



Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

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

The higher TROT's membership, the more effective is its lobbying for trails!

March, 2017

Founded 1980

Number 220

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|-------|
| Annual Dinner & Silent Auction | 1, 2 |
| President's Message | 1, 2 |
| Important Request to Save Trails | 1 |
| Great New Trail at Fairland Park | 3 |
| New VMPs and Other Helpers | 3 |
| Legislative Issues – Input Needed | 4 |
| Trail Work Challenge | 4 |
| Accessing Rachel Carson | 5 |
| Go To Upcoming Trail Work Efforts | 5 |
| Go To County Planning Efforts | 6 |
| Trail Ride Info | 6-7 |
| 2017 TROT Trail Rides | 7-10 |
| A Personalized Trail Ride Offer | 10-11 |
| RFD-TV Horse Show in Maryland | 11 |
| Recent Impromptu Trail Ride | 11 |
| Welcome, Carters! Thanks 10 ⁶ , Sim! | 11 |
| Horse Camping at Assateague | 12 |
| County Reports | 12-13 |
| A Thank You From Pat Oliva | 13 |
| Board Meeting Summaries | 14 |
| Trail Guides; Who's Who In TROT | 14-15 |
| Welcome, New Members | 15 |
| TROT-related Information | 15 |
| Classifieds | 16 |
| Special Thanks | 17 |

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

TROT's 37th ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION (MARCH 4, 2017) WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Finally this year, an Annual Dinner and Silent Auction without a snowstorm! About 85 members and guests enjoyed this event, held at the Howard County Fairgrounds. The event was a big success thanks to a tireless group of volunteers and great TROT members who joined in the festivities and kindly donated a bounty of pot-luck offerings as well as swell things for the silent auction. Multiple generous vendors also donated swell things for the silent auction (see page 17). As always, there was lots of networking, catching up on trail and horse news, eating yummy food, and picking up some good bargains.



Enjoying the buffet



[continued on page 2]

Beginning the brief talks after the dinner, TROT President Gale Monahan reviewed key accomplishments over the last year, encouraged riders, and explained the Maryland Horse Council's initiative to expand horse presence in Maryland. Gale conducted elections in which Leah Mack was newly elected to the TROT board of directors and Dana Grabiner, Terry Ledley, Laury Lobel, Deneen Martin and Barbara-Sollner-Webb were re-elected.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

Well, a new year, more trail riding. Remember, spring is usually a wet season and we as trail riders need to be careful not to destroy our trails by over-using them when the trails are wet. Also, don't forget to turn in your trail clearing hours to Amy Kimble. At the annual dinner she challenged every TROT member to put in a minimum of two hours each this year. That is not much! Even if you do it at 15-minute intervals, it is an easy task.

This year we had to change location for our annual dinner due to the Mt. Airy location being renovated. It was a smaller room so we had a few challenges but it worked and we all had a great time. The talk from Shea Neimann from DNR (pictured above, in uniform) regarding a volunteer mounted patrol, trail warden, and new trail system DNR is ...

[continued on page 2]

IMPORTANT REQUEST – FOR LONG-TERM PRESERVATION OF TRAIL ACCESS

When you are out riding this spring, especially when cantering or galloping, please occasionally stop and look back to see if you are leaving tracks. If so, others – including park managers – will likely see them too and may feel that riders do not care about damaging the trails -- a recipe for losing trail access. If you see tracks, please slow to a walk or stop riding that day!

Continued from page 1 – ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Ron MacNab (great he's back and looking so well – see photo, previous page) described the Maryland Horse Industry Board's plans for promoting horses, including a televised trail ride that TROT members will hopefully support (see article by Ross Peddicord on page 11). Dana Grabiner reported on the results of two grants she helped secure for TROT from the Maryland Horse Industry Board – a new TROT video that was recently completed and was showing at the dinner and a new TROT interactive display to be worked on this year. And Barbara Sollner-Webb encouraged TROT members to send in articles for the newsletter, to come ride in TROT trail rides, to lead a TROT ride, and to buy more stuff at the silent auction.

Amy Kimble encouraged riders to do trail upkeep while riding (see page 4). Amy also introduced the evening's feature speaker, Ranger Shea Niemann, Assistant Park Manager for Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks and Monocacy River Natural Resources Management Area. Ranger Shea told us about volunteer opportunities in these parks, including plans for a Volunteer Mounted Patrol and an intriguing new kind of less formal way riders can help the parks (see article page 3).

Ranger Shea Niemann also very kindly volunteered to give riders lessons with a chain saw and then a chain saw certification, which will allow them to legally do clearing with a chain saw in their parks. This is SOOO exciting! Please contact Ranger Shea at 301-924-2127 to arrange times that fit with his schedule. Thanks you very much, Ranger Shea!



Ranger Shea Niemann



The gift baskets were appreciated by their recipients, including Debby Poole's granddaughter (right)

The silent auction was a hit with TROT members before and after the actual dinner. Many TROT members kindly donated no-longer-needed equestrian items, and hopefully felt good knowing that these will be appreciated by their new owner while helping TROT's coffers. And many riders enjoyed getting great bargains on swell equestrian items that they hadn't even known they needed. Silent auction items were also donated by kind equestrian-related businesses: Anytime Tack (Silver Spring, MD), Bartley Trailer (Woodbine, MD), Be Creative (Urbana, MD), Everything Equestrian (Poolesville, MD), the Turf Center (Spencerville, MD) and US Rider (Lexington, KY). [See page 17.] The silent auction netted nearly \$1,000 for TROT.

We are most indebted to the wonderful TROT volunteers who worked hard to make the annual dinner and silent auction a success -- including Dana Grabiner, Dick Huffman, Priscilla Huffman, Amy Kimble, Kyle Jossi, Laury Lobel, Leah Mack, Deneen Martin, Gale Monahan, Nancy Osgood, Margaret Scarff, Sim Shanks, Barbara Sollner-Webb, and Denis Webb. We are also most indebted to the many TROT members and equestrian-related companies who kindly donated great items for the silent auction.

See you next year at TROT's 38th Annual Dinner, probably in late February (to not conflict with the PA Expo).

Note: if you donated item(s) to TROT's silent auction and would like a letter for your taxes verifying that this was a tax-deductible contribution, please contact <bsw@jhmi.edu>. Again, than you so much for your contributions to the silent auction!

Continued from page 1 – PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

developing at Patuxent River State Park as well as Monocacy NRMA I thought was very interesting and exciting.

Our booth at the Horse World Expo at the Maryland state Fairgrounds this year was far back in a corner. Since TROT is a non-profit, we do not get to choose where we are located. Still, we did have quite a bit of foot traffic, with some members renewing and a few others joining.

The TROT board has decided to change the night we have our board meeting to the first Wednesday of each month. We found there were a number of TROT members who wanted to come to a meeting or join us on our conference call line but could not on Tuesdays due to other commitments. So please remember we have made this change, and if you wish to join us, the next meeting is on April 5th. We would love to see you. Join us for a pot luck dinner at 6:00 we have before each meeting.

