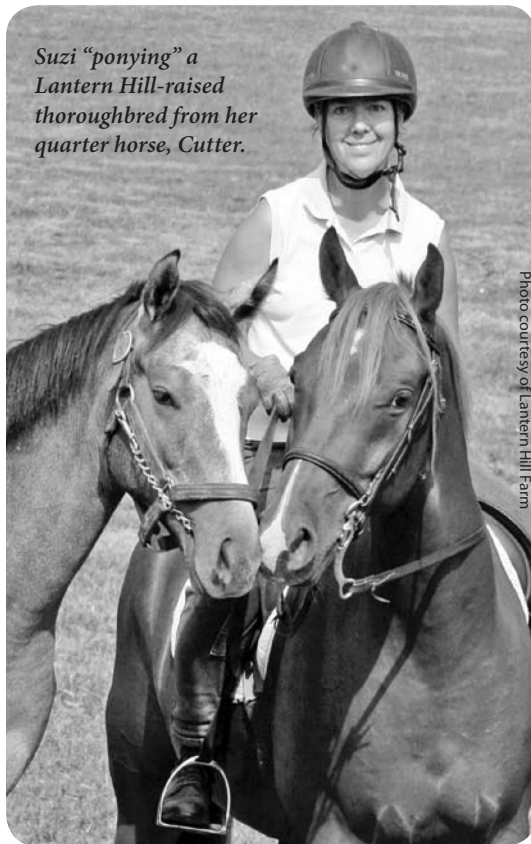


# THE SPRING 2011 RESOURCE

ELCR advances the conservation of land for horse-related activity.

## Compatible Concepts at Lantern Hill Farm: A Conservation Ethic & Financial Return



*Suzi "ponying" a  
Lantern Hill-raised  
thoroughbred from her  
quarter horse, Cutter.*

Photo courtesy of Lantern Hill Farm

Suzi Shoemaker found the nexus between a conservation ethic and fiscal good sense by placing a conservation easement on her Lantern Hill Farm with the Bluegrass Conservancy, a not-for-profit, regional land trust in Lexington, Kentucky.

Like many of her fellow graduates, Suzi Shoemaker left Cornell University's Ithaca, NY campus with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and endless enthusiasm. A youth horse show competitor, Suzi arrived in Lexington, Kentucky with a dream to live and work with her beloved horses close at hand. After the typical post-college career exploration, she settled in on a career as a thoroughbred farm owner and breeder.

Before long, having had good success in her chosen field, Suzi was

*(Continued on next page)*

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able to realize a dream and purchase a premier property, Lantern Hill Farm. The 185-acre farm has the best Maury-McAfee silt loam soils, six barns, and Cooper House, a late Victorian home listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ground on which she lives has a long history of productive farming and has produced champion thoroughbred horses including two Eclipse Award winners.

Working with the local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, Suzi developed a composting program for Lantern Hill. In 2006, rather than tearing down a 100-year old tobacco barn, Shoemaker's research led her to move the barn instead, a fiscally savvy decision which preserved the barn itself and maintained the look and character of the farm.

### ***“...donating an easement on the farm made good fiscal sense...”***

With a conservation ethic as an established part of her make-up, Suzi had long been interested in protecting her beloved Lantern Hill from development. She was aware that the farm's location between Lexington and Midway and its close proximity to a major highway access point made it particularly vulnerable to development.

A number of factors came together in late 2009 to make her thought a reality. A letter arrived at her home from the Bluegrass Conservancy encouraging the donation of easements and citing the expanded tax benefits. At that time, it was not clear whether the expanded tax benefits would remain in place since the federal legislation enabling the deductions were set to expire at the end of the calendar year. This notice, coupled with a conversation with a friend



*Cooper House, a late Victorian home listed on the National Register of Historic Places*

