

## CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL

### Newsletter

Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education

**SUMMER 2009**

**[www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)**

***Please support our State Horse Council. The 2009 membership application is attached or you can apply online [www.cthorsecouncil.org/membership](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org/membership). Thank you in advance for your support.***

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The next Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) monthly meeting is on **October 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.** in 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.**

**Meeting dates for 2009 are as follows:**

**October 6**

**November 3**

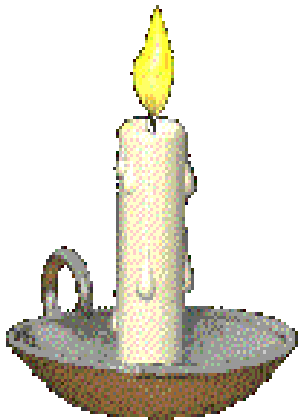
**December 1**

Make a no cost donation to CHC through IGive

CHC is now listed with "IGive" online shop-ping! 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 & non-profit organizations listed with IGive. To date, IGive.com shoppers have raised over **\$4,186,620.37** for their favorite causes. If you are shop-ping online, think of CHC and IGive by visiting: **[www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com)**



Farewell to Halide Caine, horsewoman and activist for animal health and welfare.

Halide passed away July 11th and will be missed terribly by The CT Horse Council, as well as her many friends and family. Halide played an important role with CHC by coming on board as the Chairperson of the Animal Health and Welfare Committee. She created the Horse 911 program designed to educate fire fighters, police officers, animal control officers and horse owners on the danger of barn fires and the rescue and the capture of loose horses. Her program was very successful and many educational programs were facilitated throughout the state. Halide was also a member of the Board of Directors for the Horse Council. Her contribution to CHC as a program director and educator will always be remembered and admired.

Halide was the founder of Connecticut Equine Massage. She resided in Branford.

***Donations in Halide's memory be made to Connecticut Hospice  
100 Double Beach Rd. Branford CT 06405***

# 2009-2011 Officers and Board Members

*The Connecticut Horse Council Officers and Board of Directors are elected volunteers who are dedicated to helping the equine industry grow.*

## **President**

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#### **Shelly Fetterhoff**

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Members of the CHC 2009 left to right: back row Josephine Barker, Fred Mastele, Cheryl Mastele, Laurianne Goulet, Carol Birdsey, Meg Sautter, Amy Stegall.

Front row: Shirley Vicchitto, Judy Beliveau and Diane Ciano.





**CT Horse Council  
TRAIL NEWS  
Volunteer Horse Patrol  
SUMMER 2009**



Submitted by Diane Ciano

***THANK YOU REPRESENTATIVE DEBRALEE HOVEY***

***For your work in establishing An Act Preserving Certain Horse Trails***



***Representative Debra Lee Hovey and her steed Danube***

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner May 30, 2009

***AN ACT PRESERVING CERTAIN HORSE TRAILS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall preserve the following trails for equine use: (1) Larkin State Park trails (Southbury-Oxford-Middlebury); (2) Airline State Park trails - south and north (Colchester-Hebron-Lebanon-Windham-Hampton-Pomfret-Putnam); (3) Hop River State Park trails (Bolton-Coventry-Andover-Columbia); (4) Moosup Valley State Park trails (Sterling-Plainfield); (5) Huntington State Park trails; (6) Natchaug State Forest trails; and (7) Cockaponset State Forest trails.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit non equine uses by the public of the trails specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The preservation of a trail by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not be deemed an expansion of such trail.





*A ride at Steep Rock with Rep. Hovey  
NBLA President Cindy Miller, CHC –VHP members, KowboyKen, Diane Ciano, Rep Hovey, Vevette Greenberg & Alesia DiFederico*

CHC will continue to work with Representative Hovey in expanding the list of trails to preserve for equestrian use.

**A BIG Thank You to all the Representatives  
& Senators who supported this bill:**

Rep. DebraLee Hovey, 112th Dist.  
Rep. Thomas J. Kehoe, 31st Dist.  
Rep. Christopher Lyddy, 106th Dist.  
Rep. Rosa C. Rebimbas, 70th Dist.  
Rep. Janice R. Giegler, 138th Dist.  
Rep. John Mazurek, 80th Dist.  
Rep. Pamela Z. Sawyer, 55th Dist.  
Rep. Joan A. Lewis, 8th Dist.  
Rep. William Aman, 14th Dist.  
Rep. David A. Scribner, 107th Dist.  
Rep. Patricia M. Widlitz, 98th Dist.  
Rep. Brian J. O'Connor, 35th Dist.  
Rep. Elizabeth A. Boukus, 22nd Dist.  
Rep. Catherine F. Abercrombie, 83rd Dist.  
Sen. Andrew W. Roraback, 30th Dist.  
Rep. Mae Flexer, 44th Dist.  
Sen. Robert J. Kane, 32nd Dist.  
Sen. Joseph J. Crisco, 17th Dist.  
Sen. Donald E. Williams, 29th Dist.  
Sen. Andrea L. Stillman, 20th Dist.  
Sen. John A. Kissel, 7th Dist.  
Rep. Fred Camillo, 151st Dist.  
Rep. David K. Labriola, 131st Dist.  
Rep. John E. Stripp, 135th Dist.  
Rep. Arthur J. O'Neill, 69th Dist.  
Sen. Eileen M. Daily, 33rd Dist.  
Sen. Michael A. McLachlan, 24th Dist.  
Rep. Lonnie Reed, 102nd Dist.

