

Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

Check out our website at www.cthorsecouncil.org

2016 SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all who have joined the CT Horse Council for 2016. A reminder for those that have not paid their dues – please take the time to send in your dues. Individual - \$20.00 and Family is \$30.00 per year. The 2016 application is on pages 32-33 of this newsletter.

Please check to see if your name is listed under Supporting Members on pages 27 & 29. If not please send in your dues. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Our supporting organizations and business members are listed on pages 29 - 31 and are also posted up on our website. Club, Organizations, Business & Professional support is only \$40.00 per year - all posted on our web site and in our Newsletters.

THANK YOU

LOWER CT RIVER VALLEY HORSEMEN'S CLUB \$100.00 Donation TO CHC

GRANBY HORSE COUNCIL \$40.00 \$40.00 Donation TO CHC

CT Horse Council is Part of IGive

Want to help out the CT Horse Council? We are a part of igive.com. Just go to igive.com. Choose CT Horse Council as your cause.

Use the iGive Button at over 1,700 online stores. CT Horse Council will get money – free! Please help whenever you can! Thanks in advance!

Table of Contents

SAVE THE DATES

Steep Rock & Hidden Valley CHC Horse Patrol to be established: Page 3 *** Connecticut Classic Horse Show - September 21st- 25th Page 4 *** CT Trails Symposium: Thursday October 20th Page 5 **CT Greenways Council News Update **Pages 6-10** CHC IS ASKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO REPRESENT EQUESTRIANS **ON THE CT GREENWAYS COUNCIL CT Equine Advisory Council** Page 11 Legislative Update Pages 12-13 **Trails & Volunteer Horse Patrol News Pages 14-22 National Trails Day Events** Page 19 **Farewell to our Patrol Horses Page 20 Other Trail News:** Pages 21-22 New Trails: "Trail of the Angels" - Newtown Mashamoguet Brook State Park & Natchaug State Forest - Pomfret Horse Owner's Corner- Timely Tips: Disaster Planning for Equine Owners Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, UConn Equine Extension Specialist and CHC Education Chair Pages 23-25 2016-2018 Officers and Board of Directors **Page 26** Supporting Members Pages 27-28 **Supporting Organizations** Page 29 **Business Member Directory** Pages 30-31

2016 CHC Application
<u>We now have Pay Pal for your convenience!</u>

STEEP ROCK ASSOCIATION - MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED

A "Coffee and Conversation" meeting will be scheduled for late summer or early fall. The purpose of the meeting is to share and disseminate info with all user groups, possibly bringing back horse show events and establishing a Volunteer Horse Patrol. Please contact Diane Ciano for information below

Steep Rock Association, which conserves over 5,000 acres of open space in Washington, CT, would love to establish a Volunteer Horse Patrol on their trails at Hidden Valley Preserve and/or Steep Rock Preserve in the northwest section of the state.

They're interested in having eyes and ears on the ground as friendly, informative Volunteer Horse Patrollers educate trail users, connect with the trail community, and provide a positive presence on the trails.

Steep Rock Preserve was first preserved in 1889 by architect Erich Rossiter. He built carriage roads and small river crossings and invited his friends and fellow townspeople to enjoy the wild beauty of this section of the Shepaug River Valley via foot, hoof, and carriage. Today, equestrians and other outdoor enthusiasts can continue to enjoy the peacefulness and majesty of the preserve. Hidden Valley Preserve, with its hiking and riding trails, was donated to the Association by the van Sinderens in 1963. In *Our Home in the Country,* 1957, Adrian van Sinderen, shared, "The trails have always been open to, and enjoyed by, the public, especially the horsemen who love nature, who enjoy the stillness of the woods, the gurgle of a fast-running river, the strength of a galloping horse."

Steep Rock Association is also looking to engage the equestrian community in a "Coffee and Conversation" gathering at the end of summer in which they want to hear from trail riders on challenges and opportunities on the Association's trails.

Help them make a difference for trail riders and others by sharing your knowledge, caring personality, and interest in the outdoors. For more about Steep Rock Association, visit <u>www.steeprockassoc.org</u>. For timely updates, visit Steep Rock Association's Facebook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/SteepRockAssoc</u>

To become a VHP member at Steep Rock or Hidden Valley Preserve and/or participate at the upcoming meeting, please contact Diane Ciano Spirit76@snet.net or 203.757.1904

Connecticut Classic Horse Show - September 21st-25th

The Connecticut Classic Horse Show (CCHS) is a \$125,000 prize Hunter / Jumper competition taking place in Hartford's historic Keney Park on September 21st through 25th, 2016.

The event will feature multi-discipline equestrian sport competitions and performances including: Arabian equines in full regalia, Dressage, Hunters and world class Show Jumping. CCHS will draw some of the top equestrians from all along the East Coast, eastern Midwest states, and eastern Canada.

The Connecticut Classic Horse Show, designed to fill a void in the 'middle-market' niche will attract thousands of equestrians, non-equestrians, celebrities, and politicos, alike. The CCHS is designed to spur tourism, hospitality and economic development in the City and attract a robust equestrian market to Hartford. We are excited to bring such an opportunity to the heart of the city.

Show Host – Ebony Horsewomen, Inc. For more information: <u>www.ctclassichorseshow.com</u>



<u>CT Trails Symposium: Thursday October 20th</u> sponsored by the GREENWAYS Council will be held at Middlesex Community College from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The all day event patterned after an event held in Naugatuck last year where various user groups spoke on state of trails in CT and trail development and issues, etc.

CHC Note: There was a noticeable lack of equestrian participation last year as Jan was not able to attend. She reports that a few equestrian related questions weren't answered. The Greenways Council hopes to rectify that in this would be a great opportunity to get exposure for equestrians on the trails, etc. CHC would like to put together a program that would be presented at this conference.

We are looking for help and equestrian representation at this event. Please contact Diane Ciano

Your CHC Representation around the state...

CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL

VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL

CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

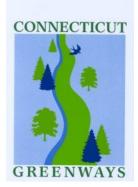
CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Your CHC Representation around the state...

CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL





CHC IS ASKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO SIT ON THE CT GREENWAYS COUNCIL

Jan Collins, our CHC Greenways Representative has served on this state council since 2009 and would like to "retire" from this position. Jan has served many years on many committees including CHC Trails & VHP, Equine Advisory Council, DEEP Recreational Trails and her in her own town

• In 1999, she received a Greenways Lifetime Achievement for her work in helping to preserve trails in Somers, CT.

CHC is looking to fill this position.

Members of the Connecticut Greenways Council are appointed by the Governor and the leaders of the General Assembly. Their duties include advising and assisting local, state, regional, private citizens and recreational organizations in the technical aspects of planning, designing and implementing greenways, including advice on securing state, federal and nongovernmental grants; and establishing criteria for designation of greenways. The council also reviews applications and awards grants submitted for the Recreational Trails Program.

The meetings are held every other month, on the 2nd Monday at 9:30 AM at Eversource (formerly Northeast Utilities) meeting room located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT. On occasion they are held at the DOT or CT Forest & Park Association in Middlefield. Members have the option of calling in and teleconferencing if they can't make a meeting in person or the weather is bad.

It is important to have equestrian representation to keep equestrian interests on the table as much as possible, educating and promoting multiple use greenways and trails.

CHC will work with assisting in getting your appointment and helping you along. If you are interested, please contact Diane Ciano <u>Spirit76@snet.net</u> or 203.757.1904.

For more information on the CT Greenways Council go to: www.ct.gov/deep/greenways

Past & Up Coming GREENWAY Events:

CT Recreational Trails Kick-off Program was held at CFPA headquarters in Rockfall on April 7th to recognize this year's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant awardees and introduce the new State RTP program vs the Federal RTP which the state has opted out of. 9 Million dollars was available this year so virtually all of the grant requests were awarded. The Council will ask for another \$5 million in 2016. *The Greenways Council is now responsible for reviewing the applications and making recommendation to DEEP on each application.* The old RTP

Airline and Hop River State Park

A ribbon cutting for the newly constructed connection between the Air Line and Hop River State Park trails in Willimantic as well as a ribbon cutting for a new Canoe/Kayak Landing was held on May 14th.

17th Annual CT Greenway Awards & National Trails Day Celebration was held on Friday, June 3rd at Goodwin State forest Education Center in Hampton. The celebration highlighted the Air Line State Park Trail Greenway and James L. Goodwin State Forest trail systems, along with the presentation of the awards and Greenway designations.

Governor's Greenways Council Presents 17th Annual Greenways Awards

Designates Two New Connecticut Greenways

The Governor's Greenways Council commended five individuals, two volunteer trail committees and a non-profit organization that have made significant contributions to the promotion, development and enhancement of Greenways – linear open space in Connecticut – and designated two new greenways at a ceremony on Friday, June 3rd at the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center Pavilion, in Hampton, CT.

Susan Whalen, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) said "Greenways continue to provide easy and safe trails, away from traffic, for people of all ages to enjoy. Whether you prefer a gentle stroll or a vigorous run, Greenways afford visitors a scenic opportunity all over Connecticut. Today's awards and designations add to over 80 existing Greenways and illustrate the passion and dedication of its volunteers to make these trails possible."

Bruce Donald, Chair of the CT Greenways Council said, "Connected trails running through municipalities are proven successes. These facilities, by whatever name, have become integral to the concept of not just transportation, but community. They have become the modern version of the village green, where people meet to socialize and have fun in a safe outdoor environment – a profoundly valued amenity in our mechanized lives."

Greenways in Connecticut cover thousands of acres throughout every county in the state and may include paved or unpaved trail systems, ridgelines, or linked parcels of open space. Many other communities around Connecticut have chosen, through greenway designation, to recognize the importance of river corridors for natural resource protection, recreational opportunities, and scenic values. The CT Greenways Council website contains details on how to get designations, assistance and a map of our State Greenways. <u>http://www.ct.gov/deep/greenways</u>

2016 CT Greenways Council Award Recipients:

Robert E. Lee, Town Manager, Plainville, CT Municipal Achievement

For almost a decade Mr. Lee has been working on bringing multi-use trails to fruition in Plainville, including negotiations with Pan Am Railways on possible right of ways. Recently Mr. Lee presided over the board selected to handle the closure of the Central CT Regional Planning Agency. Through his efforts, unused funding was forwarded to the Capital Region Council of Governments, which Plainville joined in 2015. That funding in part was repurposed to provide for the Plainville Trail Alignment Study, recently awarded to VHB and Mobycon for completion in 2017. Plainville is the last major gap in the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in CT.

Simsbury Free Bike (SFB) Larry Linonis, Pattie Jacobus Special Achievement

The first free rental not-for-profit in the state, SFB is supported by donations, corporate sponsors and volunteers. The program seeks to promote the use of bicycles and area trails, providing bikes to the public for recreation and alternative transportation in the Farmington Valley centered on the multi-use Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the Farmington River Trail. SFB, after five years, is the largest bike share in the state and has over 50 bikes at nine bike rental stations in five communities. Projected ridership for 2016 is 1,700 people during the season. Those 18 and over with a \$10 refundable deposit and valid ID, get access to the trails and sights of the Farmington Valley. SFB's bike sharing program is one of the major reasons that Simsbury is the only Silver Bike Friendly Community in CT.

Tony Chernolis, Hartford Advocacy

Tony left his job as an engineer at Pratt & Whitney to work in youth development at the Center for Latino Progress and subsequently founded "BiCi" -- the Community Bicycle Workshop in Hartford. He's not owned a car since 2010 and walks or bikes all around the city keeping a steady eye on what's happening and what needs to be done. He is a member of the Safe Streets Committee in Hartford, actively involved in recent revisions to Hartford's zoning codes, an active volunteer for cycling and safety education with Bike/Walk CT, and promotes sustainable transportation through the Transport Hartford group.

