

# Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

[www.trot-md.org](http://www.trot-md.org)

**trot**

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*from Carolann Sharpe*

Covid changed the way we conduct business, socialize and take part in recreation. At one point, the Department of Natural Resources banned horseback riders from the park because they assumed with commercial barns being closed, riders only came from a shared commercial barn and would not be able to follow CDC Safety guidelines. Maryland Horse Council and TROT stepped in to educate the decision makers that a large portion of riders were personal, private owners whereby the activity of horseback riding by design was a highly safe activity. This message was heard loudly and clearly, and the parks were opened back up to riders. With that said, there was also a large increase in horseback riding interest. Our community is growing, and it is important we are doing our best to (1) welcome these new riders with patience and guidance, (2) prepare for increased use of the trails, and (3) communicate with other trail organizations and join forces to continue the mission of TROT to protect, advocate and be a driving force in conservation.

A recent informal survey by the Maryland Horse Industry Board shows about 35% of licensed stable respondents reported an increase in business. Some newcomers are brand new to the equine world, children learning to ride, older adults getting back into riding from childhood experience and some completing that "bucket list" item. All of these are potential trail users and have an opportunity to be talented, untapped resources and good stewards. Existing riders have the golden opportunity to share experiences and love for the trails, asking these new riders to join TROT, share the vision of trails being safe, exciting and soul enriching. TROT provides support for riders by networking, educating and being available via social media, newsletters and trail rides to show everyone these wonderful trails we call our own. Therefore, it is SO IMPORTANT for our members to just give one day, just one day a year to lead a trail ride, lead a trail clean up and share how important these trails are. Even if you take two riders out on your trail ride, that is two more who will care about your favorite place. Our new riders want to feel welcomed and not judged for their inexperience. They will learn from those around them and then pay it forward when they are in a position of providing support to someone else. It is important to remember we were all new riders once. We all had a horse that tested our skills, even if it was someone else's horse that did it. It is important we share our knowledge and passion for our sport while still respecting our new riders and not making them feel their lesser time makes them less of a rider. Share your happy place and lead a ride. Show off what makes your trails special.

Our trails will have an increase in use whether it is these new and returning riders or the hikers, bikers and nature lovers also out there enjoying the view. We see our trails differently. A mountain biker might find that row of rocks and fallen trees as a course "feature". Some of our equestrians see it as a hold your breath obstacle or jump, while others are intimidated and wish it were wide and sandy and easy to navigate. We all have different styles. It is important that riders know what their horse can and cannot do, and to ride with people who are patient and understanding by giving you and your horse the time to learn and explore together. It is also important that trail leaders take the time to speak to those joining their rides and listen to what the riders say about their experience and horse's background. When leading a ride, always ride to the ability of your group. It is also very important to communicate with other trail users what works best for you and your horse. Remember, many of these users have never seen a horse up close, and this is a chance to educate. Ask them to speak clearly, stay to the side of the trail, even stop and talk a moment if your horse is ok with that. Let a child pet your horse's cheek. This interaction can lead to that person, *[continued on next page]*

**[Note: Articles without attribution are from the Newsletter Editor, Barbara Sollner-Webb]**

**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 (ideally also what others left). Thanks!**

## Continuation of President's Message, from previous page

that child, having an interest in horses and being caring enough to speak up for the horse community in the future. Just as horse businesses have seen an increase in business, the parks have had historic numbers of users. With people coming to parks for the first time, many now see the value of open space and preserving these areas. They too become good stewards and a voice.

All those who use the trails are seeking the same yen, blood rushing experience we are. Socialize with our friends during or after the ride; take our pictures and post on our page, wall, Instagram, Twitter and Tik Tok to show the world this glorious, blessed life we lead. The more we collaborate and communicate with other clubs and individuals, the more we can change the things we need to and learn from each other. We as a horse community can be "exclusive" and it is important we leave our comfort zone sometimes to venture out and share our experiences and listen to others. Unify our efforts in both voice and muscle. Clean up days contribute to the enjoyment of the trail experience for all. TROT recently donated to support a month of Port-a-Pot service at Morgan Run Nature Center in Carroll County. This past year, TROT, League of Maryland Horsemen, DNR, Friends of Patapsco and Patapsco Mountain Bike identified some "imitation" trail signs that said "NO HORSES" on a trail in Patapsco. This led to an immediate knee-jerk defensive reaction by the equestrians, they were being unfairly treated. Because of the communication among TROT, DNR and FOP, it was very quickly discovered someone without authority had used the logo of DNR and FOP. The signs were taken down, and in that same time frame all the groups began a much closer relationship and have already exacted improvements and change in the park. Everyone is out on the trails to enjoy them, to escape the rat race for a little while, and to feel alive. Let's make sure we are doing our part to protect these trails for our future users.

I will end with one of my favorite quotes "Into the forest I go, to lose my mind and find my soul." – John Muir

## TRAIL RIDERS of TODAY - PICNIC IN THE PARK Sunday August 8th, 2021 - 12 noon to 3 PM (rain or shine)

from Ivy Smink



Where: Patapsco Valley State Park, McKeldin Area  
11676 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104  
(GPS Coordinates 39.35982-7689112) - McKeldin Pavilion #501

Due to the pandemic, TROT was unable to hold its annual dinner, but now is the perfect time to have a picnic! Come and gather to see old riding buddies and meet new ones. A lot has happened in the last year (see the President's address).

Menu: TROT will provide a spiral ham, drinks, dessert, paper products, and utensils. Please bring a dish to share (and a serving spoon). **If your last names starts with: A - M bring a salad; N - Z bring a vegetable.** Also, please note on it if your dish is vegetarian. Bring a guest for \$1.00 and they will have a free membership until the end of December! What a deal!

Note that alcohol is prohibited everywhere in the park.

TROT will be raffling off two baskets. And TROT logo wear will be available for sale during the picnic.

You will also have an opportunity to ride (pending dry trail conditions) in the park before or after the picnic. Trailer parking is available in a field across from the basketball court within sight of the pavilion. Horses must stay tied to the trailer; no corrals or picket lines.

To attend the picnic, RSVP to [totactivity@yahoo.com](mailto:totactivity@yahoo.com) by August 1.

**PLEASE COME! Since COVID prevented our usual membership meeting in last winter, this is a replacement!**



## MEET TROT's NEW INTERIM SECRETARY, LIZ OUSLEY

write-up and photo from Liz Ousley

My husband and I live in Mt Airy, MD. I am very happy to be a new member of TROT. The things I enjoy most are spending time with family and friends, working with horses, and hitting the trails for a fun ride. I am currently rehabbing from knee surgery and hope to be back in the saddle early next year. I look forward to working with and getting to know the other members of the TROT community.

