



Trail Riders Of Today

Dedicated to maintaining and expanding sustainable trails and open spaces

www.trot-md.org/

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

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[Note: Articles without attribution are by the Newsletter Editor, Meg Keating Marsh]

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 CORNER

from Carolann Sharpe

Is it my imagination or are many horse people introverts? One of my greatest loves is to talk to people. I have volunteered year after year at many expos and festivals to share my knowledge of one topic or another, recruit new members, gain exposure for a club, for a business or for an organization. Recently, I have taken notice of my closest friends in the horse world who are introverts, and those in the horse world who are in continuous, deep conflict that find my "outgoing" personality offensive.

I once posted a quote: "How do introverts make friends? 10% THEY DON'T and 90% an extrovert found them, liked them, and adopted them". It leads me to question if there is a pattern of introverts finding loyalty, companionship, trust, comfort, purpose, acceptance, and safety in animals? Have introverts become disappointed or disenchanted with being let down by people?

I don't think I would find many people in the horse world that would disagree that horses provide such a zen, calm partnership that is hard to describe sometimes unless you are another horse person. For me (especially in the beginning of my riding journey) riding was the one time in my day, my week, my month that I wasn't thinking about ANYTHING else but staying on top. Work, relationships, kids...nothing invaded my brain but the next step my horse took. A log, water, a hill, the path ahead of me...whether riding alone or with others, it was just him and me moving together.

My superpower is that I can talk to just about anyone. I love meeting new people, asking them about themselves, making connections and common bonds. I feel like a social lighthouse to many of my friends. That one person that is inviting, planning, motivating and getting them out of their comfort zone. This week a trot member I met and rode with a few weeks ago, wrote me a beautiful note –

"Hey Carolann. I just wanted to say thanks for being such a great trail and horse activity steward. I ended up meeting up with [other TROT member] over the weekend to ride to Woodstock Inn and it was literally a dream come true. I am kind of an introvert, so I don't know that I would've joined TROT and the other groups without your encouragement. Thanks for being awesome!"

This note touched me because it embodied what I love so much about TROT: making connections, joining up with new people, sharing the love for horses and trail riding. And people getting outside of their comfort zone. So, for this summer... go outside your comfort zone!! Ride somewhere new, invite a new TROT member to join you, or you join someone you have never ridden with before. If you are an introvert because people have disappointed you or have not met your expectations... then you were with the wrong people. The right ones are around the corner, a post away, a letter away or even just a phone call away. Join the TROT Board meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month via ZOOM to meet other horse crazy people like you. Join a ride, lead a ride, meet for dinner or lunch with other horse people. Your adventures will be worth it. If you are an extrovert like me... adopt an introvert. Just like your horse, they will absorb your confidence and feed off your positive energy, and be a faithful companion for a very long time. They are easy keepers!

Keep the horse between you and the ground and LIVE like someone left the gate open!!!

! ATTENTION !

from Ivy Smink

June 3rd, 2023: **Equestrian trail users may want to avoid the north Union Mills trails (Kowomu parking) on this date as there will be lots of cyclists touring the shared use trails in Union Mills area.** The MTBMD (Mountain Bike Club of Maryland) will be holding a fundraiser benefiting the Hashawha Center in Carroll County. The fundraiser will be a bicycling event with a course that will be mapped out in the Hashawha/Union Mills area – north side. The MTBM is a volunteer organization focused on community benefits of outdoor recreation, shared trail use, and education. This group has been working with the Hashawha Environmental Center to improve and maintain trails making them safe for all users including equestrians. This core group of people have been the “on-the-ground-boots” for much of the trail maintenance in the Hashawha/Union Mills area.

EEEEKS..... E-Bikes

from Ivy Smink

On March 22nd, the CCPR (Carroll County Parks and Recreation) Advisory Board had a meeting to accept public comments on the use of Class 1 e-bikes on the county owned trails in Carroll County. Following that meeting, CCPR made a recommendation to the Carroll County Commissioners to allow e-bikes in the Union Mills, Hashawha and Piney Run areas. At this time, clarification needs to be made whether the Piney Run trails will include the “undeveloped” trails, which are primarily equestrian used trails. A public meeting with the Commissions will be held in May to obtain citizen comment on this recommendation which will ultimately change (or not change) the current park ordinance regarding e-bike usage on county trails. This recommendation will not involve Morgan Run environmental area. The Morgan Run trails do not permit bicycling or any type of motorized vehicle on the trails. The Morgan Run area is part of the Patapsco Park system. **Please**, check the Carroll County government web page for the date of this public hearing. Put your comments in writing as well as verbally announce them.

Educate yourself about e-bikes. Class 1 e-bikes have pedal assistance up to 20mph (no help without pedaling). Class 2 e-bikes have pedal assistance up to 20mph, plus throttle to 20 mph (without pedaling). Class 3 e-bikes can be ridden without pedaling up to 20mph and may have pedal assistance up to 28mph. These e-bikes are not allowed on multi-use trails in some states. Class 4 e-bikes have a motor wattage over 50 and can go up to 50 mph. Class 4 e-bikes must be licensed&& registered and are like an electric dirt bike.

