

Kentucky HORSE.ORG



A publication of the Kentucky Horse Council

August 2008

Horse Kid Goes to Washington, DC *Anna Zinkhon*

Horses - they are my addiction. I've had this problem since my youngest childhood memory. The oldest of the lot of six children in my family, we grew up on a small farm with a few beef cows, a few hogs for slaughter and some ponies. My dad worked outside of the farm and we kids had a lot of chores to do taking care of all of the critters. But to me, they were not chores; it was a great way to live! These animals were an extension of our family, even though I knew that most of them we would eat at some point. Except the ponies, they were my best friends!

So when Ginny (KHC Executive Director) asked me if I'd be interested in going to the American Horse Council Conference in Washington, DC, early this past spring, I about jumped out of my seat like a little kid! Me? "Let me check my schedule? Will my farm survive? The meeting is early June; that's hay time. What will the weather be like? Can I get most of those 4000 bales in the barn before I leave?...sure, count me in!"

It's June and time to leave for the airport at 4:00A.M., on Sunday morning. Luckily, I traveled via air the prior year, so I had some recent exposure to the new travel rules - only tiny bottles of shampoo and no nail clippers - you know how dangerous those things can be! And pack only the clothes you need because those heavy

bags will cost big bucks! At 2:15 P.M. I arrived at my hotel and learned that there is a State Committee meeting at 2:30 P.M., can I make that one? Sure. I'm a farm girl. I just have to drop those bags and run! It's the next task of the day. Honestly, it's not much different than a day on the farm with 40 horses; you go where you are needed.

The State Horse Council Committee, on this afternoon, had about 20 states represented. Wow - horse people from across our wonderful country. How cool!



All of those questions start coming to mind: "How do you guys do this? What about that? Where do you ride? How many miles of trails do you have? What breed of horse is your favorite?"

Hey blonde, come back to earth! You are here to represent your state and develop solutions at a state and federal level. Pay attention and learn how this works; Madelyn, President of the Kentucky Horse Council's Board, is the Vice Chair of this committee. The people sitting in the chairs around you are doctors, lawyers, business owners, and

accountants, to name a few of their professional trades. But more important, they too are volunteers who are addicted to horses and are here to make a difference and protect the environments we need in order to use the animals we love.

For the next two and half days, we met and discussed issues, learned what others have been successful at implementing, and what didn't work. The days started early and ended late. It was all very enlightening and sometimes sad. One of the key challenges that we all had in common was getting horse people to participate. The mountain bikers and the ATV people have no problem getting their people to volunteer, participate, and just sign-up as members of their groups! Some states don't even have a Horse Council!

Others are struggling to get much needed funds, so they can participate in activities such as this conference and to pay for communication materials for their members. In my simple mind, I'm wondering, "What's wrong with these people?" Why don't the horsemen care about laws that affect our industry? There are parks changing their rules and not allowing horses to ride their trails anymore, starving horses all over the country, and no support for drought stricken areas with no hay! And then it hits me: I was one of those people just a couple of years ago. It's not because I

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KHC NEWS

The Kentucky Horse Council Adds New Staff

Essie Rogers was recently named Director of Education and Welfare and will be working to further develop programs and policies regarding equine health and welfare. Additionally she will work to expand educational outreach efforts of the Horse Council. To contact Essie, email erogers@kentuckyhorse.org.

Dawn Estep joined KHC staff in July as the Staff Assistant. Dawn is managing membership and daily operations of the Horse Council office. Dawn is a graduate of William Woods University in Missouri. She is knowledgeable about horses, has great customer service skills, and is experienced with computers and database management. Email Dawn at admin@kentuckyhorse.org.

The Kentucky Horse Council is lucky to have the support of

Morgan Saracina this summer. Morgan is working at KHC as part of an internship from Otterbein College in Ohio. Morgan has been instrumental in supporting our efforts to distribute the KHC Directory, develop a database of Kentucky horse clubs, and maintain our website. Morgan will be returning to school on August 19th.

Annual Conference in November

The Kentucky Horse Council Annual Conference and Annual Member Meeting will be held in Lexington, KY in November. More information will be coming soon to www.kentuckyhorse.org.

The event includes: dinner, educational seminars, networking, awards banquet, and contests.

New this year is an "ugly riding shirt" contest. Competitors will be asked to submit a photograph of themselves wearing the shirt while riding. Brush off that old classic shirt and bring it with you to the 2008 Annual Conference!

