



# King County Executive Horse Council

“Preserving The Equestrian Way Of Life”

October 2008

♦ KCEHC ♦ PO Box 2904, Woodinville, WA 98072 ♦ Tel.: 425-869-2761 ♦  
♦ e-mail: kcehc@kingcountyexecutivehorsecouncil.org ♦ web: www.kingcountyexecutivehorsecouncil.org ♦

## 2008 Officers

**President - Open**

**Vice President**  
Kelly Boyd  
22726 NE 150th St  
Woodinville, Wa 98077  
Tel.: 425-788-9747  
kboyd@grayservices.com

**Director - Open**

**Secretary**  
Jennifer Duncan  
64211 132nd Ave  
Kirkland, Wa 98033  
425-867-0992  
duncan66@msn.com

**Treasurer**  
Isabella Schober  
12323 209th Ave NE  
Redmond, WA 98053  
Tel.: 425-869-2761  
E-mail:  
i.schober@verizon.net

**Legislative Analyst**  
Judy Willman  
12323 209th Ave NE  
Redmond, WA 98053  
Tel.: 425-885-5498  
e-mail:  
rayjudywillman@verizon.net

**Newsletter Editor**  
Kelly Boyd  
22726 NE 150th St  
Woodinville, Wa 98077  
425-788-9747  
kboyd@grayservices.com

## **Agricultural Tax Exemption**

(This is an excerpt from a letter by Judy Willman regarding her research into the agricultural tax exemption changes and what we can do to be heard on this topic.)

I was contacted back in August by Dana Kapela, an owner of a boarding stable. She informed me that she had received a letter from the county assessor's office which basically demanded that for someone owning a boarding stable and getting tax benefits, they had to show that they were also breeding and selling horses (or some kind of livestock) or they would lose their agricultural exemption and not only be hit with substantial back taxes, but also fines and penalties. Many owners were hit with totals of multiple tens of thousands of dollars. There were about 100 of these letters sent out.

I then called Ted Sullivan, a county guy who heads the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) for the county, but is also someone with a lot of history background on Open Space stuff. Ted filled me in on what had happened. He was acutely aware of the situation because the other option the boarding owners were given was to apply for PBRs (which, although it's nice, is woefully less tax assistance than being in Open Spaces Ag and a lot more paperwork) and he was bracing for an onslaught of applications.

(cont. page 2)

## **Meeting Schedule**

Meetings are on the second Monday of the month. Meetings start at 7:00pm and end at 9:00pm. Note: October meeting is NOT the second Monday in this case.

- The October meeting is Oct. 20 at Simpatico Stables in Redmond (18669 NE 106th St, Redmond, WA)
- *Directions:* 106th St is a small street off Avondale Rd between the Shell Station on 116th and the traffic light for 104th Ave (Education Hill). Turn onto 106th, go over the small bridge and take the first right into Simpatico Stables. The house on the right is the clubhouse. Check our website for more detail.

(cont. from page 1)

Ted said that recently, at the state level, the Department of Revenue observed that the counties were not interpreting the RCW and WAC related to Open Space Agricultural definitions in the same way. Some were going with the letter of the law, which requires breeding and selling, others were going with the intent of the law which was preservation and protection of working farmlands. In its infinite wisdom, the DOR decided that all counties should be required to respond to the letter of the law, and not the intent. Consequently all assessors offices in the state were notified of this decision, and the letters which I have mentioned were sent out. It is my understanding that the assessor's offices in the state were only required to make sure that all counties were treating the definition of the law in the same way, King County also responded with a demand for back taxes, fines and penalties. I don't know if other counties did the same.

In my capacity as a representative of the Horse Council, I contacted Kathy Lambert's office and asked for help. One of her assistants started digging in, sent inquiries to the assessors office, the DOR and state legislators, because it seemed to me after looking at this that getting some type of leniency or "stay of execution" from the county was only a bandage on the problem source. **That what really needed to happen was that the state law be changed to include horse boarding operations in the Agriculture description so that this question could not be raised again.**

At this point Dana was asking whether I could get my hands on a list of the farms which had received that letter. I sent a formal request to the assessors office for the list. I also sent out letters pleading the cause to Scott Noble and to the Ombudsman's office. I sent letters requesting help to change the law to my legislators and to the Washington Farm Bureau and to the Washington State Association of County Auditors.

