



# The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

Cheers to Four-Time Champions Kathy Serio & Moody Blues – PAGE 10  
Other Highlights from the Charity 1 Horse Show – PAGE 19



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIEC

## IN THIS ISSUE:

8 | Local Legends: Hay & Baskett  
9 | Morris the Horse Trial News  
11 | Steeplechase Recap

13 | Trainer Mike Henaghan  
18 | Behind the Mic: Chris Keith  
19 | Show Hunter Hall of Fame



4 | Young Rider Gigi Long



6 | Behind the Breed: Paso Finos



12 | Nonprofit Spotlight: R.E.I.N.



14 | Equine Artist Tammy Tappan



# DEFENDER

VISIT LANDROVERASHEVILLE.COM  
46 SKYLAND INN DR, ARDEN, NC 28704



## LAND ROVER ASHEVILLE AND TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB



## EQUESTRIAN PARTNERS 2024

### TR&HC PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### See You at the Races!



As we roll into summer, TR&HC is proud to bring the historic Charity Shows as well as the Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame induction ceremony back for another year! Charity 1 turns 96 this year, a testament to our Club’s commitment and the popularity of this show. The Charity Show collection of perpetual trophies reads like a literal history book. Engraved are the names of generations of prominent Tryon families who donated trophies, as well as the notable horses and riders who have won them. We were thrilled to present a new trophy for Charity 1 this summer, graciously donated by Kathy and Tommy Serio: the “Moody Blues” Grand Amateur Owner Hunter Championship Trophy. *See story on page 10.*


For these special shows, there is a small, but mighty group of TR&HC board members and volunteers present daily with boots on the ground and a ready smile. We delivered welcome cookie boxes to each barn at the start of the week and provided daily hospitality at the ringside to the horses and riders, as well as ice cream socials and lemonade and cookies for the pony riders.

We also celebrated the Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony complete with cocktail social hour, buffet dinner, official award presentation and concluding with the \$20,000 International Hunter Derby in the Tryon Stadium. This year we were thrilled to induct South Carolina horse professionals, Ron Danta and Daniel Geitner, and the legendary horses, Brunello and Numbers. The Janet Peterson Memorial Trophy was awarded to the late Linda Lee Reynolds in recognition of her decades of service to the local horse community.

Our partnership with TIEC continues to improve each year and has allowed these historic shows to not only continue, but continue to grow and flourish. I look forward to a great summer and hope to see you ring side!

Angie Millon  
President, TR&HC

Angie Millon  
President, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club



VOL 4 | NO 3 SUMMER 2024

**The HorseCountry Quarterly**

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

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

TR&HC President .....	Angie Millon
Editorial Director .....	Michelle Yelton
Art Director .....	Stephen Bleezarde
Business Liason/Advertising .....	Leigh Borreson

### SAVE THE DATE!

## 2024 TR&HC Dates

- July 2-7: Charity II Horse Show (Summer 4)
- November 3: 91st Any & All Dog Show
- December 6: Annual Meeting/Holiday Party

— — —  
[Visit tryonridingandhuntclub.org](http://Visit tryonridingandhuntclub.org) for more info.

### FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

One aspect I appreciate about equestrian sport is the flair of pomp and circumstance. In an era where things seem increasingly casual, it’s refreshing to still see some formality, especially around time-honored traditions.

I once owned a marketing company for 15 years and my motto was “where tradition embraces trend.” I continue to embrace this belief. On the eve of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club’s 100th anniversary, there is much tradition to celebrate, and I welcome all the formality that makes it special! How many clubs can boast a century of history?

Thanks to the 99 years of commitment from Club members who held the meetings, raised funds, organized horse shows, and celebrated the people in this community, we are the beneficiaries of everything that makes our area the beloved Tryon horse country that it is. Let’s always celebrate the traditions that brought us to the present while embracing the trends that add variety and vibrancy to our lives.

Michelle Yelton  
Editorial Director



### Do You Know Mike Henaghan? Do You Recognize These “Mike-isms?”

*It’s not ribbons, it’s the memory.*

*Stay determined to learn and seek knowledge.*

*Sleep with your heels down!*

*Good riders must have a solid understanding of proper flatwork. Flatwork not only enhances the horse’s fitness and conditioning, but also improves the rider’s effectiveness over fences.*

*This horse business is like a disease. It’s something you don’t do to get rich.*

*Learn more about the Mike behind the ‘isms’ on page 13.*



YOUNG RIDER: GIGI LONG

by Margie Askins

A Journey from Ribbons to Riding

There are many moments in a child’s young life when they are introduced to something new — a different type of food, an iconic song that they are hearing for the first time, a history lesson on the past, and most importantly, a passion worth pursuing. One afternoon, when Genevie Long’s mother pulled out a box of horse show ribbons from her own journey, Long, at the age of seven, was instantly intrigued. Her fingers ran across the colored ribbons as she listened to her mother’s stories about when she showed in Hunters.

