



Illinois Trail Riders

Dedicated To Keeping Horses On Our Trails

E-mail: ILTrRdrs@illinoistrailriders.com
www.illinoistrailriders.com

August, September, October 2008

St. James Farm Officially Opens As A Forest Preserve

Shared by Peter Veit

Before his death, Brooks McCormick, who was an exemplary horseman and all-around-gentleman, arranged to sell his St. James Farm to the Forest Preserve for a fraction of its true worth. Included with the sale was a multi-million dollar bequest by Mr. McCormick to the DuPage County Forest Preserve to maintain the property and its equestrian essence in perpetuity.

DuPage County Forest Preserve added 607+ contiguous acres to its existing 25,000 acres and 145 miles of multi-use trails. Virtually all trails are open 365 days per year.

The County took possession in 2007 and had an official opening on Memorial Day 2008 weekend for the public. There were nearly 8,000 people in attendance. Featured were horse-drawn wagon rides and interpretive talks at various locations around St. James by "a stable" of volunteers. These were stationed at specific sites, including the indoor riding ring, the show ring, as well as the numerous barns. Trail Riders of DuPage provided a number of such volunteers.

The Forest Preserve is taking a very cautious and thought-out approach to developing this property for all the public, while at the same time complying with Mr. McCormick's bequest to maintain the equestrian flavor.

Currently, horses can share the existing multi-use trails at St. James with more to be developed. They will also add a trailer parking facility.

The DuPage County Forest Preserve system is one of the nation's stellar examples of how well all trail users can amicably share the trails. This includes hikers, bikers, baby cart pushers, dog walkers, bird watchers, as well as horses.

We in DuPage have a very high user population density, **and very little conflict between the various users**. If we can do it with all these people, it should be able to be done all over!!

2008 Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium

Shared by Sara Rhoades

The theme for the 2008 Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium (OVETS) was "Urban to Wilderness – There's

a Place for Horses." The conference was held at the Little Lusk Trail Lodge near Eddyville just outside the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois on June 19-21.

The symposium is held each year to bring together trail advocacy groups and land management agencies to further the communication that will keep our horse trails open and, hopefully, allow room for expansion of those trails.

The 2008 OVETS was sponsored by the following groups: Illinois Trail Riders, Horsemens Council of Illinois, Indiana Horse Council, Inc., Indiana Trail Riders Association, Hoosier Back Country Horsemen, The Kentucky Horse Council, The Michigan Horse Council, and The Wisconsin Horse Council

The conference was well attended with 75 participants and was especially important to equestrian advocacy groups since it showcased the design, construction, and sustainability of the Lusk Creek Wilderness Area trails involved in the Shawnee Trails Designated Project which was signed in 2006.

The pre-conference trail ride on Thursday, June 19, was guided by US Forest Service (USFS) personnel and led riders to four prominent areas of work on the trails in the Wilderness Area. The USFS trail crew members who were present at each construction site were articulate in explaining the theory and practical application of their trail design and sustainable construction.

On Friday, June 20, the welcome to the participants was given by Allen Nicholas, Supervisor for the Shawnee National Forest. He emphasized the need for continuing communication between trail advocacy groups and the USFS.

Mr. Nicholas then introduced the keynote speaker, Tom Seay, host and producer of RFD-TV's "Best of America by Horseback." Tom advocated the unification of horse groups by inviting the political candidates to address their groups and publicly support the equine industry.

Following Mr. Seay's inspirational speech, Tim Pohlman, acting Director of the Hidden Springs Region of the Shawnee National Forest, explained the Wilderness policies that are federally mandated to the USFS concerning the design, construction, and maintenance of trails in the Shawnee Trails Designation Project which was signed in 2006. The Trail Crew trained by Brian Bourne covered the theoretical and actual factors involved in designing and building equestrian trails through a federally

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Illinois Trail Riders

4873 Indian Hills Drive,
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Voice: 618 656-2591

E-mail:

