

Happy Spring Friends,

Below and attached is the CHC Spring Newsletter along with a flyer on an upcoming CERT Class. There is more information on this and information on a SART training class (You can read more on Pages 12-13).

We now are providing a Zoom Link for meetings which in emails to our current members .

Our upcoming meeting is Tuesday, April 2nd – 6:30 pm at the Eversource Community Room- 107 Selden St., Berlin. We would love to see you in person and understand that if you can't be there. The link will be emailed to our current members.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED – Please contact your State Representatives & Senators

AN ACT CONCERNING STREET TAKEOVERS AND THE ILLEGAL USE OF CERTAIN VEHICLES

(which will also help to get them off trails that are being destroyed for our safety)

See page 17. Also check the update on the Larkin Bridle Trail on Page 16.

There is a Table of Contents, so you can look at what articles you would like to view and scroll to that page.

We are pleased to announce our 21 Year Celebration of the CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol and thank our dedicated members who are out on the trail logging their hours. Check out our Annual Meeting & Open House Report on pages 6-12

CHC is moving forward in promoting our mission and what we do.

We are calling this **“Out Reach/Education”**. Below are some of the plans and goals:

These are our pages to encourage equestrians to become more active in promoting the horse Industry. There are several events coming up shortly. We hope you can join in on these. See pages 14-15. If your organization has events that you would like us to put out to our membership, please let me know.

If members are interested in getting involved helping to expand our CHC Horse 911 we are giving information on getting CERT→ SART→ and Search & Rescue. See page 13.

Also, as part of our **“Education/Out Reach”**- Horse 911, we will be organizing training for Animal Control Officers (ACO's), Firemen and other Emergency responders and partnering with the Durham Animal Response Team (DART) on our Connections with members that can offer horse trailering in emergency situations. We will also be updating our publications and adding information on our HORSE 911 program. See page 11 for more information.

Revamping our Facebook Page: Unfortunately, over the years it became a “free site advertisement page to sell anything” for many people who have not supported the Horse Council with their membership. We now have admins that will monitor and approve posts. We want our Members, Organizations and Business Sponsors to use this page to share information, events, pictures of events past as it was created for this reason. **We would love to have our members contribute any event that you may have, post your trail ride pictures, horse show events, etc. CHC Business sponsors, feel free to promote your products or services!** Go to our FB page and sign in as a member. Our admins will approve your posts.

Updating our Website: We have done quite a few updates and now are posting highlights of our meeting notes for members that have missed our meetings.

“SPOT LIGHT ON EQUESTRIAN ORGANIZATIONS” The CHC vision is to be recognized as the leader in all issues concerning the Connecticut horse industry. Promoting our equestrian organizations and businesses will help to unify all of us. In this issue we have information on Horse Council of Granby. CHC has nominated them for a CT Greenways Award for their continued work of 45 years to promote horses and multiple use trails, education of the public of the benefits of having equines in our environment, participation in community events, yearly scholarship and donations. We hope you can join in on the Greenways Award Celebration – May 31st in Hartford.

If your organization has not been featured, please send me a write up on what you do and contact information and I'll place it in the next Newsletter.

Please feel free to share this information with your organization's members.

HAPPY TRAILS

Diane Ciano

President

DianeMCiano@gmail.com

203.910.9919



Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

Check out our website at www.cthorsecouncil.org

2024 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.

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...

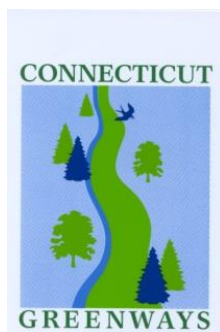
CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL



VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL



CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL



CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

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Your CHC Representation around the state...



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



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ Connecticut Horse Council ★
 ★ Volunteer Horse Patrol ★
 ★ 21 Year Anniversary ★
 ★ Celebration ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

2003 – 2023

We always welcome new members. This Patrol which celebrated 21 years has established so many connections with DEEP, Private Land owners and Town Lands. Join the CHC-VHP and be a part of promoting equestrian use on trails while providing a community service while having fun and riding your horse!

Volunteer Horse Patrol Statistics for 2023

For 2023, we had a total of **4,692 Patrol Hours** with **2,477 patrols** out on our state parks, forests, town lands, land trusts and private lands. This represents saving the state (that's you and me!) **\$117,300** in service for 2023 alone !