Look for more information coming soon in your mailbox and at www.kentuckyhorse.org.

"Engaging Volunteers" Class

On July 15th the Kentucky Horse Council held a class titled "Engaging Volunteers by Tapping into their Strengths and Interests" as part of the Professional Horseman's Series. The class was well attended with individuals involved in trail organizations, equine rescue, education, and volunteers. Dr. Lori Garkovich from the University of Kentucky instructed the course and provided a take home asset inventory tool for the attendees to use in evaluating volunteers.

State Fair Booth

The Kentucky Horse Council, Kentucky Back Country Horseman, and other state equine organizations will have a booth at the Kentucky State Fair August 14 - 24, 2008. Stop by and see us - we're in the south wing!

Youth News

4-H Youth Scholarship Awarded

Sarah Myers of Campbell County was awarded the Kentucky Horse Council 4-H Youth Scholarship at the state 4-H Horse Show in July. She showed Miniature Horses in the 4-H Horse Program. Sarah will be using her scholarship towards her bachelors degree in nursing at Cedarville University. Sarah is already a certified Nurse Assistant, and looks forward to making a difference, one life at a time. Congratulations, Sarah, and keep up the good work!

Showmanship Class Winners at the State 4-H Horse Show this year were awarded prizes provided by the Kentucky Horse Council. The 1st place winners received leather halters for their

winning partner, and the 2nd place winners received books on horse care, so that they can continue to keep their horse in top notch health!

Youth Member Highlight



Elaine Brown won the State High Point Championship in the Senior Walking Division at the Kentucky State 4-H Horse show in Louisville with her horse Prides Magic Sunrise.

Elaine has been competing in the 4-H program for four years and is very excited to achieve this honor. Elaine purchased Magic from her riding instructor, Leigh Bennett, in 2005 and continues to take riding lessons every Monday.

Elaine will be a Senior this year at

Greenwood High School and plans to attend Western Kentucky University to pursue a career in Nursing with a minor in an equine related field. Elaine will be defending her title next year at the District 6 and State 4-H horse show. You can also see this duo competing regularly in the Kentucky Walking Horse Association shows.

Youth T-shirts are here!

KHC Youth Members receive a free KHC Youth T-Shirt.



Please contact Dawn with your T-shirt size.

If you are not a Youth Member and would like to purchase a shirt for \$10, please contact the Kentucky Horse Council at 859-367-0509 or email: admin@kentuckyhorse.org.

Note from the KHC President

I was just thinking it's hot, then realized that I seem to always open my "President's Comment" with a statement about the weather! But, I am a farmer and my life truly does revolve around the weather. Fortunately, the weather in Lexington has been good so we have been able to put aside some hay for the winter. As I was walking the last lap around the field at 9:30 last night and loading the last 125 bales on a wagon I did have an opportunity to reflect on the **John Henry Memorial Adoption Fair** and the success of the event. Many, many horses that will be without hay at some point will now benefit because of the hard work and generosity of many. Please be sure to read the brief article below and begin now making plans to be part of this event next year. How? Think about who you can ask to donate an auction item. Get the word out that the event is fun! Plan to attend.

Our trip to Washington, DC in June for the American Horse Council Issues Forum was busy, fun, and most important, educational. Board members Kristin Hix and Anna Zinkhon joined Ginny and me this year. Much work, important to the horse community, gets done in these very brief few days. As I listened to a presenter from the National Park Service, he began to wax poetic-but his words, I thought, were very thought provoking. Certainly he was talking about trails but the words that had such a profound impact on me were related to taking a child on a trail ride. Too many children today never have the opportunity to get on a horse's back and go for a ride through the woods. They do not get to experience nature and see first hand the impact of development or the effects of climate change. There is never pause to study cloud formations as a horse drinks deeply and wonder about climate change. Never an opportunity to question changes to a lake, pond or stream, long used as a stopping place to water horses. Never feel the profound joy of sitting in a saddle and having thinking time. What child will never be spurred to research climate change, protect our land, or even write reflectively of the freedom and joy in riding and experiencing nature? I hope that you will invite a youngster to join you on a trail ride. It could certainly impact a life.

