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NEWS

TROT Information
301-588-TROT

JANUARY 2001 Electronic Edition Number 127

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting

Date: February 17, Saturday
Time: doors open 5:30 pm
Place: Howard County Fairgrounds 4-H Building
Directions: Rt. 144, 1 mile west of Rt. 32 and I-70 exit 80.
Menu: A-E Salads/Side Dishes
F-R Main Dishes
S-Z Desserts

OK, you sweet tooth people, listen up! For several years now we've had a surplus of desserts. You'll notice I've really changed around the number of people scheduled to bring each category of food. Please, we need main dishes! Let's see those meat balls! That fried chicken! Lasagna and meatloaf! Spaghetti, casserole, buffalo wings! (Didn't know buffalo could fly, did you?)

And come join old friends and meet new ones! Bring your friends! Bring a new member! Meet your county's representatives and fellow riders, share ideas, make plans to ride new trails and revisit old ones. And come with an appetite!! TROT folks sure can cook!

I'll see you there! Save me some chicken! *Suzanne*

The TROT Annual Meeting is a joint PotLuck and Business gathering of TROT members. While the agenda is somewhat informal, yet we do have several things to accomplish besides tasting all those wonderful dishes.

As the PotLuck dishes are set out, the County Coordinators and riders gather around different tables to introduce themselves and voice concerns or good news trail tales.

After everyone has filled their plate once, President Gale Monahan will address everyone with any special concerns or news that pertain to all present. Treasurer Anne Bennof may have a report, and perhaps Membership person Lois Ward will be able to state our membership numbers to date. The SAR Team will say a few words as to their activities, and we may hear from the Mapping/GPS folks on their plans.

The really important item on the evening's agenda (no, it is **not** dessert) is the nomination and election of new Board Members. TROT Board members serve at least 2 years (I think that's the expected term). Their job is to meet once each month along with any other interested TROT members to discuss the business of the organization. Fundraisers like the Judged Pleasure Ride, projects like the GPS mapping, requests from other charitable organizations for support, legislation that concerns trails and trail riders (like the Sunday Hunting issue that periodically arises), Fairs and Expos to exhibit at, and most importantly, trails that are being encroached on by development, or public parks that need to remember to include horseback riders.

Our current Board members include:

Gale Monahan, President

Tim McGrath, Vice President

Anne Bennof, Treasurer

Jack Monahan, Secretary

Kathy Dobson,

Angela Klinger,

Pat Merson, and

Marilyn Miller

Board Members are nominated and voted on by the TROT members present at this Annual Meeting. At the next scheduled Board Meeting, the Board Members elect officers from among themselves. And no, we don't use punch ballots for any of this.

The meetings are often held at Jack and Gale's house in Highland, but there's no reason the location can't be changed to suit the people who need to be there.

And the final item of the Annual Meeting (well, yes, along with dessert) is a guest speaker of presentation of some sort. For this year the special presentation has yet to be announced, so you'll just have to come find out yourself.

And **my challenge** to you: Bring a new member to the PotLuck! If Lois will help me out on this, I'd like to make a list of who brings a friend or two (or five!) to join TROT that evening at the PotLuck. I'll announce in the next newsletter how many new people came, and I will personally give you a $50 gift certificate to the tack store of your choice. So, I'll be seeing you and all your riding buddies at the PotLuck!

Happy Trails! *Suzanne*

Horse play is called a 'stealth industry'

(excerpted from the *Baltimore Sun*, Dec. 11, 2000)

Horsing around is big business in Howard County, and a larger industry than once thought, according to a report by the county's Economic Development Authority.

The equine industry takes in $140 million annually in the county, supporting and expanding traditional agricultural businesses, the report says. Forming an industry well-suited to suburban areas, equestrian activities are expected to continue to thrive in the county, an analyst said.

"It's almost a stealth industry in Howard County," said Ginger S. Myers, agricultural development specialist with the authority. "There are more horses in the county now than the day the county became a county."

Based on a survey sent to more than 1,500 people who owned horses or were involved in the equine industry a year ago, the report's results showed the following:

- 10,000 to 11,000 horse owners or users in the county, and more than 9,000 horses;
- the average owner spends more than $7,000 annually for basic care and another $1,000 annually for equipment and clothing;
- those who board their horses spend an average of $6,000 per horse for boarding and training;
- and 75% of the money spent on horses by Howard residents stays in the county.

"For every human support source, there's a correlating support industry for horses—dentistry, veterinary medicine, transportation, insurance, advertising, publishing, clothing, therapeutic massage," said Crystal Brumme, secretary for the Maryland Horse Council and editor of the *Equiery*.

The largest threat is on t that Howard County has not addressed—**the lack of trails** and space for residents to enjoy their animals recreationally.

Malcolm Commer Jr., Livestock economist at the University of Maryland, said an effort to build an equestrian facility in Howard in recent years failed, but Montgomery Co. and Baltimore Co. are moving forward with plans for facilities. "If Howard Co. as an entity does not address this issue, it's going to lose because people are going to take their horses elsewhere," he added.

The report recommends that the county develop a trail network, maintain open space and agreements that support equestrian evens and market equine events and services to promote tourism.

A Christmas Rescue

About 11:00 a.m., Christmas Day, Barbara and I left our home on River Road, Sykesville, Howard Co., MD, to have Christmas dinner with my family in Pennsylvania. Before we left, I put out extra hay for our 2 horses, Tony (Tony Lama), a 22 year old Appaloosa gelding, and Mac (High Style McCrew), a 22 year old Quarter horse gelding. Both horses are field kept, with access to the barn and their stalls.

About 9:30 pm, Christmas evening, we returned home to find Mac was down, in the field near the barn, unable to get up on the frozen and somewhat icy ground. It was obvious he had been down for some time. He was exhausted from trying to get up.

We tried for about 1½ hours to warm him and get him on his feet, but without success. I decided that I needed some professional help. Although I myself am a recently retired Baltimore City Police Homicide Detective of nearly 40 years of service, I have never heard of calling 911 in Baltimore for this type of situation. Being desperate, I figured it was worth trying.

I called Howard County 911, explained my problem, and they dispatched Police Officer Jason Lanowich and Corporal Randy Courson. They arrived and took complete control of the situation. Fire Fighters William Buell and Dan Fitchett of the West Friendship Volunteer Fire Department and Alan Schwartz of the Days End Farm Horse Rescue also arrived. With the expertise of Mr. Schwartz, he guided us all as a team and we finally got Mac back up on his feet. After some rubdown and a warm blanket, we got him into his stall.

Although exhausted, Mac ate some of his Equine Senior, laced with Bute, some orchard hay, and some warm water Barbara had heated for him.

On the following day, Christopher Melluso, DVM, of Sykesville, responded to my call and gave Mac a total going over. Mac did have a selling in the left rear leg that he had been laying on, along with some dirt embedded in the skin. Dr. Melluso advised that after a few days of medications and rest, Mac should be good as new.

I later learned that about 1:30 pm that Christmas day, a neighbor saw Mac lying where I later found him. My neighbor thought nothing of it as Mac loves to roll in the fields. Another neighbor who had been walking his dog about 9:00 pm had left a message on my phone that my horse appeared to be having trouble getting up. With all this I can only surmise that Mac had been down nearly 13 hours when we finally got him on his feet at 2:30 am Tuesday morning. It doesn't leave a good feeling that your friend of 18 years was lying helpless for that period of time.

I just had to write this letter of appreciation to those who helped save my horse, and express the sincere deep feelings we have. Thank You!

Earl R. Kratsch

Dear TROT,

I recently attended a ride; we used a newly opened multi-use trail. It was a very nice trail with bridges over the busy roads. It is a blacktop trail without a parallel trail for horse use. Most of the people we met were friendly, smiling and waving as we went by. I don't think it will stay that way if the riders don't remember that they should remove their horse deposits (road apples, horse hockey, manure). They need to remember the trail is a multi-use trail (hikers, bikers, walkers, small children, etc.). Not everyone appreciates that manure happens. People love to see the horses, but they don't want to be dodging piles of manure on their outings. If this happens enough, we may lose access to this trail and others connected to it. It only takes a few moments to remove the manure from the blacktop. My friends and I tried to remove most of the manure from the trail as we made our way back to the trailers. At one point we met some boys who live near the trail and came over with a shovel to clean the board walk area. Please again, we share this trail with others. Take the time to remove or we may be banned from it.

Shelby Tipton

And in Anne Arundel County. . .

Riders spurred to action by shortage of local trails

by Laura Cadiz, SUN STAFF, Published on Sunday, October 15, 2000, *The Baltimore Sun*

Philip Dibben used to ride his horses from his Pasadena home about a mile to Bodkin Creek across open fields. More recently, he has had to truck his horses to Prince George's, Carroll or Montgomery counties to find trails because those he once used have been developed.

"The trails that we have ridden for years have been disappearing," he said. The Pasadena Horse and Pony Association, of which Dibben is vice president, is working to change that.

In response to a growing need for public horse-riding areas, the group is working on a volunteer effort to develop horse trails around the Lake Shore Athletic Complex. The group won a $9,900 grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation to help create about four miles of hiking and horse trails around the perimeter of the Pasadena complex.

The volunteers have completed part of the project, which includes clearing debris from abandoned trails in the area and creating a trail that extends to Jacobsville Park.

Alison Asti, the group's trails coordinator, said the trails are necessary because there are few places nearby for horse riders to use. She said many riders have had to seek permission from private landowners to ride on their property. "I think there is a need for the trails in light of how many people in the Pasadena area have horses and have to drive to Howard County or Baltimore County ... or drive hours away to find a place to ride," she said.

The group has finished part of the first phase of the project on its own. More than 50 volunteers cleaned garbage and debris from abandoned trails in the northwestern and southwestern parts of the athletic complex, near Mountain Road and Route 100. Volunteers with tractors, chain saws and clippers cleared away the debris to make usable about 1½ miles of trail.

"It's a volunteer program to build this trail," said Tom Donlin, parks administrator for the county's Recreation and Parks Department. "As they acquire some funds and acquire some volunteer labor, they go out and clear a section of the trail."

The horse and pony group was formed five years ago to create a unified voice to push for public trails, Dibben said. It began with 12 members and has grown to a 100-member group that meets once a month to ride, he said. "Clearly, one person going to the county wasn't going to do anything," he said. "We had to get an organization."

The group sought guidance from County Councilwoman Shirley Murphy, a Pasadena Democrat, who recommended that members meet with the county Recreation and Parks Department and present the need for horse trails through petitions. The group later won the county's approval to continue with its work.

"One of my goals here is to expand recreational facilities for everyone," Murphy said. "You have to see exactly what is needed out there, and horse trails is one of them."

The group is waiting to receive the state grant money this month, so it can continue the rest of the project's first phase, which includes removing more trash, designating parking areas and creating trail signs, Asti said.

The next part of the project, expected to begin in the spring, will include finishing the trails on the park's perimeter and connecting them to Jacobsville Park, she said.

Del. Joan Cadden, a District 31 Democrat who pointed the group to the Maryland Department of Transportation for help, said she thinks the trails are a good addition to the sports complex.

"They're to be commended, because they were looking for a place to ride and they really worked at achieving that," she said.

Eventually, the group wants to look at the possibility of installing a show ring and bleachers at the complex, Asti said.

For now, the group can use the sections of the trails that have already been cleared. Dibben rides his horses on the new Lake Shore trail every Sunday morning.

"This, I think, is a real start," he said. "And once we get all the trails that we want and need in the Lake Shore park, then we'll look at opening trails in other county parks."

excerpted from *The Equiery,* November 2000

Horses Shot & Killed in Drive-by Shooting

Living so close to two major metropolitan areas, Baltimore City and Washington, DC, we become accustomed to news reports about "drive-by shootings." But this one was different, and it made every horseman's blood run cold: "a horse was killed today in a drive-by shooting."

Many horse people fear reckless hunters, but it became quickly apparent that this could not even remotely be connected to any sort of irresponsible hunter, because moments before this horse was shot and killed, another horse about a mile away was shot and injured. Someone (or more likely someones) was intentionally and maliciously using horses for target practice.

