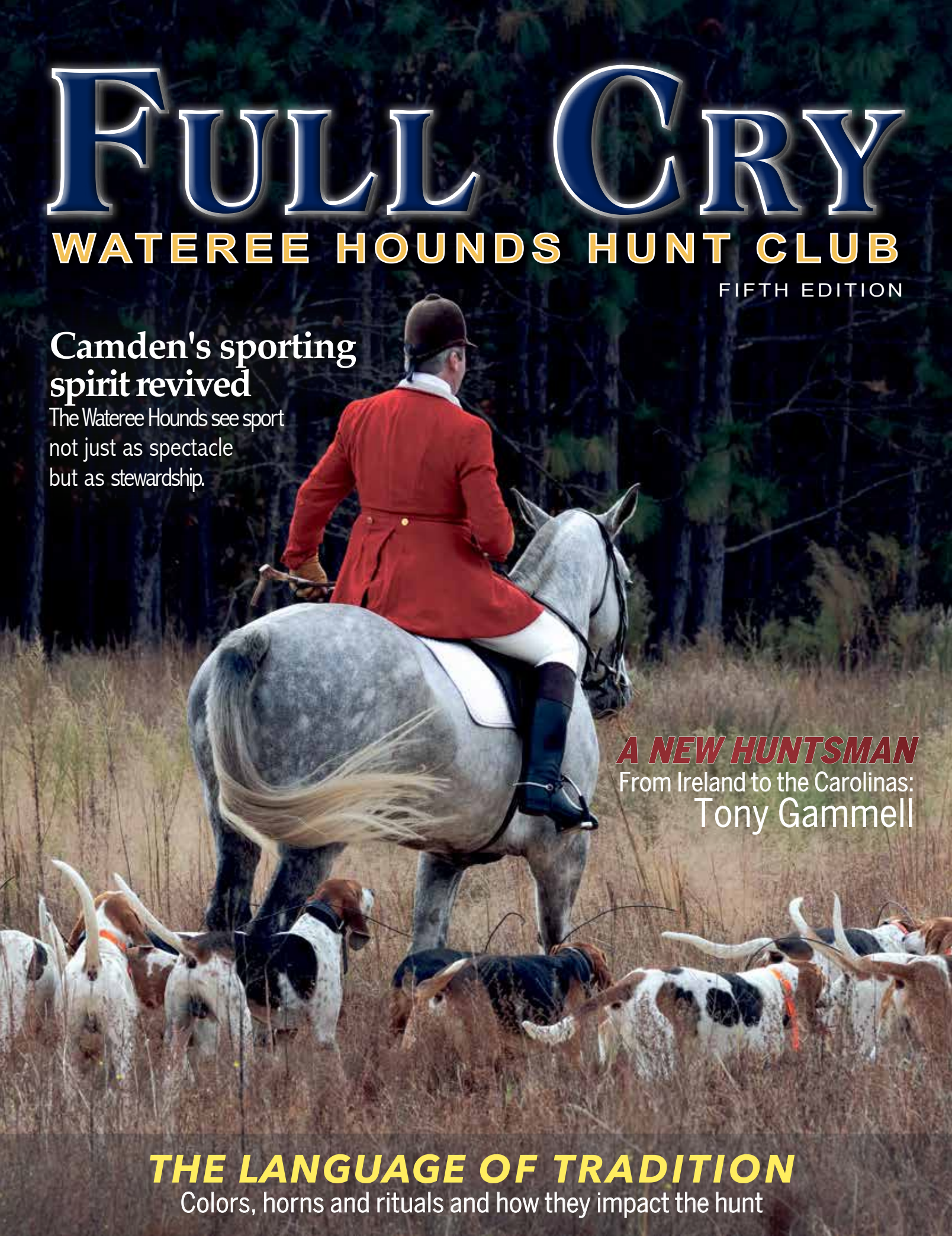
Full Cry

Wateree Hounds Hunt Club

FIFTH EDITION



Camden's sporting spirit revived

The Wateree Hounds see sport not just as spectacle but as stewardship.

A NEW HUNTSMAN

From Ireland to the Carolinas:
Tony Gammell

THE LANGUAGE OF TRADITION

Colors, horns and rituals and how they impact the hunt

Camden POLO CLUB
EST 1900

Discover the thrill of polo at Camden Polo Club!





Master the 'Sport of Kings' from the ground up.

From beginner clinics to full field polo, we cater to all skill levels. As a proud member of the **United States Polo Association**, we promise an unforgettable equestrian experience for all ages.

Saddle up and join us today!

- BEGINNER CLINICS
- ADVANCED LESSONS
- JUNIOR POLO
- FULL FIELD POLO



406-360-2252 CAMDENPOLOCLUB.ORG HISTORIC KIRKWOOD POLO FIELD

Table of CONTENTS








04. Letter from the Masters

06. Meet the hunt staff

10. Camden's sporting spirit revived

16. Preserved by sportsmen

20. Jeremy Wooten

28. South Carolina Equine Advancement Act

32. The Language of Tradition

36. A taste of the hunt

40. Tony Gammell's journey with the hounds

44. Who is Sandy Cushman, ex-MFH

48. The rogue pack and the plat map

56. A glossary of terms

Welcome to the fifth 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.

Publisher: Wateree Hounds

Magazine design: Janel Przybyla

Ad design: Janel Przybyla

Photography

Janel Przybyla

Contributors:

Henry Kirkwood
Renee Standera
Dani Jackson
Sarah Carle
Ned Towell

For information on sponsorships of events or to place an advertisement in our next edition of Full Cry Magazine, email us at info@watereehounds.com

Letter from the Masters

Sixth Season of Wateree Hounds

As we reflect on another extraordinary season of Wateree Hounds, we are filled with immense gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together. Our sixth season was nothing short of remarkable, marked by significant milestones and unforgettable moments that will be cherished for years to come.

The crown jewel of our 2024-2025 season was undoubtedly our inaugural Sporting Week, held January 26th through February 1st. This ambitious week-long celebration brought together five distinguished packs of hounds—Old Dominion Hounds, Essex Foxhounds, Genesee Valley Hunt, and Rolling Rock Hunt—creating an unprecedented spectacle that exceeded our wildest dreams. From hunting mixed packs in the rain at Sugarloaf Mountain to the spectacular turnout at Knights Hill Plantation, every day offered new adventures. The week culminated in memorable social gatherings, from square dances to wild game dinners, strengthening the bonds that unite our foxhunting community. The camaraderie, sport, and memories created during this historic week have set a new standard for seasons to come.

Equally memorable was our second annual



Wateree Cup, where we had the distinct honor of celebrating the 125th anniversary of polo in Camden. This milestone event beautifully showcased the enduring connection between our equestrian traditions and highlighted how Wateree Hounds continues to be at the heart of Camden's sporting heritage.

None of these achievements would have been possible without our extraordinary community. Our generous landowners remain the foundation of our success, their commitment to conservation and tradition providing us with the magnificent landscapes we traverse. The rolling hills, planted pines, and meandering waterways of our territory offer both breathtaking beauty and exceptional sport.

To our dedicated membership—from our Tuesday hilltoppers to our Saturday field members—your enthusiasm transforms every hunt day into a celebration. You are the heartbeat of Wateree Hounds. The bonds forged in the hunt field, strengthened at our social gatherings, and celebrated at our events create a family united by shared passion. Your unwavering support, whether through organizing breakfasts, hosting events, or simply showing up with a smile, makes Wateree Hounds what it is.

As we look toward our sixth season, we are thrilled to welcome our new Huntsman, Tony Gammell. Tony brings fresh energy and decades of invaluable experience, along with bloodlines tracing back to the legendary American Hounds bred at Keswick Hunt. His fiancé Sarah Carle's deep hunting heritage—her father Jake served as Master and Huntsman at Keswick for over thirty years—further enriches our connection to foxhunting tradition. Tony's long-standing friendships within our community and his shared vision for Wateree Hounds ensure our future is in capable and passionate hands.

With the successes of this past season behind us and Tony at the horn for the season ahead, we remain committed to our founding principles of generous character, inclusivity, and exceptional sport. We are confident that the best of Wateree Hounds is yet to come.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. Here's to many more seasons of friendship, sport, and the incomparable joy of riding to hounds.

Tally Ho!

– The Masters

Who are the Wateree Hounds?

Wateree Hounds are more than a fox hunting club—it's a community dedicated to preserving the timeless tradition of fox hunting while fostering camaraderie, land conservation, and respect for our shared heritage. Founded in 2020, Wateree Hounds has quickly grown into a cornerstone of the equestrian and sporting community in Camden and Kershaw County.

HUNT STAFF



Tony Gammell
Professional
Huntsman



Master
Ned Towell



Master &
Honorary Whipper-In
Meredith Somerset, DVM



Master
Vince Paschal



Honorary Whipper-In
Nicole Cunningham
BVSc, MRCVS



Honorary Whipper-In
Sally Bruce Boone

HUNT STAFF



Chaplain
Cathy Jamieson



Treasurer
Jody McLean



Hunt Secretary
Sue Gibbs



Field Secretary
Brittany Newman

Wateree Hounds Board:

Masters: Ned Towell, Meredith Somerset DVM, Vince Paschal
Advisory Board: Nick Ellis (Ex-MFH); Kitty Farnell, Sarah and Dan Floyd (Ex-MFH); Edgar "Vic"Paschal (Ex-MFH); Nancy Tans (Ex-MFH); Lisa and Jack Towell, Sandy Cushman (Ex-MFH) and Ken Trogdon
Treasurer: Jody McLean
Secretary: Kitty Farnell
Hunt Secretary: Sue Gibbs

Social:

Stirrup Cup: EJ Paschal, Diana Wenman and Helen Crolley
Tally Ho Wagon: Greg Pearce, and the Neels: Bruce, Kimberlee and Kendall
Social and Events Committee: Kimberlee Neel, Deb Nottingham,Lisa Towell and Becky Watkins
Contact: Brittany Newman to schedule your breakfasts 803-983-3249

Riding to Hounds:

Huntsman: Tony Gammell
Honorary Whippers-In: Meredith Somerset, Nicole Cunningham and Sally Bruce Boone
Field masters: Ned Towell, Meredith Somerset, Lisa Winkler, Vince Paschal and Brittany Newman
Honorary Wheel Whipper-In: Matt Winkler and John Broadhurst
Field Secretary: Brittany Newman

Wateree Hounds' Events

The SAVE DATE

2025-2026 SEASON

OCTOBER

OCT 4TH
First Day Of Cubbing!
• 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

OCT 4TH
Kick Off Party • Finally Farm
• 6 - 10 p.m.

OCT 11TH
Social Members Party
• 6 - 9 p.m.

NOVEMBER

NOV IST
Halloween Hunt
• 10 a.m. - I p.m.

NOV 8TH
Opening Meet • Pokeberry Field
Macburn Plantation
• 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

NOV 16TH
Wateree Cup Polo Classic
• Kirkwood Polo Field
• 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

NOV 23RD
Colonial Cup Tailgate • Front Row
• 10 Am-4 Pm

NOV 30TH
Towell/Boyd Clinic • Finally Farm
• 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Learn more at
www.watereehounds.com

DECEMBER

DEC 6TH
Christmas Party • Proctor Hall
• 6 - 9 p.m.

DEC 20TH
Junior Meet
• 10 a.m. - I p.m.

DEC 21ST
Boykin Christmas Parade
• 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

DEC 26TH
Boxing Day Meet
•10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

JANUARY

JAN 3RD
JNAFHC Qualifier
• 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

JAN 25-30TH
Sporting Week • The Ultimate Adventure!

FEB-MARCH

FEB 14TH
Spouse Hunt
• 10 a.m. - I:30 p.m.

FEB 21ST
Washington's Birthday
• 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MARCH 14TH
Hunt Ball • Springdale Hall
• 6 - 11 p.m.

MARCH 21ST
Closing Meet
• 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

APRIL-JUNE

APRIL 4TH
Annual Members Meeting
•Kennels • 6 - 8 p.m.

MAY 2ND
Derby Day Bash • Finally Farm
• 5 - 9 p.m.

JUNE 6TH
Puppy Naming Auction
• Finally Farm
• 6 - 9 p.m.

Happy Tails
FARM SITTING



TRAVEL WITHOUT WORRY!



