



**Alexandria Equestrian Association
RIDER's DIGEST**

February 2007

2007 Officers:

President:	Judy Tucker
Vice-President:	Lou Corbo
Treasurer:	Larry Shepard
Secretary:	Maxine Lally-Alexis
Membership:	Sherrri Dolan
Food Coordinator/Newsletter:	Barbara Nolan
Trustee	Tom Aversa
Trustee	Bill Daniels

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.aeanj.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the rebirth of the AEA newsletter. As many of you old timers know, we used to have a newsletter published several times a year. However, due to the busy schedules of people involved, we were unable to continue it...until Barbara Nolan stepped up and volunteered to try her hand at editing and publishing. So let's give Barbara a hand by helping to contribute articles, classified ads, ideas and feedback. Thank you Barbara for making the newsletter come alive again.

Before we look ahead, let's take a moment to look back at 2006. It was a good year, full of significant accomplishments. Let me list some major ones.

1. PHASE 1 - New footing in the indoor including removing 20-year old material and adding new sand with help from 3 vendors.
2. New lights in the indoor.

NEWSLETTER

3. New announcement sign posts at the entrance to the Park.
4. New paint on the barn.
5. New barn windows (also some repaired, some stained and painted).
6. Winter season of successful western events (major fundraiser).
7. Community Day(food tent and riding show).
8. Annual Picnic (landowner appreciation).
9. Charitable Donations (see web site for details).

Kudos to the 25+ people that contributed at least 5 hours (often times many, many more) to make these accomplishments possible. Kudos to the rest of the AEA members for donating their \$50 work bond which helped pay for the materials and/or charitable donations. Whew! No wonder we are all tired. I am sure I forgot a few, so please forgive me if I missed one you worked on.

Now let's move on to the future. Setting goals always helps to keep an eye on what is important. Here are some goals I would like to see AEA work on in 2007.

1. Footing Complete the job by implementing PHASE 2, which is adding dust control and gaining consensus on appropriate depth (more on this later).
 2. Trails, trails, trails Get serious on increasing the trail network in the township and linking up with other trail associations and county parks.
 3. Communication Increase communication using email, our web site and the newsletter.
 4. Charitable donations Never stop giving back to the community that supports us.
- If you have any other ideas/goals to add, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Dust Control

The subject of dust control has been swirling around for close to a year now, ever since we added the new material. Along with dust control comes a lively debate on footing depth. The two go together. Many of you have told us the footing is too deep. We hear you. However, we have as many opinions as we have members on how to solve it. So bear with me while I explain our plan going forward.

First, we had to understand what impact the dust control would have on the consistency of the footing. The dust control vendor said the footing will not move like it does now once the material is down. They say it will have a consistent feel. Not slippery, not soft, not sticky, no tracking, no caking or clumping, no issues with compaction.

Given that information, we felt we had two options:

1. Bring the existing depth down to 3" before we add the dust control. The excess material would be put in the outdoor arena. This would involve hiring a contractor to do the removal work. This would take time to arrange and it would be dependent on the weather. This option would save us some money on dust control, but we would spend some on the removal process. We would also never know whether we had to remove it in the first place.
2. Complete the job we started by implementing Phase 2 -- adding dust control to what material exists. That was the plan all along. However, if after people ride on it, the consensus is that it is still too deep, we will remove enough material to bring the depth to 3". The excess material would be put in the outdoor arena. This option would cost us more on dust control, but it would save us on the removal process.

This hasn't been an easy decision, but the Board has voted in favor of Option 2. We want to hear from you after the dust control goes down. Give it a chance and give us your feedback. Judy

"EQUESTRIAN ROUNDTABLE"

By Pete Tucker

It almost felt as though I was working again. An 8AM meeting! Yikes! Who does that anymore? However, best guess, 70 people showed up on Thursday, January 25th for an equestrian trails roundtable at the Echo Hill Environmental Education Center, a county-owned facility on Lilac Drive in Clinton Township.

The event was jointly sponsored by the South Branch Watershed Assoc., Hunterdon County Park System and Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance. The purpose? To introduce trail riders from various Hunterdon localities, to make known their organizations and to facilitate horse trail connectivity throughout the county. Bingo! Now we're talkin'!

Ten Alexandria folks were there. Excellent representation. Even John Alexis, the old pork puller himself, and his lovely wife, Maxine made a special guest star appearance. These two, incidentally, are to be commended. They've been doing exactly what it takes to lift us out of our trail-creating lethargy. That is scouring the tax maps and talking with landowners in their neck of the woods about permission to connect A with B. They have been successful.

The meeting was quite constructive. (Back when I was working, I couldn't always say that.) Not that we got a lot of A's connected with B's just yet but the idea-sharing was superlative; a real good start. Hunterdon County has some pretty impressive park and land holdings and an excellent trail system. Better yet, they're actively looking to build on it.

