



BEDFORD RIDING LANES ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER



**ABT* 2013
 PACE EVENTS**

Sunday, 9/8
 Bedford Riding Lanes Association
Fall Pace
www.bedfordridinglanes.com

Sunday, 9/15
 Middlebury Bridle Land Association
Fall Hunter Pace
www.middleburybridle.org

Saturday, 9/21
 Oblong Trail Association
Hettinger Challenge Hunter Pace
www.oblongtrails.com

Sunday, 9/29
 Putnam Horse Council
Family Hunter Pace
www.putnamhorsecouncil.org

Sunday, 10/6
 Lewisboro Horsemen's Association
Fall Pace
 Ward Pound Ridge Reservation
www.lhatrails.org

Sunday, 10/13
 Greenwich Riding & Trails
 Association
Hunter Pace
www.thegrta.org

Sunday, 10/20
 Friends of the Rockefeller State
 Park & Westchester Horse Council
Annual Autumn Country Pace
www.friendsrock.org

Sunday, 10/27
 Newtown Bridle Lands Association
Frost on the Pumpkin Pace
www.nblact.com

**Associated Bridle Trails Association.
 For more information, visit
www.associatedbridletrails.com*

BRLA'S FALL PACE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 8

by Carol Bancel

This season's Fall Pace, scheduled for Sunday, September 8th, marks the 23rd year the BRLA has sponsored the event, and for those who have not yet ridden in this annual rite, the course will feature many of our most scenic and beautiful trails.

Teams of two or three riders will go off at two-minute intervals, starting at 7:30 AM through 11:30 AM. Riders set their own pace, depending on conditions. They will cross streams, navigate woodland trails, canter through beautiful jumping fields,



Ann Leary at the Memorial Day Pace. Photo by Kathy Mathen.

and enter in any one of four divisions: Hunt, Pleasure, Western or Junior. Horses must have a valid negative Coggins certificate at time of registration.

Ribbons Earn ABT Points

The Fall Pace is the first of eight in the Associated Bridle Trails Fall Pace Series, and those closest to the optimal time in the four divisions will win ribbons and trophies (along with points towards series championships). For more details about each event, check out ABT's website, associatedbridletrails.org, when

completing registration forms.

Registration packets for BRLA's Fall Pace are available on our website at www.bedfordridinglanes.com, and by e-mailing Carol Bancel at carollbancel@gmail.com.

(Continued on back page)



Barbara Matarazzo and Deborah Costa rode too. Photo by Kathy

cross roads at various points (with the help of police officers), and experience some of the best of the BRLA trails.

The ride usually takes 1-2 hours. All fences have go-rounds, and there are sections designated "Walk Only."

Riders who want to participate are encouraged to register as early as possible,

ABOUT THE BRLA

The BRLA maintains and develops the historic system of trails and dirt roads which extend and connect more than 100 linear miles of trails in the Bedford and Pound Ridge areas. The BRLA works to stimulate the interest of the community in the preservation of "horse country" and our unique rural character.

Only by including in its membership all persons who use the trails can BRLA effectively communicate its ideals and fund the necessary equipment and personnel so that we can enjoy the proper use of our countryside.

Our continued success in these endeavors, and maintenance of the trail network is dependent on our efforts and your financial support.

Donations Are Tax Deductible

The BRLA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization recognized under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and eligible to receive tax deductible donations. Since no goods or services are provided in exchange, *the full amount of your gift is tax deductible under the IRS Code 501(c) (3).*

For more information, contact:

Bedford Riding Lanes Association
PO Box 178
Bedford, NY 10506
Phone: 914-234-BRLA (2752)



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Trail Hotline

With such a large network of trails, we need as many eyes as possible alerting us to problems as they arise.

Please report any problems you see on the trails to our hotline, 914-234-BRLA.

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fall Pace: Day For Family, Friends and Fun

After a few days of torrential rains leading up to our Memorial Day Pace, the sun came out in time to give us a beautiful cool and dry day for our annual spring event.

Approximately 100 teams rode the Pace course which created an atmosphere for plenty of fun and good competition.

Riders and non-riders alike enjoyed the outdoor barbeque luncheon, complete with grilled stead and chicken, a wide selection of salads, delicious watermelon and dessert treats.

The Pace is one of the few sporting events both young and old can participate on the same team, and it's great to see families riding together, laughing and enjoying each other's company.

Juniors team up together as well, often with matching outfits and imaginative markings on



Ellie Woznica takes a jump. Photo by Kathy Mathen.

Once the course has been completed, the excitement mounts for riders and their fans who gather at the lunch tent and wait as times are calculated, and final results are determined.

Cheers go up from family, friends and other fans as Pace winners are announced. The smiles on the faces of winners as they collect their ribbons and pose for congratulatory photos are priceless.

We finish the day by acknowledging the efforts of the volunteers who make the event happen, and to the

members of John Jay Homestead community, our loyal partners, who allow us to host the event on the grounds of this historical landmark every year.

If you happened to miss the Memorial Day Pace, videos of event highlights, including one from the rider's view taken by a helmet-cam, can be viewed online on our website, www.bedfordridinglanes.com.

Whether you ride or not, the Fall Pace is an afternoon full of fun, good food and time spent in the company of friends and family.

We hope you will make plans to join us at the John Jay Homestead on September 8th!

— Monique Schulman



Frank Bergman showing good form. Photo by Kathy Mathen.

their horses to help them stand out among the crowd.

For those in the pleasure division, the Pace is an opportunity to spend time on their horse and enjoy the ride.

