



VOLUME 3-FALL

NYSHC newsletter

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Lots of great events happening this fall for the NYSHC!

Want to get more involved in the NYSHC:

- Come to our Annual General Membership Meeting. See page 4 for more information.
- We are accepting Nominations for various directors and Board positions. See page 15 for more information.
- Don't have time to be a board member? Maybe you can share your skill set with a committee- Reach out to us! info@nyshc.org

Important Reminders:

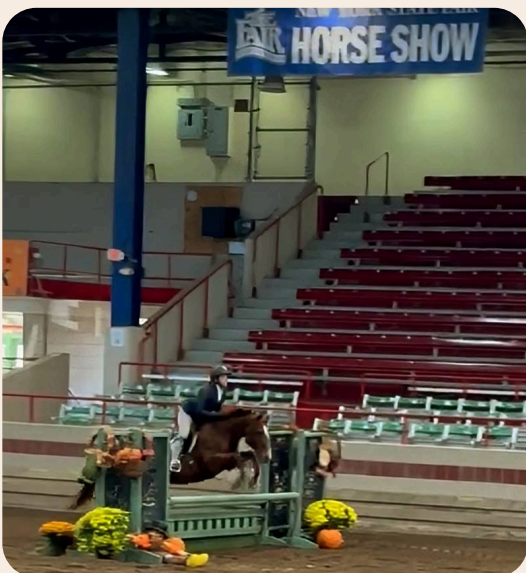
- Our Next Board of Directors Meeting is December 11th 2025 via Zoom at 7:00.

Please reach out via email, info@nyshc.org, if you have any questions or concerns. Wishing you and your family a wonderful and cozy Fall Season!

Warmly,

Lindsay Lindke

Administrative Assistant, NYSHC



UPCOMING EVENTS:



- 11/ 1- Annual General Membership Meeting at SUNY Morrisville Equine Rehabilitation Center
- 11/27- Thanksgiving



New York State Horse Council

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very grateful to all of the volunteers and Board of Directors of the Madison County Agricultural Society for the work they put into the NYSHC 56th Annual Fall Pleasure Ride. I would like to give special mention to the Fall Ride Manager, Cathy Floetke. Together with her volunteer team of barn managers, office helpers, individuals and businesses that donate items for the auction on Saturday night and beautiful gift baskets for Jar Wars on Sunday night they made the Fall Ride a great event to participate in.

I left my horse Little Joe (alias Thunderbolt) home to frolic in the pasture with his new friends for a much-needed vacation after a great summer of riding. Special thanks to Richard Rodriguez for making Little Joe a beautiful wooden name plate for his stall. Cathy Floetke honored me by letting me ride her beautiful Tennessee Walker Rooster Cogburn on a couple of trail rides with Susan Knauer, past president of the NYSHC on her trusty steed Rusty. Most of the leaves are off the trees at the 130-mile trail system at Brookfield, but the weather was beautiful, not too hot with just a nip of cold in the air.

Thanks to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation staff for mowing the trails. I also noticed fresh cut logs where trees may have been across the trails. Thanks to any volunteers that are working with NYSDEC under their Volunteer Steward Agreement to keep the trails maintained for trail riders.

On the local trail front, IMPACT: Friends Improving Allegany Trails, Inc. has been working with NYSDEC and a local Contractor, Porcaro Excavating LLC throughout the summer and fall to complete a trail drainage improvement project on the West Almond Trail System in Allegany County, New York. This project is being completed at a cost of \$110,460, funded mainly by a grant from Parks & Trails, New York and other donors including the Bethesda Foundation. We are hopeful that Trail 3 and a section of Trail 4 will be completed by the end of October, in time for cross country skiing this winter and trail riding in 2026.

Nominations for open seats on the Board of Directors are being made NOW, with voting to be accomplished by mid-November. Information was sent to all members of the NYSHC to nominate open seats on the Board. We can always use new ideas, and if you are not able to serve on the Board, we invite you to participate by serving on a committee. Please contact me at pauline.burnes@nyshc.org if you would like more information on this wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and have a positive impact on the equine advocacy community.

Both members of the NYSHC and non-members are invited to attend the Annual General Membership meeting (AGM) to be held on Saturday, November 1 at the Equine Rehabilitation Center at SUNY Morrisville in central New York. Scott Seymour will be our special speaker. The Lifetime Achievement Award and Horse Person of the Year will be celebrated. I will give the President's message that will include initiatives for the NYSHC in 2026. A Silent Auction will be held to benefit the Equine Emergency Fund for the NYSHC. Proceeds have been used in the past to assist with equine facilities that have had a fire and need immediate assistance buying grain and hay for horses that need to be evacuated. We are still accepting donations for the Silent Auction. If you are not able to attend, please send any donations for the Equine Emergency Fund directly to the NYSHC under donate and include a message "for the Equine Emergency Fund".

