



# Connecticut Horse Council

## Newsletter

Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education

Fall 2007

www.cthorsecouncil.org



### Letter from the President

This issue of our newsletter contains some happy news about award recipients for HEAP, and the Sayers Memorial Trophy. The HEAP awards stress best management practices, and those farms who worked hard benefit the entire community with their efforts. The 4-H members who were awarded the Sayers Memorial Trophy are dedicated riders, and our leaders of tomorrow. If you know any of these individuals please congratulate them on a job well done. Also of note was the recent filming by WFSB news of trails Chair Diane Ciano and the Volunteer Horse Patrol. The news crew went out on Patrol with the VHP to chronicle what they do in partnership with DEP. Read more about this further down in this newsletter.

It is unfortunate that I also have to report that we still have zoning issues cropping up throughout the state. It is important to remember that all horse owners need to be aware of what is happening in their towns, because your involvement can make all the difference. Do not be complacent about something just because it is not occurring in your town now, because eventually it will. We must all work together, or we will all suffer. If you hear of an issue relative to horses or agriculture in any town or at the state level, please contact CHC so that we can take action.

There are a number of important issues which CHC has been undertaking recently, and as we expand, we need more volunteers. Please consider joining one of our committees, or even volunteering for a single event. We are hosting disaster and fire prevention trainings, attending trade shows, and ensuring our informational material is made available to any group or organization that needs it. Of particular need are grant writers, as we would like to apply for various types of funding. Any assistance you can lend us is greatly appreciated. Our volunteers make us strong, and **You** can make all the difference.

The next Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) monthly meeting is on November 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the NU building. All CHC members and friends are invited to attend.

The CHC monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month from October to June, at the Northeast Utilities building, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT. Meeting start time is 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise. For directions, see the map above.

#### **Meeting dates for 2007 are as follows:**

**November 6**                      **December 4**

**2008**

**January 1**                              **February 5**

**March 4**                                **April 1**

**May 6**                                  **June 3**

Welcome to all our new members! Your support allows the Connecticut Horse Council to fight for the rights of horse owners in the State of Connecticut for trail, zoning, and legislative issues.

**A reminder, it's getting close to the end of the year so don't forget to renew your membership before December 31<sup>st</sup>. Remember, your membership is needed to keep our programs going. Visit us at the Equine Affaire at booth no. 2601 in the Stroh Building.**

**Thanks to you all,**

**Carol Birdsey**  
Membership Secretary



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA) who held a fund raiser for the Connecticut Horse Council. A great turnout of close to 100 people showed up for fun and to support the CHC. A BIG Thank you to NBLA for their innovative idea and hard work to help the Council with our missions. And special thanks to Ed & Lucy Prybylski of Happy Trails Farm, who offered their wonderful farm for the event. Please read details about the "hoe down" in this issue. We hope it will inspire others to help us continue to our work for the equestrian community of Connecticut.

Also, special thanks to High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center, for allowing us to use their beautiful facility for our equine disaster training in July. This was an important event, and High Hopes was instrumental in ensuring that it was a success.

We are again heading to Equine Affaire in Massachusetts November 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. For those who may be interested, we will have brochures on new topics, as well as CHC lapel pins for sale. Stop in and say hello, we want to see you.

Amy Stegall

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### **Recipients of the 2007 HEAP Awards Announced.**

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. congratulates the winners of the 2007 HEAP Awards. These horse farms strive to be environmentally friendly, and their efforts are appreciated. For more information about HEAP, please contact Carol Donzella at 203-284-3663.

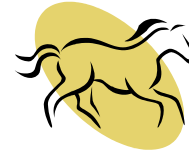
#### **What Is HEAP?**

The Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP) is a coalition of federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in educating horse people on Best Management Practices to protect the environment.

The efforts of the group are funded by educational funds available through the United States Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

The group has created an awareness video entitled "Good Horsekeeping - Managing Manure to Protect the Environment" (15 min.), plans a series of local workshops, and is presenting the Horse Farm of Environmental Distinction Award Program for Connecticut.

