



The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

Great Hounds Need More Than a Good Nose — PAGE 8



PHOTO MARK JUMP

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TR&HC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celebrating a Very Good Year



As we reflect on the past year and celebrate 10 amazing events, a hardworking board and an amazing support system of sponsors and volunteers, we also want to celebrate three exceptional board members who are stepping down:

Sybil Jones, our current VP, brought us this wildly-popular TR&HC "Horse Country Quarterly" and was its first Editor. The *Quarterly* publication elevated the Club's visibility in the community, and is something we are proud to send out to our membership.

Karl Alexander will leave us with a hole in our hearts; he's always smiling and keeping us entertained, and never saying "no" to anything we asked of him. In addition to serving on several of our committees, Karl chaired the Any and All Dog Show for two years, which he lived and breathed for the past several months. For any who missed it this past November, please see the recap on page 10.

Last, but not least, **Holly Burke** was our head of social events and go-to person to run literally any errand. In addition, Holly has single-handedly been our "keeper of the trophies." Keeping all of our trophies engraved and polished is definitely a labor of love. If there is anyone out there who loves history and silver polish please reach out, we need a new trophy master!

Thankfully, we welcome three wonderful new recruits to our board – Sally Frick, Pagan Gilman, and Gena Meredith – all of whom you can learn more about on page 23. We look forward to working with them for the next three years. We also welcome our new editor, Michelle Yelton, and look forward to where *The Quarterly* will go under her guidance! Happy New Year to you all!

Angie Millon

Angie Millon
President, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club

Did You Know?

Tryon Riding & Hunt Club donated \$44,736 back to the community this year? And, the Club's average donation over the last three years has been \$45,000!



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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 leighborreson@gmail.com

TR&HC PresidentAngie Millon
Editorial DirectorMichelle Yelton
Art DirectorStephen Bleezarde
Business Liason/AdvertisingLeigh Borreson

SAVE THE DATE!

Horse Country Calendar

- April 14: Block House Pre-Race Party
- April 15: 74th Block House Steeplechase
- April 22-23: TR&HC Horse & Hound Show
- June 6-11: 95th Annual TR&HC Charity Horse Show/ Spring 6 TIEC
- June 9: Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame Induction / TIEC
- July 4-9: TR&HC Charity II Horse Show/ Summer 4
- Sept. 22-23: Schooling Days
- Oct. 21-22: 48th Morris the Horse Trials
- Nov. 5: 90th Any & All Dog Show

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

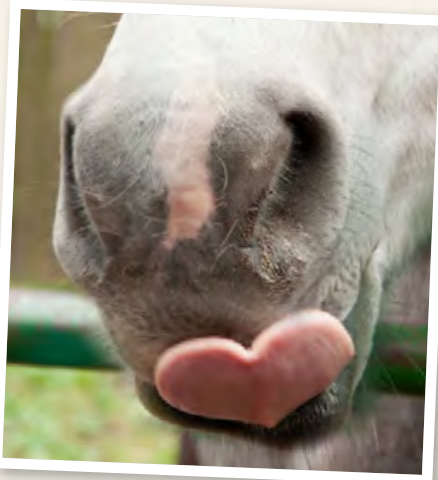
Laughable!

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We all love our horses and understand that sometimes they can just be SO darn funny!

Have a favorite funny moment you shared with your horse?

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Back in the Saddle – Kinda

When I left TIEC in July after seven years as director of marketing and communications, I did not expect to remain in the horse world, not because I don't enjoy horses, but because, truth be told, I am not actually an equestrian (gasp!). At an early age, my parents discovered I was extremely allergic to horses and refused to ever let me go near them. Talk about childhood heartbreak!



But the opportunity to work with them from a distance at TIEC (with a monthly allergy shot) was a kid's dream come true. I learned more in those seven years at TIEC than I could ever imagine about the sport and industry surrounding the horse.

Getting the invitation from Sybil and TR&HC to take the *Horse Country Quarterly* baton was a nice surprise, giving me a fun excuse to stay plugged into our area's horse scene.

I love interviewing the people of our community, sharing their stories, and marveling at their experiences. If you have a story idea for consideration or want to share feedback on an article, drop me a line at michellyelton@gmail.com. Thank you for entrusting this next chapter of *Horse Country Quarterly* to me.

Michelle Yelton

Michelle Yelton
Editorial Director

Morris the Horse Trials Celebrates Successful New Additions

The 47th running of the Morris the Horse Trials in October welcomed 83 entries from the local area and neighboring states, including the Clemson Equestrian Team who are frequent competitors at Morris.

"The feedback from everyone is that they love the low-key atmosphere and many folks come year after year. Two of our officials competed here when they were younger," said Donna Younkin, TC&HR board member and Morris the Horse Trials committee chair.

