



Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *from Maria Schwartz, TROT President*

Is Spring really here? Is my horse really under all that hair? Where should I move the manure pile? Can I survive my allergies? These are the kinds of questions that the avid trail rider asks just about this time every year. One question that we have put to rest is whether we should hold the TROT Annual Dinner and Silent Auction later in the year - moving it from late February to late March. This year, we postponed the dinner with the impending snow and sleet (and that turned out to be the right call). Our March dinner was well attended and we got positive feedback on holding the dinner later in the year. So, next year, look for the annual dinner to be held in late March/early April.

There are so many activities coming up that involve our trails – clearing, building and riding on them, and learning how to face the obstacles that we often encounter on them. Please make sure to read through the entire newsletter which is filled to the brim with useful information about these activities.

We are planning a National Trails Day celebration on June 6 by partnering with Carroll County Equestrian Council in clearing and refreshing the trails at Morgan Run in Carroll County (meet at Ben Rose Lane). There are already so many planned rides scheduled. Check to see times and locations and call the ride leader to “make your reservation” and get all the details you will need to participate. While you’re at it, also think about leading a ride this year and contact our new Trail Ride Coordinator, Deneen Martin, with your information. And last but not least, on June 20th (rain date June 28th), we are having an obstacle clinic this year at Ebb Tide Stables instead of a Judged Pleasure Ride. This will be a fun, no-pressure event, where you can work with your horse to overcome any fears he may have, as he moves through the scariest kinds of obstacles one is likely to encounter on any trail. Great training! Free to TROT members!

I hope that you will mark these activities on your calendar and join your fellow TROT members for the camaraderie and fun! And afterwards, don’t forget to get back

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COME TO TROT's "TRAIL OBSTACLE CLINIC" Saturday, June 20 – see article below!

WELCOME TROT'S NEW TRAIL RIDE COORDINATOR BY SIGNING UP TO LEAD A RIDE !

TROT thanks Deneen Martin for kindly agreeing to become TROT's new trail ride coordinator. Deneen is known to many of you as a long-time trail advocate who recently became a board member, and the person to thank for making the cool table centerpieces at the recent Annual Dinner. To encourage her for taking on this important position mid-season, please help her to line up rides by offering to lead one this summer or fall, at 301-467-5335 or <deneenmartin7@msn.com>. Leading a ride is fun, easy and rewarding, and a generous way to show fellow TROT members your favorite riding venue. Give it a try!

GO GREEN ON YOUR TROT NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Are you a TROT member who gets the newsletter sent by US mail (with pictures in black and white) but might prefer to get the e-mailed version -- that has full-color pictures? Please contact our membership chair, Pat Talbott (at <pattalbott70@gmail.com>) to change TROT's records.

from the newsletter editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from p 1)

to our newsletter editor, Barbara Sollner-Webb, with your stories of clearing and riding on your favorite trails, as well as camping locally with your horse. This is a great way to share your experiences – good and bad – with other TROT members who are looking for places to go and things to do with their beloved four-legged friends.

Let the fun begin. Happy Trails!

TROT's "TRAIL OBSTACLE CLINIC" – FREE!

from Jeff Dwyer, Ebb Tide Stables

TROT and Ebb Tide Stables welcome you to a non-judged pleasure ride (or "trail obstacle clinic") on Saturday, June 20 (rain date Sunday, June 28). This is an exciting new event for TROT -- a no-pressure version of a judged trail ride. It should be ideal for all levels of trail riders: Great for novices to learn how to negotiate trail obstacles in a safe, encouraging environment. Great for experienced riders who want to perfect their skills. And great for all in between.

Riders will go out in small groups, encouraging each other to traverse obstacles in this 8 mile trail ride. It includes water crossings, logs, bridges, challenging terrain, other natural trail hazards and spooky man-made ones. Hoof protection is not required; helmets are. First riders go out at 10 AM.

Free to TROT members! \$21 for non-TROT members (who could just join TROT for \$20). **But do register ahead on TROT's website (www.trot-md.org) to get your start time.**

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL DINNER!

from Priscilla Huffman

In spite of having to be rescheduled, TROT's 35th annual dinner on March 21, 2015 drew a record crowd of about 110 members and guests. The event was held at the Mt. Airy Fire Hall in Damascus, Maryland. Thanks to a tireless group of volunteers, and a bounty of pot-luck offerings, the dinner was a great success. As always, there was lots of networking, catching up on trail and horse news and picking up some good bargains at the silent auction.

Maria Schwartz, TROT President, thanked the officers and board who served in 2014 and reviewed key accomplishments.

We were honored to have **Ross Peddicord**, Executive Director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board, attend our meeting. Ross took a few moments to update everyone on activities of the MHIB, and reviewed a poster of the new Maryland Trails draft brochure which includes a comprehensive list of the riding trails in the state and stables which offer guided trail rides, as well as tips on safe trail riding.

Chris Ferland did lots of behind the scenes work in tracking silent auction donations, and with the help of **Susan Railey** and **Judy Thacher**, the auction, along with TROT logo clothing, grossed \$1,300. **Jacque Cowen, Pat Oliva, Deneen Martin, Amy Kimble and Susan Gray** were a big help with the auction set-up.

Jean Cooper created six unique gift baskets this year for
[continued on p3]

[photos from the Annual Dinner are from Dick Huffman, Debby Poole and Barbara Sollner-Webb]



ANNUAL DINNER (continued from p 2)

our drawings and 15 lucky members and guests won the very beautiful centerpieces created by **Deneen Martin**. **Susan Ferrera** ordered the sheet cakes, complete with TROT logo. Our horse treat handouts were all created by **Pat Talbott**.

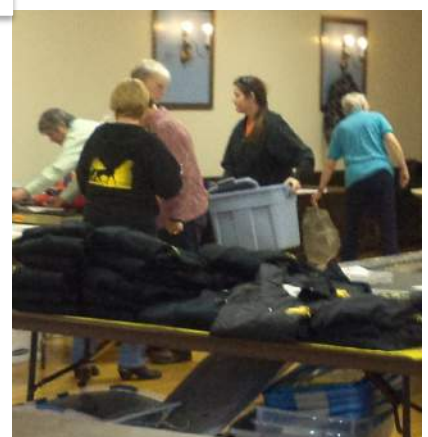
Our guest speaker was **Madison Iager**, Miss Maryland High School Rodeo Queen. Madison is becoming an accomplished speaker, and shared photos taken from her various appearances around the country in rodeo events, representing Maryland as our high school rodeo queen.

Members voted in four new board appointees: **Dana Grabiner, Susan Gray, Deneen Martin**, and **Gale Monahan**. Three board members are retiring from the board: **Jean Cooper, Priscilla Huffman** and **Jenn Poole**.

Many volunteers helped with both set-up and clean up, and ensured a smooth, successful and fun event, including: **Joyce Bell, Sharon Benz, Dan Benz, Jean Cooper, Cathy Diamond, Chris Ferland, Susan Ferrera, Ingrid Gentry, Dick Huffman, Priscilla Huffman, Amy Kimble, Kyle Jossi, Janet MacNab, Ron MacNab, Deneen Martin, Br. Roger Nelson, Pat Oliva, Susan Railey, Margaret Scarff, Maria Schwartz, Sim Shanks, Pat Talbott, Judy Thacher, Art Thacher, Barbara Sollner-Webb**, and **Denis Webb**. Thanks for a great team effort!

We also want to give a great big "Thank you!" to everyone who donated articles for the silent auction. This includes so many generous TROT members who donated merchandise, TROT members **Jeff Dwyer of Ebbside Stables** and **Jacquie Cowan** who donated horse training and evaluations, as well as the following kind businesses: **Bartley Trailers in Ashton, Gambrills General Store, Maryland Tack in Sykesville, Stablemates Tack Shop in Mt Airy** and **Patricia Dane of the Stitch Factory**. Thank you to all of these great TROT supporters!

We welcome your suggestions on how we can make the annual dinner even better. Please send any comments to <priscillahuffman@verizon.net>.



UPCOMING TROT TRAIL RIDES

We welcome Deneen Martin, TROT's new trail ride coordinator! Come out with us to enjoy a TROT trail ride, and ideally also sign up to lead one. Either way, TROT trail rides are fun and a great opportunity to learn new trails, meet other TROT members and maybe meet a new trail riding buddy.

To participate, please **contact the designated ride leader to sign up and learn the specifics of the ride, including the start time**. Also, that way, if a ride is postponed or cancelled, the ride leader will then have your information to notify you. Also, check the website for the most current ride information.

All ride participants **must wear a helmet, have a current negative Coggins for the horse, and be TROT members**. Membership forms will be available at rides or you can join online. Note that one-day TROT memberships are available at the ride for \$5 to encourage non-TROT riders to join. Also, if you need a ride to a TROT event or can offer one, please email Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>) to be listed in an upcoming newsletter. Or contact the ride leader to see if someone from your area can offer a ride.

Hopefully some of the weekends not listed in the calendar below will be filled in -- including with a ride that YOU will offer to lead. Ideally some will be on Saturdays and some on Sundays; weekday rides are also most welcome. As noted above, to lead a ride, please contact Deneen Martin at <deneenmartin7@msn.com> or 301-467-5335.

PLEASE CHECK TROT'S WEBSITE (<www.trot-md.org>) FOR MORE RIDES THAT MAY BE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED!

Saturday, May 23 - Upper Patuxent (from Long Corner Rd) Leader: Mary Prowell <Boprow@aol.com>

This will be a walk/trot/canter ride with multiple loops so different people can go different distances. We will first do a 3-4 mile loop from the parking along Long Corner Road at the bridge over to the Howard County Hunt Club and back. People can quit back at the trailers after this loop if they like. Then I'll go down from the bridge to Mullinex Mill Road, another 1.5 miles or so. People can ride back on their own since this is a one-way trail if they don't want to go farther. Then I can do the Mullinex Mill loop over to Rte. 94 and back (3 miles) and then back down the one-way trail to the trailers. To manage all this (about 10 miles for the full

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ride), it is a walk/trot/canter ride. This month we are doing this ride is probably the best for people to see these trails because there can be lots of bugs later in the summer and there is hunting in the fall. Please note that 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, as spaces are limited. Also, because the traffic is fairly steady along this road, it is not the best place to have a lunch afterwards.

Seeing these trails should be especially interesting because there are plans that have been the subject of articles in recent TROT newsletters. Specifically, these trails have been proposed for improvement by MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts -- an off-road biking group) who has financed an assessment of the trails. Many of them are currently eroded and slow. Following acceptance of this study by the park officials, volunteers from this bike club -- along with TROT's Amy Kimble (see photo under trail work section) -- have started this work in the Mullinex Mill loop. They have already marked a proposed trail (or trails), and after the park agrees with the route, trail construction is to start, probably in June. Volunteers will be most welcome.

Saturday, May 30 - C&O Canal at White's Ferry
Leaders: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, <lavenderlady19@verizon.net>) and Barbara Sollner Webb

Ride along the historic towpath, where mules once pulled barges along the C&O Canal lock system. The Potomac River scenic waterway meanders on the other side. The towpath is wide, but there will be bikers, hikers, and strollers. We will have an all-walk, a walk/trot, and a walk/trot/canter group. Shoes aren't necessary except for tender-footed horses, and the ground is level. We will be jointly riding with FIRC, our Icelandic friends. Bring your chair and goodies for a getting-to-know-you fun pot-luck after the ride!

Saturday, June 13 - Schooley Mill Park

Leaders: Debby Poole (<debby.poole@juno.com>, 301-641-8594) and Jennifer Poole

There will be all-walk and walk/trot groups, but overall this will be slow paced ride of about 2 hours, to get the horses used to getting out in a different place with a group. Great for starting a young horse or for those that like to putter around. Schooley Mill Park offers a wonderful ring for schooling if you want to come early or stay after. Easy to park your trailers. Also offers a good sturdy mounting block. For

[continued on next page]



Horse and riders ready for a TROT ride, gathered before splitting into riding groups

most horses, shoes are not needed. Rolling hills, woods and long meadows. **There are picnic tables, so if you'd like to bring something to share, drink, a snack or lunch, that would be fun!** Schooley Mill Park is at 12975 Hall Shop Road, Highland, MD 20777 (Howard County); see www.howardcountymd.gov/schooleymillpark.htm.

Monday, June 15 - Schooley Mill Park

Leader: Debby Poole (debby.poole@juno.com), 301-641-8594)

There will be an only all-walk version of the ride listed immediately above (on Saturday, June 13), for those of us who are retired. Again, the ride will be about 2 hours, and bring along something to share, for a lunch afterwards. These Schooley Mill rides are perfect for your first trail ride!

Saturday, June 27 – NCR (North Central Railroad)/Torrey Brown trail in Freeland MD

Leaders: Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, lavenderlady19@verizon.net) & **Barbara Sollner Webb**

This is a joint ride with FIRC and a new ride for TROT, on another treasure in our Maryland trail system that riders should get to know. The NCR trail, a lovely hard-pack dirt rails-to-trails, is over 20 miles in Maryland, from just north of Baltimore to the Pennsylvania line and then continues another 21 miles to York, Pennsylvania (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. 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. Talk to the ride leader whether we will have a pot-luck lunch (bring a contribution) or stop at a nearby great restaurant (where there is parking in the shade, for the horses).

Saturday, July 11 – Agricultural Farm Park

Leader: Laury Lobel Laurylobel@verizon.net

Please join us for a trail ride at the Ag Farm Park in Derwood, one of the best venues for riding in Montgomery County. Although the leader will do an all-walk-ride, there will be plenty of opportunities for those who wish to trot and canter to move out and return to the group. There will be a couple of wooden bridges, and a tunnel to go through. A potluck will follow the ride. Bring your chair and drink, and a side dish or dessert to share.

Thursday, August 20 - Rachel Carson

Leader: Laury Lobel 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. The park is
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relatively small, so the ride will be between 1 ¼ hours to 1 ½ hours. It will be a walk-only ride. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks and dessert will be provided. RSVP early because there is limited parking so the group is limited to 6 rigs.

Saturday, Sept. 12 – Ride beautiful Reichsford Farm! (Ijamsville, Frederick County; rain date

Saturday, Sept. 19) Leader: Joy Fernon
(www.reichsfordfarm.com), 240-674-4825)

Please join us for another TROT first, a ride at Joy Fernon's lovely Reichsford Farm. This is a perfect ride for green or inexperienced horses, as the terrain is gently rolling and grassy. Don't forget to bring your chair & goodies for an after ride social. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Saturday, Sept. 26 – Fairland Park (rain date Sat. Oct. 3)

Leaders: Barbara Sollner-Webb (bsw@jhmi.edu), 301-604-5619) and **Jenn Poole**

We will be repeating a lovely ride that we had for the first time in many years last fall, along the scenic Fairland trail. These are great trails that too few riders know about and use. More to follow in the next newsletter.

Saturday, October 31 – Rosaryville Halloween ride

Leader: Laura Colicchio
(lavenderlady19@verizon.net), 301-856-7540)

This will be our last joint ride of the season with FIRC, and Laura Colicchio again will be our hostess. We will be riding through Rosaryville State Park, with fall foliage that should be spectacular, followed by a lunch. More info to come.

Saturday, November 7 - Ocean City Beach ride!

Leader: Diana Urick (410-528-1818) More later!

Saturday, November 14 - Anacostia Park Ride

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

A favorite TROT ride to close the 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 and strollers.

Saturday, December 12 - Lisbon X-MAS Parade

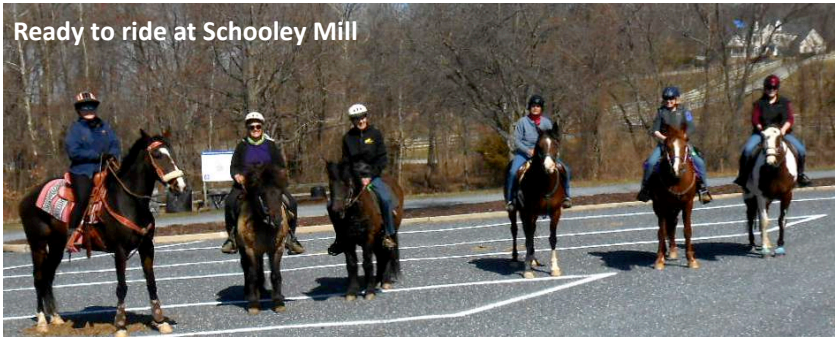
This is so much fun! Get into the spirit; dress up yourself and your horse to ride there. More info to follow.

RECENT TROT TRAIL RIDES

So far this year TROT had five WONDERFUL rides:

First, at Schooley Mill Park: Debby Poole organized a most enjoyable all-walk ride on Thursday, April 2, to get us retirees on our horses again, after a too long winter. It was a swell outing, fun company, beautiful weather, and a nice pot-luck lunch afterwards. Schooley Mill is a great place to ride, with pretty, easy trails through woods and fields, good footing, also a terrific riding ring, swell parking, a sturdy mounting block, and even fake "bridges" on which to let horses practice their skills. [Debby and Jenn Poole's planned ride there on Saturday, April 4th (so also the gainfully employed could attend) had to be cancelled due to bad weather predictions.]

Ready to ride at Schooley Mill



Some of the riders at Schooley Mill



"Bridge" practice at Schooley Mill



And lunch at Schooley Mill

[ride photos from BSW]

Next, our annual ride at North Tract (in Anne Arundel County): On Saturday, April 11, 20 people came out for this ride (which I led). We had three different speed groups, so everyone could enjoy these very nice trails at their desired speed, cruising through woods and fields. Afterwards was a delicious pot-luck lunch, where people out-did themselves with yummy contributions.

The spectacularly sunny day was very much appreciated after a lot of cold rain the previous days. It was perfect to highlight a great virtue of North Tract -- that its trails were designed for military tanks (back when the land was Fort Meade's), so are absolutely fine for horses to ride without damaging them, no matter how soaked the ground is. [Make a note of this, as a good place to ride when it is too wet to ride your local trails.]

Relaxing after lunch at North Tract



Horses of all sizes came to North Tract



One of the groups of riders at North Tract

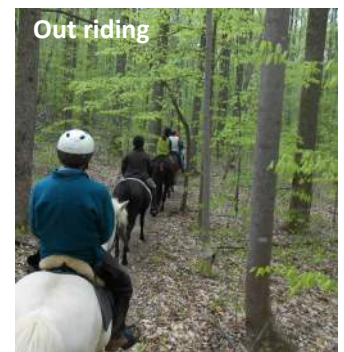


Spectacular ride at Rosaryville Park: On Saturday, April 25th, we had a marvelous ride at Rosaryville Park, which is southwest of Upper Marlboro. It was led by Laura and Tony Colicchio and is the first of several joint rides that TROT will have this year with FIRC, the area Icelandic Horse club. It may have been TROT's first ride at Rosaryville -- a spectacular venue with great trails. We all enjoyed seeing the very pretty blooming wisteria and cheery trees (see photos). The ride started with seven in the all-walk group and only three in a faster group, but during the ride the walkers must have gotten jealous of the fun we in the faster group were having, that one by one they joined us.

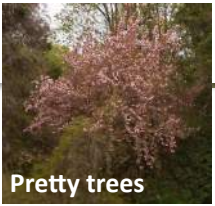
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Ready to start the Rosaryville Ride



Out riding



Pretty trees

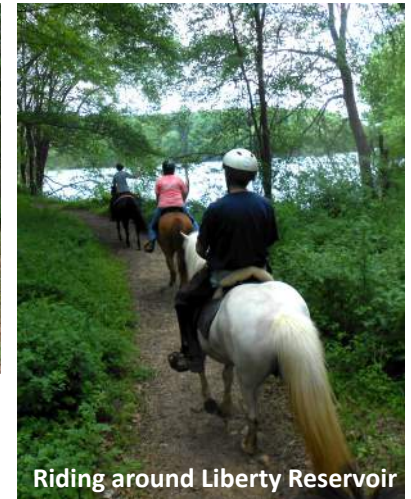
until by the second half of the ride all ten riders were having a blast, cruising at a trot/tolt along those lovely serpentine trails. Laura is a swell leader. After the ride, Laura and Tony generously treated us to a hamburger/hot dog cook-out, as part of a yummy pot luck luncheon. More TROT/FIRC rides are coming up.

Fantastic ride at Liberty

Reservoir: Two weeks later, on Sunday May 10, Mary Prowell led a delightful ride at Liberty Reservoir (in Carroll County). The weather had looked dicey but turned out perfect -- enough sun to be very pretty; enough clouds to not be too hot. There were only four riders, but that worked out great, and we had a lovely, congenial ride, alternately all talking together while walking and then going faster. The reservoir views are very nice, the footing was great, and we enjoyed stopping at a pretty place for lunch along the way. Mary always leads super rides, knowing where it is fine to go faster and where the footing or a downed tree makes it better to walk.



The riders at Liberty Reservoir



Riding around Liberty Reservoir

Fun Rocky Gorge Ride: As this newsletter was already almost finished, 13 TROT members (9 riding) came out for a great ride on WSSC's Reservoir land-buffer (in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties) on Saturday, May 16. Terry Ledley -- for whom WSSC had named this trail -- led an all-walk group; Denis Webb and I led a group with trotting and cantering. Near the end of the ride, we stopped at our house for a yummy pot-luck lunch. Despite threats of rain, the weather was great -- much appreciated, since last year this ride was rained out four times before finally having a sunny one. We were joined by three folks for whom this was their first TROT ride -- including a youth TROT member, Kelsey Bray. She, Jenn Poole, Stephanie Brennan and Janet Whelan well-served TROT's goal of incorporating younger riders. Yay!



Ready to start the Rocky Gorge Ride



New youth TROT rider, Kelsey, appreciating that WSSC just cut this and other trees for us

Planned Cape Henlopen ride in Lewes, Delaware: This cool sounding beach ride was to be a first for TROT, but unfortunately, illness in the ride leader's family prevented our participating. It was organized by Southern Delaware Therapeutic Riding, Inc. to help special needs children. Maybe we can try to do it again next year?

If you missed these fun rides, see the list above for upcoming rides to join -- some perfect for all riding levels!

TRAIL WORK REPORT

Starting trail work at Patuxent River State Park

As reported in the March TROT newsletter, Amy Kimble was asking for TROT volunteers to help in reconstructing the trails at Patuxent River State Park. Good parts of these trails had been severely eroded and/or inappropriately aligned, so MORE (the mountain biker group that Amy has worked closely with for many years on trail reconstruction) and other user groups financed a study of these trails. The park officials have recently approved their suggested trail construction – which needs lots of volunteers to proceed. Thus, the call for volunteers – please let Amy know when you can spare time to help. Below is a photo from Amy, when she worked with Tom Newlon and Shan of MORE, flagging the future trail, in the bad weather of March.



