

Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails for equestrian use.

www.trot-md.org

trot

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

September, 2021

Founded 1980

Number 242

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Carolann Sharpe

Horseback riding is such a versatile sport. Each time of the year has so many unique and fun things to do. Everyone has their favorite thing to do with their horses. Did you take your horse out on the trails over the summer and enjoy the chilly water of a water crossing? Did you ride up within feet of a deer and wonder why they don't spook when you are on horseback? Did you ride to a favorite restaurant or spot in the woods and have a picnic? Did you work in the indoor or outdoor arenas perfecting your jumps, trot or trail obstacle skills?

I spent many weekends with my friends, camping and trail riding all over Maryland, swimming the horses and riding to our favorite restaurants. We have so many memories and laughs to reflect on until next year. As summer begins to slip away, there are new favorite things to look forward to.

Do you love the smell of the autumn leaves come October and November? Do you start planning that spectacular Horse Costume for Halloween events? Are you buying jingle bells and red and green horse pads for Christmas parades? This year, the Mayor's Parade will be on again and hopefully once again we at TROT can represent our beautiful animals (and our hobby). I am one of those people that loves cold weather. Bring on the snow and snow days. I love the sound of the new snow crunching under my horse's hooves as we ride our fields, pulling a sled behind him giving friends' kids and grandkids a horse drawn sled ride.

It would seem no matter what the season or the weather, we can find something magical to do with our horses. Let's enjoy the new season; let's contribute to the health and welfare of the trails.

TROT NEEDS YOU TO VOLUNTEER...

TROT is now up to over 200 members, which is a great resurgence from a year ago, but no where near to the nearly 1,000 members it reportedly had in earlier decades or even the near 400 members it had in recent years. Yet trails and advocacy for trail and open space are needed now more than ever. And our numbers are critical in consideration elected and agency officials give to our advocacy for trails and open spaces. So please, encourage your riding buddies to join TROT. And please consider getting more involved with TROT yourself -- to help TROT help all of us have great riding trails for years to come!

... as a Board Officer

Probably the best way to help guide TROT in the direction you feel the most beneficial to trails and open space would be to become a board member -- and fortuitously, three board positions are open: one unrestricted board member and two who will be the Secretary and the Treasurer, respectively. For more info on these positions and to volunteer, contact <TROTactivity@yahoo.com> or go to this link: <<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdU3NJZwEodUzqS4ZcuCXXkBFKpauTvan6mBzq4-eTLPOslw/viewform>> (see TROT President's Sept 15th email).

After all nominees are in and approved by the "Selection Committee" -- consisting of two board members (Carolann Sharpe and Janet Whalen) and two other TROT members (Luida Galinaitis and Judy Thacher), as mandated by the TROT bylaws -- you will be sent a ballot. Membership voting for the Board members and Elected Officer candidates will begins on November 15th and end December 15th.

[continued on next page]

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

We hope everyone enjoys riding in this gorgeous fall weather. 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 (ideally also what others left). Thanks!

... for other key positions - continuation of "Volunteers article from previous page

But there are MANY other TROT volunteer positions that need your help. These include (for a description of these positions, see the last newsletter in your files, or it will soon be posted at www.trot-md.org):

- Area Coordinator for any area you wish to designate
- County Coordinator for Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's or any county not listed on p. 8
- IT Guru (i.e., webmaster, management of historical data) ← **REALLY NEEDED!!**
- Trail Ride Coordinator ← **REALLY NEEDED!** (see p. 6)
- Trail Work Coordinator (see p. 6)
- TROT-owned Equipment Inventory
- Logo Wear Coordinator
- Action Committee

PLEASE step up for one of these!

See more extensive write-up of these positions in the last newsletter (that should soon be available at www.trot-md.org). To volunteer, and for more info, please contact TROTactivity@yahoo.com.

TROT's GREAT PICNIC IN THE PARK

On Sunday August 8th, TROT held a DELIGHTFUL membership picnic at the McKeldin area of Patapsco Valley State Park. If you came, you surely concur with that positive assessment; if you didn't come, you missed a swell time. The weather was perfect; the company great, the food totally yummy; and the talk on acupuncture by local vet and acupuncture specialist, Kerry Murphy, was MOST interesting! In fact, it was so interesting that we got Kerry to agree to



[Vet Kerry Murphy giving talk on acupuncture and some of the meeting attendees]

give a somewhat expanded version of this talk for a meeting of the entire TROT membership, probably sometime in the fall (and now with the delta resurgence, probably virtual). Stay tuned! At the picnic, there was also a raffle for baskets of goodies and president Carolann Sharpe gave an update of TROT activities. Thank you super much to Kerry for the fascinating talk, and to all the super folks on the organizing committee who put this event together!

