

CT Horse Council TRAIL NEWS Volunteer Horse Patrol SPRING 2012



Submitted by Diane Ciano

Your CHC Representation around the state...

Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics for 2011

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to over 70 areas around the state, including town parks, open spaces and land trusts. As we continue to grow, we are expanding our riding opportunities and helping to create long distance connecting trails. Congratulations to you all, because each of your patrol logs, no matter how many hours you patrol and maintain trails adds to the grander total of statewide hours. This service provides CHC, DEP and other Land Management Areas with information on how the equestrian community is continuing its effort to maintain trails for multiple use, while promoting and educating the community and other equestrians of our volunteer efforts.

For 2011, we had a total of **1,909 patrols** with **59 patrol locations** around the state:
There were 37 areas of DEEP lands: 19 State Parks, 13 State Forests & 5 Wildlife Management Areas.
22 other areas included 11 Town Parks/Open Spaces, 5 Land Trusts, and 6 private lands.

There were **4,207 patrol hours** logged with **1020 hours of trail maintenance**, saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$82,037.00** for **2011** alone!

80 of the 120 volunteer members were out on patrols for 2011.

The total savings of our 9 years in volunteer service hours is **\$473,246.00** !

The 9 year totals include **11,378* Patrols**, **24,269 Patrol Hours**
with **4,632 Trail Maintenance Hours**.

2011 VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL MEMBER RECOGNITION HOURS

Patrol Hours - Over 100		
NAME	# of Patrols	HOURS
Meg Sautter	107	336
Jim Griffin	107	245
Phyllis Alexander	120	237
Debbie McConnell	72	180
Gail Miller	61	162
Jane Samuels	96	148
Bonnie Herideen	59	132
Vevette Greenberg	40	130
Melissa Evarts	46	128
Diane Ciano	39	118
Lynda Perry	36	115
Penny Foisey	59	112
Jean Morrison	57	111
Alesia DiFederico	36	109
Susan Crawford	84	108
Gina McManus	82	108
Cathie Mestmaker-Harris	51	107

Patrol Hours - Over 50		
NAME	# of Patrols	HOURS
Ginger Tullai	62	97
Kristin Elliott Leas	42	94
Barbara White	42	93
Gloria Coles	36	80
Lori Osowski	28	62
Patti Crowther	23	61
Michael Marcus	34	55
Diane Morton	24	54
Daisy Gmitter	18	50

Most Maintenance Hours	
NAME	HOURS
Meg Sautter	108
Melissa Evarts	79
Gina McManus	79
Phyllis Alexander	60
Kristin Elliott Leas	52
Vevette Greenberg	35
Diane Ciano	35
Gail Miller	33
Bonnie Herideen	33
Penny Foisey	32
Lori Osowski	30
Ginger Tullai	30

Most Areas Patrolled	
NAME	AREAS
Meg Sautter	33
Diane Ciano	17
Vevette Greenberg	11
Daisy Gmitter	10
Gail Miller	8
Alesia DiFederico	7
Denise Ciano	7
Lori Gmuer	7
Phyllis Alexander	7

CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on March 3rd in Newington. We had 55 members attending and raised over \$412.00 for the Trails Committee for the VHP and Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp.

A Big Thank you to Daisy Gmitter who created an on-line logging system for VHP members to log patrol hours. Please go the CHC website under Volunteer Horse Patrol for instructions and directions to this system. There is a free download to access and create your logs. Remember to always print a hard copy and save your logs to a file in your computer.

New Volunteer Horse Patrol Members for 2012

Chuck Sharples & Tuesday, Killingworth, CT 06419

Howard Tunick & Emma, Essex, CT

Bunny Joseph & Dickens (Returning member), Colchester, CT 06415

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, April 22nd – DESENSITIZING YOUR HORSE CLINIC - Clinton, CT
with Kristin Elliott Leas & VHP Horse & Rider Assessment

Gain a new perspective on how your horse perceives the world. Then build a better trusting relationship with your horse by exposing him to all his worst nightmares.

See flyer on page14

Saturday, May 5th –SHOW N' GO RIDE – 10:00 AM –

Roraback Wildlife Management Area, Harwinton, CT. This a fun ride for those that want to explore a new area to ride for patrols. Contact Meg Sautter to RSVP and directions.

Sunday, May 6th – SPRAGUE PRESEVE BENEFIT RIDE

This is a CHC sponsored event. We need horse people to come out and support this event that will help raise money to purchase an additional 230 acres to add to the land preserve. Pre-Registration is required by May 2nd.

