

THE WINTER 2013 RESOURCE

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

Museum Exhibit “Losing Ground: The Greatest Threat” Opens at the International Museum of the Horse

By Holley Groshek

‘Losing Ground: The Greatest Threat’, an exhibit sponsored by EQUUS Magazine and Equine Land Conservation Resource, made its debut at the International Museum of the Horse in Lexington, KY on October 31, 2012. “The exhibit, which will run for three years with periodic updates, has been a long term initiative for ELCR,” said Denise O’Meara, ELCR Education Coordinator and project manager. “The intent of the exhibit is to increase awareness and educate the public about the loss of horse lands, facilities and trails across America, and to help visitors to understand what they can do to make a difference.”

The exhibit demonstrates the value of horses, including their economic impact, to our communities and culture, and describes actions that can be taken to protect these assets, not only for horse land owners, equestrians and equine enthusiasts, but for communities and the nation as a whole. The exhibit emphasizes a startling statistic – that 6,000 acres of open lands are lost to development every day. These are the lands we need to raise, ride and care for our horses. These are the hayfields, the competition grounds, the trails and the pastures that support our rich American equine culture.

“It has always been the museum’s mission to look at pressing problems within the equine community, and the alarming disappearance of land for horses has to be near

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

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("Losing Ground" continued)

the top of the list," said International Museum of the Horse Director, Bill Cooke.

The exhibit consists of an extensive mural that dramatically shows the threat of unplanned development on existing horse lands. A short video, produced by Post Time Productions and developed by ELCR, is the visitor's first view of the exhibit which quickly draws the visitor into the story of America's love for the horse and the threat to the very land needed to support our equine population. Three interactive kiosks allow the visitor to explore the following topic areas: why horses make good neighbors; loss of land and trails access; and a call to action that describes what individuals can do to get informed, organize and advocate locally and nationally for protection of horse lands, facilities and trail access with the help and resources of ELCR.

As part of the exhibition, visitors receive a complimentary copy of *'Losing Ground: The Greatest Threat'*, an EQUUS special report on conserving land and trails for horses, sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. "At EQUUS we've seen firsthand how important it is to preserve open space and trail access," says EQUUS editor Laurie Prinz. "And we know that the first step in effective advocacy is informing equestrians and the

public at large about what's at stake. We appreciate that Pfizer has made possible a special publication highlighting land use issues."

"As the only national organization working to conserve land for equine related use, ELCR is proud to partner with EQUUS magazine on this important project that will raise awareness of the need to protect our horse lands now, before

It has always been the museum's mission to look at pressing problems within the equine community, and the alarming disappearance of land for horses has to be near the top of the list.

it is too late," says ELCR CEO, Anna Gibson. Quoting Rand Wentworth, President of the Land Trust Alliance, "The land we save in the next fifteen years will determine the future of our equine culture, lifestyle and landscape."

The museum exhibit video and the EQUUS special report *Losing Ground: The Greatest Threat* may be accessed on the ELCR website elcr.org. ■

"Competition and training sites are **slipping away**, and trails are **disappearing**. Each year, over 2 million acres of land are **lost to development**. The time to **act** is **now**. Please **join me** in working with the **Equine Land Conservation Resource** to **save land** for horse-related activities." —Karen O'Connor



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Lisa Barry Photography (www.LisaBarry.com)

From the Saddle

A letter from ELCR's CEO, Anna Gibson

This is the space allotted to the CEO of ELCR to share insights and thoughts with you. Yet as I set out to write my introductory column, I find myself wanting to hear from you. Why? Because it is you and people like you who ultimately hold the solution to keeping land open for horses and horse related activities.

ELCR is here to provide you with information, tools and resources to help you keep public and private lands open to horses and for horse-related uses like growing hay, casual hacking or competing. In order to provide you with effective support, we need to hear from you. I invite you to reach out to me directly by phone at 859-455-8383 or by email at agibson@elcr.org. I want to hear from you. I want to hear about the issues you are facing so that ELCR can continue to develop the tools that will help you resolve them.

I write this plea for engagement based on my own experience. Before joining ELCR, I spent two and a half years working to keep one of the few large-scale boarding facilities in the Washington DC area open for horses. I learned first-hand how quickly land loss can take horses out of reach for most people. I also saw the importance of participating in local and regional land use planning processes in order to keep farms viable and to maintain access to and facilities on public lands.