Gills Falls

from Ivy Smink

Last year this time, CCPR had a public meeting to get public input for the expansion of a multi-use trail from the Saltbox area to the trails on Grimville Road. This area has some sensitive wetland/marshy areas. To complete the trail from the Saltbox to Grimville Road, a bridge was planned to pass over an environmental sensitive area. As part of phase 1, permits and bridge development issues have been proven too costly and so this mile long trail extension has been terminated.

Union Mills Area

from Ivy Smink

CCPR are finally putting the Union Mills trails in the 5-year budget for 2029 (wow – it seems like a long way off, doesn't it?) The entire trail system will be looked at for a master plan and design. The Union Mills trails have been under scrutiny for several years due to trails along the streams of Pipe Creek and Bear Branch. These streams are environmentally sensitive areas. Heavy equestrian use of these sections has resulted in unstable and chronically muddy areas that have enlarged with no available room for re-routing. Trails along these streams will eventually be eliminated. The environmental study will make recommendations to re-route trails away from the streams and stream crossings.

The Speigel Hill trail area (across Saw Mill Road from the Kowomu parking area) is in good shape at this time but will need continued mowing to preserve them. Volunteers must mow these fields. The fields have been leased out to a farmer for agricultural use, however, the perimeter of each field will be made available for trail riding according to the CCPR. There can be no riding in the fields. All fields connect by using the outside trail along the tree line. This area was, and still is, a great place to ride leisurely and enjoy birding during any season. A new “woods” trail has been added that goes behind the aeropark launch area. This new trail completes a circuit around the entire area for a little over 3 miles.

Patuxent River Trail Project

from Carolann Sharpe

Hey everyone,

We have some exciting news! The Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) has been awarded \$100,000 in grant funding by the Maryland State Legislature to help build Patuxent Phase 2 out to Long Corner Road!!

On behalf of MORE and the Patuxent River Trail Project, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to Senator Craig Zucker for the funding to build another 2.5 miles of trail in the upstream portion of Patuxent River State Park. We have a broad coalition of partners, including MORE, the Friends of Seneca and Patuxent, the Trail Riders of Today equestrian group (TROT), the Izaak Walton League of America, and the Montgomery County Road Runners, all of whom have supported this exciting project from the beginning. This funding will help us tremendously as we build the next phase of Patuxent trails!

Thanks,
Dave, Tom & Matt
The Patuxent River Trail Project

Scheduled Rides Update

from Reena Lentz

Hi TROT members. Even though it's winter, and I'll say this quietly (not a bad winter), it's time to think ahead about spring and summer riding. We have several rides already scheduled.

1. Carolann is leading a Memorial Day ride on May 29th to the American Legion. Dress in red, white and blue. Contact her on Facebook messenger or <blackandwhitecookie@yahoo.com>
2. Carolann is leading a ride to Woodstock Inn on June 26th Monday for summer vacation.
3. Carolann is leading another ride to Woodstock Inn on July 23rd.
4. Carolann is leading the pony swim at High Tide Farm on 8/6. (*Thank you so much Carolann!*)
5. Tracy McCommon is leading a ride from Codorus on May 9th. Wear helmets and bring a dish to share after the ride. You can contact her at 407-579-7989 (cell).
6. Tracy McCommon is leading a ride from Union Mills on June 13th. Wear helmets and bring a dish to share after the ride. Shoes or boots are recommended for Union Mills. (*Thank you Tracy!*)

Stay tuned as there are many more rides "in the works". If you want to lead a ride but have never done it before, contact me at lentzreena@gmail.com and I can walk you through the process. If you're a long time TROT trail ride leader, contact me too! I would love to hear from you.

Thanks! ~Reena

CALL TO ACTION!!

from Carolann Sharpe



This coming spring, TROT will be looking for volunteers to help install mounting blocks and hitching posts in the McKeldin Area and connected areas of Patapsco State Park. This was our 2022-23 Mhib Grant award Project. Please contact Carolann at [<President@trot-md.org>](mailto:President@trot-md.org) to lend your name and contact information for when we start the project. IF YOU HAVE experience installing and constructing them please contact her as well. Here is the vision (they will be at bathrooms and strategically identified locations):

TROT INFORMATION

TROT has two Facebook pages;

(1) the "official" page for members:

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

(2) the "community" page:

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

Meg Keating, newsletter editor ([<mnskeating1@gmail.com>](mailto:mnskeating1@gmail.com))

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place a newsletter ad, email [<mnskeating1@gmail.com>](mailto:mnskeating1@gmail.com).

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

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). I will come to you.



TRAIL RIDERS OF TODAY

TROT Membership

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