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Welcome to the fourth edition of Full Cry,

Published and produced by Wateree Hounds of Camden, South Carolina. We are showcasing our love of foxhunting, hounds, the history of the sport and companionship with fellow admirers. Our ties and connection with the land are great, and we want to share our joy of riding to hounds with you!

Articles are informative of the sport and other equestrian events and local interests. We invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the ride!

To keep up to date with our events, visit our website at www.watereehounds.com, or find your way to our Facebook page.

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Letter from the Masters

2024



NED TOWELL
MFH,
First Field Master



MEREDITH SOMERSET
DVM, MFH,
Honorary Whipper-In



VINCE PASCHAL
MFH,
Ex-Honorary Huntsman

To All Wateree Hounds Subscribers and Supporters,
As we bid farewell to a sweltering Camden summer, the arrival of cooler weather brings with it an unmistakable anticipation—hunting season is just around the corner. The excitement of last year's events still lingers, and we are ready to dive into what promises to be an unforgettable 2024-2025 season with the Wateree Hounds.

Looking back on last year, it's hard not to feel proud of what we accomplished. We managed to hunt 40 times out of 44 carded fixtures. We also stayed busy with a full calendar of social events that kept our community connected and thriving. From the lively Kickoff Party Oyster Roast at Finally Farm to the grand tradition of the Opening Meet at Brewer Plantation, each gathering reminded us why this community is so special. The Inaugural Wateree Cup Polo Match was a standout highlight, followed closely by events like Horses and Heroes at Historic Camden and the unforgettable Christmas Party at Proctor Hall. And of course, who could forget the Hunt Ball at Springdale Hall Club—an elegant celebration of the season's best moments. We closed the season in style with a festive Closing Meet Breakfast at the home of Vic and EJ Paschal and wrapped things up with the Annual Meeting at the Kennels, the Derby Day Party, and our newest event, the Puppy Naming Auction, both at Finally Farm. Currently our members are filling a commercial horse trailer with supplies to benefit those in need, both human and animal, after the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

But while we all cherish those moments of camaraderie, the real excitement came when polo made its triumphant return to Camden. What started as an idea quickly grew into a movement, with Discovery Days introducing new players to the sport and the formation of the Camden Polo League shortly thereafter. The historic Kirkwood Polo Field—the second oldest in the country—roared back to life with tailgates, matches, and plenty of enthusiasm. At our Annual Meeting, Clark O'Neill's speech about the importance of the field's preservation was both moving and inspiring. With Clark's expert guidance, we are now moving forward with plans for grants, irrigation, and the repairs needed to restore this beloved field, affectionately known as "The Wrigley Field of Camden." We're lucky to have Clark as part of our team, and thanks to his efforts, the field's future looks brighter than ever.

In keeping with the theme of fresh starts, one of the most exciting changes over the past year

has been the arrival of the Clifton Family to our kennels. On May 1, we officially welcomed Huntsman Sam Clifton, Kennelman and retired Huntsman Steve Clifton, their son William, and the indispensable Shannon Clifton, Whipper-In. The Clifton family has quickly become an essential part of Wateree Hounds, bringing an unmatched combination of enthusiasm, knowledge, and professionalism to the hunt. It's not just their expertise that has won us over—it's their passion for the sport and their commitment to the community. From the moment they joined us, it was clear we had found the perfect team to lead us into the future.

For those who haven't seen the kennels recently, prepare to be amazed. The grounds are pristine, the hounds are settled and content, and under Sam's guidance, we've introduced mounted hound exercise, as well as opened up cubbing an entire month earlier. (There are rumors our season will be extended through the end of March as well.) And, with Sam and Steve's hard work, we're exploring new country and scouting potential new hunting locations for the upcoming season. The future is looking bright!

As we prepare to embark on the 2024-2025 season, we invite each of you to join us in this thrilling journey. With new fixtures on the horizon and our hounds fitter than ever, there is so much to look forward to. We are proud to be celebrating our fifth season with the Clifton family at the helm, and together, we'll continue to grow, to explore, and to savor every moment of this wild ride that is The Wateree Hounds.

Thank you all for your unwavering support, your enthusiasm, and your shared love of the chase. Here's to another season of adventure, tradition, and the extraordinary bond that defines our community.

With excitement and anticipation,

*Vince Paschal, Meredith Somerset,
and Ned Towell*

The Masters of Wateree Hounds



HUNT STAFF



Sam Clifton
Huntsman



Shannon Clifton
First Whipper-In



Meredith Somerset, DVM
Honorary Whipper-In



Virginia Ipock, MD
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Nicole Cunningham,
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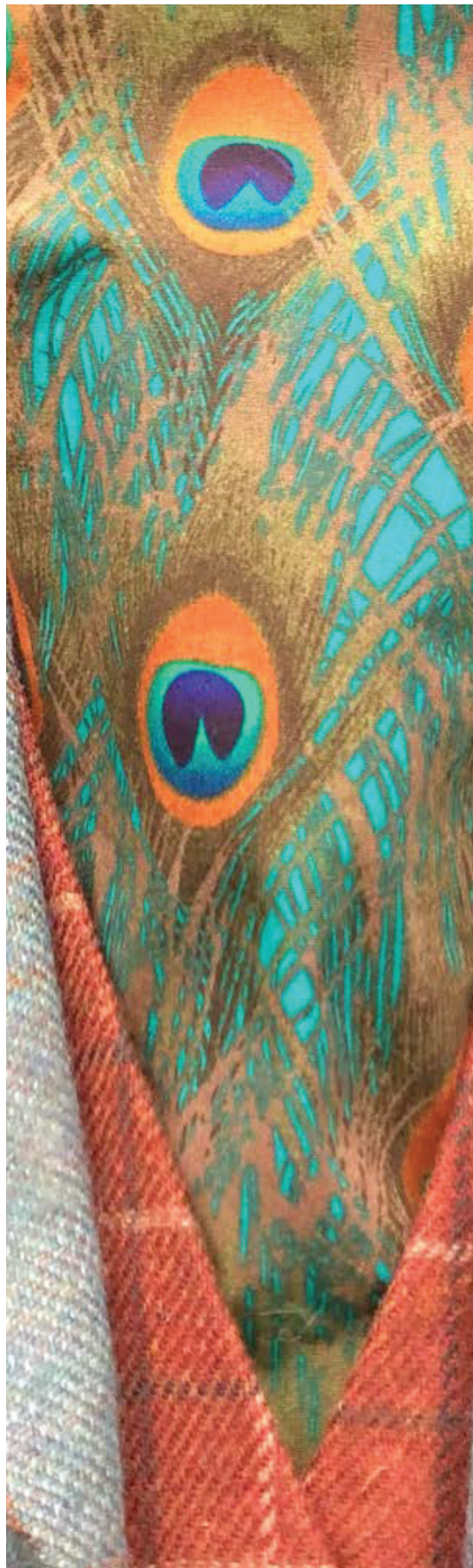


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IN THE HUNT FIELD

MULES & FOXHUNTING IN AMERICA

"They're really stubborn!"... "Don't get too close, mules kick!"... "I didn't know you could ride a mule."... "Can they jump?"... "Horses don't like mules."... "Mules don't belong in the hunt field."

BY ASHLEY CROWLEY-MOONEYHAM

Mules have always intrigued me. You see them once in a while, usually ridden by "cowboys" at trail rides, pulling wagons in parades, on videos of tours through the Grand Canyon, and of course Festus from the show "Gunsmoke" rode a john mule named Ruth. What you almost never see is a mule in English tack, and rarer still is one in the hunt field. Foxhunting is a sport that requires good brains, sure-footedness, jumping ability, endurance and fearlessness -

five things mules have in spades, and yet they are often missing in the hunt field entirely.

Occasionally I meet someone that has known a hunt mule. Among them is my friend Lindy Kelly who had the honor to hunt Kit, the wonder mule, in Tennessee. Kit was "Chronicle of the Horse" famous for her eventing prowess. When I first started hunting, Jim Woolridge (exMFH - The Camden Hunt) led 3rd flight on a glorious grey mule named Jill. My first mule,

Charley, hunts with Marlboro Hunt in Maryland now and is filling her dance card each week with members, guests, and her very own junior (the huntsman's son). If you think mules are a bit out of place in the hunt field here, imagine what it's like for Margo and her rider Charlotte Sainsbury-Price who hunt with the Croome and West Warwickshire Hunt in England! Woodbrook Hunt Club in Washington and Goshen Hounds in Maryland have had healthy mule memberships through the years as well. Levi, my current hunt mule, has just finished his first full season hunting. Before coming to me Levi spent much of his life deer hunting with an older gentleman in North Carolina. He was broke to gun, whip and hound when I got him, although he's not "fancy broke" and steers a bit like a tractor if I'm being honest. He has hunted with Wateree Hounds, Belle Meade Hunt, Mecklenburg Hounds and Lowcountry Hunt. He's consistently led second field, babysat green horses, whipped once or twice, jumped logs and ditches, and begrudgingly kept up with first field when asked. His big, floppy ears have entertained members, guests, and a few folks on the Internet too. If you've hunted a mule or hunted beside one, you know what an absolute cracking hunt "horse" they can be.

Mules have always been a part of the American story, and their history is often inter-

twined with the history of fox-hunting in America. George Washington is credited with being the father of the American Mule, the father of the American Foxhound, and the father of our nation (in that order). He was convinced mules would revolutionize farming in the USA. Washington received "Royal Gift", an Andalusian-Spanish donkey jack from King Charles III of Spain in 1785 and 3 more (1 jack and 2 jennets) from the Marquis de Lafayette the following year. By George's death in 1799, mules had surpassed horses at Mount Vernon by more than 2:1. While mules never became popular with northern farmers who preferred oxen or draft horses, mules were the exclusive draft animal in the southern states and western territories. As Washington predicted, America was indeed built behind a mule.

The sport of hunting with hounds has been a popular pastime in the southern and Appalachian regions since the early days of the nation, just not in the way many might recognize. If a farmer was well off enough to own a mule, that mule plowed his fields, delivered his produce to market, and might

even be ridden to hounds! A hunter would head out to the meet after supper on his mule with his best couple or two of hounds. Once all the participants and their hounds had gathered, the joint pack would be released at dark to run game, sometimes all night, hunters following behind on foot or on mule. Once the game was put to ground or treed the hunters would head back to their farms to get started with the day's work in the field.