Deborah Thibodeau, Simsbury Unsung Hero

Deb has been a spark plug in the bicycle mission in Simsbury working with school systems getting kids involved in biking. More importantly, she was a key facilitator for the Simsbury school system's Safe Routes to School program. She has also been a volunteer for the National Bike Challenge.

Thompson Trails Committee Volunteer Trail Committee Achievement

The TTC is an all-volunteer committee that has been actively promoting and improving Thompson's trails, water trails, and connections to neighboring communities since 2003. In addition to all of the in-town work they have accomplished, the Trails Committee is an outstanding partner and works on regional trails issues with neighboring towns, CT DEEP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Friends of Titanic Trail, East Coast Greenways, and The Last Green Valley. The TTC has organized dozens of activities for the public, and actively maintains and improves many publicly accessible trails available for hiking or easy walking, nature study, biking, horseback riding and boating. They have worked on many trails and provide information and trail maps at the Town Hall, Thompson Library, on the town website and through a FB page. The Committee has worked on historical research and signage of the Great Train Wreck for the Airline Trail kiosks. They are continuing to work on new trails, and we're proud to be their partner in the Airline Trail upgrades that are ongoing.

Ginny Hole, South Windsor Education

Ginny was instrumental in starting South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways (SWW&WW) in 2007, and since then has actively worked to promote and improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in the town of South Windsor. Most prominent in her accomplishments has been the creation of a grade school bicycle safety

class now given to every 4th grader in the public school system. Ginny helped with setting up this program back in 2008, and in the 2013-2014 school year SWW&WW (along with P.E. teachers in the school system) took over responsibility for the running the bicycle safety program in South Windsor's public grade schools. Ginny was also instrumental in acquiring town-owned bicycles for use in the program, and a town-owned trailer to transport the bikes. This program was either the first, or among the first in Connecticut where bicycle education is now a part of the town curriculum.

Goodwin Trails Committee

Volunteer Trail Committee Achievement This group of volunteers has been working at Goodwin State Forest since 2009. It is a multi- user trail group including hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The group was able to overcome serious trail user conflicts early on and have since been maintaining and improving the large trail system at Goodwin which includes a couple of interpretive trails and a few bridges. In keeping with the mission of the Goodwin Conservation Center and with a focus on attracting novice hikers or first time forest users, they developed and implemented a trail plan making it nearly impossible to get lost on Goodwin's system of trails. The group has also partnered with DEEP's Wildlife Division creating an observation platform on Governor's Island and helping to maintain water levels in two ponds and a marsh to prevent trail flooding and improve waterfowl habitat. Finally, through forming new partnerships, the group has established a Goodwin Forest Trail Run which hosts 250 participants annually.

Barbara Amodio, Bolton Volunteer

Barbara co-founded Bike/Walk Bolton (BWB). Recently she worked tirelessly to organize a trail presentation to more than 100 attendees in Bolton. BWB is actively working on Bolton's application to be a bicycle friendly community. They have met with UCONN, Mansfield, and Coventry to build the multi-use trail gap between Bolton Notch (part of the East Coast Greenway) and UCONN as well as keeping ongoing contact with ConnDOT designers as they try to close the gap from Finley Street, Manchester to Bolton Post Office. Barbara is an active member of the East Coast Greenway (ECG), and she participates in the 2,900 mile annual ride. She is helping to organize a youth bicycle group for Bolton's Memorial Day Parade, its first annual entry. She is a regular attendee of Bolton's Board of Selectmen meetings, keeping the town focused on Bolton's commitment to bike/ped programs.

2016 Officially Designated Greenways

Riverfront Parks in Hartford and East Hartford, an Extension of the CT River Greenway -

Nominated by Riverfront Recapture and endorsed by the Towns of Hartford and East Hartford. With this designation, the riverfront parks are now part of our official CT River Greenway. The parks cover almost 150 acres in two municipalities (Hartford and East Hartford) with several miles of paved and lighted Riverwalks connected by two accessible pedestrian river crossings on the Founders and Charter Oak Bridges. In addition, there are two plus miles of floodplain trails in Riverside Park that are easily explored either on foot or bike. The parks also have plenty of free parking onsite from sunrise to sunset, weather and river conditions permitting. Riverfront Recapture can be contacted for more information at MNicol@Riverfront.org or (860) 713 -3131, ext. 334.

Quinebaug River Greenway Extension through the Town of Griswold – nominated by the Town of Griswold Economic Development Commission and endorsed by the Town of Griswold. The goals of the extended Quinebaug River Greenway are: Provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors; Improve the quality of life in local communities; Help retain and attract new businesses and residents; Raise awareness and help build appreciation of the Quinebaug River; and Connecting open spaces. With this designation, the official Quinebaug River Greenway is now extended through the Town of Griswold and it is intended that this will be a catalyst for other towns to the west and south to further extend the Greenway, finally linking it to our officially designated Shetucket River Greenway. The Town can be contacted for more information at (860) - 376-7060.



CHC- Volunteer Horse Patrol representation at the CT Greenways ceremony was Midnight & Diane Ciano, Mac & Meg Sautter, Representative Doug Dubinsky, Dude & Vevette Greenberg.

UPCOMING - Save the Date: Thursday, October 20th

The CT Trails Annual Conference sponsored by the GREENWAYS Council will be held Thursday, October at Middlesex Community College from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The all day event patterned after an event held in Naugatuck last year where various user groups spoke on state of trails in CT and trail development and issues, etc.

CHC Note: There was a noticeable lack of equestrian participation last year as Jan was not able to attend. She reports that a few equestrian related questions weren't answered. The Greenways Council hopes to rectify that in this would be a great opportunity to get exposure for equestrians on the trails, etc. CHC would like to put together a program that would be presented at this conference. We are looking for help and equestrian representation at this event. Please contact Diane Ciano.

Your CHC Representation around the state...



