NSHA INAUGURATION DINNER

On November 18th the Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association Executive Board met at Ciro's for the express purpose of inaugurating our new president Lisa Quinn and honor our former president Denise Speizio. The latter was presented with an award, a sculpture in the form of a flame along



with a gift card, for her time and service to the organization. Our new president was inducted into office with the accoutrements befitting her position i.e. a faux fur helmet complete with horns with a complimentary faux fur scarf and an oversized hammer to keep order.(see photo) The food was delicious and great time was had by all. A speech was given by Joel Serota, a for-



NSHA Board Members Attending Inauguration Dinner

mer president recounting our history and urging us on to bigger and better

accomplishments. We on the Executive Board can look forward to two years of productive growth.

Swap Night Coming at You 2017



With the coming of the Spring Equinox, the horse community will come out of hibernation and crawl out of it's winter caves, and celebrate the new season with our Annual Swap Night on March 25. It will take place at that familiar locale, the Huntington High School at the intersection of Oakwood Road and McKay Street at 7PM.

As it has been in the past, this will be the opportunity to get some great bargains of previously used horse tack, clothing, barn equipment, along with new equiperent, supplies, supplements, jewelry, clothing and literature. Our motto is "Everything

for the Horse and Rider Except for the Horse". There will be veterinary exhibits, other equine association

displays and refreshments will be available, so don't waste time with eating supper. Last, but certainly not least, will be the humongous, exciting chinese raffle, with something for everyone. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a listing of last year's donors, which will give you a sense of the products and services which can be won, for example a load of hay, wine, trail rides, lessons, jewelry, clothing, tools etc. The list goes on.

As has been true in the past, this will be a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and network with new acquaintances. Last year



NSHA Board Members In Attendance

was a bang up successful affair enjoyed by all. Look for photos of Swap Night 2016 elsewhere in the newsletter. So as a reminder, in order to reserve a table, call or email Christina at ctabacco@gmail.com to unload your no longer need "stuff" and bring money to get some great bargains. See y'all there.

A Toast to the 13th Annual Spring Vineyard Ride

The popularity of this event continues into its 13th year. The Spring Vineyard Ride is organized by two Long Island Horsemen's groups-Old Field Farm, Ltd., Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association.

Our customary send-off toast thanking the hosting vineyards and farmers signals the start of the ride. As usual, we raised our glasses filled with Martha Clara Vineyards sparkling Brut to wish everyone a wonderful day and ride and thank the supporting vineyards and sponsors. The Spring Vineyard Ride is a day when all different riding disciplines gather to take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the open spaces on Long Island's North Fork and recognize the importance of land preservation-key for farming, vineyard and equestrian industries.

A well established route, the tour departs from Martha Clara Vineyards heading to Paumanok Vineyards to be welcomed by proprietors Ursula and Charles Massoud and family. After tasting three signature wines of Paumanok, the ride proceeded to Jamesport Vineyard where owner Ron Goerler hosted the riders and a series tastings were held at this bustling vineyard. Diliberto Vineyard and Winery was the next stop where riders were welcomed by Maryann and Sal Diliberto who taught us about their Italian inspired wines and treated us to their special home-



made pizza. It was back to Martha Clara where under a tent in the Chardonnay field, a gourmet luncheon prepared by Christopher Michael caterers was ready for the returning riders and guests.

We want to thank the hosting vineyards: Martha Clara Vineyards, Paumanok Vineyards, Jamesport Vineyards, Diliberto Winery and Vineyard, John Kujawski & Sons for allowing us to tour their scenic farmland. Special thanks go to the wranglers and volunteers who make the day possible. So as the short winter days cause us to reflect on a beautiful June day filled with scenery, wonderful hosts, wine, horses and volunteers let's toast one more time and be thankful for this annual memory-making event. We look forward to seeing you this year.

The Long Island Horse Show with a Beautiful Waterfront Setting

By Gabby Dondero and Sally Lynch

The Nassau Suffolk Horsemen's Association Horse Show is one of the older continuously operated horse shows on Long Island. It is host to hunter, jumper, equitation horses and ponies at the show and is managed by the Long Island Horse Shows in conjunction with Old Field Farm, Ltd. The show takes place



Marvin Glassmann, Lisa Quinn, Sally Lynch

at the beautiful historic Old Field Farm County Parkland; a competition venue with action in all three rings that include excellent footing, designed by Robert Jolicoeur in the Main Ring, as well as a turf Hunt Course and sand based Pony Course. The farm also includes a grass field ideal for schooling, and various places to lunge.

