



# New York State Horse Council

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## **VOL 1 2025 NEWSLETTER**

## President's Message from Pauline Burnes

From ice to mud, to a storm so severe today that I thought the wind was going to lift the barn roof off. I'm safely home now and writing this President's message on my laptop as we have lost power from the storm. I am grateful that the winds have gotten calmer now, but it raises the question – are we ready for natural disasters? Thanks to all who contribute to the NYS Horse Council Equine Emergency Fund, and the quick response that members of our humane committee take to help those in need after a barn fire. The most recent incident was the total loss of a horse barn and staff apartments in Florida, New York. Thankfully all eight horses and staff were evacuated safely, but there was an immediate need for hay and grain, that the Horse Council and others helped to provide.

Make sure you have an emergency evacuation plan for your barn, and place to take your horses should the need arise. Check your fire extinguishers, training for personnel and horses. Emergency rescue teams do not always know how to handle livestock. Check out programs that are available for large animal rescue, both for your staff and Emergency Management in your County. Make sure your first aid supplies, for humans and horses, both for the barn and in trucks and trailers are up to date and well stocked. As we get ready for the spring with activities that require trailering, make sure your truck and trailer are in good repair and ready to travel to your destination.

This past winter was very busy, starting with attending the planning meeting for the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO). The NYS Horse Council is a member of CAO, which has 29 member organizations, and establishes a yearly policy book which is used to request funding for various agricultural groups across New York State. The 2025 Legislative Recommendations and Policy Statements include an Equine Industry section. “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 16 th 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 about \$7 billion to the state's economy. 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 (CAO 2025 Policy Handbook)***

1. Re-establishment of the New York State Horse Health Assurance Program (NYSHHAP).
2. Support funding 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 classification and defines them as companion animals.
4. Support the establishment of educational loan forgiveness for equine and large animal veterinarians who stay to practice in New York State 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 for sales tax exemption of horse riding equipment purchased for riding lessons and trail riding businesses, 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.

***NEW THIS YEAR***

8. Support for funding for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. an independent non-profit organization that advocates for all breeds of horses and all equestrian pursuits, to expand their education programs, marketing, communication and promotion of equestrian events and trails on public lands in New York State. This is intended to foster growth and sustainability for the

preservation of a future of the horse industry in New York State.

Thanks go to Fiona Farrell, Esquire, Vice President for the Capital District; Christina Hansen, NY City Carriage Driver and Executive Secretary; and Colleen Segarra, Executive Vice President for participating in Lobby Days in Albany for both the CAO and NY Farm Bureau. Their assistance and support has been vital in promoting a legislative request for funding for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. If funded, the NYSHC will be able to expand programs, especially in the area of workforce development for the equine industry, education, and trail improvements.

Thanks to the teams who have helped the New York State Horse Council, Inc. at Courses on Horses in Rochester, New York (Susan Knauer); the Schuyler County Equine Event in Watkins Glenn (Wendy Wakula and JoAnne Freschette); NY Farm Bureau Taste of New York in Albany (Christina Hansen, Fiona Farrell, Colleen Segarra, Brian Burnes and refreshments of horse head cookies from Hornell Bible Church and carrot cake from Stephanie Fitzpatrick).

I am winding down this quarter with a presentation at Western NY EquiFest Saturday March 15. Thanks to the Western New Chapter for having a great 2025 Equine Directory available to attendees, and a booth to promote the NYS Horse Council and sign up new members. I also participating in Alfred University's Equine Event March 29<sup>th</sup> where I donated a banner for the New York State Horse Council, Inc. to be displayed in their main riding arena.

Keep up the good work! We can always use more help on Committees. Contact your Regional Vice President, available on the Contacts list on the NYSHC website if you are able to help, or have a special interest. Members are welcome to serve on Committees. This is a good stepping stone to having input in the decision making process, and develop leadership training for participation on the NYSHC Board of Directors.



The Chautauqua County Trail Riders was formed on October 16, 1946 by a group of people who were interested in horses and trail riding. Thirty acres of land was eventually purchased at 3560 Gerry Levant Road in Falconer, N.Y. as a place where the club could meet and ride. Over time, a clubhouse, a horse stable and a riding arena were built on the property. The members of the club set up events every year from May through October for the riding enjoyment of club and non- club members.

We have a series of Family Fun Game Shows that are free to the public to watch and Open to all riders to compete in. On **May 31, July 26, and Sept. 28**. Sign up is at 8:30am and the Show starts at 9:30am. On June 28 th, 2025 we will have our Judged Trail Ride which is a Ride on a marked trail with various fun obstacles to test you and your horse's partnership. On **July 12**, we will have a Timed Ride which is a ride at your own pace ride on marked Trails.

On **August 22-24** we will have our 60th Annual BIG WEEKEND with food for participants and a meal that is open to the public on Sat. evening for a minimal charge, primitive camping is available for participants and Music and Dancing on Sat. night, that will be open to the public for a \$5 cover charge.

For more information on joining the club or any of the rides and events, contact Dave Schauman at (716) 487-9650 or Anne Lynch at (716) 287-4474. Or check out our Chautauqua County Trail Riders Face Book to keep up to date on Club Events.

