

trot

# Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use

[www.trot-md.org](http://www.trot-md.org) -- Join TROT today!

And encourage your riding buddies to join, too!

March, 2016

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

TROT's Annual Dinner -- March 19	1
Needed - TROT's next Secretary	1
President's Message	2
TROT's Treasurer	2
TROT's "Visioning Session"	2
Break-out Visioning Groups	3-5
Trail Ride Leaders Wanted!	5
TROT's 2016 Trail Rides	6-9
Training with Scott Purdum	10
JPRs on Sat, April 17 & Sun, May 15	10
TROT Helps Patuxent Park Trails	11
TROT's 2016 Youth Scholarships	12
Equestrians Save a Child	12
Horse Trouble in the Snow	12
Report on Seneca Creek Park	13
Howard County Report	13
Baltimore County Report	14
A New Bridge in Patapsco Park?	14
PLEASE Report YOUR Trail Work	14
Sore No More	15
Worming - to think about	15
TROT Board Meeting Summaries	16
Welcome New Members	16
TROT's Upcoming New Video	16
Trail Guides	17
Request for Newsletter Information	17
Up-to-date Info on TROT Activities	18
Trails Map	18
Who's Who In TROT	18
Quirky Newsletter Copying Fixed	19
Offers You Can Use	19

[Photos are from B. Sollner-Webb unless noted]

## TROT's ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday March 19, 2016 6:00 PM

from Priscilla Huffman

**Mount Airy Fireman's Activity Center, 1008 Twin Arch Road  
(corner Rt 27 and Twin Arch Road), Mount Airy, MD 21771**

Come to TROT's annual Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction! Friends & family welcome!

**Silent Auction:** We are continuing to collect donations for the silent auction. Do you have some extra tack or supplies in good condition? Do you offer horse-related services or products? Contact our silent auction coordinator, Nancy Harmon, at 391-639-4448 or [horsingaroundhoney@live.com](mailto:horsingaroundhoney@live.com) to let her know what items you are bringing to the dinner so that bid sheets can be made up ahead of time. If you have a large item, it's possible we can arrange to have it picked up - check with Nancy. We will also have \$1, \$5, and \$10 buckets for more heavily used or smaller items.

**Potluck Dinner:** TROT's annual dinner is known for outstanding potluck contributions. Please bring a generous dish to share (don't want anyone leaving hungry!) according to the first letter of your last name:

**A - L: Main dishes M - Z: Side dishes or salads.**

Appetizers are provided by set-up crew, and TROT will have delicious sheet cakes again this year for dessert, complete with the TROT logo.

**Program:** TROT recently held a Visioning Session (see next pages), and we are eager to share the outcomes of that meeting in breakout sessions at dinner, based on priorities identified. Sessions will be held for: Advocacy and Policy, Education, Membership, Trail Maintenance, and Trail Rides. This is your opportunity to help plan TROT's future! So please read the summaries of each session on the following pages, and think about your suggestions and what session you want to attend!

**Set-up:** We can always use a few extra hands with set-up starting at 3:00 PM that day. If you are available, please contact our dinner coordinator, Susan Gray, at [susan@campususan.com](mailto:susan@campususan.com). Set-up is always lots of fun and a great way to meet other TROT members.

Also, please remember to bring your collected proof of purchase seals from Southern States horse feed bags (also their Legends & Triple Crown bags), which Pat Oliva will be collecting, to donate to Days End Farm Horse Rescue. Each seal will provide them 25 cents to defray their costs of caring for horses.

**See you on March 19th!**



## TROT SECRETARY POSITION AVAILABLE

from Nancy Osgood, TROT Secretary

The TROT Board is announcing an opportunity to join the Board as the Secretary. The responsibilities of the Secretary include taking notes at the monthly Board meetings and distributing minutes electronically to Board members and meeting attendees. The Secretary also distributes a reminder for the monthly meeting and assists in developing an agenda for the meeting. This is a great opportunity to become active in TROT and learn how TROT interfaces with other organizations and officials to pursue its mission of preserving open space and equestrian trails. This is also a great way to meet other dedicated trail riders, to unite in their efforts to preserve public equestrian trails, to find other trail buddies, and to enjoy yummy potlucks at the meetings!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

It is that time of year again for the TROT Annual Dinner -- this year March 19<sup>th</sup> to hopefully avoid blizzards. Please see the information above and below regarding the dinner. I would like to challenge each one of you to come up with what TROT should continue to do, what TROT should not continue doing or what you would like to see TROT do in the future. Bring these ideas to the Annual Dinner/meeting. If each of you think of just one thing, I am sure we will have an excellent meeting as part of the annual dinner. You are TROT! Invest in its future! I am sure you want to see it progress in ways we all can be proud of.

The Annual Dinner will also be your time you to nominate yourself or someone else for the TROT Board. See you there!

## NOMINEE FOR TREASURER

from Susan Railey

We are excited to announce that Janet Whelan has agreed to be nominated for the Treasurer's position on TROT's Board. She has a financial background and has been very active in TROT since she joined in 2013 -- including coming on many rides with her GORGEOUS big horse. We thank her for volunteering, and the entire Board promises to make the job as easy as possible. When you come to the Annual Dinner on March 19<sup>th</sup> for fun and fellowship and to contribute your ideas for how TROT should best further our trails mission, also come to meet Janet and any other new Board Members, and to say hello to all of the Officers and Board Members that do such a great job of continuing TROT's mission.

## THANK YOU, SUSAN RAILEY!

from the TROT Board

The TROT Board is EXTREMELY appreciative of Susan's excellent service as Treasurer over many years! Thanks a million, Susan!

## TROT's VISIONING SESSION CLARIFIES GOALS

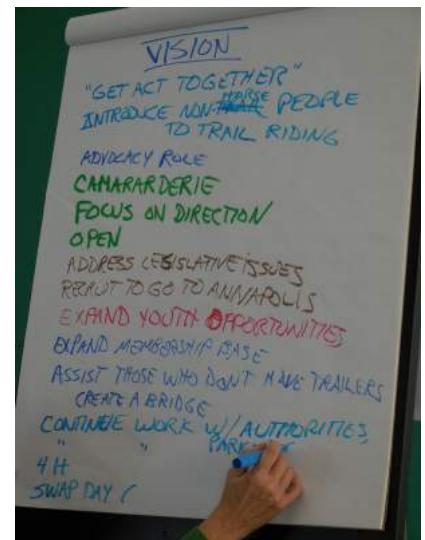
from Dana Grabiner and Barbara Sollner-Webb

Where is TROT headed next? That was the big question at a 3-hour visioning session held February 6<sup>th</sup> at Schooley Mill Park and facilitated by master certified coach Cynthia Way of Way to Go, Inc., who generously donated her expertise. All TROT members had been invited to participate and 26 did: 16 in person – including three brand new members! – and 10 who couldn't attend but sent their suggestions with other attendees. Many thanks to Dana Grabiner for initiating the session, Priscilla Huffman for securing the meeting space, Debby Poole and Sim Shanks for promoting the event, and Barbara Sollner-Webb for taking photos.

Here is how the afternoon went: first, participants listed TROT's recent successes, which included retaining threatened riding venues such as Rocky Gorge, North Tract, and Frederick Watershed, the 2015 Trail Obstacle Event, last year's defeat of Sunday hunting bills, and expanding TROT's newsletter. Each participant then listed activities that TROT should pursue. Those included continuing with efforts like the above-listed successes, stronger trails advocacy, greater focus on TROT's trails mission, helping and educating riders who are new to trail riding, aligning with other trail advocacy groups, increasing membership and inclusiveness. One thing for sure, participants affirmed TROT's mission: maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

Next, five groups formed to further explore the activities that participants had mentioned the most: Advocacy and Policy, Education, Membership, Trail Maintenance, and Trail Rides. [See summaries of those groups on the next page.]

These discussions will be continued during breakout groups at TROT's Annual Dinner March 19<sup>th</sup>. TROT is committed to aligning its future undertakings with the wishes of its membership, so please bring your ideas and join one of the five breakout groups. Feel free to call any board member to comment or ask questions.



[Cynthia Way facilitating discussions by participants]



## SUMMARIES of BREAK-OUT GROUPS from TROT's VISIONING SESSION

Please read and think about your ideas for TROT's future directions, to provide to these break-out groups at the Annual Dinner!

### Advocacy and Policy Group – or "It Takes A Herd to be Heard"

*from Jacquie Cowan*

Advocacy is the word that was repeated most frequently throughout our Visioning Session as we talked about one of TROT's most important objectives: Preservation of Trails. [The Advocacy group was Susan Gray, Pat Oliva, Barbara Sollner-Webb and me.]

Our continued access to trails can be dependent upon the management's policy that can change from year to year. Management may be a county's parks and recreation department like Howard County for their Schooley Mill and Rockburn regional parks. Or it can be the more massive state-wide system under the direction of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources or semi-governmental organizations like WSSC. And then there is the private sector that can be threatened by such things as urban development and zoning.

The three primary elements to successful advocacy were identified in the Visioning Session, with examples provided:

- **Liaison with government officials:** We are all aware of Barbara's incredible "schmoozing" with the WSSC management, but you may not be aware of how many hours she and MANY others put into meetings and negotiations to keep these trails open to horses. It is important to stress that this was only successful because so very many TROT members became involved, coming to meetings, writing letters, taking around petitions, etc., in support of this most worthwhile effort. Ditto for the trails at North Tract.
- **Activism with local and state legislative issues:** Last year a number of state bills to expand Sunday Hunting were defeated in the state legislature because equestrians and other outdoor enthusiasts mounted a grassroots effort to email, call, and travel to Annapolis to let our state representatives know our concerns.
- **Membership Involvement:** It is important that we maintain a good working relationship and reputation with all trail management entities. Most of us hopefully do this by at least cleaning up our horse's droppings in the parking lots and being polite to other park visitors and staff, while some of us go that step further to develop a rapport with the actual managers to discuss concerns and work together on solutions.

