



Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use

www.trot-md.org -- Join TROT today!

And encourage your riding buddies to join, too!

November, 2016

Founded 1980

Number 218

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Scott Purdum Trail Obstacle Clinic	1, 3
President's Message	1-2
Important Notices	1, 2
(including on the Annual Dinner, Horse Expo and Lisbon Parade)	
Holiday Gift Ideas (also p. 11 & 12)	2
Jacquie Cowan-new AA Co coord.	2
Check the Hunt Schedule	4
News Flash on the Triadelphia Trail	4
Upcoming Trail Work Efforts	4
Recent Group Trail Work Efforts	4-5
Other Recent Trails-related Events	6
Recent TROT Trail Rides	7-10
County Reports	
Baltimore & Montgomery	11
More Holiday Gift Ideas	11
Board Meeting Summary	11
Request for Newsletter Information	11
TROT Membership Application	12
Board Meetings Summaries	13
Trail Guides	13
Who's Who In TROT	14
TROT-related Information	14
Welcome, New Members	14
TROT Video Update	15
Special Thanks	15

[Photos and articles without attribution are from the Newsletter Editor]

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SCOTT PURDUM TRAIL CLINIC

from Carrie Scott, mother of 9-year-old participant Emily Scott

Although a tad windy, the weather cooperated on Friday October 21 for the Obstacle Clinic that was presented by Scott Purdum and his wife Grace of Advantage Horsemanship. The clinic was sponsored by TROT and held at Schooley Mill Park. There were nine TROT members and their horses working in the ring and several other TROT members auditing. Schooley Mill Park's ring was the perfect place for riders to gain experience and build confidence, asking their horses to negotiate obstacles that simulated what a rider may find on a trail ride. These included opening and closing a gate, getting the mail, walking through tires and many more. Once participants familiarized themselves and their horses with the obstacles on the ground, they mounted up to negotiate each obstacle on horseback.

The youngest rider, Emily Cross, age 9, on her horse Trixie, entertained everyone by retrieving a water gun that was used in one of the obstacles, sneaking up on Scott and squirting him.

Gale Monahan, TROT President, presented a Certificate of Participation to those who attended. A big thank you goes to Scott and Grace for a wonderful and rewarding clinic.

[More clinic photos on page 3]



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

The end of 2016 is almost here. For me, this year has been one I won't forget. I have renewed my belief in why TROT was established. It goes back to 1980 when 22 riders saved Paint Branch Park trails in Montgomery County. TROT grew as an organization, working with county and state officials all over Maryland as well as developers to be sure that riders like you will be able to continue your equestrian pursuits. And here we are at the end of the year, which means it is time to renew your TROT membership.

[continued on next page]

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017 – TROT's ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

TROT's annual dinner and silent auction will be Saturday, March 4 at the same location as in the past few years: Mt. Airy Fireman's Activity Hall, 1008 Twin Arch Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771.

from Priscilla Huffman

Do you have any extra tack or supplies in good condition? Start collecting your lightly used tack and horse gear to donate to the silent auction at TROT's annual dinner. All donations of tack and horse-related services are welcome. Proceeds raised from the silent auction go directly to support TROT's ongoing mission of supporting sustainable trails.

Look for more details about the dinner and silent auction in the January 2017 TROT newsletter.

COME TO A TROT BOARD MEETING AND GET MORE INVOLVED!

TROT's board meetings are held 7-9 PM on the first Tuesday of every month at the homes of various volunteers, with each meeting preceded by a yummy potluck dinner at 6 PM. We would love if you join us in person or call in (free call at 877-339-4456; code 1980). Check with TROT President Gale Monahan (<gale.email2@gmail.com> or 301-854-3852) for the location each month.

VOLUNTEER & GET A FREE ONE-DAY PASS to HORSE WORLD EXPO -- JANUARY 20-22, 2017

from Priscilla Huffman

The 2017 Horse World Expo runs Friday, January 20 through Sunday, January 22 at the Timonium Fairgrounds (slightly northwest of Baltimore). Sign up to volunteer at TROT's booth for two hours and get an all-day pass to the 2017 Horse World Expo. What a great way to meet fellow trail riders and enjoy the seminars and demonstrations! To volunteer, contact Priscilla Huffman at [<priscillahuffman@verizon.net>](mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net) or call/text 301-646-4422. There are still a few spots left!

2016 GREAT LISBON HORSE PARADE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

info from Pat Oliva

The 2016 Great Lisbon Farmers Feed the Hungry Christmas Parade featuring horses and tractors will be held Saturday, December 10, 2016. Pat Oliva has kindly coordinated a team of riders to represent TROT, so come out and cheer for our home team! While the number of horses has maxed out, Pat still needs two people to march in front carrying the TROT banner. Doesn't that sound like fun? To volunteer, contact Pat at [<patolivatigger@aol.com>](mailto:patolivatigger@aol.com) or 410-489-7380. The parade will start at 3:30 PM, and the parking will open at noon. It will be mounted horses first, followed by wagons and then the tractors in a circular route. The best place to see it is on Main Street in Lisbon.

SWELL IDEAS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

Are you looking for the perfect Christmas, Hanukah or Kwanzaa gifts for your horsie friends? Are your spouse, significant other and/or kids hoping to find a great gift for you? Here are some perfect answers. See more ideas on pages 11 and 12.

A TROT MEMBERSHIP: For horsie friends who are not TROT members, give them a TROT membership (application on page 12 and on TROT's website, [<www.TROT-MD.org>](http://www.TROT-MD.org)).

A TROT LICENSE PLATE: For yourself or horse friends who are TROT members, how about a TROT license plate? They are quite stunning with a black horse and rider silhouetted against a yellow sun (see photo), and easy to order. E-mail Susan Railey at [<susanrailey@verizon.net>](mailto:susanrailey@verizon.net), and she will send you simple instructions and MVA's application; it is only \$25, and you do not need to wait for your current plates to be renewed, as the new stickers are pro-rated.



TROT LOGOWEAR: For other great presents for yourself or your friends, how about a GORGEOUS piece of TROT logowear? A sweatshirt (\$21), zippered hooded sweatshirt (\$30; shown at right), lined nylon jacket (\$35), or lined nylon windshirt (\$35) is perfect for cold winter days; a regular T-shirt (\$15), long-sleeved T-shirt (\$20), polo-shirt (\$20), or cap (\$15) is perfect for almost any time; or plan already for the warm weather next summer with a tank top (\$15). Most items are black fabric with yellow TROT insignias (some the small insignia, some the large insignia, some both); T-shirts and polo shirts are also in yellow with black insignias. Sizes are unisex S, M, L, XL and XXL. For more info about the items and to order, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (at [<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or 301-604-5619), and your present will be shipped ASAP.



zippered hooded sweatshirt and TROT cap

WELCOME JACQUIE COWAN AS TROT's NEW ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COORDINATOR

TROT is delighted to announce that Jacquie Cowan will be assuming the position of Anne Arundel County coordinator for TROT. She will help county TROT members monitor trail projects and development proposal that affect trails, and recommend any necessary action to the TROT board. You can reach Jacquie at [<jacquiecowan@comcast.net>](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net) or 410-215-4979 or 410-923-6157. Jacquie would love to hear from Anne Arundel County TROT members, so please send her an e-mail (or call her) to get acquainted and talk about areas of common horse interest.

Continued from page 1 - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

TROT is a volunteer organization. It belongs to every TROT member. Without its wonderful volunteers, TROT would not have lasted these past 37 years. So get involved – it's fun! Lead a trail ride, come to a meeting, come help at the annual potluck/meeting, volunteer to work or put on a clinic or a judged/non-judged trail ride, volunteer to represent TROT at the Horse World Expo and/or the State Fair, etc. And importantly, lobby your elected officials on behalf of sustainable trails!

Also renew your membership and give a membership as a gift. I am sure your horse-loving friends would appreciate it and enjoy the activities we are planning for 2017.

Continued from page 1 – RECENT SCOTT PURDUM TRAIL CLINIC

Great thanks to TROT member Debby Poole for arranging this valuable trail obstacle clinic!

Below are a few pieces of useful advice for negotiating trail obstacles that were given by Scott Purdum and his wife Grace at their recent clinic and recorded by your newsletter editor (who audited the clinic):

- Negotiate obstacles one step at a time -- don't rush through them.
- If you want your horse to step next to something, DON'T stare at it, as that makes the horse go toward it, not next to it. Instead, stare at something ahead of where you want the horse to go.
- Don't lead the horse through the obstacle but encourage him or her to investigate it.
- Contrary as it sounds at first, if a horse is too forward, don't continually pull back, but rather encourage him to go forward (e.g., trot) in a controlled environment for at least 10 minute non-stop. That is because the more you push horses forward the slower they want to go.
- In a clinic such as this, or in any training, aim for quality over quantity.

I was extremely impressed at how much all the riders and horses improved during the morning's work. Obstacles that initially were scary monsters became smooth and easy to negotiate, through Scott's and Grace's coaching and the riders' efforts.



more from the Purdum clinic



WHEN YOU GO OUT RIDING THIS WINTER, FIRST CHECK THE LOCAL HUNT SCHEDULE

Because TROT members ride at so many venues, it is nearly impossible to list the hunting schedules for all of them here. We greatly encourage you to check with the local authorities before going out riding. However, since so many TROT members ride in Montgomery County parks, Amy Kimble kindly provided a link to the hunting schedules at these parks: <http://www.montgomeryparks.org/montgomery-parks-announces-seasonal-park-closures-annual-deer-population-management-operations>. In any case, whenever you ride during hunting season, it probably is wise to wear a bright orange jacket or vest, as there may be hunters on adjacent land, and bullets tend not to stop at property lines.

NEWS FLASH – IS THE TRIADELPHIA TRAIL CLOSING???

Alert TROT member Mary Prowell learned and told us that WSSC was closing their Triadelphia reservoir property – including the equestrian trail -- while they do needed dam renovations, and that this is to start this December and last three years. We immediately contacted the WSSC watershed staff (who we know, e.g., see page 6) and tried to persuade them to keep the equestrian trail open. Happily, they agreed to argue our case with their superiors, who will make the ultimate decision. We will post any updates on the TROT list-serve, website and Facebook page, and include them in the Constant Contact. But before going to Triadelphia to ride, do check with WSSC (301-206-4-FUN) on the status of this trail. And if any TROT members have any "pull" with a WSSC official, please consider using it to urge that equestrians be permitted to continue using the Triadelphia trail during the years of dam reconstruction.



UPCOMING TRAIL WORK EFFORTS

Please Do Trail Upkeep Each Time You Are Out – AND Report It To Amy!

Since preserving and enhancing sustainable trails is TROT's mission, please help by doing trail upkeep whenever you are out on the trails, whether riding or walking. This can be as easy as clipping or breaking protruding branches as you ride by. Please report your trail work time and location to TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble, as these hours benefit local parks' budgets. Easiest is to text the info to her at 301-748-8310 with your name, location and work hours, and she will respond so you know that she has gotten your text. Or you can e-mail her at amyhkimble@aol.com. If you prefer group trail work efforts, almost any day you are inclined to do trail work but want a trail work buddy, contact TROT's Adopt-A-Trail coordinator, Amy Kimble (amyhkimble@aol.com). She likely will be out doing trail work and would love to have you join her.

A Work Group at Seneca Creek State Park, Sunday, November 27

from Amy Kimble

Please contact Bethany Watts at (301) 924-2127 or Bethany.watts@maryland.gov to let her know you are available to come improve the trails for you and your fellow riders to enjoy. It is a great service. [That is w-a-t-t-s, not w-a-5-s if it looks so on your PC.]

SOME RECENT GROUP TRAIL WORK EFFORTS

Trail Work and Invasive Plant Workshops and Hands-On Experience at Bunker Hill

Priscilla Huffman organized a number of TROT members to join the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy for two Saturdays (September 17th and October 1st) to learn to maintain and improve trails and remove troubling invasive plants, in the Hereford area of Gunpowder Park in Baltimore County, specifically at Bunker Hill. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Ranger Jen Cashell was



one of the main workshop instructors. Volunteers were to split their day between invasive plant removal and trail maintenance, with a break for lunch. However, a worrisome rainstorm on the second day cut the work effort short half-way through.

It was very interesting how barberry is one of the most prevalent invasive plants at Bunker Hill. By contrast, it is only a rather minor issue at many parks in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. It is easy to identify, as under the brown bark is a bright yellow woody stem. We learned that to remove this troubling invasive, dig out and dispose of as much of the root ball as possible. In the fall when the red (mature) berries are out, pick them first and carry them out for disposal.



New Trail Section Completed in Rachel Carson Park -- Happy Trails! *from Nancy Osgood*

On Saturday, October 22, a large group of trail volunteers met in Rachel Carson Park to finish rerouting a badly eroded section of the equestrian trails. Several TROT members participated, including Gale Monahan, president, and Deneen Martin, vice president. **[Editor's note: Nancy Osgood was also an active participant in this work effort.]**

The trail clearing was organized by Jim Corcoran, Volunteer Services Coordinator for Montgomery Parks. Bob Turnbull, the Park's Trail Construction Manager, had previously had his crew clearing and rough-cutting the new trail. Saturday morning's volunteer work project was to finish the trail relocation by shaping a 45-degree back slope where it meets the trail head, raking all the excess dirt from the new trail and out-slope, and removing any exposed roots. The project improved the existing Rachel Carson Greenway Trail by constructing a new section of trail around a significantly eroded section. Jim provided tools and work gloves for all the volunteers. In addition to the trail rerouting, the construction group had cleared large fallen trees on other sections of the original trail.

The volunteers were very enthusiastic and upbeat -- and accomplished the tasks by noon. The Parks folks were looking to equestrians to show up, and we did! Our fun and capable group helped to add high spirits to the task. The weather cooperated and it was very satisfying to survey our impressive work on the way back to the trail head.

Many thanks to Jim for responding so positively when needed trail improvements were identified and for doing such a great job of coordinating the construction and rousting out the army of volunteers. We are so fortunate to have enthusiastic and capable trail professionals in Montgomery County!



photo from Nancy Osgood

Clearing the Rocky Gorge Trail

Also on October 22, 2016, WSSC's Community Outreach Coordinator, Nicole Horvath, organized a Rocky Gorge Trail and Watershed Clean-up. In attendance were TROT members Lucy Ertter and Barbara Sollner-Webb, a number of other community members and WSSC employees, and 22 students from the Pallotti High School track team that WSSC allows to train on the Rocky Gorge trail. See photos below, showing us volunteers before we headed out to clear trash, remove broken glass and trim branches on the trail. We did not need to do any major tree clearing on this section of the Rocky Gorge trail because WSSC watershed staff have kindly gone in with chain saws to remove fallen trees that blocked the trail. Thank you so much, WSSC!



Editor's note: Please everyone, report your trail work to (bsw@jhmi.edu) for inclusion in the next issue, as it will help inspire other TROT members to also contribute to trail maintenance.

OTHER RECENT TRAILS-RELATED EVENTS

TROT Members Host an Appreciation Luncheon for WSSC Watershed Staff

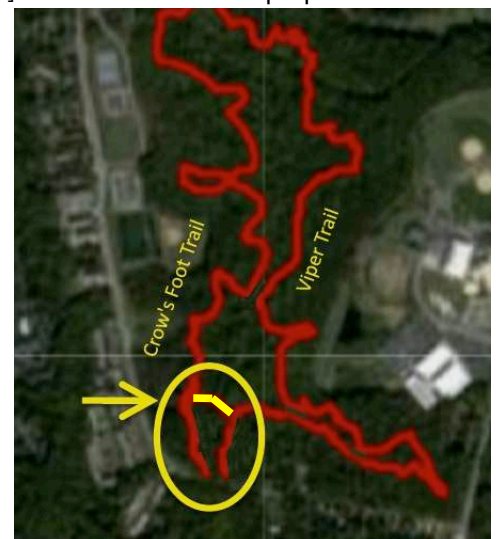
As in past years, Terry Ledley and Barbara Sollner-Webb hosted a luncheon for TROT members to show our appreciation to WSSC's watershed staff for their kindly keeping the Rocky Gorge and Triadelphia trails open. These trails are on WSSC's property, in the buffer land adjoining their reservoirs on the Patuxent River. After a tense period a few years ago when WSSC had closed the long-standing equestrian usage of their Rocky Gorge trail, a tremendous effort by TROT members, other citizens, elected officials and an engineering company convinced WSSC that the equestrian trail use was not causing any perceptible problem for the reservoir. Happily, WSSC reopened the Rocky Gorge trail on their Duckett reservoir and additionally began permitting equestrians to ride the perimeter road on the Montgomery County side of their Triadelphia reservoir. They also most kindly started maintaining these trails for us by removing trees that come down and block trail passage. This year's luncheon, on Tuesday, September 27th, was put on to show the WSSC watershed staff how much TROT members appreciate their efforts. It was attended by virtually all 12 members of the WSSC watershed staff and 10 TROT members. A good (and yummy) time was had by all.