Participating members include the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, The Connecticut Farm Bureau, The Connecticut Horse Council, Connecticut Soil & Water Conservation Districts, King's Mark Resource Conservation & Development Area, University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.



**2007**

### **Horse Farms of Environmental Distinction Award Recipients:**

**Jessica Anderson/Bryan Hogan**  
Gone Away Farm, Voluntown

**Susan Ayers**  
Birch Meadow Farm, Tolland

**Sandra and Matt Belcourt**  
River's Edge Farm, Hamden

**Heidi and Patrick Corrigan**  
Regal Bay Farm, Tolland

**Dee Doolittle**  
Mitchell Farm Equine, Salem

**Cindy Fazendiero**  
Middletown

**Eric Hoxie**  
Red Oak Stables, LLC, Lebanon

**Courtney Lawrence**  
Riverview Farm, Uncasville

**Kristen Elliott Leas**  
Seven Eights Farm, Killingworth

**Michael and Barbara Lutz**  
Ponsette Plains Farm, Higganum

**Pat McNamee**  
Crows Nest Farm, East Haddam

**Kristen Abatiello-Neff**  
New Canaan Mounted Troop, New Canaan

**Carla Nelson**  
Fairfield County Hunt Club, Westport

**Sara and John O'Connell**  
Cortabel Farm, LLC, Bloomfield

**Julie Shepherd**  
White Wood Farm, Killingworth

**Holly Sundmaker**  
High Hopes, Old Lyme

**Katherine and Robert Tobey**  
Hollow Tree Farm, Killingworth

**Dorothy Valle**  
Flying Equestrian Preserve, Oxford



### Zoning Update:

The town of Tolland planning and zoning commission announced proposed zoning changes in June relative to agriculture and the keeping of livestock, including horses. There were several sections of the proposed changes that CHC had objections to, so we submitted comments along with documentation at the initial public hearing. In response to the information CHC submitted, the PZC tabled the hearing for continuance twice, and then ultimately pulled the proposed regulations at the third meeting at the end of July.

The three pages of regulations would have increased restraints on agricultural activities, and given more oversight to the PZC, including requiring a permit to be issued by the zoning officer for any large animals being kept. Also, there were no exceptions for 4H project animals, and therefore 4Hers would have had to meet all the new zoning requirements, which would have been difficult.

CHC is happy to report that the Tolland PZC has completely withdrawn their proposal, and is deciding whether to move forward with another attempt. We have been assured by the PZC, that if they choose to pursue any further changes, they will include CHC in the discussions. CHC appreciates the fact that the PZC was willing to accept our input, and we look forward to being of assistance to them in the future.

We will keep our members informed about this issue as appropriate. If you have any questions, please contact President Amy Stegall at [president@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:president@cthorsecouncil.org). You may also visit our website at [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Journal Inquirer:

**Journal Inquirer.com**  
NORTH-CENTRAL CONNECTICUT'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

08/10/2007

**Livestock rules getting second look**

**By: Mark D. Simpson ,  
Journal Inquirer**

**TOLLAND - The Planning and Zoning Commission will discuss possible revisions to previously withdrawn amendments to the town's livestock regulations at its next meeting.**

The PZC is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m., Monday. The discussion will not be an open public hearing. Since the livestock amendments were withdrawn, the hearing was therefore closed. Now revisions would be discussed in a planning phase.

Numerous concerns were raised during the public hearing on the effect the regulations would have on livestock in town, Town Planner Linda Farmer said.

Farmer said that the current regulations allow people with two acres of property to have livestock. Also, there

must be a 75-foot setback from a structure that houses livestock or a corral that doesn't have vegetation.

PZC Chairwoman Marilee K. Beebe-Kostrun said that the PZC members would now "look to redirect ourselves."

Beebe-Kostrun said the intent of the amendments was to simply update the regulations.

"This section is intended to promote, protect, and encourage the rural character of Tolland by allowing for the keeping of livestock within the community in a manner that will protect neighbors from associated negative impacts," the proposed amendment states.

