

Julie Young, CJF  
8424 S. 500 W  
Trafalgar, IN 46181



# Quarter Clips

**January/February 2010**

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## **BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS**

**President** Tim Tritch - Home 260-475-5931  
Cell - 260-668-5478  
[tmtritch@ligtel.com](mailto:tmtritch@ligtel.com)

**Vice President**  
Sharon Wirey - Cell 317-440-2560

**Secretary**  
To be appointed.

**Treasurer**  
Mike Breen - Home 765-534-3440  
Cell 317-408-6557  
[MikeB16996@aol.com](mailto:MikeB16996@aol.com)

**Board of Directors**  
Mike Whistler - 2011  
Cell 574-220-6410

Hank Highfield -2012  
Cell 317-513-1028  
[collegeforge@yahoo.com](mailto:collegeforge@yahoo.com)

Havilah Elia -2010  
Home 574-656-8642  
[havilahsfarrierservice@hotmail.com](mailto:havilahsfarrierservice@hotmail.com)

Joe Auer -2012  
Cell 260-312-2257

Jared Jackson - 2011  
Cell 317-512-0695

Bill Bailey - 2010  
Home 765-649-6052

**Contest Chair**  
Bradley Langhofer  
Cell 574-220-6410

**PSCAAEP Chair**  
Adam Speicher  
Cell 574-721-4456  
[grcrhorseshoeing@yahoo.com](mailto:grcrhorseshoeing@yahoo.com)

**Certification Chair**  
Tim Tritch - Home 260-475-5931  
[Cell - 260-668-5478](tel:260-668-5478)

**Picnic**  
Julie Young - Home 317-878-4588  
Cell 317-502-6348  
[crossfireforge@hotmail.com](mailto:crossfireforge@hotmail.com)

**Archives**  
Clyde Stringer - Home 765-526-2662  
[indianafarrier@yahoo.com](mailto:indianafarrier@yahoo.com)

**Fall Clinic**  
Bill Bailey - Cell 765-606-6052

**Banquet**  
Ann Griffin - Cell 317-727-5461  
[triplecrownforge1@hughes.net](mailto:triplecrownforge1@hughes.net)

**Election**  
Rob Griffin - Cell 317-432-3718  
[triplecrownforge@hughes.net](mailto:triplecrownforge@hughes.net)

**Constitution & Bylaws**  
Chip Hunt - Home 812-448-2171

**Achievements**  
David Bruce - 765-438-5758  
[luckyb@hughes.net](mailto:luckyb@hughes.net)

**Membership**  
Havilah Elia - Home 574-656-8642  
[havilahsfarrierservice@hotmail.com](mailto:havilahsfarrierservice@hotmail.com)

**Spring Hammer-in North**  
To be appointed.

**Fall Hammer -in South**  
Heather Holly - Cell 317-440-9746  
[hclaxton@tds.net](mailto:hclaxton@tds.net)

**Sponsorship** Sharon Wirey - Cell 317-440-2560

**Newsletter Chair**  
Julie Young Cell 317-502-6348  
[crossfireforge@hotmail.com](mailto:crossfireforge@hotmail.com)

## **Upcoming Events**

- Feb. 2-5 International Hoof-Care Summit, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Contact: (866) 839-8455 or register online at: [www.IHCS2010.com](http://www.IHCS2010.com)
- Feb. 20 AAEP Farrier Short Course Program, Purdue University, Lafayette, IN  
Contact: LeighAnne Erickson. (765) 414-8009
- Feb. 24-27 39<sup>th</sup> Annual AFA Convention, Portland, Oregon.  
Contact: (859) 233-7411 or go online to: [info@afaconvention.com](mailto:info@afaconvention.com)
- March 1st Deadline for membership renewal to make 2010 directory.
- March 1st BOD meeting 4:30pm at Mike Breen's shop
- March 3rd IAEP meeting: Speaker Tracey Turner, DVM. 8:00am Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds. Pre-Registration required. Registration form on page 20.
- March 12th Newsletter submissions deadline.  
Julie Young (317) 878-4588  
[crossfireforge@hotmail.com](mailto:crossfireforge@hotmail.com)
- March 17 Camping reservations for IFA fall picnic should be made for those arriving Friday, Sept. 17, 2010. Contact: 1-866-622-6746 or go online to: [www.camp.in.gov](http://www.camp.in.gov)
- April 9-11 Hoosier Horse Fair clinic and contest. Mitch Taylor, judge and clinician. Contact: Brad Langhofer: (574) 220-6410 or online at: [rvtprof@hotmail.com](mailto:rvtprof@hotmail.com)
- May 3rd BOD meeting 4:30pm , Mike Breen's shop.



# Indiana Farriers' Association

## Membership Form

Please complete and mail this form along with your payment. If you would like a short Bio included on the IFA website, please include it with this form.

