



# Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

[www.trot-md.org](http://www.trot-md.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Maria Schwartz

At this month's TROT board meeting, the board voted to add a "tag line" in our communications. A tag line is something like a "selfie" – in this case, a verbal snapshot we have taken of ourselves to describe our organization. After a great deal of thought, the board agreed on "Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use."

TROT demonstrates this dedication in a variety of ways. In addition to the many TROT rides and events our members have led this year, the number of trail clearing days our member have supported, and the numerous meetings we have attended to ensure we can provide you with the most up-to-date information about activities that could impact our trails, TROT has increased its involvement in issues affecting our local communities. Most recently the board voted to send a letter to the Frederick County Zoning Board of Appeals noting our solidarity with Equestrian Partners in Conservation, the Sugarloaf Alliance, the Frederick County Equine Alliance, and the Central Maryland Saddle Club, in calling to the zoning boards attention our concern about the potential for loud noise from a gun range/facility proposed for a parcel of land abutting Sugarloaf Mountain. While noting that we are not opposed to hunting or gun ranges, TROT is concerned that there are a lot of unanswered questions about this request for a special exception making it inappropriate for the proposed location. (See the additional information about this issue later in the Newsletter.)

We also recently sponsored a young equestrian, Madison Iager, in her quest to represent the State of Maryland at the National Rodeo Finals. Although she didn't come in first, Madison, a 14 year old ninth grader from Woodbine, Md., who was named this year's Miss Maryland High School Rodeo Queen, made a great showing. TROT hopes that the young Maryland trail riders of today will be the stewards of our trails tomorrow.

Please contact any of TROT's board members listed in this newsletter if you would like to become more involved. Upcoming activities include additional trail rides as well as trail clearings, organized fun days, our annual dinner, and participation as members of local and state horse-related organizations.

Happy Trails,

Maria Schwartz, President

## STEP UP TO A NEW POSITION

### TROT area coordinators -- please volunteer!

TROT members are generally knowledgeable about issues and challenges in the areas they ride, but not necessarily about their entire county, so please become a coordinator for your riding area (yourself or with a riding buddy). We will be glad to work with you if you are unsure about how to get started. Please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or 301-604-5619 for this great way to further support your area trails.

Join TROT Today!

<http://trot-md.org/membership.php>

## TROT WISHES A VERY SPEEDY AND COMPLETE RECOVERY TO OUR WONDERFUL FRIEND, NANCY OSGOOD

The following is from Sim Shanks, Nancy's husband

Nancy Osgood, former Newsletter Editor for 6 years and current TROT Secretary/Board Member was thrown from her horse last 28 July and then transported to the Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore. She was diagnosed as having a Traumatic Brain Injury with no other apparent significant injuries. After five days she was moved to the U of MD Rehabilitation & Orthopedic Institute. On 15 August she was allowed to go home, nearly one week earlier than they first predicted.

Many TROT members have inquired about her progress. She is recovering rapidly. For those many TROT members who at one time or another have been diagnosed with the same diagnosis and can appreciate the progress made: She walks the dog on the paths through our near by woods. Completes her daily Sudoku and crossword puzzles, performs her daily exercises suggested by her Therapy team, and is reading novels once again. She does have a double vision problem and uses a walking stick while walking the dog because of it. The problem is expected to resolve itself in 1 to 2 months. Like all others who have entertained this diagnosis, beating it comes only through hard work and supportive friends and family.

Nancy asked that I make the point that she always wears a helmet and, along with her attending physicians, suggested that her injuries would have been far greater, if not fatal, had she not been wearing her helmet. The accident, as all do, came out of the blue and if it were not for her riding companion who responded in a timely and orderly manner, and her helmet the outcome could have been much different.

Nancy and I wish to thank all for your concern, offers of help, and cards.

## REVIVAL OF GUNPOWDER VOLUNTEER MOUNTED PATROL

From Priscilla Huffman

Nine Baltimore area TROT members and friends attended a meeting August 19 held at the Gunpowder Park headquarters in Kingsville, MD to discuss the possibility of reviving the Gunpowder Volunteer Mounted Patrol unit. Ranger Dean Hughes, with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, led the meeting. Dean reviewed some of the history of the mounted patrol, which was started in 1997 at Graham Equestrian Center in Cub Hill, MD. After the success at Gunpowder, volunteer patrols at Patapsco Valley State Park and Fair Hill were started.

The VMP program enables qualified riders to support park rangers and managers throughout Maryland. They patrol a state park on horseback, and are familiar with their assigned patrol area so that they can serve as park ambassador and provide information or directions to landmarks. They keep a watchful eye on the condition of the trails and facilities and report potential problems to park rangers. The VMP provides a valuable role in helping the public enjoy the park.

While the Gunpowder VMP has not been patrolling in the last several years, a group of riders in the Baltimore area are very interested in getting this group active again.

Preparation for the mounted patrol program includes volunteer service hours, some training classes, and an assessment of the suitability of the horse for the types of interactions, obstacles, noises and sights that might be encountered in a public park. The group is currently researching processes from other VMP units in the state, and

plans to have an evening meeting in October to continue developing plans. If you would like to learn more about the Gunpowder Volunteer Mounted Patrol, please contact Priscilla Huffman at [priscillahuffman@verizon.net](mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net) or Ranger Dean Hughes at [dean.hughes@maryland.gov](mailto:dean.hughes@maryland.gov)

## SUGARLOAF GUN RANGE PROPOSAL

From Maria Schwartz, TROT President

(This was written after the July 24 hearing was postponed but before the August 28 hearing.)

As we have mentioned in previous communications, including our web page, newsletter and articles about our organization, TROT was founded in 1980 by a group of 22 riders seeking to save a trail in the Paint Branch Stream Valley of Eastern Montgomery County Maryland. TROT grew as word of its efforts spread and as it became evident that trails throughout the state were in jeopardy. TROT's mission is to preserve existing equestrian trails and establish new trails throughout Maryland and neighboring states. In that vein, TROT is supporting the Sugarloaf community in its opposition to the construction of a proposed outdoor and indoor gun range which would accommodate high powered, automatic weapons, on property immediately abutting Sugarloaf Mountain. This proposed gun range is on Thurston Road in Southern Frederick County and is planned to be in operation 9 AM to 5 PM six days every week. There are a large number of critical, unanswered questions.

Old Line Arsenal, LLC, is requesting a special exception to build this facility. A hearing was scheduled on July 24th at the Courthouse on Winchester Road in Frederick, Md. The TROT board took a vote to send a letter to the Zoning Board opposing the special exception, with one board member opposed and one board member abstaining. Pat Oliva and Pat Merson, both members of TROT and the Frederick community, attended that hearing representing themselves and TROT.

Pat Oliva reported about the hearing, saying that she had never seen anything like it in all her years of attending zoning hearings. Pat wrote: "Horse owners and others who are opposed to this showed up in the hundreds. The hearing on this proposal was cancelled and the meeting room was closed early at the request of the attorneys representing Old Line Arsenal, LLC which was surprised with the unexpected size of the crowd and wished to have more time to prepare to respond to the large number of attendees. There was only one sign up sheet for those who wished to speak, and the number of people who wanted to speak went down and around the block." As Pat left the area, she said that people were still in line waiting to sign in, even when they knew the hearing was rescheduled. "They were proud to stand up and be counted," Pat wrote.

The Sugarloaf Alliance (<http://sugarloaf-alliance.org>) was organized by citizens who are worried about putting a gun range at this particular location. They report that "Old Arsenal claims there will be a state of the art noise control at the large outdoor ranges. Because they will be firing high powered weapons, there is doubt about their noise control. Arsenal is also not limiting the use to 99 people." It was reported by the Alliance that when they met with the owner, the owner gave them details about the classrooms and ranges, stating that there could be 6 classrooms with 35 students in each class, in addition to those using the ranges on the property. The Alliance also reported that: "They selected the 99 number of users to avoid having to address traffic concerns."

