



Trail Riders Of Today

<http://www.trot-md.org/>

November 2012

Founded 1980

Number 195

TROT ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2013

**Mount Airy Fireman's Activity Hall
Mount Airy, MD**

(same location as the last four years).

If you have new or used tack in excellent condition, or can offer horse-related services, please plan to make a donation to the silent auction by contacting Chris Ritcher at lapado2000@gmail.com.

More details will be available in the January issue of the newsletter – and watch the TROT web site!
Questions about the Annual Meeting? Or want to sign up to help with the set up?

Contact the event coordinator, Priscilla Huffman at 301-646-4422 or priscillahuffman@verizon.net.

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR SILENT AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 9, 2013!

Christiane Ritcher

The TROT Silent Auction is coming up in February and we need your donations to make it a successful event. Do you have some extra tack in new or excellent condition? Do you offer horse-related services or products? Do you have any horse-related item and even non-horsey related items to donate? All proceeds raised from the silent auction go to TROT. Please consider making a donation! If you already know what item(s) or service(s) you plan to donate for the silent auction, please email Chris Ritcher at lapado2000@gmail.com.

This year, we will have fixed price tables for smaller items, keeping the bigger price-tag items for a better silent auction. Also, it will be easier to process the donations brought in the night of the dinner. I would like to receive the larger items for the silent auction a few days before the dinner. Please contact me to arrange pickup or with any questions.

TROT'S JUDGED PLEASURE RIDE. A GREAT SUCCESS!

See page 9 for winners and donors, pages 2, 10, 11, 13, 15 for photos.

HORSE WORLD EXPO

is coming to the Timonium Fairgrounds, January 18-20, 2013.

Volunteer now to help TROT staff our booth. Get a free day's admission to the Expo if you sign up by December 14.

Contact Pat Talbott at tallyhotazz@aol.com.

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President's Message

Pat Talbot, President

It is hard to believe that it is November already. This is the last newsletter for 2012. Where has the year has gone?

I want to take this opportunity to thank my officers: Pat Merson, Judy Thacher, Susan Railey; and TROT Board Members: Laury Lobel, Brother Roger Nelson, Maria Schwartz, Vera Fontana, Kyle Jossi, Pat Oliva, and Babara Sollner-Webb. Thank you for all the help and support you have given me this year.

TROT Committees: Newsletter - Nancy Osgood & Sim Shanks; Trail Maintenance - Amy Kimble; Trail Rides - Lisa Troutman; Mapping Project - Ron MacNab; Membership - Margaret Scarff; and Web Master - Harold Goldstein. You all have done a fantastic job. Thank you for all your hard work.

TROT County Coordinators & Contacts have been a big help answering members' questions and leading trail rides in the county. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Last but not least I want to thank all our TROT volunteers. Thank you for volunteering.

There is one project that I had hoped to get done this year. I am running out of time and need help. Maybe with your help it still can be accomplished. The project is TROT needs a new video for the January Expo. We need to show people what TROT does and why they should join our club. Please contact me if you can help me make the video.

My thanks again to all of you that have helped TROT have a successful year in 2012.

TRAIL CLEARING UPDATE

Amy Kimble, TROT Trail Work Coordinator

We had two productive days of corridor clearing on the reroute off of Howard Chapel. The next work day will complete the corridor clearing. Special thanks to Nate Hoyt (he attended both), Lisa and Kent, and Jean and Jeff. Interesting note- 4 of these 5 people are veterinarians.

Our water crossing project that started out to be a bridge is now a culvert project and I am very excited. Nate Hoyt with our help has volunteered to build a locust culvert and fill with gravel (to put it way too simply). Special thanks to Marilyn and 3 of my friends Katie, Sarah and Susan. We tackled Catoctin and made a good dent in the work on the mountain.

I will be volunteering on Oct. 14th to support the EPIC bike race to support the bikers who have dedicated much time and effort to the trails. I hope that many of you have responded to the request to support the Little Bennett park proposal and give feedback on Austin's invaluable project to link the park systems.

The equestrians really need to step up- we are doing more with supporting the work in the parks but we are so far behind other user groups that it is embarrassing for me.

I am in contact with Damascus Library to set up a date and time for the briefing on the SETC Conference.



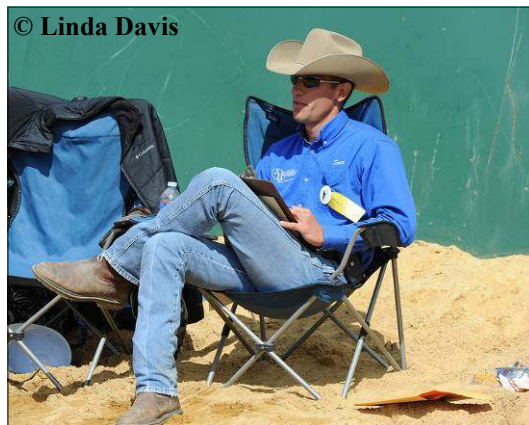
9/8 Catoctin Trail Work- Amy Kimble, Marilynn Miller, Sarah Kline, Katie Kline and Susan Kline. We cleared an area of trail that has very little canopy so has a lot of low growth that grows very thick.



TROT JPR
thanks
Scott Purdum

mini-clinic and
demonstration

←
“World Cup Day”
Judge
→



© Linda Davis

County Updates

Need volunteers as contacts or coordinators for **Baltimore, Calvert, and Talbot Counties**. If you have an interest to act in this capacity, please contact any TROT Board Member. See Who's Who in TROT page 13.

Montgomery County Report

Ron MacNab

Reporting Park Problems

Severe storms in recent months caused a lot of damage in our parks and along our trails. Report any problems to the Parks Service Center by email at: service.center@montgomeryparks.org or by calling 301-670-8080.

2012 North American Police Equestrian Championships held.

The North American Police Equestrian Championships hosted by the Maryland National Capital Park Police and US Park Police were held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. Officer Mark Fanelli won first place in the Novice Equitation category and 7th in combined equitation/obstacle; Officer MEGAN LAU won first place in Expert Equitation, 10th place in combined equitation/obstacle and a trophy winner; and Montgomery County Team #1 (Officers BEASON, LAU, and HAGEN) placed 4th place in Group Obstacle. Sergeant CHRIS TIPPERY placed 13th in the overall obstacle course

MNCPPC wins best Mounted Unit in the 22nd Annual Burtonsville Day Parade

The Maryland National Capital Park Police Mounted Unit won best Mounted Unit in the 22nd Annual Burtonsville Day Parade on September 22nd. The unit was the unanimous choice of the judges. Congratulations to Sergeant Rick Pelicano and Officers Meagan Lau and Josh Scully on receiving this award.

Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment

Montgomery Parks will be submitting amendments to the 1998 county trails plan to the Planning Board in December. The amendments reflect structure, contour and environmental realities that require changes to some plans and elimination of others. The new plans will emphasize circular loops and connecting trails. There will be less emphasis on long linear trails. For more information visit http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2011/documents/20111006_Countrywide_Park_Trails_000.pdf

Lyme Disease Awareness

The best defense against this disease and other tick born diseases is protection from tick bites. Here are some suggestions:

- Wear light colors, tuck pants into socks
- Use insect repellents that specify ticks
- If you regularly work outdoors consider long-lasting "Permethrin" repellents for clothing.
- Because the blacklegged tick is very small, about the size of the head of a pin or smaller, it is especially important to **thoroughly** check for ticks after being in areas where they live.
- Carefully remove ticks promptly – transfer of the disease usually takes at least 20 hours.
- For more information visit • http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/NaturalResourcesStewardship/Livingwithwildlife/lyme_disease/lyme_disease.shtm

Howard County Report

Pat Oliva, patolivatigger@aol.com

Lisbon will have it's Ole Fashion Christmas Horse parade on Dec 8. The TROT contingent is limited to 12 riders. It will be first come, first in. Please e-mail me with your name, horse's name, copy of coggins, and your address and phone number. Check out the web site. All our horses last year had never been in a parade and they all did great! We also need two banner holders and two pooper scoopers.

Schooley Mill Park is converting its two ball fields into two level fields and a cricket field. It will not affect the trails but will be a large construction project. The people who sent letters to the park director and the county

executive really made a impact I had no idea that you all wanted so many improvements in the park. Keep those letters coming and tell the park and county what you want.

I have been told that construction on the parking area for Benson Branch will begin in the spring. They insist on pavement, but say they will rough it out.

Iron Bridge-Howard County hunt has been hard at work in the Patuxent State Park. They have mowed and opened up trails from Annapolis Rock to Howard Chapel. THANKS!!!!

P.S. Don't forget to send the proof of purchase coupons from Southern States feed bags to me. TROT donates them to Days End Horse Rescue.

Howard County Equestrian Concerns

Harold Goldstein

The county is planning to put a 6 acre cricket field at Schooley Mill Park. Schooley Mill is the only horse park in Howard County and it is truly a multi use facility, not a horse park. Howard County has a long tradition of equestrian activities and as we continue to grow and lose our farm land there are less and less places to ride. The county has multiple ball parks, golf courses, and skate parks, but not one true horse park. The county should be adding dressage rings, Polo Crosse fields and cross country

jumps at Schooley Mill, not cricket fields. We need a venue for our horse activities! Howard County equestrians are supporting our local economy with horse boarding businesses, lesson programs, equestrian supplies, hay and feed sales, yet the county is not supporting it's equestrians! Please send an email to Ken Ulman, county executive, and John Byrd, Howard County Parks and Recreation, and ask them to support equestrians by making Schooley Mill a horse park and putting cricket fields in a ball park.

Ken Ulman kulman@howardcountymd.gov

John Byrd jbyrd@howardcountymd.gov

WSSC trail update

Barbara Sollner-Webb

WSSC will hopefully officially re-open their equestrian trail rather soon. Our wonderful County Councils put into WSSC's budget legislation: "The Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Watershed Study, Phase 1 [by their outside contractor, EA Engineering], shall be concluded by October 31st, 2012. Upon completion of Phase 1 of the Study: Public access that is more restrictive than those policies in effect prior to WSSC's 2011 changes should be supported by the science and industry best practices." By way of background, prior to the 2011 changes, horseback riding was limited to well-established equestrian trails that were designed to prevent erosion and possible impact on the WSSC water resources. The 2011 changes moved horses to the access dirt road, which is in places very steep and heavily eroded.

We anticipate that it will be clear that the previously used equestrian trail, which is minimally eroded and topologically contoured, is far superior, environmentally, than the steep and severely eroding access road (previously known as the firebreak road). We all remember that the equestrian trail was dedicated by WSSC to TROT's Terry Ledley and Pat Oliva – in recognition of their dedicated and long-term efforts in preserving a well-maintained, sustainable and safe trail system.

WSSC has received well over 1,000 public requests for the documents that are the basis of their claims that equestrians damage the reservoir. These include nearly 50 formal requests under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA). We have viewed some of these documents and they do not appear to support WSSC's claimed reasons for closing the equestrian trails. WSSC's own data show the reservoir's water quality actually IMPROVES as it runs parallel to the length of the equestrian trail, and that winter

has the least rainfall, which seems contrary to WSSC's decision to close the trails to winter riding due to wet conditions. These data and WSSC's claims may be read at p. 37-40 and p. 60-63 of <http://www.wsscwater.com/file/Communications/Additional%20Stakeholder%20Comments.pdf>.

Over 150 committed citizens attended EA Engineering's hearings last June regarding the future for public access of WSSC's lands. Many spoke and others sent in testimony -- virtually all was excellent. It provided compelling arguments that equestrian use does not harm the reservoir, as well as the need to consider sediment from other development in surrounding areas, not just from the watershed itself. You may read this excellent testimony at <http://www.wsscwater.com/home/jsp/content/2012-watershedstudy.faces> and click links for 1- "Summary" of the two meetings, 2- "Transcript" of each meeting, and 3- other "Written Comments". Most relevant to EA's study focus is the helpful document "Sediment sources for the Rocky Gorge: estimate initiated by WSSC's Environmental Advisory Committee" (page 52-4 of the "Written Comments" link). [The documents I provided are page 31-63 of that link, even though much was handed in during the actual hearings.]

Testimony from TROT's Pat Oliva and others at the EA Engineering hearing additionally requested that WSSC officially allow riding around the Tridelphia Reservoir. Documents obtained through a related MPIA request noted that WSSC had allowed riding on the firebreak around the Tridelphia for two periods in the past. So we can cross our fingers that this might be reinstated, as well.

We are hopeful that before the next TROT Newsletter, WSSC will have been moved to officially re-open riding on the environmentally friendly and sustainable equestrian trails around the reservoirs.

Petition: Little Bennett Request to Restore Trail Connection

The purpose of this petition is to provide public information for park staff regarding loss to trail access and use at Little Bennett Regional Park, in Montgomery County, Maryland. During a critical time in the trail system's redevelopment, it is important for park planners to hear your views and opinions to help them better understand the interests and needs of the trail user community. A link to your responses will be provided to park planners.