IFA Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certification Level \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 County (required) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Choose One:

- Regular Membership**                      **\$35.00**  
 (Voting rights; Includes \$10 annual Injured Farrier's Fund fee)  
 **Associate Membership**                      **\$25.00**  
 (Non-voting member)  
 **Lifetime Membership**                      **\$300.00**  
 (Includes first year's Injured Farrier's Fund fee)

Please make checks payable to IFA. Mail payment and this form to:  
**Mike Breen** • 14741 East 196th Street • Noblesville, IN 46060 • (765) 534-4250

### We Can Use Your Help!

Can we contact you about helping out? (Don't forget this is a non-profit organization relying solely on volunteers)

- Yes, I'm interested in helping                       No, Not at this time.

Rev: A                                      Date Rev: 5-9-2009  
 To revise Document please contact IFA Secretary to receive Rev.

We will try printing a membership form in each newsletter so they will be readily available to members. Handing these forms out explaining why we enjoy the fellowship of the IFA is a step into the future of the IFA. As with anything, we may only capture 10,5,2, % of the folks this form is handed out to, but even 1% is a positive change. Capturing new members has many positives for the IFA, and the farrier industry as a whole. First, and foremost, it unites the fine folks of the farrier industry toward a common goal. Second, it gets more folks talking about the IFA which creates the best advertisement known to the Farrier industry (*word of mouth*). This word of mouth not only promotes the IFA to farrier's, but also to horse owners (clients and potential clients). The third, and most likely not the final positive, is the more members, the greater potential for educational opportunities. So in short, please do not toss these membership forms out with the bath water. Instead, hand them to another farrier or vet and promote your organization. Thank Havilah Elia for supplying the membership form and all the work she does on membership next time you see her.

## President's Letter

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Since this is my first presidents' report I would like to take a moment to thank the association for giving me the opportunity to help move the IFA forward.

Through the next couple of years I'd like to see the IFA grow – not just in numbers but also in the knowledge of our craft and to grow closer as an association.

Every IFA president that I can remember has said the next phrase, which I will reiterate also, this is not my association this is our association. So if you have comments, complaints, or just thinking out loud please come to the meetings and voice your thoughts. Get involved.

It takes a tremendous amount of work to keep an association functioning and the more people that are involved and helping the easier it is. I would also like to thank the spouses of the members, there are many of you who put in as much time as the members themselves do, and if you have any ideas how we can improve our association please let us know.

If you missed the annual dinner meeting this year you missed a special treat. This was our 25<sup>th</sup> year as an association and Clyde Stringer put together a PowerPoint presentation of how this association started out and how it has grown through the years. This showed the dedication and work our founding members went through to get this association started. Thank you Clyde for a job well done! Ann Griffin also put together another great dinner meeting – Thanks Ann.

Until next time be safe and God bless

**Tim Tritch**  
**President**

### Keeper of the Rules

The IFA founders decided we should follow Robert's Rules of Order and our Constitution and By-Laws (C&BL) to conduct all IFA meetings. The C&BL committee is a standing committee, appointed by the President. The committee shall make a full report of activities at the annual meeting. The annual meeting *"shall be for the purpose of the election of Officers and the transaction of such business as may come before the meeting."* Are these documents simply guidelines to follow or rules to be executed diligently?

In May 09 the C&BL committee chair mailed these documents to the executive committee so we would know our responsibility of procedure, which we still fail to follow in all situations unless the chair advises us.

The issue created in the C&BL committee report at the annual meeting should have been handled at the 11/09 Board Of Directors (BOD) meeting; the C&BL chair did not attend this meeting so therefore he advised the executive committee at the annual meeting of our responsibility. The C&BL chair fulfills this obligation to the executive committee, yet gets most issues opposed until the next meeting. This seems counter-productive in a BOD meeting. The two topics which got delayed until the next meeting were both time sensitive and needed to be resolved before the March 1 meeting.

The purpose of this organization is to promote quality farriery, build and encourage community, sponsor and promote activities and educational meetings. It takes the whole membership to make this happen.

This is a volunteer organization that struggles to find willing volunteers to fill positions. We all need to get in the sandbox and play nice together without all the drama, ego and personality so we can build an eager organization that strives toward our original purpose.

