

Pennsylvania Equine Council Newsletter

Spring 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We just returned from the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo. If the crowds attending are an indication on the strength of the horse community, we're doing well. As always, PEC volunteers came out in full force to man our booths. I want to thank all of you. I know the long hours answering questions is grueling. The PEC appreciates your dedication so please accept our thanks. Without you we could not get our message out to the public.

I also want to thank the speakers that donated their time to appear and provide their expertise on a number of subjects. The seminars were well attended and informative. Thanks to The New Bolton Center and Penn State for organizing and providing the seminars.

On behalf of PEC, I want to thank Bob and Denise from Equestrian Promotions Inc., the producer of the Horse Expo. Your continued support of the PEC is greatly appreciated. You give us an opportunity and venue to reach the public that is not available anywhere else.

With a new year come new challenges. After an election, a new session of the legislature begins. Bills introduced during the previous session die. Those bills need to be introduced again in the new session. As it is early on in the session, there are not a lot of bills affecting the horse community yet. I'm sure that will change. When legislation is introduced that is of significance to the horse world, we will let you know. If there is legislation or issues you would like to see addressed, let us know. We will continue to speak for our beloved horse. Remember, we are not a breed organization or the racing industry or trail riders association. Our focus and mission is not on one particular discipline but on all horses from the backyard retiree to the Smarty Jones's of the world. The issues we present cover every horse and horse owner. If you have an issue you want addressed, let us know.

Thank you for your continued support of PEC.

*Rob Hoffa
President, PEC*

PEC EQUINE LEARNING CENTER

As most of you are aware the Equine Learning Center (ELC) sets up each year at the PA Farm Show, Ag Progress Days, and the York Fair. The ELC is always open for new Fairs and Equine events throughout the state that may wish for the ELC to join them. The 2011 PA Farm Show ran from January, 8 thru the 15. This year was a little different than others. The public wishes to see heavy horses on display, and other years they could not see the heavy horses because of liability reasons. Therefore, those in charge of the Farm Show asked the ELC if we were given six stalls instead of one, could we fill them? This was a great opportunity for the ELC. We assured Larry Weaver that we could do this. Larry's only request was that we try to fill one stall with a draft breed (heavy horse). With the help of our members we were able to put on display a 1/2 Arab, Percheron cross, Gypsy Horse, Palomino Quarter Horse and two Appaloosas. Skip and I, along with the ELC Committee, decided that we wanted to have a horse in the chute during all open hours of the Farm Show. We all knew that if this was to be done we needed more volunteers than we ever requested in the past. This was a concern for me planning for Farm Show week. Previously we only asked for three volunteers and that was counting Skip and I. To accomplish this we were now asking for five volunteers per shift and there were three shifts per day. We should have known that you, the members, would come through. We ended up with at least five volunteers per shift,

but most shifts had six volunteers. Because of your support we were able to have one of our equine ambassadors in the chute at all times and also man the booth area. We used three horses this year to accomplish our goal. Gunner and Gizmo were the old pros and Goldie, Bob Sneed's Palomino Quarter Horse did a great job giving Gunner and Gizmo a break throughout the week. The ELC had over 100 thousand visitors at this year's Farm Show. You could say we were busy most of the time.

This year the ELC at the PA Farm Show was a success because of the help of our sponsors. Turkey Hill, Penn Ag Industries, Sneed's Quarter Horses and The Gypsy Palace along with our volunteers Bob Sneed, Beth Lavery, Nancy Hartly, Ben Nolt, Elaine Winters, Ted Winters, Joan Pauley, Gail Wolfel, Rick Wolfel, Wilma Lentz, Charlie Van Acken, Stan Kessler, Sharron Kessler, Phylis Young, Jeannie Asky, Bob Klindenst, Rick Shiffler, Elaine Bish, Judy Lingle, Fred Shatto, Joyce Shatto, Sara Parks, Don Rosenberger, Karen Rosenberger, Carolyn Gundel, Trudy Myers, Patrick Bard, Jerry Rogers, and Dirk Vanderwall. If I missed anyone I'm very sorry.

Skip and I along with the ELC Committee wish to thank every one of you for helping to make the 2011 PA Farm Show a great success!

*Mike Kraft
Skip Seifert
Co-chairs ELC*

PEC YOUTH NEWS

The youth committee of the Pennsylvania Equine Council has several projects underway for 2011 and beyond.

Several youth assisted at the Horse World Expo to introduce speakers in Speaker Room B and assist the room coordinators and PEC adult volunteers. The goals for youth involvement at the Expo were to engage youth in PEC activities, provide youth with an experience in public speaking skills, introduce youth to PEC members and provide an opportunity for youth to interact with PEC and industry leaders. Youth that participated at the Expo included: Sabrina Alles, Danielle Blymier, Taylor Culver, Kelsey McGinty, April Roskos, Lydia Forster and Kallie Lindbuchler.

