

THE RESOURCE

FALL 2020



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION RESOURCE

The Right Place at the Right Time

By Jennifer M. Keeler for ELCR

In true storybook fashion, the dedication of local equestrians, combined with an unexpected turn of events, saves a beloved local horse show facility in Florida from development.

For almost 30 years, Canterbury Equestrian Showplace has been a cornerstone of the local horse show community in Alachua County, Florida. Conveniently located on 212 acres in the city of Newberry, Florida, just north of Ocala, the Canterbury facility was built from the ground up by original owners Alan and Carlie Evans. After it began hosting events in 1991, Canterbury quickly became a regional destination where generations of horse lovers gathered almost every weekend to enjoy a wide variety of equestrian events.

"When Canterbury first opened, it was the only real showgrounds in north central Florida," Carlie Evans explained. "We opened long before all the others that are now mainstays of equestrian competition in the area. We started a whole new equestrian industry here in Alachua County."

But after changing hands several times over the years, Canterbury was in trouble. Business in Newberry was booming and the areas around the showgrounds were quickly becoming busier and more developed as population grew rapidly. Ultimately sold to a developer, piece after piece of Canterbury's equestrian land was sold off and cross-country fences

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NO LAND NO HORSE



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were replaced with vinyl-clad single-family homes until only a core parcel of 36 acres with barns and arenas remained.

While attending a horse show at Canterbury in early 2017, Dr. Susan Milbrath became alarmed at the number of houses getting closer and closer to competition areas, so she and some friends got together to form the Preservation of Alachua County Equestrian Spaces (PACES). After several attempts to save Canterbury fell through, PACES leaders reached out to Tom Kay, executive director of the Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) for advice and assistance, as well as Dr. Alan Hodges of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) to study the local and regional economic impact of the property. The resulting report revealed that Canterbury had a multi-million dollar economic impact on Alachua County.

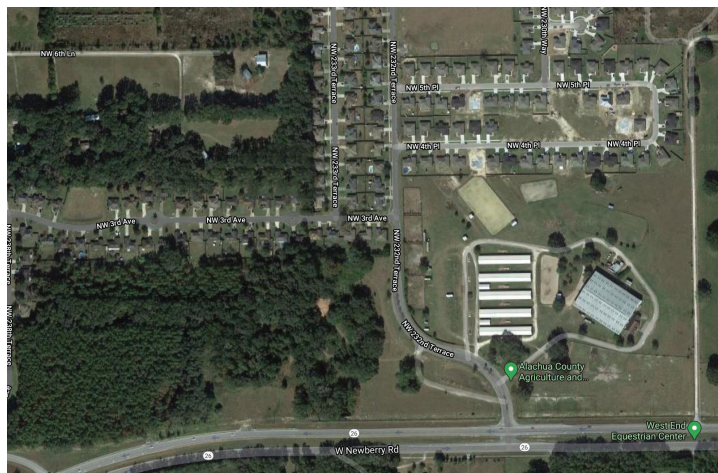
In a fortuitous turn of events, just six months after previous attempts to purchase and preserve Canterbury had once again failed, the latest round of elections resulted in government officials looking much more favorably at the possibilities of the facility. Also, after an extensive search for a new site for the long-overdue county fairgrounds, the original location sought by local officials fell through, opening the door for Canterbury as a new option.

Finally, funding that had already been allocated by the government for a new fairgrounds, combined with sales tax revenue through the local Wild Spaces Public Places program, could all be utilized for the county to purchase Canterbury outright. As an added bonus, the findings of the IFAS economic impact report allowed the county to apply for and receive grant funding from the state to help with property improvements.

In a true fairytale ending, in the fall of 2018 the Alachua County Commission voted to purchase Canterbury Equestrian Showplace for \$3.8 million. Renamed as the Alachua County Agricultural and Equestrian Center, the property will now be the new permanent home of the Alachua County Fairgrounds. In addition, the Alachua County Agricultural Cooperative Extension Offices will soon be relocated onto an adjoining five-acre parcel.



Photo shows residential housing bordering the competition venue.



Aerial view of show grounds and surrounding residential development.

So, what made the saving of Canterbury such a success? "The leaders of PACES were very instrumental in working with IFAS in being able to make the economic case for Canterbury and its impact on the community, and I think this was literally a game changer," explained Kay, who added that the persistence, preparation, and due diligence of PACES leaders made a big difference. In addition, the willingness of Canterbury supporters to build community coalitions with elected officials and staff, private citizens, and nonprofits, all combined with ACT's experience in saving spaces and positive mediation with the property owner, made for a winning combination. "We just didn't want to take 'no' for an answer," said Milbrath. "All of our efforts combined with being in the right place at the right time. We got lucky in a lot of ways."

