



# NEWSLETTER

The Granite State Carriage Association

<http://www.GraniteStateCarriage.org>

January 2014

## COME ONE-- COME ALL TO THE 35th-Year GSCA ANNUAL MEETING and AUCTION SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24!!!

It's that time of year again when horse and carriage lovers get together for fun, socializing, dinner, entertainment and the chance to bid on interesting and useful items! This **ANNUAL MEETING and FUNdraising Auction** is the Club's only fundraiser and is a big hit every year! Dinner (12 noon) is once again at the **Puritan Backroom**, featuring their widely popular chicken tenders, full buffet and dessert. GSCA will again cover part of the meal price, so your cost is only \$18 per meal. The Puritan is also famous for their Mudslides, which you may try out during the cocktail hour beginning at 11AM!



### ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER

This year's Annual Dinner meeting and banquet will feature Patrick Hummel from NH Department of Recreations and Economic Development. Mr. Hummel will discuss recent DRED rules revisions regarding equine and carriage use in state parks and lands. Mr. Hummel fills a position newly-created at DRED last year, that of Volunteer Program Coordinator, dealing with trails use. He is currently working with GSCA considering certain parks areas and trails for carriage driving use.

### FUND RAISING GSCA AUCTION !!!!

**WE INVITE ALL--** PAST MEMBERS, NEW OR WANNABES, FRIENDS and FAMILY-- to join in this GSCA off-season pleasure event!! Our famous AUCTION is always fun and funny and an unparalleled chance to find bargains on various interesting and useful items! These are things you just can't do without! **Please don't forget to bring your own usable items to donate for the Auction, whether they are horse-related or not.** If donating smaller-value items, please bundle or box them together to make a desirable package worth at least \$10, and PLEASE write a short description or list for the auctioneers of what is included.



## **AWARDS AND OFFICERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL MEETING:**

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2013 as voted (see and complete your BALLOT in this Newsletter)

### **CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE**

Attached is slate of officers BALLOT for 2014; your vote for Officers is requested and NEEDED, before or on February 23 at the Annual dinner meeting.

### **GSCA President Terming Out**

Included in this mailing is a slate of officers BALLOT for 2014; your vote for Officers is requested and NEEDED, before or on February 23 at the Annual dinner meeting. PRESIDENT OFFICE "CANDIDATE NOT FOUND": To explain the "No candidate found" for the President's position... The current President Connie Moses' second term ends with the Annual Meeting Feb. 23. The GSCA's ByLaws impose a limit of two consecutive 2-year terms on Officers and Directors positions. Unless a candidate is written in or comes forward to run, at the Annual Meeting it might be proposed to appoint Connie for (up to) another year as "acting" President. A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE VOTE FOR PRESIDENT (or any position) CAN BE TAKEN ON THE BALLOT IN ADVANCE, but not "from the floor" at the Annual Meeting! Please give serious consideration to writing in a President candidate.

Please be aware that any member can attend the meeting without participating in the dinner or the FUNd-raising Auction. The business meeting will start at 1:30pm.\*\*\*

### **2013 PARTICIPATION AWARD**

Determined from the year's release forms who attended the most drives/events in 2012 (No vote by members.) Engraved Participation plaque is perpetual and travels each year to new recipient(s).

### **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD**

\$50-- sponsored by Ellet and Shirley Seavey funds. Members vote (see BALLOT enclosed) for person who is most supportive & helpful and who makes our events fun for all. (This Award was formerly the Ellet Seavy trophy and Sandra Platts basket of goodies.)

**There will also be a drawing for a DOOR PRIZE of \$25.**

## **WHY WOULD SOMEONE WANT TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE GSCA?**

by Connie Moses

Honestly, I asked myself that question four years ago, when I was approached to volunteer as a candidate. Like we all do, I had my busy life and it's always easier to let someone else deal with details of managing a club or being involved in an organization. I turned down the request at least twice. But after much gnashing of teeth, and being told it was really pretty "easy," I was persuaded to volunteer. I have to say I have no regrets for time spent. It has been quite rewarding to feel I did a few things to help club activities continue and to improve, and to advance and update the club in certain areas. Working with promoting membership and getting our own website and a Facebook group were especially interesting!

NOW WHO ELSE CAN JUMP IN AND SERVE AS PRESIDENT?? It is not exactly an "easy" task, but the job IS easily doable by someone with a sense of organization and who can delegate. Probably easier still for someone who just loves to talk! Basically, the President just has to become familiar with everyone else's job functions, and then try to make sure they are all tending to their areas of responsibility. The President's position is whatever the President makes of it, and it will take as much time as the person holding the office is willing to spend. Many things I have introduced and

worked on go beyond the basics of a President's function; that has been because apparently I had enough time, and I saw things I felt could be improved. And I cared enough to want to be involved.

