



HorseSense

Moving Forward in Trying Times

by Shelia C. Short, President
Missouri Equine Council

Adapt and evolve or die. That is what the horse industry is doing. That is what the Missouri Equine Council, Inc. is doing. All of us involved with horses have seen unimaginable changes in the industry within the past 5 years. Whether or not we make our living from horses or they are our hobby, things are definitely different. When you throw in the issue of joblessness, decreases in income and increases in the cost of living, we all are making sacrifices and changes in order to survive.

One difficult decision that was recently made was to suspend the position of Executive Administrator. While this will put an extra burden on the MEC board members, it will save our organization \$10,400/year. If you look at our website, you will also notice that the 1-800 telephone number is no longer present. This was also suspended and will save our organization approximately \$1,212/year. If you wish to contact us, please go to our staff page where you will see the contact information for me and other board members along with the contact information of the committee chairs. We are taking a page from industry and business practices and employing Lean processes to ensure the financial stability of our organization.

This means that we need your help as members of the MEC. Most people do not have the time to

dedicate to being a full time board member and because of this; we have set up the idea of numerous committees in order to allow members to be interactive in running our organization while not having to make the time commitment of a full time board member.

Please take the time to become involved. Protect your ownership rights, protect your rights to trail access, protect your hobby and protect your industry.

We look forward to working together with you this year!

Knob Noster State Park Update McAdoo Trail

On Tuesday December 28th, Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen (SMMBCH) members Russ Martin and Eldon Kreisel, met with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Park's personnel. Kelly Brent, Planning Coordinator/ Trails, Keith Peterson, Park Superintendent, Dan Brigman, Asst. and Teresa Ramsey to discuss plans and schedules for Knob Noster Park upgrades and trail re-opening.

An \$87,000 RTP grant for trail relocating, repair and maintenance upgrades has been approved by the governor. A new day use area and trail head with camping is also planned. Two major bridges are out of commission and are being rebuilt. A large number of adverse trail areas have been identified for repair, armory or rerouting. Clearances and vegetative studies must be requested and approved. Plans include moving the old equestrian camp ground, moving some parts of the trail to the west of the creek and rerouting some of the worst spots. A small amount of additional trail is planned.

Preliminary work to be performed by SMMBCH was discussed with Park personnel expressing a favorable opinion. Park personnel will be planning and working with SMMBCH to set up seven or eight work days to help with trail development. The State Park Youth Core will be available from April to November to work on the project. It was also stated that some State Park equipment would be available for use. Setting a date for a Public meeting sometime in March 2011 was included in the discussions.

As various sections and areas of the trail are developed and repaired it is anticipated that there will be a "soft opening" of those parts of the equestrian trail. However, closing may be made due to wet weather or conditions that would be adverse to the subsequent improvements. This opening is projected for the spring of 2011.

For more information on SMMBCH please visit our web sit at www.showmebch.org.

Vice President of Missouri Equine Council travels to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal legislators about U.S. horse industry.

Once the long awaited Government Accounting Office (GAO) Report was released in mid-June, providing proof and confirmation that horses and the U.S. horse industry are suffering dire consequences as the direct result of the 2007 ban on horse processing, Mindy Patterson, Vice President, Missouri Equine Council and Sue Wallis, Vice President, United Horsemen were bound for Washington, D.C. Together they spent four days on Capitol Hill meeting with the legislative staff of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture Appropriations subcommittee, and over a dozen U.S. Senators and their staff to make their case for the reinstatement of fee-based horse processing in America to end the needless suffering of thousands of horses nationwide.

While the trip was a productive one, Mindy stated, "It is crucial for the horse community nationwide to join together and address this challenge head on. The Humane Society of the United States used emotion and misinformation to eliminate horse processing in the U.S., and it is their actions that have created this horrible situation for thousands of unwanted and infirmed horses nationwide -- and yet it is up us in the horse industry to solve this heartbreaking dilemma."

Mindy added, "This issue is part of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill which will be coming up for a vote in the Senate some time this September."

Mindy urges everyone to contact their U.S. Senators and Congressmen and encourage them to support the reinstatement of fee-based horse processing in the U.S. for the welfare of horses and the health of the horse industry nationwide!