2003 – 2023 CHC – VHP Accomplishments

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

In the 21 years since, the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol Program has provided **1,454,925.00** in volunteer service hours.

This was accomplished through **58,197** 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: 29,607*

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

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to over 88 areas around the state, including town parks, open spaces, land trusts and private land owners. As we continue to grow, we are expanding our riding opportunities and helping to create long distance connecting trails. Congratulations to you all, because each of your patrol logs, no matter how many hours you patrol and maintain trails adds to the grander total of statewide hours. This service provides CHC, DEEP and other Land Management Areas with information on how the equestrian community is continuing its effort to maintain trails for multiple use, while promoting and educating the community and other equestrians of our volunteer efforts.

Our volunteer hours are reported to DEEP through the CT Equine Advisory Council whose members represent the 5 congressional districts of this state.

CT Horse Council has promoted multiple-use trails on public lands for many years; addressing the DEEP Recreational Trails Plan, SCORP, and Forestry Plan.



Patti Crowther, Vevette Greenberg, Melissa Evarts, Debra Strickland, Meg Sautter, Diane Morton, Ruth Strontzer, Brie Messier, Holly Ely, Denise Ciano, Diane Ciano, Joel Conte, Jean Cassella, Chris Mard, Sue Taricani, Janet Samperi, Gina McManus

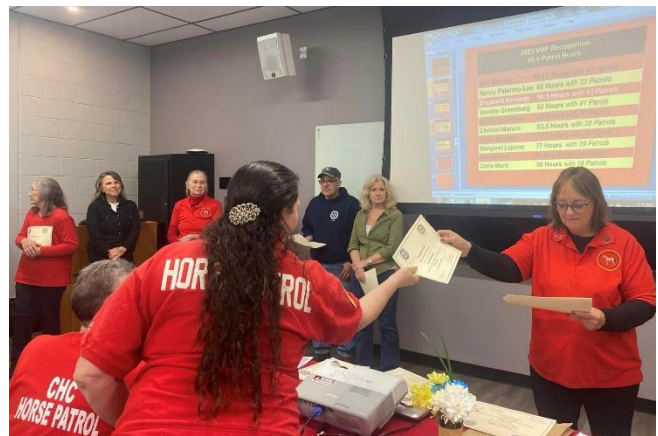
TEAMWORK: NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS" - author, unknown

This was a fun and successful event. Our guest speaker was fantastic and we learned so much on what they do. All CHC members are encouraged to get certified in CERT – Check our local emergency management person – either your fire department or town hall for any classes coming up. From there you can join in with DART (Durham Animal Rescue Team) and also go further in training with SART (State Animal Response Team) to be trained helping animals in emergency situations.

The food was great and we made some money! The Tea Cup Raffle brought in \$316.00. The 50/50 Raffle totaled \$220.00. Carol Birdsey won the raffle and returned her half back to the VHP account. Thank you Carol!!! We received a \$20.00 donation from Sue White, DART Team Director. Thank you Sue!!!

We sold at cost \$75.50 in VHP shirts and gave out \$30.00 vests free to all our new members for joining.

