



TATTLE TRAILS

Newsletter of the Harding Township Green Village Bridle Path Association

2017 Officers

- President - Megan Finkle
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- Vice President - Joan Fitzhugh
973-598-5974
- Secretary - Dorothy McCann
973-309-0664
- Treasurer - Mare Olsen
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- Members-At-Large -
Jennifer Burns
Sean Calquhoun
Jessica Jones
Nancy Jones
Brita Tansey

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Its **Membership Time** again! It is important for everyone to sign up and pay their dues to keep our wide network of trails pristine! Membership renewal forms will be mailed out shortly and can also be found on the website www.bridlepath.org. Please submit your membership dues and the **SIGNED** membership form by April 15.

From the Editor

Well, it seems that Ole' Man Winter is taking a holiday from New Jersey this year. How lucky for us to have a little reprieve from the past few years. While the recent spring-like days have added a bounce to my trot work, I'm not holding out that this will last for long - we still have another 2 months to go before Spring is supposed to arrive. On the subject of bouncing weather, be sure to keep an extra eye on your horse's water intake to prevent a bout of colic. We've already had our first this year from not drinking. Luckily we caught it early and nothing that 20 liters of fluids couldn't resolve. Still, best to avoid such excitement! I'm looking forward to another year of training at the showgrounds and fitness work on our beautiful trails. Our winter hiatus was a bit longer and not exactly planned, but as is often the case with horses, we have persevered and shall overcome. There's lots to look forward to this year with Bridle Path. Be sure to watch your email for updates and notices of the many activities we have planned. As always, we rely on your support and effort to keep our trails in good riding shape and our organization moving forward.

Here's to SPRING on the horizon. Kick on and see you out and about!



Happiness is.....



Lots has happened since we last "met". In December, amid the holiday festivities, which included lots of yummy food, great conversation and friends, and a Silent Auction, we managed to squeeze some official business in and elected a new President, a new Vice President, and several Members-At-Large.

Meet the Board:

New President, **Megan Finkle:** Megan, along with her family runs Crewe Hill Stable located on Sand Spring Road in Harding Township. They have been in town for 10 years living and running their business here. Megan has 2 boys in Harding Township school, 2nd grade and Kindergarten, and is married to Peter Finkle, the New Vernon Fire Chief. Megan is excited for the upcoming year as president and plans to run many educational and fun events at the showgrounds including riding clinics

New Vice President - **Joan Fitzhugh's** family had a riding stable where she taught Western riding and led trail rides from age 13-24. She showed and barrel raced in her teens and taught art in high school. Joan then became an art therapist and then a clinical psychologist and worked on a psychiatric unit at Morristown Memorial Hospital. She had a private practice in Morristown and was away from horses until she retired. She got back into riding after seeing an article about week-long riding trips and has been on riding trips in India, Kenya, Bulgaria, Peru, France, Spain, Australia, Argentina, Canada and (whew!) Iceland! Joan brushed up on her riding skills at Lord Stirling Stables to prepare for her trips. She has owned and boarded horse in Bedminster for 10 years and has now settled in Harding where she has served as Member-at-Large for Bridle Path. Joan comes well seasoned, having served as President in three organizations, Secretary and Treasurer in others.

Dorothy McCann remains as our Secretary. She held this position 10 years ago and is excited to again be supporting the BPA. She is in her second of a two year term. Dorothy has been a homeowner in New Vernon for 16 years and enjoys supporting, maintaining and riding on our community's beautiful trail system. She feels blessed to live in a community that supports and preserves not only the "trail system," but also on-going efforts to maintain Harding Township's rural environment.

Our Treasurer - **Mare Olsen** Mare is a past President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large and has been a strong contributor to maintaining our trails and keeping our showgrounds looking their best. Mare represents Bridle Path on several town committees ensuring that our interests and voice is heard. Mare has lived in Green Village since 1990 and was an active Pony Club Mom when Spring Valley Hounds Pony Club made it's home here. Now retired from riding, Mare can often be found helping her daughter school her horse at the showgrounds and helping at her eventing competitions.

Members-At-Large are: **Jennifer Burns, Sean Calquhoun, Jessica Jones, Nancy Jones, and Brita Tansey.**

Trail News

Our trails are the backbone of our organization. We rely solely on our members to maintain them. We'd love to have you out to help on our next scheduled trail maintenance days. It's a great day to spend outside with friends. If you see an area that needs attention, don't wait for the next clean-up day - please call Kathleen Young at 973-377-0884 or Brita Tansey at 973-271-7186 to let them know. **Please remember that our trails are not open to bikes, ATVs or any other motorized vehicles and are mostly on private land. The trails are for equestrian activities only.**

New Business Around the Grounds

We're planning on adding some new footing to the dressage ring this spring as soon as the ground dries out. The Town has generously offered to help us! We're also going to aerate the grass field and grass ring this summer. This should help keep our grass growing green and soften up the footing a bit so it doesn't get so slick in the hot, dry summer months and allow the grass roots to flex their muscles a bit.

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. Most things are in the infant stages, and more information and details will follow as they are finalized.

We already had our first event of the year - a Barn Fire Safety Seminar on February 11 (see below for a recap). Our next general Membership Meeting is on April 4 at Megan Finkle's house on Sand Spring Road. All are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute your ideas. We're also planning on a Games on Horseback Day at the showgrounds this spring. Keep your eyes peeled on your email for details for this fun, relaxed event.

Historic Trail Map presented to Kemmerer Library

Brita Tansey, past president of Harding Township/Green Village Bridle Path Association, and Megan Finkle, incoming president, presented to the Kemmerer Library a framed map of the Bridle Path Network as it existed throughout Harding Township in 1964; John G. Gaston II drew the map. Today's bridle path network is not nearly as extensive but many of these trails are still in regular use. This nostalgic drawing reminds us of our rich heritage of horse friendly Harding.

(Left to right- Lotte Newlin, Brita Tansey, Megan Finkle)



HT/GV BPA Barn Fire Safety Presentation

On February 11th, under the sponsorship of our BPA, , Margie Margentino, Manager of Lord Stirling Stables gave an informative presentation on safe practices and preparations in the prevention of barn fires as well as what to do in case of fire.

She mentioned that all wires in and around barns (with livestock as well as chewing rodents) need to be encased in conduit. All flammables should be kept in a separate building. No more than two or three days worth of hay or bedding should be stored in the barn. Cobwebs and dust are extremely flammable and need to be cleaned out. Lights in a barn need to have protective covers and/or cages.

A horse stall with bedding and hay will be fully engulfed in flames within five minutes. A horse that escapes a fire, may appear to be okay. But in a day or two, the lungs begin to fill with fluid. Since heat and smoke rise and horses carry their heads high, smoke will have seared its lungs before fire burns the horse.

Focus on preserving human life first. Do not attempt to go in a stall with a panicked horse. Horse behavior in a fire is not like a movie scene with all the horses storming out of the barn. Horses go to their "safe" spot. If that's their stall, they will return to their stall even if it's on fire. Some advise blindfolding a panicked horse in a fire situation. But for some horses, that makes it worse. Treat each horse as an individual.

Keep halters and lead ropes by the stalls in case it's possible to get the horses out. Don't just turn them loose. Keep all alleys between stalls open and free of objects that firemen might trip over. They won't be able to see if it's smoke-filled.

Insurance: if you are boarding your horse, you need to have insurance on your horse. If you store expensive tack in the barn, you will need "renter's insurance." As a boarder, you are considered a "renter." The homeowner's insurance will not cover either your horse or your equipment. If you board other people's horses, you need to inform them of this.

Place a card near your barn phone or near the door that has the Fire Department number, your address (in case the person who calls is a guest), ambulance squad, vet, etc.

Keep fire extinguishers in conspicuous places and charged annually. Know how to use them. Practice with one just before having it recharged.

If you use a box fan on your horse's stall in the summer, be sure to buy one from a place like Tractor Supply, not Walmart or Home Depot. Those stores sell fans made for home use. The motors are not sealed and present a fire hazard in a barn with hay dust. Be sure that the fan you buy is an "agricultural fan" which is designed for safe barn use.

