



Horse Council Courier

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

Join HCI for the 24th Annual Illinois Horse Fair

March 1 – 3, 2013 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield

Top national clinicians join equine educators and 140 vendors offering all things for the equestrian – from recreational horsemen to professionals – at the 24th annual Illinois Horse Fair.

Produced by Horsemen's Council of Illinois HCI, the all-breed expo annually attracts more than 14,000 horse owners and spectators.

In addition to learning training tips and techniques from experts, Horse Fair gives attendees unique access to HorsesForSale aisles, breed and sport demonstrations, Stallion Row and Parade and the 4H All-Youth Horse Judging Trials.

Tickets are now available! New Prices!

Children under 8 years of age FREE when accompanied by adult.

Daily pass \$10.00 per day and weekend pass \$25.00.

Visit www.horsemencouncil.org/HorseFair for an order form.

Great for giving as a gift for the holidays!

EVENING SHOW Friday and Saturday – Ranch Rodeo returns to the Illinois Horse Fair with special appearances by Guy McLean and Percheron Thunder



Be a Horse Fair Champion ... Volunteer!

Join the team that produces Illinois' largest non-racing horse event. Volunteering at Horse Fair is fun, educational and a great way to meet people. Volunteers are needed for a variety of responsibilities, ranging from ticket sales to hospitality. To volunteer, email Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl DeMent at paintfilly71@yahoo.com.

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President's Corner



Wild No More

There are many ironies about America's "wild" mustangs. One is that mustangs are not actually wild horses. Wild means an individual or species that was never domesticated. The free roaming horses inhabiting our western states descended from domesticated animals that escaped or were turned loose; the appropriate term for these animals is "feral". Mustangs are "wild" in the same way that barn cats and street dogs are "wild".

What does a society owe an animal that is not truly wild? Should they earn the same protections that we provide to endangered wild species? What if their population is not at a level to be considered endangered or even threatened? Or, by virtue of the fact that these were once domesticated creatures and therefore in some way molded by human intervention, do we owe them *more* than a wild creature subject to the whims of the natural world? How do human societies deal with other species of once domesticated but now feral animals? Should the mustang be an exception to these policies, and if so, why? These are all emotionally and politically charged questions. In the case of mustangs, many of the answers are still being sought.

Anyone who has seen the areas of this country where the mustang herds roam can appreciate the harsh habitat in which they scrape out their existence. Living in these remote and desolate areas is a challenge for Man, beast and vegetation alike. Conditions can be extreme, resources are limited and all living things perform a perpetual dance between life and death. This is not the natural habitat of the wild horse. Wild horses evolved on grassland prairies.

Although evolution of equine ancestors occurred in approximately the same geographic areas of North America as today's feral mustang herds, the habitat under which horse progenitors lived was far from what it is today. What is now a high plains desert was then the shores of the Niobraran Sea - a sea 1200 miles in width covering much of the west and midwest.

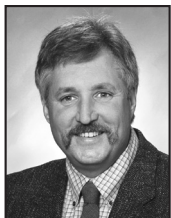
Much later, after development of the Rocky Mountains forced the draining of this inland sea, the now exposed Great Basin area was populated with enormous lakes (Death Valley, now the most arid place in North America, contained a chain of five lakes, the largest of which was over 1,300 square miles in size!). These features and a very different climate supported the rich grasslands on which the horse evolved. In fact, after over 60 million years of evolution on the North American continent, horses went extinct here about 12,500 years ago. One of the theories behind this rather sudden extinction is that horses' habitat changed from lush grasslands to the tundra conditions now present in the American west.

I don't intend to give you a geology or biology lecture here, but knowing what a horse needs to thrive is essential to assess the conditions under which the mustangs now endure. The fact that formerly domesticated horses can, as a group, do so well in the harsh environment of these arid western lands is testament to the adaptability of horses as a species. But adaptability has its limits.

