



trot

Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

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Get your friends to join TROT - higher membership allows more effective advocacy for trails!

March-April, 2021

Founded 1980

Number 240

TROT promotes...

... trail riding, information sharing, and trails-advocacy

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Carolann Sharpe

Dear Members of TROT,

Our organization is going through some rebuilding, and this is a good thing. In nature, we see when an area is cleared away or scorched, it makes way for new growth. When tall trees are cut down, the smaller ones that lived in their shadow have the opportunity to get full sunlight, giving them the ability to grow faster and provide shelter and nutrients to the ecosystem. Like the fragile green shoots peaking up, TROT is breaking through.

Here at TROT, all things are possible because our members drive our activities. Trail rides are planned and led by members. Events are suggested and then chaired by members. The Board's goal and responsibility is to help make these things possible. Our membership is already back up to 164. These numbers are so important because TROT is only as strong as its members. Our members drive the activities, the culture, and the direction of this organization, as well as make for TROT's clout when testifying for trails. Every one of them is a resource, a talent, and our strength.

TROT "business meetings" (formerly called "Board Meeting", now by Zoom) are open to all members, allowing all to share, comment and participate. The members of the Board of Directors are your proponents and will investigate and organize your ideas, work with committees of members to plan trail rides, political action, educational events, and donations of time and money to other trail advocacy or equine community improvement groups having goals in common with TROT. None of this can be done without you, the members. From the financial commitment of your membership dues to your time commitment of leading a ride, writing letters, or contacting leads for other support for our group and events, you are priceless.

We are now asking members to step up and volunteer for KEY positions. County Coordinators, Trail Ride Coordinator, and the list goes on (see page 4). These are essential to the running of our organization. Please consider getting involved. You will be supported and helped every step of the way. In addition, I am asking every member to take part in at least one activity this year: Volunteer to lead a ride at your favorite place. Clean up a portion of the trails you love and want to make sure is there for generation after generation. Brush up on the laws and policies that affect our horse community. Lastly, tell a friend, a neighbor, a riding partner about TROT and encourage them to join.

What attracted me to TROT was the freedom to make clinics, rides, workshops, expos and so many other things happen, just by asking and planning. The sky is the limit. I thank you for all that you each do for the betterment of our equines, our riders and our trails. And welcome to the historic 2021 riding season. We would like to plan trail rides, camping trips, tack swaps, educational Zooms, get involved with equine-related legislation, and provide many opportunities for you to get what you want out of this club. There is always room for more events, members' ideas and of course, room for you.

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

MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR *from Barbara Sollner-Webb*

You may note that this newsletter is remarkably reminiscent of those of former years – like when I was its editor (from 2014-2018). I was pleased to be asked to again edit the newsletter by the new TROT leaders who seemed to be working hard to restore TROT to its long-term mission of trails advocacy and being membership-centric. And having always felt that the newsletter is a great way for TROT to communicate with its members, I am glad there will be one again.

I hold in high esteem TROT's history of helping to get many of our now-beloved trails initially approved and constructed, then maintained, and often retained. For instance, every time I ride the gorgeous Rocky Gorge Trail (a.k.a., "Terry Ledley trail", one of TROT's founding projects) I think how it would never have been created, and three decades later would have been lost, were it not for TROT and its members fighting hard for this trail. Ditto for the beloved horse trail at the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. And the horse trails at Fairland Park, Schooley Mill Park, throughout Olney/Sandy Springs, and surely at other places as well, would not exist without TROT's fierce trail advocacy. What an impressive legacy! That should make all riders want to assure that such efforts continue! So if you know a previous TROT member who is sitting on the fence about re-joining TROT, please encourage them and other equestrian buddies to join TROT, that will again work for trails!

To make our newsletters as inclusive as possible, please send news/articles/photos/classifieds/whatever that you feel will interest other TROT members, to bsw@jhmi.edu or TROTNewsletter@gmail.com, to go in the next issue. Thanks!

Also, do go out to enjoy riding the area's wonderful trails (when the ground is dry enough to leave no bad marks).

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY ELECTED TROT BOARD

Most members presumably saw the multiple emails Carolann kindly sent to keep folks updated as she and the other interim board members were working hard to move TROT forward -- including having the membership elect new board members and officers, who are being introduced to you in this article.

But first, we should all take a minute to give big thanks to the folks who last fall stepped up to fill the void and keep TROT moving; they are Christina Micek, Linda Neal, and Carolann Sharpe (newly appointed interim board members, the later appointed interim President) as well as Meggan Whalen and Ivy Smink (the two legacy board members who had listened to TROT members' concerns at the bylaws Zoom sessions). Under their watch, TROT members voted in re-revised bylaws that return TROT as a trails-advocacy organization and specify that the membership votes directly for the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, not only for the Board of Directors. Here is the outcome of this election – please welcome these folks, who provided the following write-ups about themselves:

New TROT President, Carolann Sharpe



I am from Carroll County and have been active in TROT for over six years. I have financial experience and business experience. I am an educator and believe I can turn this whole bad year of 2020 into the best year TROT has ever had. I have two masters degrees and a background in finance and business law and accounting. I have represented TROT at DNR, expos and other major events.

New TROT Vice President, Janet Whelan →

Greetings from your newly elected Vice President of TROT, Janet Whelan. I have been a member of TROT for approximately eight years. I also served as the former Treasurer for one year from 2016-2017.

I retired from higher education after 38 years in July, 2020, and currently work part-time in Human Resources for a retirement community in Pikesville.

I live in Carroll County and mostly trail ride. I have two horses, three Australian cattle dogs and one cat. (Subject to change) Lol! I am also involved in dog rescue, fostering, transport, evaluation, etc. for the Australian Cattle Dog Rescue Association which rescues cattle dogs on the east coast from Maine to Georgia.

I look forward to sharing the trails and making some new memories with my fellow equestrians.

