



Trail Riders Of Today

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TROT members: This is YOUR newsletter – please submit articles for it (to bsw@jhmi.edu)

TROT'S TRAIL OBSTACLE EVENT WAS A BIG SUCCESS !

Nearly 3 dozen riders, a great chance to school

from Dana Grabiner

What do a jumping spider and the Pony Express have in common? You guessed it: they both were obstacles featured in the ring portion of TROT's Trail Obstacle Event Oct. 10 at Schooley Mill Park. One was part of a Halloween-themed obstacle; the other was an open-and-close mailbox exercise.

Nearly three dozen riders took part in the Obstacle Event, and what a variety we had: everything from a Lusitano to a gaited mule, *[continued next page]*



[photos from Barb Sollner-Webb]

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*from Gale Monahan,
new TROT President*

I would like to introduce myself. I am Gale Monahan, new President of TROT. I am not unfamiliar with this position, as I was TROT President previously for about 6 years. In the past, I also served on the Board of TROT for approximately 15 years which included a number of years as Howard County Coordinator. I think what I am trying to tell you is that I have a tremendous passion and interest in this organization.

I held my first TROT Board meeting since becoming President on November 6th. It was a wonderful surprise to me that so many were present, whether here at my home (14) or on the phone (7). I also was quite impressed with seeing that there were 3 other past TROT Presidents sitting around the table. This shows how much this organization means to so many.

Due to Maria Schwartz, Judy Thacher, and Pat Talbot stepping down, we needed to fill their positions. Besides the President of TROT which I stepped up to fill after being nominated by the Board, Deneen Martin was nominated and accepted to be your Vice President. Sim Shanks was gracious enough to step up and took over the membership until a replacement can be found. Do we have any volunteers?

Know that TROT is **YOUR ORGANIZATION**. Board meetings are not closed meetings. Everyone is welcome. Come to a Board meeting. *[continued on p. 3]*

[continued from page 1 -- TROT'S TRAIL OBSTACLE EVENT]

and riders age 10 to 70+. We had a Clydesdale, feathers flying, a Belgian cross, and a large pony; pairs, groups, singles – and it was a rare rider who didn't try all the obstacles at least twice. That's the beauty of a schooling event: do-overs are allowed!

One entrant took her honey-gold, 3-year-old Dutch sport horse in hand. You should've seen that big filly transfixed by a two-foot-tall stuffed mechanical pony that marked the start of the trail portion of the ride. The mechanical pony was a favorite: it could bat its eyelids, turn its head, and open its mouth. Imagine finding that on a trail!

A popular challenge was the Autumn Harvest obstacle – long, wide strips of reflective ribbon hanging from a tall frame that horses were supposed to walk through. An advanced option was to pause in the middle of the ribbons for 5 seconds. Some horses wouldn't go through until they had seen at least 3-4 other horses do it and survive!

Another source of minor balking was created by Mother Nature herself: spreading puddles of rainwater from the previous night's downpour. Horses encountered the largest puddle as soon as they entered the ring. Funny how they tried to tip-toe around the edges of the water. Few horses had any problem with 'Scary Alley,' an L-shaped lane formed by bright orange, latticed construction fencing, and accented with stick-on spiders and other Halloween items as big as your head. Most horses traversed the lane backwards and forwards with ease.

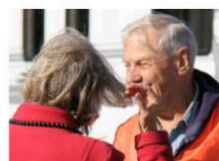
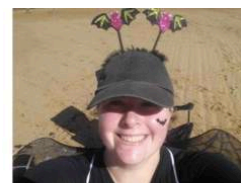
A message that came through loud and clear: riders really appreciated the opportunity to school over the obstacles. And everyone seemed to enjoy the chance to ride the Schooley Mill trails in the woods and fields.

An extra-special thank you goes to Jenn Poole who organized the entire effort to build all of the ring obstacles, Priscilla Huffman who rallied the terrific volunteers who manned the obstacles (thank you, all the great volunteers!), Kyle Jossi who staffed the check-in table, Deneen Martin who decorated the trail obstacles with a cheery autumn theme, Susan Gray and Jeff Cooper who led the parking team, Sim Shanks who manned the P.O. box for entrants, Barbara Sollner-Webb for bringing the TROT logowear to purchase, and Dana Grabiner, who learned you shouldn't wait 'til the night before to send out rider times! ("But entries kept coming in!"). **And a warm welcome to the new TROT members who joined by way of the Obstacle Event.**

[photos from Jenn Poole, Amy Kimble, Mike Caruso and Barbara Sollner-Webb]



Some of the great volunteers



[continued from page 1 -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ask your questions, bring your thoughts. **It is your club.** Contact any one of us. My contact information and the rest of the Board's information is on the "Who's Who in TROT" page of this newsletter (page 19, below).

There are a number of things we are working on that you could be involved in. We have the Expo, the Annual Pot Luck (which will be held in March), non-judged trail obstacle event for next year (which was great fun for everyone), organized trail rides and clearing to name some. If there is a trail in your area that is in jeopardy of being lost due to development, you could work with your TROT County Coordinator on saving your trail. Bring an idea to the Board, possibly form a committee for a project you think would be worthwhile or fun for TROT that works towards our mission of trails and trail preservation. Join us.

It has been a long time since I held this position. I am very fond of TROT and I am looking forward to seeing it thrive.

Remember, this is your organization; get involved.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*from Deneen Martin, new TROT Vice-President
and trail ride coordinator*

Hello all TROT members! It is a pleasure to have been elected the Vice President of TROT. I have been with TROT for over 20 years and am ready to assist TROT to move forward in a positive and cooperative spirit.

The Schooley Mill Trail Obstacle Event was so much fun and the riders were very appreciative of the efforts of our TROT members. We'd like to see more events such as this and invite everyone to volunteer, but most of all, to get involved with building and maintaining our lovely trails. With the Horse Expo and Annual TROT dinner coming up, we would like you to come, participate, have a good time and meet new riding friends. Leading a ride at your favorite park or your favorite trails can be another great way to become acquainted with your fellow equestrians and enjoy good food afterward!

Everyone is invited to attend a TROT Board meeting and become more involved with our important goal of preserving trails!

FOUR IMPORTANT NOTICES:

VOLUNTEER AND GET A FREE DAY PASS TO HORSE WORLD EXPO – JAN 22-24, 2016

Sign up to volunteer at the TROT booth for two hours and get an all-day pass to the 2016 Horse World Expo. What a great way to meet fellow trail riders and enjoy the seminars and demonstrations! The 2016 Expo runs Friday, January 22 through Sunday, January 24. To volunteer, contact Priscilla Huffman at priscillahuffman@verizon.net or call/text 301-646-4422. Spots fill up quickly so call soon!

Note the change: THE 2015 LISBON CHRISTMAS PARADE is not for horses this year

The organizers of the Lisbon Christmas Horse Parade appreciate the equestrian community's support and enthusiasm for past Horse Parades, which became incredibly successful and grew very large. But this resulted in logistical challenges which seemed insurmountable this year, so the parade will not be for horses this year; they hope to bring back a 2016 Horse Parade.

Meanwhile, the organizers will continue to help feeding the hungry during the holidays. Since its debut, the parade has raised over \$30,000 for local food banks and the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department. This year will have an alternate parade to still celebrate western Howard County's agrarian community, with a tractor and farm equipment parade. Community members are invited to bring any motorized farm equipment that is decorated for the holidays. After the parade, the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department will host a Fried Chicken & Ham Dinner, a holiday vendor area, live music and a bonfire!

