



Contact Us
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web site: lcrvhc.org
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BPC: e-mail: contactus@BPConservancy.org
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facebook.com/BridlePathConservancy

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Membership renewals are way overdue. This is your last newsletter if you have not renewed. Membership is a bargain, we have not increased our rates for many years! A 2023 membership form is included in this newsletter and always available on our website. Please renew and continue to support our club. Our wonderful membership secretary, Alyce Mallek, 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.

Recent Activities

On March 13 LCRVHC had our last beach ride of the season at Hammonasset. Member/photographer Judy Bosco was not able to be there following her shoulder surgery but several of her friends were. See photos on pages 3 and 4.

On March 18 quite a few LCRVHC members who are also Connecticut Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol members attended the VHP 20th Anniversary open house and annual meeting. Member Kristin Elliott Leas was honored along with Meg Sautter and Diane Ciano as the 3 remaining charter members. Other members were honored for patrol hours. Our members with over 100 hours: Rebecca Russell-284, Kristin Elliott Leas-254.5, Ruth Strontzer-240.5, Melissa Evarts-224, Peg Lupone-149, Deb Strickland-118. Our members with over 50 hours: Liz Kennedy-90, Nancy Palermo-Lee 85.5. Raffles raised \$438 toward VHP expenses. See photos on page 5.

On March 19 LCVRHC and BPC along with members of the CT Trail Riders and Connecticut Valley Driving Club, represented the equine community users at the Friends of Machimoodus Spring Fling. I stuffed Ritz into my trailer

(President's Letter continued next page)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Saturday, May 6, rescheduled! Spring Clean-Up Clip & Ride on the Quinimay Trail north section. Hoping to work from 148 to Beaver Meadow Road clearing any down branches, and replacing missing or damaged markers. If we have enough riders may split to two groups. Plan on longer than our usual 2 hour ride. Meet at Pataconk parking area. Ready to ride at 10 am. Bring saw, clippers. I'll bring markers, nails, and a hammer for each group. Bring a lunch. Dessert provided.

Thursday, May 25, 6 pm at the Fire Museum (behind 21 Cope Road, Madison. Safety for Trail Riders on Multi-Use Trail Systems. ACO Liz Amendola will speak about loose dogs, Trainer Kristin Elliott Leas will speak about desensitizing your horse to dogs, bikes, etc. Discussion format. See calendar page for details.

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 much 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!

* * * * *

(President's Letter continued)

and brought him along as he is better at standing around than Homes. He and the minis got the most attention. We only gave out a couple flyers about our Trails Day event. It was SOOO cold—the wind was whipping and never let up. Some hardy souls came out to support the cause and visit with the horses. I really wish it was a better day so they would have had a better turnout. The kids were frozen. Thanks to Ruth Strontzer, Liz Kennedy, Nancy Palermo Lee, Barbara White, Loretta Spencer, Lynn Burns, Carrie Wind, and any others who helped out. See pictures page 6.

My apologies for canceling the Spring Cleanup Ride and Games Day for April—my hubby was very sick in the hospital all that week. He's on the mend now and we will work on rescheduling. Thanks to everyone who offered to help with my chores, and helped me and brought food so I could be with him. As it turned out the day we had scheduled for Games would have been a washout anyway. Watch for new dates!

Some of you may have heard about a dog vs horse incident at Machimoodus in March. Two riders were thrown, one rider was injured and a horse was missing for several hours. Some of our members reached out to ask what we could do. I contacted the CHC and Carrie Wind reached out to UConn and they didn't really have any resources. We are working on putting together a program for a meeting on Thursday, May 25, on Safety Strategies for Horses on Mixed-Use Trails. Animal Control Officer Liz Amendola will talk about loose dogs, reading the body language of dog and handler, and so forth. Trainer Kristin Elliott Leas will speak to desensitizing your horse to dogs, bikes, ATVs, etc. Both will talk about developing an emergency plan for when you ride with your friends or a group. This will be discussion/brainstorming format. We haven't had a meeting with a program for a while so I hope lots of you can make it. CVDC members may be joining us. Bring a friend!

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/hosts are extremely welcome. If you want to share calendars from other local horse groups we will try not to schedule on conflicting dates.

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!

LCRVHC Board

- President: Melissa Evarts
- Vice-president: Liz Kennedy
- Treasurer: Lynn Burns
- Membership secretary: Alyce Mallek
- At-large: Gina McManus
- At-large: Hannah Gossett

BPC Board

- President: Peg Lupone
- Vice-president: Kristin Elliott Leas
- Treasurer: Nancy Palermo-Lee
- Secretary: Loretta Spencer
- At-large: Tom Elliott
- At-large: Bob Bandzes

Hammonasset Beach Ride, March 13



Photos on this page by Ruth Strontzer, Cindy O'Neil, Liz Kennedy, and Joel Conte.
Lots more photos on club Facebook page!

Hammonasset Beach Ride, March 13



CHC-VHP 20th Anniversary

Charter Members

Diane Ciano
Meg Sautter
Kristin Elliott Leas

20 YEARS OF SERVICE 2003 – 2022 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Guest Speakers

Kimberly Bradley
DEEP Trails and Greenways Coordinator

Marcella Hube
DEEP Park and Recreation Supervisor
Shenpelt State Forest

Tanya Bourgojn
Friends of Machimoodus and Sunrise State Park

Friends of Machimoodus/Sunrise Spring Fling



To those kind friends -
We got worried to send you a note of
thanks for supporting us and our 2nd
annual Spring Fling! Having you all
there with your equine companions
brought smiles to so many faces!
Your participation added
such an interesting and unique
aspect to this event, making it
very memorable and exciting!
We look forward to future
collaborations!
Thank you!
-Tanya & the
Fling team

A nice thank you note from the Friends of Machimoodus/Sunrise.

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,

A Clip-and-Ride was held on Saturday, May 6th as a Spring Clean-up event. Liz Kennedy, Hannah Gossett, Melissa, and myself went out on the Pataconk Reservoir section of the Quinimay Trail and headed south to clear and remark that portion of the trail. Melissa and Hannah replaced many trail markers that had become degraded with time and we were pleasantly surprised to find many markers had been maintained last year by a volunteer for the DEEP. We spent about 2 hours in the woods after which we came back to the parking lot and enjoyed our picnic lunches. Apple Crumb pie was provided as a tasty dessert after the work was done.

Inspired by the Quinimay Clean-up, yours truly took a walk in the woods on Sunday to check up on a short section between Tower Hill Road in Killingworth and Rte. 80, then crossing Rte. 80 into a



Some photos of the area that has again been flooded by beavers.

(continued on next page)

BPC President's Letter (continued)

section that had been wrecked by beavers. I got to the part where there were trees down in the past and it looks like dirt bikes have been in there making it semi-clear again. I stopped where the water had to be crossed as I did not wear waterproof boots on this hike. Needless to say, I need to get in there again with Ringo to further explore the trail. It's been 3 years since I have gone from Weber Woods all the way up the Quinimay to the Pataconk Reservoir and it would be nice to know if it is still open.

Anyone up for an expedition in August?

National Trails Day is coming in June with Liz Kennedy and Nancy Palermo Lee heading up that effort. Melissa has printed about 50 flyers to advertise this event so if you are thinking of any local barns or "horse" stores to place these, let Melissa know you if you would like some to put around town.

In other BPC Trails Day news, Nancy Palermo Lee has been working on obtaining the final design for a bridge plaque to be placed on our most recent bridge building effort at a dedication on Trails Day. Email discussions are being held with BPC members in regards to material, wordage giving credit to BPC and the Westbrook Foundation for construction and funds for the bridge, and cost of the plaque. The idea of possibly putting plaques on our previous bridge efforts is being looked into as well. This was an idea that Nancy pitched to Kim Bradley during our walk through Weber Woods in February 2023.

A date has been set for our "Muck Rock Road" repairs. After consulting with Kristin Elliott Leas, she suggested that we could combine the "Jump Repair Day" on July 23 with the trail work in that area. So, be prepared to not only fix the Hunter Pace jumps that we use on the Elliott property, but also bring shovels, crow bars, and work gloves to move rocks to form a base for solid footing along that washed out section of trail. We will be meeting up at Kristin and Mark's farm on Pritchett Drive sometime in the morning. A specific time will be announced closer to the date when we know what kind of weather we will be dealing with.

If anyone has areas in Weber Woods that are of concern, please let me or Melissa know so we can address any "cluttered" or blocked trails.

That's all for now!

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!

Trails Day, Saturday, June 3, 2023

9:00 a.m. to noon

Join the Bridle Path Conservancy and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club for a work party and see what we do!

Show some love for the horse friendly Weber Woods section of Cockaponsett SF

Trail maintenance including, but not limited to, replacing rotten planks on two pedestrian bridges the BPC and LCRVHC built in 2004, hiking and replacing/updating trail markers, clipping and trimming trails and the formal dedication of this multi-use bridge we built last year on Trails Day.



