



Connecticut Horse Council

Newsletter

Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education

Summer 2007

www.cthorsecouncil.org



The next Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) monthly meeting is on October 1, 2007 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:

October 2 **November 6**
December 4

2008

January 1 **February 5**
March 4 **April 1**
May 6 **June 3**

Welcome to our new members! Your support is what keeps the Connecticut Horse Council able to fight for the rights of horse owners in the State of Connecticut with trail, zoning, and legislative issues.

A reminder to those of you who have not renewed, your membership is needed to keep our programs going. Please send in your membership renewal as soon as possible

Thanks to you all,

Carol Birdsey
Membership Secretary

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. End of Legislative Session Report--June 2007

CHC is very pleased to report that two bills that we were promoting, SB1223 and SB284, both passed and have now been signed by the Governor!! Also, horses and livestock have been added for consideration in town disaster plans!

As members know, The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. is constantly at the forefront of issues that affect horse owners in the state, and this year was no exception. Many good bills died this legislative session, however CHC advocated for horse owners down to the last hour.

We are especially pleased to report that SB1223, which creates an Equine Advisory Council to work with the Department of Environment Protection, has passed and will now become law. This council will ensure that trails remain open to equestrians going forward. Representative Debra Lee Hovey was responsible for championing this bill. CHC was joined by the Oxford Horse & Livestock Association (OHLA), The Newtown Bridle Lands Conservancy (NBLA), and the Southbury Horse & Livestock Association (SHLA) in pushing this legislation.

Also of particular note is SB284 that was introduced by Senator Roraback on behalf of CHC member Attorney Liz Burne and CHC. This bill provides a tool to the courts to protect victims of domestic violence. It allows judges, at their discretion, to include animals in protective and restraining orders. This does not change the status or definition of animals at all, but it permits judges to assist victims of domestic violence by ensuring abusers cannot use animals in the household to coerce and intimidate victims. This legislation was recently passed in both Maine and Vermont.

Finally, CHC acted to ensure that horses and livestock were included in state and town disaster plans. The Pets Act, HB5186 was a bill introduced to require that pets and service animals be included in disaster plans. However, horses & livestock were inadvertently omitted from this particular bill. When CHC became aware of this problem, it was late in session. However, we pushed for an amendment to another bill, and we were successful. The amended bill which named horses & livestock, passed the day before close of session.



We are disappointed to report that the bill CHC worked to introduced which would require education and training of Animal Control Officers HB5522, failed again this session. Most people are not aware that municipal ACO's receive no training, and CHC feels that this does a disservice not only to the animals and the public, but also to the ACO's themselves. We plan to reintroduce this bill again next session, and will continue to pursue it until we are successful.

CHC would like to thank all horsepeople who contacted their legislators to urge them to support these bills. Your voice mattered. Also, CHC would like to offer our sincere thanks to the following legislators who were extremely supportive during this session: Senators Andrew Roraback and Tony Guglielmo, and Representatives Debra Lee Hovey, Penny Bacchiocchi, Lawrence Miller and Bill Aman, their work made all the difference. And, if these are your legislators, please consider sending them a note letting them know their efforts are appreciated. And, we would also like to thank OHLA, NBLA and SHLA for their work this legislative session.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS PASSED THIS SESSION:

SB1223 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL was signed by the governor on 5/22/2007. This bill establishes an Equine Advisory Council to help the Department of Environmental Protection study state horse trail preservation. This bill will help keep trails open to horses, and is a large step forward for trail riders. CHC worked with Representative Debra Lee Hovey on the passage of this bill. **NOTE: this bill was amended after HB5595 which named specific trails for protection, died.**



Bill Signing of SB1223 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

SB 284 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF PETS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES was signed by the Governor on 6/20/2007. The bill will protect animals in domestic violence cases by authorizing a court to include a prohibition on harming

a pet when it issues a restraining or protective order. CHC worked with Senator Andrew Roraback to introduce this bill, and it allows judges, at their discretion, to include animals in protective and restraining orders. **(Note-this bill does not change the status of any animal, and is not a mandate).**

HB5186 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EVACUATION OF PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS AND APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLAN OF OPERATIONS. The bill requires towns to include the evacuation of pets and service animals in state and local emergency plans of operation. **NOTE: The original language of this bill inadvertently did not include horses and livestock. CHC discovered this omission, and acted to amend another department of homeland security bill, so that horses & livestock will now be considered in the emergency planning process.**

