

TATTLE



The Newsletter of the Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path Association
www.bridlepath.org

December 2013

From the Editor:

I know this edition has been a long time coming. Lots has happened around town and in our group. In the holiday time, I'm reminded of how fortunate I am; we all are. We have horses, friends and family who love us, support us, make us laugh, and even cry. We have a town of great supporters in landowners and others, who enable us to enjoy our horses and environment. They encourage us to continue some of the traditions that have created the history of Harding. Without all of these people, our neighborhood would melt into the masses, one more has-been town where fox hunting and open space once reigned. They make it possible for us to maintain a little slice of normalcy in our chaotic lives. A place where we can put aside the pressures of work, where we can slow down, take a deep breath and just be. Our horses help ground us, reminding us of what really matters. Staying true to ourselves, appreciating and supporting each other, encouraging one another through times of trouble and taking a moment to kick back and have some good old fun. Who doesn't feel revived after a hack thru the woods, or a gallop across a field -the feeling of power and trust beneath us? Who isn't invigorated going out on a frosty morning, watching the breath from 2 mouths as together we embark on another adventure? And who isn't better for the time we spend silently sharing our hearts and dreams and sorrows with a steadfast hooved friend? Yes, these are good times. Times to remember our fortunes and thank those around us for what they have given. During the holidays, good cheer and good will abound. Let's remember to bring all that goodness with us into the next year and beyond. I hope you have a moment between the family gatherings, dinners, and such, to take a moment and reflect on your good fortune with a brisk romp thru the beautiful countryside we all can call home.

Ingrid

2013 HT/GVBPA Officers

President: Jessica Jones – 973/267-2060
Vice President: Brita Tansey – 973-271-7186
Secretary: Joanna Bligh – 908/578-2833
Treasurer: Katrina Vitale – 973/593-0268
Newsletter Editor – Ingrid Johnston 201/213-8287



**Reminder –
It's coming up on
Membership time again!
Make sure to renew (or
Join) by visiting our
website or giving one of**

Coming Up

Keep an eye out on the BPA website bridlepath.org and in your e-mail inbox for an **Afternoon of Sleighing at the Showgrounds** on a Saturday in January.

Party Time! (and some business)



Unfortunately, due to Winter Storm Falco, our holiday party was postponed but has been **rescheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2014** at the Tunnis Elicks House. It is sure to be a blast and it's time to vote on some new officers. A vote will occur during a brief meeting at our Holiday Party when rescheduled. We'll need to vote in a new Secretary and Treasurer. To date, the following are our nominees. If you, or someone you know, would like to run, please let one of the officers, or me, know as soon as possible and we'll include you on the slate. There is also the opportunity to nominate yourself, or someone else, at the party.

Nominee for SECRETARY

Victoria Sroka

Victoria has lived in Gladstone, NJ, for 11 years and has 2 children, Stephen (20 years old) and Kathryn (23). Her husband Ken is retired. Before children, Victoria worked in NYC for a reinsurance company and, more recently, has served on the school board in Long Hill Township for 3 years. Victoria has owned or leased horses for 20 years. As a new member, Victoria is interested in becoming more involved in the Bridle Path Association.

Nominee for TREASURER

Mare Olsen

Mare and her husband Richard own Gooseberry Farm, Green Village, NJ

Upon moving to Green Village in 1990, Mare began enthusiastically riding the trails, becoming involved with the Spring Valley Hounds (even riding with the hunt), and helping prepare for the hunter paces. When SVH left the area, she continued with the Bridle Path Assoc. and participated in most of its activities, eventually serving as Treasurer and then President of the organization. Though Mare no longer sees the trails from the back of a horse, she does visit the trail in a utility vehicle on trail maintenance work-days. Presently, Mare has focused on the maintenance and repair of our Showgrounds, working with the town for the refurbishment of the secretary's building and the replacement of the fencing. Mare regularly attends the Harding Township Planning Board meetings on behalf of the Bridle Path Assoc. to help protect our trails and easements.

What's Happened

We were busy this year with a **series of clinics** held at the Showgrounds. The weather was super and all 3 clinics were well attended. Everyone left a little smarter at the end of the day and there were plenty of smiles on both horse and human faces. The clinics were:

Nov 2 with Nancy Jones (flatwork)

Nov 17 with Grier Filley (jumping)

Dec 7 with Nancy Jones (flatwork)

With a little help from the Town, we were able to replace the fencing and starting a few months ago, got all new fencing around the big field and grass ring! Stop by and see how wonderful our showgrounds look with its new "jewelry".

