



Trail Riders Of Today

<http://www.trot-md.org/>

November 2008

Number 171



CALLING ALL MEMBERS – STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

Please try to attend the meeting on **November 19, 2008**, at **7:30 pm** at the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks at Oakland Mills Rd., Columbia, MD 21046. This meeting may very well decide the fate of equestrian access to trails in Benson Branch Park. See article Page 3.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE TROT ANNUAL MEETING

Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction

Saturday, February 28, 2009

GREAT NEW LOCATION!

Mt. Airy Fire Department on the Mt. Airy Fairgrounds

More information in the January Newsletter - See article about the Silent Auction Page 4

One Person Can Make A Difference

Priscilla Huffman

Many TROT members read the recent posts to the MD Trail Riders Yahoo site regarding the lack of maintenance on the Patuxent River State Park trails near Annapolis Rock Rd.

But one person took the effort a step further. Always energetic TROT member Amy Kimble contacted the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources and set up a meeting with Dave Powell and Kim Lloyd of DNR for September 2.

Others attending in, addition to Amy Kimble, were Ron MacNab, Mary Prowell, Priscilla and Dick Huffman, and Pat Oliva. We discussed how TROT could assist DNR with their trail maintenance efforts, and agreed to sign up TROT members as park volunteers which will give us “official”

designation to work on the trails with DNR oversight. There is interest in marking and blazing some of the major trails. TROT may be able to provide trail signage.

Many TROT members routinely spend their time pruning and clipping the trails on which they ride, and we are grateful for their efforts as well. However, having a more formal relationship with DNR will enable us to gain additional visibility.

If you would like to become a Patuxent River State Park volunteer, please contact Amy at 301-748-8310 or AmyHKimble@aol.com. Trail clearing dates will be coming up in the future.

Thanks, Amy, for being one person who can make a difference!

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President's Message

We had an outstanding turnout for our September 23rd TROT membership meeting – 60 attendees! With a central location, an interesting speaker, and good food, the evening received many positive comments and requests to continue providing meeting forums open to all TROT members.

Our speaker for the evening was Scott Purdum who presented concepts from his program of Advantage Horsemanship (www.advantagehorsemanship.com). He focused on the correct way to move a horse from the hindquarters, barrel, or shoulders - control that can help get your horse around obstacles on the trail. Scott also answered questions from the audience and was generous with his time following the meeting.

Before our program began, members had time to network over a light dinner which was provided by TROT.

Based on feedback from this meeting, as well as from other members, the TROT board has decided to hold three membership meetings per year, in addition to our annual dinner. Look for more information in upcoming issues of the newsletter, and please let your county coordinator or a board member know if you have ideas for future programs or speakers.

We are grateful for the help of Valerie Helfrich, who had the contact with Scott Purdum for our program, and Janet MacNab, who handled all the logistics.

Membership meetings will continue to provide an opportunity for us to renew our energy and look for additional ways to promote our mission of trail preservation.

Priscilla Huffman
President

Coggins will be Required to be shown for all TROT rides

Kyle Jossi

The subject of whether Trot members should be required to show their Coggins at organized Trot rides was discussed at the last board meeting. In the past, this requirement has been inconsistently enforced by ride leaders. The consensus among the Board at the last meeting was that it is imperative that every participant show a valid and current Coggins to the ride leader and that the certificate number be recorded on the rider sign in sheet.

It is a state law that everyone at public horse gatherings be in possession of a negative Coggins for their horses. According to the Maryland Horse Council web site, proof of a negative Coggins is mandated by law when equines are at shows or gatherings. If there were an outbreak of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), the health department would launch an investigation and ask to see our records to trace the certificate numbers. TROT could be fined if we were unable to produce that documentation.

What is the Coggins test and why it so important? A positive Coggins indicates the presence of antibodies to EIA, a viral disease that has no vaccine and no cure. Symptoms during the acute phase include fever, listlessness, swelling in the chest, belly, or legs, and loss of appetite. Although between 30 and 50 percent of horses infected with EIA die within a few weeks, some horses survive for a year or more with recurring symptoms. These horses may appear healthy at some times, but may experience relapses when under stress such as hard work, hot weather, or other disease. In

addition, some horses can be asymptomatic carriers. They don't show any signs of disease but will test positive on the Coggins test. These horses present the greatest danger to other horses at public gatherings because they appear to be healthy. Prior to testing that began in the 1970's, many thousands of horses died annually from EIA.

EIA is primarily transmitted to horses by insects such as deerflies and horseflies. It can also be transmitted by instruments contaminated with infected blood.

How can you avoid being turned away from a TROT ride because you forgot your Coggins? (Note – copies are acceptable, you don't have to show the original.) Start by making 5 copies of the Coggins for each horse you own. (When you copy it, be sure it's dark enough for the pertinent information to show up.) Put a copy in your trailer, another in your tow vehicle, and another in your trail pack. Someone suggested mailing a copy of your Coggins to the ride leader in advance of the ride you plan to attend. (If you do this, call the ride leader to confirm that it was received.) Be aware of when your horse's Coggins expires and schedule your annual vet visit early enough that you get the new Coggins before the old one expires. If you borrow a horse for a TROT ride, be sure to get the Coggins certificate from the owner. The certificate number is the 9 digit number in the upper right corner of your Coggins (also referred to as the accession number.) This full number should be recorded by the ride leader.

Consistent enforcement of the requirement to show a valid unexpired Coins certificate at all TROT rides will ensure a safe experience of all our horses.

County Updates

Currently there are no named contacts or coordinators for **Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Prince George's** Counties. If you have an interest to act in this capacity, please contact Priscilla Huffman, TROT President.

