



NEWSLETTER

The Granite State Carriage Association

<http://www.GraniteStateCarriage.org>

September 2013

BRANCH HILL DRIVE SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

If you enjoy off-road trail driving in a picturesque setting typical of old New England landscape and are not deterred by an occasional root or wildlife encounter on the trail, this drive is for you. We think even the most skeptical of the forest will find this trail system both pleasurable and leisurely.

Forever conserved with a conservation easement, Branch Hill Farm (www.branchhillfarm.org & www.mmrg.org) boasts some of the most beautiful driving and riding trails in New Hampshire. Located on 400 of Branch Hill Farm's 3,000 acres of river-bottom land, the tree farm's natural surroundings and numerous stonewalls offer an imaginative historic picture of the past frozen in time. Varying gravel, grass, or pine needle carpeted trails skirt the edges of large hayfields, wind through densely populated tall pine trees, and afford multiple views from overlooks perched above the wild cranberry bogs that spill into a slow moving river, teeming with waterfowl.

Pack a lunch and bring water for your horse and a negative coggins & proof of vaccines. All the details are in the enclosed flyer. For more information contact: Pat Pearson (207) 477-8456.

GREENFIELD, NH FOURTH ANNUAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND BASH 2013

In spite of the unfavorable weather predicted for the holiday weekend, and after a brief but heavy downpour early on Saturday morning, there was a good turnout for this event. Ten trailers and a tent set up camp for the weekend and several trucks and trailers came in just for the day. Among those camping were new members Mary Murphy & Shawn Beck from Natick, MA. Other new members coming for a day were Cindy Schlener of Hubbardston, MA and Phyllis Strickholm of Lyndeborough, NH. Hearty welcome! Also camping were long-time members Cresca Albright, Laurie Goodwin, Ginger Chiapetta, Dave and Liz

Herrick, Becky Greenan, and Caroline Townsend with granddaughter, Megan Jette, as well as Linda Bennett, Rick & Joan Vanderploeg and Sonja & Bob Cahill. It was great seeing Cresca driving again after a long recuperation from a bad hand injury. Boo Martin brought plenty of help and her awesome four-in-hand



black Welsh Cob geldings made a couple of passes around the farm before heading out on the roads.



Stephanie and Kris Kokal were on hand all weekend and graciously offered to ride out at 2:00 p.m. each day with any adventurous riders interested in exploring some of the unmarked trails.

Saturday evening, a bonfire was started in the pit near the swimming pond and those who were camping for the weekend sat around cooking s'mores and chatting. Although thunder storms had been predicted for Saturday night and rain did fall, only distant rumbles of thunder were heard during the night.

Sunday arose bright, sunny, warm and

Becky Greenan, Carolyn Townsend & Megan Jette

with their adorable minis to drive some loops around the farm. Ginger Chiappetta, Cathy McLeod, Linda Bennett, and Linda & Bill Wormell brought their horses to ride and Syliva Miskoe with her daughter Hillary drove their Haflinger. Sonja gave our hosts, Stephanie & Kris Kokal, a ride with her speedy Arabian mare, Breeze. Several members and their guests came without their horses just for the yummy barbeque at 3:30 p.m.

We were sorry to learn that Jim & Nancy Burnham are retiring from their horse activities and have one of their Fjord's up for lease/sale as well as tack and vehicles. Mary Murphy has a harness for sale and Sonja Cahill a road cart. So, here's an opportunity for someone to get a complete setup – the horse, the harness, and the vehicle! Earlier in the day, Cathy McLeod rode her young Paint mare, which was trained by the Kokals, Sonja Cahill rode her Mustang who was also trained at the farm, along with Linda Bennett. Linda's steady mount was the calm influence needed for Cathy's mare to cross its first big puddle. It was a lesson safely learned by the young mare. We had two junior riders join us this year: Meagan Jette, and little Madeline Finke riding her pony next to her mom, Carrie. Rick & Connie Moses pulled in with their brand-new silver Toyota Tundra truck. Nice looking rig & trailer!

humid. Dot Rourke and her friend Bev Salo, our 'fair-weather' drivers and their guests showed up



Madeline Fink, mom Carrie and friend.

