



NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL

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Summer NEWSLETTER



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EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



COMMUNITY



OPPORTUNITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our great nation is celebrating its 250th year anniversary in the Year of the Horse! Please let us know if you are participating in a parade with your horses, or other special event, so we can include pictures of your activity in the next NYSHC newsletter and post pictures on social media. If you are a member of NYSHC, and would like to post an event, please contact info@nyshc.org.

The Mounted Patrol Training Techniques clinic held at the Hemlock Fairgrounds on June 6 was terrific! In addition to the lead Instructor, Charlie Horst, three Mounted Patrol officers from Rochester (Michael Murphy) and Monroe County (Michael Horst and Merle Nozzi) joined us in the morning to add their expertise for personal attention to our individual training needs. Special thanks go to Hemlock Lake Agricultural Society for supplying the venue for this event.

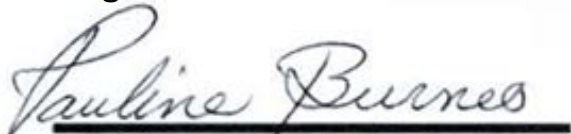
June was also a month with tragedies. The death of a New York City carriage horse from eating Japanese Yew in Central Park, the death of a young tourist in a carriage accident in Central Park, and the loss of 16 horses in a fire in Saratoga has required special meetings of the Board of Directors of the New York State Horse Council.

The NYSHC responded to the fire at Saratoga through our Regional Vice President who covers the Capital region. The Board approved sending \$1000 to support recovery efforts.

A special committee of the New York State Horse Council has been established to respond to the New York City Carriage Horse incidents. We have reviewed New York City bill, 943 Ryder's Law (now Romanch's Law) which bans the New York City Carriage Horse Industry. As a result, testimony was prepared for the public hearing held by the New York City Council Health Committee on July 15. I was able to participate virtually. A copy of the testimony from the NYSHC is included in this newsletter.

New York City Council is scheduled to vote on NY City Introduction 943 on August 14, 2026.

I am grateful to those who have stepped forward to help review the NY City bill and respond to these difficult situations. The New York State Horse Council established an equine benevolence fund to respond to such situations as stable fires and immediate needs for surviving equines need for housing and feed. If you would like to donate to the fund, visit the Council's website at www.nyshc.org.



Pauline Burnes



New York State
Horse Council

NYSHC, Inc. P.O.Box424 Arkport, New York 14807

Testimony to the New York City Council regarding a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to prohibiting the operation of horse drawn cabs. Int. Bill 943.

Submitted: July 14, 2026

Dear Esteemed Members of the New York City Council,

The New York Horse Council (NYSHC) was founded in 1966 as an umbrella organization for the equine community residing in New York State. Our mission is "To create a strong unified voice for all horse interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State." The NYSHC board of directors and its membership is composed of a diverse group of industry professionals making our organization uniquely qualified to assist in all matters pertaining to horses in New York State.

At this time, we are abstaining from a direct position on Int. No. 943 a bill to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the operation of horse drawn cabs.

The New York State Horse Council, Inc. would like clarification on the intent of language contained in New York City Int.943 pertaining to disposition of licensed horses. We agree, horses should not be sold for slaughter, and it is, in fact, illegal in NY (Agriculture & Markets Law Section 385 Prohibition of slaughtering horses for human or animal consumption). However, we also recognize that the carriage horses in New York City (NYC) are privately owned, and as such, their owners are responsible for their humane disposition.

We recognize New York City has evolved since the inception of the carriage industry and that Central Park is now host to millions of tourists and residents, who all have a vision for the use of the park. Your support of enforcement of current regulations pertaining to suspensions and revocations within the NYC carriage industry will improve the safety of the horses, drivers, passengers and general public.

We welcome the opportunity for thoughtful discussion so we can work together to find fair and humane paths forward; for the city, the residents, the visitors, the carriage industry and the horses.

Respectfully,

Pauline Burnes, President, NYSHC, Inc.

Pauline E. Burnes, President, NYSHC

pauline.burnes@nyshc.org

607-765-8543

The New York State Horse Council, Inc. is a member of the American Horse Council, National Coalition of State Horse Councils, Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO), and New York Council of Non-Profits (NYCON). For more information visit: www.nyshc.org



NYSHC, Inc. P.O. Box 424 Arkport, New York 14807

The New York State Horse Council, Inc. offers guidance to New York City, the Carriage Horse Industry, and any city agency that may be affected by the horses and the carriage operations for the duration of the Carriage Horse Industry in New York City. Further evaluation of the New York City (NYC) Carriage Horse Industry could result in further recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BEST PRACTICES

