No Foot, No Horse
Our Mission

Representing professional farriers, veterinarians, suppliers and horse owners, the American Farrier's Association is the oldest and largest membership organization for the farrier industry in North America, and the only one with internationally recognized standards of competency through our certification programs. Setting the standard for excellence in hoof care, the AFA provides professional development, certification, leadership and resources for the benefit of the farrier industry and the welfare of the horse.

Cover

Joe Nygren, CJF, DipWCF competes at the MNFA contest
Photo taken and submitted by Tammy Nygren
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Greetings to All,

I am truly blessed once again to be writing this letter with much excitement. We have just wrapped up our Midyear Board of Directors meeting that we made virtual this year due to travel restraints. Although we didn’t have the normal camaraderie of face-to-face time, we all feel it was truly a success and so much was accomplished.

The American Farriers Team has brought forward a new structure as to how the points will be accumulated over the span of this next year. There will be two huge competitions leading up to the annual contest where competitors will be able to better prepare themselves to be one of the best on the AFT. I would like to thank all of those involved in making this transition for the future of the annual competition. More information can be found in this issue and will continue to be publicized going forward.

I also had the opportunity to spend the weekend in Oklahoma at Five Star Horseshoeing School for the Examiner Update and could not be more impressed by how far this group of individuals has come in the past couple years. The new format with the Examiner, Tester and Pre-Certification updates has proven itself to be very valuable to our Certification program. Our Certification and Pre-Certification Committee members are working tirelessly to keep our Certification program at the highest standard. As technology has evolved, so has our process for the program. The new written test has been unveiled and we have numerous individuals to thank for taking their time to get this out. The Executive Director is working with the committee on ways to streamline the application process with the host Chapters which will make the exam process so much smoother for everyone involved.

As we continue to work our way through these past few months of craziness in the world we have come to know, I would like our membership to know that we haven’t slowed down the workload that we are tasked with. In fact we have made the best use of this time to work on many issues that have needed careful and thoughtful consideration. Our Executive Director and office staff are being tasked daily on keeping up with the new member benefits and updates the Board of Directors has been working on. I have asked the Board to start having quarterly meetings to expedite business that normally only happens twice a year unless there is an “emergency”. It is my hope that we will be able better handle business needs for the association in a more timely fashion.

I don't have much more room here to explain all that is happening, so please take the time to keep up on the other great information in each newsletter as well as the e-blasts that are sent out. Once again, I’m not trying to leave out all the other members that are contributing daily to this association and our industry. We can't thank you all enough.

In closing, I hope each one of you had an amazing Thanksgiving and I wish you the most Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Regards,
Jon Johnson, CJF
AFA President
Hello, FIA Members!

We are certainly experiencing some unusual times lately with the AFA Convention being postponed to November, the International Hoof Care Summit going virtual, and local events being cancelled and postponed – all under the COVID pandemic.

However, farriers are busier than ever, great new things are on the horizon, and we have Martha and Melanie working hard on our behalf.

When you read this article, I hope that you participated in our recent FIA webinar on Social Media Strategy for small businesses and that you learned something from it. I’ve talked to some of our companies to see if they would be willing to show us how they do certain things for upcoming webinars that might be of interest to the membership, and in fact, I’m in the process of putting one together on how our anvils are made from beginning to end.

With that, I was asked if I felt that was giving away trade secrets – but I believe the only real problem would be others finding out how little we know about newer and better ways of doing it! That being said, I would like to see other companies be willing to follow suit and share their knowledge with our community. It would be interesting to see how we are different in the ways we go about our days as different companies who share the goal of selling our goods and products to the farrier industry.

So, I’m asking that any of our companies – whether retail, manufacturing, or otherwise – put something together for a future webinar.

Also, I hope you guys are still interested in information on a group health insurance benefit program. I would never have imagined that it would be such a monumental task, but we are still working hard on it thanks to Martha and Melanie.

It has been an exciting time to be President of the FIA and I promise you that your Board of Directors is working hard on your behalf. As always, we are an open book about what’s been happening and plans for the future.

Wishing everyone a very happy holiday season!

Chuck Milne
FIA President
Texas Farrier Supply
Executive Director’s Report

Happy Holidays, AFA!
I hope this note finds you all doing well and enjoying the holiday season! Despite a chaotic fall between COVID surges and the election, it’s been a great couple of months at the AFA and I’m excited for you to read about much of our progress in this newsletter!

As we mentioned in the last issue, your Board of Directors met virtually on Friday, October 9, and over the span of nine hours conducted a spectacular amount of work on behalf of our membership. Some of their major accomplishments include passing two new membership categories: Mentored and International (more information on the Mentored membership on page 6), choosing the site of our 2022 Convention, approving a new member benefit program that will include life insurance, disability and retirement planning (and which is currently being prepared for rollout), passing an absolutely terrific new plan for American Farriers Team selection which will be rolled out in 2021, and of course, approving policy language for many of our key programs. Although we knew there would inevitably be minor glitches with the technology, I was impressed with your leaders’ tenacity and determination in working together to accomplish great things.

Also, alongside our President, Jon Johnson, CJF, I was fortunate to attend the recent Examiner Update at Five Star Horseshoeing School. Over the span of three days our Examiners worked together for continuous improvement of our program which is, of course, critical to ensure we maintain the integrity of certification that you have come to expect. At the Update, considerable progress was made on revisions to our Study Guide (which we will release once complete), and the new written exam was rolled out. If you missed Chairman Craig Stark’s comments on the exam on social media or in an e-blast, I am including them below. Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Examiners for their time, Craig Stark, CJF for coordinating the entire weekend, and Dusty Franklin, CJF, AWCF, ASF for hosting all of us!

