



Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

www.trot-md.org -- Join TROT today!

And encourage your riding buddies to join, too!

January, 2017

Founded 1980

Number 219

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

CHANGE YOUR CALENDAR – TROT's ANNUAL DINNER and SILENT AUCTION is still SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017, 6 PM, but at HOWARD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS (4-H building) from Gale Monahan and Priscilla Huffman

TROT was to hold its Annual Meeting at the Fire Hall in Mt. Airy, as it has for several years. However, TROT just learned that their renovations are delayed, so we had to find another option. Happily, at the Howard County Fairgrounds (where TROT held its annual dinners several years ago) Gale was able to arrange for the use of their 4-H building (the first building on the right by the flagpole as you enter the gate) on the originally planned date. This venue is conveniently near the intersection of Rt I-70 and Rt 32 (2210 Fairgrounds Rd., West Friendship, MD 21794).

All are welcome to **TROT's Annual Dinner (as always, a potluck) and Silent Auction**, on **Saturday, March 4, 2017, at 6:00 PM**. But remember, this year it will be at the **4-H building of the Howard County Fairgrounds!** [NOT in Mt. Airy!]

Our **Dinner** is known as a fun get-together with outstanding potluck offerings. Please bring a generous dish to share (don't want anyone leaving hungry!) according to the first letter of your last name: A-L: Salads and side dishes
M-Z: Main dishes
Set up volunteers: appetizers
Dessert is provided by TROT.



To volunteer to help, contact Gale Monahan (<gale.email2@gmail.com>, 301-854-3852).

Silent Auction: Please, we need your donations for the silent auction! Do you have some extra tack or supplies in good condition? Do you offer horse-related services or products? All proceeds raised from the silent auction go to TROT's ongoing mission of supporting sustainable trails. Please consider making a donation! We will also have fixed price buckets for smaller items, so bring those along as well. And plan on getting some treasures! For donating ahead of time to the silent auction and/or to volunteer to help with it, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (301-604-5619 or <bsw@jhmi.edu>).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

Happy New Year. I hope you had a great 2016. Last year I bought a new horse and we are getting to know each other. So this year I am hoping to be out on the trails more and enjoying your company.

Did you know that this year TROT will be 37 years old? WOW! I find it amazing that an organization that is and has been completely all-volunteer has been able to weather the ups and downs through the years. I am looking forward to the celebration in just a few years when TROT will be 40 years old.

[continued on page 3]

COME TO A TROT BOARD MEETING AND GET MORE INVOLVED!

TROT's board meetings are held 7-9 PM on the first Tuesday of every month at the homes of various volunteers, with each meeting preceded by a yummy potluck dinner at 6 PM. We would love it if you join us in person or call in (free call at 877-339-4456; code 1980). Check with TROT President Gale Monahan (<gale.email2@gmail.com> or 301-854-3852) for the location each month.

The BIG EVENT for Horse Enthusiasts!.....



HORSE WORLD EXPO



Friday: noon-8pm
Saturday: 9am-7pm
Sunday: 9am-5pm



Thursday: noon-8pm
Friday: 10am-8pm
Saturday: 9am-8pm
Sunday: 9am-5pm

ALL ACTIVITIES
ARE INDOORS
AND HEATED

TRAIL CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE

The PA Farm Show Complex charges \$10 daily for parking
No Pets Please

Theatre Equus A Musical Equine Revue

In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo

SEMINARS AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY



Charles de Kunffy



Anita Howe



John Lyons



Josh Lyons



Guy McLean



Ken McNabb



Dom Schramm



Tom Seay

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CLINICIANS* & SPECIAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Joyce Belcher	Natural Healthcare, Lyme Disease	MD/PA
Susan Berger	Youth Riders	PA
Roxanne Bowman	Saddle Fitting	MD
David Butts	Bits & Biting	MD
Carriage Arena Racing	Exhibition, Competition	PA
Charles de Kunffy	Dressage	MD
Montie Eagle	Senior Riding	PA
The Equiery	Various Equine Business Topics	MD
Shawn Gannon	Balanced Riding	MD
Sonny Garguilo	Natural Horsemanship	MD/PA
Janet Geyer	Equine Nutrition	MD
Kenny Harlow	General Training, Problem Solving	MD/PA
Sandy Hart Long	Arena Construction	MD
Anita Howe	Gaited Horses	MD
Mike Jennings	Ranch Pleasure	MD
Tara Jones	General Training, Problem Solving	MD/PA
Ginger Kathrens	Wild Horses, Videography	MD
Josh Lyons	Natural Horsemanship, Reining	PA
John Lyons	Natural Horsemanship	PA
Tina Marie	General Training	MD
Rob & Donna Martin	Trailer Safety	MD/PA
Jim McDonald	General Training	MD
Ken McNabb	Ranch Horse, General Training	MD
Guy McLean	General Training	PA
Debi Metcalfe	Lost & Stolen Horse Prevention	MD
Evon Montgomery	Horsemanship	MD
Jennifer Moshier	Western, English Performance	MD
Muddy Creek Vaulters	Vaulting Exhibition	MD
Wendy Murdoch	Horsemanship, Jumping	MD
Mounted Archery	Exhibition	MD/PA
Joel Nupp	Equine Dentistry	MD
Penn State Univ.	Various Educational Topics	PA
Terry Peiper	Saddle Fit	MD/PA
Steuart Pittman	Retired Racehorse Training	MD/PA
Scott Purdum	General Training	MD/PA
Larry Raskin	Search & Rescue	MD
Dr. Frank Reilly	Equine Insulin Resistance	PA
Retired Racehorse Project	Racehorse Retraining	MD/PA
Dom Schramm	Eventing	MD
Tom Seay	Horseback Adventures	MD
Matt & Nicole Smith	General Training	PA
Samantha Stille	Equine Massage	MD
Sara Strauss	Rescue Retraining	MD/PA
Kathleen Tabor, Esq.	Equine Law	MD
Regina Welsh	Steeplechasing	MD
Nicky Wetzelsberger	Rescue Retraining	MD/PA
Jeannie Whited	Riding Aside	MD/PA
Bud & Gwen Wills	Horse Camping, Trail Riding	PA
Keith Wills	Farm Financing	MD
Brendan Wise	Working Equitation	MD/PA

And many more....