Be sure that your property is well-marked with a sign or street number so that the fire truck can find it. Keep the driveway open and unobstructed so the truck can get in. Do not park a horse trailer next to the barn where it will either burn or obstruct the fire truck.

Keep manure piles at least 20' from the barn. With hay and bedding mixed in and the heat generated from the manure, they can spontaneously combust.

If you have a barn in which there may be several people at one time, have a fire drill and fire plan. Arrange a gathering spot and appoint one person in charge. You need to know where everyone is. Send one to call for help. If the fire is at the far end of the barn, some may be designated to halter and lead the horses out.

Around the World - Peruvian Paso Ride

By Joan Fitzhugh

In September, 2016, five women friends and I had an amazing adventure in Peru. We rode Peruvian Pasos for five days in the Colca River Valley and Canyon area. The Pasos are similar in size and temperament to quarter horses but have a very comfortable, flowing gait that starts as a speed walk and can increase to faster than the canter or lope of other horses. These horses are very sturdy and have great stamina.

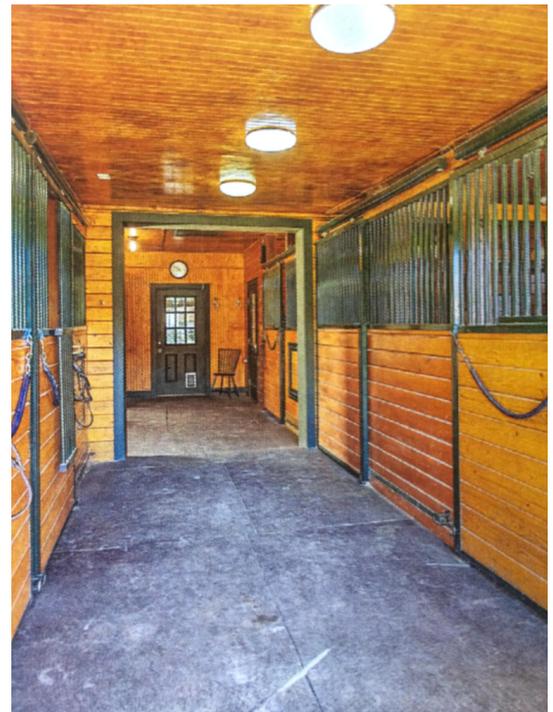
I had the pleasure of riding a stallion. I was a little intimidated at first but soon relaxed as he was very willing as well as responsive and obedient. We rode at altitudes between 11,000' to 15,000' and the horses were rarely out of breath. Of course they were raised there and were adapted but still... Each 5-7 hour day in the saddle took us past ancient pre-Inca terraces that are still being planted today. We visited ruins of very old villages and climbed to the top of one mountain at the entrance to the Colca Canyon to see the ruins of a fort that guarded the routes below.

The switch-back trail was so steep that we had to turn the horses loose and the top and let them go down on their own while we walked down. We learned, after arriving, that the area had suffered a major earthquake just three weeks before. One of our guides would often ride ahead to see if the trail we were to take was open and safe. Two weeks after we got home, there were two volcano eruptions in the area. We had managed to be there in a window of safety! Even though we were in a remote area, our accommodations were charming and comfortable and the food was fresh and delicious. After the five days of riding, we went on to visit Cusco and then Machu Picchu where we did some hiking. That was followed by two days in Lima viewing the Spanish colonial architecture and seeing pre-Columbian art and, again, eating very well!



FOR SALE

Fully-equipped Harding Township equestrian property for sale. 24 Miller Rd, New Vernon. Six acre property with a large, level yard. Four bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, formal living and dining rooms and a family room with custom built in cabinets. Completely upgraded barn with four stalls, a wash stall that can become a fifth stall. Heated/air-conditioned tack room, rubber mats throughout. Four fields, run-in sheds, ring and trail access. Close to everything including the NYC train. Great school and low taxes. Contact Whitney Saunders at Turpin Realtors 646-385-4613



Contact Ingrid Johnston @ alliefinale1@gmail.com with any newsletter items.

