

Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

Check out our website at www.cthorsecouncil.org

2019 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all who have re-newed their membership and to all our new members. We are a non- profit volunteer legislative advocacy group representing all horse interests in CT.

We monitor all issues that have an impact on the horse industry. The Connecticut Horse Council is member supported by individuals and organizations representing every facet of the horse industry including owners, breeders, veterinarians, farriers, breed organizations, horsemen's associations, commercial suppliers and town horse councils. CHC represents equestrian interest with representation on the **Connecticut Greenways Council** and the **Connecticut Equine Advisory** Council. We provide information on Legislation, Road Safety, Trails, Zoning, Barn Fire Training – CT Horse 911, Fire Prevention & Emergency Disaster Preparedness and produce educational brochures for the public. We are an affiliate of the **American Horse Council**, whose primary concern is to oversee federal legislation, including taxes, which affect the horse industry.

CHC has partnered with CT Horse Magazine. Your 2019 CHC membership will include your subscription to the magazine delivered to your address.

Our supporting organizations and business members are listed on pages 14-17 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.

We look forward to helping our communities in all aspects of horse life, education and care. Support your state organization, get up to date information on legislation, policies and more.

The CHC, Inc., can only be as strong as its membership. Please join us and work together to protect your interests for today and tomorrow! See pages 26-27 for a 2019 application. If you have already renewed, thank you for your support.

The CT Horse Council (CHC) meets at Eversource Energy meeting room located at 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT at 7:30-9 PM.

NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, October 1st -7:30 PM

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!

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Your CHC Representation around the state...

CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL







CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Your CHC Representation around the state...

Legislation - Update: June 2019

Notes taken from the Equine Advisory Council meeting 6/20/19: CFPA Eric Hammerling updated us on the outcome of several Bills previously discussed by the council this session and action asked to be taken by the public:

The CT General Assembly will be holding its "special session" to consider Connecticut's FY 2020-21 bonding priorities, so it's essential for people to make contact with their House and Senate State Legislators before July to support bonding for the Recreational Trails & Greenways Grants Program.

HB 7157 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR BIKEWAY PATHS, RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND GREENWAYS.

Statement of Purpose: To provide funding for bikeway paths, recreational trails and greenways

...For the purposes described in subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the power, from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the aggregate **three million dollars**. (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the purpose of establishing a Connecticut bikeway, pedestrian walkway, recreational trail and greenway grant program for grants-in-aid to municipalities, private organizations that are exempt from taxation ...

ACTION is required email or phone call to your Legislators A	ASAP to make the difference.
between bonding being authorized or not. If bonding is not autho	rized, there will be no bonding
available for additional Recreational Trails & Greenways grants.	Example letter is below:

Dear Representative or	Senator
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As your constituent, I am writing to ask you to support bonding for the CT DEEP Recreational Trails & Greenways Grants Program at the level of \$3 million in the FY 2020-21 bonding package. This level of bonding (actually \$4 million) was supported unanimously by the Environment Committee and was included in Section 69 of the substitute for S.B. 876.

{Add something about your organization's and/or your interest in supporting recreational trails}

Since 2016, the Recreational Trails & Greenways Program has invested \$10 million into 60 matching grants to municipalities and nonprofits, and has also supported multiple State Park and Forest projects that benefit more than half of all communities statewide.

Unfortunately, there is no remaining bonding authorized to support the continuance of this successful program, despite over \$12 million in funding requests being received in the last grant round alone. Your support of this program is essential!

Recreational trails are one of the best ways that bond funds can be invested. Recreational trails for hiking, running, biking, equestrian, and other uses attract and sustain families and businesses, create healthy communities, and foster a high quality of life. Trails are also a critical part of Connecticut's outdoor recreation infrastructure and economy that generates \$9 billion in consumer spending, \$2.9 billion in wages and salaries in the private sector, \$734 million in state and local tax revenues, and supports 69,000 Connecticut jobs every year.

Please strongly support bonding for this program that is so essential to Connecticut, and thank you in advance for your consideration!

Sincerely, Name, Title, Organization

HB-7058 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREENWAYS ACCOUNT.

Statement of Purpose: To ensure that funds obtained from the sale of greenways commemorative license plates are used for the development, construction and maintenance of greenways.

That the general statutes be amended to establish a greenways account, which shall contain any funds obtained from the sale of greenways commemorative number plates and be used for the development, construction and maintenance of greenways in the state.