We will also offer a Paint n' Sip and a Equine Trail Sports Trail Challenge, check out our FB Group page: Chautauqua County Trail Riders for updates on all of our events.



## CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY EQUESTRIAN TRAIL SYSTEM 2025 EVENTS

**May 3-** “I Love my Parks Day “ Meet at Ruttenbur Parking Area at 10:00 am.

**May 10-** Hoof It on the Hill Trail Race Fundraiser for CCETS. To sign up go to [ultrasignup.com](http://ultrasignup.com) June 1-Boutwell Hill Trails open

**June 6/8-** Lou Eibl Spring Ride at Campgrounds . Lauricella at [dottielrn@yahoo.com](mailto:dottielrn@yahoo.com) For more info contact Dottie

**June 14/ 15** – Endurance Clinic at Lou Eibl Campgrounds. Caroline North at [laurelinfarm@gmail.com](mailto:laurelinfarm@gmail.com) For more info contact

**June 21-** National Trail Day- Celebration of new trail for driving wagons/carriages at Boutwell Ruttenbur Rd. For more info contact Missy Whittington at [ourwhittsend@verizon.net](mailto:ourwhittsend@verizon.net)

**August 16-** ETS fundraiser for CCETS at Lou Eibl camp. For more info contact Jodi Gray at [imjodigray@gmail.com](mailto:imjodigray@gmail.com)

**August 25/28-** NYS Horse Council Tour of Trail System

**September 19/20/21-** Lou Eibl Fall Ride Weekend . Contact Dottie Lauricella at [dottielrn@yahoo.com](mailto:dottielrn@yahoo.com)

**September 26/27/28** – Chautauqua Challenge Endurance Ride at Boutwell Hill For more info contact [Audrey.hager@gmail.com](mailto:Audrey.hager@gmail.com)

**October 1-** Private land at Boutwell Hill closes October 31- All trails close

PLEASE POST PROMINANTLY.

Orleans County Boots and Saddle Club

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**MAY 3, 2025**

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## NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL RIDE & DRIVE PROGRAM

Would you like to receive recognition for the hours you spent in the saddle or in the box seat of the carriage? Well, you can and you can even win some cool prizes and earn badges. It's called the Ride & Drive Program and it's open to all paid members of all ages. It is a great way to keep track of exactly how much time you spend out riding or driving with your equine buddy plus it can be a motivator to get out there and ride or drive. To participate, member dues must be paid for the current year. Keep track of your hours ridden or driven on the log sheet that can be downloaded (or you can keep track on your computer) from the NYSHC webpage, [nyshc.org](http://nyshc.org), Awards, Ride & Drive. You can even set up your own spreadsheet if that's what suits you best. There are also a number of free cell phone apps that are available to help keep track of time. Here are just a few: MapMyRun, MapMyRide (I used both of these), Sports Tracker, Maprika, Geo tracker, just to name a few. There is an initial \$15 registration fee for the first year. After the first year, there is a \$5 registration fee.

For the 2024 year, Donna Brown, received the Most Hours Ridden for 2024 award. She will be receiving \$30 gift certificate from Amazon. Donna will also be receiving 750 and 1000 hour patches for riding. Other members receiving acknowledgements in the form of award patches are Pauline Burnes, 1000 hours patch; Sarah Craig, 500 hour patch; Sharon Dziekonski, 100 and 200 hour patches; Lisa Teichert, 100 hour patch, and Tom Frechette, 100 hour patch for carriage driving. So, visit [nyshc.org](http://nyshc.org) and sign up for the Ride & Drive program now! See you on the trails!!!!





## Horse Protection Act News Bulletin from American Horse Council

Communication Released by American Horse Council  
Monday 10/7/2024 4PM E.T.

The American Horse Council (AHC) is releasing this advisory to inform members of important changes to the Horse Protection Act (HPA). AHC asks that all members share this advisory with their competition organizers. The HPA has always applied to all equine breeds and disciplines to protect against abusive practices and promote humane care. Past enforcement of the HPA has focused on elimination of sorring within the gaited breeds. Newly updated HPA regulations will now focus on all shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions. This means that event participants and managers should be fully prepared for USDA targeted and random inspections, underscoring the importance of compliance with the new regulations and the potential impact on their operations.

The new regulations will bring significant changes to standard practices for show managers and competitors. We recognize these updated requirements may seem confusing and complex. The AHC is committed to helping the industry comprehend and adjust to the new protocols.

AHC and other industry stakeholders have engaged in numerous meetings with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) to obtain clarifications, details, and instructional documents to help ensure a smooth implementation and compliance with the regulations.

APHIS provided the following overview. Please note that this is a preliminary summary, and more detailed information, including specific guidance and implementation details, will be provided in subsequent communications. We are aware that certain provisions may require further clarification. If you have questions, please contact USDA at [horseprotection@usda.gov](mailto:horseprotection@usda.gov) and us at [info@horsecouncil.org](mailto:info@horsecouncil.org) with the subject line "HPA Question." This will ensure AHC stays informed and can follow-up on questions/answers.

