

# News Letter

AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2011

## WINTER DOLDRUMS/THINK SPRING PARTY

Auction for the Benefit of the Charles F Weeden Scholarship Fund

**SAVE THE DATE MARCH 19TH**

Hillbilly Hall 6 to 9 PM

Buffet dinner and dessert

Reservations \$22 before March 14th or \$26 at the door



Call Gael Gardner at 609 466 9472 send check to:

AVTA 46 North Hill Rd., Ringoes NJ 08551

We will be at Hillbilly Hall this year and will again have a silent auction to benefit the Charles Foster Weeden Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund has since 1998 sponsored 11 young people with their college education. The fund gives them \$1000 a year. This is the major fundraiser of the year for the fund.

We need for donations for the auction. Please get in touch with Gael Gardner 609 466 9472 about donating.

## TRAIL TRIMMERS PAR EXCELLENCE



Here's the list of folks who pitched in last year on trail trimming, either on the scheduled days or on their own. I'm sorry if I have missed anyone. We appreciate any and all help that you can give us. Please let me know when you work on trails by yourself so that I can put you on the list this year.

Allison Accurso  
Dave Henderson  
Tony Alimecco  
Eileen Bird  
John Buckwalter  
Trish Buckwalter  
Steve Buxton  
Nancy Cunningham  
Nancy Derrico  
Lynn Ebeling  
Tom Ebeling  
Jenn Fisher and Lyle  
Maureen Foley  
Gael Gardner  
Jennifer Anderson  
Beth Gate  
Mary Murrin

Earl and Tyler Hartman  
Marion Huebling  
Di Huns  
David Hylander  
Helene Hylander  
Tori Januik  
Carol Johnson  
Jon Maurer  
Mary Murrin  
Bonnie O'Boyle  
Bob Petrolino and friends  
Cindy Smith  
Elaine Staats  
Jessica Wysocki  
Terry Kacvorek  
Carol Ryan

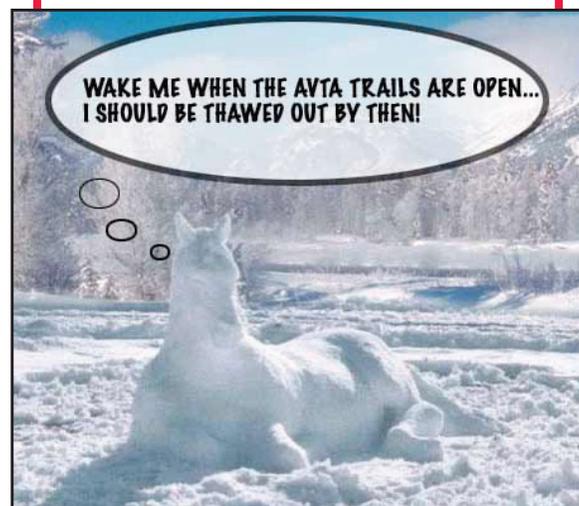
Let's not forget the mowing Trish and John Buckwalter, and Gael Gardner do every year. We should also thank the Amwell Valley hound's huntsman, Steven Farrin for all his work on the trails too.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



Membership renewals were sent out near the beginning of January and as of the first of February I have received 96 renewals. This is great! However it only represents 1/3 of the full membership of the AVTA. Please send in your renewal as soon as possible. Getting them all in the early when I have time to process them makes things much easier for me. Thank you to all who have already done so!!!

*Gael Gardner*





## AMWELL VALLEY HOUNDS PONY CLUB LECTURES

The Amwell Valley Hounds Pony Club would like to invite your members to attend our lecture series this year. Lectures will be held at the Hunterdon County Library in Flemington, (314 State Route 12, Bldg. #3, Flemington NJ, (908) 788-1444) from 1:15 – 3:00 in the main meeting room. We have some fantastic speakers that we've asked to come and educate our members on all topics relating to horse care and we would like to provide your groups with the same opportunities. Thank you so much for your support over the last year and we hope you enjoy the lectures!

There is no charge for these meetings.

