

## *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

January 2010

From the Editor:

Welcome to a new DECADE! Well, it has been a while since our last tattling. Our last newsletter welcomed in Spring and now suddenly we are bundled up against the wind, snow and cold, cold, cold. I hope this newsletter finds everyone, equine & human alike, healthy and warm in the new year. The summer passed in a whirl. For me, lots of competitions, lessons and fun. Allie and I continue to further our learning and bond with adventures and working towards a common goal – actually it's more MY goals, but she seems happy to oblige me. Gone are the sleek bodies with spots of sweat and fly spray. Each of my horses now sport hairy bodies, trundling around under coats, sometimes looking like stuffed Pillsbury doughboys, hardly able to move under the mountain of clothes. Hair is everywhere— one looks like a grizzly bear, one like a big round brown bear, one resembles a long-legged model wearing a fur coat and disguised under a halo of hair, and one like a velvet Elvis painting. The weather has brought a slight bout of the doldrums and lazy days braving the cold stuffing their bellies with hay. We look forward already to the warm, balmy days of spring and another year competing. Hopefully you've been able to find your horses under all that hair and spend some quality time dodging snowflakes or just sharing some quiet moments in the warm barn. We have some interesting news this issue and look forward to future contributions from you sharing your adventures, accomplishments, and items of interest. Send them in to me at [bucky\\_oliver@yahoo.com](mailto:bucky_oliver@yahoo.com). As always, many pats to the ponies, bundle up and enjoy the winter weather.

Ingrid

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Well, winter has finally arrived, but I am already looking forward to spring!

It never ceases to amaze me what a wonderful “horsy” area we live in. Not only do we have some of the beautiful land to ride over in Harding Township, we have our neighboring areas as well; Jockey Hollow Park; Lewis Morris Park; Hacklebarney State Park; Christy Hoffman Park (which connects to all the Tewksbury bridle trails); and the Bedminster area which is quite extensive. We also have so many activities to choose from – hunter paces and horse shows, both recognized and non-recognized, and usually just a short trailer ride away! We are home to the USET and the Horse Park of New Jersey. We also have some of the most talented and famous hunter/jumper and dressage riders in the *world* that make their base here in New Jersey. We have five recognized foxhunting clubs; Amwell Valley Hounds; Windy Hollow Hounds; Essex Fox Hounds; Spring Valley Hounds and Monmouth County Hunt. Some of the best ropers and team penners are from New Jersey. Therefore, no matter what your riding style or breed of horse you own, there is something here for everyone! So get out there, get involved and make friends – whether it’s to strengthen your riding interest or to preserve open land, or just for the sheer enjoyment of being on the back of a good horse walking through the woods on a beautiful day! The simple bond that we all share, no matter what, is that of the horse!

On the home front, our lovely bridle trails remain in good shape. We have, as most of you know, a new bridle trail easement, which runs across the road from the show grounds. A new fence has been erected which funnels us around the new residence and towards Bayne Park, Blanchards, etc. This is a wonderful wide and safe trail, with decent footing. We will also be opening a new trail across from the Kennedy (private) driveway sometime in the spring. This is an actual easement given to bridle path from the Blanchards. We will keep everyone posted as to the progress of this new and improved trail.

Please be aware that most of the land we ride over is **private land**, and we ride with permission granted to us by the landowners (with the exception of a few areas). Just a “common sense” reminder to always ride the perimeter of hay fields; stay off formal lawns, gardens, etc. Always be respectful to the landowners and their pets, walk your horse along driveways and where residences are close to or near bridle paths. These small courtesies help keep our relationships in good standing with our landowners! And it just takes simple common sense!

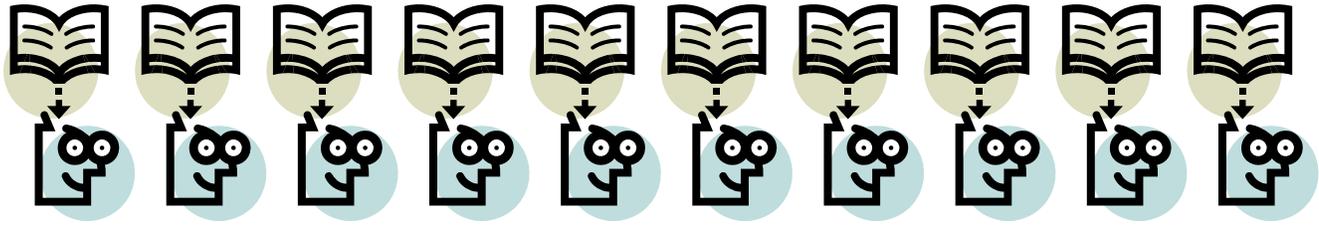
We have been diligent in trying to keep up with the trail maintenance. After so many bad windstorms (not to mention the terrible wet weather that we have experienced all year), we have had a record number of trees and debris come down on the trails. Please report any areas that have any damage or need chain sawing or order to remove debris. You may always email me at [klyoung@hotmail.com](mailto:klyoung@hotmail.com) or call me (973) 464-8738, with any questions or concerns.

Our special thanks to Anne Quinn who has donated one-half of her garage in order to store our beloved trail tractor for the winter! Thank you Anne!!

We are looking forward to some exciting events in the early summer. A recognized horse show is in the preliminary stages for the second week of June. We are also discussing a ground driving and carriage driving clinic at some point. It seems that we have quite a few members that have been carriage driving or just starting to drive their horses. This, again, shows how diverse our interests are within our group!! We are also discussing a dressage clinic again. We had one a few years ago and had a very enthusiastic crowd!

If anyone has any interest in learning more of the trail system or have any ideas about a particular topic that might result in an educational-type clinic, please let me know. Your comments are always appreciated!!