From TROT's perspective, the facility as proposed would have a negative impact on ability of trail riders to use the trails or to trailer their horses in this area. The noise issue has not been adequately addressed, and there are also additional question. TROT is concerned that if the tranquility of the area is destroyed, the character of the area may also be destroyed, thus ruining forever an area known for its beautiful trails.

To be clear, TROT is not opposed to gun ranges and this has nothing to do with the pros and cons of guns or hunting. TROT's opposition is focused solely on building the proposed facility at THIS location -- abutting Sugarloaf Mountain in the County's protected "Resource Conservation" District.

TROT will hold publication of the September newsletter in order to provide an update of the hearing that has been rescheduled for August 28 and the continuation hearing on September 2. The Sugarloaf Alliance is the lead organization on this, and their facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/sugarloafalliance>) and/or that of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (<http://mocoalliance.org/2014/07/large-shooting-range-proposed-for-sugarloaf/>) are probably the best places for updates and background.

## NEWS FLASH: APPLICANT WITHDRAWS SUGARLOAF GUN RANGE PROPOSAL

### Tranquility of a beloved venue preserved due to citizen involvement

From Barbara Sollner-Webb

This is an update on the proposed outdoor "shooting range" for high powered automatic weapons in a designated "Resource Conservation" area at the base of Sugarloaf mountain, specifically the large hearings before Frederick's Board of Appeals on whether to grant their needed special exception to the zoning. Citizens had written vast numbers of letters, begged that the applicant provide a noise study, turned out en masse for the hearings, made strong arguments for why this is the wrong location for such a facility, and exposed numerous unjustifiable claims in the finally provided noise study. This enormous outpouring convinced the applicant to withdraw his proposal, delighting the packed room of attendees.

At to the hearing on August 28, many hundreds of people turned out, included TROT members Pat Oliva, Pat Merson, Pat Talbot, Marilyn Miller, Ronnie Martin, myself (and probably many others who I did not see or recognize, as they needed to use multiple overflow meeting halls). After the applicant's team presented their plan and new noise study, there was cross-examination from citizens (many of whom questioned numerous omissions and inaccuracies in the presentation). Then the Board called for public testimony, starting with everyone in favor of the application. After those two (yes, two -- only the applicant and a prospective employee from out-of-state), the Board began calling from the list of several hundred who had signed up to speak in opposition.

These speakers -- many testifying to being life-long NRA members -- were primarily concerned that the noise from high power automatic weapons on the proposed outdoor ranges (open six days a week 9 AM to at least 5 PM) would diminish not only the quality of life of local residents but also the enjoyment of the quarter of a million visitors who come each year to enjoy the tranquility of Sugarloaf mountain. Also, the safety of those who trailer in to ride at Sugarloaf could be jeopardized, should their horses spook, being unaccustomed to heavy weapon fire. When it was after 11 PM (the hearing had started at 1 PM) and less than 50 from that long list had gotten to speak, the Board postponed the hearing until the following week.

This gave time to analyze the applicant's just-presented noise study, which had elicited numerous questions about dubious-sounding claims. The citizens' group (the Sugarloaf Alliance) asked me to analyze this noise study, which turned out to have more holes than Swiss cheese. There are at least a dozen different kinds of misrepresentations/errors/omissions, which all under-represent the likely noise from the actual range. Their compounded effects would likely yield over 30 decibels above (i.e., 1,000 times) the legally admissible noise level! [Folks wanting a copy of this technical analysis should e-mail me [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu).]

At the packed continuation hearing on September 2, before calling from the list of hundreds still signed up to speak, the Board announced that the applicant requested to make a statement. He said he had made a judgment error and was withdrawing his application, to devote the land to agriculture. The cheering citizens welcomed their new farmer neighbor to the community.

Thus, we riders will again be able to enjoy the beautiful Sugarloaf Resource Conservations area, without fearing that barrages of loud automatic weapon gunfire might disturb the tranquillity and spook our horses.

Please note that even though logic was stacked against granting the requested special exception for this Sugarloaf shooting range, the outcome could have been rather different had vigilant local residents not gotten involved and done a yeoman's job of alerting other citizens, and had those citizens not turned out en masse with eloquently persuasive arguments. This is yet another example -- along with the WSSC's horse trails near the Rocky Gorge reservoir and the Fish and Wildlife Service's horse trails at North Tract (see TROT's 2011-2013 newsletters) -- where citizen involvement saved a beloved venue.

## TROT TRAIL RIDES SCHEDULE 2014

From Lisa Troutman

Please come out and enjoy a TROT trail ride, and if possible, sign up and lead a trail ride. 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.

If you plan to participate, please contact the designated ride leader to sign up and learn the specific details 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 and you can always join online. If you need a ride to a TROT event or can offer one please email Marcia Lyons to be listed in an upcoming newsletter. Or contact the ride leader to see if someone from your area can offer you a ride.

## OCTOBER

### LOMH Invitational Ride

DATE: Oct 3 - 5

Fairland Regional Park, Laurel/Burtonsville, MD

DATE: Saturday - Oct 4

RAIN DATE: Saturday - Nov 1

RIDE LEADERS: Barbara Sollner-Webb and Jenn Poole

CONTACT: Barbara at [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or 301-604-5619

Fairland Regional Park is a real treasure (see more information, under the Laurel/Burtonsville area report) that we would like to re-introduce to TROT riders. It has very nice trails, most through pretty woods on gently rolling hills, with easy stream crossings where one can water the horses. Its footing is non-rocky (so fine for barefoot horses), and there is good parking. And it is close in, between Rts 29 and I-95, just south of Rt 198. Come check out this great venue, to add to your list of favorites. We will have an all-walk group and a group that will go somewhat faster in places that permit trotting or even a few canters. After the 2 1/2 hour ride, there will be a pot-luck lunch, so please bring a yummy contribution and a chair.

## Rocky Gorge Watershed Laurel, MD

DATE: Saturday - Oct 11

RAIN DATE: Saturday, Oct 25

RIDE LEADERS: Terry Ledley, Barbara Sollner-Webb,  
Paula Underwood

CONTACT: Barbara at [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or 301-604-5619

After three times being rained out in our spring attempts at a ride along WSSC's beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir, let's try for the fall. This ride starts in West Laurel about 5 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, Paula Underwood 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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To come, BY THURSDAY October 9, you need to give Barbara your name, address, birthdate, and phone number -- because WSSC requires all this info for their mandatory trail passes, which I will go to get for everyone first thing Friday AM (at no cost to you). Without this info, I cannot get the pass for you, so you cannot join on the ride unless you get your own pass independently.

Hope you come to join this ride!

## NOVEMBER

### Anacostia Park

DATE: Saturday - Nov 22

RIDE LEADERS: John Angevine

CONTACT: John at 301-937-0014

Don't miss out. 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 within the beltway so close to downtown DC. The ride may encounter bikes, fishermen, some asphalt, as well as a scenic view of the historic Lincoln Cemetery. Ride leaders will provide water and granola bars.

## DECEMBER

### Lisbon Horse Parade

DATE: Saturday - December 13

## FOND MEMORIES

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of long-time TROT member and beloved equestrian, Lynn Pruitt. Many TROT members have very fond memories of Lynn, including great rides, and she will be greatly missed.

## TRAIL RIDE REPORTS

### Woodstock TROT Ride

Saturday, May 10, 2014

Ride leaders Andrea Caplan and Lisa Troutman  
Report from Lisa Troutman

*(The Editors apologize for not putting this and the next report in the last newsletter.)*



Pictured left to right: Andrea Caplan on Mia, Laury Lobel on Ace, Lisa Troutman on Jay, and Didier Devynck on Boogy. Picture courtesy of Lisa Troutman.

