



ONE COMMON BOND—THE HORSE; ONE COMMON VOICE— MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

"Wow" was the Word

by Joyce Bell, Tuckahoe Equestrian Center (TEC)

Every time we heard the word "wow" it made all the work to put on our first Invitational Ride on April 18th even more worthwhile. And there were a lot of "wows"! Most of the 61 registrants came from outside our immediate riding area and many had never been to TEC previously. Nearly the entire Board of Directors of the Southern Maryland Trail Riders Association came to check us out, and we had many veteran campers from the League of Maryland Horsemen. Everyone expressed delight with our facility, the picturesque trails, and of course the sunny sixty degree weather. Several riders were awed at the sight of an eagle, others with fish swimming between their horses legs and the wildflowers carpeting the forest floor.

The clinics were fun and informative. Vern Blume's excellent reining demo and clinic provided hands-on help applicable to any riding discipline. Likewise for Karen Mack's drill. Donnie Sherwood must have walked off 15 pounds as he continually set up the jousting rings. The polo was fun to watch and even more fun to try out.

A highlight of the weekend was the food. Dave Dinkle not only planned out the dinner (pork barbecue, fried chicken - cooked by John and Becky Lofland) but managed to get it all donated. Along with an assortment of desserts, it made "a meal fit for the White House" according to one guest. Stan and Gail Schmidt's breakfast menu was no less scrumptious with plenty of variety to choose from.

Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, especially to Peggy Bree for her inspiration and insight.

Wish you'd been there? Mark your calendar for October 12-14 and make plans to join us at the League of Maryland Horsemen for the Fall Invitational. For more information, contact peg1212@gmail.com

Trails and Greenways Committee Overview

by Peggy Bree, Chairman (410)224-8804

On April 18th, over 50 equestrians filled the clubhouse at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center (TEC) for the combined TEC meeting and the Maryland Horse Council Trails and Greenways Spring Meeting. After a brief TEC general membership meeting, Peggy Bree gave an overview of the Trails and Greenways Committee and introduced the various clubs that attended to share information about their organizations.

The Trails & Greenways Committee is devoted to creating a network-

ing environment whereby groups, citizens, and concerned individuals can organize and share information in a manner which supplies the necessary information but does not overburden anyone's e mail list. We are losing trails and open riding spaces at an alarming rate and once we know of a plan to develop or remove trail areas it is too late to organize and save our trails.

All trail riders can become part of the network by joining Maryland Trail Riders on-line at MarylandTrailRiders@yahoo.com. You can also read and post messages on the web at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/>

Meetings

Are Trails and Open Space Your Primary Concerns?

Trails & Greenways Committee

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

League of Maryland Horsemen, Marriottsville, MD

Information and directions will be posted on the Maryland Trail Riders message board at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MarylandTrailRiders/>

Learn How Laws Are Made In Maryland Annual General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Tour The Maryland House & Senate Chambers at 3 p.m.

Network and Enjoy Happy Hour at a Historic Annapolis Watering Hole: 5 p.m.

Meet & Greet Reception: 6:30 p.m.

(either Lowe House Building or Miller Senate Building)

Joint Meeting with Maryland Horse Industry Board at 7:30 p.m.

(either Lowe House Building or Miller Senate Building)

For more information, visit

www.mdhorsecouncil.org or e-mail

secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org

The following trail or trail-related organizations gave presentations:

Tuckahoe Equestrian Center---Lisa Ritter, Secretary

Located on the Eastern Shore and serving all riding disciplines including western, English, jousters, drivers, competitive riders, parade performers, and adults and children alike. TEC has 15 miles of fabulous trails with great stream crossings, hills, bridges; a clubhouse, arena, round pen, jousting path, barn, and Tuckahoe City, site of the famous Outlaw Days. The staff is warm and inviting and there is always an event, ride or activity to join. www.tuckahoeequestriancenter.net

League of Maryland Horsemen---Cathy Kirchner

Located 50 miles west of the Bay Bridge in the heart of Patapsco Park, with over 170 miles of trails, 1,000 members, a clubhouse, kitchen, bathrooms, showers and a dance area. www.LOMH.net

Trail Riders of Today (TROT) --- Sarah Donaldson

Founded by Judy Richardson in Montgomery County in 1980, TROT was organized to salvage trails that had been used for 25+ years and were about to be lost to development. They successfully lobbied and worked with Maryland Parks & Planning Commission and developers to reroute trails and create conservation easements. While membership includes individuals in MD, VA, PA and WVA, TROT has active chapters in 7 MD counties. Today TROT continues to work closely with county, state, and park authorities to preserve and expand trail systems.