Riders at all levels enjoyed new cross-country tracks designed by local Course Designer Beth Perkins. A new "intro" level was offered where the cross-country phase showcased 18-inch jumps for several levels of competition thanks to Tryon International Equestrian Center who loaned jumps to TR&HC. Competitors were also treated to a low country boil for Friday evening's competitor party, which was another welcomed first.

"Several competitors made note that they were very happy to see those additions to the show," according to Younkin.

The Morris the Horse Trials are also a proud participant in The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.), which was created to encourage the retraining of Thoroughbreds into other disciplines once the horses retire from their racing or breeding careers.

"I love the T.I.P. program and its support of the use of new homes for thoroughbreds in the eventing world. I am delighted that TR&HC supports this program," Younkin added.

T.I.P. Training Division winner Amanda Curtis was thrilled with her win aboard Theforgottenone, emphasizing, "I wouldn't trade my TB for the world!"

Younkin concluded, "We couldn't do it without our sponsors," giving special thanks to Tryon Equine Hospital; The Farm House; Land Rover of Asheville, Tryon Horse and Home; Stitching Fox; Clement Farm and Barn; and Tryon International Equestrian Center.



PHOTO LIZ CRAWLEY



T.I.P. Training Division Winner Amanda Curtis poses proudly with her horse, Theforgottenone.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO LIZ CRAWLEY



PHOTO BAILEY SMITH



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



When Land Is Lost to Development, It's Gone Forever

by Kathy Woodham

“Buy land,” Mark Twain famously said. “They’re not making it anymore.” “Protect land,” others implore. They would like to gaze out their windows and see horses grazing in a natural landscape, rather than a cookie-cutter, zero-lot line housing development.

The natural beauty of the Carolina Foothills and Blue Ridge Mountains is under threat right now, according to several landowners and equestrians in the area. To ensure land is protected for future generations and the equestrian lifestyle, landowners are drawing a line against property being bulldozed and developed for subdivisions or commercial business. Once the land is monetized, rural scenes of natural beauty, open spaces, rolling pastures and hardwood forests, it is lost forever. Those protective of creeks, rivers, and wildlife habitats are finding help through organized conservation.

Protecting the land is of special concern for local equestrians because expanses of land are needed for horse-related sports such as: cross-country, fox hunting, trail riding, hunter paces, even pastures, riding arenas, and fields for growing hay and grain.

“With no trails or open spaces as land develops, this equestrian value diminishes from a physical, aesthetic, and economic standpoint,” local realtor and landowner Madelon Wallace said, warning that developers from neighboring cities are eyeing this area for their financial gain.

“Horse people, I hope, recognize that land preservation is very important to their rural way of life,” she added. The very reason people move here is for the rural setting, and the best way to protect this lifestyle is through land conservation. Wallace has helped place about 2,000 acres in conservation easements, working with Conserving Carolina as well as Upstate Forever, based in South Carolina.

Beth Perkins, a local eventer, purchased her 17-acre farm in 2002. “It’s so beautiful here. I’m glad to live 20 minutes from the grocery store. I don’t want to see this area developed any further.” Her sport, cross-country, requires unspoiled land for competitions and training.

Sounding the alarm that intense development will ruin the countryside forever, Wallace and others encourage landowners to reach out, get educated and active, make some noise, attend meetings and question county politics in both North and South Carolina. They encourage newcomers and landowners in the Carolina Foothills to learn about conservancy options that help protect the landscape and natural resources in perpetuity.

Polk County sheep farmer, Rafael Bravo, also placed his farm in a land trust to protect his 20 acres. Worried about climate change, lost green space and commercial development, Bravo joined the board of Conserving Carolina, a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a focus to protect land and water, restore our natural world, and inspire people to care for nature. And he’s willing to help anyone interested in preserving their land for future generations.

As land and natural resources are under threat of commercial development, it is important for more people to help protect the rural nature of our communities. Start by exploring opportunities with Conserving Carolina at www.conservingcarolina.org.



Community members are addressing the future of horse country and hoping to find the right balance between land preservation and rural equestrian use.