The mission of the Equine Advisory Council and is to promote equestrian use on public lands, creating, preserving, maintaining and restoring trails.

The CT Equine Advisory Council's website and link to the Multi Use Trail Surface can be viewed on: http://www.ct.gov/deep/eac

The study can be used to educate and promote multi-use trails and surfaces for planners of trails who may play a role in maintaining or implementing trail systems including Town planners, recreation committees and Council of Governments throughout the state.

Second Congressional District, The Connecticut Horse Council & CT Equine Advisory Council has recommended Ginger Tullai to fill this from this position. We are waiting on the appointment of the CT Legislative President Pro Tempore, Senator Martin Looney.

2016 Meeting Schedule:

The 2016 meetings of the EAC will continue to be quarterly at the Eversource (formerly Northeast Utilities) meeting room located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT. The EAC meets at 6:30 PM on the following Thursdays: March 17, June 16, September 15, December 15. The public is welcomed.

Legislation

Report from Ruth Beardsley:

H.B. 5147 (P.A. No. 16-96) amends subsection (b) of C.G.S. Sec. 53-247, to provide enhanced penalties for second offenses of animal abuse. The first offense remains a Class D Felony (up to 5 years in prison and up to a \$5,000 penalty), but the second offense now becomes a Class C Felony (1-10 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 penalty). Unless good cause is shown, Accelerated Rehabilitation is not available to those charged with a Class C Felony.

2016 Legislative Session Final Recap Update courtesy of CFPA:

By: Eric Hammerling

The 2016 session opened on February 3rd and concluded at midnight on May 4th. Every moment counts in the frenetic 13-weeks of session, and CFPA was busy working for your forests, parks, walking trails, and open spaces up until the very end.

But it seemed that the unfinished business remaining after the clock ran out on May 4th would never actually end. There were two special sessions held after May 4th to vote on bonding, the budget, the budget implementer, and the conveyance act. Following is our recap of the most significant bills that CFPA was directly involved with this year:

Key Bills Passed

<u>S.J. 36/Resolution Act 16-1</u>: **Constitutional Amendment to Better Protect Public Lands**. S.J. 36 passed both chambers on the last day of the regular legislative session. This priority resolution (which has to be passed again in the 2017-18 legislative session to make it onto the November, 2018 ballot) would ensure a public process before state-owned public lands could be sold, swapped, or given away by the General Assembly. Specifically, the General Assembly could not require a State agency to sell, swap, or give away public lands without 1) a public hearing, and 2) a 2/3rd majority vote on a bill dedicated to that specific proposed conveyance of public lands.

Passage of SJ 36 was an ENORMOUS first step toward better protecting your state lands, and many legislators were wonderfully supportive to make this happen (though Senator Kevin Witkos and Representative Roberta Willis pictured above deserve extra special mention)!

<u>H.B. 5150/P.A. 16-86</u>: **Public Notice of Planned Tree Removals along Municipal Roads**. This bill requires: 1) utilities to provide a plan for their proposed tree pruning and removals to each town annually by the end of January. Towns have 14 days to make these plans publicly available; 2) utilities must remove or dispose of debris from their authorized vegetation management; and 3) Municipal Tree Wardens are authorized to post a group of shrubs proposed for removal rather than individual shrubs. Representatives Mike D'Agostino and James Albis were critical in negotiating this important bill.

<u>H.B. 5627/P.A. 16-72</u>: **Remove Requirement to Pay Sales Tax at Gates to State Parks**. The "budget implementer" passed at the end of the 2015 session added a 6.35% sales tax on top of regular parking fees at State Parks, municipal lots, and hospital/nursing home parking areas with over 30 spaces. Thankfully, this sales tax requirement (which had led to making a LOT of change and increased waiting times to enter State Park gates) was removed.

<u>S.B. 386/P.A. 16-5</u>: **State Park Sustainability Report**. CT DEEP must report to the Legislature on potential revenue-raising opportunities from 1) a per-person admission fee at all state parks, and 2) funds

raised from state park concessions, services, and amenities. This is another step toward finding a more sustainable funding source for Connecticut's beautiful but under-resourced State Parks. <u>SB504/P.A. 16-1</u>: **The 2016 Conveyance Act** (the annual bill that allows the General Assembly to sell, swap, or give away public lands) was voted on during the Special Session. There were 7 new sections of the Conveyance Act that never had a public hearing as did the earlier version of the bill (<u>HB 5619</u>). One new section renewed a 30-year lease (for \$1/year) of CT DEEP lands in Ridgefield for athletic fields and enabled the town to install lights on that land.

Cuts to Key Environmental Programs

The <u>bonding</u> and <u>budget</u> revisions at the end of the 2016 session made deep cuts to environmental priorities as well as many other programs across state government as part of approximately \$1 billion in cuts. Following are some of the key programs that were impacted:

Community Investment Act (CIA) – which gives grants for farmland preservation, historic preservation, open space protection, and affordable housing projects – had <u>\$1 million swept into the General Fund</u> which was in addition to \$6 million swept in the 2015 Deficit Mitigation Plan as well as the 50% sweep implemented as part of last year's biennium budget.

Recreational Trails and Greenways – which gives grants through CT DEEP for trail and greenway projects to municipalities and others – was <u>reduced by \$5 million</u> which eliminated all remaining funding for recreational trails in 2017. CFPA, the CT Greenways Council, and others will be working to get this funding restored.

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) – which gives grants through CT DEEP to land trusts, municipalities, and water companies to acquire valuable open space properties – was cut by \$7 million.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust (RNHT) – which acquires land for State Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas – was cut by \$5.75 million.

Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) – which acquires development rights for farms to keep them in farmland – was cut by \$5 million.

