



WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

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A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF HORSES AND HORSEMEN IN WISCONSIN

PRESS RELEASE

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HOURS DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR 2006 TRAIL RIDING/DRIVING AWARD PROGRAM

By Mary Foster, WSHC Riding/Driving Award Program Manager

Columbus, WI - If you are a participant of the Trail Riding/Driving program for 2006, this is a reminder to get your hours submitted to the WSHC office by January 31, 2007 and to re-join for 2007.

There is a log form available for submitting hours on the WSHC website, www.wisconsinstatehorsecouncil.org/trail_awards.html or if you have created an electronic record, you can email it to info@wisconsinstatehorsecouncil.org.

If you haven't joined the Trail Riding/Driving Program before, please consider it for 2007. You can sign up any time during the year and start counting your hours once the enrollment application is received by WSHC. WSHC membership has been a program requirement, but is being waived for 2007 as the WSHC membership renewals are in the process of being aligned to a fiscal year rather than the calendar year.

Also new for 2007, we are looking at patches or decals for cumulative hours from year to year. These will be for hours of 500, 1000, 1500, etc. These will be in addition to the yearly pin for hours ridden. Time will be used from the beginning of the program in 2004.

The first year you join, you will be sent an initial Wisconsin Trail Rider pin. After the year ends and hours are tabulated, 'hours' pins will be ordered. There are five categories - 50, 100, 200, 350 and 500+ hours.

The pins will be available for participants to pick up in the Trails Committee booth at the Midwest Horse Fair, April 20-22, 2007. Pins not picked up personally will be mailed to participants following the Fair. The Trails Committee booth will be located in the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, WI. This year's Fair theme is "Rock, Roll, & Ride!"

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This will also be a good time to visit with Trail Committee members about what is happening with trails in Wisconsin. The new 10th Edition of the Wisconsin Trail Directory is expected to be available for purchase at the Midwest Horse Fair in both the Trails booth and the adjacent WSHC booth.

As a participant of the Wisconsin State Horse Council Trails committee Trail Riding/Driving Awards Program, I continued my 'borrowed horse' concept for 2006 as I had in 2005.

Why own your own horse when so many people have extras? You get a nice variety of horses by using the 'borrowed' ones! I have my personal two old men horses, Bega and Doc, who are enjoying their retirement. Bega has been with me for 29 of his 30 years and Doc for all 24 of his years so they aren't going anywhere. They are my best friends and know all my secrets.

Special thanks to my borrowed mounts and their generous owners:

- Rookie, Morgan owned by Hayley Peterson of Mt. Horeb
- Cody, Quarter Horse owned by Sam Anderson of Marshall
- Ozzie and Oliver, Tennessee Walker brothers owned by Terry McCaughey of Marshall
- Annie, Rocky Mountain owned by Gail Seasor of Marshall

This is one of the wonderful points of this riding/driving program. You can ride/drive any horse any time. You can also ride/drive any trail, anywhere. No limits on locations public or private. Road riding and riding in fields count, too. Endurance/competitive riders can count actual competition hours as well as all the hours they ride preparing for the competitions. It is easy to keep track of hours. I just write on my calendar how long I rode, what horse I rode, where I rode, who I rode with. Then I periodically enter it into my trusty computer spreadsheet so I am ready for the end of year submission of hours. And it's great to look back and remember all the riding experiences.

Here is a short history of the Trail Riding/Driving Award Program:

2004

- 22 participants
- 13 submitted hours
- Most hours 275 - Sandie Brick-Margelofsky

2005

- 41 participants
- 31 submitted hours
- Most hours 334 - Gail Seasor

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2006

- 55 people are currently signed up

We have 14 two-year participants and 10 three-year participants.

More information, the program application form, and log form are available online at www.wisconsinstatehorsecouncil.org/trail_awards.html.

Have you joined yet? Why not?

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