The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

Volume 1, Fall 2008



Horse Council Courier

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois newsletter dedicated to promoting a healthy horse industry statewide through information and education.

Julie Goodnight joins Dr. Randel Raub to headline large group of presenters at Chicagoland Equestrian Life-style Expo and Holiday Market November 22-23

questrian Life-style Expo & Holiday ✓ Market attendees will find valuable ✓ expertise available to them on all aspects of horses November 22-23 at Arlington Park Racecourse, Arlington Heights (Chicago), IL.

"In addition to commercial vendors

stocking 'everything equestrian,' attendees will have access to professionals from the business world of equestrian enterprise through the training, showing, nutrition and health care concerns, ranging from performance horses to retired seniors," according to Joy Meierhans, Expo manager.

Expo is presented by Horsemen's Council of Illinois and sponsored by Purina Mills. Hours will be from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. RFD-TV's Julie Goodnight will join Purina Mills' Dr. Randel Raub as educational headliners at Expo, which will feature shopping on the main level of the grandstand with learning opportunities in four seminar areas on the upper level," Meierhans said.

"Whether you're a seasoned veteran or just thinking about getting into horses, Expo will help guide you to feed, tack, togs, a barn to house them – or simply offer a good time learning more about horses and every aspect of the equestrian life-style," Meierhans said.

Goodnight's presentations will include "Coping with Fear," "Horse Evaluation and

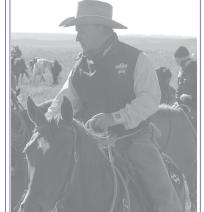
You," "Horse Behavior and the Human Relationship," and "Life Lessons Horses Teach Us."

Julie has more than 25 years of horse training experience.

Her varied background



Julie Goodnight



Dr. Randel Raub

Selection – Choosing the Right Horse for this. But Dr. Raub has another, personable, downright laugh-provoking side, which he will offer through his "act" - The Stupid Horse.

On the serious side, Dr. Raub will

discuss research findings on the special needs horse (Cushings insulin resistance and, obesity); challenges in feeding Olympic athletes (and other high performance horses); as well as what IS meaningful research (ingredients, quality, safety issues).

Raub directs equine research at Purina Mills' 1,100-acre 75-horse research farm near St. Louis. He received his Bachelor and Master of

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reining, colt-starting and wilderness riding. She communicates clearly with horses and riders in any discipline and travels coastto-coast and beyond to film her television show, "Horse Masters," and to appear at horse expos, conferences and clinics. Her training and teaching techniques are frequent features of Horse & Rider, Perfect Horse, The Trail Rider and many other

ranges from dressage and jumping to racing,

As Director of Equine Business Development and Technical Service for Purina Mills, Dr. Raub has serious responsibilities. His subjects at Expo reflect

equine publications.

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President's Corner

The Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

he election is behind us by now, and at the time of this writing, the media and the various campaigns had been trying to convince all of us that their candidate was best suited for the job. As always, time will tell. But right now, we have the opportunity to impress upon the incumbents and newly elected officials how important the horse industry is to their district and how the decisions they will face in the coming months impact you – their constituents - the horse owners of Illinois.

The Fall Legislative Veto Session has apparently been shortened so now, the legislators who haven't accomplished too terrible much yet this year will now have even less time to do anything at all. Typically budget decisions made in the 11th hour are seldom the best choices for our state, there's just no time for proper consideration. While I'm sure that discussions continue to be held at the highest levels of government you can bet most of us won't know what they are until we have no choice in the matter. Of interest to most of the horse community are the fund sweeps that threaten to close several popular state parks. There is just no way of guessing which way that card will be played, only that is will probably remain in play till the last possible moment.

The animal rights/welfare organizations continue their unprecedented stranglehold on the legislative process and public opinion here in America about how livestock, and in our case horses, should be treated. The popular media is all about promoting the

"feel good" animal welfare story, but we own that story, they stole it from us, and need to tell our version, too. I'm positive that not one of us disagrees that all animals should be treated with respect and kindness. Our "urban cousins" need to hear from you that no one cares more about the health and welfare of your horses than you do. The public needs to understand the anxiety you feel when walking a colicky horse thru the night or waiting for the vet to arrive during some other equine emergency. But even more important, they need to hear about the joys of seeing your horse learn something "new" or pleasure you experience by just spending time with your horses. Our family, friends and neighbors, who have no connection to horses, or livestock, need to hear our story, too, if only to catch a glimpse of the benefits horse ownership brings into our lives. Quit being so bashful. Share your story with anyone who will listen!