Most local equestrian organizations in the county have websites. AEA's is the best, however. A list of some sites follows.

www.coveredbridgetrail.com (Covered Bridge Trail Association)
www.readingtontrail.org (Readington Trail Association)
www.avta.net (Amwell Valley Trail Association)
www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/parks/guides (Park System - look for horseback Riding Reference Guide)

TRAIL BLAZING

By Pete Tucker

Maybe you are contemplating the creation or the extension of a trail near you. If so, one of the first questions that might arise is who owns this field or who owns those woods? Before knocking on someone's door, it's nice to know what someone's name is!

Or perhaps it would be helpful to see a map detailing what property hooks up with the next property and where

you can go from there. Then the question might be who has that map?

Tax maps can be examined at the township trailer (when it's open), but if you're not used to using them, they can be confusing to negotiate. Here I offer my services to any AEA member needing assistance in this regard.

I have the tax maps here at my house (though they be a few years dated) and would be pleased to give anyone a hand in charting a course.

Just call or email: Pete Tucker – 735-9453
tuckaway-farm@earthlink.net

TID-BITS

- Thank you AEA member, Liz Lynch. Your continued work on our website (aeanj.com) has this site looking better all the time. Members are encouraged to log on to view the new charitable donations page. Certainly AEA can look back on 2006 and feel good about what we accomplished.
- Thank you AEA member, Jim Virgo. You are some photographer!
Jim's handiwork now adorns the walls of the meeting room at the township barn. Most of these photos were taken in Alexandria Twp., a fact that just speaks to how beautiful this place is. Some sharp-looking horses are here, too!
- Township residents.. in your mail soon will be the annual letter from the mayor with accompanying inserts from various committees, etc. Note the one from the Park and Recreation Commission. AEA has quite a presence in that annual update.
- As an FYI to all members, Alexandria Twp. is making progress on its total of preserved farms and otherwise deed-restricted open space. To date we have a total of 17 permanently preserved farms (1,231 acres total) with 11 additional farms in one stage or another of preservation application (783 acres total). In addition to this there are another +/- 700 acres of open space, some of which is public, some private. At this writing a totaling of land deed-restricted to open space is still in progress.

It is important to note that all of the preserved farmland mentioned here is privately owned and any privately owned land requires permission to ride on it.

Late Winter Horse Care Tips: How's their weight? By Dr. Suzanne Smith VMD

Usually our horses gain weight when they don't exercise, but many horses lose weight when they're not in work because they lose condition and muscle mass. The long hair coat that the unclipped horse has covers up both weight gain and weight loss. Don't just take a good look at your horses, also take a good feel and even use a weight tape.

If your horse is ribbie and a little thin, you may have to adjust his feed. Remember, there's almost no grass outside for him to eat so all of the calories have to come from the grain and hay that you feed.

How's your deworming schedule? Deworming this time of the year is good for the individual horse right now for two major reasons: decreasing the likelihood that worms are interfering with his digestion and decreasing the risk of colic. Deworming this time of the year also means that there will be fewer worms in your pasture when Spring comes and your stock is grazing again.

How are your horse's teeth? As part of your horse's annual or semiannual veterinary examination, your veterinarian probably checks his teeth for sharp points on his molars. It's important to his comfort and his ability to properly chew his food that his teeth are not sharp or irregular.

But it isn't just the thin horse that needs his feed ration, parasite burden and teeth evaluated. The overweight horse may be fat because of the calories he consumes and you may have to adjust his diet. There are feeds that have less starch and grass hays that are satisfying for the horse but much less calorie dense than that beautiful leafy green alfalfa we'd like to feed. The fat horse also needs to be dewormed because of the risk for colic. And that chubby pony will be healthier for a longer time if his teeth are properly maintained.

If you're not sure if you're feeding the right stuff to your horse, or using the right dewormer, ask your veterinarian. It's not just the vet's job, but also his or her pleasure and passion to help you keep horse as healthy as possible.

Additional Manure Rules for Indoor Arena Usage

1. Everyone MUST sign in and sign out.
2. Everyone must clean up ALL manure before they leave the indoor, even if it hasn't been dropped by your horse. This includes the arena, all stalls and the parking lot.

Consequence:

The 1st time someone does not follow these rules they will not be allowed to use the indoor for one month.

2nd time someone does not follow these rules their AEA membership will be revoked for one year and they will forfeit their dues and work bond.

Access to the indoor will be monitored via camera.

The AEA Board of Directors

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE AEA WILL BE: ANNOUNCED BY EMAIL & PHONE-CHAIN

Coming soon: Look for the new AEA By-Laws to be posted on the Website soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

At the time of this writing, health certificates are required for all horses participating in events.

TEAM SORTING DATES:

March 10th

March 31st

April 21st.

Registration starts at 12:00. Activities start at 1:00
For more information contact Phil Rochelle @ 908-391-1633

Two exciting clinics/events are scheduled!