All event management (regardless of breed or discipline) is required to provide notice to APHIS at least 30 days prior to holding an event. See section [11.16](#) for a discussion of reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Currently, information on the format and submission process is unavailable.

The Act covers horse shows, horse exhibitions, or horse sales or auctions. “Horse exhibition” means a public display of any horses, donkeys, and/or mules singly or in groups, but not in competition, except events where speed is the prime factor, rodeo events, parades, or trail rides. Similarly, “horse show” means public display of any horses, donkeys, and/or mules in competition except where speed is the prime factor, rodeo events, parades, or trail rides. State fairs and 4-H events would fall under the definition of “horse show”. Regarding speed, as its stated, it must be the primary factor in the event (i.e. not just one of the factors).

Managers and owners should generally anticipate, that if a covered event is selected for inspection, that inspectors will walk the show grounds, check on horses on trailers and in stalls, observe horses while being shown/exhibited in the ring, and inspect horses and any action devices (including boots and collars) pre- and post-show, as well as anything else the inspector may deem appropriate for determining compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations. In addition to visual inspections, additional procedures may include swabbing horses’ skin for prohibited substances, iris scanning for identification, digital radiography of the legs, thermography, ultrasound, and blood sampling.

While some tack, like saddles, are allowed during the inspection process, the inspector may request them to be removed. Tail braces and action devices, including protective boots, tape around the pasterns, tongue ties, and blinders must be removed. There might be instances when inspectors will require all tack and devices be removed to look for banned stewarding devices.

Event management should be prepared to provide inspection space. The needs are detailed in section 11.10, “Inspection space and facility requirements.”

### **Horse Protection Act Background**

The Horse Protection Act (HPA) went into law in the 1970’s to authorize the USDA-APHIS to ensure the health and well-being of US horses by eliminating the practice of sorring. Over the years these regulations have been revised and updated based on new scientific data, and industry feedback regarding methodologies for inspection/detection.

The revised HPA regulations, slated to go into effect February 1, 2025, are based on recent findings from the National Academy of Sciences, and input from organizations like American Association of Equine Practitioners and industry stakeholders. Below is a link to materials and notes developed by USDA- APHIS.

Current Materials: Horse Protection Act: Brochure This brochure on provides general information on the Horse Protection Act and soring. APHIS Horse Protection Act Website Specifically, please refer to the videos showing our inspection process (example 1 and example 2), including use of diagnostic technology (example 3). Horse Protection Inspectors: Frequently Asked Questions This factsheet answers frequently asked questions about the new Horse Protection Inspector role. Currently under development by USDA-APHIS Tech Note: The Horse Protection Act: What Unaffiliated Horse Show, Exhibition, Sale, and Auction Managers or Sponsoring Organizations Should Know Example of the Event Manager Notification Form Event Manager Post-Event Checklist



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## **How to Stay Fit in the Off Season for Riding**

BY CAROLINE NORTH

Here in the Northeast, there is a distinct off season of most riding activities. When temps get below 25 degrees for 4-months at a time, with a wind that won't quit, and footing concerns are most definitely real, not much riding gets done. In the South the same seasonal slowdown applies in the summer months because it is too hot, so moving down south isn't really the answer...so here I am sweating to YouTube...

So how can a rider stay fit for the 3-4 months of off season? In this rider's opinion (as someone who takes my fitness very seriously since I run a 16-stall barn, lesson program, teach yoga and ride crazy long distances as a 'hobby', all while trying to prevent burnout and injury), fitness starts with the mind and the heart. Learn to love your body, your abilities and your skills. Understand how improving yourself will not only improve your competitive advantage, but it will help your horse out in their efforts to carry you to victory, or in finding that perfect unity, or in simply preventing injury in a crazy busy lifestyle, and here's the bonus: allow you to just enjoy riding more!

The off season is a perfect time to focus on yourself a little more than your horse. Did you know that horses can hold a very high level of fitness for far longer than humans can (around 3 months off vs. a humans 3 weeks)? Experienced endurance riders use the off season to simply let their horses rest and heal. That is the first step to do before embarking on your own fitness program: Seek medical advice for any niggling injuries. Take care of yourself and stay motivated on any diet or lifestyle changes by understanding that change comes within, with your mental commitment to a path of healing. Finding a compassionate medical professional might not be easy, but it is GAME Changing, think of the staff that professional athletes often have access to! Pro-tip: Physical Therapy has come leaps and bounds in its understanding of rehabbing injury, don't be afraid to listen to the professionals, or shop around for a mode that works for your needs!

Once you change your way of thinking that you ARE an Athlete as an equestrian (no matter your age), it's much easier to follow through the healing process (which fitness ultimately is). Once you are given the go ahead, start exploring different modes of fitness, join the gym, collect videos, find community classes, buy some running shoes. There are soo many ways of increasing fitness available, from doing bodyweight exercise out of a book (how I started), to finding a group of like-minded people to support and encourage you at a gym.

