



The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

Volume 1, Spring 2010

Horse Council Courier

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

Tommie Turvey's Night of Amazing Horses Shows ***Illinois Horse Fair features*** ***RFD-TV's Julie Goodnight and Ryan Gingerich*** ***plus Ray Hunt protégé Mark Schwarm***



Top national clinicians and equine educators join 140 vendors offering all things for the equestrian – from recreational horsemen to professionals – at the 21st annual Illinois Horse Fair, March 5-7 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 horse people.

In addition to learning training techniques from experts, Horse Fair gives attendees access to unique HorsesForSale aisles, breed and sport demonstrations, Stallion Row and Parade and the All-Youth Horse Judging Trials.

New this year will be Tommie Turvey's Night of Amazing Horses show on Friday and Saturday nights. Trainer/showman Turvey and his troop thrill audiences with Roman riding, chariot racing, liberty acts and rib-tickling



comedy born of experiences to warm the hearts of every horse owner.

Also new will be a Cowboy Mounted Shooting clinic for folks wanting to learn the basics of this "fastest growing equestrian sport" in the nation. It's a combination of wild west show exhibition shooting, cavalry drills, reining competition, barrel racing and historical reenactment. Clinician will be Rick Meyer, co-founder and past president of St. Louis Cowboy Mounted Shooting and the Illinois Renegades. Meyer is a National "Colt Eliminator" Top Ten Cowboy.



Other clinics include Liz Graves' Gaited Riding Clinic and Polly Hagey's Barrel Racing clinic.

Horse Fair's featured clinicians are RFD-TV's Julie Goodnight and Ryan Gingerich.

(continued on page 3)

Inside this Issue

<i>First ever in the Nation.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Horse breeders Honored.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>IDNR discusses \$2.6 Million in Grants....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>IHF features RFD-TV's Stars.....</i>	<i>Cover</i>
<i>Is the Horse boarded or Abandoned?....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>President's Corner.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Ron Rhoades named to HCI Board.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Spring Volunteer Opportunities.....</i>	<i>6</i>

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President's Corner

The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

I've heard it said, "If you never upset anyone, you aren't accomplishing much." Doing and saying what is right may not always be popular. Likewise, doing and saying what is popular may not always be right.

There's no way around it, 2010 is going to be another very tough year for agriculture of all types, primarily because we have a majority of elected officials and a panel of government appointees who have a much different agenda than the current state of agriculture requires. Very few of them understand horses, agriculture, open space or anything outside the concrete jungles and contrived realities they represent. Most have never gone horseback riding. For those who have it's mainly a fond childhood memory. They're the public decision-makers who need to hear how much access to public lands and your equestrian lifestyle mean to you. Talk to your neighbors, too, and maybe introduce them to the horses you love and the lifestyle you cherish.

During 2010 we, as equine owners and equine professionals, have to learn to listen to and counter conflicting, if not adversarial, views. We get nothing out of talking only to each other to reaffirm what we already believe. If you want to remain ignorant about anything just talk to or read things written by people who agree with you. You have to understand where your adversaries are coming from, if for no other reason than to understand where they're coming up with what they think is true. We can all agree to disagree, and we may actually agree on some things. I think we can agree that the urban and mechanized recreational lobby, animal rights fanatics and the vegan agenda are so deeply entrenched that they are going to remain part of the landscape.

As such, each and every one of us must push relentlessly to shine light on the facts, offering common sense, speaking the truth about horse ownership and providing people with a proper perspective. There aren't many of our urban cousins who take the time to tour our facilities or even dare enter the equine "Twilight Zone". Horses are creatures full of mystery and wonder to most people. They are for me too, but we must become more aggressive and work nonstop to make sure people hear the truth and facts. Don't allow celebrities (or anybody else you hear) to lie, fabricate

or fictionalize facts about horses and horse ownership. I'm afraid the time to be polite is over. Radical political fundraising groups such as HSUS, PETA, Farm Sanctuary and several others are trying to literally destroy our freedoms and take away the lifestyle we enjoy so much with our horses. They are walking all over our constitutional rights to own and enjoy horses. Why do you continue to just sit quietly and allow them to distort everything we hold dear? You need to tell your story to anyone who will listen. Be honest and open. Start with your family and friends. You've got to tell your legislators, too; they represent you, make decisions that affect your businesses and they, of all people, need to understand how much an equestrian lifestyle means to you.

