



Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Summer 2014

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Sept. 5th, 6th, 7th and 20th

Running Fit Races. Runners on trails. These are great days to visit different trails. Check out our link pages for information on other area parks at: Pinckneytrailrider@yahoo.com

Saturday, Sept. 27th, 8 - 11am

Desensitiation Clinic at the Pinckney Depot. See full article below.

Saturday, Oct. 18th, 12 pm (Rain Date 10/25)

Halloween Ride on the Lakeland Trail Ride from Stockbridge to Monks Road staging area in costume or not. This year we will also be hosting a chili cook-off. Prizes awarded to best costumes for horses and riders and for best chili recipe.

Saturday, Dec. 6th, 6pm

PTRA/BTRA Christmas party at RJ's Grill on M-36 in Hamburg.

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!

Desensitiation Clinic For Bicycles, Strollers and Hikers and Runners

Bring your horse to the Lakeland Trail at the trailhead in downtown Pinckney on Pearl St. to get exposure on multi-use trails. We will have a few pens available for your horse as runners, bicycles, strollers and others pass by. We are anticipating soliciting help from the bicyclists for our horses to follow them down the trail to the west from town with seasoned horses to help calm and train your horse.

This is being held in conjunction with the Park It event being sponsored by Putnam Township, DNR and other area businesses to promote the use of the Lakeland Trail. All of our cougar signs have been installed along the trail.

We will start penning or picketing horses at 8 am Saturday morning. There will be a 5K run starting at 8:30 am from Country Elementary east to the water tower and ending at the library. The Township will have attractions in the Village Park and PTRA will be setting up next to the depot. A donation of \$15 per horse will be appreciated.

Call Sue at 734-878-2975 to check pen availability and to make a reservation. Advance payment will be required.

PTRA Coffee Cups Comming Soon!



This ten ounce, two tone black and orange cup will be the rage of your campsite and a stylish addition to your cupboard with the PTRA logo (not shown). Cups were ordered and those not previously reserved are available for \$5.75 each - shipping not included. If interested call Sue at 734-878-2975.

PTRA ASSISTS WITH SIGNAGE ALONG LAKELAND TRAIL by Sue Armstrong

The PTRA was instrumental in getting signs installed at road crossings along the Lakeland Trail. These are to alert bicyclists, runners and others on what to do when approaching a horse and rider. The signs are a cooperative effort between The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho (BCHI), who originally created the poster, and the PTRA. After careful consideration on text changes by Sue Armstrong, president and Dianne Martin, vice president of the PTRA, the final changes were agreed upon by The BCHI. They made the changes on our behalf after denying several prior requests by other organizations and added the PTRA name with theirs on the signage.

The decals were purchased by PTRA and the aluminum blanks and tamper proof fasteners were donated by Norm Klein, Putnam Township trustee and fellow equestrian. He also negotiated the wording changes and the signs were recently installed by Mr. Klein along the trail throughout Putnam Township.

Public that are not familiar with horses are under the impression that they should be quiet and/or motionless as to not scare the horse(s) when in fact the person needs to announce their presence. A horse is a prey animal and when you speak they realize you are human and not a cougar ready to attack. The horses' nature is to fight or flight and in most cases they will try to run away. All a person needs to do to help ease a horses' fear is to speak to

the rider. Whether approaching from behind or the front, announce your presence; it will be most appreciated.