**Editor's note: Welcome, Liz! And thanks much for volunteering for this position!**



## UPCOMING TROT SURVEY

Because we want TROT's actions to reflect the membership's desires, shortly you will receive a membership survey (in your email InBox, or by snail-mail if you do not have an email address listed with TROT). It will ask your feeling on: 1- Wearing helmets when riding at TROT events, 2- Desire for TROT to again offer a membership directory, 3- The importance of potential TROT activities, 4- Preferred method(s) of contact. When you receive this survey, please fill it out and return it, for without your feedback TROT can not know what the membership wants. Thanks much!

## PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO FILL ONE OF THESE IMPORTANT POSITIONS!

We are OVER 200 TROT members now, and we are SO excited to have this many people supporting the mission of TROT.

At our most recent business meeting -- which is the 1st Wednesday of each month, and all members are invited to participate (joining info is on the calendar in TROT's website (<[www.TROT-MD.org](http://www.TROT-MD.org)>)) -- we discussed how we can get members MORE involved and make sure everyone with a DESIRE TO HELP knows how to do that, so please read on and respond! Many of our Board members are doing at least "Double Duty", and we really need to add to our team.

Delightfully, Liz volunteered to become TROT's secretary! Yay! But we have some additional CRITICAL needs right now:

**1. WEBMASTER** -- The webmaster will work with TROT's web provider and keep TROT's website updated; also to provide input on how to improve the user-friendliness of our website. This position is best-suited for someone who is familiar with website development and design work. Specifically, this person will be responsible for updating webpage posts, pages, pictures, calendar events, and the members-only page. She/he will also be able to make design improvements. The website is created in WordPress and has a number of unique plug-ins. The commitment is maybe 1–2 hours a month at the most. Ideally this person should have, or want to develop, experience building custom plugins/themes in WordPress and an understanding of Search Engine Optimization. Knowledge of front-end technologies include HTML5 (the current version of HTML) could also be helpful. If you have a willingness to help and learn, this is something you might well enjoy doing. Please give it a try.

**2. TRAIL RIDE COORDINATOR** - This person arranges TROT's trail ride calendar and provides the trail ride leaders with information we have already assembled to lead a safe and fun ride (including a suggestion sheet, sign-up sheet, and directional arrows to mark the parking area). The trail ride coordinator will ask the ride leaders to provide a description of their intended ride to announce to the membership via email, Facebook, and newsletter articles, and after the ride asks them for a blurb about the ride and photos, to report in the newsletter.

**3. TRAIL RIDE LEADERS** - Without members agreeing to lead a ride, we can't have TROT rides! It is NO SECRET when someone cares about an area, they give time and voice, listen for relevant planned changes and make sure that area remains protected. **THE MORE YOU SHOW OFF YOUR FAVORITE TRAILS, THE MORE YOU GET OTHERS TO HELP ASSURE THIS HAPPENS. PLEASE SIGN UP TO LEAD A RIDE !!!!** I know you are out there riding -- make one of your rides a TROT RIDE !!! Invite new people, and show off your HAPPY PLACE!!

**4. TRAIL WORK COORDINATOR** – Coordinate with other trail groups' trail work efforts (e.g., MORE, Carroll County Equestrian Council, Patuxent River State Park, etc.) and announce them to TROT members; collect work hours to report to parks.

**5. COUNTY OR AREA COORDINATOR** – Real important positions – see page 11.

**6. TRAIL GUIDES** – Another great way you can show off your favorite riding venue is by signing up to tell interested people about your favorite riding venue, when they inquire. This can involve occasionally leading them on the trail, or if you are currently not riding, by telling them verbally only. Do sign up for your favorite venue(s). See page 10-11 to discover the venues we are missing.

**7. ACTION TEAM** - This committee focuses on advocacy for preserving (even creating) trails and open spaces – the first purpose in TROT's founding mission. We already have four active members (Joyce Bell, Susan Gray, Christina Micek and Barbara Sollner-Webb) but would be delighted to have others who care about our trails and open spaces to join in!

PLEASE do YOUR part to help TROT moving forward by volunteering to fill one of these needed positions! Just contact <[trotpresident@gmail.com](mailto:trotpresident@gmail.com)> for more info or to sign on.

## USEFUL TRAILS INFORMATION TO EASILY ACCESS

Christina Micek kindly shared the link to the recording of an excellent webinar from American Trails -- "Current and Future Trends in Equestrian Trails: Sustainability, Stewardship, and Community"- see <<https://www.americantrails.org/training/current-and-future-trends-in-equestrian-trails#eventDetails>>. That site also provides links to several very useful articles on: "Protecting horse trails", "Horses and packstock unlikely to spread invasive plants along trails", "Are horses responsible for introducing non-native plants along forest trails in the eastern United States?", "Horse manure on the trails: should we do something?", "The scoop on poop", "Does horse manure pose a significant risk to human health?", "Sustainable trails for equestrian use", and "From lemons to lemonade: creating sustainable trails". Check them out, for some useful reading! They also offer the excellent resource book "Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campground", for only shipping charges. Real useful!

Thanks SOOO much, Christina, for this most valuable information, to share with TROT members!

## SUSTAINABLE TRAIL USE

[The Action Team was asked to draft trails-related articles for the Maryland Horse Council's "The Equiery", focusing on trail riding and "specific rules/regulations, upcoming legislative issues and things that members should be aware of". In response, this and the following article were submitted. Although the MHC decided to not publish them – despite an earlier survey showing that something like 80% of horse users in Maryland do trail riding -- we wanted to share them with our members.]

### HITTING THE TRAILS IN MARYLAND

*[article rewritten by Carolann Sharpe]*

Maryland enjoys thousands of miles of trails, with over 200 miles in Patapsco State Park alone. Many of them are multi-use, with equestrians, hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts. The recent events of the pandemic and activity restrictions lead to an exponential use of these trails and new concerns. A lot of new people who have never or rarely been out on trails were using them, with so many other places and activities being off limits. A lot of people were unprepared and did not know trail etiquette. This lack of common knowledge can lead to miscommunication and misunderstanding. Trail riders make up most of Maryland horse owners. The more each discipline within the horse world can share their thoughts and concerns, as well as do outreach educating non-horse owners about these "law of the land" common practices, the greater our enjoyment and cooperative efforts to be good stewards of the parks will be successful.