On Nov 23, a group of 15 members and friends attended the First Annual Bridle Path Assoc. Harding Barn Tours. The weather was blustery, so touring barns was a good option for that Saturday. A number of members met at the Showgrounds and carpooled as others joined us at the following barns: Fox Hollow Farm, Sand Spring Rd; Gooseberry Farm, Meyersville Rd; Logan's Brook Equine Center, Lees Hill Rd; Crewe Hill, Sand Spring Rd; and the farm of Brita Tansey on Miller Rd. Refreshments were served throughout the tour. It proved to be a fun afternoon outing.

Here's the original late-1800's weather vane at Fox Hollow Farm, Sand Spring Rd, New Vernon (Joanna Bligh leases barn). Ethan Allen [1849-1876], Morgan stallion, was the fastest trotting horse of his day. The popular trotting horse weather vane was based upon his silhouette. It's a little hard to see in the picture, but it's a beautiful vane and I'm sure Joanna would love to show it off in person.



Logan's Brook Equine Center, formerly a dairy farm, is run by Nancy Jones and offers boarding and riding instruction.





Gooseberry Farm has been home to the Olsen's 3-day event horses for the last 24 years

Crewe Hill, one of the largest and last boarding barns in Harding, the barns at Crewe Hill have been a staple in Harding for decades.



Brita Tansey's barn with the Barn Tour crew.

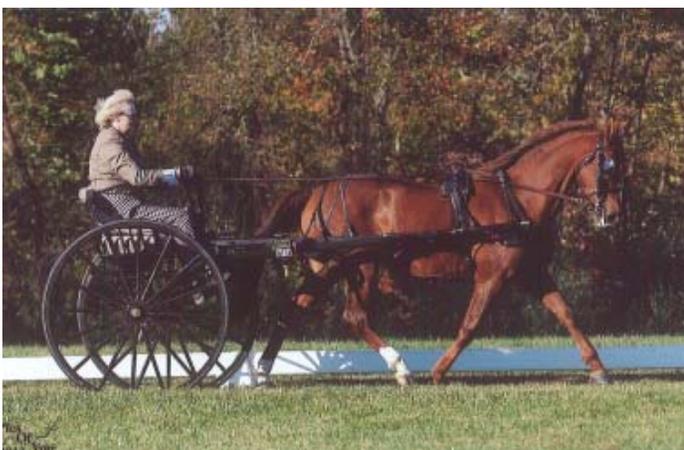


Brag Corner

Bragging rights go this time to Joanna Bligh and her Rita on an awesome job, Kathleen Young and Jaime Miller strutting their stuff, and Elizabeth Tansey looking sharp at the Bridle Path/Crewe Hill Show

Joanna Bligh and Bluefield's Rita competed in Training Division at the 2-day Garden State Combined Driving Event, October 25-27, at the Horse Park of New Jersey.

They had an eventful dressage test--a gust of wind caught Joanna's hat at the entrance to the dressage ring and blew it off. Luckily, the judge took off no points for the wardrobe dysfunction, and, after dressage, Joanna and Rita were 1 point off the lead. In the cones course, Rita was flawless (no cones down), but did lose 15 seconds in time faults for second place. Day 2 was the road and tracks and Rita completed a 4.7 kilometer course in the specified time. The navigator Meghan Beyers clocked Rita's fastest kilometer at 3 minutes and 46 seconds at the trot (calculated to 9.6 mph!). Next was the marathon course--5 obstacles over a course of 5 K. The marathon parameters were 18 minutes to 22 minutes for completion. Rita completed the course with no faults in 20.00 minutes! Even with our faultless road and tracks and marathon, Joanna and Rita ended up in second place in Training Division overall. What an amazing time for their first Combined Driving Event.





Elisabeth Tansey, age 4, on her pony Jazzmin competed in her first leadline class at our Bridle Path/Crewe Hill Horse Show on June 9, 2013.



Kathleen Young & Jamie Miller getting ready to march in the New Vernon Memorial Day Parade on May 27, 2013

Bella, Jasper & Reiki By Lin Salerno

Since the time that Jasper was foaled in March of 2010 I have, as many proud grandmothers have done before me, sent pictures via email to a group of people chronicling his growth & overall cuteness. Included in this distribution list is a woman (I had not personally met) who is a certified Reiki practitioner. Recently she contacted me offering to come to the farm with 2 of her friends (also certified in Reiki) to do a session with Bella and Jasper.

Reiki (pronounced ray-kee) is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing. It is administered by "laying on hands" and is based on the idea that an unseen "life force energy" flows through us and is what causes us to be alive.