Thank you!

Paige DiRoberto

DC Amwell Valley Hounds Pony Club

[www.avhpc.org](http://www.avhpc.org)

### Calendar:

**2/13 – 1:15 Conformation and Lameness -**

**Trish Buckwalter - Graduate "A" Pony Clubber and Examiner**

**2/20 – 1:15 Stable Management –**

**Stephanie Smith – Professional Animal Health Expert & Graduate "A" Pony Clubber**

**3/6 – 1:15 Feed and Nutrition –**

**Michelle Roman – Southern States Feed Rep**

**3/20 – 1:15 Digestive Health of the Horse –**

**Carey Williams, PhD – Rutgers Equine Education Specialist**

## The Next Great Backyard Bird Count

**February 18-21, 2011**

The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are calling on everyone to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!" Participants did just that in record numbers for the 2008 count, submitting more than 85,000 checklists and identifying 635 species. Let's break some more records this year!



### GBBC Ambassadors Needed

As always, we rely on volunteer ambassadors to help spread the word about the GBBC and engage more people in their communities. Your contribution could be as simple as hanging up a few flyers or as ambitious as pitching the event on local radio and TV stations. You can use the new GBBC news release posted on the web site. <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> You'll also find an updated version of the slide show for use in GBBC workshops and other events.

For more ideas on how to promote the GBBC, check out Get Involved on the GBBC website. You can fill out the online ambassador sign-up form and specify the kinds of activities you'd like to do.

### Take the Healthy Yard Pledge!

While you're getting ready to feed and count birds this winter, make sure you're maintaining healthy bird habitat in your yard by taking the Audubon Healthy Yard Pledge. The Healthy Yard Pledge is part of Audubon At Home, which focuses on managing backyards and other natural areas to help birds and other wildlife. Visit the website to learn about 16 key elements that make up a healthy backyard habitat—how many can be found in your yard?

To learn more about the Audubon at Home program and take the Healthy Yard Pledge, visit <http://audubonathome.org/pledge>.

Thank you for all you do to help the birds!

If you want to speak to someone local about this please call Juanita Hummel 609-466-2907 Or Gael Gardner 609-466-9472

## Potential Danger of Horse Hair

In a press release today, the National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of horses. This substance, called "amobacter equi" has been linked with the following symptoms in females:

- Reluctance to cook, clean or do housework.
- Reluctance to wear make-up, good clothes or heels.
- Reluctance to spend money on home or car repairs until after "baby" has new shoes, pad, blanket, tack, grain, hay & supplements"

"Amobacter equi" usually results in long hours away from home and exhaustion which may lead to a loss of physical contact with other humans (especially husbands).

"Amobacter equi" is thought to be addictive, driving the need for additional sources - this may lead to a "herd mentality" or like the potato chip commercial, "you can't have just one". (Especially potent if infected from miniature equines)

Beware! If you come in contact with a female human infected by this substance, be prepared to talk about horses for hours. Surgeon General's Warning: Horses are expensive, addictive, and may impair the ability to use common sense. Men infected with amobacter equi develop bow legs, quiet speech and a brim-shaped outline to the head. Other symptoms may include obsessive urge to chase wooden ball, foxhounds or cattle.

Particularly dangerous if male infected with a. equi reproduces with female carrier-- chance of children developing disease 99.99%.

**Attention Students!!**

**The Charles F. Weeden Scholarship Application is due March 15th, 2011**

**Scholarship Information & Form on [www.avta.net](http://www.avta.net)**



# The Eclectic Equestrian

## *Dreams, Wishes and Prayers*

I can't tell you how many nights and days I spent as a child dreaming, wishing and praying for a horse. It was not enough to take lessons; in some ways, it made the yearning worse.

I had quite a few imaginary horses. First, there were the hobby horses that my Grandma made me from the heavy duty cardboard rolls bolts of fabric are wound on. A grocery store paper bag she drew on and stuffed was the head.

Next was my first two-wheeler bicycle, turned golden Palomino and named Lucky. We rode all over my neighborhood, converting sidewalks and Macadam to beautiful trails and country side.

