

Trail Riders Of Today

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

Hopefully everyone will enjoy riding this season! But please, do not ride the trails if the ground is wet enough that your horse leaves footprints! And please pick up (or move aside) your horse's poop from parking areas & paved trails. Thanks!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Carolann Sharpe

This time a year ago, I was in Costa Rica, snorkeling, playing in waterfalls, watching a sloth carrying its baby and many monkeys playing in the trees. In addition, an iguana I named George refused to get off my towel -- a stand off that while I did win eventually -- one casualty being a brand-new pair of sunglasses I stepped on retreating from George. I also went horseback riding twice while there, one was part of the planned itinerary, the other by luck.

On day two of ten at beautiful Hostel Selina in Jaco, a young man was walking down the beach leading six or seven horses. Of course, when he stopped, I asked to pet his horses. What horse gal wouldn't? I was on the trip with five other horse people and my riding partner, my son Louie. The young man offered us a discount for us to ride. Several of us accepted. I don't normally pick a horse by his looks, but Piccolo, a beautiful paint, stole my heart immediately. I will tell you at this point, I do NOT speak Spanish past what Sesame Street taught me, do not have an ear for languages and my bad spelling and lack of phonics skills makes languages a huge struggle. Others on the trip spoke Spanish, so I had backups. My friend Jonell, who has ridden with me for over a decade, gave a gentle warning that Piccolo was not the right horse for me, but I waved her off saying "I'm good". By knowing my preference for slow and unshakeable horses, she was trying to help me, which I declined.

We all saddled up and rode into the majestic, beautiful mountains above the water. Riding through the small town and streets we needed in order to get to the trails, I realized Piccolo had some PEP in his STEP and his sideways spook of an orange traffic cone on the way back had me halfway off his back, but I recovered. I was now realizing that this smaller, speedy horse was not like my big and fat draft cross Diesel or Steady Eddie, a 16.2 Thoroughbred Ares. I did assure myself I was closer to the ground if I found myself there.

The ride was breathtaking and one of the most amazing things I had ever done. As we made our way back onto the beach, the tide was high, and we walked through now stirrup high water. The drag rider was pointing at me and saying something in Spanish. Again, I don't speak Spanish. I thought he was telling me to move faster, move my horse over to higher ground, what an amazing rider I was, and of course how beautiful I looked riding. As I moved a little faster down the beach, in my mind hair flowing and riding perfectly like in the movies, I was in awe of myself and my life.

[continued on next page]

TROT PICNIC, SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH – rain or shine

from Ivy Smink

PICNIC AT THE PARK - Sunday August 14th, 2022, noon to 3 PM (rain or shine) at Patapsco Valley State Park, McKeldin Area - COVERED Pavilion #501 (GPS Coordinates 39.35982-7689-112), address: 11676 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104).

Come to the second annual picnic in the park hosted by the TROT Board. Join in the fellowship, see old riding buddies, meet new ones, and meet people who keep TROT moving.

Menu: TROT will provide the main course, drinks, dessert, paper products, and utensils. Please bring a dish to share – appetizer, side or dessert.

We will be raffling a basket of goodies, and logo wear will be available. Also, pending trail conditions, you have an opportunity to ride in the park before or after the picnic, with trailer parking in a field near the pavilion, but please clean up after your horse.

RSVP to <trotactivity@yahoo.com> by Wednesday August 10th, 2022! And note: alcohol is prohibited in the park.



photo from Ivy Smink

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 – PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When we did get back, I was informed the very nice drag rider was trying to tell me I had lost my girth. Not sure at what point this happened but, it was hanging when I looked. The feeling of fear and achievement surged through me. It is not lost on me that my perspective of what he was saying, and the truth were not exactly the same. That did not matter, I remained impressed with myself and can say I rode girth-less, through raging waters, on a beach in Costa Rica.

After Piccolo, I practiced the phrase “gordo pausado caballo por favor” for “fat, slow horse, please”. Our next ride I got “Travesura”. The translation was “Dirty Face” – a mischievous child that would be outside playing in the mud. He had a beautiful white and brown face. The wrangler told me they actually wanted to sell him because he was too slow. PERFECTO !! Our ride to the top of the mountain to swim in a waterfall and back down to the family restaurant for a home cooked meal by Madre and Abuela was perfect. Being slow, I had a chance to talk to the very handsome wrangler about Costa Rica's economy, schools, medicine, government, and what things about America he thought were cool. Not something I would have been able to do if we had been cantering through the trails.

So where does this bring us? Every single part of this story has one very very important fact. I would not have EVER had these memories, had it not been for horses. Jonell, the organizer of the trip, was one of the first three people who suffered through my absolute lack of knowledge when I started riding. She introduced me to camping with my horse. Four others on the trip have become my family because of our riding together. My son has been my partner in crime since he was 14 when he started riding with me, leading his three brothers to title him the “Favorite”. I would not have climbed on not one but two strange horses with some basic, significantly less structured and less safe saddles and tack than I ride in at home had it not been for my own horses giving me the confidence to try. Nothing in my blessed and wonderful life would have been what it is without that first horse, that second horse, and the tribe of people in my life because of horses.

When I tell my story of Costa Rica, and I DO, it is only MY perspective that matters. I survived a girth-less ride, I rode to the top of mountains, tamed raging waters white rafting and accomplished things I know I would not have even thought of doing if not for my horses and the people I have met because of them.

I think the fast horse taught me to be amazed with myself, even when others are not or are trying to deliver a less complimentary message to me. The slow horse reminded me that by going too fast, you miss the chance to connect with others and truly listen. Our lives can be fast paced, and we forget that. You might stay inside your established bubble and not reach out to others or take a chance on new things. You might play it safe and not have a chance to amaze yourself. All in all, we must remember to take the horse by the reins, find your posse and be grateful and exhilarated for surviving when the girth falls off, and take the slow times to listen, share and enjoy the ride.



TRAIL MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR NEEDED, PLEASE!