TROT AT "HORSELAND" AT THE MARYLAND STATE FAIR

This year's Maryland State Fair (August 26-September 6) again had a "Horseland" tent, at which TROT again had a booth (organized by Carolann Sharpe, which many great volunteers helped run). They felt it was a most worthwhile effort, helping educate a good number of (hopefully) future horse people about horses and trail riding. For instance, we heard that an attendee at last year's fair, who evidently had not thought much about horses before talking to the TROT members and others at the Horseland tent, is now active in horse therapeutics. As we all age, we need to educate future horse-people and trail riders.

PATAPSCO REGIONAL GREENWAY – Sykesville to McKeldin new trail

As reported in more detail in the last TROT newsletter, efforts are underway to expand the current 12-miles of the envisioned 40-mile Patapsco Regional Greenway by adding an 8-mile Sykesville to McKeldin segment, in southeastern Carroll County. Currently, the preferred route for the segment most relevant to us trail riders runs south of the League of Maryland Horsemen, between Henrynton Road and the Patapsco River.

There will be a virtual public meeting on this on Thursday, September 30th at 6 PM; publicinput.com/prgsykesville, and later you can hear a recording of it there. You can also provide your comments by emailing prgsykesville@PublicInput.com.

Also, if anyone who lives/boards/rides near there might like to be a spokesperson for TROT on this project, please contact Joyce Bell of the Action Committee, at wbell2@washcoll.edu.



FASCINATING TROT MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

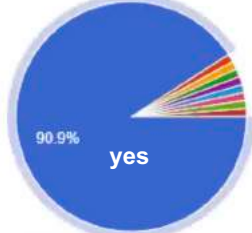
Wanting TROT's actions to reflect the membership's desires, the membership was sent a survey asking your feelings on: 1- wearing helmets when riding at TROT events, 2- TROT again offering a membership directory, 3- the importance of potential TROT activities, and 4- preferred method(s) of contact. This survey, sent out on July 21st and open for 28 days, had a gratifyingly high response rate (well over 40%). TROT's membership has significantly turned over since such topics were last surveyed, and it is impressive how cohesive and consistent the membership's feelings remain on most of these issues. Once some IT glitches are resolved, the results of the entire survey, including all responders' individual comments (with names and address information excluded), should be posted on a members-only section of TROT's website. But until then, here are the key results. In all pie charts, blue = "yes", red = "no", and the small wedges of other colors = specific "other" responses. And since the red and blue look about equally grey if printed on some black and white printers, I added "yes" and "no" to the pie chart wedges, too.

Topic 1: Helmets

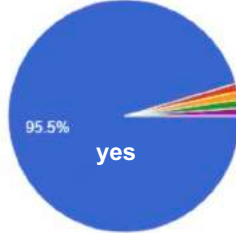
Do you think helmets should be required for all mounted TROT activities?



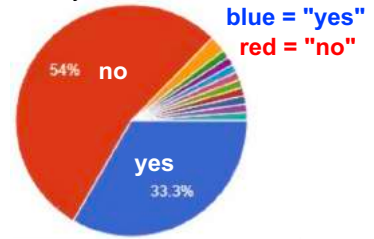
Do you think riders under the age of 18 should be required to wear a helmet at all mounted TROT activities?



Would you be willing to wear a helmet, if required, for a mounted TROT event?



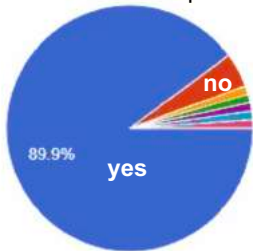
Would you be willing to lead a TROT trail ride if participants were not required to wear a helmet on your led ride?



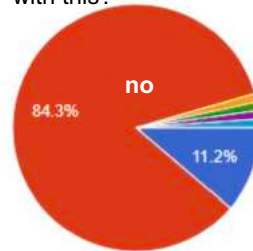
What do you think TROT's obligations are as a trail riding and advocacy organization regarding helmet use?
[85 different, specific, very thoughtful answers to this question were received]

Topic 2: Membership Directory

Do you see value in having a TROT Membership Directory?



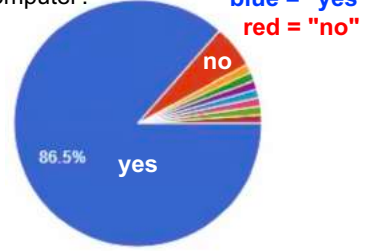
If implemented, each member could choose to be included or not, and which information to include. Do you see any issue with this?



