



# Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

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

## 2023 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all who have renewed 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.

Our supporting organizations and business members are listed on pages 24-25 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.*

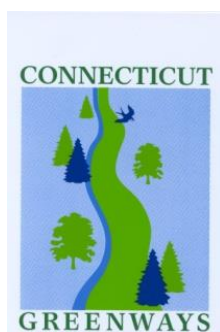
**The CHC, Inc., can only be as strong as its membership. Please join us and work together to protect your interests for today and tomorrow!** See pages 28-29 for a 2023 application. *If you have already renewed, thank you for your support.*

## Your CHC Representation around the state...

### CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL



### VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL



### CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL



### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- SCORP – State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- CT State Trails Plan
- CT State Forest Plan

## CT Horse Council is Part of iGive



**Want to help out the CT Horse Council? We are a part of [igive.com](https://www.igive.com). Just go to [igive.com](https://www.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

<b>CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol – 20 Year Celebration</b>	Pages 4-9
<b>CT Equine Advisory Council</b>	Page 10
<b>CT Greenways Council</b>	Pages 11-12
<b>Out Reach &amp; Legislation</b>	Pages 13-15
<i>These are our pages to encourage equestrians to become more active in promoting the horse Industry</i>	
<b>Please take the CT “Avid Outdoor Enthusiast Survey on page y on page Survey</b>	
<b>Up Coming Events</b>	Page 16-18
<b>Spot Light on Equestrian Organizations</b>	Pages 19-22
<i>This issue we have information on the Reddington Rock Riding Club, Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen’s Club (LCRVHC), Bridle Path Conservancy, Litchfield Hill Driving Club and the Connecticut Valley Driving Club</i>	
<b>Membership</b>	Pages 23-24
<b>Supporting Organizations</b>	Page 25
<b>Business Member Directory</b>	Page 26
<b>2023 CT Horse Council Meeting Dates</b>	Page 27
<b>Officers &amp; Board Members</b>	Page 28
<b>2023 CHC Application</b>	Pages 29-30

## Your CHC Representation around the state...



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



## Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics for 2022

For 2022, we had a total of **4,000 Patrol Hours** with **1,808 patrols** out on our state parks, forests, town lands, land trusts and private lands. This represents saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$100,000** in service for 2022 alone !

## 2003 – 2022 CHC – VHP Accomplishments

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

In the 20 years since, the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol Program has provided **1,337,625.00** in volunteer service hours.

This was accomplished through **53,505** hours of patrol and trail *maintenance* throughout the State of CT in our state parks and forests, land trusts, open spaces, town lands, city parks and private lands. *Total # of patrols: 27,130*

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

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

# CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol

## 20 YEAR STATISTICS 2003-2022

YEAR	# Of Patrols	Patrol Hours	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS								
			Walkers	Cyclers	Equus	People	Dogs OFF	Dogs ON	Hunters	Motor Cycles	ATV
2003	289	594	335	138	151	168	145	8	13	32	18
2004	432	975	940	294	485	231	96	253	78	162	24
2005	726	1,565	1628	798	1272	421	197	424	12	78	24
2006	1001	2,537	3400	1254	2905	1880	374	988	33	186	37
2007	1299	3,053	2337	909	3310	2706	331	772	23	121	52
2008	1404	3,459	2668	837	2367	3847	382	868	48	77	39
2009	1654	3,905	3224	666	2902	3254	446	1144	23	117	67
2010	3385	3,974	3015	649	3450	3170	351	1123	45	83	42
2011	1909	4,207	3420	794	3254	3318	285	940	130	66	47
2012	1464	3,393	3294	838	2795	3279	366	1167	15	40	27
2013	1216	2,314	2088	484	2318	1275	180	478	8	15	8
2014	1693	3,141	2660	462	3017	2304	201	719	42	35	21
2015	1347	2,437	2746	456	2655	803	242	1290	9	13	20
2016	1284	2,426	2282	590	2476	1755	314	769	41	32	20
14 YEAR TOTALS	19,106	37,980	34,037	9,169	33,357	28,411	3,910	10,943	520	1,057	446
2017	855	1,661	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN								
2018	917	1,739	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN								
2019	1,070	2,053	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN								
2020	2,052	3,663	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN								
2021	1,322	2,409	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN								
2022	1,808	4,000									
TOTAL	25,322	49,505									