Please volunteer! Our wonderful past trail maintenance coordinator had to step back, due to her life taking a different turn, so TROT is again looking for someone to spearhead the important function of encouraging TROT members to do trail work AND report their hours. These reported hours not only help the parks get funding but help TROT get respect from parks and agency folks. Please volunteer at <trotactivity@yahoo.com>!

And in the interim, if anyone hears of trail work efforts, please spread the word, including announcing them on TROT's Community Facebook page.

PLEASE TURN OUT FOR TRAIL WORK

Please come to Carroll County Equestrian Council's next Piney Run trail workday, the morning of Saturday, August 27, 2022. For more info and to join, contact Stephanie Brennan (at 603-573-1123 or <dadslilcobra@yahoo.com>).

And whenever you are out riding at your favorite venue, take along your clippers and folding saw to do a little work along the way. This includes simply clipping overhanging branches while you ride. And report these hours to <trotactivity@yahoo.com>.

PUBLIC MEETING ABOUT GILLIS FALLS TRAIL PROJECT 8/24/21

Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks will host a public meeting to provide an update on the Gillis Falls Trail project in Woodbine, MD. The meeting will be on Tuesday, August 24 at 6 PM at the Challedon Golf Course in The Ridge, next to the course's clubhouse, which is at 6166 Challedon Circle, Mount Airy, MD 21771.

The proposed trail is to be a 10' wide connection between the Carroll County Equestrian Center on Grimville Road and Salt Box Park on Gillis Falls Road suitable for hiking, biking, and equestrian usage. A general overview of the trail project will be provided as well as recent updates in the project's design process and estimated construction schedule. It is consistent with Carroll County's efforts to provide more recreational trails as recent needs assessment surveys identify trails as the highest recreational need. For more information, contact the Department of Recreation & Parks at <crcrc@carrollcountymd.gov> or 410-386-2103.

UPCOMING TROT ELECTION – PLEASE GET INVOLVED!

from Ivy Smink

It is that time again to look forward and think about TROT's future and the leaders at the helm. If you are thinking "I have some ideas I want to share" or "I want to become more active with TROT" or "I want to be on TROT's Board of Directors" or "I know someone who would be really good at that" then get active! As a member-driven organization, members have a say in who is leading TROT. Members nominate other members (or themselves) for the open positions, members vet all the applicants for open positions, and members vote on who they want in office.

The following Board of Director positions are up for election this year:

Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary

General Board Position – 4 positions available (there are a total of 5 general Board positions)

The tenure for Elected Officers (also referred to as "Executive Officers") and general Board of Director positions are two (2) years, starting with the first meeting of the new year.

The process of electing a new Board begins August 15th. The first step is forming the **Selection Committee**. On this date TROT opens the call for members who want to serve on the Selection Committee, which is to be composed of two current Board members and two other TROT members in good standing. The Selection Committee has the task of vetting the applications for Officer and Board positions. The committee contacts each nominee to determine if applicants are of legal voting age, are in good standing, have a reasonable ability to fulfill the duties of the position, present no conflict of interest, and ascertain the nominee has agreed to assume the position if elected. Working as a team, they develop the list of candidates the members will vote on. This committee must be formed by September 12th and will be announced in the September TROT newsletter. If you are interested in being part of this important group, please contact any member of the TROT Board of Directors or Elected Officers or send your interest to <trotactivity@yahoo.com> ASAP. First come, first served!

TROT will prepare an application for members to nominate other members or themselves for the open positions on the Board of Directors. This will be sent via an email blast on September 15th (and by snail-mail to any members without a listed email address) and must be returned by October 13th. These are the applications the Selection Committee will evaluate. Note that members who are interested in two positions will need to complete two applications, one for each position and that if a member nominates another member for two positions, again two applications must be completed. If the member should win at both positions, then they must choose which position they will fill, and the next runner up will get the other position.

So, what is the timeline for the voting process?

August 15 th	Open call to membership for Selection Committee
September 12 th	Close call to membership for Selection Committee
September 15 th	Open call for Elected Officers & Board positions
October 13 th	Close call for Elected Officers & Board positions
October 13 th	Selection Committee starts developing list of candidates (sends to the secretary by November 1 st)
November 15 th	Open voting by membership for Executive & Board positions
December 13 th	Close voting to membership for Executive & Board positions
Before January 1 st	Announce election results to membership

Email blasts and information in the TROT newsletter will keep members posted on what is happening and when.

Now that you know how it works, what are you waiting for? Get active! Also, if you need a paper ballot, please contact the Secretary (<trotsecretary@gmail.com>) by November 17th.

VERY SUCCESSFUL LITTLE BENNETT BRIDGE WORK

from Christina Micek

Equestrian trails in Little Bennett Park are now safer thanks to a **Maryland Horse Industry Board grant** provided to TROT. Twenty-one equestrians volunteered their time on two sunny mornings during a beautiful June weekend to partner with ...

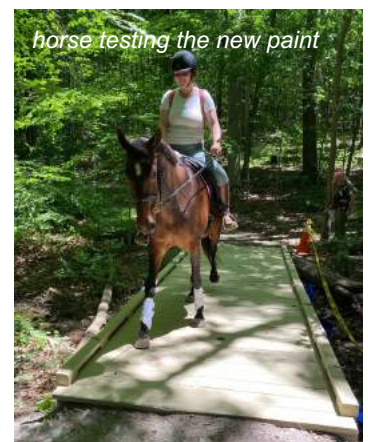


painting



volunteers on Saturday, June 11th

photos from Barbara Sollner-Webb



horse testing the new paint

[article continued on next page]

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE -- LITTLE BENNETT BRIDGE WORK

Montgomery County Parks in a pilot program to make bridges in parks less slippery for equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers alike. Two bridges were painted with a marine quality paint called Deck Correct that contains polycarbonate Everbeads to create a skid-resistant surface. This paint also protects the wood from splintering and limits the growth of mildew, algae, and mold. A third bridge, subsequently done on another weekend, had sand added to the paint to increase the tooth of the surface for comparison between the two methods.