Now Canterbury will not only continue to be home to future equestrian events but will also play host to a multitude of other agricultural and community activities. "It's just incredible how Canterbury was so close to completely disappearing and came back from the brink," Evans concluded. "Now we're really getting excited about what the future holds for us and for horse shows in our county."

"Equine Land Conservation Resource participated in early meetings with Dr. Susan Milbrath and Karen Wolfsheimer of PACES and ACT and Alachua County representatives to see what the county might be able to do to help protect Canterbury Equestrian Showplace," said Holley Groshek, ELCR executive director. "We were thrilled to see the results of this community effort and happy to share this success story with other communities facing similar challenges because as this case proves, with dedication and perseverance local equestrians can successfully advocate to protect equine access to land in their communities."

Want to learn more about the Canterbury Equestrian Showplace experience? See the full version of this article at <https://elcr.org/the-right-place-at-the-right-time/>

ELCR and USPC Announce Recipient of 2020 Anson W. H. Taylor Memorial Scholarship

The Anson W. H. Taylor Memorial Scholarship is sponsored by Pony Club and the Equine Land Conservation Resource in memory of former Pony Club president and ELCR founder Anson Taylor. The scholarship is awarded to a current Pony Club member who has been actively committed to land conservation efforts. This year's recipient is Kara Echternacht of West Chester, Ohio, a C-3 member of the Miami Valley Pony Club. Echternacht is attending the Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University where she will major in finance, with a minor in data analytics.

Echternacht began investigating options for a land conservation project for her Pony Club HB project by speaking with local horse owners to determine where needs existed. She quickly learned that in the Indian Hill area of Cincinnati, riders were forced to cross a busy road to travel between an equestrian park and a trail riding path. There had been at least one major accident at this crossing resulting in the death of a horse. Historically, there had been a trail connecting the park with the path, but it had not been usable for many years. Echternacht decided to make clearing this trail her conservation project, and invited Elaina Grayson, another HB candidate, to work with her.

Echternacht took the project proposal to the village government, reviewing it in front of the assistant city manager and his staff. Upon approval from the village, she gained support from the Indian Hill Equestrian Club. The Indian Hill Equestrian Club (IHEC) is dedicated to honoring the long-standing tradition of the equestrian community in Indian Hill by preserving the history, integrity, and beauty of the bridle trails for future generations. Not long ago, ELCR worked with IHEC when they hired a professional trail designer to help the group develop a master trail plan and restore some of their existing extensive equestrian trails.

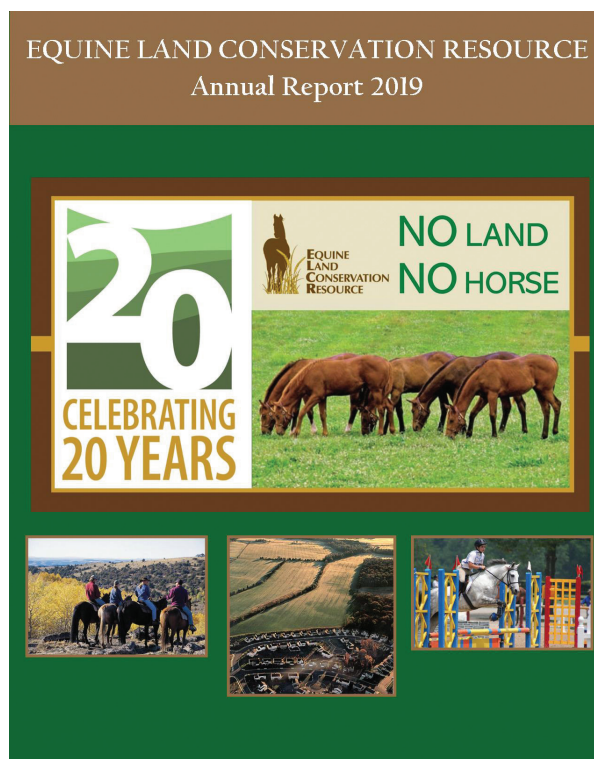
Together, Echternacht and IHEC walked the trail area and placed markers to indicate where the new trail should be placed. Echternacht and Grayson then organized a workday to write letters in-

viting Pony Club families, local Camaro Hunt members, Indian Hill Equestrian Club members, families, and friends to come together to clear the trail. Over 30 volunteers participated in the workday and after 5 hours of hard work, newly cleared Trail C16 was created. Volunteers were provided lunch and information about Pony Club and the importance of equine land conservation.

