



GPFA NEWS



GEORGIA PROFESSIONAL FARRIERS ASSOCIATION

March 2011

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

First off I would like to welcome our two new officers, Lee Griffin, CF - vice president; and Guillermo Zaugg, CF - secretary. Lee and Guillermo have already proven to be a valuable asset to the GPFA, and I'm looking forward to working with them this year.

"Always remember you can't soar with eagles if you're surrounded by turkeys"

We've got a lot coming up in the next few months. Among the upcoming events are: the World Champion Blacksmiths World Classic, the AFA convention, Music City Farriers Association contest, Monetta Farrier Supply's Grant Moon clinic, Georgia Farrier Supply's annual open house and the GPFA annual certification exam.

New this year will be a contest combined with our annual spring certification. There will be two divisions in the contest: certified and journeyman. The contest will be scored on AFA score sheets by Danvers Child, our AFA examiner. I wanted to have this contest for a lot of reasons. I think it will be a good opportunity for people taking the test to make some of the shoes and shoe a horse under time and be scored on an AFA score sheet by the same examiner who will be scoring them the next day.

It will be good for guys who are already certified to come out and make sure they still have it; I'm always running into guys who say they can pass the test standing on their heads, but they say they don't like the involvement with the AFA. So this would be a good time for those rogue farriers to come out and show everyone what they've got.

Speaking for myself, the only way I can develop new skills is to practice and find someone to practice with, and only the way I can stay motivated to practice is to have goals and constantly raise them which always puts me a step out of my comfort zone. However, if you don't get out and meet new people, you never learn. If you want to learn and improve your skills there's no other way. Always remember you can't soar with eagles if you're surrounded by turkeys.

I think the pressure of a testing or contest hinders a lot of people and keeps them from performing at 100 percent or maybe participating at all. So this should be great to break the ice and let everyone kind of get settled in the atmosphere. I see it as a great opportunity for everyone to stay tuned up, get ready for the certification or just come out, compete and have a good time.

We are also trying to put together a pre-cert clinic but haven't gotten a date or location hammered down yet so check our website, www.georgiafarriers.org, or stay in touch with an officer and we'll keep you posted.

Thanks,
Derek Perry, CJF
GPFA president



Billy Lewis works during the January tool making clinic with Todd Walker.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Tool-making clinic wrap-up

In January, the Georgia Professional Farriers Association had a tool making clinic in South Carolina at Steve Prescott's farm, just a few miles away of the beautiful city of Savannah.

Steve was an excellent host; he made sure everything we needed was at our disposal. He also cooked for us and even let us crash in his bunkhouse!

The clinic started on Friday morning. It was very cold, so we

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Hello GPFA members. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Lee Griffin and I have been shoeing horses in the Alpharetta area since the early 90s.

I have been involved with the GPFA and the AFA in years past, although recently, I have been busy with my career and have not been active with the groups that helped me get my start.

I have challenged myself to get into the swing of things again, though. This is an exciting time to be part of a team that will help us all achieve our goals of becoming better farriers through education and fellowship.

Whether or not you have been a member in the past, I encourage you to get involved this year. We have an exciting calendar this year with a lot to offer everyone. Looking forward to seeing all of you as we gear up for a great 2011.

See you around the anvil!
Lee Griffin, CF
GPFA vice president

VETS COMMUNICATING WITH FARRIERS: *Dr. Dan Carter walks the talk*

By ELIZABETH CRUMBLY

Shortly after the first time Dan Carter saw a horse being shod, he experienced a magnetic draw toward farriery.

"I was hopelessly hooked," he explained. "I weaseled my way into a blacksmith's shop in Colorado."

It was there that his shoeing career started with a year-long apprenticeship; he used that passion for to support himself financially as he completed his undergraduate work at the University of Wyoming, where he studied animal nutrition.

He eventually moved back to Georgia, his stomping grounds growing up, and began shoeing in the Augusta area. At that point, he was already a certified farrier, and he soon earned his journeyman designation. He found himself bitten by the competition bug and worked his way up to national competition level.

This history alone marks Carter as a standout farrier devoted to his craft, but the thing that really sets him apart from his fellow journeymen is the fact that he's not only Dan Carter, CJF; he's Dan Carter, DVM.

He graduated from University of Georgia veterinary school in 2009 and has since set up a successful equine practice in the Conyers – Alpharetta area.