Pictured from left: U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), Sue Wallis (Wyoming State Rep & VP United Horsemen), Mindy Patterson VP Missouri Equine Council, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY)

Update from Capitol Hill...

The U.S. Senate will be considering amendments to the current [Agriculture Appropriations Bill](#) that would continue to abolish needed horse processing in the United States, and also prevent American horses from being transported across U.S. borders for processing. A Government Accounting Office (GAO) investigation on the horse industry was [requested by the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee almost two years ago in July of 2009](#). The GAO has thoroughly studied the effect of the horse processing plants closing in 2007. This study looked at the effect of the plants closing on the welfare of horses themselves, as well as the effect on farm economy across America. Take action and call your U.S. Senators! Tell them you are in favor of fee-based horse processing. The vote on this bill may take place this September!

Take Action! for the welfare of horses nationwide and to protect the U.S. horse industry!

[Contact your U.S. Representative](#)

[Contact your U.S. Senators](#)



MISSOURI EQUESTRIAN TAKES PART IN AMERICAN JUNIOR PAINT HORSE ASSN EVENT

Erin Blochberger, resident of Russellville, Mo., and a MEC/Ride Missouri member, recently attended the American Junior Paint Horse Club, Youth World Championship Show in Ft. Worth, TX, June 25 – 30, 2011.

Miss Blochberger participated in game night, Parade of Teams and the Golf Cart Decorating contest against teams from Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Illinois, Oregon, Utah, and California. Miss Blochberger has also participated in events with the Missouri Junior Paint Horse Club prior to this event that also helped attain the club, "Club of the Year", for 2011. As a member of the Missouri Junior Paint Horse Club, Miss Blochberger was also in attendance at the AjPHA National Convention during the World Show.

The American Junior Paint Horse Association is the youth association of the American Paint Horse Association. Anyone aged 18 & under with an interest in Paint Horses is invited to join. AjPHA

members enjoy the same membership benefits as adult APHA members, and can participate in APHA approved shows and programs. AjPHA members are apart of a huge family of friends sharing a common bond- a love for the American Paint Horse. AjPHA offers something for everyone, no matter how long you have been riding, where you live, or the discipline you enjoy.



Erin Blochberger at AjPHA in Ft. Worth, TX

FROM THE MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL...

On June 14th, 2011, Shelia Short, President of the Missouri Equine Council attended a special event at the Governor's Mansion giving tribute to Missouri Agriculture and the 'Missouri Solution' which was the legislative fix to Prop. B. The BBQ dinner was an acknowledgement from Governor Nixon to the united effort by the Missouri agriculture coalition to defend and protect the rights of all Missouri's livestock and pet producers from the Humane Society of the United States and their radical animal rights agenda.



MISSOURI FARMERS CARE PROVIDES MEALS FOR JOPLIN RESIDENTS & EMERGENCY CREWS AFTER DEVASTATING TORNADO

Missouri's agricultural community stepped up to assist affected families and volunteers after the disastrous tornado struck Joplin on May 22, 2011. Many of the organizations composing Missouri Farmers Care provided on-the-ground care, essential supplies, and animal-care and health-care funds to the Joplin relief efforts.

From the start of the relief efforts, Missouri Beef Industry Council, Missouri Cattlemen's Association and Missouri Soybean Association coordinated, supplied and cooked free meals for affected people-exceeding 3,000 meals served on Memorial Day. In the two weeks following the tornado, more than 12,000 free meals were served to area residents and relief workers.

To cook and serve those meals, the groups set up grills in the student building at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin.

Ben Fizette, Region 7 vice president for the Missouri Cattlemen's Association and field crops area sales manager for MFA Incorporated, coordinated much of the on-ground efforts. "It is important for farmers and ranchers to be present, because agriculture is the backbone of our society," said Fizette. "We supply the necessary food and fiber for people to use on a daily basis. In a time of crisis, the least we could do was be there to supply everyone with a fresh, healthy meal. We have the ultimate responsibility for our nation and the rest of the world-providing everyone with food."

Other Missouri Farmer's Care (MFC) organizations donated money and food to help those in need. Missouri Pork Producers donated pork burgers for the meals, while Midwest Dairy Association ensured cheeseburgers were available. Missouri Corn Growers Association and FCS Financial coordinated many donation efforts. Moark, LLC, donated 25,700 dozen eggs to the Ozark Regional Food Bank.