SAVE THE DATE! -- Saturday March 19, 2016 -- TROT ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

As last year, it will be at the Mount Airy Fireman's Activity Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Rd, Mount Airy, MD 21771 (corner of Twin Arch Rd and Route 27), Saturday, March 19, 2016 – hopefully well after the bad snowfalls!

Do you have some extra tack or supplies in good condition? Start collecting your lightly used tack and horse gear for TROT's annual dinner and silent auction coming up at the Annual Dinner. All donations are welcome! Or do you offer horse-related services or products? All proceeds raised from the silent auction go to TROT. Your donations are what make this a fun and successful event! [We will also have fixed-price buckets for smaller items.] See the January TROT newsletter for more details.

Opening URLs

If clicking on a URL in this newsletter does not open it, please check as some computers change some characters from how they appears in the newsletter, and correct as needed. Sorry for that!

TROT MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN ENHANCING TRAILS

New Trail at Black Hills Park

information from Amy Kimble

MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts), the trail group with whom Amy Kimble has long endeavored to join TROT's volunteers in numerous trail building projects, is starting an exciting new trail building project at nearby Black Hills Park. The Montgomery County Parks Department has approved a 5-6 mile new trail around the west side of Black Hills Lake, starting at the south end off Rt 121. Austin Steo of Trails Conservancy helped lay out the line, Montgomery County Parks Department is lining up boy scout teams to do trail clearing, and the park department will do all the bench-cutting with a machine. Volunteers are being solicited to clear the trail corridor. The plan is to get this trail open some time next year, so we will be building over the fall, winter and spring.

On Sunday, Oct 4, Amy Kimble worked with Dave Magill and Rick Meyer of MORE and five other volunteers on the kick-off phase of this effort. This super working group made it over half a mile in toward the Osprey heights loop from Ganley Road, clearing the corridor, with medium saplings in the trail cut to about 2-3 feet and left to be pulled by the machine.

To be emailed for future workdays, join the e-mail list that Rick Meyer, MORE co-liaison at Black Hills, is building (<livedb@aol.com>, 301-335-7274); these days will also be announced on MORE's website (<<http://www.more-mtb.org>>).

Austin Steo (left), Rick Meyer (middle) and others work at the Black Hills trail



photos from Amy Kimble

Trail Clearing and Re-Blazing at WSSC's Rocky Gorge Reservoir

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

On Saturday, October 17, WSSC's trail gurus, Jeff Bell and Nicole Horvath, hosted a work party on the Rocky Gorge trail in Montgomery County, clearing branches and small trees that interfere with clear passage, re-blazing the main trail and cross-trails, and improving cross-trail numbering. It was a great success with 16 volunteers, including TROT members Ron and Janet MacNab and Barbara Sollner-Webb. We did a swell job, making the section from Tucker Lane (cross-trail # 56) to Ednor Road (cross-trail # 48) quite perfect (although it was great for riding before, too). The good feelings between these wonderful WSSC folks and the trail users are truly inspiring! Happily, Jeff Bell has been keeping the entire trail cleared of major obstacles such as downed trees throughout the year. WSSC will be having additional work-days to similarly enhance the rest of the trail, with the next one on Wednesday, November 18th. Do come out and ride this great trail Rocky Gorge trail before it is closed for the winter at the end of November.

Getting ready to go out for the trail work



Ron MacNab (front), Janet MacNab (next) and others



photos from Barbara Sollner-Webb

Eventual Connection of Rachel Carson Park to Hawlings River Parkland

*info from
Ron MacNab*

Montgomery Parks has agreed to revise their countywide Trails Amendment Plan to include a connection between Rachel Carson Park and Hawlings River parkland! This is important to area trail riders, to hopefully eventually get installed a safe bridge underpass between these two riding venues.

Currently, hikers and trail riders cross Rt 97 to go between Hawlings River parkland and Rachel Carson Park along the Rachel Carson Trail -- a very dangerous crossing at a turn at the bottom of a hill on state road Rt 97. Montgomery Parks owns land on both sides of Rt 97 at the Hawlings River underpass but omitted this park connection from the Montgomery Countywide Park Trails Amendment Plan -- which astute TROT member Susan Gray noted. She and Ron MacNab, Laury Lobel, and others became concerned that without this connection in the Montgomery County Plan, there would be no reason for State Highway Administration (SHA) to provide a multi-use passageway under the bridge when SHA eventually rebuilds the bridge going over Hawlings River. Happily, through the efforts of these great TROT members, Montgomery Parks has said they will now include a connection between Rachel Carson Park and Hawlings River parkland on their plans, and hopefully this will eventually result in a safe bridge underpass connecting the two park areas for use by hikers and trail riders (and wildlife).

Once again, this shows how trail rider participation is essential to keeping our trails open.

Gunpowder Falls State Park Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP)

from Bruno Conticello

[Editor's note: There are a number of VMPs across the region -- including Montgomery County Parks, Fair Hill, Howard County Police, Patapsco, Susquehanna, Gunpowder, etc. Participating in one of them or working to start another one at another deserving venue is a great and very rewarding way to help enhance the equestrian experience, both for yourself and for other users. VMP participants provide an equestrian presence in the park or other venue that they represent; they report problems they see and answer users' questions, but do not engage in any confrontational activity. Through the inspiration and dedication of Priscilla Huffman and Bruno Conticello, an active VMP was re-started this year at Gunpowder Falls State Park. In this article, Bruno explains the process of becoming a VMP member, to encourage more TROT members to participate in these very worthwhile programs. See p. 19 for information on applying to join the Gunpowder VMP.]

photos from Bruno Conticello



from left to right: VMP members Bruno Conticello, Peter McConaughy, Karen Gresia Ferris, Dan Wise, Cindy Titus & Wendy Bohner

You can ride with a purpose. Enjoy your horse on great riding trails and serve your community at the same time while exercising good stewardship in our State parks.

The Maryland Volunteer Ranger Program started in 1992. It is comprised of volunteers dedicated to assisting with State Park activities. In 1997, a special assignment was started at Gunpowder Falls State Park that included Volunteer Rangers who performed their duties on horseback. This group of volunteers is known as the Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP). The creation of the VMP program marked the beginning of an exciting initiative to utilize volunteers to assist Rangers in our State Parks. Volunteers are able to combine their love of horses with their love of State Parks. The VMP offers assistance and provides trail information to visitors. The VMP also patrols the trails to be the "eyes and ears" of the park.

After meeting volunteer service standards, a person is eligible to attend the required Volunteer

[continued next page]

Ranger Orientation training. The Mounted Patrol member must attend the required training and assessments. This training will consist of 40 hours including the Volunteer Ranger Orientation Training, Operations Training, CPR & Blood Borne Pathogens (Mounted Patrol members are required to maintain CPR certification, First Aid, and attend blood borne pathogen training, annually), Park Orientation, a Ride Along with a veteran VMP member and pass a Horse Assessment. Once you complete 40 hrs of training and pass the horse assessment, you will be a Level I volunteer and can go on VMP patrols independently.

Gunpowder Falls State Park VMP members participated in a Mounted Ride Along on 9/27 on the Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail (NCR Trail). (See photos.)

