

# Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails and open spaces

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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

45.36 seconds. 45.36 seconds changes people's lives. A moment that almost didn't happen. A horse trainer that suffered a horrible tragic barn fire due to lightning and almost left horse racing. A horse that wasn't even scheduled to run that day until an unexpected scratch. A horse that had only won one other race in his life. A horse that trailed 9 out of 10 lengths. With odds of 80 to 1. A horse purchased for \$30,000 earned \$1.86 million. A jockey that had never ridden in a Kentucky Derby before made history as the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest upset in Derby history. All the "almosts" "maybes" and "shouldn't haves" lead to a life-changing moment for anyone that bet on Rich Strike, his owner, his jockey, and for him. Anyone's life can change in 45.36 seconds when you take the opportunities in front of you.

How many lessons can we take from this moment? Don't give up? Don't let others define YOUR odds? With the help of others, you can survive anything? Things happen that are beyond your control, but you control how you react to those things. Price doesn't mean dependable or quality. My lesson is, live your life and run your race your way and don't worry what others say about you.

Nine lengths behind the whole race and then, that home stretch, no one was even thinking about you until you got there, Side by Side the predicted winner. The top contenders, out of nowhere comes the dark horse, the unexpected. The horse and jockey had trained for this moment, and they were skillful in avoiding being stopped. Here is the key, looking ahead, not behind you at the ones you were next to previously, not at the ones you are fighting side by side with, but at the finish line. Ignoring those around you or behind you, not seeing the ones ahead of you, only what your goal is. In the end, you run your best race and that is good enough.

I am not the only one who has reflected on their riding goals. I am not the only one who has learned about themselves and even those around them because of my horse. We all have our own style and goals. Everyone picks their trail and their horses based on this. It doesn't matter who is behind you, who is beside you, or who is in front of you -- you are the master of your own ride. Just as the jockey on Rich Strike looked for openings, looked for opportunities to pass the horse in front of him -- he could pass one at a time and then focus on the next one as he ran his race. To tackle our own obstacles, we can only focus on one at a time. All that mud being thrown in your face is because you aren't standing still. The mud is because you are running the race. You are moving forward. You aren't standing in the stables scratched out of the race. When all our stress is looking like 19 galloping thoroughbreds, focus on just one at a time and get past that one. When that one is in your rear-view, then take on the next one. Look for opportunities and openings you can weave in and out of, covering the most ground with each stride. Rely on your team, the people that keep you running. Rich Strike had his trainer, his owner, his jockey, his groom. You have a team too. They all have a different job in your life. The one that always tells you the truth. The one that always picks up the phone. The one that is patient with you. The one that pushes you out of your comfort zone. Ask for the help when you need it, take it even when you don't think you do. Don't let setbacks be permanent.

If you were a racehorse, what odds would others give you? 80-1? It doesn't matter because you are the one in the saddle. You are the one doing the work. The mud is flying in your face because you are on the move. Keep moving forward. The odds might be against you sometimes but that just makes the win sweeter.

## UPCOMING TROT PICNIC, SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH

TROT will be having a summer membership picnic (and IN PERSON, not by Zoom!), again at McKeldin, on Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>. More information coming in the next newsletter.

# ILLUSTRATOR WANTED, PLEASE! *from the TROT Board*

Wanted for TROT activities: volunteers with art ability. We need people to serve as illustrators for TROT's newsletter, websites, activity posters, etc. Please reply with a mention of the type of illustrations you like to do -- such as line drawings, cartoons, calligraphy or any other types of illustrations. We envision that you would work directly with the person producing the project as part of an available pool of talented people. Reply to: HOWARD LANHAM <[hglanham@gmail.com](mailto:hglanham@gmail.com)>.

# TRAIL MAINTENANCE *from June Mellinger, trail maintenance coordinator, Calvert County Coordinator, and IT guru*

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff maintain and do their best to keep our state parks and trails clean and, more importantly, safe. They also rely on volunteers for help, especially after winter storms. All of our parks take quite a beating due to snow and ice, bringing down many large trees. Those of you who have gotten out already know how much damage these storms can create!

With people sheltering in place due to COVID-19, volunteers became scarce and storm debris has continued to pile up! Some of the downed trees have been cut to manageable sizes, while other debris is piled up, waiting in staging areas for removal. You might have even seen them lying off to the side of trails.

Even though these obstacles aren't completely blocking the trail, they can still create a bigger problem for our horses, especially while out riding in groups. A spooked horse could be tangled or even punctured. Someone dismounting to move something off the trail could also be injured. A horse having to go off the trail to get around debris, could step in a hole buried in the leaves. While these are not typical of everyday rides, they can and do happen. Maintaining our trails helps prevent many potential accidents from happening. Consider volunteering!

I recently found two parks that offer "Adopt a Trail"--wish this had been my idea, for it is a good one! It is much like adopting a highway, but instead of the highway, the adopted entity is a section of trail in our parks! A couple of parks already offer it, and one provides signage -- Free Advertising! These are:

- [Adopt-A-Trail - New Germany State Park](#) (w/ signage) Daniel J Lewis <[danieli.lewis@maryland.gov](mailto:danieli.lewis@maryland.gov)> (301) 895-5453
- [Adopt-A-Trail - Susquehanna State Park](#) Ranger Meagan Allyn <[meagan.allyn1@maryland.gov](mailto:meagan.allyn1@maryland.gov)> (410) 557-7994

Also, did you know two (2) new parks were created in celebration of earth day?  
[Bohemia River State Park](#) (Cecil County) & [Cypress Branch State Park](#) (Kent County)



[from June]

|                                       |         |                      |                                   |        |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>2022 Trail Maintenance Report:</b> |         |                      | <b>Yearly Hours to Date: 23.0</b> |        |                                      |
| <b>April: 9 hours</b>                 |         |                      | January                           | 0 hrs  | No hours reported                    |
| 4/14/2022                             | 2.5 hrs | Agricultural Park    | February                          | 6 hrs  | Gunpowder State Park                 |
| 4/15/2022                             | 2.5 hrs | Agricultural Park    | March                             | 8 hrs  | Gunpowder State Park                 |
| 4/16/2022                             | 4 hrs   | Blockhouse Point     | April                             | 13 hrs | Ag Pk, Blockhouse, Gunp'd'r. Und. RR |
| 4/17/2022                             | 2 hrs   | Gunpowder State Park |                                   |        |                                      |
| 4/18/2022                             | 2 hrs   | Underground Railroad |                                   |        |                                      |

**Reminder:** Please submit your volunteer hours to <[trailwork01@trot-md.org](mailto:trailwork01@trot-md.org)>.

~ Ride Smart, Stay Safe ~

# PLEASE COME TO THESE TRAIL WORK EVENTS

Ivy Smink kindly reported the following trail work coordinated by the Carroll County Equestrian Council and Volunteers. Please come! Bring your own tools. Trimmers on horseback are welcome.

