



Illinois Trail Riders

Dedicated To Keeping Horses On Our Trails

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

November, December 2007, January 2008

All Trails Lead to the Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference; December 9-12, 2007 Renaissance Hotel in Chicago, Illinois

By Peter Viet

Learn to succeed in all types of trail projects by working with representatives of federal, state and local government agencies, citizen advocates, non-profit organizations, business and industry and special interest groups. Become familiar with the many different aspects of greenways and trails in Urban, Suburban and Rural settings. Join the network and collect the building blocks and important tools to accomplish projects in your Mid America community. ([register on-line at www.openlands.org](http://www.openlands.org)) Early registration closes Nov.16

WE, THE EQUESTRIANS, ARE WILLING, ABLE, AND EAGER TO WORK WITH THE LAND MANAGERS, POLITICIANS, PLANNERS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS AT ALL LEVELS, ON EVERY TRAIL ISSUE.

1. As responsible citizens, equestrians are concerned with the preservation and enhancement of the magnificent natural resource (the land) which we all own together.
2. It is our desire to work with the land managers in the: a) location, b) design, c) construction, and d) maintenance, of an ever-expanding network of designated multi-use trails.
3. We understand that local, multi-use, shared trails are practical, and are the direction of the future.
4. It is essential to develop a better understanding between all trail users. We must all recognize each other's needs and desires, and understand the other's view of how best to utilize our resources.
5. Through education and mitigation dispel the commonly accepted myth of incompatibilities (if not outright conflict) between different trail users.
6. Like land managers and other trail users, equestrians are concerned with design, operation, safety and funding of trails.
7. Everyone's goal is to assure that the limited available resources are appreciated and shared by all trail users for the betterment our communities and of our land.

Horses have played an important role in the very formation of our nation. Most privately owned horses reside in urban and suburban areas where the quality of life is high. It is vital that equestrians remain active participants in the parks, lifestyle, and leisure pursuits of the community. Horses, responsibly ridden on trails, can move quietly through forests, meadows and along linear corridors with a minimal impact on the environment and residents.

ILLINOIS TRAIL RIDERS

DEDICATED TO KEEPING
HORSES ON OUR TRAILS

Join and Help Us

- 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 ECONOMY
- WORK WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVANCY ADVOCACY GROUPS TO ENCOURAGE AN UNBIASED APPROACH TO TRAIL DEVELOPMENT (SADDLE, CARRIAGE & 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.

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

Over 300 pages of information on
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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
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Happy Holidays

*From the Officers, Directors, and Staff of
Illinois Trail Riders*

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
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THE HISTORY OF HORSE TRAILS (as I know it) By Denise Maxwell

Trails have always been a part of America since the first Europeans brought their horses and began to explore. By following Native American footpaths and wildlife tracks the explorers, and later the settlers, conquered and made America from the backs of their horses. Using horse power the first naturalists documented the wilderness, surveyed the land, and set the stage for all of the civilization and culture that we now claim as ours. Until the 1900's there was at least one horse for every five persons counted in the census. Starting in the 1920's the population of horses plummeted until only a few horses remained at the time of the depression. By 1959 the Department of Agriculture could find no more than 3 million horses on the nation's farms and stopped counting them.

During the industrialization and war years, few Americans paid much attention to preserving any open space or any of our heritage. Only the wealthy had time for leisure and recreation or money to support a horse unless it was still used in farming or for transportation. Many States did not have a park system until the 1930's when federal programs of the New Deal got underway, such as Civilian Conservation Corps, National Park Service, Forest Service and others helped to establish and improve camps, buildings, trails and forests.

The rugged individualist rode and hiked the rural and wilderness roads and trails, while the bicycles and engine driven vehicles stuck to urban and commuting roads. As development increased the wheels demanded paving of the paths and tracks and as speed increased the paving needed ever more engineering. Equestrian Trails, Inc. was established as a nonprofit corporation in 1944 with the Charter to be "Dedicated to the Acquisition and Preservation of Trails, Good Horsemanship, and Equine Legislation."

During the 1950's and 60's Recreation and Education expanded for most Americans. Americans found they had more discretionary time (leisure), more affluence, more mobility, more technology, and new access to the arts and cultural pursuits. Public attitudes regarding recreation and work began to change and there was a significant growth in the professional development of Recreation and Parks Personnel. This movement caused the creation of many documents and training manuals that described how to build better trails for agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service.

It wasn't until the 1960's that there was a widespread realization that trails, parks, and public land resources were limited and valuable. A multitude of environmentally based organizations sprang up as open space disappeared. A resurgence of the "non-farm

horse" gained momentum rapidly. The horse population doubled by 1970. The National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended, called for establishing trails in urban and rural settings for persons of all ages, interests, skills and physical abilities. The first Earth Day happened in 1970 and along with it raced a flurry of legislation as people began to understand and demand various forms of preservation and politicians took action.

The trails movement began gaining impulsion in the 1970's shortly after the National Park Service (National Trails Council), and the American Trails Network (along with Rails to Trails conservancy, American Hiking Society, National Recreation and Park Association, Virginia Trails Association and others) began organizing. Many of the first organizers of the trails movement worked in Washington DC as members of Federal agencies or non-profit organizations.

By the 70's California and East Coast horse owners led the way. These rural/agricultural areas were the first to resist urban onslaught, were better organized and had experience solving the problems. Research shows that educated individuals in these areas began generating papers and articles to address issues of land use, zoning and loss of trails which were threatening the Horse Industry's survival. Foresighted communities worked together and included and accommodated horses and agriculture in planning for the future.

Equestrian leaders, like the late George Cardinet (Grandfather of Trails according to the Library of Congress) took trail issues into professional journals such as "Parks and Recreation" or "Journal of Geography". In 1971 Equestrian Trails, Inc. published and sold a "Trails Manual" written by Charles Vogel of San Mateo County (CA) Hiking and Riding Trails Committee in 1969.

During this decade *The Western Horseman*, *Equus*, *Appaloosa News* and other horse-oriented publications began to carry articles advocating and educating for the increased organization of equestrians. *Trail Blazer* and *Trail Riders Magazines* featured activists such as Sharon Saare, an Endurance Rider, whose column "Hit the Trail" discussed the importance of trails and the need for horse owners to organize and become involved. Bonnie Davis became a writer and speaker on trail issues and still is consulting editor for *Trail Rider Magazine*. Units of Back Country Horsemen (organized in 1973 to perpetuate the historic use of recreational stock in the back country) volunteered locally on multi-use "fore country trails" (neighborhood trails) within their community. East Bay Regional Park District surrounding San Francisco was among the first to realize the importance of equestrians as trail users and volunteer providers of maintenance and patrol operations within the suburban setting. Their programs and trails can easily stand as models for many others.

In the 1980's various states began finding money to fund trail preservation, designations, and creation activities. Leaders like Stuart Macdonald (then the State Trails Coordinator for Colorado, now of American Trails) emerged and gained notoriety by staging the first Colorado Trails Symposium. The Rails to Trails Conservancy opened its doors in Washington DC on February 7, 1986.

The National Trails Council and the American Trails Network combined sometime after sponsoring the ninth National Trails Symposium in 1988 to form American Trails. This was the year that the Horsemen's Council of Illinois started its campaign aimed at making motorists aware of equestrians riding or driving along the highways with the "Horses have Road Rights" bumper sticker.

As the 80's came around more and more horse owners found they were being ejected from the spaces where they had kept and ridden their horses. While they were busy cleaning stables and making hay, the world was changing and often they were not notified nor invited to participate. Trail organizers apparently overlooked the horses and the horsemen who had always utilized and kept the trails open.

One by one, every leader in today's horse trails advocacy movement met a hurdle they couldn't jump or get around. The realization that they were excluded, banned, eliminated and even despised by the new trail activist and user was a threat that could not be ignored. Old timers often just faced this prejudice and just kept on riding wherever they always had ridden. Reactive individuals emerged with indignation, anger, ready to fight for their freedom and right to continue to ride the trail. Proactive horse owners joined committees, attended meetings, and tried to work with the new land management agencies when they could identify them and find the schedules. Sometimes the equestrians were successful, many were told to go join a big group, with big bucks, get organized and get to work.