Speaking about getting our story told, I'm really looking forward to the 1st Chicagoland Equestrian Life-style Expo & Holiday Market November 22-23 at Arlington Park Racecourse, Arlington Heights (Chicago), IL. The folks at HCI have been working hard to create the best possible event that will sing the praises and highlight the benefits of horse ownership and this event promises to do just that. Sure hope to see you there! Bring some of your horsecurious friends and family members, too; there will be opportunities and fun for everyone!

Frank Bowman

HCI push to save parks/trails gains support

orsemen's Council of Illinois' push to get Gov. Rod Blagojevich and State legislators to restore funding for state parks threatened with closure is gaining support from some in government.

"In a letter to constituents, State Senator Dan Rutherford, Pontiac, said," If accepted the fees would not ago into effect until spring 2009.

I support fully funding the state's parks. Furthermore, I question the Governor's decision to close Illinois' parks when gas prices are so high and they provide a 'close to home' wonderful family opportunity. The closures deny families the opportunity to fully utilize our state's assets. These

closures affect horsemen, fishermen, scouts, campers, boaters and all people who enjoy the outdoors.

"The state's park system attracts tourism and generates revenue for Illinois. Since taking office, the Governor has repeatedly targeted the state's natural resources, cutting the Department of Natural Resources General

Revenue budget by more than half from 2003 to 2008, when the most recent cuts are taken into account.

"I will keep up the effort to reverse the Governor's move with regards to our state parks."

On Wednesday (Sept. 17) Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn launched an on-line petition drive in an effort to keep open 11 state parks scheduled to be closed permanently in November.

Quinn' reasoning is that state parks protect wilderness areas and give families access to outdoor recreation close to home.

Quinn's website, provides a place where people can sign on-line petitions and send a message to Gov. Rod Blagojevich,

www.sveourstateparks.org.

Quinn is quoted in the State Journal-Register as saying, "There are 11 state parks on the chopping block, and we intend to stand up for each and every one of them to prevent their closure."

"We don't want them closed, period. The only way we are going to get the will of the people heard is to use the techniques of 21st century democracy—electronic democracy," Quinn said.

The Journal-Register article notes that Quinn has proposed closing a loophole in the way sales taxes are collected and working toward a dedicated funding source for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, such as a fraction of 1 percent of the state sales tax. The paper again quotes Quinn as saying, "DNR has absorbed more than its share of budget cuts, and the agency's administrators need to provide more leadership on the issue. "They've got to start fighting for conservation and natural resources," he said.

As the Courier went to press, Gov. Blagojevich had signed into law S.B. 790, sweeping dedicated funds into a special budget restoration fund. Yet, the action needed to restore funding to the Department of Natural Resources to keep open the parks is approval of S.B. 1102 – authorizing spending. Without the governor's signature, state parks and historic sites will close at the end of November.

January 15th deadline for EPB grant applications

Deadline for the next round of grant applications to the Illinois Equine Industry Research and Promotion Board (EPB) is January 15, 2009.

EPB funds must go to support equine research, education and promotion in keeping with the enabling legislation's core purpose: "Enhancement of the Illinois equine industry through self-funded programs, projects and activities. Grants to institutions and individuals will be related to equine research, education and industry enhancements and promotion."

Any group, individual, company or institution may apply for funding. Preference will be given to projects benefitting the largest number of people/horses.

A detailed research application is available (as well as a shorter project application) at from the EPB administrative office, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 308, Springfield, IL 62703. Phone (217) 585-1600 or www.HorsemensCouncil.org.■

Proposal to increase Shawnee campground fees moves forward

After a period of public comment on recreational use fee increases for the Shawnee National Forest, revised proposals have been forwarded to the Recreational Resources Advisory Committee (RRAC) Region 9 for a recommendation, according to Allen Nicholas, Shawnee National Forest Supervisor.

