



# NEWSLETTER

*"A Figure of Speech"*

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CITRUS CUP REGIONAL MORGAN HORSE SHOW  
APRIL 8-11

*See you all there!*

# FLORIDA MORGAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

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### **Newsletter Issue mailed: 1st of the month February, April, June, August, October, December**

Ads/Copy must be recieved **10 days before** issue mailing. Send copy and payment to Newsletter editor. Make checks payable to FMHA

#### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

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## FMHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Mail to: Ann Smith PO Box 1477, Anthony, Fl 32617

## FROM AMHA-UPDATE ON MORGAN PAVILION

This news release is to bring you up to date on the circumstances surrounding the Morgan Horse Pavilion at the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP). Many of you have contacted AMHI and AMHA seeking information, it is our hope the following will address your questions.

As you will recall, in 2008 AMHI embarked on a fundraising effort to underwrite the construction of a Morgan Pavilion at KHP. To-date roughly \$4 million has been invested in the building, (which is approximately 70 percent complete).

To finalize the project and obtain the occupancy certificate will require an additional \$1.5 million. The State of Kentucky, which owns the Park, will not allow work to continue until they have assurances that the entire \$1.5 million has been raised. Until then, the KHP has taken possession of the building.

Over 200 engraved bricks were purchased by donors as part of the initial fundraising. Monies for the bricks are being held in escrow by AMHI, and the bricks are being stored virtually with [www.bricksRus.com](http://www.bricksRus.com), awaiting completion of the construction. Should building not be completed, the bricks will be sent to the donors or with their permission the bricks will be directed to another project (e.g. another horse park like the one being built in Colorado or North Carolina).

Many of you have inquired where AMHA fits into this. AMHA continues to support AMHI in its efforts through promotion of the project and most recently AMHA acquired the National Museum of the Morgan Horse, which would enable AMHI to focus more fully on three main projects: the Pavilion, the Morgan Weanling Gala, and Scholarships.

If you would like to make a donation or serve on the AMHI fundraising committee for the Pavilion, please contact AMHI President, Bob Morgan at [bob@morganhorsefarm.com](mailto:bob@morganhorsefarm.com).

*editor's note: for those who have not seen the site at KHP, it is a beautiful building in a great location close to the visitor entrance. It would be a shame to abandon this project so near completion.*

## FROM AMHA JUDGING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Among the reminders recently sent out in the annual Judge's reminder was the statement below regarding the Hunter division.

**Hunter Pleasure-**The hunter pleasure horse should appear to be carrying his body in a natural frame with ease of motion and without evidence of undue restraint. His motion starts from the hind end and progresses through his shoulders, which allows him to carry his head in the correct frame with quiet, relaxed collection. He should never appear to have his frame controlled by the bridle, be behind the bit, or appear to be pulling himself around on the forehead. Transitioning from the trot to the extended trot is a ground covering motion- Not go faster or higher! The canter and extended canter should follow the same progressive movement forward. The walk should be free-moving and relaxed, not tense or anticipating. The Hunter Pleasure horse should demonstrate SENSE OF PURPOSE!

Hunter Pleasure is the most popular section within the Morgan division. We as judges must be diligent in looking for the correct Hunter Pleasure horse that reflects the criteria of the Standard. A new rule governing the length of shank on hunter curb and Pelham bits is in effect this year. The committee fields many questions regarding the judging of the Hunter Pleasure section. The new bit rule is a result of a committee task force's attempt to address some of the issues raised by exhibitors, trainers and judges.

## HIGH POINT RULES BEING REVIEWED

At the Annual meeting, a committee was named to review the current High Point rules and make any suggestions for revisions to those rules for the 2016 season and beyond. Committee members are Diane Tanguay, Glenn Winograd, Rebecca Watters and Sally Ann Lyle. This group will be meeting soon to start the process.

If any FMHA member has input or suggestions they would like to share with the committee, please send them to any of the four members - in writing, please. The committee's final recommendations will be published in the newsletter later this year and will be voted on at the next Annual meeting

## COMBINED DRIVING IN FLORIDA

During the winter months, the Ocala/Marion County area of Florida is home to competitive driving sports venues, attracting top competitors from across the country. Morgans are often among the top prize winners at these events. Grand Oaks Resort and Museum, Black Prong, Florida Horse Park and Live Oak Farm all host competitions during January, February and March.

The annual Grand Oaks Classic, a carriage pleasure driving competition sanctioned by the American Driving Society was held on February 13-15. World champion combined driver Suzy Stafford added another championship to her trophy case by winning the Single Horse Division Championship against a large field of competitors. Stafford's partner in earning this title was the six-year-old Morgan mare Stilwell Spring (UVM Springfield x Salem Maurada), owned by Jay Zimmerman. Despite this being Spring's first carriage driving show, the elegant bay handled herself in the intense atmosphere of three days of competition.

A fourth-place finish in the Friday afternoon cross country drive got things rolling for the pair, followed by three straight blue ribbons awarded in the Progressive Obstacle, Turnout, and Reinsmanship classes to clinch the division championship. In addition, second- and third-place ribbons in the Ride & Drive and Ladies To Drive classes highlighted Spring's versatility and helped her to be named winner of the AMHA Morgan Open High-Point Award.