SB872 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A FARMLAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD, A STATE BUILDING CODE FOR AGRICULTURE, AND ZONING REGULATION OF FARMING. This bill requires the State Bond Commission to vote on whether to authorize the issuance of bonds that the legislature approved for agricultural land preservation programs but the commission has not allocated. It also (1) allows the Department of Agriculture (DOAG) commissioner to request such approved, unallocated bond funds, when available, for pending agricultural land preservation transactions above \$ 5 million and (2) requires the bond commission to vote on whether to approve such funds. The bill also creates a 12-member Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to help DOAG with its purchase of development rights program and other efforts to preserve agricultural lands. **NOTE: CHC SUPPORTED THIS BILL.**

HB 1079 AN ACT CONCERNING DOGS THAT ATTACK DOMESTIC ANIMALS OR LIVESTOCK. Statement of purpose: To allow animal control officers to investigate and issue orders regarding dogs that attack domestic animals and livestock. **NOTE: CHC was monitoring this bill and had no formal position.**

THE FOLLOWING BILLS FAILED THIS SESSION:

SB 1080 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPOUNDMENT OF ROAMING LIVESTOCK AND FLIGHTLESS BIRDS. This bill would have enabled animal control officers to impound roaming livestock and certain flightless birds, to establish an owner and keeper notification process, to establish fines for noncompliance by such owners and keepers and to enable municipal animal control officers to dispose of such livestock and flightless birds, subject to certain conditions. **NOTE: CHC OPPOSED THIS BILL.**



HB 5522 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.

This bill would have established a municipal animal control officer training program. Currently, there are no education or certification requirements for municipal animal control officers. CHC feels strongly that this does a disservice not only to animals, but also to the public, and the ACO's themselves. We have pushed for this legislation for several years, and will continue to push for passage again next session. **NOTE: CHC SUPPORTED THIS BILL.**

SB 30 AN ACT CONCERNING AN APPROPRIATION TO REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCT THE 4-H CAMP IN FRANKLIN.

This bill would have provided funds to repair and reconstruct the infrastructure of the 4-H camp in Franklin. CHC believes in the importance of teaching youth, and 4-H's role in education. **NOTE: CHC SUPPORTED THIS BILL.**

HB 5464 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMERCIAL HORSE BOARDING AND TRAINING FACILITIES.

Statement of Purpose: To ensure the safety of equestrians and horses at commercial boarding and training facilities. This bill would have given authority to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to regulate commercial horse boarding and training facilities. **NOTE: CHC OPPOSED THIS BILL.**

SB 994 AN ACT REMOVING JURISDICTION OF STATE PARKS AND FORESTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Statement of purpose: To remove jurisdiction of state parks and forests from the Department of Environmental Protection and to create a new agency to manage such parks and forests. **NOTE: CHC did not have a formal position on this bill, and was monitoring its progress.**

HB 6579 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE CONNECTICUT VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LAB.

This bill would have provided funding to provide for surveillance of public health related diseases in animals. CHC recognizes the important role the Diagnostic Lab plays in our community. **NOTE: CHC SUPPORTED THIS BILL. Also note: even though this bill failed, the funds were allocated through a line item in the state budget.**

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. is an all volunteer organization dedicated to serving the needs of the horse industry in Connecticut. Please consider joining today. For more information about CHC, please visit www.cthorsecouncil.org.

For more information about these bills, please contact CHC president Amy Stegall at legislation@cthorsecouncil.org.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD—UNITED WE RIDE & DRIVE!

CHC welcomes the Connecticut Farmland Trust:

CHC is pleased to report that The Connecticut Farmland Trust is our newest member. CFT is a private statewide conservation organization established in 2002, with a mission to permanently protect Connecticut's farmland. They do this through holding agricultural conservation easements, and by educating the public and elected officials on the importance of preserving farmland. The trust purchases and accepts donations of agricultural conservation easements and farmland. They also partner with towns and land trusts to identify threatened farms and opportunities for land protection and to help address farmland stewardship and management concerns. Also, CFT partners with communities throughout the state to encourage local farmland preservation efforts through outreach and support to farmers, local land trusts, local officials, town planners, conservation commissions, and community organizations. Learn more about CFT by visiting their website at www.ctfarmland.org

CHC joins the Working Lands Alliance:

CHC is also very pleased to announce that we have joined the Working Lands Alliance. The Working Lands Alliance (WLA) is a broad-based coalition, whose supporters include farmers, conservation organizations, food security groups, local government associations, and others. These groups (currently over 130) have joined together in an effort to halt the loss of Connecticut's remaining farmland. WLA is a project of American Farmland Trust (www.farmland.org). Founded in 1980, American Farmland Trust has helped win permanent protection for over a million acres of American farmland. AFT's hard work and sound strategies unite farmers, environmentalists and policymakers.