Under the amendments, a farm would have been considered a tract of three acres or more used principally for "agricultural activities, forestry, nursery, or truck gardening or for raising, keeping, or sale of livestock and fowl, but excluding the raising of fur-bearing animals."

Amy Stegall, president of the Connecticut Horse Council, and her organization had some objections to the amendments.

Stegall said there was no exception for 4-H or FFA animals in the amendments.

She also said that the amendments would have required a permit to keep any large animals. Stegall said this isn't typically done in the state, and the law would put another provision on farmers.

Stegall also said her organization was against the amendments because it would have had power in the subject of animal husbandry. She said that state law guarantees farmers the right to regulate that subject and the PZC would have been going beyond its zoning power. "They got a little carried away," Stegall said.

Beebe-Kostrun said the concerns of Stegall and others were why the amendments were withdrawn. But she said the Connecticut Horse Council is willing to work with the PZC on the issue if the commission decides to push forward.

Stegall gave the PZC credit. She said the members were good about reading provided information and hearing comments. She also said that writing zoning regulations can be difficult. "I'm hopeful we can work something out that can satisfy everyone," Stegall said.

Beebe-Kostrun said as the PZC moves forward she wants to stay in contact with the horse council during the process.

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### **CHC/VSEMA Equine Disaster Planning Day**

**Contacts: Amy Stegall Connecticut Horse Council 860-684-6583**

**Dave Roberge Valley Shore Emergency Management Association 860-434-4464**

In July, approximately 75 horse owners and first responders came together in Old Lyme to learn about issues they could face during disasters. The event was a collaborative effort between the Valley Shore Emergency Management Association, The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc., and High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center.





This event allowed horse and barn owners to learn about potential disaster scenarios, and how to plan for the issues they might encounter. First responders learned the basics of horse psychology, and how to halter and lead a horse if needed. The session also provided an opportunity for first responders and horse owners to interact and discuss scenarios, so that they could learn about each other and foster relationships.

Some of the important topics covered included barn fire prevention, evacuation planning, pre-mitigation steps, basic emergency kits, the mechanics of properly loading horse trailers, and insurance issues. The morning session consisted of a lecture and power point presentation at Old Lyme middle school, followed by lunch and hands on horse work for the first responders at High Hopes in the afternoon.

This event was a first for Connecticut, and additional planning sessions are expected to be held in the future. It also occurred just in time for the recent passage of legislation which would require towns in Connecticut to consider horses and livestock in their emergency plans.

The Valley Shore Emergency Management Association (VSEMA) is comprised of the emergency managers of 13 Connecticut shoreline towns. The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. (CHC) is an all volunteer organization dedicated to representing the horse industry in Connecticut. High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center is a NARHA accredited handicapped riding facility located in Old Lyme. For more information about CHC, please visit [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org). For more information about High Hopes, please visit [www.highhopestr.org](http://www.highhopestr.org).



Above, first responders, participants, and CHC members gather around the fire apparatus. Below, Fred Mastele of CHC and Apache from High Hopes show a firefighter details about halters.



## CHC items available at Equine Affaire!

Come and visit the CHC booth at Equine Affaire in Massachusetts, we are booth number 2601 in the Stroh Building. We will have new brochures available on various subjects, and our **NEW CHC Lapel Pins** for sale, along with CHC mugs and other items.

Don't forget that the holidays are fast approaching. A gift membership to CHC makes a great stocking stuffer.

Stop in and say hello, renew your membership or just chat with members of the board. We look forward to seeing you. Tell your friends about us!

## The Connecticut Horse Council Awards Sayers Memorial Trophy to 4-H Riders

The Connecticut Horse Council is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Sayers Memorial Trophy, which honors the memory of past Connecticut Horse Council president Norman Sayers. Norm Sayers was an avid Morgan Horse enthusiast from New Hartford, and this award is given annually in his memory at each of the county 4-H shows to the winner of the Connecticut Horse Council Pleasure Class.

