



Horse Council Courier

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.

Ranch Rodeo Saturday Night **Craig Cameron, Richard Shrake** **to headline Illinois Horse Fair Clinicians**

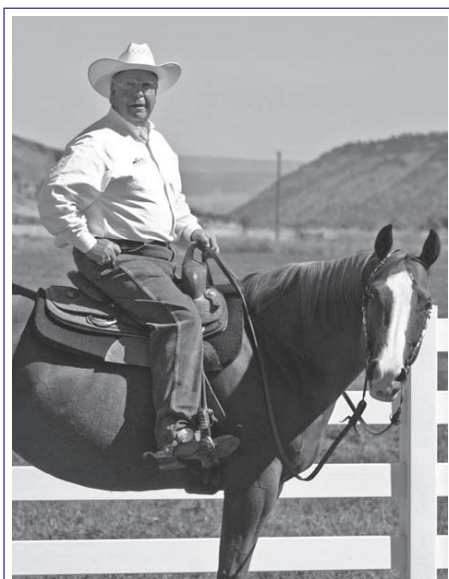


***Craig Cameron to headline
2009 Illinois Horse Fair clinicians.***

Springfield, IL – Top national clinicians and equine educators join vendors – recreational horsemen as well as professionals in all breeds and disciplines – at the 20th annual Illinois Horse Fair, March 6-8 at the state fairgrounds in Springfield.

Produced by Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) and sponsored by Purina Mills, Midway Trailer Sales and John Deere, the all-breed expo annually attracts more than 10,000 horsemen.

In addition to a strong pre-season retail environment (140 commercial vendors, many brands of trailers for sale on site) and informational opportunities, Horse Fair offers unique Horses For Sale aisles, more than 25 breed and sport demonstrations, Stallion Row and Parade and the All-Youth Horse Judging Trials.



***Richard Shrake to teach at
2009 Illinois Horse Fair clinicians.***

New this year are the Ranch Rodeo at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Coliseum and Cowboy Church with David Davis' Horseback Music Ministry at 8 a.m. Sunday. In his role as a clinician Davis will teach training horses for Roman riding. There's also an all-breed gaited riding clinic by Liz Graves, a dressage clinic by Lilo Fore and an equestrian lifestyle fashion show.

The ranch rodeo – a team competition pitting four-rider teams against one another and the clock in timed "cowboy skills" events – is being produced for Horse Fair by Randy Littrell of Raymond, and Matt Branum of Taylorville. Littrell rode bulls for 13 years and now focuses on a breeding program at his Shop Creek Cattle Company.

While general admission tickets permit entry to Horse Fair's clinics, demonstration's, commercial exhibits and barns,

only Ranch Rodeo requires a separate ticket (\$7 adults; \$5 children/seniors).

Horse Fair's headline clinician is RFD-TV's Craig Cameron of Bluff Dale, TX, often called the public defender of the horse. Joining Cameron is the ultimate coach, Richard Shrake of Sun River, OR. Others giving training demonstrations include Ryan Gingerich (The Behaviorist on RFD-TV), Mark Schwarm and Tim Boyer.

Riding clinics will be presented by Alain Allard of Quebec, Canada (Reining), an NRHA futurity winner; Lilo Fore of Santa Rosa, CA, (Dressage), an international campaigner and FEI "I" judge; Shellane Piatt of Litchfield, IL, (Barrel Racing), five-time International Finals Rodeo and AQHA World Show qualifier; and Liz Graves of Spring Valley, MN (Gaited Riding), who many consider to be the premier all-breed gaited clinician.

Cameron will do two training sessions in the Livestock Center on Friday and in the Coliseum on Saturday and Sunday.