Trail work at Catoctin Mountain, Sunday, 4/12

from Amy Kimble

I organized a trail work day for TROT members on Sunday 4/12 at Catoctin Mountain Park in Thurmont and was joined by Winni Pryor (photo). Together we pulled and dug out Barberry pushes along the Equine Trail near the Owens Creek Picnic area off Foxville Deerfield Road. Please note that this park offers a patch for when you have done 10 hours of work there eradicating Barberry.



TROT's TRAIL WORK PLAN

Amy Kimble, TROT's "Adopt-A-Trail" coordinator, and the entire TROT board, encourages all TROT trail riders to do trail upkeep **WHENEVER** you ride (unless the particular venue might forbid it). This includes breaking branches that are invading the trail (or better, take along a clipper and clip them), also dismounting to move fallen branches or small downed trees that block the trail and reporting bigger obstacles that you can not move to the manager of the riding venue. These activities -- along with **NOT RIDING WHEN THE GROUND IS WET** -- are the best service that trail riders can do toward helping sustain our trails.

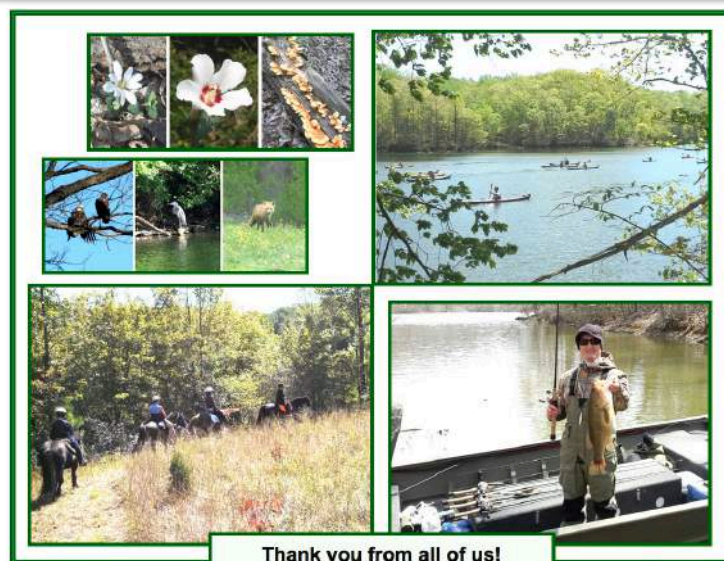
Please, after you do any trail work, report your hours to Amy Kimble (<AmyHkimble@aol.com>; 301-748-8310, call or text) – and this includes the branch clipping you do when out for your normal trail rides! These combined hours, that Amy tabulates and reports to the respective park authorities at the end of the year, are important in getting more support for trail upkeep by the parks and other riding venues.

National Trails Day is Saturday, June 6, 2015. As noted above in the message from TROT President, Maria Schwartz, please celebrate this important day by working on your own local trail or by Joining Carroll County Equestrian Council in clearing and refreshing the trails at Morgan Run in Carroll County (call Carolyn A. Garber at 410-549-5141 for the specifics).

For organized trail work through the season, consider joining the Carroll County Equestrian Council's great trail work sessions; see their calendar at <<http://www.carrollcountyequestriancouncil.org/Calendar.htm>>.

PHOTO COLLAGE FOR WSSC

A kind TROT member -- who insists on remaining anonymous – had a lovely idea of making photo collages of folks enjoying the WSSC reservoir land and give them to the WSSC officials who have supported the equestrian use of their magnificent trail. She had Ron MacNab deliver the photo collages at the April WSSC Commissioners' Meeting, and he did a super job. Adrienne Mandel, serving as Commission chair that day, expressed her great gratitude and said how nice the photos will look, either in her WSSC office wall or her home! This kind, anonymous TROT member also made collages for the WSSC crews who are so wonderfully keeping the trail open now, and they will be given out at an upcoming appreciation luncheon (see area reports, below, to join).



TROT'S 2015 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

from Judy Thacher

TROT's Youth Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that they received 24 applications for the 2015 Youth Scholarship, from nine counties in Maryland. The ages of the applicants ranged from 12-17. The Committee is currently reviewing the applications.

IMPROPER USE AT ELK NECK STATE FOREST

If you did not read the recent valuable posting from Ron MacNab (past TROT President) on MarylandTrailRiders about creation of unsanctioned trails reflecting badly on all of us and putting our riding privileges at risk, please read this.

Steve Carr, of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asked Ron to share with trail riders that horses are being ridden on trails that are not approved for horses and on rogue trails created without permission. They wrote about Elk Neck State Forest, where horse hoofs are damaging the Arboretum Trail (2400 block of Old Elk Neck Road in Elkton, MD) that is intended for ADA access and rogue trails are damaging an ecologically sensitive area (the non-tidal flood plain along Plum Creek). They will increase signage. [In the Elk Neck area, they instead suggest riding on the main gravel trails in the main tract of the forest off Irishtown Road or the Black Hill tract off McKinneytown Road, or at Fair Hill NRMA.]

But please take this as a warning, all trail riders everywhere, to follow the rules of where horses are not allowed. This is for many reasons, including that horses do not get banned from where they currently are allowed.

PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK TRAILS

information provided by Judy Thacher

On April 20, 2015, the Maryland Park Service held an open house to present draft concepts for a new "Trail Vision for Patapsco Valley State Park", looking 10-20 years in the future, but also a 5 year work plan for priority efforts. Most pertinent to equestrians, there was no mention of banning horses or increasing fees. Representatives from the League of Maryland Horsemen are collaborating closely on the project and reportedly are already working to reconstruct the washed out horse trail entrance on "League Hill". In the Park Service's draft plan, some more parking areas are suggested. Their major effort is to identify needed trail improvements, address current gaps in connectivity, assess resource impacts, highlight future needs and conservation goals, and better connect the park to neighboring communities. The goal is to develop a trail system for the Park that better meets the recreational needs of the 21st Century while also protecting the park's natural and historic resources. Descriptions of the park and draft concepts are available at <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/patapsco.aspx> and http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pdfs/pvssp_mckeldintrails.pdf.

PAT OLIVA - 2014 HALL OF FAME IN THE ENDURANCE RIDE CONFERENCE

kindly submitted by Mary Prowell

In a sport where simply crossing the finish line takes determination and grit, earning Hall of Fame honors in the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) is reserved for those riders and equines with true tenacity. Endurance enthusiasts from all over the country gathered in March in Reno, NV, to attend the AERC Annual Conference and national awards banquet where Pat Oliva, 78, was named AERC's Hall of Fame person. Pat has been competing in endurance riding for more than 40 years, with 21,495 lifetime miles on rides of 50 miles or longer. An inspiration to all who know her, the Woodbine, Maryland, septuagenarian completed 575 miles of endurance competition in 2014.

Introduced by one of the many riders Pat has mentored over the years, AERC Board Member Skip Kemerer, Pat took to the stage with her characteristic modesty and good humor. "I want you to know that it's because of all of you that I'm still riding," she said. "We race each other but in the afternoon, when the ride is over, we're all friends." Upon accepting her award, Pat encouraged her fellow endurance riders to "pass that kindness on to others." Known for her loud and frequent laugh, Pat rode the first-ever Old Dominion endurance ride, back in 1974, as well as the 40th anniversary ride in 2014. Her main mount over the past year has been Colonel Pepper, an 18-year-old bay Arabian gelding.