photos from the WSSC appreciation luncheon



Montgomery County Parks Advocacy Dinner

Gale Monahan, TROT President, was invited to a networking dinner for advocates of Montgomery County Parks, held October 19th at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, and she invited a few other TROT members to join. It was a very nice and informative evening. At future county budget hearings, we intend to help testify for sufficient funding for the parks. After the dinner was a presentation and they asked for suggestions. We talked with the director of the Montgomery County Parks and suggested that they consider adding a trail connector in Fairland Park that is much needed for equestrian usage, because currently there is no approved safe way to connect between the trails in Montgomery County and those in Prince George's County in the southern half of the park. [Hikers and mountain bikers commonly now accomplish this connection by going out on a fast-moving road with minimal shoulders for about 50 feet, a maneuver that could be deadly for equestrians.] We then submitted a proposal for such a connector segment of trail (see GPS map at right) and some ideas of how to construct it, whether intended only for equestrians (with a stream crossing) or also for hikers and mountain bikers (which would require a bridge). We are awaiting the park officials' response, hoping this much needed trail connection will be approved.



REPORT ON TROT TRAIL RIDES SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

After a summer where all the TROT rides planned for over two months had to be cancelled, most due to outrageously excessive heat and humidity, but a few due to soaked ground from torrential rains, it has been delightful this fall to actually get to hold most of the scheduled TROT rides. Since the last newsletter, TROT was able to hold 12 rides. Yay! Those through October are summarized below; the November trail rides will be summarized in the next newsletter. Only one ride had to be cancelled and could not be rescheduled – unfortunately, it was Mary Prowell's Liberty ride that is always great, but it was too wet.

Please note that TROT's organized trail rides are a fun and safe way to learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and -- probably most important for TROT's mission -- to see the virtue of preserving trails. While it can be pleasant to always ride your same familiar set of trails, it is also very enjoyable and valuable to become acquainted with other trail systems in the area – and what better way to do it than on a TROT ride? So plan that next year YOU will come on more TROT rides. Indeed, how about YOU leading a TROT ride next year to show others your favorite venue? It is easy and rewarding. Please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619) to discuss the possibility of you leading or co-leading a TROT ride in 2017.

Ride at Annapolis Rock, Thursday, September 22, organized by Debby Poole

On a spectacularly beautiful day, 12 riders (see photo caption below) greatly enjoyed this ride that Debby kindly organized. It was in Annapolis Rock, one of the treasures of the area parks in Montgomery County and another swell venue adjoining the Patuxent River. It was a lovely ride with pretty views, great company, and a yummy lunch afterwards! Thanks, Debby!



L to R: Terry Ledley, Laury Lobel, Kathy Lipton, Debby Poole, Jeanie Kemp, Linda Gasch, Margaret Yao Purcell, Joan Bosmans, Haley Butrum, Denis Webb, Ellen Frank, Barbara Sollner-Webb

Ride at Jug Bay on Saturday, September 24, led by Jacquie Cowan

Jacquie Cowan led a delightful combined TROT and Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club ride at Jug Bay, in Croom, MD (southern Prince George's County). This venue had for ages been a standard in TROT's planned rides, but in recent years has not been covered, so it is great that Jacquie reintroduced it. And being part of the Patuxent River Parks system, Jug Bay is especially fitting this year with our newsletter's focus on trails located in the Patuxent watershed. Nine riders, including TROT members Jacquie Cowan, Suzanne Anderson, Terry Ledley, Shelby Tipton, Rosalie Marley and Barbara Sollner-Webb, enjoyed Jug Bay's about 10 miles of well-maintained wooded trails with good footing and pretty views, as well as the park's easy parking, and then a nice group lunch after the ride.



more photos from this ride – next page



this photo from Suzanne Anderson



Ride at Ag Farm Park on Thursday, September 30, led by Laury Lobel

This was another of Laury's last-Thursday-of-the-month rides with 15 (yes, fifteen!) riders at Ag Farm Park, a favorite venue in Montgomery County. Laury's rides are always super well-attended -- surely 'cause so many folks know how much fun they are. Although officially billed as "all-walk", Laury kindly encourages those of us who also like to trot and canter to take side loops to move out, making her rides perfect for all speed riders. And for the group lunch, Laury brought absolutely delicious homemade chocolate cake and cookies; and several other folks brought yummy salads and other things to share. A pretty, fun riding day!