The word Reiki is made of two Japanese words - Rei which means "God's Wisdom or the Higher Power" and Ki which is "life force energy". So Reiki is actually "spiritually guided life force energy." The ability to use Reiki is not taught in the usual sense, but is transferred to the student during a Reiki class. This ability is passed on during an "attunement" given by a Reiki master and allows the student to tap into an unlimited supply of "life force energy" to improve and enhance the quality of life.

We met at the barn & after our introductions I brought Ann Marie, Donna & Michelle in to meet the horses. We began with Bella because this was the first time any of the ladies would be working with a horse & I felt Bella would be a wonderful ambassador for the equine community. The mare did not disappoint us.

Bella stood on the crossties (although, as it was explained to me, it is preferable when working with animals that they are not restrained and therefore have the option of accepting the energy or moving away from it) and as we spoke about the process the mare started to become impatient, tossing her head up & down and making noise with the crossties. Bella was saying (in horse language of course) "Either feed me treats, saddle me, brush me, graze me, do something with me because I am getting bored".

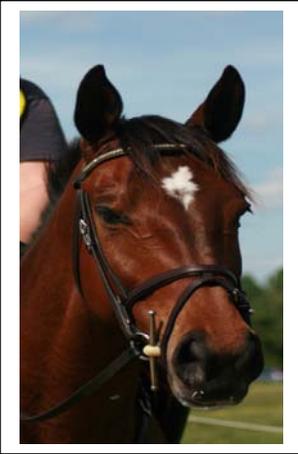
The ladies created their sacred space and proceeded to concentrate their energies on Bella. The mare immediately quieted down and during the session she lowered her head, sighed several times, licked her lips and closed her eyes half way, just thoroughly relaxed and enjoying the energy. More than once, she actually started leaning into one of the women! I was overwhelmed with a feeling of joy and my eyes welled up with tears. I observed that two of the three women were a bit "dewy eyed" also. Bella was so receptive to the energy and everyone agreed that it was a very successful treatment. A fellow boarder who was watching the proceeding from a distance was amazed at how quiet and still the other horses in barn became during the session.

Jasper was next. He stood quietly and accepted the power at times & chose to step away from it at other times. His overall demeanor seemed to mellow & I felt that he was getting the benefits of the treatment. As a three year old colt he may not be as sensitive as Bella but was still very open to the energy.

Afterwards I gave Ann Marie, Donna & Michelle a tour of the farm and introduced them to the other horses. At one point we were standing around talking and to our amazement a dragonfly landed on my arm & stayed there. This happened a second time that afternoon - different dragonfly, different location. (The dragonfly, in almost every part of the world symbolizes change and change in the perspective of self realization and the understanding of the deeper meaning of life.) This has never happened to me before and I am convinced the Reiki sessions and positive energy of these ladies was responsible for this amazing occurrence.

Regardless if you are a believer in positive energies, dragonflies & symbolism...the day was amazingly magical - that's my story & I'm sticking to it!





Dear Allie

Dear Allie, I'm a mature, experienced Dutch showring diva, yet my person sends me out in public wearing faded, last year's fashions. This is most distressing. How can I convince her that it is our best interest to be seen in a new, exciting wardrobe? I can't expect to be seen by the others as such as a walking fashion faux pas.

Signed, *Her Royal Highness "Butterball" (not my real name) on Blue Mill*

Dear Butterball (NMRN),

My disclaimer is that under no circumstances should you "accidentally" damage your clothes. The damage to your image if seen wearing garments patched together with bad tailoring, duct tape, or holes for the remainder of the year is much worse than prancing around in last year's styles.

Be patient. The House of Horse Dior already has its latest spring costume line in the works. My sources tell me that the hottest new colors and trends are Baked Alaska, Scotsman Breeches, and Pickle-iscious. Any one of these would look stunning on a mare of your color tone. Just imagine what a pop of color will do to brighten up the world for your barn mates still in drab, mud brown hues. Best yet, they will be marked down in price, which will render your person unable to resist.

To further encourage your person to open their wallet for new clothes, you need to get her to open her heart. You can be most effective with the never fail actions of resting your head on her shoulder, softly breathing in her ear, and gazing lovingly into her eyes. It can help her make the right decision sooner rather than later.

Good luck and I look forward to seeing you modeling this year's best fabulous styles and colors.

Stay fabulous, my friend

Allie.

And leaving you with one overriding thought:

I really don't need new things for my horse...

Said no one ever.

A black and white line drawing of a cowboy riding a bucking horse. The cowboy is wearing a hat with a feather and is holding a lasso. The horse is in a dynamic, rearing position with its front legs tucked up and its back legs pushing off the ground.

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user card

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