



# Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

Check out our website at [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

## 2015 SPRING NEWSLETTER

### ***From The President:***

Hi Everyone,

Just a quick note to give you an update on some of the things the CHC has worked on and been working on several different things.

The past few years have brought some interesting challenges. We've had to deal with vicious horses, causing quite a stir nationwide, but it was legislated away. There has also been legislation that allows each municipality to free horse owners from having them taxed as personal property. However, it is up to the governing body of each town/city to pass the ordinance that will allow it. We've also seen the passing of what we've called the "Vulnerable User" bill to protect users of state roads. And last, but not least, there has been legislation that allows us to use all horse accessible trails in our State Parks and Forests.

Recently the Horse Council has been considering several changes to our bylaws that will affect meeting dates, what constitutes a quorum and many other updates. We will also be having elections for officers and board members in December. There are several openings coming up for the board and we are looking for persons that can commit to serving. We are making many of these changes to make it easier for the CHC members to attend the meetings.

We need to have better attendance at our meetings because what we decide at those meetings affects all of our members and we would like to make sure all views are being considered. If you aren't attending, I would like to invite you to our next meeting, which is October 6, 2015 at 7:30 pm at the Eversource building located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT. At the CT Horse Council meeting held on June 2, 2015 it has been proposed that we change our meeting schedule. Currently we meet the first Tuesday each month from October to June. It has been proposed that we go to Quarterly meetings to be held the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December starting in 2016. We will be voting on this issue and would appreciate thoughts, feedback or concerns.

I'd like to thank all of you for supporting the CHC and those of you that serve as officers, board members and on the VHP. We could not do what we do without your support.  
Respectfully,

Fred Mastele

Thank you to all who have joined the CT Horse Council for 2015. A reminder for those that have not paid their dues – please take the time to send in your dues. The 2015 application is on pages 32-33 of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Our supporting organizations and business members are listed on pages 26-31 and are also posted up on our website.

## Have a fun and safe Spring & Summer !

**Attention All Trail Riders – A friendly reminder to “Share the Trail” and use trail etiquette, respect the trails and other people out on the trails. Please clean up at trail heads and on well used trails and Greenways. Please be very diligent about beach rides and picnic areas.**

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**Your CHC Representation around the state...**

**CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL**

**VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL**

**CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee  
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee**

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Budget, Bills, and Unfinished Business!



Dear Diane,

As you know, the [2016-2017 State Budget](#) dominated this year's legislative session.

The vote to pass the \$40.3 billion, two-year State Budget before the session expired at midnight on June 3rd was very close in both chambers - Senate (19-17) and House (73-70). Because of the length and intensity of the budget debates, several funding and policy matters were not acted upon. As a result, some bills died, and a select few will be acted upon in a [Special Session](#) that will likely occur during the week of June 22nd (more on this at the bottom).

### HOW DID STATE PARKS, CIA, AND CEQ DO IN THE BUDGET?

#### 1. State Parks Budget Cut Reduced, But Cut Still Hurts

*Governor' Budget Proposal:* \$2 million/year cut to the State Parks.

*Final Approved Budget:* Cut of \$200,000/year from the State Parks. However, due to budget rescissions of \$400,000/year made earlier in the year, the overall impact to State Parks is equivalent to a cut of \$600,000/year.

#### 2. Community Investment Act (CIA) Funds Diverted, But Not Totally

*Governor's Budget Proposal:* would completely sweep 1.5 years of Community Investment Act funds and divert funding from the dedicated CIA purposes -- a safety net for dairy farmers, open space and farmland protection, historic preservation, and affordable housing projects. The Governor also proposed a sweep of \$15.2 million from CIA funds in the current fiscal year for deficit reduction.

*Final Approved Budget:* Sweep of 50% of Community Investment Act funds during the same 1.5 year period. A last minute provision was slipped into the final Budget that would divert \$90,000/year in CIA funds to the Governor's Horse Guard. The additional sweep of \$15.2 million in the current fiscal year was not included in the Final Budget.

#### 3. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Survives Intact and Independent

*Governor' Budget:* Eliminate the staff and budget for CEQ and transfer its responsibilities to the Office of Legislative Management.

*Final Approved Budget:* Fully restore CEQ's funding, staff, and independent watchdog agency status. Hooray!

### BILLS CFPA SUPPORTED THAT PASSED

[SB 347](#): a land trust, town, or municipality receiving a grant from both the DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program and any federal source can now combine those funds to support up to 90% of the fair market value of a project (the cap used to be 70%). Under certain conditions spelled out in the new law, grantees can match state and federal funds to support 100% of the fair market value.

**SB 1061**: State Parks Sustainability bill that was watered down due to Administration's concerns about \$5 charitable donation with "opt out" option that would have been added to vehicle registration every 2 years. Some helpful provisions remained in final bill, such as reporting on revenues by concessionaires, allowing fees for special events to be increased for events with more attendees, and allowing sponsorship of a State Park for over \$2,500 (no naming rights or privatization).

**SB 1062**: Recreational Trails bill provides up to \$2 million in previously authorized bonds for bikeways, pedestrian walkways, greenways, and trails. This reduces the dependence of the State on federal funding through the Recreational Trails Program for trails. Very exciting!

**SB 186**: a written warning is no longer required for a first offense by an ATV or dirt bike that violated a municipal ordinance.

**SB 867**: a violator of quarantine on firewood transportation will be giving a written warning for a first violation if they disclose the point of origin of the firewood. Bill distinguishes between violators transporting firewood for sale (\$200 fine) or those transporting firewood for personal use (\$85).