TROT gathered all the materials including painting supplies, large tarps to protect the streambed, and tools for the workers (blowers, wheelbarrows, gloves, etc.). The process was fairly simple. First, we scraped and removed the existing mold, mildew and algae that created the slippery surface on the bridges, impacting park users during and after rainfall. We then let the bridges dry, hung large tarps under the bridge to protect the stream bed, and applied one coat to half of the bridge. This allowed users of the park -- who were alerted by signage and caution tape -- to still be able to pass using the other half of the bridge. After waiting for that layer to dry, we then applied a second coat, and then repeated the painting process on the other half of the bridge the next day. It was a productive event.

While waiting for the first coat to dry, we enjoyed a lunch provided by Potomac Bridle Hiking Trail Association (PBHTA). We played an equestrian themed trivia game for small prizes, pitting the separate bridge team volunteers against one another to hilarious laughter. We also had the opportunity to speak to a number of trail user groups. They all expressed concern over the slipperiness of the bridges and were extremely appreciative of the successful partnership of the four groups (communicated clearly by signage available at the event) to solve the issue.

Little Bennett and Montgomery Parks will continue the program. Please reach out to boardmember01@trot-md.org if you would like to volunteer during our next trail work opportunity.

[Editor's note: Thanks much, Christina, for writing the grant to fund this project, coordinating with the Parks personnel, and organizing all the volunteers, materials, trivia contests, and prizes. And thanks to PBHTA for the lunch!]

THE VALUE OF COURTESY WHILE ON THE TRAIL

from Howard G. Lanham

We had a long discussion at our last TROT board meeting about problems the organization might -- or is having -- gaining and retaining access to public areas for horseback riding. Many parks are looking to limit certain trails to certain kinds of activities, and unfortunately, we may be in danger of finding more and more that horseback riding is not one of them.

The group spent a lot of time talking about the problem and what we might do about it. We might have a bunch of knock-down, drag out fights with other users and park managers, but no one really benefits from the ill will that generates. What we need is to share public space with other users, promote the good will of park managers, and increase the visibility of riders as worthy users of public spaces. One critical means of being more visible is to attend work-days during which trail maintenance is done at your favorite venue. Bring a few hand tools such as clippers and a bottle of water and you are good to go.

As members of TROT, we should think of ourselves as goodwill ambassadors for equestrianism. There was a time when nearly everyone was in regular contact with horses, but that is not the case now. The urban/suburban lifestyle, rather than a rural one, is the dominant experience of most Maryland citizens. There are some people who suspect horses are dangerous, odorous, manure dropping creatures, best banned from public spaces. Well, it is true that they drop a little manure from time to time, but it is a byproduct (mostly grass fiber by weight) that nature disposes of fairly quickly -- and hopefully the riders do pick it up from parking lots and other asphalted areas. However, those other listed characterizations are quite false and an area for a little public education. I believe most people, and particularly children, are more curious about horses than hostile to them.

I encourage our members to interact with other users of the park who they encounter while trail riding. You might say hello, compliment their beautiful and well-behaved dog, thank them for their courtesy in moving off the trail for you, etc. People appreciate being acknowledged. Although I do not often come in contact with park staff, when I do I try to have a positive interaction with them as well. Just like you might do speaking with a veteran, I thank them for the work they are doing with the park. People, often with young children, will approach you in the parking areas, and we should make an effort to introduce them to our mounts and show them that horses need not be feared. Also, I hate to observe that some riders still fail to police the parking areas by picking up after their horses. It is hard to argue that some other category of user was responsible for what obviously came from a horse.

A lot of people decry a growing lack of courtesy in our society. That appears to be true from my perspective, and we are all poorer for that. I believe as riders we all stand for many things that are more than just a hobby to pass time. We and also our mounts are a community, and we should serve as goodwill ambassadors for that community.

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON FOR WSSC WATERSHED STAFF

from Barbara Sollner-Webb

Dovetailing nicely with Howard's sage advice to show appreciation to parks' staff, later this summer we will again be holding an appreciation luncheon for the WSSC watershed staff, who this year have done a fantastic job of clearing downed trees from their Rocky Gorge and Triadelphia trails as well as clearing annoying invasive plants from either side of the trail. These luncheons are fun and rewarding (and the food is great). To join, contact Barbara at 301-655-3552 or bsw@jhmi.edu.

WHEATON STABLES AND PARK COMPROMISE A HUGE WIN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

from Christina Micek

As a TROT board member and Montgomery County Acting Coordinator, I advocated for Wheaton Park Stables (WPS) on behalf of the TROT membership, twice – once during the public comment meeting and again during the formalized public testimony period. TROT's voice was joined by other equestrians, hikers, local residents, park users, commuters, and non-profit organizations advocating for women in sports and the disabled communities. There were multiple planning board meetings on the fate of this park, with over 250 public testimonies received.

June 9th Meeting:

Parks brought solutions they thought best for all stakeholders, but from the equestrian point of view, only tangentially addressed concerns brought forward during the public comment period. Parks continued to include language that the Wheaton Park Stable (WPS) lease would only be available short-term, specifying only while the current lessee wished to operate the stables, indicated the longer-term plan was to repurpose the site, and maintained that the protected equestrian trail should become shared use. New Planning Commissioner Carol Rubin provided invaluable information. Rubin spoke with the lessee/operator of WPS, as well as the operator of the therapeutic riding and work program there for those with physical, emotional and intellectual disabilities, and pushed back on the lack of concrete support for the stables that had been operating at that location for over 60 years.

Offering services and employment for an underserved population: Ms. Rubin pointed out that the Parks Department received numerous awards that recognize park programs that perform outreach and services to underserved communities. Not only does WPS have a therapeutic riding program for this population, but they also hire 22 individuals from the Cura Personalis Project (CPP) in pre-vocational and vocational training, to provide mentoring and supervision to support individualized vocational, social and functional life skills necessary for individuals to reach their full potential during their adult lives.