(continued on page 3)

Inside this Issue

<i>Contagious Metritis Update.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Equestrian Lifestyle Expo Success...7</i>	
<i>HCI Member Stars in Movie.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Illinois projects for 2009.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>NCSL Supports Horse Industry..4</i>	
<i>President's Corner.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Rodeo Saturday Night.....</i>	<i>Cover</i>

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois

Board of Directors

President

Frank Bowman, Pleasant Plains

Vice President

Sheryl King, Ph.D., Carbondale

Secretary/Treasurer

Joseph Lowry, DVM,
Davis Junction

Past President

Paul Briney, Chatham

Russ Derango, Lexington

Karen Freese, Hammond

Anne Gallagher, Walnut Hill

Kevin Kline, Ph.D., Urbana

Joy A. Meierhans, Elburn

Mark Niebrugge, Effingham

Yvonne Ocrant, Barrington

Gary Sigler, Auburn

Peter Veit, Naperville

Advisors

Richard Bingham, Elk Grove Village

Donna Ewing, Barrington

Kandee Haertel, Galena

Jack Martin, Libertyville

Patricia Walker, Sherman

HCI Administrative Office

Springfield

Bonnie Chandler

217.585.1600

www.HorsemensCouncil.org

Readers are encouraged to share information in this publication and permission is granted to reprint articles with acknowledgment to the Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

President's Corner

The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

It's hard to imagine that spring and another Illinois Horse Fair are just around the corner. Time flies when you are having fun, and we're having more than our fair share here at HCI, working to protect your equine lifestyle and planning for the new legislative sessions. A new President, a new Congress and a new State Legislature are adding to the excitement. For those who may be reading this newsletter for the first time, welcome. To our long-time supporters, welcome back for another exciting year.

Your state horse council plays a central role in protecting your rights as a horse owner and the equestrian lifestyle you enjoy. The Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI), is the state affiliate of the American Horse Council, working to represent you here in Illinois. HCI works closely with both state and federal legislators, monitoring and responding to efforts by groups and individuals who would like to limit or take away your rights – and we're also doing everything we can to develop a strong and vibrant horse industry for everyone here in Illinois. Regardless of the breed or discipline you hold dear, HCI is here for you. HCI has directors from all areas of the state who volunteer to protect your interests. Please contact them when you need help on an issue. If what we do is something you believe in, tell your friends about us, too. Maybe even consider serving on an HCI committee or possibly on the HCI Board. There's no better way to support our cause.

Urban legislators and their animal rights backers still seek to take away your rights

as a livestock owner and establish a kind of legal standing for horses. Please, take your blinders off and learn fully about the issues. We'll be watching them very closely. Horses are not puppies or kittens. Don't fall victim to the emotional spin from the humane groups. Those groups only want your money to influence anti-hunting, anti-livestock and animal rights legislation. They end up paying themselves really well, fly around in private jets and dine with senators and movie stars while taking away your rights as a horse owner. Tell your friends and family members not to support those organizations. Why? Because no one cares more about the health and welfare of your horses than you do.

We also need to keep a watchful eye on the bureaucrats and revenueurs. With the financial condition of the state being one of the worst in the nation, our government money grabbers are on the prowl for every potential revenue stream they can find, including any that may be being overlooked. If you haven't done it recently, it might be a good idea for you to have a long talk with a tax accountant about your equine business practices and any potential exposure or tax liability you may have.

Sure hope to see you at Horse Fair. The gang has put together a fantastic schedule with plenty of educational opportunities and fun for everyone. Be sure to stop by the HCI booth for a visit, too. ■

Frank Bowman

(continued from cover)

In addition to his regular TV appearances, Cameron is on the road more than 44 weeks a year demonstrating the style of horsemanship he has perfected in the last 23 years. Called the “public defender of the horse,” Craig dedicates himself to those who educate their horses by first educating themselves.

Craig has created a program that builds confidence and trust between man and horse. Rather than fight the animal, he offers patience and understanding that leaves the horse wanting to do what is asked of him. In the early 80’s Craig met Ray Hunt who opened his eyes to the art of working through understanding when training horses. Building upon his experiences, Craig uses a philosophy of teaching that eliminates rough handling of horses earning him a well-deserved international following.

A native Texan, Craig is headquartered out of his unique Double Horn Ranch in Bluff Dale, TX and in Lincoln, NM. His original entertaining and motivational style is regularly sought after by TV, radio, magazine, fairs, ranches, concerts, universities and many celebrities.

