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**MEMBERSHIP PACKETS ARE ON THE WAY!**  
We apologize for the delay in membership packets this year. We have updated all our materials and benefits information. They will be arriving soon.

**Coming in the Next Issue**

Illinois Horse Fair Report

Russ Derango - Part 2

Trails & Land Use

More on HCI Survey

Member Association Profile

Member Profile

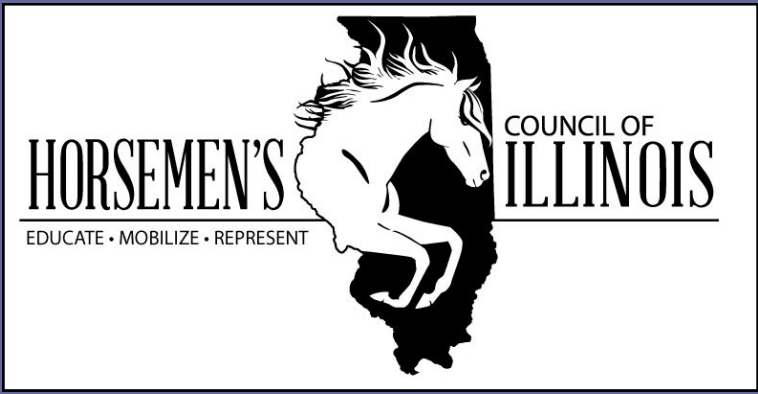
Calendar of Events



ADM Alliance Nutrition partners with Horsemen's Council of Illinois as a Diamond level year-round sponsor.

No hour  
of Life  
wasted  
that is spent  
in the Saddle  
~  
Winston Churchill

The mission of Horsemen's Council of Illinois is to educate, mobilize and represent Horsemen and the equine industry to ensure a thriving Illinois horse community.



# COURIER

Voice of the Illinois Horse Industry

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2015

## Illinois Horse Fair

At press time of this newsletter hundreds of volunteers, hundreds of vendors and exhibitors and more than 10,000 cabin-fever-stricken men, women and children hungry for everything “horse” are preparing to converge on the Illinois State Fairgrounds for the 26th annual Illinois Horse Fair March 6th, 7th and 8th.

The first weekend in March is anticipated all winter by horsemen, eager to gear up and get to riding. The Horse Fair is also a social occasion where friends meet every year.

The 2015 Horse Fair celebrates “Variety and Versatility - the Amazing Horse” and offers to fair goers perhaps the broadest representation of the equine lifestyle yet.

For the first time, the Artisans Building, presented by County Market will be open the entire fair and house artisans and custom crafts along with providing a delicious and comfortable place to eat with plenty of seating.

The presentation of the annual Horse Fair is a testament to the dedication of dozens of volunteers, generous sponsors, enthusiastic clinicians and educators and the horse loving community. Our special thanks to general chairman, Ron Rhoades and facilitator Sarah Cowgill for their leadership.

We hope you enjoy it!



[www.illinoishorsefair.org](http://www.illinoishorsefair.org)

### 2015 Horse Fair Leading Sponsors



## HCI Directs Focus to Member Services

After 25 years of growth, Horsemen's Council of Illinois is renewing its focus on services to our member horsemen and organizations.

In September 2014, Cheryl Waterman joined HCI as Operations Manager. She is responsible for the day to day operations of HCI including rapid personal response to phone calls and emails, developing a new database of horse related resources for

members and refreshing our website and social media. She manages the business side of the organization, works directly with members and facilitates the work of the board of directors.

Cheryl brings more than 25 years of nonprofit management experience to HCI along with a solid background in horses ranging from 4H and Pony Club to trail riding and team sorting.



She works from her home office near Quincy, Illinois. Cheryl can be reached at:

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### Horsemen's Council of Illinois Board of Directors

Sheryl King, Ph.D. - President  
Makanda  
Ronald Rhoades - Vice-President  
Seymour  
Elaine Ramesh - Secretary  
Barrington Hills  
David Nobbe, Ph.D. - Treasurer  
Carpentersville  
Tim Boyer - Contrall  
Paula Briney - Chatham  
Russ Derango - Lexington  
Dennis French, DVM - Urbana  
Kevin Kline, Ph.D. - Urbana  
Sherry McFarland - Lawrenceville  
Yvonne Ocrant - Wheaton  
Dee Dee Rea - Wapella  
Rachel Torbert - Wapella