Another irony of the mustang situation is that they have adapted so well to living on so little that they have overpopulated their habitat. How did this happen? Certainly the feral horses that survive to breed in this environment are tough, but that is only part of the story. The herds also have few natural predators to keep the population in check. Since horses are not natural to the west, one could argue that humans are the horse's *only* natural predators - indeed early humans may have played a large part in the extinction of wild horses in prehistoric North America. However, mountain lions, and (occasionally) wolf, grizzly and black bear, and even (theoretically) coyote can prey on compromised horses. None of these predators are present in sufficient numbers (and the humans living in these areas don't want them in these numbers) to keep the mustang population in check. Natural reproduction can double a mustang herd every 4-5 years. Not all

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Executive Director's Report



Renewing your investment in the Illinois Horse Community

Yep, it's renewal time once again! HCI membership runs on the calendar year (January 1 through December 31) and time keeps flying by, so here we are asking you to renew your support of your state horse council and your commitment to building a stronger horse community for all of Illinois.

There are some huge changes you can look forward to taking place at the Horsemen's Council of Illinois with the New Year. The Illinois Horse Fair is undergoing a major facelift and is shaping up to be possibly the best Horse Fair ever! Equestrian trails advocacy is getting a shot in the arm. And we have been working all summer and fall to introduce a new membership management system that will make your membership experience more valuable by providing online renewal, creating member forums, allow for information exchange and hopefully serve to better connect you with like-minded horse owners.

For more than 25 years the Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) has been an active participant in legislative debate and has interacted with regulators in Springfield and Washington, DC on your behalf and on the behalf of your horses. As a member of the Coalition of State Horse Councils we network with folks from all over the country to identify and discuss emerging issues and solutions that work for you. We also continue our work to secure necessary changes in Illinois statutes, defend your interests in the underlying regulations, enhance equine health and welfare in Illinois and contribute to the rule-making process all of which has resulted in many unseen benefits to our members and the entire equine community.

Advocacy – grass roots lobbying - is probably the most important thing we do.

With the elections now behind us and a new legislative session on the horizon, with more than a few new faces in the

game, it's more important than ever that our legislators recognize the thousands of HCI members and equine enthusiasts throughout Illinois and the important role the equine industry plays as a driver in the state's economy.

Join us in Springfield at the State Capital during the upcoming legislative session if you can, or plan to pay a visit to your legislator in their home district offices just to say hello and become acquainted. Let the legislators, or their staff member, know you are a resident of their district, that you own horses, you vote and actively participate as a member of the Illinois equine industry. Nothing is as important to an elected official as a visit from a constituent and maintaining good relations with the voters of their district. Your visit will be an enjoyable experience for you and provide legislators with a source for information on things that are important to you now and will be in the future.


At HCI, we are available for you. Don't hesitate if we can ever help you arrange a meeting with your legislator, with information on any horse related issues or answer your questions. But it's important to realize that you hold the key to our success and to the future of horse ownership in Illinois. We can't do it without you and your valued input.

Perception is everything: Determining how the equine community is perceived by the decision makers and the general public, now and in the future, is important business that each and every one of us needs to be aware of and take care of every day. The things we say and do are perceived as representing horse owners everywhere. If we remain positive and talk about our enjoyment of the equestrian lifestyle, just maybe a few more folks might be interested in giving it a try. They might even decide to introduce their children to the joy that horses can bring into their lives. We are always looking for ways to ease entry through the door to that all important first ride. Let us know your ideas and suggestions on how to make

a life with horses more approachable to everyone.

I've heard a lot of talk over the summer about the increase of contact with mountain bikers on the trails of the state. To be sure, the bike lobbies have been working diligently over the past few years and have made tremendous advances with land managers and built strong relationships with decision makers all across the state. Bicycling is something the average citizen has ready access to and can enjoy rather easily. Horseback riding... maybe not so much. How can we best work together as horse owners to change that? Land managers are required to provide the most recreational opportunity to the largest number of citizens (voters). In other words, the biggest bang for the buck. Unless we, the horse owners and riders of the state, become more involved, volunteer our time and efforts the most constructive fashion, and get more people involved in riding and understanding horses, we can expect our numbers to decline and our access to public lands reduced as well.

There is also an important difference that must be recognized between HCI members and our volunteers. A member finds value in their association, gladly pays the required annual dues, maybe even reads every issue of the Courier and HCI's biweekly email newsletters and finds them useful. A volunteer, on the other hand, actively participates, meets new friends and helps to further the mission of the association by doing – whether through fundraising, outreach, grassroots legislative work or helping out at the annual Illinois Horse Fair. Volunteers are examples of how actions speak louder than words. Contact HCI to explore ways you can volunteer and help play an important role in the future of horse ownership in Illinois. Let's work together to determine what the future of horse ownership looks like and to keep our sport alive!