To review and respond, go to: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/little-bennett-request-to-restore-trail-connection>

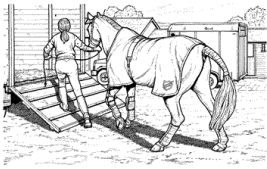
UPCOMING RIDES

Lisa Troutman , Trail Ride Coordinator

TROT needs you! We need a Trail Ride Coordinator for 2013.

No experience needed. Please contact Lisa Troutman at cat.home@verizon.net or 410-489-5101.

Please see the website for the most up-to-date information regarding the current trail ride schedule.



Contact the ride leader to reserve a space on the ride and for information about start time and directions.

All ride participants must:

- wear hard hats.

- be TROT members (membership forms will be available at the ride for non-members).
 - provide a copy of a current negative coggins for each horse.
 - if needed, bring a snack for get together after the ride.
- Contact ride leader for details.**

November

**Rocky Gorge Watershed Burtonsville/Laurel -
Saturday, November 10.**

Ride leaders: Terry Ledley, Barbara and Denis Webb

Come join us on these spectacularly scenic (and actually non-rocky) trails along the Patuxent River's Rocky George Reservoir. Terry will lead a walking ride and Barbara and Denis will lead a faster paced group. If we are lucky we might even spy our nesting bald eagles. A pot-luck meal at the Webb's will cap off the fun. Please call Terry to make your reservation.

In the saddle at 11AM, Location: Burtonsville/Laurel,
Contact: Terry Ledley at 301-776-2661

**Anacostia Park – Saturday November 24.
Ride leader John Angevine**

This is a favorite TROT ride that closes out our ride season. Folks who have attended this ride say they are amazed with the spacious trails and beautiful scenes along the Anacostia River so close to downtown DC. The ride may encounter bikes, fishermen, some asphalt, as well as a scenic view of the historic Lincoln Cemetery. Ride leaders will provide water and granola bars.

In the saddle at: 10:00 am,
Contact John at 301-937-0014

TROT Ride -Cedarville State Park, Brandywine, MD – Saturday, September 15, 2012,

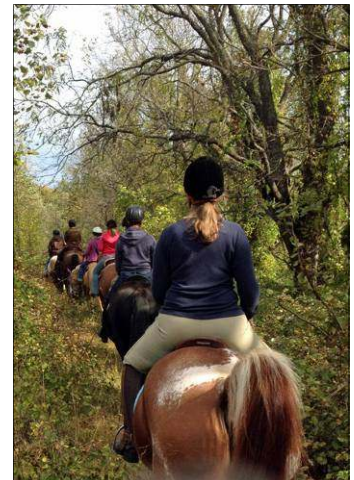
Ride leader Judie Artman

The September 15th ride to Cedarville was attended by seven TROT members. The day clear and bright as we headed out towards the trail. We rode the orange trail and added a bit of the white trail to lengthen the ride. We rode about 10 miles in all, at a walk, trot and some cantering. The trails were clear, the weather perfect, the horses well-behaved and the company was great! Cedarville has a large grass parking area for horse trailers, and a few of us stayed after the ride to have a picnic while our horses rested before heading home.

TROT Ride -Agricultural History Farm – Sunday, October 6.

Ride leader Laury Lobel

Thirteen riders came to the Ag Farm Park to enjoy this beautiful Fall day. We rode the park for 2 hours and then enjoyed lunch together. Joining Laury Lobel, filling in for Christiane Richter, was Jean Cooper, Andrea Caplan, Melanie Sumpter and son Kenton, Patty Mathes, Sandy Brewer, recent new member Velia Mitro, brand new member Beckie Peregoy, Stephanie Cacopardo, Kelly Dorman, Debra Illig, and Jessica Hines. What a good time!!



Notices - Announcements - Reminders

THE 2012 TROT TRAIL RIDE CHALLENGE - Reminder

By **December 10, 2012**, send the TROT Trail Ride Coordinator an email (cat.home@verizon.net) listing the TROT rides you attended. If you were a ride leader, make sure you include that information, as you get double points if you lead a ride. Also TROT Trail Ride Leaders should submit all sign-in sheets to confirm attendance.

Special TROT Trail Ride Challenge Awards will be handed out at our 2013 Annual Potluck Dinner.

BECOME ACTIVE IN TROT!

This year we are looking for some new members to staff our slate of board members and committee chairs. Contact any TROT officer to get additional information or to volunteer.

Board Members. Consider taking on a position as a board member. This is the best way to see the internal workings of our organization. Board members attend the monthly meeting, and assist the officers with special projects as needed.

Trail Ride Coordinator. Lisa Troutman is stepping down as coordinator. Lisa has done an outstanding job in filling up our riding season with fun and diverse rides. The trail ride coordinator works with the individual trail ride leaders and acts as the central focal point in developing our trail riding schedule.

Newsletter. Nancy Osgood and Sim Shanks are stepping down as Newsletter Editors. The Newsletter is published every other month (six issues a year). The job is fun – particularly if you have any experience with a desk-top publishing program (such as Microsoft Publisher or Serif PagePlus) – or even if you have the desire to learn. The writing is primarily done by regular contributors, such as county coordinators and officers. The editor primarily smoothes out the articles, and arranges them in a page-wise format. Printing is handled by our very capable long-time support company – Gasch Printing. For more information contact Nancy or Sim at nlogood@verizon.net.

VOLUNTEER!

There is that dreaded word again! How can we squeeze more time from our hectic lives? How can we commit to one more chore when we are already over-scheduled? The time commitment for these positions is manageable – and working with a group of enthusiastic and capable horse lovers is really a lot of fun. But primarily we volunteer for TROT because of the importance of what we do. We are a nationally recognized effective advocacy group for equestrian trail preservation. Please consider being a part of this important mission!

TROT RIDE - Upper Patuxent River State Park, Damascus. Saturday October 27, 2012.

Ride Leader: Suzanne Anderson

Great ride today from Annapolis Rock Road in the Patuxent River State Park! Nine horses total, and the weather was GREAT!!!, and wonderful food afterwards. Will Post some pictures shortly. Carol Petrovitch, I want your recipe for your baked sweet potato fries!



Upper Patuxent River
State Park,
Damascus, MD
Saturday October 27,
2012
6.5 miles, 2:36 min,
2 mph
Suzanne Anderson
(ride leader),
Jacquie Cowan,
Ellen Frank,
Kim Hawkins,
Laury Lobel,
Nancy Osgood,
Carol Petrovitch,
Melanie Sumpter,
Kenton Sumpter.