Cuts to Environmental State Agencies

CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) – general fund budget was cut by \$7.5 million, representing a cut of over 10% which will likely result in the closure of some campgrounds, reduced seasonal staff to maintain park facilities and to serve as lifeguards, and generally hurt the Department's ability to function effectively across all programs. In addition, the responsibility for maintaining the Old State House was transferred to CT DEEP with inadequate funding and no staff to do the job. This transfer is equivalent to an additional cut to the overburdened, under-resourced agency. The cut to CT DEEP included the elimination of funding (\$270,000) that provided critical support for the CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation and the Conservation Districts.

CT Council on Environmental Quality (**CEQ**) – budget was cut by \$12,000, representing a cut in general fund dollars of 6.5%. How CEQ will absorb this cut is unclear, but the great news is that the CEQ was <u>saved from elimination</u> (!) which had been put forward in earlier budget proposals.

Department of Agriculture (DoA) – budget was cut by \$433,000, representing a cut in general fund dollarsof 8%.

CT Agricultural Experiment Station (**Ag Station**) – budget was cut by over \$1 million, representing a cut in general fund dollars of over 12.5%.

Thank you to everyone who contacted their Legislators in support of these important legislative priorities. Budget and bonding issues overshadowed much of this session and that news was mostly bad; but the public policy bills that passed were significant and encouraging victories made possible thanks to your support!



CT Horse Council TRAIL NEWS Volunteer Horse Patrol

SPRING- SUMMER 2016



Submitted by Diane Ciano

Your CHC Representation around the state...

CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol

Celebrating 13 Years of Service 2003-2015

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 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 2015

For 2015, we had a total of **1,347** patrols. There were **2,500** patrol hours logged with **677 hours of trail maintenance**, saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$48,750.00** for **2015** alone!

2003 – 2015 CHC – VHP Accomplishments

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

In the 13 years since, the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol Program has saved Connecticut tax payers \$695,000.00

This was accomplished through 35,617 hours of patrol and trail maintenance in 151 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.

For more information contact VHP Supervisors, Diane Ciano or Meg Sautter from the CHC website: <u>www.cthorsecouncil.org</u>.

CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol 13 YEAR STATISTICS 2003-2015

				PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS								
YEAR	# Of Patrols	Patrol Hours	Maint. Hours	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
2015	1347	2500	678	2746	456	2655	803	242	1290	9	13	20
<mark>13</mark>	<mark>17,819</mark>	<mark>35,617</mark>	<mark>7,600</mark>	<mark>31,755</mark>	<mark>8,579</mark>	<mark>30,881</mark>	<mark>26,656</mark>	<mark>3,596</mark>	<mark>10,174</mark>	<mark>479</mark>	<mark>1.025</mark>	<mark>426</mark>
YEAR												
TOTAL												

	ASSISTANCE GIVEN				
YEAR	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		
2015	251	7	2		
TOTAL	<mark>6,172</mark>	<mark>314</mark>	<mark>27</mark>	0	

The total savings of our 13 years in volunteer service hours is \$695,000.00 ! The13 year totals include 17,819 Patrols, 35,617 Patrol Hours with 7,600 Trail Maintenance Hours.

2015 VHP Recognition

2015 Patrol Hours - Over 100

NAME	Patrol Hours	Trail Maintenance Hours
Susan Crawford	261.5	
Ginger Tullia	229.5	27.5
Kristin Elliott Leas	205	39
Melissa Evarts	129	48
Christel Maturo	126	61
ShawnaLee Kwashnak	155	31.5
Vevette Greenberg	101	34

2015 Patrol Hours - Over 50				
NAME	Patrol Hours	Trail Maintenance Hours		
Rebecca Ziobron	88	31.5		
Chris Mard	85	18		
Cathy Clouse	80	35		
Cat Wilder	78.5			
Rain Chocholka	74.5	32.5		
Lynda Perry	73			
Donna Freeman	71.5			
Ann Moses	70			
Rose Mary Biegger	65.5			
Joan Davis	61	18		
Diane Ciano	58	17		

2015 Most Maintenance Hours				
NAME	AREAS			
Christel Maturo	61			
Melissa Evarts	48			
Kristin Elliott Leas	39			
Cathy Clouse	35			
Vevette Greenberg	34			
Rain Chocholka	32.5			
ShawnaLee Kwashnak	31.5			
Rebecca Ziobron	31.5			

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 \$337.00** for the VHP with raffle items and a 50/50 raffles (\$70.00). Diane won the raffle and donated it back to the VHP. **Thank you Diane.**

We have 5 new VHP members for 2015: Billy McNealy, Windsor David Williams, Cheshire Diana Naples, Southington

Janet Keown, Ellington Ruth Strontzer, East Haddam

THANK YOUS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heather Hicks - Certificates Diane Morton - Guest Speaker: Michael Zulch, Biology Researcher at Elms College All our Kitchen and set up help Laurianne Goulet - Raffles Denise Ciano - Membership & Shirt Sales ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!



CHC-VHP MEMBERS - ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you for all that attended our annual meeting. Our Guest Speaker Michael Zulch from Elms College did a great presentation on his Equine Microbiome Research. He has sent out all the results to those who had their horse poop analyzed.

National Trails Day Events



SATURDAY, JUNE 4th. The Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club, the Bridle Path Conservancy, Connecticut Forest & Parks Association (CFPA), and the Central Connecticut chapter of the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) once again teamed up for their 10th Annual Combined Arms Multi-Use Trail Work Party. They worked at Pattaconk Recreation Area on trails that has been damaged and then practically abandoned Melissa Evarts, president of LCRVC reported that " Our National Trails Day event was an unqualified success! It was a perfect day—cool enough to work and no rain this year! Approximately 24 volunteers of these combined organizations worked on the yellow and yellow/blue trails, blazing, clipping, brushing and rerouting a couple sections of the trail. This trail will need more work and will be an ongoing project for CFPA and their volunteers as well as future trails day work parties. LCRVHC members Bill and Kathy Schuyler acted as hosts for the picnic following the work party, grilling and protecting the food from the gypsy worms! I have included a photo of the cake commemorating 10 years working together for trails. A free raffle followed the picnic with prizes ranging from books to first aid kits and hats."