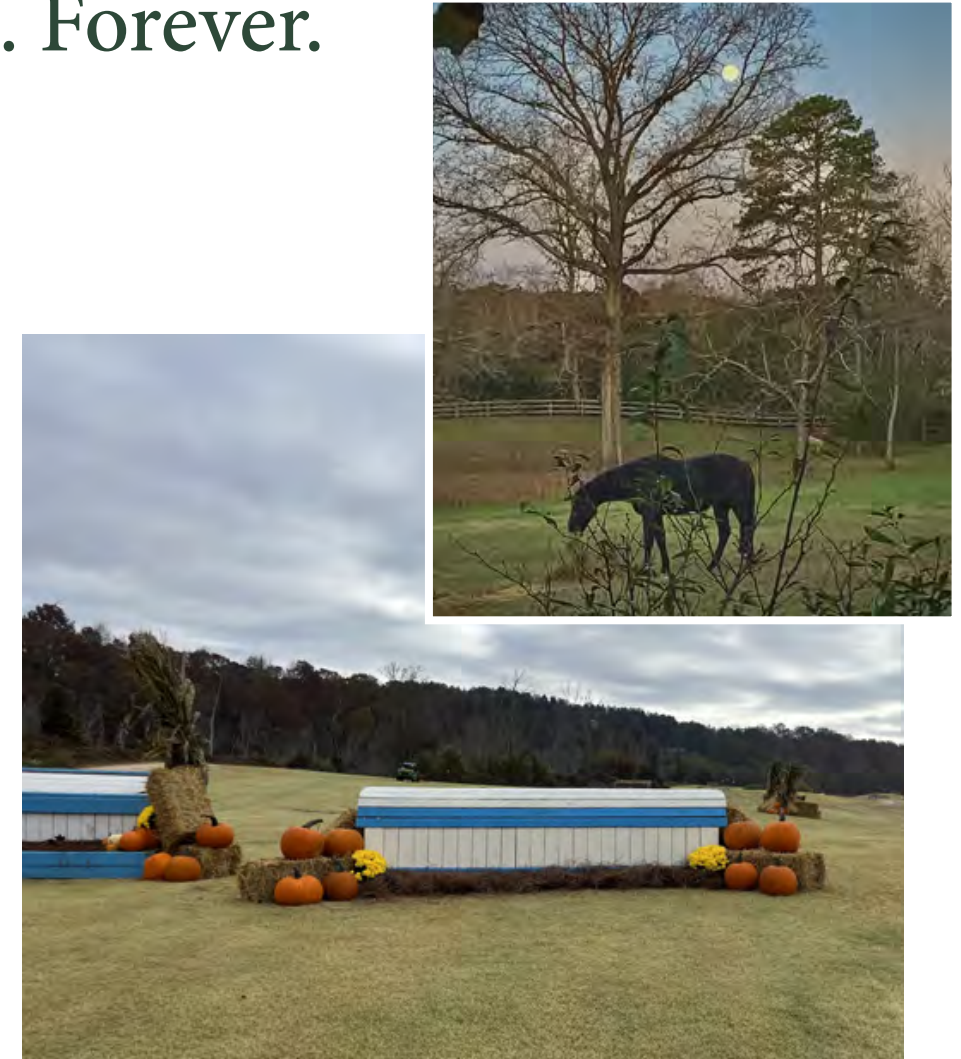
Mountains. Foothills. Rivers. Farms. For Nature and People. Forever.

Conserving Carolina serves part of Western North Carolina and Upstate South Carolina including Polk County and the Landrum area. Formed in 2017, Conserving Carolina is the successful result of a merger of two local land trusts with deep roots in our communities—Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and Pacolet Area Conservancy (PAC). Working together for the past five years, Conserving Carolina has saved more than 47,000 acres of pristine beauty and natural resources from development. The focus is three-pronged: protect land and water, restore our natural world, and inspire people to care for nature.

Gerald Pack, a PAC board member at the time of the merger, felt the two land trusts would be stronger together versus competing for funding and land easements. He placed about 100 acres of his beautiful Stony Knoll horse farm in easements, protecting the natural setting for his sons’ families.

A lifelong resident, trainer and equine historian for Polk County, Pack understands that placing land in a trust is a personal decision that takes a good bit of thought to consider the various options that best fit the future vision for the land. Tax and financial implications must also be considered. Pack recommends making a list of the issues important to the landowner to mitigate some of the restrictions placed on the protected land. He also advised those considering land conservation should work with a good attorney, as well as a financial advisor or certified accountant.

You don’t have to be a landowner to support conservation efforts. Land lovers are equally important to the cause and organizations like Conserving Carolinas need your help, too.





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YOUNG RIDER: STEVIE BROWN

Horse Country's Rising Reiner

Like most enthusiasts, our passion for horses begins in childhood with a toy or a cartoon and that is exactly how it started for Rutherford County, NC, native Stevie Brown, an amateur reiner who is now a member of the Division 1 Western Reining Team at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

"My love of horses began outside of the ring before I could really talk. It started with Breyer model horses, illustrated books, and the movies, 'Flicka' and 'Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron.' One of my favorite memories growing up was going to BreyerFest in Lexington with my mom. The collection of my Breyer horses led to my love for the real thing."

Stevie's immediate fixation with horses prompted her mother to start her with riding lessons when she was only three years old.