As horse breeders, we also need to ask if the world really needs what we produce. Many of us who live in rural America have not been as directly affected by the current recession. That, however, is not the case for millions of other US citizens. According to some sources, our economy has been losing 11,000 jobs per day since December of 2007. Over eight million jobs have been lost since the start of this recession. Do you think these less-fortunate individuals are able to purchase your young horses or even take care of the ones they may already have as they once could, or should? I doubt it. People can't afford to feed themselves and their kids much less the horses. If you haven't seen the pages and pages of "free horse" ads on the internet, the growing number of stories of neglect and abandonment or been to a horse sale lately, pull your head out of the sand. When times are tough, people are forced to get the most out of every dollar they have. The demand for horses has been decreasing dramatically for at least the past three or four years, a trend I'm afraid will continue until the economy gets turned around. Unfortunately, there is a good chance the economy may get worse before it gets better.

These are the kind of challenges we share and need to face head on. I need your help. I need you to decide what is right... and then stand up for what is right. I need you to join us in support of our efforts at HCI. I plan to continue doing and saying what I believe to be right. Hope you will, too. ■

Frank Bowman

(continued from cover)



Joining the pair are trainer/showmen Tommie Turvey and Ray Hunt protégé Mark Schwarm.

Julie Goodnight has more than a quarter-century of horse training experience. Her varied background ranges from racing, reining, colt-starting and wilderness riding to dressage and jumping. She teaches “Classic Skills for a Natural Ride” and travels coast-to-coast and beyond to film her award-winning television show, *Horse Master*, as well as to appear at horse expos, conferences and clinics. Her training and teaching techniques are frequent features of *Horse & Rider*, *The Trail Rider* and *America's Horse*.

Years of study have helped **Ryan Gingerich**, “The Behaviorist,” develop his own training program, *Connective Horsemanship*. At his National Equine Behavior Center, Ryan continues to hone and expand his knowledge, which he shares three times a week on his highly-rated RFD-TV show.

Shortly before coming to Horse Fair, **Mark Schwarm** will participate with an elite group of horsemen in the Ray Hunt Memorial Clinic, Fort Worth, TX. Ray died in March 2009. In 2007, Mark was one five horsemen chosen in the United States for the first understudy program with Master Horseman Ray Hunt. Mark spent two months with Ray at his ranch in Texas. Mark also worked with Joe Wolter at the famous Four Sixes Ranch in Texas and the C.S. Ranch in New Mexico.

Tommie Turvey is an accomplished performer and horseman in many disciplines. He works in all aspects of the entertainment and equine industry. You’ve probably seen him in feature films, television commercials, as a featured performer at dinner theaters, a specialty feature act at a touring circus, a main character in a wild-west show, to performing his “extreme” shows at horse expos, equestrian

events, rodeos, fairs, and international horse shows around the world. In additions to shows, you may have seen Tommie featured in a national Absorbine Jr commercial, or seen him on RFD-TV shows with Clinton Anderson, Pat and Linda Parelli, or Rick Lamb’s the Horse Show. He is also a professional stunt man and recently worked on the feature films,

“Batman” with Heath Ledger; Larry the Cable Guy’s “Witless Protection”, and HBO’s Mini Series “John Adams” with Paul Giamatti.

Times and topics for clinicians’ daily training sessions and a complete schedule of events will be on the Horse Fair web site: www.HorsemensCouncil.org. Riders interested in having their horses in any of the training clinics also will find details on the site.

Horse Fair opens on Friday (1 pm–7 pm) 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 Julie Goodnight, Ryan Gingerich, Tommie Turvey, Mark Schwarm, and others. Hours Saturday are 9 am until 7 pm. Hours Sunday are 9 am to 5 pm.

