

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!

November-December, 2021

Founded 1980

Number 243

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

Hopefully everyone will enjoy riding this winter! But please, do not ride the trails if the ground is wet enough that your horse leaves foot-prints! And please pick up (or move aside) your horse's poop from parking areas and paved trails (ideally also that which others have left). Thanks!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Carolann Sharpe

The weather begins to change and our riding and care for our equine partners change too. We push to get a few more multi-color leaves and tree-lined rides in. We bundle up and see our breath in the air when we are feeding in the morning. Many hang up the stirrups until March or April, being it's too cold to get out there consistently. Others pull out those favorite thermals and working gloves and ride no matter what. When I boarded my horses and only saw them a few times a month, I was driven to ride even during a Polar Vortex. I camped in a tent in the snow at a fall round up. I was not going to miss a moment with my horse. With the luxury of seeing my horses on my own property now, we can agree, we can wait until it is at least a sunny 45 degrees to ride now. It is the season our family and friends ask, "what do you want for Christmas?" and we scan our Amazon wish list for things to make our horses' lives better. We find our water bucket heaters and make sure the blankets are clean, rip free and have all their straps. We take part in the great blanketing debate with our friends. The days are shorter. The evenings are dark sooner.

I adopted my first horse in February of 2004. I had spent a grand total of 30 mins on a horse my entire life at that point. It was a cold, icy day at HorseNet Horse Rescue (now MidAtlantic Horse Rescue) and I had been volunteering only a few days at that point. A volunteer asked if I wanted to ride and I foolishly, full of fake confidence, said "yes". I was given a 17.2 18-year-old Thoroughbred who had not been a good fit for a seasoned volunteer as he was returned shortly after she adopted him. I did not know this at the time, and I also didn't know, well ANYTHING about horses. None the less, I was climbing onto this horse, with an ill-fitted saddle, no clue what I was doing. After a few moments in the saddle, the fact I was making this horse move in the direction I wanted him to go, and he was softly walking as if I was a fragile egg on his back, I immediately proclaimed, "I am adopting this horse". This time of year reminds me of him because for the most part, my visits to Buddha involved grooming, feeding and a quick up and back the driveway a few times. It was one snowy, cold day when Elle, the director of the rescue, asked if I wanted to go on a trail ride. I had never done anything other than ride up and back the driveway at this point. We saddled up Buddha and another horse, and we rode the perimeter of all the surrounding fields. The crunch of the snow under Buddha's feet was magical. The snowflakes being wind-thrown onto my cheeks electrified me with the reality of what I was doing. I was riding a horse, along a street, up a hill, through a meadow. I was trail riding, on my very own horse. To this day, riding in the snow is my favorite thing to do.

Without a doubt, Buddha was the closest to a perfect horse that ever graced this world. He was my teacher, and I would not be who and what I am today without him. He removed all my stress, all my worries, and when I rode him, it was just ME and him against the trails. I thought of nothing else but keeping the horse between me and the ground. He was my escape, and my sanity. In September, on the 9th day, 2020, Buddha laid down for his afternoon nap in his favorite place and slipped away. He was 34 and he peacefully said, goodbye. I went and sat by him, stroked his mane, his neck and I thanked him for everything he gave me.

Every time we sit on a horse, every time we engage in that moment where our moment is our communication. That understanding between an animal and a human, we take part in a connection that stretches the centuries. Horses have been a part of human existence for nearly 25,000 years. It was about 10,000 years after the first cave paintings of horses, people began using them for riding and pulling. Every equestrian is part of that legacy and that history. We are like no other sport. We are like no other athlete. Our partner is part of our soul. "A great horse will change your life, a truly remarkable one will define it" Today and always, be the person your horse thinks you are. Enjoy and have a healthy and happy end of 2021 and a new and bright beginning to 2022.

