

Pennsylvania Equine Council Newsletter



FALL 2008

PEC Horseman of the Year Award

The PEC Horseman of the Year Award attempts to recognize members who have made a significant and enduring contribution to the equine community here in Pennsylvania. Nominations come from people across the state and are considered by a committee of PEC Board of Directors. The Pennsylvania Equine Council is delighted to announce this year's winner, Ward Studebaker.

Ward's contributions to the Pennsylvania horse industry revolve primarily around his work as the Horse Barn Manager for Pennsylvania State University from 1968 until his retirement at the end of 2001, but his work with horses began long before under the watchful eye of his father who farmed with horses and always maintained a team of horses.

That experience began a lifetime of working with and learning about horses. "If you live to be 300 years old, you will never know all there is to know about horses," Mr. Studebaker said in a recent interview, "I am still and always have been learning."

Ward continued learning after he left his father's farm and went to California Poly Technical Institute to study horseshoeing with Ralph Hoover. When Penn State University decided to begin a farrier curriculum, Dr. Tom Merritt, a director within the Dairy and Animal Science Department, asked

Hoover to start and manage the program. Hoover tapped Ward for assistance. By 1967 Ward was managing that program and the following year accepted the Horse Farm Manager position with Penn State.

Through his involvement with Penn State, Ward has touched many students' lives. He assisted with the teaching of some classes, including one on "Horse Breaking and Training" for many years. This class took young horses, often bred and born at Penn State, and taught students how to get the horse at least under saddle, if not a bit further along.

Instructing students helped Ward break down and examine his own training techniques for teaching, while constantly searching for ideas or methods that would help the learning process for both the horses and the people involved. "I wanted to provide a good environment for learning and personal growth for the students," said Studebaker looking back over his career. With that outlook, he was able to help many aspiring horsemen develop successful equestrian careers.

Under Ward's guidance and gentle hand, many Penn State horses won championships and awards during his tenure at the university. The Penn State equine breeding program was many times ranked in the top 15 such programs in the world. This included one placement



Bud Mills, Ward Studebaker and Kasey Woolam at Ag Progress Days

of 5th in the world as a breeder of quarter horses, a ranking a university had never held before. Ward was also responsible for the care and keeping of the horses at Penn State when the breeding program produced a colt named Color Me Skip, won the reserve world championship as a three year old.

Ward has done a great deal of competitive riding and held horsemanship clinics around the country. Enjoying retirement now, his focus is on caring for and training his own horses in between time spent with his wife of 52 years, Margie, their 3 daughters, 7 grand children and 2 great-grandchildren at his home in the country near Coburn, PA.

When asked to sum up his experiences, Ward hopes that his life will ". . . leave a little something positive behind – some good memories." Those Penn State graduates whose lives have been touched by this gentle man will undoubtedly vouch for that.

Happy 20th Anniversary, PEC!

As you know, the PEC is a 100% volunteer organization. Those of you who have visited our booths at any event at any time have encountered these volunteers. Folks who are willing to take time off from real jobs (you know, the ones that pay the bills!) so that 100% of your membership dues can go to supporting programs and activities on behalf of the horse industry as well as the PEC's administrative expenses. These individuals research issues and study up on laws, regulations and other aspects of the industry to be able to provide sound, factual answers

to the myriad of questions that they are presented with during their time working a booth.

To these folks, the PEC offers their heartfelt gratitude!

But mostly, thank you - our membership. To the new members who have taken the time to understand and support our missions -- you are making our numbers grow and helping us become a more viable entity in the state. And our thanks especially to our renewing members! Without you, truly there would be no PEC!

Attention Members!!!

Membership is going strong! Our growing membership helps to assure our increasing "Horse Power" in Harrisburg, as well as allowing the PEC to continue to develop perennial and strong educational programs. Many thanks to all who have faithfully supported the PEC over all or part of our 20 years of service to Pennsylvania's equine community.

This year saw a marked increase in membership attributed to the offering of the excess personal liability insurance through the membership "Plus" program. To help facilitate the continuation of insurance coverage by those who purchased the Individual Plus or the Family Plus memberships, renewal notices will be going out in November or early December this year for 2009.

Be sure to renew before December 31, 2008 to continue

your insurance through 2009 without interruption. Equisure provides no grace period for coverage expiration. All memberships, with or without insurance, are based on the calendar year, ending December 31st of each year. We regret that we can not use the individual anniversary dates, but as a 100% volunteer organization with limited resources, we simply are unable to at this time.