GREAT NEW TRAIL CONNECTION & WETLANDS CROSSING AT FAIRLAND PARK

Those of you who have trail-ridden with TROT at Fairland Park spanning Montgomery and Prince George's counties will likely recall that safely making a loop in the southern half of the park would have required a connection between the north-south trails that run on either side of the Little Paint Branch Stream in Montgomery County and in Prince George's County. Riders had been making this connection by bushwacking through the wetlands, while mountain bikes and joggers did it either that way or using the dangerously narrow shoulder of Greencastle Road. Wanting a sanctioned and safe cross-trail, both TROT and MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts, the mountain biking and trail building group with whom TROT frequently collaborates) independently lobbied Park and Planning Commission officials; we even suggested a similar route for a new connector trail that both groups offered to help construct. [See November 2106 newsletter.]

Most happily, in a wonderful synergy between the Parks officials, MORE and TROT, this cross-trail has just been put in! Parks officials and Austin Steo (of MORE and Trails Conservancy) planned the route of the new trail to best avoid the wetlands. The Park's staff installed a great, horse-friendly bridge over the Little Paint Branch Stream. And on an amazingly warm day in February, a group of about 20 volunteers -- mainly from MORE but also Amy Kimble and Barbara Sollner-Webb of TROT -- cleared the new trail.

This new bridge and trail will be a wonderful addition to the already very nice Fairland Park, allowing a safe connection for a big loop through the park. Great appreciation goes to Park and Planning officials -- especially Mike Riley (Director, Montgomery County Parks), Bob Turnbull (Natural Surface Trail Construction Manager for Montgomery Parks), Ronnie Gathers (Prince George's County Parks and Rec. Director), Jon Seils (Construction and Maintenance Manager) and their staffs, to Austin for his dedicated effort, and to all the many trail users who came out to clear the trail!

We hope riders will go out to use and appreciate this new trail. Indeed, TROT's first planned trail ride of the 2017 season is Laury Lobel's last-Thursday-of-the-month ride there on March 30. And for those who work on weekdays, Debby Poole and Barbara Sollner-Webb will lead a Saturday TROT ride there on April 29. Do come!



From the February trail construction party (above and right) and (left) celebrating its completion. [Note TROT members Amy Kimble and Barbara Sollner-Webb in the work party.]



PLANS FOR MORE VMPs AND OTHER WAYS FOR RIDERS TO HELP TRAILS

information from Amy Kimble

At the 12th annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for volunteers at Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks, Amy learned great new information, some of which Ranger Shea Niemann (Assistant Park Manager for Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks and Monocacy River Natural Resources Management Area) then told the attendees in his presentation at TROT's recent Annual Dinner. It includes that the rangers are interested in instituting a Volunteer Mounted Patrol for Patuxent River State Park and Monocacy Natural Resource property. This likely will involve the commitment of 40 hours of training, and then the park will supply each VMP volunteer a service uniform. Such VMPs have proven most successful in numerous other area venues, and it is great that they are expanding, letting riders serve the parks they love while enjoying being out riding.

And most exciting, the rangers at Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks are considering introducing a less formal kind of position that will utilize horseback riders as reporters and public relations people for the parks that they ride on a regular basis. These volunteers would be provided a T-shirt to wear. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this latter program takes off and then expands to other venues, so more of us can help the venues we so much appreciate using?

YOUR INPUT NEEDED ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES RELATED TO HORSES & TRAILS

A number of bills in the 2017 Maryland legislative session would affect horse care and horse trail riding, including ones that would increase – some dramatically increase -- the permitted time/days/venues in which hunting is permitted. Many have been reported in postings from the Equiery and the Maryland Horse Council (MHC), some also on the TROT and Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo list-serves and other sources. Some of this information is listed on the Equiery's website (<<http://equiery.com>>) and/or on the MHC's legislative blog (<<https://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/legislative-blog?limitstart=0>>). We urge TROT members to stay informed and take the time to testify in person or in writing for those bills that most concern them.

As those who follow the Maryland legislative session know, these bills are very fast-moving targets. They can be followed at <<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmLegislation.aspx?pid=legisnpage&tab=subject3>>. [Scroll to M2 to see hunting-related bills; the full text of the legislation is under "Documents".] Statewide hunting-related bills that have been discussed on the list-serves and chat-rooms include SB0953/HB1111 and SB0844/HB7088. The latter allows some hunting on very Sunday of the year statewide with no possibility of counties to opt out. In his presentation at the Annual Dinner, Ron MacNab described a possible "compromise" that would have removed one of the sanctioned Sunday hunting days but instead permitted hunting every Sunday during hunting season until 10:30 AM. This is in the Montgomery county-specific bill, MC21-17/HB0310.

Several years ago when TROT polled its members and got a very high response rate, over 90% of the respondents disfavored Sunday hunting. So TROT continued to actively testify against Sunday hunting, as it had in many earlier years. This year TROT did testify on certain Montgomery County's and Howard County's hunting bills (see article by Jane Seigler, President of the MHC in the January 2017 TROT newsletter). But TROT has now delegated to individual TROT members and to the MHC the responsibility for testifying on other hunting bills, including those affecting other counties and statewide. So do get involved, if you care! There is still time to have your voice heard! Find your legislators at <<http://www.mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmmain.aspx?pid=legisrpage&tab=subject6>> or <<http://mdelect.net>>, and let them know what you think of whatever legislation strikes your fancy.



for those with a
b&w newsletter,
this is a BRIGHT
orange blanket!

TRAIL WORK CHALLENGE TO RIDERS, AND REPORTING VOLUNTEER HOURS

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

At the Annual Dinner, Amy challenged all TROT members to perform – and report – AT LEAST two hours of trail work in 2017. This really is very little for the whole year, especially as you can do it while you are out riding. It can be as easy as clipping or breaking protruding branches as one rides by, and you can easily estimate your work time. For example, if you were out riding two hours and feel you were actively clipping branches and/or were riding between sites that needed clipping for half of that time, this is already one hour of trail work!

Since preserving and enhancing sustainable trails is TROT's mission, we encourage all trail riders to do trail upkeep whenever they are out on the trails, whether riding or walking, and not only two hours a year.

Please report your trail work hours, date and location, as well as your name, to Amy Kimble. These hours benefit local parks' budgets. Easiest is to text the info to her at 301-748-8310 and she will respond to confirm she got your text; or e-mail her at <amyhkimble@aol.com>. Also, please everyone, report your trail work to (<bsw@jhmi.edu>) for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter, as your report will likely help inspire other TROT members to do further trail work themselves.

If you prefer group trail work efforts, contact TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble as described above, and she can likely put you in touch with folks going out to do trail work and would love you to join, almost any day you are inclined,

Amy had tallied the trail work hours she was sent by TROT members for 2016: Rocky Gorge - 136 hours; Patuxent State Park - 50 hours; Gunpowder Falls State Park - 49 hours; Rachel Carson - 46 hours; Seneca State Park - 17 hours; Montgomery Ag Park - 10 hours; other parks - 14 hours. Thus, the 2016 grand total submitted was 318 hours.

