



# Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Winter 2013

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

## Upcoming Events

Friday – Sunday March 8th – 10th

30<sup>th</sup> Annual MHC Horse Expo and Trade Show. PTRA will have a table in the trails room. Volunteers needed. New event this year is the Ranch Rodeo on Sunday afternoon. MI High School Rodeo Assoc. will be on Friday evening. For the complete schedule, visit [www.michiganhorseexpo.org](http://www.michiganhorseexpo.org).

Sunday, March 24th, 2pm

Annual Meeting at Zukey Lake Tavern, 5011 Girard Dr., Pinckney. Election of three Board seats–Review financials and goals for upcoming year. Come early to have lunch on your own and visit with fellow PTRA members. Beverages and dessert will be served. Renew your membership and order your flowers at the same time!

Sunday, May 12, 12 pm

Games on Horseback–Monks Rd. staging area. Come join the fun! Rain date will be Sun. 5/19

Sunday, July 14th

Picnic and Ride at Brighton with BTRA. Event is tentative and will be confirmed at a later date.



## FLOWER SALES

Thanks to a recommendation from long-time PTRA member Mickie Jesse, the PTRA will continue its participation in the Living Color Fundraiser established by C. Raker & Sons Nursery in Litchfield, MI. This fabulous fundraising endeavor has allowed the PTRA to hire contract labor to clear existing trails, reopen previously overgrown trails and to allow for continued trail maintenance issues.

C. Raker & Sons Nursery has consistently provided us with high quality stock and has stood behind their products. They offer a large choice of beautiful hanging baskets in decorative pots (not the crummy

Saturday, July 20th, 10 am

Kid's Day at the Ranch–Waterloo Riding Stables. Children from LACASA and Elle's Place will be introduced to horses, go on a trail ride, play games and enjoy lunch. Sponsors \$25 per child. Please help us get our youth involved by sponsoring a child to attend.

Friday – Sunday, Sept. 6th – 8th

RUN WOODSTOCK – Event held at Hell Creek Ranch. Runners on trails all weekend.

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14th – 15th

Camp Out and Judged Trail Ride. Camp out at Hell Creek Ranch. Judged trail ride will be held Saturday at noon. Rain day will be Sunday. We'll have a potluck dinner with PTRA providing meat and beverages Saturday evening. Come sit around the campfire after.

Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>

Dances With Dirt's Run Thru Hell–Runners on trails.

Saturday, Oct. 12th, 12 pm

Halloween Ride on the Lakeland Trail Ride from Stockbridge to Monks Road staging area in costume or not. Enjoy a potluck after. Prizes awarded to best costumes for horses and riders.

Saturday, Dec. 7th, 6pm

PTRA/BTRA Christmas Party–Location TBA

## MAKE IT HAPPEN!

old white ones most have) as well as their signature, "Blue Chill Pansies" and landscape flats of marigolds, impatiens, petunias, begonias, and more. Also made available is a wide range of vegetables, wave petunias, culinary couture seed collections and the coolest and most unique "Color Bowls" in four different varieties that are just dropped into large planters!

Stressing the importance of this fundraising event for the benefit of the PTRA members and other equestrians using the trials would be an understatement. **It is vital.** Without financial support, our past projects and future goals would not/could not happen.

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With the monies raised, PTRAs plans to focus on improving the Monks Road Staging area to include a vault toilet and a water source.

A huge supporter of local equestrians and (thankfully) a DNR park manager, Chuck Dennison, requisitioned the installation of a vault toilet at that site spring, 2014.

As a result, PTRAs now intends to secure a water source at that site. It is hoped that PTRAs reciprocal efforts, both financially and physically, will give encouragement to the DNR to pursue other major improvements to this parking area.

Yes it's true some lofty projects are on PTRAs docket but based on the success we've had in the past through membership and community support, it is hoped that progress will continue in the Pinckney Recreation Area.