Exhibits fill the Livestock Center, Annex, Building 26 just north of the Livestock Center, and barns radiating east from the Livestock Center and across the street in the Series 25 barns. Most exhibits are in heated indoor space, but some equipment displays and trailers are parked outside adjacent to these venues.

More than 300 young people will be involved Saturday in the All-Youth Horse Judging Trials under HCI sponsorship in cooperation with U. of I. Extension. Teams come from the ranks of 4-H, FFA and breed associations around Illinois and surrounding states.

What’s unusual about the HorsesForSale Aisles at Horse Fair is that all dealings are direct between buyer and seller. Horses are neither auctioned nor sold by Horse Fair, and Horse Fair takes no commission. When prospective buyers come onto the grounds, they receive a listing of horses for sale, which includes a description of the horse along with a tag number that appears on the horse’s halter and stall. To enter a horse in the HorsesForSale Aisles, contact Myles Harston, HFS coordinator, at (309) 208-5230 or email mh@aquaranch.com.

Horse Fair opens on Friday (3 p.m. – 9 p.m.) when early bird shoppers get access to vendors’ full stock of merchandise plus save

money on special Friday-only promotions and reduced \$5 admission charge... and see training demo sessions by Craig Cameron, Richard Shrake and others. Hours Saturday are 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. when the Ranch Rodeo begins. Hours Sunday are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday or Sunday Horse Fair tickets are \$12 adults and \$6 child/senior; weekend Horse Fair passes are \$20 adults and \$10 child/senior. Tickets for Saturday night’s Ranch Rodeo require a separate \$7 ticket for adults, \$5 for children and seniors. Advance tickets may be purchased online with a charge card at www.HorsemensCouncil.org or by calling the Council office at (217) 585-1600.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of responsibilities, ranging from manning information booths to hospitality. You can volunteer for a few hours a day or for a whole weekend. To volunteer, contact Cheryl DeMent by email at paintfilly71@yahoo.com.

For information on exhibiting: booths – Joy Meierhans, Horse Fair Manager, (630) 557-2575 or JM@TheMeierhans.com; stallion row and parade – Lori Nelson (217) 623-5561 or lorinelsontraining@gmail.com; breed/discipline demonstrations – Kat or Brent Hamer (309) 432-3539 or fizz61760@yahoo.com.

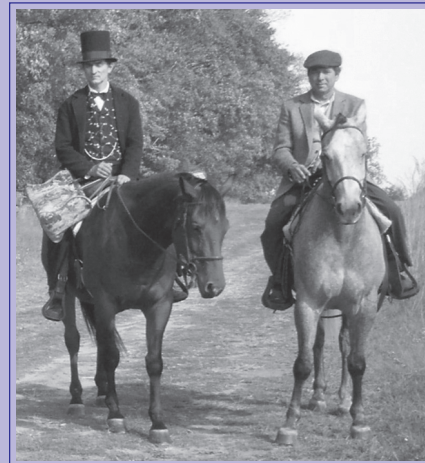
Those interested in having a horse considered for the many training demos by Horse Fair clinicians should contact Carrol Rodgers, horse procurement coordinator, at (618) 838-4396 or email carrolr@hotmail.com.

Riders interested in participating in clinics should contact coordinators direct: Reining with Alain Allard – Doug Bogart (309) 787-4271 or djbogart7@sbcglobal.net; Dressage with Lilo Fore – Pinky Noll (217) 787-7317 or nolllaw1@aol.com; Barrel Racing with Shellane Piatt – Dave Jostes (217) 972-7416 dj@heaths.com; and All-Breed Gaited Riding with Liz Graves – Stacy Bowman (217) 487-7664 or BowmanFxTr@aol.com.

A complete schedule of events is printable from the Horse Fair web site at www.HorsemensCouncil.org.

Illinois Horse Fair is produced by Horsemen’s Council of Illinois, an affiliate chapter of the American Horse Council. HCI is the statewide “organization of organizations” and individuals providing central leadership and advocacy for Illinois’ 77,000 horse owners, 213,000 horses and its diverse \$3.8 billion equine industry. ■

HCI Member Stars in Lincoln Movie



Ron Rhoades and his Quarter Horse, Tuck' Blue Diamond.