Fees in this revised proposal are limited to developed campgrounds where fees already are in place, Nicholas said. All other recreational use fees in the original proposal have been dropped.

The RRAC's decision will be forwarded to the Regional Forester who will either accept or deny the recommendation. If accepted the fees would not go into effect until spring 2009. As submitted, the proposed fee for overnight camping would become \$10 per night at Pine Ridge, Pharaoh, Camp Cadiz and Pine Hills; and \$10 for a single, \$12 for a double and \$15 for a triple site per night at Johnson Creek.

The increase would bring fees more in line with the local market, Nicholas said.

RRAC Region 9, headquartered in Milwaukee, covers 22 states in the northeast quarter of the United States, encompassing 16 national forests. RRAC is made up of members

representing all phases of recreational land use, including motor vehicles, hikers, equestrians, bicyclists, etc.

Original proposals submitted for public comment produced 60 letters of support and 93 letters not supportive of fees. Most of the letters focused on proposals for charging new fees either for day use facilities or for equestrian use of the designated trail system. Increasing existing fees at campgrounds was not a significant issue in the letters.

The Shawnee maintains a web site with an "All things equestrian" section where horsemen may keep up to date with trail issues and gain access to information on all aspects of the Forest: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee.

So you want to adopt a horse?

Congratulations on your decision to adopt a horse in need!

Are you ready?

Your actions will change his life and your life immensely. Owning your own horse is very different from attending a weekly riding lesson or borrowing a friend's horse for trail riding. Taking the leap to horse ownership indicates that you are ready for more financial obligation, time spent in the barn, and prepared for handling an animal 10 times your weight.

Who can help?

Let's get started. Before you're ready to select a horse there are a few things you need to do in preparation for the adoption day. The number one best preparation for adopting a horse is experience. If you've never ridden or driven or handled a horse you are not ready to adopt one. Before you take that plunge into horse ownership, it is vital that you prepare yourself by taking lessons from an experienced professional in your area. It is recommended that you take lessons from a professional consistently for 1-2 years before adopting a horse. If you want to drive your potential equine soul mate, then learn how to drive before your bring a horse home. If you've always wanted to compete in the field of eventing, then take lessons at an event barn on a seasoned horse and become comfortable before tackling an unknown horse. If you desire an equine companion to mow your grass, attend some hands on classes on horse handling, behavior, and care before you adopt that horse. You may find that your passion for horses is more than you imagined or conversely you may decide that horses are better enjoyed from the sidelines.

Your instructor can support and advise you in the horse selection process. But wait, you're not quite ready for that part! After you've gained some experience and before you adopt a horse you need to develop a plan that includes where your horse will live and



the equipment and accessories your horse requires. Will you board your horse, or will he live at your house?

If your horse will be boarded you need to determine which facility will best suite your needs and his. If you plan to ride dressage you probably want to board your horse where there are other dressage riders. You should look at facilities that are convenient to your home or work and that cater to your discipline. You may choose to board with the facility at which you have been taking riding lessons. As you interview boarding facilities ask what they offer and what the owner is responsible for providing. Some facilities provide buckets, feed, and bedding while other require the owner to supply those items. The facility should be valuated objectively, based on the quality of care, riding or driving facilities (arena, trails, etc.), price (including hidden), location, and convenience. If your horse will be housed on your property you need to have appropriate pasture space, shelter, and working areas. A good practice is to provide two acres per horse for grazing. Additionally you need to provide your horse access to free choice water and salt. Some rescues have fencing and shelter requirements that should be reviewed before modifying your property or selecting a boarding facility.

What do you need before you adopt?

Regardless of whether your horse will be boarded or live on your property you need to own the necessary equine equipment and accessories. Before you adopt a horse ensure you have at least the following items:

- Halter
- ■Lead rope
- ■Chain shank
- ■Grooming tools
- First Aid supplies
- ■Fly Control
- Buckets
- Sponge
- Bathing supplies
- Tack & Equipment

Now you are ready to begin the horse selection process. Work with your instructor

to determine the type horse that best fits your needs and experience level. You may have to visit several rescue facilities and a variety of horses before you find the one that best suits your needs. Some rescues ride and retrain horses while others adopt them without training. Ensure that you are adopting a horse with suitable training for your skill level.

