



Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

www.trot-md.org

Get your friends to join - the higher TROT's membership, the more effective is its lobbying for trails!

May, 2017

Founded 1980

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[Photos and articles without attribution are from the Newsletter Editor]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

In this newsletter, I start with sad news. Wonderful Pat Oliva, a founding TROT member, current Board Member and Howard County Coordinator, had a serious horse-related accident. It unfortunately seems like it may take a long time for Pat to recover. I hope everyone will keep her in their thoughts and prayers. All the very best to Pat!

Also, we have lost two members. Those of you who were members in the 1980's and 1990's will remember Elsie Cote and Sol Goldstein. Elsie was TROT's secretary for many years and passed away in February. Sol was active with trail clearing and holding clinics at the newly opened Schooley Mill Park in Howard County, and passed away in March. Both of them will be missed!

In cheerier news, we are bringing back the obstacle training clinic at Schooley Mill Park shortly before Halloween (see below), so show up in costumes. Volunteers are always needed to set up obstacles and sign in participants, so please get involved.

This year is setting up as a great year for TROT's organized trail rides. Please be sure to check this newsletter for a ride you might be interested in joining, and contact the ride leader. And maybe volunteer to lead a ride yourself!

Also, remember to report your trail clearing/pruning, etc. hours to Amy Kimble. Remember, she has challenged each of us (including me) to do at least two hours of trail work this year. Not hard to do at all. You can reach Amy to report your time at <AmyHKimble@aol.com>.

FOR LONG-TERM PRESERVATION OF TRAIL ACCESS

When the ground is wet, please do not ride. And when you then go out riding, especially if cantering or galloping, please occasionally look back to see if you are leaving tracks. If so, others – including park managers – will likely see them, too, and think riders do not care about damaging the trails. This is a recipe for losing trail access. So if you see tracks, please slow to a walk and head directly home.

UPCOMING COACHED OBSTACLE TRAINING EVENT

from Deneen Martin

TROT will hold another non-judged Obstacle Training Event at Schooley Mill Park on Saturday, October 21, 2017 (rain date of Saturday, October 28). There will be coaches to help you with the obstacles, as needed. Follow the Schooley Mill trails through spooky pre-Halloween obstacles for you and your horse. There will also be an award for the best costumed horse and rider, with your picture in the TROT newsletter. This obstacle event is free for TROT members. If you bring a guest to the event, they pay a \$25 entry fee that includes a year membership to TROT – or they can just join TROT for \$20.

Volunteers are always needed and very appreciated. Contact Deneen Martin at <deneenmartin7@gmail.com> or 301-467-5335. More information to come in the August TROT newsletter.

OFFER OF A FREE CLINIC: LAME OR SOUND, CHOPPY OR SMOOTH – IT'S ALL IN THE RIDING! (well, at least almost all)

from Susan Gray

White Wine and Clarrett Farm (home of TROT members Susan Gray and Mike Caruso) is offering an evening clinic on the importance of riding correctly to keep our horses sound, happy, well-moving and responsive.

[continued on next page]

A second but equally important focus is the use of progressive and varied exercises to develop the horse's physical ability to move comfortably and well while carrying a rider.

This clinic will be given by Kendle Buffington, a former eventer, classically trained in dressage, from Nottingham, PA. She has a real knack for identifying and explaining in plain English what the horse and rider need to do to move in greater harmony and how the rider should communicate this to the horse. These are skills that are the foundation for all horse disciplines and make for much more pleasurable and controlled trail riding. Just ask Mike Caruso, who has been working with Kendle for a couple of years and has seen such amazing transformations in their horses that he and Susan have convinced Kendle to give a clinic for TROT members.

It will be on **Saturday, August 26** at Susan and Mike's indoor arena in Highland, MD. The plan is a potluck dinner at 5 PM followed by the clinic from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Please RSVP to Susan at susan@campsusan.com for specifics, to reserve your spot, and to learn the location.

[Thanks so much for making this kind offer, Kendle, Susan and Mike!]

TROT IS UPDATING ITS WEBSITE

from Gale Monahan

The TROT board has talked about updating and upgrading its website for quite some time. Our current website has served us well over the years, but we finally have taken the plunge. The board hired Mythic Landing Enterprise, former contractor with the Maryland Horse Council, to assist us in this endeavor. We are planning on having the new website up and running within the next couple of months.

During the transition, our legacy website will not be getting any updates. So please have patience during this transition. If you have any concerns or questions, all board members and committee members are still listed, and you may contact any one of us. We will be delighted to talk to you.

The entire TROT board and I want to thank Harold Goldstein for his working hard in keeping up our website so nicely over many years. He has done a great job. If any of you know him and see him out and about, please thank him. He deserves it.



COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS NEEDED, PLEASE!

from Gale Monahan

As many of you know, TROT started with 22 riders who banded together in 1980 to save a park in Montgomery County from development. That was Paint Branch Park. TROT went on to help preserve and develop more trail systems around Maryland, including those on the WSSC watershed. TROT also was an essential part of developing the trails, rings and cross country jumps at Schooley Mill Park in Howard County. When trail systems have been in jeopardy, TROT has been there, working with local government officials, developers, neighborhood groups, etc. And TROT helps build a camaraderie of caring trail users.

How have we done this? TROT has had volunteers who have been keeping an eye on what is going on or being planned in their county or area. These volunteers go to county budget hearings, speak up, and let the county know who they are and who they represent. They explain how TROT wants to work with them and other entities of county government to keep open space for users such as equestrians. The volunteers go to their county's Parks and Recreation Department and introduce themselves. By making such connections, if something comes up, they are more likely to get a call or an email that a park or near-by property may be up for development. TROT volunteer coordinators are better able to work toward establishing and preserving trail systems despite ongoing development.

County coordinators are also very important in getting to know other TROT members in their county, building relationships, and finding out what they need. They may get groups of volunteers together to assist in keeping the county horse friendly. County coordinators who may not relish governmental meetings have been very effective by instead organizing volunteer trail work parties in conjunction with their Parks and Recreation Department and in organizing other area horse-related events.

Recognizing that some counties are so large that a coordinator role may seem daunting for the entire county, TROT also encourages our members to become a coordinator of any smaller area that they designate and are familiar with.

Each county and area is different and each county or area coordinator is different. So each county or area coordinator is welcome to focus on what kind of effort they want to do in their specific county. Being a coordinator is also a great way to become better friends with other riders in your area and enjoy working together for the common goal of improving your local trails.

TROT is in need of individuals who would like to be a county coordinator and help keep their county horse friendly or make it more horse friendly. You will not be out there alone; we on the TROT board will gladly help. I myself was Howard County coordinator for more than 10 years and would be happy to help in any way I can. There are other individuals who are or have been county coordinators and would be pleased to help and advise the direction you could go, I am sure.

