

THE RESOURCE

Planning for Horse Friendly Communities

With increasing frequency horsemen witness open areas that were once horse lands taken over by development. The result has been the following; loss of trail access and competition venues, fewer boarding and training facilities, fewer and higher priced farms and rising hay prices. Poorly planned, uncontrolled development or sprawl, population growth and a citizenry that is increasingly unfamiliar with livestock are the greatest threats to equestrians and horse land owners today.

This is particularly true in and around urban areas where many horse owners live and work. Increased development and urban sprawl combined with poor planning is putting pressure on horse lands, negatively impacting our population's exposure to horses and threatening to put the equine experience out of reach to many and particularly for future generations.

While horse friendly communities such as Wellington FL, Tryon NC, Lexington KY, Aiken SC and Norco CA, to name just a few, are great examples of how premier horse facilities, competition and recreational riding venues can exist close to and even in cities, local land use planning must purposefully incorporate them.

At ELCR, we feel that effective community land use planning represents the cornerstone of efforts to keep land open and accessible for horses. Planning and




Photo courtesy of Keith Mountain

Urban and suburban sprawl is one of the greatest threats to horsemen. Photo courtesy Keith Mountain.

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



**EQUINE
LAND
CONSERVATION
RESOURCE**

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zoning decisions can affect how land is taxed, what it may be used for, and which standards and regulations are applied to it. These regulations determine not only whether individuals may keep horses on their own property, but also whether horses have access to community parks and trails.

In order to retain access to horses and enjoy the benefits they bring to our communities, it is vital that horsemen understand the basics of planning and zoning and how this impacts horse keeping, breeding, competing and recreating, as well as equine related businesses in their communities. Furthermore, horsemen need to be able to articulate the benefits horses bring to their communities as well as supporting community planners with information needed about incorporating horses into their local plans.

To help horsemen understand the basics of planning and zoning Equine Land Conservation Resource recently released a new publication *Planning and Zoning Guide for Horse Friendly Communities*. The *Guide* provides beginning and advanced information, tools and other resources to horsemen, community leaders and planners to help them understand how to successfully include horses and horse-related activities in their community planning efforts, and why they should.

This valuable resource provides users with the tools they need to understand comprehensive planning, land use mapping, zoning ordinances, and the effects these have on horse keeping and other horse-related activities within their own local communities. The information will help them to be engaged in the process, to activate their equine community and to educate planners and decision makers on the benefits of horses in their communities. The *Guide* can be accessed on-line at www.elcr.org/planningandzoningguide/. ■



Getting engaged in local planning and zoning processes ensures that officials hear the concerns and needs of horsemen.

“Horsemen need to understand the basics of planning and zoning and how this impacts horse keeping, breeding, competing and recreating, as well as equine related businesses in their communities.”

Thank You



Thank you to the following organizations for their support of *Planning and Zoning Guide for Horse Friendly Communities* and other educational material on our website related to Planning for Horses in Your Community:

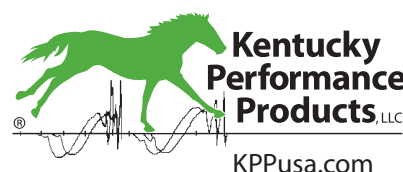
**American Association of
Equine Practitioners Foundation**

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Also, thank you to all the individual donors who supported this project through the No Land No Horse, ELCR's First Crowdfunding Campaign.

Thanks to our corporate friend:



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Conservation Partners Spotlight: AAEP Supports Planning Strategies

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) is the largest professional organization dedicated to equine veterinary medicine in the world, representing nearly 10,000 equine vets. AAEP has been a dedicated Conservation Partner since 2008, working with us to promote the impact of open land on equine health.



Last year, the charitable arm, the AAEP Foundation, joined with other generous donors to support the expansion of the **Planning for Horses in Your Community** section of the website. In addition to the publication of *Guide to Planning and Zoning for Horse Friendly Communities*, the grant also supported other online resources designed to help individuals and equine organizations affect change in their own communities through their local planning and zoning processes.

