

## *TATTLE TRAILS*

The Newsletter of the Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path Association

[www.bridlepath.org](http://www.bridlepath.org)

PO Box 710, New Vernon, NJ 07976-0710

April 2007

From the Editor:

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition of Tattle Trails and to our new (and recurring) officers. Spring has taken off running and looks to promise an abundance of hair, pollen, and plenty of opportunity whatever your horsey plans. If there's something that you'd like to see in your newsletter, or an activity you'd like to have, let me know; we're always looking for news and new ideas – This is YOUR club and YOUR newsletter. Our members have been busy shedding out and ramping up for a great 2007. The year for me progresses slowly, but spring has revitalized the promise of good things to come – inside and outside the competition arena. Hopefully you've been able to control the abundance of excess hair and are gearing up for spring with thoughts of new grass, new trails and lots of fun with friends and neighbors. In the meantime keep brushing and as always, enjoy your horses and enjoy our trails!

Ride on!

Ingrid

### **HT/GVBPA Officers**

President: Mare Olsen – 973/765-0337  
Vice President: Barbara D'Asaro – 973/377-0536  
Secretary: Anne Quinn – 973/701-6990  
Treasurer: Dorothy McCann – 973/443-0622  
Web Master: Anne Quinn – 973/701-6990  
Newsletter Editor: Ingrid Olsen 201/213-8287  
Trustees: Lisa Chapman, Mady Devine, John Nagro,  
Hal Scaff & Hugh Symonds



We hope you're glad to get this newsletter, but if not, please let us know. We will remove you from our mailing list, saving us on postage and you with unwanted clutter. Additionally, if you know of someone we're missing, let me know and we'll be happy to add them! [bnlno@hotmail.com](mailto:bnlno@hotmail.com) - Ingrid

Be sure to visit our website ([www.bridlepath.org](http://www.bridlepath.org)) frequently for updates on clinics, trail activities, horse trades and much more! We also communicate by email when we need to get the word out quickly, so please make sure your electronic address is listed and up-to-date. [Webmaster@bridlepath.org](mailto:Webmaster@bridlepath.org) - Webmaster



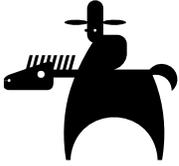
From Our President:

Hello Friends!

The fur is really flying now! More hours of sunlight and just a few days of balmy warmth have triggered a serious explosion of loose horse hair. Lucky are you who have horse vacuums. Our horses are exchanging their somber winter coats for lighter brighter summer attire. We are waiting for a really hot day for the first visit to the equine spa for a shave and haircut, shampoo and comb-out. For some May 19 (**Bombproof Your Horse Clinic**) will be the season's first public appearance and it's good to be beautiful and ready.

The **Bridle Path meeting** was March 22 at the New Vernon Firehouse and what a lively group it was! The new trustees were present: Lisa Chapman, John Negro, Hal Scaff and Hugh Symonds, as well as a special guest, Bill Patton. Maddie Devine sent her regrets from Florida. There was a spirited discussion of many matters including the development of Blanchard's fields (locally known as "3 fields") into three building lots. Bill brought a site map which helped orient us to the existing trails and discussed how we could reroute trails around the future homes. The Blanchard's are open to granting us a license to use the reconfigured paths.

Bill also brought some good news about a "new" old trail above Hilltop Stables that Open Space has bought, granting Bridle Path easement rights. It is cleared and mostly marked and ready to be put to use. See our Trail Mistress, Barbara D'Asaro if you would like a guided tour.



Details of the **Bombproofing Clinic**, conducted by Sgt. Puccetti of the Morris County Mounted Police, have been pretty well put together by Lyn Salerno (thanks Lin for an outstanding job!!) As of press time, we have 6 riders signed up. Pre-registration is required, so if you're interested, ***GET THOSE ENTRIES IN!!*** If you're not sure how to enter, contact Lyn or Mare or Ingrid Olsen – info is also on the website ([www.bridlepath.org](http://www.bridlepath.org)). The date is May 19 (May 26 rain date). Cost is \$35. Flyers and registration forms are on the website as well as appearing at local stables, feed stores, tack shops, etc. I hope you can take advantage of this clinic to solidify your relationship with your horse, maybe gain some new skills, and just have a jolly good time with horses and like-minded people. If you aren't able to ride, perhaps you can volunteer to man the administration desk, help shift obstacles around, or just be available to lend a hand when needed.

The bridge at Dickson's Mill, at the foot of Cherry Lane, is still out of order. There is a barricade alerting you to a problem and plywood over the hole. There are several other suspiciously deteriorated planks - so don't use the bridge. If you want a good water school cross the creek to get to the meadow on the other side. Harding Land Trust is looking into a more permanent repair. The utility company owns an easement but has an alternate route so has not been maintaining the bridge. Nothing is too easy, is it?

Anne Quinn designed two beautiful note cards to use for official correspondence. Each is artfully composed of two riders out on our trails. Though you probably won't be able to identify the riders, you'll easily recognize the trail - very beautiful.

