



Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

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March, 2018

Founded 1980

Number 226

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[Photos and articles without attribution are from the Newsletter Editor, Barbara Sollner-Webb]

ANOTHER GREAT TROT ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION *from Nancy Osgood, Dinner co-chair*

Thank you all for making our 2018 Annual Meeting a great success. It was a thrill to see such a great turnout and such an enthusiastic crowd of trail riders!

There was a real sense that folks were meeting new riding buddies and learning about new trails. We even had a few folks interested in leading TROT rides this year. This is what TROT is all about. And it was great to see kids having a good time!

The Silent Auction was so well organized. Donations were plentiful and varied. As we hoped, there were browsers all evening, and it seemed that most items were sold.

Our speaker, Dr. Nunnery, is an outstanding equine ophthalmologist. Her presentation was excellent and very well received by all. She focused on what every barn or horse owner should know about a horse's eyes. Her talk addressed diagnostics and treatments, and the physiology of the various conditions. She had numerous photos showing close-ups of the various conditions. A very informative presentation.

Last, but certainly not least, the food was amazing! We had plenty of really tasty food for the hungriest cowboys and cowgirls.

A huge thank you to all the dedicated volunteers that helped with the setup, the registration, the food tables, the silent auction (workers and donors), the logo-wear table, the program, the centerpieces, and the cleanup. And thanks to all the TROT members who came to make this a great event! You all rock!

lots more photos on the next page



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Gale Monahan

What a great annual meeting/dinner we had. Great food and a great speaker. I have heard nothing but praise for Dr. Nunnery's presentation. There were approximately 110 of you who attended. What a swell turnout.

There was something I forgot to mention at the annual meeting. In 2019, we are going to institute an action that TROT members at last year's Annual Dinner virtually unanimously decided on. The issue is that a considerable portion of TROT's expenses go to printing and mailing the newsletter, the costs of which have been increasing, while TROT's treasury has been slowly decreasing. Since only a limited fraction of the members get the hard-copy version of the ...

[continue on next page]

continued from page 1 -- TROT's ANNUAL DINNER/SILENT AUCTION



yum!



Gale



Sim



Dr. Nunnery's presentation



Amy and Baylee



Gale's basket

Photos on this and the previous page are thanks to Dick Huffman, Rita Beck, Debby Poole, Nancy Osgood & Barbara Sollner-Webb



silent auction browsing even during dinner



MORE ON THE SILENT AUCTION

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, Silent Auction chair

I want to especially thank all the kind TROT members who generously donated saddles, blankets, fly sheets, lesson packages, gift baskets, and lots of other swell stuff to be auctioned off for horses and riders. Also enormous thanks to the generous merchants and trainers who support TROT by donating great items to be auctioned off: Anytime Tack/Woodland Horse center (Silver Spring), Bartley Trailer (Silver Spring), Bartley Trailer (Woodbine), Bowen's Farm Supply (Annapolis), Dover Saddlery (Gambrills), Farmer's Coop (Frederick), Gambrills General Store (Gambrills), Jacquie Cowan (Crownsville), Jane Seigler/Dressage at Sundown (Gaithersburg), Jim McDonald (Graham Equestrian Center), Maryland Saddlery (Crofton), Medieval Times (Arundel Mills), Outback Leather (Laurel), Stablemates (Mt. Airy), and the Turf Center (Spencerville). Special thanks also to many of the over 100 attendees at the dinner -- TROT members and their friends -- who purchased most of the over 200 items that were for sale.

From these generous donations and purchasers, TROT made nearly \$1,900 to help support our trails missions.

Enormous gratitude also goes to Kyle Jossi, Leah Mack, Rachel McMallin, Joan Bosmans, Amy Kimble and her granddaughter Baylee, who helped me set up and price the items for the silent auction and then collect the payment -- without your hard work, this would not have come off! You were great! Lets plan on doing it together again next year.

continued from page 1 -- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

newsletter sent by US mail, while the rest get the newsletter emailed (which is free), at last year's Annual Dinner there was strong agreement to raise our membership dues for those who request to have a hard copy of the newsletter, to help defray those extra expenses. So the membership dues for TROT members who receive the electronic copy of the newsletter will stay at \$20. But starting next year, for those who wish a hard copy mailed to them, membership will be \$25. While this differential does not completely cover the extra printing and mailing costs, it will help ease the pain and should keep TROT solvent.

As you have seen in many past newsletters and in Constant Contact blasts, TROT has been very active on the Sunday hunting issue, again following the direction of our members. In a survey taken a few years ago, where well over 90% of responding TROT members opposed to Sunday hunting. In a separate article, we will expand on some of what TROT members have been doing in fighting the numerous bills in Annapolis to expand Sunday hunting. I just want to note here that at the hearing on March 7th, Deneen Martin spoke for TROT. Although she spent a long afternoon waiting to speak and everyone had only two minutes, Deneen let our representatives know that TROT does not want any more of our Sunday rides taken away for hunters. I heard that there were also some hunters who stood up against the expanded Sunday hunting bill under consideration.

At our March board meeting your TROT officers were elected. No one wanted to leave the board and everyone on the board was pleased and willing to keep the same officers. They are myself as president, Deneen Martin as vice president, Jean McKay as secretary (she does a fantastic job) and Fritz Grow as our treasurer. Fritz actually is new and is doing a fantastic job. You also now have 12 TROT members representing you on the board. The other officers are Barbara Sollner-Webb, Brieanah Schwartz, Dana Grabiner, Jean Cooper, Laury Lobel, Leah Mack, Pat Oliva and Terry Ledley. It is great that we have so many folks willing to step up for this organization. I hope more of you will find the time to come to a meeting in the future.

I also wish to inform you that I was asked to join the Maryland Horse Council's Legislative Committee in addition to being the chair of their Trails and Greenways Committee. I have accepted. I will not be representing TROT on the Legislative Committee but it will let me bring information to you that we have not been reporting sufficiently in the past.

Riding season is here. I am hoping I will be back out on the trails before the end of the year and will be able to meet many of you who I have not yet been able to.



*Bianca and
buddy Thor*

*photo from
Bianca*

TROT WELCOMES OUR NEW BALTIMORE COUNTY CO- COORDINATOR, BIANCA PATERAKIS

from Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore County Co-Coordinator

We are pleased to announce a co-coordinator for Baltimore County TROT - Bianca Paterakis. Bianca is a motivated trail rider with lots of social media savvy and energy! We have a good time working together and will be planning rides and trail work days. Bianca enjoys exploring new trails throughout Maryland with her horse Thor, a Percheron Welsh cross. Thor was previously in the wedding business as a driving horse pulling a carriage for newlyweds (he is a hopeless romantic), but is now thoroughly enjoying his job hitting the trails with his owner Bianca who adores him. Bianca and Thor have a few goals for the new year- leading some TROT rides and joining the Mounted Patrol. Bianca lives in Sparks with her husband Shawn and their daughter, Forrest. Any issues or ideas for Baltimore county riding, contact Bianca (at biancavanhorn@me.com) or 443-340-4036) or Priscilla (at priscillahuffman@verizon.net) or 301-646-4422)



photo from
Karen

Karen and Ranger

TROT WELCOMES OUR NEW LICENSE PLATE GURU, KAREN DURILLA!

from Karen

Since retiring from the National Security Agency in 2013, Karen Durilla has been busy with a variety of activities. She volunteers at Carroll Hospital and is involved with the Carroll Hospital Auxiliary. Karen is also involved with pet therapy and takes her Border Collie/Greyhound mix dog, Buddy, to visit with patients at the hospital as well as participate in several children's reading programs. She and her husband, Frank, are members of the Carroll County Equestrian Council and are involved with trail maintenance at Morgan Run. Karen and Frank are also Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP) rangers at Patapsco Valley State Park. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, baking and of course, trail riding. Karen and Frank live in Mount Airy with their three Tennessee Walkers -- Prince, Chance and Ranger. If you might like a TROT license plate to brighten your car or truck please see the notice on ordering on page 15 and contact Karen at [<ponyexpressmessenger@gmail.com>](mailto:ponyexpressmessenger@gmail.com).

[Editor's note: Priscilla Huffman mentioned that Karen wrote a wonderful instruction book for Patapsco VMPs. Also please see Karen's notice about wanting to temporarily borrow or rent a round pen for her other horse's rehab.]

BIG APPRECIATION TO TROT's ORIGINAL LICENSE PLATE GURU, SUSAN RAILEY!

TROT is highly indebted to Susan Railey for her great idea years ago to get TROT license plates and make them available for our members, and then for running this program for many years! Isn't it cool when driving down the road, to occasionally see a TROT license plate on another car and immediately think "what a fine person must be driving that vehicle!"?

RECENT TRAIL WORK AND OTHER TRAIL RIDER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2017 Trail Work Summary *info from Amy Kimble, TROT's Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator*

Amy reports that in 2017, TROT members registered with a total of 258 hours of trails-related volunteer activities! That is great! These reported hours help to get increased funding for our parks! Congratulations, all! [In fact, TROT members likely do lots more hours of trail work but just forget or don't bother to report it to Amy, which is too bad. To report your hours, see next page.]

