



# Horse

Pennsylvania Equine Council Newsletter • Spring 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: WHEN WE HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE

By Gail R. Eichelberger

As horse lovers I am sure most of us have had to face losing one of our equine partners to old age or illness. During these cold winters we see an increase of horses losing their battle with colic. It is difficult enough to see our horse in pain and have very limited ability to make it better, but sometimes the decision to end that pain by ending their life is met with guilt and extreme emotion. We ask ourselves if there was something we did wrong to cause the illness or could we have noticed something wrong sooner and been able to do something to make them better again. We also want to make sure when a decision is made that the process is painless and without fear.

A person never really forgets the good times they shared with their horses. As time passes

the sadness and emotions will still come flooding back. You will reflect on what you have gained personally from the partnership that developed between the two of you. Remember the good times and the not so good times. Laugh at those silly times or the good feeling when your horse greeted you with a nicker or came running up to the gate because you always had that treat in your pocket.

It may take some time for many of us to replace that equine friend with another one. For some it will be easier and some may choose to continue on with just the memories of all those good times they shared. We all hope that someday we will be greeted by all of our equine friends by that pasture gate in heaven.

*"We who choose to surround ourselves with lives more temporary than our own live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached. Unable to accept its awful gaps, we still would live no other way. We cherish memory as the only certain immortality, never fully understanding the necessary plan. The life of a horse, often half our own, seems endless until one day. That day has come and gone for me, and I am once again within a somewhat smaller circle."*

Irving Townsend "The Once Again Prince"



## SUNDAY HUNTING! "IT'S BACK!!"

The Sunday hunting issue is back on the front burner here in PA. Senate Bill 147 was passed out of the Senate Subcommittee of Game & Fisheries the 5th of February to go on to the Senate floor for a subsequent vote. If passed it would then go to the House

There has been a lot of conjecture about how Sunday hunting would be handled in various articles, but the bottom line is that this Bill would allow the decision to be left up to the Game Commission to decide how many Sundays would be included in the hunting seasons. There are hunting seasons from the end of September to the end of January and from April 20th to May 31st.

Folks who are pushing for Sunday hunting cite increased license sales as one reason to allow for expansion of Sunday hunting as well as giving a seventh day a week to hunt. Also, it was mentioned that Sunday being open to hunt would give those who only have weekends off work an opportunity to hunt an extra day.

Hunters in PA represent less than 7% of PA's population. As you can well imagine, there is a lot of opposition to the whole idea of Sunday hunting. PA Farm Bureau still stands opposed to the expansion of Sunday hunting as does the Keystone Trails Association, KTA, which represents the hiking community across the state. In one recent article announcing KTA's opposition to Sunday hunting, Board President Ernie Werstler noted that the *Power of Outdoor Recreation Spending in Pennsylvania: How hunting, fishing, and outdoor activities help support a healthy state economy of November, 2018* by Southwick Associates and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership showed that trail users outnumbered hunters 3 to 1 and their economic impact was higher than hunters by 2.5 to 1. Trail users spent \$2574 per participant according to the analysis. "Clearly the non-hunting public needs to have significant input into this issue since their economic impact is so substantial," he said. "Any expansion of Sunday hunting could have a very detrimental economic impact on our economy if trail users discontinue their activities to avoid hunters."

Twice the Pennsylvania Equine Council has conducted a survey of those who stopped by our booths at the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo, once in 2012 and again in 2015. The results were overwhelmingly opposed to expansion of Sunday hunting. Even those who checked they were hunters showed a much greater percentage of opposition. Keep in mind this move to expand Sunday hunting has no bearing on those equestrians who belong to the Fox Hunting Clubs. Many who wrote comments on the survey shared that they too only had weekends to be out and did not want to be concerned with interrupting hunters or be looking over their shoulders and being uncomfortable on their one day a week they could enjoy the outdoors.

If Sunday Hunting is expanded, passage through Gamelands on those designated trails that were worked for could be completely eliminated from the end of September through most of January and all of May Spring Turkey season. Some of these trails are important connectors that lead to other trails that are open during this beautiful cooler time of year.

