



New York State Horse Council



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I would like to thank everyone who has served on the New York State Board of Directors, Committees and great volunteers who have made NYSHC events held in 2023 fun and educational!

We had a busy year which included updating the bylaws for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. A committee comprised of members of the Board of Directors spent many hours reviewing the existing bylaws and updating the document to include a Code of Conduct, and opportunity to hold the Annual General Membership (AGM) meeting in the last quarter of the year. The new bylaws are posted on the NYSHC website under the main tab "About."

The 2023 NYSHC election results are posted on the NYSHC website 2024 Contact List. Please note that members are welcome to serve on committees, with approval from the Committee Chair and the President. Committee Chairs are members of the NYSHC Board of Directors per the NYSHC bylaws.

The Annual Fall Pleasure Ride at Brookfield was well attended, with many volunteers helping to make the events successful! A special thanks to the ride manager, Cathy Floetke who has agreed to manage the ride again in 2024.

We had a wonderful time at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine on October 14 for the Annual General Membership Meeting. The speakers were excellent, and tour of the equine facilities of the veterinary college quite interesting. A silent auction to help fund the NYSHC Equine Emergency Fund was also held at the AGM. Special thanks go to Colleen Segarra, Shannon Budnik, and Karen Lassell for organizing this special event and acquiring donations for the silent auction. Please continue to donate to help fund this special effort to help others in equine related emergencies.

The New York State Horse Council, Inc. is able to respond to requests for assistance to help sponsor events and other equine-related activities based on income generated from membership fees. Please renew your membership for 2024 and encourage your friends, and equestrian clubs to join. There is also a category for business memberships, with listing on the NYS Horse Council website. To join, go to: <https://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=14>.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED

Please contact the NYSHC Vice President, Allison Conti- Frey if you have a horse related event you would like posted on the NYSHC Events Calendar. We would like to have a more robust Event Calendar for equine related events, with links to each NYSHC Region.

The NYSHC welcomes members to participate on Committees. All committee chairs are members of the Board of Directors. Volunteer service on a committee is a great way to meet new friends, and perhaps serve on the Board of Directors in the future.

Best wishes to all for success in 2024!



Don't Forget to Renew Your 2024 Membership



TO THE NYSHC! GO TO- [HTTPS://NYSHC.ORG/POST.PHP?PID=14](https://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=14)

YOU CAN RENEW ONLINE USING PAYPAL OR YOU CAN PRINT A FORM, WRITE A CHECK AND MAIL IT IN. BE SURE YOU WRITE SO IT CAN BE READ.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LOCATION: CORNELL UNIVERSITY



DR GILLIAN PERKINS



DR MEG THOMPSON



Photo Credit : Pauline Barnes



Regions

1. Southeast
(New York City, Long Island)
2. Mid-Hudson
3. Capital
4. Northern
5. Central
6. Southern Tier
7. Finger Lakes
8. Western



Hay There!

by Rebecca Barrett

***Hay There! Are your Horses Ignoring Their Hay on Mild Winter Days? Keep It Coming!
Here's why:***

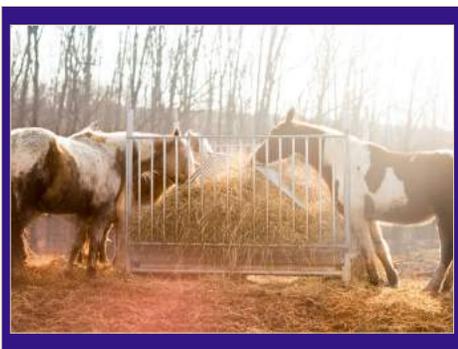
This time of the year the Northeast, at least in recent years, can throw us some curveballs when it comes to weather, snow and the conditions in our pastures and their grasses. It can be 25 degrees one moment and 48 the next when winter is just getting started. For those of us that allow our horses to graze you may have seen this situation happen time and again. Often, when we have no snow, our pasture grasses are showing instead of being covered and insulated by the snowfall. Our horses at times will ignore the hay we have provided and go off grazing as if it's summer.

Don't be fooled! They will be back for the hay.

They know instinctively and from experience that the grass is not as nutritious as it was. So, while it's fine to adjust their hay feeding levels to account for waste, resist the urge to "under" hay them. Knowing the stages of grass growth can help you understand what our horses already know and be successful in this fine balancing act of not wasting hay and making sure our horses are health and -well-fed.

There are many stages to the grass life cycle. While we will cover this subject in depth more in a spring article, some important information is listed below to consider:

- **Seed Germination/Seedling Stage:** Here in the Northeast this occurs anywhere from late Summer to late Fall and then again in Spring. During this stage any new seeds trying to germinate may be disturbed by grazing. This stage is also where the sugars are highest which may not be a great choice for your horses if they have metabolic conditions. (For example there is a spring AND fall laminitis condition) **It's important to add supplemental hay to the diet at this time for most horses if not pulling them off altogether** for the sake of horse and pasture grasses.
- **Dormancy in Winter:** There is very little nutritional value in the grass at this time. A further consideration is that grazing may damage grasses trying to survive winter. Consider giving them a smaller sacrificial space instead of all of your pasture. The benefit can be two-fold. Limiting their space, they will come back to the hay faster and all but your small area will not be damaged.



Some other important points to consider:

- **Always check with your vet** and consider the horses' health history, current condition, activity level, etc. when choosing forage or deciding how much to feed.
- **Grass in the "vegetative" is ideal for grazing.** A common thought is it's important to wait until it's at least 6 inches high before allowing grazing. This lowers the sugars in the plant. Prior to that the plant is high in sugars trying to boost growth.
- **Hay, if harvested at the next stage, the "boot" state is nutritional** and captures much of what is contained in grass while being a better choice for forage for horses with metabolic conditions because it can be lower in sugars (this is not always the case and here forage analysis becomes important if your horse is sensitive).
- From there, know that an **average for most horses will be 1.5 – 2.5 % of their body weight in FORAGE.** Again, speak to your vet.
- **Providing ample hay gives the fiber and forage needed for their digestive system health and satisfies their natural grazing tendencies which in turn keeps their emotional health in check.** Bored horses standing with no hay and no (satisfying!) grazing may lead to health issues such as compaction colic, depression, misbehavior among others. Horses' systems are designed, being the grazers they are, to function on constant grazing rather than large meals in a couple sessions.

For more information, Cornell has a "Why Forage First" Webinar, as a part of their "Equine Seminar Series" available on YouTube. Go to this link: https://youtu.be/kzpwJ-Irob4?si=bqU3pL_sMuYfygP1

Credits for information derived for this article from: Cornell Equine Seminar Series, EquiFirst Aid USA "Equine Health and Emergency First Aid" Manual, Chat GPT

The Tragic Tioga Downs fire



November 14, 2023

The Honorable Kirk Martin
Tioga County District Attorney
20 Court Street
Owego, NY 13827

RE: November 9, 2023 Barn Fire, Tioga Downs Racetrack

Dear District Attorney Martin,

On Thursday, November 9, 2023 the horse community in New York was devastated by the news of a barn fire at the Tioga Downs Racetrack, resulting in the death of reportedly 30 Standardbred horses.

The New York State Police is to be commended on their swift response, which led to the apprehension and arrest of a suspect, Boyd H. Fenton. It's our understanding that the fire was deemed an act of arson, which by definition is the willful or malicious burning of property especially with criminal or fraudulent intent. Willfully or maliciously burning a building occupied by horses is cruel and beyond comprehension.

The Laws of New York, Chapter 69 Agriculture & Markets, Article 26 defines cruelty as being any act, omission, or neglect whereby unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death is caused or permitted. In the case of the barn fire last week, arson caused the pain, suffering and death of 30 horses.

The New York State Horse Council, serving as the voice of the horse community in New York respectfully urges your office, in the case of Boyd H. Fenton, to consider additional charges specifically pertaining to animal cruelty. Upon further review of NYS Agriculture & Markets laws, Article 26, Section 353 (Cruelty Misdemeanor), Section 353A (Aggravated Cruelty Felony) and Section 361 (Interference with or injury to racehorses) could be considered. You may find it useful to review a 2018 case in Goshen NY where a woman was successfully prosecuted on aggravated cruelty charges after 9 dead horses were discovered. <https://www.recordonline.com/story/news/2018/07/24/goshen-woman-in-animal-cruelty/11201478007/>

It would be of great comfort to know that the person responsible for this heinous crime is held accountable for their actions and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Sincerely,

Colleen Segarra

Chair, Humane Committee, New York State Horse Council Inc.
Vice President, Mid Hudson Region, New York State Horse Council Inc.

Cc: Pauline Burnes, President, New York State Horse Council Inc.

New York State Horse Council Inc., PO Box 236, Marlboro NY 12542



Photo courtesy: WBNG

PRESS RELEASE

Dated: December 8, 2023

Today, Boyd H. Fenton of Pennsylvania, was arraigned in Tioga County Court on an one hundred and five count Indictment. The Indictment alleges that he unlawfully entered a barn at Tioga Downs Casino and Racetrack on November 9, 2023, and started a fire, destroying the barn, injuring a trainer and killing thirty horses and one cat.

Mr. Fenton is facing charges of one count of Arson in the Third Degree, a class C felony, one count of Assault in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count of Burglary in the Third Degree, a class D felony, thirty-eight counts of Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, a class D felony, thirty counts of Interference with or Injury to Certain Domestic Animals, an E felony, thirty one counts of Overdriving, Torturing and Injuring Animals, an unclassified misdemeanor, one count of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, a class E felony, and two counts of Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Tioga County Court Judge Adam R. Schumacher set bail in the amount of \$25,000 cash, \$50,000 property and \$250,000 10% secured bond.

Defense motions in the case are due January 22, 2024.

KIRK O. MARTIN

District Attorney for Tioga County
Tioga County District Attorney's Office
Owego, New York 13827
Telephone: (607) 687-8650

Achieving Peak Fitness and Wellness for Equestrian Riders

Equestrian riding is not only a sport but also a unique lifestyle that demands a harmonious blend of balance, mental focus, and physical strength. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned rider, prioritizing fitness and wellness is essential to enhance your riding experience, ensure the well-being of both you and your equine partner, and improve your performance. In this article, we will explore key aspects of fitness and wellness tailored specifically for equestrian riders.



Balance and Coordination: Balance and coordination are fundamental skills for any equestrian rider. Include exercises that challenge your balance, such as single-leg squats, balance board drills, and stability ball exercises. These activities not only enhance your riding skills but also reduce the risk of falls and injuries.

Cardiovascular Fitness: While non-equestrians might argue that riding may not be as physically demanding as some other sports, we riders know the truth. Maintaining cardiovascular fitness is essential for overall well-being. Engage in aerobic exercises like jogging, cycling, or swimming to enhance your endurance and stamina. A strong cardiovascular system will improve your riding performance and contribute to better recovery after a ride.

Core Strength and Stability: Equestrian riding places a significant demand on the rider's core muscles. What is the core? The core muscles are the muscles deep within the abdominals AND the back that attach to the pelvis or spine. A stable and strong core not only enhances your ability to communicate effectively with your horse but also improves your balance in the saddle. Incorporate exercises such as planks, leg raises, and rotational exercises to strengthen your core muscles.

Flexibility and Mobility: Achieving optimal flexibility and mobility is crucial for riders to move with their horses harmoniously. Stretching exercises targeting the hips, lower back, and thighs can help improve your range of motion and prevent stiffness. Well-rounded equestrian-focused workouts are excellent practices that focus on balance and flexibility.

Mind-Body Connection: Wellness for equestrian riders goes beyond physical fitness; it also encompasses mental well-being. Develop a strong mind-body connection through mindfulness practices such as deep breathing exercises and meditation. Mental clarity and focus are essential for a more enjoyable riding experience and effective communication with your horse.

Nutrition and Hydration: A balanced diet is key to maintaining energy levels and supporting overall health. Stay hydrated, especially before and after riding sessions. Ensure your diet includes a mix of complex carbohydrates, essential nutrients, and lean proteins to support muscle recovery and sustained energy.



Rest and Recovery: Rest is a crucial component of any fitness regimen. Adequate sleep and proper recovery time between rides allow your body to repair and strengthen. Listen to your body, and incorporate rest days into your routine to prevent burnout and reduce the risk of overuse injuries.

Strength Training: Equestrian riding requires specific muscle groups to work in unison. Strength training, focusing on the core, legs, and thighs is crucial for riders. Squats, lunges, and leg presses can help build the strength to maintain proper riding control and posture.

Equestrian riding is a mentally and physically demanding activity that requires a holistic approach to fitness and wellness. By incorporating targeted exercises, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and nurturing the mind-body connection, riders can cultivate a deeper connection with their equine partners, enhance their performance, and reduce the risk of injuries. Prioritize your well-being, and watch as your equestrian journey becomes not just a sport but a fulfilling and sustainable lifestyle.

Yours In Health,

Ajia Clancy ACE HC & PT
www.AjiaClancy.com

Some Inspiration to Staying In Sync

By Caroline North

Caroline North is a Riding Instructor, Yoga Teacher, and Horse Trainer at Laurelin Farm in Western New York. She is an avid endurance competitor, mounted archer, and yogi who loves to bring the teachings of yoga into all areas of her life.

On a brisk, dryish December day in WNY, I went for a ride to clear my mind. My most trusted mount was of course the best choice for a trail ride alone in the forestry with poor cell service. My horse calmly walked out on the soggy leaves covering the gravel truck trail and I settled into my stirrups. The tree trunks were shiny with moisture, almost sparkly in the low winter light, but not quite.

The smooth greens of the mosses and rough textures of the stones played counterpoint to the soft light, grounding us towards the earth in winter. As we walked, I felt the cares of running a business



slip away, the little family emotional stuff floating off, just breathing deep and touching on my inner most self. I let the reins drop on my horse's neck and started some arm stretches, finding flow again, with only the eyes of the universe upon us (I think, as this was a public trail).

I tapped into my yogic union state, finding it physically in the engagement of my toes, in the softening of my hips, the light grip of leg and lift and expansion of my chest. That smooth feeling of not just being on top of a horse, but truly feeling them viscerally. My mind grew quiet, yet hyper aware and observant, taking in my horse and the forest simultaneously like a good herd leader should. I took a full breath in, with a slight lift of my center of gravity and straightening of my reins, and let some vibrational energy shine through us both, and my equine partner responded into a nice trail eating trot before I reached the top of my inhale. We floated along together, he was happy on an adventure, I was able to explore our depths of partnership. We were 'in sync'.

This state of riding a horse is easily observed by experienced Horsemen and Horsewomen and coveted by many. It doesn't happen all the time, throughout each ride, or even with a horse and rider that are riding at a very high level. It doesn't even need to be felt while riding but can be most fascinating and easily visually confirmed as 'real' during routine ground activities. It ebbs and flows, and is most beautiful when there is no audience, no pressure to perform, in fact the more it becomes a performance, the

more this state of being is lost. Ask most artists, musicians, and dancers about their most inspiring creative outputs, and they will usually respond, my best work just 'came to me', spontaneous, in a jam session.

We and horses can be in sync at the beginning stages of our learning and advanced; horses prefer this state over all others as it offers the most comfortable herd dynamic. If your horse does not want to sync with you, it's up to you as herd leader to figure out why. Maybe riding in circles has bored him to the point where he feels ignored, so he closes his energy to you.



One of the authors students doing groundwork, legs in tandem, both expressions soft and happy.

Maybe the rider's insecurity has created a block or tightness in their shoulders, so the horse can't feel the rider or vice versa, hence the union state is blocked.

More likely as riders advance, a rider will fear this joined state because it means relinquishing a fair amount of control. You want to be in flow? You have to let go...Being in sync also carries the responsibility of recognizing the power of each other, and respecting it, and finding ways to channel it without doing each other harm. I ride out alone in the woods in full recognition of the risk I am taking, in full knowledge that I could end up with significant damage to myself and my horse from something out of my control, and I make the conscious choice to accept the consequences my choices have on me and my horse. If I didn't, we would not find our ultimate partnership out there or anywhere. Such a skill is quite useful in non-equestrian pursuits, like living everyday life 'in sync'.

How 'in sync' are you with your day-to-day life? Can you move through your day, meeting coworkers, driving to the store, preparing meals, and finding these little moments of flow, of being in sync with your tasks and surroundings? Just thoughts to ponder, I know away from a horse I tend to struggle much more!



Notice this student's back right leg placement matches her horse's. Also note this horse has no eye on this side, they were in sync by vibrational energy and feel through the rope!

WORKING EQUITATION

TAKING THE NATION BY STORM – NYS PRESENCE

Maybe you've heard the term "Working Equitation" (WE) recently and wondered what this fast-growing sport is all about. Then you've Googled it to see wildly talented riders on amazingly trained horses race through a course of obstacles at lightning speed, only to think there is no way you and your horse are ever going to be able to accomplish this task. How can this sport be growing so fast? Who and where ARE these people?

Bear with me, you are about to learn that EVERYONE can benefit from and enjoy the sport of Working Equitation.

Origins of WE

At its core, WE derives from several working cowboy cultures in Southern Europe, where farmers and ranchers needed well-trained horses to navigate their daily tasks. The sport combines the heritage of these practical skills with a competitive edge, encompassing dressage, obstacle navigating, speed challenges, and cattle handling. WE has gained popularity worldwide to celebrate the partnership between horse and rider, showcasing their skills in various disciplines. WE, as a discipline, started in the mid-1990's with four countries: Italy, Spain, France, and Portugal. The first WE competition took place in 1996 in Italy. In the United States, the sport has grown steadily since the early 2000s.

In an effort to govern the sport internationally, the World Association of WE (WAVE) was formed in 2004. WAVE was developed to create, review, and govern the rules of international competition and currently encompasses 23 countries and a growing number of participants worldwide. Each country has established its own guidelines for domestic competition.

USA Working Equitation (USAWE) is recognized as the exclusive Official Accredited Agent of WAVE in the USA. USAWE was formed in 2020, when WE United and the Confederation for Working Equitation consolidated into a single national organization. The decision to merge into USAWE was unanimously supported by the Boards of both prior WE organizations.



Perhaps all of this official-ness sounds a bit intimidating and overwhelming? You may be wondering where it can include the average horse owner in New York State. Let's start by explaining the four trails of WE and the levels of competition so that you can gain a clearer picture of the sport of WE.

Four Progressive Trials

WE competitions consist of two to four trails which depend on your level of competition and the venue. There are specific rules for each trial that are important to know and follow. A rider/horse pair may be eliminated from any one of the trails, yet continue to compete in subsequent trials. Elimination from one trial does not mean you cannot still place in the overall competition. Trials are always run in the order they will be explained here. The first trial, no matter your level or the venue, will always be the dressage trial.

Dressage Trial

You may already be familiar with dressage. A WE dressage tests requires the horse and rider to ride a pattern of movements prescribed by the official test for their level, which is somewhat different than dressage tests you may already be familiar with, as movements relate to the ultimate goal of smoothly working cattle. WE dressage tests are performed in a 20 x 40 meter arena. The judge scores each movement on a scale of 0-10, and provides Collective Marks at the conclusion of the test for gaits, impulsion, submission, rider and presentation.

Ease of Handling

Ease of Handling (EOH) is the second trial comprising a WE competition. The EOH trial is required at all levels of competition. It consists of a series of obstacles that the horse and rider must negotiate as smoothly as possible (there is no time limit.) As with the Dressage trial, the judge scores each obstacle on a scale of 0-10 and also provides Collective Marks for transitions/navigation, gaits, impulsion, submission, and rider. There are roughly 20 obstacles that can be incorporated into the trial, with the number varying by competition level.

Speed Trial

The third trial in a WE competition is the Speed trial – this is the trial you’ve all seen when Googling WE. This is a test of a horse and rider’s ability to navigate obstacles with accuracy as quickly as possible and is thrilling to watch! The Speed trial is first required at the Novice A level. Riders soon learn that strategic course lines and precision often win over pure speed alone.

Cattle Trial

Do not read the words “Cattle Trial” and run! The Cattle trial is not always offered at WE competitions (though it is always a crowd and competitor favorite), and is not required when it is offered. Riders use the same tack/attire for this trial as they did for Dressage, EOH, and Speed. The Cattle Trial is worked in teams of three or four riders who work together. Each rider separates a designated cow from the herd and moves it across the enclosure to a holding pen. You may compete in a WE Competition, waiting to complete the Cattle Trial (when offered) when you feel ready to do so.

Competition Levels and Their Progression In the United States, there are five performance levels to differentiate between horses and riders at different stages of advancement in the discipline of WE. Nearly everyone who begins competing in WE begins at Level 1, which includes the two trails of Dressage and EOH performed at the walk and trot only.

The progressive nature of the sport allows riders to advance at their comfort level, but it also offers an excellent base of training for other sports you may practice. The relationship that needs to develop between the horse and rider, along with the skills required to compete successfully, leads to a greater overall level of horsemanship and communication. Everyone who involves themselves in WE finds improvements in other areas of their riding as a result.

While the specific rules about obstacles used and how they are negotiated differ for each level (and can be found here <https://usawe.org/competitions/rules/> in the rulebook), a basic high-level description of each competition level is provided here.



Level 1 – Introductory

This is an introductory level designed for new horse-rider pairs, as well as young or green horses. There is no Speed Trial or Cattle Trial at this level. Walk and trot are required in the Dressage and EOH trials (i.e., canter is not allowed). Rising or sitting trot is allowed. Trot is required between obstacles in EOH. Two hands may be used on the reins. This level may be offered for Youth, Amateur and Open divisions, as well as Young Horse division.

Level 2 – Novice A

This level is designed for horse-rider pairs who are beginning their development in WE. Canter is required in the Dressage trial and between obstacles in EOH. Changes of lead are through the trot. Obstacles must be trotted, unless required or allowed to be walked. Rising or sitting trot is allowed. Two hands may be used on the reins. This level may be offered for Youth, Amateur and Open divisions, as well as Young Horse division.

Level 3 – Novice B

Rising or sitting trot is allowed in the Dressage trial. Canter is required between obstacles. Changes of lead through the trot are required. Two hands may be used on the reins. This level may be offered for Youth, Amateur and Open divisions, as well as Young Horse division.

Level 4 – Intermediate A

This level is designed for horse-rider pairs progressing in their development. Sitting trot is required in the Dressage trial. Simple changes of lead through the walk are required. Two hands may be used on the reins. This level may be offered for Youth, Amateur and Open divisions.

Level 5 – Intermediate B

Sitting trot is required in the Dressage trial. Flying changes are required. Two hands may be used on the reins. This level may be offered for Youth, Amateur and Open Divisions.

Level 6 – Advanced

Sitting trot is required in the Dressage trial. Flying changes are required. One hand must be used on the reins. This level may be offered for Youth, Amateur and Open divisions.

Level 7 – Masters (International Level)

Sitting trot is required in the Dressage trial. Changes at canter must be flying changes. One hand must be used on the reins. This level may be offered for Youth, Amateur, and Open divisions.

USAWE in New York State

USAWE has divided the US into seven regions, with NYS being a member of Region 6. The purpose of Regions is to provide geographically-based representation in the governance of the organization as well as for awards. In 2021, New York State Working Equitation was founded as an Affiliate Organization of USAWE with the purpose to promote and provide education regarding WE in NYS. NYSWE offers clinics, training, and events throughout the state. This summer will provide multiple opportunities for those interested in WE to learn more through clinic participation or observation. There has been a sanctioned WE competition for several years held in Schaghticoke, NY. In 2024 the event will be held July 19-21 and will include two shows and a clinic. Now that your interest is piqued, follow NYSWE on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NYSWorkingEq>) to find out what is happening in the region and to get involved.

Resources: wawe-workingequitation.com

www.usawe.org

www.nyswe.com

<https://dressagetoday.com/lifestyle/working-equitation-27166/>



GENESEE VALLEY
EQUINE CLINIC

Presents

Courses on Horses

Saturday February 3rd, 2024

Doors open at 8:00am

New Location
Allendale Columbia School- 519 Allens Creek Road
Rochester, NY

Join Us For

Speakers discussing referring horses for lameness & performance issues vs. medical needs:
Dr. Kara Brown from the University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Kathryn Mitchell from Cornell University
As well as vendors, door prizes and refreshments!



ORLEANS COUNTY BOOTS AND SADDLE CLUB

CHARTERED 1958

LOCATION: 4100 HULBERTON ROAD

MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 120, CLARENDON, NY 14429

EMAIL: OCBSCLUB@GMAIL.COM

FACEBOOK GROUP: ORLEANS COUNTY BOOTS AND SADDLE CLUB DISCUSSION BOARD
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK ... COME HORSE AROUND WITH US!

The Orleans County Boots and Saddle Club was started in the late 40's/early 50's and chartered in 1958. The Club's purpose has been to promote the love of horses and to invite horse owners and enthusiasts as well as the general public to join us as spectators or participants in a variety of horse related events and activities. Our member meetings are monthly and we often have a free drawing with fun prizes at each meeting. We have members of all ages and anyone is welcome to join. We've kept our annual dues at the same low, affordable rate for many years.

The early years offered open horse shows, gymkhana, parades and trail rides. The Club has progressed to offer an annual swap-n-shop, a fun show series, day and overnight trail rides, clinics, schooling shows, educational and informational presentations, and member fun days with food, campfires, and fun obstacle challenges. Most events are open events with some member only activities throughout the year. In 2023 we scheduled a poker run, swap-n-shop, trail rides including an ice cream ride, a hunter pace, a cow penning clinic, a presentation on care and final decisions for your equine by Rachel Levin, and a fun show series. We also support our community with donations to local rescues and emergency agencies.

This year we awarded two individuals with lifetime memberships. Jerri Hulse received the lifetime longevity award as a consistent member of the Club since she was in her early teens in the 1960's. During her years she has served selflessly in many capacities including being our president several times. Jerri constructed most of our beautiful jumps used in our hunter pace event which she also coordinates, and she hosts our yearly swap-n-shop at her farm in the spring.

Reta Smith is the second lifetime award recipient as one of our founding members and at 94 years old, she is still healthy and active. As a founding member, she and her husband, Chauncey (1927-2010), were instrumental in getting our Club grounds up and running. With help from other founding and early members, they built the arena which is one of the largest in our area. Holes for the fence posts had to be dynamited since we are on a rock base. Many loads of arena sand had to be brought in to give it great footing for our participants to enjoy. Of course, over the years fence posts needed replacing. But the original arena is still there and being well used anytime by Club members and at scheduled public and member events.

Orleans County Boots and Saddle Club: Chartered 1958 Location: 4100 Hulberton Road

Mailing Address: PO Box 120, Clarendon, NY 14429 Email: ocbsclub@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/OrleansCountyBootsSaddleClub>

We are here for fun, community, friendship, learning, and for the love and enjoyment of our horses. Our Club grounds are located at 4100 Hulberton Road in Clarendon, NY. Our mailing address is PO Box 120, Clarendon, NY 14429. Like us on Facebook where we post all of our upcoming activities. Contact us at ocbsclub@gmail.com for a membership form, and please, come horse around with us!

EQUINE PROFESSIONALS – *WHAT IS YOUR VALUE?*

By: Michael Canfield – Owner/Founder of Lucky Star Horsemanship

Lucky Star Horsemanship is really blessed to be able to do what we do professionally since 2010 all across the US, and to have been “Students of the Horse” long before then. The long, hard hours of study and learning, the practice, the sacrifices, the bumps, breaks and bruises, the mistakes, the lows and the highs....all of the experiences...created what Lucky Star Horsemanship is today. And those experiences have a real and recognized value to the equine industry.

Now saddle up, dear Reader...this is going to be a long one!

We hear from so many equine professionals – from the just starting out riding instructor, to the veteran barn owner – all of which are struggling to make a living and facing real challenges every day. They reach out to us wondering if all the hard work and struggle is actually worth it. These folks deal with long hours, inconsiderate clients, rising business costs, community “drama” and so many other aspects running a business that they get overwhelmed, second guess every decision they make, and many times just quit the business. When this happens our entire equine community suffers. In the last four months (it is December 2023 at the time of this writing) in our nearby community, we have had two great facilities close their doors and leave the industry! No more Clinic hosting, no more boarding, no more training, no more lessons and no more connections that build our industry. The loss is profound and damaging on so many levels.

So what is the answer? How do we build our industry up and stop the ongoing losses?

The answer is simple, but not easy. Truth can sometimes be hard to swallow, but if we saddle up, we should be ready for the ride.

We start by actually assigning VALUE what we do and start thinking like business professionals. We take our passion for the horse and helping people enrich their experiences and combine this with solid business practices. We educate ourselves in how to run our businesses with the same level of dedication that we have applied to our education of the horse. RESEARCH what other successful businesses are doing –both the horse based and non-horse based businesses – and apply those successful practices to our business. MARKETING in a clear and consistent manner! One post, once a month is NOT marketing! Invest time and resources in getting the message out there clearly and consistently! Attend events and expos as an Exhibitor or Presenter!

Get creative within your community! Ask for the business! Think outside the box and have a VERY CLEAR PICTURE of who you are and what your business is all about! PRICE your services based on the QUALITY of what you offer! Take a real hard look at your programs and professionalism and then look at the region you are in – and then price your services accordingly! Can your region support a sixty minute lesson for \$60.00? Does your nearby competitor charge more? If so, why? If less, why? What do you offer that no one else in your community offer? Create MULTIPLE INCOME STREAMS and offer unique services that enrich your community. If your only source of income is, for example, “riding lessons” then you are limiting your business growth.

In short...do not be allergic to money. Think like a BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL and not just a horse person. Profit is not bad! Making a living is not bad! Be willing to fire those “high cost/low value” clients that create a drain and drama. Look hard at what you are doing and find ways to minimize costs while maximizing profits. Price your services at a level that is attractive and fair without being too cheap and your business will attract the type of clientele that will be positive for your bottom line. Assign value to what you offer. Under promise and over deliver! INTEGRITY and PROFESSIONALISM are crucial to your success. Be willing to say “no” and stand your ground ethically. DO NOT demean other businesses. Be honest about what you can and cannot do. DO NOT ALLOW DRAMA to affect your business or business culture!

Our industry is a difficult one to be successful in. It will take from you all that you are and will challenge you on every level. Be smart, be strong and be creative! VALUE what you do fairly and realistically. Seek that balance that allows you to make a living and have a personal life too. Get help as needed and surround yourself with other successful professionals. As the saying goes “A rising tide floats all boats” so be a professional that lifts others up instead of trying to sink them and you will see greater returns on your investment.

Thanks for reading!

Maggie Keller, Executive Director
Phone: 716-949-7723
Email: redthreadequine@gmail.com
Website: oneredthread.org



Connection Beyond the Saddle.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 28, 2023

NEW EXCITING PROGRAM CONNECTS HORSES AND PEOPLE WITH 'ONE RED THREAD'!

Orchard Park, NY: One Red Thread Equine Connection, Inc. is a brand new 501c3 non-profit organization located in Orchard Park, New York. This unique program gives everyone the opportunity to 'connect a thread' with the amazing healing power of horses.

According to ancient myth, everyone's pinky finger is tied to an invisible red thread which predetermines our relationships and connects us to other humans or animals. Legend has it that the two connected by the thread will have an important relationship, regardless of time, place or circumstance. The red thread may get tangled, stretched or knotted, but it can never break.

Founded in July 2023, the mission of One Red Thread Equine Connection is to cultivate learning and nurture the human spirit with equine healing and educational opportunities for all in a safe, inclusive, accepting space. Founder and executive director Maggie Keller and program director Katie Macre were previously directors together at Lothlorien Therapeutic Riding Center in East Aurora for 17 years.

Keller says the program can help anyone, no matter their horse experience. "We want to fill a need in the community with the far-reaching potential of the "thread" that can connect us to horses," says Keller. "One Red Thread Equine Connection is a ground work program which means there is no riding involved. Instead, we provide a hands-on, meaningful learning opportunity with a horse partner. The take-home skills spill over into the academic, social and emotional world, and tie us to the experience for a lifetime."

Participants connect with horses by attending ground work activities in programs such as Horse Powered Reading®, field trips, book clubs, life skills activities, horse visits, workshops, clinics, themed events and more. Ground work activities develop skills in creative problem solving, teamwork, responsibility, trust, respect, resilience and confidence. We also work on communication, leadership, non-verbal communication, setting boundaries and emotional regulation skills. Our certified staff and trained volunteers assist participants in a safe, accepting, fun environment. Sessions can be held on and off-site.

One Red Thread Equine Connection, Inc. 7755 Milestrip Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127 • oneredthread.org • 716-949-7723

Macre creates programming and schedules individuals and groups to come for the sessions that work best for them. People from all walks of life contact her, some who know how much horses can help, others that are skeptical, but willing to try something new. They walk away with much more than they imagined.

According to Macre, "Working with horses is a different kind of 'therapy'. The horses are the healers here and working with them helps to ground you, makes you more present and helps you recognize where your boundaries are, what your body language is saying, how you communicate. They remind you to breath, to just be."

Call 716-949-7723 for more information and to register.

Visit our website www.oneredthread.org.

Like us on FaceBook: @One Red Thread Equine Connection, Inc.

###



Join us for a fun, unique field trip!

- ★ groom a horse & even paint them!
- ★ make a take-home craft project
- ★ read a book to a horse or write them a story
- ★ navigate an obstacle course & play games with a horse
- ★ find out about horse care, body language & habits
- ★ identify parts of a horse and horse equipment

Different theme & activities each month!

\$20 per participant, ages 6 and up

Weekdays, 10am-12pm

Minimum 6, maximum 20 people

Snack and drink provided.

Location: 7755 Milestrip Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127

To schedule your field trip contact:

Katie Macre, 716-949-3551, ktmacre@gmail.com.

Call us today to talk about how we can make this a fun day for your group, class or family.

BYO lunch. Picnic area available.

No riding, ground activities only. Close-toed shoes required.

Scheduled based on availability of dates, staff and horses and weather.



oneredthread.org

 @One Red Thread Equine, Inc.

CCETS-What you have helped to accomplish!

YOU have increased the miles of trails open to equestrians by 50% in the last ten years on the state forests.

YOU have been instrumental in voicing a need for increasing parking area accommodations for horse and trailers on two major parking areas on Boutwell Hill State Forest.

YOU have brought and learned sustainable equestrian trail building ideals and techniques to align with DEC land management goals.

YOU proposed and administered trail improvement grants for Boutwell State forest to bring trails to a sustainable standard.

YOU came together with snowmobile clubs, ski clubs, private landowners, towns, and county entities over the last ten years to build a trail community. Together you can!!!

YOU have built an organized structure that now has expanded to two state forests in Chautauqua county under one VSA.

YOU have been an advocate for the need for Chainsaw safety trainings for all recreational groups. And working together with those other groups you made that happen!



New York State Trails Council

Submitted by Carol Schmelz

Purpose: The New York State Trails Council (NYSTC) was established in October 1981 to ensure citizen participation in trail planning and management. The NYSTC was made the formal Citizen Advisory Council for administration of the National Recreational Trail Act. The Citizen Advisory Council was organized to:

1. advocate trail interests to all levels of government and to the public;
2. provide a reliable source of information on trail based recreation;
3. coordinate efforts to develop, construct and maintain recreational trails;
4. foster trail user ethics; and
5. provide a forum for mediating differences among trail-user groups

The Trails Council currently consists of delegates representing thirteen trail activities, including all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel drive vehicles, hiking, equine trail interests, Nordic skiing (cross-country), off road bicycling, on road bicycling, running, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, trail-bike riding (motorized), universal access, and water trails. The representatives for each of these user groups are trail users who do not represent commercial interests. There should be three delegates from each activity represented at the Trails Council meetings. It is important that each area of the state be represented so issues and concerns from those areas can be can be addressed. Presently there are only two equestrian delegates at these state meetings- Wendy Wakula (CNY) and Carol Schmelz (WNY). Currently equestrians need a representative from the eastern part of the state. If you ride on trails in the Albany/Saratoga region and want to contribute your ideas, please reach out to Pauline Burnes and let her know you would be willing to serve.

Delegate reports are emailed in a week ahead of time so the state officials have time to read and respond to issues and concerns at the meetings. There are only two meetings each year-one in April and another in October. Opportunities are usually given to attend the meetings in-person or online. Meetings last from 3-5 hours depending on topics of interest to the group.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Canal Corporation, the Department of Transportation, The Hudson River Greenway, the New York State Senate and Assembly, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Park Service, and Parks and Trails New York also have representatives to the Council. These representatives do not have voting privileges but serve as advisors by participating in discussions and raising issues for the Council to consider. The Trails Council is provided with technical assistance and support through the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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RESOURCE CENTER OF THE
VALLEYS, Inc.**

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45 MINUTE PRIVATE
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Optional Box Stall Rental

Donation: \$30/day *made payable directly to
Houghton U.*

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**Auditors are welcome for a
donation of \$10**

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Jo-Anne Young: (716) 698-8708

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UNDAUNTED BY RAIN, ENTHUSIASTS TURN OUT FOR GENESEE VALLEY HUNT RACES

By Ben Beagle with the Livingston News

GENESEO — Jockeys Conor Tierney and Freddie Proctor rode their horses side by side just inches apart as they raced down the final stretch towards the finish of The Oxbow, the concluding event of the Genesee Valley Hunt Races.

With each bob of their steed's head the lead seemed to change until Tierney roared out a final "c'mon" to encourage his horse.

Still, it took several minutes before Tierney and his horse, Soviet Pimpernel, were declared the winner over Proctor and Irelands Call.

"It was a good race. I knew Freddie was on my inside. He was always there and he had the horse to beat," Tierney said at the conclusion of the nine-horse race.

The crowd roared as the horses thundered across the finish line.

"It was quite a race," said Proctor, who said he didn't hear the crowd. "When you're in the race, you block out everything outside the race. You're inside your own little bubble, but Conor and I had a great time coming down to the end."

While they waited for word on the winner, Proctor — from his horse — turned toward Tierney and suggested they call it a dead heat and go get a drink. After the winner was announced, Proctor offered a handshake and congratulations to his competitor and trainer Ricky Hendriks.

The race was just one of 10 horse races contested over the undulating fields along Nations Road where the Genesee Valley Hunt Races — which date to the 1800s — have become an autumn tradition in the region.

The day's ongoing rain didn't dampen the excitement or the races, nor the enthusiasm of those who did attend. "As horse people, we're just used to the weather. It doesn't take away from the experience," said Stephanie Yautzy of Bloomfield.

Yautzy and her friend Bobbie Avery-Black of Sodus said coming to the races is a tradition.



“It’s a chance to see horses doing what they do best,” said Avery-Black. “It’s cool to see.” The Genesee Valley Hunt Races, in its 141st year, featured 10 horse races contested over the undulating fields along Nations Road. More than \$50,000 in prize money — with awards ranging from \$50 for pony races to \$25,000 for the Genesee Valley Hunt Cup — was at stake.

There were races for ponies, stock horses and “heavy horses,” the large, draft-like horses who make the earth quake as they race by. Several timber races required competitors to jump their horses over wooden barriers.

The top race, the 3.5-mile Genesee Valley Hunt Cup, held the promise of a thrilling match-up between the four top timber horses in the country. The field included Andi’amu, owned by Ballybristol Farm and the 2019 and 2022 National Steeplechase Association champion timber horse; Tuscany Racing’s Monbeg Stream, which won the Maryland Grand National; Kiplin Hall’s Renegade River, which beat Monbeg Stream in the Willowdale Steeplechase; and Fenwick’s Royal Ruse, which was second this year in the historic Maryland Hunt Cup.

The Hunt Cup race was close for most of the nearly three times around the 1.25-mile course. But in the last half-mile and over the last two jumps, Monbeg Stream — ridden by Proctor — found another gear and ran away from the rest of the field by nearly 40s lengths. Andi’amu, last year’s winner, finished second, with Royal Ruse in third.

Tierney, who wrote Renegade River in the Hunt Cup, and Proctor each competed in three races. They both acknowledged that the rain had made the ground “quite sloppy,” according to Tierney, but had different takes on how conditions affected the racing.

Tierney said that as the day went on he found the ground to be softer, allowing the horses to get a deeper grip onto the course.

Proctor, who is from Dorset, England, said different horses would likely respond differently to the conditions.

“The ground was a bit softer than normal here. Some horses handle it well, some don’t,” he said, noting that conditions weren’t so worked up to be difficult and that his rides seemed “to do very well in the conditions; they worked very well.”

Proctor’s victory in the Hunt Cup was his second race win in America.

Proctor, who had been doing steeplechase in England, came to the United States in March 2022 for timber racing.



“They’re very different racing, but then there’s a lot that’s not, so you can adjust to the differences fairly easily,” said Proctor, noting that steeplechase uses brush fences, while the timber race utilizes solid timber.

“When jumping big timber fences there’s no room for error,” he said.

Race day also featured canine events such as terrier races, an agility contest, demonstrations by a water leak detection dog and slug-dogs, plus a parade of the Genesee Valley Hunt foxhounds.

One of the winners of the Canine Costume Contest took a hint from the tailgating competition by wearing a lobster costume and riding in a lobster pot, accompanied by owners dressed as chefs.

The tailgating competition is another tradition. Kathleen Gunther of Avon has been participating in that contest for about 30 years.

“I love the decorating,” said Gunther, who this year crafted the theme “Unbridled bourbon and brass,” using Blanton’s Bourbon and its brass cork tops featuring horses and jockeys that Gunther placed atop an old spice rack.

“I love coming up with themes,” said Gunther, who was inspired by a friend’s suggestion of bridles — for the horse gear — and bourbon — for the drink. Gunter chose unbridled — “how you might feel after drinking bourbon,” she laughed — and brass, because she had a lot of brass objects available.

Children took part in stick horses races, which were as competitive as the actual Genesee Valley Hunt races, and could also ride ponies and explore agricultural discovery tent.

The grounds also include boutique shops and vendors and a New York State food and beverage market that featured local cheese and produce, craft beer wine, and distilled spirits.

The Genesee Valley Hunt Races are slated to return Oct. 12, 2024.

Council of Agricultural Organizations – Equine Policy

Submitted by Pauline Burnes, President, NYSHC

The NYS Horse Council is a member of the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO), Inc. This is a membership organization formed to enable its 29 members to develop a united effort to develop policy statements that address economic, social, legislative and regulatory issues in New York State related to agriculture. Some of the other members of CAO include the NYS Veterinary Medical Society, NY Farm Bureau, Inc., American Farmland Trust, and the NYS Association of Agricultural Fairs.

I attended the CAO annual meeting on January 12, 2024, in Syracuse, as representative of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. The meeting began with addresses from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball; Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) Dean Benjamin Houlton, Ph.D.; and Richard Stup, Ph.D., Agricultural Workforce Specialist. After the presentations, members reviewed and voted on policy changes for the 2024 Policy Book. The proposed Equine section of the 2024 CAO Policy book reads as follows:

EQUINE INDUSTRY

Encompassing racing, breeding, showing, sales and recreational aspects, the equine industry is vital to New York State agriculture and New York's economy. New York ranks 16th among the states in its number of horses. The current value of New York's 200,000 equine currently residing on farms and stables, is estimated to be more than \$2 billion and those equine contribute over \$1.5 billion to the state's economy with a multiplier of about 2 times. It is incumbent on the state to provide a safe and viable economic platform to thrive as the industry supports the production of hay, feed and supports agribusinesses, thereby helping protect and retain farmland throughout the state.

WE RECOMMEND:

1. Re-establishment of the New York State Horse Health Assurance Program (NYSHHAP).
2. Support the revitalization, improvement, and establishment of New York horse venues, to include county fairgrounds State and local parks, and equestrian trails and camping areas on public lands, as an economic engine for the state.
3. Opposition to legislation which explicitly or implicitly removes any equine from farm animal classifications and defines them as companion animals.
4. Support the establishment of loan forgiveness for equine and large animal veterinarians who stay to practice in New York, in order to combat the veterinarian shortage and support the equine industry.

5. Support the Carriage Horse industry as an instrument of urban outreach for agriculture.
6. Support the exemption of horse riding equipment purchased for riding lesson and trail riding businesses to be tax deductible, to encourage education about horses and improve affordability, helping to ensure the future of the equine industry.
7. Support the implementation of research and development for low-cost gelding and humane euthanasia programs for equids and commission a working group to support and finance programs such as the Cornell Waste Management Institute in implementation of a statewide program for equid livestock composting.

There are also policy statements that support the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory; Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H and other agricultural programs that support the equine industry.

The CAO Lobby Day is being held on February 13 in Albany, New York. This is a very important time of year, as the State budget is being formed. If you would like to participate in the CAO lobby day, please contact me (see www.nyshc.org/contacts). For more information regarding the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations, go to <https://empirestatecao.info/>.

A promotional poster for WNY Equifest. The background is a dark purple gradient with a silhouette of a horse's head on the left. The text is white and yellow. At the top, 'WNY Equifest' is written in a large, elegant script font. Below that, 'MARCH 16 & 17, 2024' is in bold, sans-serif font. Underneath, 'The Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY' and 'Free Admission & Parking 9am-4pm Both Days' are in smaller sans-serif font. A white-bordered box on the right contains the text 'WESTERN NEW YORK'S EQUINE SHOWCASE' followed by '100+ Vendors • Roping Contest', 'Free Demos From Experienced Equestrians', and 'Kids Corral • & More!'. At the bottom, there is a QR code, a Facebook icon, and the text 'For more information, scan the QR code or visit the-fairgrounds.com/wnyequifest'. The footer at the very bottom of the poster reads '20 Minutes South of Buffalo | 716-649-3900' and a Facebook icon.

WNY Equifest

MARCH 16 & 17, 2024

The Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY
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**WESTERN NEW YORK'S
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For more information,
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MEETINGS (2024):

NYSHC meetings are scheduled as follows: Online: **January 25, 2024**; In person meeting to be determined around **April 20, 2024**; **July 10, 2024**; **December 12, 2024**, 7pm via Conference Call/Zoom. Annual General Meeting in person late October 2024.

Want to be seen in the New York State Horse Community?!



Advertise in the NYHC Newsletter

**Contact: Laurenberardi13@gmail.com
for more information**