I had an opportunity to tour the Equine Rehabilitation Center at SUNY Morrisville while I have been at the Fall Pleasure Ride in Brookfield. It is a wonderful facility; I encourage you to join us.

Sincerely,

Pauline Burnes, President

Pauline Burnes, President
NYSHC, Inc.





New York State
Horse Council

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Annual General Membership Meeting 2025



November 1st, 2025

9:00 AM - 04:00 PM



SUNY Morrisville Rehab Center

<https://equinerehab.morrisville.edu/>

4414 State Route 20

Morrisville, NY13408



Rsvp to and Questions:

info@nyshc.org

Agenda Highlights :

- President's Message
- Initiatives for 2026
- Rehab Facility Tour and Speaker
- Silent Auction

Cost:

Members: \$35

Non members: \$40

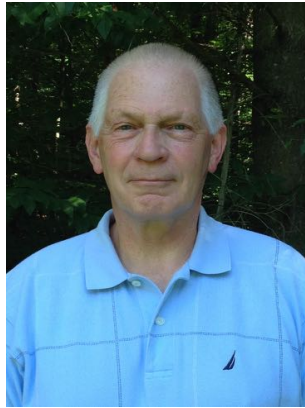
Students: \$15

Cost Includes light lunch and refreshments,

Keynote speaker is Scott Seymore with a tour of

the rehab facility.

MEET THE BOARD



Stephen Ropel Director at Large

I have been connected to the NYS equine industry since moving to New York in the mid 1990's. I have had horses for over 45 years. Initially I was involved in field trialing dogs and used horses for dog training and competitions. Since then, I have been involved in competitive trail and endurance competitions and am now solely a recreational rider.

I have been involved with the NYS Horse Council since moving to New York and have served as Regional Director, Treasurer two separate times and as President for a number of years.

I spent my career in agriculture as a statistician for USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and spent the last number of years as Director of the New York office. During that time I worked with NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets to update the latest NYS Equine Surveys which provided inventories, uses and economic information.

VET CORNER

Understanding Autumn Laminitis in Horses

- September 13, 2025 **Posted by**
- [Madeline Boast, MSc](#)

Yes, spring brings an increased risk of endocrinopathic laminitis for susceptible horses—but so does autumn. Here's why.

Horses with a higher risk of developing laminitis should be turned out in the very early morning hours.

Laminitis in horses can strike any time of year, for a variety of reasons, but veterinarians and horse owners see [endocrinopathic](#) cases most commonly in spring and autumn. Understanding your horse's risk level for this painful and potentially deadly hoof condition—and the physiological differences between spring and autumn laminitis—is critical to prevention.

Laminitis is a condition where inflammation in the laminar junction leads to the separation of the epidermal and dermal laminae in the hoof, which are basically what suspend the coffin bone within the hoof capsule. "For horses suffering from endocrinopathic laminitis, the trigger is an alteration to the metabolic state," says Anna Garland, MS, a PhD candidate in equine physiology at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, Canada. "Over prolonged periods, if horses consume large concentrate meals or high-sugar forage, there will be an increase in the insulin response".

The higher sugar levels in grass during the spring and autumn months are a key reason why laminitis is more prevalent during these times of year. "With the increase in insulin, an inflammatory response is triggered in the hoof; this increases the blood flow and delivers high volumes of insulin to the tissue," says Garland.

How is Autumn Laminitis Different?

New growth of lush pasture triggers laminitis episodes in the spring, but different factors are at play in the fall. "There are two reasons why horses and ponies might experience endocrinopathic laminitis in the autumn—nutrient changes in pasture and forage, and a metabolic shift," says Erica Macon, MS, PhD, assistant professor of equine science at Texas A&M University, in College Station. These nutrient shifts often occur due to the start of colder nights and shorter days, she explains. And, "in the later autumn, hard frosts can make grasses retain their sugar content."

Horses also experience a metabolic shift during autumn to prepare for winter, which can trigger a laminitis episode, she adds.

In her own research Macon found that horses with insulin dysregulation had the highest basal (resting) and post-oral sugar test insulin concentrations in the spring, but winter insulin concentrations in the metabolic horses were very similar to spring values. “Logically, it makes sense,” says Macon. “As we start approaching the colder months, horses start to pack on the fat to get them through the winter. ... Insulin secretion goes up to promote the storing of fat. Thus, the body starts to shift to fat storage as the animal approaches winter, which increases insulin secretion, subsequently increasing the risk of laminitis.”

Autumn Equine Lifestyle Changes

During the summer months most horses are generally ridden more but, as winter approaches, show season winds down, and the months get colder, leading to a [decrease in horses’ workloads](#). Reducing horses’ exercise in this way can negatively impact metabolic state. In a time when pasture sugar levels rise and horses begin to store fat for winter, “reducing exercise will only exacerbate fat storage,” says Macon. “I highly encourage exercise in the winter—even if you are just (working) your horse in the round pen for 15-20 minutes each day.”