This project was submitted by Miami Valley Pony Club and awarded the Brookfield Conservation Award. "I am thrilled every time I ride through the park, and see riders using this trail," Echternacht said. "I am proud that my project represents a small step towards enhancing equine related land and educating the community about land conservation."

ELCR 2019 Annual Report

ELCR's 2019 Annual Report, along with annual reports from prior years, can be viewed at <https://elcr.org/about-elcr/financialsannual-reports/>



L to R: Jim and Barb Beamer, Pete and Wendy McAdams, Elaina, Macy and Ryan Grayson, Kara Echternacht, Margie Rennie, Pam Middendorff, Amy Grayson, Diane Echternacht.

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EQUINE PLACES AND SPACES

THREATENED: Spring Down Equestrian Center, California

The Portola Valley Town Council on July 22 held a closed-session discussion on the possible town acquisition of a parcel at 725 Portola Road, the current location of Spring Down Equestrian Center (springdown.com). The center, which has operated in Portola Valley since 1984, abuts the Portola Valley Town Center complex. In 2000, the town purchased 3 acres of the 12-acre equestrian center property and later 3 adjoining acres to use as public open space, now known as Spring Down Open Space. According to an October 2000 Almanac article, Spring Down Equestrian Center owners Stanley and Carol Goodstein sold the front two lots of their property to the town for public open space at below market value and in exchange were allowed to use the land for horse shows and equestrian training for a decade. After 10 years, the Goodsteins could then continue their operation on a smaller scale by reducing the number of horses from 84 to 40 and moving the ring back beside the stables. In 2009 the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association gave Carol Goodstein its Hall of Fame award, noting, "Spring Down has been a safe haven for riders young and not so young, building self-esteem and confidence as well as teamwork." While it is not clear what the equestrian center parcel would be used for if the town acquires it, a council-formed committee convened last year to research using town-owned property for affordable housing—including a small plot at the south end of the Town Center property.

SAVED: Canterbury Equestrian Showplace, Florida

For almost 30 years, Canterbury Equestrian Showplace has been a cornerstone of the local horse show community in Alachua County, Florida. But after changing hands several times over the years, Canterbury was in trouble and succumbed to growing development, being sold off piece by piece and replaced by new single-family homes until only a core 36-acre parcel of Canterbury's land remained. But thanks to local citizens working together to preserve this land, along with governmental changes brought about in the 2018 elections, officials began to look much more favorably at the possibilities for the facility, and the Alachua County Commission ultimately voted to purchase the Canterbury Equestrian Showplace, renaming it as the Alachua County Agricultural and Equestrian Center. The property will now be the new permanent home of the Alachua County Fairgrounds. *See cover article.*

GAINING GROUND: Clark County Saddle Club, Washington

Before the COVID-19 pandemic began altering the lives of Washingtonians, the Clark County Saddle Club held a fundraiser auction to help cover the costs of a new facility. The fundraiser brought in just over \$38,000, which will be used for construction costs and more on the club's new 40-acre property, which is an upgrade from the 14-acre property the club had previously. The discussion about moving began once apartments were built nearby, and it became more difficult for members to get in and out of the facility. The new state-of-the-art facility will include an arena, leisure riding areas, and more for the Clark County equine community. Once the area gets completed, it will be one of the biggest equine arenas in the Washington, Oregon, and Idaho areas and will increase economic value in the local economy as riders look for lodging, food, and more during their stay in the area. The club hopes to have the new facility up and running by early next year.

More information about the relocation and donation process can be found at clarkcountyequinefoundation.com/clark-county-saddle-club

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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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, Horse & Rider, HorseBooksEtc.com, Horse Journal, HorseLinkMagazine.com, MyHorse.com, Practical Horseman, Spin to Win Rodeo, and The Trail Rider

ELCR Welcomes New Board Members

ELCR is pleased to announce the appointment of Melanie Peterson-Ramey and Warren Wilson to the board of directors.



Melanie Peterson-Ramey

Melanie Peterson-Ramey resides in Wellington, Florida, and Lexington, Kentucky, where she practices real estate and operates a sport horse farm with her husband. She is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a bachelor's degree in Geography, Environmental Resource Analysis and a GIS Certificate. She also co-authored an informational booklet called "Agricultural Best Management Practices in South Florida" while a Marshall Fellow during her time at FAU. Peterson-Ramey works at Douglas Elliman in Florida as well as holding her license in Kentucky with Biederman Real Estate. She also holds her insurance license and writes equine mortality, major medical, and farm policies for Jarvis Insurance.