**TEAMWORK: NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS" -**  
*author, unknown*

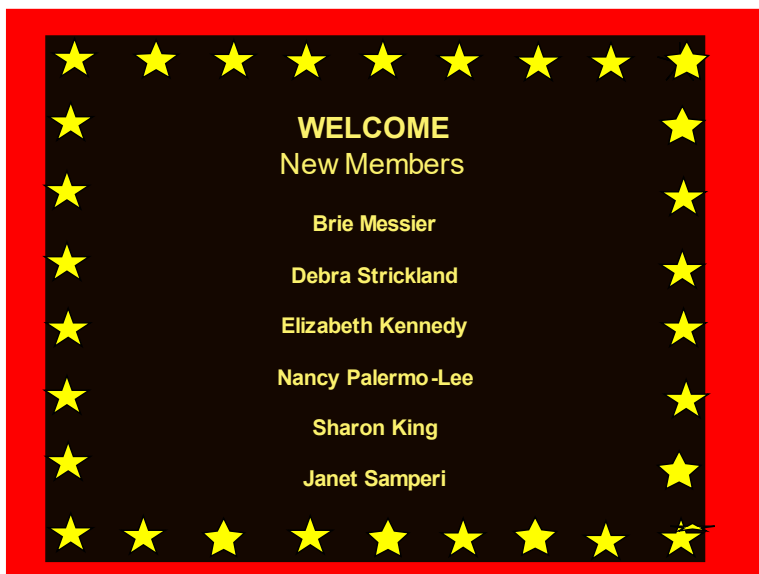
## 2022 VHP Recognition



## 2022 VHP Hour Recognition

Patrol Hours 100+ Hours	
NAME	Patrol Hours
Meg Sautter	424
Rebecca Russell	284
Holly Ely	272
Kristin Elliott Leas	254.5
Penny Foisey	243.75
Ruth Strontzer	240.5
Susan Crawford	235
Melissa Evarts	224
ShawnaLee Kwashnak	180
Margaret Lupone	149
Sharon King	129.5
Debra Strickland	118

Patrol Hours 50+ Hours	
NAME	Patrol Hours
Elizabeth Kennedy	90
Nancy Palermo-Lee	85.5
Vevette Greenberg	65
Susan Tarcani	60.5
Ann Moses	56
Patti Crowther	50.5







#### 20 Year Charter Members:

**Kristen Elliot Leas, Diane Ciano  
Meg Sautter**

with **CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)**  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation / Division of State Parks and Public Outreach  
**Kimberley Bradley** CT Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator

**Marcella Huber**, Park & Recreation Supervisor of Shenipsit State Forest

We had a great turnout for our 20 Year Anniversary Meeting. We received **"THANK YOU FOR 20 Years of Service"** Recognition letters from **DEEP ~ Marcella Huber**, **Town of Somers ~ Todd Rolland**, **Somers Open Space and Trails Committee** and **Northern Connecticut Land Trust ~ Richard Bailey**, **Somers Recreation and Leisure Services ~ Maureen Parsell** and **Friends of Machimoodus ~ Tanya Bourgojn**.

***A PowerPoint of what was written in these letters is attached.***

We raised a total of \$438.00 of which came from: \$283.00 in raffle items (a Beautiful basket was donated by Caroline A Miclette-Johnson of the RRRC), \$100.00 in the 50/50 Raffle which was won by Rain Chocholka, a Donation of \$25.00 from the Sunrise Event Friends of Machimoodus, and \$30.00 in shirt sales. We spent \$308.00 for 11 CHC-VHP vests. The profit is \$130.00.

## Your CHC Representation around the state...

### CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Connecticut Equine Advisory Council was established on May 22, 2007 by **Public Act 07-42** to assist the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with issues related to the preservation of equine trails in the state.

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

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** and the **CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol Trail User Study** can be viewed on: <http://www.ct.gov/deep/eac> under "Links" and on our CHC website. These studies 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.

#### **2023 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 24<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, and December 15<sup>th</sup>. The public is welcomed. Zoom or Conference calls are available.

***Please contact Diane Ciano for current updates or changes for 2022 meetings***

CT Horse Council President – Diane Ciano 2023 (*Appointed 2009*)

1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District – Meg Sautter (*Appointed 2008*)

2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District – Ruth Strontzer (*Appointed 2019*)

3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District – Danielle Borelli (*Appointed 2020*)

4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District – Vevette Greenberg (*Appointed 2021*)

5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District – Diane Ciano (*Appointed 2009*)

DEEP Liaison – Kimberly Bradley

CT Forest & Park Association - Eric Hammerling

## Your CHC Representation around the state...

### CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL



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.

#### **Council Members**

Lois Bruinooge - Executive Director, The Last Green Valley

Paula Burton - New England Mountain Biking Association

**Stacey Stearns - CT Horse Council & Water Trails**

Robert Dickinson - South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways; Bike Walk CT

R.Bruce Donald (Chair) - Tri-State Coordinator, East Coast Greenway

Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.

Gillian Carroll - Eversource Energy

William D. O'Neill - East Coast Greenways Alliance (former Chair)

Rista Malanca - (Vice Chair) Naugatuck River Greenway

Cathy Hagadorn - CT Audubon Society, Deer Pond Farm Director

Gwen Marrion - (Secretary) Bolton Trails Committee

Brian Wilson (DEEP Liaison) - Ex-Officio Member

Anna Bergeron, DOT Planning Division - Ex-Officio Member

#### **What's a greenway?**

A greenway is a corridor of open space that may protect natural resources, preserve scenic landscapes and historical resources or offer opportunities for recreation or nonmotorized transportation. A greenway may also connect existing protected areas and provide access to the outdoors; may be located along a defining natural feature, such as a waterway; along a man-made corridor, including an unused right-of-way, traditional trail routes or historic barge canals; or may be a greenspace along a highway or around a village.

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 webpage](#) contains details on how to propose designations, get assistance, and view a map of our State Greenways.



Your purchase of a Connecticut Greenways license plate will make a difference! These plates both raise the public awareness of the importance of our greenways AND provide funding for state and local efforts to preserve, restore and protect our greenways. Greenway systems offer an exciting opportunity to reestablish connections between the State's natural and cultural resource base and its people. It has been said that greenways connect the places we live to the places we love.