When I was in the midst of the fight to save our facility, I searched high and low for information about what was happening in other areas. In this newsletter, we focus on examples of what is working across the country on public lands. In the coming newsletters, we will focus on similar models for solutions on private lands, approaches to creating a sustainable farm, communicating about and managing liability issues, getting involved in community land use planning, and the economic impact of horses and horse-related activities. We will also feature articles, webinars and other outreach on issues that you bring forward.

Please let me hear from you. Together, we will save the land our horses and our industry needs. ■



Anna and Finn

Thanks to our corporate friend:



New Articles Now Available

The following new articles have been posted on the ELCR website www.elcr.org and can be accessed under the specific topic area indicated.

Caledonia Conservancy

Caledonia Conservancy has made outstanding progress in preserving open land for equine purposes, protecting habitat and educating the community on the value of the land. ELCR celebrates their efforts by bestowing the Anson W. Taylor Award for 2012 upon the Conservancy.

Topic area: Farm and Ranch Land Protection – Conservation Easements and Land Trusts

Preserving Callithea Farm

The preservation of Callithea Farm (in Potomac, Maryland) came from a handful of equestrian activists along with a concerned Callithea Farm heir. Here's how they made it happen.

Topic area: Farm and Ranch Land Protection – Purchase of Development Rights Program

Pay Attention to Water Trough Design and Maintenance

Well-designed and thoughtfully located outdoor watering facilities for horses can save farm owners time and money on maintenance and equine health by providing a clean, safe, continuous and palatable source of water for livestock.

Topic area: Farm & Ranch Land Stewardship & Best Management Practices – Manure Management/Nutrient Management

Chesapeake Bay-Friendly Horse Farm Project

Maryland, a contributor to the sensitive Chesapeake Bay watershed, is increasingly stringent in its requirements for farms to utilize best management practices to reduce pollution and sedimentation sources.

Topic area: Farm and Ranchland Stewardship & Best Management Practices - Manure Management/Nutrient Management

Kentucky Equine Survey

A new survey of Kentucky's equine and equine-related assets values them at \$23.4 billion in 2011 and finds 1.1 million acres devoted to equine use.

Topic area: Equine Economic Impact

Competing for Space: Public Lands Increasingly Important as Competition Venues

By Anna Gibson

Once upon a time, private farms hosted the premier equestrian competitions in the United States. As large farms give way to development, public lands are playing an increasingly important role as venues for local, national and even international equestrian competitions. These facilities are run by local parks authorities, state park systems and a range of federal agencies. This article highlights a few models for equestrian competition venues on public lands.

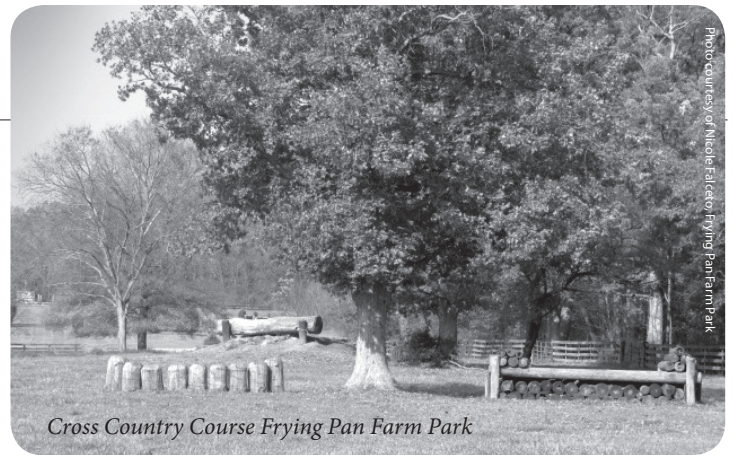
The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' 5,613 acre Fair Hill Natural Resources Management area is home to the Fair Hill International three-star Three Day Event, the Foxcatcher Endurance Rides, and the Elk Creek Combined Driving Championship in October of each year. These premier equestrian events are combined with a county fair and activities that engage the surrounding community as well as the competitors who travel from across the country to compete at Fair Hill. In addition, the facility hosts more than 145 other recognized and unrecognized equine events

Private farms once hosted premier equestrian competitions across the United States.

throughout the year and offers regular cross country schooling days. Fair Hill also offers training facilities for race horses and a turf course for flat and steeplechase racing. Fair Hill is a multi-use facility, hosting canine events, Civil War reenactments, hiking, mountain biking and fishing. To manage the impact events have on the land, independent groups work closely with the Department of Natural Resources to manage the equestrian events.