Our breakout groups identified three primary challenges to TROT's continued success in advocating for trail access:

- Staying informed and up-to-date on what is happening around the State.
- Stimulating more membership involvement, including to testify in Annapolis on bills that affect trail riding and/or horse keeping.
- Mount a proactive approach for each threat to our trails.

Please join our Advocacy break-out group during TROT's Annual Meeting to further discuss what those threats may be and how together we can best overcome them.

### Education Group

*from Dana Grabiner*

Call it education, training, guidance, enlightenment, attitude adjustment (!) – whatever you like – but it's a fascination of mine. So at the Visioning Session, when participants broke into groups that represented the categories of recommended activities that had gotten the most "votes," I aimed straight for the Education Group. So did Maria Wisgerhof, a brand new TROT member, barely 30-something and busting with ideas for all kinds of educational events that TROT members will love. It was the birth of a working Education Committee that will undoubtedly swell in number.

For us, education comprises everything from "here is how to select/hook up/drive a trailer" to "here is how to introduce your horse to a trail obstacle" to "here are First Aid musts for the trail." Educational sessions can range from a series of newsletter items, to a hands-on session with a TROT member and your trailer, to a two-hour demo of trail boots, to a half-day trails workshop with a professional clinician. Past TROT education events have included many seminars (on GPS use, trailering, trail work, etc), several kinds of mounted training sessions, and many more. Maria and I had ideas of topics and events, and we look forward to hearing ideas from TROT members at the Annual Dinner.

Just like trail rides, anyone can host/lead an educational event! Do you have knowledge on a topic you'd like to share? Do you have space to host an event? Is there a clinician you think TROT members would benefit from? TROT has limited funding and free advertising for approved educational events and we're happy to help bring an idea you want to host to fruition. To plan or help plan one or more events, small or large, talk to us at the Annual Dinner or contact Dana Grabiner at [<grabiner1@aol.com>](mailto:grabiner1@aol.com).

### Membership Group

*from Priscilla Huffman*

What can we do to increase TROT membership? How can we recruit younger members? What is the best means to get out the word about TROT and our mission? Which activities are likely to attract the most non-members and get them excited about joining?

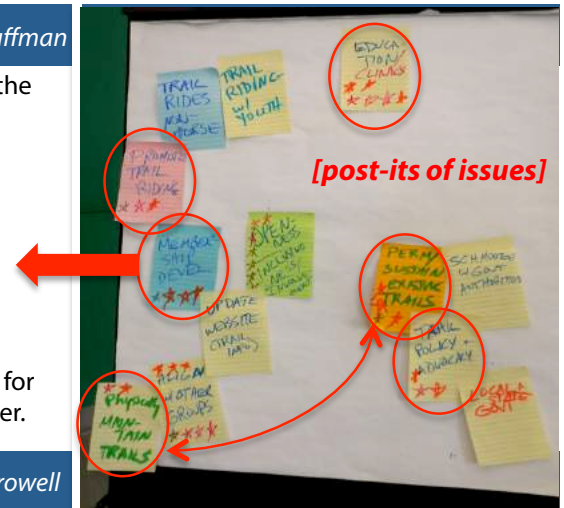
These are some of the questions we might discuss at the Annual Dinner's Membership breakout session. *[continued next page]*

## Membership Group *(continued from page 3)* from Priscilla Huffman

Four of us (Gale Monahan, Nancy Osgood, Sim Shanks and I) shared ideas at the February 6th Visioning Session and came up with the following list:

- Increase interface with large barns
- Get out more brochures
- Update website to appeal to larger groups
- Get more into "public relations"
- Continue and fully staff the Horse Expo booth
- Write and submit articles to local media outlets
- Get savvy with social media!

Join our group on March 19th to add your own thoughts and ideas. Our goal for the breakout sessions is to develop actionable items for follow up after the dinner.



## Trail Maintenance Group

from Mary Prowell

At the recent TROT Visioning Session, I was the group to discuss maintaining trails. Here are some ideas about cooperative trail maintenance among TROT members and with other trail user groups.

Many of the trails we TROT riders use are in good part maintained by other groups. For instance: Little Bennett by Montgomery County and active volunteers (Boy Scouts?); Patapsco by the League of Maryland Horsemen and MORE; Carroll County trails by The Carroll County Equestrian Council, etc.. I'm sure some of these groups would be happy for TROT members' assistance, but for the most part these trails do not need much clearing for a good ride. However, other park systems (the Upper Patuxent River State Park, for instance) have any number of trails that are only maintained by the people who ride them. The Howard County/Iron Bridge and Goshen hunts come in yearly and open some of the more heavily used trails in this section of the Patuxent, but in general these trails could benefit from trimming and sawing at any time of the year. The question is how to best utilize members' time and effort to keep open as many as possible of the area trails that will be used.

One plan would be to have TROT members who mainly ride some of these trails take a more active part in keeping them open or in working with those who are currently maintaining them. I would like to see a list of parks that are most used by trail riders, find out how well-maintained they are already and who is doing it. We could then find a person (or group) in TROT willing to work with the the trail maintainers (hunt clubs, MORE, League, DNR, etc., or maybe there is no other specific group) for that park/park system -- so that TROT becomes a more noticeable proponent of trail use and more recognized as willing to help.

In parallel, I'd like to see a list of riders who frequently use a park and may live nearby. I think it would be more productive in maintaining trails if the actual users are asked to participate in clearing them. That way, they don't have to travel far to do work and will personally reap the benefits of their efforts. They would also be able to organize their fellow riders to come in and clear when they find a new obstacle blocking a trail. It would be kind of like a more inclusive version of TROT's Adopt-A-Trail program.

It might also be worth TROT investing in some trail clearing tools that could be loaned to someone or a group going out to clear the trail. We already have a battery operated hedge-type trimmer. Do we have anything else? Shouldn't we get some?

At the General Meeting, there could be a table with different sign-up sheets for some of the more used trail systems. If people would sign up for the trails they ride, note how often they ride there, and leave their email address or phone number, it would be a great start for organizing trail maintenance. Something in the newsletter to that effect would allow those not at the meeting to also participate. **[See request on page 19.]** This isn't an obligation to clear or help with trails, but it would at least let us know where people are riding. A star system might be helpful in telling how often a person uses a certain trail system, i.e. one star for a few times a year, two for monthly, three for 2 or 3 times a month, four for weekly, and five for several times a week.

Another question: what about parks that are open to horses but not now used much by TROT members. These may be ridden by a stable that doesn't have TROT members or were once a riding destination but have become too urbanized (e.g., maybe Paint Branch). Should TROT try and save everything that was once horse friendly or concentrate on places that are actively used now?

## Trail Riding Group

from Brenda Creighton and Laury Lobel

Do we think the TROT organization is set up to handle this long-running program? Yes. Deneen Martin is the ride coordinator.

One concern about arranging TROT's trail ride calendar is finding leaders/coordinators for each ride. The hope is to find ways to include new trail riders and educate them so that they are comfortable as the host coordinator.

Another issue is how to encourage new trail riders, especially to get riders out of the ring, so to speak. Should we have "training rides," as TROT had held in past years? How about repurposing the funds now used for scholarship to trail ride vouchers at a local trail stable as an encouragement for people to try trail riding?

Yet another concern is trailering/transporting horses to events. Is it possible to have some kind of ride-sharing? Or a way to communicate that someone is interested in going to a ride but does not have a trailer? How do... *[continued next page]*

do we better include those people? [Currently, the interested rider communicates that to the ride leader and/or posts on the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo list-serve, which works pretty well, but there is no formal system.]

The trail ride group here (Laury Lobel, Janet Buck, Claudia Walters and I) and lots of others really care about the ride program. Laury offered to write a "how to lead a ride" article for the newsletter. While it may seem obvious to some people, it is important to know your trail, have a list of who is coming, know what the parking will allow, the length of the ride and the rate the leader plans to travel, and that it would be okay to limit how many people you want to lead. [That valuable article is right below here.]

Come give your ideas at the break-out trail rides group at the Annual Dinner!

## TRAIL RIDE LEADERS WANTED -- its easy and fun! What you need to know:

*from Laury Lobel*

At the Visioning Session, continuing and enhancing our trail ride program was deemed a valuable way to support TROT's long-stated mission of preserving, maintaining and expanding sustainable trails. For decades, TROT has organized trail rides at venues throughout the region; more recently TROT started encouraging non-TROT members to participate with \$5 one-day memberships (as membership for ride participants is required by our insurance). **These organized group rides are intended, in part, for area equestrians to enjoy riding and to meet old and new friends. But they are also to introduce riders to new venues they might not have previously known about. By experiencing the beauty and pleasure of these diverse venues, most riders come away more committed to preserving, maintaining and expanding such sustainable trails -- TROT's mission.**

We hope you will join in TROT's trail rides this year, both as a participant and ideally also as a leader. To participate, once the rides are announced, you will be encouraged to sign up to join. But first, TROT needs to fill out its trail ride schedule for this season, and for that we are requesting you, our members, to volunteer to lead a ride at your favorite venue. Please! Having an interesting and varied ride schedule depends on you volunteering to lead a ride!

Many of our members are familiar with the wonderful trail venues we are so lucky to have in the TROT area. From the MNCPPC Parks in Montgomery County (like Little Bennett, Ag Farm Park, Rachel Carson, Fairland), to the State Parks (like Patuxent, Patapsco, Cedarville), to the local parks (like Friendship, Schooley Mill, Rockburn), two fabulous riding venues provided by WSSC, and so many others across the entire region -- well, you get the idea!! We are all blessed with incredible places to ride! So, TROT MEMBERS -- start sharing your favorite wonderful places to ride with your fellow TROT members!! Please! It is easy! There are only a few things you need to do to lead a ride:

1. Pick a place and day, confirm with the trail ride coordinator (Deneen Martin, <[deneenmartin7@msn.com](mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com)> or 301-467-5335), and write up a short description of your ride for the TROT newsletter. This write-up should include your name and contact info, the ride's location and pace (some are walk only, some walk-trot, some walk-trot-canter, and some have more than one group for various speeds); the length of the ride; any obstacles you feel are important for riders with green horses (such as bikers/hikers, stream crossings, etc.); whether there are bad rocks (if people should have boots for their horses); and if parking is limited, how many trailers can be accommodated (so why the ride is limited); and possibly also the directions to the parking area. To assure that people sign up with you and don't just show up unannounced, don't disclose the time of the ride, but give that information to members when you confirm their commitment.