With 15 plus years of experience, Happy Tails Farm Sitting is ready to assist with your animal needs!
References available

803.609.2015

Summerlee43@gmail.com

The Caffeinated Fox



FARM BOY'S
BARBEQUE

DINE-IN BUFFET, TAKE-OUT, DRIVE-THRU & CATERING



WE CATER!
From an office party to an at-home celebration, we can help with your next event.

Come try our slow cooked, hand-pulled pork BBQ with homemade mustard or vinegar sauce, old fashioned fried chicken, BBQ chicken, ribs and more!

525 COLUMBIA AVE., CHAPIN, SC 29036 | (803) 345-7600

TRI COUNTY FEEDS

TRI COUNTY LOFT





7408 JOHN MARSHALL HWY, MARSHALL, VA

112 WEST WASHINGTON ST, MIDDLEBURG, VA

WWW.TRICOUNTYFEEDS.COM

Camden's
Sporting Spirit Revived



BY HENRY KIRKWOOD

A century ago, Camden, South Carolina was nothing less than a sportsman's paradise. From the 1890s until the outbreak of the Second World War, the little town on the Wateree became a winter colony for America's northern elite, who came south not just for health and sunshine, but for the pageantry of polo, the thrill of foxhunting, the elegance of golf, and the social whirl of resort hotels like the Kirkwood and the Court Inn. Special trains pulled into the depot with guests from New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, who found in Camden a kind of southern Newport – only instead of yachting, it was bridle paths, steeplechases, and the crack of mallets on the polo field. The sound of hounds in full cry mingled with the applause of spectators in white linen, and for fifty golden years, Camden was the beating heart of Amer-

On the last day of dove season, 11 hunters took to the dove field at Macburn Plantation. When the birds finished flying, the hunters retired to The Lodge, where Sara Dill had organized a beautiful hot breakfast for everyone.

Fully recharged, they didn't want their morning to end and pivoted to an hour of sporting clays. George Hutto, the farm manager, manned the station and ensured everyone limited out on clay pigeons.



Events during Sporting Week



MOONLIGHT SQUARE DANCE



POLO CLINIC



WILD GAME DINNER





ica's sporting season. It was precisely that world — glamorous yet rooted in land and tradition — that the inaugural Wateree Hounds Sporting Week set out to evoke this past winter, when hoofbeats once again thundered across the red clay and the town's old sporting spirit seemed to rise from the ground itself.

The inspiration for the week came from the leadership of the Wateree Hounds, who saw in Camden's past not just nostalgia but a model for its future. Founded in 2020, the club is still young by the standards of American foxhunting, but its leaders recognized that reviving Camden's broader sporting culture could be as much about preservation as about pageantry. Looking back at the old winter seasons — when golf, polo, racing, and hunting defined the calendar — the club set out to bring that spirit into the 21st century. In doing so, the organizers also aimed to underscore an urgent truth: South Carolina is now the fastest-growing state in the nation, and the same open fields once coursed by hounds are under constant threat of development. The Sporting Week was conceived as both a celebration of what Camden once was and a statement about what it still can be.

From January 26 to February 1, 2025, that vision came to life. Five distinguished hunt clubs converged: Rolling Rock from Pennsylvania, Old Dominion from Virginia, Essex from New Jersey, Genesee Valley from upstate New York, and the hosts, the Wateree Hounds. They brought with them not only scarlet coats and polished tack but also a spirit of collaboration rarely seen in the sport.

The decision to hunt mixed packs each day distinguished the week from any ordinary meet. Hounds from different kennels ran together, with visiting huntsmen rotating the horn. It was an exercise in humility and professionalism, demanding both courtesy and skill. At its center was Sam Clifton, Wateree's professional huntsman. An Englishman with three decades of experience, Clifton anchored the week's sport, ensuring cohesion while allowing each huntsman to lead. To seasoned eyes, it was an education in bloodlines and hound work; to casual observers, it was a chorus of voices in perfect harmony.

The week began with fellowship, just as Camden's grand sporting seasons once did. The opening night at Finally Farm was deliberately simple: chili, s'mores, and fireside hospitality, hosted by the Beevis family and Jackie Montgomery. The informality set the tone. This would not be a pageant of exclusivity, but a gathering rooted in community.

Monday's hunt at

Sugarloaf Mountain met rain and slick footing. Trailers sank into mud and were pulled free by the Winkler family's children, a scene that spoke to both the difficulties and the charm of hunting life. Hounds worked hard despite the weather, and the day ended with chicken bog prepared by Ian Wilcox and a square dance at the Steeplechase Museum – proof that in Camden, sport and social life still walk hand in hand.

Tuesday brought the field to Macburn Plantation, hosted by the Clyburn and Ipock families. After a morning ride over immaculate ground and timber, riders sat down to the Sumter Girls' breakfast, legendary in South Carolina hunting circles. The spread – biscuits, eggs, bacon, and strong coffee – was as anticipated as the hunt itself.

By Wednesday, the Sporting Week broadened its scope. A morning dove shoot reminded participants that Camden's sporting culture has always embraced more than horses. In the afternoon, the Camden Polo Field came alive once more. Dormant for two decades, it hosted a polo clinic that signaled the club's determination to revive Camden's place in polo history. The field, the third oldest in the nation, once hosted the country's elite; its return to life carried echoes of the old Kirkwood seasons.

Thursday was the crescendo. At Knights Hill Plantation, some 120 riders gathered in the first field, the largest turnout of the week. The varied terrain tested both horse and hound, and for a few hours the countryside seemed to fall back in time, to when Camden was America's sporting capital. Breakfast afterward at the Steeplechase Museum offered a fitting close to the morning, reinforcing the idea that sport, history, and hospitality are inseparable in Camden.

Saturday's finale at Brewer Plantation was not without drama. The hounds, in pursuit, ran clear into the next county, necessitating a community-wide rescue mission spearheaded by staff and volunteers. Rather than souring the day, the incident underscored the camaraderie at the heart of the sport. Later, a seafood boil at Historic Camden and a wild game dinner at the 1011 Galleria provided a final flourish, with live and silent auctions supporting the club's work.

Beneath the pageantry ran a serious message: land conservation through sport. The leaders of the Wateree Hounds have been frank about the stakes. If the land isn't hunted, ridden, or stewarded, it risks being lost to development. The club contributes directly to







land management – clearing trails, building jumps, maintaining habitat – and through leases, gives landowners financial reasons to preserve property in agricultural or natural states. In a rapidly developing South Carolina, such practical incentives may be the most effective preservation tool.

The economic and cultural ripple effects were felt throughout Camden. Hotels and inns filled with visiting sportsmen and their families. Restaurants and shops benefitted from the influx. Receptions at the Tally Ho Exchange and the Tack Room gave local businesses a chance to showcase their wares. Volunteers of every age – from schoolchildren tugging stuck trailers to longtime landowners hosting breakfasts – made the week possible. Camden has always thrived when its sporting traditions involve the whole town, and that spirit was alive again.

For those who knew Camden's glory days, the echoes were unmistakable. The mix of locals and visitors, Northerners and Southerners, young riders and seasoned masters mirrored the town's first golden era, when the Kirkwood Hotel drew society's finest to spend winters hunting, golfing, and attending polo matches. Just as then, Sporting Week proved that Camden's magic lies not in any single sport but in the constellation of them all.

The 2026 Wateree Hounds Sporting Week is already scheduled, with more clubs expected and greater ambitions in play. But perhaps the most important result of this inaugural year was not measured in numbers. It was measured in atmosphere. For seven days, Camden felt like itself again – a place where the rhythm of hooves and hounds defines the calendar, and where the future of open land feels bound to its past.

Nothing could be finer, indeed, than to be in Carolina in the morning – when the hounds sing, the horses run, and Camden remembers who it is.







MIDDLEBORO TRAILER SALES

HORSE & STOCK TRAILERS

Middleboro Trailers sells horse, stock, cargo, dump,utility and equipment trailers. We also service and repair trailers and install hitches and brake controls in vehicles.



Bee TRAILERS

GORE TRAILERS



Dump Trailers

Enclosed Trailers

Stock Trailers

Equipment Trailers

Utility Trailers

Horse Trailers

FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1977 IN EASTOVER, SC

11021 Garners Ferry Rd,
Eastover, SC

MON - FRI: 8:30AM - 5:00PM
SAT - SUN: CLOSED

Call us @ **(803) 353-8826** or visit

middleborotrailers.com

“IN A CIVILIZED AND CULTIVATED COUNTRY, WILD ANIMALS ONLY CONTINUE TO EXIST AT ALL WHEN PRESERVED BY SPORTSMEN.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

PRESERVED BY SPORTSMEN

From Hunt Country to quail habitat, conservation in Kershaw County carries forward Roosevelt's legacy of stewardship and respect for the land.

Editor's Note

In this personal reflection, Ned Towell—outgoing Chairman of the Kershaw County Planning Commission and longtime Master of the Wateree Hounds—describes how foxhunters, horsemen, and local landowners have shaped the future of "Hunt Country." Their efforts, which range from protecting thousands of acres to restoring wildlife, carry forward the conservation ethic championed by Theodore Roosevelt: that true sportsmanship requires stewardship of both land and game.



Dale and Judy Thiel on their wedding day

As I finish my time as Chairman, what I'll remember most are the people who filled our Planning Commission meetings: the sportsmen, the foxhunters, and the horsemen whose voices and determination have left a lasting mark.

We rely on thousands of acres not only for riding and hounds, but also for wildlife and habitat. It isn't just open land we need–it's land that is permanently conserved and ecosystems that remain healthy. That's why the equestrian community has a direct stake in preservation. True sportsmen–and true foxhunters–understand that their responsibility extends beyond open fields; it includes protecting the wildlife itself.

In Kershaw County, the Wateree Hounds lease more than 20,000 acres, partnering with landowners who share that vision. These relationships are more than legal agreements; they're built on friendships and shared values. Over time, many of these landowners have become part of our extended community, attending our gatherings and joining our traditions.

The Camden Hunt, too, has safeguarded 4,500 acres northeast of Camden for half a century. Sportsmen have been at the core of that effort. Dale and Judy Thiel, for example, purchased 1,500 acres and ensured its permanent protection by placing it in the Firestone and Thiel Foundation, dedicated to equestrian use. Both served as Masters of the Camden Hunt, with Judy leading for nearly three decades. The Lloyd family conserved another 2,000 acres by granting an easement to the City of Camden, while the Burns family contributed in keeping Hunt Country whole. Together, their actions preserved land that could easily have disappeared under development.

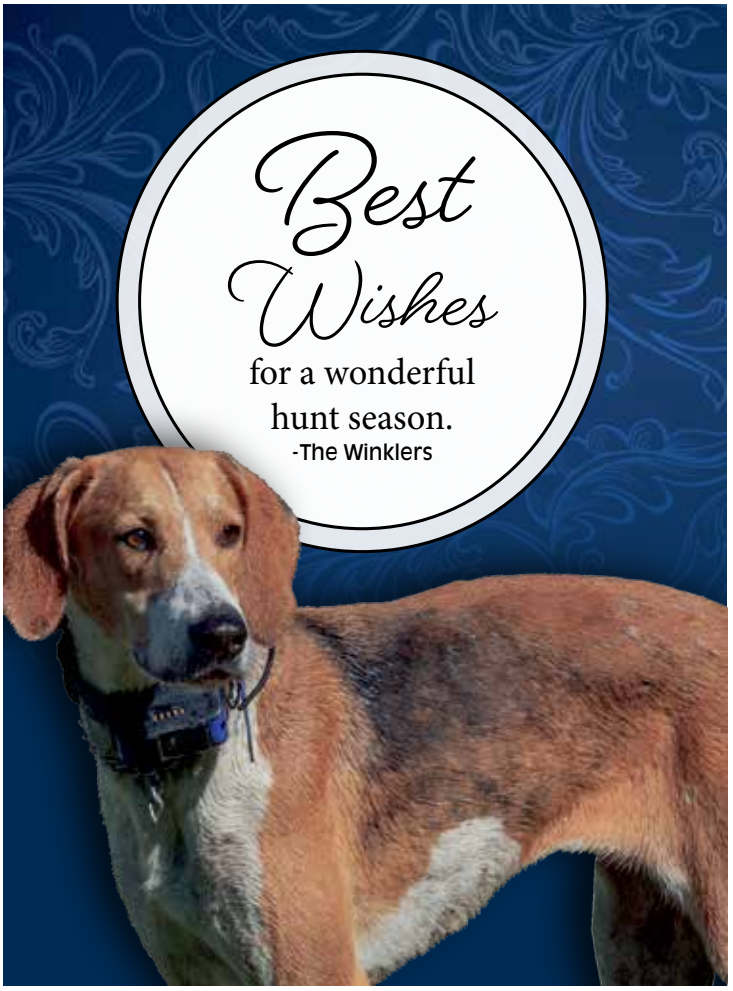
This same community also fought to protect Hunt Country during the airport overlay ordinance debate. Without the unified presence of horsemen and foxhunters, I–just one vote–could not have secured the amendments needed to protect both the equine industry and its land. Their persistence was remarkable; at one point, so many attended meetings that I joked they might wear out the Council. But their commitment made the difference.

