



# TATTLE TRAILS

Newsletter of the Harding Township Green Village Bridle Path Association

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## Horsin' Around -

the BP Personal Column If you have a (sane and safe) spare mount and would enjoy having some company on the trails, please contact me. I boarded in Harding for many years before moving up to Allamuchy - now my horse is at the rainbow bridge, and while I have some access to riding locally I am bereft of any company and also missing the glorious Harding trails. I ride English, happy to w/t/c or to go at your pace. Flexible with time/days.  
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## From the Editor

Wow! Summer sure came in like a nice warm candle and is now a five alarm fire! Hopefully you and your horse have been able to manage the heat and humidity and enjoy some early morning or later evening adventures. My show season is in full swing and we've been enjoying the show grounds as our training venue, along with the trails for fitness work. We're so fortunate to have these areas available to us, thanks to the generosity of the Town and many, many private individuals. If the weather has prevented you from riding, there's still plenty of fun activities you can do with your horse. Bath and beauty days are always a favorite at my barn and ground work can help training techniques and strengthening the bond between you and your horse. Look for opportunities to develop and maintain good ground manners - for which your vet and farrier will be infinitely grateful! Keep riding, have fun, stay safe and make sure both you and your equine friend stay hydrated and cool! Start marking on your calendars all the activities that are yet to come (see What's Happening below). Great weather is still before us before Old Man Winter comes to town

See you out there!



## Coiffe Couture

Our first segment showcased several coiffe challenged individuals. First there was the before - now for the after!

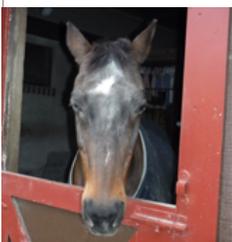
First up is our 14 year old athlete and semi-professional model sporting a should-only-be-worn-during-workouts pony tail. With a little effort, she turns into a much more tailored professional. Taming those tomboy tresses



Next up is a hip 20-something sporting a grunge & Rastafarian style. A better look is more akin to Fabio letting his long locks loose.



Our last fashionista is a 93 year old retired athlete sporting the typical disheveled look so often associated with old folks (no offense to old people, it's just the way it is). Its amazing what a little Just For Men will do to wash away the grey!



## Trail News

There have been a lot of work being done on the trails and it seems it is a never ending effort to battle back the tenacious weeds and rose bushes trying to hide our paths. There's an awesome new path mowed around Margette's field - just begging for more than just me to leave hoofprints and many of our paths are ready for your fall enjoyment! We need your help to keep these paths open and accessible so we all can enjoy the beauty that Harding has to offer. Our next scheduled trail maintenance day is Saturday October 15. We'll meet at 9am at the Show Grounds. Its a fun, rewarding way to participate and learn the trails. We hope to see you on the 15th! If you can't make it, don't worry, you can always contact Kathleen Young to see where help is needed and schedule your own private trail clearing!

## New Business Around the Grounds

The show ground are in good shape and we're so fortunate to have such wonderful grounds for our horse activities! It's great to see several of you using the field, grass and sand rings for training or practice. There are a number of jumps set up in the main field as well as the grass ring. The dressage ring has been set up around the sand arena and the footing is great. The grass is holding up really well despite the heat and is actually quite nice footing. We have a new gate post to the grass ring thanks to Member Sean Colquhoun who single handedly extricated the broken post and heaved out the cement footing. He also heroically braved a recent thunderstorm to manhandle that big 6x6 and get the gate closer to working order. Huge thanks to Sean!!

## Summer brings out the best at the BP Picnic

The annual Bridle Path picnic was, again, a great event. Held at the Tansey residence in New Vernon, there were many smiles, laughs, tales (both big and small) and some new friendships made. The food and company were second to none. Here are a few sights that could be seen among the party-goers.



Left to right: Mare Olsen & Lynn Kurdzialek enjoying a chat grill side; Dorothy McCann & Elise Tansey all smiles; Best Friends - Elise Tansey & her friend Clare; Clare Williams' father Douglas from England. A handsome chap! He told us all how much Harding remind him of the English Countryside; Beth Fischer and her friend, Larry Miller, looking Dapper at the picnic enjoying themselves; Lin Salerno, Frank and others enjoying the day

And just in case you thought this was a run-of-the-mill picnic.....