In the meantime, I received the list of farms and sent that to Dana, who got a phone tree going and soon had all the people on the list organized into sending letters to their councilpersons and legislators. They also found out several of them were talking to lawyers and pooled their efforts there. Something within the onslaught of a number of councilpersons and mass response from the farm owners and (I suspect) some talk of lawyers, resulted in the assessors office first postponing the deadline for returning the letters and finally consulting the King County prosecutor and declaring that current farms in the ag status would be grandfathered in, could stay in the program and owed no back monies. At this point the property owners are sort of holding their breath until something official is sent to them. I have asked the ombudsman's office to check into the status of this decision. I have yet to hear any feedback from anyone at the state level.

**Although I am encouraged, I still feel it is important to solve this problem at the state level in the State law.** To this end, people need to write to their legislators and plead/demand that THE STATE LAW BE CHANGED TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF WHAT FARM AND AGRICULTURAL LAND MEANS BY SPECIFICALLY ADDING IN THE CATEGORY OF "HORSE BOARDING, LEASING, AND/OR TRAINING" AS A STAND ALONE CATEGORY WHICH IS NOT DEPENDENT ON BREEDING AND SELLING. This needs to happen in both RCW84.34.020 and WAC 458-30-200, and it needs to happen quickly.

It is simple to find out where to write, <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx> will locate your legislators for you and if you send your request to one, it will cc the other two.

I also will reserve judgment on how well we have done until there is something more official than a phone call from the county.

Judy Willman, Legislative Analyst



King County Trail Notes - by Ann Shilling

### **Tiger Mountain – Northwest Timber Trail Re-Opened**

The DNR website (<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/News/Pages/Home.aspx>) reports that the Northwest Timber Trail was reopened and bridge construction work is completed as of the end of August. The South Tiger Traverse trail, along the west side of South Tiger from the Tiger Mt. Rd trailhead, is still closed until November while logging is done, but horse traffic can use the Tiger Mountain Trail around the east side of the peak.

DNR Re-opens the Northwest Timber Trail on Tiger Mountain  
South Tiger Traverse remains closed

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Natural Resources announced today that the Northwest Timber Trail, one of two trails closed on Tiger Mountain near North Bend, has been re-opened. After completion of the Northwest Timber Trail bridge replacement on August 30, the Northwest Timber Trail/Connector Trail is now open for use. Funding for this project was made possible by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington State Emergency Storm Relief, and FEMA.

The South Tiger Traverse Trail is still closed and will reopen November 1, after the Peacock Timber sale. The closure affects equestrian users and hikers. The Tiger Mountain Trail remains open during the harvest operations. For information and assistance during this closure, call Sam Jarrett, 206-375-0448; or send an e-mail to [sam.jarrett@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:sam.jarrett@dnr.wa.gov).

The Northwest Timber trail (and other non-road multi-use trails on Tiger Mountain) will be closed for the winter season on October 15<sup>th</sup>, reopening on April 15<sup>th</sup>; but if no trees fall on the new bridges over the winter, it should be a good ride next spring.

### **Taylor Mountain Forest Parking Area**

The new parking area at Taylor Mountain Forest is now open and available for use. It is located off of Hobart Issaquah Road, just south of route 18, on the east side of the road. Look for King County Parks' "Taylor Mountain Forest" sign across from SE 188<sup>th</sup> Street. It looks like there's room for at least half a dozen trailer rigs there if everyone parks politely, but there are currently no restrooms or other facilities. King County Parks has been doing some trail and road reworking in this park to improve fish habitat and control potential streamside erosion, so note that some of the trail routes on the Green Trails Map, for example, are now inaccurate.

### **Winter Trail Riding**

With the rainy season coming on, higher elevation trails may be restricted due to closures and adverse weather, but there are still low-elevation trails to ride through the gray months. Some ideas: the Redmond Watershed trail system, with its connecting trails to the Tolt Pipeline trail and Katherine Taylor Equestrian Park; Bridle Trails Park, always a favorite; the Snoqualmie Valley Trail that extends between Fall City, Carnation, and Duvall along an old railroad bed; Lake Youngs Trail in Renton; or the south, unpaved portion of the Cedar River Trail in Maple Valley.