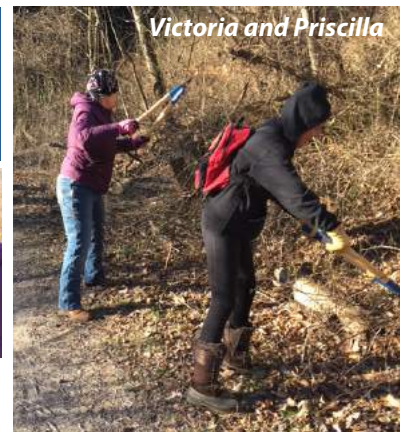
Trail work day Feb. 3 – Torrey C. Brown trail /NCR trail *info from Priscilla Huffman and Stephanie Brennan, Baltimore and Carroll County Coordinators*

TROT members Stephanie Brennan, Priscilla Huffman, Victoria Masters-Konopasek and Dan Wisen were among the 20 people who worked on the Torrey C. Brown trail/NCR trail in a work party organized by the Maryland Conservation Corps to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. Stephanie reports that despite being a bitterly cold day, it was extremely rewarding, seeing how much their efforts were improving the trail, making new friends, and getting a fuzzy-warm feeling inside.



Stephanie, Priscilla
and Victoria

[photos from Stephanie]



Victoria and Priscilla



Mike hauling a
fallen tree
→

Trail Work at Union Mills

info from Stephanie Brennan, Carroll County Coordinator

In preparation for the TROT trail ride she will be hosting at Union Mills (Saturday, June 16--do sign up!), Stephanie and her friend Mike went out to spruce up the trail on February 10. They found many trees and tree limbs covering the trail, which they dragged out of the way, to get the trail in tip-top shape for riders from everywhere. Hopefully the 60 mph winds in the subsequent storm did not bring down anything more. But at least these impediments are gone, thanks to Stephanie and Mike!

Trail Mapping App Workshop

Priscilla Huffman, TROT's Baltimore County co-coordinator, hosted a most valuable workshop on February 28, to teach use of the trail mapping app "AllTrails" (available at no cost for iPhones and Android phones). All six of us got the app downloaded on our phones, learned its key features, and then were able to walk around the building and map our "trail", as well as pull up mapped trails that other trail users had stored for folks to access! Cool! Bianca Paterakis, TROT's other Baltimore County co-coordinator had prepared a very useful instructional hand-out sheet, but unfortunately was sick so not able to join us that day. Do try downloading and using this app (or one of the many similar ones) yourself – it is pretty easy and self-explanatory, and a great way to map your trail rides. This session was held at Casa Mia's (the restaurant that Priscilla earlier had convinced to install a horse tie, so one can ride up for lunch; see article in the July 2016 TROT newsletter).



attendees: Margaret Scarff, Priscilla Huffman, Monika Munn, Alyce Soffer, and Yancy Carey (not shown: Barb Sollner-Webb)



New PEPCO Multi-use Trail "Groundbreaking"

On a frigid January 15th, trail users gathered on a windy hillside north of Rockville for the "groundbreaking" of a trail from Montgomery Mall to the Gaithersburg Soccer-plex. It will initially be a natural surface trail, and provides access to some horse barns and a long-time horse trail; sometime later, a paved trail will be constructed to parallel it. It is being built by PEPCO in conjunction with Montgomery County Parks and MORE (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, the mountain biking and trails group that TROT has often partnered with). It was mandated by the Consent Decree permitting PEPCO to merge with Exelon, likely because of testimony from lots of citizens including MORE representatives (impressively including then-Montgomery County Council chair Roger Berliner) and TROT members (Susan Gray, Judy Thacher and Barbara Sollner-Webb). Despite glitches, persistent efforts of trails advocates have made its construction to be a reality. [See newsletters Jan 2015, July 2016, Jan 2017.]

This "groundbreaking" was attended by about 50 trail enthusiasts, including TROT members (Ron and Janet MacNab, Jean McKay, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Deneen Martin, and others), members of MORE, and government and PEPCO officials. Despite the officials being unable to actually break any ground -- it being frozen rock-solid (see photo) – the plan is for this natural-surface trail to be open for use later this year.



groundbreaking ceremony



officials ready to dig



frozen ground resists being dug

Carroll County Area Riders Get-Together

info from Stephanie Brennan, Carroll County Coordinator

Kyle Jossi, a long-time TROT champion and worker-bee, and Stephanie Brennan, TROT's wonderful new Carroll County Coordinator, arranged another of the occasional meet-and-greets for riders (TROT members, Carroll County Equestrian Council members, and others). It was January 20th, again at Kyle's and Mike Gafney's farm. What a swell way to help riders engage with each other (and hopefully promote TROT to non-members).

Maryland Horse Legislative Day Was A BIG Success

info from Jacquie Cowen, Anne Arundel County Coordinator

Jacquie Cowan had encouraged all TROT members who care about the future of Maryland trail use to come to this important event. Happily a number of TROT members joined Jacquie and other equestrians, farmers, and others on a frigid January 30th in Annapolis. They explained to the legislators about the importance of the horse industry to the Maryland economy (\$1.6 billion, 28,000 jobs), talked to them about equestrians' concerns, and felt it was a worthwhile day. This is a yearly event put on by the Maryland Horse Council. Please plan to come to this event next year to make it even better!

Appealing to Government Officials Can Help – Response on Walker Meadow

You may remember a request (by personal emails and in the May, 2016 newsletter) to TROT members who use Patapsco Valley State Park to contact Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman. The TROT members were asked to urge Mr. Kittleman to not permit the developer of the proposed "Walker Meadow" subdivision to close off our well-used southern entrance to the Patapsco Valley State Park. The matter has gone back and forth. Happily those of us who sent in testimony just received an email from County Executive Kittleman, saying "the developer has agreed to a 20-foot wide private access easement from Mayapple Trail to the park." If anyone wants a copy of the plat showing this easement, just email [<bsw@jhmi.edu>](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) and I will send it to you.

It sure is nice that (1) this entrance will remain open for equestrians and others to enter the park, (2) the government officials responded to our pleas, and (3) we have one more example of the importance of forcefully speaking up, in large numbers, when trails or trail access are about to be taken away.

UPCOMING TRAIL WORK AND OTHER TRAIL RIDER-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2018 Trail Work Hours

info from Amy Kimble, TROT's Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator

The 258 reported trail volunteer hours for 2017 (see above) are great but come from only 30 TROT members. So there are another 90-plus percent of TROT members who are not reporting work hours to Amy. Most probably at least break branches on trails. So please report your trail work time to Amy. This is important because Amy relays these self-reported volunteer hours to the park officials so they not only help the trails due to your work but also help to get increased funding for the parks!

This year, please take Amy up on her 2018 challenge for each TROT member to do AT LEAST four hours of volunteer trail-related work and report it to her (text to 301-748-8310 or email to [<Amyhkimble@aol.com>](mailto:Amyhkimble@aol.com)). Just give your first and last name, location of work, and ideally the date. Remember, your volunteer hours can be as easy as breaking branches and clipping vines while you ride. But of course they also include any organized trail clearing or other trails work, as well as any other volunteer work you may do for any park, such as Volunteer Mounted Patrols (VMP), assisting at Nature Centers, planting/weeding, or anything the ranger may suggest. Already in 2018, 26 hours of park volunteer work have been reported. These include trail maintenance and VMP hours at Gunpowder Falls State Park, Union Mills, and Patapsco.

Trail Work at Patuxent River State Park, Saturday April 7, 9 AM to noon

info from Amy Kimble, TROT's Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator

Come out to help and show that TROT members do trail work by joining Patuxent River State Park's 2018 Volunteer Kick-Off. It will be April 7th, 9 AM-noon, meeting at the parking lot just south of the Patuxent River and just west of Georgia Avenue/Rt 97 (23222 Georgia Avenue, Brookeville, MD). Come out to help rehabilitate the trails in the southern section of this park, which has been a major interest of TROT (see last newsletter) and our partner trails organization MORE for several years. Lunch will be provided by Friends of Seneca Creek State Park. [Park staff is also working to open a nature center there.] To participate, please RSVP to Ranger Bethany Watts at [<bethany.watts@maryland.gov>](mailto:bethany.watts@maryland.gov), and pass the word on to others to get involved!

For info on future workdays at Patuxent River State Park and Seneca Creek State Park, contact Ranger Erik Ledbetter ([<erik.ledbetter@maryland.gov>](mailto:erik.ledbetter@maryland.gov), 301- 924-2127) or Ranger Bethany Watts.

Two Clean-Ups on the Big Gunpowder River, Saturday April 7, 10 AM – 1 PM

from Priscilla Huffman and Bianca Paterakis, Baltimore County Co-Coordinaors

Come to a clean-up in Gunpowder Falls State Park on the Big Gunpowder River, Saturday, April 7. Groups will be meeting at the Jones Road and Belair Road parking lots (10400 Jones Road Kingsville, MD and at 11205 Belair Road Kingsville, MD). Trash bags, trash pickers, and gloves will be provided. Please dress for the weather as this is a rain or shine event. For more information, contact Ranger Brooke Bartko at 410-592-2897 or [<brookej.bartko@maryland.gov>](mailto:brookej.bartko@maryland.gov).