Saturday or Sunday Horse Fair tickets are \$12 adult and \$6 child/senior; weekend passes are \$20 adult and \$10 child/senior. General admission tickets for Night of Amazing Horses shows Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm require a separate ticket: General Admission \$9 adult, \$6 child/senior; Preferred Seating \$15 adult, \$10 child/senior. Advance tickets may be purchased online with a charge card at www.HorsemensCouncil.org or by calling the Council office at 217-585-1600.

For information on exhibiting: booths – Joy Meierhans, Horse Fair Manager, 630-557-2575 or JM@TheMeierhans.com; stallion row and parade – Lori Nelson 217-306-4559 or lorinelsontraining@gmail.com; breed/discipline demonstrations – Kat or Brent Hamer 309-432-3539 or fizz61760@yahoo.com.

To enter a horse in the HorsesForSale Aisles, contact Myles Harston, HFS coordinator, at 309-208-5230 or email mh@aquaranch.com.

To volunteer, contact by email Cheryl DeMent at paintfilly71@yahoo.com. ■

First ever in the Nation



Horsemen’s Council of Illinois (The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry), an “Organization of Organization,” on a daily basis addresses all aspects of equine interests in the State of Illinois. Thus, in the fall of 2009, HCI presented the second Equestrian Lifestyle Expo at Grayslake, IL. Expo brought together a combination of educational programs, as well as more than 100 vendors. The latter served all interests from horse feed, medication and tack, right through equestrian jewelry.

This exposition also provided an important venue for a very unusual trail-advocacy educational booth – possibly the **first ever in the nation**. The booth was a jointly developed effort by five northern Illinois trail advocacy organizations, and most importantly, by the U.S. Forestry Service, staffed by volunteers from their northern Illinois 23,000-acre Midewin Tall Grass Prairie property.

Trail advocacy clubs routinely interface with their local land managers, be they the Illinois DNR, the local forest preserves, or local park districts to assure virtually frictionless interaction between the various trail users, including hikers, bikers, baby cart pushers, bird watchers and equestrians.

Participants in the booth were Illinois Trail Riders, Trail Riders of DuPage, Will County Trail Riders, Horse Promoters, and the Palos Hills Horsemen’s Association. During the two-day Expo, some 25 booth staffers discussed all aspects of trail usage and trail issues with the large number of Expo attendees which stopped by to discuss and learn more about these very important issues. The banner bearing the logos of all six organizations was prominently displayed. Possibly by next year, we can add a few more logos. ■

—by Peter Viet,
HCI Director and Trail Liaison

HCI Annual Meeting

The Horsemen’s Council of Illinois annual membership meeting will be at 11:30 am Saturday, March 6 in the 14 Meeting Room (in Barn 14) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds during Illinois Horse Fair. The meeting is open to the public and provides an opportunity to meet with members of the HCI Board to learn what’s been happening and what’s ahead for the industry and HCI’s approach to the situations. ■

IDNR Discusses \$2.6 Million in Grants at Illinois Greenways and Trails Council

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) discussed progress on \$2,678,300 in grants through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) at October and January meetings of the Greenways and Trails Council (G&T).

The Council is composed of representatives of statewide motorized and non-motorized user organizations, statewide agency organizations, organizations with expertise in greenways and trails, and metro-area greenway and trail coalitions. State agencies including IDNR, IDOT, IEPA and IDOA serve as technical advisors to the Council.

Of special interest (at least to myself) was an overall review of how grants are prioritized and distributed. Dick Westfall, manager, G&T Section of IDNR and the meetings moderator, explained that (in Illinois) different types of trails/trail user groups (such as equestrians) are given different priorities for RTP grants because other dedicated funds are available through different sources for other groups (such as bicyclists). Similarly, different groups may be eligible in Illinois for higher reimbursement rates (50%/80%/

90%, etc.) through RTP funds because of that same funding availability scenario. For instance, a proposed equestrian project may be eligible for 80% reimbursement (100% if a Snowmobile component is included) and have a higher priority rating for available funds while a proposed bicycle project may be eligible for 50% reimbursement at a lower priority rating.

