

THE WINTER 2010 RESOURCE

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

Support Your Trail System by Developing a Trail Organization: A Case Study

By Dot Moyer

In 2001, my quest was to find horse paradise. I moved myself and my horses south, to an equestrian area, tempted with miles of trails advertised by realtors. What the realtors failed to mention was that there used to be many more miles of trails, and these unprotected trails were disappearing rapidly.

My first step was to volunteer with a trail organization that had made progress in slowing the loss. Subsequently, our trail mileage has increased, our trails are more connected, our number of landowners has doubled, and permanent trail protection has been established on important "hub" trails.

Given the dismal national trends, the question often asked is, "How did you do that?"

There are many ways to build a successful trail system and organization, but this is how we did it:

Recruit Strong Leaders. It takes committed, talented, positive people to make a trail system work. Your board needs lawyers, financial experts, insurance professionals, realtors, landowners, business people, donors,

(Continued on next page)



IN THIS ISSUE:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Support Your Trail System | 5 Muck: The Kentucky Horse Park's New Cash Equivalent |
| 3 From the Saddle | 6 Laurel Florio Joins ELCR Advisory Council |
| 3 Lowcountry Organizations | 7 Breyer Renews Support for Grant |
| Share Conservation Award | 7 Carol Hienzsch Joins ELCR |
| 4 Conservation Partners Spotlight: Equitrekking | 8 ELCR Donation Form |

Where will you
ride
drive
race
compete
raise foals
grow hay?



EQUINE
LAND
CONSERVATION
RESOURCE

4037 Iron Works Parkway
Suite 120
Lexington, KY 40511
859-455-8383
Fax 859-455-8381
info@elcr.org
www.elcr.org

Newsletter design by www.ariongroup.net

writers, etc. Choose people who share the vision, can work together as a team and disagree without being disagreeable.

Decide Your Vision. Every organization has to have a vision of what it wants to be before it can “sell itself.” Find that vision first, and stick with it.

Make Your Landowners Happy. It is ALL about landowners. It is their land, and NOTHING happens without their cooperation.

Landowners generally have three main concerns you must address:

How will their land and the people and animals on it be impacted by riding? Landowners have legitimate concerns about their property. The best way to address those concerns is to establish reasonable, understandable usage rules and enforce them fairly, uniformly and consistently.

“Why would I want to allow these people on my land?” Some arguments to support the trail system which have been convincing include:

- Preserve tradition and provide a community asset.
- Economic impact.
- Impact on other users/institutions.
- Quality of life and future land use.

What is their legal liability? In an era of rampant litigation, and enormous damage awards, legal liability is the single biggest obstacle to creating and maintaining a trail system. Because laws vary by state, you must get your own attorney.



North Carolina horse trail.



Bridge built for horse traffic over stream.

We use a combination of prevention, legal savvy and insurance to limit our landowners' liability:

Prevention. If you reduce the likelihood of accidents, you reduce liability, so good risk management is critical. Usage rules and trail maintenance can reduce risk dramatically.

Legal Savvy. Acquiring the assistance of a qualified lawyer is essential. Below are some good measures to be taken to protect yourself, but they are not a substitute for legal counsel.

We reduce the duty of care to the rider:

- Riders only have landowner's permission if they abide by the Rules Agreement. Breaking the rules “downgrades” their status from authorized user to trespasser.

Trespassers are owed little duty of care.

- Members are not permitted to request “special permission.”

Granting special permission can eliminate the landowner's protection by “upgrading” the rider's status from a general member to a personal invited guest.

We fulfill the duty of care:

- Riders are required to sign and return a Rules Agreement which establishes reasonable rules for their safety.
- Trail conditions are monitored and problems corrected.
- Expected users receive communication about rules and conditions.
- Members are educated about risks.

Insurance. Good liability coverage in adequate amounts is expensive and difficult to find. If individual coverage for landowners is unattainable, there are other things that can be done. First, see what that lawyer or insurance person on your board can do. At the very least, consider club insurance to pay your landowner's legal defense fees and get directors and officers' insurance (if you incorporate) to protect Board members.