Please get involved. TROT is *YOUR* organization; the county you live in is your county. Help keep it horse friendly. My email: gale.email2@gmail.com and my home phone: 301-854-3852.

PAST TRAIL WORK

Rachel Carson Access Trail

from Nancy Osgood

Laury Lobel and I board our horses at a private barn contiguous with Rachel Carson Park. Over the past couple of years, we have come to appreciate even more the natural beauty of the park, which is home to some scenic equestrian trails. The park access trail from Greg Road had become "un-findable" due mainly to massive growth of multiflora rose, a nasty invasive species, and lack of use. So one day, Laury and I set off on foot to re-mark and clear the trail of this undergrowth. We spent a couple of hours doing the work and reclaimed over one mile of great trail. Today we went back to check out our newly reclaimed trail. It is beautiful and is now part of one of our circle routes in the park. The circle includes quite a long walk on Greg Road and a short walk on Zion Road. Both roads are very lightly traveled by vehicles, and the folks we see are unfailingly respectful – slowing down and giving us lots of room – and invariably a friendly wave!



*Laury on the reclaimed trail
[photo from Nancy Osgood]*

Trail Work Day at Catoctin Mountain Park *from Amy Kimble*

We had a very nice trail work day at Catoctin Mountain Park. The horse trail had been opened prior to our work day but we worked hard to widen areas and cut back almost to the roots some of the multiflora rose that closed the trail in the past. Amy Kimble, Lynn Holt and Michelle Schantz represented TROT. Geno (Park Volunteer Coordinator intern from Catoctin Mountain Park), William (a young man from Timonium) and Jillian Svoboda (also from Timonium) completed our group. Amy and Geno supplied tools and some guidance on where to focus our efforts. We worked for approximately three hours. When we got back to the vehicles we had water and trail mix. We will need to continue maintenance throughout the season. Please join!

Lynn Holt, Michele Schantz, Jillian Svoboda [photo from Amy Kimble] →



Barn Rehabilitation at Catoctin Mountain Park

info from Amy Kimble

In earlier issues of the TROT newsletter, Amy reported on the importance of rehabilitating the horse barn at Catoctin, which has a long and distinguished horse history. A rehabilitated building offers potential for many opportunities, including a possible future sleeping site, protected from the elements, when horse-camping there. Amy and TROT tried to encourage volunteers to help in the rebuilding, but this is heavy work. In the end, TROT made a \$500 contribution to the Catoctin Forest Alliance who arranged for several Amish builders and other volunteers to do the building rehabilitation and other needed work. On Sunday, April 30, 2017, the Frederick News-Post ran a very nice article on this barn work and the history of and plans for the barn and surrounding area. This rebuilt barn will make a very nice improvement to this park.



photo courtesy of the Frederick News-Post

Trail Work Challenge (only two hours, really is hardly challenging!)

information from Amy Kimble, TROT's Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator

Amy has challenged each TROT member to do at least two hours of trail work this summer. And please report it to her by texting to 301-748-8310 or emailing Amyhkimble@aol.com so that she can include your hours in the total she tells the parks officials, to help get increased funding for the parks. See article on this effort in the last TROT newsletter.

Many TROT members have reported to Amy more than their two hours of work already in April! These total over 78 hours of volunteer trail work in April and include: 2 hours each from Nancy Osgood and Laury Lobel at Rachel Carson; 3 hours each from Amy Kimble, Lynn Holt and Michele Schantz at Catoctin Mountain Park; 8.5 hours from Carolyn Rhodes, 5.5 hours each from Patti Mathes and Deneen Martin, and 3.5 hours each from Dan Benz and Andrea Steed at the Cow Field; 3 hours from Jean McKay at Union Mills; 12 hours from Lucy Ertter, 8 hours from Barbara Sollner-Webb, and 3 hours each from Terry Ledley and John Railey at the Rocky Gorge; and 4 hours each from Priscilla Huffman, John O'Brien and Donna O'Brien at the Hereford region of Gunpowder Park. Congratulations and big thanks, to all of you!

Please do YOUR trail work hours – and ideally many more hours -- and report them to Amy (contact info above).

UPCOMING TRAIL WORK EFFORTS

Work on "your" trails

information from Amy Kimble, TROT's Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator

Please go out to work on YOUR favorite trail, clipping protruding branches and invasive undergrowth, moving fallen branches that obstruct the trail and even hand sawing fallen limbs that are too big to move. Go by yourself or ask a group of riding buddies to join, and do it on foot or when out riding your horse. If the work is part of a trail ride, estimate how much of the time you were working and/or were riding between sites that needed clipping.



As said, please report your trail work hours, also the date, location, and your name, to Amy Kimble, by text to 301-748-8310 or e-mail to <amyhkimble@aol.com>, for these hours benefit local parks' budgets.

Work at Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks

from Ranger Erick Ledbetter

Trail Work Crew, Tuesday May 16th, 5:30-7:30 PM at Quail Ridge Picnic Grove: This month the trail crew will bring its de-berming and drainage improvement skills to the Lake Shore Trail, working on the section from the spillway toward Fawn Pavilion. We'll meet at Quail Ridge parking lot, pick up tools, and then hike in to the Lake Shore trail. We'll tackle several small projects over about 3/4 mile of trail. Bring a water bottle and work gloves. Sturdy shoes recommended. No RSVP necessary. For info, contact Ranger Erik Ledbetter (at <Erik.Ledbetter@maryland.gov>, 301-924-2127 [o] or 443-534-5837 [c]).

Also contact Ranger Erik to learn their May work schedule, to join the trail group then.

UPCOMING TROT TRAIL RIDES FOR 2017



Horses and riders ready for an earlier Rocky Gorge TROT ride, before splitting up into all-walk, walk-trot, and walk-trot-canter riding groups

In 2017, plan to come on TROT trail rides and to lead one yourself!

TROT's trail rides are a fun and safe way to learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and -- probably most important for TROT's mission -- help illustrate to riders the value of preserving trails. What better way to get acquainted with various trail systems in the area than on a TROT ride? And please offer to lead or co-lead a TROT ride this year to show others your favorite venue; it is easy and rewarding. Contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619) to set one up, especially in the months where more rides are really needed (indicated in highlighted text below).

To participate in a ride, please **contact the designated ride leader to sign up and learn the specifics of the ride, including the start time and meeting location**. Then if bad weather causes a ride to be postponed, the ride leader can notify you. All ride participants **must wear a helmet**, have a current negative Coggins for the horse, and be TROT members. Membership forms are at <<http://www.trot-md.org>> and at the rides; there are also \$5 one-day memberships to encourage non-TROT riders to join. For updated trail ride listings, please check the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo list-serves (see page 12 to join).

Finally, everyone is encouraged to announce our TROT rides widely and invite folks to join. However, when doing so, to protect our ride program, please include all the above requirements and do not publicly announce any start time, so everyone coming must check with the ride leader.