There is a "right of way" that allows all users to share the trails safely. Horses are on the top of the list, that hikers and bikers are to yield to them. Since the rider is on an animal that can have a mind of its own, this privilege is logical. Hikers are next on the list and bikers after that. When a hiker approaches a horse, the hiker should slowly and calmly step off on the downhill side of a trail. If hikers approach from behind, they should calmly announce their presence and intentions, take directions from the rider about the horse and how to keep their distance and stay safe. Horses can frighten easily, so ask the hiker to avoid sudden movements or loud noises. When off the trail, it is great if they would speak to the rider with a "hello" or "Nice day" so the horse can also be aware they are human and mean them no harm. Bike riders should come to a full stop and step to the side to give the horse the right of way, being mindful of the plants or animals that are near the trail when they step off it. Bicyclists should always ride within their abilities and be aware of their surroundings. When coming around a blind turn, they should keep their speed so they can react swiftly to gradually pass if a horse and rider are on the other side of that turn. Headphones may impede the ability to do this, but they are OK to be worn by bike riders on multiuse trails that offer good visibility.

Horseback riders also should follow rules and guidelines to be respectful of others and the trails themselves. If a trail is too wet and muddy – i.e., if your horse leaves visible footprints! -- save the ride for another day. Using a muddy trail can be dangerous, damage the trail's condition, damage the ecosystems that surround the trail, and even get riders permanently kicked off that trail. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) suggests not to ride if there has been more than 1/4 inch of rain in 24 hours. Riders should also be conscientious about the waste their horses produce. Unique to the trail rider, manure sometimes happens. Horse manure left in parking areas and on trails, especially on multi-use asphalt-surfaced trails, is a major concern to other trail users. Riders should never trailer from their barn without bringing along a manure fork and basket so they can pick up any manure deposited by their horse to take it home or dispose of in a natural forested area. Riders are also encouraged to pick up manure left in common areas by less-caring equestrians, since any left-behind manure reflects badly on all riders. On multi-use trails, try to step off the trail if your horse needs to relieve himself, and dismount to kick manure aside if it is accidentally deposited there. We remind all equestrians to follow the Trail Etiquette and Safety Guidelines written by the MD Horse Council (to see this brochure in its entirety go to [www.mdhorsecouncil.org](http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org)) and click on "miscellaneous links". Key portions are highlights below :

- 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 his tail. Take the necessary precautions to avoid trouble.
- Remove your horse from the trail if you begin experiencing behavior problems.
- Always stay on equestrian approved trails, and do not take shortcuts or attempt to create unauthorized trails in parks!
- 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.)
- Carry hand clippers and/or a folding saw to remove overhanging vegetation or broken limbs from the trail.
- Report problems to the park manager.
- 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 entire horse community. Be a good ambassador for equestrians everywhere by taking the time answer questions about your horse.

In addition, remember to show you are actively using and enjoying your local trails by sharing and providing write-ups and photos to the park governing body and the Equiery (at [Editor@equiery.com](mailto:Editor@equiery.com)) for use on social media and publications. When we are visible and helpful, park leaders will continue to keep our user group in the forefront of their minds, respecting our input.

In closing, trail riding is a remarkable sport and does so much for so many. Some days you need to take a long ride alone, to think about things, or nothing. Our time in the saddle is never wasted, for our heart is our horse and our soul is the trail.

For a list of some of the horse trails in Maryland, see <https://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/trails-greenways/equestrian-trails>, and for a more comprehensive map and listing, see <https://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Documents/HorseTrails.pdf>.



[The following from Action Team was posted on TROT's Facebook page, but since not everyone sees Facebook, it is here reprinted, to illustrate the kind of advocacy that for over 40 years has made TROT a force in preserving open space and trails.]

## ERICKSON – the camel's nose under the tent for losing open space and trails

For many years TROT aggressively advocated to protect open space and to obtain, maintain and preserve trails. Examples abound: from TROT's founding successes in preserving the Paint Branch trails and extending the WSSC trail (Rocky Gorge trail), to the establishment of local trail systems (those in Ashton/Sandy Spring, Fairland, and Seneca Creek, to name a few), to its major fights to retain the 18-mile long WSSC trail and the North Tract trails (in the Patuxent Research Refuge). Historically, TROT members also have worked hand-in-hand with other groups to fight proposed land use changes and projects that threaten open space, riding and horse-keeping opportunities. In 2013, TROT members led the charge against Howard County's proposed comprehensive zoning plan which had many, many egregious anti-horse provisions. We won some; and we lost some. Now there is another project up for approval in Howard County which even developers say is the lynchpin for opening up the Middle Patuxent Watershed to development (this watershed includes Benson Branch Park) and taking large swaths of land out of "agricultural preservation" and turning it into developed land. (See PowerPoint given to the Patuxent River Commission on this project that will be put on TROT's website).

This project, an Erickson senior living community at the intersection of Sheppard Lane and Rt 108 in Clarksville, is a 1440 dwelling senior community proposed on part of what was, until not too long ago, supposedly permanently preserved farmland in the state's agricultural preservation program. Unfortunately, essentially without notice, in 2017, the state (through Senate Bill 155) changed the law for taking certain "preserved" properties out of the State agricultural preservation program. For these properties, the local jurisdiction essentially can take property out of the State preservation program at its whim.

For the last couple of years, communities and environmentalists have been fighting the Erickson project, in large measure because it is the camel's nose under the tent in terms of breaking County and State agricultural preservation easements. A critical hearing before the Howard County Council (Council Bill 50 ) is coming up. This bill would extend a prior approval of certain aspects of the project granted in 2018 when it was assumed agricultural preservation was permanent and prior to public knowledge of the lack of permanency caused by SB 155. Note that the developer is well-aware that these easements can now be broken, as obvious by the Erickson development plan which not only has high intensity development on previously "preserved" State agricultural preservation land, but also shows a major, major road going directly to property still in the State preservation program. Major roads are not planned for properties that are to be permanently "preserved" as agricultural land.

If approval of Council Bill 50 can be precluded, it is possible that the Erickson project can be stopped and the expected cascade of properties coming out of the County and State preservation programs and into development, also avoided.

This is a big one, folks. [The article then gave precise direction how to register to testify at a hearing that has already occurred, with CB50 passing 3-to-2, but the Howard County Council still needs to approve the project and should be held accountable.]

**But if you have feelings about whether Ag preservation should be permanent, they would be great to still submit. Please send your views to the Howard County Council (at [councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov)) and additionally to your state senator and delegates in Annapolis (see <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/sendist.html>) and <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/hsedist.html>). Please make your voice heard - this is really important!**

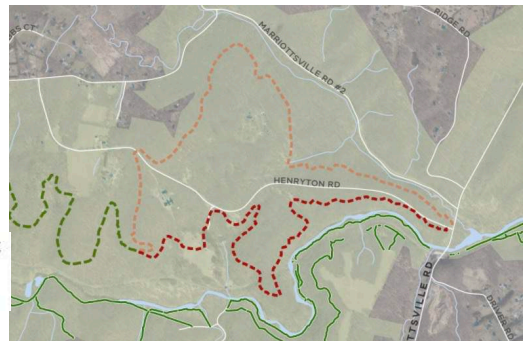
## ACTION TEAM SEEKING YOUR INPUT ON PROPOSED PATAPSCO TRAIL

Recently, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), which is the metropolitan planning organization for the Baltimore, region sought public comment on a new section of the Patapsco Regional Greenway in Carroll and Howard County. As they plan to include new equestrian trails, the TROT action team would love to get feedback from those members living in the area and using the Patapsco Regional Greenway. There is Section 1 and Section 2, and Section 2 specifically mentions trying to accommodate equestrian use. This is the Eastern Portion of the trail, attempting to link Freedom Park with the McKeldin area in Patapsco Valley State Park. TROT members can interact with their wonderful map of the area and proposed choices here: <https://tinyurl.com/99cs7tnf>. After you do so, please email Joyce Bell at [wbell2@washcoll.edu](mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu) to let us know what you think about their two proposed trail route alternatives (Piney Run or South Branch, which run north and south of the League of Maryland Horsemen's property, respectively) so we can best support your interests. Or a TROT member who rides regularly up there might be willing to get more involved with TROT's action Team, possibly even taking the lead for TROT on this matter! Please let Joyce know if you might be interested in that.

Public Input can also be sent directly to [M503@PublicInput.com](mailto:M503@PublicInput.com); CC Keith Kucharek, Transportation Planner, at [kkucharek@baltometro.org](mailto:kkucharek@baltometro.org).

For more information, see: <https://www.baltometro.org/newsroom/2021-05-06-public-input-sought-through-june-11-patapsco-regional-greenway-sykesville> (which also contains a link to the above interactive map) and <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7de25c40f2a34b7f86d8ed542e3a3afa> (from which this map was copied).

- Western Patapsco Alignment
- Piney Run Alternative
- South Branch Alternative



## COMMENTS TROT SUBMITTED ON MAGLEV

The last newsletter as well as scores of newspaper articles have described the proposed SC-MAGLEV (Super-Conducting Magnetic Levitation) project, which is a proposed high speed, very expensive and very noisy train from DC to Baltimore, planned to run through some of the remaining best green swaths in that corridor. Among other environmental losses, this route would devastate much of the trail system at North Tract, for which TROT had worked hard to protect riding in a few years ago. Vast numbers of environmental, civic and local governmental groups (even Baltimore City, now!) have come out against the proposed SC-MAGLEV alignment, which will be decided on later this year, largely by the members of Congress. If you have feelings on this SC-MAGLEV, contacting your Senator Ben Cardin (<<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/contact/email-ben>>) could be especially valuable, because he is reportedly still sitting on the fence.

### for your interest - TROT's SUBMITTED COMMENTS on MAGLEV

TROT (Trail Riders of Today), a Maryland non-profit entity currently with 190 members, joins with other civic and environmental groups in opposing the Baltimore-Washington SC-MAGLEV project. TROT was specifically organized in 1983 to obtain and preserve equestrian trails and open space for public recreational use and for the ecological and aesthetic benefit of the community at large. The SC-Maglev project is in direct conflict with that mission, with irreversible consequences.

SC-MAGLEV as proposed would cut through a huge swath of public lands (including 328 acres of *federal* property, as well as many other green space areas, such as Greenbelt City's park) permanently altering parks, recreational facilities, and wetlands. Of particular concern to TROT are the trails at the Fish and Wildlife's North Tract which are extremely close to both proposed MAGLEV routes. The noise from the train as it emerges from underground on the J-1 route would emit close to a sonic boom. While extremely unpleasant for all trail users, the noise would be very dangerous for equestrians, because horses can dangerously spook from sudden, loud noises.

Please note that the trails at North Tract have unique characteristics which greatly increase their value to all trail users. This is because they were designed to withstand military tanks when the property belonged to Fort Meade. Their stone base allows bikers, hikers and equestrians to use these trails rather than natural surface trails which might be damaged due to wet conditions. For many years, TROT has encouraged equestrians to only use the North Tract trails when the ground is wet in order to prevent damage to natural surface trails.

TROT echoes the environmental and social justice concerns which would be created by either build alternative. These concerns have been eloquently expressed by the Sierra Club, the Audubon Naturalist Society, the Patuxent River Commission, the City of Greenbelt, Citizens Against this SC-MAGLEV (CATS), STOP THIS TRAIN, the National Capital Planning Commission, many Prince George's County politicians, and other groups.

There are already two other train lines (the MARC Penn Line and Amtrack) which connect DC, BWI, and Baltimore. MAGLEV is not true public transportation as it appears to cater to the wealthy; there are only three stops on this very expensive route, and there is no public transportation at its northern terminus. Any future benefit of SC-MAGLEV would be at the expense of many Anne Arundel and Prince George's County residents, outdoor enthusiasts, and the environment.

TROT adamantly supports the "No Build" SC-MAGLEV option.

## IT IS TICK TIME – protect yourself and your horses from Lyme and other pathogens from Barbara Sollner-Webb

Most of us know someone with chronic/recurrent Lyme – a very nasty affliction caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, one of the many kinds of nasty pathogens carried by *Ixodes* ticks (i.e., "deer ticks") that can devastate humans, as well as horses, dogs, etc. Many of us who have chronic/recurrent Lyme wish we knew back then how easy it is to protect yourself from it. It turns out that ticks HATE pyrethrum (the natural chrysanthemum insecticide) and its synthetic, longer-lived derivatives (like permethrin) which are impressively safe for people and pets, and cheap. They are the main active ingredient in most bug sprays for horses, so you are probably already using it daily to protect your equine buddy. Pyrethrum used to be the standard insect spray for humans, but got replaced by DEET, which -- although more toxic -- works better against mosquitoes. [Because humans wash each night, they get off the residue, which would build up to toxic levels if used on horses.]



To protect yourself from ticks attaching when you are out working in the pasture, riding, hiking, or gardening, it is easy and safe to each morning spray a little pyrethrum solution, diluted to between 0.02% and 0.1%, on your arms, legs and body. [Of course, test by applying to a small area first, to confirm you are not allergic.] One can either dilute it yourself into a sprayer from a 10% solution (available cheaply online), or just use a little of the bug spray you may already be putting on your horse (the commonly used 0.1% pyrethrum). Alternatively, you can do what many outdoors folks standardly do: pre-soak your pants and shirt in 0.5% permethrin (which lasts through several washings). [A quart of Martin's 10% permethrin, which is a many-lifetime supply for you and all your friends is only \$26 through Chewy; or if you want it already diluted, Amazon has a 24-oz spray bottle of 0.02% pyrethrum for \$5.98 (free shipping on Prime, "Garden Safe Brand Multi-Purpose Garden Insect Killer, Ready-to-Use"). See <<https://www.kiwicare.co.nz/advice/pests/pyrethrum-pyrethrins-pyretroids-whats-the-difference/>> for the nomenclature on pyrethrums.] Whichever, it's more effective to prevent Lyme (also Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, etc.), and thus safer, than checking your entire body each night for a tiny attached tick.