# 2009 Connecticut State-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

There were several public meetings around the state in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009 for public input to update the CT State Bike-Ped Plan. CHC encouraged equestrians around the state to attend these meetings and ask that DOT recognize that equestrians are **pedestrians** and are in need of safe ways to travel when road transportation projects to improve safety for pedestrian & bicycle traffic are addressed. By recognition and implementation to this plan, this can be the initial step for Town Planners and Regional Agencies to follow suit in providing **policy, consistent guidelines and designs** to a statewide plan for safety, signage and education about horseback riders and carriage drivers.

CHC members Diane Ciano, Jan Collins, Ruth Beardsley and Meg Sautter addressed the Bike-Ped Plan Steering Committee and several letters were addressed to the Department of Transportation and the Steering Committee to ask that equestrians be included in the Plan. CHC also asked several representatives to help support our efforts.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to **Representative Thomas J. Kehoe, 31st Dist.** who came to the foreground and proposed a bill to include equestrians in the plan. Although this bill did not pass, we feel it was instrumental in getting our point across to the legislative body as well as to those responsible for updating the plan.

CHC is happy to report that equestrians are included in the plan and on the CT Bike Map that will be available in print as well as on line. The map will include a section on horses and information from our Road Safe brochure. There will also be a grid of CT State Parks & Forests to visit and we were successful in getting horseback riding on this grid to let equestrians know what areas are accessible.



## Share The Road

The Connecticut Horse Council would also like to thank the Department of Transportation and the Bike-Ped Plan Steering Committee for their foresight and cooperation in addressing equestrian issues on the plan. The DOT now has a separate program called "Share the Road" that addresses all types of non-motorized travel including horses. There is a specific radio commercial that even has a horse's hooves and neighing in it to remind motorists to "*Share the Road*" with horses. DOT also has provided a link from this program to the CHC website and has our CHC Road Safe brochure on their website. The ads are on buses, radios and news articles.

For more information on the CT Bike-Ped Plan: [www.ctbikepedplan.org](http://www.ctbikepedplan.org)

**Please take the time to visit the website as DOT is taking a count on the visitors to the site from the CHC website:** [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org) or go to

<http://www.sharetheroadct.org/#>

## MMM Trail Receives National Designation!

With the designation, the MMM (Metacomet Monadnock Mattabesett) Trail officially becomes the "New England National Scenic Trail." The New England National Scenic Trail winds for over 200 miles along trap rock ridges, through forests, and across a patchwork of state, municipal, and private lands in 39 communities spanning central Connecticut, western Massachusetts, and southern New Hampshire.

Approximately two million people live within ten miles of the MMM Trail, and certain sections such as Talcott Mountain, Ragged Mountain, Chauncey Peak, Higby Mountain, the Hanging Hills, Mica Ledges, Broomstick Ledges, Bluff Head, and many others are well known regionally for providing amazing panoramic views of the Connecticut River valley and Long Island Sound. The MMM Trail travels through several "classic New England landscapes" and harbors diverse natural resources fostered by the special soils and micro-climates associated with trap rock ridges.

The National Park Service is now authorized to provide funding and technical assistance to help CFPA, AMC, and others to maintain and protect the Trail. Another is that a "Trail Stewardship Council" with representatives from towns, landowners, trail user organizations, and many other groups will be established to oversee maintenance and protection of the Trail's national scenic values.

**Fred Mastele**, CHC First Vice President has been appointed the Durham Trail Stewardship Council Representative.

**CHC is looking for local equestrians who are interested in becoming a representative for their town that the trail traverses through *and/or* may have an interest in forming a "sub-committee" to address equestrian access.** These towns are listed below. If anyone is interested, please Diane Ciano at