The New Haven/Middlesex county trophy was presented by Dawn Andrews CHC member to Jessica Matulis and her 19 year old Quarter Horse Beauty & Bliss. Jessica is 18 years old, lives in Berlin and is a member of the Berlin Trail Dusters 4-H Club.

The New London county trophy was presented by Kathy Kane, CHC board member, to Jen Krist and her Quarter Horse Mr. Jay Bee Lynn. Jen is 16 years old, lives in Marlborough, and is a member of the Marlborough Tails & Trails 4-H Club.

The Litchfield Trophy was presented by Josephine Barker, CHC board member, to Gabrella Grela and her 20 year old pony Wildfire (aka Blaze). Gabrella is 12 years old and lives in Harwinton. She is a member of the Laurel Riders 4-H Club.

The Windham county trophy was presented by Shelly Fetterhoff CHC Secretary to Brittany Belisle and her horse Lasting Fragrance. Brittany is a member of the Rough Riders 4-H club.

Both the Tolland & Hartford county trophies were presented by Amy Stegall, CHC President, to Beth Harvey and her Quarter Horse Shag Bark's Chocolate Royalty (aka "Albert"). Beth is 18, has been riding for 9 years, and is a member of the East Windsor Post & Bouncer 4-H club.

The Fairfield county trophy was presented to Betty Ann Pjura and her Paint horse Splash. Splash was in a very serious trailer accident in 2005, and



after her recuperation, attended this show to win the CHC Pleasure Class.

The trophy is donated each year by "Mr. Trophy", which is based in Hartford. Mr. Trophy has been in business since 1963 and designs trophies for many events. CHC would like to thank Mr. Trophy for their loyal support and beautiful awards. The ribbons are donated by the CHC. Photos of all the winners can be viewed on the CHC website.

\*\*Pictured are CHC officer Josephine Barker and 4-H member Gabrella Grela on Wildfire



**Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

WHIP has proven to be a highly effective and widely accepted program across the country. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on all lands and aquatic areas, WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners who are unable to meet the specific eligibility requirements of other USDA conservation programs.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 reauthorized WHIP as a voluntary approach to improving wildlife habitat in our Nation. Program administration of WHIP is provided under the Natural Resources Conservation Service. **The deadline for consideration of Fiscal Year 2008 applications is November 2, 2007.** Sign-ups will be conducted at USDA Service Centers.

There is no maximum funding cap. Applications are funded on a competitive basis, statewide, and are dependent upon available funding.

**What Type of Areas Qualify?**

- Grasslands, Streams and Rivers
- Wetlands (tidal and non-tidal)
- State Identified Imperiled Habitats
- Shallow and Deep Water Habitats
- Old Fields
- Early Successional Woodlands
- Riparian Areas

**Applicants are required to:**

- Sign up using Conservation Agreement Form CCC-1200
- Work with NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) personnel to identify property
- Work with NRCS and FSA to determine participant eligibility
- Work with NRCS field staff to evaluate the property and develop a Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP)

**Application Considerations:**

- Minimum acreage: 1 acre upland; ¼ acre wetland or riparian, or imperiled habitat of any size
- Compliance with USDA Farm Bill provisions required
- A certified Forest Stewardship Plan must be in place for all woodland clearing applications
- Average Adjusted Gross Income compliance required
- Funds cannot be used for mitigation

**WHIP CONTACTS:**

**Fairfield/Litchfield Counties**

(860) 626-0258

[Kathleen.Johnson@ct.usda.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Johnson@ct.usda.gov)

**Hartford/Tolland Counties**

(860) 688-7725

[Raymond.Covino@ct.usda.gov](mailto:Raymond.Covino@ct.usda.gov)

**Middlesex/New Haven Counties**

(203) 269-7509

[Richard.Kszystyniak@ct.usda.gov](mailto:Richard.Kszystyniak@ct.usda.gov)

**New London County**

(860) 887-3604

[Javier.Cruz@ct.usda.gov](mailto:Javier.Cruz@ct.usda.gov)

**Windham County**

(860) 774-0224

[Nancy.Ferlow@ct.usda.gov](mailto:Nancy.Ferlow@ct.usda.gov)

**WHIP Program Manager**

(860) 871-4011

[Jan.Dybdahl@ct.usda.gov](mailto:Jan.Dybdahl@ct.usda.gov)



## **NEWTOWN BRIDLE LANDS ASSOCIATION (NBLA) HOLDS HOE-DOWN TO BENEFIT CHC**

On August 25<sup>th</sup> the NBLA held an old fashioned Hoe Down to benefit the CHC. Attendees received a barbeque dinner and an evening of fun, games and dancing. Happy Trails Farm gave us a wonderful demonstration of their drill team. Activities included a tug of war rope contest where winners received "special winner glasses" to light up the night. Then onto a roping contest to test their skills on the mannequin bull heads. An old fashioned barn dance up in the loft topped off the evening. A great turnout of close to 100 people showed up for fun and to support the CHC. A BIG Thank you goes to NBLA for their innovative idea and hard work to help the Council with our missions. **Special Thanks to Dee Davis and Cindy Miller and all the members of NBLA that worked hard on this successful event and to Lucy & Ed Prybylski who offered their wonderful Happy Trails Farm for the event.** We hope it will inspire others to help us continue our work for the equestrian community of Connecticut.



**Drill team performing at the Happy Trails Farm BBQ and Hoe Down.**

### **CHC WEBSITE**

Do not forget to check out the CHC website at [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org) to view news and alerts, updates, and more. On our publications page, we have added many brochures and handouts on various important topics such as West Nile virus, barn fire prevention, equine vital signs, farmland conservation and more. We are also highlighting a section on our business members soon, so that horse owners can support Connecticut equine related businesses. Also, if you have a calendar event to submit, please contact our webmaster with the details: [webmaster@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:webmaster@cthorsecouncil.org)

### **Make a no cost donation to CHC through IGive**

CHC is now listed with "IGive" online shopping! IGive is an online shopping mall, whose companies participate in charitable giving. They have more than 600 online stores participating in the program, including Lands End, Cabelas, 1-800-FLOWERS.COM, Back in the Saddle, Barnes & Noble and more....

All you need to do is register, and then use their online portal to access the store of your choice. Each company provides a percentage of their proceeds from your purchases to the charity of your choice. This is free to you, and very easy to use.

Currently, CHC is one of 37,921 charities & nonprofit organizations listed with IGive. To date, iGive.com shoppers have raised over \$2,675,366.91 for their favorite causes. If you are shopping online, think of CHC and IGive by visiting: [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)

### **Trail News**

#### **DIANE CIANO - Recipient of the WFSB Channel 3 "EVERYDAY HERO" Award**



#### **Diane Ciano on Aladdin on the Larkin Bridle Trail Karen Hartwell with Scooby Doo & Randy Olmstead on bike**

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, CHC Trails chair, Diane Ciano and the Volunteer Horse Patrol (VHP) were the recipients of the WFSB Channel 3 "Everyday Hero" award. Channel 3's Scot Haney introduces a person each Friday who, by attitude and actions -- either big or small -- help make our state and the world a better place. Diane Ciano was a recipient of this award for her work in establishing the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol and other work she has done





to promote trail riding in Connecticut. She will receive a gift certificate from Pilgrim Furniture.