- Morgan Run 6/4, 7/10, 8/6, 9/4, 10/2, 11/13 9-noon. Contact Carolyn Garber (410-549-5141 or <[ccecofmd@yahoo.com](mailto:ccecofmd@yahoo.com)>) for info.
- Piney Run (undeveloped area off Martz Road) 6/18, 8/27, 10/22; all days start at 9:30 AM. Contact Carolyn Garber (410-549-5141 or <[ccecofmd@yahoo.com](mailto:ccecofmd@yahoo.com)>) or Stephanie Brennan (603-573-1123 or <[dadslilicobra@yahoo.com](mailto:dadslilicobra@yahoo.com)>) for more info.

# PLEASE TELL TROT ABOUT FUTURE TRAIL WORK EVENTS, SO THEY CAN BE ANNOUNCED IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS

Please send information of upcoming trail work groups to June Mellinger, TROT's trail maintenance coordinator at <[trailwork01@trot-md.org](mailto:trailwork01@trot-md.org)>.

## TROT'S TRAIL RIDE PROGRAM

**Intro from your newsletter editor -- who was also the trail ride coordinator for eight years:** For most of its 40-plus year history, TROT had a robust trail ride program, with generally about 50 (fifty!) scheduled rides per year. The majority were on weekends but many also on weekdays, for those with more flexible lifestyles; they were highly enjoyed by the riders, with good camaraderie, great venues, and yummy potlucks. These rides are a perfect way to introduce new riding venues to our members, for members to meet new riding buddies – and most importantly, to illustrate to members the importance of preserving trails and open space throughout the region, not just abutting ones own back yard. But as you may have noticed, within in the last couple of years there have been far fewer rides, with hardly any upcoming ones scheduled. If current TROT members desire that TROT has an active and diverse trail ride program, TROT members will need to volunteer to lead rides, because having these trail rides requires leaders. And please note that it is easy to lead a trail ride, even fun, as described in the two last newsletters. If you are uncertain about what leading a ride entails, TROT board members will be happy to walk you through the process and support you step by step. We would love to see TROT's trail ride program blossom, but need ride leaders to make this possible, so please volunteer! Contact Reena Lentz at <[lentzreena@gmail.com](mailto:lentzreena@gmail.com)> or 301-471-4389.

### RECENT TROT TRAIL RIDES

**On Sunday April 3, Mette Fields led a ride at McKeldin/Woodstock area.** On April 3rd Mette Raben Fields led a ride from Patapsco State Park. There was a diverse group of 20 horses and riders from PA, DE, WV and MD. They rode for 8.4 miles and 2 hours and 40 minutes at a leisurely pace. The trail went from McKeldin to the Woodstock area, riding through the White Trail with plenty of river views and beautiful well maintained trails. All horses calmly crossed the Fairy Bridge. The group stopped to admire the old Fox Rock Quarry then climbed the upper trail to get more nice views. They shared the trail with many hikers and bikers; all horses and riders were well behaved. Mother Nature on the other hand was not so kind, as they were pelted with sleet. Upon return to the trailers, they chatted a bit but decided it was too cold for a picnic. However, all were glad to have discovered or rediscovered this beautiful park and decided they would return this summer.



[from Mette]

**On Friday, April 15, Carolann Sharpe led a ride at Morgan Run Environmental Area** in Carroll County. Carolann submitted this reports: Kris King, Sandy Boyd (a founding TROT member), Diane Cafferty, Holly Cafferty, Elanor Fulton, Ivy Smink, Carolann Sharpe, and Crystal Brumwell set out on a beautiful "LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE IRS/TAXES" ride. There were a few trail-blazing moments due to overgrown or downed trees in the very beginning of the ride. Thank goodness for Ivy and her short horse, as she got off and on to help others make their way through the thick. I was very proud of my getting off my 16-hand draft-cross Diesel and clipping through some vines. Actually, the getting off twice was the easy part, it was getting back on that was the challenge. There seems to be a thing about short gals and tall horses. Our ride was just about two hours and ended with an extensive spread of deviled eggs, cheeses and crackers, chips and chocolate.



[from Carolann]

Morgan Run is a spectacular riding location and it is very easy to follow the map (see page 4-5). It has some main arteries that lead back to the gravel parking lot with cloverleaf-like trails that go off and then return to the main line. Carroll County Equestrian takes care of the trails and I hope you can find time to join them on one of their trail clean-up days. See TROT's Community Facebook Page for the dates or contact them through email or Facebook. I hope we can get another ride scheduled this year.

**On Saturday, April 30, Barbara Sollner-Webb announced a ride at the North Tract** of the Patuxent Research Refuge, in east Laurel (Anne Arundel County) – intended to introduce new folks to this most valuable venue which has trails designed for tanks (back when the land was Ft. Meade's), so can be ridden NO MATTER HOW WET THE GROUND IS, thus saving other local trails by not riding them when wet. But since the two members who came to this ride were already very familiar with that venue, so we decided to instead ride the **"Terry Ledley Trail" at the Rocky Gorge Reservoir.** We had a delightful time, enjoying this gorgeous trail and then a delicious potluck lunch.



legend: Priscilla Huffman (l), Ellen Frank (r); Rocky Gorge Reservoir (background). Barbara Sollner-Webb took the photo so is not shown.

[continued on next page]

## continued from previous page : MORE TRAIL RIDES

On Wednesday, May 11, Priscilla Huffman announced a ride on the Bunker Hill trails at Gunpowder Falls State Park, but it was postponed to May 18, after this newsletter was compiled.

On Saturday, May 21 Barbara Sollner-Webb announced a ride at the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, which also is after this newsletter was compiled.

## FUTURE TROT TRAIL RIDES

To participate, please **contact the designated ride leader to sign up, learn the start time and location, and the intended speed.** Your signing up allows that if bad weather causes a ride to be postponed, the ride leader can notify you. **Ride rules:** All riders must have a current negative Coggins for the horse, follow the ride leader's direction if a helmet is required for that particular ride, and be TROT members. Membership forms are at <http://trot-md.org/join-now/> and at the ride. There are also 5% one-day memberships to encourage non-TROT riders to join. If announcing a TROT ride to others, please include all the above information and do not publicly divulge the start time, so everyone coming must contact the ride leader. For updated trail ride listings, please check the TROT website and Facebook page.