Horse and Rider Assessments

The final part of your first year's field training is the horse assessment. It is actually an assessment of how you and your horse(s) handle the challenges you may encounter in the park as VMPs. In order to participate in events with large numbers of people, your horse must also pass a "Large Event Assessment" which is conducted along with the Horse Assessment for those who are interested. (Multiple horses can be assessed at the same time, as you can patrol with several different horses.)

It is not expected that every horse and rider team will be perfect. The goal is for you and your horse(s) to be prepared for these challenges and that you will safely maneuver all the obstacles. If a horse and rider cannot pass one or more obstacles, they can be re-assessed on these obstacles later. Practicing before the assessment helps and is encouraged. The intention is to get you and your horse to pass, so VMP members will work with you and your horse to be successful.

Notes on the VMP Horse Assessment

Plan to arrive early and allow plenty of time to groom and tack up your horse. You will be able to walk the course and practice on each of the obstacles before the assessment begins. You must complete the obstacles in a specific order. Feel free to ask the assessor about the obstacles and what is expected from the horse for each. The assessments are run by Park Rangers or VMPs trained to conduct assessments. Each assessor has their own way of conducting the assessments. You must wear your helmet and once the assessment begins, you are being evaluated as long as you are on your horse. For example, you might be asked to do the following:

- All of the horses and riders are directed to the far side of the arena and then, one at a time, horse and rider are asked to approach each obstacle.
- Walk up to the assessor and take a clipboard and sign your name on the assessment form. While you are doing this, the assessor pretends to be a park guest and touches the horse on the face, neck and ears.
- Walk up to a baby stroller that is being moved around by a volunteer.
- Walk up to helium balloons tied to a milk carton on the ground; the horse has to touch his nose to the balloons.
- Walk over 3 ground poles, crossed poles in a jump standard, some trash (swimming noodles and plastic bottles), a blue tarp that makes crinkling noise, and/or a piece of plywood **[Editor's note: Sure sounds like TROT's recent Trail Obstacle Event!]**
- Back-up into a set of 3 traffic cones and then back around a cone and out of the 3 cones.
- Mount and dismount without the horse moving.
- During the assessment, a person is riding a bicycle around the assessment course.
- Proceed to an outdoor paddock where all of the horses are asked to walk in a large circle. Keep moving in a calm manner as a four-wheeled farm vehicle or a motorcycle is driven around the paddock.
- While in the outdoor paddock with the other horses, walk in a circle around a Park Ranger's truck. Keep walking calmly as the flashing lights are turned on and then the siren is turned on with increasing volume. You could be asked to walk within 2-3 feet of the truck as the lights and siren are active (close enough so the volunteer can talk to the official).
- Four flares are lit and placed in a square pattern, one flare on each corner, spaced 12 feet apart. The horses are asked to walk in a single file through the center of the square. For horses that are hesitant, a stable horse is first offered to take the lead and guide the other horses through. But ultimately, each horse must walk through the flare course on his own. You can first practice with sparklers at home, to get your horse accustomed to the sparks before you practice with flares.

I would like to invite you to join the "Fans of Gunpowder Falls State Park Mounted Patrol" Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/738030532959088/>). This is ****NOT**** an official page for the GFSPVMP, but rather a place where folks who like the VMP can go to share info and experiences. If you are already on Facebook, just request to be added and we will get you linked in!!! Feel free to share with others who may benefit or be fans of the VMP.

photos from Bruno Conticello



UPCOMING TRAIL WORK & REPORTING YOUR HOURS

Please help clear and maintain trails, or they can get lost. As always, we are asking all TROT members to take along your clippers and folding saw when you go out riding trails, and clip as you ride. Ask your riding buddies to do the same. Ideally also stop to saw a branch if it is protruding into the trail. You will be amazed how much this little effort will improve the trails' condition. [As you surely know, motor-driven machines (chain saw, bush hog, etc.) are not permitted in most riding venues – Carroll County is an exception.]



And two big favors, please:

- [1] Report your trail work to the newsletter editor ([<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)) for inclusion in the next edition, and
- [2] Record the estimated hours of your clipping and other trail work, and report them to Amy Kimble (call or text 301-748-8310; [<AmyHkimble@aol.com>](mailto:AmyHkimble@aol.com)). The more reported volunteer hours, the larger the budgets for our riding venues!

UPCOMING TROT TRAIL RIDE

Come on a TROT trail ride for a great way to see first hand the beauty of the trails we are working to preserve. They are fun, a great opportunity to learn new venues and meet other TROT members, maybe a new riding buddy. After this newsletter arrives, there will be only one more planned TROT trail ride this year, but please come on many next year.

When you are planning on riding this winter, consider announcing it on the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo lists, so others can join and learn the venue.

Hopefully, next year you may want to lead a trail ride. As encouragement, each ride leader will be awarded a TROT logo-wear item! To lead a ride, contact Deneen Martin (301-467-5335, [<deneenmartin7@msn.com>](mailto:deneenmartin7@msn.com)).

Thursday, Dec. 3 - Schooley Mill Park (Howard Co.)

rain date, Thurs., Dec 10 Leader: Debby Poole
([<bellecotefarm@gmail.com>](mailto:bellecotefarm@gmail.com), 301-641-8594)

This will be the last TROT ride for year, at Schooley Mill Park. It will be slow paced, to get horses used to getting out in a different place with a group. Great for starting a young horse or for those that like to putter around. Schooley Mill Park offers a wonderful ring for schooling if you want to come early or stay after, a sturdy mounting block, and easy trailer parking. For most horses, shoes are not needed. Rolling hills, woods and along meadows. Contact Debby to sign up and learn the start time. Schooley Mill Park is at 12975 Hall Shop Road, Highland, MD; see [<www.howardcountymd.gov/schooleymillpark.htm>](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/schooleymillpark.htm). As always, TROT ride participants must wear a helmet, have a current negative Coggins for the horse, and be a TROT member (with \$5 one-day memberships available at the ride).

REPORTS OF RECENT TROT TRAIL RIDES

Sept. 19 - Reichs Ford Farm

from Joy Fernon

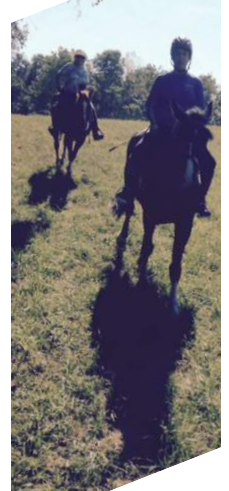
(postponed from rained-out original date)



From left to right: Nicole Alvarez, Laury Lobel and "Ace," Gemma Radko, Gina Miller and "Ringo," and Joy Fernon



[photos from Joy Fernon]



Originally slated for the 12th, the raindate of the 19th proved to be delightful weather for the Reichs Ford Farm ride. Laury Lobel and "Ace," and Gina Miller and "Ringo" joined Reichs Ford Farm rider, Joy, Gemma and Nicole on a pleasant trail ride at 10 AM. The ride presented a mix of terrain along the perimeters of our hay fields with scenic views of the surrounding farms and Sugarload Mountain in the distance, and then down into the cooler wooded trails that follow the meandering path of Bush Creek. While on one of the wooded trails, a short canter got us away from an unexpected swarm of ground bees! By noon, our riding party returned to our starting point, where we shared a potluck and refreshments in front of the Farm's original farmhouse. A pleasant time was had by all!