Note the horse's shoes

What do your riding trails mean to you?

Nancy Osgood

To me they mean the world. I treasure every moment I can be on the trail with my horse and my riding buddies. While in the saddle we often talk about how important riding is to us. It brings calm, sanity in a crazy and hectic world, an awareness of the wonder of nature, and a sense of love and trust between you and your horse partner.

Recently there have been some developments in our small trail riding world that have brought out TROT members in efforts to preserve our trail access. Remember – your trails are not forever, unless you are vigilant and proactive in protecting them!

- **North Track** (Patuxent Research Refuge). This wildlife refuge has been a destination for riders for many years – particularly since the trails are not affected by wet weather. But there are recent proposals to place restrictions on horses that could, in a practical sense, end trail riding in this area. Through networking, including TROT's Maryland Trail Riders online group, advocates for trail riders were able to attend hearings and intelligently articulate why these restrictions are not needed to preserve the habitat area. Note that if you are concerned about preserving wildlife habitat, horse impact in these areas is minimal (see the debunking of common myths about horse impact elsewhere in this Newsletter).
- **WSSC** (Prince George's and Montgomery Counties). This is a continuing debate that could virtually end riding in a beautiful watershed area that has been a haven for trail riders for more than a generation. TROT members have been front and center in working with WSSC to keep trails open for horses.

- **Schooley Mill Park** (Howard County). Proposals for adding more ball fields in a relatively small park were brought to the attention of TROT members. Through proactive interaction with the county, we were assured that the changes would not impact the trails. Why then is this important? Our voices were heard by county officials. They are now aware that there are active, vocal trail riding advocates, and that the equestrian trails are important to us. This could very well impact future proposals.
- **Agricultural Farm Park** (Montgomery County). Some construction in the park caused a temporary re-routing of equestrian trails – and worried some riders. Again, proactive interaction with officials lets them know that our trails are important to us – and that they are being used!
- **Benson Branch Park** (Howard County). Horse access for one of the few Howard County horse-friendly parks was being severely limited by development. Working with area land owners and park officials, a new trailer parking area was identified and is being developed.
- **Little Bennett Regional Park** (Montgomery County). Public comment is being requested on restoring loss of trail access. As stated in the notice, it is important for park planners to hear your views and opinions to help them better understand the interests and needs of the trail user community. Go to <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/little-bennett-request-to-restore-trail-connection/>.

So please be assured – your membership in TROT is important. Please renew your membership and encourage other riders to join up. We increasingly need to pull together as we see increasing challenges in preserving our trails.

Excerpt from “Seven Tips to Help Save Horseback Riding Trails” by Leslie Potter

This information was posted to Maryland Trail Riders by Theresa Hays.

Thank- you, Theresa, for sharing. There is a lot of great information on the website of the source organization – Equine Land Conservation Resource. Please peruse their informative website at <http://elcr.org/>.

Know the facts, and share them. Horses often get blamed for having a negative impact on the environment, but research has shown otherwise. For example:

- Research from the Delaware National Heritage Program showed that horses and riders were generally less disturbing to wildlife than joggers, hikers, and even photographers.
- Several studies have shown that waste left behind by horses on the trail did not have an adverse effect on water supplies.
- Horses are often implicated in causing accelerated trail erosion, but studies have shown horses do not cause more erosion than human foot traffic or natural environmental processes.

Use it or lose it. Here's an easy one: Get out there and use the public trails in your area that are still available to equestrians. It's easier for landowners and decision makers at your local park to close trails to equestrians if there aren't too many riders out there. Be an active, responsible user of your local trails so that the world knows equestrians still exist!

For all Seven Tips go to <http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-news/2011/06/23/preserve-equestrian-lands.aspx>

North Tract (Patuxent Research Refuge)

Your help needed to retain a favorite local riding venue
Please provide input by November 26, 2012.

Barbara Sollner-Webb

As you know, TROT's core mission is to preserve and expand trails, which requires vigilance and collective action from trail-riding enthusiasts. TROT's initial trails successes included preserving the Paint Branch trails and expanding the WSSC trails, later successes were helping establish the trails around Sandy Spring and getting safe underpasses for horses under Route 29 and the Inter County Connector. We hopefully may soon hear that TROT members' efforts saved riding on the WSSC equestrian trails. [Please, good horse fairy, make that happen!] Tragically, we did not know about the closing of the Greenbelt National Park trails or the severe reduction of the Gettysburg trails, until it was too late to save them for equestrians.

Back in February 2010, scores of wonderful TROT members testified and wrote letters to retain riding at the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge, in east Laurel. Since then riders have happily used these trails, particularly in wet weather. These trails were originally constructed to withstand military tanks, when this was part of Fort Meade, so they are safe and not muddy when other areas are too wet for horses. TROT has even held organizing trail rides there, to familiarize members with this wonderful resource for riding in wet weather.

Fortunately, an astute TROT member recently noted a short announcement in a local newspaper regarding an upcoming hearing on the plan we testified about 2-1/2 years ago. An internet search located their nearly 600 page plan, whose summary and numerous pages of text describing their preferred alternative simply state that riding will continue at North Tract, with many more pages that clearly note that horse riding has not posed any problems in the area. Despite those comforting words, searching the document for all mentions of "horse" revealed that major changes in horse access were being contemplated. For example, a phrase in a late summary table states "Allow horseback riding with clean-up or horse diaper." It turns out that, as explained within a 200 page appendix, this means that unless your horse wears a diaper, you have to dismount, collect in a container you pack in and then pack out any horse droppings, from even distant portions of the gravel trails.

Furthermore, the "horse" search found an ancillary statement late in that appendix limiting horses' speed to a walk. We suspect those changes would mean the end of almost all riding at North Tract, yet the document describes no reason for, or advantages from, either of those changes, and they are not demanded at other riding venues. A cynical person might wonder if these changes weren't intentionally buried within a long and otherwise strong document. The document also does not address the disadvantages of these potential changes. Not only will riders no longer be able to enjoy the scenery and wildlife at the refuge, but other visitors at the Refuge who routinely have enjoyed seeing the horses and interacting with the riders, will lose the opportunity to be up and to the horses. Riders have also

frequently helped discover and pack out invasive plants.

We immediately alerted many equestrians, and with only three days notice, 22 wonderful equestrians came out to the hearing to testify in person, plus several others wrote great letters.

But we need more equestrians to provide their input -- especially from more individuals who do not personally ride at North Tract, who can comment from a general caring rather than appearing to have a personal benefit. Hopefully the deciding individuals are not anti-horse, and didn't understand the burden of those changes (for which they cite no benefit), so can be convinced to maintain the riding status quo. This requires that they hear from the equestrians!!

Please take the time to send in your personal comments for retaining riding as we know it at North Tract, to Bill Perry (Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035, or e-mail him at northeastplanning@fws.gov; write "Patuxent CCP" in the subject line), and send a copy to [Wendi Webber@FWS.gov](mailto:Wendi_Webber@FWS.gov). [To see the document, go to <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/patuxent/draftccp.html>, especially Chapter 3 page 97 and Appendix C page 55.] See p 199/586 - Allow horseback riding with cleanup or horse-diaper at the North Tract. See p421/586 - Horses are not permitted to travel at any time faster than normal walking gait. Horse manure will be cleaned up from trails and roads, and riders will be requested to pack out any such material.

Jane Seigler, who is the Vice President for the Maryland Horse Council, has articulated equestrian concerns with these changes to Mr. Perry. Among other points, she states "Particularly onerous is the requirement horse manure be cleaned up from trails and roads, and packed out. [App. C, p. 55] A requirement that manure be removed from parking lots and the grounds adjacent to the check-in station is reasonable and we would support that. However, the requirement that manure be removed from the trail and packed out is difficult and potentially dangerous. Dismounting on the trail places an undue burden on trail riders, many of whom cannot remount without use of a mounting block. Moreover, horses are much more controllable from the saddle in the event they are startled or spooked. Requiring riders to dismount increases the chance that a horse could get away from a rider and become loose on the trail, while the rider is engaged in collecting and bagging manure and attempting to remount while managing this bag of manure. Furthermore, the requirement may be difficult to enforce as a practical matter. Experienced trail horses often drop manure while walking without any indication to the rider. Chapter 3 page 97 suggests the use of horse diapers. Although horse diapers are used in urban settings by commercial licensed carriage drivers, they are not generally available to the public at horse tack shops or most online tack suppliers. They are difficult and time consuming to put on and remove. It takes significant time and training for horses to accept a bag suspended beneath their tail. Requiring use of diapers would have the effect of eliminating horseback riding from the refuge."

TROT's Judged Pleasure Ride. A Great Success

Susan Gray, JPR Coordinator

How's your soccer game on horseback or coordination to lead your horse on the off side over a blue tarp while walking on tree trunk stepping stones? Or your horse's willingness to back in an arc through a beautiful mum-lined horseshoe? How about the wedding you recently went to... instead of tying milk jugs to the honeymooners' car bumper, could you drag silver jugs through their wedding ferns? If you participated in TROT's Judged Pleasure Ride on September 23rd you could have tried all these things and more! And had a great time.

With over 50 volunteers and 65 riders, the weather was picture perfect for riders to try their hand at completing 15 obstacles, each with its own theme. RT&3L Farm in Frederick hosted the event in grand style and from the feedback we got back, everybody had a super time. TROT gives a great big thanks to farm owner, Bob Cole, and TROT member, Katie Tessier, who has a lessons program and trains western performance horses at the farm, for their hospitality.

With obstacles such as "The Black Hole," "The Wishing Well," and "World Cup Day," there was something in this JPR for everybody. At the Black Hole, riders positioned (or tried to position) either the back or front two of their horse's hooves on a 4 foot plywood circle painted black. Then they had to either turn on the forehand or haunches around the circle, without the pivoting legs going outside the circle. Getting your horse to stand on the plywood was challenge number one; getting it to pivot around the circle (keeping its pivoting legs in the circle) was big challenge, number two. We all know how handy it is for our horse to be able to pivot around out of a tight spot. Just try pivoting, though, on a "Black Hole."

At the "Wishing Well," riders had to ride up next to an obstacle painted to look like a wishing well, lift a basket out of the well using a rope, hang the basket on a hook, and draw a slip of paper from the basket and read it. Lucky riders, whose wish was granted, received a gift or gift certificate generously donated by various merchants and individuals.

At "World Cup Day," horses had to push, kick, nudge or otherwise get a huge soccer ball through "goal posts" in a round pen. This obstacle was absolutely fascinating to watch. Some horses wanted nothing to do with the soccer ball-- not even to get close to it. Others marched right up to the ball and started nudging, kicking or batting at it. A couple tried to lay down on the ball and a few seemed to want to cuddle it between their front legs—who knows why? Nationally, recognized clinician, Scott Purdum, judged this obstacle, and from the feedback we received, was extremely helpful, not only in judging, but in giving riders helpful tips as to how to help their horses deal with the ball. Amazingly, quite a number of horses had no trouble scoring a goal! Professional equine photographer

and TROT member, Linda Davis, took lots of super shots at this, and other obstacles. Thank you, Linda. Please, check out Linda's website at <http://qhdal.smugmug.com/Equestrian/TROT-JPR-2012> for her remarkable pictures. Scott also did a mini-clinic and demonstration after judging but before the award's ceremony. Both were excellent and a great way to learn something very helpful between riding and the award's ceremony. Thank you, Scott.

At the 4th of July obstacle, riders had to pick a small American flag off of the side of a large round hay bale decorated with large waving flags, glittery stars and patriotic ribbons, then ride close to and past a number of similarly decorated round bales and finally place the flag in a small holder. If your horse could do this obstacle with ease, you're probably ready for the next 4th of July parade!

Check out Linda's photos of the "Creekside in the Summer" obstacle—the simulated water crossing, canoe included, where horses were supposed to walk across a blue tarp, while their rider's walked on the right across tree stump "stepping stones." Some of the horses seemed quite perplexed. If Mom or Dad was walking on the "stepping stones," shouldn't they also follow? Ever seen a horse trying to walk on wooden "stepping stones" right behind its owner? It is amazing what these generous creatures will do to follow us.

The above were just some of the obstacles encountered in this year's JPR. One of the goals of this year's JPR committee was make obstacles more challenging. From comments we received, I think we were successful. There seemed to be no one obstacle that caused every rider to have trouble. At the same time, though, the obstacles apparently were varied and difficult enough that at least some of them were challenging to even the most accomplished horse and rider pair. Everybody who participated in the JPR should be congratulated. Even just getting through part of the course was an accomplishment.

As a first for TROT, this year riders returned from the course to a TROT-provided lunch of burgers and dogs which everybody seemed to really enjoy. Relaxing around the grill gave folks a chance to compare notes on how their horses did at various obstacles.

There were nine classes for this year's JPR—four breed and five rider classes. See TROT website (<http://www.trot-md.org/>) for full listing of classes and class placings. Additionally, there were prizes for the oldest horse, oldest rider and youngest rider participating in the event.

Our congratulations go to everyone who rode in the event, but especially to:

- Barbara Connor, Grand Champion;
- Patti Mathes, Reserve Grand Champion;
- Sarah Strausbough, Junior Grand Champion;
- Kelsey McArthur, Junior Reserve Grand Champion;
- Bridgett Bittner, High Point Novice, Junior;
- Sarah Strausbough, High Point Open, Junior;

(JPR continued on page 10)

(JPR continued from page 9)

- Angela Gross, High Point Novice Adult;
- Alison Laszewski, High Point Amateur Adult;
- Terry Ledley and Snuffy, eldest horse and eldest rider;
- Kelsey McArthur, youngest rider;
- Barbara Conner, winner of the Quarterhorse, Arabian, Appaloosa, Paint class;
- Amy Grimm, winner of the Thoroughbred, Warmblood, Crosses, Non-registered class;
- Caitlyn Stoddard, winner of the gaited breeds and pony class;
- Vara Devaney, winner of the green horse/green pony class.

Our special thanks goes to the following merchants and individuals who generously donated prizes.

- Dover Saddlery, Crofton, Md. for providing gift certificates to the winners of each class;
- Farmer's Cooperative Association of Frederick for providing a gift certificate to the Grand Champion and a gift certificate as a Wishing Well prize;
- Gayer's Saddlery, Upper Marlboro, Md. for providing a gift certificate for the Reserve Champion;
- The Grey Pony, Highland, Md. for providing the youngest rider prize;
- R&D Cross, Upper Marlboro, Md. for providing the oldest rider prize;
- Kyle Jossi, for providing the oldest horse prize;
- Katie Tessier, for providing the Junior prizes;
- Southern States, Frederick, Md.,
- Southern States, Burtonsville, Md.,
- Southern States, Sykesville, Md.,
- Highland Feed and Seed, Highland, Md.,
- Pat Talbot, for providing "Wishing Well" prizes.

Finally, our very, very special thanks goes to all of the volunteers without whose help the JPR would not have been possible. Just think about it—we had 65 riders and almost an equal number of volunteers. That's amazing! Volunteers—you are special!! This could not have been done without you! Hopefully, you had as much fun participating in the JPR as the riders had in riding—that was a goal. The planning for next year's JPR will start soon—be a part of it—it's rewarding, fun and a real joy to see so many people having such a good time!



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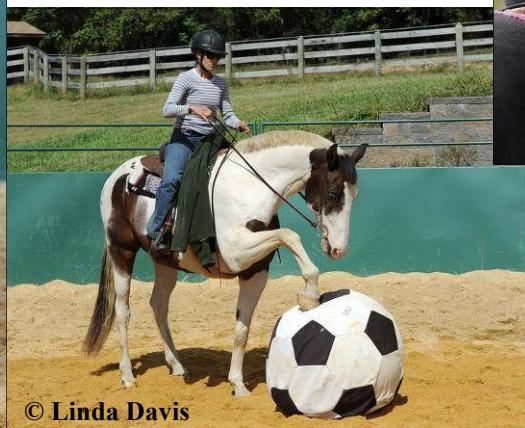
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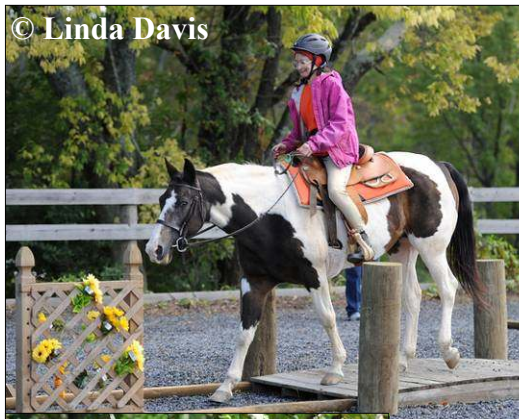


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TROT JPR Photos

Be sure to visit
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photos at

[http://
qhdal.smugmug.com/
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JPR-2012](http://qhdal.smugmug.com/Equestrian/TROT-JPR-2012)

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JPR photos provided by
Linda Davis and Mike Caruso.

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 Sandy Brewer
Email sandbrewer@aol.com

Blockhouse Point (Farm Loop on Canal at Violettes Lock)
Naomi Manders e-mail: naomimanders0@gmail.com

Breezy Loop Boyds, MD an easy hour and 15 minutes.
Naomi Manders e-mail: naomimanders0@gmail.com

Cactoctin Mountain Park and Little Bennett
Marilynn Miller (301) 898-7274

Croom, Md area, South of PG Equestrian Center
I am the trail historian for this area. I can keep you riding over different trails for 6 hours! People would leave from my farm in Croom & can ride to Patuxent River Park (Jug Bay), the Wildlife Sanctuary and Spice Creek Park. I am available Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon as a tour guide.
Carol CAAuletta@aol.com or (301) 579-2342

EPIC Trail at Dry Seneca Creek, Poolesville
This is mostly private with a sanctioned public route - exceptionally good footing, easy trail, good for exercising in winter. THIS IS NOT THE Great Seneca Greenway Trail that goes to Patuxent! 10 miles round trip
Naomi Manders e-mail: naomimanders0@gmail.com

Gunpowder State Park at Sweet Air (Harford County)
Karen Penharlow, (410) 236-9365 or KlawPaws@aol.com

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

Little Bennett Park
Jim and Maureen Henry (301) 371-4868.

Patuxent River State Park, Rachel Carson and Rock Creek Park, Laury Lobel
(301) 774-9595 or laurylobel@verizon.net

Patapsco State Park off Marriotsville Road
Elizabeth Baran
She is available during the week and weekend and would love to show other TROT members the trails.
H: (410) 442-5006 C: (410) 245-8942

Sugarloaf Mt. Vicki Bazan (301) 831-8715

Sugarloaf Mt. Janine Borofka (301) 874-0770

Union Mills/Kowomu Trail
Also Liberty Reservoir trails [off Deer Park Road] and Morgan Run Trails.
Ivy Smink (410) 875-5691 or ivyismink@qis.net

West Friendship Park and the North Tract of Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Research Center near Ft Meade
Kathy Coviello, 732-768-3302.