## **BILLS STILL TO BE RESOLVED IN THE SPECIAL SESSION**

1. *Conveyance Act*: CFPA, many advocates, and other conservation partners have asked Legislators to **remove three sections of the Conveyance Act** that otherwise would convey part of Silver Sands State Park to the City of Milford, and allow two different sand and gravel extraction companies to build private access roads across the Quinebaug Wildlife Management Area in eastern Connecticut. **An Amendment to the Conveyance Act** has been raised that would remove these sections from the bill, and hopefully this amendment will be supported in the special session.

2. *Funding for Critical Land Conservation and Trail Conservation Projects*: Bond funds for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program, Recreation & Natural Heritage Trust program, Farmland Preservation, State Parks infrastructure, and Recreational Trails will be voted upon during the special session.

Even under a challenging fiscal climate, we made great progress in 2015 thanks to the support of people like you who responded to various calls to action by writing emails and making calls to your Legislators and the Governor. Your involvement made a BIG difference, so we THANK YOU for your support!

Best regards,

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA)

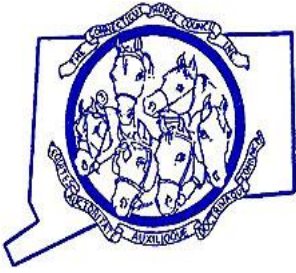
p.s. We have been hearing the Special Session of the Legislature is likely to be held during the week of June 22nd, so please stay tuned and be ready to ACT in order to protect conservation priorities and finish 2015 strong!

Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
16 Meriden Road  
Rockfall, Connecticut 06481  
(860) 346-TREE  
[www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)



[Advocacy](#) - [Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails](#) - [Education](#) - [Land & Forest Conservation](#) - [WalkCT](#)

Are you a CFPA member? Please join to support CFPA at [www.ctwoodlands.org/join-us](http://www.ctwoodlands.org/join-us).



**CT Horse Council  
TRAIL NEWS  
Volunteer Horse Patrol  
SPRING 2015**



Submitted by Diane Ciano

**[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)**

**Volunteer Horse Patrol Program**

**CT Greenways Council**

**Department of Energy & Environmental Protection**

**CT Equine Advisory Council**

*Hello to All,*

*Although it has been awhile since our last newsletter, the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol has been very active and many accomplishments have been made.*

*Thank you to all the volunteers for your service to the program. You all make a difference! May we all look forward to the continuation and expansion of the patrol.*

**HAPPY TRAILS**

**Diane Ciano**

**Meg Sautter**

# CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol

## Celebrating 12 Years of Service 2003-2014

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to over 83 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 all members, 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, DEEP 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.

The CHC-VHP stats reveal the different usages of our parks and forests on various days of the week and reveal the time and activities that were observed. These stats provide useful information for DEEP for state and federal funding to determine who is using our forests lands, what numbers of people are out there and what they are doing. Some of these activities take place deep in the forests woods where adventurous people go for long distance travel to horseback ride, mountain bike or hike – activities which cannot be determined by DEEP staff. Patrols are also recorded in more populated places such as recreational parks or swimming areas.

## Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics for 2014

For 2014, we had a total of **1,693 patrols**. There were **3,141 patrol hours** logged with **993 hours of trail maintenance**, saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$61,250.00** for 2014 alone!

In the 12 years since 2003, the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol Program has saved the State of Connecticut's tax payers **\$645,782.00**. This was accomplished through **33,117** hours of patrol and trail maintenance in 83 areas throughout the State of CT. Approximately 100 Volunteers participated in this program

For more information contact VHP Supervisors, Diane Ciano or Meg Sautter from the CHC website: [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org).

## **2003 – 2014 CHC – VHP Accomplishments**

Established this Mounted Patrol Unit to assist the State during an economic hardship

In the 12 years since, the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol Program has saved Connecticut tax payers \$645,782.00

This was accomplished through 233,117 hours of patrol and trail maintenance in 83 areas throughout the State of CT

This program helps to protect and preserve the trails of the state.

Since its beginning, the Patrol expanded to include, land trusts, open spaces, town lands, city parks and private lands.

Approximately 100 Volunteers have participated in this program



# CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol

## 12 YEAR STATISTICS 2003-2014

YEAR	# Of Patrols	Patrol Hours	Maint. Hours	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS								
				Walkers	Cyclers	Equus	People	Dogs OFF	Dogs ON	Hunters	Motor Cycles	ATV
2003	289	594	92	335	138	151	168	145	8	13	32	18
2004	432	975	80	940	294	485	231	96	253	78	162	24
2005	726	1565	306	1628	798	1272	421	197	424	12	78	24
2006	1001	2537	317	3400	1254	2905	1880	374	988	33	186	37
2007	1299	3053	631	2337	909	3310	2706	331	772	23	121	52
2008	1404	3459	824	2668	837	2367	3847	382	868	48	77	39
2009	1654	3905	692	3224	666	2902	3254	446	1144	23	117	67
2010	3385	3974	670	3015	649	3450	3170	351	1123	45	83	42
2011	1909	4207	1020	3420	794	3254	3318	285	940	130	66	47
2012	1464	3393	807	3294	838	2795	3279	366	1167	15	40	27
2013	1216	2314	490	2088	484	2318	1275	180	478	8	15	8
2014	1693	3141	993	2660	462	3017	2304	201	719	42	35	21
12 YEAR TOTAL	16,472	33,117	6,922	29,009	8,123	28,226	25,853	3,354	8,884	470	1,012	406

YEAR	ASSISTANCE GIVEN			
	General Info	Directions	* First Aid	* CPR
2003	354	16	0	0
2004	140	26	2	0
2005	136	6	0	0
2006	238	22	4	0
2007	796	27	1	0
2008	647	48	1	0
2009	838	39	2	0
2010	793	42	1	0
2011	555	33	6	0
2012	704	40	2	0
2013	225	5	4	0
2014	495	3	2	
TOTAL	5,921	307	25	0

The total savings of our 12 years in volunteer service hours is **\$645,782** !

