



# 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 spring! 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

How our equine partners come to us can be fated. Ares, my now 22 year old OTTB came to me in a crazy way. Things in the horse world can be like finding the Wizard behind the curtain in OZ. Buddha was in full retirement. My husband was in line for a job in St Louis, Missouri, and I wanted to lease a horse so I could continue riding with my friends. This was emotional and scary as Buddha was basically the only horse I had ever ridden for more than 15 minutes in my life. An ad on Craigslist announced a "Lease" horse over near Gunpowder Park. The young lady informed me he was a 16-year-old OTTB that had been a lesson horse named Sly-Boots. She didn't want to care for him through the winter. She had a mare she was working with for showing. Her property was a small backyard with a garage and small muddy field with a couple traffic barrels. She did not have a saddle and I didn't bring mine. With uncharacteristic bravery, I climbed on him bareback. We went around the muddy lot, and he was quiet, soft and his brown eyes said "Yup. I will take care of you".

My main riding partner at that time had a pregnant horse so she educated me about what Coggins was and suggested I ask for Up to Date Health Records. This young lady had only had "Sly Boots" a month. She explained she had gotten him off Craigslist the month before as "free to a good home". Tracking down the Vet in New Jersey, and a three-way call to the original owner, and gal that put him on Craigslist originally, and it was revealed this backyard free horse was a 13-year-old, recent Cover Boy for United States Dressage Federation, 4<sup>th</sup> Level Dressage Eventer Jumper named Danzig Good Time. Sadly, the owner's trusted friend allegedly made promises and assurances he would be safe at their property. Instead, she allegedly kept/sold thousands of dollars of tack, lied, and said a neighbor was using him; then he was misrepresented and given away. This horse valued in Tens of thousands of dollars became my forever trail partner. The price tag, \$250.

Horses end up with us because they choose us. There is something in their eyes that digs into our soul. They know to keep us on our toes when we need it, forcing us to focus on them and the task of riding, and they know when to relax. forgive our mistakes and allow us to ignore the world when we need the mental break. They display their personalities, and it completes the puzzle piece of our emotions and heart. In many cases, a horse isn't even the same horse from one person to another. We shouldn't overlook the diamonds in the rough in our horses or our friends. We shouldn't write them off because of how other people describe them. If you were a horse for sale, how would your friends describe you? How would your boss describe you? Your Kids? Parents? Are you a dependable, can sit for a long time and pick up right where we left off gelding? Or Are you a "needs an intermediate rider, still building confidence, can be hard to load and get to follow" Mare? Do you have the same patience with the people around you as you do with your horse? People will make a long list of conditions our horses "prefer" but we forget to be that forgiving of our people.

It's time to get out on the trails, camp and play with friends. Find some time, sign up to lead a TROT ride, and this "15.2 hand, mature, can go out alone but prefers with a group, been there done that, UTD, coming out of the winter with a little extra weight, more whoa than go, in your pocket if you have treats, loads easily, but doesn't like to be pushed when she feels tired, not marish, mare" hopes to see you on the trails.

## RENEW YOUR TROT MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022

If you have already renewed for 2022, thank you! But anyone who has not renewed their membership by March 31 will no longer receive the benefits of TROT membership, including future newsletters, the ability to participate in TROT rides or other membership-only events, and the good feeling that your participation helps trails and open spaces. Please also encourage your friends to join: online at <https://trot-md.org/join-now/> or using the membership form on pages 10 and 11.

## A BIG WELCOME TO JUNE MELLINGER, TROT'S NEW WEBSITE GURU & TROT'S NEW TRAIL MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR & TROT'S NEW CALVERT COUNTY COORDINATOR! WOW!

*write-up from June*

As a new member of Trail Riders of Today (TROT), I now represent the Calvert County area and look forward to meeting everyone. I have also stepped into the role of Trail Maintenance Coordinator. And I am also assisting with cleanup and streamlining the website, where our first priority is getting the membership area working properly. So those of you who will be late getting your renewals in may lose that access at some point in the next few months (hopefully it won't take us that long but...) **[And this website access is key, because the upcoming membership directory will be there!]**

As the Trail Maintenance Coordinator, I am tasked with tracking EVERYONE's volunteer hours spent keeping our trails and parks clean. So please, submit your volunteer time. We have a lot of new ideas, and everyone is working hard in getting re-organized. But it will take some time so please be patient with us as we get there.

To introduce myself, we moved to Maryland after my husband's retirement after 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. Prior to that, we lived in Washington State, Idaho, Florida, North Carolina and areas in between. We have been married for over 40 years and have a beautiful daughter who was gracious enough to make us grandparents. She is also 10 years older than her handsome brother who recently married the girl of his dreams. So our family has been growing and I'm sure it will continue to do so. I am also retired after having spent 15+ years as the Document Control Administrator for Dominion Cove Point.

