



"A Future Without Soring" is the theme of the Fourth Sound Horse Conference. Soring is the illegal and cruel practice of using chemical and mechanical methods to create pain in a gaited show horse's front feet to exaggerate their animated step, most prevalent in show Tennessee Walking Horses. Pre-registration for the Sound Horse Conference is \$145, and includes the events listed below. Space is limited. To register, please visit our website at www.SoundHorseConference.com. For further questions, call conference organizer Lori Northrup at 716-474-7580.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00PM

**Cocktail Reception
Meet & Greet**

SATURDAY MARCH 29, 8:30AM

Welcome

Master of Ceremonies: Marty Irby

**Enjoying a Good Career with
Gaited Horses in the Future**

These panelists are steeped in various careers where they see a bright future for the Tennessee Walking Horse and other gaited breeds. You will hear more about Heritage-certified breeders, trainers who have a vibrant business helping develop gait for their customers, riding instructors, clinicians specializing in gaited horses, and breeders with decades of satisfied customers.

**Franne Brandon, Heritage Society breeder
Nya Bates, trainer
Jan Sousa, breeder
Cat Dye, trainer
Gary Lane, clinician**

**PAST Act Update &
Now That's a Walking Horse:**

Hear the latest update on the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act's progress through Congress, what it will mean in changes for trainers and exhibitors, and the legislation's expected timeline. Also learn about the positive rewards, both grants and recognition, designed to encourage opportunities for the use, care, and training of Tennessee Walking Horses apart from the traditional show ring.

Keith Dane

**Soring: A Necessity
for the Winning Gait**

This equine veterinarian, with a lifetime of experience with show Tennessee Walking Horses, will explain his life journey that brought him to this public declaration: "The fact is the big lick can only be accomplished by soring. When one soring technique becomes detectable, another one is developed. The big lick is a learned response to pain and if horses have not been sored, they do not learn it."

John C. Haffner D.V.M. ABVP(Eq)

Current Soring Tactics

This panel of experts, with a combination of 150+ years' experience with Tennessee Walking show horses, will openly discuss the current abuses and methods used to achieve the winning "big lick" and flat-shod performance gaits. A combination of presentations with open-format questions and answers will allow these panelists to fully explore the topic.

Tracy A. Turner, D.V.M.

Jimmy Norris

Neal Valk, D.V.M.

Donna Benefield

John C. Haffner D.V.M. ABVP(Eq)

**What the Pain of Soring
Really Feels Like**

Hear this veterinarian describe soring from the horse's point of view.

Michael J. Blackwell, D.V.M, M.P.H.

Lunch

**LUNCHEON SPEAKER
Break Every Chain:
A Fresh Start**

Pastor Clay Harlin tells his journey, from his lifelong involvement with Walking Horses, to the "ugly point in his life 13 years ago when he decided to walk away from it lock, stock and barrel regardless of the consequences." How his worldview, and his faith, led him to see the truth about soring and animal abuse. That decision put him in a crucible; which looking back is "a place of bad memory," to now seeing a place of freedom and fresh new perspective on the walking horse industry.

Pastor Clay Harlin

**The Future of Walking Horse
Competitions**

And the future is bright. Panelists will describe shows and rail classes that are growing in size and popularity, the rapidly-growing specialty of gaited dressage, and how gaited horses are now a significant winning force in distance and endurance riding. You will also hear more about Tennessee Walking Horses' natural skills and abilities in versatility competitions.

Shows & Rail Classes: Jason Crawhorn

Gaited Dressage: Julie Dillon

Gaited Distance/Endurance: Cindy King

Versatility: Dee Hasler

USDA Horse Protection Program

**How My Life Changed
Because of Soring**

This second-generation Tennessee Walking Horse trainer will share the challenging cross-roads that he came to in his life, the decisions that he made, and the outcomes with which he is now living.

Carl Bledsoe

Group Dinner

**SUNDAY MARCH 30, 10:00 AM
RISING GLORY FARM
2616 FRANKLIN PIKE
LEWISBURG, TN**

**Finding the Magic:
Starting the Gaiting Process**

Nationally-known gaiting clinician Gary Lane will work with riders on a variety of rescued Tennessee Walking Horses (including ex-performance show horses) from Horse Haven of Tennessee. You will see the natural way of developing each horse's best gait. Each of these horses are looking for their "forever" home, and adoption can be discussed with the attending principals, including Executive Director, Nina Margetson.

A Flair for the Future

Cat Dye, Caroline Emery and the team from Black Anvil Equestrian will be presenting a complement of finished 2 gaited, 3 gaited, racking, and sport types of the modern Tennessee Walking Horse, exhibiting both the traditional show gaits as well as versatility games and jumping which will showcase the abundant talent and potential of our breed in any arena.