Reversing a negative self-fulfilling prophecy Instead of including language in the master plan that indicated a lack of support from Parks for the operation of Wheaton Stables, Ms. Rubin suggested they remove that language altogether, claiming this language would limit Wheaton Stables and CPP's fundraising ability, and would in her words, "...become a self-fulfilling prophecy." She pointed out that Parks should instead improve their support of this public-private partnership by giving the partners as many resources as possible to succeed. As an example, Rubin said that Parks has not renewed the lease at WPS since 2008, creating an environment of fear and uncertainty about the Parks' intended commitment.

The Stable is unique in its offerings and placement in the county: Ms. Rubin then laid out other reasons to support this unique property, such as affordable horseback riding opportunities, and wanted to see renewed efforts on the county level to try and ensure it succeeds and grows. She pointed to the fact that this is a rare equestrian property that is available in Montgomery County's midcounty, where WPS can be reached by public transit, unlike the multiple horse farms closer to the Ag Reserve in the upcounty area. She concluded that WPS should be considered a gem by Parks, not a burden. She encouraged Parks to provide an analysis of the capital improvements needed to maintain the farm in working order, versus a longer-term plan needed to create financial reserves through grants and fundraising, for extending the life expectancy and use of the property.

Equestrian/hiking trails versus shared use trails: Parks began by stating a 2016 policy of trying to make as many natural surface trails shared use in the county and that limited-use trails must be sufficiently justified. Initially, Parks created limited-use trails solely for nature center programming and did not anticipate the needs of WPS's beginner and therapeutic riding programs, or the trail rides offered to the non-equestrian public, which now should provide ample justification. Parks was clearly trying to meet their goals of increasing access. Ms. Rubin, joined by Ms. Tina Patterson, pushed instead to implement an equestrian/hiker only trail, since it was strongly indicated it was needed by the hiker and equestrian stakeholders. They also wanted a solution that created proper biking connectors needed to make access and safety equitable for all stakeholders.

I was thrilled that all of TROT's recommendations sent to the Parks and the Planning Board were mirrored by Ms. Rubin in her comments.

[article continues on next page]



[WPS photos from the internet]

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE - WHEATON STABLES

Compromise Reached - June 23 Meeting:

The Parks team came back with amazing compromises based on Ms. Rubin's suggestions. They removed any language suggesting potential alternative uses of the land that WPS is currently leasing, and they added language that identified WPS as an important public-private partner for Parks. The Parks Department also included language that indicated they will work closely with the WPS to help it become financially sustainable and ensure its continued success.

The trail situation was also ironed out beautifully, where an inner loop trail called the Acorn Trail would be converted from a hiker only trail to a hiker/equestrian trail, and the outer Wheaton Loop Trail would continue to become a shared-use trail open to all. This assures that the bikers have a wooded biking trail as well as the proper connectors needed to gain access to other parts of the park and nature center. Equestrians now have a protected trail, off-limits to bikers, to share with hikers, which will be perfect for their beginner equestrian comfort levels. The more advanced equestrians can also now use the outer loop shared-use Wheaton Loop Trail, along with the mountain bikers. In the near future, a new trail for hikers/equestrians will be made around the stable property, as another protected trail for equestrians, and will have the added benefit that the public can enjoy the view of the horses and property even more.

Ms. Rubin thanked Parks for their incredible work on this master plan. She acknowledged the enormous number of mountain bikers who wrote in between June 9-23 to try and make sure all trails were instead shared use, and addressed them directly by reminding them that no one was taking access away from them, and in fact they were given numerous new amenities and access in the park plan. She also let them know that the decision is based on the comfort level of the Wheaton Park stakeholders (equestrian and hikers) and may not be necessary in other parks. She also focused on a number of comments that tried to negatively characterize equestrian sport and activities as elitist- reminding the public that the mission of Wheaton Stables is far from elitist in its mission and practice, offering affordable and accessible riding instruction as well as jobs to underserved populations and the community, and of the 37 horses at the farm, only 7 are privately boarded there (some being instructor's horses). She was happy to announce that the Wheaton Stable operator and CPP has now formed a joint venture formalizing a non-profit/for-profit financial structure needed for the anticipated broad revenue and fundraising opportunities in the future.

Mike Riley, Parks Director, ended the session by saying that this is one of the best Master Plans ever created in the history of parks, and will serve as a template for all future master plans.



[WPS photos from the internet]

The Future:

TROT and Potomac Bridle Hiking Trail Association (PBHTA) will be reaching out to Parks, under the umbrella "Maryland Horse Council Trails and Greenways" entity, to offer volunteers for a possible future volunteer project to work on the repurposing of the Acorn Trail as well as to help create the protected trail at Wheaton Stables property.

If you would like to thank Carol Rubin for her incredible advocacy that almost single-handedly changed the future of the Wheaton Regional Park and its relationship with the stable and its programming, please write or call her at <Carol.Rubin@mncppc-mc.org> or 301-495-4605 as well as <Tina.Patterson@mncppc-mc.org> who verbally supported her. The whole Planning Board was supportive, but these two can be considered the champions.

For Parks, please thank Mike Riley, Park Director, at <mike.riley@montgomeryparks.org> and Charles Kines, Project Manager, at <charles.kines@montgomeryparks.org> for their incredible work in finding this incredible compromise.

You can watch these hearings here at:

- June 9th: <https://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=2614&meta_id=24052>
- June 23rd: <https://mncppc.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=2621&meta_id=24133>

For more on the 501(c)(3) that runs the therapeutic riding and work program, see: <<https://www.thecpproject.com/whatwedo>>.

BEST OF AMERICA BY HORSEBACK TV SHOW FILMS TROT MEMBER'S BED & BARN AND TRAILS GETAWAY IN WESTERN MARYLAND

from Kathy Stumpf, TROT member & owner: Valley Meadow Farms "bed & barn", Hancock, MD

I never would have dreamed that "Best Of America By Horseback TV Show" would want to come to our Valley Meadow Farms...but they did...and it was beyond my greatest expectations! Last month, show hosts Tom Seay and Del Shields filmed for two days at our "bed & barn". The show, to air later this summer, will always be a reminder of how God brought this wonderful experience to us and our farm to affirm and bless all the care and hard work starting with our Dad's vision years ago.

