

The March 18th meeting of the Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show Foundation Board included the presentation of a grant to the Appalachian State University Equestrian Team. The grant is to help defray costs of entry fees for the Team's spring competitive schedule. In presenting the award, Burr Collier, President of the Foundation said, "We are particularly pleased to support our commitment to education in this way. At a time of ever-increasing University costs, anything we can do to help ease the financial pressure on students is a good thing." He continued, "Supporting the Equestrian Team is a logical extension of our commitment to recreation-related education." Greensboro senior and Team President, Katelyn Young said, "The Team very much appreciates the financial support. We are delighted to be renewing our association with the Blowing Rock Horse Show, and look forward to a long relationship with this historic event. As riders, we are truly fortunate to be so close to one of America's most historic horse shows."

ASU's 60 member, student run Equestrian Team is part of the Club Sports program under the supervision of the ASU Athletic Department. The Team's competitive league includes:

Virginia Intermont
Virginia Technical Institute Wake Forest University
UNC- Greensboro Elon University
Western Carolina Averett University
Salem College

The Team fields 40 competitive riders who compete in one of three riding disciplines: Hunt Seat, Dressage, and Western. Traveling team selections occur through an earned point system. Traveling team riders compete in 20 events between September and May with ASU hosting two competitions per year. The riders train with certified coaches at the Foothills Equestrian Center in Taylorsville, NC. This year, eight riders have qualified for Regional finals. One rider has qualified for Nationals with one more awaiting wild card selection. The ASU Club also sponsors a recreational program for those students who wish to develop riding skills but do not choose to compete. There are 20 riders in the recreational program.

In additional action, the Foundation board declared May 1, 2013 opening day for the seasonal boarding, camping and overnight stabling operation at the Blowing Rock Equestrian Preserve, which will host the 90th consecutive Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show including three weeks of nationally ranked competition beginning with Saddlebred's June 6 through 9 followed by two weeks of Hunter/Jumpers beginning on July 23 and ending on August 4.

For additional information contact: Maurice D. Ewing, mdewing1@windstream.net
704-467-3789 or visit the ASU Equestrian Team web site at
<http://clubsports.appstate.edu/equestria>