Note: This bill clarifies that funds generated by the Greenways license plate sales are dedicated to the purpose for which it was established - to be spent on greenways projects rather than be diverted into the General Fund as it unfortunately has been for years. This bill will ensure that the funds that citizens pay out for their vanity plates goes to their intended purpose.

UPDATE: This bill did not get voted out of committee and will be submitted next year

HB7347 AN ACT EXEMPTING SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS FROM THE PASSPORT TO THE PARKS MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE

Statement of Purpose: To exempt senior citizens and veterans from the motor vehicle registration fee associated with the Passport to the Parks Program.

This is a bill is controversial and many feel should it not be supported. The Passport to the Parks gives everyone benefits. It can generate up to 14 million dollars on an annual basis. The DEEP Parks and Forests need 18-20 million dollars annually to operate efficiently. Before this funding Parks were getting about 10 million from parking and camping fees, which went into the General Fund – Not all of that was given back to DEEP operations.

UPDATE: This bill died and funding for 2020 & 2021 was kept clean

CT Horse Council
TRAIL NEWS
Volunteer Horse Patrol
SUMMER 2019



Submitted by Diane Ciano

The following pages are reports from CHC and Volunteer Horse Patrol members who volunteer their time to trails and representing the equestrians of CT on State Councils

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau presented this abstract at the Equine Science Society in Asheville, NC on June 6. It was well-received and many attendees had questions about the VHP and were interested in doing something similar in their states! All were impressed by Diane and the efforts of the VHP so good work everyone!

Volunteer Horse Patrol: Building the Trail Community

Diane Ciano¹, Stacey Stearns², Binod Khanal², Jenifer Nadeau*²; ¹CT Horse Council, Berlin, CT, USA, ²University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA

Trail maintenance often happens behind the scenes of the idyllic parks and forests we all enjoy. Equestrians are not always visible on the trails, but are an important segment of the trail user community. Continued education and dialogue between all trail user groups (such as trail etiquette about how all user groups can safely interact on the trail) is crucial as more of us share fewer recreational trails. Connecticut Horse Council created the Volunteer Horse Patrol (VHP) in 2003 to assist the state during a time of economic hardship. In a 14-year data set collected via data logs from the program (representing trails that allow equestrian use), VHP members completed 37,980 hours of patrol and maintenance in 88 areas throughout the state. The 14-year statistics were collected from 21 state forests, 28 state parks, 7 Wildlife Management Areas, 9 land trusts, 15 town and open spaces, and 8 private properties. Members also donated the use of their equipment, including chainsaws and tractors. The Independent Sector valued volunteer time at \$19.50 per hour, for a total of \$740,610 in volunteer service contributed by VHP members in the 14-year period from 2003 to 2016. The Volunteer Horse Patrol serves the community by providing data to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and helping other user groups with general information, directions, and first aid. Over the last 14 years, 50-100 members have patrolled and 30-40% of these members submitted reports on patrols and trail maintenance. VHP members gave directions 380 times, and provided general information 6,598 times. Collected data show a large number of equestrians utilize state, town, and private lands, and work to patrol and maintain trails. Over the 14-year period there were 33,357 horses out on the trail during the patrols. Patrol members counted other horses on the trail besides themselves, averaging an additional 1.75 other horses per patrol. The highest number of walkers and dogs were reported in 2009 – the year with the highest number of patrols. There is a slight increasing trend of several types of trail users in the VHP data. The average length of patrol hours varied over the years, for example 1.5 hours per patrol in 2010, versus 2 hours in 2011. There were fewer patrols in 2011, although members spent more time on the trail during each patrol. This data shows that equestrians are represented on multi-use trails. It also shows that a Volunteer Horse Patrol can help provide valuable services to public lands. Working together, we can help keep trails open for all users.

Your CHC Representation around the state...



CHC seeking Equestrian Representative on the Equine Advisory Council for the 3rd Congressional District

EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

In 2007, the Connecticut Legislature established the Equine Advisory Council to act as a liaison between the Department of Environmental Protection (now the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection), the Connecticut Forest & Parks Association, and the horse community. The Council's mission is to protect and promote horseback riding on public lands by collaboratively addressing issues. Locally, for example, this includes the Larkin State Bridle Trail and West Rock Ridge State Park. The Council meets quarterly at CFPA headquarters in Middlefield.

Representatives of the horse community are appointed by certain Connecticut state legislators according to Federal Congressional Districts. I have been pleased to represent the Third Congressional District (Bethany, Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Branford, Derby, Durham, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, Naugatuck, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Prospect, Seymour, Shelton and Stratford) since the Council's inception. Unfortunately, other commitments have recently made it difficult for me to participate and I need to step down from my position. Rather than leave our area unrepresented, I hope that one of you readers will volunteer. If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact me at (203) 393-3253 or ruthbeardsley@comcast.net.