Tom Seay, founder of BOABH which airs on RFD-TV and the Cowboy Channel, said to the small group gathered, "I have been doing this show for over 20 years and over a 1,000 episodes at different places and I have never felt led to endorse a place...but, today, I feel led to endorse Valley Meadow Farms Bed & Barn." I was speechless. A compliment beyond our greatest hopes.

Our thanks to Ross Peddicord (Maryland Horse Industry Board), Tom Riford (MD Department of Commerce) and Dan Spedden (Wash. Co. Convention & Visitor's Bureau) coming alongside of us to promote equine tourism in Western Maryland; to Brandon of Mission BBQ's great service with the luncheon; for a wonderful trail ride; for the clear and beautiful day (even though there were storms and a tornado with damaging winds and large hail predicted); to the relaxing, perfect campfire.

TROT members, come and have your own experience & memories as you bring your favorite people and your beloved horses. We'll be waiting for you. [See page 13 and <www.valleymeadowfarms.com> for info on this B&B venue and an article on it in the September 2018 TROT newsletter (available at <www.TROT-MD.org>).]



Kathy Stumpf (left) with Best of America by Horseback TV Show creators Tom and Pat Seay at Valley Meadow Farms Bed & Barn for their filming on site last month.



Kathy Stumpf, Valley Meadow Farms Bed & Barn owner and TROT member escorts Best of America by Horseback TV Show host Del Shield on trail while film crews set up ahead.

Show films episode at, and review of, TROT member's "Valley Meadow Farms" Bed & Barn in Hancock, MD -- from Del Shields, show co-host

Cradled in a valley of Western Maryland, adjoining Pennsylvania meadows can be found a treasure all are seeking. It is tranquility. It is beauty. It is serenity. Treasure is found in many forms, as seen through the eye of the beholder, but what we all desire at some point in our journey is the quiet, serene, safe and calming of our surroundings.

I found it at Valley Meadow Farms Bed and Barn and Trails Getaway on Sideling Hill near Hancock, Maryland. The sights of bluebirds fluttering about, while the nearby brook bubbles and frogs sound out from the distant ponds bring a smile to your face. A walk or a horseback ride across the rolling meadows of the dancing hayfield grasses escort you into a time-warp of escape. Relaxing under a star-lit sky that appears to belong only to you, as you warm yourself near a crackling campfire, with a quilt upon your lap. While sitting in the shadows of the turn of the century farmhouse and barn, a feeling of being ushered back in time wraps its arms around you.

There, you feel safe, secluded and surreal. At Valley Meadow Farms, you are welcomed and cared for by a family of faith. Their special touch makes this place unique by design. While they keep it simple, every inch of this 400-acre landscape is touched with love and legacy. Sharing this gem with others is foremost on their hearts as they appreciate and understand the value invested into it through parents who not only built a life here but created an opportunity to touch the lives of others.

Our visit to this place was all of this and more. Valley Meadow Farms is a treasure. Plan a visit that will be just as special and memorable to you and just what you need.

TROT'S TRAIL RIDE PROGRAM

from Reena Lentz, TROT Trail Ride Coordinator

Hello TROT members! I hope your summer is going well and you are able to get out and about with your equine partner. Just a reminder that we are always interested in having our members lead trail rides. You pick the day/time/location. Let me know details such as how far, trail conditions, speed, helmet requirement, and if a potluck follows the ride. Just gather up your ride details and send them to me (by email at <lentzreena@gmail.com> or text at 301-471-4389 or Facebook message me). I can answer any questions or concerns you have and if I don't know the answer, well I got "people" who can help me out.

Happy trails all! And remember to get in touch if you would like to lead a ride. Thank you!

RECENT TROT TRAIL RIDES

Ride at Catocin Mountain on July 4th - from Reena Lentz: This ride I led was a super nice, slow ride of about 8 miles. The weather was perfect. The horses all behaved crossing creeks and bridges. We only got slightly "misplaced" once, never actually lost. So that was amazing. *[photo at right]*

Ride to Woodstock Inn - from Carolann Sharpe: Once again, my favorite ride. If you had told 5-year-old Carolann she would be riding her horse to a restaurant, having him patiently wait for her and then ride back, she would have thought you were crazy. But 10 of us set out – some were new to Patapsco State Park, some had ridden there before but no one had been to Woodstock Inn before -- from McKeldin, and the weather was superb. A nice 76 degrees and a small breeze. We encountered hikers, bikers and some families having picnics on the water fronts.

Riding along the river and crossing into Hernwood, we had beautiful trees and tall grass on either side of our trail. 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; all horses were comfortable and started their mid-day snooze while we ordered lunch. *[photos at right]*

The service was quick, the food delicious. Thank you to our server, Bailey. Woodstock Inn always loves seeing the horse riders come in for lunch. 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 trailers and said our "had a great time" and good-byes.

Before the ride began, a crazy moment happened. One of the day riders asked the name of my horse. When I shared that his name was "Diesel", she explained SHE had been a volunteer at the Park Police and KNEW HIM! And If you KNOW my horse, you LOVE MY HORSE. It was a Small World moment. This is the second time a TROT ride has brought me together with a former owner or caretaker of one of my horses.

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.

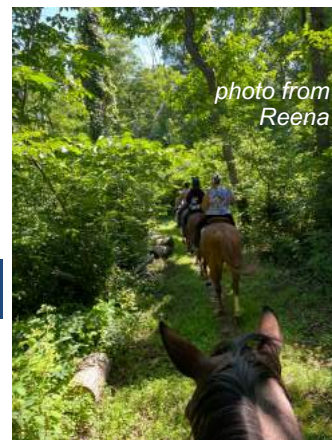


photo from Reena



photos from Carolann



UPCOMING TROT TRAIL RIDES (actually, "RIDE")

A heads up for anyone who was planning on the **Casa Mia ride**. That has been canceled for now with the plan of rescheduling it. So stay tuned for updates on the ride.