VOTE FOR TROT's DIRECTORS

At <<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLbQRGZmSG7mvbjtIDYnbRUCZr406Ce4rYGFUqcdW9uK9b8A/viewform>>, please remember to vote for TROT's directors. This form, which must be filled out by December 15th, asks for someone to volunteer to be TROT's secretary and then asks you to vote for either Janet Leitzel or Joyce Bell for Treasurer and for three of the four nominees for additional positions on the TROT board of directors: Bruno Conticello, Dawn Henry, Howard Lanham and Janet Leitzel. That GoogleForm gives a bio and photo of each. PLEASE vote! And thanks to the TROT Selection Committee for assembling this roster of candidates.

RENEW YOUR TROT MEMBERSHIP

By January 31, 2022, please renew your TROT membership, at <www.trot-md.org>, or fill out and mail in the two-page membership form on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter.

Please invite your friends and riding buddies to also join TROT. This is important because when TROT advocates for trails and open space to elected or agency officials, the more members TROT has, the more credence they give to TROT's comments.

WELCOME NEW TROT TRAIL RIDE COORDINATOR, REENA LENTZ!

TROT is delighted to announce that Reena Lentz has kindly stepped forward to become TROT's new Trail Rider Coordinator. We look forward to her efforts generating a swell 2022 trail ride program for TROT, like we had in so many past years.

Reena writes: "My name is Reena Lentz. I have been riding since I was 8 years old. I live in Thurmont. I have a bay roan quarter horse gelding. He is 13 years old. I enjoy trail riding and am working towards getting him ready to show ranch riding classes. I'm really looking forward to meeting new people and hitting the trails as much as possible."



photo from Reena



photo from Liz

WELCOME TROT'S INVENTORY GURU, LIZ WADE!

TROT thanks Liz Wade for kindly offering to coordinate our inventory. Liz describes herself as a "bolder re-rider". With her Rocky Mountain Horse, "Steely D", they do mounted archery, as well as trail riding.

THANKS, GENEROUS DONORS! from Ivy Smink

TROT's Board of Directors and all of its members wish to thank the members who donated beyond paying membership dues for 2021: Nancy Kelso, Blair Hayes, Cathy Johnson, Debbie Poole, Eleanor Fulton, Janet Leitzel, Natalia Vanderbery, Hillary Pettegreu, Dwight & Barbara Reynolds, Leigh Wintz, Mary Johnson, Yancy Carey and Sue Ann Gething. These donations help enormously with the operating costs of TROT, paying for things such as the web site, postal box, and insurance.

The Board of Directors also wish to thank all of the volunteers who have donated hours of valuable time to make things work, so TROT can continue to move forward in its mission. Thank you so much!

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE TRAILS MONEY!! BUT TROT NEEDS YOUR IDEAS FOR HOW TO SPEND IT!! from Joyce Bell

Perhaps you know of a washed-out trail or overgrown trail that needs some TLC, or a trail that needs a bridge or signage, or maybe a trail that could be linked to another trail to make a circuit. If so, please get in touch with TROT!! TROT has become aware of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which supports the maintenance and construction of motorized and non-motorized land and water trails in Maryland. But in order to follow up in writing a grant, TROT needs ideas from the membership on where money from such a grant can best be used.

This program is administered by the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT, SHA), a reimbursable grant program that matches federal funds with local funds or in-kind contributions to implement trail projects. Projects can be sponsored by a government entity or a non-profit agency. Federal funds administered by the MDOT SHA are available for up to 80% of the project cost, matched by at least 20% funding from the project sponsor. Eligible trail project activities include: construction of new trails, maintenance and restoration of trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities, lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, acquisition of easements and property for recreational trails, and assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance. Please send your ideas to Joyce, at <wbell2@washcoll.edu>.