Sun, February 25th "Gymkhana"

Contact Rachel Kimsey @ 908-894-8571 or million_dollar_cowgirl@hotmail.com for information. Registration information also posted on AEA website

Sat, March 3rd "Foundations First"

Clinician, Robert Lawson of Paris Kentucky will demonstrate his "Foundation First" training methods by using an unbroken three year old which he will be riding under saddle by end of the session. This horse will be offered for sale at the end of the clinic. This clinic is being hosted by the AEA and presented by the NE Mountain Horse Club. More information and registration form is posted on the AEA website.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST:

Pennsylvania Horse World Expo

February 22, 23, 24, 25

For more information: www.horseworldexpo.com

Equine Herpes Virus -1 Seminar

March 20th, 2007 from 7pm - 9pm @ the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County Farm and Home Center 2714 Route 44, , Millbrook, NY

The speaker will be Dr. Lyda W. Denney from NYS Agriculture and Markets, NYS Horse Health Assurance Program Coordinator. Dr. Denney is a great speaker and a horse enthusiast herself.

The topics may include (but are not limited to):
Myths of EVH-1

Facts about EVH-1

Test or not to test potential boarders

What happens during a quarantine

Biosecurity measures every barn manager needs to know and implement.

The program will cost \$10 per participant and will be payable at the door. Please call Jennifer E. Fimbel at 845-677-8223, ext. 118 or email her at jlf20@cornell.edu to register as this will ensure you a seat.

Register now for Horses 2007 @ Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL rates will expire on February 28th. Group Rates are available for 10 or more who register and pay together. A group registration form is attached.

For details go to www.esc.rutgers.edu/horses2007 .

**New Jersey Quarter Horse Association
ALL BREED CHARITY TRAIL RIDE
To Benefit Wounded Soldiers of Iraq**

The NJQHA will be hosting the first of our All Breed Charity Rides scheduled for 2007 on Sunday, March 25.

This ride will be held at Hickory Ridge Farm, East Branch Rd., Allentown, with the trail winding through the beauty of Assinpink Wildlife Refuge. There will be 3 ride levels, Walk only, Walk/Trot and advanced.

Included in the registration fee is breakfast, diner, ride, special awards, silent auction and prizes.

NJQHA welcomes all NJ Horsemen to come and show support for our soldiers, who are protecting us, our families and our homeland. We would like all riders to wear red, white and/or blue for this ride.

Set aside June 1 & 2 for our next ride at COWTOWN RODEO!!

For Information visit our website: www.njqha.com
Chris Felcetto 732-672-0840 or cfelcetto@msn.com
Michelle DiBasrtolo 908-599-5888 or carolhasselbach@aol.com
Susan Auer 908-232-8182 or susra@vesizon.net

AEA T-Shirts are still available!

If you would like to buy some contact Susan Rochelle at 238-1888. All shirts will be \$10.

VOLUNTEER WORK BOND

If you have completed 5 hours of volunteer service, you are eligible for a refund of the \$50 work bond. Please contact Larry Shepard at: navionflyr@aol.com or call 908- 996-5216 in order to report hours/duty. Checks will be issued at the general membership meetings. If interested in volunteering, contact Barbara Nolan at BAN414@aol.com or 996-7489.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

50' Round Pen, 13 panels and one panel with walk thru gate.
Asking \$800. Firm
Bernard Volski
Home # (908) 996-6918
Cell # (908) 797-9807

HORSES FOR SALE

6 yr. old Halfinger Gelding, Shown by 13yr old boy successfully at pleasure driving shows. Also rides. Asking \$2,000.
Amie Bauman 908-310-0223

9 yr. old Tobanio, Brown & White Gelding, 15.2 Great Gymkhana horse. Asking \$3,000.
Amie Bauman 908-310-0223

15 yr. old small Bay Pony Gelding. Great hunter pony. Asking \$4,000.
Amie Bauman 908-310-0223

8 yr old Rocky Mountain gelding. Flashy Chocolate w/Flax Mane & Tail with a great personality, 14.3 hands. Asking \$6500.
Barbara Nolan 908-996-7489

Stall Available @ small, private farm in Alexandria Twp. Outdoor Arena & ample pasture space.
Barbara Nolan 908-996-7489

HORSES FOR ADOPTION **Hunterdon Humane Animal Shelter**

Molly:

Molly is about 8 years old and a standard bred. She came to the shelter as an abuse and neglect case - she was left with 50 other horses to die of starvation. She is in good health and has no lameness issues. Her confirmation is great and she could probably have very beautiful foals. Due to her abuse and neglect, Molly has never been worked with. She is unbroken and has mistrust issues with humans.

Nina Van Duyne nvanduyn@telcordia.com
908-788-9271

Buttercup:

Buttercup is about 9 years old and is a Quarter Horse Paint, chestnut in color. She came to the shelter as an abuse case - her owner deliberately forced her into a stall and broke her left front leg and did not give her any attention to the injury. Nevertheless, Buttercup is very sweet and kind and her confirmation is good. She is halter broke but not rideable due to her injury. Her only issue is claustrophobia which she developed because of her abuse.

Nina Van Duyne nvanduyn@telcordia.com
908-788-9271

A BIT TO CHEW ON

There are only two emotions that belong in the saddle; one is a sense of humor and the other is patience.

John Lyons