See you on the trails!



New TROT Treasurer, Ivy Smink →

Having been elected Treasurer of TROT, my goal is to promote financial stability and support TROT in its mission and goals. I am also serving as the interim Secretary. I have been a member of TROT since 2006, but as my working career winds down, I have been able to devote more time to TROT. I have lived in Carroll County since 1972, and prior to that I was raised in western Howard County. All of my life I have owned and cared for animals: goats, chickens, dogs, cats, and horses. I enjoy being outside, gardening, baking and cooking (as well as being a foodie!). Solace is moseying down the trail taking in the wildlife and contemplating life while on the back of a horse. My plan is to continue to ride until I'm six feet under which, I hope, is not anytime soon! Hope to see you all on the trails. I will be the slow one in the rear!



TROT Secretary ← VACANT – please volunteer!

[Ivy Smink in kindly doing on an interim basis]

New TROT Board Member, Joyce Bell →

I'm Joyce Bell from the Eastern Shore (Easton, specifically) where I've lived for 40 years. I grew up in Montgomery County, with a passion for horses that started with Black Beauty; my parents finally caved to my pestering for a horse when I was 12. I've been a member of the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center for 20 years where I've served as secretary, board member, and trail ride chairman. My current steeds are Sherman (named after the tank) and Teddy (after the bear because he likes to cuddle). I hope to help fulfill TROT's mission to maintain and preserve trails for future generations.



New TROT Board Member, Susan Gray ←

I'm humbled by the confidence the membership has placed in me in electing me to the Board. I will do everything I can to help TROT again become the premier organization in Maryland protecting, preserving and establishing trails, and ensuring recreational users have safe access to these precious recreational resources.

[Editor's note: Susan is too humble; she is a decades-long TROT member, past board member, and along with a few other TROT members is who we should thank for Montgomery County creating that fantastic trail network in Sandy Spring and Olney!]



New TROT Board Member, Christina Micek →

I have been a member of TROT since I moved to Maryland six years ago, and I look forward to bringing the organization forward in the next two years with the help of the membership committees and executive team. I am already an advocate for trail use, trail stewardship, easement maintenance and creation, and can't wait to work with my fellow TROT board members to make progress towards our goals. We need to serve our membership, and this team seems motivated to do just that. As we all know, being an equestrian and trail rider allows us to know our community land in an intimate way, being able to identify needed improvements, conservancy and preservation opportunities.



Let's work together on that. We all enjoy the lifelong learning opportunity of being horsepeople, and I can't wait to participate in the educational clinics we will begin having in the coming months. I'm sure we are all welcoming the warmer weather -- let's get out on those trails! Bailey and I hope to see you out there!

[continued on next page]

New TROT Board Member, Barbara Sollner-Web →

During my decades-long involvement in TROT, I have been a board member, newsletter editor, trail ride coordinator, and led the efforts to retain the Rocky Gorge trail and the trail at North Tract. I am highly indebted to TROT for how wonderfully it and its swell activist members have over the decades worked to get so many fantastic trails created, maintained and preserved. So I was super distressed when then-board members tried to ban TROT from doing trails advocacy and am delighted that TROT is reincarnating with its original mission. I like to feel that we will continue the kind of wonderful work that found TROT 41 years ago, when a few activists banded together to fight to preserve the Paint Branch trail and expand WSSC's

Rocky Gorge trail, and in the process became good friends with the government and agency folks they interacted with – a great model of advocacy! I live with my husband, three Iceys, and crazy dog in Laurel.



← Greet Legacy Board Member, Meggan Whalen

While I am relatively new to TROT, I was immediately thrown into volunteering for the Events Committee and was part of the mastermind behind the educational clinics that TROT organized for the past few years. I participated in Pony Club in my younger years, and I treasure the knowledge I learned (at least I treasure it now, maybe not so much at the time) and the great experiences I had. I have two horses, Lexi (gaited) and Whiskey (non-gaited), so I can pick a horse with the appropriate speed for my riding partners :) I enjoy relaxing out on trails and conquering trail obstacles and I'm just starting to get into liberty work and hunter paces this year. I can't wait to meet you at an upcoming ride, seminar, or riding clinic!

TROT WELCOMES NEW LICENSE PLATE GURU, SANDY BOYD! →

I am delighted to help TROT with the license plates representing our great club. I am a founding member of TROT, live in Montgomery County, and enjoy riding the trails that we got through hard-working members and the Parks and Planning Department. My two wonderful horses are Miss Sarah and Stormy. We are still finding new trails throughout. Happy trails to all.



BIG THANKS TO FORMER LICENSE PLATE GURU, KAREN DURILLA!

TROT is highly indebted to Karen for expertly running TROT's license plate program for several years, after Susan Railey had the great idea to start this swell program and excellently ran it for some time. They felt it was so cool to occasionally see a TROT license plate on another car and think "what a fine person must be driving that vehicle!"

PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR NEEDED POSITIONS from Ivy Smink, interim Secretary

Please, TROT members in Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's or Washington county (and other counties not listed on page 12), consider volunteering as TROT's coordinator from your county or from some smaller area that you feel comfortable getting involved with! Our coordinators are critical for TROT functioning well.

Also TROT members, please volunteer to be the coordinator of, or be on, these important TROT committees:

- Action Committee (aka "legislative committee"/"grassroots committee")
- Banquet Committee (who knows when we will have one again!)
- Events Committee
- Expo Representative (if we ever go again!)
- Logo Wear Coordinator
- Media and Social Outreach Coordinator
- Membership Registrar Committee
- Trail Ride Coordinator
- Trail Work Coordinator
- Webmaster

To volunteer, please contact <smink.ivy@gmail.com>

TRAIL WORK FOR ALL RIDERS

As noted above, TROT is looking for a new Trail Work Coordinator, a very important position in the part of TROT's mission focusing on maintaining sustainable trails. Please consider volunteering!