Unfortunately, the flower sale revenue for the past

three years has significantly declined. The records reflect the following:

2010-Sold \$4,812/Profit **\$1,631** Spring flowers & Fall Poinsettias

2011-Sold \$4,073/Profit **\$1,110** Spring flowers only

2012-Sold \$2,801/Profit **\$955** Spring flowers & Fall Poinsettias

To achieve PTRAs future objectives, it is essential that this year sales go back up as everyone would like to benefit from planned improvements. And of course, the PTRAs will continue to keep our trails maintained.

This is an easy way to support the PTRAs and Michigan growers. It's been a win-win for everyone so please consider buying some spring flowers this year. For more detailed information about this opportunity look for future mailings or plan to attend the annual meeting.

### SUPPORTS BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA, By Sue Armstrong, PTRAs President

Over 40 years ago, three men sat in a hunting camp deep in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness (the "Bob") mulling over the fate of horsemen. They soon realized they shared a mutual concern and wondered if the "Bob" could survive any degree of horse use and, if so, for how long? At that time the trails were littered with cigarette butts, candy wrappers and other trash; trees were stripped from rope burns and their roots dug up by pawing horses; as well as, entire campsites left up all summer long for horsemen to come and go like they owned the place. Ken Ausk, Roland Cheek and Dennis Swift agreed that equestrian use on the "Bob" needed to be better managed and thus formed the Back Country Horsemen (BCH), an advocacy group.

BCH visited every forest service office involved with the "Bob" and told them they would fight the currently proposed draft management plan. Their campaign worked partly because they didn't just complain but they also offered solutions. Top on the list of the BCH was to enlist the help of many volunteers to support the already cash-strapped agency with trail maintenance. Astonishingly, 12 tons of supplies were packed into 18 miles of wilderness thanks to a local outfitter who offered the use of a string of Tennessee Walking horses. The horses carried wooden planks 9' long loaded on the downhill side of the packs, counterbalanced with bags of concrete.

BCH also introduced a plan to educate regional horsemen about wilderness ethics. Additionally the BCH, together with horsemen from Flathead Valley, wrote a guidebook/manual about trailside etiquette. The forest service agreed to distribute 5000 copies at regional ranger stations. These efforts were the precursor to the "Leave No Trace" principles promoted today by PTRAs, other environmentally responsible organizations, and all of Michigan's Departments of Natural Resources (DNR).

The groups' lobbying efforts succeeded as the forest service instituted a more horseman-friendly management plan for the "Bob." Horsemen groups across the country caught wind of their success and chapters sprang up across California, Idaho, Montana and Washington. In 1986, the BCH became a national organization adopting the name Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) and now boasts more than 13,000 members in 27 states.

BCHA's efforts have also made an impact with Michigan's "Right to Ride" campaign as their determination was instrumental in the passing of legislation in May 2008.

When the Michigan DNR restricted the use of horses in the Pigeon River area, an area that many people had ridden for years, the BCHA's management plan was proposed to help restore the land that callous horsemen had abused. The Back Country Horsemen of Pigeon River and Beyond was formed to represent the horsemen in Michigan and to assist in the reversal of DNR's mindset to limit or eliminate entirely horseback riding on our public lands.

In my opinion, the BCHA has made great strides with the, "Right to Ride" legislation and has helped to educate and foster a working relationship between horsemen and the DNR. The BCHA's lobbying capabilities is effective on account of the support of their membership backing. It is the hope that the BCHA will stay focused on the ideal that one can't be a valid critic if there is an absence of willingness to give something back to the resources for which one is fighting.

The PTRAs board of directors decided to fully support the Back Country Horsemen of Pigeon River and Beyond by donating \$100 towards this organization. BCHA only takes individual/family memberships and does not offer memberships to organizations due to their IRS structure for lobby capabilities. It is encouraged that everyone becomes a member of BCHA who will continue to lobby on horsemen's behalf across the nation.

