



# Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use

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

And encourage your riding buddies to join, too!

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

## GET WELL QUICKLY, GALE!!

## SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

from Priscilla Huffman

Even though Mother Nature gave us a snowstorm in mid-March, TROT's 36<sup>th</sup> annual dinner drew a large crowd of 91 members and guests to the Mt. Airy Fire Hall in Damascus, Maryland. Thanks to a tireless group of volunteers, swell TROT members who joined in the festivities, 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.

Gale Monahan, TROT President, thanked the officers and board who served in 2015 and reviewed TROT's key accomplishments over the last year, and several of the TROT volunteers talked briefly about efforts they were coordinating for TROT. Janet Whelan was elected treasurer, Jean McKay secretary, and Pat Oliva as another board member.

We were honored to have Ross Peddicord, Executive Director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board, attend our meeting. Ross introduced the new Maryland trails 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. [See page 18 to give updates.]

As a follow up to the Visioning Session held Feb. 6, breakout sessions were held to further develop ideas for TROT's future. Please see these reports on pages 2-4.

Net proceeds from the silent auction and logowear were \$889. In addition to the beautiful centerpieces, we gave away six unique gift baskets. *[continued next page]*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

I hope this newsletter finds all of you out and about riding. For me, unfortunately, I made the mistake of ignoring my horse's behavior and ended up in the emergency room with a compression fracture in my lumbar area. I will be missing spring riding. The doctor said 8 to 12 weeks before I will be allowed to be on a horse again. Enough of that. Since I cannot ride and am stuck at home, I would like to hear from you, the membership. Please call or email (<[gale.email2@gmail.com](mailto:gale.email2@gmail.com)>, 301=854-3852).

## NEEDED: COORDINATOR FOR TRAIL OBSTACLE EVENT

from the TROT Board

The TROT Board is announcing a great opportunity for YOU to help TROT! TROT members really appreciated being able to benefit from our Trail Obstacle Event last fall, feeling it was fun and valuable, and asked it be repeated in fall 2016. That would be great, but we need volunteers to help organize and work on it. Please, if this sounds like a way you might be willing to give your support to TROT, call Gale Monahan (<[gale.email2@gmail.com](mailto:gale.email2@gmail.com)>, (301) 854-3852), to discuss possibilities and hopefully volunteer.

## ANNUAL DINNER – continued from page 1

Thanks again to the big team of members who spent the afternoon setting up the hall and to everyone who attended. Next year's annual dinner will be in March, 2017.



[yummy pot luck]



[Nancy Osgood and Laurie Lobel]



[Ron MacNab introducing the trail map]



[some of the volunteers]



[Gale and some volunteers]

## SUMMARIES of BREAK-OUT GROUPS on TROT VISIONING from the ANNUAL DINNER

Creativity, energy, and realistic dreams of TROT's tomorrow – that's what filled the planned after-dinner discussions at the March 19 annual meeting to follow up on the five focus areas that sprouted from the Feb. 6 Visioning Session: advocacy, education, membership, trail maintenance and trail riding.

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

from Jacquie Cowan

**Concept from original Visioning Session:** TROT can be a leader in state-wide advocacy for access to trails. This is accomplished through establishing liaisons with park management and government officials, including activism with law makers, and that requires membership involvement.

**Challenges to this that were identified in the Visioning Session are:** how to stay informed, how to stimulate membership involvement, and how to take a proactive approach.

**OVERVIEW OF THE SESSION AT THE ANNUAL DINNER:** An early inquiry about the recent Maryland Horse Council survey on Sunday Hunting showed that 75% of the attendees had not heard of or seen it, so we spent time catching up on the history and status of Sunday Hunting legislation. Questions were raised as to why TROT members had not received the survey via their TROT membership and if TROT members were effectively being cheated out of their opportunity to be informed and take action by not having been forwarded this important information and calls for action; since TROT is an association member of the Maryland Horse Council it should be the TROT Board's responsibility to forward such messages and collect data in order to properly represent our membership. This generated a brief discussion of the pros and cons of email blasts, which ended in an agreement that the group attendees wish to receive information in a timely manner, with an ability to opt out (as it typical with such messages).

A question was also raised about the liability of land owners when they allow trail riders to cross their land. Maryland laws support the land owner as long as they do not charge riders and do not intentionally cause or ignore potential hazards. We identified other threats of access to trails can be zoning and development.

A couple of our participants led a discussion on how important it is for all of us to be involved in the legislative process, being informed of movements and voicing their opinions to officials, both state and local.

Another question was raised as to how our 501.c.3 status affects TROT's ability to take action on legislative issues. I explained the role of the Maryland Horse Council Legislative Committee and the importance of TROT's membership to the Maryland Horse Council. And yes, it is permissible for TROT to take a position on issues and encourage our members to do the same.

#### OUTCOMES of our session:

- Agreement that information should be passed on to our membership in a timely manner via e-blasts, with ability to opt out
- Recommendation that Advocacy work with Education
- Request for a workshop on how to take grassroots action
- Suggestion for a summer picnic and semi-annual meeting

**[Advocacy tips will be in a newsletter closer to the next legislative session.]**





## Education: Part of TROT's Charge

from Dana Grabiner

TROT as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit actually is *required* to offer its members educational opportunities – an example of which is the trail obstacle schooling event TROT held last fall – so the education focus was a natural. Another example is the Scott Purdum clinic that Debby Poole organized for April 29 (but which was postponed due to the EHV-1 cases identified in Howard County where the clinic was to happen).

Participants in the Education Group proposed simple but valuable topics such as saddle fit, hitching and driving a trailer, using trail-clearing tools, choosing a trail boot, and first aid for the trail – all with a social component that members enjoy.

Participants identified a clear link between the Education and Advocacy groups and proposed that the two co-sponsor a session on “how to advocate for trails.”

As always, we welcome TROT members who would like to help organize these events. We especially invite our younger members – TROT's next generation of leaders! – to hone their planning and execution skills. Contact Dana Garbiner (<[grabiner1@aol.com](mailto:grabiner1@aol.com)>, 202-412-7548).



## Membership Group

from Priscilla Huffman

One of the focus areas identified in our Visioning Session was TROT membership – primarily, how do we sustain and increase our current membership to keep TROT a viable organization? Participants at the Annual Dinner break-out Membership group included Stephanie Gelfeld, Priscilla Huffman, Marcia Marshall, Nancy Osgood, Debby Poole, and Sim Shanks. Several constructive and innovative ideas emerged from the discussion:

1) **Trail riders who do not have a trailer of their own.** A good way to increase membership might be for those riders who do not have a trailer to buddy-up with someone who would be willing to trailer them. Since these riders tend to just ride around their farm property, there is no pressing incentive for them to join a trail preservation group. Being able to visit other parks would give them that level of interest and see the value of a TROT membership.

2) **Learn about the legal implications of trailering another horse/rider.** We could create a release/waiver to be signed. Another suggestion was to have an attorney such as Kathleen Tabor (<<http://www.ktaborlaw.com/>>) come to a membership meeting/educational seminar and discuss legal implications of trailering and other horse-related liability issues.

3) **Update the TROT website.** While there is good information regarding TROT's mission, there may be a way to better highlight it.

4) **Contact local barns.** Ask them to host an event, such as an obstacle event on their property. Tap into groups of trail riders that we may not be reaching. Get permission to leave TROT brochures at the barn.

5) **Develop a relationship with local 4-H groups.** These are our future trail stewards.

6) **Approach local tack stores** to see if we could put a simple table/brochure outside of their store on a weekend to introduce customers to TROT.

7) **Set up our TROT display** at local horse shows, emphasizing the importance of cross-training.

8) **Distribute giveaways** when we set up the booth, such as a TROT pen, to advertise the organization.

9) **Encourage barns to promote TROT** by offering inclusion in a section in the newsletter that would list the names and contact information for barns that participate or even hold a ride at their facility.

**Please volunteer to help lead the membership group's efforts!** The membership group came up with great ideas, but we need someone to lead this group now and to work with others in creating an implementation plan. Another alternative would be to become a self-directed work team that could meet by phone and work as a team. If you are interested in helping to grow our membership, please contact Gale Monahan at <[gale.email2@gmail.com](mailto:gale.email2@gmail.com)>.