The final word is that building a trail system and organization takes a team of committed individuals who are passionate about their work and driven in their commitment to a successful venture. You, too, can be successful at it. ■

For greater detail, please read the long version of this article at <http://www.elcr.org/resources/Howtobuildatrailssystem.pdf>.

This article and the information in it is intended for the sole express purpose of providing educational information to landowners and equestrians regarding issues and solutions related to sustaining horse trail systems and organizations. ELCR is not engaged in rendering legal, tax, accounting or other professional service. Consult a professional to assist with your particular situation.

From the Saddle

A letter from ELCR's CEO, Deb Balliet

Thanks to you, 2009 was a very good year for horse land and trail protection. The "UP" year can be attributed to a number of circumstances including the fact that we had the good fortune of ending 2008 with great momentum. Contributing factors include the:

- Growing recognition amongst horsemen of the threat to our hobby, sport and industry
- Increased awareness of resources and tools available to combat loss of land and trails
- Stronger support from the equine industry media, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers
- Generosity and caring spirit of horsemen who have contributed of their time, talent and financial resources



Deb and "Taz"

One of the great successes, and a fact that fills me with great optimism, is the growth of our Conservation Partners program. Membership increased by 40% and is up to 132 organizations; expanding our reach to 1.1 million horsemen nationwide. Recent additions to our membership list include Calumet Farm, Alabama Horse Council, Vermont Trail Trotters and the US Hunter Jumper Association.

This coalescing around a single issue affecting our lives with horses is a significant and powerful force. Unity amongst horsemen, regardless of breed and discipline interests is essential for success. I would be remiss if I did not make mention of our name change from Equestrian to Equine Land Conservation Resource. Philosophically, our position has not changed, but it had become apparent that some horsemen, in particular, those who do not ride their horses (race horse owners, drivers and owners of mini's and pasture pals) did not perceive themselves as being "under the tent." At ELCR, we are concerned with protecting land for all domestic equids and the places in which the hay and grain to sustain them is grown. We also changed the name of our Partners program, from Equestrian Partners to Conservation Partners as we saw the diversity of membership grow beyond equine and equestrian associations to land conservancies, corporations, consultants and media outlets.

The momentum continues in 2010. We look forward to working with you in your community to advance the conservation of land for horse-related activity. ■

Lowcountry Open Land Trust and Lowcountry Hunt Share Conservation Award

The Lowcountry Open Land Trust and Lowcountry Hunt were presented the 2009 Hunting Habitat Conservation Award at the Annual Meeting of the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America. Accepting the award were Margaret P. Blackmer, President of the Board of Trustees for the Lowcountry Open Land Trust, and Nina Burke, Joint Master of Foxhounds of Lowcountry Hunt.

The Hunting Habitat Conservation Award recognizes those foxhunting clubs, organizations and individuals that have made significant and enduring contributions towards the preservation of rural countryside. The award is sponsored by the Masters of Foxhounds Association and The Chronicle of the Horse magazine.

The Lowcountry Open Land Trust is a nonprofit organization which uses voluntary and incentive based means to protect the Lowcountry landscape for South Carolinians. Margaret Blackmer stated "We believe that the private, voluntary protection of significant forests and farmlands, wildlife habitats, waterways and open space helps preserve the unique sense of place and quality of life that distinguishes the South Carolina Lowcountry."

The Lowcountry Hunt's mission includes the encouragement of "an appreciation for rural heritage and native lands, and to promote conservation of the hunt country." ■



Pictured L to R: J.W.Y. Martin, Jr., Mrs. Nina Sledge Burke, Margaret P. Blackmer, Dr. Jack Van Nagel, and Dr. Marvin Beeman



Conservation Partners Spotlight: Equitrekking

By Darley Newman

As the sun set over Napa and Sonoma Valleys in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, my horse Romer seemed to know we were seeing something special. Shades of pink, red, and even blue painted the grassy hills that rolled towards San Francisco Bay. As I often do, I thought about those before me who may have journeyed to the top of Vista Point. Native Americans, frontiersmen and travelers like me may have taken in this same scene, but being on horseback, riding with a local

I receive lots emails from viewers with suggestions of where to film, and there are so many superb equestrian destinations that we're never at a loss.