Howard County

Pat Oliva

Access to Benson Branch Park at stake!

A plea to all TROT members to show up for an important meeting to support a parking facility that allows access to Benson Branch Park.

SAVE THE DATE:

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 7:30 pm
Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks,
Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046

There is a critical need for us to support this proposal for a parking area so that we can access trails.

I have received many calls from members who live or board their horses around Benson Branch Park. They have lost their right of way to enter the park. Sadly, there is no way that I can get rights-of-way through established or approved subdivisions. A parking lot is the only viable solution.

Montgomery County

Ron MacNab

2008– 2009 Park Closures for Managed Deer Hunts

The following Parks are closed sunrise through sunset on the dates indicated due to Managed Deer Hunts

- **Blockhouse Point Conservation Park** (Darnestown) Tuesday, November 18 and Tuesday, December 16, 2008
- **Great Seneca Stream Valley Park, Unit 2** (Gaithersburg) Wednesday, November 19; Wednesday, December 3 and Wednesday, December 17, 2008
- **Hoyles Mill Conservation Park and attached segments of Little Seneca Stream Valley Park** (Boyd's) Friday, October 24; Saturday, November 1; Friday, November 7; Saturday, November 15; Saturday, December 6; Friday, December 12, 2008 and Friday, Janu

I have found an area off Folly Quarter Road that has the potential for a trailer parking lot. In a meeting with Park Director Gary Authur, I was invited to address the Park and Recreation November board meeting with a "group" of people who support the parking area.

I have been meeting with officials of the county and parks for years. I have been working hard to maintain and establish trails as an advocate for the people I am representing. You all are the group that I have been telling the park and county officials about for years. It is time to have our group show up so we can use our collective presence to get this parking area established and TROT recognized as functioning group. We could all enjoy the benefit of our involvement by having access to these beautiful trails. I look forward to seeing you all there with your spouses, family, friends, neighbors, hikers, bikers and the folks down the street so that our voices will be heard.

ary 2; Saturday, January 10; Friday, January 30 and Saturday, February 7

- **Little Bennett Regional Park** (Clarksburg) Monday, December 8 through Friday, December 12, 2008 and Friday, January 9, 2009
- **North Germantown Greenway Park**, Blunt Rd. North to Brink Rd. (Clarksburg) Wednesday, November 19; Wednesday, December 3 and Wednesday, December 17, 2008
- **Rachel Carson Conservation Park** (Brookeville) Monday, November 17; Monday, December 15, 2008 and Monday, January 5, 2009
- **Woodstock Equestrian Park** (Beallsville) Saturday, October 25; Saturday, November 8; Friday, November 14; Friday, December 5; Saturday, December 13, 2008 and Saturday, January 3; Friday, January 9; Saturday, January 31 and Friday, February 6, 2009

Treasurer's Report

Deneen Martin, Treasurer

Expenses

Deposit 9/29/08	\$140.00
Verizon 10.3.08	\$ 33.00
Gasch Printing 10/3/08	\$899.98
Stamps/postage	\$ 17.77

Savings 10/20/08 \$15,712.30

Certificate of Deposit for GPS \$6,342.05



Start thinking about the Silent Auction

Kyle Jossi, Silent Auction Coordinator

As the days become shorter and our horses become fuzzy with their winter coats, it's time to start planning for the Annual Dinner/Silent Auction to be held in February .

Please be thinking about what you might donate to the silent auction. I would love to hear from you if you have an item or service you would like to donate (301-570-3860, bossy-jossy@verizon.net) Although most of the donations are horse related, all types of goods and services are welcome. We also accept gently used tack, horse keeping articles, and clothing. All items must be clean and in very good condition. It is helpful to me if I know in advance what items will be donated so that I can make the bid cards up ahead of time. It is best if you can bring the item with you the night of the auction as I have very little storage space in my house.

Riders to the Rescue

T'mi Finkle, Team Commander

The Mounted Team had a late summer overnight team-build exercise at the Kelly's Ford Equestrian Center in Remington, VA. On Saturday afternoon 14 team members set up a base camp in the Kelly's Ford Civil War Battlefield next to the Rappahannock River. Two hours before sunset the team began a field training exercise, which was a mounted grid search in a 30 acre field. The search task was to find a green and black FRS radio (a radio about the size of a deck of cards) and the clue was found about 30 minutes before sunset. As darkness fell there was a fire building exercise followed by a fireside (Search & Rescue) chat. On Sunday we conducted a Mock Search for a lost teenager. After a successful search exercise many team member headed down the river for deep water crossing exercises. The team had a very successful (injury free) two day training event. Our team members do their best to keep their riding skills honed, as the Mounted Team is only as strong as its weakest rider.

On September 3rd, at the request of Maryland Natural Resource Police three (3) TROTSAR Mounted Team members responded to Rosaryville State Park, located in Croom, Maryland for a possible missing person incident. A witness observed three men run from a wood line through an over-

Another way that we look to our members to help with the auction is to solicit donations from tack shops and service providers that you use frequently. Ask your favorite farrier or massage therapist if they would be willing to donate their services. This is great PR for them and we will be glad to display their cards or brochures at the auction. (Please contact me for a donation form.) Finally, we need volunteers to help out the night of the auction – come a few hours early to help with set up or offer to stay after the auction to help with clean up and collecting money. This is a great way to meet other TROT members, especially if you are new to TROT or have not participated in other TROT activities. If you can volunteer the night of the auction, please contact me.