Rescue facilities have various requirements and arrangements under which they adopt horses. Visit websites and gather information before you visit the site. Most rescue organizations require adoption contracts and many stipulate that the horse

cannot be used for breeding purposes. Some rescues allow you to sell the horse after a period of time while others require that the horse be returned to them if you no longer wish to own him.

Is this the right horse for you?

The keys to successful adoption are being amply prepared and selecting a horse that compliments your skill level. If you are a novice you should select a horse with



experience. If you have a great deal of experience you may be able to adopt a horse that needs training. Once you've found a horse to adopt and made arrangements for his delivery the work really begins. There will be an initial adjustment period for you to learn about each other and develop a relationship from which your partnership will grow. Remember to seek the advice of professionals.

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Help the Foundation help you!

With the holiday season approaching, charitable folks often expand their gift programs to deserving organizations in their community. This is an ideal time for members of the horse world to support their own community, too, and in doing so contribute to the future of a better world for the horses and horsemen dear to them.

The Illinois Equine Foundation, a notfor-profit foundation established by the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, can receive your tax-deductible contributions and use them to support HCI's scholarship programs.

Since 1998, HCI has used the Foundation to support the Ruby Holmquist

Memorial Scholarship Fund, and since 2006 the Dean Scoggins Memorial Scholarship.

For information on how to become a major Foundation sponsor or sustaining member, contact the Illinois Equine Foundation, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 308, Springfield, IL 62703, call the HCI office at 217-585-1600 or e-mail hci@HorsemensCouncil.org.

Checks in any amount are greatly appreciated. They may be made payable to the Illinois Equine Foundation and mailed to the address above. Gifts of \$25 or more will automatically generate receipts for tax purposes.

Stable Owners: Do we have your e-mail address?

HCI maintains a database of Illinois stables. Owners who provide e-mail addresses are sent alerts on health issues, legislation affecting horses and horse properties, and information about HCI's two sponsored trade fairs, Illinois Horse Fair and the all new Equestrian Life-style Expo.

If you have not received any such e-mail in the last few weeks – and you would like to receive the information – please send your e-mail address to bob@themeierhans.com. Bob handles communications for HCI and maintains the Illinois stables database.

Although HCI has not yet done so, HCI is considering publishing a directory. HCI often receives inquiries about horses, such as "Where can I get riding lessons in my area?" "Can you tell me about boarding stables close to me?" "Who do you know who could guide my child into showing?"

Right now, the database includes stable name and names of owner, manager and trainer, as well as address, phone, fax, cell, e-mail and website, along with a section to note services (boarding, training, lessons, breeding and discipline), plus a comments section to describe facilities.

Why e-mail? It's the fastest, most economical means for HCI to reach you.

If you have been receiving e-mail from HCI, you might want to e-mail Bob anyway, giving him any recent updates on your operation. ■

Illinois Horse Fair March 6-8, 2009

at the Illinois State Fair Grounds, Springfield, IL

The Council may be contacted at Horsemen's Council of Illinois, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 308, Springfield, IL 62703. Phone (217) 585-1600. Fax (217) 585-1601. Web site: www.HorsemensCouncil.org.

(continued from cover)

Julie Goodnight joins Dr. Randel Raub to headline large group of presenters at Chicagoland Equestrian Life-style Expo and Holiday Market November 22-23

Science degrees from the University of Illinois and his Doctorate from the University of Kentucky where he focused on the effects of nutrition and exercise on growth physiology. Before joining Purina, he was the horse teaching and research specialist at Kansas State University for 12 years. He and his family are active in the breeding and training of ranch and western performance horses.

Program details (descriptions of topics, biographies of presenters, schedule of events and times) will be available on the Expo website. Tickets are \$6 per day, \$10 for the weekend. Credit cards may be used to purchase tickets on-line at www.HorsemensCouncil.org. Tickets at the door are cash only.

Vendors will offer English and Western tack and clothing; feed, supplements, health care products; facilities, equipment and stable supplies; and trailers.

With only 30 days before Christmas, attendees will find selection and pricing on featured holiday gift items, including jewelry, art, books, stationery, home/barn/lounge accessories – even chocolates in the shape of horse heads.

Expo will have representatives from schools, camps and breed/discipline clubs, all eager to share their perspective on the horse world – and how to join them.