The 12 year totals include **16,472** Patrols, **33,117** Patrol Hours with **6,922** Trail Maintenance Hours.

# 2014 VHP Recognition

## 2014 Patrol Hours - Over 100

NAME	Patrol Hours	Trail Maintenance Hours
Susan Crawford	199	
Meg Sautter	167	66.5
Melissa Evarts	151	55
Vevette Greenberg	147	41
Ginger Tullai	119	44
Kristin Elliot-Leas	104	
Penny Foisey	110.5	55.5
Rebecca Ziobron	102.5	

## 2014 Patrol Hours - Over 50

NAME	Patrol Hours	Trail Maintenance Hours
Christel Maturo	98.5	41.5
Joan Davis	95.5	
Cat Wilder	89	28.5
Diane Ciano	86.5	50.5
Lynda Perry	85.5	
Cathy Clouse	81	37
Patti Crowther	79.5	
ShawnaLee Kwashnak	78.5	46
Gina Labbe	77.5	47.5
Susan Crone	75.5	
Ann Moses	75	
Donna Freeman	73	
Jean Morrison	72	
Gloria Ludwig	61.5	
Denise Ciano	61	34.5

## 2014 Most Maintenance Hours

NAME	AREAS
Meg Sautter	66.5
Penny Foisey	55.5
Melissa Evarts	55
Diane Ciano	50.5
Gina Labbe	47.5
ShawnaLee Kwashnak	46
Ginger Tullai	44
Christel Maturo	41.5
Vevette Greenberg	41
Cathy Clouse	37
Denise Ciano	34.5
Cat Wilder	28.5

# 2014 CHC-VHP Recognition THANK YOUS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This section is dedicated the CHC-VHP Volunteers that help to promote the VHP program, trail etiquette, and horses in CT.

The following members receive gold stars for their contributions.



**Sisterhood of the Riding Pants** – Meg Sautter, Cat & Bruce Wilder, Diane & Denise Ciano, Vevette Greenberg, Kowboy Ken Forcier, along with Jean Morrison, Shirley & Steve Vicchitto, Gary Rutkauskas & Randy Olmstead put in a total of **209 hours** in the **Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp** in 2014 to complete renovation of the camp. The camp now has 28 picnic tables, mounting block, 2 gates, cleared sites, and 5 pull through sites.



**ANN MOSES** – Shenipsit Region VHP Coordinator has recently been elected Chairman of the Somers Open Space and Trails Committee, a newly formed committee appointed by the Town of Somers, Board of Selectmen. This committee was formed to develop and maintain multi-use trails on town property. Somers recently acquired a beautiful 180 acre property with existing multi use trails and nice lake. Together with her committee members, Ann is working hard to ensure that this property remains accessible for horseback riding, and that appropriate trailer parking is established. Long term plans are to eventually connect these trails with other multi use trails maintained by the Northern CT Land Trust State Lands and the Shenipsit State Forest, CHC recommended trails.



**Reddington Rock Riding Club** has recently collaborated with The Town of Somers Open Space and Trails Committee to "adopt" the North and South Forest View trail, which connects the Shenipsit State Forest CHC recommended trail system to a beautiful open space property that is maintained by the Northern CT Land Trust. (Whitaker Woods).

This collaboration is helping to ensure that hundreds of acres of maintained multi use trails and open space remain available for trail riding in the Shenipsit region.

# 2014 CHC-VHP Recognition

## THANK YOUS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**Ginger Tullai, Diane Ciano, and members of CT Equine Advisory Council** worked over 3 years to get access to the 92 ft historic Comstock Covered Bridge in Salmon River State Forest in East Hampton. In response to requests from equestrians and the Connecticut Horse Council (CHC), the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has modified the wooden entrance gates at each approach to the bridge, which previously was restricted to pedestrians only. Equestrians will now have unimpeded access.

The CHC worked collaboratively with DEEP and CTDOT for use of the bridge which connects trails to both sides of the forest, eliminating riding along Rte 16. A multi-use loop trail will be marked in 2015.



**Ginger Tullai, has also been very active in helping to establish a “Friends of Sunrise Resort State Park.**

The park is located on Route 151 (Leesville Road in the Moodus section of East Haddam, one mile south of the intersection with Route 196. It is also adjacent to Machimoodus State Park (400 acres) which has carriage trails and spectacular views of the Salmon River. Nearby is Hurd State Park, another great riding opportunity for equestrians.



**Lynda Perry, Melissa Evarts & Howard Tunic of LCRVHC & BPC**

participated as trainers in a Boy Scouts of America “Powder Horn” intensive leadership training at the Deer Lake Scout Reservation in Killingworth. Over the course they did 3 sessions for 36 leaders and about 6-8 support staff. Touching on everything from how to be safe around horses they might encounter when hiking or backpacking with a Scout group, to doing an overnight packing trip with horses, as well as the activities required to get a horsemanship badge with younger scouts. They provided handouts on camping and packing with horses and the parts of a horse as well as the Share the Trail, Road Safe, and other CHC-VHP brochures. Many of the leaders come from urban areas and had never actually touched a horse. Afterward they met with Ranger Mark about possible Eagle Scout projects and getting some scouts involved with the Bridle Path Conservancy or local land trusts as Community service as another important component of Scouting.

