

DELAWARE EQUINE NEWS

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2009: The Year at a Glance

The first task for the DEC's future was to work on a five year plan. Thanks to the help of many of Delaware's equine organizations and all their ideas. After a day long brainstorming meeting with everyone's input we were able to identify key items and start the ball rolling on a plan. Several rough drafts later the five year plan was posted in the newsletter and sent to all the participants in our meeting. It was great working with all the different organizations and realizing that we are all concerned about the welfare of our equine and keeping open the trails in Delaware for all our recreational riders. Our mission remains the same and many of the activities that we do will continue.

We were pleased and proud to award five \$1000 scholarships from proceeds made at our fourth annual Dinner/Dance/Auction on March 27th. A big "thank you" to everyone that sponsored the dance, donated items to the silent/live auction, and came to eat, bid, and dance. We are looking forward to the 2010 fifth annual Dinner/Dance/Auction that will be held at the Delaware Ag Museum in Dover. Put Saturday, March 20th 2010 on your calendar. You will be enjoying great food, music and a free visit of the Ag museum. Don't forget your dancing shoes and checkbook. We also donated \$250 this year to the Southern Delaware Therapeutic and Recreational Horseback Riding, Inc., a program that helps disabled people improve their physical and mental condition through horseback riding.

If you visited the State fair or any of the public functions throughout the state you most likely saw the Equine Council booth. We have been in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties this year. The economy slowed us down a little however we plan to continue the booth set-ups in 2010. If you enjoy talking to folks and standing on your feet give us a call. We always have room for help at the booth and folks that want to talk about equine and the council. We also sponsored the clinicians, Suzanne Sheppard and Bob Jeffery, at the Delaware Horse Expo in Harrington in March.

The trails committee continued to meet with the State agencies that manage the public land in Delaware (parks, Forestry, & Fish & Wildlife). We were fortunate to get another few miles at Trap Pond

State Park. The trail was added south of Wooten and west of Raccoon Pond and provides a connecting loop for multi-use. Please keep in touch with all your ideas and concerns. Remember to be good stewards of the trails and keep the parking lots clean of our equines manure.

The American Horse Council continued to keep us abreast of issues in Congress that could impact equine enthusiasts and the equine industry. There are two Forums each year that members of the DEC attend.

Our Annual Directory will be out in 2010 for the eleventh straight year. If you know of an equine business that is not in the directory, please send us the form on the last page of the directory with the information to include them.

Your membership is important to us. We need your support to effectively support the equine industry and equine enthusiasts. For your convenience, we now accept one, three, and five year memberships. Don't forget to renew in 2010. We want your ideas, suggestions and energy and volunteer help to help keep the industry and equine recreational opportunities strong and growing. Our meetings will continue to be the third Monday night at 7 p.m. Come out and get involved. Check the newsletter for the locations. You are always welcome.

Two programs of the DEC are an equine magazine recycle program. We collect clean copies of current (one year old or newer), remove recipient information and recycle the magazines to libraries, doctor offices, schools, etc. The second program involves saving the "Proof of Purchase" seals from Southern States grain bags. Please clip these and bring them to DEC meetings or mail them to: DEC, P. O. Box 158, Harrington, DE 19952. Finally, the DEC actively opposes Sunday deer hunting. We also support maintaining the Equine Management Program at Newark High School.

Have a safe and happy holiday and a healthy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2010!

Warm regards from the
DEC Board of Directors
Stan, Peggy, Mary, Kim, Paula, Kay, Cat,
Dave, Jeri, Ken