Meet at 9 am at the Weber Woods parking area: Stevenstown Road (CT145) in Westbrook (just north of Messerschmitt's Pond). Look for signs!

Dress for the woods. Sturdy shoes, work gloves, water bottle, and bug spray recommended. Suggested tools: loppers, hand saw.

We will have coffee and donuts at sign-in. Lunch at noon at the parking area. LCRVHC will provide hot dogs, chips, and water. Bring something to share if you wish.

Register on the Connecticut Forest & Park Association web site (ctwoodlands.org), email lcrvhc.org@gmail.com, or just show up!



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.

Wishes for fast healing to Heidi Smith following foot surgery, and her husband, Ken, starting cancer treatment. Also Cathy Clouse, following shoulder replacement.

Deepest sympathy to Bev Torell on the loss of her beloved donkey, Walter.

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

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.

Welcome, Sophie



Mary Wozniak and Bob Curtis recently adopted this sweet rescue pup.

Congratulations



To Nancy Palermo Lee on the birth of her second grandson, Eli, welcomed by big brother Emmett.

REMINDER

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



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!



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.

May

6: LCRVHC/BPC Spring Clean-Up Quinimay north, meet at Pattaconk parking area, ready to ride at 10 am. Details page 1. Bring a lunch. Club will supply dessert.

7: CTRA ride at Gay City, Hebron

21: CTRA Ginger Tullai Memorial Ride at Machimoodus/Sunrise. \$10 minimum donation. Ruth Strontzer 475-238-5887

25: Combined LCRVHC and CT Valley Driving Club Meeting with Program. Safety with Horses on Shared Multi-Use Trails. 6 pm at the Fire Museum (behind 21 Copse Road, Madison). Bring a picnic supper, clubs will provide a dessert selection. Animal Control Officer Liz Amendola will speak about loose dogs, reading dog and handler body language, etc. Trainer Kristin Elliott Leas will speak about minimizing spooking by desensitizing your horse to dogs, bikes, and other terrors. Both will talk about knowing your horse and setting an emergency plan when riding with a group. Discussion/Brainstorming format. Please RSVP so we have enough chairs.

June

3/4: LCRVHC/BPC Trails Day Celebration. Show some love for Weber Woods. Details page 8.

4: CTRA ride at Natchaug SF

10: LCRVHC Mountain Laurel Ride at Hurd Park

11: CTRA Mountain Laurel Ride at Hurd Park

17: Machimoodus/Sunrise brush clean-up work party, 9:00-12:30. Ruth Strontzer 475-238-5887

23/24: CTRA campout at Machimoodus/Sunrise, hosts: Liz Kennedy, Nancy Palermo-Lee, Ruth Strontzer

July

15 (raindate 22): LCRVHC Summer Picnic at Machimoodus, picnic at noon. Ride before and/or after

23: Jump repair for Hunter Pace. Organized by Kristin Elliott Leas

29/30?: LCRVHC/BPC Clean-Up Quinimay south, (park at Dave and Julie's), ready to ride at 9 am

August

6, 13, 20, or 27 (hoping for a cool Sunday): Rescheduled from April! Games Day at Rough Draft Farm, ready to ride at 9 am. Potluck lunch following on the farm porch. Club provides hotdogs and drinks. Bring something to share. Will need help with setup Saturday afternoon.

TBD: LCRVHC/BPC work party, possibly Preserve bridge?

26: CTRA ride at Tyler Mill, Wallingford

September

4: Labor Day Ride and Picnic (Dave and Julie's)

10: Lord Creek Hunter Pace

16: CTRA ride at Wadsworth, Middletown

17: LCRVHC Clip and Ride trail clean-up for HP

29: Full moon ride at Chatfield Hollow, Ruth to lead

October

1: CTRA ride at Cockaponsett/Pattaconk

1: LCRVHC Hunter Pace marking

7 and 8: LCRVHC Fall Hunter Pace, set up Saturday, pace on Sunday

14: LCRVHC Blessing of the Mounts/Member ride at Hammonasset

21: CTRA Fun Day Obstacles at Machimoodus

22?: Christmas card photo shoot by Judy Bosco, at Rough Draft Farm

November

9-12: Equine Affair

12: LCRVHC Sue Davenport Memorial Chili Ride at Chatfield Hollow

19: LCRVHC ride at Wadsworth Falls

December

2/3 or 9/10 weekend: Christmas Soup ride at Rough Draft Farm

Other ideas:

TBD: possible LCRVHC progressive ride organized by Gina McManus and Jeannie Wigglesworth
Julie Berman suggested a trailering clinic