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# Our Brother's Keeper

by Sheryl King, PhD: HCI President



In today's America of instant gratification and equally instant criticism, what is the point – or maybe more appropriately, what is the benefit – of getting involved in a cause? There are lots of compelling reasons for sitting securely on your couch, or maybe sharing a few messages that come across your Facebook page, but why stand up, spend your valuable time and often some of your expendable income, to work without pay, for people you don't know, toward a goal that isn't even recognized by many that you serve? Because, quite simply, we ARE our brother's keeper. I believe that. **When we share a passion, when we know to our bones that something is good and healthy and decent, we owe it to each other to protect it for one another and for future generations.**

The mission of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois is **educating, mobilizing and representing horsemen and the equine industry to ensure a thriving Illinois horse community.** We who know them know that horses are good; that having horses in our lives enriches us in ways both physical and spiritual; that the relationship between horses and humans in their many, many forms needs to be nurtured, protected and encouraged. At HCI, we feel so strongly about the protection and promotion of our horse passion and equine lifestyle that we are willing to reach beyond ourselves and even beyond our own personal involvement with horses to engage in the higher cause of making sure that others understand us and our animals, that all horses are responsibly cared for, and that we can remain free to enjoy these animals for our own lifetimes and for the lifetimes of many generations to come.

**Make no mistake, our equine lifestyle IS being eroded and threatened.** Our ability to own and enjoy and make appropriate decisions for our horses is in jeopardy from many fronts. Increasingly, our population is divorced from the agriculture that feeds and clothes them. People's understanding of the nature of animals, and even the nature of nature is either lacking, or is increasingly being molded by forces unfriendly to the use of domesticated animals for human ends. Our recreation increasingly consists of artificial entertainment in manmade environments to be enjoyed amongst throngs of other people. Mechanized vehicles and noise and speed and constant stimulation has largely supplanted slow locomotion and the sounds of our natural world and the time to contemplate and the peace to rejuvenate. The villages, towns and cities where we live are increasingly zoning our horses out; our trails are threatened by bikes and ATVs, our ability to decide what is best for the animals that we love and care for every day of our lives is being legislated away.

**Horsemen's Council of Illinois protects us all – every horse, every discipline, everywhere in Illinois.** We actively promote better horsemanship, preserve options for ownership and enjoyment of our horses, educate owners, potential owners and those that don't even know horses, and we make sure our lawmakers know who we are, how powerful and large our industry is, and that our interests matter. As individuals, you may not like all of the stances that HCI takes, but our decisions are all well thought through and they all have the best interests of our animals and preserving our passion for them at heart.

**Join HCI and get involved with protecting your passion.** Share your love of horses with others outside the horse community. Stand up and heed the call to action when HCI needs your support to protect your rights. If we all continue to simply enjoy our horses in our own little world, we will be a party to the shrinking of that world and the elimination of our opportunity, and that of our children and grandchildren, to simply enjoy our horses.

# Meet Our Board Members

The board members of Horsemen's Council of Illinois serve as the volunteer leadership of the organization. They are responsible for the governance, finance and accountability of HCI, and best serving the interests of Illinois horsemen and the industry. The board of directors meets monthly to conduct the business of HCI. They are in frequent communication with each other and with the HCI Operations Manager. They are passionate horsemen and devote considerable time to their role on the HCI board. Each of them serves as a resource to the organization and to our members. Throughout the year we will introduce you to them.

**Elaine Ramesh** of Barrington Hills joined the HCI Board of Directors in 2015. She is a lawyer with a great deal of experience in Illinois municipal government as an elected official for her village, appointed committee member for her town, park district and county forest preserve. She is an advocate for horse people in her region. She works with local government to provide input on long-term plans and rule-making which affects equestrians. She founded and chairs the Equestrian Coalition of McHenry County, a regional organization to unite various local equestrian groups to pursue common goals regarding equestrian land use. She is on the board of Riding Club of Barrington Hills and the Illinois Equine Research and Promotion Board. She owns four horses and enjoys trail riding and competing in hunter/jumpers shows. Elaine can speak to groups on land use issues for horsemen and working with government and other regulatory groups to preserve and expand land available for horse use.



**Tim Boyer** of Cantrall, Illinois joined the HCI Board of Directors in 2015. Believing strongly in "studying the horse to see what they need and what help I can give them," Tim Boyer has trained horses for more than 40 years, preparing horses for careers in halter, pleasure, roping, cutting and speed events. He is strong in training thoroughbreds for race track careers, post-race career changes and managed the careers of multiple grade-one stakes winners. He works on problem solving with the horse and the human much like his mentors Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt. In addition to connecting with horses, Tim connects with people. He can break down the steps needed to get you working more easily and safely with your horse.