Here we are four years later, and I am due to term out of the office of President on February 23. Unless no one else comes forward... in which case it seems likely I will find myself appointed as "acting" President until someone else can be found. This is workable, but only as a short-term solution. It boils down to this... we have a club with a lot of history, 36 years strong and still going. It is always learning to adapt and change with the times; sometimes it needs a little goosing along. You should all know that the incoming Officers slate is one of the best ones ever, to include experienced people and energetic people who are willing to put in the time. Any President would be happy to administrate these Officers and Directors-- and the appointees-- slated for 2014, and could expect a lot of help from them along the way. Past Presidents continue to be involved too, fyi!

PLEASE... EACH MEMBER!! Please do give SERIOUS consideration to volunteering to be candidate for President of GSCA-- it is never too late to offer. You are not likely to regret it! (contact Sonja Cahill 978-551-5355 rjcmoosecaboose@yahoo.com or Linda Stebbins 603-778-1196 Jim-Linda@comcast.net )PS. In the longer view, the Board is now considering extending the lengths of terms of Officers and Directors; if such amendments to the GSCA ByLaws occur, the membership will likely vote on such amendments at the Annual Business/Dinner meeting February 23. Please show your involvement by weighing in and voting on the Ballot of 2014 Officers also on the ByLaws amendments.

### **2014 MEMBERSHIP & DUES UPDATE**

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday season and is looking forward as I am to an early spring and getting out driving again. Just think it's Groundhog Day, winter is half over and the end is in sight, even though that little rodent in Pennsylvania predicts six more weeks of the white stuff.

Looking at the calendar, February starts the season for Granite State Carriage club activities. The Annual Dinner, elections and the Auction are coming up fast on February 23, and with the new season comes our new round of obligations the club needs to pay.

Each year we ask club members to renew their dues for the year "before the first club event." This would be the Annual Dinner. Often dues are paid with the dinner reservation, and for that, I thank you very much. This practice works great as we get an accurate head count of who is attending the dinner as well as the funds to pay for it.

But, often club members not attending the annual dinner in February don't renew until much later in the year, or the dues are renewed at a drive or ride. That practice makes hosting drives more difficult, as the host is asked to receive dues the day of the drive and then forward your dues-- often cash-- to the Treasurer. This also puts the club in a difficult situation financially. Last year the club needed to borrow \$1,500 from our CD/ Money Market to cover expenses that are due early in the year like our insurance, postage and newsletter costs, as well as website administration.

Please take a minute and consider renewing your 2014 membership now... It has never been easier to renew! As with past years you can send a check directly to me at the address below with the renewal form, or this year you can go to the Granite State Carriage website at GraniteStateCarriage.org and click the "Pay Now" link to "Easy" PayPal (on every page). It doesn't matter if you have a PayPal account already or are a first time user, since you can select to "Pay with a debit or credit card." It has never been faster, easier or more secure to pay your 2014 dues.

We have set up the account to allow you to pay dues and the deposit goes directly into the club bank account. PayPal allows only me, as the PayPal administrator, to see your email and mailing

address, so unless you may need to make changes or update any of your contact information, it is as easy as that. If you want to update your contact information on GSCA's records, such as cell phone numbers or add an additional email address to receive the Newsletter, please feel free to email me any changes and I will see that the Newsletter Editor also receives the updates.

I look forward to another great year with Granite State Carriage and hope to see many of you at the Annual Dinner and Auction.

Sincerely,  
Eric Wilking, Treasurer  
162 Pickpocket Road Brentwood, NH 03833

### **ANNOUNCING ONLINE DUES PAYMENT ON CLUB WEBSITE, VIA PAYPAL!**

The Club website [www.GraniteStateCarriage.org](http://www.GraniteStateCarriage.org) now offers convenient PayPal secure online payment of your GSCA dues! Simply visit the site and click "GSCA Membership Easy PayPal" / Pay Now button at top right of any page! PayPal accepts credit card payments from non-PayPal-ers. If you already have a PayPal account, sign in and pay dues using your preferred method. You will receive an email receipt from PayPal.

We will appreciate if you also download the GSCA Membership Application to provide the or update the information we need. Find the GSCA Membership/Renewal Application on the "JOIN/CONTACT US" page found under "MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION" on the website. You can either email or snail mail that info to Treasurer Eric Wilking at the addresses below. Please note that if you wish to add an "MDC Associate" membership, you will also need to complete the MDC Associate membership application found on the same website page, and send it along to Eric. GSCA dues are payable in January for the calendar year.