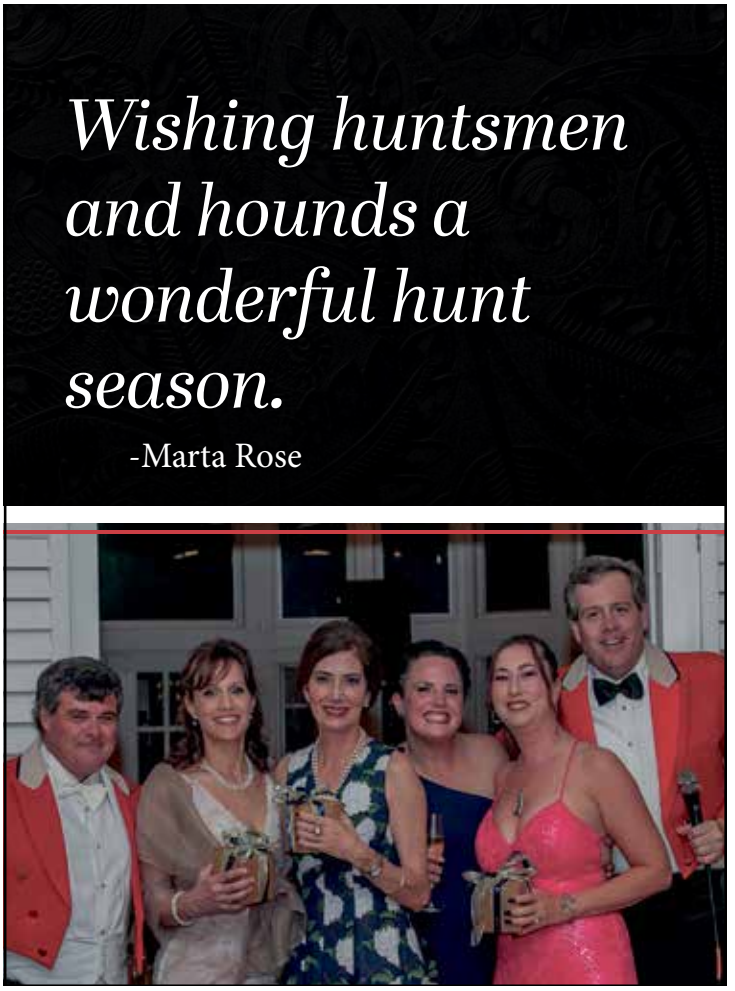
This is a continuation of a long tradition. Theodore Roosevelt once wrote that in a modern society, wild animals survive only because sportsmen preserve them. He denounced wasteful killing and argued that real sport requires respect for nature and wildlife. His thinking shaped the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which remains the foundation of our land ethic today.

Kershaw County reflects those same principles. Land remains open because sportsmen speak up. Wildlife thrives because habitat is restored. Policies now recognize that horse country matters. None of these victories belong to one individual–they are the result of a community that acted when it was needed most.

As I leave the Commission, I do so with gratitude. The foxhunters, horsemen, and landowners of this county have shown what can be achieved when sportsmen join forces. Thousands of acres have been preserved, quail populations are rebounding, and our planning documents now safeguard the values of rural life.

The lesson is clear: without land, there can be no sport. Without wildlife, there can be no tradition. And without committed sportsmen, open country may not endure.







BalanceEquine Wellness

Promoting equine healing and wellness

Utilizing years of veterinary and holistic practice to promote the health and wellness of your equine companion.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Chiropractic
- Acupuncture
- Herbal Therapy
- Massage Therapy
- Consulting

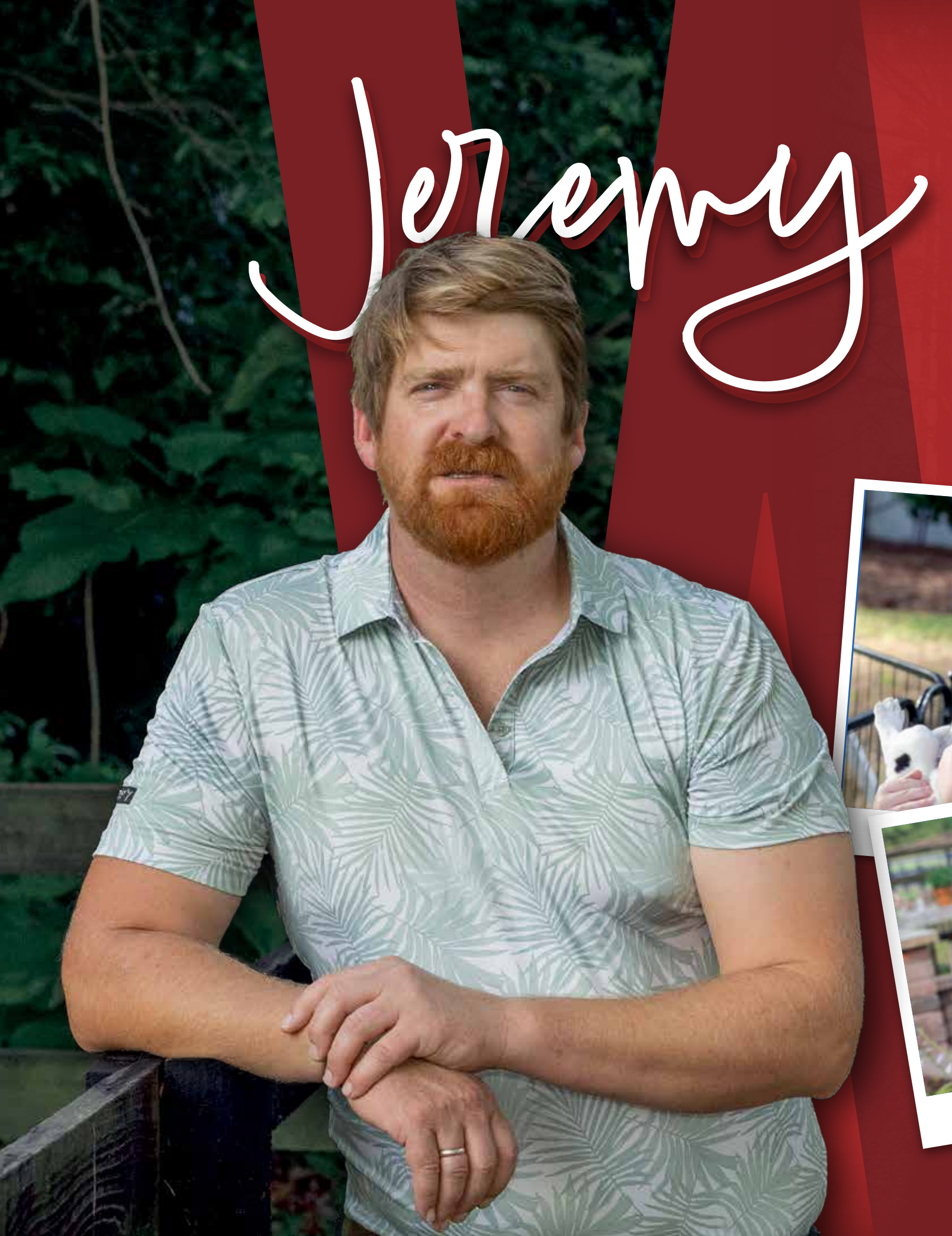




NICOLE CUNNINGHAM
BVSC, DVM

803-669-1012

Jeremy



Wooten

Camden auctioneer turns friends into bidders at Wateree Hounds puppy naming auction

BY RENEE STANDERA





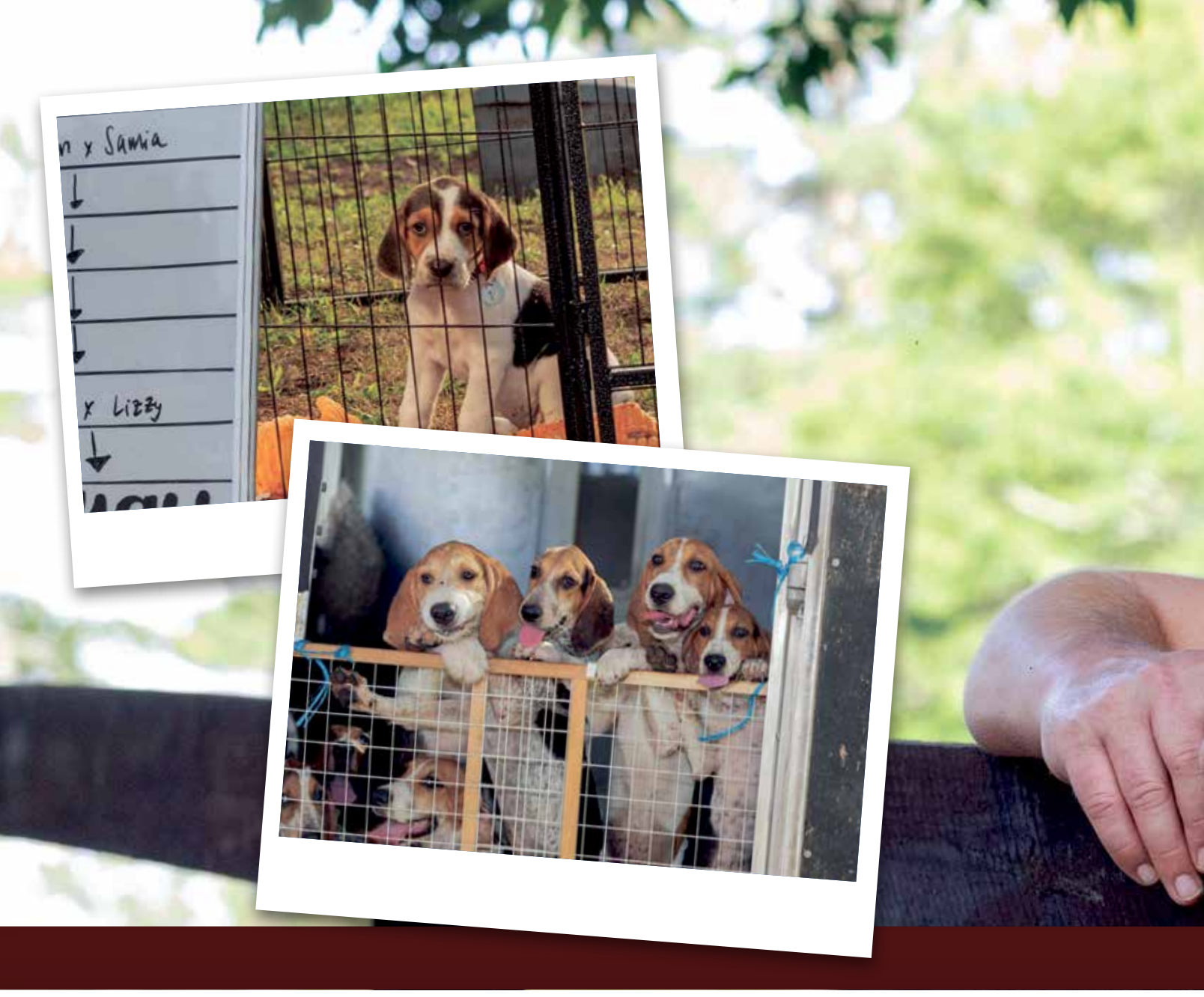
Wooten's kids joined in to help showcase the puppies.

Members of the Wateree Hounds hunt club are a close group of sporting friends. But for the annual Puppy Auction in June, Camden auctioneer Jeremy Wooten made them enemies for a few hours.

"You got to pit them against one another," Wooten said of his strategy for raising the most money possible. When he hosts auctions for charitable causes, before opening the bidding, he tells the guests that none of them are friends and they're going to spend the next hour as enemies.

"Bid against each other so that you can raise money for a good cause," he tells them in his opening speech. "'That's what we're doing, and you're going to have fun most





of all. So you all hate each other. Let's do this.' And it gets in their heads and they're like, okay. It gets them going. That's the best way to do it."