The show attracts all levels of riders and spectators as well to enjoy the cheerful spirit of the day and all it offers. Spectators, family members, riders and trainers are welcome to sit up on the restored Grand Stand overlooking the Main Ring where they can watch and study the course and riders.

The beautiful waterfront setting by West Meadow Beach is a perfect setting for the always popular Lobster Clambake benefit that takes place during the show. Clambake guests are treated to a delicious summer seafood bucket and local bounty. This year we were treated to a new addition to the horse show- a socially responsible organization known as Proud Pour provided tastings of their wine called "The Oyster", a crisp Sauvignon Blanc. For each bottle of "The Oyster" that is sold, this organization places 100 oyster spat in our local shellfish beds in an effort to repopulate these bivalves that have been depleted over time. Proceeds raised by the clambake help the continuing restoration of the Farm to make these legendary show grounds even better. The Farm respects its coexistence with the natural setting and serves as home to an Osprey family that serve as unofficial mascots of the show. Year after year, this pair of Osprey come and nest here in the warmer months before migrating back to South America successfully raising several generations of fledglings. Old Field Farm is also the only show venue on Long Island that offers day stalls so the horses can rest and relax before and after their classes before making the trip back to their home stables.

Another unique feature at the horse shows at Old Field Farm is that there are many vendors that come and set up so our spectators can shop and our riders can get last minute items and equipment that they might have forgotten. Old Field Farm Horse and Home is always a presence at the show, where riders can get all their last minute needs and parents can shop for horse related home goods, gifts and clothing. An especially talented artist John Rinaldo displays his beautiful horse and dog portraits under his tent at the horse show, where people can set up an appointment for a portrait. John paints in the style of the old masters and portraits are created on a custom basis. Our last vendor is a must for all pony riders, Liz Loper of her own 'Sunny Bows', handmade hair bows that every child wears in the pony divisions! We hope that everyone enjoyed the day and look forward to the NSHA Annual Horse Show 2017.

Useful Recollections of Great Lessons

by Raul A. de Leon

In theory sessions I often tell my students that when I ride, I imagine taking a lesson from my mentors, especially Bert de Nemethy and Gunnar Andersen. As I had the pleasure of giving a clinic at Bobbi Rockow's Equestrian Center in Rochester during the memorial Day weekend, I reminisced while she rode Remy, a pretty Morgan gelding that she now competes successfully at Fourth level, on how lessons I learned from Gunnar Andersen, many years before, helped to turn that horse around from belligerent to a lovely winner and fun to ride. When I first rode Remy, years ago during a clinic, he was very difficult in canter - braking, kicking and crossing leads. I found success by teaching him shoulder in and haunches in, in a fifteen meter circle, first in walk, and then in trot, accompanied by spiralling in, in Travers and spiralling out in shoulder in - also in walk trot. That suppled him and made and made sufficiently accepting of both my calves so that I could keep him properly aligned in canter. It worked very well and the kicking and braking began to fade.

This technique I first learned from the great Dressage Master from Denmark Gunner Andersen. Gunner became world famous when he trained "Chigwell" to two Olympic Individual Silver Medals ridden by his student Lisa Hartel, who was a polio victim. Gunner fine tuned "Chigwells" tempi changes so that Lisa could do them without much use of her legs and obtain Olympic Silver Medal Scores.

I will never forget watching Gunnar, at the Kierkegaard's farm in Pennsylvania, school a very stiff and resistant Arab gelding who would not canter for his owner. During the four days of his clinic there, he rode the Arab and never cantered him. He mostly did lateral suppling exercises in walk and trot. On the last day when the owner was losing confidence on the outcome of this approach, he produced a lovely collected and straight canter that marveled everyone lucky enough to witness the masterful transformation that he had achieved.

The canter is more difficult to improve than the trot. The best approach is to achieve as much lateral suppleness and straightness in the trot as a foundation for the canter work.

This article reprinted from Horse Directory Magazine with Raul A. de Leon's permission Raul A. de Leon will be holding Clinic's this season at Skye Acres in Patchogue. For more information call (631) 318-0936



The President's Corner





This is a good time of year to reflect on last year's accomplishments and trials and to start thinking about what this new year will bring. With my own trials fresh in my memory, I asked my friend to write an article about safety and horses.