The grant was part of \$284,000 in funding that AAEP Foundation allocated to 24 equine organizations in 2014. The Foundation funds projects committed to improving the welfare of the horse. ■

ELCR and My Horse University Join Forces for Education

In December, ELCR and My Horse University co-presented a webcast



on the importance of proper manure management. The webcast, featuring Jamie Cohen, a member of ELCR's Advisory Council and University of Florida/IFAS Extension Farm Outreach Coordinator, dealt with the pressing issue of water quality and horse property management. The recorded webcast is available online at <http://bit.ly/1CQV9X8>.

Following the success of this initial collaboration, ELCR and My Horse University co-presented another webcast on March 24 entitled "Basics of Planning and Zoning for Horse Friendly Communities." The webcast which featured Christine Hughes, AICP, ELCR Advisory Council member and Senior Planner with the city of Wilmington, North Carolina Planning, Development, and Transportation Department. The program focused on the basics of planning and zoning to help horsemen understand how their property is zoned, what to look for relative to horse-friendly plans and regulations and how to get involved in the planning process. The recorded webcast is available online at <https://connect.msu.edu/p6bxuolj1o/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>. ■

ELCR Heads Home for Anniversary

Last fall, the Board of Directors met in the Brandywine Valley region of Pennsylvania to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the organization. This area is often regarded as the birthplace of ELCR. One of our founders, Anson W.H. Taylor Jr. lived and worked in the area, the organization was incorporated there and much early work was done in the region.

While there, the Board and staff spoke to a number of area horsemen and women, including foxhunters and representatives from a popular area horse show and local conservation organizations. The visit helped the Board and staff strategize ways to increase our impact at the local level.

Over the next year, ELCR will use this information and insight, as well as information we will gather from other regions, to begin development of a grassroots network of local equine land conservation groups. This network will allow local groups to benefit from the experiences and success of other groups around the country.

The highlight of the three days was a reception in the Brandywine River Museum honoring the four founders of ELCR. Many local donors and friends were a part of the festivities, as well as founder Rick Jorgensen and the late Anson Taylor's wife, Marilyn and son, Lance. ■



Marilyn Taylor and Rick Jorgensen enjoy the reception with President Susan Harding.

Equine Professionals Experience Land Crunch

Each of us experiences equine land loss differently. For some, it is deeply personal; a family farm, or training facility shutting down. For others, it is inconvenient; a well-loved trail being closed to horses or the loss of a historic competition venue. For others still, it is financial; the rising cost of hay, or boarding. For the equine professionals in our communities, these are intertwined and the loss can be detrimental.

Each year Equestrian Professional (www.Equestrian-Professional.com) conducts a horse business survey. This information, gathered directly from horse professionals across the country, is used to build better services and tools for members in the coming year.

This year, for the first time, land loss topped the list of concerns expressed by professionals. Many expressed that they are “struggling to find properties and/or facilities that are close enough to their client base.”

As horse access becomes more limited in populated areas and equine activity becomes more rural, equine veterinarians, farriers, trainers and other equestrian professionals will face more challenges maintaining a client base. These challenges ultimately translate to more expensive services.

Many communities underestimate the economic impact of the horse industry. The American Horse Council’s 2005 study (<http://www.horsecouncil.org/national-economic-impact-us-horse-industry>) estimated that the industry has a \$102 billion impact nationally and provides 1.4 million full time equivalent (FTE) positions in the U.S.

Getting equine professionals involved in local efforts to conserve land is a great way to demonstrate to planning and zoning officials the economic impact of horses and the effect of land loss on local businesses. For more information about economic impact and the other benefits horses bring to our communities, visit ELCR at <http://elcr.org/conservation-resources/equine-economic-impact/>. ■



Increasing urban sprawl is pushing equine professionals further away from their clients.



Hay Production and Stocks in the US – A Look at 2014

According to the USDA’s January 2015 market report, hay production and hay stock nationwide are up from 2013. More hay acres and improved yields resulted in production rising to 4.8 million tons (4.2M tons in alfalfa and alfalfa mixes). As of December 1, 2014 hay stocks on farms showed an increase of 2.7 million tons from 2013.

