



May/June 2016

Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am loving the long evenings. Last night I had time to ride AND finish mowing the lawn. After a solid week of rain it is nice to have some sunshine. When the trails dry out we have some work to do. DEEP got us some stone to fix some really wet areas of the Quinimay north Tower Hill area. We will be scheduling some work parties as conditions allow. We would really appreciate a few hours of your time.

Our March meeting was held at Idlenot Farm in Clinton. Patricia Norcia spoke about Riding from the Seat: The Most Powerful and Invisible of Aids. She had us all doing chair exercises as demo riders showed us how they apply the aids and how a correct seat makes it easier for our horses to do their movements. I tried to take pictures but my phone just wasn't up to it in the indoor.

April showers (downpours) caused us to reschedule the work party planned for April 2. And we are still waiting for it to dry out! We did do a Clip & Ride from Pattaconk north on the Quinimay to Beaver Meadow on the 3rd. We removed several downed trees and large limbs and replaced several missing or damaged markers. There is more to be done. Some sections of trail are badly eroded due to the heavy rains and high traffic. See photos on page 4.

On April 9 Kristin Elliott Leas set up a fantastic desensitizing clinic at Rough Draft Farm. Participants had a good time teaching our horses how to use their brains to learn instead of giving in to their instincts to run from scary obstacles. Kristin donated her time as a fund raiser for the BPC contributing \$240 for trail work. See photos on page 3.

(President's Letter continued next page)

Contact Us

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

web site: lcrvhc.org

[facebook.com/lcrvhc](https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc)

BPC: e-mail: contactus@BPConservancy.com

web site: BPConservancy.org

[facebook.com/BridlePathConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/BridlePathConservancy)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Saturday, June 4, 9 am-noonish (raindate Sunday, June 5). 10th annual combined arms work party and picnic. We will be working on the yellow trail: brushing, painting blazes, rerouting damaged areas. Park at Pattaconk parking area. Bring gloves, clippers, saws. Other tools will be provided. Tell gate you are there for NTD and no entrance fee will be charged. Club will provide CAKE, hotdogs and water. Bring something to share if you wish. RSVP or questions lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.

MEETING PROGRAMS

Having Fun with Mini Horses

Wednesday, May 25, General Meeting, 7 pm, Carrie Wind's Farm, 76 Burr Hill Road, Killingworth. Ready to downsize and still enjoy horse contact? Need a friend/companion for your riding horse? Need more cuteness in your life?

Rescuing/Adopting/Retraining a Standardbred

Thursday, June 23, General Meeting, 7 pm, Fire Museum, behind 21 Copse Road, Madison. Program by Charlotte Gelston

MEMBER-ONLY RIDES

Saturday, June 11. Clinton Land Conservation Trust, Kenilworth Forest. Park at Melissa's Rough Draft Farm, 24 River Road, Clinton. RSVP to cymaronfarm@snet.net or on the lcrvhc facebook page. Potluck lunch at the farm after the ride.

Saturday, July 9. Hurd Park? RSVP to cymaronfarm@snet.net or on the lcrvhc facebook page.

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 use. 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 from April 1 to November 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)

The April General meeting was held at Baldwin Stables. About a dozen members of the Copper Hill Vaulters from West Suffield, Connecticut, along with horses Jack and King demonstrated their combination of gymnastics and dance with horses, coached by Kristin Soto. After the demo a mini clinic was available for members who wanted to try it. Sarah Asbury and Kayden Vanderweide showed their flexibility and Siobhan Tjietjen also was brave enough to try. Again, no photos, my phone was just not up to the job of photographing in the indoor. If anybody has decent pictures I would be happy to share them in the next newsletter.

On Saturday, May 7, several of us cheered on our two mule owning members at the 8th Annual Donkey and Mule Show at Bishop's Orchards. Howard Tunic with Emma and Lynda Perry with Sparkle both took home plenty of ribbons. See photos on page 5.

Please see the Upcoming Events box on the first page and the calendar on the last page for more activities. We are still looking for activities to fill out our calendar!

I hope to see you soon.
Melissa



Treasurer Lynda Perry pilots the ATV at the Desensitizing Clinic

Our sympathy to members Kathy Marchant on the loss of her mother, Rob Hathaway on the loss of his father, and Trish Panico on the loss of her Belgian horse, Truman. May your memories of the love you shared help you through this time of sorrow.

Desensitizing Clinic



Pattaconk Clip & Ride



DONKEY & MULE FESTIVAL



LCRVHC Board

President: Melissa Evarts
Vice-president: Chuck Sharples
Treasurer: Lynda Perry
Membership secretary: Alyce Mallek
At-large: Emma Saunders
At-large: Lynette Burns

BPC Board

President: Chuck Sharples
Vice-president: Kristin Elliott Leas
Treasurer: Dave Beaudette
Secretary: Marlisa Simonson
At-large: Tom Elliott
At-large: Rebecca Ziobron

Bridle Path Conservancy News

DEEP Area Supervisor Alex Sokolow was able to get us several truckloads of stone to repair some wet areas on the Quinimay Trail. Unfortunately after a long dry summer last year it arrived right before winter. Now we have to wait for the areas to dry out before we can spread it so we don't do more harm than good. Chuck, Kristin, and Dave will be watching the weather and conditions and we will send out an e-mail when we think we can do the work. A couple hours of your time would be greatly appreciated. As the saying goes: many hands make light work.

A Friendly Reminder

The BPC is a non-member organization dependent on LCRVHC for manpower and inspiration! It is basically still 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 riding 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. You may either report your time directly to Wanda Torres or to Chuck. 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. See the calendar for upcoming opportunities! I've highlighted some in red. Thank you!

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.



Sparkle looks pretty uninterested in his ribbon

LCRVHC/BPC 2016 Calendar

Please think about the 2016 calendar. If you are interested in hosting a MO ride please contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net). If you have an idea for a program or activity, a topic you would like to learn about or a skill to share, please e-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or contact any board member. Meetings are at the Fire Museum behind 21 Copse Road, Madison, unless otherwise specified. It is always fun to go other places. LCRVHC has a Facebook page for member-only rides <https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc>. Check it out! Note that Lynda has chosen a mix of Saturday and Sunday dates for rides this year to try and accommodate more schedules.

May

14 (raindate 15): 9 am, Jump Building for Hunter Pace at Kristin's house, 131 Pritchett Drive, Westbrook.

Wear old clothes. If you do it right you will get dirty!

15: MO Ride, Weber Woods, contact Lynda Perry

25: NOTE: This is **WEDNESDAY!** General Meeting, Fun with Mini Horses by Carrie Wind, 76 Burr Hill Road, Killingworth

June

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

4: National Trails Day, work party and picnic (no ride this year, I was not able to get a leader). 10th annual combined arms with CFPA and NEMBA, meet at 9 am at Pattaconk parking area off Cedar Lake Road in Chester. We will be working on the yellow trail. Brushing, trimming, reblazing. Bring gloves, saw or clippers, maybe a rake?, bug spray, etc. Plan for and dress to work in the woods, long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended. Picnic follows work party. Club will provide hotdogs and water, bring something to share if desired. We will also have a cake this year to celebrate the 10th anniversary. Free raffle after lunch. Picnic hosts: Bill and Kathy Schuyler, RSVP to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com

11: MO Ride, Clinton Land Conservation Trust, Kenilworth Forest. Park at Melissa's Rough Draft Farm, 24 River Road, Clinton. RSVP to cymaronfarm@snet.net or on the [lcrvhc](https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc) facebook page.

Potluck lunch at the farm after the ride.

23: General Meeting, Charlotte Gelston will speak on adopting/rescuing/retraining a Standardbred. 7 pm at the Fire Museum

July

No BOD Meeting unless needed

9: MO Ride, Hurd Park?, contact Lynda Perry
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party,

28: Summer picnic, 6 pm. Karen Gallo's house, 51 Thornhill Rd, Guilford. Club provides hotdogs and burgers and iced tea/lemonade. BYO beer or wine and a dish to share. Karen has a heated pool so bring your swimsuit and towel!

August

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

27: MO Ride, Machimoodus?, contact Lynda Perry

___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party

25: General Meeting, program needed. We are thinking about having a mounted Games Day, maybe on a Saturday afternoon, instead of a meeting on the usual Thursday night, would that be fun? Email lcrvhc.org@gmail.com if you would participate.

September

1 or 8: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBA

11: Lord Creek Hunter Pace

22: General Meeting, Mike Zulch, Equine Microbiome Research Project, to be confirmed

25: MO Ride, Pachaug?, contact Lynda Perry

___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party

October

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

23: MO Ride, Weber Woods, Clip & Ride and Mark Hunter Pace route, contact Lynda Perry

27: General Meeting, Making Your Own Rope Halter, led by Theresa Kennedy, location and details TBD

29: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party, Hunter Pace prep

30: Hunter Pace

November

No BOD Meeting

10-13: Equine Affair

___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party

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

No general meeting, Thanksgiving

December

No BOD Meeting

No General Meeting, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

___: **Christmas Progressive Ride, need hosts and location. Email lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.**

January

___: **Holiday Party, need host and location**