



January/February 2023

Contact Us

LCRVHC: e-mail: lcrvhc.org@gmail.com

web site: lcrvhc.org

facebook.com/lcrvhc

BPC: e-mail: contactus@BPConservancy.org

web site: BPConservancy.org

facebook.com/BridlePathConservancy

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. We are going to try something different for our Winter Holiday Party this year after missing it for 2 years due to Covid. We are renting the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall. It has a full kitchen and a reasonably priced tended cash bar in the next room. The club will supply a spiral ham and all the paper goods (plates, napkins, utensils, etc.), please bring a appetizer, side dish or dessert to share. There will be a Silent Auction to benefit the Bridle Path Conservancy's trail work. Donations are welcome and much appreciated.

Membership renewals—it's that time again, please renew and continue to support our club. A 2023 membership form is included in this newsletter and always available on our website. Our fabulous membership secretary, Alyce, begs you to *please* write clearly—especially your email—since that is how we communicate with you and we hate it when they get bounced back. Thank you to everyone who has renewed already. And welcome to new members!

Recent Activities

For the first time I can remember the Annual Sue Davenport Memorial Chili Ride at Chatfield Hollow was canceled due to weather. We first delayed the start time since the rain was supposed to end early, then, when it kept raining, Lynn Burns suggested we all come to her house for an unmounted lunch since the food was all made. Ruth Strontzer and Joel Conte did get a ride in, later in the day. Yours truly forgot to take any pictures!

On November 17, LCRVHC/BPC held a combined meeting at the fire museum. Thirteen members attended. Thank you to BPC secretary Loretta Spencer for taking minutes.

(President's Letter continued next page)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

January 28: Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 5:00–8:00 pm. Family and Friends welcome! Silent Auction to benefit the BPC!

Details page 4!

PIZZA AND PLANNING MEETING

February 17: Alyce Mallek's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison. 6:00 pm. Club provides pizza and soft drinks. Bring your calendars and ideas!

MEMBER-ONLY RIDES

Ride dates and locations are subject to change due to weather and conflicts. Depending on how many riders we get, we may break into smaller groups. Please RSVP to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or call or text LCRVHC ride manager Liz Kennedy at (860) 227-9814 for details.

February TBD: Maybe Bluff Point? Depending on weather and footing might be last minute decision.

March TBD: We usually do Hammonasset since the beach access is closed to horses April 1.

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

We are going to try and have quarterly meetings, probably associated with a ride or activity, we will continue to have monthly group trail rides, and we always welcome your ideas for destinations, activities and programs. Email lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or talk to any board member!

See calendar on last page for more!

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Please remember when riding at Bluff Point, Hammonasset, Chatfield Hollow, and other State Parks: These parks are busy and get a lot of non-horse-friendly users. Be considerate. Pass walkers and other trail users slowly and respectfully. Do not ride where you see NO ANIMALS or NO HORSES signs posted. The boardwalks on the Shoreline Greenway Trail in Hammonasset, for example, are *not* horse safe. No horses are allowed on the beach at Hammonasset between April 1 and October 1. Horses are *never* allowed on the beach or in the picnic area at Chatfield Pond. PLEASE remove any manure from roads, trails, and beaches in State Parks. We want to keep these areas open to equestrians!

On high-use trails in the state forest, please dismount and kick/scatter manure off the trail so the kids don't walk in it and track it into Mom's SUV!

Remove all manure from parking areas and trail heads!

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(President's Letter continued)

On November 19, 11 riders attended the member-only ride at Wadsworth Falls State Park. We broke into 2 groups and met up at the Falls. See pictures on page 3. Local member Claudia Marcello led the fast(er) group on some trails most of us had not known about before and also made chili for after the ride. Thanks Claudia! And big thanks to ride manager and VP Liz Kennedy for organizing so many great rides!

On December 4, four riders braved the chill for the Soup Ride and several others joined us for soup, sides, and desserts at Rough Draft Farm. We moved inside and crowded around my dining room table—leaving the farm porch for a warmer day! Alyce took a couple of photos before we rode out (see page 4) but, once again, I neglected to take any at the lunch. I am just not a photographer!

Watching the weather earlier in the week we decided to move the Freeze Your Butt Ride from Sunday, January 1, to Saturday, December 31, then ended up riding in pea soup fog and drizzle. Judy Bosco and friends got some “mood” pictures and our reputation as diehards continues! See pictures pages 5–7.

Please see the Upcoming Events box on the first page and the Calendar on the last page for more activities. We always need ideas for the calendar! Any ride ideas are extremely welcome. If you want to share calendars from other local horse groups we will try not to schedule on conflicting dates. Our annual Pizza and Planning meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 17, at 6 pm at Alyce's house. Bring your calendar and ideas! Looking forward to seeing you!