I hope your Holidays were Joyful and I wish you a Wonderful and Safe New Year!

Lisa Quinn

SAFETY AND HORSES

By Tony Simonetti

I was recently asked how many times you could land on a helmet before you should replace it... I paused and just looked at this extremely intelligent person with one eyebrow up and waited... We both then laughed out loud and began the training necessary.

The more you know about horses, how they react to our world and what makes them tick in general the safer you will be. Horses are extremely powerful animals that can cause serious damage and/or injury to people when things do not go as planned. To me this does not make them less desirable, as a matter of fact it is this same power, speed, and beauty that attracts me to them.

There are a vast array of situations that bring humans and horses together which must be considered when discussing safety. For example some people must interact and handle different horses day to day while others are with the same horses. Handling different horses puts people at a disadvantage not having prior experience with any particular animal. Their advantage regarding safety comes from a necessary heightened awareness for proper handling due to the unknown. On the other hand those handling the same horses have the advantage of knowing a horse's prior behaviors but become at a disadvantage by when we sometimes get lulled into a sense of security and start to "ASSUME". Too often I hear of situations where people overlook today's warnings due to yesterday's success. These scenarios usually sound like this... "My horse was doing unbelievable and what seemed to be out of no where....".

In my program "SAFETY" is first and foremost always no matter what the goal of the day may be. As we all know riding horses is a thrill seeking activity that comes with its inherent risks. Even done perfectly anything can happen when riding these extremely powerful instinctive prey animals 8-10 times our size. My theory is that since we have made the decision to get on or be around horses why not MINIMIZE the risk by putting a proven program in place that empowers the human with knowledge, tools, and techniques designed to get the most out of the experience SAFELY.

There are many things horses do behaviorally that become indicators that we should recognize indicating whether or not we are as safe as we should be. Recognizing these indicators and never bypassing the principle of safety for what ever may be the goal of the day has become our safety protocol. Knowing what to feel and look for from the time you arrive at the barn right through tacking up and performing a solid PRE FLIGHT CHECK along with a prior and proper training foundation is the key to succeeding when it comes to safety.

The best example I can give on this is to tell you the story of a then 8 year old girl and what she did and said to me after spending a full week of day dreaming in school about her upcoming ride in the park. After tacking up and 40 minutes of concentrated training and ground games due to wind and other stimuli causing the horses to be a bit UP I said "ok are your ready?....Lets go!". I did this as a test to see if her desire to ride in the park would cause her to say yes even though I saw some obvious indicators that I would not have allowed her to overlook. Considering her age I also expected "YEP LETS GO" which would have led me to using that response as a training op-

bypassing safety for the goal of our park ride.

Instead of "LETS GO" she said "Nope he is a little to high headed, stiff and emotional...we are not ready yet" as she got off and began circling him, jumping him over barrels, disengaging his hind quarters all with the perfect balance of reward causing him in the end to look at her with total respect and he became emotionally collected. I witnessed this horse go from emotionally scattered and reactive to the environment and ignore her wishes to unconcerned about the environment and totally focused and responsive to her in a matter of that 15 more minutes she dedicated to her SAFETY PROTOCOL.

We then went on the park ride that turned out to be absolutely perfect in every way. During this ride we had a collected walk-trot-canter side by side including finding someone's cell phone and returning it to them. As we were riding I struck up a conversation with this young girl by asking her why she decided to continue training and this is something like what was said: "It's the beginning of the season and I really wanted to just leave for the park but then I felt how UP he was and him not paying attention to me so instead of me chancing getting hurt I figured just spend more time now so I don't get hurt and ruin the entire summer."

Being that we can not unscramble an egg it is my recommendation to every person deciding to be around horses to do your research and find a trainer or training materials that provide proven comprehensive steps to safety based horsemanship prior to putting themselves in potentially dangerous situations. Trainers and materials are available to you and many know how to keep things fun and interesting for you so that advancing through the learning process actually becomes what you look forward to. There is nothing more fun then gaining a horse's respect while developing effective communication and causing a full understanding between a horse and a human. The by-product of doing what I just said happens to be the ability to go and do anything with your horse SAFELY. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and I wish everyone a happy and safe year with your horses.

Interested in contributing an article to our next newsletter? Contact lisag@nshonline.org for more informtion.

UPDATE ON THE ISSUES AT WEST HILLS COUNTY PARK

The Sweet Hills barn and immediate surrounding areas are fenced off, the gates locked, the picnic area, dog run and playground are closed due to the illegal dumping which took place in that area of West Hills Park.

As of now no decision has been made about future opening of these areas and the removal of the dumped dirt. It was determined that the dirt, while toxic, is not dangerous to humans or animals. Be assured that NSHA is monitoring the situation and will keep our membership informed on our website.

Initially the south gate was locked preventing access from the west side of the park. It has been reopened because of the initiative taken by NSHA and the officials at the County Parks Dept..

There are many trails which are open and very rideable. There is no access near the stable area where the soil dumping took place.

Trails are available from High Hold Rd. and south of Northern State Pkwy.

Trailer parking is available opposite the park gate on High Hold Rd. Also the dog run opposite the parking area has been divided for large and small dogs and rest rooms are available.

For more current updates on the issues at West Hills Park checkthe NSHA WEBSITE.



Access Gate Opened After Pressure Brought by NSHA to Suffolk County Parks

The following letter was sent to the community from Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

JAMES L. TOMARKEN, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW Commissioner

November 3, 2016

Re: Sweet Hills Riding Center

Dear Resident:

The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) has prepared this letter in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Occupational and Environmental Medicine of Long Island to provide health related information related to the alleged illegal dumping at the Sweet Hills Riding Center. An investigation by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office indicates that most of the dumped material appears to be finely processed construction and demolition debris. Construction and demolition debris is waste material from the construction, renovation, and demolition of structures such as buildings.

As part of the District Attorney's investigation, soil samples were collected at the Sweet Hills Riding Center. The results of laboratory analyses conducted on those samples do not suggest excessive, widespread contamination. Although the results identified levels of contaminants that may exceed the allowable levels required for a criminal prosecution under state environmental laws, only a small percentage of the samples show contaminant levels that exceed either background levels or a soil guideline (New York State Restricted Residential Soil Cleanup Objectives). In the few samples in which a guideline or background was exceeded, the contaminant levels were not exceedingly high, and State Health officials advise that similar levels have been found historically in New York State surface soils having no obvious source of contamination. Some pieces of debris were also found to contain asbestos, though it was found to be non-friable asbestos. Non-friable asbestos is a form that does not readily release asbestos fibers when handled, which limits the chance of exposure, and therefore health risk. In conclusion, after consultation with the NYSDOH, the contaminant levels in the dumped material do not represent an unusual exposure for an active recreational setting, such as the riding center.

Regarding medical testing, based on a review of the data, it is the consensus of the NYSDOH, the Occupational and Environmental Medicine of Long Island, and SCDHS that there is no need for blood or other testing (such as urine or skin testing). Such testing would not provide useful information to individuals who participated in activities at the Sweet Hills Riding Center or their health care providers.



Contact Numbers and Emails for More Information:

We encourage individuals who would like more information to contact the specialty organizations below and/or their health care provider. SCDHS will provide an update to this letter if further information becomes available.

Contacts and Resources

- Questions about West Hills Park: Please call the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation: http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Parks.aspx or 631-854-4609
- Questions on air quality and hazardous or solid waste cleanups: Please contact the New York State
 Department of Environmental Conservation (1-800-535-1345) or visit their website
 at http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/aqi/aqi-forecast.cfm and
 http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8486.html
- For information about the Suffolk County District Attorney's Investigation, call (631) 853-5602, or visit;
 http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Portals/da/PDFs/october%202016/2016%2010%2013%20labtestshow.pdf
- · For information from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services about the Sweet Hills Riding Center:
 - http://www.suffoikcountyny.gov and see "Updates on Health Concerns Related to Dumping Grounds in Suffoik County" at bottom of page, or
 - Contact Amy Juchatz at 631-854-0087
- Specific questions about your public drinking water: Please contact the South Huntington Water District at 631-427-8190 or http://www.shwd.org/contact.htm
- Questions about water quality: Please contact the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Office of Water Resources at 631-852-5810
- General questions about asbestos, dust or chemicals in soil: Please see the New York State Department
 of Health website links below or call 518-402-7800 or 800-458-1158
 - Asbestos: http://www.health.nv.gov/environmental/indoors/asbestos
 - Dust: http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/indoors/air/pmg a.htm
 - o Chemical Exposures: http://www.health.nv.gov/environmental/about/exposure.htm
- For occupational and environmental medical specialists:
 - Occupational and Environmental Medicine of Long Island (questions related to adult exposures) at 631-439-5300 or

https://www.northwell.edu/find-care/services-we-offer/occupational-and-environmental-medicine/about#37106

