



July/August 2014



Dear Friends

Full summer already, Happy Fourth of July!

LCRVHC and BPC have been busy.

On May 11 Lynda led a MO Ride from Pataconk. Ten riders came with Lynda. Sorry no photos though.

On May 18 we held our first big work party of the year in celebration of State Park Appreciation Day.

Originally scheduled for the 17th, it was a good call to move the work party from Saturday to Sunday due to the 3+ inches of rain we received Friday night.

It was definitely still too wet to work on spreading the larger process stone that had been trucked in to the red/blue trails. We will have to schedule some work dates when the trails dry out a bit.

11 volunteers participated. 9 adults, 2 kids (Chad-14-years old, Josh-about 4)—see sign-in sheet. We worked from about 8:30 to noon. A few arrived a bit later, some left earlier. The following projects were accomplished:

1. Mark Leas and Chad Davenport replaced 9 defective planks on the 2 pedestrian bridges on the orange trail.



Chad on bridge repair.



Carl Lombard and Joe Secondino on culvert repair.

2. Joe Secondino and crew (Melissa Evarts, Carl Lombard, Dave Beaudette) dug out, lifted, reset, and patched the concrete culvert closest to the Weber Woods trail head--which had long had a dangerous gap that could have caught an unsuspecting foot or hoof.

3. Chuck Sharples cleared sticks and branches from another partially blocked culvert on the main trail to the right that was causing water to run across the trail after heavy rain, as well as working with the crew on number 4.

4. Kristin Elliott Leas and crew (mostly Dave Beaudette and the crew from Sticks and Stones) redirected some of the process stone that was still in the parking lot to create some water diversions on the "canter hill" hopefully helping to alleviate further erosion



When the water level goes down we will need to put some stone on the far side of the main water crossing as the flooding has scoured the material away so geogrid is showing.

Also, Alex should probably inspect the big bridge that goes in to the left of the main trail toward Ginger's Field. Water obviously went over the top and across the road washing away the remaining pillar on the far side (the other has been gone for several years) and slightly scouring the concrete footing on the far side. It still seemed safe and sound to me but I'm no expert. Could use some stone on the approach on the far side.



Josh (about 4) working hard! 😊

I did not do any work on the trail through Ginger's Field as no volunteers with that type of tools were there and in the beginning I was the only one helping Joe. We can keep that on the list as a fill in project.

PS The poison ivy crop is awesome!

We had to switch the May and June general meeting programs since the trainer from Larkins' Run was injured and unable to do May, Kristin was gracious enough to swap. So on May 22, Lynda Perry "voluntold" Sparkle the mule as the demo subject. It was showering when we started so we stayed in the aisle as Kristin explained the principles of natural horse (mule) manship. But then the rain let up so we went outside where she showed us several of the "games" she uses. It was great to see the progress Lynda and Sparks have made toward overcoming his fear and creating a true partnership.

National Trails Day was held on June 7 this year. We once again teamed up with Rob Butterworth and the folks from Connecticut Forest & Parks as well as the Southeastern Connecticut chapter of New England Mountain Biking Association. It was a gorgeous day. About 20 participants in all (8 or 9 were LCRVHC members). I forgot to get my camera out until the picnic. Thanks again to Kathy and Bill Schuyler for hosting the picnic.

The June 22 member-only ride was held at my Rough Draft Farm in Clinton. 12 riders in 2 groups rode out about 10 am for a 5.6-mile course through Clinton Land Trust's Kenilworth Forest. After the ride some members left their horses at the farm and carpoled to Lobster Landing for Lobster rolls on the beautiful Clinton Harbor. It was a lovely day.

June 26 saw the rescheduled Dog Agility demo at Larkins Run in Durham. Kelly Summers, with the help of her parents and kennel owner Helen, gave an enthusiastic group a taste of this sport. 8 members brought their dogs to try the obstacles on leash. The laughter proved that everyone had a good time.



Upcoming Events

The July member-only ride at Hurd Park has been rescheduled to **July 20**, due to the holiday weekend. Please contact Lynda (cymaronfarm@snet.net).

The summer picnic will be held **July 24 at Sue Davenport's house**. LCRVHC will provide hotdogs, burgers, and soft drinks. Bring a dish to share and your own beer or wine. If you can let Sue know what you plan to bring she can try to avoid 10 batches of potato salad. RSVP to Sue (s1davenport@comcast.net). Silent Auction to benefit the BPC is back by popular demand. If you have auction items to donate please let Kristin know (equineinsight@gmail.com).