We had quite a discussion about activities for the summer. There is, of course, the Family Fun Show to look forward to - probably in late July. Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club has been resuscitated by Suzie Hipple-Mattos, whose barn moved from our area to Andover a couple of years ago. A possibility is to have a combined Bridle Path/Pony Club Horse Show. John Nagro's idea was to have an organized trail ride - perhaps with small groups going off in different directions, then rendezvous at Hilltop Stables for a lunch or BBQ.

**The next quarterly meeting** is actually our annual picnic hosted again by Lin Halsey at her home on Lee's Hill Road. This will be around June 10. You'll get an invitation with all the specifics. It'll be a good time to get together to talk over plans and maybe make some decisions; as well as enjoy each other's company and share our horsey adventures over some good food and companionship!

Lin Halsey reports that the NVVFD took part in a drill at our two large boarding barns to teach the fellows how to put on halters, lead ropes, find the exits (all of them) and lead the horses to safety away from the scene. This was a wonderful drill, both for the firemen and barn owners. The firemen seemed to love it and were very interested.

Barbara D'Asaro is undoubtedly one of our most valuable assets. Not only is she incredibly active as a rider with equine experience spanning nearly a half century, but she remains committed to keeping new and old trails open for use. In some cases, she is one of the few who still can remember where the old trails actually are. She also stepped in as VP to help run our organization. She is, in addition, ready and able to show anyone how to get from here to there or how to connect from this place to that place on horseback. Here's her reminiscence:



THE WAY IT WAS...  
by  
Barbara D'Asaro

Before the Great Swamp became federal property we used to ride through the Swamp from New Vernon to Green Village and vice versa. We forded the Great Brook even in winter when it became frozen solid- winters were colder then. Snow drifts were up to our horses' chests and we floated over fields.

Gus Koven, Joint Master of Spring Valley Hounds (hunt) loved leading us over old lumber paths in the swamp through virgin stands of magnificent trees; we would return by way of Meyersville road – now a biking/hiking/ski path. The whole area rallied to save the swamp and surrounding countryside from being developed into a major airport and we prevailed! The price we paid was that horses were no longer allowed. Even if horses had been allowed, the swamp would have been impassable since dams and bridges were broken to return the area to a wilderness. This caused more flooding; the debris from bridges made fording streams impossible.

The Schaefer stable on Millbrook Road taught many dozens of children and adults to ride. As an old timer, Mr. Schaefer told great stories of when he was a groom for landowners and when he had a dairy herd on his farm. He periodically led trail ride groups on the bridle paths all through the area using his school horses.

Joint Master of Hounds, Jane Koven, once told me that "Everybody in New Vernon used to ride." Among the local riding stables were Hilltop Stables, Windmill Farms (now Weichert's), Thorobian Farm on Meyersville Road (now part of the Great Swamp), and Mr. Frost's stable in the middle of Green Village. Only Hilltop Stables remains. Many people kept back-yard horses. The Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club was very active then; we had a big rally with kids from all over the northeast participating. Six pony clubbers and their chaperone once stayed at our house in Madison.

One regrettable piece of news is that our past president Scott McElroy, who tussled mightily with insurance companies to get our insurance coverage just right, has been quite ill and is presently confined to bed. He and Liz organized and ran some of our most successful horse shows as well as serving in leadership positions for several years. They still operate a barn that accommodates their own and boarder horses. Liz has a passion for animal welfare concerns and has rescued, fostered and found homes for several unfortunate souls who have had the good luck to pass through her hands. We send Scott our most heartfelt thoughts and wishes for a return to health and vitality.

As Mother Earth wakes once more to a new life and sunshine, she beckons us enter the wondrous outdoors with our best equine buddies. I hope you will consider how quickly our life with horses and riding opportunities can slip away as open space and trails are engulfed by population pressure and development. You can be part of a solution by doing two simple things: 1) Become a Bridle Path member and lend your support to help maintain the viability of horses in this community; 2) ride out now and then to explore new trails and use familiar ones. Grab a partner on the next fine weekend and head out to see something new. As you enjoy the sights and sounds of being with your friends remember the courtesies necessary for everyone's mutual benefit:



## TRAIL RULES

- Respect, at all times, the rights of the property owners across whose lands we are permitted to ride. Remember that you are a guest on the land. When you meet landowners, introduce yourself, be courteous, and let them know how much you appreciate the pleasure they are providing you. **Have your membership identification tag visible to landowners at all times when riding the trails.**
- Stay on designated paths only. Do not cut through the middle of fields.
- Do not walk on driveway grass borders, lawns, planted fields or by young trees.
- Close all gates behind you! If you cannot close a gate while on your horse, dismount or take another route.
- No motorized vehicles of any kind on bridle paths, except during bridle path maintenance, as necessary.