[Greenways License Plate Applications](#)

**The CT Greenways Council meetings are open to the public.** The Council meets at **9:00 am on the 2nd Tuesday** of each month (*except August, and December*) virtually and/or at the offices of VHB, Inc. located at 100 Great Meadow Road Suite 200, in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Contact Kimberly Bradley, DEEP Trails and Greenways Coordinator, to be added to the meeting announcement distribution list at [kimberly.bradley@ct.gov](mailto:kimberly.bradley@ct.gov).

The Connecticut Horse Council is looking for someone to replace Stacey Stearns as an equestrian representative on The GREENWAYS Council.

**If you would like more information on representing the equestrian community to be on this State Council please contact Diane Ciano 203.910.9919**



## **Outreach:**



***PLEASE TAKE THIS SURVEY to participate in the CT Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan: It is important that the DEEP hears from equestrians on what their needs are!***

***We need trailer parking to access to our state parks & forests, more camping areas for equestrians, better maintained trails, signage, etc.***

Avid Outdoor Enthusiast Survey link:

**[https://ccsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1RBZFhAKDtyUQsu](https://ccsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1RBZFhAKDtyUQsu)**

Calling All Outdoor Enthusiasts!

Central Connecticut State University, in partnership with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, seeks your input for the 2023-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

As an outdoor enthusiast, you are invited to share your thoughts and experiences on outdoor recreation in CT through a brief online survey.

The survey provides the opportunity for individuals with various outdoor recreation interests to express their views and to help shape the future of outdoor recreation in our state. The survey takes less than fifteen minutes to complete and is anonymous.

Thank you in advance for helping us better understand the recreation needs of outdoor enthusiasts and for helping us to make our state a better place to live.

**Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)**

**Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Plan (SCORP)**

**Full Advisory Meeting (SCORP) ZOOM Meeting Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 12pm-1pm**

DEEP will review their finalized SCORP goals and update the advisory committee on the progress of the Current Recreationalist Survey.

CHC is working with DEEP on updating this State Plan. CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics will be added into this plan.

**If you would like to be on this meeting call please contact Diane Ciano 203.910.9919**

### **CT Greenways Council**

The Connecticut Horse Council is looking for someone to replace Stacey Stearns as an equestrian representative on The GREENWAYS Council.

**The CT Greenways Council meetings are open to the public.** The Council meets at **9:00 am on the 2nd Tuesday** of each month (*except August, and December*) virtually and/or at the offices of VHB, Inc. located at 100 Great Meadow Road Suite 200, in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Contact Kimberly Bradley, DEEP Trails and Greenways Coordinator, to be added to the meeting announcement distribution list at [kimberly.bradley@ct.gov](mailto:kimberly.bradley@ct.gov).

**If you would like more information on representing the equestrian community to be on this State Council please contact Diane Ciano 203.910.9919**

### **Dog Attacks – WHAT CAN EQUESTIONS DO?**

Throughout the years many horses have been attacked by loose aggressive dogs. Recently this has happened at Machimoodus State Park.

LCRVHC is looking to host a Presentation on what to do if you are in this situation. CHC will also be involved in getting resources on addressing this. We will notify members when the presentation is set. In the meantime, as always be careful out there. It's too bad that these occasional, but dangerous situations happen. Education and proper Training is the key and we will work with DEEP and other resources to find solutions.

### **American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC)**

Rob Sawyer, the trail representative contacted CHC in discussion on establishing a liaison with us. His role will primarily be to try and help get endurance riders involved in trail upkeep and advocacy. He lives in Griswold and is a regular user of the yellow blazed trails in Pachaug, SF and is aware of the poor condition of many of the state trails.

Equestrians are needed to help come up with a plan for a trail's maintenance. For More information, contact Rob Sawyer [sawfish99@gmail.com](mailto:sawfish99@gmail.com) [860-884-0110](tel:860-884-0110)

860-884-0111



## Legislation:

### **From the Desk of Eric Hammerling, CFPA Director:**

The Governor's Budget for FY 2024-25 was released last month. [Here's a link to it.](#)

There were a few items in the Governor's Budget proposal that we support strongly, e.g. \$5 million/year (in both FY 2024 & 2025) in bonding for the recreational trails & greenways program. There is also \$500,000 for all-terrain wheelchairs for the State Parks (which we support with some reservations about the personnel at DEEP that it will take to ensure they are used) and \$500,000 for urban forestry investments that we support. And the Passport to the Parks is left intact to support Park operations and maintenance.

There is also the proposed addition of 1 central District Operations Supervisor position for the State Parks. As you know, DEEP currently has Tammy Talbot in the West and John Guglielmoni in the East overseeing and supporting the work of Park Supervisors and different park management units in various ways. This new position will have some park management units under it (though I think the specific units haven't been totally determined yet), and also will focus on moving the projects forward that the State dedicated \$51.5 million in park infrastructure improvements to, as well as future infrastructure investments.

In CFPA's testimony to the Appropriations Committee on the budget proposal (attached) we support the elements of the Governor's Budget described above, but also **request an additional 15 Park Maintainers for DEEP to address their significant needs IN THE FIELD.** We justify our proposed increase based on the following criteria:

- No Park Management Unit should have only one maintainer (there are 7 that currently do);
- There are several Park Management Units that have two maintainers that should have more (e.g. Sherwood Island, Rocky Neck, Penwood, & Pachaug); and Hammonasset Beach State Park has 4 maintainers, but given the huge attendance there they should have more (in the past they have had as many as 11).