- There shall be an experienced licensed carriage horse driver to be attentively seated in the box of the carriage holding the lines of the horse when a driver needs to leave the carriage horse for any reason.
- Add a relief handler at each of the carriage horse stops, who is a knowledgeable horseman who can hold the horse when the certified driver needs to take a break or adjust the carriage or harness.
- All potential drivers shall be trained and tested on the proper fit, adjustment and care of the bridle and the harness in its entirety. This shall include the proper care and maintenance of the horse carriage.
- Drivers shall not allow their horses to eat ANY plants not on their regular diet.
- All carriage horse drivers shall be required to take a driver's test, (like the auto driver's test) with a knowledgeable, experienced, licensed carriage horse operator and shall pass the practical carriage driver's test with horse and carriage, prior to being awarded a NY City Carriage Horse Operator's license.
- All drivers shall be retested and their license renewed annually.
- All drivers shall be reminded daily that they are responsible for their horse's and passengers' safety.
- Carriage horse drivers should NEVER "leave the box" when there are customers or other people in the carriage. This includes taking pictures. Violations will be subject to suspensions and revocation of their license.
- Horse stalls at the Carriage stables shall be a minimum size of 12-ft x 12-ft. (Cornell CCE)
- Horses shall have access to shade during the day especially during the summer months.
- Each carriage horse stable shall have a knowledgeable, experienced, certified inspector hired by the NYC Health Dept. to inspect all carriage horses, their harness, and the carriage prior to leaving the stable for work each day.
- Horse drawn cabs parked on a 4 % incline shall be moved to a flatter parking area where they can also be provided shade. Provide all carriage horses shade during the summer months while parked.
- Measure temperatures at the ground surface to determine suspension of carriage horse operations due to inclement weather.
- Access to fresh, clean water shall be accessible for all horses during the day. Also hay for forage.
- The re-design of Central Park Carriage drives has created safety issues with shared use paths and trails. Another re-design is recommended to provide dedicated Carriage Drives and Bridle paths within Central Park and increase safety for pedestrians.
- An education program should be implemented with the Central Park Conservancy regarding Shared Use Trails "Trails are Common Ground". Horses have the right-of-way.
- Violations of speed limits in Central Park need to be strictly enforced.
- The use of e-bikes, e-scooters and pedicabs in Central Park and New York City are increasing. Enforcement of speed limits in Central Park will benefit all users of the park. Many parks have banned the use of e-bikes on public trails.



RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

NOTICE OF ORDER CONCERNING NEW WORLD SCREWORM AND THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

WHEREAS the New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) is a highly destructive parasitic fly native to the Americas;

WHEREAS multiple cases of New World Screwworm have been detected in the United States;

WHEREAS the New World Screwworm is a serious pest that threatens livestock, pets, wildlife, and, in rare cases, people; and

WHEREAS the larvae of the New World Screwworm burrow into the living tissue of animals, causing severe wounds, animal suffering, and causes significant economic loss to farm operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, I, Richard A. Ball, as Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets of the State of New York, hereby find that, to prevent the spread of New World Screwworm to the State's domestic animal populations, and to limit the exposure of such animals to infestation, it is necessary to impose the following measures that will help prevent the importation of domestic animals believed to be infected with New World Screwworm into the State, and, accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law sections 72(1) and 74(5), effective immediately, and until repealed:

- No domestic animal infected with New World Screwworm shall be permitted to enter into the State;
- No domestic animal suspected of being infected with the New World Screwworm shall be permitted to enter the State until examined by an accredited veterinarian and found to be free of New World Screwworm;
- No domestic animal originating from an infested premises or a premises under investigation for suspected New World Screwworm shall enter the State until the premises is declared free of New World Screwworm by the originating state's animal health authority; and

- No domestic animal originating from an Infested Zone shall enter the State until the animal has been examined by an accredited veterinarian and found to be free of New World Screwworm.

AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective immediately and until repealed, the following additional measures shall be performed to prevent spread of the New World Screwworm in New York State:

- All domestic animals originating from any state with one or more New World Screwworm Infested Zone or Zones shall be inspected and have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian issued within five (5) days of entry. The CVI shall include a statement that all animals listed on the CVI were inspected and found to be free of New World Screwworm;
- All domestic animals originating from an Infested Zone shall be prophylactically treated for New World Screwworm with a product that is authorized or conditionally approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use to treat or prevent New World Screwworm infections or a product that has received emergency use authorization for New World Screwworm treatment or prevention by the FDA. The product shall be administered no more than 14 days prior to entry. The CVI shall include the name of the product used, the date the product was administered, and the route of administration; and
- Dogs and cats originating from a state with one or more New World Screwworm Infested Zones are prohibited from entering the State of New York for the purposes of rescue, adoption, transfer, sale, lease, sponsorship, or gift of such dog or cat; and
- Hatching eggs and day-old chicks are exempt from these requirements.

PLEASED BE ADVISED that the following definitions apply to the terms used in this Notice of Order:

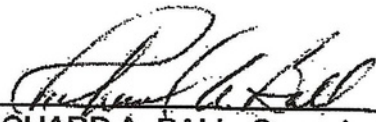
- Domestic animals – mammals and birds, including:

Livestock, production, and farm-raised animals, including cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, equids, farmed cervid herds.

Captured or captive wild and feral animals

Companion animals, including animals considered pets such as dogs, cats, rabbits, etc.

- **Infested Premises** – Premises where there is at least one presumptive positive case of New World Screwworm or National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed positive case of an animal infested with the larvae of New World Screwworm.
- **Infested Zone** – Zone that is at least 20 km (12.4 miles) beyond the perimeter of an Infested Premises, location of infested wildlife, or location of New World Screwworm wild fly detections.