And the man making temporary enemies of dear friends is one of Camden's most genial characters. To be clear, the puppies are not auctioned, just their naming rights.

"He's such a fun person. He's a hoot," said another of Camden's most genial characters and fellow local business owner Adriane Cushman Potter, who had the idea to invite Wooten to the Wateree Hounds annual auction.

"We went to school together. I've known him for a long time and he is a character," she said. "I'm really happy that he found success with his business."

Wooten has nurtured Wooten and Wooten Auctioneers on Broad Street through his expertise in antiques and their market. Among the treasures he's found, an antique inlaid side table so exquisitely crafted, its match of the pair is in a New York museum.

His knowledge of Edgefield pottery earned him an expert Face Time call from Mike and Frank from American Pickers on the History Channel. Wooten was able to identify the Pot-



tersville "head jug" they found in a North Carolina pick as one made by the legendary Dave, whose jugs sell for thousands of dollars. Wooten said when he first got the advance call from the producer at American Pickers, he thought it was a friend playing a joke on him.

"It's a face jug, first of all," he said. "You're going to go on TV and call it a face jug."

With Wooten's expertise in valuable tangibles, he was first taken by surprise when Potter called and asked him to participate in the auction. But just like a Dave jug or a Tiffany brooch, he did his research.

"It's a pretty common thing, I found that out after the fact," he said of its popularity as a fundraiser among the fox hunting community. "I mean, you go to Virginia or New York, they do this. It's pretty cool. They have these hounds that they cherish."

He admits the first time he hosted the auction two years ago, the abstract concept of bidding on the right to name a puppy took getting used to. But it didn't take long.

"Once it got going, it was like 'yeah, this makes sense. Why not?' It's fun. It's good."

Wooten was impressed that someone bid as

high as $1,200 to name a puppy in 2024, especially since he's partial to Boykin Spaniels over fox hounds. The highest bid in the 2025 auction was $1,000 and the average puppy went for $500. The 2025 auction raised $8,000. Money raised goes toward operational costs of the hunt.

"The numbers were very similar overall from both years that we've done this," said committee member Meredith Somerset. "Jeremy really helps engage everyone and get into the auction frenzy."

"The people have fun with it and it's great. It's a great opportunity to just see everybody that truly does care. They were so happy to spend that money and speak up and say, 'hey, I'll give an extra $100,'" Wooten said.

Of course, making a party out of the event also helps. Although Wooten doesn't condone drinking and bidding, he said the party atmosphere contributes to the entertainment.

"I told them if somebody got up to $50,000, we'd let them have one of the dogs," he quipped. "And then they stopped me and said, 'you can't say that!' And I'm like, 'you wouldn't take $50,000 for one of those dogs?'"

Of course, the bidding didn't reach $50,000. Maybe next year.

"It's just a bunch of friends. There's people there I've known my whole life," he said. "A lot of them don't get to see me call bids. They don't get to see me do my job. It was nice for them to be able to do that."

Potter said Wooten fits in nicely with the Wateree Hounds crowd.

"Wateree Hounds are such a fun, happy group of people. Even if he didn't do the auction, I told them we should invite him. We would love to have him."

A R C
Atsamy Racing Club

Long Leaf Stable

CAMDEN CLINIC OF CHIROPRACTIC

James D. Smith D.C.
Doctor of Chiropractic
408 E. DeKalb St., Suite D, Camden, SC 29020
P: 803-272-0990
F: 803-272-0991
www.thecamdenclinic.com
info@thecamdenclinic.com

Serving Lunch Since 1985
2204 1/2 Broad St.
Camden, SC
803.425.1907
THE EVERY DAY GOURMET
theeverydaygourmet.us
Hours:
Mon-Fri. 11:00-2:30
Order online for easy pickup!


AJI Land, LLC

Kershaw County Based Contractor



EXCAVATION & GRADING

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
SITE PREPARATION
TOPSOIL & AGGREGATES
LOT & LAND CLEARING
EQUINE RIDING RINGS
WATER CONTROL - CULVERTS, PIPING & DRAINAGE



PASTURE MANAGEMENT

SOIL SAMPLING
FERTILIZATION
LIME
SOIL ADDITIVES
WEED CONTROL



LAND MANAGEMENT

GRASS SEEDING
FIRE ANT CONTROL
ARMY WORM CONTROL
DEBRIS & STORM CLEANUP
BUSH HOGGING



FOR YOUR LAND NEEDS, CONTACT US TODAY!

CONTACT: JOHN POTTER | 803-243-0709

Thank you LANDOWNERS

Thank you to our landowners who make the hunt possible.
We appreciate you and your generosity.

BREWER PLANTATION	KNIGHTS HILL PLANTATION	MACBURN PLANTATION	SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN
H. COOPER BLACK STATE PARK	LUGOFF FARMS	PLUMFIELD PLANTATION	RIMINI COMMUNITY



Simplify your landscaping project

*Turn Key Projects
*Full Service Landscaping
*Landscape Design & Installation
*Hardscapes, Retaining Walls, Irrigation
Free Estimates



907 Broad St., Camden, South Carolina | 803-243-7046

Zoar Branch Hay Co.

Quality Horse and Cow Coastal Bermuda Hay







GET YOUR HAY TODAY!

(803) 983-7281

Equestrian industry pushes for South Carolina Equine Advancement Act —again



> **"WE CAN'T BE COMPETITIVE UNLESS WE STEP UP AND ADDRESS PARIMUTUEL BETTING. WE'RE GOING TO GET LEFT BEHIND"**
>
> —South Carolina Senator Jeffrey Graham

BY RENEE STANDERA

Local businesses, farmers, land conservation, and agricultural employment—all tied to the horse industry

Imagine being able to use your smartphone to place a wager on one of Kip Elser's or Arch Kingsley's horses running at Churchill Downs, Keeneland or Gulfstream Park while you're sitting in the beautiful South Carolina sunshine.

For the second straight legislative session, members of South Carolina's equestrian industry have been lobbying legislators to pass the South Carolina Equine Advancement Act. An initial version of the bill failed to pass the legislative process in the 2023-2024 session. A revised version, Senate Bill 344 , was filed for the 2025-2026 session and has yet to advance out of the Finance Committee.

"The legislative process is agonizingly slow," Elser said.

If passed, South Carolina residents would be able to wager on horse racing through licensed advance-deposit account digital applications, with a portion of the revenue going toward grants supporting equestrian-related activities. The state's equestrian industry, from horse farms to tack and feed stores, could use the financial boost. The stalls at the once-thriving Camden Training Center are now empty and the facility was under threat of being bulldozed to make way for residential development.

"It's an existing industry we need to revive, and at absolutely no cost to the state," said Elser. "We're losing money and jobs to other states right now."

The legislation would establish the South Carolina Equine Commission, that would facilitate growth and development of the equine industry in the state and administer the grant program called the Equine Industry Development Fund.

"I love South Carolina as a place to live and run my business and It's a shame to see the decline," he said. "What we have lost is opportunities for young people to stay home and work in the industry."

In his travels as a trainer, Elser has seen how other states have capitalized from similar laws. He said the Virginia racing industry was revived as a result of its law, which boosts purses for Certified Virginia-bred horses. He also praised Delaware, Arkansas, Kentucky and New York for offering similar incentives.

"New York has a great program, they set an example of what can be done when money comes back into the industry and the money stays home," he said.

Elser said the State needs to realize people are using online apps, some of them from dubious overseas operators, to place wagers. The bill would allow wagering through secure applications, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting South Carolina equestrian programs.

South Carolina's horse industry expands beyond the animals and their owners. Ancillary services such as feed stores, veterinarians, facilities and even farm labor have a stake. Agriculture, employment and land conservation also are addressed.

"These young people out in the country need a way to make a living and stay home," Elser said. "Good horsemen from South Carolina are going all over the world to make a living with horses."

The 2025 version of the bill was introduced in the Senate in March. It has been assigned to the Finance Committee. The 2023 version passed the House but never made it to the finish line of the legislative process. South Carolina Senator Jeffrey Graham, who represents Kershaw, Lee, Richland and Sumter Counties, is a co-sponsor of the bill. He understands the value of the state's equestrian community.

"The equine industry has been a part of Camden since our existence. It's been a huge



HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you support the Equine Advancement Act, contact your local legislator and ask them to vote in its favor.

part of our economy," he said. "If we lose the equestrian industry, we lose part of our culture."

Graham said he's confident the Senate has enough supporters to approve the bill. He is hopeful that by introducing the bill in the Senate, the bill will move more quickly through the State House.

"We can't be competitive unless we step up and address parimutuel betting. We're going to get left behind," he said.

Graham said some of the revenue generated by the bill could fund the new Clemson Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department. When Clemson announced it was creating the new Harvey Peeler College of Veterinary Medicine, questions arose over funding. When classes begin in 2026, it will be the only veterinary school in South Carolina, addressing a shortage of large animal veterinarians. According to Clemson University, 48 percent of South Carolina counties have less than 10 veterinarians.

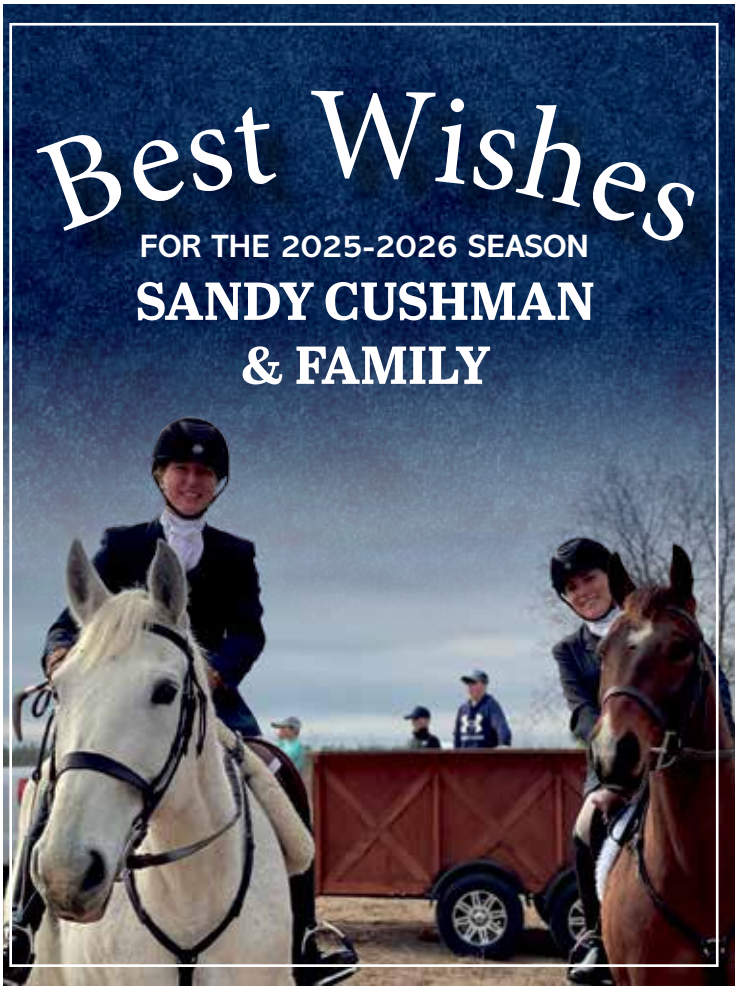
"We need mechanisms to support them, "Graham said.

Grants would be available for youth development and educational programs. Small businesses such as feed stores, boarding and lesson barns, and hay and grain growers who support the state's equestrian industry could benefit from the revenue. Experience with horses give South Carolina's young people opportunities to work throughout the world.

"We have to help our fellow farmers. It's not just about horses. The economic impact is greater than betting on a race," he said.

"In some fashion, gambling is coming to South Carolina," Elser said. "The people of South Carolina and the legislature need to decide how best to regulate it and how to keep the gambling dollars home and reinvest them into the community."

If you support the Equine Advancement Act, contact your local legislator and ask them to vote in its favor.





FOX DEN LTD.

From Our Den to Your Home

Unique Gifts & Decor for Every Home, Equestrian Inspired & Personalized with Custom Embroidery & Glass Carving

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm
Sat. by appt.

803.432.5292
2519 Broad St.
Camden, SC 29020
in Dusty Bend

PREMIER SPIRITS & MORE

Biggest Selection! Best Prices!



