

2013 International Equine Conference Presenters

Key Note Presenters:



Victoria McCullough

Victoria McCullough is the Chairman of Chesapeake Petroleum and the Founder of The Davis McCullough Foundation. She is a graduate of Ohio State University's School of Engineering.

Victoria sits on the Board of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Hospital and is a Trustee of the Schepens Eye Research Institute.

“To own one of the finest companies in America has taught me that the pressure to live up to my Father’s legendary reputation of quality of product and delivery with integrity and accountability defines a lifestyle. That accomplishment demands responsibility to give back of both heart as well as a resource and it is that journey that has led me to follow an insatiable desire to enrich, enlighten and protect the lives of Children and Animals. At no point on the road I have traveled have I found a greater challenge than the circumstances that face America’s equines and its implications to global food safety. It is quite simple to donate to any compelling charity and find fulfillment – Yet to join an army and soldier change for a Nation is daunting, frustrating and exhausting but there can be no greater reward then to build the platform for change and see it through to a positive outcome of encouragement for a Kind and Compassionate America”

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State Senator Joe Abruzzo

Elected to the Florida Senate in 2012, Senator Joseph Abruzzo currently represents the 25th District in Palm Beach County. He served in the Florida House of Representatives for two terms from 2008 to 2012. As Representative he authored a record of 20 bills that were passed into law. Through the success of working with constituents like Victoria McCullough, he was able to implement harsher penalties for individuals who slaughtered and consumed horses for horse meat while also expanding violations related to animal cruelty.

With an in-depth understanding of economics and private business enterprise, Senator Abruzzo is currently appointed as the alternating chair of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee and also serves as vice-chair of both the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee and the Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee.

Since 2005, Joseph Abruzzo served as a Port Security Specialist in the United States Coast Guard Reserve and was recently honorably discharged in March of 2013. Senator Abruzzo is also an active member of the Palm Beach Country Legislative Delegation and previously served as the chair of the delegation. He has been appointed by Governor Scott to serve as a current member of the Florida Public Service Nominating Council and was a former Commissioner on the Health Care District Board of Palm Beach County.

Senator Abruzzo is passionately active in civic and charitable affairs. He is a founding member of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, part of the Heroes' Circle for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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Presenters listed in alphabetical order



Scott Beckstead began working for the Humane Society of the United States in June, 2008, and currently serves as Senior State Director for Oregon. His first duties for HSUS was to help establish The Duchess Sanctuary, an 1,120-acre refuge for horses near Roseburg, Oregon. He maintains a close relationship with The Duchess Sanctuary and assists in their efforts to rescue and place horses in need.

Scott Beckstead

Prior to coming to work for HSUS, he practiced law on the central Oregon coast. His practice included a specialized interest in Animal Law, and he co-authored the first casebook on that subject in 2000. He handled a wide variety of animal law cases, including an Oregon case that resulted in the largest jury verdict in American legal history for the intentional killing of companion animals.

In 2002, Beckstead was elected Mayor of Waldport, Oregon, a position he held for five years. He also served on community boards and committees to address a broad array of civic issues and programs.

In October 2008, Beckstead organized the Oregon Horse Welfare Coalition, a gathering of horsepeople from throughout the state of Oregon to address horse welfare questions. The developed programs to help horse owners and rescue organizations struggling to take care of their horses, including a hay bank and foster home network. He served as an Equine Specialist for The HSUS, and continues to assist the organization in its ongoing efforts to ban the slaughter of American horses for human consumption.

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Although he takes a special interest in horses, Beckstead also devotes time on any other animal welfare issues that arise in Oregon and elsewhere for the HSUS. He has worked on legislation in Oregon to address the issues of horse abandonment, puppy mills, cockfighting, shark finning, and private ownership of dangerous wild animals. In the 2013 Oregon legislative session, he worked to pass legislation regulating the chaining and tethering of dogs, and also a ban on the cruel practice of tripping horses for sport and entertainment.



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Michael Blowen

Michael Blowen founded Old Friends, a retirement farm for Thoroughbreds, in 2003 after it became known that Ferdinand, 1986 Kentucky Derby winner and 1987 Horse of the Year, had been “disposed of” in a Japanese slaughterhouse. Old Friends is Blowen’s third career. For two decades he was movie critic and arts writer for the Boston Globe, and prior to that he taught film at Emerson College and Boston University. Blowen mucked out stalls and hot-walked horses for trainer Carlos Figueroa at Suffolk Downs in the early morning, before reporting for his newspaper job. He imagined that learning about racing from the ground up would help his handicapping. It didn’t. Instead, he fell in love with the horses. After retiring from the Globe he moved to Kentucky to work as Operations Director for the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Two years later he started Old Friends, one of the only Thoroughbred retirement facilities that accepts stallions.

