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May 2006

Number 158

Who's Who in TROT

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President

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Secretary

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(301) 570-3860

Treasurer

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ksdobson@msn.com

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Kyle Jossi
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Pat Merson
(301) 898-3251

Tim McGrath
(800) 292-3547

Gale Monahan
(301) 854-3852

Pat Talbott
(301) 628-4130

COMMITTEES

Membership

Melinda Bennett
(410) 875-0481

Newsletter

Linda Davis
(301) 776-3607
QHdal@aol.com

Pat Talbott
(301) 628-4130

Who's Who in TROT

Priscilla Huffman, TROT President, rides a 16-year old TB/QH cross, Mickey, and together they have explored many of the parks and trail systems available in the Washington DC

metropolitan area and other parts of Maryland. Although she did some horse shows as a child in Baltimore, her love has always been trail riding. One of her early horse loves, Knight, lived at a riding stable where she took lessons as a child, and together they explored the Baltimore County countryside. The first horse she owned, a Tennessee Walker, was a college graduation gift. Her next horse, a palomino mare, had a beautiful golden

palomino colt who became a wonderful trail horse, and Mom and baby had many happy

hours on the Patapsco trail system around the Baltimore area.

Priscilla believes that organizations such as



TROT are invaluable in spreading the message of trail conservation. Having been a Montgomery County resident for the last 30 years, she has witnessed enormous development and growth, yet because of a focus on trail preservation, Montgomery County has more equestrian trails now than it did 20 years ago. She is looking forward to TROT working with other trail groups such as MORE (Mid Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts) and land conservation groups such as EPIC (Equestrian

Partners in Conservation) to continue these efforts.

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TROT JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE

Saturday, June 3, 2006

Registration opens at 10:00 AM, closes at noon

Agricultural History Farm Park

18400 Muncaster Rd, Derwood, MD 20855

\$27 per horse/rider Post entry \$32

Hard hats and current negative Coggins test required

(For further information see pages 5-6)

COMMITTEES (continued)

Trail Rides

Kyle Jossi
(301) 570-3860

Mapping Project

Tim McGrath
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Sandy Boyd
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Archives

Gale Monahan
(301) 854-3852

Search & Rescue Team

Suzanne Anderson
(301) 829-3881

Webmaster

Lisa Graff
ldgraff@hotmail.com

County

**** = Coordinators**

*** = Contacts**

Anne Arundel

*Kirsten Enzinger
(410) 867-0798

Baltimore

*Linda Eminizer
(410) 661-0176

Carroll

**Anne Bennof
(301) 829-0949

Cecil

**Jeanne Bond
HalcyonFarm@dol.net

Frederick

**Pat Merson
(301) 898-3251

Howard

**Pat Oliva
(410) 489-7380

Montgomery

Region 1 (East of Georgia Ave)

**Sandy Boyd
(301) 774-0495

Region 3 (Rt 28 to I-270)

**Tim McGrath
(301) 428-8216

Region 4 (Potomac River-Rt 28)

*Dave Phillips
(301) 972-8525

*Fran Ligler
(301) 983-3482

Prince George's

**Mary Angevine
(301) 937-0014

Croom

*Carol Auletta
(301) 888-1323

Broad Creek Historic District

Dave Turner
(301) 292-6130

President's message.....

If you are a long time TROT member, you will notice that we are sponsoring fewer TROT trail rides this year. This new schedule is being tried in response to the limited attendance on many of our trail rides over the last few years.

When TROT was first started 26 years ago, the organized trail rides became a hallmark of our groups' activities, and were usually very well attended. According to our long-time TROT members, trail rides often had 20-25 members attending. The trail rides were seen as a good way to learn the trail systems with someone who knew them well. Over the years, ridership started to decrease, and in the last few years, we have had to cancel several scheduled rides.

As the ride leader, preparing for a TROT trail ride may involve a considerable amount of work ahead of time. To ensure that the trail route they plan is cleared, most leaders spend time riding and clearing the trails for a few weeks before the ride. We all benefit from this investment in time and attention, and wish to thank all of the ride leaders in the past and those who will lead this season for their commitment to TROT.

Please take a minute to review our upcoming rides this summer, and make every effort to attend at least one TROT-sponsored ride. I've rarely attended a ride when someone didn't end up with a phone number or contact from a fellow rider for something they needed. Many members bring a sandwich and plan to stay after the ride to eat lunch together. It's a wonderful way to share our love of riding with old friends, and perhaps meet some new ones. Hope we see you on one of our rides!

Priscilla Huffman
President, TROT

March 2006 Treasurer's Report

March 2006 Expenses: \$19.94
Verizon (TROT Information Line): \$19.94

March 2006 Income: \$2,285.87
Memberships: \$1,046.00
Silent Auction Proceeds: \$963.00
Shirt Sales: \$140.00
Donations: \$109.00
Newsletter Ad: \$12.00
Time Deposit Interest: \$12.57
Savings Acct Interest: \$3.30

Bank Balances as of April 1, 2006:

Checking Acct: \$1,950.36
Savings Acct: \$10,868.67
Time Deposit (Mapping Fund): \$6,587.15

April 2006 Treasurer's Report

April 2006 Expenses: \$609.56
Ribbons for 2006 JPR: \$206.49
Gasch Printing (April 06 Newsletter): \$199.00
P. Huffman - Annual Meeting Plaques: \$170.63
Verizon (TROT Information Line): \$19.44
Bank Fees (2 returned checks): \$14.00

April 2006 Income: \$2,406.23
Memberships: \$2,002.00
Charitable Donations: \$219.00
Deposit Returned from HO. CO Fair: \$100.00
Newsletter Ads: \$69.00
Time Deposit Interest: \$12.58
Savings Acct Interest: \$3.65

Bank Balances as of May 1, 2006:

Checking Acct: \$1,436.80
Savings Acct: \$13,166.32
Time Deposit (Mapping Fund): \$6,599.73

2005 Treasurer's Annual Report

Due to a computer malfunction, some of the monthly Treasurer's reports were not available to compile into an annual report, which our by-laws require that we present to the membership. We are continuing to work on getting the 2005 annual report compiled, however if you have questions in the interim, please contact our Treasurer, Kathy Dobson at ksdobson@msn.com.

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When **Marilynn Miller**, TROT Vice President, was 9 her family moved near Syracuse, NY and only a 5 minute bike ride from a riding stable. The stable owner was a woman (rare in 1945) with a degree in physical education - how could her parents object when she spent all her spare time there? Soon she was riding every horse and bucking out the boarders so the owners would have a nice ride. The stable had a mounted Girl Scout Troup and Marilynn entered all the shows that could be reached by shoulder riding.



After college Marilynn married a veterinarian and moved to Maryland. Her first Arab was an untrained 2 year old gelding. In six months he learned everything she knew to teach him. Then she discovered dressage.

After 10 years of dressage lessons Marilynn grew tired of circles, sold her warmblood, saddled up an Arab and went trail riding. Her first competitive trail ride was the 1966 Vermont 100. The Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association was formed and she has over 7,000 miles in competition from Maine to Florida. Her miles include over 50 three-day 100 mile rides. Lately Marilynn joined Central Maryland Saddle Club the "ride a little - eat a lot" group and the League of MD Horsemen. She has two trail-wise Arab geldings, a retired 1/2 Arab pony and an untrained 8 year old Arab mare - a rescue she is starting with Parelli. According to Marilynn - "never too old to learn - me or the horse".

Kyle Jossi's (TROT Board Member) story is proof that dreams do come true! She had horses as a teenage but gave them up when time and money became tight. But about 12 years ago she was offered the use of a horse and a place to keep her. That horse is now 33 years old and still going strong! Her favorite activity is seeing all her friends on TROT rides. Many years ago she worked in the ER with Pat Oliva, one of the founding members of TROT. She introduced Kyle to TROT and also to her sister, Sandy Boyd (now a fellow board member.) Her first ride was a 4

hour tour of local trails (she could barely walk for a week afterwards) and Sandy has been a trail buddy ever since!

Kyle has volunteered to serve on the TROT board because one thing she realized as she rode along the beautiful trails we have in our area was that it took a lot of effort on someone's part to preserve those trails and that she needed to invest some time to continue that process. What she hadn't expected was that her fellow board members would become some of her closest friends. She is currently the Trail Ride Coordinator, but when she can pass that responsibility along to someone else, she would like to focus on publicity. Kyle believes there are lots of opportunities to get TROT's name out there in local equestrian and community publications to increase the public awareness of what we do. She believes these efforts would also help us increase our membership and encourage more member participation in our activities. She also plans to continue, under Susan Gray's leadership, to participate in legislative activities that address trail easements and preservation.



Susan has helped her understand how vital it is to fight for equestrian easements in areas where developments are being planned.

When not out trail riding or working on TROT projects such as the Silent Auction, Kyle is a Nurse Case Manager at Holy Cross Hospital.

Kathy Dobson, TROT Treasurer, has served on the TROT Board for many years, and this is her third year as TROT Treasurer. She is a professional trainer and instructor, and holds an Equine Business Management Degree from the University of MD and an Instructor's Degree from WNEC. She is a current member of the PVSP Volunteer Mounted Patrol, the League of MD Horsemen, the MD Horse Council,

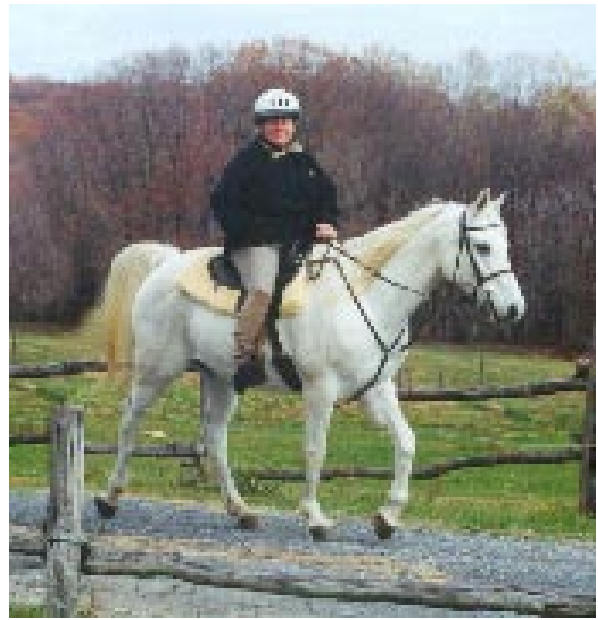
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the Central MD Saddle Club and the MD Sheep Breeders Association, and a past member of the MHBA, MHSA, MCTA, AQHA, HCHSA, Baltimore Co. 4H, etc. Her riding career has included breeding, breaking and galloping racehorses and steeplechasers, eventing, foxhunting, competitive trail rides, horse camping and showing many breeds in English, Western, driving and in hand. Her personal herd currently includes Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, a Halflinger, a Paint, Welsh and Hackney driving ponies and a miniature donkey. Using gentle, understanding methods she has successfully worked with many breeds from minis to drafts. She currently trains riding and driving horses and ponies and also produces and sells lambs, fleeces and guineas.