Along with efforts to provide relief to residents and volunteers, Missouri Farmers Care members provided additional support for animals impacted by the storm's devastation. MFA Incorporated donated pallets of dog and cat food to Joplin-area animal shelters that took in stranded and wandering animals.

Additionally, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association coordinated veterinary efforts in the Joplin area, as requested by SEMA. In addition to providing animal care, the veterinarians established drop-off points around the state to assemble animal care supplies to be transported to Joplin.

To help with human health care in the area, MFA Incorporated donated \$25,000 to St. John's Hospital to provide needed medical services.

Missouri Farmers Care is a joint effort by Missouri's farming and agricultural community to stand together for the men and women who provide the food and jobs on which our communities depend. Members of the coalition include: Missouri Pork Association, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Corn Growers Association, Midwest Dairy Association, Missouri Farm Bureau, MFA Incorporated, Missouri Beef Industry Council, Missouri Dairy Association, Missouri Federation of Animal Owners, Missouri Egg Council, MFA Oil Company, Missouri Agribusiness Association, FCS Financial, Missouri Dairy Growth Council, Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, Rural Electric Cooperatives and Missouri Pet Breeders Association.

Do you have horse news you would like to share?

Include it in the next

Missouri Equine Council's newsletter!

email to:

Mindy Patterson at mindypatt@charter.net

HORSE HAIR POTTER CONNECTS OWNER AND HORSE

When horse owners lay strands of their horse’s tail hair on a hot pot from Earth and Wheel Pottery, they create a custom pottery piece that will forever honor that horse. Sandy Schulz, owner of Earth and Wheel Pottery, has practiced the ancient art of horse hair pottery for more than 10 years.

“Each pot is completely unique, from the throwing of the pot to the application of the horse hair. I include the horse’s name on the bottom of the pot. It’s all a very spiritual experience,” says Ms. Schulz. “Owners connect with their horse, the spirits and nature.”

Native Americans made horse hair pottery in celebration of the birth of a great horse. Today many horse owners save the tail hair of their companion upon passing. It is that horse tail hair that provides a beautiful, unique vein effect on the creamy white pottery. The finished piece becomes a lasting memory of a much loved friend.

The horse owner is often involved in the final steps of the pot’s creation. Sandy also regularly mentors students, artists and other potters on the decorating and firing techniques that she has perfected.

Earth and Wheel Pottery is located in Chesterfield, Missouri. Pottery styles include custom horse hair, ceremonial prayer bowls, purification bowls and masks. Artist, Sandy Schulz uses traditional firing, as well as Japanese Raku and Southwest pit firing.

Ms. Schulz, a Best of Missouri Hands Juried Artist, is inspired by nature and continues to honor the ancient design techniques of the Pueblo tribes.



Sandy Schulz, Owner 636.532.0242
sandy@earthandwheel.com facebook.com/earthandwheel www.earthandwheel.com

RIDE MISSOURI RIDING & DRIVING PROGRAM

Ride Missouri is a trail riding & driving program open to all ages and all types of equine. Participants record their hours spent riding or driving

on a log sheet. Individuals may ride or drive any type of equine, owned or borrowed. Record only the time spent riding or driving. Do not count groundwork, grooming or taking up time on your log sheet. There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$25 per participant after which you will be mailed a log sheet and Ride Missouri patch. You must be an MEC member to join.



RIDE MISSOURI Application

Type of MEC Membership	Cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$200.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	\$60.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Club Act about with Member's privileges	\$25.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family	\$20.0
<input type="checkbox"/> I am already a MEC member	No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/> Ride Missouri Lifetime Enrollment	\$25.0
Total: _____	

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ County: _____
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Method of Payment

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Applications also accepted at www.mo-equine.org

ORR Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

First Steps Taken for Development of New Horse Trail

The Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry

This is it for Show Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen members! This is what our organization is all about! In our nine years of struggle and existence, it all comes down to this moment in our history. SMMBCH will be building a new horse trail in an area where no designated horse trails currently exist