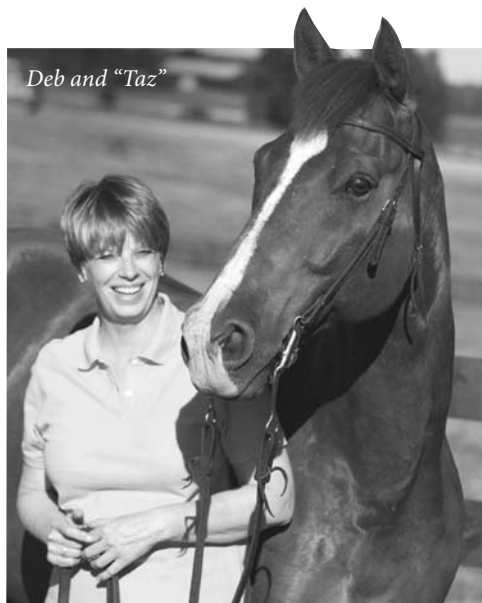
who had recently donated a conservation easement, gave Suzi the motivation needed to explore the process further.

The first question she needed answered was, “What is the development value of my land?” Once she understood the development value, the agricultural value, and the difference, she was able to see that donating an easement on the farm made good fiscal sense. Her forward momentum was enhanced when she found a sympathetic lender who would support the conservation effort and assist her in consolidating debt in the process. Shoemaker cited the professionalism and experience of the staff at the Bluegrass Conservancy and the conservation ethic that is prevalent in her community, Woodford County, as additional factors that helped her succeed in donating this easement.

Suzi was able to complete the conservation easement by year end 2009, realize tax benefits, and achieve her long term dream of preserving the farm. Today, Shoemaker is confident in the knowledge that her efforts will ensure Lantern Hills's acreage will be available for horses, livestock, or agriculture and allow future residents to earn a living from the farm's historically productive soils. ■

## **The Time is NOW to Place A Conservation Easement: Learn Why**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The federal government offers a tax deduction for protecting the conservation values of the land when the land owner agrees not to develop the property.</li><li>■ Congress renewed an enhanced tax incentive for conservation easements.</li><li>■ The renewed incentive will be in effect through December 31, 2011 and retroactive to January 1, 2010.</li><li>■ The enhanced incentives help modest income landowners deduct the full value of their contribution.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The enhanced incentive applies to a landowner's federal income tax and:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;</li><li>· Allows farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and</li><li>· Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 to 16 years.</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ ELCR encourages horsemen to include equine-friendly language in their easement document. Sample language can be found in The Guide to Equestrian Friendly Conservation Easements which is available at:<br/><a href="http://www.elcr.org/index_pubs_cart.php">http://www.elcr.org/index_pubs_cart.php</a></li></ul> <p><b>Contact ELCR or your local land trust to discuss whether or not a conservation easement makes sense for you and your farm.</b></p> |
|--|--|--|



Deb and "Taz"

## From the Saddle

*A letter from ELCR's CEO, Deb Balliet*

According to the United States Census Bureau, by the year 2050 the population is expected to increase by 100,000,000 people. The pattern of development to support such dramatic growth will be to build in rural areas currently surrounding metropolitan areas. Logic tells us the majority of the horses in the country will be housed in those areas. This is not the image we grew up with nor what typically

comes to our mind's eye, but this is the new reality.

Many of the feeder stables that provided advancing beginner riders involved in horse showing will be swallowed up by development. Places to event, steeplechase and foxhunt – horse sports which need larger amounts of land – will be fewer and further between. Access to locally grown hay will diminish. Costs for horse keeping including boarding, hay and grain will increase. Fewer children and their parents will have exposure to horses. The urban and suburban adult population will be less familiar with horses and have more fear about this large animal due to lack of experience. They may also not be able to sort out myth from fact with regard to living with livestock and safe manure management.

What are the implications of this new reality? Maintaining places for equestrian activity will require participation in community land use planning and zoning to ensure the continuation of equestrian activities and hay/grain operations. Horse farms will need to be current with their manure and pasture management plans to ensure that riparian areas remain pollution-free and in compliance with the ever increasing amount of federal, state and local water quality regulations. The bottom line is that horsemen will have to be savvier about land use planning and farmland conservation in order to protect the land needed for our hobby, sport and passion.

