



CT Horse Council TRAIL NEWS Volunteer Horse Patrol January 2008



Volunteer Horse Patrol News

Hello Everyone

Thank you for all your help and support these past years and for the upcoming year of 2008.

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to 26 areas around the state, including town parks, open spaces and land trusts. As we continue to grow, we are expanding our riding opportunities and helping to create long distance connecting trails. Congratulations to you all, because each of your patrol logs, no matter how many hours you patrol and maintain trails adds to the grander total of statewide hours. This service provides CHC and DEP 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.

HAPPY TRAILS

Diane Ciano - Meg Sautter

For 2007, we had a total of **1,299 patrols** with **40 patrol locations** around the state in parks, forests, wildlife management areas and preserves. There were **3,053 patrol hours** logged with **631** trail maintenance hours. Individual hours will be out shortly.

Our annual VHP meeting was held in February. A power point presentation was created on the VHP with many thanks to Judy Beliveau. CPR & First Aid class were given by Meg Sautter who traveled around the state to certify members and new applicants. Thanks Meg. Everyone really enjoys your classes and discounted rates to all.

This year the VHP program received funding through the Recreational Trails Act Program (RTA) to provide members with shirts, first aid kits and to reproduce the VHP pamphlet. CHC will be providing new members with safety vests.

We have **26** new members for 2008 making a total of **82** members patrolling around the state!

Airline/Salmon River Area: Melissa Kennedy

Cockaponset Area: Brenda Vynalek, Debbie O'Donnell, Debbie Sommers, Donna Simms, Melanie Langan, Pat Bandzes & Sally Carter

Larkin/Putman Area: Alesia DiFrederico, Chris Mard, Denise Ciano, Donna Sims, Elsie Wood, and Lori Gmuer

Sleeping Giant Area: Bob LaRosa & Summer Armack

Fairfield Hills - 2nd Co. Horse Guard: Cynthia Giancaspro, Coordinator, Barbara Noone, Cheryl Capoccitti, Jackie Sundblade, Kim Cotnoir Abate, Melanie Viets, Rafael Fabrega-Freer, Rebecca Ward, Susan Kasmin, and Terri Burke.

CHC-VHP EVENTS:

UConn Symposium

Members of the VHP participated at the Symposium this year. Our Power point presentation was delivered by Meg Sautter. A big thank you to Cat Wilder who manned the VHP table and donated money from her beautifully created jewelry sales to the Friends of Silvermine Horse Camp fund. Special thanks to Carol Birdsey who made our VHP table cloths that professionalized our table.

In the afternoon, a trail obstacle course was set up as a demonstration of the horse & rider assessment program of the VHP program. Thank you to all the participants, especially to Ed Pryblinski from Happy Trails Farm, Danbury and VHP member for Tarrywile Park, who gave the audience tips on training trail horses for obstacles they may encounter on well used trails and Greenways. Thank you to all the VHP members and their horses who participated: Meg Sautter/Dancer, Diane Ciano/Aladdin, Cowboy Ken Forcier/Red, Ed Prybylski/Smokey, Michael Marcus & Gus, Rose Mary Biegger/Chief, and Sally Carter/Morning Dove.

Other VHP members participating in the demo, Brenda Vynalek and her black lab, Sierra Blue, Denise Ciano, Cheryl Capoccitti & her German Shepard, Bella, Christel Maturo, Bob LaRosa, Lou Casabone, Laurieanne Goulet, Sue Kasmin.

Special thanks Nadeau for all her work in presenting the Symposium.



Ed Prybylski & Smokey
Happy Trails Farm, Danbury



Rose Mary Biegger & Chief with Brenda Vynalek & her black lab, Sierra Blue



Sally Carter & Morning Dove



Cowboy Ken Forcier & Red

DEP - No Child Left Inside Program - Gillette Castle



**CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Members Suzie Francher
& Tom Biesiadecki with Tuffy and Carmello**

We had a great day on Sunday. The weather was perfect and that alone brought the crowds, and the kids. There was a steady stream of kids and adults coming to see the horses. We guess there were about 100 kids, give or take, that stopped by from 10:00 AM when the event opened to about 4:00 PM, even though the event was until 3:00PM. There were four VHP Members and their horses altogether; Ken Forcier and Red, Judy Beliveau & Kool Hand Luke, Suzie Francher and Tom Biesiadecki with Tuffy and Carmello. Everyone did an awesome job, especially the horses. Even after the large crowds of loud, fast moving kids, all the horses had all four feet on the ground and behaved beautifully. We had utilized one of the picnic tables which was set up with the kids activities, apples and carrots, a riding helmet, brushes and a bit and bridle. There were two volunteers Kate and Mackenzie, a mother-daughter team that took control of table along with the give-aways we had purchased for the kids. So if any knows who they were, please forward a big THANK YOU from me for their helping hands, I really appreciated their efforts! **Submitted by Judy Beliveau, CHC-VHP**

Note: The "No Child Left Inside" program is a special initiative designed to encourage Connecticut families and visitors alike to enjoy all the recreational resources and outdoor activities that Connecticut's state parks and forests have to offer. To Learn more about the No Child Left Inside Program, the website is: www.NoChildLeftInside.org

Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area - Clean Up



On Sunday, October 21st, eight people from the Connecticut Horse Council (CHC), Volunteer Horse Patrol, (VHP) gathered to clean the trash and litter from Babcock Pond Wildlife Management Area in Colchester and East Haddam, CT. Babcock is a 1524 acre of beautiful woods, streams and ponds, laced with trails off Route 16. It is popular for fishing, hiking, cycling, trail riding, and unfortunately, dirt bikes, ATVs and late night partying.