RICHARD A. BALL, Commissioner
of Agriculture and Markets of the
State of New York

Dated: June 15, 2026

YOUTH CORNER

2026 Youth Scholarship Award Winner

Addisyn Spano-Meyer of Kerhonkson, NY is a well-rounded equestrian and student of animal science. A long-time member of FFA, she worked on equine research projects comparing mustangs and domestic horses as well as the genetics of eye health. She has been accepted to the University of Iowa as a pre-veterinary major with the plan to become a large animal vet.

Congratulations to Addie!



Addisyn Spano-Meyer



Diehl me in IEA Team

The Diehl Me In Western IEA Middle School Team qualified for the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) National Finals in Fort Worth, Texas and will be competing June 21-23, 2026 in conjunction with the APHA World Show. The IEA is a nationwide organization that gives students in grades 4-12 the opportunity to compete in equestrian events without owning a horse. Riders compete on unfamiliar horses, making horsemanship, adaptability, teamwork, and sportsmanship the foundation of the sport. Qualifying for Nationals is an outstanding achievement and a testament to the dedication, hard work, and talent of these young riders.

Mia Powell, Riley Eggleton, Kylie Houghtaling, Harper Ryder, and Shae Seibert are representing Diehl Me In as Middle School Team members.

Lillian Bressler, Penelope Hanweck, Lux Seibert, Mia Powell, Riley Eggleton and Kylie Houghtaling also qualified individually in their respective classes.



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VET CORNER

Long days and warm weather make summer a great season for riding. Some days, however, the heat can be downright unbearable. In fact, you might be wondering if it's even safe to be in the saddle. So in this article, we'll explain the risks of riding in extreme heat and help you assess whether it's too hot to ride your horse.

The Dangers of Riding in Very Hot Weather

Riding in excessively hot weather can pose serious risks to both you and your horse. When temperatures soar, your horse is at risk of:

- Heat stress: Just like humans, horses can suffer from heat stress, leading to fatigue, dehydration, and heatstroke. But they're even more susceptible to heat stress (three to 10 times more!) than we are.
- Dehydration: High temperatures can rapidly deplete your horse's fluids, affecting his overall health and performance.
- Heatstroke: Severe heat can cause your horse's body temperature to rise drastically, leading to potentially life-threatening conditions.

Understanding these dangers is the first step to making informed decisions about riding in hot weather.

Understanding the Heat Index

Ambient temperature alone does not tell the true tale of how hot it really feels. That's why you want to consider the heat index—a measure that combines air temperature and relative humidity—when deciding whether it's too hot to ride a horse. Humidity can significantly impact your horse's ability to cool down.

To calculate the heat index:

1. Look up the current air temperature and relative humidity. You should be able to find this information easily on a weather app or website.
2. Input those two figures into an online [heat index calculator](#) or reference a heat index chart.

For instance, if the temperature is 90°F and the humidity is 70%, the heat index would be approximately 105°F—much hotter than the air temperature alone would suggest.

How Hot Is Too Hot to Ride Your Horse?

So, at what point does the heat become too much for safe riding?

A combined temperature and humidity value (heat index) greater than 150 starts to become risky. If the heat index is above 180, it's generally considered unsafe to ride.

These values serve as general rules, but always consider your horse's unique characteristics and health status.

Other Factors to Consider

When determining whether to ride in the heat, also take into account the following factors:

Horse Fitness

Well-conditioned horses might handle heat better than ones that are less fit. Monitor horses with any history of respiratory or cardiovascular issues closely.

Acclimation to Climate

Horses accustomed to cooler climates might struggle more in sudden hot weather compared to those living in warm areas year-round. If moving or traveling to a warmer climate, allow your horse time to adjust gradually.

Time of Day

Early mornings and evenings are generally cooler and safer for riding. Midday temperatures are usually the highest, so avoid riding during this peak period.

Shade and Water Availability

Ensure there's plenty of shade available to cool down in after your ride. And keep your horse hydrated before, during, and after riding.

Equipment and Gear

Use tack that doesn't trap heat. Opt for lighter colors, and avoid insulating materials like synthetic pads and neoprene. Consider using cooling blankets or neck wraps on both yourself and your horse.

Take-Home Message

Riding your horse in hot weather requires careful consideration of various factors to ensure both your and his safety and well-being. If you do go for a hack on a hot day, stay hydrated, monitor your horse for signs of heat stress (e.g., heavy sweating, rapid breathing, and lethargy), take frequent breaks in the shade, and keep the ride short and easy. And when in doubt, err on the side of caution, and wait for a cooler day to ride.

Plow Day May 17, 2026

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

The New York State Draft Horse Club has for many years selected a Sunday in mid-May to celebrate plowing with teams of horses, demonstrating how the farming season used to begin with muscle power, before the advent of diesel and gas powered tractors. This year the club returned to an unplowed field on the Minturn farm in Sennett, NY, a short ways north of Auburn. Horse trailers from as far away as Barnes Corners up in the Watertown area, and from Norwich and Groton to the south unloaded their teams and sulky plows, and families and helpers.

Charles Darwin once wrote, “The plow is one of the most ancient and most valuable of man’s inventions....” One thing often seen is that many of these plows were cast in Syracuse, by the “Syracuse Chilled Plow Company”.