Owned and operated by the City of Conyers, Georgia, the 1,400 acre Georgia International Horse Park was created to host the 1996 Olympic Games. The facility boasts an outdoor arena with seating for 8,000 spectators and ten smaller outdoor rings. The indoor arena seats 2,500 and the property is also home to a steeplechase field, a glen for polo matches and facilities for regional horse trials. The property hosts about 50 equestrian events a year as well as foot and cycling races, and canine events. The park has continued to develop as a regional attraction and generate revenue by hosting a range of events like weddings and conferences in addition to the more traditional park-related gatherings.

A partnership between the nonprofit Horse Lovers Management Corporation and the city of Phoenix, Arizona created a vibrant equestrian facility in the midst of rapid urban expansion. The park provides space for casual riding and hosts a range of equestrian events, including hunter/



jumper shows, youth events, and cutting and roping competitions. The nonprofit operates the city-owned park, enabling continuing equestrian access and usage without requiring the county to acquire the expertise needed to successfully run a horse-focused facility.

In Virginia, Fairfax County's Frying Pan Farm Park hosts horse shows, riding lessons and a therapeutic riding program. In addition, the facility is home to a model farm, a day care and wildlife areas. Frying Pan is home to horse shows, a 4-H program and provides an accessible, low-cost training venue for a range of disciplines. The cross country course at the facility is maintained by a local pony club and the park is overseen by a group of committed volunteers, Friends of Frying Pan Park.

The Washington State Horse Park occupies 112 acres of gently sloping terrain. The park is devoted to serving a range of disciplines and hosts large horse events as well as small-to-medium sized shows. The Washington Horse Park is the premier facility in the region for breed and discipline shows. The facility hosts combined driving, three-day events, competitive trail riding, and western competitions. The Horse Park also hosts informal activities like trail riding and back country packing. The park is overseen by a volunteer committee made up of equestrians, community leaders and legislators.

Public parks will play an increasingly important role in the future of competitive equestrian sports. As we rely more and more on public facilities to host our events, we will need to begin to organize around our need for shared space and to understand how these spaces are created and maintained. Please visit www.eclr.org for information, tools and resources on maintaining or creating competition spaces on public lands. ■

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Caledonia Conservancy Recognized with Anson W. Taylor Jr. Award

By Holley Groshek

The 2012 Anson W. Taylor Jr. Award for Leadership in Equine Land Conservation was presented to Caledonia Conservancy President, Eric Roberson by ELCR Director Emeritus, Nancy Hamill Winter during the Midwest reception at the Land Trust Alliance Rally! in Salt Lake City on September 30, 2012.

Initially established in 1999, this award was renamed in 2010 in honor of the late Anson W. Taylor, Jr. of Pennsylvania. Taylor, a founder and past president of ELCR, was a visionary leader and tireless advocate for land conservation for equestrian use. The goal of the award is to recognize an individual or organization that demonstrates outstanding leadership in land conservation and access for equine use, and/or sets an inspirational example for others to do the same.



Eric Roberson and Nancy Hamill Winter

Caledonia Conservancy, one of Wisconsin's oldest land trusts, was started by horse people and equestrians in 1994 to protect and expand Caledonia's unique system of trails. The Conservancy has permanently protected more than 122 acres. Along with land protection, the Conservancy partners with landowners to maintain more than 36 miles of trails.

While horse trails remain a major focus, the organization has successfully expanded its membership and support beyond the horse community with a broad level of conservation interests that include land, trails and stewardship, and significant youth involvement.

"We are proud to honor Caledonia Conservancy with the Anson W. Taylor, Jr. award because of the organization's strength in equine land and trail conservation, understanding of and work on shared-use recreational trails, strong organizational development and recent accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance," noted ELCR CEO Anna Gibson. "The Caledonia Conservancy's outstanding examples of equine land protection will serve as an inspiration to many other organizations."

For additional information on Caledonia Conservancy please see the article *The Caledonia Conservancy - Recognition for Land Preservation, Well Done* in the ELCR Resource Library at www.elcr.org. ■

Cathy Laws & Elizabeth McMillan Appointed to ELCR Advisory Council

Cathy Laws of Maryland is the Editorial Director of Active Interest Media's (AIM) Equine Network,



a publisher of leading horse magazines including EQUUS, Practical Horseman, Dressage Today, Horse & Rider, The Trail Rider, and web sites such as EquiSearch.com, DiscoverHorses.com and Equine.com. Involved in writing and editing for publications for more than 20 years, Laws spent more than a decade as editor of SPUR Magazine, an award-winning national bi-monthly devoted to English equestrian sport. In 2000, she founded Equestrian Life, a content/shopping website that was subsequently acquired by the U.S. Equestrian Team. Also a horsewoman, Laws is a former Pony Clubber and fox hunter.