Pat Olivia (Board Member) has been a member of TROT from the very beginning and a horse owner in Maryland since 1968 riding and living in Montgomery County until the mid 90's when she moved to Howard County. She has wide experience on Maryland Committees, has been taught trail construction and maintenance by the Maryland DNR and has taken the four day intense trail course given by Mike Riter. Pat was an instructor for the National Park service, a speaker at the Maryland Greenway Commission of Trails, the Rails to Trails National Convention and the American Horse Council. She is currently a mounted ranger at Patapsco Valley State Park and has been a member of TROT Search and Rescue for ten years. Pat is an active member of the Greenway Commission and on the Maryland Board to allocate federal funds for trail improvement.

Pat is a past state rep, county coordinator, board member and president of TROT holding these positions so she could ride her horses down Maryland trails. Her current herd of horses includes 3 Arabs.



Pat Merson (Frederick County Coordinator) got back into horses about 20 years ago. At that time she bought a 17 year old 1/2 Arab - Dusty lived to the ripe old age of 34. She has also owned a Quarter Horse, Trakehner and at this time has 2 Arabs. Hickory is a gray 22 year old who is dead broke. He has jousted, team penned, camped, fox hunted and been trail ridden and will do just about anything. Image, a bay Arab is about 10 and in the process of being trained by Pat and is on the way to being GREAT!!! Pat was helping a friend with being county coordinator when she quit horses altogether. The job fell on her. Pat is also a member of the LOMH and secretary for the CMSC.

Howard County Update

The Wassermann's took me on a ride through the proposed Benson Park, we left from their home off Tridelphia Road and crossed over the Feagas farm to access the park. This will be the next county park that the county will be looking at. It has a well maintained network of trails that are a pleasure to ride. The area has many horse farms and we hope to be able to keep this park open to riding. There is planning for a golf course but at this point nothing is sure.

The boundary lines for the Western Regional Park are almost complete. The Park service is buying the tools needed to make the trails. I am hoping I will be able to mark the trails soon. With the strong opposites against the trails I want to be sure I mark park property only. Sadly Mr. Autor turned down my request to have riders present at the first opening ceremony, he did state we could be present at the final dedication.

Keep riding - Pat Olivia
Howard Co. Coordinator

TROT RIDES 2006

Agricultural Farm Park Ride, Sunday, April 1

Deneen Martin

On April 1, 2006 the kick off ride for the season was at the Agricultural Farm Park in Derwood Maryland. The weather was predicted to be rainy but our luck held and it was perfect. The participants included Jacki Edens, Sharon Cappeluti, Nancy Harmon, Pat Talbott, Susan Huntt, Chris Canassa, Marilyn Miller, Elisa Harvey, Jean Cooper, Kyle Jossi, Deneen Martin.



We broke into 2 groups in order to ride two sides of this open, rolling and grassy park. This is the same park that will be used for the Judged Pleasure ride on June 3, 2006, and many people were anxious to see the sights and take in all the great obstacles the Ag Park has to offer.

The two groups met after a few hours of riding to eat lunch, unfortunately, we had an escapee horse and the lunch hour was cut short. With the horse recaptured and everyone waiting, it was decided that it would be a good idea to reconvene the ride to another time.

We all had a wonderful start to the season and look forward to riding The Ag Park again because of the exquisite scenery and wonderful trails. Thanks to all who attended.

[For all Ag Park pictures click here](#)



Paint Branch Ride, Sunday, April 30

Mary Prowell

The weather was beautiful for the TROT Paint Branch Ride on Sunday. The skies were blue, the birds were singing, the trees leafing out and the wild flowers blooming. It couldn't have been a nicer day. Eight of us took advantage of it. Dennis and Barbara Webb came with Rose, two of their Icey's and a friend-Judy-to ride one of them. Mona brought her App using this as a trail training ride. Jacki Edens brought her Icey mare. The rest of the group was our president, Priscilla Huffman on Mickey, Terry Ledley with the ever-steady Snuffy, and me as the leader on my little Arab, Chip.

Terry split from the group to enjoy the scenery at a slower pace with Linda Davis walking on foot with her for a short distance, they both rejoined everyone back at the trailers for a bag lunch.

The group trotted and cantered along the easy trails in the Paint Branch and then crossed under Fairland road in the river and rode through Valley Mill to the parking area on Randolph Rd. After a brief pit stop we headed back to the trailers with the usual canter/hand gallop around and up the Fox Hills at the end and back to home base. Linda took



lots of very nice pictures and every one seemed to enjoy the day even though there were some minor misadventures with a bumpy trail and a horse that was feeling too good.