**Saturday, June 25 – McKeldin to Woodstock Inn.** [Write-up by ride leader, Carolann Sharpe.] A 1 ¾ hour ride to Woodstock Inn (see photo) through beautiful Patapsco Valley State Park. Starting at McKeldin rest area (Marriottsville, Maryland, Baltimore/Carroll/Howard county triangle). Water crossings, bikes, and hikers will be part of the ride. I am told this is a medium difficulty ride. Shoes are recommended. Tie up and have a great meal. Ride back to McKeldin. This is an all-day ride event. Look to *Living Social/Local Flavor* and other discount websites for 50% coupons. Contact me (at [Blackandwhitecookie@Yahoo.com](mailto:Blackandwhitecookie@Yahoo.com) or 410-908-5599) to arrange to come.



## NOTE FROM REENA LENTZ, TROT TRAIL RIDE COORDINATOR

Happy Spring-into-Summer to all TROT members. I know I'm happy the weather seems to be cooperating....finally! Thank you to all who have lead rides so far this year. It is greatly appreciated! The ride descriptions I have received back so far look great! Some very large groups and scenic rides. Please reach out to me if anyone is interested in leading a ride. I can be reached at 301-471-4389 or [lentzreena@gmail.com](mailto:lentzreena@gmail.com) or Facebook messenger. Stay tuned for a little different sort of ride that's currently in the "works"!! Happy trails, everyone; hope to see many of you out and about this summer!!

## HOW ABOUT A TRAIL RIDE AT MORGAN RUN?

from Howard Lanham

We all have our favorite places to ride. Riders in Maryland are lucky in that there are so many great venues. Even so (and just how to put this?), we get into ruts. If you have never ridden at Morgan Run or rarely ridden there, you should consider doing it. Morgan Run was picked as the number three most favorite Maryland riding park in an "Equiery" survey, behind Fair Hill and Sweet Air. Those are great places, but I would argue that Morgan Run is more centrally located in the state, easy to find, has spacious parking (meet all your friends) and features many miles of looping, mostly wide trails with a great grass footing.

Morgan Run is a 1,336-acre environmental nature area located in Carroll County, Maryland, off Route 97, south of Westminster. The site was acquired by the State of Maryland in 1975 as a watershed, and the riding trails were created in 1991 through the efforts of local riders. It features more than 11 miles of equestrian trails in open field, scrubland and woodland settings. There are many long, broad stretches, suitable for long canters as well as narrower, meandering trails through oak woodland. Only a few sections are somewhat rocky or involve going up and down a grade. When you are there, you can look in any direction and see civilization only in the distance, if at all. If you think 11 miles is not enough for you, go in the other direction and it seems like a set of all-new trails.

Morgan Run is not hard to find. If you are coming from the south you can pick up Route 97 going north from Interstate 70 or even from Route 26, if you like a slower road. If you are coming from the north, pick up 97 south from Westminster, Maryland. Either way you happen to travel on Route 97, you next turn eastward on Bartholow Road. After you go a very short distance, make a sharp left on Ben Rose Lane, which dead ends in the ample horse trailer parking area (photo). There is a port-a-potty in the parking area during the warmer weather for your convenience, courtesy of the Carroll County Equestrian Council. [TROT has contributed, too.] The Council sponsors regular trail maintenance activities in the park (see page 2). For the record, the trails survived this winter in fairly good shape.



## continued from previous page : MORGAN RUN

In addition to other riders, you may encounter hikers, dog walkers, bird watchers and the rare mountain biker. I have only once encountered a biker and they are limited to the area nearest to the parking area. You can expect more people there on weekends, while during the week you may be the only rider there. You should not encounter motorized vehicles, which are prohibited except during trail maintenance activities. Hunting is allowed in certain park areas in season. Some hunting areas do about riding trails. We wear orange and will ride during bow season. Rarely will we see a hunter and they are mostly walking to areas deeper in the park. But during rifle season, it is best to avoid riding this park. Amenities in the park include two picnic tables near the parking area, but no trash cans or manure disposal area. You are asked to clean up after yourself and bring your leavings home. Large flat rocks border the parking area and can be used for mounting.

Navigating any equestrian park can be a challenge the first time. Apparently, the rangers take this Natural Environment Area thing very seriously, and there is only the rare sign in the park -- none of them having anything to do with marking trails or directions. There are no flash markings on trees. You are on your own and hopefully your sense of direction is superior to your horse's. However, I can give you some helpful clues about the layout of the park, and maps are available. There may be all kinds of apps now for navigation, but I am old school. I should add that at Morgan Run, what is trail and not trail is very obvious. Some places you ride that is not the case.

The parking area is at the southern border of the park. If you look north from the parking area, you will see an oak tree line in the far distance, which I will call the first tree line. The ground between the parking area and the first tree line is mostly scrub brush and small trees from a failed reforestation effort. There are three major trails that run from the parking area straight to openings in the first tree line.

The central trail should be your focus if you have never been there. The trailhead is directly behind a gate that blocks vehicles and a sign that displays rules and a map of the park. There are other trails leaving the parking area over to the right and left but I will not discuss them.

Okay, now I have you riding north on the central trail through scrub brush and small trees. Ignore any cross trails. When you pass through the first tree line with its tall oak trees, there will



"The" oak tree; [from Howard]



be cross trails perpendicular to the axis of the central trail and running with the tree line. Ignore these to begin with. The central trail continues for a good distance beyond the first tree line, angled slightly to the right and finally reaches the most important orientation point in the trail network. This is a very tall oak tree with a picnic table under it slightly to your left. [photo; white \* on map] Consider this the central point in the entire park and a something to orient on. A series of trails radiate out from this point like spokes of a wheel. There is one particularly wide branch that follows the orientation of the central trail and makes a plunge downhill. This area is a little eroded. Ignore the other branches that are not as wide or that do not go downhill. Following this main one, you will see the remains of an old farm with a cement block outhouse, metal outbuildings and eventually an old corn crib that looks like a giant bird cage. The trail has two branches at this point. Either branch will come to a network of looping trails near a lake and Morgan Run itself. There are no official equestrian trails on the other side of Morgan Run. Certain areas in these lower trails can be very muddy in wet weather. Once you pass the picnic table and tall oak tree a rule of thumb is if going downhill you are riding away from the parking area and if uphill toward the parking area. If you hear road noise from route 97 you are on the west side of the park. If you feel totally lost you might be on the east side of the park, but just as likely going around some loop elsewhere. Pick a weekend to go and figure you will hear a bunch of riders talking somewhere on the trails and can ask directions. The route that I just described runs across the central axis of the park. You can explore all the branches, but keep the central axis in mind so you do not become lost.