However you choose to help, whether by soliciting donations, donating an item or talent, bidding at the auction, or helping with set up – remember that the money we make at the Silent Auction goes to directly benefit the programs and mission of TROT.

grown field and into a silver sports utility vehicle. The vehicle left the area at a high rate of speed and within seconds after the vehicle leaving, the witness heard what sounded like screams for help coming from the area the three men had ran out of. Prince George's County police responded to the area and searched the immediate area where the vehicle had been parked. MD Natural Resource Police was also contacted and began search operations in the area for possible victim of a crime. A TROTSAR Mounted Search & Rescue Team sign cutter located a track line in an adjacent overgrown field that led to the vehicle and a Police Bloodhound from Montgomery County MD followed the track line out and back, but yielded no additional clues. Air scent K-9 teams from SARDOM and Mid-Atlantic Dogs responded, as well as a two person mounted teams from TROTSAR Search & Rescue who were deployed to ride trails and paths within the search area. Due to the absence of clues or supporting evidence of a crime the search suspended.



Fireside chat



Katy Trot-20



Steve Trot-22



Readying for close quarters Grid search

UPCOMING RIDES

Pat Talbott, Trail ride coordinator

Contact the ride leader to reserve a space on the ride and for information about start time and directions. All ride participants must be TROT members; membership forms will be available at the ride for non-members. Negative coggins must be provided for each horse. Participants are asked to bring their own plates, silverware and drinks to potlucks unless otherwise indicated. Please check the web site for updates: www.trot-md.org/calendar.php. For any addi-

tional questions about TROT rides, please contact Pat Talbott @ (301) 628-4130 or Ptalbott@insuranceservices.com.

Most leaders volunteer year after year because they have so much fun! It's a great opportunity to meet other TROT members and maybe find a new trail buddy.

Saturday, November 8th Upper Patuxent River State Park, near Damascus - Led By Suzanne Anderson.

The trails are hilly but not too rocky. There will be river crossings and depending on the rainfall mud or dust. The ride will be 2 ½ to 3 hours mostly walk and trot. Bring a sandwich for lunch after the ride. Suzanne will provide chips and soda. Bring water for your horse as there is no water at the trailer parking site. Contact Suzanne in the evenings at 301 829 3881 or email at trailsendfarm@verizon.net

Barnesville. Go 3 miles and turn right on Comus Road (immediately after the Comus Inn). Follow Comus Rd through the square at Stronghold. Continue (slight left - **do not take Mt. Ephraim** - past a pond on the left and into the Turner Farm parking area (Scout Camp & Picnic area) at the end of the road.

Directions from Frederick: Take Rt 85 South through Buckeystown to Rt 28 south. Turn left on Mouth of Monocacy Road, then left on Mt. Ephraim Road. At the square in Stronghold make a Very sharp left, continue past a pond the left and into the Turner Farm parking area (as above).

Saturday, November 15th Sugarloaf Mountain, Turner Farm, Stronghold - Led by Judy Brodbeck,

Ready to ride at 11 AM. Reserve at 301-972-1905 or joanjake5@yahoo.com.(after 8 am the morning of the ride use 301-538-5142 cell). About 3 hours over rocky, hilly trails on Sugarloaf Mountain, mostly at a walk, but with some places where one can move out. Shoes are highly recommended. Bring a bag lunch for after the ride.

Saturday, November 22nd Anacostia Park - Led by John Angevine,

This is a favorite TROT ride that closes out our ride season. Folks who have attended this ride say they are amazed with the spacious trails and beautiful scenes along the Anacostia River so close to downtown DC. The ride may encounter bikes, fishermen, some asphalt, as well as a scenic view of the historic Lincoln Cemetery. Contact John for details at 301-937-0014

Directions from I-270: Take Exit 22 (Rt 109) towards

TROT Rides

Little Bennett Park Labor Day Ride

Maureen Henry

The Labor Day ride at Little Bennett Park was a huge success with almost 30 riders attending. The group began assembling after 9 AM for a breakfast buffet of sumptuous foods. At 10:30 riders tacked up and formed two groups that were led by Marilyn Miller, and Jim and Maureen Henry. The ride covered a large part of the perimeter of the equestrian portion of the park. Each group was out over 2 hours. Much of the ride offered shade as the groups rode through wooded areas and tree canopied park roads. Many other equestrian riders, hikers, joggers, and bikers were out using the park also. Riders of



both groups were able to refresh their horses a stream sites and themselves at the boy scout camp. We returned to also enjoy a light lunch due to the variety and quantity of food on hand. Everyone was able to leave by 1 PM to avoid any traffic as many had driven a long distance. We had 4 new people join TROT at the ride and were fortunate that one of our new member's husband was a farrier and was there with his equipment to replace a thrown shoe before the ride. One of our members celebrated her birthday by choosing to ride

with us. We all sang a birthday greeting to her. Jim and Maureen want to thank Marilyn for her help. Her trail leadership was so important with such a large participation. We also want to thank all those who came to the ride. This was the largest we have hosted so far. A special thanks to the four men who were part of the ride. We always like to see the gents!

Upper Rock Creek Trail Corridor Plan Approved

Ron MacNab

TROT was well represented by ten members at the MC-MNCPPC Planning Board hearing on September 25. Jean Cooper and Ron MacNab spoke on behalf of TROT recommending approval of the trail, but pointing out the need for safe road crossings and a coordinated effort with the State Highway Administration.

The Upper Rock Creek Trail Corridor stretches from the Rock Creek Regional Park to the Patuxent River. The plan has been under development since 2006.