# 2014 CHC-VHP Recognition

## THANK YOUS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**Penny Foisey**, VHP Coordinator for Mashamoquet SP and Pomfret private lands worked to create a 20 mile trails system. Beginning in the fall of 2014, and working closely with DEEP Park Supervisor Lori Lindquist, **Pomfret Horse and Trail** was able to resurrect an old section of trail in Mashamoquet Brook State Park.

This trail connects Wolf Den Dr. to Baker Hollow and Barrett Ridge trails creating a loop of approximately six miles. About half this trail has been permanently marked red blaze. The Wolf Den Dr to Baker Hollow section we hope to red blaze in the near future. The DEEP will also be mapping the entire loop to include in their maps. This is some excellent woods riding with old homesteads and beautiful stone walls. You actually feel like you've step back in time in this long ago abandoned settlement. You can find the Baker Hollow trail as a road on the circa 1869 Pomfret map. Barrett Ridge is an amazing old cart path that climbs one of the highest ridges in town. Leaving the park you enter into a piece of property the Town purchased to conserve, in hopes of creating a trail into the state park. We've been extremely well supported by our Town in our efforts to expand the trail network. Crossing Jericho Rd to the north side you continue on the red blaze trail through another Town piece into New England Forestry's Chase/Kimball Preserve and eventually onto the Airline Trail. You literally can ride all day from this point. All you need is time.



### **Cheshire Horse Council - Hospice and Rehabilitation Hospital visits**

An avid equestrian and president of the Cheshire Horse in Cheshire, Connecticut, **Bob LaRosa** organized a fundraiser called "Saddle Up: Horses for Hospice." For the event, 16 of the council's members rode their horses to a locally owned ice cream shop. There they parked their horses in a shady spot and, for a small donation, invited the public to take pictures. (Petting was free.) Participants also enjoyed homemade ice cream.

The event was so successful, that the Cheshire Horse Council decided to go national with this event by contacting horse clubs around the country and encouraging them to help raise money and awareness for hospice by participating in a trail walk every year on the last Saturday of September!

Since then members have extended their visits to "Horse Therapy" and have gone to Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, a long-term acute and chronic care hospital in Wallingford and Elim Park, a rehabilitation and convalescent home in Cheshire. The response from the patients has been remarkable and they plan on continuing their visits.

# 2015 CHC-VHP Annual Meeting

Our Annual meeting was a pleasant one with great comradeship and delicious pot luck food! Members shared their stories and networked on trail issues. We held two raffles, one of miscellaneous items that members brought in.

We raised a total of \$267.00 for the VHP with a Tea Cup Raffle (\$197.00) and a 50/50 raffles (\$70.00). Meg won the raffle and donated \$25.00 back to the VHP. **Thank you Meg.**

**We have 8 new VHP members for 2015:**

**Marty Hartranft**, Simsbury  
**Birgit Rocconella**, Enfield  
**Holly Cote**, Ashford  
**Lorraine Chocholka**, Waterbury  
**Cheryl Harrison**, Cheshire  
**Hanna Harrison**, Cheshire

**Returning members:**  
**Bob LaRosa**, Waterbury  
**Corinne Breyette**, Somers

## THANK YOUS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



**Heather Hicks** - Certificates  
**Cat & Bruce Wilder, Diane Morton & Gary Rutkauskas** - Set up & Kitchen Help  
**Laurianne Goulet** - Raffles  
**Denise Ciano** - Membership & Shirt Sales  
**Meg Sautter** - For Everything she is and does

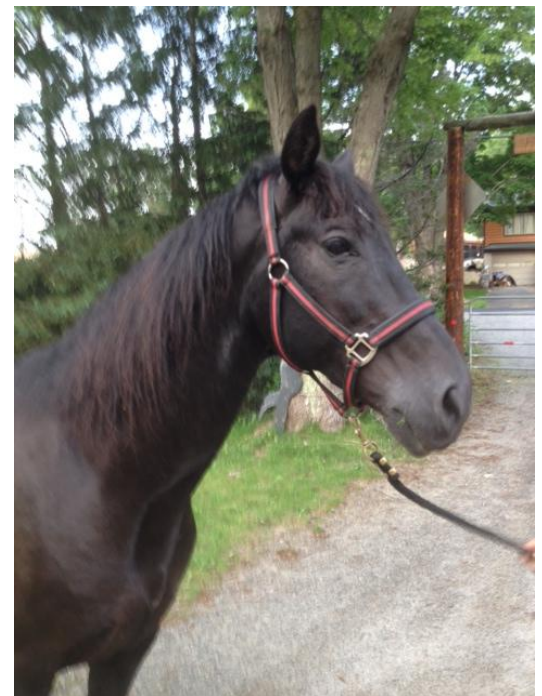
## CHC-VHP MEMBERS







**Lynda Perry, Melissa Evarts & Howard Tunic of LCRVHC & BPC** participated as trainers in a Boy Scouts of America "Powder Horn" intensive leadership training at the Deer Lake Scout Reservation in Killingworth. Over the course they did 3 sessions for 36 leaders and about 6-8 support staff. Touching on everything from how to be safe around horses they might encounter when hiking or backpacking with a Scout group, to doing an overnight packing trip with horses, as well as the activities required to get a horsemanship badge with younger scouts.



