



trot

Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Annual Dinner & Silent Auction | 1 |
| Announcements | 1 |
| President's message | 2 |
| TROT's 2014 trail rides – a review | 2 |
| Meet ride coordinator Diana Urick | 3 |
| TROT's 2015 planned trail rides | 3-5 |
| TROT 2014 trail work report | 6 |
| TROT 2015 trail work plan | 6 |
| Up-to-date info on TROT activities | 6 |
| Animal Control and MD horses | 7 |
| Update on the C&O Canal | 7 |
| Riding in MD's Eastern Shore | |
| -- Tuckahoe Equestrian Center | 8 |
| Riding in St Mary's County | |
| -- Greenwell State Park | 8 |
| -- St. Mary's River Park | 8 |
| -- Newtowne Neck State Park | 8-9 |
| Baltimore area update | 9 |
| Equine trust | 9 |
| Welcome, new members | 10 |
| Remember to take water | 10 |
| Sweet PDZ | 10 |
| Summaries of board meetings | 10-11 |
| Classified ads | 12 |
| Who's who in TROT | 13 |
| Trail guides | 13 |
| Highlights | 14 |

TROT ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION – NEW DATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015 6:00 PM

Mount Airy Fireman's Activity Hall

1008 Twin Arch Rd Mount Airy, MD 21771

(same location as last year – just east of the corner of Rt 27 and Twin Arch Rd.)

Come and enjoy catching up with riding buddies you might not have seen since last year, a yummy dinner, interesting presentations and shopping for great bargains at our silent auction.

Please bring a generous portion of your favorite dish, according to the first letter of your last name:

A-L – Main dishes

M-Z – Side dishes and salads

[Appetizers will be provided by the set-up volunteers and dessert provided by TROT.]

Our special guest will be Madison Iager, the first Maryland High School Rodeo Queen.

For more information on Madison, see 1/2015 & 9/2014 TROT newsletters.

For questions on the annual dinner, contact Priscilla Huffman
301-646-4422, priscillahuffman@verizon.net.

The Silent Auction is a great way to clean out your tack trunk and to get swell new bargains! All proceeds go to TROT.

Please donate new and gently used tack, horse keeping articles and clothing (clean and in very good condition), although all types of goods and services are welcome. We will also have \$1, \$5, and \$10 tables, with items available for purchase prior to the end of the auction. Ideally have Silent Auction items to Chris Ferland (240-393-1217, lapado2000@gmail.com) by Wednesday, March 18, for logging in and pricing, but it is also OK to bring them to the Annual Dinner, when you bring the fixed priced items.

Thank you so much for your contributions to the silent auction; they are what makes this a great event!

SAVE THE DATE! TROT's "TRAIL OBSTACLE CLINIC"

TROT will hold a non-judged pleasure ride with a coach at each obstacle, on Saturday, June 20 (rain date Sunday, June 28) at Jeff Dwyer's Ebb Tide Stables on the historic U.S. Naval Academy Dairy Farm grounds in Gambrils, MD. More information on this fun event will be coming soon.

SIGN UP TO LEAD A TROT TRAIL RIDE IN 2015!

Please support TROT's trail riding efforts by signing up to lead a TROT trail ride this year! It is fun! It is easy! It is very rewarding! Contact TROT's new Trail Ride Coordinator, Diana Urick at dianaurickesquire@gmail.com or 410-528-1818 for information and to sign up.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG RIDERS

Tell all interested young riders you know to sign up for TROT's "Young Equestrian Scholarship" (two, at \$500 each), intended to encourage tomorrow's "Trail Riders of Today". Application deadline is April 15, 2015. See <http://trot-md.org/misc/young-equestrian.pdf> or contact jathacher@yahoo.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Maria Schwartz, TROT President

By this time, you are aware that due to the treacherous weather on February 21st, the TROT Executive Board made the very difficult decision to postpone the TROT Annual Dinner and Silent Auction. We are pleased that we have secured a new date, March 21st. Every year, the weather seems to be more difficult and at our next board meeting we will discuss the dates for future dinners keeping this in mind.

We hope you will attend the dinner. We have so much to share with you including wonderful items that have been donated for the silent auction. We would like to also share with you some information about the most current issues facing our members, as well as provide you with information about what our organization, TROT, has been doing this year. This is also a great opportunity to thank the TROT members who spend a great deal of time to make TROT the fantastic, mission-driven organization that it is.

One of the features at the TROT dinner will be a new trails brochure that the Maryland Horse Industry Board created. Several members of TROT contributed to this effort, and it contains a wealth of information. One side of the brochure provides an extremely useful map showing the various trails that are open for horse riding throughout Maryland. It also includes information about licensed stables where you can get a guided trail ride. The other side of the brochure provides tips on planning, packing for, taking, and returning from your trail ride, as well as information about trail stewardship and what to do in case of an emergency while trail riding. It also provides names of stables where you can keep a horse overnight and where you can camp with your horse. It even makes a little plug for taking a "Staycation" with your horse – where you stay in the area and plan a weekend of riding at more local venues. What fun!!! Many hours went into this brochure by your trail riding devotees. We know that you will find it extremely useful.

There is so much more you will hear at the Annual Dinner. We will hear from Madison Lager, Miss Maryland High School Rodeo Queen, who TROT helped to sponsor in her quest to become the National Champion. We will also give you information about scholarships TROT has created to encourage our young riders to stay involved in riding. We have already started to line up rides for the coming year. Please consider leading a ride at your favorite riding venue. Additionally, we want to tell you about how TROT will celebrate National Trail Day in June -- by engaging in trail clearing activities. If you haven't been involved with trail clearing before, you may think of it as drudgery, but nothing could be farther from the truth. It's exhilarating to get into the weeds, literally, knowing that you are helping to maintain trail systems that you and others will enjoy the entire year. It's a great way to meet other riders and forge friendships. Trail stewardship is an important part of TROT's mission. Please find out how you can get involved and how we, TROT, can get credit with DNR and other state and local

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organizations, for the time we devote to maintaining our trail systems.

Please feel free to call me at 301-421-1928 or send an email to mariaeschwartz@verizon.net.

See you at the Annual Dinner on March 21st. Hoping for warmer weather and, as always, happy trails!

2014 TROT TRAIL RIDES - A Year in Review

from Lisa Troutman, TROT's 2014 trail ride coordinator

A huge thank you to all the people who have led trail rides for TROT or attended the rides in 2014! With your help and dedication, we've had many years filled with a wide variety of trail rides. One vital part of TROT is the trail rides led by volunteers like you. The purpose of these organized trail rides is to introduce equestrians to trails around Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania; to introduce trail riders to other trail riders with similar interests; and to help identify and maintain equestrian access to trails.