*Clinician list not complete at press time.
*Clinicians may not appear all days of the show. See our website for complete lists, exact dates and times.

EQUESTRIAN PROMOTIONS, INC. • PO BOX 924 • BEL AIR, MD 21014

301-916-0852 • fax: 301-916-0853

www.horseworldexpo.com • info@horseworldexpo.com

Here are dates you need to put on your calendar. The Horse World Expo is **January 20th – 22nd**. Be sure to stop by, bring friends and encourage them to join TROT. Our Annual Meeting/Potluck is on **March 4th**. Find out what we have planned so far for this year. Meet new friends as well as reconnect with longtime friends you have not seen for some time. I would love to see you there and listen to what you may have on your mind. After all, this is **your** organization.

As a volunteer organization, TROT belongs to every TROT member. Without its volunteers, TROT would not have lasted these past 37 years. So get involved: lead a trail ride, volunteer at one of the many organized trail-clearing dates, come to a meeting, help at the annual meeting/potluck, volunteer to work at or put on a clinic or a judged/non-judged trail ride, volunteer to work at TROT's booth at the Horse World Expo or the State Fair, etc.

HELP TRAILS BY SPEAKING TO YOUR LEGISLATORS ABOUT EQUESTRIAN CONCERNS

Come join the Maryland Horse Council in its 2017 Maryland Horse Industry Day on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 from 8 AM – 1 PM at the Miller Senate Office (11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401). Representatives of the Maryland Horse Council and its member and partner organizations will convene in the morning to prep for legislative meetings, then meet in small groups with legislators. When legislators are in session, we'll hear presentations and engage in discussions and Q&A with legislative staffers. We'll then enjoy boxed lunches with legislators. Once you register (below), you'll be invited to a preview call the evening before the Maryland Horse Industry Day to discuss talking points and prep for the event. Please register, even if you can't be there for the entire schedule (see <<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maryland-horse-industry-day-tickets-30686465043>>).

Also you can call, e-mail or visit your state senator and delegate(s) anytime to discuss any concern! Find their contact information at: <<http://mqaleg.maryland.gov/webmqa/frmmain.aspx?pid=legisrpage&tab=subject6>>.

2017 HUNTING BILLS from Jane Seigler, President, Maryland Horse Council <seigler.jane@gmail.com>

The Maryland General Assembly reconvened Wednesday, January 11, 2017. As has been the case for more than a decade, the legislature most likely will be considering several bills to expand Sunday hunting. These bills are typically designed to make changes only within a single county. These so-called "county courtesy" bills are routinely accorded great deference by all members of the legislature (in hopes of having their own county bills receive similar favorable treatment). Therefore, these county-specific bills are very difficult to defeat. The only "ammunition" that is effective against them is **strong participation from residents of the affected counties**. Legislators are greatly influenced when they hear from their own constituents, especially when they come to testify at the hearings on the bills, but also by phone calls and emails. If they don't hear from their own constituents, they don't give much weight to "outsiders." So please be prepared to actively voice your opinion on bills affecting where you live, keep your horse, or travel to ride.

The **Montgomery County** delegation (the Montgomery members of the House of Delegates) have proposed two bills:

- MC 10-17. This bill would reduce the archery hunting (bow hunting) safety zone from 100 yards to 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by human beings.
- MC 21-17. This bill would authorize the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow hunting on all Sundays in the deer season (archery and firearms) on private land until 10:30 AM. In addition, the bill would allow hunting all day on the three Sundays that deer hunting is allowed currently in Montgomery County (this year, those three Sundays were all in November - two regular days and one Youth Hunting Day). This bill, in its current form, is supported by the Horse Council and by the Montgomery Agricultural Producers, an organization of grain farmers and other large crop farmers. It does not have the support of the Montgomery Farm Bureau, which supports hunting all day, all Sundays.
- The Montgomery County Council is considering entering a bill that would allow deer hunting all day on all Sundays in the season. As of this writing, the Council has not introduced such a bill.

The **Howard County** delegation (the Howard members of the House of Delegates) have proposed three bills:

- HC 21-17. This bill would reduce the safety zone for bow hunting from 150 yards to 50 yards from a dwelling house, residence, church, or any other building or camp occupied by humans.
- HC 22-17. This bill is like HC 21-17 except with a safety zone of 100 yards.
- HC 23-17. This bill would authorize DNR to allow deer hunting on Sundays (all day) during the archery season. (The archery season runs intermittently from September through January.) The Maryland Horse Council did not support this bill.

As of this writing, none of the Montgomery or Howard County bills have been formally introduced in Annapolis. That may happen shortly after the legislative session opens on January 11. In addition, there has been discussion of the likelihood of expanded Sunday hunting bills being introduced for **Kent and other counties on the Eastern Shore**, although no draft bills have yet come to our attention.



