

Summer Picnic Location Needed
Thursday, July 23, 6:30 PM
All we need is a nice location, some seating, and a grill. Potluck. Club provides hot dogs, burgers, soft drinks, etc.
e-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

May already and here's a proud Auntie moment. Many of you have ridden with my nephew, Greg Dowler, or met him at various club functions. Well, he graduated Magna Cum Laude with an accounting degree from Emmanuel College on Saturday, May 9--whoeee! Now the job hunt...

Good news! The Preserve property purchase has finally been completed. The NO TRESPASSING signs are coming down! The trails are being evaluated. Our own Tom "the bridge-builder" Elliott is on the committee. We will be sharing information about work parties, events, and access as we hear about them. Thank you for your interest and support. Their web site is preserve100acres.com.

And our deepest sympathy to members Danielle D'Auria on the loss of her horse Gibson, and to Kristin and Mark Leas on the loss of the beautiful Chloe. RIP our friends.

A Recap of Some LCRVHC Activities

Our March meeting was unfortunately cancelled when Sue Davenport got sick and it was too late to find another host and location on such short notice. She has agreed to reschedule her slide show to the fall.

The March member-only ride had to be postponed due to snow in the parking lot at Hammonasset on our original date. That ended up not being a bad thing when we teamed up with the Connecticut Trail Rider's Association for a Beach Ride on March 29. Our friend and photographer, Judy Bosco, was there and got some great shots. She generously sent a few for this newsletter to whet your appetite for the upcoming clinic. We had so much fun we are considering making the combined ride an annual event.

(President's Letter continued next page)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

HORSE AGILITY

Thursday, May 28, our general meeting will be held at Melissa's Rough Draft Farm, 24 River Road, Clinton. Trainer and club member Kristin Elliott Leas will demonstrate using some local equines. Here is a link Kristin provided for more information: http://www.thehorseagilityclub.com/our-sport/what-is-horse-agility/. We may leave the obstacles set up if anyone wants to bring their horse to play on Saturday, May 30. Many of you expressed interest in this topic when responding to our survey so please attend.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

June 6, Ride, Work, Picnic!
See information on pages 2 and 3.

PHOTOGRAPHING HORSES

June 13, Equine Photographer Judy Bosco is offering a clinic at the Elliott's Half House Farm, 274 Chittenden Hill Road, Westbrook. Bring your camera. The local horses will be your subject. Judy is looking for a human model too, if you'd like to volunteer. No charge but you must RSVP to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.

NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP DEMONSTRATION BY GEOFF GOODSON

June 26 general meeting, Emmy Pavelka's farm, 187 North Chestnut Hill Road, Killingworth, RSVP to epavelka@riscassidavis.com

See calendar page 10 for more!

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If there is a topic you would like to learn about, if you have a skill to share, or if you have any other ideas or thoughts about what activities the club can do e-mail your ideas to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com. This club is what you make it so participate!

* * * * *

Please remember when riding at Hammonasset, 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 Hammonasset, for example, are not horse safe. No horses on the beach from April 1 to November 1. Horses are not allowed on the beach or in the picnic area at Chatfield Pond. PLEASE remove your 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!

* * * * *

(President's Letter continued)

The April 12 Member Only Ride started at Pataconk Reservoir in Chester. We rode north on the Quinimay Trail then came back by road. We noticed several missing or damaged markers so Chuck Sharples and I went back out May 1 (with Ben Wilke) and replaced and remarked from the parking area to Beaver Meadow and back.

Wanda Torres from Adopt a Trail brought an enthusiastic presence to the April meeting at the fire house. She told us about the program (I was surprised to hear that it's only two years old) and how happy she is to have the club "officially" adopt Weber Woods and the Quinimay Trail. If you signed up for a badge and didn't make it to the meeting, I will have them at the May meeting. If you haven't signed up and want to we can add club members at any time. Let me or Chuck know. Wanda will be at Weber Woods for National Trails Day and is eager to meet everyone!!!