BUT, and this is a **BIG** but, **SOMEONE HAS TO APPLY FOR THE GRANTS!** And as usual, if we (*and I am speaking from the equestrian point of view*) aren't the squeaky wheel, no grant applications are made benefiting equestrians, and that money becomes available to OTHER groups (such as bicyclists) that are normally of a lower priority for this grant pool. This doesn't mean that all available money will be given to equestrian projects, just that we are given a higher priority for this pot of money.

So – get out and get those grant applications written to get equestrian projects!

Other group projects also were discussed, including a brochure prepared by the

snowmobiler association titled “Multiple Use Trails for Winter Recreation – Facts and Myths about Snowmobiling.” There are lots of interesting tidbits in it that I would encourage everyone to read. One that I found intriguing was a table that showed the relative weight placed on the ground by different users – including a hiker and a horse. A snowmobile places 1/2# per square inch, a hiker 5#/SI, a horse 8#/SI and a 4WD vehicle 30#/SI! So a horse ultimately places only slightly more stress on a trail than a human! This brochure can be obtained from the American Council of Snowmobile Associations @ 517-351-4362 @ www.snowmobilers.org.

IDNR reported in the January meeting that the State FY10 (federal FY09) RTP Project Listing (below) as approved by the committee has been submitted to IDOT. This begins a multi-step process in gaining proper authorization and release of funds to actually perform the work.

The RTP funds that were reported as awarded at the October meeting are as follows (for more information you can visit the IDNR

(continued on page 7)

THINK OUTSIDE THE BARN

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Horsemen's Council of Illinois
The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

Is the Horse Boarded or Adandoned?: Horse keeper's Rights Depends on it

Increased unemployment, rising hay prices, closing of all horse rendering facilities, and other factors contribute to the greater number of unwanted horses. Today, horse abandonment is wide spread and an increasing problem for boarding facilities, land owners, horse rescue programs, and even trail riders who unexpectedly find an unwanted horse tied to or loaded inside their parked trailer. The issue of whether horses boarded at a facility or horses showing up in a backyard are boarded, abandoned, or lost determine the rights of the boarding facility or keeper to remove or claim ownership of the boarded or found horse.

Where a horse is abandoned, the keeper of the horse has different rights and obligations than that of a lien holder. Determining a horse keeper's status, therefore, is legally significant and made on a case-by-case basis. This article introduces the concept of abandonment and the rights and burdens of the keeper and former owner of the horse.

Abandonment Defined

Abandonment in its general sense is the intentional relinquishment of a known right. Establishing a claim of abandonment requires proof that: (1) the owner intended to abandon the horse; and (2) the owner's intent was manifested in an act of abandonment. An action may be brought against the former owner of the horse to establish abandonment. A claim of abandonment may be asserted as a defense to a claim initiated by the owner for breach of contract, conversion, replevin, or theft.

An abandoned horse is generally one to which the owner has voluntarily relinquished all right, title, claim, and possession, without vesting ownership in any other person. Any person who appropriates an abandoned horse generally will thereby acquire all rights and title to it. In Illinois, it is a misdemeanor to willfully abandon an animal and a second or subsequent offense is a felony with every day constituting a separate offense. It may be possible to impute the abandonment of a horse by the owner's agent to the owner if it can be shown that the abandonment of the owner's horse was within the scope of the agent's authority.

Abandonment v. Bailment

By definition, the concepts of abandonment and bailment, such as boarding, of a horse cannot co-exist; abandonment is a relinquishment of the owner's legal right to the horse, while bailment requires an owner of the horse (bailor) and a possessor (bailee). Therefore, if a boarding facility has an existing contract with the horse

owner, the horse cannot be abandoned. The boarding facility may have an enforceable lien and claim for breach of contract against the owner, but it likely will not be able to establish abandonment during the pendency of the contract. However, if the contract is terminated, the owner owes the facility money, the horse remains at the facility despite demands to remove the horse, and the owner fails to communicate with the facility, the facility may be able to establish an abandonment of the horse.