[photo from Lisa Troutman]



Rides were offered all over Maryland at various paces, distances, and venues. We had 18 planned rides. Our trail ride leaders were John Angevine, Judie Artman, Stef Cacopardo, Andrea Caplan, Donata Dow, Laury Lobel, Terry Ledley, Naomi Manders, Deneen Martin, Erin McCardell, Jim McDonald, Dianna O'Neil, Debby Poole, Jenn Poole, Mary Prowell, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Lisa Troutman, and Denis Webb. Unfortunately several rides had to be cancelled due to Mother Nature. Sometimes the trails were too wet or the trails had some damage due to severe weather. After having to post-poned the Rocky Gorge ride several times, the ride finally was held on October 11 with beautiful weather.

In 2014 we had rides in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties. The rides varied in size. Larger
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[photo from Lisa Troutman of 2014 TROT rides]



rides always had multiple groups, typically a walk-only group, a walk/trot group, and a faster group. Many rides included a pot luck lunch or a gathering afterward to share stories about the trail or other riding information. Coming on these rides a great way to meet other people who share the same passion for trail riding.

These rides couldn't have happened without all the volunteers. Please consider being a trail ride leader in 2015. We encourage you to lead a ride on any trail system you would like to share with others. The more trails TROT members know about, especially if there are any concerns about access or trail condition, the more we can help protect them. Amy Kimble, our Adopt-a-Trail Committee Leader, can organize a trail clearing day prior to your planned ride to assure the trail ride will be a success. If you chose to lead a ride, you can specify the ride in any way you like, including the pace, distance and number of participants. Please contact Diana Urick at 410-412-6976 or dianaurickesquire@gmail.com if you're interested to lead a ride in 2015 or to learn what is involved in leading a trail ride. No experience is necessary, just a love of trail riding and of sharing the trails you know! Above all, have fun!

MEET YOUR NEW 2015 TROT TRAIL RIDE COORDINATOR, DIANA URICK

from Diana Urick (and Folly, her thoroughbred)

Hello, I am the 2015 TROT Trail Ride Coordinator, or as one former ride coordinator opined, filling a position akin to "herding cats"!

My experiences with horses began at age 11, when my parents finally gave in and got me a 6 month old weanling quarter horse filly. They reasoned that my filly and I could learn together about growing up. I did; she was too small for me to ride even at 2, so my parents sold her to get me a horse that I could ride. That was my first broken heart.

I wanted a TB, right off the track was okay by me! I'm then, now, and always a TB girl. So in the infinite wisdom possessed by parents of the hopelessly horse crazy, they purchased a TB who was aged and terribly skinny. Pop figured it would be at least 6 months before the mare could hit full steam, thus I "wouldn't kill myself." I still needed to learn how to properly ride! Next came the very stern but proper British Horse Society riding instructor, horse shows, fox hunting, jumping, galloping. Mom held her breath, and Dad kept the health insurance current.

The journey from then to now has been full of various wonderful horses, culminating with my 17 hand TB mare aptly named "Folly," my trusty high strung riding partner for the last twelve years. My life with horses has been a continual learning experience: a farrier boyfriend who taught me how to trim and shoe (Oh how that paid off!); marriage to a British Royal Veterinary Surgeon (in England, and meeting the Queen's horses). Now I am a trial lawyer in Baltimore City -- quoting one particularly poetic police

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officer: "waltzing criminal defendants out of the arms of justice." Today, I'm still that TB girl, but the bod says "this is the LAST one of those!"

This year, I want to kick off the season with a beach ride to Cape Henlopen, Delaware. This is an annual charitable event for Southern Delaware Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Inc. (SDTR) that hopefully will be included in TROT's yearly ride calendar. This is an absolutely beautiful ride, as you come up through the dunes, over a rise, the ocean is before you, the sun reflecting a sea of diamonds. The horses stop and stare, mesmerized by such beauty and the magnitude of the ocean before them.

I will be scheduling more rides throughout the season. Please let me know if anyone has a venue they wish to include. Also, I want to organize an overnight weekend ride to Ocean City, MD in the fall.

Finally, my wish this year is for a full calendar of happy, safe riding for everyone. On contacting former Ride Coordinators in my newbie quest for guidance, I learned how some rides have great turnouts of TROT members, while other swell rides also at great places have fewer TROT members turning out -- so we will strive to efficiently advertise our 2015 rides. Please, let's support our gracious ride leaders, our club, and each other to make this a great season!

2015 TROT TRAIL RIDE CALENDAR (more will be added as the season develops)

*** Please bring Current Coggins to all rides ***

from Diana Urick, TROT's 2015 trail ride coordinator

Please come out to enjoy a TROT trail ride, and if possible, sign up to lead one. Either way, TROT trail rides are fun and a great opportunity to learn new trails, meet other TROT members and maybe meet a new trail riding buddy.

To participate, please **contact the designated ride leader to sign up and learn the specifics of the ride, including the start time.** If a ride is postponed or cancelled, the ride leader will then have your information to notify you. Also, check the website for the most current ride information.

All ride participants **must wear a helmet, have a current negative Coggins for the horse, and be TROT members.** Membership forms will be available at rides or you can join online. Note that one-day TROT memberships are available at the ride for \$5 to encourage non-TROT riders to join. Also, if you need a ride to a TROT event or can offer one, please email Barbara Sollner-Webb (bsw@jhmi.edu) to be listed in an upcoming newsletter. Or contact the ride leader to see if someone from your area can offer a ride.

We hope that the weekends not listed in the calendar below will be filled in -- including with a ride that YOU will offer to lead. Ideally some will be on Saturdays and some on Sundays; weekday rides are also most welcome. As noted above, to lead a ride, please contact Diana Urick at 410-412-6976 or dianaurickesquire@gmail.com.

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March

Saturday March 28 - Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes, Delaware (rain date March 29). Beach Ride!!!

Contact: Diana Urick (<dianaurickesquire@mail.com>, 410-528-1818)

This is an absolutely wonderful and beautiful stress-free ride, hosted by Southern Delaware Therapeutic Riding & Recreational Horseback Riding, Inc. This will be their 18th annual charitable fund raising beach ride, and we (TROT) may join, supporting their programs to help special needs and disabled children and adults. Although registration begins at 9:00 a.m., there isn't a ready-to-ride time, to stress over. There is a \$30 fee to participate that is tax deductible and includes lunch in the pavilion from noon till 2; pre-registration is not required. The parking area is able to handle really big rigs. You will first ride between the dunes, then come up and over a rise that leads to the ocean. Every time I've done this ride, as soon as the horses come over the rise, they stand transfixed, spellbound by the sight of the ocean, the sunlight dancing on the water, the frothy waves, and the sight of so many riders and horses up and down the beach. There are no limitations on riding manner (except being safe and respectful of others) or time. Totally stress free. For info, see <www.beachride2015.myevent.com>.