Dues or renewals must be received before the end of April. If you prefer, mail your dues payment check to: GSCA Treasurer Eric Wilking, 162 Pickpocket Road, Brentwood, NH 03833 or call Eric 603-235-8459 or email [treasurer@granitestatecarriage.org](mailto:treasurer@granitestatecarriage.org)

### **MEMBERS AREA ON WEBSITE STILL HAVING PROBLEMS.**

We regret that the Members' Area of the GSCA website, which members were set up to log into, still is having ongoing login issues; we thought the issues were resolved but they have recurred again. Sorry for any inconvenience, we will keep you posted.

### **SHELBURNE FARMS 2014 DRIVE**

Shelburne Farms is currently undergoing a re-evaluation of all activities and events currently allowed on the property. The issue, to no one's surprise, is liability insurance. The activities coordinator has informed the club that the board of directors will not make a decision about GSCA dues, or whether we can even return, until April. She was not optimistic about the outcome. However, we are not canceling the drive yet. We will wait and see. It does not appear that GSCA activities directly prompted this overall review but we are caught in the larger problems of liability unique to a non-profit entity.

### **NH HORSE FOLKS HAVE JOINED FORCES TO KEEP RIDING HORSES ON STATE LANDS AND TRAILS**

by Connie Moses

In case you aren't aware... last fall, NH's DRED (Department of Recreation and Economic Development) proposed certain rules revisions which would have been quite restrictive to horseback use on DRED-managed lands in New Hampshire. Horse folks got up in arms and raised

loud objections to this rule changes draft, which as proposed would have meant riders having to "remove" and potentially carry out manure from wherever it dropped, as well as being limited to riding on "8 foot or wider hard tracks.

"DRED's function (re: certain state lands and multi-use trails) is to administer and enforce NH state laws. Such lands include state parks and rail trails, among other state properties. During a series of public hearings, and thanks to horse folks activating and also to the support of NH Senators David Boutin and Andy Sanborn, DRED became educated greatly about horses and horse use, accepted input from the equine community, and rewrote their revised rules to be more reasonable and appropriate.

These rules were submitted early in January to the NH legislature JLCAR (Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules), thus beginning their way through the approval process. Additionally, due to concerns of alarmed horseback riders, Sen. Sanborn introduced a new bill, SB251, to amend the current law RSA216. If passed as worded, SB251 would prevent future arbitrary restrictions to riding horses on trails (see at end.) SB251 is worthy of the support of all horse-loving, nature-loving, and freedom-loving people who use or might use NH state lands. (Please see article for how to "Support SB251" immediately!)

As a result of all the controversy, a group is being formed to address and voice concerns of the equine community to the state. Horseback riders and many carriage drivers are forming an organization, which could consolidate and represent equine interests across the state. This might become a separate organization, or it might end up under the auspices of NHHC (NH Horse Council.) Such an organization, gaining power in numbers and impacting future legislation, is sorely needed in NH and long overdue. "NH Equine Trail Coalition" is a Facebook page created where folks can learn of DRED rules and state laws in process. Please visit NHETC when you are on Facebook to keep abreast of these matter which affect YOU. Carriage drivers have joined forces with horseback riders in these efforts. Riders in great numbers are more aware of-- and willing to stand behind-- carriage drivers going forward, to the mutual benefit of all equine interests in New Hampshire! \*\*\* Please see article "What about CARRIAGE DRIVING..." \*\*\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ SB251 language--New Paragraph; Horseback Riding; Multi-Use Statewide Trail System. Amend RSA 216-F:2 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. Nothing shall limit the right of the public to pass over any trail in the multi-use statewide trail system for the purpose of horseback riding. Horseback riders shall be responsible for removal of horse waste from the trail head and parking areas of any park or reservation.

### **WHAT ABOUT CARRIAGE DRIVING ON NH STATE LANDS?**

by Connie Moses

As your President sees it, there is a MAJOR problem in our state! New Hampshire state law does NOT recognize horsedrawn vehicles on state lands. RSA216 names several recognized uses of NH's multi-use trail system, including "horseback riding" (ie. equestrians).

However, carriage driving/equine-drawn vehicles are NOT named in law as a supported use in parks or trails. Therefore, carriage drivers have no law-based status to affect DRED rules (since DRED follows state law.)

In meetings and discussions with DRED officials, particularly with Chris Gamache-- Trail Bureau Chief, and Patrick Hummel-- DRED Trails Coordinator, GSCA has effected a few agreements with DRED which should result in some new allowances being made for equine-drawn vehicles. While the final DRED revised rules (as submitted to JLCAR) define equine-drawn vehicles as prohibited "except where permitted, and continue to require group carriage activities to obtain a "special use permit," DRED has made agreement

with GSCA to "sign as allowable" for equine-drawn vehicles certain roads/trails in Bear Brook, Pawtuckaway, and Pisgah State Parks. Signed roads/trails would be available to solo/independent carriage drivers. Some other state parks are under review for the same, and DRED is communicating with GSCA to identify suitable roads and trails. DRED of course retains the right to make final decisions.

