

Georgia Professional Farriers Association

January/February 2008

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a great holiday and start of the New Year. I would first like to thank former President Steve Schmidt and Treasurer Eric Gilleland for all the support during the transition of officers for the new term. I would also like to thank the current officer's Vice President Larry Hix and Secretary Jeffery Morton for all their support. The first thing, we the officer's, created is an Advisory Committee consisting of Wayne Allen, Willie Johnson, Lynn Jean, Neal Baggett, John Halko, Mike Holcombe, Robert Whitworth and Steve Prescott. These gentlemen will be consulted for their wisdom and skill to help insure the forward progress of the G.P.F.A during my term as president, and believe me they have already been invaluable to me. I have three main goals for the first year of my term: They are a newsletter every two months, a new annual farrier directory that will be distributed to the horse owners of the state through ads and horse owner clinics, and lastly to have instructional clinics you can learn something on Saturday and use on Monday. No Roadsters just good horseshoeing fundamentals. Lastly, I would like to reach more of the farriers in the south part of the state, but

we are not having much success. I don't think we have contacted the right person yet. I know they are there. So if you want a G.P.F.A. clinic or any function in the southern part of the state you are going to have to call me and we will make something happen. All we need is a group of farriers who want us.

I would also like to hear from any and all members about what they would like out of the association as far as clinics and or other functions that you feel would be beneficial to members of the association or the GA horse owner.

Please call me with any questions or comments you have. I may not have all the answers at the time of your call but I promise I will get the answer for you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

My number is 706-892-7331

Thank you to all who support me and to all those who don't know me. I hope to earn your support very soon!!!!

Doug Workman - President of G.P.F.A.

2008 GPFA OFFICERS

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Jeffery Morton, CF Secretary
678-233-4201

Brian Haney - Treasurer
770-361-6363
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GPFA ACCOUNT BALANCES

Available funds- \$8198.55

Bill Crowder Memorial- \$2550.

Thanks, Brian Haney

Vice President

Hello, I hope everyone is having a good winter. It has been pretty mild so far and spring is not far away. I would like to thank Steve and Eric for all of the hard work they did for the G.P.F.A. They did a great job! Congratulations to Doug and Brian for being elected into office. I am looking forward to working with both of them.

We just about have all of the calendar events for 2008 taken care of, we just have a few things left to iron out. One of the things I would like to see in 2008 is for the membership to really get involved. If you know someone who is not an active member or someone who is not a member at all ask them to go to a clinic or hammer in with you. Some times that is all it takes to light a spark in them. We have all gotten a lot out of the G.P.F.A. and we need to share it. If you have any ideas or thoughts about how to make the G.P.F.A. better or something you would like to see us do please feel free to call me anytime. My cell is 706-540-1256. We are going to have a great year learning and having some fun at the same time.

Everybody take care,
Larry Hix
GPFA Vice President

GPFA Reaching Out to the Equestrians of Georgia

We are in the process of making sure that everyone interested in the GPFA can find out what is going on and when. If you are reading this article it's working. We have setup a Yahoo group under the name Ga Professional Farriers Association. This is free communications tool.

Simply:

1. Go to www.georgiafarriers.org
2. Type your e-mail address in the subscribe to this site area, and Click enter.

After joining any group member can post to the list and have it e-mailed to everyone in the group. This is a great way to advertise

Hammer-ins, Rigs for sale, help wanted, or just keep in touch between newsletters and clinics. This tool is only valuable if you register and utilize it.

My next goal is to reach as many horse owners across the state as possible and to teach them the value of proper hoof care. To accomplish this task we have contacted as many equine publications as I know of and asked them to publish our calendar of events. We have also requested that each publication run an ad stating that we will do basic hoof care clinics for any saddle club that wishes to host one and will mail a GPFA membership directory to any one who request one.