Happy trails,

Ruth Beardsley

State Park & Forest updates Notes taken from the Equine Advisory Council meeting with DEEP & CFPA

Meg Sautter reported on the Naugatuck State Forest Trails in Beacon Falls area:

At the entrance of Rte 42, if you take a right across the bridge, there is a number of large trees down. One tree in particular is blocking the trail and it can not be crossed over safely due to jagged branches sticking out of the tree. Laurie will report this to the area supervisor.

<u>Natchaug State Forest:</u> DEEP Laurie Giannotti reported that logging at the camp is in progress now and will be done in approximately 2 weeks. She gave us two DEEP officials to call to confirm when the camp is open and CHC will send out the notice.

<u>Sunrise & Machimoodus State Park:</u> Ruth Strontzer (CTRA) reported that the trails are in good shape. Casey Jackson is the seasonal supervisor. A Memorial Ride in honor of Ginger Tullai was held on Sunday, April 7th. Donations were collected for the Friends of Machimoodus to reestablish the old rock gardens that GingerTullai was intending to do as a project there. Amount raised was \$425.00. Over \$2,200.00 has been raised to date for the Friends of Machimoodus.

CTRA organized an over night camp out & trail ride June 7,8 & 9. Riders were thrilled to find "Fairy Folk" & homes decorated throughout the trails on the trees.

<u>Bissell Trail:</u> Meg reported on the Bissell Trail (Windsor Meadows State Park. The trail conditions remain the same - badly eroded in some areas and is not safely passable in some of the areas. You can not connect both ends anymore (Windsor Boat Launch to Loomis Chaffee). Eversource is upgrading the trail from the Boat launch to the power lines. Meg said one of the connecting areas that is not passable is past the power lines and closer to Loomis Chaffee School. Meg will contact the DEEP Supervisor.

Ruth Strontzer reported on Several state parks and trails:

<u>Hurd State Park:</u> The entrance road into the park is in rough shape. There is a massive amount of tree clearing going on. The trails, however are in good shape.

<u>George Dudly Seymour Park</u>: Trails are in good shape. There is a massive amount of tree clearing going on. An organized CTRA ride encountered a large group of people (20) who all had loose dogs. Three of the dogs went after the horses, but after speaking with the group, all was settled.

Higganum Meadows: Sadly the meadows are being lost, due to invasive species and beavers.

<u>Mohawk State Forest:</u> Trails are in good shape to ride to the tower and pond area, except for one that needs clearing. The information sign is that shows the different mountain ranges that can be seen is gone.

Salmon River State Forest: There is a scheduled work day to clear trails in the forest by equestrians.

DEEP Laurie Giannotti reported on DEEP trail work being done in <u>Cockaponset State Forest:</u>
DEEP now has a Regional Trail Crew (all women) that are working on trail clearing in Cockaponset.
They have been working on the green trail and making grade dips, working on wet marsh spots of trails, in Weber Woods area and now are working in Millers Pond and Pattaconk Lake. Ruth mentioned that there is a washed out trail that had been fixed previously off Filley Road. Laurie said that this crew can be sent elsewhere to fix trails.

Ruth Strontzer reported on the Horse Camp Ground Survey results that was done on Line. (see page 9). Laurie suggested that we come up with a summary report and ask for a meeting with the Director of State Parks to address a plan and partner with the state. She also suggested that contact our legislators to get involved in helping us to establish a horse camp ground.



The Connecticut Equine Advisory Council was established on May 22, 2007 by <u>Public Act 07-42</u> 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.

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 Study** 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.

Trail User 14 Year Study

The VHP Hours and statistics taken from 2003-2016 were complied into a study that is a great source of information for equestrians, trail planners, and Land Management Administrations. This is the **first** ever study done on who is using our parks, forests, open space, land trusts and private lands. The study can be found on the CT Equine Advisory Council website along with the Trail Surface Study:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/eac under "Links" and on our CHC website.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

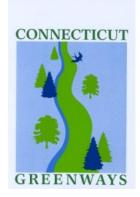
The EAC will meet at the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, 16 Meriden Road, in Rockfall, CT from 6:30-8 PM on the following Thursdays: March 15th, June 21st, September 20th, and December 13th. The public is welcomed. **The public is welcomed.**