Maryland Horse Council membership is open to all associations, farms, businesses and individuals.

To join, please visit mdhorsecouncil.org, contact secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org or call 410-489-7826 and request a membership form.

MHC is sponsored by Naden/Lean, The Equiery, and the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.



www.trot-md.org
Fair Hill Mounted Patrol --- *Jo Ann Kricker (410) 398-1246*

Founded in 1977, they are one of seven mounted patrols in the state and assist the park rangers (an ever dwindling breed) in preserving, protecting, and enhancing state parks. Serving the 5700 acre Fair Hill NRMA, they work with all park users to ensure a spirit of understanding and mutual respect. They conduct annual bomb proofing clinics (one is open

to the public) for horses and riders and their presence has dramatically lowered the crime rate. www.fairhillvmp.com

Delaware Dusty Boots --- *Pat Kemp*

E-mail-based group that focuses on trail riding and barrel racing. DelawareDustyBoots@groups.msn.com for a listing of events, activities, and plenty of photos.

The following groups, although not trail riding specific, gave presentations as well:

- Tuckahoe City Regulators --- Pete Bigelow
- First State Coon Hunters --- Nyle Calloway
- Eastern Shore Jousting Assn. --- Diane Sherwood
- Delmarva Driving Club --- Sherry Harris
- Delaware Quarter Horse Association --- Chris Scholtzhauer
- American Mustang & Burro Association --- Mark Davis

American Horse Council Annual Meeting - June 17-20, 2007

State Horse Council Advisory Committee

by *Kate Masterton, Esquire Telephone (410)339-7111 kmasterton@verizon.net*

Lobbyist for the AHC, and various other representatives, gave comprehensive reports on developments in the areas of legislation, regulations, health, the Equine Species Working Group, and the Unwanted Horse Coalition. Beverly submitted her report for the MHC, which accorded comprehensively with the monthly reports as read in *The Equiery*. Perhaps the most useful item to emerge from the day was distribution of the AHC's summary publication, "Federal Issues Affecting the U.S. Horse Industry."

Its material could be readily adapted to grassroots lobbying of the MHC constituency on selected issues. There was significant debate on approaches to immigration reform, characterized by both a recognition of the critical role of illegal immigrants in the horse industry and a reluctance to "reward" people for illegal entry by ultimately allowing them to gain legal status.

The attendees then broke out into various "issues groups" to review past recommendations to the AHC, progress or lack thereof in achieving them, and make new recommendations. Beverly Raymond, Kim Berger and I all participated in the "legislative issues" group. A lively discussion ensued out of which we culled six areas of consensus for recommendation to the AHC.

Dr. Steve Halstead gave a report on efforts of the veterinary profession to study the incidence of equine infectious anemia and better approaches to its control, given a consensus that too much testing is required. The proposal most favored at present is organizing the country into risk zones based on incidence of the disease and have zone-specific testing protocols.

A joint meeting of the SHC Advisory Committee and the Recreational Committee heard a terrific presentation on a scientific study finding horses on park trails do not contribute in a statistically significant way to the introduction of nonnative invasive plants in the Eastern U.S. Several parks/forest service reps then spoke, demonstrating a friendly approach to trail riding. They requested feedback from anyone who has been denied park use for horseback riding, as did a representative of Senator Crapo, who is reintroducing the Right to Ride bill. I can pass on the contact information for this topic to anyone who has documented instances (not just anecdotal), of trail use denial.

MHC 2007 Executive Committee

- President: Mike Erskine, DVM, 301-829-4977, mikedvm@aol.com
- Vice President: Jane Seigler, 301-421-9064, jane@reddemeade.com
- Treasurer: Keith Wills, 410-838-4242, kwills@mafc.com
- Secretary: Crystal Kimball, 410-489-7862, secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org
- Amy Burk, 410-912-5272, amyburk@umd.edu
- Cricket Goodall, 410-252-2100, cricket@marylandthoroughbred.com
- Royce Herman, 410-758-2081, raherman@dmv.com
- Beverly A. Raymond, 410-592-8687, raymonba@mda.state.md.us
- Dorothy Troutman, 301-627-1327

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