TROT TESTIFIES ON HOWARD COUNTY BOW HUNTING BILLS

On December 21, 2016, Gale Monahan (TROT's President) testified in Howard County's hearing on the three proposed bills (Ho. Co. 21-17, 22-17 and 23-17) that would reduce the "safety zone" from which bow hunters could fire their weapons from 150 to 50 or 100 yards from a home and allow Sunday bow hunting (in addition to the currently permitted Monday through Saturday during bow hunting season), respectively – see above article by Jane Seigler. Because the Department of Natural Resources states that only 35% of such arrows hit their intended target and the internet states they can travel quite long distances, one worries that the vast majority of Howard County citizens who are not hunters will become less safe when recreating outdoors. These proposed changes are of special concern for equestrians and for livestock, who can be in fields near the property line.

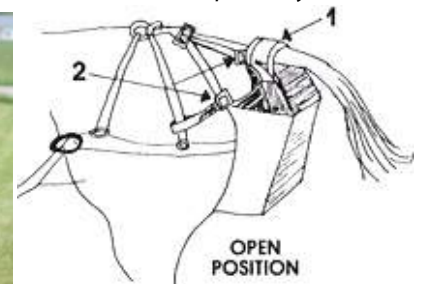
If you live in Howard County and this matters to you, please contact your state senator and delegates. See above article for how to contact them. A decision on these bills is expected during the current legislative session.

"BUN BAGS" IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY? *from Jacquie Cowan, Anne Arundel County coordinator*

[Editor's note: This article is being located here rather than in the county reports section because of its broad general relevance, showing the importance of trail users respectfully lobbying trails authorities about regulations that seem anti-horse. This Anne Arundel effort follows TROT's successfully convincing both the WSSC and the Fish and Wildlife Service a few years ago to rescind their proposed new rules that riders must remove all horse poop from the trails along the Rocky Gorge reservoir and in North Tract, respectively.]

One day this past fall, a few folks met at an Anne Arundel County park to take a ride. Much to their surprise, they found a new sign posted. The sound of hoofbeats was not heard that day – rather the sound of phone calls and texts in amazement. **The new sign said "Manure catchers, or bun bags, must be worn while in the park and on trails."**

These riders are members of the Pasadena Horse and Pony Association (PHPA), which quickly took the lead on challenging this new rule. They reached out to the Anne Arundel County Executive's office while I, as TROT's new Anne Arundel County Coordinator, did the same to the County's Recreation and Parks Department. My inquiries found promising news in that my primary county trails contact is a former horse owner and trail rider. My concerns were met with knowledgeable understanding, while PHPA's expertly voiced concerns were well accepted and acted upon.



one kind of manure catcher (bun bag), taken from the internet

The quick result is a very reasonable compromise on the new regulations – "Bun bags/manure catchers are only required while riding on or along paved trails." These paved trails are the Baltimore and Annapolis (B&A) Trail that runs along Ritchie Highway from Annapolis to Glen Burnie and the BWI trail that snakes around the airport, and both are popular with foot and baby stroller traffic. In the past, rangers have asked equestrians to stop and kick their horses' poop off these improved trails, and sadly been ignored. So I think we can understand the county's actions and appreciate their willingness to compromise.

The regulations also state "Parking areas must be kept free of manure and owners/riders must collect and dispose of feces off site." This is certainly not an unreasonable expectation that we should all heed wherever we park to ride, so others are not walking in our horses' poop. Here is the link for the updated Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks page on the equestrian rules and locations of county bridle trails: <http://www.aacounty.org/departments/recreation-parks/parks/trails/equestrian-trails/index.html>

Special thanks to Kathy Hall who led the Pasadena Horse and Pony Association efforts, the County Executive's office, and of course, the County Recreation and Parks. *[Editor's note: And special thanks to Jacquie for being TROT's voice in this effort!]*

Jacquie's personal side-note on parking area clean up: *I am amazed each time I pull into trailer parking areas to ride, in parks all around the State, to find piles of poop and scattered poop left behind, even when there is a manure pit provided. Riders, please respect others and clean up after yourself OR we may lose our privileges or have to invest in and use bun bags!*

A POSSIBLE "PATAPSCO REGIONAL GREENWAY"

information from Gale Monahan

Although still in a very early stage, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), on behalf of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, is initiating a concept plan for a "Patapsco Regional Greenway", envisioned as a 10-to-12 foot wide, accessible trail through the Patapsco Valley from the Inner Harbor of Baltimore to Sykesville in Carroll County. This greenway may pass through or near the communities of Cherry Hill, Baltimore Highlands, Halethorpe, Elkridge, Catonsville, Ellicott City, Oella, Daniels, Woodstock and Marriottsville, although its location is still to be determined. Toole Design Group is conducting a survey of stakeholders to identify opportunities and obstacles to creating such a Patapsco Regional Greenway, and TROT was contacted to be part of their survey. TROT will certainly advocate for equestrian use on at least some and hopefully all of the trail.

NEW TRAILS ALONG PEPCO'S POWERLINES

from David Scull

[Editor's note: Dave is a long-time TROT member who in fact drew up TROT's by-laws 37 years ago. He is also the senior member of MORE (the mountain biking/trails group with which TROT frequently coordinates), as well as a past county councilman, and lots more.]

In September 2014, when the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) was considering the Pepco/Exelon merger case, TROT joined a coalition of trail user groups (including MORE, the Maryland Horse Council, the Potomac Bridle and Hiking Trail Association, and others) asking that Pepco be required to allow trails on its powerline corridors. The coalition was represented pro bono by David Scull, an attorney in Bethesda. Many trail users, including a number of TROT members, also testified at the hearings.

The coalition's request had active support of Montgomery County (conveniently, Montgomery County Councilman Roger Berliner is an avid mountain biker and was a big advocate). The message proved persuasive with the PSC, who voted in favor of opening power corridors to trails generally. The PSC specifically ordered that immediately should the merger be granted, two pilot trails (one paved, one unpaved) be commenced in the corridor running from the Montgomery Mall shopping center (near the Washington Beltway) to Montgomery County's recreational complex in Germantown (aka the 'Soccerplex'). We are delighted to report that, with the merger now granted, work on the new trails is currently in the design phase. Rumor has it that the unpaved trail on the Quince Orchard-to-Soccerplex half of the new trail route -- which includes the section passing by the Potomac Horse Center and crossing the Muddy Branch Trail -- will open next year!

Horses? The PSC's order specifically lists "horseback riding" as a permitted use on the new trails. However, Pepco has announced it reserves the right to determine whether there are any specific places where its wires may hang too low for safe equestrian passage. Their concern is not the hi-voltage 'transmission' lines that are on the big towers, but rather 'distribution' lines hung on telephone-size poles that run parallel to the towers and deliver power to adjoining neighborhoods. In hot weather, these wires tend to expand and sag lower. We appreciate Pepco's concern for safety and await their report with interest.

We are glad to have been part of this effort, and look forward to the future opening of potentially hundreds of miles of rideable new trails, on lands whose ownership has now become conducive to this type of public recreation.



such a multi-use trail
[photo from W&OD's website]

2016 GREAT LISBON HORSE PARADE, ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

from Pat Oliva

On Saturday, Dec. 10, at the 2016 Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade, TROT was represented by six riders. Four were new members (Skip Kemerer, Angie Gross, Fritz Grow, and Melissa Lizmi) and two were us old timers (Lisa Troutman and myself). On this cold day, we all met at my place and traveled over so we could be together. We got there early and were near the front of the parade. Skip had brought his camping trailer so we all had a warm place to sit and visit while waiting for the parade to start. Everyone got into the fun and the horses were decked out, as well as the riders. Lisa provided our horses' gold necklaces. There was no one to carry the banner, so I wore my TROT T-shirt over my coat. Lisbon was crowded with friendly people and a lot of kids. The parade organizers kindly changed the return route so we were able to watch the rest of the parade from the Lisbon School yard.



[right to left:] Pat Oliva, Fritz Grow, Skip Kemerer, Angie Gross, Lisa Troutman and Melissa Lizmi – photo from Pat Oliva

In the parade were many decked-out riders as well as many little kids leading their small ponies, and they all faced the cold and the long walk with grins as they marched down the road. Some of the wagons were large with groups aboard, others were small, and all were festively decked out. Then the tractors followed. It was a fun day!

WHEN YOU GO OUT RIDING THIS WINTER & SPRING, CHECK THE LOCAL HUNT SCHEDULE

While the 2016-2017 deer hunting season is nearly over, remember the turkey hunting season in April and May (see http://dnr.maryland.gov/huntersguide/Documents/Hunting_Seasons_Calendar.pdf). Whenever you ride in the fall, winter and spring, consider wearing a bright orange jacket or vest, as there may be permitted hunters on adjacent land, and bullets do not stop at property lines.

TROT AWARDED A GRANT FOR AN INTERACTIVE, PORTABLE DISPLAY

On December 15, the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB, a branch of the Maryland Department of Agriculture) announced the funding of a grant application that Dana Grabiner expertly wrote for TROT, to design and obtain "a highly visible, interactive and portable display to use at equine industry gatherings". For years, TROT has used a display that is a set of panels to which photos get attached by Velcro, which has been very nice, but this will be a 21st century version that is much more functional.

This is the second year in a row that Dana has written a grant for TROT to the MHIB and that it has been funded. Dana feels that the fact that we sent proof we had used the 2016 grant to successfully create a new TROT video (as described in the last several newsletters) by providing a YouTube link to the draft video strengthened our application. The MHIB could see we used their money to create products that professionally represent our aspect of the horse industry in Maryland.

BIG kudos to Dana for writing these grants applications that are allowing TROT to obtain items that will help announce TROT and its mission to riders, government officials and other people!

Also remember that, at the March Annual Dinner, you will be able to see the new TROT video, made possible by the previous grant to MHIB that Dana wrote for TROT.

ANOTHER IN OUR SERIES OF ARTICLES ON RIDING VENUES IN THE PATUXENT WATERSHED: SPOTLIGHT ON A LOCAL PARK -- RACHEL CARSON CONSERVATION PARK *from Laury Lobel*

In Montgomery County, there are many parks to enjoy trail riding. One of my favorites is Rachel Carson Conservation Park. Its entrance is on Zion Road, one block southeast of Sundown Road near both Sunshine and Laytonsville. It has a medium-sized parking lot, which can accommodate about 8-10 horse trailers. Rachel Carson is not a large venue but is perfect for a two hour ride. It is one of the most beautiful parks in the MNCPPC and is beautifully maintained.

Rachel Carson has something for everyone who trail rides. For those riders who love to canter and gallop, or just to walk, or to trot around, there is the Fox Meadow Loop adjacent to the parking lot. It is many acres with wide, mowed trails that circle around and gives the opportunity to enjoy the many quince trees, wild grasses and bluebird habitats. There are two locations off of the Fox Meadow Loop to access the other trails by horseback. There are a few small hills in this park, but mostly the trails have been environmentally built to meander at angles up and down those hills. There are also a few trails that are off-limits to equestrians, due to environmental or safety reasons---but they are clearly marked in the park (if not on the maps).

One part of the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail is truly a trail rider's dream -- a level trail that runs right along the Hawlings River. In the spring, it abounds with blooming wild azaleas and mountain laurel. Another section of the park's trail system is called the River Otter Trail. This trail runs along a large pond covered in lily pads, meanders through the woods, and leads to a small, easy crossing of the river. There is also a loop that riders can take on the far side of the river. Indeed, the entire park has several loops for trail riders.