West and mid-west states had good gains, but the southeast region experienced mixed results due to variations in precipitation and a late season drought. For example, Kentucky’s 2014 hay stocks dropped 1.3M tons, according to University of Kentucky Extension Service. The harvest area was 5.6% lower and yield fell 8.3%.

Mississippi State’s Extension Service cites last winter’s high demand for hay, a wet spring, a cooler than normal growing season, low soil fertility and heavy insect pressure as factors pushing the state’s hay inventories 20% lower than the three-year previous average. Production dipped to 1.38M tons, their lowest since 2000.

In the northeast, where production levels compare to previous years, there is a movement to increase alfalfa production with an eye on increasing exports.

Bottom Line for Horses

The increased production and lower fuel prices may result in lower hay prices in some areas. However alfalfa production is on the rise, meaning that grass hays, a mainstay of the equine diet, may make hays like timothy subject to high prices. The exportation of hay and more competition for high quality hays may also increase prices.

What to Do

Visit the USDA website for periodic reports on hay production and trends (www.nass.usda.gov), or your state agricultural office.

Local information about hay prices and trends can also be found on your state extension office website. Visit <http://www.extension.org/> to find information for your state and national trends.

Develop good relations with your local hay growers and suppliers, and let them know what hays you need to feed your horses. It will pay off in the long run. ■

ELCR, Tread Lightly! and AQHA Join Forces for Respected Access

Just as trail riding contributes to your happiness quotient, treating the land with respect contributes to the durability and availability of your trail. You should know the condition of your trails before you ride, especially during inclement weather. Thoughtlessly slogging through wet areas can cause extensive damage and create unsafe conditions. And it can help you to lose trail access.

It's not uncommon for a private landowner to deny access to existing trails on their land, posting the dreaded No Horses Here sign. Public land managers, citing damage to sensitive lands, post Access Denied notices. Disappointing, yes; and often irreversible.

Education and proper stewardship are key to maintaining access. For that reason, with support from the AQHA STEP program, ELCR has partnered with Tread Lightly!, a national organization concerned with better land stewardship, to



launch the "Respected Access is Open Access" campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to educate trail riders and promote responsible stewardship of trails in order to protect access.

Last year, Tread Lightly!, with the support of the American Quarter Horse Association and Tractor Supply Co. developed an awareness campaign, entitled "Respected Access is Open Access." The campaign reminds riders not to ride on wet trails, a practice that accelerates erosion and complicates relationships with land owners and managers.

Now, through further funding by the AQHA Step Grant Program, ELCR is working with Tread Lightly! to deliver an expanded educational component around the previously developed public service announcements and disseminate this to the equine community. Throughout 2015, ELCR will engage in an education, awareness and outreach program based on the original educational print and web banner messages developed by Tread Lightly!

If you would like more information about using the print or web version of the "Restricted Access is Open Access" PSA's, please contact us at info@elcr.org. ■



Riding on trails that are wet can damage trails. Rain softened surfaces are vulnerable to use immediately after rainfall events. Please allow trails time to dry before adventuring out. Ride on dirt roads or more durable surfaces and allow the trails to recover. Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior and best practices.

This PSA was made possible by the American Quarter Horse Association's STEP program.



treadlightly!®

Rain? Rein go away. Come again another day!

Conservationist and Horsewoman Maude Carr Dies

Maude Hubbard Goldsmith Carr, a respected equestrian, died January 11, 2015, at the age of 72. A devoted animal lover, Maude was known for her generous spirit and was a friend to all who she encountered. Maude was an active member of the Tryon, North Carolina equine community and an avid conservationist in the area. She was a strong supporter of Foothills Equestrian Trails Association (FETA), Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (FENCE), Tryon Riding and Hunt Club, Tryon Hounds, Green Creek Hounds, and Equine Land Conservation Resource. She will be missed, but her legacy will endure in Tryon Horse Country. ■