CHC believes that it is vital to protect farmland in Connecticut because based on recent studies completed by the American Farmland Trust--Connecticut is losing 7,000 - 9,000 acres of land in farms to non-agricultural uses every year. At this rate, there will be no farmland to save in Connecticut by 2040.

Free booklet on farmland conservation available to landowners:

The American Farmland Trust has released "Conservation options for Connecticut's Farmland: A Guide for Landowners, Land Trusts and Municipalities".

Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland describes farmland protection options and programs available in Connecticut, and answers some frequently asked questions about agricultural conservation easements. This guide also identifies state and federal agricultural and land conservation programs that provide technical and financial assistance to farmers and landowners for a variety of concerns and objectives.

This booklet can be found on the publications page of the CHC website at www.cthorsecouncil.org or on the American Farmland Trust website at www.farmland.org



2007 Connecticut Equine Trade Show

The CHC Booth was on the road again at the Equine Trade Show in Hartford on Fathers Day weekend. The team of Josephine Barker, Jack Connors, Fred Mastele and Carol Birdsey spoke to horse people from Ct, Mass, and met a member of the Delaware Horse Council. They have the same problems as we do in CT. They are fighting to keep trails open and zoning issues too. We had a good weekend. We met some real nice people; saw some old friends had 15 individual members 2 businesses and 1 club joined. Check out all our business members on the website at cthorsecouncil.org. Thanks to all who joined and or just stopped by to say hello. Thanks to Shirley & Steve Vicchitto for their promotion of the Volunteer Horse Patrol during their demonstration and to Fred Mastele for his talk on VHP & CHC.

Thanks to all members who have renewed their membership for the year and to all the new members. Without your support we couldn't accomplish all the great things that have been done in the past year. It's great to have you as members!

CT Horse Council TRAIL NEWS Volunteer Horse Patrol SUMMER 2007

The CT Horse Council's Trails Committee and Volunteer Horse Patrol have been quite busy this spring with several major projects going forward. We are pleased to inform our membership of wonderful accomplishments and look forward to many more.

22 NEW VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL MEMBERS FOR 2007

Congratulations to the following CHC-VHP members and their patrol horses on completing the requirements of the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Program. Also listed below are the 6 New Areas that the CHC-VHP has expanded to include along with the new CHC Coordinators * for the areas:

Babcock Wildlife Management Area - Anne Albee & Jack Connors with Ginger, Snap and Britty. This team will have a carriage patrol in Babcock. Anne is the new CHC-VHP Coordinator for this area.

Naugatuck State Forest - SOUTH - *Carol Marenholz & Sierra Gold - Carol is the new CHC Coordinator for the. Joining in this DEP Sleeping Giant Area is **Kimberly Miller Nadwairski & Rancher, Kenny Padro & Oliver Tubinz, and Lisa Padro & Tobian**

Naugatuck State Forest - WEST - * Shirley Vicchitto & Foxy - Shirley is the new Coordinator for

the Naugatuck State Forest - WEST. Joining Shirley is her husband, **Steve Vicchitto** & Senorita Wanta (Dusty)

Sleeping Giant State Park Area & the Cheshire Open Space - DiDominicus Property* Christel Maturo & Genuine Comotion - Christel is the President of the Cheshire Horse Council. Joining her are Cheshire Horse Council members; **Cathy Clouse & Bobby, James Clouse & Sky, Lou Casabona & Bud, and Daisy Gmitter & Rugged Gold (Buck)**

Natchaug State Forest - *Janeen Rose & Slim. Joining Janeen is **Suzie Francher & Tuffy and Tom Biesiadecki & Carmello**

Tunxis State Forest - Diane Morton, along with Penny's from Heaven & Jake, joins as Co-coordinator with Barbara Mahon.

Fort Trumbull Area: - Mary Ann Smith & RV. This area includes Bluff Point, Haley Farm and Barn Island Wildlife Management Area. The CHC Coordinator for this area is Jim Griffin. (See *his article on "VHP... This is why we do what we do" in this newsletter*).