How Can I Detect and Prevent Autumn Laminitis?

Pillars of proper management of laminitic horses include recognizing their endocrine levels and managing housing, farrier care, exercise, and nutrition.

“First, horse owners need to know the endocrine status of their animal,” says Macon. “Have them tested for insulin dysregulation (or equine metabolic syndrome) and [pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction](#) (PPID, formerly known as equine Cushing’s disease).” If your horse is predisposed to endocrine disease (e.g., he’s overweight or obese), limiting nonstructural carbohydrates in his diet can help prevent the onset of laminitis, she adds.

When horses have comorbidities such as PPID, are obese, or are genetically predisposed to metabolic problems, their risk of developing autumn laminitis is higher, says Macon. “To be safe, my recommendation is to not allow horses and ponies that are at risk of endocrinopathic laminitis to graze on frosty autumn grasses/legumes,” she says.

Our sources recommend creating a unique management strategy for each horse because horses typically have individualized metabolic needs. If you know your horse is at risk for developing laminitis, and you are in a geographical region where autumn and winter have frosty nights, be sure to devise a plan to reduce your horse’s risk and avoid severe episodes. “Working closely with your farrier, veterinarian, and equine nutritionist is vital to creating a proper individualized management plan for your horse,” says Garland.

Decreasing your horse's access to nutrient-rich forage (e.g., autumn frosty pasture), as well as incorporating regular exercise into their management plan can help reduce his risk of developing autumn laminitis. "Ideally, these at-risk horses will be housed on a dry lot with access to low-carbohydrate hay, but that is not always possible for most horse owners," says Macon. "Therefore, giving horses shorter turnout times with a grazing muzzle is recommended."

Ideally, **turn horses out** when pasture sugar content is at its lowest in the very early morning (generally 4AM until sunrise). Also keep in mind overall dietary balance. "In order to meet your horse's nutritional requirements (i.e., protein, vitamins, and minerals)—which will not be met by your horse's low-carbohydrate hay—you will need to feed a ration balancer," notes Macon.

Take-Home Message

Understanding why autumn pasture poses a danger to at-risk horses and recognizing the seasonal metabolic shift that occurs can prompt horse owners to reduce their horses' risk of developing endocrinopathic laminitis. Ultimately, the horses' turnout schedules and balanced diets might need to fluctuate with the season. Evaluating your horse's body condition in every season will help you determine what changes are necessary to maintain it optimally year-round



YOUTH CORNER

<https://form.jotform.com/lindkelindsay/nyshc-youth-board>



New York State Horse Council

NYSCH Youth Board

The NYSHC is in the planning process to roll out a youth board for 2026. We want your input! Please fill out the following form and return. You can click the link and submit or fill out and email back to info@nyshc.org.

Name *

First Name Last Name

Email *

example@example.com

Are you a current NYSHC Member? *

If under the age of 24, would you be interested in a NYSHC Youth Board? *

Can you tell me what you would like to see in a youth board? *

If under the age of 24, do you use any of these social media platforms?

- Instagram
- Youtube
- TikTok
- Snapchap
- Facebook
- Other

What orgalizations do you think NYSHC should include in a youth board?

Is there anything else we should consider in the development of a youth board?

Submit

Piles of Courtesy: A Guide to Manure Etiquette in Public Spaces

As equestrians, we're used to the sights and smells that come with our four-legged trail partners— but not everyone else on the trail shares that comfort. While horseback riders are not required to clean up manure on the trail itself, we are expected to manage it in high-concentration areas such as:

- Trailer parking lots
- Hitching posts
- Picnic areas
- Trailheads and rest stops

To other park visitors, horse manure can be just as off-putting as dog waste. A little effort goes a long way toward promoting goodwill and keeping trails open to riders. Let's lead by example.

Best Practice

Bring a muckfork and a bucket to clean up after your horse and take the manure home with you. This is the gold standard—especially at popular trailheads and shared-use facilities. It's the most considerate option for park staff and fellow users.

Good Practice

Bring a muckfork and toss the manure back into your trailer before heading home. It's not quite as ideal as having a bucket, but it keeps public areas tidy and still removes the mess from the shared space.

Minimal Effort (but still necessary)

At the very least, follow [Leave No Trace principles](#): break up and disperse manure piles. Use your boot or stick to kick the pile apart and spread it thinly. This helps it dry out and decompose more quickly, minimizing smell, flies, and complaints.

Train for Trail Etiquette

If possible, teach your horse to step just off the trail before relieving themselves. With a little practice, many horses can learn to move a few feet off the path when asked—helping keep high-traffic trails clear and more enjoyable for all users.

By taking a moment to clean up after our horses—and training them to be trail-savvy—we help maintain equestrian access, build positive relationships with other trail users, and demonstrate that horseback riders are responsible stewards of the land.

