



Resource for Pennsylvania Horse Trails

Features in this Issue:

Resource for Pennsylvania Horse Trails	1
Bucks Co. Horse Park	2
Featured Trail-Yellow Trail, Part of the Bucks Co. Horse Park	3

Upcoming PRPS Trail Training:

- * **August 5, 2005**
Trail Building and Maintenance Techniques-Using Lightly on the Land Principles
Slippery Rock, PA
- * **August 8, 2005**
Trail Building and Maintenance Techniques-Using Lightly on the Land Principles
Drums, PA
- * **Sept. 26-28, 2005**
PRPS Mini-Conference, 2 Trail Workshops included
Grantville, PA

To register or for more information on these workshops, please phone the PRPS Office at: 814-234-4272

By Carolyn B. Cook
Author of "Ride Pennsylvania Horse Trails" guidebooks
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You can also write: PAtrailrider@AOL.com, or contact
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As many of you know who read this newsletter, Pennsylvania is rich in trails and has millions of acres of undeveloped land consisting of diverse scenic terrain, dense forests, virgin woodlands, open grassy fields, gentle rolling hills, challenging and dramatically beautiful mountains, and picturesque valleys, many of which are open to the public to explore on foot, bike, horse, and other means. However, lots of folks are not aware of this and do not know the multitude of recreational resources that Pennsylvania has to offer. This is particularly so for many or perhaps most equine enthusiasts as they do not know the great deal of land that is available to enjoy on horseback. As equestrians are different from other user groups (they are more limited in their choices as the trails have to be suited to and compatible with horse use), it is often incorrectly

concluded that not much is or could be available. Even land management may not be familiar with the unique needs of horses, horse trails, and horse camping, and may not know exactly what information or direction to provide to equestrian visitors. Well, I have good news to share with both trail enthusiasts and land management! There is now a helpful resource available which details 90+ Pennsylvania horse and multiple-use trails open to the public: "Ride Pennsylvania Horse Trails" guidebooks.

Equestrians and other multiple-users can enjoy trails on National Forest, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, State Forest, State Park, County Park, Rail-Trail (various ownership) lands, and others. Being an avid trail rider, I have spent numerous years researching and documenting what is available to equestrians along with other user groups in Pennsylvania, and communicating that information so that the trails are utilized, enjoyed, shared, and not lost due to lack of use or mistaken perceived lack of interest. The results of this research are summarized in two "Ride Pennsylvania Horse Trails" guidebooks; Part I is on the eastern half of PA (covers central to eastern PA) and Part II is on the western half of PA (covers central to western PA). Written from an equestrian perspective, each book provides contact and permit information, directions,

trail location, length, description, level of difficulty, map availability, camping information, even local emergency vets, farriers, and area stables- something that can be quite useful for equestrians traveling far from home.

The goal of the books is to have the information for these trails in one handy place and inspire readers to visit, share, and preserve these trails. Feedback from various land management has indicated that they are already accomplishing this objective. Recently one ranger told me that their equestrian campground has received four times the use it once did since the books came out. (I knew the demand was already there; I just needed to get the word out.) But there is another important goal of the books: to inform readers of alternate destinations so that different locales receive use. I visited some beautiful locales that equestrians did not yet know about and yet they were of superior surface and scenic terrain. I want to make sure that all is known about these less-known locales as well so that they receive their deserved recognition and use, and so that equestrians can disperse and not wear out the same "old" favorites. Plus, to help, I ask that trail users volunteer their time, attend Trail Stewardship courses, and continue to provide feedback

Special Thanks

Con't pg. 2

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Bucks County Horse Park-Part of the Bucks Co. Park & Recreation System

by Lynn S.Orlando, President Bucks Co. Horse Park

Experience a beautiful trail system and our hottest commodity....Mother Nature as you make your way through beautiful Bucks County Pennsylvania whether you travel by car, bike, boat, skis or on foot



you will not be able to help but notice the natural beauty that is a part of the Bucks County Horse Park, part of the Bucks County Park and Recreation System. Enjoy the breathtaking vistas, magnificent sunset, and simple beauty of rolling green fields, on rich vital

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.

This newsletter is published 4 times a year as a service to its members and other interested persons. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors. The editors encourage submissions reflecting on educational information for Trails. You are encouraged to submit your article for review on disc or by e-mail to:

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farmlands framed by nearby mountains and your eyes will never stop looking. See the trails at any time of year and you will experience the dark rich greens of summer, the bright, flaming fall foliage, the newly budding trees and plants of spring, and the silvery shimmer of freshly fallen winter snow.

