



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,

Meteorological Spring! The horses are shedding—gotta love that hair that sticks to your lips and gets embedded in your clothes—and the mud! Thankful for the mild winter, we managed to ride every weekend.

Membership renewals—it's that time again, please renew and continue to support our club. This will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed by April 1. 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. 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

The LCRVHC/BPC Winter Party was a rousing success. The Essex Veterans Memorial Hall was the perfect size venue for our group of thirty-ish—cozy but not crowded. The food was delicious and bountiful—especially the deserts! The Silent Auction was a lot of fun and raised \$795 for the BPC. A HUGE thank you to Nancy Palermo-Lee for organizing the party and Peggy Lupone for managing the auction and collecting so many items. Thanks to Tom and Gloria for decorations and everyone for your generous contributions and support. Thanks to all who helped set-up and clean-up. Photos on page 3.

On February 10 several BPC/LCRVHC members met with Kimberly Bradley (the new Trails person for DEEP who replaced Laurie Giannotti). We did a walk in Weber

(President's Letter continued next page)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CONNECTICUT HORSE COUNCIL VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL 20TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE March 18, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Details page 6.

FRIENDS OF MACHIMOODUS/SUNRISE SPRING FLING THING March 19, noon to 3 pm. Details page 7.

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.

Sunday, April 16, 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 Pattaconk parking area. Ready to ride at 10 am. Bring saw, clippers, I'll bring a hammer for each group.

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)

Woods and showed her several of the bridges we have built over the past 2 decades! We talked about erosion, beavers, logging, maintenance issues, and an unsafe bridge in the Preserve in Old Saybrook. She thanked us for our work and dedication. A successful first meeting in what we hope will be a positive long-term relationship.

We don't usually schedule a February member-only ride because the weather can be so fickle, but on February 12, we did have a last minute ride at Bluff Point. Six of us enjoyed a beautiful ride and it was even mild enough to have a quick lunch afterward tucked out of the wind between trailers. Photos page 4.

On Friday, February 17, 15 members showed up for the Annual Pizza and Planning meeting at Alyce Mallek's house. After enjoying a delicious assortment of pizzas from Grand Apizza Madison and plenty of desserts, including an ice cream sundae bar supplied by Tom and Gloria, we were able to hammer through most of the 2023 calendar with monthly rides and events. Thanks to Alyce for hosting and taking minutes and everyone for bringing ideas and calendars and participating in the planning. It takes a village! Minutes page 5. Calendar last page.

Diane Ciano cordially invites everyone to the Volunteer Horse Patrol 20th Anniversary Open House. Details on page 6. Some of us will be carpooling to Newington.

Friends of Machimoodus/Sunrise is holding a Spring Fling on Sunday, March 19, from noon to 3 pm. Details on page 7. The CHC and VHP will have a table and they are hoping to get good representation from the equine community. This is one of the most horse-friendly parks in our area and we really want to support it. LCRVHC and BPC will be there along with CTRA and the CT Valley Driving Club. I have been working on updating the LCRVHC brochure and a BPC/Trails Day card.

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

Winter Holiday Party



Above: Barbara White, Mary Wozniak, Kathy Schuyler, and Alyce Mallek helped Peggy with the sign-in table, getting auction items and giving out bidder's numbers.

Below: Some of the many auction items included time and talent donations such as riding/driving lessons, a carriage ride, a haircut and blowdry, as well as more physical items such as tools, lobsters, plants, pastries, puzzles, decorations and more. Something for everyone!

Thanks to the planners: Nancy Palermo-Lee (above) and Peggy Lupone (below). I have no idea what Peggy is conjuring here!



Bluff Point



Peggy Lupone took these photos. Homes *loves* to be right behind Ringo. Melissa on Homes, Liz Amendola on Emmylou, Alyce on Doolin, Liz Kennedy on Clover, and Nancy Palermo Lee on Nyha.

Deer Lake Camp

Carrie Wind reached out to the new owners of Deer Lake Camp. They will NOT be allowing horse riders to use ANY of the trails in the former scout reservation due to manure left on trails. Folks, please, if at all possible, curb your horse or dismount and kick manure off the trails. We do not want to lose access to any more areas.

LCRVHC FEBRUARY 17, 2023 - PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Nancy Palermo-Lee Carrie Wind Gina McManus
Kristin Elliott Leas Mary Wozniak Tom Elliott
Mark Leas Alyce Mallek Gloria Elliott
Liz Kennedy Melissa Evarts Barbara aWhite
Jean Cassella Janet Samperi Ruth Strontzer

Secretary's Report

2023: 27 membership renewals
3 new members

Treasurer's Report

2023 Memberships: \$500
Balance: \$8,814.83

2023 Trails: \$80
Balance: \$2,156.77

Winter party: \$150 Hall rental
Plates, ham, cups, etc: \$101.02
Total: \$251.02
Silent Auction: \$795 was made for BPC

Topics /Discussion

- What do we want to do for Trails Day, Saturday, June 3 (Sunday rain date)
- Machimoodus: some trail markers are down (not at this time)
- Replace rotted boards on 2004 bridge at Weber Woods
- Maps need to be updated - Kimberly Bradley will look into
- Nancy Palermo-Lee will be in charge of getting a Westbrook Foundation sign installed / dedication of the bridge with plaque
- "NO HORSES" signs need to be installed at bridges not suitable for horses
- Tom Elliott will have boards already delivered to Weber Woods before workers show up on Trails Day
- Maps need to be updated - Kimberly Bradley will look into it
- Gina McManus and Jeannie Wigglesworth will work on doing a progressive ride maybe in May; will get back to club
- Preserve in Saybrook: The bridge has holes in it and should be rebuilt. Liz Kennedy to get in touch with Kimberly Bradley. If the State will pay for the material, we may consider rebuilding it if the material can get in there. Make it a simple bridge (16' x 6'). Cost: \$2,000 - \$2,500
- Tom Elliott and group met with Kimberly Bradley on February 10 and showed her 5 bridges
- BPC brochure is out of date - Peggy Lupone and Melissa will update
- Club logo clothing. Liz Kennedy is going to check on interest/setup cost



**Volunteer Horse Patrol
20th Anniversary
& OPEN HOUSE**



SATURDAY, March 18th 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

We're celebrating our 20th year in existence! Our 20th year of being the eyes and ears of DEEP on horseback. Our 20th year of stats on the use of our CT State Parks, State Forests, Open Spaces and Private Lands!

**Please Join our Celebration
And bring a Testimonial of how the VHP has
benefitted you!**

WELCOME -New & Interested members

Bring a Friend -We need your support to continue and expand this statewide program started in 2003

Pot Luck & Raffle Items

Bring a dish to share – Items for Tea Cup Raffle - \$ for 50-50 Raffle

**Company 1 Fire House
1485 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111**

PLEASE Park in Rear

R.S.V.P. Greatly Appreciated

Meg Sautter 860.402.3824 megsautter1@gmail.com

or

Diane Ciano 203.910.9919 dianemciano@gmail.com

SPRING FLING THING

HOSTED BY THE FRIENDS OF MACHIMOODUS & SUNRISE STATE PARKS

Many eco-conscious organizations will be joining us to share their knowledge. These are just a few:



energize
CONNECTICUT CT



MAJES
GARDENER
PROUDLY

Sustainable CT
Local Action. Global Impact.



Sharing the
joys of nature
for 125 years

SO MUCH TO LEARN...

SO MUCH TO DO...

A visit
from the
Gillette's



STORY
TELLING



MACHIMOODUS STATE PARK

MARCH 19 NOON - 3PM

So many ways to educate and celebrate nature and the environment!

Just in time for the vernal equinox, World Storytelling Day, Global Recycling Day, International Read To Me Day, World Rewilding Day, World Frog Day, International Day of Happiness, Won't You Be My Neighbor Day, World Sparrow Day, and Taxonomist Appreciation Day!

Join us for this free and family-friendly event!

MACHSUNFRIENDS@GMAIL.COM

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,

The clocks have changed and we are heading towards Spring and better weather...hopefully! Mud season and winter coat shedding are in our future but I'm sure that hasn't deterred many of you from saddling up and trail riding. Lots of Nor'easter damage out there so we will be busy with clipping and trail clean up soon.

The Winter Potluck Party and Silent Auction was a great success with many thanks to Nancy Palermo-Lee for getting the venue and keeping us well fed. Thanks to all of you who donated goods and services and those of you who attended and bid on those items. We were able to raise close to \$800 in the process. A good time was had by all!

In February, a few of the BPC board members were able to meet and talk with Kimberly Bradley who is the new DEEP CT Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator—replacing Laurie Giannotti. We took a walk through Weber Woods and showed her examples of our stewardship, the most recent being the bridge rebuild close to the trailhead. She will be our major contact person in any future trail projects and she sounded very supportive of our mission.

Prior to that meeting, Liz Kennedy, Nancy Palermo-Lee, Alyce Mallek, Melissa Evarts, and Tom Elliott went out to The Preserve and scouted out the site of one of the next potential rebuilds by BPC.

Back to Weber Woods maintenance projects, Tom Elliott and Bob Bandzes are poised to replace rotten boards on one of our existing pedestrian bridges and are waiting for good weather and volunteers to assist in transporting the pre-cut materials to the site for construction. (It was decided at the Planning meeting that this will be done as part of or Trails Day Celebration of Weber Woods.)

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!

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 Judy Bosco following shoulder surgery.

Positive thoughts and prayers for Ken Evarts, Melissa's dad, having some health problems.

Sympathy for Tom and Gloria on the loss of their young dog, Joey.

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



Welcome to Dr. Emily Berman's new horse, Boys from Boston, barn name, Fitz?



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.

March

- 12: LCRVHC member ride at Hammonasset
- 18: CHC-Volunteer Horse Patrol 20 year anniversary celebration and meeting. Details page 6.
- 19: Friends of Machimoodus Sunrise Spring Fling Thing. Details page 7.
- 26: CTRA Cheeseburger ride at Hammonasset
- 26: CT Morgan Spring Fling at Bluff Point

April

- 1: CTRA ride at Gay City, Hebron
- 16: LCRVHC/BPC Spring Clean-Up Quinimay north, meet at Pattaconk parking area, ready to ride at 10 am. Details page 1
- 23: Games Day at Rough Draft Farm, ready to ride at 10 am. Potluck lunch after on the farm porch. Club provides hotdogs and drinks. Bring something to share. Will need help with setup Saturday afternoon.

May

- 6 or 7: LCRVHC/BPC Spring Clean-Up Quinimay south, (park at Dave and Julie's?), ready to ride at 10 am.
- 7: CTRA ride at Gay City, Hebron
- 21: CTRA Ginger Tullai Memorial Ride at Machimoodus/Sunrise. \$10 minimum donation. Ruth Strontzer 475-238-5887
- TBD: possible LCRVHC progressive ride organized by Gina McManus and Jeannie Wigglesworth

June

- 3/4: LCRVHC/BPC Trails Day Celebration. Show some love for Weber Woods. Details page 9.
- 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

- 8: LCRVHC Summer Picnic, location TBD, Gina suggested Chapman Mill, concern about parking
- ??: LCRVHC Member Ride—Possibly combine with picnic
- 23: Jump repair for Hunter Pace. Organized by Kristin Elliott Leas

August

- TBD: LCRVHC MO ride
- 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
- __: Christmas card photo shoot by Judy Bosco

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:

Julie Berman suggested a trailering clinic