



Horse

Pennsylvania Equine Council Newsletter • Spring 2018

President's Message

This year the Pennsylvania Equine Council is celebrating 30 Years of volunteer service for the equine industry in Pennsylvania. Our purpose can be defined with four words -- Educate, Legislate, Promote and Protect. We Educate in areas regarding equine health, welfare and ownership responsibilities. We offer information on land conservation and stewardship. Legislative issues have included in the past the Equine Activity Act. Presently issues regarding Electronic Logging Devices and CDL's are being discussed. Who knows what future issues there will be, but we need to be prepared to help solve them. To Promote we offer scholarships for our youth, who I hope will one day fill our shoes, and grants for projects meeting the purposes as noted above. We Protect the industry by undertaking the first three purposes so that there is a future for equine owners, participants and enthusiasts in Pennsylvania. Thanks to the past, present and future members without whose devotion and foresight we would not exist.

In the past year it seems there have been many surveys being done. Last year we reported on one we had conducted of our membership. The results identified the typical member as female, age 50-65, having 1-5 horses, owning a 10- to 15- acre horse property and being a recreational rider. The horse racing industry last fall was noting a 4-billion-dollar economic impact and supported about 27,000 jobs. The Delaware Valley University did a survey of the ten-county area in southeastern Pennsylvania. They sighted very positive numbers and growth for the region. The Department of Agriculture released an economic impact of that industry in January. They noted the Delaware Valley University study. They further said that the equine sector is one sector of agriculture showing stronger growth than the other sectors of the industry.

Last year we supported a survey with the American Horse Council. They will have released the results officially February 28. This article went to press prior to that release.

I have received some data on the national level but not on the state level. The national economic impact is about 122 billion dollars, an increase over the last study they did. The state of Pennsylvania ranks number six for our portion to the economic impact. The equine community survived the recession of 2008 and is coming back strong. These are going to be positive numbers and we need that when we go to the legislative people with issues. When it is released, we will decide how to best inform you of the actual results.



I hope you visited with us at the Horse World Expo. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped in the booth and the seminar and clinics we provided.

Charlie

Sunday Hunting Reappears!!! Call your PA Legislators NOW!

Questions call: Gwen or Bud – 814-379-3759 • gwills52@gmail.com
(Does not pertain to Fox Hunting)

The Mountains Are Calling and I Must Go

These are the words on the back of the latest shirt I bought at our favorite horse campground, Big Elk Lick. They are certainly my mantra and I did my best to spend as much time as possible this year in the woods with my horse. I read with great interest Bud Wills' article in the last issue of Horse Power, and would like to share my experiences in some other camping places.

Tuscarora State Forest South block is located mostly in Perry County, not far from Rt. 322. There are five campsites at the Showaker trailhead, each with a picnic table, fire ring, and sturdy hitching posts. Permits are required but free, and you reserve your particular numbered site. The layout is nice with plenty of room for large rigs but still plenty of trees around. There are miles of well-marked trails in good to fair condition, and good maps. There is a nice toilet facility a short walk from the camping area and adjacent to that is a large area for day-use parking and a nice big mounting block. There used to be another large lot good for big rigs called Alphrata but it is now a staging area for pipeline installation.

Tuscarora is a great area for camping and riding and the managers have done a lot of work to make it so. From my perspective though it is largely under-used, as we were there three or four times this summer and nobody was there and there was little evidence of recent use. I did join a group that camped there a few weekends in October.

I also visited **Loyalsock State Forest** in Sullivan County located between Eagles Mere and Forksville. I was surprised to see



that the Bridle Trail trailhead has been greatly expanded – doubled in fact. I estimate that you could easily fit 20 rigs there and the pads are mostly level and easy to access; most can accommodate large rigs. There are two nice toilet facilities, one on both ends, and at least one manure dumping station. There is also water available now. There are high-line posts at each site, picnic tables, and fire rings. Permits are required and free, but there is no reserving of sites. I have been to Loyalsock several times but was always disappointed with trail conditions.

Judith Ann Lengle, PEC Schuylkill County Director

After we received this letter from Judy we contacted her and she advised the trails there have some water problems and need mitigation.