Join us at HCI and renew your support of a bright future with horses today! 

Frank Bowman

CSHC Fall Meeting

The Colorado Horse Council recently hosted the 2012 Fall Meeting of the Coalition of State Horse Councils (CSHC) in Denver CO. Representatives from sixteen (16) state horse councils attended the two day meeting. Horsemen's Council of Illinois (HCI) President Sheryl King, PhD and Executive Director Frank Bowman made the trip to Denver to represent Illinois as delegates to the Coalition.

The event was highlighted by "An Evening with Temple Grandin" in which Dr. Grandin, professor of animal science at Colorado State University and best-selling author, expressed candid views on current and important conditions within the horse and animal industries along with her particular brand of humor and knowledge on animal behavior and welfare initiatives.

A strategic planning session kicked off the series of meetings geared to help the Coalition prioritize issues, define future conditions, assign tasks and work towards development and growth for the CSHC and all member state horse councils. Time spent networking and sharing knowledge with other leaders from various state horse councils across the country is the

best reason for belonging to the Coalition and attending the twice-annual meetings.

Several round table sessions provided further opportunity to network, share experiences and learn from those delegates attending and to identify issues and successful projects and activities from around the country. Topics of discussion during the event included "Equine Welfare: Separating Fact from Emotion", "Unwanted Horse – Lessons to Teach Our Youth", equine liability issues, professional equine certification programs, leadership and volunteer development, legal and legislative issues.

A huge round of thanks needs to go out to the Colorado Horse Council for all the work in producing an extremely successful event. Future CSHC Fall Meetings will be held in North Carolina in 2013, Illinois in 2014 and Maryland in 2015.

What is The Coalition About?

The CSHC is a purpose-driven organization, whose mission is to be an initiator

and conduit for strong and effective grassroots activism on issues of importance to the larger horse community and to the well-being of the horse.

The Coalition of State Horse Councils is a standing committee of the American Horse Council and the largest grassroots horse network in the country. The CSHC

is comprised of 43 state horse councils from around the country that have banded together to provide support and education to its members, encourage and grow active participation in state horse councils, and provide national issues support to the American Horse Council.

The CSHC also meets in Washington DC during the AHC annual meeting and issues forum. Anyone interested in participating with the Coalition and its activities is invited to contact the HCI office for more information.



Photo source: Wikipedia

Wild No More

continued from page 2


feral horse population increases are due to reproduction, however. Recent economic and other pressures have resulted in more privately owned horses being turned loose to fend for themselves on the open range. Some of these find their way into feral herds. This form of increase is causing particular problems on tribal lands.

Our mustang herds are overpopulated to the point where they are destroying their own habitat and decreasing the quality of life for all. In addition, drought conditions - which climatologists predict will increase in the future - are causing slow death by thirst and starvation. Current federal laws prevent management of feral horses in a manner similar to procedures used to cope with feral dogs and cats; our mustangs are protected. But in that protection, are we actually condemning them to increased suffering?

We now have more mustangs in permanent captivity than on the range. This is not an indication of a dwindling population in the wild, but a reflection of saturated horse markets, vastly decreased domestic horse values, lack of appropriate birth control methods and a reliance on capture and permanent captivity as a primary means of management.

The thought of "wild" mustangs is romantic - the reality can be less so. Our mustangs are a source of pride for Americans, they have come to symbolize our own tenacious search for freedom. We should insure that future generations of Americans can appreciate our mustangs. On the flipside, no horse should be knowingly made to suffer. We created the mustang - they are not a naturally wild phenomena. We therefore have the

responsibility and obligation to responsibly manage these animals so that starvation and thirst, disease and excess aggression due to overpopulation are minimized. We are failing to meet those responsibilities. We need to set emotion aside and evaluate the mustang situation with an objective, scientific eye. Then we need to implement a long-term, viable solution based on rational science and humane management. Certainly one of those solutions is systematic, permanent birth control. Why has this obvious and rather simple solution (this equine reproductive physiologist knows of very simple and cost-effective methods to accomplish this goal) not been implemented?

Let's infuse some rational science and apply good old American ingenuity to the problem. Let's do right by the mustangs. 

Benefits of Membership in the Horsemen's Council of Illinois

As a member of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, you may take advantage of a host of discount programs offered through the American Horse Council (AHC) and our insurance provider, Association Resource Group (ARG).