Finally, to those of you who participated in our first-ever online auction – THANK YOU! With the absence of a Convention within the current AFA fiscal year, it was our goal to bring our annual auction to you – and it is my hope that you enjoyed the format!

I would also like to thank our many, many donors who contributed to make our event exceptional. A great deal of work went into many of the items, and we are grateful!

With that, I want to let you know that this holiday season we have been reflecting on how much we are grateful to all of you for what you do for the AFA. Your loyalty and dedication to our mission is both noticed and appreciated, and I wish all of you much joy, happiness and good health – not just during this holiday season – but always.

Kind Regards,
Martha Jones
Executive Director

A Few Words from Our Certification Chairman…
The AFA certification committee is excited to announce the release of the much-anticipated new written exams! The recommended books are Gregory’s Textbook of Farriery and Butler’s Pill.

There are no longer any T/F questions (only multiple choice), with the addition of diagrams. The new tests were first released for candidates at the Utah Certification in November. We all realize there will be growing pains, as there are with any new format. We are truly excited to have this new written test to place in front of candidates as we are continuing to make our certification process the best that we can possibly make it.

Best regards,
Craig Stark, CJF
Certification Committee Chairman
November 13th and 14th marked time for the bi-annual Examiner’s Update. The update consists of a quiz covering the Certification Guide with a passing score of 80%, and Examiners must also produce a complete CF shoe display, score a CJF bar shoe and shoe to standard one front and one hind foot. One foot is to be shod with a keg shoe to the CF description and one with a clipped, handmade plain stamped to the CJF description. This was voted on and approved by the AFA Board of Directors to ensure that our Examiners understand and have the ability to consistently score all aspects of the exam.

This update was held at the Five Star Horseshoeing School in Minco, Oklahoma. We started off the first day by having all of the Examiners score the same feet, followed by very good discussion as they compared scores. This really helped the Examiners come to consistent scoring in all aspects of the practical portion of the CF and CJF process. Three Certification Instructors were on hand to score each of the Examiners, following the same score sheet as a candidate would. The second half of day 1 was the shoeing practical portion of the update. Each of the Examiners shod half a horse.

To wrap up the first day everyone in attendance, including AFA President Jon Johnson and Executive Director Martha Jones, went to see the National Museum of Horseshoeing Tools in the Oklahoma City Stockyards. This is the new location of the amazing collection the late Lee Liles, CJF had put together and had on display. It was the first time most of us had seen the new location and the first time for some of the attendees to see this collection at all.

The second day began with the Examiners taking their quiz on the Certification Guide. We began by looking over the shoe displays. CJF bar shoes were scored and subsequently discussed next, following the score sheet that is used to score candidates’ shoes. After lunch we started going over CF shoe displays taking each modification one at a time, individually scoring them and then comparing scores. A lot of discussion ensued as we took measures to help standardize what the AFA is looking for and how the Certification Guide depicts this. This was a very lengthy process as we covered all eleven modifications. Lastly, a Certification Committee meeting was held to cover any issues or topics missed during the update.

As Chairman of this committee it is very exciting to see the Examiners work together and make decisions in a truly professional manner. This is a group of men and women that are very passionate about the future of our industry and are donating their time and energy to this certification process in an effort to produce better quality and more educated farriers!
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

At its last meeting, the American Farrier’s Association Board finally got the Mentored Membership fully approved. That means that people who have never been regular members of the AFA can now join for $100 for a period of three years so long as they are “mentored” by a current Certified member of the Association. The central hope of this membership is to provide farriers who are just starting out the services the AFA has for its regular membership at a reduced rate. Further, that they will participate and therefore learn from a journey through AFA Certification.

At its core, a mentor is someone that is there for advice or direction. In some instances, these turn into apprenticeships or life long friendships. On the mentor side it is the mentor’s job to define the relationship. If you only have time to give a person one afternoon, or two hours, or what have you, that is perfectly fine. All you have to do is be honest about what amount of time you can give people, but you can't give them any less than you promise. You can always give more, but never give them any less.

On the mentee side of the equation, your job is to learn. When you approach a mentor with a question, remember that you are asking THEM for their take on the situation and that it isn’t a debate. If you ask them how to perform a skill, try to emulate EXACTLY what they are doing until you have a level of mastery that you didn’t previously possess. You will have time in the future to put your own flavor or flair on the skill. Most importantly, always remember you are the addition to their life (which was probably full before you showed up), and that they are taking time away from something else FOR you and to help you be better.

It is my hope that the Certified Members of the AFA will understand the gravity of this membership and the level of importance that the right piece of advice at the right time is probably one of the greatest gifts we can give one another.

See you Soon,

Thomas N. Trosin, CJF
Chair, Membership Committee
American Farrier’s Association
The American Farrier’s Association focuses on educating, promoting and progressing the farrier trade, and the American Farriers Team is one of the many avenues used by the AFA to accomplish that end. Annually there are five team members selected through the National Forging and Horseshoeing Competition held at the AFA Convention. Most years, a person trying to attain a spot on the team would simply sign up and then compete in the contest. Each class would award points to the top five in each class “going” for the team. This is a tradition for the American Farriers Team.