Elizabeth McMillan, a Tennessee resident and lifelong equestrian in a variety of disciplines, focused her riding and training pursuits within

the "A" circuit hunter/jumper world as owner and operator of McMillan Farms in Santa Barbara, California. She has ridden professionally for over twenty years on the hunter/jumper circuit. McMillan is founder, owner, and editor of Equestrian Professional.com a membership website that provides information, resources and support to professional equestrians and horse business owners. Equestrian Professional.com was recognized as a top ten finalist in the 2010 Equestrian Social Media Awards for Most Informative International website.

Thanks to our corporate friend:
Active Interest Media



Equine Network and its fine family of equestrian print and online publications:

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

Horses Welcomed Here: Horses at Home on Public Lands

By Anna Gibson

It is becoming increasingly difficult to house our horses, particularly in or near urban areas. In many of these places, horse boarding facilities on public lands are playing an increasingly important role in providing accessible homes for horses.

Public lands cover about a third – 600 million acres – of the 2.3 billion acre land area of the United States. Public lands are regularly utilized for private property and privately owned animals. Private homes within national parks, boats docked at marinas within parks and protected areas are all examples of long-term, fee-for-service usage of public lands for private, recreational purposes.

As boarding options diminish, public lands are an increasingly important part of the equestrian landscape. Public lands are home to lesson programs, trail facilities, competition venues and boarding and stabling facilities.

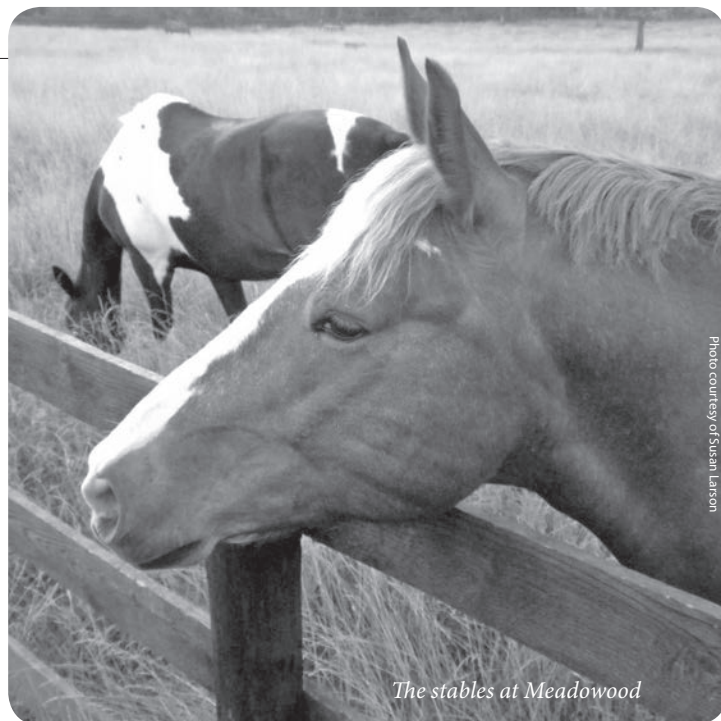
While little data on lost boarding facilities is available on a national level, reports of boarding facilities lost abound. In the Washington, DC area, for example, an informal survey conducted by a group of concerned horse owners revealed that more than 45 boarding facilities had closed in the region over the past decade in spite of the strong equestrian tradition of the region. However, stables on public lands have remained viable by incorporating horses into parks and other permanently protected lands.

Washington, DC's Rock Creek Stables is home to 50 horses. The facility operates on National Park Service Property and is run through a contractor hired by the Park Service. The facility is tucked into the northwest corner of Rock Creek Park, a national park that runs the length of the city.

Rock Creek Stables offers boarding, riding lessons and hosts a therapeutic riding program. It is nestled in a network of shared-use trails that hosts horses, cyclists and pedestrians and has indoor and outdoor arenas. Rock Creek has a five-year waiting list for boarding and has a busy lesson program that runs six days per week.

