

**CT Horse Council  
TRAIL NEWS  
Volunteer Horse Patrol  
Fall - Year End 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 Committee  
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Committee**

## **EQUESTRIANS OUT ON TRAILS CLEARING STORM DAMAGE**

Reports of over 400 hours of trail clearing has been done by the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol members around the state. Members have been out on the trails clearing logs, fallen trees and debris from the late summer hurricane Irene and the October storm Alfred, both of which devastated trails around the state and have halted access to many of the trails on state, municipal and land trust properties. Much of the damage has made trails **unsafe** for travel and/or has cut off any access to them.

In addition, CHC reports that there is considerable amount of hours done by the equestrian community that has been reported through organizations belonging to the CHC. Newtown Bridle Lands Association, Middlebury Bridal Lands Association, Lower CT River Valley Horsemen (LCRVHC), Granby Horse Council and Pomfret Horse & Trail Association are just a few of the organizations that have reported having volunteer crews out on the trails. There is still much work to be done, which will continue on through the winter and spring months.

### **Some quick reports:**

VHP members on the Bissell Trail in Windsor with four outings with totaling 86 hours! The entire trail was impassable with large downed trees, vines and debris. See next page for pictures of work crew.

Granby Horse Council & VHP members have put in over 125 hours at Salmon River Park in Granby. GHC had a work party of 25 at one of two organized trail clearings and report that the trails are clear from the Rte. 20 parking lot to the fields and that you can ride the full loop now.

LCRVHC VHP members Melissa Evarts, Lynda Perry, Kristen Elliott Leas and her husband reported over 100 hours in the Cockaponset SF and Clinton Land Conservation Land Trust properties.

VHP member Ginger Tullai reports over 23 hours spent clearing trails on the Airline Greenway, Machimoodus State Park and Salmon River State forest. More trail clearing is needed.

Other VHP members have reported trail clearing at Larkin Bridle Trail, Mattatuck SF, Natchaug, SF, Goodwin SF & Shenipsit SF and Tarrywile Park in Danbury.

Other reports are waiting to come in from the VHP members and year end totals of Patrol Hours, Trail Maintenance hours and statistics will be available in our Spring Newsletter.

**If you or your organization plan to clear trails please remember to have PERMISSION FROM THE LAND OWNER and to THINK SAFETY FIRST!**

**Please contact Diane Ciano with a report so that we can keep track of the hours. Include the location, number of people on project and hours spent. If you need help in getting permission, please also contact Diane for help. Also please remember to wear safety equipment and take some pictures!**



## BISSELL TRAIL CLEAN UP



**BISSELL TRAIL CREW: Vevette Greenberg, Gary Rutkauskas, Judy Beliveau, Marcia Sigman, Meg Sautter, Randy Olmstead, KoyboyKen Forcier. Not pictured: Diane Ciano, Denise Ciano**





## **CT TRAILS DAY EVENTS – PLAN AHEAD**

*Below is information on CT Trails Day and how to register your event.  
Please also let Diane Ciano of CHC Trails Committee Chair know of your event  
and we will post it on our website calendar.*

# **Register Events NOW for Connecticut Trails Day Deadline is January 31, 2012**

The 2012 Connecticut Trails Day Celebration will take place June 2 and 3, 2012. Last year Connecticut once again hosted the largest celebration in the nation with 193 registered events in 115 towns on over 500 miles of trails. Let's make 2012's celebration even bigger and better!

**Submit your event(s), using our easy online form at [www.ctwoodlands.org/CT-TrailsDay2012-Registration](http://www.ctwoodlands.org/CT-TrailsDay2012-Registration).** Registrations must be received by Tuesday, January 31, 2012 in order to be included in the popular Connecticut Trails Day Booklet. Submissions received after that date will only be listed on our website. 2012 marks the 20th year that the Connecticut Forest & Park Association has coordinated the Connecticut Trails Day Celebration. Through this unique community collaboration, Connecticut towns, parks, friends groups, land trusts, watershed associations, and others are able to showcase their trails, staff, volunteers, and hard work to thousands of people while promoting healthy, outdoor recreation.

**Don't let your community miss out on the fun!** Plan a Connecticut Trails Day event or encourage your town leaders and organizations to host one in your area. Contact CFPA at [info@ctwoodlands.org](mailto:info@ctwoodlands.org) or (860) 346-TREE, if you have questions or need a printed registration form. Thank you in advance for making the 2012 celebration a great success!