This Plan

1. Almost doubles the length of trails now available in the

Montgomery Parks needs volunteers to help:

Ben Sugar, M-NCPPC Trail Volunteer Coordinator

Perform various tread maintenance improvements on the **Northwest Branch Trail in Silver Spring on Nov. 15th**

Volunteer Trail Ranger Program: We have trails that are in need of quarterly official inspection and light maintenance by individual or family volunteers (not groups), including all of [Woodstock Equestrian Park](#) which would be perfect for any equestrians who are active out there.

http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/team/documents/volunteer_trail_ranger.pdf

Reprinted from http://www.ultimatehorsesite.com/articles/at_costofhorse.htm

The Cost Of Keeping A Horse

Annamaria Tadlock, *UltimateHorseSite.com*

This is to list the minimum costs to keep a horse only, not the initial buying price for the horse, tack, fencing, barn/shed, helmet, horse trailer, truck, or any other expenses that need to be taken care of before you purchase the horse.

Below is a ballpark figure for what basic upkeep costs. Keep in mind that it can vary greatly depending on the local prices, the type of horse you have, the amount of time you ride, etc.

Boarding

If you have property, you won't need to pay for boarding, and you'll cover all the costs of feeding and cleaning yourself. If you do board, the prices as well as services vary widely. To calculate costs, I'm going to go with the situation where you have the horse on your property and pay for all feed expenses and do all the stall cleaning and care. If you would be boarding, simply find the price your stable would charge per month and calculate it in (subtracting the hay, grain, bedding, or any other prices that might be included in your boarding fees).

Hay & Grain

The cost of hay varies in different areas, but grass hay is gener-

ally \$3-5 a bale and Alfalfa \$12-16 a bale. In addition to providing a linear connection from Rock Creek Regional Park to the Patuxent River, the Plan proposes a xx mile loop trail that will be open to hikers, equestrians and mountain bikes.

2. Endorses the extension of a hard surface trail from Rock Creek Regional Park to Olney.
3. Proposes a new alternative to link the Rock Creek hiker-biker trail to the Lake Frank trail network.
4. Proposes a location for a mountain bike challenge course at George Carson Farm Special Park.
5. Identifies mill sites for potential future interpretation.

The mountain bike organization MORE has begun construction of the natural surface trails. If you would like to volunteer, please email Joe Fritsch (joe.fritsch@verizon.net).

For all of these items, please direct any interested horse folk to simply contact me via email or phone for more information and how to sign up.

Ben Sugar
Trail Volunteer Coordinator
Volunteer Services Office
M-NCPPC - Montgomery Parks Department
1109 Spring Street, Suite 800
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Office: (301) 650-4395
Cell: (240) 372-9488
Fax: (301) 650-4379

ally \$3-5 a bale and Alfalfa \$12-16 a bale.

The type and amount of feed your horse needs depends on a variety of factors-- the horse's age, size, and activity level. Expect to feed about 1/4 to 1/2 a bale of grass hay per day per horse. You may also choose to feed a flake of alfalfa along with it, or grain. If you have pasture, you may be able to graze the horses part of the year.

Assuming you have an average height, middle aged, healthy horse that is ridden lightly, that eats 1/4-1/2 a bale of grass and no alfalfa; *We'll say \$18 a week in hay. That's \$936/yr.*

I have had ponies that will get very fat on anything other than grass hay, and horses that need alfalfa, grains, and supplements just to keep a healthy weight. Older horses generally require more calorie-rich feeds than younger horses and may need a special diet if they have health problems. Your horse may need more food in the winter cold than other times of the year.

Grain costs vary depending on type, but generally about \$10-18 for a 50-pound bag. This can last from 1-2 weeks per horse. *We'll say \$8 a week in grain. That's \$416/yr.*

Dewormer

Your horse will need to be dewormed every two months. This can run from about \$5 to \$20; cheaper brands are sometimes rotated with more expensive; some people deworm more or

(Cost continued on page 12)

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http://www.gazette.net/stories/10012008/nortnew203859_32473.shtml

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008

**A green future for equestrian facilities
County equine resources coordinator hopes to lead by example with earth-friendly horse keeping techniques**
by Erin Donaghue | Staff Writer

Going green isn't just for humans these days. In Montgomery County, where residents share the land with a growing population of about 14,000 horses, horse keepers need to think about more than just their own impact on the environment, according to David Tobin, equine resources coordinator for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Though horses are often associated with open space and conservation, according to Tobin, improper horse management can work against what's best for the environment.

And a "carbon hoofprint" is nothing to sniff at. Unhealthy horse fields can lose grass cover and become muddy, contributing to erosion that can pollute streams and the local water supply. However, Tobin said getting horse owners to green up their management practices can pose challenges, and he hopes to lead by example through the county horse parks that he oversees.

"We wanted to make sure that at least the parks department equestrian facilities were not only meeting the required standards but were going further, and would be out there on the cutting edge to be good examples for private facilities," Tobin said.

The Potomac Horse Center in North Potomac is one of the public facilities making strides in green horse-keeping, Tobin said. The center is close to the completion of a 14,400-square-foot, \$160,000 manure storage structure, which will allow for enough room to compost the soiled bedding, manure and wasted hay produced by more than 80 horses there.

"Instead of trucking [manure] off the property, we are now able to use it as a soil enhancer," said Rick Terselic, horse center administrator.

Using manure as fertilizer is "green" for several reasons, according to Eddie Franceschi, equine resource conservationist at the Montgomery Soil Conservation District. It eliminates the need for gas-fueled vehicles to cart away waste, and contributes to healthy, grassy pastures. Grass, experts say, is a key ingredient for combating erosion, and it's also horse food -

cutting down on the need for buying expensive hay.