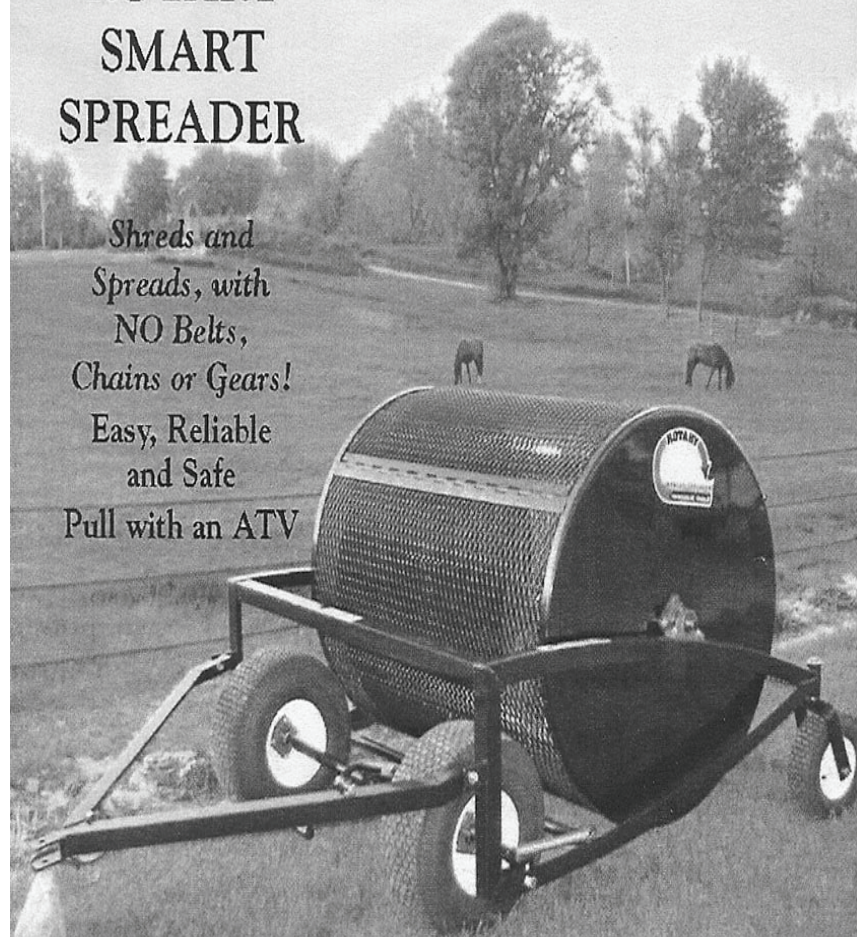
Sharon Wirey  
IFA Vice-President and Sponsorship Chair  
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*Let's have fun at Hammer-In's again!*

**Minutes of the Indiana Farriers' Association Annual Membership Meeting  
 January 9th, 2010**

Present: Julie Young, Chip Hunt, Doug Weber, Tyler Shupe, Dion O'Brien, Hank Highfield, Mike Breen, Ryan Clarke, Steven Comer, David Bruce, Bill Bailey, Cody Boggard, Bradley Langhofer, Havilah Elia, John Cloe, Jeff Doll, Jared Jackson, Dale Jackson, Barb Jackson, Tim Tritch, Ann Griffin, Rob Griffin, Joe Auer, Lance Kendrick, Jim Huffman, Charlie Helton, Jim Keith, Heather Holly, Sharon Wirey, and someone with the initials W. R.?

Call to order: 7:58pm.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's report: Dion O'Brien reported that it has been a tremendous pleasure serving as IFA president for the last 4 years. He recognized the 25-year members as having made his career what it is today.

Vice President's report: Sharon Wirey reported that she is glad Dion didn't quit before his term was up so she didn't have to take over as President.

Secretary's report: no report, not present.

Treasurer's report: Mike Breen reported that for 2009 the IFA took in \$14,686.41 and spent \$16,273.09 = \$ -1,586.41 for the year; the Injured Farrier Fund paid out \$1200 during year and has balance of \$8,075.04; 2009 directory made \$1,252.80; the contest lost \$331.40; sponsorship money totaled to \$1,000; annual dinner meeting \$ -211.60; 2009 certification \$ -374.68; the Tim Byrne Fund still has \$3,300.

Committee Chair Reports

Archives: Clyde Stringer gave a slideshow presentation of the history of the IFA for the 25th anniversary.

Achievement: David Bruce presented the Clyde Stringer Award to Dr. Scott Thompson of Janssen's Veterinary Clinic. The Al Morgan Memorial Service Award went to Bill Bailey and John Vanada.

Banquet: Ann Griffin reported that next year she may require payment for the banquet with the RSVP to make sure that there are no wasted meals.

Certification: Tim Tritch reported that it has been a tough year financially for the certification. He has a facility near the Michigan line to host the next certification. Dan Child has committed to be the examiner for free.

Constitution and Bylaws: Chip Hunt reported that the secretary has missed 3 meetings and that, according to the Bylaws, Article V, can be removed from office at the BODs discretion.

*Section 11. Removal*

*Any Director may be removed from office, with or without cause, by vote of a majority of the Board of Directors present at a duly-called meeting of said Board. Another Director may be elected by and from the Members of the Association for the unexpired term of the Director removed from office. Any Director who fails to attend two consecutive duly-called meetings or fails to attend two-thirds (2/3) of the duly-called meetings within a calendar year is subject to removal.*

Dion O'Brien stated that the issue should be brought up under New Business.