For example, in a recent Connecticut case, a horse owner contracted with a trainer to take care of her horse, sell it for more than the owner's \$4,500 purchase price, and they would split the profit. The trainer later decided to leave the horse business and requested the owner pick up the horse. The owner did not communicate with the trainer and never picked up the horse. After two years of boarding the horse, the trainer sold the horse for \$4,500 to pay for part of the board. The owner sued the trainer for theft (wrongfully taking, obtaining, or withholding property from an owner with the intent to deprive the owner of the property) and conversion (unauthorized assumption and exercise of the right of ownership over goods belonging to another, to the exclusion of the owner's rights). The court analyzed the situation in the sense that theft requires an intent to deprive another of her property and conversion requires the owner to be harmed by the converter's conduct. The court found that the contract was terminated prior to the date the horse was sold and the owner abandoned the horse when she refused to pick her up. Given that the court found that the owner had abandoned the horse, there was no conversion or theft. (Even if she had not abandoned the horse, the court did not find the required intent to deprive). Interestingly, the court denied the trainer's counterclaim for expenses that she incurred while retaining possession of the horse because the trainer did not act as though she expected payment from the owner. The trainer did not send bills or otherwise pursue contact with the owner. She never consulted with the owner regarding hock injections needed for the treatment of the horse's degenerative joint disease. Conceivably, she could have sought relief under the lien statute, but did not do so. She retained the proceeds from the sale of the horse as if it were her own.

Abandoned v. Lost

If the former owner of a horse cannot be identified and located, there may be uncertainties as to whether the horse was abandoned or "lost." For example, if a horse has escaped and

appears on another's property, the horse appears to have been lost in the broad sense that it has been removed from the possession of its owner. In that case, various persons, including the finder and the owner of the real property upon which the lost horse was found, may have certain possessory or ownership rights in the horse.

If the true owner establishes a right to the horse by proving his or her ownership, the finder of the horse will be able to establish a prevailing right to the horse only by showing that the owner had abandoned it.

Know Your Rights and Legal Limitations

As we can see from the definition of abandonment, the elements necessary to establish a claim of abandonment, and the differences between abandoned horses, boarded horses, and lost horses, it is necessary to identify the status of the horse before we can evaluate the rights and legal limitations of the keeper of horse and the title owner.

If a horse appears on your property, you may consider contacting your local sheriff to report it as "lost and found" and/or request it to be removed. If you suspect an abandonment and know the owner, you may contact your local sheriff to report the abandonment crime or confirm the intent to abandon and try to get a written ownership transfer agreement. If the owner will not cooperate, you may consider notifying the owner of your intent to dispose of the horse and provide the owner with the opportunity to repossess the horse within a specified time. If the owner still does not cooperate, you may be able to dispose of the horse, including selling the horse, as you see fit. If you are boarding the horse under a boarding agreement and the owner does not pay the board or respond to your collection efforts, you should enforce your lien rights in accordance with the applicable law.

In any situation where your legal rights and obligations are at issue, such as with the disposition and enforcement of rights regarding an abandoned, lost, or boarded horse, you should first seek consultation and possible representation by an attorney experienced with such equine matters. ■

This article is intended for informational and educational purposes only. It is provided with the understanding that the author is not rendering legal advice to *Courier* readers. If you have questions or concerns regarding this article's subject matter, you may contact Yvonne a equine law attorney, at yocrant@hinshawlaw.com.

**—by Yvonne C. Ocrant JD,
HCI Director and Member**

Horse breeders honored for showing at the Illinois State Fair for 50 years



Shown (L-R) are Carole Kennedy (accepting for Eugene Kennedy), Shirley Parkinson, Alice Taapken, Charles E. Ingram, Judith A. Ingram and Frederick Schotthofer III. Honorees not pictured are Rex Perkinson, Karen Impson and Carl Luther.

The Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Association has honored purebred horse breeders who have exhibited at the Illinois State Fair 50 or more years. Recognition certificates were given to nine such horsemen at the Association's annual meeting in December.

Also honored were purebred breeders in beef, dairy cattle, sheep and swine divisions. The Association, which was formed in 1953, is

making the 50-year recognition awards an annual event, according to Darrell Rincker, secretary-treasurer.

Honorees in the horse division for 2009 were Karen Impson, Charles and Judith Ingram, Eugene Kennedy, Carl Luther, Rex and Shirley Parkinson, Frederick Schotthofer III and Alice Taapken. ■

—Photo by Tom C. Doran,
AgriNews

Shawnee Announces Spring Volunteer Opportunities

The Shawnee National Forest, Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District Volunteer Corps, is gearing up for its spring volunteer season. Work dates for the Hutchins Creek Trail are Saturday, February 20 from 10 am until 5 pm and February 28 from 10 am until 5 pm. The work date set aside for Bald Knob Wilderness is April 11 from 10 am until 5 pm.

During February volunteers are invited to join in continuing to make improvements on the Hutchins Creek Trail in Bald Knob and Clear Springs Wildernesses. Volunteers participating in this year's Hutchins Creek Trail projects will continue work started last fall. Completing of turnpikes and hauling gravel will be the top priorities. Volunteers also will assist the District in removing trees downed during the winter and repairing damage to trail tread caused by freezing and thawing.

The April work day will provide an opportunity to experience working with pack stock, horses and mules on the River to River Trail and Ranbarger Trail in the Bald Knob Wilderness. The Shawnee National Forest has

a dedicated pack stock volunteer force that will be providing the services of their animals for hauling gravel. These packers also will provide a short clinic on working around pack stock prior to beginning work. Rainy weather in advance of the scheduled work day could alter the plan for using pack stock.

Each volunteer should wear long pants and dress appropriately according to the weather forecast. Bring along a lunch, snacks, water and gloves if you have them. Volunteers should meet at the 9:30 am at the Murphysboro Work Center, 2221 Walnut Street, Murphysboro.

If you are planning on joining the Shawnee Volunteer Corps for one or all of these scheduled volunteer projects, please contact Kelly Pearson to register. You can reach her by phone at 618-687-1731 ext. 125, or at Shawneevolunteercorps@yahoo.com. You will need to provide contact information such as a telephone number or email address. ■

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) **\$42/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: \$ _____

(continued from page 4)

website or send ITR an email and we will send you more information!):

FFY09/SFY10 Program PROJECT LISTING

1. Motorized Trails – Grants

Rochelle Greenways Corridor in Ogle County @ \$117,400
Morrison-Rockwood Recreational Trail @ \$390,700
New Tractor with Groomer for Winnebago County @ \$215,000
South Fork Dirt Riders Acquisition @ \$394,150

2. Non-motorized Trails – IDNR Sites

Statewide Project

Park Brochures @ \$14,750

Region 1 Project

Hennepin Canal State Trail

Lowden State Park

White Pines Forest State Park

Combined Cost: \$162,875

Region 2 Project

Moraine Hills State Park

Volo Bog State Natural Area

Combined Cost: \$147,400

Region 3 Project

Clinton Lake State Recreation Area

Fox Ridge State Park

Walnut Point State Park

Combined Cost: \$162,875

Region 4 Project

Eldon Hazlet State Park

Randolph County State

Conservation Area

Siloam Springs State Park

Combined Cost: \$163,600

Region 5 Project

Giant City State Park

Stephen A. Forbes State Park

Tunnel Hill State Trail

Combined Cost: \$162,875

3. Non-motorized/Diversified Trails – Grants

Shawnee National Forest Equestrian/
Hiking Trails @ \$298,995

Baker Woods Equestrian Trails @
523,040

St. James Farm Preserve Trail i@
\$361,300

Nine Mile Trail – Phase III @ \$250,000.