But in the Interim, if you are willing to lead a trail work party, or hear of one that TROT members should join, please let TROT know (<trotactivity@yahoo.com>), so that this info can be announced to our members.

ALL trail riders: let's reincarnate previous years' challenge for each TROT member to do AT LEAST four hours of volunteer trail-related work. This trail work can be as easy as breaking branches and clipping vines while you ride, as well as being part of a trail work party or Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP), assisting at nature centers, etc. Please report your hours to TROT (contact info above; just give your full name and the location and date of the work) because these self-reported volunteer hours will be relayed to the park officials, to translate into increased funding for the parks (as well as kudos for TROT members)!

Amy Kimble has kindly informed us of an **upcoming work day**: on **Sunday, April 25, 9 AM-1 PM, rain or shine, to help create the new trail system at the Upper Patuxent**. It would be super if TROT members turn up! Meeting at the Route 94 parking lot (info at <<https://goo.gl/maps/R36HL9f7DteDCRhd6>>). Sign up at <<https://x.gldn.io/aPPODP7effb>>. MORE will provide tools. Please bring gloves, sturdy shoes or boots, water and a snack.

MAGLEV AS A TROT ADVOCACY FOCUS?

from the nascent Action Committee (Joyce Bell, Susan Gray, Christina Micek & Barb Sollner-Webb)

Many of you surely remember that a large number of us TROT members successfully fought to retain riding on the sustainable trails of the Patuxent Research Refuge's North Tract several years ago. [Do come on the ride we are having there next month.] Well, those trails and a lot more are now under threat by the SC-MAGLEV, a proposed "Superconducting Magnetic Levitation train". When this MAGLEV emerges from underground at the North Tract, it evidently will create near to a sonic boom -- which likely wouldn't thrill horses on the nearby trail (nor presumably the trail's hikers or birders, nor the drivers on the B-W Parkway).

Promoters advertise the SC-MAGLEV as providing very fast service between DC and Baltimore, plus several grand claims (that are unsubstantiated and citizens' analysis questions their veracity; plus, the cost will make riding this train only for the wealthy). In contrast, vast number of citizen groups and most local politicians denounce the enormous environmental and social damage of this SC-MAGLEV route and advocate for the "no build" alternative. They cite that this MAGLEV's above-ground portions would consume much of the green area abutting a long stretch of the B-W parkway and impact much further with its loud sound; an enormous train yard may go literally over the Middle Patuxent River, requiring its "re-routing" and likely releasing toxins from the train's daily washing into the river; the proposed route creates serious social justice issues; and many more problems.

The comments period for this MAGLEV's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS; it is rather deficient) has been extended to May 24. So Google "MAGLEV" if you do not know about it, and please submit comments to <info@bwmaglev.info> or get the full DEIS and submit comments at <<https://www.bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis>>.

In the past, TROT as an organization has taken stands on issues relevant to trails and the environment. TROT's forming Action Committee feels that TROT should sign on along with the many other groups who oppose this MAGLEV proposal. **PLEASE send your "yes" or "no" vote for TROT adding its voice in opposition of this project, to <bsw@jhmi.edu>**. Thanks for doing this, to preserve our beloved North Tract trail system, and much more!

POLICY CHANGE

from Carolann Sharpe, TROT President

For as long as I have been a member of TROT, helmets were required at all TROT rides. Riding helmets can be quite a controversial subject sometimes, with people frequently arguing over whether you should or shouldn't wear them. I know that not everybody enjoys wearing a helmet, but when you consider the safety benefits of wearing one, it's a compelling argument.

Riding helmets reduce the risk of serious head and brain injury by limiting the impact of a collision on the head as well as possibly preventing sharp objects from penetrating skin or skull. There is no argument that they act as a barrier between the skull and whatever's causing the impact. The most frequent cause of death or serious injury amongst horse activities (both mounted and dismounted) are head injuries, with 60% of them resulting in death. That's a scary thought and when you consider that most deaths from a head injury can be prevented by wearing a riding helmet that conforms to the current standards, it's shocking that only 20% of riders wear a helmet every time they ride.

Just like any item of clothing, riding helmets don't last forever and do need to be replaced from time to time. Things such as sweat, temperature, rain and even UV rays can reduce the effectiveness of your helmet over time. To make the most out of your helmet, make sure you follow the care instructions that came with it. Always replace a helmet after a fall.

With all of this said, the interim board decided to change TROT's long-standing policy of requiring riders to wear a helmet in order to participate in all TROT trail rides. Now it will be up to the leader of each individual ride, with that info being announced along with the ride. In other mounted TROT activities, you will be required to wear a helmet if the clinic location, parade, or any other outside party requires it. Horseback riding is inherently a risking activity, and other than pure negligence, you the rider are riding are at your own risk.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you on the trails!!!

TROT TRAIL RIDES - plan to come on some and to lead one yourself! Also some diligent person, please volunteer as trail ride coordinator!

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, interim trail ride coordinator

For many years I had organized TROT's trail rides program because these trail rides are a lot of fun and a great way to meet other riders, but more importantly because riding lots of different trails seems the surest way to get TROT members more passionate about preserving trails in general, not only those out their back door. Until TROT can recruit a new trail ride coordinator -- **please someone volunteer for this position** -- I agreed to start scheduling trail rides for this year.

To possible ride leaders: please, we need many more TROT volunteers to lead a trail ride, as numerous past ride leaders have moved, stopped riding, or stepped away. And leading a ride is easy and fun -- see article by Laury Lobel on page 8. So please offer to show your favorite venue to other TROT members by leading a ride (contact me at bsw@ihmi.edu or 301-655-3552). [To those who may be wary after seeing issues from unintended riders showing up at TROT rides in the last couple of years (e.g, at venues with limited parking, people unhappy at the pace of the ride, or coming to a ride that was cancelled because of too-wet ground) this will no longer be a problem because we are returning to our earlier policy of having the precise starting location and time not announced in the initial ad, but only when the potential rider contacts the ride leader to sign up.]