Genevie, or “Gigi” as she is called by her barn friends, said she immediately knew at that moment that she wanted to try riding. “My mom took me to TIEC for Saturday Night Lights and I was hooked. I took my very first lesson at age seven at Clear View Farm and they have really helped foster my love of horses and taught me so much over the years.” By the age of eight, Long was competing at the Carolina Schooling Series shows at Clear View Farm, and by nine she was competing in the BRHJA and A/AA-rated shows. Now, at the age of 12, her accomplishments are impressive. Currently, she competes in the Pony Hunter Division, Pony and Junior Equitation Medals, and derbies. Her most recent awards include, but are certainly not limited to, the 2023 BRHJA Best Turned Out, 2023 BRHJA Champion (year-end award) – 11 & Under Equitation, and

2024 BRHJA Up and Coming Rider Award.

Long says she didn’t reach these accomplishments alone. “Some of my biggest role models in riding are my trainers Gisele Beardsley O’Grady and Leigh Rice. They have helped me get to where I am now and taught me so much. They are funny and patient with me.” Long went on to name dozens of trainers she is inspired by each day, and then her focus returned to her special relationship with horses. She accredits much of her success in life and competitions to her ponies along her journey — Teddy (Outta The Blue), Scout (Home Run Bound), Beau (Bedford Falls), and all of her other ponies. “They are the best teachers. Horses have taught me so many lessons. Too many to count! They have taught me perseverance, and to stick with things – even when frustrating, or when they don’t go as planned. They have also taught me that hard work and practice pay off. They have taught me how to have discipline and be a hard worker,” Long shared. On top of competitions and training, Long is a full-time



At just 12 years old, young rider Gigi Long already has a collection of accolades to her name.

PHOTOS TIEC/ERIKA ROYCROFT

student who practices four-to-six days a week. This summer Long will be competing at TIEC, as well as at Pony Finals in the Medium Pony Hunter Division and for the USEF Pony Medal. When asked about her future with horses, Long confidently stated, “I think I want to ride at a college with a D-1 or D-2 team, that way I can still ride competitively in college. When I’m older I will probably want to go professional in riding.” Long’s desire to pursue her passion on a collegiate and professional level all began with a moment in her young life— an afternoon spent with a box of ribbons and horse stories from her mother’s journey.

2024 TR&HC Horse & Hound Show  
Welcoming the Return of a Springtime Tradition

by Angie Millon

TR&HC’s 2024 Horse & Hound Show, held at FENCE every April, continues to be a favorite and this year’s event was exactly that. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the upstate exploding into spring, the event exudes nostalgia, homecoming, camaraderie, and peacefulness. This event truly captured the essence of horse shows of the past, with happy horses grazing on the first lush grasses of spring, leisurely walking around the showgrounds, friends catching up, and families enjoying the view from the hill as they watched the day’s events unfold.

The festivities kicked off with the Carter Brown BBQ Welcome Party on Friday night, featuring live music from the Super 60’s Band, which set a lively atmosphere. Hospitality continued through the weekend with a pizza party on Saturday night, a grab-n-go breakfast on Sunday morning, and of course buckets of carrots at every in-gate.

Near perfect spring weather on Friday and Saturday was chased away by April showers on Sunday. Nevertheless, the highlight of Sunday, the specialty derby classes, did not disappoint. Sponsored by the Tryon Hounds, the Fox Hunter Derby class was a standout event. Despite the rain, the Tryon Hounds’ big fundraising gala and champagne brunch under the big tent on the hill saw a sold-out crowd cheering on the fox hunters as they tackled the derby.

And then Randi Goulding emerged victorious! Tryon Hounds Master Nelson Minnick slogged through the mud to award the ribbons and trophies, including the “Best Turned Out” award that went to Gisele Beardsley O’Grady and Reuben To Go.

Unfortunately, the hound show portion of the show did not happen this year. The Carolinas Hound Show, a traditional sanctioned meet, moved their show to the same date, and the TR&HC decided

not to compete with that event for entries. The silent auction, a fundraiser for TR&HC, remained a fun addition to the show. Full of horse and hound-themed items, attendees bid on artwork, an antique saddle maker’s stool, fossils, the framed original Block House Steeple-

Right, the “Best Turned Out” award went to Gisele Beardsley O’Grady and Reuben To Go.

Below, Tryon Hounds Master Nelson Minnick with Fox Hunter Derby winners, Randi Goulding and Atoka.

PHOTOS BAILEY SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



chase poster art winner from this year’s steeplechase, and much more. The top item sold was a table at “Saturday

Night Lights” donated by Tryon International Equestrian Center. The grand total raised was \$3,800, which will turn around and go into TR&HC’s philanthropy fund for 2024. A good time was had by all, we look forward to hosting this event again next year!

Our business. Your peace of mind.  
Horse and farm insurance you can count on.

**Pagan Gilman**  
Lisa Seger Insurance  
Markel equine insurance specialist  
pagan@lisasegerinsurance.com | +1.770.283.7344

Products and services are provided by one or more of the insurance companies under the Markel North America Insurance Group and policyholder services are provided by the underwriting manager Markel Service, Incorporated, national producer number 27585. Terms and conditions for rate and coverage may vary. Markel® is a registered trademark of the Markel Corporation. ©2022 Markel Service, Incorporated. All rights reserved.

*“I’m available to help with all your vehicle needs — even bringing it in for service.”*

**ANGIE WILLIAMS**  
Master Sales Guide  
USA’s Blue Ribbon Sales Person

**LAND ROVER | ASHEVILLE**

46 Skyland Inn Drive, Arden, NC 28704  
Tel: (825) 595-8016 Fax: (828) 890-0620 Cell: (704) 576-1863  
angie.williams@fieldsauto.com | www.landroverasheville.com



BEHIND THE BREED: THE PASO FINO

by Margie Askins

The Perfect Partner for a Smooth Ride

Respectively donned, “the smoothest riding horse in the world,” Paso Fino horses are rightfully gaining the attention of horse lovers and riders. The most unique quality of this horse is its ability to naturally and perfectly perform sought after gaits, truly setting this breed apart. Moreover, riders with back and knee injuries, as well as those who have trouble mounting a horse, can often rediscover comfort in riding a Paso Fino. It’s for this reason that Judith Kerns of GreenGait Farm became interested in owning this graceful breed.

