



Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Fall 2015

Board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. All members are welcome. For more information, call 734.878.2975

"Talk to the Hoof"

On The Calendar

Friday, December 4th, 6pm

Join us at the annual BRTA/PTRA Christmas party for a night of fun and friendship. The event will be held at Cleary's Pub in Howell and includes a two entre buffet dinner and desserts will be served at 7pm. More information will be posted on Facebook.

REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM MAY 1st through APRIL 30th ANNUALLY. RENEWALS CAN BE DONE ONLINE ON THE WEBSITE. IT'S FAST & EASY AND WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!

Note: If you plan to attend any of these events, it would be very much appreciated if you would R.S.V.P. on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/216491998419057/events/>. Thank You!

Volunteer Recognition Corner

We would like to recognize and thank Donn Dirven for keeping the staging area mowed this year and also recognize and thank Norm Klein for mowing our trails for our riding and staging pleasure. Both of these men spent many hours and used their expensive personal equipment to see that happen.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who came out and helped with the work bees we had this year. You are the best!

Many thanks also go out to Amy Scharmen-Burgdorf and Dianne Martin for organizing the work bees.

PTRA 2016 Photo Calendar Contest

PTRA would like to bring you our very own 2016 calendar with pictures from our members. We're asking that you submit your photos by email to be chosen by the Board at the November meeting. We hope to have the calendars ready and available for purchase at the December 5th Christmas Party. Please submit photos by November 10th to Pinckneytrailrider@yahoo.com.

Michigan Horse Council News By Sue Armstrong

This past July new elections were held to establish a new board to address the issues facing the MHC. Colonel Don Packard is the newly President and will be supported by Jean Ligon as Vice President, Karyl Dunaway as Treasurer and Ida Glassbrook as Secretary. Elected Directors are Dee Boznek (insert club names), Ellen VanSlyke, Connie Maynard and myself, Sue Armstrong, as Director at Large.

We are all very excited about the new board and the possibilities for all facets of the horse industry in the upcoming year. A bigger and better 2016 expo will be held at MSU Pavilion in Lansing and PTRA will be there! I hope to see everyone there in March.

Michigan Tourism Meeting By Sue Armstrong

In 2012 the Michigan Tourism Strategic Plan (MTSP) was completed and the implementation of that plan is underway. A committee was formed with Sarah Nicholls, Ph.D. and Assoc. Professor at MSU as Coordinator/Facilitator of the committee.

One of the eight goals of the MTSP relates to promotion, marketing and communications and is said to strengthen and grow the Pure Michigan ® brand through effective mediums at the regional, national and international levels to attract first-time and repeat visitors.

The committee is eager to focus increased attention on Michigan's niche tourism activities with a special focus on equestrian use. Hence, the equestrian community is being asked for their input. Their definition of equestrian is broad and includes all disciplines of both pleasure and competitive riding.

The invitation to join the MTSP committee was sent to the president or any contact person for riding related associations. Feel free to forward this invitation to any other individuals who might be interested. Email Sarah at nicho210@anr.msu.edu for the link to register for attendance.

I will be attending the meeting in Lansing on Thursday November 12th, 9:30am-1:30pm. There are two other scheduled meetings: one in Marquette and the other in Gaylord. Anyone who would like to attend with me is more than welcome.

It is my opinion that the more equestrian use we can get in the state, the more the state and the DNR will be willing to give. For example, we have over 1,400 miles of equestrian trails but few equestrian campgrounds, particularly in the northern end of the State. Many are located along the Shore-to-Shore trail and are only open during MTRA rides. If you camp this beautiful state with your horse, wouldn't you like to have more modern facilities available, like electricity and water? That subject is something of interest to me. Maybe you have one of your own you'd like to see promoted.

If you have any interest in helping promote and possibly encourage more equestrian use and events in our state, please email me your ideas and thoughts to Pinckneytrailrider@yahoo.com. I will gladly share them with the forum and credit your input.

PTRA Trail Hour Contest and 2014 Winners

PTRA Trail Hours is a new game we came up with last year. To participate simply log our hours in the saddle on the Pinckney Rec. Area or Lakeland trails. Tally your log and bring to next year's annual meeting.

This is for fun and recognition and is on the "Honor System".

2014 trail hour winners were Colleen McGraw and Poppy York. Together the duo logged over 300 hours. Way to go ladies! Both are shown below sporting their newest PTRA tee shirts.



