



"Talk to the Hoof"

# Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Fall 2017

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

## 2017 BRIGHTON TRAIL RIDERS & PINCKNEY TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATIONS' CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017 SIX O'CLOCK



Join us for a Buffet Dinner featuring *entrees, side dishes, salad, desserts*  
at **Cleary's Pub**

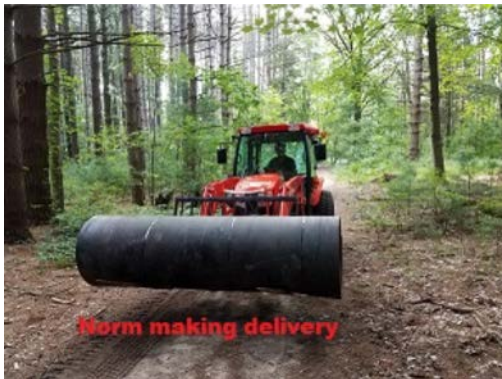
117 East Grand River, Howell, MI 48843

Relax and enjoy the company of old friends and new, play games, and delight in the many raffles taking place  
\$15 members, \$25 non-members

For More Information Contact Mark Delaney at 734-426-4754 /m7delan@aol.com  
or Sue Armstrong at 734-878-2975 suemarmstrong@yahoo.com

Donations for door prizes (equine-related or not) will be gratefully accepted  
Membership Sale - Join both parks at \$30/single membership or \$40

### Bridge Mat Gets Installed



Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> was the long-awaited day that the mat was laid down on the metal bridge over Hell Creek.

Many options were investigated before it was decided. One option that was considered was wood planking but it was determined that this would be too labor intensive and too expensive. Stall mats was another possibility we studied but it was learned that the mats were not UV rated, not affordable and they were not easy to link together. Another consideration that the board always keeps in mind is vandalism.

Member, Norm Klein was helping with the research and came upon the idea of used conveyor belts. He learned that these belts are also used on the snowmobile trail bridges up north because they are indestructible. The belts are recycled from used equipment and are built for maximum durability.

The decision to proceed with the belt idea was agreed upon due to the ease of installation (we thought), to the sturdiness of the product, and, most importantly, to its affordability. A section of belt measuring three-quarters inch thick (with mesh reinforcing) eight feet wide, and roughly 32' long was procured.

## MSU Workshop in Review

by Sue Armstrong

Michigan State University Extension recently hosted a series of workshops offered to the public with livestock interests.

The subject of vaccinations was presented by Dr. Judy Martinuk, Professor at MSU's large animal hospital. Five core vaccines that were recommended annually for horses are rabies, tetanus, eastern and western encephalitis (summer & late fall as they are only good for six to nine months) and West Nile with a booster in three to four weeks. Optional vaccines include Potomac fever, rhino-flu, and strangles to name a few. All vaccines should be discussed with your veterinarian and individual recommendations can be suggested to fit the needs of your horse and budget. Check out the information posted by the Equine Disease Communication Center at [www.equinediseasecc.org](http://www.equinediseasecc.org).

Toxic vegetation was also discussed. The identification of dangerous weeds, bushes, and trees was very helpful when considering the safety of horses, donkeys and mules. One ounce of yew is deadly when ingested for example. Red maple, with wilted leaves and older wilted leaves being more toxic, makes the toxic tree list as does black locust (seeds, leaves, bark and twigs), black walnut, oaks and both the cherry and the chokecherry trees. Red, white and black oaks (leaves, twigs and acorns) are toxic in large doses. The white oak is the least toxic of this variety.

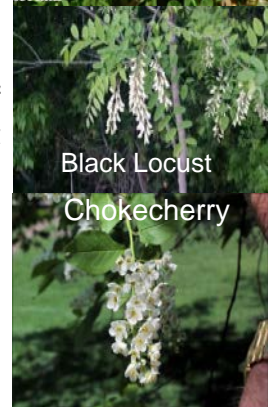
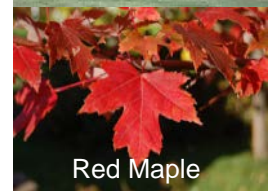
Watch out for hoary alyssum, a common weed found in some pastures and/or hay. Just under 50% of horses ingesting hoary alyssum will show clinical signs of swelling of the lower legs commonly called "stocking up", a fever of 103° F or higher, warm hooves, laminitis, stiffness of joints, reluctance to move, a "camped out" stance, and very rarely death.

Most animals can consume small amounts of healthy leaves, bark and fruit safely. Toxicity typically occurs when hungry animals consume large amounts of fresh leaves or small amounts of damaged leaves (as little as two ounces). If you have any of these trees in your pasture you may want to consider having them removed or fencing around them. If you decide to fence them in, fence to the perimeter of the canopy to keep animals away from falling leaves, twigs or branches.

Lastly, spectators learned to read a Feed and Forage (Hay) Report which is very advantageous for figuring out how to feed the easy and hard keepers. For example, if there is more than 50 percent crude proteins and acid detergent fibers (ADF) in a diet it is considered undesirable. Neutral detergent fibers take longer to move through the system and is therefore better for easy keepers. High levels of sugars affect blood insulin levels just as it does in humans.