Let's all do our part to share the trails respectfully. --Lindsay LaBella

Behind the Scenes at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine-Animal Health Diagnostic Center

On a day-to-day basis, horse owners in New York may not feel very connected to the NYS Animal Health Diagnostic Center, NYSAHDC, ([Animal Health Diagnostic Center | Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#)) but they are there for us when needed! I serve as a representative of the equine industry on the Advisory Board for the NYSAHDC and we recently met in Ithaca for an update on lab operations and their strategic plan for the next several years. This small, diverse committee was formed in 2014, but not activated until 2024 when Governor Hochul's State of the State charged various groups to increase collaboration to prioritize the overall health of NY's residents, human and animal.

While a Department of Agriculture and Markets law is the formality by which the lab exists and operates, it is the mission of the lab which is the driving force. The strategic plan is an interconnected four-part initiative to maintain and advance the mission of providing veterinary diagnostic services and remain on the forefront of emerging threats to animal health. Strong partnerships, service excellence, top-tier technology, and workplace stewardship are the pillars this cohesive and passionate group of approximately 270 employees base their daily efforts upon. Developing new technology has been part of the lab since its inception. Dr. Leroy Coggins for example, was responsible for the test we all use that's part of our regular language now! Prior to this 1973 test for Equine Infectious Anemia, horses became sick and spread the disease widely. As part of our annual spring checkups, the Coggins Test allows us to isolate carriers before they can infect whole populations and has greatly reduced the threat of EIA. Today, the lab continues to develop more efficient ways to test for a variety of equine diseases; for example, they've added multiplex tests which can rapidly diagnose diseases that sometimes the practitioner didn't even consider. By combining tests for EEE and WNV, the answer to a sick horse can come faster and improve outcomes.

The scope and sheer amount of work conducted by the lab is huge! From forensic pathology to aid in the prosecution of neglect cases, to widespread disease considerations such as Equine Herpes Virus outbreaks, to diagnostic tests to understand the health concerns of your beloved equine companion, the NYSAHDC is part of the backbone of the equine industry and all animal health in NY: production, companion, and wildlife. The strength of the lab comes from within by way of its strategic plan, but also from the support of key stakeholders. As members of the community, the NYSHC supports the lab as a group, but I also encourage you, the individual members, to reach out to representatives, state and national, to thank them for their continued financial support of the important work the NYSAHDC does.

If you have comments about the NYSAHDC, they're open to hearing from you, or I'm happy to bring them to the Advisory Board.

Lassell, NYSHC Northern Regional VP lassell@whminer.com

Finger Lakes Region Update

As we move into fall, hunting season is now underway across much of the Finger Lakes region. For riders, that means it's time to take a few extra safety precautions when heading out on the trails.

In the Southern Zone, which covers most of our counties, bow season began October 1st and continues through mid-November, with additional seasons running in December. Regular firearms season opens November 15th and runs through December 7th, followed by muzzleloader from December 8th–16th and again December 26th–January 1st.

Remember that while Monroe County Parks are hunting-free zones and safe for riding throughout the fall, state trails like the Genesee Valley Greenway pass through private property where hunting is permitted.

Riders are encouraged to:

- *Wear blaze orange or pink for visibility.
- *Attach a bell to tack so they can be heard before being seen.
- *Avoid dawn and dusk rides when hunting activity is highest.
- *Stay on marked trails and ride in groups whenever possible.

In local trail news, Monroe County Executive Adam Bello has announced a Public Open House to gather community input for improving the trail systems at Northampton Park. The meeting will be held Thursday, October 16, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at Knollwood Lodge on Salmon Creek Road.

The Monroe County Parks Department and consultants from Environmental Design & Research (EDR) will lead the session as part of a broader study examining trail use, user groups, and potential expansion.

"Public input is crucial to making our parks the best they can be for our community," said County Executive Bello. "Your voice and vision will shape the future of our parks, making them more welcoming and accessible for all residents."

Horse Council members and riders are encouraged to attend and share their perspective to help ensure equestrian needs remain part of the conversation as trail systems evolve.

Lindsay LaBella Regional Vice President – Finger Lakes Region New York State Horse Council

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Every year the NYSHC recognize those in the New York State horse community and equestrian industry who have distinguished themselves as passionate, informed leaders. The two award categories are:

Lifetime Achievement Award

Horseperson of the Year Award

The NYSHC Horseperson of the Year Award is an annual award of the New York State Horse Council to a deserving person who served the equine community at the highest level. The recipients actions throughout the year will have demonstrated awareness and interest in the horse Industry as well as, served to improve the care, use, or treatment of our animals. The recipient must fulfil at least one of the following criteria:

* Demonstrated positive attitude, team effort, communication and willingness to share.

* Was an active participant in the industry, showed initiative and supported others.

