



# The HorseCountry Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRYON RIDING & HUNT CLUB

Meet the 2025 Carolina Show Hunter Hall of Fame Inductees - PAGE 8



Pictured L-R: Tony Albertson, Jeanne Larkin Dobson, Jeffrey Welles, and Shari Zink. BAILEY SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

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TR&HC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Our Anniversary Year is in Full Swing



As summer settles in across the foothills, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club schedule is in full swing. And with this being our centennial year, we still have a full roster of exciting events on the calendar!

At the heart of this summer's festivities are our beloved Charity Horse Shows. The Charity II Horse Show at Tryon International continues our tradition of summertime horse show fun. And as the name suggests, our Charity I and II Horse Shows further our commitment to community giving. Each year, our philanthropy program

selects local organizations as recipients of the Charity show grants, and this year, we were honored to award Charity I proceeds to The Equine Journey in Landrum, and Charity II proceeds to The Sanctuary at Red Bell Run and Outreach Ministry in Columbus. These remarkable organizations provide vital services to our community in so many ways. Please stop by Tryon International for Charity II—we have special events planned throughout the week and look forward to seeing you there!

We are also working hard to bring you the historic Carter Brown BBQ this fall. Stay tuned for details—we are planning a truly memorable return of this treasured Tryon tradition.

Additionally, we will host several "Meet and Greet" events this summer and fall at our downtown office in Tryon. These informal gatherings are a fantastic opportunity to connect, catch up, and learn more about what is happening in our community. Whether you are new to the area or a long-time member, we would love for you to stop by and say hello!

Happy Summer!

*Joanne Gibbs*

Joanne Gibbs  
President, Tryon Riding & Hunt Club

### Congratulations to Our 2025 Charity Horse Show Charities



The Equine Journey

THE EQUINE JOURNEY, offering rescued horses and underserved youth a chance to thrive together.



THE SANCTUARY AT RED BELL RUN, providing lifelong care to special-needs equines.



OUTREACH, a Polk County-based organization serving neighbors in need through food support, shelter initiatives, and community programming.

SAVE THE DATE!

### 2025 TR&HC Dates

July 1-6: Charity II Horse Show (Summer 4)

November 2: 92nd Any and All Dog Show

December 5: Annual Meeting/Holiday Party

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

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

John Banville, acclaimed Irish poet and author of "The Sea," said, "The past beats inside me like a second heart." As someone who loves to listen to the music of my childhood, test my 80s and 90s trivia, and remember the good 'ol days fondly with my friends, I am definitely driven by nostalgia. I think that's why I love equestrian sport so much, and in particular, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club. The club beautifully weaves the past into the present, from the Horse & Hound Show to the Charity Horse Shows, and even the Any & All Dog Show. Tradition is a beloved cornerstone of equestrian sport and the club, especially this year as we celebrate a remarkable century of history.



In this issue, we share highlights from the 100th Anniversary Gala and recap the club's signature events that continue to honor the past while inspiring today's riders. You'll also meet this year's Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame horse inductees (see the spring issue for a feature on the horsemen) whose legacies remind us why we cherish this sport.

As you read this issue, I hope you find your own spark of nostalgia in the stories that connect us across generations. Here's to honoring the past—and riding boldly into the future.

*Michelle Yelton*

Michelle Yelton  
Editorial Director

### DID YOU KNOW?

Paraody — one of our 2025 Carolina Show Hunter Hall of Fame equine inductees — was fondly nicknamed "Dennis the Menace." Learn more about Dennis on page 8.

VOL 5 | NO 3 | SUMMER 2025

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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](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).

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WINNER'S CIRCLE 2025 Horse & Hound Show Recap

by Angie Millon

Against the beautiful backdrop of FENCE bursting with spring, the annual Tryon Horse and Hound Show was held on April 17-19. Approximately 150 horses competed across a range of hunter/jumper divisions, as well as specialty derby and novelty classes. To ensure riders, trainers, and spectators have a memorable time, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club goes the extra mile to make everyone feel welcome. From exhibitor dinners, ringside hospitality, and a silent auction fundraiser, to an Easter Egg hunt and storybook beautiful main hunter ring decked out with fresh cut brush and potted shrubs, it is not your average local circuit horse show. Camden-based trainer Mary Wooten said, "We love to come to this horse show every year. FENCE is such a special venue, and TR&HC puts on such a great show."