★★★★★ Like & follow us on Facebook! ★★★★★

1640 Springdale Drive, Suite D
(Located Near Hibbett Sports)
Monday- Saturday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
(803) 713-7184

Hubbard Heating & Cooling
803-285-COOL

TRANE COMFORT SPECIALIST

TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.



Free Estimates

Residential Heating and Cooling · Commercial Heating and Cooling
Water Heaters · Gas Piping · Air Purifiers

Contact Us Today!
803-285-2665 · www.hubbardcooling.com

TRANE COMFORT SPECIALIST DEALERS

The Language of Tradition

COLORS, HORNS, & RITUALS



To the uninitiated, the sight of scarlet coats, the clear call of a brass horn, and neatly turned-out fields can appear as little more than an elaborate pageant. Yet every stitch of clothing, every note sounded, and every ritual observed in the hunt field carries meaning handed down over centuries. These are not empty gestures. They are the shared language of foxhunting—a language Wateree Hounds, though young, has dedicated itself to speaking fluently.

Each note of the horn carries more than just instruction—it is a shared language across centuries of hunting fields.

COLORS: BADGES OF SERVICE

In foxhunting, "colors" are not mere decoration. They are earned—granted by the Master as recognition of service, loyalty, and horsemanship. To wear the hunt's colors is to be marked as someone who has carried responsibilities, served faithfully, and upheld the sport's standards.

At Wateree Hounds, the awarding of colors has already begun to form the backbone of our young traditions. As a registered pack of the MFHA, we are careful to grant colors not casually but with meaning, ensuring that each coat carries both honor and responsibility. Each new coat is a step in building a living tradition that will endure for generations.

THE HORN: THE HUNTSMAN'S VOICE

If colors signify belonging, the horn speaks authority. The hunting horn is the voice of the huntsman—directing hounds, signaling the field, and marking the key moments of the chase. A single call can quiet the field, recall hounds from a riot, or announce the thrilling sound of hounds in full cry.

At Wateree, our huntsmen and staff carry forward the ancient calls that unite all foxhunters, whether in England, Virginia, or South Carolina. Though the exact notes may differ by region or huntsman, the meanings are timeless: Gone Away when the fox is found, Going Home when hounds are called back to kennels. Each horn call is more than instruction—it is part of the rhythm of the chase, and a reminder that we share this heritage



with centuries of sportsmen before us.

RITUALS THAT BIND US

The ceremonies of the hunt—stirrup cups, blessings of the hounds, hunt breakfasts—might seem quaint to outsiders. Yet to us, they are the rituals that make the hunt more than a ride across country.

At the start of the season, the Blessing of the Hounds links us to the deep spiritual roots of our sport, asking for safety, fellowship, and respect for the land and quarry. Before each meet, the stirrup cup reminds us that foxhunting is not only about

THE LANGUAGE OF THE HORN

The hunting horn is the huntsman's voice. Each call is short, clear, and steeped in tradition. Though slight variations exist from hunt to hunt, these are among the most common and recognized:

HORN CALL	MEANING
GONE AWAY	Hounds have found and are running their quarry. The chase is on!
DOUBLING	Short, repeated notes used to excite the hounds when on a fresh line.
CHECK	A call to steady hounds when they lose the line, giving them time to cast.
RECALL	Brings hounds back to the huntsman; also used to quiet the field.
GOING HOME	Signals the end of the hunt; hounds are called back to kennels.
GONE TO GROUND	The quarry has taken refuge underground, and the hunt is over.



THE TRADITIONS OF WATEREE HOUNDS

Though young, the Wateree Hounds have begun to form a culture of tradition:

- **Blessing of the Hounds** – Our season opens each year with a blessing, reminding us of the spiritual roots of the hunt.
- **Sporting Week** – A Camden gathering that brings together horsemen, hounds, and community in celebration of equestrian culture.
- **Stirrup Cups & Hunt Breakfasts** – Fellowship before the meet and hospitality afterward are already hallmarks of our days in the field.
- **Colors & Service** – Awarding colors to loyal members ensures that our traditions of responsibility and service are passed forward with care.
- **Building Together** – Every ritual we keep is both a nod to centuries past and a promise for our future as a hunt family.

the chase, but also about hospitality and community. Afterward, the hunt breakfast gathers the field and landowners together, affirming that every hunt is as much about people and place as it is about hounds and horses.

At Wateree Hounds, these traditions are still being formed in our own way. As a young hunt, we recognize the weight of these rituals, and we are committed to observing them with the same respect as the great hunts of history. Already, our gatherings and ceremonies are becoming touchstones for our members and the wider Camden sporting community.

WHY TRADITION ENDURES

Some may ask: why cling to these old forms? The answer is simple—ritual is the glue that binds generations of foxhunters together. The scarlet coat, the horn call, the blessing: each is a symbol of continuity, linking a young hunt like Wateree to centuries of heritage.

Tradition is not a cage but a compass. It reminds us who we are and why we hunt. It transforms a group of riders into a community and a single morning's meet into a chapter of a much larger story.

Theodore Roosevelt understood this. Though known today as a champion of conservation, Roosevelt was also a man of ritual and tradition in the field. He valued the discipline of turnout, the ceremony of the hunt, and even carried his own horn while hunting. To him, these customs were not superficial—they reinforced the values of respect, sportsmanship, and fellowship that he believed were at the heart of true sport.

At Wateree Hounds, we know we are writing the early chapters of our story. Our colors, horns, and rituals may be newly spoken in Camden, but they carry the weight of centuries behind them. And in time, they will themselves become traditions handed down to those who come after us—traditions that, like Roosevelt believed, give sport its soul.

CAMDEN HORSE BLANKET LLC
REPAIR & CLEANING

Your local horse blanket repair business

Now offering out of town barn pick up and delivery!

Camden Horse Blanket

Elizabeth - (803) 427-6538

Lily Pond Farm

NEW RENTAL COTTAGE

« Boarding
« Guest Cottage
« Overnight Stabling
« Direct Access to
Camden Hunt Country



Camden, SC
(803) 479-7111 • lilypondfarm.com

TRIBUTE®
SUPERIOR EQUINE NUTRITION

Get Your First Bag Free!

Scan the QR code and fill out the form to get a free personalized equine feeding plan, and get your first bag of Tribute® FREE!



the GOLD STANDARD *of equine nutrition*

A TASTE OF *the hunt*





There's nothing most fox hunters love more than flasking to hounds, oops I mean riding to hounds of course. Beyond basic tawny port - Here are some favorite flask recipes (8oz) for you to try on your next day out!

BY DANI JACKSON, MFH SALT MARSH HOUNDS

The Irish~ish Coffee

Ingredients

- 5 oz Hot coffee
- 2oz Bailey Irish Cream
- 1 oz Whipped Cream Vodka

Instructions

- Brew a fresh cup of hot coffee.
- With a funnel carefully pour 5 oz of coffee into your flask.
- Add 2 oz of Bailey's Irish Cream and 1 oz of Whipped Cream Vodka.
- Swirl to combine then sip sip hooray on a cold hunting day.

The Barnburner Cider

Ingredients

- 5 oz. Warm apple cider
- 3 oz. Salted Caramel Crown Royal Whiskey

Instructions

- Heat the apple cider until warm (not boiling).
- Pour 5 oz of the warm cider into your 8oz flask
- Add 3 oz of Caramel Crown Royal Whiskey.
- Swirl gently to combine. Sip and enjoy!



BY SARAH CARLE

Apple & Sage Hunt Breakfast Sausage Rolls

A modern twist on a hunt breakfast classic – perfect finger food for feeding a hungry crowd after the meet!



Ingredients (for about 24 mini rolls)

- 500g (1 lb) pork sausage meat
- 1 small apple, peeled & grated
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh sage (or 1 tsp dried)
- ½ tsp English mustard powder
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 sheets ready-rolled puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten, for glazing
- Optional: poppy seeds or sesame seeds for topping

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (400°F). Line a baking tray with parchment paper.
2. In a bowl, mix sausage meat, grated apple, sage, mustard powder, and black pepper until well blended.
3. Unroll puff pastry sheets. Cut each sheet lengthwise to make 4 long strips.
4. Divide sausage mixture into 4 portions. Roll each into a long log and place along the center of each pastry strip.
5. Brush one pastry edge with beaten egg. Roll tightly to seal, seam-side down.
6. Cut each long roll into ~6 pieces. Arrange on baking tray.
7. Brush tops with beaten egg. Sprinkle with seeds if using.
8. Bake 18–20 minutes until golden and puffed. Serve warm or cold.



Perfect For

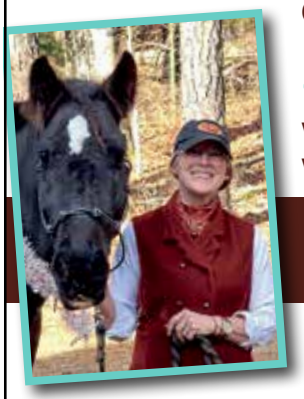
- Passing around at the hunt breakfast table
- Packing into a picnic hamper
- Serving with mustard, chutney, or Branston pickle

Tip from the Field

Bake ahead and serve cold in the field – just as delicious without reheating! For a game-inspired twist, swap pork sausage for venison or wild boar mince.

BLUE HORSE HOMES
AND LAND

Find your next home with an experienced Realtor!

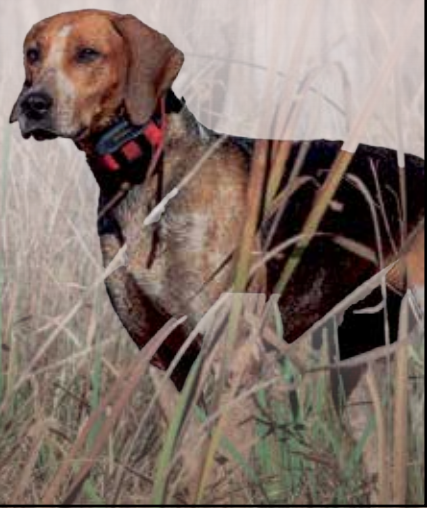


CAMERON SMITH VOGT
803.206.6601
www.bluehorsehomes.com
www.editfluffandstyle.com

Come Home to
SOUTH CAROLINA.

BEST WISHES
for a great season.

-Friend of
Wateree
Hounds



Because Every
Paw Print Deserves to
be Remembered



Peaceful Paws
Mortuary & Crematory

WE OFFER
- Chapel
- Pet Euthanasia
- Transportation
- Tributes
- Custom-Made Memorial Pieces
- Urn & Jewelry Options Available

803-677-1476 32 | Plaza Drive, Lugoff, SC, 29078

Gentle Goodbyes At Home

In-home pet euthanasia

COMPASSIONATE PET EUTHANASIA IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME.

Saying goodbye to a beloved pet can be a hard moment on a family. At-home euthanasia offers a peaceful and private way to honor your pet's life allowing them to pass in the comfort of familiar surroundings with those they love.

Serving Camden, Sumter and the surrounding areas.



***For booking*, please visit**
Codapet.com or call 833-263-2738 directly.
Meredith Somerset, DVM

For euthanasias with cremation services, please call Peaceful Paws at 803-677-1476.



"It's a great training ground. Everywhere you go there's deer jumping up in front of you. Training hounds

From Ireland to the Carolinas: Tony Gammell's JOURNEY WITH THE HOUNDS

BY RENEE STANDERA



Huntsman Tony Gammell has been hunting for decades, yet he prefers to call his pack "dogs," not "hounds."

"They are dogs first," he said. And to train them to hunt fox, Gammell said that's important to remember. One has to understand their instincts as dogs before considering the bloodlines and the breeds.

"I'm not a big believer of the bad scent thing."

He admits he's a dog man more than he's a horse man, or horseman. Gammell described his equestrian skills as effective but not exceptional. He said the Wateree club's focus on the hounds was appealing.

"In some hunts, it's all about the horses," he said. "It seems like my type of hunt club."

Gammell comes to Wateree Hounds from the Lowcountry Hunt, where he became familiar with Ned Towell, the Paschals and other members of Wateree Hounds at joint meets over the years. When Vince Paschal became hunts-



off of deer is really easy. I think it's going to pay off when we get going."

> **"THERE WERE TIMES WHEN YOU WOULD BE A MILE AWAY FROM THE HOUNDS. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF LETTING THE HOUNDS DO THEIR THING AND BREED THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT."**
>
> — Tony Gammell



man of Wateree Hounds, he turned to Gammell for advice.

