



# New York State Horse Council

To create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the  
preservation of a future for horses in New York

**Second Issue 2020**  
**(April, May & June)**



*Karen D'Amico*

A herd of retired Thoroughbred Geldings enjoying their senior years  
at Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue, Pawling, NY

## 2019 NYSHC Officers

If you have any questions regarding the NYSHC feel free to contact the officers or the VP and Directors in your Region.

<b>President:</b> Shannon Budnik (2020) Email: <a href="mailto:shannon.budnik@nyshc.org">shannon.budnik@nyshc.org</a> Phone: 845-436-7669	<b>Treasurer:</b> Stephen Ropel (2020) Email: <a href="mailto:stephen.ropel@nyshc.org">stephen.ropel@nyshc.org</a> Phone: 518-366-8998
<b>Exec Vice-President:</b> Sue Knauer (2020) Email: <a href="mailto:susan.knauer@nyshc.org">susan.knauer@nyshc.org</a> Phone: 585-230-3720	<b>Recording Secretary</b> Sarah E.J. Collier (2020) Email: <a href="mailto:sarah.collier@nyshc.org">sarah.collier@nyshc.org</a> Phone: 585-709-6076

## NYSHC Regional Contacts

Feel free to call or e-mail your regional contact person with any questions or problems you have.

### Capitol Region

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### Central Region

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### Finger Lakes Region

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Barb Cunningham - Director  
716-735-3529 | [barbcunningham11@gmail.com](mailto:barbcunningham11@gmail.com)

## Letter from the Executive Board

Dear NYSHC Member,

We are in trying times as COVID19 spreads across New York State. As this letter is being written, there are 149,316 confirmed cases, with majority of cases in our South-East and Mid-Hudson Region. Our thoughts and prayers are with our fellow equine community during these difficult times.

As your leaders of the New York State Horse Council, we realize that the COVID19 has created struggles that our equine community must face. Many of our horse activities have come to a screeching halt affecting horse owners and equine businesses. However, this is NOT a time to think about what you can't do, but a time to think about what you CAN do.

Whether you use this time to spend time with your family, ride your horse, or brush up on riding techniques, we encourage you to take back control and make the best of our current world. We are thankful that there are many of our equine professionals who have ventured into e-learning. Regardless of whether you have access to your horses, it is a great opportunity to learn for when you can get back in the saddle.

Please know that you are not alone, and our board is here to listen to your needs. We know that horse and barn owners may be placed in situations where caring for the horses may become difficult. If you find yourself in a situation like this, please reach out to our board members. We have also created a [NYSHC COVID19 Recourse Center](#) webpage linked to our website. We highly encourage our members to subscribe to receive updates on new information and available resources.



# NYSHC Regional Map



## HORSE COUNCIL REGIONAL REPORTS & UPDATES

### Region – 1 Southeast

We are excited to announce Christina F. Tabacco-Weber as the new Southeast Region Vice President. Christina is a professional trainer on Long Island and is the president of the Nassau Suffolk Horseman's Association.

In the region, there is increasing concern that horse and barn owners might become ill and not be able to care for their horses. As a result, the Long Island area has started

grassroot efforts and compiles a list of individuals who would be willing to help fellow horsemen/woman care for their horses. Contact Christina for more information.

In New York City, carriage rides have been canceled due to COVID19. As a result, many of the carriage horses were sent to their vacation homes on an unplanned vacation.

### Region – 2 Mid-Hudson



#### **Orange County Chapter (OCHC)**

<http://www.orangecountyhc.com/>

Debbie Schiraldi

## **Eastern Hudson Valley Horse Council (AKA Putnam County Chapter)**

<http://www.putnamhorsecouncil.org>

Shari Goodstein | [shari@goodstein.com](mailto:shari@goodstein.com)

We are happy to announce that we are officially the Eastern Hudson Valley Horse Council. Although we have events planned for this year, due to the COVID19 Pandemic our Poker Run to be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> has been

canceled. We still anticipate holding the Dangerous Plants to Horses workshop scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Hunter Pace scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>.

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## **Sullivan County Chapter**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/11893662481469>

Ron Thiele | [thielelandscaping@yahoo.com](mailto:thielelandscaping@yahoo.com) | 845-557-8848

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## **Ulster County Chapter**

<https://www.uchc-ny.org/>

Donna Putnam | [donnaputnam3237@gmail.com](mailto:donnaputnam3237@gmail.com) | 845-728-2164

Ulster County Horse Council had a number of events planned for this spring. However, they have been put on pause due to COVID-19 and its significant effects in this

area. We will reschedule them as soon as it is possible to do so.

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## **Region – 3 Capital**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Equine (CCE Equine) and the New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) have

partnered to create a survey to better understand the economic impact of COVID-19 on equine-related



*Equestrian Made - Equestrian Worn*

[ploughmans.belts@yahoo.com](mailto:ploughmans.belts@yahoo.com)  
[www.ploughmansbelts.com](http://www.ploughmansbelts.com)

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[ploughmans.repair@yahoo.com](mailto:ploughmans.repair@yahoo.com)  
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businesses in New York State. This survey is targeted to equine-related business owners or business managers in New York State. (Barn owners, trainers, hay and feed providers, tack shops, etc. should complete this survey)

If you own or manage a business that supports the equine industry, please take the time to complete this short survey. Survey responses will remain anonymous and the data received will be used by CCE Equine and the NYSHC to guide future programs, decisions, and research with public partners. Your response is very important to the success of this project and will be valuable for the equine industry in New York State.

Should you have any questions you can contact Brianna Hughes, CCE Equine Program Coordinator at Bh548@cornell.edu or Sarah E.J. Collier, NYSHC Recording Secretary, at sarah.collier@nyshc.org. Thank you for your continued support.