"As I began kindergarten, I started to ride and show Western and English. Ultimately, I made the switch to ranch riding and reining."

Stevie's journey into the show ring escalated from there. She has amassed an impressive collection of accolades including: six world championship titles, a national championship win, plus a multitude of reserve champion ribbons, top 10 placements and other awards.

"Horses have become strangely a part of me — like the way the reins feel between my fingers. In reining in particular, I love the energy that is produced. From the large, fast circles to the cheers of the crowd, reining ignites my adrenaline. The feeling of sliding 15-20 feet in the dirt, the rolled backs, and that culminating sliding stop sends the blood pumping through my veins."

Stevie's academics are also centered on the equestrian industry as she pursues a career as a large animal vet. But, from the classroom to the barn and the show ring, Stevie is most grateful for how horses have inspired her.

"While equestrian sport is often seen as an individual endeavor, I feel one of my greatest strengths I have gained from showing horses is my ability to cheer on my fellow riders. This sense of family and camaraderie is something I want to be a part of and contribute to," she concluded.




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More Than Meets the Eye – And More Than a Good Nose: Qualities of a Good Foxhound

by Michelle Yelton

The biggest debate of foxhunting might be who has the most fun — the riders, the horses, or the hounds? For the hounds, what more could possibly be more fun than dashing through the woods, with 39 buddies, sniffing their way to victory? Some people call that “living your best life!”

But what makes a good foxhound? Obviously, they all should have a good nose, so what else is important?

The club at Tryon Hounds, Polk County’s first hunt club established in 1926, also wants hounds with a “confirmation for drive and longevity, that are eager, yet obedient,” shared Master Bonnie Lingerfelt. “We also want them to work well with the other hounds.”

Similarly, Green Creek Hounds Master DJ Jefferis agrees that collaboration

is important and so is a hound that can move at the same speed as the pack, theirs consisting of 50 Penn Marydels.

“We want hounds to move as one, which is difficult. Like humans, some are faster than others, but we want hounds that are not lightning fast, or the fastest. Some hunts want fast, so fast they can catch the coyote. That means they are also fast enough to outrun the mounted whipper-ins and get away from you. If you have a large hunting country, that may be alright. They will catch them eventually,” Jefferis explained.

A hound also needs to be trainable so they can blend into the pack, which is a critical role of the huntsmen and doesn’t happen overnight. Tryon Hounds has 20 couple of Penn-Marydel Foxhounds that spend a lot of time in training.

“Huntsmen have to be devoted to the sport and spend countless hours working in the kennels,” added Lingerfelt.

Master of Foxhounds (MFH) and Huntsman Jefferson “Tot” Goodwin concurs the secret to success with a pack is spending a lot of time with the hounds. He likes the speed of his award-winning pack, which is a cross between American and English hounds known as “Crossbreds.” He emphasized that when hunting, a huntsman should “leave his hounds alone and let them hunt. Don’t pick at them,” he said.

Ultimately, patience is a key virtue in training foxhounds.

“In all honesty, it takes seven years to build a good pack — if you are lucky. Might take longer, and usually does,” concluded Jefferis.



PHOTO TIEC



PHOTO DON WEST



PHOTO TIEC



PHOTO MARK JUMP

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When the name says it all, WHEN IT MEETS THE MOMENT, we put an exclamation

Photo by Mark Jump

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ANY & ALL DOG SHOW AT HARMON FIELD

Paw-some Fun For All

It's been said that for every horse, there's a dog, or two or more, and over 100 dogs turned out for Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's 89th Any & All Dog Show held this past November.

Since 1933, this "Best In Show" spoof features a few standard categories like smallest and largest dog and best trick, but the fun really begins when the runway opens for the "I'd Rather Be At Home," "Looks Like Owner," and "Best Heinz 57" categories! Recognition is also extended to shelter dogs who compete in the "Best Rescue" division.

"Our Club doesn't do it for the notoriety; it's all for fun," explained Karl Alexander, TR&HC Board member and show organizer.

Key members of the local dog community were also present including Foothills Humane Society, Red Bell Run and Noble Dog Lodge.

Laura Bachuss, owner of Purrfect Bark in Columbus, generously provided 100 goody bags for all participants, which Karl emphasized was reason enough to attend.

"By showing up and paying just \$1 to be in the competition, you get a gorgeous goody bag with probably \$40 worth of product. It is so sweet of Laura to provide those gifts and it makes for a wonderful day!"

While the day is mostly about the giggles and laughs, a special ceremony for the dogs is always included. Father Ard from Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Tryon, donned beautifully in full vestments, blessed all the dogs in attendance. Attendees were also treated to an elegant release of

over 50 white doves courtesy of Homeward Angels' LJ Reynolds.

