

## *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

September 2007

From the Editor:

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition of Tattle Trails and to our new (and recurring) officers. 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. Cherish each day with your horse, being overindulgent with the hugs and kisses.

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



Just a reminder that this is our last newsletter of the year. January will bring the renewal of membership. Make sure you rejoin so that you don't miss out on Bridle Path fun: the camaraderie, socializing with friends, 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! [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



Hello Friends!

Rampaging wildfires in the west, massive flooding in the mid-west, scorching heat in the south – how lucky to be in New Jersey and in our own small local community! We have seen adequate rain at just the right time to keep pastures green and growing. The few weeks of hazily humid, really hot weather were tolerable. Our horses stayed comfortably stationed in front of one of the boons of technology – the stable fan.

Perhaps when we notice how many significant factors affecting our lives and the lives of our horses are out of our control, we put serious thought into how to preserve the way of life with horses which is in our hands. It is our jobs as stewards of our trails to keep our trails open and funds available to keep our little organization alive, to maintain good relationships with our landowners (and perhaps do a bit of patching up of misunderstandings and mistakes). Currently to task are a few dedicated folks who keep the rest of us on good trails and give all an opportunity to spend a few hours outside of the ring. We need the help of all to lighten the load. Strength comes in numbers and we need everyone's participation to keep us going. As you know, the times, they are a'changin'. Get out, get involved. If you know someone who rides in Harding who is not a Bridle Path member, get them to join and get involved. It's fun, and it's ultimately yours to keep or let go. So next time you're at the barn when you've given your favorite equine his fill of carrots and kisses, pick up some shears and clear a trail. If you have any questions about where you can help, I'm only a phone call away and will be happy to help you organize a trail clearing party or let you know areas that need TLC! (Mare: 973/765-0337)

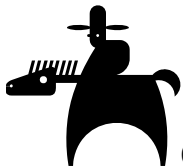
Speaking of **Trail Clearing**, several projects have been undertaken by small crews:

- 1) Paul Opdyke led a small party in beating back multiflora roses that had choked a major wonderful trail between Glen Alpin, Hunter Drive and Lee's Hill. The October 7th Hunter Pace will use this path, so sign up for it – this trail should be at its best!

- 2) A small section along Sand Spring Road from the Showgrounds is incomplete and needs mowing – anybody want to help??
- 3) Kathi Young, intrepid brush hog driver, did a days work mowing and lopping between Hilltop Stables, Blanchard's fields and Kennedy Drive. She was bloodied by the roses, but victorious.
- 4) There are still some problem areas where we are stalemated: Cherry Lane Bridge is still out of commission, there's a big tree immovable in the Koven's Creek area, and a mountainous mulch pile on one Lee's Hill Road trail.

The last **Quarterly Meeting**, on June 14<sup>th</sup>, was the annual picnic, planned by our perennial hostess, Lyn Halsey. As usual, we had a gathering of good friends, lots of good fun (and some tasty gossip☺), good eats – and what else, good talk about horses. Our next Quarterly Meeting will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> at the New Vernon Firehouse. ALL are welcome and encouraged to come. We'll send a reminder via email closer to the date. Make sure to mark your calendars and we'll look forward to seeing you there.

Our **Family Fun Show** is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Showgrounds. The SVHPC (Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club, who used to call Harding home years ago) has been revitalized in Allamuchy and will join the Bridle Path to bring you a fun show with something for everyone: Dressage, Equitation, Trail, Gymkanna. The prize list and schedule are on the website ([www.bridlepath.org](http://www.bridlepath.org)) and will be posted around town. The objective is serious competition of course, but in a fun, welcoming atmosphere. Hopefully you'll want to try something outside your specialty: trail riders, try dressage; equitation, try trail, etc. Look for flyers for more information and do give it a try. We try to accommodate everyone in an atmosphere of fun and friendliness. Everyone who has participated in the past has had a great time, and this year promises to be better than the last.



Our **Bombproofing Clinic** was a huge success and everyone, both four and two-footed, had a blast! From Lin Salerno:

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, the Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path Association and the Morris County Mounted Park Police presented the “Bombproof Your Horse” clinic at the Showgrounds on Sand Spring Lane.

The event was postponed by one week because of inclement weather which reduced the number of pre-registered riders from over twenty to eleven. Fortunately, the weather co-operated the second time around.