On Wednesday, September 27, around noon, workers and riders at Waradaca, a public riding and boarding facility in Montgomery County, hear a shot, not an uncommon sound when located near DNR parkland. But this time the shot had come from the road, and the horses turned out in that paddock by the road came charging towards the barn, where a barn worker quickly (and luckily) discovered that one of the mares had been hit with a shotgun blast.

Meanwhile, the vehicle sped north, crossed the county line, made a left turn, and an occupant in the vehicle immediately shot another horse peacefully grazing by the fence line of a private breeding and training stable. That shot went clean through the mare, killing both her and the foal she was carrying.

Given that the incidents happened in different police jurisdictions, it took a little while for the two county police departments to coordinate investigative efforts. However, because there were two shootings only a mile or so apart, in the same time frame (broad daylight, about noon) of horses conveniently beside the road, the police were, once each was aware of the other incident, able to quickly rule out vendettas or reckless hunters and focus on the most likely profile: probably a group of young males with too much of some kind of substance in them and with an over abundance of hostile testosterone, who decided to show off the masculine prowess with the shotgun using living targets rather than the usual Stop sign. These kind of idiots usually end up bragging to the wrong person about their "accomplishments." With this as their profile, Howard County Police began an active investigation, and sure enough, within a week, based on a tip from a high school student, the police had arrested a 16 year old male. Shortly after that they arrested two more juveniles, both 17 year old males.

As of press time, Montgomery County had yet to press charges, but were close to doing so.

The Crime, The Charges

Unfortunately, because these boys are minors, they will be charged in juvenile court, and the courts keep a tight seal on these proceedings. But this we do know: Howard County will be charging them with animal cruelty, reckless endangerment and destruction of property. Montgomery County is planning to press the same charges, but is also considering adding conspiracy to commit a crime. As of this time, it looks like the youths (I would like to write thugs . . . actually, I would prefer to use words that are not printable in a family newspaper) will be charged separately in separate district courts, as if they were separate crimes, efforts are underway to press multiple charges on the state level. Again, because they are juveniles, the courts do not release this information to the general public.

Even more appalling is the fact that this crime of intentionally and violently killing an animal is only considered a misdemeanor in Maryland. According to the Annotated Code of Maryland Article 27, Crimes & Punishment; Section 59(b)(1):

> *Any person who intentionally mutilates or cruelly kills an animal, or causes, procures or authorizes the cruel killing or intentional mutilation of an animal . . . is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not exceeding $5,000 or by imprisonment not to exceed 3 years, or both.*

Yep, you read that correctly folks. Someone can intentionally kill your horse and they can get away with murder. At this point, the best that we can hope for is that the jurisdictions will get together, decide to try them as adults, and then layer on as many charges as they can. However, as of press time, there has been no official movement by the jurisdictions to either press charges together or to try them as adults.

Time to Change the Law—And How You Can Help

Last year, the Maryland Horse Council supported a bill (but was not the initiator of the bill) that would have raised the bar on this crime, it would have made the intentional mutilation or killing of an animal a felony. For various reasons (including poor wording), the bill did not pass.

The Maryland Horse Council will have the opportunity this year to reintroduce a better bill, a bill that can pass, with the help and the backing of the horse community. It will be too late for these thugs, but at least the law will be changed for, heaven-forbid, any future acts. MHC will need your help—they will need people to testify, they will need people to contact appropriate representatives, and they will need help funding a lobbyist. If you are willing to help, you can contact MHC, c/o *The Equiery*, at equiery@erols.com; fax (410) 489-7828, address P.O. Box 610, Lisbon, MD 21765. Updates will be posted on the Maryland Horse Council website, scheduled to debut in early January (www.mdhorsecouncil.com) and, of course, in their newsletter in *The Equiery*. Any contributions for funding a lobbyist for this issue should be made payable to the Maryland Horse Council and should be so earmarked; please note that such contributions are not tax deductible.

And, the fact of the matter is, although such crimes are rare against horses, they are all too common against smaller animals, cats, dogs and other house pets.

One Happy Ending

Minx, a 13 year old pretty palomino pinto mare, was hit by, police believe, one round of buckshot. Some of the shot grazed her, and some was embedded in her side. The 15.1 hh Arab/X mare spent several agonizing nights in intensive care because of toxicity at Marion duPont Scott Center in Leesburg, but is now, according to her vet, well out of the woods and on her way to full recovery. As so many of us do not, owner Vicki Dice did not have major medical insurance, so take this also as a reminder to review, update, or initiate insurance on your own horse.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—Trailer, Shoop 2 horse, electric brakes, break-away safety unit, rubber mats, mounted hay/grain bags, stall divider, front gravel guards, waxed and kept under tarp. Excellent paint and excellent condition. Asking $1700. Phone (301) 668-0169.

BOARDING—Boyds, MD. Trail riders wanted. Also, horses to lease and lessons offered. 5000 acres. Call (301) 540-5433.

WANTED—Newsletter Editor to take over the *TROTNews*. Needs computer, wordprocessing package, a mailing address, fingers to type with, and some understanding of grammar. But most importantly, in interest in the goings on of TROT and a desire to communicate these to other people. Please call me, Suzanne, at (301) 829-3881.

CALENDAR

Jan 10 Wed **TROT Board and Members Meeting**. 7:30 pm, all TROT members always welcome. Call Gale Monahan for directions (301) 854-3852.

Jan 19-21 Timonium, MD, **Horse World Expo**, Maryland State Fairgrounds.

Feb 14 Wed **TROT Board and Members Meeting**. 7:30 pm, all TROT members always welcome. Call Gale Monahan for directions (301) 854-3852.

Feb 17 Sat **TROT Annual PotLuck Dinner and Meeting**, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, Rt. 144 1 mile west of Rt. 32, off I-70 at exit 80. Doors open 5:30 pm

Mar 14 Wed **TROT Board and Members Meeting**. 7:30 pm, all TROT members always welcome. Call Gale Monahan for directions (301) 854-3852.

Mar 25 Sun Trail Maintenance Day, Piney Run, Eldersburg, MD. Sponsored by the Carroll Co. Equestrian Council. Meet 10:00 am. Marz Road.

Trail Hosts of Year 2000

The list that follows reflects all those generous TROT members who have led one of our wonderful weekend trail rides over the course of this past year. Not only do they take time to lead a group on the trails they are most familiar with, they will often spend a great deal of time prior to the ride date trimming, pruning, and otherwise cleaning those same trail to show them to advantage. Thank you one and all!

If you are looking for someone knowledgeable in a certain trail region, you might find just the person in this list. Give them a call and ask to go riding with them!

Agricultural History Farm Park (Upper Rock Creek), Montgomery Co., Jim Frelund, (301) 869-9481

Black Hills Regional Park, Clarksburg, Montgomery Co., Jim Reynolds, (301) 916-2212

Catoctin Mountains, Frederick, Frederick Co.. Angela Klinger, (301) 898-9133

C&O Canal, Potomac, Montgomery Co. Alan Bennett, (301) 762-2260

C&O Canal from White's Ferry, Montgomery Co. Mimi Ernst, (301) 416-2388

Cunningham Falls, Thurmont, Frederick Co., Marilyn Miller, (301) 898-7274

Fair Hill Natural Environment Area, Elkton, MD, Karen Reynolds, (410) 392-4454

Gettysburg National Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Doris Kulp, (301) 271-0226

Gillis Falls Park, Carroll Co., Anne Bennof, (301) 829-0949

Greenbelt Park, Greenbelt, Pr. George's Co. Briavael Cianelli, (301) 262-2666

Hawlings River, Brighton, Montgomery Co., Karen Alexander, (301) 774-4499

Little Bennett Regional Park, Clarksburg, Montgomery Co., Jim Fieser, (301) 540-5085.

Liberty Reservoir, Eldersburg, Carroll Co., Randi Place, (410) 549-5763

Morgan Run NEA, Carroll Co., Doris Kulp, (301) 271-0226

N.E. Branch Anacostia River, Pr. George's Co. Mary and John Angevine, (301) 937-0014.

Paint Branch Stream Valley Park, Silver Spring, Montgomery Co. Mary Prowell, (301) 607-8061.

Patapsco Valley State Park, Marriottsville, Howard, Carroll, Baltimore Co., Annie Moe Benhoff, (410) 781-4165

Patuxent River State Park, Camp Waradaca, Montgomery Co. Gayle Ford, (410) 552-5372.

Patuxent River State Park, Howard and Montgomery Co. Sue Charbonneau, (301) 865-3399

Lower Patuxent/Jug Bay trails, Rosaryville, Jackie Cowan, (410) 923-6157

Potomac Riverside Farm, Poolesville, Montgomery Co., Anna Slaysman, (301) 972-8187.

Rachel Carson Regional Park, Montgomery Co. Rona Bloom, (301) 622-7662

Rocky Gorge Reservoir Trails, Laurel, Montgomery Co., Dennis and Barbara Webb, (301) 604-5619.

Rockburn Park, Howard Co., Sherry Carter, (410) 750-1334.

Savage Park, Savage, Howard Co. Cindy Withers, (301) 459-2768.

Sugarloaf Mountain, Comus, Frederick Co. Monica Breland, (301) 972-7454

Travilah Loop, Potomac, Montgomery Co., Shelia O'Donnell, (202) 362-4504

Union Mills, Westminster, Carroll Co. Cathy McElroy (410) 857-3540

WB&A Rails to Trails, Pr. George's Co. Briavael Cianelli, (301) 262-2666

Trail Riding during Hunting Season

reprinted from *The Equiery*, November 2000

Many people give up trail riding during "hunting season" or only go out on Sundays, because they think that hunters and trail riders cannot coexist safely. When most people think of hunting, they think of the big game; deer, with three seasons, bow, muzzle loader, and shotgun. However there are also seasons for upland game (rabbits, quail, pheasant, and crow) , forest game seasons (squirrels, wild turkeys, grouse) , furbearer seasons [fox (grey and red) , beaver, coyote, muskrat, mink, nutria, otter, raccoons & opossum, skunk & long tailed weasel], not to mention migratory bird seasons (woodcock, mourning dove, clapper and king rails, sora and Virginia rails, common snipe, Canada geese, and teal). Not everything can be hunted in every county, but generally something is always in season.

So why do we get the most nervous during deer seasons? During the bird seasons, hunters shoot up, during the game seasons, hunters shoot at the ground, but during deer seasons, they aim for somewhere in the middle. However, any hunter will tell you that it's impossible to mistake a horse and rider for a deer. Responsible deer hunters wait, attuned to every woodland sound, and watch for quarry, which moves virtually silently through the forest. Consequently, hunters will tell you, a horse sounds like an elephant.

So, if something is always in season, do we give up trail riding? Not likely. So how can we coexist? Easily, and the hunters have to do most of the work. In general, it is illegal to hunt or trap without a license in your possession; hunt on Sunday (except for persons with a Falconry permit, or an organized fox chasing pack) ; carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle; shoot on, from or across a public road; hunt or shoot wildlife within 150 yards of an occupied structure or camp without permission of the owner/occupant; cast rays of artificial light from a vehicle on woods, fields, orchards, livestock, wild animals, or buildings (spotlighting, although there are some exceptions); target shoot on state lands except in designated areas; construct permanent tree stands on state-owned or controlled properties; or trap on state lands without written permission. There are also laws for hunters about their weapons, the time of day they can hunt, what they can take, how much they can take, what they must wear (hunter fashion police?) and how much they have to pay to do it. Whew!

Are there rules that apply to trail riders? Certainly rules about trespassing on private property apply. Did you know that blue paint stripes 2" wide and 8" in length indicate that hunting is not permitted? And no matter what your personal feelings about hunting, it is illegal on private property or on property managed by the Department of Natural Resources to "interfere intentionally with the lawful taking of wildlife by another person; or harass, drive, or disturb any game animal intentionally for the purpose of disrupting a lawful hunt."

Common sense tells us to wear hunter orange, a cap, a vest or some other garment worn above the waist, for the same reason hunters are required to wear it. Because it is not a color found in nature, there is no mistaking it for what it is! Many people also put bells on their horses so that hunters can hear them coming. This is not intended to "intentionally" interfere or disturb with the hunter's lawful pursuit of game, but to have a little extra sound system to warn the hunter of the horse's presence, although chances are quite good he already knows the rider is there. Etiquette (and good sense) would dictate that once the trail rider and the hunter become aware of each other's presence, the trail rider should move on.

