

The Council Chronicles

schorseouncil.com (est. 1993)

Newsletter for the Equine Community in South Carolina

May, 2023

Eye on the SC statehouse (\$\$)

It is now more than 4 years since the University of South Carolina completed and released their study of the equine industry within our state (March 13, 2019). The goal of the study was to attempt to quantify the impact of horses within the economy of the State of South Carolina. It was not the first attempt to derive this information. The American Horse Council periodically publishes statistics gleaned from a number of different agencies. (<https://horsecouncil.org/press-releases/us-horse-population-statistics/>) The variability in numbers of animals reported is dramatic depending on the goal of the census takers – which makes the national picture difficult to bring into focus. This made the USC study specific to South Carolina that much more valuable. Nonetheless, it's still difficult to pin down the numbers other than in gross.

The location of the state contributes to a mild climate that makes South Carolina attractive to horse owners. Some will choose to locate here permanently while others will capitalize on the winters' being much milder than their home state to engage in seasonal activities.

Seasonal or otherwise, the study looked at both direct and indirect equine activities and determined that South Carolina's equine industry contributes nearly \$2 billion and 29,000 jobs annually to the state's economy. Those numbers are close to four times larger than the results of the previous attempt at a detailed study some fourteen years earlier – and are hard to ignore. The magnitude of that impact has helped fuel legislative interest in capitalizing on a number of initiatives that will support the industry even more intentionally. We will continue to work to keep you informed of that interest and the conversations at the Statehouse.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual – 1 vote : \$20

Youth – no vote : \$10

Family – 2 votes : \$30

Farm – 3 votes : \$35

Association / NonProfit – 3 votes : \$35

Discount Membership with Affiliated

Association – 1 vote : \$10

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Members support enables SCHC to continue to assist the equine community including helping geld stallions, send children to 4H camp and award scholarships annually. SCHC has given grants to vet and vaccinate rescues, held clinics throughout the state on topics such as pasture management, equine nutrition, and lameness. SCHC Horse Events brings education and entertainment to equine enthusiasts of all disciplines.

Newsletter Director Highlights

This month we profile: **Gary Biggerstaff**

District #1 Director, Gary Biggerstaff was born in Cowpens, South Carolina and is a lifelong SC resident. He is a Master Certified and Advanced Certified Equine Dentist in both equine dental associations: International Association of Equine Dentists & Equine Dental Providers of America.

For the past 38 years, Gary has traveled all throughout the US providing dental work for horses of all breeds and ages. In fact, he has traveled professionally to 45 states.

Gary has held numerous colt starting and horsemanship clinics throughout the U.S., and regularly conducts educational clinics on equine dentistry. He has performed equine dental work for well-recognized clients Robert Redford, Buck

Brannaman, & John Lyons. Additionally, he traveled with Ray Hunt and Tom Dorrance, the "original Horse Whisperer".

In 1993, Gary was instrumental in meeting with people within the SC Horse Industry to help create the Council. Gary is an original founder and director for the South Carolina Horse Council.

Gary is currently building a home in the upstate. He is still involved with the Horse Council today! again serving as a director to provide support to the equine community of South Carolina. Gary said, "working with horses his entire life is therapy for him". He is of the strong opinion "horses should be fun and rewarding, relaxation, and therapy".



Where will you ride this summer?

Many riders in South Carolina curtail their activities in the summer months – determined that the heat is prohibitive. Certainly, most competitions within the state are scaled back to avoid stressing both horses and riders when the heat is most intense. But many venues offer great relief from the sun. Forest cover can make that ride a great way to spend the day. According to epa.gov: "Trees and vegetation lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and through evapotranspiration. Shaded surfaces, for example, may be 20–45°F (11–25°C) cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded materials".

Check out the trails resources on our webpage (many offer equine camping as well as trails) : <https://www.schoremencouncil.org/trails.html>

'Primitive' equine camping at H Cooper Black in July Enjoy!



Two 1-page flyers are attached with this newsletter