The American Farriers Team Committee and the Board of Directors have worked together to add two more contests with the goal of accruing team points over the course of a competition “season.” These contests will be called the American Farrier’s Association Team Trials. Each competitor will compete in four classes. They will shoe a foot and make a specimen shoe. They will each compete with the aid of a striker or fireman. The classes will be judged by two judges at each of the team trials. The competitors will be supplied with a coke forge, anvil and stand, and a vice. The cost to enter each team trial is $350.
Farriers are full of questions. Why does a shoe help one horse and not another? Why does one person use a trim style with great success but when another farrier tries it, they don’t have the same results? Does what we do really do what we think it does, or are we just doing it because someone told us to? We are working hands on with horses feet every day, trying to solve problems on the fly, and often we base our solutions on successes we’ve had in the past. Slowly, we put together an idea of how we should solve a problem. Then one horse comes along that doesn’t like that plan, and we have to find another solution and try to figure out why that horse was different. That’s where science should come in, adding those facts to the bigger picture that we have put together, and looking for what variables might have affected our outcome. But if you’re not prepared to think in those terms, it can seem like you’re going back to square one when your plan fails.

If you have questions that you don’t have answers for, or if you have an idea that you think could explain what you’re seeing, maybe it’s time to prove it. Farriers typically aren’t trained to put together research, but the AFA’s Equine Research Committee is working hard to make research accessible to farriers. The first step in performing research is to look for any previous studies done regarding the topic of interest. If you can’t find any, you may need to conduct your own research. This can be done by setting up an experiment and collecting data. Once you have collected enough data, you can use statistical methods to analyze the results and determine if there is a significant difference between the groups being studied.

Entries will open up first for any competitor going for the Team. After a four-week period of time, entries will be open to competitors not seeking team points. To be able to compete at the Team trials and obtain team points you must be a citizen of the USA or permanent resident. Also, competitors must hold an AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier status and must be a member of the AFA in good standing. The competitor seeking to be on the Team must also have a valid passport that does not expire during the year they are seeking to be on the Team.

The first Team trial will be held at Five Star Horseshoeing School in Minco, OK on May 14-15, 2021. The AFA will be working to get you the information for this contest once the details are confirmed. Any questions about the trials or making the Team please contact AFT Committee Chair, Travis Smith, CJF.

AFA RESEARCH COMMITTEE HOSTS FIRST JOURNAL CLUB

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on the subject, and that involves learning how to read scientific papers. This is where Journal Club comes in.

Journal Club is a guided study of a scientific paper. Some scientific papers are only available for a fee, but through the AFA’s Journal Club, a hoof-related paper is selected ahead of time and sent out to the group for free. Then each member reads through the paper, and makes notes of any questions they have, things they found interesting, etc. Then, at a specified time, everyone calls in to a video conference, and a member who is experienced in reading scientific papers guides the group through the paper. Members can ask questions, discuss conclusions, or even listen quietly if they aren’t ready to share with the group.

The purpose is threefold. First, members learn about the topic of the paper, and what the current research on it shows. This is useful and important for keeping up to date in our trade. Second, members become more comfortable reading and understanding scientific papers, which is extremely important for anyone who wants to get involved with research, whether that is through the AFA Research Committee Research Grants, for an FWCF thesis, or purely to better understand the science behind what we do. Third, members learn how to read a paper critically. This means understanding not only how the study was performed, but whether or not the research was done in a way that makes sense, and if the findings are actually significant or not. It’s important to remember that reading a paper critically and questioning how they got their facts isn’t being argumentative or negative, it is making sure that we thoroughly understand what they are stating, and whether it is a repeatable, provable fact or just a well thought out opinion.

“In the next section, Mechanisms of Distortion, Katie encouraged us to be on the lookout for references, where his ideas come from, and any hard data such as studies performed. When reading closely, he references his own clinical experience to back up statements. While clinical experience is extremely important and valuable, it is anecdotal evidence, falling short of actual science. Since this is the basis of his paper, Katie explained that it falls under the category of “Op-ed” piece- an opinion piece which is not peer-reviewed. It is an essay about experiences of the author which may have some references to other works. It is important to note what type of paper we are reading, not to discredit or belittle an author, but just so we can understand if what we are reading is someone’s opinion, a scientific study, or a collection of work from different sources. An opinion piece like this paper is like having a conversation with another farrier. If you respect them and their work, hearing their opinion is extremely valuable and might help shape the way you address a problem, but it is not proven science.

In conclusion, we circled back to Dr. Reddin’s hypothesis and asked if he addressed it in the paper. Katie pointed out that he did explain how and why in his opinion it was important to “read” and address morphologic changes in the feet early in order to prevent larger problems. However, she also explained that we still need to do a lot more research to put some science behind those opinions.

If you are interested in learning more about the science behind hoofcare, look for the journal club link in your bi-weekly AFA eblast. Once you click on the link, you can sign up to receive the next paper for free, along with instructions about how to join the discussion session. We hope to see you there!
Schedule of AFA Approved Certifications & Tester Updates

Certification Committee Chairman: Craig Stark, CJF, 918-857-0771

December 19
**British Columbia Certification**
Host: Western Canadian Farriers Association
Location: Farrier Barn Cloverdale Campus Kwantlen Polytechnic
5500 180 Street, Cloverdale, BC V3S 6R1 Canada
Examiner: Gerard Laverty, CJF, TE, AWCF
Written Exam Only
Contact: Gerard Laverty, CJF, TE, AWCF – 605-897-1752

February 5-6
**Texas Certification**
Host: Texas Professional Farriers Association
Location: Tarleton State University Equine Center
2101 CR 518, Stephenville, TX 76401
Examiner: Brian Buckner, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
Contact: Lee Olsen, CJF – 605-200-0505

February 5-6
**Texas Tester Update**
Host: Texas Professional Farriers Association
Location: Tarleton State University Equine Center
2101 CR 518, Stephenville, TX 76401
Examiner: Brian Buckner, CJF
Contact: Lee Olsen, CJF – 605-200-0505

April 9-10
**North Carolina Certification**
Host: North Carolina Horseshoers Association
Location: The Lesson Barn
3789 High Point Rd, Winston Salem, NC 27107
Examiner: Eric Gilleland, CJF
All Levels/Areas Offered
Contact: Kathy Walker – 336-407-1081
Minnesota Certification

The MNFA would like to thank the following people for a successful certification weekend, September 18-19.