It is always a treat to walk around and talk to the plowmen and women, ask where they come from, and talk about their horses. This team of “spotted draft” horses came down from Barnes Corners, east of Watertown. Their owners belong to the North Country Draft Horse Club. They tell me that some of the members aren’t very active these days, but still keep their horses out on pasture and can’t bear to part with them. I actually viewed a Pinto team like this on videos from Potsdam area during the past Christmas season, giving rides around the village.



Another interesting team of light gray Percherons came from Sennett, just down the road from Minturn’s farm. They were inherited by the brother of the last owner who lived in Texas before passing away early this year. The farm this pair lived on for the past two years was so dry that it hadn’t seen rain since before this past Christmas. When they were trailered up to New York, they must have felt they had been brought to heaven, the grass was that lush. This picture shows them tied to the trailer, taking a break and cooling out. The day was bright and dry and comfortable, unlike last year’s Plow Day, which started out damp and cloudy.

Plow Day May 17, 2026



This is “Woody”, or Mark Woodworth of Lamplit Farm in Chittenago. I thought he looked familiar, then realized after talking to him for a few minutes that he was the same guy that gave draft horse wagon rides at Lorenzo during the Lorenzo Driving Competition last year. He also manages the Daniel Parrish Witter Agricultural Museum and the Jared van Wagenen Carriage Museum during the New York State Fair. This day he had his pair of Belgians out for a good workout. I’m pretty sure that these are Woody’s team, Henry and Chuck.



If you look closely, you can see four different teams in this shot, but I was concentrating on the team of three black Percherons in the foreground. There are many ways to hitch multiple horses to a plow, and it’s a personal decision about how much power and endurance you think you need. Today nobody seems overly concerned about getting the field plowed when they have more important things to discuss. The horses don’t seem to mind taking a break.

Plow Day May 17, 2026



This shot has three drivers with teams visible. Any team is welcome to start on the edge of the unplowed field and go around as much as they want. There are no ribbons or trophies awarded, just the goal of enjoying the day and talking with the different people. The club has a refreshment stand with the simple variety of hamburgers, hotdogs, and snack food for those who want to take a lunch break.

The driver in the foreground is Kevin Quigley from Macedon, NY. There are a number of draft horse clubs around the state, and at least one in the Hudson Valley. If you like horses, you would do yourself a favor to look around your area to see if there is a group near you. If you never own a draft horse, they are still fun to watch. The clubs are often active, social, and friendly, and they have a variety of activities during the year that are open to the public. Like all horse clubs today, they are always encouraging younger people to get involved.

This day would not be complete without a shot of Mr. Minturn, who has hosted and supported the Plow Day for several years. Here he is at the table selling raffle tickets. The club obtains a draft horse foal every spring and sells raffle tickets throughout the year, drawing the winning ticket at the Draft Horse Auction in October at the Cortland Fairgrounds. The winner has a choice of the horse or \$1000 in cash.

Check their website at <http://www.ny-state-draft-horse-club.org>





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Fifty Years of the Lorenzo Driving Competition celebrated July 17-19, 2026

In September, 1976, a display of the Lorenzo State Historic Site Carriage Collection sparked an event that would continue annually to the present day. For the past 50 years, the Lorenzo (Carriage) Driving Competition has drawn competitors from across the US and Canada to delight spectators that faithfully return year after year. The Lorenzo State Historic Site located in Cazenovia, NY is the perfect back drop for this event that inspires one to reminisce about past modes of transportation. Watching perfectly attired drivers communicate with their steeds with the use of their voice, driving lines, and their whip that replaces one's leg when riding astride, one realizes that modern day carriage driving links the past to the present.

The Friday, July 17 Hats Off to Lorenzo Welcome Party was an especially meaningful event as two of the people that started the show in 1976 were honored. Russell Grills, the first Lorenzo Site Manager, and Sue Voss, who attended the original carriage display with her Morgan horse, Starduster, hitched to her antique top buggy, were presented with custom blankets that included the special Lorenzo 50 logo. The popular Hats Off Hat Contest featured winners in numerous categories including the pairs category, won by the mother-daughter pair of Judy DeForest (mother) and Carol DeForest Schefler (daughter).

The first Lorenzo show was a one-day competition and today it's a 3-day event that includes a Friday Combined Test of driven dressage and a cones course; followed by 2 days of a Pleasure Show. On-site stabling was first offered in the early 2000's and has continued ever since. This feature allows competitors from nearby states and Canada to more-easily attend since their horses can be housed on site. The show has a following of generous sponsors, including the New York State Horse Council, and such sponsorships are essential for the continuation of this annual tradition.

While the divisions and classes that are offered have changed over the 50 years, the enthusiasm from competitors and the public alike has never waned. While it's not easy to predict how the show will look over the next 50 years, one can feel certain that horses and carriages are an important aspect of our past that we still revere today.