2. A current Coggins and a helmet are required for all participants on TROT rides, and that should be specified when/if you announce your ride on the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo list-serves and/or on the TROT Facebook page. [You do not need to mention that in your write-up for the newsletter as that is specified up-front for all TROT rides.]

3. When members contact you to sign up, get their cell phone number. This is important if the ride must be postponed due to bad weather. And when the ride is near ready to go out, if a rider has not yet arrived, you can contact him/her to learn if arrival is imminent or if the group should go out, possibly to meet up later on the trail.

4. It is nice to plan a some form of lunch or snack after the ride, so the write-up should also mention that and request riders to bring a chair (unless the venue has logs or other seating). Options that have been successfully used for such get-togethers include: (a) a potluck: in the write-up, mention whether you are bringing a main course, drinks, plates and/or utensils, in which case the participants bring only side dishes and desserts, or if they should bring all the above; (b) some ride leaders have provided drinks and/or dessert and in the write-up told everyone to bring their own sandwiches; (c) a get-together where everyone brings their own food and drink, to enjoy the camaraderie of the other riders; then tell everyone that; (d) many others.

5. On the day of the ride, it is helpful to have along a list of riders who signed up, making it easier when they check in the day of the ride. You just need to confirm that they say they have their current Coggins and are a current TROT member; or you can collect \$5 for their one-day membership. The list then gets emailed to Deneen. And maybe put up a sign directing to the parking.

A couple of other notes: Don't worry if you have a slow horse -- just lead a leisurely ride! If you want to lead a walk-only ride and know there are people who would like to go faster whom you would like to accommodate, just let people know in your write-up that there will be places to move out for those interested, and they can wait for you at the intersections, to get directions.

TROT trail rides are a great way to meet new people and make new friends, and they are a "staple" of our organization. Please help continue this tradition and lead a ride, contact Deneen Martin at <[deneenmartin7@msn.com](mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com)> (preferred) or 301-467-5335.

## UPCOMING TROT TRAIL RIDES

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

See Laury's article above, about the value, fun and ease of leading a TROT ride! So please contact Deneen (301-467-5335 or (<[deneenmartin7@msn.com](mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com)>)) with your offer to lead a ride in 2016! Thanks much! And plan to come on lots of rides this year.

To participate in a ride, please **contact the designated ride leader to sign up and learn the specifics of the ride, including the start time**. Then, if bad weather causes a ride to be postponed, the ride leader will have your information to notify you.

All ride participants **must wear a helmet and have a current negative Coggins for the horse**. For TROT rides, all participants must be TROT members (membership forms available online at <<http://www.trot-md.org>> and at the rides; also one-day TROT memberships are available at the ride for \$5 to encourage non-TROT riders to join).

This year, because TROT did not yet have many spring rides set up, we are here also listing - *in italics* - rides of some other groups, including The Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club (of which many TROT members are members). CPWHC invites all TROT members to these rides, but to come, you need to join CPWHC a day before the ride (only \$10 single membership, \$15 family membership, at <<https://cpwhclub.wordpress.com>> or contact <[jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)>, 410-923-6157). However, if you are willing to lead a TROT ride, it certainly can be set up on the same weekend, even the same day, as a listed CPWHC ride.

If you want to come on a ride but do not have a trailer, contact the ride leader, as often they can arrange another participant to pick you and your horse up (assuming your horse is familiar with trailering); or post a request on the TROT list-serve.

For updated trail ride listings, please check TROT's ride schedule at <<http://www.trot-md.org>> and CPWHC's at <<https://cpwhclub.wordpress.com>>, and check the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo list-serves and TROT's website. Hopefully more rides for the later months will be announced in the next newsletter!



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

### March

**Saturday, March 19 - C&O Canal ride, Brunswick, MD. This is a CPWHC ride (see notes above)**

**Contact: Nancy Harmon (301-639-4448 or <[horsingaroundhoney@live.com](mailto:horsingaroundhoney@live.com)>)**

*"Wearing of the Green" C&O Canal Trail Ride. Plan on riding about 10 miles, Brunswick to Harper's Ferry, at walk and slow gait; will shorten route if needed, depending on condition of horses. We can also split into different speed groups if needed. Great footing on the flat tow path along the Potomac River, but shoes or boots may be needed for tender-footed horses. Expect hikers, dog walkers and trains. Bring water for your horse and clean up tools. Lunch afterward at Beans In The Belfry Cafe up the street from the parking lot. [And going on this ride still leaves plenty of time to get to TROT's Annual Dinner that evening!]*

**Friday, March 25 - North Tract (Patuxent Wildlife Refuge), Laurel, MD**

This will be an alternate ride date, set up for some folks who said they want to come on a North Tract ride but aren't available on Saturday, April 2. See that write-up for more information. Groups for this Friday ride will be determined depending on the turn-out, but there will definitely be a potluck afterwards.

**Thursday, March 31 - Schooley Mill Park, Highland, MD**

**Contact: Debby Poole (<[debby.poole@juno.com](mailto:debby.poole@juno.com)> or 301-641-8594)**

Many of us have ridden an older frisky horse, a young inexperienced horse, or a horse that may lose his cool in a group. Therefore this walk only, slower paced ride is perfect to get horses used to going out in a new place with a group and for starting a young horse; also swell for those who like to putter around. This ride is on the lovely rolling hills, woods and meadows of Schooley Mill Park (12975 Hall Shop Road, Highland, MD; see <[www.howardcountymd.gov/schooleymillpark](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/schooleymillpark)>). It offers a wonderful ring for schooling if you want to come early or stay after, a sturdy mounting block, easy trailer parking, and good trails that make shoes not needed except for very tender-footed horses. [See article on this venue in the September 2105 TROT newsletter.]

### April

**Saturday, April 2 - North Tract (Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, Laurel, MD), rain date Sunday, April 10**

**Contact: Barbara Sollner-Webb (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>, 301-604-5619)**

Early each year we have a TROT ride at North Tract (formerly known as the "Fort Meade Trails", and the only Fish and Wildlife property that allows horseback riding) to remind riders of this great resource. Its trails and road shoulders ... *[continued next page]*

## April -- continued

are impressively sturdy (on old packed-stone base originally designed for military tanks), making North Tract one of the few area venues to safely ride when the ground is soaked, without causing trail damage. And riding here after wet spells will preserve your local trails.

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

We will have an all-walk group and one or two faster groups (walk/trot and walk/trot with a limited number of controlled canter runs). After the ride of 2 1/2-3 hours, we will enjoy a potluck lunch, so plan to bring something yummy and a chair.

Because TROT's membership turned out en masse at hearings a few years ago to present evidence that riding these trails is non-destructive, we retained equestrian access here. So come celebrate these great trails and the swell relationship we now have with the staff of this lovely Wildlife Refuge! [See article in May 2013 TROT newsletter.]

### **Saturday, April 9 - Cedarville State Forest, Waldorf, MD. This is a CPWHC ride (see notes above)**

**Contact: Shelby Tipton (before 8:00 PM) 301-848-1650**

We will ride at Cedarville on Saturday and then this can be our Novice Horse Camping weekend, as Cedarville State Forest offers rustic horse camping (make your own reservations with the Park by calling 301-888-1410); and then on Sunday we will ride at nearby Jug Bay. Both are very pretty parks with real enjoyable riding, so come join to check them out. [See article on Cedarville in the January 2105 TROT newsletter.]

### **Saturday, April 16 - WSSC's Tridelphia Trail, near Sunshine, MD, rain date Saturday, April 23**

**Contact: Barbara Sollner-Webb (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>, 301-604-5619); co-leaders: Jenn and Debby Poole**

Come see this still under-appreciated trail that WSSC kindly opened for us only two years ago, on the Montgomery County side of the Tridelphia Reservoir. The trail runs from Tridelphia Lake Road to Greenbridge Road, through woods and open fields, on gently rolling hills, with pretty views of the water. The helpful WSSC folks even built a new horse trailer parking lot for us, on Tridelphia Lake Road (access from Georgia Avenue, just north of New Hampshire Avenue). [See article on this new trail in the January 2105 issue of the TROT newsletter.]

Our ride will be 2 to 2 1/2 hours, with co-leaders Jenn and Debby Poole leading an all-walk group and Barbara a faster group. Shoes are not needed except for very tender-footed horses. And please bring something yummy to share for a potluck after the ride, plus a chair to sit on.



*eagle watching us on a ride on WSSC's trails*

### **Friday through Sunday, April 22-24 – Tuckahoe Spring Fling in Tuckahoe State Park near Denton, MD**

Come join our fellow Tuckahoe riders on the Annual great event, with camping on site, home-cooked meals provided, and the only hilly trails on the Eastern Shore! Details coming on the CPWHC website (<<https://cpwhclub.wordpress.com>>).

### **Friday through Sunday, April 22-24 – Ride & camp at Gettysburg, PA. This is a CPWHC event (see notes above)**

**Contact: Jen Black 410-279-4830 or <[rdtwh2006@gmail.com](mailto:rdtwh2006@gmail.com)>**

Gettysburg Weekend at Artillery Ridge Campground with pot-luck dinner on Saturday night. A group block of campsites will be held until March 15 (make your own reservations at 717-334-1288 and be sure to mention you are with the Chesapeake Club); after that, the unreserved stalls, paddocks and campsites will be released to the general public but reservations can still be made based on availability. Artillery Ridge also has a few cabins to rent. This year, there will be NO historical ride, just camping, riding at your leisure and having FUN!!