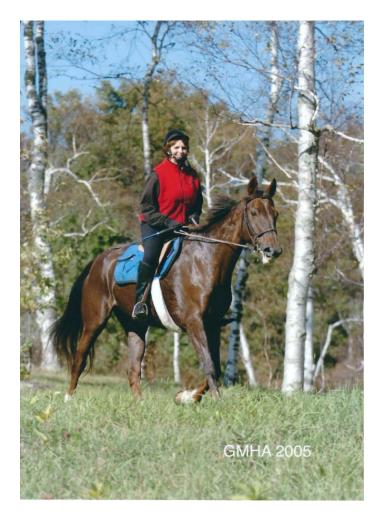
CHC-VHP held a weekend ride, Blessing of the Mounts and Pot Luck Dinner at the Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp, Natchaug State Forest. The Blessing was done by Patti Crowther. There were 12 members who helped clean up the camp and trails.

CT Forest & Park Association Events: Report by Eric Hammerling

CFPA held **222 Events** across the state in **133 towns.** This is and has been the largest National Trails event in the country! He would like to see more equestrian events for next year.

Farewell to our Patrol Horses

Hoofbeats in Heaven





Farewell to Barbara White's race horse "Blarney's Kelly" Patrol Horse from 2003-2015

May 29, 1981 - November 18, 2016 - 34 years young

Farewell to Linda Wenner's Morgan horse "Irish Love Song" who passed away in March. Linda also lost her other patrol horse "Dawn".

Linda now has a new Morgan - "UC Buckingham" AKA "Bucky" that she will be using on patrols.

Other events gone by



DEEP Winter Festival: No Child Left Behind Event was held at Burr Pond State Park in February. Diane & Denise Ciano brought their patrol horses, Cutter and Midnight.

NEW TRAILS:

TRAIL OPENING CELEBRATION of *the TRAIL OF ANGELS* was held in April. The trail was made through the efforts of the Newtown Bridle Lands Association & Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation.

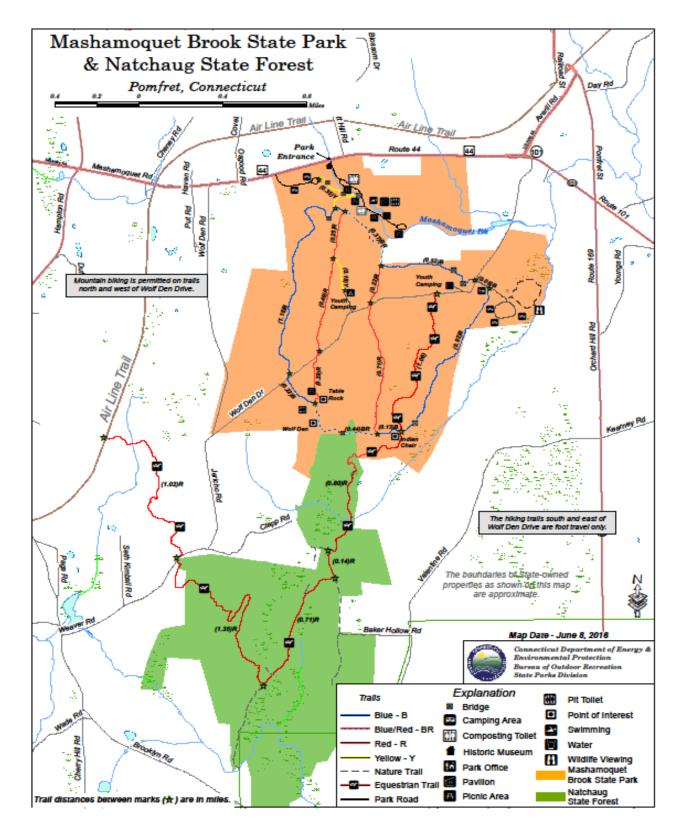
Mashamoquet Brook State Park & Natchaug State Forest - Pomfret

Penny Foisey, CHC-VHP Coordinator for Mashamoquet SP and Pomfret private lands worked to create a 20 mile trail system with the DEEP connecting state and private lands. Tom Nosal of DEEP was instrumental in helping to make this a reality and create the map. See page 22 for map

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.

http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/stateparks/maps/mashamoguetnatchaug.pdf



Horse Owner's Corner- Timely Tips – Disaster Planning for Equine Owners Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, UConn Equine Extension Specialist and CHC Education Chair

So far spring has not offered too many wild storms. But it is important for horse owners to prepare just in case. Spring is a great time to take a look at your disaster planning and make more preparations as needed.

First some shocking statistics. From floods, \$2 billion in damage is sustained and animals risk death from hypothermia/drowning. Annually more than 300,000 people are driven from their homes by floods. 200 flood related fatalities occur annually. An estimated 20,000 agricultural fires per year result in \$102 million in direct property loss.

Emergency preparedness, which is reflecting on hazards that threaten your family's safety and that of your animals and developing a plan on how to prepare for these hazards is important. There are four phases of emergency management: mitigation (preventing future emergencies or minimizing their effects), preparedness, response, and recovery. The basis of the emergency management system is Personal Responsibilities – that you will have familiarity with the potential for disaster in your community and create your own emergency plan to care for your animals. Next are Local Government Responsibilities, State Government Responsibilities and then Federal Government Responsibilities. We will focus on preparedness in this article.

The three main types of disasters horse owners will probably face are power outages, fires and floods. We are lucky in that we rarely have wildfires here in CT. But other types of fires may result that are primarily caused by electrical issues. Flooding can be an issue here as well. Flooding results when heavy or continuous rainfall exceeds the absorptive capacity of rivers, streams, and coastal areas causing the watercourse to overflow its banks onto adjacent lands. There are two types. The first types is a slow rising flood in which water moves down a river a stream and can be predicted to reach a certain height. Fast rising floods are flash floods that usually result due to extreme heavy rain, melting snow, dam or levy failure and occur suddenly.

The things you need to consider in the short term are

- May not have much time to react
- 🔭 Need to have a plan in place
- The Should have a disaster kit on hand in case of emergency
- The Know how you will evacuate your horse, have trailer ready to go or have one that you can borrow
- n Have a way to identify your horse

There are several methods you can use to identify your horse in the event of an emergency. You can use a livestock crayon to write your name, phone number, and address on the horse. You can use clippers to shave your name, address, and phone number into the horse's coat. You can braid an identification tag with your name, address

and phone number into your horse's mane. You should have at least 10 recent photos of your horse including some with you in it- keep these in sealable plastic baggies in your disaster kit with other important documents such as your negative Coggins papers, rabies, certificates, medications and insurance papers. Keep a copy of the Bill of Sale for your horse or other documentation that can prove ownership with your disaster supplies. Have your horse microchipped, branded or tattooed.

The things you need to consider in the long term are:

- Need to know what you will do if you cannot return to your home/property
- Need to have a place that you can stay for a while until you can return to your home/property
- Should have a way of identifying your animals as described above in case you need to set them free (worst case scenario) or reclaim them from a shelter
- Should write on a piece of paper the name, address, phone number of your regular veterinarian, keep with your other important documents for your horse
- The control of a disaster of a
- Write out a release form authorizing another party to give medical treatment for your injured or sick horse, keep on file with your regular veterinarian and an alternate veterinarian. Give a copy to your neighbor or the person who will take care of you horse if you are away.

Another thing to do help you prepare is to create a disaster kit. Here are the recommended contents:

- Feed at least a week's supply in airtight, waterproof container, rotate feed every 3 months
- The Extra feeding bucket for each horse
- 🔭 Extra water bucket for each horse
- The week's supply of shavings/straw
- 🔭 Extra pitchfork
- 🐂 Shovel
- The Extra wheelbarrow/muck bucket
- 🐂 First aid kit
- The Grooming supplies including shampoo, sweat scraper, etc.
- 🔭 Non-nylon leads and halters
- The Wire cutters and a sharp knife
- Moof pick
- 🕅 Leg wraps
- 🔭 Portable radio with extra batteries
- 🔭 Flashlight with extra batteries

The first aid kit should contain:

- Tweezers 🏷
- The bags or chemical ice pack
- **Rubbing alcohol**
- The Veterinary or human rectal thermometer
- 🐂 Lubricant
- The Stethoscope
- 🕅 Antibacterial soap
- Mantibiotic ointment
- The Sterile gauze sponges and pads

- ▶ Adhesive tape 1" and 2" rolls

Following these tips will hopefully help you prepare for potential disasters.

Hopefully they won't happen, but you remember the old saying "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." Quote by Benjamin Franklin. So, take a break from your spring cleaning and prepare yourself for whatever disaster may befall you. Please call (860) 486-4471 or email jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu if you have any questions. Also, check out my web site <u>http://animalscience.uconn.edu/equine/extension/extensionIndex.php</u> for more information on upcoming horse specialist events and other information. Thanks, and have fun with your horses!

Sources and Resources

- 1. Federal Emergency Management Agency <u>www.fema.gov</u>
- 2. FEMA Independent Study Courses http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp
- 3. United States Geological Survey
- 4. Floodsmart.gov
- 5. <u>http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/Animalevacuatio</u> <u>n.pdf</u>

2016 Officers and Board Members

The Connecticut Horse Council Officers and Board of Directors are elected volunteers who are dedicated to helping the equine industry grow.

President Frederick Mastele Durham, CT 0 860-349-1200 president@cthorsecouncil.org

1st Vice President Ron Hocutt East Windsor, CT 860-386-6255 rhocutt@cox.net

2nd Vice President Diane Marie Ciano Plymouth, CT 203-757-1904 trails@cthorsecouncil.org

<u>3rd Vice President</u> Laurianne Goulet Cromwell, CT 860-997-6434 CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org

Treasurer Cheryl Mastele Durham, CT 860-349-1200 greymist@comcast.net

Recording Secretary Carol Birdsey Middletown, CT 860-344-1804 membership@cthorsecouncil.org

Membership Secretary Carol Birdsey Middletown, CT 860-344-1804 membership@cthorsecouncil.org

Chairman of the Board

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Ann Zagryn Middletown, CT 860-922-1549 Anne.zagryn@gmail.com

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Education

Legislative Fred Mastele president@cthorsecouncil.org

Publicity / Newsletter Meg Sautter newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org

Road Safe Diane Ciano trails@cthorsecouncil.org

<u>Trails</u> Diane Ciano trails@cthorsecouncil.org

<u>Web Site</u> Laurianne Goulet <u>CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org</u>

<u>Zoning</u>

Supporting Members

2016 Membership

REMINDER IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOU NEED TO RENEW TO HELP SUPPORT ALL THE CHC DOES FOR THE HORSE PEOPLE & THEIR HORSES IN CT. If you are a business or a Club and have not renewed your name will be removed from the news letter and website on July 30.

Thank You to all who renewed or joined CHC for 2016. We really appreciate your support of CHC and all we do. The following have renewed:

Tell a friend about the CHC!

* = Volunteer Horse Patrol Members

Individual Members

Patricia & Robert Bandzes Dave Basconi Ruth Beardsley Judy Beliveau John Bennett *Rose Mary Biegger Carol Birdsev Mary Bonville **Brittany Carroll** Sally Carter *Lorraine Chocholka ^kDenise Ciano Susan Crawford *Patti Crowther Janice Goward Cruz Patricia Daurora *Joan Davis Judith Dembowski Jessica Dempsey Kim Dubois Michele Dubois Jennifer Ellis *Melissa Evarts Shari Fitzgerald *Penny Foisey *Ken Forcier Donna Freeman Karena Garrity *Edward Geigner Sr.