Expo will offer presentations on incorporating a passion for horses into home décor, the horse in art, animal communication and more.

Equestrian life-style presenters will include trainer/performer Laura Amandis' observations on horses in entertainment (Amandis is former show director and senior vice president of entertainment for Arabian Nights Dinner Theatre, Orlando); animal communication practitioner Asia Voight, whose uncanny insight into what a horse is thinking amazes owners; sports psychologist Dr. Morgan Wolin, who has helped prominent teams and players develop a winning attitude, as well as helping equestrians deal with mental

blocks; and ASID designer Susan B. Behringer, who will inspire listeners with her "how to" presentation on incorporating your passion for horses into your home.

Amandis also will host a session on the professional secrets of training horses at liberty.

A modern-day James Herriott, Marcia Thibeault, DVM, author of "I Make Horse Calls," will share readings from her book as she introduces CSI Angie Palmer, who can coolly examine the bloody scene of a triple murder, but panics when her mare goes into labor; the punctual Mary Wilkinson, who seeks veterinary advice when her horse's bowel movement is an hour late; seven teenage boys who faint while observing surgery during career day at the veterinary hospital, and others.

Expo's programming format will be seminars and roundtables – literally – where attendees can spend 15 minutes at a table with an expert before moving on to the next table, topic and expert. Subjects will include designing web sites that work, drafting your own liability release to reduce legal risk in equine activities, equine mortality and medical insurance, current health issues, how to manage small acreage horse pastures and paddocks, budget-minded marketing, what to do until the vet arrives, stem cell therapy for joint disease and equine tendon injury, disaster preparedness, leg wrapping, how to buy your first horse, and many more.

For information on attending Expo visit www.HorsemensCouncil.org or call toll free 1-866-384-9161. For information on exhibiting, contact Joy Meierhans at (630) 557-2575 or JM@TheMeierhans.com.

Horsemen's Council of Illinois, voice of the horse industry in Illinois, is affiliated with the American Horse Council and is the statewide association of equine organizations and individuals working to provide centralized leadership for Illinois' 77,000 horse owners, 213,000 horses and its \$3.8 billion industry, which provides full-time employment for more than 15,000 people.

Join Us Today! Individual Membership Application • State _____ Zip ____ Home Phone ()_____ Work Phone () ●How many horses do you own? _at home _____boarding stable • Individual Membership Dues (includes \$39/vr \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) Organization Membership Application Organization _____ Contact Name • State _____ Zip ____ Website # of Illinois Members in Organization ____ Check appropriate category Business/Professional ___Association ___ Charity Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr. Make check payable and mail to: Horsemen's Council of Illinois 3085 Stevenson Dr., Ste. 308 Springfield, IL 62703 Phone: 217.585.1600 www.horsemenscouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$__

Rescue pony inspires us all

Editor's note: The following is a story making the rounds over the Internet. HCI normally does not pickup such features, but this one is genuinely uplifting.

eet Molly. She's a grey speckled pony who was abandoned by her owners when Hurricane Katrina hit southern Louisiana. She spent weeks on her own before finally being rescued and taken to a farm where abandoned animals were stockpiled. While there, she was attacked by a pit bull terrier and almost died. Her gnawed right front leg became infected, and her vet went to LSU for help, but LSU was overwhelmed, and this pony was a welfare case. You know how that goes.

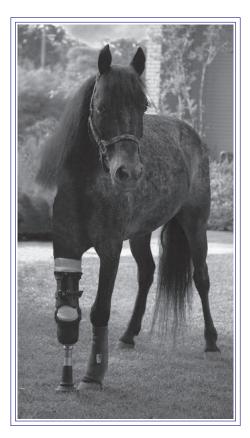
But after surgeon Rustin Moore met Molly, he changed his mind. He saw how the pony was careful to lie down on different sides so she didn't seem to get sores, and how she allowed people to handle her. She protected her injured leg. She constantly shifted her weight and didn't overload her good leg. She was a smart pony with a serious survival ethic.

Moore agreed to remove her leg below the knee, and a temporary artificial limb was built. Molly walked out of the clinic and her story really begins there.