 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York (health care provider questions related to exposures to children): 866-265-6201 or http://icahn.mssm.edu/research/pehsu

Sincerely,

James L. Tomarken, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW

James & Tomarler

Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Health Services

JLT/srg



NSHA sent the following letter:

Good Afternoon,

I was urged to contact you by our Members and the Leaders and Members of several of the other Equine Associations across our Island. The local community and the horse community is very troubled by the events involving and the loss of the Sweet Hills Riding Academy adjacent to West Hills Preserve. Unfortunately it has caused quite a few owners to relocate their horses to new facilities which in many cases are not optimal making care and enjoyment of their horses more difficult. The whole community is feeling the loss of the Rental Horses and Trail Rides offered there.

We understand the circumstances and why this was necessary but we wanted to urge you to keep Sweet Hills an Equestrian facility in the future when the clean up is finished. Also, now would be the time to reopen Southaven Park. With the hopefully temporary closure of Sweet Hills Stable, this is the perfect time for the County to put forth an RFP to reopen Southaven Stable. Sweet Hills Stable was one of the few Long Island equestrian facilities that rented horses for trail riding. The Stable was also exceptionally busy, housing approximately 100 sale, boarder, and lesson horses. Sweet Hills offered a summer camp program for the Town Of Huntington, a therapeutic riding program, a series of interscholastic competitions, and gave work to a large number of trainers who taught lessons at every level. In short a public park amenity that is sorely missed.

As I mentioned before the horse industry in the county has suffered an economic and recreational blow, and reopening Southaven Stables could help mitigate the situation. Horses for trail riding is a key component. We are requesting that the County go through the whole RFP process with guidance on the contract/ planning / best practices / industry standards, etc. from an equestrian advisory committee. If you do not have one in place we are asking for the creation of one. We request that it consist of qualified people (including a veterinarian) ready to serve on the committee. Ideally the committee should weigh in on what services and amenities should be on site, and the contract should ensure that oversight of the facility operation is scheduled on a regular basis throughout the term of contract. Committee oversight can help keep things "honest" and prevent something similar to Sweet Hills from happening again. It has also been brought to my attention that the RFP is presently proclaimed on the County website only, and that it might be more productive to also post on a broader media outlet like Horse Directory, which would allow more equestrians / potential bidders to know about it.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this matter and I would be happy to discuss this matter further with you, either by phone or email.

Best Regards, Lisa Quinn President, NSHA 516-680-6362



"All NSHA members are eligible to place a free classified ad consisting of 15 words or less."

Classified Advertising

Very experienced, happy clients, numerous references, Riding Instructor, Pet Sitter, Attorney laurajreimer@yahoo.com 631-455-1167 Victory Farms

If you are buying, selling or renting a home, contact Wendy (specializing in horse properties) for all your real estate needs. 516-695-8111. WButler@SignaturePremier.Com.

WANTED FOR ADOPTION-Forever Home, sound gelding,10-18 yo.,15hh ,even gait, 631-423-0290 Marvg13@aol.com-Marvin



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Huntington, NY 11743

LI Equine Medical Center

Dr. Beroza DVM

300 West Hills Road

Huntington, NY 11746

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150 Duffy Ave Hicksville, NY 11801

The Campsite Sport Shop

1877 New York Ave

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Sweet Hills Riding Center Sweet Hollow Road

Huntington, NY 11743

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499 Winding Road

Old Bethpage, NY 11804

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71 Reminaton Blvd # A Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Please mention to these **Generous Donors that you** saw their name in our Newsletter when you patronize or meet them.

Thank you all!

New Nonprofit Benefiting Veterans on Long Island.

Horses Healing Veterans

James Allan Pennington, a retired Veteran is determined to give back to his fellow Veterans while helping horses in need. His program Horses Healing Veterans utilizes The Battle Buddy Program:

James says "HHV is dedicated to supporting Veterans while providing a second chance to horses at risk. In addition, we offer training to both the veteran and the horse for a lifelong relationship."