At Old Friends, the non-profit Thoroughbred Retirement Center in Georgetown, KY, the horses may not be racing anymore, but they are winners every day. Old Friends now cares for 117 horses, many of them stallions whose racing and breeding careers came to an end. A “living history museum of horse racing”, the farm attracts nearly 20,000 tourists annually that get up close and personal with such stars of the turf as Breeders’ Cup Champion Gulch, Eclipse-Award winner Sunshine Forever, Two-time Whitney Handicap winner Commentator, and millionaire gelding Arson Squad.

That discovery that Ferdinand died in a slaughterhouse gave the organization even more impetus. “We went from getting five emails a day to hundreds,” notes Blowen. We knew such a death should never happen again, and so the plan became to bring at-risk racehorses--those whose racing and breeding careers had come to an end--to Old Friends, provide them with the dignified retirement they deserve, and invite the public to visit. By promoting these one-time celebrated horses through a campaign of education and tourism, we draw attention to all retired Thoroughbreds and all equines in need. Old Friends has repatriated six horses from overseas: Sunshine Forever, Creator, Fraise, Ogygian, Wallenda and Geri.

We take exceptional pride in our pensioned champions, among them one of the last great son of Damascus, Ogygian, Kiri's Clown, and stakes winner You and I. These champions live alongside retirees like Swan's Way and Escapedfromnewyork, horses who never earned much more than our love and respect. Old Friends is also home to many deserving mares and geldings.

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But every horse at Old Friends has a story to tell, and visitors to the farms can hear them all while learning about racing and ways to help with Thoroughbred aftercare. Racing fans in New York can also visit some Old Friends champs. Our first satellite division, Old Friends at Cabin Creek: The Bobby Frankel Division, is just a short drive from the Saratoga racecourse and is home to biggest loser Zippy, Travers Stakes winners Thunder Rumble and Will's Way, GR1 winner Crusader Sword, and many others.

Our guests come to visit a few ex-racehorses, but they often leave having been touched by the heart of a Thoroughbred hero.

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Ketaki Deshpande

Ketaki was born and brought up in India. A country known for its wildlife, along with cows roaming the streets, the mahouts riding their elephants, wild monkeys on rooftops and much more uniqueness depending on the city you are in. She grew up listening to stories of her grandfather interacting with the British officers and his love for horse races, which inspired her sibling to learn riding. She envies her older brother who got to learn horse riding at the military barracks while she held on to the horse treats across the stables away from harms length heeding moms instructions and much to her brothers delight.

To follow her love and passion for animals she broke away from her family legacy of doctors and chose to complete her Bachelors in Zoology from Pune University, India, followed by a Masters in Health Sciences (Genetics) in 2007. After which she enrolled in a second Masters in Forensic Sciences/PhD in Biology dual degree at Florida International University, Miami, Florida.

She currently works along side her mentor Dr. DeEtta Mills on horse slaughter cases in Broward and Miami Dade counties, Florida. During her PhD term she hopes to work on bettering equine forensic techniques. She recently worked on the Big Summit wild horse herd inhabiting the Ochoco National forest. In wild horses she is looking at a genetic basis to odor dependent mate selection in an attempt to increase mate choice and genetic diversity to save these American icons.

On her off days, over weekends she works around her mentor's horses to be close to them and also to be able to understand their recognition cues prior to field studies. Her driving force for research with horses is " I don't want to own these horses they must be free in the wild, I wish people would learn to love and save them as if they were their own."

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Marlene Dodge

Valley View Ranch Equine Rescue, Founded and operated by Marlene Dodge, Marlene is a recently retired 24-year Professional Firefighter/Police Officer with the State Of California.

The Ranch is located in Central California in the town of King City, Marlene cares for up to 75 horses at any given time.

The horses are pulled out of the slaughter feed lot in Fallon Nevada, Marlene has been involved with well over 1500 rescued horses from this one feed lot alone. Her and the formidable team had been at this for 24 years as a private rescue until finally applying and getting approved as a 501(3) Public Charity in 2009, having never learned the word or attitude of quitting, even when the odds were defiantly stacked against them.