Kerns had horses most of her life and was partial to her Arabian horse until he retired, and she met her future husband, Bill. Bill made a deal with Kerns – he would learn to ride if she learned to golf. He kept his promise despite a congenital hip deformity. Kerns explained, “That hip problem caused us to turn to gaited horses and through research for the smoothest ride, to Paso Finos. Shortly thereafter, we attended the Asheville Paso Fino Show and purchased our first two Pasos — a matched pair of palomino Pasos to get married on! Pasos did the trick for Bill as he could finally ride without pain. Growing from two to 22 Pasos, the

The modern-day mustang has traces of this blood and resembles the Paso Fino in conformation, but not in its natural gait.”

Interest in Paso Finos began in the United States in the 1940s when servicemen stationed in Puerto Rico began importing these horses from there. Kerns explained the breeds’ history, “Within 20 years, many Paso Fino horses were being imported from Colombia, thus creating two types from different bloodlines. Those from Puerto Rico tend to be spotted, longer bodied, and more pleasure-gaited, while those from Columbia are solid colored, shorter backed, and shorter gaited. As both were imported, the

The Paso Fino (right) can come in just about any color.

Below, Kerns’ Dinamita as a foal, and she and her husband Bill on a wedding day ride.

Bottom left, the GreenGait Farm.



Kerns concluded, “In a lifetime of horses, I have never encountered such a willing breed that truly seems to enjoy human companionship and strives to please. We refer to the spirit of the Paso as their “brio,” which is a controlled high spirit. They are truly

graceful and agile athletes with a natural gait, presence and responsive attitude — the perfect partner for riders who desire these traits!” Years have passed since Kerns’ wedding day, but her love for Pasos hasn’t waned. Currently, she and Bill are retired and still riding their nine beloved Pasos on their farm in Tryon, N.C. Kerns declined to mention if she ever took up golf.

couple moved their herd from Brevard to Tryon. Paso Fino means “fine walk” in Spanish. Kerns explained, “They are born with the gait although training can enhance it. It is quite common to see young foals already exhibiting the gait. As the gait is natural, it does not perform in an exaggerated manner of a man-made gait but is a four-beat gait that is rhythmic and balanced, creating a distinctly smooth and comfortable ride for the rider.

American Paso Fino is often a combination of lines. Today, Pasos in this country can be found in all colors and markings, although the most common color is bay.” It wasn’t until 1972 that the Paso Fino Owner and Breeders group was formed creating the Paso Fino Horse Association. Today, nearly 50 years later, its popularity continues to increase among those who desire a refined, gentle riding experience.





STITCHING FOX  
NEEDLEPOINT

22349 ASHEVILLE HWY, LANDRUM, SC 29356

(828) 222-5018  
STITCHINGFOX.COM

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @STITCHINGFOXNC







The  
**FARM  
HOUSE**

We ride. We show. We know.

The Farm House has the *LARGEST* selection of riding helmets on the east coast.

The Farm House - Landrum • 864-457-3557 • [farmhousetack.com](http://farmhousetack.com) • The Farm House at Tryon International Equestrian Center • Cabin's 9 & 10 • 828-817-6837



LOCAL LEGENDS: BILL HAY & ANNE BASKETT

by Michelle Yelton

Winning Gold in Family, Business and Equestrian Sport

In the midst of Tryon Horse Country, the impact made by the husband-and-wife veterinarian team – Bill Hay and Anne Baskett – is nothing short of extraordinary. Owners of Tryon Equine Hospital, their expertise and dedication have benefitted countless equines from local backyards to international arenas.

The couple boasts over three decades of veterinary service in the equine field, including 24 years together in private practice. Horses have been a constant in both their lives since childhood. Bill grew up with working horses on his family’s farm in Kentucky and aspired to be a vet from a young age. Anne, who is from Quebec, Canada, grew up riding and competing in Eventing throughout most of her veterinary career. “I went to vet school planning to be a small animal vet so I would have time to ride, but soon gave in to the fact that horses were my passion,” shared Anne. These days, she pops in the Jumper ring when her schedule permits.

The couple’s journey together began in 1993 at the University of Georgia Veterinary School. After completing veterinary school at the University of California – Davis, Anne moved to Georgia for specialty surgery training where she met Bill, a surgeon teaching in the clinic.

Living in Georgia allowed them to be part of the 1996 Summer Olympics as members of the Olympic venue’s veterinary team. Their global adventures in equine medicine continued as part of the veterinary team at the 1999 PanAm games in Winnipeg, the 2018 World Equestrian Games (WEG) at Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC), and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics where Bill traveled to serve as the equine surgeon.

“We had a full surgery suite onsite as the Japanese government would not allow an Olympic horse to travel off the venue for veterinary care,” explained Bill.



Top, Anne and Bill with their daughters Emma (left) and Katie (right), and on a family ride in Montana

But winning for this duo is about preserving and saving lives, and their record is full of victories. One fond memory for the couple was from the 2018 WEG when they helped a British team’s colicky horse make a full recovery, leading to a subsequent gold medal win. Bill and Anne served as the vet service managers for the two week event – while simultaneously running their private practice – and successfully navigated numerous challenges including a hurricane, piroplasmosis-positive horses, and USDA’s horse quarantine regulations.

“With the team of over 80 national and international veterinarians, all the teams, and staff, we were very proud of the care we were able to provide for the amazing athletes who came from 68 countries. Now, whenever there is a challenge or problem at TIEC with competition or organization, you will invariably hear someone say, ‘This isn’t a big deal, we survived the WEG!’” mused Anne.

For Bill and Anne, equestrian sport and medicine are also family affairs. Their daughters, Katie and Emma, share their parents’ love for riding and competing. Both girls worked as vet technicians at Tryon Equine Hospital. Katie, in her second year of veterinary school, has adopted her parents’ passion for equine medicine. Emma is taking an alternate,

but equally ambitious path into law, while still pursuing equestrian opportunities. She is working as a wrangler at Glacier National Park this summer.

“The Tryon equestrian community has been a great place to raise our family and have a fantastic career in equine performance medicine and surgery. From the days of juggling two daughters riding in the Harmon Field horse shows and playing soccer next door at the same time, to 3-Day Eventing at FENCE, to Jumping and Equitation at TIEC, there is no better place than Tryon for raising a horse-riding family.”

Morris the Horse Trials Shifting Focus for 2024

by Donna Younkin

In a significant change for the equestrian community, the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club (TR&HC) will not hold the Morris the Horse Trials in 2024. Instead, the Club is shifting its focus to support eventing in new and innovative ways.

This decision to not run Morris in 2024 was made after considerable thought including consistent years of declining entries and increasing expenses, as well as a crowded USEA/USEF competition calendar – a challenge faced by many event organizers. The Club plans to reassess the situation for 2025.

For 2024, TR&HC will focus on other ways of supporting the lower levels of eventing, which are key to the growth of the sport.

The Club recently met with FENCE to discuss a potential TR&HC sponsorship role if FENCE holds an Eventing activity later this year. TR&HC has a long history with the FENCE venue, having donated a number of cross-country jumps to



2024 Morris the Horse Trials looking at possible move to TIEC.

PHOTO LIZ CRAWLEY

them over the years. More recently, the Club provided a grant to FENCE for improvements of the cross-country track, which were recommended by the course designer.

In 2024, Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC) is holding USEA/USEF Horse Trials from October 31-November 3 marking the first time for this late autumn event. TR&HC appreciates

TIEC’s previous support, including the loan of 15 cross-country jumps for the last Morris the Horse Trials.

For 2024, TR&HC hopes to return the favor by incorporating aspects of Morris into TIEC’s November event, such as awarding TR&HC perpetual trophies to the winners of the Training and Preliminary divisions. The Club is also exploring having the Thoroughbred Incentive Program Awards carried over to the TIEC event, as well participation in the USEA Intercollegiate Program. Stay tuned for other initiatives aimed at encouraging participation in lower-level divisions in this new addition to the local fall eventing calendar.

And as the Club expands its horizons to support the sport of eventing, be sure to read about this year’s TR&HC’s scholarship recipients (page 10) — many who applied and received awards are eventers!

MAIN STREET

SWIMMER

CHARLOTTE | FOREST CITY | TRYON

Equestrian Insurance Specialists since 1898

EQUINE AND EQUINE THERAPY INSURANCE PARTNERS

Farmowners • Equine Veterinarians • Farriers • Hunt Clubs  
High Value Homes and Barns • Therapeutic Centers • Care Custody & Control  
Equestrian Facilities • Horse Show/Event Liability • Commercial Equine Liability  
Private Horse Owner Liability • Trainer/Instructor Liability

Home, Auto, Life, Business, Equestrian, Farms, Long Term Care,  
Annuities, and Medicare Supplement

STEPHEN BRADY sbrady@mainstreetins.com 828-817-1039 CELL

22 N Trade St. • Tryon, NC 28782 • 828-859-9252  
Toll Free 877-872-4578 • Fax 855-775-0655 • www.mainstreetins.com

BECOME A TRYON  
RIDING & HUNT CLUB MEMBER!

Membership Benefits Include:

- Free or reduced fees for social and equestrian events
- Subscription to *The Horse Country Quarterly*
- Individual (\$75); Family (\$100); Lifetime (\$750) and Corporate options
- Priority parking at Steeplechase
- Scholarship opportunities
- Corporate advertising discounts
- Email announcements of club events and activities

To join, visit:  
TryonRidingandHuntClub.org  
or call (828) 351-9709 today!

THE SANCTUARY  
AT RED BELL RUN  
Red Bell Run Foundation, Inc.  
redbellrun.org

Follow us:  
at Red Bell Run  
and at redbellrun.

Visit our website to book a free tour!

The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run is a working vineyard in the foothills of North Carolina and sanctuary to special need equines.

We appreciate the support that Red Bell Run receives from Tryon Riding & Hunt Club.

385 Blackwood Road, Columbus, NC | 828.863.2017 | redbellrun.org | sanctuary@redbellrun.org



Moody Blues Honored with New Trophy

Remarkable Four-Peat Win for Kathy Serio and Partner

by Michelle Yelton

Last year during the TR&HC Charity 1 Horse Show, attendees witnessed an exceptional moment as Kathy Serio and Moody Blues won the Amateur Owner Grand Championship for the third consecutive year. In accordance with horse show tradition, the trophy was retired to their possession, a testament to their consistent excellence and strong partnership.

