



MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

TRAILS & GREENWAYS COMMITTEE WORKING FOR YOU!

Co-chairs: *Peggy Bree* at 410-224-8804 or bree@riva.net or *Jacqui Cowan* at 410-923-6157 or JCowan@gscm.org. E-mail preferred by both.

State-Wide Trails Network

The T&G Committee is actively seeking your input! They want to know: where you ride, whether it is public or private land, what are your concerns about those areas, who maintains the trails, and who are the contacts for the certain areas. Once a broad list has been established, this list will be published routinely in the MHC Update and will be maintained on the website.

Resources

For *Maryland Greenways Commission* state maps contact: lguierrez@dnr.state.md.us or 410-260-8780, or to subscribe to the free monthly "Trail Watch" publication. The *Maryland Atlas of Greenways, Water Trails, and Green Infrastructure* is available for purchase at \$50, and at \$25 for non-profit groups. Contact Peggy Bree for information on purchasing the Atlas.

Sierra Club

From Peggy Bree: Looks like we have some support for keeping trails natural from the Sierra Club. Visit <http://maryland.sierraclub.org/takeaction.html> or call 202-675-2394.

Sunday Hunting: Can you take the lead?

Last fall, the T&G Committee held 2 organizational meetings, at which a project list was assembled and volunteers committed to various projects. NO ONE WOULD SIGN UP TO HONCHO AN ORGANIZED EFFORT TO OPPOSE SUNDAY HUNTING, meaning that MHC had no one active on the issue, because no one would volunteer. The T&G Committee is very concerned that the recently passed Sunday Hunting bill is a harbinger of future erosion of multi-use access to public park lands. They would like to be prepared to battle these issues in the future, but in order to do so, it is critical that a sub-committee organize in advance for both a sophisticated lobbying effort in Annapolis and a massive grass roots effort across the state. In order to accomplish this, the committee needs to amass both a "war chest" of funds that can be used to hire a lobbyist and needs to create an extensive state-wide grassroots network (see above). If you would be willing to take a leadership role on this issue, please contact one of the co-chairs above.

Website

Peggy Bree is working on a Maryland Equestrian Trails database to be posted and maintained on the website. Please either mail the following info to

MHC, P.O. Box 233 Lisbon, MD 21765 or e-mail Peggy directly at bree@riva.net.

General Information

Park Name _____
Park Information/Contact _____
Managing Agency _____
Property Owner _____
County/City _____
Dates and Hours Park is Open _____
Fees/Permits _____
Trails Suitable for Horses _____
Riding Described in Park Web Pages _____
Riding Described in Park Brochures _____
Other _____

Most of the following questions will have yes or no answers:

5 Star Equestrian Trail Rating

Trail Map _____
Trailer Parking _____
Water to Fill Buckets _____
Water for Wash Down in Summer _____
Connectors to Other Trails _____

Trail Data

Miles of Horse Trails _____
Trail Map _____
Overall Trail Condition _____
Trail Surface _____
Terrain _____
Water Crossings _____
Bridges _____
Road Crossings _____
Partly on a Road _____
Multi-use Trail Users _____
Trailer Parking Map _____
Parking/Turnaround for Large Trailers _____
Driving Directions _____
Equestrian Trail Steward _____
Riding Clubs Active in this Area _____

Trail Safety

Hunting Permitted _____
Nearby Equine Vets _____
Local Blacksmiths _____
Local Tack Stores _____
Park Staff Location _____
Public Phones _____

Horse Camping

Overnight Camping _____
Stalls Available _____
Turnout Corral or Ring _____
Bath House _____

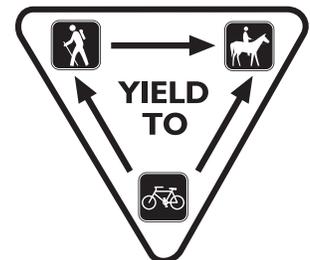
Trails Photo Contest—CASH AWARDS

MHC has received a grant from the Maryland Horse Industry Board to update the Trail Etiquette Brochure. The grant money will be distributed as CASH PRIZES to photographers whose submissions are used in the brochure. Of particular interest are photos of multi-users on trails (horses with bikers, baby strollers, etc.). Deadline is June 15.

Film photographs printed on glossy photo paper (no smaller than 3x5 and no larger than 8 x 12) or digital media with print outs (such as CDs) may be mailed to MHC Trails & Greenways Committee P.O. Box 233, Lisbon, MD 21765.

Digital photographs may be e-mailed to: secreta ry@mdhorsecouncil.org. Electronic photographs MUST meet the following specifications or they will not be considered for the contest: *Original digital images will be accepted as long as a 1) the output image is on photo quality paper; 2) the original digital image is submitted on a CD; 3) the digital image is at least 300 dpi. Images less than 300 dpi will not be accepted in the contest (i.e. do not use your camera on the "basic" setting; choose the highest quality image possible, even though it makes bigger files which use more memory).*

MULTI-USE TRAIL ETIQUETTE & SAFETY GUIDELINES



Tips for Hikers, Cyclists, & Equestrians

In our increasingly urbanized society, more and more people are discovering the joys of public spaces and trails for their relaxation. Because of limited space, many trails are becoming "multi-use" — allowing for hikers, joggers, equestrians, and bikers.