The 89th Any & All Dog Show raised \$2,000 for Foothills Humane Society.

The Any and All Dog Show takes place the first Sunday in November each year. Alexander concluded enthusiastically, "Next year will be the 90th anniversary! Can't wait!"



LOCAL LEGEND: ANITA WILLIAMSON

by Kathy Woodham

How Do You Spell Respect? A-N-I-T-A!

Like the larger-than-life Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, Tryon's Anita Williamson is a rockstar in the equestrian world — a vivacious, entertaining, and soul-stirring storyteller whose words and life experiences take the spotlight. A heart-filled champion for all things equine and bovine, Anita readily shares her stories about horses, mentors, and large animal rescue efforts. Some will hurt your heart and shatter your soul. Some stories will



make you feel good. Sadly, some will stir anger about the mistreatment and starvation of our four-legged friends.

One thing is for certain — everyone who knows Anita sings her praises. Highly respected by horse lovers, Anita works hard for the lives and health of large animals in peril here in Polk and in neighboring counties. As the volunteer coordinator for the all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit Polk Equine Emergency Rescue (PEER), Anita is well trained in techniques for handling dangerous — even life-threatening — rescues. Since the beginning of PEER in 2008, Anita has been involved in many rescues; however, a recent case was particularly heart-

wrenching. In Bostic, NC, earlier this year, more than 20 horses were rescued, but each suffered terribly from neglect and abuse.

Anita's love and empathy for animals dates back to her childhood when she watched a documentary about Admiral Peary's trip to Antarctica. The ponies, carrying supplies during the hard journey, were killed for food. It still haunts her.

Anita got her first horse when she turned 21, a six-month-old Mustang through the Bureau of Land Management. She apprenticed at a large training barn, a great place to be when breaking and training a wild horse. From there, Anita managed horse and cattle farms, raised Thoroughbreds,



raised funds for retired sport hounds, and assisted local veterinarians in general health and field surgery. She is still involved in horse health at Tryon Equine Hospital and her rescue organization, ReUnionGrove Equine Sanctuary, was awarded its 503(c)(3) non-profit status this past December.

Throughout her career, Anita greatly appreciates the knowledge shared with her by respected professionals in the business. Her mentors greatly in-

fluenced her life's work to understand and respect horses, donkeys, and cows in her care. To give back, Anita shares her equine expertise, teaching classes and rescue skills, hoping to inspire and mentor others to preserve the sport and history of horses in the Carolina Foothills.

With a friendship of more than 20 years, Steven Loheac is one of many equine professionals who readily shares his respect and admiration for Anita. The two met when he judged the "Rig Gig," a horse trailer driving competition that raises funds to support retired sport hounds.

"Anita is part of a shrinking group of horse people who will put the wellbeing of a horse first. She is a 'been there, done that,' hands-on horse person who has forgotten more about a horse than most people will ever know," said Loheac, owner of Steven Loheac Horse Transportation, Inc.

Anita's energy, enthusiasm, and heart for horses have set the stage for successful emergency care in an area where horses reign. Like Aretha Franklin, Anita has earned the R-E-S-P-E-C-T of Tryon's horse country and beyond.

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NEW FACES: GISELE BEARDSLEY O'GRADY

Attitude and Hard Work Pay Off!

by Leigh Borreson

Gisele Beardsley O'Grady is unquestionably a successful hunter rider and trainer now, but the start of her equestrian path was less traditional compared to many of her colleagues in America. Between growing up riding the landscape of Ireland and working at a 4,000 acre farm in New Zealand, Gisele's trainer was the rugged, informal environments of Mother Nature.

Gisele admitted, "We definitely grew-up riding by the seat of our pants! I would go out and hop on my pony and ride all over the countryside, then gallop on the beach jumping tables, then fall off, then get back on and start over." Gisele added, "I'm grateful for that opportunity because it gives you grit and a strong survival instinct. I thought 'heels down' was just a phrase!"

Gisele credits her childhood and early adult experiences as giving her courage, especially to work with young horses. "I've never been known to overthink things. I know I just have to get it done and that is my focus," she said. That attitude has opened doors for Gisele. Riding for Jeanne Smith of Clear View Farms was a big opportunity. She had no hunter experience, but Jeanne said, "We're going to try this now," and she gave Gisele a chance to ride several superb horses. Gisele is grateful, acknowledging that "Jeanne's methods and the way she works with horses inspire me!"



Meet local hunter rider and Clear View Farms trainer, Gisele Beardsley O'Grady. PHOTO LIZ CROWLEY

the best out of each person. I've had it ingrained in me for years: everybody has something they can teach you...so try to learn from everyone."

Gisele's experience, attitude and hard work are paying off. One of her students, MC Lantz, won the SC Governor's Cup last year, and Januar, one of her longtime favorite horses, won a National Derby at TIEC. Smiling, Gisele confessed, "Now I really appreciate equitation and its ability to make us more effective riders!" So, don't be surprised if you hear "heels down!" coming from the schooling area the next time you see Gisele at work!



Now the trainer at Clear View Farms, horse owners there who share their horses with Gisele are impressed with her skills and her mindset. "I've never had a trainer who acts so privileged and happy to ride my horse," says Mary Barben who rides at Clear View. "Her attitude and rosy outlook are just a breath of fresh air. I think she would ride even if she didn't get paid - she loves the horses!"


Hard work isn't a deterrent for Gisele either. Her typical day at Clear View starts at 8 a.m. when she rides several horses, then gives morning lessons. Next, she rides more horses—some days as many as eight—before the after-school lessons begin. Clear View's owner, Joanne Loheac, is also impressed: "Gisele is genuinely nice and she's honest. She is a good person and a good rider - plus she's one of the hardest workers I've ever come across."

Gisele says that if it had been left up to her, she would have shied away from teaching lessons, "but Jeanne wanted to retire so here I am!" Both Jeanne and Holli Adams have been instrumental influences for her. "They are both great on the ground. I love to listen to the way others teach and see how their students respond. Everyone learns differently and I enjoy figuring out how to get



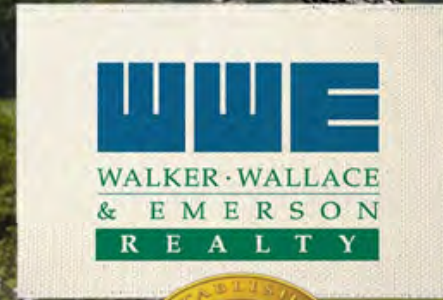




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IEA Levels the Playing Field for Young Riders

Since 2002, the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) has paved the way for riders in grades fourth through twelfth to develop a lifelong involvement in equestrian activities. Rider Reini Kruseman, a ninth grader from Mill Spring, NC, joined an IEA team when she was in the seventh grade.

“What I like most about the IEA program is that it encourages young riders to step out of their comfort zone and experience riding new horses,” Kruseman said.

In IEA competitions, riders do not ride their own horses, but instead draw a horse at random to ride.

Molly Oakman, TIEC director of equine operations, whose daughter, Grady, competed the last two years in IEA, said, “It’s up to you and your teammates to watch the horse before you get on it to know what kind of tips you’re given in that horse’s description.”

Horses and equipment are provided by the host team, so the playing field is leveled and riders are instead judged on horsemanship and equitation.

“No one gets the advantage of having a horse that they’ve ridden or the cost of their horse, or the quality of their horse because it’s luck of the draw as to what horse you get,” Oakman explained. “And, even the most experienced rider could get the most inexperienced horse, but they’re being judged on their ability to perform given the situation they are put in.”



IEA riders Reini Kruseman (top) and Grady Oakman (left).



Because IEA competition is a team sport, the onus is on the team to get everything prepared for competition and parents are not allowed to help. “The team is responsible for all of the barn management, and they have to monitor their own riding schedule, plus the entire team’s schedule and the schedule of their team’s horses. It’s a huge responsibility and teaching opportunity for kids who may never own their own horse, but they can be a part of a team, ride at a competitive level, and participate in equestrian competition.”

TIEC has hosted many IEA competitions and will host several in 2023 including the national competition in April 2023.

“It is extremely important for TIEC to support IEA in this region because we are able to provide a world-class environment one would see at the Olympic level, and yet, this opportunity is being given to middle and high school kids who may be in their very first competition doing walk trot.”

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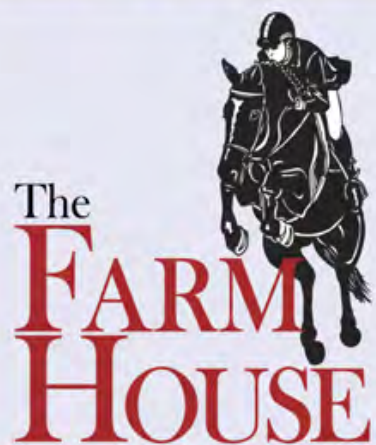
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CAROLINA SCHOOLING

A Series that Sprouted from Grassroots Efforts

by Angie Millon

The Carolina Schooling Series was created by several local trainers to keep the tradition of local schooling shows in the Tryon area alive. Noreen Cothran, owner of The Farm House in Landrum, started the "Harmon Hopefuls" series roughly 25 years ago with the goal of putting on quality, affordable entry level horse shows.