## RECENT TROT TRAIL RIDES *from Barbara Sollner-Webb, interim trail ride coordinator*

The last newsletter announced nine TROT trail rides between then and now, and one ride was then re-scheduled because the trail was too wet to ride on the original date without causing damage. That ride on the too-wet-ground day would have been wonderfully well-attended, and one other ride with parking for only four trailers max'ed out, but for the other announced rides, disappointingly few riders responded, with two rides having no-one, and most having only one or two TROT members joining the leader(s) -- although some rides were expanded through joining with others on the trail. Nonetheless, the rides were a lot of fun for those attending. The planned rides were:

**Thursday, April 22 - Rosaryville State Park, Upper Marlboro, MD; trail ride leader, Laura Colicchio:** Unfortunately, this normally-swell ride had to be cancelled due to lack of response. But look at the beautiful wisteria that this lovely park offers this time of year, when Laura schedules her ride for folks to enjoy them! →



**Saturday, May 1 - Muddy Branch to the C & O Canal, Montgomery County, MD; report from trail ride leader, Christina Micek:** Trot's first ride of the year! Riders met on a beautiful crisp, sunny morning at the large parking lot on River Road in Potomac that services Blockhouse Point and the Muddy Branch Trails. [This parking lot can accommodate 1-4 trailers on non-busy weekdays, and maybe 1 or 2 on the weekends if you get there early or late in the day.] Riders were Christina Micek, Ulrike Rodgers, Beth Daly, Katie Baden, Mark Baron, Mary Blair, and Gardner Howe. The ride started on the Muddy Branch trail, a gently rolling easy trail through forested land, roughly following the Muddy Branch River. We then enjoyed the small walk-in shore area of the river to let the horses drink and play in the water before crossing the bridge to head towards the C & O Canal Lock at Pennyfield. We admired the lock and lockhouse, and continued down the C & O canal towards Violette's Lock. We met so many other users of the C & O canal -- runners, bikers, families out walking -- and made most of them smile to see us on horseback. [Note: The C & O Canal requires manure to be kicked off the surface of their trail.] The group then looped back to the River Road parking area via Callithea Farm and Old South River Road Trail in Blockhouse Point. We then relished a small snack in the grassy picnic area and appreciated getting to know one another a little bit better. A great start to the season!



[photo from Christina]

**Saturday, May 8 - North Tract, eastern Laurel, MD; report from trail ride leader, Barbara Sollner-Webb:** After two prospective riders cancelled out, fearing sprinkles, it was just Tammie Monaco and myself on this ride -- and we had a great time, walking, trotting, cantering, and becoming soulmates. It was amazing to be on an outing where 100% of the attendees not only have doted-over horses and dogs but also have or had a beloved pot-belly pig! It was GORGEOUS riding weather (some sun, some shade, crisp but not chilly). As often occurs for this yearly TROT ride, there were rains just before, so the ground was soaked -- highlighting a great virtue of the North Tract trails: that they were constructed for military tanks (back when the land was Fort Meade's) so they are perfect to ride without causing damage, no matter how wet the ground is. [Good to remember for riding after the next rain deluge!] Following the ride, we had a lovely potluck picnic (Tammie makes great quiche!), cut a bit short by a crazy hail-storm. It was a lovely trail ride!



[continued on next page] Barbara Sollner-Webb (left); Tammie Monaco (right)



**Friday, May 14 – Morgan Run, Carroll County, MD; report from trail ride leaders, Leah and Hope Mack:** We had perfect weather for a lovely ride with two mother-daughter pairs, including brand-new members, Laura and Kim, on their first TROT ride. We followed up the mellow ride with a nice lunch to get to know each other. Huzzah. →



**Tuesday, May 18 – Little Bennett, Montgomery County, MD; trail ride leader, Susan Ferrara:** Unfortunately, no other TROT members showed up for this swell ride, but Susan and her spouse, Dave Lawrence, had a great ride in this lovely park, and after it enjoyed the molasses cookies she had baked for the ride.

**Wednesday, May 26 - Gunpowder Falls State Park, Bunker Hill trails, Hereford, MD; trail ride leader, Priscilla Huffman:**

An early morning two-hour ride, mostly in the woods, kept Lori Pierce, Monika Munn, Tammie Monaco and Priscilla Huffman cool on this hot summer day. We were able to ride out from the parking area on a portion of the Bunker Hill trail which is now accessible to riders, thanks to the work of the Maryland Park Service staff who recently did a great job clearing some downed trees that were blocking the trail. We rode down to the Gunpowder River, then up through woods to an old road that parallels I-83. Good bomb-proofing for the horses with all the traffic sounds! Once back in the woods, we moved out on a wide flat section of trail that goes through an old archery range. Turning onto the Gunpowder South trail, we rode downhill and crossed over a shallow place in the river. Once on the other side, we rode along the Gunpowder North trail with river views, carefully avoiding a few places where the trail has washed away close to the water and marveling at huge towering rocks next to the trail. We crossed back over the river near a beautiful camp, then back up the road to the trailers. Thanks to all for good horses and good riding!



**Saturday, June 5 - WSSC's Rocky Gorge in Laurel, MD; trail ride leader, Barbara Sollner-Webb:** Priscilla Huffman and Linda Ginty joined me for a lovely ride on WSSC's gorgeous trail along the reservoir -- the trail WSSC had named for founding TROT member, Terry Ledley, many years ago. We enjoyed the lovely weather, along with each other's company, the pretty scenery, our sweet horses, and a yummy pot-luck lunch on our porch after the ride. Fun day!



*Kate and Dave*

**Sunday, June 13 - Patapsco Park: McKeldin Park to Woodstock Inn, Carroll County, MD; intended trail ride leader, Carolann Sharpe:** Numerous riders had signed up for this ride, which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to too-wet ground. But happily, it was rescheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Tuesday, June 15 – Little Bennett, Montgomery County, MD; trail ride leader, Susan Ferrara:** Susan and her spouse, Dave Lawrence, were joined by TROT member Kate King, for a lovely trail ride at Little Bennet, which they wisely moved to the morning when it would be less warm.



*Susan and Kate*

*[continued on next page]*



**Sunday, July 3 - Patapsco Park: McKeldin Park to Woodstock Inn, Carroll County, MD; trail ride leader, Carolann Sharpe:** Our ride to Woodstock Inn was postponed due to rainy weather in June, but the ride on July 3<sup>rd</sup> could not have been more perfect. Five of us set out – Barbara and Dwight Reynolds, Sharon Bach, Pam Mitchell and me, ride leader Carolann Sharpe. All of the riders were new to TROT and had never ridden these trails before, let alone tied up at a restaurant and had lunch. Our ride began from McKeldin and the weather was superb. A nice 76 degrees and a small breeze. Four League of Maryland Horsemen members joined us for the ride. We encountered hikers, bikers and some families having water front picnics.