Eyewitness News pays tribute to Connecticut residents, whether they do a good deed for an individual, for the community or for people in need. Diane and the VHP were nominated due to the many hours they devote to trail maintenance and active patrols in the saddle acting as "the eyes and ears of DEP". To date, The VHP has logged several thousand hours to trail duties, and this translates into a savings of more than \$40,000 in taxpayer dollars. The CHC board of directors is very pleased with our VHP members, and we would like to congratulate them on a job well done. Special thanks to Marylou Millet and her horse Desiree. Desiree acted as the mount for Scot Haney during the filming of the VHP on patrol by WFSB news crews at the Larkin Bridle Trail. **The clip aired on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and can be viewed again by visiting the WFSB site link**

[www.wfsb.com/family/14022988/detail.html](http://www.wfsb.com/family/14022988/detail.html)

### **MEG SAUTTER - A NEW CHC-VHP SUPERVISOR**



**Congratulations** and a **BIG Thank You** to Meg Sautter who has taken on yet another position as an additional Supervisor for the Horse Patrol. As the Patrol grows, there is increasingly more paper work and reporting to do. Starting in its beginnings of 2003, Meg has pitched in and volunteered to be the Coordinator for the Larkin Bridle Trail as well as offering to certify VHP members for CPR & First Aid (along with Angela Deschenes). Since then, she has also volunteered to become a Coordinator for Machimoodus State Park and Roraback Wildlife Management Area. With her wonderful mare, "Dancer" she puts on miles

exploring trails around the state and has been instrumental in the helping the CHC Statewide project to ride and write reports on equestrian accessible trails. Somehow we have to find a way to "clone her". Thanks Meg for all your work.

### **OUR NEW VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL MEMBERS**

Congratulations to two new members of the CHC-VHP, totaling 27 new members for 2007: Heather Deyo of Oxford and Gilly, along with Jane Samuels of Deep River and FFC Brigadier.

### **Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp, Natchaug State Forest Workday # 2**

The Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) and the New England Arabian Trail Organization (NEATO) organized another brush clearing work day of the campsite on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. 17 volunteers cleared brush & small trees from the 28 outdated camp sites. Included with the volunteers was new DEP Trails and Greenways Coordinator Laurie Giannotti, along with her husband Rob Butterworth and his sister Polly, visiting from Florida. Lunch was provided by CHC.

There were **62 hours** of trail maintenance recorded that will be used to apply for a grant fund for further work to the camp, making a total of **198 hours to date**.

Improving the campground is a major undertaking in which everyone, both in and out of CT, will benefit greatly from. Workday # 2 is still just the beginning of a large scale renovation of the camp, the goal of the CHC is to replicate the camps at Escoheag (RI) and Otter Creek (NY) and eventually create a campground suitable for large scale camping that would encourage tourism to the area and increased use on the trails, including having the space to which to host Competitive and Endurance events.

The second phase of the project will be to submit a Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP) request for greater improvements.

We need volunteers to come forward to help build additional structures including a pavilion, new toilets, kiosk (for maps), and some piped corrals, numbering of the campsites, additional clearing and a pavilion, along with picnic tables for each of the 28 sites, as well as re-vamping some of the trails in the area and re-marking the multiple-use designated trails in the forest. Please join us in this project.



### **CHC would like to start a "Friends of Silvermine Horse Camp" group, so that when work**

days are scheduled we can notify you and keep you in the news regarding the funding. The group can also work on some fund raising projects, such as a benefit trail ride or camp out to help with the federal match and get other work done (regrading of the campsites, removal of boulders, fill, etc. Please contact Diane Ciano with your name, e-mail address and phone number to be added to the list of contacts.

**Remember: It's a camp designated for horse people to camp that has wonderful equestrian accessible trails. It doesn't come "free handed". We all have to pitch in and work on this and the trail systems if we want it to be updated.**



Discussing plans for the Silvermine Horse Camp during workday #2.

### **CHC works with Sharon Conservation Commission to preserve trails**

CHC has been approached by residents in Sharon and the Sharon Conservation Commission to ensure that the property known as "Skiff Mountain" remains open to horse use. This 700 acre parcel is currently owned by Northeast Utilities, and utilized by hikers, hunters and horseback riders. There are logging roads which riders are currently using, and potentially other trails which may become available in the future. CHC views this as a valuable parcel, and we look forward to working with town officials on this project. We will eventually need assistance with evaluating this property, and those who are interested may contact CHC trails chair Diane Ciano at Spirit76@snet.net or call 203-757-1904.