Keep your goals simple, say start with walking a few miles or lifting 3 pounds for strength training. As you explore, find different modes (YOUTUBE is GREAT) that suit you and your lifestyle (I run or ski around my pasture fence for cardio, the thought of a treadmill does NOT motivate me). Then make a schedule and a plan. Say for 6 weeks. Find out if 20 min. workouts suit your lifestyle, or if committing to an hour-long class at the gym is better. Whatever you try, STICK to it. Mix up cardio and strength training. There are a bunch of great books that emphasize horseback riding muscle groups, and all-around exercise like yoga are great for building functional strength and flexibility and most importantly being compassionate towards your body. Map out a calendar and schedule the workouts, many fitness books have these. Do them before barn chores and work, if that's what keeps you on schedule. If the TV and scrolling on Facebook starts to call you, then look at a picture of you and your horse. Ask yourself what your horse and your heart want. It probably isn't the TV remote. At the end of the 6 weeks, evaluate what works and what didn't, and most importantly congratulate yourself on accomplishing your goals. Give yourself positive reinforcement to stay motivated!

Also pro-tip from someone 'Over the Hill': experts recommend people over 40 only increase their strength or cardio programs by 5 - 10% each month (weight or distance), especially if you have a low baseline fitness (i.e.: little to none...). The desire to overachieve with fitness training will backfire into burnout and injury much quicker as you get older. Play it smart!

So here I am 3 months into one of the hardest winters we've seen in a long time, sweating to a strength training video, counting the reps and fatiguing my muscles, and just getting to the point where I start to cuss out the lady in the video for cheerfully yelling at me '20 more seconds, you can do it', while I think nope definitely cannot do it, and then it hits me. Is this what my horses feel like sometimes when I ask them for that one extra rep of an exercise, a couple more strides of collection, one more mile? And does my horse not dig down deep and try his heart out every time? That's when I stop cussing and grit my teeth and realize I am doing this for them, to be at my best for my horse, so my timing, reflexes and balance can at least attempt to match his power and grace. I finish the video and feel proud, and make sure I hydrate and take care of myself and then look out the window and tell my horse we've got this.



The author and her Quarab Glory running into the finish together after a tough 80 mile endurance weekend in mountain country!



## Manure Management: What do you do with all that poo?!



By Margery Walker,  
Owner/Operator of Walker Mountain Farm

Upstate NY is beautiful... "gorges" even... but it seems that we get more rain than we used to, and mud season never really comes to an end. My boot got sucked off ten too many times, and I could not take the mud in my horse paddock anymore! My solution was to install a geogrid system with stone dust. It is quite fabulous! I don't lose any more boots, and my spoiled horses can happily eat on a dry surface. However, this means that I have to keep all the hay waste and manure picked up. What do you do with all that poo? As I pondered this question, it became apparent that many other horse owners in the area are also struggling with the same problem: horse waste. There are few options in the Finger Lakes region for manure removal; it is most commonly left in piles to leach harmful nutrients into groundwater or it is spread raw on fields. Neither of these are sustainable solutions as these cause harmful leachate to spread to waterways (causing harmful algal blooms and oxygen depletion) and can lead to parasites, pathogens, and weed seeds in our fields.



This issue started me on a journey that has led to the creation of Walker Mountain Farm—a manure removal and compost sales business. When appropriately composted (we use aerated static piles), the waste problem becomes a nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used to put organic matter back on our pastures and fields, mitigate erosion, and improve water retention. It is also the perfect addition to soil for crop production and gardening. Our passion is to provide a sustainable and environmentally-friendly solution to manure management for the equine community, but we can also take other manure and any crop residuals. Our goal is to transform what is often seen as a waste problem without a viable solution into a resource that can be used in many ways to benefit the environment and return important nutrients to the soil.

Education about effective manure management is one of the biggest challenges with which I am faced. There are many misconceptions about what is proper and safe when it comes to managing manure or advertising aged manure as compost. I hope that I can impart some of the passion that we have for the best management practices and use of compost which ultimately provides necessary biology (bacteria/fungi/arthropods/protozoa/nematodes) to and thus regenerates our depleted soils.

Every horse owner is forced to manage their manure whether their horses are stalled or on pasture 24/7. Many boarding facilities account for the labor to clean stalls but never plan for the cost of manure management when they establish their boarding fees. On average, it costs approximately \$25/horse/month to manage their manure. This includes labor/time, equipment use, fuel costs, and/or removal costs. Every horse owner and boarding facility manages manure differently and often with negative environmental ramifications. Some rent a dumpster and have their waste taken to the dump. This is costly and puts organic matter into landfills, increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Some give away their raw or "aged" manure. This is a great way to remove it from your property but puts the responsibility of truly composting the manure on whoever is choosing to pick it up. It often does not guarantee that your waste is removed entirely, regularly, or in a timely manner. Some leave it in a large pile without any turning. Some fill in low spots or throw it in the woods. Some spread it raw on fields. Some just let poop piles lie in their fields or paddocks. Not one of these options kills weed seeds, parasites, or pathogens that the manure can host, and they create harmful leachate to groundwater. Stall waste is often carbon heavy; spreading this raw or even "aged" on fields will draw nitrogen out of the soil, away from grasses/plants, to break down the carbon. As horse owners, we spend a lot of time and money to keep our horses free of worms, manage flies, and keep their pastures thriving. It is important to manage their manure appropriately and avoid re-contaminating them which creates health and financial burdens.