"It's all about becoming self-sufficient," Franceschi said. "Conservation is really about the management of your limited resources to maximize them."

Franceschi's group helps horse farmers green up through on-site waste management and composting. The group helps horse owners by testing soil and developing a nutrient management program — letting them know which nutrients will contribute to healthier, grassier fields.

Lots of education is required, Tobin said, because best practices for soil aren't common knowledge for many horse keepers. "Most of the people that manage horse farms are not farmers — they're horse people," said Tobin.

"The whole nutrient management program has been a good thing — it makes you aware of how you're contributing to the problems in the Chesapeake Bay," said George Sengstack, manager at the Callithea Farm in Potomac, which is run by the Park and Planning commission. At the 100-acre farm, Tobin hopes to seek the help of a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture to construct a structure to contain waste onsite and swales to direct clean water away from pastures.

Park and Planning, along with the Soil Conservation District, the agricultural services division within the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, the Maryland Cooperative Extension, an agricultural education wing of the University of Maryland, and the Equestrian Partners in Conservation are teaming up to develop a survey to better understand how county horse owners manage their farms.

The groups hope to administer the survey to between 2,000 and 2,500 county horse owners by year's end, according to Franceschi.

A key part of the survey is honing in on what it will take for horse owners to start using green practices, Tobin said. Some may be wary of changing their practice, while others may be worried at the cost, Tobin said — many, he said, are not aware that grants from the Maryland Department of Agriculture can cover up to 87 percent. The cost-share grant helped to pay for the construction of the manure storage structure at the Potomac Horse Center.

Changing behavior, however, may have a lot to do with changing a mindset, Tobin and Franceschi agree. "It's not that different from the concept of recycling 30 or 40 years ago, when you first told people recycling was a good thing," Tobin said. "It takes a long time and a combination of incentives and education to get people to change their behavior."

Need a ride/Share a ride!

Do you have a two or three horse trailer, but don't like traveling alone? Do you have a horse, but no trailer? TROT organizes some great trail rides throughout Maryland. It would be a shame to miss those fun times because you don't like to travel alone or because you don't have a trailer. We want to provide a forum space for people looking for a traveling partner, so please write to the TROT Newsletter at

nlogood@verizon.net. You just might find someone who lives around the corner from you who would love to share a ride (and with gas prices the way they are, someone who might be willing to share expenses)!

Needs a ride:

Is there anyone out near Union Bridge/Frederick that could pick me and my daughter up for a trail ride? Contact Allison Zerr at AZerr@jzerr.com

Reprinted from Western Mule Magazine
<http://www.westernmulemagazine.com/image/webimage/Them-Mules-09-2008.pdf>

Them Mules

By Tennison, Western Mule Magazine

Coming out of a meeting Wednesday, August 13th at the Grand Canyon, the National Park Service is making plans to close the historic Bright Angle Trail to the famous Grand Canyon Mules.

The plan is to rework the South Kaibab Trail and allow mule traffic to enter the Canyon there. As soon as work on the Kaibab Trail is completed mules will no longer be allowed on the Bright Angle Trail.

All of this is due to hikers wanting a trail they can hike on that is "Well Maintained". The reason the Bright Angle trail is there at all and has always been highly maintained is because of none other than the mules themselves. The National Park Service has heard this "Squeaky Wheel" (the hikers) and we know the squeaky wheel gets the grease. The mules will be forced to take dudes down a trail that is much steeper, and will cause many mules to have to retire before their time and the South Kaibab Trail is more treacherous, no place for the dudes that ride the Grand Canyon Mules.

There is plenty of history that goes with the Bright Angel Trail. Let me give you a quick review.

The Bright Angel Trail was originally built as a mining access trail for pack mules in 1891 by Ralph and Niles Cameron. They gave up on mining and turned to tourist rides into the Canyon in the later part of the 1890's. Tourists riding mules into the Grand Canyon has been going on every since.

The Camerons held a private deed to the trail. In 1919 the National Park Service took control of the canyon and immediately began trying to wrestle control of the Bright Angel Trail from the Camerons. The National Park Service finally succeeded when they built the Kaibab Trail in 1928. This put the Cameron's trail, the Bright Angel Trail out of business and Cameron became a "willing seller" to the National Park Service.

The Fred Harvey Company got the lease to run the mule rides down into the canyon by way of the Bright Angle Trail and out of the canyon by way of the Kaibab Trail. The Fred Harvey Company is today called Xanterra, who runs the mule rides.

The south Kaibab Trail is the trail the packers have used over the years supplying Phantom Ranch at the bottom of the canyon. The South Kaibab Trail is where rookie mules learned to negotiate the canyon trails packing in supplies and packing out anything that needed to come to the top. Not all mules passed the test, there have been rookie mules that have fallen to their death on the Kaibab Trail or have caused another mule to go over the side. When the mules have learned to negotiate the Kaibab Trail, then and then only were they considered for a dude mule. The reason the Kaibab Trail was used for coming out of the canyon by the dude mules instead

of going down that way was because it was believed that the Kaibab Trail was too steep and treacherous for anyone but the best of riders. From what I've seen, the majority of folks who are going down on the mules to experience the Grand Canyon, (an experience like none other) are anything but experienced riders.

I've had the pleasure of sitting with Ross Knox (long time packer for the Grand Canyon) and listening to the stories and experiences he had over the years. I believe Ross Knox would be the first to mention the Kaibab Trail ain't for no dude.

