



providing not only information about the sport but also showing several different breeds of hounds. The Foundation provides specialized

seminars and presentations on foxhunting to community and civic groups, including children's clubs (i.e., pony clubs, 4 – H clubs), men's and women's associations, local, state and federal government organizations, and other organizations interested in field sports and foxhunting.

### Education and Professional Development

The Foundation provides an array of educational offerings for professional hunt staff and anyone interested in hounds, horses and foxhunting. This information includes educational materials such as books and CD's, along with educational opportunities in the form of classes and seminars designed to enhance skills necessary to improve knowledge in all areas relating to foxhunting, as well as to hounds and horses used in hunting generally. Additionally, the Foundation maintains publications of old books on foxhunting that would no longer be available in print without Foundation support, while providing resources to some new authors of foxhunting books that could not otherwise be published without the Foundation's aid.

The Foundation works include: *Health Problems Associated with Hounds and Horses, Hunting a Pack of Hounds, Whipping-in, Field Masters, Care and Management of Hunt Horses, The Field, Characteristics of Hounds, The Unwanted Horse and Problems Associated With Horses No One Wants, Landowner Relationships, First Aid for Riders, horses and hounds, Good Sporting Practices, and Preserving Open Space.*

The Foundation also runs a Professional Development Program, implemented in 2005. It has been very successful and is an exciting program for hunt staff. The goal of this year-

long program is to enhance and improve the skills of not only hunt professionals, but also amateur staff. The program is not only educational, with hands-on training, but also motivational, encouraging participants to give their best efforts to their hunt, be they professional or amateur. A secondary mission of the program is to encourage young people to make a career of foxhunting as a professional. A huntsman, whipper-in or kennelman who desires to improve skills can apply for a scholarship to the program. The program offers unique experiences that would be difficult or impossible to obtain on one's own. Participants receive personalized guidance from skilled professionals together with reference material, both covering veterinary concerns for both dogs and horses, farrier concerns, hound nutrition, kennel management, hound breeding and whelping, landowner relations, hunt country management, sportsmanship, guides and hound registration.

### Publications

The Foundation publishes a variety of books, CD's and pamphlets that are educational to a wide array of people working with hounds and horses. In addition to the titles listed above in the education discussion, some more include the following titles: *Feeding Working Hounds, Foxhounds & Foxhunting, Hound Nutrition, Kennels of North America, Hunting the Coyote, Hunting the Red Fox, Breeding and Whelping of Hounds, New Hound Entry, Kennel Management, Riding across Country, Mysteries of Scent and numerous other pamphlets.* These are not limited to those just interested in foxhunting, but have broader appeal to include *A Centennial View* capitalizing on the 100 year anniversary and written for people interested in learning about the sport.

### Research

The Foundation funds research for hound and horse diseases, problems and care, and also disseminates information to its member hunts and the public to raise awareness of diseases and treatments affecting horses and

hounds. Examples of diseases for which the Foundation has either provided funding for research and/or disseminated information to the public include Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM), a progressive, degenerative neurological disease of the central nervous system in horses, heartworms (*Dirofilaria immitis*) and Brucellosis, a reproductive disease, in dogs, and tick related diseases in both dogs and horses. The Foundation has assisted in coordinating participation in providing donations to blood banks for dogs that need transfusions when operated on by veterinarians. Another important example is the Foundation's support of research on Leishmaniasis, a worldwide disease that was introduced into North America from countries where it was prevalent. Foxhounds are susceptible to this disease as are many other breeds of dogs. The Foundation's continued support of research into this disease is considered paramount by scientists in helping make strides into effective treatment.

### Donate

Individual gifts can be structured in multiple ways. You can contribute through gifts of cash, stock, land or other personal assets; planned giving rich in tax benefits or endowed giving to specific programs of your choice. Our staff is here to work with your needs and answer questions regarding contributions.

MFHA Foundation needs your help to continue educating the public about the sport of foxhunting, promoting the conservation of lands, preserving natural habitats, and supporting and encouraging research on health and welfare of hounds and horses.

For more information on ways you can help, please call Lt. Col Dennis Foster at (540) 955-5680 or [dennis@mfha.com](mailto:dennis@mfha.com).