Your community and the Equine Land Conservation Resource need your help to ensure a bright future for the next generation of horsemen. Learn more at [www.ELCR.org](http://www.ELCR.org). ■

*Thanks to our corporate friends:*



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American Cowboy, Arabian Horse World, Discover Horses, Dressage Today, EquiManagement, Equine.com, EquiSearch.com, EquiShopper, EQUUS, HorseBooksEtc.com, Horse Journal, HorseLinkMagazine.com, Horse & Rider, MyHorse.com, Practical Horseman, Spin to Win Rodeo, and The Trail Rider

## Angel, Icon & Visionary: Becky Broussard passes

ELCR mourns the loss of Becky Broussard of Whitefish, MT. She passed away on December 24, 2010. "Icon" and "visionary" – we understand from first-hand experience why these words have been chosen to describe Becky. We knew her as someone committed to equine land conservation and one who did so by actively engaging in our mission. Becky was a member of ELCR's founding National Council and maintained her connection over the years as a significant funder of the organization. Becky would visit with ELCR's leadership from time to time, and she did so with her usual low-key style. Becky Broussard was truly an ELCR angel and we will miss her greatly. ■



*Becky Broussard, founder of the Event at Rebecca Farm (MT) and a visionary in the eventing world*



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## Conservation Partners Spotlight: Nevada All-State Trail Riders

By Connie Creech, Treasurer, NASTR and Deb Balliet, ELCR

The Nevada All-State Trail Riders (NASTR) was formed in 1968, by equestrians interested in endurance riding and inspired by the Western States 100 Mile in One Day Ride, the "Tevis Cup" ride. The purpose of the new organization was to "preserve historical trails in Nevada, by sponsoring and promoting horseback riding on these trails."



Photo courtesy of NASTR

NASTR buckle.

NASTR organized their first endurance ride in 1968, the Nevada All-State 100, now known as the Virginia City 100 Mile in One Day Ride. The historical significance of Virginia City and other historical trails in the surrounding area was attractive to endurance riders. Additionally, the

challenging terrain tested the rider's mettle and horse's ability. To help support the 100 mile ride, NASTR added the Derby Ditch 50 mile ride in 1972, and the NASTR 25/50/75 in 1985. This series of endurance rides continues today and is known as the NASTR Triple Crown.

As the years went by, NASTR became more proactive in trail issues due to significant growth in the Reno - Carson City area. Access to public land and trails were being eliminated by development. Management of endurance rides was becoming increasingly difficult due to trail closures, private property access and liability issues. It became obvious that a unified voice and effort was needed to continue horseback riding on the public/private lands and trails. NASTR began partnering with governmental agencies on Recreational Trail Program projects, attending meetings, writing letters, giving input in land management decisions and helping to maintain trails. They formed a partnership with the US Forest Service to perform annual trail maintenance on a wilderness trail, assuring equestrian access.



Photo courtesy of NASTR

NASTR members building a sustainable contour trail

NASTR created a trail fund which is used specifically for trail preservation. The club purchased and built a mile of the Tahoe Rim Trail. NASTR also purchased a mile of the Western States Trail that once linked the Nevada and California State Capitals. The trail fund also supports local and national organizations that share equestrian trail preservation values such as the Equine Land Conservation

(Continued on next page)

"Please join me in working with the **Equine Land Conservation Resource** to 'rein in' the loss of land for horses—the farms, hay fields and competition venues."

—Lyle Lovett



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© David R. Stocklein

Resource, American Endurance Ride Conference and Back Country Horseman of America.

NASTR has found the ELCR Library of Resources web page to be of assistance on its current trailhead development project. The project goal is to preserve equestrian access to a historical trail on state park and forest lands. This long term project started when tensions developed between equestrians and local home owners at the access area that lacked adequate

trailer parking. NASTR succeeded in forming a working group with the land owners. The working group was able to reach consensus to have limited parking and a turnaround built on City property. Subsequently, they have developed a trailhead plan for horse trailers and non-motorized trail users. The City Parks and Recreation Commission has approved the plan and two additional City approvals are needed to complete the project. NASTR is optimistic about their chance for success.