We offer the Veteran:

Hands-on therapeutic, equine sessions

VA claim counseling program VA benefits counseling program

Job assistance program

Education training and certification counseling program

Transition assistance counseling programs Individual and small group counseling programs

All services to Veterans, law enforcement, fire fighters and first responders are free of charge.

We offer the horse:

Removal from hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions

Provide medical screening and testing

Provide proper nutrition, appropriate to the needs of the horse

Provide the latest medical care

Provide a loving and safe environment

Provide ethical and humane training for a self-supporting role in the program

Good old fashion, Southern Hands-On, Therapeutic Equine Sessions Available for the Beginner thru Advanced Horsemanship Skill Levels.

460,000 Veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

5000 Veterans die by their own hands every year; that's 1 Veteran every 2 hours.

Rough Riders Roundup

The 1st United States Cavalry "Rough Riders" concludes another successful campaign season. An action packed and exciting year with the Troop participating in four Parades, wreath laying at Theodore Roosevelt's statue in Oyster Bay town, a Troop Cruise on the Oyster Sloop Christeen, a living history encampment at Sagamore Hill, a depiction of Browns Raid at Ft. Ticonderoga, the Long Island Fair cavalry demonstration and encampment, American Armor Museum Military Timeline and the Color Guard at the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace grand reopening in NYC.

The honor and highlight of the year was providing the riderless horse and honor detail for the "Missing in America" ceremony at the Long Island National Cemetery. Missing in America returns the lost or unclaimed remains of American soldiers. The Troop had the honor to receive the flag on behalf of the President and a grateful nation for Private Henry Fleischer U.S. Army who served during the Spanish American War. He was assigned to Company A, 9th U.S. Infantry, was honorably discharged on February 23, 1902 and died in New York in 1920. His remains had been lost or unclaimed until this year when he was finally laid to rest with full military honors.

The "Rough Rider" Troopers also reenact the Civil War and the American Revolution. Troopers perform as living history educators at numerous Civil War and Revolutionary War school pro-

grams. The Troop visits thousands of elementary and middle school chil-

dren every year. The students have the unique opportunity to learn history at an organic event that is filled with live action demonstrations. The history of the Cavalry and the horse is our primary focus. For many students it is often the first close contact they have had with a horse. It is always gratifying to see many of the children leaving with a true appreciation of and affinity for the horses.



Looking forward to 2017 some of our troopers will be getting their uniforms and accoutrements organized in order to represent World War I cavalry in commemoration of the centennial of the United States entry in to the war in 1917.

The "Rough Riders" are looking for recruits both mounted and dismounted. If you have a sense of adventure and love of history this could end up being the most rewarding and unique adventure on or off a



horse. The troop holds a number of training camps during the year so learning to be a cavalry trooper and your horse to be a warhorse is a relaxed and comfortable experience.

Contact Major Frank Bradford for more information, fbradford@mac.com.



Grants Will Help Communities in Nassau and Suffolk Counties Recover from Southern Pine Beetle Infestation

Many in the equestrian community has experienced the cutting down of trees in our parks. That is being done to control the Southern Pine Beetle Infestation. The following press release was issued in July 2016 and outlines the effort taken and still ahead.

Released: JULY 20, 2016 Albany, NY

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that \$500,000 is now available to assist communities on Long Island with removing and replacing trees infested by the southern pine beetle. These grants are the latest initiative by The State Department of Environmental Conservation to address issues of invasive species, community resiliency, environmental degradation, and environmental justice.

"New Yorkers have a strong connection to their environment which on Long Island is being threatened by an influx of invasive species, such as the southern pine beetle," Governor Cuomo said. "This funding will help in this administration's ongoing efforts to stop these infestations and help preserve Long Island's environmental treasures for future generations." Southern pine beetles have killed thousands of pine trees on Long Island since it was first discovered in 2014. Through the Southern Pine Beetle Community Recovery Grant program, a total of \$500,000 in grants are available to municipalities, municipal corporations, soil and water conservation districts, school districts and community colleges to remove infested or dead pine trees or to plant trees to replace those lost to southern pine beetle. Awards will range from \$25,000 to \$75,000, and have a local match requirement of 25 percent of the grant amount requested. Local match can be made by funding or in kind services. The grants are funded by the state's Environmental Protection Fund.

The Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "The Department of Environmental Conservation is committed to helping communities impacted by southern pine beetle remove trees to maintain public safety and replant in areas where trees have been killed. New York is making significant investments in the fight to addresses their spread. These grants will help safeguard the Central Pine Barrens, which is vital for protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, endangered species, and recreational opportunities."

Applicants should detail the scope of work and how the project will provide environmental, economic, and/or social benefits in the community. Applicants are encouraged to form regional partnerships and project consideration should be given to underserved neighborhoods. The Department of Environmental Conservation foresters are available to provide applicants with technical assistance.

Applications are required to be developed and submitted through the New York State Grants Gateway by 2:00 p.m. on August 31, 2016. For more information, call The Department of Environmental Conservation at (518) 402-9425. More information is available here.

Senator Tom O'Mara, Chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee said, "Combating invasive species remains one of New York State's most critical agricultural, economic and environmental challenges. The uncontrolled spread of invasive species can devastate regional economies and environments, and cost local communities hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs. We appreciate Governor Cuomo's recognition of these risks, and I look forward to continue working with the Cuomo administration and local leaders throughout New York to prevent and eradicate these threats."

Senator Ken LaValle said, "It's critically important that we provide resources to fight the devastating effects of the southern pine beetle on Long Island. The Governor recognizes that we need to commit the support necessary to control this problem before it becomes unmanageable. These grants are a step in the right direction."

Assemblyman Steve Englebright, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, "The discovery of the southern pine beetle poses a very real and significant threat to the Pine Barrens, especially considering trees previously thought too small to be attacked have been infested. These community grants are a good first step in helping to protect the Long Island Pine Barrens, which represent the largest contiguous block of forest left on Long Island. The Pine Barrens help to filter our drinking water, as well as provide a home to thousands of plant and animals species, many of which are endangered or threatened. In recognition of the importance of invasive species eradication efforts, this year's budget nearly doubled funding to fight invasive species, including the southern pine beetle. I worked with Governor Cuomo to secure the funds and to direct a greater share to eradication efforts. Additionally, the budget for the first time explicitly authorizes combating invasive species on State lands. I look forward to continuing to work with Governor Cuomo to ensure that southern pine beetle eradication efforts receive the financial resources they need."

Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. said, "The southern pine beetle has caused extensive damage on Long Island, and the threat remains. Today's announcement acknowledges New York State and The Department of Environmental Conservation's commitment to building a truly comprehensive management and control program. In addition to state funded monitoring, research, maintenance and removal, this new funding will provide financial relief for municipalities struggling with infestations."

Richard Amper, Executive Director, Long Island Pine Barrens Society said, "In combination with the commitment we've received to fight southern pine beetle in the Pine Barrens, this is a terrific and comprehensive approach to the beetle battle."

DEC's Fight against Southern Pine Beetle

Since its discovery, The Department of Environmental Conservation has used traps, aerial surveys, and ground surveys to track the southern pine beetle. In May, The Department of Environmental Conservation worked with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Parks and Trails NY, and volunteers to replant more than 600 pine trees along impacted trails at Connetquot River State Park. Additionally, the Department has cut down more than 8,500 infested and buffer trees to lower the populations of the beetle and slow its spread.

Mapping Infestations Using Aerial and Ground Surveys

Aerial surveys were conducted in May and June over the Central Pine Barrens, with another flight planned for August. These surveys map and locate infested trees in the area.

January, May, and June 2016 aerial flights mapped more than 25,000 acres of potentially infested trees.

Interns from The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Pine Barrens Commission are conducting ground surveys to verify infested areas.

More than 6,000 acres have been ground surveyed for SPB in Suffolk County.

Summer Southern Pine Beetle Suppression Plan

More than 500 infested and buffer trees in verified infested areas have been cut since early June 2016 to lower the population of southern pine beetle.

472 trees were cut at Henry's Hollow Pine Barrens State Forest.

26 trees were cut at Sears Bellows County Park.

11 trees were cut at David A. Sarnoff Preserve.

Research Plan to Develop Management Strategies

The Department of Environmental Conservation is conducting research on SPB mortality and the SPB's life cycle throughout the summer to help develop the most effective management strategies.

Pitch pine regeneration data will be collected in July to help inform replanting efforts by describing factors such as light and soil cover that affect pitch pine regeneration.

