



# Connecticut Horse Council

"Horsemen United in Leadership, Service and Education"

Check out our website at [www.cthorsecouncil.org](http://www.cthorsecouncil.org)

## 2011 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone,

Now that summer has ended CHC resumes its monthly meetings at Northeast Utilities in Berlin. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. We look forward to seeing old friends and welcome new members. Directions are on our website.

The CHC Trails Committee and Volunteer Horse Patrol kept busy during the summer months, representing the equestrian community around the state, as our newsletter reflects. Special thanks go out to Diane Ciano and Jan Collins for their time and dedication to promoting trails in CT – addressing state plans and attending state council meetings throughout the summer. Meg Sautter also gave her time to attend meetings and promotional functions as well as several other members from the CT Equine Advisory Council.

Our photo contest conjured up some really nice photos and again we will have our 2012 CHC Calendar available for sale at the Equine Affair. So be sure to stop at our booth.

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**CT State 4 -H Horse Program / CT Horse Council BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE**  
University of CT Forest, Storrs \*\*\*\*\* See Details on page 14

**Attention All Trail Riders** – A friendly reminder to “Share the Trail” and use trail etiquette, respect the trails and other people out on the trails. Please clean up at trail heads and on well used trails and Greenways. Remember that hunting is more active in the fall and winter months, so please be sure to read the **DEEP HUNTING SEASON GUIDE** on page 11.

## Have a fun and safe Fall & Winter !

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**CT Horse Council  
TRAIL NEWS  
Volunteer Horse Patrol  
Summer 2011**



Submitted by Diane Ciano

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

**CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL**

**VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL**

**CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board  
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Advisory Board**

# Welcome New Volunteer Horse Patrol Coordinators and Members

## New VHP Coordinators:

**Heather Hicks** has volunteered to be the Coordinator for the town owned parks and open spaces in the **Granby Area** that include Salmon River Park, Ethel Walker Woods, McCleans Game Refuge and Holcomb Farm as well as Stratton Brook State Park. Heather is from Southwick, MA and is a past president of the Granby Horse Council and has been active on several boards for many years. Heather's Patrol Horse is **Arwen**.

**Donna Freeman** from Bethel has volunteered to be the Coordinator for **Tarrywile Park** in Danbury. She boards her horse at Happy Trails Farm in Danbury and patrols with several other VHP members from the farm out to the city park. Donna's Patrol Horse is **Dusty**.

## New VHP Members

**We have 13 new members for the Horse Patrol !**

### Reddington Rock Riding Club Members:

**Anicia B. Young- Johnny, Genuie & T.J. - Somers**

**Ann Moses & Apache - Somers**

**Monty Moses & Apache**

**Bonny Herindeen – Lakota – Spanky & Sam - Willington**

**Corinne Breyette & Pepper - Somers**

**Danna Krzynowek - Abe & Bailey - Somers**

**Gloria Coles - My Hollywood Dream “Megy” & Draw Yer Guns “Charlie”- Stafford Springs**

**Gillis Gregoire - The True Mr. Brooks & Blue Chargabill - Willington**

**Karen Gregoire – Rocket & Blue Chargabill - Willington**

**Susan Taricani – Buddie & Dililah- Stafford Springs**

### Pomfret Trails Association Members:

**Marybeth Gorke-Felice / Duke & Harry - Woodstock**

**Audrey Oleary & Harry - Woodstock**

**Maureen Hanink – Dolly & Jack - Ashford**

## Events gone by.....

Several VHP members requested rides to learn new areas to patrol. There were four rides organized to do this, including the Blessing of the Volunteer Horse Patrol and A Horse & Rider Assessment.

### **Blessing of the Mounts** - Cheshire

The Blessing of the VHP Horse Patrol took place on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the DiDominicus Open Space in Cheshire. **The Cheshire Horse Council** hosted the event that included a fundraiser ride- "Saddle Up for St. Jude. The Cheshire Horse Council raised \$2,222.76 !

### **Shenipsit State Forest** - Somers

A Horse & Rider Assessment for new members of the Horse Patrol and Show N' Go Ride for any VHP member was held on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The event was hosted by the **Reddington Rock Riding Club** at their Camp Glacier with a wonderful lunch provided. Riders had the opportunity to utilize the campground and explore the forest's trails and roads.

### **Holcomb Farm** - Granby

VHP & Granby Horse Council member, **Joan Davis** led VHP members through the trails of Holcomb Farm on National Trails Day, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pattaconk State Park** – Cockaponset State Forest, Chester

VHP Coordinator, **Jim Griffin** led VHP members on trails around the lake, and reported the opportunity for the VHP to offer a lot of public relations with children and adults petting the horses, administering first aid and giving out information on the Horse Patrol.