Lastly, please note pages 3-4 of CFPA's attached testimony. In it, I include statistics for each park management unit – how many acres, how many kinds of facilities, what the current staffing and seasonal levels are. When you look at the numbers at this level, DEEP's inadequate field staff numbers come into high focus.

I would encourage those who want to help raise awareness on this lack of field staff to contact legislators working on the Conservation & Development Subcommittee (especially if they're yours) to let them know that DEEP desperately needs field staff to care for forests, parks, and wildlife management areas. If you want to share a [link to CFPA's testimony to Appropriations](#) in your outreach, here's the link.

The members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Conservation & Development can be found [here](#) (on page 3, Subcommittee #5- Conservation and Development). If EAC members have connections with House and/or Senate legislators on this important Subcommittee, please let me know.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Save The Date! New Member Open-House 4/29 11-2



### Reddington Rock Riding Club

860-336-6858 | OR VISIT US ON FACEBOOK  
93 HANDEL RD, STAFFORD SPRINGS CT 06076

Like horses? How about camping? Or what about being part of a club that brings people together so that they can unplug for a few hours? If you said yes to any of these questions, come check us out!

#### What do we do?

Chicken BBQ	Christmas Carols On Horseback	Trail Rides
Farm Day	Blessing of The Mount	Poker Run
Youth Group	Ice Cream Social	Fun Day
Club Meetings	Spaghetti Dinner	Camping

RRTC was started in 1962 as a way to help horse people find one another and also spend time with their horses! The club has remained a place where club members can enjoy the grounds with their pets and families, participate in camp sponsored events and/or trail rides, make new friends, and last but not least.....camp! Spend a few hours, spend a day, or spend the night!

[rrcnews@hotmail.com](mailto:rrcnews@hotmail.com)



[reddingtonrockridingclub.org](http://reddingtonrockridingclub.org)

**SATURDAY, April 29<sup>TH</sup>**

### OPEN HOUSE

**11:00-2:00**

We are hosting an open house for people interested in learning about our horseback riding club and how to become a member or supporting member. A horse is not required to belong.

We will have snacks, tours of the grounds, introduce you to members, discuss opportunities for possible lot/campsite rental, and more! You can stop in anytime during the open house.

We look forward to meeting you and your families!!

Contact: **Brie Messier**

<https://www.facebook.com/briem>

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023**

### FUN DAY

### Reddington Rock Riding Club

**9:00 AM – Stafford Springs**

Come one, come all!! Join us for Fun Day!

Registration table opens at 8:00am

Games start promptly at 9am

. Ride in as many as 8 classes:

\$25 - members

\$30 – non-members

You may purchase lunch for \$5

Games for all levels of riders. Separate scoring and ribbons for riders 16y and under.

More info to come as it develops. We look forward to seeing you!

**REDDINGTON ROCK RIDING CLUB, INC.**

**JOIN US FOR FUN DAY!**

Games for all levels of riders with separate scoring and ribbons for riders 16 and under!

**Fun Games on Horseback!**  
Games promptly start at 9:00 a.m. Registration table opens at 8:00 a.m. \$25 registration fee for members or \$30 for non-members per horse and rider, includes lunch and 8 Fun Day Classes. Spectators may purchase lunch for \$5. This event will be a Fun Day, if you are up for something a little more fast paced, our Gymkhana Event will be September 29th.

**\$25 Members**  
**\$30 Non-members**  
Registration fee per horse and rider.

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023**  
Rain date Sunday, May 14, 2023

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.reddingtonrockridingclub.org](http://www.reddingtonrockridingclub.org)  
or  
text Marley at 860-830-0130

**LOCATION**  
93 Handel Road  
Stafford Springs, CT



## Connecticut Trails Day Events: Saturday & Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>



*CHC asks that horse organizations promote trails on these days to build and join the nationwide movement to give back to the trails and make sure everyone can enjoy the outdoors. If your organization planning to host an event, please let Diane Ciano know. Thank you  
So far we have two organizations hosting an event:*

### Reddington Rock Riding Club

**Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 AM Breakfast ~ 12:00 NOON ~ Blessing of the Mounts ~**

**1:00 – 2:00pm 3.25 miles – A Leisurely Horseback ride through the Beautiful  
Shenipsit State Forest.**

**Location:** Bring your own horse and join The Reddington Rock Riding Club for a walking trail ride (suitable for all level riders) on a CT Horse Council recommended Trail in the beautiful Shenipsit State Forest. We will stage at the Reddington Rock Riding Club grounds in Stafford CT where there is plenty of room for horse trailer parking.

Event Leader(s):

**Ann Moses (203)962-3509** [annbmoses@cox.net](mailto:annbmoses@cox.net)

**Holly Howlett**

[hc.zigzag2323@gmail.com](mailto:hc.zigzag2323@gmail.com)

### **The Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club and Bridle Path Conservancy**

**Trails Day Work Party & Lunch - Saturday, June 3, 2023 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Join the Bridle Path Conservancy and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club for a work party and see what we do! Show some love for the horse friendly Weber Woods section of Cockaponsett SF Trail maintenance including, but not limited to, replacing rotten planks on two pedestrian bridges the BPC and LCRVHC built in 2004, hiking and replacing/updating trail markers, clipping and trimming trails and the formal dedication of this multi-use bridge we built last year on Trails Day.