*Vevette Greenberg Margie Groht Marty Hartranft *Heather Hicks Judith Hunter ^{*}Janet Keown Vickie Knopf *Gina Labbe Donna Legere Cynthia LeMay *Waneta Lenk Christine Lentz Ed Levin *Gloria Ludwig Nancy Mangino Sarah Marble Michael Marcus **Robert Mark** Ron Markeveys *Cheryl Mastele Fred Mastele Christel Maturo Ryan McLaughlin Billie McNealey ^{*}Jean Morrison Diane Morton Karen Muller Jenifer Nadeau Andy Naggy

Individual Cont.

*Diana Naples Lelsie Neikrie Catherine North Randy Olmstead *Dr. Lynda Perry Richard Sams Celeste Santos-Rivera **Ruth Strontzer** *Meg Sautter Jeremy Serwer *Marcia Sigman Judith Smith MaryAnn Smith Paul Steed Francine Syskowski ^{*}Susan Taricani Ginger Tullai Bonnie Tyler Lori Anne Vogt Barbara White Dave Williams **Roxanne Winslow** Anne Zagryn *Rebecca Ziobron

Family Members

Bruce Card & Susan Rovinski Diane Ciano/ Gary Rutkauksas Cathy & James Clouse Emma Curto Roger & Linda Ferraro Emily & Marie Forsyth **Bill Southward & Gloria Howell** Carla & Bob Lord Alice Marrinan Family *Anne Monte & Lauren Moses **Donald & Leslie Oswald** Tony Roswell *Steve & Shirley Vicchitto ^{*}Linda Wenner & Debbie Hubbell Cat & Bruce Wilder Jeff & Kim Williams

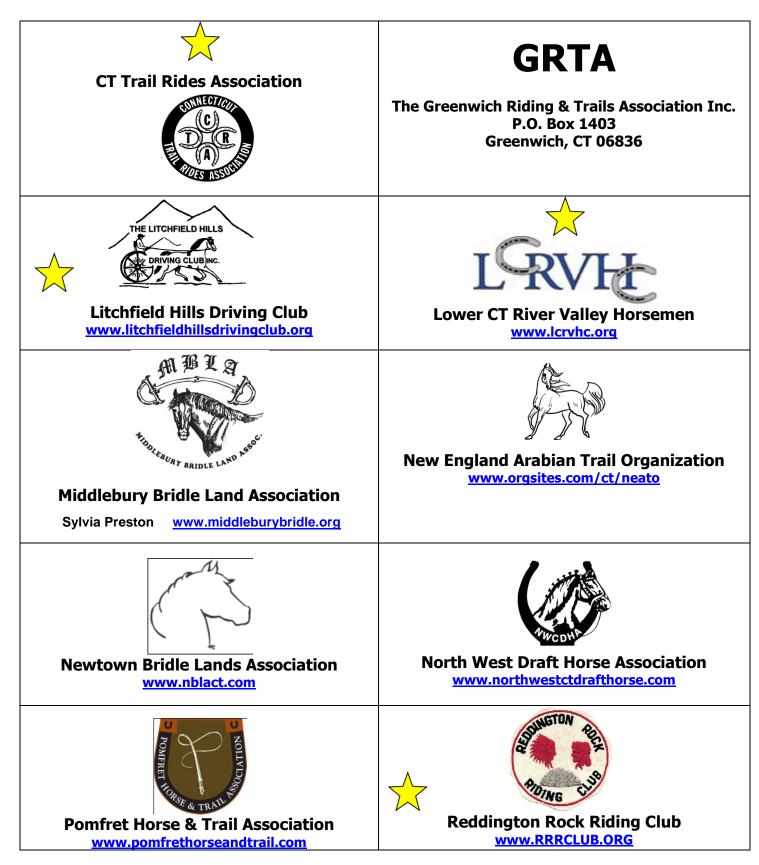
Businesses

A.S. Labieniec, Inc. / Joyce & John Connery Douglas Dubitsky, Esq. TFA Farm/Dawn & Tom Andrews Drafty Pines Farm/Emily Chaplin Equine Insite LLC/ Kristin Elliott Leas Express Your Pet,LLC/Laurianne Goulet Free Spirit Farm/Robert Selig Shaggy Coos Farm / Tim Brady

Clubs

CT Trail Riders Assoc Litchfield Hills Driving Club Lower Ct River Valley Horseman Reddington Rock Riding Club





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.





Equine Insight LLC

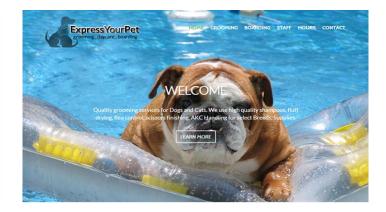
Kristin Elliott Leas Equine Specialist

Traveling Trainer, Instructor, and Coach

- Dressage, Eventing
 - Cross Country Schooling Hor
- Natural Horsemanship
- Equine Facility Management
 Horse, House and Pet Sitting
- Trailer Loading Issues

860.510.2262 EquineInsight@gmail.com

131 Pritchett Drive, Westbrook, CT 06498







To advertise on our Website and Newsletter, please send your business membership along with your Business card to:

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

THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2016

Membership Classification (Check One) [] Individual \$20 [] **Family** \$30 [] **Student** \$15 [] **Business or Professional** \$40 [] **Club** \$40 [] **RENEWAL** Membership decal available [] Static [] Sticker [] NEW Check which one you wish to receive with your membership. Additional decals are available for \$1.00 each How did you hear about the CHC?_____ ____ **CLUB or BUSINESS NAME** (if applicable) NAME_____ STREET _____ CITY / STATE/ ZIP TELEPHONE_____EMAIL____ NUMBER OF HORSES OWNED:_____ **AREAS OF INTEREST** (Please check all that apply) [] Trails [] Zoning [] Booth [] Legislation [] Website [] Emergency/Disaster Preparedness [] 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: 860-344-1804 www.cthorsecouncil.org

(over)

Connecticut Horse Council <u>Connections</u> 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 <u>Connections</u>, 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.