Annual membership dues paid at the meeting brought in \$150.00 to CHC



CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol

21 YEAR STATISTICS 2003-2023

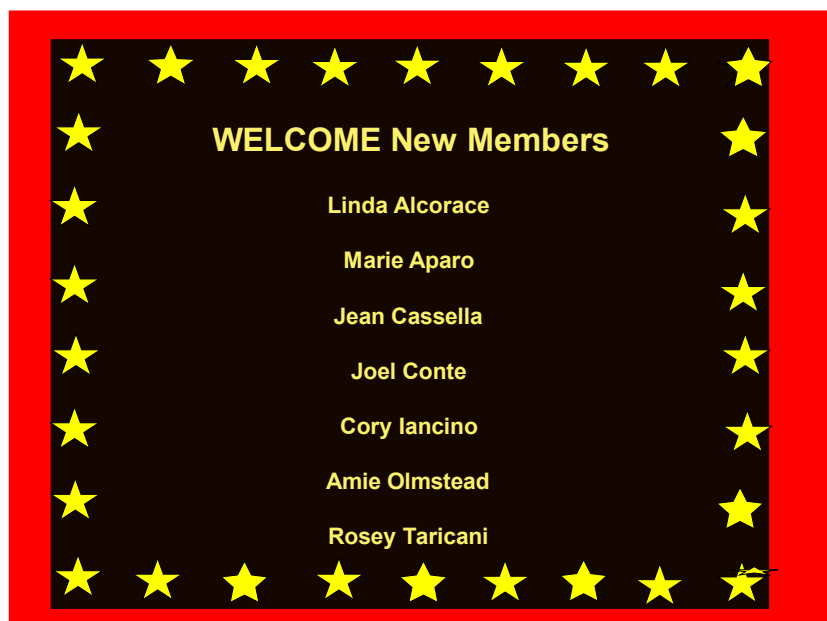
YEAR	# Of Patrols	Patrol Hours	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS								
			Walkers	Cyclers	Equus	People	Dogs OFF	Dogs ON	Hunters	Motor Cycles	ATV
2003	289	594	335	138	151	168	145	8	13	32	18
2004	432	975	940	294	485	231	96	253	78	162	24
2005	726	1,565	1628	798	1272	421	197	424	12	78	24
2006	1001	2,537	3400	1254	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	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								
2018	917	1,739	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								
2019	1,070	2,053	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								
2020	2,052	3,663	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								
2021	1,322	2,409	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								
2022	1,808	4,000	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								
2023	2,477	4,692	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								
TOTAL	29,607	58,197	<i>PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS NOT TAKEN</i>								

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

2023 VHP Hour Recognition

Patrol Hours 100+ Hours	
NAME	Patrol Hours
Ruth Strontzer	411.75
Gina McManus	328
Holly Ely	322
Meg Sautter	316
Sharon King	287
Kristin Elliott Leas	282
Melissa Evarts	262.5
Rebecca Russell	253.5
Susan Crawford	241
Penny Foisey	221
Diane Ciano	195
Denise Ciano	138.5
Joel Conte	129
Jean Cassella	112
Marie Aparo	103
Diane Morton	100.5

Patrol Hours 50+ Hours	
NAME	Patrol Hours
Brie Messier	96.75
Nancy Palermo-Lee	95
Elizabeth Kennedy	94.5
Vevette Greenberg	92
Debra Strickland	85
Christel Maturo	83.5
Janet Samperi	77.5
Margaret Lupone	77
Ann Moses	55
Chris Mard	50



Durham Animal Rescue Team (DART).



Our guest speaker was Tiffany Hesser, Public Relations Coordinator who was accompanied by Sue White, Team Director from the Durham Animal Rescue Team (DART). They work with emergency personnel to help in animal related accidents or emergencies and provide education to animal owners to help keep their pets safe.

This small group that started in Durham has been so beneficial with their knowledge and experience they are now asked to go out to other areas of the state to help rescue animals. They hold fundraisers to purchase emergency equipment and provide continued training.

The CHC will be working with them to provide their “Connections” of members that are willing to provide transportation if necessary or if they are CERT certified (Citizens Emergency Response Team) to join in on this team effort (*The Connections is on the back side of the CHC membership application*).

There are also trainings of SART (State Animal Response Team) for those that want to help out in emergency situations to help set up and organized safety areas/housing for small and large animals. They are looking for new members that are CERT certified. Please contact Diane Ciano if you want to go forward with any trainings after CERT or have any questions

Outreach/ Education: CERT → SART → ? SEARCH & RESCUE

CHC is encouraging members who would like to qualify to help in emergency situations to go through the channels by first getting CERT Training. (Community Emergency Response Team). This is a program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. The CERT program offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks. These classes are held locally, so one would have to contact their local Emergency Management person(s) through either your local fire department or town hall for information regarding CERT classes.

When you are CERT certified and would like to be a volunteer as a member of SART (State Animal Response Team) to help set up and organize safety areas/housing for small and large animals in emergency situations, there are regional SART classes that come up periodically for CERT members.

The CHC will be moving forward with our Horse 911 program and will be working the Durham Animal Response Team (DART) to join in on this team effort and provide them with our CHC membership "Connections" list. (*The Connections is on the back side of the CHC membership application*). This is a list of CHC members that are willing to provide transportation if necessary. It is also an opportunity for CERT certified members to join DART.