UPCOMING HORSE EXPO

Priscilla Huffman kindly shared with us that the Horse World Expo will be happening March 3-6, 2022, at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA. See next article if you might be willing to organize or participate in representing TROT at this Harrisburg Expo

WILL YOU REPRESENT TROT AT A HORSE EVENT?

from Carolann Sharpe

We love telling new people about our club and finding new people to join is a HUGE part of what keeps our club strong. PLEASE consider chairing an event at the PA Horse Expo (at Harrisburg Convention Center March 3-6, 2022) and the Pet Expo (a 3-day event at Timonium Fairgrounds on March 23-25) to represent TROT. Carolann Sharpe has chaired these in the past years and will assist you -- including by volunteering hours to man the booth and to help with paperwork and gathering things needed for the shows -- but she can't chair the event anymore. This is a chance for someone else to learn the ropes. Please volunteer by contacting Carolann Sharpe at 410 908 5599 or <TROTPRESIDENT@gmail.com>.

PASTURE RENOVATION

Judy Thacher kindly shared a link for a valuable article on pasture renovation: <https://thehorse.com/136054/fall-renovation-of-horse-pastures/?utm_medium=Nutrition+enews&utm_source=Newsletter>. Enjoy!

TRAIL WORK FOR ALL TROT RIDERS AND A COORDINATOR NEEDED

TROT encourages all TROT members to do AT LEAST four hours of trail-related work still this year. 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. TROT's future trail work coordinator will then relay these volunteer hours to park officials; this is important as they generate increased funding for the parks (as well as creating kudos for TROT members)!

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

TRAIL GUIDES

TROT has arranged for "Trail Guides", thoughtful TROT members who have volunteered to show other TROT members their favorite trails on an individual basis. See below for a listing of the venues that are currently covered by this program. If you would like to learn one of the trails listed below, do contact these generous Trail Guides, to arrange a personally guided trail ride and/or description:

Block House Point (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <cmicek@christinamicek.com> or phone/text 617-435-1187

C & O canal portions (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <cmicek@christinamicek.com> or phone/text 617-435-1187

Fairland Park (Prince George's & Montgomery counties) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)

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

Muddy Branch (Montgomery County) Christina Micek <cmicek@christinamicek.com> or phone/text 617-435-1187

North Tract, Patuxent Research Refuge (Anne Arundel County) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)

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

Prettyboy Reservoir (Baltimore County) Priscilla Huffman <priscillahuffman@verizon.net> or 301-646-4422

Rocky Gorge Reservoir (Prince George's & Montgomery counties) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)

Rockburn County Park and connecting Patapsco Valley Park (Howard County) Jacquie Cowan <jacquiecowan@comcast.net>

Rosaryville Park (Prince George's County) Laura Colicchio, 301-448-8713 or <lavenderlady19@verizon.net>

Tuckahoe (Caroline & Queen Anne's counties) Joyce Bell <wbell2@washcoll.edu>

Triadelphia Reservoir (Montgomery County) Barbara Sollner-Webb <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 (h)

Wye Island (Queen Anne's County) Joyce Bell <wbell2@washcoll.edu>

However, many excellent riding venues are no longer covered, so PLEASE volunteer to be a Trail Guide for your favorite venue. Contact <bsw@jhmi.edu> or 301-604-5619 to volunteer.

Wheaton Park Stables: Community pleads with officials to keep beloved 60 year-old horse farm and stables from closing

Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission (MNCPP) in Montgomery County is considering changes to their Master Plan for Wheaton Regional Park. Part of the discussion is around repurposing the property that the 60-year old Wheaton Park Stables (WPS) currently leases. In a public meeting, the county said that while WPS is safe short-term, it is keeping its options open to re-purpose the privately-operated WPS to a different use of the 27 acres (new Brookside nature center building, create urban agricultural facility or community gardens) at some point in the future when renovation costs may prove too expensive to consider. I would like to know about a comparison of costs between renovating the horse farm main buildings versus rebuilding a brand-new nature center on the site which was proposed.

It would be tragic if a change was made to this Silver Spring stable, as it is walking distance from a densely populated suburban area and accessible by two metro stops. It provides many opportunities for youth and adults alike to experience horses and farm life. They offer trail and pony rides, riding lessons, pony birthday parties and therapeutic riding opportunities to the Silver Spring and greater DMV area at very low prices. Their property is open to all visitors.