As the story goes, in 1852 Tom Harris was returning home to Kentucky after buying a new mule in Virginia. Somewhere in Tennessee near the Kentucky border Tom came across a pack of hounds running hot on a deer. One large, rat-tailed,



black hound appeared to be well ahead of the rest of the pack. Tom jumped off his new mule, scooped up the lead dog and took him home to Kentucky where he sold the dog to George Washington Maupin, who named the dog Tennessee Lead. Lead had exceptional game sense, a short and clear mouth (tongue) and because of his speed and ability, he was able to keep up and sometimes catch the brand-new quarry moving into the Appalachians in the 1850s, the red fox. Lead was crossed with American foxhounds, Virginia black and tans, imported English foxhounds, as well as Bleu de Gascogne French hounds in Louisiana; specifically, to chase this new game. Tennessee Lead is the foundation sire of the Running Walker, Trigg and Goodman Foxhound lines, and was integral in the creation of July/Birdsong foxhound strain - hound types you might recognize in your own club's kennels today. These breeds owe their abilities not only to Tennessee Lead, but to thieving Tom and his brand-new mule.

There were 6 million mules in the United States by 1925, the peak of mule-power in the US, but in the 1960s their numbers had dropped to fewer than 10,000. What happened to the mule as the preferred American equine? Well, railroads, the gas engine, and the rise of commercial farming and mining made equines a luxury and not a

necessity for most people. Mules were largely out of work by the 1940s. A great number of MFHA foxhunts sprang up in the southern US between 1910 and the late 1930s. These clubs catered to the wealthier set with proper English type hunters, and mules were simply not posh enough to be included in the field. Although several hunts used mules to pull the drag line in the early days, including The Camden Hunt. Farmers kept on hunting their mules until they also replaced them with trucks, and eventually 4 wheelers and ATVs.

Today there are an estimated 30,000 mules in the US, and the population is on the rise again. The FEI, USEF and The United States Dressage Federation (USDF) allow mules in competition. Buckeye, the USDF dressage mule, was even made into a Breyer model. Currently there is a group actively campaigning the USHJA to allow mules within their ranks as well.

It's been said, "Even a stupid mule is smarter than a good horse, or a bad man." Most mules won't tolerate a foolish human, or gruff treatment, and they certainly aren't for everyone. Like horses, humans, and hounds some take to foxhunting better than others... but don't discount what a good mule is capable of. The mule has earned the right to stand side by side with their equine brethren in all equine sports, but perhaps most of all, the sport of foxhunting in America.








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10 tips

TO MAKE A GREAT HUNT HORSE BY A 10 YEAR OLD

BY EMMERSON MOONEYHAM

I started hunting when I was six. I got a seasoned hunt horse named Roger. He was a great first hunt horse, but he had to be retired after that season. We found a large, sassy pony named Henry at a local barn and I immediately fell in love. Henry had never hunted before, so I had to teach him myself. We started in third field with my mom. He took to hunting nicely, and after a season and a half of work we were able to move up to second field. He's turned into a fabulous hunt horse, and we have spent this season in first field, and I've even whipped-in with him! He tries really hard to keep up with the thoroughbreds and really seems to love it as much as I do! Here are some tips I have to help you make your own hunt horse:



1. Hound proof them. If you have dogs at home, try to introduce your horse around them, and eventually ride with them. That way if a hound comes behind your horse, they will not get scared and kick the hound, possibly injuring it.

2. Start slow and easy. Make sure you start in 3rd field. As time passes and your horse figures out what hunting is about, you can move up to 2nd field and maybe 1st field once they (and you) are comfortable.

3. Have a hunt buddy. It is always helpful to have a steady hunt horse friend for your horse to follow and learn from. If your horse gets close behind them, they will be ok with it, or your horse's hunt buddy might tell them nicely not to do that again.

4. Make sure your horse is comfortable. Do whatever you can to make sure they aren't worried or anxious. If you feel your horse would do better in the back or front of the field, don't be scared to ask to move to a different spot. Give pats for encouragement when scary or new things happen to let them know it's ok. Treats are always appreciated, but give them only when the horse is on his best behavior!

5. Patience please! Standing is one of the hardest things for a horse to learn. When you stop at checks in the field, your horse can feel antsy and want to keep hunting! You can help teach them to stand still by giving them a pat or a treat when they are standing quietly. Let them eat a bit of grass if that's helpful. If those things don't help keep them still, you can turn them in a small circle, and then let them try and stand again. Practice at home or on a trail ride when you can. This can also help when staff pass by you at a gallop.

6. Stop. There can be a lot of stop and go out hunting so if your horse is bad with that try working on it at home until they get the hang of it. Until then, there is usually a horse in the field that can be used sometimes as a bumper, but try not to do that too often.

7. Keep their mind occupied. If your horse seems to be jigging, or being silly, do some simple exercises like doing transitions, bending or asking them to move side to side so they have to pay attention to you.

8. Know when they've had enough. If your horse seems to be upset, like bucking or rearing try moving to a slower field or going back to the trailers. Hunting should be fun for everyone involved. Safety is more important than staying in the field.

9. The horse comes first. When you are done hunting, always take care of your horse first. Loosen your girth, give them a treat, pat and offer water before you take care of yourself. Letting them know that after hunting they get a warm blanket, a snack and a rest will help them stay excited for hunting the next week.

10. Have fun. Hunting should be fun for everyone involved, horses too. If you are having fun, your horse will feel it, and hopefully have fun too!

Remember, it takes more than one hunt to make a good hunt horse, and hunting isn't for every horse or every rider. And that's ok because even a bad day in the hunt field is better than a good day at school.

Good luck and Happy Hunting!



Photo by Mark Jump



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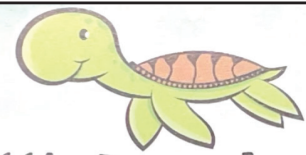
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Brewer Plantation FIXTURE

c. 2024

THE BIG HOUSE

The majesty of this 18th century plantation, originally land granted by King George III, is truly the gift that keeps on giving. A typical Southern Plantation, Brewer Plantation sat in the center of eight thousand acres of timber and crop land at the onset of the 1800's. Located just 20 miles from Camden, SC, the original plantation house still stands on the highest crest, with views for miles. Members of the field, exiting the woods with a final canter up the hill, are treated to an incredible sight. The big house is an untouched gem, making a graceful scene, evoking the feeling of being in a bygone era.

BREWER CEMETERY

Previous guardians of this special place are laid to rest, on their beloved land, in the Brewer family cemetery. As a fox hunter, passing this historical landmark, you are brought to a view of the valley below, and may feel a moment of appreciation for the six generations of this family who have maintained the land which appears to you, just as it would have in the 19th century.



Brewer Plantation's ancestry dates back to the first William Brewer (1774-1860). Hence the birth of the Brewer family's love of this terra firma, and will run deep in the veins of its descendants for generations to come. His son Samuel Brewer (1818-1900) married Mary Susan Haile (1829-1909) and they had three children, one being William Brewer II.



Eight daughters of William II & Mollie Mickle Brewer

Eight daughters of William II & Mollie Mickle Brewer

William II (1849-1904) married Mollie Mickle (1860-1922) of Sunnyhill Plantation. They had 8 daughters, and two sons, William III and John I. In 1904 they vacated the big house at Brewer Plantation for access to better education for the children. Education has always been a priority in the Brewer family.



William Brewer III and brother John Brewer, Sr. (c.1910)

William Brewer III, while attending military school, died of rheumatic fever at the age of 18. John Brewer, Sr, Grandfather of current John Brewer III, was the last of the 10 children. He became the only surviving male of the Brewer Plantation lineage at that time. He attended the University of North Carolina and graduated from MUSC medical school in Charleston, SC. He was a local, well respected physician residing in Kershaw. He served his country in WWII as a flight surgeon on the USS Enterprise. John Sr., grandfather of current John Brewer, had a natural inherent love of Brewer Plantation.

GRIST MILL RUINS

Dr John Brewer, Sr. built a cabin overlooking the millpond, circa 1930, just behind the grist mill ruins. This small town country doctor found great peace and quiet in the respite of Brewer Plantation. Here you can still see the remnants of the 1800's grist mill. Even though the cabin no longer stands, when we hunt we can imagine its historical beauty and no doubt you too will feel the serenity at this spot.



Artifacts found on property by Owner John Brewer



Grist Mill Ruins

DR. JOHN BREWER, JR. DEER STAND

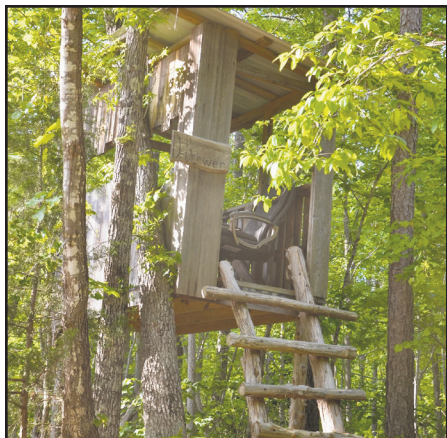
As part of his conservation efforts, John uses reclaimed materials from other parts of the property for new projects. This particular stand, named for Dr. John Brewer, Jr., is built of reclaimed barn wood and cedar posts harvested from trees on Brewer Plantation. This sets a nostalgic tone for a deer

hunting afternoon, and one can appreciate the craftsmanship in a structure sympathetic to its surroundings while fox hunting.

Dr. John Brewer, Jr. was a graduate of Duke Medical School, physician in Atlanta, Ga. and Kershaw, SC. He was instrumental in putting the core plantation property back together through his inheritance and acquisitions from his cousins. It is thanks to him, and his vision, that we have the opportunity to enjoy this extensive property. Brewer Plantation, as we know it today, consists of 2,500 acres. It is owned by Ms. Rae Maillet Brewer and her sons, John, William, Darwin, and Clay.