Presentation of custom blankets to Russell Grills and Sue Voss by Carol Buckhout, Lorenzo Driving Competition Board president; photo credit: Lisa Salisbury Hackley



Hat Contest winners for the Best Pair: Carolyn DeForest Schefler and Judy DeForest, accompanied by Wade Wells, former Lorenzo Site Manager and Hat Judge; photo credit: Lisa Salisbury Hackley



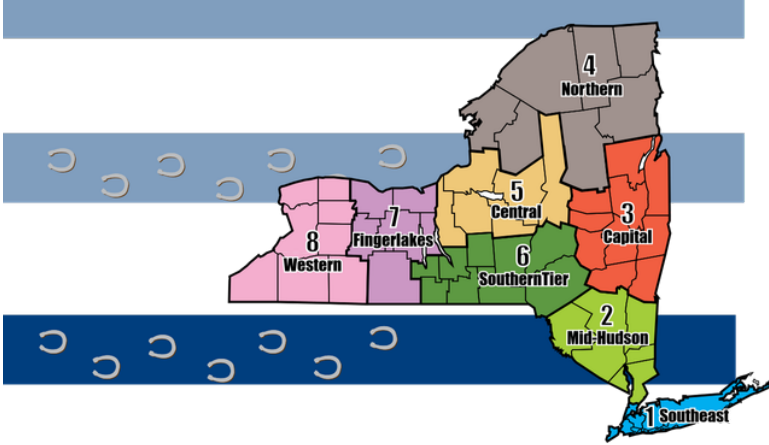
The Hudson Valley Draft Horse Association was honored to be part of the celebration organized by Harambee for Juneteenth 2026 in Kingston in which remains of enslaved people were re-interred at a ceremony “honoring the resilience and enduring legacy” of these people at the unveiling of a new memorial at the Pine Street African Burial Grounds.

Russell and Ellen Hausmann’s team of Belgians pulled a wagon for a parade through the streets of Kingston with the remains of these enslaved people ranging in age from infants to the elderly. These individuals were buried hundreds of years ago in Kingston with little to no recognition.

Harambee has built a memorial on Pine Street to honor them and teach about their history. You can learn more about Harambee and their work on the Pine Street African Burial Ground Memorial on their website, They have a very interesting story to share.

Our thanks to our members who helped out with the parade and to Harambee for including us in this touching event.





FARM CREDIT EAST

NYSHC Listing of Regions by County

NORTHERN REGION

Clinton
Franklin
Essex
Hamilton
St. Lawrence
Jefferson
Lewis

CENTRAL REGION

Oswego
Oneida
Herkimer
Onondaga
Cayuga
Madison

CAPITOL REGION

Warren
Washington
Fulton
Saratoga
Montgomery
Schenectady
Schoharie
Albany
Rensselaer
Greene
Columbia

SOUTHERN TIER REGION

Otsego
Delaware
Chenango
Broome
Cortland
Tompkins
Tioga
Schuyler
Chemung

FINGERLAKES REGION

Monroe
Wayne
Ontario
Livingston
Yates
Seneca
Steuben

WESTERN REGION

Niagara
Orleans
Genesee
Wyoming
Erie
Cattaraugus
Allegany

MID-HUDSON REGION

Sullivan
Ulster
Dutchess
Orange
Putnam
Rockland
Westchester

SOUTHEAST REGION

Bronx
New York
Kings
Richmond
Queens
Nassau
Suffolk

Finger Lakes Region Updates

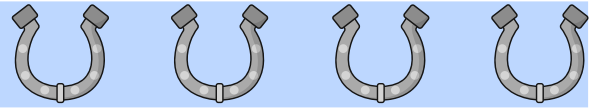


Avon got a \$15,000 grant to help connect the Avon Driving Park to the Erie Attica Trail. It will be horse friendly.

For More Information: https://www.thelcn.com/news/trail-town-grants-boost-projects-in-avon-mount-morris-and-perry/article_a38b5feb-4979-5164-ae95-7a238018d9d8.html



Finger Lakes Region Updates



Avon Driving Park Pleasure Show Returns After Flood Recovery

The Avon Driving Park Pleasure Show made a welcome return for its fourth annual event after devastating flooding forced the cancellation of last year's show. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Village of Avon in restoring the historic Driving Park and trail system, competitors once again gathered for a weekend celebrating the tradition of carriage driving.

The three-day event kicked off Friday with a Combined Test featuring dressage and an extensive cones course. Saturday's Pleasure Show highlighted Turnout, Working, and Cones classes before competitors headed out onto the park's unique cross-country optimum time course, finishing with a lap around the oldest continuously operating three-quarter-mile harness racing track still in use today.

The day's competition wrapped up with crowd favorites including the Grooms Class, Carriage Dog Class, and the exciting Scurry Stakes, where drivers raced against the clock for cash prizes. An evening barbecue and campfire with s'mores provided the perfect ending to a busy day.

Sunday morning featured the always-popular carriage parade through the Village of Avon, where residents lined the streets to wave as beautifully turned-out horses and carriages made their way through town. A special thank you goes to the Avon Village staff, Police and Fire Departments, Livingston County Sheriff's Office, and New York State Police who helped ensure a safe parade for everyone involved.

Back at the show grounds, competitors enjoyed the challenging Pick Your Route Cones class before finishing the weekend with Reinsmanship and the presentation of class, cones, and overall championships.

Events like this are only possible through the dedication of countless volunteers, competitors, officials, sponsors, and spectators. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Village of Avon for their commitment to restoring the Driving Park following last year's floods, making it possible for this cherished event to return.

A special thank you also goes to the New York State Horse Council for its continued financial support of equestrian events across New York. Their commitment helps organizations continue traditions like the Avon Driving Park Pleasure Show while strengthening and promoting our equestrian community.

Congratulations to everyone who helped make this year's event such a success. We look forward to celebrating the 5th Annual Avon Driving Park Pleasure Show in 2027!