There are various reports you can purchase for hay analysis but the standard \$16 report should tell you what you need to know and is available through Dairyland Laboratories. That web site is [www.dairylandlabs.com](http://www.dairylandlabs.com).

For further help you can contact Tom Guthrie, Statewide MSU Extension Educator, Equine at: [guthri19@msu.edu](mailto:guthri19@msu.edu) or 517-788-4292, Office.





## Items For Sale

### **Aussie Stock Saddle-17" seat**

Made by the Australian Stock Saddle Co.

This is the REAL thing – not a knockoff. Priced to sell at \$150.00

Call Mark 734-426-4754



**1999 Featherlite** gooseneck slant load trailer. Weekender living quarters. \$10,000. Contact [metcowgrl@msn.com](mailto:metcowgrl@msn.com) for pictures

Small pony harness (\$150), medium horse harness (\$150) leather, new, good quality plus reconditioned carts (\$200 each) and an antique sleigh (\$750). Call Alison Paine [734-904-4682](tel:734-904-4682) for pictures.

## 7th Annual Kid's Day at the Ranch

A Sunny day shone down on Heavenly Horse Stables at Hell Creek Ranch when 23 kids showed up for a fun filled day. First, horse and rider introductions were made, for some riders this was a brand-new experience.

Several stations were set up so that the participants could view demonstrations of grooming, saddling, tacking and feeding. The kids also decorated their own picture frames which was filled with a photo of themselves and their newest mount. Photos were donated by Karissa as was her time. Thank you so very much.

Speaking of thanks, events like these don't happen without funding and volunteers. Many, many thanks go to all our sponsors and volunteers, Elsa Elmoore (coordinator), Karissa (photographer) and Jenn Gay (manager, Heavenly Horses).

In a letter we received, one wrote, "I come from a household that was very difficult as a child. I was fortunate enough to have had a few dreams put in my heart by an awesome Girl Scout leader who took us camping and to a riding stable. Children who have little in the way of affection or possessions can have just one experience like this that they will hold in their hearts for a lifetime. From a child who is a product of one of those kids of you leaders, I want to let you know what you are doing is a wonderful thing and to say *thank you* to all who are involved!"

Sometimes, it's the littlest things we do for others that mean the most.



**TJP Software Services LLC**  
Computer and Networking Solutions

**Tobe Perry**  
MCSE  
517.861.1050

[tperry@tjpssoftwareservices.com](mailto:tperry@tjpssoftwareservices.com)  
[www.tjpssoftwareservices.com](http://www.tjpssoftwareservices.com)



**Lori Ross**  
Equestrian Real Estate

[www.MiHorseFarms.com](http://www.MiHorseFarms.com)  
866.783.2512  
[MiHorseFarms@gmail.com](mailto:MiHorseFarms@gmail.com)

Support us when you shop  
this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). You shop. Amazon donates.



*Mane Event Family Hair Care*



19833 Williamsville Rd.  
Gregory, MI 48137  
Just 1/4 mile west of Unadilla Rd.

Marjie Deerr - owner  
(248) 921-2168  
by appointment only

## Bridge Mat Gets Installed (Continued from page one)

It turns out that that was the easy part. The ordered roll weighed over 1,300 pounds and it needed to be moved all the way down to bridge.

With a lot of help from Norm Klein, Ray and Sue Armstrong and two large tractors the roll was finally laid. Well, almost. The first attempt at laying the roll was not fruitful as it laid uncentered. After several difficult attempts, the mat was put in position.

Only it wasn't quite ready for horse use as the ends curled up enough to cause a tripping hazard. Ray had to drag the mat off the bridge to the north and Norm hooked to it on the same end and pull it backwards to turn it over. Now the ends are down and no more trip hazard.



As most people do, the trio looked at their finished product with admiration and then saw the imperfections. Ray said, "It's too bad we didn't order it long enough to extend onto the trail to possibly stop the erosion at the bridge ends."



To fix that problem, the board has since voted to buy an additional ten-foot section of the mat which was joined to the existing mat with a coupler and topped with a flashing type product to cover the joint. The ends of the mat were buried into the ground a few feet beyond the ends of the bridge in hopes that it will prevent erosion at the ends.

Luckily, the sloped sides will be dealt with by the DNR.

Since the installation of the mat, the board has been notified that the mat is very slippery when wet. One more hurdle to jump. Discussions of topping the mat with sand is now on the table and will probably be approved for the safety of the horse and rider.

None of the projects PTRA takes on could be done with the monetary and physical support of its members. "Thank you so much" doesn't seem to be adequate for Sue and especially Ray and Norm. Your generosity is overwhelming.

It is hoped that PTRA members appreciate the hard work of others and continue to support our efforts whenever possible. We have great riding trails but keeping them that way takes work.



Assessment \* Remediation  
Compliance \* Restoration

800-395-2784

Nelson Automatic Waterer

- \*Repair & Maintenance
- \*Most Parts in Stock
- \*Will Travel
- \*Quick Response



Call John at

Waterfix Co., Dexter  
734.475.8898 or 313.418.5676



Dependable Roofing  
Services in Washtenaw,  
Livingston, Oakland, Wayne  
and Southern Michigan  
Communities.

800-558-2306