To our candidates for CJF:
Rory Bauer, CJF of Montana now becoming CJF with final stage passed
Jake Stonefield of South Dakota
Mike Kissack of Wisconsin
Ryan McDougall of North Dakota
Trey Irons of Minnesota

To our Candidate for CF:
Haley Hodnefield, CF of Minnesota. Congrats on finishing up your CF

Our Examiner and Clinician:
Mike Poe, CJF, AWCF of Maryland

Testers:
Josh Ramsey, CJF of Minnesota
Terry Dokken, CJF of Minnesota
Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF of Minnesota

Provisional tester:
Scott Bushaw, CJF of Iowa

Additional clinicians:
Scott Bushaw, CJF of Iowa
Heather Schumaker, CJF of Maryland
Terry Dokken, CJF of Minnesota

Hosted and organized by the Thorkildson family.
Mark Thorkildson, CJF, AWCF and Jennifer Thorkildson
Ohio Certification

The Mid-Eastern Farriers Association hosted a certification on October 16-17 at the Grizzle Ridge Arena in Jerusalem, OH. MEFA would like to thank the volunteers, Testers, Examiners, and especially all of the candidates for an outstanding event! Keep up the good work!
Certification

Five Star Certification

Five Star Horseshoeing School hosted a terrific Certification on October 2-3 with Jennifer Horn, CJF as the Examiner. Congratulations to all candidates on a job well done!
Calendar of Events

At the time of publication, our nationwide events calendar remains fluid due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage you to contact the local host of any event you were planning to attend to see if it is still taking place. The AFA does not necessarily receive notification of all event postponements and cancellations. Thank you!

DECEMBER 18
SWOFA Hammer-in
Host: Southwestern Ohio Farriers Association
Location: 1432 Jasper Rd, Xenia, OH 45385
Contact: Kenny Hoyle, CJF – 937-231-3367

2021

JANUARY 23-24
Quarter Crack Seminar
Location: Vero Beach, FL
Clinician: Tom Curl
Website: Quartercrackspecialist.com
Contact: 772-713-5000, Tmcurl@aol.com

JANUARY 26-29
International Hoof-Care Summit
Location: VIRTUAL EVENT
Website: ihcs2021.com

FEBRUARY 4-6
WCB Winter Clinic
Host: World Championship Blacksmiths
Location: Well Shod
305 N Arthur St, Amarillo, Texas 79107
Contact: WCB – 505-281-8982

MARCH 6-7
Upper Midwest Championship Series
Host: Kansas Farriers Association
Location: Equifest of Kansas
Saline County Expo Center Barn 2
900 Greeley Ave, Salina, KS 67401
Judge: TBA
Contact: Max Andersen, CJF – 402-380-1244, maxandersen01@gmail.com

MARCH 20
Dr. Simon Curtis Clinic
Host: Horses In Symmetry LLC
Location: The Hoof Redevelopment Center
375 T Johnson Road, Carthage, NC 28327
Clinician: Dr. Simon Curtis
Contact: Martin Kenny, CJF – 910-690-7618

MAY 14-15
AFT Team Trials
Host: American Farriers Team Committee
Location: Five Star Horseshoeing School
807 NE Johnson Rd, Minco, Oklahoma 73059
Judges: TBD
Contact: Travis Smith, CJF - 717-226-1374

SEPTEMBER 6-10
Dr. Redden’s Equine Podiatry Course
Location: 8235 McCowans Ferry Rd, Versailles, Kentucky 40383
Clinician: Dr. Ric Redden
Contact: 859-983-6690, rfreddendvm@gmail.com

OCTOBER 1-3
EQUITANA USA
Location: Kentucky Horse Park
4089 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, Kentucky 40511
Educational Topics: Growing and Maintaining Your Equine Business, Rehab Treatment Modalities, Equine Nutrition, Soft Tissue Injuries, etc.
Info: www.equitanausa.com/en-gb.html

OCTOBER 15
Equine Workshop on the Anatomy of the Top Line
Host: The Best Horse Practices Summit
Location: Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Kentucky Horse Park
4185 Walt Robertson Rd, Lexington, KY 40511
Contact: Maddy Butcher – 207-504-7837, maddybutcherhere@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 8-12
AFA 50th Annual Convention
Host: American Farrier’s Association
Location: Albuquerque, NM
Contact: Jon Johnson, CJF – 913-704-9841 or AFA Office – 859-233-7411
Business Article

**FIA Member Spotlight**

As the Farrier Industry Association (FIA) continues its reach to our expansive industry, we will be introducing you to some of the dedicated professionals that volunteer their time as the driving force behind the FIA’s loyal membership.

1. **What lead you to decide to open MFS and when did you do so?**

   Mike Williams started W-Brand Products in 1978 in Logan, Montana and moved his business to Livingston in the fall of 2001. I started working for Mike in 2003 and in 2005 he approached me about buying the retail side of his business. I did some research, talked with my husband (who is a farrier) and the bank, had two accountants look at Mike’s financials and decided to go for it. Mike introduced me to his vendors through a letter and I was already familiar with his customers so it was an easy transition. Mike wanted to keep his wholesale tool business—making and selling his rulers, hoof eveners, clinch blocks, hot shoe tongs, etc.—and the W-Brand name as well, so I changed the name of the supply shop to Montana Farrier Supply and set out on my big adventure.

