



MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

MHC TRAIL BITS

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Trails—Fact or Fiction?

Erosion is the major reason trails are closed to horses. Take a minute to find out how much you know about preventing erosion. What you don't know puts your access to your favorite trails in jeopardy.

Which of these statements are true?

1. Covering a trail with mulch and leaves reduces erosion.
2. A trail should be on flat level ground whenever possible.
3. You should ride "wide" to get around large wet areas on a trail.
4. If your horse is able, it is better to ride straight up an incline.
5. The surface of a trail that traverses a hill should slope inward.
6. Railroad ties laid across a trail on a steep hill reduce erosion.
7. You can ride most trails in Maryland the day after it rains.
8. A trail should have a small bank of dirt on its downhill edge.
9. Logs placed in a wet spot absorb water and help dry the trail.
10. You should cut a new trail to go around eroded trails.
11. Asphalt trails are easier to maintain than dirt or stone dust trails.
12. Paved trails cause less erosion than dirt or stone dust trails.

Count up the number of statements you think are true. Now you know the number of reasons why you need to learn more about how to control trail erosion. How so? Because—surprisingly—these are all false statements. Interestingly, controlling trail erosion is not intuitive, and many of our traditional ideas not only don't help, they can make the problem worse. Fortunately, it's easy to implement the right solutions.

The Maryland Horse Council's Trails and Greenways Committee is planning to bring training on "Reducing Trail Erosion" to you in 2003. Visit their web pages at <http://www.mdhorsecouncil.org>. Follow the link to "Trails and Greenways," and while you're there, sign up for our on-line discussion group, make plans to come to one of our meetings, and show up to help during one of the trail workdays. Want more information? Send an e-mail to green@riva.net ??

WANTED: "Community Leader to Take the Lead to Keep Sunday's Safe"

Job Description: "Organize Volunteers Who Want to Oppose the use of Firearms in Public Parks on Sundays"

Mission: "Get our State Legislators to Implement the "Fair Use" and "Deer Population Management" initiatives"

Skill Required: "Good Communication Skills, Self Starter, Tenacity"

Background: "Birders, bikers, parents who take their kids camping, and everyone who enjoys the outdoors on Sundays are encouraged to apply. No trail riding experience is required."

How to Apply: No application process necessary, just start! And contact the MHC Trails & Greenways Committee to access our communication network.

THE 2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Tuckahoe Equestrian Center Royce Herman
- Washington International Horse Show Gina dePasquale
- Wicomico Hunt Cindy Wood

QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2004 at 7 p.m.

Administration Building

Maryland State Fair Grounds

CONVENIENT TO HORSE WORLD EXPO

Come early! Meet & Greet Reception at 6 p.m.!

Refreshments sponsored by Maryland Jockey Club and another member organization.