On Equitrekking, we ride in far-flung destinations that not everyone will reach, like my recent desert trek with the Bedouin in Jordan. We also ride in national and state parks and interesting areas across the United States, which viewers can experience themselves, riding their own horse or a mount owned by a local outfitter. Many

I hope that Equitrekking, with all of the amazing horses and rides that we showcase, inspires others to do the same and that we bring to the forefront the need to keep these lands accessible to horses. However, you don't need a TV show to help raise consciousness so the next generation of horse lovers knows that horse riding is an accessible sport and something they can enjoy on their land. You just have to get out and ride and get involved. ■

Visit www.equitrekking.com for more information.

we bring to the forefront the need to keep these lands accessible to horses

who knew the area and loved it with all her heart, made my experience special. It was once in my lifetime perhaps, but I hoped that many others might be able to experience the same joys.

As the host and producer of the PBS TV series Equitrekking and founder of EquitrekkingTravel.com, I travel the world riding with locals. Equitrekking has recently been honored with a Day-time Emmy and expanded to networks in Japan, France, Italy and Russia.

of these areas are right in your own backyard. Depending on your location, Bryce Canyon's stunning hoodoos, Kentucky's historic Shaker Village and Vermont's Green Mountains are within reach for people with smaller budgets and varying experience levels. Making friends with people who have horses isn't such a bad idea either. If many of us are actively riding and participating with our local trails, we are more likely to keep those places open to horses.



Equitrekking with Darley Newman



facebook

Become a fan of the
Equine Land
Conservation Resource
on Facebook!

Thanks to our corporate friends:



Equine Network and its fine family of equestrian magazines: Equisearch, Horse & Rider, Equus, Dressage Today, and Practical Horseman



www.KPPusa.com





Muck: The Kentucky Horse Park's New Cash Equivalent

The Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) is greening up in time for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. Numerous earth-friendly initiatives are underway including the installation of a waste to energy facility using a biomass gasification process. In this process, horse manure and bedding will be gasified to produce so called 'producer gas' for electricity generation. The producer gas will subsequently fuel a boiler that will drive the generator to produce electricity for the Park.

Muck is a current liability for the Park and the cost of its removal is significant.

With this new system, muck will transform from a liability to an asset.

Based on historic and future projections of muck generation, it is anticipated that the Park will produce 1.5 Megawatts of electricity annually from muck. This energy production will offset the Kentucky Horse Park's annual electrical needs and reduce the cost of operations by approximately \$860,000 (reduced electric service expense and elimination of muck disposal fees). The gasification process has the added benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

KHP secured funding from two sources: an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) and an ARRA grant, administered by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority's Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the project. An ESPC is an agreement between a state government facility and an Energy

muck will transform from a liability to an asset

Services Company (ESCO) in which energy-efficiency improvement projects are financed through the savings these projects are guaranteed to produce. The ESCO for this project is Ameresco of Louisville, KY. ■

"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*



**EQUINE
LAND
CONSERVATION
RESOURCE**

859-455-8383, www.ELCR.org



Lisa Barry Photography (www.lisabarry.com)

Laurel Florio, Equestrian & Conservation Attorney Joins ELCR Advisory Council

Laurel A. Florio, J.D. of Alpharetta, Georgia has joined ELCR's Advisory Council. Florio is an attorney, consultant and educator in the area of land transactions and conservation easements. She is a member of the Land Trust Alliance's Land Conservation Leadership Program Faculty, and is a sought after speaker, consultant and educator at national and regional meetings of land conservation professionals.

Upon acceptance of the invitation to join ELCR's Advisory Council, Florio shared, "I am delighted for the opportunity to combine two of my passions, horses and land conservation, as a member of the ELCR Advisory Council."

Laurel is a life-long horse enthusiast and rider. Driven by her passion for horses, she has ridden everything from off-the-track thoroughbreds to Arabians and pleasure shod Tennessee Walking horses. Laurel's current equestrian activities include Dressage training and competing in the Southeast. She is as an active member of the US Dressage Federation, the US Equestrian Federation and the GA Dressage and Combined Training Association. Her horse, Puck, is a 17.2, 12-year-old Westphalen gelding. ■

Laurel and Puck.



Join ELCR at the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference in Atlanta July 15-17, the country's premier equestrian trails conference.