AHC Saving Plus will provide you discounts with John Deere, Sherwin-Williams, OfficeMax, and Prescription Drug Card. You can buy products directly from these companies at greatly reduced prices – no minimums required!

Below is a sample of discounts available through ARG. For details on how these valuable Horsemen's Council of Illinois member benefits can help you save money, go to www.horsecouncil.org/ahc-advantage-plan and www.associationresource.net.

Automatic Member Benefits go to www.associationresource.net to click through on your benefits

 <p>Access to insurance products from Equisure, Inc. www.equisure-inc.com</p>	 <p>Discount with ARG CDP code: 1747926 www.hertz.com</p>
 <p>Discounts from VPI Pet, a nationwide insurance company. Call 866-332-3997</p>	 <p>Discounts with ARG code: 210089 www.hotels.com</p>
 <p>20% discount on orders over \$150 www.officedepot.com</p>	 <p>Members can save up to 25% off a yearly subscription. Click through on the ARG website.</p>
 <p>Let them know you are an ARG member to receive your discount. 800-989-9239</p>	
<p>Our Affiliate Partners</p>	
 <p>Save Big on your next saddle! Saddles for all members of the family, including youth saddles. Click Here! www.horsesaddleshop.com</p>	 <p>One of the largest selections of boots on the web. www.sheplers.com</p>
 <p>Protect Pet Health! ARG members receive an extra 10% off their order www.1800petmeds.com</p>	 <p>Hundreds of items and great prices with \$5.99 shipping on all orders over \$60.00 \$5.99 Shipping on orders of \$60 or more</p>

www.associationresource.net

2012 Slate of Candidates for HCI Directors

Four (4) expiring terms and three (3) vacant positions on the Horsemen's Council of Illinois' Board of Directors have been filled starting with the coming calendar year.

Expiring directors **Lea Ann Koch (Oswego)**, **Joseph Lowery DMV (Davis Junction)**, **Ronald Rhoades (Seymour)** and **Peter Veit (Naperville)** have all agreed to serve additional three-year terms as HCI Directors. Three outstanding candidates have also been recommended by the HCI Nominating Committee to fill the currently vacant positions on the Board.



Diane Carney (Northeast Region)

Diane is a USEF Licensed Official R HU/EQ, R Jumper, USHJA Certified Trainer / Clinician and is a showing / teaching professional in the industry for over 30 years. She successfully shows hunters and jumpers from California, Florida, through the Mid-West, Devon, Indoors and Derby Finals achieving Grand Hunter Championships, Grand Prix victories and top 10 placings. Diane continues to compete nationally and internationally.




Betty Brennan – (Central Region)

Betty is the co-founder, president, and owner of Taylor Studios, Inc. Betty has been leading the Taylor Studios team since 1991, creating timeless exhibits for museums and nature centers across the country. She has coordinated and facilitated

over 300 projects in the last 20 years ranging from \$500 to over \$1 million each. Betty earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from Southern Illinois University and an MBA from Southwest Missouri State University. She is listed in the SIU Hall of Fame for the College of Business Administration and serves on the External Advisory Board of the college. In 2009, she was recognized as the Alumna of the Year. Betty grew up on a grain and livestock farm near Streator, IL. She now owns her own farm, Bluestem

Stables, near Potomac, IL, where she is establishing her reputation for horse-breeding. She owns many different breeds and has a particular interest in Andalusians.



• **Sherry McFarland – (Southern Region)** Sherry lives outside of Lawrenceville, Ill with her husband Pat, and has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. They have owned and operated S Bar M Quarter Horses for over 20 years and Sherry has been involved with horses all of her life. Sherry has a bachelor's degree from Saint Mary of the Woods in, Business, Marketing and Equine Management. She teaches Horse Management classes at Frontier Community College. One of her personal goals is to learn as much as she can, and share it with others, in classroom or arena. Sherry devotes much of her time to the local youth. Sherry enjoys showing and has competed in cutting, reining, western ranch riding, working cow horse, barrels and poles in the World Foundation Quarter Horse Association. Her passion is cutting. She has earned championships in the Illinois Cutting Horse Association and in 2011 she won area 13 Champion in the National Cutting Horse Association. 

Trail News

Good news,

New wording has been released in the new AASHTO guidelines for bicycle projects. Engineers take this book to be the “bible” for bike trail development and the wording is much more horse friendly than ever before. While it probably won’t create many new horse trails parallel to current or new bike and rail trails but it is a start. RTP and promotion money is available for horse trails if the proper grants are written within our communities.