OTHER TRAIL NEWS

<u>DEEP - CT Trails Recreation Plan:</u> There has been an update and improvement of their trail design and trail maintenance policy. The updated CT Trails Recreation Plan contains the guidelines and forms you would need to use if a group wanted to create a <u>new</u> trail or <u>re-route</u> an existing trail. As in the past, State Park Supervisors are managing requests for new trails and re-routes from user groups and so would be your first point of contact. The policy and information can be found in the CT Recreational Trails Plan http://www.ct.gov/deep/ctrectrails

CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL





The CT Horse Council is pleased to announce that one of our members and two Organizations have received state recognition from the Greenways Council for their volunteer service

Governor's Greenways Council Presents

Greenways Awards to Melissa Evarts, Lower CT River Valley Horsemen's Club & Bridle Path Conservancy

The Governor's Greenways Council Awards and National Trails Day Celebration was held on May 31st at Stratton Brook Park in Simsbury. Members from LCRVHC and BPC were present to accept two awards. **Melissa Evarts** received the Council's "Volunteer Award" "In Recognition of Dedication to the Development of Greenways" The Council presented their "Non-Profit Award" to the LCVHC and the BPC "In Recognition of Dedication to the Development of Greenways"





Beverly Torrell & Melissa Evarts with their Awards.

CHC-VHP members Denise Ciano, Vevette Greenberg, Meg Sautter and Diane Morton (not pictured) were on their horses at the event

Melissa Evarts with her Award

Melissa has done an outstanding job as President of the LCRVHC for many years.

Melissa Evarts, recipient of a CT Greenways Council's Volunteer Award. Melissa is the linchpin of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club (LCRVHC) and their 501(c)3 the Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC). Melissa has been a member of LCRVHC since the late 1980s, serving as secretary for several years, and as president for close to 15 years now. Over the years LCRVHC and the BPC have donated thousands of hours in trail maintenance; conceived of, completed and now maintain the regional Quinimay Trail; and spent countless hours advocating for multi-use trails in the state. Melissa has also been an active member of the Connecticut Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol for over nine years. She understands the importance of having all trail users collaborate, and has formed partnerships with groups including the Connecticut Forest and Park Association and the New England Mountain Bike Association. She builds these partnerships through a shared love of trails and educates equestrians on the importance of giving back.

About the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club and Bridle Path Conservancy

The Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club (LCRVHC) is a social/riding club that was established in the early 1960s. The Bridle Path Conservancy (BPC) is their trail committee. It is a non-member organization reliant on the LCRVHC for volunteers and inspiration.

The Bridle Path Conservancy is a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and acquisition of multi-purpose, passive-use, recreational trails on public and private land in Connecticut and southern New England. While the Conservancy was founded by equestrian enthusiasts, it seeks to support all open space and trail initiatives. By managing, educating, and cooperating with others to create opportunities to facilitate and preserve trails, the Conservancy strives to keep recreational land available for present and future generations to enjoy.

Club members have donated thousands of hours to the trails in our state. They were the driving force behind the Quinimay Trail, and invested their time, effort, and funds to make it happen. LCRVHC focuses on trail maintenance and restoration.

"We primarily maintain the Weber Woods section of Cockaponset and the Quinimay Trail (a ~15-mile linear trail which goes from Westbrook, near Messerschmitt's Pond, extending south) and north through Deep River, Killingworth, Chester, to Beaver Meadow Road in Higganum and beyond), which we have officially adopted through the DEEP Adopt a Park program. We also have excellent relationships with several local land trusts and are particularly active with the Clinton and Westbrook Land Trusts. Westbrook Land Trust holds the conservation easement on the Elliott property that abuts Weber Woods and is vital to our hunter pace so we also work there," states Melissa Evarts, club president.

Club members have donated thousands of hours to the trails in our state. They were the driving force behind the idea and creation of the Quinimay Trail, and invested their time, effort, and funds to make it happen. LCRVHC focuses on trail maintenance, removing downed trees and branches; keeping the trails open; blazing and marking; and weed-whacking the few open areas that are left in Weber Woods. Club members also make, repair, and clean water diversions, and repair bridges. Each year for National Trails Day they do a combined arms work party with the Connecticut Forest & Parks Association, and sometimes the New England Mountain Biking Association.

The club has built a lot of bridges over the years. Last summer BPC board member and architect Tom Elliott worked with an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 7 to build a multi-use bridge on the south section of the Quinimay Trail, and this summer LCRVHC plans to replace a bridge on the white trail in Weber Woods that was washed out by the September 2018 flood.