### **VHP Members Ride Mount Washington Trails**

VHP members AKA "Sisterhood of the Riding Pants & Kowboy Ken" rode the Mount Washington Trails in July. The auto road up Mt Washington was closed to motorized vehicles for a day and horses and carriages rode to the top of the mountain. Only three rode to the top (see photo below) while the others rode the lower trails. Cathie Mestermaker-Harris was also there with her daughter riding the foothill trails.



Photo on Left: Meg Sautter, Diane Morton, Kowboy Ken, Diane Ciano, Chris Mard, Vevette Greenberg & NH Sister Leah Valladares. Photo on Right: VHP members that rode the 12% grade to the top of the mountain were Chris Mard on Tonka Wakan, Vevette Greenberg on Dude and Kowboy Ken on Red.



## HARTFORD – KENEY PARK EVENT

A presentation to the Friends of Keney Park of a “big check” representing the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant of \$96,000.00 was awarded to help the Friends develop, improve and maintain trails and associated educational programs at Keney Park in Hartford on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol members were on hand at the ceremony to represent horseback riding in the park: Meg Sautter & Dancer, Diane Ciano, Jeanne Morrison and Jan Collins. Also in attendance was Pat Kelly & 3 patrol riders from the Ebony Horsewomen and 3 Hartford Mounted Police.



Left Photo: CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor Meg Sautter on Dancer with three members of the Ebony Horsewomen who patrol the park. Photo on Left is Meg with 3 members of the Hartford Police Horse Patrol.

## TOWN OF COVENTRY

Meg Sautter represented the CHC at a meeting for a group of horse people who are working with town officials. This committee is an off shoot of the Agricultural Commission and is working on connecting trails through private lands. Meg spoke about the CHC and the various committees the Council represents to educate people on multiple use trails, zoning and legislation. This presentation also covered the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol Program that was started in 2003 and has since opened riding areas in land trusts, town open spaces and private lands by providing volunteer services to land management agencies.

## SPRAGUE LAND PRESERVE BENEFIT RIDE 2011

A Benefit Ride sponsored by WEST GREENWICH HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION was held on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> to help the town raise money to acquire more land for the preserve. The town intends to purchase an additional 230 acres of land from the Watson Heritage Farm to add to the existing 275 acres to the land preserve. There were 93 horseback riders attended the event that raised \$2481. Thanks to the WGHA for their efforts, especially Celeste Santos-Rivera and **Linda Krul**. J&D Screen printing for the t-shirts, and land owners Konow (for the use of their riverside site for ride headquarters), Sarah Ayer, and Watson for permission to ride on their land. Local Volunteer Horse Patrol members, Phyllis Alexander, Loree Oswoski and VHP Coordinator for the Preserve, Gail Miller were also part of the planning.





## Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp – Excavator Work – Clearing – August 24, 2011

On Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, Excavator work was done at the Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp. Rocks were moved from the campsite entrances. These and other rocks were used to block the 'cut through' middle road off and to surround the "common area". Some low hanging trees branches along the road were trimmed and several sites were graded.

Orange tape was placed around trees along the road to identify them on a 'wish list' for removal in a forestry operation as discussed at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at Gillette Castle. The most important ones being at the far end of the camp...it's VERY difficult to swing a larger horse trailer around that corner with those trees so close to the road. A total of 15 volunteer hours were submitted to the project. Volunteers were Bruce Wilder, Meg Sautter and Diane Ciano.



In addition, CHC-VHP member Jean Morrison has been working on marking a 5 and 10 mile loop with approved yellow diamonds. She has put in many hours, even riding in the pouring rain to do this., The 5 mile loop from the campground is completed, but it will be awhile before she finishes the 10 mile loop, so beware that the marking is NOT completed.

**She reports a large hole right in the middle of Fayette Road, somewhere between that "twisty turny Mountain Laurel trail" and the main trail up to the camp. She also found an Easyboot, a #2 with a gaiter, at the bottom of the gas line. A note was left at the kiosk in the camp, so you can contact her if it's yours.**

## Your CHC Representation around the state...

### CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL



Judy Beliveau has received her appointment for the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District from Representative Lawrence Cafero. Judy is a member of the CHC Board of Directors, Volunteer Horse Patrol and Oxford Land Trust. Judy's appointment completes the final legislative appointments to the council.