**Yvonne Ocrant** joined the HCI Board of Directors in 2011. She is a trial lawyer, transactions attorney, and certified mediator who practices in the areas of equine law, employment law, and commercial litigation. Yvonne's equine law practice includes handling litigation and transactions involving the Equine Activity Liability Act and various other state and federal laws affecting equine industry activities. She assists individual horse owners, trainers, breeders, facilities, veterinarians and others in the equine industry litigate and resolve claims for personal injury, property damage, and other losses caused by allegations of negligence, breach of contract, fraud, misrepresentation and other legal issues. She also drafts contracts for horse purchases, sales, and leases, assists with negotiating and drafting employment and independent contractor agreements for equine industry workers, and creates equine liability releases for horse owners, trainers, breeders, facilities, veterinarians, transporters and other individuals and entities sponsoring or participating in equine activities. She also has extensive experience developing multi-owner syndicates for horses in numerous disciplines, including eventing, dressage, and jumpers, as well as creating stallion and mare breeding syndicates. The syndicates completed to date range from several owners to multiple owners, range in value from \$5,000 to \$850,000 in value, and vary from very young horses beginning their training to mature horses competing at the highest levels of their sport. She is also the author of "HEADS UP!," a monthly column on various equine law related issues published in the *Scribe*, a monthly magazine sponsored by the Illinois Dressage and Combined Training Association. Yvonne speaks extensively on the topic of equine law to national and local organizations. Yvonne's work in the equine industry was featured in the February issue of *Chicago Lawyer* magazine. <http://www.chicagolawyer magazine.com/Articles/2015/02/Sports-Law-Careers.aspx>





## Horsemen's Council - Focus on Members

Getting to know our members is the top priority of Horsemen's Council of Illinois this year. We want to provide the best service and representation possible. Here are a few ways you can help us get to know you better:

- **Complete the HCI survey.** It will be distributed at Horse Fair, by mail with your membership packet and possibly on our website later this spring.
- **Invite HCI to your club meeting or event.** Our board members and staff can provide a number of educational and current issues presentations. At the same time we can learn about your group.
- **Make sure your profile is up to date** on the HCI website and enter your members' contact information so they receive the e-news, e-blasts and "What's Happening This Week" announcements. Clubs and associations can include up to 50 members in the database.
- We want to spread the word about what is happening with horses across the state. **Submit your club's activities** for the Calendar of Events. We will include these in the weekly announcements, on the web and Facebook and in the newsletter.
- We are **looking for good pictures** representing our members, both individuals and clubs enjoying their horses. We can use these pictures for all our communications. Email them to [hci@horsemencouncil.org](mailto:hci@horsemencouncil.org). As our Facebook page gets updated, we will also pick them up here.
- Always **share your suggestions or comments** with us, And, encourage others to join HCI. The more horsemen we represent, the more we can do!

### Strength in Numbers!

- Nearly **64,000** horse owners in Illinois
- More than **200,000** Illinoisans are involved in the horse industry

Feb 20, 2012

### HCI represents them all!

And yet we have less than 1,000 members. Help us grow so we can better serve and protect the horse industry in Illinois.

## HCI Benchmark Survey

Horsemen face immediate challenges to our hobby, our passion and for some our livelihood.

When talking with the media, government agencies, concerned citizens or opposing groups HCI is often asked, "So who do you represent?" If we respond with solid numbers and accurate information we have greater influence with decision makers and the opportunity to educate those who know little about the horse world.

For Horsemen's Council of Illinois to best represent our members and potential members we need to know more about the horsemen and animals we value so much.

This is why HCI is conducting a benchmark survey to gather information that shows the power of the horse industry in Illinois.

Beginning with the Illinois Horse Fair and continuing into summer, HCI members and other horsemen will have the chance to complete a survey that is vital to our work. Paper copies will be distributed at Horse Fair. We will also be using other opportunities to collect this information.

You may receive a survey in the mail or be asked to complete one on-line. Please do so, but only complete one survey per household. And know that your personal information will be protected and used only by Horsemen's Council of Illinois. Thank you!

## Illinois Equine Foundation

Since 1987 the **Illinois Equine Foundation** has provided a tax-free way to help the Illinois equine community through charitable giving.

The Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501c3 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 estates, endowments or other means.

For more information contact the Illinois Equine Foundation through the Horsemen's Council of Illinois office at 217-689-4224.