It's great for young or green horses and for riders who are pacing for the first time. And for those who love to compete, the Hunt division is where the time truly counts.

For non-English riders, our Western division brings out the cowboys and girls in the area.

With its parade of different horse breeds to watch, the Pace is fun even if you don't ride. There are draft horses, Icelandics and even mules.

BEDFORD FARM IS HOME TO RARE EQUINE BREED

by Monique Schulman

Some of you may be familiar with Zelda the Zebra who resides at Coker Farm off Stone Hill Road. These days Zelda's not the only exotic hybrid with stripes in the same neighborhood.

Heather Van Wolf, the owner of Honey Hollow Farms, recently purchased two zedonks, Wilma and Fred, from a zebra breeder in Wisconsin, and has given them a new home on her farm.

"My husband loves the look of a zebra," says Heather. "However, in my experience, their temperaments are more akin to a rhino than a horse, so I cautioned that we may want to instead search for a zebra hybrid to have an animal with the stripes."

What's a zedonk, you ask? Simple: a zedonk is an offspring of a zebra and a donkey. Like mules, zedonks cannot reproduce. In order for a zedonk to be born, a female donkey must mate with a male zebra.

Most often, zedonks are intentionally bred. While not as common as being bred in captivity, breeding in the wild, does happen when zebras and donkeys are kept in a herd. Such is the case with Pippi



Fred and Wilma, zedonks who live at Honey Hollow Farms, have the right disposition to be trained to ride the trails, says owner Heather Van Wolf.

born July 21, 2010 at the Chestatec Wildlife Preserve, near Dahlonega, Georgia. Her mother is "Sarah," a donkey, and the father is "Zeke," a zebra.

A Rare Pairing

Dr. Ben Benson, a licensed veterinarian in Georgia who cares for animals at the preserve, said a female donkey mating with a male zebra is rare.

"A male donkey and female horse produce mules all the time, but it is highly

unusual for a female donkey to breed with a male zebra," said Dr. Benson.

Considered "ultra-skittish" by nature, zebras are not good candidates for riding or other form of human domestication. Zedonks, however, are more donkey-like in temperament, and can be ridden.

Heather also has plans to train Wilma and Fred. "I don't want these two darlings to just be pasture ornaments," she said. "I hope to use them for riding on the trails and driving. I am taking it slow, which their donkey temperaments appreciate."

Zebra hybrids have been successfully trained in dressage, hunter jumper and driving, so it seems we should be watching for Wilma and Fred in their first BRLA Pace.

Hérons Choose Bedford Marsh for Nesting Site

The wooded marshland along Route 121 just south of Stone Hill Road is a well-recognized landmark for BRLA members who ride and walk the trails nearby.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

That it's recently become a rookery for a Great Blue Herons, and a source of curiosity for local and out-of-town bird watchers — is a new development.

Great Blue Herons usually prefer to locate their nesting sites in swamps, on islands,

peninsulas and shorelines that are close to foraging areas, but which are relatively difficult for terrestrial predators — *and humans* — to reach. Which makes their choice of home in this instance a bit of a mystery.

While highly adaptive, herons are also notoriously sensitive. They often abandon rookeries or experience diminished reproductive success when disrupted, especially early in the breeding season.

The ongoing disappearance of fresh water wetlands, clear-cutting forests and construction near heronries are all sources of disruption that could threaten the stability of the heron population.

So, whether these majestic birds become a permanent addition to the area's natural habitat, and continue nesting at tree-top along our trails, remains to be seen.

New Manager for Trails

For those members who have yet to meet him along the way, the BRLA's new trail manager is Jim McManus.

A long-time resident of Bedford who grew up near the Hook Road and Caramoor trails, Jim brings decades of landscape operations experience, and a love for the outdoors to the position.



Jim McManus

"I'm fortunate to be able to spend each day surrounded by the natural beauty that's everywhere along the trails," he says. "I'm also extremely grateful that I can contribute to the BRLA's efforts to achieve its mission."



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FALL PACE *(from page one)*

This is the first year ABT will not be mailing entry forms. Members on the present mailing list will receive a one-page flier rather than the usual large packet of forms.

As its goal is to be paperless by 2014, registrants are asked to please include e-mail addresses.

The Fall Pace has been held at the John Jay Homestead since 1993. Prior to that, the Harvey School and Caramoor served as its home base.

However, due to its popularity and number of participants, more space for parking was required. Fortunately, the trustees at John Jay kindly allowed us to hold this second pace there, as it has done since 1986 for our Memorial Day Pace.

We pride ourselves on having a beautiful course, preparation has already begun. Come out to ride or to watch!



Ed Theiberger finishing up the course. Photo by Kathy Mathew.

Schedule

7:30 am First team out

Teams will go out at two-minute intervals. Please arrive with adequate time to be at the start promptly at your assigned start time.

11:30 am Last team out

11:30 am -1:30 pm Country Luncheon.
Under the tent. Riders and non-riders welcome!

1:30 (approx.) Raffle Drawing/Results/Awards. *10 ribbons/places per division. Trophies to winners of each division.*

Reminder

Water will be available, but you are responsible for bringing your own hay in and out of the site. *We are guests on private property, so please respect all signs and rules of courtesy, clean up manure, hay and shavings around your trailer.*

Special Offer

Join the BRLA prior to or on the day of the Fall Pace and receive \$10 off at the next 3 paces, a savings of \$30! For details and application, visit our website, www.bedfordridinglanes.com.