



The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

May-June 2005

Trail News and Events

Volunteer Horse Patrol



DEP Property - CHC Liaison with DEP and Local Organization

The two articles below on Paugussett State Forest and the Kazan properties are fine examples of how the CT Horse Council can work as a liaison with the DEP and local equestrian organizations to build and improve trails that can be designated as multi-use. This liaison helps to establish working relationships with the DEP and other user groups.

Hats off to Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA)

If your organization is willing to work on trails and designations, please contact Diane Ciano for further information.

Paugussett State Forest, Newtown, CT

Diane Ciano and Cindy Miller, Volunteer Coordinator for Paugussett State Forest met with DEP State Forester, Gerald Milne and Paugussett S.F Supervisor Nathan Hale on the start up of a patrol in the forest. They also met again to walk a trail that was presented by Cindy to become a designated multi-use trail. This trail utilizes some of the Blue-blazed hiking trail and skirts around the areas that are not suitable for horses, including some newly purchased open space land in the town of Newtown. The trail also includes the existing road that was the only designated route for equestrians, creating a loop trail through the forest instead of the one way road. Gerry flagged the trail and noted that a bridge would be needed over a wetland area, in order for the trail project to be approved by DEP. The Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA) will build the bridge. Once the trail has gone through the approval stages through several departments within DEP, (Wildlife & Fisheries, Wetlands, etc.) along with an approval letter from the Newtown Open Space Committee, it will become an official multi-use trail.

This will be the first time that a Blue-blazed trail will be designated in part as multi-use.

This can only happen with the agreement between DEP, CT Forest & Park Association (CFPA) and the NBLA. As part of the project, a signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with DEP and NBLA will be that they continue to maintain the multi-use trail.

Kazan Property - Sandy Hook, CT

Gerry also gave out flagging markers for Tanja Gouveia of NBLA to mark trails in the newly purchased Warner Ponc or Kazan Property located in Sandy Hook. Trails in the over 200 acres of land will be flagged to be determined as multi-use trails. Once the trails are flagged, Gerry will walk the trails for evaluation and comments and put them on a map to be signed for approval with the DEP as designated multi-use trails. A MOU will also be required.

Annual CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Meeting

The annual CHC-VHP meeting was held on 4/3 at CHC President Chip Beckett's Veterinary practice in Glastonbury. Re-certification of VHP members for CPR & First Aid was completed. A full CPR & First Aid class was held the following Sunday 4/10. Congratulations to **Bunny Joseph**, **Judith Hunter** and **Phyllis Alexander** who have completed all their requirements and now are official VHP members. Our VHP members **Meg Sautter** and **Angela Deschenes** presented the CPR & First Aid classes at a very reduced rate for our members. **Thank you.** The vote at the meeting was to order orange safety vests imprinted "Horse Patrol" rather than to have pinneys made. The Recreational Trails Program that approved our application for the pinneys and folding saws will fund this expense. As soon as they are available they will be distributed.

Updates on newly formed Volunteer Horse Patrols

Clinton Land Conservation Trust

On Saturday, April 16th, Jim Griffin, Barbara White, Bev Torell, and Lynda Perry as representatives of the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol and Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club, (LCRVHC) along with Debbie McConnell and Maria Paradis of the LCRVHC, and Ken McDonnell, President of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust and several other Trust members, met with a reporter and photographer from the Clinton Harbor News at the entrance to the Jesse Buell Forest.

Several photographs were taken, and the members interviewed as to the Volunteer Horse Patrol now covering Clinton Land Trust properties. After the session with the newspaper people was over, the group took a ride through the Buell Forest, led by Bev Torell, who had cleared a section of the Blue Trail that had been impassible for horses. (A HUGE THANK YOU TO BEVERLY!!!). Frank from the Clinton Land Trust hiked along with us, to take our suggestions as to where the trails could be improved for horses. He also indicated that students from The Morgan School are interested in blazing a new (horse) trail in the forest, and would like our input. Frank also indicated the Land Trust would like to work with the LCRVHC to develop horse trails in the Old Orchard Road - Kenilworth Estates - Silver Birch Lane area properties.

The article about the Volunteer Horse Patrol will appear in the April 28th issue of the Harbor News, which is distributed in Clinton, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook. For anyone who is not a resident of those towns but would like an issue, they are available at the Sound Publishing Offices at 724 Boston Post Road in Madison.