Maude Carr

ELCR Mourns Marilyn Taylor

ELCR founder, Anson W.H. Taylor, Jr.'s widow, Marilyn Asbury Taylor of Berwyn, Pennsylvania, passed away on Feb. 26, 2015. She was a great friend of ELCR, supporting Anson through his leadership in our early years and continuing his work after his death. In addition to her support of ELCR, Marilyn was a member of Radnor Hunt since 1963, and served as Chairman of the Radnor Hunt Three Day Event, D.C. of the Radnor Hunt Pony Club, and as a board member of Historic Sugartown. She was an active member of her local community and the equine community at large. Her influence and friendship will be greatly missed. ■



Marilyn Taylor

Equine Community Mourns Bruce Duchossois

Richard Bruce Duchossois of Aiken, S.C., a highly accomplished horse owner and amateur competitor, passed away on July 2, 2014 at the age of 64. Duchossois owned many champion horses, including 2008 Rolex Kentucky winner Connaught and current U.S. Eventing Team alternate, Mighty Nice. He also garnered honors, such as amateur-owner title at the National Horse Show in 1973, the American Horse Shows Association Horse of the Year title in 1974 and an adult amateur hunter circuit championship title at the 2008 Winter Equestrian Festival.

Duchossois, a consummate volunteer and philanthropist, supported a number of equestrian organizations, including Equine Land Conservation Resource, the U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation, the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association, the National Horse Show, the Alltech National Horse Show and the Equestrian Aid Foundation Board of Directors. ■



Bruce Duchossois

Thanks to our corporate friend:

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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

Helen Alexander Recognized with Robert N. Clay Conservation Award

On September 5, 2014, Helen Alexander of Lexington, Kentucky was honored with the inaugural Robert N. Clay Conservation Award. The award, named in recognition of Robert N. Clay's equine land conservation leadership in the Thoroughbred industry, is a joint effort between ELCR and the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA).

The award honors Helen's commitment to preserving agricultural and open lands for future generations. Helen has served conservation organizations in local, regional and national leadership roles and has protected both her Middlebrook and Spring Station Farms with conservation easements.

In addition to her conservation work with her family in the Brandywine Region of Pennsylvania, Helen is a co-founder and the Founding President of the Bluegrass Conservancy (BGC) land trust in Kentucky. Under Helen's leadership, over 20,500 acres have been permanently protected through conservation easements.

Helen also served on the panel that formulated the model for the Purchase of Development Rights on farmland in Fayette County, Kentucky. She helped lead the program through its adoption and served on the PDR Board. To date 28,000 acres, including 133 horse farms, have been conserved under the PDR program. ■



ELCR Vice President, Dan Rosenberg, presents the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award to Mackenzie Royce, Executive Director of the Bluegrass Conservancy, accepting on behalf of Helen Alexander.

Equine Places and Spaces

NEW:

Sam Billings Campground, Montana

Members of the Bitter Root Backcountry Horsemen, Trapper Creek Job Corps and Bitterroot National Forest, with the help of a grant from the Ravalli County Resource Committee, are in the process of building a horse camp near Boulder Creek Trailhead. The camp should be a popular resource and increase trail riding in the forest.

To find out more, visit:
<http://bit.ly/1uAU8yH>

IN DANGER:

Coto Equestrian Center, California

This 295-stall community equestrian center is in danger of losing up to half their land. After facing financial trouble, some members wished to sell their share in the community center. Various plans have been proposed and the community is still weighing options.

To find out more, visit:
<http://bit.ly/1uAEsw0>

LOST:

Hollywood Park, California

On December 22, 2013 the final race was run at Hollywood Park concluding 75 years of continuous racing in Southern California. The landmark will be demolished to make way for a new multi-use complex. Declines in attendance and wagering income led to the closure.

<http://usat.ly/1ciWUOl>

If you are aware of an equine-related place that has been lost, saved or is in danger, please let us know about it. You can contact us at 859.455.8383 or info@elcr.org, or visit the Report An Issue page on our website. ■



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