[For all Paint Branch pictures click here](#)

Rocky Gorge Ride, Saturday, May 20

Terry Ledley

The weather was glorious, bright blue sky, little breeze, perfectly comfortable with a light sweat shirt. Eleven riders showed up at the boat ramp parking area at Supplee Lane on the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, where Bob Ledley provided pre-ride doughnuts and juice. Susan Railey and Bev Fax opted to go with Barb Sollner-Webb on a medium fast ride, and Larry and Jeanne Pieper, Marty and Barbara Wasser-

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man, Priscilla Huffman and Denis Webb chose to join me, Terry Ledley, on a walk in the woods. Our very special guest was my granddaughter Johanna Ledley who was in town from Boston for a special family event, and joined our ride. What a joy to ride with your granddaughter. The fast group made a little detour back to Bev's house at the far end of our ride for Bev to change horses. She and Priscilla



actually rode to the start of the ride and back afterward, so that they traversed the ride length twice. Priscilla says she rode for 6 hours. One added perk on this ride was that the mountain laurel was in bloom. We try every year to make this connection. All the horses behaved beautifully and everyone had a really nice time.

For all Rocky Gorge pictures [click here](#)

OLNEY DAYS PARADE BEST APPEARING ANIMAL UNIT

Kyle Jossie

Many thanks to everyone who showed up for the Olney Days Parade on Sunday, May 21st. (Al and Vickie Coleman, Jackie Edens, Elise Hardy, Barb and Denis Webb, Susan



Gray-Caruso, Deneen Martin, Pat Talbott, Kyle Jossi, and Sandy Boyd and her granddaughter, Morgan.) It is so



important for TROT to have a presence in the community and this was a perfect opportunity. We were able to show off the diversity and versatility of our organization with three Icelandic Horses, a Fjorde, two quarter horses, two walking horses, a thoroughbred, a warm blood, and a flashy paint. There were both English and Western riders.

The horses were very well behaved despite all the commotion, fire engine sirens, several very loud antique



tractors, and some dancers in costumes that any sane horse would recognize as a huge monster!

We were inundated with kids and adults wanting to touch the horses. It gave us the opportunity to talk about TROT and about our efforts to preserve local trails. I hope as an organization that we will take advantage of other opportunities to get out into the community with our horses. Perhaps one day the homeowner we ask for permission to ride through their property will be the parent of a child who pet his first horse at the parade.

Special thanks go to Linda Davis who took some magnificent photographs. Those pictures were available on the internet the next day. She was also very gracious about scooping up after some of the horses in the Safeway parking lot.

For all Olney Parade pictures [click here](#)

FROM THE TRAIL RIDE COORDINATOR

Our list of Trot members willing to serve as guides for specific trails has grown. If you are interested in a personalized introduction to a trail, please contact one of the following people to set up a trail ride:

Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville, MD. Contact Karen Kraushaar at kraushaar@verizon.net or 301-208-0767.

Paint Branch, Savage Mill, Patuxant River and Annapolis Rock. Contact Mary Prowell at 301-829-7709 or Boprow@aol.com.

Patuxent State Park, Rachel Carson, Rock Creek Park. Contact Laury Lobel at 301-774-9595 or laurylobel@verizon.net.

At the May Trot meeting held in Frederick, several members from the Frederick area expressed frustration at the lack of trails in their area. If you are from the Frederick area and know of existing trails that riders have permission to use, please contact me (phone or email) and I'll put that information in a future newsletter.

I would love to hear from you if you are willing to be a guide for a specific trail for Trot members. Also, I am still looking for leaders for organized TROT rides, especially for late July, anytime in August, early September, and anytime in October. I can be reached at 301-570-3860 or bossyjossi@netscape.com.

Contact the ride leader to reserve a space on the ride and for information about time and parking. All ride participants must be TROT members, membership forms will be available at the ride for non-members. The start time and meeting location of rides are specifically not listed. Please call the ride leader for this information. Riders must present negative Coggins. For general questions about TROT Trail Rides, contact Kyle Jossi, Ride Coordinator at 301-570-3860

Saturday, June 3rd, TROT Judged Pleasure Ride at the Agricultural History Farm Park, Derwood, MD. See entry form on page 5-6. Any questions contact Marilyn Miller at (301) 898-7274

Tuesday June 6th, Board Meeting at Woodlawn Manor, Corner of Norbeck and Ednor Roads, Sandy Spring, MD 7pm
Contact Deneen Martin at (301) 253-2955. Please join us.

Saturday, June 17th (rain date June 18th) Union Mills. Carroll County, north of Westminster. The pace will be mostly walk and trot, 2 ½ - 3 hours. This trail is very hilly so be sure your horse is in good shape. Contact Helen and Curt Meadows at 410-346-6730.

Wednesday July 5th, Board Meeting at Roy Rogers, Route 26, Frederick, MD, 7-9 pm Contact Pat Merson 301-898-32512. Members and guests welcome

Sunday, July 9th Patapsco River Valley. Ride from the League of Maryland Horsemen, Marriottsville. Led by Anne Moe. Relaxed pace. Contact Anne @ protem@juno.com or 410-781-4165. Ride the beautiful Patapsco River Valley at a leisurely pace for about 2 ½ hours and return to the League grounds for a brown bag lunch. Call or e-mail Anne by Wednesday, June 7 if you plan to attend. If you leave a message, be sure to leave your phone number as well as your name, and the number of people you are responding for. New requirement: If you are a League member, please display your membership card on your dash. If you are not a member, write "guest of Anne Moe" on piece of paper and leave on your dash. And of course, don't forget your Coggins. Wet weather and/or bad parking conditions may cause the ride to be cancelled—if it looks questionable, a go/no go decision will be made by 7 a.m. Sunday.

Saturday, August 12th, Catocin Park, Frederick County. Led by Marilyn Miller. Parking for only 6 trailers so contact Marilyn early. There is the possibility of going to Cunningham Falls instead if the trail repairs are completed (unlimited trailer parking.) Contact Marilyn Miller at 301-898-7274

Saturday, September 23rd. Introduction to Woodstock Equestrian Park in Beallsville, MD. Led by Karen Kraushaar. Mostly walking with the possibility of a faster group and short canter. Contact Karen at kraushaar@verizon.net or 301-208-0767.

Saturday, November 11th. College Park to Ft. Lincoln. Led by John Angevine. 301-937-0014

Horse Health & Disease Prevention Seminar

Internationally recognized equine researchers and industry leaders will be giving presentations on equine related topics such as identifying illness in horses, controlling infectious diseases, myths and facts about equine vaccinations, and disease prevention measures at the first annual Maryland Horse Health and Disease Prevention Seminar. This one day event will be held on Thursday, June 8, 2006 starting at 2:00 pm in the afternoon.

The seminar will be held at the Laurel Racetrack and will also be broadcasted to four other satellite locations throughout the state using Centra Web Conferencing technologies. These satellite locations include Chesapeake College (Wye Mills, MD), Western Maryland Research and Education Center (Keedysville, MD), Harford Community College - Higher Education Center (Aberdeen, MD), and College of Southern Maryland (LaPlata, MD). Veterinarians, trainers, horse breeders, horse owners, and anyone involved within Maryland's equine industry should not miss this opportunity to learn about these important topics. All attendees will receive conference proceedings, dinner, and the opportunity to ask questions of all of our experts. Please visit our website at www.equinestudies.umd.edu/Extension/health2006.html for more details.

For additional information please contact Kristen Spahn at 301-405-1392 or kspahn@umd.edu.

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Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission M-NCPPC Trail Workdays Update

Volunteer workdays have been scheduled on the Muddy Branch trail in the next couple of months. They are currently as follows: June 17, July 1, July 8, July 15.

Please contact the new trails volunteer coordinator, Ben Sugar, if you can join one of these workdays. They are lots of fun and we get a tremendous amount accomplished

Ben Sugar
Trails Volunteer Coordinator
Countywide Park Planning/Resource Analysis
MC-MNCPPC
(301) 650-4395

SOUTHEASTERN TRAILS CONFERENCE

AUGUST 3-5, 2006
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

The Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC), an annual conference, was formed to address issues that concern equestrians and land managers pertaining to the use of trails. Land-use planning, trail sharing, environmental protection, trail design, education, and the preservation of the use of horses on our American landscapes are topics that will be discussed at the Conference.

This year's theme of "Working Together for Trails in a Changing Environment – Collaborative Adaptive Management of Trail Systems," will focus on the importance of collaboration between trail users, managers, and scientists in all phases of trail planning, construction, maintenance, and data gathering, including deciding how partnerships can be developed to get work done.

Two members of the TROT Board, Marilyn Miller and Deneen Martin, will attend the conference this year. Last year's attendee, Pat Oliva, raved about the amount of information that she gathered on sustainable trail construction and brought back a wealth of materials which she shared with Board members.

Here are some of the areas that will be covered this year:

- Ø How to work with land managers
- Ø How to foster long-term communication between equestrians and agency personnel
- Ø Constructive steps riders can take to protect trails
- Ø How to form productive partnerships with other trail users
- Ø How to handle trail issues
- Ø How to get funding for horse trails
- Ø Trail design and construction
- Ø Great places to ride in the Southeast

The cost of the conference is \$150. For more information, visit the website: <http://www.southeasternequestriantrails.com/>

Or contact the Virginia Horse Council office at 888-467-7382 <http://www.virginiahorsecouncil.org/>

The conference is hosted by the Virginia Horse Council in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, The Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, and the Virginia Horse Industry Board.

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TROT Judged Pleasure Ride

Open to the public

The Date: June 3, 2006
The Time: Registration opens at 10:00 AM, closes at noon
The Place: Agricultural History Farm Park
18400 Muncaster Rd, Derwood, MD 20855
The Fee: \$27 per horse/rider Post entry \$32
The Rules: Hard hats required --and-- Current negative
Coggins test required

What is a "Judged" Pleasure Ride?

TROT's Judged Pleasure Ride is approximately 10-mile. Each rider may proceed at his/her own pace; there is no time limit. The trail is well flagged with surveyor's tape, and safety riders with radios patrol the course until all riders have returned.

Along the trail are set 10-12 stations, each announced by a paper plate sign with the station's number. At each station is a patient and kind volunteer who is spending his/her entire day sitting at that spot watching you ride by. (Please thank them on your way through!) Each station is designed to provide some type of trail obstacle one might conceivably encounter on a pleasure ride anywhere in Maryland.

How the rider and horse negotiate the obstacle is judged. In the past, obstacles have included a wooden bridge to walk across, a bag of trash to throw in a trash can, and a lawn ornament cow standing beside the trail.

Each judge has been instructed on some general points to look for, as well as particular actions either good or bad specific to that obstacle.

For a good score (7-9 points), a judge would look for the horse that willingly waits its turn at the waiting place (a paper plate sign announcing the next obstacle), proceeds through the obstacle or chore with attention to its job (ears pricked, looking where its feet are going), and whose rider is cheerful, confident, and patient with his/her mount and proceeds through the obstacle with forethought and safety.

Directions to Agriculture History Farm Park

From Frederick 1-70 towards Baltimore take exit 68 MD27 to Damascus turn left on Main St which turns into SR108 follow 108 turn right on Muncaster Rd to park entrance on right

From Baltimore 1-70 towards Frederick, take south Rt 97 turn right onto Brookeville Rd bear right on SR108 turn left on Muncaster Rd to park entrance on right

From I-270 take east Shady Grove Rd turn right on Muncaster Mill Rd turn left on Muncaster Rd to park entrance.

The Prizes: Oldest horse, Oldest rider, and Youngest rider; Champion and Reserve Champion according to highest scores, 1st-6th place ribbons for each class (see Entry Form for Class List). Also, this will be the 6th year for the Irving Abb Memorial Trophy to go to the Ride's Champion.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Bring water for you and your horse and a picnic lunch.
Questions? Call Ride Manager Marilynn Miller
Wet trails? Call for cancellation Information
Phone 301 898 7274

Please send :

Entry form (1 for each horse/rider entered)

Entry fee of \$27 (make checks payable to TROT).

Copy of each horse's negative Coggins test to:

Marilynn Miller

9327 A Gravel Hill Road

Woodsboro, MD 21798

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(____) _____

e-mail _____

Rider's Age _____ Horse's Age _____

Please circle the TWO classes you wish to enter, one for the rider and one for the horse (next page).

For the Rider: **circle one class**

1. Junior (riders under age 18)
2. Novice (adults who've never placed in a Judged Pleasure Ride)
3. Open (adults)

For the Horse, **circle one**

- A. Quarter horses

B. Arabians and Half Arabians

C. Thoroughbreds, Appaloosas & other Registered Horses

D. Ponies of all breeds

E. Gaited Breeds (Tennessee Walker, Missouri Fox Trotter, Rocky Mountain, Paso, Saddlebreds)

F. Grade (no particular breed)

G. Novice (Horse has never placed in a Judged Pleasure Ride)

I understand that horseback riding is inherently a dangerous sport, and I agree by my signature that I will not hold Trail Riders of Today, its representatives, or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources State Parks & Forests liable for any injury or damage I or my horse or equipment may incur while participating in this competition. I also agree to abide by the rules of competition as provided by the ride management. **I agree to wear a Hard Hat while mounted, as required by ride management.**

Signature _____

Date _____

Guardian of Junior Rider _____

Date _____

April 2006 MHC Trails and Greenways Meeting at the LOMH

What did over 100 equestrians do on the evening of April 5th?

They attended the first annual Maryland Horse Council's Trails and Greenways networking meeting at the League of Maryland Horsemen (LOMH) in Marriottsville MD. The Red Hat Riders provided a demonstration of Equestrian Camping and gave tours of their living quarters horses trailers as the crowd braved chilly weather in the campground. The trailers ranged from very large to a 2-horse bumper pull and outfitted van, demonstrating that camping with your horse doesn't necessarily have to be elaborate. There were lots of options on all the rigs.

Following the camping demonstration, members of TROT, Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, Southern Maryland Trail Riders, Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse, Plantation Walking Horse of MD, and the Volunteer Mounted Patrol joined League members in the clubhouse for the meeting

Maureen Boskin, VP LOMH opened the meeting by explaining the importance of all the trail riding clubs working together and encouraged everyone who signed up to participate in the upcoming "Invitational Weekend" at the League as a great way of making new friends and getting connected with other trail riders.

Peggy Bree explained that the Maryland Horse Council formed the Trails and Greenways committee to create a statewide network for the preservation of equestrian trails. The Trails and Greenways committee fosters communication between various horse groups, and tonight's networking meeting was an important part of building that communication. Peggy stressed that there is no mythical "Trails and Greenways" committee that works to preserve trails for you, but that every trail rider and every trail riding club is part of the Trails and Greenways committee.

Peggy said the Trails and Greenways committee works when we help each other by sharing information about trail problems and solutions. To facilitate this exchange of information, there is an on-line Trails and Greenways group for clubs and trail activists, and a second on-line group sponsored by TROT for individual trail riders interested in sharing information about trails and trail rides. The Equiery also publishes news articles and information about the activities of the Trails and Greenways committee, and you can pick up a free copy in tack shops.

Mary Dakis, LOMH Membership, gave a brief report on the LOMH's history and the activities they offer their members. The LOMH currently has 1,700 members in 12 states and 24 new members joined during the meeting.

Priscilla Huffman, Trot President, introduced the TROT board members attending the meeting. She discussed how

TROT originated and is dedicated to trail preservation. She provided a list of TROT rides and membership applications. Sponsored rides are for members, however new members can join before a trail ride.

Gail Brodt-Clark from the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center in Ridgley Maryland spoke next. They sponsor various fundraising events; jousting, barrel racing, trail rides, hayrides and Outlaw Days. Camping is for members and event participants and the nominal fee goes exclusively to trail maintenance. Gail also mentioned that other trail groups, especially mountain bikers, have trail workdays and they encourage equestrians to participate. IMBA (International Mountain Biking Assn) is providing them a great deal of assistance in planning to repair several badly eroded trails in Tuckahoe State Park.