The park is open only to hikers and equestrians. No bikes or motorized vehicles are allowed, and dog walkers are required to use leashes. No hunting is allowed in this park except for a few managed hunts, on three to four Mondays in November and December, and they are well posted. Over the 30+ years I have been riding in this park, I have seen many species of birds, including wild turkeys, orioles, and several types of hawks, plus many deer (although the managed hunts have been extremely successful in this park).

So if you are looking for beautiful scenery and a peaceful place for you and your horse to enjoy, please come ride Rachel Carson. I board my horse at Copper Penny Farm, owned by another Trot member, Kathy Lipton. The back gate of the farm opens into the Park. I am available almost anytime to show riders this amazing treasure in Montgomery County during the spring, summer and fall (or warm days in the winter!!). Just contact me at [<laurylobel@verizon.net>](mailto:laurylobel@verizon.net)



*photos from
TROT's ride at
Rachel Carson
Park, led by Laury
Lobel, on May 26,
2016*



UPCOMING TRAIL WORK EFFORTS

Please Do Trail Upkeep Each Time You Ride – AND report it to Amy & the newsletter!

Since preserving and enhancing sustainable trails is TROT's mission, please help by doing trail upkeep whenever you are out on the trails, whether riding or walking. This can be as easy as clipping or breaking protruding branches as you ride by. Please report your trail work time and location to TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble, as these hours benefit local parks' budgets. Easiest is to text the info to her at 301-748-8310, reporting your name, location and work hours, and she will respond so you know that she got your text. Or you can e-mail Amy at [<amykimble@aol.com>](mailto:amykimble@aol.com). Or if you prefer group trail work efforts, almost any day you are inclined to do trail work TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble, likely will be out doing trail work, and she would love to have you join her. Just contact her as described above.

Also, please everyone, report your trail work to ([<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)) for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter. Your report will help inspire other TROT members to also contribute to trail maintenance.

Work at Seneca Creek State Park

information from Amy Kimble

Amy forwarded information on Seneca Creek Volunteer efforts, from Ranger Erik Ledbetter of Seneca Creek State Park. To RSVP, contact Ranger Erik Ledbetter [<Erik.Ledbetter@maryland.gov>](mailto:Erik.Ledbetter@maryland.gov), 301-924-2127, or 443-534-5837 on the day of the work session.

1. Trail Work at Patuxent River State Park: Saturday January 14, 10 AM - 1 PM. Meet at the Patuxent River State Park Route 97 (Georgia Avenue) parking lot, 23222 Georgia Ave., Brookeville, MD 20833. Help build a 50 foot section of new trail to replace an eroded and unsustainable section of the Blue Loop at Flowing Free Trail. This is one of the last major hurdles in our six-month campaign to rehabilitate this attractive hiking trail.

2. Woodlands Historic Area Rehabilitation: Sunday January 29, 1 - 3 PM. Meet at Seneca Creek Park Office, 11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20858. Help clear downed and storm-damaged trees and limbs which are obstructing visitors' enjoyment of The Woodlands historic area, which includes the remains of the Clopper Family's 19th century plantation home. No experience necessary. This is a major task in our ongoing project to improve The Woodlands historic area.

ALSO, A LAST CALL FOR 2016 VOLUNTEER TIME: Eric writes that the hours you give are critically important to Seneca Creek State Park, including to justify applications for other funding for the Park. If you have unlogged time for 2016, please send Ranger Erik your entries. Remember, your time pays dividends in the future to raise additional resources for the park!

TROT TRAIL RIDES

Plan to come on TROT trail rides and to lead one yourself in 2017!

TROT's organized trail rides are a fun and safe way to learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and -- probably most important for TROT's mission -- to better appreciate the virtue of preserving trails. While riding your familiar trail is certainly nice, it is most enjoyable and valuable to also become acquainted with other trail systems in the area. You really see the value of preserving them. And what better way than on a TROT ride? So plan that YOU will come on more TROT rides in 2017! Indeed, how about you leading or co-leading a TROT ride this year, to show others your favorite venue? It is easy and rewarding. Please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb ([<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)) or 301-604-5619) to discuss the possibility.

Reports on the Final TROT Trail Rides in 2016

North Central Railroad (NCR) Trail Ride, Sunday, November 6

This lovely ride on the North Central Railroad (NCR) trail, in far northern Maryland (from Freeland), was led by Laura and Tony Colicchio. We had seven riders and rode for about 2 ½ hours in two groups: one walk-trot with a bit of canter, the other all-walk. Despite the horses being VERY different sizes (this is a real image, no trick photography), the Ikeys easily kept up with the big guy. *[continued next page]*



Karen Ferris, Flo Arnold, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Denis Webb, Laura Colicchio, Tone Colicchio, Andrea Townsley-Sapp

continued from page 7 - NCR Trail Ride

The weather was perfect – a crisp, sunny day. It was even warm enough for Laura to let her horse play in the Gunpowder River, which runs next to the trail. The horses were happy sharing the trail with the mountain bikers and joggers.

After the ride we loaded the horses and drove down to the Silver Spring Mining Company, a yummy near-by restaurant, for a late lunch. A real fun day!

This trail is also valuable for riding in wet weather, as it is on an old railroad bed and drain very well.