Regards, Kathleen Young



## Equine Science Update

Joanna Bligh attended the “**Equine Science Update**” at Rutgers’ Equine Science Center at Cook Campus Center on December 8. From Joanna:

Karyn Malinowsky, PhD, Director of the Equine Science Center, welcomed more than 250 attendees at the Cook Campus Center. Buffet dinner was available while Dr Malinowsky introduced 2 Warren County 4-H members with their presentation “Lights, Camera, Equine,” which highlighted the Hollywood histories of the Long Ranger’s “Silver,” Roy Roger’s “Trigger,” “Flicka,” and “Mr Ed.”

More serious topics related to equine science followed as Dr Carey Williams presented a demonstration of the best management practices from the Ryder’s Lane Demonstration Horse Farm highlighting operations related to environmental impact. Dr Sarah Ralston then presented details from the young horse management program at the Ryder’s Lane facility. Dr Ralston introduced mustangs from the US Bureau of Land Management as new inductees in her young horse program. The effect of age and training on the hormonal regulation of glucose metabolism in horses was then presented by Nettie Liburt-Weiner, graduate student at Rutgers. Finally, Dr Janet Onishi, a visiting scientist from the Plant Biology and Pathology Department at Rutgers, presented preliminary data relating to the hypothesis that laminitis in horses is caused by microbes from the gut suggesting that laminitis may be able to be treated with antibiotics.

Dr Malinowsky closed the meeting and encouraged everyone to follow the work of the Equine Science Center on their Web site [www.ecs.rutgers.edu](http://www.ecs.rutgers.edu).

Joanna reminds us of some of the **Rutgers’ Equine Science Center Winter 2010 Upcoming Courses**. Rutgers’ Equine Science Center can be contacted at [www.esc.rutgers.edu](http://www.esc.rutgers.edu)

1. *Developing Future Leaders for the Equine Industry*, a 2-day course directed to young adults interested in the horse industry, will be held on **January 12, 2010**, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the New Jersey Museum of Agriculture. Call (732) 932-9419 or visit [www.esc.rutgers.edu](http://www.esc.rutgers.edu) for more information.
2. *A Horse Management Seminar* on the topic of keeping your horse sound will be held on **February 7, 2010**, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Cook Campus Center. Call (732) 932-9419 or visit [www.esc.rutgers.edu](http://www.esc.rutgers.edu) for more information.



## ***The Equestrian's Role in the Preservation of Open Space***

With

Karyn Malinowski, PhD, Director, Equine Science Center, Rutgers

And

Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director, Upper Raritan Watershed Association

Held Thursday, October 29, 2009 at the Morris Museum

More than 20 people attended the open space presentation at the Morris Museum featuring Dr Malinowsky of Rutgers' Equine Science Center and Cindy Ehrenclou of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association. Speaking first, Dr Malinowsky addressed the results of the 2007 economic impact study of the horse industry in New Jersey. "There is a reason that the state animal of New Jersey is the horse," she began. After 12 months of mailing surveys, visiting horse farms, and telephoning horse facilities in New Jersey, an Executive Summary with a highlight of results was published. The full report *New Jersey Equine Industry—2007* is available at [www.esc.rutgers.edu](http://www.esc.rutgers.edu). The study found that just in New Jersey

- 42,500 equines are housed including 12,500 in racing-related activities and 30,000 in non-racing activities
- There are 7,200 equine operations
- There are \$4 billion worth of equine-related assets including \$582 million in equine value and \$2.9 billion in non-racing land and buildings

With these numbers, the study found the economic impact of the equine industry to be \$1.1 billion annually. Additionally, there is an estimate of \$160 million in federal, state, and local taxes paid by equine operations and owners including New Jersey racetracks. As well, one-fifth of the state's 790,000 acres used for agriculture are from equine operations—more than any other segment of agricultural activities. With these impressive numbers, the equine industry in New Jersey makes an important economic contribution to the livelihood of those in the state and, as well, the open space provided by horse pastures and horse-related activities improves the quality of life for residents. Following Dr Malinowsky's presentation, Cindy Ehrenclou spoke of the need for preservation of water quality in the Upper Raritan River watershed, which does include part of Morris County. Horse owners need to be alert to appropriate agricultural waste management practices. More information about the Criteria and Standards for Animal Waste Management is found on the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Web site [www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/animalwaste.html](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/agriassist/animalwaste.html).



**IT'S ALMOST MEMBERSHIP TIME AGAIN and WE WANT YOU!!!** Look for our Membership Form coming soon and make sure you join so that you don't miss out on Bridle Path fun: the camaraderie, socializing with friends, clinics, helping to keep our trails open and keeping Harding rural and horse friendly. That's what membership brings as well as keeping up with the news in our Newsletter! [bucky\\_oliver@yahoo.com](mailto:bucky_oliver@yahoo.com) - Ingrid



## ***Calendar of Events***

### **Sunday, August 15th CLINIC**

#### ***Ground Driving Clinic and Carriage Driving Demonstration***

Sunday, August 15, 2010 at the Showgrounds, Sand Spring Lane, New Vernon, NJ 07976

Ground driving or long lining, the essential training method for carriage horses, has recently become popular with riders. A step-up from lunging, ground driving improves your horse's obedience and balance and is a great way to train or exercise your horse out of the saddle. Our practitioner **Amie Bauman** is the premier carriage driving instructor in New Jersey. Half-hour ground driving sessions are \$45. Also, during the lunch break, there will be a carriage driving demonstration of dressage and cones. For more information and to register, contact Joanna Bligh, Secretary, at [gsweditor@hotmail.com](mailto:gsweditor@hotmail.com), call 908 578 2833, or visit our Web site at [bridlepath.org](http://bridlepath.org).