We had a great TROT ride at the Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville, MD, on Saturday May 10. The weather sounded questionable, calling for possible rain. But Friday evening the forecast called for showers in the afternoon, after our ride. So the ride was on! Andrea Caplan, Didier Devynck, Laury Lobel and Lisa Troutman rode for about 2 1/2 hours. This was Didier's first outing with his new horse Boogy. Boogy was wonderful crossing the bridges and keeping a cool head while we trotted and cantered around a couple of fields. Toward the end of the ride, we played around on the new cross country course, taking the horses through the water jump several times. When we got back to the trailer and untacked the horses, the skies opened up. We quickly packed up and left. Fun was had by all. Look for another ride here in November.

### Liberty Reservoir TROT Ride

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Ride leader Mary Prowell  
Report from Lisa Troutman

The Liberty Reservoir trail ride had a beautiful day. Although the turnout was not large, we had a good time walking, trotting and cantering about 9 1/2 miles on the reservoir fire road and through some woods trails. All horses were well behaved and the trails were in fairly good shape considering the winter that we have had. We rode for about 2 1/2 to 3 hours before returning to our trailers and heading for home. The participants on this ride included Pam Howard and a friend who came with her, Amanda, on a Rocky Mountain horse and a TB/Paint cross, Priscilla Huffman on her TB/QH, Erin McCardell rode a nice Morgan, Jeanie Swartz on her gaited mare, and Mary Prowell -- the ride leader -- also on a Morgan. This is a beautiful place to ride. We are so lucky to have so many wonderful places to ride within an hour or less from our barns. Everyone should take advantage of all this area has to offer trail riders. TROT is a good way to see some of these trails and make contacts to come back and ride or join up with someone in another park in the future.

### Agricultural History Farm Park TROT ride

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Ride leader and report from Laury Lobel

Continuing TROT's mid-week riding series, there were four riders today for a lovely ride around the "Ag Park" -- Laury Lobel, Jeani Swartz, Ellen Frank and Sandy Lewis. We had glorious weather and the trails at the Ag Park are in great shape. However, the Percheron trail going northwest toward Gaithersburg after the corn fields (before the bridge and tunnel) is still unpassable for horses because

of a ditch with a pipe running through it. It appears the ditch just needs filling in, and this was reported to Park Police 2 months ago. I will follow up with the Park Manager. We rode for 2 1/2 hours on the loop that goes behind Mill Haven. A terrific new trail has been constructed behind Mill Haven that avoids all the downed trees and ditches. At the conclusion of the ride, we sat in the shade and had lunch together. We were joined at lunch by two other TROT members, Kathy Lipton and Phoebe Black.

### Editors Note on Ag Farm Park Trail Improvements

From Barbara Sollner-Webb

We more recently rode the Ag Farm trails, and they are all in great shape now. We happened to meet their new head maintenance person (a super nice fellow, whose name I unfortunately have misplaced). Evidently the trails had been problematic for so long due to "miscommunication" between two agencies, so his crew went in and fixed everything. When you next ride there, also appreciate their wonderful new bridges, including one to avoid that super muddy stream crossing that had been getting bulldozed worse each year.

## New Market TROT ride

Saturday, July 19

Ride leader and report from Stephanie Cacopardo



Photo provided by Stephanie Cacopardo, kindly taken by a TROT rider

The weather couldn't have been better especially for July. Even the biting flies gave us a brake. We walked through the woods with a few short trot spots. At mid point in the clearing we had our first canter. I looked back at our cantering group to see everyone spaced well apart. All the horses were well behaved and everyone came in smiling. Back in the woods on the way back, we had a special visitor. I said I thought fawns were supposed to "lay and stay" when mom took off to wait her return. Sue D. said "that's teenagers for you; they never listen". This little guy came up to the group and took a few steps to follow. Then when almost home, we did run into bees and had a little drama there. Two horses and riders took a hit but nothing major. Ten minutes from home the four riders who came late caught up with us. Afterwards, everyone took a dip in the pond. And after the swim, we had lots of yummy food. It was a short ride but a good time. I do apologize for turning away a couple of riders. As of the night before the ride there were supposed to be 23 riders, but we wound up only having 19. [Editor's note: while Stephanie writes "only", 19 is a lot of riders!]

## A second New Market TROT Ride

Ride leader Stephanie Cacopardo

Report from Winifred Puddy-Pryor

We had an awesome day with Steff Cacopardo. We missed the TROT ride last week so she was gracious to let us join her today with Diane Puddy Crowe and Phyllis Spoonire Kline. We ended with a swim in the pond. I got off and swam along side Spirit then got back on to ride out. Sierra rolled (posted a video on Facebook) and Duke splashed his face.



Photo provided by Winnie Puddy-Pryor



Photo provided by Stephanie Cacopardo for a similar water frolic after an earlier ride

## Graham Equestrian Center TROT clinic & ride

Saturday, August 2

Clinic and ride leader Jim McDonald

Report report from Priscilla Huffman, who arranged for the event

The weather has been great for riding this summer, and our TROT ride on August 2 at Graham Equestrian Center in Cub Hill, Maryland (Baltimore County) was no exception. This was a full day of events, starting with a clinic in the morning led by trainer Jim McDonald. Participants were Lisa Troutman, Mary Prowell, Karen Ferris and Priscilla Huffman. Jim covered riding basics such as turn on the forehand and turn on the haunches, and each rider had a chance to work on individual requests. The clinic was followed by a practice ride on the new obstacle course that has been built on the property. Several riders who had signed up for the afternoon ride came early to enjoy lunch with the group. Then, Nancy Phillips from GEC led 12 riders along the trails on the Gunpowder park. It was a delightful ride of about 2 1/2 hours, mostly at a walk, which included beautiful views of the river. The trails have been well-maintained, and are a pleasure to ride.



Photos provided by Lisa Troutman

Note that Graham Equestrian Center is part of Gunpowder Falls State Park, and the trails from the property, as well as the obstacle trail, are open to the public. Learn more about Graham and view upcoming events at <http://www.grahameq.org/content/welcome-graham-equestrian-center>.

## Fair Hill TROT ride planned for August 10

Ride leader Erin McCardell

Unfortunately, this ride had to be cancelled, but may be rescheduled at a later date. Erin also kindly offers that she'd be glad to show anyone who wants around Fair Hill. Contact her at [erin@hilltopfarminc.com](mailto:erin@hilltopfarminc.com) or text to 410-920-8228.

## TROT'S TRAIL WORK SESSIONS

(Kindly organized by Amy Kimble)

### Upcoming work sessions:

\*\* Please notify Amy Kimble (301-748-8310 or [AmyHkimble@aol.com](mailto:AmyHkimble@aol.com)) that you are coming, so we can have tools etc. available; and please check online <http://trot-md.org> for any changes or added work days. \*\*

It is great that riders are working on maintaining their local trails while they are out riding -- as we hope everyone is doing -- but it would be swell to have more TROT members turn out for the group work sessions. Due to the disappointingly low turnout at many of these, work sessions will now be arranged in coordination with other groups. Upcoming TROT work days will be posted on the TROT website <http://trot-md.org>, with some summarized below:

In September we will be participating in an important, major project -- **refurbishing the barn at Camp Green Top in Catocтин Mountain Park**. We can use lots of volunteers for many different jobs. If you are skilled in building, we could greatly use your input. The work will be done in conjunction with some FFA students and maybe additional community-minded youths. Anyone interested should please contact Amy to arrange times, tasks, tools, etc. And then please see the TROT website, where the schedule will be posted.

**October 12th (Sunday)** - work at Morgan Run (9 AM to noon). This event is in conjunction with the Carroll County Equestrian Council. Please notify Amy that you are coming, so there will be available tools.

**October 16th (Thursday)** - planned work session in Patuxent State Park (off Rt. 97). This will be in conjunction with TROT member Suzi Young and her 20 students. TROT members who can make an unmounted weekday work session at this great venue are most welcome; please notify Amy that you are coming, so there will be available tools.