On May 2 I double-dipped. There was a jump building/repair party going on at Kristin and Mark's but I sent Chad in my place and groomed for Lynda at the Bishop's Donkey and Mule Festival. It was a lot of fun.

And on Mother's Day nine of us rode at Bluff Point State Park. We welcomed new members Pat Pleines and Cheryl Kosky with their horses Skippy and Gypsy. (Gypsy will be living at Gloria and Tom Elliott's Half House Farm). We rode over to Haley Farm first and then did the loop at Bluff Point. Homes was happy to see all the kids.

I hope to see you soon.

Melissa

JOIN US FOR NATIONAL TRAILS DAY!

For the 9th consecutive year, LCRVHC and BPC are partnering with NEMBA and CFPA to conduct a trail maintenance project as part of Connecticut Trails Day Weekend. On Saturday, June 6, we will be blazing and marking a series of trails in Weber Woods, including the Quinimay Trail and the Cowgirl Trail. Please join us! We will work for about three hours and finish with a pot luck picnic lunch. LCRVHC will provide hot dogs and water. Bring a dish to share. Children and leashed dogs are welcomed. Please see flyer for more details and registration information. (Please print flyers and post to spread the word!)

LCRVHC will once again be hosting a trail ride in conjunction with Trails Day as well. Riders will also head out from the Weber Woods parking lot (or another location, depending on number of trailers) and will return in time to join the work party for lunch. The ride will be led by members Pat Cameron or Haley Williams and is approximately 8 miles over moderate terrain. Hoof protection is recommended as some areas are rocky. For more details and to register contact Pam (860) 345-4663, pc.services@comcast.net.

Get an embroidered patch for participating!: <http://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend/all-you-have-do-participate>

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®



SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015

Join us for the 9th annual "combined arms"

Trail Maintenance Event

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Cockaponset State Forest, Westbrook, CT

Join members of the BPC, CFPA, LCRVHC and NEMBA for a trail maintenance event in Weber Woods as we work to improve the forest trails for all users. This year's project will focus on blazing (marking) several of the most frequently used trails. Paint and brushes will be provided. Bring a bow saw or loppers and gloves if you would also like to do some light pruning as you move down the trail (optional).

Dress for a day in the woods and bring water, a snack, sun screen and bug spray.

Pot-luck cookout lunch, with hot dogs supplied by LCRVHC, at noon. Bring a side dish or dessert!

Pre-registration is recommended.

To register: contact Chuck Sharples at contactus@bpconservancy.org or 860-663-8099

Park in the Weber Woods parking lot, southbound side of Route 145, just before Messerschmidt Pond.

Heavy rain postpones to Sunday, June 7, 9:00 a.m.

Please monitor the CFPA Facebook page (facebook.com/CTForestandParkAssociation) for updates.

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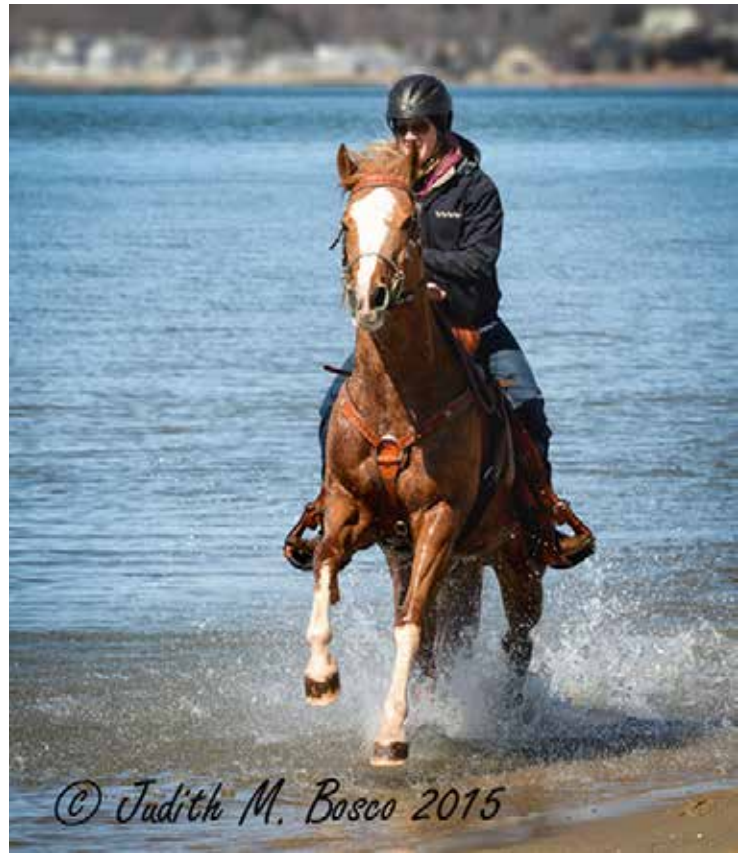
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Fun at Hammonasset! For more photos check out www.judybosco.smugmug.com