And to all TROT members: do plan on coming on one or more of TROT's organized trail rides. They are a fun and safe way to learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and appreciate the value of preserving trails. While riding your familiar trail is certainly nice, coming on a TROT ride lets you get acquainted with other trail systems in the area. So do plan to come on TROT rides in 2021! **To participate in a ride, you need to contact the designated ride leader to learn the start time, get directions and sign up.** Then if bad weather causes a ride to be postponed, the ride leader will be able to notify you.



Horses and riders before an earlier Rocky Gorge TROT ride

Ride rules: All riders must have a current negative Coggins for the horse, follow the ride leader's direction if a helmet is required for that particular ride, 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 website and Facebook page. 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.

COVID considerations: while everyone should make their personal decision, since riding is outside, theoretically staying at least six feet apart, and most of us are already vaccinated or will be by the ride – and we all do need the exercise and social interactions – TROT will again be doing rides in 2021. Riders will not need to wear masks on the ride, but please do carry one along, to put on if going into a park building or for any close-contact situation.

April Rides

Thursday, April 22 - Rosaryville State Park, Upper Marlboro, MD – Laura Colicchio lavenderlady19@verizon.net or 301-856-7540 **Rain date, Monday, April 26. "Wisteria ride":** We will ride this beautiful 982-acre park, with the timing scheduled to hopefully be riding through massive amounts of magnificently blooming wisteria, as well as other lovely park sections. The terrain has hills, but shoes aren't necessary except for very tender-footed horses. We will be riding (walk-trot-tolt) 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. Helmets required on this ride.

May Rides

Saturday, May 1 - Muddy Branch to Pennyfield Lock on the C & O Canal, Montgomery County, MD Christina Micek cmicek@christinamicek.com or 617-435-1187 Come learn this lovely section of trail, which long-time TROT member Naomi Manders (see page 11) cared deeply about. Walk-only. Bring a contribution for a pot-luck after the ride. Helmets required on this ride.

Saturday, May 8 - North Tract, eastern Laurel, MD - Barbara Sollner-Webb 301-604-5619, bsw@ihmi.edu **Rain date, Sunday, May 9.** 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. Remember: the trails' packed-stone base, originally designed for military tanks, makes this one of the few area venues to ride without causing trail damage when the ground is soaked. We will cover much of the ~10 miles of 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 a walk/trot group, possibly also doing a few controlled canters, and if desired also an all-walk group. After the ~2 hr ride, we will enjoy a lunch together, so if you are already vaccinated bring a contribution for a pot-luck lunch; but if you are not yet vaccinated, bring your sandwich. Helmets required on this ride.

Friday, May 14 – Morgan Run, Carroll County, MD -- Leah Mack <1ecofarmer@gmail.com> [Rain date: Friay, May 21] Come join to ride in this great, 1,300-acre environmental area featuring 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. Helmets required on this ride.

Tuesday, May 18 – Little Bennett, Montgomery County, MD -- Susan Ferrara sferrara3663@hotmail.com [Rain date: Thursday, May 20] The ride will be about 1 to 1 1/2 hours. There are bridges and road crossings. The woods trails are generally narrow, rocky and hilly so we generally walk, with a few trots and canters on the broader, open sections. There is no water available for horses at trailer parking, but streams horses can drink from by several bridge crossings during the ride. We can bring a table if riders want to bring a bag lunch, and we will bring some cookies and carrots! Helmets required on this ride.

Wednesday, May 26 - Gunpowder Falls State Park, Bunker Hill trails, Hereford, MD (off I-83) - Priscilla Huffman 301-646-4422 or <priscillahuffman@verizon.net> Enjoy a 2-hour ride through the woods and along the Gunpowder River. Thanks to the efforts of our park staff, the trails are in excellent condition. On this route there are several small stream crossings, and we will be crossing the river twice in shallow sections. Hills, some step-downs, and some paved areas. Be prepared to encounter hikers and dogs on leashes. There is room in the parking area for four trailers including mine. No green horses, please. As this park is very busy on weekends, the ride is being scheduled for a weekday. This will primarily be a walking ride, with trotting possible in a few places. Helmets required on this ride.

June Rides

Saturday, June 5 - WSSC's Rocky Gorge in Laurel, MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619 [Rain date: Wednesday, June 10] 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 I-95. The trail 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 some not bad hills and plenty of easy stream crossings to water the horses. We will have a walk-only and a faster group. After the ~2-hour ride, there will be a potluck lunch, so bring your potluck contribution. Helmets required on this ride.

Sunday, June 13 - Patapsco Park: McKeldin Park to Woodstock Inn, Carroll County, MD -- Carolann Sharpe 410 908 5599 or <blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com>. Our ride begins at McKeldin Park, which welcomes horse trailers to park by the basketball courts. This 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. Helmets NOT required on this ride.

Tuesday, June 15 – Little Bennett, Montgomery County, MD -- Susan Ferrara sferrara3663@hotmail.com [Rain date: Thursday, June 17] See write-up for Tuesday, May 18.

September Rides

Tuesday, September 21 – Little Bennett, Montgomery County, MD -- Susan Ferrara sferrara3663@hotmail.com [Rain date: Thursday, September 23] See write-up for Tuesday, May 18.

October Rides

Friday to Sunday, October 1-3 - an invitation to join the "League Of Maryland Horsemen's Invitational", Marriottsville. MD from Carolann Sharpe and Joyce Bell Details to follow.

Sunday, October 17 - Wye Island, Queen Anne's County, MD – Joyce Bell <wbell2@washcoll.edu> or 410-820-6002 Details to follow. Helmets required on this ride.