[https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_513fTNiZgCjmEBf](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_513fTNiZgCjmEBf)

(Link can also be found on the NYSHC Website)

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## Region – 4 North

As with all of the other regions, all horse businesses & facilities are officially closed. It has been brought to my attention that there are a number of operations that are non-compliant with the Governor's mandates. It is generally felt that the lack of compliance is mostly due to members of the equestrian community not understanding the directives, or assuming they are exempt. Clearer communication may be needed, even at this point in the game. All shows, competitions, and events are canceled at least through the end of May, and we are bracing

ourselves for further cancellations through the summer. All 4-H events are canceled until further notice. Equine businesses have been severely affected, including lesson programs, summer camps, and boarding barns. Horse owners have been barred from seeing their horses in many instances, and this has created a number of issues for boarding barns. There has been discussion in our area regarding small business relief for equine businesses, with many wondering if this a realistic possibility.

*As Submitted by Chauntel Gilliland, Region Director*

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## Region – 5 Central

2/1 I attended a clinic hosted by Finger Lakes Equine Practice, talked to many horse people of various breeds and disciplines. 2/9 I attended New York State Horse Breeders Luncheon, talked to many horse people of various breeds and disciplines. I committed NYSHC to \$500 sponsorship of NYSHBA show in May of 2020. 2/22 Attended clinic on "Tick Talk", sponsored by Cherry Valley Carriage Association, in Homer, NY. I talked to

several horse people and committed NYSHC to \$500 sponsorship of Lorenzo Driving Competition in July, 2020. 2/29 I attended the Farm Show at the New York State Fairgrounds, talked to vendors of horse-related services, Future Farmers of America, Farm Bureau, etc. I submitted articles on my experiences with all the above to the NYSHC newsletter and to Horse Bits Magazine.

*As Submitted by Gary Slate, Region VP*

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## Region – 6 Southern Tier

Thank you to all those that completed the state-wide Member Survey. We have 72 respondents to our survey. Below is highlighted information gathered:

**Average number of horses owned:** 2.9

**Summary of Horse Care:**

4 both board & home	57 solely at home
9 solely boarded	2 no horses right now

**Summary of Issues that Need to be Addressed in the Industry:**

53 mention of Trails	4 insurance
12 high costs	8 liability
9 Taxes	4 humane issues/slaughter
8 Traffic	4 tick & mosquito borne



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## Region – 7 Finger Lakes

Due to COVID-19, the Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club canceled the Super Clinic that was to be

held on June 20 & 21. This was an event that the NYSHC was sponsoring the mini and pony official measurements.

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## Western Region – 8

The Western Region is working to optimize our ability to assist the equine community during these difficult times. Unfortunately, Equifest was canceled due to the Covid-19 protocol set by health/government officials. All clinics and trail rides in the Western Chapter are on hold at this time. Pauline Burnes and the AGM Committee continue to plan the annual meeting. It may be worthwhile for horse and barn owners to review FEMA's resources on disaster preparedness for livestock and farms. They also offer include online training courses that may prove useful.

*Lisette Ruotolo, Region VP*

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I would like to send words of encouragement to my friends and colleagues in the New York State Horse Council. In January I completed and submitted a trail improvement grant proposal to the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. The applicant was the Catt-Chau Chapter of the NYS Horse Council, and Designer was Theresa Draves, Forestry Technician at the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation West Almond office. I should know by May whether or not we have been approved for funding.

With NYSDEC assistance, Alfred State College Students and the Excelsior Conservation Corps, we are attempting to improve the footing and drainage of the equestrian/multi-use trails at the W. Almond Trail system on State forest lands, starting with trail connections to the equestrian campground on Stewart Forest Rd. Projects on Trail 5 and Trail 6 have already been completed. The West Almond DEC Forestry Office has a new Supervising Forester, Greg Muller. Gail Bartas and I met with him and Theresa Draves to discuss upcoming trail projects on March 16. The Forestry Staff at the W. Almond office have been ordered to work from home due to COVID 19 directives. Theresa is still available by email.

After meeting with the Allegany County Saddle Dusters Board of

Directors in January to discuss club membership in the New York State Horse Council, that group has decided to join the NYSHC as a club. Their main focus is on gymkhana (pole bending, barrel racing, etc.) but some of their membership organizes and leads trail rides, with awards at the end of the year. Gail Bartas, who has been very involved with improving equestrian trails in Allegany County, is on their Board of Directors and is a past president of the Allegany County Snowmobile Federation I am also a board member, so we are talking of using some of the snowmobile trails for equestrian trails that are on State land in the summer months.

I am currently serving as the Chair for the NYSHC Annual General Membership Meeting scheduled to be held at the new climate-controlled Houghton College Equestrian Event Center October 24, 2020. If you would like to see pictures of this beautiful facility, please go to the Houghton College Equestrian Center. Stay tuned for further detail on this event, as well as planned workshops and demonstrations

At home I am starting seeds for my Victory Garden and transplanting native plants that have medicinal properties. As a Registered Landscape Architect and having worked in agriculture, I know how important it is to have local, nutritious food sources. The grass is starting to grow for our horses, some horsemen call that "Doctor Green". Be mindful if your horse needs to be limited on the fresh grass due to health concerns.

Some of us who board have been limited to NOT ride our horse. This is SO difficult, as the best riding season is upon us! Check into agreements with your individual barn

manager and offer to help if they or their staff become unable to care for the horses if they become ill. There are agricultural exemptions for farm workers. Let's have good horse sense. We need to support one another. Here's to the future!

*As Submitted by Pauline Burnes, Region Director*



New York State  
**Horse Council**

### SAVE THE DATE

**NYSHC Annual General Meeting**  
**Sat. Oct. 24 at Houghton College**  
**Houghton College | Houghton, NY**

Pauline Burnes | [pburned@gmail.com](mailto:pburned@gmail.com) | 607-765-8943



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### **Cattaraugus/Chautauqua Chapter**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/440051409383476/>  
Brenda Wood | [gaitedwood@gmail.com](mailto:gaitedwood@gmail.com) | 716-474-7722

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### **Western Chapter**

<http://www.wcnvshc.org/>  
Peter Tarnawskyj | [Tarnawskyj.Peter@yahoo.com](mailto:Tarnawskyj.Peter@yahoo.com) | 716-655-1796

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## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Humane/Welfare**

Colleen Segarra | [phishmare@aol.com](mailto:phishmare@aol.com) | 845-744-1728

We have been monitoring communications from the governor's office and Ag & Markets. Restrictions are in place, causing cessation of lessons, training, casual visiting of boarders and some racing operations. I have fielded a few calls, there are concerns regarding loss of income, loss of use, possible abandonment and account

delinquency. I have made suggestions regarding insurance, boarding contracts, credit card authorization forms and shared information on the New York State stableman lien law. There are some loan programs in place that may be helpful. Anyone with additional resources, please share.

### **Publicity / Publications Committee**

Sharon Young Slate & Gary Slate | [garysharonslate@gmail.com](mailto:garysharonslate@gmail.com) | 315-638-4868

### **Youth Committee**

Lisette M. Ruotolo | [Lmruotolo@yahoo.com](mailto:Lmruotolo@yahoo.com) | 203-809-9559

I had been collaborating with the UB Law School's Animal Law Group, hoping to create a meeting to discuss equine law with students. Given the current state of the Covid-19 protocols and the cessation of in person courses at the University, that is not likely to happen in the near future. What may be possible, is creating a smaller on line event with the club. Those options will have to be explored in more detail as coursework resumes electronically. It was the intention of the committee to hold an event in the early Fall for high school students interested in pursuing equine degrees. At this time, those plans are on hold due to health directives

associated with Covid-19. We were working to create an educational video contest for 4-H youth in several categories. While I believe we may still be able to do so given the Covid-19 pandemic, this will likely be delayed.

Many youth programs and lesson programs are no longer running. Summer camp programs for the youth are on hold. Most 4H programs are not active or are not holding events at

this time. It seems that the best way to reach the youth membership through the next several months will be through social media.



New York State  
**Horse Council**  
**NYSHC Youth & Adult Scholarship Due May 15, 2020**

Debbie Schiraldi | [DebbieSchiraldi@yahoo.com](mailto:DebbieSchiraldi@yahoo.com) | 845-781-3420

### **NYSHC 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Pleasure Ride 10/9/2020-10/12/2020**

As most of you know, this will be the New York State Horse Council's 52nd Year hosting the Annual Fall Pleasure Ride at Madison County Fairgrounds, Brookfield, NY.

The highly acclaimed Brookfield Trail System has over 130 miles of horse trails set throughout three state forests (Charles Baker State Forest, Brookfield Railroad State Forest, and Beaver Creek State Forest). These three



forests collectively provide 13,750 acres of public reforestation lands for multiple recreation purposes.

Madison County Fairgrounds provide Campsites with full hook-ups, bathrooms, showers, 3 horse barns with box stalls, outdoor arena, dining hall and more.

Kristin Bennett, NYSHC Fall Ride Manager and Registration, resigned this year as she has other obligations. Kristin Bennett has accomplished and done an exceptional job over the past three years in making this

Fall Ride a success. I am sure we will see Kristin again, and when we do see her, let's give her a big shout out, "THANK YOU" Kristin for all her efforts and dedication. And honorable mention to Karen Wheeler and the volunteers.

**We will need volunteers. If you volunteered and/or interested in volunteering, please email [fallride@nyshc.org](mailto:fallride@nyshc.org) with volunteer interest and/or questions.**

## Trails & Trails and Other News

### **Brookfield, NY CTR June 19-21, 2020**

The annual Brookfield, NY Competitive Trail Rides and Drives will be held the weekend of June 19-21, 2020. It will again be hosted at Pure Country Campground in New Berlin, NY. There will be a 15-mile and 25-mile ride and drive both Saturday and Sunday. This format will allow entrants to enter one horse in either 1 or 2 25-mile events or a 50-mile event. It will also allow one rider to ride a different horse each day. For the 15-mile events it could be 1 horse one or both days or 2 different horses. All events will also be drives for those who choose to drive not ride.

It will again be run by the very able team of Joanna and Bill Lasher.

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### **The Brookfield Competitive Ride & Drive Clinic**

The Brookfield Competitive Ride & Drive Clinic on April 25 was canceled.

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### **Minnewaska State Park Horse Trails**

Minnewaska State Park Preserve is closed to equestrian use until further notice. Please follow this [LINK](#) for more information or visit the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preserve website at [www.parks.ny.gov](http://www.parks.ny.gov).

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### **Otter Creek Horse Trails**

DEC temporarily suspends overnight camping at Otter Creek Horse Trail Facility. Day use of the area is still allowed but water and restroom facilities are NOT available. Full press release can be found [HERE](#). Also, visit the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation website at [www.DEC.ny.gov](http://www.DEC.ny.gov) for more updates.

## Ride and Drive Program

Donna Putnam | [donnaputnam3237@gmail.com](mailto:donnaputnam3237@gmail.com) | 845-728-2229

The NYS Horse Council invites you to participate in the Ride - Drive Program. All ages are welcome. Every hour you spend riding or driving your horse counts, whether you are on trails, in show rings, going down the road, in a parade, or in your own back yard.

You must be a NYSHC member to join (dues paid for that current year). Then just sign up and pay an initial start fee of \$15 (\$5 every year after to continue participating),

obtain an official NYSHC log sheet and start filling in the hours! The Program runs the calendar year. NYSHC Membership must be current, and fees must be paid in order to receive awards. After you accumulate 25 hours you will receive a Ride/Drive Patch Award and as you add up those hours you will receive awards (hour bars) after 100, 200, 300, 500, 750, 1000 hours and so on and just maybe you will see your name in the NYSHC Newsletter.

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### **Parks & Trails NY Trail Maintenance**

The Trail Maintenance Activities scheduled for May 2 sponsored by Parks and Trails NY has been cancelled.

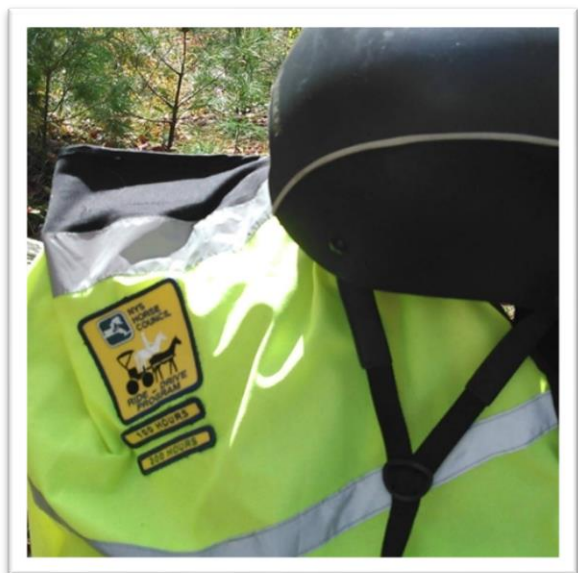
## MOUNTAIN HORSE FARM

### HORSE CLINIC SCHEDULE

AUG 21-22: TERRY CRISAFULLI	EQUINE MASSAGE & MORE CLINIC
SEP 22-25: PAULA JOSA- JONES	EMBODIED HORSEMANSHIP DEEPENING FEEL & CONNECTION WITH OUR HORSES
SEP 29-OCT 4: HEIDI POTTER	HEIDI POTTER HOLISTIC HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC
OCT 19-23: EDIE JANE EATON	'MAKING IT EASY FOR YOU AND YOUR HORSE' TELLINGTON TOUCH & FELDENKRAIS

[WWW.MOUNTAINHORSEFARM.COM](http://WWW.MOUNTAINHORSEFARM.COM)  
[INFO@MOUNTAINHORSEFARM.COM](mailto:INFO@MOUNTAINHORSEFARM.COM)  
585-374-5056

There is no limit on how long it takes you to achieve each patch award. Hours will be counted on the Rider/Driver and carried over from year to year.



We also have End of Year Awards (dependent on sponsorship). Categories may include: Most hours ridden for the year, Most hours driven, Vintage Rider/Driver (63+ years) with most hours, Youth Rider/Driver (under 19) with most hours, and Family combined hours award.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2019 Ride and Drive Program! Barb Cunningham did a great job in past years, and passed along a list of 21 enrollees to me when I took over in the spring. Many of them did not renew in the 2019 Program, but 2 (myself included) joined. Only 8 submitted hours.

If any participants did not receive the Ride and Drive Program patch when you enrolled, please contact me and I will send one. It may be sewn onto a saddle pad or

apparel such as a jacket or vest, and milestone bars added as achieved. It has come to my attention that some may not have received all the hour bars they have earned. Please let me know if you have some missing, and I will send them. We do need to have bars made for the higher numbers (over 2000) and I will be working on that, and send them as soon as they are available.

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## Ridden/Driven Name Award

-581.5 72.5 Donna Putnam (Most Hours Driven & Most Hours Ridden)

-403.5 Lesa Jeffries-Carecchia

-343.5 Susan Nickerson Vintage Rider (over 63 - Most Hours Ridden)

-246.5 April McCarthy

-168 Pauline Burnes

-103 Loraine Snyder (Oldest Rider)

-81.5 9 Jeannette Dietrich

-58 Sarah Craig (Youngest Rider)

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Start making plans to join in the Ride-Drive Program and logging those hours. A great place to be racking up those hours is at one of the NYSHC Sponsored rides or events.

For more details, or if you would like to sponsor an award, please contact me.

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## Information, Spotlights, & More!

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**TO THE RAIL!**  
MORGAN HULBERT  
28 March 2020

### THE MANY PROS OF RIDING

There are many beneficial health outcomes of horseback riding. Equestrians have been known to experience stress relief through the redirected focus during riding, increasing the strength of the core through constant postural adjustments, and strengthening of the inner thigh and pelvic muscles, just to name a few (American Horse Council, 2017). Additionally, the environment that someone rides in can be of importance. In a 2013 study on trail riding, equestrians who hit the trails were shown to place importance on not only the physical activity horseback riding can bring (88.0%), but





more so on the opportunity “to view the scenery” (96.4%), and to be close to nature (94.0%) (Schneider, Earing, & Martinson, 2013). Through personal experience, riding on trails can also serve as great trust building sessions between you and your horse as you travel through an environment with many moving objects.

### DIFFICULTIES OF TRAIL RIDING

Yet, riding on shared trails also has the potential to be a negative experience. In the same 2013 trail riding study, there a few problems experienced by trail riders: hearing others who are using the trails, seeing litter during the trail ride, and directly seeing or seeing evidence of off-trail use (Schneider et al., 2013). Although these were shared amongst other, nonequine trail uses, the stress associated with these problems was much higher in equestrians (Schneider, Schuweiler & Bipes, 2009) As we know well, horses are flight animals. This often poses a challenge with things that they cannot see, and especially things that come unpredictably out of nowhere (personally thinking of a human rounding a corner or a 4-wheeler unexpectedly nearby). This could very well be the reasoning for the high stress associated with problems on the trail.

### THE BENEFITS OF EQUINE INCLUSIVE TRAILS (MULTI-USE TRAILS)

Besides the benefit for horse and rider, there are many other benefits to trails that include horses (multi-use trails). Multi-use trails invite more trail use, and in turn promote more trail maintenance. Horses have also played an enormous role in American history and our continued, ever-changing relationship we have with them is supported by multi-use trail use. In addition, adding another trail use can promote economic growth in the general community and amongst the equine community. [adapted from Dan Gruen’s NYSHC website letter promoting multi-use trails]

### WHAT CAN WE DO AS TRAIL RIDERS?

As trail riders, we can follow proper trail etiquette. If approaching someone from the rear, and you are going at a faster speed than them, slow down as to not “tailgate”, and pass when there is enough space to do so. In addition, we know that there is going to be bright reflective material and other “scary” things on the trail, so we must desensitize our horses to these things at home before going out on the trail (McNabb & Bennett, 2019). A link to more trail etiquette tips can be found at the end of this article.

In addition, becoming an active member of your state horse council can aid in the adoption of trails as multi-use. The New York State Horse Council has created the New York State Horse Council Trail Committee with elected New York State Horse Trail Preservation representatives that work with groups throughout the state to develop

multi-use trails and promote education on their use. In addition, check out local park websites to determine the parks near you that are multi-use. If they are not, there are certain trail widths and criteria that it must meet. These can be brought to the attention of the local government and DEC office. If you are interested in resources to help during this process, you can see the contact list below.

Multi-use trails can be a benefit for all who use them. Maintaining proper trail etiquette can ensure that we erase the negative stigma of trails open to horse use. Trail riders and outdoor enthusiasts alike pursue the wilderness for the same breathtaking scenery and to enjoy nature. Sharing that common love for the outdoors will be important in adding more multi-use trails to the list. Happy trails!



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Commercial & Home Insurance Powersports Insurance Life Insurance  
Farm Transition Planning

\*Select savings may apply



## **ARTICLE RESOURCES:**

### **Trail Etiquette:**

<https://horseandrider.com/horseback-trail-riding/trail-safety>

### **Transforming Existing trails into Multi-use trails:**

### **Contact information for NYSHC trail preservation representatives:**

Dan Gruen, Central NY, [BrookfieldCTR@roadrunner.com](mailto:BrookfieldCTR@roadrunner.com)

Carol Schmelz, Western NY, [cschmelz@wzrd.com](mailto:cschmelz@wzrd.com)

Mark Wehnau, Eastern NY, [markwehnau@aol.com](mailto:markwehnau@aol.com)

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New York State  
**Horse Council**

**Interested in submitting an article? Email all submissions to our Newsletter Chair.**

Sarah E.J. Collier | [sarah.collier@nyshc.org](mailto:sarah.collier@nyshc.org) | 585-709-6076

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**[www.kinshipwithhorses.net](http://www.kinshipwithhorses.net)**



## Establishing an Emergency Plan

By: Sarah E.J. Collier, JD

As COVID-19 continues to spread across our state, having an emergency plan is more important than ever. Whether you have a boarding facility (small or large) or care for your own horses, we urge you to have a plan in place in the event you (and/or your staff) become ill. Things to keep in mind when creating a plan are:

### 1) Who will care for the horses if I fall ill and am unable to care for them?

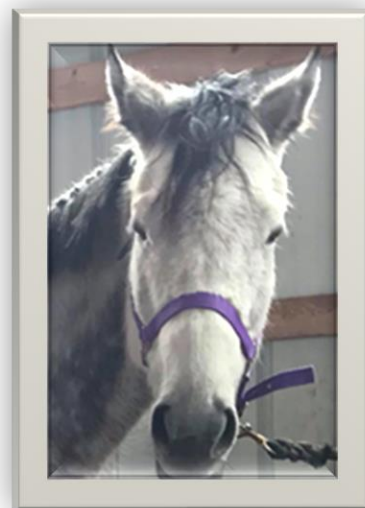
If an individual or two do not come to mind, there are many emergency care taker groups being formed (Long Island being one of them). Connecting with a group like this or reaching out to your local equine community could help you create a safety net to ensure your horses are cared for in the event you become ill.

### 2) What feed and supplements are my horses getting?

If someone does need to step in and care for your horse, it's important to have the horse's feed schedule laid out for that individual. This should be in a spot easily accessible to others such as in the feed room, office, tack room or cabinet in the barn.

### 3) Do I have enough feed, supplements and hay to last me 30 days?

We are still uncertain how COVID-19 will affect horse owners and boarding facilities from getting the feed and supplies they need. For that reason, it's important NOT TO PANIC, but to have supplies on hand that can help you weather a shortage and limit your exposure to public spaces (as per state and municipal recommendations). If your storage is limited, keep in contact with your suppliers and keep their contact information readily available.



\*\*\*\*\*

Other considerations for an emergency plan include some of the following.

#### Emergency Fund with Emergency Cash

##### Contact information for:

- Power of Attorney
- Veterinarian
- Farrier
- Other Equine Health Providers
- Hay, Feed and Supplement Suppliers

##### Information on your horses:

- Age
- Breed/Registration Papers
- Equine Health Issues
- Vet Records

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## Tick Season Advice: Avoid Walking Poppy Seeds

Jan Lyon | TNT-Tick Natural Terminator | [Tntticks.com](http://Tntticks.com)

Although Lyme, transmitted through the blacklegged tick (deer tick) is the most studied and notable of the tickborne diseases, the other co-infections and separate diseases are close behind in numbers of reported illness. These diseases also pose huge threats to people and animals.

Currently on the radar of vector-borne illness researchers is the lone star tick. Previously this tick was only established in the southeastern United States, but colonies are now established in the upper Midwest and northeast. Each female lone star tick will lay thousands of eggs, and as they grow to larva, nymph and adult, they will feed on large animals at all stages of life, putting you,

your horses, and domestic pets at risk for the diseases they transmit. The two smaller life stages also feed on birds, transmitting disease wherever they drop off the birds. In recent decades, there have been proven breeding populations of these ticks in New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine. The New York populations were reported as early as 1971 and the Massachusetts populations were confirmed in 2019, indicating a northern movement of the tick species.

Genetic research has shown that the lone star ticks in New York are actually different than the lone star ticks in New Jersey and the southeast United States. This



indicates evolution of the species and suggests they are adapting to colder climates.

It is imperative that all of us who spend time outside and with our animals remain on the lookout for both of these ticks. It would be wise to capture them if you can, and have them identified for species and disease reservoirs. Please always remember that the nymph stage of the blacklegged tick is the most likely to transmit Lyme Disease because of it often goes undetected. That's another thing about using TNT because it gets the ticks you miss getting off. They are only the size of a poppy seed and still carry enough *Borrelia burgdorferi* to give you and your pets Lyme Disease.

My friend, Kathy, and I have been trail ride buddies for decades. Many repellents we used were either ineffective or didn't last long enough. Plus, we didn't like over using them because of the chemicals in them being mostly nerve agents. Through years of research and many years of trials with us and our families and friends, we developed a product that gave us peace of mind while we rode on tick infested trails together. The evolution of this product resulted in an even longer lasting, more effective design that we call TNT-Tick Natural Terminator. We

# TNT

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visit: [tntticks.com](http://tntticks.com)  
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have used this product for over 20 years without seeing an embedded tick on our animals, and now will not ride without it. Because it has been so effective, we decided to get TNT-Tick Natural Terminator out to the other people who love trail rides, hiking, or just keeping their animals and them tick free. Our patent pending formulation is what makes this product effective. All the ingredients we use are FDA approved. It is safe to use with other pest control products, like mosquito sprays, because there is no chemical interaction. Our happy customers are also reporting TNT works great for the spring gnats as well!

There is a lot more information about our product on the website at [tntticks.com](http://tntticks.com). TNT-Tick Natural Terminator is also available on Amazon and through Wal Mart online. We

recommend application with a stiff body brush or by using a Scratch Me Silly for places that are hard to reach. (see [Scratchnall.com](http://Scratchnall.com))

Kathy and I wish you happy and tick free horing around. Remember to ride at least 6 feet apart during the COVID19 outbreak!



**Can you see all five ticks in this picture?**

*Pictures Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

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## Rescue Spotlight-Willie Nelson Update!

### NEW YORK RESCUE WINS HORSE WORLD EXPO CONTEST

#### Team Willie Nelson captures the hearts of the judges and crowd

Submitted by Tammy Lozipone

Begin Again Horse Rescue of Lima New York, their trainer, Hanna Blain, and a 14 year old rescue horse named Willie Nelson came home from the Horse World Expo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania with a big win in the 2020 Rescued To Stardom Training Contest that was held February 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The contest was open to 501c3 horse rescues in and around the Mid-Atlantic region. Trainers selected by each rescue worked with their horses to take them from unbroke to riding in only 90 days. The final competition filled the arena with spectators and was a very popular event at the Expo.



Willie Nelson suddenly was without a home when his owner was tragically killed in a head-on collision in Schuyler County, in April 2019. Willie had spent his life in a field where he was handled little and never been trained, which meant his odds for finding a new home were bleak. If Willie hadn't been taken in by Lollypop Farm, it is likely he would have eventually ended up being acquired by a dealer to ship to another country where slaughter for human consumption is legal. After being rescued, Willie had spent 7 months at Lollypop with no interest in adoption due to his age and lack of training.

***“ There is a common misconception that rescue horses are broken. We believe participating in the Rescued To Stardom contest has helped us bust that myth and believe it will encourage people trying to find a new equine partner to look to us for adoption. For every horse adopted, it is an opportunity for us to rescue another at risk horse.”...Harriett Rubins, BAHR Executive Director and President***

Willie Nelson is still currently available for adoption from BAHR. Due to his willing personality and newly acquired riding skills, combined with the publicity from winning the Rescued to Stardom contest, he already has applications submitted from potential adopters.

BAHR is very thankful for the outstanding support of Team Willie Nelson by the New York State Horse Council and its members. They are also extremely

Begin Again Horse Rescue (BAHR) had applied to enter the Rescued To Stardom contest, but did not have any horses at their farm without any training. Normally, there is a list of horses with no training needing intake, but there were none after their application to compete was accepted.

BAHR had taken in a pony from the same farm that Willie came from. Hanna and BAHR Vice President, Jen Lilly remembered Willie and saw that he was still available at Lollypop Farm and met all the criteria for the contest. Both rescues had collaborated in the past and were excited about how participating in the contest would increase Willie's adoptability, so custody of Willie was transferred to BAHR. Meant to be? Absolutely.

With Hanna's dedicated daily training, Willie Nelson beat the odds and helped break the stereotype that older horses can't be trained or useful. The connection and incredible bond they developed in 90 days made them shining stars in the three-part competition which included a social media fan favorite contest, an in-hand skills demonstration and a freestyle riding exhibition to music.



grateful for the financial support that was necessary to participate in the competition from twenty-four generous sponsors, including three \$500 Gold Sponsors; Benoit's Store Salon & Spa of Camillus, Bristol Valley Training Center of Canandaigua and Lake Content Farm of Hilton. If you would like more information about how to adopt Willie and other BAHR horses, make a tax-deductible donation to congratulate them for their win or find out how to help support other



horses in need at the rescue, please contact BAHHR at 585-322-2427 or email to [info@beginagainrescue.org](mailto:info@beginagainrescue.org).



New York State  
**Horse Council**

### Youth Member & Rescue Spotlights

**Like to recognize a youth or a rescue horse/organization?**

**Send us a short article and a photo.**

We do require parental consent before including name and photo of youth in our newsletter.

Sarah E.J. Collier | [sarah.collier@nyshc.org](mailto:sarah.collier@nyshc.org) | 585-709-6076

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## Checking in with Ground Work

Michael Canfield | Clinician at Pine Ridge Dude Ranch | [michaelc@pineridgeduderanch.com](mailto:michaelc@pineridgeduderanch.com)

### *Groundwork.*

We have all heard about it, seen videos on the topic, and even practiced some groundwork exercises with our horses.

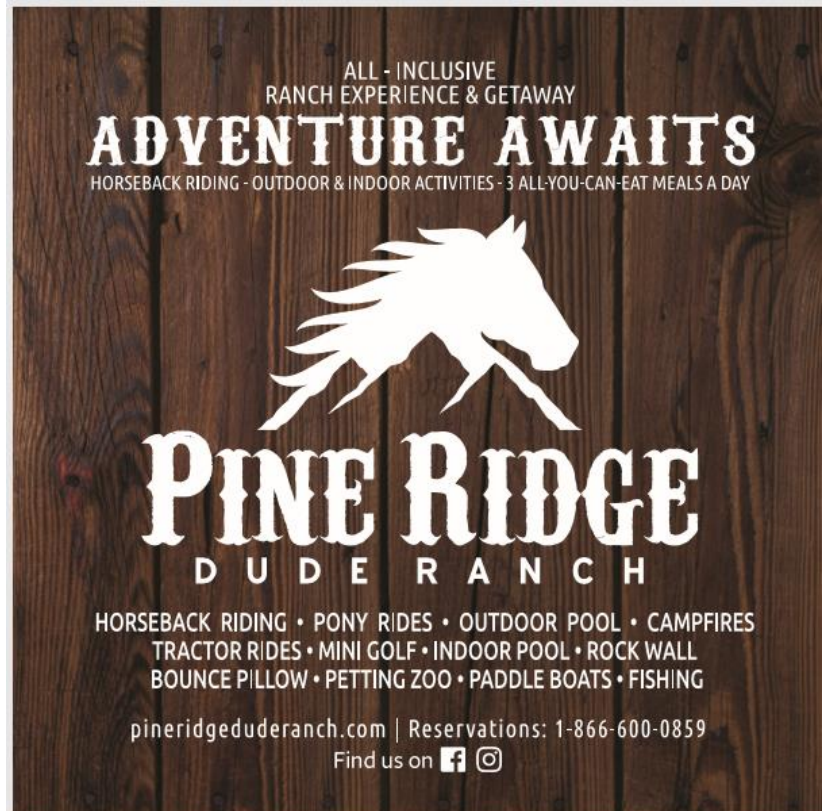
But we may also be missing a critical opportunity within our programs and that is “checking in” with our horses through groundwork. Here is an example: At **Pine Ridge Dude Ranch**, our “**Cowboy Horsemanship**” program promotes utilizing every opportunity—from feed and groom times to leading from the pasture—to round pen work to saddle time, to “check in” with our horses and create situations where the horse “checks in” with the human. By utilizing the “Pyramid of Pressure – Ask, Tell, Demand and Correct” and some foundation building groundwork exercises, we refresh the lines of communication and reestablish leadership every time we engage with our horses at “The Ranch.” Here are some of our favorite “checking in” exercises.

**The Leading Exercise:** When Wrangler is leading the horse from the pasture, they use the Leading Exercise to get the horse thinking about the human and the safety zone around the human, which reduces crowding and improves confidence. This exercise promotes focus and communication as well as softness and respect by leading the horse from the front and maintaining a five-foot safety zone. When the Wrangler stops, so does the horse. When the Wrangler moves, so does the horse.

**Backing With Steady Pressure:** Asking the horse to back up by simply lifting the knot or clip, facing the direction of travel and using the “Pyramid of Pressure” helps the horse and human to refine their feel, timing and communication.

**Yielding the Hindquarters with Touch:** Asking the horse to move its hindquarters away laterally to a touch that simulates a leg cue, using the “Pyramid of Pressure”, helps keep the horse soft, engaged and responsive.

**Round Pen Work:** The round pen is a great place to check in, especially when we are short on time or the



weather limits the ability to ride. When in the round pen working through groundwork exercises, the Wrangler can better evaluate the “mood” of the horse, see indications of soreness, nervousness or a lack of focus that can be addressed safely and in a timely manner. By doing so, the horse feels more secure in the leadership provided by the human. Through observation and “listening” to the subtle cues the horse provides in these moments; the Wrangler can address concerns and adapt the goals for the day as they consider the horse’s needs.

By practicing a “checking in” approach to groundwork, the Wranglers at **Pine Ridge Dude Ranch** can improve



their awareness of their equine partners, improve the subtlety of their aids/cues, and be able to more quickly offer the release and leadership needed to achieve a soft feel and supple mind.

So the next time you work with your horse, take the opportunity to check in, listen up and adapt your goals for the session as you focus on improving your awareness and the “give and take” within the structure of the partnership you share. Investing in this type of approach mentally and

emotionally will pay off in huge dividends in the days and weeks ahead! If you would like to learn more about “Cowboy Horsemanship” or the exercises highlighted above please reach out via email and let’s get you “checking in” with your horses in a positive and productive way!

**Thanks for reading!**

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## To Geld or Not to Geld

By Karen Lassell | Equine Manager, Miner Institute | [lassell@whiminer.com](mailto:lassell@whiminer.com)

Is that even the correct question to be asking? Perhaps the question ought to be, “Why *should* I keep him a stallion?” Does the colt have rare and fantastic blood lines? Does he have amazing conformation and temperament? Do you have the facilities to keep a stallion and to keep him, you and the other animals on your farm safe? Do you have the time, motivation, and finances to train a stallion? Are you going to show him and promote him? Everyone dreams of a proud, beautiful “Black Stallion,” but the fact of the matter is there are few stallions with the resume that makes them stud material. The dilemma is that at times, keeping a colt intact is more detrimental to his long-term welfare than the short-lived discomfort of castration. In general, geldings are easier to handle and a more even temperament than their studly counterparts, due to the fact that they don’t have all that testosterone coursing through their bodies. Castration tends to reduce aggressive behavior and provide a more focused mind for training.

So you decided to geld, when is a good time? No time is the *wrong* time, however if you do castrate before they hit puberty around one year old, you will have fewer sexual behaviors and habits to deal with in the long run. If you can geld your colt when it’s a little cold, ground is frozen and the flies aren’t around, you are less likely to run into infections and cleanliness issues, but there’s no time like the present to “git ’r done.”

What if you still are undecided or have decided to keep your little man intact? You must consider where he will live and manage his behavior so he learns what is appropriate and what is not as he reaches puberty. Some

stallions are just plain unmanageable and some are quiet as geldings, so like anything else, it depends on the individual horse’s behavior. If you have a young colt that you are leaving intact out running around with fillies or mares, separate them NOW! The last thing you and the equine industry needs is more accidental and unwanted foals – prevention is the best medicine.

Currently in the horse barn at Miner Institute in Chazy, NY we are debating this very thing with our 2019 colts. They both have well-respected pedigrees, good conformation and breed type, and nice temperaments. Lately, however, they are starting to feel surges of testosterone leading to a few “boyish” behaviors. We do have the facilities at Miner to keep colts intact, with appropriate stabling, turn out with young geldings, knowledge in stallion handling and a breeding program. So far, they’re being good boys, so this decision has been put on hold for the time being to allow them to grow up a little more to evaluate potential, but the moment the behavior becomes not-so-much-fun, the decision becomes clear.

Whether you decide to keep your colt a stallion or to geld him is up to you, but make an informed and educated decision. Evaluate facilities, time, money, energy and knowledge to keep a stallion if that is your choice. Enlist the help of industry professionals to get an honest opinion on your colt’s prospects. “What is best for this horse?” Do not forget that it is his life you are making the decisions for! We all think our baby is the best, but don’t let “barn-blindness” interfere with the horse’s welfare.



## Stuck in the Barn?

by Gary Slate, Central Region Vice President, New York State Horse Council

How ironic this is! Just a few weeks ago in this space, I was encouraging horse people in New York to get out of their barns and socialize with other horse people to escape the winter blahs. The situation has changed dramatically, with the President, the Governor, and other people of authority asking us all to stay home, avoid crowds, and avoid anyone who may have had contact with COVID-19. The President asked everyone to self-isolate for 15 days, and as I write this, we are on day 8. We all seem to have different ways to interpret isolation. We are hearing repeatedly that this emergency is something we have never experienced before, possibly more disrupting than the attack on September 11, 2001.

The impact on the horse world is huge and growing, and no one can predict when things will return to normal. Any seminar, clinic, horse show, or equine gathering for the next month has been cancelled. Events for the coming spring and summer will possibly also be postponed or cancelled, depending on how much progress is made to contain the virus. From this point on things are getting worse at an increasing pace. Our governor is talking of this lasting "4 to 6 months", possibly longer, which would impact the New York State Fair. Predictions are based on what has happened in other countries, and we are told that even at this date we have the ability to lessen the severity.

I have heard this several times in the news, and it seems reasonable to me that this is true: In every country where this pandemic has spread, the attitude of people has progressed in stages;

- a) this is happening somewhere else, not here
- b) this is happening here, but only affecting older people with health problems,
- c) people I know are suffering and dying,
- d) why didn't somebody do something before things got this bad?



If you have been watching the news (there is much more reporting than normal), Governor Cuomo has been complaining of the young people on Spring Break who refuse to isolate themselves, and may possibly be bringing back the virus to their families in New York. What he hasn't mentioned is all the young and older riders who compete in Florida riding competitions from January to the end of March (Dressage, Polo, Show Jumping) who will be coming back earlier, since all competitions have been officially cancelled. These are not people I know well, but their horses have needs of hay, grain, and clean bedding that mine have. People need to care for horses, cattle, and everything that happens on the farm, so it is essential there is no interruption of those people to work on the farm.

I understand that it is important to not congregate in large groups, and to be careful of getting too close to people traveling from areas where they may have become infected with the virus. How willing will horse owners be to not visit their horse at a boarding stable and to not ride. Even with show season cancelled or greatly postponed, wouldn't you need to keep your horse (and yourself) in shape? At what point will you consider it safe to see your farrier, your hay man, your veterinarian (using face masks and social distancing)? If your horse is not on your property, under your care, can you trust that the horse will be taken care of to your satisfaction? At this stage of the emergency, how much common sense are we willing to use to make sure we don't make things worse?



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This is continually unfolding, with new predictions every day. By the time you read this, the situation may be far worse, or far better than when I write this. Today the Surgeon General predicted that this coming week would be “very bad”, and Governor Cuomo said that by the time this is over, we could have 40-60% of the population eventually being infected. On a more positive note, 80% of the infected recover over a relatively short period, and mortality is a fairly small percentage. So someday this will all be over, and most of us will still be alive. The economy will eventually recover, just as it did after the 2008 financial crisis. We have lived through winters that collapsed barn roofs, and ice and windstorms that knocked out power for days on end. This is different and

will not end soon. Learn to be more self-reliant and independent. Keep positive and be thankful for approaching warm weather. Take the time to read that book you never found the time to read, or to learn a new skill. Make plans for a larger garden, because some supplies we take for granted will probably be interrupted. If we use common sense, and find useful work to do around the house and the barn, we may be able to look back on this as a time when we learned how much more important home and family is than all the distractions of the outside world.

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