



# THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

## Trails Stewardship Committee

### Spotlight on Dorchester County: Marshyhope Complex *by Katherine O. Rizzo*

The Marshyhope Creek is a 37-mile long tributary of the Nanticoke River which runs from Central Maryland south to the Chesapeake Bay, forming the border between Dorchester and Wicomico counties. The Nanticoke is one of the rivers that Capt. John Smith explored in 1608.

The Nanticoke watershed supports more rare plants and animals than any other watershed on the Delmarva peninsula. Rare species include the Atlantic white cedar, bald cypress, box huckleberry, and the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. Scientists have also found Atlantic sturgeon in the river, a fish that was thought to have been extirpated by over fishing. The watershed is under the North American flyway and is good place to see birds migrating between Canada and South America. The area is also home to numerous nesting pairs of bald eagles. Pack a pair of binoculars when you go.

The Marshyhope tributary creek itself runs from Delaware through Caroline and Dorchester Counties. In Dorchester County, trail riders

can ride along the creek at the Marshyhope Complex on Harrison Ferry Road in Hurlock. There are two parking areas on the Harrison Ferry Road. Trailers can also park on the side of Wesley Road and Puckum Road to access the park.

The multi-use trail is short, about a 1.6-mile loop, and is considered “easy” in terms of terrain. The park is open year-round with seasonal hunting permitted. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times.



**MHC TRAILS STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR: Carolann Sharpe • [blackandwhitecookieequine@gmail.com](mailto:blackandwhitecookieequine@gmail.com)**