Melissa

PS LCRVHC membership is really a bargain at only \$15 annually for individual, \$25 for family. If you have friends you ride with or know people who are interested in trail riding with small groups or working on local trails, spread the word. And please, I can't say it often enough, tell us what you want to do as a club!

REMINDER
Fall and winter are hunting season. Hunting is permitted in state forests, though not in state parks. Please take care, wear your orange attire. Hunters are usually in the forest early morning and late afternoon. No Sunday hunting on state land. Check the DEEP web site for accurate information.

LCRVHC Board	BPC Board
President: Melissa Evarts	President: Peg Lupone
Vice-president: Liz Kennedy	Vice-president: Kristin Elliott Leas
Treasurer: Lynn Burns	Treasurer: Nancy Palermo-Lee
Membership secretary: Alyce Mallek	Secretary: Loretta Spencer
At-large: Gina McManus	At-large: Tom Elliott
At-large: Hannah Gossett	At-large: Bob Bandzes

Wadsworth Falls, November 19



Soup Ride at Rough Draft Farm, December 4



LCRVHC/BPC Winter Party!

Saturday, January 28, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 3 Westbrook Road, Essex Club will provide spiral ham and all paper goods (plates, napkins, utensils, etc.) Reasonable tended cash bar in next room, *no* BYO permitted! Family and horsey friends are welcome. Please RSVP so we have a head count. Nancy Palermo Lee is coordinating RSVPs and food so please let her know if you are coming and what you plan to bring. Text is best (802) 989-1110.

Silent Auction to benefit the BPC!

Donations of goods or services welcome and appreciated. We already have some: Judy Bosco will donate two chances for an 8 x 10 from any gallery on her SmugMug site—this is your chance to get that photo you've been wanting to order! Melissa Evarts offers a Surrey ride with Ritz along scenic Madison Middle Beach. Liz and Jim Kennedy plan to donate lobsters! Lakeside Feed has promised ??? More to come. Silent Auction contact is Peg Lupone. Email her at hazageym@yahoo.com.



Freeze Your Butt Ride, December 31



Photos on these pages by Judy Bosco, Sherry Pryor, Cindy O'Neil, Carole Wiley, and others. Judy's and Cindy's are watermarked. If you wish to order prints or digital images from Judy contact her at jequiphoto@yahoo.com or visit her smugmug page judybosco.smugmug.com. The others can be found on Facebook.

Freeze Your Butt Ride, December 31



Freeze Your Butt Ride, December 31



Bridle Path Conservancy News

The BPC is always recruiting board members and trailworkers. If you are able and willing to serve the trail riding community in this way please contact BPC president Peg Lupone at (hazageym@yahoo.com). Thank You

BPC President's Letter

Hello everyone,

Happy Winter!! Except for a few bitter cold days in December, we have had some wonderful unseasonably warm days for riding. I hope you have all had a chance to take advantage of them.

BPC will be holding a SILENT Auction at the LCRVHC Winter Party on January 28, 2023 at the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 3 Westbrook Rd., Essex, CT 06409. This fundraising activity was instituted years ago by Kristin Elliott Leas and others as a way to support the BPC projects in a fun, monetary way. LCRVHC members can offer services, donate new or lightly used items or solicit local businesses to donate gifts to this charitable event. If you are willing to donate to the SILENT Auction, please email Peg Lupone (hazageym@yahoo.com) with your items and be prepared to bring them to the party at the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall. If you will not be able to join us for the party but would like to donate, let Peg know and we can make arrangements to pick up your donation ahead of time. Be ready with cash or your checkbook on the night of the party if you are interested in bidding on any of the items that evening. Melissa has already mentioned some exciting auction items in the newsletter and there will undoubtedly be more to come!

Recently, Tom Elliott and Bob Bandzes went out to inspect a few pedestrian bridges that were built by the BPC a number of years ago and found that about 20 planks need to be removed and replaced.

Tom reported to me that he has the materials left over from the last bridge building project to cut the 4 ft. lengths needed and he will be going to buy some screws to use for the installation of these replacement planks. So.... Sometime in the Spring we will be scheduling a work party to haul these materials by hand into Weber Woods, use some crow bars to remove the old planks, set and install the new planks and haul all of the removed material back out to pickup trucks to be disposed of. Please keep this project on your radar for 2023 when the weather gets conducive. As Tom reminded me, "When we install them, it has been our BPC policy to review them and maintain them".