Don't wait. This legislation is moving fast!! Contact your PA State Senator first and share your thoughts on how Sunday hunting will affect you, your property, and your time in the outdoors.

If you don't have **your** State Senator or State Representative on speed dial, you can click the link below to find their local office and Harrisburg office phone numbers. It never hurts to call both offices and/or set up a meeting with them when they are in the district.

Note: your State Senator is the far right column after you click county and your State Representative is the first column. If you live in a more densely populated area, you may need to click on the precinct where you vote.

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find.cfm>

Bud Wills, State Trail Chair – Pennsylvania Equine Council

## SKIP'S TIPS

### MOUNTING BLOCKS

by Skip Seifert



Do you use a mounting block? We all should. It may be a nice permanent one at your stable, a portable one at a show or camp site or a log or rock in the woods. Your horse or mule will appreciate the reduced torque on his back as you mount. But let's turn this mounting block into a training aid to eliminate the aggravating and dangerous habit of your horse walking off as you mount. Situate your block near a corner of your riding area and about three feet from the fence. Lead your horse between the mounting block and fence while using the corner to restrict forward movement. Now the important part -- after mounting, back your horse away from the trap you have made. Practice this maneuver whenever practical and soon you will have a horse that stands for mounting with the added bonus of a horse that has an improved back. If you use the stirrup while dismounting, don't forget to use a mounting block, when available, to further ease strain on your horse's back.

# Power



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## Pennsylvania Equine Council Awards Two Scholarships at 2019 VIP Night

Typically, only one scholarship is awarded per year, but during the 2018-19 process, two of the applicants stood out as outstanding individuals and had strong resumes, therefore two \$1000 scholarships were awarded.

Margaret Brice and Caleigh Anderson received the awards at this year's Pennsylvania Equine Council's VIP Night at the PA Horse World Expo at the Harrisburg Farm Show Complex.

One of Margaret's letters of recommendation stated that Margaret has become a well-rounded horse person, with skills and interests relating to training, driving miniature horses, showing hunters, equine health care and teaching others. Margaret has always been self-motivated and goal-oriented. As a college student with limited resources, she has faithfully made time to clean stalls and do other jobs to earn money in order to continue taking riding lessons and be able to compete on the college IHSA team at school.

A quote from James D. Miles said: "you can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him". This quote summarizes Margaret's life pursuit of helping and serving others. She will undoubtedly excel as a veterinarian and all of her animal patients will benefit by her compassion and care.

Margaret has participated in numerous PEC activities such as Trail Stewardship and volunteering in the PEC booth at the PA Horse World Expo just to name a few. She has been an active member of the IHSA, Perry County Horse 4-H, Perry County Livestock 4-H, Perry County Homeschool Group, PA Farm Show, Susquehanna Young Women's Chorale, Perry County Fair Queen 2017 and many more.

The best way to open an introduction for Caleigh Anderson is to quote from one of the references submitted with her Pennsylvania Equine Council Scholarship (PEC) application; "Caleigh is not your normal, average kid! She is very special. With the help and support of two outstanding parents, Caleigh is able to explore new areas and achieve greatness. She has worked many

hours to become the leader she aspires to be. Leadership in youth is so important because it builds our future. Caleigh is our future! She has leadership skills, ambition and PASSION in all the areas she is involved with. The passion she expresses when working with 4-H projects earned her the OUTSTANDING 4-H award! She is far above many of her peers, yet she works well with others and especially younger members. Caleigh is both a team player and a leader." (Suzanne Boarts, Penn State Extension, Youth Development Educator)

When Caleigh joined PEC she immediately developed methods to introduce the goals and promote PEC by offering an oral presentation on Trail Stewardship during a 4-H clinic. Caleigh did her homework in preparing for this presentation, by contacting Gwen Wills, PEC Trail Stewardship Program Director. She was able to educate the audience on many aspects of trail stewardship such as the right and wrong way to use our vast trail systems. Her presentation was well received by the audience and led to other organizations requesting information on Trail Stewardship.