The proposal presented in a meeting in September acknowledged that prior public comment did request that the stables and horse farm be retained, and during the meeting, multiple participants articulated support for the equestrian center. Some actually asked for added picnic areas on the equestrian center to enjoy the bucolic experience of the equestrian center. Impacts for equestrians that were presented were not only a possible long-term plan to replace the horse farm, but also changing equestrian only trails to multi-modal including mountain biking, and creating equestrian only safe trails on the horse farm property itself for beginner and therapeutic riding participants to ride safe trails without other users interfering with less experienced riders. The Wheaton Regional Park trails about the Northwest Branch equestrian trails.

Learn more: You can learn more about this at <<https://www.wheatonparkstables.com/>>; on the bottom of that page you will find links. You can watch the MNCPP public meeting here: <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3epuvWA598>> (jump to 1:13:55 for Equestrian Center brief conversation). Also <<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/wrp>>. And watch Fox 5 special, at: <<https://www.fox5dc.com/news/montgomery-county-community-pleads-with-officials-to-keep-beloved-stables-from-closing>>.

And get involved: Please give your support in encouraging Montgomery County Parks to retain this historic horse farm by contacting Master Planner at 301-495-2184 or at <Charles.Kines@montgomeryparks.org>. The stable also created a [Change.org](https://www.change.org) petition (<<https://tinyurl.com/yaryd959>>) you can sign.

The Potomac Hunt:

The Potomac Hunt had a lovely blessing of the hounds on Thanksgiving morning at the Kiplinger house on Montevideo Rd. at 10 AM. A gorgeous sight to see!

Montgomery County Ag Reserve:

The Montgomery County Council member Tom Hucker introduced a ZTA 21-08 to allow multiple rural zones within the ag reserve to be open to commercial landscape contractors with scant conditions. County staff clearly laid out reasons in the Planning Board meeting why landscape contractor operations are currently a conditional use in Montgomery County and also in surrounding jurisdictions, and recommended that the Planning Board oppose the ZTA. This was due to multiple needs for conditions, and violations and complaints associated with this type of business. The ZTA 21-08 would have removed planning board approval and conditions from the process completely and would increase the industrialization of reserved agricultural areas. The ZTA was ultimately withdrawn from Councilman Hucker.

Little Bennett Regional Park:

If the final designs are approved, construction will begin in 2022 on a day use area, approximately 65 acres on the western edge of the park, located at 23701 Frederick Road (MD 355) in Clarksburg, to welcome people and provide them with an overview of the natural and cultural interpretive opportunities of the park. The site consists primarily of rolling hills, open meadow areas, stream valleys, and edge ecosystems that provide valuable non-forested habitats. The culturally rich and ecologically diverse landscape provides a unique setting for the project.



TROT COMBINING EFFORTS WITH EQUINE LAND RESOURCE CONSERVATION (ELRC) TO PROTECT LAND

from Christina Micek

Recently, TROT has become a partner in conservation with Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR). With development encroaching on open lands all throughout the US and Maryland, horse enthusiasts are rightly concerned about where they will ride and compete, keep and raise their horses, and grow hay.

ELCR's mission focuses on conserving land for equines, and uses its partners in conservation to further the reach of efforts for protection. They also provide important resources on land law, easement preservation, equine-friendly community planning, recreational access to public and private land, and best management principles.

We are very excited to be partnering with this fantastic organization for the 2022 fiscal year and possibly beyond.

Check out their articles & newsletter at <https://elcr.org/whats-new/>.

To illustrate how valuable their articles are, look at this representative one in trail access, below.

SWELL INFO FROM ELRC: Horse Trail Access – Protect It Or Lose It

By Denise O'Meara

Setting out on the trail with your horse is a magic moment. The promise of quiet solitude, the beauty of nature, relaxing with friends, the companionship of a beloved horse and enjoying a bit of adventure are all part of the attraction of trail riding.