In the first week that this program has been advertised on the Internet we have reached an estimated 100,000 equine enthusiast. We have had several responses, and one clinic has already taken place. We have been asked by Anita Hood of Purina mills to start doing hoof care clinics at their Horse Owner Workshops. We have also received conformation from Horse South Magazine and Hoof Beats Magazine that they will include our ads at no charge in their next issues. I would encourage each of you to contact these magazines and thank them for the dedication to hoof care education in our state.

Farriers, we must realize that we all work for horse owners. If they don't understand the benefits of proper hoof care for their equine companions, we are not a necessity. Anyone that is willing to help with these clinics PLEASE get in touch with me ASAP. If you choose to help we will have a basic guideline of information to cover during your presentation.

IF YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS YEARS DIRECTORY YOUR ANNUAL DUES MUST BE PAID AND RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2008.

Part of our goal of reaching every Georgia Equestrian is to change the distribution of our Membership directory. Our directory will now only be updated once every year. We have set a goal to distribute 5000, yes that's 5000, directories straight to the equestrian community of Georgia.

This is 10 times the distribution of the 2007 directory. All paid members will be listed in the directory. If you know of a company that will advertise or you would like to advertise your farrier business in the GPFA Membership Directory, please contact: Eric Gray bfs_hoss@yahoo.com, or Brian Haney (770) 361-6363, haney7@alltel.net

Remember, if your going to spend half your day with your head under a horses behind, you better bring your sense of humor.

Eric Gray CF
GPFA Public Relations and Communications
Committee Chair

NEW NEXT ISSUE

Starting with the March/April edition we will be expanding the newsletter to an 8 page format. This will allow room for coverage of clinics and room for you to have your voice heard. If you have a letter to the editor, article, tip of the month, or a classified ad you would like to run send it to Eric Gilleland ericgilleland@bellsouth.net or Eric Gray bfs_hoss@yahoo.com (770) 238-2951. Next issue we will also dedicate one page to sponsors of the GPFA. If you would like to have an ad in this section contact Eric Gray or Brian Haney.

Classifieds

Used Omnivan body fits ¾ ton lwb or Cab and Chassis dually. 8ft side doors, bed is water tight with underbody boxes. \$2000 obo Can e-mail pictures. Contact Eric Gray (770)238-2951 bfs_hoss@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

Feb. 16th @10am- Hammer-in in Marble Hill at The Horse House Mike Holcombe will do a demonstration on proper tool maintenance and Neal Baggett will do a demonstration on re-working your older hoof knives. A chili lunch will be provided. Contact Eric Gray (770) 238-2951 bfs_hoss@yahoo.com

Feb 16th@3pm Richard Miles will do a horse owner Hoof care clinic in conjunction with a Purina Mills Horse Owner Workshop in Jasper GA. Eric Gray will assist. For information contact Eric Gray bfs_hoss@yahoo.com (770)238-2951

April 4th and 5th - Pre-Certification at East Coast Horseshoe Supply in Perry, GA. Bryce Burnett clinician. Contact Doug Workman **706-892-7331** dworkman66@yahoo.com

April 19th Doug Workman CJF will do a demonstration for the North Ga Trail Riders Assoc. Trail horse hoof care, and on trail hoof care emergencies will be the topics. Contact Doug Workman (706)892-7331 dworkman66@yahoo.com

May 16th and 17th- AFA certification at UGA all levels available. Examiner TBA Contact Larry Hix (706)783-3219 barshoeH@msn.com.

June 21-GPFA Mid-Year business meeting. Sommerville GA. Contact Wille Johnson (706)857-1053 wvlak@aol.com

August 9th-GPFA Family day. Cleveland, GA Bring the family for a day of fellowship and fun. Lunch will be provide. Must RSVP by August 3 so that adequate preparations can be arranged. Contact Doug Workman (706)892-7331 dworkman66@yahoo.com

OCT 3rd and 4th- GPFA annual contest and clinic. UGA clinicians and Judge TBA look for more information in next GPFA newsletter.

Have an event to add? contact Eric Gray, bfs_hoss@yahoo.com