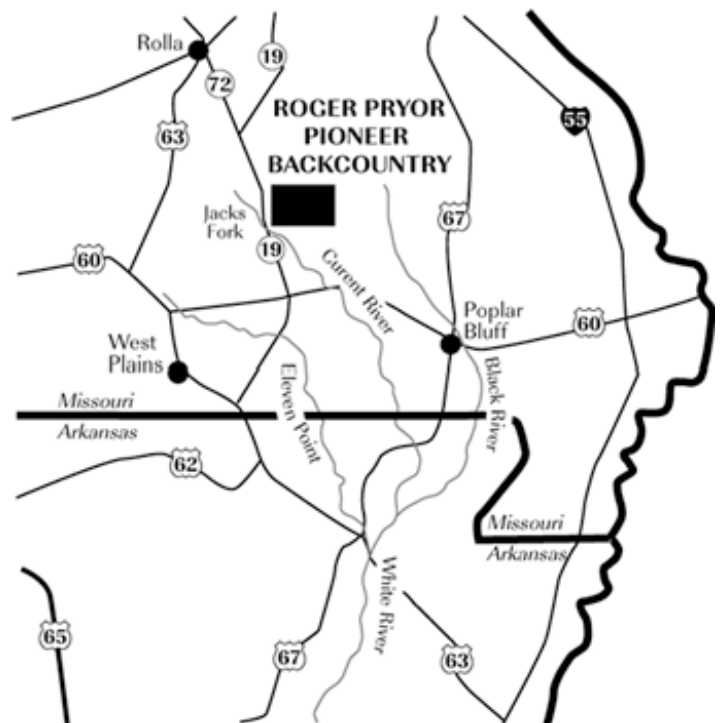
On November 21st SMMBCH members Russell Martin, John Waitman, Ed and Marsha Copeland met with L-A-D Foundation's Greg Iffrig and an interested Ozark Trail Association (OTA) member to drive the boundaries, view possible staging areas big enough for trailers, and the current Ozark Trail (OT) foot path through the Roger Pryor area. This was the first step to start the planning process that will create a sustainable 13 + mile horse trail through the area. After the viewing, the group sought out a warmer spot at a really neat café in Bunker – the food was great and the coffee hot! The atmosphere was perfect for discussing the concept of this project and the steps that must be taken to make it a sustainable trail that will be there for years and with minimal environmental disturbance. This trail will be a backcountry experience – this is mandatory on the part of the land owner and a concept that SMMBCH endorses. This will not be a matter of saddling up, riding around flagging a route from spot A to spot B. We all know that a sustainable trail is all in the design. Each stage of planning before another step is taken will have the approval of the land owner (L-A-D) and the Missouri State Parks (DNR) that has the recreational lease on the area.

SMMBCH has progressed to what can be referred to as the *Preliminary Design* phase. John Waitman, member of the Ad Hoc Committee to spearhead this project, with his experience and skills in mapping was able to lay out three possible routes for trail placement on a map. While John was at work doing this, Russell and Tammie Martin, Ed and Marsha Copeland, and Allison Schottenhaml of the Ad Hoc Committee met with Superintendent Reed Detring and Deputy Superintendent Russ Runge of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the future step of being able to cross into the ONSR near Owl's Bend at Highway 106 to continue the long distance trail when leaving the Roger Pryor property.

The exciting part of this continuing saga is the March 5-6th trip Russell and John made to the Roger Pryor property with their horses to ride and view what the actual trail looked like that had been mapped on paper. The day was cold with 30 degree weather and no glimpse of the sun. Clouds and wind were their companions and they still came back home after riding for two days very excited and pleased with what they saw and experienced. John and Russell parked their horse trailers at Himont Trail Head and started south. After riding all day with some backtracking when the trail just wasn't working for them, they made it to within four miles of Owl' Bend. The day got longer and colder as they had to backtrack to the trailers, making it a 24 mile ride. Once back they moved the trailers to the south end, and started north the next morning to find where they left off the previous day to see how it all matched up. Some downed trees and blocked trail were discovered during the two day event but the majority of the trail was beautiful and will have available water year around. While the weekend was successful and much was learned about trail possibilities, this was the first step in many before SMMBCH can hold a work day event. All must be presented in a proposal and approved by the L-A-D Foundation.

The next step will be completing the trail project proposal to be submitted to L-A-D Foundation. Depending upon the result of the proposal's acceptance or if there will be need for changes, the steps continue.