## Kathryn Taylor Equestrian Park Work Parties!

**What:** Our very first work parties at Kathryn Taylor Equestrian Park.

**When:** Friday Oct. 17 9:00am-1:00pm AND Saturday Oct. 18

9:00am-12:00pm

**Where:** The Kathryn Taylor Park, is located east of Woodinville, north of Trilogy, just north of the Tolt Pipeline Trail at 232nd Ave NE and 142nd Pl. , west of Lake of the Woods Fallbrook. Detailed directions can be found at [www.kingcountyexecutivehorsecouncil.org](http://www.kingcountyexecutivehorsecouncil.org).

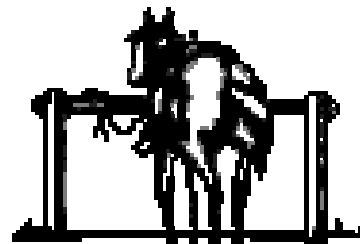
**Why:** To cut down and/or pull out small invasive Red Alder and Cottonwood saplings, remove Scotch Broom, and rake the gravel parking area, round pen and arena, and trim back blackberry vines near the two main gates, to keep our new park in great shape. King County and Quadrant funded the development of the KTEP, **now it is up to us to help maintain it.**

**Who:** You! Anybody who wants to come out and help. Come both days or one or just a few hours. This is a great opportunity for students, scouts etc., needing volunteer hours.

**What to bring:** Gloves, metal rakes, shovels, clippers, loppers or pruners, water and snacks.

For more information or questions contact Judy Westall at Tel. 425-788-9372

or Email: [jswestall@earthlink.net](mailto:jswestall@earthlink.net).



The Seattle Times is hosting an online forum on horses, and we need your help getting the conversation going. This is a place where horse owners and riders in the Pacific Northwest can connect with each other to talk about everything from locating good hay to finding a riding partner or someone to share a trailer ride. This also is a place where you can talk about competitions and events. This is an opportunity for horse riders to create their own online community as they wish. Folks also can add their own photos with their post.

To register, please go to [www.seattletimes.com](http://www.seattletimes.com) and click near the top right side of the page at "Your account." Your ID name will be the name you want shown on the posts.

After you register, you'll immediately get an e-mail confirmation. When that shows up, you'll need to confirm your registration on the link sent to you.

Here's the link to the forum: [www.seattletimes.com/horseforum](http://www.seattletimes.com/horseforum)  
When you get to the forum, you'll need to Login there at the upper right.  
The process is pretty quick. Let me know if you have problems or questions. There can be a difficulty logging on from AOL, so let me know, and I can explain Please let me know what you think of the forum.  
jdeutsch@seattletimes.com



You can now place your classified ad in the KCEHC newsletter.

Classified Ads:	Member - Free	Non-Member - \$10.00	
¼ page Ads:	Member - \$10.00	Non-Member - \$15.00	Commercial - \$20.00
½ page Ads:	Member - \$15.00	Non-Member - \$25.00	Commercial - \$30.00
Full Page Ads:	Member - \$20.00	Non-Member - \$35.00	Commercial - \$40.00

To place an ad please contact the editor at [kboyd@grayservices.com](mailto:kboyd@grayservices.com).



*Make plans to join Horses for Clean Water and learn about composting horse manure, building and maintaining a mud-free winter paddock, using native plants for water runoff control – and lots more! Check out the website, [www.HorsesforCleanWater.com](http://www.HorsesforCleanWater.com), for new events added regularly.*

**VASHON, WA**

**Thursdays, October 23 to November 13**

***Workshops for Horse & Small Farm Owners*** Hands-on workshops on livestock management practices. See a variety of options & work with technicians to discover ways you can have less mud, better pastures, manage manure and care for your streams, wetlands and drinking water sources. **Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust, WA. Thursday evenings, October 23 & 30 November 6 & 13, 6:30-9pm, FREE!** To register and receive directions contact the King Conservation District at 425-277-5581 ext. 122, or [paul.borne@kingcd.org](mailto:paul.borne@kingcd.org).

**TOPICS:**

***Streams and Wetlands: Living with Livestock near Water. October 23<sup>d</sup>***

***Mud Management: Record Rainfall / Record Mud. October 30<sup>th</sup> with Alayne Blickle as a guest speaker-  
Manure Management: Got Livestock? Got Manure! November 6<sup>th</sup> with Alayne Blickle as a guest speaker***

***Pasture Management: Becoming a Grass Farmer. November 13<sup>th</sup>***

**IN NOVEMBER:**

**HOBART, WA .**

**Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

***Farm Tour: Managing Horse Property in Winter*** Visit Hobart, WA, often referred to as the horse capitol of South King County, to see mud-free and chore-efficient management techniques in place on this new farm. This property owner recently moved into their new horse property, designed by the owners from the ground up. Hear why choices were made including gravel vs. sand paddocks. See a covered round pen. Learn about Paso Finos. Find out about Incinlot toilets – an environmentally-friendly option for barns without a septic system. **BONUS: Pick up maps for trail riding on King County's Taylor Mountain Park. Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am to noon. FREE!** To register and receive directions contact the King Conservation District at [425-277-5581 ext. 122](tel:425-277-5581), or [paul.borne@kingcd.org](mailto:paul.borne@kingcd.org).

**(cont. page 7)**

(cont. from page 6)



**MAPLE VALLEY, WA**

**Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**WORKSHOP: Naturescaping on Horse Properties** Reduce chemical use on your property while making it healthier for your horses, you family and wildlife. Inviting wildlife to your farm and landscaping with native plants can have many wonderful benefits for horse owners. Join Alayne Blicke in this workshop at her Maple Valley farm to see examples of natural insect control, mud reduction, dust barriers, visual screens between neighbors, cooling of buildings, summer shade for horses, low-cost/low care landscaping — and more!. Plus, now is the time to plan for the KCD Native Plant Sale which begins next month! **Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to noon, Maple Valley, WA FREE!** To register and receive directions contact the King Conservation District at [425-277-5581 ext. 122](tel:425-277-5581), or [paul.borne@kingcd.org](mailto:paul.borne@kingcd.org).

**VASHON, WA**

**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

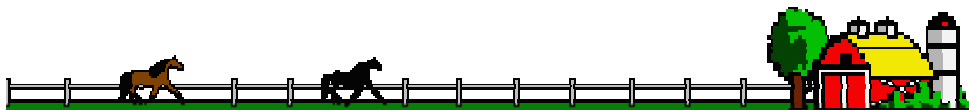
**Farm Tour: Managing Horse Properties in Winter** Tour two Vashon farms to take an up-close look at cost-shared compost bins, mud-free winter paddocks, rotational grazing ideas for summer, stream protection and other chore efficient horse management techniques that make your horse life easier and reduce environmental impacts. **Vashon, WA. Sunday afternoon, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1-4pm, FREE!** To register and receive directions contact the King Conservation District at [425-277-5581 ext. 122](tel:425-277-5581), or [paul.borne@kingcd.org](mailto:paul.borne@kingcd.org).

**IN JANUARY:**

**VASHON, WA**

**Saturday, January 31**

**Caring for Your Horse and His Home Workshop** Are you new to horse ownership or do you have children who want a horse? Do you know what the regular health, dental and shoeing needs are for horses? Would you like to learn about shelter requirements and horse-safe fencing? Join Alayne Blicke & her horses on her **Maple Valley, WA** demonstration farm for an all day workshop geared towards novice horse owners. Topics include horse behavior, horse & handler safety, planning your horse facility, how to buy a horse, nutrition & feeding, vet & farrier care, and pasture, manure & mud management. Cost is \$80/person. Contact for special pricing for families & more course details. **9am to 5pm, Saturday, January 31st.** To register or for more information contact [Alayne@horsesforcleanwater.com](mailto:Alayne@horsesforcleanwater.com) or 425-432-6116.



# Membership Dues

Individual Family \$15 Club/Organization \$25

Membership is based on a calendar year of January 1 through December 31. After October 1, new membership will be applied to the following year.

Please make check payable to KCEHC and mail to: King County Executive Horse Council, P.O. Box 2904, Woodinville, WA 98072-2904

Name/Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you want your name excluded from the membership directory?  Yes  No

2. Do you want to receive your newsletter by e-mail?  Yes  No

\* Please make sure that you have provided us with your correct/current e-mail address \*

Education Committee

Kathryn Taylor Horse Park Maintenance committee

Publicity Committee

Membership Committee

Newsletter Committee

Trails Committee

Equestrian Issues Committee

Watchdog Committee

At this time I can only support the KCEHC with my membership

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Label

King County Executive Horse Council  
PO Box 2904  
Woodinville, WA 98072-2904