I was always that girl sitting on the steps when the barn manager signed in for the day, no matter the weather. I was the girl who would clean stalls and help feed, just to be with the horses! Enchon was my first horse love; she always got a little extra sawdust! I would groom her before and after our rides because I knew nobody else would, and I would bring her treats at feeding time. Then that stable shut down and she disappeared. I was heartbroken and never forgot her; she taught me a lot more than those "Misty of Chincoteague" books did!

While living in Texas, I found a ranch and was invited on roundups, auctions and the local rodeos. I met Tess (lower photo) when we brought the herd in for spring checkups; she was two months old. Because I showed so much interest in her, I was given the opportunity to buy her shortly before she turned two. My husband and I had a long talk because relocating every few years was difficult enough, let alone with a horse. Promises made, promises kept. She moved everywhere we moved, and she retired here, right along with us. She had a lot of horsey friends and even ended up with more than a few sisters over the years: Misty, Amber, Dixie and PJ. Sadly, they are no longer with us. Tess was 31 when I lost her, and my coworkers and family were worried about me for months. I did finally pull through, but it hurt; it hurt a lot. I still tear up when we bring up those "memories"; we went through a lot together.

What happened to everyone? Well, Misty had cancer when she joined our family and was put down when her time came. Amber was sold to a friend of my daughter; PJ suffered a horrible colic like I had never seen; and Dixie was 30 when I finally had to make the decision due to severe arthritis (bone on bone). Shortly before losing Dixie, I decided I needed a retirement project. Instead, I ended up with two (upper photo): Scarlett is now a 14-year-old Saddlebred with a filly at her side. Jolie turns two in June, and I believe is part Arab due to her ears and movement in the field. We work most days, all three of us! I can tell you, retirement is awesome -- with exception of no paychecks!

*[June declined to provide a photo of herself, but happily gave ones of her horses, Scarlett and Jolie...]*



*...and Tess]*

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE *from June Mellinger*

Did you know that most state parks have volunteer programs to earn annual park passes? And that keeping our parks clean, helps keep our trails clean? The more we do as members of TROT, the more our organization will be respected and welcomed! As we coexist with others enjoying the outdoors and volunteer participation grows, more trail opportunities will become available. We need to show that TROT members are good stewards of the land, and volunteering does that! The first step is registering as a volunteer with a park near you. Once registered, you will receive emails notifying you when help is needed.

Let's get our voice heard, LOUD and CLEAR. Volunteer a few hours a month to help a park near you! Do it for yourself, if not for your horses! As noted above, as Trail Maintenance Coordinator, I am tasked with keeping track of everyone's time. As in "everyone," those active members in our organization state-wide! So, if you do get out to help, even if it's just picking up trash along a trail while you are out and about, even if it's for just 15 minutes -- please let me know! We want to see TROT members assisting in growing our trail systems!

*There's nothing more satisfying than a quiet stroll on the trails as the forest wakes up for the day...*



*[a cleared tree; photo from June]*

**Reported hours for February:** Calvert Cliffs State Park – 2 hours; Gunpowder State Park – 4 hours. **2022 total – 6 hours.**

## TROT'S 2022 TRAIL RIDE PROGRAM, ORGANIZED BY REENA LENTZ

Those on Facebook already received requests from Reena to volunteer to lead a TROT ride. But to all others, please take this notice as Reena's request that you select your favorite venue to lead a TROT trail ride and show off its beauty. Please remember that leading a TROT trail ride is easy and fun. See Laurel Lobel's article on this in the March 2021 newsletter (p. 8, available at <[www.trot-md.org/](http://www.trot-md.org/)>), but please contact Reena Lentz at <[lentzreena@gmail.com](mailto:lentzreena@gmail.com)> or 301-471-4389 to lead a ride.

Also to all TROT members: do come to ride at a TROT trail ride! They are a most enjoyable and safe way to learn new trails, meet new riding buddies, and -- probably most important for TROT's mission -- help illustrate the value of preserving trails. While riding your familiar trail is certainly nice, it is most valuable to get acquainted with other trail systems in the area. And what better way than on TROT's 2022 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 info and do not publicly divulge the start time, so everyone coming must contact the ride leader.

Rides planned thus far are listed below. [For updated trail ride listings, please check the TROT website and Facebook page.]

**Sunday April 3 -- McKeldin/Woodstock area.** Mette Raben Fields's ride will include river views and river crossings, Fairies Bridge and the quarry. It will be at a mostly "quarter horse walk" for 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Helmets not required. Bring a lunch if you would like to eat afterwards. We will meet at McKeldin, which has an entrance fee. Be sure to contact Mette to sign up. 443-695-4354 or Fb messenger.