November Rides

Friday through Sunday, November 5-7 – Tuckahoe Queen Anne's County, MD – Joyce Bell <wbell2@washcoll.edu> or 410-820-6002 Join the fun at Tuckahoe Equestrian Center's annual Fall Camping Weekend and Harvest Auction, home-cooked meals, and scenic trails in Tuckahoe State Park near Denton, MD. Helmets required on this ride.

We also are working to schedule the dates for rides at Schooley Mill Park (Howard County), High Tide farm horse (a horse swim in Anne Arundel County), Fairland Park (PG & Mo Co), the NCR (North Central Railroad)/Torrey Brown trail (Baltimore County), Union Mills (Carroll Count) and Anacostia Park (PG CoD), and hope for lots more ride.

Because we are just re-starting the trial ride program, far fewer rides are yet scheduled than we had in previous years and hope to have, so please help make the trail ride program a great success by VOLUNTEERING TO LEAD A RIDE AT YOUR FAVORITE VENUE!! Hint: maybe Ag Farm Park, Woodstock Equestrian Park (Mo Co.)?

Trail Ride Leaders Wanted - It's So Easy and Fun

from Laury Lobel

Many of our members are so familiar with the wonderful trail venues we are so lucky to have in Maryland. From the MNCPPC Parks in Montgomery County like Little Bennett, Ag Park, Rachel Carson and Fairland, to the State Parks like Patuxent, Patapsco, and Cedarville, to the local parks like Friendship, Schooley Mill, Rockburn, and two fabulous riding venues of WSSC, and so many others -- well, you get the idea!! We are all blessed with incredible places to ride. So, TROT members, please start sharing these wonderful places with your fellow members!! Here are a few things you need to know to lead a ride:

Confirm your intended date with the trail ride coordinator (<bsw@jhmi.edu>) and write up a short description of your ride for the newsletter, to include: the ride's location; if parking is limited, how many trailers it will accommodate; the pace (some rides are walk only, some walk-trot, and some walk-trot-canter); the length of the ride; any obstacles you feel are important to forewarn riders with green horses, such as bikers/hikers, stream crossings, etc. Don't disclose the time of the ride in the newsletter, as you will give that to members when they call or email to sign up, so you know who is coming and can cancel the ride at the last minute if the ground is too wet. Your ride description should now also say whether helmets are required for this ride.

Highly encouraged is to plan a get-together after the ride, so mention that riders should bring food for that and a chair. Several options are: a potluck (best then if you bring utensils and plates); everyone to bring their own sandwiches and you offer drinks and/or dessert; or everyone bring their own everything and folks just chat while eating together.

Don't worry if you have a slow horse. You can easily be a ride leader and just let the faster horses go ahead and will wait for you at the intersections to get directions. Also, if you want to lead a walk-only ride but there are places for people who would like to go faster and then rejoin the group, say that in your write-up.

Bring along to the ride a list of those who signed up, so they can just check-in with you the day of the ride, to attest they are current TROT members (others can ride by joining for a \$5 member daily fee). As ride-out time is nearing, it is a good idea to call folks who have signed up but not arrived, to see if they are only two minutes away, or to tell them where on the trail to meet you after they arrive. After the ride, send the attendee list to the trail ride coordinator.

TROT trail rides are a great way to learn new venues and appreciate the value of retaining them, to meet new people and make new friends, and they are a "staple" of our organization. Please help us continue this tradition by offering to lead a ride (contact <bsw@jhmi.edu>).

Union Mills is Getting a Face-Lift!

from Ivy Smink

The process will not be overnight but in phases. The catalyst for this face lift was last fall, when a rider had a spill on a horse. Emergency Medical Services (thank goodness it was in an area with cell service!) was called but they could not locate the person. Describing the spill location to a person who has never laid eyes on the trails is worthless and the posted map did not match the description of the location. Thank goodness for another rider, with intimate trail details, pulling into the parking lot and providing direction for EMS personnel.

The face lift will start with naming the trails and posting signs at each end of the trails. "No Horses" signs will be posted on trails that are too dangerous (too narrow, angle of slope is too steep or some sort of safety hazard) for equine use but still okay for cyclists or hikers. The next phase will be to color code each trail. The gates will be numbered for EMS to locate. The following phase is a hopeful one -- measuring all the trails with GPS. This will require hours of mapping, walking, riding, or cycling. **[Editor's note: maybe TROT can help with this, much as we mapped the Rocky Gorge Trail for WSSC.]** Lastly, new maps will be drawn up for the public to have access to. This face-lift is in cooperation with the DNR, Sawmill Cooperative Wildlife Management and volunteers from the cycling, hiking, and equine communities.

Currently, the best map available is: <<https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/sawmillmap.pdf>>. Remember there is a south end of the Union Mills trails on John Owings Road (also known as the Twin Ponds parking area) while the northern end of Union Mills located off Sawmill Road has the Kowomu Trail Parking area (bigger). One can ride from one end to the other and can eek out 10-12 miles using most of the loops and sometimes doubling back.

Volunteers will be needed to maintain these trails. If you ride here, please help the few people who trim, cut trees from paths and cut new trails to bypass dangerous and over-used areas. During the 2020 shutdown of many park areas, the Union Mills area trails remained open and experienced an unprecedented number of riders from many counties that "consumed" and "battered" paths, riding when too wet, "creating new trails", and going on footpaths or cycling trails, rendering some trails dangerous. If you are interested in volunteering to keep this historic gem, contact <smink.ivy@gmail.com>.

The Best Way to Protect From COVID-19

from Carolann Sharpe, TROT President

We in TROT believe in the benefits of riding our horses, enjoying the outdoors and fellowship, and following the CDC recommendations to stay safe: ** Avoid close contact (6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more) with people who are not in your household; ** Wear face coverings over your mouth and nose when required, and as often as possible in all indoor public spaces or whenever social distancing is difficult; ** Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds and use sanitizer when you can't wash; ** Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in your home and other environments frequently; ** Stay home if you are sick, except for medical care or testing; ** When planning activities, assess your risk and take recommended precautions or choose not to participate in activities that you feel are not safe for you or your close contacts.