John Brewer III, the eldest of Dr John Brewer and Rae Brewer, maintains and nourishes the farm as though it is his canvas. As is the wish of the generations before him, his mission is to leave the land better after his tenure. His love of this land is Godly, he knows he's just the Shepherd for others to enjoy what has been given to them.

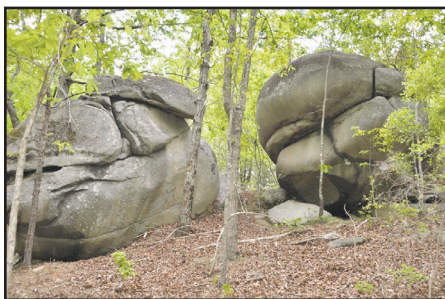
He currently oversees all aspects of the property, managing Deer and Turkey hunting as well as Dove and Quail shoots. He plants feed plots for game, crops and fruit trees. John also manages the timber operations and conservation efforts for Brewer Plantation, including establishing a thriving quail population on the property, as well as assisting owners of neighboring lands.



Dr. John Brewer, Jr. deer stand

BREATHTAKING BOULDERS

The magnificently vast boulders and ravines could tell stories of hiding both man and animal, cloaking them amongst the rocky screens for safety against intruders. Federal troops marched through in 1865, called the "Campaign of the Carolinas". Mr. Brewer utilized the unique topographical aspects of the land, its treasure of deep ravines and magnificent boulders to hide man, animals, food and loved ones to survive. To hunt amongst this natural beauty on horseback is surreal and intoxicating. The overwhelming feeling of being in another place, back in time, on this acreage of splendor is truly a gift to embrace, and of course, one not to miss!



BREWER PLANTATION, CURRENTLY

The Brewer Family has been

able to hold on to their land through sacrificial stewardship and the vision of many. Six generations later, the grounds of Brewer Plantation hold a certain magnetism that can be felt by any hunter lucky enough to roam its trails and woodlands. Wateree hounds has the privilege of hunting this splendid venue, with views overlooking hilltop to hilltop, boulders set upon boulders reaching to the sky, and ravines so deep they will tell stories if you listen hard enough. When you ride, keep an eye out for artifacts of old. Whether it be an iron tool, ruins from an old homestead, an arrowhead, pottery or mule shoes, the earth at Brewer Plantation holds history and it is our fortune to count this as one of our fixtures.



"PORCH SITTING"

An old sharecropper's house overlooking the beginnings of the quail preserve property has been gently refurbished and is used as a hunting club for gatherings and social activities. Socializing after the hunt is historically an integral part of Fox Hunting. With an outside kitchen, an inviting fire pit, and rockers on the front porch, it is one of the many settings at Brewer Plantation to enjoy a post Hunt Breakfast, oysters over the fire, fellowship and conversation about the day's hunt.

Wateree Hounds has had the privilege of hunting Brewer Plantation this past 2023-24 hunt season.

We hope you enjoy the pictures, the words, and the history we've shared. Thank you, John Brewer, for your stewardship of this land. May we always hunt as He sees fit.



Come walk, trot and/or canter with Wateree Hounds through Brewer Plantation. You'll feel like you're back in time and surrounded by Godly love of nature, fox, coyote, horses and hound.

Tally Ho!

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A taste of the hunt

From Stirrup Cups to Soirees

BY LUCY DUNBAR

Fox hunting is full of tradition and hospitality, and nothing pairs the two together better than the Stirrup Cup! The term Stirrup Cup originally referred to a "parting cup", during the time the horse was the primary form of transport, when a guest is leaving and has their foot in the stirrup. This was perhaps a final show of hospitality by a host, or possibly, a medicinal purpose to brace the rider against the chill of inclement weather, or to ease the discomfort of a long and "derriere" numbing journey.

Today the Stirrup Cup is the traditional drink served at the meet, prior to a day's Fox Hunting. This usually takes the form of Port or Sherry, and although likely served in shatterproof plastic glasses to combat the antics of excited horses and fumbling, gloved, riders. On very special occasions an antique silver cup, often in the shape of a fox or hound head, may be the receptacle of choice. The term stirrup cup can also refer to the vessel that the drink is served in, and these unique pieces of art are prized collectibles often gracing a sideboard or mantle in the discerning Fox Hunters home!

Wateree Hounds is lucky to have E.J. Paschal as the official stirrup cup support, and she will greet riders and followers at the meet with



a glass of Port or Sherry, a little Dutch Courage for the day ahead! Of course, if you wander through the horse trailer parking you will also see the same, sticky, liquid being poured into hip or saddle flasks, for a quick top up when drawing a covert.

Winter is not long in South Carolina, compared to some other areas of the globe, but we are still subject to the odd morning of sub-zero temperatures. It is a blessing to those of us that venture out to load horses in the dark, while seeing our breath form frosty little clouds in front of our face, when we arrive to the sight of EJ's tablecloth sporting an assortment of thermos flasks. This means a treat of her **Hot Buttered Rum**, sure to warm the cockles of the heart. Hot buttered Rum has a history dating back to Colonial Times, it was also known as hot spiced rum, when combined with cloves, allspice, and nutmeg. It also makes a great Holiday Drink to serve guests at any outdoor function during the winter months.

Once the day aboard is in full swing there may be more hospitality from the Tally Ho Wagon, a great chance for all

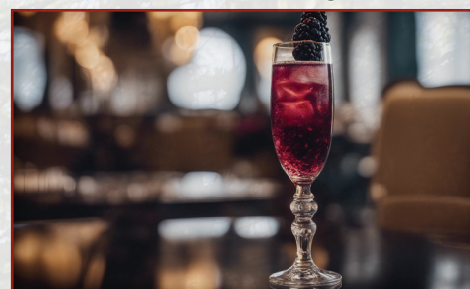
three fields to literally circle the wagon, and grab a glass of Prosecco, a Mimosa or a Bloody Mary. If you are a fan of the Bloody Mary be sure not to miss the annual Hunt Breakfast hosted by the Lady Whips of Wateree Hounds, as they sure do know how to lay on the **Ultimate Bloody Mary Bar**.



Having a signature cocktail is always a fun deviation from beer and wine at the Hunt Breakfast, and when choosing what to serve one should always consider the occasion. Another drink popular at the Macburn Stables Breakfast was the **Winter Sangria**, this could also be served as a Holiday Drink, and is a flavorful twist on the summer sangrias popular in the Mediterranean, adding a winter spiced simple syrup to the red wine and fruit juice.

When the days hunting at Skuffle Farm was going to close later in the afternoon, a hunt tea, rather than a hunt breakfast was laid on at Mere-

dith Coxe's home, and along side the tea sandwiches and scones a more appropriate choice of cocktail was the **Kir Royale**. A champagne tea is always welcome, but to make it more of an "occasion" combining a splash of Crème De Cassis with your champagne or sparkling wine and popping in a couple of fresh raspberries, served in a flute glass gives the cocktail a little more "grandiose".



Kir Royal

- 3-4 tbsp Crème De Cassis
- Chilled champagne or Dry sparkling wine
- Fresh Raspberries
- Place 3-4 tbsp Crème De Cassis in a flute glass, fill with champagne and top with a couple of fresh raspberries.

Moving on to evening events and drinks; there are few evenings in the seasons' calendar more grand than that of the annual Hunt Ball. There will be a bar for cocktails before dinner, where an expert will be able to mix your drink of choice, but, it is quite normal for friends to gather for a drink before carriages to the ball at someone's home. If you are the host of such an occasion it is perfectly acceptable to offer guests a drink by opening a bottle of wine or offering a beer. However, having ingredients for a cocktail on hand will be sure to impress your guests.

EJ's Hot Buttered Rum

- water
- Cinnamon sticks
- Cloves
- Dark rum
- Butter
- 4 oz water for each person served

Simmer in pan with 3 sticks of cinnamon and 10 cloves. If for breakfast in field transfer to thermos. Serve in Styro-foam cup with one ounce dark rum and one pat of butter and liquid poured over. Tally ho



Winter Sangria

- Simple Syrup:
- 1/3 cup water, 1/3 cup sugar, cinnamon sticks, 5 whole black peppercorns, 2-3 whole cloves, 1 whole star anise.
- Sangria:
- 750ml bottle red wine, a sweeter blend works best, as well as Red Zinfandel or Tempranillo.
- Juice of 2 oranges, or half to ¾ cup of OJ.
- ¼ cup of Brandy (optional)
- sliced apple, pear and oranges.

Simmer water, sugar and spices in a small saucepan for 5-10 minutes. Cool to room temperature and strain into a bowl. (retain cinnamon sticks) Pour Red Wine, Orange Juice, Brandy (optional) and syrup into a pitcher and add sliced fruit and cinnamon sticks. Let stand in fridge for flavor to develop, 2 hours to overnight, but bring to room temperature for serving.



For the ladies sparkling wine or champagne is an excellent start to the party mood, and the citrus twist in a **French 75** is a delicious pre-dinner drink. It is a classy cocktail fit for such an occasion, combining champagne, gin, lemon juice and simple syrup, but derives its name from an unusual source. Originally

created in 1914 or 1915 it is named after the French Army's 75mm Light Field Gun used in WW1. As the most powerful and accurate gun of its time, it was a beacon of hope amongst the French and her Allies in their battle against Germany. Following inclusion in an article in the Washington Herald

French 75

- 1 oz Gin
- ½ oz Lemon Juice
- 2 dashes of simple syrup
- 2-3 oz champagne

Combine Gin, Lemon Juice and Simple Syrup in a cocktail shaker, filled with ice. Strain into a flute glass and top with champagne, stir gently and garnish with a lemon twist.



Old Fashioned

- 1 tsp sugar, or sugar lump (possibly stolen from the barn)
- 3 Dashes of Angostura Bitters
- 1 tsp water
- 2 oz Bourbon or Rye whiskey
- Orange twist and Maraschino Cherries for garnish

Add sugar lump to rocks glass, dash on bitters, add the water and stir until dissolved. Add Bourbon or Rye and drop in ice, stir until chilled and garnish. Hint, express the orange twist over glass before dropping in, class it up by adding the cherries on a cocktail stick, novelty ones from a party store will make it more fun!



in 1915 its popularity rose and could be found in any bar menu.