Anne Albee, Jack Connors, Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Lauren Shevenski (friend of CHC), Hilery Slattery, Olivia Duksa and Mary Ann Smith spent 4 hours clearing aluminum siding, an old seat from a car, a broken picnic table, car speakers, a rug, a lawn chair, broken glass and 8-10 bags of trash and litter from the area. They also removed some broken branches and cleared trails.

"It's all about giving back to the areas where we love to spend time." states Albee. "I'm in here almost daily and can monitor the activity and condition of the area. I've witnessed the build-up of the litter and wanted to do something about it. We know the DEP doesn't have the staff or budget to do what we do on a daily basis."

Submitted by Anne Albee, CHC -VHP Coordinator for Babcock WMA

Another CHC Trails brochure...

"Share The Trail"

CHC has produced the brochure "Share The Trail." This is the first multiple-use trails etiquette brochure in over 20 years! This was created by Mary Geer of Acorn Studios and VHP Coordinator for the Salmon River Area. It was 4 years in the making. Many of the pictures in the brochure were taken on last year's VHP campout /photo shoot in Pachaug State Forest.

We need help in distributing 47,000 copies state-wide to any of your local parks, land trusts and state park facilities. We would like to see these placed in kiosks, town halls and any other appropriate place that trail users may pick up public information. Please contact Diane Ciano for copies. This brochure can also be seen and down loaded from our website.

FRIENDS OF LOST SILVER MINE HORSE CAMP

Natchaug State Forest - Hampton, CT



The Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) and the New England Arabian Trail Organization (NEATO) organized two brush clearing work days during 2007 and have recorded 221 hours to date toward the 20% match for the Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP). **CHC needs to raise \$10,000** for the match of Phase 1 of this project that will bring new eco toilets, picnic tables, a Kiosk for information, directional signs and to the trail system to clear and mark trail loops approved by DEP. The match for the funding will also include additional **"volunteer labor"** clearing and work days at the camp.

Improving the campground is a major undertaking in which everyone, both in and out of CT, will benefit greatly from. The project is still just the beginning stages of a large scale renovation of the camp.

Please join us in this project.

We need volunteers and organizations to come forward to help with additional clearing of the campground to prepare for the installing and building projects and to help secure Fund Raising projects for the 20% match.

Our first clearing date for 2008 is Saturday, May 17th 9:00 a.m.

RSVP Lunch & information: Cheryl Mastale greymist@comcast.net or call 860-301-6767

We need you to help in any way you can, by volunteer hours and by helping to solicit organizations, businesses and individuals to help raise the funds for this project through donations, organizing and hosting Benefit Events around the state.

The second phase of the project will be for greater improvements to the campsites which will include, building a pavilion and improving the condition of the trails in the forest as well as creating maps and marking specific mileage trails. Other projects would be to create a larger day use parking area, provide a mounting ramp, install piped corrals on some of the sites and any other amenities needed to enhance the campground.

Please join CHC's "Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp" group, so that when work days or Fund Raising Events are held, we can notify you and keep you in the news regarding the funding and updates to the project. Volunteers 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. We also need people to help build the eco toilet houses, kiosk and various signs.

Please contact Diane Ciano with your name, e-mail address and phone number to be added to CHC's "Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp" E-mail 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.

Thank you for your support

***SAVE THE DATE - CT Horse Council's Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp
Benefit Pleasure Ride - Saturday October 18th (Rain Date 10/19)***

***DONATIONS can be mailed to CHC - Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp
P.O. Box 57, Durham, CT 06422-0057***

SAVE THESE DATES ...

Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp



Saturday April 19th - CHC-VHP SHOW 'N GO

Roraback Wildlife Management Area, Harwinton

Experience the natural beauty of this area to benefit the

Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp

10:00am Coffee and.... Donation \$10.00

Hosts: Diane Ciano & Meg Sautter

RSVP for more info & directions: mmsautter@att.net 860-666-6938 (C) 860-402-3824

Saturday April 26th - CFPA Annual Trail Maintainer Workshop, Chester

Learn the basics of trail design and maintenance of pedestrian/hiking trails while working side-by-side with seasoned trail volunteers. Projects will include bridge building, water bar construction, side-hilling, brushing, blazing and safe tool usage. Construction of handicap access trails will be included this year.

Meet at 8:30 am at Cockaponset State Forest. From Route 9 take exit 6 and head west on Route 148. Turn right on Cedar Lake Road. At 1.7 miles turn left to sign for Pataconk Reservoir Parking. Bring water, lunch, work gloves and dress appropriately for outdoor work. Tools will be provided.

