

GROUNDWORK



"There is no overpopulation of Wild Horses."

© James Anaquad Kleinert

**Conversation with James Anaquad Kleinert
Author, Film Maker, Equine Advocate, Activist**

**Equine Collaborative International, Inc.
An Introduction**

Equine Collaborative International, Inc., (ECI) is a 501 (c) (3) charitable non-profit organization with deep roots in the horse community. Members of the Board of Directors and Board Advisors have made it policy that all meetings will be open to the General Membership and the public so that all advancements and issues in the industry can be openly discussed. The ECI Board of Directors is populated by both professional and non-pro horse persons with very diverse backgrounds and coming from many disciplines, but sharing the common ambition of keeping the horse industry moving forward by increasing educational opportunities for everyone from youth beginners to long seasoned professionals.

We look forward to serving you in your individual horsemanship journey and hope that you will join us and participate in our quest to help others.

The opinions expressed within these pages are not, necessarily, reflective of the opinion of the Board of Directors, the Editor of Groundwork or the Membership of Equine Collaborative International, Inc. This publication remains as an open forum for opinions and ideas expressed by individual contributors.

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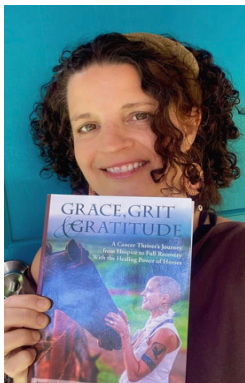
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The Equine Collaborative International Board of Directors welcomes two new Directors and a new Board Advisor as we dive into our fourth year.

Joining us from Kauai, Hawaii, where she operates **Wind Horse Sanctuary**,, **Tara Coyote**, is Equine Facilitated Learning certified and has written the best selling book ‘Grace, Grit and Gratitude: A Cancer Thriver’s Journey from Hospice to Full Recovery With the Healing Power of Horses’ and a soon to be released children’s book. Contact Tara: tara@windhorsesanctuary.com

Carl Bledsoe joins the Board from Talking Rock, Georgia where he and his wife **Tammy** operate their business, **Just Gait**. Carl has a long history in the Tennessee Walking Horse business where he has facilitated major changes in the industry toward the protection and the betterment of conditions for the horses. He is a trainer, clinician and judge. Contact Carl: tlbledsoe5801@gmail.com

Sandy Sharkey has become a Board Advisor. Her multi-National perspective as a wildlife/Wild horse photographer will be most welcome. Reach out to Sandy and see her amazing photography at: www.sandysharkey.com e-mail: sandy@sandysharkey.com



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

Everyone is welcome, call or e-mail for locations or phone number to attend by conference call.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

January 5 February 2 March 2 April 6

May 4 June 1 July 6 August 3

September 7 October 5 November 2

December 7

SUBMISSIONS

Please feel free to add to our effort by submitting your ideas and experiences in Letters to the Editor, stories, articles, reports, photos, poetry, art work, etc. All submissions are subject to inclusion/exclusion due to space availability and at the discretion of the editor. Keep us updated with coming events to be included on our events calendar.

Deadline for the submissions to the Summer 2022 issue of Groundwork is June 5, 2022

POLICIES AND ADVERTISING

Groundwork is the official ECI newsletter and will be published 4 times per year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall), and distributed free of charge to all members. Submissions will be accepted from members and non-members and will be accepted on or before the 5th of the month preceding the publication month. Groundwork reserves the right to refuse any or all material submitted that is deemed detrimental to ECI or the members that it serves. Groundwork is not responsible for copy errors, typographical errors, or any unintentional errors in advertising. The content of Groundwork is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical or behavioral advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of your veterinarian or animal healthcare provider.