Valley View Ranch Equine Rescues feed, supplies, and care have been supplied by the ranch with the help of many volunteers.

Valley View Ranch Equine Rescue has adopted to adopters in Germany, Maine, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Utah, not to mention many in California. VVRER's is a daunting adoption process and the horse's wellbeing is at the forefront when screening adopters. Horses remain at the ranch until they are adopted and no horse is "voted off the island" so to speak.

Marlene has been actively rescuing horses for at least 24 years and has a 30+ year history in the horse industry. She has trained, shown and competed in most of the Western US , worked on cattle ranches, worked on Thoroughbred ranches, managed Arabian horse ranches, , basically lived and breathed horses most of her life. Her concept of "training" horses comes from many years of observing the basics of horse instincts and interaction. Along with VVRWER's numerous volunteer trainers from all over the world (using mostly Monty Roberts advanced students) VVRER has improved the lives of countless horses and horse owners.

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Monica Driver

Monica Driver was born with the gene which drives some people to be around horses. Although thoroughbreds came later, she grew up riding and caring for wonderful backyard horses. In 1979, living on a farm in upstate NY, she bought her first thoroughbred mare and luck was with her as two of the initial mares became G1 producers and another became a multiple stakes producer and 3 time NY State Champion Broodmare. The farm was home to 5 broodmares.

There was a different philosophy as there was no culling. The mares were carefully selected and none of the mares were sold. All lived out their lives at the farm in NY or with a partner in KY.

Now breeding 4th generation progeny, Monica formed Mosaic Racing Stable, a handshake racing partnership formed with the idea that the needs of the horse would come first at all times.

Training the young horses and giving others a break in Aiken, SC led to logical step of taking advantage of the talented riders and trainers in the area in all disciplines and starting in advance to prepare the thoroughbreds for a career after racing.

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Dr. Tricia Dyk

After completing her doctorate in Human Development in 1990 she has developed a broad background in social psychology and leadership development. Her specializations in evaluation assessment and research methods, with certifications in personality assessments, have enhanced the development of a line of research focusing on emotional intelligence.

Tricia has taught leadership development and group dynamics at the graduate and undergraduate level for over ten years, participated in national leadership fellow development programs, helped launch a community-based leadership development collaboration, and in 2006 assumed the role of Director of the Center for Leadership Development (CFLD) in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Located in the heart of the Bluegrass, the “Horse Capital of the World”, the CFLD is seeking to become the premiere center for the intersection of Equine and Leadership training and research.

The CFLD has been conducting EGLE workshops and course components for the UK Equine Management and Turner Leadership Academy undergraduate students and Community & Leadership Development graduate students. Tricia was recently awarded the prestigious Fulbright-Masaryk University Distinguished Chair in Social Studies in the Czech Republic for 2013-14 by the US State Department.

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RT Fitch

R.T. Fitch, author, writer, blogger and long-time equine advocate first gained his insight into the soul of wild ones as a marine mammal trainer at Hawaii's Sea Life Park in the early '70s. Intrigued by the connection to humans, who in most cases are abusers, Fitch carried his love for the spirit of pure freedom to equines or "pasture dolphins" who found their way into his heart through his wife and award winning equine photographer, Terry Fitch.

Together they have been publicly and actively involved in the rescue of and advocacy for America's Equines; from rescuing horses and donkeys from the ravages of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, protesting on their behalf on the steps of the White House, witnessing their abuse under the heavy hand of the BLM or fighting in court for the freedom of America's wild equines the Fitch's have been there.



R.T. and Terry have traveled from the plains of Outer Mongolia to the peaks of Tibet's Mount Everest to learn more of the struggles of the worlds' equines and to share the story of their findings and observations with advocates from around the world

Terry and R.T. live on a small ranch north of Houston, TX where they enjoy the company of their rescued horses, dog and cats as R.T. volunteers his spare time to serve on the Board of Directors of Habitat for Horses, President and co-founder of Wild Horse Freedom Federation and supporter of Equine Welfare Alliance and many other groups in their efforts to enlighten the public on the need to secure the future welfare and well-being of America's equines for generations to come.

