

March/April 2015



Lower Connecticut
River Valley Horsemen's Club



President's Letter

Dear Friends,

We finally spring forward on March 9 after a brutal February. I can't wait. We did get some fine sledding and sleigh riding this winter but I'm so done with the cold. The final straw was when all 4 hydrants were frozen in the barn. But Homes and Valiant are already starting to shed so spring really is on the way, though I admit it's hard to tell when we are slithering around on ice-coated paddocks.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so. This year we are really trying to make the end of March the cut off. If you haven't renewed by April you will be dropped from the blast list and not permitted to participate in member-only rides. A membership form is included in this newsletter and I will have them at the March meeting. We also came up with a short survey and it would be helpful if you could fill it out and send it in along with you renewal. Please write clearly!



Greg driving Able at Rough Draft Farm

UPCOMING EVENTS

See calendar for more!

March 15: Member-only Ride at Hammonasset. Hopefully it will be warmer than the Freeze Your Butt Ride! For details and to RSVP contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net)

March 26: Slideshow of Sue's Chateau Ride in France, Sue Davenport's house, 5 Owl Hollow, Killingworth, 7 pm. Please RSVP to slavenport@comcast.net so she can have a head count.

April 23: Wanda Torres, Volunteer Coordinator of the CT DEEP Adopt a Park Program, will be speaking about Adopt a Park at the Firehouse. If you ride or work in Weber Woods please e-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com by April 1 so Chuck can let Wanda know to make you a badge! See President's letter for more details.

* * * * *

Please check out the skeleton of the 2015 LCRVHC Calendar at the end this newsletter. After so many years of leading this club I (and your board members) am out of ideas for activities. Please e-mail me if there is a topic you would like to learn about, if you have a skill to share, or any other ideas or thoughts. This club is what you make it so participate! Take the time to fill out the survey and return with your membership renewal. Or e-mail your ideas to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.

Dressed for the weather!
(left to right) Lynn
Gogolya, Robin Marrotte,
and Ruth Stronzer on
the beach.

* * * * *

Please remember when riding at Hammonasett, Bluff Point, Chatfield Hollow, and other State Parks: These parks are busy and get a lot of non-horse-friendly use. Be considerate. Pass walkers slowly and respectfully. Don't ride where you see no animals or no horses signs posted. The boardwalks on the Shoreline Greenway Trail in Hammonasett, for example, are not horse safe. Horses are not allowed on the beach or in the picnic area at Chatfield Pond. PLEASE remove your manure from the trails and beaches. We want to keep these areas open to equestrians! Even on high-use trails in the state forest, if possible dismount and kick/scatter the manure off the trail so the kids don't walk in it and track it into Mom's SUV!

* * * * *



(President's Letter continued)

A recap of some LCRVHC Winter Activities:

The Annual LCRVHC New Years Day Freeze Your Butt Ride lived up to expectations. It was *cold* and *windy*! Ten equestrians and one bicyclist enjoyed riding a newly completed section of the Shoreline Greenway Trail, around the campgrounds, and on the beach. Photographer Judy Bosco took quite a few pictures. I've included a few here. Check out this link for more.

http://judybosco.smugmug.com/Equine-Events/LCRVHC-New-Years-Beach-Ride/46699835_nMGSV6#!i=3797782269&k=nzQ83hN

If you missed this ride Judy might try to make it to the Bluff Point Ride which was originally scheduled for February 1 and had to be postponed. It will probably be in May (the ice and snow just *has* to melt by then!).

The January 8 LCRVHC/BPC combined board meeting saw Chuck Sharples step forward and be confirmed as president of the Bridle Path Conservancy. Thank you Chuck! He will need your support! He has agreed to stay on as vice president of LCRVHC for the time being. If you are interested and available to help with the direction of the club or the BPC we have openings on both boards and would be grateful for your assistance. Chuck has already taken up the reins and had a couple of meetings with Alex and other DEEP personnel. As many of you know the LCRVHC has helped maintain the Weber Woods section of Cockaponsett for many years. (Actually since before my time—if you can believe that! The state bought the property in 1997 and LCRVHC members helped Vanessa even before that after Dr. Weber died.)