2. **What have been your biggest challenges since opening your business?**

   I’d say it’s competing against larger companies and their Flat Rate Shipping offers. I realize it’s the direction our society has taken—the Amazon business model—but it’s tough on the smaller-sized businesses in sparsely populated areas. The really big supply shops can afford (apparently) to lose money on shipping because they’re able to control a larger share of the market. In the farrier supply business you have your local customers, who stop in to get supplies, and then you have that next group, who live just outside the stop-in distance but who, in the past, you were definitely serving. In recent years that has changed. For example I used to have customers who would drive down from Canada, the Dakotas, or Wyoming. That’s not happening now. The way all of us shop has changed quite a bit in the last 10 years. I think younger consumers haven’t known it any other way—they’re used to online ordering, price shopping, free shipping or flat rate shipping, and doing it all on their phones whenever they need something. Having said that, I do have many loyal customers and I’ve tried to come up with ways to keep them happy and coming back—for example, delivery services, hosting free clinics, or staying late if someone can’t get here by closing time.

3. **Who were your greatest influencers/mentors in your career?**

   Mike Williams, of course. He helped me with the endless questions I had about how to order, how much to order, where to get things from, and just good solid business ethics. I also asked Bill Clark at Northeast Farrier Supply many questions about selling wholesale to other businesses and pricing questions and how to deal with some customer issues. Also my friend Manda Heron, who ran a multi-store beauty supply business in San Francisco’s Bay Area, has given me advice on employee issues, wages, vacation pay, bonuses and other tips on managing my help over the years.

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**Susan Thomas**

Montana Farrier Supply and FIA Treasurer
4. What’s the best business advice you could give someone who is just starting out?

Always act professionally and be friendly and follow through with your promises to customers. If you say you’ll look into something for them then do it and get back to them promptly. Try to create customer loyalty by going the extra mile, having a good knowledge of your products, and helping them with any issues they have with an item or tool.

If you’re going to buy a farrier supply business, do your homework; interview and ask other business owners in this industry and others what the benefits and drawbacks are to running a small business.

5. What business lessons have you had to learn the hard way?

I’ve always been afraid of taking on too much debt, and that has ended up preventing me from making certain business choices—choices that might benefit the overall operation. Purchasing my first forklift is an example. I should have done more homework and shopped around. Instead I bought an inexpensive, used one right away that had smooth tires (for inside a warehouse) and I would get it stuck almost every time I tried to unload freight in our gravel parking lot. What a nightmare. I sold it after I paid it off and got the Mitsubishi I have now. It’s the highlight of every kid that comes in the shop including my 15 yr. old nephew who got to drive it while visiting one summer!

6. If you had to do it all over again, would you take the same path?

Yes. It’s been a solid business and I’ve made it through recessions and a pandemic (so far) and I really love helping my customers and meeting all the wonderful people in this industry. As a graduate from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1989 I’d never thought of myself as having a mind for business so I have to thank Mike Williams again for believing in me and offering me the opportunity to take over his business.
Road to the Journeyman
By Eric Gray, CJF

My farrier career started in 1995. I did a few short apprenticeships while in high school and was introduced to the Georgia Professional Farriers Association (GPFA). I don’t think I missed an event they had for the first 3 years of my career, and I was pretty sure I knew everything there was to know about horseshoeing when I passed my CF in May of 1998 at the age of 18. Earning my high school Diploma and a CF in the same month lead my young ego to think I knew all there was to know about being a farrier. In hindsight, I now realize that I had become the “best” farrier I knew by isolating myself from other farriers. This way of thinking kept me away from clinics and contests for over a decade.

My real Road to the Journeyman started after finding sobriety in 2012 and realizing that I had completely destroyed a full book of horses more than a handful of times over the years. I realized how much the horse business had given me over the years and how I hadn’t really given anything back. I got back involved with my state AFA Chapter, pursuing continuing education and enjoying the fellowship that those activities provide. Many folks encouraged me to obtain my journeyman, and there are probably at least a dozen CJFs that live in the area I service, several of which are willing to assist any farrier wanting to improve. Two of those men really pushed me to keep at it and get it done, and I owe a great deal of gratitude to Eric Gilleland, CJF, TE, and Morgan Hurst, CJF for all their encouragement and instruction.

I wasn’t a one test and done story. I passed the bar shoe and written in 2016 but timed out on both attempts I made at the horse. This was the year my 3rd child was born and was also the year that my wife and I started a recovery ministry at our church, so the CJF attempts got put on the back burner. By the time 2020 rolled around, the partial completion forms were over 2 years expired and while being really grateful for the knowledge and skill gained from making the previous attempts, I really had no plan of testing again on my radar. I was able to attend the 2020 AFA Convention and was elected as one of the Region 4 Directors. A week later the COVID
shut down started. This has really not affected my farrier business (yet), but it shut down the recovery ministry which I volunteered 10-15 hours a week serving the past 4 years. It also delayed the first certification in my area giving me enough time to get some practice time.