### **Emergency and Disaster training**

As many of you know, CHC is a partner organization with the CT State Animal Response Team (CTSART). We also strongly encourage our members to prepare their own emergency plans and to attend the trainings and seminars that are offered by CHC. Emergency preparation starts at home, and horse owners should take steps to address their own special needs. Brochures on these topics can be found on the publications page of our website.

In that same vein, we also would like to share the following information should any of our members be inclined to seek other types of emergency training:

National Incidence Management System (NIMS) certification is available online at no cost. Simply visit the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). A certificate of completion will be issued after you successfully pass the test.

Also, consider taking the Community Emergency Response (CERT) training which is offered in various parts of the state. This is often a multi-day classroom course, and again, is generally available at no cost. Check with your local community colleges, the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs), or visit the CERT website at [www.citizencorps.gov/cert](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert). CHC believes that you will find the information in these courses useful when creating your own disaster plans.

Don't forget to check the CHC events calendar on our website to see if there are any upcoming training that we are offering, such as our barn fire lectures, CPR/first aid certification and more. If you have questions, please feel free to contact CHC directly.

### **DEP Proposed Regulations Update**

As most horse owners in Connecticut are aware, CHC was opposed to the proposed regulations being offered by the Department of Environmental Protection in February of this year. These regulations would have greatly restricted equestrian access to state forest and parks.

The public hearing took place on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2007, and DEP also accepted public comments via email at this time.

After review of the comments, DEP requested a meeting with CHC board members to make changes to their proposed regulations. These changes were then forwarded to the regulation review committee to be approved and finalized. There was a delay due





to some technical language corrections, but the final regulations as approved by the regulation review committee were sent to be filed with the Secretary of State's office on July 27 2007. These new regulations now are in effect.

The new regulations specific to access of user groups to trails reads as follows:  
Sections 23-4-1 through 23-4-5, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are revised as follows:

**(l) Trails and roads.**

- (1) Trails are open to non-motorized, multiple use activities unless posted closed. Use of any trail, road or path posted as closed by the Department of Environmental Protection is prohibited.
- (2) Use of Connecticut Blue-Blazed Trails and the National Park Service Appalachian Trail crossing state property shall be limited to hiking except where Department of Environmental Protection blazed trails supporting other uses coincide.
- (3) Public roadways in state parks and forests are open to registered motor vehicles as defined in 14-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes and other nonmotorized multiple uses unless posted closed.
- (4) Service, logging and other roads closed to public use by motor vehicles are open to non-motorized multiple use activities unless posted closed.

**\*\*Please note that the section above is not the complete document, and there are also other sections relative to horses and animals in the state forests. To view the entire approved DEP regulations regarding state forests & parks, please visit the DEP website at [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep).**

We are very pleased that the DEP made revisions based on the concerns raised by equestrians, and we have been assured that DEP is willing to work with us going forward.

CHC would again like to thank everyone who either submitted comments or attended the public hearing in support. The changes would not have been possible without your help. Additionally, we would like to encourage all our members to read the CHC Trails Etiquette brochure which can be found on our website [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org). You are an ambassador for all equestrians, so please remember to be polite and safe, no matter which trail you are on. All trail users should obey signs, and make attempts to curb their horses where possible so that manure is not in the middle of the trail. If you have questions, please contact President Amy Stegall at

[president@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:president@cthorsecouncil.org) or our CHC trails chair Diane Ciano at [Spirit76@snet.net](mailto:Spirit76@snet.net).

**Equestrian Land Conservation Resource adds CHC Roadsafe to Site**

CHC is a partner organization with the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR). ELCR is dedicated to helping preserve the land for equestrian use, and serves as a clearinghouse for information about land, trails, and access protection. Their website is also an excellent resource for those looking to help preserve farms and open space. We are pleased to report that recently the ELCR posted the CHC Roadsafe brochure on their website. We look forward to continuing to work with the ELCR in the future, and we encourage our members to visit their site at [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org).