So far in 2017, TROT members have reported to Amy 2 hours in Gunpowder Falls State Park, 3 hours in Seneca Creek State Park, 7 hours in Rachel Carson and 5 hours in Fairland for a total of 17 hours. Amy notes that these hours may not reflect everyone's work, so please send her your hours as described above. Just so that TROT members do not get too complacent with their reported hours and keep striving to report more hours, Amy noted that Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks and the Monocacy DNR property (off Rt. 28 abutting Sugarloaf) recorded 5,833 hours of total volunteer service (trail work as well as many other kinds of assistance) in 2016! One volunteer clocked 550 hours by himself that year; four volunteers have over 1,000 hours lifelong so far; and over 12 volunteers contributed more than 100 hours in 2016. So take that as a personal challenge for your trail work 2017!

ACCESSING RACHEL CARSON *from Kathy Lipton*

Bridge closure now disrupts traffic near Rachel Carson Park in Montgomery County. Zion Road will be closed from just past the entrance to Rachel Carson Park to Gregg Road for two-ish months, while crews repair the one-lane bridge. The park remains open and fully functional, and some riders are thrilled that through-traffic on Zion Road has been temporarily eliminated. To access the parking lot for the park, turn onto Zion Road from Sundown Road.

photo provided by Kathy Lipton:

Laury Lobel and Kathy Lipton checking out the closed Zion Road bridge



UPCOMING TRAIL WORK EFFORTS

In addition to encouraging TROT members to individually do trail upkeep (page 4), there are a number of group trail work efforts that TROT urges you to join.

For folks in the area of Carroll County, the Carroll County Equestrian Council (CCEC) generally organizes a very active trail work program, Saturdays 9 AM to noon. Please check their website at <http://www.carrollcountyequestriancouncil.org/calendar.htm> because their trail work events are not yet posted.



Work at Seneca Creek and Patuxent River State Parks

information from Amy Kimble

Ranger Erik Ledbetter of Patuxent River and Seneca Creek State Parks and the Monocacy DNR property (a colleague of Ranger Shea Niemann who spoke at the Annual Dinner; see page 2) regularly organizes valuable work parties in these parks. Revamping the Patuxent River State Park trail system between Mullinix Mill Road and Annapolis Rock Road should begin this fall. MORE has been working endlessly to get this new trail system, including securing grants for the critical planning by approved authorities. The Rt. 97 end of the park has now been worked on and a new bridge has replaced the old one on the Free Flowing Trail, which is one of the only official trails in this part of Patuxent Park. At the Monocacy DNR property, where they have already re-established the trail system, volunteer help will be needed in mapping and blazing.

Please contact Ranger Erik Ledbetter (at Erik.Ledbetter@maryland.gov), 301-924-2127[o] or 443-534-5837[c]) to learn the latest work plan for these parks. Your help will be greatly appreciated, and giving to the parks is most rewarding.

Work at Bunker Hill, Saturday April 1

from Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore area coordinator

Join us to help clear the Gunpowder North Trail from the old covered bridge toward Masemore Road. This will add another good section to the trail that is currently barely passable on horseback. On Saturday April 1st, we plan to work at the end of Bunker Hill Road, weather permitting. Meet at 9:30 AM at the end of Bunker Hill Rd -- NOT near the high school, but the other end of Bunker Hill Road. We will plan to stop at noon. This work event will be led by Jen Cashell, GFSP Park Ranger.

To get to this work event from 1-83 North, take exit 27, Mt. Carmel Road. Go west on Mt. Carmel Road toward Hampstead for 0.3 miles. Turn right on Masemore Road (only way to turn) and go about 2 miles. Use caution on the one-way sections - signs are posted. Turn right on Bunker Hill Road and go about 0.4 miles to the end of the road. Park in the small parking area on the left. Limited parking is available, so carpool if possible. Watch for the potholes at beginning of parking area.

Bring loppers, saw, clippers, gloves, and water. The park staff will provide some additional tools.

Please RSVP, so we know how many are coming. Call/text me at 301-646-4422. Confirmation will be sent a few days ahead. Thanks for helping to keep our trails open for horses!

Work at Catoctin Mountain Park, Saturday April 8

from Amy Kimble

We hope to clear the horse trail at Catoctin Mountain Park on April 8th at 10 AM. Please come out and help us trim back vegetation, so riders can enjoy this trail. We will park by the saw mill near the Owens Creek Campground off Foxville-Deerfield Road. To get there, take Route 77 to Foxville Road (to the south, this is Stottlemeyer). Foxville-Deerfield Road will be on your right. Pass Manahan Road. Follow Foxville-Deerfield Road to signs on your left for Owens Creek Campground. The horse trail crosses the entrance of Owens Creek Campground. We will be up the hill on the right across from the Sawmill Exhibit. Hope to see you there. Please RSVP to Amy Kimble at 301-748-8310, call or text, and feel free to call or text with any questions.

Bring your favorite pruners, gloves, comfortable hiking shoes, and be sure to wear bug repellent regardless of the temperature. [Deer ticks are year-round and can carry Lyme Disease.] I will bring water and a snack. We will work approximately 3 hours.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT HOWARD COUNTY PLANNING EFFORT *from Wendy Emblin*

Riders who live or ride in Howard County, please attend one of three "Community Engagement" planning meetings on Howard County's development regulations. It would be great to have equestrians who are losing trails and/or trail access due to development speak up at these meetings.

-- **Tuesday, March 28**, 6:30 PM, Howard Community College, Health Sciences Building, first floor, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia

-- **Wednesday, March 29**, 6:30 PM, North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel

-- **Thursday, March 30**, 6:30 PM, Gary J. Arthur Community Center, 2400 Rt. 97, Cooksville

For info, e-mail <knorman@howardcountymd.gov> or call 410-313-2350.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING EFFORT

from Alex Girr-Borrayo, Public Outreach Specialist, MNCPPC-MC (301-495-2497)

As part of the "Parks and Recreation of the Future: Voice Your Vision" outreach initiative, Montgomery Parks staff is hosting a public meeting to review their 2017 Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) on **Wednesday, March 29**, 2017, 7-9 PM, (see plan at <<http://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/listing/2017-park-recreation-open-space-pros-plan-update/>>) at the MNCPPC Montgomery Regional Office, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring MD) Also, take the "Parks and Recreation of the Future" survey (at <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/?pd_url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.peakdemocracy.com%2Fportals%2F260%2Fissue_4211%3Fcookies%3Ddetect#peak_democracy>) to help make our parks better! For further parks information, please visit <MontgomeryParks.org>.

PLANNED TROT TRAIL RIDES FOR 2017



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

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

TROT's organized trail rides are a fun and safe way to learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and -- probably most important for TROT's mission -- help illustrate to riders the value of preserving trails. While riding your familiar trail is certainly nice, it is most valuable and fun to get acquainted with other trail systems in the area. And what better way than on a TROT ride? So plan to come on more TROT rides in 2017! In fact, how about leading or co-leading a TROT ride this year to show others your favorite venue? It is easy and rewarding. Please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619) to discuss the possibility. See the ride list below for months where more rides are really needed (indicated in red text).

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 be able to notify you.