Anyone I've talked with over the years who has had anything to do with the mule operations at the Grand Canyon have always felt the Kaibab Trail was too treacherous to be suitable for in-experienced riders to ride down. I don't know it but I'll bet my best hat that opinion hasn't changed.

Little does the tax payer know there are currently over 400 miles of inner canyon trails available to the hikers that live-stock are not permitted on. Now the hikers want the Bright Angel Trail. Originally all trails in the Grand Canyon were stock trails. Today only the Bright Angel and the Kaibab Trails are allowed stock. Stock has been kicked off of the other trails one by one over the decades. We have allowed it. It's time to speak-up.

Some years back Western Mule Magazine heard they were fixing to shut down outside stock to the Bright Angel and Kaibab Trails. When we brought it to your attention Western Mule Magazine readers made the calls and wrote the letters to get that action stopped. Don't you think for a minute letters and phone calls won't cause another meeting. Please don't lead yourself to believe the next person will and you don't need to, it's important that you do make the contacts and express your opinion.

It needs to start with your Congressman, but don't stop there, we need to go straight to the top, to the Department of the Interior and to the National Park Service. We have provided you with phone numbers and addresses. The squeaky wheel does get the grease. We mule owners and those who believe that such a tradition as mules in the Grand Canyon, on the Bright Angel Trail should not cease, need to let it be known that the mules need to stay on the Bright Angel Trail.

Don't let some preppie with a backpack, that has no concern for the rich history, the tradition, no loyalty to the icons of the Grand Canyon, THE MULES, have the last word. These hikers are merely offended by mule poop. We don't only need to squeak WE NEED TO ROAR!

Department of the Interior / 1849 C Street North West Washington D.C. 20240/phone (202) 208-3100

National Park Service Director / Mary A. Bomar 1849 C Street North West Washington D.C. / phone (202) 208-6843

National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director Mike Snyder 12795 Alameda PKWY Denver, Colorado 80225 / phone (303)969-2500

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**Susan Rechen
(301) 946-3593

Wicomico County
**Shawn McEntee
(410) 749-2665

Trail Guides

The following volunteers are willing to show TROT members their favorite trails on an individual basis. Contact them to arrange a personal guided trail ride.

Blockhouse Point (Farm Loop on Canal at Violettes Lock) Naomi Manders e-mail: Nmanders@aol.com

Breezy Loop Boyds, MD an easy hour and 15 minutes.
Naomi Manders e-mail: Nmanders@aol.com

Cactoctin Mountain Park and Little Bennett
Marilynn Miller 301-898-7274

EPIC Trail at Dry Seneca Creek, Poolesville
This is mostly private with a sanctioned public route - exceptionally good footing, easy trail, good for exercising in winter. THIS IS NOT THE Great Seneca Greeway Trail that goes to Patuxent! 10 miles round trip
Naomi Manders e-mail: Nmanders@aol.com

Little Bennett Park
Jim and Maureen Henry (301)-371-4868.

Montgomery Agricultural Farm Park and Annapolis Rock Deneen Martin 301-253-2955

Patuxent River State Park, Rachel Carson and Rock Creek Park

Laury Lobel
laurylobel@verizon.net or 301-774-9595

Patapsco State Park off Marriotsville Road
Elizabeth Baran
She is available during the week and weekend and would love to show other TROT members the trails.
H: 410-442-5006 **C:** 410-245-8942

Sugarloaf Mt. Vicki Bazan 301-831-8715

Sugarloaf Mt. Janine Borofka 301-874-0770

Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville, MD
Karen Kraushaar kraushaar@verizon.net or 301-208-0767

If you would like to volunteer to show other TROT members your favorite trails contact:

Nancy Osgood at nlogood@verizon.net

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Order TROTware for your favorite rider!

- ◇ T-shirts and crew sweatshirts are available with either of two front designs: Small logo on left shoulder or large logo centered on sunburst design.
- ◇ Jackets, NEW WINDSHIRTS, and hooded sweatshirts are available with either the small logo on left shoulder only or with the logo on left front shoulder and the larger logo in sunburst on back.
- ◇ The NEW POLO SHIRTS are available with small logo on left shoulder only.
- ◇ Black logos on yellow garments; yellow logos on black garments. Not all designs are available in all sizes.
- ◇ Prices include postage and tax.

	Childs	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Yellow Short Sleeve T-Shirts \$15						
Logo (front shoulder)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sunburst (front center)		—	—	—	—	—
Black Short Sleeve T-Shirts \$15						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	—
Sunburst (front center)		—	—	—	—	—
Gold Polo Shirt (NEW ITEM) \$20						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	
Black Polo Shirt (NEW ITEM) \$20						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	
Black Long Sleeve T-Shirt \$15						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	
Sunburst (front center)		—	—	—	—	—
Black Crew Neck Sweatshirt \$21						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	
Sunburst (front center)		—	—	—	—	—
Black Hooded Zipper Front Sweatshirt \$28						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	
Logo (front shoulder) & Sunburst (back)		—	—	—	—	
Black Snap-Front Jackets \$35						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	—
Logo (front shoulder) & Sunburst (back)		—	—	—	—	—
Black Pull-Over Windshirt (NEW ITEM) \$35						
Logo (front shoulder)		—	—	—	—	
Logo (front shoulder) & Sunburst (back)		—	—	—	—	

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send with check (payable to **TROT**) to:
 Anne Bennof
 2445 Gillis Falls Rd.
 Woodbine, MD 21797

Questions? 301 829 0949

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an ad

email: nlogood@verizon.net

TROT Members: Regular (100 word) ad FREE!