Then there were the studio couch in our apartment that had long, narrow cushions for the back. If I laid these cushions on top of another, I could straddle them and ride like the wind!

The yearning was the deepest when watching old movies and television shows. It broke my heart to watch some of them, yet I could not stop. National Velvet with Elizabeth Taylor has to be the epitome of how a girl dreams about owning a horse and, once she does, that unequalled bond they share.

The movie I could never watch after the painful, first time, was Black Beauty. The book was heart wrenching enough; the movie ripped at my very soul when watching the heinous treatment that poor horse endured.

Once a month, at my farm, I have a "Wine Down Wednesday" for my boarders. It has developed into dinner, with the warm weather "picnics" outside the barn where we can watch our horse grazing, moving indoors during the cold months.

In November, we added another feature: Movie Night. I showed the movie, My Friend Flicka, which I had grow up watching over and over on television. Like its sequel, Thunderhead, I could probably narrate it by heart, much to the chagrin of my family.

That Wednesday evening, we shared favorite movies and television shows. One boarder said her favorite was Fury. I remembered feeling there was nothing more awesome than watching the black stallion rear up on top of the hill before and after the show.

Fury was the second most paid animal in Hollywood, next to Lassie. A stallion until his death at 29, he starred not just in his own television series, but played Black Beauty in the original film, Elizabeth Taylor's horse in "Giant" and even starred in an episode of The Monkees, to name just a few of his acting roles!

Every western, like Bonanza, precipitated the yearning. I was

more taken with Little Joe's black and white Pinto, Cochise, then heartthrob Michael Landon. Oh, if Cochise had ever turned up in my driveway ...

Trigger, Silver, Scout, Buttermilk, Tornado, were all more important to me than their human counterparts. While I never liked the show Mr. Ed because I believed his human ability to talk was beneath him, what a joy the equine actor, Bamboo Harvester, must have been!

Scenes in old movies that were not centered on the horse became imprinted on my mind. I can get through Alfred Hitchcock's scariest scenes in his most famous movies but I'm tortured when Tippi Hedrin in Marnie, has to destroy her beloved Forio.

And who didn't suffer through Pilgrim's nightmare in The Horse Whisperer?

One boarder said she had never seen The Black Stallion. Sacrilegious! It's probably the most beautifully filmed horse in the movies. I have given the DVD to people who are not horse lovers so that they might understand the compelling beauty of these animals.

During one winter in my teens, I visited a horse back riding camp friend. For some reason, I had never read the Walter Farley books. I spent the entire day in her bedroom going through the series. Being the horse lover she was, she shrugged off my rudeness, understanding the passion.

My first book report as a child was on "Come On, Seabiscuit" by Ralph Moody and Robert Riger. When Laura Hillenbrand published her book, "Seabiscuit: An American Legend," I was amazed at the overwhelming reaction to the story about one of my all-time heroes. I didn't understand how these people could not have known about this amazing horse and his amazing story, yet was glad to buy the book, the T-shirt, the toy, the DVD...

My reaction to horses has stayed the same into adulthood, although I have long since owned many. If I'm cruising the TV and an episode of The Saddle Club comes on, I'm unreachable for the remainder of the show. Our barn went to see Secretariat and we cried, from start to finish, despite the happy ending. It seems that deep down inside, the love for a horse is an intense feeling one seems to be forever nursing.

Phar Lap, Hildalgo, Dreamer...name any one of them and I'm still a little girl with a dream, a wish and a prayer.