One other great thing: on the way out, we talked with the very nice head of the park's maintenance, Jim Andre. He didn't know that horses normally used the very nice long trail on the east side of the park. [This trail starts at the asphalt drive that runs east from the big house on the hill, goes south through the woods, behind Mill Haven, and then continues south a bit east of the creek to eventually end at the entrance road.] Nor did he know that this trail was blocked by downed trees. But delightfully he said that he would re-open that trail for us riders the next day. And indeed, the very next day, Jim kindly removed all the downed trees blocking this trail! Thank you so much, Jim! Now we can all enjoy riding this trail again. So exciting!



clockwise from lower left: Flo Arnold, Leah Mack, Stephanie Cacopado, Debby Poole, Linda Gasch, Margaret Pursell, Jeanie Kemp, Jean Swartz, Denis Webb, Terry Ledley, Nancy Osgood, Laury Lobel, Joan Bosmans, Jocelyn Butrum; not shown: Barbara Sollner-Webb

Ride at Woodstock Equestrian Park on Sunday, October 9, led by Janet Buck and Marcella Morgese

We had a beautiful, crisp day for our ride at Woodstock Park near Poolesville, MD (postponed from Saturday, Oct. 8, when it was too wet to ride). Marcella led a walk-only group and Janet a faster group, so the speed was perfect for everyone. We started from the Moritz Greenberg Equestrian Center Main Entrance off Rt. 28 and stayed on the south side of the park. All six riders enjoyed the wonderfully maintained trails that run along the edges of soybean fields, through woods, past the old Stone Barn, etc. The park even provides mounting blocks after every bridge. After the ride was a nice lunch. This is a lovely, relative new, and not well enough known park -- see article by Derick Berlage about this park in the July 2016 TROT newsletter. Thanks Janet & Marcella.



Craig Frame, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Janet Buck, Greg Thornwall, Elizabeth Thornwall, Marcella Morgese



Ride at Black Hill on Tuesday, October 11, led by Grace Richards

Black Hill Regional Park is another beloved venue of the Montgomery County Parks system where TROT previously had rides, then didn't, and now happily Grace reintroduced this ride. We eight riders greatly enjoyed these trails, which are mostly tree-covered and very well-maintained. Although nominally an all-walk ride, several of us doubled back at multiple places to add very nice long trotting runs, making the speed great for everyone. After the ride was a very nice group lunch.

That was when Thor, who had been hobbled and standing politely throughout the lunch, decided to take off jack-rabbit-style through the woods, with Grace, Nancy and me, as well as two bird-watchers who happened by, in hot pursuit. Nearly an hour later we found him, lolling peacefully in the woods about ½ mile away from where he left us, and still hobbled. Whew! Such a bad boy! Other than that, it was a perfect ride!



Barbara Sollner-Webb, Susan Gray, Elisa Harvey, Peggy Thompson, Nancy Kain, Debby Poole, Jeanie Kemp, Grace Richards

Ride in Upper Patuxent River State Park on Sunday, October 16, led by Mary Prowell

We had a lovely ride, starting from Long Corner Road in Upper Montgomery County. This is yet another very pretty venue along the Patuxent River. The four riders (see photo next page) had a swell time moving out on this ride. Mary does a most impressive job of keeping these trails open. These trails are very interesting to see because plans for their improvement have been the subject of articles in several TROT newsletters (July 2014, July 2015, and January and May 2016). That work is led by MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts), an off-road biking and trail construction group, and has now started in the Mullinix Mill loop; TROT also helped finance a critical study in this trail improvement effort (see March 2016 newsletter). Such a nice ride! *continued next page*

continued from page 9 – Upper Patuxent Park

*shown: Denis Webb,
Mary Prowell and
Priscilla Huffman;
not shown: Barbara
Sollner-Webb*



Ride at Union Mills on Sunday, October 13, led by Janet Whelan and Ivy Smink

Janet and Ivy led a spectacularly pretty ride for us six riders to enjoy the fall colors in Union Mills (Carroll County, MD). We left from Ivy's house, which is very near the park. One group was all-walk while others of us added multiple very nice long trotting loops, so the ride was the perfect pace for everyone. After the most enjoyable ride, we returned to Ivy's house for a scrumptious lunch that Ivy and Janet had kindly prepared for us. A swell day!

*Ivy Smink, Janet Whelan, Terry Ledley,
Barbara Sollner-Webb and Joe Hild; not
shown: Samantha Eriksson*



Ride at Rosaryville Park, Sunday, October 30, led by Laura and Tony Colicchio

Four TROT members (see photo) enjoyed a great fall ride in amazingly warm weather with gold-colored leaves, in Rosaryville Park (Upper Marlboro, MD). All riders wanted to move out, so we all did a fair amount of trotting, but Laura was wonderfully careful to only go faster where she knew there were no exposed tree roots on the trail, as the trails were in large part covered with leaves so protruding roots could have been dangerously camouflaged. We met some bikers in the park wearing Halloween costumes. We rode out from Laura and Tony's house that backs on this spectacular park, and then returned to their house after the ride for a yummy bar-B-Q. Rosaryville is another lovely venue in our Maryland park system – and another part of the Patuxent watershed.

*Laura Colicchio, Tony Colicchio and
Denis Webb; not shown: Barbara
Sollner-Webb*



TROT has now completed its extensive 2016 trail riding schedule. We will report on the November rides in the next newsletter. These rides were on the NCR trail, led by Laura and Tony Colicchio (Sunday, November 6); McKeldin to the Woodstock Inn, led by Carolann Sharp (Sunday, November 13); Rocky Gorge, led by Debby Poole and Barbara Sollner-Webb (Thursday, November 17); and the Anacostia trail, led by John Angevine (Saturday, November 19).

COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS

Baltimore County

from Priscilla Huffman

Our Gunpowder Volunteer Mounted Patrol is actively patrolling the parks and reporting their hours. Karen Ferris represented the VMP's in uniform, patrolling on her horse at the October Fair Hill CCI*** 3-day event. [Yes, that is the name!]

