooke USA both were amazingly resilient through the use of technology, and by appealing to unfailing support of those who really support and believe in the sustainability of these two organizations.

For most of us, it's our nature to not only want to return to a sense of normalcy, but to then expand on the experiences we cherish and want to see flourish once again. With that, The Foot-



hills Regional Advisory Council of Brooke USA planned a bigger and better Divertimentos & Dressage with more riders and a larger orchestra. We increased our donations to over \$50,000.



And now...
Divertimentos & Dressage has grown up! We outgrew the lovely Motlow Creek Equestrian Center in Campobello and will now present our event at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in the Indoor Arena. We have substantially increased our sponsorship opportunities; the size of the orchestra and our riders are absolutely fantastic. They are Jim Koford, Jessica Davis, Ashley Perkins, Trayce Doubek, Barbara Bonk-Matson, Ashley Parsons, Alexandra Reis-Naranjo, Brittany Lincoln-Anders and a big surprise from Doug Payne!!

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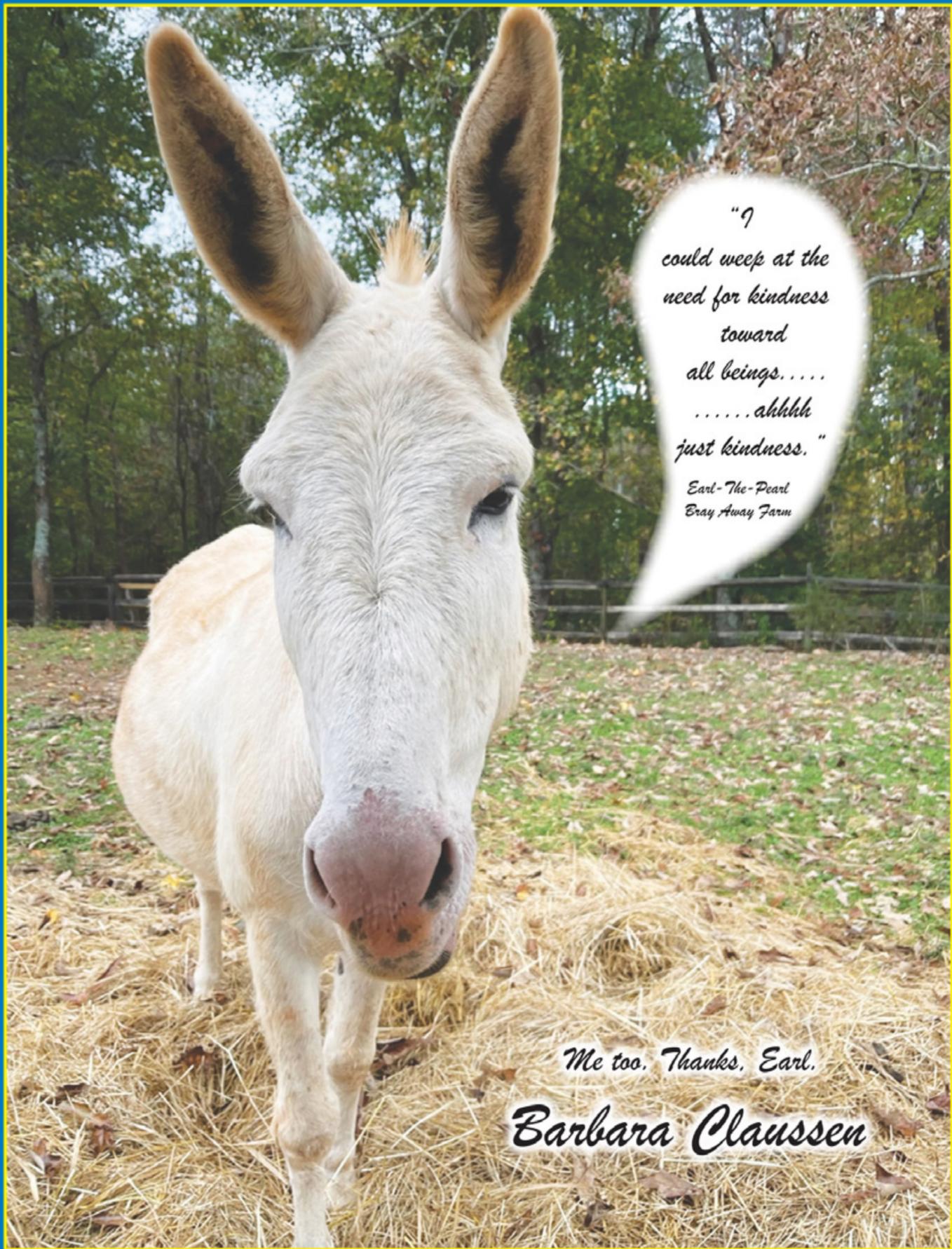
On behalf of Brooke USA and the Spartanburg Philharmonic, I cordially and enthusiastically invite you to attend Divertimentos & Dressage Benefiting Brooke USA Foundation and the Spartanburg Philharmonic

October 20, 2022
6:00-8:00 PM

Tryon International Equestrian Center

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"I
could weep at the
need for kindness
toward
all beings.....
.....ahhhh
just kindness."
Earl- The-Pearl
Bray Away Farm

Me too. Thanks, Earl.
Barbara Claussen

OPINION

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Almost a hundred years later, Tryon and the surrounding countryside are recognized nationally as an historic epicenter for all facets of equestrian life and sport. TR&HC embodies this legacy of local culture and rich history – which by all accounts is worth preserving.

TRADITIONS THAT SURVIVE As the pandemic shuttered many organizations, TR&HC never cancelled any monthly Board meeting. Events were put on hold and came back full force adding new events and making old ones even

better. Philanthropic giving continued without missing a beat. Scholarships were awarded, community engagement grew stronger.

These programs survived because TR&HC members not only believe in preserving the historic traditions, but they also believe these programs enrich the community for everyone. They believe in inclusion of all residents – new and old, old or young. We are embedded in a community in which we learn and inspire each other – and have fun while doing so.

MOVING FORWARD Here's the big ask: We need your help. We need to grow our membership so the organization can continue to prosper. If you are not a member, please join. It's \$50 and worth every penny. You get the HCQ, perks and dis-

counts at horse shows, social events, free dinners and more. Check out the website for details.

Secondly, since several TR&HC Board positions are opening this winter, we are looking for boots-on-the-ground new Board members who can contribute to the strength of the organization. It's a serious working Board that requires time, energy, talent and passion!

We Need You! If you are interested, please call the office at (828) 351-9709 or email: office@trhc1925.org

Sybil Jones
Sybil Jones
Vice President TR&HC

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