AD RATES AND SPECIFICATIONS:

All ads are full color and must be submitted print quality JPEG or PDF

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single issue \$40, full year \$140
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single issue \$70, full year \$210

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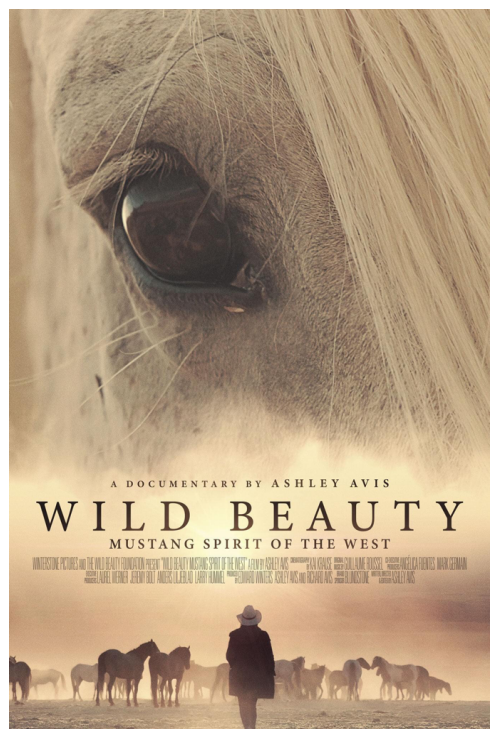
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Cameronring@andromedapictures.net
Barbara Moore, Vice President
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Boston7130@yahoo.com
Mary McNall, Treasurer
marymcnall@gmail.com
Christine Gierlinger
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Jen Hall
jen@zenerjen.com
Phyllis Jensen
Domino1@hotmail.com
Kevin Reeves
Kevin.reeves.eci@gmail.com
Nancy Reeves
nancy.reeves.eci@gmail.com
Lori Shank, DVM
lisdvm@gmail.com
Mary Szarek
info@wnyhorse.info
Carl Bledsoe
Tbledsoe2801@gmail.com
Tara Coyote
Tara@windhorsesanctuary.com



ECI SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The application deadline for the 2022 ECI Scholarship is June 30, 2022. The Scholarship is available for a student entering an equine related collegiate program or anyone entering an equine related certification program (farrier, training, etc.). Every Scholarship applicant will be given a free ECI Membership for the year following application. The application and all details can found on page 32

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

“Pursue calmness without fear.” G-L

Gary Lane is the best selling author of “Training The Gaited Horse From Trail To Rail” and “The Gaiting Balance And Movement Study Guide For Gaited And Trail Horses” DEC.2020©GaryLane

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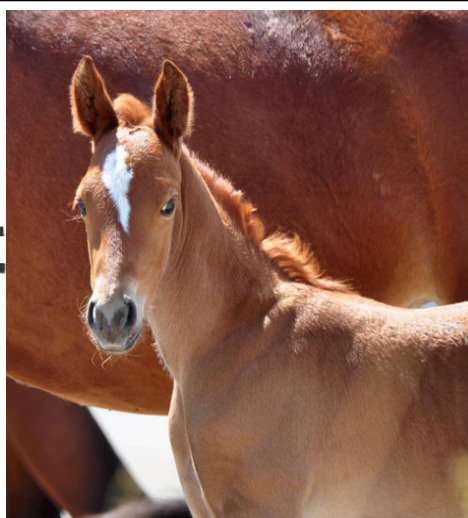
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Linda D. Kruszka
Linda entered the insurance industry in 1985 as a Customer Service Representative and a producer. In 1992, she opened the doors to Main Street Insurance Agency, Inc. located in Attica, NY. MSI now has locations in Bell, FL and Warsaw, NY. The agency is licensed to sell insurance in NY, NJ, PA, TX, FL and GA. MSI is a proud member of the Alpha Associates, Inc., which is a group of 20 professional insurance agents in upstate and middle NY and PA.
A daughter of a blacksmith and Linda's background with horses, makes it a natural fit for her agency to specialize in Equine Mortality, Farm Insurance and Equine Event Insurance. "Our niche equine market has created many opportunities for us. We have been able to help people with other insurance needs," explains Linda. The agency can also provide auto, home, business, and life insurance. Main Street Insurance has an amazing staff willing to help you with your insurance needs. Find out more at www.mainstreetagency.com.
Linda currently serves as the President of the Attica Area Chamber of Commerce and is active in various community and school events. Linda lives in Varysburg with her son and husband, Mike Hoffmeister.