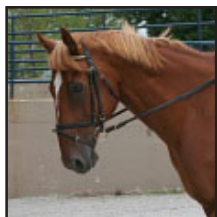
I know that I am getting long and will surely be edited by the staff, but I do want to bring up one more thing. In Washington, we listened as the Department of Agriculture presided over a symposium on the horse slaughter issue. It is an issue that continues to be debated. Slaughter is not an option in the United States, but we know that horses are being sent across our borders to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico. We, as an organization, are divided. There are those who can speak passionately about either side of the issue. The Board of Directors of the Kentucky Horse Council has never taken a position on the issue. We would like to hear from you, our membership. (Contact information on page 8) What are you thinking? The economy is very challenging right now. How many horses will be affected this year when owners simply do not have the resources to provide for them, yet there is no place for that horse to go. Is there a limit on how much money we, as an organization, can raise to assist these horses? Will it ever be enough?

Thank you for being part of the Kentucky Horse Council. We need you as we continue to develop programs for both horses and owners. Let us know what we can do for you.

*Madelyn Millard, President
Waterwild Farm*

First Annual John Henry Memorial Adoption Fair Attracts Hundreds

The Kentucky Horse Park held the first annual John Henry Memorial Adoption Fair on June 28th to benefit the Kentucky



Horse Council's SOHO (Save Our Horses) Fund. There were approximately 400 attendees and a

dozen horses present. In addition to the presentation of horses, several rescue organizations were in attendance, eagerly seeking adoptive homes for rescue horses. The event raised \$15,000 to support the SoHo fund. For more information about the Adoption Fair visit www.kentuckyhorse.org/john_henry.shtml. For more information about the SoHo fund

visit www.kentuckyhorse.org/SOHO_describe.shtml





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Jack Kelly, the Chief Executive Officer of the Games, will be stepping down at the end of July. Kelly has agreed to stay on in an advisory role as long as needed.

Rob Hinkle, Chief Operating Officer and Walter Herd, Chief Administrative Officer will report to John Long as the Board Chairman. Jack has agreed to help with the transition. The board has not yet determined when or if an executive search will take place for a permanent CEO, but will do so in the next few months.

For more information visit
www.feigames2010.org

New Continuous Learning Segment Announced

In an effort to better serve members and Kentucky horse owners, the Kentucky Horse Council is creating a new information resource. Each newsletter will feature a one page article designed to promote continuous learning for Horse Owners and potential owners alike.

The layout will enable readers to copy the information onto a standard size sheet of paper and add it to a binder or file for reference. The series will begin in this newsletter with a segment on adopting horses. Planned future articles include: new deworming strategies, stocking your emergency first aid kit (horse and human), breeding topics, and more. If there is a topic that you would like the Horse Council to further address please send your ideas to Essie at erogers@kentuckyhorse.org.

We've Been Around A Long Time

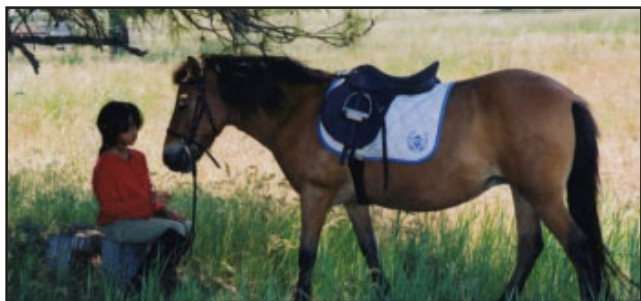
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Harrison County Farm to be featured in upcoming KET show



KET recently visited Kokovoko Breeding Farm in Harrison County to tape a segment on Kentucky's rare breed farms for their show "Kentucky Life." The farm is home to North America's largest breeding herd of **Swedish Gotland ponies**. Leslie Bebensee has been breeding the ponies there for nearly 20 years, and has been instrumental in increasing the North American population from seven in 1989 to nearly 200 today.

The show will likely air in November 2008.

Part of the interest in the ponies is due to a new, upcoming rare breed show (Festivale of Endangered Equines, Sept 5-7 at the KY Horse Park). The show is being presented by the Equus Survival Trust and will feature the Gotland and over a dozen other rare horse and pony breeds in riding, driving and jumping classes.

The Gotland Pony is a rare breed originally from the island of Gotland off the coast of Sweden. The Gotland stands about 50" at the shoulder, and is very hardy and long-lived. They are known for their wonderful disposition, gentle nature, intelligence and versatility.