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

For updated trail ride listings, please check the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo list-serves (see page 15 to join). If you want to come on a ride but your horse is not familiar with trailering, see the generous offer of Laura Colicchio to take you out for a one-on-one, no-pressure, practice trail ride (see page 10-11). Also, TROT may offer a clinic on this (see board meeting minutes in the last newsletter). And if you want to come on a ride but do not have a trailer, post a trailering request on the TROT and Maryland Trail Riders list-serves or contact the ride leader, who sometimes can arrange for another participant to pick you and your horse up -- assuming your horse is familiar with trailering.

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



from the internet

In 2017, more weekday rides: Weekday TROT rides are becoming much more popular and now often have higher attendance than weekend rides. For the past couple of years, board member Laury Lobel has kindly organized delightful last-Thursday-of-each-month TROT trail rides at various venues, and happily this year she is continuing that tradition. And this year, Debbie Wagner has generously offered to organize second-Tuesday-of-each-month TROT trail rides at various venues as well. Thanks so much, guys! Plus, Laura Colicchio, who has led many great weekend rides over the last few years, has moved hers to weekdays too. So whether you are more "up" for a weekday or a weekend ride, do plan to join!

To join these rides, contact the ride's leader to sign up, learn the start time and get directions
Mark your calendars now! Ride updates will be posted on the TROT and Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo list-serves.

March Rides

Thursday, March 30 – Fairland Park, Burtonsville, MD -- Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>)

We will be riding the lovely trails in scenic Fairland Regional Park (which spans Montgomery and Prince George's Counties) and celebrating the new trail there (see page 3). This park has really nice trails that too few riders know about. While this will be a walk-only ride, folks who want to go faster can ride out and then re-join the group. Shoes needed only for very tender-footed horses. Bring a chair and your lunch to eat following the ride. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

April Rides

Thursday, April 6 - Schooley Mill Park, Highland, MD -- Debby Poole (<debby.poole@juno.com> or 301-641-8594)

[Rain date: Thursday, April 13.] This is a walk-only ride over lovely rolling hills, woods and meadows. Schooley Mill Park (12975 Hall Shop Road, Highland, MD; see <www.howardcountymd.gov/schooleymillpark>) also 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. Bring a lunch to eat following the ride. [See article on this venue in the September 2015 newsletter.]

Sunday, April 9 – Jug Bay, Croom, MD -- Jacquie Cowan (<jacquiecowan@comcast.net> or 410-215-4979)

RSVP by Thursday April 6. We will join the Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club for an early spring ride in Patuxent River Park/Jug Bay that offers 14 miles of trails around fields, through the woods and over bridges, with a few hills. We can expect to see hikers and bikers, plus some squawky geese. The tempo will be strong walking with some gaiting and trotting along the way. Footing is naturally good but boots or shoes are recommended for tender-footed horses. Bring your lunch for afterwards at the trailers; also clean up tools and water for your horses. Port-a-potties are on-site at parking lot. [Write-up from Jacquie Cowan.]

Tuesday, April 11 – Triadelphia Trail, Brookeville, MD – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

[Rain date Tuesday, April 18.] Come celebrate that WSSC is (at least so far) keeping this trail open, despite intended reservoir repairs (see January 2017 newsletter). We will start on this lovely trail (see January 2015 newsletter) from the Greenbridge parking lot that is great for trailers. We will ride a 9 mile round trip, on fine footing. This will be a walk-only ride; the trail is wide enough for side-by-side conversation. Bring lunch, water, and a chair, and we'll have a picnic after the ride. [Write-up from Debbie Wagner.]

Saturday, April 15 - North Tract, Laurel, MD – Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619)

The North Tract of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge (formerly the "Fort Meade Trails") is the only Fish and Wildlife property that allows horseback riding, thanks to TROT members turning out en masse several years ago. These trails are impressively sturdy, with a packed-stone base originally designed for military tanks, making this one of the few area venues to ride without causing trail damage when the ground is soaked. [See article on this venue in the May 2013 TROT newsletter.] Our ride will cover much of the almost 10 miles of rather scenic, hard-packed dirt/gravel woods trails. They are flat with no stream crossings, 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 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 a walk/trot group, possible also doing a few controlled canter runs. After the ~2 ½ hr ride, we will enjoy a pot-luck lunch, so bring something yummy to share and a chair.

Saturday, April 22 - Upper Patuxent, Damascus, MD -- Mary Prowell (<boprow@aol.com>, [C] 301-509-9812)

The Upper Patuxent trail system is very pretty and quite extensive, with miles of trails, from Windsor Forest Road in Mount Airy to Georgia Avenue. We will ride in the section upriver of Annapolis Rock Road, in loops, so different people can ride for ~5, ~8 or ~11 miles. We will park along Long Corner Road at the bridge and first do a ~5 mile loop going upriver to the Howard County Hunt Club and back. Those wanting to continue will go down along the river 1.5 miles to Mullinex Mill Road, from where people can ride this one-way trail back on their own, making a ~8 mile ride. Then we will do the Mullinex Mill loop over to Rte. 94 and back (3 miles, with a very nice view of the river down below) and back to the trailers. We will likely stop on the Mullinex Mill loop for a break and eat a sandwich if you care to bring one. To manage this full itinerary (~11 miles and 3.5+ hrs), it will be a walk-trot-canter ride. The parking we will use along the road isn't plentiful but several trailers will fit, so be sure to sign up for the ride quickly to secure one of the limited space.

[continued on page 8]

The Upper Patuxent trails should be especially interesting to TROT members because plans for their improvement have been the subject of articles in the TROT newsletter (page 5; July 2014; Jan & July 2015; March & May 2016). Many sections of these trails are currently eroded and slow but will be improved by trail users, especially from MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, an off-road bike group that financed an assessment of the trails). MORE, along with TROT's Amy Kimble, have started work in the Mullinex Mill loop Trail and construction should continue this season. Volunteers are most welcome; contact Amy Kimble (at [<amykimble@aol.com>](mailto:amykimble@aol.com) or 301-748-8310). [Write-up from Mary Prowell.]

Thursday, April 27 - Rachel Carson Park, Brookeville, MD -- 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 eight 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, but folks who want to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks and dessert to be provided. [See January 2017 newsletter for more on this venue.]

Saturday, April 29 – Fairland Park, near Burtonsville. MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb ([<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu), 301-604-5619)

and Debby Poole [Rain date Saturday, May 13.] The scenic Fairland Regional Park that spans Montgomery and Prince George's counties offers really nice trails and is used by too few riders. Come celebrate the new trail (see page 3). 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 in the July 2015 TROT newsletter.]

May Rides

Friday, May 5 – Wisteria Ride at Rosaryville State Park, Upper Marlboro, MD – Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540,

[<lavenderlady19@verizon.net>](mailto:lavenderlady19@verizon.net)) This will be a repeat of last year's delightful ride at beautiful 982-acre Rosaryville State Park, near Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The timing is scheduled so that we should be riding through massive amounts of magnificently blooming wisteria (photo on page 10) 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. [Write-up from Laura Colicchio.]