Standout victories included wins by: Gigi Long and Cappybara in the the Hilltopper Class, Ben Cherney and Periwinkle in the Frick family sponsored \$500 Cross Rail Derby, Bristol Gomer and Montblanc in the \$1,500 Mini Morris Derby, and Randi Goulding and Atoka in the Tryon Hounds sponsored \$500 Fox Hunter Challenge Derby. Goulding and Atoka have now won the class two years in a row!

The highlight class of the show was the \$2,500 TR&HC Derby. Contested under the "hunt-n-go" format this year, the class was won by Erin Connelly and Love Affair. The polished pair were awarded best turned out as well as the TR&HC high point hunter award.

"We want to send a heartfelt thank you to our incredible sponsors, dedicated competitors, and enthusiastic spectators for making this horse show truly unforgettable. We couldn't have done it without you!" said TR&HC president Joanne Gibbs.



Fox Hunter Challenge Derby winners Randi Goulding and Atoka.



TR&HC Derby winners Erin Connelly and Love Affair.

PHOTOS BY BAILEY SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

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# To the Rescue—PEER Responds to WNC Wildfires *by Margie Askins*

Only seven months after the devastation of Hurricane Helene, the WNC mountains faced another state of emergency as wildfires engulfed several counties. The combination of high winds, dry conditions, and an abundance of dead trees still down from Helene created dangerous conditions that fed the flames. Western NC lost acres of beautiful forestry and even some structural buildings; however, as we learned with Helene, things can be replaced, loved ones cannot.

When wildfires threaten the WNC mountains, Polk Equine Emergency Rescue (PEER) is one non-profit organization that gets involved. PEER's mission is to rescue large animals from dangerous situations and provide medical treatment and transportation to Polk and surrounding counties—while minimizing risks to both human and public safety—all at no charge, relying entirely on donations and sponsorships.

In wildfire emergencies, local dispatch through the Sheriff's Department or Fire Department contacts the PEER on-call volunteer. The volunteer immediately alerts the other volunteers who swiftly move into action, working closely with first responders to ensure everyone's safety as they rescue the animals in need. During the recent fires, PEER rescued and successfully transported 11 horses, several pigs, five goats, and two donkeys. Temporary housing for the animals was secured at FENCE, Tryon



International and Foothills Humane Society.

One memorable rescue story involved two elderly donkeys, Lizzy and Cotton, owned by local resident, Mary Bayliss. On the day of the fires, Bayliss was evacuated and called emergency services for help transporting her animals. When PEER arrived with the fire department, they quickly secured the two donkeys and moved them to safety. "It was nerve-wracking. One donkey had never been off the property and was anxious. The rescue people came in and took care of it so quickly. I was very lucky," stated Bayliss. PEER volunteer Jasmine Pierce recalled the special rescue: "Mary was very grateful when we returned the donkeys to her days later; she was in tears. Cotton and Lizzy are now at home living their best lives."

It's work like this that feels so rewarding to the PEER volunteers, and they encourage others who share this passion to join their team. PEER offers a three-day training program once a year for

those interested in volunteering.

"They have a dummy horse named 'Merle' who weighs around 500 pounds, and the trainers put him in all sorts of awful situations to simulate real life scenarios, and then we work as teams to calmly reach the objective of getting everyone out of the situation safely. It's an amazing program!" Pierce explained.

This year's PEER training will be held at Red Bell Run, October 10-13. More information, including how to donate or volunteer, is available at [www.peerc.org](http://www.peerc.org). "PEER runs at no cost to the community. It's an absolutely priceless asset to our community," Pierce said.

Although WNC is due a break from mother nature's wrath, Pierce encourages animal owners to train their animals for possible emergencies or situations where they might be evacuated:

"You can prepare your animals so they are safer during any kind of emergency. Having your animal comfortable with things such as getting on a trailer and being around new people can help increase the success of the rescue."