Mamville Oaks Trail @ \$368,500

Shag Bark Prairie Acquisition @
\$181,000. ■

—by Ron Rhoades,
HCI Director

Spring Legislative Session in Illinois

The 2010 Spring Legislative Session is really just getting started in Springfield after a month-long delay for the primaries. As there is a ton of work to be done on closing the gap in the state's budget it's not likely much else will take precedence over that one very large issue, but HCI is keeping a close eye on all active bills as they are introduced and reach committee. A few of the new bills of interest to the equine community are mentioned here:

Pack and Saddle Animals – SB2632

Introduced by Senator Gary Forby (D – Benton), recognizes that pack and saddle animals enjoy access to and the use of certain public lands, and that any closure to access by pack or saddle animals to trails for public safety reasons or necessary maintenance should be visibly posted at the trailhead. States that pack and saddle animals should not be excluded from future trails development when appropriate.

Repeal Horse Meat Prohibition – HB4812

A reintroduction by Representative Jim Sacia (R – Pecatonica), seeks to reverse the current statewide prohibition on horse processing and establishes the Equine Rescue Assistance Fund to make grants to qualified equine rescue organizations for the expansion of equine rescue facilities and for the care and maintenance of rescued horses.

Farm Vehicles – SB2566 and HB4904

Introduced by Senator John Sullivan (D – Rushville) and Representative Dick Myers (R – Macomb) Restricts access for certain non-highway vehicles used in farming operations from certain highways and toll roads and exempts such vehicles from required mechanical equipment or mandatory insurance.

A complete listing of the legislative items HCI is monitoring, state and federal, as well as information on how to contact your elected officials can be found in the Legislative section of the HCI website. Please contact the HCI Legislative Committee with your questions and concerns. ■

April 2010, Illinois State Horse Judges Seminar features Ashley Griffin

The annual Illinois State Horse Judges Seminar has been scheduled for April 17th, 2010 from 8 am to 5 pm at the University of Illinois. Registration and classroom instruction will begin in room 150 Animal Science Lab, 1207 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL.

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 halter, showmanship, horsemanship, hunt seat classes, equitation, Western pleasure, gaited horse classes 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 clinician is Ashley Griffin of Lexington, KY. Ashley has been certified and currently holds Pinto Horse Association of America (PtHA), Palomino Horse Breeders of America (PHBA) judging cards, and American Paint Horse Association (APHA) judges' cards. As a speaker she has trained horse show judges in the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania and has judged State 4-H Horse Shows for Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Tennessee to name a few.

Ashley is the Past-President of the American Youth Horse Council (AYHC) and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1999. She was also a co-author of the AYHC's Youth Leaders' Manual (60 lessons containing end user material and leader lesson plans) approved by the National 4-H Curriculum Review Committee.

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. ■



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Horsemen's Council of Illinois Names Ron Rhoades to Board

Ronald J. Rhoades, Seymour, IL has been appointed to the Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) Board of Directors, according to Frank Bowman, HCI president.

Rhoades also is active with Illinois Trail Riders and the Stayin Alive chapter of Old People's Riding Club. He and his wife, Sara, both active trail riders, own and operate White Horse Farm, first homesteaded by Sara's grandparents in the early 1900s. The farm is 10 minutes west of Champaign-Urbana along the Sangamon River moraine.

Born and raised in central Illinois, Rhoades earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois. He was introduced to horses and

***"We enjoy trail riding
on our Quarter Horses
- Blue and Scooter,"
Rhoades said.***

began riding when he met Sara. Today they live on a portion of Sara's original family farm, operating a small boarding stable and managing rental properties.

"We became interested in HCI and Illinois Trail Riders while searching for avenues to help protect our riding areas as we kept seeing our local riding areas disappear."

"Trail access and the protection and enhancement of riding areas statewide is a solid plank in the HCI platform," Bowman said, "and we are pleased to have Ron's experience to help guide our efforts." ■



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2010 Illinois Horse Fair March 5-7. For details visit www.horsemenscouncil.org