### **Thursday, April 28 - Rachel Carson Park, Brookville, MD**

**Contact: Laury Lobel <[Laurylobel@verizon.net](mailto:Laurylobel@verizon.net)>**

Come and join us for a ride around Rachel Carson Park in Montgomery County. Because the parking lot has limited space, we are having this ride on a Thursday and limiting the group to six rigs. The park is relatively small, so the ride will be between 1 ¼ hours to 1 ½ hours. It will be a walk-only ride. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

*the wisteria at Rosaryville are impressive*



**Saturday, April 30 - Wisteria Blossom Ride! Rosaryville State Park** [continued next page]  
**Contact: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, <[javenderlady19@verizon.net](mailto:javenderlady19@verizon.net)>)**

## Rosaryville ride -- *continued*

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

## May

### **Saturday, May 7– Fairland Park, near Burtonsville. MD (rain date Saturday, May 28)**

**Contact: Barbara Sollner-Webb (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>, 301-604-5619); co-leaders: Jenn and Debby Poole**

We will again be riding the lovely trails in scenic Fairland Regional Park, which spans Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Many years ago, TROT had joined forces with Montgomery County Parks and Rec. and with the local trail/bike group, MORE, to re-build these trails, but then they had become blocked with downed trees, and a few years ago they were re-opened again. So happily, we can enjoy them again. These are really nice trails that too few riders know about and use. There will be an all-walk and a faster group; shoes needed only for very tender-footed horses. And please bring something yummy to share for a potluck after the ride. [See articles on this park's lovely trails by Mary Angevine and by Dana Grabiner in the July 2015 TROT newsletter.]

### **Saturday, May 21 - WSSC's Rocky Gorge in Laurel, MD (rain date Sunday May 29)**

**Contact: Barbara Sollner-Webb (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>, 301-604-5619),  
co-leader: Terry Ledley – for whom this "Terry Ledley Trial" is named**

Come join this ride along WSSC's beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir, celebrating TROT's efforts to get this trail reopened a few years ago. This ride starts in West Laurel about five minutes from the Rt 198 exit off I-95 and offers magnificent views of the reservoir, with a good chance of seeing heron and maybe an eagle. And despite the name, the footing is fine for barefoot horses, with plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses. Terry will lead a walk-only group, Denis Webb a walk/trot group, and Barbara a walk-trot-canter group. After the 2 ½-3 hour ride, there will be a pot-luck lunch at the Webb's. Your pot-luck contribution will get ferried from the trailer parking area to the Webb's for the lunch. [Look forward to an article on the history of this trail by Terry Ledley in TROT's next newsletter, and see one in the Sept 2104 issue.]



*from last year's Rocky Gorge ride*

### **Thursday, May 26 – location to be announced**

**Contact: Laury Lobel (<[Laurylobel@verizon.net](mailto:Laurylobel@verizon.net)>)**

### **Saturday, May 28 – ride at Annapolis Rock, south of Lisbon, MD This is a CPWHC ride (see notes above)**

**Contact: Suzanne Anderson (301-646-0242 or <[trailsendfarm@verizon.net](mailto:trailsendfarm@verizon.net)>)**

*Suzanne Anderson's birthday ride! This is a great opportunity to explore this Annapolis Rock section of Patuxent River Park that has few trail markings, but Suzanne knows the park like her back yard! There are some hills, water crossings, usually some mud, and generally easy footing for barefoot horse.*

## June

### **Saturday, June 25 – Sweet Air section of Gunpowder Falls State Park in Baldwin, Md**

**This is a CPWHC ride (see notes above) Contact: Jennifer Mohr (443-610-4887 or <[jenmohr1@gmail.com](mailto:jenmohr1@gmail.com)>)**

*This section of Gunpowder Falls State Park offers wooded trails, somewhat hilly, and rocky in locations, so shoes or boots are recommended. Bring water and clean up tools, and plan to take your manure with you so we keep the parking lot clean. This is a multi-use trail, and we often see mountain bikers, hikers, and dogs. A picnic area is by the trailers, so bring lunch for after the ride.*

## July

### **Saturday, July 30 – NCR (North Central Railroad)/Torrey Brown trail in Freeland, MD**

**Contact: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, <[lavenderlady19@verizon.net](mailto:lavenderlady19@verizon.net)>); co-leader: Barbara Sollner Webb**

The NCR trail is another treasure in our Maryland trail system that riders should get to know. It is a lovely, hard-packed dirt rail-to-trails, over 20 miles in Maryland, from just north of Baltimore to the Pennsylvania line, and then continuing another 21 miles to York, PA, basically paralleling (but not close to) I-83. At many places the trail crosses the Gunpowder Falls River, great for giving the horses a drink and cooling off. We will leave from Freeland in northern Maryland and ride about 2 ½ hours, with an all-walk group and a walk/trot/(and a little canter) group. Please bring along a contribution for a potluck lunch after the ride, at their nice picnic table in the shade.



## August

[still to schedule]

## September

**Saturday, September 10 – Fairland Park, Burtonsville, MD** (rain date Saturday, September 17)

**Contact: Barbara Sollner-Webb (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>, 301-604-5619); co-leader: Jenn Poole**

We will again be riding the lovely trails in scenic Fairland Regional Park, which spans Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, really nice trails that too few riders know about and use. There will be an all-walk and a faster group; shoes needed only for very tender-footed horses. And please bring something yummy to share for a potluck after the ride.

## October

**Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2 – League of Maryland Horsemen Invitational, Marriottsville, MD**

*TROT members are invited to the League of Maryland Horsemen's Invitational Weekend at their private campground in Patapsco Valley State Park north of Ellicott City, MD. Great riding, super camaraderie, swell food! More info to come.*

**Thursday through Sunday, October 6-9 – Get-Away weekend at Fair Hill NRMA near Elkton, MD**

**This is a CPWHC event (see notes above)**

*This is a wonderful, yearly, riding and camping weekend. Registration form at <<https://cpwhclub.wordpress.com>>.*

**Saturday, October 15 –Rosaryville State Park Fall Festival** **This is a CPWHC event (see notes above)**

*We will ride to the historic Mt. Airy Mansion for lunch and entertainment. More info to come.*

**Saturday, October 31 – Rosaryville Halloween ride, southwest of Upper Marlboro, MD**

**Contact : Laura Colicchio (<[lavenderlady19@verizon.net](mailto:lavenderlady19@verizon.net)>, 301-856-7540)**

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

## November

**Friday through Sunday, November 4-6 – Tuckahoe Fall Festival and Auction, near Denton, MD**

*Equestrians are invited to this weekend of riding and camping, with home-cooked meals provided. More information to follow.*

**some Saturday in November - Anacostia Park Ride**

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

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

**Saturday, November 26 – CPWHC's annual “Turkey Gait” ride in the Manassas Battlefield Park, Manassas, VA**

**This is a CPWHC ride (see notes above)**

**Contact: Jacquie Cowan <[jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)>, 410-923-6157)**

*More information to follow and on the CPWHC website.*

## December

**Saturday, December 10 or 17 - Caroling on Horseback, Crownsville, MD** **A CPWHC ride (see notes above)**

**Contact: Jacquie Cowan <[jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)>, 410-923-6157)**

*Come with or without a decorated horse. We will serenade Jacquie Cowan's neighbors and collect food, blankets and warm clothing for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and Homeless Services.*

*Mr. Ikey, enjoying the snow falling during last month's storm (note the deep snow; he really has longer legs). Being an Icelandic, it probably felt like home!*



## FUN TIMES FOR SPRING TRAINING WITH SCOTT PURDUM, APRIL 19, 2016

from Debby Poole

On Friday April 29, 2016, TROT is hosting an early springtime trail obstacle training clinic with the highly recognized local trainer, Scott Purdum (<<http://www.advantagehorsemanship.com>>). It will be in the large ring at the beautiful Schooley Mill Park facility in Howard County, MD (12975 Hall Shop Rd, Highland, MD 20777).

To offer individual time with each horse, this is a limited event with no more than 15 horses and open to TROT members only. This clinic will offer in-hand and under-saddle time with your horse; you can do both or bring a horse you only want to lead or lunge. The clinic will be four hours long with a short lunch break. We recommend that you bring a bag lunch or snack and water for you and your horse.

The clinic is offered at \$135 per entry. This will include a ribbon and a certificate of completion for each participant. Hard hats, hard boots, and current Coggins are required. Spectators are welcome to watch for free!

Trailer parking is available on a spacious gravel parking lot so no need to worry about getting stuck in mud should it rain. The clinic will be held rain or shine. There is a lovely mounting block for those who need help getting on the trusty steeds. After the clinic, feel free to ride the well maintained and beautiful Schooley Mill trails or make a note to come back for a future ride.

For more information, to learn the time, and to sign up, please contact Debby Poole at <[debby.poole@juno.com](mailto:debby.poole@juno.com)>.

[photo from Debby Poole]



## JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE WITH THE PA RANGERS, CODORUS STATE PARK, SAT. APRIL 17

The Pennsylvania Rangers organization is having a Judged Pleasure Ride at Codorus State Park in Pennsylvania on Saturday April 17, rain or shine. Check-in begins at 8:30 AM and ride-out begins at 9:30 AM. Cost is \$30, including coffee, donuts and lunch. Coggins required if coming from out of state. Ribbons awarded 1st through 6th place in each division: Open, Novice and Junior. To pre-register and for more information, contact Sue Elien (717-600-6764) or Rich Tower (717-439-3371). For anyone thinking about helping plan future Trail Obstacle Clinics and/or JPRs, this would be a good opportunity to get ideas for obstacles. See <<http://www.parangers.com/Events.html>>.

## JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE AT POTOMAC RIVERSIDE STABLES, SUNDAY MAY 15

info from  
Katie King

TROT member Katie King wrote to invite TROT members to a Judged Pleasure Ride she is organizing on May 15, 2016 in Poolesville, MD, hosted at Potomac Riverside Stables. This event is suitable for all levels of horses and riders and will have a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. This is a great opportunity to bond with your horse and test your ability to work as a team. There will be a long (14 mi) and short (7 mi) option. There will be a total of 10 natural and manmade obstacles, with all obstacles positioned on the short ride so you will not miss out on anything if you choose not to do the long ride. However, the long option will allow riders to ride the scenic C&O canal down to White's Ferry, where lunch will be provided for those riders (lunch is included for all riders regardless of lunch location). Visit <<http://potomacriversidestables.com/activities/>> for more information and entry form. Contact Event Manager Katie King at 703-909-9164 or <[americanrider@gmail.com](mailto:americanrider@gmail.com)> for questions or to volunteer. And please, obstacle volunteers needed!!! So contact Katie to volunteer for that, too.

Entries close May 8<sup>th</sup>, and ride times will be posted by May 12. The fee is \$40 per horse/ride, which includes lunch. Entries also accepted after May 8<sup>th</sup>, if there is no wait list, for \$45 (includes lunch). Hard hats required, as are current negative Coggins signed waiver.

More specifics: The trail will be well marked, and a map will be provided along with a description of each of the 10 obstacles. Each rider may ride at their own pace and there is no time limit for the ride. However there is a maximum time limit of 30-60 seconds to complete each obstacle. Riders may elect to ride with a group of no more than 4 riders. If you'd like to ride in a group but don't have one, let Katie know and she will try and connect you with other single riders. Riders will not be permitted additional schooling of the obstacles on their initial time through in order to keep things flowing. [If you are unfamiliar with the types of obstacles that are typically found on these types of rides, please visit <<http://www.actha.us/obstacles>> for descriptions and videos of a variety of obstacles (note: this ride is not associated with ACTHA; this information is simply provided for your reference and education of various types of obstacles.) Each obstacle will be judged on a scale of 1-10. There will be 1st – 6th place ribbons for each class (see entry form for class list).

## TROT HELPS THE BUILDING OF TRAILS IN PATUXENT RIVER STATE PARK

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

Several articles in the TROT newsletter in 2015 and January 2016 described the important effort to upgrade the multi-use trails in Patuxent River State Park in Montgomery County, replacing the very badly eroded trails with sustainable ones that align to the contour of the land. This effort is being spearheaded by MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts), the trails and biking group with whom TROT coordinates. A state grant was recently awarded to MORE to help defray the machine costs and bridge construction costs. Unfortunately since that grant, which should have allowed construction to proceed, progress has been held up by a new state policy requiring additional engineering certification for bridge, that will require an additional unfunded cost of about \$3,000.

To help move these needed renovations of the trail in Patuxent River State park toward fruition, TROT's Board of Directors has awarded \$500 to help defray the required bridge engineering costs. Once these engineering plans are completed, work on the new trail in Patuxent River State Park should then proceed. Yay!



(help for)

And happily, much of the work will be done by enthusiastic MORE volunteers. However, TROT members will also be needed. So please – especially people who live near and ride in the Patuxent River State Park – do come out when later this year TROT's trail work coordinator, Amy Kimble, will put out calls for volunteers to help with the this trail re-construction!

## A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON PATUXENT TRAILS

**From the newsletter editor: To help us better appreciate the wonderful area natural resources that feed our trail riding addiction, as well as the crucial role that waterways play in the natural environment, insightful TROT member Mary Prowell had the great idea of having the newsletter highlight the riding venues along specific rivers and within their watersheds. And because the Patuxent River is the longest river entirely within Maryland (it runs 115 miles, to the Chesapeake Bay from and between St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Montgomery and Howard counties, even a bit from Frederick and Carroll counties), with a watershed of nearly 1,000 square miles, it is integrally related to very many favorite riding venues. So it seemed only natural to start by featuring the Patuxent.**

**This newsletter issue presents Mary's introductory comments. Subsequent issues will feature articles that hopefully will be sent in by TROT members about various riding venues along the Patuxent River and within its watershed. We already have articles on the upper portion of the Patuxent River State Park trails and on the Rocky Gorge trails for the next newsletter, but we NEED submissions on all the many other trails in this watershed. PLEASE CONTACT <bsw@jhmi.edu> OFFERING TO CONTRIBUTE A SUMMARY OF YOUR FAVORITE RIDING VENUE WITHIN THE PATUXENT WATERSHED. RIDERS, PLEASE DO THIS!**



## Introduction to the Patuxent-related riding venues

from Mary Prowell (and Barbara Sollner-Webb)

The Patuxent River extends all the way from above Windsor Forest Road (head waters in the Mount Airy area) to the Chesapeake Bay. Riding venues along this river start with the Upper Patuxent trails that run from Windsor Forest Road to Georgia Avenue. From there the next downstream trails are the WSSC's. The newest WSSC trail open to horseback riders is along their Tridelphia Reservoir and is accessed from a parking area on Tridelphia Lake Road which comes off of Georgia Avenue north of its junction with New Hampshire Avenue in Sunshine. The next set of WSSC's trails is along their Rocky Gorge Reservoir and can be ridden for quite a long ways (18 miles!), with different parking areas, mainly from roads off Rte. 198. Then there are the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge trails (at North Tract). And the Savage Mill Trails run along the Middle Patuxent that then feeds into the river's main stem. In the lower portion of the Patuxent River are trails in parks like Jug Bay, Merkle and Greenwell. And those are just the riding venues along the major portions of the river. Within the Patuxent watershed are many additional favorite riding venues, including Rachel Carson, Schooley Mill, Western Regional, Blue Mash (but not Ag History Farm Park), Baltimore-Washington-Annapolis trail, Watkins, Rosaryville, Three Notches, and likely more we have missed. [Please let us know of any others; also, see the new trails map prepared by The Maryland Horse Industry Board in conjunction with TROT members, at <<http://www.mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Documents/HorseTrails.pdf>>.] **What great riding opportunities the Patuxent offers!** More articles in the next newsletter issue.

## REMIND YOUR FAVORITE YOUNG EQUESTRIAN ABOUT TROT'S YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

As reported in the last TROT newsletter and recently in the Equiery, TROT wants to help assure that there will be Trail Riders of Tomorrow – that is, the next generation of riders to protect and preserve our equestrian trails and our environment. Thus, TROT will again be offering \$500 scholarships to two young equestrians, to encourage young equestrians to get involved with trails and trail riding. But this year's scholarship has a specific trails focus, with applicants submitting an essay on "How trail riding has affected my life, and/or how I plan to be involved in the future of preserving, maintaining, and expanding sustainable equestrian trails." See TROT's website ([www.TROT-MD.org](http://www.TROT-MD.org)) for the full information on the 2016 scholarship, requirements, and how to apply (applications due by April 15, 2016). For more information, please contact [trotscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:trotscholarship@gmail.com).



## EQUESTRIANS SAVE LOST CHILD

information from Pat Oliva

Pat Oliva alerted us to a great success by equestrians in Howard County Police's Volunteer Mounted Patrol, specifically TROT member Linda Reed and Kate Leary. A 10-year-old boy was lost in Patapsco State Park and these caring members of the VMP located the boy, safe and unharmed. This is all documented on Howard County Police's Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HowardCountyPoliceDepartment/posts/975328725837820>), which also includes two full paragraphs of accolades to the VMP:

*Comprised of local volunteers and their horses, members of the Volunteer Mounted Patrol travel parks, pathways and other designated locations by horse as a high-visibility deterrent to crime. They serve as a resource to the public, providing information to citizens, and watching for and reporting violations and concerns. Volunteers assist in investigative, administrative and community service functions and events. Although they have no enforcement powers, the unit members serve as some of the "eyes and ears" of the police department.*

*"It is the reason we created the Unit," said Lt. Paul Yodzis, who oversees the Volunteer Mounted Patrol. "Sitting on top of the horse allows them to see and be seen better than an officer on foot and they have the ability to cover different terrain more efficiently than an officer on foot. There are so many reasons I am proud to work with the Volunteer Mounted Patrol, this just adds to that list."*



VMP members Linda Reed (right) and Kate Leary (left)  
[photos courtesy of the Hoard County Police]

## A HORSE SNOW STORY information from Scott Shearer & Georgia Gaylor

Here is a scary horse incident that happily turned out fine. We thought that recounting it might provide a useful warning to other TROT members who also keep horses.

Many of you likely know Scott Shearer of Howard County who, among other things, farms and boards horses. The morning after our area's 2-3 foot "snowzilla" last month, Scott turned their horses out, after keeping them in during the actual storm. And while watching their two minis leap-frog through snow-drifts nearly up to their backs, he heard a scream from his boarder Georgia and noticed far down in the field four "things" sticking out of the snow. First moving but then becoming motionless, they sure looked like horse legs!

Rushing down, Scott saw they indeed were the legs of their large quarter horse. She evidently had gone down to roll in the snow, but it being so high, she got cast up-side-down and presumably had then passed out! [Scott later heard from a vet that this can happen when a horse is constrained on its back for too long.] With a fair amount of effort in all that snow, Scott got a shovel, halter and ropes, and dug out enough snow to roll the horse on her side.

What a relief that after being rolled over, the horse then came to and could be helped up, evidently none the worse for wear! Whew!

But think what could have happened if no one had seen that the horse had passed out, cast in the snow. So when horses are first let out after being kept in during a big storm, it is probably wise to watch that their initial rush of enthusiasm does not put them in danger.



Horse, previously cast in the snow, being dug out  
(by Scott Shearer, whose leg is seen with the shovel); photo from Georgia Gaylor.