Polk County Animal Control Officer Patti Lovelace emphasized that time is of the essence in these situations and animal owners must act fast: "[We want] people to understand to not wait until the last minute to call for assistance. The more time we have, the easier it is to get the animals moved without panic."

# Libbie Johnson: Preserving Our Local Legends *by Michelle Yelton*

Sometimes it takes a voice in the present to ensure we don't forget the ones of the past. In Tryon Horse Country, that voice is Libbie Johnson. Though never formally designated as a historian, Johnson has become the heartbeat of our region's equestrian memory—collecting, curating, and championing the stories that shaped us. As the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club celebrates its 100th anniversary, her efforts remind us that history doesn't preserve itself.

Lured by her experiences spectating at FENCE and other equestrian events, Johnson and her husband moved to Polk County in 2003 and quickly connected with the community's passion for horses.

"I believe the people here are the reason Tryon Horse Country is different from other horse communities. There is a spirit of warmth and inclusion here that you might not find in other places," Johnson shared.

After leaving her public relations and marketing company behind in Charlotte, Johnson was eager to combine her talents and passion into this world that deeply valued the horse.

"I was looking for something to do with the horse culture. I noticed that most equestrians were busy training and competing. That has never been my focus. I was interested in preserving the history and building the business side of the industry. I also wanted to celebrate the culture of horses and their people. So, without a mandate or permission, I started small projects, and then, slowly, it just got out of hand. As they say, one thing leads to another."

Rather than resistance, Johnson found support for her many ideas.

"I kept moving forward to promote our horse country thinking, at some point, someone would tell me to stop. Nobody did. So I carried on with a "Our Horses Mean Business" campaign, "Boots and Breeches" hospitality project, a coffee table book ("Tryon Style: Horses and Humans in a Foothills Community"), an equine-focused national economic summit, and so on."

For Johnson, the projects were fun, but spurred by a much deeper conviction: "My concern has been amplified by what I was seeing in other equestrian communities, like once-thriving horse communities that have been on



Libbie Johnson's mission is to preserve the history of Tryon Horse Country.

PHOTO JULS BUCKMAN

the losing end of development. Fox hunts are finding it more difficult to find enough open land to hunt on. Small community-based horse parks and trails are disappearing across the country. It takes effort and commitment to preserve historic horse communities. I didn't want us to fall victim to the same fate as others."

For 10 years and 520 editions, Johnson was the trusted source of information for more than 10,000 horse enthusiasts through her weekly newsletter, "This Week in Tryon Horse Country."

"We had subscribers from all over the country, as well as a few international ones. Really, I'm still amazed at how it all unfolded," Johnson shared.

Her convictions eventually led her to serve as Polk County's Economic Development Director, where she championed the county's horse culture and participated in bringing Tryon International to the area.

"At that time, we were still recovering from the Great Recession. The county commissioners were determined to attract industry to the area. I kept saying to them, 'You have an industry here; let's build it bigger and better.' There was an education component to convincing the county leadership that the horse industry provided jobs. I had also promoted the area as 'a great place for horses, and a great place for horse business.' I am still proud of our accomplishments."

When asked what motivates her to invest so deeply in preserving Tryon Horse Country's past, Johnson said, "the ticking clock."

She elaborated on that vision, saying: "I've been extremely fortunate to be able to interview some of the people who have lived through the area's establishment as a horse town. But, many of those folks are no longer with us. I'd like to see concerted efforts to identify sources of our history and make arrangements to preserve them before it's too late and they are gone. It's going to take hard work and dedication to get this accomplished."

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YOUNG RIDER: GRACE HOGAN

by Margie Askins



Rising rider Grace Hogan in action. PHOTO ANDREW RYBACK

### Riding Toward Her Dreams

Sixteen-year-old Grace Hogan from Spartanburg, SC, has her mind set on one thing—she is determined to ride in college, and ultimately have a career riding horses. If one is lucky enough to witness this rising star compete, it's clear that she is an extraordinarily accomplished young rider and one to watch in the ring this summer in Tryon.

Hogan grew up around horses, and her mother is her trainer and largest supporter. She recalled where her love for riding and competing began: "I believe my first horse show was when I was six on my pony, Mr. Grinns, at a schooling show at Clear View Farm." Now, ten years later, she competes in the Junior Hunters and Equitation. Hogan has won many year-end awards and Circuit Championships, was awarded the SCHJA and BRHJA Junior Sportsmanship Award, and won the Trip of the Day at the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club's Charity Show last year.