Peterson-Ramey served as vice chair of Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District for 7 years, the Loxahatchee River Coordinating Council for 5 years, the Florida Farm Bureau Equine Advisory Committee for 10 years, was a Florida Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher, served on the Western Palm Beach County Farm Bureau board for several years, and is a past board member of the Children's Healing Institute. Peterson-Ramey was a professional horse trainer for 20 years before shifting gears to equestrian real estate.

From 2014 to 2019, Peterson-Ramey served on the South Florida Water Management District as an at-large member for an area that includes St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. She was vice chair of the board and chaired the Project and Lands Committee and also served on the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative. She spearheaded the complete restructuring of the public relations department as well as the website and email marketing campaigns in order to promote good, factual information directly to the public.

Peterson-Ramey was also instrumental in the renegotiation of the lease of the Arthur Marshall National Wildlife Refuge with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expand and include more public access, resulting in opening nearly 150,000 acres that had been restricted for over 50 years. Today, there are more people enjoying that land than ever before. Peterson-Ramey believes in the conservation of natural resources and the use of public lands by their owners, the tax-paying public. She is passionate about education of land use and public access so that we may preserve open space for the future.



Warren Wilson

ELCR also welcomes Warren Wilson, a resident of Escondido, California, and president and CEO of "California Horsetrader," a thriving niche horse publication and an award-winning media company serving the equestrian industry since 1990 to the ELCR Board of Directors. Raised on a historic San Diego County homestead and with a publishing career largely devoted to the horse industry, Wilson has a broad perspective of the equine land conservancy landscape.

Wilson studied literature and writing at the University of California San Diego. Before "California Horsetrader," Wilson's publishing career began in newspapers. He was editor of his hometown weekly, the San Marcos Courier, at age 20. He moved on to a San Diego area morning daily, the Morning Press, first as Sports Editor before being named Managing Editor at age 26. In 1990, he purchased *California Horsetrader* magazine.

In 1997, he founded Horsetrader.com working with architects, engineers, and developers to create an enterprise-level platform for advertisers to provide concurrent online exposure in sync with printed insertion orders. This led to the development of online delivery of content as well as web-based business systems for publishers that remain a daily part of companies nationwide. Today many American Horse Publications (AHP) member magazines, websites, and corporate members use technology his team developed.

Wilson is well known and respected in the equine publishing world as both an innovator and an amazing collaborator. First appointed to the AHP Board of Directors in 1995, Wilson served as AHP president from 2000 to 2001. In his role as AHP president, he led numerous AHP workshops and panels on wide-ranging topics including editorial management, technology, and business development.

In 2014, Wilson was honored with the AHP Champion Award and recognized for his 25 years in equine publishing that have provided technical innovations bridging the transition from print to internet and for his collaboration in the industry. Today's collaborations extend outside the print realm, as Wilson and the Horsetrader team also now work with non-publishing AHP members, including trade shows and associations, to engage their audiences with online and mobile marketplaces and video contests.

His childhood home, the Borden Homestead in San Marcos, California, remains an active equestrian and agricultural enterprise. The 14-acre ranch is the home to his mother, Carolyn Read, a well-known equine land use advocate and preservationist.



ELCR Education Corner

Recent additions and updates to the ELCR Online Resource Library.

New Article: Facing Rezoning with Horses

There are so many layers to think about when determining if horses are viewed as livestock and if horse farms are deemed agricultural uses. It's easy to feel like there are more questions than answers, but this article addresses important things to consider if you are facing local challenges to your equine operations, especially if your local or state regulations leave you in a gray area. Read the full article at <https://bit.ly/3gjDUDS>

New Article: On the Right Track: How a Community-Based Land Use Advocacy Organization Is Making a Difference in Central Florida

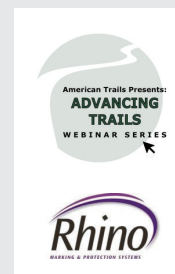
Land use watch groups continue to form in communities across the USA in response to the growing concerns related to suburban and rural sprawl. ELCR always recommends that our constituents form some type of community-based organization that can keep an eye on local land use and planning, share information with members, and work both proactively and in response to issues that arise impacting equine land access. Existing organizations that don't focus specifically on equine lands can also be extremely helpful to the equine community's land use needs. Good city planning can result in the protection of agricultural, equine, and natural lands. This article provides a good example of a community-based organization dedicated to protecting horse lands in central Florida: <https://bit.ly/2ExRXs4>