McKeldin to the Woodstock Inn Ride, Sunday, November 13

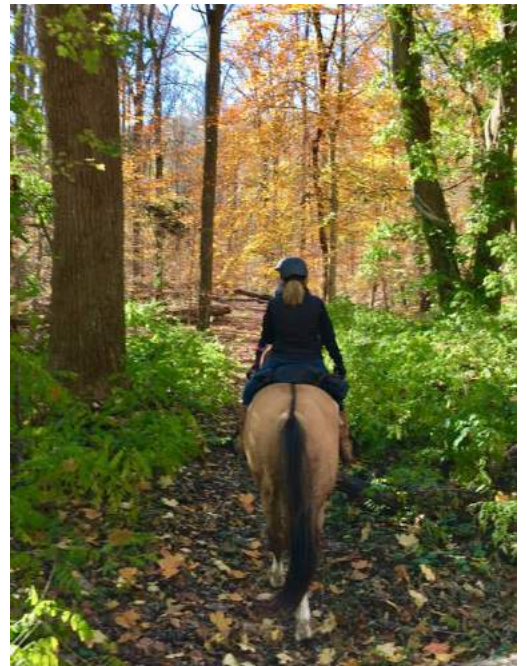
from Carolann Sharp

Carolann Sharp led a new ride for TROT, from the McKeldin area of Patapsco State Park to the Woodstock Inn, and back. Our ride began by parking in McKeldin (off Marriottsville Road, just north of I-70) at the horse trailer parking by the basketball courts. TROT members Mette Fields, Stefanie Owens, Susan Woods, Meredith Turner and I set out toward Woodstock Inn. [Several other riders also wanted to join, but most unfortunate IT glitches prevented coordination.] Riding toward the water of the Patapsco River, all the horses were calm and seemed to be taking in the magnificent orange, yellow, rust and brown colors of the leaves. The sun shining through, with leaves floating down to the ground on gentle breezes, made for the perfect fall ride. A water crossing into the Hernwood side of the park, up and down a hill, and we were riding the path by the Job Corps. This path was closed not too long ago due to horrific damage done by the July storm that Ellicott City is still recovering from. Many volunteers from TROT and other groups assisted in clearing trails to restore what they could, but the damage is still very evident by the cuts of the path into the walls around and the fallen large trees that are now sawed but blocked the path only a few months ago. A little careful stepping was needed through here, but the horses were sure-footed and confident.

About an hour and half later, we arrived at the restaurant, tied the horses to the restaurant-provided hitching posts that read "Warning: Horse and Mule Parking Only", and went in for a Sunday lunch. Woodstock offers many dishes such as salads, chicken sandwiches, prime rib sandwiches, wings and hamburgers. They never disappoint. The wait staff love seeing the horse riders come in and offer carrots for you to bring to your pal outside. Fortunately this Sunday, we did not have a train come through so it was quiet and no stress (as the train tracks are right next to the restaurant and parking area).

After lunch, we woke the horses from their mid-day nap and gave them their treats of the carrots plus other goodies we had in our saddlebags. Back on, and off we went. Another water crossing -- there are two each way -- and taking a different trail along the water's edge, we went back to McKeldin. With a little jiggling and trotting, as the days were getting shorter, we got back to our trailers as the sun was slipping below the tree tops. A few families came by and petted the horses, asking questions about them, with their kids wide eyed and mesmerized. We all beamed with pride and joy, standing by our trusted equine partners. The day was a success and once again, the horse therapy and fellowship of our fellow riders recharged our mental and emotional batteries, making us able to face MONDAY.

[more photos next page]

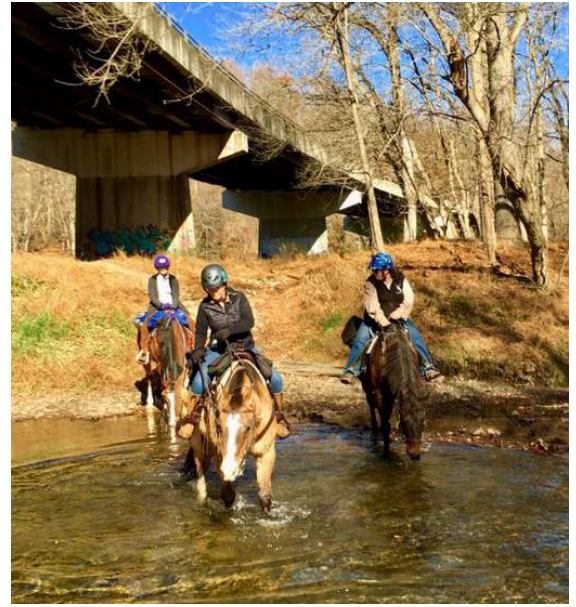


all photos of this ride are from Carolann Sharp





more from the McKeldin to the Woodstock Inn ride



Rocky Gorge Ride, Thursday, November 17

We had another delightful ride along the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, in Laurel (near to I-95 and Rt 198), a ride organized by Debby Poole but led by Barbara Sollner-Webb. It was a beautiful, crisp fall day. The reservoir views were gorgeous. The company was delightful. It is amazing how many riders come out for weekday rides (9 here, listed below)!

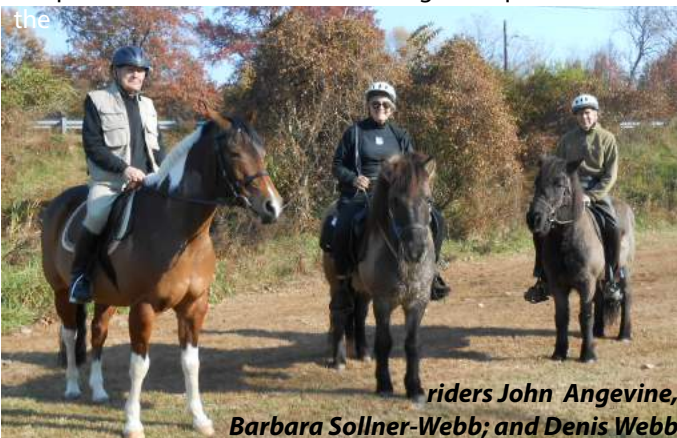


riders Jeanie Kemp, Debby Poole, Terry Ledley, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Joan Bosmans, Mary Roby, Margaret Yao Pursell, Linda Gasch, Gale Monahan



