

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Editors Note: Photos of Mrs. Bizantz and Dr. Scott King available upon request

Equine Land Conservation Resource Adds More Diversity and Experience to Board of Directors

Lexington, KY –ELCR’s Board of Directors recently elected two new members at the ELCR Board of Directors Annual Meeting and Strategic Planning Session, held on March 14-15, 2011, at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Betty Bizantz, owner of Cobra Farm in Lexington, KY and Dr. Scott King, Manager of Equine Products at Bayer Animal Health, are both avid equestrians and ardent supporters of land conservation.

Betty and husband Gary have been the proud owners of Cobra Farm, a very successful Thoroughbred breeding operation since 1995. The original 82 acre farm has expanded over the years to become 340 acres of prime bluegrass property. Realizing the value of their farm and the likely threat of future development, the couple decided to protect their property by placing a conservation easement on the farm. This was accomplished through the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) Purchase of Development Rights program.

Betty is excited to be an integral part of ELCR’s future and says, “Horses provide mental and physical therapy to both the young and the old, to the handicapped as well as the able-bodied. We owe it to the future generations to preserve and protect land designated for raising, supporting and interacting with horses in order to sustain the species and maintain the ancient relationship between man and horse.”

An additional accomplishment very near to the couple’s heart is Tranquility Farm; a nonprofit Thoroughbred retirement, retraining and adoption operation dedicated to honoring the Thoroughbred after they’ve run their last race. The farm, situated in the mountain valley of Tehachapi, California, is currently home to more than 70 off-the track Thoroughbreds.

Betty grew up riding and competing hunter/jumpers in California and is the proud owner of a 30 year old Quarter Horse retiree and a younger horse currently leased out as a dressage prospect. Betty finds time to relax by traveling to distant lands to take part in

equestrian adventure trips. Her recent travels have taken her to Africa, the Andes and Mongolia.

Scott King, DVM is the Equine Products Manager at Bayer Animal Health and oversees the development and management of all equine products, promotions, advertising and educational efforts. Dr. King's professional path started at the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine. Armed with his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, Dr. King joined a private equine practice in St. Louis, Missouri where he gained 10 years of experience before joining Purina Mills. While at Purina Mills he managed the Equine Research Facility.

Dr. King and his wife Tawny were Whips with Meramec Valley Hunt and members of the Bridlespur Hunt, located in St. Louis. Currently the couple enjoys Fox Hunting with Mission Valley Hunt in Kansas City. When the couple isn't on the back of a horse, they are actively involved in Boy Scouting with their two sons, Tristan and Quinlin. Together the family has taken adventurous canoe trips into the Boundary Waters of Canada and hiked the mountains of New Mexico.

Dr. King's passion for the great outdoors has led him to realize the importance of land preservation, habitat restoration and educating others on these key issues. "This is a great opportunity for me to combine my passion for horses and the outdoors and utilize my experience to help achieve the critical goals of ELCR of conserving land for horses, horsemen and horse related activities," said Dr. King.

One reason the ELCR continues to gain ground every year in advancing their mission to conserve land for horse-related activities is because of the diversity that exists amongst ELCR's fifteen Board members. They represent thirteen different states across the country, they participate in a wide variety of equine activities and they come from all walks of life. But what they do share is their passion for horses and the land they require.

Recently elected President, Larry Byers (SC) is anxious to lead the way in 2011 as the organization continues to broaden their educational outreach capabilities. "I am fortunate to have the collection of people I do. They are creative and hard-working and just the group of leaders this organization needs in 2011 as we plan ahead for the future", says Byers.

About the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR): The Equine Land Conservation Resource is the only national not-for-profit organization advancing the conservation of land for horse-related activity. ELCR serves as an information resource and clearinghouse for land and horse owners on issues related to equine land conservation, land use planning, land stewardship/best management practices, trails, liability and equine economic development. For more information about the ELCR visit our website at www.elcr.org or call (859) 455-8383.