I contacted the Recreation Forester for Loyalsock SF. He advised they have done a lot of improvements to the trailhead and have plans to do trail improvements. At this time they have no equine volunteers to help with trail work and he does not have the manpower to do what is needed. He was aware of the Pennsylvania Equine Council's Trail Stewardship Program. At this time there are no trained volunteers in that area.

If there are any equestrians in that area or who ride there, please contact us and we will be happy to set up a FREE 1-Day Trail Stewardship Workshop with the goal being to get some help for the DCNR. It would be a shame to lose this trail system or not have it used with a trailhead that is as nice as it is. If you can help or lend some input, please contact us.

Bud Wills, State Trail Chair
Gwen Wills,
Trail Stewardship Program Director
814-379-3759 or
gwills52@gmail.com

Equine Learning Center

At this time, we are registering for our booth space at Ag Progress Days which is held just outside State College on August 14th-16th. The ELC will be asking for volunteers as we start building our schedule in the beginning of July. Ag Progress Days is a fun and very relaxed event that is always a good time. We also have our Board of Directors meeting at this event on Tuesday around 5:30 pm. All members and the public are invited to attend.

I would like to add some new faces to our volunteer list. Our volunteer base is a great bunch of people who love being a part of our ELC family. We could not ask for a better group of people. With our many events such as the Pennsylvania Farm Show, Ag Progress Days, York Fair and the Bloomsburg Fair, it takes lots of volunteers to make it happen. We could use more help. These events run a total of thirty days during the year. There are three shifts of five volunteers each required per day. That equals ninety shifts and 450 volunteer shifts per year. Many of our volunteers do multiple shifts to make it work, but there have been times we struggled to do a shift because of a shortage of volunteers.

If any members are not receiving emails related to building our ELC volunteer schedule but would like to, please get in touch with Mike Kraft at theappaloosa@comcast.net. We would love to meet you and include you in our close knit ELC group.

IT'S NOT WHEN YOU TOUCH THE HORSE,
IT'S WHEN THE HORSE TOUCHES YOU...

THANK YOU,
Mike Kraft, ELC Chair
717-319-3807

Power



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County Bits

My name is Tammy Witherup and I am the new Regional Director for the Northwest Region 1 of the Pennsylvania Equine Council (PEC). The PEC has recently added this new position. A Regional Director is appointed by the County Chapters in each region and serves on the Board of Directors of the PEC.

This Regional Director position is new to PEC and I think we are all hopeful that the addition of this level of director will assist in the communication between the County Directors and the Board of Directors. We also hope it will help established County Chapters become more active with meetings and activities.

The Northwest Region 1 consists of eight counties. Crawford County has had a very active and successful Chapter for some time now. Even though I live in Venango County, I have been attending the Crawford Chapter meetings and have had the great pleasure of

meeting a lot of like-minded enthusiasts from all areas of the equine community. Crawford Chapter meets on the first Thursday of every month in the back room of Perkins in Meadville. There have been interesting and informative speakers keeping us abreast of new legislation affecting our horses, travel, land management, disease outbreaks, health issues and new trails to ride. As members, we can take advantage of the PEC's programs and insurance opportunities. The Crawford County Chapter is also holding a Dice Ride at Two Mile Run County Park in Franklin County on June 9th to raise funds to improve the horse camp there.

We are very pleased to say that we now have two new counties in the NW Region that are now holding meetings and scheduling activities. Nancy Yesko and Fran Reynolds, as co-directors of Mercer County, have recently

scheduled meetings on the second Thursday of each month at McCullough's Restaurant near Sandy Lake. They are joining with the Crawford Chapter in planning a PEC member trail ride at Two Mile Run County Park in Venango County on September 13th – 16th. In addition, Megan Alexander has started the Jefferson County Chapter with meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at Plyler's Restaurant in Brookville. They are planning a 1-Day Trail Stewardship on April 7 in Clarion. Check out each of the individual County's Facebook pages for more information on these events and others. Please explore the PEC website www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org and see what we are up to!

Thanks to all our Chapters for your wonderful efforts! I hope to see you at the meetings!

Tammy Witherup

***** 2018 PEC TRAILRIDE *****

KEEP YOUR CALENDARS OPEN!