The August MO Ride is planned for Patchaug State Forest. Please contact Lynda (cymaronfarm@snet.net).

This summer marks the **10th anniversary of the founding of the Bridle Path Conservancy**. We plan to celebrate by holding a **trail ride/walk and barbecue on August 23** and showcase one of our proud accomplishments: the Quinimay Trail. **Pre registration required**. You do not need to bring your horse. **Hikers and mountain bikers welcome**. **We need 50 participants**. Sign up soon! Please spread the word. See flyer in this newsletter. You can print and post.

And the **August 28 General Meeting** will be held at Guilford Riding School, 575 Clapboard Hill Road, in Guilford. Jill Walker Robinson will give an Introduction to eventing.

Further out: The September general meeting will be back at the Fire Museum. Author Janet Barrett will speak about her book, They Called Her Reckless.

And the October meeting will be held at Kristin and Mark's house. It will be an evening of socializing and crafts led by Kristin, Rebecca, and Gina.

Melissa

Hope to see you there!

Michael Schneider, a Westbrook boy scout has asked the BPC to help with his Eagle scout project. Building a multiuse (horse-friendly) bridge, next to Chapman Mill Pond in Westbrook. We have approved his request to fund up to \$500 for this project. He will keep us up to date on when the work is going to be done so we can go see them at work and get some photos! Very Excited that the BPC can help Michael get to his Eagle Scout status.

Trish

You're Invited to Join the

Bridle Path Conservancy



**Lower Connecticut River
Valley Horsemen's Club**

and the



for a

Trail Ride and BBQ

In celebration of 10 years of the BPC and the Quinimay Trail

Saturday, August 23, 2014

Deep River, CT

\$25 per person (riders and non-riders welcome)



Please join us for a trail ride in Cockaponset State Forest, followed by a catered BBQ lunch. Two routes available!

**For more information and to register online:
bpconservancy.org**

THEY CALLED HER RECKLESS

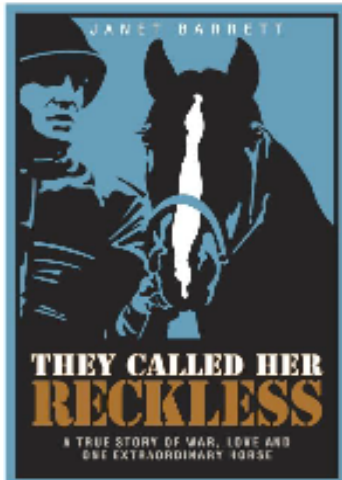
A TRUE STORY OF WAR, LOVE AND
ONE EXTRAORDINARY HORSE

By Janet Barrett

When the U.S. Marine Fifth Regiment's Recoilless Rifle Platoon acquired a small Korean pony to haul ammunition up the steep hills to the front lines, what they got was a real-life hero, Reckless, the courageous and indomitable warhorse who stood with her buddies for two years during the Korean War, saving many lives, raising spirits, and winning the love and respect of all who knew her.

She came on base in October, 1952, disrupting a softball game and capturing the attention of everyone around. Immediately named for the "reckless" rifles she would supply, she began life with the Marines as Private First Class Reckless. In short order she was an integral member of the platoon, learning quickly to run into her bunker when incoming fire hit the camp, navigate the trails and hills on her own, and calmly accept the roar of the recoilless rifles at close range.

In skirmishes and firefights, and ultimately in the savage Battle for Outpost Vegas, Reckless showed her bravery and resilience. In that last bloody fight, surpassing all expectations, she hauled ammunition for three days and nights wherever it was needed. For wounds sustained, she was awarded two Purple Hearts. Ever the character, she also shared her buddies C-rations and mess hall chow, beers and an occasional whiskey, and on cold nights, their warm tents. She was promoted to sergeant by the Commander of the Marine First Division. Then, in late 1954, the men got their wish, and Sergeant Reckless sailed for San Francisco, a hero's welcome, and another new life.



Now, for the first time, read her whole story, made possible by the contributions of more than 60 Marines who shared their memories of Reckless in Korea and thereafter. By turns heart-warming, awe-inspiring, and downright funny, "They Called Her Reckless" tells of an incredible human-horse connection, and the power it unleashed.

From the moment she heard about Reckless, Janet Barrett knew she would write this book. Her experiences as a horsewoman gave her a particular appreciation of the tight bond that developed between Reckless and her fellow Marines, from which the story springs. The author's first book was *On The Fence: A Parent's Handbook of Horseback Riding*; as well, she has written for magazines, newspapers, and the public relations field.

Paperback, 200 pp. including 14 pp. of photos; \$15.95 retail.
Available from Amazon.com and the National Museum of the Marine Corps;
also Janet Barrett at 860-526-5431 or About_Reckless@comcast.net

SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

National Trails' Day Report

Trails' Day pictures from our event on Saturday, courtesy of Marlisa Simonson, are below. We never did get the gate open. We think they might have gone to one of the shelter gates and unlocked that, so you might want to check that those are locked again.

We had 14 adults and 3 minors attending this year, with a good cross section from across the groups. We got a lot done this year with a great bunch of volunteers. One farther son team gets the award for the youngest volunteer, 7, and furthest distance traveled, Berlin.

Here in no particular order is what we accomplished:

1. Drainage was dug along the reroute we did two years ago to help dry it up. Considering the recent rain though, it was holding up pretty well.
2. The trail was brushed from Filley Road to approximately the area where we flagged out a reroute 2 years ago.
3. All trees across the trail between Filley Road and Jericho Road were removed.
4. The trail was blazed in both directions between Filley Road and Jericho Road. Some old blazes still need to be scraped and over painted.
5. The reroute that we flagged out two years ago was roughed out.
6. The reroute that we flagged this spring had the corridor cleared, all stumps dug out and about 20' of benching done. Still needs about 75' or so in different spots. Also, we found a spot up stream (about 40') that made for a better crossing area-it can be easily armored and won't require a bridge, so we adjusted the trail accordingly.

We noticed that the work done two years ago on the stream crossing and turnpiking has held up very well. You'd never realize it had been one of the worst sections of trail.

Work remaining to be done:

1. Finish both reroute sections.
2. Scrape and cover old blazes
3. Evaluate the section where extra drainage was dug to see if that will be enough or if we need to consider doing turnpiking there also.
4. Finish brushing to Jericho Road
5. Evaluate what needs to be done in between Jericho and Mottland roads.

Rob Butterworth

National Trails Day



The Link to more photos:
share.shutterstock.com/action/welcome?sid=9AbN2TVw5aMUu.



LCRVHC/BPC 2014 Calendar

Note: Calendar entries may not be confirmed at this time, especially for fall. If you are interested in hosting a MO ride please contact Lynda. If you have an idea for a program or activity please contact Melissa (Melissa.evarts@globepequot.com) or any board member. All meetings are at the Fire Museum behind 21 Copse Road, Madison, unless otherwise specified.

July

10 Combined BOD Meeting, Trish Panico's house, 280 Bartlett Drive, Madison

20: MO Ride Hurd Park contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net)

No General Meeting

24: Summer picnic, Sue Davenport's house, Silent Auction back by popular demand!, RSVP to Sue (s1davenport@comcast.net), for auction items: Kristin (equineinsight@gmail.com)

August

7: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBA

17: MO Ride Patchaug, contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net)

17: Lord Creek Horse Trials

___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party

23: BPC Barbecue Ride on the Quinimay Trail, reserve your place www.BPCconservancy.org

28: General Meeting, Jill Walker-Robinson, An Introduction to Eventing, Guilford Riding School, 575 Clapboard Hill Road, Guilford.

September

4: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBA

___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party

20 (raindate 21): Lord Creek Hunter Pace

25: General Meeting, program Janet Barrett, author, They Called Her Reckless

28: MO Ride Escoheag, contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net)

October

2: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, location TBA

19: MO Ride Weber Woods, Clip & Ride and Mark Hunter Pace route, contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net)

___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party

23: General Meeting, socializing and crafts at Kristin and Mark's house

26 (or November 2?): Hunter Pace

November

No BOD Meeting

No General Meeting, Happy Thanksgiving

6-9: Equine Affair

___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party

9: MO Ride, Chatfield Hollow, Chili Ride, hosts Sue Davenport and Emmy Pavelka (RSVP S1Davenport@comcast.net)

December

No BOD Meeting

No General Meeting, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

___: Christmas Progressive Ride,

January

___: Holiday Party