#### **New Patrol Horses**

**Roadster** aka "Roadie" owned by Ginger Tullai, VHP Coordinator for the DEEP Gillette Castle Area. Roadie is pictured here on left with Ginger's other patrol horse **Dunny**.

**Walking in Midnight** a 14 year old Tennessee Walker is Diane Ciano's new patrol horse



## National Trails Day Events

### CHC-VHP Ride - Blessing - Camp Out Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp, Natchaug State Forest





## National Trails Day Events

### Reddington Rock Riding Club Trails Day Ride in Shenipsit State Forest



### Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club (LCRVHC), the Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC),



For the ninth consecutive year, volunteers from the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club (LCRVHC), the Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC), the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA), and the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) joined forces to conduct a trail maintenance event as part of Connecticut Trails Day Weekend 2015. The event was attended by over 25 volunteers who trimmed brush, cut hanging tree limbs and painted blazes on seven different trails in the Weber Woods section of Cockaponset State Forest (Westbrook, CT). In all, over 130 hours of service were donated for the betterment of these multi-purpose, passive-use trails.

## ***Other Trail News:***

### **PRESS RELEASE FROM CTDOT**

#### **CTDOT Announces Equestrian Access at Historic Comstock Covered Bridge in East Hampton**

In response to requests from equestrians and the Connecticut Horse Council (CHC), the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is announcing that the historic Comstock Covered Bridge in Salmon River State Forest in East Hampton, has now been modified to allow equestrians to access and cross the structure.

Owned and maintained by the CTDOT, the bridge, a wooden, 92-foot “Howe Truss,” is an integral part of the East Hampton and Colchester communities and spans the Salmon River – a popular area for anglers, hikers, bicyclists and equestrians. One of three remaining covered bridges in Connecticut, the structure was recently rehabilitated by CTDOT and dates back to 1791. With popular horse trails on either side of the Salmon River, access to the bridge now allows horse riders to easily utilize the extensive trail networks in the area.

In consultation with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the town of East Hampton, and the CHC, the CTDOT has modified the wooden entrance gates at each approach to the bridge which previously had impeded equestrian access. Equestrians will now have unimpeded access.

“This is a unique day for the CTDOT,” said CTDOT Commissioner James P. Redeker. “When most people think about what my agency does, they think cars, trains, buses, bicyclists and the like. This is a great reminder that equestrians are our constituents as well, and it’s been a pleasure being a part the process to serve our friends in the horse community. I would also like to thank DEEP for their support and assistance in effecting this subtle but important change to better serve all of the public.”

“State parks, forests, and our trail systems are spectacular outdoor assets for Connecticut residents,” stated DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee. “The equestrian community worked collaboratively with DEEP and the CT Forest & Park Association, to insure that trails accessed by the bridge will be safe for all users. The equestrian community has proven to be responsible and excellent shepherds of our trail systems, so I am extremely pleased that allowing access on the Comstock will improve opportunities for them to more easily utilize our trail systems in the Salmon River State Forest.

Diane Ciano of the CHC added, “I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the CTDOT and DEEP to ‘open the doors’ of the Comstock for equestrian use. Access to the bridge eliminates the need for horses to ride along Route 16 to get to the trails on both sides of the forest, improving not only convenience, but most importantly, safety for riders. This small change at the Comstock will have a big impact, and I would like to thank the state, as well as recognize all those involved, including members of the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol and the Connecticut Equine Advisory Council who have worked to see this change through.

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***Recently there was a photo and film shoot with the Hartford Courant at the bridge. Meg Sautter on Mac was filmed along with other VHP members, Ginger Tullai, Waneta Lenk and Vevette Greenberg.***

Also see CT Horse Council Trails Report under CT Equine Advisory Council - page 18



## CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Trail Surface Study Completed

The CT Equine Advisory Council's Multi Use Trail Surface Study was recently completed and conducted by members of the Equine Advisory Council (EAC). The study includes case studies with specific information on construction methods and costs, compiled information on the various surfaces of trails in towns, state parks and forests, costs associated with construction, types of surfaces and impact of usage. The council has posted this on the EAC website and is in the process of decimating this information to the various trail planners who may play a role in maintaining or implementing trail systems including Town planners, recreation committees and Council of Governments throughout the state. The mission of the Equine Advisory Council and is to promote equestrian use on public lands, creating, preserving, maintaining and restoring trails.

<http://www.ct.gov/deep/eac>

**Jan Collins, Second Congressional District**, Connecticut Horse Council has retired from this position. Jan continues to represent the equestrian community on the CT Greenways Council. Thank you Jan for all your time and dedication to the EAC and your continued support of the CT Horse Council on the CT Greenways Council.

We are seeking a new representative to be appointed by the CT Legislative President Pro Tempore.

#### District #2 includes the towns of:

Suffield	Enfield	Somers	Stafford
Union	Woodstock	Thompson	Ellington
Tolland	Willington	Ashford	Haddam
East Haddam	Salem	Montville	Ledyard
North Stonington	Eastford	Pomfret	Putnam
Killingly	Vernon	Bolton	Andover
Coventry	Mansfield	Chaplin	Hampton
Stonington	Groton	New London	Waterford
East Lyme	Brooklyn	Glastonbury	Hebron
Columbia	Windham	Scotland	Canterbury
Plainfield	Sterling	Marlborough	Lebanon
Old Lyme	Lyme	Essex	Deep River
Chester	Franklin	Sprague	Lisbon
Griswold	Voluntown	East Hampton	Colchester
Bozrah	Norwich	Preston	Durham
Old Saybrook	Westbrook	Clinton	Killingworth

## **ABOUT the CT Equine Advisory Council:**

The Council was established on May 22, 2007 by [Public Act 07-42](#) to assist the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with issues related to the preservation of equine trails in the state.