continued from page 7 - REPORTS OF TROT RIDES

Sept. 20 - Rachel Carson

from Michelle Beachley

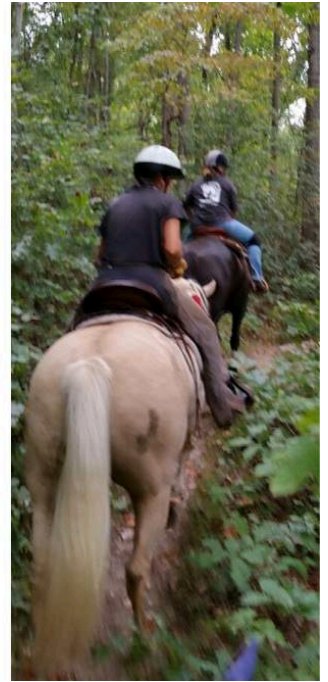
(postponed from rained-out original date)



This park treated new and familiar faces to her beauty with grass swaying in the wind, sun sparking through the trees and variety of easily maneuverable picturesque trails. Our hostess, **Deneen Martin**, shared the park's history and other local tid-bits. Sweet and salty treats filled our mouths as we recapped the ride and made riding plans with new friends for the next weekend. Thank you for connecting us!

Happy Trails!

[photos from Michelle Beachley]



Sept. 26 - Fairland Park

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

On Saturday, Sept. 26, we had a great ride at Fairland Park, which straddles Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Happily this ride was not rained out, but had good weather. It was co-led by Jenn Poole and myself, with an all-walk and a faster group, enjoying the pretty forest hillsides of this very nice park. In attendance, beside Jenn and me, were Debby Poole, Terry Ledley, Deneen Martin, and Steph Gelfeld. After the ride we had a yummy pot-luck.

Fairland is a rather urban park, with lots of kids, soccer games, bikes, etc. This presents great opportunities to be good equestrian emissaries, in many cases to kids and parents, who had "never been up-close to a horse before". [See photos.]



Some of the riders: Debby Poole, Jenn Poole, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Terry Ledley and Deneen Martin

[photos from Barbara Sollner-Webb]

Our horses being good equestrian emissaries to very excited kids who were previously unfamiliar with horses



Oct. 17 - Gunpowder Falls State Park

– Sweet Air area

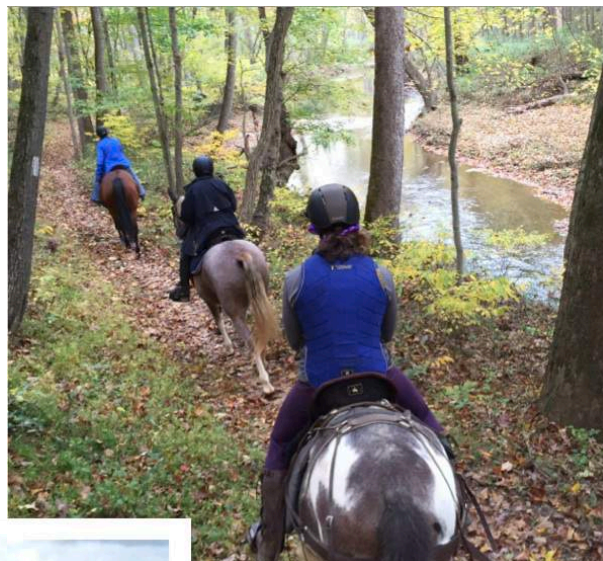
from Priscilla Huffman

If you haven't ridden through the Sweet Air area in Gunpowder Park, it's worth the trip. Located in Harford County (2840 Dalton Bevard Rd, Baldwin, MD), there is ample parking for horse trailers as well as multiple trails through woods, along corn fields, and beside the Gunpowder River. Joyce Browning led our TROT ride for about 2 ¼ hours on Saturday, Oct. 17th. Six other riders attended, including: Wendy Boehner, Yancy Carey, Pam Howard, Priscilla Huffman, Monika Munn, and Howard Shultz.

The group was very accommodating, and changed leaders during the ride to give different horses experience in both leading and following. There were a few areas where those who wanted to go faster could break off for a short trot or canter around a field and then re-join the group.

Joyce, who works for the Maryland Extension Service, knows her park trees, and passed out Sweet Birch twigs to taste along the trail – we all agreed it tasted similar to spearmint. [Sweet Birch is commonly referred to as black birch or cherry birch and was at one time the only source of oil of wintergreen.]

Joyce is TROT's trail guide for Gunpowder State Park/ Sweet Air area, so if you would like a leader for your first time through, contact her at (410) 557-6165 or (443) 966-0249.



*[photos by Pam Howard
sent by Priscilla Huffman]*



Oct. 18 - TROT's first ride at WSSC's Triadelphia Reservoir trail

-- a great, new year-round riding venue

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

Sixteen horses and TROT members greatly enjoyed the new riding trail that Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) had kindly opened for us, along the Triadelphia Reservoir in Montgomery County. It was lovely weather, sunny and crisp (but several other intended riders wimped out because the day started below their 50 degree cut-off temperature). This Triadelphia Reservoir trail runs through fields and woods, with many pretty views of the water. Most of the riders chose the all-walk group but those in the faster group appreciated some great trotting and canter runs on this trail's excellent footing. And after the ride was a delicious potluck feast.

Riding this trail is also a celebration of all the efforts of vast numbers of TROT members, as well as other users of WSSC's watershed recreational resources and numerous helpful elected officials, who a few years ago

[continued next [page]]



[photos taken by Jean Cooper and assembled by Barbara Sollner-Webb]

continued from p. 9 – Triadelphia Ride

turned out en masse to testify that the trail on WSSC's Rocky Gorge Reservoir was negligibly eroded, after 30 plus years of use. This was critical to WSSC reopening the trail, as some there had feared it had eroded so outrageously much that it was causing the reservoir to sediment in, so had closed the trail. Happily, not only was that trail re-opened but WSSC also kindly opened a new trail at its Triadelphia Reservoir – something TROT and other riders had been hoping for, for decades. And they agreed to keep this Triadelphia Trail open year-round. Thank you, WSSC! This certainly highlights the importance of involved riders!

WSSC's wonderful new watershed staff also built for us a great horse trailer parking lot, just outside their gates on Triadelphia Lake Road (off Georgia Avenue/Rt 97, a bit north of New Hampshire Avenue/Rt 650), so it also is accessible year-round. Do go out and enjoy this trail for yourself! To use it, you do need WSSC's watershed pass (free for those 65 and over, for others \$6/day; in <https://www.wsscwater.com> go to "recreation" and then "recreational users"); that website also has a good trail map. However, for the day of our TROT ride, WSSC kindly waived the trail passes, to encourage riders to learn this venue.



[photos from Barb Sollner-Webb and Brittany Ebbert]



[note Larry Piper wearing TROT logowear!]



Oct. 21 - Doncaster State Forest (Ironsides, MD)

information from Donata Dow

Wednesday was a beautiful day for a ride in Doncaster State Forest. Donata and John Dow kindly led a TROT ride for us at their favorite venue -- Doncaster Demonstration State Forest, in Charles County, MD. Unfortunately only three TROT members were able to come [two more had wanted to, but regrettably, a truck broke down so they couldn't make it]. Before the ride, the humans enjoyed relaxing and soaking up the sun, sitting in lawn chairs, while the horses enjoyed being hobbled and grazing in the field. Then was an inspiring three-hour ride. By not only walking, but also doing a lot of trotting and cantering, this great ride that was able to cover north Doncaster as well as middle Doncaster and a small loop in south Doncaster. This was followed by a delicious picnic lunch.

