



TRAILS UPDATE

Sunday Hunting Vetoed!

with Nancy Hill

HB 9—Deer Management Plans—Increased Harvest, was vetoed by Governor Glendening on May 15, 2002! Following is his veto letter to Speaker Taylor: Of particular interest to the horse community is paragraph 4. We can all be proud of our hard work to finally kill this bill.

Bill Signing & Vetoes, 2002
Governor Parris N. Glendening, Maryland
May 15, 2002

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 9—Deer Management Plans—Increased Harvest.

House Bill 9 increases the deer firearms season from 13 to at least 21 days, including the first Sunday of the season. The Sunday hunting provision does not apply in: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester Counties; Baltimore City; and the City of Frederick.

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources has the authority to promulgate regulations establishing a hunting season, except on Sundays, to hunt forest and upland game birds and mammals. House Bill 9 restates the Department's current authority to increase the harvest in a region where the deer population is or will become a threat to public health or safety, or create a nuisance, because the population exceeds the carrying capacity of the zone. Proper management of the State's deer population is a complex problem requiring careful consideration of all the issues before reaching a conclusion.

Our outdoor resources should be shared fairly by everyone. Currently, Sunday during hunting season is the only day of the week when outdoor recreation such as hiking, picnicking, bird watching, photography, angling, horseback riding, and other non-hunting activities can occur in the State's natural areas without the fear of nearby hunting. Many naturalist societies routinely schedule nature field trips only on Sundays during hunting season to be certain they will avoid the interference and potential danger from hunting. I have received numerous letters from persons across Maryland opposing House Bill 9 because

they would lose the certainty of having one weekend day during hunting season when their families and children can safely enjoy the outdoors.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 9.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Henson Creek Trail Dedication

Fort Washington, MD, April 27, 2002

By Beth Collier



Maryland Officials Love Horses
Buffalo Soldiers and equestrians from the Broad Creek Historic District celebrate the opening of a new Prince George's trail segment near Rosecroft Raceway. Most jogging trails started out as bridle paths for riders, and a growing number of public officials want to keep horseback riding part of Maryland's sports mix. Pictured at the April opening are (l-r): Buffalo Solider Trooper Isaac Prentice, Trail Riders of Today founder Mary Angevine, Acting Parks Director Marye Wells-Harley, Dusty the Pony, Broad Creek horseman Rufus Archer, MD State Senator Gloria Lawlah (26th district), state Delegate Obie Patterson (26th District).
Photo by Steve Abramowitz, MNCPPC

As Dave Turner explained it was a small event with a big idea: "The horse world strikes back at the urban environment."

The beginning of the 21st century is an age of construction and development. The news is full of catch phrases such as Smart Growth, Hot Spot initiatives with intense political debates over maximum residential density and comprehensive land use plans. On April 27 the Henson Creek Trail dedication ceremony in densely populated Prince George's County was a rare and special event made possible by the relentless work of dedicated workers and volunteers from multiple organizations at the federal, state, and local levels.

The Matthew Henson Greenway is a stream valley running between the Suitland Parkway and the Potomac River. Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MN-

NCPPC) owns the majority of the corridor. The greenways provide water quality and resource protection benefits and a connection to the Potomac Scenic Heritage Trail. The six mile long Henson Creek Trail runs northeast from Oxon Hill Road, following the stream to Temple Hill Road, running under Indian Head Highway and past the Tucker Road Community Center and Athletic Complex. After being divided in two by a crucial missing section for more than twenty years, the trail, for the first time, gives hikers, bikers, and equestrians a continuous pathway. The long-awaited trail segment near Brinkley Road was completed in December.

The organizations responsible for the recent trail improvements include: M-NCPPC, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority, PG County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Giant Food, Philips Electronics, and the Embassy of the Netherlands. The trail dedication ceremony recognized the partnership of these organizations. A series of new, mushroom-like signs were built in the Netherlands with grants from Giant Food and Philips Electronics. The PG County Department of Public Works and Transportation made road crossings safer with new signs and road markings.

The ceremony speakers were: Gloria Lawlah—26th District Maryland State Senator, Michael Jackson—Director of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access for the Maryland Department of Transportation, and Felecia Baker—Governor's Office of Smart Growth, Program Coordinator for Smart Step Forward—Maryland's Walking Campaign. Philip de Waal represented the Embassy of the Netherlands. Thomas Patton represented Philips Electronics. In addition, Roxana Andrade represented Giant Foods.

Mary Angevine (TROT—Trail Riders of Today) introduced the equestrian groups: Archer Equestrian Center—Rufus Archer, the Rough Riders—Mister Morris, and the Buffalo Soldiers—Joe Banzego. Mark Hole, Southern Prince George's Trails Coalition introduced the hiker/biker groups: Washington Area Bicyclist Association, One Less Car—MD Campaign for Bicycling and Walking, and Oxon Hill Bicycle and Trail Club.

Southern Maryland TROT representative Dave Turner explained the hard work of making trail areas multi-use for equestrians, bicyclists, and joggers. He also discussed trying to "broaden the vision" of each special interest group to work together for a common goal. His goal is to make county trails horse friendly. He envisions equestrian activity as "the only kind of agriculture permissible near cities...it keeps land green and scenic and on the tax rolls." ♦