If we develop a TROT Membership Directory, would you be interested in having your information included?

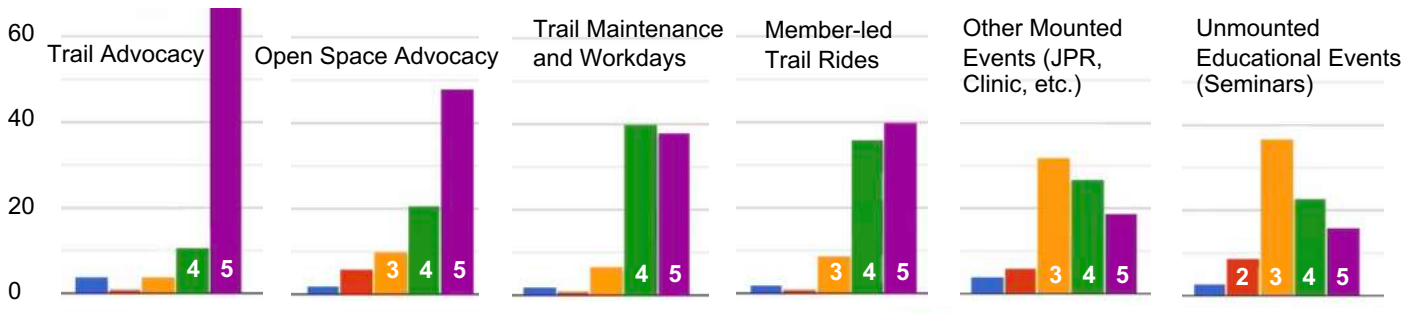


If we distributed such a directory, would a PDF version suffice, which would be free and could be printed from your home computer?

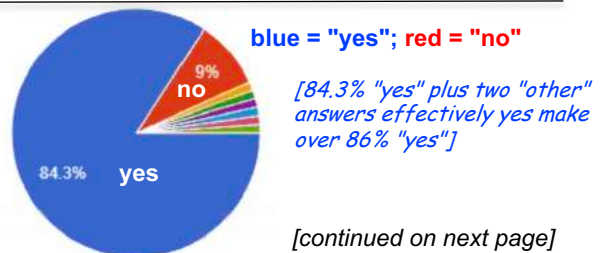


Topic 3: Importance of Activities

Rate each of the following based on how important you think it is that TROT conduct the activities on a scale of 1 (not important = left, blue bar) to 5 (very important = right, purple bar).

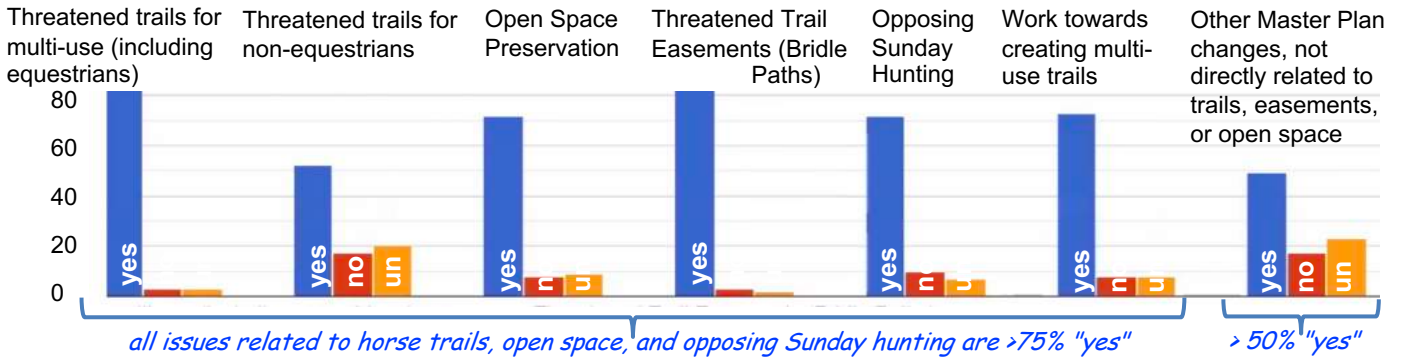


If you chose trail and open space advocacy, often getting membership to work together on writing or calling campaigns, showing up, and helping raise funds for things like horse engineered bridges can be effective. Do you want to be notified about issues or venues where our advocacy can help to save or create trails and open space?