I retested at the Georgia certification and was able to pass my written. My nerves got the best of me and I turned in a subpar bar shoe. I was so worried about getting done in time that I turned in a shoe that wasn’t level with over 90 minutes left on the clock, earning a big STOP. I had never owned my system for making a run. I knew it took me 5 minutes to trim and dress a foot, but I didn’t have set times for the rest of the steps of a Journeyman shoeing run. Every certification clinic I had ever attended I had heard about the need to figure out X minutes to trim, X minutes to forge, X time to fit, X time to nail, X time to finish. “The way of a fool seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.”[Proverbs 12:15]. I finally got it through my thick head that the guys that figured out those times spent less money on testing fees and had better results than I did. I had 6 weeks until the Alabama Certification. Every day for the next 6 weeks I shod at least a pair of feet with handmades. I also timed my trim, nailing, and finishing on every horse that I shod. By the time Alabama rolled around I knew my times, I knew where I needed to be every minute of the run and was able to complete the shoeing and bar shoe.

The skills gained prepping for the test are things I use daily. I don’t have many horses in plain stamped shoes or fullered straight bars, but there are elements of the test in every shoeing job that I do. Every time I have a conversation with a veterinarian I am grateful that I have the knowledge gained from prepping for the written portion.

I think for me, the thing about the AFA certification process that is the most humbling and overwhelming is that everyone (Examiners, Testers, Chapter host) involved is a volunteer. Every one of them is giving up their time to help improve the industry.
Dorey is a 20 year old retired pony club games horse. The referring veterinarian, also her owner, sent her to the clinic for a lameness evaluation possibly as a result of a suspected abscess. After the lameness examination, it was concluded that Dorey was 3/5 lame on the left fore. Although she was comfortable at a walk, clear signs of discomfort were present when she was asked to trot. The lameness did not change regardless of straightness and direction. Dorey was then brought to the farrier shop for a close hoof inspection. A white line disease tract was found on the lateral aspect of the foot. Radiographs were taken, and the Lateral view clearly indicated the presence of an infected pocket on the dorsal aspect of the foot. Images 1-4

White Line Disease (WLD) is a keratinolytic process that originates in the solar surface of the hoof and progressively separates the inner zone of the hoof wall (Turner 1998; O’Grady 2002; Moyer 2003; O’Grady 2006; Pleasant and O’Grady 2008; O’Grady 2011; Redding and O’Grady 2012). WLD is a multifactorial opportunistic anaerobic fungal/bacterial infection, secondary to an initial hoof wall separation or defect, that affects the inner nonpigmented section of the stratum medium and junction with the stratum internum. The disease tends to be restricted to the corneum structures of the hoof and invasion of the dermis has not been observed. The etiology of WLD is still unclear but empirical evidence has shown that the best way to eliminate the infection is through a combination of remedial farriery and environmental management. Resection of the affected area and stabilization of the hoof capsule along with ensuring that the horse is kept in a clean and dry area yield better results than the use of topical solutions from
dubious anecdotal evidence. Due to the extent of the infected area, a quite aggressive resection was performed until clean margins and solid hoof wall attachment were found. In order to stabilize the hoof capsule and prevent weight bearing on the sole of the foot, a heart bar shoe with a hard pour-in-pad was applied to compensate for the substantial loss of capsule integrity. Images 5-12

After the treatment, Dorey was re-evaluated and lameness improvement was noted. Dorey was discharged with specific instructions regarding the cleanliness of the resected area and her home environment. It was also suggested that the horse be kept on a short shoeing cycle (4 weeks) to monitor treatment progress. 20 weeks after the initial treatment, Dorey had her shoes pulled and was back to being barefoot again. Images 13 and 14
Farrier Article

Ten things to Learn from Dollar and Wheatley’s *Handbook of Horseshoeing*
By Drew Morales, CJF

“There is nothing new except what has been forgotten”
- Marie Antoinette

Written back in 1897, *A Handbook of Horseshoeing* is still providing readers today with valuable information regarding the farrier craft. In this short review, I will list out my 10 favorite sections, comments, and photos from the book that are still relevant for the modern farrier. I hope you will enjoy them and find them as interesting and useful as I have.

1. To start, the beginning of the text has a detailed historical background of the craft including the use of Hipposandals by the Romans and various sketches of ancient shoes found at sites dating back to around the time of Christ. This area of the book helps provide a vivid account of where shoeing originated from and just how much it has evolved in the centuries since it was first attempted.
2. Much like today, Dollar and Wheatley were exposed to countless "fad" styles of shoeing. Here is their comment on that issue: “Methods of shoeing have thus become so numerous that the ordinary farrier can scarcely keep himself informed as to what is or is not of value. Many of these discoveries are absolutely worthless, the reason so few of those inventions are of real worth is the difficulty of exactly fitting them to feet.’ (Page 18)

3. As for horseshoe selection this was their practice: “Width of shoe is determined by thickness of hoof wall, as a general rule twice the thickness of the wall including the white line.” (Page 134) This is still a quite common practice even today when deciding the type of section to use.

4. In regard to horsemanship, Dollar expressly states, “It is scarcely the job of the farrier to practice horse breaking.” (Page 196) This is still true even today!

5. Preparing the foot for shoeing, they commented, “A faulty shoe can immediately be replaced by a better, but once horn is removed it can only be replaced by the very slow process of growth.” Additionally, the figures provided give the reader an excellent look at the hoof preparation and the importance of, often times, leaving extra depth. (Pages 204-206)
For competitive farriers and shoemakers, Dollar and Wheatley’s text is a gold mine for the historical significance of forging specimens like the roadster, bevel, and tool and fullered shoes. Throughout the pages, detailed explanations of the type of iron or steel used as well as the type of horse and the horse’s job are all included. Listed below are several examples from the text. (Pages 217-300)

Although many materials we use today are referred to as “modern”, many are exhibited within this text. For example, frog support pads, barshoes including the heartbar, crack lacing and plating are all exclusively mentioned and used commonly. (pages 303, 353) Remember, this text was written over 120 years ago!
In sum, this text - although over 120 years old - can still prove a valuable tool when looking at the historical and practical approaches to farriery even in the 21st century. If you haven't ever seen a copy, I highly recommend it. You just might learn something “new” by looking to the past.