Upcoming Organized Trail Work In Carroll County

info from Stephanie Brennan, Carroll County Coordinator

Do come out to help at the trail work days that are being organized by the Carroll County Equestrian Council:

Gillis Falls: April 28 & September 16

Morgan Run NEA: May 6, June 2, July 8, August 12, September 1, October 7, and November 11

Piney Run: TBA

Union Mills: TBA

For info about signing up and the meeting time and location, please contact Stephanie Brennan [<dadslilcobra@me.com>](mailto:dadslilcobra@me.com).

Many Upcoming Workdays in Patapsco Valley State Park

from Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore County Co-Coordinator

Patapsco Valley State Park will be having workdays to remove invasives, following a short ranger-led discussion each session, to identify the most common (and aggressive) plants and learn why they are such a threat to the ecosystem. Work days are 9 AM-noon. Please sign up at volunteerpatapsco.dnr@maryland.gov so they can contact you in case the event must be cancelled for inclement weather. Also please wear long pants, long sleeves and sturdy boots, and bring water and gloves. The primary opponents on these workdays will be:

Garlic mustard: April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 5, 12

Wavyleaf basketgrass (shown in photo): June 16, July 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 8



Your Help Needed to Preserve Rockburn Park

info from Gale Monahan, TROT President

Especially considering the success in retaining a southern entrance to the Patapsco Valley State Park through our appeals to Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, we need your help also to retain Rockburn Park in Howard County. This is a very nice park on the south side of the Patapsco River between I-95 and Rt 29, where TROT has had numerous trail rides recently led by Jacquie Cowan. Unfortunately much of the land of Rockburn Park is currently being considered for development, to build a school and associated facilities. TROT has joined a group that formed to protect Rockburn from development and signed their letter to County Executive Kittleman. But if you ride in Rockburn Park -- or think you may ever ride in Rockburn Park, or simply care about it being there even if you don't plan to ride there -- please write to Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman akittleman@howardcountymd.gov and ask that Rockburn Park be preserved from future development.

Important DNR Workshops and Survey

info from Jacquie Cowan and from Jessica Massey

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reaching out to Maryland residents in two ways to gain information about how we hope they will direct their efforts in the future. DNR is the main state agency responsible for land conservation and outdoor recreation. Providing DNR with this input could help get more of your tax dollars going to what you care about.

1- DNR will be hosting workshops – two sessions each day, 1 PM and 6 PM – to gather comment on the state's outdoor activities, amenities and services. The ones still coming up are:

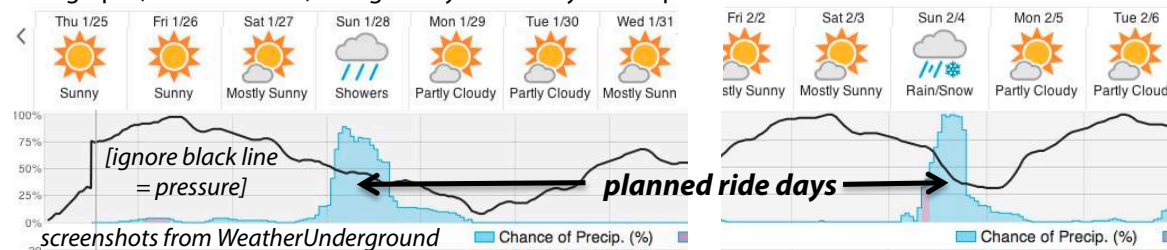
April 18 - Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, Maryland 20685

April 19 - Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area, Auditorium, 5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

2- DNR has initiated a five minute survey, "Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation", asking folks' thoughts on land acquisition, conservation and recreation. Info at: <http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2018/02/08/land-preservation-and-recreation-survey-now-open/>; survey at: <http://www.doit.state.md.us/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=1211981>.

THREE RAINED OUT TRAIL RIDES ELICIT A GIFT (BRIBE?) TO MOTHER NATURE

Stephanie Brennan, our wonderfully enthusiastic Carroll County coordinator has scheduled an impressive number of TROT trail rides in that area in 2018, to introduce TROT members to these venues. Unfortunately, Mother Nature decided to play games with Stephanie's first Liberty Reservoir ride – three consecutive times. The predictions (and actual rainfall) for her first announced day (Jan 28) and rain day (Feb. 4) are shown below, and the second try at a rain day (Feb. 11) was the same. Note the rain icons and the blue graph (chance of rain) being nearly 100% only on the planned rides days.

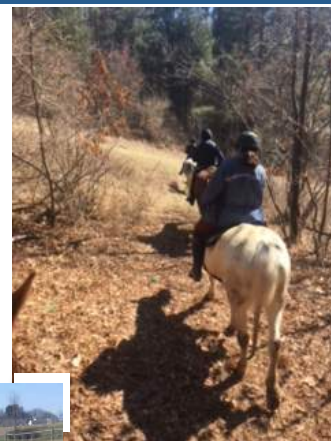


The TROT board of directors thus decided to give Mother Nature a complementary 2018 TROT membership, hoping she will be kinder as future rides will be by her club. Mother Nature, please use your certificate, above right. And welcome to TROT!

RECENT TRAIL RIDE

from Stephanie Brennan, Carroll County Coordinator

Despite my first three attempts at the Liberty Reservoir ride all getting rained out (see above), a fourth attempt that I co-led with Alice (aka Sissy) Altstatt on Saturday March 10, 2018 went off without a hitch. The trailhead was at Sissy's family farm, Woodwind, which backs onto Liberty Reservoir. The small group of riders (Priscilla Huffman, Monika Munn, Jessica Richmon, Debbie Mullinix, Sissi and me) was blessed with a sunny, moderately breezy day. The group was deliberately kept small since it was our first TROT ride. Heading out, we rode primarily under the power lines. Taking an alternate trail into the woods at one point, we ran into a tree and vine windfall blocking the path. Fortunately Priscilla had brought along her clippers and saw, and made short work of that problem. Her trusty 28 year old trail horse showed all of us how a real trail horse is supposed to behave. We crossed a couple of small creeks, had nice views across the reservoir, and saw a lone tundra swan out on the water. We completed the two hour ride with a delicious lunch. All around, it was a lovely day enjoyed by a group of lovely ladies.



photos from Sissi and Stephanie



Stephanie's TROT gear

UPCOMING TROT TRAIL RIDES - plan to come on some, and lead one yourself!

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 -- help illustrate to riders the value of preserving trails. While riding your familiar trail is certainly nice, it is most valuable and fun to get acquainted with other trail systems in the area. And what better way than on a TROT ride? So plan to come on several TROT rides in 2018! In fact, how about leading or co-leading a TROT ride this year to show others your favorite venue? It is easy and rewarding. Please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@ihmi.edu> or 301-604-5619) to discuss the possibility. See the ride list below for months where more rides are really needed (indicated in bold text).

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

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

For updated trail ride listings, please check the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo list-serves (see page 15 to join). If you want to come on a ride but do not have a trailer, post a trailering request on the TROT and Maryland Trail Riders list-serves or contact the ride leader, who sometimes can arrange for another participant to pick up a horse that is familiar with trailering. Finally, everyone is encouraged to announce our TROT rides widely, but to protect our ride program, please include all the above requirements and do not publicly announce any start time, so everyone coming must check with the ride leader.



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

Mark your calendars now!

March Rides

To join these rides, contact the ride's leader to sign up & learn the start time.

Thursday, March 29 - Rachel Carson Park, Brookeville, MD - Laury Lobel <Laurylobel@verizon.net>, 301-467-7300

The first 2018 "Last Thursday of the Month" TROT ride will be at Rachel Carson on Thursday, March 29. This will be a "walk" ride but will have opportunities for faster riders. This easy ride will be about 1 1/2 hours. Bring your lunch and chair; drinks and dessert will be provided.

March Rides, continued

Saturday, March 31 - North Tract, east Laurel, MD - Barbara Sollner-Webb , 301-604-5619 (<bsw@jhmi.edu>)

[Rain date: Sunday, April 8.] The North Tract of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge (the only Fish and Wildlife property to allow horseback riding, thanks to TROT members turning out en masse several years ago) has impressively sturdy trails, with a packed-stone base originally designed for military tanks. Thus, this is one of the few area venues to ride without causing trail damage when the ground is soaked. [See May 2013 TROT newsletter.] Our ride will cover much of the almost 10 miles of rather scenic, hard-packed dirt/gravel woods trails. They are flat with no stream crossings, so good for out-of-shape and/or green horses, and are generally soft enough for bare-footed horses. We will have an all-walk group and a walk/trot group, possibly also doing a few controlled canter runs. After the ~2 ½ hr ride, we will enjoy a pot-luck lunch, so bring something yummy to share and a chair.