TRAIL GUIDES

We are reviving the "Trail Guides" Program – thoughtful volunteers who are willing to show TROT members their favorite trails on an individual basis. But unfortunately, in the three years since this was last publicized, many of the previously-listed venues are now without a guide. So PLEASE, volunteer to be a Trail Guide for your favorite venue (even if not riding, a trail guide can tell others about the trail on the phone). It is a swell service to offer, and in reality, few riders actually ask for this service, so it is only a limited commitment to volunteer. Please do! [Contact <bsw@jhmi.edu>, 301-604-5619].]

If you would like to learn one of the trails listed below, do contact these Trail Guides, to arrange a personally guided trail ride and/or description.

These generous folks have offered to be Trail Guides at the following venues:

Block House Point (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <cmicek@christinamicek.com> or phone/text 617-435-1187
C & O canal portions (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <cmicek@christinamicek.com> or phone/text 617-435-1187
Fairland Park (Prince George's & Montgomery counties) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)
Gunpowder Falls State Park (Baltimore County) Priscilla Huffman <priscillahuffman@verizon.net> or 301-646-4422
Muddy Branch (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <cmicek@christinamicek.com> or phone/text 617-435-1187
North Tract, Patuxent Research Refuge (Anne Arundel County) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)
Patapsco State Park/McKeldin (Carroll, Baltimore, Howard counties) Carolann Sharpe <blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com>
Prettyboy Reservoir (Baltimore County) Priscilla Huffman <priscillahuffman@verizon.net> or 301-646-4422
Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Prince George's & Montgomery counties) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)
Rockburn County Park and connecting Patapsco Valley Park (Howard County) Jacquie Cowan <jacquiecowan@comcast.net>
Rosaryville Park (Prince George's County) Laura Colicchio, 301-448-8713 or <lavenderlady19@verizon.net>
Tuckahoe (Caroline & Queen Anne's counties) Joyce Bell <wbell2@washcoll.edu>
Tridelphia Reservoir (Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)
Wye Island (Queen Anne's County) Joyce Bell <wbell2@washcoll.edu>

It would be fantastic if others might volunteer to be Trail Guides at these venues, or at any venue of your choosing:

Agricultural History Farm Park (Montgomery County)	Liberty Reservoir (Baltimore and Carroll Counties)
Annapolis Rock (Montgomery County)	Little Bennett (Montgomery County)
Cedarville Park ((Prince George's County)	Morgan Run (Carroll County, MD)
Doncaster State Forest (Charles County)	Patuxent River State Park (Howard and/or Montgomery County)
Frederick County Watershed (Frederick County)	Rachel Carson Conservation Park (Montgomery County)
Greenwell Park (St. Mary's County, MD)	Rock Creek Park (Montgomery County, MD and into DC)
Gunpowder Falls State Park (Harford County MD)	Woodstock Equestrian Park (Montgomery County)

GIVE JACQUIE COWAN YOUR BEST WISHES

After the stroke she "gave herself for her birthday" (maybe sequela of her COVID?), Jacquie is home from the hospital, avidly doing therapy and progressing like gang-busters, including getting out and about and looking forward to getting back in the saddle. Please contact her to give your good wishes, at 410-923-6157 or <jacquiecowan@comcast.net>.

A FOND FAREWELL TO NAOMI MANDERS

info also from Susan Gray and online

Sadly, we report the passing of Naomi Manders (in January, 2021, at age 82) -- a long-time TROT member and wonderful lady who probably did more for getting natural surface trails in our region than anyone else. Through her involvement also with the Potomac Hunt Club and the Potomac Bridle and Hiking Trails Association, Naomi successfully negotiated many public bridle path easements and created the Travilah Loop that links stables to parkland, preserving equestrian presence in suburban Potomac. Naomi then became Trail Planner in the Department of Park Planning and Development within the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, where she developed their Natural Surface Trails Program and helped establish the trails in Rachael Carson Park, Muddy Branch Park, Schaefer Farm Park, and Northwest Branch, plus more sustainable trails in Fairland Park.

Since retiring from MNCPPC, as a leader in EPIC (Equestrian Partners in Conservation), Naomi's volunteer efforts developed the trails at Dry Seneca Creek Trail and the Breezy Loop Trail, and she was critical in the development of the Seneca Greenway. Remaining a fierce advocate for trails, less than four months before her passing she passionately testified to TROT about the importance of retaining its trails advocacy mission and then discussed with some of us about setting up a replacement trails advocacy organization to service outside of Montgomery County, should TROT not return to doing trail advocacy. Naomi was one in a million; her great spirit and trails advocacy will be sorely missed! Thank you, Naomi, for ALL you have done for us trail riders!

WHY NO BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES IN THE NEWSLETTER

Summaries of TROT board meetings used to be included in the newsletter, but starting 2021, the full minutes of the "business meetings" (formerly called "board meetings") are being sent out. Surely you already received your minutes of the January and February, 2021 meetings. Hopefully reading them made you so excited that you want to get more involved!

Carolann Sharpe suggested the newsletter include this Maryland Horse Council brochure



Trail Etiquette & Safety Guidelines

Tips for Hikers, Cyclists & Equestrians

General Guidelines & Etiquette Tips:

Respect the Trails. Clean up litter (pack out what is packed in), protect the trail environment, i.e. do not remove things that belong on the trails or blaze new trails.

Look and Listen. Become the eyes and ears of the trail system. Report problems, i.e. washed-out bridges or downed trees and debris, to the park's maintenance system.

Maintain the Trails. Give back to the trails you use--get involved with trail maintenance.

Share the Trails. Cyclists yield to all other trail users, and hikers yield to equestrians.