Saturday, May 6 – Catoctin, Thurmont, MD – Johnna Wheeler ([<johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com>](mailto:johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com), 301-293-3207)

Come ride on top of Catoctin Mountain in the Frederick County Watershed. It is beautiful here. We will begin riding from the intersection of Tower Road and Gambrill Park Road. Pack a snack and beverage to enjoy during this 2-hour, all-walk ride. It has some short rocky sections so shoes or Easyboots are recommended. I look forward to enjoying your fellowship. [Write-up from Johnna Wheeler.]

Tuesday, May 9 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner ([<dwagner0602@gmail.com>](mailto:dwagner0602@gmail.com))

[Rain date Tuesday, May 16.] Location will be announced in the May Constant Contact and on the TROT and Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo list-serves.

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

St. Mary's County TROT coordinator Come enjoy a scenic waterfront trail ride at Greenwell (25420 Rosedale Manor Lane, Hollywood, MD), a 596-acre park along Patuxent River. It is managed in partnership with The Greenwell Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to providing outdoor accessible recreation, especially as equestrian program dedicated to people with disabilities, returning veterans, and children. There are ten miles of trails along agriculture fields and in the woods. This is an easy ride with few slopes or hills and is excellent for barefoot horses. Riders can walk only or break off into faster groups. Trail maps will be provided. After the ride there will be a group lunch, so bring your sandwich and a chair. Bottled water will be provided. During the lunch break, a representative from the Greenwell Foundation has been invited to join us to talk about their equestrian programs. See [<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/parkmaps/greenwellmap.aspx>](http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/parkmaps/greenwellmap.aspx) for info and a park map. After you enter the park, take the first left and follow it to the end to park on a grassy area. Bathrooms and water are available. There is a \$3 park fee payable at the entrance in an honor box, which supports the Greenwell Foundation's park programs. [Write-up from Kathy Glockner.]

Saturday, May 20 - WSSC's Rocky Gorge in Laurel, MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb ([<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu), 301-604-5619),

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

[continued on page 9]

Thursday, May 25 – location to be determined -- Laury Lobel <Laurylobel@verizon.net>

Location will be announced in the May newsletter. Although a walk-only ride, folks wanting to go faster can ride away and then re-join the group. Bring a chair and your lunch to eat together following the ride. Drinks & dessert will be provided.

June Rides

We could use some more rides in June, please!

Wednesday, June 5 – Gunpowder Falls State Park, Bunker Hill Trail -- Priscilla Huffman (301-646-4422, call or text, priscillahuffman@verizon.net) [Rain date Wednesday, June 14.] This will be a walk-only ride, mostly in the woods with some hills. There are places on this trail that are close to the edge of a stream as well as some steps build for erosion control, both uphill and downhill, so this is not a good ride for a green trail horse. There is a large paved parking lot at the end of Bunker Hill Road that can accommodate up to six trailers, so sign up early. The ride will be 1 ½ - 2 hours. Bring lunch and a chair if you wish to stay to eat. [Write-up from Priscilla Huffman.]

Saturday, June 10 – Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park ("Ag Farm") – Deneen Martin (<deneenmartin7@msn.com> or 301-467-5335) [Rain date Saturday, June 17.] More information to come in the May newsletter.

Tuesday, June 13 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

[Rain date Tuesday, June 20.] More information to come in the May newsletter.

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

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

July Rides

We could use some more rides in July, please!

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

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

Tuesday, July 11 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

[Rain date Tuesday, July 18.] More information to come.

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

Come ride on top of Catoctin Mountain in the Frederick County Watershed. It is beautiful here, but some of the trails are rocky. See write-up from May 6 ride. It's cooler up here on the mountain during the hot days of summer, by the way.

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

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

Friday, July 28 – NCR (North Central Railroad)/Torrey Brown trail, Freeland, MD - Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, <lavenderlady19@verizon.net>); co-leader: Barbara Sollner Webb The NCR trail is another treasure in our Maryland trail system that riders should get to know. It is a lovely, hard-packed dirt rails-to-trails, over 20 miles in Maryland, from just north of Baltimore to the Pennsylvania line, and then continuing another 21 miles to York, PA, basically paralleling but not close to I-83. At many places the trail crosses the Gunpowder Falls River, great for giving the horses a drink and cooling off. We will leave from Freeland in northern Maryland and ride about 2 ½ hours, with an all-walk group and a walk/trot/(and a little canter) group. A great trip to get your horse familiar with bikes. Please bring along a contribution for a potluck lunch after the ride, at the park's nice, shaded picnic table. There is also a well with wonderfully cool water for cooling off the horses.

August Rides

We need some more rides in August, please!

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

More information to come.

Tuesday, August 8 – location to be determined – Debbie Wagner (<dwagner0602@gmail.com>)

[Rain date Tuesday, August 15.] More information to come.

[ride listings continued on page 10]

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

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

September Rides

We need some more rides in September, please!

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

[Rain date Tuesday, September 19.] More information to come.

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

Come ride on top of Catoctin Mountain in the Frederick County Watershed. It is beautiful here, but some of the trails are rocky. See write-up from May 6 ride.

Saturday, September 23 – Fairland Park, near Burtonsville, MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) and Debby Poole [Rain date Saturday, September 30.]

We will again be riding these lovely trails. See write-up for April 29.

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

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

October Rides

We need some more rides in October, please!

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

[Rain date Tuesday, October 17.] More information to come.

Thursday, October 12 – Little Bennett -- Susan Ferrara (<sferrara3663@hotmail.com>)

[Rain date Tuesday, October 17.] More information to come.

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

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

Friday, October 27 – Rosaryville Halloween ride, Upper Marlboro, MD -- Laura Colicchio

(<lavenderlady19@verizon.net>, 301-856-7540) We will ride at the beautiful 982-acre Rosaryville State Park, southwest of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The timing is scheduled so that we should be riding through spectacular fall foliage. And come in a costume! The terrain can be hilly but shoes aren't necessary except for very tender-footed horses. We will be riding from Laura's house that abuts the park (not from the main park parking area). And after the ride Laura will host a delicious Bar-B-Q, so please bring something for the luncheon and a chair.

November Rides

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

[Rain date Tuesday, November 21.] More information to come.

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

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

INVITATION FOR INTRODUCTORY TRAIL RIDING EXPERIENCE

from Laura Colicchio

WHAT? I am happy to take you out on your own customized ride, either by yourself or with a small, like-minded group.

WHERE? The very pretty Rosaryville State Park, starting at Tony and Laura Colicchio's property (8700 Rosaryville Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772) that backs onto the park.

WHEN? From April 1, 2017 on, preferably on a weekday, schedules and weather permitting.

WHY? To facilitate anyone wishing to trail ride at a walk, to get practice, or for whatever reasons. Also to "stop and smell the roses" (maybe even the wisteria, see photo) and tour and enjoy the grounds of historic Mt. Airy Mansion and Rosaryville State Park. In the summer, this park with heavily wooded trails is much cooler than most other areas.

[continued on page 11]



HOW? Very easy. Just contact Laura either by email (<lavenderlady19@verizon.net>) or cell (301-448-8713) to arrange.