## REPORT FROM TROT'S ADOPT-A-TRAIL COORDINATOR

from Amy Kimble

Amy Kimble attended the Annual Volunteer Breakfast at Seneca Creek. Information conveyed included:

- They will have a "kick off" March 19 from 8:30 AM - noon. Lunch will be provided by the Friends of Seneca members and then you will be able to use their kayaks and canoes for free. Go to the Friends of Seneca website for more information and to RSVP.
- The Rangers for Seneca would like to also let everyone know that they would like to reinstate their Volunteer Ranger Program. The top two volunteers were a gentleman named Ted with over 700 hours and Bill Underwood with over 500 hours. Their youngest volunteer was Luca, age 12, and it was a pleasure to meet him.
- Ranger Shea Neiman is very interested in **developing a Volunteer Mounted Patrol for Patuxent** once the new trails section is completed! This is exciting! I feel that we could give him some names ASAP so that he knows he has our support. If any TROT members are interested, please contact Amy Kimble (<[amykimble@aol.com](mailto:amykimble@aol.com)> or (301) 748-8310).
- The importance of volunteers was emphasized.
- The importance of recording volunteer hours in order to get trail grants was reviewed.
- Sadly, Steve Hackman, who was an extraordinary volunteer, passed away in August. He had over 16,000 volunteer hours. A brass plaque was presented to be placed at the entrance of the Steve Hackman Conference room as a tribute to this exceptional volunteer. He will be greatly missed.
- The following trail work dates were posted for Seneca Creek State Park: 4/3, 5/1 and 6/11, all 8 AM - 1 PM. Bethany Watts is the coordinator. Check the park's website for specifics.

*Rick, Victor and Mark of MORE, with whom Amy works with a lot*



*DNR breakfast*



*Seneca Creek State Park Staff: Deputy Supervisor Bushman, Bethany Watts, Capt. Dave Powell, Kendall Mott (in back), Kelly Colwell, and Shea Neiman*

*[photos from Amy Kimble]*

## COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS -- Howard County

from Pat Oliva

On February 23, Ron and Janet MacNab, Jacquie Cowan and I attended the Maryland Horse Industry Day in Annapolis. The meetings were held in the Lowe House Office building. We were there to stress the importance of the economy and traditions of equine activities within the state. After the key messages were stated, awards were given to deserving people. This was followed by a press conference, and then we broke into small groups by counties. We were given written material to present to every delegate and senator in our area and went to their offices to meet with them and explain the importance of the horse industry in Maryland.

Some facts I didn't know: Maryland has 15.6 horses per square mile (more than any other state), 16,000 horse farms and stables, and horses are a \$1,600,000,000 industry that pays \$78,000,000 in taxes.

Pat Oliva also asks for advice from fellow riders: I am on the Frederick Maryland Ad Hoc watershed committee which wants to close trails that are environmentally compromising the watershed. There will be multi-use trails in the watershed but some will have to be closed. Despite seeing many attempts at closing some of the trails, none of them seem to work. It is too easy to circle around a barrier or some fallen trees. Does anyone have an idea they will share? When asked on Facebook, replies included to (1) post signs and provide alternate trails from that point and (2) have the Park Service bring in a backhoe to place mounds of earth and deadfall over the trail for quite a distance to prevent use of a trail that needs to be closed. Any other good ideas? Please contact Pat Oliva at 410 489-7380 or <[patolivatigqer@aol.com](mailto:patolivatigqer@aol.com)>.



*[photo from Pat Oliva]*

*Jacquie, horse, Janet, and Pat (left to right)*

**New trail to open at Ag Center:**

A new multi-use trail will be open soon at the Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park on Shawan Road in Baltimore County. Local TROT members were invited to the initial planning meetings with the Maryland Agricultural Resource Council (MARC) to give input to the trail developers. Priscilla met recently with Chris McCollum, Executive Director for the center, and offered volunteer help from TROT and other county trail riders to complete signage along the trails. The total trail plan is for about 10 miles of trails through woods and around adjacent fields. Future plans for the center include an indoor arena. Learn more about the Ag Center at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/programdivision/naturearea/agcenter.html>.

**Trail maintenance:**

The DNR park ranger for the Hereford area, Jen Cashell, is actively working with us to develop a trails workday schedule for this spring. DNR does have tools available, and we will be setting up a few Saturdays as well as a few evening dates.

**Ride to a restaurant – new hitching post being constructed:**

Plans are in the process for arranging for a hitching post behind a local restaurant, Casa Mia’s on York Road. This restaurant can be a destination ride with nearby trailer parking at the Bunker Hill parking area. In summer, there is outdoor seating with umbrella tables which will have a full view of the hitching post. We are hoping for project completion in the spring.

**A welcome message from our new VMP liaison park ranger:**

*Greetings! My name is Ranger Andrea Townsley-Sapp and I have been appointed the park liaison between Gunpowder Falls State Park and its incredibly devoted and active Volunteer Mounted Patrol. Priscilla Huffman so graciously invited me to write a piece for the TROT newsletter, after having introduced me in the January edition. Thank you for the kind words, Priscilla!*

*I have been riding for 23 years, since I was a small tot on a rambunctious Shetland Pony. I started riding at Olney Farm in Joppa, MD and competed in my first eventing competition when I was just six years old. When I turned nine, I was ready to tackle a project pony, a totally green 4-year-old Chincoteague Pony. We went on to conquer eventing, fox-hunting and even dabbled in steeple-chase. In recent years, I invested in a showy Rhienland Pfalz-Saar mare whose high spirits and athletic abilities have taught me so much as a rider. In 2012 we were recognized as reserve champions for the training division through the Maryland Dressage Association. Since then, my work schedule has impeded on my ability to show her, but I still ride for pleasure on the farm I own and operate with my mother.*

*I have been working with the wonderful Gunpowder VMPs for just two months now, and I feel like we are making incredible progress as a team. Everyone has come up with such great ideas in order to organize efforts and communication between members, utilizing online calendars and message boards. Soon we will meet to discuss mobile phone apps to log trail problems using GPS and pictures, so that park staff can swiftly address any issues that pose a hazard to trail users. Currently we are assessing ways to recruit new members, thinking creatively how to reach as many people as possible. So far we are in the process of communicating with the Maryland Steeplechase Association, who have graciously invited the Gunpowder VMPs to parade or perform a presentation of colors.*

*I think now we are all itching for the winter weather to dissipate so we can get back in the saddle! The Gunpowder VMPs have their work cut out for them, with approximately 120 miles of trails they can patrol and assess. The Gunpowder VMPs are by far one of the park’s most valuable assets because of their charismatic horses that attract park patrons and their ability to cover much more ground than staff and volunteers on foot. Our VMPs also do a fantastic job educating patrons on trail etiquette and Leave No Trace principles, helping people with questions about the park, and even promoting park events. Gunpowder Falls State Park is truly blessed to have such a phenomenal team of horses and riders!*

*For more information about the program, please feel free to email or phone me ([andrea.townsley-sapp@maryland.gov](mailto:andrea.townsley-sapp@maryland.gov)), 443-252-1141). And stay in touch with VMP activities on Facebook: Gunpowder Falls State Park Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP) Fan Page.*

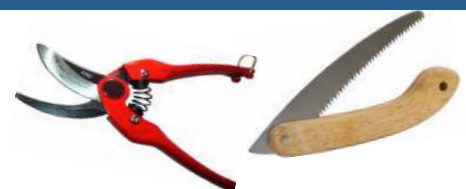
**HOPEFULLY A NEW BRIDGE AT PATAPSCO**

*information from Amy Kimble and Priscilla Huffman*

Recently, Governor Hogan included \$700,000 in the FY 2017 budget to build a pedestrian bridge over the Patapsco River connecting the McKeldin section of Patapsco Valley State Park with the Woodstock area! Note that this proposed bridge is not only for hikers and mountain bikers but also for horses. Also, the advocacy for equestrian inclusion by the powerful mountain biker organization MORE illustrates the value of the good collaboration between MORE and TROT. This is a potential huge win for trails advocates. However, this budget isn't final and depends on getting the legislature to retain this bridge funding.

**PLEASE DO TRAIL WORK AND REPORT IT TO AMY KIMBLE AND THE NEWSLETTER**

As winter turns to spring and riders again get out on trails, please take some time to do needed trail upkeep, either mounted or on foot! And then please report your trail work to TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble ([amyhkimble@aol.com](mailto:amyhkimble@aol.com)), as these hours are very beneficial to the local parks' budgets. Also PLEASE report your trail work to the newsletter editor ([bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)) for inclusion in the next issue, as it will help inspire other TROT members to also contribute to trail maintenance.



## SORE NO MORE

from Jacquie Cowan

At the federal level, the PAST Act (Prevent All Soring Tactics) seeks to shore up the federal Horse Protection Act to stop the pain and inhumanity of soring horses for the show ring once and for all. It will ban the use of chains around the ankles and the big stacked pads of the Big Lick horse. It will close enforcement loopholes and strengthen the penalties for soring. Although this practice is rarely found in our area, it is still prevalent in the more southern states.

This issue does impact us as we are commonly lumped in with those "awful people" who do not love and respect the naturally gaited and trained Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse and Spotted Saddle Horse as we do.

Horse organizations, gaited and non, joined forces across the country to get this passed. Our sister organization, the Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club, introduced a resolution to the Maryland Horse Council to support the PAST Act. It was unanimously passed, and we became the first state council to do so and a model for others to follow. The baton was picked up by professional organizations like the American Veterinary Association.

Priscilla Presley, Michael Keaton, Katherine Heigl and Willie Nelson have joined a growing list of celebrities calling on Congress to protect horses from soring! We are proud that our Maryland federal representatives are co-sponsoring it.

Sadly, the PAST Act was held hostage in DC by partisan bickering, even though there were more than enough co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle to successfully pass this bill to further strengthen the Federal Horse Protection Act. So here we go again. More information can be found at [http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/tenn\\_walking\\_horses](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/tenn_walking_horses).