In honor of the retirement, Serio donated a new trophy to this year’s Charity 1 Horse Show commemorating Moody Blues’ legacy and celebrating the enduring bond between horse and rider. To everyone’s surprise, including Serio’s, she and Moody Blues – whose barn name is Billy – won the class again, making it a four-peat for the duo and collecting their newly-donated trophy!

Serio shared: “It has dual meaning to win the Moody Blues Memorial Trophy after retiring the former trophy due to Billy winning Grand Amateur Owner Champion three years in a row. First, it is so meaningful that Billy made it back to competition for this show after a year away due to an injury, so there is a profound feeling of completion. Second, for him to win his own trophy back is simply extraordinary in every way, just like he is!”

TR&HC President Angie Millon emphasized the rarity of such an accomplishment: “To win a grand championship once is a bucket list achievement for any horseman. To win it four times in a row, that is like lining up the sun, the moon and the stars! It’s an accomplishment to be exceedingly proud of!”



Kathy Serio and Moody Blues won the Amateur Owner Grand Championship again.

PHOTOS NATALIE SUTO

THE 76TH RUNNING OF THE BLOCK HOUSE STEEPLECHASE

Celebrating Racing, Revelry and Remarkable Wins

by Michelle Yelton

Over 3,000 people tailgated the day away at the 76th Tryon Block House Steeplechase in April, many donning elaborate hats and crazy pants for their chance at winning bragging rights. The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) partnered once again with Tryon International Equestrian Center to produce five races around the 1.16-mile Green Creek Race Course.

Graham Watters – who was featured in our spring issue – added another Block House win to his resume, securing the Cannon Harmon Memorial Cup aboard Jimmy Dan. Watters praised the race conditions: “The course is riding really well,” he said. “The irrigation system for the water does an amazing job. The footing is beautiful – there’s sunshine and plenty of green grass.”

Watters, a frequent competitor at the Tryon Block House Races, particularly enjoys the great atmosphere. “We had a great turnout today! It’s been a fantastic crowd,” Watters shared. “We can hear people shouting along as we go to the start. It’s a great atmosphere, and it’s a really fun race for me to come to.”



Above, Graham Watters and Jimmy Dan clear a jump. PHOTO SHANNON BRINKMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Below, a good day for good times. PHOTO TIEC/RETTE SOLOMON

Left, just a few of the many hat contest participants. PHOTO DON WEST

# Congratulations!

## The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club Congratulates Our 2024 Scholarship Recipients

Caroline Hall (Bostic, NC) will attend Emory & Henry College.  
Victoria Reinholdt (Landrum, SC) will attend the College of Charleston.  
Sarah Moorshead (Simpsonville, SC) will attend Clemson University.  
Samantha Collins (Columbus, NC) will attend Wofford College.

*Both Moorshead and Collins are previous recipients of TR&HC education scholarships.*

### Design-Build General Contractor of Custom Homes

Always seeking to Serve with Quality, Value and Creativity

www.tryonbuilders.net

### DID YOU KNOW?

Horses have a “stay-apparatus” — a system of tendons and ligaments that locks their legs in position so they can relax without falling over. When not sleeping, horses use this to rest while standing for long periods, allowing them to conserve energy. Also, it is a myth that horses never lay down – most do spend some time each day laying down for deeper sleep. On average, horses sleep two and a half hours per day.



NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

by Sarah Madden

R.E.I.N. — Rescuing Animals in Need

Dr. Joy Baker, DVM, CVA, CVC practices as an equine chiropractor and acupuncturist throughout the Southeast from her Rutherfordton, N.C. home. In the last year and a half, however, she's found herself applying her veterinary skills to an unexpected herd: young, feral equines rescued from a kill pen, now at R.E.I.N., the nonprofit she founded after a chance Facebook post piqued her interest.

“An old client and friend of mine, Heather Freeman, had posted an Andalusian mare in a kill pen, and it was a beautiful mare. I just got curious and went on the website. I saw there was a truck-load of 35 horses — all beat up because they’ve been crammed in a cattle trailer — who were being run through the kill pen, and they were all feral. They were gorgeous movers,” explained Baker.

Baker soon learned that neither private individuals nor rescue groups tend to bid on “loose” or unhandled horses, and even fewer will bid on feral babies. “I understand it — they’re wild; they’ve never been touched. It’s a huge time commitment. But they were just too nice to go [to slaughter]. So, I bought six feral horses.”

A longtime horsewoman, Baker knew that her expertise in handling young horses would come in handy, but she had never handled feral equines. “It was quite a learning curve. In hindsight, it was a good learning curve. Because I think if I had just gotten one, I would have tried to handle it the way I would handle a domestic horse, which is very wrong.”

But Baker points out, she had no way of knowing this when she offloaded the first six rescues onto her Rutherfordton, N.C. farm. “You couldn’t exactly call up anybody to ask advice because it’s very different from getting mustangs. A lot of the Mustangs have been in a holding pen, so they at least have seen people...When those six got off-loaded, I was very glad my fences held! They were petrified.”

But how did the initial trailer load of feral horses turn into a full-fledged nonprofit? A visit to a longtime friend and client in Georgia, Eleanor Ellis, turned into a second batch of horses rescued from the kill pen in August of 2023. And with that second trailer load, Baker and Ellis decided to create the nonprofit, which was official in November 2023.