For more information on the ponies, please visit www.gotlands.net or www.gotlandponies.org or contact Leslie Bebensee at 859-234-5707 or kokovoko@kih.net

For more information on the Equus Survival Trust and the show, visit www.equus-survival-trust.org/festivale.html

Horse Kid

Continued from Page 1...

didn't care. I didn't know. I was either in the barn, in the woods, or in the show ring. I was busy! I have lots of work to do. But I do have an hour or two a month to put towards the support needed to protect what I love. Just being a member and reading the information provided and passing it on to some other un-informed horseman is a big help!

And then the biggest thing I have ever done with a horse happened to me: (there was no horse present and no manure smell but it was ever so emotional) walking down the marble hall of the Rayburn Office Building on Capital Hill. I could not believe I was there and all because of my addiction to the most beautiful animal in the world – the horse! It was so indescribable – because it's like nothing I have ever felt before. It envelops you with pride as you look around at the size and amount of money it must have taken to build such a building! And the tons of people moving about and they aren't just strolling along. They are there working! Everyone is heading somewhere, doing something with tons of energy! And I'm part of it.

Fergus BY JEAN ABERNETHY



We had appointments with our state Representatives and our state Senators. How do I help you feel what I felt? It was so powerful! This is the greatest country on earth with so much wealth and power! I was in the heart of it, and I got there only because I love horses.

I have never been involved with politics before, I must be honest. I really didn't totally understand how a lot of governments work. Sure, they had us learn about it in school – all of that Social Studies stuff. But back then, it was so insignificant and boring. But when you get a taste of the real life government and you can relate it to your own personal needs, it's so easy to grasp and amazingly powerful. Our representatives and senators need to hear from us. They need to know what we need – otherwise they can only relate to what they need, and they make decisions that affect all of us with limited

information. It happens so often. Very few Americans participate in government. These powerful people (power WE have given them) need to hear our voices, so the right decisions can be made and implemented.

So if you are interested in taking trips like this and working on the inside, you can! But if you would like to help from home while conducting your normal day to day activities, become a member of your Horse Council, join any local groups that are advocating for your horse industry, and simply get connected with what's happening so your voice can be heard to support issues. Numbers speak volumes, and the size of a group speaking on your behalf makes it stronger!

Anna Zinkhon owns Misty Ridge Farm in Campbell County, coaches a 4-H endurance riding team, and is President of the Northern Kentucky Horse Network (NKHN).

Welcome New KHC Members

Association

Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen, Harrodsburg, KY

Hooves of Hope Equestrian Center, Inc., Lancaster, KY

Kentucky Large Animal Emergency Response (KLAER), Versailles, KY

Ohio County Equestrian, Inc., Beaver Dam, KY

Farm

Father Maloney's Boys Haven, Inc., Louisville, KY

Mint Creek Farm, Cynthiana, KY

4-H

Casey County Spirit Riders, Liberty, KY

Visit page 8 for membership application and information.

Business

Horse Lick Creek Equestrian Retreat, McKee, KY

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Lexington, KY

The Pond Lady, Lexington, KY

For privacy reasons we do not list the names of our individual members.



Kentucky Large Animal Emergency Response Team

Kentucky Large Animal Emergency Response Team (KLAER), a 501C non-profit organization providing volunteer emergency response to horses and other large animals involved in emergency situations, is now in full service. On call 24 hours a day, seven days per week, KLAER responds to any type of emergency that involves large animals, focusing on equines, at no cost to the victim's owner. Typical emergency inci-

TIP: To protect your animals from the avoidable trauma of falling in a well or sinkhole KLAER recommends fencing animals out of old wells, sinkholes, and other areas where they may become trapped.

idents include horses falling in sink holes or wells, getting stuck in the mud, trailer accidents, and downed horses on sides of cliffs or in ravines. In many of these situations, owners and other lay people place themselves in harms way to attempt a rescue. KLAER's mission involves helping save lives of both humans and large animals.

Recently, KLAER responded to two eerily similar rescue situations. In one case they removed a filly from a well. She was in the well for several hours before KLAER was contacted. In a separate incident KLAER also removed a cow from a well. Both animals were successfully extricated and survived the incidents.

In the event that you have an equine or large animal rescue emergency, call 911 and emergency operators will connect you with the trained professionals at KLAER.

For more information on KLAER and the services it provides in helping horses and other animals, please visit the website at: www.kyanimalresponse.org or contact LaTonna Wilson: latonnaw@yahoo.com (859) 983-2820.