She acknowledges she did not reach these mile-

stones alone and gives credit to those she has learned from. "I have ridden with some outstanding trainers in the area—Kelsey Barbour, Holli Adams, and currently Katie and Stephen Pack. I also really look up to my mom as a trainer and horsewoman. I look up to them all and have enjoyed their different styles of teaching," Hogan said. Beyond her relationship with her mentors is her deep relationship with horses.

Hogan rides on average six times a week on several different horses, including her horse, Maranto Ace, also known as "Banks" in the barn. She's been riding him for a year and loves his goofy personality and affinity for orange peels. Her favorite competition memory is from last year's Tryon Riding and Hunt Club Charity Show when the judge stood up and started clapping after her round. "I will never forget that feeling. It was my second show on Banks, which made it super special. I walked away from that show really looking forward to our future," she stated.

Hogan and Banks will be competing more this summer, including at the Junior Hunters Finals in Kentucky. "My riding goals are to continue to be consistent on many different horses. Riding in college for an NCEA team has always been a dream of mine, as well. I want to gain as much knowledge and experience as possible—that will help me to become the best I can be," Hogan added.

The young rider encourages her peers who also wish to compete to set realistic goals first and then raise the standard. She reminds them to work harder when those inevitable bumps in the road come along: "The biggest lesson I've learned is that in this industry, everything isn't going to go the way that it is planned. But, if you want it bad enough and you work hard, then things will start to come together," she explained. "I can't imagine doing anything else with my life!" With her continued determination and dedication to her personal success and growth, she won't have to.




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# HONORING EXCELLENCE

## 2025 Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame *by Michelle Yelton*

The Carolinas Show Hunter Hall of Fame returned to center stage on June 6 at Tryon International as part of the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club's Charity I Horse Show. The mission of the evening is to celebrate and honor the horses and individuals who have left a lasting legacy in the show hunter world—and this year was no exception.

The spring issue of *The Horse Country Quarterly* featured this year's rider inductees—Jeffery Welles and Tony Albertson—and in this issue, we honor three extraordinary horses whose talent, determination, and charisma left a lasting impact on the sport. From small ponies to grand hunters, each inductee brought something special to the ring.

### Ivory Cross (“Miss Priss”)



This 16.2-hand bay mare, known for her blaze and four white socks, brought both elegance and attitude to the ring. Bred and started by Linda and Russ Walther in Waxhaw, NC, Ivory Cross once won an astonishing 65 consecutive classes. Leased by Jeannie Larkin in 1977, she dominated the Junior Hunters, claiming championships at PNHS in 1978 and 1979. Jeffery Welles also won numerous classes with her in Virginia, as well as Best Child Rider at WIHS two years in a row. She retired to broodmare life in Camden, SC, in 1984.

### Parody



A chestnut Thoroughbred gelding bred in Aiken, SC, by Jane King, Parody stood just under 15.3

hands but had a big presence in the show ring. Owned by Shari Zink and trained by Ron Danta and Danny Robertshaw, Parody claimed top honors in the Green Conformation Hunters, including Champion at PNHS and multiple Zone 4 Horse of the Year titles. Zink also showed him successfully in the Amateur Owner division, qualifying for indoors annually. With a catalogue of other wins, Parody retired in 2002 after a decade of outstanding performances.

### Spindletop Showdown



True to his name, Spindletop Showdown dazzled in the hunter ring winning numerous championships. The 16.2-hand bay Thoroughbred was bred by Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Moss of Southern Pines, NC,

and achieved early success with Bobby Burke before being sold to Sallie Busch Wheeler. His most dominant years came under Marvin van Rapoport and rider Terry Rudd, winning the Ladies Hunter division at Devon in 1969, the Conformation Hunter championship at Devon in 1970, winning 43 consecutive classes, and earning four consecutive AHSA Horse of the Year titles. Showdown retired undefeated in 1998 and was honored in the National Horse Show Hall of Fame in 1997.

In addition to honoring legacies of these incredible riders and horses, the charity horse shows are an opportunity to give back. Proceeds from this year's event supported three deserving nonprofit organizations:

- THE EQUINE JOURNEY, offering rescued horses and underserved youth a chance to thrive together.
- THE SANCTUARY AT RED BELL RUN, providing lifelong care to special-needs equines.
- OUTREACH, a Polk County-based organization serving neighbors in need through food support, shelter initiatives, and community programming.

The evening also featured the excitement of the USHJA International Derby, with Liza Boyd and Ondine D'Orleans capturing the top prize.

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# Local Equestrians Take on IEA Nationals With Help of TR&HC Grant

*by Sarah Madden Taylor*

Clear View Farm's Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) team was well represented at IEA National Finals in Lake St. Louis, MO, this April, with two riders qualifying for competition and representing Tryon Horse Country as individuals. Erin Gingrich and Emma Southerlin received an educational grant from the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) to help fund their journey, and both brought back valuable experience. The IEA model of competition is marked by the practice of riders competing on randomly assigned horses. The result is that competitors cannot rely on familiar or expensive horses to showcase their equitation.

Gingrich qualified for Nationals in her first year of competing within the IEA program, recognizing the opportunity to make it “to the top” in her first year of competing. She had a slightly odd path to the National Finals, she admitted. “I actually skipped Regionals. Nobody else qualified, so I got put straight through to Zones.”

Gingrich placed fourth at Nationals in the Junior Varsity Beginner Equitation Walk/Trot, and said that she “really liked meeting everyone and getting to ride all the different horses because they don't give you the same horse every single time.”

Southerlin competed in the Junior Varsity Novice Equitation on the Flat, placing sixth, and emphasized her appreciation of the quality of competition at Nationals:

“My favorite part was probably just being able to see all the different horses from different places, and seeing how other people did so well, on a horse they've never ridden before.”



Erin Gingrich and Emma Southerlin at IEA National Finals, with support from TR&HC.

Southerlin enjoyed her experience as a competitor and as a spectator alike. “I enjoyed riding the different horses because both of the horses that I drew were completely different, but then they also had some of the same kind of quirks, too.”

Southerlin expressed her appreciation for the opportunity. “It was honestly just a great experience to be able to go in general because there are so many people that are really good who compete in IEA, and it was super cool to get the chance to go. Traveling to a different place was cool, too.”

Though the whole team, and even the whole family, couldn't travel to Missouri to cheer the two hometown heroes, the support could be felt from the entire community. In addition to financial support, local legend and Carolina Show

Hunter Hall of Famer, Jeanne Smith, took time to give the pair a training session before they embarked on their journey.

“This was my third year on the team because I started in ninth grade,” Southerlin recapped, “but I really wish that I had started in middle school because it's honestly a really great way to improve your riding and have fun with your team. We compete and we work hard at what we do, but at the same time, we have fun going and being together with our teammates. Our trainers are always really good at showing us how to improve.”

Southerlin concluded by summing up her IEA experience: “To have your friends that are out there, showing and supporting you, and then you get the chance to support them ... it's awesome.”

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# A Century of Tradition: TR&HC Celebrates 100 Years

by Michelle Yelton

One hundred years of equestrian history, tradition and legacy was celebrated at the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) gala on April 10, 2025. TR&HC President Joanne Gibbs opened the evening with a heartfelt tribute to those who paved the way to the club's incredible milestone.

"As we reflect on the past century, the history and traditions that began with Carter Brown one hundred years ago, what a legacy this club has had. From the early horse show days at Harmon Field, when the whole town would turn out for the day's activities, to hosting Olympic equestrian trials, literally right down the road, there are endless stories that put Tryon Riding and Hunt Club on the map. Certainly, too much to cover in one night," Gibbs said.

Gibbs also acknowledged the dedication of members, heritage families, volunteers, staff, sponsors, and past presidents like Angie Millon, Nancy Wilson, and Tim Brannon. "This celebration is not merely a reflection of the passage of time, but most importantly, a celebration of all of you who have contributed countless hours making this club a success."

The club has much to be proud of, including contributing nearly half a million dollars to community

grants and scholarships over the past decade. Gibbs emphasized TR&HC's mission to support equestrian sport, preserve traditions, and invest in the local community.