"It's a very big deal," Towell said of signing Gammell with Wateree Hounds. "I'd say he's the best in the country right now."

He has years of huntsman experience on both sides of the Atlantic. After high school at 17, Gammell went straight into hunt service in Ireland. He's been a professional huntsman in Ireland, England and Scotland, and was planning to relocate to Australia when he was called across the pond by Andrews Bridge Foxhounds in Pennsylvania.

Then he spent 17 years with the Keswick Hunt in Virginia and trained the pack to hunt red fox and ignore other temptations such as grey fox, coyote, and deer.

"That put Australia out of my head," he said. "Thank God I didn't go to Australia. I eventually visited and I really didn't like Australia."

In 2018 he got a call from Nina Burke, Master of the Lowcountry Hunt, who asked if he was up for another challenge. Not only is the terrain of Lowcountry Hunt's fixtures a challenge, so is the population of coyotes in the region. Gammell had never hunted coyote before, but he thought it would be fun to chase what he described as "big, smelly animals."

Gammell bred dogs to meet the demands of the country. He assembled a pack that not only was game enough to chase coyote, but also independent and disciplined enough to stick together through the marshy wetlands of the Lowcountry.

"It's extremely tough country," he said. "There were times when you would be a mile away from the hounds. It's just a matter of letting the hounds do their thing and breed them to be independent."

--And pray they don't get eaten by an alligator. Eventually Gammell said his work on the Lowcountry pack was done.

"I don't know how much more I could do with these hounds," he said.

Gammell's next challenge is breeding the Wateree Hounds to be successful in the the sand hills and the drier environment. Gammell brought 11 hounds with him, and from working with Paschal, he's familiar with the Wateree pack.

"So getting the hounds to where they're successful in the country, it matters," he said, and the location of the kennels helps Gammell with their training.

"It's a great training ground," he said. "Everywhere you go there's deer jumping up in front of you. Training hounds off of deer is really easy. I think it's going to pay off when we get going."

South Carolina Equine Associates



At South Carolina Equine Associates, we are dedicated to being the trusted partner in complete equine care.

Our mission is to foster unparalleled relationships between horse owners and their equine companions through accountability, ethical practices, passionate service, and collaborative efforts. We strive for excellence in every aspect of our work, ensuring that each horse receives the highest standard of care, promoting harmony and well-being. Together, we create a community where horses and their owners thrive.

Make an Apointment Today!

(803) 432-0652

402-E Dicey Ford Rd, Camden, SC







Q&A

BY SANDY CUSHMAN

Who is Sandy Cushman, ex-MFH?

I am a wife, mother and grandmother, who was introduced to foxhunting while growing up in Pennsylvania. I began hunting in South Carolina when my daughters got a couple of ponies and wanted to try it. I'm an Ex-MFH. I am a whipper-in for 18 seasons: I've probably put in a million miles of hound walking and have loved every minute of it. These days I'm pretty much a "horse keeper"(as opposed to housekeeper) as I'd still rather be hanging out with "my ponies'', whom I have essentially turned into pets, rather than be in my house doing what normal, non-horse folks do….

Memorable Occasion:

During a Camden Hunt staff hunt, we ran a fox from the East side of our hunt country all the way to the farthest point on the West side, where the hounds bayed it up in a big woodpile. After a few minutes, Kurt Krucke, Huntsman, called the pack off and moved them away. The fox bolted and then was accounted for pretty quickly. Gamble, the lead hound, picked that fox up, turned and trotted right back to where Kurt sat on his horse. The rest of the pack fanned out behind him, and not a one tried to grab at it or take it from Gamble, as though they were acknowledging it was his prize to present to Kurt. Most amazing, unforgettable act of animal behavior I have ever seen.

Those That Influenced Me:

There are two women who really influenced me during my years of hunting. One was MFH Judy Thiel, a little, tiny force to be reckoned with, who knew foxhunting in every way you could. It was her hunt, her rules and she would not look the other way if she felt someone was misbehaving in her hunt field. She was a true leader. But when we'd have board meetings at her home you could get her off topic in a heartbeat…and boy did Judy have some great stories to tell.

Hope Cooper MFH, was always available whenever I needed "a minute of her time". Hope would quietly listen, assess the situation and give solutions on how to solve a problem. Never criticize, never judgmental, always fair. She was a great whipper-in, great field leader and always had the views. Inclusive, enthusiastic, and just the kind of person people wish they were more like.

What's the Future of Foxhunting:

Foxhunting, steeplechasing and polo, initially originated as "lifestyles" rather than weekend hobbies. Unfortunately, those people that could live that lifestyle are mostly gone, as are their huge tracts of land they pursued these activities on. Obviously, the future of foxhunting lies in being good stewards of the land that is left. We need to be inclusive and overly appreciative of the landowners who allow foxhunting on their properties. The other key thing is really making the sport affordable: inclusive and FUN for juniors, and the 30 /40 year old riders who are the future ambassadors for the sport of foxhunting.



MARSHALL +STERLING



RIDE BOLDLY. WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

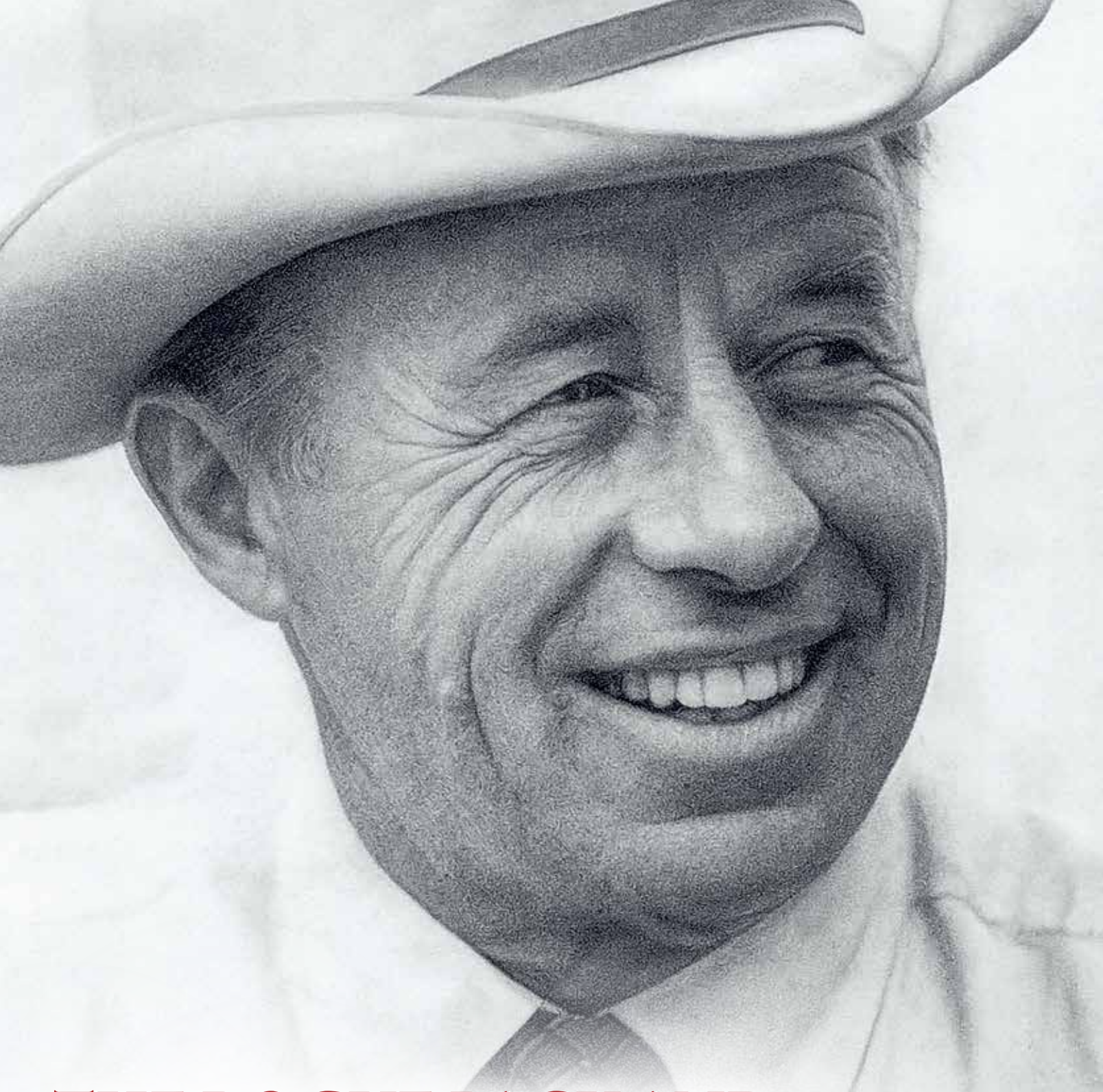
At Marshall+Sterling we make sure your horse is covered from pasture to hunt field. Because accidents don't wait for the off season. With our specialized coverage, you can ride with peace of mind, year round.



Blake Boyd, agent for Marshall & Sterling, is a lifelong sportsman and supporter of equestrian sports. He is a proud member of Wateree Hounds from its inception. With firsthand experience in the saddle, he understands the critical importance of long-term care and protection for both horse and rider.

Call today and learn how equine insurance can benefit you.

jblakeboyd@gmail.com (803) 513-4037



THE ROGUE PACK AND THE PLAT MAP:

DALE THIEL'S TWIN REVOLUTIONS

Dale K. Thiel transformed the Camden Hunt by introducing live foxhunting and preserving thousands of acres of land, ensuring the sport and its landscape endure for generations.

LEGACY OF THE LAND: HOW DALE THIEL TRANSFORMED FOXHUNTING AND PRESERVED CAMDEN'S EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE

BY NED TOWELL

In the annals of American foxhunting, few individuals have left as profound and multifaceted a legacy as Dale K. Thiel. His story in Camden, South Carolina, encompasses not merely the transformation of a single hunt's practices, but the preservation of an entire sporting landscape for future generations. Through his dual achievements—revolutionizing Camden's hunting from drag to live quarry and spearheading visionary land conservation—Thiel ensured that the ancient sport would survive the pressures of modern development.

Dale Thiel's presence in Camden's equestrian world was well-established by the late 1950s, when he was managing the Camden Hunt Club's stables. Born December 6, 1931, he had built his reputation first as a steeplechase jockey before transitioning to management roles. His deep understanding of authentic sport would soon manifest in transformative ways. His marriage to Judith "Judy" Firestone, daughter of Raymond C. Firestone of the tire dynasty, connected him to one of America's most prominent equestrian families and provided both personal and philosophical support for his ambitious plans.

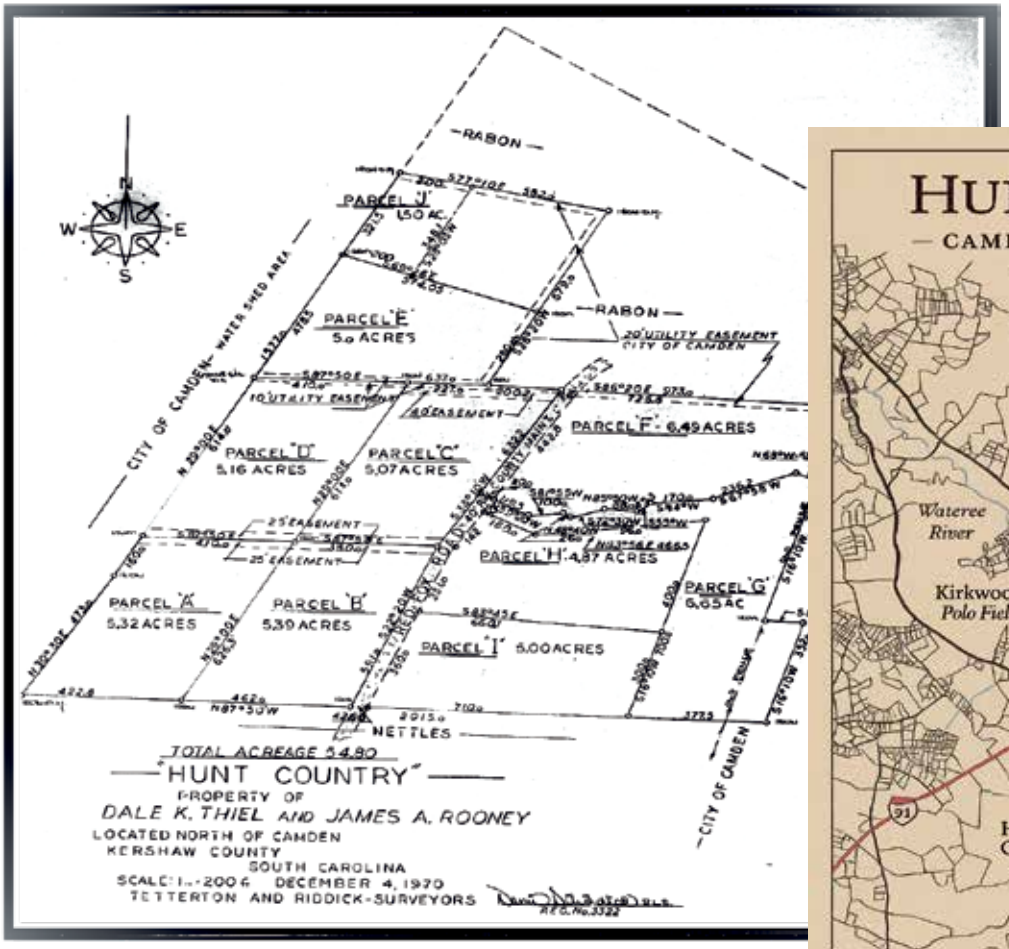
The Camden Hunt, established in 1926 and recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association in 1929, had thrived for over four decades using traditional drag hunting—following artificially laid scent trails through the Carolina sandhills. The primary territories included Peck Woods and Weeks Woods (including Fairview Plantation located off Knights Hill Road west of Springdale Drive), vast expanses that had served as the backbone of Camden's hunting country since the Hunt's founding.