Filly trapped in the well



KLAER responders descending into the well



Recovering after the rescue

EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS MAKES A COMEBACK Source: The Orlando Sentinel

More than 50 horses have died in Florida this year from the worst outbreak in recent summers of an infection caught from mosquito bites. No people have gotten the illness, but the state confirmed 56 cases of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in horses as of early July 2008. There were 18 cases in horses during all of 2007, and 17 in 2006.

"This infection is almost always fatal," said Dr. Michael Short, a veterinarian and equine program manager with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. "These horses get very sick, very fast. It's horrible to see."

The condition is caused by the Eastern equine encephalitis virus, which can be carried by mosquitoes and passed to people or animals through bites. EEE always

exists at some level in Florida's abundant insect population, but it tends to peak in July and August.

At its worst, the virus can lead to a brain infection called encephalitis. Florida hasn't had a human case of Eastern equine encephalitis since 2005, and it's been pretty infrequent for horses, too. In a bad year, more than 200 horses have gotten sick. But the animals have an advantage over people: They can be vaccinated.

In normal circumstances, horses should be immunized for EEE every 6 months, said Dr. Erin Denney-Jones, a Lake County veterinarian. But during an outbreak such as Florida is experiencing, vets recommend a shot every 4 months.

The vaccine doesn't give com-

plete protection — some horses still get sick. But it cuts the chances significantly. Short said the "vast majority" of this year's cases have occurred in animals that were not up-to-date on their immunizations.

The economy may be contributing to the outbreak. EEE vaccines are relatively inexpensive, running about \$7 a shot if ordered directly from a supplier, Short said. But it's illegal in Florida for anyone other than a veterinarian to give the shots, and people may not have the cash to pay for a veterinarian visit.

"We send out reminders when it's time for vaccinations," Denney-Jones said, "and we're definitely not getting as many people responding" this year.

EQUINE ABUSE INVESTIGATION TRAINING

When: October 1st - 3rd
Where: Morehead State University
Who: This class is designed for Animal Control Officers, Sheriffs, and other local and state officials who may be involved in Equine Abuse cases in Kentucky.
Details: This class provides information & training on procedures for handling reported horse abuse or neglect.
Contact: Essie Rogers at (859) 367-0509 or erogers@kentuckyhorse.org

Open House!

Brumfield's Hay & Grain is having an Open House on October 4th, from 8am to 6pm, to celebrate their new location. Contact Mildred Stakelin 859-255-0788 for more information.



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RETAIL Cont...

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RETAIL

SERVICES

SERVICES Cont...

The Kentucky Horse Council has **Equine Liability Signs** for Sale. Made of heavy duty outdoor plastic, with KRS247.4027 Official Wording. \$7.50 for Members. \$10.00 for Non-Members. Postage is \$2.50. Contact KHC to purchase a sign.

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www.DragonflyFarmsHoofcare.com or
 call 270.526.7497 for more information.



Every horse has an owner. Every owner has a responsibility.

Kentucky Equine Humane Center's Horse of the Week!



Lucy is extremely sweet! This bay, Quarter Horse mare was previously used for trail riding but has arthritis so she cannot be ridden. Lucy is 14.3hh & 10 yrs. old. She loves attention & loves to be groomed. Lucy would make the perfect companion pet.

Find out more at: www.KyEHC.org or 859-881-5849.



KHC Member Benefits



Kentucky Horse Council members are eligible for **\$1M Personal Liability Equine Policy** through Equisure, Inc. and they receive the NTRA Advantage discount from a variety of vendors including: John Deere, UPS, Office Depot, Sherwin Williams, Budget, Moxie Equestrian, and more.

For more information about the NTRA Advantage visit www.ntra.com. To become a member of the Kentucky Horse Council, complete and return the form below or visit www.kentuckyhorse.org to join online or to print the membership form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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2008 Membership Rates:

- ___ **Farm** \$25.00 [Includes free BOLD listing in the Annual Directory]
- ___ **Association** \$50.00 (Please complete separate association application)
- ___ **Business** \$150.00 [Includes your name on the KHC website & link to your website]
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- ___ Youth \$10.00 [No Insurance Coverage, age 17 and under] **NEW**
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Contact the Kentucky Horse Council:

www.kentuckyhorse.org 859-367-0509 / 866-634-0030 info@kentuckyhorse.org