



The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

Newsletter

Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education

Fall – Year End 2009

www.cthorsecouncil.org

***Please support our State Horse Council.
The 2010 membership application is attached
or you can apply online on our membership page.
Thank you in advance for your support.***

Your CHC Representation around the state...

Table of Contents:

2 Health & Welfare

3 Legislation

3 Road Safety

4 Zoning

5 Equine Advisory Council

6-7 DEP – CHC Trails Committee News

8-9 CT Greenways Council • CT Forestlands Council • DEP Recreational Trails Advisory Board

9 New England National Scenic Trail (MMM)

10 Volunteer Horse Patrol

11-12 CHC 2010 Membership Application

Hello Everyone,

As 2009 comes to an end, let's reflect on all our accomplishments as the Fall Season is upon us – soon to be Winter. Time for rest and reflection of the past year. Yet the light will come on December 21st, when the days will grow longer each day thereafter.

CHC volunteers have dedicated much of their personal time to represent the Equestrians around the state, reflected on each page of this newsletter with the theme "[**Your CHC Representation around the state**](#)"

It's been a hard economic year for many of us and CHC decided to reduce our membership for the entire year of 2010 to help all those that wish to continue to support our state-wide efforts and in hopes that new horse people will come forward to join us with the reduced rates slashed in half. Only \$10.00 for individual membership – for the entire year! Not so hard on the pocket, and . . . if every equestrian in CT **(There are over 25,000 of you)** joined in for \$10.00 – we certainly can do so much to expand our work.

Businesses and Farms – Please join us for only \$20.00 and know that your business size card will be on each of our Quarterly Newsletters, posted on our website with a direct link to your website!

***Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all who celebrate the Season
Best Wishes for a prosperous New Year
from the Officers and Board Members of your State Council***

[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)

Animal Health & Welfare Committee

Continuing our Firefighter/ first responder horse handling/rescue training program, **CT Horse 911**

Laurianne Goulet is now heading the CHC Animal Health & Welfare Committee with the help of Josephine Barker, Diane Ciano and Meg Sautter. Laurianne will be facilitating the program. Anyone interested in helping to work on this committee please contact Laurianne.

This committee educates horse and barn owner on how to be prepared for an emergency or disaster. Information on this is found on our website www.cthorsecouncil.org under Animal Health & Welfare.

The CHC has also established a **Barn Fire Training Program** to train firefighters and barn owners in how to safely remove animals and how to make a facility safe in regard to fire prevention. Speakers for the program are available. Contact Laurianne at CTHorse911@cthorsecouncil.org

Connecticut State Animal Response Team (CT SART)

Josephine Barker reports that the CT SART, Region 5 was activated for the first time in July, in the case of 355 fighting chickens found at a farm in Harwinton. CT State Police and Dept. of Agriculture confiscated the poultry, which had been part of a cock fighter breeding operation. The animals were removed to a secure location, and the Reg. 5 team activated to take care for them until the investigation was complete.

Region 5 SART sponsored a training exercise held Saturday, October 17, 2009.



CHC members who participated in this training: Diane Ciano, Josephine Barker, Meg Sautter, Laurianne Goulet, & Luci Demeck.

This drill was for volunteer team members and for new volunteers who wish to become a part of CT SART. The Training- Exercise included Introduction to Disaster Animal Response Training, Small Animal Behavior & Handling, Personal Protective Equipment & Safety, Introduction to Radio Communications, Introduction to Sheltering Exercise and a mock Shelter Exercise.

Laurianne Goulet, Josephine Barker & Diane Ciano. Missing from photo is Meg Sautter and Luci Demeck

REGION 5 - Northwest Corner is headed up by:

Donna A. Cobelli, DVM, CT SART Region 5 Team Leader, CT Region 5 DEMHS ESF 11 Chair

Tom Vannini, State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management/Homeland Security

Christine Applewhite, Environmental Sanitarian II, Dept. of Public Health

Meeting and Training Dates Region 5 in 2010 include: Animal handling and behavior, Animal first aid, Introduction to Hazmat for SART, PPE for SART Search and Rescue for SART & Animals in Disaster. Contact Diane Ciano for meeting dates and Region 5 contact info.

Anyone can attend any or all of the meetings.

Anyone wishing to volunteer on their local region of CT SART - Please visit WWW.CTSART.ORG for more information.

[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)

Legislation:

CHC President Amy Stegall keeps busy monitoring the legislative session on all issues that have an impact on the horse or equine industry. CHC keeps members informed by e-mailing pertinent news from the American Horse Council (AHC) and the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) to our members to keep them informed. Our website also gives members information on how to find and address your legislators.