"Investing in our community is one of the longstanding traditions of this club, and we are committed to supporting and growing our community grant and scholarship programs," she said.

Gibbs concluded the evening with details about a commemorative brick memorial fundraiser at Harmon Field (see page 18), and expressed gratitude to who made the evening possible:

"I would be remiss, if I did not thank our dedicated gala committee that put this night together for us: Sally Frick, Pagan Gillman, Tara McNeil, Lauren Wingate, as well as Leigh Borreson and Angie Millon."



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## Eventing's Newest Chapter – The Tryon Collective *by Donna Younkin*

The newly established Tryon Collective marks an exciting chapter in Tryon Horse Country's Eventing story—one that the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) is proud to support.

Founded by local equestrian Sarah Lawrence, the Tryon Collective provides a supportive environment for riders in grades 5-12, fostering camaraderie, professional training, and lasting memories. "I love being part of a team of young girls," shared team member Bailey Gullede. "Eventing is an independent sport, so it is nice to be able to be part of a team where instead of competing against each other, everyone is supporting each other."

This spring, Tryon Collective members competed in several events, including one at FENCE and the USEA Interscholastic Eventing Championship in Aiken, SC. "The Collective brings me closer to friends while still being able to be with horses," said rider Lila Apple. "I get to compete and also bring something to the team."

TR&HC Board Member Donna Younkin recently visited with several of the competitors and was very impressed by their enthusiasm, engaging personalities, and pride in being part of the Tryon Collective.

"Before the Tryon Collective and Interscholastic Eventing League (IEL), there weren't organizations for young girls in Eventing," said Mary Hampton Cottingham. "There was IEA for Hunters and Dressage, but not Eventing. It is important to have a community for younger girls in the Eventing world."

Tryon Collective is part of the USEA's IEL program, which was created in 2020. Its mission is to unite junior riders to provide a supportive

community through which students can continue to pursue their riding interests and compete in a team atmosphere. IELs are growing in popularity, with eight new clubs formed this year, bringing the total to 57 across the country.

In a recent Facebook post, the Tryon Collective thanked the TR&HC for their support: "We want to thank our sponsors, especially a big shout out to the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club, for their continuous support and resources for these kids navi-

gating school, horses, and life. TR&HC is a valuable resource in our community and we are lucky to be a part of it!"

The IEL program is the perfect feeder for the USEA's very successful Intercollegiate Eventing Program, which allows college Eventing teams and individual competitors to compete nationally. In fact, Cottingham plans to do just that when she attends Auburn University next year!



TR&HC is proud to support the Tryon Collective – a new local Eventing program.

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# A FOND FARWELL

## TR&HC Executive Director Leigh Borreson Retires

by Michelle Yelton

Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) is bidding a fond farewell to Executive Director Leigh Borreson, who is stepping down after four years in the role and five years as a board member. Thankfully, she's not leaving the club, just the position, and she will remain active.

When reflecting on her favorite moment in this role, she found it difficult to name just one.

"That is a really tough question! Each of our events are very different and each is special to me in its own way. All of the events have a fascinating history behind them. I love the Horse and Hound Show for its community feel and derby excitement. Both Charity shows draw top riders and horses from all over the country so it is thrilling to watch them compete up close! And, what a treat to get to present our perpetual trophies to these gorgeous horses and their talented riders and owners! The Any and All Dog Show is truly remarkable and unique! Dogs are very special to me—my husband and I have 3 rescue dogs and have had as many as 5! How amazing that we have a day that gives the entire community a chance to celebrate their canine companions! It is an honor to be able to help plan and run all the activities!" Borreson explained.

In addition to staying plugged into the club, Borreson looks forward to pursuing new passions.

"There are several nonprofit groups that I've always hoped I'd have time for so I'm looking forward to getting involved and volunteering," she added. Of course, her horses Cecil, Ruby and Simon will be thrilled to have more of their mom's time!