## HCI Sets Priorities

The weekend of January 23 - 25, HCI board members met for a planning retreat in Bloomington, Illinois. Sessions focused on the history and purpose of Horsemen's Council of Illinois, an orientation to the roles and responsibilities of board members, development of a logic model that will focus our work, and the clarification of strategic priorities for 2015. We are excited about the results of our work and the positive impact it will have on Horsemen's Council of Illinois:

1. **Mission Statement** - an updated and more focused mission statement clarifies our role as the "go-to" organization for horsemen in Illinois.
2. **Benchmark Survey** - beginning at Horse Fair 2015 we will conduct a benchmark survey so we better know our members and can gather information that shows the power of the horse industry in Illinois.
3. **Focus on Member Services** - we will reach out to member organizations and provide educational and information gathering sessions across the state.
4. **Lead on Issues Affecting Horsemen** - HCI will assert itself on issues affecting horsemen by sharing this information and our position with membership, media and government.

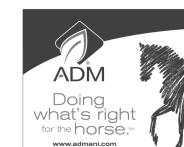
## HCI Hosts National Meeting of State Horse Councils

**Horsemen's Council of Illinois** stepped up to host a national meeting of the largest grassroots horse network in the country. The *Coalition of State Horse Councils* is a group of 43 state horse councils that provides grassroots support and education to the member councils and the horse industry they represent. The Coalition also provides national issues feedback and support to the American Horse Council.

One weekend every Fall, member councils of the Coalition convene to learn, share and plan. Illinois had a chance to show off her fall colors and Midwest hospitality when the Horsemen's Council of Illinois played host to the fall Coalition of State Horse Council meetings this year on October 31 – November 2. The historic and beautiful Pere Marquette Lodge and State Park in Grafton showcased the unique beauty of the Illinois countryside and provided the home base for the meetings, which also included sessions at the National Great Rivers Museum and the Great Rivers Research and Education Center in East Alton.

A slate of powerful speakers presented a wide range of topics, including a primer on animal rights activism and its erosive effects on the horse industry, an update on America's wild horse management efforts, first-hand experiences in dealing with horse rescue efforts following hurricane Katrina, advice and tools for building strategic alliances and creating a stronger organizational presence, advice on ways to limit your legal exposure while still enjoying your horses, tips on the science of durable horse trails construction, the changing demographics of equine infectious anemia, as well as general sharing of ideas and approaches to operations of the various states' horse councils in serving their industry.

Generous support from sponsors and state horse councils made the event possible. Thanks to ADM Alliance Nutrition, Illinois Equine Research & Promotion Board, Purina Mills, Equine Savings, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLC, Illinois Federation for Outdoor Resources, Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Foundation, BIGG Success, and horse councils from MI, WI, KS, PA, NC, NM. Representatives from the Minnesota Horse Council acknowledged that they have big shoes to fill in hosting the meeting in 2015.



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ILLINOIS EQUINE INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD





Our Life With Horses - Part 1 BC (before children)

by Russ Derango  
HCI Board member

I have often been asked how we became involved with horses. The place to begin would be with my wife. Her grandfather farmed with horses and he still owned some when she was young. She began riding them when she was young and learned how to get them to stand by the fence so she could mount. Later her grandmother bought her a gelding. He was by a half Arabian stallion. This was my wife's start of her lifelong interest in Arabians. At this time, a friend of the family rented their barn and kept his Arabian stallion there. She spent many hours trail riding and camping out with her horse and friends.

As far as myself, I have always had an interest in horses from the time I was very young. My heroes all rode horses. I grew up watching John Wayne, the Rifleman, Bonanza, Gun Smoke, Have Gun Will Travel, the Lone Ranger, etc. I watched them all. I even had a Rifleman lunch box for school. On occasion, I would be able to ride a horse. Many times it was just a pony ride, going around in a circle. A few times the Boy Scouts would go to a stable to ride. I remember the time my family went on a campout to Yosemite National Park, and we rented mules for a day. I always had wonderful memories of the times I could ride. As I got to high school age, and had a drivers license, a group of my friends and I would drive to the local stable to rent a horse. I believe cost at the time was something like \$5.00/hour to trail ride. While in college, I had a good friend who showed horses and he began giving me riding lessons on University owned horses.