And for the first time, Ocean City MD will allow horses to ride the beach. However, this has restrictions and requires an individual permit, but if anyone would like to stay overnight to ride the beach at Ocean City on the 29th, I have contacted several local stables who have agreed to provide daily/overnight boarding; e-mail me for details. If enough response, we can have a real beach weekend!

April

Thursday, April 2 - Schooley Mill Park

Ride leader: Debby Poole (<debby.poole@juno.com>)

This is an early spring warm-up walk-only ride that Debby is graciously leading through rolling hills, woods, and along meadows. Schooley Mill Park (12975 Hall Shop Rd. Highland, MD 20777) is a great place to ride, with good footing for unshod horses, also a terrific riding ring, great parking, and sturdy mounting blocks. Also, they have picnic tables -- so bring goodies to share for a pot-luck after the ride, while all getting re-acquainted. Let the social season begin! For info on Schooley Mill, see: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/schooleymillpark.htm>.

Saturday, April 4 - Schooley Mill Park

Ride leaders: Debby Poole (<debby.poole@juno.com>) and Jenn Poole

Debby will be leading a walking group and her daughter Jenn will be leading a faster pace group. This ride will be to get us back into the riding groove and to get our horses back in shape and used to going out, riding in a group. See write-up above on Schooley Mill. Bring goodies to share for after the ride, so we can all get re-acquainted.

Saturday, April 11 - North Tract (the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, Laurel, MD; rain date Sunday April 19)

Ride leader: Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619)

Early each year we have a TROT ride at North Tract (formerly known as the "Fort Meade Trails", now the only Fish and Wildlife property that allows horseback riding) to remind riders of this great resource. Its trails and road shoulders are impressively sturdy (on old packed-stone base originally designed for military tanks), making North Tract one of the few area venues to safely ride when the ground is soaked -- without causing trail damage. Thus, riding here after wet spells will preserve "your" local trails.

Our ride will cover much of their almost 10 miles of rather scenic, hard-packed dirt/gravel woods trails. These are flat with no stream crossing, so good for out-of-shape and/or green horses, and are generally soft enough for tender bare-footed horses. [North Tract additionally has almost 10 miles of asphalt-covered road with wide, grassy shoulders that also are good for riding, even when the ground is wet.]

We will have an all-walk group and one or two faster groups (walk/trot and walk/trot with a limited number of controlled canter runs). After the (~3 hr) ride, we will enjoy a pot-luck lunch, so bring something yummy and a chair.

Saturday, April 25 - Wisteria Blossom Ride! Rosaryville State Park

Ride leader: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, <lavenderlady19@verizon.net>)

This is a joint ride with FIRC - Frida Icelandic Riding Club, at the beautiful 982 acre Rosaryville State Park in Prince George's County. The timing is scheduled so that we should be riding through massive amounts of magnificently blooming wisteria, as well as other lovely sections of the park. The terrain can be hilly but shoes aren't necessary. Laura will be hosting a delicious Bar-B-Q after the ride, so please bring something for the luncheon, and a chair.



Horse and riders ready for a Rocky Gorge TROT ride, gathered before splitting into riding groups

May

Saturday, May 16 - WSSC's Rocky Gorge (rain date Sunday May 31)

Ride leaders - Terry Ledley & Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619)

Come join this ride along WSSC's beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir, enjoying TROT's efforts to get this trail reopened two years ago. This ride starts in West Laurel about five minutes from the Rt 198 exit off I-95 and offers magnificent views of the reservoir, with a good chance of seeing heron and maybe an eagle. And despite the name, the footing is fine for barefoot horses, with plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses. Terry Ledley (for whom these trails are named) will lead a walk-only group, Denis Webb a walk/trot group, and Barbara Sollner-Webb a walk-trot-canter group. After the 3 hour ride there will be a pot luck lunch at the Webb's. Your pot-luck contribution will get ferried from the trailer parking area to the Webb's for the lunch.

Saturday, May 30 - C&O Canal along the Potomac, at White's Ferry

Ride leaders: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, lavenderlady19@verizon.net) & Barbara Sollner Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619)

Ride along the historic towpath, where mules once pulled barges along the C&O Canal lock system. The Potomac River scenic waterway meanders on the other side. The towpath is wide, but there will be bikers, hikers, and strollers. Shoes aren't necessary except for tender-footed horses, and the ground is level. We will be jointly riding with FIRC, our Icelandic friends. Bring your chair and goodies for a getting-to-know-you fun pot-luck after the ride!

June

Saturday, June 27 – NCR (North Central Railroad)/ Torrey Brown trail in Freeland MD

Ride leaders: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, lavenderlady19@verizon.net) & Barbara Sollner Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619)

This is a joint ride with FIRC and a new ride for TROT, on another treasure in our Maryland trail system that riders should get to know. More info to follow.

September

Saturday, Sept. 12 – ride beautiful Reichsford Farm! (rain date Saturday, Sept. 19)

Ride leader: Joy Ferno (<www.reichsfordfarm.com>, 240-674-4825)

Please join us for another TROT first, a ride at Joy Ferno's lovely Reichsford Farm. This is a perfect ride for green or inexperienced horses, as the terrain is gently rolling, and grassy. Don't forget to bring your chair & goodies for an after ride social.

Saturday, Sept. 26 – Fairland Park (rain date Sat. Oct. 3)

Ride leaders: Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) & Jenn Poole (<bcfarmgirl@hotmail.com>, 301-641-8903)

We will be repeating a lovely ride that almost was rained out last year, along the scenic Fairland trails -- that more riders should learn about and use. More info to follow.

October

Saturday, October 31 – Rosaryville Halloween ride

Ride leaders: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540,

This will be our last joint ride of the season with FIRC, and Laura Colicchio again will be our hostess. We will be riding through Rosaryville State Park, with fall foliage that should be spectacular, followed by a lunch. More info to come.

November

Saturday, November 7 - Ocean City Beach ride!

Ride Leader Diana Urick

More info to follow.

Saturday, November 14 - Anacostia Park Ride

Ride Leader - John Angevine (301-937-0014)

A favorite TROT ride to close the season - this is a fantastic ride with many special views, including the Lincoln Cemetery and Bladensburg Waterfront! We will travel along the Anacostia River on a very nice path, traversing over and under bridges and roads, passing playgrounds and outdoor workout equipment. A great ride to give green horses experience.

December

Saturday, December 12 - Lisbon X-MAS Parade!

This is so much fun! Get into the spirit; dress up yourself and your horse to ride thru. More info to follow.



Founding TROT member Terry Ledley and Denis Webb enjoying an early March ride in the snow

TROT'S 2014 TRAIL WORK REPORT

from Amy Kimble, TROT trail work coordinator

First, I would like to thank all of our members who sent me volunteer work hours! We are definitely doing much better in taking responsibility for our trails and letting the land managers know we are out there working. TROT members reported a total of 1,364.5 work hours for 2014! Wow! I was thrilled!