### **CT Trails Day Guidelines**

- Events must take place on Saturday, June 2 or Sunday, June 3, 2012
  - We cannot accept events that charge a fee
  - Hikes, walks, trail runs, rides, paddles, and trail work parties are welcome
  - Bike and equestrian rides must be held on authorized multi-use trails; participants are required to wear an approved helmet
  - Paddle participants are required to wear an approved personal flotation device
  - Events registered by Tuesday, January 31, 2012 will be included in the CT Trails Day Booklet
  - Event leaders will be supplied with a CT Trails Day Packet, which includes a CT Trails Day Booklet, sign-in sheet, and T-shirt (if selected on the registration form)
- 16 Meriden Road  
Rockfall, Connecticut 06481  
T 860.346.TREE  
F 860.347.7463  
[info@ctwoodlands.org](mailto:info@ctwoodlands.org)  
[www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)

## **Welcome New Volunteer Horse Patrol Coordinator**

Jan Collins has volunteered to be the Coordinator for Goodwin State Forest. She is an active member of the Friends of Goodwin Forest and is working on a better route to get the 15 mile loop trail from the Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp at Natchaug SF to the Goodwin SF approved and marked.

Jan is also the CHC-VHP Coordinator for the DEEP Shenipsit Area, which includes the towns of Enfield, Somers, Stafford, Union, Woodstock, East Windsor, Ellington, Willington, Ashford, Vernon, Tolland, East Hartford. There are 2 STATE PARKS: Bigelow Hollow (513 acres) & Scantic River - (784 acres) and 2 STATE FORESTS: Nipmuck (9,214 acres) - Nye Holman (841 acres) - Shenipsit (6,962 acres). There are also 3 Wildlife Management Areas: Belding WMA (282) - Charter Marsh WMA (242) - Kollar WMA (911). Town owned trails in Somers are also available for horseback riding.

In addition to this, Jan is our CHC Representative for the CT Greenways Council. Greenways report on is on page 8. Jan serves on the CT Equine Advisory Council as well as the DEEP Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Advisory Committee Board with Diane Ciano, to oversee the program funding.

## **Welcome NEW PATROL HORSES**

**Congratulations to Lynda Perry, Meg Sautter, Ginger Tullai and Denise Ciano**



**Lynda Perry and her Arabian Jackson**



**Meg Sautter on her Tennessee Walker Dunn Armed aka "Mac"**



**Ginger Tullai's Icelandic Horse "Dunny"**



**Denise Ciano and her Paint Quarter Horse Doublesans Scoot N' Rouge aka "Suzie"**

## Your CHC Representation around the state...



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)

Meetings for 2012 have been set on a quarterly basis. Tuesdays 6:00PM: March 13<sup>th</sup>, June 12<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup>. They are held at Northeast Utilities in Berlin.

The CT Equine Advisory Council has been instrumental in keeping communications open with the equestrian community, DEEP and CFPA. Discussions revolve around updates on working arrangements with DEEP – marking designated multiple use trails with yellow diamonds in Shenipsit, Natchaug, Pachaug and Goodwin State forests, updates on work completed by CHC regarding the RTA funding through DEEP on the renovations to the Lost Silver Mine Horse, legislation, Discussions also include DEEP Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan, Recreational Trails Program, CT Greenways Council and other pertinent issues. Council woman Ruth Beardsley is working on gathering information for a Trail Surface Study,

The website is updated by Laurie Giannotti, CT Department of Environmental & Energy Protection Liaison. Our recent goal is to post past meeting minutes up in an archive file from the website.

The public is always welcome to attend. You may also contact any of the Council members if there are any equestrian issues you would want to have addressed.

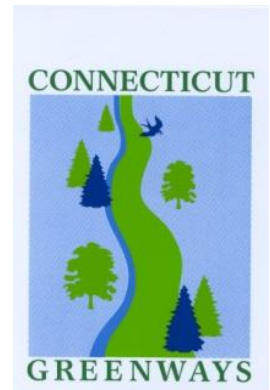


**Picture of Council Members appointed by the 5 Congressional Districts;**

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**



## Your CHC Representation around the state...



### Connecticut Greenways Council 2011 Designations and Awards

The annual Connecticut Greenways Day was held on Friday October 21st in Andover, CT at the site of the new covered bridge on the Hop River State Park Trail. Five new Greenways were designated and several Greenway awards bestowed on deserving recipients.

For more info on CT Greenways go to:

[http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=323858&depNav\\_GID=1704](http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&q=323858&depNav_GID=1704)

**Canterbury's Quinebaug River Corridor** – This greenway is a continuance of CT's previously designated "Quinebaug River Multipurpose Trail" in Brooklyn/Killingly and the Trolley Trail in Plainfield. Designation of Canterbury's section of this greenway is felt to be the Town's next natural step in promoting stewardship, conservation and education of Canterbury's best natural resource.

**Litchfield Community Greenway, Litchfield** – The Litchfield Community Greenway is a part of a larger plan first proposed by the Town of Litchfield Plan of Conservation and Development, which was adopted in 2007. That plan proposes a system of walking trails linking the village centers and recreational resources of the town. The current Greenway's focus is to develop the old Shepaug Railroad bed into a recreational trail. Visit the greenway website: <http://www.litchfieldcommunitygreenway.com/>

**Pomperaug River Greenway, Woodbury** – Through the auspices of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, the Town of Woodbury has developed a Pomperaug River Greenway Plan (including the Nonnewaug and Weekeepeemee Rivers) that preserves the rivers' environmental integrity and maximizes benefits to residents. The newly designated greenway system protects natural resources, connects existing protected areas and provides access to the outdoors.

**Scantic River Greenway (extension), South Windsor** – This is an extension of the 2010 designation of the Scantic River Greenway in East Windsor. It is a 2.5 mile section of the Scantic River from the East Windsor town line to the Connecticut River in South Windsor. This section is a very important natural resource in South Windsor, encompasses some of the richest history in the region, and will expand on existing multi-use, non-motorized, trail systems and waterways. The entire Scantic River is now an Official CT Greenway. For more information visit: [Scantic River Watershed](#)

**Shetucket River Greenway** - The Shetucket River is recognized by federal, state, local and private agencies as a valuable wildlife habitat for a rich diversity of aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals. The natural, historic and recreational resources enjoyed by communities are dependent upon the continued conservation along the river. This designation will facilitate natural resource protection on both sides of the Shetucket River as well as increasing public recreational opportunities. The participating communities in the Shetucket River Greenway will work to preserve the waters quality as well as the habitats within the greenway through community education and promotion of the natural, historic and recreation resources of the river corridor.

# Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

December 9, 2011

DEEP and CCEA Release Study Highlighting the Economic Impact of CT State Parks and Forests

## ***More than \$1 Billion Spent by Residents and Visitors in 2010***

Connecticut's state parks and forests offer numerous outdoor recreation activities that are part of what makes Connecticut a special place to live – and a new study concludes they are also good for the economy.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) today released an extensive analysis conducted by UConn's Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) showing that outdoor activities on state lands have an economic impact of more than \$1 billion a year. The \$1 billion represents the amount spent by state residents and visitors on a variety of outdoor activities including camping, boating, fishing and hunting.

The study also concluded that:

- For every dollar the state spends on the state park system, it receives an estimated \$38 in economic activity.
- Nearly 9,000 private sector jobs statewide result from the support of outdoor recreation pursuits.

"It is no secret that Connecticut has some of the most beautiful state parks and forests in the country that provide countless outdoor recreational activities to our residents and visitors," said DEEP Commissioner Daniel C. Esty. "This study now demonstrates that our parks and forests also make a significant contribution to our state's economy. With the support of Governor Malloy, the General Assembly, and all of our partners, DEEP works hard to maintain and improve our parks and forests for the enjoyment of all – and we now see from even a 'bottom line' perspective that it is time and money well spent."

The study ([The Economic Impact of State Parks, Forests and Natural Resources under the Management of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#)) is an economic impact analysis CCEA developed of the state's recreational activities including visits to state parks and forests, hunting, fishing, boating, and other sporting activities. Of the \$1 billion spent on recreation, visitors to parks and forests spent \$544 million in 2010 on general tourism activities in Connecticut such as lodging, meals, groceries, and other activities and goods during their stay.

In addition, sports persons holding licenses and permits issued by DEEP spent the following amounts:

- Fishing accounted for \$264 million in expenditures
- Hunting accounted for \$100 million in expenditures
- Recreational boating accounted for nearly \$37 million in expenditures
- \$26.2 million came from skiing and attending educational and other venues

The study also shows that the nearly 9,000 private sector jobs credited to the state parks system and associated recreational activities result in \$343 million in personal income, estimated to grow to \$595 million in current dollars in 2020. Of that \$343 million, \$253 million is considered disposable income, increasing to \$471 million by 2020.

"The mission of CCEA is to provide exactly this kind of analysis, one that illuminates policy and budget choices," said Fred Carstensen, Director, Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis. "In this specific case, the analysis is conservative, as it does not include all related activities, such as horseback riding, undertaken in state parks and forests, involving relative minor total expenditures, nor was all related travel Connecticut park and forest recreationalists undertook because the study limited travel distances to that of the closest available venue."