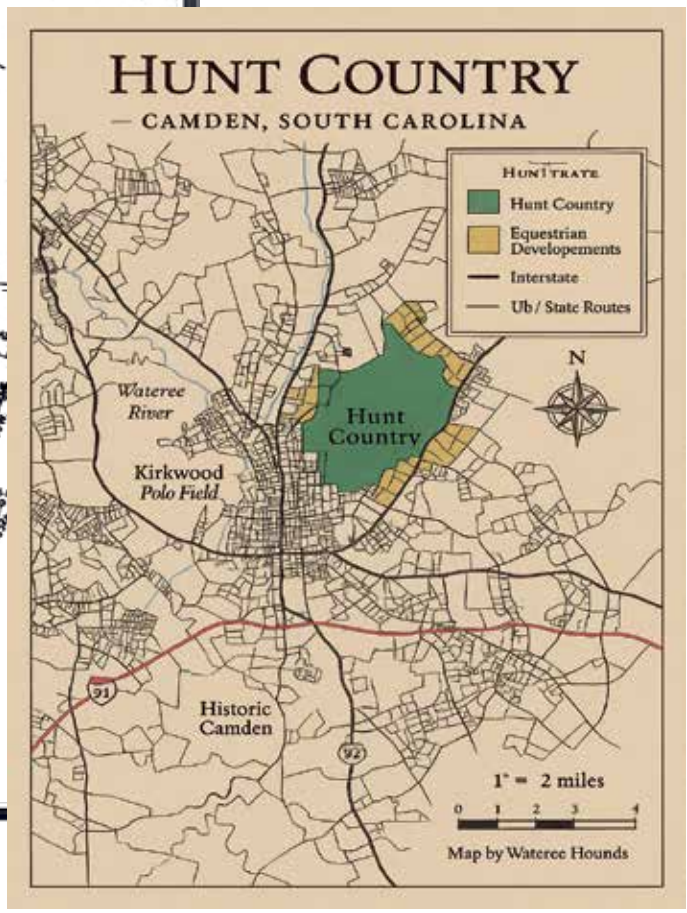
DALE K. THIEL TRANSFORMED CAMDEN FOXHUNTING AND PRESERVED ITS LAND. HIS 1970 PLAN SECURED THOUSANDS OF ACRES FOR EQUESTRIAN USE. HIS LEGACY STILL SHAPES THE SPORT TODAY.

In 1966, while The Camden Hunt continued its established drag hunting tradition, Thiel, who was serving as a Professional Whipper-in for the Camden Hunt, simultaneously began quietly assembling his own private pack of foxhounds on his property on Firetower Road. Operating independently on days when the Camden Hunt wasn't meeting, he started hunting live foxes in Lloyd Woods—what is today known as Hunt Country. This wasn't a casual endeavor—Thiel approached the development of his pack with meticulous attention, training hounds to follow the unpredictable paths of live quarry rather than predetermined trails.

The Hunt's own records would later refer to this as Dale's "so-called rogue pack," acknowledging both its independent nature and its revolutionary approach. His hounds became known for exceptional scenting ability, though they faced common challenges including the temptation to riot on deer. For Thiel, the distinction between drag and live hunting represented the difference between scripted performance and authentic sport.

The year 1970 would prove pivotal for both Thiel's sporting vision and Camden's future. By then, Camden faced unprecedented development pressure. The construction of Interstate 20, begun in 1963 with the Camden section completed in 1971, was dramatically improving accessibility to the area. This brought both the promise of economic growth and the threat of suburban sprawl. The introduction of Kershaw County zoning ordinances in the late 1960s reflected the county's recognition that unmanaged growth could fundamentally alter the rural





sporting vision converged with an urgent need for land preservation. In October 1970, when Sue Ziemke resigned from her position as Joint-Master, Dale Thiel's private pack was officially merged with the Camden Hunt's drag pack. Dale became Joint-Master with Paulette Boykin and assumed the role of Huntsman. This merger marked the definitive end of the Camden Hunt's drag hunting and initiated the live foxhunting tradition that continues today.

The transformation to live hunting coincided with what would become Thiel's most enduring contribution: the Hunt Country Development on Red Fox Road. On December 4, 1970, a plat map was completed by Dale K. Thiel and James A. Rooney that would prove pivotal for the future of fox hunting in Camden. This document—visible in the historic map showing parcels labeled A through J totaling 54.80 acres—represented far more than property lines and acreage measurements. It was a blueprint for preserving a way of life.

The genius of the plan lay in its comprehensive approach. Rather than simply hoping traditional hunting lands would remain undeveloped, Thiel and Rooney created a sustainable model where residential development supported and protected hunting country. The project ultimately created distinct equine communities with riding easements that surrounded and buffered substantial core territories of dedicated equestrian land.

The success of the Hunt Country Development required matching investments in hunting infrastructure. On November 4, 1972, the Camden Hunters and Hounds, Inc. was formally incorporated with Dale K. Thiel as President and Paulette W. Boykin as Secretary. This corporation built new kennels and a Hunter Barn on Red Fox Road, with Ray Smith managing the Hunter Barn. These facilities represented statements of confidence in the future of fox hunting in Camden—permanent, purpose-built infrastructure signaling that this was not a sport in retreat but one adapting to ensure its survival.

Equally important to the conservation effort was the Lloyd family's participation. Richard "Dick" Lloyd and Margaret "Peggy" Lloyd had long been stewards of much of the hunting land. Dick Lloyd, who described himself as a "lumber farmer," pioneered scientific forest management practices in South Carolina. In 1970, the same year the Hunt Country plat was completed, the Lloyds donated watershed rights in Hunt Country to the City of

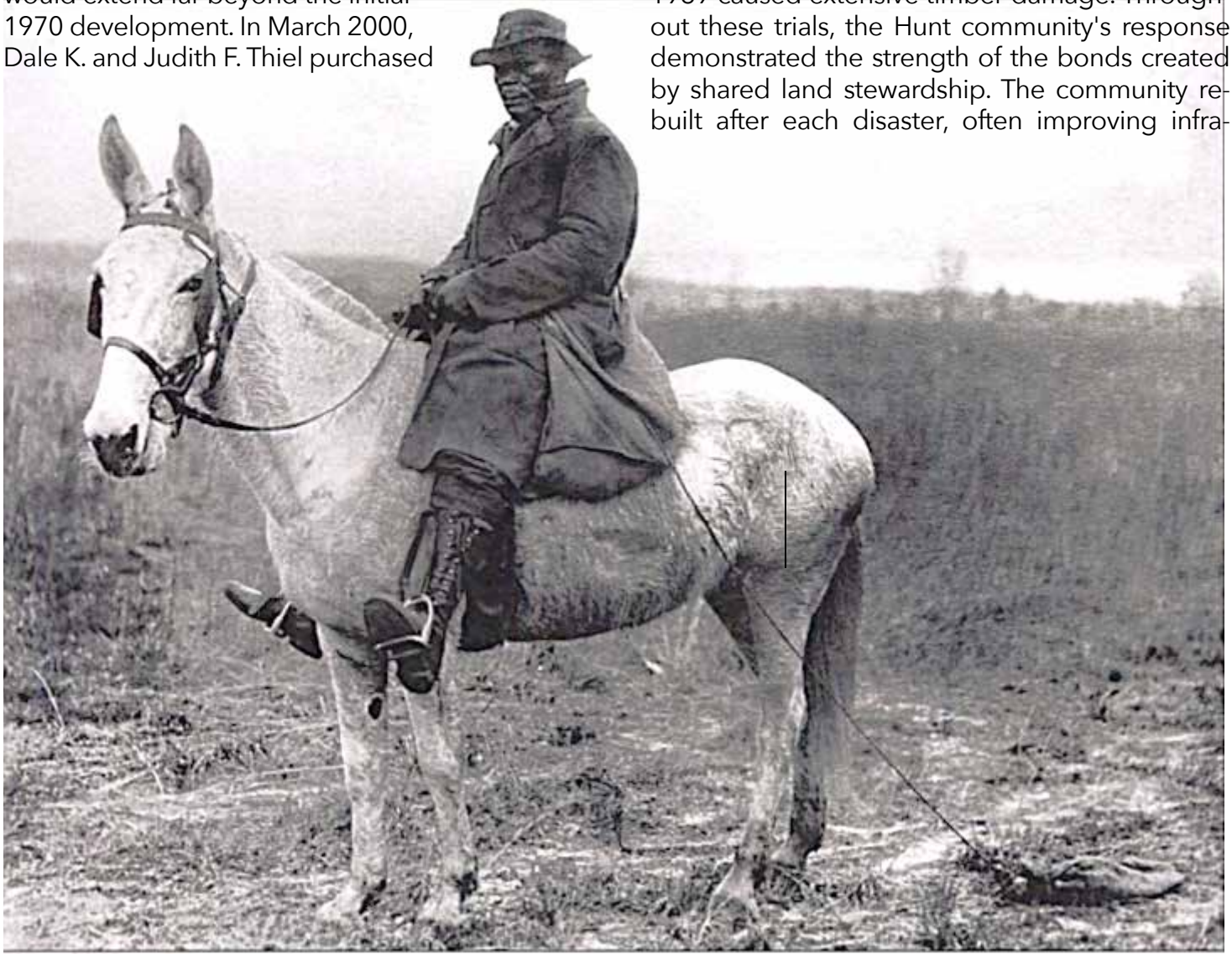
Camden to protect the town's water supply where the City Reservoir was then located, demonstrating their understanding that conservation required thinking beyond individual property interests.

The core hunting territory that emerged consisted of what would become land from three primary sources: the Lloyd family, the Burns family, and what would eventually become the Firestone-Thiel Foundation property in 2000 when Dale and Judy purchased the Reservoir and surrounding land from the City. Since 1972, this consolidated area has been actively maintained as The Camden Hunt's territory but is known locally simply as Hunt Country. Today it is open to the public for equestrian uses for a modest daily usage fee or an annual subscription. The total combined acreage available for equestrian use now exceeds 4,500 acres, with an additional 1,000 acres of buffer made up of farms in equestrian communities with riding easements and trail networks.

The Thiels' commitment to land preservation would extend far beyond the initial 1970 development. In March 2000, Dale K. and Judith F. Thiel purchased 703 acres of watershed property from the City of Camden, a transaction authorized by City Council Ordinance 00-003. This significant acquisition ensured that critical hunting lands would remain undeveloped.

Two years later, in May 2002, the establishment of the Firestone-Thiel Land Foundation and the transfer of the property to it formalized their conservation vision. The foundation received tax-exempt status and was created specifically for the "continued preservation and management of undeveloped land for promotion of local equestrian activities, conservation research, and protection of wildlife." By 2023, the foundation's total assets had grown to $2.78 million, with land holdings valued at approximately $2.49 million.