Should you wear orange and bells on Sunday during "deer season"? Probably not a bad idea. Just as there are trail riders in this world who leave garbage, wreck private property, and have no respect for others, there are some people who poach. Hunters say poachers are the exception. The Department of Natural Resources even has a "Catch a Poacher Hotline" that is available 24 hours a day at 1- 800-635-6124, tty.(410) 260-8835. Anonymity of the caller is guaranteed.

What are the deer seasons? Maryland is divided into four "Deer Management Regions" Region A is Garret, Allegheny, and western Washington Counties; Region B is Carroll, northwest Frederick, and eastern Washington Counties; Region C is Anne Arundel, Baltimore, the rest of Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties; Region D is Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. Each region (and sometimes sections within regions) has different dates, but plan on deer season for bow, muzzleloader, and firearms to be from September 15 through January 31, and sometimes, the seasons overlap. If you want to know who is hunting what when, your best bet is to contact the Department of Natural Resources at (410) 260- 8540 and get their booklet *Hunting* & *Trapping* in *Maryland* or at their website:

http://www.dnr.state.md.us

What should I do if I am trail riding and see foxhunters? If the fox hunters are coming towards you at a walk or slow trot, the best thing to do is to stay where you are, greet the field master when they get closer, and ask where he or she would prefer for you to go so that you don't cross the line of scent. The master will appreciate your conscientiousness, and may even ask you to join the field (which is a bonus, because other guests have to pay a capping fee!). If they are coming toward you at a gallop, chances are they are on a run, so the best thing for you to do is to move your horse as far off the trail as possible, but point him in the direction of the horses so that he does not kick out at them. (Remember that slower trail riders yield to the faster riders.) If you just see one or two foxchasers, standing or moving, they are probably staff, and only they know where *they* are going, but they probably know where field and the hounds are, so it is best to ask them where they think you should go to stay out of the way of the hounds and the line of scent, and then everyone can enjoy their day on the trails.

Tips for Trail Riding during Hunting Season

*(those marked with a * should be practiced throughout the year)*

- Wear some garment above the waist of hunter (fluorescent) orange, e.g. cap, vest, shirt
- Put bells on
- Put an i.d. tag on your horse's bridle in case you get separated from one another *
- Carry a cell phone or CB radio (on your person, not attached to the horse) and the Catch a Poacher number 800-635- 6124 * (You can also go to deer checking stations)
- Let someone know where you are going and how long you expect to be gone *
- Be polite to anyone you encounter, you represent the riding public *
- Do not disturb hunters in legal pursuit of their quarry (it's illegal)
- Do not attempt to apprehend those involved in illegal pursuits *
- Remember that we have limited resources, and must share them with other users *
- When you come across anyone hunting with dogs (hounds, beagles, retrievers, spaniels, etc.) , it is common courtesy not to trample the scent or dogs. Ask the handler or master where you should go so as not to ruin their day's sport.

News from Virginia Trail Organizations

Blue Trail-Fairfax Cross Country Trail Connector?

by Jim Wakefield

reprinted with permission from the Clifton Horse Society *Leadline*, December 2000

At the Fourth Potomac Heritage Trail Annual Caucus in Quantico on November 15, Bill Neidringhaus set up a display with large detailed maps showing how to connect the Blue Trail with the Fairfax Cross County Trail.

The Blue Trail is what most equestrians call the Bull Run-Occoquan Trail. This 17-mile trail runs through Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority land along Fairfax County's southwestern border with Prince William County, formed by Bull Run and the Occoquan River. It's a wonderful equestrian and walking trail with magnificent water views, extending from Bull Run Regional Park near I-66 to Fountainhead Regional Park halfway to I-95.

The new Fairfax Cross County Trail runs from the county's northern border in Great Falls Park to its southern border in Laurel Hill Community (formerly Lorton Penitentiary).

Looking at the two trails on a map, you can see that connecting them would extend the combined trail around most of Fairfax County. What is very appealing about such a connector is that, according to Bill's research, almost all the needed land is park land along the Occoquan River, and there are only three private properties that the connector would have to cross.

Since Bill Neidringhaus was the successful driving force behind the Fairfax Cross County Trail, we might expect similar success in developing this connector. This would be a great benefit to area equestrians and hikers.

Riding Vacation in Alberta, Canada

We had a wonderful vacation in Banff National Park, thanks to Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies (TRCR)! When the Canadian Pacific Railroad pushed rail through the mountains, they created "destination resorts"—Banff Springs Hotel, Chateau Lake Louise, the Hotel Victoria. To provide activities to those guests, they organized this trail riding organization in 1923, and later a similar hiking organization. In the 1960s, TRCR became an independent non-profit organization.

Our groups was comprised of Jeff and Brenda (friends from Pennsylvania), Randolph, his brother Chandler, and Chandler's daughter Elizabeth. We were part of a larger group of 28 guests, plus 3 wranglers, 2 packers, and 2 cooks. We enjoyed the camaraderie of our little community in the wilderness. The riders came from all over—British Columbia to Saskatchewan, Virginia to Tennessee, New Mexico to California.

We rode in the Johnston Canyon, which lies between Banff and Lake Louise. We rode in from the trail head about 13 miles, which took about 7 hours at our pace—a walk. We did walk all the time, which took some getting used to, but was OK because the trails were all one-horse wide and the terrain often was rocky and steep. I had a beefy palomino, Randolph road a big red roan, Chandler a grey, and Elizabeth a buckskin. The horses were good—primarily Quarter horses—and were good looking, too, and well-fed. They were reliable, trustworthy, experienced trail horses. All the horses began their careers as pack animals, so they didn't scrape you into trees! Jeff and Brenda brought their own tack; we didn't and had excellent saddles. Bring or rent saddlebags for raingear, snacks, cameras, etc.

We stayed at a Teepee Town, an encampment brought in by helicopter at the beginning of the 9-week season (July) and evacuated the same way in September. In fact, while we were there, the helicopter (with a female pilot) brought in alfalfa cubes and other supplies in 6 trips taking just an hour. The horses didn't freak, as you'd expect. An artist friend of TRCR had painted Indian designs on the teepees, which were very picturesque. We all gathered in the walled cooktent to eat and during rainy weather. After dinner, we sat around a campfire on rough-hewn benches and sang songs, led by a TRCR member who volunteered to be the musician. The biffies were in tents, with a wooden "throne" box complete with white pop-top—all the comforts of home! The shower was a teepee with a shower bag suspended from the peak. The greatest luxury of all was having hot water!

They used propane for the hot water heater and stove, which had an oven, too, so we had lots of baked goods. Food was good and ample. There was a wash-up area, with mirrors and plastic bowls for the hot water—very nice. They supplied 3" "foamies," foam pads to put under the sleeping bag. You bring your own sleeping bag and any additional goodies. We brought self-inflating air mattresses to provide additional cushioning, but I don't think they were necessary. Our water came directly from Johnston Creek—no filtering needed! (They did have filtered/purified water for the squeamish.)

Each day we rode out to a different spectacular setting. All over were meadows of wildflowers. The season is so compressed, it looked like Spring turning daily to Fall. We rode to Badger Pass up ferociously steep hills. From the Pass, you could see down the other side of the mountain. The wind blew really hard up there; riders held their hats tightly! We rode to Pulsatilla Pass and took endless photographs of horses and riders against the beautiful backdrop of Wildflower Lake. Exquisite. We rode to Bonnet Glacier and I walked on hour up and up and up to see the glacier. No glacier. There was an additional high mountain behind which the glacier could have been hiding, but I had exhausted both energy and time and didn't go there. The maps say there IS a glacier; I can't prove it. WE saw another glacier frequently on our travels as well as some ice fields which feed the glaciers. Another day we went to Luellen Lake, a perfect and pristine mountain jewel beneath the Sawbuck Ridge. Some of us walked around to the opposite end to see the waterfall which feeds the lake.

Trail riding is the ideal way to see these glories; hiking is just too much work!

There aren't adequate words to describe how beautiful it is. The Canadian Rockies are simply magnificent. Huge, looming, snow-capped sharp peaks and steep escarpments. Built from tectonic collisions eons ago, the peaks point to the sky like accusing fingers, daring ascent by man. Our camp lay just below Castle Mountain, a much photographed mountain seen (from its other side) en route to Lake Louise. The lakes have the lovely and true colors of turquoise and green from limestone. It rained on us twice; the rest of the time was sunny and beautiful. No problems with Dryzabone!

We saw elk, mule deer, wild goats, and lots of marmots and ground squirrels.

The horses were kept in an electric-fenced paddock. One night they got out, perhaps aided by a curious deer seeking alfalfa. The wranglers split up, the first group finding the horses quickly. Unfortunately, the head wrangler headed back toward the trail head and rode the entire 13 miles and back. An electric fence surrounded the camp, too, to discourage grizzly bears.

Brenda saw a perfect bear pawprint in the mud at the Bonnet Glacier stop, but we didn't see a bear.

The TRCR base their camp in a different site each year, rotating among six different sites permitted by Banff National Park. The National Park is very particular about maintaining a pristine countryside. For example, TRCR must reseed the ground where the campsite and corral were situated. Next year the site will be Palliser Valley, at the very southern end of Banff National Park. Some TRCR folks thing that is the second most scenic site; Johnston Canyon is #1. I'd like to see the Palliser, too. You can't get enough of this extraordinary country.

I'd recommend the ride highly. It is also economical. It costs about $900 Canadian, which is about $600 US for 6 days of riding. That includes the horses. By comparison, we paid $550 for the Wyoming Outlaw Trail Ride, and then rented horses for $225, a total of $775 for 7 days of riding. The other costs are getting there, of course, and the hotel before and after the ride.

This is a great opportunity for new riders, too. Chandler and Elizabeth are novice riders and did just fine. We rode 5-7 hours each day, with breaks to seek a tree or have lunch. I loaned them half-chaps and seat savers. I wore full chaps on cool days. Of the 28 guests, only 5 of us had our own horses. Now we have new friends to ride with in the United States and Canada!

The last night in camp was "skit night," or, really, any kind of entertainment you wanted to offer. One of the packers played the guitar and sang songs he had written. Several guests put together skits. I brought a bunch of jokes I received on the Internet, sorted through them, and picked nine "stories." Chandler and Elizabeth and 2 others did a skit from a Saturday Night Live program. Randolph was in several skits and then also told jokes at the end. One woman wrote words about the horses and events of the week and set it to the music of a well-known tune. It was fun.

Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies can be explored at their website: www.canuck.com/~trcr

Now I'm back on flat land, dreaming of the next ride! Vikki Kingslien

Vikki is a member of the Clifton Horse Society in Virginia. Reprinted with permission from CHS Leadline, November 2000.

Trail Tales

Been on a wonderful horseback riding vacation? We'd love to hear about it. Write it down and mail or e-mail them to me at trailsendfarm@erols.com, 7928 Bennett Branch Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771. *Suzanne*

Trail Riders Of Today

TRGT News May 2001

Editor: Suzanne Anderson
301-829-3861
301-829-3860 FAX

NEWS

TRGT Information
301-588-7607

May 2001 | Electronic Edition | Number 129

Thanks to 2 Very Generous TRGT Fellows!

Two Montgomery County businessmen, who are TRGT members, have put their heads and their funds together to move TRGT's trail mapping project forward. They have donated a total of $17,800 to TRGT, to be used primarily for trail mapping.

Under the direction of TRGT Vice President Tim McGrath, TRGT is planning a trail mapping endeavor using GPS technology to pick the trails. The GPS data will be then downloaded into computers to be used with other benchmarks added. The ultimate goal is to publishing a new trails map book to replace the one published a decade ago.

In discussions on how best to move the GPS mapping project forward, our benefactors indicated interest in involving local college students as well, thereby providing a real experience project for cartography, geography, or civil engineering students. To this end, Tim has opened discussions with Tom Ravenhurst at the University of Maryland's Baltimore County campus. Tom is a professional cartographer.

The prospects are looking good for the following: under contract (using these funds), students in the UMBC department would receive from TRGT the data gathered using new GPS units (to be chosen and purchased also with these funds). The department students would process the data to provide paper copy of maps as well as a CD-ROM version. The CD-ROM would be in a format that would be compatible with computers used by TRGT riders as the official "archives on horseback" in the back seat of the GPS unit(s), and these riders would make forays into the established trail systems known to them and escorted by other TRGT members familiar with them.