Upcoming May Rides

Thursday, May 18 – Greenwell State Park, St. Mary's County, MD – Kathy Glockner (<kglockner@md.metrocast.net>)

St. Mary's County TROT coordinator Come enjoy a scenic waterfront trail ride at Greenwell State Park on Thursday, May 18. Greenwell is a 596-acre State Park located along the Patuxent River, managed in partnership with The Greenwell Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing outdoor accessible recreation. A key feature of the Foundation operation is their equestrian program dedicated to people with disabilities, returning veterans, and children. There are ten miles of trails along agriculture fields and in the woods. This is an easy level ride, with few slopes or hills, and is ... *[ride listings continued on page 5]*

excellent for barefoot horses. There is one road crossing to reach a wooded trail. Riders can walk only or break off into faster groups. Trail maps will be provided. After the ride will be a get-together, so bring your own lunch and a chair. Bottled water will be provided by Kathy. Learn more about the park and see their trail map at <<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/parkmaps/greenwellmap.aspx>>. Greenwell State Park is at 25420 Rosedale Manor Lane, Hollywood, MD. Once inside, take the first left and follow to the end to park on a grassy area. Bathrooms and water are available. There is a \$3 park fee payable at the entrance in an honor box, to support the Greenwell Foundation's park programs. [Write-up from Kathy Glockner.]

Saturday, May 20 - WSSC's Rocky Gorge in Laurel, MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619), co-leader: Terry Ledley – for whom the "Terry Ledley Trail" is named Rain date Sunday May 27. Come ride along WSSC's beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir, celebrating TROT's efforts to reopen this trail a few years ago. This ride starts in West Laurel about five minutes from the Rt. 198 exit off I-95. It offers magnificent views of the reservoir, with a good chance of seeing heron and maybe an eagle. Despite the name, the footing is fine for barefoot horses, with plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses. Terry will lead a walk-only group and Barbara a walk-trot (maybe a bit of canter) group. After the ~2 ½ hour ride, there will be a potluck lunch at Barbara's house, where your potluck contribution will have already been ferried. [See articles on this venue in the May 2016 and Sept 2014 newsletters.]

Thursday, May 25 – Annapolis Rock in the Upper Patuxent in Mo Co -- Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>
This is a favorite venue. Although a walk-only ride, folks wanting to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to eat together following the ride. Drinks & dessert will be provided.

June Rides

We could use some more rides in June. Please contact <bsw@jhmi.edu> to lead one!

Wednesday, June 7 – Gunpowder Falls State Park, Bunker Hill Trail -- Priscilla Huffman (301-646-4422, call or text, or <priscillahuffman@verizon.net>) Rain date Wednesday, June 14. This will be a walk-only ride, mostly in the woods with some hills. There are places on this trail that are close to the edge of a stream as well as some steps built for erosion control, both uphill and downhill, so this is not a good ride for a green trail horse. There is a large paved parking lot at the end of Bunker Hill Road that can accommodate up to six trailers, so sign up early. The ride will be 1 ½ - 2 hours. Bring lunch and a chair if you wish to stay to eat. [Write-up from Priscilla Huffman.]

Thursday, June 8 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwaqner0602@gmail.com>)

Rain date Thursday, June 15. More information to come in the TROT and Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo list-serves.

Saturday, June 10 – Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park ("Ag Farm") – Deneen Martin (<deneenmartin7@msn.com>) Rain date now Sunday, June 11. Approximately a two hour ride with two groups; one will be walking and second walk/trotting. Ag Farm (18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood) has nice trails, meadows, bridge crossings, beautiful scenery and plenty of parking. Afterward: bring your lunch and something small to share and some good conversation.

Saturday, June 24 – Woodstock Equestrian Park, near Poolesville, MD - Janet Buck (cell 973-768-1599); co-leader: Marcella Morgese We will begin at the Moritz Greenberg Equestrian Center Main Entrance off Rt. 28 and stay on this side of the park. We ride along the edges of soybean fields to the Greenberg Challenge Loop, the Stone Barn Loop and back. The trails are scenic, mostly flat with a few minor hills and two bridges across a small stream. No water crossings unless there has been recent rain. We may encounter some walkers and other riders. Some very short rocky paths through the woods but shoes needed only for very tender-footed horses. This ride will have two groups – one walk only and one for a faster pace group with walk/trot/short canters. Please bring sandwiches and drinks for relaxing after the ride.

Thursday, June 29 – location to be determined -- Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>)

It will be a walk-only ride, but folks who want to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks & dessert will be provided. More information to come in the Yahoo list-serves,

July Rides

We could use some more rides in July, please!

Saturday, July 1 - Liberty Reservoir, Carroll County, MD -- Mary Prowell (<boprow@aol.com>, [c] 301-509-9812)

This ride will be on the dirt fire road that goes around Liberty Reservoir as well as on some wooded trails that connect to it. The reservoir is a pretty place to ride, with views of the water and a nice, mostly deciduous forest. Pack a lunch for a break at a scenic place along the trail. The pace will be walking and trotting with some cantering. Depending on the number of riders, there may be a walk-only group, so check with the ride leader. The footing is mostly good, although the fire road is becoming eroded and stony, and some of the woods trails are not well used. There can be hikers, bike riders, and sometimes motor bikes on the fire road, so horses should be able to deal with those. Plan to be out 2 ½ to 3 hours. Park off Deer Park Road. [Write-up from Mary Prowell.]

Thursday, July 13 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwaqner0602@gmail.com>)

Rain date Thursday, July 20. More information to come.

[ride listings continued on page 6]

Saturday, July 15 – Catoctin, Thurmont, MD – Johnna Wheeler (<johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com>, 301-293-3207)

Come ride on top of Catoctin Mountain in the Frederick County Watershed. It is beautiful here, but some of the trails are rocky, so shoes or Easyboots are recommended. We will begin riding from the intersection of Tower Road and Gambrell Park Road. Pack a snack and beverage to enjoy during this 2-hour, all-walk ride. I look forward to enjoying your fellowship. By the way, it's cooler up here on the mountain during the hot days of summer. [Write-up from Johnna Wheeler].

Thursday, July 27 – location to be determined -- Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>)

It will be a walk-only ride, but folks who want to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks and dessert will be provided. More information to come.

Friday, July 28 – NCR (North Central Railroad)/Torrey Brown trail, Freeland, MD - Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540,

<lavenderlady19@verizon.net>); co-leader: Barbara Sollner Webb The NCR trail is another treasure in our Maryland trail system that riders should get to know. It is a lovely, hard-packed dirt rails-to-trails, over 20 miles in Maryland, from just north of Baltimore to the Pennsylvania line, and then continuing another 21 miles to York, PA, basically paralleling but not close to I-83. At many places the trail crosses the Gunpowder Falls River, great for giving the horses a drink and cooling off. We will leave from Freeland in northern Maryland and ride about 2 ½ hours, with an all-walk group and a walk/trot/and a little canter group. A great trip to get your horse familiar with bikes. Please bring along a contribution for a potluck lunch after the ride, at the park's nice, shaded picnic table. There is also a well with wonderfully cool water for cooling off the horses.