You will be sure to find more than one favorite trail and more than one way to ride some trails to experience the scenic beauty of several favorite spots for young and old to ride in a safe quiet environment.

Land, natural areas, and water based recreational trails show a positive impact of recreational greenways and nature along connecting trail systems to show a picture of a wonderful landscape that is part of the Bucks County Horse Park.

Bucks County residents are fortunate to have access to a place to ride that is spacious, safe, and well maintained. When you use the Bucks County Trail System you assume a responsibility to ensure that you, your horse and your companions leave no trace. Trails get damaged. Debris from riders often cause problems with the environment. Inevitably, conflicts erupt between horse

owners, landowners, and other uses. Trail maintenance and construction, trail etiquette, and participation in better trails, training and better horsemanship has been important to the Bucks County Horse Park.



Picture: Preserving Land for Horse Lovers: Logo Says It All

The Bucks County Horse Park was purchased by The Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department in January 2004. Happy Trails to You is now being sung to horse owners and open space advocates by the Bucks County Commissioners, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the membership of the Bucks

Resource for Pennsylvania Horse Trails - Con't from pg.1

and be helpful to land management. Just recently my husband and I visited one of our favorite locales and we saw it was time for rerouting some sections due to poor footing. So we checked with the ranger if we could make some suggestions and also volunteer to help in rerouting to both improve the trail and keep the trail safe. One of the numerous reasons we enjoy this destination so much is that the rangers are very friendly, receptive, and professional (they also make us feel so welcome that we can't help but want to do all that we can do to make it better for everyone including the land management). This leads me to say there is a mutual effect; it works both ways. Land management who makes visitors feel welcome and encourages their input motivates users to be part of the solution. User groups who volunteer and show an interest and concern help land management do their job. It certainly benefits the user groups to be active as they can positively influence the outcome. We can all help each other and work as a team; it becomes a circle of cooperation. I say to all trail users, it really doesn't take much to make a positive difference, just attend a few meetings, or volunteer a weekend or two. We are very fortunate to have so much available to us in Pennsylvania including some exceptional land management, and if we make ourselves part of the solution vs. part of the problem, we should have these beautiful destinations to enjoy for many, many years to come.



County Horse Park!
In a highly applauded move the County of Bucks became the owner of the 125 acre Bucks County Horse Park located just north of Revere on Route 611 in Nockamixon Township. Containing 24 miles of trails within its boundaries and several more through deed dedicated restrictions with neighboring properties, this new addition to the Bucks County Park System assists in the preservation of a recreational activity many residents may have thought long extinct, or at least threatened.

In 2004 membership was over 700 and 65% of the membership was from the Bucks County Area. Many of the events brought exhibitors from several surrounding states and New Jersey residents find it especially close in proximity.

Finding land on which to ride has been proving more difficult as farmland keeps disappearing at an accelerated rate. It was therefore fortunate that the County was able to combine two of its prominent efforts with this acquisition, made possible by the cooperation of the landowner and the Bucks County Horse Park founder Kurt Schneider. Tapping \$.9 million from its \$59 million open space funds the Commissioners have simultaneously thwarted the potential construction of 30-

Con't pg.3

Bucks County Horse Park - Con't from pg. 2

60 houses that the acreage could have supported while at the same time assuring more recreational opportunities for Bucks County residents and visitors.

Established by Schneider in 1986 and incorporated in 1991 the BCHP is a private non-profit membership organization dedicated equestrian offers disciplines dressage, training, western, pleasure. The combined all dressage purpose cross-coun-polo fields, and a pavil-house facilities. However, the web site www.buckscountyhorsepark.org contains membership information, member news, a classified department, a listing of activities and events, and a yearly calendar of events. The riding facilities are available only to members through a variety of membership categories, including a single day pass program and the public is always welcome to enjoy the events and Bucks County Residents get special discounts.



to offering equestrian in hunter, combined eventing, driving, and trail riding. plex weather sand rings, two all show rings, try courses, two a jumping field, ion and club-Boarding are not avail-

Under the new partnership with the Bucks County Parks Department representatives of both organizations will be meeting together to plan for future public access to trails, vistas, and serenity that make this preserved land one of Bucks County's true natural treasures.