**Membership:** The council consists of the president of the Connecticut Horse Council and five representatives from organizations that serve the horse industry within each congressional district statewide in addition to one member of the Connecticut Forests and Parks Association, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

Current members are:

**Fred Mastele** is currently the Acting President for CHC

**Meg Sautter**, Newington / First Congressional District.

CT Horse Council -Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor, Middlebury Bridle Lands Association, and avid trail rider throughout the State of Connecticut, State Animal Response Team (SART) member - Region 3/5, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member (EHartford, Region 3).

**Vacant** / Second Congressional District.

**Diane Ciano**, Plymouth / Fifth Congressional District.

CT Horse Council -Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor, Trails Chairperson for CHC, and avid trail rider throughout the State of Connecticut, State Animal Response Team (SART) member - Region 5, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member.

**Ruth Beardsley**, Bethany / Third Congressional District.

CT Horse Council, CT Dressage & Combined Training Association, Bethany Horsemen, Bethany Horse Council, Bethany Zoning Board of Appeals, attorney, adjunct professor of Equine Law at Post University, horse owner.

**David Frazzinelli**, Newtown / Fourth Congressional District.

**Vacant**, Connecticut Forest & Park Association

**Laurie Giannotti**, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Liaison

### **Goals:**

1. Promote equestrian use on public lands.
2. Preserve, maintain and restore existing trails.
3. Promote the development of new "Multi-Use" trails.
4. Document and create maps for trails used by equestrians.

### **2015 Meeting Schedule:**

The 2015 meetings of the EAC will continue to be quarterly at the Eversource (formerly Northeast Utilities) meeting room located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

The EAC will meet from 6:30-9 PM on the following Thursdays: March 19<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, September 17<sup>th</sup>, and December 17<sup>th</sup>. The public is welcomed.

For more information please visit the EAC website: <http://www.ct.gov/deep/eac>



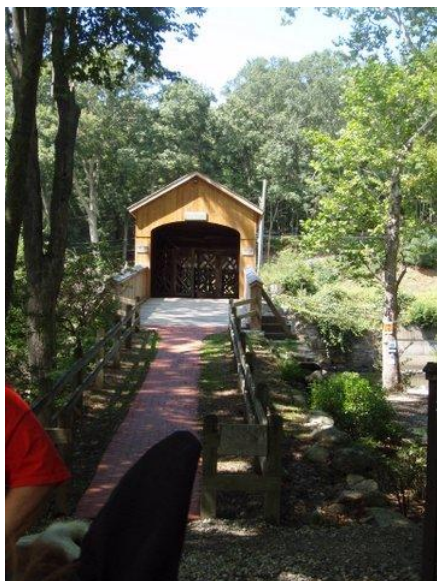
## CT Horse Council - Equine Advisory Report:

**Comstock Bridge - Salmon River State Forest:** Diane reported on the great progress that has been made with the Comstock Bridge. The doors have been opened and overhead bars removed to accept better handicap accessibility and to allow horses to cross. This now allows equestrians to utilize both sides of the forest trails without riding along Rte 16. Many thanks go to the efforts and support of DOT Kevin Nursick. Kevin was instrumental in getting DOT and DEEP personnel to meet and discuss the possibility of opening this bridge for equestrians to pass. A meeting was also held at the site.

**This was not an easy task to overcome as there were concerns of the safety of people on the bridge as the horses cross and the horse manure issues that may happen on or near the bridge. DOT is working on signage to address these concerns and CHC is working on educating the equestrian community.** The DOT & DEEP regard CHC and its members to be “stewards” of the bridge and trails and wants a commitment from **the equestrians that they will remove any manure that happens near or on both sides of the bridge**, possibly supply a shovel and pail, and to have several local equestrian contacts that DEEP can call on if there is manure to be removed from the bridge.

The project to propose a marked looped trail that connects the Salmon River Forest, Airline Greenway and Day Pond State park needs to move forward and for approval to mark.

### BEFORE



### AFTER

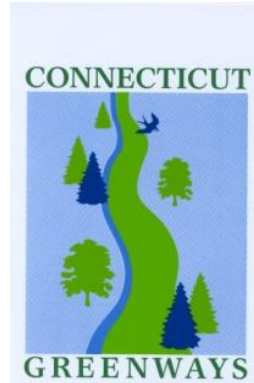


*Meg Sautter with “Mac” was filmed along with other VHP members, Ginger Tullai, Waneta Lenk and Vevette Greenberg.*

**Thank You DOT - DEEP**

## Your CHC Representation around the state...

Jan Collins, CHC Greenways Representative



The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Greenways Day was celebrated June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 kicking off National Trails Day weekend with their annual Greenways Day celebrating the Naugatuck River Greenway.