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**Dr. Lester Friedlander,
DVM**

Dr. Lester Castro Friedlander is an Animal Rights and Welfare Activist and an Environmentalist. He is a Former New York State Horse Racing and Wagering Board Veterinarian. He is also a Former USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service, Supervisory Veterinary Medical Officer and he was also The USDA Veterinary Trainer of the Year.

He was raised on a farm in Kerhonkson, N.Y. which is in the Catskill Mountains. When he was going to college he worked for The Ulster County Health Department during the Holidays and Summers as a Health Inspector, inspecting Restaurants, Resorts and Migrant Labor Camps. Some of the restaurants he inspected were in Woodstock, N.Y. and also a field off Glasco Turnpike called The Peter Pan Farm, where on weekends they would sell food and have rock concerts. This was the summer of 1968. It got so big that Rock Promoters in the Summer of 1969 moved it to White Lake, N.Y. in Sullivan County. This is where the Woodstock Rock Festival started. Being a Public Health Restaurant Inspector he got interested in the field of Public Health.

He is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) Fraternity and President of Citizens Against Equine Slaughter www.noequineslaughter.org

Past Member:

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- National Association of Federal Veterinarians, (NAFV), Board of Directors, 1991-1992
- American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, (AAVLD)
- American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians, (AAFHV)
- United States Animal Health Association, (USAHA)
- Lions International
- USDA FSIS, Northeast Regional Health and Safety Committee, 1985-1994.

Awards and Publications:

- USDA FSIS Certificates of Merit and/or Commendation, 1987-1995

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- USDA Veterinary Trainer of the Year, 1987
- Who's Who in Veterinary Science and Medicine, 2nd Edition
- US News and World Report, "Raising Boxcars Out in the Barn." March 18, 1996.
- Co-Author, "Accumulation of 2, 8, Dihydroxyadenine in Bovine Liver, Kidneys and Lymph Nodes," "Journal of Veterinary Pathology," 1991.
- Author, "Mast Cell Tumor found in Bovine Hearts," NAFV, "The Federal Veterinarian,"1991.

Guest lecturer:

- National Veterinary Service Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, "Tuberculosis Epidemiology Course," 1988 and 1989.
- Texas A & M University, College of Veterinary Medicine, USDA Veterinary Training Center, College Station, Texas. "Accumulation of 2, 8, Dihydroxyadenine in Bovine Liver, Kidneys and Lymph Nodes," 1991
- Faculty Member and Lecturer, 17th Annual International Symposium," The Environmental Aspects of Chronic Diseases,
- Finding the Causes and Cures with Drug Free Treatment, June 10-13, 1999, Dallas, Texas. Sponsored by the American Environmental Health Foundation, Inc.
- Faculty Member and Lecturer, 21st Annual International Symposium on Man and His Environment in Health and Disease,
- "Molds and Mycotoxins in the Food Chain." June 19-22, 2003, Dallas, Texas. Sponsored by the American Environmental Health Foundation and The American Academy of Environmental Medicine.
- Speaker at The Animal Rights National Conference, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2013.
- In November 1996, I was contacted by Lawyers who represented Oprah Winfrey and Howard Lyman to be an Expert Witness on "Mad Cow Disease," also known as "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy."

Board of Directors:

- International Fund for Horses, named to The Board of Advisors,
- Scientific Affairs, USA and Canada.
- Manes and Tails Organization
- Advisory Board Member in "Saving Americas Horses," The Movie.
- Advisory Board Member, ProtectMustangs.org
- Advisory Board Member, Fishfeeling.org

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Cynthia Hartzell

Cindy Hartzell is certified in the following areas: EAGALA Equine Specialist, Equine Facilitated Learning Level 2, Animal Acupressure Massage Therapy and Equine Aroma-therapy. She is a Reiki Master Teacher and a member in good standing with the International Association of Reiki Professionals. In 2012 Cindy became involved with the wild mustangs and Hidden Valley Wild Horse Protection Fund and is currently on a member of the Board of Directors and the herd manager of their rescued mustangs.

For 25 years, Cindy has worked as a veterinary technician. She is a co-owner of a veterinary practice and for over 13 years has managed it along with her veterinarian husband.

Cindy has done presentations of equine assisted therapy for therapist and social workers in local communities, as well at the Feather River College. She has even co-facilitated EAP demonstrations for psychotherapist visiting from Taiwan. In addition, Cindy teaches Equine Wellness and Equine assisted coaching workshops nationwide.

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John Holland

John Holland is an author, free-lance writer and an industrial consultant in the field of intelligent automation and knowledge engineering.