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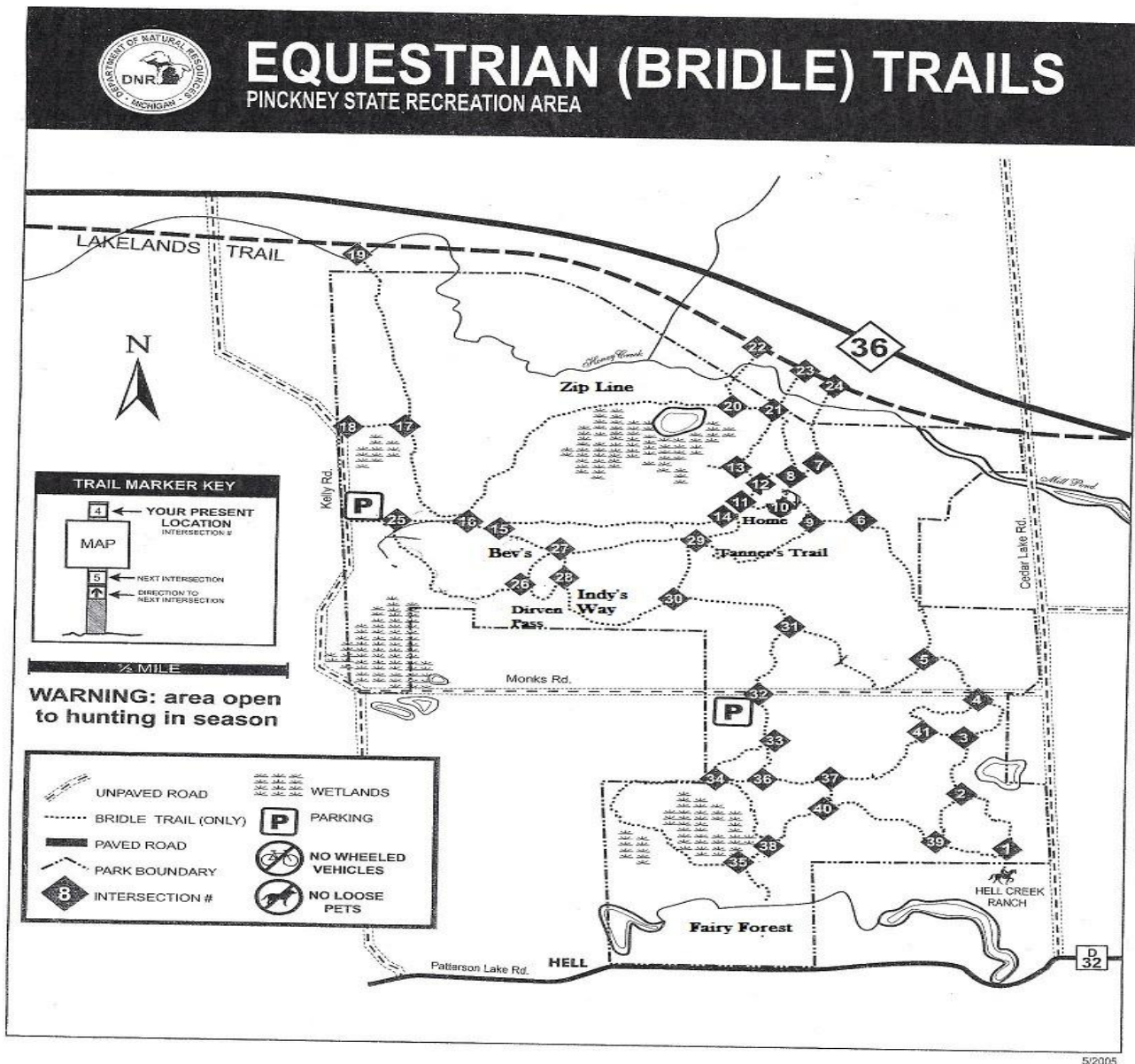


Call: John at **Waterfix Co.**, Dexter
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313.418.5676

Name That Trail!

Do you or your group share trail names rather than numbers? For example, our group refers to trails 26-16 -14 as the "home trail" because it's sort of like a "home base" to us. Or do you call trails 20-16 the "Zip" trails because one can zip through that area? In any case, we are interested in hearing some of your nicknames

So here's your challenge: send us your names so we can fill our map! The best name, as picked by the board at the November meeting, will win **FREE DINNER FOR TWO TO THE PINCKNEY/BRIGHTON CHRISTMAS PARTY ON SAT. DECEMBER 5TH**. Submit your suggestions by November 10TH to Suemarmstrong@yahoo.com.



STAGING AREA IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

By Sue Armstrong

Many of you have already observed the changes made to our staging area. If you haven't, we have our pavilion!!! It's 18' x 26' 7" high and everyone needs to pat them selves on the back for making this happen. The cost to PTRA was a \$2,545 investment with money well spent.