Given the recent multi-user interest in improving the trails at Patuxent State Park (see previous TROT newsletter), we hope that especially the local TROT members will want to help. To this end, Amy would like to put together a brief training session. Please let her know if you are interested.

**ANY OTHER TIME** that someone has a free weekend day in which they are willing to work on trails, please contact Amy, as she usually knows of one or more groups heading out to work on trails.

### Trails you find needing work:

If you note that any trails need work, please notify Amy Kimble ([Amyhkimble@aol.com](mailto:Amyhkimble@aol.com) or 301-748-8310) so we can coordinate a work day.

### Recording your trail work hours (includes trimming while riding):

Please send to Amy [Amyhkimble@aol.com](mailto:Amyhkimble@aol.com) all the work hours you have completed so far this year. Note that this is not only the work you go in to do on foot but also the time you spend trimming twigs, moving branches, etc. while you are out riding your equine buddy.

Please include the date/dates, location, how long you worked, and whether you were mounted or on foot. Showing this involvement is important for funding of the trail system.

## TRAIL WORK SUCCESS



Photos provided by Amy Kimble

At a multi-group work session in late June, TROT member Amy Kimble, along with Bonnie Bell, Dave Magill and many others, built a wonderful 20 foot bridge on the Seneca Bluffs Trail in Seneca Creek State Park. Amy reports that it was a long day that was drizzling, so at least it was not real hot, and she now feels that with help she could build a bridge for TROT up to DNR's standards.

## PLEASE REPORT ALL YOUR TRAIL WORK TIME!

Many TROT members do significant amounts of clipping and trail clearing as they ride along, and some go out on foot to do larger projects -- yet most consider this as typical for diligent trail riders and thus do not track or report their efforts. However, it is important to report these trail clearing/maintenance hours because they help justify greater funding for the trails; plus it is good to document the efforts of TROT members. Please track your time [time working = (estimate how long you rode) x (estimate of what fraction of the time you were active with a clipper in your hand) + (all other time you devoted to trail work)], and report it and the venue to Amy Kimble, TROT's Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator [Amyhkimble@aol.com](mailto:Amyhkimble@aol.com). Amy will notify the appropriate authority for the area where you put in your volunteer hours. THANK YOU!

## **Baltimore Area**

From Priscilla Huffman , Baltimore area TROT representative

### **Baltimore area meeting at the Amazing Grace Equestrian Center, July 22, 2014**

Thank you to Sandy Weinreich of Amazing Grace Equestrian Center for hosting a Baltimore area meeting on July 22, 2014. There was a total of 35 attendees! Our guests and speakers provided some fresh insights and hopeful visions for the future of trails in Maryland.

Ross Peddicord, the Executive Director, Maryland Horse Industry Board, highlighted some current initiatives of the MHIB, including the Experience Centers, the Horse Pals program, and the 2014 Maryland Horse Forum on August 7. Learn more about these programs [http://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/horse\\_board.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/horse_board.aspx).

Jennifer Cashell, Park Ranger, Gunpowder Falls State Park, introduced our main speaker (Dan Hudson, following paragraph). Jen is one of only two park rangers in the Hereford section of GFSP. She explained that due to the weather-related park damage over the winter, park management has a huge job trying to remove fallen trees that are reported, as well as handle their many other duties and responsibilities. Several attendees expressed how unfortunate it is that these downed trees are closing the trails.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** Since the meeting, Jen has coordinated the clearing of several large trees based on a list that TROT provided. Our thanks to Jen and her team for all their efforts! They have done a great job. These trails are now open again to riders, hikers and runners.

Dan Hudson, Trail Manager, Maryland Park Service, MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR), was the guest speaker. Dan reviewed the scope of his new position with DNR as trail manager, which includes all natural surface, multi-use trails in the state - a daunting job! Dan emphasized that we need to change the mind-set about trails, and regard them as a facility, just as we do a building. He discussed the concept of trail sustainability to include not just physical sustainability, but a broader perspective of social and economic sustainability as well. For the first few years, Dan will be involved in helping create long-range plans for the state park trail systems.

Sandy Weinreich, new owner of Amazing Grace Equestrian Center, gave us a tour of these impressive facilities. Formerly a world-renowned Arabian horse training and stud farm, it is now a state-of-the-art equine facility that includes an indoor and outdoor arena, large stalls, and four wash stalls and tacking areas. Learn more about the facility at <http://www.ridewithamazinggrace.com/home.html>.

### **Guard Rail installed on Deer Park Rd**

Deer Park Rd, near Finksburg, which is a popular area for Liberty Reservoir horse trailer parking, has recently had a guard rail installed next to a new tower under the power lines. Trailer parking is now limited to only one side of the road. The guard rail was installed as hazard protection at the request of Baltimore Gas & Electric, which has an easement on the land. Liberty Reservoir watershed is managed by Baltimore City, and divides Carroll and Baltimore Counties.

### **Gunpowder Volunteer Mounted Patrol**

A group of Baltimore area riders is interested in reviving the Volunteer Mounted Patrol and a planning meeting is scheduled August 19 with Dean Hughes of DNR. (See report on page 2.)

### **Trail clearing**

A trail clearing date is being scheduled for late August or early September to continue clipping the Hereford area trails.

## **Frederick County**

From Patricia Merson, Frederick County TROT representative

On July 21, 2014, Amy Kimble and Pat Merson organized an area meeting at the Wegmans Store in Frederick. Fifteen people were in attendance.

### **Gun range at Sugarloaf**

Doug and Peggy Kaplan were guest speakers, discussing the proposed gun club trying to be established near Sugarloaf Mountain. [See separate article on this topic, on pages 2-3 .] Some of our TROT members live and have businesses in this very lovely area as well as many more ride on this mountain. The special exception meeting that took place at Winchester Hall on July 24th was postponed until August 28th, to the disappointment of the over 300 people who showed up.

### **Upcoming work at Catoctin**

After the Kaplans finished speaking, Amy Kimble discussed the plans for repairing the barn roof at Catoctin Mountain Park. There will also be a connector trail made as well as trail maintenance done on the existing trails. If anyone would like more information on this new project or would like to help please contact Amy Kimble at [amykimble@aol.com](mailto:amykimble@aol.com) or Pat Merson at [lilgreyhrs@aol.com](mailto:lilgreyhrs@aol.com).

## **St. Mary's County**

Kathy Glockner, St. Mary's County TROT representative

### **Newtowne Neck State Park Public Sessions this Month**

The Department of Natural Resources will hold an Open House for the public on Saturday, September 27 from 12 noon to 3 pm at the Newtowne Neck State Park located in Compton, Maryland. During the Open House, members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee and DNR representatives will be on hand to talk to guests about the park and provide information about the rich cultural heritage of the park. Computers will be set up for the public to complete a survey to enable DNR to learn more about the public's current use of the park, and ideas for future uses. The survey will be accessible through the DNR website on the Newtowne Neck State Park page (URL below), and will be open for two weeks after the open house for public input.

Also on September 27, from 5 to 7 pm, there will be a design charrette for the public, at the College of Southern Maryland Leonardtown Campus auditorium.

Equestrians are encouraged to attend one or both sessions to voice their opinions about the park's future. To learn more about the park, log onto the DNR website at <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/newtowne.aspx>.

## **Laurel/Burtonsville/Spencerville**

From Barbara Sollner-Webb, area co-coordinator along with Jenn Poole

### **Great trails are back at Fairland Regional Park**

Many of you may remember the trails at Fairland Regional Park, which straddles Montgomery and Prince George's Counties (between Rt 29 and I-95, just south of Rt 198). These are mainly pretty woods trails, traversing hills that are not too steep and with ample flatter areas plus some open swaths that beg for cantering. The footing is good (non-rocky), there are plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses, and there is almost unlimited trailer parking off Greencastle Road in Montgomery County and limited trailer parking off Old Gun Powder Road in Prince George's County.