These grassroots shows offer an introduction to equestrian competition for horses and riders of all ages. Classes start with lead line, walk alone, and walk trot, and progress through beginner and no-

vice level equitation, hunter, and jumper classes.

There are eight shows a year in the series, and a typical show is held on Saturdays in the spring, summer, and fall. Attendance varies, but on average 30-60 horses compete. Classes are \$10 each, and ribbons are awarded for each class as well as division champion and reserve.

The venues where shows are held rotate between Harmon Field, FENCE, and Clear View Farm. Horses and riders do not need to be a member of the Carolina Schooling Series, but members com-

pete for cumulative year-end awards, which are presented at an awards ceremony held at the completion of each year's series.

These fun, low-key shows are open to the public, and spectators are welcome. For more information go to the Fern Hollow Farm website at www.fern-hollowfarm.net.



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Best Winter Feeding Practices for Horses



By Polk County Equine, Livestock & Forage Agent, Cassie LeMaster

During cold weather, horses require additional energy intake to maintain internal body temperatures and keep warm. The exact energy increase depends on the length and severity of the cold period.

Oftentimes horses, when living with typical winter weather patterns in our region, may experience a dramatic drop in temperature for one or several days before it returns to moderate, normal temperatures. When environmental temperatures drop below 45 degrees (known as the critical temperature), significant amounts of the horse's energy intake will be used to maintain internal body heat.

When wind chill and moisture are factored in, the critical temperature drops even further. Although a thick winter coat may serve well to protect against the cold and wind, when it becomes wet, the horse's critical temperature may increase as much as 10 to 15 degrees. As a general rule, for every 1-degree F drop below the critical temperature, a horse will need a 1% increase in digestible energy (DE) or calories. As an example, when factoring in wind chill, the "feels-like" temperature is 25 degrees F. This would equate to a 20% increase in energy needs for the day.

The safest way to increase energy intake during cold weather is to increase their amount of hay consumption. Because fiber is digested in the cecum and large intestine through a microbial fermentation process, the by-product of forage consumption is heat production. So, increasing the amount of hay they consume can help supply the extra calories needed to maintain body temperature, and can also be a heat source in of itself.

Horses should consume a minimum of 1.5 to 1.75% of their bodyweight per day in forage during cold weather. If the temperature remains low for many days, adjustments to the concentrate amount may be needed also, especially for thinner horses or hard keepers. This can be done by slightly increasing the amount of the normal concentrate or by topdressing with four to eight ounces per day of vegetable oil or a commercial fat supplement.

Try to avoid big changes in the diet during cold weather by adding bran or other mashes not typically included in the daily ration. Most cold-weather colic episodes occur from sudden changes in the diet from the normal feeding regimen or from a horse's decreased water consumption.

Although mashes can help increase water consumption, stick with a mash made from the normal concentrate or with a pelleted forage similar to the hay that is already being fed. Allow the mash to soak for at least 15 minutes to permit enough time for the feed to expand, reducing the chance of choke or gas colic. To encourage normal water consumption, offer water between 45 and 65 degrees when possible and keep ice removed from water tubs.

COLD WEATHER QUICK TIPS:

1. Increase hay intake 24 hours prior to forecasted cold weather.
2. Determine the critical temperature and adjust energy intake accordingly.
3. Increase hay intake for horses in good body condition and "easy keepers."
4. Increase forage and concentrate intake or thinner horses and "hard keepers."
5. Supplement with fat to increase energy density of concentrates.
6. Feed the same concentrate or similar forage pellet as a mash.
7. Offer 10 gallons of warmed water daily if concerned about water intake.

Contact Cassie at the Extension Office at 828-894-8218 or by email Cassie_LeMaster@ncsu.edu with questions.



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Mane Event a Success for Local Food Pantry by Catherine Hunter

More than 200 people turned out with cans of food for Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's (TR&HC) second annual Mane Event at Harmon Field on Saturday, September 24, benefiting the food pantry at Thermal Belt Outreach Crisis Ministries.

Over 50 children lined up for the day's highlight activity – pony rides – run by volunteers from the Sanctuary at Red Bell Run with horses provided by



TIEC's Tryon Western Adventures trail riding program.

"We were thrilled that Red Bell Run joined us and ran the pony rides," shared Joanne Gibbs, TR&HC's committee chair for the event. "They did a great job and made sure everyone got a chance to ride, plus it was a good opportunity for the sanctuary to get some exposure."

Kids also enjoyed hobby horse competitions on mini jumps provided by TIEC, relay races, and an egg toss, plus face painting and pumpkin painting. Afterwards, a magician dazzled a crowd of children with his tricks.

The highlight of the day was a beautiful dressage exhibition to music performed by Trayce Doubek and Ashley Parsons.

