



# TATTLE TRAILS

Newsletter of the Harding Township Green Village Bridle Path Association

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## Horsin' Around -

the BP Personal Column  
Nick Grace can ride any kind of trails, but prefers walking, no fast gallops or anything like that. He lives in Harding and has two horses. If you'd like to ride with Nick, you can reach him thru his daughter, Terri's cell at 201-213-4647

## From the Editor

Whew! Spring certainly is taking her time coming. We had a small period of beautiful spring weather but she seems to be teasing us recently. Not to be deterred, we've had plenty of activities starting from Trail Maintenance to clinics and the rest of the year is going to be full of adventures. For me, my show season is just around the corner and I've been busy training and conditioning to get ready. The show grounds are in great shape with some improvements in footing both in the fields and the sand ring. I have to admit that these improvements have helped the quality of our work and I'm excited to continue working at our show grounds throughout the year. Hopefully you've been able to find your horse in all that winter hair and you are both emerging like beautiful butterflies from your winter cocoons! Get out and enjoy our beautiful trails and keep an eye on the calendar and email updates for opportunities to help keep our trails in tip-top shape and join the fun with clinics, parties, and shows.

See you out and about!

Now that Tax time is over, we hope you have the opportunity to complete and submit your 2016 HT/GV BPA Membership Applications, if not done so already.

Membership Forms for the 2016 period were mailed in March. Without the support of the Community we would be unable to maintain the BPA, therefore, your support is greatly appreciated.

If you do not have your Membership Form, it can also be accessed at [www.bridlepath.org](http://www.bridlepath.org) - go to Announcements and click Time to Renew your Membership for on-line forms.

Thank you again for your support, Happy Trails.

# Coiffe Couture

This is the first of a 2 part series of style and fashion prowess. Part 1 identifies some tresses that are messes. Part 2 will show how these exquisite equines can become master mane-ers with just a few basic hair tips.



Our next subject is a hip teenager who feels that his free spirit is found in the Carribean despite his western roots. He rocks to Bob Marley and sports the Rastafarian do.



Our last piece of work is an older gentleman (93) who has spent a life in private service and was quite active in sports in his youth. His look is typical of the elderly who seem oblivious to modern hair styles and current fashion. The slightly Einstein disheveled frock we see so often in this age group.



# Trail News

We had a great time on March 12 as several Bridle Path members assembled to tackle some of the weeds and brush that has crept over the trails during the winter. Sean Calquhoun and his trusty chainsaw was a force to be reckoned with as he joined Brita Tansey, Dorothy McCann, and Kathleen Young to clear the trails off Sand Spring Road and behind Crewe Hill — the brush and weeds had no chance against this gang!



Michael Nolan was also seen wielding his weapon by Logansbrook earlier this month

**Our next trail clearing dates are below - hope to see you out there**

- June 11**
- August 13**
- October 15**

## New Business Around the Grounds

Our new footing has been deposited, spread, and mixed in the sand ring and is GREAT to ride in. Come by and try it out. Our fields have also been aerated which has softened up the footing quite a bit. Right before the rain, the footing was perfect for riding. With the ground aerated, it should allow the water to give the roots a good drink and help with drainage so it doesn't get soupy. Some jumps have been set up for practicing as well.

## From Member Shelly Nice:

Take one fourteen-year-old with a ten-year passion for horses and introduce her to the Bureau of Land Management's Youth Mustang Challenge. What do you get? A new local resident to our horse community.

An active rider on the Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path (thanks to Anne and Ellen who introduced us to it!), Cat Zimmerman has been riding since Seaton Hackney Stables reopened in 2006. At twelve years old, she adopted her first wild mustang, Comancheria. After 100 days of training, Cat and "Monche" competed in the Youth Mustang Challenge at Topsfield, Massachusetts. This year, she will compete on August 5th with Bella Flora, a two year old mustang that was captured on August 30, 2015 outside of Las Vegas. The entire herd was dehydrated and starving to death due to drought conditions. The BLM claimed they would not have survived the winter.

Cat is homeschooled in order to spend more time at Seaton Hackney Stables to work with Bella and her other two horses. We invite anyone and everyone to come visit her and her mustangs. She is hoping to begin training Monche at eventing clinics to prove to the world that mustangs might be small of stature but large in both heart and ability.

Anyone who is interested can also follow her on Facebook (Cat Zimmerman--Youth Mustang Trainer) or Instagram @czmustangs.



Bella Flora on April 15, 2016 when she was picked up - she had never been handled by a person before



Cat and Bella Flora on April 18, 2016: The beginning of a new friendship

## What's Happening??

We're planning on some clinics and fun activities this year! Please join us for any and all - they're always a great time. More information will be provided as plans are finalized. If you have any suggestions for upcoming events, please contact any member of the Board. Some of the things on the schedule so far are:

**May 20** - Jumping clinic with Megan Finkle at the Showgrounds - There are two sessions, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.; and 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. The morning session is predominately flat work and the afternoon session is jumping. Please see the website for the Registration Form to secure your spot in this educational and fun clinic.