Recognize the horse and rider in the photo with this article? They are Horsemen’s Council of Illinois member Ron Rhoades and his Quarter Horse, Tuck’ Blue Diamond. The Quarter Horse, Scooter, being ridden by “Abraham Lincoln,” belongs to Ron’s wife, Sara. Scooter is portraying Lincoln’s faithful mount, Old Tom.

This photo was taken during the filming of a Lincoln documentary in October 2007. The documentary, produced by WILL-TV’s Allison Davis Wood, tells the story of Lincoln’s life as a traveling lawyer in the middle of the country. Abraham Lincoln’s experiences on muddy roads, in homes of friends and in courtrooms on the circuit in central Illinois shaped the views and honed the skills that guided him when he became president. Reenactments of Lincoln riding the dusty circuit, telling stories with friends and trying cases in court help viewers envision his formative experiences on the circuit. The documentary will air this February, the bicentennial month of Lincoln’s birth. Check with your local PBS station for date and time. ■

NCSL Supports the Horse Industry

With support from the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) adopted a national Horse Industry Policy resolution.

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories, and as such is a respected and effective advocate for the interests of the states before Congress and federal agencies. At its annual Fall Forum in Atlanta, Georgia on December 11-13, 2008, with an overwhelming majority of the states in support—NCSL adopted the Horse Industry Policy Resolution co-sponsored by Representative Sue Wallis of Wyoming and Representative Dave Sigdestad of South Dakota.

The Horse Industry Policy urges Congress to oppose legislation that would restrict the market, transport, processing, or export of horses; to recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States; and not to interfere with State efforts to establish facilities in the United States. The passage of the policy provides the authority for NCSL staff in Washington D.C. to lobby on Capitol Hill as it effectively establishes the position of the States.

"We have received an absolute flood of support from literally every crook and cranny of this nation, and from all walks of life," said Wallis. "We had letters of support from Horse Councils nation-wide, we heard from horse owners, horse rescue and recovery organizations who are overwhelmed and without options, breed registries, professional rodeo cowboys, horse owners and many, many people who are sincerely concerned about the fate of horses and the equine industry," she said.

Rep. Wallis is a Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Energy Standing Committee at NCSL.

"I am especially pleased," said Wallis, "that the strong support of this resolution will allow our NCSL staff the ability to lobby on Capitol Hill with factual, accurate, and compassionate information about the horrific unintended consequences of certain proposed federal actions that would deprive livestock owners of private property rights, and thwart state efforts."

Besides countless emails and phone calls, letters of support, petitions, and resolutions from organizations, Sigdestad and Wallis made good use of solid academic resources—in particular, Dr. Patricia Evans, Equine Specialist from Utah State Univer-

sity and her work on the "State of the Horse Industry Since the Closure of the Processing Plants," and a graduate paper presented by Ashton Graham from New Mexico State University, "Wild Horses and Federal Tax Dollars."

Former US Senator Conrad Burns of Montana was in Atlanta to assist Sigdestad and Wallis and was instrumental in getting the resolution out of the Agriculture and Energy Committee, and onto the General Session floor for debate. The committee vote was nearly unanimous with a single dissenting vote from Rep. McCoy of Washington.

"The horse people of America owe a special thanks not only to Rep. Sigdestad who first brought the issue to NCSL; and to Senator Burns for his straight-forward effectiveness; but also to the many state senators and representatives who supported the resolution at our General Session—especially Rep. Steve Riggs of Kentucky who spoke in support," says Wallis, "without question, animal agriculture in the US is under siege by radical animal rights organizations—this doesn't win us the war, but it is a significant skirmish, and we have one more valuable tool in our arsenal." ■

Illinois State Horse Judges Seminar March 28, 2009; Features Brian Scoggins, Jennifer McCormick-Lindgren

The annual Illinois State Horse Judges Seminar has been scheduled for March 28, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of Illinois. Registration and classroom instruction will begin in room 150, Animal Science Lab, 1207 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL. Live classes will later be held in the UI Stock Pavilion a few blocks south of the Animal Science Lab.