The most responsible and beneficial way to manage manure is to compost it. Compost is NOT a manure pile behind a barn. Aged manure and compost are NOT the same thing. Composting is defined as "biological decomposition and stabilization of organic substrates, under conditions that allow for the development of thermophilic temperatures as a result of biologically produced heat, to produce a final product that is stable, free of pathogens and plant seeds, and can be beneficially applied to land." Composting destroys pathogens in several ways: heat from bacteria kills pathogens, microorganisms outcompete pathogens for resources, antimicrobial properties are released which kills pathogens, microorganisms attack and consume pathogens, and worms act as a final biofilter.



In order to achieve proper composting, a manure pile needs to have adequate size, proper carbon-nitrogen ratios, appropriate temperatures, proper moisture, and remain aerobic. The most common composting methods for manure are static aerated piles or turned windrows. For a pile receiving passive air for 30 days, temperatures must be >131 deg for at least 3 days. For a turned windrow system, the pile must be >131 degrees for 15 days and turned at least 5x within those 15 days. After the initial rise in temperatures, it will slowly cool off as bacterial activity slows. This completes the initial phase of bacterial decomposition. The pile then needs to cure for another 60-90 days for fungal decomposition to occur. Temperatures too low will not kill the parasites, pathogens, and weed seeds; temperatures too high kill the good bacteria. Moisture content too low diminishes the good bacterial activity; moisture content too high turns piles anaerobic. There is a balance that needs to occur which requires attention and care.



It is important that the ENTIRE pile meets these criteria. If you have hot/cold pockets, wet/dry pockets, or carbon heavy pockets, you will not kill the pathogens, parasites, or weed seeds.

There are several effective, environmentally-friendly, and horse-health friendly ways that you can manage manure.

1. Simply have it removed (to be composted) and don't give it a second thought!
2. Create an aeration/in-vessel system on your farm and monitor temperature and moisture to compost your waste (O2 compost has a great website for this).
3. Regularly turn and monitor your pile for temperature and moisture to compost your waste.



Why have your waste removed or take the time to properly compost it yourself?

- Raw manure/bedding is filled with parasites, pathogens and weed seeds.
- It causes harmful run-off to our delicate waterways.
- It is a breeding ground for unwanted insects and is a draw for rodents.
- It is an undesirable site with an undesirable odor.
- If spread raw, it draws necessary nitrogen out of the soil, can scorch plants, and cause harmful run-off.



We all have a responsibility to our horses, our land, and our neighbors when it comes to managing manure. Finding the most cost-effective and efficient system that meets your needs and goals is important. Horse owners and boarding facilities have many tasks to complete each day. Spending extra time and money to inefficiently and ineffectively manage manure doesn't have to be one of them.

Walker Mountain Farm offers manure/stall waste removal services to boarding facilities and private farms which do not have a sound plan for managing waste. Call us and take advantage of our manure removal services, and let it be "out of sight and out of mind!" You can find us on FB at Walker Mountain Farm, email us at [Walkermountainfarm@gmail.com](mailto:Walkermountainfarm@gmail.com), or call us at 607 269 7669. Sources for this article are available upon request. Happy Cleaning!

# Youth Scholarship / Adult Educational Grant

*The New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) awards TWO different one thousand (\$1,000.00) awards per year!*

**LEARN MORE** 

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Annual Equestrian Festival**

Saturday  
May 17, 2025  
(Rain Date Sunday, May 18th)



  
Long Island Horsemen's Association  
JOIN US AT  
**The Muttontown Preserve**  
Equestrian entrance off Route 106

CONTACT US TO BE A SPONSOR, PARTICIPATE  
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION  
516-922-8245  
mттontownhorse@gmail.com



**EARTH DAY APRIL 22**

**ARBOR DAY APRIL 25**

**PLANT A TREE!**



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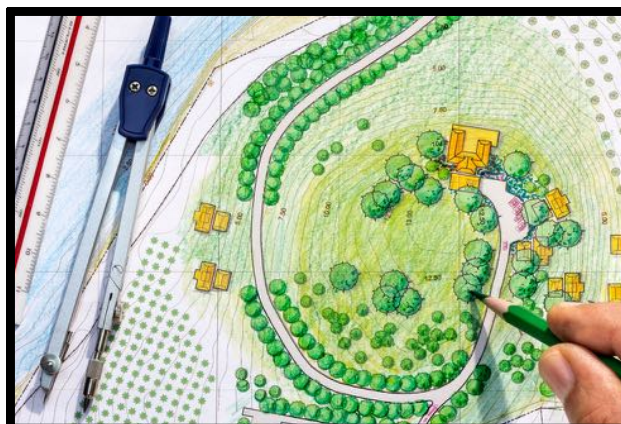
*Pauline E. Burnes*

*Landscape Architect, PLLC*

*peburnes@burnesrla.com*

**607-765-8543**

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**The Plantation  
Walking Horse Club**  
*Walking Comfortably  
into the Future*

President: Greg Butts  
Vice Pres: Missy Adams  
Secretary: Kathy Beetz  
Treasurer: Sheila Staelens  
Directors: Elissa Serrys, Wayne Eastman, Kenny Carrier  
Non-voting Director: Linda Fey  
Webmaster, Newsletter Editor: Nancy Avery

Web Site: [www.nyshc.org](http://www.nyshc.org)

**March 2025**

**\*\*\*PRESIDENTS CORNER\*\*\***

I am sure that the main topic of most conversations lately has been the weather. My only comment that is I think the bears have the best approach. Find a comfortable place and sleep until spring. Which I hope is not far off.

One of the many things that have made me a proud part of this club is the amazing generosity of the members. This applies not only to the attendance at work days but also the willingness to donate club funds. I am sure we all realize the improvements we have contributed our funds toward at the trail sites have had a huge impact.

During the fall meeting it was decided that at the spring meeting proposed recipients of donations can be discussed and voted on. If you have any suggestions bring them to the meeting. There will also be recruiting for work day help at Sugar Hill.

I feel its very important to take pride in all we have done to make the trails and the camping areas as awesome as they are.

Hope to see you at the spring meeting and the spring ride.  
Ride safe and Ride often.

Greg

**Spring Meeting  
April 5  
Masonic Temple, Rt 13, Cortland, NY**  
  
12:00 (approx) lunch  
Bring a dish to pass

**AGENDA:**

- 10:00 Coffee and Donuts
- 10:30 Meeting Starts

Welcome - Greg Butts

Secretary's report - Kathy Beetz

Treasurer's report - Sheila Staelens

- Correspondence received from donations made

Trail Pleasure Program - Jessie Carrier

Trail Rides

- Spring Ride @ Otter Creek - Missy Adams
- Summer Ride @ Sugar Hill - Linda Hendricks
- Fall Ride @ Brookfield - Sheila Staelens

- Auction - Linda Fey
- Trail Preservation - Accomplishments / Future plans / Donations review
- Brookfield - Kathy Beetz
- Otter Creek - Pat Reynolds
- Sugar Hill - Mae Church

Media Report - Nancy Avery

Old Business

- Facebook - Mary Bill

New Business

- Club donations - Greg Butts

- Nomination Committee

Linda Fey/Jessie Carrier

**NOTES:**

Committees will discuss Old, then New

**\*\*\* WHINNY FEST \*\*\***

by Linda Hendricks

We had great weather for the 2025 Whinny Fest. Food was great, as always, and we all had an enjoyable time. Greg Butts, Linda Fey, Denise (last name), Josann Schwab, Bob Ruppel, Sheila Staelens, Janet Smith, Nancy Shaffer, Julie Louberg and Linda Hendricks. We're all looking forward to this year's riding season.

**\*\*\* HELP NEEDED \*\*\***

by Nancy Avery

Do you want to be more active in helping your club? How about learning how to handle the newsletter? I'm more than happy to show you the ropes for shared responsibility and future take over.

If interested, I can provide a 'job description'.

**\*\*\* TRAIL PLEASURE PROGRAM \*\*\***

2025 hour recording started after the 2024 Fall Ride

Currently there are 10 people signed-up for the program – so start getting those hours in.

Have you seen the awards given over the years?  
<http://nyshc.org/mail-program-recognition/>

**\*\*\* TRAIL PRESERVATION \*\*\***

**Brookfield**

by Elissa Stryker

Finally, March is here and the days are getting longer and Spring will be officially here in two weeks.

I'm sure everyone is getting anxious to get back in the saddle, getting trailers, horses and so much more ready. My main information is to let everyone know that I'm stepping down from chairman for several reasons: 1) I'm getting too old and not riding these wonderful trails anymore and it's just time to make changes. 2) Kathy Bretz has kindly agreed to step up and become chair. Kathy has ridden these trails many years, starting riding with her mother as a youngster. She is still riding these trails frequently and loving it. From opening day (May 1) until the end of the season (Oct 1). She has built up a very friendly relationship with the DEC staff, letting them know how much our club appreciates them keeping these trails open.

See you all around the campfire.

**Otter Creek**

by Pat Reynolds

I did talk to Scott about the plans for Otter Creek this year, but that was awhile ago. I doubt anything has changed since as the group hadn't met since last fall. So here it is...

With the trails buried under multiple feet of snow it's tough to think it will all be gone by May and ready to ride! The Friends of Otter Creek are hopeful they can return to trail maintenance and upgrades by then, and have plans for continued replacement of new picnic tables in the Assembly area. DEC has discussed hiring work out for an upgrade to Chase Creek trail just as they did for Independence trail a few years ago. Because most of Chase Creek trail is so inaccessible and lengthy it's beyond what the Friends group could tackle. The group plans continued work on the trails they worked on last season. The Pick Pack and Prune clean up day will be in May, date to be determined. The Fun Ride is also planned for September. Scott Hommel wished to express his gratitude for our very generous donation to assist them in their efforts to improve the trail system we all know and love.