Patuxent State Park had over 600 hours, followed by WSSC with 258 and Morgan Run with 64 hours. TROT's volunteers also sent me recorded work hours from Ag History Farm Park, Black Hills, Catoctin, Fairland, Glyndon, Bennett Branch, Little Bennett, Rachel Carson and Rosaryville Parks.

We had approximately 50 members give me at least a couple of recorded hours.

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible". --St. Francis of Assisi

Everyone, please keep up the great trail volunteer work!



[photo from Nancy Osgood]

Amy Kimble (standing) is shown receiving well-deserved recognition for giving "above and beyond" in trail work she has done and coordinated, at a DNR breakfast at Seneca Creek State Park, attended by enthusiastic volunteers including several TROT members, hikers, bikers, and birders. Kudos to Amy and to the army of volunteers that keep our parks beautiful.

GET UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON TROT ACTIVITIES

TROT website:

www.trot-md.org

Harold Goldstein, Webmaster

TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

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

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator
(bsw@jhmi.edu, 301-604-5619)

Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo group (and to join):

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/join>

Facebook page

TROT Trail Riders of Today

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/>

TROT 2015 TRAIL WORK PLAN

from Amy Kimble, TROT trail work coordinator

We will have two kinds of trail work again this year. First, we again have the "Adopt-a-Trail" program in which we ask EVERYONE to clip branches and move fallen limbs, where possible whenever you ride on your trails that need upkeep, and to please keep track of your work hours and report them to me, so that TROT can get credit for our member's efforts.

Second, we will again have organized trail work days. These will be mounted and on foot unless noted. For these, please bring your own tools and gloves, and I will try and supply water and trail mix to participants (although sometimes if people do not tell me they are coming or we are working with another group it may be difficult). Info from riders of which trail systems need work is greatly appreciated so we can concentrate on the areas that require it and increase our efficiency. Knowing the problems in the area helps us to bring the correct tools and assign the correct number of volunteers, when possible.

The currently planned trail work schedule is below. Please check TROT's website (<www.trot-md.org>) for up-dates. To join these work efforts, please RSVP to Amy Kimble (<AmyHkimble@aol.com>; 301-748-8310, call or text).

Sunday, April 12: Catoctin 10am-1pm; we will meet at the Horse Trailer Parking lot off Park Central Road across from Green Top.

Saturday, April 25: Gillis Falls 9am-noon; with Carroll County Equestrian Council, 2512 Grimville Road Mt. Airy, MD.

Saturday, May 2: Little Bennett 9am-noon; meeting location to be announced.

Sunday, May 17: Morgan Run 9-noon; with Carroll County Equestrian Council; meet at Ben Rose Lane.

Saturday, June 6 - NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: Morgan Run 9am-noon; joint with Carroll County Equestrian Council.

Saturday, June 20 - Patuxent River State Park 9 am trail work, 1:30 (approx.) potluck lunch. This will be the kick-off work party for the new trails in Patuxent River State Park west of route 94. This one will Be On FOOT ONLY. More to come, but mark your calendars. If you cannot work on the trail, please volunteer to be the coordinator for a potluck lunch, after-ward at Annapolis Rock Road parking lot, at which we hope to include all the workers who come out from the different user groups and the park rangers. PLEASE respond to Amy Kimble by Saturday March 28th if you can attend the ground breaking in Patuxent River State Park.

During the summer we will continue to work at **Patuxent River State Park**.

ANIMAL CONTROL AND MARYLAND HORSES: Isolated event or a trend to raise concern?

from Susan Grey, Deneen Martin, Jeff Dwyer, and Barbara Sollner-Webb

Well-directed efforts of animal control and public health authorities are very important and much-needed for saving animals from abuse situations. For that we all should be grateful. But recently there have been two worrisome cases where it appears that Animal Control Officers imposed inappropriate standards of care on horse owners. We'd like the input of those with experience with Animal Control to try to get a sense of whether the incidents described below are anomalies or reflect a broader issue that may need to be addressed statewide. Please put your comments on TROT's website. We'd also like to hear the perspective of any of you who might be animal control officers, as we can appreciate the tight line you probably often walk.

In January, Baltimore news services and the Equiery reported that animal control officers had seized 14 Arabber horses—the horses that deliver fruits and vegetables to residents in underserved Baltimore neighborhoods using colorful carts, in a one and a half century-old tradition. [Google Arabbers to learn their interesting history.] The official reason for this seizing was “poor living conditions found in the stables and a concern for the animals because of the extremely cold temperatures an unfit environment,” specifically “cobwebs in the barn, urine on the floor, and because the barn was cold.” (<http://equiery.com/blog/?p2624>).

The seized horses were taken to Days End Farm where soon after their arrival several long time horse owners and TROT members, and a professional farrier, saw five of the 14 of them (the horses described by staff as the ones in the worst shape). The horses did not appear to be distressed, neglected or abused.

Some in the press have questioned the basis of this seizing, whether "the real issues were racism (most of the owners of the horses are African-American), classism, and the increasing gentrification of Baltimore City" or "a stunt by animal rights activists, those who...work to ban carriage and cart horses, be they in New York or Baltimore City." As of this writing, the case remains unresolved; the horses remain at Days End; the Arabbers can't pursue their livelihood; and Baltimore City has lost, at least for the moment, a tradition. Should an otherwise well-intentioned bill that is currently before the State Legislature, requiring owners of seized animals to pay for their daily care (SB393/HB362), have already been in effect, the financial toll on these Arabbers would have been devastating.

At about the same time, a long established horse farm in Howard County was threatened with seizure of their horses because stalls were deemed "unfit and unhealthy." Actually, the horses were in deep litter bedding (Google it). It is a practice that

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is common in many European countries whose equine traditions we hold in high repute and in northern areas of the US in winter months. It is considered kind to the animals, a bedding to help generate heat. Apparently, deep litter bedding was not familiar to animal controls officers, who demanded it be removed within days -- an enormous task on for any farm, especially this one, whose owner had just gotten out of the hospital. TROT members helped strip stalls—a task they considered unnecessary at the time, given that the horses in them seemed happy, healthy and well cared for. The farm's vet and their farrier both concurred with this assessment. This case ultimately was closed, but only after political intervention.

It is unclear what to make of these cases. However, they should make all of us pause, as we all know there is no one template to keeping our horses healthy and happy. Why these cases? Are animal control officers stretched so thin that some who make decisions about seizing horses, although surely well-meaning, are not adequately versed in judging equine well-being? Is more education needed? Should there be a statewide group of arbitrators (possibly making use of the equine inspector specialists of the Maryland Horse Industry Board) or a consulting vet who horse owners can turn to if there is a dispute over “horse-keeping” and whether an animal should be seized?

Please give us your thoughts on what would seem to be a very important issue to the horse community. To paraphrase what a respected vet involved in one of these cases said, “If these horses could be seized, so could mine.”

UPDATE ON THE C&O CANAL

information from Amy Kimble and Pat Merson

Addressing the National Park Service's plan to start charging entrance fees for using the C&O Canal that until now has been without charge, there was a lot of public outcry, including from US Rep. John Delaney (D, 6th) and Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D, MD). As a result, this exploratory idea has now been abandoned. Thus, equestrian can continue to ride on the C&O Canal without a fee.

The C&O Canal National Historical Park is the 9th most visited National Park. Due to budget cuts (and partly also to increased visitation) there have been cut-backs and closings of some services, and there is a \$100 million backlog of needed maintenance on the canal and associated historic structures. The intended charges were to help defray these costs. After much citizen dismay, only charges for uses that currently exist – e.g., entrance and parking at Great Falls & some camping – will be increased.



DISCOVERING MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE

from Joyce Bell, TROT coordinator for Talbot County

If you like to trail ride in different places and camp with your horse, a good place to start is at the **Tuckahoe Equestrian Center** (TEC) near Queen Anne, MD, just off Rt. 404 on the Eastern Shore. TEC is a family- and youth-oriented non-profit organization which began leasing the former Crouse farm, which is adjacent to Tuckahoe State Park, in 1992. Through a core of hard-working volunteers, membership fees, donations and fund-raisers, TEC has grown to include a 300' x 150' outdoor arena with a permanent, raised announcer's stand, a lighted jousting path, a permanently installed audio system, a barn with 6 stalls, a round pen, and 8 outdoor corrals. Twelve miles of scenic trails, which give lovely views of the Tuckahoe River, adjoin TEC. Or you can make a loop ride to Ridgley via dirt and low-traffic roads to tie-up for ice-cream. Shoes are generally unnecessary. Camping fees are \$5/night/rig (\$10 with electricity) and corrals or stalls are \$10/night. There is plenty of room for portable corrals.

While camping privileges are restricted to TEC members, dues are not onerous (\$15/year or \$25/family), and membership brings a variety of other privileges, including the monthly newsletter. For more information go to www.tuckahoeequestriancenter.net. Tuckahoe makes a good base for riding in other nearby parks, or as a stop-over for those wishing to continue their riding holiday at Fair Hill just north of Elkton, MD, or in Delaware.

DISCOVERING RIDING IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY

from Kathy Glockner, St. Mary's TROT Coordinator

Currently, there are two state parks open to equestrians in St. Mary's County: **Greenwell State Park** and **St. Mary's River Park**. A third property, **Newtowne Neck State Park**, does not officially list horseback riding as an authorized activity, but indications are that equestrians will be permitted back into the park as the Master Planning work for this new park is finalized. These parks are further described below.

1- Greenwell State Park

Greenwell is a 596-acre State Park located in Hollywood along the scenic Patuxent River. In 1971, John Phillip Greenwell, Jr. and his sister, Mary Wallace Greenwell, donated their 166 acre farm to the State of Maryland for use as a public park for everyone. The state subsequently purchased the adjacent 430-acre Bond property and joined the two forming the existing park.

The park is managed in partnership with The Greenwell Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to providing outdoor accessible recreation. The Foundation operates the equestrian programs which include therapeutic riding instruction, boarding,

[continued next column]

a summer camp, and lessons.

The bulk of the riding at Greenwell is done on agricultural fields, most of which have a view to the Patuxent River. Across the street from the main park are wooded trails which include water views of Forrest Landing Cove. One can easily spend two or three hours at the park but there is no direct access to the water for horses. Most of the park is surrounded by rock beds to prevent erosion.

Before going to Greenwell, check their website for directions and other details. When you enter the park, there is a fee box near the entrance. Monies generated support the Greenwell Foundation. Once on the driveway, take the first left and follow to the end. Horse trailer parking is on a grass area adjacent to an agriculture field, and across from a comfort station, water, and a pavilion. The pavilion is rented for private functions, so it's best to call ahead to the Foundation office to ensure you are not going to interfere with a pavilion party. Alternate parking is along the road near the trailer parking field.

For info, see: <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/greenwell.aspx>

2- St. Mary's River Park

This park offers a 7.5 mile trail around the lovely 250 acre St. Mary's Lake. Unfortunately, much of the park's trail system has become eroded leaving exposed tree roots. Equestrians, hikers and mountain bikers share the trail. There are numerous creek crossings, some of which require experienced horses and riders. Amenities include a large paved parking lot, restrooms, and water. There is a \$3 fee charged and the honor box is located by the restrooms.

For info, see: <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/stmarysriver.aspx>

3- Newtowne Neck State Park

This property is located in Compton, which is near the county seat, Leonardtown. Surrounded by Breton Bay, the Potomac River and St. Clement's Bay, the park offers a quiet retreat. Purchased by the Department of Natural Resources in 2009 from the Jesuits, the land is steeped in history. The property includes 776 acres of woodlands, wetlands and agricultural fields and more than 7 miles of shoreline. The State is the second deed holder of this land.

In January of 2012, the park's rich history became even more apparent with the discovery of several items of World War II-era military ordnance on or near the shoreline. The discovery led to the closure of the park and an extensive study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers into prior uses of the property. Researchers determined that the property was used by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory and, later, the United States Navy, for testing of inert test artillery rounds. Based upon the Corps' comprehensive research, Newtowne Neck State Park re-opened for public use in April 2014.

[continued next page]

The park is going through the Master Planning process at this time, with the hope that the final plans will be complete this fall for approval. As a member of the Master Planning citizens' advisory board, I have attended all the monthly meetings representing TROT, the St. Mary's Riding Club and the De La Brooke Foxhounds. The hunt club held one meet at the park this winter, viewing a healthy red fox.

Parking now is limited to several small lots, but during the Master Planning process there has been discussion to install a larger lot specifically for horse trailers. Also, there is no potable water at this time at Newtowne Neck.

Check the DNR website for updates for future public meetings, which will be held later this year.

For info, see: <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/newtowne.aspx>

If you enjoyed these interesting reports on riding venues you may not be familiar with, please write a report for the next TROT newsletter sharing one of your favorite riding venues! PLEASE DO IT, for TROT!

BALTIMORE AREA UPDATE

from Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore area coordinator

Bruno Conticello has been doing a great job as the coordinator for the reactivated Gunpowder Falls State Park Volunteer Mounted Patrol. Fifteen people signed up for more information at the VMP booth at Horse World Expo. A follow-up meeting was held on February 10 at the DNR headquarters in Kingsville. A presentation on VMP training plans was presented by Dean Hughes, assistant park manager for Gunpowder Falls State Park. Jim McDonald of Graham Equestrian Center has offered to host a daylong clinic to get horses and riders better prepared for the horse assessment portion of the VMP certification process. The goal is to have a nucleus of patrol members certified by this summer. The Gunpowder group plans to have regular meetings and training sessions throughout the year.

Also, House Bill 18, which would have allowed Sunday hunting on private land in Baltimore County, was defeated in a vote by the Baltimore County delegation at the General Assembly in Annapolis on February 13.

The next meeting of the Baltimore area group will be held in early May at Loblolly Farm in Hampstead. A demonstration of working equitation is planned.



By July, the horses will be longing for a day like this

Horse barely venturing out from the barn



When is SPRING coming?

EQUINE TRUST

from Jeff Dwyer (and Coca)

Trust is a key element of having a good relationship with your horse. We all expect our horse to trust us and therefore do what we ask of him without hesitation. However this must be a two way street. You cannot expect your horse to blindly trust and obey you if you do not trust your horse to listen to and carry out your commands.

When I ride bareback and bridle-less, I must trust the horse at least as much as he trusts me. When we are cantering and I want to turn right, I must commit to a right turn before my horse - if he goes left instead, I'm riding the dirt. Having this kind of mutual trust with your horse makes a huge difference in your riding success.

How do we accomplish this? The rider (as the brains of the operation) is responsible for earning the trust of the horse. As you work with your horse it is important he knows what you are asking. If you ask the same question in the same way over and over and do not get the answer you want from your horse, then it's a safe bet that he doesn't understand the question. You will need to rephrase the question or give your horse the answer.

As an example, if I am lunging a horse and I want him to come in to me, I use a kissing sound. If it's the first time for the horse, he probably won't come in just because I made a kissing sound. If he does, that's great -- reward and done. If he doesn't, I can make kissing noises for the rest of the day and all the horse learns is kissing means nothing, or worse, becomes frustrated. If I instead give a gentle pull on the longe line, the horse may resist at first, but as soon he gives to the pressure and comes in, I can immediately remove that pressure and offer a reward. In a matter of minutes, we have established a command and formed a basis for communication and respect. At this point, I need to start trusting the horse will come in when I ask and not just pull the horse by the line every time I want him in. The horse must be trusted to do the right thing or he will become uncertain or sour in his work.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

*from Sim Shanks
new member*

Jessica Contento
Gary R. Maslan
Bruce Trentler
Amy Beall
Scott Thacher
Tammie Nottestad
Joy Koester
Jacqueline Aaron
Patricia Davis
Katie Phalen
Mary Allen
Maria Wisgerhof
Dell Vista Farm

Thanks for joining!
county

Anne Arundel County
Baltimore County
Baltimore County
Carroll County
Carroll County
Charles County
Harford County
Howard County
Howard County
Howard County
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
State of Oregon

USEFUL REMINDERS

from Pat Merson

1- Plan for spring: remember to take water

1- Plan for spring: remember to take water

Be water-wise for your horse on any trip you take with him. Just because you are going on a short trip doesn't mean you couldn't run into a traffic jam or break down on the road in warm or even worse hot weather. Also you should never assume there will be water at your destination, whether it is a trail-head or staging area. I have always been shocked at horse persons who don't carry water in their trailers at all times. So don't be caught without water for your best buddy, even in cold weather. And be sure to clean your water containers often, like you do your troughs.

[Editor's note: the EPA suggests adding 1/2 tsp Clorox to 5 gal water in a container disinfects it for storage, and when opened, it evaporates off in 1/2 hour, dissipating any odor.]

2- Sweet PDZ

Neutralizing ammonia that our horses' urine deposits in their stalls and barn is something that many folks are interested in doing, but fear that using lime can dry or crack hooves, or sting eyes. As a horse owner, I always look for really good products, to use for them. I don't know how many TROT members know about Sweet PDZ, but having asthma and having to watch what I breathe, I love this product (and I have no financial interest in it). It is an all natural product made from Clinoptilolite, better known as zeolite, which is non-toxic and non-hazardous. It absorbs ammonium in urine and absorbs moisture in bedding. It is good for all animals and then acts as a fertilizer and soil amendment in gardens and pastures. Sweet PDZ is pH neutral. Flies don't like it and won't lay eggs in it. For more information on Sweet PDZ, go to sweetpdz.com and read for yourself.

SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

January 20, 2015 Meeting

summarized from minutes taken by Maria Schwartz

TROT's January 20th Board Meeting, by teleconference, was attended by Maria Schwartz (president), Judy Thacher (VP), Susan Railey (treasurer), Priscilla Huffman, Terry Ledley, Roger Nelson, Jennifer Poole, Barbara Sollner-Webb, and Pat Talbott (board members), Amy Kimble (trail work coordinator), and Pat Merson (previous VP).

Susan Railey provided a **Treasurer's Report** and Pat Talbot provided a **Membership Report**, including ongoing membership renewal efforts and the need to update member information for those who renew by PayPal.

Amy Kimble provided a **Trail Work Report** that included updates on the Catoctin Barn project (three representatives from the Frederick Equine Alliance have offered their full support and help to provide additional workers for this project) and on plans for more weekday trail work sessions with Homewood Center's students (a special thanks to Ranger Bryon). Amy presented a tentative work schedule for 2015 (see updated info in the trail work article above).

Discussing trail work, the board considered encouraging volunteers in organized trail work sessions by having TROT reimburse expenses for snacks, a motion for which will be voted on at the February meeting. To celebrate National Trails Day on June 6th, the Board agreed to focus on Trail Clearing, with hopefully a planned trail ride the next day.

There was no **Trail Ride Report** available, since Lisa Troutman has stepped down as ride coordinator and Diane Urick (who kindly agreed to fill this position) could not attend.

County and Area Coordinator Reports:

-- **Baltimore Co:** Priscilla Huffman reported on contacts made at the recent Expo, progress in starting a Volunteer Mounted Patrol for Gunpowder State Park, and planned extensive trail clearing of its overgrown South Trail.

-- **Carroll Co:** Judy Thacher reported talking to Carroll County people at the Expo.

-- **Montgomery Co:** It was noted that following Ron MacNab's suggestion, the Horse Council is looking at ways to encourage trail riding at licensed area barns, perhaps to offer trail rides nearby. More to come.

-- **Laurel/Burtonsville area:** Barb Sollner-Webb reported a very positive discussion with WSSC's new watershed manager, Eddie Franceschi, who comes from Montgomery County's Soil Conservation services. In the spring, we will have another appreciation lunch for WSSC's watershed staff who are doing great work on the trails.

-- **Frederick County:** Pat Merson suggested that we provide information on being a County/Area Coordinator at the upcoming Annual Dinner. And Amy Kimble's information was in her Trail Work Report.

Barbara Sollner-Webb reported on producing the

[continued next page]

Newsletter and having volunteers to proofread future issues. After discussion, the Board voiced strong support for having the newsletter continue bi-monthly, even with our other communication methods. The DEADLINE for submissions will be the 15th of even-numbered months.

