

# THE FAIRFIELD BRIDLE TRAILS ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 515, FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

WWW.FAIRFIELDBRIDLETRAILS.ORG

## FBTA.2011 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

So many things to be thankful for last year!: our members, who provided us with the funds to insure the trails and hire mowers and tree cutters when necessary to keep the trails open, our landowners, who have trails on their property, Fairfield Open Space, Aspetuck, and Audubon who welcome horses, all of the volunteers who helped to make our events fun and profitable, and our trail task force, who hit the trails with gusto and had fun doing it!

The year started off in early March with a lecture on Pre-Season Conditioning. Thanks to Lyn Simmalink, DVM, for volunteering her expertise and her time, Tunde Miklos for organizing the event, and Vivian Sorvall for hosting it in her barn. Shortly following, Dorothy Porter hosted our second annual Kick-Off Party, which drew a great crowd and got everyone excited for the riding season.

April 17th marked our first Tack "Tax" Tag Sale. Thanks to our donors and to the many volunteers who helped: Jeanette Ciciora, Jane Connors, Bonnie Kreidler, Joanne Murphy, Caroline Sicilian, and the Fontano family. Thanks also to all the shoppers who made this our most profitable fundraiser of the year! We are looking for more merchandise so please do a little barn Spring cleaning in exchange for a tax deduction.

In May trainer Ali Thurston conducted a clinic for us. The morning was devoted to flat work and the afternoon to jumping. A lunch of sushi and sandwiches was served in the gazebo. We were so happy with the attendance and hope to do it again this Spring. Thanks to Sasco Creek Farm for allowing us to hold the event on their property, and to all those who came to ride.

The summer months were spent on trail maintenance, with a number of "Trail Task Forces" combing through Dupont Woods, Aspetuck, the Ridge, and a number of connecting trails that were blocked from a very stormy winter. Many thanks to Susan Barnet, Jeanette Ciciora, Robin Garr, Ginny Gartland, Bonnie Kreidler, Dorothy Porter, Judy Wilson, Anne Wokanovicz, and Scott Williams for their help clearing the trails.

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. Thanks to our new sponsors, who made all the difference: Division sponsors Jeanette Ciciora, New England Equine, Grand Prix Equine, and JoAnn Palazzo, and class sponsor Mid-Hudson Veterinary Practice. Also thanks to our volunteers; Deborah Webb, Caroline Sicilian, Bonnie Kreidler, Robin Garr, Susan Barnet, and Dorothy Porter.

Our Thanksgiving Ride was a huge success with a number of riders heading off from the Hunt Club to meet even more at Maple Tree Farm, where we looped back towards the club. Unfortunately we were not organized enough to book "gigs" for our Caroling on Horseback ride this year. We will have to try again next year!

The Holiday Party was held this year at Ariane Mermod's house. It was a great night! Thanks to everyone for bringing food and drinks to keep it festive. Board member Deborah Webb sold out the FBTA calendars she printed up for the year, but if you'd like one I'm sure she will print out some more. There were homemade horse cookies for guests to take home as party favors.

So as you can see we are busy keeping the spirit of horses and horsemanship alive in our community. As the new year begins we wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your support, and hope that you will join us for another year of "Happy Trails!"

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents  
*Ariane Mermod*  
*Dorothy Porter*

Vice-President  
*Bonnie Kreidler\**

Treasurer  
*Caroline Sicilian*

Trail Maintenance  
*Anne Wokanovicz\**

Calendar  
*Deborah Webb*

*Susan Barnet\**  
*Jeanette Ciciora*  
*Robert Corroon, Jr*  
*Durelle Green*  
*David McHugh Esq.*  
*JoAnn Palazzo*  
*Caroline Sicilian*  
*Vivian Sorvall*  
*Bevo Tarika*

\* past presidents

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



## TRIBUTE TO FRANCES SNYDER

On December 26th, 2011 the FBTA lost a great advocate and a wonderful lady, in every sense of the word. Fran and her husband Phil were early advocates of open space (Fran was involved with the Aspetuck Land Trust for many years) and purchased fields adjacent to their home with the intention to leave the land open. For over forty years they generously welcomed FBTA riders and walkers to enjoy their nearly thirty five acres of beautiful property.