Here is the text on shared use with horses, in the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (2012), section 5.2.3 “Shared Use with Mopeds, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles, and Horses”:

“... Bicycling and equestrian use have successfully been integrated on many pathways in the United States. However, care should be taken in designing these facilities to reduce potential conflicts between users. Bicyclists are often unaware of the need for slower speeds and additional clearance around horses. Horses can be startled easily and may act unpredictably if they perceive approaching bicyclists as a danger. Measures to mitigate bicyclist-equestrian conflicts include provision of separate bridle paths, maintenance of adequate sight lines so that bicyclists and equestrians are able to see each other well in advance, and signing that clarifies appropriate passing techniques and yielding responsibilities. Along paths with high- to moderate-use, the separate paved and unpaved treads should be divided by at least a 6-ft (1.8-m) wide vegetation buffer or barrier. Consideration can also be given to providing an elevation change between the treads. Where used, a separate, unpaved bridle path can often serve a dual purpose, as many joggers also prefer unpaved surfaces.”

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is a standards setting body which publishes specifications, test protocols and guidelines which are used in highway design and construction throughout the United States. The association represents highways, air, rail, water, and public transportation as well as trails and bikeways. 🐾

New Membership Program at HCI

Beginning with this year’s renewal period, HCI members are invited to join and renew memberships online using a secure internet connection and a custom log in. Creating your HCI account is easy!

- New HCI members can simply follow the instructions on screen.
- Existing members can log in and renew by entering your email address and password. To create a new password click “Forgot Password”. Once logged in, click “View Profile” to update your contact information then click “Renew”.

It’s easy to join or renew online. Simply visit the HCI website www.horsemencouncil.org Try it today! 🐾

In Memory of..

J. Gordon Hannagan, 81, of Gifford called his last bid on the morning of Friday, Oct. 19, 2012, at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana.

Gordy graduated from Central High School, Champaign. He then attended a year at the University of Illinois. He graduated from the Rupert School of Auctioneering, Decatur, Ind. He traveled all over the United States selling American Quarter Horses at public auction, covering 39 states and four Canadian Dominions. In his lifetime he sold over 80,000 acres of land in Champaign County and surrounding area at public auction. He and Jan owned and operated Gordyville, USA (Equine auction and event Center).

He was inducted into the American Quarter Horse and Illinois Quarter Horse Halls of fame. An avid horse breeder and trader, he had an eye for superior blood lines and he raised numerous champions. 🐾

Prominent Hackney Pony Breeder, Exhibitor Gene Kennedy dies at 99. The Hackney World has lost one of their greatest breeders and showman. Eugene (Gene) E. Kennedy, of Taylorville passed away on Saturday, Nov. 3, in Taylorville. He was 99 years old. Gene was well known for decades as a top showman, breeder, judge and exhibitor across the nation. He raised champion ponies showing and winning at the Illinois State Fair, Kentucky State Fair World Championship Horse Show, Chicago International, Devon, Midwest Charity and the American Royal in Kansas City.

By 1922 he was showing at the Illinois State Fair and he continued to compete in the buggy until 2006. He was recently honored by the Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeder's Association for participating or judging at the Illinois State Fair Society Horse Show for 84 years without a year missed! In 2003, age 90, Gene drove City Glitter to win the Illinois Horse and Pony Breeders Harness Class at the State Fair. They had multiple wins before, in that class, as he did with her grandfather May Day Dividend. He showed Scottish Lass in 2005 and won the Land of Lincoln Hackney Pony Class as he had with her, and her grandfather, May Day Poppin’ many times before. With all of the ponies he had shown, those two mares gave him such pleasure his last few years in the ring. They were the progeny of many years of breeding success that embodies the spirit of the Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Award classes and Mid-West Futurity at the Illinois State Fair Society Horse Show.

Gene was an American Horse Show Association judge with cards in American Saddlebred, Saddleseat Equitation, Parade, Roadster, Hackney, and Shetland. He also judged carriage driving and Welsh classes. Kennedy judged shows and fairs from California to Madison Square Garden, and the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

The Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeder's Association Board of Directors nominated Gene Kennedy last year to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2013. He will be honored at the upcoming Land of Lincoln general meeting on Friday, Dec. 7, at the Northfield Inn in Springfield. 🐾

IIQHA and Horses for Heroes

By Ronald Rhoades (HCI director)

Bring together over one hundred horses, nice weather, great food, miles of wonderful trail riding terrain through woods, over hills and around picturesque fall fields and the Illinois Quarter Horse Association (IIQHA) and what do you get?