Our parent organization BCHA and therefore SMMBCH has always sought cooperative efforts between agencies and other user groups. This is the opportunity that we have all worked toward – not only keeping our horse trails but having more trails to ride. If this project is done right, and it will be done right, SMMBCH will leave a legacy that most organizations never have the opportunity to do. It will not be easy and it will not happen fast. We must be prepared to put in the time, effort, and thought to do it the right way. To do less would be a betrayal of the trust and respect the L-A-D Foundation and the DNR has shown us.



For more information on SMMBCH please visit our web sit at www.showmebch.org.

Newsletters and Action Alerts!

If we have your email address on file, you have probably already received one of our new action alerts and are probably receiving an electronic copy of the MEC *Horse Sense* newsletter. By using the internet to send you action alerts, it will allow us to keep you up to date on breaking news that concerns both the horse industry and you as a horse owner. The electronic PDF copy of *Horse Sense* will be in color and thus allowing you to better enjoy submitted pictures and will also allow you to print copies of the newsletter for distribution to your friends. We will continue to print and distribute the traditional black and white hard copy of *Horse Sense* to those that do not have internet service or simply wish to continue to receive it as you have in the past. Please contact us if we do not have your email address and you want to receive the electronic action alerts and *Horse Sense*. If you are receiving these electronic transmissions and do not want to get the action alerts and do want the traditional hard copy of *Horse Sense*, please let us know and we will mail the hardcopy newsletter to you as in the past.

We want to know what is going on with you! Tell us about your latest trail riding vacation or about winning High Point Horse at a recent show and send us a picture too. Let us know about any meetings that you have been to that may impact horse owners; trail accessibility, zoning issues, state or federal funding issues, etc. The newsletter is a way for all of us to communicate.

Please take a look at the MEC Facebook page and let people know what you are doing and send pictures to post. And speaking of pictures, the MEC is going to produce a calendar! We are asking our members to send us pictures of your horses and horse related activities. You may send jpegs or hard copies (just remember that pictures will not be returned). These calendars will make nice gifts for family and friends, will continually remind you of your real passion and will help to raise to funds for the MEC.

Shelia C. Short

sheliacs@centurytel.net

Special Invitation for Missouri Equine Council Members!

Missouri Equine Council members who are also members of [United Horsemen](#) are invited to attend the Summit of the Horse II Planning Meeting on August 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the Kansas City Royal!

Join the team leaders of United Horsemen in Kansas City for an afternoon and evening of idea sharing and event planning for the next Summit of the Horse slated for spring of 2012!

You don't want to miss it!

R.S.V.P. is mandatory
Contact Mindy Patterson
314-853-8193



Encourage your friends and family to join

The Missouri Equine Council today!

It's easy!

Log It's on to www.mo-equine.org

Click the [Get Involved](#) tab and select the [Become a Member](#) page!

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Springfield, MO 65803
thmoore@springfieldmo.gov
417-833-3291

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erin@whiteknightarena.com

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PLEASE SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

**THE MISSOURI EQUINE COUNCIL WANTS YOU & YOUR HORSE
TO BE THE STARS OF THE 2012 MEC CALENDAR!**

We are asking our members to send us pictures of their horses and horse related activities. You may send jpegs or hard copies. Just remember that pictures will not be returned. These calendars will make nice gifts for family and friends, and will be a continual reminder of your passion for horses and support of the Missouri Equine Council and our Missouri horse community!

Email your photos to: mindypatt@charter.net

or mail them to:

P.O. Box 346
Wright City, MO 63390



Missouri Equine Council Board of Directors

- Shelia Short, President
- Mindy Patterson, Vice President
- Jane Doskal, Secretary
- Sonya Anderson, Treasurer
- Jeff Petree
- Larry Harrision
- Wayne White

**If you would like to receive
our next newsletter via email
please let us know!
mindypatt@charter.net**

Save the Date!

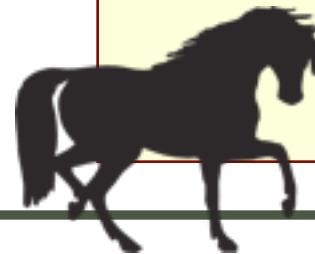
Missouri Equine
Celebration

January 20 & 21, 2012

Boone County

Fairgrounds,

Columbia, MO



Missouri Equine Council
P.O. Box 346
Wright City, MO 63390