continued Topic 3: Importance of Activities

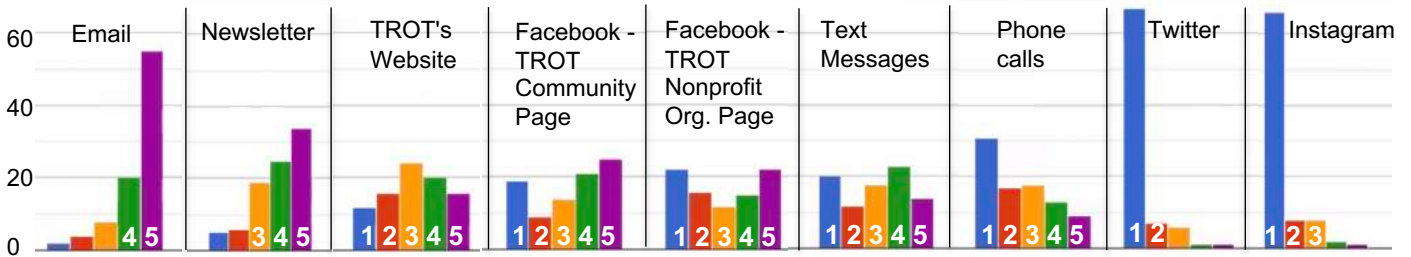
Sometimes the TROT board must act quickly to impact an area of concern. As a TROT member, would you feel comfortable allowing the TROT Board to automatically take action on things that fall into these general areas without petitioning the TROT members first? **blue (left) = "yes"**, **red (middle) = "no"**, **orange (right) = "undecided" ("un")**



Are there any areas, in addition to those listed in the previous question, that you would like to provide advance approval to the TROT Board to act on your behalf? [21 different answers were provided]

Topic 4: Contact Preferences

Rate your preference for how TROT should reach the membership. Select your response based on the scale of 1 to 5 where **1 (left, blue) means you do not use this method** and **5 (right, purple) means you rely solely on this method**.



The TROT board has not yet discussed how the outcome of this survey will mold TROT's activities and advocacy, which surely should reflect the members' desires (and were in part put on hold this year, pending determining current members' feelings). Stay tuned! Happily, a diligent TROT member with experience in assembling membership directories has already volunteered to spearhead this effort, so hopefully that can move forward rapidly.

REQUESTED INPUT ON POSSIBLE HELMETS FOR MINORS LEGISLATION

Spearheaded by Delegate Mary Lehman, the 21st delegation in Annapolis is considering proposing legislation requiring minors to wear helmets when riding horses, possibly limited to riding on public lands and possibly exempting shows in disciplines where helmets are traditionally not utilized. [Note that for years, Maryland has had such a helmet requirement for minors riding bicycles.] Back in June, Delegate Lehman asked TROT, the Maryland Horse Council, and other organizations for their members' input on such proposed legislation. Many of you may have already responded to the MHC's membership survey on this, in which nearly 90% of the responders favored such legislation -- so the MHC is already working with Delegate Lehman to draft the text.] The majority of the TROT board wanted to defer asking our members until after receiving and analyzing the results of the above-summarized survey -- which showed over 90% of TROT responders (which numbered well over 40% of TROT's then-membership) feel riders under the age of 18 should be required to wear a helmet at all mounted TROT activities. We now want to ask TROT members for any specific input they may have about this proposed legislation, which we would share with Delegate Lehman; please send any comments to your newsletter editor (Barbara Sollner-Webb, <bsw@jhmi.edu>) or tell me by telephone (301-604-5619).

EASILY MAKE MONEY FOR TROT *from Ivy Smink*

TROT is now registered with AmazonSmile as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization! AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to TROT. It is an easy way to donate to TROT at no cost to you while you shop for the things you need. How to donate: Activate <smile.amazon.com> through your web browser at shop AmazonSmile. Before shopping select "Trail Riders of Today" as your charitable organization. Now, start shopping! Shopping AmazonSmile will have the same prices and selection as <Amazon.com> but with the added benefit of the ability to donate to charitable organizations.

Thanks to several astute TROT volunteers for suggesting this.

LETTER FROM THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL TO TROT'S MEMBERSHIP ON POSSIBLE TRAIL ACCESS LEGISLATION

Dear TROT members,

As many of you will have seen in recent issues of The Equiry, the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) convened a task force over the summer to advise the MHC Government Relations committee on issues related to the shared use of public land. TROT's own Joyce Bell is an active – and exceptionally valuable – member of our task force.