DETAILS? Afterwards, you and your horse are welcome to stay and unwind with a brown-bag lunch on my back deck. I will provide refreshments. Horse may be stalled or turned out with my horses. This is a great opportunity to really see the park at a leisurely pace with a wonderful trail veteran Icelandic gelding named Raven who knows the trails like the back of his "hooves."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: My TROT rides with varied gaits are already scheduled as follows: May 5th, Wisteria Ride, Rosaryville State Park; July 28th, NCR Ride, Hunt Valley, MD; and October 27th, Halloween Ride, Rosaryville State Park.

ANY QUESTIONS? Please feel free to contact me. Happy Trails!

[Thanks for making this offer, Laura!]

BEST OF AMERICA BY HORSEBACK TV SHOW HOPES TO COME TO MARYLAND

from Ross Peddicord, Executive Director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board

The Best of America by Horseback television show, which bills itself as America's favorite trail riding television show, would like to produce a segment in Maryland this fall during the weekend of October 6-8. It would be great to showcase our trail riding club -- especially TROT, the League of Maryland Horsemen, and several others -- in addition to our 106 public access riding trails and over 30 public trail riding stables. **Please suggest a place where TROT and other trail riding organizations could come together for a trail ride and to tape a segment of the show.**

The show is broadcast nationally on RFD-TV on Thursdays at 2 PM EST. The show's producer, Kristen Biscoe, had a booth at Horse World Expo and asked the Maryland Horse Industry Board if we could help them produce the show. Production costs are \$23,470 for the segment. The Horse Board, pending approval by board members, can help fund part of these costs. We can also reach out to the county tourism office where the ride is held for some funding. Kristen suggested that we stage a trail ride for the show and charge folks \$50 to \$75 to participate. If we get 100 riders at \$75 each, that's \$7,500. Kristen is interested in holding a dinner or reception in conjunction with the show. We could also put the video of the show on our respective websites and use it at promotional events. TROT, of course, would be featured as well as helping with the content.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in this show and if you have any ideas about arrangements, logistics and/or content and, of course, funding possibilities such as sponsors, etc. Email me at <ross.peddicord@maryland.gov>.

A RECENT, IMPROMPTU TRAIL RIDE AT MORGAN RUN

from Nancy Osgood



photo from Nancy Osgood

On the first very perfect day of spring, ten riders got together to make the most of it. We met at Morgan Run Park and totally enjoyed the great weather, beautiful park, and genial friendship. We rode for about two hours, then stayed to have cookies and lemonade and watch all the horses graze leisurely. Newton, the old gentleman of almost 31 years, was happy to keep up with the other horses and even wanted to lead for a spell! All riders were already TROT members or filled out an application on the spot.

WELCOME JIM AND BECKY CARTER, NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS! THANKS A MILLION, SIM SHANKS, FOR ALL YOUR WORK OVER THE YEARS!

TROT is EXTREMELY appreciative of Sim's excellent service as Membership Chair over many years! Thanks a million, Sim!

We are excited to announce that Jim and Becky Carter have agreed to take over as as Membership Chairs. TROT members greatly thank them for stepping up and volunteering for this most important position!

GO GREEN ON YOUR TROT NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Are you a TROT member who receives the newsletter by US mail, with pictures only in black and white, but might prefer to receive the e-mailed version that has full-color pictures and arrives several days earlier (and TROT would save mailing costs)? Please contact membership chairs Jim and Becky Carter at <trotmembership@yahoo.com> to change TROT's records.

HORSE CAMPING AT ASSATEAQUE

from Leah Mack

In November I took my family and two of our horses to Assateague Island National Seashore to camp and ride on the beach. Horse camping is allowed there from mid-October to mid-March, with October and March weekends getting booked as soon as they become available six month ahead of time. We went from Sunday to Tuesday, which allowed us to book at the last minute.

We had a great time and saw wild ponies, dolphins, and bald eagles. The campsites had primitive toilets, fire pits, picnic tables and good water but no electric. I brought a portable solar-powered electric fence to contain my horses, which they are accustomed to from our rotational grazing at home, although this was my first time camping with this system. They were content to stay in their paddock and delighted to roll in the soft sand. Clearly many people tie their horses to the available posts during their stays, so that is also an option.

The wild ponies did come near but never bothered us or our horses. However, due to the warm fall, the biting flies were fairly bad even this late in the year. Two things I should have brought were a hose to fill the horse's water and a wheelbarrow to move their waste to the dumpster, which wasn't super close. One thing I didn't anticipate was that riding on a beach means out and back which is less interesting than the circuits we usually ride. The rules require riders to lead their horses to the beach and down to the sand vehicle area, that is at least a quarter of a mile away and hard going in the soft sand; this could be hard for some riders. I did not see any rangers (or many humans) on the beach during my visit, however. My horses did not completely get over their fear of the waves during our stay, but the beach was plenty wide enough to ride anyway. The going would have been better on the wet sand near the water, but that wasn't an option for us.

I would love to make this trip again, hopefully with a whole group of riders. Ideally the group would include at least one horse already adjusted to waves. Please let me know if you are interested in a future TROT trip. Leah Mack (<1ecofarmer@gmail.com>, Grazy Days Family Farm, Libertytown, MD, <www.grazydays.com>)



author

photos from Leah Mack

wild ponies



COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS

Baltimore County

from Priscilla Huffman

Jim McDonald of Graham Equestrian Center was the guest speaker at the 2017 Baltimore area kickoff meeting February 23rd at the Hereford Library. Twenty-two TROT members and guests attended. Jim's presentation focused on "Basic Horse Language for the Rider: Principles and Theory." Jim advocates for a calm approach with your horse based on a clear understanding of what you want from the horse and how to ask for it.

Upcoming clinics at Graham include a mini-clinic series (3 hours) held each month through the fall. The next two clinics are March 25th and April 22nd. On April 14th, the center is holding an all-day adult day camp. Learn more at <<http://grahameq.org/events/event/adult-day-camp/>>.

Trail clearing on the Gunpowder North trail – Saturday, April 1st. Meet at the end of Bunker Hill Rd. Contact Priscilla Huffman at 301-646-4422 or <priscillahuffman@verizon.net> for directions and details.

An obstacle clinic with Michele McDonald of Top Bar Ranch, Camp PuhTok, in Monkton will be held in the fall. Don't miss a chance to learn more about working your horse through obstacles followed by a ride in the park! More info to follow.

Howard County

from Pat Oliva

I want to thank each and every one of you who sent your thoughts about Sunday hunting in Howard county to our delegates. We won this year! The bill was finally withdrawn after three sessions in Annapolis for the delegates. Ann Selnick, THANKS for attending all three. Also the bill to allow hunting 50 yards from a private home in Howard County was removed.

Another great success – we got a trail through Walkers Meadow. Thanks, Wendy, for all your hard work!

Anne Arundel County – At Maryland Horse Council's Legislative Day from Jacquie Cowan

Anne Arundel County was well represented January 31 in Annapolis for the Maryland Horse Council's Equine Legislative Day, even with an early morning start of 8 AM. The large conference room was filled for our initial ...

[continued on page 12]

gathering over breakfast for an official welcome and tips for making the most of our scheduled appointment times with our county Legislative Representatives.