## WORMING— something to think about

from Donata Dow

The standard of care for horses for the past thirty years has been to worm every six to eight weeks. It was promoted as a best practice to worm all horses in a barn at the same time, no matter what. The goal was to eliminate all parasites. Where has this taken us? I'm hearing a lot about this creating drug resistant parasites, which ends up being bad for horses. And that in virtually all barns, at most one or two horses have an appreciable worm load, while the other horses do not. Somehow the real objective of worming was sidetracked. While chasing for a zero parasite count, the focus has been diverted from the fact that the drugs tend not to kill the larval stage that causes gastrointestinal damage, and whether or not the horse is healthy. Dr. Ray Kaplan, DVM, PhD, DipEVPC, DipACVM (Parasitological) a professor at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, says "Nearly all anthelmintics fail to kill the encysted larval forms that are causing the pathology ... when you deworm a horse, you are only killing the stage of the parasite that is not really harming the horse -- the adult parasite. The true objective of a worm control program is to optimize the health of horses -- NOT to kill all worms."

Wow, a real paradigm shift! No more "one dose fits all"! You could say we are shifting to a more holistic view than a drug-focused practice. The goal is maintaining a healthy horse and that will take an analysis of each individual horse and the environment in which the equine resides. Things to consider are: each horse's overall immune system, nutritional needs, mental and emotional stressors, is he a low, medium, or high shedder, climate, and pasture management practices.

I started on this quest to figure out what was best for my horses several years ago when I got a new horse and the fecal counts went through the roof. I had fecal egg count tests performed annually for a number of years and they had remained consistently low for my three horses until I got the new guy. I needed to find out what was going on. My husband volunteered to perform the frequent tests at home (John wanted an excuse to buy a microscope); we generally do them monthly when we trim hoofs. It is important to have fresh samples for testing and we can be guaranteed that they will poop during trimming. I have been collecting data of the egg counts to see if there are any trends. I am not sure where this will lead after reading the following statement from Dr. Martin K. Nielsen, DVM, PhD, DipEVPC, DipACVM, a professor at Gluck Equine Research Center at University of Kentucky: "There is no relationship between the egg count and the actual worm burden in the horse. A higher egg count does not mean more worms in the horse. I know this is difficult to digest, because that's how we like to think about it. It doesn't really matter what the egg count is. If you get above 500 eggs per gram, we found no association with the actual worm numbers in horses. We do know that horses below 200 eggs per gram tend to have less worms, than horses above 200. So there is that relationship which supports the idea of using the egg count to determine treatment. But it's not unusual for a horse to have 100,000 worms, it's normal. Most horses do extremely well with 100,000 worms, it's not a problem for those horses. But we can also never rule out that a single horse can suffer some health-related issues to the worms."

Something to think about. I would like to know what is normal for each of my horses!

**Editor's note: Gosh, what sobering, thought-provoking information! Since too-frequent worming and going back to the bad old days of no worming are probably both wise to avoid, it seems prudent to try to keep the worm load in each horse relatively low by monitoring and treating each individual appropriately. Is there anything better than regularly getting an egg count, if not done by yourself, then by your vet or at VA Tech (see the September 2105 TROT newsletter for how to take advantage of this cheap and high-quality service, at [www.vetmed.vt.edu/emc/clinicalservices/docs/parasitecontrolandresistance.pdf](http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/emc/clinicalservices/docs/parasitecontrolandresistance.pdf)), and then worming only the horses with high egg counts? TROT would very much like to hear what others have decided to do!**

## SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

### Meeting of February 2, 2016

[Summarized from notes taken by Barbara Sollner-Webb]

**Participants:** Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Brother Roger (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Jeff Dwyer (BD; by phone), Dana Grabiner (BD; by phone), Jenn Poole, Pat Oliva, Susan Gray (by phone), and Priscilla Huffman (by phone).

At this meeting at Board President Gale Monahan's house, there were reports:

- from the Treasurer (sent in by Susan Railey),
- on membership (by Gale Monahan),
- on the upcoming Visioning Session and upcoming Annual Dinner (by Dana Grabiner and Priscilla Huffman, with a general discussion on how the Visioning effort can be extended at the Annual Dinner),
- on the 2016 TROT scholarship (by Jenn Poole),
- on the upcoming TROT video (by Dana Grabiner, with a general discussion),
- on TROT logowear (by Barbara Sollner-Webb, with a general discussion of new/replacement items to order), and
- on Howard County and on the Frederick Watershed Committee's need to close some trails (both by Pat Oliva).

The need to organize TROT's 2016 trail rides was discussed.

It was voted that minutes of the TROT board meetings should be posted on TROT's website, starting now and then retroactively for a year or preferably several years.

A nominating committee is needed to recruit new board members, as Brother Roger and Nancy Osgood are stepping down.

It was voted to provide up to \$500 to MORE, specifically to help defray the cost of the required engineer approval for bridge plans, which is unfunded but needed before work can begin rebuilding the upper Patuxent River State Park trails.

It was voted to put on a Trail Obstacle Clinic again in 2106.

Next Board Meeting: March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Barbara Sollner-Webb's house.

### Meeting of March 1, 2016

[Summarized from notes taken by Barbara Sollner-Webb]

**Participants:** Priscilla Huffman (running the meeting), Terry Ledley (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Jeff Dwyer (BD; by phone), Dana Grabiner (BD; by phone), Janet Buck, Dick Huffman, Debby Poole, Jenn Poole, Janet MacMab, Ron MacNab, Pat Oliva, Sim Shanks, and Susan Gray (by phone).

At this meeting at Barbara Sollner-Webb's house, there were reports:

- on membership (from Sim Shanks),
- from the Treasurer (sent in by Susan Railey),
- on the Visioning Session (by Dana Grabiner, with more general discussed on how the Visioning effort will be extended at the Annual Dinner; see pages 1-5 above),
- on the upcoming TROT video (by Dana Grabiner, with a general discussion on its production),
- on the upcoming Annual Dinner (by Priscilla Huffman and Susan Gray, with a general discussion, including that we will have boards for attendees to sign up to lead a trail ride and to sign up for which trails they ride most often and might be willing to help maintain),
- on progress on the Frederick Watershed trails and on happenings in Howard County (from Pat Oliva); see page 13,
- on Baltimore County (from Pat Oliva); see page 14,
- on the Montgomery County trail plan, "Loops and Links" (by Ron MacNab, with an extensive general discussion), and
- on the Maryland Horse Industry Board's day in Annapolis, lobbying legislators on behalf of horse-related matter (by Ron MacNab); additional TROT members attending that event were Pat Oliva, Jacquie Cowan, Jeff Dwyer and Janet MacNab.

A Scott Purdum clinic that Debby Poole reported she is working to set up was discussed, and it was decided that TROT will host it; see page 10.

There was discussion about who is retiring from, staying on, and interested in joining TROT's Board of Directors.

Next Board Meeting: April 5th at Pat Oliva's house, in Woodbine, MD.

**TROT members, please feel invited to come to any and all board meetings!**

## WELCOME, NEW TROT MEMBERS

from Sim Shanks, acting membership chair

Patricia O'Connor	Anne Arundel Co., MD
Dayna Russell	Anne Arundel Co., MD
Brenda Creighton	Baltimore Co., MD
Jennifer Filkoski	Baltimore Co., MD
Karen Richards	Baltimore Co., MD
Carolann Sharpe	Baltimore Co., MD
Barbara Spence	Carroll Co., MD
Debra Spigler	Frederick Co., MD
Noah Abramson	Howard Co., MD
Mette Fields	Howard Co., MD
Lady Susanna Lockhart-Kane	Montgomery Co., MD
Peggy Thompson	Washington Co., MD

**We look forward to interacting with you in our mutual efforts to support trails!**

## TROT 's VIDEO PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

from Dana Grabiner, grants chair

TROT learned with glee in late December that it had won a \$1,000 grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) to update its promotional video. Well, we kept checking our mailbox and -- nothing. We didn't want to appear greedy, but in February we inquired and learned that MHIB grantees must fill out a form, a "promise," really, to either spend or obligate the money by June 30 and report on the project's completion. (In the past, a grantee or two must've accepted the grant but never quite completed the project.) TROT President Gale Monahan signed and returned the form, and the check should arrive soon. A video planning committee is at the ready -- Dana Grabiner, Barbara Sollner-Webb, and Jeff Dwyer so far -- and will jump on this project once this month's Annual Dinner festivities are behind us. Contact any of us if you'd like to be involved.



## 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.

**Benson Branch Park** (between Folly Quarter Road & Tridelphia Road, Ellicott City, MD) Sandy Brewer [sandbrewer@aol.com](mailto:sandbrewer@aol.com)

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

**Breezy Loop** (Boys, MD) an easy 75 minutes. Naomi Manders [naomimanders0@gmail.com](mailto:naomimanders0@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**If your favorite trail is not listed and you would be willing to occasionally show it to other TROT members, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>, 301-604-5619) to join this list of generous volunteers.**

**If you would be willing to help work on any of these trails or any other venue, and/or to help organize others to do so, should the need arise, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb. It would be swell to get a registry of helpful folks, to notify when needed.**

## TROT LICENSE PLATES - ORDER YOURS TODAY!

from Susan Railey

Have you driven down the road and noticed TROT's beautiful license plate with a black horse and rider silhouetted against a



sun? Don't just admire everyone else's - get your own.

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

## REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

TROT wants to provide our members up-to-date information on trail riding and trail maintenance activities in MD and nearby PA, VA, WV, DC and DE. But to do this, we need your help. When YOU hear of changes to riding venues, new riding or horse camping areas, relevant legislation, or other useful information, please inform the TROT newsletter editor (Barbara Sollner-Webb) at 301-604-5619 or <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)> for inclusion in our newsletter. You don't need to write an article (although that would be nice) but we REALLY NEED YOUR input. Please! Also please submit any other articles/anecdotes/stories you feel will interest TROT members! And photographs are greatly appreciated!