We are looking into two other trail repairing projects for 2023. One is in the Weber Woods area and another is at the Preserve in Westbrook. More on these possible projects to make our trail riding and hiking more enjoyable in the future at a later date.

Yours truly,
Peg Lupone

A Friendly Reminder

The BPC is a non-member organization dependent on LCRVHC for manpower and inspiration! It is basically LCRVHC's trails committee! We maintain the trails in Weber Woods and the Quinimay Trail. The hunter pace which LCRVHC holds in Weber Woods each year pays the club's annual operating expenses. If you can't make it to an official work party maybe you can take a walk and toss some branches and rocks off the trail. Hours spent in Weber Woods or on the Quinimay Trail can and should be logged as Adopt-a-Park time. Wear your badges. Please report your time to Peg Lupone, hazageym@yahoo.com. We would all rather be out riding but please bear in mind that it takes a lot of hours of political action with the state and towns to prioritize open space and the work to maintain the trails is never ending. Please join us in our efforts. Thank you!

Bridle Path Conservancy: News about the Forest

From Equine Advisory Council member Ruth Strontzer::

On December 15, 2022 the CT Equine Advisory Council held its Quarterly Meeting to discuss issues concerning the preservation of equine trails in the state. The new DEEP Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator Kimberly Bradley [who replaced Laurie Giannotti] was able to attend and meet the Council members for the first time in person.

During the meeting many issues concerning trails in various locations of the state were brought up and discussed. In an effort to determine in each case, the best way to reach a resolution and which DEEP person would be the individual to address the issue with. Several of the locations and problems that were discussed among the many that were brought up were: The Preserve and a bridge in need of a rebuild, The Larkin Bridle Trail and a gate that had been installed with the purpose of allowing riders a by-pass but found to be too narrow, Weber Woods and a beaver dam constructed under a newly rebuilt bridge, the condition of the Higganum Meadow Wildlife Management Area and the lack of attention it has received over the last 5 or 6 years, and a trail marking issue on the Quinimay Trail. These were just a few of the many issues discussed. Kimberly Bradley was very helpful in directing Council members whom to contact.

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director of the CT Forest and Park Association and a member of the Council brought up the fact that DEEP is suffering from a staffing issue. Currently DEEP state wide for all Divisions, has only 83 Full Time employees to maintain everything in the state. Of that number Parks and Forest have 36 FTE. (In 2003 that number was 55 FTE.) That number includes supervisors and maintenance workers. Passport to parks funds 35 of those 83 positions and that is why it is important that the money be kept with DEEP and not put into the General Fund.

Eric keeps the Council advised of any legislation in Hartford that concerns trails their funding and usage. He has been monitoring legislation over the last several years that concerns increasing staffing funding for parks and forests as well as any other legislation effecting them. He advised that several Bills may be submitted again this year and asked Council members will try to pass that information along to the various groups and organizations in the state involved with the Equine industry.

Shared from DEEP email:

We are happy to announce Martin Torresquintero as the new Park and Recreation Supervisor for the Cockaponset Management Unit. [replacing Alex Sokolow]

Martín has been the Outdoor Adventure Coordinator for the City of New Haven since 1999, where he has been in charge of the New Haven Parks Ranger Program and Environmental Education Program. In conjunction with these programs, he has photographed many outdoor activities he teaches or helps organize: birdwatching, bicycle rides, races, paddling excursions, adventure races, and adaptive sports. As Adjunct Faculty at Southern CT State University, he teaches Environmental Education and Outdoor Leadership courses. Also, at SCSU, he has served as a co-instructor for environmental filmmaking and photography courses.

He was the founding guide of an adventure travel and nature photography business, with many trips to Africa, Asia, Europe, and Central and South America. He has led multiple photography trips to the Galapagos Islands and the tropical rainforests of Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Peru, Venezuela, and Brazil. As a nature photographer Martín has explored many remote environments, primarily in South America, with renowned environmental photographer Andres Hurtado Garcia, his mentor. As a former professional AMGA guide (American Mountain Guides Association), he has organized and guided high-altitude photography trips with Kurt Diemberger, a legendary mountain photographer, and has shot alongside him. Along with Jan Post (Senior Ecologist and Underwater Photographer for the World Bank), Martín has done some top-side and underwater photography in the Western Indian Ocean (Tanzania and Mozambique).