The photo above, c. 1970, is of Fran on her horse Beau with her daughter Allison on Cloudy, riding in their back field. At that time there was no barn at on the property, so they would ride their horses over from the Hunt Club. Apart from the many new houses, the trail system was not that different than it is now. Allison remembers riding "from the Hunt Club up Hulls Farm Road, down [our] driveway past the house and up the pent way leading to Queens Grant Road. The fields behind the house added a wonderful, large loop to the ride. Brave horsemen had a gallop across the fields." Here Fran is jumping her horse Clever over an old stone wall between their fields, from when the land was used for foxhunting.



Allison is grateful to Susan Barnet on Matador and Sunny Pierson on her gray, who continued to stop at Fran's door to say hello until the end. "These two ladies and their horses brought great joy to Frances."



Susan Barnet describes Fran as "an extraordinary woman who I had the privilege of calling my friend. She was truly one of a kind - a renaissance woman. Anything Fran did was done with enthusiasm and grace, with a lot of competition to spice things up. She was a wonderful sailor and skier and patient with those of us who had difficulty keeping up with her. She was also passionate about opera, theater, and art. We became friends through our mutual love of riding. We went on many, many rides on our beloved FBTA trails, to the beach, Hunter Paces, and even a few lessons. Nothing was too difficult or too much trouble and always a lot of fun. She was very generous with her land and much of our lower trail system passes through her property. When we lost access to her fields through our old trails, she opened an access through the front of her land. She will be missed by all and especially me."

Friend Barbara Burian, reminisces: "It was about 1985...Bob and I were sailing with friends. Phil was commodore then of the Pequot Yacht Club. I remember all the boats rafting together... How gay we were! So much laughter, so much fun! Years passed, and I reconnected with Fran thru Susan Barnet. We rode the local trails and hunter paced together. The photo [left] is of Susan, Fran and me taken at the Rockefeller Hunter Pace in 2002. A good story: in 1998 I lent Fran my big old foxhunter, Hobbs, to ride in the Bedford Pace. Fran must have been in her seventies at that point, and she came home with a second! Fran was thrilled, I was thrilled!" Allison confirms "my mother was a lady of unimaginable energy and spunk." From Barbara's perspective "Fran was the last of a generation of 'ladies.' They were brought up correctly and went to the right schools, but the quality that endured was their graciousness. Whether on horseback, or serving lunch with the other commodore's wives at the Commissioning of the Fleet, or tending her garden, Fran was always elegant. I remember her with love, and with gratitude that I could call her my friend."

*We will miss you—the FBTA*

## 2011 HONOR ROLL

Thank you for your support!

### Benefactors

Newman's Own  
Mrs. Jo Ann Palazzo (Hunter Trials)  
Mrs. Susan N. Barnet  
Walt & Jeanette Ciciora (Hunter Trials)  
Mrs. Bonnie Kreidler  
Ariane Mermod  
Michael and Caroline Sicilian  
Nicholas & Dorothy Porter  
Ms. Deborah Webb

### Sponsors

Mr. & Mrs. Charlotte and Kevin Rogan  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Salko  
Ms. Anne Wokanovicz

### Trailblazers

Mr. Robert F. Corroon, Jr.  
Miss Sally S. Dunham  
Ms. Robin Garr  
New England Equine (Hunter Trials)  
Alix Pose-Sussman  
Mr. & Mrs Roger Tarika  
Ms. Marge Wyrwas

### Family

Mark Baus  
Barbara Burian  
Grand Prix Equine (Hunter Trials)  
Caroline Feroletto & Family  
Mrs. Dottie Lay  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Lovegrove  
Helen Proctor  
Bob and Debby Stanton  
Mrs. Jane Tierney  
Judy Wilson