Former TR&HC President Angie Millon expressed her appreciation for Borreson and her contributions to the club: "Everyone loves Leigh Borreson!" emphasized Millon. "She has been on the front lines with our membership and the community for many years now. She certainly helped me

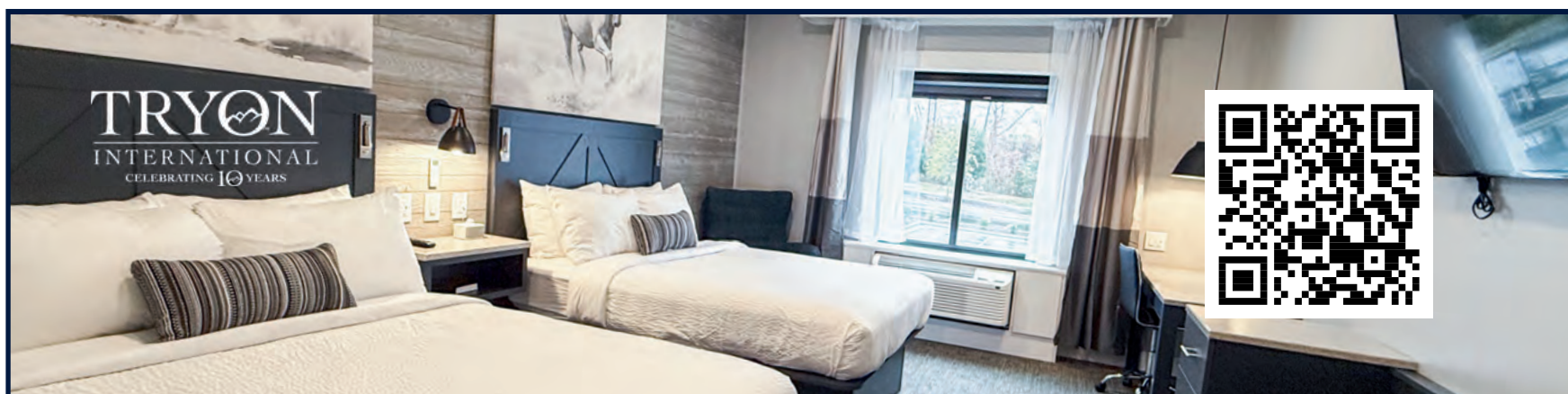


TR&HC bids a fond farewell to Executive Director Leigh Borreson.

tremendously during my presidency. I'm not even sure we are aware of all she does. Her parting reminds me of a quote... 'Sometimes your true value isn't seen till your absence is felt.' Leigh will be greatly missed, but we wish her the very best in her retirement."

Goodbyes are often bittersweet and the same is true for Borreson.

"It has been amazing being a part of the legacy of TH&HC and being able to work with some amazing people involved in the sport. But also, riding and showing was a big passion for years and this job has allowed me to continue to be close to all of that. I'm going to miss both of those things a lot!"



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# Translating Tax Law—Benefits of NC’s Present Use Value Program



By Cassie LeMaster, Area Equine & Livestock Agent, NC State Extension

doesn't include boarding or training fees; however, grazing fees do. If you manage at least 10 acres of pasture for grazing, you can sell that forage to another horse or livestock owner to graze their animals. In the animal industry, it's known as "custom grazing."

If you already board horses, consider separating grazing fees from stabling and facility fees on your monthly invoices to help meet the PUV's gross income requirement. For example, if a 1,200 lb. horse consumes 2% of its body weight in forage daily and obtains all forage from pasture between March and November, the income calculation would look like this:

$$24 \text{ lbs. per day} \times \$0.18 \text{ per lb. (value of hay)} = \$4.32/\text{day}$$

$$\$4.32/\text{day} \times 250 \text{ days} = \$1,080 \text{ annual income}$$

Another example might include months where only a part of their forage requirements is met by the pasture. In this scenario, a horse meets 100% of their needs on pasture April through October, but only 50% in March and November. The calculation would be as follows:



$$24\text{lbs.} \times 0.18 = \$4.32 \times 210 \text{ days} = \$907.20$$

$$24\text{lbs.} \times 50\% = 12 \text{ lbs.} \times 0.18 \times 60 \text{ days} = \$129.60$$

$$\text{Total grazing fees for year: } \$907.20 + \$129.60 = \$1036.80 \text{ for that one horse}$$