For decades, Mary Angevine had been TROT's dedicated liaison with Fairland Regional Park, and during this time, TROT held numerous

enjoyable trail rides there. Also during this time, a lot of great trail reconstruction was done in this park, in which TROT partnered with MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, the mountain biking group who Amy Kimble coordinates a lot of trail work with and who is now taking the lead in restoring the trails at Patuxent River State Park -- see July 2014 TROT newsletter). That work was arranged with Naomi Manders, who was then the trails head for Montgomery County Parks. Many work-sessions resulted in lovely new "sustainable" trails that were much appreciated. But later came an unfortunate period when trees that fell to block the trail were not being cleared, and I believe most riders lost interest in this venue.

On starting the Laurel/Burtonsville/Spencerville area TROT coordinator position, we decided to check out these trails, which I did in multiple outings, with (1) Nancy Osgood and Laury Lobel, (2) Jenn and Debby Poole, Terry Ledley, and Denis Webb, and (3) John Angevine. I am thrilled to report that these trails are again super, as someone (MORE?) has beautifully cleared the trails -- a wonderful surprise to us. Those who had not ridden there before were delighted to learn of this "new" swell venue of about 15 miles, located so close in.

To introduce TROT members to these trails, which hopefully will become one of their regular rides, Laurel/Burtonsville/Spencerville area coordinators Barbara Sollner-Webb and Jenn Poole are organizing a Fairland trail ride, on October 4. Please plan to come (see trail ride listings, above).

## Carroll County

From Judy Thacher, Carroll County coordinator

On Tuesday August 26th 2014 the second Carroll County TROT "meet and greet" was held in Sykesville at the home of Kyle Jossi. Judy Thacher, Carroll County Coordinator, and Kyle, a former Board member, hosted the meeting with 15 TROT members in attendance. Board President Maria Schwartz and TROT Treasurer Susan Railey, Carroll County TROT member Madison Iager, Miss Maryland High School Rodeo Queen and her mother, Elisha, also attended.



Pictured left to right at the Carroll County meeting: Theone Andrew, Randy Hulse (in back), Elisha Iager, Howard Lanham, Madison Iager, Joanne Socha. Photo by Marty Lanham provided by Judy Thacher.

A welcome to all and group introductions began the meeting. Then President Maria Schwartz's updated about what's been happening over the last two months at the TROT Board meetings and discussed that citizens' groups (the Frederick County Alliance and the Sugarloaf Alliance) had reached out to TROT for support in opposing an application filed with the Frederick County Board of Zoning Appeals for a proposed gun range and training facility near Sugarloaf Mountain, as it would impact the peace and tranquility of the nearby equestrian trails and the local community. [See separate articles on this issue, above.] The meeting agenda also included discussion about TROT's membership drive which starts in October 2014, participation in the Harrison Mule Days (October 3-5, 2014 in Mt. Airy), attending and participating in the Lisbon Christmas Parade (December 13, 2014), TROT's Annual meeting and Silent Auction (February 21, 2015 in Mt Airy), and the Equine Affaire (November 13-16, 2014 in Springfield,

MA). Under "Other Items for Discussion", a TROT member brought up the current status of the 2014 Carroll County Master Plan, which the Carroll County Planning Commission has sent out for 60-Day Review; the Department of Land Use, Planning & Development will hold five Citizen Outreach meetings for public participation and questions. Concern about the future of existing equestrian trails in the County was discussed. Also meeting attendees raised several local issues, suggesting the TROT Board and others become involved.



Picture clockwise from lower left at the Carroll County meeting: Madison Iager, Elisha Iager, Judy Thacher, Kyle Jossi, Joanne Socha, Randy Hulse, Sissy Alstatt, Marty Lanham. Photos provided by Judy Thacher

The highlight of the meeting clearly was a very informative, laugh filled and fun discussion by Madison Iager and her mother about their experiences at the Miss Maryland Rodeo Queen state competition as well as at the National level. Madison has been a 4-H'er for many years and is actively involved at the family farm. Madison, as a 4-H'er, previously competed in rodeo events such as Goat Tying, Barrels and Pole Bending. She also raises and shows pigs, goats, sheep and dairy cattle as well as competes on her mule, Gato. [Note, this visit does not preclude the other two TROT events that Madison has offered to participate in, as noted elsewhere in this Newsletter.]

The meeting ended with overwhelming approval of and a request to continue to have Carroll County TROT meetings. The next meeting will be held at Kyle's house on October 28, 2014 at 7 PM.

## Howard County

From Susan Gray, prior TROT board member from Howard County and a well-known land use attorney

### Update on changes made last year to Howard County's Zoning Regulations

Many of you may remember that last July, horse and other livestock owners in Howard County found out at the last minute that the County had proposed zoning changes which would have severely restricted the ability to keep livestock on small farms in the County. Among the proposed changes were ones which eliminated keeping many types of livestock on small farms; limited the number of horses and ponies that could be kept per acre; limited the size of the total "footprint" of Ag structures (including riding rings, heavy weather pads, barns, etc.) to be "subordinate and incidental" to one's house; and imposed "setbacks" on these Ag "structures." Led by TROT members, and with only several days notice, more than 70 small farmers and horse owners "marched" on the County office buildings and then testified against these changes. Subsequently, the County Executive (Ken Ulman), the County Council, and the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) all promised that these restrictions (except the "setbacks") would not be put in place for any farms, except those under three acres in size. For the most part these promises were kept. However, an important one was not. Despite the assurances to the contrary, the County Council approved the requirement that the total "footprint" of Ag structures had to be "incidental and subordinate" to the "principle" use of the property. Although we did get heavy weather pads, outdoor riding rings and many run-in sheds excluded from the definition of a "structure", all barns, indoor arenas, tractor storage building, etc. are included. This phrase does not impose specific square foot limitations on the total size of outbuildings, but allows DPZ broad

discretion in determining how big one's outbuilding can be and still be "subordinate and incidental" to one's residence.

Fearing that the regulation could be used to try to drive small farmers and horse owners out of the County, last fall a number of TROT members and other horse owners banded together with other members of the Howard County community to take this regulation and others to referendum, so they could be rejected or approved by voters on the November 2014 ballot. More than the required number of signatures was obtained but the Board of Election threw the referendum out without explanation. This is still in litigation.

Note that this fear was not unwarranted, as these new restrictions have become a huge problem to local farmer Scott Shearer. A number of years ago, Scott bought and restored Hi-Land Farm, an old dairy farm on Highland Road in Highland. Scott now boards horses and raises other animals, as well as keeping some historic fire trucks in his barns. The County is now trying to force him to tear down several old barns based on this new regulation. You can support Scott and voice your strong dissatisfaction at this regulation by attending a hearing before County officials on September 11, 2014, on whether the barns have to go. For more info call Scott at: 410 303 3595.

You may also want to remember who put this regulation in place at the November elections.

## REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

TROT wants to provide our members up-to-date information on trail riding and trail maintenance activities in MD and nearby PA, VA, WV, DC and DEL, but to do this, we need your help. When YOU hear of changes to riding venues, new riding or horse camping areas, relevant legislation, or other useful information, please inform Barbara Sollner-Webb [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or 301-604-5619 for inclusion in our newsletter. You don't need to write an article (although that would be nice) but we are counting on YOUR input. Please!

## CURRENT INFORMATION ON TROT ACTIVITIES

### TROT website:

[www.trot-md.org](http://www.trot-md.org)

Harold Goldstein, Webmaster

### TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

[www.trot-md.org/newsletters.php](http://www.trot-md.org/newsletters.php)

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator

[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu), 301-604-5619

### Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo group:

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

### Facebook page

TROT Trail Riders of Today

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

## OTHER INTERESTING AREA NEWS: ARTICLE IN THE EQUIRY

The Equiry just published a fascinating News & Views, also on how laws are sometimes not followed, potentially affecting equestrians and other citizens. The article -- entitled "Senator Brinkley stands up for 'Due Process'" -- applauds the Maryland Horse Council for initially pointing out a "potential circumvention of due process" in how DNR was arranging to introduce "expanded hunting in Maryland's four western counties", and it "applauds Senator David Brinkley for standing up for our constitutional right to due process of law". Read it at <http://equiry.com/blog/>; posted August 13, 2014.

## EQUESTRIAN EVENTS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

### TROT Annual Dinner

**Saturday, February 21, 2015 - 6:00 PM**

1008 Twin Arch Rd, Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Plan to bring yourself and your friends to this fun annual potluck.

And please start saving your gently used tack and other items for the silent auction.

### Maryland Horse World Expo

**Friday, January 16 - Sunday, January 18, 2015**

Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD 21093

[We'll be looking for volunteers closer to the date!]

### Audit a dressage clinic for free

**Sat. & Sun., October 25 and 26, 2014, 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM.**

Audit a Betsy Steiner dressage clinic (for free) and visit Peace Of Mind Dressage's open house, at Woodvale Farms in Frederick, MD. For information and sign up, go to <http://www.peaceofminddressage.com>.

## MARYLAND HORSE FORUM

From Barbara Sollner-Webb

TROT members were among hundreds of horse industry participants who came to the Maryland Horse Forum on Thursday, August 7th, at the Prince George's Equestrian Center Show Place Arena, to consider the future of Maryland's horse industry. This forum is held every five years, by the Maryland Horse Council and the Maryland Horse Industry Board, with this year's theme: "Celebrating Our Successes, Planning for the Future." Plenary speakers included Patti Colbert, chair of the American Horse Council national marketing alliance who addressed how to keep the younger generation interested in horses; Todd Gralla, internationally recognized designer of horse parks including the recent Equestrian Olympic venues in London; and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, who stressed the value of horses to Maryland. Parallel break-out sessions addressed multiple varied topics. Probably of most interest to trail riders was a lively discussion about the strengths and shortcoming of Maryland's trails (with suggestions being taken back to the Governor) and an update on the previously tabled Maryland Horse Park (which is now envisioned to involve upgrading multiple existing equestrian venues across the State). Among the many booths, TROT's smartly designed yellow and black display stood out nicely. TROT member Jacquie Cowan did the yeoman's job of manning the booth, although Ron MacNab and Barbara Sollner-Webb also told participants about the virtues of TROT.

## NEW MEMBERS REPORT

From Pat A. Talbott, Membership Registrar

Welcome to our eight new members since our last newsletter. They are listed (alphabetically) along with their county. This brings to 50 the new members for 2014.

**Virginia Jordan** . . . . . Harford County, MD  
**Nancy Philipp** . . . . . Baltimore County, MD  
**Annette Pillon** . . . . . Frederick County, MD  
**Nancy Potts** . . . . . Baltimore County, MD  
**Sue Rosoff** . . . . . Baltimore County, MD  
**Karl Schreder** . . . . . Frederick County, MD  
**Deborah Wagner** . . . . . Montgomery County, MD  
**Cheryl Wist** . . . . . Carroll County, MD

We invite your participation and support of our activities which offer enjoyable riding and the maintenance of our great Trail Riding environment.

## BOARD MEETING REPORT - SUMMARY

### July, 2014

Summarized from draft minutes taken by Nancy Osgood, TROT Secretary

The monthly meeting of the TROT Officers and Board was held on July 1, 2014 at the home of Nancy Osgood and Sim Shanks. All officers and board members except two attended the meeting, either in person or by telephone, as well as several other active TROT members.

Reports were provided by Pat Talbott (Membership Report) and Lisa Troutman (Trail Rides Report).

There was considerable discussion on how to increase trail maintenance participation by TROT members and how to learn about all the trail maintenance that we are certain TROT members do on their own but do not report. This information will be useful for several ends, including that greater volunteer hours generally translate into increased funding for trails in the area parks. Thus, it is important that the hours that all TROT members spend trail clearing -- including clipping while one rides (estimating from the approximate percentage of your riding time spent clipping) -- are reported to a central point of contact, who will be Amy Kimble. We should continue to urge all TROT members to report their trail work. It was noted that major trail work had been done by volunteers at Pretty Boy Reservoir, and if by TROT members it would be great to record this. The Central Maryland Saddle Club (CMSC) has also agreed to participate in trail clearings, and Butch Myers, their president, kindly offered to assist with major trail clearing, including chain-sawing.

### County Coordinator Reports

**Frederick County:** Pat Merson reported that Pat Oliva was selected, due to her expert credentials in trail design, construction and maintenance, to be on a Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee that will address trails.

**Baltimore Area:** (including Baltimore County and city). Priscilla Huffman discussed several items, including the Baltimore Area group's upcoming July meeting at Amazing Grace Equestrian Center. It will be announced through TROT's Constant Contact. [See report of the event, above.]

**Carroll County:** Judy Thacher reported that she and Kyle Jossi are working on a date for the next area TROT meeting, perhaps in August or September. They have also met a new member who would like to host a meeting.

**Laurel/Burtonsville/Spencerville area:** Barbara Sollner Webb and Jen Poole, coordinators of this new position, reported on the "meet and greet" for area riders that Luanne Levens and Debbie Poole had arranged at Periwinkle Farm (a report of which was already included in the July newsletter). About 25 people attended. .

There was also considerable discussion about the trails in Fairland Park, formerly coordinated by long-time TROT member Mary Angevine and now by Barbara and Jenn. Some members did not know that horse trails existed there. We plan to check out these trails (that TROT and others had wonderfully reconstructed years ago but later got in bad shape), and if blocked, work to get re-opened, or if open, work to publicize.

### Old and New Business

**Judged Pleasure Ride:** We discussed holding a JPR, and then decided it may be better to hold a "non-judged pleasure ride" ("Judged Pleasure Clinic"). There could be a coach at each obstacle to offer suggestions, but when other riders are waiting, there should be a time limit (3 minutes?). Perhaps a vendor could supply food. Previously, the board had decided that the JPR would not be primarily a fund-raiser, so this fun event could be minimal cost or free for all TROT riders. There are about nine existing obstacles. Jean Cooper, Laury Lobel, Jen Poole and Jeff Dwyer will look further into this possible event, potentially at Jeff Dwyer's farm (Ebb Tide Farm on the Dairy Farm outside Annapolis, where the JPR was to be held last year), that already has a number of useful natural obstacles, possibly in October. (Note: Due to delays in getting State approval, this event has been postponed until the spring.)



Madison Iager, the first Maryland High School Rodeo Queen.  
Photo from Jeff Dwyer

**Youth encouragement:** TROT is sponsoring a young 4H rider, Madison Iager (see photo), the first Maryland High School Rodeo Queen. From Woodbine, she rides a mule and is going to compete in Nationals. Maryland Horse Industry Board gave her \$1000, and TROT \$500. She is very grateful for our support, and has committed to help us spread the word about TROT, including having our logo prominently on her trailer, having a TROT saddle pad, and offering to current and potential TROT members a presentation and demonstration. This could be a good way to acquaint equestrian-oriented youths with TROT. To further encourage youth involvement with TROT, we could invite 4H-ers and others on our trail rides, possibly giving a one-day membership, pending acceptance by TROT's insurance.

**Patuxent River State Park:** TROT should be involved in the assessment of the Patuxent River State Park trails (see previous newsletter), but wants more information before committing financial resources.

**Membership Campaign:** Because membership numbers so are important, including assuring the ears of elected officials, we would like to encourage new members. Folks who newly join in October, November and December receive those months as well as all of 2015 for a single year fee.

**Newsletter Header:** We want the Newsletter header to include a summary of TROT's mission -- that we are for preserving and making new trails which are sustainable (or environmentally sound). The complete mission statement is in the Membership Handbook and in the By-Laws, but a recently used summary lacked the sustainability aspect.