NASTR members have benefited from their trail preservation efforts. This activity has allowed our members to continue riding with their equine partner while also appreciating the natural resources, historical places, and camaraderie with others. Working relations with governmental agencies have improved significantly. Furthermore, all members of the community have benefited with a better quality of life through the enjoyment of open space and scenic beauty. ■

## 2011 Conservation Partners Conference Call Calendar

### SPRING TRAIL SERIES

Call #2  
March 10, 2011

**Presenter:** Sheltowee Trace Association,  
Steve Barbour, Executive Director

**Topic:** Multi-use trail issues

Call #3  
April 7, 2011

**Presenter:** Back Country Horsemen of America,  
Dennis Dailey, Senior Director for Wilderness,  
Recreation & Trails

**Topic:** BCHA and USFS Trail Classification System

### FALL FARMLAND PROTECTION SERIES

Call #4  
September 8, 2011

**Presenter:** Laurel A. Florio, J.D., land use attorney,  
conservation easement expert, & consultant/trainer

**Topic:** Donated Conservation Easements for  
Horsemen 101

Call #5  
October 13, 2011

**Panel:** Lorraine Garkovich, Ph.D, University of  
Kentucky Professor & Agriculture Extension Agent,  
Jamie O'Neill, Planner Saratoga County, NY;  
Billy Van Pelt, Division of Purchase of Development  
Rights, Lexington-Fayette County, KY;

**Topic:** Purchase of Development Rights Program,  
How They are Formed, How They Work & Benefits to  
Land Owners

## Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference



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# ELCR Introduces New Volunteer Leaders



*Laurel Florio  
and Puck*

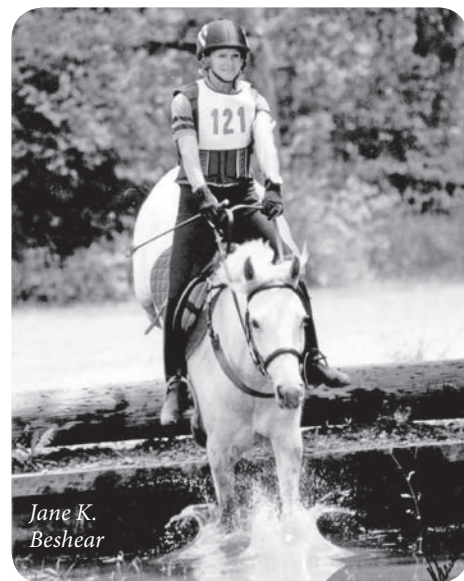
**LAUREL A. FLORIO, J.D.** of Alpharetta, GA is an attorney and consultant to conservation organizations and government agencies. Her work is focused on land transactions, and conservation easements. Laurel is a highly sought after speaker in the land conservation community, and a member of the Land Trust Alliance's Land Conservation Leadership Program Faculty.

Laurel's current equestrian activities

cies, and is a current board member of the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy and the Wildlife Foundation of Florida.

Ken will contribute greatly to ELCR's ability to serve as the horseman's resource on recreational use issues at the state level. He has firsthand understanding of the myriad of issues surrounding equestrian access on public and private lands.

**SUSAN M. HARDING** of Bethesda, MD, is a recreational rider and a publishing consultant for Active Interest Media's Equine Network. AIM Equine Network produces seven monthly magazines-EQUUS, Horse & Rider, Practical Horseman, Dressage Today, Trail Rider, Spin to Win Rodeo, and Arabian Horse World; three special publications-Discover Horses at the Kentucky Horse Park, EquiShopper and Arabian Horse World Special; a book division and three industry websites.



*Jane K.  
Beshear*

**MRS. JANE K. BESHEAR** of Lexington, KY has joined the ELCR Advisory Council. Mrs. Beshear is a life-long equine enthusiast, farm owner and competitor. She has served on the board of directors for numerous equine organizations including Equestrian Events, which organizes the Rolex Kentucky 3-Day Event, and the Kentucky Horse

***ELCR is pleased to welcome and introduce our new board members Laurel Florio, J.D., Ken Haddad, Susan Harding, and new Advisory Council member Mrs. Jane K. Beshear in this issue of The Resource.***

include Dressage training and competing in the Southeast. She is an active member of the US Dressage Federation, the US Equestrian Federation and the GA Dressage and Combined Training Association.