Old Business:

-- **Expo:** Members felt our booth and outreach were commendable.

-- **Young Equestrian Scholarship:** Judy Thacher reported substantial interest in it but no applications yet.

-- **Advocating trail use on transmission line right-of-ways :** Judy Thacher and Barbara Sollner-Webb reported a good turnout at both Public Service Commission hearings on the possible **Peppo/Exelon Merger hearings**, of course mostly focused on the merger itself. But many, including TROT, testified in favor of opening the right-of-ways to appropriate trail use, while taking no position on the merger. Montgomery County Commissioner Berliner testified solely for the trail use idea, stressing that NOT using this space was a wasted asset. Note that whether or not the merger is approved, the PSC can take the position that this such trail use should be allowed.

-- **Annual Dinner:** Priscilla Huffman reported that the plans are progressing well, with Jeanne Cooper working hard on it. \$300 was budgeted for centerpieces.

-- **Port-a-Pot at Morgan Run:** TROT will cover the rental fee for 3 months.

New Business: Two Board Members have submitted their resignations, creating three vacancies.

February 3, 2015 Meeting

from Nancy Osgood

TROT's February 3, 2015 Board Meeting, at Jennifer Poole's house, was attended by Maria Schwartz (president), Judy Thacher (VP), Nancy Osgood (secretary), Susan Railey (treasurer), and Board members: Jenn Poole, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Terry Ledley (via telephone), Pat Talbott, Jeff Dwyer, Priscilla Huffman, Laury Lobel (via telephone), as well as Susan Gray, Sim Shanks, Dick Huffman and Deneen Martin.

A **Treasurer's Report** was provided by Susan Railey and a **Membership Report** by Sim Shanks, including that 325 renewal notices were sent out, 139 have been returned completed, and he will send out reminders to those who have not responded.

There was no formal **Trail Ride Report**, but a few rides that have already been planned were discussed. [See more up-to-date list earlier in this Newsletter.]

Newsletter update: People seemed pleased with the latest newsletter.

County Coordinator Reports:

-- **Carroll County** coordinator Judy Thacher noted the Carroll County Equestrian Council's educational programs.

-- **Laurel/Burtonsville area** coordinators praised WSSC for opening a year-round *[continued next column]*

trail for equestrians and hikers along the Tridelphia Reservoir and plans to continue requesting that their Rocky Gorge trail could again be used year round, of course based on trail conditions.

-- **Baltimore County** coordinator Priscilla Huffman noted that at the Horse World Expo, there were volunteers from the mounted patrol, and many good contacts made there.

-- **[Unrepresented counties:]** There was a general discussion regarding unfilled county coordinator positions and inactive coordinators. Mentoring coordinators and small group meetings of interested coordinators were considered. Less than active county coordinators will also be urged to submit articles for the newsletter on riding venues or equestrian happenings in their county.

-- **Ann Arundel County:** Jeff Dwyer noted that the High Riders (4H) were asking for a riding arena in a park, and TROT may get involved to support the 4H riders.

Old Business:

-- **Annual Dinner:** Jean Cooper and Priscilla Huffman have been taking the lead on this, aided by many, including some new volunteers.

-- **Non-judged pleasure clinic:** This event is planned for the end of May or beginning of June at Jeff Dwyer's farm. There will be a clinician at each obstacle, to help and critique but not judge, and there will be a fee for entry.

-- **Scholarship:** Judy Thacher gave an update for the new scholarship to encourage young riders. So far there have been no applications, but considerable outreach, including a lot of interest at the Horse World Expo. It was moved that all applicants should receive a one-day membership to join a TROT trail ride.

-- **Snacks to encourage trail clearing volunteers:** The Board passed a motion of reimburse the leader for \$3 per person for snacks at TROT's organized trail clearing events.

New Business:

-- **Board vacancy nominations:** Three board members are leaving the board this year. Possible Individuals who may be interested in serving on the board were discussed.

-- **Sunday hunting bill in Baltimore County:** A bill has been introduced and a hearing was held in Annapolis. The Maryland Horse Council was present. [See article above, that this was defeated in the County.] It was agreed that we should start a discussion with all parties to see if there are areas of potential common ground on proposed hunting bills, or other alternatives.

-- **TROT's educational meetings:** There was a suggestion for a potential topic of an educational meeting: on foxtail and other toxic pasture weeds. It was noted that the Maryland Extension Service just sent out information regarding an upcoming meeting on toxic pasture weeds.

-- **Animal Control actions:** There was discussion regarding an ongoing inspection and threat of horse seizure at a Howard County family farm that was required to remove the deep litter bedding they used, an effort aided by TROT volunteers. This followed the seizing of 14 Arabber horses, as reported in the Equiry and elsewhere.

TROT LICENSE PLATES -- ORDER YOURS TODAY!

from Susan Railey

Have you driven down the road and noticed TROT's beautiful license plate with a black horse and rider silhouetted against a yellow sun? Don't just admire everyone else's -- get your own.

It's very easy. E-mail <susanrailey@verizon.net>, and I will send you the simple instructions along with MVA's application, which you complete and send back to me with a \$25 check. I confirm your membership, forward it to MVA, and your classy new plates arrive in a few short weeks. You do not need to wait for your current plates to be renewed. The new stickers are pro-rated so you do not lose any registration time for which you have already paid.



CLASSIFIED ADS

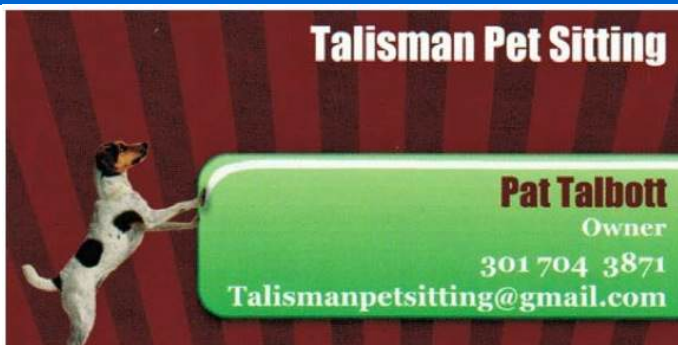
To place an ad, email: <bsw@jhmi.edu>.

TROT Members: One regular (100 word) ad FREE! All TROT members' ads will run for one issue; they can be run again for free in subsequent issues, **BUT ONLY IF** you notify the Editor by the 15th of the month before the next newsletter is dated (e.g., notify by April 15th, June 15th, etc.)

Non-member rates:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 100 words | \$6.00 (each additional word - \$0.10) |
| Business Card | \$6.00 |
| 1/4 page ad | \$25 |
| 1/2 page ad | \$40 |
| Full page ad | \$75 |

Pet sitting



For Rent

Lovely, one bedroom apartment on a small horse farm near Rt 108 and the Patuxent River between Clarksville and Olney. Non-smokers, only. Owners might be willing to exchange horse care for part of rent. For details, call Mike at 443-756-3336.

