

TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

2012 LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- TROT members testified against claims by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) that the Rocky Gorge equestrian trail has such problematic erosion it must be closed. WSSC's outside study stated that the trails were "excellent" with "little or no erosion". (Update: WSSC just issued new rules which would eliminate horse use and could be a precedent anywhere, so TROT members are actively showing how unwarranted and unprecedented these rules are, and are also contacting local politicians.)
- Alert TROT members discovered new rules that would effectively eliminate equestrian use of the North Tract area of Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel and actively testified against them.
- Testified at Howard County Council hearings to oppose allowing Sunday hunting in Howard County. Update 2/5/13: Bill has been pulled!
- Western Regional trails in Howard Co. now open due to TROT's efforts. Horse parking available at one entrance. (Still working on parking at Benson Branch.)
- Helped distribute petitions requesting the restoration of perimeter trail connectivity at Little Bennett Park in Montgomery County.
- Contributed \$600 to the building of an equestrian-safe bridge at Seneca Creek.
- Sent a representative to the 4-day Southeastern Trails Conference held July 11 – 14, 2012 in Kentucky.
- Performed organized trail maintenance, both mounted and unmounted, at Patuxent River State Park (both the Howard Chapel and Annapolis Rock areas), Catoctin Mountain Park, Little Bennett Park, Seneca State Park, and Monocacy State Park. TROT members also did trail maintenance regularly in the parks they most often ride, and initiated work groups to re-open blocked culverts on WSSC's land.
- Conducted Judged Pleasure Ride in September which grossed \$2,083. A total of 64 riders participated. Scott Purdum gave a training demonstration, and over \$500 worth of prizes were donated.
- Held annual dinner and silent auction in February, with 110 TROT members and friends attending. Gross receipts on silent auction sales were \$1,523.
- Organized 21 trail rides (4 cancelled due to weather) with a total of 132 riders participating.
- Produced six excellent bi-monthly newsletters and held 12 board meetings.
- Staffed a TROT booth display at Maryland Horse Expo in January.
- Representation on the Maryland Horse Council's executive board and the Trails and Greenways Committee.
- Representation for trail and recreational riders on Maryland's Horse Industry Board.
- Representation on Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Moderated news and events on *MarylandTrailRiders* and *TROT Members* Yahoo groups. Maintained an active TROT web site at www.trot-md.org
- Served as volunteers on the Maryland state and Montgomery County mounted volunteer patrol units. Multi-county mounted volunteers worked at the National Mounted Patrol competition held at the Montgomery Co fairgrounds