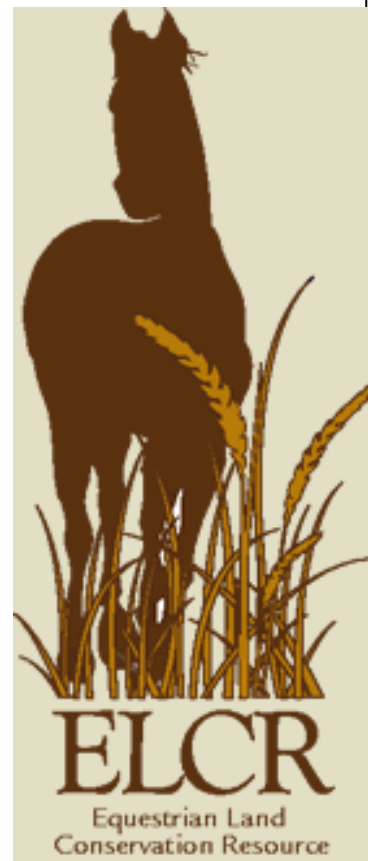
[Spirit76@snet.net](mailto:Spirit76@snet.net)

Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Durham, East Granby, Farmington, Guilford, Haddam, Madison, Meriden  
Middlefield, Middletown, New Britain, North Branford, Plainville, Simsbury, Southington, Suffield  
Wallingford, West Hartford

We would like to update you on the latest news at ELCR on the federal Funding for Recreational Trails. Please ask your local equine organization to become a member of their *Equestrian Partners Program* and help to support this national organization that works very hard to educate enthusiasts about the importance of land protection and trail access and stewardship.

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

## News from the Equestrian Land Conservation Re- source



### **Federal Funding for Recreational Trails**

Coalition for Recreational Trails Co-Chair Derrick Crandall asked us to let you know that the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is included, by name, as a separate program in Chairman Oberstar's mark of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's surface transportation authorization legislation. The RTP is shown in Section 1114 of Title I as being authorized for six years (with dollar amounts yet to be determined) and in Section 1203 as being administered by the Director of the new Office of Livability that the legislation would establish within the FHWA. Here is the link to the Committee Print: [http://transportation.house.gov/Media/file/Highways/HPP/OBERST\\_044\\_xml.pdf](http://transportation.house.gov/Media/file/Highways/HPP/OBERST_044_xml.pdf).

Congratulations and many thanks to all for helping the RTP make it over another hurdle on the way to reauthorization!

The CRT is continuing its work on both the House and Senate sides to secure increased funding for the RTP. Thanks to CRT member support, we are building an impressive list of signatories for our letter to Senate leadership, which is scheduled to be sent at the end of this month. We are also working with key members of the House to develop a "Dear Colleague" letter in support of increased RTP funding. CRT will be back in touch when it is time to ask Members of the House to sign on to that letter.

#### Background info:

The RTP's primary purpose is to support any kind of recreational trail. It would normally be the primary funding source for equestrian trails. See [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/rtbroch.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/rtbroch.htm).

Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds must be used for projects that relate to surface transportation. The eligible list is at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/teas.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/te/teas.htm). There is no specific eligibility for equestrian facilities, but there is no prohibition, which is why we developed our Equestrian policy at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/allow\\_uses\\_eqnm.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/allow_uses_eqnm.htm).

The House bill being promoted by Chairman Jim Oberstar proposes to:

1. Keep TE as a 10% set aside of regular Surface Transportation Program funds, as at present (with some amendments on how the funds are distributed within States).
2. Keep the RTP as a separate program, as at present.





## CT Greenways Council Update – Summer 2009

Submitted By Jan Collins, CT Greenways Council, CHC Trails Committee

On Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Connecticut Greenways Council sponsored its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Celebration at the Old Fire House in Thomaston, CT. Among the honorees were Representative Kehoe, Guerrera, and Senator De-Fronzo for their legislative work involving Greenways and Transportation. Also 3 new Greenway designations were awarded including one along the Scantic River in Somers and Enfield which will be a multi-use (including horses) trail. A detailed description of the 3 designated Greenways are below

The Recreational Trails Program money for last year still has not been released keeping many recipients waiting and the program itself may be in jeopardy if it doesn't get renewed in this year's federal legislative session. Jan Collins wrote a letter on behalf of CHC encouraging our senators to renew this important source of revenue for our trail projects.

**Scantic River Greenway Extension** The 2009 Scantic River Greenway Designation is for an extension of the 2008 Designated Scantic River Greenway and the 2002 Designated Scantic River Park Greenway in Enfield. The multi-function greenway encompasses the Scantic River linking sections along the Enfield corridor to the Town line in East Windsor. The Greenway area is one of the most important natural resources in Enfield and enjoyed by a great number of its citizens on a daily basis. Characteristics include natural resource protection, recreational opportunity, and protection of unique geologic and historic features. The Scantic River Watershed Association is the acting steward working closely with the local municipalities and citizens. See their website: <http://www.scanticriverwatershed.org/>.

**Steel Brook Greenway, Watertown** This brook begins in the northern reaches of Watertown and flows south to the Naugatuck River in Waterbury. The establishment of the Steele Brook Greenway from Watertown to Oakville is the first step in getting citizens access to the brook which is an important community water resource providing active and passive recreation. The Town also obtained an America the Beautiful Grant that will be utilized to plant specimen trees and create a "Heritage Trail". A goal is to connect to the Naugatuck River Greenway and provide other links throughout Watertown.