How did this inviting trail become available to you? Did you develop a relationship with the landowner or manager, or is there any relationship at all? Good relations with both public land trail managers and private landowners are imperative. Do you have a written agreement or an informal understanding? And do you show your respect for the owner/manager by using trails responsibly?

Just as trail riding contributes to your happiness quotient, treating the land with respect contributes to the durability and availability of your trail. You should know the condition of your trails before you ride, especially during inclement weather. Thoughtlessly slogging through wet areas can cause extensive damage and create unsafe conditions. And it can lead to loss of trail access.

It's not uncommon for a private landowner to deny access to existing trails on their land, posting the dreaded No Horses Here sign. Public land managers, citing damage to sensitive lands, post Access Denied notices. Disappointing, yes; and often irreversible.

Education and proper stewardship are critical to maintaining trail access for horsemen. With support from the AQHA STEP program, ELCR has partnered with *Tread Lightly!*, a national organization concerned land stewardship, to launch the "Respected Access is Open Access" campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to educate trail riders and promote responsible stewardship of trails in order to protect access.

How does careless use of trails affect the owner and the land? And how can you prevent closure of your trails?

The Cycle of Erosion

Riders and other users tend to avoid the wettest or most eroded part of the trail and traverse the edges, a habitat damage – an endless cycle of degradation continuing until the trail is no longer usable – or until the land owner recognizes the damage and puts a stop to trail use altogether. All user types will have some impact when trails are used after heavy rains, but a horse's heavy body weight combined with compact, sharp hooves churn up wet ground, plants and soil. Eroded soil washes into the nearest stream or pond as sediment. This can happen quickly if there is nothing to protect or prevent the soil from



Riding on trails that are wet can damage trails. Rain softened surfaces are vulnerable to use immediately after rainfall events. Please allow trails time to dry before adventuring out. Ride on dirt roads or more durable surfaces and allow the trails to recover. Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior and best practices.

This PSA was made possible by the American Quarter Horse Association's STEP program.

**Rain? Rein go away.
Come again another day!**

treadlightly!
EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION RESOURCE



[article continued on next page]

moving. It affects waterways by reducing oxygen and obscuring riparian wildlife habitat. Other pollutants such as herbicides and fertilizers further reduce water quality. Downstream it all ends up in our drinking water.

What You Can Do:

Individuals: When riding alone or with friends, avoid wet or damaged trail areas. Let the landowner know about damaged or wet trail areas so others can be informed. Help with trail maintenance.

Trail Clubs: -Organize your fellow trail riders and form a riding club. Clubs can focus on both enjoyment and trail stewardship by informing members about trail conditions, who can use private land trails and communicating with the land owner to resolve developing issues. Post current information on your website, social media or your email list! For more information on organizing a trail club consult the ELCR publication “*Getting Organized – Creating Equestrian Trail Organizations*”.

Public Land: Local/regional and state parks divisions often post trail conditions and emergency weather situations with advice about trail closings on websites and Facebook. For example, North Carolina State Parks (<www.ncparks.gov>) has an ‘Alerts’ section that indicates trail conditions, openings and closings. Users can easily check trail conditions, and adjust plans as needed. If your club uses these public trails, you can check these alerts and repost them to your club’s media.

Private Land: Private trails may require more effort, as landowners seldom post information about trail conditions on their own land. What can you do? When the owner can’t provide information, designate certain club members to observe and report unfavorable trail conditions to the club manager. Post information on your club’s media or email. For example, the Foothills Equestrian Trails Association (FETA) helps to protect the community’s equestrian trails system by limiting access to Association members and their guests. Conditions are strictly monitored and posted on Facebook.