Non-member rates:

- Classified ads - \$6.00 for first 100 words
\$0.10 for each additional word
- Business Card - \$6.00
- 1/4 page ad - \$25
- 1/2 page ad - \$40
- full page ad - \$75
- Insert (all copies delivered to our printer) - \$50

WANTED: 15.2h+ gelding, under 13-years for a trail horse/fieldhunter over small fences. Ideal: Morgan/Arab type horse. MUST be sound/good feet. Green ok but under saddle to be ridden this spring/summer. Needs to be a seriously not expensive. Yes, I've looked at rescue. Or would like to lease a horse that is sound and about that size until I find what I want. I am at Paternal Gift, go to <http://www.acuityglobal.com/pgf/> to see it. The barn is barn #2 in the pictures. Joan 301-559-3345 leave message

SPECIAL: for TROT members. **Great gift idea!**
SAVE OVER \$10 on book purchases! Price include shipping!

PA HORSE TRAIL & HORSE CAMPING GUIDE BOOKS by Carolyn B. Cook

- Ride Pennsylvania Horse Trails-Part I, the Eastern Half of PA (central PA to eastern PA): \$15 per book
- Ride Pennsylvania Horse Trails-Part II, the Western Half of PA (central PA to western PA): \$15 per book

Specify Part I, or Part II, or set (\$30), and send check to: Hit The Trail Publications, LLC, P.O. Box 970, Cherryville, PA 18035.

FMI: see: www.patrail.com (Special not available via website.)

Horse Trailer for Sale: Gore Aluminum over a steel frame. Very good condition. Gooseneck, 2 horse, thoroughbred size. New electric and lights. Good floor. Damascus, MD. Looks nice. Call Mary 301-391-6683.

Pony For Sale: Ginger - Will follow along nicely on trail rides. 13'2 mare, very pretty bay. Very child safe but outgrown. Easy to care for and a great baby-sitter. A good home is a must. Damascus, MD. Call Mary 301-391-6683.

Beautiful Tennessee Walker Gelding: Safe, Sane, Fun, Companion Horse or Pet Free to Good Home takes pergolide once a day at a cost of less than \$30 per month. Call Donna Moore at 410-489-6506



Potomac Riverside Stables

Poolesville, MD (www.potomacriversidestables.com)

(301) 972-8187

"Trail Riding Heaven" A top quality boarding & training facility also offering several well trained school horses for lease. Instruction and training for horses and riders, from beginner to advanced. Several instructors to choose from. Your instructor is also welcome. The stable is located on 400 beautiful acres adjoining the C&O Canal with 100s of miles of National Park trails. Personal quality individual care, large indoor arena, 3 outdoor arenas, large stalls, many other features for your horse's comfort: mats, fans, fly spray system, hot showers, unlimited free choice premium hay made on the farm. Your horse is given whatever he needs, *no limits*. We have several vacancies and very reasonable rates. **Full quality care and self care.**

Performance Tack LLC

Saddles and Tack for the Competitive Rider

Authorized Sommer Saddle Dealer



www.PerformanceTack.com

Quick link to Performance Tack, LLC

www.PerformanceTack.com

For Sale: Terri McNutt Wonderful Trail Horse Dusty is 6 yrs. old gelding Halffliger 14.3 hand . Very quiet to work around and to ride. Good manners and cute personality. Large stocky body. Sound mind and body. Beautiful palomino with white tail and mane. \$3400.00 obo 410-836-1753

Black TWH for sale: 16.1 hand gelding, 11 years old. Natural gait, great on trails. Will go thru anything, will lead or follow. Not spooky. Great feet, easy keeper. Loves people. Has been on camping rides, stands well on pickett line. Easy to trailer. Papers out of Midnight Sun and Carbon Copy. Call for more info, Elizabeth 410-245-8942

Come buy your next Truck from your Local Equestrian Sales Specialist and Fellow Trot Member, Ashley Adams at Keene Dodge! We specialize in Trucks! We service and perform body work on Horse Trailers. Ask me about the Rebates available to USEF, NTRA, and Farm Bureau Members! We are centrally located in Jarrettsville, MD. Call me at (800)394-7127 or (443)506-2263 or e-mail me at aadams@keenedodge.com. www.keenedodge.com

Belle Cote Farm

Field board available for adults on a private farm in Burtonsville, MD. Lighted outdoor arena and direct access to WSSC trails. \$300/mo. with a multiple horse discount. Prefer retired, semi-retired, or non-showing horses. Contact Jennifer at (301) 641-8903 or email at bcfarm-girl@hotmail.com

Bank Barn on 3 acres for rent: 5 stalls (one foaling stall), water and electric, concrete wash area under barn overhang, huge double loft upstairs for hay and straw, 2 tackrooms with saddle racks, dry lot off stalls, 2 grass paddocks all board fenced, trails on farm, riding ring and round pen available, owner on premises, rubbermaid water trough, trailer parking available. All this for \$175/horse, self care only, price negotiable (would prefer one boarder with several horses). Email reply to Dustyfarm@aim.com or call Lynda 410-963-3448

Treeless English Saddle for Sale: Ansur Classic. Beautiful leather (black); very well made. Purchased in 2007; used about 10 times. Like new condition. Saddle has microchip registered with TackTrac, Inc. Paid \$2195 for saddle and \$425 for "deluxe stabilization system" (knee/thigh rolls – never used). Will sell both for \$1200. Call Jeanne 410-275-1858 (home) or 301-520-5350 (cell).