This year we were all seated by county, which was an awesome opportunity to meet other trail riders from around Anne Arundel County whom I did not know. Some were TROT members while others were not, but upon friendly encouragement, hopefully most have joined by now.

We split into smaller groups and made our way through the Senate and House hallways for our appointments. Unfortunately, an emergency caucus had been called overnight, so some of our actual elected officials were not available, but as we had learned in the tip session, sometimes the assistants and aides can be just as strong an ally.

We started each meeting with a heartfelt thank you for withdrawing the Anne Arundel County Delegation's bill two years ago to open all Sundays for deer hunting. Anne Arundel County is unique in that we have very few public riding trails, so most real trail riding is done on a network of trails that wander around farm fields and woods and crisscross the power lines. A strong group of equestrians showed up in force that year to educate the County Delegation on the perils of Sunday hunting. Yes, my friends, making your voices heard loud, clear and together does work!

We then shared an equestrian profile of our County reflected by the May 2010 Equine Census commissioned by the Maryland Horse Industry Board. Here are the basic statistics that showed Anne Arundel County to be alive and well with horses!

Total Equine Inventory: 4,500 (Self-kept: 2,810; Boarded: 1,690)

Number of Equine Places: 950

Total Equine Related Acres: 10,200

Total Number of People Involved: 2,050

Total Value of Equine Inventory: \$39,773,000 (out of Total County Assets of \$292,000,000)

You can find similar statistics for your County at <http://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/pdf/2010_equine_census.pdf>.

On a recent drive through southern Anne Arundel County, I saw quite a bit of what appeared to be sizeable stables and indoor arenas under construction, so we can hope that the county's equine community continues to grow.

Sadly, Anne Arundel County has built more ball fields and parks than developed passive recreational opportunities such as trail riding. I hope this will change as I and new-found friends from the Legislative Day are investigating some County projects that may end up with equestrian opportunities. I will fill you in on those at a later date.

Worcester County

In an emailed update, the Equiery recently reported exciting news for riders in the area of Worcester County: It is that Worcester County intends to include Bridle Trails in the Ilia Fehrer Natural Preserve. The 437-acre Ilia Fehrer Nature Preserve, just outside of the town of Berlin, was acquired by Worcester County in 2011 with the assistance of state and federal partners as well as The Trust for Public Land. The property is located within the 4,000-acre Holly Grove Swamp area and contains the largest section of unprotected forest in the county. The county is in the process of creating a stewardship plan for this land, which is to include passive recreational uses – such as trail riding. A draft of the plan is being presented to the Worcester County Commissioners in March. After the County adopts a final plan, funding for the establishment of passive recreation will need to be secured. Those who live in Worcester County may want to weigh in with your elected officials, encouraging creation of these trails.

Southern Counties of Pennsylvania

information from Janet Whelan

On Sunday, April 23, 2017, rain or shine, in Coderus State Park, the Pennsylvania Rangers are hosting a Judged Pleasure Trail ride. Pre-register early to ensure a spot – the cost is \$30 and ribbons are awarded for 1st through 6th place in each division (open, novice, and junior). Helmets required; also Coggins if from out-of-state. For more info, contact Sue Eline (<skopp23@comcast.net> or 717-600-6764).

THANK YOU, RIDERS, FOR HELP IN THE CENTURY RIDE!

from Pat Oliva

I want to add a short tale about some wonderful people. I missed TROT's annual dinner for the first time ever, to attend the Blackwater Swamp 25-mile ride in Virginia. Since last summer, I have had a major problem with my legs and have not been able to finish a 50-mile ride. I've been to every specialist I could think of, but the cause of the problem has not been found. I wanted to finish this ride to achieve the "Century Award" from my endurance group, since my horse and I are a combined age of 101 years,

When I got to the ride, the whole camp wanted to help me. Since the ride was on Sunday and many people would leave early, at the pre-ride meeting they gave me a beautiful horse blanket with Pepper's and my names emblazoned on it plus a delicious cake. Then at the vet stop, they took my horse and sent a masseuse to work on my back and offered me food and drink. So pampered!!! As the end of the ride got nearer, though, my pain increased and I had trouble even walking my horse. So sadly, we didn't finish the ride. But again the riders stepped in, trailered me back, and took total care of my horse. I still have to earn that blanket, so we will be back on the trail.

SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

from Jean McKay, TROT secretary

Summary of January 10, 2017 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Gale Monahan.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Dick Huffman, Priscilla Huffman, Johnna Wheeler.

- Treasurer's report was accepted; December Board meeting minutes approved as written.
- At the invitation of the Board, Ms. Margaret McKelvy, president and owner of Mythic Landing Enterprises, presented her company's cost proposal for the website redesign and Constant Contact templates.
- TROT received a \$1,775 grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board to update the TROT display to include interactive features. Thank you to Dana Grabiner for writing the grant application!
- Planning is underway for a non-judged pleasure ride to be held in the spring of 2017.
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.

Summary of February 7, 2017 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Pat Oliva.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Janet Whelan (Treasurer), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Laurie Bay, Dick Huffman, Priscilla Huffman, Leah Mack, Sim Shanks

- Treasurer's report was accepted; January Board meeting minutes approved as written.
- Ms. Jane Seigler, President of the Maryland Horse Council (MHC), met with the TROT Board to present and discuss the MHC's plan to contract with Grow & Fortify for Executive Director and association management services. The MHC is seeking financial support from its members and the horse industry for the first year of the contract. [See Jan 2017 newsletter]
- The TROT video project was successfully completed and debuted at the 2017 Maryland Horse Expo.
- A fixed committee of Priscilla Huffman, Dana Grabiner and Jean McKay will oversee Mythic Landing's new TROT website.
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.

TRAIL GUIDES

The following volunteers are willing to show TROT members their favorite trails on an individual basis. Please just contact them to arrange a personally guided trail ride.

If you would be willing to occasionally show another trail to others, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) to join this list of generous volunteers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frederick County Watershed, Catoctin Mountain between Gambrill State Park and Cunningham Falls State Park.
(Thurmont, MD) Weekend afternoons. Johnna Wheeler (301) 293-1500 or johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Additional Board members | Dana Grabiner | grabiner1@aol.com | (202) 412-7548 |
| | Terry Ledley | terryledley@aol.com | (301) 520-3100 |
| | Laury Lobel | laurylobel@verizon.net | |
| | Leah Mack | 1ecofarmer@gmail.com | |
| | Pat Oliva | patolivatiqger@aol.com | (410) 489-7380 |
| | Barbara Sollner-Webb | bsw@jhmi.edu | (301) 604-5619 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Membership Chair | Jim Carter | trotmembership@yahoo.com | |
| Newsletter; mapping | Barbara Sollner-Webb | bsw@jhmi.edu | (301) 604-5619 |
| Trail Rides | Barbara Sollner-Webb | bsw@jhmi.edu | (301) 604-5619 |
| Adopt A Trail | Amy Kimble | amyhkimble@aol.com | (301) 748-8310 |
| Web Master | Harold Goldstein | mdbiker@goldray.com | |

COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS

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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS *from Sim Shanks*

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Jean Hessenauer | Baltimore County MD |
| Sharon Maben | Baltimore County MD |
| Leslie Mallon | Baltimore County MD |
| Michelle McDonald | Baltimore County MD |
| Donna O'Brien | Baltimore County MD |
| Anne Long | Carroll County MD |
| Tracy Loppatto | Carroll County MD |
| Shawne Whittington Sr | Charles County MD |
| Sandra Pelgar | Frederick County MD |
| Johnna V. Wheeler | Frederick County MD |
| Peggy Smilko | Harford County MD |
| Melissa Smith | Harford County MD |
| Jay Trotta | Harford County MD |
| Corisse Vaughan | Fairfax County VA |

We hope you enjoy TROT and help in preserving trails!