**Friday, April 15 – Morgan Run Environmental Area.** Located in Carroll County, this venue is approximately 2,000 acres of natural area. We will spend two hours exploring the loops and water crossings. This is walk/trot-paced, leisurely ride. Fellowship and good conversation are the goals. Parking is at an excellent gravel parking lot, and there is a porta-potty and picnic tables. Contact Carolann Sharpe (410-908-5599 or <[Blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com](mailto:Blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com)>) to arrange to come. Helmet not required. Food and beverages will be shared after the ride. Since this ride is on tax day, Carolann reminds everyone not to give the IRS all your money, but to spend a little on your non-deductible dependent. [see too-true illustration, from the internet →]



**Saturday, April 30 (rain date Sunday May 1) – North Tract in east Laurel (Anne Arundel County)** Barbara will again be leading TROT's traditional 2-2 1/2 hour walk-trot ride in the Patuxent Research Refuge, to remind folks that this lovely venue is especially valuable because its trails were designed for tanks (back when the land was Ft. Meade's) and thus can be ridden NO-MATTER HOW WET THE GROUND IS. [This is a good thing to remember, to save your local trails after the next storm!] It is an easy ride; shoes only for tender-footed horses; helmets required; pot-luck afterwards. Contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (301-655-3552 or <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>) to sign up and learn the start time.

**Wednesday, May 11 (rain date May 18) -- Gunpowder Falls State Park, Bunker Hill trails, Hereford, MD (off I-83 North.)** Enjoy a 2-hour ride through the woods and along the Gunpowder River. This is a beautiful trail, and thanks to the efforts of the park staff, the trails are in excellent condition. This trail is primarily single tracking through the woods, with hills, some step-downs, and some paved areas. There are several small stream crossings, and we will be crossing the Gunpowder river twice in shallow sections. Be prepared to encounter hikers and dogs on leashes. There is room in the parking area for four trailers including mine. No green horses, please. As this park is very busy on weekends, the ride is being scheduled for a weekday. This will primarily be a walking ride with some trotting in a few spots where the trails allow. Bring a lunch if you would like to eat together following the ride. Helmets are required. Contact Priscilla Huffman (<[priscillahuffman@verizon.net](mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net)> or 301-646-4422) for detailed directions and time.

**Saturday, May 21 – Rocky Gorge Reservoir (in Laurel).** We will again be having TROT's traditional 2-2 1/2 hour walk-trot ride in the woods abutting the beautiful Rocky Gorge Reservoir in Prince George's and Montgomery counties, on "Terry Ledley Equestrian Trail", named by WSSC to honor Terry Ledley, a founding TROT member. Despite the name, the trail is not rocky but great footing. We can hope to see herons, maybe an eagle. Helmets required; pot-luck afterwards. Contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (301-655-3552 or <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>) to sign up and learn the start time.

**Saturday, June 4 – McKeldin to Woodstock Inn.** A 1 3/4 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; we can't predict how busy the Inn will be. Look to *Living Social/Local Flavor* and other discount websites for 50% coupons. Contact Carolann Sharpe (at <[Blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com](mailto:Blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com)> or 410-908-5599) to arrange to come.



[photo from Carolann]

**PLEASE contact Reena to volunteer to lead additional rides!**



## LOTS OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THIS YEAR -- A BUSY MONTH FOR TROT'S ACTION COMMITTEE!!

*from Joyce Bell and Barbara Sollner-Webb*

With the Maryland legislature now in full session, TROT carefully assessed and then testified on many bills in the House ("HB...") and Senate ("SB...") starting in January.

TROT supported SB 086, the Public Trail Access "Border Bill" which would require tenants of any DNR-owned property to maintain a border sufficient to allow unobstructed access to trail heads by trail users and first responders. SB 086 passed the Senate unanimously and crossed to the House, where it is awaiting a decision.

TROT then supported the Right to Engage in Equestrian Activities "Right to Ride" bill (SB 345), which stated "it is the intent of the general assembly that residents of the state have a right to engage in equine activities... (because) equine activities are a valued part of the state's historical cultural, and social heritage that provide unique recreational benefits to residents of the state; and equine activities play an important part in the state's economy ... and support the conservation, preservation, and management of the state's open space and natural resources using primarily private dollars". This bill (like its sibling HB 116) could have been helpful in future land use issues, but they did not move forward.

