



Friends and Education – all in the same day

There are many things that are learned in life and there are many things that are learned as farriers. One of the things that sticks out in my mind is learning how little I know. We go to clinics to learn and sometimes to teach. Sometimes the student is teaching and the teacher is learning. That is the glory of the AFA. We are unique in our attitudes and aptitudes. The ones who know a lot will teach the others to help bring them up to the same level instead of trying to hold them down. And in return, will pick up a few pointers on the way.

The certification clinic at Falcon Ridge Stables on March 24, 2012 was like that for me. I was hoping to help someone learn something that may be useful in their farrier business. And while doing so, I learned a few things also. I made some new friends, and horseshoeing friends are the best to have. They are the guys (or gals) that you can rely on. I remember one time when a dear farrier friend of mine called and had thrown his back out while working. He asked if I would go by and finish nailing the hind shoes on the horse he was working on. Of course I would. I didn't see it as an inconvenience, but an honor to help my friend. When I had carpal tunnel surgery, my business never missed a beat due to the friendships that I have gained. That was almost three weeks that I didn't swing a hammer. That would be devastating to a lot of farrier businesses who rely solely on themselves. My farrier business relies on my friends a great deal, and so does my sanity.

I thank Mr. Bill Crowder, CJF (deceased) for introducing me to the Georgia Professional Farriers Association and the many dear friendships that I have obtained through it. I can't even begin to name them all.

The GPFA would like to thank Falcon Ridge Stables of Woodstock, GA along with Dave Purves, CJF, Derek Perry, CJF, Chip Crumbly, CJF, AWCF, Jeffery Morton, CJF, Steve Muir, CJF, and Morgan Hurst, CJF who did outstanding jobs as clinicians. If anyone left there without obtaining some knowledge they might as well give up now, there is no hope for them.

I will say that I find it sad when farriers think that they need to be shoeing instead of attending clinics. They may go and earn another dollar that they will turn around and spend. At a clinic, they will learn how to make a dollar that will keep making them hundreds of dollars. After all, the money you make today will be gone tomorrow, but the knowledge you gain will last a lifetime.

Eric Gilleland, CJF

Pre-certification day



The arena at Falcon Ridge Farm.

Chip Crumbly CFJ, AWCF showing the right way.



Derek Perry CJF and Lee Griffin CF closely watching Jason Dover CF.



Lucas Gilleland CF and his good work.

G.P.F.A Certification Day

We want to remind to all the people coming to take the test that we are asking a **\$ 50 deposit** to reserve the horse for the practical part.

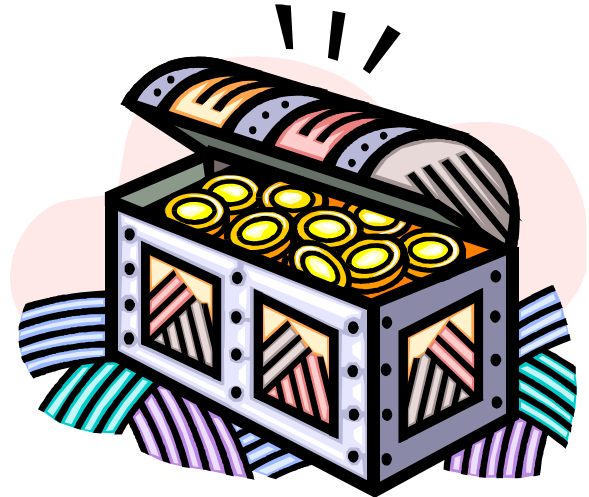
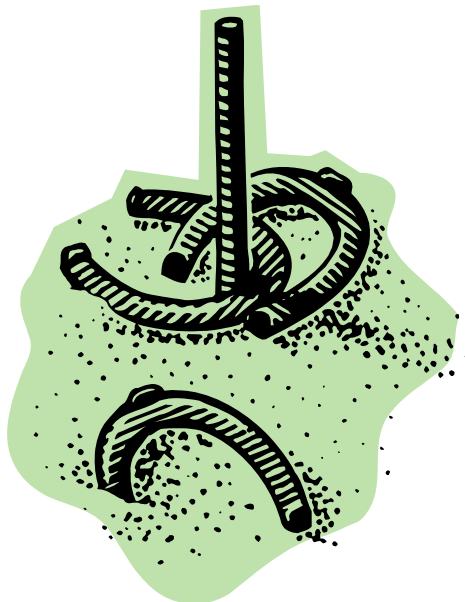
Contact Jason Dover CF 770-856-1627

Hotel Information in Athens

Best Western

170 N Milledge Ave, Athens Ga 30601

706-546-7311



Treasure Report

Gentlemen we currently have **\$7,394.92** total (\$6,429.92 in the General fund and \$965 in Injured Farrier Fund)

As of today, April 4 2012, we currently have 43 paid members and 3 lifetime members.

The 41st Annual AFA Convention

This past February I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the 41st Annual AFA Convention in Mobile, Alabama. I enjoyed all that was offered and left feeling that I had benefited from the experience. My experience included meeting new officials, attending lectures and workshops, shopping at a marketplace, and even watching some competition each day.

As a member of the AFA, I feel it is important to be part of these events. At the convention I attended both the Board of Directors meeting and the Membership meeting. During this time I had the opportunity to meet the newly elected officials and also to learn about their goals for the AFA and the direction they would like to see it move. Between these two meetings there were numerous lectures and workshops.

The lectures and workshops, for me, were an important arena to gain knowledge. The AFA always manages to secure the best speakers in each profession, including veterinarians and farriers. Each speaker's presentation included the most up to date information on different topics such as anatomy, disease, therapeutic shoeing, and farrier / client relationships. After being exposed to an abundance of new information, each speaker made it a point to give us time to ask questions to ensure understanding. This was especially helpful to me because I had the chance to clear up doubts I may have had on a topic.

Another part of the convention that I enjoyed very much was the marketplace. I think most farriers would feel the same way I did, like a kid in a candy store! Many of the biggest farrier supply companies and toolmakers were vendors in the Marketplace. A variety of tools were sold at fair prices, which is a benefit to all farriers. Not only were the tools available, but the actual toolmakers were there as well. I had the pleasure of meeting a few of them, including legends like Jim Keith.

The other main activity at the convention was the National Forging and Horseshoeing Competition. I saw some of the best 'hands' in the country in action, making shoes and other awesome things in the fire. It motivated me to work on my own shoemaking so that in the future I can enter the competition.

On top of meeting new officials, learning new information, shopping, and watching competitions, I also got to meet other farriers from around the county and visit a new city. Overall, I would say that attending the convention was both a positive and beneficial experience.

Guillermo Zaugg CF