For more information visit:

[www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com)

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## Your 2013 PTRA Board



### **Sue Armstrong, President (Five Years)**

As many of you know, Sue and her husband Ray, both licensed builders, have been the proud owners of Armstrong Enterprises specializing in roofing, repairs, construction and weatherization for over 20 years.

When Sue is not working or riding any of her three horses (Doc-GH, Sassy-Arab/QH, Maverick-spotted Tennessee walker) she enjoys reading, volunteering, and traveling. She is working hard to fulfill her dreams of owning a horse trailer with living quarters so that she and her husband can explore on horseback this beautiful nation she feels we are so blessed to have inherited.

Until then, Sue is perfectly happy staying close to home and riding with her human friends and her canine friend, Wylie Coyote, in the Pinckney Recreation Area, which boasts a variable terrain and topography.

Sue's PTRA aspirations include the improvement of the Monks Rd. staging area with a vaulted toilet and a water source. She knows that none of that would be possible without the support of PTRA members and therefore plans to concentrate on increasing donations and community support.



### **Dianne Martin, Vice President (Four Years)**

Dianne Martin has been enjoying the Pinckney trail system by horseback since 2001 and has been a PTRA board member since 2009. She is often seen tooling around the trails on her bay Tennessee walking horse, Kincaid. Dianne also works as a wetland ecologist and is vice president of ASTI Environmental, an environmental consulting firm in Brighton. She lives just off the trail system with her partner, Fredd, their 3-year old son Tanner, and their menagerie of four-legged critters.



### **Trish Ognian, Secretary (Ten Years)**

Trish is a very busy woman who juggles a full-time job with North American Lighting, Inc., a manufacturer of head and tail lamps, and caring for her two geldings, Maverick and Mr. Buck. Though a native of Detroit, she likes to head any place that is warm and sunny on her free time. While resting down south, Trish dreams of learning how to breed, raise and train Tennessee walkers so that future equestrians can experience the same joy with which her horses have blessed her.



### **Shirley Burga, Member (Four Years)**

Shirley has been working as a medical assistant for the University of Michigan for the past 29 years while raising her son and enjoying her two grandsons yet she still has time to care for and ride her beloved Tennessee walker, Amber. She has lived in this area for 40 years and she must love it because her favorite place to ride is right here in her backyard, the Pinckney Recreation Area. Most of her favorite activities revolve around fitness as she enjoys biking, cross-country skiing, swimming, working out, and walking her dog Susie. As if that isn't enough, she plans to add riding lessons to her already long list of activities.



### **Elsa Elmore, Member (Eight Years)**

Elsa is a native Michigander from the Sterling Heights/Warren area but has lived in this area for 17 years with her husband and PTRA member, Dan. Elsa currently does not work but she busies herself with her Arabian, Ashraf (Ash), her grandchildren's lives and volunteering opportunities. Her equine goal for this upcoming year is to learn to be a better partner/horseman for her horse.

## Your Community, Your Resource

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## Kathy Moffit, Member (Nine Years)

Kathy holds an associate's degree in medical administration. For the past six years she has volunteered to care for hospice patients and their families with grief support. She has also served as a past president for the PTRA for three years and has managed the Hell Creek Riding Stable for two years. Prior to that, she worked at that same stable for seven years. She currently owns one horse.



## Ann Marie Price, Member (< Year)

Ann Marie has lived in this area for the past 15 years with her husband Mike and their two sons, Dalton and Peter. This is her inaugural year as a board member and hopes to be an asset to a very competent board. She enjoys painting, sewing, costume making, writing and reading when she is not too busy with her family, which also includes her horse, a four-year-old Tennessee walker, and a Brittany spaniel named Jake. She has camped locally with her horse but particularly enjoys riding in the Pinckney Recreation Area.



## Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf, Member (< Year)

Amy is a very active mother of one (daughter) and wife to the renowned local disc jockey, Roger Burgdolf (you may remember him from the 2012 Christmas party). She is currently employed at Michigan State University as a microbiologist. She also has four equine children: Indy, Mary, Storm and Muggsy. Her participation in trail and endurance competitive riding, skiing, hiking, camping and kayaking takes her to many different locations. This year she has planned to participate in the Big Horn endurance ride in Wyoming and the redwoods in California.

### Halloween Ride Review

By Ann Marie Price

The Halloween costume ride, held October 20<sup>th</sup> brought some folks out in spite of the dreary weather. Approximately 12 riders rode the Lakeland Trail from Stockbridge to Pinckney with a stop over in Gregory for hot coffee (Sponsored by McDonalds) and donuts. Riders also received a gift bag with treats for both rider and horse (sponsored by Dexter Mill in Dexter).

Fellow PTRA member and president of the Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association, Marsha Putnam, lead her horse and cart down the trail and delighted everyone with her witch's costume accented by a cart decorated with brooms.

"I was so impressed with the cart pulling business," said PTRA president, Sue Armstrong. "I so enjoyed my first cart ride with Marsha and was amazed that our trails are now good enough for this use."

Others were present that were just as impressive. Carissa Meier, 16, a 'Kids Day' attendee, also participated in this fun event. Meier has only been riding for eight years but is just getting started with the trail.

"It has been such a pleasure to spend time with [Meier] and to see her face when we happened upon a hay-wagon full of inquisitive people," said Armstrong. "[Meier] also impressed me with her willingness to volunteer."

The costumes were adorable. Included was a family

theme from Alice in Wonderland with ten-year-old Allison dressed as Alice; mom, Terri, as the Cheshire cat; and dad as the Mad Hatter.

This last minute addition to PTRA's schedule of events was an effort to support the DNR and neighboring Lakeland Trail communities.

Special thanks goes out to all those who volunteered their time, effort and ideas. Mickie and Don Jessie secured donations, obtained police notifications, and provided shuttle and generator services; and, Sue Armstrong, Shirley Burga, Roger Burgdolf, Elsa Elmore, Carissa Meier, Trish Ognain, and Amy Scharmen gave food, time and effort. Combined efforts made this and future occasions possible.







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Visit : [www.horse-rider-etc.com/tack/bits/mylerbits.html](http://www.horse-rider-etc.com/tack/bits/mylerbits.html)

#### MI Horse Council News

MHC now offers equisire liability insurance with enhanced memberships. For more information visit: [www.michiganhorsecouncil.com](http://www.michiganhorsecouncil.com)



#### PTRA CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

With warmer weather also comes the arrival of dreaded construction but sometimes progress gets a little messy.

#### The Lakeland Rails to Trails Project

And so begins the project that has been slated for several years – The Lakeland Rails to Trails. The trail between the Hamburg township line (which is just east of Farley Rd.) and goes to the Unadilla township line (close to where Barton Rd intersects with M-36, west of Hinchey Rd.) will be reconstructed between May and August of this year to allow for multiple users.

"Starting at the Hamburg border will be six feet of pavement and four feet of aggregate for a total path width of ten feet," said Norm Klein, Putnam Township Trustee. Further, Klein reported that MDOT requires a two-foot shoulder from the edge of the pavement to the edge of the rail grade cap. "That cap of the grade is wider than 14' in many areas and is planned to have the blacktop travel two feet from the edge of the cap making the shoulder next to the aggregate side wider than two feet."

Currently, the plan obligates equestrians to utilize the aggregate and the shoulder as much as possible so that most of the width will be usable. At this time, the entire width of the trail from Cedar Lake Rd. to the Unadilla border is ten feet of fine aggregate surface.

Unfortunately, the five historical bridges along that path will also have to be expanded to allow for the equipment to pass.

"All of the bridges on the trail are being widened to 14' and having new sub-structures being built underneath them," said Klein. "They are currently 10' wide.