### BOARD MEMBERS

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Treasurer  
**JEN EDWARDS**  
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Barn Representative &  
Scholarship Program

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**PHIL JACOBY**  
(609) 466-0933

**BRYCE THOMPSON**  
(609) 466-2649

# Classifieds

TO SEE MORE CLASSIFIEDS GO TO [WWW.AVTA.NET](http://WWW.AVTA.NET)

**FOR SALE:** Fancy Polish Arab x Hackney Mare Registered Half-Arabian, See picture on avta.net web site 10 years old, 15.2 hands, rose grey. Very nice mover with plenty of lift and impulsion. Loads of talent and athleticism, would make a great dressage, sport horse or endurance/competitive trail ride prospect. Hacks out alone or in company and loves to hunter pace. Very sweet and willing, and sane. She recently had a month of professional training. Tries hard to please. Nice to have around as well stands in crossties, clips, loads, stands for vet and farrier. UTD on health care, goes barefoot, super nice mare, ready for confident intermediate or advanced rider to take her to the next level. \$5000 Courtney Keppelman 908-938-2978 ~ courtney.keppelman@amcol.com

**BOARDING AVAILABLE:** Horse Boarding on small private farm in East Amwell. Personalized care includes blanketing and worming. Turn out 24/7 with access to 12x12 stall or in/out option. A perfect set up for retired horse. Access to trails. For more info Denise 973-650-1975 denise@equineathleteusa.com

**BOARDING AVAILABLE YELLOW-WOOD FARM ~ RINGOES, NJ 6 ACRES IN THE HEART OF THE AMWELL VALLEY TRAILS**  
Three Options, You Decide:

1. Barn with 3 stalls with Horse Facilities \$500/Month
2. Self-care Board \$200/Month Design and administer your own specialized care and maintenance program for your equine friend. On-site manager is available for feeding and mucking for additional fee.

3. Full Board \$400/Month We offer 24/7 turnout with ample shelter as well as individual stalls in the barn for the occasional winter ice storm or thunder storms. This is a small (three horse limit) boarding facility, which means each horse, is provided with individualized care and attention. The owner is a former veterinarian technician & racetrack groom & the manager lives on the farm. Medication & treatments can be professionally administered if necessary. Facility: Three-stall barn with loft for hay storage and tack room. Three paddocks with two 10'x20' run-ins. 100x210 outdoor ring suitable for dressage or jumpers. For more information call Sue at: Robichaud Equestrian Retreats 609-397-2113 ~ 609-649-3388 website:[www.equestrianretreats.com](http://www.equestrianretreats.com) or [horseholiday@comcast.net](mailto:horseholiday@comcast.net)

**BOARDING AVAILABLE FOR 2 HORSES**  
12' x 12' stalls - Rubber mats with 12" quarry dust base. Post and rail fence. All day turn-out or in/out option. Free choice hay. Excellent custom feed. Large all weather ring. Round pen. Free blanketing/worming. Heated warm water wash stall. Heated Tack Room. Direct access to AVTA trails off of Backbrook Road. Contact: Joan (908) 788-7423 Self Care Boarding Available Horse Boarding on small private farm in East Amwell, Includes entire barn (3) 12 X 12 matted stalls, turnout onto grass pastures, on the Amwell Valley Trails. \$500/month. For more details, contact Sally (908) 797-3104 [tallyho5us@yahoo.com](mailto:tallyho5us@yahoo.com) <<mailto:tallyho5us@yahoo.com>>

## Amwell Valley Hounds Pony Club Shaggy Horse Show Saturday March 5, 2011

The AVHPH is hosting a "Shaggy Horse Show" on March 5th as a fundraiser for the Amwell Valley Hounds Pony Club at Beaver Creek Equestrian Center in Ringoes, NJ. *We are looking for organizations and local businesses that might like to be part of our sponsorship opportunities.* A large advertisement board showcasing local horse organizations and businesses that the competitors and spectators at the Shaggy horse show will be able to peruse throughout the day. The board will be put together by our kids and will be a focal point ringside near all of the activity. Again, newsletter samples, membership forms, Photos, house listings, horse listings, flyers, hay samples; anything you can think of are welcome for a flat price of \$50. We will also have a smaller business card only board where a stack of business cards can be displayed and available for \$25. For more information on sponsorship, advertising or the horse show event please contact Paige DiRoberto at 908-713-6568 or 908-305-6546 [pdiroberto@embarqmail.com](mailto:pdiroberto@embarqmail.com) <http://www.avhpc.org>



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