We have been working with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy removing invasive plants on the Bunker Hill trail (see page 4). On each of two Saturdays, we had more than 20 volunteers from the Conservancy, TROT, local trail riders and Towson University students. Below is a report from Tiiu Mayer, Forest Steward with the Conservancy:

"Gunpowder Valley Conservancy (GVC) facilitates volunteer efforts to improve the local community and environment. Planting trees, installing rain barrels, developing conservation gardens or helping with paperwork are just a few of the ways to participate. Anyone can volunteer: individuals, school groups, clubs, churches and communities."

"Recently the GVC and Gunpowder State Park teamed up and provided leadership for a day of learning and volunteering. Each team learned to identify invasive plants before removing them and then replanting with native plants. Teams traded places after lunch and learned to rebuild and maintain trails. Raising awareness about the extent and effects of invasive species through hands-on experience is an important activity that can contribute to future solutions."

Montgomery County -- SUNDAY HUNTING in Montgomery County

from Gale Monahan

On October 26th I attended a meeting regarding Sunday Hunting in Montgomery County along with Jane Siegler, Maryland Horse Council; Montgomery County Delegate, David Fraser-Hildalgo; Paula Linthicum, Montgomery County Farm Bureau; Colby Ferguson, Maryland Farm Bureau; Sara Morningstar, Montgomery Office of Intergovernmental Relations; Bob Cissel, Montgomery Ag Producers, as well as several equestrian groups.

TROT's policy has been and continues to be that we do not wish to have hunting on Sundays. I let that be known in the meeting. The proposal that the Maryland Horse Council is supporting would take away two of the three proposed full Sundays for hunters while keeping one (Sunday before Thanksgiving) for youth hunting, but to allow hunting EVERY Sunday, other than that one Sunday, until 10:30 AM each day. That would be 14 Sundays with hunting. While all this applies to hunting on private land and not in parks, a lot of hunt-able private land backs to parks where we ride.

This does not just affect equestrians, but also joggers, hikers, off-road bikers, bird watchers, and many of the general public who wish to use parks.

This is not yet set in stone. This is a proposal. There will be public hearings on this in front of the Montgomery County Council on December 5th and December 7th at 7 PM at the County Council Building in Rockville (100 Maryland Ave., 3rd Floor). Anyone is welcome to go and speak and let your opinion be known to your County Representatives.

MORE POSSIBLE IDEAS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

Does your back get sore from carrying hay to distant feeders?

A light-weight and easily maneuverable garden cart, available rather inexpensively online or at any of several local stores, holds nearly a bale of hay, letting you easily carry hay to feeders across the barn or out in the field without straining your back. This also prevents dropping hunks of hay, as occurs if you just carry by hand. I love ours.



An easy way to remove leaves and quidded grass from your horses' water troughs

If your or a friend's barn has an older horse who "quids", removing those gummed wads of grass and hay from the horses' watering trough is a less-than-pleasant daily chore. However, a large sieve (strainer) that you fit with a 1 ½ foot handle and keep next to each watering trough makes it easy to remove the quids, as well as leaves and other stuff that blow in, even from the bottom of the watering trough, all while keeping your hands dry.

Ease in cleaning water troughs

Also shown is a nifty "Scotch Brite non-scratch" scraper with a flexible head and long handle (\$6, Wal-Mart) that makes cleaning watering troughs a breeze, also while keeping your hands dry.





New / Renewal TROT Membership Application

To facilitate your renewal we currently offer two suggestions:

PAY BY PAYPAL (You do not need a PayPal account and NO POSTAGE REQUIRED):

Go to <http://www.trot-md.org/membership.php> and follow the directions.

Upon notification of your payment the Membership Registrar will send you an email with an email form to be completed and returned or return this completed form by email or USPS.

COMPLETE APPLICATION FORM AND PAY BY CHECK:

Complete the Application form

Check -- please make checks payable to
Trail Riders of Today

and send it and your application to:

TROT Membership, PO Box 506, Highland, MD 20777

Date: / / 20 Membership Renewal New Membership

PLEASE PRINT

Indicate the Information you DO NOT wish to be included in the TROT directory.

*First Name: _____	_____ Do Not list	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <i>All membership information is for the private use of TROT members. We do not release any membership information outside this organization</i> </div>
*Last Name: _____	_____ Do Not list	
Spouse/Sig Other: _____	_____ Do Not list	
Other family members: _____	_____ Do Not list	
*Address: _____	_____ Do Not list	
*City: _____	_____ Do Not list	
*State: _____ *5 Digit Zip: _____	_____ Do Not list	
*County: _____	_____ Do Not list	
*Phone: primary _____ - _____ - _____ secondary _____ - _____ - _____	_____ Do Not list	_____ primary _____ secondary
Email: primary _____	_____ Do Not list	
secondary _____	_____ Do Not list	

(Most, but not all, of our communication with members is preferred to be done by email.)

*Required information

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER

Membership is for the calendar year. All individuals included in a family TROT membership must be members of the same family living at the same address. Additional contributions are welcome and help to preserve the trails you ride on.

TROT is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

Complete only if you have not paid by PayPal

One year membership	_____ \$20.00 per year
Contributing member	_____ \$30.00 per year
Sustaining member	_____ \$50.00 per year

Type of Membership: _____ Single _____ Family

Number of membership cards required _____

Additional contributions \$ _____ (tax deductible)

TROT RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL OF ITS ACTIVITIES - PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO MAKE TROT SUCCEED

Please check all areas where you would be willing to assist.

____ Ride Leader	____ Horse World Expo Booth	____ Trail Clearing	____ Annual Dinner
____ Silent Auction	Other Activities (list) _____		

TROT NEWSLETTER

I prefer to receive the TROT Newsletter by:

____ email (full color addition) or ____ U.S. Mail (black on yellow) or ____ Neither, I will view it on the TROT website.

SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

from Jean McKay, TROT secretary

Summary of September 6, 2016 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Nancy Osgood and Sim Shanks.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Priscilla Huffman, Dick Huffman, Nancy Osgood, Sim Shanks

-- Treasurer's report presented and accepted; July Board meeting minutes approved as written

-- Debby Poole reported, via e-mail, that TROT will host another obstacle clinic with Scott Purdum, Oct. 21, at Schooley Mill Park

-- **County Coordinator Reports:** **Baltimore County** - Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore County Coordinator, reported that Gunpowder Valley Conservancy will hold a "Trail Maintenance and Invasive Plant Workshop" on October 1, 2016 at Gunpowder Falls State Park; **Howard County** – Pat Oliva reported temporary public easement bridle trail through Walker Meadows, efforts underway to make this a permanent easement; **Montgomery County** – Pat Oliva and Deneen Martin represented TROT at the Montgomery County Great Outdoors Festival at Little Bennett Park (August 20); **Prince George's County** – Barbara Sollner-Webb reported that there is a new WSSC trail contact.

-- Annual Meeting (March 4, 2017) – Volunteers needed to help organize the annual meeting

Summary of October 4, 2016 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Barbara Sollner-Webb and Denis Webb.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Jean McKay (Secretary), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Priscilla Huffman, Sim Shanks, Denis Webb

-- September Board meeting minutes approved as written

-- Memberships are slightly ahead of last year's numbers; ongoing discussion of how to attract new members

-- Several Board members proposed a non-judged trail ride with obstacles and trail ride training clinics for future TROT activities

-- TROT submitted a grant application to the Maryland Horse Industry Board for funding to update the TROT exhibit/display

-- Pat Oliva will represent TROT at the 2017 International Trails Symposium, to be held in Dayton, OH

TRAIL GUIDES

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

Agricultural History Farm Park ("Ag Farm") (Montgomery County side, MD) Deneen Martin (301) 253-2955

Annapolis Rock (Montgomery County side, MD) Deneen Martin (301) 253-2955

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

Catoctin Mountain Park (Thurmont, MD) Marilyn Miller (301) 898-7274

Cedarville Park (Upper Marlboro, MD) Sean Williamson swsr70@gmail.com or (240) 412-7265

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

Cedarville Park (Upper Marlboro, MD) Sean Williamson swsr70@gmail.com or (240) 412-7265

Doncaster State Forest (Charles County, MD) Sean Williamson swsr70@gmail.com or (240) 412-7265

Greenwell Park (St. Mary's County, MD) Sean Williamson swsr70@gmail.com or (240) 412-7265

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

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

Little Bennett (Clarksburg, MD) Jim and Maureen Henry (301) 676-5298; also Marilyn Miller (301) 898-7274

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

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

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

Patuxent River State Park Allison Abernathy (703) 603-0052

Patapsco State Park/McKeldin (Carroll, Baltimore and Howard counties MD) Carolann Sharp mathgoddess@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, Prince George's County, MD) Laura Colicchio (301) 856-7540 or lavenderlady19@verizon.net

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

WSSC's Rocky Gorge and Tridelphia Reservoirs (Prince George's 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 others, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) to join this list of generous volunteers. *****

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Gale Monahan	gale.email2@gmail.com	(301) 854-3852
Vice President	Deneen Martin	deneenmartin7@msn.com	(301) 467-5335
Secretary	Jean McKay	40carrots@comcast.net	(301) 482-0681
Treasurer	Janet Whelan	janetwhelan@yahoo.com	(410) 790-1044

Additional Board members	Jeff Dwyer	ebbtidestables@gmail.com	(410) 320-1327
	Dana Grabiner	grabiner1@aol.com	(202) 412-7548
	Terry Ledley	terryledley@aol.com	(301) 520-3100
	Laury Lobel	laurylobel@verizon.net	
	Pat Oliva	patolivatigqer@aol.com	(410) 489-7380
	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619

Membership Chair	Sim Shanks	simshanks@verizon.net	(301) 570-0614
Newsletter; mapping	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619
Trail Rides	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619
Adopt A Trail	Amy Kimble	amyhkimble@aol.com	(301) 748-8310
Web Master	Harold Goldstein	mdbiker@goldray.com	

COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS

Anne Arundel	Jacquie Cowan	jacquiecowan@comcast.net	(410) 215-4979 or (410) 923-6157
Baltimore	Priscilla Huffman	priscillahuffman@verizon.net	(301) 646-4422
Cecil	Jeanne Bond	halcyonfarm@gmail.com	
Frederick	Pat Merson	lilgreyhrs@aol.com	(301) 898-3251
Harford	Dianna O'Neil	b.oneil1@verizon.net	(410) 215-0491
Howard	Pat Oliva	patolivatigqer@aol.com	(410) 489-7380
Laurel/Burtonsville	Jenn Poole	bcfarmgirl@hotmail.com	
	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	(301) 604-5619
Montgomery	Ron MacNab	rmacnab@verizon.net	(301) 622-4157
Prince George's	Judie Artman	artmanju@yahoo.com	
St. Mary's	Kathy Glockner	kglockner@md.metrocast.net	(301) 475-194
Talbot	Joyce Bell	wbell2@washcoll.edu	(410) 820-6002

Please volunteer as coordinator from the other Maryland counties

MAC – PC GLITCH AGAIN (sigh!)