POWERSTROKE (6-year-old Dutch warmblood)

Owners: Dirk & Karen Young

Driver (Whip): Liz Murphy

Awards at this show: Champion Horse Division and Concours d'Elegance Recipient

TAJA YES (4-year-old Haflinger imported from Austria)

Owners: Dirk & Karen Young

Driver (Whip): Dirk Young

Awards at this show: Overall Grand Champion, Champion Utility Division, Best Overall Dressage Score



Nothern Region Updates



The NYSHC helped sponsor the annual Heart's Delight Spring Premier Open Horse Show at the Clinton County Fairgrounds in Plattsburgh, NY May 24-25, 2026. This show has been growing since its inception in 2021, with 90 horses entered this year. Two classes offered free memberships to the winners. Taking home the blue in NYSHC English Pleasure was youth rider, Indigo Brodi, on Dignified in Pink. For the NYSHC Western Pleasure class, Paige Ebere jogged into the winner's circle on Sure Looks Lazy.

Western Region Updates



The NYSHC Western Chapter is excited to be active once again! We are pleased to welcome Lissette Routolo as our new Chapter President and look forward to rebuilding connections, hosting events, and growing our membership across Western New York.

Save the Date! Our Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting will be held on October 17. More details will be announced soon—we hope to see you there!

Check out our chapter website (<https://wcnyshc.org/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/westernchapterNYSHC/>) pages to stay connected!

Central Region Updates



Syracuse International Horse Show 2026

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

For the many people in the Syracuse area who were not filling the many seats at the New York State Fairgrounds Coliseum during the recent Syracuse International Horse Show (June 24-27, 2026), ***you missed one heck of a free show!*** It was a very large show like we so seldom see in this area anymore. People came from far off states like Minnesota, Wisconsin, Florida, New Hampshire, Vermont, North Carolina and Canada (bless their hearts)! Stabling in the Main Barn, DVM Barn, and even temporary stalls in the Dairy Barn were filled with Saddlebreds, Morgans, Hackney Horses and Ponies, Frisian's, and even Road Horses. Most were carefully collected into territories of various farms, trainers, and boarding stables, with elegant colored and labeled stall coverings and tack stalls. Obviously, the people who brought their horses such a distance did everything possible to show off their well-bred shining horses.

There were many adults of all ages, some who have been showing horses for many years. There were also many young people, also of all ages, who found many ways to enjoy themselves. E-bikes, e-scooters, and golf carts were taking people to their destinations, while horses were ridden, hand-walked, washed, curried, warmed up and cooled down. This was anything but boring. As days went by, ribbons, huge championship ribbons and medals, and commemorative porcelain plates, dishes, and trays were awarded and displayed on various stable fronts. Large groups of people could be family, old friends reuniting, or they could come from the same stable. Everywhere people were talking, eating, partying, and just having a great time. I have no pictures to show here, but if you go to the Facebook page for "Syracuse International Horse Show", you will see stills and videos posted by many of the competitors. The smiles, the ribbons, the people enjoying their horses are unmistakable. Maybe next year you can see it for yourself.

Capital Region Updates



NYS Horse Council Donates to Help Surviving Horse Recover From Barn Fire Injuries

The Capital Region was struck by tragedy in the early morning hours of June 16, 2026 at Saratoga Casino Hotel, the location of the Saratoga Springs, New York, harness track and dozens of barns used for stabling Standardbred and Thoroughbred racehorses. A barn fire was reported around 2:30 a.m. By the time first responders arrived the barn was engulfed in flames.

Sixteen Standardbred horses and one Thoroughbred perished in the fire. One Standardbred, Twin B Speed Dial, survived with injuries.

The deceased horses were trained or owned wholly or in part by Abigail Adsit, Timothy Benson, Chris Long, and Robyn Mangiardi. Twin B Speed Dial, known as Speedy, is owned by Abigail Adsit and Timothy Benson. He was injured in the fire, suffering lacerations, burns, and smoke inhalation. The New York State Horse Council is making a \$1000 donation from its benevolent fund to help pay Speedy's veterinary bills and ongoing medical and nursing care. He has had treatment for his burns and cuts and has had hyperbaric oxygen chamber sessions to help rehabilitate him and recover from smoke inhalation and trauma.

Benson and Adsit agreed that because the horse is 12 years old and the trauma he had to go through, he won't race again. Adsit plans to keep Speedy. Together, she hopes they can heal each other.

The horses who died were named:

Arlanda
Conquest As
Crazy Jet
Five Star Lou*
Free Willy Hanover
Gimlet Hanover
Influencer
Lyons Dukey
Muscle Dynasty
Our Father Lindy
Perfect Bang
Quite Like Me
Race Me Bombshell
Shalamar Hanover
Trackstar
Tropical Cyclone
Red

To read more about the six horses trained and/or owned wholly or in part by Timothy Benson and Abigail Adsit go to:
<https://standardbredcanada.ca/news/6-22-26/memory-bensons-six.html>

To read more about the 11 horses trained and/or owned wholly or in part by Robyn Mangiardi and Chris Long go to:
<https://standardbredcanada.ca/news/6-20-26/memory-mangiardis-11.html>