**Shoreline Greenway Trail, New Haven to Madison** The Shoreline Greenway Trail will run through meadows and woods along the Sound from Lighthouse Point on New Haven Harbor for twenty-five miles to Hammonasset State Park in Madison. The trail will provide recreational, transportation and educational opportunities for all Connecticut residents. The Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc. a non-profit organization has been fundraising, educating potential property owners and working on designing, building and maintaining this trail since 2003. Visit the website at: <http://shorelinegreenwaytrail.org/>.

For a listing of all designated Greenways: [http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=323852&depNav\\_GID=1704&depNav=](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=323852&depNav_GID=1704&depNav=)



**Apply for a Greenways License Plate  
and support Greenways funding projects**



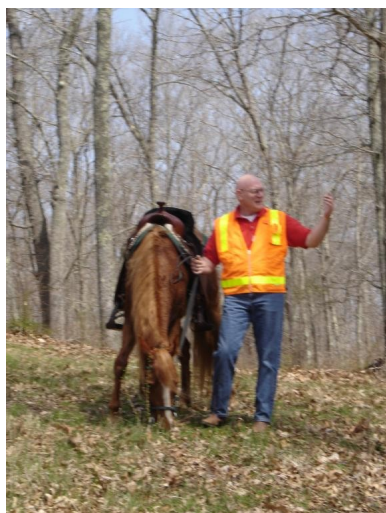
## **Volunteer Horse Patrol Events**

**Our Volunteer Horse Patrol members kept busy this spring from April through June. There was a variety of events that took place around the state with local members participating in some awesome events and rides.**

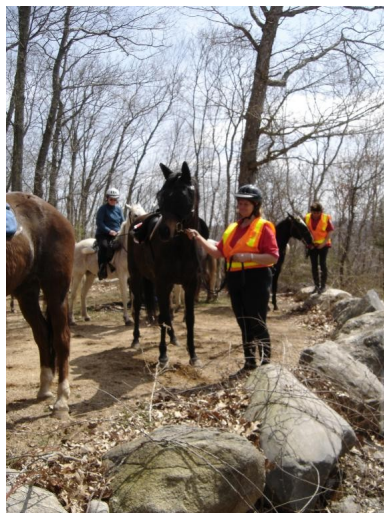
### **Blessing of the Volunteer Horse Patrol Mounts**

**Machimoodus State Park - Sunrise Resort**

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 14 CHC members set out from the newly DEP acquired Sunrise Resort in East Haddam to ride the resort area and adjoining carriage trails of the Machimoodus State Park. At a top a lookout point of the Salmon River, Steve Vicchitto, High Priest with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints, gave the members a blessing of protection for the riding season. VHP members present: Meg Sautter, Diane Ciano, Denise Ciano, Judy Beliveau, Alesia DiFederico, Shirley & Steve Vicchitto Barbara White, Gina McManus, Peg Lupone, Bev Torell, Jane Samuels, There were 2 other CHC members Peg Carlson & Jennifer Deprisco.



**Steve Vicchitto officiating the Blessing Ceremony**



**Peg Lupone**



**Gina McManus**



**On the trail to the look out**



**Salmon River View look out**



## POMFRET LION'S WALK FOR SIGHT

### **Pomfret Horse & Trail Association**

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, members of the Pomfret Horse & Trail Association (PHTA) and the Connecticut Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol participated in the Lion's Walk for Sight along the Airline Trail in Pomfret. The five mile walk was to raise money for the Lion's program was a very successful event with over 100 participants. The PHTA also made a donation to the Lion's Club for \$25.00.

The VHP volunteers patrolled the areas of the Recreation Park on horseback and were couriers between check points. The Lion's were thrilled to have the offer to have the patrol members out on the trail as ambassadors of good will and to make sure everyone was safe and accounted for. It was a great opportunity to be out there and be visible to the local residents.



**CHC-VHP members Bruce McNeill, Antoinnette McNeill, Penny Foisey, and Vikki Fortier.**

## Memorial Day Parade

**10 CHC-VHP** members participated in the New Britain parade: Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Vevette Greenberg, Diane Morton, Fred & Cheryl Mastale, Jeanna Pellino, Shirley & Steve Vicchitto and KowboyKen. They were joined by two members of the CT Ranch Horse Association Terry Martin and Melanie Stoddard



**KowboyKen as Alexander the Great on Dorothy Vallee's Percheron, Buster**



**Jeanna Pellino leading the parade with VHP members following**



# DEP - The Great Park Pursuit

May 30<sup>th</sup>, Airline Greenway, Hebron

**2 CHC-VHP** members Hilery Slattery & Melissa Kennedy participated in this multiple use trail event with bikers and walkers representing the equestrian community.