Big apologies if the spelling of some words looks funky on your computer -- like "officials" reportedly missing an f and the i on some PCs. Phoebe Black's wise suggestion to switch to an open face font (Myriad Pro; see March 2106 newsletter) had largely solved the problem of some PCs changing certain letters in PDFs created on a Mac. But the issue now may be reappearing. If anyone knows a solution, I would be most indebted to learn!

UP-TO-DATE INFO ON TROT ACTIVITIES

TROT website:

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

TROT Newsletter:

current and older issues:

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

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator

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

Maryland Trail Riders Yahoo group (and to join):

[<https://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/info>](https://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/info)

TROT Yahoo group (and to join):

[<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TROT-Members/info>](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/TROT-Members/info)

Facebook page

TROT Trail Riders of Today

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

from Sim Shanks

Joan Bosmans	Howard County, MD
Haley Butrum	Howard County, MD
Donna Dunn	Montgomery County, MD
Nancy Kain	Loudoun County, VA

REQUEST FOR NEWSLETTER INFORMATION and PHOTOS – Please!

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

TROT Video: Now in the Editing Phase

from Dana Grabiner

TROT's new video is in its final editing phase. You'll recall we got a \$1,000 grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB), and, combined with other contributions, we engaged the professional services of ScriptSmith, Inc., to help us hone the message and revise the show.

The new show blends re-usable footage from the "old" video with new photos of TROT activities, plus new narration and music.

You'd think it would be easy to produce the show, given that TROT's message is so clear-cut: We preserve and advocate for trails. But there is so much to tell: TROT's early efforts to give bridle trails a voice, its faithful members who recommit to the mission year in and year out, and the fun times we have riding, "potlucking," and learning together. How do you convey all that in 5-6 minutes *max*? As we know, the days of viewers politely watching a 20-minute, even a 10-minute, video are over.

Somehow we have managed to craft a tightly paced show that explains what TROT stands for: trails. We hope to complete the final edits in time to premiere the video at the Horse World Expo, January 20-22, 2017. We also intend to post the video on TROT's website, distribute copies to TROT members, and use it in our fundraising, outreach, and advocacy.

Note: for TROT members who also want a copy of the old – and soon-to-be outdated -- version of the TROT video, ScriptSmith can convert it from VHS to digital and make that available as well.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

To Place An Ad

To place a newsletter ad, email the newsletter editor at [<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu).

TROT Members can place one 100 word or business card-size ad in each issue of the newsletter! It will run for one issue unless you notify the editor by the 15th of the month before the next newsletter is dated that you want it to run again in a subsequent issue. If TROT members want to run a larger ad, they get that \$6 off its rate (listed below).

Ad rates for non-members and larger ads:

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

Trail Horse Needed

from Ann Perry

I need a rideable companion pony or horse (13 1/2 to 15 hands) for my mare. Needs to be beginner friendly & trail safe. Free lease or purchase. Prefer a gelding. Please contact Ann Perry at [<annperry47@comcast.net>](mailto:annperry47@comcast.net) or 410-596-9383.

Training with Jacquie Cowan

Find Your Pleasure Gait with Jacquie Cowan, specializing in softly gaited horses for trail and show. Also help building your confidence and trail skills. Contact Jacquie at [<jacquiecowan@comcast.net>](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net) or 410-923-6157.

Save \$\$\$ and Help Horses at Days End

Farm Horse Rescue from Kathy Lipton

Saving money is exactly what you can do every time you shop at Tinkerbell's Tack and Treasures, at Days End Farm Horse Rescue (DEFHR). Tink's is filled with everything you need for you, your horse and your barn. The store is open the **second Friday and Saturday of every month from 9 AM to 4 PM.**

Forecasters are calling for a worse than average winter. Tink's has used blankets and sheets in every size from pony to draft. Do you need boots or breeches? Shirts and jackets for competing? A "new" saddle, bridle or halter? And don't forget a saddle pad—Tink's has lots of those. All items in the shop are donated and are in usable to excellent condition.

You probably won't find lower prices anywhere. And Tink's takes cash, check or charge.

At the same time, DEFHR would love donations of any horse-related items you are no longer using to sell at Tink's to raise funds for the care of the rescue horses. You can drop donations at the Days End office any time.

So grab your wallet and a friend and go shopping at Tink's on December 9 and 10 from 9 AM to 4 PM. The store is located at 1372 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD.

And check out the Tinkerbell's Tack and Treasures page on Facebook where you'll find photos of some of the stock available at the time of the sale. Keep in mind that many items—like the nearly-new Circle Y show saddle, breastplate and bridle that sold last month—are snapped up quickly.

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor

Big thanks to the swell folks who contributed great articles and other info to the newsletter! Readers highly appreciate the contributions by TROT members!

And ENORMOUS appreciation for MOST helpfully proof-reading the draft text goes to Dana Grabiner, Terry Ledley, Sim Shanks, Priscilla Huffman, Laury Lobel, Pat Oliva and Denis Webb. You guys are wonderful!



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

PO Box 506

Highland, MD 20777

Inside this issue:

- Report on recent TROT-sponsored Trail Obstacle Clinic by Scott Purdum
- Plan for the Lisbon Horse Parade, Horse Expo, and TROT Annual Dinner & Silent Auction
- Swell Ideas for Holiday Gifts – including a TROT membership renewal application
- Welcome Jacquie Cowan, new Anne Arundel TROT Coordinator
- Hunting Reminder
- Trail Work, Past and Future – PLEASE JOIN IN!
- TROT is Active in Trails Advocacy
- TROT's Trail Rides
- Contact Information for TROT and Trail Guides
- TROT Video Update
- Classified Ads
- And Lots More