The Wild Horse Solutions Summit

June 22, 2022

See p. 31 For Details

Your ECI membership includes discounts from our growing list of membership sponsors. Thank you! to these supportive businesses:

Creekside Saddlery

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COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Wild Horse Wins-Day with Scott Beckstead
Endurance
Advocacy
Much, Much More...

Cover Photo

James Anaquad Kleinert and his horse Akiywa. Photo courtesy of James.

See his fine art and photography on his website: www.mustangsrenegade.com

Conversation with James begins on page 7 and watch for him in the upcoming Wild Horse Solutions Summit on June 22nd, information on page 34.



Editor and Readers,

I wanted to wish well to all of you that have made the commitment to adopt the Wild horses that were rounded up. I cannot imagine what they must be thinking after being ripped out of the world they grew up in!! I'm sure that having a home where they are well cared for and treated with kindness makes a big difference to them. Thanks you also that have contributed to this important cause and advocated for the horses!

I know with the wild horse adoptions that are going on now, there are a lot of nutritional challenges. These horse's lives have been totally changed from what they are used to!! They may be underweight or they may be in good condition, but you can bet that they are stressed and afraid. When horses are stressed and going through feed changes, most times their gut is in turmoil. Many have reduced enzymes and good bacteria in their gut due to stress or lack of good forage. It makes it difficult for them to properly digest and get the most out of the good food you are feeding them.

A few years ago, I sold a mare with a 1 ½ month foal at her side. The new owner was in Southern CA and I'm in Montana, so it was a three day haul. I sent 4 bales of my hay so that the new owner could change over the feed slowly. The hauler used one bale for the trip. I also sent a bag of Fastrack Microbial and some Equine gel. I instructed the hauler to give the Fastrack Equine gel to both the mare and foal twice a day. He said they stayed on their feed and water the whole trip! He stopped every night and had arranged a safe place to unload them where they could run around. He said he had so many people interested in the foal, he could have sold him several times!! On reaching the California border, the other three bales of my hay were confiscated, so the new owner had no choice but to start them immediately on her hay. She did make sure that they got their Fastrack microbial mixed with their grain twice a day and they never skipped a beat. Even with the Fastrack I was worried about the change in feed as we all know what that can lead to.

After this incident, I have had many times when I had to change feed over more quickly than I would like when I bought and sold horses. I believe that the enzymes, microbials, yeast and prebiotic in Fastrack all help the horse to digest the new feed better, especially when you are changing feed or wanting to add feed on a horse that is underweight.

I do not have a lot of experience with the Wild horses. I have trained only two in my years of training. I found that it took me a little longer to get their trust and respect before being able to continue training. With these two, like most horses I trained, I found that getting their gut working well before training started, helped them pay attention during training sessions. I know when my gut is not happy, I find it hard to pay attention to anything else, so I assume the horse feels the same way.

I'm not trained specifically in equine nutrition, but when you have had horses for over 50 years, you do tend to learn a thing or two. My interest is in the horses and their owners having as seamless a transition as possible, and if I can help you with issues that come up, I'm happy to help! Happy Trails!

Kris Pierce, Montana

Many thank you messages as usual. The ECI 2022 Winter Webinar Series comes to an end on April 5 and a thousand thank you'd go to **Ashley Avis, Scott Beckstead, Carl Bledsoe, Janet Del Castillo, Jen Zoe Hall, Marty Irby, Mark Munzert, Gail Pearles Dr. Lori Shank and Scott Wilson** for bringing their own expertise and entertainment to our stage this year. They kept us on track with keeping the diversity of the business of horses as the cornerstone of ECI when they brought all the attendees the latest news from their own discipline.

Many thanks, as well, to the many people who registered and attended the webinars. Your interest and enrollment help to make the ECI Scholarship possible for 2022. See below Membership Perk and remember if this year was your first year enrolling for the Webinar Series you earned a 2022 membership. If you have not received the Discovery Challenge information please contact Phyllis at: domino1ny@hotmail.com

The deadline for application submission is June 30th, so if you know anyone entering a collegiate equine program or a certification program please share this newsletter and information with them.