Be Courteous. On crowded trails, proceed single file.

Keep Things Moving. Slower traffic should keep to the right of the trail; faster users pass on the left.

Keep Things Clear. Do not pass on narrow bends; pass only when you can clearly see the trail and traffic approaching from the opposite direction.

No Surprises. When passing other trail users, provide adequate warning, and reduce speed.

Watch Out. Animals on the trails may act unexpectedly. If you are unsure about approaching someone with a horse or dog, ask the handler for guidance.

Watch Your Step. Tread gently when the trails are muddy; footprints, bicycle ruts, and hoofprints can damage the trails.

Watch Your Volume. If you choose to wear a stereo/headphone set, make sure that the volume neither prevents you from hearing what is happening around you, nor disturbs the other trail users.

Help Others. If you come upon an injured rider (horse or bicycle), get help immediately. If you come upon a riderless horse, do not approach the horse if you are uncomfortable with horses--seek professional help. If you choose to approach the horse, speak softly to let it know you are there--do not chase it. Approach it from the side.

In our increasingly urbanized society, more and more people are discovering the joys of public spaces and trails for their relaxation. Because of limited space, many trails are becoming "multi-use"--allowing for hikers, joggers, equestrians, and bikers.

When enjoying multi-use trails, it is imperative that each user respect the limitations and expectations of the other trail users of different disciplines. Many of the seeming insurmountable conflicts we are facing could be overcome if each user would take the time to familiarize him-- or herself with the needs and objectives of fellow trail users. Each discipline has different needs for the enjoyment and safety of that sport. If we all work together, we can preserve multi-use trails for future generations to enjoy.

Etiquette for Hikers/Joggers

- Stay to the right of the trail. Pass on the left.
- Always yield to equestrians. If you see a horse and rider, say 'hello' in a calm, reassuring manner so the horse does not startle.
- If you wish to approach a horse, ask the rider for guidance. If you are with a child when you come upon a horse, hold the child's hand and stay toward the front (but not directly in front) of the horse. Do not approach a horse from behind. Most equestrians will gladly let you and your children pet their horses, but always ask permission first.
- Announce yourself when overtaking other trail users.
- When hiking/jogging with a dog, obey posted leash regulations. Keep a short leash on your dog when passing (or being passed by) horses, cyclists, or other pedestrians. Remember that other users may be frightened by your dog, and be unsure how to pass safely.
- Stay on marked trails. Do not cut new trails.

Etiquette for Cyclists

- Approach and pass other trail users with care--you are obligated to yield to all other trail users. When approaching from behind, announce yourself (and the number of other cyclists in your group) well in advance so that you do not startle other trail users, especially horses. Reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass horses far to the left to avoid unintentional contact. Red ribbons in a horse's tail are an indication that it may kick if approached too closely from behind.
- Stay on approved bicycle trails.
- Obey posted speed limits and use common sense in crowded areas.
- Approach blind curves with caution--assume someone is coming in the opposite direction.
- Use the appropriate hand signals for turning, stopping, etc.
- Should your approach cause a horse to spook or become frightened, be considerate and stop. Wait for the rider to say that it is okay to pass.
- Be a positive reflection of the local cycling community.



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Etiquette for Equestrians

- Be sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding on congested public trails. Busy multi-use trails are not the proper place for schooling green horses.
- Advise other trail users of your horse's temperament, i.e. a horse with a tendency to kick should always wear a red ribbon in the tail, or a stallion should wear a yellow ribbon.
- Assume that not everyone will know what these ribbons mean, so be prepared to explain or take the necessary precautions to avoid trouble.
- Obey posted speed/gait limits, and use common sense in crowded areas (cantering/galloping on crowded trails endangers everyone).
- Move to the right to allow faster trail users to pass.
- Announce your intention to pass other trail users, and reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass on the left only.
- Remove your horse from the trail if you begin experiencing behavior problems.
- Stay on equestrian approved trails.
- As a courtesy to others in your group, use appropriate hand signals for turning, slowing, etc. and give verbal warnings for dangers on the trail (i.e., holes, low branches, etc.)
- Remember that other trail users may not be familiar with horses or their reactions to new experiences. Your horse may be another trail user's introduction to horses and what you do is a reflection on the local horse community. Cheerfully answer questions about your horse. You are an ambassador for the entire equestrian community.
- If you trailer to a location, do not clean out your trailer in the parking area.
- On multiple-use trails, step off the trail (if possible) if your horse needs to relieve himself, or kick the droppings off the trail.

Maryland Horse Council ... *The Horseman's Liaison with Government*

Trail Stewardship

Maintaining equestrian trails is every rider's responsibility. Do not ride when the trails are wet. Do not litter. Do not leave straw and manure in the parking lot. Stay on the trail. Carry hand clippers to cut back growth. Carry a folding saw to remove broken limbs from the trail. Report problems to the park manager.

Volunteer

Check with your county's Parks and Recreation Office, or local State Park for volunteer opportunities. Volunteers are needed to build and maintain multi-use natural surface trails. Riding Clubs frequently hold trail work days. These can be fun and accomplish a great deal in just a few hours.

Grants

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Administered by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), this program matches federal funds with local funds or in-kind contributions to implement trail projects. Projects can be sponsored by a county or municipal government, a private non-profit agency, a community group, or an individual (non-governmental agencies must secure an appropriate government agency as a co-sponsor). Federal funds administered by the State Highway Administration are available for up to 80% of the project cost, matched by at least 20% funding from the project sponsor. For more information visit: http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/md_trails/Funding_RTP.asp or phone: 410-545-8637 or 800-446-5962

Maryland Horse Industry Board Grant Program

The Maryland Horse Industry Board Grant Program helps to develop the Maryland horse industry by supporting research, education and promotion. For more information visit: http://www.mda.state.md.us/horseboard/pdf/grant_guidelines_2012.pdf or call 410-841-5798

Brochure content produced by the MHC Trails & Greenways Committee. This brochure is free to Maryland residents and organizations. For copies of the brochure, please email admin@mdhorsecouncil.org and indicate quantity and use.