ILTrRdrs@illinoistrailriders.com
www.illinoistrailriders.com

Officers & Directors

DENISE MAXWELL, President

4873 Indian Hills Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618 656-1129

JEAN GREENLEE, Vice President

2330 Rockton Road
Caledonia, IL 61011
815 292-3010

LORI KENNEDY, Treasurer

18051 South Gougar Road
Joliet, IL 60432
815 726-5346

SANDY POLETTI, Secretary

8727 Rosewood Hills
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618 656-4712

CAROLYN CUSHMAN

RR1 Box 179A
Mode, IL 62444
217 774-2639

LEE ANN FOUERT

19454 Briar Drive
Bloomington, IL 71604
309 378-2146

JoANNE GERNANT

450 Highway 6 East
Geneseo, IL 61254
309 944-4317

GARY HAMPSMIRE

3418 Sheridan St.
Springfield, IL 62703
217 529-7961

GLORIA HEGGY

23447 Digilvanna Ave.
Athens, IL 62613
217 636-7421

JERRY (BUCKWHEAT) McKINLEY

912 N. John Street
Farmer City, IL 61842
309 928-2484

SARA RHOADES

2372 N. 1500 East Road
Seymour, IL 61875
217 687-2654

PETER VEIT

1041 N. Mill Street
Naperville, IL 60563
630 357-6465

***Illinois Trail Riders Handbook
Of Trails, Camps and Services***

Over 300 pages of information on
Illinois trails and trail riding!
More than 10,000 rideable miles!



The book is divided by area with each site listing giving directions, detailed trail map and description, and information on camping facilities.

This is a must for your trail rides.

**All this For Only \$20.00
(plus \$5.00 p&h)**

Order Form On Back Page

***Illinois Trail Riders
Goals and Purposes***

Encourage the development of year-around horse trails with improved trailer parking and horse camping facilities.

Establish/maintain communications throughout all stages and levels of trail or land planning and management.

Utilize education programs to help trail developers provide safe multi-use trail facilities and all trail users to understand trail etiquette.

Work with legislators to illustrate the importance of trail-based recreation to the horse community and Illinois.

Meet with environmental and conservancy advocacy groups to encourage an unbiased approach to trail development (saddle, carriage and pack).

Work to keep existing trails open and monitor changes in trail use to protect equestrians and defend our right to be on trails and roads throughout Illinois.

Advertising

Promote your event or sell your items through the *Newsletter* which reaches over 2,000 riders around the State of Illinois on at least a quarterly basis (February, May, August, November).

Ad deadline is the 10th of the month preceding publication date. Ad copy along with payment must be received by that date and are subject to approval. See rates alongside.

Ad Type	One-Time Rate	Per Issue Four-Time Rate
Business Card	\$18.00	\$13.00
Quarter Page	\$25.00	\$21.00
Half Page	\$35.00	\$28.00
Full page	\$50.00	\$40.00
CLASSIFIED: \$10.00 PER ISSUE, 40 WORDS OR LESS		

Send your camera ready copy and prepayment to Bobbi Glab, 4006 Oak Avenue, Unit 3W, McHenry, IL 60050-6311, 815 578-8960.

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From The President

Despite the rain, Illinois Trail Riders have had an active spring. Some have even put up dry hay while others are still slipping in the mud. Many riders are complaining about closures of trails and horse facilities due to the rain and flooding. Land managers, especially at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, are frustrated by lack of funding, for even routine maintenance of facilities. The Federal and Illinois State budgets are in a mess and it is affecting agriculture and natural resources in a big way. For some horse owners the monetary situation looks grim and they are searching for ways to cope with the realities of the declining value of dollars and tight economy. Gasoline prices are hitting everyone hard so people are riding closer to home and attending fewer equestrian events. Using horses again for transportation is beginning to look like a good alternative for some trail riders. Leading horse magazines are even discussing how to ride safely along the roads and highways.

I started my summer with a weeklong trip to a children's residential camp in Missouri. The Cedars Camp is home to 70 horses and takes its horse programs to a professional level by training all of the riding instructors through a nationally recognized Certified Horsemanship Association program. Facilities and programs such as this, whether associated with YMCA's, scouts, churches, or private organizations, are critical to the horse industry! These camps introduce thousands of children to their first horse experience. They teach them the basics of riding and horsemanship. They remind me that without children learning at this level (especially those who may never own a horse), there will be little future for the horse industry or trail riders. I applaud the horses and the people who have the patience, the persistence, and the love to share themselves and their talents with the beginners.

Many Illinois Trail Riders attended or organized a local program for National Trails Day on June 7th. I personally set up an information table at the Kincaid Lake Parking lot in the Shawnee National Forest. Bob Wagner of Back Country Horsemen brought his horses and packing gear to demonstrate how horses could haul materials (including rock) into the wilderness. The Ava Outlaws Saddle Club also came to mingle with participants from the Health Department, the invasive species experts and the general public. Some trail improvements were made as hikers, forest service workers and equestrians sweated and moved dirt to improve the trail system. We had a look at some of the damage caused by "Mother Nature" along the trails. Finally we enjoyed a good meal and the opportunity to converse with USFS employees about the opportunities and problems that abound in the Shawnee. The question of fees and bridle tags remains unanswered, but I understand that many concerned riders wrote their comments, which I am assured are being considered.

In addition to the awesome trail ride and the abundance of informative speakers at the OVETS conference in Shawnee's Lusk Creek Lodge, the main conversation kept returning to a critical problem of fragmentation within the horse industry. There was a sense of desperation when discussing which of the many horse organizations (American Horse Council, state horse councils, breed or sport groups, etc.) were most active and successful in taking equestrian concerns to the

politicians and public. Solving the problem of fragmentation in the horse industry is critical if we are to remain strong. Finding the knowledgeable leadership and putting "money" in the right hands seemed to come up as a solution.

With the upcoming election there is of course the question of what the politicians are thinking about Horses, Trails, Agriculture and Natural Resources and the issues that affect us as trail riders and members of the horse industry. Hopefully, we can become more knowledgeable on these issues and vote based on working solutions rather than "popularity" or "party." Don't forget to ask the hard questions and stay involved as we get through the election season.

May your trail never end,

Denise

IDNR Raises Camping Fees

Due to significant increases in utility and other operating costs, the IDNR has implemented an increase in the utility fee assessed at state-managed campgrounds.

As of May 2008, the campground classes and fees are:

Class A: Showers, electricity, vehicular access \$20/night

Class B/E: Electricity, vehicular access \$18/night

Class B/S: Showers, vehicular access \$10/night

Class C: Vehicular access \$8/night

Class D: Tent camping or primitive sites (walk in or back pack NO VEHICULAR ACCESS \$6/night

The rates for premium campsites for Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day holiday weekends only have been raised by \$10.

Reservations can be made at some campgrounds through the campground's site office and should be canceled if plans change. Senior citizen, disabled person, former POW and special armed forces discounts may apply.

Some trails and campgrounds have been closed due to rain, high water and mud, so check before you go. For up-to-date information on the closures of camp-grounds or trails go to: DNR.state.il.us or call the site super-intendents office listed in the Illinois Trail Riders *Handbook*.

It came to light at an April meeting with IDNR representatives that the revenues from the higher user fees for DNR sites, (which went into effect in May) would not be for specific projects, rather, those revenues will go to make up for the proposed reduction in general revenue funds. When the state budget is finalized we will know exactly how much the budget for IDNR has been further reduced.

Remember, Illinois is number 47 in parks and state lands out of all 50 states. Lack of resources; not limited to land, funding, and employees is the root of many complaints Illinois trail riders have against the state park trails. If you value your state parks and trails, ITR suggests that you give your state legislators and call and let them know that parks and trails are valuable to you and need to be funded adequately.

Think about being a volunteer campground host or trail worker and help solve the problem at your favorite park.

Newsbits

Some **park campgrounds, and trails have been temporarily closed** due to flood, water, wind or mud damage. Call the Site Superintendent before you head out for your favorite State facility.

Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) held a meeting in Joliet, IL at the Wingate Hotel on May 17. Representatives from Illinois Trail Riders; Illinois Farm Bureau; Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Will County Trail Riders; Barrington Hills Conservation; Lockwood Park in Rockford, IL; Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association; and Lynwood Enterprises attended. ELCR CEO Deb Balliet discussed issues and concerns faced by horse groups regarding the conservation of land for horses and horse-related activity.

The meeting was very beneficial. Contacts were made, relationships were established and everyone gained a better understanding of ELCR's future goals and networking plans.

National Trails Weekend – June 7, 2008, saw 15-20 people participating in a clean up of the equestrian trails at **Rock Cut State Park** in northern Illinois. This year is the first time there was a park-wide effort from several users groups - mountain bikers, canoeists, cross country skiers, hikers, and equestrians. There were a few meetings ahead of time to divide locations, people, and resources. Plans are now to move forward and install a uniform trail marking system throughout the park for all user groups.

Recently **Lockwood Park Trailside Equestrian Centre** and Children's Farm reported that their horse camps and riding lesson enrollment are maxed out. The Rockford Park District program and facilities are supported by volunteers. Donations of "Level 1" ponies and horses can be accepted. Horses can also be "adopted" through donations that help maintain the horses used in the program. Contact Friends of Lockwood through George or Tanya Franklin at 815-964-9521.

You may also bring your own horse to Lockwood and ride or drive for the day. Call the park at 815-987-8809 to find out more about special events, trail rides, rentals, boarding, birthday parties. Visit them on the web at www.rockfordparkdistrict.org to learn more.

Prairie Trail Riders want you to check out their website. Maybe you want to join them in as they "horse around", and enjoy trail riding. They meet, work, and ride in the Springfield area. www.geocities.com/prairietrailriders.

Short Description: Recreational Land - Horse Riding, Carriage Amend the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act. 745 ILCS 65/2

Sen. William R. Haine sponsored an amendment to 745 ILCS 65/2 making a technical change in a Section concerning definitions. This is known as Senate Committee Amendment No. 2.

Ask your State Senators and Congressmen to help get this enacted.

The Synopsis as introduced "Amends the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act. Adds entry onto the land of another to conduct horseback riding with the rider's own

horse or carriage driving to the definition of recreational or conservation purpose."

On April 17, 2008 Senate Rule 2-10 Third Reading Deadline Established As May 31, 2008. Then on May 31, 2008 Senate Rule 2-10 Third Reading Deadline Established As January 13, 2009.

Johnson Creek Recreation Area Campground (including the horse camp) is closed because the road has fallen away and it can not be accessed by vehicle. The Day use parking areas and all of the other trail heads to the Kinkaid Lake Trail System are still open. There has been some damage to some of trails due to spring storms and fallen trees.

The June Horse Promoters *Newsletter* announced that "**COOK COUNTY OPENS UP ANOTHER EQUESTRIAN PARKING LOT**" on 131st, East of Bell, and West of Will-Cook Rd. Connie Schmitt of TROD says she doesn't even need to own a trailer to have a great trail ride right from her barn. Kane County Forest Preserve District and Barrington Countryside Park District have applied for Recreational Trails Program grants to enhance equestrian trails.

Illinois Farm Bureau Equine Newsletters on the Web

Issues of the *Equine Newsletters* are located under "Livestock" in the "Current Issues" section (<http://www.ilfb.org/viewdriveline.asp?dclid=42#Livestock>).

Type "equine" in the search box and the documents (in addition to other documents with that terminology) will appear.

To view just the *Newsletter*, type (in quotes) "Equine E-Letter" and the four documents on the web should appear in the search results.

NEED SOME PUBLICITY OR RECOGNITION?

Trail Warrior

Do you have a warrior of the trails in your organization? *Trail Blazer Magazine* features a champion of the trails in each issue. Please explain why this person should be the next Trail Warrior and include a photo of the nominee. You can send your nomination to terri@trailblazermagazine.us.

Trail Organizations

Trail Blazer Magazine would like to highlight your organization. Tell them what kind of success you have had with saving trails and educational opportunities for training and promoting trails in your community. Email your information to terri@trailblazermagazine.us

Trail Blazer Magazine, Terri Folks, voice (928) 277-1193, editor@trailblazermagazine.us

Volunteer Rewards Illinois Trail Riders Twice

Dave Thomas placed a request for a \$500 Good Neighbor Grant from the company he works for (State Farm). Because Dave volunteers as the web master and has put in more than 40 hours of his time on the web site this year, ITR qualifies for this grant.

Thanks Dave and State Farm!

2008 Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium (continued from page 1)

mandated Wilderness Area such as Lusk Creek.

Saturday's presentations began with Mary Hanson, National Park Services, who did a comparison of the National Park Services and other agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, as to their policies affecting equestrian trails.

Next, David Daams, a volunteer from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, gave a presentation on the need for partnerships between volunteer trail groups and equestrian interest groups to further expand and maintain trails in the Cuyahoga National Park which is located between the Ohio cities of Cleveland and Akron.

Then, Connie Schmidt, Trail Riders of DuPage, gave a presentation on trail advocacy by private individuals in an urban setting based on her personal experience.

Completing the presentations was Ned Enrietto, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), who gave statistics on IDNR trails in Illinois and expanded on the idea that IDNR trail projects are spurred by local interest in these economically stressed times.

Following the end of the conference presentations, door prizes were handed out. Below is the winner of the *Illinois Trail Riders Handbook*, Yvette Rollins, president of Hoosier Back Country Horsemen.

The 2009 OVETS has not yet found a location but keep watching your Illinois Trail Riders *Newsletter* for further information.



Tom Seay, host of RFD-TV's "Best of America by Horseback," with Sara Rhoades, Illinois Trail Riders.



Sara Rhoades, Illinois Trail Riders, presents Yvette Rollins, Hoosier Back Country Horsemen, with her door prize, an *Illinois Trail Riders Handbook*.

Illinois Farm Bureau Summary of Equine Roundtable 2008

The Equine Roundtable met on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, to discuss each organization's key issues and to prioritize them.

The organizations that submitted priority issues or were present for discussion included Illinois Department of Agriculture, Back Country Horsemen, Shawnee Trails Conservancy, Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Foundation, Mid-America Standardbred & Harness News, Horsemens Council of Illinois, Midway Trailer Sales, University of Illinois, and the Illinois Farm Bureau®. In addition, the Illinois Equine Promotion and Research Board was present and monitored the meeting.

A considerable amount of time was spent discussing the unintended consequences of a ban on horse harvesting and the development of a working outline and script for an

educational DVD on horse trailer operation, regulation, and safety.

The following issues were discussed and prioritized as the top issues for 2008 Equine Roundtable:

1. Funding of an Illinois-specific economic impact study of its equine industry.
2. Lobby/educational trip on the unintended consequences related to the ban of horse harvesting.
3. Public education on the realities of horse ownership in general.
4. Encourage more veterinary students to consider large animal and food animal practices.
5. Completion of a DVD on Trailer Handling, Regulations, and Safety.
6. Trailer regulation workshop at the Illinois Horse Fair.

Give your Land Manager, Trail Manager, or Planner/Architect a Free and Outstanding Resource!

A new book titled, "Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds," has just been released!

The Online book: If you would like to see a free full color version of the book online at the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) website go to www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fspubs/07232816/index.htm.

The Book Order Form is at www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/trailpub.htm if you would like to place an online order at FHWA for the FREE black-and-white printed version of the book for your agency/business/organization/library/personal use. The book is listed alphabetically by title under the order form. It is Publication # 0723-2816-MTDC.

Note: Book Orders are limited to one free copy per mailing address and supplies are limited.

The information very helpful. Every park planner and trail manager should have a copy. The online color version has numerous links to many additional resources and detailed references that are valuable as well. Please consider bookmarking the publication so you can find it quickly if you want to forward it to someone in the future.

An Illinois Trail Rider's Duty Is To Help Keep Our Trails Open For All To Enjoy

Trail Riders are sometimes their own Biggest Problem! Are you guilty? Did you say or do something when you saw someone else ruin a trail rider's image?

It is all about Attitude and Appearances!

Some trail riders need a lesson in both!

When we go to a campground, parking area or trail on private, state or federal property **we are guests**. We need to follow and reinforce the rules. We may be taxpayers but we do not own the public land. We need to treat trails and campgrounds with the consideration we might show on our individual private property or any other valuable resource. We may pay a campground fee or a trail use fee, but it does not entitle us to destroy the resource! If a few bad apples continue to destroy our resources and our image we will face more rules and trail closures.

Even if you are the kind of trail rider who never picks up your horse's manure at home, you need to pick it up and put it in the proper place at a campground.

Even if you always ride across your lawns and gardens at home, tie your horses to your own trees, or take short cuts through your neighbor's property, you need to stay on the trails when visiting a public facility and refrain from damaging the plants and animals that others enjoy.

Even if you have the best/most friendly dog in the world, you need to keep it on a leash if that is the rule.

Even if you have a personal servant or minimum wage worker at home to clean up after the mess you make, the employees at the federal and state parks are not paid to cater to your every whim and pick up after your abuses.

Public parks and horse trails are not a place for rowdy or selfish behavior, drunken stupidity or demanding/bad attitudes. Public Parks, Campgrounds and Trails are for everyone.

What ever happened to common sense and good manners which suggest "Leave it better than you found it" or "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." (This applies to public property!)

Some trail riders and campers need a refresher on LEAVE NO TRACE.

Sure, we can "take only pictures and leave only footprints" (although some complain of even a horse's footprint), but we do not need to cut trail and magnify an erosion problem on steep slopes just for the thrill of the short cut. If you are a trail rider who has a bad attitude and gives us a destructive appearance - stop it! You are ruining it for everyone else.

Northern Illinois Horse Fest

The Northern Illinois Horse Fest will be held on August 23 and 24, Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, IL Two full days of family excitement for owners and enthusiasts!

The lineup of clinicians is notable including Kerry Kuhn, Scott Purdum, Mari Monda-Zdunic, Tommy Garland, Colleen Kelly, Lynn Palm, KC LA Pierre, Larry Whitestall, and many others. Jody L. Beilke, Attorney at Law, will also be on hand if you need assistance in that area.

Mid-West Trainer Challenge is new this year. Three Trainers (Kerry Kuhn, TJ Cliborn, and Scott Purdum), Three Horses, Three Hours.

Special events include Midwest Drill Team Challenge, Midwest Rangers (mounted shooting); Horses for Sale Barn; a Real Cowboy Wedding on Saturday, Magnificent 7-Versatility Contest, trailer backing derby, bale throwing, wild cow milking, Cowboy Church Services and Saturday evening's "Night of the Horse" featuring Black Bart and more!

It's also a good time to stop by the numerous vendor booths to find some new items and pick up those that need replacing.

Visit www.illinoishorsefest.com for more information or call 317-874-4887

Illinois Trail Riders again will have a booth at the Fest. Look for us and stop by to chat. If any of you would like to help at the booth, give Jean Greenlee a call - 815 292-3010.



Nature Notes

While you're riding or walking, look for the tall, showy goldenrod (*Solidago* species) covering our prairie and woodland landscapes this August through November. There are 75 species of goldenrod, all native to this continent, which help goldenrod rank as possibly the most common wildflower this time of year. Goldenrods are pollinated by a type of soldier beetle that walks along eating the florets and inadvertently spreading the pollen. People have long blamed Goldenrods for hay fever, but since they are pollinated by insects, they do not send their pollen airborne and therefore do not bother allergy sufferers. Ragweed does not have a beneficial relationship with a pollinating species, rather it sends its pollen into the wind, causing many people to wheeze and sneeze.

Will the real Witch-Hazel please stand up? This native wood plant does not produce the hazel nut, and is not named for a magical maid. *Hammamelis virginiana* is a late summer to fall bloomer with four yellow to orange tape-like petals on each of its flowers. Later, contracting capsules launch seeds (at least 10 feet) - - not nuts. The witch in its name likely comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "wych," meaning flexible.