**KEN HADDAD** of northern Florida, an avid fox hunter and trail rider, is the recently retired Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC). In that role, he was responsible for the management of over 5 million acres of public and private lands. Ken helped guide the purchase of \$300 million worth of public lands annually. He also served as member of the state lands Acquisition and Restoration Council, president of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agen-

Susan currently serves on the boards of Horse and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) and the US Hunter Jumper Association. Susan has previously served as President of American Horse Publications and on the Board of Trustees of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA).



*Board  
member  
Susan  
Harding*

Park Foundation. She was a member of the World Equestrian Games Foundation Board, which successfully hosted the first ever 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games at the Kentucky Horse Park, an event that attracted over half-a-million attendees from around the globe.

Mrs. Beshear actively promotes Kentucky's Adventure Tourism economic development initiative, which seeks to expand outdoor adventure activities and recreational trails for equestrians, hikers, bikers and motorized users throughout the Commonwealth. Mrs. Beshear's experience has given her an invaluable understanding of the importance of land conservation advocacy, by horse people and outdoor enthusiasts alike. ■



# Robert Clay Awarded Anson W. Taylor, Jr. Award for Leadership in Equine Land Conservation

**R**obert N. Clay, owner of Three Chimneys Farm in the heart of Kentucky's thoroughbred industry, takes land conservation seriously. Not only is Mr. Clay a founder of Bluegrass Tomorrow and the Bluegrass Conservancy, two groups dedicated to conserving land in central Kentucky, but he is also personally involved. By placing portions of his Three Chimneys Farm under easement, that dedication is obvious to anyone who knows him.

Clay's Three Chimneys Farm began in the early 1970's with 100 acres of land and a dream. Today, it is home to Kentucky Derby winners Smarty Jones and Big Brown, and leading sires Dynaformer, Sky Mesa, and Exchange Rate. The farm is spread across 2,300 acres and operates as a full service thoroughbred farm, with several broodmare divisions, a yearling and sales prep division, a fully functioning vet lab, and more. The farm also has a bloodstock and sales office that handles both private sales transactions on behalf of clients and consigns at the major thoroughbred auctions around the U.S. and Europe.

Three Chimneys also stands as an excellent example of sustainability and best management practices for the equine industry by creatively dealing with muck management, recycling projects, stream restoration and the establishment of a



L-R: ELCR Vice President Dan Rosenberg, Robert Clay, ELCR's Deb Balliet

tree nursery. With his commitment to ensuring the future of the horse industry by conserving the land on which it thrives, Mr. Clay was an obvious choice for this year's award.

## *Ensuring the future of the horse industry by conserving land*

The goal of the Anson W. Taylor, Jr. Award for Leadership in Equine Land Conservation is to recognize leaders who actively engage in land preservation and access for horses and/or set an inspirational example for others to do the same. Rather than present the Anson W. Taylor Jr. Award for Leadership in Equine Land Conservation annually, ELCR has chosen to only present the award when a truly inspirational example, like Robert Clay, arises.

Former award recipients include New Englander Denny Emerson (1999) an eventer and columnist for Chronicle of the Horse who advocated for equine land conservation; Ann Lang of California (2002), a trail rider and tireless proponent of equine trail access; Kentucky-based U.S. Pony Clubs (2007), the youth organization responsible for the founding of ELCR; and Eve Prime Fout (2008), a Virginia foxhunter and strident land conservation advocate, awarded posthumously.

The award was presented to Mr. Clay at the Bluegrass Tomorrow Vision Awards ceremony in October 2010. At press time, the Kentucky legislature was considering a resolution recognizing Mr. Clay for receipt of this national award and his good works in the sustainable development of the Bluegrass Region. ■

"Our competition sites and trails are **disappearing**. Join me and the **Equine Land Conservation Resource** in the fight to **conserve land** for equine activities."

—Karen O'Connor,  
Olympian



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Lisa Barry Photography (www.lisabarry.com)



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