*Increased awareness, generated interest, and raised the visibility of the horse industry through educational programs and/or related events.

* Successfully worked to pass or advance legislation that was beneficial and significant to the horse industry in New York.

*Worked to develop programs through state government or state agencies to promote and represent the interests of all horse people in New York.

*Worked to improve or increase trails available to the equine community in New York.

The NYSHC Lifetime Achievement Award is an annual award of the New York State Horse Council to a deserving person for their years of dedication, leadership, contribution and remarkable achievements for the good of the entire New York horse industry. The Board of Directors, at a duly organized meeting and by a two-thirds vote of the members, may bestow the title of Lifetime Recognition Member on any individual whose service and devotion in support of the Council are deemed sufficient to warrant meritorious recognition. Lifetime Recognition Members shall be exempt from payment of dues and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of regular membership, including the right to vote and/or hold office.

Nominations will be reviewed by NYSHC Board of Directors and the results will be announced at the NYSHC Annual General Meeting.

Please send via postal mail or email:

NYSHC Award

Pauline Burnes, NYSHC President

PO Box 424

Arkport, NY 14807

e-mail: pauline.burnes@nyshc.org



New York State
Horse Council

2025 List of Board Positions to serve a 2 Year Term from 2026-2027

Regional Board Position Voting Directions: If you are a member of a Region, please nominate candidates for each position open in your Region. The following is a list of NYSHC Regions by County and incumbents.

Central Region (includes the following Counties: Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Onondaga, Cayuga, Oswego)

- Sharon Young Slate, Director
- Marcia Schwartz, Director

Finger Lakes Region (includes the following Counties: Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Seneca, Yates, Steuben)

- Lindsay Labella, VP
- Director:
- Director:

Northern Region (includes the following Counties: Essex, Franklin, Clinton, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis)

- Karen Lassel, VP

Southern Tier Region (includes the following Counties: Cortland, Otsego, Delaware, Broome, Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, Chenango)

- Joanne Frechetter, Director
- Director:

Southeast Region (includes the following Counties: Suffolk, Nassau, Staten Island, Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx)

- VP:

Capital Region (includes the following Counties: Washington, Warren, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Albany, Greene, Columbia, Schoharie, Montgomery, Fulton, Saratoga) -

- Director:
- Director:

Job Description

NYSHC Regional VP and Regional Directors

- Terms and Definitions.
- New York State Horse Council, Inc. abbreviated as “NYSHC”
- Regional Vice President of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. abbreviated as “RVP”
- Regional Directors of the New York State Horse Council, Inc. to be abbreviated as “RD” or “Directors”
 1. There will be one Regional Vice President and two Region Directors for each of the eight regions within the NYSHC, as described in the NYSHC ByLaws:
 - Capitol – (includes the following Counties-Washington, Warren, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Albany, Greene, Columbia, Schoharie, Montgomery, Fulton and Saratoga)
 - Central – (includes the following Counties: Onieda, Herkimer, Madison, Onondaga, Cayuga and Oswego)
 - Finger Lakes –(includes the following Counties: Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Livingston, Seneca, Yates and Steuben)
 - Mid-Hudson-(includes the following Counties: Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster)
 - Northern-(includes the following Counties: Essex, Franklin, Clinton, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis)
 - Southeast-(includes the following counties: Suffolk, Nassau, Staten Island, Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Bronx)
 - Southern Tier-(includes the following Counties: Cortland, Otsego, Delaware, Broome, Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins and Chenango)
 - Western-(includes the following Counties: Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Alleghany, Wyoming, Erie, Genesee, Orleans and Niagara)
- Regional Structure. Each region will be divided by counties with Regional Directors to serve half of the counties in their regions, as determined by the Regional Vice President based on the review of the needs of the region. Region Directors will serve under the guidance of the Regional Vice President.
- Regional Vice President and Regional Director Responsibilities. The Regional Vice Presidents and Regional Directors should, on occasion, attend chapter meetings in those regions which have chapters; shall promote NYSHC membership and equine education among equine related businesses, equine activities, and other equine clubs within their region; are expected to promote awareness of NYSHC and its programs to equine clubs, businesses and activities within their areas; shall serve as advocates for the equine industry in their region including but not limited to being available for media interviews, doing speaking engagements, representing NYSHC at awards programs or receptions, staffing NYSHC’s booth at events, and seek publicity in the community.
- Duties of the Regional Directors. The Regional Directors will support and help the RVP within their counties. Regional Directors will inform the RVP of specific activities within their assigned counties which may affect the equine industry and discuss what actions may need to be taken by the NYSHC. Regional Directors should endeavor to determine what the NYSHC’s members need and want and recommend ways in which those needs can be filled.
- Duties of the Regional Vice President. The RVP will be available within the entire region to promote the mission of the NYSHC. Duties may include: work with local legislative bodies regarding the equine industry, protection of multi-use trails for equestrian use, and open space preservation “no land, no horse”. RVP will work closely with the RD and give a Region report to the Board of Directors at each NYSHC Board meeting

regarding activities within their region and counties. ***The RVP shall maintain current list of members in their regions including contact information for those members and share that information with the Regional Directors.***