To register, or for further information contact workshop leader George Arthur by calling 860-871-0137 or email trailsarthur2@comcast.net. Or call CFPA at 860-346-2372 or email info@ctwoodlands.org.

Rain date is Sunday, April 27.

Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp



Saturday May 11th CHC-VHP SHOW 'N GO

Nehantic State Forest, East Lyme

Explore this unknown forest to benefit the **Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp**

10:00am Coffee and.... - Donation \$10.00

Hosts: Ginger Tullai & Diane Ciano

RSVP for more info & directions: gingernjohn@juno.com 860-204-0808



Thursday, May 22nd - Introduction to The CT Horse Council's

Volunteer Horse Patrol Program

Location: 7/8th Farm, Killingworth - 6:30 pm

This program will be an informational meeting on what the CHC-VHP program is all about and how you can join in. There will be an evaluation demo of the requirements of the horse & rider following the presentation of the program by Meg Sautter & Diane Ciano, CHC Supervisors.

Anyone wanting to go through the Horse & Rider Assessment can

Make arrangements to bring their horse. RSVP to: Pat Martin: pjm6680@comcast.net

Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp



Sunday, June 1st - CHC-VHP SHOW 'N GO

Machimoodus State Park, East Haddam.

Take in a view of the CT River to benefit the **Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp**

10:00 a.m. Coffee and.... - Donation \$10.00

Hosts: Meg Sautter & Diane Ciano

RSVP for more info & directions: mmsautter@att.net 860-666-6938 (C) 860-402-3824

NATIONAL TRAILS DAYS EVENTS

Saturday, June 7, 2008

✓ **“TOUR DETRAIL” EVENT / Airline Greenway**

10a.m. - 2 p.m. - Airline Trail Head River Road, Colchester

RSVP for info & directions: Ginger Tullai gingernjohn@juno.com **860-204-0808**

✓ **Lower CT River Valley Horseman's Club - Trail Ride & Workday in Cockaponset**

Contact: www.lcrvhc.org

✓ **Larkin Bridle Trail Event – CHC-VHP**

RSVP for more info & directions: Meg Sautter mmsautter@att.net 860-402-3824



June 27, 28, 29 CHC-VHP Campout

Blessings of the Mounts 6/29

Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp - Natchaug State Forest

RSVP for more info & directions: Diane Ciano Spirit76@snet.net 203-757-1904

Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp



Saturday, October 18th, CHC Benefit Trail Ride

Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp - Natchaug State Forest, Hampton

10:00 a.m.

Money raised will be for the renovation of The Silvermine Horse Camp

New Toilets * Picnic Tables * Kiosk * Signs * Manure Pit

RSVP for more info & directions: Mary Ann DRMASmith@aol.com **860-885-1094**

Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp



Saturday October 18th

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.



Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp Benefit Trail Ride

Natchaug State Forest (rain date 10/20)

Array of Great Foods
Lunch
Desserts

Door Prizes
Raffles
Bake Sale

Comradeship
For an Equestrian
Cause

Bring your
loose change
& help fill
the Water Bucket

Money raised will be for the renovation of The Silvermine Horse Camp
New Toilets * Picnic Tables * Kiosk * Signs * Manure Pit

RSVP for more info & directions: Mary Ann DRMASmith@aol.com 860-885-1094

"Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp"

Cheshire Horse Council makes a donation to CT Horse Council
for the "The Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp" Fund.



Christel Maturo, President of the Cheshire Horse Council along with members Daisy Gmitter and Lou Casabona (in blue shirts) presented CHC with a donation of \$100.00 for the Silvermine Horse Camp Fund. This was the first organization to start the drive to raise \$10,000 needed to match funds to revamp the Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp in Natchaug State Forest. See article for further information on how you or your organization can help. Also pictured are Diane Ciano and Meg Sautter. Cheshire Horse Council members above are also members of the CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol for Sleeping Giant State Park & the Cheshire Open Space - DiDominicus Property. Christel is the CHC-VHP Coordinator.

A BIG Thank You to our out of state organizations for their support. Out of state organizations have also given their support to this fund raiser. A big thank you to the **Bay State Trail Rider Association** for \$500.00, **West Greenwich Horseman's Association** \$100.00 and the **Rhode Island Federation Riding Club** \$100.00.

Thank you to all the contributors to date: CHC-VHP members at our annual meeting - pass the hat - \$146.00, Individual donations: Cat Wilder, Cheryl Morin, Denise Magario, Harriet Griffith, Joanne Gagnon, Julie Martin, Korine Meakem, Laura Susmann, Laurinda Walsh, and Lorie Mocek.

Special thanks to **Phyllis Alexander** for her fund raising efforts!

To date, **\$1,217.86** has been raised. Please consider making a donation to this horse camp that offers miles of trails for your riding pleasure.

***DONATIONS can be mailed to CHC - Friends of Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp
P.O. Box 57, Durham, CT 06422-0057***