**May 30** - Memorial Day Parade in New Vernon - contact Brita Tansey if you're interested in participating

**June 5** - SVH Hunter Pace at the Showgrounds

**June 25** - Bridle Path Summer Picnic at Tansey's on Miller Road - contact Joan Fitzhugh if you'd like to help

**August 4** - 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting at 6:30pm at Tansey's

**October** - Fun Show at the Showgrounds

## What's Happened?

\*\* HT/GV BPA hosted an **Equine First Aid Clinic** on April 10 at Crewe Hill Stables in Morristown, NJ. The Guest Speaker, Dr. Christina Wilson, DVM / Equiheart Veterinary Services, did a fantastic job explaining what to do in an Equine First Aid Emergency situation "before the Vet arrives." Dr. Wilson's presentation was complete with audiovisual demonstrations of real-life emergencies. The Clinic was well attended by all; and a special thanks to the Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club for your attendance, and Crewe Hill Stables for use of your beautiful facility!



Dr Wilson (left) and the Spring Valley Hounds Pony Clubbers



Dr Wilson lecturing to a mesmerized audience - so much to learn!

**\*\* The Jeff Cook Clinic** in Gladstone By Mare Olsen

Logansbrook Equine Center hosted a clinic with Jeff Cook at the USET in Gladstone on April 9-11

Someone needed to hold the horse while being tacked up and someone obviously needed to help select a good trailer parking spot, and so I was thereby able to parlay an opportunity to attend the recent Jeff Cook jump clinic at the USET facility in Gladstone. Since my job was soon complete, I proceeded to the Indoor, looking through the stage door to see the many fine horses walking around inspecting the jump furniture.

I was soon directed from the stage door to the people door and led directly to a single row of white patio chairs arranged against the back wall near the corner. Here I joined a packed audience of eager onlookers for a view that was "close up and personal". In front of us a couple of jump rails were laid end to end on the ground with the idea of separating people feet from horse feet, however...when these large horses thundered toward us, urged on by riders trying to get DEEP INTO THE CORNERS, it took all my nerve not to leap up to seek protection behind my chair.

Jeff Cook was certainly impressive – kind to people and horses, positive and diplomatic, yet demanding, requiring the rider to follow his instructions precisely.

The clinic opened with a brief interview of each horse/rider combo: name, experience, issues, minor tack adjustments. Possessing an exceptional memory and extraordinary eyesight, Jeff was thereafter able to correctly identify each pair by name giving appropriate and specific coaching to each. What made this so unusual was that nearly all the horses were uniformly bay and the riders were dressed so very much alike.

Since Jeff was wearing a microphone, we could hear clearly all that he said. For instance, when he instructed the riders to go deep into the corners with no fudging, we spectators did more than hold our breath.

So what else did we learn from the Jeff Cook Clinic?

Well, he is particular about stirrup length, helping the rider to adjust, and he doesn't like plastic stirrups. He opines that west coast riders seem to generally have better leg positions than East coast riders. (He's from Oregon).

And a lot about "seats", and with each explanation I would squirm on my chair to attain the proper 'seat'. It seems that the official term for the old 'half seat' is now 'light seat'. There was a demonstration of these two seats and indeed they are exactly the same. The definitions of full seat, forward seat, saddle seat, driving seat, dressage seat, western seat and two-point seat at this time remain the same.

In conclusion, I saw that riding difficulties are different, yet the same. Everyone heard and saw each other's issues and heard and saw the remedies in action. If needed, each rider was coached step by step through the problem until corrected. Everyone ended their lesson with better performance, more confidence and in a happier relationship with their horse. I think Jeff Cook accomplished this through his authority, wide knowledge, experience and great tact. I'm glad I had this opportunity to observe.

PS. From the internet, we find that Jeff Cook spent years as a teaching assistant to George Morris, that he is a grand prix level show jumping rider, an "A" circuit trainer with students in the top levels of national and international competition, a coach for the US Jumper Team at the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio, and an author in publications like Practical Horseman.\

\*\* And **our members** have been out enjoying the trails and countryside



Lyn Kurdzialek on Sterling out on the trails



Dorothy McCann on Bella crossing the water at Cherry Lane

## New Arrivals!

We're welcoming some new arrivals to our horse community. Brita Tansey's Fox Trot Farm welcomes 6 year old Chippy to the family. Chippy is seen below with Elise Tansey at the reins.



We also have a baby in the house! (and who doesn't love babies?!) This beautiful bouncing boy was born April 19 at Logansbrook Equine Center. Logansbrook also has another on the way.



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Are **YOU** looking for a long term riding buddy or someone you can go out on a casual riding date with? Send in your "ad" to Horsin' Around so that we can help facilitate riding "hook-ups" . Just send your "personal ad" to [alliefinale1@gmail](mailto:alliefinale1@gmail.com) and we'll get the word out there for you.

Contact Ingrid Johnston @ [alliefinale1@gmail.com](mailto:alliefinale1@gmail.com) with any newsletter items.