**CHC Welcomes New Courier Service at the University of Connecticut Lab**

The Connecticut Horse Council recognizes the important role the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (CVMDL) plays in our state. We are pleased to report that we recently received information about the roll out of a pilot program for necropsy courier services available to veterinarians and animal owners in Connecticut from Dr. Van Kruiningen, who is the head of this program at UConn. Dr. Van Kruiningen has expertise in diagnostic pathology with special interests in diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, and is Department Head, Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, University of Connecticut, Storrs; and Director of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. Details about this service are contained below. For additional information please visit [www.pathobiology.uconn.edu/cvmdl/](http://www.pathobiology.uconn.edu/cvmdl/) or contact Dr. Van Kruiningen at 860-486-0837.

of their time in extension work and research on improved diagnostic tests and disease epidemiology, pathogenesis and prevention.

The CVMDL is a division of the University of Connecticut's Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The mission of CVMDL is to provide laboratory diagnostic and consultation services, as well as state and federal regulatory



surveillance testing for diseases of agricultural, avian, companion, laboratory, wildlife and aquatic animal species. In addition, the scientists providing this service also spend part The laboratory is supported by state funding through the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, the University of Connecticut, and revenues from diagnostic tests and services.

The Diagnostic Laboratory is divided into two sections: Diagnostic Pathology and Diagnostic Testing Services. The latter provides bacteriology, parasitology, serology, molecular diagnostics and virology testing for a variety of species. Toxicology is out-sourced to other laboratories. The laboratory is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and is approved by USDA/APHIS to perform official tests. The Diagnostic Pathology Service includes both biopsy and necropsy diagnosis provided by American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) board-certified pathologists and veterinarians training in pathology.

The Laboratory is geared to respond to current and emerging disease problems and is currently providing diagnostic and extension services for official state control programs in mastitis, brucellosis, salmonellosis, pseudorabies, avian influenza, pullorum disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and mycoplasmosis. Testing programs for locally important and emerging diseases such as Lyme disease, West Nile virus encephalitis, chronic wasting disease of white-tailed deer and others are continually being added.

#### **Courier Service Details:**

Effective immediately, as a result of funding provided by the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and with the assistance of State Veterinarian, Dr. Mary Jane Lis, the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory is able to provide a courier service for picking up animals that have died and that are destined for necropsy and diagnosis. We are able to provide a certified veterinary technician, Melissa Mitchell, who during the work week will drive to any part of Connecticut to retrieve all species of animals for delivery to the Diagnostic Laboratory. This is a

one year trial program, and if successful will be continued. The expectation is that by providing this service to veterinarians and animal owners a greater number of animals from various parts of the State will be submitted and evaluated, enhancing the State of Connecticut's ability for animal disease surveillance and detection. The service can be used to send small companion animals, such as dogs and cats, collections of backyard poultry, calves and foals, aborted fetuses, and full-size farm species, including sheep, goats, swine, llamas, cattle and horses. There will be a courier fee: \$40 for Tolland and Windham Counties, \$65 for Hartford, Middlesex and New London Counties; \$80 for Litchfield and New Haven Counties and \$100 for Fairfield County. The courier service is arranged by calling 860-486-3738 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The courier will begin daily retrievals at approximately 9:00 am. **Clients will be expected to pay the full cost of necropsies and ancillary testing in addition to the courier fee.** Both of these charges may be waived if the species and/or diseases in question are part of ongoing State-supported surveillance programs, such as the avian influenza surveillance, the scrapie program and surveillance for bovine spongiform encephalopathy. If you have questions or to determine if your particular circumstance qualifies for a fee waiver--contact the State Veterinarian, Dr. Mary Jane Lis at 860-713-2505 or the admissions office of the CVMDL at 860-486-3738.

#### **Save The Date:**

***At our regularly scheduled meeting in December, CHC will be holding an awards ceremony. We will recognize various individuals including CHC members, legislators, and friends of CHC for their efforts in supporting us. Please join us at 7pm on Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Northeast Utilities Building in Newington CT. Directions can be found on our website [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)***



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