LCRVHC currently has about 40 members, including quite a few family memberships. New generations have kept the club going, and they are always looking for new members to become involved. Several of their members are also active in the Connecticut Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol. The club offers monthly educational meetings for members in addition to the hours of trail service they provide. Trail workdays for the year are scheduled and posted on the club calendar. The primary annual fundraiser for LCRVHC is a hunter pace held in October that is open to the public.

CT Greenways Council - continued

Other 2019 Awards presented:

John Hampton, State Representative - recipient of the CT Greenways Council's Legislative Award. John Kennedy Hampton represents the 16th Assembly District, Simsbury. He was elected to the General Assembly in November 2012 and is Assistant Majority Leader. He serves on the Aging, Banking, and Planning and Development Committees, and is Vice Chair on the Committee on Children. Prior to his election to the state legislature, Rep. Hampton served on the Simsbury Board of Selectmen from 2003-2012, including five years as Deputy First Selectman. During his tenure, Rep Hampton was a strong advocate for local trails and the environment. As a Simsbury Townie, he has held very nearly all the positions you can in Town. New trails are coming to Town, and he is active in the Tariffville Village Association, the Farmington River Watershed Association and the Simsbury Main Street Partnership. When he is not tirelessly working for Simsbury, he is a non-profit strategist, providing marketing, fundraising, and advocacy services to charitable organizations.

Jeff LaMalva Manchester's town engineer – recipient of the CT Greenways Council's Municipal Award for years has been and continues to be a greenway planner, designer, and advocate. He has hosted "bike to work" events and is currently designing the gap in the tri-town 20-mile loop connecting the Cheney Rail trail to Charter Oak Greenway (East Coast Greenway). His latest achievement is the completion of the Manchester gap in the Charter Oak Trail.

Dr. Robert Rodner - recipient of the CT Greenways Council's Health Care Integration Award. He was cochairman for a 10-year period running the Manchester Memorial Hospital Trail/Road event. Currently he is a facilitator of the October 13, 2019 event celebrating the tri-town (Manchester-Vernon-Bolton) 20-mile loop with a 5-mile leg into East Hartford. This event will start and finish in Charter Oak Park. The route includes the Charter Oak Greenway (part of the East Coast Greenway), the Hop River State ParkTrail, Valley Falls Park Trail, and the Cheney Rail Trail.

Jerry Silber recipient of the CT Greenways Council's Unsung Hero Award. He has been the president of the Merritt Parkway Trail Alliance for many years and has been a tireless voice for its important connection to New York. He continuously advocates for the trail with local and regional trail opponents and the Merritt Parkway Conservancy. He is a frequent sight at events across the state, and along with his cohorts, is responsible for energizing the City of Stamford to successfully apply for a DEEP grant for the preliminary design of the first mile of the Merritt Parkway Trail, thus honoring the Bureau of Highways Landscape Architect, Thayer Chase's 1938 vision.

Debbie Livingston, recipient of a CT Greenways Council's Volunteer Award. She is an avid trail user in all seasons. Debbie serves on the board of directors of the Bolton Land Trust. She is very supportive of Bike Walk Bolton and has volunteered at their CT Trails Day Events. She also has organized Trails for Young Families events at Bolton Notch State Park to help expose them to the trails and being outdoors. She also has many other commitments including ultra-marathon running and is an active member of the Shenipsit Striders and supports their events. She is an environmentalist who takes care to minimize her footprint, for example, she used the Hop River Trail to commute to work from Bolton to Vernon long before most in CT and often gets around town by bike with her two children in tow.

Jon Regan, recipient of a CT Greenways Council's Volunteer Award. In 2013 Jon founded and is currently president of the Northwest CT chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA). This chapter has worked to legitimize 40 miles of trails in Burlington, 15 miles at Cowles Park in East Granby, and 10 miles in Harwinton. About half of that mileage are new trails. The Session Woods/Nassahegan area had many unsanctioned trails and issues with parking and user conflicts. Jon and the Chapter have worked tirelessly to resolve these issues with DEEP and the mountain biking community. The legacy of Jon's leadership includes the development of a solid working relationship with: Session Woods (DEEP Wildlife and Fisheries); DEEP foresters and park managers; City of New Britain and The New Britain Water Commission, the town of Granby, and town of Harwinton. This Chapter sets an example for the rest of the state, and Jon, who is not one to beat his own drum, is being recognized as a leader in the true sense of the word.