Anacostia Trail Ride, Saturday, November 19

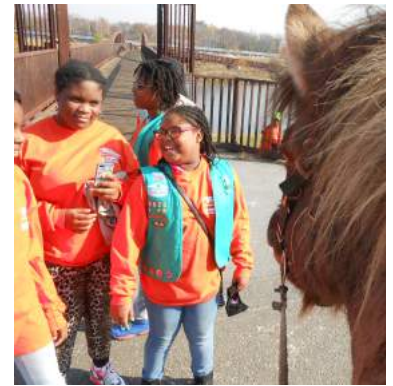
John Angevine again led his amazing ride along the Anacostia trail, from College Park, past Bladensburg, and into DC. From the southern reach of the ride, when in Coleman Manor Park, you can even see the Pepsi sign that is along the BW Parkway near Rt 50! Parts of this ride are on open river-bluffs that are great for moving out; other parts have good numbers of walkers and bikers. On this particular day there was a neighborhood walk-a-thon with lots of kids who were thrilled to see and pet the horses. Our steeds made great equine ambassadors!



riders John Angevine, Barbara Sollner-Webb; and Denis Webb

More photos from this ride are on the next page





GREAT NEWS ON THE TRIADELPHIA TRAIL!

As noted in the last newsletter, WSSC is initiating three years of major work on their Triadelphia dam, during which time they intended to close all recreation on that reservoir -- including the equestrian trail. On hearing that, TROT respectfully lobbied WSSC to keep the equestrian trail open, as it is not near the dam. And YAY, they agreed! So on dry days this winter and spring, do go out and enjoy this trail. [Depending on what repairs happen later, they may need to close the trail for a while, so always check WSSC's 301-206-4-FUN number for the daily open-closed status of their trails.] Thank you so much, WSSC, for keeping this trail open!

COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS

Baltimore County

from Priscilla Huffman

The Maryland Dept of Natural Resources held a thank you breakfast for volunteers on Friday, December 2 at the Jerusalem Mill offices in Kingsville. Many representatives of the hiking, biking and equestrian community had volunteered their work hours during the year. DNR continues to work with TROT members removing downed trees from hiking/bridle trails.

The Gunpowder Volunteer Mounted Patrol now boasts 11 members! Activity has been curtailed with the wet and cold weather, but plans are in place for renewed patrolling in the early spring.

[The information from the Howard County and Anne Arundel County coordinators was deemed so relevant for all TROT members to appreciate that it was located earlier in this newsletter.]

MAC – PC GLITCH HOPEFULLY RESOLVED

The last newsletter reported that the spelling of certain words may look funky on some PC computers – e.g., "officials" missing a f and and i. This was occurring despite the newsletter being composed in an open face font (Myriad Pro; see March 2016 newsletter). Delightfully, Laury Lobel's husband, Paul, is an IT-guru and figured out that this happens when the computer of the person reading the newsletter (PDF) does not have a recent version of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Paul suggests the simple solution is for these people to log onto the official Adobe site and download the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader DC version. It is free. Thank you, Paul!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS *from Sim Shanks*

Melissa Lizmi	Carroll County, MD
Rebecca (Becky) O'Neil	Carroll County, MD
Kristie Ruggles	Carroll County, MD
Angela Gross	Frederick County, MD
Janice Hagan	Howard County, MD
Meridith Turner	Montgomery County, MD
Friederike Grow	Washington County, MD

We hope you enjoy TROT and help in preserving trails!

UP-TO-DATE INFO ON TROT ACTIVITIES

TROT website:

www.trot-md.org Harold Goldstein, Webmaster

TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

www.trot-md.org/newsletters.php

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator

bsw@jhmi.edu, 301-604-5619)

Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo group (and to join):

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

TROT Yahoo group (and to join):

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

Facebook page

TROT Trail Riders of Today

www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/

REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER INFORMATION and PHOTOS – Please!

Please provide information about trail riding and trail maintenance activities, relevant legislation, and anything you feel will interest TROT members, for inclusion in the next TROT newsletter, to 301-604-5619 or bsw@jhmi.edu!

SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

from Jean McKay, TROT secretary

Summary of November 1, 2016 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Pat Oliva.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Dana Grabiner (BD-by phone), Terry Ledley (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Dick Huffman, Priscilla Huffman, Leah Mack, Sim Shanks

- November Treasurer's report was accepted; October Board meeting minutes approved as written.
- At the invitation of the Board, Ms. Margaret McKelvy, president and owner of Mythic Landing Enterprises, presented her company's capabilities in an array of association management services.
- On October 26, TROT President Gale Monahan participated in a meeting to discuss Sunday hunting in Montgomery County on private land. TROT does not support Sunday hunting.
- Trail maintenance was performed by TROT members and Montgomery County Parks staff on trails at the Rachel Carson Conservation Park and by TROT members and WSSC staff on the WSSC Trail System. Members are encouraged to report their trail maintenance activities/hours to Amy Kimble.
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.
- Annual Meeting (March 4, 2017) – Volunteers needed to help with the annual meeting.

Summary of December 6, 2016 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Gale Monahan.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Dana Grabiner (BD-via teleconference), Terry Ledley (BD-via teleconference), Pat Oliva (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Priscilla Huffman (via teleconference), Leah Mack, Sim Shanks

- Treasurer's report was accepted; November Board meeting minutes approved as written.
- Membership renewal notices have been mailed and renewals are being received.
- The Board approved obtaining cost estimates from Mythic Landing Enterprises to update membership administration, website update, and new membership campaign.
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.
- Discussed potential activities for 2017, including a judged pleasure ride and "intro" to trail riding.
- For the TROT Annual Meeting (March 4, 2017) – Discussed ways to facilitate interaction among members, old and new.