Joining in on the **Larkin Bridle Trail** Patrols along with several other new DEP areas is: **Judy Beliveau & Kool Hand Luke, Marcia Sigman & Dolce, Cowboy Ken Forcier & Red,** along with Daisy Gmitter & Rugged Gold (Buck).

Joining the **Cockaponset Area** are **Edna Liberty & Roanni and Laurianne Goulet & Blue.**

Joining the City of Danbury's **Tarrywile Park** is **Jane Rush & Sophie**

CHC - VHP Campout Pachaug - Horse & Rider Evaluation

On Memorial Day Weekend 18 Volunteer Horse patrol members camped at the Frog Hollow Campground in Pachaug State Forest. The weekend activities included a Blessing of the Mounts by Steve Vicchitto, High Priest with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints.





Mary Crombie Geer, Chip Geer and photographer Duncan Somerville donated their time for a professional photo shoot of the Volunteer Horse Patrol members.

9 New Members completed their Horse & Rider Evaluation



Janeen Rose & Slim
Coordinator for Natchaug State Forest



Our Cooks
Cowboy Ken Forcier & Steve Vicchitto

National Trails Day Events

On Sunday, June 3rd, The Cheshire Horse Council sponsored a trail ride for the CHC-VHP Horse & Rider Evaluation for new members to the VHP at Sleeping Giant State Park & the DiDominicus Open Space. There were 10 VHP members completing their requirements, with a total of 18 riders joining in on the ride.

Lower CT River Valley Horsemen's Club & the Bridle Path Conservancy

Cockaponset Trails Day A Big Success!

CFPA Cockaponset Trail Manager Rob Butterworth dispersed crews to various projects on the Orange Blaze Trail, which is a major link for all trail users. Crushed rock and other materials used to stabilize three 40 foot sections of trail were brought in, laid down, and spread. Stream crossings were rock armored, a long boggy section drained, several water bars were cleaned out or replaced and new

grade clips were added. The SprockKids had the smelliest, ugliest job of all and utilized every ounce of their prodigious energy to accomplish their tough task.



A trail ride was organized as part of the day's activities. Eight riders connected with the work parties to give encouragement and emphasize the whole purpose for maintaining the trail system. Its events like this that will ensure multi-use of our trails for generations to come.

Volunteers were rewarded for all their hard work with a cook-out located near the Trail Head in the old Sand Pit. DEP Park Supervisor, Alex Sokolow came by to thank everyone for their efforts. Enthusiasm for the tasks at hand prevailed throughout the day and the consensus was that setting a date for another work day sometime in the fall was a great idea.

A heartfelt thanks, too, from all of us who were unable to attend.

Silver Mine Horse Camp, Natchaug State Forest

The Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) and the New England Arabian Trail Organization (NEATO) organized a brush clearing work day of the campsite on Saturday, June 30th.

Over **37** horse people showed up to clear bush & small trees from the 28 outdated camp sites for current recreational and modern horse trailer needs. Fire pits were relocated to help enlarge the campsites for the parking of larger horse trailers. Firewood was stacked at each campsite and brush was moved to 2 of the campsites, which will be wood chipped by DEP. A big thank you goes to the volunteers from the CHC, New England Arabian Trail Organization (NEATO), Hampton Hill Farm, Cheshire Horse Council, L & G Riding Club and others that joined in on the efforts, including children of the adult volunteers. There were **136 hours** of trail maintenance recorded that will be used to apply for a grant fund for further work to the camp. A bountiful lunch was provided by CHC.



Improving the campground is a major undertaking in which everyone, both in and out of CT, will benefit greatly from.

The workday is 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.



Our next camp clearing workday is scheduled for **Saturday, August 25th from 9 - 1.** We will need people with chain saws to cut down additional trees, which will be marked with paint. Please join us for

the day. CHC will be providing lunch for all the volunteers. To ensure that CHC has enough food for the volunteers please **RSVP** Jennifer Coffey at 860-564-7903 or Faith Brouillard (860- 455-2186) if you will be volunteering.

We are looking for volunteers to do a "wood working project" to happen **before** the workday to make 28 - 8"x8" (?) wooden numbered signs for the 28 sites. We can then use the workday to put them up. We are also looking to name some of the trails, so we would need trail name signs up. I have a list of the trails that were named 12 years ago when the CHC (Sue Mellon's 4-H group) put up the yellow diamond markers. Anyone willing to help make the signs for this project please call Diane at 203-757-1904.