See flyer on page15

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENTS

Saturday, June 2, 2012

Don't let another acre or trail slip away. Be proactive and help protect trails for equestrian use. Be a good steward and "pay" your dues by dedicating your time to working and clearing trails. Join in on one of 3 activities sponsored by equestrian organizations around the state.

Cockaponset State Forest – Chester, CT

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club and the Bridle Path Conservancy will be teaming up with the Connecticut Forests & Parks Association and the Connecticut chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association for a joint work party in Cockaponset State Forest in Chester on Saturday, June 2, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Follow signs from the Commuter lot at Beaver Meadow Road and Route 9 to the work area. We will be working on upgrading an old trail to a multi-use trail. Projects include trail and stream bank armoring, blazing, and brushing. Tools will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own as well as water, snacks, bug spray, sunscreen, and food for a potluck cookout after the work. Hotdogs and beverages will be provided. Be prepared for a day in the field; long sleeved shirts, long pants, a hat, work gloves, and appropriate footwear are recommended. Heavy rain postpones to June 3. Pre-registration is RECOMMENDED. Questions and to register: contact Robert Butterworth (860) 526-3210.

LCRVHC is also hosting a trail ride. Our plan is to meet up with the work party for lunch. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. E-mail host: Pam Cameron at pc.services@comcast.net for parking location and time. Approved helmet and appropriate shoes required for riders. Picnic hosts: Kathy and Bill Schuyler (860) 663-1412.

Rockland Preserve – Madison, CT

The CHC/Volunteer Horse Patrol will be partnering with the Connecticut Forests & Parks Association and the Towns of Madison, Guilford and Durham for a joint "meet and greet" and "work party" beginning in Rockland Preserve, Madison, CT on Saturday, June 2, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will meet at the Renee's Way Trailhead off of Route 79. Horse trailer parking is limited, and pre-registration is required. We will be working on clearing the existing multi-use trails of storm debris and damage. Bring clippers, as tools are limited. Water and snacks will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring, bug spray and sunscreen. Long sleeved shirts, long pants, a hat, work gloves, and appropriate footwear are recommended. Rain date will be June 3rd. Pre-registration is RECOMMENDED.

Questions and to register: contact Marylou Millett @ (860) 349-2341 as horse trailer parking is limited to 5 trailers.

Also, Marylou will be hosting a trail ride after the work party through the connecting bridle path located in Braemore Preserve and into James Valley. Our plan is to meet up with the work party at 1:00 and leave shortly thereafter. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. E-mail host: Marylou Millett for parking location and time : mistymeadowfarmct@gmail.com. Approved helmet and appropriate shoes required for riders.



Natchaug State Forest

Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp, Hampton, CT

Horse Camp Work Day – Camp Out - Blessing of the Mounts

Trail Ride weekend

The CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol is planning a whole weekend of activity!

We'll camp, *ride*, have a work day, *ride*, **AND** you and your mount can get Blessed! There will also be **plenty of riding** on the newly marked, 5 and 10 mile loops. Join us for the weekend or any part there of.

Friday June 1st : Arrive at Lost Silver Mine, set up camp, and get a ride in.

Saturday June 2nd : We'll start the day with a Blessing, just in case... Camp Work will include installation of campsite markers; cutting up downed branches/small trees and general cleanup. Please bring saws, rakes, shovels, loppers, etc. Bring lots of bug spray and gloves, too! We can get in an afternoon ride if all the work gets done!!

Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday June 3rd : **Blessing of the Mounts** followed by riding.

Your CHC Representation around the state...

No Child Left Inside



On February 4th, the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol participated in the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's No Child Left Inside Program at Black Rock State Park in Thomaston. VHP members, Ann & Monty Moses, Kowboy Ken Forcier, Judy Beliveau and Meg Sautter brought their patrol horses for the public to meet and greet them. There were over 100 people attending the event.

Friends of CT State Parks Day



Meg Sautter, Eric Hammerling and Shirley Vicchitto

CHC-VHP members Meg Sautter and Shirley Vichitto represented the equestrian community at the Capitol on March 21st with the Friends of CT State Parks groups. The groups organized the event to promote the benefits of our State Parks, Forests and Wildlife Management Areas and to raise awareness on the historically low levels of funding provided to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. A recent economic study released by UConn in December documents annual revenues of over \$1 billion and 9,000 jobs.

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Capewell Horse Nails Company leaves Connecticut.