[Pat Oliva with
past TROT
President Ron
MacNab at
TROT's 2015
Annual Dinner]

UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON TROT ACTIVITIES

TROT website:

[<www.trot-md.org>](http://www.trot-md.org)

Harold Goldstein, Webmaster

TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

[<http://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):

[<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/join>](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/join)

Facebook page

TROT Trail Riders of Today

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

MORGAN RUN PORT-A-POT

information from Judy Thatcher

TROT has paid the rental fee for three months of a Port-A-Pot at the exquisite riding venue, Morgan Run. This, in partnership with other organizations, assured that the Port-A-Pot will be there from April until the end of October this year.

ANOTHER GREAT EASTERN SHORE RIDE: EXPLORE WYE ISLAND BY HORSEBACK

*kindly contributed by Joyce Bell,
TROT coordinator for Talbot County*

Wye Island's 2800 acre NRMA is located in Queen Anne's County 12.5 miles east of the Bay Bridge with easy access via Route 50 to Carmichael Road. With some 30 miles of shoreline, riders can enjoy riding paths with water views, take a trail to a magnificent 250 year old holly tree, follow the Ferry Landing Trail that tunnels under Osage trees on its way to a small beach at Drum Point, ride the 4.2 mile gravel road (or field edges) that bisects the island, or enjoy other trails (maps available for purchase at "<shopdnr.com>" for \$3 ea.) Being an island, you can't get very lost! There is equestrian parking with capacity for plenty of trailers.

Early November brings a week of Region III Field Dog Trials to Wye Island. Handlers and judges are on horseback -- walking horses being the mount of choice. Spectators, also on horseback, make up the "gallery" which stays behind the judges as the dogs track some of the 300 pheasant which are released for the competition. Two dogs go out at one time, and each dog is allowed one hour. A dog can cover half of Wye Island in 1/2 hour! Dogs are judged on stamina, speed and style. After pointing, a dog is trained to remain motionless until his handler rides up on horseback and fires his gun. Guests on horseback may ride with the gallery to watch this exciting event (call the park ranger for exact dates at 410-827-7577).

If time permits, plan on camping at nearby Tuckahoe Equestrian Center (detailed in a previous newsletter) to extend your riding holiday.



COOL ARABIAN HORSE

*kindly sent
in by TROT
member
Phoebe
Black*

photo taken at
the recent
Arabian horse
show in
Scottsdale, AZ

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Thank you for joining TROT!

Jacqueline Aaron	Howard County, MD
Karen Armstrong	Montgomery County, MD
Beairsto family	Prince George's County, MD
Bellerive family	Washington County, MD
Bildstein family	Baltimore County, MD
Stephanie Brennan	Howard County, MD
Brittany Burris	Howard County, MD
Shelly Church	Harford County, MD
Cimbaljevich family	York County, PA
Johnny Conner	Carroll County, MD
Crotty family	Howard County, MD
Inez Donmoyer	Carroll County, MD
Susan Doukas	Baltimore County, MD
Kathryn Dzakowic	Anne Arundel County, MD
Debra Footman	Maine
Dana Grabiner	Prince George's County, MD
Gray family	Baltimore County, MD
Hanlon family	Harford County, MD
Teresa Hansen	Prince George's County, MD
Hayward family	Harford County, MD
Randall Hulse	Carroll County, MD
Hurley family	Wicomico County, MD
Johnson family	Anne Arundel County, MD
Jeanie Kemp	Montgomery County, MD
Klugman family	Montgomery County, MD
Bonnie Kramer	Montgomery County, MD
Krohn family	Calvert County, MD
Marty Laham	Carroll County, MD
LeDane family	Anne Arundel County, MD
Gina Miller	Carroll County, MD
Nelson family	Charles County, MD
Nelson family	Calvert County, MD
Nae Pearson	Prince George's County, MD
Karen Rakitt	Montgomery County, MD
Larry Raskin	Howard County, MD
Reeves family	Harford County, MD
Regula family	Harford County, MD
Riazi family	Montgomery County, MD
Terry Richards	Montgomery County, MD
Tara Roberts	Prince George's County, MD
Ryan family	Carroll County, MD
Schofield/Meckelnburg family	Harford County, MD
Schuler family	Anne Arundel County, MD
Scully family	Baltimore County, MD
Sekula family	Anne Arundel County, MD
Brenda Senseney	Washington County, MD
Megan Shannon	Carroll County, MD
Sarina Shorey	Cumberland County, MD
Simmons/Tipton family	Charles County, MD
Patti Sobel	Prince George's County, MD
Carole Stitely	Frederick County, MD
Wee Bigger Farm	Carroll County, MD
Gary Wenzel	Howard County, MD
Debra Weston	St Mary's County, MD
Maria Wisgerhof	Prince George's County, MD

TRAIL ADVOCATES STAKEHOLDERS MEETING -- PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

information provided by Terry Ledley

The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation has initiated the planning process to implement a major recommendation of "Formula 2040: The Functional Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space" -- **to design a 400 mile trail system in Prince George's County!** With consultant team Toole Design Group, they will gather input from the public and stakeholders through a variety of ways including on-line tools, open houses and stakeholder meetings with key trail constituents.

You are invited to the Trail Advocates Stakeholder Meeting because of your interest and passion for trails in Prince George's County. The Stakeholder Meeting will be a forum to provide your ideas and insights, to help them formulate the recommendations in the Trails Master Plan for Prince George's County that will address the most salient public needs in the areas of trail development, partnership building, community enhancement and safety.

This Stakeholder Meeting will be May 27, 4:30-6 PM at 6600 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, MD 20737. To participate, please RSVP at http://www.mncppcapps.org/pgparks/outreach/dedication_rsvp_new.asp or contact Eileen Nivera, their Planner-Coordinator at Eileen.nivera@pgparks.com or 301-699-2522.

RABIES SCARE CLOSE TO HOME

from Susan Gray

Recently, when I went out to feed horses I found my 29 year old mare, Esprit, standing in a pool of blood with blood gushing out of a puncture wound in her leg. She had spent the night in the breezeway and on the sacrifice pad by herself and, after searching, I could find nothing in those two areas that she could have cut herself on. However, I did find bloody paw prints in the barn aisle coming from the breezeway, so she very well may have tangled with some animal overnight, possibly a raccoon or coyote based on the appearance of the prints.

Suffice it to say, in addition to trying to deal with the hemorrhaging wound, I was beside myself with the thought that she might have been bitten by a rabid animal. Given the craziness around here the last year, I was not sure when the horses had been vaccinated last.

After speaking with Art Thacher, my anxiety level went off the graph. Art pulled up the latest recommendations on managing livestock that have been exposed to a possibly rabid animal. While adult dogs only need to be re-vaccinated every 3 years, horses must receive rabies vaccine annually to remain protected. According to these recommendations, if a horse that does not have a current rabies vaccination is bitten

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by a wild carnivore or bat that is not available for testing, it is assumed that the biting animal is rabid and it is recommended that the horse be euthanized immediately. Although special exceptions to euthanasia can be granted on a case by case basis, they can be difficult to get and usually involve up to a strict 6 month quarantine of the animal.

Happily, as I found out from our vet that evening, all of our horses were vaccinated on 7/18/14—well within the vaccination time frame. The vet came out the following morning, checked Esprit's leg (which thank goodness was no longer bleeding and appeared to be healing) and gave Esprit a rabies booster, in accordance with the post-exposure treatment protocol for a currently vaccinated horse. Now we will just watch Esprit for 45 days to make sure she stays healthy.