Hilery Slattery & Melissa Kennedy

## National Trails Day Events

### Cockaponset State Forest

Two events were sponsored by the Lower CT River Valley Horsemen's Club and the Bridle Path Conservancy. Workers showed up at a **Trail Clearing - Repairing & Bridge Building Work Day** organized by Roger Ferraro and a **Pleasure Trail Ride** was led by Barbara White for equestrians.

Pleasure Ride at Cockaponset in Weber Woods:  
Bev Torell and Barbara White

LCRVHC & BPC members rest on their newly built bridge  
Cockaponset near Beaver Meadow Rd. in Higganum





## **Larkin State Bridle Trail:**

Four information stations were set up at town crossings along the 11 mile Greenway. This was a 5 organization group effort to educate all users groups on "Share the Trail." Organizations that were represented included The Connecticut Horse Council and the Volunteer Horse Patrol, Middlebury Bridle Land Association, Pineview 4-H Club, Oxford Horse & Livestock Association and the Southbury Horse & Livestock Association. Each station had information on their organization, Share the Trails educational brochures, refreshments and prizes for a Scavenger Hunt that included decorated horse shoes and key chains. Special thanks to Daisy Gmitter for her help with creating the flyers for the event.

**9 CHC-VHP** - Meg Sautter, Denise Ciano, Diane Ciano, Vevette Greenberg, KowboyKen, Daisy Gmitter, Alesia DiFederico, Judy Beliveau, Lori Gmuer



**Denise Ciano, Meg Sautter & Diane Ciano  
with Balladeer & Aladdin - Rte. 63 Naugatuck**



**Sylvia Preston of Middlebury Bridle Land Assoc.  
with Daisy Gmitter and visitors - South St.**



**Visitors Sara & Rachael with Daisy Gmitter & Bucky**



**Lori Gmuer & Alesia DiFederico -  
Southbury Horse & Livestock  
Judy Beliveau & Linda Stack - Oxford Horse & Livestock**



## Pachaug State Forest

The Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders & Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA) in conjunction with the Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. held a Pleasure Ride on Sunday, June 7th. The theme of the ride was "Forging Partnerships" launching a trails initiative program that includes partnerships with the National Park Service, the Back Country Horsemen of America, Leave No Trace, Equestrian Land Conservation Resource and Best of America by Horseback.

Twenty riders rode out from the Frog Hollow Horse Camp on a 10 mile NEHT sanctioned ride, enjoying the trails and roads of our largest state forest.

Special thanks go out to the following individuals responsible for organizing this ride:

**Deborah Finco-Kent**, the Connecticut/ Rhode Island representative for the (TWHBEA) Trials Initiative - for organizing the event and providing the lunch.

Trail Route: **Phyllis Alexander**, **Cathie Mestermaker- Harris** and **Cathy Gluck**.

Raffle Prizes: **Daisy Gmitter** for providing a \$160.00 basket from Schick and **Patti Crowther** for getting a cowboy boot bird house and coupons from Green Acres Agway in Woodbury.

**11 CHC-VHP** members participating: Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Denise Ciano, KowboyKen, Diane Morton, Vevette Greenberg, Alesia DiFederico, Ariel Kent, Deborah Finco-Kent, Phyllis Alexander and Cathie Mestermaker Harris.



Diane Ciano, Denise Ciano, KowboyKen, Vevette Greenberg,  
Deborah Finco-Kent, Phyllis Alexander with Sahara

# HAPPY TRAILS

# **Horse Owner's Corner: What Is the Latest Research in the Equine Industry? Snippets from the Equine Science Society Meeting**

## **Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, UConn**

I was recently fortunate enough to attend and present papers at the Equine Science Society meeting which was held in Keystone, Colorado, May 29-31. I have been attending this meeting, held every 2 years, since 1997 when I was a graduate student. At this meeting, research from the past two years (and sometimes more!) is discussed and brought to the attention of others who are involved in equine outreach, teaching, and research. After attending the meeting, I thought that you might enjoy an article that talks about the latest developments in equine exercise physiology, genetics, reproduction, nutrition, production and management, and teaching and extension. For the sake of length, I have selected a paper in each category that I felt would be of the most interest to you.

### **EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY**

There were 11 papers presented on exercise physiology. The one that I selected to report to you on is a study that examined the effect of omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acids on markers of inflammation in young horses in training. It was conducted by researchers at Texas A&M University. The horses were fed a control diet or a diet that included omega 3 fatty acids and were exercised 5 days/week for 20 weeks. The researchers then examined the horse's synovial fluid and blood to determine if supplementation was of benefit to the horses. They found no differences in the synovial fluid or blood parameters between treatments, and concluded that more studies are needed to determine if omega 3 supplementation can be a preventative for osteoarthritis in young horses in training.