The first PEC scholarship has been approved by the Board of Directors. One scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded in the 2011-12 academic year. The scholarship is available to students of any age that meet current

eligibility requirements. Applicants must be a youth or student with a current individual or family membership in the Pennsylvania Equine Council. Applicants must have been accepted to a college, university, community college or institute of higher learning. (any academic program), should be active participants in the equine industry and committed to future involvement in the equine industry. Detailed eligibility requirements are included with the scholarship guidelines available from PEC.

The deadline for 2011 scholarship applications is June 1, 2011. Additional details, including application, guidelines, detailed eligibility requirements and selection criteria will be available on the PEC website at: www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.com or from the PEC home office. Submission of application by email is preferable.

The youth committee is working to promote involvement of older

youth, college students and other young adults in PEC activities. Although the committee will conduct some activities for younger youth (such as a stick horse activity at Ag Progress Days), the primary focus for the committee is on teens and young adults and developing future PEC and industry leaders.

For more information see the PEC youth website at: www.pecyouth.webs.com The website includes a blog for comments and interaction of youth, information on youth equine activities, links to the facebook page for PEC youth, links to the other equine organizations, and an email link for correspondence with the PEC youth liaison.

Youth committee members are: Natalie Cabot (Co-chair), Pat Comerford (Co-chair), Sandie Forster, Laura Killian and Rick Shiffler. Laura Killian is the Youth Representative to the PEC board of directors.

Submitted by Pat Comerford

CONCERNS ABOUT SUNDAY HUNTING

As you read through the following article I want to remind you of the key points of the front page article in the last news letter. (If you are a new member and would like the whole article I would be glad to email it to you).

"I can't emphasize enough to horse owners and lovers in PA that Agriculture is the #1 industry and according to those who look at such things, the horse industry is the second largest segment of the Ag industry. Now consider that tourism and recreation is the #2 industry in PA. Recreational horses are about 70% of the horse industry so having access to trails and open space is all important." Keep this in mind as you read on.

Every few years there seems to be a push from the State and National hunting organizations to have Pennsylvania allow Sunday hunting for all general seasons and this year there seems to be a larger effort than usual.

In Pennsylvania according to the 2010 census there are 12,702,379 residents in PA and 892,678 of them are licensed hunters according to the PA Game Commission.

All the major game seasons are broken up into various time periods according to species and weapon. Examples are: archery deer; rifle deer and turkey; shotgun and muzzle loader. These seasons begin the end of September and run through the middle of January. Spring turkey then begins the last weekend in April and runs through the month of May ending on Memorial Day.

Over the last 6 years there has been a major push to develop a "Comprehensive Outdoor

Recreational Plan" that you may access at www.paoutdoorrecreplan.com from the Departments of Education, Health, Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources as well as the Fish and Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Equine Council. The idea is to get children and adults alike to begin or increase their outdoor activities. Obesity and lack of exercise is costing billions of dollars a year in health costs attributed to inactivity, to say nothing of the money that could be generated into the economy by recreation related activities.

A new term has developed over the last decade, "Nature Deficit." A very small % of adults under the age of 50 have had any farm or large animal experience. Only about 1% of the nations population are in a farming or related lifestyle. The urban or city dwellers make up the overwhelming majority of the nation's population. Promoting outdoor activities is very important and whether real or imagined, people have reported they do not feel comfortable being out during hunting seasons. Some conscientious people we have talked with have told us they feel they are interrupting hunters the other six days a week. They would like to have one day, Sunday they could go out in the woods or fields to just enjoy themselves and their families.

PEC conducted a survey on Sunday hunting at the recent Horse World Expo. The overwhelming response was that during hunting season, the rest of the public and visitors to PA would like to have one day a week that they didn't need to be concerned with hunting activities.

Another very important group who figure in to the equation is the farmers. According to the PA Farm Bureau, the majority of their membership is opposed to Sunday hunting.

Over 2.5 million acres are enrolled in the Farm Game Project under a corporative agreement with the Game Commission that is allowed open for hunting. There are similar agreements with Timber Companies with comparable acreage. There is a great concern from the public who also access the lands for recreational purposes that this regulation change to allow for Sunday hunting would impact these corporative lands and they may be posted to limit access.

State Forest and State Parks as well as National Forest and National and County or municipal parks open for hunting would also likely fall under the regulation change. Therefore the public concern for safety would limit the confidence of other people wanting to enjoy the outdoors on Sundays.

In short: Pennsylvania is a beautiful state and our citizens appreciate a variety of outdoor activities all year round. Many of us hunt, but we are also concerned about the other folks who enjoy our parks, forests, and open spaces.

PEC conducted a survey on Sunday hunting at the recent Horse World Expo. The overwhelming response was that during hunting season, the rest of the public and visitors to PA would like to have one day a week that they didn't need to be concerned with hunting activities.

Please let your Representative and Senator know how you feel about expanding Sunday hunting so when they have the opportunity to affect the proposal, they can make an informed decision.