The leaders who were energetic worked in a variety of ways. Often they felt like "The Lone Ranger" amid a group of non-horse trail promoters. Like a burr under the saddle, they persisted and were often perceived as aggressive by new trail enthusiasts who didn't understand the history. Tired equestrians retreated, seeking new horse property in more rural areas, next to large public lands where horses were still welcome. Some of them have had to face the same hurdles again in the new location. Energetic leaders needed the strength of numbers so trail advocacy groups were formed. No matter when an Equestrian Trails organization was formed, or by whom, its first goal is to preserve the threatened trails and then to create new ones. This is a markedly different approach from the new trail users, who seek first to build a trail for their special interest.

Ruby Homquist was one of those tireless leaders who just happened to live in Lake County Illinois. As she faced the hurdles of being excluded, she created the Illinois Trail Rider organization and in 1989 Illinois Trail Riders copyrighted its first handbook of trails. This book advertised 70 places in Illinois where horseback riding was still permitted and cost \$10.25 with postage. In 1991 Ruby copyrighted a small "Guide to Developing Horse Trails" in an attempt to help trail engineers to better design with equestrian safety in mind. Membership in Illinois Trail Riders grew throughout the 1990's as equestrians joined to preserve the trails they were using.

About this same time the Bicycle Federation of America, Inc published "Mountain Bikes on Public Lands: A Managers Guide to the State-of -the-Practice" addressing issues that equestrians had in common with mountain bicyclists in an attempt to be allowed onto existing trails beyond the growing pavement of urban sprawl.

More and more people got into the act. "On the Trails" by Frances Land and "From the Side of the Trail" by Kande Haertel became important to Sentinel readers in Illinois and other Midwest states as they were kept informed, organized, and educated. They contributed much to Illinois Trail Riders and worked hard within the organization to keep horses on trails. Equestrian trail conferences such as (SETC and OVETS) began to start up and evolve on a regional and national level. In universities people worked hard too. Gene Wood and Clemson University researchers continue to generate some of the science on the impact of horses within forest and natural environments. Roger Moore generated user and adjacent landowner studies on Rail-Trails which included horses. His studies, among others, put to rest the stereotypical apprehensions of crime, vandalism, and user conflicts on multi-use trails. Dedicated individuals such as Myron Filkins and Jerry Fruth became recognizable names to those who followed the action at equestrian trail conferences and symposiums.

It wasn't until 1999 that the Mid America Trails and Greenways group got off the ground. It started in Indiana with a steering committee whose membership included Yvette Anderson-Rollins of the Indiana Horse Council. Yvette, like the others woke up one morning to find that she and her horse had been excluded from the superior trails where she had ridden freely as a girl. Her trails had been designated, delineated and decreased. She joined with several others to create a forum which would educate and encourage an inclusive and educated involvement in the Greenway and Trail movement.

In 2007, as the earth continues to warm and gasoline or hay prices threaten our recreational horse activities, those who are lucky may be able to find moments of quiet relaxation on a neighborhood trail.

From The President

In preparation for a September ITR board work weekend at the Little Missouri Campground near Siloam Springs I took the opportunity to try to streamline parts of the eight drawer filing system that houses the history and business of ITR.

There are files from the 80's when Ruby Holmquist recognized the problem of decreasing trail opportunities and the 90's when she started the Illinois Trail Riders. The files contain the records of our evolution as an organization. I also began to try to organize my personal library on recreation, trails, and horse industry which I began accumulating before 1979 when my Master's degree thesis was finished.

For weeks I read bits of collected horse trail oriented literature containing information from successful trail projects throughout the nation, and stories of loss from communities that rejected their heritage and paved over the pastures and trails. I sorted mounds of correspondence, records and accounts from past trail advocacy business. I revisited manuals and notebooks, trail files, and organizational information until I became dizzy with memories and new information. I realized how important it is for the horse industry to take our trail concerns (expressed at SETC and OVETS) into the greater trail movement.