"We were very grateful to be able to come and do a pre-performance to get ready for the *Divertimentos and Dressage* event and it was a huge help in that aspect," said Doubek. "It was just a really lovely day. The horses were

great and seemed to feed off the energy of the kids. It was perfect!

Collecting over 100 cans of food, plus cash donations from the day's event, Gibbs added, "Giving back to the community and philanthropy is a big part of what we [TR&HC] do."



PHOTOS MARK JUMP



DIVERTIMENTOS & DRESSAGE by Catherine Hunter An Evening of Harmony and Horses with the Spartanburg Philharmonic

In harmonic partnership, the Brooke USA Foundation and Spartanburg Philharmonic once again teamed up to create an evening of magic and elegance at the third annual "Evening of Divertimentos and Dressage" event on Thursday, October 20 at Tryon International Equestrian Center.

Horses performed Grand Prix Dressage along with some spectacular jumping as the Spartanburg Philharmonic played live on stage. Though the performance is similar to a freestyle dressage competitive ride, the riders don't get to pick their own music. They must develop their performances to correspond with the music chosen for them.

"The horses are surprisingly relaxed performing in front of live music," rider Ashley Perkins said. "They seem interested and intrigued by the orchestra."

The event is organized by musician Sally Frick, who is a hunter rider. Frick is a member of Brooke USA Board of Directors and is Chairman of Brooke USA Foothills Regional Advisory Council.



PHOTOS LIZ CROWLEY



"Riding to a live orchestra has rarely been done in the United States," Frick said. "We're breaking new ground."

Brooke USA Foundation Chief Executive Officer Emily Dulin shared that Brooke USA's mission is to alleviate the suffering of working equines and the people who depend on them for survival. According to Dulin, 600 million people throughout the world depend on 100 million working equines.

"In many countries, a healthy equine means a healthy family," she said. Frick added that approximately 100 people attended the first *Divertimentos and Dressage* event three years ago at Motlow Creek Equestrian Center in Campobello. Since that first performance, our audience has grown to over 500 and *Divertimentos & Dressage* has collectively raised over \$170,000.

In addition to Brooke USA, the event's proceeds will support the Spartanburg Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

"It's a great collaboration of two loves, horses and classical music," said Spartanburg Philharmonic Executive Director Kathryn Boucher.

Frick, Dulin and Boucher wanted to thank the riders who donated their time and talents, those who donated items for the silent auction, and Tryon International Equestrian Center for hosting the event.

For more information on the Brooke USA Foundation visit www.brookeusaevents.org





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TR&HC NEWS

TR&HC Welcomes New Board Members



Sally Frick

Sally is a career music teacher, performer and conductor. Currently, she plays for several regional orchestras and chamber ensembles as a flutist.

Combining her talents for music and horses, Sally spearheads the Divertimentos and Dressage fundraiser for The Brooke USA Foundation. Her love for horses began when her two sons started riding many years ago. At the age of 43, she began riding hunters and enjoyed traveling with her sons to horse shows. Sally's involvement in the sport grew so deeply that she bought Motlow Creek Equestrian Center in Campobello and owned it for 14 years. While there are endless reasons that Sally loves horses, she is partial to their "big, velvety noses for kissing!" As a new Board member of TR&HC, Sally hopes that her non-profit work with other organizations will be a benefit to the club.



Gena McCall Meredith

Gena is a native of Landrum and grew up riding with many local trainers and showing at Harmon Field and FENCE.

She is passionate about preserving the unique culture in our Foothills' equestrian community. Gena is a member of several organizations including Green Creek Hounds, Tryon Hounds, Foothills Riding Club, FETA and the Kiwanis Club of Tryon. Gena and her pony, Amigo, are active volunteers for Therapeutic Riding of Tryon (TROT). With more than 30 years of experience in the financial industry, Gena is the owner of Blue Ridge Wealth Management in Landrum. When not immersed in financial planning and managing investments for her clients, Gena enjoys trail riding, hunter paces, and fox hunting with her five-year-old OTTB, Speedy.



Pagan Gilman

Pagan is an equine insurance specialist for Lisa Seger Insurance with over 40 years of experience in the equine industry.

Pagan has owned and competed in multiple breeds and disciplines with an emphasis on young horses. Pagan is a United States Dressage Federation Bronze and Silver Medal recipient. She has loved everything about horses since she learned to walk and talk, and is particularly moved by the wisdom they possess. Pagan loves working with horses and seeing them understand what she is asking of them. She and her husband, Chris, moved here two and a half years ago and love the area. As a new Board member of TR&HC, she is excited to get to know her fellow horse lovers and become a bigger part of this amazing community and very special group.

Cheers to a Merry Christmas Party!

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy our annual Tryon Riding & Hunt Club Christmas party. We wish you all a Happy New Year!



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