### Individuals

Spot On Pictures  
Andrea Arnold  
Sam Banks  
Elke Bargas  
Ms. Isis Bartels  
Mrs. Karen Clark  
Jane Connors  
Karen Crape  
Marylou D'Addario  
Jim Dwyer  
Ms. Leann Enos  
Ms. Alice A. Fisher  
Ms. Ginny Gartland  
Mr. David Goodwin  
Mr. William Horelick  
Erin B. Hornung  
Darryl Ann Ifkovic  
Samantha Kelly  
Miss Lucia Kimber  
Ms. Carol A. Lawrence  
Alyssa MacLeod  
Tom Marsh  
Ms. Carol Ann Mattsson  
Carmen Mead  
Tunde Miklos  
Ms. Peggy Monsarrat  
Joanne Murphy  
Susan Newbury  
Ms. Sunny Pierson  
Lisa Schulte  
Vivian Sorvall  
Ms. Allison Thurston  
Dr. Thomas A. Travers  
Meredith Van Handel

### Juniors

Katie Ashman  
Ellie Ashman  
Carly Hohorst  
Emma Koether  
Mid-Hudson Vet (Hunter Trials)  
Elizabeth McIntosh  
Berkeley Bayne Soper  
Lilly Walker



# 2011 HAPPENINGS



**HUNTER TRIALS COMMITTEE LUNCHEON** Many thanks to all who manned the Hunter Trials!

**FBTA 2012 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 \$15.  
Contact [debwwebb@gmail.com](mailto:debwwebb@gmail.com)



**2nd Annual TURKEY TROT,** From the Hunt Club to Maple Tree Farm and back again, great showing and a great day!



**SPRING CLINIC** Ali Thurston took us through our paces at an all day clinic



**Fairfield Bridle Trails Association**

2012



**GROUP RIDES!** Great turnout for early Spring Rides on the beach and at Brett Woods



**FBTA HUNTER TRIALS,** Juniors and adults turned out for a fun day on the field at the Fairfield County Hunt Club



**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Great fun, fabulous turn out, and even the president from 1963 came! (Dick McNamara, at left)

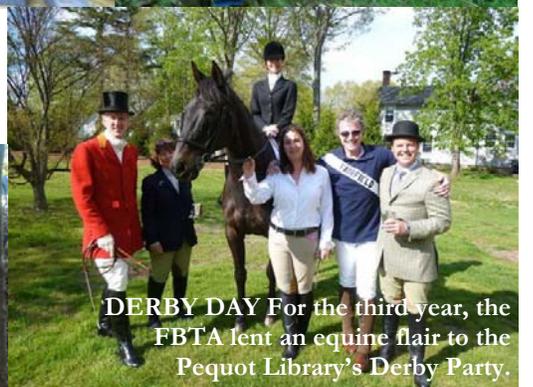


**SPRING LECTURE** Lyn Simmalink, DVM shows us the ropes of Spring Conditioning

**TRAIL TASK FORCE**  
Volunteer members take on the upper and lower trail network - you go girls!



Gerry cuts up a downed tree



**DERBY DAY** For the third year, the FBTA lent an equine flair to the Pequot Library's Derby Party.



## 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(PLEASE CONFIRM DATES ON OUR WEBSITE [WWW.FAIRFIELDBRIDLETRAILS.ORG](http://WWW.FAIRFIELDBRIDLETRAILS.ORG))

### FEBRUARY

28 MASSAGE THERAPY LECTURE

### MARCH

20 SPRING EQUINOX KICK OFF PARTY  
BEACH RIDE AND TAILGATE TBD

### APRIL

29 TACK "TAX" TAG SALE  
APRIL FOOLS RIDE AND TAILGATE TBD

### MAY

12 SPRING DRESSAGE CLINIC  
TRAIL TASK FORCE AND TAILGATE TBD

### JUNE

10 LAUREL BLOSSOM RIDE—HUNTINGTON

### JULY

8 INDEPENDENCE DAY RIDE—PAYNE  
TRAIL TASK FORCE AND POOL PARTY TBD

### SEPTEMBER

17 WINTER CARE LECTURE

### OCTOBER

14 FBTA HUNTER TRIALS—TENTATIVE  
TRAIL TASK FORCE AND BBQ TBD

### NOVEMBER

18 TURKEY TROT

### DECEMBER

7 HOLIDAY PARTY  
16 CAROLING ON HORSEBACK

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