### **Presentation of awards and Greenway designations:**

Transportation Award: CTDOT Commissioner James P. Redeker  
Legislative Award: CT State Senator Beth Bye - 5th District Deputy Majority Leader  
Municipal Award: Joseph Merritt - Bloomfield Town Council  
Planning Award: Mark E. Moriarty - Director of New Britain Public Works  
Volunteer Organization Award: Northwest CT YMCA's Torrington Trail Network  
Advocacy Award: Molly Henry - NE Trail Coordinator, EC Greenway Alliance  
Volunteer Award: Sylvia Ounpuu - bike to work advocate from Bolton  
Special Recognition: Lisa Fernandez - President Farmington Canal Rail to Trail Assoc.

New members to the Council this year are: Rista Malanca representing the Naugatuck River Greenway, Michelle Eckman, Director of Education for CT Audubon Soc., and Steve Mitchell BOD East Coast Greenway. Council member Bruce Donald, Farmington Valley Trails Council, is the current chairman of the Greenways Council.

Several Bills of interest were before the legislature including Bill 1062 which involves the Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and if passed with the State budget would give more flexibility to how the program monies are distributed. This Bill refers to the Greenways Council for reviewing funding allocations so the current Recreation Trails Committee may need to be merged with the Greenways Council.

No progress has been made procuring the Greenway license plate monies swept into the General fund so that program is still in limbo.

Jan Collins  
CHC Greenways Representative

## **Horse Owner's Corner: Strategic Deworming: Why should I change how I deworm my horse?**

**Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, UConn; Education Committee Chair**

Spring is coming and that makes horse owners think about deworming. You may have heard some of the recent discussion about how horse owners should switch from rotational deworming to strategic deworming. The main reason that horse owners are being encouraged to switch is that with no new dewormers on the horizon, parasites may develop resistance to existing dewormers. Also, there may be a cost benefit to only deworming those horses that have high fecal egg counts.

### **What is strategic deworming?**

Strategic deworming involves collecting the feces of the horse and examining the feces using a fecal flotation test to determine the number of parasite eggs present. Then, with strategic deworming, only horses with a specific number of parasite eggs or higher (called “shedders”) would be dewormed. Shedding refers to the number of strongyle type eggs present.

It does take a trained eye to recognize strongyle eggs, but large farms may want to consider learning how to perform their own fecal egg counts (FECs). You will need a fecal flotation kit which is commercially available and fecal flotation medium, also commercially available. You will also need a microscope and the time to devote to looking at the manure of all of the horses on your farm. You will have to collect the manure when it is fresh in the stall, or if horses are pastured you may need to stall them because if you just pick up the pile in the field, you can't be sure which horse it is from. Otherwise, your veterinarian can arrange to have a FEC done for you.

Some parasitologists (veterinarian who studies parasites) recommend grouping horses into low, moderate or high shedders. However, they cannot agree on a cut-off number for each category. According to the American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP), a FEC of less than 200 eggs per gram (epg) implies a light parasite load while a FEC of 500 to 1000 epg implies that the interval between deworming is too long. Initially you would perform an FEC 10-14 days before you would normally deworm. You would then do a fecal float exam 10-14 days after deworming to determine if the dewormer is working properly. If it is, you would see a fecal egg count reduction (FECD) in those horses tested. It should be 90% of the previous FEC when tested.


### **What are the advantages of using strategic deworming?**


There are the advantages of strategic deworming:



It may reduce the chances of parasites developing resistance. There are no new dewormers in development. Whenever a dewormer is used, some parasites may not die. These parasites are called resistant. The more parasites that survive after a deworming, which should


kill them, the more resistant parasites there are in the population. This can lead to horse owners being unable to control parasites, and is the main reason a lot of parasitologists and veterinarians advocate using strategic deworming.


 You will be able to determine which horses are low, medium, or high shedders. Research has shown that this is determined genetically, so you should not have to perform the test again to be sure that a horse is a low, medium, or high shedder unless his health or immune status changes.


 You will know if the dewormer you are using is effective. Some dewormers in your rotation will be more effective against certain types of internal parasites than others. For example, when using pyrantel pamoate is not effective against encysted cyathostomes, so you would need to have another dewormer in the rotation to take care of that. If using a daily dewormer, you also will want to add a larvicide and boticide since they are not effective against bots and larva.

### **What are the disadvantages of strategic deworming?**

There are some disadvantages of strategic deworming:

 For large farms, it will be time consuming and labor intensive to perform FECs on all horses. It will also require an additional cost initially.

 You must test all horses on the farm in order to have a truly effective strategic deworming program, at least initially.

 It is often difficult to convince people who have done things a certain way that a new idea is going to be effective. It may be difficult to get a stable manager with years of experience to switch to strategic deworming.

Strategic deworming is a new way of managing the horse to reduce parasite loads. Studies have shown that it is quite effective. You should work with your veterinarian to determine the deworming method that is best for you. It is also important to prevent overgrazing and manage manure in your pastures to keep from adding to the horse's parasite load. Deworming works best when it goes along with best management practices that include good farm sanitation and manure removal. Good luck and have fun with your horses!