Contest: Brad Langhofer reported that the contest will be held on April 9th-10th with Mitch Taylor as Judge. Mitch will judge for free + expenses only. Brad needs volunteers for the meal and clean-up duty. There will be a creative forging class. Brad encouraged members to show up and bid at the auction.

Election: Rob Griffin reported that 40 ballots were counted.

There were write-ins for the 2 Directors - Hank Highfield and Joe Auer won. Mike Breen is Treasurer. Tim Tritch is President. Rob will do the election again next year.

Motion - Sharon Wirey motioned to have the ballots destroyed. Dion O'Brien seconded. Motion carried.

Fall Clinic: Bill Bailey reported that he is looking for clinic ideas. The Tab Pigg Vettec clinic had 29 attendees on day one and 18 on day two. Thank you cards have been sent.

Hammer-ins: Heather Holly reported poor attendance at the last hammer in. It was suggested that RSVPs be requested for future hammer-ins and that we get other associations involved. Sharon Wirey stressed the need to get new members involved.

**ADVERTISING INFORMATION FOR QUARTER CLIPS BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Full page: \$165.00/year

½ page : \$85.00/year

1/3 page : \$35.00/year

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Our advertisers will be mailed one copy of our newsletter for proof and approval. Upon approval they will receive a statement for six issues of Quarter Clips publicity. Contact Julie Young (317) 502-6348 with questions or for more information.

***Indiana Farriers' Association Web Site***  
***www.indianafarriers.org***



**Terry L. Brandenburg, DVM**

275 W. 250 South  
Lebanon, IN 46052

Ph: 765-482-6261  
Fax: 765-482-6678



Thank you Dion O'Brien for the two terms of presidential service you've given the IFA. Dion stepped up to the plate four years ago during a rather volatile time of differing opinions and helped lead the IFA forward. We appreciate all you've done for the Indiana Farrier's Association.

Kentucky Horseshoeing school has moved to: 3612 Lexington Road, Richmond, Kentucky. Phone # (800) 626-5359

Bill Bailey is asking the IFA membership for input regarding the IFA fall clinic. If you have any ideas about topics or clinicians please contact him at 765-606-6052.

"FootWorks" located on Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis IN is offering an IFA discount if you mention you are a member of our association. Phone # 317-455-9175

Please note the Hoosier Horse Fair is being held a week later than usual (April 9-11) due to Easter falling on the first Sunday in April this year.

Brad Langhofer needs IFA volunteers for the Hoosier Horse Fair April 9th-11<sup>th</sup>. Members interested in taking shifts at our IFA Booth or assisting with the dinner Saturday evening should contact Brad - (574) 220-6410

On the morning of January 15<sup>th</sup>, five farriers met in Noblesville for breakfast. We had no agenda, no expectations, no plans. We just met to have a good hearty breakfast and some good talk. We discussed thrush, politics, the artificial joint, and Brad's beard. This was such a great time of fellowship that as we prepared to go our separate ways, we knew we wanted to meet again for some more food and some more camaraderie. Our next breakfast is on February 19<sup>th</sup> at Perkins in Noblesville. If you would like to join us or have any questions, feel free to contact Bill Bailey at (765) 649-6052 or (765) 606-6052.

Injured Farrier's Fund: Mike Breen reported that \$1,200 had been paid out in 2009.

Membership: Havilah Elia reported that 3 awards would be sent out - 5 years: Bonnie Hensley and Marsan Brewer; 10 years: Bradley Langhofer.

Newsletter: Julie Young reported that the last 2 issues came in under budget. She is getting 15% off at Kinkos and sponsors are helping with costs. She needs committee reports a.s.a.p.

Picnic: Julie Young reported that the picnic will be on Sept. 18th. and that she will put details on the March 17th deadline to reserve campsites in the newsletter. George Elia has volunteered to grill the meat and everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to pitch-in.

Sponsorship: Sharon Wirey reported that she has sent out forms to 179 potential sponsors, and received responses from 6. The Red Hats & Purple Chaps want to trade ads in our directories. Cave & Co. will print the directories.

Website: Chip Hunt reported that due to a technical problem it has not been updated since Oct. 7th. He is looking into the problem and will update the site very soon.

PSCAAEP: Dion O'Brien reported that he has tried to contact Adam Speicher and gotten no response. A new liaison will need to be appointed. Dr. Mark Russell stressed the importance of the Farrier Short Course for the Purdue students.

Indiana Horse Council: Dion O'Brien reported that he would have more time to be more active as the liaison.

Old business: none.

New business:

Motion- Chip Hunt motioned to remove Kevin Wyatt as Secretary. Bill Bailey seconded. Motion failed.

Jim Huffman stated the need to get new members involved. Charlie Helton suggested making a list of farriers looking for help to circulate to the horseshoeing schools.

Motion- Dion O'Brien motioned to discuss sponsorship exchange with the Red Hats & Purple Chaps at the next meeting. Lance Kendrick seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements: Bill Bailey announced that Tim Tritch's father passed away and the IFA had sent a card. Bill asked that anyone who knows of a similar event inform him so he can send a card.

