

THE FAIRFIELD BRIDLE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 515, FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

WWW.FAIRFIELDBRIDLETRAILS.ORG

FBTA.2010 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

The year certainly flies by! It seems like yesterday when Susan Barnett passed her half of the reins over to me, and suddenly the trees started to fall. We lost more trees on our trail system this year than we have during the seven years that I have been riding our trails. Susan had a little giggle for herself, but sadly our big plans for fun riding activities had to be postponed until the trails were cleared after multiple storms this spring and summer.

We started the year off with good intentions, however, and threw our first annual FBTA Kick-Off party in March, where new and seasoned local riders and barn owners were able to congregate, catch up, and put in their two cents about what they would like to see happening with the FBTA. We did listen and are planning a broader program of events for 2011.

May marked our second year participating in the Pequot Library's Derby Day Party, and we had a good showing with a "race horse" and a number of men in their fox hunting attire. Nothing like a horse to get you in the papers! We plan to do it again next year so dust off your fox hunting or show attire.

In June we contracted to repair a section of trail in Lower Greenfield Hill for the Aspetuck Land Trust. This vital connector got too deep to pass through in the Spring and Fall and was a danger for the horses. A long section of trail was crowned for drainage and replaced with three layers of gravel footing. Thanks to Newman's Own for helping to finance part of the repairs.

Our annual Hunter Trials were held once again in October at the Fairfield Country Hunt Club, with a nice mix of juniors and adults enjoying the beautiful course laid out by the club, as well as the brunch that is open to the public. We also held a "tack tag sale" that is building up a following. Next year we will hold it at our Kick-Off party.

Small group rides were held at Huntington State Park and Trout Brook Preserve, but we really hit our stride this Thanksgiving with our first ever "Turkey Trot." We got a great turnout as we wove our way through the private trail network picking riders up as we went along.

Board member Deborah Webb generously hosted our Holiday Party once again this year. It seems to get better every year with a great mix of riders and supporters catching up on the years activities. Thank you Deborah!

Just before Christmas a big group gathered at one of our most generous landowners property and serenaded her with "Carols on Horseback." Afterwards we went in search of an audience, with mixed results, but we all had a good time and will line up some more engagements next year before we go.

We are adding some clinics and seminars to our agenda in 2011, planning a new social fundraiser, and continuing with the Kick Off Party, Derby Party, Group Rides, and Holiday Party. As the year ends we wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your support, and hope that you will join us again for another year of "happy trails!"

Sincerely, Ariane Mermod and Dorothy Porter, Co-Presidents, FBTA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ariane Mermod

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Vivian Somall
Bevo Tarika

* past presidents

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2010 HAPPENINGS



CAROLING ON HORSEBACK
December 18th, Hitting the road in search of people to sing to! Almost everyone festive in holiday colors.

A Winner



On a beautiful Columbus Day weekend, the Fairfield Bridle Trails Association today hosted its annual Hunter Trials, an event that has been held for over 30 years, at Westport's Fairfield County Hunt Club. The nonprofit organization that promotes safe horsemanship, open spaces and trail riding, raised funds to maintain the local Fairfield riding trail inner of Low Junior Hunter Under Saddle. Grace has been riding for 7 years and is a Junior riding member of the Fairfield County Hunt Club. (CLICK TO ENLARGE) *Larry Untermeyer or WestportNow.com*

FBTA HUNTER TRIALS, October 10th
Juniors and adults turned out for a fun day on the field at the Fairfield County Hunt Club. Featured in Westport Now (above).



DERBY DAY, May 1st
Member Erin Hornung looks on while Ariane gives Ben, the "race horse" a smooch. Picture featured in the Fairfield Citizen and Connecticut Post.

FBTA 2011 CALENDARS
For sale now! A year's worth of FBTA riders on our beautiful trails. A great gift for riding friends, trainers, barn managers, or stable hands. Only \$10.
Contact ariane@optonline.net.

Fairfield Bridle Trails Association



2011



TURKEY TROT, November 20th
Great turnout for a pick up ride around the trail network on lower Greenfield Hill.



ASPETUCK TRAIL REPAIR, June 12th
Dorothy Porter on Charlie and Ariane Mermod on Ben baptize the section of the Putnam trail that was improved with help from Newman's Own.

FBTA Mourns the Loss of Dan Burhans Vice-President of the FBTA

Long standing FBTA member Dan Burhans passed away Monday, May 24, 2010. Many will remember Dan's tireless and reliable work for the club tending to our insurance needs and trail maintenance. And many will recall him jumping Arrogant Prince over 4-foot fences and driving Intrepid Lady at a smart trot around Southport. Dan Always enjoyed a good horse and he leaves a space that will be hard to fill.