If you don't receive your membership renewal notice before mid-December, please contact Warren VanBuskirk at wvanbuskirk@perryco.org or call the PEC Office at 888.304.0281.

Membership applications are available on the PEC website at: pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org/membership.php. Click to download the form.

Message from the President...

On behalf of the PEC, we want to thank Penn State for hosting the Ag Progress Days and the equine demonstrations and lectures. The lineup of demonstrations was an excellent choice to demonstrate the role of the horse in Pennsylvania. We also want to thank Penn State for co-hosting the upcoming Equine Issues Forum on November 21st and 22nd.

This year the forum will take place at the Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course in Grantville. The presenters will cover topics from the National Animal Identification System to the unwanted horse issues. Plan

on attending as this forum will bring together a wide range of industry leaders.

You may recall I previously wrote about the issues facing horse owners in connection with the Pennsylvania Construction Code. I recently had an opportunity to meet with members of the Timber Frame Builders association. They too have concerns over the interpretation and application of the building code. We will be joining forces with a number of groups to seek legislation that corrects some of the issues you are now facing if you are building a barn or arena. If you or someone you

know went through the difficult process, please contact me. The legislators need to hear about the problems with the current approach being taken by many local municipalities.

Rob Hoffa, President

Membership Levels

Individual Membership	\$ 25.00
Individual PLUS Equisure	\$ 46.00
Family Membership	\$ 35.00
Family PLUS Equisure	\$ 75.00
Youth Membership (under 18)	\$ 10.00
Institutional Membership (colleges, universities, trade schools)	\$ 35.00
Lifetime Membership	\$ 500.00
Business Membership	\$ 150.00
Association Membership (riding clubs, 4H clubs, etc.)	\$ 35.00

Pennsylvania Equine Council Newsletter



FALL 2008

2008 Equine Issues Forum and PEC Annual Meeting

November 21-22, 2008, Grantville, PA – The Pennsylvania Equine Council (PEC) and Penn State University will host the 2008 Equine Issues Forum November 21-22, 2008, at the Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course in Grantville, PA. This is an exciting opportunity to bring together industry leaders and participants to discuss important equine issues.

The general session on Saturday, November 22nd, will feature sessions designed to educate horse organization leaders

and individual horse owners on equine health and disease control, update on equine identification and the National Animal Identification System, update on Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP) and other emerging diseases, import/export issues for horses, update on state regulations and how they are affecting horses, unwanted horses and trails issues. In the afternoon, the PEC will provide an update on issues affecting the horse industry. The Equine Issues Forum is sponsored by Penn State University's Equine Science Program and

Pennsylvania Equine Council, with speakers from the PDA Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission Equine Committee, USDA and PVMA.

More information about the 2008 Equine Issues Forum and Annual PEC Meeting, including registration forms, schedules and more, can be found at the PEC web site, <http://www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.com> or by contacting Dr. Ann Swinker at 814-865-7810 or via email at aswinker@psu.edu.

American Horse Council and Pennsylvania Equine Council Present Congressional Cavalry Program

An American Horse Council initiative adopted by the Pennsylvania Equine Council to mobilize individuals from all segments of the horse industry in each Congressional district with an expressed willingness to participate in grassroots lobbying on federal legislation and regulations and in promoting the horse industry to federal officials.

The Congressional Cavalry Program

In a continuing effort to improve their service to the horse industry, the American Horse Council has initiated an additional, more formal, approach to contacting federal officials called the Congressional Cavalry Program. The Pennsylvania Equine Council is supporting the AHC in its initiative and we are asking for your help. Under this program the AHC hopes to involve even more horse owners, breeders, veterinarians, competitors, recreational riders, farriers, and others, in grassroots efforts. The American Horse Council believes this will make the industry's current grassroots efforts even more effective and will have an even greater impact as the program grows.

Now is the time to get involved as we prepare for the next Congress, which begins in January of 2009.

How it works

1. The American Horse Council and the PEC ask that you join the Congressional Cavalry Program.
2. It is our goal to have members of the Congressional Cavalry Program from all segments of the horse industry and in every Congressional district who will agree to contact their Representative/Senator or federal official when asked.
3. When action is needed, the AHC will provide each individual with whatever information is necessary.
4. These individuals would be put on an email, fax or mail list so they could be contacted and activated quickly.