- Voting Provision. Regional Vice Presidents and/or Regional Directors holding more than one Board of Director-level position (e.g., Chapter President and Director-at-Large) are only entitled to one vote, and the total quorum count is reduced by one, for the duration of their term.
- All members of the NYS Horse Council, Inc. Board of Directors are required to sign a Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Form each year, to be completed by January 14th of that year.
- Board meetings are held quarterly in a virtual format. Additional meetings may be held as needed.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION BIOS



Sharon Young Slate

Sharon has been a horse owner since the early 1970's. She and her husband Gary own the 83 acre horse and hay farm, Clover Hill, Baldwinsville, NY, which they've preserved with a conservation easement. She's had the privilege of owning and showing at least three different breeds of horses and has ridden saddle seat, hunt seat and stock seat. With a love of history and tradition, most recently she has competed in ADS pleasure driving.

Sharon is a retired teacher from a large central NY school district and served as leader of a 4-H equine group for many years. She belongs to the Cherry Valley Carriage Assn., the NY State Morgan Horse Society, the American Driving Society, the Carriage Assn. of America, the Onondaga County Animal Response Team and for the past two decades, the NYSHC, serving as a central region director and co-chair of the brochure committee.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION BIOS



Lindsay LaBella

Lindsay LaBella is a lifelong horse owner and breeder with deep roots in the equestrian community. A former horseback trail guide in the Adirondacks, she brings decades of hands-on experience and leadership. As the founder of Rochester Trail Riders—now celebrating its 25th year—Lindsay has dedicated her life to promoting safe, enjoyable trail riding and preserving access to equestrian-friendly spaces.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION BIOS



Karen Lassell

Karen Lassell is the Northern Region VP and works at the William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute which "is a private, not-for-profit educational research institution with an operational dairy farm and Morgan horse herd located in Chazy, New York on the Adirondack Coast of Lake Champlain.[1] Miner Institute currently encompasses over 8,600 acres of forest and agricultural land in the Little Chazy and Great Chazy river watersheds. The Institute is funded through endowments, research grants and the sale of milk from its dairy operation.

Created in 1951, the Institute's mission is to offer quality research, education, and demonstration programs addressing critical agricultural and environmental issues relevant to Northern New York, Vermont and Quebec farmers."

Karen grew up in Chelmsford, MA. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science, Equine Option, at the University of New Hampshire. She has been at Miner Institute since 1991. As Equine Manager, Karen is responsible for the care of the Institute's Morgan Horse herd as well as the education programs. Several foals are born each year into the program allowing for a constant supply of horses in training for one of the many disciplines including English, Western, and driving. Karen's training philosophy is one that blends "natural horsemanship" and traditional training skills to produce a horse that is happy in its work. A similar multi-faceted approach is used to prepare students for a career in the equine industry and to teach horse owners how to better understand and care for their horses.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION BIOS



Joanne Frechette

Hi! I'm JoAnne Frechette. I live on a 125 acre farmette in Triangle, NY (just outside of Whitney Point) with my husband, 3 Jack Russells, 3 cats, 5 horses/ponies, 1 donkey, 2 fish, 5 chickens and 1 guinea hen. Oh, yes, and 2 horses that we board for a friend.

I am a retired high school biology teacher.

Along with being members of the New York State Horse Council, my husband and I are also members of the Cherry Valley Carriage Association. I served on the board of CVCA for 8 years, 2 as treasurer. We were also members of the New York State Registered Haflinger Association. I was on the board of that organization for 15 years (the NYSRHA has since dissolved). We also belong to Maine Mavericks, a local horse club out of Whitney Point. I have been on the board of NYSHC for 5 years and for the last few years have been the chairperson for the Hours to Ride/Drive program (which, by the way, hours for 2025 are due by January 30, 2026).

In the past, my husband and I were the Broome County 4H chair people for carriage driving. I am still currently involved with the Broome County 4H program. We have a newly formed club with emphasis on equines.

I look forward to continuing to serve as a director for the Southern Tier region on the NYSHC board.

BOARD MEMBERS FOR RE-ELECTION BIOS



Marcia Schwartz

I have been involved with Arabian horses for many years. My husband, Don, bought me my first Arabian horse in 1972 and I was never without one for over fifty years! My passion, for sure. Along the way, Don and I purchased our Holiday Farm located in Baldwinsville, New York. We showed “A” circuit shows for a time and then went on to purchase our mobile tack shop, The Show Kid.