Amy recently involved with Jay Hickey, President of the AHC to help get the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to put back in the study of the unwanted horse issue which was stripped from federal legislation. This is an important report needed to those on both sides of the unwanted horse issue--as we seriously need factual information on exactly how many horses are being given up etc.

Amy contacted Representative Congresswoman DeLauro's office and asked that the study be put back into the bill. The issue was resolved--the GAO horse study will be done. The AHC will report on the exact verbiage of the actual bill text when the report is completed.

Road Safety:

Seen around Hartford...

Your voice makes a difference.... Pictured below is an advertisement on a bus in Hartford educating the public on sharing the road. CHC was instrumental in getting the equestrian voice heard on the 2009 Connecticut State-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.



Visit the Share the Road website at: <http://www.sharetheroadct.org/>

[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)

Zoning:

CHC has been busy throughout the year helping local residents and addressing with towns changing zoning regulations. CHC steps up to the plate to represent equestrian interests. Below are some reports of the work CHC has been doing to represent equestrians around the state

Oxford – Submitted by Judy Beliveau

In October 2009 the Town of Oxford Planning and Zoning Commission proposed a regulation revision regarding manure management and horses as part of their periodic overhaul of existing regulations. This proposed change was prompted by complaints received by the zoning office during the past months. Many of these complaints were based on personal neighbor feuds and some of them were regarding other livestock.

The Zoning Enforcement Officer Anna Silva met with members of CHC and expressed her desire to work with the agricultural community and not enact additional regulations that would be detrimental to farmers. Consequently the revision to the existing regulations on manure was stricken in its entirety.

In addition to striking the revision Ms. Silva formally requested the Zoning Commission remove the word 'odor' from the existing regulations. Ms. Silva stated the word odor "is very subjective and not enforceable."

CHC members Judy Beliveau, Alesia DiFederico and Luci Demeck organized a meeting with members of the Oxford Horse & Livestock Association (OHLA) to provide information and help to create a unified plan of action to address the proposed change.

The final outcome of the Oxford regulation change was that the commission decided the word 'odor' was to be removed and they omitted any other revisions to the existing regulations regarding manure. As a result of the community's involvement, open communication between the town and local equestrians was re-established.

CHC also provided OHLA additional information and brochures from the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR), "Horses Make Good Neighbors" and the Equine Economic Development & Community Impact brochures. www.elcr.org to hand to the town's ZEO to be used as an educational tool in the future.

East Windsor – Submitted by Rob Hocutt

The East Windsor Planning and Zoning committee met in late November for a second working session on a proposed set of farm regulations. The proposed regulations included limitations on livestock ownership in residential areas, definition of a farm in a residential area as a parcel over 4 acres, limitations on signs and a provision allowing the town to direct a farm's manure management.

Along with the Connecticut Horse Council and the CT Farm Bureau, over 50 other attendees packed the room for the emotionally charged meeting. The town indicated that the state is requiring the new regulations due to the receipt of state grant funds for agricultural land preservation, although the grant itself indicates that such regulations would be a result of the grant, rather than a driver of it. Several residents indicated that they would prefer to send the grant back rather than accept the regulations as proposed.

The meeting ended with a consensus that more work needs to be done in order to present a set of regulations consistent with the state's "right to farm" law as well as the desires of the town residents. Connecticut Horse Council continues to work closely with the town in order to modify the proposed regulations to be more farm-friendly

[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)

Equine Advisory Council:

In 2007 the Equine Advisory Council (EAC) was established by law to assist the Department of Environmental Protection to study the issue of preservation of equine trails in the state. The Council has been meeting this past year to establish its goals and to get the 5 members from each Congressional District appointed by the respective legislators. Established in this council to date by Public Act No. 07-42 is the President of the CT Horse Council, **Amy Stegall**, the First Congressional District - **Meg Sautter**, Second Congressional District - **William MacLaren**, Third Congressional District - **Ruth Beardsley** and **Leslie Lewis** of the CT Forest & Parks Association. **Laurie Giannotti** – DEP Greenways and Trails Coordinator is the liaison for DEP and the EAC. There are two remaining positions that the EAC is waiting on for appointments. The Council is trusting that the legislators of the 4th & 5th Districts will make their appointments in 2010 to fill the positions required by this act.

CHC members, Diane Ciano, Jan Collins, Judith Beliveau and Alesia DiFederico have been attending and participating at these meetings which have been held bi-monthly.

The EAC has had great success this past year in establishing open communication, creating its goals and getting some projects to move forward. The Goals established are:

1. Promote equestrian use on public lands
2. Preservation, Maintenance and Restoration of trails.
3. Document and create maps for trails historically used by equestrians.

The Council will have a web page up on the DEP website for 2010. Meetings for 2010 have been scheduled for 6:00 pm at the Northeast Utilities Building, Berlin for 2/16, 4/20, 6/15, 9/21 & 11/16. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

The Council is in need of an artist's design of a logo. Please contact Diane Ciano trails@cthorsecouncil.org for a document of the type of logo we are looking to have someone create for the Council. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

As 2008 ends, we look back at the accomplishments made and give thanks & appreciation to all that work so hard to protect and promote the equestrian interests of CT



**2007 Signing of Equine Advisory Council Bill
with Governor Rell**



**Thank you Representative Hovey for your
your work in establishing the Equine Advisory
Council, An Act Preserving Certain Horse Trails
and your continued support of the CT Equestrians**



**CT Horse Council
TRAIL NEWS
Volunteer Horse Patrol
FALL & Year End Trail News
2009**



Submitted by Diane Ciano

[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)

DEP NEWS

Hartford - DEP has had quite a few changes within this past year. The new DEP Commissioner, is Amey Marrella, who has replaced Gina McCarthy that has left to work in Washington DC. The position of Chief of Outdoor Recreation and Director of State Parks positions are now open due to retirement as well as many other positions within the department.

Scott Dawley - Eastern District Manager

This summer DEP Supervisor Scott Dawley of Pachaug State Forest and other areas within this district took the position of Eastern District Manager for all DEP land east of the CT River. For those of you that don't know Scott, CHC and local equestrians know him as a friend to multiple use trail systems and has always maintained that many of the trails at Pachaug SF can be used by all user groups. Pachaug is our State's largest forest and comprises over 28,000 acres.

CHC would like to congratulate Scott on his new position and thank him for his years of service in the Pachaug area and by recently providing two major accomplishments for the equestrian community. See article below.

[Pachaug State Forest - New toilets – New map – 3 approved trails:](#)

Scott Dawley was instrumental in getting two new solar toilets installed at the **Frog Hollow Horse Camp** as well as getting 3 trail systems approved to be permanently marked in the forest as multi-use trails. With the help of DEP's Tom Nosal's maps, CHC mapped a 5 - 10 & 15 mile looped trail system.

A BIG THANK YOU goes to CHC-VHP volunteer **Phyllis Alexander** for marking the trails on the map. CHC will purchase the yellow diamond markers in the spring and get the 3 trails marked.

Donations for the markers will be greatly appreciated - Thank you

The new map can be viewed at:

<http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/stateparks/maps/pachaugmountmisertrailmap.pdf>

[Natchaug State Forest - Lost Silvermine Horse Camp Update:](#)

CHC has been working this past year to revise the proposal for the renovations of the camp. We are awaiting the project approval number in order to start. Work parties will be scheduled in the spring. We will be looking for people to help in making a kiosk, road signs; installing camp number sites gates and picnic tables. We also need help in getting local contacts for a bobcat or backhoe. If anyone can help out with this project, please contact Diane Ciano.

Thank You to Patti Crowther for her \$40.00 donation to the camp renovation that will be used to match the Grant fund.

[Your CHC Representation around the state...](#)

Goodwin State Forest – “Friends of Goodwin State Forest

The first meeting of an exploratory committee of volunteers to establish a “Friends of Goodwin Forest” group met in November. Jan Collins attended this meeting and reported that the group is quite enthusiastic about having equestrians involved.

CHC Trails encourages local equestrians to support this group. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th at 1:30 pm.

For more information please contact: Steve Broderick, Goodwin Forest Conservation Education Center (860) 455-9534 www.ct.gov/dep/Goodwin

Larkin Bridle State Park

ATVs cause injuries on the Larkin State Bridle Trail - VHP member renders aid

On October 11th 2009, Jody Dardis was riding her horse along the Larkin Bridle Trail when two ATVs entered the trail from a side path, directly in front of Jody. Jody’s horse spooked, she became unseated and hit the ground. The ATVs did not stop, although they saw Jody fall from her horse, and left her there.



One of our own Volunteer Horse Patrol (VHP) members, Ken (Kowboy Ken) Forcier was also on the trail that day. Kowboy Ken encountered the same two ATVs further down the trail as they fled the scene of the crime. The ATVs did not stop or even slow down, one shouting to the other to “Just Keep Going!”

Luckily, Kowboy Ken was able to keep his horse under control as the two ATVs sped by. Kowboy Ken continued down the trail where he encountered Jody, who was on the ground seriously injured. Kowboy Ken called 911 which brought the local Resident State Trooper and an ambulance.

Jody was hospitalized for five days due the serious nature of her multiple injuries. While Jody was in the hospital, she lost her job as a nanny of twins. Jody’s injuries will require months of healing and physical therapy. Among the injuries Jody sustained was a broken arm which required the insertion of a steel rod. Hopefully

Jody will regain her full range of motion in that arm. Jody’s son has been doing all the horse-keeping as she still has difficulty moving about freely.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is investigating the incident and has been patrolling the Larkin Trail on foot and with DEP ATVs. The DEP officers could use any information other trail users or neighboring property owners might provide.

The Connecticut Horse Council is offering a \$500.00 Cash Reward for information leading to the arrest of the operators of the ATVs. If you have any information please call the DEP Hotline 860-424-3333.

If you would like to help Jody in any way, local VHP member Alesia DiFederico is coordinating donations of hay. Alesia can be reached at: stoneoaks@charter.net or 203-509-6603

Jody could use hay and any monetary donations folks might offer. A Paypal account for receiving funds has been started. The Paypal account is j.dobbins89@snet.net

Please help Jody have a happier holiday season by making a donation. No amount is too small! Remember, this could have been any one of us! Thank you in advance for your support.

Note: There have been several reports to CHC of bicyclists and people with loose dogs who have caused disruption to the experience of others on the trails. We have also heard from other user groups that they have encountered equestrians that have not been polite or have left road apples on paved trails or in the parking lots.

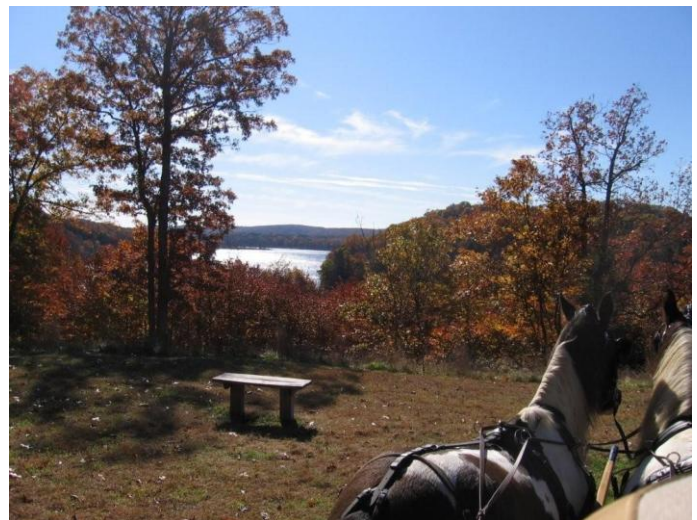
It is important that we as equestrians follow the rules of Sharing the Trail as well as educating other user groups to do the same. The CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol provides education out on the trail and our uniforms help to identify us.

The CHC has produced a Trail Etiquette brochure "Share the Trail" that addresses the 'rules of multi-use'. We need individuals to come forward and volunteer to place these brochures in our state parks, forests, town open spaces, town halls, libraries, etc., along with our Road Safety brochures. Copies of these brochures can be obtained by contacting Diane Ciano.

Your CHC Representation around the state...

Sunrise Resort/Machimoodus State Park

Meg Sautter, Diane Ciano and members of the CT Valley Driving Club met with Scott Dawley to discuss getting carriage driving access into the area. The existing roads were historically built for carriage driving by the previous owners but due to fencing and blocking, carriages can not get through. We had a good meeting and Scott agreed to open up the Sun Rise parking lot for carriage events when notice is given. The CT Valley Driving Club has held a couple of drives & rides in there this fall and will hold a larger event this spring. If anyone wishes to utilize the parking area, please contact Diane Ciano for more information.



Randy Sabatino & Sylvia Crosby on CT Valley Driving Club Drive at Sunrise Resort & Machimoodus State Park

CT Greenways Council • CT Forestlands Council • DEP Recreational Trails Advisory Board Reports

Jan Collins, CHC Trails, VHP Coordinator for the Shenipsit & Nipmuck State Forests and member of the **CT Greenways Council** now has another hat to wear. Jan has completed the DEP's volunteer Master Wildlife Conservationist program. She now volunteers her time at DEP events, conducting bird surveys, etc. or lecturing other interested organizations to educate the public on wildlife, birdlife & conservation issues while promoting equestrians whenever possible on trails. Jan continues to attend the bi-monthly **CT Greenway Council** meetings where the council is currently in the process of attempting to reclaim Greenway funds, which support various trail projects, which were swept into the state general fund during the recent budget crunch.

Your CHC Representation around the state:

CT Forestlands Council

Jan also represented CHC at the recent annual **CT Forestlands Council Forum**. Roundtable discussions were conducted to update the vision statements found in the 2004 CT Statewide Forest Resources Plan. Jan and **Diane Ciano** are members of the Recreational Subcommittee which is in need of reorganization. They will be attending an upcoming meeting in Dec on this issue.

DEP Recreational Trails Advisory Board

Jan and Diane also participated in November on the **DEP Recreational Trails Advisory Board** helping to decide where 1.2 million dollars in federal RTP funds would be disbursed. Over 57 grant proposals were reviewed and several with specific equestrian trail components were awarded.

Thank you Jan and Diane for your continued support and promotion of the equestrian community around the State.

• New England National Scenic Trail (MMM) - Trail Stewardship Council & Committees •

As many of you know, the MMM Trail was designated this summer as a National Scenic Trail and is now known as the New England National Scenic Trail. The MMM trail as it was formally called, will still remain known locally by their traditional names: the Mattabesett – Metacomet (in CT) and Monadnock (in MA). The 190 mile trail traverses through 39 towns in Central CT and western Massachusetts.

The designation brought forth a plan to promote and preserve the trail. This includes the Trail Stewardship Council which will meet bi-annually. Each municipality that the trail passes through will have a representative on the council (there are 20 towns in CT). The list of municipalities is found in the MMM Trail study that was done and can be found on the New England National Scenic Trail web site <http://www.newenglandnst.org/>

Also established were 6 Subcommittees that will meet more often to address specific areas of the preservation of the trail: •Advocacy • Landowners & Trail Protection • Trail Use • Community Relations/Connections • Trail Maintenance & Management • Executive/ Administrative

CHC 1st Vice President, **Fred Mastele** was voted by the Town of Durham Board of Selectmen to represent he town on the Trail Stewardship Council.

Fred has also signed up to represent equestrians on the signed up for the Trail Use and Trail Maintenance & Management Sub-Committees. In addition, Fred is also on the Durham Agricultural Commission.

CHC-VHP Coordinator for the Rockland Preserve, **Marylou Millett** has also signed on to represent equestrian interests on the Trail Maintenance & Management and Landowners & Trail Protection Sub-Committees.

Both these representatives are from the town of Durham.

CHC Thanks both Fred and Mary Lou for their support to represent equestrian interests on the New England National Scenic Trail.

CHC encourages all equestrians to volunteer to become representatives and participate on the Council or Subcommittees.

Please contact the Director of Trail Stewardship below and let CHC know so that we will be apprised of your intention. Thank you.

Clare Cain • Director of Trail Stewardship • Connecticut Forest & Park Association • 16 Meriden Road Rockfall, CT 06481 ph. 860-346-2372 • ccain@ctwoodlands.org • www.ctwoodlands.org

Volunteer Horse Patrol News



Welcome New VHP members:

Donna Freeman (Bethel) and her horse Dusty from Happy Trails Farm
Denise Bucci (Oxford) & her horse Lou
Nancy Messino (Coventry) & her horse Red

Welcome back:

Elise Woods with her new horse "Apples"

Welcome New Patrol Horse "Lena" for Michael Marcus (Danbury) from Happy Trails Farm

BY the Way...

Michael was a participant with the Border to Border ride from Mexico to Canada with the Best of America by Horseback program lead by Tom Seay. His 5 month ride through New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota on his new patrol horse, Lena was a great journey with wonderful adventures we can all hope to experience some day. Congrats Michael.

Our Hero: Kowboy Ken was our hero when he came to the aid of a fallen rider on the Larkin Bridle Trail. See the CHC article on page 7 of this newsletter.

Save the Dates..... in 2010

VHP PRESENTATION TO NEW / INTERESTED MEMBERS

A special meeting will be held on **Sunday February 28th** 11:00 am - 3:00 pm to introduce any interested people to the CHC-VHP Program. A power point presentation and question and answer period will follow lunch at the Newington Fire House.

VHP ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual meeting for the Volunteer Horse Patrol members will be on
Sunday March 21st 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES

First Aid & CPR Classes: Many of our current members will be due for their re-certification. Meg is holding 3 evening classes. They are limited to 10 people per class, **so please sign up early.**

Tuesday - February__?? Wednesday- February__?? Friday- March 5th

Meetings and CPR Classes will be held at the Newington Fire House.

Please RSVP Meg Sautter newsletter@cthorsecouncil.org

Also, Meg welcomes any of you to form a group of 6-10 people and host a Class in your local area . Please contact Meg for possible dates you may have a group and location.