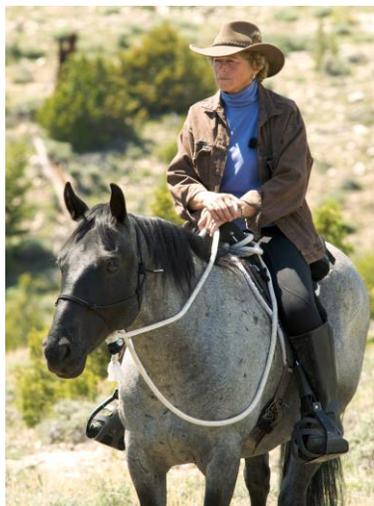
He is the author of three books with his most recent work being "Designing Autonomous Mobile Robots; Inside the Mind of an Intelligent Machine". He also holds numerous patents in robotics, fiber optics and radio telemetry.

John is an advocate for horse welfare and humane treatment. He frequently writes on the subject of horse slaughter from his small farm in the mountains of Virginia, where he lives with his wife, Sheilah, and their 13 equines.

Holland is co-founder and president of the Equine Welfare Alliance and serves as senior analyst for Americans Against Horse Slaughter.

In 2005, he received the annual "Heart and Soul" award from United Animal Nations for his volunteer work against horse slaughter.

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Ginger Kathrens

Ginger Kathrens is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, an award-winning author, and the Executive Director of the Cloud Foundation, a non-profit organization named for the newborn colt she documented tottering out of the trees in front of her camera over 18 years ago. Her revealing journey with Cloud and the rest of the Pryor Mountain wild horses of Montana is told in three acclaimed PBS: NATURE documentaries: *Cloud: Wild Stallion of the Rockies*, *Cloud's Legacy: The Wild Stallion Returns*, and *Cloud: Challenge of the Stallions*. She has written three companion books about Cloud and dozens of magazine articles about wild horses and the struggle to protect them in the wild. Cloud's story represents the only continuing documentation of a wild animal from birth in our Hemisphere and Kathrens' work has been compared to Jane Goodall's experiences with Chimpanzees.

Ginger lives on her ranch in southern Colorado with her Spanish mustangs Flint and Sky, as well as her Pryor mustangs, Trace and Sax, and new arrival, Swasey, a yearling from the Swasey Mountains of Utah. Ginger could not forget this distressed colt whom she documented being rounded up, then stranded alone in a capture corral. Her solution was to adopt him!



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Kokal Family, Horse Tenders, LLC

While being homeschooled in rural New Hampshire, Kris and Nik Kokal developed an affinity for horses and unique abilities to both communicate and train horses. They co-founded HorseTenders LLC, a Kokal family run, owned, and operated business that promotes strong core family values. As HorseTenders, they developed their successful and totally non-punitive, “Developing Mettle without Metal”™ training approaches and methodologies which continue to garner both

national and international acclaim and recognition.

“Developing Mettle without Metal”™ training approaches uses no bits, metal shoes or spurs. Kris and Nik utilize their non-punitive training approaches and methodologies with every horse they train be it wild, domestic, abused or yearling.

HorseTenders Horsemanship defines, and then integrates, each individual horse’s natural learning style and abilities to facilitate training. Kris and Nik have redefined what natural horsemanship should mean to both horse and owner.

Kris & Nik decided to test their skills on a national stage. They applied and were both selected to participate in the 2008 and 2009 Extreme Mustang Makeover (EMM) where only 100 trainers are selected to each train a wild American Mustang in only 100 days and then compete in a national competition at the prestigious Will Rogers Equestrian Center in Ft. Worth, Texas. Their non-punitive

training methods proved so successful that in 2009, Kris and Nik were asked to be part of a documentary that followed several EMM trainers through the 100 day process. The documentary, “Wild Horse Wild Ride” became an award winning feature length movie. Kris and Nik’s unique training methods garnered notice and solidified their dedication to the plight of the American mustang.



Kris & Nik Kokal continue to promote quality horsemanship by providing a full complement of services ranging from fully customized natural horse training, premium barefoot trimming, and Equine Dentistry from their family farm in Greenfield, NH. Nik Kokal is a third year veterinary student at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Upon completion of his Veterinary studies, Nik hopes to rejoin his brother in New Hampshire enhancing the scope and

breadth of HorseTenders LLC equine services.