I hope to see you there sometime. Also please consider participating in our trail maintenance activities (see page 2).

## INFORMATION ON OTHER RIDING VENUES

The Equiery has recently had great write-ups on Greenwell State Park (in St Mary's County) and on Wye Island NRMA (in Talbot County). See them at <http://content.yudu.com/web/40pbl/Equiery/May22EQ/html/index.html?page=24&origin=reader> and <http://content.yudu.com/web/40pbl/Equiery/EquieryApril2022/html/index.html?page=38&origin=reader>, respectively.

## VOLUNTEER FOR TRAIL WORK (TO HELP IMPROVE HORSE BRIDGE CROSSINGS) AT LITTLE BENNETT

*from Christina Micek*

As reported in the last newsletter, through a grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board, TROT, in collaboration with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and Potomac Bridle and Hiking Trails Association (PBHTA), will be working to improve bridges at one of the favorite equestrian trail systems in Montgomery County, Little Bennett Regional Park, by adding a non-slip surface to dangerously slippery bridge sections. Little Bennett is unique in that it offers one of the few horse trailer camping sites in Maryland (sites TROT helped to lay out years ago), and it is enjoyed by many equestrian riders. Now is time for caring TROT members to volunteer to actually do the work, to make the bridge crossings safe for all.

Specifically, we will be painting a non-slip surface on two bridges at Little Bennett that get slippery from not drying fully under the tree canopy. This is a pilot program that might be copied throughout the state if successful. The job will be simply to prep the area, paint half the bridge one day and the other half the next day (so park users can still pass by). We are looking for volunteers.

We will make the work fun and will play a trivia game while we work, where each location competes against the others for a prize at lunch (which is being provided to the volunteers). We will also have a prize for the group or barn who brings the most people to the workday.

Afterwards, enjoy a relaxing lunch at the Browning Run parking field. Bring chairs or picnic blankets and meet fellow equestrians. A simple lunch will be provided by PBHTA.

**DATE: June 4 and 5 (rain-date June 11/12)**

**TRAILWORK TIME: 9 AM-12 PM**

**LUNCH: 12 PM**

**LOCATION: Little Bennett Regional Park, Clarksburg, Maryland**

[There will be two groups at Browning Run Trail Head Parking.]

**Please RSVP in advance, and volunteer for one or two days. RSVP to [boardmember01@trot-md.org](mailto:boardmember01@trot-md.org).**

**CONTACT ON WORK DAYS: Christina Micek - Cell: 617-435-1187.**



## TO ALL WHO APPRECIATE WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION'S (WSSC'S) TRAILS, DO COME TO AN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON FOR THE STAFF

*from Barbara Sollner-Webb*

For decades, TROT members have held "appreciation luncheons" for the WSSC watershed staff, to visit with them and in person tell them how much we appreciate their taking such great care of the equestrian trails. These trails run through WSSC's land buffer that protects the WSSC's Rocky Gorge (T. Howard Duckett) and Triadelphia reservoirs, which are part of the Patuxent River that separates Montgomery and Prince George's Counties on the south from Howard County on the north. They offer wonderful riding, not rocky (despite the name), with beautiful views of the reservoirs, where you often see herons and occasionally eagles. For many years, the WSSC staff has kindly cut fallen trees that blocked the trail, and in recent years they have also wonderfully cleared the thorny vines that we riders used to spend countless hours clipping to keep the trail clear.

Due to COVID, our appreciation luncheons have been "on hold", but 2022 seems the year to resume. These get-togethers are fun, yummy even, with great camaraderie, and are a swell way to thank the folks who make our riding so enjoyable. If you would like to join in this worthwhile event, to "schmooze" with the WSSC watershed staff at an outdoor lunch sometime this summer (maybe June or July), please let me know ([bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu) or 301-655-3552). Intended attendees will select several mutually acceptable days, to let the WSSC staff pick between.

## TRAILER LOADING AND TRAILER DRIVING CLINICS

*from Priscilla Huffman*

Stay tuned for more information on two clinics we are trying to put together over the summer. One will focus on how to teach your horse to self-load or load more easily (so you have to be able to get your horse to the clinic on your trailer) while the other will focus on trailer driving skills and trailer safety.

## HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL "TRICK" TO BACK A TRAILER *from Barbara Sollner-Webb*

When the board was discussing Priscilla Huffman's great idea that TROT hold a trailering clinic (see above), I mentioned the easy, almost fool-proof method to back a horse trailer taught to me by long-time TROT member, Bob Ledley. [He was also the inventor of the CAT scan and spouse of founding TROT member Terry Ledley.] Board members thought this method should be shared in a newsletter article: When wanting to back up a truck/trailer, many people have trouble controlling the direction. But if you **simply put your hand on the BOTTOM of the steering wheel and move it in the direction you want the back of the trailer to turn**, it works correctly every time! Of course, the further you turn the steering wheel, the further the trailer will turn, and be sure to not turn so far as to jack-knife the trailer. Just practice for five minutes and you will say "easy-peazy!" Thanks so much for this most valuable trick, Bob!

## NEWS FROM TROT'S ACTION COMMITTEE!!

*from Joyce Bell*

*(additional members: Susan Gray, Janet Leitzel, Christina Micek and Barbara Sollner-Webb)*

The Action Committee had a busy year, especially during the 2022 legislative session which wrapped up on April 11. In that effort, TROT worked to brainstorm and promote (or defeat) the passage of multiple bills, intended to further the interests of TROT's membership. This included testifying before the legislature, in many cases working closely with the Maryland Horse Council (MHC). These bills were introduced in the previous newsletter, so this is a compendium to that article. The bills that passed the legislature are awaiting the Governor's signature (or at least lack of his veto), to be enacted into law.

We are pleased to report that the "Border Bill" (SB086/HB1395) -- which requires tenants of DNR-owned properties to maintain unobstructed access to trail heads by trail users and first responders -- passed the House and Senate with flying colors!

Another legislative win was passage of the Great Maryland Outdoors Act (SB541/HB727). This bill establishes a Park System Critical Maintenance Fund, funded by an \$80 million appropriation, and establishes a Park Systems Capital Improvement and Acquisitions Fund to finish existing capital projects and to acquire new lands. This bill has great scope and funding to go with it; it is hopeful that our trail networks can be not only better maintained but expanded as well.