This seminar is open to all youth and open horse show judges, potential judges, exhibitors and spectators of horse events. It is designed to encourage uniform standards for judging and exhibiting horses at Illinois youth and open shows, and to yield a directory of judges for show committees. It will cover criteria for judging Arabian horses, halter, showmanship, horsemanship, saddle seat classes, equitation, Western pleasure and helpful tips for judging 4-H shows. Fees for this seminar are \$20 for youth (under 18 years), \$30 for adults and

\$50 for adults wishing to take the written and live judging exam for listing in the Illinois Horse Judge's Directory.

The primary clinician is Brian Scoggins of Tuscola, IL. Scoggins has been a United States Equestrian Federation approved judge for the past 10 years. He has judged more than 60 Arabian shows in recent years, including eight regional shows, the Canadian Nationals and the U.S. Nationals in 2008. Brian has been involved in the horse industry his entire life through his family, especially his father, the late highly-respected equine veterinarian, R. Dean Scoggins, DVM. He has also been a professional horse trainer for the past 25 years, showing locally, regionally and nationally, earning several regional and national championships.

Also presenting at the IL State Horse Judges Seminar will be Jennifer McCormick-Lindgren of Grant Park, IL. She is a popular

columnist for various horse publications and is a sought-after judge for youth and open horse shows. Jennifer grew up showing horses in 4-H shows and was a National 4-H Horse Judging Contest award winner during her 4-H career. She has been a frequent clinician and judge for 4-H horse events in the Midwest including the Wisconsin State 4-H Horse Show and has shown her own Arabian horses to several top 10 National awards.

The Illinois State Horse Judges Seminar is sponsored by University of Illinois Extension and the UI Department of Animal Sciences.

Registration materials may be obtained from Kevin H. Kline, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 388 Animal Sciences Lab, 1207 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, E-mail: kkline@illinois.edu ■

National Park Service's RTCA Announces 8 Illinois Trails Projects

The National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior) has announced eight trails projects for 2009 in Illinois through its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. This is the Service's community assistance arm through which staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. RTCA helps communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate. This is typical of the assistance available to groups and organizations in building, expanding and increasing the scope of dedicated and/or multi-use trails, including horse trails.

For information and help on organizing projects in your part of Illinois, contact local RTCA staffers Diane Banta 312-863-6287, diane_banta@nps.gov; Diana Allen 314-655-1625, diana_allen@nps.gov; and Mark Weekley 402-661-1570, mark_weekley@nps.gov. More information is available online at www.nps.gov/rzca. ■

Illinois projects for 2009 are:

1. Burnham Plan Centennial Legacy Project - Calumet-Sag Trail Dedication

Location: Lemont to Burnham Congressional Districts: 1,2

Project Partners: Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail & Calumet-Sag Trail Coalition

NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal: Build a new partnership of groups working on the Calumet-Sag Trail to focus on funding strategies for the trail.

2. Calumet-Sag Trail

Location: Lemont to Lake Michigan in Chicago Congressional District: 1,2

Project Partner: Chicagoland Bicycle Federation

NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal: A 26-mile trail through the Chicago Southland Region, providing a green corridor connecting 14 communities and linking the region's recreational trails.

3. Confluence Water Trails

Location: St. Louis metropolitan region Congressional Districts: IL - 12,19, MO - 1,2

Project Partner: Confluence Partnership

NPS Contact: Diana Allen

Project Goal: 70 miles of water trails on the great rivers within The Confluence Partnership's project area (30 miles of Lewis & Clark Water Trail on the Missouri and 40 miles on the Mississippi Water Trail).

4. Illinois Route 66 Trail - Southern Connections

Location: Springfield to Alton, IL Congressional Districts: 12,19

Project Partner: Illinois Department of Natural Resources

NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal: Work with communities to plan and implement local sections of the Rt. 66 trail with local connecting trail systems.