In addition to HorseTenders LLC, the Kokal family dedicated itself to helping both mustangs and humans. Andrej Kokal founded the HorseTenders Mustang Foundation, a federally recognized 501(c)3

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non-profit. He is enjoined with his wife of 30 years, Stephanie, and their three sons as they share their passion for securing a better future for the American mustang while improving the human condition. Andrej brings his talents, energy, and passion to promote the welfare of the American Mustang and supporting US service members and their families. He is a 24 year veteran of the United States Air Force as a combat proven Fighter Pilot, Instructor, Mission Commander and lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of America. Andrej understands the challenges military servicemen, servicewomen, and their families face returning home from military service, especially combat. HMF has developed truly unique and successful programs to unite both human and Mustang on powerful paths of mutual discovery.



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Carl Mrozek

I'm an independent journalist/videographer specializing in wildlife. I have an ABD (all but dissertation) in Environmental Science & Wildlife Management from SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry Syracuse, MFA in Film & TV Syracuse University, BA English Lit Media & Environmental Sciences SUNY Buffalo. As a videographer I am a regular contributor to CBS Sunday Morning and to The Weather Channel and sporadically to CNN & NBC News, PBS, Nat Geo & Discovery Channels..... I'm also a correspondent for several national publications like TV Technology, Production Update, Real Screen Magazine, DV.

I am in the midst of a documentary on wild burros in the West: "Saving Ass in America" and have also contributed footage for use in many video newsreels, video news releases use in national & regional news reports on wild horses & burros and also web videos by many equine advocate groups. I will discuss many of the themes in my documentary and what kind of future they paint for wild burros in the West in the next few decades.

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Simone Netherlands

After a modeling career and later a career as a hotel executive, Simone started her dream of importing, training and selling Friesian Horses in 2001. Her whole life she had studied natural horsemanship techniques and always knew that she wanted to make a difference in the lives of horses. When horse slaughter was still unbeknownst to her, she was helping horses by performing Freedom Training shows all over the country, to teach people that one does not need chains and whips, or even bridle and bit in order to get a horse to want to perform. The last freedom training show she did was at the south point casino in Las Vegas in front of an audience of ten thousand.

Simone found out about the atrocities that befall our American equines through a very unfortunate coincidence. She was looking for a particular horse at an auction and ended up sitting next to a kill buyer who told her that the horse she was looking for was already on someone's plate by that time. She ended up following that kill buyer around for 4 months all the while learning about the ugly business and rescuing individual horses from him as much as she could. Since that time Simone has founded her organization Respect4Horses and concentrates on the equine abuse issues (both horse slaughter and the roundups of our wild horses) full time.

She doesn't train Friesians anymore, because she has a barn full of rescued horses (ten of them) that need training. She also doesn't have time for freedom training shows anymore, but will sometimes still train at BLM traveling adoption events.

Most recently Simone has become a filmmaker (out of necessity, not out of ambition) in order to fight for a secure future for the Salt River wild horses, who do not have a protected territory and are considered feral by the Forest Service. In 2010, another herd close to her heart, The Walker Lake Herd, also did not have a territory or HMA and was scheduled for roundup, removal and shipment to the Fallon Auction. Simone, with the help of Arm investigations and Carla Bowers, wrote the Walker Lake Herd Preservation Proposal, which offered solutions and created a cooperation agreement between Respect4Horses, Arm Investigations, the local community and the BLM. The proposal was accepted by the BLM one week before the already approved roundup, which was subsequently canceled. The BLM recently gave the beloved herd their highly needed fencing along I-95 to prevent horses from being hit on the busy road. You can find the Walker Lake Herd of approximately 122 horses living and thriving along Walker Lake in Hawthorn Nevada.

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A similar proposal for the Salt River Wild Horses will be delivered to the Forest Service in October, along with the release of the Documentary, "America's Wild Horses". The short version of the documentary just premiered at the Prescott Film Festival and will also be screened at several film festivals this year including the Sundance Film Festival. The documentary, which journeys into the idyllic lives of the Salt River Wild Horses and follows the fight to save them, will screen here at the International Equine Conference on Sunday afternoon. (Please see schedule).

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Amber Neuhauser

Amber is a 17 year old student, from Louisville, KY, where she is a student at Suda E. Butler Traditional High School. Amber's entry into the world of horse slaughter is a result of finding healing with a horse, Bricks and Stone, an OTTB who was a part of The Boys and Girls Haven Equine Program. Amber found the emotional strength needed to make it through some very trying and dark periods of her young life. Amber credits Bricks with helping her to believe in herself and find the inner strength to make it through tough times.