**Sugar Hill**

by Mae Church

[Editor's note: Hearing that plans are being looked at for a trail clearing in May]

**\*\*\*CALENDAR -2025\*\*\***  
 (can be found at <http://www.nyshc.org/calendar-events/>)

1/25	Whiskey Fest - VanEtten, 1-4 pm
2/1	Whiskey Fest - Snow Date
4-5	Spring Meeting, 10:00 Social, 10:30 Meeting, Cortlandville, NY -
5/29 or 30 TBD	Sugar Hill trail clearing
6-8	Spring Trail Ride at Otter Creek - Missy Adams, chair
7/18-20	Summer Trail Ride at Sugar Hill - Linda Hendricks
9/26-28	Moscow Hill Fall Trail Ride - Sheila Stalens, chair Auction - Linda Fey, chair
11/1	Fall Meeting, 10:00 Social, 10:30 meeting, Cortlandville, NY

Attached File: Membership Form

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: 4/20/2025**

Prepared by: Nancy Avrey, Editor

**\*\*\*OTHER INFO\*\*\***

(Editor's note: Keith was president of our club 1985-86)

**From:** djsj@aol.com <djsj@aol.com>  
**To:** Keith Dane <djsj@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2025 at 03:48:05 PM EST  
**Subject:** News to share

Hi friends,  
 Today is my last day in my role as Equine Protection at HSUS. I'll be returning starting next month as a consultant to help with our horse soiling campaign.

It's been a real pleasure working with you over the years; we've made some great strides in advancing protections for horses and I am thankful for your efforts and support toward that end, and your friendship.

My new phone number is 410-258-8318. Let's please stay in touch.

All best,  
 Keith

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**From:** Keith Dane <kdane@outlook.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 9:44 PM  
To: Keith Dane <kjdane@outlook.com>  
Subject: Action needed: Horse soring prevention bill reintroduced in Congress

Dear fellow horse lovers,

I'm writing in my new role as a consultant to Humane World for Animals (formerly the Humane Society of the United States) to let you know of an important development in equine protection - the reintroduction of a vital bill in the House of Representatives. The Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act will close loopholes in the Horse Protection Act that have allowed horse soring to persist for more than half a century since its passage in 1970.

You can read about the bill here: <https://www.humane-world.org/en/blog/us-could-finally-outlaw-these-persistent-cruelty-horses>

Please take action at this alert that is also included in the blog by sending a message and calling your Representative and two Senators:

<https://secure.humaneworld.org/page/165161/action/tea-tracking-id=web>

Passage of PAST is more vital than ever, since a federal district court just vacated (struck down) key elements of a Horse Protection rule that USDA finalized in 2024 and was about to implement on February 1st. The ban on pads and action devices that are integral to the soring process that was contained in the rule was ruled to be beyond the agency's authority - so those will continue to be allowed unless Congress acts to prohibit them.

In October of last year, an HSUS undercover investigation of one of the most competitively successful Tennessee Walking Horse training stables was released that exposed the systematic routine chemical soring of every horse in training and the administration of sedative drugs to the animals prior to inspection at shows so they would not respond in pain and would be allowed to compete. The horses were then injected after passing inspection with stimulants to wake them from their sedation prior to competing. This proves that soring continues at the highest levels of competition, and the critical need for the PAST Act.

In other big news, as referenced above, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Humane Society International (HSI) have come together under a new global identity: **Humane World for Animals**. This rebranding reflects a strengthened commitment to animal welfare worldwide while maintaining the organizations' legacy of compassion, advocacy, and meaningful action.

In alignment with this evolution, the organizations' 501(c)(4) political affiliate will be rebranded as the Humane World Action Fund, clarifying its purpose to drive legislative and policy change for animal protection on a global scale.

While our name is changing, our commitment to protecting horses remains unwavering. The rebranding will not affect ongoing initiatives to end horse soring, slaughter and doping in racehorses, or promote responsible training, breeding, rescue, and rehoming. Humane World for Animals will continue working with industry leaders, policymakers, and welfare organizations to ensure every horse is treated with dignity and compassion.

To celebrate this new chapter, we launched a powerful global ad campaign featuring a fresh rendition of Peter Gabriel's *Soldbury Hill*, performed by Grammy-nominated artist Sia. The ad evvisions a world without animal cruelty, using beautiful stop-motion animation and cruelty-free materials. You can watch the 30 second video here: [Humane World for Animals - with Grammy-nominated Sia](#) fair warning, this uplifting tune is likely to stay with you! You can also stream the full cover: [Soldbury Hill \(Humane World for Animals Cover\)](#).

For more on the inspiration behind this transformation, check out this excellent [CBSNews.com](#) piece, including a thoughtful interview with our president and CEO, Kitty Block.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please feel free to reach out to me or my colleague on the equine protection team at Humane World for Animals, Chelsea Perez [cperez@humaneworld.org](mailto:cperez@humaneworld.org).

All best,  
Keith Dane  
775-247-2069



## AHANY 2025 Schedule

Celebrating  
75  
Years

### March:

- 15 & 16- Equifest, Hamburg Fairgrounds
- 30- Trail clinic, 2pm @ Quillin Ltd Elma NY

### April:

- 6- Tack Swap 11am-2pm, Quillin Ltd. Elma NY

### May:

- 10- Open/All Breed show, Stagecoach West
- 24- Open/All Breed show, Stagecoach West

### June:

- 6th-8th: Eastern Classic Arabian horse show with all breed classes. Showplex, Hamburg Fairgrounds

### July:

- 13- Open/All Breed show, Stagecoach West

### August:

- 31-All breed WNYDA Challenge Series dressage show

Info & Entries available at  
[ahanyevents@gmail.com](mailto:ahanyevents@gmail.com)

AHANY.net and Facebook

# *Stable & Strides Club*

Hosted by Heberle Stables Instructors  
Margie Heberle and Hayley Fedele

**This Month's Topic: Stable Management**

In Barn Safety

Nutrition

Stall Cleaning

Pasture Management

Routine Veterinary Care

**All things to make you successful on and off the horse!**





*The Stables and Strides Club provides educational sessions on horsemanship for current and future riders. A well cared for horse is a happy horse, making riding safer and more enjoyable.*

**What you need to know:**

**5/4/25 - 9am-12pm**

**Ages 6+ \$100/Session**

**Questions or to sign up please email**

**[mheberle95@gmail.com](mailto:mheberle95@gmail.com)**

**Space is limited!**

*Join us for a fun filled afternoon learning the importance of horse care out of the saddle! The Stables and Strides club plans to meet once a month exploring the many topics of equine management.*

*All levels are welcome!*



 **New York State  
Horse Council**

**MOUNTED PATROL TRAINING  
METHODS**

***HEMLOCK FAIRGROUNDS - HEMLOCK, NEW YORK***

**Instructors:**  
**Charlie Horst, Monroe County Mounted Sheriff's Deputy (retired)**  
**& Michael Horst, Monroe County Mounted Sheriff's Deputy**

**SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2025**  
**9 AM TO 4 PM**  
**RAIN OR SHINE**

**Cost: \$125 for the day for  
NYSHC Members \$175 for the  
day for NYSHC NON-Members  
Lunch is included for riders and  
volunteers \$30 Auditor fee**

**REGISTER HERE**



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HORSE SHOW**



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PROFESSIONAL  
HORSEMEN'S  
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**APRIL 24-27, 2025**  
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SYRACUSE PHA RATED "A"

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## **DA Hoovler Announces Conviction in Fatal Beating of Horse**

Frederick Bourgault Convicted of All Charges After Trial Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced that on Monday, April 7, 2025, Frederick Bourgault, age 27, of Canada, was convicted of all charges against him in connection with the beating death of a racehorse on July 17, 2023, at the Pine Bush Training Facility in the Town of Crawford. The indictment charged Bourgault with Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree for having “damaged” a racehorse named “Finish Line,” that had an estimated value of at least five thousand dollars. It was alleged that Bourgault struck the horse with a hard object causing a linear depressed skull fracture, which resulted in the horse having to be euthanized. The indictment also charged Bourgault with Interference with or Injury to Certain Domestic Animals, a felony under the New York State Agriculture and Markets Act, for willfully and unjustifiably injuring or destroying a racehorse. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on July 7, 2025.

The New York State Police, aided by the Orange County District Attorney’s Office and New York State Gaming Commission, engaged in an investigation into the death of the horse. The investigation included having the horse’s remains exhumed and examined by experts at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. The New York State Gaming Commission provided expert witnesses and assisted in coordinating the arrest of Bourgault by the New York State Police.

District Attorney Hoovler thanked the New York State Police, BCI Middletown, for their investigation and the arrest of Bourgault, and the New York State Gaming Commission for their assistance and support of the arrest and prosecution.

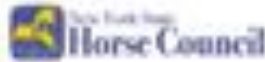
“The beautiful horse that was the victim of this defendant’s senseless act of violence deserved the justice that was delivered on his behalf,” said District Attorney David M. Hoovler. “We will not, as a civilized society, allow abusers to bring harm to helpless animals. My Office will continue to utilize all legal resources available and work with our law enforcement partners to ensure that crimes like these are investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent under law.”

“The New York State Gaming Commission is proud to work closely with law enforcement to protect horses and hold those who abuse them accountable,” said Sarah Klein, Director of the Gaming Commission’s Division of Horse Racing. “We are grateful for the work of the Orange County District Attorney’s Office and the New York State Police in delivering justice for Mr. Bourgault’s crimes.”

District Attorney Hoovler highly commended Chief Assistant District Attorney Christopher P. Borek and Assistant District Attorney Roger Dean who prosecuted the case.

This criminal charge is merely an allegation that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.





New York State Horse Council, Inc  
Memberships are for the calendar year Jan. 1-Dec. 31

All fields required which apply!

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