On **Aug 6, 2022, 4 PM to 6 PM**, will be TROT's 3rd Annual **TROT SWIM YOUR HORSE at HIGH TIDE FARM**, at 5101 Mountain Road, Pasadena. \$50.00 a rider. This will be a day of fun and excitement. Find out if your horse is an Olympic Swimmer! Bring snacks and drinks; sit at the picnic tables between swims. A minimum of 15 swimmers is needed, with \$50 a rider required. Reservations are needed by Aug 1st! There is nothing like the feeling of you and your equine partner swimming toward the beach!! This is a low-pressure opportunity because you park at the shoreline and don't have to trail ride to the water. Come and have some fun!!!! Contact Carolann at 410 908-5599 or <Blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com>. Payment will be needed when registering so we can confirm our group size.



YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOUR HORSE

contributed by Christina Micek, article from Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR)

While most horse people can easily explain the benefits our equine friends have on our lives, we should also be aware that they have a strong positive impact on our communities. Horse business and industry can be a significant economic driver, creating tourism and cottage industry for communities. Horses also have a positive impact on human health and local ecology.

The economic benefit of horses is hard to deny. According to the American Horse Council 2005 National Economic Impact of the U.S. Horse Industry Study, the equine industry accounted for 460,000 full-time jobs with an annual impact of \$39 billion annually to our economy, generating \$1.9 billion in taxes (American Horse Council <www.horsecouncil.org/national-economic-impact-us-horse-industry>).

Horses require many professionals, from vets to hay growers and from farriers to trainers. A community that is open and receptive to horses will find that the economic impact of these cottage industries far outweighs the cost of providing municipal services for them. A well-maintained and equine friendly fair ground or trail system will also lead to horse tourism, a great advantage for local businesses, hotels and restaurants.

In addition to the economic benefits horses have on communities, they have an amazing impact on human health. According to research conducted by the University of Brighton and Plumpton College on behalf of The British Horse Society, horse activity can be classified as a "moderate intensity exercise". This is especially important when coupled with the information that horseback riding appeals to traditionally underserved populations like the physically disabled and older women.

Therapy programs have also shown that horses have a positive impact on our emotional and mental well-being. Programs exist for mentally disabled individuals, children with learning disabilities, those suffering with PTSD and even prison inmates. These programs are typically provided by local nonprofit groups and have a great impact on the lives of those who need it most.

Horses also have a very positive impact on an area's ecology. Well managed horse facilities protect groundwater and water ways, reduce brush load, lower the instance of wildfires; conserve soil; and encourage biodiversity. Viewsheds are also a benefit of having horses in your community. A large sprawling field with healthy horses grazing has been believed to increase real estate sales and tourism.

Knowing about the benefits that horses have on communities as a whole is vital to ensuring that horses maintain their place in our local communities. Whether it be planning and zoning commissions, city councils, park commissions or community groups, non-horse people make decisions that impact us all. Educating them that horses are important, not just to a small group of recreationists, but to the economic, physical, emotional, and environmental well-being of the entire community, helps keep horse lands at the forefront of the conversation.

ELCR has recently introduced a new section to their website: Benefits of Horses to Our Communities. The new section includes information on all the positive impacts horses make on our communities. Arming yourself and your equine group with this information could make all the difference when you are advocating for your local horse facilities. To find out more, visit <<http://bit.ly/1sZz3L>>.



Therapeutic riding programs are one of many ways communities benefit from access to equines. [Image courtesy of International Museum of the Horse]



Well managed horse farms protect natural waterways and healthy groundwater. [Photo courtesy NRCS]

IMPORTANT WARNING ABOUT "GROUND BEES" (YELLOW JACKETS)

Ground bees seem to be out in force this summer, at least in our fields. So, if you are at all allergic to their sting, please consider always having along Benadryl pills and Benadryl cream, or better an EpiPen, when you are out, the latter to stop an anaphylactic reaction.

REMINDER OF MONTHLY TRAILS MEETING

from Carolann Sharpe

Maryland Horse Council Trails and Greenway Committee Hosts a Trails and Greenways Town Hall the first Monday of every month, via ZOOM 5:30 to 6:30 PM – the next is August 1st. Our Town hall is a venue for all riders to speak, listen and network. This month, we talk about what actions we will need to have a continuous place at the decision-making table – being stakeholders in our parks so DNR, Friends Groups and other entities value us and include us in the discussion. The GoogleMeets link is: <<https://meet.google.com/bus-saqj-xsp?fbclid=IwAR114hl7dDzumKWOWHnrd58vqVEaU2bccTkozrWWTTmOOCf91qEMI447A>>.

REPORT FROM JACQUIE COWAN, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REP

ANNE ARUNDEL HORSE TALK: Third Tuesdays of the month, 7 PM at the Edgewater Glory Days restaurant. Join fellow equestrians from around the county to share stories, events, ideas, and hear a guest speaker or two. No membership fee. Run your own tab. For info, contact me at <jacquiecowan@comcast.net> or 410-215-4979. The next are July 19th and August 16.

SADDLIN' UP FOR BREAST CANCER: Trail Ride, lunch, raffles, prizes, All-Pinked-Out Parade and Contest. Saturday, September 17 at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center. Camping available with reservations and a Friday night pizza party. Raffles include a week for eight in an Ocean City condo, the Wheelbarrow of Cheer, and \$100 worth of Maryland Lottery Scratch-offs. Special gift drawing for TROT members. All proceeds benefit The Red Devils, a non-profit 501(c)(3) who provide life-enhancing services to Maryland breast cancer patients and their families while undergoing treatment. For more info and camp reservations: <jacquiecowan@comcast.net> or 410-215-4979, or <<https://www.tuckahoequestriancenter.com/events>>. To donate and buy raffle tickets online, go to <<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/SUFBC22>>.