Motion to adjourn - Jared Jackson. Seconded - Sharon Wirey.

Time of adjournment: 8:41pm.

## Editor's Note

I'm Pleased to announce there has been a great response from our membership regarding newsletter submissions. That's a good indication "Quarter Clips" is being read, and our association has a lot to say.

Included in this Jan./Feb. issue you will find a rebuttal to an article first published 5 years ago, in another publication, which recently appeared again – this time in the Oct./Nov. issue of "Today's ProFarrier." This article was one farrier's take on the IFA's 2004 Fall Clinic. I encourage all of you to read another farrier's opinion on pages 10–17. I believe this rebuttal accurately reflects the opinions of the majority of those IFA members who attended that fall clinic. I was one of them.

Rebuking another's interpretation is everyone's right. When done without malice and with dignity and consideration for all those involved it becomes a healthy vehicle for exchanging ideas – and encourages the growth of everyone's knowledge. It makes us think.

I adopted a little phrase many years ago that I employ often; usually with a smile. *"Never say never, or always."* So many times you just don't know what might work. Don't limit your thinking.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Julie

[crossfireforge@hotmail.com](mailto:crossfireforge@hotmail.com)

## IFA 2010 ELECTION RESULTS

Election chairman Rob Griffin reported forty votes were received for this year's election held January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at our annual general membership dinner meeting. Tim Tritch is our new IFA president and Mike Breen remains treasurer. No one was nominated for board of directors and sixteen different members were written in. Hank Highfield is our new board member and Joe Auer was re-elected to the board. Positions up for next year's nominations will be: vice president, secretary and two board of directors. Congratulations, IFA officers.

## ***I N M E M O R Y***

*Our sympathy to the Tim Tritch family for the recent loss of Tim's father and to the Wyatt's for the loss of Kevin's father in-law.*

*Longtime Mooresville Indiana farrier Steve Money died unexpectedly on Saturday November the 28th. He was an excellent horseman, and a superb forge craftsman. His shoeing technique was built on a solid foundation, yet he was always seeking new and improved ways to accomplish things. Farrier, horse trainer, riding instructor, father, husband and friend...he is missed by many.*

~Tana M<sup>c</sup>Elhinney



## ***REMINDERS***

Dues are due! If you haven't renewed your membership for 2010 this will be the last IFA mailing you will receive. To ensure your information will appear in the 2010 IFA directory, membership dues need to be received no later than March 1st. There is a renewal form enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience.

Those IFA members wishing to camp picnic weekend (the fall picnic is Saturday, Sept. 18th) please remember reservations at Horseman's Campground, Brown County State Park, can be made six months prior to date of arrival. Reservations cannot be made before this date but may be made afterward. September sites at Brown County can be hard to obtain; your best chance at getting a good one involves contacting the reservation center **March 17<sup>th</sup>** for those arriving **Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**.

By Phone: 1-866-622-6746, or Online: [www.camp.in.gov](http://www.camp.in.gov)

Most IFA campers will be on the north end of Horseman's Campground, in electrical. If you have questions or need more information feel free to contact me.

Julie Young, IFA Picnic Chairman [crossfireforge@hotmail.com](mailto:crossfireforge@hotmail.com)

# 317-502-6348



**Indiana Association of Equine Practitioners**

IAEP 2010 Spring Meeting

**Speaker: Tracey Turner, DVM**

Subject: Equine lameness involving the distal limb

When: Wednesday, March 3, 2010 8 a.m.- 4p.m.

Location: Hamilton County Fair grounds  
Noblesville, Indiana

Fees: \$50.00 Pre-registration fees include luncheon

IFA Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Congratulations to IFA Award Recipients**

The 2009 IFA achievement and membership awards were presented at our annual dinner meeting held January 9<sup>th</sup> 2010, at Indiana Downs, Shelbyville, IN.

Dr. Scott Thompson received the 2009 Clyde Stringer education award, exceeding the IFA's definition of the recipient. Dr. Thompson has indeed "gone out of his way to promote education and communication between veterinarians and farriers and shared his knowledge and experience for the good of all."

This year a tied vote awarded both Bill Bailey and John Vanada the Al Morgan memorial service award for their dedicated service to the IFA. We appreciate what you two have contributed to our association.

Membership awards are based on consecutive years of membership dues paid. Marsan Brewer, Bonnie Hensley and Dave Hudson were honored with short-sleeve polo shirts for their five year membership and Brad Langhofer was awarded a long-sleeve polo shirt for his ten year membership to the IFA.