The trail system has a great deal of natural space areas with trails zigzagging over a variety of terrain, past streams, open fields, and wooded stretches. Equestrians of diverse backgrounds enjoy the park year round and there are a variety of well groomed trails for eventing which include a variety of jumps to include water, brush, logs, split rail fences and ditches. There are also trails for carriage drivers to negotiate and the scenery is picturesque and at any season the park is a peaceful safe space to ride. This year events will include hunter paces and chases, a judged trail ride, a poker drive, and a Pink Ribbon Ride for Cancer.

The park sits on 124 plus acres and the total trail length is 25 miles. There is the Blue Trail, which is 12 miles, that is used for competitive trail rides; the Red Trail which has 7 miles, suitable for carriage driving; and the Yellow Trail which is the all weather trail with 8 miles of room. The Trail system has been assisted by the Bucks County Horse Park membership with the Pennsylvania Equine Council. Members utilize the trails for recreational use daily.

The Bucks County Horse Park developed a Trail Stewardship Plan which is part of the statewide group that was established

in 2002 in order to educate trail users, volunteers, and agencies, and representatives on each of the following:

Phase One: To provide education and assistance, and to coordinate efforts on trail design, engineering, construction, and maintenance.

Phase Two: Trail stewardship program offering training in the "best accepted practices" for trail design, engineering, construction, and maintenance. This includes the proper packing of materials and tools while performing the above.

Phase Three: Outreach Program. This is targeted toward equine groups. The Pennsylvania Equine Council was founded in 1988 and is the only statewide equine organization addressing issues that affect every equine owner regardless of what breed of discipline with which they are associated. The Council's purposes are to promote and protect the common interest of all people involved with the equines and to broaden the scope of understanding and knowledge in all areas of equine ownership and management through education.

Thanks to Bud and Gwen Wills for their support through the training of the Trail Stewardship Training. The Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2004 brought Bud and Gwen to the Bucks County Horse Park to consult on our trails. This was followed up by the Trail Stewardship Training Program, a 3 Day Workshop at The Pennsylvania State University on June 7, 8, 9, 2004 with Dr. Gene Woods from Clemson University, which myself, as President, and Ed Ziegler, as Maintenance Personnel attended. The Trail Stewardship Plan, Trail Committee, Volunteer efforts and Trail coordination for maintenance and upkeep thus developed. The Bucks County Support for trail clearing and maintenance and up keep was developed with a team of workers paid by a FEMA grant that was secured in the winter 2005.

There are many community benefits for Buck Co. residents. There is an abundance of unique opportunities for equestrians, families, community members and the township to experience the park system. You will have paths, trails, events, and places to walk you or your dog while always enjoying the natural greenways:

*Year Round Recreational Opportunities
Wildlife habitat, greenway, space*

*Community Programs: Nockamixon Day
Bucks County 4 H Shows, Clinics, Events
Pony Club: Polocrosse/Youth Events*

Positive Economic Impacts: Quality of Life in Bucks County, helps attract business to Nockamixon Township and surrounding areas

Health and Wellness Benefits: Recreational benefits, trails, walking, stretching, yoga

Renewed Sense of Community: Neighbors leave behind the television, meet for a walk, volunteer, spectate

Opportunities for the Disabled: Accessibility to trails and events.



Happy trails to you and visit soon so that you also can enjoy this treasure in Bucks County.

Lynn Orlando and Power Play

REGISTER NOW...

*Trail Building and Maintenance Techniques-Using Lightly on the Land Principles
(The registration form was previously mailed. If you did not receive it, phone PRPS at 814-234-4272*

SAVE THE DATE...

*PRPS Mini-Conference
Sept. 26-28, 2005*

2 Trail Workshops included!

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.PRPS.ORG

Yellow Trail-Part of the Bucks Co. Horse Park

- * 8 Miles
- * Year long, all purpose trail
- * Leave No Trace-outdoor ethics
- * Woods, streams, pond, natural areas
- * All jumps made out of natural materials
- * Awarded DCNR Grant for trail maintenance
- * Won as favorite trail of the Bucks Co. Horse Park Membership



Bucks County Horse Park
Box 386, 8934 Easton Road
Revere, PA 18953
Phone: 610-847-8597
Fax: 610-847-5507



The park is located on Route 611 between Revere and Ferndale, PA., approximately 15 miles north of Doylestown and 18 miles south of Easton. From the south, it is on the left 1/2 mile north of Revere. From the north, it is on the right just less than a mile south of Ferndale.