## UP-TO-DATE INFO ON TROT ACTIVITIES

### TROT website:

[www.trot-md.org](http://www.trot-md.org) Harold Goldstein, Webmaster

### TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

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

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator

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

### Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo group (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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/)

## GREAT MD HORSE TRAILS MAP

The Maryland Horse Industry Board in conjunction with TROT members (Ron MacNab, Priscilla Huffman and many others) have produced a WONDERFUL map of Maryland horse trails plus other useful horse information. Yet more TROT members helped by critiquing the draft at last year's Annual Dinner. It contains most useful information for yourself and to share with your riding buddies, including information on all the identified trails that are open to equestrians in Maryland!

This valuable map is now available online at <http://www.mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Documents/HorseTrails.pdf>. Copies should also be available at TROT's Annual Dinner, so come and get yours!

## WHO'S WHO IN TROT

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
<b>President</b>	Gale Monahan	<a href="mailto:gale.email2@gmail.com">gale.email2@gmail.com</a>	(301) 854-3852
<b>Vice President</b>	Deneen Martin	<a href="mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com">deneenmartin7@msn.com</a>	(301) 467-5335
<b>Secretary</b>	Nancy Osgood	<a href="mailto:nlosgood@verizon.net">nlosgood@verizon.net</a>	(stepping down)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Susan Railey	<a href="mailto:susanrailey@verizon.net">susanrailey@verizon.net</a>	(stepping down)
<b>Additional Board members</b>	Jeff Dwyer	<a href="mailto:ebbtidestables@gmail.com">ebbtidestables@gmail.com</a>	(410) 320-1327
	Dana Grabiner	<a href="mailto:grabiner1@aol.com">grabiner1@aol.com</a>	(202) 412-7548
	Terry Ledley	<a href="mailto:terryledley@aol.com">terryledley@aol.com</a>	(301) 520-3100
	Laury Lobel	<a href="mailto:laurylobel@verizon.net">laurylobel@verizon.net</a>	
	Brother Roger Nelson	<a href="mailto:rogersds@comcast.net">rogersds@comcast.net</a>	(240) 372-9494 (stepping down)
	Barbara Sollner-Webb	<a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a>	(301) 604-5619
<b>Membership Chair</b>	Sim Shanks	<a href="mailto:simshanks@verizon.net">simshanks@verizon.net</a>	(301) 570-0614
<b>Newsletter; mapping</b>	Barbara Sollner-Webb	<a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a>	(301) 604-5619
<b>Trail Rides</b>	Deneen Martin	<a href="mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com">deneenmartin7@msn.com</a>	(301) 467-5335
<b>Adopt A Trail</b>	Amy Kimble	<a href="mailto:amyhkimble@aol.com">amyhkimble@aol.com</a>	(301) 748-8310
<b>Web Master</b>	Harold Goldstein	<a href="mailto:mdbiker@goldray.com">mdbiker@goldray.com</a>	
<b>Annual Dinner</b>	Susan Gray	<a href="mailto:susan@campsusan.com">susan@campsusan.com</a>	(240) 426-1655
	& Priscilla Huffman	<a href="mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net">priscillahuffman@verizon.net</a>	(301) 646-4422
<b>COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS</b>			
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	Diane Ayers	<a href="mailto:dianeayers@verizon.net">dianeayers@verizon.net</a>	(410) 551-0832
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<b>Cecil</b>	Jeanne Bond	<a href="mailto:halcyonfarm@gmail.com">halcyonfarm@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Charles</b>	Dr. Kathy Blanche	<a href="mailto:jbservs@peoplepc.com">jbservs@peoplepc.com</a>	(240) 320-4385
<b>Frederick</b>	Pat Merson	<a href="mailto:lilgreyhrs@aol.com">lilgreyhrs@aol.com</a>	(301) 898-3251
<b>Harford</b>	Dianna O'Neil	<a href="mailto:b.oneil1@verizon.net">b.oneil1@verizon.net</a>	(410) 215-0491
<b>Howard</b>	Pat Oliva	<a href="mailto:patolivatigger@aol.com">patolivatigger@aol.com</a>	(410) 489-7380
<b>Laurel/Burtonsville</b>	Jenn Poole	<a href="mailto:bcfarmgirl@hotmail.com">bcfarmgirl@hotmail.com</a>	
	& Barbara Sollner-Webb	<a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a>	(301) 604-5619
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<b>Prince George's</b>	Judie Artman	<a href="mailto:artmanju@yahoo.com">artmanju@yahoo.com</a>	
<b>St. Mary's</b>	Kathy Glockner	<a href="mailto:kglockner@md.metrocast.net">kglockner@md.metrocast.net</a>	(301) 475-194
<b>Talbot</b>	Joyce Bell	<a href="mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu">wbell2@washcoll.edu</a>	(410) 820-6002
<b>Wicomico</b>	Shawn McEntee	<a href="mailto:smc1159@verizon.net">smc1159@verizon.net</a>	(410) 749-2665

[Please volunteer as coordinator from Carroll, Calvert and Washington counties in MD and from VA, WV & DE]

## QUIRKY NEWSLETTER TEXT ISSUES FINALLY RESOLVED! Thanks SOOO much, Phoebe!

Good news! You should now be able to copy text, including URLs, from the newsletter without characters weirdly changing and without extra returns being added between each word, as had regrettably happened on some computers with the past year's newsletters. Kind TROT member Phoebe Black asked her IT-savvy friend Cherie Worth, who knew about things called "open face fonts" – a very few fonts that work seamlessly between PC and Mac. And happily, Microsoft offers one of those fonts, Myriad Pro. So hopefully all is resolved (at least it has been for the limited number of folks who have tried copying text so far).

### CLASSIFIED ADS:

To place an ad, email: [<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu).

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

#### **Non-member rates:**

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

### Lessons with Noah Abramson

Do you want to be more confident on the trail, develop a trusting relationship with your horse, improve your riding, or work out a specific problem with your horse? I am currently working with several TROT members to help them identify suitable mounts, improve their confidence, and provide feedback to make riding fun and safe (references available.) I have insurance and will travel to your farm in Howard, Montgomery or Carroll counties. My teaching experience covers a wide variety of disciplines including hunter jumpers, equitation, pleasure and trail riding.

View my website at [<www.noahabramsonshowstables.com>](http://www.noahabramsonshowstables.com). You can also reach me by phone or text at 240-620-7711. Or by email at [<Noahabramson@aol.com>](mailto:Noahabramson@aol.com).

### Boarding at Millhaven

Check out our beautiful, full-board farm in Derwood, near Olney. We back directly up to Ag History Farm Park trails. We have a lighted indoor ring with no-dust footing, a lighted outdoor, hot water wash stall, bathroom (heated in winter) and a friendly group of boarders. Our home is built over the barn, enabling us to provide superior care to horses. Please see our newly designed website for more information: [<www.millhavenhorsefarm.com>](http://www.millhavenhorsefarm.com) or contact Diana by email at [<info@millhavenhorsefarm.com>](mailto:info@millhavenhorsefarm.com) or at 301-963-0630.

### Training with Jacquie Cowan

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

### Need mousers? -- Free barn cat(s)

Fully vetted barn cats in need of a new home. All shots, neutered or spayed and ready to go. No fee for adoption. These already are outdoor cats. Contact: Laurel Cats at 301-886-0161 or [<info@laurelcats.org>](mailto:info@laurelcats.org).

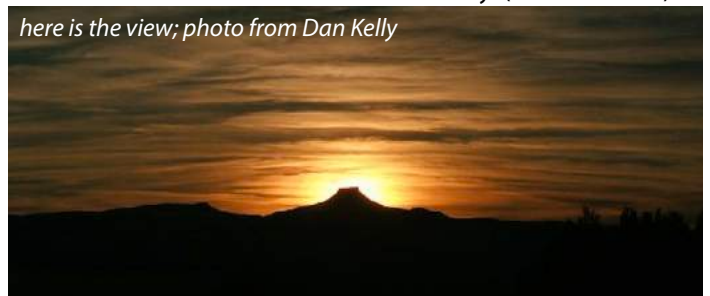
### Horse Motel for Sale

Plannin' the years rides? So are we! Hey...because of being an old man and such, we're having to offer our beloved Horse Motel for sale! It is "Vista de Pedernal", in New Mexico on 12.5 acres with six stables, two 3br-2ba Ranchers, and potential for two more home-sites including your dream home. We look up on 75 miles of the Continental Divide Trail ridge line, have direct access to Carson NF and B-LM Lands, and 1/2 million acres of wilderness for trail riding (see photo).

After a continuous amount of visiting trail riders over the last 10 years, we feel that we've built an income property that all trail riders/horse folks could have an interest in. The page for its sale is: [<http://VistaDePedernal.com>](http://VistaDePedernal.com). The page that generates trail riding visitors is: [<http://NewMexicoOutdoor.com/Trail\\_Riding.php>](http://NewMexicoOutdoor.com/Trail_Riding.php).

Call us for more info: Dan & Gabriela Kelly (505-901-7322).

*here is the view; photo from Dan Kelly*



### SPECIAL THANKS!!!

*from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor*

**Great appreciation goes everyone who contributed all those great articles and other information for the newsletter! And ENORMOUS thanks goes to Terry Ledley, Dana Grabiner, Sim Shanks and Denis Webb, as well as to Debby Poole, Priscilla Huffman and Georgia Gaylor, for most helpfully proofreading all or parts of the draft text! You guys are wonderful!**



**TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY**

TROT Membership

PO Box 506

Highland, MD 20777

***Inside this issue:***

- Come to TROT's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, March 19
- TROT's Secretary Position is Available – please step forward!
- Discussions at TROT's "Visioning Session", February 6 – planning to continue at the Annual Dinner
- TROT's Current 2016 Trail Ride Calendar -- Please, more trail ride leaders are needed!
- Clinic with Scott Purdum
- Upcoming Judged Pleasure Rides
- TROT Helps with Patuxent River State Park Trails
- A Series Starts on Trails in the Patuxent Watershed
- Equestrians Save a Lost Child
- A Scary Snow Story to Learn From
- Reports of Area Horse-Related Events
- Soring
- Worming issues to Think About
- And lots more