We installed a hand sanitizer in the toilet building and a brochure rack for ours, the parks (with our very own Vice President Dianne Martin on the cover) and trail maps that will be kept stocked by PTRA. The toilet building will get a few more improvements before it's finished.

The mounting area (below) is a sight to behold and a huge **THANK YOU** goes to DNR Ranger Trevor Downard! Trevor did a wonderful job with that, spreading gravel, constructing the hitching rail, installing the gate to the backfield, concrete laid and more. I met with Chuck Dennison, DNR Park Manager and Trevor to discuss what we wanted. I most certainly appreciate all their consideration, as well as the state of Michigan's help, extended to PTRA as a group.

The hand pump on the well was almost impossible to operate initially. The well driller was asked to make it easier to operate, which they did. Now you can pump it much easier although the trade off was a somewhat diminished water flow due to the 130' depth of the well, but nonetheless we have water!

More is still to come. A large grill is planned on the end and facing the pavilion with a few more picnic tables as well. Hitching posts need to be installed around the field in anticipation of using that area for future events such as the proposed Blessing of the Horse next spring. Additional posts will be at PTRA expense and we are looking for square or round posts 12'-14' in length if anyone has a line on something like that. Please shoot us an email if you can help to Pinckneytrailrider@yahoo.com. I anticipate much fun be happenin' in that field next year!



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KID'S DAY AT THE RANCH

By Sue Armstrong

Our seventh annual Kid's Day held again at Horse-N'-Around Ranch in Waterloo this past July was well received. We hosted ten riders that included two parents. Our sponsors covered the costs and helped make this a special event. This year's sponsors include Alison Paine, Lynn Perry, Don Hudson, Mickie Jesse, Ruth Ehman, Jill VanBrunt and Shirley Burga. These special people, many of whom have sponsored one or more children year after year, deserve to be recognized and thanked for their encouragement of our youth to become involved with horses. Volunteers Shirley Burga, Kathy Moffit and Don Hudson also contributed their time on that day. Thanks again to you all for your support of this worthwhile experience.

One return child, Johannah, came last year and loves horses. It was Johannah's 15th birthday so we celebrated with a birthday cake and a small gift of an engraved acrylic statue with a unicorn (donated by Elsa Elmore) along with several hardback books about horses. Elsa also donated several horse related books that were offered to the kids to take if they wanted. A few left over books were donated to the Pinckney Library.

For the last couple of years after this event is over and always having parents sign up at the last minute, as happened again this year, I say to myself, "this is the last year I'm doing this." And, every year I get something from a parent or child, whether it is an email or card, that makes me do it again next year. This year we received this card:



"Thank you everyone who helps make this happen and puts a smile on a child's face. Your kindness is very much appreciated."

~Sue Armstrong

Wanted

Child's Buddy Seat – If you have a used buddy seat that fits on the back of a western saddle, a PTRa member is in need. Please contact Debbie Ferria at Dfderria2@gmail.com if you have one to sell.

15"-16" Wide Western Saddle – If you have one to sell (under \$500) please email details to Pinckneytrailrider@yahoo.com.

Pinckney to Brighton Ride

By Amy Sharmen-Burgdorf

Pinckney Trail Riders Association along with Brighton Trail Riders Association brought back the Pinckney to Brighton ride on September 19, 2015. These rides have been a fixture for both groups but had to be cancelled or not scheduled for a couple of years due to construction on the Lakelands Trail and at the Monks Road Staging Area at Pinckney Rec. Everyone was excited to have it back on the schedule this year! The day started out with rain but as the earliest riders pulled into the staging area, the drizzle ended and blue sky started to peak through the clouds. Riders gathered together, saddled their steeds, greeted old and new friends, and set off on the nearly 12 mile ride. Maps were handed out to help the riders choose the trails that would lead them from Monks Rd staging to the Lakelands Trail, signage was available on the roads from the Lakelands Trail to Brighton Rec and then the riders again chose the trails which would lead them to the Brighton Rec staging area. The ride was \$5 and for an \$5 extra lunch was provided. All the riders arrived with a good appetite and ready to catch up with friends and meet new ones too and were thankful to all who volunteered and made this ride a success. This year, the groups decided that it would be wonderful to donate the proceeds to the Michigan Horse Welfare Coalition, an organization dedicated to helping struggling owners and horses who are in need. Our donation for MHWC from this event was \$150. For more information on the group, how you can get help or donate, <http://www.michiganhorsewelfare.org/>