*Comment by Art Thacher [a retired
infectious disease epidemiologist & County Health Officer]*

Rabies is an almost invariably fatal viral disease of mammals that is endemic in Maryland, the continental United States, and throughout much of the world. In continental United States the main reservoirs of rabies virus are bats, raccoons, foxes, coyotes and skunks. Rabies infections among terrestrial carnivores tend to occur in the same species within a given geographic area. In Maryland, and throughout the eastern states, that species is the raccoon. That is not to say that other animal species in Maryland don't contract rabies. Since 2013, rabies has been confirmed in dogs, cats, groundhogs, foxes, skunks, opossum, deer, livestock and, of course, bats.

Animals infected with rabies usually transmit the disease via their saliva which contains the rabies virus during the terminal stage of their illness. The most common means of transmission is a bite. Humans protect themselves from rabies by vaccinating pets and livestock because these animals are more likely to encounter rabies in the wild and, if they become infected, they may expose their owners. The fact that in Maryland rabies is most common in raccoons is particularly troublesome because raccoons have become accustomed to living in close proximity to people and their pets, which increases the risk of human exposure.

Vaccinating pets and livestock against rabies not only creates a "zone of immunity" around people but also provides another important benefit that is illustrated by Susan's recent experience. Animals that have an up-to-date rabies vaccination and are exposed to a known or suspect rabid animal usually only need to receive a booster dose of vaccine and then be watched for any signs of illness for 45 days. However, exposed animals that do not have a current rabies vaccination may have to be euthanized or, on a case by case basis, quarantined for up to 6 months with no direct human or animal contact.

Fortunately, Esprit has a responsible owner and a conscientious veterinarian looking out for her. For additional information on rabies control, see <http://nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesCompendium.pdf>

HELMET OR NO HELMET?

essay kindly contributed by Maggie Ryan

[Editor's note: TROT is delighted to publish the following essay that addresses a very important topic, in its entirety. It is written by a youth TROT member, a 16 year old from Manchester Valley High School. Maggie is in the 11th grade and is a member of High Ridge 4-H and Manchester Valley FFA. Her trainer, Candy Cole, suggested she submit this to TROT's newsletter.]

April 11, 2009 - Today was my first show with my new horse Pride. It was the perfect day, warm sunny and a light breeze blowing. The show was almost over and Pride had been acting perfectly! Pride is only 5 years old and we had gotten first or second in every class! I was so proud of him! Finally it was time for our last class. This class was egg on a spoon, a rather simple class, all you had to do was keep a golf ball on a spoon as you rode. Pride was being good and jogging around the ring as I was focusing on keeping the egg on the spoon. We were in the top corner of the ring and the ball fell off the spoon. Suddenly Pride took off like a bullet running full speed down the side of the ring. I tried to pull Pride back, but he would not stop. Finally, Pride came to a stop at the end of the ring, but I did not stop. I fell off Pride, my hip hitting first, then my shoulder. I rolled onto my back, then my head hit. I slid across the ground and under the fence. A little while after the fall I took my helmet off my head. The back of my helmet was completely shattered. My granddad says that it looked like a bomb went off inside of it. That could have been my head. I walked away from that fall with only a few scratches, but if I hadn't been wearing my helmet, that fall could have given me brain damage or worse. My helmet saved my life.

I have been riding horses for 9 years and one question that always arises is helmet or no helmet? Requiring a helmet while riding has been a long time discussion in the horse show ring and at home, and those on each side of the argument are passionate about their opinion. Arguments surrounding this topic revolve around three main points: personal choice of the rider, experience of the rider and tradition of the riding disciplines. Those against helmet use often say "It's my head; I'm willing to take the risk", "I'm a very experienced rider", "It's against tradition; I'll be penalized in the show ring if I wear a helmet" (Blocksdorf, 2015). I believe that helmets are needed. Helmets are specially designed for horseback riders and offer great protection.

Some people believe that having the choice to wear a helmet or not is important. Your head is your head and you decide whether to protect it or not when riding. To some, riding with a helmet is an unneeded inconvenience (Blocksdorf, 2015). They complain that helmets are hot and make their heads sweat. To them, the risk of riding without a helmet is smaller than the inconvenience of a helmet.

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Despite these arguments, many support the need for wearing a helmet while riding a horse. Yes, your head is your head and you can decide whether or not to take the risk, but what if you fall off and sustain a severe head injury? Who is going to take care of you? Your choice not only effects you, but also others. A study done in 2013 stated that 9% of all sport-related traumatic brain injuries were from equine activities (Geier, 2014). Hospital cost for a severe head injury can be costly, hospitalization can cost up to \$25,000 per day and on top of that, care over time can build up to \$3 million (Hale, 2007). You could lower, maybe even eliminate the chance of spending all that money by buying and wearing a helmet. Helmets can cost as little as \$30, this is just a small expense compared to the larger possible one. While your family and friends are caring for you and some of these expenses, what is your horse thinking? Your horse has no idea what is going on, no idea if you are ok. Right after I fell off Pride a nurse made sure I didn't have any serious injuries, and another more experienced rider got on Pride. The only injury I had was a sore hip but Pride didn't know that. Pride was terrified that I was seriously hurt. He was acting weird with the other rider and was visibly shaking. Pride did not calm down until he saw me. All Pride wanted to know was that I was ok. While the decision to wear a helmet seems like a personal choice; the decision to not wear a helmet has an impact on family, friends, and even the horse.

Another argument against requiring helmets in the show ring revolves around the experience level of the rider. Some horse riders believe after riding for a while riders gain enough experience to not fall off a horse or to know how to fall off and not get hurt (Blocksdorf, 2015). Only children or new riders need to wear helmets because they are learning and will probably be more likely to fall off (Hale, 2007). Experienced riders can evaluate the risk and know how to fall off or take an emergency dismount (Blocksdorf, 2015).

Even with the possibility of a severe head injury people think that they are experienced enough to ride without a helmet. Those who think this believe they won't fall off or know how to fall off well enough to avoid injury. A group of Alberta researchers found that those having 27 years or more of experience have reported more injuries or falls than those with less experience (Blocksdorf, 2015). Riders with more experience tend to take a harder fall than new riders which can lead to more injury. Even Olympic level riders need to wear helmets. Courtney King Dye was a top level dressage rider who represented the US in the World Cup in 2007 and 2008 and the 2008 Olympics (Courtney King Dressage, 2012). On March 3, 2010, Courtney was riding and the horse tripped and fell, and Courtney was crushed. She was not wearing a helmet during this fall and suffered a fractured skull (HorseChannel, 2010). Courtney was in a coma for 4 weeks and 3 months in rehab just to relearn how to speak and walk (Courtney King Dressage, 2012). This is a rider who competed at the Olympics where some of the most experienced riders compete, and she still fell. The horse only slipped, the rider had no time to prepare for the

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fall. A helmet needs to be worn by all riders, even the most experienced ones.

Most experienced riders also show horses competitively in various riding disciplines such as Western, English, and dressage. In these shows, show ring tradition is often closely followed. Its traditional to wear a cowboy hat for western, a top hat for dressage and a hunt cap for English. Most of these traditions have been around for centuries, and people believe they should not change now. These traditional outfits look perfect together, some people think helmets are ugly and will mess up the look.

Courtney King Dye wasn't the only top level dressage rider who rode without a helmet, most dressage riders do not use a helmet and compete wearing a top hat. This is because of traditional attire. Dressage has been around since 1532 and so has its attire. No one wants to break a 500 year old tradition, but Courtney's fall was a wake-up call for the dressage world. Some riders are even calling it their '9-11' (HorseChannel, 2011). On January 23, 2011, the USEF Board of Directors approved a helmet rule change that took effective immediately for dressage and eventing. The rule change stated, that anyone mounted at a US nationally rated show must wear an ASTM/SEI-approved helmet. Dressage and eventing are making the change, but western and American Quarter Horse Association(AQHA) riders are also beginning to change. While some western riders refuse to make the change because of tradition started by cowboys in 1865, Cowboys planned their entire outfit around protection. They left the tradition of tops hats for the more protective cowboy hat. Don't you think western riders would leave the tradition of cowboy hats for the more protective helmets? USEF President David O'Connor says, "If the technology is available to reduce head injuries, the time to use it is now," (HorseChannel, 2011). If you have ever seen an AQHA show you have probably noticed that very few riders wear a helmet; even in English riding you will tend to see hunt caps instead of helmets, but AQHA added a new rule that took effect this year. This new rule states that all youth riders will be required to wear an ASTM/SEI-approved helmet in all English classes, both flat and over-fences (AQHA, 2013). While this rule only effects a small portion of the AQHA riders, it is a step in the right direction that will hopefully continue to move forward.

The discussion of helmet or not helmet has been revolving around personal choice, experience of the rider and tradition. I can still visibly remember my fall off Pride 6 years ago, and the emotions of fear and confusion I felt. I believe that we should put aside personal choice, experience, and tradition for safety. Helmets are built to take most of the force so your head doesn't have to. There are plenty of helmet designs to match any riding discipline. I believe helmets should be required at all shows, for all ages. The technology to save lives is here; shouldn't we use it?



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CARROLL COUNTY UPDATE

from Judy Thacher, Carroll County Coordinator

On March 14, 2015 the 4-H Therapeutic Riding program of Carroll County hosted a tack swap at the Carroll County Ag Center. Maria Schwartz, TROT President, and Judy Thacher, Vice-President and Carroll County Coordinator, attended the event and staffed the TROT booth. [Photo below.] The event was well attended and the booth generated a lot of interest about TROT itself as well as the 2015 Youth Scholarship Program.

Judy and Kyle Jossi, TROT member, are looking at dates for the next Carroll County TROT meeting which, once again, will be held at Kyle's house in Sykesville.



BALTIMORE AREA UPDATE

from Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore Coordinator

On April 26 we held a clinic for the volunteer mounted patrol to practice for horse assessment. A day of obstacle training by Jim McDonald at Graham Equestrian center included the VMPs for Gunpowder and Patapsco as well. Fifteen riders attended. Another practice is scheduled for June 20, and the full assessment will be held in July. Several VMP members are taking a 2-day CPR class as part of their formal training for the VMP.

LAUREL/BURTONSVILLE AREA UPDATE

*from Barbara Sollner-Webb, and Jenn Poole,
area co-Coordiators*

The WSSC watershed maintenance group (in particular Jeff Bell) kindly came out to cut several downed trees that partly blocked the Rocky Gorge's trail that WSSC lets us use, in preparation for TROT's annual Rocky Gorge trail ride. Area riders will host our annual appreciation luncheon for our most helpful WSSC staff members, on a weekday date TBD, in June. If you might like to come, we would love to have you join; please contact bsw <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619.

Debby Poole and Jenn Poole will host the second annual pot-luck get-together for area riders, this summer, at a date TBD. To make sure you are on the list, please contact Debby Poole at <debby.poole@juno.com>, 301-641-8594.

SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

April 7, 2015 Meeting

summary and minutes by Nancy Osgood

The April 7, 2015 TROT Board meeting was held at the home of TROT President, Maria Schwartz.

Participants ["BD" = board member]: Maria Schwartz (President), Judy Thacher (VP), Nancy Osgood (Sec), Susan Railey (Treas), Jeff Dwyer (BD-via phone), Dana Grabiner (BD-via phone), Susan Gray (BD), Terry Ledley (BD-via phone), Deneen Martin (BD-via phone), Gale Monahan (BD), Sim Shank, Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Pat Talbott (BD-via phone), Diana Urick (via phone).

Treasurer's Report. Susan Railey gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted by the board.

Membership Report. Pat Talbott gave the membership report. There was much discussion regarding how to increase our membership numbers.

Trail Ride Report. Diana Urick discussed TROT trail rides, including a report of the successful ride at Schooley Mill Park. There was a discussion regarding seasonal limits on beach riding.

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Newsletter Report. Barbara Sollner-Webb gave a report and asked for contributions for the next (May) newsletter.

County Coordinator Reports.

-- **St. Mary's County.** Kathy Gloeckner's report stated that the formal citizens' advisory committee meetings for the Newtowne Neck State Park have concluded. The group developed three potential plans for the park, and then they will be presented to the public at an open house scheduled for June. Additionally, the DNR staff will hold a meeting with the parishioners of the neighboring church which is surrounded by park land for their input. Then DNR will conduct their internal review process and present the plan most suitable to the head of DNR this fall.

-- **Carroll County.** Judy Thacher provided the report. She and Kyle Jossi are looking for a date for the next county meeting. The Patapsco State Park public hearing is to be held on April 20. Equestrians, including TROT members, are encouraged to attend. There is a constructive close relationship between TROT and the Carroll County Equestrian Council.

Old Business.

-- **Trail Obstacle Clinic.** This event name aptly describes the non-judged event which is supposed to be a non-competitive and fun training opportunity for riders and horses. Entry fees were set so that non-members are given an incentive to join TROT.

-- **National Trails Day.** There will be a joint event with the Carroll County Equestrian Council.

-- **TROT Scholarship.** The committee will meet to evaluate applications. It is expected that there could be 10 applicants (aged 12-18 years old). *[Note: but there were 25 applicants!]* Each applicant will get a free TROT membership.

New Business.

-- The **2015 TROT budget** was reviewed.

-- **Legislative issues** were discussed.

Other Business

-- **TROT historical documents** should be consolidated in a single place.

-- **TROT Facebook page** postings should be limited to TROT related activities.

May 5, 2015 Meeting

summary and minutes by Nancy Osgood

The May 5, 2015 TROT Board meeting was held at the farm of Jeff Dwyer.

Participants ["BD" = board member]: Maria Schwartz (President), Judy Thacher (VP), Nancy Osgood (Sec), Jacquie Cowan, Jeff Dwyer (BD), Dana Grabiner (BD-via phone), Susan Gray (BD-via phone), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Br. Roger Nelson (BD), Jenn Poole, Sim Shanks (part time via phone), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Pat Talbott (BD-via phone).

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Trail Obstacle Clinic Farm Tour. Prior to the meeting Jeff Dwyer took people on a tour of the farm to see the natural obstacles that currently exist. Judy Thacher also brought obstacles for assembly which will be stored at the farm. Attendees: Jacquie Cowan, Laury Lobel, Nancy Osgood, Judy Thacher, Jenn Poole.

Treasurer's Report. Susan Railey was unable to attend. The treasurer's report was sent in electronically.

Membership Report. Pat Talbott read the report. So far this year 268 applications have been processed, with a total of 393 members.

Trail Ride Coordinator. Deneen Martin has taken over this position. Trail rides will be listed in the next Newsletter.

Trail Work Days. Amy Kimble is encouraging all TROT members to do work on their trails and report their hours to her, as TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator but she will no longer be organizing trail work parties.

National Trails Day (June 6). TROT's activity is a work party/trail ride at Morgan Run which was already organized by the Carroll County Equestrian Council, or for folks to work on their local trails.

Newsletter Update. Barbara Sollner-Webb gave the update, including a request to send her the final articles for the May Newsletter quickly, as it is late already.

County Coordinator Reports.

-- **Baltimore Area.** Priscilla Huffman sent in a report electronically, including news of the volunteer mounted patrol (VMP) and its planned horse assessment.

-- **Carroll County.** Judy Thacher reported that there is a discussion regarding if and where "Off the Road Vehicles" (ORVs) for Motocross can be located in the park at Union Mills. There is also a study being undertaken regarding the future use of trails in Patapsco, including the trails at the League of Maryland Horsemen.

-- **Laurel/Burtonsville Area.** Barbara Sollner-Webb reported that the Fairland park trails are in great shape. She has ridden the WSSC trails where the TROT ride will take place to ensure that they are properly maintained and WSSC has kindly come in to cut needed trees.

-- **General County Coordinators.** There was much discussion regarding the county coordinators, and how they can be used for following legislation. It was suggested that there be a meeting of county coordinators and potential coordinators which can be like a workshop where folks can learn to use their "horse" voice more effectively.

Old Business.

-- **Trail Obstacle Clinic.** There was a report of the farm tour with Jeff Dwyer, looking at various obstacles and several hundred acres for the clinic. There will be approximately 9 obstacles. There was considerable discussion about having clinicians participate and the possibility of inviting food

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vendors, to sell food at the event. *[Note, subsequent discussion led to a decision that this event will be simpler, free for TROT members to participate, with no clinicians and no caterers or other vendors – see article p 2.]*

-- **Trail Rides.** Barbara Sollner-Webb has list of rides for inclusion in the Newsletter.

-- **TROT Scholarship for Young Riders.** Judy Thacher provided an update on the TROT scholarship. There were 25 applicants who looked great, and 3 incomplete applications (the applicants have been notified that their application is incomplete). Judy has done a fantastic job, preparing notebooks for the committee meeting with applicants names redacted, and with weighting criteria. The applicants represented a wide geographical area. The winners will be provided the money immediately, but there will be a formal award presentation at a time/place to insure that TROT gets good media coverage, possibly at the State Fair in the fall.

New business.

-- Jeff Dwyer is concerned that the **TROT Facebook page** is not being used for TROT-related activities.

-- It was proposed that ride leaders should get a free logo wear item, both as an incentive to lead a ride and as TROT representation. The board approved this.

TRAILS ON PEPCO RIGHT-OF-WAYS?

The January, 2015 TROT newsletter described that TROT, in partnership with other groups interested in trails, filed a petition for more public access for recreational use on PEPCO's rights-of-way, should the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) approve a pending merger request of PEPCO Holdings, Inc. with Exelon Corporation. [Note, TROT did NOT take any stand on whether we favored or disfavored the merger.] At the PSC hearings, TROT and numerous citizens and elected officials testified in favor of granting such trail access (with especially strong testimony from Montgomery County Councilman Roger Berliner).

Very recently, the PSC approved the merger and specifically included as a condition a pilot trail project which had been requested. Specifically, condition 43 of the ruling (Case No. 9361) specifies that the "first pilot project will be a...trail...from Westlake Drive near Montgomery Mall to the Soccerplex in Germantown ("Bethesda-Dickerson Corridor"). Within four months [efforts are to be started toward] an unpaved trail between the Soccerplex and Quince Orchard Road". Together these should provide about 25 miles of trail. Their conditions further specify an intent to, in the future, expand trail usage on additional Pepco right-of-ways.

While this hotly contested decision is subject to appeals and the case is still pending in DC, it appears promising that in the not-too-distant future we may be legally able to ride our horses on some of the Pepco right-of-ways. [Unfortunately, there was no condition to expand the trail usage to BG&E right-of-ways.]

TROT LICENSE PLATES - ORDER YOURS TODAY!

from Susan Railey

Have you driven down the road and noticed TROT's beautiful license plate with a black horse and rider silhouetted against a yellow sun? Don't just admire everyone else's -- get your own.

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



CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an ad, email: bsw@jhmi.edu.

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

Non-member rates:

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

Pet sitting

Talisman Pet Sitting

Pat Talbott
Owner
301-704-3871

2 Horse trailer for sale

For Sale: ADAM 2 Horse Bumper Pull Trailer - Steel Frame Aluminum Skin Yulite "Build to Last". Call Ingrid 410-531-2374

Horse boarding - Circle E Farm, Sykesville, MD!

Full board is \$345 with 12x12 stalls, quality hay in slow-feed hay nets, age appropriate feeds, automatic waterers and overhead fans in each stall.

Field board is \$245 with shelters in large soil conservation fields, non-toxic pest control with fly predators and heated automatic waterers.

We have a blue-stone riding ring and are 1/2 mile from Morgan Run trails leading into Liberty Reservoir trails. Our barn boasts a heated bathroom, roomy tack room and lots of storage above the barn. Resident rodent control kitty on duty 24 hours a day!

We are a small farm with daily personalized care. We offer de-worming, blanketing and fly mask service. Geldings and mares pastured together. Trailering is available.

Please contact TROT member barn managers Donna Collins at 410-799-1814 or Carrie Cross at 443-618-4147 for more information.

TRAIL RIDING HORSE FOR LEASE?

I'm a new TROT member, recently retired and wanting to get back in the (English) saddle in June. Years ago, I rode the WSSC trails and miss it. Riding twice a week would be perfect. My preference is a barn within a half hour of Leisure World. I'm available late May. If you have a horse who is 15+ hands, would like more attention, enjoys trails and home-made oat cookies and carrots, please contact me so we can figure out if I'm the one. Your tack, please. Sharon Campbell, coopgirl545@comcast.net or 301-520-5526. Thanks!

WEEKDAY TRAIL RIDE TOGETHER?

Want to join me for trail riding during the week? (about 2 hour rides, walk-trot). We can meet at Montgomery County Agricultural Park or Rachael Carson Park. Mornings preferred (its cooler).

Contact Ellen Frank at icelandichorserider@yahoo.com or 240-997-9091.

LYME REMINDER

If you pull a small tick (a deer tick, no doubt; the kind that carries Lyme) off yourself and you either develop a large red area OR after a while get real achy and creaky-feeling (even with no red area), go to a Lyme-literate doctor. Should your symptoms abate with treatment (usually 3 weeks on doxy) you will know you did the right thing!

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to Terry Ledley, Judy Thacher and Denis Webb for proofreading this newsletter!

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

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Talbot	Joyce Bell	wbell2@washcoll.edu	(410) 820-6002
Wicomico	Shawn McEntee	smc1159@verizon.net	(410) 749-2665

[We are looking for a volunteer from Calvert, Howard, and Washington Counties in Maryland as well as from Virginia, West Virginia and Delaware]

TRAIL GUIDES

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

If you would be willing to show other TROT members your favorite trail, please contact Barb Sollner-Webb at bsw@ihmi.edu 301-604-5619

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

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

Breezy Loop (Boyd's, MD) an easy 75 minutes. Naomi Manders naomimanders0@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morgan Run Trails (Carroll County, MD) Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or smink.ivy@gmail.com

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

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

Patuxent River State Park (Montgomery County side, MD), **Rachel Carson Conservation Park** (Brookeville, MD), and **Rock Creek Park** (Montgomery County, MD and into DC) Laury Lobel (301) 774-9595 or laurylobel@verizon.net

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

WSSC's Rocky Gorge and Tridelphia Reservoir (PG and Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@ihmi.edu or (301) 604-5619

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



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY
TROT Membership
PO Box 506
Highland, MD 20777

Inside this issue:

- Upcoming: TROT Trail Obstacle Clinic – free for TROT members!
- TROT's Annual Dinner and Silent Auction (March 21, 2015) was a great success
- Upcoming TROT trail rides – do plan to come on some!
- Reports of recent great TROT trail rides
- Planning your trail work sessions
- Founding TROT member Pat Oliva gets big recognition for riding over 21,000 miles!
- Riding at Wye Island
- Your input needed on PG's plans for 400 miles of trails!
- A warning about rabies
- Helmet or no helmet? – a special contribution by a youth TROT member
- Progress toward getting trails on Pepco right-of-ways
- And lots more