**Constant Contact:** Sim Shanks currently issues messages via Constant Contact, primarily about upcoming rides, and would like someone to take over this function and/or decide if it is worth the service's fees to continue.

**Meeting idea:** It was noted that TROT used to have a parade team, of which Terry Ledley has films that her husband Bob made. It was suggested that these old films of the parades should be shown at the annual meeting.

## August, 2014

Summarized from draft minutes taken by Jean Cooper,  
Acting TROT Secretary

The monthly meeting of the TROT Officers and Board was held August 5, 2014 at the farm of Jeff Dwyer, Ebttide Stables. All officers and board members attended except Nancy Osgood (see above), either in person or by telephone, as well as several other active TROT members.

There were a Treasurer's Report provided by Susan Railey, a Membership Report provided by Pat Talbott, a Trail Rides Report, provided in writing by Lisa Troutman, and a Trail Work Report from Amy Kimble and Pat Merson (also discussed in the Frederick report).

There was considerable discussion on wearing riding helmets (possibly on our minds especially since Nancy Osgood's helmet may recently have saved her life!). Although the organized TROT rides require our riders to wear helmets (including for our insurance), what happens when someone organizes a ride for both TROT and another organization that does not require helmets? One view was that if the non-helmet-wearing riders belong to this other organization and are covered under their insurance, TROT can only encourage them to wear helmets.

### County/Area Coordinator Report

**Frederick County:** The County coordinator Pat Merson reported on a TROT Frederick area meeting on July 21. She discussed the proposed gun range planned for the Sugarloaf Mountain area, including the very large number of people who showed up to testify at the hearing which was so unexpected that it was not manageable, causing the attorneys for the applicant to request and obtain a postponement of the hearing until August 28, 2014. [See separate article on this topic.] The Frederick TROT members also discussed rebuilding the roof at Catocin Mountain. [See notice under Upcoming work sessions.]

**Baltimore Area:** Coordinator Priscilla Huffman reported on the last Baltimore area TROT meeting, July 22 at Amazing Grace Equestrian Center in Parkton, with 35 attendees and 3 guest speakers. [See report on this topic under the County Coordinator reports.] Although Jennifer Cashell, Hereford area park ranger for Gunpowder Falls State Park, had explained why downed trees in Gunpowder State Park were not being cleared more quickly, with only two rangers for many duties in a very large park, happily the following week she reported that the trails would be cleared and asked for TROT's help in clipping. Priscilla

also reported on the clinic and trail ride offered by Jim McDonald of Graham Equestrian Center on August 2 [see report on this under the County Coordinator reports] and on Baltimore County reviving the Mounted Patrol in Gunpowder State Park, with a meeting planned for August 19 [see article on this topic above].

**Laurel/Burtonsville area:** Area coordinators Barbara Sollner-Webb and Jenn Poole reported checking out the trails in Fairland Park, along with board members Nancy Osgood, Laury Lobel, and Terry Ledley, and others, and being thrilled at their great condition. All the previously downed trees on the Montgomery side had been removed (maybe by members of MORE, the mountain bike club). Barbara also met with the maintenance head for the Prince George County side of the park, who is very helpful and suggested a good solution for a short inappropriate section. [See separate note on this venue and on TROT's upcoming ride to introduce members to the Fairland trails.]

### Old and New Business

**Judged Pleasure Clinic:** The Judged Pleasure Clinic is held up because we don't have a date, as the farm is in negotiation with Anne Arundel County for its contract..

**TROT encouraging youth equestrian involvement:** TROT co-sponsored Madison Lager, this year's Maryland High School Rodeo winner, to compete in the 4H National High School Rodeo Finals. Madison placed 24th out of 50 at the 4H National High School Rodeo, demonstrating her ability and competitive edge, since this is the first year that Maryland has participated in this event, while other states regularly sponsor entrants. Madison has agreed to attend two TROT events in return for TROT's financial support. The TROT board has been discussing possible venues including inviting her to be a guest speaker at the TROT annual dinner (February 21, 2015); presenting a demo to include younger people, and possibly coordinating with 4H; attending our "Judged Pleasure clinic"; and/or maybe inviting Madison and other 4H members to join us on a TROT ride. We will keep you posted.

**Patuxent River State Park trails:** Note that the Equiery carried an article on this topic.

TROT's "tag line" (summary of mission statement) This was discussed (see President's message above).

**TROT's response to Sugarloaf gun range proposal:** Many issues were discussed, including: the great number of unanswered questions; how Sugarloaf Mountain (to which vast numbers of people go for its tranquility and to commune with nature) would be affected by the sounds from an abutting range for high powered automatic weapons being used possibly 7 to 12 hrs/day, 6 days/week; the TROT members who live very near-by and fear the noise will diminish their way of life and house values; but some cautioned against attacking and alienating other sports.

**Future events:** Priscilla Huffman volunteered to coordinate Horse World Expo but asked for someone else to coordinate the TROT annual dinner. The next board meeting, due to Labor Day, will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at the home of Br. Roger Nelson.

## RIDING THE SPECTACULAR ROCKY GORGE TRAIL

From Barbara Sollner-Webb

[The following is based on an article the Maryland Horse Council asked me to write for the on-line horse riding publication, Equitrekking <http://www.equitrekking.com/articles/entry/horseback-riding-in-marylands-spectacular-rocky-gorge-trail/>, which was introduced by noting how this history will hopefully encourage equestrians to play an active role in keeping trails open.]

Our area has numerous great trail riding venues, but my favorite is a magnificent 18-mile route through the woods that border the Rocky

Gorge Reservoir on the Patuxent River. It is a pristine, hidden treasure, half way between the metropolises of Baltimore and Washington DC, on land owned by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC, which provides water to the surrounding counties and has kindly permitted environmentally respectful riding there).

### The Trail

Most of the trail diagonally traverses lovely wooded hillsides, but it also has some flat and a few open sections, all on non-rocky footing. There are ample stream crossings to water the horses and almost continuous views of the pretty reservoir. Enhancing the riding experience, in the summer the trail is largely shaded, impressively bug-free, and has pretty flowering plants. One frequently sees heron and deer, and occasionally eagles, foxes and other neat wildlife.



Jenn Poole and Denis Webb on some of the many trail sections with a lovely view of the reservoir. Photos from Barbara Sollner-Webb

See a map of the trail at <http://www.wsscwater.com/image/Communications/RockyGorge-2013.jpg>. There is ample parking at their Supplee Lane lot (eastern entrance of the trail, in West Laurel, only 5 minutes off I-95) and fine parking for a few trailers in the middle of the trail in the circular turn-around at the end of Brogden Road (in Spencerville) and at their Ednor Road lot (in north Silver Spring), plus adequate parking on Tucker Road (western entrance of the trail, in Ashton).

Importantly, last year for the first time, the trail was also opened for hiking and bird watching. And as before, the reservoir remains open for boating and fishing. So when you come to ride, bring along your non-equestrian family members and friends.

However, to enjoy this venue, one needs a trail pass (free for over 64 and under 16; otherwise \$6/day or \$70/season). Information on obtaining these passes and WSSC's use regulations is at <http://www.wsscwater.com/home/jsp/content/watershed.faces#permitfees>. Please use this trail only when the ground is dry.



Founding TROT member Terry Ledley, on this trail that WSSC earlier dedicated to her, as "The Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail". Nancy Osgood is further away on the trail, which is blazed in orange and WSSC flagged with green when they re-opened it last year.

### An Example of How Equestrians Can Work Together to Retain Endangered Riding Venues

Being able to still use this magnificent WSSC-Rocky Gorge trail is a great tribute to equestrian tenacity and persuasion, because it had been closed, and only through our extensive efforts was the trail re-opened just last year. After many past decades where WSSC

generously let equestrians ride through the forest abutting their reservoir, three years ago they closed this negligibly eroded trail. [This occurred after a small anti-horse contingent erroneously convinced upper management that the riding trail generated a large fraction of the reservoir's sediment.] This trail closing generated great public outcry, including testimony from hundreds of caring equestrians and other sympathetic citizens. We were greatly helped by strong support from numerous elected officials and members of the media (newspaper and TV) who we had taken to see the trail's virtual lack of erosion, despite decades of riding. Citizens presented calculations showing that less than 1/10,000 of the reservoir's sediment could have come from the trail as well as evidence that the riders have helped WSSC in numerous ways.