Annual Freeze Your Butt Ride at Hammonasset



Above (left to right): Ben Wilke (on bike), Melissa Evarts, Carrie Wind, Molly Bernstein, Lynda Perry, Chuck Sharples, Joe Secondino, Danielle D'Auria, Dana Uzwiak, Ruth Stronzer, and Lynn Gogolya. Not showing in this photo: Robin Marrotte.

Left: Lynda Perry on Sparkle and Dana Uzwiak on Tanner. You can see how cold it was!!!

IN THE WORKS FOR 2015

Geoff Goodson Natural
Horsemanship Program

Judy Bosco has offered
to give a Hands-On
Photographing Horses
Clinic

Jane Samuels has offered
to lead a member only
ride at Goddard State
Park in Rhode Island

Horse Agility Demo!

Long-Ears: Donkeys and
Mules

Summer picnic

Trail rides!!!



Cute wreath Lexy's mom
made us to display on
the barn this winter

Over ten years ago we formed the BPC from our trails committee so we could obtain grants and accept tax-deductible contributions to help us with our stewardship of Weber Woods and the Quinimay Trail as well as other local trail systems. Now the DEEP has a relatively new program called Adopt a Park and they would like us to make our relationship more "official" by supplying us with Volunteer Badges that we can wear when we are working and by logging our time. I believe the badges give us free admission to State Parks. Wanda Torres will be speaking about Adopt a Park at our April 23 general meeting. If you have helped out with any of the Clip & Rides or Work Parties, or are interested in helping out, OR if you ride in Weber Woods and clip or clear branches, please, please let us know. E-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com by April 1. Wanda would like to have a list so she can bring our badges to the meeting.

And one more piece of business: Chuck and Marlisa on behalf of the BPC and myself on behalf of LCRVHC wrote letters in support of the Town of Westbrook's application for a grant toward the purchase of the 84-acre Toby Hill Woods property adjacent to The Preserve. Contact Tom Elliott for information.

The Holiday Party! On January 24 Tom and Gloria Elliott's warm and cozy home made an inviting refuge from the snow outside. The food was exceptional, the company welcome and friendly, the dogs efficient at clean up duty—overall a really nice party. Perfect cure for cabin fever. I was running around with membership renewals and surveys and between making punch (and eating!) I totally neglected to take any pictures. Guess you had to be there. ;-))

On January 31 Chuck and I attended the Connecticut Forest & Parks annual winter workshop in their freezing cold headquarters in Rockfall. Luckily it was interesting enough to keep our minds off our cold toes!

The Groundhog and Lynda's birthday celebration ride scheduled for early February at Bluff Point had to be postponed due to 2 feet of snow that fell earlier in the week. Lynda will reschedule when some of the ice is gone.

The February 26 meeting at Theresa Kennedy's house started and ended more like a party! Lively and lots of snacks! We had a great turnout with 18 members. I got a bunch of surveys and a few renewals. Chris Huppa spoke about equine podiatry and how our horse's feet can reveal their true health. There were some handouts which she will e-mail us for the web site.

I hope to see you soon.
Melissa

We Need You!!! Our web site LCRVHC.org needs a new manager! Minimal commitment. Updating the calendar, posting things to the web site. If you have basic computer skills and can spare an hour or two a month for the club it would really be appreciated!



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

2015 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) (____) _____ (____) _____
_____ (____) _____ (____) _____

7th Annual Donkey and Mule Festival on May 2nd



FREE ENTRANCE Saturday from 9 am-4 pm
 The 7th Annual Bishop's Orchards Donkey & Mule Show will be held May 2, 2015 at Bishop's Orchards Farm Market & Winery in Guilford, CT. There will be over twenty classes throughout the day including halter, showmanship, con jumping, costume, driving, riding and obstacles. Along with the Donkey & Mule Show, there will be wagon rides running throughout the day on a

guided tour of the orchard with beautiful views of the apple trees in blossom. In addition, there will be face painting, a moon bounce, kid's crafts, story times, vendors and wine tasting for the adults.



Come cheer our members!

Lynda Perry with Sparkle and Howard Tunic with Emma!

The Famous Survey! Please clip, fill out, and return with your membership renewal. If you've already done one thank you. Keep the ideas flowing.

LCRVHC MEMBER/USER INFORMATION SURVEY

Why did you join LCRVHC or renew your membership?

(Check any that apply)

- Meet/Socialize with Other Horse People
- Meetings/Programs/Clinics
- Member Only Trail Rides
- Learn Area Trails
- Support Trail Work with the Bridle Path Conservancy
- Other (specify) _____

I would be interested in/attend the following activities or programs:

- Long-Ears/Mules/Donkeys
- Horse Agility
- Hunter Safety While Trail Riding
- Guided Walk in Weber Woods
- (see Leatherman's Cave and Collier's Chimney)
- Photographing horses clinic with Judy Bosco
- Geocaching or Letterboxing
- Natural Horsemanship
- Jump Building
- A Place Called Hope Raptors _____ (suggestions)

I would be willing to pay for a clinic or program if I was interested

COMMUNICATION

Newsletter

- Bi-Monthly Newsletter and e-mailed updates is fine
- Preferred Monthly Newsletter
- Never Read Newsletter

Website (www.lcrvhc.org)

- I visit the website when looking for club information
- I never use the website
- I would use the website if/for _____

Facebook

- I have a Facebook account
- I am an active Facebook User

Name/Contact info _____



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 stop 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:

 1% donation 68 coupons »	 4% donation 100 coupons »	 1% donation 46 coupons »	 Up to 2.5% donation 100 coupons »	 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!

LCRVHC/BPC 2015 Calendar

This is just a skeleton. There are lots of blanks to be filled in. 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 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. Actually it looks like most of them are elsewhere so far! Fun to go other places.

March

12: BOD Meeting, 7:30 pm, Kristin's house
15: MO Ride, Celebrate St. Patrick's Day, tentatively Hammonasset, contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net)
26: General Meeting, Sue Davenport's house, 5 Owl Hollow, Killingworth, a slide show of the Chateau Ride in France. slavenport@comcast.net for head count

April

2: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
5: Easter
12: MO Ride, tentatively Pattaconk, contact Lynda Perry
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party,
23: General Meeting, 7 pm, Wanda Torres of CT DEEP Adopt a Park Program, Fire Museum

May

7: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
10: Mother's Day, MO Ride, _____, contact Lynda Perry
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party,
28: General Meeting, Rough Draft Farm, 24 River Road, Clinton, Horse Agility Demo

June

4: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
6: National Trails Day, work, ride, picnic
14: MO Ride, Flag Day and Melissa's Birthday
26: General Meeting, Geoff Goodson, Natural Horsemanship, Emmy Pavelka's farm, 187 North Chestnut Hill Road, Killingworth, epavelka@riscassidavis.com

July

No BOD Meeting unless needed
5: MO Ride, Fourth of July, contact Lynda Perry
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party,
No General Meeting
23: Summer picnic, location _____, need host and location

August

6: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
30: MO Ride _____, End of Deer Fly Season, Beware of Bees contact Lynda Perry
___: Lord Creek Horse Trials
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party
27: General Meeting, program, _____

September

3: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party
___: Lord Creek Hunter Pace
24: General Meeting, program, _____
27: MO Ride _____, Welcome Autumn, contact Lynda Perry

October

1: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
18: MO Ride Weber Woods, Clip & Ride and Mark Hunter Pace route, contact Lynda Perry
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party
22: General Meeting, program
___: Hunter Pace

November

No BOD Meeting
___: Equine Affair
___: LCRVHC/BPC Work Party
8: MO Ride, Chatfield Hollow, Chili Ride, hosts Sue Davenport and Emmy Pavelka, please RSVP for head count (SlDavenport@comcast.net)
19: Special Meeting, Election year

December

No BOD Meeting
No General Meeting, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
6 or 13: Christmas Progressive Ride, _____

January

___: LCRVHC Holiday Party, _____, need host and location

Content wanted for Newsletter

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