There's a chance for many of our members to become involved. The first trails undertaken will be in Montgomery County, and the cooperation of TRGT with the Parks Department, Maryland-National Capital State Park. As the process of data collection, delivery to the UMBC cartography department of data, and the process and resulting maps is established, further funds for further mapping can be applied for through the federal program ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act).

Get excited! Call Tim and help him organize these efforts! Just imagine, accurate trail maps you can make yourself, or download from our website! With radio-wave, cell-phone, pager and for riders-known-and-lost, we will be the best trail map!

And for those of us believe always riding around with a GPS in our pocket, if you are already collecting trail data of your own areas, give Tim a buzz and tell him. As he gets the process underway, he should be able to let interested TRGT folks know where that can be processed along with those described in this project.

And once again, a heartfelt, feeling time-whirrys-type **Thank You** to our 2 benefactors.

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMENTS

by Pat Merson (301-898-3251)
and Angela Kinger (301-898-9133)

On April 8, 2001 a meeting was held in Lewistown on the newly purchased property known as the Utica District Park in Frederick county. Unfortunately I didn't get the information on this new piece of land in time for TRGT to have a presence at the meeting. I did however, have a booth set up for the rest of the day to talk to people about what they had questions and answers I made it clear that we wanted to be part of all the planning of activities in the park.

The park is about 200 acres and has about 50 or so acres of woods and wetlands. It is planned that there will be 6 to 8 miles of trails.

For the nonhorse enthusiast in your family they will have plenty to do at the park. It is planned to have a farm museum, play grounds, pond, tennis and volley ball courts as well as softball and baseball fields, soccer, hockey, as well as lacrosse and much more.

On the down side the park isn't due for completion for 25 to 30 years. But on the upside the trails are to go in this November!!!

On a more serious note Angela Kinger wrote a letter to Delegate Paul Stull about our article in the newspaper concerning the proposed legislation to ban horses from state parks. Paul Stull's response was "I know that the problem Maryland is facing with our ever increasing deer population." Mr. Stull's bill would require the DNR (Dept of Natural Resources) to develop, adopt and implement a plan to manage the deer population. Ms. Kinger informed him that this would lead to a "back door" effort to introduce horses into the parks.

In Mr. Stull's reply he advised Angela the bill had been given an unfavorable report and had been defeated. He stated that he felt that the bill was "ill-conceived" and that he felt that the bill was "dead in the water" and that legislation was in no way tied in with any hunting concepts. The purpose of the bill was to study and examine what efforts could be undertaken by the State in alleviation the growing problem with the uncontrolled deer population in Maryland.

Job well done by Angela Kinger. Thank you so much. We need everyone's help in keeping an eye out for such things.

Pr. GEORGE'S COUNTY COMMENTS

by Mary Angelone (301-621-0014)

BOG SOS BOG SOS

In late April of this year, Arbery/Fairland Fairland LLC submitted a preliminary development plan to both Prince George's County and Montgomery County. This plan calls for a "transit area" of Fairland Shopping Center, Fairland and reconfiguration of the Old Gaithersburg Golf Course as an amenity to homes the company wants to build on their currently contiguous property.

No Trails are included in that plan, even though the trails are in the Master Plans of both Counties and are currently in use (as they have been for nearly 100 years if not longer).

It can be reasonably supposed that the trails would be closed during construction of homes and reconfiguration of the golf course. This could last several years. Would we then be told that, since no one had been riding, trails would not be provided???

We Must let our elected officials and the Maryland-National Park and Planning (MNPPC) officials know of our continued desire to keep these trails.

At this time, right this very minute, please take off the lower half of this page, fill it out, and send it to me. Mary Angelone, 9400 Ridgeway Drive, Laurel, MD 20723. Please include your name, address, and phone number at the top of section. All you need to do is write: I will be using these statements now and in the future in both counties to business presentations in support of Fairland trails to all necessary officials.

In another matter, Prince George's County is in the process of updating the County-wide Trails Plan. I have attempted to verify that all those promised trails shown on the various County Planning District Master Plans are in the County-wide Trails Plan and have found that they are not. I have also found that, in contrast to Montgomery and Georgia's County, TRGT members (Hart, YOU) and their friends and neighbors no call Ted Bailey, the County's Planning Department Trails Coordinator. Please set an appointment with him to review the area in which you ride. His phone number is 301-952-3882. This needs to be done **this summer**.

FAIRLAND REGIONAL PARK

vis-a-vis FAIRLAND GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY CLUSTER

I We want you to know that as a horseback rider and bapaging citizen, whose lives have gone toward the purchase of Fairland Regional Park, I/We believe the natural surface trails through the wooded portion of the parkland should be retained.

I/We understand that these trails are on the Counties of Prince George's and Montgomery's Master Plans. Prince George's County currently provides an equestrian staging area along the entry drive to the Gunpowder Golf Course Clubhouse.

I/We would prefer to see the woods left intact. If this is done, people who now enjoy horseback riding and/or hiking in the woods will be able to do so, and people who want to see the woods will be able to walk through their outings. Such activities provide a non-consumptive participation in nature. The current spacious environment in these woods allows plenty of room for the above-mentioned activities, as well as mountain-bike riding.

Additionally, the natural surface trails provide winter-time activity for cross-country skiers.

It is my/our sincere hope that the trails will not be re-routed to an outside perimeter of Fairland Regional Park, which would deny many the pleasure currently enjoyed during recreation in this natural, wooded setting with streams.

Signature:

Address:

Attention!

To TRGT members & those who love & care about horses:

On February 21, 2001, 20 horses were imported from a site in Lafayettesville and taken to Deep Run Farm in Hillsboro, Virginia. Of the 20 horses, 18 were found to be infected with Equine Infectious Anemia. They were reshipped by various sorts of chains, wires, ropes, and even some with bits in their mouths, unable to reach any sort of shelter or regular source of water. Some suffered sores, sunburn, and most had terrible hoof conditions and signs of malnutrition.

This has been an overwhelming undertaking for Deep Run, not just the hours of work, but imagine the cost to return all these animals to good health. This is putting a terrific strain on resources that very few people have.

As TRGT members themselves, the folks at Deep End have always been very supportive of our organization. Now it is time for us to return the favor to Deep End. Deep End is a non-profit organization. We can't do it all, and so is ensure that their work can continue. We are asking all, not only the financial contributors, but for help in spreading the word among other horse owners, from neighboring farms, boarding stables, vets, farriers, feed and tack stores.

Also, consider becoming a member of TRGT. The benefits to horses owners and their horses are tremendous. Contact Membership Chair Ann Kroll, 7828 Barnard Ranch Rd, Montgomery County, Maryland 20877 or Deep End Farm Rescue, Inc., PO Box 305, Lisbon, MD 21765 and donors will receive a tax deductible receipt. For more information, call Dayo End Farm 301-831-7095 or 301-854-5937. Copies of this information as a handouttoo*ear may be obtained by calling Pat at 301-855-6955.

Maryland Horse Industry Board Update

Now that the recent controversy over the House Bill 229, also "The Pace Bill," has died down, I'll attempt to keep all of TRGTMembers readers up to date on the actions of the MHIB. First, I'd especially like to thank your Delegate and Senator for their support of the Equestrian Trails Tax Check Off Bill. It was a great feeling knowing all what the MHIB is all about. The bad thing anyone wants to do is scare the horse owners who are the very target of the rewards of the MHIB.

The MHIB is in the process of collecting and awarding twenty-five $1,000 grants to horse related projects throughout Maryland. This process will be completed in May and all of the money will be allocated by the end of June. The MHIB is also in the process of creating a Maryland Horse Industry Strategic Plan. Once completed we will evaluate the public. Special emphasis will be placed on requests for grants that focus on youth related activities, although it need not be a youth group applying for the grant. To learn more about the grant process visit the MHIB at marylandhorseindustry.org and click on MHIB Grants, or look for the article in the April issue of the Equine.

Promoting horses in Maryland is one of the primary functions of the Board. As a means of performing that duty, the Board is in the process of renaming the "October is Horse Month" into a month long celebration of the many activities planned for the month of October, please forward it to me so your activities can be included in any promotional material the Board is preparing.

I've recently received emails and had conversations asking why Maryland equestrians should support both the Maryland Horse Industry Board and the Maryland Horse Council. The answer is simple, they both do very different jobs. At dates, the purpose of the MHIB is to promote the horse industry (every person and business affected by horse ownership) and to license and inspect boarding and riding stables in Maryland. The MHIB, unlike the Maryland Horse Council, is a State Board operating under the Maryland Department of Agriculture and is supported by membership. It is a State Board operating under the Maryland Department of Agriculture and is supported by state funds. The Maryland Horse Council on the other hand, is a membership organization and is subject to the rules and laws of the State of Maryland. The Maryland Horse Council is a lobbying group, and as a membership organization, is in a position to lobby for legislative actions, while the law is not. One of the lobbying actions on the Board is a MHC representative. This provides the voice of the MHC membership to the Board along with the other appointed industry representatives.

The Board positions are:

Gregory Grainger, Chairman Original Competitions and Shows Industry
Timothy Cogan Maryland Thoroughbred Industry
Maureen Cornell Academic Equine Community
Linda Grosman, Vice Chairman Trails and Recreational Riding
Jack Hall Equine Industry Related Support Industries
Shari Kennedy Veterinarian Industry
Elizabeth Mackenzie Maryland Horse Council
Ronald Mitchell Maryland Department of Agriculture Ex-Officio
position now being filled Public Member
Eli Bateman Maryland Standardbred Industry
Jack Ferguson Maryland Thoroughbred Industry
Carol S. Wicker Licensed Stables

Visit the MHIB website, marylandhorseindustry.org. There will be an email contact on that site. Or, you can email me directly at emcc@hotmail.com or call me at 410-881-5176 if you have questions or concerns.

Ride often, be safe! Linda Emmizer

CALENDAR

May 5		**TRGT Pasture Ride, Potomac Riverside Farm to the C&O Canal. Work** Day. This ride leaves Anne Deachsel's historic working farm and crosses over the fields, pass the Pine Rock, through the woods, and down to the C&O canal towpath. Pitchforks rule! There are usually some things you can help with, and wetlands and some spelling with a paseaka snack break at the Little Pinkey Rock. Bring mules back to our trailhead at Ken Ken Farm. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227.
May 5	Sun	Preston Shoshee Ride, Preston Park, Rainsville Road, Sykesville, MD. Sponsored by the CODC. $15 gets you 30@ on the trail, lunch, and a chance at the door prize. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227 for more information.
May 12	Sat	**TRGT Work and Welcome Meeting**. TRR and all TRGT members are always welcome. Call Dale for place and directions. Usually first Saturday in May. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227. Remember Sunday, May 20.
May 19	Sat	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Sotta Falls Park.** Carroll Co. This ride will start at the Sotta Falls Park in Carroll County. Bring your own lunch. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227 for more information.
May 19	Sat	Sheets County 100 Lyons Mills Equestrian Trails, Hosanna Rd, Pasadena, MD. Sponsored by the CODC. A unique opportunity for horses with little experience crossing water to gain valuable experience to this common trail obstacle with the help of knowledgeable trail riders. For more information call Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227.
May 19	Sat	Tour Ride & Picnic, Ft. Frederick C&O Canal towpath. To benefit Anne Arundel County Horse Bail Bequeaton Center. Special Guest Speaker Ann Deachsel. Bring your own picnic lunch. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227 for more information.
May 19	Sat	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Cunningham Falls.** Leader Marilynn Sifer 301-898-7274. This ride will take you up into the Catoctin Mountains leaving from Camp Misty Mount and from Cunningham Falls. Come enjoy some of the most beautiful trails in Maryland. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227 for more information.
Jun 2	Sat	Spring Guides Ride of the Gettysburg National Battlefield. Sponsored by the Gettysburg Equestrian Historical Society. 10 am, $15 minutes lunch. Eve Rose Lyons 717-676-0755, Julie Hughes 410-848-8151, or Cathy Wolfinger 410-857-2850.
Jun 9	Sat	CODC General Meeting, Cecils Office Bldg., 226 N. Center St., Westminster. Public invited. Call Gordon Geiser 410-848-5440.
Jun 16	Sat	**TRGT Work and Welcome Meeting**. TRR and all TRGT members are always welcome. Call Dale for place and directions. Usually first Saturday in June. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227. Remember Sunday, June 17.
Jun 17	Sun	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Potomac Riverside Farm to the C&O Canal.** This ride leaves Anne Deachsel's historic working farm and crosses over the fields, pass the Pine Rock, through the woods, and down to the C&O canal towpath. Pitchforks rule! There are usually some things you can help with, and wetlands and some spelling with a paseaka snack break at the Little Pinkey Rock. Bring mules back to our trailhead at Ken Ken Farm. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227.
Jun 23	Sat	Preston Shoshee Ride, Preston Park, Rainsville Road, Sykesville, MD. Sponsored by the CODC. $15 gets you 30@ on the trail, lunch, and a chance at the door prize. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227 for more information.
Jun 23	Sat	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Patapsco River Park.** Leader Anne Deachsel 301-774-4455 This ride covers the Hannigan trail and the Patapsco River. Lots of beautiful scenery and a chance to visit with lots of clean sweepings located between Ilchester and Dunloggin in Montgomery county.
Jul 7	Sat	CODC General Meeting, Oregon Ridge Park, MDA Center, 926 E. Woodstock Rd., Westminster, MD. Public invited. Pot-luck will follow. Contact Gordon Geiser 410-848-5440 for more information.
Jul 14	Sat	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Liberty Reservoir.** Carroll Co. Come ride the Pine Road trail around Liberty Reservoir. This is a very long, open trail that follows the reservoir with many rise views of the water. Call Sonny Bookman at 410-833-6583. Remember Sunday, July 15.
Jul 21	Sat	**TRGT Work and Welcome Meeting**. TRR and all TRGT members are always welcome. Call Dale for place and directions. Usually first Saturday in July. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227.
Jul 22	Sun	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Potomac Riverside Farm to the C&O Canal.** This ride is currently mapped out to cover in the Maryland Horse Council's Trail Guide. Pitchforks rule! There are usually some things you can help with, and wetlands and some spelling with a paseaka snack break at the Little Pinkey Rock. Bring mules back to our trailhead at Ken Ken Farm. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227.
August		CODC Trail Safety and Maintenance Drive. Carroll Co. Equestrian Center, Emmitts Road, Mt. Airy. Bear grass cover some of the trouble areas.
		TRGT Pasture Ride, Patapsco River Park. Leader Anne Deachsel 410-774-4455. Ride one of the nicest sections of the Patapsco River as the river winds in toward a Carroll county. There are some nice twists the Patapsco river and wetlands through the adjoining cemetery. Remember Sunday, June 24.
Aug 4	Sat	Sesame Summer Ride, Patapsco River State Park, Hollofield Road, Woodstock, MD. Sponsored by the CODC. Registration required. Call Ruth Mathias 301-235-2383.
Aug 11	Sat	**TRGT Pasture Ride, The Hastings Road** Ride. Leader Ann Deachsel 301-774-4455 This ride reveals the Hastings road and the Patapsco River. Lots of beautiful scenery mixed with bits of clean sweepings located between Ilchester and Dunloggin in Montgomery county.
Aug 11	Sat	CODC General Meeting, Oregon Ridge Park, MDA Center, 926 E. Woodstock Rd., Westminster, MD. Public invited. Pot-luck will follow. Contact Gordon Geiser 410-848-5440 for more information.
Aug 18	Sat	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Liberty Reservoir.** Carroll Co. Come ride the Pine Road trail around Liberty Reservoir. This is a very long, open trail that follows the reservoir with many rise views of the water. Call Sonny Bookman at 410-833-6583. Remember Sunday, August 19.
Aug 25	Sat	**TRGT Work and Welcome Meeting**. TRR and all TRGT members are always welcome. Call Dale for place and directions. Usually first Saturday in August. Contact Ann Deachsel at 301-972-8227.
Aug 26	Sun	**TRGT Pasture Ride, Patapsco River Park.** Leader Anne Deachsel 410-774-4455. Ride one of the nicest sections of the Patapsco River as the river winds in toward a Carroll county. There are some nice twists the Patapsco river and wetlands through the adjoining cemetery. Remember Sunday, June 24.

Hey Fellas!

Hey fellas! I also have some pack mags specifically Paint Branch, Union Mills, and Little Bennett that I can send by Email if you want them. I am going to try and do some more. It is sometimes hard to describe what variation of a map I want so use as some parts have several different ones. I also need to figure out my scanner a little better. My Email address is Bopinas@aol.com. Mary Bopinas

Have you ever envied your young teenager's activities in the 4-H Horse Club? Been amazed by the broad spectrum of topics the U.S. Pony Club covers? Been in awe of the "cool" clothes in life, past the maximum age for the riding clubs? Wished you knew the intricacies of show jumping? Been curious about the rules of different tests and why certain movements were developed in dressage?

The **Old Hunter's Riding Club** is here for you! And bear in mind, the word "old" in this title is relative. If you're over 75, you qualify.

The Old Hunter's Riding Club (OHRC) welcomes riders from all disciplines: English, Western, dressage, hunter/jumper, and those who just want to learn more about horses and horsemanship. The OHRC offers a wide variety of programs, including trail rides, clinics, and trailer-to-trailer tailgating. The OHRC is a Club for the over 21 year old equestrian based on the high standards of the Pony Club. The Club is open to people who want to participate in a non-competitive environment. The Club has one more that 45 members in the Southern Maryland Club alone. In total, there are in excess of 200 members across the United States. Go see their website at http://www.oldhunterridingclub.org

Hunterville, Maryland is located in the Damascus area. Contact Jane Hardin, kathleenhardin@hotmail.com, Poolesville; Debby Lynn, Debbylynn@tds.net, and Monitian (Lisa Gaucher), Monitian@hotmail.com, both in Southern Maryland, both place of the unique-riding club, contact Hope Jacobs at hopejacobs@yahoo.com

In deference to our "aged-ness," jumping requirements of the USPC were altered and made optional for the OHRC standards, meaning can be accomplished with a mounting block. Jumping is optional, if necessary.

This is a unique opportunity to meet riders from many riding disciplines, share experiences, arrange and attend clinics on a wonderful range of horse topics, and expand your knowledge of all things horse.

Contact the chapter listed above for information located nearest you, and go see their website at at www.oldhunterridingclub.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOARDING West Howard County (Glenwood) on 50 acre farm, new barn with 4 12'x12' stalls. Safe board fencing, quality hay with cows in others. Riding ring and access to trails. Full board: $250, field board: $75. Call Laura Peck 301-604-4202

FOR SALE 7 yr old reg. Appaloosa gelding, solid bay 4 socks, 14.3, people oriented. Straight legs, good feet, comfortable ride. Ridden in bosal or Otaga Indian bridle. Light mouth, leg command. Trail ridden extensively, great endurance. English, or speed pleasure: $2600. Also, 15 yr old Tobiano paint gelding, trail ridden, great disposition, light mouth, no speed. $1800. Both horses need experienced rides only. Call 410-549-0280 or email cdgallman@aol.com

WANTED Newsletter Editor to take over the TRGTNews. Needs computer, wordprocessing package, a mailing address, fingers to type with, and some understanding of grammar. But most importantly, it means the ongoing ion of TRGT and a desire to communicate these to other people. Please call me, Suzanne, at (301) 829-3861.

FOR SALE Quarter horse type gelding, 15h, 17 yr old, black. He leads, trail rides, is sound. Has all shots. $1000. Selling due to owner's illness. Diana Farace 410-795-3490

SERVICES Lime & fertilizer spreading, Land clearing and Tree & stump removal, Trucking, Hay & straw, Fence repair & construction, Pasture renovation. Call 301-432-8908, In message. And another, pole, trucking equipment for parts or refurbishing.

FOR SALE Reg. QH gelding. Sound, easy keeper. 15.3 hh, 14 yr old. $2,500. Also, Pony, 2 yrs old, chestnut gelding. 12hh. Sweet, smart, and sound. Great pleasure mount. $800. Call 410-203-6262

BOARDING Tranquility Farm, Boyds, MD, offers the following on 5,000 acres: horses to lease, lessons for individuals leasing our horses, deluxe stall board, deluxe flat/hack/jumper/dressage brunch trail rides. Call (301) 540-5433

Unspoiled Trail System Accessible From New B&B

Just north of I-70 between Baltimore and Frederick, a new bed and breakfast has opened that offers overnight horse boarding plus direct access to miles of trails through woodlands surrounding Liberty Reservoir.

"The trail system is Carroll County's best-kept secret," says Rand Place whose Ambiance B & B is situated to take advantage of the trail system. "Most people don't realize there are horse trails in Carroll County. The main reason more people don't utilize them is the lack of access. There is only one small parking area for the public and it is not suitable for horse trailers," explains Rand. "Camping is not allowed."

Ambiance B & B is a great place to board either the horses or yourself. "We don't" says Janet Neumann of Gaithersburg, MD, who has hiked these trails often. Conveniently located less than an hour's drive from Baltimore, Washington, Frederick, and Gettysburg, the B & B is a great place for a weekend getaway. Guests can enjoy a family-friendly the meandering trail system held by the workers of the Reservoir as a "Secret in our backyards."

"You can ride for eight hours and only cross one or two roads. So while you will rarely see anyone else on the trails, you are on your own but not alone," explains Judy Hanan, Gettysburg, MD who also horseback rides the trails.

After years of informally hosting friends eager to ride these wide shady trails on horseback or bikes, the Neumanns and Place decided to open a bed and breakfast. Since the B & B opened last October (for the ski season), Rand negotiated the Carroll County zoning and permitting process. "I discovered that the Board of Tourism is quite enthusiastic about a new B & B because there is a shortage of accommodations in South Carroll."

Guests share this "home stay" bed and breakfast with its four-legged residents. "Wreaks," a yellow lab, and mischievous cats, Rocky and Sweetface. The farm is also home to several critters that reside outdoors (sem cats, horses, goats, and a donkey adopted from the Sheet Rose Lyons. Regular forest visitors include a hoot owl that lives in a corner of one pasture and a family of fox.

Check-in time is 3:00. Put your horse up in one of two barns. Park your trailer on the premises. Rates are $25 per night for one person, $35 for two persons. Rates include breakfast. Lunch: Precious Goat Soap, munch on a few of Rand's well-run your mouth Cowboy Cookies.

Study pre-published Reservoir trail maps from an upcoming book, "Baltimore Trails, A Comprehensive Guide," by Bryan Mackay due out in 2002 from Johns Hopkins University Press. Or, if you want to ride with a guide, let Rand know you want to do breakfast in the morning and if you need her guidance on the trails.

For reservations, call Ambiance Bed & Breakfast, 410-549-5763 locally or 800-637-0016. If Rand doesn't answer, right away, she's probably feeding the animals, mowing the pastures, tending the garden or leading a ride. Do leave a message and she will get back to you. Rand and her guests are delighted to share the relax and soak in the peaceful beauty of life in the country.

Great Milk Soaps on sale, with proceeds going to Johns Hopkins Cancer Center.

www.ambiancebnb.com

West Nile Virus

Fifty-nine horses were infected with the virus in 2000 and of these 20 died or were euthanized. Of the 59 horses that were infected, 19 were from Maryland, one death in 2000. In 1999, 52 horses cases were reported. Of the deaths occurred. Cities with the virus have been found as far south as North Carolina and Georgia, and as far north as Massachusetts and Maine, as far as New Jersey. Marylanders will be on the hook out for the disease this year. There is a vaccine that is currently being developed for this mosquito-borne disease but currently there is no cure. Veterinarians

Treatment:

Neurological signs are the hallmark clinical signs and your veterinarian can perform lab test to help diagnose the disease.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Horses cannot become infected with foot and mouth disease. It only affects cloven-footed animals such as cattle, swine, sheep, goats, deer, llamas and alpacas. The US has been free of the disease since 1929. The last outbreak occurred in California in 1929. The last outbreak in Canada occurred in Saint Hyacinthe, Quebec. Meat of the animals will recover, but the disease leaves them so debilitated the there is a severe loss in milk and meat production. The disease is highly contagious and can spread by contact with infected animals, clothing or footwear, contaminated water or even semen from infected bulls. So for the disease has not entered the US and for more information about the disease go to the net at http://www.aphis.usda.gov.

More to come!

Ros Brownell D.V.M., bowesvetfp@aol.net Happy Riding!

Trail Riders of Today

County Coordinations & Contacts

Anne Arundel Kristen Engman410-987-0798
Baltimore Linda Emmizer410-881-5176
Carroll Sonny Bookman 410-833-6583
Frederick Angela Kinger 301-898-9133
Pat Merson301-898-3251
Howard Glenwood Mary Bopinas 301-854-3862
Montgomery Tim McGrath301-428-8216
Pr. George's Mary Angelone301-627-0014
Wicomico Judy Myers410-860-0340

The Editor welcomes submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TRGT members. Pictures submitted must be of good quality and high contrast.

DEADLINE: All materials must be **received** by June 25 for the July TRGTNews. Please send all materials to:

Suzanne Anderson
7828 Barnard Ranch Rd.
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Original articles may be reprinted with the notice "Reprinted from the (month year) issue of TRGTNews."

AD RATES:

classified: $5.00
½ pg or business card$25.00
1 pg $40.00
full pg$75.00
half page$40.00

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Editor: Suzanne Anderson
301-829-2884 (H)
301-829-2885 (W)

NEWS

TROT Information
301-588-TROT

October 2001 **Electronic Edition** **Number 132**

"We must defeat evil and uphold our Constitution. On September 11, 2001 will be remembered in history. We must unite in our resolve to take the steps necessary to defeat the forces of evil that have attacked our homeland. Our Constitution is the foundation of our freedom. Terrorist forces attack upon America's and the world's preeminent symbols of democracy, a free market economy, and its military defense."

Congressman Roscoe Bartlett (R-6-MD) , Reacting to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

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Break Out Your Bells And Orange Riding Gear

The **Maryland Statewide** Hunting Dates for 2001-2002:

Deer Bow 9/15/01-10/12/02 (except dates reserved for gun)

Deer Muzzleloader 10/18-20; 10/26-27 (Reg. C&D); 12/15-29

Deer Firearm 11/10 (Youth); 11/24-12/8

Carroll Co. parks differ, as follows:

Union Mills: 9/15/01-2/28/02 B Trails Closed Mon., Wed., &Fri. and 11/24-12/8

Gillis Falls: 9/15/01-2/28/02 B Trails Closed Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat. and 11/24-12/8

Morgan Run: 10/7/01-12/31/02 B Hunting is allowed in certain areas Wed. through Sat. We can ride there these days, but not in marked hunting areas. Closed Sundays.

Cavetrotters: B Morgan Run trails are not closed during 11/24-12/8. You just need to be aware that muzzle-load hunting is permitted in the area during this period (and also during 12/15-12/22). Interesting note: modern firearms are never allowed in Morgan Run, only the muzzle-loaders.

Hunting is not allowed in **Piney Run Park** or **Freedom Park**, but trails run close to borders of hunting areas and riders are advised to be cautious.

In most instances, dates for other game fall within the general 9/15/01-1/31/02 deer bow dates. Some are beyond: Rabbit(mid 2/9/02); Quail(mid 2/17/02; Pheasant(mid 3/31/02; Crow(mid) 3/16/02; Coyote (Firearms & Bow)B1/01-5/31/02; Turkey(B4/1/02 (Youth) 4/18-5/10/02. Proposed resident goose (Western Md., Carroll & Western Mont.) 11/15-22; 12/8-12/14/02 & 1/15-2/15/02.

Watch your newspapers and posted signs regarding any managed hunts that may be planned for parks in your area. These are usually well publicized and easily avoided.
Correction to last newsletter's piece on proposed Hunting Legislation: The phone number at the end of the article does not in fact help you find and contact your legislators.

Mapping Committee Progress

ReTha last week of September, TROT finalized a contract and transferred funds to Eric Uriz of Frederick County Government to begin the mapping committee's work. Eric will be available to continue to work as the Carroll County Liaison. The McHale will be working closely with Naomi Mendez to gather a group of riders to lead a GPS Tech to record all the easements that make up the Carroll County portion of the Gettysburg to Gettysburg Trail and the Maryland Section of the Trail. Planning is already mapping their county trails. TROT will concentrate on the trails that people can use get to these parks. We hope the money demand is sufficient to complete mapping all of Montgomery County. Once we complete this county, we will be starting on other counties.

Tim the Trail Man.com

Chair, Trail Mapping Committee

Act Now, Save the Trail

Anne Arundel County may once again be dragging its feet on the completion of the Western Bdd A Multi-Use Trail. Prince George's County finished and opened their section of this trail, but is still dragging their feet at the AA Co. line. Riders fill in at AA Co. does not wish to start in finish up on the Western Bdd A trail and Anne Arundel County Executive Janet Owens wants to hear from all of us requesting 5-foot:

- Start and finish the trail to a safe place to ride
- Keep the original plans to allow equestrian use
- Be sure the trail riding opportunities will be represented on the *planning committee* to help ensure safe plans for both horses and other traffic sharing the trail.

Make yourself heard: contact by calling Mrs. Owens at 410-222-1821 or FAX her at 410-222-1235. Kids and adult voices count here! Call Now! *(Riding to a Different Beat* Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horses Club, Inc., July 2001.)

Trail Tales

Another Horseback Adventure with Bob Shirley

It was easy to imagine that Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were watching us from behind the rocks and trees as we rode our horses through the Hole-in-the-Wall country of Wyoming. Outlaw Trail in Wyoming. Here I experienced the roughest austere and uncouth I've ever made on horseback as we climbed in and out of several canyons in the high plains of the Buffalo Creek Ranch.

Marylanders Rachel, Daniela, and myself joined 8 other adventuresome riders for this ride on the Outlaw Trail. Our guide was Jim Cassidy, descendant of the famous Butch Cassidy, for 6 days of riding, the atmosphere, and the friendships we made were unexpected our experiences.

On the first day we were only 2 miles out of camp when a bearing beneath superbreed skyted as in our first view of a rattlesnake. As we stopped and watched for our camera, we saw a 4 foot rattler, coiled, ready to strike, and rattling its tail furiously. Our guide quickly spotted rock under some sage turned out to be a very young male deer fawn that remained motionless as we rode by within 10 feet of it.

Back at camp, we moved into our sheep herder tents, had a delicious and filling dinner, told some yarns around the campfire, and first get some much needed rest.

The next day proved to be our longest, most rugged ride of the week. Starting at our base camp (elevation 7,000 feet), we climbed in and out of several beautiful canyons up to the Cow Creek Pass (elevation 9,000 feet) and then down into Cow Creek Canyon. Although we came in a swine hog enough to hide an Indian war party that we wouldn't have spotted until we got within 20 yards. This country is still unchanged from early pioneer days.

My mount Nutmeg proved to be agile and sureforend as we leapord and slid down a steep canyon trail. Jim will had plenty of endurance for a 32 mile camera, mostly downhill, back to camp.

Bob Bingenmann, a 70-year-old rancher, joined us in camp and told stories of his early ranching days. His present ranch of 160,000 acres (roughly 25 the size of Carroll County) supports 1,500 cows and their calves, meaning it takes over 100 acres of this rough country to feed one cow.

During the lunch stop the following day in Lost Canyon, Skip took us on a long hike up a canyon to a waterfall and pool of water. We saw a family of mountain lions playing in the pool their white cubs hidden until it was safe to drive them south. During this ride we saw pronghorn antelopes, whitetail deer, mule deer, sage hens, golden eagles, jack rabbits and antelopeskins. We never did see a coyote, but several times we heard them howling.

We stopped to water our horses at a creek tank where the well pump was operated by wind power to generate the electricity.

Back at camp, the appetizer before dinner was fine cut offer cowboy delicacy,Great fried Rocky Mountain oysters. Second of as practical roping. After lessons and warm up tosses, I was 4 for 4. Maybe I'll be a cowboy yet.

The next days' ride took us along the Red Wall, a 40-mile long bright red wall of rock. Civil War shooters used this area before the time of the Wild Bunch and Indians used it long before that. Our lunch stop was at Bob Bingenmann's ranch where we saw a herd of his cattle. We stopped at Buffalo Drop Canyon, where Indians would drive herds of buffalo off the top of the canyon to kill them in the days before they had horses and rifles.

The middle of the afternoon we visited an Indian medicine site where there were many petroglyphs and pictographs. Jim explained the meaning of the various Indian pictures and still studying this area to determine which tribes held what ceremonies here.

Again, we ate dif every day, there was a long (20 minute) canter back to camp. Thursday found us riding between the Red Wall and the Gray Wall, with spectacular views of the country. I'm sure we could see 35-40 miles of rugged scenery whenever we were up on the top of the mesa. We rode to a point where we could look down into the valley of ancient scrip and mesquite. Our ride was back to camp we interrupted our gallop to inspect a rock with names and dates scratched on it dated back to the late 1800s.

Our final day came all too quickly as we rode through the rugged country, round Wyoming plains for the final time. This scenery is hard to describe with its many earth colors and its unusual outcrops, almost totally devoid of green trees and grass we are so used to in Maryland.

During our farewell dinner at a local western restaurant, we said goodbye to our fellow adventurers and to our hosts, Skip and Vivian Anderson. We left with a great feeling of the western way of life, its people, and history. We never did see Butch and Sundance! Maybe we'll have to go back.

Bob Shirley

Western Outlitter in Northern Pennsylvania

I took a long anticipated trip to the Mountain Trail Horse Center in Wellsboro, PA, this past August for a 5-day trail ride, with your intrepid TROT editor and other friends from the area in tow.

The adventure began Monday morning, August 13, when we met Pat Mayer, our outfitter/guide, at his ride headquarters to sort out horse assignments, pack our lunch, and get saddled up. Our group was composed of 8 experienced riders and 2 "dude" trail rides, which is that part of Pennsylvania seem to be straight up the mountains. When not climbing or descending, we would encounter Forest Service roads where a nice gallop was enjoyed by all. There were plenty of rest stops!Our both horses and riders.

The first day we were in the saddle for approximately six hours(Cand day two was even longer). We had to negotiate a steep descent into a valley and then climb back out on the other side (complete with slippy-rock which proved to be no sleeping bags. There go early the next morning to be on the trail by 10 a.m. This was the routine we followed all three days of our ride. Lunch was at noon every day. August 15 is the ride headquarters at approximately 5 p.m. for the long drive home.

The weather was wonderful, the horses fit and sturdy, and the trails challenging. Pat and the wrangler in attendance tended to the horses and did the cooking, as we took was engrained on our part. It was a great riding vacationCone that is tight in our own backyard, (see their web site at www.mountaintrailtrave.com.)

Judy Bradbeck

The WEB is Passed On

After all these years of mentioning the TROT web site, I have finally given it over to a friend who will be able to keep it updated more than I have been. Time constraints and demands for my time and I feel I could no longer do the TROT web site justice. It was an honor to be able to provide this service to TROT. I enjoyed doing it. I learned a lot in the process. I hope I have introduced many to the group. I have passed the torch over to George W. Grady, georgw_grady@hotmail.com.

Happy Trails, *Randy Hamstead.*

From all of us old hers in Maryland, Thanks for Much for launching TROT's web presence. And be sure to stop in sometime to go riding! Best of luck to you and your mount.

Dynamite the Angel Horse by *Carole Peters Igbaari*

Years ago I had the opportunity to work for McNally Camp Chariot, an interdenominational summer camp for girls. It had a great variety of activities, including horseback riding, and I was the assistant riding teacher. At this time, horseback riding was a very popular activity, and there were many horses and people. They were on the whole that perfect bunch of extremely trained, extremely safe horse. With only one week per rider, we were just barely able to teach them a little more than how to get on, how to ride, how to stop, how to turn, how to get off, how to care for a long time. We had named him Dynamite as a joke. But there was something about him that was different. He demanded respect from the rider. He was willing to do what was asked, but he was not a pushover. He was a horse with a mind everyone. But if the student tried to forcibly pull his nose around, he would deliberately walk off in the wrong direction. He never hurt anyone, never kicked or bit at an ill, but would always cause mischief.

Some of the young students liked Dynamite. When they would complain about how difficult he was to ride, I would ask them if they had ever thought about why they learned to ride him, they would really learn how to ride. This did not sit well with them. The children would try to use the dumbest horse there. But really he was the smartest, most on a level that cannot be taught.

Also in camp there was a counselor who had worked poky. She had no horse to ride, but she was a great horsewoman. She was a great horsewoman, and she was also smart in ways that cannot be taught. She also had a special gift that she was always recognized, she could work with the young grade school children and make them feel at ease. She was also a great cook, and she was good at sewing, quoting and fighting. I wondered how someone so physically perfect could have so much trouble with her life. I wondered why she was so kind to people who really to them, taught them, and told them stories. She never ruined her voice. She was quiet, gentle, and kind. She was a great horsewoman, and she was also a great person that I was willing. When these qualities ended to be during life, they did not match in a straight line, they zoomed around like bees around a hive. Her life was full of tricking into dumb, and stupid. There is that part of her holding her up. And yet we could hear them clamoring for their turn in order on the way back to the cabin.

When camp was almost over, this counselor requested a horse to take home. The camp director refused this to head riding teacher, but she didn't want to do anything without her to see. When asked "who are you going to put her on?" I replied, "Dynamite."

"You can't do that. No one can ride him."

"But the best one there." I answered, "and anyway, the others are too strong for her."

So a riding time was set up, and I explained to this fragile woman that Dynamite was the smartest horse we had and he appreciated politeness. Then, using a mounting block and helping, I got her mounted. I had her around a bit to give her a feel for the horse, and then I had her ride him in a circle. I had her walk him with the rein, not by pulling this second the lead ineffect as she thinks all the time. I had her walk him around the ring, and I had her stop him. I had her do it over and over right, the rider just needed to think "turn right," and these were the rein based to the right and gently tap the neck, I felt so confident in the horse that I left her on a little longer.

And this is what happened. When the rider wanted to go right, her hand shook so much that the horse was confused and sometimes it would left, sometimes the reins tapped both sides of the horse's neck. The signals were unclear and confusing to my human can. Dynamite lowered his head a bit, squatted his ears as if to say, "I'm sorry, I'm trying to do what you want, but I don't know how." I was wonderful to watch. He walked very slowly and carefully, maintaining his ears and his head, and the rider, rider and rider could stop, go, circle right and left, do a figure 8, and generally behave.

At the end of the lesson, I told her she was the only one in camp who could truly ride Dynamite.

That is my story of the angel horse. Horses like this, I believe, are born this way. They have to have the strength and endurance of their cities, especially if their life is somehow handicapped. And so often, I, but not always, the more horse makes an allowance for the dim-witted rider of normal strength.

There once was a horse fantastic

who's motto was "Why don't you fart and me?

I don't like when you pull,

you are breaking my rule.

I don't like that rudeness, just ask me."

House Farm Bill Makes Horses Eligible for Emergency Relief

(national news from *ARC News, May/June 2001*)

The House *Agriculture Committee* concluded action on the 2001 Farm Bill and included emergency relief for horses in 2 separate provisions. The first is particular to horses affected by the Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM) and Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) in Kentucky this year. The second and broader provision would for the first time make horse owners and breeders eligible for emergency loans and other assistance "for livestock, honey bees, and fish, just like producers of other crops and livestock affected by an emergency or disaster."

"This is an important first step," said American

Horse Council (AHC) president Jay Hickey. "Horses have never been eligible for agricultural emergency relief before."

President Hickey went on to say, "It is a recognition that horses are an important part of American agriculture and are eligible for the same treatment as other crops and livestock."

The same recognition by a state Agriculture Department is being sought and gradually gained right here in Maryland. The Maryland Horse Industry Board is one small, working under the auspices of the Ag Department is much the same way as other agricultural industries (i.e. beef, dairy, chickens.)

New Software: Horse 1.0

Dear Tech Support:

Recently I purchased and installed Horse 1.0. I soon noticed that this program appears to be incompatible with the following other programs installed on my system: Wife 2.0, run Fund-X 3 and Water 7.2. Many times I've been in the middle of writing an important document, and a window will flash telling me to run Clean Stall 2.0. This program also seems incompatible with Wife 2.0 as well as Install, and so Shower 4.0, however they seem installed with Horse 1.0.

Applications such as Vacation 2.2 and Date Time 10.1 can no longer run, crashing whenever selected. Possibly the worst is that Horse 1.0 has attached itself to programs like Finance Manager and MS Money, with folders added such as "Monthly Shoeing" and "Vet Bills" appearing in the "Expense" folder. Everything on to send a check to the manufacturer of Horse 1.0 for the aforementioned items.

I have tried to uninstall Horse 1.0 numerous times, but when I try to run the uninstall program, I get warning messages telling me that a deadly virus known as "Withdrawal" will infect my system. Please Help!!!!!

Dear User:

Your complaint is not unusual. A common misconception among users is that Horse 1.0 is a mere "utilities and entertainment program." It is not - it is an OPERATING SYSTEM and is designed by its' creator to run everything! A warning will soon be released that Horse 1.0 will not run on computers with Pentium III chips. The best way to make it run better if you are annoyed by the application Fund-X 3 and Water 7.2, you may use C: HERE HELP however this will cause another problem to be added to your system called Bill Payment. Any attempt to remove Bill Payment in "Stuff" will result in Fund-X3 and Water 7.2 being run again on starting

A note of caution: NOT booting up your computer for several days isn't the solution to avoiding Fund-X3 and Water 7.2. You will find that, when you boot up your computer again, a nasty virus called "Grass 4.2" will have attached itself to important documents such as "Bills Payable" and "Accounts Receivable." Grass 4.2 is a virulent strain of Bill 10.1", which we believe is extremely expensive, but crucial. Otherwise, Grass 4.2 will cause irreversible damage to the operating system. Finally, it is important that you run Clean Stall 2.0 and Install 2.0 on a regular basis. Failure to do so will cause operation running unsteadily. If you have any more questions, please call our toll free number.

West Nile Virus: Where, When, and How

By Joyce Bell, Horse Sense, Tuckahoe Equestrian Center newsletter, October 2001.

For those of you who missed out on Dr. Tim Cordes' presentation on WNV at our (to Dr. Cordes) overwhelmingly attended meeting, I thought it would be worthwhile to give a brief overview. Dr. Cordes is overseeing a tremendous collaborative effort involving scientists, lab dispositions, field investigators, researchers, and private veterinarians to gather information on WNV and how it affects our equine friends. His knowledge on the subject was amazing, his charts and diagrams were very enlightening, if somewhat scary.

It all began in September 1999 with a major die-off of exotic birds at the Bronx Zoo and of crows in the NYC area. The virus was isolated, sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and was found to be a strain of West Nile Virus. West Nile Virus, which had never been seen before in the western hemisphere. In 1999, there were 62 human cases (with 7 deaths) and 18 equine cases (with 8 deaths), all in the Long Island area of New York. In 2000, there were 21 human cases (with 2 deaths) and 60 equine cases (30% fatality) from 5 different states, ranging from upper New York down to Delaware. Everyone was amazed at how quickly WNV had spread. Not only did it spread, it spread fast. In 2001, there were 149 human cases (with 12 deaths) and 1,000 equine cases (with 300 deaths) from 27

Trail Riders Of Today

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Editor: Suzanne Anderson
7926 Bennett Branch Rd.
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December 2001

NEWS

Electronic Edition

TROT Information
301-588-TROT
Number 133

Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting

Date: February 16, Saturday

Time: doors open 5:30 pm

Place: Howard Co. Fairgrounds 4-H Building

Directions: Rt. 144, 1 mile west of Rt. 32 and I-70 exit 80.

Menu: A-E Desserts

F-L Salads/Side Dishes

M-Z Main Dishes

Come join old friends and meet new ones! Bring your friends! Bring a new member! Meet your county's representatives and follow rides, share ideas, make plans to ride new trails and revisit old ones. And come with an appetite! ITI see you there! *Suzanne*

Annual Meeting 'Agenda'

The TROT Annual Meeting is a joint Pot-Luck and Business gathering of TROT members. While the agenda is somewhat informal, we do have several things to accomplish besides eating!

As the Pot-Luck dishes are set out, the County Coordinators and riders gather around different tables to introduce themselves and voice concerns or good news trail tales.

After everyone has filled their plate once, President Gale Menshaw will address everyone with any announcements and then ask the volunteers to all present. The Treasurer and perhaps Membership will give brief reports. The Trail Team will say a few words as to their activities, and we may hear from the Mapping/GPS folks on their plans.

The really important item on the evening's agenda (yes, it is **not** dessert) is the nomination and election of officers for the Board of Directors. Nominations are being taken for the following officer positions. That job is to meet once each month along with any other interested TROT members to discuss the business of the organization. Fundraisers like the Judged Pleasure Ride, projects like the GPS mapping, and plans for the Spring Membership Meeting are discussed and decisions are made by those who attend (like the Jordan Hunting issue that periodically arises). Form and Figure is exhibit at, and most importantly, trails that are being encroached on by development, or potentially lost due to including horseback riders.

Our current Board members include: Gale Menshaw, President; Tim McGrath, Vice President; Anne Gaskins, Treasurer; Jim Gaskins, Secretary; Ann Bell, Membership; Ann Bell, Newsletter; and Charlie Miller. Board Members are nominated and voted in by the TROT membership present at the Annual Meeting. At the next scheduled Board Meeting, the Board Members elect officers from among themselves.

The meetings are often held at Jack and Gale's house in Highland, and sometimes is moved to other locations to suit the Board members.

And the final item of the Annual Meeting (well, yes, along with dessert) is a guest speaker or presentation of some sort. For this year the special presentation has yet to be announced, so you'll just have to come find out yourself.

Prince George's Co. Comments

Mary Angevine (301-588-TROT)

First, a great big **thank you** to all those who have supported the effort to keep good trails in Falsland Park. Thanks to the Park Rangers, the Prince George's Mounted Patrol, and the Equestrian community has been approved by the Prince George's Planning Board. All details still to be worked out. Montgomery County is still discussing the pre-preliminary plan with the developers. Trails have been approved for the Cabin John Park, but the Park Rangers are still having a little difficulty convincing Georgia's bicycle lead on the outside border to be multi-use. We need something different, don't you agree? In the northern sector, there is nothing proffered that is understandable in reference to any other features of the facility. The map continues.

Another great big **thank you** goes to Prince George's M-NCPPC for completing one of the loops in the woods to the north of the Ice House, and for helping me convince my counterpart to allow horses, both on and off the trail, in the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. Now we need to work with Montgomery County still lease many of the white paint marks on the trees, but they are fewer than the yellow "horsehoof" markers, so can be removed, but they do verify that you're on the right track. (See the updated map on page 3.)

Another **word of appreciation** goes out to those who have done their "horseman's duty" and contacted Fred Shaffer at the County Administrative Building to verify their trails for the new County Trails Plan. Fred is working on the Master Plan for Trails, and is very aware of the need for trails in the northern southern areas of the county. This plan requires, as did the previous one in the middle 1980s, a public hearing. Plan to attend

this hearing, which will come up sometime in this coming year, to let the county policymakers know that you do, indeed, wish to have this plan (which will show future alignments in addition to trails in current use).

To Don and All--Hope your holidays are your best yet, and that some winter riding fun comes your way!

Correction to Hunting Details

Sgt. Lloyd of the Patapsco Valley State Park gave me a call to point out an error in our front page story of the October issue. Concerning **Morgan Run**:

"10/17/01-11/10/02 - Hunting is allowed in certain areas Wed. through Sat. We can ride there those days, but not in marked hunting areas. Closed 11/24-12/8."

Morgan Run trails are not closed during 11/24-12/8. You just need to be aware that mounted land managers will be hunting in the area, and wear appropriate clothing. Thanks, Lloyd. Interesting note: modern firearms are never allowed in Morgan Run, only the muzzle-loaders.

TROT Member's B&B makes *Horse And Rider*

Randi Pace opened her Americana B & B early this year, and in the October 2001 issue of *Horse And Rider* magazine, she was featured in a "Trail Rides Around Your Bed and Breakfast" article. Her overnight horse boarding plus direct access to miles of trails through woodlands surrounding Liberty Reservoir. Guests share this "home stay" with its four-legged residents: "Wrocky," a yellow lab, and assorted cats, Rocky and Sweetpea. That from the Grand Canyon, Regular forest visitors include a herd of white-tailed deer, a resident red-tailed hawk and a family of fox.

All Hail the New Web Master!

Hi, I am George Graff, the new webmaster for the TROT Website. My wife Lisa and I own a 7 acre farm in Frederick County, MD. We have 4 horses and 4 goats. This farm thing is a little new to us, and we are learning as we go. We ride a lot, but we also like to participate in organized rides when our busy TROT schedules rides we are tied up there, but we plan to do more organized rides this spring.

I volunteered for the TROT website so that I can at least go on "virtual" rides and it blends in to what I do for living: that is as a government contractor who builds web sites for the government.

There are plans for the TROT website to have its own domain (something like TROT.org), so be more interactive and dynamic, to have the tool-types available on line, to provide web mail for all TROT members, and generally be more flexible in its content. I changed some things on the site, have more immediate changes in mind, and welcome suggestions. Let me know if you would like to see or not to see some things on the site. Keep in mind there are some restrictions imposed upon me by the "free" hosting of the site. I always respond to email: geoffgraff@hotmail.com , and telephone, 301 498-0107.

George W. Graff

Hill Testifies Before House Resources Committee

reprinted from *AHC News*, May/June 2001

On May 23, Alan T. Hill, public liaison chair of the Backcountry Horsemen of America and a member of the Trail Riders of Today, testified before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands of the House of Representatives Resources Committee. The purpose of the oversight hearing was to examine the broad national theme of public recreation and access to federal lands. In his remarks, Mr. Hill gave a brief overview of the BHA and its work with access and associated recreation issues from the perspective of the recreational rider and stock user.

Mr. Hill express the recreational riding community's concern about the recent direction of the nation's approach to recreation and policy initiatives that seem intended to deny public access to millions of acres of public land. "We are concerned that if this direction is not changed, it will prevent Americans from participating in recreational activities, including horseback riding, in areas that have long sustained such activities," he testified.

Mr. Hill focused his comments on the importance of access for riders to federal lands, the need for additional funding "that is actually used on trails maintenance," the need for a national recreational trail system, the need for a "balanced approach" to the management of our public lands and multiple trails, and the importance of good science in making any decisions in this area.

"We have become alarmed as we have witnessed during the last decade the continued decline in the condition and extent of our trail systems and a pervasive trend throughout the country of increasing restrict

ions directed specifically at recreation, stock, and saddle stock use on our federal lands, including wilderness areas, national forests, national parks, national monuments, backcountry, and front country," Mr. Hill said. "During this same period, we have observed a shift in emphasis of the federal agencies from one of managing our national wilderness preservation system for the multiple purposes intended by the Congress, including recreational and traditional uses, to one of managing wilderness as, in the singular objectives of restoring and sustaining pristine ecological conditions."

In concluding his testimony, Mr. Hill said, "Recreational riders consider themselves both horsemen and women and environmentalists. We are concerned that our lands and resources are suffering from neglect, either by an administrating agency or by an undefined public. Our challenge, and the challenge of the Congress, is to find the balance between the competing interests that our public land lands are managed to meet all of the intents and purposes of the law, the people who can the land, and of course, the land itself. The new paradigm is about seeking common ground and understanding the needs of all users. We look forward to the challenge of collaboration efforts involving the federal agencies and other interested stakeholders as we work to preserve our lands, our access, and the common good."

Go to the American Hiana Council's website: www.horsemanscouncil.org, and click on Comments and Testimony to see Mr. Hill's entire testimony.

CALENDAR

Dec 12 Wed **TROT Board and Members Meeting**, 7:30 pm, all TROT members are always welcome. Call Gale for place and directions (usually her house on Mink Hollow Road in Howard Co.) 301-464-3652

Jan 16 Wed **TROT Board and Members Meeting**, 7:30 pm, all TROT members are always welcome. Call Gale for place and directions (usually her house on Mink Hollow Road in Howard Co.) 301-464-3652.

Jan 17-20, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the 6th Annual Horse World Expo, Timonium State Fairgrounds. Exhibitors, vendors, car calendars, and go to Dennis Mattera's call to book a band at the TROT display table (201-253-2693)

Feb 16 Sat **TROT Annual Pot-Luck Dinner and Meeting**, Howard Co. Fairgrounds, Rt. 144 1 mile west of Rt. 32, off I-70 at exit 80. Doors open 5:30 pm.

Feb 20 Wed **TROT Board and Members Meeting**, 7:30 pm, all TROT members are always welcome. Call Gale for place and directions (usually her house on Mink Hollow Road in Howard Co.) This will be the election of officers from the current and newly elected Board Members. 301-464-3652.

Welcome Debbie! And Thanks!

Debbie Palmer of Highland, Howard Co., Maryland, has accepted the role of newsletter editor (at least for a trial period). I'll be shipping all my interesting disks, CD-ROMS, back issues, and stuff to her as soon as I can find it all. Debbie is a long time TROT member, a professional photographer, mapper, and cheerleader, calendar dancer. Remember, changes of address go to the Membership person (see the membership form at the back of this issue).

Debbie Palmer
7926 Bennett Branch
Highland, MD 20777
301-854-8763
dpalmer@aol.com

So join me in welcoming her aboard and give her lots of positive feedback so she feels inclined to continue doing the newsletter for a little while. *Suzanne*

CLASSIFIED ADS

BOARDING--Tranquility Farm, Bowie, MD, offers the following on 5,000 acres: horses to lease, lessons for individuals leasing our horses, deluxe stall board, deluxe field board, champagne bouch trail rides. Call (301) 560-3431.

BOARDING--West Howard Co., Ideal for lay ups and retirees. Excellent shelter, automatic water, vet and farrier services arranged. Feed and hay included. S140/month. Call 410-488-8752.

SERVICES--Lime & fertilizer spreading, Land clearing and Tree & stump removal, Trucking, hay & straw, firewood, sawdust, Pasture renovation. Call 301-423-5808, ½ message. And wanted: cars, trucks, equipment for parts or rebuilding.

FOR SALE--'97 Kingdom 2 horse gooseneck trailer w/ dressing room. Aluminum, interior lights, lots of windows. White w/ black trim, excellent condition. 1st message 301-854-9711.

BOARDING--West Howard Co. (Glenwood). 50 acre farm with new barn. Four 12x12 stalls. Stall cleaning, daily turnout, ample pasture. Riding ring. Access to trails. Full board: $250. Field board: $75. Call Laura Pedro 301-854-5028.

FOR SALE--1989 Chevy van: van built for trailering, dual crushed system, welded frame hitch w/ electric control brakes, new engine & tires, runs, a/c, cruise control. Captains' chair and bench seating. $3500/obo. Call Kathy after 6 pm, 301-854-1014.

FOR SALE--Mannered trail horse needs loving home. Thoroughbred, 14.1 hh, 16 yrs old. Sound. X-rays available. Gentle sweet disposition. Needs intermediate rider. $2500. Call Carolyn 410-798-3593.

GOOD THINGS ABOUT HUSBANDS:

1. Husbands are less expensive to shoe.

2. Feeding a husband doesn't require anything that even mildly compares with the hassle of putting up hay.

3. A lame husband can still work.

4. A husband with a bellyache doesn't have to be walked.

5. Husbands don't try to scratch their heads on your back.

6. They're better able to understand pain.

7. If they're playing hard to catch you **may** be able to run them down on foot.

8. They know their name.

9. They pay their own bills.

10. They apologize when they step on your toes.

11. No saddle fitting problems.

12. They seldom refuse to get in the vehicle.

13. They don't panic, yelling and running all through the house when you leave them alone. (unless you left the kids too)

14. Fun a mutated for you can hire someone else to clip them.

THE HORSE'S ADVANTAGE:

1. If they don't work out you can sell them.

2. They don't come with in-laws.

3. You don't have to worry about your children looking like them.

4. You never have to iron their saddle pads.

5. If you get too fat for one you can shop for a bigger one.

6. They smell good when they sweat.

7. You can repair their "clothes" with duct tape.

8. It's possible to keep them from "jumping the fence."

9. You can force them to stay in good physical condition, with a whip if necessary.

10. They don't want their turn at the computer.

11. They turn white with age, but not bald.

12. They've never "finished" at FMS.

13. They learn to accept restraint.

14. They love to get mid-riding.

15. They don't care what you look like, as long as you have a carrot.

Trail Hosts of Year 2001

The list that follows reflects all those generous TROT members who have led one of our wonderful Sunday rides during the year 2001. Without these folks willing to share their time and knowledge of the trails they are most familiar with, they will often spend a good deal of time prior to the ride date winnowing,

pruning, and otherwise cleaning those same trails to show them to advantage. Thank you one and all!

If you are looking for someone knowledgeable in a certain trail region, you might find just the person in this list. Give them a call and ask to go riding with them! **Agricultural History Farm (Upper Rock Creek Stream Valley)** Jim Fedzuel, 301-869-9481

Black Hills Regional Park, Montgomery Co. Jim Reynolds, 301-916-2212.

C&O Canal, Potomac, Montgomery Co. Alan Bennett, 301-762-2260 and Judy Dausch, 301-320-7600.

Catoctin Mountains, Frederick Watershed, Frederick Co. Angela Klinger, 301-898-9133.

Cunningham Falls, Frederick Co. Marilyne Miller, 301-898-7274

Gettysburg National Park, Gettysburg, PA Dave Kelp, 301-271-0226

Greenbelt National Park, Prince George's Co. Brierad Cianelli, 301-262-2466.

Hawlings River Trails, Montgomery Co. Karen Alexander, 301-774-4499

Liberty Reservoir, Carroll Co. Sonny Holdenon, 410-833-4593.

Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery Co. Mimi Ernst, 301-414-2388.

Morgan Run Park, Carroll Co. Joan Swartz, 410-346-7060.

North East Branch Anacostia River, Pr. George's Co. John & Mary Angevine, 301-857-0014.

Point Branch Ride: Mont. Co. Mary Powell, bopcow@aol.com, 301-407-8861.

Patapsco River Park, Carroll & Baltimore Co. Annie Mae Bendoff, 410-781-4141.

Patuxent River State Park, Howard Co. Ron Charbonneau, Charbonneau6@NCPC.fed.gov, 301-881-3398.

Patuxent River State Park, Camp Wurzbacher, Montgomery Co. Gayle Ford, 410-552-5572.

Patuxent Riverside Farm to the C&O Canal, Montgomery Co. Anna Slayman, 301-972-8187.

Potomac Area , Montgomery Co. Becky O'Donnell, wood@mdrs.com, 202-362-4504.

Rachel Carson Regional Park, Montgomery Co. Rosa Bloom, 301-622-7662.

Rails to Trails, Bowie, Prince George's Co. Brierad Cianelli, 301-262-2466.

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC Lauey Lobel, lauyrlobel@u.netcom.com

Rocky Gorge Reservoir, Prince George's Co. Terry Ladley, 301-776-2461.

Sandy Springs/Ednigan River, Montgomery Co. Kyle Jones, 301-370-1483

Savage Mill Park, Howard Co. Cindy Wolters, WALKINSHORE@earthlink.net, 301-498-2768

Sugar Loaf Mountain, Frederick Co. Monica Bedford, 301-972-7454.

Union Mills, Carroll Co. Cathy McElroy, 410-857-3940

TROTNews Deadline

Starting right away, *TROTNews* will be published and mailed in August, October, December, February, April, and June.

The deadline for each newsletter is the 25th of the preceding month, so **the next newsletter deadline is November 25**.

The Editor welcomes submissions of any articles and news items that would be of interest to TROT members. Pictures submitted must be of good quality and high content. Original articles may be reprinted with the notice "Reprinted from the (month year) issue of TROTNews."

Please send all materials to:

Suzanne Anderson
7926 Bennett Branch Rd.
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Please send address corrections to:

Lois Ward
TROT Membership Chair
Lois Ward, DVM
11838 Rawlings Rd.
Martinsville, MD 21104

Send Email To: The Webmaster

Updated 11/5/2009