CT Greenways Council - continued

Other 2019 Awards presented:

Patricia Sesto – recipient of a CT Greenways Council's Volunteer Award. Pat was recently appointed Director of Environmental Affairs for the Town of Greenwich. After her position was officially announced, First Selectman Peter Tesei said: "Patricia Sesto is an experienced environmental scientist and brings a wealth of knowledge to this newly established position. Her professional career spans 30 years as she held the same role in the town of Wilton." Pat served in a similar position in Wilton for 23 years. Pat was a founding member of the Friends of the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) and currently serves as President of their Board of Directors. The vision of the non-profit NRVT is to build, beautify and maintain a thirty mile, ten-foot wide, multiuse trail from Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk, passing through Wilton, Ridgefield and Redding, and terminating at Rogers Park in Danbury.

The Simsbury Land Trust - recipient of a CT Greenways Council's Non-Profit Organization Award. Founded in 1976, the Simsbury Land Trust is a federally- recognized, 501(c)3. Governed by a volunteer board of trustees elected by the membership, the SLT currently has over 700 member families. In those years the SLT has acquired 34 permanently protected parcels of land, representing over 1000 acres. The SLT built a bog walk in West Simsbury, allowing a close-up view of 40 acres of unique wetlands without damaging the fragile surface vegetation. They have installed informational signs on several recreation trails that provide educational and historical facts. They publish an annual newsletter as well as The Simsbury Walkbook: A Guide to Local Hiking, available to members free of charge. The Dirty Boots Kids Club gives children an opportunity to learn about nature and the environment in a comfortable kid-friendly pace at locations in Town. Finally, Green Scenes, their documentary film and discussion series, provides an opportunity for interested individuals to watch a documentary film and discuss with a panel of experts six times a year.

Members of the Connecticut Greenways Council are appointed by the Governor and the leaders of the General Assembly. Their duties include advising and assisting in the coordination of state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in voluntarily planning and implementing a system of greenways; providing assistance to state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in the technical aspects of planning, designing and implementing greenways, including advice on securing state, federal and nongovernmental grants; advising DEEP on selection of CT Recreational Trails Program grants; and establishing criteria for designation of greenways. Many Council members have had direct experience with trail and greenway development, and they can provide valuable insight into the development of successful local and regional projects. **The CT Greenways Symposium is planned for October 24**th. Stacey Stearns (our CHC representative) is on the planning committee and will keep us informed. For more information on the CT Greenways Council go to: www.ct.gov/deep/greenways

UPDATE: Horse Camp in Connecticut Survey results:

Thank you to UCONN Horse Specialist, Dr. Jenifer Nadeau who set up a Survey Monkey to establish data on whether a horse camp is wanted in the state and what amenities equestrians are looking for in order of importance for self contained camping. Ruth worked with DEEP Supervisor Phil to get questions for the survey that DEEP would want to know. There were 8 questions on the survey. It was posted on Face Book by organizations and individual equestrians. Thank you to all that participated. The results are very good!!!

Ruth received the results and shared it with the council:

In week 1 - there were 50 responses! - Enough needed for the survey In week 2 - there were 450 responses!

1. Would you utilize a horse oriented rustic self-contained overnight camping facility located in the middle of the state of Connecticut in a State Park?

Responses - 100% YES

2. Are you a resident of the state of Connecticut?

Responses: 95% YES 5% NO

3. If not a resident of Connecticut, in what state do you reside?

Responses: NH, VT MA, MI

4. How many nights on average would you stay during your visit?

Responses: 2 nights -48% 3 nights-26% 1 night-15%

5. How many people on average would be in your group?

Responses: 2 people - 33% 4 people -31% 3 people -20%

- 6. What features would be important to you?
 - 1. Trails
 - 2. Port-a-lets
 - 3. Area to set up a corral
 - 4. Pull through parking
- 7. What other features not listed here are important to you, if any?
 - 1. Trail map
 - 2. Easy access for large trailers in and out
 - 3. Marked trails
 - 4. Potable water
 - 5. Pull through parking
- 8. In what season would you most likely to use the facility?

Score: Fall - 3.11 Summer - 2.99 Spring - 2.85` Winter 1.05

DEEP Laurie Giannotti suggested that we come up with a summary report and ask for a meeting with the Director of State Parks to address a plan and partner with the state. She also suggested that contact our legislators to get involved in helping us to establish a horse camp ground.