Jaquie Cowen from the Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club spoke on their various activities. They do work on trail preservation, sanctioned shows, mounted patrol, trail rides, and parades. The club is open to all breeds and offers help transitioning from straight to gaited riding.

Sandy McCann from the Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland explained how their club started in the early 80's to help the then small number of gaited horse owners share information and riding skills.

Pat Oliva reported that the American Endurance Riding Conference sent her on a four-day seminar on trail planning for sustainable trails. The seminar covered trail lay out, construction, maintenance, and crew direction. She reiterated that the best thing to do is to maintain existing trails, as new trails require impact studies, precision mapping, and excessive planning.

Ken Wolfskill spoke on his Horse Comforter Camp in Appomattox VA. It opens June 23-24 and the sites will have electric, water, and pens. They will have monthly weekend campouts.

Janet Breeding from Carroll County Equestrian Center, a part of Carroll County Government, explained that they are not a riding club. The Center is strictly for county trail preservation and fund raising events. The county website has maps of all county trails.

Lee Moser is a volunteer with the Trails and Greenways committee and he mentioned the need to circulate petitions to support the Maryland Horse Park.

Peggy thanked everyone for attending and making the meeting a huge success. The League treated everyone to donuts, coffee, and soda after the meeting. The room buzzed for the next hour with people making new friends, joining trail riding clubs, and making plans for trail rides!

New Members

We welcome the following new TROT members

Patty Aitken
7201 Fish Hatchery Road
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Clarksburg, MD 20871
(301) 391-6796
wtlea6@aol.com

Diane L. Ayers
653 Sandy Hill Road
Severn, MD 21444
(410) 551-0832
dianeayers@cablespeed.com

Gregory Auger
9 Eagle Ridge Court
Bethesda, MD 20817
gauger@usamgmt.com

Kerry Bingham
3697 Singleton Terrace
Urbana, MD 21704
(301) 366-8364
kerrylynn80@yahoo.com

Sara Erdle
26601B Mullinix Mill Rd
Mt Airy, Md 21771
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Patsy McDonald
12 Timothys Green Ct.
Baltimore, MD 21208
(410) 653-3060
pmdonald@comcast.net



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7/17 -7/21 , 8/21 -8/25
- Group/Guided Trail Rides
- Birthday Parties
- Team Penning
- Driving Lessons

Karen Sipkov
240-994-8204



Road Riding & Traffic Safety

by Mary Hamilton, Rider's Elite Academy, Inc.

Even in rural areas there is no question traffic levels are increasing. Worse yet, people are driving faster and often distracted by cell phones and a hectic lifestyle. Most motorists are not educated about horses. I have experienced driver's blow their horn, release their air brakes with a loud "psssttt" and even shoot my horse with a slingshot as they drove past. Clearly, these drivers had no idea how dangerous this was for the horse and rider. How can you increase your safety while road riding? These three safety concepts, "be seen", "be safe" and "be aware" help you prevent an accident.

Be Seen - Bright, reflective clothing for the rider is a must when road riding. Reflective leg wraps, brow bands, breast collars and stirrup bars make your horse visible from all four sides. I highly recommend attaching a LED safety light to your saddle or person. These inexpensive blinking red lights were designed for bicyclists and work well for the rider, too. The intermittent flash of the light attracts a driver's attention. These items make you more visible to drivers.

Be Safe - Before venturing out onto a roadway, ask yourself, "Am I ready?" Are you a competent rider, capable of handling a problem on the road? Evaluate your horse. "Is he reliable and road ready?" Has he been desensitized to the noise and movement of traffic? If not, invest in his education. Find the time, a trainer or a clinic to help prepare you both for road readiness. When crossing a roadway, select a safe spot to cross. View every bend in the road, intersection, crest of hill or construction zone as a hazard. Choose an area to cross where approaching cars are easily seen and heard.

Stop ... before crossing the road. Get your horse's focus and full attention before asking him to cross. Use all your senses. Be aware of everything going on around you. If you are riding in a group, wait until everyone is ready. Then cross as a unit, walking single file. Keep the "herd" intact for safety. Never try to stop traffic to cross.

Look ... all ways. Check both directions for oncoming traffic. Check in front to what's ahead and behind for any potential hazards. Look at the road surface to assess its footing. Mailboxes, flags or garbage tossed in ditches could startle your horse. Evaluate what you see to determine whether this is a good location for you to cross.

Listen ... for approaching cars. Engine sounds give you clues on what type of vehicles are approaching and the speeds they are traveling. Pay attention to where your horse is listening. They use their ears to focus on sounds and may hear something before you do.

Be Aware - Rider tension and nervousness is transmitted to your horse. If you anticipate a problem and tense up every time a vehicle approaches, your horse will too. Relax and stay cool, calm and centered for your horse's benefit. He looks to you for confidence and leadership.

Be aware of road surface dangers. Asphalt roads can be very slippery especially when wet. Gravel roads with large

stones can cause "stone bruises", tender footedness or your horse to stumble. Riding on these road surfaces require special shoeing considerations.

When you choose to ride on a roadway, select one with minimum traffic levels, lower speed limits, good solid footing and a wide shoulder. This gives you maximum response time and room to maneuver when you need to. To make your ride as safe as possible, remember to "be seen", "be safe" and "be aware".