Next was SB 296, a bill to expand the recommended language of "agrotourism". While it was favored by some groups (with text initially forwarded to the TROT membership), TROT's Action Committee then realized this bill could cause KOA campgrounds, even Sturgis-type motorcycle rallies and Woodstock-type music festivals, to be allowed BY RIGHT on agriculturally zoned land (eliminating local zoning hearings), so TROT sent another membership mailing and testified to disfavor this bill. However, SB 296 and a rather analogous HB 558 both passed their respective chambers and are awaiting resolution.

This was followed by TROT's support of HB 713, requiring helmets for minors riding horses on public lands. TROT members had strongly supported this when asked last summer. At this virtual hearing (on a day too nice to stay inside) the House committee members immediately noted that TROT's testimony was delivered on horseback -- with Barbara of course wearing a riding helmet. This bill passed the House and crossed to the Senate. That same day TROT also testified for HB 326, disallowing state funding for MAGLEV (project discussed in TROT's June 2021 newsletter); it and its sibling SB 359 seem stalled.

TROT also signed on to support "Maryland the Beautiful Act" (HB1031) which would establish a statewide land conservation goal for MD to protect 30% of its lands by 2030 and 40% by 2040. This would ensure that open space for nature, parks, and local agriculture is an integral part of our state's growth and development. HB1031 stalled but its sibling was just heard in the Senate (SB 791). TROT also signed on to support the "Great Maryland Outdoor Act" (HB 727/SB 541), which would establish a Park System Critical Maintenance Fund, exempt from State finance laws, and appropriating \$80 million in FY '24 for same; and establish a Park Systems Capital Improvement and Acquisitions Fund to finish existing capital projects and to acquire new lands. This legislation passed the Senate and is awaiting decision in the House.

Within the week before assembling this newsletter, a plethora of bills to expand hunting on Sundays were heard. Expansion of Sunday hunting is an effort that TROT has worked against since its founding, following its membership's strong advice delivered in numerous surveys over the years (most recently, summer 2021). The most egregious of these bills (HB 1279) would allow hunting on Sundays year-round, all day and night, and state-wide (including in Baltimore, Howard and Prince George's counties, where no Sunday hunting was permitted, and in Montgomery and Kent counties, where Sunday hunting ended at 10:30 AM)! An Action Alert was sent to TROT's membership with instructions for testifying, and MHC and others actively recruited people to testify. And happily, the HB 1279 hearing had numerous individuals and organizations testifying against the legislation. Everyone's testimony was OUTSTANDINGLY GOOD, as was testimony sent in by individuals and organizations who could not attend orally, which I had been provided! [No one testified in favor.] Several Delegates asked the sponsor very astute questions, many of which the sponsor could not adequately address, deflecting by saying the bill was "merely standardizing regulations across the state." Delegate Anne Healey ended the session with the EXCELLENT question of why not standardize regulations across the state by just banning Sunday hunting! It is too soon for any decision to be reported.

TROT (also MHC and individuals) presented oral and/or written testimony against many of the county-specific Sunday hunting bills (for Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, Calvert, Somerset, and Prince Georges counties), some of which would allow hunting all 52 Sundays each year. It is too soon to yet have feedback on their outcomes. However, on the Prince George's bill (HB 874), there is good news. The sponsor was late, arriving only after they started the citizens' testimony, with Jane Seigler (speaking for the MHC) giving fabulous testimony against expanding Sunday hunting. But when the sponsor arrived, she announced that they were changing the bill to no longer address Sunday gun hunting! Instead, the bill is now focused on reducing the safety zone for bow hunting from 150 to 50 yards. Being the next person to testify, I quickly changed from TROT's submitted written testimony (which had focused on Sunday hunting) to instead speak about how 50 yards would reduce public safety since lethal arrows can travel MUCH further than 50 yards, to hit a residence, church, etc. Again, it is too soon for any decision.

In addition, multiple TROT members and many others testified individually on many bills that addressed other issues that may interest TROT members, including the climate crisis, vehicular noise, improving state environmental commissions, recycling, etc.

Finally, since Sunday hunting bills will surely be back next year, start thinking about your testimony now. For lots of very interesting and relevant information about horses in Maryland, see the MHC's video kindly forwarded by Jacquie Cowan, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWkCnPIRCKo>>. [Only one caveat: this video's assertion about farmland being "preserved forever" (at 1:40) must be evaluated in light of SB 155 (2017) making Ag preservation land no longer preserved in perpetuity but possible to develop after a few decades in "preservation" (see TROT's June 2021 newsletter, page 5).]