In addition, DRED has agreed with GSCA to consider organized group carriage outings (arranged via permit) in areas not available for "signed allowable" carriage driving, including most of the recreational Rail Trails, as well as other state parks.

This treatment of carriage use is at the discretion of DRED management, and will remain so unless and until New Hampshire state law can be changed to recognize the activity of recreational carriage driving. That will be another whole process which should be undertaken!

(See article "NH horse folks have joined forces..." and article for how to "Support SB251" immediately!)

### **NOTICE! INPUT NEEDED ON RAIL TRAILS AND PARKS**

GSCA has made agreement with DRED that they will consider allowing organized club outings on most Rail Trails. Also some state parks are under consideration to have a few roads and trails marked as permitted for carriage driving. Specifically mentioned were Bear Brook, Pisgah, and Pawtuckaway State Parks.

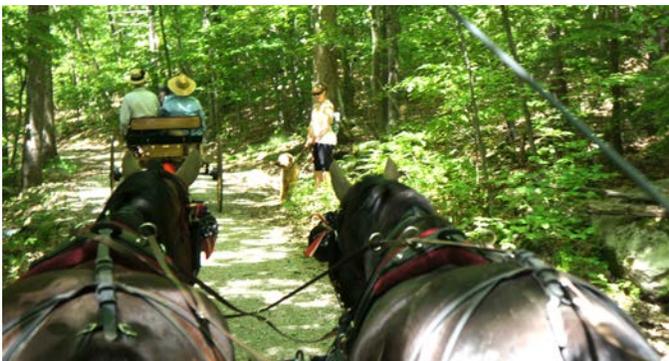


*NH Northern Rail trail*

WE NOW NEED SUGGESTIONS AND INPUT FROM ANY WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH POTENTIAL AREAS that might be suitable for club carriage driving outings. ANYONE could consider organizing an outing involving rail trails. Also, anyone with first-hand knowledge of Pisgah and Pawtuckaway should contact Connie Moses 603-490-9694 or [connie@portraitswithhorses.com](mailto:connie@portraitswithhorses.com)

### **PUBLIC NOTICE RE: MANCHESTER WATER WORKS HORSE USE**

Avis, Trixie, Mel, Heather and I attended the public hearing yesterday at the Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) and, as feared, Manchester Water Works (MWW) is actually trying to BAN horses from accessing all of their 8,000 acres - 4,000 of which encompass Auburn; the rest lies in the surrounding towns of Candia, Hooksett, Chester and Manchester. The actual wording says, "horseback riding is restricted to organized rides only, with prior authorization".



*GSCA 2014 Auburn drive, Waterworks property*

Similar to DRED's rules, MWW's proposed new rules cannot be adopted until first accepted by the DES (and they seem to favor this), reviewed by DES's Legal Unit, then it would go to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) sometime in March or April. That meeting will also be open to the public and you are urged to attend it. Updates will follow, but in the meantime, here's what you can do now:

- 1) Send your letter of comments to Holly Green at DES (see below) by 4pm on Feb. 11.  
Reference: DES-DW-902.23 section "(o), d."

**Please remember that this is different from the DRED issue**, as this concerns land surrounding Lake Massabesic- protected water supply- and the watershed area. \*\*Please see contents of previous emails concerning this issue. If any questions, please email me.

Holly Green, Water Supply Land Protection Grant Program and DWGB Rules Coordinator  
NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau P.O. Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302 Phone: 603-271-3114 Fax: 603-271-0656  
[Holly.Green@des.nh.gov](mailto:Holly.Green@des.nh.gov)

2) If any of you are or know of people who've ridden the MWW property for over 20 years, please let me know. Thank you for your interest and support in preserving horse access to this valuable land treasure!  
Dorine Remillard [dorine.remillard@comcast.net](mailto:dorine.remillard@comcast.net)



**UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

- FEB. 8-9 SKIJORING SANCTIONED RACES Newport Winter Carnival. Parlin Field Airport, Newport, NH
- FEB 16 MVTC WINTER WONDERLAND SLEIGH RALLY, 10AM-3PM McCray's Farm, 55 Alvord St., S. Hadley, MA. Contact: Jamie Cinq-Mars, Show Secretary (413)433-9436 [www.jamiecinqmars.com](http://www.jamiecinqmars.com)
- FEB. 23 GSCA ANNUAL MEETING. Puritan Back Room, Manchester, NH. Contact: Connie Moses (603) 490-9694**
- MAR, 22 SAP GATHERING CONTEST, Stonewall Farm. Keene, N.H. Contact (603) 357-7278.

**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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*The Granite State  
Carriage Association*

