



Newsletter – January through December, 2013



Lyme Trail Association Mission

The Lyme Trail Association encourages interest and support for the preservation, development and enhancement of non-motorized use trails on public and private land in Lyme and the surrounding area for the education and enjoyment of the community.

Lyme Trail Association fulfills this vision by working with the community to manage and maintain protected and public land and trails while causing no harm to the ecological integrity of these areas.



2013 LTA Events

Lyme Horse Trials at Lord Creek Farm – 08/17/2013

The 2013 Horse Trials were very successful with 103 Entrees compared to 68 in 2012. There was strong sponsorship by the community as well with an increase of over \$1,000 from the prior year.

Lyme Hunter Pace at Lord

Bad weather was to blame for fewer riders at the 2013 Hunter Pace. Those who did ride out had a wonderful time as the rain held off for most of the day.

LTA Donation of Event Proceeds

The LTA was proud to be able to donate over \$5,000 to both High Hopes and the CT Valley Pony Club.



Stewardship of Trails

The LTA assumed responsibility for managing the trails at Lord Creek Farm in July 2013.

Proposal for Wetland Repair

After receiving approval from the Nature Conservancy the LTA successfully prepared and presented a proposal to the Lyme Inland Wetland Commission for the repair and improvement of a wetland crossing on the trails at Lord Creek Farm. Both the Commission and the Nature Conservancy were very supportive of LTA's efforts.

Trail to Middle Earth

Before the LTA could begin to repair the wetland crossing, a trail down to the wetland area needed to be improved to provide access for equipment and material. This project was completed in October.



The Repair

The top picture shows deep mud that made for a potentially dangerous crossing for horses and an impossible crossing for those on foot.

The next picture is of the rock bed that replaced the mud after a drainage pipe was installed.

The Finished Product

The two photos at the right show the finished product – a beautiful trail leading from the bottom of Lord Creek Farm all the way to the watertower field at the top of the property.





Lyme Trail Association Work Parties/Clinics

Jump Building Clinic

With approximately 500 acres of trails on Lord Creek Farm alone there is significant need for organized work parties. During 2013 those work parties included:

- Spring Clean Up
- Barn/Shed Clean Out
- Horse Trial Preparation
- Trail Preparation for the Lyme Hunter Pace

During 2014 we envision more work parties as the LTA takes on more responsibility at Lord Creek Farm and at other locations.

The LTA is working with High Hopes to organize a 2-day jump-building clinic during 2014.

It is envisioned that one to two sites (depending on the level of interest) on Lord Creek Farm will be selected for this clinic. The first session would include visiting the site and designing a small jump course utilizing the specifics of that site. Participants would then work out the details of the course identifying tools and materials needed. During the second session the jumps would be constructed on site.

Watch the website for more information.



Land Adoption Program

The Riders from Trails Edge Farm Adopt "Lower Lord Creek Farm"

The riders at Trails Edge Farm have gladly take responsibility for maintaining and improving Davison owned property off of Tinker Lane and Ely's Ferry Road.

Volunteer activities have included mowing of the hay field and the "cemetery field" and a weekend work party to cut new trails and replace jumps.

Membership

LTA Membership solicitation begins January, 2014

Working from an email list compiled over the past 2 years a solicitation will go out via email. The list includes:

- Signers of LCF Waivers
- Lyme Horse Trial/Hunter Pace Volunteers
- Lyme Horse Trials Participants
- People who expressed interest in the LTA

If you are not on one of these lists and are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at:

info@lymetrailassociation.org



Membership Categories

Base Membership \$35/year

All members are required to pay a base membership of \$35.

Equestrian Memberships

All Equestrian Members are required to pay the \$35 base membership plus either the equestrian surcharge or volunteer hours as detailed below:

Youth Equestrian	\$100/year or 10 volunteer hours/year
Adult Equestrian	\$150/year or 15 volunteer hours/year
Family Equestrian	\$200/year or 20 volunteer hours/year
Professional Equestrian*	\$175/year or 15 volunteer hours/year*

* Trainer who brings their students on LTA managed properties.



LTA Strategic Partners

High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc.



High Hopes, currently at capacity at their Old Lyme site is investigating the development of off site program opportunities at LCF and another location in the area. Presently, some High Hopes Level II participants, “graduates” from existing programs, ride at LCF with Jonnie Edwards. The second phase of development is underway for 2014. This satellite program gives riders ready to progress to the next step in their riding skills a greater sense of independence and confidence in the cross country environment.

Further development is ongoing with regard to future programming opportunities at these sites. Both sites have attributes that generate a lot of excitement when considering the value they could bring to High Hopes’ participants.

Connecticut Valley Pony Club



The LTA and the Connecticut Valley Pony Club ("CVPC") have formed a partnership to foster character, leadership, confidence and a sense of community in our young riders through a program that teaches the care of horses and ponies, riding and mounted sports. CVPC will conduct rallies and clinics throughout the year on LTA managed properties and their members will contribute volunteer hours to LTA events and work parties. Educational enrichment is the cornerstone of the CVPC program and their association with the LTA and Lord Creek Farm helps perpetuate this legacy.



Save the Date!

Spring Clean UP TBD

Join LTA's volunteers in cleaning up Lord Creek Farm.

Lyme Horse Trials August 17, 2014

Compete at our 3 Phase Event at Lord Creek Farm.

Lyme Hunter Pace Sept 20, 2014

Ride the beautiful trails at Lord Creek Farm. Rain date Sept. 21st.

Upcoming LTA Events



Lyme Horse Trials – Sunday, 08/17/14 at Lord Creek Farm.

Lyme Horse Trials provides an opportunity for riders to learn and compete in a low key, supportive atmosphere over well-built courses, with the added bonus of spectacular CT River views.

Lyme Hunter Pace – Sat., Sept. 20, 2014 at Lord Creek Farm

Ride the beautiful trails at Lord Creek Farm. Compete for time or relax and enjoy the day.