Along with the tangible benefits DEEP-managed outdoor recreation opportunities create in the state, the CCEA report also found that DEEP's 250,000 acres of open space increases property values for those whose land borders or overlooks the state green spaces. In addition to the benefit to property owners, the increased property values generated an estimated \$3.1 to \$5.4 million to municipalities.

"This study puts real data behind something we've known for many years – the State Parks are both a bargain and a job creator for Connecticut," said Eric Hammerling, Executive Director, Connecticut Forest and Parks Association. "The resources that are invested in maintaining the Park System (and we'd like to see more) are returned many times over through enormous recreational, wildlife, educational, and economic benefits."

### **Background on CCEA**

The Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis, established in 1992, serves the people of Connecticut by improving their understanding of the state's economy -- past, present, and future. The Center focuses on providing timely information and reliable analyses about Connecticut's economy. The Center takes a long-term, strategic view of economic forces, and is objective and transparent in its execution and delivery.

## **Your CHC Representation around the state...**

### **CHC Trails Committee Representation:**

#### **Newtown Bridle Lands Association:**

Meg & Diane were guest speakers for the NBLA meeting. They informed them about the CT Horse Council, the Volunteer Horse Patrol and Roadsafes Program, along with their recent presentation to the Norwalk River Trail (NRT) Greenway Committee. Members were encouraged to become involved with NRT as the committee is looking for local equestrians that would be active and support the trail system.

Two members of NBLA offered to create a Road Safe Power Point presentation for educational presentations, driving schools and to be put up on various websites.



**Front row:** Judy Beliveau, Alesia DiFederico, Rebecca, **back row:** Meg Sautter, Gail Bunkowsky, Karen DeFriesse, Dee Davis, Lucy Prybylski, Sally Fuergson, Diane Ciano, Jamie Wallace & KowboyKen

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

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

CHC-VHP members Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter and Michael Marcus spoke to the Norwalk River Greenway Committee members in Wilton CT. CHC was invited to attend a meeting to give information on Trail requests for equestrian friendly trails. A short power point presentation was given showing pictures of various trails and activities, giving advice on water and bridge crossings, trail surfaces, the VHP program, etc.

The NRVt committee is looking for **local** equestrians that would be active and support the trail system.

***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***

**For more info, go to [www.nrvt-trail.com](http://www.nrvt-trail.com)** You can sign up for the NRT Newsletter to keep informed about the trail, meetings, upcoming events and contact information.

**History:** Five towns along the Super 7 corridor -- Danbury, Nowalk, Redding, Ridgefield and Wilton are planning the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT), a Greenway that will provide a 27 mile route for cyclists, hikers, and walkers from Norwalk to Danbury.

## Events Gone By . . .

The CHC/4-H Benefit Trail Ride was held on Saturday, October 22 in the UCONN forest/ We had gorgeous weather. There were 15 riders, 4 were 4-Hers and their families and the UConn Equine Club sent quite a few students. We were able to raise \$145 for 4-H.



## Your CHC Representation around the state...

### **UPDATE... River Walk Trail – Windsor/Hartford**

In early 2011, members of the Connecticut Horse Council attended a hearing in Windsor regarding a State grant for a 'river trail' from the Windsor boat launch south into Riverside Park in Hartford. Several members of the Volunteer Horse Patrol have been riding and clearing trails in this area for a number of years. We spoke in favor of the trail and requested it be built using the natural surface to enable equestrians to enjoy it.

The Windsor Council approved the use of the grant and work began on the trail construction. Much to our disappointment, the trail was being paved. This issue was discussed at the Equine Advisory Commission meeting and we considered composing a letter requesting a side path for horses and runners. Laurie Giannotti, DEEP Recreational Trails & Greenways Program informed the Equine Advisory Commission of her findings on this matter. [The River Walk Trail on State Property is being paved from the boat launch south to Decker's Brook. However, the Town and DEEP State Parks did consider \*\*and include\*\* \(with an eye toward multi-user needs and environmental concerns\) the needs of the equestrian community in the design. As the attached site plan shows, an equestrian path \(un-paved\) is identified to the west and north of the paved trail.](#)

Thanks to this information, the EAC in cooperation with CHC and the Volunteer Horse Patrol, will be composing and sending a letter of appreciation to the Mayor and Town Council of Windsor, and the DEEP Supervisor, Vin Messino.