### **GENETICS**

There were 13 papers presented on genetics. The one that I selected to present to you in this article focuses on the breeds of horses positive for the GYS1 mutation associated with polysaccharide storage myopathy (PSSM). These horses have accumulation of amylase-resistant abnormal polysaccharide in their skeletal muscle fibers (do not store starch properly) and develop muscle pain and cramping with exercise (exertional rhabdomyolysis). From the samples submitted for testing at the University of Minnesota, it appears that PSSM is most common in Draft breeds, Quarter Horse related breeds, mixed breeds, Mustangs, Gypsy Vanner, British Sport Pony, Tori and Morgan Horses. Some Warmblood types like Hanoverians and Holsteiners also appear to have this mutation, but it was not found in Friesians or Swedish and Dutch Warmbloods that were tested.

### **REPRODUCTION**

There were 18 papers presented on reproductive physiology. The paper I have selected focused on the suppression of cyclicity (normal estrus cycling) and estrus behavior in mares through immunization against a recombinant GnRH antigen. The study authors from Kansas State University created a linkage of gonadotropin-releasing

hormone which leads to estrus and a carrier protein through recombinant technology. Six mares were studied and there were 2 control mares and 4 mares given the GnRH antigen as a single booster injection. The study ran for 22 weeks from early May through September. It was found that the GnRH antigen suppressed development of follicles in all mares treated with GnRH. Estrus behavior was suppressed in all but one mare in the group, who continued to display strong estrus behavior for 7 weeks even though her ovaries were not cycling. It also reduced progesterone concentrations in the mares treated with the GnRH antigen. This vaccine shows promise in reducing unwanted estrus behavior.

## **NUTRITION**

There were 44 papers presented on nutrition. The study I selected focuses on the glycemic/insulinemic response to feeding hay with different water soluble carbohydrate content in healthy and polysaccharide storage myopathy (PSSM) affected horses. It was by authors from the University of Minnesota, Rocky Mountain Research and Consulting, and Kentucky Equine Research. The authors used 6 healthy and 7 PSSM horses of Quarter Horse related breeds (Paint, Appaloosa and Quarter Horse crosses). The horses were kept in stalls and turned out on dry lots with nongrazing muzzles and no grain was fed. A crossover design was used (this is usually a better kind of design, for example compared to the previously mentioned Alabama study, since horses act as their own controls) and horses were fed one of two types of hay: low Blue Grama (nonstructural carbohydrate (NSC) content 4.4%, protein 9.7%) (LC hay) and high Italian Rye (NSC 17%, protein 12.1%) (HC hay). Horses consumed 1.5% of their bodyweight in the LC or HC hay for 5 days with a 7 day washout period in which mixed grass medium hay (NSC 10.8%, protein 10.2%). After a 12 hour fasting period on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each block, 1 kg of hay was fed every 30 min up to 0.5% of body weight and the amount of hay consumed was measured. Blood was drawn just prior to feeding and every 30 min after for 5 hours. Whole blood glucose and plasma insulin were measured. In the study, none of the hay fed to the healthy horses produced a significant rise in blood glucose. The peak glucose for the control horses on the HC hay was less than for oats (the standard to measure glycemic index in horses). However, a 3 fold higher insulin peak occurred on the HC hay than the LC hay. In the PSSM horses, the HC hay produced both higher glucose and insulin responses than LC hay and an increase in the rate of consumption. The authors concluded that based on the glucose and insulin response, feeding hay with a NSC > 16% should be avoided for horses with PSSM, whereas hay with a NSC <10.8% does not appear to have an effect on the glycemic or insulinemic responses of PSSM and healthy QH type horses.

## **PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

There were 28 papers presented on production and management. The paper I have selected focuses on the effect of hourly concentrate feed (grain) delivery on crib-biting in horses. Crib-biting is also known as windsucking, in which the horse grasps an object and sucks in air. The study authors from Auburn University in Alabama used 10 mature, crib-biting geldings for the study. There were 5 control horses and 5 treated horses, who received about 0.19 kg (0.4 lb) of concentrate delivered hourly using an automated feeder and the horse was kept in a 25 x 100 m lot with Bermuda grass pasture

and free choice access to Bermuda grass hay, water and trace mineralized salt. After a 3 week adjustment period to the pens with a twice daily feeding schedule, horses were shifted to the hourly feeding schedule and observed for 24 hours with number of crib bites and crib bout duration recorded for each horse at 30 and 60 days. Then the horses that were fed hourly were fed again on the twice a day feeding schedule. Overall horses on the hourly feeding schedule had a higher number of crib bites than controls. Also, frequently fed horses had longer crib bouts than horses fed twice a day. The authors concluded that feeding small amounts of concentrate feeds each hour does not reduce cribbing behavior in mature horses.