August Rides

We need some more rides in August, please!

Sunday, August 6 – Morgan Run, in Carroll County, MD -- Leah Mack (<1ecofarmer@gmail.com>) Info to come.

Thursday, August 10 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

Rain date Thursday, August 17. More information to come.

Saturday, August 28 – FREE clinic on perfecting riding skills – see page 1-2.

Thursday, August 31 – location to be determined -- Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>)

It will be a walk-only ride, but folks who want to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks & dessert will be provided. More information to come.

September Rides

We need some more rides in September, please!

Sunday, September 10 – Potomac Riverside Stables, Poolsville, MD – Dana Grabiner (<Dana.Grabiner@fsis.usda.gov>)

This is a return of a favorite TROT ride, with both all-walk and walk/trot/canter groups, going through lovely fields, out to the C&O canal and then back for a delicious luncheon. More information to come.

Thursday, September 14 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

Rain date Thursday, September 21. More information to come.

Saturday, Sept. 16 – Catoctin, Thurmont, MD – Johnna Wheeler (<johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com>, 301-293-3207)

Come ride on top of Catoctin Mountain in the Frederick County Watershed. It is beautiful here, but some of the trails are rocky. See write-up for July 15 ride.

Saturday, September 23 – Fairland Park, near Burtonsville. MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) and Debby Poole Rain date Saturday, September 30. We will again be riding these lovely trails. See write-up for April 29 ride..

Thursday, September 28 – location to be determined -- Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>)

It will be a walk-only ride, but folks who want to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks & dessert will be provided. More information to come.

October Rides

Saturday, October 1 – Riverbend Park, Great Falls, VA – Cecile Neuvens (<Cecile.neuvens@gmail.com> or 703 622 3845)

Come discover or re-discover trails just south of the Potomac River, in Virginia. The ride will start from the trailer parking lot of Riverbend Park and will take us along the Potomac Heritage trail, the Bootlegger and Carriage trails, and others in and between Riverbend Park and Great Falls National Park. Expect some hills, gravel, and some patches of rocks as well as hikers, picnic parties and mountain bikers. But first and foremost, expect some great views of the Potomac river and nice shade. Shoes or boots are recommended but horses with strong barefoot hooves should be fine. Considering the terrain, the ride will be mostly at a walk with some trotting here and there. The ride will cross a couple of streams but bring water for your horses for after the ride. Bring chairs and snacks for after the ride. The number of trailers that the parking can accommodate is limited, so sign up early and trailer pool as much as possible.

[Editor's note: If you have not ridden here, it is GORGEOUS, and we are very fortunate to have this ride added this year!]

Thursday, October 12 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

Rain date Thursday, October 19. More information to come.

[ride listings continued on page 7]

Saturday, October 14 – Little Bennett -- Susan Ferrara (<sferrara3663@hotmail.com>)

Rain date Sunday, October 15. This is a favorite riding venue. More information to come.

Saturday, October 21 – Patapsco Park: McKeldin Park to Woodstock Inn, Carroll County, MD -- Carolann

Sharpe (410 908 5599 or <blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com>) Our ride begins at McKeldin Park, which welcomes horse trailers to park by the basketball courts. The ride is all-walk, 1.5 hours to the Woodstock Inn restaurant along the Patapsco River and 1.5 hours ride back. There are two water crossings. Depending on water levels, it can be a swift moving water but still a very easy crossing. We tie up across from a train track.

Saturday, October 21 – Obstacle Training Event, Schooley Mill Park, Howard County, MD – see page 1

Thursday, October 26 – location to be determined -- Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>)

It will be a walk-only ride, but folks who want to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks & dessert will be provided. More information to come.

Friday, October 27 – Rosaryville Halloween ride, Upper Marlboro, MD -- Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540 or

<lavenderlady19@verizon.net>) We will ride at the beautiful 982-acre Rosaryville State Park, southwest of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The timing is scheduled so that we should be riding through spectacular fall foliage. And come in a costume! The terrain can be hilly but shoes aren't necessary except for very tender-footed horses. We will be riding from Laura's house that abuts the park (not from the main park parking area). And after the ride Laura will host a delicious Bar-B-Q, so please bring something for the luncheon.

November Rides

Thursday, November 9 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

Rain date Tuesday, November 16. More information to come.

Saturday, November 18 - Anacostia Park Ride, College Park, MD -- John Angevine (301-937-0014)

A favorite TROT ride to close TROT's organized trail riding 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 with hikers, bikers, dogs, and strollers.

POSSIBLE TRAIL RIDE FOR THE *BEST OF AMERICA BY HORSEBACK* TV SHOW, SEPT. 30 WEEKEND *from Ross Peddicord, Executive Director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board*

You surely remember the article from Ross in the last newsletter, on a trail ride possibly to be filmed for the *Best of America by Horseback* television show. Ross now writes an update: "the producers are willing to forego production costs if we agree to:

1. Charge a reasonable fee for folks to participate in the trail ride. We need to clarify what is reasonable, but I am thinking \$50 - \$75 range.

2. Hold a dinner in their honor and invite the Governor plus other government officials, such as our Secretary of Agriculture.

"The date they have scheduled for the show & trail ride is the weekend of Sat. Sept. 30.

"I have talked to the Fair Hill folks and they are re-considering hosting the trail ride/TV show there as the date and conditions have changed. But we have two alternate locations: Carolann Sharpe suggested the League of MD Horsemen facility and Patapsco State Park, but they would need to change the date of their big trail ride from the following weekend of Oct. 6-7 to weekend of Sept. 30. Secondly, the folks in Montgomery County, including the EPIC group, suggest that the trails at Woodstock as well as the Montgomery County Ag Park would be excellent.

"I will keep you posted as details emerge. But now the show/trail ride seems quite doable. We just need to pin down some more details such as a location, fee for the trail ride, highlights and content of the show. TROT as well as other trail riding groups should be front and center. Thanks for your patience and please stay posted. And please let me know if you are interested in participating, at <ross.peddicord@maryland.gov>."

INVITATION FOR INTRODUCTORY TRAIL RIDING EXPERIENCE *from Laura Colicchio*

I am happy to take you out on your own customized ride, either by yourself or with a small, like-minded group, in the very pretty Rosaryville State Park. We will start at my farm (8700 Rosaryville Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772) that backs onto the park, and plan it preferably on a weekday -- schedules and weather permitting. The reason for this... *[continued on next page]*

continued from page 7 - INVITATION FOR INTRODUCTORY TRAIL RIDING EXPERIENCE

riding plan is to facilitate anyone wishing to trail ride at a walk, to get practice, or for whatever reasons. Also to “stop and smell the roses” and tour and enjoy the grounds of historic Mt. Airy Mansion and Rosaryville State Park. In the summer, this park with heavily wooded trails is much cooler than most other areas. To arrange, just contact Laura either by email (<lavenderlady19@verizon.net>) or cell (301-448-8713). After the ride you and your horse are welcome to stay and unwind with a brown-bag lunch on my back deck. I will provide refreshments, and your horse may be stalled or turned out with my horses. This is a great opportunity to really see the park at a leisurely pace with a wonderful trail veteran Icelandic gelding named Raven who knows the trails like the back of his “hooves.”

[Thanks so much for making this kind offer, Laura!]

PAST TRAIL RIDES SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

We had 11 TROT trail rides scheduled since the last TROT newsletter, but unfortunately Mother Nature's rainstorms, wet ground, and/or cold caused the cancellation of six of them -- Laury Lobel's plan for Fairland Park on Thursday, March 30, Debbie Wagner's plan for the Triadelphia Trail on Tuesday, April 11 and its rain date of Tuesday, April 18; Mary Prowell's plan for the Upper Patuxent on Saturday, April 22; Laura Colicchio's plan for Rosaryville State Park on Friday, May 5; Johnna Wheeler's plan for Catoctin on Saturday, May 6; Debbie Wagner's plan for again trying to get to the Triadelphia trail on Thursday, May 11. However, TROT members were able to enjoy five rides, at:

Jug Bay, in Croom, MD, TROT's Inaugural 2017 Ride

from Jacquie Cowan

Brrrrr.... Rain and chilly temperatures threatened the joint TROT ride with the Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club on Sunday, April 9. Thankfully, wind and sun had dried the trails, but an Equine Herpes Virus quarantine not too far away kept many from being able to leave their barns. Regardless, those who made it enjoyed the beautiful sunny weather and gorgeous trails as we got to know new members and caught up with old friends. This Southern Maryland park has about 10 miles of well marked trails with a good map. You can extend your ride into the Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. Do be sure to plug the correct address for the Prince Georges Patuxent River/Jug Bay in Croom, or you can end up on the Anne Arundel County side of the river where horses are not allowed!



riders Shawne Whittington, Rebecca King, Rosalie Marley, Shari Walker, Jody Kappen, Jessica Goff, and Jacquie Cowan riding the Easter Bunny photo kindly provided by JacqueCowan

Schooley Mill Park, in Howard County, MD

from Debby Poole

Our first attempt at this ride had to be postponed due to EHV-1 and severe weather alerts, so this rescheduled ride at one of my favorite venues was held Thursday April 13th, with splendid weather and healthy horses. We had a great turnout with 14 riders! For such a big group and early in the season the horses were very well behaved. Several had never been to the facility and a couple of horses were ridden by new owners. We had two junior riders join us for the day, and another TROT membership renewed. We ended with a snack and greet, and because the horses were so calm and the weather so cool, no one was hot and sweaty. The one horse that really hadn't wanted to get on the trailer to come to the ride was very good about loading to go home. These calm walking TROT rides are excellent for confidence and training. Hope you will join us for others.



riders Phoebe Black, Kathy Lipton, Nancy Osgood, Margaret Pursell, Linda Gasch, Amy Roberts, Caitlin Beckjord, Leah Mack, Laury Lobel, Maria Schwartz, Jeanie Kemp, Debby Poole, Joan Bosman and Barbara Sollner-Webb



North Tract, on the east side of Laurel, MD – trails you can ride on in any weather

On Saturday, April 15, in gorgeous weather, we had a super ride at North Tract, organized by Barbara Sollner-Webb. For the ride, we 18 riders broke up into three smaller groups, an all-walk group led by founding TROT member Terry Ledley and two trotting groups -- one fondly called either the "haul ass" or the "drag ass" group. After the delightful 2 ½ hour ride on these pretty trails, we convened for a yummy potluck luncheon.

Riders Maggie Salamon, Caitlin Oldham, Shari Walker, Shawne Whittington Sr, Shawne Whittington Jr., Rebecca King, Diane Ayers, Rebekah Fontz, Sharon Cappeluti, Denis Webb, Ellen Hurdel, Nancy Harmon, Terry Ledley, Kim Thrasher, Laury Lobel, Nancy Osgood, Barbara Sollner-Webb (photo below), and Vickie Sloan (on right).



note TWO TROT jackets in this riding group!



Rachel Carson Park, off Zion Road, Montgomery County, MD from Laury Lobel

Rachel Carson Conservation Park is one of the true treasures in Montgomery County. Six riders enjoyed the good weather and Mother Nature provided the dogwoods, wild azaleas, wildflowers and beautiful scenery in Rachel Carson park. We rode for almost two hours and enjoyed lunch under a shade tree near the parking lot.



riders Jeanie Kemp, Debby Poole, Nancy Osgood, Laury Lobel, Jeani Swartz and Barbara Sollner-Webb



Laury's and Jeani's cool riding helmets look like straw hats!

Fairland Regional Park, Burtonsville, MD

On Saturday April 29, we had a great ride at Fairland Park, led by Barbara Sollner-Webb and Debby Poole. The 18 riders celebrated the new trail and new bridge that the park staff and volunteers just put in (see article in last newsletter). All enjoyed this very nice riding venue, as well as a most collegial potluck lunch afterwards.



Cecile, Terry & Jeani at new bridge



riders Jeani Swartz, Elisa Harvey, Debby Poole, Jeanie Kemp, Cecile Neuvens (in back), Priscilla Huffman, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Terry Ledley, Denis Webb and Laury Lobel



The 2017 Legislative session has come to a close. In the course of the three-month session, 1200 bills were introduced in the Senate and 1661 in the House, for a total of almost 3,000 bills. Each week during the session, Maryland Horse Council (MHC) legislative committee member Kim Egan Rutter scanned all bills introduced that week and flagged those of interest to the horse industry and the broader equestrian community. At our weekly conference call throughout the session, we evaluated the new bills that had been introduced during the preceding week that might impact us, discussed and arrived at our position, and determined our lobbying strategy. During the course of the session, the MHC Legislative Committee closely monitored about 30 bills (plus their cross-filed counterparts) that could have an effect on horse people, their farms, businesses and even their pets. We testified at a number of hearings, wrote and submitted written testimony on a number of other bills, and took formal positions without extensive testimony on others. Although budget constraints caused us to cut back the use of our professional lobbyist, Frank Boston, our all-volunteer army was a force to be reckoned with, and legislators and other interest groups gave us repeated recognition as a significant and respected group.