A gofund me has been set up to help those affected by this tragedy: https://www.gofundme.com/f/45v88?attribution_id=sl:7b28c4c8-cdd6-4d3b-b7f7-1c262fc969f0&lang=en_US&ts=1781617409&utm_campaign=man_sharesheet_dash&utm_content=amp17_control-amp20_t1&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link&fbclid=IwQ0xDSwSeOyFleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2Njl4NTY4Mzc5AAEe769BfohRlhhxld1v8bgrCSbt2-F16i8Xe5ZF8eRnx35iMNckd15sWJEobbI_aem_WaElfMwcZVabrXGgvdciQ

You can make donations through the Saratoga Harness Horseperson's Association by sending a check made out to the Saratoga County Foundation, Inc. with memo Barn Fire Tragedy. Donations made out to the Saratoga Harness Horseperson's Association will not be tax deductible. The mailing address is Saratoga Harness Horseperson's Association, P.O. Box 171, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Trails Report



Harriet Hollister Spencer SRA Update

Paige A. Barnum, AICP

Planning Section Lead

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division of Environmental Stewardship and Planning

After an extensive data collection effort and evaluation of recreation, operations, and environmental concerns at Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area, it has been determined that allowing equestrian use is not appropriate for the site. State Parks staff reviewed existing trail design and construction standards; carefully considered feedback from multiple user groups via public comment and on-site visitor surveys; and investigated the potential for a new trail system to support equestrians. Ecological surveys of vernal pools and their associated flora and fauna were also performed. Harriet Hollister is recognized as one of the state's most important breeding habitats for amphibians, a group primarily threatened by habitat loss. New York State Parks' mission is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities in balance with responsible stewardship of our valuable natural resources. The conclusion that the facility needs to remain closed to horseback riding upholds this mission and achieves a balance between unique habitat preservation and site management to support existing users.

A SUMMER TRAIL DESTINATION IN THE SOUTHERN TIER OF NEW YORK STATE

The West Almond Trails are 30 miles of multi-use, all season trails located approximately 85 miles to the southwest of Rochester, New York. These trails, managed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and maintained by IMPACT: Friends Improving Allegany County Trails, Inc. are easily accessed from the West Almond Exit off of I-86, the Southern Tier Expressway.

If you enjoy camping with your horse, there is a camping area with 16 covered straight stalls, 5 covered picnic areas with tables, a source for washing water, and miles of improved trails. Over the past few years, drainage, tread improvements, and reroutes have been made to trails 3,4,5 and 6.

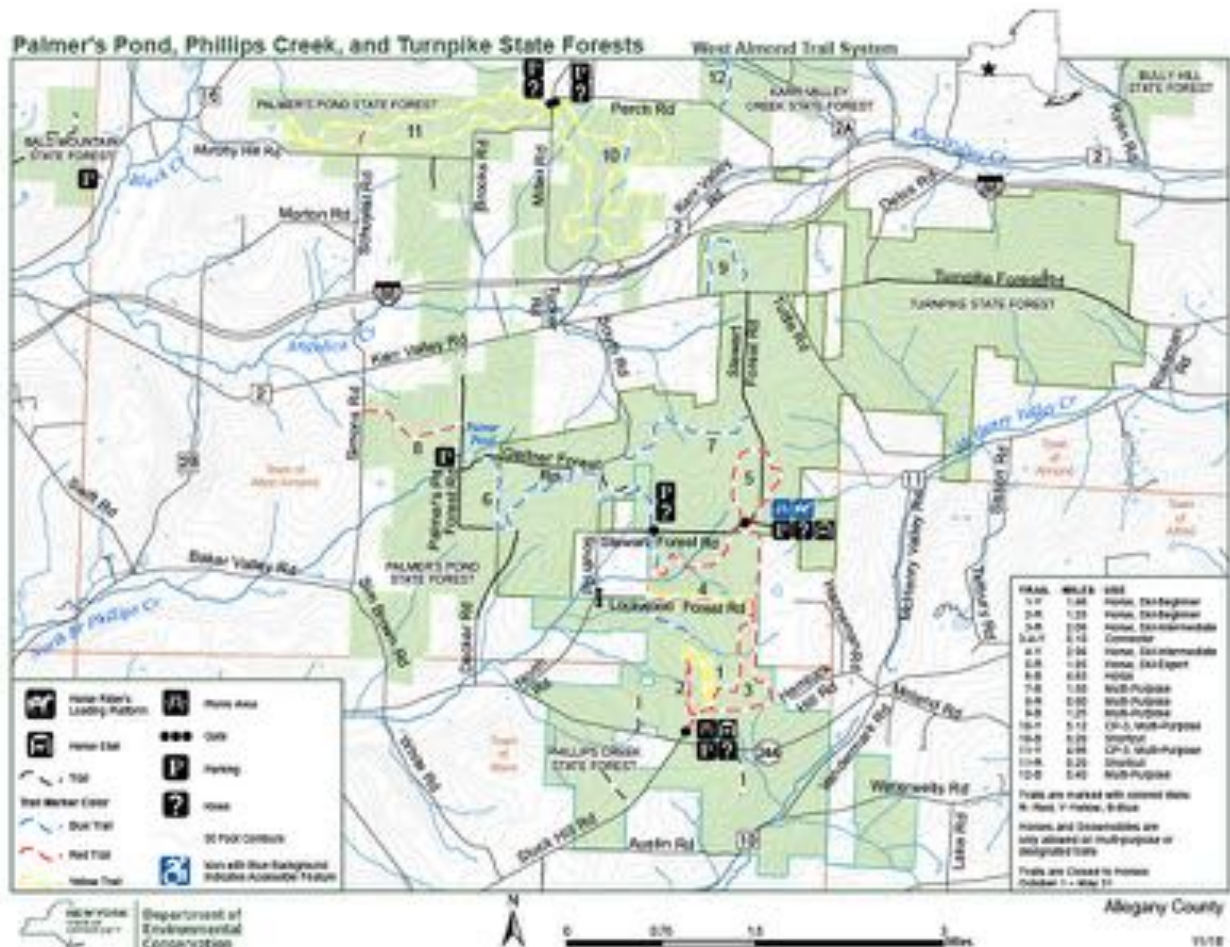
There is a Contractor working on trails 3 and 4, making drainage and tread improvements. That work is planned to be completed by mid-August. The camping area is still accessible, and riders can use trails 5, 6 and 7 to ride to Palmer's Pond.