## TEACHING AND EXTENSION

There were 44 papers presented on teaching and extension. The paper I have selected focuses on the usage pattern of safety equipment after riders had suffered an injury. The study authors from Utah State University and the University of Arkansas created an equine injury and safety survey that was given to 726 equine enthusiasts. Some of their findings include: the age and gender of the horse-person is not associated with the degree of safety behavior practiced, people with formal riding instruction increased overall safety behaviors and practices, and across all but one (using a helmet, using a safety vest, and wearing boots) of the safety behaviors measured (except riding with someone else), greater proportions of English riders consistently practiced a higher degree of safety than western riders. On average, 95% of all respondents reported that they use safety equipment "sometimes." We need to increase that to 100%! I found this study reassuring because it proves that you can make a difference in getting people to use safety practices, since those with formal riding instruction were more likely to practice safe behaviors.

Every day, new discoveries are made that are of benefit to the equine industry. Your equine extension specialists, professors and researchers are constantly working to improve horse health and well-being. I hope that you will reflect on this article and perhaps make a contribution to an area of equine research, teaching, or outreach. Feel free to call or email with any questions you have: (860) 486-4471 or [jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu](mailto: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. What topics would you like to see in the horse owner's corner next month? Send ideas to [jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu](mailto:jenifer.nadeau@uconn.edu). Thanks, and have fun with your horses!

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### CHC members attend 3 day TLAER Training Certification Class

8 CHC members attended the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAR) Training class in Chaplin this July. This course was for SART (State Animal Response Team) members, CERT members, Firefighters, First Responders, Animal Control Officers, Large Animal Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians. The course was funded by Homeland Security (FEMA) to train volunteers to prepare and respond to emergency disasters and rescues that involve domestic animals. Linda Wenner, State Animal Control Officer (and CHC member) organized and offered the program. Drs Rebecca and Tomas Gimenez were the presenters.

The three day course covered basic concepts in large animal emergency rescue, containment, handling. We covered restraint of live animals, HAZMAT issues and Command Systems in TLAER, Emergency Field Euthanasia, Trailer Incident Response, Agro-terrorism & Foreign Animal Disease, Evacuation Planning, Night Search and Rescue and Response to Fire. Students learned the various mechanical and rope systems to safely pull large animals (***not** by the neck*) out of deep holes, water, mud, or ice. We also got first hand experience with vertical lift systems simulating air lifting using a helicopter.

Thirty two students were certified for TLAR. CHC members are: Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Laurianne Goulet, Jean Morrison (all Volunteer Horse Patrol members) along with Joan and Ken Davis, Linda Wenner and Al Robbins.

The instructors were Tomas Gimenez, DVM and Rebecca Gimenez, Ph.D., MAJ (USAR). Both have been teaching TLAER certificate courses around the country for more than 10 years and are actively involved with the National Disaster Medical System/National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT). Tomas is also active in the AAEP Disaster Task Force, International Society of Fire Service Instructors & the National Fire Protection Association. Rebecca also trains the demonstration animals who participate in the TLAER courses and gives clinics on ground handling skills to local equine enthusiasts. She is an active member the Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Society.



Left: utilizing the Nikopoulos needle in an unstable ground rescue.



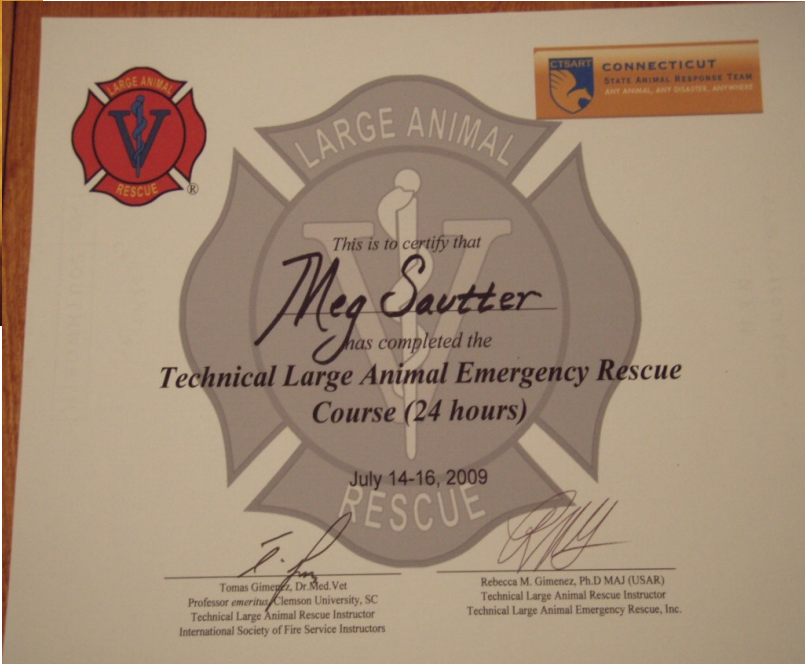
Right Meg, Daine and Laurianne watch as Torque is lifted in the Davis-Anderson Sling.





Above: graduation photo with certificates and patches after a full three day course. Left to right is Dr. Rebecca Gimenez, instructor, Torque our volunteer, Connecticut Horse Council Members Meg Sautter, Diane Ciano Lorianne Goulet, Al Robbins and Jean Morrison.

Below: our patch and certificate





## Membership

We'd like to acknowledge some of our most recent renewal memberships. Welcome! It's great to have you onboard and we appreciate your support.

Sorry in advance if we've missed anyone.

Jack Connors

Marie Aparo

Denise Bucci

Terri Burke

Carol Bussey

Anne Albee

Carol Dobson

Bill & Lucy Gardner

Barbara Kil

Suzanne Principe

Karen Purrone

Jennifer Reardon

Jane Rush

Mary Santarcangelo

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Membership Classification (Check One)**

☐ Individual \$20   ☐ Family \$30   ☐ Student \$15   ☐ Business or Professional \$50

☐ 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

\*Note: Club Membership Fee and number of delegates is 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.

☐ NEW   ☐ RENEWAL   **Membership decal available**   ☐ Static   ☐ Sticker

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

**How did you hear about the CHC?** \_\_\_\_\_

**CLUB or BUSINESS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY / STATE/ ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF HORSES OWNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AREAS OF INTEREST** (Please check all that apply)

☐ Trails   ☐ Zoning   ☐ Booth   ☐ Legislation   ☐ Website   ☐ Insurance

☐ Volunteer Horse Patrol   ☐ Education   ☐ Horse 911   ☐ Emergency/Disaster Preparedness

I would be willing to serve on a committee of my interest.   ☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ More info, please

**I would be willing to have my name listed with CHC Connections as a person to contact in an emergency involving horses, or for emergency resources.**   ☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ More info, please

**Please describe resources/services you would be able to provide on the back of this form.**

I 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](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

## A Note from the Editor

Well, this is the time of year we call 'Summer'. Hmmmm. I hope you're enjoying it. All this rain makes for difficult riding. Such is Life. I guess we really can't complain, although we always do, right?

So, I'm feeling like many of you are missing out on 'things that are happening'. I get tons of information about all kinds of things pertaining to the horse world. I get notices of horse related sales, leases, give-aways and wants. One of which is a giant tack/tag sale in Southbury August 7 thru 9. I get information on rides, benefits and competitions. I get questions concerning horse care/health issues, barn management and tack.

Are any of you interested in receiving any of this? I'd be happy to add you to the list. It's simply an informational thing. People send me all kinds of stuff. All of it is horse/farm related.

If you're interested, **YOU** must contact **ME**. Reply to me, Meg, at this email address: [mmsautter@att.net](mailto:mmsautter@att.net) Please mention '**THE LIST**' in the **subject line**. You can always opt out of the list at any time by again contacting me. Now here's another benefit; if you're hosting, selling, or looking for something, let me know in an email. I will send it out to my list which is around 500 and growing. I request a contact name, email address, location of where you are (what town in the State) and a phone number. I don't do businesses, sorry.

On a totally different track, **PLEASE** don't forget to update any changes in your email address. We're really trying to keep this simple. I don't want to spend CHC money on printing and postage. Based upon the size of some of these newsletters, you know it can get costly.

Changing gears again, any suggestions for the Newsletter? I'm open to input. I think we'll hold off on the Classified Section. I'm hoping to get a good response from my above request/offer.



# Collected Seasons

by stray cat



Nose to nose, eyes locked  
we search and find each others pain-  
Now I know you know  
Helpless, I break the gaze,  
and memories plague me. I tumble back

to watch you playfully kicking up salt and sand  
racing seagulls down the beach.  
I still feel the high spirited intensity, riding bareback  
every muscle, every movement, every breath in rhythm  
And the pride, marching in time, Saint Patrick's Day,  
your little green hat cocked crooked,  
shamrocks, braided in your mane and tail.  
I relish all those lazy days, loping along in the heat,  
watching purplie sunsets, munching on carrots.  
And sliding stealth under a full moon at midnight  
Long silent shadows, a distant howl, and busy rustling  
When those twigs snapped close .. We boogied!

Of course, then there's the other us, fighting stubborn  
at the camp ground, in the trailer, on the footpaths...  
Or lost in the woods, the crunch of dry leaves underfoot  
drowning out the not-so-whispered expletives.  
Or cold and cranky, blazing trails in the snow,  
searching for a warm place to pee.  
I can still feel the pain, the day you pitched me.  
True, you waited, but I swear I saw you smirking.  
For sure that poor Azalea bush will never be the same!  
You and me always in season, you and me.  
You and me alwa...

I brush the burrs out of your mane  
and kiss your old soft nose  
one last time.  
In the car come the tears  
My vision so blurred from them,  
I almost hit the back hoe  
coming down the driveway.