April Rides

Thursday, April 12 - Schooley Mill Park, Howard County, MD - Joan Bosmans (<Joanbosmans@gmail.com>)

Come join a leisurely ride in this lovely park for horses and riders. There is a riding ring and some small cross-country jumps if you'd like to spend some time before or after our ride. This will be a slow ride, but if there is a sizable numbers we can divide into two groups. There are picnic tables right by the parking lot, so please bring your lunch and I will bring dessert for everyone. You will also need to bring water for your horse. We are able to accommodate any size group,

Saturday, April 21 - Gettysburg, PA - Stephanie Brennan (603-573-1123, <dadslilcobra@yahoo.com>)

[Rain date: Saturday, April 28.] If you have not been to Gettysburg, you don't want to miss this ride! It is going to be led by Cindy Brown, whose father was the original president of the Gettysburg Historical Equestrian Society. This organization worked to improve and preserve the trails in the park, building all the bridges and widening the trails to make them safe for horses and riders. Her 90 year old father lives in Gettysburg and is planning to come see us off on our ride and hopefully can join us for our pot luck too! Cindy is brushing up on her battlefield fun facts in preparation for our ride. [Please note that US law requires all Maryland horses to have a vet's certification of health that is less than 30 days old before leaving and re-entering the state.]

Thursday, April 26 – Ag Farm, Olney, MD - Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>, 301-467-7300)

This will be the second of this year's "Last Thursday of the Month" TROT rides. Come enjoy the lovely trails of Montgomery County's scenic Agricultural History Farm Park. This will be a "walk" ride but will have opportunities for faster riders. This easy ride will be about 1 1/2 hours. Bring your lunch and chair; drinks and dessert will be provided.

Either Friday, April 27, or Friday, May 4 (date to be selected for when the wisteria are best in bloom) – Rosaryville State Park, Upper Marlboro, MD – Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, <lavenderlady19@verizon.net>)

We will ride the beautiful 982-acre Rosaryville State Park, in Prince George's County. The timing is scheduled so that we should be riding through massive amounts of magnificently blooming wisteria (the choice of date will be announced to those who sign up, and on the TROT and MarylandTrailRiders Yahoo and the TROT Facebook). We will also be riding through other lovely sections of the park. The terrain can be hilly but shoes aren't necessary except for very tender-footed horses. We will be riding from Laura's house that abuts the park -- not from the main park parking area. And after the ride, Laura will be hosting a delicious Bar-B-Q, so please bring something for the luncheon.

May Rides

Saturday, May 5 – Liberty Reservoir, Carroll County, MD -- Stephanie Brennan (<dadslilcobra@yahoo.com>, 603-573-1123) [Rain date: Saturday, May 12.] This is the "Relatively Stable" (Stephanie's farm name) ride that has been rescheduled four times already. Fourth time is a charm?! We shall see. This ride is going to be epic, and you will want to be sure to stay for the potluck complete with a bonfire to roast your weenie and marshmallows. This will be a walk only ride.

Thursday, May 10 – Morgan Run, Carroll County, MD -- Linda Gasch (<lindagasch08@msn.com>) and Debbie Mullinix [Rain date Thursday May 17.] Come join us for a great venue that Stephanie is highlighting in Carroll County. This 1,336 acre environmental nature area features 11 miles of trails, both open field and woodland. It is not too rocky, so unshod horses should be fine, and there is an enormous parking area. The ride is about 1.5 hours, walk only, but those who want to go faster can move out and rejoin the group. Bring a lunch and a chair to enjoy each other's company after the ride. Dessert and water will be provided.

Saturday, May 19 - WSSC's Rocky Gorge in Laurel, MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619),

[Rain date Sunday May 27.] Come ride along WSSC's beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir, celebrating TROT's efforts to reopen this trail a few years ago. This ride starts in West Laurel about five minutes from the Rt. 198 exit off I-95. It offers magnificent views of the reservoir, with a good chance of seeing heron and maybe an eagle. Despite the name, the footing is fine for barefoot horses, with plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses. We will have a walk-only and a faster group. After the ~2 ½ hour ride, there will be a potluck lunch at Barbara's house, where your potluck contribution will have been ferried.

May Rides, continued

Thursday, May 24 – Fairland Park, Burtonsville, MD - Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>, 301-467-7300) and Barbara Sollner-Webb The May "Last Thursday of the Month" TROT ride will be in the scenic Fairland Regional Park that spans Montgomery and Prince George's counties. It offers really nice trails that are used by too few riders; shoes needed only for very tender-footed horses. This will be a "walk" ride but there will be opportunities for faster riders to move out and rejoin the group. This easy ride will be about 1 1/2 hours. Bring your lunch and chair; drinks and dessert will be provided.

Thursday, May 24 AND Friday, May 25 – Piney Run Park, Carroll County, MD -- Stephanie Brennan (603-573-1123, <dadslilcobra@yahoo.com>) Piney Run's county director has issued TROT a permit for the exclusive use of the Piney Run horse trailer parking area for these days. While this doesn't enlarge the parking area, it will help curb any vehicles blocking the trailer area for our ride. Please sign up early as space is very limited (3 trailers max each day).

Saturday, May 26 – Patapsco Park: McKeldin Park to Woodstock Inn, Carroll County, MD -- Carolann Sharpe (410 908 5599 or <blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com>) [Rain date; Sunday, June 10.] Our ride begins at McKeldin Park, which welcomes horse trailers to park by the basketball courts. The all-walk ride is a 1.5 hour along the Patapsco River to the Woodstock Inn restaurant (where we will stop for lunch), and 1.5 hours back. There are two water crossings. Depending on water levels, there can be swift moving water, but a very easy crossing. At the Woodstock Inn, we tie up across from a train track.

June Rides

***We need more June rides –
please volunteer to lead one!***

Saturday, June 2 – Sweet Air (Gunpowder Falls State Park, Baltimore, County -- Bianca Paterakis (443-340-4036 <biancavanhorn@me.com>) and Priscilla Huffman (301-646-4422 or <pricillahuffman@verizon.net>) [Rain date: Saturday, June 9.] Sweet Air is one of the most popular riding areas in Gunpowder Falls State Park with multiple trails and access from local boarding facilities. The pace of this ride will be walk only for 1 1/2 - 2 hours. There is trailer parking in a field and a picnic table. Along the trail there are some muddy spots as well as a few rocky areas so boots or shoes are recommended. The trail will go through fields, wooded areas, past farms and may have some water crossings. If the trails are wet, the park will close the area to riders so we will be confirming the ride one or two days before.

Saturday, June 16 – Union Mills, Carroll County, MD - Stephanie Brennan (<dadslilcobra@yahoo.com>) 603-573-1123 [Rain date: Saturday, June 23.] Union Mills features over 8 miles of wooded equestrian trails. The trails are easy on horses' feet, with only a few sections that are rocky or washed out. There are also a few spots where small streams cross the trails, and areas can be muddy in wet weather. The parking is very limited (4-6 typical horse trailers). So sign up early to enjoy this ride! Bring a lunch and a chair to enjoy each other's company after the ride. Dessert and water will be provided.

Friday, June 22 – NCR (North Central Railroad)/Torrey Brown trail, Freeland, MD - Laura Colicchio (301-856-7540, <lavenderlady19@verizon.net>); co-leader: Barbara Sollner Webb This is another treasure in our Maryland trail system that riders should get to know. It is a lovely, hard-packed dirt rails-to-trails, over 20 miles in Maryland, from just north of Baltimore to the Pennsylvania line, and then another 21 miles to York, PA. It basically parallels but is not close to I-83. At many places the trail crosses the Gunpowder Falls River, great for giving the horses a drink and cooling off. We will leave from Freeland in northern Maryland and ride about 2 1/2 hours, with an all-walk group and a walk/trot/(and a little canter) group. A great trip to get your horse familiar with bikes. Please bring along a contribution for a potluck lunch after the ride, at the park's nice, shaded picnic table. There is also a well with wonderfully cool water for cooling off the horses.

Thursday, June 28 – location TBD - Laury Lobel (<Laurylobel@verizon.net>, 301-467-7300)
Info about this June "Last Thursday of the Month" TROT ride will be in the next newsletter

July Rides

***We need more July rides –
please volunteer to lead one!***

Sunday, July 8– Gillis Falls, Carroll County, MD - Stephanie Brennan (603-573-1123, <dadslilcobra@yahoo.com>)
[Rain date: Sunday, July 15.] Gillis Falls, also known as Woodbrook CWMA in Woodbine may never become a reservoir, as the county has long intended (it exists only on maps), but the acres Carroll County acquired boasts 3+ miles of trails, an arena, and cross country jumps. It is crisscrossed by several potential feeder streams. Don't let the lower miles of trails discourage you. TROT's Carroll County Coordinator has something fun in store for you! Sign up to be included in what is sure to be an awesome day.

August Rides

***We need more August rides –
please volunteer to lead one!***

Saturday, August 25 – Woodstock Equestrian Park, near Poolesville, MD - Janet Buck (cell 973-768-1599); co-leader: Marcella Morgese [Heat/Rain date: Saturday, September 25.] This will be a repeat of last year's wonderful ride at a delightful park with good footing; there will be an all-walk and a faster pace group. Please bring sandwiches and drinks for relaxing after the ride. More in the May newsletter.