# SAVE THE DATE TO HELP IMPROVE HORSE BRIDGE CROSSINGS AT LITTLE BENNETT

*from Christina Micek*

You may remember the last newsletter announcing TROT being awarded a grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board 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. Well... now is time for caring TROT members to volunteer to actually do the work:

**When: June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>; rain date: June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: Little Bennett Regional Park**

Prizes will be given to the horse organization or barn with the most participants! This will be a fun workday and picnic where you will be able to get to know your fellow horsemen from the area. Team Leads will be running stop and play trivia and other games while working to make everyone have fun, laugh, and meet new people. Oh right- and also to win! ... And work!

We are now accepting donations of gently used tarps of all sizes, but the larger the better, clean paint brushes, and sturdy rollers for painting. Contact Christina Micek of Montgomery County at [<cmicek@christinamicek.com>](mailto:cmicek@christinamicek.com) with offers of these materials **AND TO VOLUNTEER – please!**

## REPORT ON HORSE WORLD EXPO, 2022

*from Christina Micek*

Horse enthusiasts came out of the woodwork to attend the Horse World Expo from March 3-6, with Friday and Saturday being the preferred days.

### **Clinician highlights:**

Guy McLean started a beautiful filly over the four days. I love watching him for his kindness and fairness in training, and because of his enormous love of the horse. Some highlights were using a more seasoned horse to help young horses learn more advanced lateral moves, making the right thing easy and the wrong thing hard, setting up a horse for success by making sure exposure to movements (yield hindquarters, bend to a stop) and tools (ropes, ground driving) is treated as a part of training, and nothing to be scared of, and to not underestimate a horse in what they could or will give -- i.e., flying lead changes in their early rides. At the end of the weekend, he kissed that filly in front of the entire crowd.

Brandon Wise went through his lectures with great detail on how to get a horse to perform bridleless from teaching emotional control in our horses, to learning how to ride a horse properly using everything from subtle weight changes in your seat bones to training a horse to be as responsive as possible to requests. Brandon has links to his lectures from the Horse World Expo on his website at [<https://brendanwisehorsemanship.com/>](https://brendanwisehorsemanship.com/).

Don Schramm's clinic was extremely popular, and he was teaching green horses to use gymnastics to improve a horse's rideability over fences. Many of the exercises were at first challenging, and Don made tunnels with jump poles for the horses so they could see the appropriate line easier, and then moved those aids away after the horse jumped clear.

Ivy Starnes was new to me, and I ended up going to all of her clinics. She helps gaited horse owners be able to get a smooth gait with their horses, on a loose rein, snaffle, bitless bridle or hackamore. Her warmth and empathy towards the horses made her a very effective trainer, and most horses who had issues with gaiting were gaiting at the end of 30 minutes in her hands. She likes to use clicker training and finds that because horses relax when moving their jaws while eating, a treat will automatically relax them; she also finds training this way is more fun for both trainer and horse. She did not use clicker training at the Horse World Expo but Lindsey Partridge did, so that made three clinicians talking about clicker training as an effective training technique.

Shawna Karrasch brought two babies to the expo to demonstrate clicker training, a 2- and 3-year-old. Her lectures on how to teach emotional control, how some can learn to use clicker training improperly, and how to avoid those pitfalls was wonderful.

### **Entertainment Highlights**

One of the best attended events was the trail champion challenge, with the nice touch of allowing competitors to return to train their horses on those obstacles that were a little bit challenging, having the judges offering them tips and tricks on training for next time. It was heartening to see so many new people trying this sport. The most well attended event though must have been the Mounted Games Across America speed demonstration. Fun was had by competitors and audience alike.

### **Vendor Highlights:**

Brideless Liberty Neck Rings seemed to be available at more vendors this year.

Horsehoodies for keeping flies off your horse on trail rides was an ingenious product made by a local women-run company. <https://www.horsehoodies.org/>

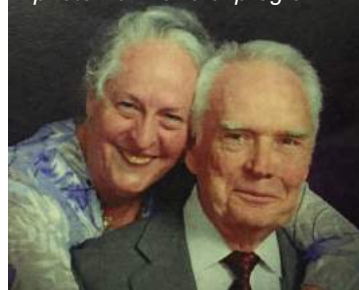
A new product called EquineSleeve was quite impressive for injuries and cellulitis. ([<https://www.equinesleeve.com/>](https://www.equinesleeve.com/))



## DEVASTATING NEWS OF JOHN ANGEVINE'S PASSING

With great sadness we report the passing of John Angevine, spouse of Mary Angevine, both decades-long TROT members and both extremely helpful TROT volunteers. Tragically, while innocently driving, John was hit head-on by an oncoming vehicle, evidently driven at inordinate speed by an unlicensed driver, which crossed the center line right in front of John, who passed away at the scene. John was a highly respected CPA, still working full time, and over the years had multiple times donated his skills to TROT. He is also beloved by many TROT riders for each year leading a trail ride on the wonderful Anacostia trail (College Park, through Bladensburg, into DC); he always brought great snacks to share after the ride. John was also an expert jouser. [Mary had for decades been TROT's extremely active Prince George's County representative and is to be thanked for getting the county to create a number of equestrian trials, including those at Fairland Park.] We will miss you terribly, John!