One of the task force's proposals to the Government Relations committee was to pursue legislation requiring anyone who leases Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-managed property to mow and maintain a border around the leasehold to allow the public to access trail heads and to help first responders reach trail users in need. Current DNR leases sometimes require an access border and sometimes don't, and because there is no statutory requirement that they do, DNR's policies are subject to change at any time depending on the priorities of DNR leadership.

We are happy to report that MHC's Government Relations committee has secured a sponsor for legislation to make access borders a statutory requirement and thus not subject to enforcement discretion of DNR. The intent of the legislation will be for: ... **any agricultural lease(s) on DNR-managed properties – including parks, forests, wildlife management areas, natural environmental areas, natural resource management areas, and Maryland wildlands – require tenants to mow and maintain a border around the leasehold sufficient in size to permit unobstructed access to trail heads by trail users and first responders.** The potential legislation is now working its way through the General Assembly's drafting process, and we expect it to be pre-filed and ready to go on the first day of the 2022 session.

This autumn, MHC will be reaching out to first responder organizations as well as non-equestrian users of the trail systems to ensure robust, multi-user, public support for access borders. We would and will be most grateful for TROT's willingness to join us in our outreach effort. And we are cautiously optimistic that access borders will be non-controversial and possibly even a fairly easy legislative lift. One can always hope!

Happy trails to you all. [from] Kimberly K. Egan, MHC Co-President (also a new TROT member)

SPEAK OUT ON A PRECEDENT CONVERTING SUPPOSEDLY "PRESERVED" AG LAND INTO DEVELOPED LAND *from members of the Action Committee*

As discussed in the previous TROT newsletter, the Erickson project is a policy-changing intensification plan spearheaded by a number of well-connected Howard County developers to put a high intensity "Senior community" (1400 dwelling units plus other stuff) at the corner of Rt 108 and Sheppard's Lane in Clarksville -- on land west of Rt 108 that is part of the middle Patuxent headwaters. Historically, this land has been in "agricultural preservation," part in the State's supposedly "permanent" agricultural preservation program. Somehow, a couple of years ago, that land -- prime preserved farmland (and thus developable land) -- was "magically" released from that program and "swapped" for undevelopable land. Based on a 2017 change to the State ag preservation program, opponents to the Erickson project see the placement of this project as the critical first step in starting to turning the primarily agricultural western half of Howard County into development corridors, through release from ag easements.

It is hard to provide a precise update on this project because as far as we can ascertain, no private citizens know where the project stands. The case was "closed" in the summer, and under County regulations, once a case is "closed," the proposed project cannot be modified, with the only thing left in the proceedings being for the deciding body (here the County Council acting as the Zoning Board) to make a decision approving or rejecting the zoning for the project. However, in this land deal, after the case was "closed," the developers requested a major modification to the project. Although the Council formally rejected this in a public proceeding, now it appears that the "Plan" that the Council will eventually vote on is essentially the developers' modified "Plan," which the Council just formally rejected. Who knows?

One thing that can be definitively said for the proposed project is that the entire approval/denial process, from 2017 on, has been fraught with "procedural irregularities." Two current County Council members, Liz Walsh (Elkridge) and Deb Young (Columbia), both attorneys, have struggled tirelessly -- but unfortunately usually not successfully -- to make sure the process has had a bit of fairness and due process. The other three members, Christiana Rigby (Columbia), David Youngman (western Howard County) and Opal Jones (Columbia), seem much more inclined to get this project approved, regardless of the legal requirements and fairness of the process. Because of Zoning Board rules, you cannot explicitly mention the Erickson project to the councilmembers. But if you are concerned about protecting ag land (in Howard County, which could well become a precedent to other regions of the state) and about procedural fairness -- whether you are a Howard County resident or not -- contact each of the above Council members (addresses easy to pull up on Goggle) and tell them what is important to you, as revisions to the Howard County General Plan are currently in the works. The Erickson project appears a critical foot in the door in facilitating sweeping land use changes on vast areas that are in supposedly "permanently preserved" farmland and open space.