The 2017 PEC trail ride was a huge success. Near perfect weather, wonderful scenery and great food left little to be desired. There are very few places in Pennsylvania where we can conduct such a ride and have all these great amenities.

If you didn't make the ride in 2017, for whatever the reason, you will have another opportunity in 2018. We will return to Summer's Allegheny Trail Ride in Marienville, PA, August 3-5, and have contracted DB's Smoking BBQ to again be our caterer. That makes us guaranteed to have great food and a beautiful place to ride. You will be able to visit Pat's Rocks, Hazel's Rocks, the stone quarry, Kelly Pines, the dynamite shack, the compressors/engines, the "bra" trail and

many other great destinations. There is also an historic site that has been discovered on a nearby trail that boasts Indian artifacts from centuries ago. Much too much to see in one weekend. This is not a guided ride; maps of the Spring Creek Trail system will be available.

First-time participants that were not on the 2017 ride will have priority to sign up on a first come-first served basis. That sign up period will end on June 15, 2018. If the ride limit has not been reached at that time (approximately 44 riders), we will begin filling the ride from the waiting list of applications from riders that were on the 2017 ride. Refunds to applicants exceeding the ride limit will be made by July 1, 2018. Electric sites will be assigned on a first come-

first served basis as well. All participants must be PEC members.

There will be a pot luck supper on Thursday evening, the "gathering day". PEC will arrange for Friday and Saturday evening meals including coffee and water. Breakfast and lunch are your responsibility. Stalls are included in the price of the ride and are required. No highlines, portable corrals, tying to trailers, etc. is acceptable. There is water at the barns for your horses as well as a creek that runs right through camp. There is a bath house with showers and flush toilets.

Call 888-304-0281 or address any questions or concerns you may have to secretary@pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org.

2018 PEC MEMBERS ONLY TRAILRIDE APPLICATION

Allegheny National Forest, Marienville, PA

AUGUST 3-5, 2018

(deadline for sign-up June 15)

NAME (s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HAVE YOU ATTENDED THE PREVIOUS 2017 PEC MEMBER TRAIL RIDE?

YES NO

(Previous attendees will go on a waiting list until first-timers are given an opportunity to sign up)

NUMBER OF STALLS REQUIRED: _____ (one horse per rider)

Rider w/electric hookup \$ 110 # of people _____ \$ _____

Non Rider w/electric hookup \$ 95 # of people _____ \$ _____

Rider – NO electric hookup \$ 85 # of people _____ \$ _____

Non Rider – NO electric hookup \$ 70 # of people _____ \$ _____

(check enclosed) TOTAL \$ _____

(there will be no splitting of days, you are required to pay the whole ride fee)

Mail application along with your check to:

PENNSYLVANIA EQUINE COUNCIL

P. O. Box 303, Windsor, PA 17366-0303

For questions or further information, please call (888) 304-0281
or email to: secretary@pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

1-Day Trail Stewardship Workshop -- April 7th - Kriebel Gas Office Building, 633 Mayfield Rd, Clarion, PA. For more information, contact: Megan Alexander at 814-590-2568

Two 1-Day Trail Stewardship Workshops hosted by the Brandywine Conservancy in extreme southeastern PA. Stay tuned this spring or early summer. For more information, contact: **Kristen** at [610.388.8391](tel:610.388.8391) kfrentzel@brandywine.org

PEC Board of Directors meeting (public welcome) – May 19, 2018 at 11:00 a.m., Farm Show Building, Administrative offices Conference Room

2-Day Packing Clinic – June 2 & 3, 2018 – PEC Spring Packing Clinic

2018 Two 3-Day Trail Stewardship Workshops: July 23 - 25 and July 26 - 28, 2018 in State College, PA

2018 PEC MEMBERS ONLY TRAILRIDE--August 3-5, 2018 Summer's Allegheny Trail Ride in Marienville, PA

PEC Board of Directors meeting (public welcome) – August 14, 2018 at 5:30 p.m., Ag Progress Days, blue building next to the arena at the top of the hill

2018 PEC MEMBERS ONLY TRAILRIDE–Sept. 13-16, 2018 Two Mile Run County Park in Franklin, PA