Martin has an M.S. in Science and Environmental Education, serves as Adjunct faculty at SCSU in Recreation & Environmental Education, is a Disaster Readiness lecturer (FEMA & American Red Cross), belongs to the American Alpine Club, and is a professional member of the National Press Photographers Association. He has many other certifications: Cave/Rescue/Technical Scuba Diver, Wilderness First Responder, ACA Certified SUP. Canoe, Kayaking, and Swift Water Rescue and Safety Instructor, Certified SPI Guide, CWI Certified US Archery Instructor, Adaptive Sports Instructor, and Certified League of American Bicyclists LCI Instructor. He also is multilingual and has multicultural knowledge of business and social customs. Martin plans to join the State Parks & Public Outreach Division in early November. [updated, Ruth Strontzer heard at the Equine Advisory Council Meeting that he is expected to start in January]



bpconservancy.org

SUPPORT THE BPC WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE!

The Bridle Path Conservancy is a receiving charity of Amazon Smile, Goodsearch, Goodshop and iGive. For every purchase you make through one of these sites with a participating online retailer, a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the BPC.

Here's how it works:



If you shop at Amazon.com:

- ❑ Instead of logging into the regular Amazon.com site, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1894760>
- ❑ Click the "Start Shopping" button and log in with your Amazon username and password.
- ❑ Shop and purchase as you would normally. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the BPC as long as you log in through the URL above (note: you can increase the donation to 1.5% by shopping Amazon via Goodshop or iGive – see below).



If you do a lot of web searching:

- ❑ Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> or visit their FAQ to set Goodsearch as your home page.
- ❑ The first time you visit Goodsearch, click the "Get Started" button, then search for "Bridle Path Conservancy." Click on the BPC listing and then create a login or login with Facebook.
- ❑ As long as you stay logged in, each time you search the web through Goodsearch a one-cent donation is made to the BPC.



If you shop online at individual retail sites (see over for examples):

- ❑ Before visiting your favorite online shopping site, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop> or <http://www.igive.com> (the sites are different but function the same).
- ❑ The first time you visit either site, you will be asked to create a login and select a cause (please search for "Bridle Path Conservancy") (note: if you have already created a login for Goodsearch, you do not need to create a separate one for Goodshop).
- ❑ Search for the name of the online merchant you want, and Goodshop or iGive will redirect you to continue your shopping session, donating a percentage of your total purchase to the BPC.

Note: these sites may have an app, browser button or other tool; please see their web sites for details.

SAMPLE ONLINE RETAILERS WHO PARTICIPATE VIA GOODSHOP AND/OR IGIVE:

Crate&Barrel 1% donation 68 coupons »	drugstore.i 4% donation 100 coupons »	Shutterfly 1% donation 46 coupons »	TARGET Up to 2.5% donation 100 coupons »	vistaprint 4% donation 83 coupons »
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Categories of sites available:

Beauty, Health & Fitness <ul style="list-style-type: none">BeautySports & OutdoorsHealth & Fitness	Movies, Music & Games <ul style="list-style-type: none">DVD's & VideosMusicToys & GamesEntertainment
Books & Magazines <ul style="list-style-type: none">Books & MediaMagazines & Newspapers	Office Supplies & Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">Office SuppliesServicesPhotos & PrintsBanking, Finance & InsuranceInternet Hosting, Domains & Services
Clothing & Accessories <ul style="list-style-type: none">Women's ClothingMen's ClothingKids' ClothingShoesAccessoriesJewelry & WatchesDepartment StoresLuggageClothing - Athletic & SportswearClothing - IntimateClothing - Plus SizeClothing - Uniforms	Toys, Baby & School <ul style="list-style-type: none">Toys & GamesBaby & MaternityEducation & School SuppliesBack to SchoolArt, Crafts & Hobbies
Computers & Electronics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Computer Hardware & ElectronicsComputer SoftwareCell Phones, Mobile & BroadbandInk and TonerInternet Hosting, Domains & Services	Travel <ul style="list-style-type: none">Best Travel DealsAirfare & RailHotels & CruisesCar RentalsVacation PackagesLuggage
Flowers, Gifts & Occasions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Valentine's DayFlowersGifts & Gift BasketsGift CardsFood & WineWeddingsParty SuppliesHalloween & CostumesMother's DayFather's DayEasterReligiousHolidayBack to SchoolGraduation	More Categories <ul style="list-style-type: none">HolidayFree ShippingMost Popular StoresBanking, Finance & InsuranceCars & MotorcyclesSports & OutdoorsBreast Cancer AwarenessCanadaCause FavoritesDating & MatchmakingDaily Deal SitesDepartment StoresReligious

Horse and Pet sites available too!