5. Marseilles Swing Bridge Community Trail Links

Location: Marseilles Congressional District: 11

Project Partner: Special Places Advocates

NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal: A 10-mile trail system linking historic features within Marseilles and to the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

6. Mississippi River Trail, Phase II

Location: Headwaters of Mississippi River in Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico, New Orleans Congressional Districts: AR - 1,4, IA - 2,4, IL - 4,12,16,17,19, KY - 1, LA - 1,2,3,5,6, MN - 2,3,4,5,6,8, MO - 1,2,3,8,9, MS - 1,2,3, TN - 7,8,9, WI - 3

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

NPS Contact: Diana Allen, Liz Smith-Incer, Stacye Palmer

Project Goal: 3,000 miles of trail system and 30,000 acres of open space along the Mississippi River in ten states, and an organization to support conservation, recreation, public health, and tourism.

7. Mounds Heritage Trail

Location: City of St. Louis, St. Clair and Madison Counties Congressional Districts: IL - 12, MO - 1

Project Partner: The Confluence Partnership

NPS Contact: Diana Allen

Project Goal: A nine-mile on-road interpretive trail, with links to two miles of off-road interpretive trails at Cahokia Mounds that will focus visitors on the rich cultural and natural attributes of the area.

8. Northwest Indiana Bikeways

Location: Counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte Congressional Districts: IL - 2, IN - 1,2, MI - 6

Project Partner: Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

Project Goal: A 150-mile trail network that accommodates bicycles and pedestrians and connects Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with communities and attractions throughout northwest Indiana.

Unwanted Horses: They Need Your Help

Washington, DC – January 6, 2009. History has shown that when the economy falls on hard times, animals are among the first to suffer. Numerous media reports suggest that the problem of unwanted horses is growing by the day. Some might even go so far as to say the horse community is in uncharted territory with the issue. People can argue about why the numbers are increasing, but the current state of the economy has left many horse owners in serious financial hardship, forcing them to make the decision to part with their horses. The bottom line is too many of these horses need a place to go.

Responsible owners are doing their best to find new homes and uses for their horses so that they don't become unwanted. The Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC) has urged owners to surrender their horses to organizations that can use them, retrain them or give them a new home.

"These organizations take your horse when you have no other options, care for it, and work tirelessly to find it another life. Now the rescue facilities are starting to brim over their capacity and many of these organizations need your help," said Julia Andersen, director of the UHC.

While a donation of money, feed, hay, and other supplies is an urgent need for rescues, nothing can replace adoption. "If you are interested in taking in a horse, or in the market to buy one, why not check out the adoptable horses first? Horse owners and breeders are particularly well-suited to help with these horses," suggests Andersen.

"Many people are under the impression that the horses put up for adoption are old, lame, or physically undesirable. However the Unwanted Horse Coalition gets calls daily from people who have perfectly sound horses with a lot of life in them, but sadly the owners are not able to keep them for many different reasons. Certainly many are also older horses or horses that cannot be ridden. Both types are in need of homes," said Andersen.

The horse adoption process varies depending on the organization. Most require that you get to know the horse before you adopt it. This helps to ensure that you and your potential horse are suited for each other. "Frankly, this is a good idea even if it's not required by the organization," said Andersen. Another typical requirement is that the organization will conduct a home or barn visit to check up on the horse. Some organizations will even continue to visit you and your horse over time. This is a very responsible action by an organization, as they must make sure you are giving the horse proper nutrition, shelter, and care. Some organizations may even retain ownership for a period until they deem your care up to their health and safety standards. Finally, it is not uncommon for facilities to charge a small adoption fee. This fee helps to cover the expenses the facility incurred during the time the horse was at the facility.

If you are interested in adopting a horse and have never owned a horse before, there's much you need to know about horse care. Adopting a horse is not like adopting a dog or cat. Even if the adoption process is similar, caring for a horse is more time-consuming, more expensive, and requires a facility — either your own or a boarding farm. For more information on the many responsibilities of horse ownership, please see the UHC's "Own Responsibly" handbook, which can be downloaded from the UHC website, www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

"If you are someone whose life had been enriched by horses, now is the time to ask what you can do for them in return," said Andersen. The UHC urges anyone able to adopt a horse to take action now and contact a local rescue facility. All of the rescues in the country do not have the capacity or means to take in all of the unwanted horses. UHC Chairman Dr. Tom Lenz advises people to buy rather than breed, adopt rather than buy, find alternative careers, and euthanize rather than discard. Again, these horses need your help. If you do not know of a rescue facility in your area, to see facility listings by state, please visit www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org. ■

—by Julia Anderson,
Unwanted Horse Coalition

(The mission of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is to reduce the number of unwanted horses and improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety and responsible care and disposition of these horses. The UHC grew out of the Unwanted Horse Summit, which was organized by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and held in conjunction with the American Horse Council's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2005. The summit was held to bring key stakeholders together to start a dialogue on the unwanted horse in America. Its purpose was to develop consensus on the most effective way to work together to address the issue. In June 2006, the UHC was folded into the AHC and now operates under its auspices.)

Join Us Today!

Individual Membership Application

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
County _____
State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____
Work Phone () _____
Fax () _____
Email _____
How many horses do you own? _____
_____ at home _____ boarding stable

Individual Membership Dues (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$39/yr**

Organization Membership Application

Organization _____
Contact Name _____
Street _____
City _____
County _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____
Fax () _____
Email _____
Website _____
of Illinois Members in Organization _____

Check appropriate category
____ Business/Professional ____ Association ____ Charity

Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.

Make check payable and mail to:



Horsemen's Council of Illinois
3085 Stevenson Dr., Suite 308
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: 217.585.1600
www.horsemenscouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

County Forest Preserve looking for Danada Equestrian Center site manager

Wheaton, IL – DuPage County Forest Preserve District is seeking an equestrian professional to serve as Education Site Manager for the renowned Danada Equestrian Center, located in the Chicago suburb of Wheaton, IL.

The Education Site Manager is a unique position that calls for an individual who has a solid background in equestrian facility management, according to Christina Watson, human resource analyst for the District.

"This individual also should demonstrate a passion centered on creating, promoting, and facilitating a variety of programs and horsemanship classes at all levels," Watson said. In addition to managing the staff, the site manager also would oversee the day-to-day operations of the center, she said.

The Danada Equestrian Center promotes safe horse-handling practices and care by advancing the relationship between humans and horses. The center offers scheduled educational and recreational equestrian experiences for DuPage County residents throughout the year.

All applicants may contact Christina Watson by phone at 630-933-7232, fax 630-933-7229, or by Email Christina at cwatson@dupageforest.com. Visit www.dupageforest.com. ■

2009 Horse Fair March 6-8.

***For details visit
www.horsemencouncil.org***

Horsemen's Council of Illinois' Equestrian Lifestyle Expo deemed 'great success'

Horsemen's Council of Illinois' first-ever pre-Thanksgiving Chicagoland Equestrian Lifestyle Expo & Holiday Market is being called a success by the Council, presenters, vendors and attendees.

Expo management surveyed vendors and attendees, asking them to complete questionnaires and to evaluate speakers. Based on overwhelmingly positive feedback, plans already are in the works for an even bigger and better event at Arlington this year, according to Joy Meierhans, Expo manager.

From a vendor: Just wanted to drop you a quick note this morning to say thank you so very much for having me at the Expo as a vendor. Your staff was always friendly and courteous. You all were a pleasure to deal with. What a beautiful venue! I had a very good show and LOTS & LOTS of traffic!

(Expo was November 22-23, 2008 at Arlington Park Racecourse in Arlington Heights, a northwestern Chicago suburb. The track has been described as a "jewel in Thoroughbred racing's crown." After its racing season, much of the first and second grandstand levels are cleared and the space devoted to a series of trade shows. Expo utilized the main level for booths and Level Two to create four areas for more than 40 educational presentations, two seminar halls, 10 round tables where attendees sat for 15 minutes with an expert before moving on to another table and expert, and a large theater area for other presentations.)

From a Lisa Kemp roundtable attendee: I want to tell you that I so enjoyed both of your presentations and found them immensely informative. As someone new to the business of horses, but old in the love of them, the ideas you shared are especially appreciated. I also found the participative nature of your format really effective by encouraging the sharing of resources and ideas by participants. I look forward to the next one!