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

If you would like to volunteer to show other TROT members your favorite trails contact:
Nancy Osgood at nlosgood@verizon.net

LOOKING FOR RIDING BUDDIES and NEED A RIDE/SHARE A RIDE

This section of the Newsletter is for folks who are looking for riding partners – either for meeting up on the trail or for sharing a trailer ride. Linking up with other trail riders is fun – and economical! We want to provide a forum space for people looking for a traveling partner, so please write to the TROT Newsletter at nlosgood@verizon.net.

Looking for a horse to go on TROT rides. I would like to ride your horse (if you have an extra one) on a TROT trail ride. I rode for 20 years, but have not recently. I am in the Ellicott City/Catonsville area. I would be happy to share all expenses. Contact: Susan Doukas 443-842-0811 . email: sdoukashorse@yahoo.com

5/11

Welcome New Members

Margaret Scraff, TROT Membership

Ann Vazquez, Gambrills, MD, Anne Arundel County

Elizabeth Price Morrissey, Davidsonville, MD, Anne Arundel County

Kelly Weiss, Glen Burnie, MD, Anne Arundel County

Marnie Carter, Chesapeake City, MD, Cecil County

Vicki Price, Chesapeake City, MD, Cecil County

Maureen Wade, Chesapeake City, MD, Cecil County

Who's Who in TROT

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
<u>President</u> Pat Talbott (301) 704-3871 tallyhotazz@aol.com	Pat Merson (301) 898-3251 lilgrevhers@aol.com	Judy Thacher (301) 943-5298 iathacher@yahoo.com	Susan Railey susanrailey@verizon.net
<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	Laury Lobel laurylobel@verizon.net	Pat Oliva 410-489-7380 patolivatigger@aol.com	Barbara Sollner-Webb 301-604-5619 bsw@jhmi.edu
Vera Fontana (301) 633-8372 fontanavera@yahoo.com	Br. Roger Nelson 240-372-9494 rogersds@comcast.net	Maria Schwartz 301-906-6089 mariaeschwartz@verizon.net	Ron MacNab (301) 622-4157 rmacnab@comcast.net
<u>COMMITTEES</u>	<u>Newsletter</u> Nancy Osgood/Sim Shanks nlosgood@verizon.net	<u>Trail Maintenance</u> Amy Kimble AmvHKimble@aol.com	<u>Web Master</u> Harold Goldstein mdbiker@goldray.com
<u>Membership</u> Margaret Scarff mdanews@aol.com	<u>Trail Rides</u> Lisa Troutman cat.home@verizon.net	<u>Mapping Project</u> Ron MacNab rmacnab@comcast.net	
<u>COUNTY</u> ** = Coordinators * = Contacts	<u>Charles</u> **Dr. Kathy Blanche (240) 320-4385 jbservs@peoplepc.com	<u>Prince George's</u> **Lynn Gulley (410) 707-8094 equinedesigner@gmail.com	<u>Washington</u> *Susan Rechen (301) 946-3593 rechen@si.edu
<u>Anne Arundel</u> **Diane Ayers (410) 551-0832 dianeayers@verizon.net	<u>Fredrick</u> **Pat Merson (301) 898-3251 lilgrevhers@aol.com	<u>Fairland Regional Park</u> *Mary Angevine (301) 937-0014	<u>Wicomico County</u> **Shawn McEntee (410) 749-2665 smc1159@verizon.net
<u>Baltimore</u> Vacant	<u>Harford</u> **Karen Penharlow (410) 236-9365 KlawPaws@aol.com	<u>Broad Creek Hist. District</u> *Dave Turner (301) 292-6130	<u>Virginia</u>
<u>Calvert</u> Vacant	<u>Howard</u> **Pat Oliva (410) 489-7380 patolivatigger@aol.com	<u>St. Mary's</u> **Kathy Glockner (301) 475-1941 kglockner@md.metrocast.net	<u>Front Royal</u> *Karen Young (540) 635-5136 karen@friesianfields.com
<u>Carroll</u> **Anne Bennof (301) 829-0949 trotfour@aol.com	<u>Montgomery</u> **Ron MacNab (301) 622-4157 rmacnab@comcast.net	<u>Talbot</u> Vacant	<u>Upper Shenandoah Valley area</u> *Karen Young (540) 635-5136 karen@friesianfields.com
<u>Cecil</u> **Jeanne Bond halcyonfarm1@hotmail.com			



JPR
"Black
Hole"



CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an ad email: nlogood@verizon.net
TROT Members: One regular (100 word) ad FREE!

Non-member rates:	-1/4 page ad -	\$25
-Classified ads -	-1/2 page ad -	\$40
\$6.00 for first 100 words	-full page ad -	\$75
\$0.10 for each additional word	-Insert (all copies delivered to our printer) -	\$50
-Business Card -		\$6.00

BOARDING, HORSE PROPERTY

Belle Cote Farm: Field board available for adults on a private farm in Burtonsville, MD. Lighted outdoor arena and direct access to WSSC trails. \$300/mo. Prefer retired, semi-retired, or non-showing horses.

Also several nice horses available for lease

Contact Debby at Debby.Poole@Juno.com or 301-641-9594



West Laurel Stable – Horse Boarding at its best!

We provide a friendly and relaxed environment for pleasure riding. You and your horse will feel very comfortable. Riders will enjoy the new 80 x 200 ft ring and access to the beautiful trails on the WSSC watershed (also known as the Rocky Gorge or Supplee trails). Your horse will enjoy the quiet landscape with rolling hills and nice pastures, and will receive excellent care by our dedicated staff. Come see our barn, conveniently located in West Laurel. Call John at 301-332-2688 to arrange a visit. \$425/per month stall board.



Potomac Riverside Stables

Poolesville, MD (www.potomacriversidestables.com)

(301) 972-8187

"Trail Riding Heaven" A top quality boarding & training facility also offering several well trained school horses for lease. Instruction and training for horses and riders, from beginner to advanced. Several instructors to choose from. Your instructor is also welcome. The stable is located on 400 beautiful acres adjoining the C&O Canal with 100s of miles of National Park trails. Personal quality individual care, large indoor arena, 3 outdoor arenas, large stalls, many other features for your horse's comfort: mats, fans, fly spray system, hot showers, unlimited free choice premium hay made on the farm. Your horse is given whatever he needs, *no limits*. We have several vacancies and very reasonable rates.

Full quality care and self care.

Affordable Horse Boarding Available! 5 beautiful acres in Gaithersburg that include two pastures, a four stall stable barn with run-in shelters, tack room, hay loft, and water and electric. Property is nicely secluded with a natural spring and backs Seneca Creek State Park and riding trails. Full or partial board is available and pricing is negotiable. Location is off of Turkey Foot Rd in 20878 zip code. If interested call Steve at 703-887-1799. 11/11

Reichs Ford Farm - South Frederick County. Field Board, \$200-\$275/mo, Stall Board, \$335-\$425/mo. Trail/Conditioning Memberships available, \$50/mo unlimited access or \$15/visit. New custom barn on secluded 240 acre private farm, mountain views, 7+ miles of groomed trails, fields, woods, water crossing, mixed terrain, flat and hilly. Custom run-in shelters, quality home-grown hay, free-fed in winter. Automatic, heated waterers. Grass and sand/fiber riding arenas. Mares' fields. Retirees welcome. Trailer storage. MD Licensed. See our website www.reichsfordfarm.com Ijamsville/Urbana area. Joy Fernon, Resident Manager, 240-674-4825, jfernon@comcast.net 7/12

Country Farm house available to rent September 1:

INCLUDED All utilities, FIOS Cable and Internet. As well as a Private W/D, Full bathroom with tub/shower. 3 bedrooms, sitting room, and country kitchen (The kitchen can be Shared or Private). Also has parking next to the house, walking trails along streams, deer, and birds. Plenty of area for vegetable or flower gardens if interested. Looking for no drama, and someone who enjoys a peaceful beautiful setting on a 20 acre horse farm. A very safe area. No smoking, or big parties. Pets by approval only. My 26 year old daughter who helps manage the Horse farm has her own living area and entrance. My Sister is the nearest neighbor. Price is \$1,700 Negotiable Located in Burtonsville, MD along the rt 95 Corridor between Silver Spring and Columbia.. If interested. CONTACT ME AT bcfarmhouse@gmail.com 9/12

\$899,500 Silver Spring, Custom Springbrook Rancher on top of an unbelievable country setting. RENOVATIONS & UPDATES include - kitchen, all new stainless steel appliances, granite, new plumbing, new Thompson Creek windows, electric box, refinished hardwood floors, carpet, lighting & bathrooms. Barn has 3+ stalls, tack room, hay loft – able to hold 250+ bales. Water and electric to barn. Paddock fencing. HorseTrails lead off the back of the property. Home consists of 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. 20 minutes from DC line.

Call Vera for showings: 301-633-8372

11/12

Thistlehill Farm is a small private licensed Maryland boarding farm near Lisbon, MD. We offer full service field boarding with individualized care, excellent pastures/shelter, a lighted outdoor arena, round pen, wash racks and more. Our current (as of October 2012) boarding rate is \$325 per month. The farm is located a short 5 mile drive from Patuxent Park, with hours of trails for you to enjoy. We are the perfect place for your retired or semi-retired horse or pony. For more information please call the farm at 410-489-4752 or visit our Blog at:

<http://thistlehillfarm.wordpress.com/>

11/12

HORSES - SALE, LEASE OR FREE

Two horses for Lease or Half-lease: (1) Zippo black pine for half lease. 16.2 black gelding needs experienced rider .does dressage eventing and all round good horse. (2) Dark bay Quarter horse gelding. Non-spooky - excellent for children or first time riders, soft mouth, can ride English or Western. For info call Carol at 240-447-5186 7/11

Horse for Sale: Oreo Cookie, 15 hand, 8 yr. old reg. paint mare, purchased as a 3 yr. old to train as my trail horse. I am now 72 and find a gaited horse more suited for this time in my life. She is a pleasure to be around and ride and her easy-going temperament would make a good competitive trail horse. She was leased for two mo. this summer by a 13 yr old girl Price reduced to \$2500. Call Sharon Osborn at 410-775-2420 9/12

MISC. - TRAILERS, SADDLES, TACK, ETC

No postings

SERVICES

Janet Young, PhD, EEBW

Just like humans, horses get sore muscles, especially if work is intermittent, or intense. The result: actions often interpreted as "bad behavior". Massage can: provide comfort, improve disposition, enhance performance, reduce tactile defense, increase circulation. Complementary, not a substitute for regular veterinary care. Treat your 4-legged friend to massage by TROT member certified in equine massage.

janet@goldray.com / www.equine-equanimity.com
202-997-2378 11/12

Come **buy your next Truck** from your Local Equestrian Sales Specialist and Fellow TROT Member, Ashley Adams at Keene Dodge Chrysler Jeep! We specialize in Trucks! Also, we service and perform body work on Horse Trailers. Ask me about the Rebates available to USEF, NTRA, and Farm Bureau Members! We are centrally located in Jarrettsville, MD. Call me at (800)394-7127 or (443)506-2263 or e-mail me at aadams@keenedodge.com. www.keenedodge.com

Helping Hands Pet Sitters
I care for your pets just like you would

Pat Talbott
Owner
301-704-3871
tallyhotazz@aol.com

5/11

For All Your Real Estate Needs
Vera Fontana
Representing Buyers, Sellers & Investors
Since 1990
Evers & Co. Real Estate, Inc.
Vera@VeraFontana.com
301-633-8372 Direct Line 3/11

San-Thom Decor
Sandra Thomas

14240 Forsythe Rd
Sykesville, MD. 21784
Phone: 410-442-2394
Fax: 410-442-0290
santhomdecor@aol.com
Like me on Facebook

WANTED

No postings



JPR

Signing In



Moving Out





TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY
Margaret Scarff, TROT Membership
4406 Carico Lane White Hall, MD 21161

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page 1



The Back Page

from the Newsletter Staff

IMPORTANT NEWS INSIDE! As you know TROT's main mission is to preserve equestrian trails. Please join with us in addressing some urgent and on-going issues that could affect our riding venues.

- **North Tract** of the Patuxent Research Refuge. Changes are being considered that would virtually eliminate riding in this nearby area which is used by many riders. Your letters and emails are needed now – before November 27! See Page 8.
- **Little Bennett Park** in Montgomery County. Changes in trails are being considered. Input from an active equestrian community is critical at this planning stage. See Page 4.
- **Schooley Mill Park** in Howard County. Support preserving this as the only Howard County Horse Park. See Pages 3 and 4.

SAVE THE DATES! January 18-20, 2013 – The Horse World Expo is coming to Timonium.
February 9, 2013, TROT Annual Potluck Dinner and Silent Auction at the Mount Airy Fairgrounds.

A FEW GOOD HORSE PEOPLE NEEDED! Participate in TROT Board or TROT Committees.
Make your New Year's Resolution early – and get involved! See Page 6.