Visit <http://www.southeasternequestriantrails.com> for more information.



Visit ELCR in the Youth and Conservation Area at Quarterfest

April 30 – May 2 , 2010

Murfreesboro, TN

<http://www.aqha.com/quarterfest>

THANKS TO

Peggy Maness Photography

for the loan of several framed photographs for the ELCR office.

Visit Peggy in Midway, Kentucky at 130 Main Street or online at:

<http://www.manessphotography.com>



Breyer Renews Support for Equine Land Conservation Grant

Breyer Animal Creations has renewed its commitment to fund the ELCR-Breyer Grant for the third consecutive year. The competitive grant, which has a cash award of \$10,000, is awarded to an organization or agency to assist in the funding of a project which conserves land or trails for horses. The deadline for the 2010 ELCR Breyer grant is August 1, 2010. Application information can be found at www.ELCR.org.

The grant recipient is selected by committee through a competitive review process. The committee is comprised of Libbie Johnson of North Carolina, Chair; Jane Beshear, First Lady of Kentucky; Susanna Colloredo-Mansfield of Massachusetts; and Stephanie McCommon of Texas.

Breyer's commitment is to funding the grant through a portion of the proceeds from the sale of an ELCR-Breyer benefit model. The 2010 model (pictured) is a glossy red dun.

The 2008 ELCR-Breyer grant recipient was the Highland Equestrian Conservancy of Highland, Michigan. The 2009 ELCR-Breyer Grant recipient will be announced shortly. ■



Carol Hienzsich

Carol Hienzsich Joins ELCR as Conservation Partners Coordinator

Carol Hienzsich, a lifelong horse enthusiast, spent her summers in Colorado and Wyoming riding any horse that was offered to her, usually bareback and across the sprawling Rocky Mountain vistas. After purchasing her first horse, she took lessons and subsequently began competing in three-day eventing and later, hunter/jumpers.

Having lived in the Rocky Mountains and along Colorado's Front Range, Carol has witnessed firsthand the loss of farm and ranch lands on a large scale. As a property owner and equestrian, this loss

has made a significant impression on Carol as she witnessed the conversion of farms to malls and suburban developments, closing of trails, loss of show grounds, and the rising cost of hay.

Carol offers, "Working at ELCR in the position of Conservation Partners Coordinator provides me with the opportunity to bring together my education, affinity for the equestrian lifestyle, and passion for the environment together in what is a very unique opportunity to serve other like minded individuals."

Carol graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies. ■

2010 Conservation Partners Calendar

Thursday, April 8

Conference Call #2 @ 8 pm ET

Kevin Schumaker of SPI Insurance
Topic: Liability coverage & issues for organizations, events & work days

Thursday, June 10

Conference Call #3 @ 8 pm ET

Thursday, September 9

Conference call #4 @ 8 pm ET

Thursday, December 2

Conference call #5 @ 8 pm ET



4037 Iron Works Parkway
Suite 120
Lexington, KY 40511

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Lexington, KY
Permit No. 589

ELCR DONATION FORM

(Please print legibly)

All donors will receive the ELCR newsletter, "The Resource," and a complimentary ELCR window sticker.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

*Email: _____

- ☐ Mountain Conservationist\$25,000+
- ☐ Foothills Guardian.....\$10,000-\$24,999
- ☐ Countryside Conserver.....\$5,000-\$9,999
- ☐ Range Protector\$2,500-\$4,999
- ☐ Plains Champion\$1,000-\$2,499
- ☐ Trails Keeper\$500-\$999
- ☐ Valley Preserver.....\$100-\$499
- ☐ Meadow Defender\$50-\$99
- ☐ Field Stewardup to \$49

☐ My check is enclosed

☐ Please charge my credit card: ☐ VISA or ☐ MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If you prefer to donate online, visit www.ELCR.org.

- ☐ Please record this as an anonymous donation.
- ☐ Please send me information about the benefits of gifting securities.
- ☐ Please contact me about the benefits of including ELCR in my will or estate plans.

Send completed form with check to:

Equine Land Conservation Resource

4037 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 120

Lexington, KY 40511

859-455-8383, Fax 859-455-8381