September Rides

**We need more September rides –
please volunteer to lead one!**

Sunday, September 9 – Little Bennett, Montgomery County, MD -- Susan Ferrara (<sferrara3663@hotmail.com>)

[Rain date: Sunday, September 16.] This is a wonderful riding venue! There should be an all-walk and a faster group, and a wonderful lunch after the ride. More info to come in the May newsletter.

Saturday, September 15 – Bunker Hill (Gunpowder Falls State Park, Baltimore, County - Bianca Paterakis (443-340-4036 <biancavanhorn@me.com>) and Priscilla Huffman (301-646-4422 or <priscillahuffman@verizon.net>)

[Rain date: Saturday, September 22.] Bunker Hill is a very popular riding area in Gunpowder Falls State Park. The pace of this ride will be walk-only for 1 ½ - 2 hours. More information in the May newsletter.

October Rides

**We need more October rides –
please volunteer to lead one!**

Saturday, October 6 – Fairland Park, near Burtonsville. MD - Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) and Debby Poole [Rain date Saturday, October 20.] A lovely park (see write-up for May 24 ride). We will

have an all-walk and a faster group, about a 2 hour ride, and then a pot-luck lunch. More in the May newsletter.

Thursday, October 11 through Sunday, October 14 – Horse Camping at Fair Hill Park, northern MD - Jacquie Cowan (<jacquiecowan@comcast.net>, 410-923-6157) TROT members are invited to join with the Chesapeake

Plantation Walking Horse Club (CPWHC), which has booked the barn at Fair Hill NRMA for a horse camping weekend! Great trail riding and camping, and a well-organized weekend, since CPWHC has been doing these Fair Hill camping weekends for many years. Fair Hill offers almost 6000 acres of beautiful rolling countryside and 80 miles of trails through the woods and along the Big Elk River. Their large stalls are matted and safe for the horse, and around the barns is very nice field camping for the people (a limited number of spots have electric hookup) – and there are real bathrooms with hot showers. Also, hotels are close by for those who do not camp. Sign up early!

November Rides

Saturday, November 3 – Assateague Park, by the Atlantic - Stephanie Brennan (<dadslilcobra@yahoo.com>, 603-573-1123) [Rain date: Saturday, November 17.] Ride with the wild ponies! This ride has been on my bucket list, and I

invite you to join me. Day use horseback riding is permitted in Maryland from October 9 through May 14. An entrance fee is required for all vehicles entering the park. Sign up now to ensure your space. I am contemplating camping there for those who might also be interested. It is highly suggested that you check with your vet before attending this ride as many of the Assateague horses are positive for Equine Infectious Anemia, so this ride's goal is to go after a good frost, when infection is nil.

Saturday, November 10 - Anacostia Park, College Park, MD -- John Angevine (301-937-0014)

[Rain date: Saturday, November 17.] A favorite TROT ride. This fantastic ride has many special views, including the Lincoln Cemetery and Bladensburg Waterfront. We will travel along the Anacostia River on a very nice path, traversing over and under bridges and roads, passing playgrounds and outdoor workout equipment. A great ride to give green horses experience with hikers, bikers, dogs, and strollers. All-walk, but several places are great for good long trot or canter runs, for those who want.

ANNOUNCING NON-TROT RIDES THAT TROT MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO

Sunday, April 8 – De La Brooke Foxhounds' Spring Hunter Pace, Lovesville (St. Mary's County), MD –

invitation from Kathy Glockner This will be a 6-7 mile hunter pace, \$40 for adults, \$20 for juniors, with the main course of lunch included; potluck for salads, sides, desserts. For info call Kamala at 301-373-5155 or 301-908-5155.

Sunday, May 13 – De La Brooke Foxhounds' Pleasure Trail Ride, Chaptico (St. Mary's County), MD –

invitation from Kathy Glockner This will be a 5 or 10 mile ride (your choice) through woods and fields, \$25 for adults, \$20 for juniors. For info call Joe Oliver at 301-471-8474 or email him at <eo.j.revilo@yahoo.com>.

Friday, October 5 to Sunday, October 7 – League Of Maryland Horsemen's Invitational, Marriottsville. MD –

invitation from Carolann Sharpe A lovely campground with lots of spaces, some with electric; also bathrooms with hot showers. Surrounded by thousands of acres of Patapsco State Park with almost infinite trails. A very modest cost which includes meals Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. For info contact Joyce at 410-820-6002 or Valerie at 410-922-5053.

POOP PICK-UP REMINDER

from Pat Oliva

I rode from Old Annapolis road into the Patuxent River State Park last week, and there was virtually no manure on the grass parking area. But a few days later, manure and shavings from trailers was all over. Come on riders! There is no maid to clean your mess. It makes a bad impression for all of us. This parking area could very easily be closed if we abuse it. Pick up and spread your manure and shavings in the woods or put it in your trailer.

SUNDAY HUNTING UPDATE!

info from Gale Monahan, Jacquie Cowan, and Jane Seigler; written by B S-W

Jacquie Cowan's informative article in the January TROT newsletter warned of a scary Sunday hunting bill to allow hunting on all Sundays, all seasons, all game species. It would also give great authority to the Department of Natural Resources (which is hardly impartial as it is financed in part by hunting revenue). Other bills would have greatly expanded Sunday hunting in specific counties. These and potentially amended versions make for a harrowing legislative session. I, for one, feel incredibly fortunate that we riders have such diligent advocates, especially Jacquie Cowan and Jane Seigler, both long-time members of the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) Legislative Committee, and Frank Boston, MHC's hired lobbyist. [In earlier years, TROT advocate Anne Bennof was a critical force in preserving Sunday riding.] This year, these diligent advocates have been virtually continually involved with the Sunday hunting issue – studying legislation, talking, surveying their group's members, working to get others involved, writing letters, schmoozing with legislators, testifying, etc. Several other TROT members also turned out at the hearings and a number spoke out against expanding Sunday hunting, including TROT's president and vice president, Gale Monahan and Deneen Martin.

As those of you who came to the Annual Dinner know, Jacquie assembled a survey on whether our riding patterns are affected by Sunday hunting, and she tallied the results. Well over 90% of the near 50 TROT respondents said they had changed their riding plans to avoid encountering hunters, often by not riding. Over 40% said they had an adverse incident with a hunter while attempting to ride on Maryland equestrian trails. These data enabled the TROT representatives to report to the legislature.

Gale just sent a most encouraging email that Sunday hunting now appears dead for this year (hopefully). Rumor has it that Senator Conway (head of the Senate Environment & Transportation Committee that was hearing the above-mentioned bill, SB817) is well aware that numerous equestrians were there and oppose the bill. An impasse developed on the number of new Sundays for waterfowl hunting and their times. And with such an unproductive hearing in the Senate, the House Environment & Transportation Committee will probably also not approve its version (HB133). County hunting bills also appear dead this year.

Trail riders still need to watch that SB817 and/or HB133 do not spring back to life this year, and they almost assuredly will resurge in some form next year. Thus it is still very important to keep calling and emailing the members of both the above committees and your area's representatives, to make your voice heard. [Find your state delegate and senators, their addresses, and their committee representation on <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/07leg/html/qadel.html>.]

LEARNING TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE AT LOBBYING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

With only two or three minutes to present one's case (e.g., in the above-mentioned committee hearings), it is critical to be compelling and succinct. Some people excel at this while others miss the mark. How to get into that former category?

Fortuitously, the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD5, 301-652-9188) is offering three excellent-sounding workshops on precisely this topic - public persuasion on environmental matters. To hopefully get you hooked:

- The Advocacy 101 workshop, which was just postponed to Tuesday, May 8th, from 10 AM-2:30 PM, is to be an empowering workshop on an introduction to advocacy & environmental stewardship (\$20 ANS members/\$30 nonmembers).
- The Advocacy 201 workshop, Tuesday, April 24 6:30-8:30 PM, focuses in depth on talking with decision-makers, writing comment letters and testimony (\$15 ANS members/\$20 non-members).
- The Advocacy 202 workshop, Tuesday, May 24 6:30-8:30 PM, focuses on using free online tools and social media for organizing. You will learn organizing and communicating to maximize your reach to members of your group, the public, and decision-makers, and how to use images and social media to amplify your message (\$15 ANS members/\$20 non-members).

To learn more & register: www.anshome.org/training; questions: Eliza Cava: 301-652-9188 x22, Eliza.Cava@anshome.org.

NEW MEMBERS

from Sim Shanks

Name	County in MD
Emily Mehle	Anne Arundel
Beverly Raymond	Baltimore
Rachel McMallin	Frederick
Mary Johnson	Harford
Daniel Wise	Harford
James Ballard	Montgomery
Rita Beck	Montgomery
Nike Refshauge	Montgomery
Brieanah Schwartz	Montgomery
Mary Jo Britner	Washington

Welcome to TROT! We hope you enjoy TROT and will help in TROT's mission to preserve sustainable trails!