Please fill in all information and sign and date the Release and Waiver of Liability.
 Mail completed page along with your payment to:
 LCRVHC, P.O. Box 657, Killingworth, CT 06419

2023 Membership Categories

Family \$25 Individual \$15

office use: Check amt. \$ _____ # _____

- Enclosed is an additional amount of \$ _____ for our ongoing work to maintain and preserve trails.
- Enclosed is a separate check to the Bridle Path Conservancy in the amount of \$ _____ (tax deductible).
- Please contact me for volunteer help! (This is a working club and all members are encouraged to volunteer for committee chairs, trail maintenance, events organizing help and/or food donations.)

Suggest a program, ride or activity you would attend if the club offered _____

Name(s) _____

(For family memberships please include all names; use a separate sheet if necessary)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone (home) (____) _____ (cell) (____) _____ (work) (____) _____

E-mail _____ New Member Renewal

Release and Waiver of Liability

By signing this release and waiver, I understand that I am giving up (waiving or releasing) any right I have to sue or make any claim which I might have or which might subsequently arise or occur against the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club, Inc. (hereafter referred to as LCRVHC), including but not limited to, the officers, members, participants, and landowners; for any injuries which I might sustain while horseback riding, driving, or attending/participating in any LCRVHC event or activity. I understand that I am indemnifying (holding harmless) any horse ridden, driven, loose, or handled by another and the owner or handler while so engaged in the event of an injury to myself, my property and/or others. It is my intent to give up all the rights provided by law and release the club, landowners, etc. (the releasees) from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage, including without limitation, claims arising in whole or in part from the releasees' own negligence. I do so knowingly and voluntarily. I further agree to pay all legal fees pertaining to this event, if any are incurred.

LCRVHC is committed to safety. It is a membership requirement that all participants wear a riding helmet meeting ASTM/SEI standards when attending mounted meetings and events.

For Club Membership:

Signature of primary member _____ date ____/____/____
 (If a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign)

Signature of Spouse _____ date ____/____/____
 (for family membership, parent of minor child of divorced member, etc.)

For Taking Part in an Event:

Signature of primary member _____ date ____/____/____
 (If a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign)

Everyone must complete:

Emergency contact information

Name(s) _____ Telephone(s) (____) _____ (____) _____
 _____ (____) _____ (____) _____

Cares and Concerns

Our thoughts are with our members going through tough times.

Continued prayers for Kathy Schuyler undergoing treatment for cancer. And our condolences on the loss of Roxy.

Wishes for super fast healing and back in the saddle for Lynn Burns!

If you have cares or concerns to share email them to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com

Classifieds

If you have something to sell, give away, share, or barter; or are looking for something another member might have to exchange, place your ad here!



Content Wanted for Newsletter

Let us know what you are doing with your horse. Write a Meet the Member bio of yourself or a friend. Send pictures of your horse, your adventures or show results, links to articles, tack picks, barn tips, whatever you want to share. E-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.

REMINDER

Horses are allowed on the beach at Hammonasset from October 1 through March 31. Please be respectful.



Look! Ayce is back in the saddle!
Just 12 weeks following full knee replacement. I missed my riding with my bestie. Thanks to Hannah, Barb, Liz2, and everyone else who kept Doolin going so he would be ready for her to just hop back on.

LCRVHC/BPC 2023 Calendar

If you are interested in hosting or leading a member-only ride; have an idea for a future program, clinic, or activity; a topic you would like to learn about; a skill to share; or would like to host a winter party or summer picnic, please email us at lcrvhc.org@gmail.com. LCRVHC has a Facebook page for member-only rides and events: <https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc>. Check it out and follow!

Ride dates and locations are subject to change due to weather and conflicts. Depending on how many riders we get, we may break into smaller groups. Please RSVP to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or call or text LCRVHC ride manager VP Liz Kennedy at 860-227-9814 for details. We are trying to do a mix of Saturday and Sunday rides.

We try to include dates for some other clubs/groups since we have a lot of cross-over members.

January

1: LCRVHC Freeze Your Butt Ride at Hammonasset
22: CTRA Planning meeting (snow date, 29th)
28: LCRVHC/BPC Winter Holiday Party, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 3 Westbrook Road, Essex. RSVP attendance and food coordination, Nancy Palermo Lee (802) 989-1110, text is best. Silent Auction, Peg Lupone, email hazageym@yahoo.com.

February

17: LCRVHC Pizza and Planning meeting to set 2023 calendar, Alyce's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison,
26: CTRA Planning meeting (snow March 5)

March

18: CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol 20 year anniversary celebration and meeting, Eversource Building, Berlin, Contact: Diane Ciano: dianemciano@gmail.com

Some ideas:

Games Day is always very popular

A Christmas card photo shoot by Judy Bosco

Julie Berman suggested a trailering clinic



Ritz gets some loving from admirers while waiting to deliver Santa to Madison's festivities!