POLICE STORY

There are over 234 million registered motor vehicles in the United States today. Sharing the road with them can be dangerous. While horse versus car accidents aren't common, they can have tragic results. Even when the rider does everything right, inattentive or impaired drivers can pose a danger on the roadway. One of the most horrific accidents I've seen involved just that. The driver was focused on the rider wearing reflective clothing and failed to see the second rider who was not. The vehicle hit the second rider from behind, causing both horse and rider serious injuries. The rider was thrown from the horse on impact. She sustained many bruises and broke her back in several places. Her recovery was long and painful. Her experience made her an advocate of wearing helmets and reflective clothing when riding.

Mary Hamilton is a Mounted Police Instructor who has worked in Law Enforcement for over 20 years. She is a certified riding instructor through the American Riding Instructors Assn. Corporal Hamilton has studied Mounted Police techniques by attending the Mounted Police Colloquium in Lexington, Kentucky, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Seminar in Ottawa, Canada and the Post Mardi Gras Competition in New Orleans. She is the Safety Expert for Horse'n Around and Southeast Equine Magazines. She has combined her knowledge, experience and creativity to produce two wonderful Sensory Training Videos that you can use at your own pace to train your horse

For more information about Mary Hamilton or her products please visit Positively Riding! at www.positivelyriding.com or email riderconfidence@hotmail.com Positively Riding! is an authorized distributor of Rider's Elite Academy products



Catoctin Mountain

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Catoctin Mountain Park



Volunteer Trail Workdays

In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks. ~

John Muir



What do we gain when we walk in the woods? Some walk to increase physical stamina while others walk to replenish the soul. Regardless of the reason, Catoctin Mountain Park offers miles of therapy throughout the four seasons. Each year over a million feet pound our trails, taking the benefits that nature provides and unfortunately, leaving their mark as a worn path. Hiking, skiing and horseback riding provide far more than we seek, but maintaining the trails, protecting the landscape and giving the gift of nature to others provides instant and long- lasting gratification.

Individuals, families and groups are invited to join us for one or all of the 2006 Trail Workdays designed to maintain and improve trails in Catoctin Mountain Park. Tools and equipment are provided. Enthusiasm is more important than experience. Each project offers opportunities to learn more about National Park Service Trail Maintenance Standards, the job of park rangers, to keep your favorite trail in top condition, or just spend quality time with people who feel your passion for Catoctin Mountain Park and the outdoors.

Please join us:	9:00 A.M., Saturday, May 20 at the Blacksmith in Camp Round Meadow. This month's trail project will be a general trail clean- up, removing downed trees and fallen debris,
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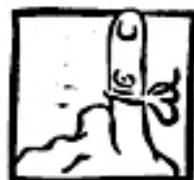
For your Safety and Comfort:	Please dress for the weather! Sunscreen and insect repellent can protect you from some of nature's unpleasant side effects. Long pants and sturdy shoes are a must.
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There is no refrigeration available, so please pack non- perishable foods if you are staying through lunch. Don't forget to bring plenty of water.

To learn more:	Call Ranger Don Stanley at (301) 663- 9388 or write: Catoctin Mountain Park, 6602 Foxville Road, Thurmont, Maryland 21788.
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Don't Forget:	Trail Workdays are held on the third Saturday of each month except August, April through September. Please mark your calendars for the following dates in 2006:
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- June 17
- July 15
- September 16



Workdays start at 9:00 a.m., meeting at the blacksmith Shop at Camp Round Meadow where the group will plan strategy and gather tools for the day's project. Projects vary from month to month and will include work on both the hiking and horse trails. Please call Don Stanley at (301) 663- 9388 for detailed information on upcoming projects.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please e-mail to ptalbott@insuranceservices.com. Classified ad: \$6.00 for first 100 words, \$1.10 for each additional word, business card: \$6.00, 1/4 page ad: \$25, 1/2 page ad: \$40.00, Full page: \$75.00 Insert (all copies delivered to our printer): \$50.00

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FLASHY BLACK & WHITE GELDING: 1 blue and 1 brown eye, 15.1 hands, 12 yrs. old, easy keeper, goes English and Western, great trail horse, jumps 3'6", friendly, great manners, trailers well, up to date on all shots and farrier, \$4800 (240) 320-4385.

SOLID-BONED, BAY GELDING with three really nice gaits, should mature to about 14.3 hands. Adopted as weanling in 2004 & given top quality care. Leads, ties, trailers, stands well for grooming and foot care. Easy keeper & should be kept barefoot. Lunges, long lines, and started under saddle. Highly intelligent and a fast learner but very green, needs a rider working with a trainer. Will be great trail horse, eventually could compete at the lower levels of almost any discipline. Want to recoup expenses; not looking for a profit. Only for sale to a horse lover and great long-term home. (410) 798-9094

WANTED TO BUY: A quiet, well broke Quarter Horse gelding for pleasure riding. Should be serviceably sound, 7 years old, and 15.2 or 15.3 hands. Call: Alan Ungar (301) 340-1392 Email: alanungar@alanungar.com

SAVE YOUR TACK! As you are riding this summer, remember to keep our TROT annual silent auction in mind. If you have clothing or tack that you are no longer using, please hold onto it and use it for a donation next February at the annual dinner.



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