Unfortunately, the Helmet Bill (HB713), to require helmets for riders under 18 on public land, failed to pass the legislature last year. Similarly, the Right to Engage in Equine Activities ("Right to Ride") bill (HB116/SB345), which copied last year's Right to Hunt (with both the bills recognizing the importance of those activities to Maryland's historical, cultural, and economic interests) also failed to pass the legislature. But since it is not unusual for a bill to require 2-3 years for passage, it is hoped that both the Helmet Bill and the Right to Engage in Equine Activities bill will be re-introduced and passed in upcoming legislative sessions.

Also unfortunately in the Action Committee's view, the Agrotourism bill (SB296/HB558) passed the legislature. In this one bill, the Action Committee's advice broke with that of the MHC, after we realized that its very vague language would encourage counties to permit on agriculturally zoned land BY RIGHT (i.e., without local zoning hearings) very high-intensity uses like KOA-type campgrounds, enormous rallies, etc. Hopefully those fears will not be realized.

The Action Committee worked hard with the Maryland Horse Council to oppose further expansion of Sunday hunting bills in Calvert, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Worcester, Charles, and Prince George's Counties. [Prince George's and Talbot counties currently permit no Sunday hunting at all, but those bills would have allowed hunting from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January plus ease restrictions on bow hunting.] There was even a state-wide, year-long, all species bill, but this died in committee - thanks to the help of many TROT members and equestrians who gave written and oral testimony against it. There was hope that the county-specific Sunday hunting bills would die in the Senate committee, as has often happened in the past, but only the Worcester bill for spring turkey hunting on private as well as public property and the Prince George's bill died. The other county-specific hunting bills got 11th hour compromises and amendments, and passed. [Dorchester was added to the Queen Anne's and Caroline bills.] Essentially, counties were allowed to keep any full-day Sunday hunting they already had. but on the many additional Sundays that were granted, hunting would have to end at 10:30 AM.

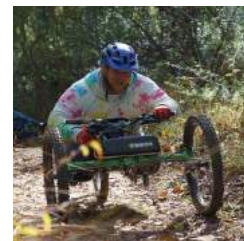
Then in late April, the Action Committee became aware of the sale of the former Girl Scout Camp Ilchester, one of the last remaining forested natural areas available for public acquisition in eastern Howard County. Rather than be sold for townhouses, Howard County Executive Calvin Ball hopes the Howard County Council will approve \$6 million to purchase this land for parkland. The Action Committee signed on to a letter from a coalition of 16 organizations that support land preservation, greenways, smart growth, etc., supporting the acquisition of Camp Ilchester to preserve it as parkland. Hope for success!

And then in May, as this newsletter was being assembled, we learned from several astute members that Montgomery County is planning changes in trails usage at Wheaton Regional Park. This is a multi-faceted and complicated plan; see it at <https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/wheaton-regional-park-master-plan-update/>. Our Action Committee is attempting to correct some misunderstandings about the plan that were posted on TROT's Community Facebook page and is developing written testimony, advocating for safety and equity before their final vote on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Please submit your own testimony (instructions at the above URL), but **testimony must be in by May 27<sup>th</sup>**!

**YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED:** The Action Committee is here to give voice to TROT's membership. Your voice can be amplified when it joins others who sing the same song! If you know a trail that needs maintenance, or could be extended to make a circuit, let us know. If you see a "for sale" sign on a property that abuts a park where you ride, let us know. If you know about other properties threatened for development when other uses might be more appropriate, please let us know (<[wbell2@washcoll.edu](mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu)>).

## UPCOMING ADAPTIVE BIKE MEET AND GREET

The last three issues of the TROT newsletter have described how adaptive bikes – that allow physically impaired individuals to experience some of the wonderful outdoors that we so enjoy on horseback – will be coming to some area parks, starting in Patapsco. To get to know some of these fellow trail users, and maybe teach your horse they need not be afraid (less likely to shy), plan to come to a Meet-And-Greet at McKeldin Park on June 12. Contact Carolann (at 410-908-5599 or [Blackandwhitecookie@Yahoo.com](mailto:Blackandwhitecookie@Yahoo.com)) for more info. *[photo from Carolann]*



## REMINDER OF MONTHLY TRAILS MEETING

*from Carolann Sharpe*

Maryland Horse Council Trails and Greenway Committee Hosts an Open Forum Town Hall every 1st Monday via ZOOM 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Please join for networking, information, resources, and fellowship. The Zoom link can be found at: <https://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/> and go to: Calendar.

## LIVING IN THE MOMENT

*from Janet Leitzel*

Four years ago, I adopted a 12-year-old off the track Thoroughbred that had been abandoned along with her baby at the barn where I board my horses. She was depressed, beaten down and didn't seem to care what happened to her. Her foal was pretty, friendly, and already had been "claimed" by another boarder.

I knew Cyd needed to be trained as a riding horse when I adopted her. Fortunately, I have a friend who likes training projects. As with any project, there are surprises. Several months after being adopted, Cyd was diagnosed with a fractured ilium. It was an old injury and probably explains why she did not race until she was four. It also is why early in her training it took, and still can take, a few strides to get her back-end moving properly. In addition, her right hock is not good; she has an old ligament injury in the right front leg and essentially her whole left side was smashed. Over the years, Cyd has developed a certain way of moving to accommodate her physical limitations.

Two years ago, Cyd became my retirement project. My friend felt it was time to turn her reins over to me full-time. Cyd had gone from downtrodden and out of shape to behaving like a 4-year-old. She has a good work ethic, likes to move out and thankfully has brakes. Cyd is also opinionated, not always respectful, and has her own agenda when working. Often my biggest challenge when riding Cyd is determining if her issues that day are physical, mental and/or attitude.

Cantering makes Cyd happy, and it has become the highlight of our rides together. There is joy in being on Cyd as she does her lovely, collected canter. For those few brief moments, we are a team, and I am grateful.



## REPORT FROM JACQUIE COWAN, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REP

1- 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](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net) or 410-215-4979.

2- 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](mailto: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>.

3- TROT is so much more than just a riding club --- it can be a wonderful support system for friends in need. THANK YOU to fellow TROT members Barb Sollner Webb, Joyce Bell, Susan Gray, Rachan Mayer, and Dee Woodhull for helping me get some much-needed work done around the house.

## REPORT FROM BARBARA SOLLNER-WEBB, LAUREL AREA REP

WSSC staff has now most kindly removed 50 (that's fifty!) fallen trees that were impeding progress on the Rocky Gorge trail, as well as clearing all the brambles and thorny-vines from a swath on either side of the trail. This makes the trail an absolute delight to ride again (see page 3 for a report of a trail ride there). Thank you SOOOO much, WSSC! Come to the WSSC appreciation luncheon (page 6).