## Trail Maintenance Group

from Lisa Troutman

We thought TROT should focus efforts on:

- Expand cooperative trail maintenance with other groups (MORE, Fox Hunts, League of Maryland Horsemen, DNR, others).
- Create a list of parks used by members including how well they are maintained and by whom, and identify a persons willing to work on that trail system and a work coordinator for reach venue..

[continued next page]

## Trail Maintenance Group – continued from page 3

-- Create a list of riders who use a trail system, including how often they ride these trails and whether they can be called on to help to clearing trails, and to advocate an Adopt-a-Trail-system. The goal is to keep riders' local trails clear with minimal travel.

More ideas from attendees:

- Should TROT have some (non-electric) trail clearing tools to lend out?
- Provide a picnic lunch at the end of trail clearing sessions.
- Work on erosion control on trails – work with DNR to re-route trails.
- Encourage riders to recognize the importance of "No Trace Left Behind." including removing all shavings/manure from trailer area. Not doing this creates ill will with other park users and the park service, and we need to earn respect with the park service.
- Anyone can clear trails/clip branches. You have to be certified to use a chain saw.
- Leave logs for bike riders/fox hunters. They like the logs!
- TROT could help volunteer with MORE events. They need judges in areas with limited access by car. We could ride in to a remote area to judge. This could be great training for your horse, help create a better relationship with MORE, and further cooperative trail clearing.
- Educate riders about what they can do! Encourage everyone to do a little each time they ride, to clip as they go.
- Remind everyone to send in their trail clearing hours to Amy Kimble to help TROT. If you clip about 1/4 of this time on a 2 hour ride, record 30 minutes. It adds up! This increases TROT's visibility with the park service and provides funds for the park.

## Trail Ride Group

from Deneen Martin

We had a lively discussion with Janet Buck, Leah Mack, Karen Rakitt, Jeanie Swartz, Hope Millington, Ronnie Martin, Carolyn Rhodes and Vicki Weyforth. We identified where we rode and those in the group that were near to each other made new friends. We discussed the need for more trail rides, how to interface better with members of TROT, and the rides. An email was sent to each participant of the Trail Ride group with information on how to contact either Deneen Martin or Barbara Sollner-Webb to lead and schedule a ride. A few suggested that next year at the Annual Dinner tables be set up according to areas that you ride (e.g., Little Bennett, Comus, Poolesville, Fairland, WSSC, etc.) so riders can meet fellow trail riders. Great suggestion.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO INGRID GENTRY!

information from Susan Gray

Also during the Annual Dinner, Susan Gray announced that long time TROT member and dressage judge, Ingrid Gentry, who retired from judging recognized dressage shows last year, was one of 15 officials recently selected to the United States Equestrian Federation's "Honor Roll of Distinguished Officials." According to the USEF, *"this award recognizes distinguished officials who have had outstanding and influential careers officiating at competitions. The officiating standards held by these individuals helped improve the quality of the equestrian industry and the competition ring."* In order to be recognized, the official must be retired from officiating and must have officiated for a minimum of 30 years. Congratulations, Ingrid!



## SCOTT PURDUM CLINIC POSTPONED TO FRIDAY, JUNE 24

from Debby Poole

TROT's Obstacle Clinic with Scott Purdum was postponed due to nearby cases of horses with active EHV-1. This clinic that Debby Poole had kindly arranged was to be at Schooley Mill Park, in Howard County. However, at Days End Farm also in Howard County, a horse showing atypical neurological symptoms was found to be positive for Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) and was put down. Another horse there also tested positive (see <http://equiery.com/howard-county-horse-tests-positive-equine-herpes-virus/>). On the advice of veterinarians and others to cancel or postpone the clinic until the threat of this contagious horses disease passes, Debby wisely decided it is better to be safe than sorry, and postponed the clinic. She has arranged a new date for the Obstacle Clinic with Scott Purdum at Schooley Mill Park -- Friday June 24th. All who had signed up to participate in the Obstacle Clinic were sent email notices. It is possible that this date change will result in some openings for others who may want to attend the clinic. Also remember also that it is **free to audit this clinic**, so you can come and learn about negotiating trail obstacles without charge. For information, contact Debby Poole at [debby.poole@juno.com](mailto:debby.poole@juno.com).



## UPCOMING TROT TRAIL RIDES

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

TROT rides are a great way to have fun, learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and probably most important for TROT's mission, see the virtue of preserving trails. But our calendar is still too empty from July through the end of the year. So please sign up to lead a ride by contacting Barbara Sollner-Webb (at 301-604-5619 or (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>). See Laury Lobel's article in the March newsletter about the value, fun and ease of leading a TROT ride. We hope to see lots of you on lots of rides this year.

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

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

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

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

Everyone is welcome, even encouraged, to announce our TROT rides widely and invite folks to join. However, when doing so, it is critical to include all the above requirements and not to add other information, especially not erroneous starting times. This is necessary to protect the integrity of our ride program.



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

### May

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

**Contact:** Terry Ledley (<[terryledley@aol.com](mailto:terryledley@aol.com)> or 301-520-3100)

**co-leader:** Barbara Sollner-Webb

Come join this ride along WSSC's beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir, celebrating TROT's efforts to get this trail reopened a few years ago. This ride starts in West Laurel about five minutes from the Rt 198 exit off I-95 and offers magnificent views of the reservoir, with a good chance of seeing heron and maybe an eagle. And despite the name, the footing is fine for barefoot horses, with plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses. Terry (for whom this "Terry Ledley Trail" is named) will lead a walk-only group, and Barbara a walk-plus faster group. After the 2 ½-3 hour ride, there will be a pot-luck lunch at the Webb's. Your pot-luck contribution will get ferried from the trailer parking area to there for lunch. [See article on this trail by Terry Ledley on pages 12-14 below, and another in the Sept 2014 issue.]



*from last year's Rocky Gorge ride*

#### **Thursday, May 26 - Rachel Carson Park, Brookville, MD**

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

Come and join us for a ride around Rachel Carson Park in Montgomery County. Because the parking lot has limited space, we are having this ride on a Thursday and limiting the group to six rigs. The park is relatively small, so the ride will be between 1 ¼ hours to 1 ½ hours. It will be a walk-only ride. Bring a chair and your lunch to follow the ride. Drinks and dessert will be provided. This is the ride that was to have been on April 28 but was postponed due to caution about the nearby EHV-1 outbreak.

#### **Saturday, May 28– Fairland Park, near Burtonsville. MD (this is the rain date of a rain-postponed ride)**

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

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

## June

### **Saturday, June 4 - Rosaryville State Park, southwest of Upper Marlboro, MD** *(this is a re-scheduled ride, after the earlier planned one was rained out)*

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

This will be a repeat of last year's delightful joint ride with FIRC (Frida Icelandic Riding Club) at the beautiful 982-acre Rosaryville State Park, southwest of Upper Marlboro, in Prince George's County. We will be riding through several lovely sections of the park. The terrain can be hilly but shoes aren't necessary. We will be riding from Laura's house that abuts the park, not from the main park parking area. The pace will be walk/trot/some canter runs, although we may be able to also arrange an all-walk group if there is an interest in that. And after the ride of about 2 ½ hours, Laura will be hosting a delicious Bar-B-Q, so please bring something for the luncheon and a chair.

### **Sunday, June 5 - Liberty Reservoir, in Carroll County, MD**

**Contact:** Mary Prowell ([<boprow@aol.com>](mailto:boprow@aol.com))

This ride will be a combination of a dirt fire road that goes around Liberty Reservoir and some woods trails that connect to it. The reservoir is a pretty place to ride, with views of the water while going through a mostly deciduous forest. Pack a lunch for a lunch break at a nice place along the trail. The pace will be walk/trot/canter. Depending on the number of riders, there may be a walk-only group. The footing is mostly good, although there are some rocks on the fire road, and parts of the woods trail are not well-used. There can be hikers, bike riders, and sometimes motor bikes on the fire road, so horses should be able to deal with those things. Plan to be out 2 ½ to 3 hours. Park off Deer Park Road.

### **Saturday, June 11 - Woodstock Equestrian Park, Montgomery County, MD**

**Contact:** Karen Kraushaar ([<kraushaar@verizon.net>](mailto:kraushaar@verizon.net) or cell 301-467-6433)  
**co-leader:** Marcella Morgese

Come ride the lovely well-groomed trails in this gorgeous and historic park in Beallsville, Maryland. General Lee and his Rebel soldiers encamped here on their way north to Gettysburg, and now these grounds have been preserved exclusively for the use of horses and hikers. Karen will lead a gaited-pace group (lots of trotting for ungaited horses), and Marcella will offer a walk-only group if there is a demand. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch after the ride.

### **Sunday, June 12 - Upper Patuxent (from Long Corner Road in Damascus, MD)**

**Contact:** Mary Prowell ([<boprow@aol.com>](mailto: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 go back to the trailers after this loop if they like. Then we'll go down from the bridge to Mullinix 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 we will do the Mullinix 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 ride), it is a walk/trot/canter ride. This time of year is good to see these trails because there can be lots of bugs later in the summer (could be buggy in June too if the weather is hot) 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. We will likely stop for a break on the Mullinix Mill loop where you can eat a sandwich if you care to bring one.

Seeing these trails should be especially interesting because plans for their improvement have been the subject of articles in recent TROT newsletters (July 2014, Jan 2016, July 2105; see also pages 14-16 below). Many of these trail sections are currently eroded and slow. But these trails are being improved by MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, an off-road biking group) which has financed an assessment of the trails. Volunteers from this bike club -- along with TROT's Amy Kimble -- have started this work in the Mullinix Mill loop, and TROT has helped finance a critical bridge study (see March 2016 newsletter). Trail construction should be this season, and volunteers will be most welcome; contact Amy Kimble ([<amyhkimble@aol.com>](mailto:amyhkimble@aol.com) or (301-748-8310).

### **Saturday, June 18 - Little Bennett Park in Clarksburg (Montgomery County), MD**

**Contact:** Leah Mack ([<1ecofarmer@gmail.com>](mailto:1ecofarmer@gmail.com))

It is great to again have a TROT ride here, which we have not had for several years. Come get to know this great park. Remember, this is the latest park in the area to offer equestrian camping! The ride will be 3-5 miles, leaving from the Prescott Rd horse trailer parking area. Much of the very pretty trail is only suitable for walking, but we can trot in a couple places and there is one place good for cantering. We can break up for that if some folks prefer not to canter. There is water for the horses along the trail. Tender-footed horses may want shoes or boots.

### **Thursday, June 30 – location to be determined. Location will be announced on the MarylandTrailRiders and TROT Yahoo list-serves and on the TROT website; walk-only with a brown-bag lunch afterwards.\_**

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

## July

### **Saturday, July 9 – Woodstock Equestrian Park, near Poolesville. MD**

**Contact: Janet Buck (cell 973-768-1599); co-leader: Marcella Morgese**

We will begin at the Moritz Greenberg Equestrian Center Main Entrance off Rt. 28 and stay on this side of the park. We ride along the edges of soybean fields to the Greenberg Challenge Loop, and the Stone Barn Loop and back. The trails are scenic, mostly flat with a few minor hills and two bridges across a small stream. No in-water crossings unless there has been recent rain. Some walkers and other riders may be encountered. Some very short rocky paths through the woods but shoes needed only for very tender-footed horses. This ride will have two groups – one walk only and one for a faster pace group with walk/trot/short canters. Please bring sandwiches and drinks for relaxing after the ride.

### **Saturday, July 16 - Breezy Loop, part of the EPIC Montgomery County, MD trail system**

**Contact: Marcella Morgese (978-372-5307 or <Morgeseart@aol.com>)**

Breezy Loop is located in Poolesville, MD at the Potomac Pony Club field with a parking lot at 19301 Bucklodge Road. The trails are scenic with varying terrain. There will be some water crossings and two road crossings, but they are not busy roads. We will pass through a few fields and ride along the edge of some lovely farms. We might be able to offer two types of ride options as the date gets closer. The ride should be about 2 hours long. Please bring sandwiches and drinks to relax after the ride. There is a picnic table in the parking area, but riders should bring chairs.

### **Sunday, July 24 - Rockburn to Patapsco, Howard County, MD**

**Contact: Jacquie Cowan (<jacquiecowan@comcast.net> or 410-215-4979) by Thursday, July 21**

For a great July ride, come enjoy the cooler shade with plenty of water crossings in Patapsco Valley State Park. We will start in Rockburn County Park and ride over to Patapsco. Expect hills, some rocks, hikers and bikers. The length and degree of difficulty will depend upon who comes along. [This will be a joint ride with Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club.]

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

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

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

## August

**[PLEASE volunteer to lead a ride – we can't leave our August calendar totally blank!]**

## September

**[PLEASE volunteer to lead a ride – our September calendar is too empty!]**

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

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

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

### **Saturday, September 24 –Jug Bay, in southern Prince George's County, MD**

**Contact: Jacquie Cowan (<jacquiecowan@comcast.net> or 410-215-4979**

TROT is delighted to again bring you a ride at Jug Bay, which we have not had for several years. This is a beautiful park, and is on the Patuxent River – so fitting with our 2016 focus on trails on the Patuxent! More info in the next newsletter.

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

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



## October

**[PLEASE volunteer to lead a ride – our October calendar is too empty!]**

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

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

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

## November

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

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

### **Saturday November 19 - Anacostia Park Ride**

**Contact: John Angevine (301-937-0014)**

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

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**TROT welcomes links from other trail riding groups to their ride calendar, for inclusion in our newsletter.**

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## PAST TROT TRAIL RIDES

### **North Tract, Friday, March 25**

*from ride leader Barbara Sollner-Webb*

After rain the night before, we had a delightful pot luck and trail ride at the North Tract of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge in east Laurel, MD. Such precipitation – which the weather gods impressively arrange for TROT's North Tract rides almost every year – illustrates one of the great virtues of North Tract: that its trails were built to withstand military tanks (back when the land was Ft. Meade's) and thus it is not damaging for horses to ride on these trails, no matter how soaked they are. On this day, 10 appreciative TROT members enjoyed the event, including founding TROT members Pat Oliva and Terry Ledley. It was delightful that this was the first returning group ride for Nancy Osgood (and Newton) after her terrible accident over 1 ½ years ago. We started out all walking together and then a group split off to enjoy these trails trotting and cantering. Also impressively, none of us ever having actually changed a tire ourselves in all our years of trailering, we even successfully changed the tire of one of the trailers, which had gone flat during the ride. A good time was had by all!



*Claudia Walters, Paula Underwood, Nancy Osgood, Laury Lobel, Terry Ledley, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Debby Poole, Jeanie Kemp, Fran Koch (Denis Webb joined for the pot luck)*



*Nancy Osgood and Laury Lobel, riding together again!*

### **Schooley Mill, Thursday, March 31**

*from ride leader: Debby Poole*

Eight riders made it to a favorite place of mine, Schooley Mill Park, for a windy walk-only ride on the last day of March. We had several new faces, and a couple of horses that really did need the experience of a slow and steady group ride. Everyone stayed for a you-name-it-we-had-it pot luck. I look forward to several other walk-only rides coming up in the next couple of months and encourage others to hold them as well. Not everyone has a steady trail horse or is an experienced rider. I like these walk rides and I don't find them boring at all. I feel good about getting a young or problem horse started on a life of good... *[continued next page]*



## PAST TROT TRAIL RIDES – continued from page 8

trail experience and etiquette. I hope many others will start having them. I've also found a wonderful group who like to ride during the week, leaving their weekends open for other things. TROT offers something for everyone.



*Fran Koch, Claudia Walters, Laury Lobel, Nancy Osgood, Terry Ledley, Debby Poole, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Elisa Harvey*

*Nancy Osgood and Laury Lobel; → Elisa Harvey behind*



## North Tract, Saturday, April 2

*from ride leader Barbara Sollner-Webb*

Again the weather gods came through with lots of rain until just before the ride, but then clearing and even becoming sunny for the ride itself. Unfortunately, the rain lasted so long that several riders who had wanted to come decided to not load their horses in a downpour so did not come. However, the outing for us five intrepid riders was lovely, enjoying this ride when probably no other trails in the area could have been ridden without damaging them. Part of the time we were all together at a walk and then the group who wanted to trot and canter took a longer route back to the trailers, where we all met for a pot luck. North Tract manager Jeff Muldors kindly let us park at the lovely wildlife viewing area which has a very pretty lake that made the pot luck lunch especially nice.