I have included a map of the West Almond Trails, or you can check out the website for impactfriendsgroup.org for more information. Please remember if you plan to spend more than 3 nights camping, or have a group of 10 or more, you will need a permit from the Ranger at the DEC West Almond office. The trails are open to horses from June 1 through September 30.

For more information contact Pauline Burnes, President of the NYSHC who could also assist as a trail guide with prior notice. 2



Sue and Jim Knauer at Palmer's Pond



Youth Committee



NYSHC Youth Board Update

The NYSHC Youth Board initiative continues to move forward! We are currently finalizing the program details and, pending Board approval, hope to begin rolling out the Youth Board in early 2027.

This exciting initiative is designed to engage young equestrians, develop future leaders within the horse industry, and provide opportunities for youth to become more involved with the New York State Horse Council. We look forward to sharing additional details, including application information and program opportunities, in the coming months. Stay tuned!

Nomination Committee



Nominating Committee Update

The NYSHC Nominating Committee is currently finalizing the list of Board positions that will be available for the upcoming election. Once the positions have been confirmed, a separate mailing will be sent to the membership with information on the available openings, nomination process, and important deadlines.

We encourage members who are interested in helping shape the future of the New York State Horse Council to consider getting involved. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!



NEW YORK STATE
HORSE COUNCIL

Save the Date

NYSHC
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

OCTOBER 24TH

at

RHINEBECK EQUINE

26 Losee Ln
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Details to Follow





MEMBERSHIP REPORT

06/2026

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE TYPE

	Business	20
	Club	12
	Family	48
	Individual	183
	Life	50
	Youth	5

TOTAL... 320

You Make HISTORY HAPPEN!

Our members are the heart of NYSHC. Together, we preserve the past, educate the future, and celebrate the stories that bring us all together.

RENEW TODAY!

Help us continue our mission and grow even stronger.



Scan to Renew

It's quick, easy, and makes a big impact!

★ *Thank you for being part of the NYSHC family!*

Not a member yet? Join today and be part of a community that values history, education, and camaraderie.

VISIT NYSHC.ORG • JOIN • RENEW • GET INVOLVED



New York State Horse Council, Inc
2027 Membership Form
Memberships are for the calendar year Jan. 1-Dec. 31

Please Print Legibly

Please check one:

Name of Member # 1 _____ ☐ Renewal ☐ New Membership

Name of Member #2 (if Family membership) _____

Club/Business/Farm Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ County _____

Phone (____) _____ E-Mail _____

Website _____ Volunteer Availability/Interests _____

Please check the NYSHC Chapter you wish to join. A portion of your dues is transferred to that chapter for their activities.

___ General Membership (no chapter affiliation) ___ Putnam County ___ Westchester County
___ Cattaraugus/Chautauqua Counties ___ Sullivan County ___ Western NY
___ Orange County ___ Ulster County

Please check age of Primary Member for Vintage Equestrian Program records

___ Under 21 ___ 21-29 ___ 30-49 ___ 50-62 ___ 63+

Memberships with Insurance *Only the Individual and Family memberships include \$1,000,000 liability policy

* ___ Individual with Insurance \$66
* ___ Family membership with Insurance \$92 (2 adults & children up to age 18)
* ___ Life membership, first year \$556 includes insurance 1st yr. * ___ Subsequent years, insurance only \$31

Memberships without Insurance

___ Individual without insurance \$40
___ Family membership without insurance \$60
* ___ Youth – (thru age 20) without insurance \$15

*Parent's signature for youth membership _____

For the memberships below we are offering a web link or advertisement on our website.
Please check which you want. Insurance is not available with these.

___ Commercial/Business/Association/Club/Farm no insurance, includes web link or advertisement \$80

Business Category and website: _____

*All memberships include one vote at the General Meeting

*All memberships include one newsletter from NYSHC quarterly either in hardcopy or by e-mail.

Check newsletter delivery ___ E-MAIL ___ HARD COPY (snail mail)

Make check payable to: New York State Horse Council

NYSHC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered with the NYS Attorney General Charities Bureau

Mail this completed form and check to: NYSHC Membership/SB PO Box 236, Marlboro NY 12542