## REPORT FROM PRISCILLA HUFFMAN, BALTIMORE COUNTY REP

Once again, we have our Gunpowder Falls State Park ranger Andrea Bucher and crew to thank for an outstanding job clearing trails in preparation for our TROT ride May 11<sup>th</sup>. Due to storm damage prior to the ride, we had to postpone the ride until May 18<sup>th</sup>, however the crew will be working on the trails prior to that date to clear any trees that are down due to the storm. We are so fortunate to have this great support! A few TROT members have also put in several hours on these trails clipping and pruning.

If anyone would like to ride these trails either during the week or on the weekend, I will be happy to arrange a time with you. Weekends are more crowded with hikers on the trails, but there is usually room for two trailers. Contact me at [<priscillahuffman@verizon.net>](mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net) or 301-646-4422.

## REPORT FROM CHRISTINA MICEK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY REP

### Seasonal Ag Reserve Highlights

Now that the warm weather is coming, please visit many of Montgomery County's agricultural reserve wonders. Many of these locations are where we ride our horses on a regular basis, including C and O Canal, Montgomery County Agricultural History Farm Park, Little Bennett, Black Hill Regional Park, Sugarloaf Mountain Park and Woodstock Equestrian Park. For info, see: [<https://www.mocoalliance.org/uploads/4/8/8/6/48867647/mca\\_agbrochure2017\\_print.pdf>](https://www.mocoalliance.org/uploads/4/8/8/6/48867647/mca_agbrochure2017_print.pdf).

### Parks Topics of Interest:

-- **DNR:** The 2022 Photo Contest is now officially open. If you are a horseback rider on DNR trails and lands, please submit as many horseback riding photos as you can. We are trying to show the parks how much we appreciate using the trails. [<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/03/08/maryland-dnr-2022-photo-contest-now-open/>](https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/03/08/maryland-dnr-2022-photo-contest-now-open/).

Do consider becoming a DNR ranger Volunteer Mounted Patrol: [<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/volranger.aspx>](https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/volranger.aspx).

-- **Montgomery Parks:** As part of the [Little Bennett Regional Master Plan](#), Montgomery Parks is renovating all the hiking-only trails to improve trail surface and drainage conditions. This trail work project is on-going. All trails are open during renovation work, but please use caution when encountering trail work in progress.

-- **Meadowbrook Riding Stable Improvement Project has started:** Meadowbrook is completing the construction of a covered riding ring on the southeastern corner of the property, farthest from Rock Creek, a pavilion-like structure with seasonal enclosures for year-round use. They are also replacing the roof and looking to improve restroom ADA accessibility. For more info, see: [<https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/draft-meadowbrook-riding-stables-improvement-projects/>](https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/draft-meadowbrook-riding-stables-improvement-projects/).

-- **Did you know you can rent Woodstock Equestrian for your next equestrian event?** See: [<https://montgomeryparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Woodstock-Equestrian-Application-Form-rev.-05-11-2021.pdf>](https://montgomeryparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Woodstock-Equestrian-Application-Form-rev.-05-11-2021.pdf).

**Planning Board -- Topics of Interest:** A public hearing was held April 21 to introduce a proposal for a "no net loss of forest" amendment to the MoCo Forest Conservation Law and Forest Conservation and Trees Regulations.

**Rustic Roads Master Plan** was updated: There are currently 99 roads in the Rustic Road Program. 25 new roads were nominated, and 19 are currently being put forth as rustic; 27 roads lack a complete description and do not have the required significant features identified. The purpose of the program is to preserve historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County. Some newly nominated roads of note include Bucklodge Road in Boyds, Riding Stable Road in Burtonsville, Nicholson Farm Road in Dickerson, and Seneca Road in Potomac.

## REPORT FROM IVY SMINK, ON CARROLL COUNTY

Please see the trail work listed on page 2 and come out for these valuable efforts.

**Update on the Gillis Falls Salt Box Park – multipurpose trails:** Spring workday had a turn out of five volunteers. Approval to start work on the 0.9-mile section of trail with crushed stone and bridge development was pushed back from this spring but is still scheduled for some time in 2022. Grading and application of slab stone was done at a stream crossing close to the equestrian center that has been eroding due to storm water and ATV use (which is prohibited!).

**Update on Union Mills – multipurpose trails:** Most of the trails on the north and south end of the park have been named to assist park users from getting lost. The outside perimeter trails have been blazed in white to help keep riders from entering the Hashawha Center where no horseback riding is permitted. Money has been budgeted to perform an environmental wetlands study concerning the trails that are close to and crossing Pipe Creek. At some point in the future, these trails will be closed. The study will determine areas where the creek can be crossed without damaging the wetlands surrounding the creek. The date for the study is not known at this time. The Union Mills trails have been remapped but at this time an updated version of the map has NOT been posted. The current map, not updated, is on the Carroll County Equestrian Council web site. Many thanks to volunteers Mark Schmidt and Joe Hild for their countless hours, materials, and financial contributions in tree clearing, mowing, making signs and coordinating with Park and Recreation staff to make Union Mills a Carroll County gem.

Several areas on the north side (from the Kowomu Parking lot) have been re-routed due to excessive use and erosion. The parking lot has been vandalized several times by people doing "donuts" and tearing up the grassy area. There is a designated area for cars to park at the Kowomu trailer parking area. The Spiegel Hill trails are being re-marked ...

*[continued on next page]*

## continued from previous page -- REPORT ON CARROLL COUNTY

and mowed, and about two miles of trails are open and ready to use. The Spiegel Hill trails became overgrown during the last few years because they stopped being farmed. These trails were once used for driving. The goal is to reopen the last section sometime during this year. The Kowomu Trail Road, now gravel, is in the Carroll County master plan with budgeted monies to be paved within five years. This will present some issues such as excessive vehicular speed, eliminating sections of trail that are along the road, reducing the aesthetics, and changing the trailhead entrance. Unfortunately, these items were not considered or addressed during the budget approval process.

On the south end of Union Mills, some trails were re-routed due to erosion and safety concerns. Again, the perimeter is blazed in white to help riders avoid the landfill area and Hashawha Center. Two new bypass areas have been created, one at the left of Twin Pond parking lot to avoid the lower muddy boulevard (blazed with white and orange) and the other on the Lower Trail.

The **Carroll County Equestrian Center** is available for public use. Please contact Lynda Arnold for more details and reservations at [ccecofmd@yahoo.com](mailto:ccecofmd@yahoo.com) or call 410-549-5141 or Parks and Recreation at 410-386-2103.