TALKING THE TALK

He's found that his 10-year background as a horse shoer is particularly valuable when he is consulting with farriers about foot problems in horses they work on.

Often when he encounters a problem, like severe laminitis, he performs the initial treatment but then brings in the horse's regular

farrier on the process and dialogues with him or her on what needs to take place from there.

"I kind of prefer going that route because I'm not going to keep the horse forever," he said. "I function mostly as a vet."

Knowledge of not only the treatment but the ailment, as well, is something Carter looks for in the farriers he comes in contact with.

It's important, he explained to "make sure I'm working with a farrier who understands the disease process."

He cites one case, in particular, that produced the kind of results he likes to see; in this instance, Carter treated a severely laminitic horse in Alpharetta.

He first diagnosed the horse and then shod it until he felt the laminitis was under control.

He turned the horse back over to its regular farrier, Andy Snell, CF, once he felt he was "not dealing with an acute situation."

Carter's veterinary and farriery knowledge toggle in many ways, but he finds the crossover especially useful when he's communicating with another farrier in regard to a horse in critical condition.

"We speak the same language, which helps," he explained.

He said he relies on feedback from his equine patients' regular shoers. In the aforementioned case, once he and Snell communicated initially, Snell called regularly, providing Carter with updates each time he shod the horse.

Carter's daily routine runs the gamut in equine care, from checkups to colic. Sometimes, he runs into more interesting cases, like coffin bone infections. A slightly unconventional treatment he's been able to em-



ploy is the use of medical maggots to eliminate necrotic tissue.

"(The maggots) do a phenomenal job debriding," he said. Not only do they eliminate the dead tissue, but he has seen their movement stimulate new tissue growth.

The treatment originated in Civil War times when doctors needed a way to debride necrotic tissue of soldiers wounded in battle. Carter said it's been used in the veterinary field for about 10 years now.

Despite the fact that his business centers on veterinary processes, it's clear that Carter possesses the devotion typical of a true horse shoer: once a farrier, always a farrier.

Carter is a one-man show, and he said business has pulled him away from the competition arena recently; this is the first year he hasn't competed.

Don't expect that to last long, though.

"I will be back competing again," he said.

**"WE SPEAK
THE SAME
LANGUAGE,
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*- Dan Carter,
DVM, CJF, on
communicating
with other farriers*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

What: Georgia Farrier Supply clinic
 When: May 7
 Where: Moss Creek Farm, Summerville Ga.
 Contact: Willie Johnson
 - 706-857-1053

What: Georgia Professional Farriers Association contest and AFA certification
 When: May 13-14
 Where: Athens, Ga. at the UGA Livestock Arena
 Contact: Guillermo Zaugg
 - 678-481-7307
 Judge and Clinician: Danvers Child. Please call ahead of time to reserve a horse. You will need one horse for each event (contest and certification). A \$ 50 deposit is required to hold your reservation. At arrival, your deposit will be applied to total money due.

What: Alabama Professional Farriers Association Certification
 When: May 20-24
 Contact: horseshoeingtom@aol.com

What: Georgia Professional Farriers Association Contest and Clinic
 When: Oct. 7-8
 Where: Athens, Ga. at the UGA Livestock Arena
 Contact: Guillermo Zaugg
 678-481-7307

GPFA ON THE WEB:
www.georgiifarriers.org

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW HORSES?

- The horse's sense of touch is so sensitive that it notices the instant a mosquito lands on it
- China not only has the most people in the world, but it also has the most horses with 10,000,000.
- Hairs from horses' tails are used to create bows for cellos and violins.



- The closest relatives of the horse are the rhinoceros and the tapir.

Photo courtesy of MORGUEFILE.COM

- A horse that weighs 1200 pounds can eat 7 times its own weight in food every year.

Clinic

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were eager to get the forgings going. The clinician, Todd Walker, was very skillful. After he gave everyone their S7 steel, his demonstration began. We started working in two-person teams, each team having their own forge.

The first tool we made was a

forepunch. We made one forepunch for city heads and another for E heads nails.

On Saturday, we started the day making pritchels. This was interesting for me because it was my first time working with a striker. After the pritchels, we got to work making creasers. This was an intricate process due to the precision needed.

It took me two tries, and my creaser still isn't as straight as intended!

Overall the clinic was a success. The 18-plus participants left with new tools, new skills, and the feeling that they got more than their money's worth.

Guillermo Zaugg, CF
GPFA Secretary