The Hartford area's 131-year tradition as a dominant maker of horseshoe nails is ending, as the company that owns the Capewell Horsenails business in Bloomfield moves production elsewhere.

Mustad Hoofcare, owner of the historic Capewell franchise that was founded in Hartford in 1881, said it will consolidate its nail production at a facility in Sweden, shutting down production at its Bloomfield plant on Blue Hills Avenue. The move will cost 26 workers their jobs.

Around 1900, before the advent of cars, Capewell shipped 20 million pounds of nails a year. In the late 1990s, the volume was far less than at the height, although the company would give sales figures

VHP Member Jim Griffin with his Delta Society Therapy horse Yankee



Photo taken from the New Haven Register: James Griffin of Branford, Conn. A CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol member and a writer of westerns, taking his Delta Society therapy horse, Yankee, out for a ride in Clinton, Conn. where he boards. Griffin and Yankee go to nursing facilities and put on a demonstration for the clients there.

Jim Griffin is an active CHC-VHP member. He has been part of the Horse Patrol since 2003. This year, Jim and his trusty steed, Yankee, along with Dogie, were featured on the front page of the New Haven Register (March 31, 2012)

By Sandi Kahn Shelton, Register Staff
sandi@sandishelton.com / Twitter: [@sandishelton](https://twitter.com/sandishelton)

James Griffin, 62, of Branford has loved horses his whole life. He said it started in 1956, when he went to see Roy Rogers and Trigger and saw how truly awesome animals could be. Since then, he's blamed Roy Rogers for the fact that he's owned four horses and can't seem to be happy without one.

In 2004, Griffin realized that the love he had for his equine friends was something he could share with others. That was when a friend suggested that he and his horse, Yankee, could visit residents in nursing homes as well as children who were hospitalized.

He knew his horse always made him happy, but he was amazed to see what Yankee could immediately do for other people.

Yankee has been tested and certified by the Pet Partners program, formerly known as Delta Society, to make sure he is disease-free, well-behaved, comfortable in lots of situations and doesn't spook easily.

Griffin, author of 13 books about horses and the Wild West, could tell from the beginning that this was going to be a wonderful experience.

Therapy animals are a growing phenomenon in the U.S., said Bill Kueser, vice president of marketing for Pet Partners. He said there are about 50,000 human/animal teams currently registered. While most national organizations for therapy animals register only dogs, Pet Partners registers all domestic species, including dogs, cats, horses, mules, donkeys, llamas and pot-bellied pigs — and even chinchillas and chickens.

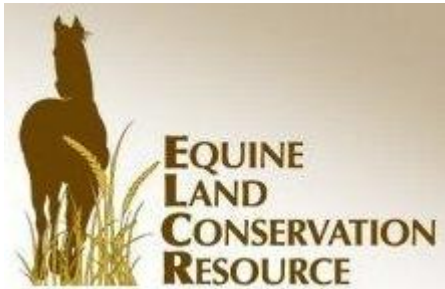
"To register, the human must successfully complete a workshop or an online course that covers grooming, infection control and visiting techniques for different environments: hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, schools and libraries," Kueser said. "Then the team must pass a skills and aptitude evaluation that measures their readiness."

Yankee even has passed an additional test that shows he can be trusted around complex cases, said Griffin. “Sometimes, patients might be screamers, or tend to lose control, and Yankee is fine with that,” he says. “The only thing he can’t stand is gunfire, so I don’t take him to parades.”

Since Yankee has been such a hit, Griffin has entered his 6-year-old Shih Tzu, Dogie, as a therapy dog. Dogie likes to climb up on the bed next to patients and sit with them while they pet him.

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THANK YOU ELCR

Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR)



The CT Horse Council wishes to acknowledge and thank the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) for yet another contribution to help our organization better achieve its goals. A while back, when asked to produce an educational brochure to address zoning and trail issues, ELCR produced a booklet “Horses Make Good Neighbors”. Recently asked if they would transform that information into a power point presentation, they again came through and created one for us. We will now be able to use this information as a tool when presenting equestrian education. This will help us immensely when we are called to attend various zoning or trail planning meetings around the state to make presentations.

We will certainly always acknowledge the ELCR in our presentations for allowing us to utilize this material to educate public officials, town & regional planners, and zoning commissions and trail planners.

A special thank you to Denise O'Meara, RLA, Education Coordinator for ELCR for creating the presentation

The booklet can be purchased through ELCR. www.elcr.org

ELCR is a Kentucky 501 (c) (3) organization, not affiliated with any governmental entity.