NICE CALL-OUT FOR HORSES

Hopefully everyone noticed in "Destination Maryland: the Official Maryland Travel Magazine", a fairly thick booklet that recently arrived in the mail, right after the contents is a full-page ad for Maryland horses and equestrian sports, especially trail riding! Good horse PR! The top of that page is shown here. →

p. 5

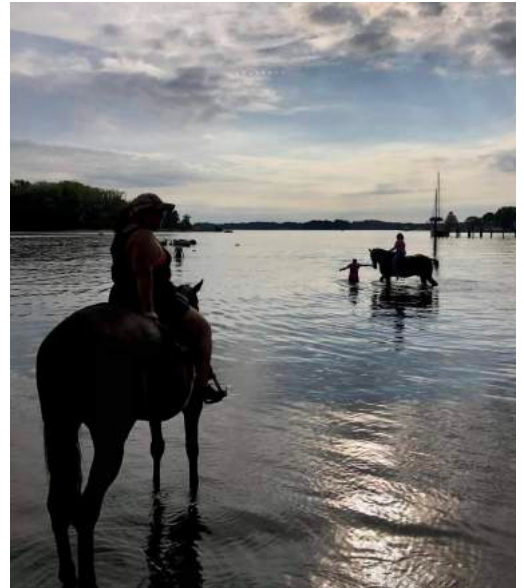


TROT TRAIL RIDES *from Barbara Sollner-Webb, past trail ride coordinator*

Unlike previous September TROT newsletters, which always had multiple pages reporting recent TROT trail rides, since the last newsletter there was only one TROT ride. But it sure sounds great, a "pony swim"! (see below). The ride I was going to lead (at Fairland Regional Park in eastern Montgomery County), was unfortunately rained out. [And lacking contact info, I could not email or phone TROT members to try to set up more rides.]

Past Ride: Pony Swim at High Tide Farm *from ride leader, Carolann Sharpe*

On August 15th, TROT hosted a PONY SWIM at High Tide Farm in Pasadena, for the third time. This is the perfect place to test out what your horse's opinion of "Swimming" and water is. We had over 20 riders, and in that mix was a group of eight teens and their riding instructor. As much as my horse Ares and I LOVE swimming and this location, listening to the children giggle and screech with delight was 10 times more fun. After the two hours of water play, against the beautiful blue sky dotted with white clouds, and power boats and sail boats just yards away from us, we sat down for snacks and drinks and talked about our amazing day and our equine partners in crime. This is what living is all about!. Join us next year – or call High Tide Farm to schedule your own weekend adventure.



Upcoming Trail Ride: Wye Island, Sunday, October 17th

from ride leader, Joyce Bell

The Wye Island Trail Ride will be about 2-3 hours. Depending on the time frame, lunch might be on the trail or back at the trailers, but if you pack a lunch, you'll be covered either way. This ride will accommodate all riding levels. There will be opportunities for horses to break off from the group to move out and then rejoin the group. This is a great ride for green horses -- no surprises: flat ground, grass, fields, dirt road. Sorry, water is not available. Contact Joyce at <wbell2@washcoll.edu> for more information, including to learn the starting time and meeting location, and to sign up.

TROT Trail Ride Coordinator Needed – PLEASE volunteer

TROT is looking for a trail ride coordinator, ideally someone who can use social media to schedule rides. For decades TROT had a robust trail ride program, and it would be super for someone to revive that. PLEASE volunteer at <trotactivity@yahoo.com>.

TRAIL GUIDES

TROT does have "Trail Guides", thoughtful TROT members who have volunteered to show other TROT members their favorite trails on an individual basis. See the previous newsletter for a listing of the venues that are covered by this program, with the contact info to reach each trail guide. But many venues are not now covered, so PLEASE volunteer to be a Trail Guide for your favorite venue. Contact <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 to volunteer.

TRAIL WORK FOR ALL TROT RIDERS

TROT encourages all TROT members to do AT LEAST four hours of trail-related work this season. It can be as easy as breaking branches and clipping vines while you ride. Please report your work hours to <trotactivity@yahoo.com>, giving your full name and the location and date of the work. These self-reported volunteer hours will be relayed to the park officials and are important as they generate increased funding for the parks (as well as creating kudos for TROT members)!

TROT is also hoping that someone will volunteer as Trail Work Coordinator, another VERY important position, key to TROT's mission to maintain sustainable trails. Please consider volunteering, at <trotactivity@yahoo.com>!

SAD NEWS: WESTMINSTER HAY ACTION ENDS

info from Judy Thacher

Judy sent the sad news that the decades-old hay auction in Westminster, where so many of us have gotten hay in past years, is no longer happening. It is the end of an era!

COUNTY and AREA COORDINATOR REPORTS

When TROT started back in 1980, and for many years thereafter, TROT's membership and advocacy activities covered a small enough geographic area (eastern Montgomery and Howard counties plus northeastern Prince George's County) that all members knew about and rode in basically the entire area that 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, illustrating 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 very 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 if you are hesitant because your county seems larger than you feel you could stay abreast of, TROT encourages you to become an "Area Coordinator", defining the boundary of this area (which can be simply the areas in which you generally ride). So please volunteer, at [<trotactivity@yahoo.com>](mailto:trotactivity@yahoo.com)!

Report from Carroll County: In addition to her other TROT roles, Ivy Smink kindly offered to temporarily step in as a Carroll County Coordinator, and reports:

Gillis Falls Trail: Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks (CCRP) held a meeting 8/13/2021 to provide an update on the Gillis Falls Trail Project. Initiated in 2005, it has now received funding from the 2020 5-year plan. The proposed 1.1-mile trail, designated for hiking, biking, and equestrian use, will consist of a 10-foot wide, stone dust base trail connecting Salt Box Park Center and the Carroll County Equestrian Center. No motorized bikes or ATVs will be allowed, in keeping with the CCRP management regulations. Three bridges are planned along the trail to cross over streams and marshy areas. Phase I will focus on the planning of parking & trail development with a target of summer 2022 for trail construction. Phase II will focus on overflow parking at the Salt Box Park. CCRP is seeking suggestions from the community for bridge coating material to offset any slipperiness from mold and mildew accumulation due to the moist woods environment. Send suggestions to: [<ccrec@carrollcountymd.gov>](mailto:ccrec@carrollcountymd.gov). Attention Wm. Broze, Park Development Manager or Jeff Degitz.

Union Mills: The facelift continues at the Union Mills trails. The parking lot on the north end at Kowomu Trail has been enlarged and can now hold about 10 of 5th wheel trailers, if skillfully parked. There is a mounting block near the picnic table. The major trails are name-labeled (some short cuts are still unmarked). All access gates have been numbered. The park perimeter or outer-most equestrian trail is marked in white. The green trail starts at Kowomu parking lot and crosses the park diagonally to the south side boulevard trail (marked white). Trail marking will continue into the fall. An updated map is still in the planning phase. Volunteers are still needed to keep the trails open. Visit Carroll County Equestrian Council [<www.carrollcountycouncil.org>](http://www.carrollcountycouncil.org).

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 reports:

Little Bennett Slippery Bridge issue: Our member Leslie Prevost reported slippery bridges at Timber Ridge, Browning Run (golf course side of Clarksburg Rd), and Sidewinder Trails. Our board member spoke to Montgomery County Parks, and will be submitting a grant proposal to the Maryland Horse Industry Board to purchase and apply Deck Correct by Cabot to the bridges. We hope to partner with M-NCPPC to have an equestrian led volunteer session to get this work done if we are successful in securing the grants. **Editor's note: this is a GREAT service that Christina is doing for TROT and trail riders!**

Black Hills Regional Park: M-NCPPC is currently requesting the Planning Board to approve purchase of the Dice Property to create a new parking lot on Clarksburg Road to make a safer entrance to Cool Springs Run Trailhead. We asked if this is approved, to consider adding space for trailer parking and equestrian safe entry to the trails ([<https://tinyurl.com/772eu5z7>](https://tinyurl.com/772eu5z7)).

Meadowbrook Stables: recently added 118kW solar panels to their new covered pavilion. They then requested an extension of their lease until 2041 so the solar project could seek appropriate financing. This project helps Montgomery County meet their clean energy goals and demonstrates the park's commitment to sustainable agricultural businesses.

Ten Mile Creek: The Planning Board recently denied the Friends of Ten Mile Creek and Montgomery Countryside Alliance's bid to protect the Ten Mile Creek critical watershed from Pulte Homes site plan as written. The issue for the two groups was to decrease the square footage and placement of impervious surfaces. Their main request was characterized as reconfiguring two cu-de-sacs away from sensitive tributaries. The vote was 3-1. Casey Anderson addressed the concerns at length at the end of testimony in favor of the development, and was quite interesting. Friends of Ten Mile Creek is evaluating legal options. You can watch the proceedings here: [<https://tinyurl.com/tpzjnr4>](https://tinyurl.com/tpzjnr4) Item 11.

Report from Baltimore County: Priscilla Huffman, prior president and long-time Baltimore County Coordinator, reports:

Recent storms with high winds left many trees down near our local Gunpowder trails. We have been in touch with our park ranger about the trees across our riding and hiking trails. There is an active MD Park Service crew that will chain saw these once we send them the GPS coordinates and pictures.

[continued on next page]

A few TROT members in the Gunpowder area work consistently keeping overgrowth cut back from the trails - both from horseback and on the ground. A very large tree had been blocking the Bunker Hill/Mingo Forks trails but we have received just as this newsletter is going to print that the tree has been cut and the trail opened. Kudos to the park crew for being so responsive!