### MFHA Foundation

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# MFHA FOUNDATION



Supporting MFHA Foundation & It's Mission  
*Where Your Money Goes!*

# About MFHA Foundation



The MFHA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization with the overarching mission to preserve and protect foxhunting for future generations. MFHA Foundation is dedicated to providing information and programs designed to educate and inform the public about the sport of foxhunting, promoting the conservation of lands, facilitating the preservation of natural habitats, and supporting and encouraging research on health, welfare and training of hounds and horses.

The Foundation also acts as an umbrella organization to allow donors to give funds to either the Foundation or the Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation (HSBF). HSBF is a monetary assistance fund to Hunt Staff professionals and their families who are in dire financial need. HSBF is not a retirement fund, but is a fund to provide aid in circumstances where health or other financial crises warrant special assistance from a fund set aside by the foxhunting community.

The Foundation received its initial funds in 2007 from contributors who shared a vision during the MFHA Centennial celebration. Today, the Foundation receives funds from direct and legacy contributions. In an effort to conserve resources and increase efficiencies, the MFHA Educational Foun-



ation merged into MFHA Foundation in 2010, and the Foundation began to operate as an umbrella fundraising organization by performing all fundraising programs for both HSBF and the Foundation. The Foundation and HSBF have separately invested funds that generate income for their respective programs and operations.

The Foundation can succeed in educating the public and professionals about foxhunting, preserving habitat and carrying out the other aspects of its mission only through the continued support and funding from individuals and organizations who also believe in preserving and protecting foxhunting for future generations.

Please read on so we can share with you a bit more about the ways you can help and some of the critical work the Foundation is doing, and has done, with funds from donors just like you.

## Conservation

Conservation of lands for foxhunting and other outdoor sports is critical to the survival of the sports, but also the habitats and animals living in those habitats. Our natural environments are at risk and the Foundation works diligently to preserve them. As a direct result of foxhunters, more than a million acres are under conservation easements, preserved for hunting and other field sports. The Foundation continues its efforts to increase the number of acres under conservation.

The Foundation each year recognizes conservation efforts through its Conservation Award. The purpose of the MFHA Foundation Hunting Habitat Conservation Award is to recognize those organizations, foxhunting clubs, and individuals that have made significant and enduring contributions towards the preservation of rural countryside and its flora and fauna. Activities focused upon for this award include, but are not limited to:

- Distinctive and continuing programs for maintaining wildlife habitat, and not just for foxes or coyotes, but for all rural fauna and flora in the habitat.



- A systematic approach to the placement of significant amounts of open lands into perpetual easement - hunting, scenic, historical, conservation, etc.
- Fostering and supporting a conservation organization or foundation to conserve large tracts of land and the indigenous wildlife.
- Organized efforts aimed at educating the general public, particularly the young, on the need for conservation of natural resources.
- The formation of alliances or working in concert with other conservation organizations.
- Evidence of sustained activity in the furtherance of open land preservation.
- Substantial contribution towards fostering and maintaining conservation.

In addition to the Hunting Habitat Conservation Award, the Foundation awards individual contributions to conservation at the District level. The Foundation's District awards recognize individuals or families who have contributed significantly to the preservation of open space or have opened up land that was not previously open to mounted foxhunting.

The Foundation, through its Executive Director, is also active in various conservation groups. One such group is the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP). This group consists of approximately 50 of the largest and most influential conservation

and wildlife organizations working to preserve open space and wildlife habitat through education about the benefits of conservation and providing expertise on legislation that effects conservation, wildlife and hunting. AWCP's memberships consist of millions of sportsmen and sportswomen throughout the United States.

## Education and Public Information

Promoting knowledge of the basis for and the value of traditional field sports is the most effective way to deal with critics who may be uninformed about field sports and may, therefore, distort and misrepresent them in pieces opposed to mounted foxhunting and other outdoor pursuits. The Foundation spends much of its resources educating the public about the heritage of foxhunting and preserving the sport.

The Foundation maintains pages on its website dedicated to educating the public about foxhunting and its traditions, the benefits of field sports and related topics. Information about hounds and bloodlines is open to the public and the stud book is readily available to the public on the website.

Additionally, the Foundation coordinates efforts to get mounted members

of MFHA or other groups to public events such as the local county fairs where hunts parade hounds and provide information on mounted foxhunting. One such example is the 2011 EPIC Outdoor Game Fair in Atlanta, Georgia, where a group of mounted foxhunters paraded hounds

and several kennels manned information booths,