*Laurie Bay, Carolann Shayne, Julianne Brown, Stephanie Gelfeld, Barbara Sollner-Webb; we were joined at the lunch by Terry Ledley & Denis Webb*



## Triadelphia, Saturday, April 16

*from ride co-leader Barbara Sollner-Webb*

Ride co-leaders Debby Poole, Jenn Poole and I, and 13 other TROT members had a delightful ride along WSSC's Triadelphia Reservoir trail (i.e., its fire break pathway) – which had been closed to public access for decades, but which three years ago WSSC kindly opened up for recreational use. Yay! We had an all-walk group and a faster group, the latter ...

*[continued next*



*Amy Kimble, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Terry Ledley, Laurie Bay, Jacquie Cowan, Karen Kraushaar, Elisa Harvey, Jean Cooper, Linda Gasch, Jeff Cooper, Stephanie Gelfeld, Debby Poole, Jeanie Kemp, Jenn Poole, Fran Koch; we were later joined on the trail by Vera Fontana*



## Triadelphia ride – continued from page 10

making it the full nine miles from Triadelphia Lake Road to Greenbridge Road and back. Everyone enjoyed these really nice trails and the very pretty views of the Reservoir. After the ride was a scrumptious pot-luck lunch. WSSC's watershed manager Eddie Franceschi had kindly given all TROT members complementary trail passes for this ride, and we even got to proudly show Eddie's letter to the WSSC police – the first time in 25 years of riding WSSC trails that I have ever gotten to show the use permit that I always carry! What a treasure to have added Triadelphia to the list of available riding venues!



## Planned ride at Rachel Carson, Thursday, April 28 *information from intended ride leader Laury Lobel*

Due to the unfortunate cases of EHV-1 at a nearby location (see page 4), this ride was postponed until May 26.

## Planned rides at Rosaryville, Saturday, April 30 and at Fairland, Saturday, May 8

Due to rain, these rides were postponed until June 4 and May 28, respectively (see above).

## PLEASE DO TRAIL WORK!

*from Barbara Sollner-Webb*

### Do trail upkeep each time you ride

Whenever you are out on the trails, whether riding or hiking, please take some time to do needed trail upkeep! This can be as easy as clipping or breaking any protruding branches as you ride by. And then please report your trail work time and location to TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble ([amyhkimble@aol.com](mailto:amyhkimble@aol.com)), as these hours are very beneficial to the local parks' budgets. Also PLEASE report your trail work to the newsletter editor ([bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)) for inclusion in the next issue, as it will help inspire other TROT members to also contribute to trail maintenance.



### If you prefer group trail work efforts

Almost any day you are inclined to go out to do trail work, but want a trail work buddy, contact TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble ([amyhkimble@aol.com](mailto:amyhkimble@aol.com)). It is a good bet that she will be out doing trail work and would love to have you join her.

For folks in the area of Carroll County, the Carroll County Equestrian Council (CCEC) organizes a very active trail work program, always Saturdays 9 AM to noon:

- Piney Run, May 21, Sept. 10 – call ahead to Bridget McCullough (301-829-7442)
- Morgan Run, June 4, July 10, Sept. 3, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 – call ahead to Carolyn Garber (410-549-5141)
- Gillis Falls/Equestrian Center, Sept. 17 – call head to Peggy Miller (410-549-1608)
- Union Mills, Sept. 25 – call ahead to Howard Lanham (410-259-2964)

See <http://www.carrollcountyequestriancouncil.org/calendar.htm> for CCEC's up-to-date trail work information. And please report your trail work hours to Amy Kimble (see above).

### Trail work request, please!

If you know of other trail riding/hiking/bicycling groups who organize trail work parties in other areas, please let the newsletter editor know about this ([bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or 301-604-5619), for inclusion in future TROT newsletters.

## Finally, a reminder to pick up poop and hay from trailer parking areas

Folks at Carroll County Equestrian Council remind us not leave piles of poop, shavings or hay in the public parking areas of any riding venue. This makes for really bad relationships with park managers and other park users. CCEC provided this photo of the yucked-up parking lot at Morgan Run as an example of what to avoid. If you see a horse trailer parking area that has such piles in it, please be an angel and clean it up. Help protect the reputation of the entire equestrian community. Thanks so much!



## TROT MEMBERS WORKING TO ENHANCE TRAILS IN HOWARD COUNTY

*from Susan Gray*

Pat Oliva and I want to update you on some positive things happening in Howard County. First of all, a huge thanks to everyone who answered TROT's call a few weeks ago and sent a letter to County Executive Alan Kittleman asking him to put in place in Howard County a practice that both Montgomery and Prince George's counties have used for years to preserve and establish trails. Both of those counties historically have used their subdivision and other development processes to help make sure existing trails are maintained when a property is developed and that new trail connections are put in place if they are important in maintaining trail continuity or to access recreational areas. Howard County has never done this, but based in large measure on the tremendous response from TROT members (a big thanks to the over 30 of you sent letters to the County Executive Kittleman within days after TROT put out the word!), we are hopeful that we may be seeing a wedge of light in the historical refusal of Howard County to use the development approval process to preserve trails.

County Executive Kittleman has not yet fully embraced the concept, but his new Planning Director used to work in Montgomery County and knows how well the process can work. We need to keep encouraging the County Executive to move forward and make trail preservation for all a county priority and a true reality.

At the time TROT asked for your letters, there were two properties going through the subdivision process where trail access is particularly important. The first, Walker Meadow subdivision, has an existing trail that connects to Patapsco State Park that was to be eliminated when the property was developed. The second was the Hinkle property in Highland that connects to Schooley Mill Park. The property owner of Walker Meadow was reluctant to preserve the trail through the subdivision. No one had discussed establishing a trail connection through the Hinkle property. **[Editor's note: no one, that is, until alert Susan Gray started things!]**

Now (almost assuredly as a result of letters from TROT members and other riders in the area), the Parks department has expressed a willingness to work with TROT and other trail users to see if we can plot a trail through the Walker Meadow subdivision on property that would be dedicated to the Parks Department. There is still a lot of work to do to make sure the trail connection will continue to exist, but it looks like we are making real progress.

As to the Hinkle property, the County's response has been amazing! The Parks Department reached out to us and has indicated that the subdivision plats for the property will show a generalized alignment for a natural surface trail to connect Rt 216 to Schooley Mill Park. This is huge progress for Howard County! Thank you, County Executive Kittleman, Parks Director John Byrd and Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning Val Lazdins. We've got a ways to go, but this is a super start.

A few letters to County Executive Kittleman and his associates thanking them for this progress and saying how you hope they will approve trail preservation in the subdivision approval process might be very helpful -- please! And please cc Pat Oliva (<[patolivatigger@aol.com](mailto:patolivatigger@aol.com)>), so that TROT has a record of the correspondence. Please consider writing to these three key individuals:

Alan Kittleman, County Executive, <[akittleman@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:akittleman@howardcountymd.gov)> or 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

John R. Byrd, Department of Recreation and Parks, <[jbyrd@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jbyrd@howardcountymd.gov)> or 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD. 21046

Valdis Lazdins, Department of Planning Zoning, <[vlazdins@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:vlazdins@howardcountymd.gov)> or 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

**This is BIG progress, but your help is still needed! Please!**



## ARTICLES ON PATUXENT TRAILS

*As noted last month, insightful TROT member Mary Prowell had the great idea for the newsletter to highlight the area's wonderful natural resources that enable our trail riding. Since so many riding venues are along rivers, with the Patuxent River the longest river entirely within Maryland, she suggested starting by featuring venues on the Patuxent and/or in its watershed. [See the March 2016 newsletter for a map and a listing of those venues of which the editor is aware, although there likely are ones that I forgot.]*

*This newsletter issue will start with Mary's article on the trails in the upper portion of the Patuxent River State Park that is in Montgomery and Howard counties and Terry Ledley's article on the Rocky Gorge trail in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Hopefully subsequent issues will feature articles that will be sent in by TROT members about their favorite riding venues along the Patuxent River and within its watershed. **PLEASE CONTACT <bsw@jhmi.edu> TO CONTRIBUTE A SUMMARY OF YOUR FAVORITE RIDING VENUE WITHIN THE PATUXENT WATERSHED. PLEASE!***

### The Rocky Gorge Reservoir Trail: Confessions of a Compulsive Trail Blazer

from Terry Ledley

I was meant to be a pioneer blazing a trail over the Rocky Mountains with my horse and dog. Instead, pictures of horses that covered the walls of my apartment in the Bronx were my only equestrian contact. Fast forward several decades, when my youngest son went off to college, I decided to make the impossible dream a reality. So in March 1978, I, a very novice rider, moved in to Water's Gift boarding stable with my beautiful 4 year old chestnut Arab, Billy, and two Border Collies. It was love at first sight for the watershed, for this spectacular scenic lake, for this wonderful oasis of natural beauty in the heart of the I-95 corridor. Water's Gift bordered the reservoir at the dead end of Dustin Road West. If you scan the WSSC maps from that year, previous years and several years afterward, the equestrian trail began there and wandered west past Kruhm Road, past Batson Road, past Brogden Road, and ended midway on Link Road. From there, it continued on the fire break to Ednor/Brown Bridge Road. There was also a trail from Ednor Road to Tucker Lane. This was the only equestrian trail on the watershed. There was also the fire break dirt road which paralleled the reservoir for its entire length, but it was forbidden to ride there – a restriction often broken. It was also known that there had been some trails on the east side of Rt. 29, but they were now illegal and totally overgrown and obliterated.

Making up for lost years, I was riding almost every day. Since it is more fun to make a loop, rather than to retrace my steps, I would ride the equestrian trail, then one of the few trails coming up from the equestrian trail and return on the fire break. As I rode longer and farther, I began to bushwhack from the trail to the fire break and make cross trails, so that the system became like a warped ladder – equestrian trail, roughly paralleling fire break, and increasingly with more rungs connecting them. When TROT formed in 1980, I was one of the founding members, and one of our first successes was to get the WSSC to allow us to extend the trail from Link Road westward to Ednor Road. I learned a lot from seeing the tools others brought to the job, and the realization that one can actually make a trail through natural woods.

I rode frequently with Debby Poole, the owner of Belle Cote Farm, and she had the idea of actually extending the trail from Dustin Road and continuing it behind Water's Gift. After laying out a possible route with surveyor tape, unfortunately Debby took a hiatus from riding, so I decided to continue my secret mission alone. I had holsters for a pruning shears and a folding saw attached to my saddle, and I pruned or sawed every branch I could reach. One day a fellow boarder commented that it was obvious the trail was pruned by a short person on a short horse. "Since you are a tall person on a large horse I'll give you a pruner," I replied. Surprisingly she declined.

I soon found a system for bigger trees that worked best for me. It was a 6' pole pruner with pull rope which could cut about a 1½" tree close to the ground without my stooping. I hid it in the woods by standing it up behind a tree up hill and about ten feet from the trail with the cord wound around the tree. I had carefully painted the pole in camouflage, and in all the years I trail blazed no one ever found my pruner. The pattern was to ride, come to where I had left-off, tie Billy and work on - sometimes longer sometimes shorter, taking the easiest path, then hide the pruner and ride on. Another valuable tool I used was an old-fashioned scythe, specially ordered for me with a short lightweight aluminum shaft. This was particularly useful for Wild Rose and other brushy, thorny growth. On non-riding drizzly days, I'd hike in and clear these areas on foot.

My Border Collies were showing in obedience training, and I decided to put them to real work. They would pull branches off the trail on command, they would retrieve my hand pruners if it fell, they would pick up the bottles and cans that littered the shore. Fluffy would come up to the horse with the trash and require me to lean down to get it to stash it in the plastic bag I hung on the horn. But Scot would bank up on Billy's side and put the treasure from his mouth right into my hand. There is a scene of his helpfulness in the official TROT video. I kept my trail blazing activity very secret and eventually reached Rt. 29.

In those years Rt. 29 was a two-lane country road. I began to ride across and continue making the trail east to the cable line. From there, even though the WSSC maps showed no trail, I knew where the old Iron Bridge Hunt had kept their hounds and that riders had ridden the area. I met Jane Toal and she volunteered to help. She was a member of the Hunt and had ridden there years before. As we rode, we saw nothing in front of us but dense woods, cross branches, brush and growth, but her old horse Gypsy knew where that trail had been, and he would follow it no matter what. We trusted ...

*[continued on next page]*

## *The Rocky Gorge Reservoir Trail: - continued from page 12*

the horse. We pruned and pruned and pruned and opened the trail heading east past Aitcheson Lane and Burton's Lane. From there, I was on my own with nothing but solid forest. I continued slowly over a period of 3 or 4 years, past Julie Lane, past Dick Beall's (now West Laurel) Stable, past where (miracle of miracles!) I now live, and past the wooded area which in a few more years became the next door farm where Barbara Sollner-Webb and Denis Webb and my dear Snuffy now live. This far from Water's Gift, it became too hard to ride, work and ride home, so I asked P.J. Melbourne if I could trailer to his place and continue the trail work from the end of the reservoir. That helped greatly, as I continued to the end at the Supplee Lane boat ramp parking. I painted orange blaze marks the length of the trail and made many cross trails. When you ride, you might still see one of the few places along the trail where I signed my work, carving "TBFS 1982-3" for Terry, Billy, Fluffy and Scott, my hard-working animal buddies.

Earlier I had had a bad experience near Rt. 29 when Billy got loose and headed home across the road with Fluffy right behind him. Fortunately a passerby grabbed him just in time. Afterwards I never crossed the road, but tried to get by at the water's edge under the Rt. 29 bridge. There were huge boulders and it was a very bad stretch. One day I got a telephone call from Pat Oliva. She said she was riding the Watershed trail, came to the end of the trail at Dustin Road, and saw hoof prints going on and followed them. She said she followed "a squirrel size" trail on and on and came to Rt. 29. "It must be you", she said, and of course I had to affirm. She asked incredulously what I did from there. "I walk over the rocks." "You are out of your mind," she said. "Why don't we ask for an underpass?" I was shocked because I had been keeping this project strictly secret. But Pat went ahead and contacted Paul Hancock, the WSSC Chief Patrol Officer, and when the WSSC offered to provide gabion basket building blocks, lo and behold, the State Highway Department agreed and built a beautiful wide underpass trail. Not many people know this, but the State Highway Department built this beautiful underpass when the water in the reservoir was low. So when the water level was raised, the underpass became submerged and had to be completely redone. If you are riding the trail when the water level is low, you will see the parallel trail several feet lower and have a good chuckle. The underpass is appropriately signed "Oliva Pass."

Now, of course, the cat was out of the bag. Thankfully the WSSC embraced the new trail. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony and I arranged a TROT ride starting from Supplee Lane, riding one-way to Water's Gift for a pot luck lunch. My husband Bob and other non-riding spouses volunteered to ferry the trucks and trailers to the destination and were given an envelope with each truck description and key. They drove all the trucks and trailers to Water's Gift and it was a great success.

The trail extending the length of the reservoir was now officially on the WSSC map, but it was up to the riders and volunteers to maintain. Several of us took this very seriously, and the trail was widened and pruned and kept in great shape. I got volunteers when needed for chain sawing, and once a year before I led my annual TROT ride, one or two of WSSC's Watershed Patrol Officers would, as a personal favor, hike in with me and chain saw my list of obstacles. The Watershed Patrol made a lease agreement with Debby Poole to use a horse when they wanted to patrol the trail, and Debby always had me ride along with them. My dogs continued to pick up trash, and I stashed feed bags at strategic inlets. When they were full I would go out in the patrol boat with one of the officers to pick up all of my bags. WSSC's archives show photos of some of those boats overflowing with litter-stuffed horse feed bags. Once a year, I led a TROT ride from Water's Gift, and when that stable closed, I moved my horse to Barb and Denis' place, and we led our yearly TROT ride together. When Barb and Denis had the idea and started numbering the many cross trails for easier identification, I bought sets of numbered cattle ear tags and we nailed them at either end of each cross trail.

One day in December 1998, Larry Lager, the Chief Patrol Officer, casually said I should drop by a particular day at the main WSSC building. I thought it was a Christmas Party, but when I got there I saw Bob and many of my friends. It turned out to be a meeting of the WSSC Commissioners, and there was a ceremony formally naming the equestrian trail "Terry Ledley's Equestrian Trail honoring twenty years of volunteer service, 1998." The sign is posted at both ends of the trail. I am tremendously thrilled by this honor. *[See photos below from WSSC's ceremony and the trail sign.]*



## *The Rocky Gorge Reservoir Trail: - continued from page 13*

Things went along smoothly for years, until new management at WSSC eliminated the Watershed Patrol, causing those great members to retire or leave. Thus the fine maintenance of the fire break ended. I would have my handyman hike in to chain saw obstacles, not only on the equestrian trail but also on the fire break. Then WSSC made a decision to totally close the equestrian trail. TROT mobilized. We wrote letters, phoned, emailed and, most importantly, went in person to all of the WSSC Commissioners' meetings, where we testified eloquently of our love of the Watershed, our helpful eyes and ears there, and our role as an asset not a danger. Barbara Sollner-Webb spearheaded this effort. Then WSSC contracted an expensive outside study, but it found no erosion threat from years of horseback riding, as claimed by the WSSC; yet WSSC remained determined to eliminate the horse trail. Eventually, aided by considerable political pressure we mobilized, our main antagonists left, and the WSSC did a 180-degree about turn. Now there is a fantastic maintenance crew that is tremendously helpful in trail maintenance. We have a terrific relationship with them. They have made several sweeps of the trails and have scheduled volunteer work groups to repaint the old faded blazes and number the cross trails with clearer designations.

I am still madly in love with this beautiful watershed and these equestrian trails, and I hope that many, many riders enjoy them for years to come. **[See TROT's Sept. and May 2014 newsletters for another article and photos of this trail system.]**

P.S. I hope that this month, Barbara, Denis and I will again lead our annual Rocky Gorge ride.

### **GUIDE TO RIDING THE ROCKY GORGE TRAILS**

For an unfamiliar rider, the best thing about the Rocky Gorge trails is that you can't get lost. This is why: The reservoir is bounded by the wooded WSSC property, and although it very beautiful, feeling as though you are in a virgin wilderness, it is actually not a very wide strip of land. The outside border of their property strip is marked by the fire break, a dirt road completely surrounding the woods that surround the reservoir. So the shore line of the reservoir and the fire break provide two roughly parallel lines, and between them is the orange blazed equestrian trail. Think of the equestrian trail and the fire break as the two legs of a very warped ladder. Running between them are some 50+ cross trails which are the rungs of the ladder and have numbered tags at each end. You can always locate the water and take the nearest numbered cross trail up to the perfectly obvious fire break (dirt road). This trail had numerous stream crossings, and in places are quite hilly. Despite the name Rocky Gorge the trail is not rocky at all except for one very short stretch. The trail runs on the Prince George's and Montgomery County side of the river, from the boat ramp at Supplee Lane westward to Route 29, where there is an underpass, and on to Ednor/Brown Bridge Rd. Crossing there, the trail continues on to Tucker Lane. There is excellent parking at Supplee Lane and parking for a limited number of rigs at Ednor Road and at Brogden Road, and one can park on the road shoulder at Tucker Lane. These trails are spectacularly scenic with picture postcard views of the water at every turn. To use these trails, you are required to have a watershed use pass (\$6 for one day, \$70 annually, free for those 65 and over); see the trail use regulations and a great GPS map of the trail at <https://www.wsscwater.com/education-and-recreation/stewardship-projects--recreation.html>.

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## **Upper Patuxent River Trails**

*from Mary Prowell*

Hi, I'm Mary Prowell (<[boprow@aol.com](mailto:boprow@aol.com)>), and I ride the upper Patuxent River trails, which stretch from Windsor Forest Road all the way across Long Corner and Mullinex Mill roads to Rt. 94 (or Annapolis Rock Road right before it becomes Rt. 94; see map on next page). These trails are in the Mount Airy/Damascus part of the Upper Patuxent River watershed and are composed of three sections. The first (northern-most) section is bordered by Long Corner Road on two sides, Windsor Forest Road on another, and private property that ends at Gue Road. Trail parking is available at the bridge on Long Corner Road along the sides of the road and in a small parking area on the Howard County side of the bridge (be advised that there is fast traffic on this road) and at Brown Church Road (which starts from Rt. 27 between Mount Airy and Damascus and has a small parking area at the end of the road). These parking areas (boxed P on the map on the next page) might be difficult for a big rig, especially the Brown Church Road parking lot. That small parking area is also a favorite spot for local hunters and can have a pile of deer carcasses near it (which is also true of the other areas to park along these trails). There are numerous trails in this section of the park criss-crossing the river and going through the woods and around the edges of some fields. It's possible to ride 8 miles on them by looping around and about. There is a perimeter trail of sorts (see map on next page) but it can be hard to find without the help of someone who knows how to do it. The Howard County/Iron Bridge Hunt Club has their headquarters off Windsor Forest Road abutting this section. And since they do hunt in this part of the park, they clear the trails to some extent in late summer and fall. Over the years, these trails have become very eroded and sometimes difficult to ride on, so the hunt has recently put in some new trails to bypass the older ones. Still, many of the trails are eroded and have become a bit rocky. There are several places in this section where you will encounter muddy river crossings and bog holes. Some of the boggy areas are in odd places -- the side of a hill for example -- and they often never dry out. In the past few years, many trees have come down, so there can be several go-around areas to negotiate. I consider these trails to be slow for the most part, and unless you are a hunt rider I doubt you will find many places where you can go at more than a walk except around some of the fields.

*continued next page]*



## Upper Patuxent River Trails - *continued from page 14*

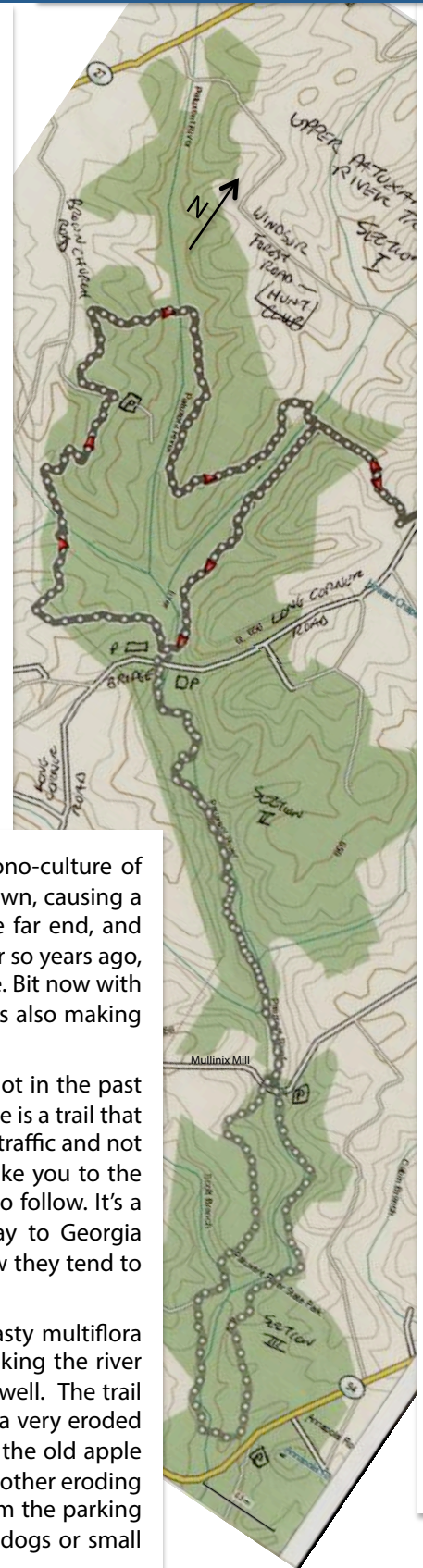
The next part of this system (Section II on the map) is from Long Corner Road at the bridge to Mullinex Mill road and runs along the Montgomery County (southwest) side of the river. It is a straight-shot trail about 1.5 miles long. It has also become very eroded and is no longer ridden much or maintained by the hunt. A couple of spots are eroding into the river and need a bypass but in places along this trail it would be difficult to do that. Keeping this trail open all the way is becoming a struggle. The footing in some spots is rutted from fast running water when the river is high, and there can be a lot of root exposure on the trail. This was once a fairly nice trail to ride but now it is challenging to keep clear or to find ways to bypass the impediments. It's passable, but I'd pack some clippers and hand saws to be sure I could make it through.

The third section of these trails (Section III on the map) goes from a small parking lot on the Howard County side of Mullinex Mill Road to a river crossing at the far end near Rte. 94 and then back on the Montgomery County side of the river. This is a very pretty trail and a nice ride of about 3 miles. From the parking area you can either access the trails by going up Mullinex Mill Road away from the bridge past the guard rail, turning into the woods, and following a small trail (not well marked) that joins with the main trail at the river, or you can ride across the bridge and head up the trail from the Montgomery County side. There is a trail into the woods by the guard rail that leads down and across the river to join with the Howard County side trail as well, so you can do the loop without having to go on the road. There is not much traffic on Mullinex Mill Road and it usually isn't fast. If you start on the Howard County side you will pass a "swimming hole" where in the summer teens and families picnic and play. I once had to negotiate through and around about 20 people with the kids oohing and aahing while I tried to avoid picnic baskets and keep my dogs out of their food. From there, continuing downriver, the trail is flat (and eroded from fast water), running through a picturesque grove of Mountain Laurel climbing up a rocky outcrop and into a small meadow. This year the meadow wasn't mowed much, so I don't know if the family farm there is going to mow here or not. The trail is a bit trappy after that, some downed trees to negotiate, more fast-water erosion, and then up a hill and into a mono-culture of pines. These pines (Silent Pines, as my riding friends called it) are now old and falling down, causing a lot of problems in keeping this section of trail open. There is also some erosion at the far end, and bypassing is hard because of so many downed pines. When I first started riding here 20 or so years ago, this forest was mature with no understory at all, and it was truly a spooky and silent place. But now with so many trees down, there is a substantial understory of shrubs and small trees which is also making bypasses difficult.

Continuing downriver after the pines, there is a river crossing which has changed a lot in the past couple of years. It's still OK but not as nice as it used to be. On the far side of the river, there is a trail that goes off to the left toward Rt. 94 and crosses that road (which is very, very busy with fast traffic and not a great line of sight) to a small parking area. There was a trail from there that would take you to the Annapolis Rock Road parking field but that trail is no longer there, or at least not easy to follow. It's a shame to lose something that connects the entire Patuxent River system all the way to Georgia Avenue. In the old days, the hunt clubs kept these trails open and hunted them, but now they tend to hunt from the AR field or Pleasant Prospect Farm on Jennings Chapel Road.

If you turn right after the river you can follow this trail through some sometimes nasty multiflora rose along the Montgomery County side of the river. Eventually there are cliffs overlooking the river that you ride up on; but only if you come from the other direction can you see the river well. The trail goes by an old abandoned and collapsing log cabin, across a river branch, and then up a very eroded hill. There is a flat stretch that is good for trotting or cantering, through what we called the old apple orchard -- although I'm not sure that's what it really was. Then you end up going down another eroding little hill, past an old home site foundation, and back to Mullinex Mill Road. The trail from the parking area to the Mountain Laurel and meadow is a favorite with people out for a walk with dogs or small children playing in the river or fly fisherman. Parking can be iffy in the summer.

These three parts of the Patuxent River trail system have been surveyed by a group called MORE (MidAtlantic Off Road Enthusiasts -- a mountain bike club) that is slated to eventually put in a trail system that is sustainable and not as likely to erode. I think some parts of the present trails will be used, but there will also be many trails rerouted or changed.. *[continued on next page]*



## Upper Patuxent River Trails - *continued from page 14*

Last winter, MORE went in and marked a proposed new trail in the Mullinex Mill Road loop section, the first part they plan to work on. I rode part of that with a friend and think it will make a nice new section of trail. I've heard they plan to have 8 miles of trails in this section. MORE has some funding but is still waiting on final approval from DNR. TROT volunteers will be most appreciated when trail construction begins. Volunteers, please check with Amy Kimble (<[amyhkimble@aol.com](mailto:amyhkimble@aol.com)>, 301-748-8310).

These trails are worth riding, although the ones up near the hunt club can be confusing. From the Long Corner Road bridge to the Mullinex Mill Road loop, the trail is clear enough that a savvy trail rider should be able to follow it. The multiflora rose, poison ivy (lush in the summer), downed trees and occasional Mile-a-Minute groves can make them challenging. Still, there are enough wild flowers, pretty river scenes, wild turkeys and other song birds, and varied terrain to make this an interesting park to ride in at any time of the year, with numerous miles of trails.

### INFORMATION OF INTEREST

*information from Amy Kimble, CCEC, Judy Thacher & Debby Poole*

Amy Kimble sent in the following two interesting articles from the Frederick New Post. Thank you, Amy!

**Catoctin Mountain Park gets a new superintendent (posted April 15, 2016).** Catoctin Mountain Park's new superintendent is Rick Slade, previously superintendent of Monocacy National Battlefield.

**Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) signs MOU to repair and maintain trails in the Frederick Watershed (posted April 8, 2016).** Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), the mountain bicycling and trail maintaining club that Amy Kimble and TROT have frequently worked with over the years, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the City of Frederick to repair and maintain all the official trails in the Frederick Watershed, under the guidance of the City of Frederick. [The Frederick watershed committee, of which Pat Oliva has been a member and has reported to TROT regularly, is slated to end operations; it has worked with the City of Frederick and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to assess the trails and recommend which to retain, upgrade, or remove from its system.]

**Caroline County Sunday Hunting Bill:** You may have heard (from the Maryland Horse Council, the Equiery, Ron MacNab's posting on the MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo list-serve, etc.) that Caroline County's Sunday hunting bill failed to pass in the Maryland legislature. Working to prevent this legislation from passing (see page 2) was a big focus of the Maryland Horse Council and numerous equestrian grassroots groups, and was aided by MHC's lobbyist, Frank Boston.

**Concussions:** On a topic that unfortunately is near but not dear to many of us, Judy Thacher has kindly sent the link to information about concussions from the United States Equestrian Federation; see <[https://www.usef.org/\\_IFrames/competitions/safety/ConcussionLinks.aspx](https://www.usef.org/_IFrames/competitions/safety/ConcussionLinks.aspx)>. [Note, this link seems to open with Firefox but not with Safari.]

**Trailer Insurance:** Debby Poole reminded us of the importance of trailer insurance, as the trailer of one of their boarders was stolen from their farm and unfortunately was not covered by her home or car insurance when unhooked from her truck nor by the farm's insurance. Insurance for a horse trailer averages only about \$40 a year. Because in some states a horse trailer (your stolen horse trailer?) can be sold without a title, there is a market for stolen trailers. So if you own or are getting a trailer, ask your insurance company if it is covered when not connected to your tow vehicle. Also note that theft-proof collars that go over your trailer hitch (where the trailer ball goes) are considered extremely hard for a thief to cut or break off.

### COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS -- Baltimore County

*from Priscilla Huffman*

Our focus trail this summer will be a 5-mile stretch of the Gunpowder North trail between York Road and Big Falls Road in Monkton. Last Saturday, five of us, including our local park ranger, Jen Cashell and a CCC volunteer, walked the trail and noted trees to be cleared and rerouting that needs to be done. Most but not all of this trail will be accessible to horses and all of it to hikers.

### NEEDED: GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP NEEDY KIDS

For years, Board Member Brother Roger Nelson has kindly donated his time (two hours each Tuesday), to give autistic children the great benefits from riding (i.e., being led around on a horse, by Roger). It is at Oatlands indoor arena, in Olney. Roger says the autistic children benefit enormously from this, and the horse is super nice, but he feels he is getting too creaky to continue leading the horse and kids. So he hopes to find someone else to continue this. If interested, please contact Brother Roger at <[rogersds@verizon.net](mailto:rogersds@verizon.net)>.

### TROT's MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please encourage your equestrian friends to join TROT. The membership form and information on how to join by PayPal are at <<http://www.trot-md.org/membership.php>> and the membership form is also in the January TROT newsletter.

## ARABBERS CLEARED OF ALL CHARGES BUT NOT COMPENSATED FOR SEIZED HORSES

*submitted by Mike Caruso (<[mike@campsusan.com](mailto:mike@campsusan.com)>, 443-756-3336)*

We live in such a difficult time and need to keep our radar tuned... here is a "Wolf in Sheep Clothing" story.

Here is a link to a report in The Equiery about how poor working people of Baltimore, MD (Arabbers) were stripped of their assets (horses) and are left without recourse, even though they were found not guilty in a court of law. See <<http://equiery.com/not-guilty/>>. And what were the original charges? The barn was cold (on a January night), had some cob-webs on the walls and evidence of urine on the floor! Aren't almost all of us horsekeepers equally guilty of those charges? Note that the Arabbers trail ride these horses on the only trails they have access to, the streets of Baltimore, as well as using them for their livelihood.

Why did this happen? It seems that special interests wanted the land the Arabbers were granted. It saddens me to tell you that two organizations that normally do good work for the horse community had a central role in this mess. Animal Control, reportedly encouraged by Days End, initiated the seizure of these horses under false pretenses. Legally required assessments were not performed prior to seizure. After seizure, a well-respected vet said the horses were fine. Correctly filed paperwork for return of the seized horses, for if/when the charges are dropped, has been ignored. Shameful behavior at best, I feel.

Please join with me in petitioning Days End Horse Rescue to return the horses to the Arabbers, or in the cases where the horses have been sold to new homes, to reimburse the Arabbers sufficient compensation to replace the seized horse with one of equal value. On the TROT Yahoo list-serve, there has been considerable discussion about TROT members wanting to help right this wrong (not TROT working for this as an organization, but individual TROT members and others working for this goal).

[The March 2015 TROT newsletter reported diligent horse owners in Howard County narrowly missed suffering a similarly unwarranted fate. Their horses were going to be seized for what is normal horse keeping practice in Great Britain that the animal control officers did not know about. However, this case was averted, in part due to the demographics and to multiple individual TROT members volunteering work to help.]

*Mural at the Baltimore stable commemorating the seized horses*



## SUMMARY OF TROT BOARD MEETING

**April 12, 2016**

*[Summarized from minutes of Jean McKay]*

**Participants:** Deneen Martin (Vice President), Susan Railey (outgoing Treasurer), Janet Whelan (incoming Treasurer), Jean McKay (incoming Secretary), Jeff Dwyer (BD, via telephone), Dana Grabiner (BD, via telephone), Terry Ledley (BD, via telephone), Pat Oliva (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Jacquie Cowan, Susan Gray, Jenn Poole

At this Board Meeting at Pat Oliva's house, Janet Whelan and Jean McKay were elected as the new TROT Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Due to health issues, the Pres and VP votes will be postponed.

There was a Treasurer's report from Janet Whelan and a trail ride report from Deneen Martin (with a few potential new rides). Newsletter items are due April 28.

There was discussion of following up on suggestions from the break-out groups at the Annual Dinner (see pages 2-4). One topic of focus was how to keep the TROT membership updated about time-sensitive matters related to trail riding, especially legislative and advocacy activities. This is to be discussed at the May Board meeting.

At the May Board Meeting there also is to be a discussion about a potential 2016 trail obstacle event, which the Board earlier had voted to hold. We want a discussion about various possible educational meetings for members to be held at the June Board Meeting.

Jenn Poole reported on judging criteria developed by the Scholarship Committee. They were positively received and decided to be used as general guidelines, not as a mandated scoring mechanism, and that the top candidates would be interviewed by Skype.

Susan Gray and Pat Oliva reported on Howard County trail efforts (see page 11). Pat reported the Frederick Watershed Committee has laid out trail routes.

Next meeting 5/3/16, home of Barbara Sollner-Webb.

## WELCOME, NEW TROT MEMBERS

*from Sim Shanks, acting membership chair*

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Luis-Jose Mejia     | Washington DC          |
| Natalia Vandenberg  | Washington DC          |
| Cynthia L. Titus    | Baltimore Co., MD      |
| Page Etzler         | Carroll Co, MD         |
| Melissa Hockensmith | Carroll Co, MD         |
| Rackann Mayer       | Carroll Co, MD         |
| Stefanie Owens      | Howard Co, MD          |
| Barbara Martin      | Montgomery Co, MD      |
| Craig Rodgers       | Montgomery Co, MD      |
| Jane Seigler        | Montgomery Co, MD      |
| Jeanine Jerome      | Prince George's Co, MD |
| Sharon Richmond     | Washington Co, MD      |
| Beth Johnson        | Fairfax Co, VA         |



## UP-TO-DATE INFO ON TROT ACTIVITIES

### TROT website:

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

### TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

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

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator

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

### Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo group (and to join):

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

### TROT Yahoo group (and to join):

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

### Facebook page

TROT Trail Riders of Today

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

## HORSE TRAILS MAP – Your help is needed!

Ross Peddicord of the Maryland Horse Industry Board, in conjunction with TROT members Ron MacNab, Priscilla Huffman and many others, have produced a WONDERFUL map of Maryland horse trails plus other useful horse information for you to use and share with your riding buddies. This valuable map is now available online at <http://www.mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Documents/HorseTrails.pdf> and was handed out at the last Annual Dinner.

Before re-printing, Ross has is asking TROT members to help him identify any errors/omissions in this map. Please especially check if any trails that you know of are missing or have incorrect information. He asks that you send this information to [bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) for me to compile and forward to Ross. Please! Thank you for your help in making this trail map as accurate and up-to-date as possible!

## WHO'S WHO IN TROT

### POSITION

### NAME

### E-MAIL

### PHONE

#### President

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#### Treasurer

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&

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#### Wicomico

Shawn McEntee

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

## TRAIL GUIDES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Also, if you would be willing to help work on any of these trails or any other venue, and/or to help organize others to do so, should the need arise, please contact <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>. It would be wonderful to get a registry of helpful folks, to notify when needed.**

## REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER INFO

To provide our members up-to-date information on trail riding and trail maintenance activities, TROT needs your help. Changes to riding venues? New riding or horse camping areas? Relevant legislation? Other useful information? Articles/anecdotes/stories you feel will interest TROT members? Please inform the newsletter editor at 301-604-5619 or <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>!

## CLASSIFIED ADS:

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

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

### Non-member rates:

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

## SPECIAL THANKS!!!

*from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor*

**Great appreciation to everyone who contributed great articles and other information for the newsletter!**

**And ENORMOUS thanks to Dana Grabiner, Terry Ledley, Sim Shanks and Denis Webb, as well as to Judy Thacher, Janet Whelan, Gale Monahan and Jean McKay for most helpfully proofreading all or parts of the draft text! You guys are wonderful!**



**TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY**

TROT Membership

PO Box 506

Highland, MD 20777

***Inside this issue:***

- Successful TROT Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, March 19
- Summary of Break-Out Groups to Continue Planning TROT's Future Efforts
- TROT's Current 2016 Trail Ride Calendar -- Please, more trail ride leaders are needed!
- Reports on TROT's Past Trail Rides
- Clinic with Scott Purdum Postponed to June 24
- Importance of Getting Trails Through the Subdivision Process in Howard County
- Reports on Two Trails in the Patuxent Watershed: Rocky Gorge and Upper Patuxent River State Park
- Needed: Coordinator For Trail Obstacle Event for 2016
- Ingrid Gentry Wins Prestigious Award
- Considering Horse Seizure – Up-to-date information about the Arabbers
- More Information of Interest
- And lots more