Many thanks, also, to Phyllis Jensen, who proof reads with extraordinary good humor.

Member Perk

Every member whose membership application is completed before February 15, 2022 will receive a free family 4-pack of tickets to the Zenerjen Self-Discovery Challenge. Horses helping people to help themselves!
Find the details at:
www.zenerjen.net/discovery
When you complete your membership app you will be sent the available dates

CONVERSATIONS

JAMES ANAQUAD KLEINERT

DEDICATION, EDUCATION, INSPIRATION

James Anaquad Kleinert is an author, award winning film maker, cinematographer, fine art photographer, activist and advocate. His Native American knowledge and background sheds new light on not only the Wild Horse rights but gets to the very roots of human rights.

ECI: A little of your background- Where were you born and raised?

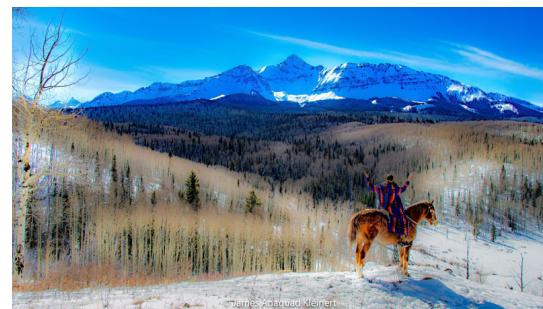
JAK: Well, I was born and raised in Wisconsin. Born in the little town of Oconomowoc. It is an Indian name, meaning 'Place of the Meeting Waters.'

ECI: With that as a home base what were your early interests?

JAK: My childhood in Wisconsin was kind of like Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. That was back in the days when kids would walk around and do all kinds of mischievous things, playing in the woods, going to Lakes and Rivers. I had a childhood growing up on the land and worked on local dairy farms doing hard labor. It was really good for kids to hang out and have that kind of physical activity and work ethic. I literally started working on different farms in the area when I was 12 because at that age, you could legally get a paying job and they'd usually pay minimum wage. So, I literally started working on farms when I was twelve years old. It's also where the American Indian Mound Builders were. This was quite some time ago, but they built these large, Effigy Indian Mounds and they dotted the landscape. Of course, there are lots of stories about them. But to me, they were very powerful energetically and spiritually, and it's sad because a lot of them have been destroyed over the years. If people just do some research on that, it's it's pretty fascinating to read about the Indian Mounds and the Mound Builders. After the time of the Mound Builders the same territory was the land of Chief Blackhawk and the Sauk and Fox tribes which have an incredible history. I have relations in northern Wisconsin on the Lac Du Flambeau Indian Reservation which the French call the Chippewa but their rightful name is Ojibwa, so there was no lack of interesting things to explore and learn. We had long winters in Wisconsin so I skied in the wintertime and I played all the sports that were available in school. That was good to keep me focused on a positive activity and to be in touch with my body. Look at kids today- they're in touch with their phones and their computers so they loose touch with the natural world and, as we know, too much time on cell phones and computer's can have negative health effects.

ECI: What was your first exposure to horses and to Wild Horses?

JAK: Most of the farms that I worked on as a kid growing up in Wisconsin would have a horse out in the back forty and most of the time there was no one to ride these horses. I was immediately fascinated by and attracted to them so I would try to work with them. Didn't start out with any knowledge so I learned as I went along and whenever I had a chance I would



spend time with horses. I would say it was kind of an innate natural love for horses but when I became a professional athlete, skiing for the US Ski team in Freestyle Aerials and Moguls, my focus was on the sports endeavor. For that 15 year period I maintained an interest but did not have any real involvement with horses.

The other thing that really ties in here is that my Grandfather was an American Indian. He was assimilated but had maintained a deep connection to the earth and he shared that with me. We did all kinds of outdoor activities, he hunted, fished, gardened, was an electrician by trade but could build or fix anything and was essentially self-sustainable. He was an incredibly powerful influence on me as I was growing up, and the American Indian influence played a role in my future with horses.