Cavalry members will be mobilized only when there is a need for grassroots lobbying or other action. All materials and direction required to initiate any action will be provided by the AHC. We do not anticipate this will involve a great deal of time, only an interest in participating. We will not burden participants beyond their willingness to contribute.

Potential Benefits

This is an ambitious program. We do not expect to identify individuals willing to participate

in all of the 435 Congressional districts immediately. However, with your help we can achieve this goal and make the Congressional Cavalry another effective tool for the PEC and the AHC.

Conclusion

Please give the Congressional Cavalry program some serious thought. We hope that you will participate.

Contacts

Pennsylvania Equine Council
PO Box 62
Huntington Mills, PA 18622
Phone: 888.304.0281
Email: info@pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.com
Web: pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.com

or

American Horse Council
1616 H Street NW
7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202-296-4031
Fax 202-296-1970
Email: AHC@horsecouncil.org
Web: www.horsecouncil.org

Equine Activity Immunity Act Compliance Sign Information

That this law finally came to pass in Pennsylvania continues to hearten many of the folks who worked for so many years to accomplish this feat. Just as a reminder, in order to be covered under this law, your facility must have two signs, each measuring 2' X 3' with the specific language "You assume the risk of equine activities pursuant to Pennsylvania Law." The law also requires that these two signs be "conspicuously posted".

The PEC signs are the correct size and use the correct language. Shipping prices have risen dramatically since the signs first became available, but their base price still remains "Two signs for \$24; \$10 for each additional sign." The PEC signs are made of blue and white corrugated vinyl and appear to be holding up well to Pennsylvania's weather. Most folks secure the signs on boards or frame them with wood to help reinforce their strength. They can get scratched if hung where they get kicked by passing

stirrups or rubbed on by trees.

While the PEC signs fit the letter of the law, they are not always compatible with a facility's décor. You can make your own signs, just be sure they comply with the law in size and wording, and are obviously displayed.

The PEC often gets calls from people hosting equine events who need the compliance signs so their insurance company will cover them. Some insurance agencies have purchased quantities of signs presumably to distribute to those insured with them. The law has been in place and the signs available for two plus years now, yet they are still in demand as more and more private stables and smaller farms hear about the Equine Activity Immunity Act and strive to seek protection under that statute.

For more information about the law, visit our website at PennsylvaniaEquineCouncil.com.

The PEC Needs You!

In recent years, the Pennsylvania Equine Council has become more and more active and visible. This is a wonderful trend that is giving the PEC the opportunity to reach many, many people with information about owning horses responsibly, trail stewardship and other issues. As you know, the PEC is a 100% volunteer entity. As such, everything the PEC does is created and accomplished without paid manpower. It is admirable that we have so many people in the state dedicated to preserving and protecting the equine community. But we still need more folks when it comes to manning a booth at an event.

Volunteering at a PEC booth comes in 3 varieties: the basic PEC Information Booth, the Trail Stewardship Booth and the Equine Education Station. Except for the Trail Stewardship Booth, requirements are minimal. For the Trail Stewardship booth, you must be a 3 day trained PEC trail steward willing to answer questions about trails in PA and the PEC program.

For both the PEC Information Booth and the Equine Education Station, you merely need to be an informed member of the PEC willing to deal with the public and somewhat knowledgeable about horses. Often those working at a booth are given 'talking points' that are written out so that volunteers can be up to date on any current issues surrounding the Pennsylvania

horse industry. When a volunteer is working a booth, there are always other PEC volunteers, PEC Board of Directors or literature available to refer to should you be asked about something you are unfamiliar with.

Because the Equine Learning Station is targeted toward potential or new horse owners and has a live horse, it usually requires a few extra people to help out. Generally there are no issue based 'talking points' as the questions are generally more about horse care. The goal is to answer basic horse ownership questions while helping the public freely and safely access the horse.

None of these activities are difficult. Most are fun! Your time is spent in the valuable pursuit of helping the PEC inform and educate Pennsylvanians involved with equine about current issues and problems the state and/or national equine industry is facing, or, in the case of the Equine Education Station, basic horse care and keeping.

So next time you read on the website or in the newsletter that the PEC is having a booth at a particular venue, give us a call! Get involved and volunteer to help out. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!!