Welcome New Members

Wayland Arney #380  
Camby, IN

Tyler Shupe #381  
Martinsville, IN

Steve Comer #382  
Rushville, IN

*I have enjoyed my time with the IFA thus far and look forward to many more years with the organization. I was pleasantly surprised and honored to receive the Al Morgan Memorial Service Award at the banquet this January. I really appreciate the privilege of receiving such recognition.*

*Thank you,  
Bill Bailey*

December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009

Matt Gillis CJF  
Managing Editor – Today's ProFarrier  
1317 E. 300 N.  
Warsaw, Indiana 46582

Dear Matt,

Having read the Oct/Nov 2009 issue of "Today's ProFarrier", I felt that your "Rock and Roll My Ass" reprint deserved some explanation and rebuttal. I am submitting the attached document as "input" and "something to share", for the Mail section of your publication.

Sincerely,

Mike Breen CJF

cc: Scott Davidson CJF  
Dr. Ric Redden DVM  
Dr. Scott Morrison DVM  
Dr. Michael L. Steward DVM  
Gene Ovnicsek  
Craig Trnka CJF  
Dick Fanguy CJF  
Julie Young CJF - Indiana Farriers Association Newsletter  
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## **AAEP Farrier Short Course Program**

**O**n Saturday, February 20, 2010, the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine's Equine Club will be hosting the AAEP Farrier Short Course for veterinary students. The program is sponsored by Purina Mills and it consists of an informative one-day podiatry lecture by an AAEP member veterinarian and a Certified Journeyman Farrier from the American Farrier's Association. Dr. Scott Pleasant and Brian Buckner will be this year's lecturers.

The goals of the course are to emphasize the importance of the veterinarian / farrier relationship; to review the basics of hoof biomechanics and lower limb anatomy of the horse; to discuss balance and shoeing evaluation; to familiarize students with various types of horse shoes and their different uses.

Farriers from across Indiana are invited to attend and help instruct students during the practical segment of the program. The hands-on segment will provide farriers the opportunity to discuss hoof care and shoe fitting, while demonstrating necessary safety procedures while working around a horse. The farrier will also demonstrate and then supervise shoe removal and trimming by the students performed on dead limbs.

### **Tentative Schedule for Saturday February 20, 2010:**

8:00 – 8:30 am Welcome and Introductions  
8:30 – 1:00 pm Lectures by Dr. Pleasant and Mr. Buckner (Break at 10:00 am)  
1:00 – 2:00 pm LUNCH  
2:00 – 5:00 pm Demonstration and Wet Lab

**PUSVM Equine Club contact person:**

**Leighanne Erickson, Class of 2011, 765-414-8009**

Matt,

**I**reread your article "Rock and Roll My Ass" in the Oct/Nov 2009 issue. I say reread, because I read it 5 years ago, when it was printed in another publication. If you're going to continue to use this article, maybe you should refresh it a little bit; add a little history on the animal pictured, maybe a little follow up on the animals treated. What was the impression of other farriers and vets at the clinic? Has anyone had success with gluing on wood shoes or "clogs"? Put some research with your reprint. It's been five years. I can help you out with some of the above information. The clinic mentioned in the article took place November 6, 2004. The Indiana Farriers Association hosted the clinic. You were president of the association at that time, and took part in the board decision to hold the clinic. You remained president of our association thru 2005, and a member of our association thru 2006. After 2006, you no longer renewed your membership. There were 29 people who paid to attend the clinic. Those 29 consisted of 8 Certified Journeyman Farriers, 7 Certified Farriers, 11 farriers, and 3 vets. The atmosphere of the clinic was very informal with plenty of give and take, question and answer, and discussion.

The animal in the picture is named Valentine. She belonged to a client of mine. Valentine had always been a low grade chronic laminitic animal. On 10/25/04, Valentine was found cast under a stall partition. Her injuries consisted of extensive abrasions on her left side, damage to her ribcage, damage to her left eye, her left front carpus had a two inch by four inch piece of skin missing, with ligaments, tendons, and part of the joint exposed. Skin grafts were required. Six days after she was admitted to the clinic, you snapped your picture of Valentine, in her just glued on wooden roller motion shoes. She was in some pain from her injuries, and sedated. It's said a picture is worth a thousand words. I think a picture can also be very deceptive if that is its' intent. The hoof- pastern angle on the right front looks pretty good though, and in your blow up of her hooves, it appears like she's using the mechanics of the shoe to achieve that angle. The attending veterinarian felt that the wooden shoes were beneficial during the first few weeks of Valentine's recovery, in that they allowed Valentine options on how she could stand and move on her sore limbs.

The shoes did not need to be reset. Valentine remained at the clinic, until she had healed enough to return home on 1/10/05. Valentine was visited almost daily by the farm manager, throughout the length of her stay at the clinic. After her return home, I saw Valentine every six weeks on the regular farm trim schedule. She seemed as comfortable and content as any aged equine. She was a companion to other equines on the farm, until she was euthanized on August 10, 2006 at the age of 28. I asked the owner for some history on Valentine. Her simple response was that she was a beloved pet.