GO GREEN WITH EMAILED NEWSLETTERS

If your TROT newsletter comes by U.S. mail, consider changing to email delivery. You will get it days sooner, with color pictures, and save TROT lots in printing and mailing costs. Contact trotmembership@yahoo.com.

HELP NEEDY HORSES

from Pat Oliva

TROT collects the coupons off Southern State feed bags for Days End Horse Rescue, who gets 25 cents each (no value to non-charities). Please send them to me (2850 Florence Road, Woodbine, Maryland 21797). They just got 12 more neglected horses, and your donations are really appreciated.

COUNTY/AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS

Carroll County

info from Stephanie Brennan, Carroll County Coordinator

Stephanie has been sending county updates to all Carroll County TROT members each month. See Stephanie's articles and information earlier in this newsletter on trail work at the NCR trail and at Union Mills, upcoming trail work parties, a Carroll County riders' get-together, the first TROT ride of the year, and many future TROT rides she is organizing in Carroll County and elsewhere. These topics all seemed to your newsletter editor to be of such general importance that they should be placed where all members will read them, even folks who might not as carefully read reports from other than their own county as carefully.

Stephanie also checked out Piney Run. She hasn't ridden there but wants to lead a ride. She discovered there is very limited parking, so took the initiative to contact the park ranger who reserved all the parking for TROT members on her ride days.

Stephanie also reported that on reading in the last TROT Newsletter about an effort to get trail riding on Anne Arundel County's Crownsville State Hospital land, she noted that Carroll County's Springfield Hospital has beautiful grounds with buildings laying wasted. So she inquired about the possibility of some trails there. However, Stephanie was told these lands are often used for training by State Police, National Guard, Corrections Training, etc., so would be unsafe to open for public use.

Baltimore County

info from Priscilla Huffman, Baltimore County Coordinator

See Priscilla's articles and information earlier in the newsletter on trail work at the NCR trail, upcoming trail work sessions, and a very valuable trail mapping app workshop/luncheon that she and county co-coordinator Bianca Paterakis organized. Again, these topics all seemed to your newsletter editor of general importance and thus were placed earlier in the newsletter

Priscilla also forwarded a report from Nicole Staab, Crew Leader from the Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) of DNR who had organized the trail work effort on the Torrey C. Brown trail (NCR trail). That report states the MCC is planning on having a workday along different parts of the trail be a monthly volunteer opportunity. So stay tuned.

Anne Arundel County

from Jacquie Cowan, Anne Arundel County Coordinator

See Jacquie's articles and information earlier in the newsletter on Sunday hunting legislation, the Maryland Horse Legislative Day, and the DNR survey, all of which seemed to your newsletter editor of such general importance to be placed where all members will read them, even folks who might not as carefully read reports from counties in which they do not live.

Expanding on the information that Jacquie presented in the previous newsletter about the Chesapeake Bayhawks, a professional lacrosse organization, proposing to build a large sports complex on the grounds of the old Crownsville State Hospital, she suggests that if you have feelings about this matter to contact the Anne Arundel County Council at <http://www.aacounty.org/contact-form/index.html>. Jacquie suggests to then also request more horse trail riding opportunities, like the Bacon Ridge Natural Environment area.

FOND MEMORIES OF LINDA KELLY

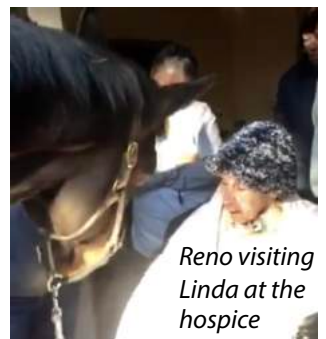
from Yancy Carey

An exceptional friend and horsewoman passed away this January. Linda Kelly was undeniably both. Riding horses from a very early age, Linda learned from the many horses she had -- from Tony Pony to Scout, Rainey, E.T. Connor, to so many others including horses off the track. Many joys and many difficult times. She learned from them all and generously shared this knowledge with her friends. She was a trail riding aficionado, having ridden all over Maryland, also in Virginia, Pennsylvania, the Sierras and Ireland. She was a dedicated fox hunter, bringing along many horses in this field. She was always there for her friends and anyone in need of help, always with a big smile on her face. She hunted, showed, and judged shows. She was a big supporter of the Special Olympic Equestrian, helping at the state competition in so many ways every year.

*photos from
Yancy*



During her stay at Gilchrist Hospice Center, Linda's good friend Debbie Dow brought Linda's horse Reno to see her. What a great reunion it was. We horse people know the value of our horse's gentle touch, the feel of their snuggling, velvety noses, their warm smell, their deep soulful eyes. Many thanks to Debbie for letting Linda experience this wondrous feeling one more time. How appropriate that this wonderful hospice center was founded by horsemen. We miss you Linda Kelley. You were our gift.



WARNINGS

Not wanting the TROT newsletter to seem like an alarmist publication, but four warnings have come in that I felt would be negligent to not pass on to our membership, so here they are if they might affect you:

Triclopyr, a problematic herbicide

info from Debbie Wagner

Debby, a committed organic gardener, sent a long essay recounting issues with weed killers, especially Triclopyr, a pyralid herbicide sold by Dow chemicals. Triclopyr and other pyralides evidently pass largely unmetabolized through mammals, which could make them seem attractive for using on a pasture that is used for grazing. However, it has a persistence in soils up to 533 days according to Dow, and the EPA says that may be a drastic underestimate. Milestone, ForeFront, and PasturAll are more recent formulations in current use. Milestone's revised label says to not let any plant materials from areas treated with this product or from manure from animals that have grazed on Milestone-treated areas be used in the production of compost or mulch. The reason is that this herbicide gets into compost or mulch. Specifically, it transits from the treated ground to the resistant plant that is growing on that ground and then to the animals that graze on these plants and then through the animal to the manure. And if this manure is used for compost that is put on a garden, that compost will have this long-lived herbicide in it and potentially kill the tomatoes or other sensitive plants the gardener is attempting to grow. Indeed, Debby recounts that in some areas where pyralid herbicides have been used, it is difficult to find haulers who will accept bedding and/or manure, since mushroom growers and commercial composting facilities won't take it.

Thus if your horse farm has a "weed problem" but you compost the horses' manure and use that on your tomato garden, consider that if you use such a very a long-lived herbicide you may poison your tomatoes.

Black Vultures

info from Susan Montgomery

Susan writes: "This winter we have had a big influx of black vultures in Maryland. They flock, and do not act like the turkey vultures we usually see. Farmers are reporting calves and lambs killed, as well as dogs. Black vultures have attacked a 32 yr old horse and caused injuries and lesions on her neck and back. They are a protected species, but if you are having an issue on your property you can contact DNR for help. I found DNR very helpful."

Susan sent a long letter she received from a DNR employee on how to discourage and scare away black vultures. It is longer than I can reprint here, but if you feel you are having problems with these guys, email Susan at <shadowsrider6749@yahoo.com> for a copy.

The internet says that black vultures are expanding their range and that they are slightly smaller than a turkey vulture and slightly larger than a red-tailed hawk, with a very short and rounded tail. And that they are aggressive.



Coyotes

info from Wendy Emblin via Susan Montgomery

Wendy has posted about coyotes attacking dogs and calves in the Howard Chapel and Howard County fairground area. Supposedly there are dogs with puncture wounds, injured pigs and calves, etc. from coyotes. It is not clear how big a problem this is, but I thought I'd pass on the information.

Spotted Lanternfly

info from the Laurel Leader and the internet

The spotted lanternfly (*lycorma delicatula*) is a terrible, voracious invasive that arrived in the US from southeast Asia three years ago. It evidently has been devastating Pennsylvania and this year will be descending into Maryland. These bugs eat fruit and kill trees and lots of other plants, leave a sticky goo, and proliferate much more quickly than expected. They are deemed to have caused the most damage in the least time of any invasive in the Mid-Atlantic. They have five different life stages (some shown, left to right). With no successful method of eradication yet, it is recommended to scrape the eggs into plastic bags with alcohol. If you see them, notify the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Not what we need!



eggs



eggs



age →



photos from
the internet



~1.5 inches across

adult

SUMMARIES OF TROT BOARD MEETINGS

from Jean McKay, TROT secretary

Summary of February 7, 2018 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Gale Monahan.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Deneen Martin (Vice President), Fritz Grow (Treasurer), Jean McKay (Secretary), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Rita Beck, Stephanie Brennan, Jean Cooper, Susan Gray, Ann Faulkner, Priscilla Huffman, Nancy Osgood, Bianca Paterakis, Sim Shanks (BD = Board Director)

- Treasurer's report was accepted; January Board meeting minutes were approved with revision.
- Final details for the 2018 Annual Meeting were addressed.
- Continued discussion of proposed legislation to expand Sunday hunting.
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.

Summary of March 7, 2018 TROT Board meeting – held at the home of Gale Monahan.