For those who want to go there some other time, the entrance is State Forest Road that comes off Rt 6 (Port Tobacco Rd) about 1.7 miles west of the intersection with Rt 425, in Ironsides, MD; park ¼ mile down this dirt road at the green shed.

Oct. 22 - Rachel Carson -- impromptu ride

from Debby Poole

An impromptu Rachel Carson ride was led by the gracious and fun Laury Lobel on Thursday Oct. 22nd. We ended up inviting friends and TROT members, so the total that came was 10. Several of us trailered in and we had plenty of parking in the nice turn-around parking lot. It was a beautiful day, and we all walked. The trails are very well maintained with good water crossings. I was pleased to find a great printable map of these trails on the TROT website so I could follow along and learn the route.



[photo from Debby Poole]

Oct. 31 - Rosaryville Halloween Ride

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

We had a lovely Halloween ride (the black form in the foreground of the group photo is a witch's hat my horse was wearing). This ride was at Rosaryville Park, in Prince George's County, MD, led by Laura and Tony Colicchio. The "we" was four Icelandic horses (with riders Laura and Tony Colicchio, Denis Webb and Barbara Sollner-Webb) and a BIG percheron cross (with rider Steph Gelfeld). The autumn foliage was spectacular, and this park offers a very pretty ride, as it always at Rosaryville. Afterward was a delicious barbecue at Laura and Tony's house, which backs to the park, from where we rode. A fun time!



[photos from Barb Sollner-Webb]

Nov. 14 - Annual Anacostia Ride

from Mary Angevine and Barb Sollner-Webb

Each year we have a favorite TROT ride near the end of the season, going along the Anacostia River, led by John Angevine. It starts at the College Park Ice-skating Rink and heads south along the Anacostia Tributary Trail System into D.C. This amazing ride is on a very nice path along the Anacostia River, with many special views, including of the Lincoln Cemetery and Bladensburg Waterfront. It is a well-used trail that traverses over and under bridges and roads, passing playgrounds and outdoor workout equipment and thus is a great experience, especially for green horses (we passed literally hundreds of bikes as there was an organized bike ride that day). There also are several large grassy fields in which the riders enjoyed moving out.

Riders, many of who had never ridden here before, included Jacquie Cowan, Suzanne Anderson, Karen Koback, Cecile Neuvens, Serena Shorty, Suzy Armacost, Denis Webb and Barbara Sollner-Webb, in addition to John Angevine. All had a great time. Thanks, John!

[photos from Mary Angevine and Barb Sollner-Webb]



[photos from Mary Angevine and Barbara Sollner-Webb]

VOLUNTEER EQUINE VETERINARY TREATMENT IN NICARAGUA

from Elisa Harvey

[When we heard that Elisa was doing this great equine volunteer work, we asked her to write it up for the TROT newsletter, figuring that our members would be interested to read of this effort. Thank you so much, Elisa, for sharing!]

I am a longtime TROT member, horseowner and veterinarian thrilled to be getting back to trailriding after a lengthy hiatus while I hauled my son and his horses around to competitions for years. One of the other things I am enjoying now that I have a little more time is international veterinary volunteer trips. I was catching up with Barbara Sollner-Webb a little on the recent TROT ride at the new Triadelphia Lake trail and told her I was just back from my second trip to Nicaragua with World Vets (<http://worldvets.org>) and she asked if I would write an article about it for the TROT newsletter.

Where to start? It has truly been a transformative experience for me, and I expect to be going back every year for this trip, and maybe more if more trips get planned. It is a little bit addictive! First, the nuts and bolts. World Vets is a U.S. nonprofit organization that conducts trips all over the world to provide badly needed veterinary care and services where care is lacking. Most of these trips are for dogs and cats, but a few involve care of livestock and in particular working horses. The vast majority of working horses in the world receive no veterinary care during their lives.

One of these is a well-established annual weeklong trip to Granada, Nicaragua where a wonderful working relationship has formed between local veterinarians and World Vets. [photo] Granada is a lovely colonial city about an hour from the capital of Managua. World Vets maintains a spay-neuter clinic there which serves as the home base from which the team works on the horses in the area. The horses in this area are mostly small (13-15 hands) and derived from Spanish breeds. They mostly work as cart horses, pulling heavy wooden carts and wagons in harnesses made from whatever the farmers can get, including rope, string, chain, electrical cord, and rubber hose. They haul water, supplies, people and whatever is needed to transport. They are the main mode of transport for the local farmers other than oxen.

How do you get involved in one of these trips? You just sign up on the website! Anyone can go—each trip has a certain number of openings for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and assistants. Assistants are not required to have any veterinary, horse or medical experience at all—just a desire to help and get involved! I am not an equine veterinarian although I have had my own horses for years, and did practice a bit of equine medicine earlier in my career. Spanish speaking is not required for this trip either, although it is very helpful. The team is about twelve people altogether, including a trip director who is experienced in these trips and equine medicine. Joining the team are some of the local veterinarians working with World Vets, and wonderful Nicaraguan veterinary students eager to learn what they can about caring for and working with horses.

Each day the team went to a pre-arranged different area around Granada so that the local people know where to go. We went to barrios and worked in open fields, the parking lot of the local baseball stadium, farms outside town and even in a street alley where the town's coach horses started out every morning. Every morning when we arrived there were around a hundred or so horses lined up, in the heat, with no water, often no shade, and with just a string around their neck brought by a small child whose parents had to work. [photos] The people and horses waited patiently for hours for their turn. Many had walked miles to get there, and had to walk miles to get back home, even after being anesthetized for castration or sedated for dental work.

[photos from Elisa Harvey]



This is the whole team that worked on about 400 horses during the week, including volunteers from the US, Canada, UK and veterinarians and students from Nicaragua. I'm in the middle in the back.



This is the line of horses we saw waiting for us at one of the locations we worked at for one day. Horses and owners waited patiently for hours in the sun with no water for their turn at getting care.



Most of the horses here are brought by a child in the family because their parents must work. Halters are rare and most horses are led with a rope or string around the neck.

*[continued
next page]*

continued from p. 9 – Nicaragua Vet Work

It can be a culture shock to see the living conditions for the horses and for that matter, the people. Extreme poverty is common—the horses have so little to live on that they are starving and emaciated. But they are critical to the livelihoods of their owners so they must keep working. This is not cruelty or abuse—owners barely have enough to feed their own families and children. They do the best they can with what little they have.

As veterinarians we judge body condition of animals on a 1-9 scale, with 1 being poor condition, emaciated with no body fat, and 9 being extremely fat. A score of 5 is appropriate for most horses. Here in Maryland, the typical well cared for horse is usually around 6-7. The vast majority of the horses we treated on both of my trips to Nicaragua had a body condition score of 1 or 2. Because of their complete lack of body fat they frequently had chronic harness and saddle sores. Their ears and tails were also commonly infested with ticks, and light colored horses frequently had chronic and severe sunburn.