"Further plans to improve the parking area on D-19, next to the depot, is being updated to allow drive thru parking for vehicles pulling trailers and a restroom has already been installed," said Klein.

#### The Culvert Project Between Trails 17 and 19

Currently the trail from 17 to 19 is a little sloppy and needs more rock put down before it's safe to pass. It's hoped that this will be completed by spring. To re-cap, a pre-existing culvert had been replaced and two additional culverts have been installed. Since then, the DNR has dropped delivered some additional gravel to firm up the base but the pile is currently frozen solid. Some of it has recently been moved and filled in a ten-foot length. Once all the gravel is down, topsoil will be added. Thank You Norm Klein and Sue Armstrong!

PTRA would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to Bill Chapman our wonderful website host. Bill has been hosting our website for the past several years at no cost to us.

Appreciation is also extended to board member Amy Scharmen, whose computer know-how has landed the PTRA on Facebook and Yahoo groups. Visit us at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/PTRAmembers/>



Both contributions are invaluable to all communication efforts.

#### PTRA/BTRA's Christmas Spectacular

This past December, both the PTRA and the BTRA hosted its joint Christmas celebration at RJ's Grill in Hamburg, MI. The result was spectacular!

"This was a significant improvement," said Mark Delaney, BTRA secretary. "It increased our attendance, allowed us to put on a more lavish affair and doubled our fun."

BTRA's past Christmas parties drew in about 40 to 50 people while the PTRA hosted far fewer. However the 2012 extravaganza hosted some 80 guests!

PTRA/BTRA decided to change the venue to a restaurant with a buffet style cuisine where members paid a nominal price and brought nothing but their appetites. Past parties required members to provide a dish in a potluck style dinner.

"It was a huge success," said Delaney. "We've already decided that we'll put on a similar affair for the next Christmas party."

Events like this don't just happen without the contributions of many individuals and community businesses.

Both the PTRA and the BTRA thanks all those who helped organize the party. In particular, huge appreciation is extended to Howell Western Wear and Lakeside Saddlery in Whitmore Lake for very generous donations of gift certificates.

Also, the party would have bombed if it were not for the donated services of professional disc jockey Roger Burgdolf, a music provider for parties and weddings. Burgdolf, by the way, was very ill during the event.

"This is the first year we've offered this type of entertainment," said Delaney. "We told everyone to 'wear their dancing boots' and many people did."

Both organizations were pleased with the turn out and are already planning an even better event in 2013.

# Tips Corner

## Loosen Your Girth After Work

By Jessica Jahiel

It's an excellent idea to loosen your horse's girth by stages, after a long or hard ride. Removing a saddle suddenly can allow the blood and lymph to come rushing back into those "squashed" tissues, and when this happens, some blood vessels can be broken and some painful bruising can result. This bruising occasionally takes the form of so-called "heat bumps" or "pressure lumps" that can be felt.

The idea of gradual girth-loosening, as many long-distance riders and eventers can attest, is quite sensible. It's based on the notion that, for the reasons explained above, the horse's back needs to be allowed to relax and "breathe" after work, and the circulation should be restored, but this should happen gradually rather than suddenly.

For more information visit [www.horse-sense.org](http://www.horse-sense.org).

## Winter or Spring Control of Invasives

Provided by Alison Paine

Now is the time to start planning control of your buckthorn, autumn olive, or multiflora rose using basal bark treatments which can be done during the winter months or early spring (best when it is above 40 degrees). No cutting is required but you must be able to identify the brush to ensure you don't control desirable species.

Basal bark treatments involve the spraying or painting of woody stems with concentrated herbicides mixed with oil so that the chemical penetrates the outer bark. This is a very effective way of controlling woody vines, shrubs and trees. Treatments can be made any time of year except when snow or water prevents spraying the basal parts of the stem.

For more detailed information visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/documents/controlofinvasiveplants.pdf> or <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/GlossyBuckthornBCP.pdf>.