Leaders from a wide range of equestrian and conservation groups advise and support the ELCR.

The goal of ELCR is to share information and networking as they seek to become a part of the larger “horse industry” and educate their specific constituencies of the need to become involved in protecting riding lands and offer them the tools necessary to protect their activities and favorite riding areas Equine Conservation Resource

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Sunday, APRIL 22, 2012



Desensitizing Your Horse Clinic

with Kristin Elliott Leas

Sunday, APRIL 22, 2012

10:00 AM – Noon

24 River Rd, Clinton, CT

Gain a new perspective on how your horse perceives the world. Then build a better trusting relationship with your horse by exposing him to all his worst nightmares.

Clinic format

- ☐ Discussion on horse psychology and behavior
- ☐ Then watch and practice with “Hands on” demonstrations. Exposing your horse to scary obstacles and practicing techniques in desensitizing. (Bringing a horse is not required).

Great for first time clinic participants or those returning for more fun!

Great for first time clinic participants or those returning for more fun!

LIMITED SPACE...Enroll early. \$30 Current LCRVHC member or \$35 Non member

Bonus: A *CT Volunteer Horse Patrol* evaluation will follow the clinic.

For more information: <http://cthorsecouncil.org/home/publications/trails/volunteer-horse-patrol>

For those interested in participating in evaluation, contact Lynda Perry at cymaronfarm@snet.net

Contact Information: Kristin Elliott Leas

(860) 510-2262

EquineInsight@gmail.com

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Street: _____ Town: _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address: _____

Horse's Name: _____

Specific Issues? _____

Return:

1) Clinic Form, 2) Release, 3) Coggins and Rabies certificates 4) Check payable to: **Equine Insight**

Sprague Land Preserve

“ SPRING FLING” Benefit Ride

Sunday May 6, 2012 rain date Saturday May 12

Benefit ride to assist the Town of Sprague, CT to purchase additional 230 acres of land from the Watson Heritage Farm to add to the existing 275 acres to the land preserve. Open land is disappearing fast but our trails can be preserved. Let's make a difference! Please come and ride these beautiful trails and save them for the future.

“Save our trails...leave only hoof prints...”

CC CC CC



\$25 per Rider Junior Riders \$10

9am sign in, 10am ride out

5, 10 or 20 miles marked trails. NEHT mileage. Ride along the Shetucket River, Scotland Dam, and view of waterfall. Pre-Registration required by May 2nd. Free T-shirt to first 50 pre-registered riders.

Ride is limited to first 80 riders to accommodate for parking at Konow Camp Area (Trailer with a friend if you can, as parking space is limited.)

BBQ lunch at 1:00 with dessert and drinks provided. Coffee, drinks and snacks before ride.

Raffle and prizes. Tickets \$1 each Ride or just attend and have lunch for \$5 donation

Please remove all manure and hay from your area.

Sponsors: Town of Sprague, J&D screenprint, CT Horse Council/ Horse Patrol

Parking at Konow's Trout Camp Area-Sprague,CT

Directions: for GPS use address-211 Pautipaug Hill Rd Baltic CT 06330 and follow signs

From South- I-395 north Exit 81 W, merge onto Rt 2, take right off the exit 25 onto Rt 32 north, then right onto Baltic Rd. Left at the T onto Rt 207. Take first right onto Pautipaug Hill Rd. Follow to stop sign, take left. Follow signs to Konow Trout Camp area parking.

From North- I-395 S toward Norwich CT-exit 83 (Taftville Occum), left on Route 97, left at stop sign, take sharp right staying on Route 97 for 2.4 miles to stop. Left onto Route 207, right onto Pautipaug Hill Rd and follow trail ride signs.

(This is a new, easier shorter access road to Konow's parking area for 2012)

Sprague Land Preserve Trail Ride

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Horses Name _____ Age _____ Coggins# _____ Breed _____

Adult/Junior Rider NEHT # _____ Horse # _____

Email: _____

Ride Fees: Pre-entry and payment must be received by May 4 to guarantee lunch. Pre-entry consist of a completed entry form and payment by the date stated above.

Coggins and rabies certificates required

Pre-entry: \$25.00 Junior (rider 18 and under) \$10.00

Lunch for non-rider: \$5.00 T-SHIRT: \$10.00 each x-large large medium small

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each OR 6 for \$5.00

Amount Enclosed: _____ Make checks payable to “Town of Sprague”