8. Diseases of the foot are also discussed in detail, to include white line/seedy toe, keratomas, canker, laminitis, sidebone, etc. Although modern veterinary intervention has aided greatly in healing some of the above mentioned diseases, many of the shoeing protocols we use today are still heavily influenced by the work in this text. For example, in cases of seedy toe, Dollar states, “Seedy toe can only be cured downward growth of healthy horn.” (Page 374) In other words, as is practiced today by many farriers, the diseased horn must be cut away and new horn allowed to regrow in its place.

9. The treatment of thrush was also brought up, and one method mentioned caught my eye as I use a similar treatment for my horses. “Remove all loose fragment, wash daily the diseased frog and apply an application of 5 percent solution of sulphate of copper.” (Page 397) I had not realized that copper sulphate, considered by many to by a somewhat more modern thrush remedy, was being used back in 1890s! Pretty neat!

10. Lastly, the book discussed the methods of farrier training and farrier competitions. In Dollar’s opinion, “Apprenticeship represents the only system under which youths can become good workmen.” (Page 427) Farrier competitions are also highlighted, with detailed arena layout and a sample scoresheet. Funny enough, the marks are almost identical to how we score contests and certifications today, utilizing hoof prep, making shoes, fitting shoes, and nailing on as judging criteria. (Page 429-432)
November 1st marked an important date for longtime AFA member Roy Wagoner. This year, it marked his 100th birthday which is an impressive feat all on its own. Add to that the fact that he continued shoeing until his eyesight forced him to quit at the age of 86, and although he finally broke his streak of attending every convention three years ago, it’s understandable. He was 95 years old when he finally decided not to attend!

Roy was around horses from a very early age. His parents farm and ranch work was all done by horses with no mechanized equipment. When he was 6, he was harrowing fields with a team of horses, and around the same age, he was entrusted with taking the horses to be shod by the local blacksmith. As he held the family work horses for the blacksmith, he began to learn the trade that would become a lifelong passion. It wasn’t long before Roy was taking on most of the care for the family horses.

On the eve of the Second World War, a young Roy joined the Army, looking forward to work with the artillery hitches. In those days, the US Army was still using four and six horse artillery hitches, an exciting prospect for a driving-horse enthusiast. In 1938, nearly half of the Army artillery was horse drawn, due to the unreliability of motorized vehicles in rough terrain. Although Roy was able to work with these artillery horses, it wasn’t for long. As the United States entered World War II at the end of 1941, the military was forced to rapidly modernize their forces, and the introduction of the Jeep in had 1940 paved the way for the retirement of the horse drawn artillery. By the time that the US joined the war on December 7th, the only horses in the military were for ceremonial purposes, so Roy was forced to work with mechanical horsepower instead of the real thing.

After the war, Roy married his wife Peggy and lived in California for a short time before returning to Idaho to farm in 1947. As he had learned from his father, Roy farmed using horse drawn equipment. His horses weren’t just for work though; Roy took them to pulling contests in Idaho and Utah, as well as driving his six horse hitch in parades.

In the 50’s, the shoeing bug caught up with Roy and he began a formal apprenticeship with a farrier named Ted Furnace. After spending a few years working for his mentor, Roy went out on his own.

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It was a clinic held by Lee Green in Nampa, Idaho that connected Roy to the AFA. The American Farriers Association was founded in 1971; Roy became a member in 1976 and has been a member ever since, with the impressive AFA number of 277.

1976 was also the first year with a “stand alone” convention that we would recognize today, held in Lakewood, Colorado. Attendees like Roy payed an entry fee of $2.00 for a two day event complete with lectures, contests, demonstrations, and displays by suppliers. With about a hundred attendees, it was the first event of it’s kind in the US for farriers, and Roy was hooked. For the next fifty years, Roy attended every AFA convention but one.
When AFA certification began in 1981, Roy was ready for it. He took and passed both sections of what was then called the “Basic Certification”, now known as the Certified Farrier exam.

But don’t imagine that shoeing horses was Roy’s only connection to the equine world as time passed. He was a long time active supporter of the Idaho Falls Junior Posse, a local association supporting horsemanship in young people. He served as director for more than a decade and volunteered to help kids go on trail rides and participate in horseback competitions.

Roy also took his driving to the next level by becoming heavily involved in chariot racing. He raced for over 36 years and went to the World Chariot Championships in Ogden, Utah, many times. In 2000, he was the oldest chariot racer in America, at age 79.

There aren't many people who can boast such a wide range of experience in their lifetime: there are even fewer who can boast more than 90 years of living with, caring for, and enjoying horses. Roy was there from the beginning to watch the AFA grow, and he isn't letting years of experience stop him from being a part of the AFA's story. We are sure he saw a lot of interesting lectures and amazing competitors over the course of fifty years of conventions, and at the same time, a lot of younger farriers had the chance to see him year after year, to get good advice and learn from his experience, and to be inspired by Ray Wagoner, the farrier from Idaho who just doesn't quit.

Many thanks to Steve Eastman, CF for gathering information and making this article happen.