To qualify for PUV, landowners must demonstrate three consecutive years of qualifying income. For more information about PUV, read <https://farm-law.ces.ncsu.edu/land-use-and-zoning/present-use-value-the-basics-of-agricultural-and-forest-use-property-tax/>

**For tax-specific guidance, consult a local tax professional. To schedule a free on-farm consultation, contact Cassie LeMaster at 828-894-8218 or [cassie\\_lemaster@ncsu.edu](mailto:cassie_lemaster@ncsu.edu).**

In efforts to keep North Carolina's working land in production, state law requires all 100 counties to apply a tax appraisal to land in agriculture, horticulture, or forestry production at a value that reflects the current use of the land rather than its "highest and best use" value. This tax program, known as Present Use Value (PUV), is perhaps the most beneficial tax program for owners of rural property. Properties not enrolled in the PUV program often face significantly higher property taxes compared to other farms.

Enrolling horse farms in the PUV program has traditionally been more challenging. To qualify, land must generate \$1,000 of gross income per year from products produced on the farm, which

## Congratulations to our 2025 Tryon Riding & Hunt Club Scholarship Recipients

Mary Hampton Cottingham - Auburn University

Savannah Morrison - Gardner-Webb University

Brooklyn Lewis - University of South Carolina Upstate

Victoria Reinholdt - College of Charleston

Addison Sama - University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Annabella Marsico - Appalachian State University

Recipients received a total of \$9,000 in scholarship awards!

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2025 Scholarship Recipient Brooklyn Lewis

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**HIGHWAY 9 | COLUMBUS** Large Tract of land in a great location within minutes to Tryon International Equestrian Center. Super investment potential. This lovely 26+ acre tract would make a terrific horse farm. The property has a well and power to a former owner's potential building site located well into the property near the wooded area. Approximately half of the property is cleared in pasture and half is wooded. There is a stream and an equestrian trail running thru the wooded section. A tract as nice as this and with this much potential to escalate in value is hard to find.

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TR&HC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

# Buy-a-Brick Fundraiser Launched to Celebrate TR&HC Centennial

As part of its centennial celebration, the Tryon Riding & Hunt Club (TR&HC) announced a commemorative Buy-a-Brick fundraiser to honor 100 years of equestrian tradition, community, and legacy. The initiative invites members, families, and supporters to purchase engraved bricks that will become part of a new memorial square at Harmon Field.

“This is a special opportunity to commemorate this historic year,” said TR&HC President Joanne Gibbs. “You are invited to purchase a brick which will be engraved to your specifications. These engraved bricks will be laid in a memorial square at Harmon Field—our idea is to create a serene area where one can sit and enjoy the lovely scenery.”

The first brick will pay tribute to Carter Brown, TR&HC’s founder, whose vision laid the groundwork for the club’s century-long impact on the community. The timing is especially fitting as Harmon Field undergoes cleanup and rebuilding following the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

Looking ahead, the club hopes to host an official installation of the 100th brick this fall, coinciding with the anticipated return of the Carter Brown BBQ. The event would serve as the formal unveiling of the 100th Brick Memorial and celebrate both the club’s history and the community’s ongoing support.

TR&HC is working closely with local partners on the memorial design, with full installation planned for early 2026. See the ad below for more information or visit [tryonridingandhuntclub.org](http://tryonridingandhuntclub.org). For those who wish to leave a lasting mark on Tryon’s equestrian legacy, this is a meaningful way to do so—one brick at a time.



TR&HC President Joanne Gibbs announces the Commemorative Brick Project at the 100th Anniversary Gala.

Below, Gala attendees toasted to the future of Tryon Riding & Hunt Club.

PHOTOS BAILEY SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



## Tryon Riding & Hunt Club Commemorative Brick Project



Join us in recognizing 100 years of fellowship and equestrian tradition.

We’re proud to team with Harmon Field where the bricks will be installed in a permanent display celebrating TR&HC’s 100 years. Custom bricks with three lines of type (20 characters on each line) can be purchased for \$100.

Family Names — Memorials — Personal Messages

For inquiries or to place your order please contact us:

office@trhc1925.org or call (828) 351-9709

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