[photo from Carolann]

Riding along the river and crossing into Hernwood, we had beautiful trees and tall grass on either side of our trail. We rode up the open area of the power lines and encountered a downed tree. We made our own trail through the grass and met back up at the portion of the trail that we wanted to be on.

DNR has asked riders to let them know when there is an obstacle so they can get a crew out to remove or cut through. Carolann took a picture and sent it to DNR for them to see if they can get it taken care of soon. Either way, it was an easy detour, and we were back on the right path. About one and a half hours later, we arrived at Woodstock Inn and tied up at the back lower deck. Using the provided hitching posts and close by trees, everyone was comfortable and started their mid-day snooze.

The service was quick, and the food was delicious. Woodstock Inn always loves seeing the horse riders come in for lunch and our server Jake was top notch.

After a little while it was time to saddle back up. Using the picnic table out by the horses, we were able to get back on and start back. Over the train tracks, down the slight hill, across the water and back a lower trail at the powerlines, we were back in McKeldin. We made our way back to the horse trailers and said our “had a great time” and good-byes.

Some of us posted our great day pictures on Facebook and even a video. If you are on Facebook, please go to the Community Page and check it out. I was so proud of my favorite place to ride, and it gave me such pride and joy to share it with new people. Get out and do the same...you will thank me.

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## **FUTURE TROT TRAIL RIDES** *from Barbara Sollner-Webb, interim trail ride coordinator*

**Message from TROT's interim trail ride coordinator, Barbara Sollner-Webb:** *For many years through 2018, I had organized TROT's trail rides program, scheduling at least 30 rides each year -- a job I felt was very worthwhile because these trail rides were fun, a great way to meet other riders, and appreciated by the TROT members, but more importantly because getting TROT members to ride lots of different trails seems the surest way for them to become passionate about preserving trails in general, not only those out their back door. When I got re-involved with the resurrected TROT as the current trail ride season would soon begin, but with no one to set up the trial ride program, I offered to TEMPORARILY resume this role, so that TROT rides could start being scheduled and announced. Through individually reaching out to all the ride leaders from those past years plus to all folks who had come on the many rides I had organized and I had contact information for, enough agreed to schedule a semi-respectable ride program for the first half of 2021 (although disappointingly few of these over-50 folks were now able and/or interested to lead a TROT ride). These rides were announced in the last newsletter (which I also edit) along with a big plea for TROT members to step up to lead a ride, since we desperately need ride leaders to fill the largely empty schedule for the second half of the year, if we want rides then. Carolann kindly sent multiple individual mailings to each TROT members, asking them to lead a ride and consider being trail ride coordinator. Unfortunately, there have been no responses to these requests. So having used up my contacts, and with no one new offering to lead a ride, the calendar for the second half of 2021 is sadly empty.*

*Maybe the membership survey (see page 3) will show that today's TROT members are largely not interested in having TROT trail rides, so the program should be abandoned. However, if TROT members want this 4-plus-decades-old ride program to continue, they will need to volunteer to lead a ride. Folks also would need to come on rides. And some diligent person would need to volunteer as trail ride coordinator!*

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For now, let me again ask TROT members to please volunteer to lead a trail ride, showing your favorite venue to other TROT members. It is easy and fun to do (see article by Laury Lobel in the last newsletter). [And, as described in the last newsletter, how the rides are again being announced, there will be no problems from unintended riders showing up.] To find out more about leading a ride, please contact me at <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)> or 301-655-3552.

**To come on a ride, contact the ride leader to sign up and learn the start time and location.** That way the leader can also contact you if bad weather forces cancellation. All riders must have a current negative Coggins for the horse, follow the ride leader's direction if a helmet is required, and be a TROT member. Membership forms are at <<http://trot-md.org/join-now/>> and at the ride, with \$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, do not publicly announce any start time, so everyone coming must check with the ride leader.

[continued on next page]

## Upcoming rides, continued

Hopefully, folks will volunteer to lead more rides than those listed below; such additional rides will be announced by email, on Facebook, and on the TROT website.

## Upcoming rides

**Sunday, August 12 - High Tide farm, Anne Arundel County, MD -- Carolann Sharpe 410 908 5599 or <[blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com](mailto:blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com)>**. Ride and join in a HORSE SWIM!!! Fun! Helmets NOT required on this ride.

**Saturday, August 21 – Fairland Park in Laurel/Burtonsville, MD -- Barbara Sollner-Webb <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>**, 301-604-5619 Come ride these very nice trails, which exist in good part because of earlier organizing efforts by TROT members Mary Angevine and later Naomi Manders, plus trail work of many TROT members. It will be about a two-hour ride, mainly walking, but trotting on the flatter portions, and afterwards there will be a potluck lunch. Helmets required on this ride.

**Tuesday, September 21 – Little Bennett, Montgomery County, MD -- Susan Ferrara [sferrara3663@hotmail.com](mailto:sferrara3663@hotmail.com)**  
[Rain date: Thursday, September 23] The ride is 1-1 1/2 hours. There are bridges and road crossings; woods trails are generally narrow, rocky and hilly so we generally walk, with a few trots and canters in open sections. There are streams horses can drink from during the ride. Bring a bag lunch, and we will bring some cookies and carrots! Helmets required on this ride.

**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](mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu)> or 410-820-6002**  
Details to follow. Helmets required on this ride.

**Possibly Saturday, October 30 (date to be finalized) - Anacostia Park, College Park, MD -- John Angevine 301-937-0014** A favorite TROT ride. This fantastic venue has many special views, including Lincoln Cemetery and Bladensburg Waterfront. We go along the Anacostia River on a very nice path, 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. Helmets required on this ride.

**Friday through Sunday, November 5-7 – Tuckahoe Queen Anne's County, MD – Joyce Bell <[wbell2@washcoll.edu](mailto: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.

## TRAIL WORK FOR ALL TROT RIDERS

As noted above, TROT is looking for a new Trail Work Coordinator, a VERY important position that is key in the part of TROT's mission to maintain 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](mailto:trotactivity@yahoo.com)>), so that this info can be announced to our members. happily, it was reported that there will be **upcoming trail work days at Morgan Run, hosted by the Carroll County Equestrian Council, on Saturday, August 14th (rain date August 15th), Saturday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup> (rain date Sept 5th) and Sunday, Nov. 14th (rain date Nov 21st); all 9 AM to 12 noon.** Bring your own tools. For more information contact Carolyn Garber 410-549-5141 or <[ccecofmd@yahoo.com](mailto:ccecofmd@yahoo.com)>.