"This was the right horse and the right owner," Moore insists. Molly happened to be a one-in-a-million patient. She's tough as nails, but sweet, and she was willing to cope with pain. She made it obvious she understood that she was in trouble. The other important factor, according to Moore, is having a truly committed and compliant owner who is dedicated to providing the daily care required over the lifetime of the horse.

Molly's story turns into a parable for life in post-Katrina Louisiana. The little pony gained weight, and her mane finally felt a comb. A human prosthesis designer built her a leg.

The prosthetic has given Molly a whole new life, Allison Barca, DVM, Molly's regular vet, reports.



Molly the pony

And she asks for it. She will put her little limb out, and come to you and let you know that she wants you to put it on. Sometimes she wants you to take it off, too. And sometimes, Molly gets away from Barca. "It can be pretty bad when you can't catch a three-legged horse," she laughs.

Most important of all, Molly has a job now. Kay, the rescue farm owner, started taking Molly to shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers. Anywhere she thought that people needed hope. "Wherever Molly went, she showed people her pluck. She inspired people, and she had a good time doing it," Kay says

It's obvious to me that Molly had a bigger role to play in life, Moore said. "She survived the hurricane, she survived a horrible injury, and now she is giving hope to others."

Barca concluded, "She's not back to normal, but she's going to be better. To me, she could be a symbol for New Orleans itself."

Equestrian Trails Manuals Released

Earlier this summer, the American Horse Council releases two publications concerning the design, construction and maintenance of equestrian trails, trailheads and campgrounds.

The Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds, written by Jan Hancock in conjunction with U.S. Forest Service, has been released by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This manual provides trail design and construction details, while explaining the particular physical and psychological needs of equines and their riders that necessitate them. The information in this guidebook is applicable to trails at all levels of development and locations.

Recreational Horse Trails in Rural and Wildland Areas: Design, Construction, and Maintenance, was written by Gene W. Wood, in conjunction with 16 contributing authors. This guidebook concentrates specifically on horse trail development in rural and wild land areas. An emphasis is placed on trail design, construction and placement that will make long term use by equestrians possible. The American Horse Council was involved in facilitating the funding of this book.

Equestrian accessible trails are of the utmost importance to the horse community. Both of these books are needed and will be of great help to recreational riders throughout the country.

Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds is offered free of charge on-line at the FHWA website www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fspubs/07232816/index.htm, or a hard copy can be ordered through the FHWA Report Center: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/trailpub.htm.

Recreational Horse Trails in Rural and Wildland Areas: Design, Construction, and Maintenance, is available for a fee from Clemson University's Forestry and Natural Resources website at www.clemson.edu/foresters.

And don't forget the *Illinois Trail Riders Handbook* on trails, camps and services. It is available for \$25 by mail from Illinois Trail Riders, 4873 Indian Hills Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025.■

Courier Schedule Changing

Publication schedules for your quarterly *Courier* newsletter are changing to help HCI better address major gatherings of horsemen in Illinois.

The new schedule begins with this Fall issue, being mailed before November 15, meaning that extra copies can be printed for distribution at HCI's new Chicagoland Equestrian Life-style Expo at Arlington Park Racecourse (Chicago), an event projected to attract more than 5,000 horsemen in its first year.

Winter 2009's edition will mail February 15, permitting HCI to again print extras for distribution at Illinois Horse Fair, March 6-8 at the Fairgrounds in Springfield. This event, going into its 20th year, annually draws in excess of 10,000 horsemen.

Spring's edition is targeted to mail May 15, and the summer edition August 15.

While distribution remains quarterly, HCI views the Courier as an important communications tool to reach its members, Legislators, Congressional delegates, and individuals influential in the equine industry across the state.

Scholarship Deadlines are December 1st

Application deadlines for the Ruby Holmquist and Dean Scoggins Memorial Scholarships are December 1. Guidelines and application forms are available at www.HorsemensCouncil.org or by contacting the HCI

administrative office.



Funded through the Illinois Equine Foundation, these scholarships improve the future health of the Illinois horse industry by supporting deserving students committed to careers in the business.

Scoggins

Scholarships go to Illinois veterinary students pursuing a career as an equine vet. Holmquist Scholarships are given to students seeking a "vocational/professional" position in the industry or an "academic/educational" career with horses.