## VERY VALUABLE ARTICLES OUR MEMBERS HAVE SHARED WITH US

Our astute TROT members have kindly shared some very useful articles that we are passing on here, as surely many other TROT members will appreciate the information.

Christina Micek, who often kindly shares real useful info with us, reminded **on what to do (or not do) if you come across a fawn that appears abandoned in the woods, with no mother in sight.** Importantly, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) cautions anyone who encounters such a fawn to avoid disturbing it and resist the urge to feed or handle it. Almost assuredly, the mother left her baby there while she went out to forage, and although that may be a MANY hour trip, both the mother and baby will be upset if you "save" (steal) the baby. Furthermore, removing deer from the wild and keeping them in captivity is dangerous, harmful to the animal, and against the law. Deer are born with specialized adaptations, including a lack of odor that prevents predators from locating them; remarkable camouflage that makes it hard to see them; and "freezing behavior" that allows them to stay absolutely motionless when

approached by potential predators. Despite these effective strategies, inquisitive fawns will sometimes explore new surroundings and may appear to be lost or orphaned. But there is almost never any advantage in human intervention because the adult female (doe) is nearby and will return to nurse the fawn. In fact, humans remaining near the fawn will interfere with this natural process and should steer clear for those reasons. Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. "Deer do not suffer the stress of human intervention well and rarely survive being handled. Help us keep Maryland's wildlife wild, and trust that our deer are well-suited to surviving without our assistance." More information can be found on the DNR website or call the state's wildlife hotline at 877-463-6497.



Leah Mack kindly shared Jane Thery's valuable article entitled "**Green horse farms**" from the *Mountains-to-Bay Grazing Alliance Newsletter*. It provides great approaches on how to make your horse farm more friendly to the plant. While that article does not seem to be available online, Jane has another article with similar info that is readily available in the Equiery; read it at: <http://content.yudu.com/web/40pbl/Equiery/Jan22EQ/html/index.html?origin=reader&page=40>.

Judy Thacher, who has kindly shared numerous enlightening horse-keeping articles for many past newsletter issues, has this time again offered several interesting ones which we urge you to consider:

- A valuable set of complementary articles on **the danger of green grass causing laminitis:** [https://thehorse.com/199039/dont-gamble-with-green-grass/?utm\\_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm\\_source=Newsletter](https://thehorse.com/199039/dont-gamble-with-green-grass/?utm_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm_source=Newsletter) and on **the valuing of muzzling laminitis-prone horses:** [https://thehorse.com/160001/horse-grazing-muzzling-faqs/?utm\\_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm\\_source=Newsletter](https://thehorse.com/160001/horse-grazing-muzzling-faqs/?utm_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm_source=Newsletter).

- An excellent series of articles on **parasite control, stressing the importance of deworming according to fecal load tests of the individual horses, not following a worm-every-horse-every-six-weeks regime as used to be considered proper care, also stressing manure management, rotational grazing,** and more. Read about this at: [https://thehorse.com/features/equine-internal-parasites/?utm\\_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm\\_source=Newsletter](https://thehorse.com/features/equine-internal-parasites/?utm_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm_source=Newsletter).

- Useful suggestions on **protecting sensitive horses from bugs:** [thehorse.com/1110894/infographic-how-to-protect-your-ibh-horse-from-bugs/?utm\\_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm\\_source=Newsletter](http://thehorse.com/1110894/infographic-how-to-protect-your-ibh-horse-from-bugs/?utm_medium=Farm+barn+enews&utm_source=Newsletter). [Editor's note: my one complaint about this otherwise good presentation is that when discussing Sweet Itch (allergy to the saliva of the Culicoides midge) they regrettably fail to make a distinction between different insecticides; many of us with imported Icelandic horses, that are highly prone to Sweet Itch, know that the few bug sprays that also contain Butoxypropylene Glycol, like Pyranha "Wipe n' Spray", are much more effective at deterring Culicoides and thus at alleviating the horse's Sweet Itch misery].

- An article from Green Glen Equine Hospital (Glen Rock, PA) about **local plants that are toxic to horses:**

Hungry horses do not heed warnings about avoiding poisonous plants. There is widespread belief that instinct protects animals, but this is not always true. Therefore, it is up to horse owners to prevent plant poisonings. The best way to do this is to become familiar with identification of poisonous plants and pasture management practices. If good quality forage is plentiful in the pasture, horses will avoid most poisonous plants. In the absence of good quality forage, such as during periods of drought or when pastures are overgrazed, animals may begin to investigate undesirable plants available in the pasture.

Some common toxic plants we have found in our immediate area:

**POISON HEMLOCK:** This toxic weed has sparked deep concern in and around the Susquehanna Valley as it is spreading rapidly and out of control. The plant's infamy is from ancient Greece when it was used as a means of execution, with its most notable victim being the philosopher Socrates. Native to Europe, it was brought over here as an ornamental plant, escaped cultivation and is now widespread along roadsides, hiking trails, ditches and field borders. ALL parts of Poison Hemlock are extremely poisonous to humans and livestock, especially the seeds. It is not related to hemlock trees that are native to North America. Although horses will avoid it given alternatives, it can cause problems in fields harvested for hay or silage. Additionally, with the rapid spread of the plant, local ag officials are worried that it is within easier reach of horses on the edges of fields. Symptoms of poisoning include frothing of the mouth and uneasiness/agitation, clamping of the jaws, dilated pupils, weak/rapid pulse, and convulsions.



**MILKWEED:** Milkweed is a very common pasture plant. Elliptical shaped leaves branch off a central stem. When any part of the plant is torn it will ooze a white, sticky sap. The flowers grow in a ball shaped cluster and when in full bloom are a lavender color. The pods develop to about 3" and in fall split open to release brown seeds that float through the air on downy fibers. ALL parts of the plant are toxic. Living and dried plants (accidentally baled into hay) are toxic. Like most toxic plants, horses will avoid milkweed unless they have no other food source. Signs of milkweed poisoning are: disorientation, profuse salivation, loss of muscular control, spasms, rapid and weak pulse, and respiratory paralysis.



**NIGHTSHADE:** Nightshade likes sandy soil and thrives even in dry conditions. You may have noticed this plant's vining habits on your own property somewhere as it is very common in our area. It has a white star shaped flower and the fruit looks like a large black current. ALL parts of this plant are toxic. The leaves are dark green and smooth textured somewhat similar to that of a tomato plant. (It is in the same family as tomato, potato and pepper plants). Again, horses are unlikely to eat nightshade unless there is no other feed available or it is baled into the hay and eaten accidentally. Signs of nightshade poisoning may include colic like symptoms, loss of muscle control, disorientation, dilated pupils and even death.