For now, these contacts will be used if DART needs to call in local help with trailering animals in an emergency situation. Individuals that want to get CERT & SART certified can then join in with DART and their local Region SART Team.

In addition, members of the Reddington Rock Riding Club are looking to set up training for Search and Rescue on Horseback. We will keep you informed as to when this training may happen. We will then be moving forward with establishing a Search & Rescue Team around the state.

You will need to go through the first two steps: 1. CERT Certification 2. SART Certification. If you are interested in this, please contact me.

*****The next SART training is:** Saturday April 20th 2024 9:00am-4:00pm

1. Topics: AM: CTSART Overview and Certification for CERT volunteers (not already CTSART trained)
2. PM: Animal Shelter Training Exercise for all CTSART and CERT- CTSART trained volunteers (CTSART trailer and supplies will be on site)
3. Trainer: Sheldon Yessenow, DVM, Region 1 Team Leader
4. Co-Trainer: Donna Cobelli, DVM, Region 5 Team Leader
5. Location: Central Animal Hospital for Veterinary Medicine, 4 Devine St., North Haven, CT

Note: This training is for CERT & SART Members. On speaking with Donna Cobelli about the CHC members interested in attending but are not yet certified in CERT, her response was: "Those that are committed to take the CERT Class in the future and will be able to attend this meeting, please make a "Wait List" of names, and I will respond back with openings.

If anyone is interested in this, please respond back to me ASAP: DianeMCiano@gmail.com Please put in Subject area: "**SART Training 4-20**"

Also attached is information on a 4 day CERT Class taking place in Hartford

Outreach/Education: **Can You help?**

Members of the CT Horse Council, Equine Advisory Council are working on educating the trail users on “Share the Trail” etiquette. We have 3 events scheduled. This will be a simple table display and interactions of meet and greet with trail uses as they enter the trail system.

We would like to schedule more “Pop Up” events if we have some volunteers. Please contact by TEXT:

Diane Ciano 203-910-9919 or Danielle Borrelli 203-605-9894 if you can help and/or want to set up at other locations. Thank you!

“Share the Trail” Courtesy Education Events

Saturday, April 13th - Airline Trail SP: Colchester Dog, Hikers & Horses “Share the Trail” Courtesy Education Event – Meet on the trail at the River Road section - 10a-2p

Saturday, May 4th - Machimoodus / Sunrise SP: Dog, Hikers & Horses “Share the Trail” Courtesy Education Event - 10a-2p

Friday, June 14th - Hurd SP: Dog, Hikers & Horses “Share the Trail” Courtesy Education Event - 5:30PM

DEEP No Child Left Inside Events - Families in the Parks Program

Do you have a “Safe “ horse that you can bring these events?

May 11, 2024 - Family Fishing Day with Fish with CARE @ Gay City State Park in Hebron, CT from 10 am to 3 pm

August 3, 2024 Dinosaur Day at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, CT 9a-3p

August 9th, 10th and 11th- Perseids Campout with the NCLI, the Last Green Valley and the Friends of Pachaug State Forest

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 14th – Reddington Rock Riding Club – OPEN HOUSE 1:00-4:00

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!!

93 Handel Rd, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 **Contact: Cathy Bradway 860.336.6858**

Sunday, May 5th – CT Trail Rides Association – Machimoodus-Sunrise State Park

Ginger Tullai Memorial Open Trail Ride and Walk

\$10.00 minimum donation to the Non-Profit The Friends of Machimoodus/Sunrise State Park.

Ride Host: CTRA AVP Christel Maturo 475-414-6840 Trail leader Ruth Strontzer 475-238-5887

Machimoodus-Sunrise State Park 121 Leesville Rd (Route 151), Moodus, CT 06469

Connecticut Trails Day Events: Saturday & Sunday June 1st & 2nd

CHC encourages organizations to hold an equestrian event the first weekend in June to celebrate National Trails Day. This is sponsored by the American Hiking Society – and CHC encourages equestrians to promote their horse events to the public as a friendly reminder that horses are out there on the trails and equestrians are working to maintain and promote trails.