Your volunteer hours will count towards the federal match of the Recreational Trails Act (RTA) for future funding of the project. In addition, if you are a member of CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol your hours will apply to trail maintenance and as a member of NEATO your hours will apply towards the Volunteer Incentive Program.

Please pass this on to anyone you know that uses the camp, even those outside the horse community such as: snowmobiles, hunters, Boy Scouts, etc.

Thanks everyone and look forward to seeing you there!

VHP... This is why we do what we do

Debbie McConnell and I went patrolling in Chatfield Hollow State Park (Cockaponset) this past Sunday, June 17th.

There were the usual picnickers, swimmers, fisherpersons, hikers, dog walkers, bicyclists, and even a few equestrians, so it was a fairly busy day.

Around two in the afternoon, we headed back to the truck and trailer for a lunch break. Yankee and Joya were tied to the trailer and munching hay while Deb and I worked on our sandwiches.

We had just about finished eating when a group of people approached. They were all individuals from a group home, and all of them had Down's Syndrome, except for the two women in charge of the group. They were young men and women in their late teens to early twenties. When they asked our permission to pet our horses, of course we said yes.

Those folks were so excited to visit with our horses it was unbelievable! They hugged the horses, hugged us for letting us hug the horses, shook hands over and over, took a bunch of pictures of themselves and us with the horses, and I am sure had a time they will never forget. I even showed them Yankee's "wounded cowboy" trick, and once they saw that we had to repeat our performance several times, as



every one of them wanted to "shoot" me so they could watch Yankee nuzzle me back to life.

The smiles on their faces and their enthusiasm warmed our hearts. Deb and I were floating on air for the rest of the afternoon. I'm still not sure who got the most out of that visit, those young folks or us.

And that's why all of the members of the Volunteer Horse Patrol donate our time and do what we do... for moments like this.

If anyone else would like to experience such true joy, I'd urge you to apply to the Connecticut Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol today. All it takes is a little time to join up, and once you're a member you get to do what we all enjoy the most... ride your horse, only now it's for a worthy cause.

Jim Griffin

DEP STATE TRAIL USE PROJECT

The CHC Trails Committee completed meeting with the 21 DEP Supervisors around the state to communicate on gaining information on state land properties and collecting information on trail systems that may be accessible for equestrians / multiple use.

The reports took a bit longer to complete because as this project developed, CHC felt it was important to include areas outside of DEP to see the "BIG PICTURE" of trail connections and the importance for equestrian use to be established for long distance travel as well as protecting local use to isolated smaller areas. We will continue to evaluate and report back to DEP and the equestrian community on additional information with your participation.

Please remember that these notes will be used as a "Guide" to many steps that can be taken from here. It will be up to the equestrian community to come forward to help maintain and expand on equestrian accessible trails.

CHC is a "tool" to educate users of the possibilities. CHC is comprised of individual members who volunteer and the Council can only be as effective as its members. We all have busy lives, and I know if we each try to do a little bit - a lot can be accomplished. Where one may not be strong in a certain area, there is always many other attributes we all have, whether its mapping, collecting data, writing, clearing trails, gathering other volunteers, or simply promoting trails and this state project of how it benefits all.

As stated earlier this is an ongoing project to get local trail riders to help in adding to the initial

meeting notes on where they are riding, evaluating the trail systems and making notes of needed improved areas, including bridge crossings. We need to have directions, descriptions of the parking areas, trails, work needed to be done of all the areas in CT. We are looking for information on town or municipal land, preserves, land trusts, etc. that may help to make connections and expand our riding opportunities in the future. This is something we can put up on our website under "Places to Ride in Connecticut."

If any of you would like a copy of a particular area of the state, to see what areas need additional information or would like to see what state areas may be available for riding please feel free to contact me.

HAPPY TRAILS
Diane Ciano
Spirit76@snet.net
203-757-1904

"The Encounter"



Judith Hunter on Copeland, Meg Sautter on Dancer, Shirley Vicchitto on Foxy, Cowboy Ken Forcier on Red, Alec Beliveau on bike, Chip Geer hiking and Paul Beliveau walking Molly

Liability signs now available:

In response to the many requests for equine liability signs, CHC now has them available. They are 11 x 14 aluminum signs with predrilled holes. They are suitable for indoor or outdoor use. They may be purchased for 25.00 each.

We also have mugs and totes with the CHC logo for sale. Mugs are 5.00 and totes are 10.00 Show your support for CHC and let everyone know you are a proud member!

Please contact CHC for purchase information.



Horse Owner's Corner: Timely Tips - Questions to ask a Prospective Trainer

by Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, UConn Equine Extension Specialist and
Emily McCabe Alger, 4-H Program Coordinator, Dept. of
Extension, UConn

After purchasing a horse you may consider getting a trainer to help you with its training. The role of a horse trainer is to prepare your horse for you so that the horse is safe and responsive to your cues. Trainers can work with a horse from a minimum of 30 days to a more extensive training period, depending on your training goals. Here is a list of questions you should ask when looking for a trainer. It is important that you are on the "same page" and you both agree on methodology.

1. How often is a horse in training worked at your facility?
 - a. How often will he be lunged?
 - b. How often will he be saddled and ridden?
 - c. What is the total training time in hours per week?
 - d. How are the horses cooled down after exercise?
2. Is instruction for me riding my horse included in the training price?
 - a. Can I drop in and watch you work my horse?
 - b. How many lessons per week are included in the training price?
 - c. Is there a discounted lesson rate for riders who have horses in training?
 - d. After I take my horse home, if I have problems, will you help me? What charge will there be for this, if any?
3. What training aids do you use on a regular basis?
 - a. Do you headset lunge? If so how do you accomplish this?
 - b. What methods would you use with a horse that is misbehaving?
 - c. Do you use crops, spurs or whips? How do you use crops, spurs, and/or whips?
 - d. Do you use tie downs or martingales, side reins or draw reins?
 - e. Do you tie horses in their stalls?
4. How long will it take to accomplish my goals?
 - a. Are my goals realistic?
 - b. Will I be kept up-to-date on the progress of my horse?
 - c. Will you tell me if I (as a rider) am holding up my horse's training progress?

5. How is diet and free exercise managed at your facility?
 - a. What is the feeding schedule?
 - b. Do you feed supplements?
 - c. What brand of grain do you feed?
 - d. Where do you get your hay and how do you determine how much each horse gets?
 - e. How do you check feed quality?
 - f. Is there pasture opportunity and what is the turnout schedule? How long are horses turned out?
 - g. Are horses turned out together?
6. Do you have insurance to cover my horse while it is boarded and ridden at your farm?
 - a. Do you have a training/boarding contract?
7. How is routine health maintenance managed at your facility?
 - a. What is the required vaccination schedule?
 - b. What is the deworming protocol followed at the farm?
 - c. What farrier is used and often does the farrier visit?
 - d. Do you pay for cost of the above directly or through the trainer?
 - e. Can I select my own veterinarian or farrier?
8. What is your fee and payment requirements?

The key is to ask any question you feel needs an answer. Trainers are used to working with novice horse owners and they should answer all questions with patience and care. Just think – if he/she cannot make it through a list of questions, how patient will he/she be with you under saddle? Good luck with your horse, feel free to call or email with any questions you have about your horse: (860) 486-4471 or jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu.

Also, check out my web site <http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/extension> for more information on upcoming horse specialist events and information.

Upcoming Events

July 2007

9 - Harwinton FD Workshop - Johnnycake Farm, 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM. Volunteers meet at 6:00 PM.

14 - Equine Emergency Response & Planning Day, Old Lyme, CT & High Hopes, horse public and emergency responders welcome, lecture series 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM, Hand's On, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Volunteers -will advise start times.



28 - New London County 4-H Exposition Horse Show [entry form and class list](#).

There are 4-H and open classes. All 4-H awards, including the High Point awards, are open to all 4-H'ers.

August 2007

3-4-5 4-H Middlesex County Fair [Flyer](#)

4-5 - CDCTA Two Day Eventing Clinic with Leslie Law, 7/8ths Farm, Killingworth. Contact Amy Newton at amynewton22@yahoo.com

11-12 - Wild Horse and Burro Adoption, UConn, Horsebarn Hill Arena, <http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov/adoption.htm> for more information, or call Milwaukee Field Office, Bureau of Land Management at 800 293-1781

12 - CDCTA schooling dressage show and combined test at Hearthstone Farm, North Franklin. Contact Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie at emccosh@snet.net

19 - "[It's Never Too Late to be a Cowboy](#)" a Field Day and Summer Picnic at Four Winds Farm & Beltane Farm Lebanon, CT, 11 am to 4 pm Free for Farm Bureau members \$10 for Non-FB members

21 - Newtown Bridle Land Association Talk, 7:30 PM

September 2007

October 2007

2 - CHC Monthly Meeting - 7:30 PM [Northeast Utilities Building, Berlin](#)

7 - USEF/USDF Recognized Dressage Show at Hearthstone Farm, North Franklin. Contact Elizabeth McCosh-Lilie at emccosh@snet.net

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The June 5, 2007 meeting was the CHC annual meeting and also the time for elections, which are held every 2 years. There have been a few changes to the Officers and Board as we head into 2007-2009 as follows:

Connecticut Horse Council Officers & Board Members 2007-2009

President

Amy Stegall
860-684-6583

president@cthorsecouncil.org

1st Vice President

Frederick Mastele
860-349-1200

newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org

2nd Vice President

Karen Hartwell
860-489-1027

khartwell2@aol.com

3rd Vice President

John "Jack" Connors
860-365-0295

jfconnors@snet.net

Treasurer

Cheryl Mastele
860-349-1200

greymist@comcast.net

Corresponding Secretary

Shelly Fetterhoff
860-442-7300

Shelly@HorseCountryRealEstate.net

Recording Secretary

Stephen Vicchitto
203-723-1839

ladyozion@adelphia.net

Membership Secretary

Carol Birdsey
860-344-1804

membership@cthorsecouncil.org

Insurance Secretary

Kathy Kane
860--739-3322

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COMMITTEE'S

Trails

Diane Ciano

Road Safe

Karen Hartwell
Diane Ciano

Zoning

Shelly Fetterhoff

Legislative

Amy Stegall

Public Relations/Newsletter

Fred Mastele

Web Site

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Committees continued on Page 10



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**New Federal Legislation Affects Several Aspects
of the Horse Industry** (*American Horse Council*)

WASHINGTON, DC - It's been a busy spring in Washington and the American Horse Council (AHC) offices. Federal representatives introduced nine new bills in Congress affecting the horse industry in one short month between the end of April and the end of May.

The new legislation includes bills concerning immigration in the House and Senate, two bills regarding Internet gambling in the House, a bill regarding a change to the tax code for horse owners

in the Senate, insurance protection for recreational riders and federal legislation on animal identification. "The issues dealt with in these bills touches anyone involved with horses," said Jay Hickey, AHC president. "There are several bills pertinent to the racing industry and a very important bill concerning recreational riders. And immigration is a hot issue in Washington right now and affects any business in the industry that utilizes immigrant and guest workers.

"Some of these bills are similar or identical to bills that were introduced in the last Congress," continued Hickey. "But others are new and it is important for anyone concerned with the horse industry to stay educated on legislation that could affect them."

Do not forget that you can learn more about new bills and keep up to date on any pending federal legislation and regulations by visiting the AHC Web site at www.horsecouncil.org.

FRAUD ALERT!

It has come to the attention of CHC that "Nigerian" internet scams have started to filter into the equine industry. Therefore, we would like to make our members aware that they should be cautious in any transaction, particularly those involving items for sale on the internet.

Often this takes the form of the victim being contacted about an item they have for sale; a trailer, horse, or saddle for instance. The person sends the seller an email saying that they want the item, but owes another person in this country money, so they will send the seller a money order for a larger dollar amount, and then have the seller pay the person who is owed money. This is usually a scam, so please be aware. Any form of overpayment for sale items with instructions to refund money or pay others, should be viewed with suspicion.

Occasionally, the reverse will be true: a scammer will post photos of an item for sale at an unbelievably low price. Typically, these photos are stolen from another internet site. Once the victim sends money to the scammer, they never hear another word. This has happened in other states with advertisements of trailers or saddles for sale. Check out an item before you make a purchase.

Also, there have been many instances of fraudulent money orders, bank checks and personal checks. These items can be forged, and it is becoming more common.



TIPS:

- Don't be fooled by a fraudulent check, just because it looks legitimate.
- If you are selling a horse, beware of any person who simply wants to send you money without asking questions about the horse they are purchasing.
- **Know who you're dealing with** - independently confirm your buyer's name, street address, and telephone number. Be wary of selling something to a person who appears to be in a foreign country.
- If you're selling something over the Internet or through a newspaper ad, **say "no" to a check for more than your selling price, no matter how tempting the plea or convincing the story.**
- **Don't wire money back to anyone.** There is no legitimate reason for someone who is paying you or giving you money to ask you to wire money back.