REPORT FROM PRISCILLA HUFFMAN, BALTIMORE COUNTY REP

Thoroughbred's Second Careers was the theme for the July 1st FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS - the FREE horse events that are held the first Friday of each month in the show arena at the Baltimore County Ag Center on Shawan Rd. Featured horses and riders were:

- Talk Show Man with Lindy Gutman and Dr. Harrison
- Rift and Foxxie G Foundation
- Greenspring Valley Hounds with huntsman Ashley Hubbard
- Barrel Racer Floo Power
- Retired Racehorse Program/Thoroughbred Makeover and
- Layne Shaffer and Legends Hope/Jazz Napravnik.

Thank you to Baltimore County Ag Center and Patti Schindler, coordinator, for bringing together family, fun and horses in such a beautiful setting! Past Friday Night Lights events have included driving, western riding, jousting, and a mounted police patrol.

There's a nice clip of the rider and hounds on the Ag Center Facebook page if you scroll down to July 2.
<<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=baltimore%20county%20agriculture%20center>>

Each month on the 1st Friday of the month, Friday Night Lights features a different aspect of riding and horsemanship, so check Facebook for upcoming events. The Ag Center address is: 1114 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Gates open at 6 PM and the event is from 7-8:30 PM. A food truck is available, but the grounds are beautiful and have picnic tables if you want to tailgate - and admission is FREE!

REPORT FROM CHRISTINA MICEK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERIM REP

See articles on Little Bennett bridgework and Wheaton Park and stables on pages 3-5.

REPORT FROM BARBARA SOLLNER-WEBB, LAUREL AREA REP

See article on page 4 about joining our WSSC appreciation luncheon.

HEARTWARMING ARTICLE FORWARDED BY JUDY THACHER

Astute TROT members kindly share interesting articles to pass on here. They are frequently from Judy Thacher who loved this article in East Coast Equestrian (<www.eastcoastequestrian.net>; July issue) and secured permission for us to reprint it here.

In Rare Move, Injured and Orphaned Assateague Filly Rehomed by Lois Szymanski

Chincoteague Ponies were introduced to the world in "Misty of Chincoteague," but have you met the Assateague Ponies? They're not as well known, though they both live on the same 33-mile barrier island along the coast of Maryland and Virginia.

Crowds flock to the pony auction on Chincoteague each July to see and purchase Chincoteague Pony foals, but there's no public record of an Assateague Pony going to a private home. Now, one special filly named Moonbeam has done just that, moving to her forever home in Hughesville, PA in late February. Moonbeam's journey to Stoney Creek Chincoteagues is like a best-selling novel, with tragedy and loss, twists and turns, and thankfully, a happy ending.

Feral ponies living on Assateague Island are split into two herds by a fence at the state line. The National Park Service oversees the Maryland herd. The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company owns and manages the Virginia herd with a special use "grazing" permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Population control in Virginia is managed by an annual foal auction, while the Maryland side uses birth control darts, allowing only a few foals annually.

Moonbeam was born on April 2, 2021 to a mare called Moonshadow. Her life was idyllic, until late June, when the mare and foal were struck by a car along Bayberry Drive. "Both horses sustained injuries and were being monitored by National Park Service staff," said Liz Davis (Chief of Interpretation and Education on the Maryland side). "The mare, N2BHS-CKP [Moonshadow] had a large swelling on her left side but was observed by park staff moving around normally." Then, on Tuesday, July 6, Moonshadow was found dead by a park employee. The foal had sustained cuts to the lower left front leg but was able to

move around and take some weight on the leg. Although the Maryland herd is managed with a no interference policy, Davis said, “in certain circumstances we may intervene to address human-caused injuries. Given that the incident that caused this 3-month-old foal to be orphaned was human-caused, it was determined that human intervention under these unique circumstances was warranted.”

As staff on the Maryland side worked with Davis to develop a plan for the foal, the public was stewing. The filly had a following of pony-lovers whose outcry could be seen on social media. Then, a plan was announced. “Park staff considered several options for the foal, including leaving her in the wild with her band, euthanasia, or relocation to a suitable location,” Davis said. “The preferred option was to relocate her to the Virginia herd at the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.” According to Davis, since recordkeeping began many years ago, Maryland’s National Park Services has transferred ownership of 33 Assateague ponies to the Chincoteague herd. Moonbeam became the first foal to go.

Denise Bowden is the Public Relations Officer for the Chincoteague fire company. She’d been following the filly’s progress and said she was “overjoyed” when she heard the filly was coming to Chincoteague. When they went to pick up Moonbeam, pony committee member Dennie Savage said he noticed right away that she wasn’t very big compared to foals her age in the Virginia herd. “She had a stone up in her hoof that we think got there in the accident,” Savage said. “We thought that was it, but after we got it out, she started limping again. So, the vet ground off that piece of the hoof and opened up a little pocket in there so it wouldn’t get infection in it, and so she wouldn’t get an abscess.”

Meanwhile, Moonbeam’s Maryland followers worried. Shirley McKibbon of West Ocean City, MD said she has loved Moonbeam since the day she was born. “I was heartbroken when she was hit, and again when they took her out of the park. She was my first favorite horse. I loved her as soon as I laid her eyes on her. A lot of the girls who hang there were devastated, too. We came up with the name Moonbeam.” Follower, Zoe Newman of Lexington Park, MD was happy for her move. “I believe the National Park Service made the best decision for her,” she said.

At first, McKibbon worried she would never see Moonbeam again, but she did, visiting her on the fire company’s carnival grounds. Meanwhile, her caretakers noticed Moonbeam’s growth was stunted. Her limp came and went. “She received her normal shots and was fully checked as soon as we got her from Maryland,” Bowden said. “She was fed a healthy diet, had x-rays, and the vet worked with her to make sure her leg was healing, but for some reason she still seemed a little lame on that leg and of course, she is very tiny. The guys decided that she was just too fragile to even try to put her back in the wild. They felt that she needed a more stable environment where she could get lots of attention. The bottom line is that she is just too precious to take the chance of something happening to her out in the wild,” she said. “We love her.”