***If your organization planning to host an event, please let Diane Ciano know. Thank you
So far we have three organizations hosting an event:***

CT Horse Council Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp in Natchaug State Forest

CHC-VHP will host trail work days/campout at the, **Friday & Saturday June 1st & 2nd**, clearing and replacing the Yellow diamond markers that are missing from the timber harvest. There are 3 multiple use trails marked from the camp that are 5, 10 and *15-mile loops that need markers. You are welcome to bring your horse and camp overnight. **Contact: Diane Ciano 203-910-999**

Reddington Rock Riding Club Sunday, June 2nd

10:00 am Breakfast ~ 12:00 NOON ~ 1:00 Blessing of the Mounts ~ 2:00pm Trail Ride

3.25-mile ride - A Leisurely Horseback ride through the Beautiful Shenipsit State Forest. 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 Camp ground 93 Handle Rd., Stafford Springs, CT where there is plenty of room for horse trailer parking. **Contact: Holly Howlett 860-336-1083**

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

Trails Day Work Party & Lunch - Saturday, June 1, 2023 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The Bridle Path Conservancy, in cooperation with LCRVHC and the Connecticut Forest & Parks Association, will be hosting a trail work party event on Saturday, June 1, 9 AM to noon, at the Pataconk reservoir parking area in Chester. Show some love for the horse friendly Quinimay Trail of Cockaponset State Forest. We will be working on the red trail section of the Quinimay. There will be coffee and donuts at sign in. LCRVHC will provide hotdogs and water for after the work party. People are welcome to bring a dish to share. **Contact: Liz Kennedy 860-227-9814**

Other Trail News: **LEGISLATIVE ACTION NEEDED**

More in-depth trail reports and issues are discussed at our Equine Advisory Council (EAC) meetings with DEEP. Below is highlights of some of the discussions. Note: The EAC website needs to be updated with 2023 meeting notes and 2024 meeting dates.

Larkin Bridle Trail:

A cross walk light on Route 67 has been requested to be placed by CHC. Member Katie Richards led the initiative to ask the Southbury Selectman to contact the Department of Transportation for the request. An on-line petition was signed by over 500 people in support of a light to stop traffic when there are people trying to cross over this busy road. DEEP also supported the proposal.

Dirt Bikes and motor cycles have been relentless on the Larkin Bridle trail, especially in the Middlebury and Naugatuck sections, both on state and private lands. Extensive trail damage and road safety hazard are created when ATV's and Dirt bikes are out on these trails and reports of several people being injured have also been reported. Letters and extensive reporting as to the days, times with graphs from May 2023 – February 2024 by the Middlebury Bridle Lands Association (MBLA) was sent to the Middlebury Police Department, Jennifer Mahr, Selectman, Town of Middlebury, DEEP Western District Supervisor, Tammy Talbot, DEEP Colonel Chris Lewis, Director of Law Enforcement Environmental Conservation Police and DEEP Greenways and Trails Kimberly Bradley. Letters were also sent to Senators Joan Hartley & Eric Berthel and Representative William Pizzuto. CHC and MBLA is asking that the towns and DEEP work together to help stop still illegal and destructive behavior and asking DEEP to place gates and boulders to block access points at each of the 11 crossings on this Greenway.

UPDATE REPORT & LEGISLATIVE ACTION REPORT:

From ShawnaLee Kwashnak, MBLA /CHC:

A meeting was held with Jenn Mahr, Police chiefs from Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, and Brian Newman from the DEEP and one of his enforcement officers. Ed St John attended after the meeting started, and Senator Joan Hartley attended.

There is consensus that they will develop a task force including the DEEP & local police. They have the authority. They will establish Shared Common Reporting which allows them to identify for themselves patterns and locations. Naugatuck PD is very action orientated and will begin making public service announcements via social media. The Naugatuck PD also wants to create short film footage for social media that includes riders and horses explaining why ATV's / Dirt bikes are not safe around horses on the trails.

Jenn said that the police take action when they get evidence of the same individuals repeating a pattern. This is KEY! Jenn was very encouraged by their meeting, and said that if we're effective, there are numerous other towns that will benefit from our precedent. We're doing great things for our horses They meet again April 12th.

OUR ACTIONS: We need more patrols out. Continue NON-CONFRONTATIONAL gathering of photos: Catch them unloading their vehicles (this is REALLY helpful!), license plates, color/make/model and **record time, date, location**. Send your report to

ShawnaLee Kwashnak artistshawnalee@gmail.com

Raised Bill No. SB 337 AN ACT CONCERNING STREET TAKEOVERS AND THE ILLEGAL USE OF CERTAIN VEHICLES.

AN ACT CONCERNING STREET TAKEOVERS AND THE ILLEGAL USE OF CERTAIN VEHICLES. To (1) revise provisions regarding forfeiture of certain illegally used vehicles, (2) authorize municipalities to adopt an ordinance related to street takeovers, (3) establish penalties for driving while a person's license is suspended or revoked due to a violation related to a street takeover, and (4) establish a grant program to provide funds to municipalities to enforce laws related to street takeovers and the illegal use of certain vehicles.

- 3/27 -Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis
04/02/24 5:00 PM (LCO)

Please contact your State Representatives & Senators and ask them to support this bill. Let them know the dangers of public safety not only on the streets but on trails. Let them know that public and private lands are being destroyed by this illegal use of trespassing and there are reported injuries of people riding horses that were frightened by the speeding and reckless driving.

Natchaug State Forest: Matt Quinn contacted Diane regarding the well. It was installed back in and is working. This summer, they will be replacing the solar toilets with cement structures that look like wood. They will also clear out a few more pull through sites. CHC will hold a trail maintenance day on Saturday, June 1 to replace yellow diamond markers on the 5 -10- & *15-mile loops. Some VHP members will be camping there Friday and Saturday night. CTRA will host a Member Only National Trails Day Ride on Sunday, June 2nd.

Nepaug State Forest: Diane has contacted a member of CHC who lives near the forest and would like to be involved in getting the yellow diamond markers back up in the forest.

Wadsworth Falls SP: The Vortex trail is being used by bikes, hikers trail runners and equestrians. The CHC would like to have the issue resolved regarding that this old overgrown trail that was cleared without permission by DEEP will possibly be closed. CHC would like to have this multi-use trail kept open to help offset the hundreds of users on the one main trail. We will look into a more formal request with the guidelines of the Policy/Procedure # 310 Multiple Use Trail Policy for DEEP Properties.

DEEP – CHC Hartford Meeting: The CHC meeting with the leadership of the Environmental Conservation Branch of DEEP that include the three divisions Forestry, Wildlife Management, State Parks & Land Acquisition to discuss horse camps, parking areas, signs, “passive recreation”, etc. has been set for Monday, April 8th -11:00 am at the DEEP office in Hartford

Legislation: EAC Appointment: 5th District: Diane again contacted the office of Senator Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader for the Fifth District regarding an EAC appointment for Denise Ciano. The office has not gotten back to us. June will be one year without having him appoint someone to the council, even though we have recommended Denise Ciano for the position.

An EVENT GONE BY

Friends of Machimoodus Spring Fling This was a great educational event with so many different activities for children and adults. Member of CHC-VHP, CT Trail Rides Association and the Lower CT River Valley Horsemen’s Club were there with their horses to meet and greet everyone. We had educational material on sharing the trail and a raffle to enter or paint Darwin that raised \$60.



Ruth Strontzer & Darwin, Liz Kennedy & Mindy, Jean Cassella & Paddy



Melissa Evarts & Ritz



60-88

SPOTLIGHT ON The Horse Council of Granby:



The Horse Council of Granby will celebrate its forty-fifth anniversary this year! The organization continues to promote and protect the rights of horse owners in Granby and surrounding towns. Part of the mission is to educate its members and the public about the value of equines in our communities. The Granby Agricultural Commission's Open Farm Day is an annual opportunity for the Granby Horse Council to educate the public. Members distribute brochures and interact with farm visitors explaining how to stay safe around horses on the trails and the roads. Events such as the Poker Ride, parade training sessions, obstacle challenges and trail riding clinics, held in Salmon Brook Park and at the Holcomb Farm are other opportunities to share with the public the benefits of having equines in our environment.

The Council awards a \$500 scholarship annually to a high school senior who plans to pursue an animal-related career. The scholarship is completely funded by member donations. Also, donations are made to the Granby Ambulance Association, The Lost Acres Fire Department and Angel Horses Rescue. These donations are funded by membership dues.

The GHC participates in the annual Granby Memorial Day Parade with a contingent of riders, walkers, color guard and a riderless horse all in full uniform adding to the solemnity and importance of this very well-attended community event.

The members promote multi-use trails in Granby and surrounding towns. The members are kept informed of the guidelines for using town properties, Land Trust properties, McLean Game Refuge and the Rails to Trails Greenway through Granby, East Granby, Suffield and Southwick, MA. GHC members are actively maintaining trails from Salmon Brook Park in Granby and the Holcomb Farm in West Granby.

GHC members enjoy a variety of social activities scheduled throughout the year like our annual summer potluck, fall bonfire and December holiday party. In addition, our monthly meetings, which are open to non-members, feature informative guest speakers and member-created fun equine trivia and bingo competitions.

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.

CT Horse Council President – Diane Ciano *2023 (Appointed 2009)*
 1st Congressional District – Meg Sautter *(Appointed 2008)*
 2nd Congressional District – Ruth Strontzer *(Appointed 2019)*
 3rd Congressional District – Danielle Borelli *(Appointed 2020)*
 4th Congressional District – Vevette Greenberg *(Appointed 2021)*
 5th Congressional District – Position Open
 DEEP Liaison – Kimberly Bradley
 CT Forest & Park Association

2024 Meeting Schedule:

The EAC meets at the Eversource Energy Community Room 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT from 6:30-8 PM on the following Thursdays: March 21st, **June 20th**, September 26th & December 19th

The public is welcomed. Zoom or Conference calls are available.

Please contact Diane Ciano for current updates or changes for 2024 meetings

[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.

Go to the [CT Greenways Council](#) page for 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.

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.

CT Greenways Council meetings: April 9, May 1, June 11 – 9:00 am Hartford or Zoom

2024 Membership – Spring Newsletter

*** = Volunteer Horse Patrol Members**
= WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Linda Alcourse – Oxford
 *Marie Aparo – New Britain
 Pat Aresco – Litchfield
 Karen Batts – Morris
 Janet Belval – Tolland
 Carol Birdsey – Middletown
 Mary Bonville – North Stonington
 *Corine Breyette – Somers
 Eve Bucca – Tuckahoe, NY
 Deborah Carlson – Derby
 Sally Carter – Nashua, NH
 *Denise Ciano – Wolcott
 *Diane Ciano – Plymouth
 Valerie Clark – Thompson
 *Patti Crowther – Windsor, SC
 *Joan Davis – West Granby
 Jessica Dempsey – Tolland
 *Arlene Doherty – Stafford
 *Kristin Elliott Leas – Westbrook
 *Melissa Evarts – Clinton
 Esther Fiddes – Bethel
 Melissa Fijol – Thompson
 *Penny Foisey – Pomfret Center
 *Ken Forcier – Oxford
 Laurie Grassette – Somers
 *Vevette Greenberg – Oxford
 Rebecca L. Harnish – Terryville
 *Cory Iacino – Harwinton
 Lana Claire Ives – North Haven
 Bunny Joseph – Colchester
 CarolAnne Keely – Wilton
 *Elizabeth Kennedy – Westbrook
 *Sharon King – Berlin
 *Shawnalee Kwashnak – Middlebury
 Anne-Marie LaForest – Woodstock
 Cathy Languerand – Oakdale
 Darin Latimore – Bethany
 Waneta Lenk – Colchester
 *Gloria Ludwig – East Granby
 *Margaret Lupone – Clinton
 Teresa Mangini – Woodbury

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Nancy Mangino – Cheshire
 *Christine Mard – Oxford
 Cheryl Mastele – Durham
 Ryan McLaughlin – Brookfield
 *Gina McManus – Clinton
 *Billie McNealy – Waterford
 *Brie Messier – Coventry
 Allison Mongeau – New Hartford
 *Diane Morton – Lebanon
 *Montgomery Moses – Somers
 Jenifer Nadeau – Andover
 Leslie Neikrie – Middletown
 Richard Newhart – Prospect
 *Amie Olmstead – Terryville
 Randy Olmstead – Terryville
 *Nancy Palermo-Lee – Westbrook
 Kate Perry – Reddington
 Katie Richards – Bethel
 Lisette Rimer – Pomfret Center
 Erica Robb – Old Lyme
 *Rebecca Russell – Essex
 Gary Rutkauskas – Plymouth
 *Janet Samperi – North Haven
 Celeste Santos-Rivera – Voluntown
 *Meg Sautter – Newington
 Christine Schilling – Brookfield
 Alesha Schwarz – Glastonbury
 Jeremy Serwer – East Woodstock
 Ted Shafer – Burlington
 Marcia Sigman – Portland
 Judith Smith – Bethany
 MaryAnn Smith – Salem
 Amy Stegall – Stafford Springs
 *Debra Strickland – Wallingford
 *Ruth Stronzer – Haddam
 Bethany Thatcher – Sandy Hook
 Lori Vorel Brown – Middlefield
 Linda Wenner & Debbie Hubbell – Hampton
 Sherry Weik – New Hartford
 Barbara White – Killingworth

<p>FAMILY MEMBERS</p> <p>*Cathy & James Clouse – Cheshire *Joel & Joanne Conte – Southington *Holly, Jay & Nora Ely – Grany Don & Jean Nordell – East Windsor Roger & Linda Ferraro – Salem Rob Sawyer & Family – Griswold *Susan & Rosey Taricani – Stafford Springs</p> <p>SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS</p> <p>Bethany Horsemen, Inc.</p> <p>Connecticut Trail Rides Association</p> <p>Horse Council of Granby</p> <p>Litchfield Hills Driving Club</p> <p>Lower CT River Valley Horsemen’s Club</p> <p>Middlebury Bridle Lands Association Inc.</p> <p>Newtown Bridle Lands Association</p> <p>Pomfret Horse & Trail Association</p> <p>Reddington Rock Riding Club</p>	<p>BUSINESS MEMBERS <i>See ads below</i></p> <p>B & H Blacksmith & Farrier LLC – Litchfield Bud Dore & Hannah Calbick</p> <p>Doug Dubitsky, Esq. – Equine Law – Windham</p> <p>Drafty Pines Farm Emily & Daniel Chaplin – Central Village</p> <p>Express Your Pet Laurianne Goulet – Rocky Hill</p> <p>Shag Bark Hickory Farm Katie Hunt – Broad Brook</p> <p>The John Bennett Stable John Bennett – Putnam</p> <p>Laura Claman Equine Solutions/Blazing Saddles Consignment Laura Claman</p>
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If your name is not on the supporting membership list, won't you please consider supporting your state horse council. It is greatly appreciated and needed. Thank you in advance.

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

2024 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

 <p style="text-align: right;"><i>THE BETHANY HORSEMEN</i> Bethany, Connecticut</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Connecticut Trail Rides Association, Inc. ~ Established 1940 ~ CTRA Camp Boardman • 81 Eli Bunker Rd • Goshen CT cttrailridesassoc.org • Conn Trail Rides Association – CTRA <i>Trail Riding and Camping with Horses</i></p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Connecticut Valley Driving Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.cvdrivingclub.com</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">HORSE COUNCIL OF GRANBY, Inc. www.granbyhorsecouncilct.com</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Litchfield Hills Driving Club www.litchfieldhillsdrivingclub.org</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Middlebury Bridle Land Association www.middleburybridle.org</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Newtown Bridle Lands Association newtownhorses@gmail.com https://nblact.com</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Pomfret Horse & Trail Association www.pomfrehorseandtrail.com</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">Reddington Rock Riding Club www.reddingtonrockridingclub.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Place Your Organization Support Here Thank you</p>

2024 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 on our website and Newsletters.

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

B&H Blacksmith
& Farriery LLC
(860)-309-4025

Bud Dore, CJF
Hannah Calbick, CF

b.hfarriery@gmail.com
Morris, CT 06763



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

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.

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Guide and Nature the
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**Place Your
 Business Ad
 here!**

**Place Your
 Business Ad
 here!**

Please support us for 2024!

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR STATE HORSE COUNCIL WITH YOUR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Send your Business card in a JPEG or other picture format to: Diane Ciano DianeMCiano@gmail.com

Thank You!

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

1st Vice President

Laurianne Goulet
Cromwell, CT
860-997-6434
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

Recording Secretary

Carol Birdsey
Middletown, CT
860-344-1804
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

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

Legislative

Publicity / Newsletter

Diane Ciano

Road Safe
Diane Ciano

Trails

Diane Ciano
DianeMCiano@gmail.com

Web Site

Laurianne Goulet
CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org

Zoning

POSITION OPEN

THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

2024

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
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.