**BUTTERCUP:** Buttercups are very commonly found in pastures. The flowers are yellow and cup shaped with sharply lobed leaves off of a thin stem. The grass around them is typically well grazed as horses will avoid eating buttercups if there is more desirable feed available. After a hard frost or when dried in hay, buttercups are no longer toxic. Buttercups typically cause irritation of the mouth, diarrhea, or colic like symptoms.



**JIMSONWEED:** Jimsonweed is most prevalent in pastures, along roadsides or as a common home garden weed. A distinguishing feature of jimsonweed is its noxious odor, as well as green- or purple-tinted stems, funnel-shaped white or lavender flowers and multi-seeded, spiny capsule-shaped fruit. ALL parts of jimsonweed are poisonous. Leaves and seeds are the usual source of poisoning but are rarely eaten due to its strong odor and unpleasant taste. Symptoms of poisoning include dilated pupils, loss of coordination, colic, diarrhea, rapid pulse, and labored respiration.



There are numerous online references worth investigating when learning about pasture management and plants, shrubs, and trees toxic to your horse. Many of the sites contain images to aid in identification. If you suspect a plant may be poisonous and need assistance identifying the plant, contact the Penn State Extension Field and Forage Team at 1-877-345-0691 or visit <https://extension.psu.edu/animals-and-livestock/equine> for additional phone numbers for the Extension Equine Team.

- Another very well-written article from Green Glen Equine Hospital on **horses who are not yet shedding out:** They warn that this could be a sign of parasitism, poor nutrition, and/or "pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction" (PPID), sometimes referred to as Cushing's Disease. Check with your vet.

## 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](mailto: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 one exception is that the June Business Meeting will instead be Tuesday, June 7 at 7:30 PM. The links for all these meetings are on the calendar section of TROT's website (at <[TROT-MD.org](http://TROT-MD.org)>). All TROT members are welcome to join, and your input will be appreciated!

## WHO'S WHO IN TROT

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|--|--|--|----------------------------|
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| <b>Vice President</b>  | Janet Whelan   | < <a href="mailto:celticfrost214@gmail.com">celticfrost214@gmail.com</a> >         | 410-790-1044               |
| <b>Interim Secretary</b>   | Ivy Smink  | < <a href="mailto:trotsecretary@gmail.com">trotsecretary@gmail.com</a> >           | 443-974-5896               |
| <b>Treasurer</b>   | Janet Leitzel  | < <a href="mailto:trottreasurer@gmail.com">trottreasurer@gmail.com</a> >           | 410-833-0572               |
| <b>Additional Board members</b>  | Barbara Sollner-Webb   | < <a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a> >                                 | 301-604-5619               |
|  | Christina Micek  | < <a href="mailto:Christina.Micek@natgeo.com">Christina.Micek@natgeo.com</a> >     | 617-435-1187               |
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|  | Joyce Bell   | < <a href="mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu">wbell2@washcoll.edu</a> >                   | 410-820-6002               |
|  | Susan Gray   | < <a href="mailto:susan@campususan.com">susan@campususan.com</a> >                 | 240-426-1655               |
| <b>Action Committee</b>  | Joyce Bell, Susan Gray, Janet Leitzel, Christina Micek, and Barbara Sollner-Webb |  |                            |
| <b>Trail Work Coordinator</b>  | June Mellinger   | < <a href="mailto:adyhawkjm@comcast.net">adyhawkjm@comcast.net</a> >               |                            |
| <b>Website Gurus</b>   | June Mellinger and Christina Micek   |  |                            |
| <b>Newsletter</b>  | Barbara Sollner-Webb   | < <a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a> >                                 | 301-604-5619               |
| <b>Trail Ride Coordinator</b>  | Reena Lentz  | < <a href="mailto:lentzreena@gmail.com">lentzreena@gmail.com</a> >                 | 301-471-4389               |
| <b>License Plate</b>   | Sandy Boyd   | < <a href="mailto:ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com">ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com</a> >         | 301-257-5177               |
| <b>Inventory Manager</b>   | Gale Monahan   | < <a href="mailto:gale.monahan2@gmail.com">gale.monahan2@gmail.com</a> >           | 301-854-3852               |
| <b>COUNTY AND AREA COORDINATORS</b>  |  |  |                            |
| <i>(lacking official coordinators; some members are kindly providing info)</i> |  |  |                            |
| <b>Anne Arundel</b>  | Jacquie Cowan  | < <a href="mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net">jacquiecowan@comcast.net</a> >         | 410-923-6157               |
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| <b>Laurel/Burtonsville</b>   | Barbara Sollner-Webb   | < <a href="mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu">bsw@jhmi.edu</a> >                                 | 301-604-5619               |
| <b>Queen Anne's/ Talbot</b>  | Joyce Bell   | < <a href="mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu">wbell2@washcoll.edu</a> >                   | 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/Trail.Riders.of.Today)> and
- (2) the "community" page:  
<[www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/127953560568829/)>

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

TROT Newsletter archives: <[www.trot-md.org/newsletter](http://www.trot-md.org/newsletter)>  
Barbara Sollner-Webb, newsletter editor (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

To place a newsletter ad, email <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>. **TROT Members** can place one 100-word or business card-size ad in each issue **FOR FREE!** What a great deal! It will run in one issue unless you notify the editor that you want it to run again. TROT members wanting to run a larger ad get that \$6 off its rate (listed below).

### Ad rates for non-members and larger ads:

|               |      |                                 |      |
|---------------|------|---------------------------------|------|
| 100 words     | \$6  | (each additional word - \$0.10) |      |
| Business Card | \$6  | 1/4 page ad                     | \$25 |
| 1/2 page ad   | \$40 | Full page ad                    | \$75 |

## Great Organically-Raised Farm Products

from Leah Mack



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

Leah Mack <[1ecofarmer@gmail.com](mailto:1ecofarmer@gmail.com)>, [grazydays.com](http://grazydays.com)

## 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](mailto: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 making suggestions and helpfully catching typos in articles of the draft text goes to Judy Thacher, Priscilla Huffman, Christina Micek, Carolann Sharpe, Howard Lanham, and Denis Webb. Also thanks to June Mellinger, Reena Lentz, Janet Leitzel, Joyce Bell, and Susan Gray. You guys are wonderful!

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**TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY**

TROT Membership

PO Box 425

Finksburg, MD 21048

***Inside this issue:***

*Ride Morgan Run*

*Little Bennett Bridge Work*

*WSSC Appreciation Luncheon*

*How to Easily Back a Trailer*

*Report from the Action Committee*

*News from the various counties*

*Valuable articles on horse-related information*

*And lots more*