

CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol & Trail News - January 2006



The Horse Patrol is on the move for 2006. Save the following dates for your involvement with this rewarding community service program.

The **February 26th at 10:00 a.m.**

There will be a re-certification class for CPR & First Aid for Volunteer Patrol members following the meeting. All staff will be able to get re-certified in CPR & First Aid for a much reduced rate of only \$15.00, courtesy of VHP Staff members Meg Sautter and Angela Deschenes. The re-cert class is approximately 4 hours. .

For new patrol members who need to take the **full class for certification**, or have let their certification lapse the class will be held on: **Sunday, March 5th 10:00 a.m.** The full class is approximately 6 hours and the discounted fee is \$25.00. Please be sure to get this information out to anyone they know that has shown an interest in joining the VHP, as it is very difficult to schedule or even find classes and they tend to be rather expensive.

Both classes will be held at Chip Beckett's Veterinary facility in Glastonbury.

RSVP to Diane Ciano for directions and further instructions.

CT HORSE COUNCIL - VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Tuesday, March 7th at 700 p.m.

The award ceremony will be held prior to the CHC meeting at the Northeast Utilities Building at 107 Selden Street, Berlin CT 06037

Honoring Americans Who Make a Difference by Volunteering

The President's Volunteer Service Award was created to recognize the tens of millions of Americans who have made a sustained commitment to volunteer service. The Award is given to individuals, families and groups that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation measured by the number of hours served over a 12-month period.

34 Members of the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Program will be recognized for their service to others.

Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service to others. It encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make volunteering a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award is a Presidential recognition program for Americans of all ages, who contribute a significant amount of time to volunteer service.

Background

America has a long and proud tradition of volunteer service. Now more than ever, volunteers are renewing their commitment to helping others and making new connections that bring us closer together as families, as neighbors, as communities, and as a Nation.

In his 2002 State of the Union address, President George W. Bush issued a challenge to all Americans to make time to help their neighbors, communities, and Nation through service. He called on each person to dedicate at least 4,000 hours – or two years – to service over the course of their lives. He created the USA Freedom Corps to help all Americans answer his call to service and help foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility.

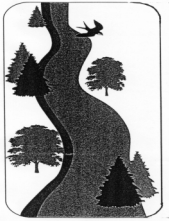
In 2003, President Bush created the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our Nation. Chaired by two-time Superbowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. senators Robert Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council comprises leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, nonprofit, and volunteer service organizations, as well as community volunteers.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. This type of recognition is also designed to set a standard for every American – to encourage a sustained commitment to helping others and a lifelong habit of service.

NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

**TO: USER GROUPS,
MAINTAINERS &
DEVELOPERS OF RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

The Recreational Trails Program is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. RTP is administered through the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Recreational Trails Program funds may be used for:



- Construction of new trails. (motorized and non-motorized)
- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails. (motorized and non-motorized)
- Access to trails by persons with disabilities.
- Purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment.
- Acquisition of land or easements for a trail, or for trail corridors.
- Trail Use Education, Environmental/Historical Trail interpretation.

DEP may award grants to private nonprofit organizations, municipalities and state departments. Sponsors may submit proposals for any of the permitted uses as listed. Grant awards are generally capped at \$50,000. **These are reimbursement grants, with a federal share limited at 80% of the total project cost. Project sponsors must incur cost for work actually completed, and then submit vouchers to DEP for payment. No payment can be made for work done prior to a fully-executed grant agreement.** A project sponsor should tailor the project so that the project moves quickly into implementation after project approval. Projects must be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Natural Diversity Data Base to avoid any negative impact to the State's natural, cultural or historic resources. Grants may be delayed or denied if such impact is detected. A checklist of issues is attached for your information.

DEP's funding level for this program for FY 2006 - 7 (federal) has not been finalized, but is expected to be about **\$900,000**. Project proposals are being solicited for trail related projects. Proposed projects must have funding available, be located on publicly-accessible land and be open to the public. Necessary permits must be in place prior to beginning the project. **If you would like to be considered for a grant, please complete the attached questionnaire and submit it to DEP before March 1, 2006 (post marked) for this grant round.** Project proposals received after this date will not be reviewed for this funding cycle. **Final approval and dispersal of funds will occur in October of 2006.** If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Leslie Lewis at (860) 424-3578 or email at leslie.lewis@po.state.ct.us.

You may also Contact CHC Trails Chair Diane Ciano for more information and application.

Trail Trotters' Day Launch 2006

Do you enjoy showing, driving, endurance riding, foxhunting, or simply a leisurely trail ride? It is time for anyone who sits in a saddle – or buggy – to get involved in caring for the land they ride or drive across by participating in a **Trail Trotters' Day Project on June 3, 2006**. Sponsored by the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, Trail Trotters' Day is held in conjunction with National Trails Day.

ELCR's Trail Trotters' Day program recognizes riders for what they are **already doing**, in many cases, to protect trails. Many horseback riders participate in trail clean-ups, planning sessions, and trail maintenance days – but the information about their individual efforts has not been compiled in a central source. Therefore, **their efforts are not counted** on a local, regional, or national basis.

Trail Trotters' Day projects demonstrate that horseback riders truly care about becoming good stewards for the land that they use. Trail Trotters' Day will collect data from across the country and make it available for everyone to use. If you already have a project or work-day scheduled for the first Saturday of June, **make it count** by registering for Trail Trotters. If you are looking for a project, visit www.elcr.org and click on the Trail Trotters' Day link on the homepage.

Trail Trotters' Day is a free program! There is NO CHARGE for registering and participating. Each registered project participant will also receive a “goodie bag” as a thank you for their efforts when they complete their work on June 3, 2006.

Following the completion of Trail Trotters' Day projects, ELCR will gather information from each effort and submit it to an independent panel of judges who will determine the recipients of nine regional awards (one for each of the U.S. Forest Service regions) and one national award. The awards will be given to the Trail Trotters' Day projects that sustain our natural resources most effectively and reflect community involvement in the process. The *Trail Trotters' Day National Stewardship Award, 2006* will be selected from the Trail Trotter regional award winners and will convey a \$1,000 prize. Projects must adhere to the Award Guidelines to be eligible for this competition. Complete award guidelines can be found on www.elcr.org.

As Kandee Haertel, ELCR's Executive Director, explains, “Our Trail Trotters' Day program is a great way to get involved in caring for the land you and your horse use and does not require a long-term commitment. Volunteering for a Trail Trotters' Day project will demonstrate horseback riders' commitment to private and public lands and also help develop positive relationships with land managers.” These relationships can help pave the way for new and/or improved equestrian facilities now and in the future.

ELCR, a national non-profit organization, is dedicated to promoting access to and conservation of land for equestrian use. Trail Trotters' Day program's goal of 10,000 volunteer man-hours will provide much needed trail development and maintenance on Forest Service and other lands across the country. In 2005, 63 Trail Trotters' Day projects, involving over 1,200 volunteers, provided over 5,500 hours of stewardship to trails.

For questions or assistance in registering, contact ELCR at info@elcr.org or telephone the office at 815-858-3501. Don't let this opportunity slip by – be counted so that riders can gain recognition for being responsible stewards of the land.