Past information, case studies, solutions to problems, the real science that deals with equestrian use of trails and the material of the horse industry needs to be compiled and indexed. It needs to get into the hands and brains of both the trail rider and the trail managers. Without information, organization, and involvement equestrians and their horses may be excluded in 21st Century Urban, Rural and Suburban trail plans.

This newsletter might encourage you to become a better as a trail advocate as a member of the horse industry. It is dedicated to the MATAG conference and copies of this newsletter will be made available to the greenway and trail managers, planners and advocates who attend.

May our Trails never end!
Denise

Green Garden Township (draft) Trail Plan,

A public hearing will be held Monday, October 22, at 7 pm at the town hall, Manhattan-Monee and Center Roads. Written public comment may be made at the meeting or mailed to Township Clerk Barbara Rizzo, 26840 South 88th Avenue, Monee, IL 60449 through October 31, 2007.

The draft plan is available on the website:
<http://www.greengardentownship.org>.

Check it out, it is pretty inclusive!

Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium

Begun in 1998, the Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium has provided a forum for educating trail riders and interested groups about the care, maintenance and preservation of the horse trails located in the Ohio Valley, which includes Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Tennessee. The Summit features speakers from a variety of organizations who are involved in trail preservation and maintenance, including State and National Park Managers, officers from other large state trail groups, universities, and local trail groups.

Thousands of miles of trails have been closed to horses across America due to urban development; legitimate problems associated with horse use; lack of knowledge of the actual impact of horses on trails; and not networking with other agencies. Where will you ride tomorrow? Will our cultural heritage of riding in America's open spaces exist for your children or grandchildren?

You can help preserve our cultural heritage of "riding horses in America's open spaces," by attending this educational experience about various trail issues tailored for the riding enthusiast. Attend OVETS to learn how to work with land managers; learn the facts about protecting trails; and learn where to get help when trails are threatened with closure.

2008 Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium will be held at the **Little Lusk Trail Lodge** near Eddyville, Illinois on **June 19-22, 2008**. The program will feature great speakers and demonstrations ranging from trail construction and maintenance to horse health on the trails. The OVETS is an unparalleled educational experience so encourage your local public land managers, all trail users, and the general public to attend. Watch for posted flyers and check the Horsemen's Council of Illinois website for registration forms.

The 2008 OVETS Steering Committee is comprised of members from 6 different states: Illinois - Brian Bourne, Candace Bourne, and Sara Rhoades; Indiana - Christine Eickleberry and Yvette Rollins; Kentucky - Jennifer Truax; Michigan - Mike Foote; Ohio - Jean Dunbar; Wisconsin - Dan and Linda Catherman

[For more information on 2008 OVETS, please contact Candace Bourne at \[cbourne51@msn.com\]\(mailto:cbourne51@msn.com\)](#)

Southeastern Equestrian Trail Conference

July 31 - August 2, 2008, in Charleston, SC
"Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - Providing for Future Equestrians"

Join us for the tenth anniversary conference!
www.southeasternequestriantrails.com

The purpose of the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC) is to bring together people who are concerned about the future of the natural and cultural heritage of the trail experience from the back of a horse.

The Conferences include participants from natural resource agencies, non-government organizations, and individuals representing themselves and/or local saddle clubs. This mix of participants is extremely important to the airing of a wide array of perspectives, values, and knowledge.

In July of 2007 the Southeastern Equestrian Trail Conference was held in Knoxville, Tennessee. As in prior years, there was a pre-conference in-field workshop in trail design and trail building conducted by Mike Riter, a well respected consulting trail design-building specialist. His teachings on trail design, grading, drainage, contours, etc. correlate with those seen in "IMBA's Trail Solutions : IMBA's Guide to Building Sweet Singletrack". The equestrian community understands that properly designed and constructed horse trails will be sustainable for many years with minimal maintenance.

The rest of the conference sessions were held at the Crowne Plaza and co-hosted by the Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee, The Blue Ridge Trail Riders, all in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration/Recreational Trails Program, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Additional sponsorships were by the Horsemen's Councils of Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, the AQHA, The American Southeastern Endurance Rider's Association, and The Tennessee Walking Horse Association and others. There was a fantastic mix of diversified interests, backgrounds, and experiences and points of views.

Of this years 197 registrants, 51 represented various levels of land manager organizations, such as DNRs from various states, US Forestry Service, US Park Service, as well as several state forestry and park districts. Mr. Christopher Douwes, the Trails Enhancement Manager for the Federal Highway Administration, was once again an active participant.

At this conference there is always a spirit of cooperation and friendship in what appears to be the development of a better understanding of each other's problems. The land managers are responsible for an awesome amount of territory, and frequently must do so on very limited budgets. It is their responsibility to maintain and preserve the land, while at the same time creating the best possible use of that land for all land users. This, together with an ever-expanding population and pressures from all directions, indicates that in the near future there will be a continuous shift in emphasis of how that land and trails are used. There is no question in my mind that there will be ever increasing emphasis on **designated trails**. Our accepting that fact, and with proper cooperation, the equestrian community can work with the land managers and help to designate those trails. **By this mechanism,**

designated trails can become those that are most beneficial to us. Similarly, there will be more and more use of **shared trails**.

Information about the topics covered and the speakers who have presented at past conferences is available on the SETC website.

www.southeasternequestriantrails.com

SETC will return to Florida on July 9-11, 2009, Georgia in 2010!



MATAG Booth

Illinois Trail Riders' display at the Mid America Trails & Greenways Conference (the Renaissance Hotel in Chicago on December 9-12, 2007) will feature the "Share the Trail" theme. (Please see the lead article for a more detailed explanation of the Share the Trail theme.) Please contact Sara Rhoades by November 10 if you can help with booth staffing. The booth will be open at 7:00 - 8:30 PM, Sunday, December 8, 7:30 AM - 8:00 PM, Monday, December 10, and 7:30 - 10:30 AM on Tuesday, December 11. The exhibit hall will close at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, December 11, and the booth will be disassembled.

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If you have any photos (especially digital) that show horses sharing the trails with other trail users, please send them to Sara for possible use at the MATAG conference. Also, if you would like to attend the conference and need a registration, let us know.

Contact Amy Madigan at Illinois IDNR if you would like to volunteer for other positions at MATAG. She can be reached at IDNR, Greenways & Trails, p 217/782-3715
amy.madigan@illinois.gov



Don't Zone Me Out

The Horse Industry: Zoning and Land Use

Horses are a part of a large, highly diverse and vital industry that makes significant contributions to our way of life and the quality of our communities. These contributions are often unrecognized and underestimated. (check out the statistics on the impact of the horse industry).

Today's horses are primarily used for recreation and sport. People of all ages ride and drive horses to enjoy the benefits of physical activity and relaxation in healthful outdoor locations. Horses contribute to the personal development (including responsibility, citizenship, physical and mental health) of those who work with them and are popular in youth, handicapped, and educational programs. Trail riding is particularly popular as a means to gain access to nature's beauty in residential, rural and remote areas. Horses help sustain agriculture and maintain open green spaces near population centers through the profitable use of pastures, hayfields, cropland, and recreational areas. They contribute to our nations scenic beauty and help retain a rural character in developed areas.

Migration to the city, rising salaries, increasing leisure time have led to a democratization of the pleasure horse away from the traditional "horsey" set. Despite large and recurring costs (including land price, taxes, structures and tools) as well as daily stable cleaning, feeding, grooming and exercise routines, horse ownership continues to grow even among blue collar workers. For those who can not flee to suburbs and exurban areas, boarding stables have sprung up within commuting distance of the strongly motivated urban horse owner. In some areas only ½ acre is needed to own the backyard horse.

The horse-owners worst nightmare became "Urban Sprawl" galloping toward his horse property, intent on creating concrete, steel, asphalt, and high-density development. New types of trail users took over the open spaces and began to exclude the equestrian from places that had once been their domain. In other areas the horse and most other forms of agriculture are being

excluded. There is no REAL reason why planned urban development can not include horse keeping.

Horses fall into a gray area somewhere between personal pets and livestock. The nation's horse herd will increase more rapidly in the future than it has in the past. (Especially considering the efforts of the anti- horse slaughter and animal rights activists) The keeping of horses for recreation and as pets in metropolitan and suburban areas is increasing and contributing to a land use dilemma.

Often decisions are made and ordinances put into effect that regulate and restrict the keeping or use of horses, which are formulated by persons unfamiliar with acceptable and environmentally sound horse science principles. It is the responsibility of horse owners to ensure that safety, sanitation, and best management practices are considered when building horse facilities and keeping horses. It is the duty of planners and government officials to include them in the community. There continues to be an increased need for open and green spaces near the city where horses can be stabled, exercised and pastured on a controlled basis. These will have to be multi-use areas designed for all members of the community.

Horse, pedestrian and bicycle trails/greenways should be within 10 minutes of every home and barn. Harmony between the urban, suburban and rural residential areas and the agricultural, commercial and industrial areas should provide a quality of life that is sustainable and must be maintained into the future. Some communities currently provide model ordinances, development, and programs to ensure a quality of life for horse owning members while others are woefully lacking.

Attention Comprehensive Planners and Decision Makers

Despite urban annexation and leap-frog development a strong recognition should be given to environmental, cultural, and economic values that agriculture provides for an urbanizing area.

Goals:

- maintain the rural characteristics,
- promote proper use and maintenance of prime agricultural land,
- protect and secure open space and scenic vistas,
- encourage diversity, stability, and sustainability in the human and land use interactions

Zoning definitions and classifications for improved horsekeeping opportunities can replace low and high density residential or business classifications in urban and suburban settings:

Home Agriculture or Residential Agricultural: The activity of producing principally for home use or consumption of plants, animals or their products by man. (examples; gardens, poultry raising, home meat production, horse keeping, plant and animal 4-H projects)

Commercial Agriculture: The activity of the production principally for sale of plants, animals or their products for the use or consumption by man including growing, harvesting, storage, preparation for use and marketing of the products. (examples; forage and sod crops, grains and feed crops, dairy, meat, & fur animals, horse breeding, boarding, training, fish or bee raising, forest, fruit, landscaping products.)

Agricultural Recreation: Activities or services of an open space type such as camping, picnicking, fruit picking, hiking and bridle trails, horse boarding, hunting, etc.

WHO WE ARE and HOW TO INVOLVE US

The **American Horse Council** is supported by approximately 160 organizations and 1,200 individuals representing every facet of the horse world – from owners, breeders, trainers, veterinarians, farriers, breed registries and horsemen's associations to horse shows, racetracks, rodeos, commercial suppliers and state horse councils.

There are 9.2 million horses in the United States. The industry has a \$102 billion impact on the U.S. economy when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is taken into account. Including off-site spending of spectators would result in an even higher figure.

The horse industry pays \$1.9 billion in taxes to all levels of government.

Over 70% of horse owners live in communities of 50,000 or less.

Approximately 34% of horse owners have a household income of less than \$50,000 and 28% have an annual income of over \$100,000. 46% of horse owners have an income of between \$25,000 to \$75,000.

State Horse Councils, such as **Horseman's Council of Illinois** represent Illinois' diverse \$3.8 Billion Horse Industry which provides more than 15,000 full-time jobs, counts over 213,000 horses, and supports more than 77,000 horse owners.

The Indiana Horse Industry produces goods and services valued at \$779 million. There are 203,000 horses in Indiana, over 80 percent of which are involved in showing and recreation.

Michigan Horse Council has not completed an equine survey since 1996 but is in the process of determining the economic impact and land use of horse in that state now.

Wisconsin State Horse Council, Iowa Horse Council, Ohio Horseman's Council, Minnesota Horse Council and Kentucky Horse Council all address land use and trail issues that affect their members through committee and grassroots efforts. Every state has a multitude of saddle clubs, organizations and horse interest groups. Most councils can identify individuals and/or committees on Trail and Land Use issues. *Each has it's own website.*

American Horse Council's 2007 Horse Industry Directory AHC@horsecouncil.org

The American Horse Council's 2007 Horse Industry Directory is a yearly effort to bring to you a definitive source that puts the equine industry at your fingertips. The most comprehensive national directory of breed and sport organizations, equine publications, state resources and racing and gaming organizations is now available for purchase.

The Horse Industry Directory has a staggering 1,200 listings including, among others, 408 equine publications, 345 state sources of information, 125 breed registries and associations, 66 show and sport organizations and 114 racing and gaming organizations.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act has been amended !

(745 ILCS 65/1,2,3)

The amendment provides that purpose of the Act is to encourage owners of land to make areas available (at present, to any individual or the public). Provides that the definition of "recreational or conservation purpose" includes conservation, resource management, exercise, education, relaxation or pleasure (at present, hunting or recreational shooting).

Equestrian activities are now included in this legal protection for landowners who allow riders onto their property.

Civil Immunity on access road and trails (ILCS 745 10 / 3-107)

There is more protection for land and trail managers from liability if more user groups are allowed on a trail. Injury protection heightened for the land owner and trail manager if equestrian uses are allowed.

Local Ordinances and Codes may not allow certain user groups (fair or unfair).

They may ban horses, roller skating, skate boarding, mopeds, bicycles or other forms of alternative transportation within jurisdiction limits or along certain corridors. These may be challenged in a number of ways. Often the "liability" excuse is used. When a user group can actually uncover and addresses the real concerns, it may become obvious that there is a true bias against a given group. Prejudice is unmasked!

The Equine Activity Act (Illinois P.W.A, #89-0111) states that each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in a legal responsibility for injury, loss, damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.

Individual Members of the Horseman's Council of Illinois have **\$1,000,000 Equine Excess Personal Liability Insurance**, provided by Equisure, Inc. and underwritten by Lloyd's of London, while otherwise enjoying their horse(s). Check to see how your homeowners insurance, health insurance, and auto liability insurance cover the recreational horse rider.

A number of **new resources** are being published to help land managers design, engineer, construct and maintain suburban and rural equestrian trails. Continue to search American Trails, Federal Highway Administration, Rails to Trails Conservancy and U.S. Forest Service for the references and publications.



A HISTORY OF OVETS AND SETC

The first Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium (OVETS) was held in northern Kentucky in February, 1999, and the first Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference was held in Clemson, Alabama, in May, 2000. The idea for both OVETS and SETC came from the National Symposium on Horse Trails in Forest Ecosystems which was held at Clemson University in October, 1998. This national symposium was the first attempt to create a concerted effort at focusing on trails issues in a natural resource conservation policy context. The need to subdivide into separate units of states with similar regional geography led to the formation of OVETS and SETC.

The separate entities (Dr. Greg Jones in cooperation with the Kentucky Horse Council for the 1999 inaugural OVETS and Clemson University for the inaugural 2000 SETC) organized the two regional equestrian conferences. Each began with the common purpose of bringing together people who are concerned about the future of the natural and cultural heritage of the trail experience from the back of a horse. Both conferences included participants from natural resource agencies, non-government organizations, and individuals representing themselves and/or local saddle clubs. This mix of participants was and is extremely important to the presentation of a wide array of perspectives, values, and knowledge. Both groups used a forum of meaningful communication between natural resource management agencies and trail equestrians that should lead to well-informed decisions that become the platform for trail policy development.

Both OVETS and SETC will continue their pursuit of equestrian self-evaluation, learning, and the development of a conservation force that will influence land-use policies at local, state, regional, and national levels with their 2008 OVETS at Little Lusk Lodge in southern Illinois in June and 2008 SETC in South Carolina.