Thanks to DEEP Trails and Greenways Coordinator, Laurie Giannotti, a web page has been set up about the Council, its goals and accomplishments on their website. You can access this website from the CHC website under the heading of "Trails" or go directly to:

[http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=438826&depNav\\_GID=1642](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=438826&depNav_GID=1642)



**Picture of Council Members appointed by the 5 Congressional Districts;**

Front row: **Meg Sautter** (1<sup>st</sup> - Newington), **Diane Ciano** (5<sup>th</sup> - Plymouth), **Ruth Beardsley** (3<sup>rd</sup> - Bethany),  
Back row: **Jan Collins** (2<sup>nd</sup> - Somers), **Laurie Giannotti**, CT Department of Environmental & Energy Protection Liaison  
**Judy Beliveau**, ( 4<sup>th</sup> - Oxford), **Leslie Lewis**, CT Forest & Park Association / minority leader of the Senate,  
**Missing from Photo, Amy Stegall, President, CT Horse Council**



## **Connecticut Greenways Council 2011 Fall Update**

Submitted by Jan Collins, CHC Greenways representative

The annual Connecticut Greenways Day has been scheduled for Friday October 21st at 1 PM in Andover, CT at the site of the new covered bridge on the Hop River State Park Trail. Five new Greenways will be designated and several Greenway awards bestowed on deserving recipients.

The Council is still working with state government on the restoration of the Greenway license plate funds which were swept into the general fund last year. Once these funds are reinstated, the Council can again give out grant money for trail work.

The Federal RTP (Recreational Trails Program) funds are still in limbo for 2012 but most likely no decisions will be made until after the election which is good news as the program will probably just roll over into the same dollar amount for grants as in 2011. There have been 31 proposals submitted for the hoped for 2012 funds and the RTP committee (with Diane Ciano and Jan Collins representing CHC) will be meeting in October to rank the proposals.

The Merritt Parkway trail study with a million dollar budget is continuing but much opposition is expected from the private abutters of the Parkway.

The DOT liaison to the Greenways Council is Kate Rattan (DOT Transportation Planner and Non-motorized Transportation Coordinator) who is also the liaison between DOT and the State bike/ped committee. Jan asked her to inquire about the status of the proposed new bike/ped map which is supposed to include horseback riding areas around the state submitted by CHC. Also Jan informed Kate and the DOT of the recent horse fatality accident in Clinton and reiterated the need for passage of a Vulnerable users bill and the importance of CHC's Road Safe program.



# The 2011-2016 CT Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

## Background:

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a planning document that identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide significance, and that evaluates the supply of and the demand for outdoor recreation resources and facilities in Connecticut. The SCORP provides unified guidance to state and municipal officials as they develop and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for their respective constituents.

In addition to its value as a planning document, the completion of a SCORP also satisfies a requirement of the federally administered Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which then makes Connecticut eligible to receive its annual apportionment from the LWCF State and Municipal Assistance Program. Apportionments from the LWCF can be used by the state and its municipalities to acquire new land for outdoor recreation and conservation, and to construct new outdoor recreational facilities.

Trails Chairperson, Diane Ciano serves on the SCORP Advisory Board representing equestrians. CHC made comments and recommendations to the 2011-2016 SCORP, notified its membership of the online survey and encouraged equestrians to attend the 4 public hearings scheduled around the state.

The CT Horse Council has addressed the SCORP in previous years asking for multiple use trails and trail surfaces to include horses, access and adequate parking areas, much needed signage to identify our public lands, including horse friendly signage as well as horse friendly information on their web site. We have also addressed prioritizing uniform multiple use Guidelines with Departmental Policies & communication between different agencies for state & federal funding., i.e. Dept. of Transportation (DOT, Department of Environmental and Energy Protection (DEEP) and the Department of Public Health (DPH).

In the updated SCORP for 2011-2016, CHC asked that the above be moved to a higher priority. In addition to this CHC made note that SCORP monies from the Federal Government should be spent on repairing our trails, bridges and establishing new multiple use trails to accommodate the residents of CT and to encourage tourism to our state. We also addressed the issue of land acquisition that should always include multi-use trails **and specifically include horseback riding** when purchasing property or when the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) provides funding to private and public organizations seeking money for recreational trails whenever possible.

While the updated SCORP is not available yet, below is an excerpt from one of the parts of the document.