If you've been the victim of such a scam, report it to the Attorney General at Attorney.General@po.state.ct.us, the National Fraud Information Center/Internet Fraud Watch at www.fraud.org, a service of the National Consumers League (NCL) or telephone them at 1-800-876-7060, or the [Federal Trade Commission](http://www.ftc.gov) or 1-877-FTC-HELP.

The following websites are also useful when you wish to research potential scams: The FBI www.fbi.gov, The CT Attorney General www.ct.gov/ag, the U.S. Postal Service www.usps.com.

The following release was also published by EquiSpirit Trailer sales:

News Release – June 18th, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tom Scheve - EquiSpirit Trailers

1-877-575-1771

tomequispirit@earthlink.net

Nigerian Fraud Hits Horse Trailer Customers

The Nigerian internet fraud, which has pounded US email accounts touting to make large money transfers in exchange for fees, has taken on a new spin with internet horse trailer sales. The increasing growth of equestrian websites offering free classified ads has provided an effective catalyst for the Nigerian scam artists to test their new scheme. Horse trailers have been targeted because they are high ticket items.

"We discovered it through first hand experience," stated Tom Scheve, CEO of EquiInternational Inc./EquiSpirit Trailers. "A California horse owner, who happened to also be an investigator, called our office to warn us. She had found a brand new 2007 EquiSpirit two horse model on freehorseads.com that was offered at more than ½ off the price. The buyer hoped there was some good reason for the low price, but there wasn't. When the seller became evasive about showing her the trailer, and wanted a substantial deposit up front, she became suspicious and called us. Since we sell EquiSpirits direct throughout the country instead of through dealers, we can keep close track of our trailers and customers. We quickly discerned that the

pictures on the ad were lifted from our website, and that the seller did not exist in our files."

The way it works is this: First, information and pictures of a particular horse trailer are "lifted" from a trailer dealer website. Next, a classified type ad is created and placed on as many free-advertising websites as they can find. Once contact is made by an unsuspecting customer, a substantial deposit or even the entire amount is asked for in advance.

"I think that most horse owners will be sharp enough to detect that something's wrong" says Tom. "The people working this fraud are not horse owners so email responses to trailer questions are usually odd or evasive, sentence structure and grammar are strange, and in our case, the price was too low to be believable. But I suspect that the "pitch" will improve if the results show promise, so buyers need to be cautious." <<<

CHC reminds our members to always be vigilant in any sales transaction, regardless of if you are the buyer or seller. If it sounds too good to be true, or facts do not match—walk away. You have the right to ask questions, and receive information. Do not be pressured by aggressive tactics. Ask questions and stay informed.



More VHP Pachaug campout

The Connecticut Horse Council is grateful for all of its members. The CHC is here to serve you and there would be no horse council without the members. Your input is appreciated and we welcome any suggestions you may have regarding information you would like to see in the newsletter or concerns you want to see addressed. Please feel free to contact Fred Mastele or any of the other officers or board members.

The following membership application serves as a reminder if you still haven't joined CHC for 2007 and if you have it's for you to share with a friend that can benefit from being a member.

THE CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2007

Membership Classification (Check One)

- Individual \$20
- Student \$15
- Club * \$30 (1-50) \$40 (51-100) \$55 (101-200) \$70 (201-350) \$85 (351-500) \$105 (500 & up)
 1 Delegate 2 Delegates 3 Delegates 4 Delegates 5 Delegates 6 Delegates
- Business or Professional \$50 **NEW** **RENEWAL**

*Note: Club Membership Fee and number of delegates are based on the number of club members. Please submit this form with main contact name.

Attach listing of additional delegates with name, address, phone & E-mail address.

Membership decal available Static Sticker Check which one you wish to receive with your membership. Additional decals are available for \$1.00 each

Referral Name _____ How did you hear about the CHC? _____

CLUB or BUSINESS NAME (if applicable)

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY / STATE/ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

NUMBER OF HORSES OWNED: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST (Please Check all that apply)

- Trails Zoning Booth Legislation Trade Show Road Safe Website Insurance
- Mounted Horse Patrol Education Horse 911 SART

I would be willing to phone horsemen in my community for emergency equine issues.
 Yes No

I would be willing to serve on committees . Yes No

I endorse The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. and its Goals

_____ *Signature*

Make checks payable to:
The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 57
Durham, CT 06422-0057

Telephone: 860-482-9500
www.cthorsecouncil.org