Two horse trailer for lease to riders if needed with dressing room. They would have to sign a contract covering any damages. I also would pick riders up wanting to **share a ride** to a trail, if it wasn't too far out of the way. I'd like to meet some new riding buddies.
Wanda Haddaway, haddawayw@ninds.nih.gov

Young TB who is great on trails, and would love to trailer pool to some of the far-flung places around. I live on the north side of Sugarloaf Mountain and would be happy to guide someone around. Generally I ride during the weekdays, with some weekends.
Janine Borofka quietrockfarm@yahoo.com 301-874-0770

(Cost continued from page 6)

less often. *We'll say \$8 every two months. That's \$48/yr.*

Yearly Shots

You will need at the minimum a 4-way shot; We give WNV too. We were running about \$300/yr for shots for 15 horses, and we gave all shots. If you have a vet visit to give the shots the farm call will cost you additional. It really varies on the vet's costs. We'll say you need the farm visit and the total is \$75/yr.

Farrier

Trimming and shoeing will need to be done on a regular basis, every 6-8 weeks or so. What farriers charge can vary widely; For me it's \$35 to trim and \$75 to shoe. Assuming you will be doing no corrective or special shoeing, and have 8 visits from the farrier a year, three times trim only and the rest shoes, that's \$480/yr.

Teeth

Your horse will need its teeth floated (rough edges filed down) eventually, and the cost varies. We'll say \$150/yr for teeth.

Injuries/Vet bill

If you have horses, you'll experience injuries. Abscesses, mysterious lameness, colic, and random wounds are all a part of horse ownership. Having a safe facility can lower the risk of injuries, but horses will always find a way! I've been lucky and never had a truly expensive visit, but the costs of farm calls, penicillin, bute, and simple operations do add up. If you don't experience a massive emergency, you'll still likely have the vet out at some point. We'll say you spend \$250/yr on health costs.

Tack

Tack could be counted as a one-time expense, but things do break and there will always be the random piece of equipment

you need to buy; maybe a new halter or bit, a flymask or new pad when your horse chews up the old one. Brushes have a way of disappearing, as do hoofpicks. We'll say you don't go buy the latest tack in cool colors but you'll need the occasional new item so your costs *are about \$100/yr.*

Bedding

If you're keeping your horse in a stall part of the time, then you'll need shavings. Some climates allow you to keep horses out all year round, or use a run-in shed, but where I'm from stalling is necessary in the winter because of the rain. We buy shavings in bulk, \$250 for a truckload, and move it using our tractor. For simplicity we'll say the first time horse owner has one horse and buys it per bag at \$4-10/bag, so we'll say \$10/wk half the year, *totalling \$260.*

This comes to a total of \$2,715 a year per horse, as a very rough estimate. Keep in mind the cost can quickly escalate if your horse falls sick, your fencing needs to be repaired, you need a new saddle, etc. A new horse owner is likely to need the assistance of a vet to do deworming, shots, or other routine care. The cost of learning to ride-- lessons, training, etc.-- was not calculated in this estimate, either.

Having more horses will increase the cost but lower your per-horse cost (vet can do several shots at once, you can buy bedding and dewormers in bulk, etc.), and doing all the shots and deworming yourself reduces costs. A new horse owner is likely to rely on the vet and/or other professionals

If you have a safe environment the likelihood that your horse will need a vet for injuries will go down, but you cannot prevent every possibility.



Annual Membership Application

_____ New Membership _____ Membership Renewal for Year 2009

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Applicant _____

Spouse / Sig. Other _____ Other Family _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Ride In _____

Home Phone _____

Work / Alt Phone _____ E-mail _____

Annual membership rates for January 1 – December 31:

- One year single or family membership \$20.00 per year
- Contributing member \$30.00 per year
- Sustaining member \$50.00 per year
- Additional contributions \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Trail Riders of Today** and send this form and your check to:

Jeanne Bond, TROT Membership Chair

494 Christopher Road, Warwick, MD 21912

Phone: 410-275-1858 (home) 301-520-5350 (cell)

Email: TrotMembership@hotmail.com

Membership is for the calendar year. All individuals included in a family TROT membership must be members of the same family living at the same address. Additional contributions are welcome and help to preserve the trails you ride on. TROT is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

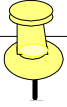
VOLUNTEER

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please check any areas where you would be willing to assist.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearings | <input type="checkbox"/> County Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Directory | <input type="checkbox"/> Ride Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Booth / Shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Mapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAR | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Clearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Judged Pleasure Ride |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | |

DIRECTORY

The above contact information will be included in the next printed copy of the TROT membership directory. Please do not list information you do not want printed in the directory.



The Back Page

- from the Newsletter Staff

In this issue you will find a membership renewal form for calendar year 2009. This has been a great year for TROT – with some important work done by our county coordinators, some fun meetings, and a renewed enthusiasm in our growing membership. Please take a minute to send in your renewal today – there is no penalty for getting it in early! Your membership is very important in the work that TROT does!

Please also note some upcoming important dates:

November 19, 2008, 7:30 pm. There will be a meeting at the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks at Oakland Mills Rd., Columbia, MD 21046. Here is an opportunity to make a difference in preserving equestrian access to trails. **Please try to attend this meeting** – representation by TROT is essential. See Pat Oliva's article on page 3.

January 15-18, 2009. Save the dates for the Maryland Horse World Expo! TROT will have a booth at the Expo in Timonium – spreading the word about the importance of preserving equestrian easements in our rapidly developing area! Be sure to drop by!

February 28, 2009. TROT will hold its **Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting**. And don't forget to think about items you might want to donate to the **Silent Auction**.



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

Jeanne Bond, TROT Membership Chair

494 Christopher Road, Warwick, MD 21912

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