Better Trail Planning and Design: Stay abreast of new trail planning in your community and help ensure that new trails and repairs to damaged trails are designed to shed water and hold up under equine use. Don’t know what makes good trail design? A good place to start is the excellent US Forest Service manual ‘Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds’(<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/publications/fs_publications/07232816/lc07232816.cfm, by Jan Hancock et al.) If you ride or otherwise enjoy trails, volunteer to help with trail maintenance. Contact your local chapter of Back Country Horsemen. They perform and track countless hours of volunteer trail maintenance activities nationwide. <www.bcha.org/reploc/>.

For additional information and post-able public service announcements to spread the word, contact ELRC at <<http://elcr.org/contact-us/>> and remember – Respected Access IS OPEN ACCESS!

This article (<<https://elcr.org/horse-trail-access-protect-it-or-lose-it/>>) is reprinted with permission from ELRC & The Trail Rider.



Well-designed trails drain well and stand up to equine use. But give trails a rest for at least 48 hours after a heavy or prolonged downfall.

"TRAIL FEST 10/17"

from Carolann Sharpe

Carolann Sharpe participated in Trail Fest on 10/17/21, along side adaptive bikes, hikers, bikers, runners and frisbee golfers in McKeldin Patapsco State Park. It was a great day of fellowship and asking questions about each other's sports. Toward the goals of education and collaborative efforts of all trail users, TROT and Maryland Horse Council's Trails and Greenway committee have opened the conversation of how trail riders can be more involved and promote greater communication between all trail users. WE HIGHLY ENCOURAGE trail riders contact their local friends' groups to combine efforts and share ideas. Here is the list of who to contact. <<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Publiclands/Pages/friendsof.aspx>>.

ADAPTIVE BIKE TRAIL

from Carolann Sharpe

The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) has opened the FIRST in Maryland adaptive bike trail in McKeldin area of Patapsco State Park. These bikes are used by individuals that have limited mobility. This might be a very new experience for your horse. Watch for the adaptive bike symbol on trail posts (bottom symbol of the signpost pictured at the far right; shown enlarged next to that; photo from Carolann). And watch for future adaptive bike trail users.



SHOULD TROT WORK TO PRESERVE THIS EQUESTRIAN EASEMENT?

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

from Susan Gray of the Action Committee

Some Background: TROT was founded in the early 1980's by riders in Montgomery County bound and determined that they were not going to lose all their riding trails to development. Early on, under Tim McGrath's tutelage as TROT President among others, folks realized they could work with county officials to preserve existing trails and create new ones. TROT established an amazing process with the Maryland National Capital Planning Commission (MNCPPC) --the entity that approves subdivision plans in Montgomery County--whereby when a proposed subdivision plan came in for approval, MNCPPC (via Naomi Manders—a TROT member who worked for MNCPPC and was later a founder of EPIC) sent the proposed plans to TROT for review. TROT members riding in the area of the proposed subdivision would review the proposed plan, identify existing trails needing to be preserved, and also at times, places where new trails needed to be created to ensure trail continuity. TROT members then appeared before the Planning Board as the subdivision was being approved, to advocate for the trails it had recommended. If the trails were approved, an "equestrian easement" was shown on the subdivision plat. These easements preclude lot owners from fencing off or otherwise blocking equestrian access over the easement area. These easements are in perpetuity, except they can be lost 1) if the County purposefully abandons them; or 2) they cannot be used (examples when easement may be lost: owner intentionally erects fence to block the use and this is not challenged; property owner allows easement to be so overgrown that it is not used.)

This Montgomery County process, which was in place from the 1980's through around 2010, resulted in an extensive network of local equestrian trails around and through subdivisions in a number of areas in the county.

The Problem: Unfortunately, now as these subdivisions have gotten older and there are fewer horses in the area, in some cases these trails cannot be used. One such case was recently brought to TROT's attention: As can be seen below, there is an "equestrian easement" in Montgomery County from MD 28 through a variety of properties, including subdivisions, connecting Rt 28 with to state parkland that contains Seneca Ridge Trail and Great Seneca Creek which join to Seneca Creek State Park. At least part of this easement was created through the subdivision process, and TROT helped to get this easement in place, many years ago. But now this easement is overgrown and at least one property owner purportedly is refusing to allow anyone on the easement to maintain it to keep it open. Unfortunately, there is nothing in the easement language, the subdivision plats creating the easement, or county or state law which requires anyone to maintain the easement or protect it from property owners who do not want it used.