Maryland Horse Council

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TROT INFORMATION

TROT Website: www.trot-md.org

TROT Newsletter archives: www.trot-md.org/newsletter
 Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor (bsw@jhmi.edu)

TROT has two Facebook pages;
 (1) the "official" page for members:
www.facebook.com/Trail.Riders.of.Today and
 (2) the "community" page:
www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/

WHO'S WHO IN TROT

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Carolann Sharpe	< trotpresident@gmail.com >	410-908-5599
Vice President	Janet Whelan	< celticfrost214@gmail.com >	410-790-1044
Secretary	<i>[Ivy Smink]</i>	<i>[<smink.ivy@gmail.com>]</i>	<i>[443-974-5896]</i>
Treasurer	Ivy Smink	< smink.ivy@gmail.com >	443-974-5896
Additional Board members	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
	Christina Micek	< Christina.Micek@natgeo.com >	617-435-1187
	Joyce Bell	< wbell2@washcoll.edu >	410-820-6002
	Meggan Whalen	< meggan.whelen@yahoo.com >	
	Susan Gray	< susan@campususan.com >	240-426-1655
License Plate	Sandy Boyd	< ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com >	301-257-5177
Newsletter	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
Trail Rides	<i>[Barbara Sollner-Webb]</i>	<i>[<bsw@jhmi.edu>]</i>	<i>[301-604-5619]</i>
Trail Work	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS			
Anne Arundel	Jacquie Cowan	< jacquiecowan@comcast.net >	923-6157
Baltimore	Priscilla Huffman	< priscillahuffman@verizon.net >	410-215-4979
Carroll	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		301-646-4422
Cecil	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
Frederick	Deborah Wagner		TEXT: 301-233-7738
Harford	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
Howard	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
Laurel/Burtonsville	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
Montgomery	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
Prince George's	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
Queen Anne's	Joyce Bell	< wbell2@washcoll.edu >	410-820-6002
St. Mary's	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
Talbot	Joyce Bell	< wbell2@washcoll.edu >	410-820-6002

Please, TROT members in **the counties shown in red italics** and other counties not listed, consider volunteering as TROT's coordinator from your county or from some subset that you feel comfortable getting more involved with! And the Secretary, Trail Riders Coordinator and Trail Work Coordinator (being filled by the interim people in red and brackets) also need more permanent volunteers – please consider being that person! (see page 6)

Get Your TROT License Plates from Sandy Boyd, 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 ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com or call/text me on 301-257-5177, and I will help you with the process.



The Importance of TROT Numbers

TROT's ability to make an impression on elected and agency officials in advocating for sustainable trails is in a large part dependent on the number of members we can cite that we represent. Also, the more members we have, the larger group of folks we can notify when numbers are needed to advocate for preserving a trail. It therefore is important that everyone who cares about trail and trail riding becomes a member of TROT. Please explain to your riding buddies the importance of joining (use 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 editor, at bsw@jhmi.edu.

As the old saying goes: "Spring has sprung, the flowers have riz, I wonder where the birdies (err..., 'horsies?') is". So, we need to get out there and enjoy the trails from horseback.

But please don't ride trails when the ground is wet enough that your horse leaves footprints! And pick up (or move aside) your horse's poop from parking areas and paved trails.

TROT is again running classified ads, one free per member per issue

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 \$6.99/lb) & **pastured, soy-free, corn-free eggs** (\$6/doz). Beef halves and whole lambs in fall. Organic practices. Pick up at my farm in Libertytown, MD or I can bring to a TROT ride.

Leah Mack <1ecofarmer@gmail.com>, grazydays.com

Gaited Lessons w/ Jacquie Cowan

Find Your Pleasure Gait with Jacquie Cowan, specializing in softly gaited horses for trail and show. I also help build your confidence and trail skills. Contact Jacquie at 410-923-6157 or <jacquiecowan@comcast.net>.

Horse Blanket Wash/Repair from Roxy Baldwin (Sweet Rock Stables, a MD Horse Industry Horse Discover Center, Manchester MD)

Horse Blanket Wash/Repair. Free pick-up/delivery available for six or more. Price sheet & more info from 410-374-3870 or <Roxy@SweetRockStables.com>.

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kathy@valleymeadowfarms.com



Are You Thinking Roofing?

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

If your house or barn might need re-roofing, read on... The wonderful contractors who expertly repaired our house after a big fire a few years ago, and since then have done lots of work for us including repairing roofing problems caused by a previous lousy contractor -- all done excellently, and these guys are super good to work with -- are now offering a roofing special. For each person who signs up from this notice, they will also donate \$500 to TROT! So, for your roofing or any other contractor work, please consider contacting CarterWorx, at 301-725-3473 or <tim@carterworx.com>.

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

from Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter

Big thanks to the swell folks who contributed 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 Susan Gray, Meggan Whalen, Joyce Bell, and Denis Webb. Also thanks to Carolann Sharpe, Ivy Smink, Priscilla Huffman, and Sandy Boyd for your comments. You guys are wonderful!



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership
PO Box 425
Finksburg, MD 21048

Inside this issue:

The Rejuvenation of TROT
Welcoming TROT's Newly Elected Officers and Board
But Many Volunteers Still Needed
Trail Work Plans
TROT Trail Ride Plans
Should MAGLEV be the New TROT's Initial Advocacy Effort?
Union Mills' Improvements
Revitalizing the Trail Guides Program
Best Wishes to one TROT Member; Farewell to Another

All TROT members are invited to join the board's Zoom meetings, the first Wednesday evening each month; the link is listed on the calendar on TROT's website (<TROT-MD.org>).