- Trail maintenance activities should not occur in the early morning hours and should only be done with property owner's permission on private property.
- Members are encouraged to wear protective headgear and proper riding shoes/boots.
- Ride at your own risk.
- Bridle path membership is non-transferable.
- Participate actively in trail maintenance and activities - it's essential to ensuring the HT/GV BPA's success.

**Remember, a careless rider can cause a bridle path trail to be revoked. All riders are representatives of the Harding Twp/Green Village Bridle Path Association to the community at large. Membership may be revoked for any violation.**

Hope to bump into you at the clinic, picnic or out on the trail!  
Mare

Note to all: The next Board Meeting, open to all members, will be on or about June 10<sup>th</sup> at Lin Halsey's. It is also our yearly picnic. Be sure to mark it on your calendars - we hope to see you all there as a great time is guaranteed for all!



**Classifieds:**

**Following are Equestrian Classified Ads provided to us by various Members and Equestrian friends.**

**BARN CATS AVAILABLE FOR RODENT CONTROL FROM RESCUE GROUP** Please contact Tina for information at 908-252-1322. PS Lin Salerno recently received 2 cats from this rescue group for her barn. (posted 9/2006)

**EQUINE RESCUE:** Older and lame horses needing homes. They need donations to help save more horses. Any donations can be sent to: Mylestone Equine Rescue, 227 Still Valley Road, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865 <http://www.mylestone.org/> Susan-Kelly Thompson: 908-995-9300 [mer@eclipse.net](mailto:mer@eclipse.net)

#### **HORSE FOR SALE**

**"stormy"** Versatile quarter horse gelding. Up to any job: perfect 4H, pony club horse, field hunter, lower level event horse or trail horse. Hunted two seasons with Spring Valley Hounds. A gentleman in the field. Perfect for first flight or riding quietly in the back. Six years old. 14.3 Hands. Green in the ring. Plenty of stride. Will jump anything cross country and go anywhere. Loads – no problem. Sound. \$2500 Can be seen at Stepping Stone Farm in Allamuchy. Call owner Lynn Jayson Kurdzialek 908-362-6806. **(posted 1/11/2007)**

**HORSE FOR SALE "Abe"** 17.2H TB 1994 YO, Grade 3, gelding. Solid Training w/ Prelim miles; Level 4 jumpers. Super in the dressage ring, bold cross country, and careful in stadium. Great confidence builder. Doesn't get nervous. A fun ride, and has the most beautiful lead change you will ever see. Many wins & placings, including the American Eventing Championships OT, 10<sup>th</sup>; 2nd individually, 3rd place team MSCTA Team Challenge; Area VIII Year-end Jr. Training 3rd place; 1st Gemwood Horse Trials- OT; Competed in Canada & US OP, was 3<sup>rd</sup> at Prelim last event. Dressage scores in the high 20's, low 30's. Competed last 4 years with a JR/YR. Absolutely sound. College forces sale, he needs to find a new home now. No reasonable offer refused. Contact Kiley Dill –573-239-9386 **(posted 1/7/2006)**

#### **HORSE FOR SALE (Skye has been placed in a good home!) A walk in the clouds**

**"Skye"** Skye a handsome grey 16.2hh tb/warmblood cross with valuable show experience in both the 2'6 hunter division and equitation. He is perfect for a novice rider moving up to the 2'6 division or an experienced 2'6 adult/child rider. An attractive mover, Skye places consistently over jumps and under saddle and has been both champion and reserve in the pre-children's and schooling hunter divisions of A and AA shows. He is fun to ride with a smooth canter and trot. He is safe, dependable, honest to the jump, and has auto changes. Not only is he reliable, but he is smart and takes care of his rider. He is a perfect gentleman at every show and when we took him to Garden State this year he placed two 4ths and a 3rd. Skye's owner is moving up so he needs a new home. Price negotiable to a good home. Has been to Zone finals for the Children's hunters and could get there again! [Contact bridlepath webmaster for more information.](#)  
**\*UPDATE\* Skye is no longer being offered as a show horse. Due to a recent injury the vets and owners have decided Skye is only available as a companion or flat with light jumping horse. He is still available, but he does need some time off to heal. Please call if you are interested, price is negotiable obo. (posted 1/8/2007)**

#### **HORSE PROPERTY FOR SALE IN HARDING**

**TWP** Price Recently Reduced. 5 Bedrooms, brand new 1000 sq. ft. Mahogany wraparound porch, in ground pool, updated master suite. Perfect house for entertaining! 4 Stall Barn, Automatic Heated Nelson Waterers inside and out. Three turnouts. Harding Bridlepath Trails start 50 ft. from property! 2.55 acres. You can see the details, **great** pix and 5 virtual tours! Go to <http://www.realtor.com/FindHome/HomeListing.asp?frm=byxmls&xlid=1075457503&lnksrc=00045&poe=realtor> **(updated 3/8/07)**

#### **HORSE BOOK FOR SALE: Horsing Around in New Jersey: The Horse Lover's Guide to Everything Equine (Paperback)**

by [Arline Zatz](#)  
For further information Click here or go to: <http://funtravels.com/about.html>

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