Amber has continued her therapy with another OTTB, Atlanti Kos, he is the reason she started working on the horse slaughter issue. If The Boys and Girls Haven Equine Program had not taken him in, he was at risk of going to slaughter, he was useless as a race horse. Amber spent hours researching the horse slaughter issue and during that research came across the Equine Welfare Alliance's Million Horse March - Children's Letter Writing Campaign to End Horse Slaughter. Amber was one of the most active members of the campaign, creating videos, educating others at her school, boy scout troops, and others at her church about horse slaughter and why it should be banned.

Amber is a member of Youth Equine Alliance (Y.E.A) and has been actively working on the wild horse round up issues. She is currently working on a fundraiser to donate to the Wild Horse Protection Fund to help save America's wild horses from being eradicated from their protected lands.

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Diana Pikulski

Diana Pikulski was named Executive Director of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF), in January, 1997. Currently, Diana serves as the VP of External Affairs and as a member of the board of directors.

She oversaw the initiation of the TRF's horse adoption program in 1998, and expanded the groundbreaking Second Chances Program at correctional facilities currently located at Blackburn, KY, Marion County, FL, Wateree, SC, Putnamville, IN, James River State Farm, VA, Plymouth MA, Stanislaus County, CA, Wallkill, NY, Vandalia, IL, and Sykesville, MD. In this program, inmates care for the horses, are taught a vocational training program (in four facilities this is provided by Groom Elite) and receive the therapeutic benefit from working with horses. The TRF cares for 954 horses at 24 farms.

A native of Middletown, NJ and the daughter of a mounted policeman, she received a bachelor's degree from Drew University in Madison, NJ in 1984. She received a law degree from Vermont Law School in 1987.

Ms. Pikulski practiced civil and criminal litigation for 10 years and was the President of the Vermont Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. She also organized the first free legal clinic in Vermont.

Ms. Pikulski rode hunter jumpers and competed on the equestrian team during her college years and still enjoys riding horses with her daughter Harper.

She resides in Saratoga Springs and Shushan, NY with her husband, Robert Duncan and daughter Harper Hutchins. She cares for eight retired Thoroughbreds.

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Milanne "Mim" Rehor has dedicated 21 years of her life to saving the wild horses of Great Abaco Island, Bahamas, a herd that once numbered in the hundreds. She first saw the horses in the early 1990s, and witnessed a severe downturn in their numbers after Hurricane Floyd in 1999. She was moved to take action as the herd began a steady decline.

In 2002 she moved full-time to the island, and began the process of establishing a non-profit organization to promote and conduct research and rescue efforts. Since that time she has worked tirelessly to preserve and protect the historically-significant Abaco Spanish Colonial Horse — true Spanish Colonials, descended from horses bred on Christopher Columbus's Cuban horse farms from the time of the Conquistadors, in the early 16th century.

Milanne (Mim) Rehor

Despite Mim's best efforts — and the efforts of a number of equine professionals and enthusiasts who have been involved over the years including geneticists, veterinarians, and horse lovers around the world — there is only one Abaco Spanish Colonial left. A 16-year-old mare named Nunki is living in a government-designated 4,000-acre preserve on Great Abaco Island, where she is cared for daily by Wild Horses of Abaco Foundation workers and Mim. Political turmoil, public inertia, human ignorance, and natural disasters have made the fight for the genetically-unique herd an uphill battle, and 34 horses have been lost.

The recent deaths of two of the three remaining mares have caused a swell of support from equine specialists and individuals touched by Mim's persistent dedication. The situation is all the more precarious as this one remaining mare has been found to carry one of the three rare Splash White gene as many of her former herd did as well. A reproductive specialist from the US is on board to assist with harvesting eggs, and a close genetic match has been identified in the endangered Puerto Rico Paso Fino horse as source for breeding stock.

But time is running out.

Mim is a sailor, writer, and occasional artist, who has worked several trades. She has dedicated all of her energy and efforts to saving Abaco's wild horses for more than two decades, and has suffered through the many losses of mares, stallions, and foals due to both natural and man-made causes.