Cowboys DO exist in Harding! - Meet Michael Nolan



And what picnic would be complete without a bit of nostalgia??? Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Stanley Steamer from 1911. Mr. Fitzhugh provided thrilling rides to all in his Stanley Steamer throughout the Harding neighborhood. Frank and his daughter Angie are the passengers, Lin Salerno 's friends

## 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:

**September 14, September 28, October 12 & October 26** - Wednesday morning group lessons with Logansbrook's Nancy Jones for flat work with ground poles at the Show Grounds (at Logansbrook if raining) - contact Brita Tansey at 973-271-7186 if you would like to attend one or some or all

**October 2 - Sunday** - Spring Valley Hounds Hunter Pace. Starting out at the Harding Township Show Grounds, this is always a great ride and super day to see the trails and enjoy friends and horses.

**October 15 - Saturday** - Trail Maintenance. Meet at 9am at the Harding Township Show Grounds. Come with tools or just you own elbow grease. It's always great fun and keeps our trails in tip top shape.

**October 29 - Saturday** - THE FALL FUN SHOW - this is an event not to be missed! Starting at 10am at the Harding Township Showgrounds, we are looking forward to an excellent turn out with participants from Crewe Hill, and the Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club, as well as local Horse Owners to name a few. Since we are close to Halloween, the Fun Show will include a mounted Costume Class – So please plan on joining us for a fun-filled, exciting event. (Rain date is November 5)

**December 9 6:30 - 9:30**— Holiday Party -at Hope Hazen's house. Another event not to be missed. Start the December holidays off right with lots of good food, friends and tales of horses - what better way to spend an evening?? More details to follow

## Ask the Vet - by Brian F Colquhoun, DVM

**Question:** What is the effect of Zika virus on horses and what can riders/owners do to prevent infection?

**Answer:** Recently, Zika virus has gotten a lot of attention due to the Olympics being held in a country where exposure is possible. Humans in Brazil suffered from rash, fever, inflamed eyes, joint pain and birth defects in 2015 that many attributed to the Zika virus. Originally an African and Asian virus, it has spread throughout South America, Central America and the Caribbean. This virus is related to the West Nile Encephalitis virus, so it's possible effects on horses must be considered. Luckily for horses, the virus seems to be more related to those that cause dengue fever and in humans and is NOT disease causing in horses. The virus is passed by types of Aedes mosquitoes that are not found in the United States, and West Nile is passed by Culex mosquitoes.

Nonetheless, limiting exposure to mosquitoes is the best prevention. This is done by eliminating sources of standing water around barns. Clean troughs frequently, and pickup and empty items that can collect rainwater. The use of fly sheets, hoods and sprays may help as well. While the virus may make its way into the US, it is not expected to affect the horse population.



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## Saying Goodbye

Contributed by Kathleen Young

The horse world experienced a great loss on August 11<sup>th</sup> of this year. Marieliese Mihok, owner of Harmony Hill Farm in New Vernon passed away after a short illness. She was a great horsewoman, neighbor and mentor to many pony club children and adults as well. She was one of the first “locals” that I met after coming to this area years ago to attend school and work at a local boarding facility which was across the street from “Mare”, as she was affectionately known to her friends. I became friends with her children as well and we spent many years riding the trails together and playing with our horses in the brook on their property. There was always something going on. It was truly a 3-ring circus. Mare was always a cheerful supporter of Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club, which her daughters were involved in, as well as Spring Valley Hounds Hunt and our local Bridle Path association.

I will miss her avid Holiday/seasonal decorating of her farm with the many pumpkins, mums and scarecrow displayed on the old flat-topped hay wagon in the autumn, and at Christmastime, with more than 25 trees adorned with lights.

Mare was a truly generous and kind person and always had an open-door policy at her home. Anyone was welcome to come and sit at her kitchen table and discuss any topic that came to mind. There were always goodies and snacks that appeared before you, whether you wanted them or not.

So, as I reflect on the past and try to remember all the fun and pleasant times I spent with this wonderful and upbeat person, it will be sad to see the lights go dark at Harmony Hill Farm.

## Girl Scouts

On June 11th the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Troop 60184 came to the Tansey's Fox Trot Farm to learn about horses and ponies. All of the girls first learned safety practices around the ponies and barn. Then they practiced grooming, saddling, leading and riding. The photo is of Troop 60184, Brita and Chippy the pony.



## New Arrivals!

The new kid on the block is Dan Sommers' Burnt Tree (aka Burt). Dan found Burt thru Second Call. Burt, now 6, raced thru last fall, primarily at Monmouth Race Track. Dan's plan is to bring him along this year and introduce him to hounds and foxhunting next summer. Welcome to the neighborhood Burt!

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.