New Article: Conservation Easements as a Tool for Protecting Horse Land

Farms and landscapes are being protected nationwide for the continued use and protection of all things equine. From hay-ing open fields to the preservation of pasture, the horses' nutritional and roaming needs as well as equine pursuits remain a concern as many acres of farmland and open space are under developmental threat. This article focuses on conservation easements, a primary tool for land protection in the United States for over 40 years, as a valuable resource in the protection of land for equine-related activities. Read the full article at <https://bit.ly/2YwGP5Z>

Recorded Webinar: Equestrian Trail Design and Best Practices

If you missed this extremely popular webinar from April 2020 in partnership with American Trails and Back Country Horsemen of America, you can access the recording here: <https://bit.ly/2Ept0iO> This webinar addresses best practices for trail design planning, construction, and management in undeveloped natural areas and areas connecting to urban edge settings. The webinar includes trailhead development, urban to wildland transition design, and equestrian trail features to provide best sustainability and lowest impact. Special thanks to Rhino Marking & Protection Systems for sponsoring this webinar.



Recorded Webinar: Successful Models in Developing and Maintaining Private Equestrian Trail Systems

Privately owned land is the most at-risk component of our equestrian landscape and this webinar focuses on how three different communities have developed and maintained successful equestrian trail systems on private land. Boarding barns, competition venues, trails, hunt fixtures, and hayfields are being lost every day as a result of development, misunderstanding of liability issues by new owners of land, and rising demand for land around urbanizing areas. Access to private land for equestrian use can be a valuable asset in your community and can result in not only a viable recreational trail system but even a corridor providing equine access to public land. This joint webinar with American Trails from July 2020 was made possible by our sponsor Areté Structures and can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2EclUHv>



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Equestrian Advocacy Helps Secure Passage of Great American Outdoors Act

Thanks in large part to advocacy on the part of the horse industry and its allies, federal lawmakers prioritized land conservation and trails maintenance backlog issues for the summer 2020 legislative session. On May 6, 2020, the American Horse Council, American Sportfishing Association, American Trails, and more than 25 other members of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable sent a letter to Congress urging lawmakers to pass the “Great American Outdoors Act” (S. 3422), a bill that would fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provide resources to address the backlog in trails maintenance projects on public lands.



Equestrian Land Conservation Resource was pleased to work with our national conservation partners American Horse Council and American Trails to reach out to our equine community to support this effort. As a result, equestrian advocates across the country took action, sending approximately 1,000 letters to federal lawmakers urging their support for the Great American Outdoors (GAO) Act, and on June 17, 2020 the Senate voted in favor of the GAO Act by an overwhelming, bipartisan vote of 73 to 25, followed by a bipartisan vote of 310 to 107 in the House of Representatives on July 22, 2020. Finally, the GAO Act was officially signed into law by the President on August 4, 2020.

The GAO Act, referred to as a “recreation package,” combines key elements of legislation long supported by the horse industry. This includes more resources for the backlog maintenance of public trails and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—at \$900 million per year—which supports conservation easements that promote riding. Incorporating provisions of the “Restore Our Parks Act,” the package creates a revenue stream to dedicate funds from energy development projects to support the maintenance of trails run by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other agencies.

Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt also announced the designation of August 4 as “Great American Outdoors Day.” In future years, every August 4 will be a free entrance day to national parks and public lands to celebrate the signing of this landmark legislation.

How YOU Can Support ELCR

There are so many ways you can help support ELCR’s vital mission of saving horse land!

1. Join ELCR as a Conservation Partner.
2. Make a gift in honor of friends and family who also love our equine friends and way of life.
3. Donate stocks to ELCR.
4. Become a monthly donor and leverage a smaller monthly gift into a larger annual impact.
5. For federal and state employees, contribute to ELCR through the CFC or SECC.
6. Shop on Amazon Smile and select ELCR as your charity (smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2139677).
7. Remember a cherished loved one or equine companion with a Memorial Tribute Gift.
8. Like and share ELCR on Facebook—the more people we reach, the more cherished lands and equine heritage we can save!



Spotlight on AmazonSmile Contributions

In these unprecedented times, more online shopping has become the norm for many of us, not just for holidays but every day. As you’re going about your regular and year-end holiday shopping on Amazon, please remember that this is one of the easiest ways you can support ELCR! And when many are dealing with negative financial impacts at this time, this is also a great way you can contribute to an important cause that you care about, like saving horse land, without having to spend any additional income. You simply shop on Amazon as you normally do, and Amazon donates a portion of all your purchases to ELCR. Just make sure to shop on [amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com) and select ELCR as your benefiting charity, and ELCR receives a donation every time you shop—it’s that easy! Simply visit smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2139677





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