During all these years, I have been involved with the Empire State Arabian Horse Association and Region 16. I have often been a delegate for Region 16 at the Arabian Horse Association’s national convention. Within the last three years I decided to expand my horse world and became one of the Directors for central New York. I am truly impressed with this organization and so happy to be a member of such a worthy association.

RIDE AND DRIVE PROGRAM

Just to remind those that participated in this year's Ride-Drive Program, we need your total hours no later than January 30, 2026. You can email your hours to jfrechette@stny.rr.com or mail them to JoAnne Frechette, 465 South Street, Chenango Forks, NY 13746.

Interested in the Ride and Drive program? Check out the website:

<https://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=11>

Click Awards and scroll to Ride and Drive

Ohioville Farm Expands Trail Network, Opens to Local Horse Owners

By K. Mae Copham

Disclosure: author is owner of Ohioville Farm

In the spirit of making trail riding more accessible for horse owners in the Hudson Valley, Ohioville Farm in New Paltz has expanded to include neighboring lands. It started with the purchase of next-door Elliotts Farm, once a dairy and pig farm and now part of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust. Additional properties were added as they became available. The farm increased from 49 acres to over 270 acres of land. Friendly neighbors have also given the farm access to maintain trails and ride across their property.

The new trail network covers over seven miles of fields, woodlands, and old rock-walled lanes. Unique landmarks such as old cars, ancient pine trees and a view of the Gunks add interest. The trails include a step obstacle, log jumps, steep inclines and hills, as well as more advanced training opportunities such as road crossings and gun noise from the nearby shooting range. Plans to add a water feature and more obstacles are underway. Depending upon participation, a warmup and practice arena may be added near the parking area as well.

The project is coined GRACE for Grace Elliott, who was responsible for putting her family farm into a conservation easement to limit development. GRACE is also an acronym that stands for "Greater Recreational Area Created for Equestrians." Beginning October 1, GRACE will open to trail riders for \$10 per horse per day. Parking is located off Horsenden Road in New Paltz. Current Coggins required for each horse. A map is included and a tour can also be arranged for first time riders. All visitors must be announced in advance and all riders are required to sign liability release waivers.

Any interested riders please contact Mae at 845-419-2999.



New York State Horse Council at the New York State Fair

The New York State Fair always means crowds of people. Attendance is encouraged by free admission for seniors, a relatively low price for tickets, and loads of free concerts by nationally known entertainers. Not everyone likes to deal with crowds, but with a large variety of things to see and do, it seems like there really is something for everyone. With thousands of people coming through the gate, some of them have to be interested in horses, right? This is one of the reasons that the New York State Horse Council has made several efforts in the past few years to use it as a place to promote our organization and to recruit new members.

The New York State Horse Council shared space with a number of horse related organizations during the 2025 New York State Fair at the 4-H Barn Exhibition. This small barn across the street from the 4-H Dormitory and Exhibition Building and the Native American Village, had four stalls with different horse breeds, which attracted many families with small children, as well as people anxious to see horses. The Horse Council booth was manned for four days. On the first day, NYSHC President Pauline Burnes had the table; on the second day the new Director of Central Region, Marcia Schwartz was in charge; the third day Director of Southern Region JoAnne Frechette and her husband Tom held the fort, and the fourth day was covered by the new Administrative Assistant Lindsay Linke. I showed up on days 3 and 4, and talked to several people who passed through.



Lindsay Linke making eye contact with horse people eager to talk

Marcia Schwartz has been a long time member of the Empire State Arabian Horse Association and operates “the Show Kid”, a tack shop in a trailer that is found at many of the horse shows on the Fairgrounds during the year. The Frechettes are very active members of the Cherry Valley Carriage Association, and attend several driving events each year. Pauline Burnes is our very busy President who fits trail rides into a busy schedule between meetings devoted to NYSHC and time spent on her landscaping design business. Lindsay Lindke is a “horse show mom” who runs a hunter jumper business, Hunter Ridge at Lockport. I use my many years of stall cleaning for our four horses to talk about horses within my limited knowledge, with all kinds of passing people and try to find subject material for a newsletter article.

As in previous years, Pauline brought two stick horses to raffle off to children who stopped to see our table. Marcia managed one day’s raffle, and I helped on another day with the Frechettes. The photo below was taken by Marcia showing the happy mother and child who won. I wish we had their names, but it’s still a great shot!



As a rule, it’s not too hard to talk to people with kids, because the kids are distracted looking at the horses. My standard conversation starter is usually, “Do you have horses?” or “Do you like horses?”. If they have horses, you need to ask “What kind?”, and “What do you do with them?”. Sometimes, they will be people who used to have horses, and they are glad to share memories. One guy had a pair of draft horses, and asked if I knew a farrier who would shoe drafts (seems not all will do drafts). I was able to refer him to the New York State Draft Horse Club, and I will ask our farrier next time he’s out. I always tell people that the NYSHC is a source of good

horse information, and it feels good to be able to share. Actually for the four days our booth was set up, there were draft horse classes going on. Some of us found time to sneak away and catch a class or two.