A GREAT TIME!

Imagine riding in a group of horses soooo long that one could not see the beginning or end! Such a view could be seen as the IIQHA organized another successful charity ride the last weekend in September that benefitted "Horses for Heroes", a charity providing equine therapy to injured veterans.

A lively auction was conducted for many wonderful items Saturday evening.

To encourage participation, QHA membership was not required – it was open to all breeds. There were even different rides for "fast" horses (gaited) and regular horses – although rumor has it the fast ride participants diverged even further.



The ride was well organized and a great example of both great leadership and a local riding group (the Green River Saddle Club in Amboy) working with local land owners to provide riding space on private property – almost all riding was on trail access negotiated with private property owned by non-horse owning people – GREAT WORK!

If you didn't go this year, plan to go next year. Mark your calendars for the final weekend in September now to keep it open! 🐾



Join Us Today!

Individual Membership Application

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
County _____
State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____
Work Phone () _____
Fax () _____
Email _____
How many horses do you own? _____
_____ at home _____ boarding stable

Individual Membership Dues (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$49/yr**

Family Membership Dues (includes \$1,000,000 insurance coverage) **\$72/yr**

Organization Membership Application

Organization _____
Contact Name _____
Street _____
City _____
County _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____
Fax () _____
Email _____
Website _____
of Illinois Members in Organization _____

Check appropriate category
____ Business/Professional ____ Association ____ Charity

Organization Membership Dues: \$50/yr.

Make check payable and mail to:



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Springfield, IL 62703
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www.HorsemensCouncil.org

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____



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Joining Forces to Benefit Trail Riding and Advocacy

Horsemen's Council of Illinois and the Illinois Trail Riders have always had a lot in common. Both are non-profit organizations devoted to promoting enjoyment of the horse. Both were formed in the late 1980's and a number of ITR Board members also serve(d) on the HCI Board of Directors. Although HCI has always maintained a standing Trails Committee and has advocated for maintaining equine trails access in Illinois, it has been ITR that has historically performed the heavy lifting on trails advocacy issues. Illinois Trail Riders has worked with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, many local forest preserves, and the Midewin Natural Tallgrass Prairie and Shawnee National Forests to make sure that access to trails by horsemen is preserved and expanded. Historically, ITR has enjoyed a strong grassroots base. Horsemen's Council of Illinois has a broader mission, to represent all horse activities and to serve as an advocacy and watchdog agency in the state legislature as well as to provide information and education to the horse community at large. HCI maintains an office staff, and has a dedicated lobbyist in Springfield as well as an Executive Director that maintains a consistent communication stream with the HCI membership and the horse industry at large.

Joining the two formidable forces of HCI and ITR would strengthen our service to the Illinois horse industry and specifically to that industry's major activity – trail riding. To that end, representatives from the Executive Boards of HCI and ITR have been meeting to determine how a unification of forces could be accomplished. With the considerable history, assets and grassroots base in ITR forming the basis for an invigorated and much expanded HCI Trails Committee combined with the name recognition, advanced communication and lobbying strengths of HCI, the marriage should be a winning combination.

Look for information soon about opportunities to get involved with trails advocacy in your region and follow the progress of the HCI/ITR unification through our enews, website, facebook and twitter feeds. 🐾

Illinois Equine Foundation: Make Horses Part of Your Year End Tax Planning

Since 1987 the Illinois Equine Foundation has provided a tax-free way to help the Illinois equine community and the future of horseback riding through charitable giving.

The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Specifically to promote equine events, equine activities and equine education and to include the establishment and administration of related scholarship funds, grants, financial assistance, research projects in support thereof.

Tax-deductible contributions to strengthen and support these worthwhile goals are gratefully accepted

Contributions can be designated as general or earmarked for specific uses. Gifts can be made in any amount and may be received as monetary sums, stock, annuities and other assets, bequests from an estate, endowments or other means. Gifts of \$25.00 or more will automatically generate receipts for tax purposes.

For more information contact the Illinois Equine Foundation at 217-529-6503 🐾