As has been the case in recent years, we worked on a number of bills related to deer hunting on Sundays. This issue has consumed the resources of MHC -- as well as the Legislature -- for many years. Prior to the 2016 legislative session, we worked on a compromise position that we hoped would put the issue to bed. The compromise bill, which would have permitted Sunday deer hunting in the firearms season, statewide, until 10:30 AM, was late to come out of the official state bill drafting office and did not advance. In the summer of 2016, the Horse Council, the Montgomery County Farm Bureau, the Montgomery Agricultural Producers, and MHC members: TROT and the Potomac Hunt, among other groups, worked with Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo of Montgomery County, to craft a similar bill that would apply in Montgomery County only. After lengthy negotiations, the final bill (HB310) called for hunting until 10:30 AM on Sundays throughout the deer seasons (bow and firearm) and preserved the existing three full day Sundays (one for bow, one for firearm and one for the Junior day). The bill will sunset in five years, during which data on its effect on the deer population can be collected.

Because the County Council was threatening to put in its own, all day/all Sundays bill, and because the bill adopted the "Sunday mornings only" approach of our own proposal, MHC supported the bill. It is noteworthy that during the hearing before the powerful Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, the Chair, Senator Joan Carter Conway, who has been a great supporter, asked "where are my horse people?" and called the MHC President up to the witness table to ensure that we were on board with the bill - significant evidence of our growing presence in Annapolis! The bill passed both houses, and as of this writing, awaits signature by the Governor. It is our hope that this bill can become a template of a statewide resolution of this thorny issue.

This hope may be starting to become reality, as the Kent County Sunday hunting bills (SB629 and HB312), which initially sought to allow Sunday hunting on private land all day on all Sundays, were amended to restrict that to mornings only in the firearms season until 10:30 AM, except for the Junior Day, and one other Sunday in the firearms season. The bill would still allow for all day/all Sundays in the bow season. The House version of the bill has passed both houses. Similarly, the Wicomico bill (HB 894), which initially called for all day Sunday hunting on the first Sunday of the bow season and on all Sundays in the firearms season, was amended in the Senate committee to provide for Sunday hunting until 10:30 AM only in the firearms season. As of this writing, it does not appear that the House had time to approve the Senate-amended bill before the Legislature adjourned at Midnight on April 10, so the Wicomico bill is probably dead for this year.

Other bills we were active on included SB178/HB606, which concerned the fate of the Bowie Race Course Training Center. As initially drafted, the bill would have allowed for the State to purchase or condemn the Center. We testified in favor of preserving equestrian use, and it appears that the Maryland Jockey Club has re-committed to preserving the site as an equestrian training center. The bill was substantially amended to include provisions for funding improvements to several tracks as well as the Bowie facility, and the Senate version passed. We also successfully testified against a proposal to shift the cost of the Maryland Racing Commission and the International Thoroughbred Race from the State to the Purse Dedication Account. (SB172/HB152)

SB99/HB171 creates a study to review methods of diverting and beneficially reusing organic waste. The law expressly states that the Maryland Horse Council must have a seat at the table. Both bills passed both houses.

There are dozens more bills that we weighed in on, concerning, e.g., land preservation easements (HB155 - we supported; it passed), and the standards for animal cruelty (SB790/HB455 - we supported; it passed), creation of a State bond to support capital improvements at Fair Hill (SB708/HB977 - we supported; \$100,000 bond was approved). We also monitored bills on many, many more topics, e.g., immunity from civil liability for emergency veterinary care, regulation of kennel licensing, farm labor, tax issues, fox hunting regulation, and more. Our Legislative Tracking Chart, which gives a complete summary of all the bills we followed, what action we took on them, and their ultimate outcome is at <<https://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/legislative-blog/item/220-2017-annapolis-legislative-summary>>. If you have any questions about any of these bills, please let us know. You can get full information about any of them, including their full texts, any amendments, which legislators voted for/against, etc. by going to mgaleg.maryland.gov and typing in the bill number in the "Find legislation by number" box at the top of the home page.

[continued on next page]

Finally, MHC, in conjunction with the Maryland Horse Industry Board and other horse industry partners hosted our third MD Horse Industry Day in Annapolis on January 31, 2017. The day included constituent meetings with numerous legislators. Hundreds of Marylanders from around the state came to the State's Capitol to advocate for the industry. We did our work, dug in, and accomplished a lot before a lunch convocation, which included an informative tutorial about how to be an effective grass roots lobbyist. We had a great turnout of MD Senators, Delegates, Cabinet Secretaries and other Hogan Administration officials and horse industry leaders from across the entire spectrum of our diverse industry - all coming together to make the point that Maryland's horse industry is wide, deep and strong. Next year we are looking forward to an even bigger and better event, and we hope you can join us in making our voice heard to our legislators!

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME WHEN YOU USE SPECIAL AMAZON URL

from Phoebe Black, kindly provided by Kathy Lipton

Did you know that, when ordering from Amazon, there is a separate URL to donate a portion of your purchase to the charity of your choice? You can select one of the major charities that they suggest or type in your favorite charity. For example, Days End Farm Horse Rescue and Second Chance Wildlife Center are in their data base. Once you select a charity, you can go back in at anytime and change your selection. To use this service, you MUST log into Amazon by using the following URL: <<https://smile.amazon.com>>. While it's only 0.5%, it adds up quickly over ALL your Amazon purchases! Please pass this info along to others – and use it for your future orders.

NOW TIME FOR A CHUCKLE...

information from Johnna Wheeler

TROT member Johnna Wheeler posted a wonderful photo and story entitled "I have a horse in my SUV", on TROT's Facebook page. Johnna wrote:

"I went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to purchase a mini mare to be my 15-year-old mini gelding's new girlfriend, after my 24-year-old Kentucky Rocky Mountain mare died last fall. Lacking a truck to pull a trailer, transporting Cookie home was a bit of a challenge. Getting her into my SUV was an exercise in patience. But then 22 miles from home, the transmission in my 2002 Toyota Sequoia died. The PA state trooper who stopped to assist and put flares behind my car looked in the back and couldn't believe his eyes. And the tow truck driver said he'd never seen anyone transport a horse in a car before. But hey, she fit! We got home safely and she is settling in nicely. Little Bit took one look at her, and it was love at first sight for him and continues ever since. By the way, she is due to foal this spring, too."



Johnna's new mini -- riding in her SUV!
photo from Johnna Wheeler

A recent update from Johnna: "The story continued. I was told she was in foal and due in April. When April passed, I had the vet look at her. She's severely obese, not pregnant! It now feels like I rescued her, really."

COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS

Baltimore County from Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore Co.

Due to bad weather and wet trails, both the planned March 18th and April 1st trail clearing dates had to be canceled. We'll soon be rescheduling that work on the Gunpowder North trail.

Congratulations to a new Volunteer Mounted Patrol trainee, Victoria Masters-Konopasek. Victoria relocated from the west coast a few years ago and has ridden her experienced trail horse in the mountains of Oregon. Jean Swartz, Senior VMP, will be leading a ride-along, one of the requirements, as soon as the trails are completely dry.