Horse Owner's Corner:

Timely Tips – Research Update: Lighting and Your Horse

Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, UConn Equine Extension Specialist and CHC Education Chair

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 2019 Equine Science Society meeting in Asheville, NC. It was a wonderful meeting that included many new ideas and information in the areas of equine biosciences, exercise science, genetics, nutrition, production and management, reproductive physiology and teaching and extension. Today I plan to focus on just one of the abstracts then continue with other new information in the ensuing newsletters.

Dr. Barbara Murphy from University College in Dublin, Ireland spoke to use about circadian and circannual regulation in the horse: internal timing in an equine athlete. A circadian rhythm lasts approximately 24 hours and exists under constant conditions. It can be synchronized by external signals (light/dark are the most important) and is endogenously (within the body) generated. It is unaffected by changes in temperature. Feeding and exercise times are secondary to this. A circannual rhythm lasts approximately 365 days. It exists under constant conditions. It can be synchronized by external signals like light. Climate changes have a secondary impact, as does the availability of higher levels of nutrition. The superchiasmatic nucleus is the master of the biological clock. Nearly half of all genes have a circadian rhythm somewhere in the body.

Natural daylight has a lot of blue light in it. Incandescent bulbs have orange/yellow light and fluorescent bulbs have very little blue light. For a long time, we have put mares under lights to induce earlier ovulation and also assist with hair coat shedding to simulate a longer daylength which is when these things would occur in nature. Dr. Murphy developed an Equilume mask that emits blue light into just one eye and found that it worked just as well as bright 200 watt barn lighting. Mares had a similar gestation length with the light mask, their foals were 8.5 lb heavier, and foals had a shorter, finer hair coat. To maintain a summer coat in a show horse, one can use the light mask continuously before July 21. If you don't put the light mask on before the start of September, the light coat will go away much faster. It takes 6 weeks for an animal to respond to a change in lighting. You can regulate when a horse sees winter, but it does need to see winter at some point. Better results occur in warm stables where horses are fed well.

Another interesting finding from one of her studies was that we should use red light in our barns at night. It does not disrupt rhythms like those of melatonin. Horses are prey animals that react to threat and when we turn on our bright lights to check on them in the barn, it makes them more reactive. Using red light will facilitate night time interactions and monitoring of horses and make them eat better, have a better appetite, and rest more at night.

Another finding that Dr. Murphy discussed was that exercise is a known synchronizer of circadian rhythms. It also synchronizes gene expression in equine skeletal muscle and regular muscle metabolism. It was found that performance is optimal at time of training. This may be why some injuries occur, if you change the time of strenuous exercise, could it cause injury? That is still being researched. They also found that when traveling with horses to areas with a different day length from where your horse lives, the horse will perform better at the destination if it performs as soon as it arrives or 3-4 weeks after it arrives. Many give the horse one week to acclimate to the new place, but that is not optimal for performance.

Every day, new discoveries are made that are of benefit to the equine industry. Your equine extension specialists, professors and researchers are constantly working to improve horse health and well-being. I hope that you will reflect on this article and perhaps make a donation to an area of equine research, teaching, or outreach. Feel free to call or email with any questions you have: (860) 486-4471 or jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu. Also, check out my web site

http://animalscience.uconn.edu/equine/extension/extensionIndex.php for more information on upcoming horse specialist events and information. What topics would you like to see in the horse owner's corner next month? Send ideas to jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu. Thanks, and have fun with your horses!

References

Murphy BA. Circadian and Circannual Regulation in the Horse: Internal Timing in an Elite Athlete. Journal of Equine Veterinary Science 76 (2019): 14-24.

Murphy BA, Walsh CM, Woodward EM, Prendergast RL, Ryle JP, Fallon LH, et al. Blue light from individual light masks directed at a single eye advances the breeding season in mares. Equine Veterinary Journal 46 (2014): 23, 448-500.

SAVE THE DATES

Sponsored by the Reddington Rock Riding Club



The Open House Weekend is open to members and non-members to come and camp out for the weekend and experience our wonderful facility. Come have fun connecting with other horse enthusiasts.

Included in the weekend:

Friday Night: Dinner and Campfire

Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch & Chicken BBQ Dinner

Saddle Fitting Clinic with Lise Krieger *

Raffle and Live Entertainment (Cobalt Express blues-rock band)

Trail Ride

Sunday: Breakfast

Trail Ride

Non-member entrants must be familiar with rough horse camping. You must provide your own corrals or containment system. Water is available but no hookups or stabling. Bring your own manure bucket, manure dump site available. Camping is available to the first 15 registrants who are not current lot holders of RRRC. A current coggins must be presented upon check-in.

Chicken BBQ dinner will include chicken, baked potato, corn on the cob, baked beans, salad, rolls and wonderful desserts. Cobalt Express Band will be playing blues-rock music for your entertainment all evening.

Cost for the weekend is \$100 and advanced registration and payment is required prior to July 1, 2019. Visit www.reddingtonrockridingclub.org for online registration. For questions, please contact Sandi Hutchison at 860-965-2744.

* One-on-one saddle fitting sessions for your horse are available all weekend for a separate charge. Contact Lise directly at 413-397-3447 to schedule your appointment.

October 13th Manchester - A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for a new trail that will be open to horses.

October 24th - CT Greenways Symposium

Events Gone By:

National Trails Day Trail Workday Cockaponset State Forest Saturday, June 1st Sponsored by Lower CT River Valley Horsemen Club, Bridle Path Conservancy & CT Forest & Park Association



National Trails Day Ride Shenipsit State Forest, Stafford Sunday, June 2nd Sponsored by the Reddington Rock Riding Club





21 Riders participated in the open ride. CT, one of the smallest states can boast the most National Trails day events for the entire country and RRRC was 1 of 2 equine events.

New Britain Parade - 6:00 PM Thursday, May 30th



Edna Liberty & Cowboy, Meg Sautter & Mac, Diane Ciano & Midnight

Blessing of the Mounts, Trail Ride & BBQ Sunday, May 19th Sponsored by Cheshire Horse Council & CTRA



Mac & Meg Midnight & Diane



Cathy & Jim Clouse

4-H and Connecticut Horse Enthusiast Community Service Day Saturday May 4th



On Saturday, May 4, 2019, a 4-H and Connecticut Horse Enthusiast Community Service Day was held on the Hop River State Park Trail. It was sponsored by the University of Connecticut and the American Quarter Horse Association through a Stewards for Trails, Education and Partnerships (STEP) Grant. The event included a greeting by UConn's Equine Extension Specialist Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, along with fellow People Active on Trails for Health and Sustainability (PATHS) members Laura Brown and Ryan Faulkner. The participants were welcomed to the event and then they all learned about trail etiquette. Laura and Ryan explained about how the trail census was completed and they learned how to conduct a trail survey and manual counts. The group then completed an activity learning how to read and then make their own maps. They walked down the trail and observed trillium, fiddleheads, and bloodroot along with some frogs! Then they put up a carry in carry out sign on the Hop River Trail. All in all, it was a successful and fun day, with 100% of those surveyed stating that they increased their knowledge of trail etiquette, leave no trace principles, trail safety and the CT Trail Census Project through their participation.

Ginger Tullai Memorial Ride- Sunrise- Machimoodus Sunday, April 7th

Sponsored by CTRA - Donations were collected for the Friends of Machimoodus to reestablish the old rock gardens that GingerTullai was intending to do as a project there. Amount raised was \$425.00. Over \$2,200.00 has been raised to date for the Friends of Machimoodus.



Betsey Copp and Dunnie at the lower vista at Machimoodus State Park

2019 Supporting Members

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership or joined the Council. We could not do all that we do if it wasn't for your support of the Council.

A reminder to all that membership renewal is now due. As a member you get a subscription to the CT Horse Magazine. The following people joined or renewed:

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

* = Welcome New Members * = Volunteer Horse Patrol Members

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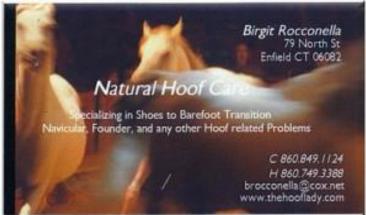
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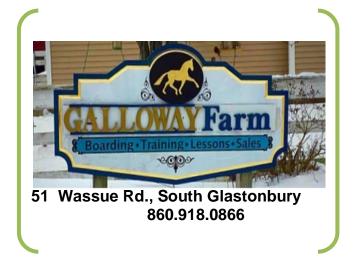
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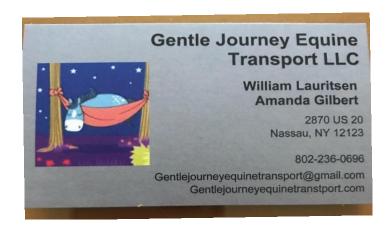


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Connecticut Horse Council <u>Connections</u> is a volunteer network being developed to provide assistance and resources to our fellow horse owners in the state during times of natural or man-made disasters, or emergency incidents such as fires, loose horses, or trailer accidents. When there is an incident or emergency situation involving horses <u>Connections</u> 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.

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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.
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