The decades following 1970 brought significant challenges that tested the resilience of the Hunt Country model. A devastating wildfire in March 1985 burned 2,000 acres of hunt country, destroying eight homes and barns. Hurricane Hugo in 1989 caused extensive timber damage. Throughout these trials, the Hunt community's response demonstrated the strength of the bonds created by shared land stewardship. The community rebuilt after each disaster, often improving infra-



structure and land management practices in the process.

Even after his term as Master ended in 1978, Dale Thiel remained actively involved. He was part of a group that financed and built the Hunt clubhouse on the Hunter Barn property, demonstrating continued commitment to the institution he had helped transform.

The extraordinary success of Thiel's vision becomes clear when comparing the 1970 plat map with today's landscape. The modern map of Camden shows the preserved hunt territory in green—thousands of acres of contiguous hunting land at the heart of the community. The yellow areas indicate equestrian developments that, following the Hunt Country model, support rather than threaten the sporting landscape. The development pattern shows how strategic planning created buffer zones and riding easements (visible as blue lines on the modern map) that maintain connectivity across properties.

Where unplanned development might have created a patchwork of isolated parcels, the Hunt Country Development ensured vast, unbroken expanses remain available for foxhunting. The green core visible on the modern map—representing the combined holdings of the Firestone-Thiel Foundation, Lloyd family lands, and Burns property—stands as testament to the effectiveness of the conservation strategy initiated in 1970.

The enduring nature of Thiel's vision is evident in property deeds to this day. Current homeowners in the Hunt Country developments hold deeds maintaining the original 1970 restrictions, including requirements that



This antique hound collar tag was found at The Potter family's pond, where Wateree Hounds exercise and swim daily. The Lau-Ray hounds were Ray and Laura Firestone's private pack of hounds. The bearer of this tag was likely drafted to Dale Thiel to start his live pack. Picture and treasure finding credit to Adriane Potter.

properties be used exclusively for "residential purposes and the noncommercial stabling, raising, training, and breeding of horses," with no subdivision permitted and minimum lot sizes of 5 acres. Most significantly, these deeds preserve in perpetuity "the right and privilege of Camden Hunters and Hounds, Inc. or any successor thereto to fox hunt across the premises," along with 25-foot easements for equestrian use.

The physical monuments to the Thiels' contributions are numerous throughout Camden. The Dale Thiel Show Ring at the Camden Hunt Show Grounds bears his name. Since 1990, the Camden Horse Show has been held at the Thiel farm on Firetower Road, now owned by the Potters, continuing the tradition of supporting the equestrian community. The $30,000 Dale K. Thiel Stakes, a maiden hurdle race at the Carolina Cup, ensures his name remains part of Camden's sporting calendar.

More importantly, Dale is credited to this day as the huntsman of "the Camden Hunt's first live foxhunting pack," marking him as the person who ended decades of drag hunting tradition and established the authentic sporting experience that continues today.

When Dale Thiel passed away on June 26, 2015, at age 83, preceded by his wife Judy on August 2, 2013, they left behind far more than memories. Their dual legacy—transforming Camden foxhunting from drag to live hunting while simultaneously preserving the land necessary for its continuation—represents one of the most complete conservation success stories in American sport.

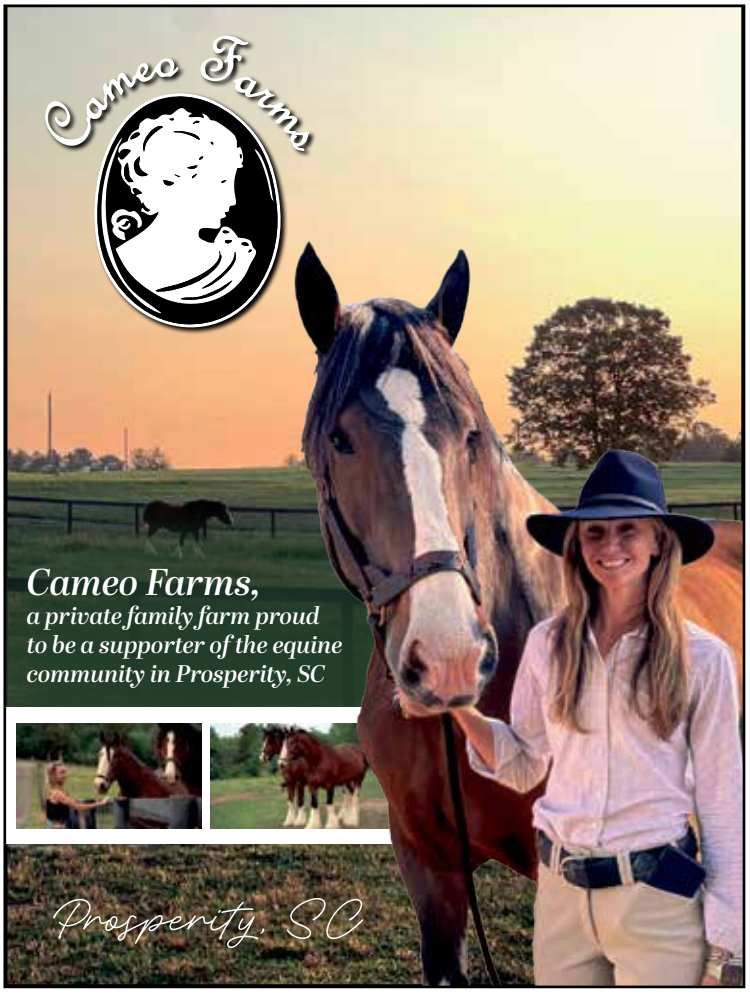
The story of Dale Thiel demonstrates that tradition and progress need not be enemies, that development and conservation can work in harmony, and that a passionate individual with vision can preserve an entire sporting culture. Through his private pack in the 1960s, he proved that authentic foxhunting could thrive in Camden. Through the Hunt Country Development of 1970, he ensured it would have a place to thrive forever.

Today, when hounds give voice on the scent of a fox in Camden's hunt country, they do so across thousands of acres preserved through Thiel's foresight. Every cast, every find, every thrilling run validates not just his sporting vision but his understanding that preserving land meant preserving a way of life. The transformation from drag to live hunting may have been the most visible change in The Camden Hunt's first century, but the preservation of the hunting grounds themselves stands as Dale Thiel's

greatest and most enduring gift to the sport he loved.

The December 4, 1970 plat map, now over half a century old, captures more than property boundaries—it documents the moment when one man's sporting vision became a community's permanent heritage. In an era of rapid change and development pressure, Dale Thiel's Camden legacy offers both inspiration and a proven model for communities seeking to preserve their own sporting and cultural traditions. The hunt continues, the land endures, and the vision lives on.









EXPERIENCE MATTERS when making important life decisions!

If you are looking to buy or sell, let's talk!



JACKIE B. MONTGOMERY, REALTOR

jackiemontgomery@cbcarolinas.com
Coldwell Banker Realty

CAMDEN NATIVE WITH OVER 30 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY!

COLDWELL BANKER

803-309-0507

Newman's Farrier Service

803-983-7281

Mary Reames
REALTOR

ERA WILDER Realty, Inc

Just a horse girl galloping into Real Estate with ERA Wilder Realty. Contact me for all your Real Estate needs TODAY!

(803) 900-0799

maryreames.erawilderrealty.com
1129 Sparkleberry Lane Ext,
Columbia, SC

Pond View Farm

BOARDING, LESSONS & SCHOOLING

Kitty & Ed Farnell
440 Langford Rd., Blythewood, SC 29016

Cell: (803) 360-3598
Home: (803) 754-6922
kfar321@aol.com

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 sometimes 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

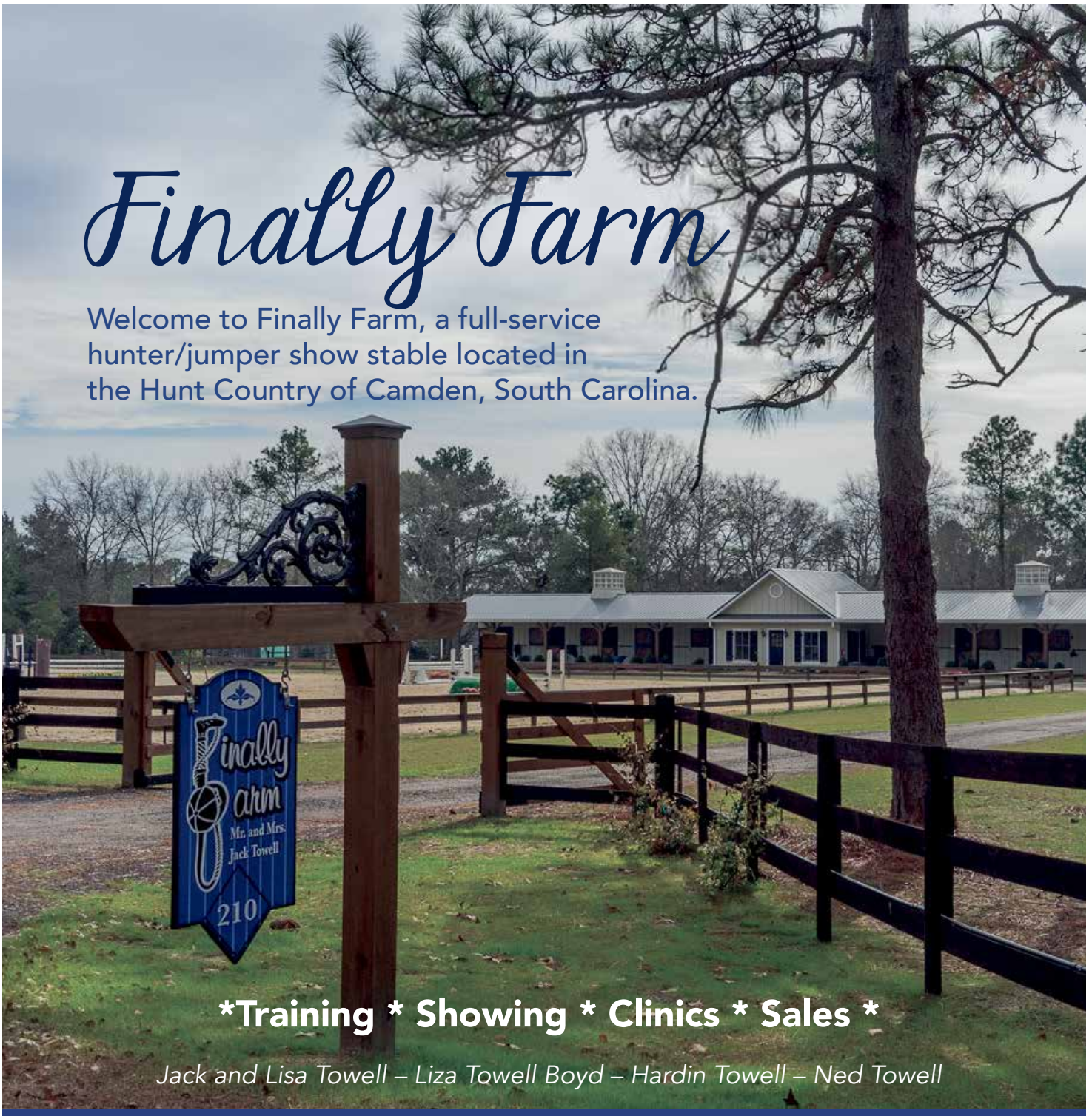
WALK
In spring and summer, hound puppies sent out of the kennels to live at members' and supporters' farms for socializing are said to be at walk . When destruction to yard, garden, and shrubs stretches the limits of the good puppy walkers' tolerance, the hounds are returned to the kennels.

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



Whether your goal is the Short Stirrup, Junior/Amateur Hunters or the Hunter Derby and Grand Prix Jumper classes, the Finally Farm team has the experience and expertise to help you achieve your aspirations!

*210 FIRETOWER ROAD * CAMDEN, SC 29020 * (803) 427-3948*

WWW.FINALLYFARM.COM



HUNTERS
TRACE FARM
HAY & FEED

The only feed store locally owned and operated by horsemen!

Conveniently located at
40 East Dekalb St., Camden, SC

Quality hay, feed, dog food....and more!

803-272-0934

Hours: Mon. - Fri. ▸ 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat. ▸ 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Carrying a full line of TRIBUTE® Superior EQUINE NUTRITION


THE TACK ROOM
SADDLERY
Barbour
Barbour
2530 BROAD ST. CAMDEN, SC | TACKROOMONLINE.COM