Monday morning started out rainy and pretty much continued that way with only brief dry periods in between the frequent showers. As a result, most of those who were camping pulled up stakes and headed for home early in the morning. Despite the rain, our newest Jr. member, Megan Jette, managed to get in a lesson on her pretty Palomino QH with Kris Kokal. By 1:00 p.m. the trail markers had been pulled up, the manure in the pens had been scattered, and the last of the GSCA members departed for home.



Mary Murphy & Shawn



Sonja Cahill & Stephanie Kokal

There was good attendance and a busy mix of activities on Sat. & Sun. We appreciate and thank our hosts Stephanie & Kris Kokal for inviting GSCA again for another great Labor Day weekend outing as well as Sonja & Bob Cahill for organizing camping and trails; Cresca Albright & Laurie Goodwin for planning the BBQ and to our dedicated volunteers Sue & John Booth and Cathy McLeod.

Sonja Cahill with Cathy McLeod

TWO IMPORTANT ACTIONS AFFECTING TRAIL RIDING AND DRIVING IN NH FOLLOW

MANCHESTER WATER WORKS TO SELL FOREST LAND SURROUNDING LAKE MASSABESIC

The Water Works says that it must sell the land to avoid property tax bills that amount to \$670,000 a year to the towns of Auburn, Hooksett, Chester & Candia. NH Courts have ruled against efforts by the Water Works to value the land as conservation land for tax purposes. Water Works Director David Paris says they are very reluctant to go forward with the sale but they have no choice.

Four organizations have put in bids to acquire 7,200 acres of forest land that surround the lake. These include The Society for The Protection of NH Forests, two other land trusts and a Port Angeles, WA company that specializes in timberland investment and management. All four would have to agree to numerous deed restrictions including protection to the watershed and access to the land by Water Works. Decisions such as continuing leases and public access will be out of Water Works hands.

The complete explanatory article which appeared in The Union Leader is attached for your information.

IMPORTANT POSSIBLE NH PARK RULE CHANGES AFFECTING HORSE USE

From: Debbie Briscoe, NHHC Trail Liason

Hi All

I am looking for interested persons to help volunteer to review the rules, suggest changes and form a plan on how to get this to as many equestrian trail users as possible. The 1st of Oct. is when hearings start.

HIGH IMPORTANCE!

If you care about NH's Equine industry please be involved!!

Rules Changes will impact equestrian use on trails for DRED Properties (ie, State parks, State Forest, Rail Trails, other DRED managed lands). The rules have had a major overhaul. New sections have been added.

Trail Riding is a top equine activity that supports our industry. The proposed rules will be restrictive to riders who cannot comply with trail manure clean-up. You will not be able to ride on trails with a narrow tread that is less than 8ft wide. (Other trail systems recommend 6ft or more width of trail clearance for passing rather than a specific tread width.) You will need permission to get narrower trails posted for equestrian use.

Preliminary concerns: First Look.....letting you know now to give you time to read the attached.

7301.09 Horses and other work animals

[(d)][2] Horseback riding shall be permitted on all road-width, trails unless closed or restricted by posting, and shall be permitted on other trails if posted open for such use. For purposes of this section, road-width trails shall be defined as trails that have a minimum eight-foot (8') hardened trail tread.

(c) Owners shall clean up all waste eliminated by their horse(s) or other work animal from public traffic areas, including all trails, multiuse trails and walkways, play areas and lawns and fields, campgrounds, beaches, and parking lots on DRED properties.

(d) The department may prohibit horses and other work animals in areas where such animals are permitted when the department determines there is a lack of compliance to this section by animal owners, or there is concern for public health and safety or resource protection.