### **References**

American Association of Equine Practitioners. Internal Parasites: Strategies for Effective Parasite Control. 2010. [http://www.aaep.org/health\\_articles\\_view.php?id=125](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=125)

The Horse Staff. Strategic Deworming Q & A. 2008. <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=13694>



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Durham, CT 0

860-349-1200

[president@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:president@cthorsecouncil.org)

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**Ron Hocutt**

East Windsor, CT

860-386-6255

[rhocutt@cox.net](mailto:rhocutt@cox.net)

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Plymouth, CT

203-757-1904

[trails@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:trails@cthorsecouncil.org)

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Cromwell, CT

860-997-6434

[CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org)

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**Cheryl Mastele**

Durham, CT

860-349-1200

[greymist@comcast.net](mailto:greymist@comcast.net)

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**Carol Birdsey**

Middletown, CT

860-344-1804

[membership@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:membership@cthorsecouncil.org)

## **Membership Secretary**

**Carol Birdsey**

Middletown, CT

860-344-1804

[membership@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:membership@cthorsecouncil.org)

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Glastonbury, CT

860-659-0848

[chip.beckett@beckettvet.net](mailto:chip.beckett@beckettvet.net)

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203-888-3975

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[Shelly@HorseCountryRealEstate.net](mailto:Shelly@HorseCountryRealEstate.net)

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Newington, CT

860-666-6938

[newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org)

**Shirley Vicchitto**

Beacon Falls, CT

203-723-1839

[Ladyozion@yahoo.com](mailto:Ladyozion@yahoo.com)

**Steven Vicchitto**

Beacon Falls, CT

203-723-1839

[Ladyozion@yahoo.com](mailto:Ladyozion@yahoo.com)

## **Committee Chairs:**

### **Animal Health and Welfare**

**Laurianne Goulet**

[CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org)

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[president@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:president@cthorsecouncil.org)

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[newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org)

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[trails@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:trails@cthorsecouncil.org)

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### **Web Site**

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[webmaster@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:webmaster@cthorsecouncil.org)

### **Zoning**

**Shelly Fetterhoff**

[Shelly@HorseCountryRealEstate.net](mailto:Shelly@HorseCountryRealEstate.net)

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**Middlebury Bridle Land Association**  
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**New England Arabian Trail Organization**  
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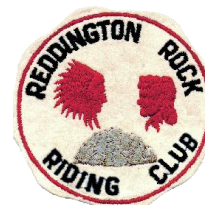
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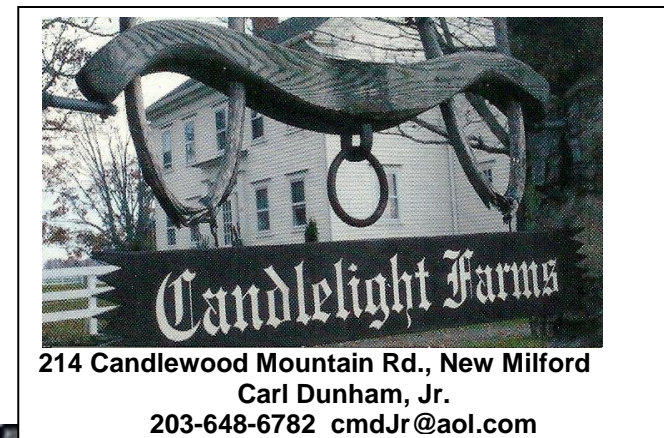


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# Business Member Directory

CHC would like to encourage horse owners to use the services of our member businesses. **This will help our industry to prosper. If your business does not appear here, consider joining CHC so that we may add your listing as well. This information is made available at our trade show booth and on our website.**

**Note: Listings in our business directory is a service to our members only, and does not necessarily endorse any individual, business, or product.**



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☐ **Club** \* \$20    **(1-50)**    **(51-100)**    **(101-200)**    **(201-350)**    **(351-500)**    **(500 & up)**  
                            1 Delegate    2 Delegates    3 Delegates    4 Delegates    5 Delegates    6 Delegates

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**STREET** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY / STATE/ ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Volunteer Horse Patrol    ☐ Education    ☐ CT Horse 911

**I would be willing to serve on a committee of my interest.**    ☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ More info, please

**I would be willing to have my name listed with CHC Connections as a person to contact in an emergency involving horses, or for emergency resources.**    ☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ More info, please

**Please describe resources/services you would be able to provide on the back of this form.**

I wish to join The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

**Make checks payable to:**

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.  
P.O. Box 57  
Durham, CT 06422-0057

Telephone: 860-482-9500  
[www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

(over)



Connecticut Horse Council **Connections** is a volunteer network being developed to provide assistance and resources to our fellow horse owners in the state during times of natural or man-made disasters, or emergency incidents such as fires, loose horses, or trailer accidents. When there is an incident or emergency situation involving horses **Connections** will be a resource for local fire departments, first response dispatchers, and, as they continue to organize, with local CTSART Region Team Leaders. If you choose to participate in **Connections**, CHC will add your name to our list of people who can be contacted when help is needed.

[ ] CHC has my permission to make my name available to my local Fire Department/local Emergency Dispatcher as an experienced horseperson to call in the event of an incident involving horse/s.

My local FD is \_\_\_\_\_ Local Police \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency trailering for horse/s.

Type/size of vehicle \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide temporary emergency shelter/housing/paddock space for horses which need to be relocated in emergency situations.

Describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency supplies (feed, bedding, or other) for horses involved in emergency incidents.

Describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] I am unable to participate at this time but would like to be included in future alerts or mailings.

**Although not yet mandated by Connecticut statute, the CT State Animal Response Team regions recognize the needs of large animals. CHC remains committed to assisting the five Region Team Leaders in their efforts to include horses in their disaster response plans.**

[ ] Please give me the contact name of my CTSART Region Team Leader so I can contact him/her.

**I attest that I am at least 18 years of age and that the information I provide The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. is true and accurate. I understand that I may, in any particular situation, prudently decline to offer my good faith services. I further understand that The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. acts only as a conduit for providing this information to individuals and/or organizations for the purpose of emergency response, and CHC is not liable for any injury or misadventure resulting in my volunteer efforts.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature