



## Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"



### 2026 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. **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 25-26 for a 2026 application*

*Check out page 3 with "What's New with CT Horse Council".*

- *Our next in person meeting is Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 pm at our **new location**.*
- *Our zoom links for meetings will be posted on the CT Horse Council Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/155407114517824>)*  
*\*\*Be sure to get on the and answer the question so that you can be on this private FB page. Our FB page will have current updates on CHC for and see any quick updates along with events and informational articles.*
- *We have updated our website for information on all aspects of the horse industry: [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org) and we will continue to add more information.*

*We had a great informational speaker at our annual Open House meeting in March. Check out the article on pages 16-18. Did you now that TLP preserved over **8,495** acres of open land and completed more than **108** active and completed projects?*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

*Happy Trails*

*Diane Ciano, President*

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## What's New with CT Horse Council

We are now accepting membership payments on PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, debit or credit cards from our website: [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

We have great information on all aspects of the horse industry on our website and we continue building this site. We have done many updates, posting highlights of our meeting notes for members that can't make our meetings and updating our publications. Our educational brochures are printable. If you want hard copies, we can provide them to you. Please check out the info we have there: [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

There are power points that you can use for training/education:

- **Zoning - "Horses Make Good Neighbors"** (under State Councils & Laws) along with links to the Equine Land Conservation Resource  
<http://www.cthorsecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Horses-Make-Good-Neighbors-redo-2025.pptx>
- **CT Horse 911 - "Large Animal Emergency Preparedness"** (under News & Alerts)

We now have a new physical address for our meetings! We hope you will join us!

**Newington Human Resources Building - 200 Garfield Street, Newington, CT – 6:30pm**

We will be offering zoom links for our meetings on "Microsoft Teams"

*The Link will be posted on our CT Horse Council Facebook Page.*

**Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.** We will resume bi-monthly meetings in the fall/winter - October 6<sup>th</sup> & December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm

**Members will receive the Community Horse – Free Digital Subscription** by email. Here is the Spring/Summer: The Fall one will be sent by email

[https://issuu.com/massachusettshorse/docs/community\\_horse\\_spring\\_summer\\_2026\\_f8db0c2e6c0598](https://issuu.com/massachusettshorse/docs/community_horse_spring_summer_2026_f8db0c2e6c0598)



Additionally, Community Horse offers free *Community Horse* Youth Awards for every equestrian competition in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Learn more at [communityhorse.org/youth-awards](http://communityhorse.org/youth-awards).

## Your CHC Representation around the state...

### State Representation

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
 CT State Trails Plan  
 CT State Forest Plan  
 SCORP – State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan







### Our Mission – Our Vision

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving all aspects of the horse industry in Connecticut

The Vision of the Connecticut Horse Council is to be recognized as the leader in all issues concerning the Connecticut horse industry

**Legislation** We are a non-profit volunteer legislative advocacy group that informs the community of horse related legislation issues.

**Education - Outreach** We provide information our website, brochures, newsletters, Facebook page. We participate in DEEP No Child Left Inside Events and other similar local events. We promote horseback riding through our Volunteer Horse Patrol Program.

**Emergency & Disaster – CT Horse 911** We provide information on our website. Lectures, demonstrations and workshops are available on Barn Fire Safety and Emergency Disaster Preparedness for both horse owners and first responders

**Trails** CHC educates and promotes the public on the trail riding community through our Volunteer Horse Patrol Program and attending other public events. CHC represents equestrian interests addressing the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Plans, representation on the Connecticut Equine Advisory Council and the CT Connecticut Greenways Council. We comment on Forest Plans.

**Road Safety** CHC sponsored legislation that enacted state statutes that are printed in the instruction manual for motor vehicles operations for safe riding and driving of horses, and the public's responsibility when encountering horses on the roads. Pamphlets are available

**Zoning** We assist individuals and local governments with educational materials pertinent to horses and farms with extensive information on our website.

## ***We Want Your Support***

We are a group of volunteers working for the equestrian community.  
Volunteers are wanted to help on committees to promote the horse industry.

Legislation

Volunteer Horse Patrol

Trail Maintenance

CT Horse 911

Website & Marketing

Education & Public Outreach

### **CHC Outreach and Education Goals:**

- Encouraging equestrians to join in on the Volunteer Horse Patrol Program and participate at educational events such as the DEEP No Child Left Inside programs
- Encouraging Horse Organizations around the state to periodically set up educational tables at trail heads, educating users about horses, dogs on leash and bicyclists regarding trail etiquette and how to pass a horse safely. CHC will provide material.
- Holding trail events on National Trail's Day Weekend (*1st weekend in June*)

### **Plan a National Trails Day Event – June 6-7**

Connecticut Trails Day 2026 is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The events feature over 200 free, guided activities across the state, including hiking, biking, paddling, and trail maintenance, hosted by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association.

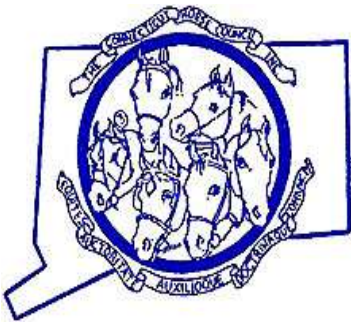
***WE would love to have horse events around the state, celebrating and promoting horses on trails! It can be a trail ride, trail maintenance or both!***

Setting up a table at your event with educational materials (*CHC will provide*) - talking with other trail users about horses, dogs on leash and bicyclists regarding trail etiquette and how to pass a horse safely.

**Registration/Events:** A full, searchable list of events is available on [trailsday.org](https://trailsday.org)

***If your organization planning to host an event, please register your event with the CT Forest & Park Association (link above) and let Diane Ciano know Thank You***

## Your CHC Representation around the state...



**CT Horse Council  
Annual Open House &  
Volunteer Horse Patrol  
Meeting**



*We always welcome new members at our Annual Open House & Volunteer Horse Patrol meeting every March. We recognize our volunteer members and enjoy meeting once year with a pot luck lunch, raffles and guest speaker.*

*This Patrol which celebrated 23 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 2025

For 2025 we had a total of **2,872 patrol hours with 1,575 patrols** that were logged saving the state (that's you and me!) \$ 71,800.00 for 2025 alone! Our 23 years of volunteer hours total 63,849 hours Saving Taxpayers \$1,596,225.00

### CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol 23 YEAR STATISTICS 2003-2025

YEAR	Patrol Hours	# Of Patrols	PARK VISITOR SIGHTINGS											
			Walkers	Cyclers	Equus	People	Dogs OFF	Dogs ON	Hunters	Motor Cycles	ATV			
2003	594	289	335	138	151	168	145	8	13	32	18			
2004	975	432	940	294	485	231	96	253	78	162	24			
2005	1,565	726	1628	798	1272	421	197	424	12	78	24			
2006	2,537	1001	3400	1254	2905	1880	374	988	33	186	37			
2007	3,053	1299	2337	909	3310	2706	331	772	23	121	52			
2008	3,459	1404	2668	837	2367	3847	382	868	48	77	39			
2009	3,905	1654	3224	666	2902	3254	446	1144	23	117	67			
2010	3,974	3385	3015	649	3450	3170	351	1123	45	83	42			
2011	4,207	1909	3420	794	3254	3318	285	940	130	66	47			
2012	3,393	1464	3294	838	2795	3279	366	1167	15	40	27			
2013	2,314	1216	2088	484	2318	1275	180	478	8	15	8			
2014	3,141	1693	2660	462	3017	2304	201	719	42	35	21			
2015	2,437	1347	2746	456	2655	803	242	1290	9	13	20			
2016	2,426	1284	2282	590	2476	1755	314	769	41	32	20			
14 YEAR TOTALS 2003-2016	<b>37,980</b>	<b>19,106</b>	<b>34,037</b>	<b>9,169</b>	<b>33,357</b>	<b>28,411</b>	<b>3,910</b>	<b>10,943</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>446</b>			
	Total count on walkers, cyclers, horses, people ,hunters, motor cycles, ATV changed to Encounters 2017							Encounters	Direct-ions	First Aid	CPR			
								<b>106,997</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>			
2017	1,661	855	PARK VISITOR SIGHTING NOT TAKEN										0	
2018	1,739	917	PARK VISITOR SIGHTING NOT TAKEN										0	
2019	2,053	1,070	PARK VISITOR SIGHTING NOT TAKEN										0	
2020	3,663	2,052									626	31	2	0
2021	2,409	1,322	PARK VISITOR SIGHTING NOT TAKEN										0	
2022	4,000	1,808									645	7	2	0
2023	4,692	2,477									1,226	52	0	0
2024	2,780	1,597									843	14	0	0
2025	2,872	1,575									1,895	14	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,849</b>	<b>32,779</b>									<b>112,232</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>

## 2003 – 2025 CHC – VHP Accomplishments

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

In the 23 years since, the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol Program has provided **\$1,596,225.00** in volunteer service hours.

This was accomplished through **63,849** 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: 32,779*

This program helps to promote horseback riding, protect and preserve the trails in the state.

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to over 200 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 our members, because each of your patrol logs, no matter how many hours you patrol and maintain trails adds to the grander total of statewide hours. This service provides CHC, DEEP and other Land Management Areas with information on how the equestrian community is continuing its effort to maintain trails for multiple use, while promoting and educating the community and other equestrians of our volunteer efforts.

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, Forestry Plans and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and Forestry Plan.



L to R: Sue Taricani, Pam Hutchinson, Arlene Doherty, Elizabeth Kennedy, Andrew Liveten, Diane Morton, Gina McManus, Honor Lawlor (TPL), Vevette Greenberg, Ann Marie Seavy-Cioffi, Meg Sautter, Diane Ciano, Fran Hornick, Denise Ciano

**200+ Recognition Hours:**

Meg Sautter **334**  
 Gina McManus **311**  
 Holy Ely **278.5**  
 Melissa Evarts **245**  
 Penny Foisey **240**  
 Susan Crawford **236**

**100+ Recognition Hours**

Kristin Elliott Leas **177.5**  
 Diane Ciano **170**  
 Margaret Lupone **163.5**  
 Ruth Beardsley **147**

**50+ Recognition Hours**

Marie Aparo **86**  
 ShawnaLee Kwashnak **70**  
 Vevette Greenberg **67**  
 Joel Conte **57**  
 Chris Mard **50**

*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*

The Tea Cup Raffle of donated items raised \$80.00. The VHP 5/50 Raffle raised \$85.00 – won by Diane Ciano and returned back to our VHP account. We sold \$35.00 in VHP shirts.

Our guest speaker was **Honor Lawlor, Project Manager for the Trust for Public Land (TLP)**. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create and protect public land where it is needed most.

Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 3 million acres of public land, created more than 5,000 parks, trails, schoolyards and iconic outdoor places, raised \$84 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected more than 9 million people to the outdoors.

This was a very informative meeting about this national organization and how it has helped communities in CT to purchase land for public use. She gave us great information on the Camp Laurel Project in Lebanon and other projects in CT. **See article on TPL Pages16-18**

[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*)

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 – Position Not appointed\* **Ann Marie Seavy Cioffi - CHC Board Reporting**

CT Forest & Park Association – Kristin Connell

DEEP Liaison – Kimberly Bradley

### **2026 Meeting Schedule:**

The EAC meets at the **Newington Human Resources Building**

**200 Garfield Street, Newington, CT.** from 6:30-8 PM on the following Thursdays:

March 19<sup>th</sup>, **June 18<sup>th</sup>**, September 24<sup>th</sup> & December 1<sup>st</sup>

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

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

## Trail News: State Park & Forest Trail Reports / Updates:

*These reports are from our CT Equine Advisory Council Meeting on 3/19/26 & CHC meeting 4/7/26*

### **DEEP - Kim Bradley Reports:**

#### **Larkin Trail:**

- CT DEEP staff continues to work with SLR Consulting Engineers. There will be opportunities for public input not yet planned, it is worth providing any recommendations for surfacing materials and designs that support equestrian access.
- I did some research on the Christian Street parking lot. The land is owned by the Connecticut Airport Authority 300 Christian Street, Oxford, CT 06478

**Priorities Now that Snow has Melted Away:** I am working on coordinating a meeting for equestrian parking at Naugatuck and Paugussett State Forests

- **Naugatuck State Forest:** Parking lot to be expanded to allow horse trailer access. I follow up with setting up a meeting with her and Jeff Dery, Unit Supervisor, Jared Rice (Black Rock SP) and cc Jeremy Hall, to look at the proposed parking area to be reconstructed to allow horse trailer parking access.
- **Paugussett State Forest, Newtown – Boat Launch – Trailer Parking:** I follow up with setting up a meeting.

### **Diane Ciano Reports:**

CHC received notices of updating two the Forest Management Plans and requesting any stakeholder comments:

- **Cockaponset State Forest area** – Forester Alexander Amendola:

“.... offering you an opportunity to voice your opinion on a new Forest Management Plan (FMP) for three blocks of Cockaponset State Forest.... **for comment before May 17<sup>th</sup>** .

These blocks: Westwood-Killingworth-Winthrop Blocks Messerschmidt Pond & Menunketesuck WMAs 4,846 Acres (4,211 SF – 635 WMA) Guilford, Madison, Killingworth, Clinton, Chester, Deep River, Westbrook, and Essex

In addition, there will be an informational session on **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Oak Lodge in Chatfield Hollow State Park at 5:00 PM. This will be a short formal presentation, and a Q&A session. Alexander prefers formal comments to come via email (for record’s sake), but feel free to bring any you have and to : RSVP to Alexander via email or phone call prior to the event.

*Diane Ciano forwarded the plan, to members of the Lower CT River Horsemen’s Club for review, asking input on equestrian concerns so that CHC can respond by email report comment before May 9th meeting.*

- **Nathan Hale State Forest** – Forester Nathan Piché:

This forest encompasses a total of 1,538 acres of state forestland within the towns of Coventry and Andover. A respond with questions, comments or concerns is requested by Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>.

***\*A brief look at the plan I noted in the Management Plan to be discussed:***

Page 14: ***Recreation & Scenic Sites – Trails & Signs:*** *Parking at the forest is limited to roadside pull-offs and Creaser Park. There are no DEEP authorized trails within the forest. The will of the grantor, George Dudley Seymour, states that “the fields and woodland of the Hale Farm...be managed as a state forest by the State Park and Forest Commission in accordance with the principles of scientific forestry, with special reference also to wildlife conservation, including appropriate provision for bird and game sanctuaries.” Skid trails and interior forest roads exist and are open to the public for passive recreation. However, creating access, parking areas and additional recreational trails is not a goal or objective of the DEEP Divisions of Forestry and Parks as there is deemed to be adequate recreational access to the forest in its current state.*

**Page 43: Wildlife-based Recreation**

Wildlife-based recreation provides a significant contribution to the state's economy and revenue generated through hunting license sales and excise taxes on hunting equipment are vital funding mechanisms for conservation related projects. **This funding has allowed the State of Connecticut to acquire additional lands, creating more public lands access opportunities for all recreationalists,** while completing projects to enhance habitat features for a wide variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Measures to curtail the proliferation of unauthorized trails and other unauthorized uses will help ensure viable hunting opportunities persist at Nathan Hale.

**Page 45: Recreation**

Nathan Hale State Forest is used by the public for a variety of different recreational activities including hunting, fishing, hiking, and cycling. Creaser Park, designated recreational area, has two miles of hiking trails, fishing access to Creaser Pond and the Skungamaug River, a disc golf course, a pavilion, and several small buildings that have been used to host various recreational group functions.

**Outside of Creaser Park, there are no DEEP authorized trails. However, Nathan Hale State Forest contains an extensive network of unauthorized trails. This unauthorized trail system is found throughout the forest,** most notably in compartments 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, and 14. These trails traverse the forest in circuitous routes, covering a total of 33 miles. A subset these trails are skid trails that were made to facilitate access to the forest for forest management activities. However, many trail segments are trail user created single track trails. Mountain biking is the primary use of these trails.

**Page 48: Management Goals** • **Support sustainable recreation**

## 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. [CT Greenways Council](#)

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 [kimberly.bradley@ct.gov](mailto:kimberly.bradley@ct.gov).

## CT GREENWAYS Report:

### **Kim Bradley DEEP Reports:** Recreational Trail Grant Round:

- Review of the 2025 CT Recreational Trail Grant round application continues. The applications are fully scored and review the Greenways Council Subcommittee begins tomorrow and runs into early April. We are still waiting on formal allocation of the Bond Commission funds.
- The 2026 Greenways Awards: June 5, 2026: Reminder to provide nominations for award recipients with April/May timeframe.

### **Ann Marie Seavy Cioffi Reports:**

I sent in my request and Bio along with the recommendation letters from EAC and CHC to Governor Lamont - both hard copies and did the on-line application. Waiting to hear back.

The Greenways scoring committee will be signing a no conflict-of-interest agreement. This is a new procedure with the State.

Greenways money is not yet formally bonded but according to the Chair, it will be soon. 10 million will be bonded by summer and the process of grants is now six weeks behind. There will have to be two or three days of meetings to evaluate the grants.

The Chair and Director of Greenways are working on a chart for tracking projects which has become necessary since there are so many projects in the works.

Chris Roberts from Department of Transportation reports that the first round of micro grants is taking place. \$750,000 in grant money is available. Waterbury got six grants and grants are awarded on a first come first serve basis.

There is \$8,178.15 in the Greenways Council plate program and the council is looking for a treasurer or a fiscal agent to take over the Accounting.

### **Airline State Park/Greenways meeting**

The State is making minor enhancements to the Airline Trail. The gates will be replaced with vertical columns up to Windsor. (Note: how much spacing between columns necessary for horses to pass? 3-4'?)

Work on the Connection from East Hampton to Portland continues to move forward, survey work being done for construction next season of the design and resurfacing in the Hampton area.

The Airline Trail logo will be trademarked, and the Chair will have Airline become a 501c3. The North/South maps are being printed and cover from Portland to Middletown.

In conclusion the Chair recognizes that lately the many organizations involved with the Greenways Council are communicating well and it is making a notable difference for the state.

### **Upcoming Greenways Events:**

- **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Bike to workday is from West Hartford to the old state house.
- **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>** - Ride the airline trail from Goodwin to Pomfret.
- **Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>** - **Connecticut Greenways Council – National Trails Day Kick-Off**  
Greenway Awards will be presented at Manchester Park
- **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** 10-20 mile run on part of the Airline Trail.
- **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>** Street Fest in Willimantic. Hop River festival is the same weekend.

## Out Reach / Education: UP COMING EVENTS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

If any can help out with bringing a horse(s) to these events, please contact Diane Ciano 203-910-9919 or 203-757-1904 Thank you.

### No Child Left Inside (NCLI) Events: <https://ctparks.com/NCLI>

#### MAY

- **Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>** - NCLI and Fish with CARE Families in the Parks Program-Family Fishing Day- at **Black Rock State Park, Thomaston, CT** 10 am to 3 pm
- **Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>** - NCLI Families in the Parks Program 2026 -Family Day in the Park (Kids to Parks Day recognized Nationally) at **Stratton Brook State Park, Simsbury, CT** from 10 am to 2 pm (biking, hiking/walking, nature

#### JUNE

- **Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>** - NCLI Families in the Parks Program in partnership with DEEP Boating -Boating Day Event at **Lake Waramaug State Park, Kent, CT** - 12 to 4 pm

#### JULY

- **Saturday July 18<sup>h</sup>** - NCLI Families in the Parks Program in partnership with DEEP Boating -Boating Day Event at **Mansfield Hollow State Park, Mansfield, CT** - 12 to 4 pm

#### AUGUST

- **Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>** - **Dino Day at Dinosaur State Park, Summer Festival, Rocky Hill** 10 am to 3 pm
- **Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup>** - NCLI Families in the Parks Program -Saltwater Fishing Day with Fish with CARE at **Fort Trumbull State Park, New London** - 10 to 3 pm
- **Friday /Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>** - NCLI Families in the Parks Program with the Last Green Valley and the Friends of **Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown, CT** - Perseids Meteor Shower/Campout - Pachaug State Forest Youth Group Camping Area.
- **Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>** - NCLI Families in the Parks Program in partnership with DEEP Boating -Boating Day Event at **Hopeville Pond State Park, Griswold, CT** from 12 to 4 pm

#### September

- **Friday/Saturday/Sunday - September 11, 12, 13, 2026** - Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend-Campout at **Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT** (*for registered Girl Scouts and their families*)  
**Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup>** - Bat Appreciation Day at **Old New-Gate Prison & Coppermine, East Granby, CT** from 10 am to 3 pm



### Other Reports: Out Reach & Education:

***We are looking for volunteers to help promote the CHC – Its Mission and Vision  
If any have ideas please contact us!***

#### ***Danielle Borrelli Reports:***

*I spoke with the North Branford library staff the other night and they said if we want to use the community room, we just have to ask. No cost or anything. They'll help us set up the projector for any presentations. So whenever we determine when we want to schedule our first presentation, I can run over and ask about the date. I'm waiting for some things to calm down at work to make sure my schedule will also calm down. Maybe then we can come up with a schedule for different presentations we want to do.*

*I was also thinking, we may want to do some "market research" on what issues CT horse owners are currently thinking about or interested in learning more about. We focus a lot on trails and trail riding, because most of us focus on that in our horse lives. But reaching out to more of the larger sport horse communities in our state might help bring in more members. Possibly setting up informational tables at larger Hunter/Jumper, Dressage, or Western shows around the state? I'm happy to attend a few shows at Mystic or Westbrook, not sure if they are still the big ones since it's been a bit since I've actually shown. I can do some research on that if we're interested. We can also ask in online spaces like the CT horse Facebook groups to get an idea of what people are thinking about or even what days/times work best for our target audiences.*

*Finally, I'm planning on attending the CT Land Conservation Council annual conference in March. I'm going since I joined the North Branford Land Trust. It's at Wesleyan University in Middletown. I'm trying to pick workshops and seminars that will also help us with some of the things we focus on with the EAC and CHC like "Interpretive Messaging: Ensuring Your Publications, Kiosks, and Exhibits are Effective" and "CT Farmland Loss: What's at Stake and What We Can Do About It". Hopefully I'll be able to bring back some interesting ideas!*



Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a U.S. national nonprofit organization founded in 1972 that conserves land for people, creating parks, trails, and protecting natural spaces to ensure healthy, livable communities that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. TPL connects people to the outdoors by protecting public land, transforming schoolyards, and preserving 5,000+ sites.

*Their goal is to help towns, land trusts and other land management agencies preserve land, heritage, and community for future generations by developing plans for communities to acquire land and raise money with the help of the generosity of private supporters.*

In Connecticut alone, TPL preserved over **8,495** acres of open land and completed more than **108** active and completed projects. <https://www.tpl.org/state/connecticut#statemap>

## Working Farms



The Trust for Public Land helps municipalities and other local partners conserve farmland under pressure or directly threatened with development. TPL has successfully saved dairy farms, hayfields, and agricultural fields from the “Quiet Corner” in the northeast to the Litchfield Hills in the northwest.

**Litchfield Hills Greenprint** In response to the growing threat of development in the scenic Litchfield Hills, TPL partnered with the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) to create The Litchfield Hills Greenprint Program. The Greenprint utilizes the latest mapping technology to identify conservation priorities, to engage local land trusts and municipalities in their permanent protection, and to define a regional conservation vision. TPL then provides expertise in conservation funding and transactions to achieve ambitious goals to protect the rural character and traditional defining features of the Litchfield Hills.



Public lands are essential to our environment and our well-being. Protecting them is up to all of us. *Join the Conservation Movement — **Public lands** need protection. Help protect **public land**, strengthen communities, and preserve green spaces.*

The 410-mile Connecticut River is New England’s largest river, draining a 7.2-million-acre watershed that supports fisheries, farmlands, forests, and fresh water in four states: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. While 89 percent of the watershed is undeveloped, its lands and resources are under constant threat of development. Without strategic, community-initiated conservation, the resources that sustain community identity, ecological integrity, and the land’s economic viability will be lost.

To date, The TPL has conserved more than 170,000 acres in the watershed. Our focus areas are:

- **Farmland:** lands with highly productive soils, capable of economically viable local food production.
- **Fisheries:** places capable of supporting native Eastern Brook Trout and other coldwater fish species. This strategy will help mitigate for habitat loss resulting from climate change.
- **Community open spaces:** lands communities identify as important that support multiple public benefits, including recreation, community forests, and fresh water.

## CT Projects - COMMING SOON:

**Camp Laurel, Lebanon** (Preserving a treasured Connecticut space, currently owned by the Girl Scouts of Connecticut - 350 Acres to protect with 6-mile Trail Network Coming for Public Use with and possible connection to the Airline State Park), [Camp Laurel - Our Work in CT](#)

**Farm River, North Branford** Keeping the cherished Farm River clean for water, wildlife, and community- Adding a new open space, trails, and connection to a beautiful, time-honored state park while protecting the Farm River headwaters. <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/farm-river>

**Nelson Augustus Moore Homestead, Berlin** (Protecting a 27-acre parcel, historic site for preservation while increasing park and trail access for community-driven conservation in Berlin). [Nelson Augustus Moore Homestead - Our Work in CT](#)

**Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge** (Expanding public access while improving coastal resilience) to conserve 20 acres of vital coastal habitat adjacent to the Refuge–Salt Meadow Unit. Located in one of the state’s most densely populated regions, this land provides essential buffers against flooding and storm surges, supports critical habitat for migratory birds, and offers much-needed access to nature for nearby communities. [Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge - Our Work in CT](#)

**Sterling Street Sanctuary, Hartford** (Protecting a community space and vision to invest in and safeguard the spaces communities rely on most. 1.2 acres of meaningful green space - 6,550 residents in the Upper Albany neighborhood. [Sterling Street Sanctuary - Our Work in CT](#)

## FUNDRAISING PROJECTS:

**Bridgeport Seawalk** (Proposing a 20-mile seawalk on the Bridgeport waterfront). [Bridgeport Seawalk - Our Work in CT](#)

**Meadowood, Simsbury** (Protecting a historic farm where Martin Luther King Jr. worked as a teenager and open the farm to the public, grow a trail network, and keep the farmland active for generations to come - 285 acres protected, 117-acre conservation easement secured, 75+years of history preserved. <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/meadowood>

## SOME OF THE MANY PROJECTS COMPLETED:

**Copps Brook, Stonington** (Preventing development on a 230-acre forested parcel 230 acres protected, 100 acres designated as part of the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge). [Copps Brook - Our Work in CT](#)

**Darrow Pond, East Lyme** (301 acres are adjacent to 3,600 acres of open space. The Town hopes to purchase the land for conservation, recreation, and drinking water storage and protection, while also creating the only town park north of Interstate-95. TPL currently holds an option to purchase the property for the town. [Darrow Pond - Our Work in CT](#)

**Ethel Walker Woods, Simsbury** (TLP worked with the community to permanently protect the entire 427 acres. Now, the woods form a valuable link between parks, town forests, and the Farmington River Greenway—all part of the Connecticut River watershed). <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/ethel-walker-woods>

**Ferris Farm, Newtown** (Family-owned since 1864, Ferris Farm is the last operating dairy farm in Fairfield County. TPL permanently protected this historic farm. The Town now holds a conservation easement, and the Ferris family will continue to manage the farm and carry on the family's—and the land's—legacy in Newtown) [Ferris Farm - Our Work in CT](#)

**Hunt Hill Farm, New Milford** (82 Acres Protected on a 190 / Year-Old Site/ Nationally/ Recognized Historic Site. TPL developed a plan to conserve the farm while honoring its cultural value. Through a charitable remainder trust, 82 acres of the property has been permanently protected, ensuring the land remains open, intact, and accessible.. [Hunt Hill Farm - Our Work in CT](#)

**Jones Mountain, New Hartford** (TPL completed transfer of the 157-acre property from the Jones family, who had owned the land for five generations, to the Town of New Hartford for permanent protection. <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/jones-mountain>

**Mono Pond State Park Reserve, Columbia** (Adding 403 acres to a beloved 218-acre reserve – 50 miles of trails accessed) \*\*\* **Looking ahead, there's an opportunity to add yet another 600 acres to this reserve—bringing its footprint to about 1,200 acres. And with the right effort and team in place, we're confident that this will become a reality.** [Mono Pond State Park Reserve - Our Work in CT](#)

**Philips Farm, New Hartford** . TPL worked with the Philips family to permanently protect the land by securing a conservation easement on the 59-acre property.. The land connects to a 300-acre greenway stretching from the Goula Open Space Area to Antolini School, protecting important natural resources and wildlife habitat. <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/philips-farm-new-hartford>

**Phillips Farm, Southbury** (TLP helped the Southbury Land Trust to permanently protect Phillips Farm as open space includes active farmland, a nature preserve and public hiking trails. Saving Phillips Farm was key to saving other nearby farms and a way of life for a unique agricultural community). [Phillips Farm, Southbury - Our Work in CT](#)

**Skiff Mountain, Sharon/ Kent** (TPL assembled federal funding to purchase conservation easements on more than 700 acres. The state now manages the easements, and the land creates important linkages to more than 7,000 acres of other protected open space, including Macedonia Brook State Park and the Appalachian Trail) [Skiff Mountain - Our Work in CT](#)

**Taine Mountain, Burlington** (TLP with the Burlington Land Trust to protect 105 acres adjoining the existing Taine Mountain Preserve to connect with the Nassahegon State Forest). <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/taine-mountain>

**The Preserve** (Middlesex County - protecting 1,000 acres from housing and golf course development to offer extensive green space to the community while protecting vital habitats and water sources) [The Preserve - Our Work in CT](#)

**Water Works Brook, Windsor Locks** 198-acres <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/water-works-brook>  
The \$2 million conservation easement permanently protects the land, while sparing the town the cost of an outright property purchase.

**Weir Farm National Historic Park, Wilton** [Weir Farm National Historic Site - Our Work in CT](#)  
Protected the 60-acre farm of legendary impressionist painter J. Alden Weir.

**Wilkus Farm, Wethersfield** <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/wilkus-farm> Keeping the historic land free from development and retaining its character was a top priority of the town, which rallied to secure funding for the 81-acre property in a series of moves

## CT Horse Council Membership 2026 – Spring Newsletter

*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.*

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

### 2026 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Daniel Barnett – Providence, RI  
 \*Ruth Beardsley – Bethany  
 John Bennett – Putnam  
 Carol Birdsey – Middletown  
 \*Danielle Borrelli – Northford  
 Sally Carter – Nashua, NH  
 \*Jean Casella – Higganum  
 \*Rain Chocholka – Waterbury  
 \*Denise Ciano – Wolcott  
 \*Diane Ciano – Plymouth  
 \*Susan Crawford – Hampton  
 Paul DeNio – New Hartford  
 \*Arlene Doherty – Stafford Springs  
 Michelle Dubner – West Hartford  
 \*Kowboy Ken Forcier – Oxford  
 \*Vevette Greenberg – Oxford  
 Fran Hornick – Bridgeport  
 \*Cory Iacino – Harwinton  
 Cathy Latulipe – Torrington  
 Andrew Liveten – Bethany  
 Lisa Mazzotta-Ivaldi – Glastonbury  
 \*Billie McNealy – Waterford  
 \*Diane Morton – Lebanon  
 Karen Muller – Bethany  
 Jennifer Nadeau – Andover  
 Debbie O'Donnell – Allenstown, NH  
 Randy Olmstead – Terryville  
 Carol Parker – New Fairfield  
 Mary Petruzzi – Woodbury  
 Jennifer Reilly – Coventry  
 Katie Richards – Bethel  
 Gary Rutkauskas – Plymouth  
 \*Janet Samperi – North Haven  
 Celeste Santos-Rivera – Voluntown  
 \*Meg Sautter – Newington  
 Ann Marie Seavey-Cioffi – Danbury  
 Jeremy Serwer – East Woodstock  
 Marcia Sigman – Portland  
 Maryann Smith – Salem  
 \*Ruth Strontzer – Haddam  
 \*Susan Taricani – Stafford Springs

### 2026 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Anna Tardif – Lebanon  
 Aubrey Tarr – Willimantic  
 Bethany Thatcher – Sandy Hook  
 Penny Urbanowicz – Enfield  
 Karen von Bachel – South Windsor  
 Teresa Waitkins – Stafford Springs

### 2026 FAMILY MEMBERS

\*Cathy Clouse & Jim – Cheshire  
 \*Joel Conte & Joanne – Southington  
 \*Holly Ely - Jay & Nora – Granby  
 Ted Hintz – Middle Haddam  
 Carolann Keeley – Wilton  
 \*Ed Levin & Patricia – Bristol  
 Carla & Bob Lord – Southbury  
 Nancy & Richard Mangino – Cheshire  
 Alice & Neil Marrinan Family – Oakdale  
 Don & Jean Nordell – East Windsor  
 \*Nancy Palermo-Lee & John – Westbrook

### 2026 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Bethany Horsemen, Inc.  
 CT Trail Riders Association  
 Horse Council of Granby CT  
 Litchfield Hills Driving Club  
 Middlebury Bridal Land Association  
 Pomfret Horse & Trails Association  
 Reddington Rock Riding Club

### 2026 SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

B & H Blacksmith & Farrier LLC /  
 Bud Dore & Hannah Calbick  
 Drafty Pines Farm / Emily Chaplin  
 Dream Hill Farm / Victoria Conlin  
 Doug Dubitsky, Esq.  
 Express Your Pet, LLC / Laurianne Goulet  
 Neigh.com / Lauren Pire-Vocell  
 Rebel Therapy / Rebecca Baker  
 United Ag & Turf / Russell Baker

## 2026 SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

*If your organization is not on the supporting organizations list won't you please consider supporting your state horse council - Contact. Carol Birdsey. [membership@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:membership@cthorsecouncil.org) 860-344-1804*



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



Litchfield Hills Driving Club

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



Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club

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



Middlebury Bridle Land Association

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



Pomfret Horse & Trail Association

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



REDDINGTON ROCK RIDING CLUB

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

## 2026 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.*

**B&H Blacksmith  
& Farriery LLC**  
**(860)-309-4025**  
 Bud Dore, CJF  
 Hannah Calbick, CF  
 b.hfarriery@gmail.com  
 Morris, CT 06763



**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](http://www.draftypinesfarm.com)  
 email: [draftypinesfarm@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.



*Dream Hill Farm*  
 LLC

Horse Programs - Equine Events - Horse Boarding  
 East Haddam - Victoria Conlin 860-682-0834

*Express Your Pet*  
 Grooming • Boarding • Daycare



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (860) 563-7387  
 Time: \_\_\_\_\_ [www.expressyourpet.com](http://www.expressyourpet.com)  
 945 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**Neigh.com**  
 Boxford MA  
 Lauren  
 978- 409-5748

**Rebel Therapy**  
 Bovine & Equine Therapy  
 Cold Fascia Mobilization & Cyro Therapy  
 Rebecca Baker 860-398- 0831



**United Ag & Turf**  
 119 S. Main Street, East Windsor, CT  
 Russell Baker [\(860\) 623-8296](tel:8606238296)

## 2026-2027 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)

### **Chairman of the Board**

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

### **Committee Chairs:**

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

### **1st Vice President**

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

### **Board of Directors:**

**Denise Ciano**  
Wolcott, CT

**Kowboy Ken Forcier**  
Oxford, CT

### **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)

### **2nd Vice President**

**Meg Sautter**  
Newington, CT

**Vevette Greenberg**  
Oxford, CT

### **Legislative** **OPEN**

### **3rd Vice President**

**Randy Olmstead**  
Terryville, CT

**Gary Rutkauskas**  
Plymouth, CT

### **Publicity / Newsletter**

**Diane Ciano**  
**Ann Marie Seavy-Cioffi**

### **Treasurer**

**Laurianne Goulet**  
Cromwell, CT

**Ruth Strontzer,**  
Haddam, CT

### **Road Safe** **Diane Ciano**

### **Membership Secretary**

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

### **Trails**

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

### **Recording Secretary**

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

### **Web Site**

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

### **Zoning** **Cory Iacino**

THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

2026

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 www.cthorsecouncil.org
Durham, CT 06422-0057 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.**