The Question TROT Members Are Being Asked To Respond To:

TROT is faced with some questions: For this particularly easement:

- 1) Is anyone using it?
- 2) Do we want to fight to keep it as a useable easement? And

- 3) Is the membership willing to work (such as getting out and helping clear the easement or testifying before public officials) to keep it?

Please send TROT your thoughts on this matter and whether you, or anyone you know, is using or might have an interest in using this easement, by emailing [**<trotactivity@yahoo.com>**](mailto:trotactivity@yahoo.com).

Dotted RED line marks the 20-foot equestrian easement connecting Rt 28 to Seneca Creek parkland and trails.



JOIN A TROT BUSINESS MEETING

They are the first Wednesday of each month, at 7 PM, by Zoom. The link is on the calendar section of TROT's website (<TROT-MD.org>). All TROT members are welcome to join, and your input will be appreciated!

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
Action Committee	Barbara Sollner-Webb, Christina Micek, Joyce Bell and Susan Gray		
Inventory Manager	Liz Wade	< dogislove48@verizon.net >	301-537-7194
License Plate	Sandy Boyd	< ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com >	301-257-5177
Newsletter	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
Trail Ride Coordinator	Reena Lentz	< lentzreena@gmail.com >	301-471-4389
Trail Work Coordinator	[volunteer needed]		
COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS			
Anne Arundel	Jacquie Cowan	< jacquiecowan@comcast.net >	410-923-6157
Baltimore	Priscilla Huffman	< priscillahuffman@verizon.net >	410-215-4979
Frederick	Deborah Wagner	CALL OR 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!

And PLEASE, TROT NEEDS a Trail Work Coordinator!

For info on these positions or to volunteer, go to trotactivity@yhoo.com.

TROT RIDES SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

The one and only TROT ride planned since the last newsletter was by Joyce Bell, leading a ride at Wye Island, but unfortunately no TROT members came to it.

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.



[image provided
by Karen Durilla]

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:

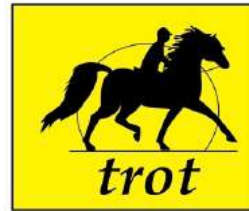
<www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/>

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, Barbara Sollner-Webb, at <bsw@jhmi.edu>.



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
1/2 page ad	\$40	Full page ad	\$75

Great Organically-Raised Farm Products

from Leah Mack



FOR SALE: 100% grass fed beef (ground beef \$6.99/lb) & **pastured, soy-free, corn-free eggs** (\$6/doz). Beef halves and whole lambs in fall. Organic practices. Pick up at my farm in Libertytown, MD or I can bring to a TROT ride.

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

Gaited Lessons w/ Jacquie Cowan

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

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/>

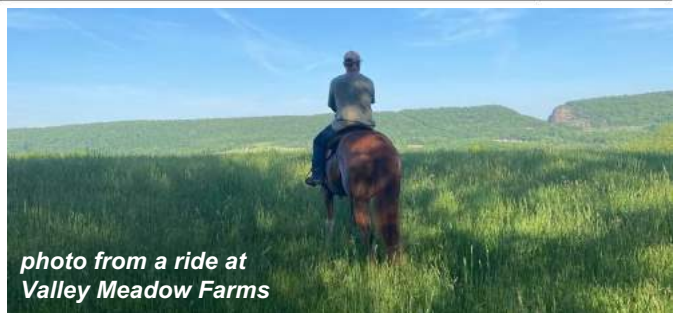


photo from a ride at
Valley Meadow Farms

Horse Blanket Wash/Repair

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

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 catching typos in articles of the draft text goes to Judy Thacher, Meggan Whalen, Christina Micek, Ivy Smink, Joyce Bell, Susan Gary, Priscilla Huffman, and Denis Webb. You guys are wonderful!