We provided parasite treatments (ivermectin and fipronil), vitamins, rabies and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE) vaccines, wound treatment, foot care, dental floating, castrations. Drugs used to sedate, anesthetize and provide pain relief or antibiotics to horses as needed included xylazine, medetomidine, ketamine, phenylbutazone, Banamine and penicillin. Last year we performed an eye enucleation on a cart horse with a painful infected blind eye—in a parking lot. Owners were each provided an animal “passport” to have a record of what was performed and to keep it updated if they return year to year. Over the course of the week we were able to treat around 400 horses.

During each trip I have had a whirlwind of emotions. It is exhilarating to feel you are contributing in even a very small way to such a worthy cause. I found it interesting to see many different conditions not normally seen in healthy horses here in the US, and to be able to do procedures I don't do here at home—gelding horses, floating teeth and trimming feet. Working with the team of local students and vets, and caring compassionate people from around the world is incredibly gratifying. But is the hardest work I have ever done, and I have never been so dirty, exhausted, sweaty and grimy in my life. And most of all, I had moments where all I could do was take a moment for myself to cry at some of the saddest cases I saw. But then I got back to work—there were more horses to see.

Those who have done this for a lot longer than I have told me that the toughest and saddest cases are exactly why we go—if we didn't then they would have no care at all, and helping even one horse even just a little bit, is important, especially for that animal. Slowly, over time, by establishing relationships with the local people, care can and does improve the conditions for these extremely hard working little horses.

Now that I have gone twice, seen first hand the conditions for these horses and knowing how much they need the most basic care, it is hard to imagine not going back every year. I think the work that World Vets is doing is so important, and I hope to be a part of it for a long time. But anyone can go, so if you have ever thought you might be interested in such work, I encourage you to consider going or contributing however you can. I am happy to talk with anyone who wants to know more details about the trip. And hug your horses extra tight next time you see them! Remember how lucky they are to be well fed, cared for and loved.

[photos from Elisa Harvey]



Here we are examining this grey gelding who has a body condition score of about 2, and was buck-kneed, lame, had harness sores, sunburn and an abdominal hernia. Each horse is numbered to keep track of which is next in line for examination.



Pithaya: This gelding has a body condition score of 1 or maybe 0.5 and was one of the most severe cases we saw this year. Because of Pithaya, the team that saw him together with World Vets has put together a fund for

this family that will be posted on Indiegogo to raise money for this struggling family and their horse, as well as other families in similar circumstances. 100% of the money raised in this fund will go directly to the family for horse feed and supplies to allow them to better care for their horses.

Dental Check: I am examining the mouth of one of the horses feeling for abnormalities. Many of the horses have abnormal tooth growth or missing teeth.



LABOR DAY NIGHTMARE – "EUROPEAN HORNETS"

from Kyle Jossi

[On hearing this scary report, we asked Kyle to write it up for the newsletter, to warn others to be alert. Thanks, Kyle!]

This past Labor Day we experienced how quickly things can go wrong with horses. We were hosting a neighborhood Labor Day picnic and I had moved our three quarter horses and 2 mini-donkeys to our front arena so our guests could pet and admire them. It was a very hot day and I was surprised to see the horses running around. A while later I looked out my kitchen window to see Mack with his foot in a water bucket that was hung on the top rail of the fence. By the time I got outside, he had pulled down that bucket and had his foot in the next bucket. (Thankfully, I tie everything with breakable twine.) Every time I filled a bucket, he would knock it over – very unusual behavior for him. I even used a lunge whip to keep him from doing this. You can imagine the guilt I felt when I later understood why he was doing this.

We decided to move the horses back to the barn. Mack began swinging his head violently while being led. In his stall he tried to put his head into the fan which was running. Twice he went down. It was time to call the vet. Soon after I hung up from speaking with the vet, Bailey, our 29 year old quarter horse, went down. We feared the worst, either something infectious or something toxic that they had eaten. Upon returning to the arena to get the donkeys, we discovered that the inside of the run-in shed was blackened with bees or hornets. When we returned to the barn, the horses were developing dinner plate sized areas of swelling all over their bodies.

Dr. Erskine from Damascus Equine arrived and quickly confirmed that Mack and Bailey's symptoms were caused by multiple stings. They were both given mega doses of intravenous steroids. In a few hours both were outside grazing peacefully. Mack was left with about 10 silver dollar sized areas of excoriation. I'm not sure if it was a reaction to the stings or if he rubbed those areas. I'm hoping the hair will grow back. We found it strange that our third horse, Bug, didn't seem to have been stung at all.

We have a close personal relationship with our exterminator, Steve, from Home Guard Pest Services (410-795-0030) because of a yellow jacket infestation in our house. He was out the next morning and identified European hornets. (I thought I heard them speaking French.) As we were looking around the run-in shed, we noticed that on the outside there was a lot of wood that appeared to be newly chewed. This was too high to have been caused by the horses. It turns out that the hornets use the wood to build their nests.

By the time our guests arrived, everything was back to normal. But now I understand that Mack, with his out of character behavior, was trying to tell us that something was terribly wrong. We will also be more diligent in the future about carefully checking any new areas before we turn our horses loose.



[photos from Kyle Jossi]

European hornet



Wood damage from the hornets

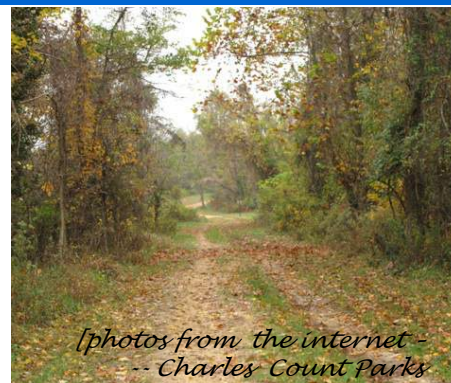
REPORT ON MAXWELL HALL EQUESTRIAN PARK, CHARLES CO.

from Kathy Glockner

Located in Charles County, MD, across from Calvert County via the Benedict Bridge, is a Southern Maryland gem dedicated to equestrians and hikers only. There are two dedicated trailer parking lots, 14.2 miles of trails in the woods and around agriculture fields, a trail obstacle course, and magnificent vistas of the Patuxent River that await riders.

Maxwell Hall is managed by the Charles County Parks and Recreation Department and is expertly maintained. An annual membership fee of \$25 is required for access. Members are mailed the gate combination, trail map, and horse trailer sticker. The best time to join is early in the year, as the stickers and gate combination change in early January.

The park is open from 8 AM to dusk, and closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The street address is 6680 Maxwell Hall Drive, Mechanicsville, Maryland. For more information, contact the Parks Office at 301-932-3470. The website is <<https://www.charlescountyparks.com/parks/maxwell-hall-park>>



*[photos from the internet -
-- Charles Count Parks]*

COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS

Baltimore County *from Priscilla Huffman*

Five new volunteer mounted patrols certified: Baltimore area's big news is the certification of five new Gunpowder Volunteer Mounted Patrol members. Many thanks to Bruno Conticello and Jim McDonald for coordinating this effort over the past year. Congratulations to our new VMP's: Wendy Boehner, Karen Ferris, Peter McConaughy, Cindy Titus, and Dan Wise. The group wishes to acknowledge the invaluable help of Donna Seymour, Patapsco volunteer coordinator, and Karen Durilla, with the Patapsco Volunteer Mounted Patrol. Read more about the VMP certification process on pages 5-6 of this issue.