The goals in this Plan are ordered in a sequence that presents the discussion as a natural progression from one subject to the next. They do not represent a prioritization. Connecticut considers them all to be equally important to the universe of outdoor recreation in the state. Connecticut's goals are to:

- Goal 1: **Fulfill the commitment to public open space acquisition as set forth in The Green Plan: Guiding Land Acquisition and Protection in Connecticut.**
- Goal 2: **Protect and restore the natural resources that are fundamental to quality outdoor recreation experiences.**
- Goal 3: **Protect and restore Connecticut's cultural and historical resources.**
- Goal 4: **Maximize public access to outdoor recreation resources.**
- Goal 5: **Maximize the variety of outdoor recreation resources.**
- Goal 6: **Engage in public outreach to better inform residents and visitors about the availability of outdoor recreational resources, and of the many personal and community benefits of participation.**

For more information on SCORP: [www.ct.gov/deep/scorp](http://www.ct.gov/deep/scorp) or [http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=323864&depNav\\_GID=1642](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=323864&depNav_GID=1642)

## Your CHC Representation around the state...

### UPDATE... NORWALK RIVER VALLEY TRAIL - ROUTE 7

Five towns along the Super 7 corridor -- Danbury, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield and Wilton -- are planning a different future for the 890-acre corridor. They plan to build the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT), a Greenway that will provide a 27 mile route for cyclists, hikers, and walkers from Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk, Connecticut, north to Danbury, Connecticut. The Greenway skirts the Weir Farm property in Ridgefield -- now the state's only national historic site -- beautiful woods, limestone glens, and places like the pastel green meadow near the Norwalk River and Miller's Pond. At its northern end, the Norwalk River Valley Trail could easily intersect with the Ives Trail -- the almost-complete 15-mile trail that will run from Redding to Danbury to Ridgefield. To its south, it could cross the greenway trail planned to run along the Merritt Parkway.

In May of this year, residents of all five towns in the Norwalk River corridor were invited to help plan the Norwalk River Valley Trail in a series 5 of interactive community workshops. The committee was looking for input regarding route, use, footing, etc.

CHC called upon local equestrians to attend the workshops and to offer their support and assistance to this project so as not to miss out on a great opportunity to get a new long trail to ride !!!

***Although these workshops have passed, CHC urges local equestrians to be vigilant and continue to make an effort to be in contact with the committee by attending their monthly meetings, staying in communication with the planners and getting on their newsletter list. Please pass this information along to local town residents.*** If horse people don't speak up, horses will not be included, and we will miss out. There are several walks scheduled in the various towns in October, so please be sure to attend and be involved!

### October 13th Steering Committee Meeting Open House

Our Steering Committee meetings take place the second Thursday of each month and all of our meetings are open to the public. We would like to extend a special invitation to anyone interested in learning more about the Trail to attend the October 13 meeting, which will take place at 8:00 a.m. in the Wilton Town Hall Annex Meeting Room at 238 Danbury Road (Route 7), Wilton, CT 06897. If possible, please R.S.V.P. at [info@nrvt-trail.com](mailto:info@nrvt-trail.com) so that we can be sure we have enough seats for our guests. In the committee's ongoing effort to understand all the potential user groups, a member of the equestrian community is expected to lead a discussion of the interests and needs of riders on October 13. This will give attendees the opportunity to expand their understanding and dispel common misconceptions. Committee members also participate in a range of sub-committees including the Public Relations, Public Outreach, Contracts Management, Liaison and Fundraising. Attending a Steering Committee meeting or a subcommittee meeting is a great way to both learn more about the Trail and to select volunteer opportunities.

For more info, go to [www.nrvt-trail.com](http://www.nrvt-trail.com)

1. Voice your support for the NRVT to your local legislators and your town government.
2. Make a monetary pledge to the Friends of the Norwalk River Valley Trail.
3. Share your input with your local NRVT contact:  
Danbury: Mike Cunningham, (203) 748-7233, [runslong@yahoo.com](mailto:runslong@yahoo.com)  
Norwalk: Dan Landau, (203) 847-1600, [nrvtct@yahoo.com](mailto:nrvtct@yahoo.com)  
Redding: Dave Pattee, (203) 544-8246, [dpattee@optonline.net](mailto:dpattee@optonline.net)  
Ridgefield: Ben Oko, [benoko@comcast.net](mailto:benoko@comcast.net)  
Wilton: Gail Lavielle, (203) 832-3806, [GailLavielle@aol.com](mailto:GailLavielle@aol.com)
4. Visit the website on a regular basis for news about public hearings and other milestones for the trail.
5. Join the effort by emailing your local contact (above). A variety of opportunities are available to help turn this concept into reality.
6. Please email Pat Sesto at [Patricia.Sesto@WILTONCT.ORG](mailto:Patricia.Sesto@WILTONCT.ORG) with your ideas regarding the Trail, both in your town and elsewhere.

# Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

## SAFETY TIPS DURING HUNTING SEASON

### Hikers, Hunters, Horseback Riders, Mountain Bikers

#### What You Need to Know When You Are Outdoors

Remember, some form of hunting is allowed in state forests throughout the year, so you should familiarize yourself with the hunting seasons. With the onset of the traditional opening day of the fall hunting season you should see an increase in hunting activity in many areas.

Fall and winter days are great times to enjoy Connecticut's woodlands. Whether you like to hike, horseback ride, mountain bike, hunt or fish, it's a good idea to observe a few safety precautions while afield.

### Outdoor Safety Tips

- If you hike, ride, hunt or fish alone, let somebody know where you will be.
- Familiarize yourself with the area you will be using, and know the activities which occur there.
- Ask landowner's permission to hike, ride, hunt or fish.
- Dress appropriately and be prepared for any sudden changes in the weather.
- **Wear bright clothing** (400 square inches of fluorescent orange for hunters) to increase your visibility.
- **Avoid wearing gray, brown, tan or white** when hiking in hunted areas.
- **Consider using a bell on your bike or horse during the hunting season.**
- **If you see someone hunting, call out to them to identify your location.**
- **Peak hunting occurs in early morning and late afternoon, primarily during the months of October through December.**

### Connecticut Hunting Seasons

Hunting is regulated by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection as part of its comprehensive wildlife management program. Listings of all seasons and pertinent regulations are published annually in the [Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide and the Migratory Bird Hunting Guide](#), which are available from any town clerk or Wildlife Division office.

### Hunting Season Dates:

- Bowhunting season starts on **SEPTEMBER 15**.
- In the fall, **peak hunting activity** for small game and deer occurs from the **THIRD SATURDAY IN OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER**. Early morning hours (before 9:00 a.m.) are the most active hunting times, especially on Saturdays and holidays.
- **Spring** turkey hunting season runs from the **end of April through the end of May**.

There is **NO SUNDAY HUNTING** allowed anywhere in the state, except at registered private shooting preserves with the town's permission and a permit from the DEEP.

**Hunting Areas:** Hunting is allowed at: 1) specified state-owned lands (state forests, wildlife management areas), 2) privately-owned land where landowners have granted permission, 3) permit-regulated hunting areas, 4) state-leased hunting areas, 5) registered private shooting preserves, and 6) lakes, rivers and tidal wetlands during waterfowl hunting seasons. Hunting does not occur at most state parks. Consult the current [Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide](#) on the DEEP website for a listing of state-owned, state-leased and permit-regulated lands that are open to hunting. **NOTE: Goodwin Forest is NOT open to hunting.**



## Seven Tips to Help Save Horseback Riding Trails

**Don't let another acre slip away. Be proactive and help protect equestrian trails.**

Public and private trails that were once open to equestrians are disappearing every day. What can an average trail rider do about it? Plenty. Here are some tips to get started.