That is the background story on my wife and I. So how did we meet? Believe it or not it was over a horse, literally. I was employed on the University Farm at Illinois State University, where we had some horses. One day a young filly decided to try to jump a fence. Problem was she didn't make it all the way. The result was a large gash in her flank from the steel fence post. The veterinarian was called, and he needed more supplies than he had on the truck, so called back to his office for his assistant to bring out what he was needed. His assistant arrived, a beautiful and competent young lady, and we operated on the filly and got her stitched up. Afterwards, as we were cleaning up, I struck up a conversation with the vet assistant. We started dating, and some of our time was spent riding horses at her folk's house and trail riding along the Mackinaw River. After I graduated from college, I worked in the livestock industry

as a nutritional consultant for beef animals, dairy and swine. I had a customer who had a feedlot, and some horses. He needed to reduce his herd, and offered me a grade Quarter Horse mare. That mare became my first horse. I kept it at my girlfriend's parent's farm, and so we spent more time together with horses. About the time we decided to get married, a young Half Arabian filly came up for sale. I could not afford a ring and a horse, but being the practical lady that she is, instead of an engagement ring Terri picked the horse. As our wedding approached, her friend with the Arabian stallion offered us two breedings as a wedding present, one for my grade mare, and one for our Half Arabian filly. Thus we were sucked in deeper into the horse industry.

That was the beginning of our breeding herd. It was also the beginning of our slide into the show ring. That slide is continuing to this day. Our passion for Arabian horses also continued to grow. My wife purchased a two year old purebred gelding. He became our guinea pig for our learning about training and showing. That poor gelding put up with us learning to become better horseman. We showed him extensively and so were able to travel to different shows around the mid-west. We also at this time started to acquire some purebred mares. We began to study pedigrees and began planning our breeding agenda. All of our spare time and money was devoted to our horses. Vacation time was usually horse related. We began to attend the National Show, not to exhibit, but to enjoy the atmosphere, see some excellent horses and trainers, and to educate ourselves about all phases of the horse industry. The more we worked the more proficient we became in the training and exhibiting of our horses. For two amateurs, we did quite well.

We became more involved with different Arabian Horse Clubs at this time. One club became our main focus, but

(Continued on page 5)



HCI Visits Shawnee Trail Conservancy

The **Shawnee Trail Conservancy** is dedicated to preserving and protecting Shawnee National Forest's natural resources through proper trail maintenance, good trail signing, education for trail, camping and hunting users to achieve a low environmental impact and wise use management practices.

Shawnee Trail Conservancy represents equestrian, hunters, ATV riders, bikers, hikers, campers, rock climbers, business people, professionals, retirees and others who desire to recreate, hunt and enjoy the beauty of the Shawnee.

Our mission is to keep The Shawnee open to the public for it's use and enjoyment.

[www.shawneetrailconservancy.com](http://www.shawneetrailconservancy.com)

On January 15th, HCI representatives Sheryl King, Ron Rhoades and Cheryl Waterman attend the monthly meeting of the Shawnee Trail Conservancy in Harrisburg, Illinois.



STC President, Linda Sanders reported on the equine and multi-use trails in the Shawnee National Forest and compared them to trails in other parts of the country in terms of mileage, terrain and usage.

HCI Vice-President and Trails Committee Chairman, Ron Rhoades shared his knowledge of trails use regulations pertaining to designated and multi-use trails.

Trail riders in the Shawnee National forest are encountering mountain bike riders more frequently, even on trails designated for horses. Trail riders are becoming more concerned for safety and for the protection of the trails designated for equine use and developed by horsemen.

Shawnee Trail Conservancy is a member association of Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

(Continued from page 4)

kept memberships in other clubs to keep up-to-date on their activities, and be able to participate in the activities that were reserved for each club's members. Our involvement in the clubs led to greater involvement with the political landscape with in the equine industry. We began to volunteer and become more active in the club. Eventually we were asked to become members of the Board of Directors, which later led to running for office. Our spare time was being gobbled up by our horse obsession. We became delegates for the club to the National Convention of the Arabian Horse Association. This allowed us to do some traveling every year to the convention and also network around the country with other people involved with the Arabian horse. This also led to involvement with other equine organizations and becoming board members with those as well. We began to do volunteer work with children's' organizations that used horses for therapy. About this time, I also became involved with judging, attending seminars, and judging open shows.

As you see, our whole life revolved around our horses and the equine industry. I was managing a number of Arabian Shows by this time, and served on more boards than I can name. We continued to show and exhibit our horses.

As busy as we were, we never regretted a minute of our involvement with horses (well, maybe a minute or two along the way). They were a release for us from our jobs, and the time spent with them was therapeutic for us. Thinking back, I can't really think of a better life than we had at this time. Of course, many times money was tight, but this was a hobby that we both could enjoy and spend our time on together. After about nine years of marriage, we decided it was time to start a family. We knew this would have consequences on our life with horses, but knew our horse passion would never die. Little did we know how children would again shape our lives with horses.

(Look for Part 2 of Russ's story in our next newsletter)