First VMP meeting: The first official meeting of the VMP's was held Oct. 27 at Graham Equestrian Center, the headquarters for the Gunpowder group. The group confirmed the Dept. of Natural Resources contacts, reviewed plans for a combined VMP ride with the Patapsco VMPs, discussed ideas for additional public relations and community awareness, and delegated the design of a recruitment flyer. Winter park service shirts were distributed. The group is pursuing how to obtain additional park service patches. Meetings of the group will be held monthly.

Sweet Air TROT ride: Joyce Browning and six other riders enjoyed a beautiful 2 ¼ hour ride at the Sweet Air area of Gunpowder Falls State Park on Saturday, Oct. 17th. Read more about this ride in the trail rides reports on page 9.

Did you know that Gunpowder is one of the largest of the Maryland State Parks? With 18,000 acres of park land, there are over 120 miles of established trails. Joyce Browning is listed as one of our TROT trail guides and will be glad to show people this area. You can contact Joyce at (410) 557-6165 or (443) 966-0249. She may even offer you a sweet birch twig to chew!

Trails update: Recently Monika Munn and Priscilla Huffman rode a 5-mile loop on the south side of Gunpowder River on the Bunker Hill and Mingo Forks trails to assess the state of that loop after the recent rains. With a little time spent in trail trimming from horseback, they can report that the trails are open. We continue to report any trees that are blocking trails so that DNR can add them to the list to be cleared.

Trail Apps Lunch and Learn: Several Baltimore area members shared a "lunch and learn" session on Sept. 27 at Casa Mia Restaurant to discuss various trail apps for iPhones. The most popular app among the group is EasyTrails which can be downloaded for \$3.99. Our goal is to map some of the trails not currently on the TROT website. EasyTrails can be set to view your route over Google Earth and files can be easily shared with other users. To learn more about Easytrails and its use, go to <http://www.easytrailsqps.com/>.

TROT 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

from Sim Shanks, acting membership chair

TROT Membership is from 1 January to 31 December. You will be receiving your 2016 Renewal information packets in November either via email if we have your email address on record or via the USPS if we do not.

It is very helpful if you return your information and dues as soon as possible after receiving your packet, to aide the volunteers who process the renewals.

In 2014, TROT began sending announcements, information, updates, etc., monthly via email (currently Constant Contact) to all who give permission. This is limited to such activities as Membership Meetings, TROT Rides, Trail Obstacle Event, Trail Clearing, Annual Dinner, changes to events, requests for volunteers, etc. It will not take over your mailbox but it will provide you with the most current and timely information.

The TROT Website, Newsletter, MarylandTrailRiders and TROTMembers Yahoo Groups, and TROT Trail Riders Of Today on Facebook are also available as well.

Should you wish to renew your membership prior to receiving the Membership form in the mail, please download it from the TROT website at <http://trot-md.org/misc/membership-app.pdf> or use the one in the last Newsletter.

WELCOME, NEW TROT MEMBERS

from Sim Shanks, acting membership chair

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----|
| Michael Gafney | Carroll | MD |
| Sherry Jones | Carroll | MD |
| Joanne Bogart | Frederick | MD |
| Joyce Browning | Harford | MD |
| Linda Brainard | Howard | MD |
| Kim Hawkins | Howard | MD |
| Irene Henrick | Howard | MD |
| Janet R. Martinez | Howard | MD |
| Jean Rosen | Howard | MD |
| Laura Elnitski | Montgomery | MD |
| Emma Handelsman | Montgomery | MD |
| Rose Leeger | Montgomery | MD |
| Charlotte Milner | Montgomery | MD |
| David Stang | Montgomery | MD |
| Anthony Colicchio | Prince George's | MD |
| Rosalie Marley | Prince George's | MD |
| Marie Nilsson | Prince George's | MD |
| Bryan Parker | Prince George's | MD |
| Karen Parker | Prince George's | MD |
| Mary Blair | Arlington | VA |
| Leigh Wintz | Fairfax | VA |
| Margaret Coombie | Jefferson | WV |

We look forward to interacting with you in our mutual efforts to support trails!

TURN YOUR EMPTY FEED BAGS INTO CASH FOR NON-PROFITS

from Kathy Glockner



Helping your favorite horse rescue or other horse association is easy with Southern States Special Horse Organization Winner's (SHOW) Program. Clip the proof of purchase seals from the back or side of Legends, Triple Crown or Southern States horse feed bags. A non-profit that is registered for the SHOW program earns 25 cents for each proof of purchase seal. For bulk feed purchases, you need to submit the original customer copy of the delivery tickets. To support Days End Farm Horse Rescue, send the proof of purchase seals to DEFHR, P.O. Box 309, Lisbon, MD 21765. Or contact your preferred horse-related charity to see if it participates in the SHOW program.

SUMMARY OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

Meeting of September, 2015

[minutes remain to be filed]

Meeting of October 6, 2015

[summary of minutes of Nancy Osgood]

Participants: Gale Monahan (Acting President), Deneen Martin (Acting Vice President), Nancy Osgood (Secretary), Susan Railey (Treasurer), Laury Lobel (BD), Jenn Poole (BD via telephone), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Terry Ledley (BD – via telephone), Jeff Dwyer (BD – via telephone), Priscilla Huffman (BD), Susan Gray (BD), Dana Grabiner (BD – via telephone), Pat Merson, Debby Poole (via telephone), Sim Shanks, Cathy Diamond, Janet MacNab, Kyle Jossi, Ron MacNab, Dick Huffman.

Gale Monahan welcomed attendees; the meeting was at her house.

Robert's Rules of Order information was distributed and discussed. Susan Railey presented the Treasurer's report, Sim Shanks the membership report; Deneen Martin reported on trail rides, Barbara Sollner-Webb on the newsletter, and Dana Grabiner on the upcoming Trail Obstacle Clinic.

Amy Kimble reported that the Patuxent Trails are progressing through the agency approval process and that a 6-mile section is being added to Black Hills Park trails.

A grant request for funds (\$2750) to update TROT's video was submitted.

There were multiple County Coordinator and Old and New Business reports; information that is elsewhere in the newsletter will not be summarized here. Additionally:

Pat Oliva reported from Howard County that she will request a public equestrian easement in the new development across from Schooley Mill Park.

Gale Monahan will go to Maryland Horse Council meetings. TROT will abstain in the upcoming vote on horse slaughter issues.

It was suggested that individuals invite people to attend Board meetings, especially people who have not been involved with the TROT Board previously.

Meeting of November 3, 2015

[summary of minutes of Nancy Osgood]

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Nancy Osgood (Secretary), Susan Railey (Treasurer), Jenn Poole (BD via telephone), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Priscilla Huffman (BD), Dana Grabiner (BD via telephone), Pat Oliva, Debby Poole (via telephone), Pat Talbott (via telephone), Sim Shanks, Dick Huffman.

Gale Monahan welcomed attendees; the meeting was at her house.

Susan Railey presented the Treasurer's report, Sim Shanks the membership report, Barbara Sollner-Webb a trail ride and Newsletter report, and Gale Monahan an update of the Youth Scholarship award for 2016.

There were multiple County Coordinator and Old and New Business reports; information that is elsewhere in the newsletter will not be summarized here. Additionally:

The idea of having a TROT informal training session for County Coordinators was discussed and is tentatively planned for January 2016. This will give folks the opportunity to hear what other coordinators have been doing.