Meet at 9 am at the Weber Woods parking area: Stevenstown Road (CT145) in Westbrook (just north of Messerschmitt's Pond). Look for signs! Dress for the woods. Sturdy shoes, work gloves, water bottle, and bug spray recommended. Suggested tools: loppers, hand saw. We will have coffee and donuts at sign-in. Lunch at noon at the parking area. LCRVHC will provide hot dogs, chips, and water. Bring something to share if you wish. Register on the Connecticut Forest & Park Association web site ([ctwoodlands.org](http://ctwoodlands.org)), email [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com), or just show up!

## Upcoming Meetings:

**CT Horse Council Meeting:** Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 pm  
Eversource building - 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT

**CT Equine Advisory Meeting:** Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm  
The EAC meets at the [Connecticut Forest & Park Association](#), 16 Meriden Road, in Rockfall, CT  
The public is welcomed. Zoom or Conference calls are available.

**The CT Greenways Council meetings are open to the public.** The Council meets at **9:00 am on the 2nd Tuesday** of each month (*except August, and December*) virtually and/or at the offices of VHB, Inc. located at 100 Great Meadow Road Suite 200, in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Contact Kimberly Bradley, DEEP Trails and Greenways Coordinator, to be added to the meeting announcement distribution list at [kimberly.bradley@ct.gov](mailto:kimberly.bradley@ct.gov).

## PAST EVENTS:



**Friends of Machimoodus State Park Spring Fling** – Several organizations set up tables to represent their causes, nature crafts, a guided hike, a drum circle at the vista and there were more activities to celebrate the equinox, world story telling day, nature and our lovely park. Thank you to the CT Trail Rides Association, Lower CT River Valley Horsemen's Club and Ct Horse Council for promoting horses and trails at this event

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## SPOTLIGHT ON EQUESTRIAN ORGANIZATIONS:



Reddington Rock Riding Club is a non-profit 501C (4) organization that was founded in 1962. Part of what makes the club unique is that in 1972 they purchased 18 acres which is now called Camp Glazier. The grounds boast a pavilion, cookshack, restrooms, an arena, a small barn, and many campsites. The grounds border the Shenipsit State Forest in Stafford Springs, CT.

The purpose of the club is to encourage and promote the sport of equine trail riding. This is done by sponsoring equine related functions such as trail rides, fun days, educational events, as well as assisting in the maintenance of bridle trails in the area.

RRRC members are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of multi-purpose trails, specifically the CHC recommended multi-use trails Loop A, B & C and the Bald Mountain Loop in the Shenipsit State Forest. RRRC has "adopted" the Somers Town owned N/S Forest View Trail connecting a large Northern CT Land Trust Property (Whitaker Woods) to the Shenipsit State Forest CHC recommended loop B creating a several mile interconnected trail system allowing access all the way to the Soapstone Mountain observation tower. This is a difficult trail to maintain due to the excessive invasive brush that closes it each year. RRRC members were instrumental in building equine safe bridges on this trail making it open to both equines and hikers.

RRRC Club members have donated hundreds of hours to maintaining the trails in the Northeastern corner of our state and through partnerships with land management entities such as the Northern CT Land Trust, The Towns of Somers and Stafford and State of CT DEEP will continue to do so for years to come.



LCRVHC was incorporated as a 501c (7) (non-profit, social organization) in 1962 by a group of friends who met for weekend trail rides. When Dr. Weber died LCRVHC members were instrumental in convincing the state to purchase the property as part of Cockaponsett rather than having it be developed. Over the years LCRVHC has organized and run fund raising horse shows, an ECTRA-sanctioned 25-mile competitive trail ride, games days, and for many years hunter paces, while continuing to hold monthly weekend trail rides for members, mostly in the Valley area, often followed by a potluck or community lunch. Annual events include a summer picnic and winter party, the Fall Festival Hunter Pace, and the popular chili ride—among others. LCRVHC members are also active in the Connecticut Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol and many other equestrian and open space organizations.

In 2004, in light of increasing development pressure, LCRVHC members voted to form the Bridle Path Conservancy, a 501c (3) (nonprofit, tax exempt, charitable organization), non-membership organization for the purpose of preserving, enhancing, and maintaining shared, passive-use, recreation trails and supporting open space and trails initiatives.

The sister organizations work to maintain the trails in Weber Woods and the Quinimay Trail through the CT DEEP Adopt-a-Park program and have been instrumental in building and replacing 15 multi-use bridges in the state forest and on Land Trust properties. Members have also helped out on other access and trail maintenance projects including at Lord Creek and Machimoodus/Sunrise, among others.

Contact us on the web at [LCRVHC.org](http://LCRVHC.org) or [BPConservancy.org](http://BPConservancy.org), on Facebook, or email [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com).



