

GEORGIA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING  
GIHP, Conyers, Georgia

June 16, 2003

**Members Present:**

Jim Gibby	Jesse Walker	Also Present:
Bo Warren	Bobby Mitchell	Sue Vetsch
Pat Harmon	Virginia Linch	Arlene Knox
Gerald Davis	Linda Kundell	Tina Maddox
Cynthia Strickland	Harry Thompson	Jimmy Johnson
Richard Jones	Jackie Moore	Gene Owen
Mike Medlock	Jim Harding	Nebraska McAlpine
Peyton Proctor		Mary Simmons
Joan Grant		RuthAnn Harding
Lee Myers		

The GHC Board meeting was called to order by president Jim Gibby at 5:05pm, June 16, 2003 at the Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers.

**Treasurer Report**

Pat Harmon presented the treasurer's report with a balance of \$18,629.46. The report was approved as read.

**Secretary Report**

Gary Heusner was absent from the meeting but had provided the minutes via email prior to the meeting. Additional copies were passed out. The minutes were approved as provided.

**Committee Reports:**

**Bylaws**

\$ Jim Gibby reported that the bylaws committee had a brief meeting last week and that revised copies of the bylaws would be sent out for review prior to the August meeting and/or the Board retreat.

### ***Fair***

\$ Bo Warren reported that plans were progressing for the 2004 Horse Fair. Four headliners will be advertised for the upcoming fair. Monty Roberts sponsored by Sundowner Trailers, Cathy Weischhoff sponsored by Nutrena, Pat Puckett sponsored by as yet unannounced sponsors and the 8 mule hitch, A Touch of Ear will be featured at the Fair.

\$ Reaves will be our primary arena this year with vendors located around the concourse. Puckett will be in the MPB with clinics during the day as well as displays. Peyton Proctor explains a little about Ranch Roping which is Pat Pucketts specialty. Peyton will be the primary contact with this headliner for 2004.

\$ Ticket prices will remain the same. Individual tickets at the gate will be \$10, weekend passes will be \$15 and a Family pass (two adults and two kids under 16) is \$20. Advance tickets will be available for GHC members (and 4-H and FFA groups) for \$8.

\$ Bo asks that we help spread the word.

\$ Monty will be selecting a horse on Friday night and the free early bird vendor event will be repeated.

### ***Legislation***

\$ Richard Jones updated us on HB914 and asks that we approach the Ag Committee Members to voice our support of this bill. Richard will prepare some information and guidelines along with addresses to the Board to assist us in presenting this information.

\$ Richard also encourages everyone to attend the General Assembly at some point during the 2004 session. Additional information will be presented as that time draws near.

### ***Trails***

\$ Joan Grant reported on the June 1 Trails Meeting. National Trails Day was June 7 and most of the physical trail activities were canceled due to rain. Joan shared photos of a CTHA/GHC joint display from Centennial Park celebrating National Trails Day. National Trails Day has been rescheduled

for some time in Sept/Oct and Joan will let us know when that has been confirmed.

\$ Joan asks that the GHC join the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource as a supporting member. Richard asks for more information about this organization before committing to the \$100 level of annual sponsorship. It was suggested that Joan present this as a budget item for the 2004 budget.

\$ Joan and Mike respond to questions about forest closures due to weather. Most trails are shut down following rain. We need some way to announce these closures such as SORBA does on their website.

\$ Donna Pieper has volunteered to do a Trails Corner that will be linked from the front page of the GHC web site to help facilitate sharing of trails information.

\$ Joan announces a \$10,000 grant secured from Recreational Trails Committee to sponsor the SETC 2004. The Forest Service is also a sponsor.

\$ GHC/SETC2004 will be displayed at SETC2003 in FL.

\$ Lake Russell has received a grant for the second phase. GHC is a sponsor. Joan asks that the donation from KelMac Saddle Club (\$1000 - \$500 of which was designated to help the Lake Russell project) be made available as the needs arise. The original request was to fund signage but that has been covered so these funds will cover other projects. Several smaller checks will be requested.

\$ GHC Trails Committee is still looking for horse related clubs. See Joan.

\$ The AHC Press Release regarding the Presidential signing of the transportation bill was discussed.

\$ Mike Medlock explained the >10 year plan= from the Forest Service and encouraged everyone to respond by July 3, 2003.

\$ Mike mentioned that ranger number would increase under President Bush= relaxed Forest guidelines which may mean that many horse trails will be seen by rangers for the first time. Mike has talked with some rangers about the need to map trails in order to get them >on the books=.

\$ Pat Harmon updated us on Oconee. He is mapping trails and will meet with the Ranger for approval there. The trailhead is still under construction and there has been some discussion about hiring a professional to come finish the details.

\$ Jim asks for an update on the Trails Book. Joan is going to look into this.

