



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



Submitted by Diane Ciano

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

### DEP NEWS

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

### **Scott Dawley - Eastern District Manager**

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

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

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

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

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

***Donations for the markers will be greatly appreciated - Thank you***

The new map can be viewed at:

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

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

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

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

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

### [Goodwin State Forest – “Friends of Goodwin State Forest](#)

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

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

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

### [Larkin Bridle State Park](#)

#### [Atvs cause injuries on the Larkin State Bridle Trail - VHP member renders aid](#)

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



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

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

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

in that arm. Jody’s son has been doing all the horse-keeping as she still has difficulty moving about freely.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Sunrise Resort/Machimoodus State Park**

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



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

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

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

## Your CHC Representation around the state:

### **CT Forestlands Council**

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

### **DEP Recreational Trails Advisory Board**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both these representatives are from the town of Durham.

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

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

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

*Clare Cain • Director of Trail Stewardship • Connecticut Forest & Park Association • 16 Meriden Road Rockfall, CT 06481 ph. 860-346-2372 • [ccain@ctwoodlands.org](mailto:ccain@ctwoodlands.org) • [www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)*

## Volunteer Horse Patrol News



### Welcome New VHP members:

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

### Welcome back:

**Elise Woods** with her new horse "Apples"

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

### BY the Way...

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

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

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## Save the Dates..... in 2010

### VHP PRESENTATION TO NEW / INTERESTED MEMBERS

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

### VHP ANNUAL MEETING

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

### CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES

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

**Thursday - February 4<sup>th</sup>      Wednesday- February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Friday- March 5<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Please RSVP Meg Sautter** [mmsautter@att.net](mailto:mmsautter@att.net)

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