Over the years, Tipson Myers has been a friend to the fire company. She’s hauled foals to treatment facilities for them and delivered hay for the ponies. When asked if she wanted to take the foal, she was quick to respond. “The nice thing about renting a house right next door to the carnival grounds [is that] I got to see her quite often,” Myers said. “Like many other people, I was very excited about her joining the Virginia herd. I just happened to be on the island when the saltwater cowboys brought her over from the Maryland side.” Myers said she was impressed by the care Moonbeam received. “The saltwater cowboys and their veterinarian, George Marble, did an amazing job assisting Moonbeam with her recovery. However, it was determined that the hoof would need a lot of corrective trimming. That is something that would be very difficult to do with a pony living in the wild. Since I had worked with them on other pony projects, I was very honored that they chose me to give Moonbeam a forever home.”

As soon as the announcement was made on social media, Myers began getting messages from Moonbeam’s Maryland fans. She felt it important to reassure them, so she created a Moonbeam Facebook page.

“I was relieved that she would be in a good home and not in the wild,” McKibbon said of Moonbeam’s move. “That [Tipson] took her on because she cared about how we felt, meant the world to me. I plan to visit her in the fall.”

Myers said Moonbeam is doing well. “Currently she is being trimmed every four weeks by my farrier, Scott Sims. She has made great progress and the hoof is looking better with each trim,” she said. “She is now halter broke and leading like a pro. She’s sweet and loves scratches. That’s how I won her over, lots of scratching!”

Veterinarian Allison Dotzel boards her Chincoteague Pony at Stony Creek Chincoteagues. She’s the farm vet and a friend of Myers’. She carefully follows Moonbeam’s progress. “She’s got some abnormalities of her hoof and will need corrective trimming on a regular schedule going forward,” Dotzel said. “She’s responding well to her trims and has settled into her new home very well. Her prognosis is good for a happy life and I’m very grateful to have the opportunity to help Tipson care for her.”

Myers said visitors are welcome, but they should schedule appointments ahead of time. “She’s already had several visitors,” she said. “I loved hearing stories about her and her mother when they were on Assateague. Seeing people get so excited to meet her always brings a smile to my face. These ponies mean so much to me. I am happy to be able to help them any way I can.”

Other valuable articles, also kindly forwarded by Judy, that are most worthwhile looking up:

- **How a Warm-Up Helps a Stiff Horse:** < <https://equusmagazine.com/horse-care/how-a-warm-up-helps-a-stiff-horse/> >
- **On Hay Quality:** <bit.ly/3ceAaHj> (from Equineews)
- **On Avoiding Heat Stress for Your Horse:** <bit.ly/3o5zHKm> (from The Horse)
- **On Controlling Flies:** <bit.ly/3uTcBKu> (from Equineews) – but additionally, many folks find that Fly Predators/Fly Eliminators and/or Farnam’s SimpliFly work well!

IMPORTANT REQUEST TO ALL RIDERS, FOR COUNTY AND AREA NEWS

Please, whichever county you live in, board your horse in, or ride in, whenever you hear news/plans/rumors/ideas that may be of interest to other equestrians, send in a note to your newsletter editor (Barbara Sollner-Webb, at <bsw@jhmi.edu>), for inclusion in the next issue. Getting such information from YOU is especially important for people living/boarding in areas where TROT does not currently have a county or area coordinator (see list on page 8), as otherwise there is no way for TROT to know about -- and possibly help with -- things that may affect the riding venues and open spaces in your area! Please!

JOIN A TROT BUSINESS MEETING

These get-togethers are the first Wednesday of each month, at 7 PM, by Zoom. The links for all these meetings are on the calendar section of TROT's website (at <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	Ivy Smink	< trotsecretary@gmail.com >	443-974-5896
Treasurer	Janet Leitzel	< trottreasurer@gmail.com >	410-833-0572
Additional Board members	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
	Christina Micek	< Christina.Micek@natgeo.com >	617-435-1187
	Howard Lanham	< hqlanham@gmail.com >	410-259-2964
	Joyce Bell	< wbell2@washcoll.edu >	410-820-6002
	Susan Gray	< susan@campSusan.com >	240-426-1655
Action Committee	Joyce Bell, Susan Gray, Janet Leitzel, Christina Micek, and Barbara Sollner-Webb		
Trail Work Coordinator	VOLUNTEER NEEDED!		
IT Gurus	Liz Ousley and Christina Micek	< lousley13@gmail.com >	240-593-7002
Newsletter	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
Trail Ride Coordinator	Reena Lentz	< lentzreena@gmail.com >	301-471-4389
License Plate	Sandy Boyd	< ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com >	301-257-5177
Inventory Manager	Gale Monahan	< gale.monahan2@gmail.com >	301-854-3852
COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS			
<i>(lacking official coordinators; some members are kindly providing info)</i>			
Anne Arundel	Jacquie Cowan	< jacquiecowan@comcast.net >	410-923-6157 410-215-4979
Baltimore	Priscilla Huffman	< priscillahuffman@verizon.net >	301-646-4422
Frederick	Deborah Wagner		CALL OR TEXT: 301-233-7738
Laurel/Burtonsville	Barbara Sollner-Webb	< bsw@jhmi.edu >	301-604-5619
Queen Anne's/ Talbot	Joyce Bell	< wbell2@washcoll.edu >	410-820-6002

Please, TROT members in **Calvert, 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 smaller area that you feel comfortable getting more involved with and volunteer to be its coordinator! For info on these positions or to volunteer, contact <trotactivity@yahoo.com>.

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 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 Website: <www.trot-md.org>

TROT Newsletter archives: <www.trot-md.org/newsletter>
Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor (<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

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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

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 making suggestions and helpfully catching typos in articles of the draft text goes to Judy Thacher, Joyce Bell, Christina Micek, Janet Leitzel, Esmé Hoban, and Denis Webb. Also thanks to Carolann Sharpe. You guys are wonderful!

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TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

PO Box 425

Finksburg, MD 21048

Inside this issue:

Upcoming TROT picnic & upcoming TROT elections

Most successful Little Bennett bridge work

Big success for Wheaton Stables

Best of America TV Show filmed at TROT members' B&B

News from the various counties

Valuable articles on horse-related information

And lots more