

# OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER HOUSTON HUNTER JUMPER ASSOCIATION

Greeting GHHJA members;

I trust that this newsletter finds everyone doing well and excited about the upcoming GHHJA shows. The longer days of summer mean more time to spend with our equine friends and plenty of show opportunities to show off the skills you and your horses have developed over the winter. It all starts with Pine Hill April 30th and May 1st and continues with multiple weekends at GSEC and Pine Hill in June and July. We will also be having a judges clinic in June. Information for this clinic will be posted soon, so keep checking in at the website for information on clinics, show dates, and other important events.

On a more somber note, I would like to offer the GHHJA's condolences to Ruth and Ellie Sawin, the family of Phil Sawin. Phil recently passed away after an accident at his Pine Hill Equestrian Center. Phil was a great friend to all of us here at GHHJA and his presence and support will be greatly missed. GHHJA is thankful to all the members who showed their support in the celebration of the life of this great horseman at the memorial on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Best wishes for a fun and exciting summer show season! Whether you are a horse show veteran or just beginning the adventure, we here at the GHHJA are thrilled to be a part of your equine journey. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us on the GHHJA Board if you have any questions or comments. Make sure to check in with the website frequently to stay updated on our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Dev Branham

# County Saddlery

The best for backs

## Does saddle fit matter?

## Does your horse demonstrate any of the following?

- Objects to being saddled or girthed
- Poor ground manners/girth shy
- Inability to get the back up (inverted)
- Inability to flex (bend) at the pole
- Stumbling or tripping excessively
- Rushes or refuses fences
- Bucks after jumps
- Unable to travel straight
- Trouble with lead changes
- Resists collection work & transitions
- Ears pinned, tail swishing
- Sore back muscles
- Dry spots/white hairs

Almost all of these are signs of some degree of back pain and the majority of that back pain is directly related to a poorly fitting saddle.

## As a rider do you experience any of the following?

- You can't seem to keep your leg under you
- You fight to stay in balance
- You can never seem to please your instructor with your position
- You and your horse seem to fight against each other instead of working in harmony
- You experience your own back pain

## Why Choose County?

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**GHHJA would like to congratulate Kavita Sinha who was recently accepted into the 2011 USHJA Emerging Athletes Program.**

**We wish you the best of luck!**



**Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society (BEHS)**, an organization that helps starving and abused horses across Texas, will hold the Bluebonnet Adopt-a-Thon on May 14th, 2011 at the Bar Cross Cowboy Church in Alvarado, Texas. The event will run from 10am until 4pm and the organization hopes to have 20-30 adoptable horses on hand to meet the public.

Randi Smith, Adoption Coordinator for BEHS, says, "We hope to find many adopters and showcase the talents of our rescue horses. I want to show the public that rescue horses can do anything any horse can do." Attending horses will range in age from young foals to older horses. Some will be broke to ride while others still need training. Horses of different breeds and talents will be present at the adopt-a-thon.

In addition to the adoptable horses, there will be trainers giving training and behavior clinics throughout the day, a silent auction featuring horse and ranch themed art, clothing, crafts and jewelry, and a sale area that will include new and used horse tack and equipment. Proceeds from the silent auction and sale area will benefit the horses of Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society. "We want to make this a fun-filled horse day for everyone to attend," commented Dr. Jennifer Williams, President and Executive Director of Bluebonnet. "We're hoping people will come out, watch the clinicians, meet some horses and decide to become part of the Bluebonnet family by adopting a horse, joining the rescue or becoming a volunteer."

Pre-approved adopters will be allowed to adopt at the adopt-a-thon on a first-come, first-served basis, will receive 25% off their adoption fee and will be able to take their new horse home the day of the event. Anyone who applies to adopt a horse at the event, is approved and adopts within 30 days of the event will also receive 25% off their adoption fee. Anyone interested in being pre-approved to adopt can download an adoption application off the organization's website at <http://www.bluebonnetequine.org>.

BEHS still needs help to make this a successful event. The organization is currently seeking:

- Event Sponsors – Sponsorships start at just \$25 and the organization offers varying benefits depending on the sponsorship level.
- Tack and other horse-related items – The rescue is seeking new and used tack, farm and ranch items and horse and ranch-themed jewelry and home décor for a the silent auction and sale area. All donations are tax-deductible.

Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of equines by educating owners, assisting law enforcement agencies, rehabilitating abused and neglected equines, and placing them into safe, permanent homes. BEHS has been overwhelmed with calls about starving horses throughout Texas, and the organization hopes to make the Bluebonnet Adopt-a-thon an annual event that will enable them to help many horses throughout the year.

For more information, visit [www.bluebonnetequine.org](http://www.bluebonnetequine.org), call (888) 542 5163, or email [jenn@bluebonnetequine.org](mailto:jenn@bluebonnetequine.org).