UP-TO-DATE INFO ON TROT ACTIVITIES

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>](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/info)

TROT Yahoo group (and to join):

[<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TROT-Members/info>](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TROT-Members/info)

Facebook page -- TROT Trail Riders of Today

[<www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/>](https://www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/)

**PLEASE SEND NEWS AND PHOTOS FOR
THE NEWSLETTER TO [<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)**

CLASSIFIED ADS:

To Place An Ad

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

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

Ad rates for non-members and larger ads:

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

Exciting new Horse Book

AUTHOR'S PROFITS GO TO HORSE RESCUES

I Kept My Promise

This inspiring true story encourages you to overcome obstacles and realize your dreams

By Johnna V. Wheeler



Lucky dreamed of a forever home and Victoria envisioned herself riding a horse of her own on the beach. Their souls collided and then connected, creating a rollercoaster relationship. Ultimately, it was a journey that fulfilled both of their dreams beyond measure.

Website: <http://www.ikeptmypromise-book.com>

A UNIQUE GIFT FOR THE HORSE LOVER

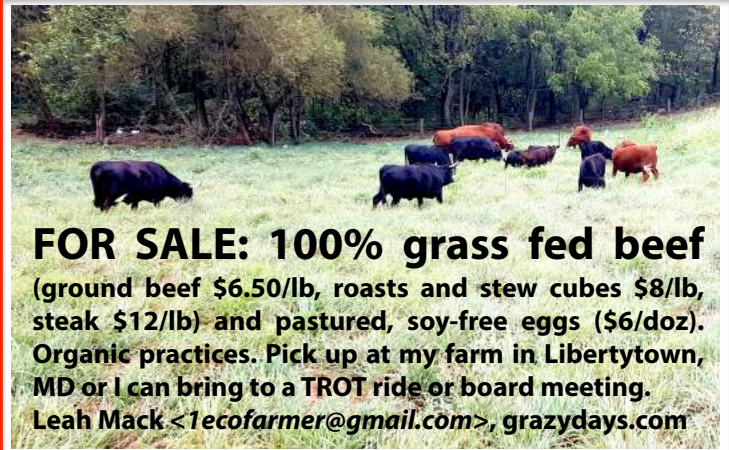
A GIFT THAT GIVES TWICE FOR ONLY
\$7.99 + TAX

For Horses with Tender Dinner-plate Feet

I am selling a pair of size 8 BOA hoof boots. They are 7 3/4" wide and 7 1/2" long (inside) -- a size not made anymore. They are barely used. \$200 for the pair. Contact Johnna Wheeler [<johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com>](mailto:johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com) or 301-293-3207.



Great Organically-Raised Farm Products



FOR SALE: 100% grass fed beef

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

Cat Neutering

from Liuda Galinaitis

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

SADDLE GUYS AND GIRL'S DRILL TEAM Mt. Airy, Maryland



If you are interested in joining our drill team, please contact Sue Donaldson at 443-604-3220 or [<swdonaldson@comcast.net>](mailto:swdonaldson@comcast.net), or [<luvtogiddiup@gmail.com>](mailto:luvtogiddiup@gmail.com)! We have three practices per month in Mt. Airy, participate in parades and fairs, and have a lot of fun. Accepting riders age nine and up, and mares & geldings Dues are only \$20 per year! Come and join us!



Gaited Lessons with Jacquie Cowan

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

GREAT THANKS TO THE VENDORS WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED MERCHANDISE TO TROT'S SILENT AUCTION – please think about patronizing these friends of TROT



19961 Fisher Avenue
Poolesville, MD
301-349-3990 (T-F 10-6, Sa 9-6; Su 9:30-5:30)
<www.allaboutequestrian.com>
<www.allaboutequestrian@gmail.com>

Thank you for that great horse blanket!



Trailer Sales and Service <bartleycorp.com>

"When you think TRAILERS, think Bartley!"

- Full line of trailer parts in stock
- Experience in servicing all types of horse trailers

Sales **301-774-3332** (M-F 8:30-5)

15095 Frederick Rd Woodbine, MD

Service **301-384-2700** (M-F 8:30-5)

16613 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD

To our friends in TROT, present this coupon
for **15%** off our COMAR service!

Thank you for that great trailer inspection coupon!



at Woodland Horse Center
16301 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD
800-635-5994 (M-F 10-7, Sa-Su 10-5)

The friendliest Tack Shop
Serving the community since 1996

Thank you for that lovely stone horse statue!



2713 Thurston Road
Frederick, MD
301-471-0624

Thank you for the nice fanny pack and socks!

Turf Center, Inc.



your local Southern States dealer

1409 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD

301-384-6300 (M-F 8-5; Sa 8-12)

<southernstaesturf.com>

equine specialist: Amy Barnes

Thank you for the attractive horse flag!



Nationwide Roadside Assistance
for You and Your Horse 24/7

800-844-1409 <www.usrider.org>

For You: Towing (vehicles & horse trailers); Repairs;
Battery Assistance; Flat Tire Assistance; Lockout Service;
Fuel, Oil and Water Delivery

For Your Horse: Emergency trip interruption vet services,
Lodging/stabling arrangements; Vet & Farrier Referral

Join US Rider NOW – 15% off – promo code: TROT17

Thank you for the picture and useful book!

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor

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

And ENORMOUS appreciation for MOST helpfully proof-reading the draft text goes to Terry Ledley, Dana Grabiner, Denis Webb and Judy Thacher. Also thanks to Debbie Wagner, Priscilla Huffman, Amy Kimble, Nancy Osgood, Jacque Cowan, and Laury Lobel. You guys are wonderful!



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

PO Box 506

Highland, MD 20777

Inside this issue:

- Annual Dinner & Silent Auction
- Important Request to Save Trails
- Great New Trail at Fairland Park
- New VMPs and Other Ways to Help Parks on Horesebck
- Legislative Issues – Input Needed
- A Trail Work Challenge
- News on Accessing Rachel Carson
- Upcoming Trail Work & County Planning Efforts
- 2017 TROT Trail Ride Schedule
- A Personalized Trail Introduction Offer
- RFD-TV Horse Show in Maryland
- Welcome, Carters! Thanks a Million, Sim!
- County Reports
- Contact Information for TROT and Trail Guides
- Useful Classified Ads
- Thanks to the Silent Auction Donors
- And More