In other driving news, at the recent Kingdom of the Sun CDE, Cheryl Rivers drove Kennebec Joyce (Funquest Erick x Kennebec Rejoice) to the championship for Intermediate Single Pony for owners, John Merritt and Karen Chandor.

Morgans were also much a part of the prestigious Live Oak International event March 18-22. Wrapping up the FEI division, the FEI Single Horse honors went to Suzy Stafford of Wilmington, Delaware and her Morgan, PVF Peace of Mind, who lived up to her name by turning in first-place after first-place for its whip across the phases to the final 139.46 score. Cheryl Rivers topped off a successful weekend with her Morgan winning the Intermediate Single Pony division.

## MORGANS AT LIVE OAK CDE

(photos by Tami Johnson)



## COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDING

Competitive trail riding (CTR) is an equestrian sport where riders cover a marked trail for a distance that is usually between 15 and 40 miles per day. Some rides are only one day long, others may run as long as three days. One day six mile events have also become popular. The goal of the competition is to demonstrate partnership between horse and rider. Unlike in endurance riding, factors other than speed are considered. There are many different organizations which sanction competitive trail rides. Horsemanship may be considered at some competitions, depending on the sanctioning organization. Riders are evaluated on how they handle the trail, manage the horse, and present to the judges and veterinarians throughout the ride. Obstacles are also set up along the trail with the horse and rider graded on how well they perform as a team.

At various points along the trail, judges are posted. Sometimes they observe riders traverse some natural obstacle such as a deep gully or creek, large logs across the trail, or a bridge or boggy place. Other times, they give riders specific instructions, such as to back or sidepass the horse, open and close a gate, or travel at a specified gait such as the trot or canter. Riders may be asked to complete obstacles either in-hand or under saddle.

If riders have to wait their turn, they must keep track of the time from arrival until they are able to be judged and give this time to the judge or their secretary. If riders finish the trail late, this time is given back to the competitor.

Other examples of judged obstacles include:

- Emergency stops from trot or canter.
- Back between or around trees, uphill, or in water
- Sidepass up to a tree, over log, or in water
- Mount and dismount, including offside
- Tie a ribbon on a tree or tree limb.
- Climb or descend a bank, hill or cliff.
- Step or back over a large log.

Competitive trail rides are sanctioned by numerous organizations in the United States, Canada and Europe. The largest US organization is ACTHA which is the only organization holding events in all 50 states and Canada, followed by NATRC, then followed by ECTRA; their ride philosophies differ primarily in that ACTHA and NATRC selects trail obstacles and ECTRA avoids them.

Anyone interested in this fun family activity can get more information and a list of events by visiting the organizations' web sites.

## IT'S FOALING TIME

Several FMHA members are expecting foals this spring. If you are one of those, Please forward photos of the new arrivals to the editor at [sal4art@embarqmail.com](mailto:sal4art@embarqmail.com). We would love to share them with the rest of the club

## LIFE LESSONS

*(ed. note: some time ago I found this quoted on the internet. I don't know the original source. It has been edited it a bit for space)*

Here are five important life lessons that are hidden in horse showing.

### 1. Life's Not Fair

You don't always win, even when you have the perfect ride, but you pick yourself up, smile and try again another day — that's life in the real world.

### 2. Losing Gracefully

Too many kids these days throw a fit if they don't win or when they don't get what they want. What's that going to change? Be happy you are lucky enough to go to a horse show. Congratulate the winner and move on. Life isn't always going to go the way you want it to. It's best to learn that early on.

### 3. Hard Work Pays Off

It's completely unrealistic to think you can ride a day or two a week and be successful at a horse show. The more you practice and prepare the more successful you will be.

### 4. If At First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again

No one wins all the time and even if you start winning, there always something to improve on or a level to move up to. Sometimes you even have to forget everything you learned and start fresh. However, in horses and in life, if you don't give up you will get there eventually.

### 5. Don't Be Afraid To Ask For Help

Let's face it, horses can be some of the most frustrating creatures on earth! We have all stomped back to the stall, dragging our innocent looking horse behind us and cursing under our breath. In horses, as in life, we aren't alone, no one knows everything. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask for help, it's always there if you need it.





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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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April 8-12 ***Citrus Cup Regional, Newberry***

### Current FMHA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

1. Shoo-Fly [Chuck Hudson-352-351-5858] 2.Morganshowcase.com - \$15 off sales listing, to receive the special rate choose "pay by check" on submission form, then use your credit card or pay pal account at [www.masterworks.net](http://www.masterworks.net) or mail a check.Reg. price is \$75, but with the FMHA discount its \$60. 3.AldermanVeterinary Services in Okeechobee , Fl 772-332-6631 4. Thomas Feed and Hay in Fort Pierce, Fl. 5. Com See Com Sav feed and supply store in Bradenton, Fl.[5% off except on feed and hay] 7.Huntington Dental Arts 701 Enterprise Rd.E. Suite 201 Safety Harbor Fl. 34695 727-799-2400 10% Discount