(di)

Public hearings as posted on NH Legislature website under administrative rules:

7. Contact person for copies and questions including requests to accommodate persons with disabilities:

Name: Leanne M. Lavoie Title: Rule I Policy Coordinator

Address: 172 Pembroke Road - PO Box 1856

Concord, NH 03302-1856

Phone #: (603) 271-3727

Fax#: (603) 271-2629

E-mail: leanne.lavoie@dred.state.nh.us

TIY ITDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 or dial 711 (in NH)

8. Deadline for submission of materials in writing or, if practicable for the agency, in the electronic format specified: October 24, 2013 at 4:00 PM

9. Public hearing scheduled for:

Date and Time: October 1, 2013 at 1 :00 PM

Place: DRED's Large Conference Room, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH

Additional public hearings scheduled for:

Date and Time: October 1, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Place: Plymouth University, Herbert H. Lamson Library - Heritage Commons Room, 17 High Street, Plymouth, NH

Date and Time: October 3, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Place: Peterborough Town Library - Large Hall, 2 Concord Street,
Peterborough, NH

Date and Time: October 8, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Place: DRED Lancaster Office, 629 Main Street, Lancaster, NH

Date and Time: October 10, 2013 at 6:00 PM

Place: Hampton Beach State Park, Seashell Oceanfront Pavilion - Banquet
Room, Hampton, NH



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

SEPTEMBER SENIOR CARRIAGE DRIVING CLASSES. The Carriage Barn.
Portsmouth, NH. Contact: SUNDAYS (603)378-0140 or carriage-barn@comcast.net

SEPT. 14 SKYLINE FARM BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE. 9:30 AM, Snowfields Farm, Pownal, ME. Contact:
www.skylinefarm.org or info@skylinefarm.org.

SEPT. 22 **GSCA BRANCH HILL DRIVE/RIDE.** **Milton Mills, NH. Contact: Pat & Nils Pearson**
SUN. (207) 252-7391

SEPT.27-29 DRAFT ANIMAL POWER FIELD DAYS Orleans County Fairgrounds, Barton, VT. Contact:
revabseybolt@att.net

OCT.3-5 WORKHORSE WORKSHOP WITH DOC HAMMILL. Perry Family Farm, Brownington, VT
Contact: revabseybolt@att.net

OCT. 5-6 ROBIN GROVES CLINIC. Forest Glen Farm, Hancock, NH. Contact: (603) 525-3155
http://www.randwhorsedrawnservices.com/html/about_us.html

OCT.10-11,14 CAA DRIVER PROFICENCY TESTING Touchstone Farm. Temple, NH. Contact: Boo Martin
(603)654-6308 or bmartin@touchstone-farm.org.

OCT.11-13 FALL FESTIVAL OF DRIVING.U Touchstone Farm, Temple, NH. Contact: Barbara
Cochrane, Secretary (603)654-6308 or info@touchstone-farm.org.

OCT. 11-13 **GSCA FALL FOLIAGE DRIVE/RIDE** **Hancock, NH Camping available. CONTACT: Karen**
DesRoches (603) 525-3632 or Cresca Albright (603) 525-3314.

OCT. 15-19 PATH INTL DRIVING WORKSHOP & CERTIFICATION. Touchstone Farm, Temple, NH.
Contact: bmartin@touchstone-farm.org

NOV. 2 **GSCA PLANNING MEETING.** **Weathervane Restaurant, Bedford, NH Contact: Connie**
Moses (603) 528-1531.

THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION, INC.
A PLEASURE DRIVING CLUB
DRIVE WITH US JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT (Riders Welcome)
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name (include all family members): _____

Address: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Facebook username or e-mail _____ New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Add \$1.00 for Maine Driving Club Associate Membership? _____ TOTAL SENT _____

Any Changes from last listing? Yes No What? _____

Annual Membership Single or Family \$20.00.

Please make checks payable to: GSCA. For more info. call: Treasurer Eric Wilking (603) 731-0513
Mail to: Eric Wilking, 162 Pickpocket, Rd., Brentwood, NH 03833

THE GRANITE STATE CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION
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137 Old Tilton Road
Canterbury, New Hampshire 03224

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
1978 - 2008
*The Granite State
Carriage Association*