*Bud Wills
State Trail Chair*

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Saving Trails across PA

The Trail Stewardship Workshop combines concepts of Trail Layout, Construction, Maintenance and Safety as well as tools, materials and conservation regulations with non-motorized single and shared use in mind.

1-Day Trail Stewardship Workshops

Saturday - April 2, 2011 - 8:00 am- 4:00 pm
Moshannon Forest Maintenance Build
Just off the Quehanna Highway near Medix Run
RSVP and directions Dave @ 814-263-7155 or Bill @ 814-647-5401

Saturday - May 14, 2011 - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church,
4050 Durham Rd. Ottsville, PA 18942

Workshop is regarding the Nockamixon State Park and other local riding areas.

3-Day Trail Stewardship Workshops

****Tentative Deadline May 1st, 2011- ASAP appreciated****
August 1, 2 and 3 or August 4, 5 and 6, 2011
Location: State Collage

For more information and registration: Gwen Wills 814-379-3759 or gwills@pennwoods.net or mail to: Gwen Wills, Pennsylvania Equine Council, 235 Mule Lane, Summerville, PA 15864

2-Day Packing Clinics May 21 and 22 September 24 and 25, 2011 Accepting 10 Participants

These two-day Packing clinic/workshop are designed to familiarize participants with the many aspects packing that will make your experience enjoyable and safe for you and your animals. Selecting the right equipment, proper saddle fit and appropriate ropes as well as learn knots & hitches to help you be able to pack materials and tools safely for trail work is the primary goal. Learning to cargo and pack supplies will also help you have a good time primitive camping. Take home and reference materials will be provided.

PEC SCHOLARSHIP

Youth & Students

Apply for the Pennsylvania Equine Council Scholarship

- One \$ 1,000 scholarship will be awarded in the 2011-12 academic year
- Must be a youth or student with a current individual or family membership in the Pennsylvania Equine Council

- Available to students of any age who meet eligibility requirements

- Deadline for application is June 1

Specific requirements, application and details will be available on the PEC website www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.com or from the PEC home office!

GETTYSBURG EQUESTRIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WARNING

You assume the risk of equine activities pursuant to Pennsylvania Law.



The Pennsylvania Equine Council hosted a one day trail workshop in Michaux Forest last August. Among the riders, hikers and bikers who attended were members of the Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society. This volunteer group maintains the horse trails at Gettysburg National Park. PEC welcomes the opportunity to work with other trail groups in establishing the kind of working relationship needed for shared trail stewardship. If you would like to learn more about this group and their upcoming projects and events, go to www.thegehgs.org.

Pennsylvania Equine Council MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check one

- Individual Membership \$ 25.00
- Individual **PLUS Equisure** \$ 46.00
(18 years and older)
- Family Membership \$ 35.00
- Family **PLUS Equisure** \$ 75.00
- Youth Membership \$ 10.00
(under 18 years)
- Institutional Membership \$ 35.00
(colleges, universities, trade schools)
- Lifetime Membership \$500.00
- Business Membership \$150.00
- Association Membership* \$ 35.00

INTRODUCING

PEC PLUS memberships with EQUITURE INSURANCE!

The PEC is excited to be offering Personal Excess Liability Insurance as an option to your membership this year. You must be a current member of the PA Equine Council, age 18 years or older to qualify to purchase the insurance. Individual Plus insurance "includes the member and permanent residents of the household under the age of 18". You can sign up for insurance at the same time you join the PEC! For more information, go to PEC website at www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.com and click on membership. Or call 888.304.0281

(*Riding clubs, 4H Clubs, Breed Associations, etc. Up to 25 members. Additional \$1/member up to 100 members. \$.50/ member thereafter to a \$200.00 maximum)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ County _____

E-Mail _____

Parent Signature _____

(Required for youth members)
ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE December 31st, at MIDNIGHT

Please circle one:

NEW RENEW CHANGE

Please mail this form along with your check to:

Membership
Pennsylvania Equine Council
PO Box 62
Huntington Mills, PA 18622-0062

THANK YOU!

COMPLIANCE SIGN ORDER FORM

Pennsylvania Equine Council

Post Office Box 62 | Huntington Mills, PA 18622 | 888.304.0281

Equine Liability Law Compliance Sign Order Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

County: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

May we add your email address to our PEC email network? ___ Yes ___ No thanks

To comply with the law, you must have at least two (2) signs "conspicuously displayed." Therefore, the first two (2) signs you purchase are sold as a pair. Additional signs are \$10.00 each.

MAXIMUM MAIL ORDER: 10 signs per order.

First Pair of Signs	# of Extra Signs	Subtotal of any extra signs	TOTAL
SHIP \$39.00	+ @ 10.00	=	
PICK UP \$24.00	+ @ 10.00	=	

Example: \$39.00 + (two (2) @ \$10.00 = \$20.00) = \$59.00 for four (4) signs shipped to you. Price includes 6% Pennsylvania Sales Tax