2010 HAPPENINGS

HOLIDAY PARTY! THANK YOU DEBORAH WEBB



Maurice Corrington, Dorothy Porter,
Deborah Webb

Bob and Bonnie Kreitler

Chester Burley and Alice Fisher



Vivian Sorvall, Ginny Gartland, Jeanette
Ciciora, Caroline Sicilian, Tunde Miklos



Anne Wokanovicz, Scott Williams, Dottie



Bruce and Susan Barnet

Faith Roberts
Lisa Schulte
Carla Sharp
Kristyn Shayon
Vivian Sorvall
Mrs. Jane Tierney
Dr. Thomas A. Travers
Meredith Vanden Handel

Juniors

Hannab Geisler
Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Murtaugh
Stephanie Thomson

CONNECTICUT TRAIL RIDING NEWS

SUPER 7 EXTENSION PLANS IN WORK TO CONNECT TO GREENWAY June 26, 2010. Connecticut Post: [Long Planned Super Highway may Yield to Greenway](#). Representatives from the five towns along the Super 7 corridor -- Danbury, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield and Wilton - are planning a different future for the 890-acres that make up the unbuilt Route 7 from Norwalk to Danbury. They want to build the Norwalk River Valley Trail, a Greenway with a 15 mile walking/biking trail. At its northern end, the Norwalk River Valley Trail could easily intersect with the Ives Trail -- the almost-complete 15-mile trail that will run from Redding to Danbury to Ridgefield, and to its south, it could cross the greenway trail planned to run along the Merritt Parkway.

MERRITT PARKWAY ALLIANCE PLANS TO INCLUDE RIDING TRAILS A meeting was held in Fairfield on June 24th between the Bike Walk Fairfield County Steering Committee (BWFC) and the CT Dept. of (ConnDOT). Plans are underway to construct multi-use bike and walking trails along the green corridor flanking the Merritt parkway. Officials from the South Western and Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency reviewed their current trail mapping data. Included of interest is the Pequonnock/Housatonic Railbed Greenway that extends from Bridgeport through Trumbull and Monroe to the Newtown line. While some of this trail will be paved in the more congested areas, many sections will remain natural surface when on DEP land or in the more rural areas. There is also the Housatonic River Trail and Norwalk River Parkway Trail. At this meeting, the equestrian community became stakeholders to support this initiative. The meeting was of utmost importance as the organization was finalizing its Mission Statement. With equestrian representation there, we were able to have equestrians use included in their statement.

FBTA JOINS THE CT HORSE COUNCIL June, 2010. The CTHC is the voice of the horse in Connecticut, and focuses on preserving parks and green spaces for trail riding. We join, support, and thank them for their efforts to expand and protect our open spaces in Fairfield County.

2010 MEMBER HONOR ROLL

Thank you for your support!

Benefactors

Newman's Own
Mrs. Jo Ann Palazzo-Alexander
Mrs. Susan N. Barnet*
Mrs. Bonnie Kreitler*
Ariane Mermod
Michael and Caroline Sicilian
Nicholas & Dorothy Porter
Ms. Deborah Webb
Alan, Valerie & Elizabeth McIntosh
Mr. Scott Williams

Trailblazers

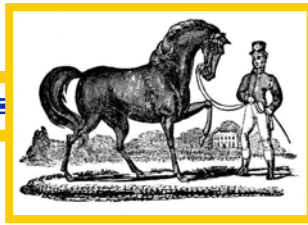
Walt & Jeanette Ciciora
Ms. Anne Wokanovicz
Ms. Marge Wyrwas

Family

Frank & Geri Boskello
Barbara Burian
Aili and Elizabeth diBonaventura*
Bob and Debby Stanton
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Tarika
Marie & Christie Turano

Individuals

Mr. Sam Banks
Ms. Isis Bartels
Mrs. Margaret Bondy
Mrs. Karen Clark
Jane Connors
Mr. Robert F. Corroon, Jr.
Karen Crape
Nancy Dillon
Mrs. Catherine Doyle
Miss Sally S. Dunham
Jim Dwyer
Ms. Leann Enos
Stefanie Fiebera
Ms. Robin Garr
Ms. Ginny Gartland
Catherine Herman
Ms. Rosanne M. Hermenzg
Melissa Hill
Mr. Sean Hogan
Erin B. Hornung
Ms. Samantha Kelly
Miss Lucia Kimber
Ms. Carol A. Lawrence
Carlye Manna
Tom Marsb*
Ms. Carol Ann Mattsson
Tunde Miklos
Ms. Peggy Monsarrat
Mr. Jon Murphy
Susan Newbury
Ms. Sunny Pierson



2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(TENTATIVE)

FEBRUARY.....	KICK OFF PARTY AND TACK TAG SALE
MARCH.....	SEMINAR: EMERGENCY HORSE CARE OR PRE-SEASON CONDITIONING
MAY.....	DERBY DAY PARTY
JUNE.....	SEMINAR: EQUINE NUTRITION
JULY	INDEPENDENCE DAY GROUP RIDE
SEPTEMBER.....	TEXAS ROUND UP BENEFIT BARN PARTY
OCTOBER.....	FBTA HUNTER TRIALS
NOVEMBER.....	TURKEY TROT
DECEMBER.....	HOLIDAY PARTY CAROLING ON HORSEBACK

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