The yearling paint horse that was worked on at the clinic had a grade 3-4 club foot. His check ligament had been cut, but the club foot was not improving. The clinician shod the front feet with his own brand of aluminum roller motion shoe. The local farrier continued to reset the shoes until they were worn out. The foot improved. The horse was shod with conventional shoes, trained, and sold at age three. The local farrier said the club foot was a barely perceptible grade 1 club when the horse was sold. There is no history of the horse after being sold.

The third horse worked on was a hunter jumper broodmare. The mare had been purchased out of Minnesota and came with a wide toe crack from ground to hairline. She couldn't walk without shoes on the front. The local farrier who brought her in had her shod in straight bars. She was fairly comfortable, but he could still see the crack move when she walked. The clinician shod her front hooves with conventional open heel shoes. A wide perforated aluminum plate was fabricated to fit across the crack. A layer of felt was placed in the crack and then acrylic was applied to the front of the hoof. The plate was pushed down into the acrylic and then acrylic was applied over it. The local farrier said the foot was more stable, and the mare was more comfortable with the patch.

After discussion, if the client still wants a product that I feel is unnecessary, but will not be detrimental to the horse, Plan B kicks in. Here are the perimeter measurements of your horse's hooves. There is a farrier supply on the east side of town, right off the interstate, call and order, or go pick it up. We'll try it. No cost to me. Charge for time on return trip. I might find out I like the product if I've never used it before. Another option in the "tool bag".

95% of the time I shoe with the same basic floor tools in my box that were there thirty years ago. I replace the tools as needed but they're still the same tools. Most of my shoeing is basic, conventional, traditional, everyday, whatever you want to call it shoeing. I'd like to say traditional, but I don't know what the cut off date was, when all new shoeing products, techniques, and shoes became non-traditional. Heart bars, straight bars, roller motion, bubble, wedge, banana shoes, patton bar shoes, they've all been new at least once or twice in the history of shoeing. What are your criteria for making them OK? How did they pass the test? How do you arrive at the opinions in your article? You say: "I think there are basically three courses of action one can take when confronted with, these supposedly, new products and ideas. One can embrace them, ignore them, or fight them." How about adding a fourth, research them. You said: "fighting means work". Well, research means work also. A little research would make for a more interesting, informative, and useful magazine article. I subscribe to three farrier publications. I'm looking for information that helps me in my profession. I'd like information that helps me decide for myself what products or ideas are worth a try. I don't want to read about wages lost by the writer, or all the clients that are leaving him, or be preached to about the sad state of farriers in America, and as much as I don't want to read these things once, I want to read them even less the second time.

Print it all or not at all.

Mike Breen CJF  
Indiana

No strained back from holding a sedated horse for gluing. No nail drags from trying to nail a "sedated horse". Adjustments to rocker can be made with rasp without removing shoe. The shoes were also proposed as an inexpensive treatment.

That also makes sense to me, even more so in today's economy. Material list includes screws, wood, impression material, and some carving skills. I have not yet used wood shoes, but if the situation arises, I wouldn't hesitate to try them. I also wouldn't hesitate to ask for help from those who have already used the shoes. In our association information and help is given freely. I'd be willing to bet I'd have several offers for someone to "be there" to help.

Most farriers are pretty good at improvising on their own, or deciding what products or techniques work. There are extremes at both ends ranging from: "What's good for one is good for all" to "Aw shucks, grandpa never did it that way". Your article made it seem like we farriers as a group are not competent to sort out good and bad products and techniques for ourselves. I disagree.

As to your ulcer growing every time a vet suggests a shoe to a client that will cure Poco. That doesn't happen here. Vets and farriers in my area work together. Vets diagnose the problem. The vet and the farrier discuss options for trimming, shoeing, and follow up. With today's technology, digital radiographs can be sent via Email, and almost everyone has a cell phone. Consultation in either direction is usually a piece of cake. Vets attend farrier clinics. Farriers attend Vet clinics. It's a team effort. I live in the same state as you Matt, two hours away. I've spoken to farriers and vets from your area of the state. They work as a team. Why isn't that working for you?

A client suggesting products for Poco is another issue. Pros and cons can be discussed. Need can be discussed. Cost can be discussed.

The fourth horse worked on was a young quarter horse stallion named Hickory. Hickory was well bred, had been shod, and was being worked. In July 2003, 16 months before the clinic, Hickory somehow caught his left hind foot and completely removed the shoe, with the entire hoof capsule attached. He was cared for at the clinic, and had grown out a new, somewhat atrophied hoof capsule. It had the appearance of a small foot with chronic laminitis. Hickory limped at a walk, but could gallop in the field. The clinician used some acrylics to build up the foot and glued on a roller motion type aluminum shoe. The attending veterinarian felt that Hickory moved more freely with the shoe. Hickory became a pet project at the host clinic. Farriers were in and out of the clinic all the time, and it seemed that everyone always wanted to take a look at Hickory. The history of his treatment was well documented with photos, radiographs, and text. Hickory was well mannered, and appeared happy with all the attention and care that was lavished upon him. Hickory's foot never became "normal". The attending veterinarian felt that the foot didn't have sufficient blood supply. Hickory moved to a ranch out west. The foot remained painful, and Hickory was euthanized in June of 2007, 4 ½ years after losing his hoof capsule.