Caleigh is involved in numerous activities. She was active in 4-H, placing at state competitions and how to utilize a pre-riding checklist and participating in other elements of trail stewardship. She leads a Teen Leadership Council, President of a Junior Board of a local riding club, belongs to the APHA, AJPHA, PPHC, OPHC and is involved in PAC. All these abbreviations of different horse organization can sum up that Caleigh was involved deeply in the horse industry, along with many other interests within her high school, church and community. She recognizes that for all of us to be able to continue to have the right to enjoy our own personal interests, people must be involved and active in organizations to maintain those rights.

In conclusion, PEC commends the applicants' strong ethics for continuing higher education. Their success is achieved with parental/guardian and family support. Caleigh and Margaret represent the promise of our youth and a bright outlook for their future.

*The Pennsylvania Equine Council Scholarship (PEC) program was created to assist individuals in the opportunity to further their education. An applicant can further their education in any area of interest. Applicants must be PEC members by January 31 of the year of applying for the scholarship and must demonstrate a strong involvement in various activities, especially within the horse industry.*

**You can find more information and the application on the website at [http://pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org/scholarship\\_pr.php](http://pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org/scholarship_pr.php)**

*By Gail Eichelberger*



*Pictured L to R: Caleigh Anderson, Scholarship recipient, Amanda Gerner, Scholarship Committee Chair.*



*Pictured L to R: Margaret Brice, Scholarship recipient, Gail Eichelberger, PEC President.*

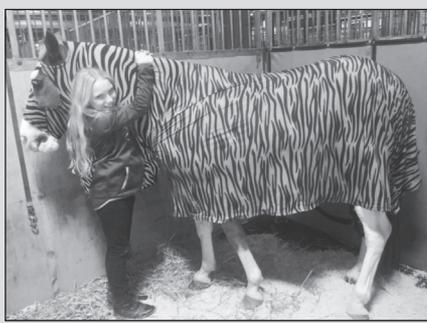


*Pictured L to R: Amanda Gerner, Scholarship Committee Chair, Caleigh Anderson, PEC President, Margaret Brice.*

All 4-H Horse Clubs in Pennsylvania are eligible for a free Association Membership in the Pennsylvania Equine Council

The 4-H Association Membership given by the Pennsylvania Equine Council for 2019 is in Memory of Krista Reitz

One of Krista's favorite sayings was: "If you're not going to the hospital, you're getting back on!"



## 2019 PEC TRAILRIDE

We will return to Summer's Allegheny Trail Ride in Marienville, PA, August 1 – 4. This is not a guided ride; maps of the Spring Creek Trail system will be available.

Sign up period will end on June 15, 2019. Refunds to applicants exceeding the ride limit will be made by July 1, 2019. Electric sites will be assigned on a first come-first served basis as well. All participants must be PEC members.

Please check our website for more information and a downloadable application. [www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org](http://www.pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org). Don't hesitate to call 888-304-0281 for any questions or concerns you may have. Or you can contact Aleta or Skip at [secretary@pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org](mailto:secretary@pennsylvaniaequinecouncil.org).



*PEC sponsored the Draft Horse & Pony Team Youth (ages 8-13) class at the 2018 Keystone International Livestock Exposition. Winner was Adelynn Cleary.*

## 2019 Two Mile PEC Camp and Ride September 19-22

Join the Mercer County Chapter PEC for a 3 night/4 day camp and ride at Two Mile Run County Park in Franklin, Pa. Enjoy beautiful trails, great food and fellowship! All participants must be PEC members. Ride and enjoy at your own pace, this is not a guided ride. Trail maps will be provided. Look for more information and the application in upcoming newsletters and on the website!

Any questions contact the Mercer County Director Patricia Ann at (724) 815-8880 or [fancytaleessence@gmail.com](mailto:fancytaleessence@gmail.com)

*By Chelsea Kiter*