When enjoying multi-use trails, it is imperative that each user respect the limitations and expectations of the other trail users of different disciplines. Many of the seeming insurmountable conflicts we are facing could be overcome if each user would take the time to familiarize himself with needs and objectives of fellow trail users. Each discipline has different needs for the enjoyment and safety of that

sport, thereby necessitating that all users become familiar with the objectives and limitations of the other trails users. If we all work together, we can preserve multi-use trails for future generations to enjoy.

General Guidelines & Etiquette Tips

- 1) Respect the trails—clean up litter (pack out what is packed in); protect the trail environment, e.g. do not remove things that belong on the trails, or blaze new trails.
- 2) Become the eyes and ears of the trail system. Report problems, e.g. washed out bridges, or downed trees and debris to the park's maintenance system.
- 3) Give back to the trails you use—get involved with the trails maintenance.
- 4) Share the trails—cyclists yield to all other trail users, and hikers yield to equestrians.
- 5) On crowded trails, proceed single file.
- 6) Slower traffic should keep to the right of the trail; faster users pass on the left.
- 7) Do not pass on narrow bends—pass only when you can clearly see the trail and traffic approaching from the opposite direction.
- 8) When passing other trail users, provide adequate warning, and reduce speed.
- 9) Animals on the trail may act unexpectedly. If you are unsure about approaching someone with a horse or dog, ask the handler for guidance.
- 10) Tread gently when the trails are muddy; footprints, bicycle ruts, and hoofprints can damage the trails.
- 11) If you choose to wear a stereo/headphone set, make sure that the volume neither prevents you from hearing what is happening around you nor disturbs the other trail users.
- 12) If you come upon an injured rider (horse or bicycle), get help immediately. If you come upon a riderless horse, do not approach the horse if you are uncomfortable with horses—seek professional help. If you choose to approach the horse, speak softly to let it know you are there—do not chase it. Approach it from the side.

Etiquette for Equestrians

- 1) Make sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding on congested public trails. Busy multi-use trails are not the proper place for schooling green horses.
- 2) Advise other trail users of your horse's temperament, e.g. a horse with a tendency to kick should always wear a red ribbon in the tail or a stallion should wear a yellow ribbon. Assume that not everyone will know what these ribbons mean, so be prepared to explain or take the necessary precautions to avoid trouble.
- 3) Obey posted speed/gait limits, and use common sense in crowded areas (cantering/galloping on crowded trails endangers everyone.)



- 4) Move to the right to allow faster trail users to pass.
- 5) Announce your intention to pass other trail users, and reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass on the left only.
- 6) Remove your horse from the trail if you begin experiencing behavior problems.
- 7) Stay on equestrian approved trails.
- 8) As a courtesy to others in your group, use appropriate hand signals for turning, slowing, etc., and give verbal warnings for dangers on the trail (e.g. holes, low branches).
- 9) Remember that other trail users may not be familiar with horses or their reactions to new experiences. Your horse may be another trail user's introduction to horses, what you do is a reflection of the local horse community. Cheerfully answer questions about your horse. You are an ambassador for the entire equestrian community.
- 10) If you trailer to a location, do not clean out your trailer in the parking area.
- 11) On multiple use trails, step off the trail (if possible) if your horse needs to relieve himself, or kick the droppings off the trail.



Etiquette for Cyclists

- 1) Approach and pass other trail users with care—you are obligated to yield to all other trail users. When approaching from behind, announce yourself (and the number of other cyclists in your group) well in advance so that you do not startle other trail users. Reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass horses as far to the left to avoid unintentional contact. Red ribbons in a horse's tail are an indication that it may kick if approached too closely from behind.
- 2) Stay on approved bicycle trails.
- 3) Obey posted speed/gait limits and use common sense in crowded areas.
- 4) Approach blind curves with caution—assume someone is coming in the opposite direction.
- 5) Use the appropriate hand signals for turning, stopping, etc.
- 6) Should your approach cause a horse to spook or become frightened, be considerate and stop. Wait for the rider to tell you that it is o.k. to pass.
- 7) Be a positive reflection of the local cycling community.



Etiquette for Hikers/Joggers

- 1) Stay to the right of the trail—pass on the left.
- 2) Always yield to equestrians.
- 3) If you wish to approach a horse, ask the rider for guidance. If you are with a child when you come upon a horse, hold the child's hand, and stay to the front (but not directly

- in front) of the horse. Do not approach a horse from behind. Most equestrians will gladly let you and your children pet their horses, but always ask their permission first.
- 4) Announce yourself when overtaking other trail users.
- 5) When hiking/jogging with a dog, obey posted leash regulations. Keep a short leash on your dog when passing (or being passed by) horses, cyclists, or other pedestrians. Remember that other trail users may be frightened by your dog, and be unsure how to pass safely.
- 6) Stay on marked trails, do not cut new trails.

MHC

QUARTERLY MEETING

Tuesday, May 6

7 p.m.

Show Place Arena
Prince George's Equestrian Center



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Maryland
Horse
Council
2003

- Association—\$100
- Farm/Business—\$50
- Youth Club—\$10
- Individual—\$25

Name _____
(Assoc./Business/Farm/Youth Club/Individual)
 Phone _____
If Assoc., Representative to Serve as MHC
 Board Member _____
 Phone _____
 Alternate _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Email _____
 Website _____
 Fax _____

Mail w/ check payable to:
Maryland Horse Council
P.O. Box 233
Lisbon, MD 21765