# GHHJA 2011 Show Calendar

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Dates	Show Name	Location	Applicants	Phone
March 12 & 13	Great Southwest Spring Show	GSWEC - Katy	GSWEC / Pauline Cook	281.924.6579
March 19 & 20	Southern Oaks Farm Charity Show	Southern Oaks Farm - Hockley	Felicia Carroll	281.799.8122
April 30 & May 1	Hunt Farm Horse Show	Pine Hill - Bellville	Pam Hunt	979.826.8338
June 4 & 5	Spring Flowers / Britannia Farm	GSWEC - Katy	Rob Moyar / Pauline Cook	281.924.6579
June 11 & 12	Luckie Lady Farm Horse Show	Pine Hill - Bellville	Caren Luckie / Pam Hunt	979.826.8338
June 18 & 19	Summer Blow Out	GSWEC - Katy	Wendy Kaminski / Pauline Cook	281.924.6579
July 9 & 10	Muy Caliente Horse Show	GSWEC - Katy	Sean Brown / Pauline Cook	281.924.6579
August 20 & 21	Hot Daze / Mo Hot Daze	GSWEC - Katy	Lucia Hansen / Maurene Moffett / Pauline Cook	281.924.6579
September 10 & 11	Britannia Farm Mo Hot Daze	GSWEC - Katy	Maurene Moffett / Pauline Cook	281.924.6579
October 8 & 9	Southern Oaks Farm Charity Show	Southern Oaks Farm - Hockley	Felicia Carroll	281.799.8122
October 29 & 30	Pine Hill Halloween Show	Pine Hill - Bellville	Phillip Sawin / Pam Hunt	979.826.8338
November 26 & 27	Fall Harvest / Fall Finale	GSWEC - Katy	Lucia Hansen / Rob Moyar / Pauline Cook	281.924.6579



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*It is spring time and foals are newly exploring their pastures. For children, it's an exciting time too. While out playing one day, a group of children spot some foals sunbathing and decide they want to pet them. The mares are close by with watchful eyes. With the benefit of their tiny size, the children crawl under the pasture fencing and walked quietly over to the sleeping foals. The foals get up, but don't yet run away. One girl stretches out her hand to pet the colts back. One girl is surprised when a protective mother shows up.*

What happens next? Does this encounter end safely? Does the girl get kicked by the young colt? Does the mare hurt the girls she finds to be intruders? If this scenario took a turn for the worse, could the horse's keepers be liable for the consequences?

### **What is an "Attractive Nuisance"?**

Attractive nuisance is an exception to the limited duty a possessor owes to a trespasser. An "attractive nuisance" is a potentially harmful object on or condition of the land that, by its features, tends to lure children. Children, because of their age, do not appreciate the danger and can be at risk. A classic example has been a swimming pool.

### **Is a Horse an "Attractive Nuisance"?**

There are numerous factors to consider when determining whether horses may be an attractive nuisance. There is no blanket rule that horses are always considered an attractive nuisance, but in a Texas case, a Shetland pony was found to be so.

### **Avoiding Liability**

What can you do? There are many efforts you can make. Here are some:

- Inspect your property regularly to spot the types of hazards that might injure others. Depending on the item, remove it, move it away from view, lock it away, or install secure fencing near it.
- Make sure that your fencing is in good condition. While no fence is guaranteed to be completely "child-proof," check your municipality's land use ordinances for regulations that involve fencing and storage of items. Make sure that you comply with the ordinances.
- If any of your horses are known to be dangerous, and you keep them pastured without supervision, try to pasture these horses away from areas where nearby children can easily spot and approach them.

Have you been too willing to let children trespass on your property and approach you horses in the past? Remember that if you do, you may liable if an injury results from an "attractive nuisance." When you spot a child trespassing on your land, consider the following:

- Order the child off of your property, even if your horses are not known to have dangerous tendencies. Send the child's parents a carefully-written letter (preferably by certified mail and regular mail and keep a copy for yourself) cautioning them to keep their children

away. The letter would be wise to avoid any language that could be considered an admission that your horses are dangerous. However, the letter can state that horses, merely because of their size, could have the potential to inflict injury on a young child.

- Or, if you prefer, send a letter cautioning the parents to keep the child away, but inviting the parents to contact you in the future to receive your permission before entering your property so that, at a convenient time, you can personally accompany the child and his or her parent on a supervised visit to see the horses. Your letter can explain that this is the only manner in which you will allow others to enter your property.

These efforts, in themselves, may not eliminate your liability completely, but they will help evidence the precautions you are taking to protect others. Finally, liability insurance cannot prevent liability, but at least proper insurance can protect you should the worst case scenario ever occur. With this in mind, make sure that your insurance is up to date as to types and amounts of coverage.

*Attorney Jill R. Eley, is a life-long equestrian and equine lawyer. For more information, call (713) 974-9376 or visit [www.elseyequinelaw.com](http://www.elseyequinelaw.com). The purpose of this article is to provide a general overview and should not be taken as legal advice. Every factual situation is unique. Please consult with a qualified attorney to discuss your matters in detail.*

If you were an advertiser in 2010 and have not yet renewed your ad for 2011, now is the time to do so! Please remember that all new and renewed ads must now be provided in an electronic format. This will ensure we are able to provide you with the highest quality ad for GHHJA members to see.

If you would like to become an advertiser for 2011, please contact Holly Flint at [GHHJANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:GHHJANewsletter@gmail.com) as soon as possible. We have plenty of ad space and reach over 300 people with each issue. Ad rates begin at only \$15 each or \$40 yearly!

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Have an ad?

Text ads of 30 words or less are FREE.

Text ads of 31 – 50 words are \$5.

Add a photo for \$10.

The newsletter is published at least four times each year by the GHHJA. It is e-mailed to the entire GHHJA membership and to all paid advertisers. New articles, human interest stories and barn notes are welcome. GHHJA reserves the right to edit any item it feels may be offensive, libelous or incorrect. Pieces are used at the discretion of the Editor. Send all submissions for the newsletter to: [GHHJANewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:GHHJANewsletter@gmail.com).

Have you moved? Questions about your points? In order to receive your prize lists, newsletters and GHHJA informational mail-outs, please send address corrections to:

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**

JUNE 15, 2011