To ALL trail riders: hopefully each TROT member will promise themselves to do AT LEAST four hours of volunteer trail-related work this season. It can be as easy as breaking branches and clipping vines while you ride. Or be part of a trail work party or Volunteer Mounted Patrol (VMP), or assist at a nature center. Please report your work 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 creating kudos for TROT members)!

## TRAIL GUIDES

We have revived 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](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>, 301-604-5619].]

If you would like to learn a trail listed below, contact these Trail Guides for 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](mailto:cmicek@christinamicek.com)> or phone/text 617-435-1187  
C & O canal portions (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <[cmicek@christinamicek.com](mailto:cmicek@christinamicek.com)> or phone/text 617-435-1187  
Fairland Park (Prince George's & Montgomery counties) Barbara Sollner-Webb <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)> or 301-604-5619 (h)  
Gunpowder Falls State Park (Baltimore County) Priscilla Huffman <[priscillahuffman@verizon.net](mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net)> or 301-646-4422  
Muddy Branch (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <[cmicek@christinamicek.com](mailto:cmicek@christinamicek.com)> or phone/text 617-435-1187



## TRAIL GUIDES – continued from previous page

North Tract, Patuxent Research Refuge (Anne Arundel County) Barbara Sollner-Webb <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)> or 301-604-5619 (h)  
Patapsco State Park/McKeldin (Carroll, Baltimore, Howard counties) Carolann Sharpe <[blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com](mailto:blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com)>  
Prettyboy Reservoir (Baltimore County) Priscilla Huffman <[priscillahuffman@verizon.net](mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net)> or 301-646-4422  
Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Prince George's & Montgomery counties) Barbara Sollner-Webb <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)> or 301-604-5619 (h)  
Rockburn County Park and connecting Patapsco Valley Park (Howard County) Jacquie Cowan <[jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)>  
Rosaryville Park (Prince George's County) Laura Colicchio, 301-448-8713 or <[lavenderlady19@verizon.net](mailto:lavenderlady19@verizon.net)>  
Tuckahoe (Caroline & Queen Anne's counties) Joyce Bell <[wbell2@washcoll.edu](mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu)>  
Triadelphia Reservoir (Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)> or 301-604-5619 (h)  
Wye Island (Queen Anne's County) Joyce Bell <[wbell2@washcoll.edu](mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu)>

**It would be fantastic if others might volunteer to be Trail Guides at any unlisted venue!**

## COUNTY and AREA COORDINATORS

When TROT started back in 1980, and for many years thereafter, TROT's membership and advocacy activities covered a relatively small geographic area (eastern Montgomery and Howard counties plus northeastern Prince George's County), so all members knew about and rode in basically all the area TROT covered. But as TROT expanded north, west, east and south, extending to most Maryland counties and a bit into neighboring states, no single TROT member can possibly know all the areas and venues that TROT covers, and certainly not their potential threats and possibilities. Thus, the County and Area Coordinators were instituted, to work with local members and be the "eyes and ears" on the ground. Only by knowing early-on about threats to, and possibilities for, trails and open spaces, and in a timely manner sharing those insights with other members who care and are willing to get involved, can TROT's great legacy of outreach and activism for open spaces and trails continue to be effective. Indeed, such local action is the backbone of TROT. It really illustrates the old adage: "think globally but act locally".

TROT has had – and continues to have – some outstanding County and Area Coordinators, who have done fantastic things for their local trails and open spaces. But far too many of these most important positions are now vacant. So we sometimes do not learn about threats to trails, or possibilities of expanding new trails to also include equestrian use, until it is too late. For instance, the long-time equestrian use at Greenbelt Park was lost a few years ago when TROT did not have a coordinator covering that area to learn about and report that threat before it became a fait accompli. Hopefully you are now thinking that you might like to volunteer for this critical role, but may be hesitant because your county being larger and more diverse than you could stay abreast of makes it seem too daunting. Indeed, in the past, many "County Coordinators" have focused primarily on that portion they are the most familiar with -- and that is fine! But here is another easy fix: TROT encourages you to become an "Area Coordinator" – folks who define their own boundaries (often basically the areas in which they generally ride) and offer to keep their eyes and ears open for this area. [For instance, I live at the far corner of a county that is over 20 miles long and I know almost nothing about the distant portions of, but instead frequent local riding venues that are also in the three abutting counties, so became a coordinator for this Laurel/Burtonsville area -- and in that role have led efforts which retained equestrian use at the Rocky Gorge Reservoir when it was about to be closed to riding, ditto at the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge, and to get riding permitted at the Triadelphia Reservoir – all big successes for riders.] So please volunteer to be coordinator for the area in which you ride anyway!

**Report from Montgomery County:** In addition to her other TROT roles, Christina Micek kindly offered to temporarily step in as a Montgomery County Coordinator, and at the recent board meeting reported two great successes:

(1) Signs between Riley's Lock and Edwards Ferry along the C&O Canal continued to prevent horse access due to a Fall 2020 resurfacing of the canal trail. These were put up by National Park Service (NPS), who services the C&O canal. Considering that the resurfacing should have been given enough time to cure, according to the NPS' own contractor, equestrians in Montgomery County were encouraged to write to NPS asking for there to be a review, believing these signs may still be up due to a simple oversight and lack of full staff in the office due to Covid mitigation. They were indeed still up in error, and taken down, opening up equestrian access to our summer riding trails in DNR's McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area and Seneca Greenway.

(2) Montgomery County Parks has been vigorously improving and updating their fantastic website. Christina discovered that its presentation of the Pepco/Exelon multi-use trail accidentally left off the designation as including equestrian use, which impacts search functions and being listed under "equestrian activity" lists from the parks. Christina also noticed that the Muddy Branch/Blockhouse Point River road parking area was not designated as available for trailer parking, as well as a parking area for Hoyles Mill Trail in Boyds. The park department quickly fixed both issues. The Pepco trail for those who are interested, runs from Gaithersburg to Muddy Branch and is to continue to near Montgomery Mall, is intended for hikers, bikes, walkers and equestrians. TROT was very active in getting this created. Montgomery County Parks now showing this "Powerline Trail" as for equestrian use again honors the work that TROT has put into it. Super!

**Report from Laurel/Burtonsville Area:** from Area Coordinator, Barbara Sollner-Webb:

WSSC continues to be a great partner, encouraging residents to enjoy WSSC's outdoor treasure, the Rocky Gorge Reservoir -- and its wonderful 18-mile equestrian trail, which they are now maintaining, too. Yay! As in many past years, we would like to again offer the WSSC Watershed crew an appreciation luncheon, on some day of their choosing (maybe in August?) If you would like to be part of this fun luncheon, please let me know (<[bsw@jjimi.edu](mailto:bsw@jjimi.edu)> or 301-604-5619 -home or 301-655-3552 -cell and text).