1. **Use it or lose it.** Here's an easy one: Get out there and use the public trails in your area that are still available to equestrians. It's easier for landowners and decision makers at your local park to close trails to equestrians if there aren't too many riders out there. Be an active, responsible user of your local trails so that the world knows equestrians still exist!
2. **Be a good steward.** Pay your dues or fees, clean up after your horse and yourself and obey the posted rules of the trail. This may seem obvious, but even experienced trail riders can get careless. Get your friends or local trail riders' group together for trail maintenance days. Volunteer to clean up trash and move fallen branches from the local equestrian trails. Be the kind of trail user that land managers want to have around.
3. **Join forces.** Become a member of your state horse council, local horsemen's group, or trail riding club. Networking with other riders will help you stay abreast of the issues are threatening riders and rural land owners in your area and provide an opportunity to work together toward positive solutions.
4. **Be courteous,** even if you don't want to. Yes, equestrians technically have right-of-way on most mixed-use trails, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be considerate. Make every trail user's interaction with an equestrian as pleasant as possible. Smile and say thank you when someone pulls off the trail to let you and your horse pass. When you encounter an oblivious trail user speeding around corners on their mountain bike or letting their dog run amok, assume that they're not malicious, they just don't know better. Saying, "Would you mind holding your dog over to the side while we pass? I don't want him to get stepped on," is a lot more effective then yelling obscenities, even if that's your first impulse.
5. **In fact, make friends** with your fellow outdoor recreationalists. We all have similar goals. We want safe, accessible parks and trails in which to enjoy our favorite sports and activities. Speak to local hiking and cycling clubs so you can share concerns and even organize trail maintenance days together. It's a lot better to work through trail conflicts together than to stay isolated from one another and point fingers when problems arise.
6. **Know the facts,** and share them. Horses often get blamed for having a negative impact on the environment, but research has shown otherwise. For example:
  - o Research from the Delaware National Heritage Program showed that horses and riders were generally less disturbing to wildlife than joggers, hikers and even photographers.
  - o Several studies have shown that waste left behind by horses on the trail did not have an adverse effect on water supplies.
  - o Horses are often implicated in causing accelerated trail erosion, but studies have shown horses do not cause more erosion than human foot traffic or natural environmental processes. Get more information at [ELCR.org](http://ELCR.org)
7. **Call your senator.** Many riders enjoy riding in state and national parks and in national forests. Sometimes, these trails are closed or reclassified with little input from users. By knowing what's going on in your state and national government, and rallying your fellow trail riders, you can make sure your voice is heard. Believe it or not, those phone calls and letters to your senator or representative do matter. Keep up with national issues through the [American Horse Council](http://AmericanHorseCouncil.org), the [Equine Land Conservation Resource](http://EquineLandConservationResource.org), and [Back Country Horsemen of America](http://BackCountryHorsemen.org).



### Further Reading

[Do you trail ride on public land?](http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-news/2010/12/17/equestrian-federal-land.aspx) <http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-news/2010/12/17/equestrian-federal-land.aspx>



**Connecticut State 4-H Horse Program/ CT  
Horse Council Joint Trail Ride –  
Open to Everyone!**

To Benefit the State 4-H Horse Program

Sponsored by the CT Horse Council

Saturday October 22, 2010

10 am

Rain Date: Sunday October 24, 2010

To be held at the

University of Connecticut Forest

Storrs, CT

Cost: \$20/rider

*Leisurely pace, open to all riders including 4- H'ers of intermediate riding ability and their families. Ride begins with an educational clinic. Bring your own horse. Proof of negative Coggins within one year, proof of vaccination for equine rhinopneumonitis, and a 3 day temperature log (does not need to be completed by a veterinarian) is **REQUIRED**.*

Make checks payable to: University of Connecticut. Mail registration form and your check to: Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Dept. of Animal Science, University of Connecticut, 3636 Horsebarn Rd. Extension, Storrs, CT 06269-4040. Deadline: October 19, 2010.





## **CT Horse Council mourns the tragic loss of Trapper Jake Mint**

The Connecticut Horse Council would like to offer our deep condolences to Dr. Lynda Perry who lost her horse Trapper Jake Mint in a tragic accident.

While Dr. Perry was riding Trapper along the shoulder of a public road, a motorist struck them. Dr. Perry sustained injuries from which she is recovering, however her beloved Trapper suffered mortal wounds and was euthanized at the scene.

It is truly a heartbreaking story and CHC and the Volunteer Horse patrol are deeply saddened by this untimely death.

Trapper Jake Mint was a 15 year old Lippitt Morgan horse. Dr. Lynda and Trapper have been members of the CT Horse Council's (CHC) Volunteer Horse Patrol Program since its beginning in 2003 when CHC and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) partnered to add on to their volunteer program - a horse patrol to serve as the eyes and ears of our state parks and forests.

Lynda and Trapper worked as a great team to greet visitors to the parks and forestlands they patrolled. Trapper was always willing to stop to greet visitors and allow adults and children pet him. He was a fine example of a patrol horse. Often Lynda's logs would mention that she would stop Trapper so that walkers with dogs could introduce their dogs to a horse. Trapper was also a dressage horse and they were both coming home from their lesson when the tragedy struck. Lynda and Trapper patrolled many of the local state parks and forests in her area: Cockaponset SF, Pattaconk SP, Messersschmidt Pond WMA, Hammonasset SP and the Clinton Land Conservation Trust lands. Lynda is also the CHC-VHP Coordinator for Hammonasset SP.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Lynda on the loss of her horse. May all her wonderful memories of her travels with Trapper bring a peaceful recovery to help heal her broken heart. A candle was lit for Trapper on the Hoofbeats in Heaven Tribute website in honor of his great spirit.

CHC's intentions are to continue on to press for the passage of the Vulnerable User Law which would provide penalties for causing harm to, or death of, a vulnerable user of a public way. Additionally CHC will continue our existing ROADSAFE program to focus on public awareness of all users of the roads.



## Hoofbeats in Heaven



**Caprieta Linda**

**“Caprieta Linda “** owned and ridden by VHP member Joe Celano, Guilford

**“The True Mr. Brooks “** owned and ridden by VHP members Karen & Gillis Gregoire

*A candle has been lit for Trapper Jake Mint, Caprieta Linda, The True Mr. Brooks and his pony companion Chocolate on the Hoofbeats in Heaven ,Candle Lighting Tributes website:*

<http://www.hoofbeats-in-heaven.com/candlelighting/>



### *Candlelight*

*As my candle, burning bright  
Sends shadows off on this dark night  
It offers peace, and hope and love  
To the horses dancing up above.*

*My prayers and thoughts will help them find  
Beloved friends they left behind.  
So they may comfort us in turn,  
And thus it is my candle burns.*

*With quiet tears, lovingly shed  
I hear the horses, overhead.  
Their pounding hooves are thunder stirred,  
For another other friend has joined the herd.*

**Paige Cerullo**

## **Horse Owner's Corner: Strategic Deworming:**

### **Why should I change how I deworm my horse?**

**Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, UConn; Education Committee Chair**

Spring is coming and that makes horse owners think about deworming. You may have heard some of the recent discussion about how horse owners should switch from rotational deworming to strategic deworming. The main reason that horse owners are being encouraged to switch is that with no new dewormers on the horizon, parasites may develop resistance to existing dewormers. Also, there may be a cost benefit to only deworming those horses that have high fecal egg counts.

### **What is strategic deworming?**

Strategic deworming involves collecting the feces of the horse and examining the feces using a fecal flotation test to determine the number of parasite eggs present. Then, with strategic deworming, only horses with a specific number of parasite eggs or higher (called “shedders”) would be dewormed. Shedding refers to the number of strongyle type eggs present.

It does take a trained eye to recognize strongyle eggs, but large farms may want to consider learning how to perform their own fecal egg counts (FECs). You will need a fecal flotation kit which is commercially available and fecal flotation medium, also commercially available. You will also need a microscope and the time to devote to looking at the manure of all of the horses on your farm. You will have to collect the manure when it is fresh in the stall, or if horses are pastured you may need to stall them because if you just pick up the pile in the field, you can't be sure which horse it is from. Otherwise, your veterinarian can arrange to have a FEC done for you.

Some parasitologists (veterinarian who studies parasites) recommend grouping horses into low, moderate or high shedders. However, they cannot agree on a cut-off number for each category. According to the American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP), a FEC of less than 200 eggs per gram (epg) implies a light parasite load while a FEC of 500 to 1000 epg implies that the interval between deworming is too long. Initially you would perform an FEC 10-14 days before you would normally deworm. You would then do a fecal float exam 10-14 days after deworming to determine if the dewormer is working properly. If it is, you would see a fecal egg count reduction (FECR) in those horses tested. It should be 90% of the previous FEC when tested.


### **What are the advantages of using strategic deworming?**


There are the advantages of strategic deworming:



It may reduce the chances of parasites developing resistance. There are no new dewormers in development. Whenever a dewormer is used, some parasites may not die. These parasites are called resistant. The more parasites that survive after a deworming, which should


kill them, the more resistant parasites there are in the population. This can lead to horse owners being unable to control parasites, and is the main reason a lot of parasitologists and veterinarians advocate using strategic deworming.


 You will be able to determine which horses are low, medium, or high shedders. Research has shown that this is determined genetically, so you should not have to perform the test again to be sure that a horse is a low, medium, or high shedder unless his health or immune status changes.


 You will know if the dewormer you are using is effective. Some dewormers in your rotation will be more effective against certain types of internal parasites than others. For example, when using pyrantel pamoate is not effective against encysted cyathostomes, so you would need to have another dewormer in the rotation to take care of that. If using a daily dewormer, you also will want to add a larvicide and boticide since they are not effective against bots and larva.

### **What are the disadvantages of strategic deworming?**

There are some disadvantages of strategic deworming:

 For large farms, it will be time consuming and labor intensive to perform FECs on all horses. It will also require an additional cost initially.

 You must test all horses on the farm in order to have a truly effective strategic deworming program, at least initially.

 It is often difficult to convince people who have done things a certain way that a new idea is going to be effective. It may be difficult to get a stable manager with years of experience to switch to strategic deworming.

Strategic deworming is a new way of managing the horse to reduce parasite loads. Studies have shown that it is quite effective. You should work with your veterinarian to determine the deworming method that is best for you. It is also important to prevent overgrazing and manage manure in your pastures to keep from adding to the horse's parasite load. Deworming works best when it goes along with best management practices that include good farm sanitation and manure removal. Good luck and have fun with your horses!

### **References**

American Association of Equine Practitioners. Internal Parasites: Strategies for Effective Parasite Control. 2010. [http://www.aaep.org/health\\_articles\\_view.php?id=125](http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=125)

The Horse Staff. Strategic Deworming Q& A. 2008. <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=13694>



## Born to Ride

Cathy Sautter

Summer 2011

Why am I here in this beautiful day?  
I should be at the barn, smelling horses and hay  
With sun in my hair, my hands on a mare.  
I need to escape, it can't be denied  
I mean, seriously. I was *born* to ride.

Geeze what a jerk!,  
Should'a called into work.  
I feel so confined, trapped in this daily grind  
There's a field just beyond, somewhere outside.  
I got to get there, I was born to *ride*!

I can't even focus or concentrate  
When I notice boss-man, it's way too late  
He looks mad, I confess, a red faced, ugly mess  
Even *he* knows it's true, I *was* born to ride!

I stand up and sputter, stammer, and choke  
But I'm thinking; 'Is this a bad practical joke?'  
Okay, I'll play along, act like I was wrong  
For the moment, I'll push all my day dreams aside  
But each heart beat's repeating, *I was born to ride*.

With heads down, employees spy on me askance  
When they hear boss-man promise 'no second chance'  
Out of work? Not so fun, and I sure do need money  
But every cell, every atom is screaming inside  
Doesn't anyone get it? I WAS JUST BORN TO *RIDE*!!

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Welcome to all members who have joined or renewed since the last newsletter. Thank you for your support of the Connecticut Horse Council. If you have not renewed I hope you will support the CHC again and do so. If you have any changes to your address, phone, or email please let me know. Thank you.

**Carol Birdsey**  
Membership Chair

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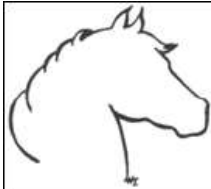
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**CLUB or BUSINESS NAME** (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ Trails    ☐ Zoning    ☐ Booth    ☐ Legislation    ☐ Website    ☐ Emergency/Disaster Preparedness

☐ Volunteer Horse Patrol    ☐ Education    ☐ CT Horse 911

**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 wish to join The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**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)

(over)



Connecticut Horse Council **Connections** is a volunteer network being developed to provide assistance and resources to our fellow horse owners in the state during times of natural or man-made disasters, or emergency incidents such as fires, loose horses, or trailer accidents. When there is an incident or emergency situation involving horses **Connections** will be a resource for local fire departments, first response dispatchers, and, as they continue to organize, with local CTSART Region Team Leaders. If you choose to participate in **Connections**, CHC will add your name to our list of people who can be contacted when help is needed.

[ ] CHC has my permission to make my name available to my local Fire Department/local Emergency Dispatcher as an experienced horseperson to call in the event of an incident involving horse/s.

My local FD is \_\_\_\_\_ Local Police \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency trailering for horse/s.

Type/size of vehicle \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide temporary emergency shelter/housing/paddock space for horses which need to be relocated in emergency situations.

Describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] CHC has my permission to contact me to provide emergency supplies (feed, bedding, or other) for horses involved in emergency incidents.

Describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[ ] I am unable to participate at this time but would like to be included in future alerts or mailings.

**Although not yet mandated by Connecticut statute, the CT State Animal Response Team regions recognize the needs of large animals. CHC remains committed to assisting the five Region Team Leaders in their efforts to include horses in their disaster response plans.**

[ ] Please give me the contact name of my CTSART Region Team Leader so I can contact him/her.

**I attest that I am at least 18 years of age and that the information I provide The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. is true and accurate. I understand that I may, in any particular situation, prudently decline to offer my good faith services. I further understand that The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. acts only as a conduit for providing this information to individuals and/or organizations for the purpose of emergency response, and CHC is not liable for any injury or misadventure resulting in my volunteer efforts.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# 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**

### **Amy Stegall**

Stafford Springs, CT

860-684-6583

[president@cthorsecouncil.org](mailto:president@cthorsecouncil.org)

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## **Advisors**

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Dept of Animal Science

University Of Connecticut

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### ***Road Safe***

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## **Recording Secretary**

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### ***Trails***

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