The name of the game for wilderness is survival. The variety of species that survive do so because of adaptations that have helped distinguish them in some way, giving them an advantage while avoiding direct competition with similar species. Summer wildflowers and birds have co-evolved with specific adaptations and preferences for particular plants. The benefits to humans including being able to experience a multitude of colors, flower shapes, and sweet smells all summer long.

Can you imagine walking or riding through the woods without hearing birds singing in the trees or picture what a field would be like without wildflowers blooming in the grasses? We all depend on plants and wildlife for survival. Simply by studying them, scientists have discovered new ways of growing foods, making clothing, building houses and how to use certain plants and animals as sources of medicines. If we fail to protect threatened or endangered species, we will never know how they might have improved our lives.

The loss of just one plant species can cause of to 30 other species to disappear with it because species are linked and dependent upon each other within their ecosystem. Within an ecosystem, habitats are parts of a larger mosaic. Unfortunately, this incredible diversity of species is being lost at an alarming rate.

Extinction has been going on since life began on Earth, but today extinction is happening faster than ever before. There are approximately 1300 endangered or threatened species in the United States today.

Ten Ways to Help Protect Threatened and Endangered Species

1. Plant native trees shrubs and flowers to attract wildlife (including bees and insects).
2. Build homes for birds, butterflies, and bats.
3. Convert old farmland back to natural habitat.
4. Remove non-native and invasive plants and establish native species instead.

5. Join or organize a cleanup effort to clean up streambanks or fight non-native invasive species.
6. Don't buy or keep wild animals or plants.
7. Report any illegal collection of animals like frogs or turtles or even plants.
8. Buy Duck Stamps or find other ways to help fund the purchase and creation of wetlands. (save floodplains)
9. Watch your and your horse's step when visiting natural areas. Stay on trails to avoid trampling plants or disrupting wildlife.
10. Conserve energy, water and other resources to help the environment and the species that live in it.

Tech Support for Horses 1.0

Dear Tech Support,

Recently I purchased and installed Horse 1.0. I soon noticed that this program appears to have numerous glitches. For instance, every time my computer boots up, I have to run Feed 5.3 and Water 7.1. Many times I've been in the middle of writing an important document and a window will flash telling me to run Clean Stall 2.0. This program also contained applications I did not wish to install, such as Manure 8.5, however, they are auto-installed with Horse 1.0. Applications such as Vacation 2.7 and Free time 1.1 can no longer run, crashing whenever selected. Possibly the worst is that Horse 1.0 has attached itself to programs like Finance Manager and MS Money, with folders added such as "Monthly Shoeing" and "Winter Blanket." Periodically, I'll get a reminder telling me to send a check to the manufacturer of Horse 1.0 for the aforementioned items. I have tried to uninstall Horse 1.0 numerous times, but when I try to run the uninstall program, I get warning messages telling me that a deadly virus known as "Withdrawal" will infect my system. Please Help!!!!

The Reply

Dear User:

Your complaint is not unusual. A common misconception among users is that Horse 1.0 is a mere "utilities and entertainment program." It is not – it is an OPERATING SYSTEM and is designed by its' creator to run everything! A warning will soon be imprinted on the box. Since you have already installed Horse 1.0, here are a few tips on how to make it run better. If you are annoyed by the applications Feed 5.3 and Water 7.1, you may run C:\HIRE HELP, however, this will cause another folder to be added to financial applications labeled "Staff." Failure to send payment to "Staff" will result in Feed 5.3 and Water 7.1 being run again on startup. A note of caution: NOT booting up your computer for several days isn't the solution to avoiding Feed 5.3 and Water 7.1. You will find that, when you boot up your computer again, a nasty virus called "Colic 4.2" will have attached itself to important documents and the only way to rid your computer of Colic 4.2 is by purchasing and installing "Vet 10," which we admit is extremely expensive, but crucial. Otherwise, Colic 4.2 will cause irreversible damage to the operating system. Finally, it is important that you run C:\Carrots and C:\Scratch Ears on a fairly regular basis to keep the application running smoothly. If you have any other questions, please call our toll free number.

Sincerely, Tech Support