At the start of your article you wrote: "I'm ashamed to admit that I paid money to see these ridiculous, Red Green show reject of an idea, these insults to common sense, applied to the feet of this poor beast." I did a little survey work for you Matt. I contacted all of the clinic participants that I could still locate and asked them three questions:

Did you consider the clinic a beneficial learning experience?

21 yes

Would you pay to attend the same clinic again if it was offered?

20 yes - 1 possibly

Have you glued on wooden shoes, or can you think of a future scenario where you might glue on wooden shoes? 13 yes - 5 already have - 1 possibly - 2 no

I did not include you in the survey, since it is pretty obvious from your reprint that your feelings on the topic haven't changed in five years. Other than you, I was able to contact 21 clinic participants. The other 7 I could not contact, they no longer have an up to date tel# on the IFA or AFA website. If interested, contact me for the names and numbers of those I was able to reach.

Some comments during the survey:

“I use them on babies. Cut them out of 1x4s. Only thing is they’re slicker than snot. Found that if I slather some craft glue on the bottom of the shoe and then stick it in a bucket of sand, it takes care of the problem. “

“I glued them on a sore, laminitic pony that was hard to catch when he was sound. Client called 10 or 12 days later and said he was never so glad to see that pony gallop away from him when he tried to catch him in the pasture.”

“I would probably glue on something aluminum.”

“I probable wouldn’t glue on wood, because I don’t carry a router or wood working tools on the truck.”

“We use them at our clinic a lot. Give Matt Dr. O’Grady’s website address.”

“Same exact article he printed 5 yrs ago, that’s a shame”

“If it helps the horse, who cares what material goes on the horse, or how it’s attached.”

“I used to glue wood on babies feet, but now I glue on the small plastic shoes because they give better traction”

“I was at a loss as to what to do for my client’s horse. Suggested they send him to a clinic down south. He came home with wooden shoes and recovered nicely. My client is pleased to be riding again.”

It seems that everyone I contacted was pleased with the clinic, would return for the same clinic, and was at least keeping glued-on-wooden shoes as a treatment option.

Further into your article you mentioned, “It is becoming increasingly difficult to debate shoeing theories without someone getting their panties in a knot.” It’s also difficult if you don’t open your mouth. You didn’t voice any opinion or offer any objection to the clinician at the clinic. You and another farrier did grill the clinician’s assistant while he trimmed the back feet of a horse. It was in another room away from the crowd. Some heard it, some were embarrassed by it. I know one farrier even sent you an E-mail to let you know she thought it was inappropriate.

At our latest fall clinic a product rep came with his product. I had used the products in the past, but had become disenchanted with them because they didn’t seem to be working correctly. When the clinic was announced, I wasn’t real enthused, but I attended. I signed up for a dead leg and went through the product application process step by step. Guess what? It wasn’t the product that was failing, I wasn’t using it correctly. That product line is an option in my “tool bag” again. At that clinic, a farrier showed up late for the hands on, and had an open discussion with the clinician. The farrier used a different product, because he didn’t have luck with the clinicians’ product. They talked about how the product was applied. The procedure was correct. The clinician and farrier bantered back and forth, with the pros and cons of both products discussed. The clinician finally said, “If your product works for you, then use your product.” End of discussion. No one was upset. The whole group listened to the discussion, and picked up some useful information on both products.

They say there’s a sucker born every day. My rebirth rate is off the charts. I’m a sucker for new stuff. I’ve got a whole cabinet of new stuff in my shop gathering dust. They didn’t work for me. I’ve also got some new products as options in my “tool bag”, some at different depths than others. I don’t know if I have a Nolan hoof plate, but I have a plate that closes like a muffler clamp, a muffler clamp, acrylics, piano wire, teeny screws, a small burr instead of a small drill bit, small drill bits, teeny washers for lacing, small nails, sheet metal, fiberglass cloth, hardware cloth, etc. I’ve either patched a crack or seen a crack patched with all these materials at some time in my career. If I told you I patch a crack a year I’d be lying, but if I have to patch a crack, I’m pretty confident I can handle it. If I can’t, I know someone who can. The “new shoes”, I’ve got some of them as options in my” tool bag”, some right on top. The one I use the most, I don’t use for its’ intended purpose, but it works for my purpose. I have some wooden “clog” models in my shop. I got them at a clinic several years ago. The vet giving the clinic proposed attaching them with drywall screws instead of nailing. An acute laminitic horse could bear weight on the shoe while it was being applied. Makes sense to me.