Tarrywile Park, Danbury, CT

Diane Ciano has been keeping in touch with Sandy Moy of the City of Danbury's Tarrywile Park Authority (TPA). The CHC-VHP will also be patrolling with members of New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) whose patrol is known as the Ambassador Program. The TPA has re-written the CHC-VHP Patrol program to adapt to utilizing both patrols and the Park's goals. There will be an additional liability release form for the City of Danbury TPA to be signed by the volunteers in addition to the CHC release.

Volunteer Horse Patrol Maintenance Work Days

Larkin State Bridle Trail

May 3rd - Sign Posts, painting over graffiti on a bridge abutment, garbage pick up and painting of fences were done in conjunction with DEP maintenance crew Bob Poplis, Rick Massmann & Mark along with CHC-VHP members, Meg Sautter, Angela Deschenes, Diane Ciano, and Karen deFrieese of the 2nd Company Horse Guard

Cockaponsett State Forest

May 1st - Members of the CHC-VHP and Lower CT River Valley Horsemen's Club (LCRVHC) held a trail work day to start a bridge building project to assemble 4 bridges that are to be installed on National Trails Day, June 4th in Weber woods. An additional work day is scheduled for Sunday, May 15th to complete the amount of work left to be done, including demolishing the old bridges and getting the landing/staging areas ready for June 4th. Work session: will start at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Meet at 7/8ths Farm. Bring work gloves, boots (or waders), and your muscles. We'll supply the bug spray! Contact: Jim Griffin keeneyanke@yahoo.com 203-483-8528 or Pat Martin Hawksheadfarm@comcast.net 860-669-1176

CT / National Trails Day Events

Airline Trail, Colchester - Saturday, June 4th.

Jay Cohen the new P&R Director for Colchester invited members of the Connecticut Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol to make a presence and educate the public at a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new section of improved trail on June 4. For more information, contact Bunny Joseph 860-537-5234

Cockaponsett State Forest -Saturday, June 4th. *Ride - Bike - Hike*

4 Bridges will be installed in Weber Woods, on June 4th for National Trails Day!

We ride out from Pat Martin's house at 10:00 am, so arrival time should be between 9:00 and 9:30. We'll ride over to the Weber Woods parking lot on Route 145 for pictures, publicity, and refreshments at 10:30 am. After that we'll have the trail ride. Any bicyclists will start out first, followed by the horses and riders, then any hikers. The riders will divide into either two or three groups: slow, medium, and fast, or slow and fast, depending on the number of riders and their preferences.

Trailer parking is at the Martin Farm and you must RSVP to Jim Griffin before the event, as parking space is limited.

keeenyanke@yahoo.com 203-483-8528

Larkin State Bridle Trail - *Sunday, June 5th*

Meet members of the CHC-VHP and experience the great footing of this 11-mile linear trail. Start time is 10:00 a.m. For directions and more information contact:

Meg Sautter mmsautter@cox.net 860-666-6938 or Diane Ciano 203-757-1904 Spirit76@snet.net

Other Trail Events:

Saturday, May 14th Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club (LCRVHC) present their 4th annual **Bluff Point Spring Beach Pace** in Groton, CT. For more information and entry forms, please call Ride Manager-Judith Hunter at 203-488-4273

Sunday, May 15th The 2nd Company Governor's Horse Guard holds their annual **Judged Pleasure Ride** in Newtown. It is approximately a 6-mile trail ride that is timed with an obstacle course at the end. Both time and obstacle scores are combined to determine the winner. The charge is \$40.00 for the ride and lunch is included. For more information and entry form contact:

SGT Karen de Friesse at 203 775 9781 or KDEFRIE885@AOL.COM

There will also be a VHP horse & rider evaluation available for all new Volunteers Horse Patrol applicants on the obstacle course. There will be no charge for the evaluation alone. Contact: Diane or Karen.