*photo from funeral program*



## UPCOMING ADAPTIVE BIKE MEET AND GREET

The last two 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, evidently 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 Contact Carolann (at 410-908-5599 or <[Blackandwhitecookie@Yahoo.com](mailto:Blackandwhitecookie@Yahoo.com)>) for more info.

*[photo from Carolann]*



## REPORT FROM JACQUIE COWAN, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY REP -- NOTE THE UPCOMING TUCKAHOE BREAST CANCER RIDE

A very worthwhile upcoming event is "Saddlin' Up for Breast Cancer", with a trail ride, lunch, raffles, prizes, and the "All Pinked Out Parade and Contest". Mark your calendars; it will be at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center on Saturday, September 17, 2022, preceded by a Friday night pizza party and camping available that night by reservation. All proceeds benefit the Red Devils, who provide life-enhancing services to breast cancer patients and their families. For info, contact Jacquie Cowan (at <[jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)> or 410-215-4979) or see <<https://www.tuckahoequestriancenter.com/events>>.

Also, come join Anne Arundel County horse lovers at "Horse Talk" gatherings. No membership/no fees. Just come, chat, and hear a guest speaker or two. The second Tuesday of each month, 7 PM, at Glory Days in Edgewater; run your own tab. See the Anne Arundel County Horse Network on Facebook or contact Jacquie Cowan (<[jacquiecowan@comcast.net](mailto:jacquiecowan@comcast.net)> or 410-215-4979).

## REPORT FROM PRISCILLA HUFFMAN, BALTIMORE COUNTY REP

A paper chase is coming up April 2nd at the Baltimore County Ag Center (1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030), to benefit the Baltimore/Harford County 4-H. If you've never ridden in a paper chase, this would be a good introductory ride - only 4.5 miles. Rather than being a speed event, a paper chase is a timed event where you ride the course at what you think is the optimal speed (can be just walk/trot) given the trail conditions, and then your final time is judged against what the course managers think is the optimal time for that course. You can also just ride for fun on a well-marked trail and not worry about the time! You must purchase tickets in advance for this event and select a start time ahead of time. See more details in this link:

<<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/open-ag-center-spring-paper-chase-to-benefit-baltimoreharford-co-4-h-tickets-267047053927>>

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

With COVID hopefully moving further in the rear view mirror, we would like to again hold an appreciation luncheon for the WSSC watershed staff, who so wonderfully maintain the Rocky Gorge Trail and the Triadelphia Trails for our riding enjoyment. It is always outdoors, in their open brick pavilion, and is a very nice time (and yummy). Having many appreciative riders participate works well. If you would like to be part of this worthwhile event, contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (<[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)> or 301-604-5619), so we can pick a day when the most of us, and the WSSC staff, can attend.

## REPORT FROM HOWARD LANHAM, ON DAYS END SUMMER CAMP

Days End Horse Rescue Farm in Woodbine, MD is announcing nine weeks of horse-oriented summer camp for horse-loving kids (Junior Legacy Camp for ages 7-11 and Youth Legacy Camp for ages 12-17) as well as a paid education internship for anyone over 16. It is to let youths "work with rescue horses in a fun and safe environment" and include "grooming horses daily and games on horseback". Click on <<https://www.defhr.org/learn/educational-programs/legacy-camp-2022/>> to see dates, prices, and learn about themed weeks being offered this year for Youth Legacy. Email <[outreach@DEFHR.org](mailto:outreach@DEFHR.org)> or call 301-854-5037 for more information.



## NEWS FROM CHRISTINA MICEK, MONTGOMERY COUNTY REP

### NEWS IN THE PARKS

In October of 2021, the Montgomery County Planning Board approved the Parks CIP budget, and it was sent to the County Council and Executive. Unfortunately, due to budget shortfalls, mostly due to emergency actions needed around the pandemic, the County Executive recommended the council reduce the parks budget by 19.392 million for FY23-28. There was an immediate outcry from the public and many lambasted the County Executive's office for the proposed cuts at exactly the same time the Parks have become one of the most cherished of resources in the last few years. TROT's Montgomery County Coordinator spoke at a hearing against the cuts while representing the Potomac Bridle and Hiking Trail Association and equestrians in the area.