Sources:
Iron and Hammer, Dec 2000 issue
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Frank Turley’s Life Revolved Around Teaching

Our Association lost another member of our family in mid-November, and we grieve with his family. Frank Turley's life revolved around teaching and sharing his knowledge with others, and Bob Bachen (Mustad USA) graciously allowed us to share his comments on Frank below.

The story goes that back in 1968 there was only one Blacksmithing school in the USA, and that was Turley Forge Blacksmithing School in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I met Frank in 1975. He was running numerous 6-week classes throughout the year. At that time he was booked solid for years out. He taught the teachers. He was a pioneer in the resurgence of blacksmithing.

Before starting the school Frank also shod horses. He attended the Farrier Science program under CA “Dick” Dickenson at OSU in Corvallis, Oregon. He then apprenticed under Al Kreman of Southern California. Before leaving horseshoeing, he specialized in shoeing Morgans. He was also very involved in the early days of the American Farrier’s Association.

Frank judged the forging classes for their first contest in Denver in 1977. He also judged in Fresno in 1979 and was a presenter at many AFA Conventions.

Besides being a first-rate smith, Frank was also a historian and co-authored the book “Southwestern Colonial Ironwork” with Marc Simmons.

Frank did many things and influenced many others. He also possessed a quick, dry wit which he incorporated into his unique teaching style. This may be summed up by a comment overheard while Frank was demonstrating at the 1987 AFA Convention in Albuquerque. The comment was by a man of large stature apparently from the South, and it was as follows: “I just love the way he has them all a laughin’ and a learnin’ at the same time.”

We lost Frank this past weekend. Our loss is Heaven’s gain.

RIP Frank Turley.
The AFA was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of James [Jim] Keith, CF

The AFA was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of James [Jim] Keith, CF on October 30. Jim was a founding, lifetime member of the Indiana Farriers Association and was a lifetime member and former member of the Board of Directors of the AFA.

Jim served in the US Navy from 1965-1969 and started his career in farriery when he started training in 1972. He had a full time farrier business and blacksmith service for 48 years. Jim specialized in Hunters/Jumpers and standard breed horses, and he did all the therapeutic shoeing at Purdue University and taught Farrier Science to Purdue students in Animal Husbandry. He was elected and served as one of the Farriers at the Pan Am games in Indianapolis in 1988.

In addition to being a lifetime member of both the IFA and the AFA, Jim was a former President and Vice President of the IFA, member of the Guild of Farriers Association, and member of the American and International Associations of Professional Farriers. He received the Clyde Stringer Award and the Al Morgan Award from the IFA. He also belonged to Rocky Ridge Blacksmith Guild, New Richmond Masonic Lodge #604 and Crawfordsville American Legion.

He served as Deacon, Elder and Associate Minister at New Liberty Christian Church in rural Veedersburg, and he traveled to Romania and Hungary with Christian Veterinary missions for many years. He also enjoyed singing, traveling to historic places with his wife Linda, reading Louis L’Amour westerns and fishing with his grandson. He will be deeply missed in our community.

Montana has lost a great farrier, teacher and friend

The AFA is also deeply saddened to have learned of the passing of Bryce Kawasaki, CJF on November 1st. Bryce was the MSU Farrier School Director from 2012-2019, and was a teacher, mentor and friend to many.

Bryce was born in 1963, graduated from the MSU Horseshoeing School in 1994, and shortly thereafter started working with several Certified Journeyman Farriers. Bryce had his own farrier business for many years and was extraordinarily skilled at forging handmade shoes: well over half the shoes that he put on were made by him in his shop or on the job.

Bryce and his wife at that time, Jenny Haldemann, headed up the Montana Professional Horseshoers Association for many years, hosted Bob Marshall Clinics and hammer-ins at their shop in Gallatin Gateway, and organized many pre-certifications and AFA Certifications at MSU. Bryce also sat on the Board of Directors for the American Farrier’s Association. Prior to becoming the MSU Farrier School Instructor, where he worked until the spring of 2019, he helped Tom Wolfe at the School for ten years. Bryce was born and raised in Montana and always felt very privileged to have been able to work and live in this great state.

The time and energy that Bryce spent in raising the bar for the Montana farrier community will not go unnoticed, and he will be missed by many.
The Minnesota Farriers Association hosted their Annual Contest & Clinic October 22-24 at the Northwest Saddle Club. This event, which was also the final competition of the Upper Midwest Championship Series, was judged by Terry Holst, CJF. MNFA would like to thank Terry, President Josh Ramsey, CJF, sponsors Kahn Forge, Roy Bloom, Matt Marti and N.E.W Farrier Supply, and all of the competitors and volunteers for an outstanding event!
Event Wrap-Ups

**MAPF Contest**

The Missouri Association of Professional Farriers had had a great contest November 6-7. Big thanks to all competitors, Mark Milster, CJF for judging, our host Von Holton Ranch and our very gracious sponsors. We could not have done it without you all. See you at the next one!

**Thank You to Our Sponsors:**
Werkman USA, Kahn Forge, Double Bar One & 3B Farrier Supply, Spanish Lake Blacksmith Shop, Well Shod, Hoofjack Backpunch, Battlecreek, Matt Marti, Justin Decker, Joe Nygren, Scott Bushaw, Doug Russo, Mike Norris, Ben Crott Dave Showen, Von Holton Ranch
Event Wrap-Ups

Utah Horseshoers Guild Pre-Certification

The Utah Horseshoers Guild hosted a terrific AFA Pre-Certification Clinic October 16-17 with Instructors Jacob Manning, CJF and Wes Sharp, CJF. They would like to thank all attendees, as well as Shawn Winters for the use of his shop and horses! Great start to your certification journey!