



August 2009

Dear Friends

Wow, the summer is FLYING by. We saw our first stable flies on Tuesday night so Labor Day must be right around the corner. I hope everybody got at least a little vacation time. I managed to get up to New Hampshire with Lynda Perry and Sue Davenport for a long weekend of riding. It was a lot of fun.

It seems like such a long time since our last newsletter, here's a recap of what's been going on:

The June meeting at Robin Rotundi's house was well attended. Thanks Robin for hosting and providing the snacks. And thanks to Kristin who did an amazing demonstration of teaching your horse to self-load in the trailer using Robin's young horse that previously didn't load. This natural horsemanship stuff is so cool. All it takes is patience and knowing their language.

I didn't make it to the June 28 Tyler Mill Ride but I heard from Mary Wozniak and Lynda Perry that it was very nice. (Please take pictures at rides and events—they make this newsletter so much more interesting!)

Several of us rode out in June and marked the lower third of the Quinimay Trail with the new markers. On the way back we bush-whacked an alternate cutoff that avoids two mud holes on Cowgirl Way and a few days later Gina McManus, Jen DePrisco, and Gloria Elliott went back out and trimmed it up beautifully. Thanks Gals! We'll remark this section. Peggy has the approved map from Alex and it is scanned and e-mailable. We plan to have this trail marked from Weber Woods in Westbrook through Killingworth, Deep River, and Chester to Beaver Meadow Road in Haddam in time for a celebration on National Public Lands Day on September 26. If you can help with marking or planning the celebration please contact Peg Lupone (hazageym@yahoo.com).

The July potluck picnic at Sue Davenport's was a success despite the rain. Thanks to Sue for opening her home to us and to Al Davenport for cooking and Bob Cameron for providing support to Al. As usual the food was delicious and the company enjoyable. (Sorry I was so quiet that night, we had a big layoff at work that day, fortunately I still have my job but several of my friends do not). I would also like to give a HUGE thank you to Greg Dowler for helping with the shopping, set-up, and clean up.

We had a board meeting on August 6 combining BPC and LCRVHC business. We are applying for a grant for trail maintenance equipment including a walk-behind motorized wheelbarrow to move stone (check it out at mucktruckamerica.com) and a brush cutter.

Thank you to Trish Panico for agreeing to do the grant application and to Roger Ferraro and everyone who helped with the research. We will also be purchasing some “no horses” signs to post on the pedestrian only bridges for safety.

On August 9 I had the pleasure of being a cross-country jump judge at the Lord Creek Horse Trials. This schooling level horse trial is run by a committee of tireless volunteers, including our own Kristin Elliott Leas and is a good way to try out this exciting horse sport (or just to see it!) at the beautiful Lord Creek Farm.

By the time you get this the August 16 games day will be history. Hopefully someone will take pictures. Last time we did this at Peggy’s it was a blast.

Upcoming events:

The August 27 meeting will be at 7/8ths Farm in Killingworth. Dr. Jenifer Nadeau from the UConn Extension Service will be speaking about Managing Pasture for horses.

The Member-only Posse Ride is scheduled for September 13 with a rain date of the 20th. It sounds like fun. Contact Jim (keeneyankee@yahoo.com) for details or to RSVP.

The September 24 General Meeting program will be Ellie Farnsworth from Connecticut Feed Co-op. (This speaker was rescheduled from May.) The meeting will be held at Cathy Chase’s house on Spencer Hill Road in Killingworth. I will be away for about 10 days in September (visiting Kevin’s family) so Peggy will run this meeting and the National Public Lands Day Celebration and will really need your help!

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Melissa

GAMES DAY AT RICHARD’S HAWKSHEAD FARM

Despite hot and humid weather, fourteen members of the LCRVHC took part in the annual Games Day at Richard Martin's Hawkshead Farm. Several horses and riders participated in the Telephone Book Race, Barrel Race, and Soccer on Horseback. A good time was had by all during the fun competitions, which emphasized getting your horse used to new situations and working with other riders and horses.

The day was kept short, due to the heat and humidity. After the events, while the horse munched grass or hay, their riders had the opportunity to refresh themselves with snacks, particularly Bev Torell's delicious corn chowder. Bev and Deb McConnell also took the chance to ride the Weber's Woods trails after the event.

Jim Griffin

CALENDAR

August

27-General Meeting, Dr. Jennifer Nadeau, UConn extension service, pasture for horses @ 7/8ths Farm
__-BPC work party, independent or small party marking of Quinimay Trail, contact Peg (hazageym@yahoo.com)

September

3-BOD-Evarts Fire Museum, 7:00
12-CLCT work day, 8-10 am
13 (raindate 20)-MO ride, Posse ride, Weber Woods, Jim Griffin (keeneyanke@yahoo.com)
19-Lord Creek Hunter Pace
24-General Meeting, Ellie Farnsworth, Connecticut Feed Co-op (rescheduled from May), Cathy Chase's house, Spencer Hill Rd. Killingworth
26-National Public Lands Day, Official Ribbon Cutting Celebration for QUINIMAY TRAIL!

October

1-BOD-Evarts Fire Museum, 7:00
10-CLCT work day, 8-10 am
22-General Meeting, Gina McManus's house, Roy Rogers night
11 or 18-MO ride, Weber Woods, Gloria Elliott host
__-BPC work party, hunter pace course in Weber Woods

November

1 (raindate 8)-Fall Hunter Pace, Weber Woods, ride managers, Genie Dethloff, Sue Davenport, Lynda Perry, Shirley Tirrell, Doro Fuller
5-BOD-_____, 7:00 (if needed)
14-CLCT work day, 8-10 am
12-15-Equine Affaire
19-Special meeting, elections, need location!
Happy Thanksgiving
__-MO ride, Chatfield Hollow, Andrea and Emmy?
__-BPC work day, _____

December

No BOD Meeting
12-CLCT work day, 8-10 am
__-MO-Christmas Progressive ride, _____, need host and location!
__-BPC work day, _____
No general meeting

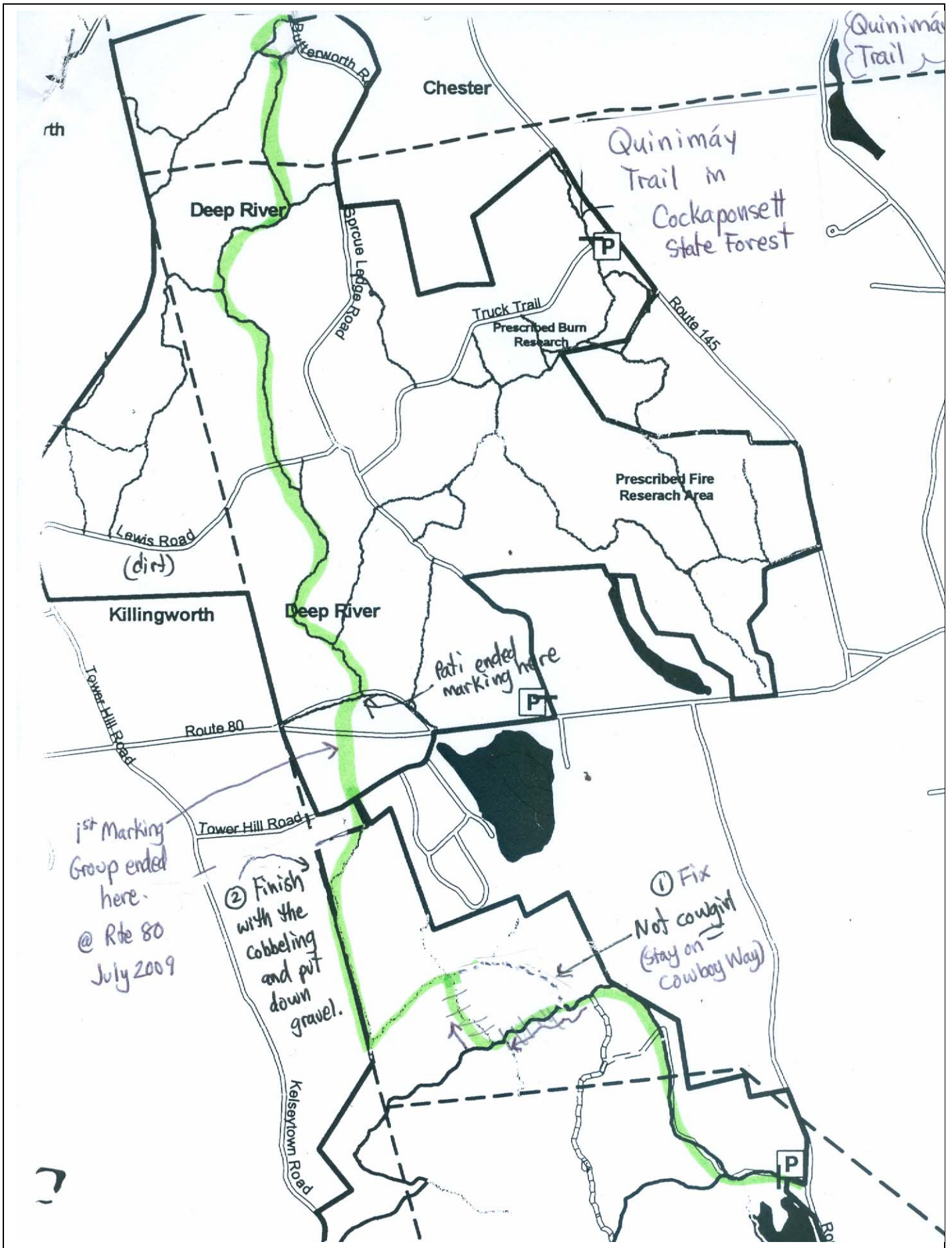
QUINIMAY (formerly Epic) TRAIL

Hi Everyone,

The BPC and LCRVHC have been working hard to finalize the marking of the Quinimay (formerly nicknamed the Epic) Trail. Attached are some scans of the 4 maps (and one close up) that include this "long path" from Westbrook to Haddam. We are planning to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on this trail on **September 26th National Public Lands Day** to celebrate the fact that we now have this official designated trail for multi-users like us. **If you think you would be able to help** out with the marking or clearing parties, the celebration activities, or can mark a section at your own discretion, please email me back (hazageym@yahoo.com) or call so we can discuss any plans or ideas you may have.

I am so excited that this dream is becoming a reality! We can all be proud of the dedication and hard work so many have put forth in this effort!

Thanks for your support,
Peg Lupone
LCRVHC - Vice-President
BPC - Vice-President



CLASSIFIED

Horse Trailer for Sale

1987 Kingston 2-horse, extra-tall, extra-wide, blue and white.

Can send pictures. Lee McNamar. lmcnamar@yahoo.com or 860-712-5571.

TEAM PENNING REPORT BY LINDA FERRARO

JULY 11TH

Cows, grazing lazily in the sun, in some cultures revered, but wily??!! Well that is exactly what the team penning novices discovered on 7/11. Jen DePrisco led the group (thanks Jen for setting up the entire event) of Sue Davenport, Gina McManus, Roger Ferraro and Linda Ferraro. We had a few other cowboy wanna be's to round out the group size of nine needed for the clinic.

Starting out on foot we learned to approach the scrum of little beasts, keeping our attention on the one we wanted to remove from the herd and letting the other 2 teammates in the group of 3 get rid of (and I can't say I liked the description), the "trash" or cows that did not wear the neck collar number we were assigned to cut out. Fascinating to be on foot when some of the cows decided they didn't want any part of this game and bucked, kicked and just generally did what they could to get back to the group of their friends in the corner. After a few rounds we were supposedly ready to try this mounted. Some horses took to the task and walked right into the scramble of cows, Roger Ferraro and Michael Joe seemed to like to mix it up and Sue Davenport and Deja cut a dashing figure chasing the cows we didn't need.

The third step in the learning process was to include a pen in the arena for us to move the cows into. Since 3 cows in the herd wore the same number, we had the task of cutting out all three, keeping them from rejoining the herd and getting them in the pen - in two minutes!! While telling us we had been given more time than in a typical competition, we were guided, cajoled and directed from the team of Tom and Andi who ran the clinic on how to get and keep them in the pen.

Through it all we learned valuable information about cow agility, psychology and just how darn fast they are when they don't want to go in the direction you want them to. The horses realized that this could be a very fun game and a diversion from traditional schooling and even trail rides.

Talk to any of us and I bet you'll get a similar reaction, wow, now that I understand a few things - I want to do that again!!