Just weeks later, however, Baker noticed a surge in feral babies in the kill pens and ended up adopting several. “We’ve gotten a total of 20 horses since December 28, and 12 of those have been babies. And four of those babies have been adopted and in professional homes to hopefully go to Pony Finals. They are that fancy!”

Since last October, Baker has welcomed 14 feral horses to her property that she been able to prepare for a life as riding horses thanks to dedicated



Feral ponies in pasture and on their final day of a five-part yearling series with Bruce Anderson

volunteers and trainer Bruce Anderson. Baker hopes to save as many horses as possible while providing affordable, show-quality young stock to trainers and their clients. “We want to save as many horses as we can and give them back to people as cheaply as we can.”

Purchasing and transporting the horses is costly, and although Baker has funded most of it herself with some donations, they are actively fundraising for ongoing expenses. Donations and more info can be found at the R.E.I.N. website, [www.reinrescue.org](http://www.reinrescue.org).



Ritchie & ASSOCIATES  
TryonEquineLaw.com

Representing equestrians  
across the Carolinas

864.527.5955



What Makes World-Class Trainer Mike Henaghan World Class?

by Sybil Jones



“Mike Henaghan’s teaching skills are unmatched, as his instruction ranges from the basics of horseback riding to the intricate strategies of Grand Prix competitions. He has made his mark on generations of successful riders.”

GERALD PACK  
Stoney Knoll Farms

Finding a great trainer isn’t nearly as challenging as finding a great horse. Without looking far, there is a trainer who sits atop a mountain of laurels and accolades. Easily recognizable in his signature cowboy hat, polished cowboy boots, clean perfectly fitting jeans, and pressed collared shirt is Mike Henaghan. His renowned clinics are based on a combination of old-school methods handed down from his mentor and trainer, the late Gordon Wright, plus his own decades-long experience of training winners.

His track record includes training top equestrians in the industry including Allison (Firestone) Robitaille, two-time Olympic gold medalist Beezie Madden, Darren Graziano, and Ray Texel. He is also a five-time National Pony Medal Champion trainer.

As a “poor kid” from Connecticut, Henaghan started out riding quarter horses. His rise to the top started when as a young trainer he answered a help-wanted ad in the “Chronicle of the Horse” for a position with the Minneapolis-based Sweatt Family (Honeywell) as their professional trainer.

As Henaghan matured over the years, so did his technique: “The mistake I made as a younger professional was to teach too much – too complicated,” he said. Nowadays, his clinics are more clear and concise, yet more challenging. He acknowledges that he’s tough – always has been. What has not changed is his formula for success, which is basic: “Good riders must have a strong desire to learn, a solid work ethic and natural talent.”

Nikki Sauve, a former trainer with Jeanne Smith at Clear View Farm, knows Haneghan well. “Mike is hands down, the best teacher I have ever ridden with.” To this day, Sauve admits “Mike-isms” remain in her personal arsenal of teaching tools. For instance, in determining distance: recognize and react. And in its simplest form, there are only two things a rider is responsible for – speed and steering.

“His teaching is systemic. It’s one step at a time. You don’t jump ahead. Mike would effectively apply the same exercise to the different levels of riders – a mix of people and horses. That takes skill,” she said.

High praise doesn’t faze him. Very simply, he wants to be known as the one who helps riders learn how to clear up their communication between rider and horse. “I want to bring back some of the training and experience I was given,” he said. “I want to be known for those pieces of knowledge [call them ‘Mike-isms’] that make a rider the best they can be.”

Advanced Technology.  
Extraordinary Care.



TRYON  
— EQUINE HOSPITAL —

William Hay, DVM, Diplomate ACVS  
Anne Baskett, DVM, Diplomate ACVS  
Rich Metcalf, DVM  
Alec Davern, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Emilie Setlakwe, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM  
Meghan Breen, DVM  
Katie Marsh, DVM  
Dominic Eickert, DVM

3689 Landrum Road  
Columbus, NC 28722

828-894-6065  
[www.tryonequine.com](http://www.tryonequine.com)



THE ART & PASSION OF TAMMY TAPPAN

by Leigh Borreson

Capturing the Equine Spirit



Walking through Tammy Tappan's studio almost took my breath away, with paintings and sculptures of moving horses everywhere! Right in front of me was a painting of a magnificent horse whose expression and demeanor mirrored that of my very own gelding – I could barely take my eyes off of him! By the look on Tappan's face, my reaction was not unexpected – and it was definitely what she was hoping for.

Tappan is a painter and sculptor whose art focuses entirely on horses. When I asked her “why horses,” she became visibly excited – her energy and passion are undeniable. She exclaimed, “I love that question! The interaction with horses is so interesting – they have such emotional substance ... I'm trying to convey the emotional connection that exists between horses and ourselves. I'm fascinated by our relationship with them!” Tappan said she has always had horses – they are the one constant in her life. “There is an energy coming from a horse that is very calming. It grounds me and gives me a sense of peace.”

She has been painting and sculpting full time for over eight years, but this was not her first career. “I was in art school when my dad told me ‘art is a great hobby. What are you going to do for real?’” So, she dropped out of art school and became a graphic designer, starting her own company. “So many of us were told to be doctors, engineers, architects, etc. I was encouraged to get a degree, and I was so busy trying to find success that I ignored my God given talent!”

Tappan's mother and grandmother were artists, but they never pursued it as a career. Tappan grew up drawing, but had not painted in 25 years when she decided to take a sculpting class in 2016 in

between starting the process and finishing a piece. She decided to start painting to fill in the gaps and occupy herself.