ECI: How close to your Grandfather did you live?

JAK: Well, I grew up in Wisconsin and my grandfather was in Michigan. So, several times a year we would drive to Michigan to visit. He worked in Lansing but had a little cabin on the River in northern Michigan where he spent most weekends. Of course he always wanted the family to visit for holidays- it was great- there was no telephone or television so you had to create your own entertainment. We were always in the woods or on the river doing something and during the evenings we played cards or board games interacting with the family.

ECI: You were on the United States Ski Team, did you make it to the Olympics?

JAK: In 1988, in the run-up to the Olympics I was actually ranked in the top ten in the world. I think I was sitting ninth in the World Cup Grand Prix. Selection for the Olympic team is based on your World Cup results. Competing on the World Cup circuit you travel all over the world and you build points, depending on how you place. In 1988 Aerial Freestyle Skiing was a demonstration event so the selection criteria was different and there were fewer athletes selected than in a normal Olympic event.

Continued from page 7

They only selected one and one of my teammates was sixth in the World standing when I was ninth so I did not get to go. It was a big disappointment like going to college and not getting a diploma.

I stayed on the circuit for another 4 years and made a good push for the '92 Winter Olympics. A couple months before the Olympics I blew my ankle and missed because of the injury. Professional sports are really a crapshoot with so many variables however that was the training ground for what I am doing now.

ECI: Athlete to Activist? What lead you to begin this quest?

JAK: Well, I've got to blame that on my mother. She was a photojournalist in the small town where I grew up. She would write and shoot a story for the paper every week. I learned photography from her and as I watched the stories she would write I came to recognize that she was very much the outspoken person on political issues in particular. I was around that over the years and grew up close to Madison which in the '70's was kind of the Berkeley of the Midwest. It was a hotbed of political activity and consciousness. I was exposed to a lot of activism at an early age. After my athletic career I had a short stint as an actor and stuntman in Hollywood. I got my Screen Actors Guild Card and was working in that field, mostly in television. I had a severe accident on a stunt and boom! my career was done. I picked up a camera and started shooting subject matter that I was interested in and a lot of that subject matter was Wildlife. Of course I filmed Sports and did Sports films that included skiing and films of the Olympics, but at the same time I would sneak off to the great outdoors and document wildlife. Which later spun into doing films with members of Indian Nations. My first feature film was a piece on the Lakota Unity Horseback Rides. Those rides were very spiritual but had an activism element to bring attention to American Indian rights. Primarily making the point that rights and environmental issues were being violated. I was submerged in activism when I started doing the American Indian films.

ECI: Film Studies- U of Utah...before, during or after the US Ski Team. Was the Film making education the cause of the documentary series or was the subject matter the cause of seeking the education?

JAK: In the middle of my skiing career I blew out my knee. A different injury but you get lots of injuries when you're an athlete. I had to sit out for a season and I ended up in a documentary film class at the University of Utah. I sat there and watched the the documentaries and thought I would get a camera and when I went back on the world cup tour I could take the camera and shoot a movie. I didn't have much training. I had taken this one class and it was more a study of documentary film. It was not a how-to.

I was able to buy just the very basic video camera and in my last two years on the World Cup tour I shot a documentary from an athlete's perspective. That was actually my first film. The title was 'Living It', it was a portrait of Athletes on the World Cup Freestyle tour. From there I went back to college for another year or two, got my Taft-Hartley (union) in the Screen Actors Guild and went to Los Angeles to work in the film industry. I worked for a production company, doing behind the scenes things as well as camera work and working as an actor/ stuntman. So there I was again with a total submersion, this time learning the film business. Then I had the horrific stunt accident and everything ended!

After that I picked up a camera and started shooting my own films. The early filming was divided between the the things I knew best, athletics and horses. 'The Edge Of Telluride' is a film about ski/snowboard mountaineering that I shot in 2008-2009 and is available at: [Vimeo.com/ondemand/TheEdgeOfTelluride](https://vimeo.com/ondemand/TheEdgeOfTelluride)

ECI: Mountaineering and Ski films before the Mustang films, and then singles on the Mustangs and now this huge, multi leveled, in depth, impactful series. Please tell us about the progression.