Participants: Gale Monahan (President), Fritz Grow (Treasurer), Jean McKay (Secretary), Dana Grabiner (BD), Terry Ledley (BD), Laury Lobel (BD), Leah Mack (BD), Pat Oliva (BD), Brieanah Schwartz (BD), Barbara Sollner-Webb (BD), Jean Cooper (BD), Priscilla Huffman, Ann Faulkner, Susan Montgomery, Elisa Moseley, Nancy Osgood, Bianca Paterakis, Sim Shanks (BD = Board Director)

- Welcome to new Board Directors Jean Cooper, Fritz Grow, and Brieanah Schwartz.
- The Board elected for a second term Gale Monahan, President; Deneen Martin, Vice President; and Jean McKay, Secretary; and elected Fritz Grow as Treasurer.
- Gale Monahan recognized the outstanding efforts of Jean Cooper and Nancy Osgood, co-coordinators of the 2018 Annual Meeting, and the volunteers who made the meeting a big success. Gale noted that she received many positive comments from members after the meeting. Planning is underway for the 2019 Annual Meeting. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
- TROT received a \$700 grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board to support efforts to promote trail riding through a virtual reality experience. Thanks, Dana Grabiner, for writing the grant!
- County Coordinators are needed, including Howard and Prince George's Counties.
- County Coordinator Reports – Please see County Reports section of the newsletter.

TRAIL GUIDES

The following volunteers are willing to show TROT members their favorite trails on an individual basis. Please contact them to arrange a personally guided trail ride. And if you would be willing to occasionally show another trail to others, please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619) to join this list of generous volunteers.

Agricultural History Farm Park ("Ag Farm") (Montgomery County, 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

Cedarville Park (Upper Marlboro, MD) Rebecca King: family1one@msn.com or 240-346-7942

Codorus State Park (PA) Priscilla Huffman: 301-646-4422 or <priscillahuffman@verizon.net>

Doncaster State Forest (Charles County, MD) Rebecca King: family1one@msn.com or 240-346-7942

Fairland Park (Burtonsville, MD) Barbara Sollner-Webb: bsw@jhmi.edu or 301-604-5619

Frederick County Watershed, Catoctin Mountain between Gambrill State Park and Cunningham Falls State Park.

(Thurmont, MD) Weekend afternoons. Johnna Wheeler: 301-293-1500 or <johnna@ikeptmypromise-book.com>

Greenwell Park (St. Mary's County, MD) Rebecca King: family1one@msn.com or 240-346-7942

Gunpowder Falls State Park (Baltimore County) Priscilla Huffman: 301-646-4422 or priscillahuffman@verizon.net

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

Liberty Reservoir (Carroll County, MD) Stephanie Brennan: dadslilcobra@yahoo.com or 603-573-1123

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

Morgan Run (Carroll County, MD) Sue Donaldson: swdonaldson@comcast.net

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

Patapsco State Park/McKeldin (Carroll, Baltimore, Howard counties MD) Carolann Sharpe: <blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com>

Prettyboy Reservoir (Baltimore County) Priscilla Huffman: 301-646-4422 or priscillahuffman@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

Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Prince George's and Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb: bsw@jhmi.edu or 301-604-5619

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

Tridelphia Reservoir (Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb: bsw@jhmi.edu or 301-604-5619

Woodstock Equestrian Park (Beallsville, MD) Karen Kraushaar: 301-467-6433 or kraushaar@verizon.net

UP-TO-DATE INFO ON TROT ACTIVITIES

TROT Website: <www.trot-md.org>

TROT Newsletter archives: <www.trot-md.org/newsletter>

Barbara Sollner-Webb, Newsletter Coordinator

(<bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619)

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

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

TROT Yahoo group (and info to join):

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

Facebook page -- TROT Trail Riders of Today

<www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/>

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Gale Monahan	gmtwh3@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	Fritzi Grow	FGrow77@gmail.com	
Additional Board members	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	301-604-5619
	Brieanah Schwartz	bvs.sbc@gmail.com	
	Dana Grabiner	grabiner1@aol.com	202-412-7548
	Jean Cooper	scotch2000scotch@gmail.com	301-570-2806
	Laury Lobel	laurylobel@verizon.net	
	Leah Mack	1ecofarmer@gmail.com	
	Pat Oliva	patotigger@gmail.com	410-489-7380
Membership Chair	Terry Ledley	terryledley@aol.com	301-520-3100
Newsletter	Sim Shanks	trotmembership@yahoo.com	
Trail Rides	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	301-604-5619
Adopt A Trail	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	301-604-5619
Webmaster; mapping	Amy Kimble	amyhkimble@aol.com	301-748-8310
	Susan Montgomery	shadowsrider@yahoo.com	410-445-3138
COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS			410-923-6157
Anne Arundel	Jacquie Cowan	jacquiecowan@comcast.net	410-215-4979
Baltimore	Priscilla Huffman	priscillahuffman@verizon.net	301-646-4422
	and Bianca Paterakis	biancavanhorn@me.com	443-340-4036
Carroll	Stephanie Brennan	dadslilcobra@yahoo.com	603-573-1123
Cecil	Jeanne Bond	halcyonfarm@gmail.com	
Frederick	Leah Mack	1ecofarmer@gmail.com	
Harford	[volunteer wanted]		
Howard	Pat Oliva	patolivatigger@aol.com	410-489-7380
	and Susan Montgomery	shadowsrider@yahoo.com	410-445-3138
Laurel/Burtonsville	Barbara Sollner-Webb	bsw@jhmi.edu	301-604-5619
Montgomery	Rita Beck	rita.beck@verizon.net	
	and Brieanah Schwartz	bvs.sbc@gmail.com	
Prince George's	[volunteer wanted]		
Talbot	Joyce Bell	wbell2@washcoll.edu	410-820-6002

Please, TROT members in Prince George's County and other counties that are not listed, consider volunteering as TROT's coordinator from your county or from some subset that you feel comfortable getting more involved with!

Get Your TROT License Plates

from Karen Durilla, License Plate Guru



Have you considered getting a TROT license plate? What better way to show your enthusiasm for horses and educate the public about TROT at the same time! For a one-time fee of \$25, you can enjoy a lifetime of having a TROT license plate. The

application process is very easy; within a few weeks, you'll have your own gorgeous TROT license plate. Please contact me at <PonyExpressMessenger@gmail.com> or call me on (301) 703-4087 and I will help you with the process.

REMEMBER TO (RE-)JOIN TROT FOR 2018

Because TROT's ability to make an impression on elected and agency officials in lobbying for sustainable trails is in a large part dependent on the number of members we can cite that we represent, it is important that everyone who cares about trail and trail riding becomes a member of TROT. Please renew your membership for 2018, or join if you are not a member, and explain to your riding buddies the importance of joining. To join online and for mail-in forms, go to TROT's website, <<http://TROT-MD.org/join-now/>>. Thanks!

THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR INPUT

Please, send information, news and photos for the newsletter to the newsletter editor at <bsw@jhmi.edu>.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

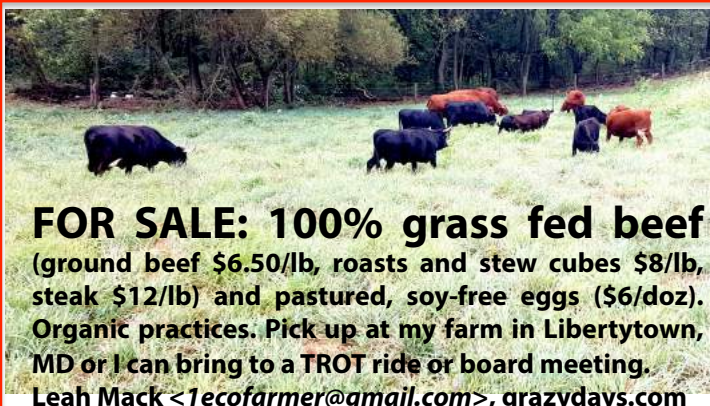
TROT Members can place one 100-word or business card-size ad in each issue of the newsletter **FOR FREE!** What a great deal! It will run in one issue unless you notify the editor that you want it to run again. TROT members wanting to run a larger ad get that \$6 off its rate (listed below).

Ad rates for non-members and larger ads:

100 words	\$6 (each additional word - \$0.10)		
Business Card	\$6	1/4 page ad	\$25
1/2 page ad	\$40	Full page ad	\$75

Great Organically-Raised Farm Products

from Leah Mack



FOR SALE: 100% grass fed beef
(ground beef \$6.50/lb, roasts and stew cubes \$8/lb, steak \$12/lb) and pastured, soy-free eggs (\$6/doz). Organic practices. Pick up at my farm in Libertytown, MD or I can bring to a TROT ride or board meeting.
Leah Mack <1ecofarmer@gmail.com>, grazydays.com

Mounting Block To Donate/Give Away

from Dolores Paunil

I would like to donate -- to a therapeutic riding program or to any rider with orthopedic problems or otherwise in need of a secure means of mounting and dismounting -- a large wooden mounting block. It was made for me because I could not mount or dismount safely otherwise, but I have now lost my horse. Top: 27" x 22 1/2"; 22" high. It can be picked up at my barn in the Ellicott City area. Contact me at 301-585-1140 or <depaunil51@verizon.net>.



