

**CT Horse Council
TRAIL NEWS
Volunteer Horse Patrol
FALL 2010**



Submitted by Diane Ciano

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

CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL

Your CHC Representation around the state...

CONNECTICUT EQUINE ADVISORY COUNCIL



CT Equine Advisory Council Logo

Lesley Alexander of Alexander Fine Art created the CT Equine Advisory Council logo pictured above. The Council extends its appreciation for her artwork of the logo and would like to let you know a little about her work.

Lesley grew up in Tolland, Connecticut. She has received her Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in 2007 from Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, Massachusetts. The majority of her work is graphite drawings and acrylic paintings. Lesley has had a vast amount of clients with a broad subject matter but her passion has always been equine.

Lesley has been involved with horses her entire life. She is inspired by their majestic beauty and gracefulness. She has been drawing horses ever since she could pick up a pencil and riding ever since she convinced her parents as a little girl to get her a pony for her birthday. Being around horses and studying them has helped her to understand and capture their beauty in their conformation to the personality in their eyes.

Even though horses are her true passion she puts the same amount of detail and ambition into all her other subjects. She continues to look for new challenges to strengthen her artist style. To view her work please visit her website at: www.lesleyalexanderfineart.com

CT Equine Advisory Council Update

The council was established on May 22, 2007 by Public Act 07-42 to assist the Department of Environmental Protection to study the issue of preservation of equine trails in the state.

The council has been meeting since then to create and work on its goals. A website is also being created and additional information will be up at the beginning of the year.

2011 Meeting Schedule:

The EAC will meet at the Northeast Utilities meeting room located in Berlin on the Berlin Turnpike. from 6-9PM on the following Tuesdays:

February 16th, April 20th, June 15th, September 21st & November 16th.

The public is welcome to attend.

About the Council:

Membership: The council shall consist of the president of the Connecticut Horse Council and five representatives from organizations that serve the horse industry within each congressional district statewide in addition to one member of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

Current members are:

Established in this council to date by Public Act No. 07-42 are:

Amy Stegall, Stafford Springs - President of the CT Horse Council

Meg Sautter, Newington / First Congressional District
CT Horse Council -Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor, Middlebury Bridle Lands Association, and avid trail rider throughout the State of Connecticut, State Animal Response Team (SART) member - Region 3
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member

Jan Collins, Somers / Second Congressional District
CT Horse Council-Volunteer Horse Patrol Coordinator. Jan patrols in the Shenipsit State Forest in Somers, Ellington, and Stafford. She also patrols the Nipmuck State Forest in Stafford and Union. She is a member of the CT Greenways Council, the Friends of Goodwin State Forest, Scantic River Watershed Association and the Somers Planning Commission's Open Space and Trails Subcommittee.

Ruth Beardsley, Bethany / Third Congressional District
CT Horse Council, CT Dressage & Combined Training Association, Bethany Horsemen, Bethany Horse Council, Bethany Zoning Board of Appeals, attorney, adjunct professor of Equine Law at Post University, horse owner

Diane Ciano, Plymouth / Fifth Congressional District
CT Horse Council -Volunteer Horse Patrol Supervisor, Trails Chairperson for CHC, and avid trail rider throughout the State of Connecticut,
State Animal Response Team (SART) member - Region 5
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member

Leslie Lewis, CT Forest & Park Association / minority leader of the Senate

Laurie Giannotti, CT Department of Environmental Protection Liaison

Vacancy, Fourth Congressional District

Volunteers:

Judy Beliveau, Oxford, Acting Recording Secretary. CT Horse Council - Volunteer Horse Patrol member. She is also a member of the Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA), Oxford Horse & Livestock Association (OHLA) and the Oxford Land Trust (OLT).

Goals:

1. Promote equestrian use on public lands.
2. Preserve, Maintain and Restore existing trails.
3. Promote the development of new "Multi-Use" trails.
4. Document and create maps for trails used by equestrians.

Your CHC Representation around the state...



Connecticut Greenways Council 2010 Winter Update

Submitted by CT Greenways Council and CHC member, Jan Collins

The CT Greenways Council is comprised of 11 members appointed by the Governor or various legislatures. Two liaisons also serve on the Council, one from DEP (Dept of Environmental Protection) and one from DOT (Dept of Transportation). The DOT liaison historically has not taken a very active role in the Council's business, rarely attending meetings. With our November meeting that has changed.

Present at that meeting was Thomas Maziarz, Chief of Policy and Planning for DOT and several other officials from the agency. The message Mr. Maziarz brought is simply DOT has new policy and procedures in place including new bicycle and pedestrian initiatives that will make the department more responsive to the needs of these modes of transportation and look to fund more non-vehicular friendly projects with Federal Enhancement monies.

There will be a representative from DOT at all future Greenway meetings and they will be looking for input and offering updates on their projects. This was a good time to mention to the DOT officials that equestrians are recognized as pedestrians in the State's new Bike/Ped policy and will be a good venue to keep that to the forefront.

The State's new Bike/Ped policy is now complete and the chairman of the legislative appointed Bike/Ped Council is also included in the Greenway Council's meetings.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NOTICE: Forest road/trail (Hubbell Road) closing in Mohawk State Forest

CHC Trails was contacted by David Irvin, DEP forester responsible for management of Mohawk State Forest in Cornwall/Goshen regarding upcoming DEP timber harvest plans, primarily to regenerate white pine and native hardwoods for greater forest age class diversity and to promote early successional habitat). The edge of a portion of this harvest will be on Hubbell Road a forest road/horse trail that connects Mohawk Pond to Wadhams Road, a state forest access road. This trail/road has previously been used for harvest of forest products and will have to be used as such again at least in portion. David notified CHC that it would be in the best interest of the public to close this section of trail for the duration of the harvest, which will occur this winter through the summer of 2011 and beyond.

He asked for contact information for the local "Connecticut Trail Riders Association" who utilize the road/trail from Eli Bunker Road in Goshen, so that he could also give them some courteous notice of their intentions in advance. CHC Trails spoke with him and offered some suggestions and help in restoring the trail/road back to rideable condition after the harvest. He was appreciative of the offer and will contact CHC when the operation is completed and spoke of help needed to create a stone bottom over a water crossing, which Diane passed on to CTRA representative Sally Doyle.

CHC thanks David for his communication regarding the upcoming forest operation to the equestrians that utilize the forest road and trails in Mohawk.

CHC Horse Patrol Representation around the state.....



On Saturday, October 16, 2010, **Jim Griffin** and Yankee, along with **Debbie McConnell** and Joya, represented the Connecticut Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol and The Delta Society at the Clinton Petco store's Animal Awareness and Adoption day.

Bev Torell and **Gina McManus** were also on hand to represent the VHP. Nancy Cochran, a friend of Jim's and Debbie's, also assisted by passing out brochures and keeping everyone in coffee and doughnuts.

Approximately two hundred people passed through the doors that day, most stopping to talk with the VHP folks and visit the horses. Plenty of Road Safety brochures were passed out, along with a good number of VHP brochures.

Yankee and Joya did their repertoire of tricks, but the highlight of the day had to be when, at the store manager's invitation, they were actually taken inside the store! There were a lot of double-takes when people saw horses walking in and out of the Petco.

The day generated a lot of positive publicity for the equestrian community in general and the CHC-VHP in particular.

CHC Horse Patrol Representation around the state.....

Hitching Post installed for Horse Patrol members at Bart's, Windsor



The Hitching post is up and functional! Through the hard work and dedication of Don Trinks, Windsor Mayor and owner of Bart's restaurant. The Town of Windsor ok'd and installed the hitching post for the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol members who patrol and maintain the Bissell Trail. Windsor Town Manager, Peter Souza, gave the green light, which put in motion the efforts of Paul Norris, the Recreation Director, and Brian Funk, the Public Works Director. The resultant finished post is beautiful and functional. A HUGE 'Thanks' to all involved!

Volunteer Horse Patrol members have been riding the Bissell Trail to Bart's for lunch for a number of years. This scenic and seasonal (spring flooding) trail follows the Connecticut River north to where it splits from the Farmington River East. The trail brings you to a section of Windsor Meadows State Park. From there are connections to Windsor's Pleasant Street Park where a trail ends, for now, at Bart's on Route 159 in Windsor; hence, it's been dubbed by the patrol members as 'The Hot Dog Run'. There are several outdoor tables and a perfect patch of lawn to graze the horses while you get and eat a World Famous Bart's hotdog with all the trimmings.

The state is working with the town of Windsor and Hartford to continue the trail south into Hartford. Keney Park is nearby with additional riding trails.

Pictured above is Jess Kuwaye/Tonka, Meg Sautter/Dancer, Daisy Gmitter/Bucky and Mayor Tinks.

CHC Horse Patrol Representation around the state.....

Volunteer Horse Patrol Members Trail Clearing

Cockaponset State Forest - trail clearing was done in the Weber Woods by members of the Lower CT River Horsemen's Club. **CHC-VHP members - Peg Lupone, Melissa Evarts & Gina McManus** worked to weed whack and clear paths to jumps in preparation for their annual Hunter Pace along with Peg's husband Mario and their dog Lady.

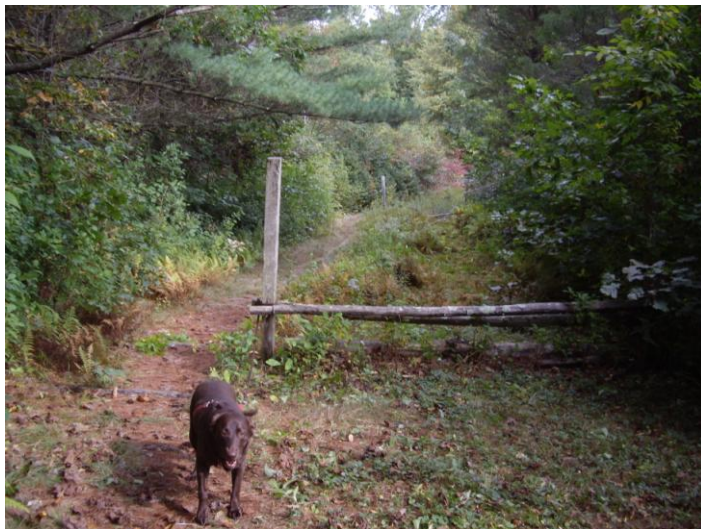
Peg Lupone & Lady



Mario Lupone



Before



After



CHC Horse Patrol Representation around the state.....

CHC & VHP Presentations

Meg Sautter and Diane Ciano gave presentations about the CT Horse Council and the Volunteer Horse Patrol to two organizations in October. They spoke at the **Tri-State Horsemen's Association** meeting in Rhode Island and to the **Reddington Rock Riding Club** in Somers. 10 members of RRRC have joined the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol and are undergoing the application process. Uniforms will be distributed at a ceremony in the spring after the horse & rider assessment to be held at the Club's campground. Members will join Jan Collins, who is the CHC-VHP Coordinator in patrolling and maintaining the trails in Shenipsit State Forest along with town and land trust trails in Somers. Below is a picture from their CPR & First Aid Certification class given by Meg Sautter

10 New VHP Member applicants – Reddington Rock Riding Club members



Left to right: Danna Krzynowek, Meg Sautter, Anicia Young, Ann Moses
Bonny Herindeen, Corinne Breyette, Susan Taricani
Bottom row: Monty Moses, Gloria Coles, Karen and Gillis Gregoire

Welcome New Volunteer Horse Patrol Member:

Aimee Mard - Oxford, CT

Aimee joins the VHP with her two horses, Dune Dancer and Tonka Wakan who are also ridden by her mom, VHP member Chris. Aimee has ridden with a group of VHP members for several years and has now become an "official" member of the "Sisterhood of the Riding Pants".

Farewell to Volunteer Our Patrol horses

Farewell to Patrol Horses Cupcake and Genuine Comotion. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Angela Deschenes and Christel Maturo, VHP Coordinator for the Sleeping Giant DEP Area and DiDominicus Property in Cheshire.

A candle has been lit for them on the Hoofbeats in Heaven, Candle Lighting Tributes website:
<http://www.hoofbeats-in-heaven.com/candlelighting/>



Cupcake and Angie Deschenes started the VHP at its very beginning in 2003. Cupcake was an exceptional patrol horse and mount for Angie. The picture above is of Angie and Cupcake at a "No Child Left Inside" Program, Gillette Castle State Park.



Christel Maturo's beloved horse Genuine Comotion. (Mo) passed away at 26 years old. This photo was taken at the Blessing of the Mounts in May