TRAIL GUIDES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



New / Renewal TROT Membership Application

To facilitate your renewal we currently offer two suggestions:

PAY BY PAYPAL (You do not need a PayPal account and NO POSTAGE REQUIRED):

Go to <http://www.trot-md.org/membership.php> and follow the directions.

Upon notification of your payment the Membership Registrar will send you an email with an email form to be completed and returned or return this completed form by email or USPS.

COMPLETE APPLICATION FORM AND PAY BY CHECK:

Complete the Application form

Check -- please make checks payable to
Trail Riders of Today

and send it and your application to:

TROT Membership, PO Box 506, Highland, MD 20777

Date: / / 20 Membership Renewal New Membership

PLEASE PRINT

Indicate the Information you DO NOT wish to be included in the TROT directory.

*First Name: _____	_____ Do Not list
*Last Name: _____	_____ Do Not list
Spouse/Sig Name: _____	Other: _____ Do Not list
Other family members: _____	_____ Do Not list
*Address: _____	_____ Do Not list
*City: _____	_____ Do Not list
*State: _____ *5 Digit Zip: _____	_____ Do Not list
*County: _____	_____ Do Not list
*Phone: primary _____-_____-_____ secondary _____-_____-_____	_____ Do Not list _____primary __secondary
Email: primary _____	_____ Do Not list
secondary _____	_____ Do Not list

All membership information is for the private use of TROT members. We do not release any membership information outside this organization

(Most, but not all, of our communication with members is preferred to be done by email.)

*Required information

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER

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

TROT is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

Complete only if you have not paid by PayPal

One year membership	_____ \$20.00 per year
Contributing member	_____ \$30.00 per year
Sustaining member	_____ \$50.00 per year

Type of Membership: ___Single ___Family

Number of membership cards required _____

Additional contributions \$ _____ (tax deductible)

TROT RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL OF ITS ACTIVITIES - PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO MAKE TROT SUCCEED

Please check all areas where you would be willing to assist.

___ Ride Leader	___ Horse World Expo Booth	___ Trail Clearing	___ Annual Dinner
___ Silent Auction	Other Activities (list) _____		

TROT NEWSLETTER

I prefer to receive the TROT Newsletter by:

___ email (full color addition) or ___ U.S. Mail (black on yellow) or ___ Neither, I will view it on the TROT website.

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

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

Additional Board members	Jeff Dwyer	ebbtidestables@gmail.com	(410) 320-1327
	Dana Grabiner	grabiner1@aol.com	(202) 412-7548
	Terry Ledley	terryledley@aol.com	(301) 520-3100
	Laury Lobel	laurylobel@verizon.net	
	Pat Oliva	patolivatiqger@aol.com	(410) 489-7380
	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619

Membership Chair	Sim Shanks	simshanks@verizon.net	(301) 570-0614
Newsletter; mapping	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619
Trail Rides	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619
Adopt A Trail	Amy Kimble	amyhkimble@aol.com	(301) 748-8310
Web Master	Harold Goldstein	mdbiker@goldray.com	

COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS

Anne Arundel	Jacquie Cowan	jacquiecowan@comcast.net	(410) 215-4979 or (410) 923-6157
Baltimore	Priscilla Huffman	priscillahuffman@verizon.net	(301) 646-4422
Cecil	Jeanne Bond	halcyonfarm@gmail.com	
Frederick	Pat Merson	lilgreyhrs@aol.com	(301) 898-3251
Harford	Dianna O'Neil	b.oneil1@verizon.net	(410) 215-0491
Howard	Pat Oliva	patolivatiqger@aol.com	(410) 489-7380
Laurel/Burtonsville	Jenn Poole	bcfarmgirl@hotmail.com	
	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619
Montgomery	Ron MacNab	rmacnab@verizon.net	(301) 622-4157
Prince George's	Judie Artman	artmanju@yahoo.com	
St. Mary's	Kathy Glockner	kglockner@md.metrocast.net	(301) 475-194
Talbot	Joyce Bell	wbell2@washcoll.edu	(410) 820-6002

Please volunteer as TROT coordinator or co-coordinator from your county!!

CLASSIFIED ADS:

To Place An Ad

To place a newsletter ad, email the newsletter editor at [<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu).

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

Ad rates for non-members and larger ads:

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

Training with Jacquie Cowan

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

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor

Big thanks to the swell folks who contributed great articles and other info to the newsletter! Readers highly appreciate the contributions by TROT members!

And ENORMOUS appreciation for MOST helpfully proof-reading the draft text goes to Terry Ledley, Judy Thacher, Denis Webb, Priscilla Huffman and Laury Lobel. Also Gale Monahan, Debby Poole and Dave Scull. You guys are wonderful!



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

PO Box 506

Highland, MD 20777

Inside this issue:

- TROT Annual Dinner - March 4, 2107 – venue changed to Howard County Fairgrounds
- Horse World Expo – January 20-22, 2107 – Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium
- Contacting Your Legislators to Promote Equine Consideration
- 2017 Maryland Hunting Bills
- "Bun Bags" in Anne Arundel County?
- Possible Patapsco Regional Greenway
- New Trails on Pepco Powerlines
- Report on Rachel Carson Conservation Park
- Trail Work – PLEASE JOIN IN!
- TROT's Trail Rides
- Triadelphia Trail Is Remaining Open!
- Contact Information for TROT and Trail Guides
- And Lots More