JAK: Well, when I was making my American Indian films I was always driving through Wyoming and I would see herds of Mustangs on those drives and stop and get a quick shot or two. Seeing them resonated deep in my consciousness. Then when I was completing the feature film 'Spirit Riders', I needed shots of the way the West used to be with wild horses and buffalo. So I decided to get a BLM filming permit and go and capture the best shots I could of wild horses. That was in November of 2003 at the White Mountain Round Up in Wyoming. I was shocked at what I witnessed and documented! That was the start of it all.

Continued on page 15



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ADVOCACY

Scott Beckstead- Stay Involved, Stay Engaged

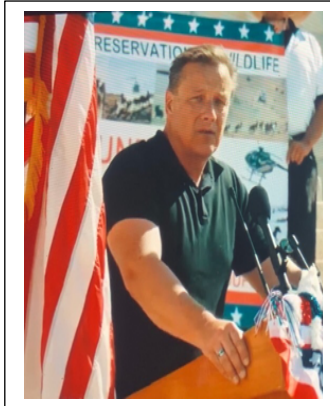
Click the link for Scott Beckstead's 'Wild Horse Wins Day' video recorded on March 9, 2022. Transcript follows.
<https://www.facebook.com/567684365/posts/10158877881154366/>

Good Morning friends, Scott Beckstead here on another Wild Horse Wins Day. We all know that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is rotten from the top down. It is populated by people who regard these federally protected animals as little more than trespassing livestock. It relies on animal cruelty to achieve its aims and it has an internal culture that bends to the whim of the livestock industry over the will of the American people and the welfare of the Wild Horses and Burros every time. The only thing that is really going to reform that program is a major piece of legislation that will amend the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. That is exactly what we at Animal Wellness Action and The Center For A Humane Economy are working on. We are talking about a Bill that will forever stop the helicopter roundups, that will stop the BLM Adoption Incentive Program and will restore Wild Horses and Burros to their rightful place on their federally designated habitat.

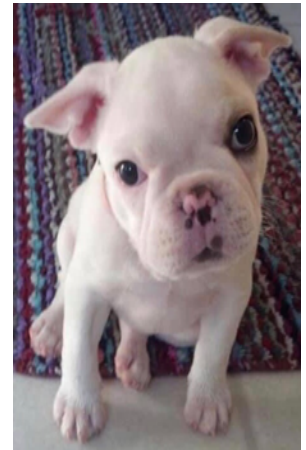
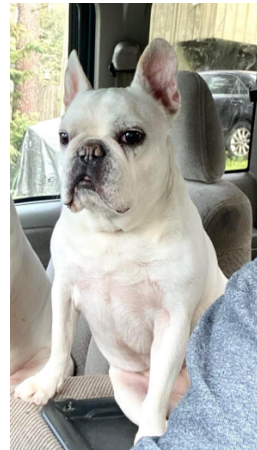
This is the only approach that is really going to solve all of these problems that we all object to and so many Americans are sick and tired of.

So we hope you will get behind us. Obviously, we are still working on the details. With a project this big, we want to be sure we get it right. We are going to you advocates and all of the people out there who care about Wild Horses and Burros to take action, to reach out to your members of Congress and we are going to get this done. This is not just a piecemeal, single issue Bill. We are talking about a substantial amendment that addresses all of the problems that we have been able to identify in the BLM's program. Friends, it is an exciting time, there is lots of bad going on but there is lots of good on the horizon.

Stay involved, stay engaged, until next time...



Lifelong horseman, **SCOTT BECKSTEAD**, is currently serving as the Director of Campaigns for both Animal Wellness Action and The Center For A Humane Economy. He will be delivering the Keynote Address at the **Save Our Wild Horses Conference and Assembly** in Washington, D.C. (April 26-30) and will be the moderator for the **Wild Horse Solutions Summit** on June 22, 2022. Details for that event on page 34



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