## ***Regions***

- \$ Virginia Linch reports that Region 5 had a successful Fun Show.
- \$ Virginia has gotten a positive response on her request to clean up the grave sites in the Oconee National Forest near Monticello.
- \$ Virginia has also received a mule to raffle off to contribute to funding for this project.
- \$ Region 6 had a meeting. Jimmy Johnson presided in Virginias absence. Information was presented regarding trails issues as well as other GHC events. They had a good turn out with 7 new members signing up at the meeting.
- \$ Linda Kundell questions the legality of the meeting since according to our bylaws a Region Director must preside at a meeting. The meeting is termed an organizational meeting with another meeting set for July 15 in which Virginia will preside.
- \$ Harry Thompson makes a motion that the Board not accept Mary Simmons resignation from the Region 3 meeting. This is seconded by Linda Kundell. In discussion following, Linda questions the legality of Gary Heusner being at the Region meeting.
- \$ Richard Jones asks for information regarding the meeting since he was not in attendance. Sue Vetsch responds that she asked that Mary resign since she was personally unhappy with Marys performance as her Region Director.
- \$ Linda Kundell has a Region 4 meeting scheduled for June 19. She is visibly upset and walks out after assuring that Pat would be at her Region meeting and stating that he might have to run it.
- \$ Harry restates his motion and Richard asks if we can hear Mary=s side. Mary reads a prepared statement in her own support.
- \$ Jim calls for questions and discussion. Sue states clearly that Jim did not spearhead her decision to ask for Marys resignation as per Marys statement.
- \$ The call for a vote results in a ballot vote with the following results in response to the question ADo you wish to not accept Mary Simmons resignation as Region Director?@ - 8 Yes, 2 No, 2 Abstain

### **Membership**

- \$ Mike Medlock reports that based on Pats figures we have about 24/25 new members.
- \$ We are reminded that insurance covers you from the time you send in your membership through the end of the year.
- \$ Renewals will be delayed until we have received insurance quotes for 2004.
- \$ Pat reminds everyone that if they pay online they must submit their application in writing so that we can complete the records in the office.

\$ Richard clarifies the aggregate policy and states that this is a normal procedure in the insurance industry.

### ***Polo***

\$ Pat Harmon reports in Donna Piepers absence that we will indeed have a Polo match on June 19<sup>th</sup>. They are finalizing plans and looking for cheaper Porta Potties.

\$ Mike will host the hospitality room and asks for donations of food and spirits as well as help manning the room throughout the day.

\$ Ticket sales are slow due to the increase coverage of the Bob Bell event but Pat expects a nice turnout the day of the event.

\$ Please let Donna and Pat know if you can help

### ***Bob Bell***

\$ Sue Vetsch announces an upcoming volunteer meeting and urges everyone to stay and please come out and help Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

\$ Sue announces that she has secured 11 \$100 sponsors and 1 \$500 sponsor but still has a few costs to cover.

\$ She will have a Reining and Dressage demonstration during the dinner and they are working on a combination presentation as well.

\$ Bob Bell has 940 horses on the grounds and Sue and Becky expect the dinner to be a sell out.

\$ Sue needs help with this event. Especially dinner which will go on rain or shine under the tents.

\$ There are 55 silent auction items and donations are still being accepted.

\$ Sue introduces some of the volunteers who have arrived early for her meeting and goes over the schedule briefly for Saturday.

\$ Sue thanks Jim (Merial) for donating the volunteer Tshirts and Jesse Walker for imprinting these for our use.

\$ Please see Sue if you can help at all on this event.

### ***New Business***

\$ Jim discusses a Board Retreat proposed for the weekend of August 2-3 at Rock Eagle. Calendars are checked.

\$ Arlene Knox expounds on the purpose of a Board Retreat and encourages 100% participation.

\$ Jim and Lee Myers were in a meeting earlier today regarding proposed changes at UGA. Plans were discussed regarding a new UGA Veterinary Hospital that would tie in to a new Equine Sports Arena and new Breeding/Training Barn. This cooperative venture involves the UGA College of

Veterinary Medicine, the UGA Athletic Association and the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

- \$ Lee informed the Board of a Senate/House meeting on the subject of the UGA Rodeo to let us know the level of interest in activities surrounding equine related activities and UGA.
- \$ Lee reported that the Reportable Animal Disease list was out and Strangles was included. She will keep us informed on this evolving issue.
- \$ A white paper on West Nile Virus is due out shortly.
- \$ Several cases of EEE have been reported and Lee urges vaccination for these diseases in Georgia.
- \$ Lee responds to questions about budget cuts and how they related to the Department of Agriculture.
- \$ Pat brings up Pari Mutual bill and asks that the RegionDirectors bring feed back from their regions on this issue. More information is again requested and Jim provides contact information for Larry Thompson of the HI COG (Horse Industry Council of Georgia), a lobbying group for pari mutual wagering. Everyone is reminded that the GHC is not >taking= a position at this point.
- \$ Jim mentions the July 4<sup>th</sup> extravaganza at the Horse Park and urges anyone interested in participation to contact Darlene

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be July 21 at the Horse Park in Conyers.