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After many years.....a dues increase!

At the November TROT meeting, the Board voted to increase our basic annual membership dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00. This was not a decision that we made easily, and we recognize that this represents a 33% increase. However, with rising postage and printing costs, we felt that the increase was justified. It has been several years since our last dues increase.

We need your support! Please renew your membership and encourage others who are not yet TROT members to join. A membership/renewal application is included with every newsletter, so please fill it out and mail your check TODAY! Be sure to include your current contact information so that we can update our membership records.

A message from the President.....

It's probably hard for our original TROT members to believe that 25 years have passed since that first meeting, organized by Judy Richardson. Many of you have heard the story of how Judy was out riding on one of her favorite Paint Branch trails in Montgomery County. As Judy has told it many times, she came along a bend in the trail and instead of seeing the red-tailed hawk, as she usually did, she saw a bulldozer. After talking with one of the workers, she realized that without some kind of inter-

vention, the trails on which she was riding might no longer be available. Judy promptly began calling other trail riders and horse owners in the area. The meeting that she organized resulted in the birth of TROT.

Now, 25 years later, TROT can look back on a long history of trail creation, trail preservation, and trail maintenance. We've established relationships with park planners, managers, developers, and property owners and are recognized as a credible

partner in the trail planning process.

Please join your fellow trail riders on Saturday, February 26 at the Howard County Fairgrounds to celebrate 25 years of dedication, hard work, and joy. TROT looks forward to continued success as we meet new and increasing challenges to keep our trails available for everyone to enjoy.

*Priscilla Huffman
President
Trail Riders of Today*

Update on Rachel Carson Greenway

On October 26, several TROT Board members attended a community meeting sponsored by Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning (M-NCPPC) to view planning maps and discuss issues surrounding the Ra-

chel Carson Greenway. The Greenway is a proposed corridor of natural surface trails extending from the Anacostia Trail System to the Patuxent River. Some of the Greenway already exists, other sections are proposed. The 22-mile Rachel Carson

Greenway, formerly known as the Northwest Branch Trail Corridor, was renamed in honor of Rachel Carson in March of 2004. Ms. Carson, a world renowned scientist and ecologist, lived in Montgomery County when she wrote

Update on Rachel Carson Greenway cont

Silent Spring in 1962. In this classic book, she drew attention to the dangers of chemical pesticides and herbicides to public health and the environment.

The Rachel Carson Greenway will honor Mr. Carson's achievements and help realize her life-long goal to make people more aware of the wonders of the natural world. The plan incorporates a continuous, natural surface trail within the boundaries of the corridor.

There are four trail study areas within the greenway:

1) The **Rachel Carson Interpretive Area** covers most of the corridor. Its southern most terminus is located at Old Columbia Road where public parking is available. The northern terminus of the study area is the Rachel Carson Conservation Park.

2) The **Rural Legacy Trail Area** commemorates the County's involvement in the Underground Railroad and Quaker traditions in Sandy Spring. The Rural Legacy Trail has recently been included in the National Network to Freedom Trail system. The Rachel Carson Interpretive trail and the rural legacy Trail would be coterminous in the area of the Greenway.

Two areas of the corridor provide connections to other trail systems:

The area identified as **Gateway to the Anacostia Trail System** is the only segment of the greenway that features a hard surface and a natural surface trail. The hard surface trail connects to the Anacostia Tributary trail network in Prince George's County. The natural surface trail extends north and contin-

ues under the Capital Beltway to Columbia Pike.

The area shown for a future **Trail Connection to the Patuxent River** would extend north of the Rachel Carson Greenway and link to informal trails in the Patuxent River State Park.

Updates on the greenway plan will be posted at www.montgomerytrails.org. Advance notices of all community meetings are sent to local newspapers.