Warner Circle Special Park in Kensington will be selling the Manor and Carriage House on the property to a developer for a cash donation of \$677,500 to create 19 residential units. Public access will still be provided to the restored Stone Terrace on the Manor House up to three times per year, and the recreation room in the Carriage House up to eight times a year. An indoor historic exhibit on Kensington/Warner Manor will be made accessible to the public. The Montgomery County Historical Preservation Commission and Maryland Historical Trust will be involved. This may usher in a new focus on successful adaptive reuse of nationally recognized historic properties while preserving surrounding parkland for the benefit of county residents, as well as providing additional tax revenue.

#### Completed Park Acquisitions:

Broad Run Conservation Park - Dec 2021  
Black Hill Regional Park- Dec 2021

Olney Manor Recreation Park - Oct 2021  
South Silver Spring Urban Recreational Park - Dec 2021

#### Projects Close to Construction

Black Hill Community Garden – Under contract / Spring 2022 Construction  
North Branch Trail – Awaiting approvals / Summer 2022 Start of Construction  
Sligo Creek Trail Renovation – Spring 2022 Construction

### BILLS IN THE COUNTY

Council Bill 3-22 would require the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight to prepare a climate assessment for each bill, zoning text amendment, master plan, and master plan amendment. The OLO will also prepare a yearly climate assessment and prepare an annual report.

### OTHER

Montgomery Countryside Alliance is supporting a stronger forest conservation law, like Frederick County's, as a new report showed the county cleared over 2000 acres of trees in the past decade. They are also focused on Thrive 2050, requesting that chapters on the environment, food security, water resources and climate resilience be put back into the county plan before it is approved.

## 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 info 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!

## REALLY VALUABLE ARTICLES OUR MEMBERS HAVE SHARED WITH US

Astute TROT member Judy Thacher, who has kindly shared informative horse-keeping articles for most newsletter issues, this time again offered these interesting ones which we urge you to look at:

-- A lot of very useful info about feeding hay (different varieties, different cuttings, hay analysis, soaking, etc.) is offered by TheHorse.com, at [https://thehorse.com/161957/horse-hay-qa/?utm\\_medium=Nutrition+enews&utm\\_source=Newsletter](https://thehorse.com/161957/horse-hay-qa/?utm_medium=Nutrition+enews&utm_source=Newsletter)

-- Also a lot of very useful info about acclimatizing a horse to spring grass, and when that is not advisable, is offered by TheHorse.com, at <https://thehorse.com/199596/transitioning-horses-to-spring-pastures/>.

-- And useful ways to minimize problems with mud in pastures, is from Equus at [https://ker.com/equine/dealing-with-pasture-mud/?partner=legends&utm\\_source=KER+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=6d568565e3-Legends+Equine+2222&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0d95781dfc-6d568565e3-479381](https://ker.com/equine/dealing-with-pasture-mud/?partner=legends&utm_source=KER+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6d568565e3-Legends+Equine+2222&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0d95781dfc-6d568565e3-479381).

Astute TROT member Christina Micek has often kindly shared multiple useful articles with us, many from Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR), which authored this one on potential future shortages of hay for feeding horses: <http://elcr.org/no-hay-for-the-horses/>.

Finally, the MHC ran a very nice article on the C&O Canal trail in Western Maryland, in their recent Equiery issue. Check it out, at: <http://content.yudu.com/web/40pbl/Equiery/Mar22EQ/html/index.html?page=38>.

## AMAZON SMILE

from Ivy Smink

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

## JOIN A TROT BUSINESS MEETING

These get-togethers are the first Wednesday of each month, at 7 PM, by Zoom. The link is on the calendar section of TROT's website (at <[TROT-MD.org](https://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
<b>President</b>	Carolann Sharpe	< <a href="mailto:trotpresident@gmail.com">trotpresident@gmail.com</a> >	410-908-5599
<b>Vice President</b>	Janet Whelan	< <a href="mailto:celticfrost214@gmail.com">celticfrost214@gmail.com</a> >	410-790-1044
<b>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
	Howard Lanham	< <a href="mailto:hqlanham@gmail.com">hqlanham@gmail.com</a> >	410-259-2964
	Joyce Bell	< <a href="mailto:wbell2@washcoll.edu">wbell2@washcoll.edu</a> >	410-820-6002
	Susan Gray	< <a href="mailto:susan@campsususan.com">susan@campsususan.com</a> >	240-426-1655
<b>Action Committee</b>	Joyce Bell, Susan Gray, Christina Micek, and Barbara Sollner-Webb		
<b>Trail Work Coordinator</b>	June Mellinger	< <a href="mailto:ladyhawkjm@comcast.net">ladyhawkjm@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
<b>Baltimore</b>	Priscilla Huffman	< <a href="mailto:priscillahuffman@verizon.net">priscillahuffman@verizon.net</a> >	410-215-4979
<b>Calvert</b>	June Mellinger	< <a href="mailto:ladyhawkjm@comcast.net">ladyhawkjm@comcast.net</a> >	301-646-4422
<b>Frederick</b>	Deborah Wagner	CALL OR TEXT: 301-233-7738	
<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)>.

## THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOUR INPUT

Please, send information, news and photos for the newsletter to the editor, Barbara Sollner-Webb, at <[bsw@jhmi.edu](mailto:bsw@jhmi.edu)>.

## Get Your TROT License Plates

from Sandy Boyd, License Plate Guru

Have you considered getting a TROT license plate? What better way to show your enthusiasm for horses and educate the public about TROT at the same time! For a one-time fee of \$25, you can enjoy a lifetime of having a TROT license plate. The application process is very easy; within a few weeks you'll have your own gorgeous TROT license plate. Please contact me at <[ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com](mailto:ridersandyboyd@yahoo.com)> or call/text me on 301-257-5177, and I will help you with the process.



## TROT INFORMATION

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

TROT has two Facebook pages;

(1) the "official" page for members:

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

(2) the "community" page:

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

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

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

## REMINDER OF MONTHLY MEETING

*from Carolann Sharpe*

Maryland Horse Council Trails and Greenway Committee Hosts an Open Forum Town Hall every 1st Monday via ZOOM (April 4th and May 9th) 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Please join us for networking, information, resources, and fellowship. Link can be found at: <<https://www.mdhorsecouncil.org/>> and go to: Calendar, to join by Zoom, using this link: <<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82357890844?pwd=dHpOWkNaMnBibnNJVHp2ZithYIVEUT0>>.

## 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 - \$.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*



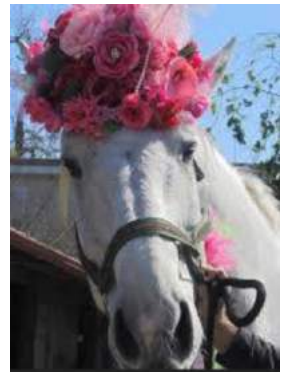
**FOR SALE: 100% grass fed beef** (ground beef \$6.99/lb) & **pastured, soy-free, corn-free eggs** (\$6/doz). Beef halves and whole lambs in fall. Organic practices. Pick up at my farm in Libertytown, MD or I can bring to a TROT ride.

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

## "Bunny Foo Foo & Friends" Easter Eve Trail Ride at Valley Meadow Farms Bed & Barn -- Saturday, April 16

BYOH (bring your own horse), pack a lunch, and enjoy springtime and all its beauty as you ride miles of trails across this fabulous 400-acre private farm. If you are lucky, see Bunny Foo Foo, Butter the cow, and BB the chicken and their friends during your visit to this fabulous family farm. Prizes given for best (horse or rider helmet decorated) Easter bonnets. <<http://www.valleymeadowfarms.com/>>. \$25 per person for a DAY RIDE visit, 9 AM - 4 PM, with reservations required. (301)678-6584 or email: <[info@valleymeadowfarms.com](mailto:info@valleymeadowfarms.com)>.

Come see what guests and horse riding friends are talking about: "*Valley Meadow Farms is a gem! The horseback riding trails are among the most beautiful and well-maintained in the state*" — Ross Peddicord, Maryland Horse Industry Board. "*The absolute best spot in Maryland and region for a horse and rider getaway. The views are absolutely spectacular. The trails are in the best shape I have ever ridden.*" "*Trails are diverse terrain over hills and valleys, fields and forest ...and well-marked with great footing.*" [photo from internet]



## Gaited Lessons w/ Jacquie Cowan

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

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



# TROT Membership Application

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

Annual membership is January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>

Check all that apply

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

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

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

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* First Name \_\_\_\_\_ \* Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*Family Membership Adults: \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Address \_\_\_\_\_

\* City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

\* 5 Digit Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\* County \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email \_\_\_\_\_

\* Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

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



# TROT Membership Application

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

**Payment Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Check payment type

☐ Check

☐ Cash

☐ PayPal

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

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

☐ Yes, please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

## Helmet Policy

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

.....

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Primary Member Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secondary Member Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Guardian Signature for minor(s))

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)





**TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY**

TROT Membership  
PO Box 425  
Finksburg, MD 21048

***Inside this issue:***

*Welcome TROT's new website guru, trail work coordinator, and  
Calvert County coordinator -- all rolled into one person!*

*Planned 2022 TROT trail rides*

*Report on TROT's involvement in Maryland's 2022 legislation*

*Planning for Little Bennett bridge improvement work*

*Horse World Expo report*

*Very sad passing of John Angevine*

*News from the various counties*

*Valuable articles on horse-related information*

*And lots more*