Tappan says it has taken her eight years to get the foundation she needs in sculpting. The challenge is figuring out who you are from a style and technique standpoint. “One of the hardest things for an artist to do is find their own voice, consistency and style. You are unique unto yourself.” Tappan's dedication to portraying horses in bronze and paintings has attracted worldwide attention.

Her works have been featured internationally and she's received numerous awards.

Tappan's style and process are very organic now. She sometimes just lays down a background and then waits for the inspiration to come to her. Her next artistic aim is to translate the emotion and technique of her paintings into her bronze sculpture. “I think that would be really exciting!” Tappan believes that each of us has a calling. “You have to find your passion and purpose. I think that failing to follow your purpose can lead to depression and anxiety, but it is never too late – it took me 50 years to finally find mine!” She feels the greatest reward is connecting with people through her art and is thankful that her location in the retail shops at Tryon International Equestrian Center allows her to do that. “I don't enjoy creating just to create. I enjoy the human connection. People can come in and see my art – that creates a connection.”

Paintings, above, by Tammy Tappan.

Scottsdale, A.Z. “I loved it and thought, ‘Oh my gosh, how did I not know about this!’” Tappan explains that when sculpting, there is a lot of time

### Stoney Knoll Farms

- Specializing in Hunter/Jumper
- We import European horses
- Tryon area's oldest teaching & training stable
- Training, boarding & clinics
- We buy & sell

**Betsy & Gerald Pack**  
828-699-1352 or 828-699-6798  
beeperspack@yahoo.com

# THE HAY RACK

Your Authorized **Seminole Feed®** Dealer  
Call Today 864-457-2155  
325 W. Rutherford St. - Landrum, SC 29356  
6331 NC-9 - Columbus, NC 28722



## “World's Best Equine Feed”

# Seminole Wellness

**NUTRITION YOU CAN TRUST**  
**QUALITY YOU CAN COUNT ON**  
**SAFETY YOU EXPECT**

(800) 683-1881 | [www.SeminoleFeed.com](http://www.SeminoleFeed.com) | @SeminoleFeed



# Sequestering Carbon in Your Pasture



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

As more and more open land disappears across the southeast from urban development, our farms, and specifically pastureland, play an important role in mitigating carbon dioxide emissions through soil carbon sequestration. This process occurs when a plant utilizes photosynthesis to draw carbon dioxide out of the air to make food for itself. Pasturelands can be important sinks of atmospheric carbon dioxide and play a major role in the overall carbon cycle fluxes. Unlike tropical forests, where the majority of the carbon is in vegetation, as much as 90% of the carbon pools in pastures are located in the soil. This is because perennial grasses allocate a large portion of the carbon to make carbohydrates to store in the root system underground. This provides a more long-term alternative to mitigate atmospheric greenhouse gas emissions since carbon in soil organic matter can potentially be stored for decades.

How can you manage your pasture to maximize the amount of carbon stored in your land's



soil? Most current pasture management practices that promote forage growth and production also promote carbon inputs into the soil. Fertilization, irrigation, and grazing management boost plant productivity, and therefore, soil carbon sequestration. The more leaves a forage plant has, the bigger the “photosynthetic factory” for drawing CO2 from the air. Allowing horses or other livestock to overgraze pastures weakens plants and reduces their capacity for photosynthesis. Dying plants from being trampled or overgrazed (or mowed too low) can actually release carbon dioxide, therefore choosing the right forage perennials for your desired management practices is important. Cool season forages such as fescue need to be maintained with at least four inches of residual to avoid weakening the plant, whereas bermudagrass can be grazed or mowed much shorter.

Of course, a pasture's ability to store carbon

varies by climate, topography, soil type and current and past management practices. Pastures in Polk County (and the surrounding eastern U.S.) receive more precipitation than arid or semi-arid ranges out west. Paired with a warmer climate and ability to grow nearly year-round, our pastures have the potential to sequester large amounts of carbon when managed correctly. Proper forage management that encourages grass growth in healthy, organic matter-rich soils and minimizes soil disturbance and decomposition are the keys to effectively sequestering carbon in your pasture soils.

As always, if you have questions or would like help designing a grazing plan that is best for your horse, contact Cassie at 828-894-8218 or [cassie\\_lemaster@ncsu.edu](mailto:cassie_lemaster@ncsu.edu).

### Visit Our TR&HC Corporate Members:

Tryon Builders [tryonbuilders.net](http://tryonbuilders.net)  
Tryon Horse and Home [tryonhorseandhome.com](http://tryonhorseandhome.com)  
Walker, Wallace & Emerson Realty [wwerealty.com](http://wwerealty.com)  
The Farm House [farmhousetack.com](http://farmhousetack.com)  
Stoney Knoll Farm 828-699-1352  
Main Street Insurance [mainstreetins.com](http://mainstreetins.com)  
The Hay Rack/Seminole Feed [seminolefeed.com](http://seminolefeed.com)  
Camp Wayfarer [campwayfarer.com](http://campwayfarer.com)  
Blue Ridge Management [gmeredith@cplanning.com](mailto:gmeredith@cplanning.com)  
Lisa Seger Insurance/Pagan Gilman [lisasegerinsurance.com](http://lisasegerinsurance.com)  
Tryon Equine Hospital [tryonequine.com](http://tryonequine.com)  
Ritchie and Associates [tryonequinelaw.com](http://tryonequinelaw.com)  
The EMO Agency a Division of Marshall & Sterling [emomhall@aol.com](mailto:emomhall@aol.com)  
Red Bell Run Foundation, Inc. [mpadams@outlook.com](mailto:mpadams@outlook.com)

## Hunt Country Equine

Mobile Veterinary Service



"Striving to provide exceptional service, compassionate patient care and strong client education."