Send your thoughts and ideas by e-mail to Lyn Coleman, Trail Planning Supervisor, at lyn.coleman@mncppc-mc.org or by regular mail to Lyn Coleman, Suite 802, 1109 Spring Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Gillis Falls Ride

After a rainout on October 24, the Gillis Falls Park ride finally took place on October 31. Thirteen riders gathered at the Carroll Co. Equestrian Center and rode through the Park, climbing up and down hills and viewing trails in this unique setting. They then arrived at Anne Bennof's home, where horses were

tied up while riders enjoyed lunch and spirited conversation, including discussion of the County's plans for Park expansion. Then it was re-mount and wend our way back through the Park to the Equestrian Center. Special thanks to the Carroll Co. Equestrian Council for allowing us the use of the Equestrian Cen-

ter as a staging point. And to Gale Monahan who volunteered to be the safety rider at the end of our long line. And last but not least to Marvin Bennof, who chauffeured the lunches and halters & tie ropes from and back to the Equestrian Center

Who's Who in TROT

Officers:

President Priscilla Huffman 301 351 6211
 Vice President: Marilyn Miller 301 898 7274
 Secretary: Deneen Martin 301 253 2955
 Treasurer: Kathy Dobson ksdobson@msn.com

Directors/Board Members

Membership: Michelle Beachley 301 482 2526

Sandy Boyd ridersandy@aol.com

Susan Gray sbakergray@erols.com

Mapping Project: Tim McGrath 1 800 292 3547

Chris Conner preservetrotrails@msn.com

Pat Merson 301 898 3251

Archivist: Gale Monahan 301 854 3852

Newsletter: Pat Talbott 301 628 4130

Ride Coordinator: Kyle Jossi 301 570 3860 or 301 706 3714 jossik@holycrosshealth.org

Annapolis Rock Ride

Annapolis Rock on Saturday, September 25th, we discovered a whole new system of trails right in our own backyard! The weather was perfect and the bright yellow Trot signs on the road helped us find the parking area without any difficulty. Deneen Martin on Star led the fast ride while Michelle

Beachley on Biz led the slower/scenic ride. After a quick lunch Brad, Deneen took a smaller group across the road to some even more magnificent trails. There were a total of 9 riders. The highlight was a grass airplane runway that we rode next to. A great time was had by all. We found the trails at Anna-

polis Rock easy to access with lots of parking. The trails were well maintained with areas to go at a fast pace, and lots of great jumps!

Bridge Too Low?

Ever ride under a bridge that is really not high enough for you and your horse? Know that feeling of clinging around your horse's neck and hoping to goodness that nothing causes your horse to rear? There may be some relief in sight – at least on new Maryland state highway projects. TROT has been asked to provide input as to whether various bridges and culverts now being planned by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) need to be equestrian/multi-use trail friendly.

TROT has been asked to provide this input because TROT's goal of establishing and preserving equestrian trails complements a goal of several federal highway review agencies. Their goal is to ensure, where appropriate, that new highway bridges and culverts are high and wide enough to be "wildlife friendly." Building highway improvements which are "wildlife friendly" improves safety by keeping deer and other animals off roads and provides for continuity of habitat, something critically important for wildlife survival. It also provides the opportunity to provide safe crossings for the equestrian and multi-use trail community.

TROT can influence the decision-making on these projects by:

- 1) Helping identify where trail access is important,
- 2) Lobbying elected officials to require the SHA to make appropriate crossings trail and wildlife friendly, and
- 3) Providing technical assistance designing these crossings so that they are equestrian/multi-use friendly.

The Brookville Bypass

The SHA is now in the process of designing a western bypass on Georgia Avenue (MD Route 97) around the historic town of Brookville. The TROT Board voted to seek the assistance of Montgomery County delegates to raise the clearance of a bridge planned over Reddy Branch Creek from 8 feet to at least 12 feet. Raising the bridge a minimum of four feet should make traversing under it possible on horseback and provide a needed connection under Georgia Avenue linking the western section

of the Reddy Branch Stream Valley Park with the eastern section of the park and also with the Hawlings River Stream Valley Park.

The drawing below is a depiction of the current plan for the bypass immediately west of the historic district of the town. It shows the construction of a traffic circle west of town, and the construction of a new section of Georgia Avenue with a bridge linking the traffic circle with existing Georgia Avenue on the north. It also shows the removal of an existing portion of Georgia Avenue (see xxxxxx's). Current state plans also call for the acquisition of the land around the circle and the new leg of Georgia Avenue going north from the circle to existing Georgia Avenue. When this land is acquired and if the bridge is raised from 8 to at least 12 feet, equestrians and other trail users could cross from the western section of Reddy Branch Stream Valley Park over relatively little used Brookville Road, traverse through the newly acquired parkland, go under the bridge across the removed section of Georgia Avenue, and continue through the eastern section of Reddy Branch Stream Valley Park to Hawlings River Park. From the Hawlings River Park one can now ride throughout much of the northeastern area of Montgomery County.

Your help is needed! We are asking that TROT members who ride in the Brookeville area send a letter or e-mail to state Delegates Karen Montgomery, Herman Taylor and Anne Kaiser, requesting that they work with the SHA to get the bridge over Reddy Branch Creek raised. A sample letter is included below, and can also be found on our web site at www.trot-md.org. Correspondence should be sent as soon as possible since the design work is currently being done on the project. Paul Wettlauffer of the Army Corps of Engineers, and Bill Schultz of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initially requested that this bridge be raised so that wildlife in the area could easily pass underneath, so be sure to copy them on your letter. We're eager

Bridge Too Low, Cont

to support their efforts, and to provide another opportunity for TROT to network with other organizations. Also, please copy Naomi Manders, M-NCPPC and Priscilla Huffman, TROT.

Names of those to copy on your correspondence are listed at the end of this article, with addresses.

As TROT is made aware of other highway projects in the planning stages, we will pass this information along to county coordinators and members who ride in the area. We ask that members ride the area and notify the TROT Board as to whether the proposed project would impact an existing trail system and thus need to have equestrian friendly steam or highway crossings, or whether the creation of trails/crossings as part of the proposed project would create a needed link between existing open space/equestrian friendly areas.

ADDRESSES

(Send a letter to each delegate, copy other delegates and the remaining listed names on each letter)

Delegate Anne Kaiser
(anne_kaiser@house.state.md.us)
Delegate Karen Montgomery
(karen_montgomery@house.state.md.us)
Delegate Herman Taylor
(herman_taylor@house.state.md.us)

224 Lowe House Office Bldg.
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator
MD Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
707 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dan Johnson (dan.w.Johnson@fhwa.dot.gov)
Environmental Project Manager
Federal Highway Administration

10 South Howard Street, 2nd Floor
City Crescent Building
Baltimore, MD 21204

Bill Schultz (bill_Schultz@fws.gov)
US. Fish and Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

Paul Wettlaufer (paul.wettlaufer@usace.army.mil)
Regulatory Branch Baltimore District
Corp of Engineers
10 South Howard Street, 8th Floor
City Crescent Building
Baltimore, MD 21204

Naomi Manders
Lynn Coleman
Maryland National Capital Park and
Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Trail Seminar at Horse World Expo

Mike Riter will be presenting a 1 hour seminar on Designing, Constructing, and Maintaining Shared Use Trails. His presentation is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, in the Cow Palace.

Please pass the word along to your clubs, equestrian e-mail lists, and publish it in your newsletters. Every equestrian needs to understand the basic principles required to prevent the erosion caused by horses.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & Annual Meeting Saturday, February 26, at 6pm Howard County Fair Grounds, Dining Hall

Don't forget to mark your calendar. Have you made your reservation? If not RSVP today by sending an email to Pat Talbott at tallyhotazz@aol.com. RSVP must be made by February 5th as we need to order food. Dinner free for members

Donations Needed

TROT will be collecting donations for the Chinese Auction being held at the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Items should be either new or in nearly new condition. Items can include but are not limited to: Tack, horse theme items, etc.

What a fabulous opportunity to clean out your nearly new tack and help out your organization! Contact Pat Talbott via email tallythotazz@aol.com or call 301 628 4130 to make your donation.

TROT T-shirts, sweatshirts and jackets now available via mail order!

T-shirts and crew sweatshirts are available with either of two front designs: Small logo on left shoulder or large logo centered on sunburst design.
 Hooded sweatshirts and jackets are available with either the small logo on left shoulder only or with the logo on left front shoulder and the larger logo in sunburst an back,
 Not all designs are available in all sizes. Prices include postage and tax.

	Childs	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Yellow Short Sleeve T-Shirts \$15						
Logo (front)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sunburst (front)		—	—	—	<u>n/a</u>	—
Black Short Sleeve T-Shirts \$15						
Logo (front)		—	—	—	—	—
Sunburst (front)		—	—	—	—	—
Yellow Long Sleeve T-Shirt (Logo; front) \$15		—	—	—	—	—
Black Long Sleeve T-Shirt \$15						
Logo (front)		—	—	<u>n/a</u>	—	<u>n/a</u>
Sunburst (front)		—	—	—	—	—
Black Crew Neck Sweatshirt \$21						
Logo (front)		—	—	—	—	<u>n/a</u>
Sunburst (front)		—	—	—	—	—
Black Hooded Zipper Front Sweatshirt \$28						
Logo (front)		—	—	—	—	—
Logo (front) & Sunburst (back)		—	—	—	—	<u>n/a</u>
Black Windbreaker Jackets \$35						
Logo (front)		—	—	—	—	—
Logo (front) & Sunburst (back)		—	—	—	—	<u>n/a</u>

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send with check to: Anne Bennof, 2445 Gillis Falls Rd, Woodbine, MD 21797

Questions? 301 829 0949

PHOTOS PHOTOS PHOTOS

TROT will sponsor a **PHOTO CONTEST** in conjunction with our big 25th Anniversary Dinner Meeting, February 26, 2005

Dig out your "historic" photos of TROT activities & for the years of 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 & 2004 make copies and send them in. You may win one of several one year free memberships. Photos may be of any TROT activity such as trail ride, parade group, TROT sponsored horse show, competitive ride, Judged Pleasure Ride, trail clearing party, etc.

Please include approximate date the photo was taken, activity pictured, location, and names of persons and horses pictured if possible. All photos become the property of TROT and may be used for display.

It will be fun to look back at our past activities while enjoying our 25th Anniversary meeting.

Pack photos carefully and send to: TROT Photo Contest
% Marilyn Miller
9327 A Gravel Hill Road
Woodsboro, MD 21798

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please send typed ads to Pat Talbott, TROT News, 8116 Jonnie Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, or e-mail to tallyhotazz@aol.com Ads rates: \$6.00 for 100 words, \$.10 per word for each additional word.

FOR SALE

Bay Mustang gelding 18 years old, 15.1 used for trail riding. Very sound. Best suited for intermediate rider. Call Carol (301) 881 7309

Dressage Saddle 17.5 handmade Nice Dressage Saddle – barley used and in great condition. Padded knee rolls long billets (no girth marks) come with fittings including 1 24" & 1 28" dressage leather girth and fitted dressage pad. \$600.00 obo

This saddle was graciously donated by one of our members. All proceeds go towards our anniversary dinner. Call Pat Talbott work 301-628-4130

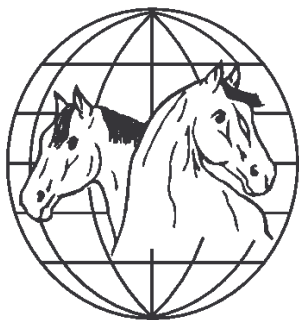
AQHA 1996 BAY MARE #3481555 - MARQUETTAS ROSE

Beautiful blood bay, 8 1/2 year old, 15 hh. Blood line out of Hall of Famers - Three Bars, Poco Bueno and King. Western trail riding will go anywhere and do anything you ask (water, logs, rough terrain, highways). Ridden alone or groups. Used for Team Penning 4 years ago, no spurs needed. Field boarded. Sound and healthy with vaccination/deworming/coggins and shoeing records. We won 5th place at the TROT Judged Trail Ride and 5th as beginner at Howard County Fairground Western Pleasure Show. Loads, easy keeper, farriers love her. Never gets barn sower. Intermediate rider,,,,,,,,,,,,,\$3000 (negotiable).

Norene Boswell 301-845-4712 (home) or 301-788-1294 (cell).

Email me, I will send you a photo of Rose nboswell@hns.com

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MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

Check one: **New member** _____ **Renewing member** _____

Name _____ Work phone _____

Street address _____ Home phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

DUES: Single or family: **\$20.00/yr** (Jan – Dec) Contributing member: **\$30.00/yr** Sustaining member **\$50.00/yr**

Mail to: Michelle Beachley, .26309 Howard Chapel Drive, Damascus, MD 20872

Email address for membership: trotmembership@hotmail.com

Make checks payable to: Trail Riders of Today. If you can help with any of the below activities, please check:

_____ Trail clearing	_____ Fund raising	_____ Host a ride
_____ Public hearings	_____ Membership	_____ Search & Rescue team
_____ Trail mapping	_____ Photography	_____ Newsletter

All members are listed in our annual directory. If you do not wish to be listed, please check here. _____

Thank you for supporting TROT!