We are also attempting to learn more about the reported administrative restructuring of the Patuxent Research Refuge and, should it impinge on the riding offerings there, to hopefully avert any losses. If anyone reading this has or can get more input, please do let us know!

**Report from Baltimore County:** from County Coordinator, Priscilla Huffman:

We are fortunate at Gunpowder Falls State Park, along with other state parks, to have very responsive Maryland Park Service rangers and maintenance crew. Recently, some trees were removed from a path near the Bunker Hill parking lot which enabled riders to use a trail that has not been accessible for several months. We held a TROT ride on those trails, and I also led two other informal trail rides as well. Volunteers have been busy on the Panther Branch trail as well as Gunpowder North, keeping the trails clipped and cut back for horses. We work both on foot and with clippers from horseback. We are grateful for both the park staff and volunteer staff in keeping our trails rideable!

## WHO'S WHO IN TROT

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL	PHONE
<b>President</b>	Carolann Sharpe	< <a href="mailto:trotpresident@gmail.com">trotpresident@gmail.com</a> >	410-908-5599
<b>Vice President</b>	Janet Whelan	< <a href="mailto:celticfrost214@gmail.com">celticfrost214@gmail.com</a> >	410-790-1044
<b>Secretary</b>	Liz Ousley	< <a href="mailto:lousley13@gmail.com">lousley13@gmail.com</a> >	240-593-7002
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ivy Smink	< <a href="mailto:trottreasurer@gmail.com">trottreasurer@gmail.com</a> >	443-974-5896
<b>Additional Board members</b>	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< <a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a> >	301-604-5619
	Christina Micek	< <a href="mailto:Christina.Micek@natgeo.com">Christina.Micek@natgeo.com</a> >	617-435-1187
	Joyce Bell	< <a href="mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu">wbell2@washcoll.edu</a> >	410-820-6002
	Meggan Whalen	< <a href="mailto:meggan.whalen@yahoo.com">meggan.whalen@yahoo.com</a> >	
	Susan Gray	< <a href="mailto:susan@campususan.com">susan@campususan.com</a> >	240-426-1655
<b>License Plate</b>	Sandy Boyd	< <a href="mailto:ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com">ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com</a> >	301-257-5177
<b>Newsletter</b>	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< <a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a> >	301-604-5619
<b>Trail Rides</b>	<i>[Barbara Sollner-Webb]</i>	<i>[&lt;<a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a>&gt;]</i>	<i>[301-604-5619]</i>
<b>Trail Work</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS</b>			
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	Jacque Cowan	< <a href="mailto:jacquecowan@comcast.net">jacquecowan@comcast.net</a> >	923-6157 410-215-4979
<b>Baltimore</b>	Priscilla Huffman	< <a href="mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net">priscillahuffman@verizon.net</a> >	301-646-4422
<b>Carroll</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>Cecil</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>Frederick</b>	Deborah Wagner		TEXT: 301-233-7738
<b>Harford</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>Howard</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>Laurel/Burtonsville</b>	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< <a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a> >	301-604-5619
<b>Montgomery</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>Prince George's</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>Queen Anne's</b>	Joyce Bell	< <a href="mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu">wbell2@washcoll.edu</a> >	410-820-6002
<b>St. Mary's</b>	<i>[volunteer wanted]</i>		
<b>Talbot</b>	Joyce Bell	< <a href="mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu">wbell2@washcoll.edu</a> >	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 define some area that you feel comfortable getting more involved with and volunteer to be its coordinator! The Trail Riders Coordinator and Trail Work Coordinator also need permanent volunteers – please consider being that person! (see page 3).

## 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](mailto:ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com)> or call/text me on 301-257-5177, and I will help you with the process.



## TROT INFORMATION

TROT Website: <[www.trot-md.org](http://www.trot-md.org)>

TROT has two Facebook pages;

(1) the "official" page for members:

<[www.facebook.com/Trail.Riders.of.Today](http://www.facebook.com/Trail.Riders.of.Today)> and

(2) the "community" page:

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

TROT Newsletter archives: <[www.trot-md.org/newsletter](http://www.trot-md.org/newsletter)>

Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>)

## The Newsletter Needs Your Input

Please, send information, news and photos for the newsletter to the editor, at <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto: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 **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

## A Vacation With Your Horse

### Vacation with your horse at **VALLEY MEADOW FARMS** — a bed & barn trails getaway —

ENJOY 400 PRIVATE ACRES • 20 MILES OF TRAILS THRU FIELDS and FORESTS • on SIDELING HILL in WESTERN MARYLAND • 4-BDRM FARMHOUSE with BARN/PADDOCK

<mailto:kathy@valleymeadowfarms.com>

301-678-6584 -- Hancock, MD

<http://valleymeadowfarms.com/>



*photo from a ride at  
Valley Meadow Farms*

## 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>](mailto:Roxy@SweetRockStables.com).

## Great Boarding Abutting Ag Farm

Millhaven, a beautiful, well-maintained full-board farm in Derwood (near Olney), will have stalls available in August. Farm backs directly up to protected fields and trails and the Ag History Farm Park. We're mostly middle-aged and senior pleasure riders and the farm atmosphere is relaxed and non-competitive. Lighted indoor arena w/ no-dust footing connects directly to barn — no need to go outside in inclement weather — lighted outdoor, hot water wash stall, tack and bathroom heated in winter. Staff lives IN the barn in residences built over stalls — we really do provide 24/7 care. Check out our website: [<www.millhavenhorsefarm.com>](http://www.millhavenhorsefarm.com). Board is \$700 monthly for general turnout. Contact: Diana at 301-963-0630 or at [<millhaven@earthlink.net>](mailto:millhaven@earthlink.net).



*photo of Millhaven fields*

## 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>](mailto:1ecofarmer@gmail.com), [grazydays.com](http://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>](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net).

## SPECIAL THANKS!!!

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 Christina Micek, Joyce Bell, Susan Gray, Ivy Smink, and Denis Webb. You guys are wonderful!



**TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY**

TROT Membership  
PO Box 425  
Finksburg, MD 21048

***Inside this issue:***

Come to the TROT picnic – Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 12-3, McKeldin Park  
Welcoming TROT's New Secretary, Liz Ousley  
But Many Volunteers Still Needed -- Please Step Up!  
Useful trails Information  
TROT Articles on: Trail Use, Erickson, Patapsco, MAGLEV  
Protecting Yourself Against Ticks (Lyme)  
TROT's Numerous Recent Trail Rides  
The Future of TROT Rides  
Trail Guides  
TROT Information  
Ads for Stuff you Can Use

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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](http://TROT-MD.org)>).