After a large outside study that WSSC contracted issued their report that the equestrian trail posed no environmental problem for the reservoir, WSSC announced re-opened of the trail. However, there was one final skirmish, when they decided to require riders to collect and carry out all horse droppings from the entire ride. This again elicited a vast public outcry (including evidence that no other woods trail-riding venue nation-wide had such a requirement and it would serve no health benefit). Happily, WSSC re-open their trail to normal riding. Their reorganized watershed group is most helpful to equestrians, including their kindly removed the enormous number of trees that had come down to block sections of the trail during the years without maintenance. And we have great rapport, including that we are working with them to better blaze and GPS map the trail.



Long-time TROT member Cathy Diamond and others on a TROT ride. WSSC staff cut hundreds of downed trees to reopen blocked sections of trail.

So do come out and enjoy riding this gorgeous WSSC/Rocky Gorge trail, a celebration of the equestrian spirit. And hopefully this trail history may serve as an inspiration for others whose nondestructive trail riding venues get shut down for "progress", showing that logic and public pressure from large numbers (especially when they include influential individuals) can be a winning combination.

## TROT LOGO WEAR

### Show your support

Show your support for your YOUR riding club by wearing TROT Logo Wear. And you can conveniently shop for your favorite TROT Logo Wear, as well as other desired items such as mugs, saddle pads, etc. that you would like to emblazon with our club's logo, even ordering in your pajamas!

Say It! Graphics, owned and operated by TROT member Chrissy Jongezoon, offers a wide range of high quality reasonably priced clothing and other accessories emblazoned with the TROT logo by screen printing and embroidery.

You can order 24/7 at [www.sayitgraphics.com](http://www.sayitgraphics.com), or e-mail Chrissy at [web@sayitgraphics.net](mailto:web@sayitgraphics.net), or call at 301-829-5959. As an additional incentive, without raising the price, Say It! Graphics donates 15% of the purchase price to TROT!

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## COMMITTEES

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Vacant - Looking for a volunteer

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Vacant - Looking for a volunteer

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#### Wicomico County:

Shawn McEntee (410) 749-2665 [smc1159@verizon.net](mailto:smc1159@verizon.net)



## 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(s),  
please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb at [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) 301-604-5619

### **Benson Branch Park**

(between Folly Quarter Road and Trdelphia Road, Ellicott City, MD) Sandy Brewer Email [sandbrewer@aol.com](mailto:sandbrewer@aol.com)

### **Blockhouse Point**

(Farm Loop on the Canal at Violettes Lock, MD)  
Naomi Manders e-mail: [naomimanders0@gmail.com](mailto:naomimanders0@gmail.com)

### **Breezy Loop**

(Boys, MD) an easy hour and 15 minutes.  
Naomi Manders e-mail: [naomimanders0@gmail.com](mailto:naomimanders0@gmail.com)

### **Codorus Park**

(Hanover, PA) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or [smink.ivy@gmail.com](mailto:smink.ivy@gmail.com)

### **Croom, Md area, South of PG Equestrian Center**

(South of PG Equestrian Center, MD) I am the trail historian for this area. I can keep you riding over different trails for 6 hours! People would leave from my farm in Croom & can ride to Patuxent River Park (Jug Bay), the Wildlife Sanctuary and Spice Creek Park. I am available Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon as a tour guide. Carol [CAAuletta@aol.com](mailto:CAAuletta@aol.com) or (301) 579-2342

### **EPIC Trail At Dry Seneca Creek**

(Poolesville, MD)  
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 Greenway Trail that goes to Patuxent! 10 miles round trip  
Naomi Manders e-mail: [naomimanders0@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:smink.ivy@gmail.com)

### **Little Bennett Park**

(Clarksburg, MD) Jim and Maureen Henry (301) 676- 5298.

### **Morgan Run Trails**

(Carroll County, MD) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or [smink.ivy@gmail.com](mailto:smink.ivy@gmail.com)

### **North Tract of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge**

(Laurel, MD) Barbara Sollner-Webb [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or (301) 604-5619

### **Patapsco State Park**

(off Marriotsville 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)  
Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or [laurylobel@verizon.net](mailto:laurylobel@verizon.net)

### **Rachel Carson Conservation Park**

(Brookeville, MD) Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or [laurylobel@verizon.net](mailto:laurylobel@verizon.net)

### **Rock Creek Park**

(Montgomery County, MD and into DC) Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or [laurylobel@verizon.net](mailto:laurylobel@verizon.net)

### **Union Mills/Kowomu Trail**

(Carroll County, MD) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or [smink.ivy@gmail.com](mailto:smink.ivy@gmail.com)

### **WSSC/Rocky Gorge trail**

(Supplee Lane in PG to Tucker Lane in Montgomery County).  
Barbara Sollner-Webb  
e-mail [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu), or phone: (301) 604-5619

### **Portion of WSSC's near Supplee Lane**

Paula Underwood [sundust01@yahoo.com](mailto:sundust01@yahoo.com)

### **Woodstock Equestrian Park**

(Beallsville, MD) Karen Kraushaar (301) 208-0767 or [kraushaar@verizon.net](mailto:kraushaar@verizon.net)

## 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.

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an ad email: [marcia.lyons7@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.lyons7@gmail.com)

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## HORSE BOARDING

### STILL POND FARM - in Sykesville

Field or Stall board with board fencing, run-in-sheds. Hay when needed, Feed twice a day. Ring with jumps across the street from Piney Branch Run Park. Couple of miles to Morgan Run Park, Call Eleanor 410-795-9760

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call Lisa at 717-683-4385 or email: [lisa@lucknlovefarms.com](mailto:lisa@lucknlovefarms.com)

## SERVICES

### EQUINE CRANIO-SACRAL THERAPY & MASSAGE

Janet Young, PhD, EEBW, TROT Member  
[janet@goldray.com](mailto:janet@goldray.com)

202-997-2378  
[www.equine-equanimity.com](http://www.equine-equanimity.com)

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## PET SITTING

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Pat Talbott  
Owner  
301 704 3871  
[Talismanpetsitting@gmail.com](mailto:Talismanpetsitting@gmail.com)

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## REAL ESTATE

### FARMETTE IN MT. AIRY FOR SALE

A TROT member is retiring, moving to Florida, and putting her farm up for sale. If you or someone you know might be interested in a recently updated 5 BR rancher in Mt. Airy, on 5+ acres with a barn, run-in shed, riding ring and fenced pastures -- from which you can ride directly into the park -- please check out:

<http://maryridgely.inf.com/PropertyDetails.aspx?MlsCompanyID=2&MlsNumber=HW8431449>



**TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY**  
Patricia Talbott, TROT Membership  
10399 Liberty Road, Frederick MD 21701

### *Inside This Issue*

**REVIVAL OF GUNPOWDER VOLUNTEER MOUNTED PATROL** - Nine Baltimore area TROT members and friends attended a meeting August 19 held at the Gunpowder Park headquarters in Kingsville, MD to discuss the possibility of reviving the Gunpowder Volunteer Mounted Patrol unit.

**MARYLAND HORSE FORUM** - TROT members were among hundreds of horse industry participants who came to the Maryland Horse Forum on Thursday, August 7th, at the Prince George's Equestrian Center Show Place Arena, to consider the future of Maryland's horse industry.

**RIDING THE SPECTACULAR ROCKY GORGE TRAIL** - Enjoying this trail and considering its history will hopefully encourage equestrians to play an active roll in keeping trails open.