Did we sign up any new members? Not that I know of, but there are a bunch of folks who now know what Horse Council is. Just getting out in public and letting horse people see that we have volunteers willing to share time and talk about the world of horses in New York was definitely a win. Talking to other people at adjoining tables was also positive. The lady in charge of New York 4-H activities was glad for our support. Cornell University had a table next to us covered in helpful brochures about their veterinary program and horse activities, but there was not any representative of the school there to talk to in the time I was there. This makes the point that you really need people willing to volunteer and talk to the public. If you see a large horse event happening in your area, consider going and talking to horse people to promote Horse Council. As the great philosopher Woody Allen once said, "80% of life is just showing up".



A slow time for people passing through the 4-H barn. Horse stalls on the right, activities and tables on the left.

FALL RIDE RECAP

My name is Cathy Floetke and I'm the manager of the NYSHC Fall Ride. We just finished up the 56th edition of the annual event held at the Madison County Fairgrounds in Brookfield, NY. As usual we had a great time! I am the manager but I couldn't do it without the help and support of all of the rest of the volunteers. It is a group effort that also helps to support the many volunteers who care for the Madison County Fairgrounds. They do their best to provide us with a venue close to the trails, enough delicious food to feed an army, support us with the many tasks that it takes to run an event like this and jump right in and have fun right along with us in every way possible. It's like a family reunion every Columbus Day weekend and I invite everyone to come and join us in the fun!

This year we had outstanding fall weather that allowed riders and drivers to get out and enjoy the beautiful colors of the season. We enjoyed the multitude of fall decorations of the neighborhood and made sure to get by the Beaver Den and enjoy the delicious food and pies when we weren't eating at the fairgrounds.

On Saturday afternoon we enjoyed a very informative demonstration by a Poulin Feed representative named Morgan and she was able to answer and explain many questions about feed and nutrition of more than just horses. We held a raffle with giveaways after the question and answer session and she was happy to stay as long as necessary. Thank you to Poulin for doing this again to help support our event.

Thank you also to the other sponsors local and otherwise who help to support our event! Dover Tack always donates a substantial amount to feed our obsession with shopping for more horse "stuff"! The local tack store, Taylor Tack is also a huge supporter of our event! When we stop by to see her, she always donates a large box of brand new supplies and goodies. We don't always have enough time to get around the local area but we welcome any and all donations and they're greatly appreciated!

We held our annual auction on Saturday night with Josh from the Fairgrounds board as our auctioneer. He did a great job and we once again traded our "stuff" amongst ourselves and raised a nice chunk of change for the NYS Horse Council.

On Sunday afternoon we held our annual "weigh in" and any and all of us learned how much our horses weigh. We all donated and made a guess and the person closest to the correct weight was our own president of the Horse Council, Pauline Burnes! She was only 19 pounds off guessing the weight of my horse Rooster. Judy Joffe and John Hoffman tied for second at 20 pounds from the correct weight.

We then presented the winners of the annual Poker Run. Think you to Karen and Randy Wheeler who put out the buckets for us! Tim was our first and second prize winner and Jay came in third with their winning hands!

Then we held our annual presentation of the Erica Raab memorial award. Every year Carrie Brosnan coordinates a beautiful award and this year was no different. I am not fortunate enough to have ever met Erica, but I'm told that this years award winner, Lynn Clark has many of the same qualities as Erica did. Congratulations to Lynn!

After dinner we also held a small ceremony where I hope all of the volunteers realize just how much their help and support means to everyone and especially to me. This year has been particularly challenging for me and I couldn't have done it all without the help that I received. The patience and love shown to me is priceless and will not be forgotten.

Thank you all again.

Fall Newsletter 2025

Then we held our annual jar wars “competition”! Most of the prizes are donated by just a handful of people who spend the entire year looking for and creating beautiful baskets of anything you can imagine! Then we all drop in tickets at the jars of the baskets we want the most! We weren’t able to be joined this year by one group of people who annually donate a large portion of our baskets due to a last minute injury, but they still worked things out to bring the baskets to us and we hope they will all be well enough to be back with us next year! Thank you so much to Heather and Allen Stoll, Linda “Pinky” Staiger and Patti Buttino for their generosity and support!! They of course have help and we wouldn’t have so much fun if they didn’t care so much!

They are not the only ones who donate of course and I am so grateful we have such a wonderful and generous support community in the horse world. They all play a role in helping to make this event happen! Thank you so much to all of them as well!!

Thank you again to all that make this annual event possible and so much fun! I look forward to seeing it through again next year for our 57th annual event in 2026.

Cathy Floetke



Jar Wars



Erica Rabb Award

Kristin Bennett is sitting down. Carrie Brosnan, Lynn Clark and Nancy Eddings is on the right end



Kitchen Volunteers



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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