If you are looking for trails where you can move out, the Torrey C Brown trail (formerly North Central Railroad - NCR trail) is a good choice. This trail begins at Ashland Rd in Cockeysville, north of Baltimore, and extends nearly 20 miles in Maryland, from Ashland Rd to the MD-PA border. The trail is 10 feet wide with a stone dust surface. The best place for trailer parking is the last parking area in Maryland off of Freeland Rd. Going south from the parking area, there are wide grassy strips for much of the trail. Going north there is more single-tracking. The trail continues 20 additional miles in PA and ends in York PA.

The Sweet Air trails in Harford County, part of Gunpowder Park, have some muddy areas but most trails are rideable. There is a park maintenance building located in that park which does an excellent job keeping trails mowed and maintained.

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. We had hoped to this year again offer the WSSC Watershed crew an appreciation luncheon, but because of COVID they prefer to defer this until next spring at the earliest. Stay tuned, for we will be hoping TROT members will join in this event.

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
Interim Secretary	Liz Ousley	< trotsecretary@gmail.com >	240-593-7002
Treasurer	Ivy Smink	< trottreasurer@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.whalen@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
Action Committee	Barbara Sollner-Webb, Christina Micek, Joyce Bell and Susan Gray		
COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS			923-6157
Anne Arundel	Jacque Cowan	< jacquecowan@comcast.net >	410-215-4979
Baltimore	Priscilla Huffman	< priscillahuffman@verizon.net >	301-646-4422
Frederick	Deborah Wagner		TEXT: 301-233-7738
Laurel/Burtonsville	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
Queen Anne's	Joyce Bell	< wbell2@washcoll.edu >	410-820-6002
Talbot	Joyce Bell	< wbell2@washcoll.edu >	410-820-6002

Please, TROT members in **Carroll, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties** as well as other counties not listed above, 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! (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> or call/text me on 301-257-5177, and I will help you with the process.



TROT INFORMATION

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

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/>

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

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

The Newsletter Needs Your Input

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

INTERESTING INFORMATION ON POISONOUS PLANTS *info from Judy Thacher*

Judy kindly provided a link to a valuable article on plants that are toxic to horses – a very worthwhile read! Thanks, Judy!
<https://equusmagazine.com/horse-care/10-most-poisonous-plants-for-horses-8208?li_source=LI&li_medium=m2m-rcw-equusmagazine>.

SOME FAVORITE AREA RIDING VENUES

The Equiery's September issue (available at <<https://equiery.com>> is devoted to "Exploring Maryland Trails" and among other interesting articles, has surveyed readers for their favorite Maryland riding venues. They are: Fair Hill, Patapsco Valley State Park/McKeldin area, Morgan Run NEA, Gunpower Falls/Graham Equestrian Center, Gunpower Falls/Sweet Air, Rosaryville State Park, Little Bennett Regional Park, Patuxent River State Park/Annapolis Rock, Schooley Mill Park, and Patuxent River State Park/Avalon area. Notably, these are all venues where TROT has held rides in the past.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place a newsletter ad, email <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
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Leah Mack, <1ecofarmer@gmail.com>, grazydays.com

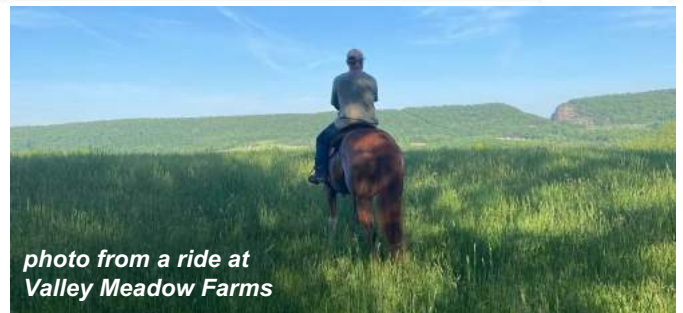


photo from a ride at Valley Meadow Farms

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)

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>.

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 Ivy Smink, Carolann Sharpe, Priscilla Huffman, Judy Thacher, Jennifer Bajackson and Denis Webb. You guys are wonderful!



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership
PO Box 425
Finksburg, MD 21048

Inside this issue:

Report on lovely TROT picnic – Sunday, August 12th, McKeldin Park

Plans for Patapsco Greenway Trail

Fascinating results of recent TROT survey

Possible Maryland bills on helmets for minors and on trail access

Many Volunteers Still Needed -- Please Step Up!

Useful trails Information

TROT Rides

TROT Information

Ads for Stuff you Can Use

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>).