Saddle for Donation

from Dolores Paunil

I have an old all purpose saddle that cannot be used due to a compromised tree. I thought maybe a youth group (4-H or pony club) might enjoy taking it apart to see how a saddle is built. If your group is interested please contact me, Dolores, at 301-585-1140 or <depaunil51@verizon.net>.

Fence Posts For Sale

from Howard Lanham

Large quantity of used CCA pressure treated fence posts, about 6" diameter and in good condition \$2.00 each, your pick and your pickup (located in Carroll Co.). Call Howard at (410)259-2964

Can We Borrow Or Rent An Enclosure, Please?

from Prince and Karen Durilla

I'm not joking around here, I'm recovering from a tendon issue and unless my person rents or borrows a portable 12' x 12' horse stall/ enclosure/coral panels, I'll be stuck in the barn for 3 months. With all of this spring grass that is coming, I'd prefer to be outside. I can't be with the other horses until I'm fully recovered. If you can help, send something called an email to my mom, Karen Durilla, at <PonyExpressMessenger@gmail.com> or call on (301) 703-4087.

Thanks -- Prince



Prince

Saddle For Sale

from Gale Monahan

Nicole's Grand Gilbert Passier Hannover Dressage Saddle
16.5" Medium Tree \$825

I love this saddle and have been very comfortable in it. Sadly, it does not fit my new mare. Was for my Tennessee Walking Horse. Will fit a horse with a slim build. More pics upon request. Home: 301-854-3852 or cell: 301-775-0079



Help Make Geldings And Get Beautiful Garden Flowers!

from Valerie Stanley

One Horse At a Time, Inc. (OHAAT) gives grants to individuals and rescues to turn pesky stallions into peaceful geldings! Our Spring Fundraiser, Flower Power, is until April 28. Order top quality bulbs and other garden items at very reasonable prices and OHAAT receives 50% of every order! For example, 25 bulbs of Dahlias, Asiatic Lillies, Gladiolus and Freesia - \$20; seed mats of beautiful mixed flowers - \$10; 3 Giant Tree Lillies - \$17. See more options and order at http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/campaign?campaign_id=25876; call me (301-221-9726) to pay by check.

Bemer Services

*from Brieannah Schwartz,
Montgomery County Co-Coordinator*

I am just starting out as a Bemer rep in the Gaithersburg area. Bemer is an electromagnetic field therapy for people and horses, used to treat a range of injuries and ailments as well as to aid training of horses. I have information on treatments, sales, and the technology for products for people and horses. I can come to you for treatments or just answer your questions! Feel free to contact me via my Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/bemerbrieannah>) or at (brieannah.schwartz@bemermail.com). I look forward to helping you and your equine(s) feel your best!

CLASSIFIED ADS *continued*

Arabian Mare *from Peggy Thompson*

Beautiful, friendly, grey Arabian mare, 8 y.o. 14.3 H tall (measured!). She is an amazing girl, easy to catch and loves attention, smooth, leads and follows on the trail, does



bridges, traffic, crosses water, loads in trailer effortlessly, camps and ties overnight, and totally healthy with no vices. I was hoping for an endurance mount, but due to a very slight club foot, she is being offered for light riding. \$1500; negotiable to the right home. Papers not available, but breed type is unmistakable. For questions, please contact me at 301 848-5479, <Karasell100@gmail.com>.

Icelandic Mare *from Hope Millington*

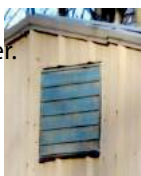
I had to move back to Iceland and need to sell my wonderful Icelandic mare, Kara, who is still in Maryland. She is seven years old and fully trained in all the gaits (except pace) as well as in Natural Horsemanship and basic dressage. She is calm on trails, loads perfectly, stands for the farrier, is easy to get in the field, listens well and learns quickly, and has a great character. She would please most any rider, as she is always ready to do more, but is not a beginner horse. She has won awards for her trot at the Montaire Schooling Show and is an all-around well behaved horse. Asking \$6,500. My primary concern is that she goes to someone kind, loving and a good rider. Contact me <hopehmillington1@gmail.com> if you or anyone you talk to would be interested.



Louvered Exhaust Fans for Cooling Your Barn *from Barbara Sollner-Webb*

Warm weather is coming! Was your barn hot last summer? Kathy Lipton's recent article urged the use of electrically safe barn fans to avoid fires, and we would like to cheaply sell; three such safe fans -- Dayton "Shutter Mounted Exhaust Fans", from Granger. Two are 18" and one is 12" diameter, industrial grade (115 V, 6- Hz). They are ready to mount in the upper outside wall of your barn. We initially planned to have five exhaust fans in our barn and bought all, but the two we installed first do the job just fine. So these other three fans were never installed and are still in their original boxes. They are looking to go to a barn that needs hot air exhausted in the summer.

fan size	current at Granger	we are asking
18"	\$448	\$150
12"	\$188	\$65



GREAT THANKS TO THE GENEROUS MERCHANTS AND TRAINERS WHO DONATED TO THE SILENT AUCTION *[Please consider patronizing them!]*



(at Woodland Horse Center)

16301 New Hampshire Ave
Silver Spring, MD

800-635-5994

The friendliest Tack Shop

(M-F 10-7, Sa-Su 10-5)

Thank you for the lovely stone horse statue and the gift certificate!



M-F 8:30-5

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"When you think TRAILERS, think Bartley!"

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- Experience in servicing all types of horse trailers

15095 Frederick Rd Woodbine, MD **301-774-3332**

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To our friends in TROT, present this coupon for **15% off** our COMAR service!

Thank you for the trailer inspection coupons!



one stop leather shop

309 Main Street, Laurel, MD

301-604-2211 Tues-Fri 10-5; Sa 10-2

<ron@mdoutbackleather.com>

Thank you for the gift certificate!

Turf Center, Inc.

SOUTHERN STATES

your local Southern States dealer

1409 Spencerville Road, Spencerville, MD

301-384-6300 (Mon-Fri 8-5; Sat 8-12)

Thank you for the gift certificate!



Bowen's Farm Supply

SOUTHERN STATES

your local Southern States dealer

12550 Riva Rd, Annapolis, MD

410-224-3340 (Mon-Sat 7-5:30)

Thank you for the grooming kit!



CONTINUED THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SILENT AUCTION DONORS



Medieval Times
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700 Arundel Mills Circle
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Thank you for the gift certificate!



for English and Western riders

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Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5 301-829-0333

Thank you for the horse plates and cups!

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SADDLERY

1041 Route 3 North
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410-451-2174

PROFESSIONAL HORSEMAN'S SUPPLY

Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-8, Fri, Sat 10-9, Sun 11-6

Thank you for the halter and lead!



FARMERS
COOPERATIVE
ASSOCIATION, INC.

820 E South St, Frederick, MD

Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-12 800-255-0023

Thank you for the three bags of feed!

GAMBRILLS
GENERAL STORE

865 Annapolis Road,
Gambrills, MD

Mon-Fri 8-6, Sat 8-5, Sun 10-3
410-923-0960

Thanks for the goodie basket!



Traveled Lane Trailers, Inc



3325 Church Hill Rd
Centreville, MD

Mon-Fri 9:30-5

410-556-6850

Thank you for the trailer tire jack!



1413 Defense Hwy
suite 101
Gambrills, MD

Mon-Wed 8-5

Thurs-Fri 10-8

Sat 10-5

Sun 12-5

443-292-4684

Thank you for the salt & pepper shakers!

*enormous gratitude
to three WONDERFUL trainers:
Jacquie Cowan (Crownsville)
Jane Seigler/Dressage at Sundown
Jim MacDonald/Graham Equestrian
for donating lessons*

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor

Big thanks to the swell folks who contributed those great articles and other information to the newsletter! Readers highly appreciate these contributions by TROT members! [So please keep them coming!]

And ENORMOUS appreciation for most helpfully proof-reading the draft text goes to Terry Ledley, Kathy Lipton, Karen Durilla, Elisa Sharp Moseley, Judy Thacher, and Denis Webb. Also to Sim Shanks, Linda Gasch, Debby Wagner, Gale Monahan and Joan Bosmans for more edits. You guys are wonderful!



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

PO Box 506

Highland, MD 20777

Inside this issue:

- TROT Annual Dinner and Silent Auction
- New Baltimore County co-Coordinator, Bianca Paterakis
- New License Plate Guru, Karen Durilla
- Recent Trail Work at the NCR and at Union Mills
- Recent Trail App Workshop
- New PEPCO Trail
- Recent Carroll County Get-Together
- Successful Legislative Day
- Success with Preserving a Park Entrance
- Upcoming Trail Work Efforts (many)
- Help Preserve Rockburn Park
- DNR Needs Info to Help Trails
- Recent TROT Trail Rides
- Upcoming TROT Trail Rides
- Remember To Pick-Up Poop From Park's Parking Areas
- Sunday Hunting Update
- Upcoming Lobbying Workshops
- Save Southern States Coupons
- Memories of Linda Kelly
- Four Warnings (pyralid herbicides, black vultures, coyotes, lanternflies)
- Get Your TROT License Plates
- And More