Rock Creek Stables is connected by a trail network to Maryland's Meadowbrook Stables, owned by the National Capital Area Park District. Run by a contractor, Meadowbrook offers a lesson program, a show series and offers boarding to students actively engaged in its training program.

In nearby Lorton, Virginia the Bureau of Land Management's Meadowood Special Recreation Area is home to an equestrian facility. About 40 acres of the 800 acre protected area is leased to a contractor who operates a boarding facility, lesson program and provides overall property management services for the 48 stall barn, indoor and outdoor arenas, pastures and fencing, hay storage and other buildings, including a six stall bank



The stables at Meadowood

barn. Please visit www.elcr.org for additional information on Meadowood.

Across the continent in the San Francisco region, Marin Stables and Trails in Marin County, California maintains a boarding facility for 50 horses on property owned by the Marin Municipal Water District. The management of the facility is handled by a contractor who works in concert with a nonprofit focused on preserving the historic property.

In Illinois, the Decatur Park District's Big Creek Riding Center offers horse boarding, indoor and outdoor show facilities and wooded riding trails. The facility also offers riding lessons and summer equestrian camps.

Across the United States, many military bases offer boarding and stabling to active duty and retired military members and their families as well as civilian employees and defense contractors working in or near their bases. Boarding on military facilities usually requires a degree of self-care but rates are typically far below market rates for board, usually less than \$100 per month. Additionally, stables on military bases are noted for their strong sense of community and cooperative, family-oriented ethic.

Public lands are a big part of our equestrian landscape. As development pressures continue to build, they will become still more important to the horse community and the equine industry. To learn more about equine usage of public lands, please visit our website at www.elcr.org. ■



Visit the Equine Land Conservation Resource on Facebook

ELCR One Day Educational Forum

No Time to Waste: Protect Your Equine Land & Trails –
A Joint Educational Forum and Annual VHC Meeting

Presented by the Virginia Horse Council and Equine Land Conservation Resource



March 16, 2013, 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA

Registration Fees (includes Annual VHC Meeting and Awards Luncheon, program breaks and materials): Students/youth \$15; VHC or ELCR members \$25; all others \$35

The Virginia Horse Council and Equine Land Conservation Resource invite you to a special one day equine educational forum.

The morning general sessions will focus on the following important equine land conservation issues relative to Virginia and the surrounding areas:

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late - Land Use Planning for Horsemen

PRESENTER:

Tom Daniels, PhD., University of Pennsylvania

Protect Your Watershed, Protect Your Land - Equine Land Best Management Practices

PRESENTER:

Willie Wood, Northern Virginia Soil and Water
Conservation District

Protecting Horse Land and History - Conservation Easements Work for Virginia

PRESENTER:

Heather Richards, Vice President, Conservation and Rural Programs,
Piedmont Environmental Council

**Afternoon break-out session topics include:
Recreational Access to Public and Private Lands, Sustainable Trails
and Equine Health. A full day youth program will be offered.**

Don't miss this exciting and informative educational program featuring top local and national presenters and excellent networking opportunities!

Visit the events page at www.ELCR.org or email domeara@elcr.org for additional program details and registration information.

Special thanks to our event sponsors:



ELCR Named an Official Charitable Beneficiary of 2013 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event

Recognizing that the on-going development of a competitive field of American riders for horse trials, at all levels, depends greatly upon the availability of land for training and competition, Equestrian Events, Inc. (EEI), the official organizer of the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event and the Kentucky Reining Cup, has recognized ELCR as an official beneficiary for the 2013 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event. EEI and ELCR have enjoyed a mutually beneficial partnership since 2008.

The Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event is the only four star three-day event (CCI****) held in the Western Hemisphere, and one of six in the world. This prestigious designation makes it one of the most popular annual equestrian events held in the United States.

EEI has helped increase awareness of the land loss issue by providing ELCR complimentary advertising and public announcements during the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event.

This year's event will run April 24-28 at the Kentucky Horse Park. Tickets are on sale now and available at www.rk3de.org. Once again, ELCR will be an official charitable beneficiary of the event and will have an exhibit space in the Trade Fair courtesy of EEI. So if you plan to attend the event, please stop by and visit us in the exhibitor area.

"It is not surprising that this important mutually beneficial relationship has continued to evolve since many of the ELCR founding supporters were members of the three-day event community," says ELCR CEO, Anna Gibson. "We look forward to continuing and building on our relationship with the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event and our outreach to the eventing community through our long-term partnership with the US Eventing Association." ■



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