Baltimore area reminder: If you want to ride the Sweet Air trails in Harford/Baltimore County, contact the TROT trail guide for Gunpowder Falls State Park (Harford County MD) Joyce Browning (410) 557-6165 / (443) 966-0249.

Newest VMP-in-training, Victoria Masters-Konopasek, with her husband in Oregon [photo from Victoria] →



Anne Arundel County

from *Jacque Cowan, Anne Arundel County Coordinator*

Anne Arundel County Recreations and Parks currently has six different parks that offer equestrian trails. Kinder Farm Park, Lake Shore Athletic Complex, and the Magothy Greenway Natural Area are natural surface trails. The Baltimore and Annapolis, Western B&A, and the BWI are all paved trails, and under the new regulations, require the use of poop-bags on your horse. I am going to highlight a different trail each newsletter issue over the next months for you. You can find more information about each trail on the County website at <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/parks/trails/equestrian-trails/#locations>.

Kinder Farm Park is a nice park in the Severna Park/Millersville area with about two miles of both paved and unpaved trails that wander the 288 acres. The park prefers horseback riders stay on the grassy areas and shoulders of paved paths. It is a multiuse park with athletic fields, disc golf and lots of other users. Riders may encounter skate boarders, bikes, runners, and baby carriages. The Visitor Center features tobacco farming artifacts and a restored family farmhouse. There is also an antique saw mill and agricultural demonstration area with cows, goats, sheep, turkeys and other typical farm animals that are cared for by the Kinder Farm Park 4-H Livestock Club. There are a few boarding stables who use this park as a primary riding asset. Trailer parking is available with a daily use fee, and a park map is found on the County Recreation and Parks website.

Recently I attended a meeting of stakeholders for a new natural resource area being developed in Anne Arundel County. It was going well and looking like a good potential for some new equestrian trails when I had to defend my fellow trail riders. One of the participants who seems not to want horses in the area said, "Horse people do not respect the trails ... they ride when trails are too wet for that kind of abuse." My response was that, sadly, "All specific interest groups have their own irresponsible users, and we must continue to educate." So please do be respectful and do not ride public trails after it rains. I am not at liberty yet to speak publicly on this possible new trail; the idea of horses is very tender and I don't want to take a chance of jeopardizing anything. I will be attending more meetings and hopefully will have something more positive to report.

Howard County

from *Gale Monahan, TROT President and Howard County*

We are sadly letting you know that Pat Oliva is stepping down from being the Howard County Coordinator. Pat has done her usual yeoman's job in this position, but regrettably had a serious accident that has led her to make this difficult decision. Pat has asked me to reach out to all of you Howard County TROT members in hopes that one of you would be brave enough to fill at least one of Pat's shoes as the Howard County Coordinator. I am sure, once she is somewhat back on her feet, she will be happy to help the person who decides to step up. I also would be willing to assist where I can since I was Howard County Coordinator for nearly 10 years. Please give me a call, 301-854-3852 or email me at gale.email2@gmail.com if you are interested.

WARNING ON "TICK PARALYSIS"

from *Nancy Harmon and Debby Poole*

After a recent trip to southern Maryland, my friend's horse came down with something called "tick paralysis". The horse was literally down and could not move. I have never heard of this, and apparently it is rare as the vet didn't know about it either; it was only found out after much research. The horse is under treatment and doing well, but this disease can kill a horse rapidly. Ticks are supposed to be really bad this year, so I suggest you Google this disease to learn about it. [e.g., at <https://www.google.com/amp/www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/health/sc-deadly-new-tick-borne-disease-health-0607-20170515-story,amp.html>].

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS from *Jim Carter*

Bob Alexander	Baltimore County
Irina & Joe Berra-Vaz	Montgomery County
Rebekah Fontz	[unknown county]
JLeah Kunzelman	in Michigan
Caitlin & Raife Oldham	Prince George's County
Kathryn Sullivan	Prince George's County
Kimberly & Joseph Thrasher	Washington County
Tamara Tiell	[unknown county]
Maxine Walker	Howard County

We hope you enjoy TROT and help in our mission of preserving sustainable trails

UP-TO-DATE INFO ON TROT ACTIVITIES

TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

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):

<https://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/info>

TROT Yahoo group (and to join):

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TROT-Members/info>

Facebook page -- TROT Trail Riders of Today

www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/

PLEASE, WE WANT AND NEED YOUR INFORMATION, NEWS AND PHOTOS FOR THE NEWSLETTER! Please send them to the newsletter editor, at bsw@jhmi.edu

YOUR HELP NEEDED ON MAYBE REVIVING OLD TRAIL ACCESS – PLEASE!

Back in the 1980's, TROT evidently had an agreement with BGE granting equestrians permission to ride on the BGE right-of-way just south of the Patuxent River and west of Ednor Road -- at least from Patuxent Drive across Tucker Lane and Rt 108 to Mink Hollow Road, and possibly further west to Brinkwood Road, Haviland Mill Road, or even beyond. I am now on a BGE-citizen advisory panel and started talking to BGE officials about possibly reviving this permitted trail use. Happily, there is now a current prototype, with Pepco (BGE's new sister company) being required to grant trail access on some of their right-of-ways as a condition of their Exelon merger.

If anyone knows about riding on this BGE right-of-way south of the Patuxent and west of Ednor, especially what sections are now open, PLEASE contact Barbara Sollner-Webb at 301-604-5619 or <bsw@jhmi.edu>.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To Place An Ad

To place a newsletter ad, email the newsletter editor at <bsw@jhmi.edu>.

TROT Members can place one 100-word or business card-size ad in each issue of the newsletter **FOR FREE!** What a great deal! It will run in one issue unless you notify the editor by the 15th of the month before the next newsletter that you want it to run again. If TROT members want to run a larger ad, they get that \$6 off its rate (listed below).

Ad rates for non-members and larger ads:

100 words	\$6.00 (each additional word - \$.10)
Business Card	\$6.00
1/4 page ad	\$25
1/2 page ad	\$40
Full page ad	\$75

Great Organically-Raised Farm Products

from Leah Mack



FOR SALE: 100% grass fed beef
(ground beef \$6.50/lb, roasts and stew cubes \$8/lb, steak \$12/lb) and pastured, soy-free eggs (\$6/doz).
Organic practices. Pick up at my farm in Libertytown, MD or I can bring to a TROT ride or board meeting.
Leah Mack <1ecofarmer@gmail.com>, grazydays.com

Cat Neutering

from Liuda Galinaitis

Low-cost cat spay/neuter clinic every other Sunday at Eldersburg Vet Hospital and every Friday in Marriottsville. Loaner traps are also available. Free barn cats available as well. Call 443-255-448 or email <ruth@metroferals.org> for more information or reservations.