For the Gentlemen may we suggest a very classic **Old Fashioned**, a warming slug of Bourbon or Rye Whisky, depending on preference, with a sugar cube to keep him sweet and possibly pry him onto the dance floor before the night is over!

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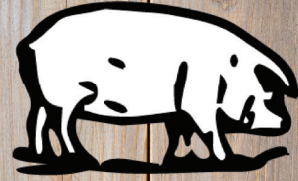
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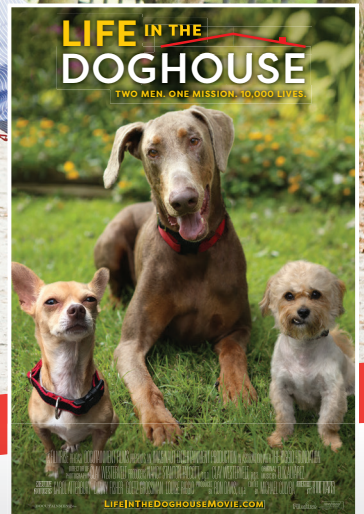
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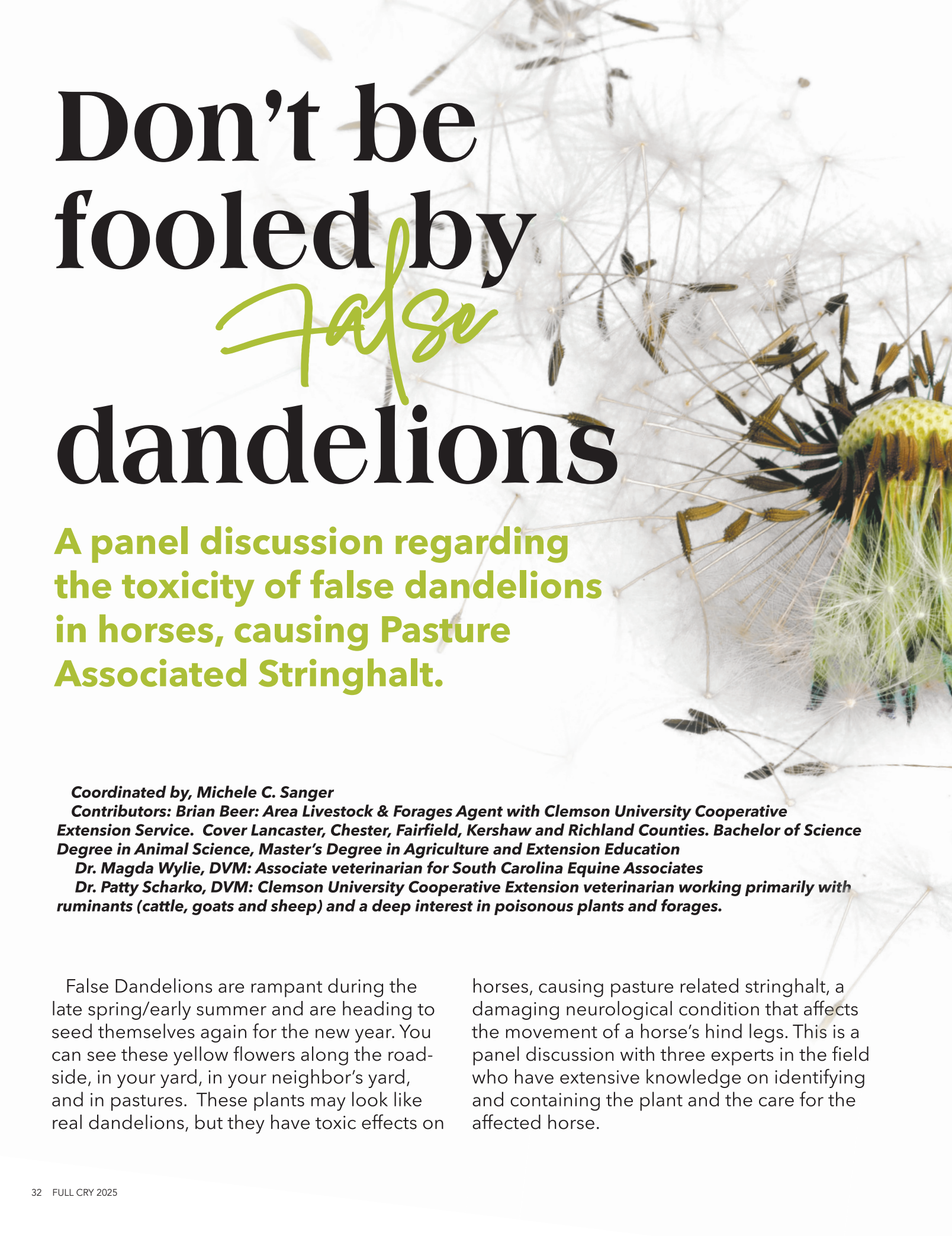
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Don't be fooled by *False* dandelions

**A panel discussion regarding
the toxicity of false dandelions
in horses, causing Pasture
Associated Stringhalt.**

Coordinated by, Michele C. Sanger

Contributors: Brian Beer: Area Livestock & Forages Agent with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. Cover Lancaster, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw and Richland Counties. Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science, Master's Degree in Agriculture and Extension Education

Dr. Magda Wylie, DVM: Associate veterinarian for South Carolina Equine Associates

Dr. Patty Scharko, DVM: Clemson University Cooperative Extension veterinarian working primarily with ruminants (cattle, goats and sheep) and a deep interest in poisonous plants and forages.

False Dandelions are rampant during the late spring/early summer and are heading to seed themselves again for the new year. You can see these yellow flowers along the roadside, in your yard, in your neighbor's yard, and in pastures. These plants may look like real dandelions, but they have toxic effects on

horses, causing pasture related stringhalt, a damaging neurological condition that affects the movement of a horse's hind legs. This is a panel discussion with three experts in the field who have extensive knowledge on identifying and containing the plant and the care for the affected horse.

How did you learn about False Dandelions and the negative effects on horses?

Dr. Patty Scharko: "I was giving poisonous plant talks to livestock producers in 2009-10. Kevin Campbell as Clemson Extension Livestock and Forages agent (no longer in that position) mentioned the false dandelion (*Hypochaeris Radicata*) appeared to be causing stringhalt problems in several horses in Aiken County. It was a year that fields were loaded with yellow dandelions and the grass had not started to grow."

Brian Beer: "I heard about the link between stringhalt and flatweed (aka, cats ear, false dandelion) about 5 or 6 years ago."

Dr. Magda Wylie: "I saw my first case about a decade ago... I was definitely not taught it in vet school."

What happens to a horse if it ingests flatweed?

Brian Beer: "First, a horse must consume a large amount of cats ear over a long period for problems to occur. If enough is eaten, the horse can develop stringhalt. Stringhalt is characterized by a hyper flexion of one or both hind legs. Extreme cases will see the horse's foot touching or nearly touching its belly while walking. The condition can also be caused by injury to the legs or back and has been linked to other plants (sweet pea, vetch, and common dandelion) Hyper flexion caused by consuming cats ear is also called Pasture-associated Stringhalt (PAS), or Australian Stringhalt due to a similar condition being identified in Australia in horses eating cats ear. How much cats ear is required to cause stringhalt? Experimentally, the condition has been duplicated by feeding 9.8 kg (21.6 lbs.) of green cats ear per day for 50 days."

Dr. Magda Wylie: The strange thing about it is that we will see one horse in the pasture affected, and all the other horses will be fine; we definitely recognize it growing in pasture where none of the other horses are affected."

Can a horse heal from the toxin?

Brian Beer: "Removing affected horses from pastures with cats ear can reverse stringhalt. However, recovery can take 6-18 months, and some cases has taken up to 2 years to resolve."

Dr. Magda Wylie: "I recommend seeking treatment from their veterinarian, and sometimes it can take a very long time to resolve or be permanent."

What do False Dandelions look like versus real dandelions?

Brian Beer: "Common dandelion and false dandelions have lobed leaves, forming a low growing rosette. Common dandelion has a single, straight, flowering stem. False dandelions have multiple, branched flowering stems. Carolina false dandelion is very similar in appearance to cats ear. Carolina false dandelion leaves are hairless, and the stems have long, sparse hairs, and has not been associated with PAS.. Cats ear leaves are covered in dense hairs making the leaves feel fuzzy."



COMMON DANDELION (TARAXACUM OFFICINALE)



Perennial

Identifying characters:

Tap-rooted, herbaceous plant. Lobed leaves from a basal rosette. Single, straight flowering stem.

Herbicide Options:

Grazon Next - 1.5-2 pts./ac

Duracor - 12 oz./ac

WeedMaster - 1-2 pts./ac

Herbicide Timing

Late summer, early fall

COOPERATIVE

FALSE DANDELIONS



Cats Ear (source: Virginia Tech Weed ID)
Hypochaeris radicata



Carolina False Dandelion

(source: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

Purshovapous carolinianus

What do False Dandelions look like versus real dandelions?

Brian Beer: "Common dandelion and false dandelions have lobed leaves, forming a low growing rosette. Common dandelion has a single, straight, flowering stem. False dandelions have multiple, branched flowering stems. Carolina false dandelion is very similar in appearance to cats ear. Carolina false dandelion leaves are hairless, and the stems have long, sparse hairs, and has not been associated with PAS.. Cats ear leaves are covered in dense hairs making the leaves feel fuzzy."

Is there a part of the dandelion that is most toxic? Would mowing pastures take care of the problem?

Brian Beer: "The exact toxin that causes stringhalt has not been identified, so we don't know which parts are more toxic to horses. Mowing will remove the seed stems, but mowing is not a satisfactory means of controlling cats ear. The low growing rosette will remain, and horses will still be able to consume the plant. Carolina False Dandelion has NOT been linked to Pasture-associated stringhalt. Cats ear is the species of false dandelion that is documented to cause of PAS."

If mowing is not sufficient, what are your suggestions for treatment to the pastures? And how often?