Looking for HIS person! Free lease & use of indoor arena

Avalon: 12 year old, 16.3h. (w/ no withers, ergo really big) Hanovarian gelding, is seeking his own person for riding, love and attention.

Avy is a special gentleman, exceedingly kind and well mannered but with a huge engine in the rear. Consequently, he needs a good rider who can stay on and enjoys a powerful ride. Avy loves attention, trail riding (is still somewhat green), and is learning low level dressage. He is loved by his family (his people and the other equines in his herd) and must stay on his farm in Highland, Md. Our farm has an indoor riding arena that you are welcome to use and has access to trails.

Free lease, with sharing cost of monthly care. Nice opportunity for the right person. If interested, call Susan 240-426-1655.

Farmette

Northern Calvert County. Cozy house 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths, with sunroom, carport & deck. 4.35 acres, fenced. 4-stall barn with electric, water, and large hayloft. Detached oversized 2-car garage/workshop with electric, full bath, workbenches and cabinets. Other outbuildings. Very desirable neighborhood. Asking \$325,000.

For information, call Pat Miller at 410-414-4971.

Barn for Lease

Lovely Private Custom Barn on the Triadelphia Reservoir

Hawk's Flight Farm

500 Greenbridge Road

Brookeville, MD 20833

Please call Bonnie at 301-570-4208

Rent entire barn with:

- Large, matted box stalls with hay racks
- 2 large rolling pastures, plentiful grass, large run-ins, automatic waterers, round pen & diamond-wire fencing
- Grooming area, wash rack, feed & heated tack rooms
- Huge loft
- Indoor riding perimeter
- Flat outdoor riding area
- Quiet, peaceful, beautiful surroundings
- Private road access; Owner on premises

Self-care, responsible individual/s only

4 horse maximum

Available immediately

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to Terry Ledley, Maria Schwartz, Judy Thacher and Denis Webb for proofreading this newsletter!

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

| POSITION | NAME | E-MAIL | PHONE |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
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| Vice President | Judy Thacher | jathacher@yahoo.com | |
| Secretary | Nancy Osgood | nosgood@verizon.net | |
| Treasurer | Susan Railey | susanrailey@verizon.net | |
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| | Brother Roger Nelson | rogersds@comcast.net | |
| | Barbara Sollner-Webb | bsw@ihmi.edu | |
| | Pat Talbott | pattalbot70@gmail.com | |
| Membership Chair | Pat Talbott | pattalbot70@gmail.com | |
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| Trail Rides | Diana Urick | dianaurickesquire@gmail.com | (410) 528-1818 |
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| Web Master | Harold Goldstein | mbiker@goldray.com | |
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| Carroll | Judy Thacher | jathacher@yahoo.com | (410) 751-3775 |
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| Charles | Dr. Kathy Blanche | jbservs@peoplepc.com | (240) 320-4385 |
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| Harford | Dianna O'Neil | b.oneil1@verizon.net | (410) 215-0491 |
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| Montgomery | Ron MacNab | rmacnab@comcast.net | |
| Prince George's | Judie Artman | artmaniu@yahoo.com | |
| St. Mary's | Kathy Glockner | kglockner@md.metrocast.net | (301) 475-194 |
| Talbot | Joyce Bell | wbell2@washcoll.edu | (410) 820-6002 |
| Wicomico | Shawn McEntee | smc1159@verizon.net | (410) 749-2665 |

[We are looking for a volunteer from Calvert, Howard, and Washington Counties in Maryland as well as from Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware]

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.

If you would be willing to show other TROT members your favorite trail, please contact Barb Sollner-Webb at bsw@ihmi.edu 301-604-5619

Benson Branch Park (between Folly Quarter Road and Tridelphia Road, Ellicott City, MD) Sandy Brewer sandbrewer@aol.com.

Blockhouse Point (Farm Loop on the Canal at Violettes Lock, MD) Naomi Manders naomimanders0@gmail.com.

Breezy Loop (Boyd's, MD) an easy 75 minutes. Naomi Manders naomimanders0@gmail.com.

Codorus Park (Hanover, PA) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691, smink.ivy@gmail.com

Croom, MD area (South of PG Equestrian Center, MD) Ride from my farm to Jug Bay, the Wildlife Sanctuary and Spice Creek Park. I am the area trail historian and we can ride different trails for 6 hrs! Available Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon. Carol CAAuletta@aol.com or (301) 579-2342

EPIC Trail At Dry Seneca Creek (Poolesville, MD) 10 miles round trip, mostly private land with a sanctioned public route; exceptionally good footing, easy trail, good for winter exercising. This is NOT the Great Seneca Greenway Trail. Naomi Manders naomimanders0@gmail.com

Gunpowder State Park (Harford County MD) Joyce Browning (410) 557-6165 / (443) 966-0249

Liberty Reservoir trails (off Deer Park Road, Baltimore County, MD) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or smink.ivy@gmail.com

Little Bennett (Clarksburg, MD) Jim & Maureen Henry (301) 676- 5298

Morgan Run Trails (Carroll County, MD) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or smink.ivy@gmail.com.

North Tract of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge (Laurel, MD) Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@ihmi.edu or (301) 604-5619

Patapsco State Park (off Marriottsville Road, MD) I am available during the week and weekend and would love to show other TROT members the trails. Elizabeth Baran H: (410) 442-5006; C: (410) 245-8942

Patuxent River State Park (Montgomery County side, MD), **Rachel Carson Conservation Park** (Brookville, MD), and **Rock Creek Park** (Montgomery County, MD and into DC) Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or laurylobel@verizon.net

Union Mills/Kowomu Trail (Carroll County, MD) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or smink.ivy@gmail.com

WSSC's Rocky Gorge and Tridelphia reservoir trails (PG and Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@ihmi.edu or (301) 604-5619

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



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY
TROT Membership
PO Box 506
Highland, MD 20777

Inside this issue:

- Upcoming: TROT Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, Saturday, March 21, 2015, 6 PM, Mount Airy Fireman's Activity Hall -- get your Silent Auction donations ready now; special guest Madison Iager
- Save the day! TROT's "Trail Obstacle Clinic" (Non-judged Pleasure Ride) will be June 28th
- Review of TROT's 2014 trail rides, under trail ride coordinator Lisa Troutman
- Meet TROT's new 2015 trail ride coordinator, Diana Urick
- TROT's 2015 planned trail rides and trail work sessions
- TROT members logged over 1350 hours of trail work in 2014
- Riding the C&O will continue without charge
- Recent incidents with Animal Control
- Riding in Maryland's Eastern Shore – Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
- Riding in St. Mary's County, especially Greenwell State park and hope for Newtowne Neck State Park