The Department of Environmental Conservation staff will review the completed grant applications and select award recipients based on established evaluation criteria, including cost-effectiveness, projected benefits, use of recommended standards in implementation, community outreach, education, support, and regional economic impact.

For more information on southern pine beetle, visit: http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99331.html.

State DEC and Parks Replant Connetquot in the Wake of Southern Pine Beetle Released by the Department of Environmental Tuesday, May 3, 2016

As part of I Love My Park Day on Saturday, May 7, approximately one hundred volunteers began tree restoration efforts at Connetquot River State Park Preserve on Long Island, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced. Under this restoration effort, volunteers planted 600 native trees to reforest the park in the wake of those trees lost to the southern pine beetle with DEC Forest Health, Trees for Tribs, and State Parks staff. Southern pine beetle is a

bark beetle that infests and kills pine trees.
"Since southern pine beetle arrived on Long Island in 2014, DEC, along with help from the Excelsior Conservation Corps, has removed more than 8,000 trees to suppress the beetle population," said Acting Commissioner Basil Seggos. "This tree suppression effort has left sections of Long Island needing tree restoration. As tree canopies open, and sunlight hits the ground, seeds from the parent trees will begin sprouting new trees for future generations."

To accelerate this regrowth, two year-old seedling pitch pine and white pine trees will be planted. The new trees are provided by DEC's Saratoga Tree Nursery, which has been reforesting New York since 1911. Planting these seedlings will ensure trees will close the canopy in future years, should natural regeneration be delayed due to drought or other weather conditions. These trees are an insurance that trees will replace those lost by this forest pest.

Restoration efforts to reforest this area are important as Connetquot River State Park Preserve is home to some of New York's most treasured species, including trout. Trout rely on trees to shade and cool waters as well as to drop leaves, which feed the aquatic insects that the fish eat. By restoring trees to the Park, DEC is working to ensure the future of this fish and the important habitat it needs to survive.

Connetquot is also pine barren habitat, which is rare in New York State. Replanting pine barren species such as white pine and pitch pine ensure that these open areas are filled with native species. Native trees also provide water quality benefits, reducing runoff of harmful pollutants into nearby streams. Native trees will also provide important wildlife habitat for birds and mammals, which rely on these species for nesting habitat and food.

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Rose Harvey said, "Our partners at DEC and the ECC have done a fantastic job in halting the spread of the Southern Pine Beetle, and now I encourage park visitors to join us Saturday in this important work to reverse the damage at Connetquot River State Park."

They called for additional volunteers to help restore this important place for the future. DEC encouraged those available to help restore Connetquot River State Park Preserve to volunteer in this important effort.

The New York State ECC is a New York State AmeriCorps program run by the Student Conservation Association, created under the vision of Governor Cuomo to address the environmental and stewardship needs of New York State while inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders through environmental education programing. ECC members help State parks organize and implement I Love My Park Day projects.

Greg Dawson Retires and Tom Vaughn is Named New Parks Commissioner.

Tom Vaughn, currently assigned to operations as a county executive assistant 5, will be placed on assignment to the Parks Department. In September, he was nominated to replace Commissioner Greg Dawson, who has informed the county that he will be retiring. Adina Beedenbender will transfer from her current position as assistant to the commissioner in the Police Department to assume the same title in the Parks Department and assist Tom Vaughn with the transition. In her new role, Beedenbender will work closely with law enforcement on security and patrol issues related to county parks and also with the Department of Economic Development and Planning on new initiatives, including the creation of an interconnected hiking and biking network throughout the county.

Thank you for your years of work Greg Dawson and a big welcome to Tom Vaughn from all of us in the Equine Community!

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PONY EXPRESS TRAIL - New Trailhead in Ridge is Open

It is hard to believe that Cyla Allison, former President of NSHA, introduced the concept of the Pony Express Trail circa 1998. Here it is almost 18 years later and we are finally seeing this trail come to fruition. The new trailhead in ridge which is the midway point of the Pony Express Trail is open.

We would like to thank many of our local representatives for their support and especially, Senator Ken LaValle, Legislators Rob Calarco & Kate Browning, and Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine who have all written letters and/or spoken on our behalf in support of the Pony Express Trail. A special thank you to Jeannean Mercuri, of Ridge. Thank you Jeannean for all your hard work and dedication to keeping our equine trails open!



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