Sunday, May 22nd The Windham Region Chamber of Commerce is organizing their second "**All Routes Lead to Willimantic**" **Riverfest**. There will be a Canoe, Kayak, Bike, Hike, Running and **horseback-riding event** celebrating and enjoying the beautiful Willimantic River and all its surrounding resources. A 6-mile horseback ride along the Hop River from Coventry to Hop River State Park is planned. Contact: Lisa Glow 860-429-0107 redstar86@hotmail.com

Metacomet-Monadnock-Mattabesett National Scenic Trail Study

As the MMM Trail Study comes to a close, The Connecticut Horse Council would like to thank all those that participated in the Equestrian Evaluations of the 100-mile trail system. A few of the volunteers have confirmed their commitment to complete maps. We traveled a "rocky road" throughout the year long study and when things got rough, we held to our goals and we are pleased that our efforts have brought us to

where the Blueprint for Management Plans is acceptable. CHC would like to thank the Federal State Legislators who had contacted the National Park Service or DEP to help us in our efforts. Governor Jodi Rell, Senator Christopher Dodd, Congressman Rob Simmons, and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. We also received a letter from DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy. We would also like to thank Kevin Case and Dan Hubbard of the National Park Service that worked on this study and were able to keep things in perspective and utilize our ideas and concepts to the plan. The changes are reflected in the latest management blueprint draft of April 18th. (New language is bold & underlined, original has strikethroughs)

Section 1. Landowner Issues

#7. All existing landowner uses and rights including hunting, fishing, timber management **and trail uses such as equestrian and mountain biking**, will continue to be at the discretion of landowners.

Section II. Trail Use

#1. Support the MMM trail **primarily** as a footpath, with other **multi-use opportunities such as mountain biking and equestrian uses** ~~uses (recreational, commercial)~~ at each **land**owner's discretion.

Section VII. Provisions if NST Designation Occurs

#3f. The National Park Service will give funding priority to the protection and development of the MMM Trail as a footpath **and to other projects based on the consensus of the Stewardship Council.**

In a letter to CHC, Kevin Case addresses....*"We also appreciate your offer to take advantage of the CT Horse Council Horse Patrol Program as a way to maintain and monitor sections of the MMM trail. This appears to be an appropriate way to address trail management needs in the future where horse activity is permitted by landowners."*

Please be sure to visit the MMM website for the complete blueprint and updates at www.mmmtrail.org

SCORP

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching funds to states for statewide outdoor recreation planning and for acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. State participation in LWCF requires preparation of a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation

Plan (SCORP), and approval of the plan by the National Park Service (NPS). For more detailed information about the SCORP, please visit our website under "Trails" at www.cthorsecouncil.org

Throughout the year, Diane Ciano representing the CHC on the SCORP Advisory Board, has participated at the monthly meetings at DEP in Hartford to help develop this plan that could qualify the State of Connecticut for approximately 7 million dollars in federal funding over the next five years.

CHC provided information and recommendations for the SCORP to help implement the Plan. The three most important priorities that CHC recommended for the focus and goals of the SCORP for future recreational use and growth was: 1. the need to acquire land and preserve open space for trails. 2. The need to effectively manage this open space for the public's use including horseback riding. 3. And the need to educate and inform the public of the importance of open space and trails having multi-use designation and universal access whether owned by the state, the towns, the federal government, or the private sector.

The draft spending priority hierarchy, in descending order, was presented as: (1) maintenance, (2) acquisition, (3) new facilities and programs, (4) information/access/signage, and (5) blended projects (combining funding sources, partnerships, multi-agency projects). Draft access recommendations led to a request specifically adding land for trailhead facilities (parking, restrooms) to the list.

Public meetings to address the final Draft of the SCORP are scheduled for:

- Monday, May 23, 7:00 p.m., Three Rivers Community College, Norwich
- Wednesday, June 1, 7:00 p.m., Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury
- Monday, June 6, 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., West Hartford UConn

One of the many recommendations to the SCORP is to implement Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan, and to move it from draft status to formal adoption as the State Plan. The CHC has addressed the Draft and will be the topic of our next CHC meeting on Tuesday, June 7th with guest speaker, Leslie Lewis of DEP. For more information on the Draft and CHC comments to it, please go to our website. This will be an important meeting for members of the equestrian community to attend.

SAVE THE DATE: [Tuesday, June 7th 7:30 p.m.](#)

The Connecticut Horse Council Annual Meeting
Northeast Utilities Building, Berlin, CT

Guest Speakers will be **DEP Officials**, Trails - Leslie Lewis along with an invite to the newly appointed DEP Commissioner, Gina McCarthy. Leslie will provide an update on **CT Recreational Trails Plan** and DEP report on the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol.

We need everyone to take the initiative and represent the equestrian community at this meeting. Come and join your State Horse Council at this very important meeting and meet your DEP officials and members of the Council.

Directions: