

A message from the president

Well, it looks like wintertime is almost upon us again, and it's going to be another year in the books for the GPFA. But it was a good one and I couldn't have enjoyed my time spent with the GPFA members more.

We have a few exciting things coming up. The annual business meeting is Jan 8 at 10 a.m. at the Horse House in Ball Ground, Ga. where we will be electing a new vice president, secretary and going over the usual business. If anyone shows interest, we will have a hammer in afterward. So everyone come out and let your voice be heard.

The following weekend, Jan 14 and 15, the GPFA will be hosting a tool making clinic at Steve Prescott's farm in Bluffton, SC, just outside of Savannah, Ga. The clinician is Todd Walker, CJF. Todd is a World Champion Blacksmiths team member, past member of the American Farriers Association team and also a judge for the AFA convention. We will be making punches, pritchells and creasers and going over how to properly use and maintain them. We are limiting the clinic to 16 hands-on participants, but we're allowing an unlimited amount of auditors.

The GPFA will be providing tool steel and dinner Friday night. All hands-on participants should bring their anvils, forges and hand tools. The clinic fee is \$200 for hands-on participants and \$30 for auditors. There is a \$100 deposit required for hands-on. If you plan to attend, contact me asap, as I think it will fill quickly.

In late February or early March, we will host another clinic with the Brizle brothers and will be making hammers and tongs.

In both of these clinics, everyone will be making their own tools. As long as we have interest, we can continue to have these clinics, but not without the support of our members. Throughout the spring and summer, we will have the usual pre-certification clinic, certification exam, family day and possibly a summer clinic, depending on interest. Our annual contest will take place in October. Please contact me or another officer with any questions or concerns. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the business meeting.

Thanks,

Derek Perry, CJF

President, Georgia Professional Farriers Association



Hammered on Campus Contest 2010

The Hammered on Campus Contest took place Oct. 1 and 2 at the University of Georgia Livestock Arena in Athens. Judges were Craig Trnka and Mitch Taylor. Below are the placings:

Division 1

First place: Freddie Garcia- \$740

Second place: Chad Rice - \$370

Third place: Josh Evans - \$123

Division II

First place: Derek Perry- \$978

Second place: Eric Fox - \$489

Third place: Tim Norris - \$163

Open Division

First place: Daniel Jones - \$1,515

Second place: Cody Gregory - \$757

Third place: Glenn Reese - \$252

Two Man Division

First place: Billy Lewis and Andy Jones - 150 each

Second place: Daniel Jones and Jason Dover - \$62.50 each

Left: winners from Hammered On Campus 2010 in Athens: top photo, from left: Andy Jones, Chad Rice and Freddie Garcia; second photo: Eric Fox, Tim Norris, Tom Saunders and Derek Perry; third photo: Glenn Reese, Cody Gregory and Daniel Jones; bottom photo: Jason Dover, Daniel Jones, Andy Jones and Billy Lewis.

A Nip off the 'ole bottle

Cody Gregory, CJF, of Lamar, Mo., brought his red heeler pup, Big 'un, with him to the GPFA contest this year in Athens, Ga. Apparently the youngster found a way to entertain himself while Cody was competing. The contest went well, but Big 'un is considering entering a 12-step program.



Upcoming events:

What: GPFA Annual Business Meeting and Hammer In

When: Jan. 8, 2011 - 10 a.m.

Where: Horse House - Ball Ground, Ga.

Details: vice president and secretary will be elected

What: Todd Walker Tool Making Clinic

When: Jan. 14 and 15, 2011

Where: Steve Prescotts Farm in Hardieville, SC

Details: Clinic fee is \$200 for hands-on portion with 16 slots. \$30 to audit. Please send in \$100 deposit for the hands-on portion to secure your spot and have tool steel. To register for the clinic, contact GPFA President Derek Perry at 706-331-0567. For directions, contact Steve Prescott: 843-247-3377.

Pegleg Annie

How farriery helped a disabled filly lead a better life

By PALMER WILSON
GPFA member

The first day I saw Annie, my heart went out to the sad little filly. She was a mousey colored, crippled, dejected eight-month-old thoroughbred.

She was a victim of "joint ill," (no one had iodined her navel after birth) which made her left hind leg hang. Hopelessly bent at the hock, her hoof dangled about a foot off of the ground. The most timid filly in a pen full of rambunctious babies, Annie suffered great difficulty in maneuvering on only three legs. Sadly she was at the bottom of the four-horse pecking order.

Now, we can often surmise something of a solution to a challenging problem. It can clearly be seen in our mind's eye. I pictured Annie with a peg leg attached to her hoof allowing her to use an otherwise useless leg. If it worked, this could reduce the obvious muscle atrophy that had developed in her left hip and thigh.

The problem I faced was what material to use and how to build the extension. The next day,

"I arrived at the farm the next morning to find Annie standing on her new leg and kicking the hell out of her young pasture mates."



equipped with a brand new oxy/acetylene outfit, some half inch solid aluminum rod and quarter inch aluminum plate, I went to work.

I learned aluminum could be torch welded, albeit unskillfully. The welding shop had explained to me that aluminum could be welded with a torch and flux coated rod, if the surfaces were very clean. I proceeded to cut two pieces of plate. One matched the exact shape of her untrimmed hoof. On that plate I drilled many holes in the quarters and toe. With considerable luck and much practice, I managed to weld the one

foot-long piece of rod to he middle of the plate. On the other plate (for the ground surface) I bent four corners down so it somewhat resembled a claw.

In those days, some 40 years ago, we only had Capewell No. 3 nails, which I used to nail this apparatus to her tiny hoof. I got at least 4 nails close to the quick, but at the time it was the least of the filly's worries.

Amazingly she was easy to work on. It was as if she knew I was trying to help her. I finished, and not without considerable trepidation, I watched what was now a four-legged filly walk tentatively down the

hall wobbly and unsure, but walking nonetheless.

George MacDonald said, "Doubt isn't a good reason to do anything, but is a bad reason to do nothing."

I reflected on my work for a time, then called it a day and headed home. The next morning, Annie's owner called, obviously excited, saying, "Palmer you've got to come see Annie."

I arrived at the farm the next morning to find Annie standing on her new leg and kicking the hell out of her young pasture mates. Then, somewhat unsteadily, she actually cantered around using both

leads.

Soon after, Miss Caldwell (Annie's owner) moved out of state with Annie, her dam and several other colts and fillies she had bred. I was able to reset the prosthesis one time before she moved away. Miss Caldwell called me some years later to expound upon Annie's success as a broodmare. Evidently, her farrier was able to gradually shorten the extension until a shoe with several pads was all that was needed for Annie's foot to reach the ground. The last I heard, Annie had produced two stakes winners and was living a normal horse happy life.

Thanks for a great year ...

The Georgia Professional Farriers Association would like to thank the people, vendors and sponsors that helped to make this year's contests and clinics a huge success:

- Magic Cushion
- Georgia Farriers Supply
- G & H Horseshoe Sales
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Supplies

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- Neal Baggett
- Eric Gilliland
- Lynn Jean
- Phillip Box
- Wayne Allen



A special thank you goes to Magic Cushion Hoof Packing for their sponsorship of Hammered on Campus 2010, the Georgia Professional Farrier Association's annual contest.

Treasurer's report

I'd like to thank everyone for a great year. There were a few ups and downs, but overall I think we had fun and learned from each other, and in the end that is what it's all about. I'm still putting together a statement since I was unable to stay at the Hammered on Campus contest. I'm running through receipts but I'll have some printed up at the annual meeting. General fund: \$9,631.57 Injured farriers fund: \$2,672
Thanks,
Dave Purves, Treasurer