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During her 21 years in the Bahamas Mim has lived modestly on a small sailboat at anchor in Marsh Harbour, and travels to the horse preserve on a small motorbike, often transporting 50-lb. bags of feed and other supplies with her. Her reputation as a scrappy, fearless protector of and provider for the horses is well-established on Abaco and beyond. Now, her role as protector is focused on the last remaining mare.

"We are terrifyingly down to one mare, Nunki," says Mim. "We have a last-minute chance to work towards harvesting and storing her eggs. Her DNA has been tested by UC Davis's Dr. Ann Bowling and it was found to have markers found nowhere else in available genetic samples." Further genetic records were established by Dr. Gus Cothran of Texas A&M.

Mim has B.A. in Philosophy, Connecticut College (when it still was exclusively for women!), three years as a bylined writer for a daily newspaper on Long Island, New York, M.Ed. (Audio Visual Education), Boston University, various other 'careers' including nine years as the Assistant to the Director of Exhibits, Planet Ocean Museum (now defunct, part of International Oceanographic Foundation), inactive Private Pilot License, single engine land, and 50 ton near coastal Masters (Captains) License for power and sailing vessels. And have lived on my own boat for 37 years.

She is excited to present her story and the story of the Abaco Colonial Horses to the 2013 Equine Welfare Alliance International Equine Conference.

"Appealing to all of you with your vast experience and concern, maybe we have a chance....We could bring them back. This is it. Extinction is forever."



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Jen Roytz

Three Chimneys Farm's marketing and communications director since 2008, Jen Roytz oversees all advertising, marketing public relations, media relations, social media and online efforts for the farm. She also handles the farm's equine aftercare and re-homing efforts, as well as industry outreach.

Outside of her role at Three Chimneys, Jen writes a weekly column for *The Paulick Report* called "OTTB Showcase," in which she features off-track Thoroughbreds in their careers after racing, and the path they took to get there. She is also a special assignment contributor to ESPN.com, a freelance writer for other publications, and is a freelance writer/producer for High Impact Productions, a small-scale film production company specializing in tourism, historical, and equestrian-related content. Their most recent film, *Unsung Hero: The Horse in the Civil War*, was nominated for a regional EMMY Award this past year.



Jen is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and has a background in both thoroughbreds and performance horses. She earned her BA in Advertising and Public Relations from Morehead State University and completed her MA in Integrated Communication at the University of Louisville. Jen sits on the board of the Make A Wish Foundation's Kentucky chapter, is on the advisory board for the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and is involved with the Ronald McDonald House of the Bluegrass and The Race For Education (a scholarship organization for college-bound kids from racing/breeding families or who have a keen interest in the Thoroughbred industry).

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Dan Rubenstein, PhD

Dan Rubenstein is a behavioral ecologist who studies how environmental variation and individual differences shape social behavior, social structure, sex roles and the dynamics of populations. He has special interests in all species of wild horses, zebras, and asses, and has done field work on them throughout the world identifying rules governing decision-making, the emergence of complex behavioral patterns and how these understandings influence their management and conservation. In Kenya he also works with pastoral communities to develop a data gathering scout program as well as curricular modules for local schools to raise awareness about the plight of the endangered Grevy's zebra. He has recently extended his work to measuring the effects of environmental change, including issues pertaining to the global commons and changes wrought by management and by global warming, on behavior.

Rubenstein is the Class of 1877 Professor of Zoology and Chair of Princeton University's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He received his Bachelors degree from the University of Michigan in 1972 and his Ph.D. from Duke University in 1977 before receiving NSF-NATO and King's College Junior Research Fellowships for post-doctoral studies at Cambridge University. As the Eastman Professor, he spent a year in Oxford as a Fellow of Balliol College. He is an elected Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society as well as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has received Princeton University's President's Award for Distinguished Teaching. He is president of the Animal Behavior Society.

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Shannon Windle

Shannon Windle is a Business Analyst and has worked in the Nevada gaming industry since she moved to Reno 16 years ago. Originally from Canada, Shannon has lived in Germany and Mexico, and travelled extensively. She has a degree in Business Management and received her Diploma in Banking certification.

Shannon Windle began working with wild horses four years ago as a volunteer with the Hidden Valley Wild Horse Protection Fund, headquartered in Reno, Nevada. She is currently serving a second term as President of that non-profit organization. After spearheading the rescue of 149 Virginia Range wild horses, Shannon played a key role in successfully pressuring the Nevada government to reconsider its approach to the management of its wild horse population.