Several people reported on the significant feedback that the Non-judged Trail Obstacle Event was a great success and that many participants said they hope TROT will repeat it again. The Board approved sponsoring another Non-judged Trail Obstacle Event in 2016.

It was decided that a limited inventory of TROT logowear will be maintained and that a vendor will be identified for members to order specialty items.

Upcoming updated Directory. This should be done soon after the annual meeting, when many renewals are received. An electronic file will then be provided to members with hard copies available for a small price to cover the printing costs.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 1. Location: Home of Brother Roger Nelson (rogersds@comcast.net). A holiday potluck supper to begin at 6:00 pm, and meeting to begin at 7:00 pm.

To other TROT members: please come to join at the next or at another board meeting!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gunpowder 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

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

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

North Tract of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge (Laurel, MD) Barbara Sollner-Webb bsw@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

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

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

Rosaryville Park (Upper Marlboro, PG County, MD) Laura Colicchio (301) 856-7540 or lavenderlady@verizon.net

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

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

Woodstock Equestrian Park (Beallsville, MD) Karen Kraushaar (301) 208-0767 or 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>, 301-604-5619) to join this list of generous volunteers.

TROT LICENSE PLATES - ORDER YOURS TODAY!

from Susan Railey

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

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



UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON TROT ACTIVITIES

TROT website:

<www.trot-md.org>

Harold Goldstein, Webmaster

TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

<www.trot-md.org/newsletters.php>

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator
(<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619)

Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo group (and to join):

<groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/join>

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/>

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 15th of the month before the next newsletter is dated (e.g., notify by April 15th, June 15th, etc.)

Non-member rates:

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

Free barn Cat(s)

TROT member Liuda Galinaiti announces that BARN CATS are AVAILABLE spayed/neutered, fully vetted and delivered. Friendly or shy kittens available. Loaner relocation pens and how-to-advice provided. Also, low cost cat spay/neuter clinic every other Sunday at Eldersburg Vet Hospital. Call 443-255-4489 or www.metroferals.org for more information.

Boarding at Millhaven

Check out our beautiful, full-board farm in Derwood, near Olney. We back directly up to Ag History Farm Park trails. We have a lighted indoor ring with no-dust footing, a lighted outdoor, hot water wash stall, bathroom (heated in winter) and a friendly group of boarders. Our home is built over the barn, enabling us to provide superior care to horses. Please see our newly designed website for more information: [<www.millhavenhorsefarm.com>](http://www.millhavenhorsefarm.com) or contact Diana by email at [<info@millhavenhorsefarm.com>](mailto:info@millhavenhorsefarm.com) or at 301-963-0630.

Horsemanship clinics

Horsemanship clinics at Graham Equestrian Center, [<www.grahameq.org>](http://www.grahameq.org). "Dressage For The Trail Rider" in a focused two hour session with Jim McDonald, AQHA Professional horseman and CHA certified instructor. If you work with a horse the tuition is \$55.00 or you can audit for \$35.00 Clinics will be held on Saturdays from 10 AM to noon. Pre-registration required. Contact Jim at or 410-627-4243 or [<Jim@JimMcDonaldHorsemanship.com>](mailto:Jim@JimMcDonaldHorsemanship.com) to get more information and to register.

Boarding abutting Rosaryville Park

Seeking upbeat and personable horse boarder on small, private full-care farm at Tony and Laura Colicchio's in Rosaryville, MD. Small outdoor riding ring and ride out directly into Rosaryville State Park with over a thousand acres of beautiful trail riding. Contact Laura Colicchio at [<lavenderlady19@verizon.net>](mailto:lavenderlady19@verizon.net) if interested.

Barn for Lease

Lovely Private Custom Barn on the Triadelphia Reservoir

**Hawk's Flight Farm**
500 Greenbridge Road
Brookeville, MD 20833

Please call Bonnie at 301-570-4208



Rent entire barn with:

- Large, matted box stalls with hay racks
- 2 large rolling pastures, plentiful grass, large run-ins, automatic waterers, round pen & diamond-wire fencing
- Grooming area, wash rack, feed & heated tack rooms
- Huge loft
- Indoor riding perimeter & flat outdoor riding area
- Quiet, peaceful, beautiful surroundings
- Private road access; Owner on premises

Self-care, responsible individual/s only

4 horse maximum

Available immediately

HIGHER RESOLUTION PHOTOS?

If you want photos at higher resolution than the ones reduced to fit in this newsletter, contact [<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu).

SPECIAL THANKS!!! *from B. Sollner-Webb*

Enormous appreciation to Terry Ledley, Priscilla Huffman, Dana Grabiner and Denis Webb for their most helpful proofreading this newsletter!

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

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|-------------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
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| Vice President | Deneen Martin | deneenmartin7@msn.com | (301) 467-5335 |
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| Treasurer | Susan Railey | susanrailey@verizon.net | |
| Additional Board members | Jeff Dwyer | ebbtidestables@gmail.com | (410) 320-1327 |
| | Susan Gray | susan@campsususan.com | (240) 426-1655 |
| | Dana Grabiner | grabiner1@aol.com | (202) 412-7548 |
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| | Brother Roger Nelson | rogersds@comcast.net | (240) 372-9494 |
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| Trail Rides | Deneen Martin | deneenmartin7@msn.com | (301) 467-5335 |
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| Web Master | Harold Goldstein | mdbiker@goldray.com | |
| COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS | | | |
| Anne Arundel | Diane Ayers | dianeayers@verizon.net | (410) 551-0832 |
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| Prince George's | Judie Artman | artmanju@yahoo.com | |
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| Talbot | Joyce Bell | wbell2@washcoll.edu | (410) 820-6002 |
| Wicomico | Shawn McEntee | smc1159@verizon.net | (410) 749-2665 |

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

APPLY TO JOIN GUNPOWDER FALLS STATE PARK VOLUNTEER MOUNTED PATROL

Gunpowder Falls State Park VMP is seeking **NEW MEMBERS**

Do you enjoy riding with a purpose on great trails and serving your community?

To sign up:

[see related article on pages 5-6]

- You must be at least 18 and have your own horse and transportation
- Complete a **FREE** Department of Natural Resources (DNR) VMP training and horse assessment

VMP duties include:

- Assisting park visitors by providing trail maps, directions, sharing park regulations, and any activities
- Advise the Natural Resources Police and the public of any potential hazards discovered while on patrol
- Being the "eyes and ears of the park"



AccessDNR

The Maryland Volunteer Ranger Program started in 1992.
Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP) are dedicated to assisting with State Park activities while on horseback.

Email: Bruno Conticello bconticello@gmail.com
with your name, address, phone number, and any questions.



(NOT an official page for the GFSPVMP)



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

Inside this issue:

- TROT's Successful Non-judged Trail Obstacle Event
- Welcome Messages from TROT's new President and Vice-President
- Volunteer at TROT's booth at Horse World Expo and get a free day pass
- Notice of change in Lisbon Christmas Parade – no horses this year
- New trail at Black Hills Park
- WSSC organizes trail work parties to improve their equestrian (multi-use) trail
- TROT is critical in getting a safe connection of the Rachel Carson trail across Rt 97 on the plans
- Gunpowder Falls State Park Volunteer mounted Patrol (VMP)
- Reports of many great recent TROT trail rides
- A TROT member's volunteer equine veterinary work in Nicaragua
- Warning about European Hornets
- Maxwell Hall Equestrian Park in Charles County
- And lots more