The atmosphere buzzed with enthusiasm and anticipation. The clinic began with Sergeant Mike Pucetti and Patrolman Chris Byko requesting the riders, with horses in hand, to line up for inspection. Sergeant Pucetti explained the training techniques used by the mounted police program in Morris County to desensitize their horses.

Mike recited several articles from horse magazines that discussed how to effectively control a horse in different challenging situations. He explained that regardless of how these techniques are described, the answer is always centered riding.

After inspection was complete the officers directed each rider and his horse to navigate different obstacles. The exercises included backing the horse through "L" shaped cones, walking the horse over a blue solid tarp and two smaller yellow tarps, confronting the animals with a realtor sign with balloons, a large flag, an umbrella, a bicycle, a six foot ball and a hand held siren (*my horse Beau's personal favorite*).

It was fun and educational to watch each horse and rider team negotiate the obstacles. Once the riders got their horses to accept the challenges, the participants mounted and repeated the exercises astride.

The six foot ball was a big hit - the horses learned to accept its presence in the field during the other exercises and once approached by it were curious and playful. I suspect an equestrian soccer game would have developed, had the horses been left to their own devices.

Sergeant Puccetti and Patrolman Boyko created a professional yet relaxed atmosphere. The clinic provided the riders with a comprehensive understanding of thought processes and techniques necessary to better manage their mounts under new and stressful situations. The officers successfully related the exercises in a language that was easy to understand and made everyone feel comfortable. The participants and approximately two dozen spectators left the clinic feeling very enthusiastic.

***In addition to learning valuable techniques for riding our horses safely through otherwise troublesome distractions, we became acquainted with the Morris County Park Police and their capabilities to assist us in times of need. In today's environment of tight budgets and ever changing priorities, this kind of community outreach certainly makes a positive impact.***

(Photos courtesy of Martin Kavanagh ([www.mkphotography.org](http://www.mkphotography.org)))

**Share your most memorable horse moment.** Please e-mail Lin Salerno at [lnslrn7@aol.com](mailto:lnslrn7@aol.com) and share one of your special moments with your favorite horse. Maybe just a special quiet ride where you found peace of mind just when you needed it most or a major win at an important competition. Submit a couple of sentences or a small paragraph. Don't forget to include your name, horse's name, when and where the moment occurred. Lin will compile all memories received and we'll include them in the next newsletter. If you don't have access to a computer, please mail directly to Lin at 10 Nassau Street, Clark, NJ 07066



## Classifieds:

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

### **HORSE FOR SALE "Chocolate"**

Chocolate is a 16 hand gelding with a sweet temperament. He is a fabulous trail horse – nothing spooks this boy! He crosses rivers without hesitation. He loves open fields but is equally happy going through the woods. His gaits are smooth and his transitions are very comfortable.

If you are interested, you can call me at (973)525-5013 or email me at [njaltizer@patmedia.net](mailto:njaltizer@patmedia.net) and we can discuss his price. He comes with several blankets for those cold New Jersey winters.

### **HORSE FOR SALE "EJ KIZMET"**

3 yr old 14.3 registered Arab, chestnut mare. She is an endurance horse and is looking for an experienced rider who wants to put miles on her. She has done a number of 25 and 30 mile rides and two 50 milers, the Biltmore Challenge in North Carolina and the Doncaster in Maryland. My health is such that I can't keep up with her. For more info, contact Mary Nelson, 973-271-2816 (cell) or e-mail [mary.g.nelson@verizon.net](mailto:mary.g.nelson@verizon.net) \$1500

### **HORSE FOR SALE "BEAU"**

Quarter Horse for sale – 7 year old chestnut, 15.1 h, Registered Incentive Fund Gelding. English/Western trained - Sound, good on trails/traffic. Needs confident, intermediate rider. Price negotiable. Good home a must.

732-340-1042 or [lnslrn7@aol.com](mailto:lnslrn7@aol.com)

### **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.

**EQUINE RESCUE:** Older and lame horses needing homes. They need donations to help save more horses. Any donations can be sent to:

Milestone Equine Rescue  
227 Still Valley Road  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
<http://www.milestone.org/>

Susan-Kelly Thompson:  
908-995-9300  
[mer@eclipse.net](mailto:mer@eclipse.net)

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