TROT Membership Application

TROT, a nonprofit organization, partners local organizations, state government agencies, land developers and the public at large to advocate to preserve and promote equestrian trails and open space for public recreational use with ecological and esthetic benefits.

Annual membership is January 1st to December 31st

Check all that apply

- ☐ New Membership (membership is a calendar year and is not pro-rated)
☐ Renewal Membership (Renewing members have until March 31st to renew, after that date will be removed from email list)

Benefits of membership: free participation in TROT organized events & rides, free electronic newsletters and membership directory, eligible to run & vote for Board/Executive Office, participate in surveys, attendance at all business meetings, join working committees, educational opportunities, logo wear, and free annual picnic or banquet.

- ☐ Day Membership \$5.00 (one-day attendance at a TROT event/mounted ride)
☐ Single Individual \$20.00 (individual aged 18 or older)
☐ Family \$30.00 (multiple adults aged 18 & older residing in same household, minors are free and must have adult member)
☐ Donation \$ _____ (Additional contributions are optional and welcomed. TROT is tax exempt)
☐ Printed Membership directory \$5.00 (optional) ☐ Printed Newsletter \$20.00 (optional)

* Required information is for the purpose of membership statistics. Check the information that **you do NOT want listed** in the Membership Directory. You are not required to list your information in the Membership Directory.

Date: _____

* ☐ First Name _____ * Last Name _____

*Family Membership Adults: _____

Child(ren): _____

* ☐ Address _____

* ☐ City _____ State _____

* ☐ 5 Digit Zip Code _____

* ☐ County _____

* ☐ Email _____

* ☐ Telephone # _____

**Membership information is kept
confidential and is not released
outside of the organization.**



TROT Membership Application

TROT, a nonprofit organization, partners local organizations, state government agencies, land developers and the public at large to advocate to preserve and promote equestrian trails and open space for public recreational use with ecological and esthetic benefits.

Payment Total _____

Check payment type

☐ Check

☐ Cash

☐ PayPal

Payment of dues, fees, or donations may be paid online using PayPal on <https://trot-md.org/join-now/> or by mailing payment to: **TROT Membership, PO Box 425, Finksburg, MD 21048.**

The completed form can be emailed to TROTmembership@yahoo.com or printed and mailed to: **TROT Membership, PO Box 425, Finksburg, MD 21048.**

Volunteer Opportunities

TROT relies on volunteers for all its activities and management such as ride leaders, area coordinators, executive positions and more. You can contact trotactivity@yahoo.com for more information.

☐ Yes, please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Helmet Policy

Helmets are required for all members under 18 years old, for all mounted events, except for when safety exceptions have shown that it is safer to not wear a helmet (such as swimming). The decision about whether helmet use is required for trail rides is at the discretion of the Trail Ride Leader for each trail ride. A statement will be included in the description for each ride. The helmet requirements for all other mounted events (clinics, parades, etc.) will be announced with the event.

.....

I, _____, sign this hold harmless release of responsibility statement, agreeing the Trail Riders of Today, Inc. (TROT), its members, agents, officers, or board members will not be held responsible or accountable and to indemnify them as needed in any way for accidents, injuries, bodily harm to person or animal or equipment that may occur during my association or activity involvement with TROT.

(Primary Member Signature)

(Date)

(Secondary Member Signature)

(Date)

(Guardian Signature for minor(s))

(Date)



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

PO Box 425

Finksburg, MD 21048

Inside this issue:

Reminder to vote for TROT directors and to renew your membership
Welcome new TROT trail ride coordinator and new TROT inventory guru!
Fantastic grant opportunity for trail work – but YOUR input is needed!
Horse events
TROT partnering with Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR)
Excellent info on horse trail access – Protect it or lose it
TROT information
Ads for stuff you can use