Like-New Horse Trailer

from Laury Lobel and Kathy Lipton for Richard Cohen

Looking for a like-new trailer at a bargain price? Bumper pull, two-horse trailer looks showroom-new. 1999 Collin-Arndt trailer is extra tall (7 ft. 4 in.) and wide (5 ft. 11 in.). Has a large tack area, step-up loading, two escape doors, windows on sides, back, front for good ventilation. Nearly new tires. This is an exceptionally well-maintained trailer for just \$4000. Contact Richard Cohen at 240-399-1500 or <rcohen@willco.com>



Gaited Lessons with Jacquie Cowan

Find Your Pleasure Gait with Jacquie Cowan, specializing in softly gaited horses for trail and show. I also help build your confidence and trail skills. Contact Jacquie at <jacquiecowan@comcast.net> or 410-923-6157.

SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

from Jean McKay, TROT secretary

Summary of March 7, 2017 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Gale Monahan. Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Janet Whelan (Treasurer), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Leah Mack (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Dick Huffman, Priscilla Huffman, Sim Shanks, Debbie Wagner, Johnna Wheeler

- Treasurer's report was accepted; February Board meeting minutes approved as written.
- The Board welcomed new member Leah Mack.
- Planning is underway for a non-judged trail obstacle training event in late October.
- At the annual meeting, Amy Kimble challenged TROT members to perform two hours of trail maintenance per year. Be sure to report trail maintenance hours to Amy.
- The Board meetings are now the first WEDNESDAY of each month. All are welcome!
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.

Summary of April 5, 2017 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Gale Monahan. Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Janet Whelan (Treasurer), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Leah Mack (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Debbie Wagner, Becky Carter, Jim Carter

- Treasurer's report was accepted; March Board meeting minutes approved with edits.
- The Board welcomed Becky and Jim Carter, the new membership chairs, and Debbie Wagner, the new TROT logo wear guru.
- The Board agreed to contribute \$500 to the Maryland Horse Council to support its campaign to fund the first year of a contract with a professional association management firm.
- The non-judged trail obstacle training event scheduled for late October will be held at Schooley Mill Park.
- TROT will participate in a survey from the Equine Land Conservation Resource.
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.

TRAIL GUIDES

The following volunteers are willing to show TROT members their favorite trails on an individual basis. Please just contact them to arrange a personally guided trail ride. And if you would be willing to occasionally show another trail to others, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) to join this list of generous volunteers.

Agricultural History Farm Park ("Ag Farm") (Montgomery County, MD) Deneen Martin (301) 253-2955

Annapolis Rock (Montgomery County side, MD) Deneen Martin (301) 253-2955

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

Catoctin Mountain Park (Thurmont, MD) Marilyn Miller (301) 898-7274

Cedarville Park (Upper Marlboro, MD) Rebecca King family1one@msn.com or 240-346-7942

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

Doncaster State Forest (Charles County, MD) Rebecca King family1one@msn.com or 240-346-7942

Fairland Park (Burtonsville, MD) Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@jhmi.edu or (301) 604-5619

Frederick County Watershed, Catoctin Mountain between Gambrill State Park and Cunningham Falls State Park.

(Thurmont, MD) Weekend afternoons. Johnna Wheeler (301) 293-1500 or johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com

Greenwell Park (St. Mary's County, MD) Rebecca King family1one@msn.com or 240-346-7942

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

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

Little Bennett (Clarksburg, MD) Jim and Maureen Henry (301) 676-5298; also Marilyn Miller (301) 898-7274

Morgan Run (Carroll County, MD) Sue Donaldson swdonaldson@comcast.net or Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691, smink.ivy@gmail.com

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

Patuxent River State Park (Montgomery County side, MD) Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or laurylobel@verizon.net

Patuxent River State Park Allison Abernathy (703) 603-0052

Patapsco State Park/McKeldin (Carroll, Baltimore and Howard counties MD) Carolann Sharp mathgoddess@verizon.net

Rachel Carson Conservation Park (Brookeville, MD) Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or laurylobel@verizon.net

Rock Creek Park (Montgomery County, MD and into DC) Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or laurylobel@verizon.net

Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Prince George's and Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@jhmi.edu or (301) 604-5619

Rosaryville Park (Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, MD) Laura Colicchio (301) 856-7540 or lavenderlady19@verizon.net

Tridelphia Reservoir (Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@jhmi.edu or (301) 604-5619

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

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

INPUT FOR IMPROVING MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARKS

from Alex Girr-Borrayo

Alex Girr-Borrayo, MNCPPC-MC Public Outreach Specialist, asks the public to comment on improving Montgomery County's park system. Please come to a meeting at their Montgomery Regional Office (8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD) on Thursday, May 18, 2017, 6-9 PM, to give your comments. For more information or to sign up to speak, please call (301) 495-2534 or email <Katelyn.Bentley@MontgomeryParks.org>.

GO GREEN ON YOUR TROT NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Are you a TROT member who receives the newsletter by U.S. mail, with pictures only in black and white? Maybe you'd prefer to receive the e-mailed version that has full-color pictures, arrives several days earlier, and saves TROT printing and mailing costs? If so, please contact membership chair Jim Carter at <trotmembership@yahoo.com> to change TROT's records.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Gale Monahan	gale.email2@gmail.com	(301) 854-3852
Vice President	Deneen Martin	deneenmartin7@msn.com	(301) 467-5335
Secretary	Jean McKay	40carrots@comcast.net	(301) 482-0681
Treasurer	Janet Whelan	janetwhelan@yahoo.com	(410) 790-1044
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Please volunteer as
TROT coordinator from
your county or area!

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor

Big thanks to the swell folks who contributed great articles and other information to the newsletter! Readers highly appreciate the contributions by TROT members! And a special thanks to those who made the kind offers cited above!

And ENORMOUS appreciation for most helpfully proof-reading the draft text goes to Terry Ledley, Dana Grabiner, Denis Webb and Judy Thacher. Also thanks to Laury Lobel, Debby Poole, Priscilla Huffman, and Amy Kimble for your edits. You guys are wonderful!



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

PO Box 506

Highland, MD 20777

Inside this issue:

- Upcoming Trail Obstacle Clinic
- Offer of a free clinic to improve your riding
- Info on TROT's Website
- Why TROT Needs YOU to become a County or Area Coordinator
- Recent Trail work Successes at Rachel Carson and Catoctin Mountain Park
- A Trail Work Challenge to ALL TROT members, and the Success of Many Already
- Upcoming Trail Work Efforts To Participate In
- 2017 TROT Trail Ride Schedule
- A Maryland Trail Ride To Be On TV
- A Personalized Trail Introduction Offer
- Reports on Recent TROT Rides
- Legislative Report
- A Unique Method of Horse Transportation
- "Free" Donations With Your Amazon Purchases
- County Reports and Board Meeting Reports
- Useful Warning, and Requests for Information to Hopefully Get New Trail access
- Contact Information for TROT and Trail Guides
- Useful Classified Ads
- And More