Presenters of basic and highly technical subjects universally told management that they were impressed with the large number of attendees and the quality of questions asked by seminar attendees. Among these presenters were Julie Goodnight of RFD-TV's "Horse Master" program, Matthew Stewart, DVM, PhD, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, and Asia Voight, Animal Planet's "Pet Psychic," each of whom were welcomed by standing room only crowds in their 200-seat seminar halls.

"Expo gave us exposure to a whole new group of horsemen and enthusiasts, many of whom never associated Horsemen's Council of Illinois with the work we do on the industry's behalf," said Frank Bowman, HCI president.

"There are more than 65,000 horses just in northern Illinois' top 22 counties with an approximate 80/20 split between English and Western, an exact opposite of what we find downstate," said Kirk Dailey, horse specialist for Expo sponsor Purina Mills.

"We answered lots of questions and made many new friends at our booth," Bowman said.

HCI's Expo booth offered displays of the work the Council does and was staffed by directors eager to learn what's on the mind of horsemen. In addition to Horse Fair and the Expo, Council efforts include lobbying activities in Springfield and on Capitol Hill, leadership summits, meetings with the American Horse Council, involvement with trails building and preservation, scholarship programs for horsemen, educators and veterinary students, liability insurance for members, a speakers bureau on equine environmental, legal and tax issues, and publication of education materials on subjects ranging from laws affecting horsemen in Illinois to buying your first horse to basic horse handling safety. ■

Contagious Equine Metritis Update

In December 2008, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture announced that a Quarter Horse stallion tested positive for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), a foreign animal disease not found in the United States, during routine testing for international semen shipment. Contagious Equine Metritis is a transmissible, exotic venereal disease in horses which usually results in infertility in mares and, on rare occasions, can cause mares to spontaneously abort. Infected stallions exhibit no clinical signs but can carry the CEM bacteria for years.

Since the discovery of the positive stallion in Kentucky, a full epidemiological investigation has been underway to locate, test and quarantine any potentially exposed horses.

Currently, a total of nine stallions has been confirmed positive for CEM, four located in Kentucky, three in Indiana, one in Wisconsin and one in Texas. The Indiana and Texas stallions spent time on the central Kentucky premises during the 2008 breeding season. The Friesian stallion from Wisconsin was not in Kentucky, but

was co-located during the 2007 breeding season in Wisconsin with one of the CEM-positive stallions that was on the Kentucky premises in 2008.

In addition to the nine positive stallions, the locations of 325 exposed horses have also been confirmed. The total of 334 horses includes 43 stallions and 291 mares located in a total of 39 States. The 43 positive or exposed stallions are located in 11 States, and the 291 exposed mares are in 37 States. Additional exposed horses that are tied to the two latest positive stallions (in Texas and Wisconsin) are actively being traced and will be held under movement restrictions by state animal health authorities, until they test negative for the disease or they complete veterinary treatment and are certified as CEM-negative. All of the horses that have tested positive for CEM and all exposed horses that have been located are currently under quarantine or are on a hold order. Testing of all associated horses is underway, as well as treatment of those found to be CEM positive.

The United States Department of Agriculture is currently funding the testing associated with this disease investigation. They

are funding the diagnostic tests and sample shipping costs for the testing of any exposed horses directly linked to the investigation. An exposed horse is one that was bred to a CEM-positive horse, either naturally or via artificial insemination, or one that is otherwise epidemiologically linked to a CEM-positive horse, as determined by State and Federal animal health officials.

There is great concern over the ramifications of this situation on domestic and international transport, as many countries only accept horses that are certified to come from a country free of CEM. The American Horse Council continues to remain in contact with state and USDA representatives regarding this outbreak. We want to make sure that this investigation is executed as quickly and efficiently as possible to protect the U.S. horse industry from further spread of the disease and ensure that the U.S. can maintain its status of being free of CEM and allow continued movement of horses. Please contact us with any questions. ■



Horse Council Courier

Horsemens' Council of Illinois, Inc.

The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 308

Springfield, IL 62703