Brian Beer: "The best weed control available is a healthy, vigorous, stand of grass. Two requirements for a healthy stand of grass are: 1) Maintain proper soil fertility by using soil sample analysis to apply the correct amount of lime and fertilizer. 2) Proper grazing management. Many horse pastures are overgrazed. Overgrazing leads to thinning of the grass stand, which allows undesirable weeds to infest pastures. Overgrazing is usually caused by either lack of knowledge or being overstocked (too many animals for the available pastureland). The recommended area required for providing most of a horse's daily feed intake from grazing is 1.5 acres per horse. Maintaining proper pasture is difficult if the area per horse is less than 1.5 acres. The best soil fertility cannot com-

pensate for overstocked pastures. There are two ways to correct being overstocked; acquire more grazing acres or decrease the number of grazing animals."

"Leaving adequate residual grass height after grazing is very important in grazing management. Leaving 4 inches after grazing is the target for most grasses. Animals need to be moved to another pasture and allow the area just grazed to rest and regrow. This is referred to as rotational grazing and will help in keeping a healthy stand of grass."

"Another grazing management tool that can help with Pasture-associated Stringhalt is to give the horses another plant option to graze. In the eastern half of South Carolina, pastures are predominantly warm season grasses (bermudagrass & bahiagrass). Cats ear is a cool season plant, meaning it does the bulk of its growing in the late winter/early spring, flowers and produces seed in late spring. Warm season pastures are dormant that time of year, so they offer little competition to winter weeds and offer no grazing during spring. Inter-seeding winter annuals, such as ryegrass, can provide grazing in late winter and spring. Remember, a large amount of cats ear must be consumed over time in order to cause Pasture-associated Stringhalt. Giving horses another preferred plant to graze during spring may help deter them from eating cats ear. Unfortunately, it has been documented that horses seem to have an affinity for cats ear and will seek it out, so this strategy may not be completely successful if there is still a substantial population of cats ear in the pasture.

Animals will need to be removed from pastures inter-seeded with ryegrass so it will have an opportunity to establish and reach adequate height before grazing. At least 8 to 10 inches of growth needs to be present prior to grazing and animals should be rotated off when the ryegrass is grazed down to 4 inches."

"If there is still a cats ear problem present after grazing management and soil fertility have been properly implemented, we can consider using herbicides to control cats ear. There are several broadleaf herbicides available that control dandelions. Some products that are labeled for pasture and list false dandelion on their label are 2,4-D, WeedMaster (2,4-D + dicamba), Grazon Next (2,4-D + aminopyralid), DuraCor (aminopyralid + florpyrauxifen) and others."

As a community, how do we stop the spread of False Dandelions?

Brian Beer: "An integrated strategy of proper grazing management, proper fertility, and correct use of herbicides. Any of these three strategies implemented alone will not give desired results. A coordinated approach will give the best likelihood of success for controlling any weed issue."

DANDELION DETAILS

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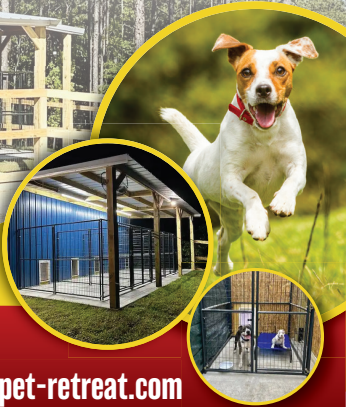


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Introducing

Sam Clifton

*Wateree Hounds' First
Professional Huntsman
By Renee Standera*

South Carolina residents know they're living in heaven on earth. And Wateree Hounds' first professional huntsman Sam Clifton believes his horses will find their new home paradise, too. "I think my horses are going to think they died and gone to heaven," he quipped. After seven years of hunting among mountains and harder footing, including the steep and sometimes rocky terrain of western Pennsylvania, Clifton's horses will find the sandy, flat ground of the Wateree-area hunt country an easy go. Not to mention the more temperate climate. "It couldn't be any more opposite if you tried," he said in a phone call from Pennsylvania in April. "It's going to be very, very different from what we're hunting right now. It's a very beautiful, but unforgiving country. Nothing like hearing a pack of foxhounds in full cry echoing off the hillsides."

Clifton came to Wateree from Rolling Rock Hunt based in the Ligonier Valley, southeast of Pittsburgh, where he served seven years as huntsman. He anticipates the five couple of seasoned hounds he's bringing will enjoy the change in scenery





as much as his horses. "These hounds are a very easy bunch. They're well-handled and a well-rounded little group . . . We'll hunt them, we'll see what we have as far as country and conditions." There's some younger stuff that has good pedigree in them. I've done a season or two with them. They have good qualities, which is a result of Clifton's over 20 years of breeding them. "They suit me as a huntsman. I've been able to hunt them in a lot of different country. I look forward to how they will do hunting in South Carolina" Of the 15 couple hounds Clifton

bred, trained and managed at Rolling Rock, it was difficult for him to leave behind such a solid pack. "There's some lovely hounds I started seven years ago as puppies," he said.

And just like the bloodlines of his hounds, Clifton has a hunting pedigree himself. A third-generation hunt staffer, he started whipping-in at age 15 to the Curre Hunt in Whales. At age 17, Clifton first ventured across the pond to whip-in with the Toronto and North York Hunts in Canada. In 1997, he served as the first whipper-in to his father Steve

Clifton (who was the Professional Huntsman at Eglinton and Caledon Hounds at the time). After being in Canada, Sam made his way to the United States, where he became a professional first whipper-in at Blue Ridge Hunt in VA, and then to Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds in Pennsylvania. His took his first Professional huntsman job with Green Spring Valley Hounds in Baltimore, Maryland in where he hunted the hounds there for 11 seasons before lastly moving to Pennsylvania with Rolling Rock Hunt. "I ended up in some good spots." For all of Clifton's experience with historic, established hunts, he's looking forward to working with a newly established hunt club and the initial success of Wateree Hounds in just its few years of existence enticed Clifton. This will be Wateree Hounds' first professional huntsman. "The journey for Wateree to succeed and the vision they have down there to really make it work, that's very impressive for me. That's a big draw," he said. "We just got so lucky to get him," said Wateree Hounds' Master Ned Towell. "Sam sees the same opportunity to put Wateree Hounds on the map. We're just so excited." The hunt club anticipates a professional such as Clifton, who Towell described as one of the top huntsmen in the country, will continue to grow its footprint and reputation. "I have a lot of respect for what Ned and the other masters have done in such a short time. It looks like there's so much potential as far as country that can be opened up for hunting," Clif-



ton said. Clifton is looking forward to getting out and meeting the landowners. He believes hunt clubs should always be looking to expand their country and the hunt-landowner relationship is important for land conservation and wildlife management. He's ready to roll up his sleeves and mingle with the property owners. "I fully intend on getting out there, driving around, getting a feel for it all, to be as successful as we can with it. There's quite a bit of homework, spending time in the country. "It's part of the process if you want to have good hunting and plenty of country. I think they're doing a fantastic job getting to where they are." Towell said he's excited to continue building a hunt with a major partner like Clifton in it. Sam took a leap of faith and in March of 2024, after accepting the huntsman position with Wateree Hounds, and moved down to Camden, SC along with his wife Shannon, his son William and his dad Steve.

Clifton isn't totally ignorant of the South's coastal plains and pine woods. Although the ground has its challenges, he's familiar with it. He has taken horses and hounds to Aiken and Georgia in January and February. "We had some great connections down South," he said. Despite his years of experience as horseman and huntsman, Clifton knows working with animals can be his comeuppance. "There's nothing more humbling than a pack of hounds."



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The Clifton family

By Renee Standera

Steve Clifton

Call it a herd or a pack, but Sam Clifton comes to Wateree Hounds with plenty of support. His father, Steve, is a career huntsman who passed his wisdom and experience along to Sam. But when Sam's career as a huntsman took off, their time together was limited. With Wateree Hounds, their converged hunting experience continues.

"Because of our jobs we haven't had a lot of time together with the hounds," Steve says.

And due to that time apart, Steve says they're mostly on the same page, but he's hesitant to accept responsibility for his son's hunting skills.

"He's been with some great hunt clubs and worked with some great huntsmen over the years and worked with some great guys," he says.

Steve admits Sam is the better horseman, a trait he claims comes from his mother. Working with horses was a challenge for Steve.

"He likes the horsey side of it. He didn't get it from me," he admits with a laugh. "I sat on them. I wouldn't say I was riding."

After serving as Huntsman with Bear Creek



Hounds in Georgia, Steve accompanied Sam to the Rolling Rock Hunt in western Pennsylvania. There he found more differences than just the terrain, and he's happy to be back in down South.

"In the South everybody's so nice. I missed it," he says. "Everybody fishes or shoots or hunts down South and that's nice. And we're not going to freeze our butts off down here."



Shannon Clifton

In the Clifton barn, Sam and Steve may know how to work the hounds, but Shannon is the expert in hunting in the South.

A native of Newnan, Georgia, Shannon started hunting at about 11 years old. Meeting husband Sam didn't come until a few years later.

As a little girl who loved horses, Shannon lived down the road from Bear Creek Farm. She eventually got an after-school job there and the farm owners took her hunting with the Midland Hounds. Her first professional hunting experi-

ence was whipping in with Bear Creek Hounds in Georgia.

As she grew older, Shannon's love for horses grew into another love: a huntsman from across the pond named Sam. They met at Green Spring Valley Hunt and Hounds in Maryland, where she was a whip.

But Sam's job as professional huntsman took her above the Mason-Dixon Line. She suffered through the cold hunt seasons with Rolling Rock Hunt in western Pennsylvania, making a true example of her love for Sam.

"For me the cold and the snow is the hardest thing," she says. "I've never enjoyed it."

Shannon is much happier closer to home in a more temperate climate and among her fellow Southerners. She's also pleased to be closer to her family again.

"I didn't realize how much I missed the South until I got back here. I'm so happy to be back," she says.

And of course, Wateree Hounds and the people of the Camden area welcomed Shannon and her family -- including little Will -- with the typical hospitality for which Camden is known.

"It's been so warm, just like we've always been here," she says. "They've made a perfect little spot for us."

But the Wateree region is a little different from the pine lands of Georgia where Shannon was familiar hunting. The Cliftons spent much of September learning the terrain and fixtures through hound exercise.

"The biggest difference is the footing. In Georgia there's the red clay but here it's all sand. And the red clay is terrible for keeping grey horses clean," she says with a laugh.

The Cliftons brought their breeding business to the Camden area with plans to breed and train good hunt horses. Their plan is to develop good horses people are comfortable with. They've imported several Irish Draft Sport Horses and some, including OTTBs, they will develop from scratch.

"It's just completely our way of life. It consumes everything we do," she says.



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Nancy Tans

Hunt advisor
Ex-MFH

MEMORABLE OCCASIONS

'Too many to count' is the phrase that jumps to mind on this. There's so much passion involved with this sport that all hunts seem to me to be special in some way. Being on your good horse, being in open spaces, watching a pack of talented hounds perform under the direction of their huntsman

- all of this makes for very memorable times. But the most satisfying of all, it seems, is hunting with a group of friends that are just as passionate. Yes, it takes a lot of work to be able to get to the point of actually riding to hounds. But it's never questionable as to whether it's worth it.

THOSE THAT INFLUENCED ME

Again, so many different people through the years have taught me about so many different aspects of the sport. But I will choose the most influential to be the huntsmen that I've been privileged to ride behind and watch. And then, of course, maybe catch them at a social time to ask a

'what, how, or why' question about what their hounds did in a certain situation. It seems in any sport, the more the participants know, the better the experience and I think this is especially true for a sport that depends on our four-legged partners.

FUTURE OF FOXHUNTING

I agree with Vic Paschal with what he said about this in the last issue of Full Cry. Challenging. We will be challenged on how we are going to keep our hunting land as civilization encroaches. If one piece disappears under condos or solar farms, are there more pieces that can be used? Can we make a dif-

ference with efforts to develop green spaces and open public land that will allow foxhunting? And what changes will our hunts have to go to in training the hounds? Perhaps even changing the breed of hounds. However, given the intense interest in the sport, I believe answers will continually be pursued and the right changes made.

WHO IS NANCY TANS?

Nancy started foxhunting in the early 1970's. She is a founding member of Wateree Hounds and currently sits as chairman of its board of directors. Throughout her years of foxhunting, she has spent some 20 years leading the Second Field and 7 years as a Master of Fox Hounds. Although her riding to hounds has calmed down due to age, her enthusiasm for the sport has not.

2024-2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

November 23rd

Opening Meet 10am and breakfast to follow at noon at Brewer Plantation

December 1st

Towell/Boyd Clinic at Finally Farm 8:30-4pm

December 15th

Boykin Christmas Parade with Hounds 9am

December 26th

Boxing Day Hunt 10am, breakfast to follow with Tally Ho Wagon

March 22nd

Closing Meet at 10am and breakfast to follow

Wateree Hounds' Sporting Week

January 26th-Feb 1st

1st Inaugural Wateree Hounds' Sporting Week

January 27th

*Moonlight Square Dance and Southern Smokeout at Pleasant Oaks Plantation Liberty Hill, SC 5pm

Jan 29th

* Wateree Hounds' First Annual Dove Shoot at MacBurn Plantation 8am

* Intro to Polo Clinic and Tailgate at Historic Camden Polo Field 12pm

Jan 30th

*First Annual Wateree Hounds' Golf Tournament at Camden Country Club

January 31st

*Hare and Hound Social: Beagles Hunt and Soirée at Paschal Farm 3pm

Feb 1st

*Wild Game Dinner and Silent Auction 6pm at 1011 Galleria

Wateree Hounds' Sporting Week

Join Wateree Hounds for their first inaugural Sporting Week. The week will feature everything from square dancing, golf, a polo clinic, dove shoot, and more! Get your tickets and don't miss out on the fun.

* Events are part of Hunt Week. For more info and to sign up go to www.watereehounds.com

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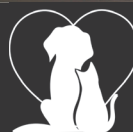


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Riding To Hounds in America: A Cherished Guide to Foxhunting

EVEN AFTER MORE THAN 60 YEARS, WILLIAM P. WADSWORTH'S WORDS AND ADVICE STILL RING TRUE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ENJOY THE SPORT TO ITS FULLEST.

BY TRICIA BOOKER

I never met the famous William P. Wadsworth, MFH, who died in 1982, but I wish I had. When I arrived at The Chronicle of the Horse magazine office on a bitterly cold, January morning in 1987 as a brand-new intern, the first person I met at the door was Peter Winants, the publisher.

He showed me into the

building, and we sat down in his expansive office filled from floor to ceiling with books and magazines. While the other staff members trickled in, we chatted about horses and the magazine. I learned that he'd recently finished editing the latest printing of *Riding To Hounds in America, An Introduction For Foxhunters*, by Mr. Wad-

sworth.

After I told him that I had a foxhunting background but had never read the book, he picked one off the shelf and presented it to me.

The small, tan paperback became a fixture on my desk from then on. Known as "the Bible" of the sport in our office, *Riding To Hounds* was first printed in 1962 and was



revised and printed 15 times, the last being in 1994.

The book, still available used on Amazon and through other resellers, remains a treasure trove of valuable information on foxhunting. Over the years, Mr. Wadsworth, the MFH of the Genesee Valley Hunt (1932-1975), wrote articles on foxhunting for the Chronicle. In 1962, these were compiled into the book, which was revised and expanded for more than 30 years. Custer Cassidy, the Chronicle's resident cartoonist/illustrator, provided artwork for the book, and well-known photographers such as Marshall Hawkins, Leonard Lee Rue III, Douglas Lees, and Mr. Winants added their images.

Described as "an introduction for novice foxhunters and a refresher for veterans," the delightful book reads as if you're sitting down to tea with Mr. Wadsworth. His entertaining prose and friendly vernacular make learning the intricate details of proper tack and equipment, rules of the field, and etiquette fun rather than rote a memory test.

When describing the ideal hunt horse, Mr. Wadsworth compares the show ring hunter to the foxhunter.

"To be successful in the hunting field, a horse needs less size (but not less endurance), less conformation (but

not less soundness) and much less flashiness, than in the show ring. He needs more room for his heart, lungs, and other innards, better eyesight, and far more brains."

When it comes to tack and equipment, Mr. Wadsworth explains the ideals and expounds tradition but doesn't hesitate to offer his pragmatic advice. "If your horse goes well in the hunting field in a snaffle alone, don't clutter up his mouth with anything else. If, to control him, you need equipment as complicated as the working end of a steam shovel, by all means tie it on," he writes.

As a writer and editor at the Chronicle for more than 25 years, I regularly used *Riding To Hounds* as a reference tool. I often recommended the book to friends who were new to the sport or Virginia Hunt Country and wanted to learn more about foxhunting and riding cross-country. I was fortunate to grow up and live where riding out of the ring was common, but many others were not. Mr. Wadsworth's advice crossed boundaries, and even show riders found it useful, such as his description and the accompanying illustrations that show how to properly tie a stock tie and be safer riding across country.

"Cultivate the habit of observation," he writes. "Study the vegetation and note how

it will sometimes give you your first clue to the presence of bogs, holes, or other hazards. Study the lay of the land and the general direction taken by rivers, creeks, roads and railroads. This will make it easier for you to learn to know where you are."

This advice has served me well throughout my riding life. When learning new territory over the past few years in the Francis Marion National Forest where I now trail ride, I take heed of landmarks and water crossings, even turning around in the saddle to look behind me. I'm much more confident in exploring and finding my way home again thanks to his wisdom.

As Mr. Wadsworth writes in his conclusion, the book "has been merely an introduction." Despite his modest observation, *Riding To Hounds* is much more than that. Even today, the book serves as a detailed and valuable exploration of foxhunting, horsemanship and riding in general. While safety has become ever more important with improved technology in helmets and safety vests, some of his advice is, unfortunately, obsolete (such as hunt caps). Nevertheless, if you have the opportunity to pick up the book, it's well worth adding this small but mighty publication to your reference library.

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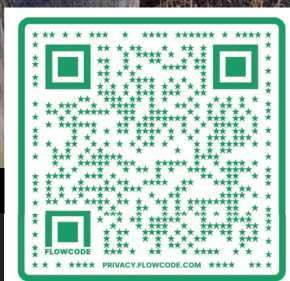


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A day of



of

BY CLARK O'NEILL

My wife came bounding into the room..." I forgot to tell you! I got us tickets for the Exhibition Polo Match!"

"Like Polo with horses...Polo?"

"No...Marco Polo! We're going to go watch kids with blindfolds on, scream at each other in a swimming pool! YES. Polo with horses."

I watched her for a second to see if she was serious. Couldn't we just stay home and fold laundry? Or strip a popcorn ceiling? Maybe move a gun safe?

Polo? What do I know about Polo? Not much. It is known as the Sport of Kings. Visions of beautiful women and tanned men clinking glasses in West Palm Beach come to mind. I seem to recall Queen Elizabeth II liked to stomp a divot from time to time. That basket held the entirety of my Polo knowledge.

So, on a blustery November morning, we went to see an exhibition match on Camden, South Carolina's Polo Field. The forecast was for a cold rain throughout the day. We dressed in layers and crossed our fingers.

You know how you might stumble on a crisp \$10 bill, hidden in a forgotten compartment of your wallet, or maybe one of your grandmothers' recipes falls out of an ancient, butter stained cookbook? That's how the Camden Polo Field is tucked back into one of the towns older neighborhoods. You probably aren't going to stumble on it, but when you do... it just feels right. The first time you walk onto the Camden Polo field grounds, it feels like you are supposed to be there; like it has invited you there.

There is a long and fascinating history of the town of Camden and the sport of polo. If we were talking baseball, Camden would hold the Polo equivalent of Chicago's Wrigley Field or Boston's Fenway Park. Horses were chasing little

white balls here since well before Theodore Roosevelt was President. Over the decades, tens of thousands have gathered here to watch weekly matches that would pit the Camden Polo Club

against teams from all over the World. By the time they ran around on this pitch, some of the horses might have sailed from across the Atlantic on an ocean liner or traveled from California by train. Local families would gather here, by the hundreds, each Sunday to picnic and watch several matches. Resort guests from Boston and Chicago and New York and 20 other cities would boisterously cheer for their favorite riders and teams. And this was all before 1930.

This Polo Field was once the epicenter of a thriving resort industry in Camden. On this particular day in November of 2023, it was quiet, but you could feel the history. A few hundred folks had gathered to see what might come out of the day. Some were there to pay homage to the history of Camden and Polo. Some were there as passionate, knowledgeable Polo fans. Some came to tailgate with family. I came because there had been a directive given. I arrived with as much enthusiasm as someone tasked with painting a barn and having been given a brush.

Sigh.

I had no idea that within a week, I would be spending hours in the Historical Archives, researching this Polo Field.





I had no idea that I would end up spending hundreds of dollars, buying out of print books, detailing the rich, fascinating history of Camden, South Carolina's once thriving resorts and their connection to the Sport of Kings.

I had no idea that within a few months, my wife would actually be riding a Polo pony and swinging a mallet.... while grinning from ear to ear

Let me slow down a bit. On Sunday, November 12th, 2023, the Wateree Hounds held a fundraising event which featured Polo professionals from Aiken, SC and around the state of South Carolina. They played an exhibition polo match for the crowd. There were sponsors and vendors and people from all walks of life. The sport of Polo was once strong in Camden and in Aiken. It is STILL strong in Aiken and has become a distant memory to those that live in Camden. Some Aiken polo players had hauled their horses from over an hour away. The day was about raising money for the Hunt, exposing people to an extremely unique sport, and doing so on one of the oldest Polo Fields in the United States.

To tell the story of the day, you have to understand how this field came to be here, Doctors in the late 1800s began to recognize the benefits of being outdoors and moving. Tuberculosis had touched thousands of American families. The Medical profession began to recommend travel to warmer climes for city dwellers in the North East and Mid-West. As people discovered

the charms and weather and "foot-ing" in Camden, enterprising visionaries began to promote resorts in this quiet town. By offering guests wonderful lodging, World class dining, and outdoor activities such as quail hunting, horseback riding and golf, Camden became a wildly popular destination for well to do families. One ad, in a New York City newspaper, from 1905, claimed that the air in Camden was "invigorating and salubrious". I'll give the reader a minute to look up salubrious. The town boomed.

Resorts came and went over the course of the next 60 years (1890 - 1950), but three resorts absolutely dominated the local industry; The Hobkirk Inn, The Kirkwood Hotel and The Court Inn. Each had loyal clientele that would Winter in Camden, year after year after year. Several generations of the same families would stay for months on end. And these resorts were in the business of taking care of their clients every need! French Chef? We've got that! Golf? We've got that! Fox Hunting? We can arrange that! Whatever the customers wanted...the resorts did their best to provide.

When you stand on the Camden Polo Field today, you look up at a hundred-year-old wall of trees and vegetation. It's like they are trying to keep this field and her history hidden. Way up on a hill, you can see some outbuildings. Part of

what remains of the once majestic Kirkwood Hotel Complex. Young men had gathered for years to play Polo on a sand lot where the current field now stands. Over the years there had been other polo fields and locations, in Camden, but this is the one that remains. At some point in the late 1800s, grading was done, drainage was taken into consideration, proper turf laid down and meticulous maintenance was carried out. Soon, word spread and some of the guests were arriving by train and bringing their own polo ponies with them. From Saint Louis. And Chicago. And Boston. And Long Island. And Saratoga. And 100 other places. Want to play Polo in the Winter? Camden, South Carolina was the place!

An American Football field measures 100 Yards long and 160 feet wide. A Polo Field is 300 yards long and 160 yards wide. There is also an area behind each goal post that is supposed to be about 325 yards deep. Eight galloping horses and riders need room to slow down and turn around. Suffice it to say, Polo fields are absolutely MASSIVE.

As my wife and I first arrived, I was struck by the sheer size and scale of the Polo Grounds. I had never seen one before. Great music was playing. People were laughing and having a good time. "Uh oh", I thought..." this might actually be fun". We wandered over to the VIP tent. My wife strolled in as if she belonged there (she did). I wondered how long it might take before I was asked to leave. It was classic Camden. Tables adorned with Sterling silver and magnolia branches. Smiling bartenders and the prettiest women in the South. The men sported bow ties and blazers and dusty boots. A meticulously crafted reproduction of a Revolutionary War era caisson stood next to a cannon as a reminder of Kershaw County's long and proud past. It was fancy and comfortable. It was pressed khakis and working hands. Champagne and tailgate food. Like I said; classic Camden. Everyone from local veterinarians to the Governor of South Carolina had shown up on this gray November morning. I'm pretty certain most of us weren't quite sure what we were about to witness. Horses had only been on this field a handful of times in the last 70 years..

The Kirkwood Hotel was managed from 1903 to 1923 by a gentleman named T. Edmund Krumbholz. He had spent years working at and managing resorts in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. An avid outdoorsman, he saw the connection between resorts being successful and providing the guests with outdoor activities. He passionately marketed the sport of polo once he arrived in Camden. He became the national delegate from the Camden Polo Club to the US Polo Association. In the period just before World War I began, there were three resorts in the United States that could claim to have both a golf course and a Polo Club and field. The Broadmoor Hotel, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the Del Monte Hotel and Lodge, on California's Monterey Penin-



“IT WAS CLASSIC CAMDEN. TABLES ADORNED WITH STERLING SILVER AND MAGNOLIA BRANCHES. SMILING BARTENDERS AND THE PRETTIEST WOMEN IN THE SOUTH. THE MEN SPORTED BOW TIES AND BLAZERS AND DUSTY BOOTS.”

sula...and The Kirkwood Hotel, in Camden South Carolina.

I've always heard the term "Polo Ponies" I thought that there might be some obscure Country that specialized in the breeding of $\frac{3}{4}$ size horses; like an equine MG. I was sort of surprised to see the horses all seemed quite large to me. They looked like normal horses. Research has taught me today's polo horses average somewhere between 15 and 16 hands. They begin their training somewhere between two and three years of age. Turning on a dime. Complete stop to full gallop, quick as a snap! Slamming on brakes, like a cutting horse. Bumping. Jostling. For these horses, polo can be a full contact sport. They have to be tough, athletic and smart. I would walk away from the match that day with a profound respect for these animals and their competitive spirit.

On the same field where, in 1909, Annie Oakley shot playing cards thrown into the air, while standing on the back of a galloping horse, we were finally ready to play polo. There are 4 players on each team. There are normally two referees on horseback. Today there was one. Then there are personnel stationed at the goal lines to throw up a flag when a ball rolls between two huge uprights. Think American football goal posts.... but bigger.

The announcer was part play by play, part rules instructor, part cheerleader and part comedian. And he carried all of us in the palm of his hand that day. Patiently explaining the rules to us as

horses wheeled and dirt flew. CLACK, as the players hit the ball with their mallets. Polo periods are called chukkar. Each chukkar is seven and a half minutes long. A game might consist of four or six chukkar, with a half time in between. After each chukkar, the riders get onto another horse, so that the ponies may rest. After each goal is scored, the teams switch ends to account for wind, slope, or any other element.

I played rugby for several years. I still have teeth I never found, somewhere on a field at the College of Charleston. Polo reminded me of rugby, with horses. Frustratingly slow, followed by explosive speed. The play starts with everyone gathered at midfield and a ball is thrown into the middle. An equine version of a rugby scrum ensues and then somehow, somehow...the ball pops out and off they go. It is at once a beautiful and dangerous ballet. I don't think I thought much about the horses prior to watching my first polo match. I mean, the riders are just telling them what to do and where to go...right? Sort of... Those horses were there to play too! Ears pinned. Eyes focused. They knew exactly what the objective was and they knew EXACTLY where the goal line was. The polo ponies I watched that day were there to win. I left with the impression that the horses enjoyed the game as much as the riders. The rule book says there are 4 players on each team. If the horses could speak, they might just proudly remind you there are eight!

World War II would come suddenly to Kershaw County, South Carolina. Polo didn't quite seem



**THE POLO PONIES
I WATCHED THAT
DAY WERE THERE TO
WIN. I LEFT WITH THE
IMPRESSION THAT THE
HORSES ENJOYED THE
GAME AS MUCH AS THE
RIDERS. ∞**



so important anymore. Young men were going off to war and many never returned. It would be decades before the World ever truly recovered from the horrors of the war. Camden's Resort industry never really did. Passenger air travel soon replaced train travel. People stopped coming to spend their Winters in Camden. And the Grand resorts stumbled and fell. The Hobkirk Inn was sold after the 1940 Winter season and never bounced back after Pearl Harbor. In 1951, the Kirkwood Hotel was razed. Both of these once flourishing resorts removed their "guest wings" and kept the original, central portions which now serve as private homes. In 1964, the Court Inn was demolished. It was huge and once known to have hosted raucous parties until the wee hours of the night.

Now all three were silent. And the polo field would lay dormant and begin to be forgotten by most. So many years would pass that generations would not even know it was there and what it once represented. The lifeblood of one of the hottest resort towns in America.

I don't remember the final score that day, last fall. I don't remember who technically "won" the match. But do I remember driving out, at the end of a long day, and hearing laughter and putting on sunglasses because the clouds had parted. And I remember committing to learn more about



the game of polo and that historic field. And I remember smiling, because it had been a fun, fascinating day.

Perhaps there were a lot of winners that day. Those players that brought their horses and talents from far away won. They exposed hundreds of folks to a fascinating game; many for the first time. The Wateree Hounds won because they held a unique event which both celebrated and re-invigorated a vital part of the history of the town of Camden. The sport of polo definitely won. And, I'm not sure if I should share this, but I like to think the Camden Polo field won. She was, once again, being used for her true purpose. And I couldn't help but think, with horses sliding, players barking, and crowds cheering, that she was happy. The old girl had her first dance in many many years.

And she nailed it.

Note from writer, Clark O'Neill: I need to recognize a few people:

- In 1996, John H. Daniels wrote "Nothing Could Be Finer A Fifty Year History of the Heyday of Polo and Winter Resorts in Camden 1898-1948". It has been out of print for some time. I found it in the Camden Historical Archives. I used it for a few days to learn about the history of Camden, the resorts and polo. I ended up buying it from a rare books dealer because it is an incredible read that I want to have in my collection. It has taken me down the most wonderful of "rabbit holes". I recommend you try to track it down. It represents a sizable investment, however, John has assembled a masterpiece on the sport of polo and Camden's rich ties to it.

- To the staff at the Historical archives...." Thank you". I asked for help several times and they were always accommodating and gracious.

- I became fast friends with a neighbor, Nina. She spent most of her life tending to polo ponies and has been on the sidelines of matches from Aiken to Florida to Chicago and points well beyond. She answered 1000 dumb questions. And I am better for her patience and knowledge. Thanks, Nina.

- And to my wife, Susan. She has married a sometimes "grumpy curmudgeon" who had little to no interest in attending his first polo match. Once again, her instincts were right. Because of her passion for all things equine, I had a wonderful day. That wonderful day had led to dozens more of reading and research and inquiry and learning. Thank you, my love.

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GLOSSARY

of hunt terms



ACCOUNTING FOR THE QUARRY

Catching it or marking it to ground

ALL ON

All hounds are present

AS HOUNDS RAN

The total distance covered by hounds from the find (where the fox is found) to where the chase ends (not to be confused with the point)

BABBLER

A foxhound that speaks to a nonexistent line out of sheer excitement

BAY

The quarry is said to be at bay when it ceases to run and turns to face the pack.

BIDDABLE

A hound that honors the commands of the huntsman and staff

BILLET

Fox droppings (also scat)

BITCH

A female canine

BLANK

When a fox is not found in covert

BRACE OF FOXES

Two foxes

BREAKFAST

The meal following the hunt

BRUSH

Fox's tail

BURST

A short, fast run

BYE DAY

An extra, unscheduled hunting day

CAP OR CAPPING FEE

A contribution to the upkeep of hounds paid by visitors and nonmembers for a day's hunting (originally dropped into the outstretched cap of the field secretary)

CARRYING A GOOD HEAD

When front runners in the pack run tightly abreast to pick up changes in the fox's direction (also running with a good head)

CAST

A deployment of hounds trying to recover a lost line

CAT FOOT

The round shape of the foot of the English-type foxhound as compared to the hare foot (elongated shaped foot) of the American-type foxhound

CHECK

When hounds lose the line of the fox

CHOP

Hounds catch the fox quickly before it has a chance to run

CLICKETING

When foxes mate or pair up

CLOSED SEASON

Non-hunting season: late March through early August

COFFEE HOUSE

When members of the field chatter amongst themselves rather than pay attention to hounds

COLD LINE

An old, faint scent from line of the fox

COLD NOSE

Ability to detect very low levels of scent

COLORS

A club-specific colored collar worn by members only

COUPLES

Two leather collars joined by a chain

COURSE

When the hounds switch from hunting by scent to hunting by sight, they are said to course (or to be coursing) the quarry.

COVERT

An area of scrub, brush or woods where wild animals find protection

CRY

The voice of hounds giving tongue (speaking) to the line of the quarry

CUB

Young fox

CUR DOG

Any canine that is not a hound

DRAFT

A hound that is cut from the pack

DRAG

The line the fox has traveled and left its scent during its perambulations

DRAW

Deployment of hounds when searching for a fox

DWELL

An unwanted trait in a hound that is so enamored of the scent that it slows down to savor it, rather than driving forward after the quarry. Such a hound, as it speaks to the line, tends to pull the other hounds back to it and hurts the progress of the hunt.

EARTH

Underground hole (den or burrow) where foxes lie for protection

EARTHSTOPPING

Blocking entrances to fox earths at night while foxes are out hunting so they cannot take refuge the next day. This practice is not followed in North America, where foxes are not so numerous as to require culling.

ENTER

When a young hound is added to the pack. The hound is said to be entered when the cubhunting season is finished.

FAULT

Foxhounds are said to be at fault when they lose the scent and check.

FEATHER

When a hound finds scent and begins to wag its stern (tail)

FLAGS

Hounds are displayed on the flags (flat pieces of flagstone) at hound shows (or in kennels) so as to stand squarely, evenly and completely visibly for the judges (or visitors).

FLESH

The carcass of domestic animals (cattle, horses, sheep, fowl) used to feed hounds in kennel

FOIL

Any scent that masks the line of the quarry, such as manure, cattle, sheep, fertilizer or vehicle fumes

FULL CRY

When the entire pack is speaking on the line of the fox

GIVE TONGUE

When hounds speak to the line of the quarry

GONE AWAY

Hounds have left the covert and are running the line as a pack

GOSSAMER

Filmy cobwebs on the grass or bushes; more noticeable when there is a dew

HACK

A relaxed ride to or from the meet

HARE FOOT

The elongated shape of the foot of the American-type foxhound as compared to the cat foot (round shaped foot) of the English-type foxhound

HARK

When from the huntsman (usually pronounced "hike"), it is a command to hounds to honor (go and help) another hound that has found the line. When from the field master, it is a command to field members to be quiet and listen.

HEADED

When the been fox has turned from its direction of travel by a car, person or cur dog

HEADLAND

Usually a command from the field master ("Headland, please!") to stay to the edges of the field and off the crops or grass.

HEAVY VIXEN

A female fox with cubs before whelping

HEEL LINE

The line of the fox opposite to the direction it is traveling

HILL TOPPERS

A group of field members that follows the hunt from hilltop to hilltop. Usually a non-jumping field where green horses and riders are introduced to foxhunting and go at a much slower pace.

HIRELING

A rented horse for hunting

HOLD HARD

The command to stop and stand still

HOLLOA

Loud voice signal to huntsman and hounds that a fox has been viewed (pronounced "holler")

HONOR

When hounds respect another hound's find and rush to its assistance

HONORARY SECRETARY

A small house or cottage used for lodging during the hunting season

HUNT LIVERY

The unique attire proscribed by the master(s) for their hunt, including the color of the collar of the hunt coat, the color of the collar and facings of the formal

tails and the distinctive hunt buttons

IN WHELP

Pregnant

KENNEL HUNTSMAN

The hunt staff member responsible for the care of hounds in kennel and who whips-in to an amateur huntsman

LARK

To gallop and jump for pleasure or diversion even though hounds are not running

LEASH OF FOXES

Three foxes

LIEU IN

Huntsman's command to hounds to enter the covert and search for the fox

LIFTING HOUNDS

When the huntsman calls hounds away from the line they are hunting and brings them forward to a view holloa or to where he believes the quarry to have gone

LOSS

Hounds are at a loss when they have lost the scent they were following

LOW SCENTING

Describes a hound that can detect very low levels of scent

MARKING

When hounds speak, dig and/or scratch at the earth where the fox has gone to ground

MASK

Fox's head

MUTE

When a hound runs the line of the quarry silently without giving tongue — an undesirable characteristic

NOSE

The ability to detect and follow the scent of the hunted quarry

OPEN

When a hound utters its initial cry upon finding (detecting) the scent of the quarry, he is said to have opened.

OWN

When hounds are together and running the line well and easily, they are said to own the line.

PAD

Fox's foot

POINT

(As in a 5-mile-point). The straight line distance between the find (where the fox is found) and the end of the chase (not to be confused with as hounds ran). Also, when a whipper-in stands watching the covert while the hounds are drawing, he or she is said to be on point.

PURE

Hound excrement

QUARRY

The hunted animal: legitimately fox, coyote, bobcat and some-

times wild pig or boar in North America

RATCATCHER

Informal hunting attire: customarily shirt, tie, tweed coat and field boots

RATE

When the huntsman or whipper-in scolds a hound

RIOT

When foxhounds hunt anything but acceptable quarry

ROADING

Exercising hounds on the road

RUNNING WITH A GOOD HEAD

When front runners in the pack spread out to pick up changes in the fox's direction (also carrying a good head)

SCAT

Fox droppings (also billet)

SING

When hounds hold their heads up and make a wonderful noise, often when they are happy. They should never be stopped from singing and should be allowed to finish their anthem.

SINK THE WIND

Heading downwind

SKIRTING

When a hound cuts corners to get ahead rather than follow the line of the fox, it is said to skirt or to be a skirter — an undesirable trait.

SMEUS

A path through a fence that may be used by fox, hare, rabbit or other small animals

SPEAK

When hounds give tongue to the line of the quarry

SPINNEY

A small covert

STEADY

Refers to a hound that hunts acceptable quarry only, does not speak to or follow the line of riot and ignores distractions and commotion.

STERN

Hound's tail

STRIKE HOUND

A hound that is often the first to find

STUB-BRED

Foxes born above ground

TAIL HOUNDS

Refers to hounds running behind the main pack.

TALLY-HO

A phrase indicating the quarry has been viewed

TALLY-HO, BACK

A phrase used when the quarry has been viewed going back into covert (pronounced "tall-ho, bike")

TALLY-HO, OVER

A phrase used when the quarry is viewed crossing a trail or ride

THROWN OUT

When the rider has missed the run due to any number of reasons, such as falling, getting lost, being unable to jump a fence or coming across a locked gate

THRUSTER

A member of the mounted field who is constantly crowding the field master and the hounds

TOP AND TAIL

Cull from the front and back of the pack to keep the pack together and not strung out.

TRACE

A track or path that deer use

UN-KENNELED

When the quarry is roused from where it is lying

VIEW HOLLOA

The screech shouted when the quarry is viewed to let the huntsman know the quarry is afoot and to provide an audible beacon to which hounds may hark

VISITING FOX

Refers to a dog fox (male) that has traveled away from its home country during the mating season in search of a vixen. If found by hounds, the visitor will often make for its familiar country, which can result in one of the longest runs of the season.

VIXEN

Female fox

WALK

In spring and summer, hound puppies sent out of the kennels to live at members' and supporters' farms for socializing are said to be at walk. When destruction to yard, garden, and shrubs stretches the limits of the good puppy walkers' tolerance, the hounds are returned to the kennels.

WARE

A contraction of "beware," used to alert riders to potential hazards, as in "Ware hole!"

WHELP

(noun) A hound puppy
(verb) To give birth

WHIPPER-IN

Assists the huntsman (extra eyes and ears) with hounds during the hunting day by going on point, viewing the quarry away, watching and correcting (if necessary) hounds and bringing on the tail hounds. If an amateur, he or she is referred to as an honorary whipper-in.

Source: *Foxhuntinglife.com*



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