(828) 894-2627  
[Info@huntcountryequine.com](mailto:Info@huntcountryequine.com)



## Serving the Carolina Foothills Since 1964.

*We Know These Hills Better Than Anyone...*

Tryon | Landrum | Columbus | Saluda



# W W E R E A L T Y . C O M

400 E. Rutherford St. | Landrum, SC | 864-457-2448

**Madelon Wallace BIC**  
864-316-3484  
**Barry Butler**  
828-817-9972  
**Jeff Byrd**  
828-817-0012  
**Mickey Hambright**  
828-817-1796  
**Roberta Heinrich**  
828-817-5080  
**Haley Scruggs**  
864-216-2955  
**Mary Scruggs**  
864-415-2713  
**Jeremy Spurlin**  
828-817-3182



BEHIND THE MICROPHONE

by Sarah Madden

Meet Horse Show Announcer, Chris Keith

No horse show runs without an in-gate manager, and Chris Keith has been supervising the flow of horse and rider traffic in and out of the arenas at Tryon International Equestrian Center for two years. One day in the pony ring, Keith got a call that he would have to wear another hat that day: he'd be announcing the arena and running the gate. Since then, he's been a go-to announcer at Tryon International, whether he's pulling double-duty at the gate or sitting in the announcer's booth.

"I started doing just in-gate, and then it turned into doing in-gate and announcing my own ring at the same time, and since then sometimes I do in-gate, sometimes I in-gate and announce, or sometimes I just announce," he said. "I never really thought of myself as being an announcer. I was told to do it one day, and it was sink or swim. It's cool; I like it."

From the announcer's booth overlooking the USHJA International Hunter Derby course, Keith's workspace is full of tools: a desktop computer that



tracks entries and scores and connects to the jumbotrons and scoring systems, plus a radio (or two) that to communicate with the in-gate, judges and arena crew, and multiple clipboards and pens spread across the desk.

"There's a lot more to this job than just saying the words," Keith detailed. "Here at Tryon International we're running the scoreboard and making sure that if we're inputting scores, that the scores are correct. It very rarely happens, but sometimes, someone will be like, 'this is a second hunter round,' but they haven't even done their first round, and you can catch that and make sure that there's no mistakes on the judges' cards."

For announcing, pronouncing names correctly can be the toughest part. "And if you do mess up a name, you do it with full confidence," explained Keith. "Another learning curve was if you're announcing two rings at once,

and you have a flat class going on, it gets a little stressful. So multitasking with like three radios sometimes is a thing!"

Keith shared that the pony ring boasts the best names, and that "Sunrise Biscuit" is his favorite to date.

For anyone interested in horse show announcing, Keith recommends working as an in-gate manager to start, then progress to announcing. "I think if you ask any other announcer how they got started, they'll say the same thing."



# SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

FREE FAMILY FUN  
LIVE MUSIC, KIDS ACTIVITIES, SHOPPING, RESTAURANTS, AND THRILLING EQUESTRIAN SPORT

July, Sept & October dates

[TRYON.COM/SNL](http://TRYON.COM/SNL)

**TRYON**  
INTERNATIONAL  
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

CAROLINAS SHOW HUNTER HALL OF FAME

Celebrations Abound at the TR&HC Charity 1 Horse Show

The Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) again held its annual Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame (CSHHOF) and inducted horsemen Ron Danta and Daniel Geitner along with horses Brunello and Numbers. This year's Charity 1 non-profit recipients included Polk Central Elementary School, R.E.I.N. Rescue, and Girl Scout Troop 13161.

TR&HC President Angie Millon shared her appreciation for the Tryon International Equestrian Center's (TIEC) where the Charity 1 and 2 Horse Shows are held: "We are thankful for our partnership with TIEC, which has allowed our shows to

grow by offering top-notch competition in a welcoming atmosphere for trainers and riders."

CSHHOF co-founder Joann Loheac expressed her gratitude for the large turnout at the event and acknowledged what makes the equestrians in this community so special.

"People are so kind and that's what makes this evening special. They don't talk about themselves. Every single person that stood up here talked about their fabulous horses. You had other people talking about things they do in the equestrian fields. They're just good human beings."



Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame Co-Founder Joann Loheac.



Jeanne Smith with inductee Ron Danta, his partner Danny Robertshaw and TR&HC Director Leigh Borreson.



Liza Boyd and Jack Towell accepted on behalf of their legendary horse, Brunello.

PHOTOS ERIK OLSEN PICTURES

*For the love of horses.*

Join Now  
**TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB**

Preserving traditions  
Giving generously  
Socially fun

112 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782  
[www.tryonridingandhuntclub.org](http://www.tryonridingandhuntclub.org)  
(828) 351-9709





# TRYON

## HORSE & HOME

---

DISTINCTIVE EQUESTRIAN REAL ESTATE

---



Looking for the perfect place  
to raise a family?

Call us.

**Karl Small, Owner & Real Estate Broker**

---

187 N Trade Street, Tryon

[tryonhorseandhome.com](http://tryonhorseandhome.com)

Office: (828) 529-9981      Cell: (828) 817-5153