Chad Davenport and Mark Leas building cross-country jumps to use for the LCRVHC Hunter Pace

NEW LOCAL INTERNET RADIO STATION ON AIR THIS MONTH

On Friday, May 15, The Lower Connecticut River Valley will be getting its very own Internet radio station! iCRV, based out of Chester, will feature live programming and music focused on the livelihoods and lifestyles of residents of this 19-town region. In addition to on-air segments, iCRV will offer a content-rich website and calendar of events.

Club member Pat Bandzes has helped to broker an introductory conversation to explore how the LCRVHC and the BPC might partner with iCRV - which could include supplying them with content for their on-air and web segments about local trails, equine activities, etc. and using their platforms to promote our activities which are open to the public. Their focus is on storytelling and our groups certainly have plenty of those!

Stay tuned for more details in future newsletters, and tune to iCRV at <http://www.icrvradio.com> beginning May 15!

BPC/LCRVHC Combined Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2015

In attendance: Kristin Elliott Leas (host), Chuck Sharples, Tom Elliott, Dave Beaudette, Marlisa Simonson, Melissa Evarts, Alyce Mallek, Rebecca Ziobron, Emma Saunders-potential LCRVHC board member

Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m.

BPC Portion:

- Westbrook Land Trust: Tom Elliott
 - Tom handed out map showing location of The Preserve and egress that connects to Westbrook Land Trust parcel and then on to proposed acquisition of Toby Hill Chase
 - Town interested in east-west corridor that could connect to Russo & Miele properties
 - Old Saybrook selectmen appointing committee to do interim management of The Preserve. Access off Ingham Hill Road. Mark that trails are temporarily closed until management plan in place (~1 year). Received \$200K from Trust for Public Land for trail establishment. Need signage for “no motorized vehicles”
 - Tom promoting usage of term “multi-use trail” anytime someone talking about trails in The Preserve. A few trails in there are spurs and suitable only for walking.
 - McKinney wildlife refuge contact, Tom O’Dell and Westbrook first selectmen are coordinating an open space management study
- Quinimay Trail North: Chuck Sharples
 - Bill Cowan, Haddam Land Trust – OK with us running the Quinimay through their land as long as we maintain it. Trails already exist
 - Melissa Schlag, Haddam First Selectman – OK with us running the Quinimay through town property. Willing to help us navigate use of fire department property
 - She will coordinate getting a photographer and local news writer to provide some coverage once work getting done
 - Need to identify a group of volunteers to help steward that section of the Quinimay
 - She is willing to help with work parties in that area and may bring others as well
 - Only problem may be getting a deed for an easement to the private Norton property – a critical link to the Valley Shore rail trail along the Connecticut River
- Rail Corridor Study
 - Chuck handed out announcement of stakeholders workshop in Middletown on March 17. Chuck will be attending and welcomes anyone interested to join him
- CT Trails Day
 - Tom suggested we preview the trails and tape around trees that have been removed and where new blazes are needed
 - Are six colors of trails. Alex has all of the colors except green.
 - Rob will cover the green paint and brushes
- Cowgirl Trail
 - Alex has provided New Trail Request form; Kristin to work with Chuck to complete and submit
 - Make sure we are clear it’s an existing trail
 - He has verbally approved allowing us to mark it
 - Color will be purple
- Alex
 - Request for three projects approved and money has been made available
 - Group agreed to have material delivered. Dave volunteered to house it on his property.
 - Suggest setting up work parties once material has been received and we know where we want to put it
 - Quinimay Trail markers keep disappearing. Can we make a new trail marker that’s a brighter color?

- Alex wants to know if they are going missing for vandalism or for souvenirs? We suspect a bit of both
 - Melissa reminded us that Quinimay hadn't traditionally had its own color because the trail was designed to string several previously marked trails together
 - Kristin suggested we intentionally put up, with longer nails, then plan B is to paint if markers continue to disappear after that
- Adopt a Park
 - Wanda Torres is confirmed for attendance at April LCRVHC meeting
 - Melissa Evarts gathering list of names of volunteers
 - CFPA would be interested in muck truck if we'd like to donate it to them. Unanimous affirmative vote by BPC members. Rob will pick up from Melissa.

LCRHVC portion:

Membership Update

- 31 Renewals and 5 new individual members

Survey

- Robust response
- 100% joined because they wanted to meet and socialize with other horse people. Many interested in MO rides.
- Dave mentioned "Membership Excitement" project with the Lions. He will see if he can learn anything that might be relevant to our needs
- Almost all have a FB account but aren't heavy users

Programs

- May 3 walk to Collier's Chimney via Weber Woods coordinated by Westbrook Land Trust
- Horse agility for May meeting. Lots of interest in that.
 - Weave poles/cones
 - Hoops that can be broken away
 - Flag with tape hanging down
 - Teeter totter
- Judy Bosco – hosted by Tom/Gloria. Saturday morning for best light. June 13 or 20?
- Continue with regular monthly meetings

Member Only Rides location ideas

- Parmalee Farm
- Miller's Pond (Durham). Parking lot will hold up to maybe 4 trailers.

Jump building

- Kristin wants to build some portable jumps. Has most of the material at her house already
- Have already done a project at Lord Creek
- Only place can jump for hunter pace is on Elliott property
- May 2 work party (weather date May 3), 9am
- Dave suggested Simpson ties

Potential board members

- At the meeting, Emma Saunders agreed to serve in Sue Davenport's vacated board seat until the November, 2015 meeting and permanent elections

CT Draft Horse Rescue Fundraiser and Gelding Clinic – Marlisa to post on BPC FB

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



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

There are still 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. LCRVHC has a Facebook page for member-only rides now. <https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc>. Check it out!

May

28: General Meeting, Rough Draft Farm, 24 River Road, Clinton, Horse Agility Demo. See page 1 of newsletter

June

4: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
6: National Trails Day, work, ride, picnic. See page 2
13: Judy Bosco Photographing Horses Clinic. See page 1
14: Trapper Memorial MO Ride, in memory of Lynda's horse who was killed by a car in our neighborhood. Clinton Land Trust's Kenilworth Forest. Park at Melissa's Rough Draft Farm, 24 River Road, Clinton. Potluck after the ride or we could order and pickup? Let Lynda know your thoughts when you RSVP.
26: General Meeting, Geoff Goodson, Natural Horsemanship, Emmy Pavelka's farm. See page 1

July

5: MO Ride, tentative Hurd Park, contact Lynda Perry
23: Summer picnic, need host and location

August

6: BOD Meeting, 7 pm, if needed, location TBD
30: MO Ride, tentative Machimoodus, 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 _____, tentative Pachaug, 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

Member Jane Samuels wants us to know that NEATO (New England Arabian Trail Organization) often has rides in our area. Their web site is orgsites.com/ct/neato.

Donkey and Mule Festival



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