The Bridle Path Conservancy was formed in 2004 to meet needs identified by the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club to address the changing environment of open space and trails. LCRVHC has been practicing equestrian awareness education and trail maintenance in the valley since 1962. During that time, the scope of disquietude among trail users has increased, forcing them to look for solutions to:

- Loss of trails due to encroaching development
- Slashing of state and local funding thus reducing the upkeep and repair of treadways and bridges
- Trail wear and tear due to increased traffic as the public becomes more interested in outdoor recreational activities
- Conflicts arising between the diverse types of trail usage

To address these concerns, the BPC focuses on the need for collaboration of users of shared trails through participation in the DEEP Adopt-a-Park Program, Trails Day work parties for trail maintenance, marking, bridge building, especially in Weber Woods and the Quinimay Trail but in other areas as well. Mission Statement The Bridle Path Conservancy, Inc. (the Corporation) was formed to educate and encourage interest in and support for the preservation, enhancement, and acquisition of shared, passive-use, recreation trails on public and private land across southern New England. While the Corporation is interested in equestrian trails, it seeks to support all open space and trail initiatives. By managing, educating and cooperating with others to create opportunities to facilitate and preserve equestrian activities that complement the environment, the Corporation strives to keep recreational land available for present and future generations to enjoy. Find us on the web at [BPConservancy.org](http://BPConservancy.org) or on Facebook Bridle Path Conservancy



The Litchfield Hills Driving Club, Inc. was incorporated in 1983 with its purpose being to promote the proper use of horse-drawn vehicles for recreation and competition. Located in the beautiful Litchfield Hills of Connecticut, we have members from all over the state and the wider New England area.

The LHDC enjoys a membership of widely varied ages, interests and abilities. Our members include teenagers to retirees, back yard drivers and CDE participants, while some enjoy antique vehicle collections and others perform professional level restoration.

We have monthly evening meetings from September to May offering speakers or special programs. Hospitality and socializing, where everyone is welcome, have always been an important part of our meetings. Three times a year our meeting will include a pot luck supper.

From Spring to Fall we have a variety of Recreational Drives at various locations along with our annual LHDC Picnic Drive.

You are invited to become a member of the Litchfield Hills Driving Club, and you don't need to be a driver or even own a horse to belong. You will receive a quarterly newsletter and meet some of the friendliest horse people in New England.

The Litchfield Hills Driving Club is a Chapter Club of The Carriage Association of America, a member of the American Driving Society and a member of the Connecticut Horse Council.

We hope you will consider joining us in keeping carriage driving alive and well while enjoying the beautiful Litchfield Hills of Connecticut. You can reach us @richardmangino.net.

Meetings Held the Third Friday of the Month  
 September – May at the [Plymouth Congregational Church](#)





The CT Valley Driving Club has had a busy fall with monthly events to offer driving opportunities for its members as well as to attract new or interested drivers.

On Sept. 3, the club sponsored a “Fun Day” at members’ lovely Greenbriar Farm which featured a cones course and three regulation marathon obstacles for drivers to practice. Drivers could go through each course as many times as they liked with tips from fellow drivers and some of admiring horse lovers on hand to watch the unjudged action.

On October 16, the CVDC, Litchfield Hills Driving Club and the Mid-Hudson Driving Club joined together to enjoy the foliage on the beautiful wide trails of the White Memorial Conservation Area in Litchfield, CT. A dozen turn-outs including a few riders followed two different routes following detailed maps prepared by Christine Schilling. One route was a flat 3-mile loop under pine trees and the other was a 7-mile loop to a cranberry pond and forest trails for drivers to explore. A picnic lunch provided for some mingling and exchanging of stories after the event.

The Connecticut Valley Driving Club wrapped up its 2022 year with one final Turkey Trot drive and Annual Meeting on Nov. 20 at Cynthia Bliven’s Woodland Farm in Lyme, CT. The mid-thirties temps with a lower wind chill kept all but four brave drivers away but the Annual Meeting and delicious pot-luck luncheon was well attended with 50% of the membership present. The club re-elected 3 officers, Carrie Wind – President, Judy Zimmer – Treasurer and Steve Mazeau - Secretary and welcomed long-time member and competitor, Henry Tarryk as Vice-president to take the place of Linda Rogers, who the club thanked for her time and talent during the past two years. During the meeting, CVDC members were asked to sign-up for at least one of 7 committees to brain-storm, investigate, plan and organize various events for 2023. The committees were labeled as a result of a recent member survey. The Club will be trialing a web-based communication format called Groups.IO to improve dialog between the Board of Directors, committees and their members.

This year’s Equine Affaire was held on Nov. 10 – 13 at the Eastern States Exposition buildings in Springfield, Mass. Though there were very few vendors for carriage drivers, a prominent presence was the ADS Booth manned by the very knowledgeable and affable Bob & Diane Koopman along with some help from local drivers throughout the weekend. The booth featured a beautiful miniature sleigh which attracted passersby’s into the booth as well as on-going videos of FEI World Driving Championships and US Driving Championships which held people’s attention. The booth had many handouts including what carriage driving is, safety tips, postcards and brochures from local driving clubs including Southern New England Carriage Driving Association and CT Valley Driving Club as well as a handy Northeast Region Resource Guide.

Our club has gained seven new members this year and continues to grow as more equine enthusiasts see us out and about as well as visit our Facebook page and website at [cvdrivingclub.com](http://cvdrivingclub.com). Happy driving,  
Carrie Wind President – CT Valley Driving Club

## 2023 Membership

A reminder to all of you who have not renewed for the 2023 year renewals are due.  
Thank you.

Carol Birdsey Membership Chairperson. [membership@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:membership@cthorsecouncil.org) 860-344-1804

Those who have renewed or joined are:

*If your name is not on the supporting membership list, won't you please consider supporting your state council. It is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you in advance.*

<b>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</b> * = Volunteer Horse Patrol Members	
Marie Aparo – New Britain Ruth Beardsley – Bethany Carol Birdsey – Middletown Corinne Breyette – Somers Deborah Carlson – Derby Sally Carter – NH Kathryn Christensen – East Lyme *Lorraine Chocholka – Waterbury * Denise Ciano – Wolcott * Diane Ciano – Plymouth *Susan Crawford – Hampton *Patti Crowther - SC Nikki Cunningham – Deep River Jessica Dempsey – Tolland *Kristin Elliot Leas – Westbrook * Melissa Evarts – Clinton Cathy Fellows - Hebron Esther Fiddes – Bethel *Ken Forcier – Oxford *Vevette Greenberg – Oxford Rebecca Harnish – Terryville *Marion Hartman – Somers CarolAnne Keely – Wilton *Elizabeth Kennedy – Westbrook *Sharon King – Berlin Darin Latimore – Bethany Waneta Lenk – Colchester Edna Liberty – Portland *Edward Levin – Bristol Jeanne Lewis Gherardi – Wallingford * *Peg Lupone – Clinton *Gloria Ludwig – East Granby	Michael Marcus – Danbury Lorraine Marshall – New Fairfield *Christel Maturo – North Haven Ryan McLaughlin - Brookfield *Gina McManus – Clinton *Billie McNealy – Waterford *Brie Messier – Coventry Jacqueline Mickiewicz – Marlborough Allison Mongeau – New Hartford Jenifer Nadeau – Andover *Diane Morton – Lebanon Pat Neisser - Middletown *Nancy Palerma-Lee - Westbrook Alix Pose-Sussman - Fairfield *Rebecca Russell – Essex Marie Lisette Rimer – Pomfret Center Jasci Ryan – Madison Gail Ryznar – New Hartford Celeste Santos-Rivera – Voluntown *Meg Sautter - Newington Jeremy Serwer – East Woodstock MaryAnn Smith – Salem Judith Smith – Bethany *Stacey Stearns – Storrs *Debra Strickland – Wallingford *Ruth Stronzer – Haddam Adam Teper – RI Holly Thompson – Agawam MA Karen Turnberg – Stafford Springs

## FAMILY MEMBERS

\*Cathy & James Clouse - Cheshire  
 \*Holly, Jay & Nora Ely – Granby  
 Jennifer Hanley – Torrington  
 Carla & Bob Lord -Southbury  
 Nancy & Dick Mangino – Cheshire  
 \*Ann & Monty Moses -Somers  
 Don & Jean Nordell – East Windsor  
 \* Peggy Robinson – Goshen  
 Martina & Paul Steed – Stamford  
 Susan Tarcini - Stafford Springs  
 George & Katie Tolhurst – Simsbury

## SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

*Please support us for 2023*

**Connecticut Trail Rides Association**  
**Connecticut Valley Driving Club**  
**Granby Horse Council**  
**Litchfield Hills Driving Club**  
**Middlebury Bridle Lands Association Inc**  
**Reddington Rock Riding Club**

## SUPPORTING BUSINESS MEMBERS

*See ads below*

*Please support us for 2023*

### **A R Equine Transport Service LLC**

Adam Wilson & Randy Moitoso

### **Beckett & Assoc Vet Services**

Chip Beckett DVM - Glastonbury

### **B.D. Farrier Services**

Bud Dore – Litchfield

### **Doug Dubitsky, Esq.**

**Equine Law** - Windham

### **Drafty Pines Farm**

Emily & Daniel Chaplin – Central Village

### **Express Your Pet**

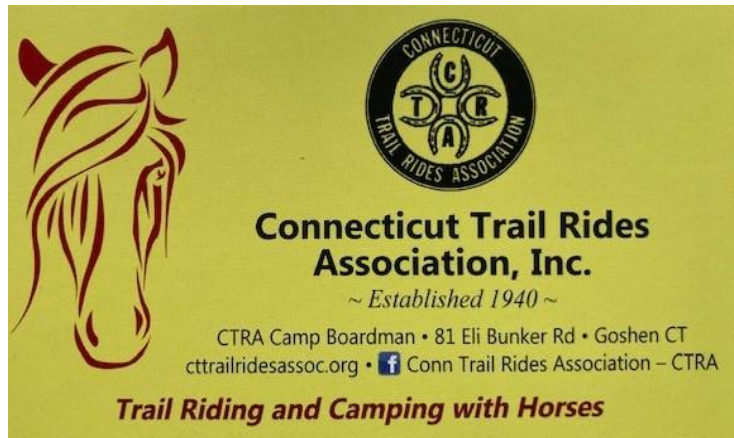
Laurianne Goulet - Rocky Hill

### **Iron Hawk Ranch LLC**

John Cross – Parkman, WY



## 2023 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



[www.cvdrivingclub.com](http://www.cvdrivingclub.com)

**HORSE COUNCIL OF GRANBY, Inc.**



[www.granbyhorsecouncilct.com](http://www.granbyhorsecouncilct.com)



**Litchfield Hills Driving Club**

[www.litchfieldhillsdrivingclub.org](http://www.litchfieldhillsdrivingclub.org)



**Middlebury Bridle Land Association**

[www.middleburybridle.org](http://www.middleburybridle.org)



**Reddington Rock Riding Club**

[www.RRRCLUB.ORG](http://www.RRRCLUB.ORG)

***Please support us for 2023!***

## 2023 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.*

**A & R Equine Transportation Service LLC.**



Local and long distance hauling  
Emergency transport

To book: (774) 294 - 6873  
Emergency: (508) 971 -9862

**B. D. Farrier Service**  
AFA Certified Farrier

**Bud Dore**

39 Linchfield Rd.  
Morris, CT 06743



(860) 309-4025  
bud.dore91@gmail.com

**BECKETT & ASSOCIATES VETERINARY SERVICES LLC.**  
Main St. Glastonbury CT 06033  
860-659-0848  
www.beckettvet.net

We are a mixed animal veterinary practice located near the Old Cider Mill in Glastonbury. We offer both traditional & alternative therapies for dogs, cats, horses, small ruminants & more. We offer acupuncture, chiropractic and Chinese herbal treatments, in addition to routine dentistry, endoscopy, ultrasonography, digital radiography and more. Stalls, turnouts, cattle chute and surgery suites for large and small animals. Haul in and farm calls available.

**DOUG DUBITSKY, ESQ.**  
**EQUINE LAW**  
**860-808-8601**

[doug@lawyer.com](mailto:doug@lawyer.com)

**Drafty Pines Farm**

**Emily & Daniel Chaplin**  
70 South Cady Lane  
Central Village, CT 06374

860-564-4037  
www.draftypinesfarm.com  
email: draftypinesfarm@sbcglobal.net

We teach basic riding skills in addition to overall care, health and maintenance of horse ownership. We specialize in beginners that have little or no experience around horses and who would like to discover more about them in a safe, fun environment. Our lessons are designed to help build confidence and self-esteem based on the students' individual skill level and desire to learn.

**Express Your Pet**

Grooming • Boarding • Daycare



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(860) 563-7387  
www.expressyourpet.com  
945 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

***Please support us for 2023!***

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR STATE HORSE COUNCIL WITH YOUR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP**

**To advertise on our Website and Newsletter, please send your business membership**

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

**Send your Business card /PDF or JPEG to: Diane Ciano [DianeMCiano@gmail.com](mailto:DianeMCiano@gmail.com)**

**Thank You!**

### **The Connecticut Horse Council Meeting Dates for 2023**

Meetings are held at 7:30 PM

Eversource building

107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT

We hope you will join us and attend our meetings. We need You!

Please put these dates on your calendar. If there are bad weather conditions, please call Diane Ciano 203.910.9919 for possible cancellations.

We meet 5 times a year on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the months of:

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 2023-2025 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

**Diane Marie Ciano**  
Plymouth, CT  
[DianeMCiano@gmail.com](mailto:DianeMCiano@gmail.com)

### 1st Vice President

**Laurianne Goulet**  
Cromwell, CT  
860-997-6434  
[CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org)

### 2nd Vice President

**Meg Sautter**  
Newington, CT

### 3rd Vice President

**Randy Olmstead**  
Terryville, CT

### Treasurer

**Cheryl Mastele**  
Durham, CT

### Membership Secretary

**Carol Birdsey**  
Middletown, CT  
[membership@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:membership@cthorsecouncil.org)

### Recording Secretary

**Carol Birdsey**  
Middletown, CT  
860-344-1804  
[membership@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:membership@cthorsecouncil.org)

### Chairman of the Board

**Stewart Beckett, III, DVM**  
Glastonbury, CT

### Board of Directors:

**Denise Ciano**  
Wolcott, CT

**Edna Liberty**  
Portland, CT

**Gary Rutkauskas**  
Plymouth, CT

**Kowboy Ken Forcier**  
Oxford, CT

**Ruth Strontzer,**  
Haddam, CT

**Vevette Greenberg**  
Oxford, CT

### Committee Chairs:

**Animal Health and Welfare**  
Laurianne Goulet  
[CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org)

### Education

**Dr. Jenifer Nadeau**  
Associate Professor  
Equine Extension Specialist  
Unit 4040, Dept. Animal Science  
University of Connecticut  
17 Manter Rd., Storrs, CT 06269-4040  
(860) 486-4471 phone  
[jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu](mailto:jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu)

### Legislative

### Publicity / Newsletter

**Diane Ciano**

### Road Safe

**Diane Ciano**

### Trails

**Diane Ciano**  
[DianeMCiano@gmail.com](mailto:DianeMCiano@gmail.com)

### Web Site

**Laurianne Goulet**  
[CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org)

### Zoning

**POSITION OPEN**

# THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

# 2023

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### Membership Classification (Check One)

☐ Individual \$20      ☐ Family \$30      ☐ Student \$15

☐ Business or Professional \$40      ☐ Club \$40

☐ NEW      ☐ RENEWAL      Membership decal available      ☐ Static ☐ Sticker

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

[www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)  
Telephone: 860-344-1804



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

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

My local FD is \_\_\_\_\_

Local Police \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

☐ CHC has my permission to contact me to provide temporary emergency shelter/housing/paddock space for horses which need to be relocated in emergency situation

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.**