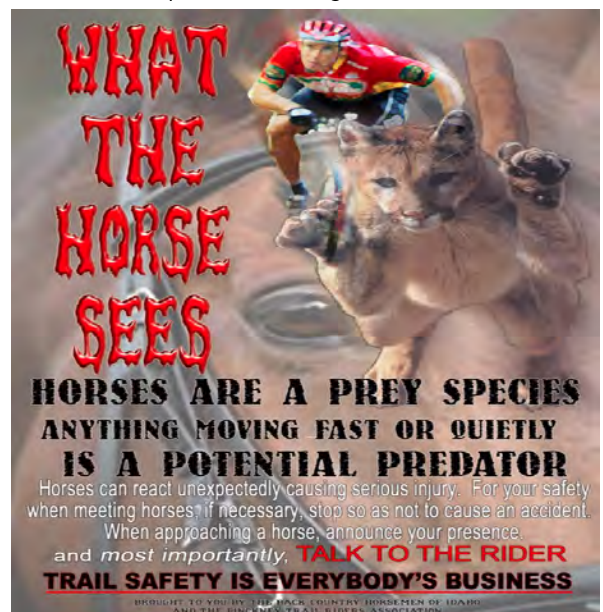
Michigan has over 12,000 designated state trail miles and more rail-to-trail than any other state at 2,645 miles, with another 286 miles in the planning stage according to the Governor's Showcase Trail Plan of August, 2013. Only 170 of those miles are for equestrian use per DNR's website and more of them are becoming multi-use. PTRA is doing its' part to make this shared use of the trails safer and enjoyable for everyone's choice of outdoor recreation.

PTRA is a 501c3 organization that promotes, protects and maintains the bridle trails in the Pinckney State Rec area in southwest Livingston County. We are a Friends Group under agreement with the DNR and partner with other local running and bicycling groups for the benefit of the public at large.



For Sale

16" Brown Cordura Tennessean Saddle \$225.00
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Sixth Annual Kids Day Makes a Difference



PTRA's sixth annual Kids' Day benefiting Ele's Place was held on July 20th at the Horse-N-Around Ranch and Waterloo Riding Stables. Thirteen riders, including two parents, enjoyed a beautiful day riding horses and sharing a healthy lunch.

Ele's Place is a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to creating awareness of and support for grieving children and their families. Through peer support group programs, Ele's Place helps children to cope with the death of a parent, sibling or other close family member or friend.

The PTRA goal for this event is to help children focus on positive experiences even if it's just for a few moments. Please read one parent's response to this wonderful event below.

A huge thanks goes out to Amy Scharmin, Don and Mickie Jesse (sponsored two) and Lynn Perry, who were our three sponsors for this year. We are still accepting sponsorships at \$25 for each child at <http://www.pinckneytrailriders.com/page10.html> and put in comments box: sponsorship for Kid's Day. Or simply mail us a check to: PTRA, 11185 Country Ln., Pinckney, MI 48169. All contributions make a big difference for a little while in these kids lives.

Special thanks also goes out to Sherri Richardson and the wranglers that kept the kids safe, sound and entertained. Thanks too to all the volunteers: Sue Armstrong, Elsa Elmore, Kathy Moffit and Trish Ognian.



One Parent's Response:

Dear Sherry, Sue, Lynn and all the others who made the day such a blessing for my son and me,

It was such a wonderful experience for us, we just wanted to thank you again for the day. My son, nine, has special needs as well as losing his Dad and Grandpa within three months of each other. Robert had some fear about horses and with the help from "Miss Lynn", he moved through that fear and had a great time on the trail ride. I didn't expect the healthy lunch but it was so appreciated. We have food allergies but were able to eat just fine and it hit the spot while waiting to get in the trail. Often, bread has high fructose corn syrup but this was free of it. Yeah!

Since our loss, generous people like you doing things like this, help ease the pain. It's a difficult thing to express but, others giving to you in this way, it's like you feel you are being taken care ofsomething that's been hard to do for ourselves.

Thank you for the great food variety, the scavenger hunt and your generosity. God bless you!

Donna Walton



Why Should I Join An Organization When I Don't Have Time to Commit?

By Mickie Jesse



I have heard myself say this many times. Then it hit me. I can join because it helps show how strongly I feel about this organization? My dues alone help, the number of people shows the community this organization does good and means a lot to help the community, my suggestions are being heard and the continued accomplishments encourage me to stay.

I find myself not being able to make it to work bees. Well, that doesn't stop me. I realize if I'm unable to make it I can tell the organization where there might be a tree down, brush over growing. Maybe when I was riding or hiking in the woods I cleared a few branches out of the way, I can let the organization know this so they record hours and submit to the DNR and that shows more participation. When I find I'm unable to make a work bee, I donate a few bucks here and there. That helps me at the end of the year with a tax write off and it definitely helps with all the improvements that have been added to our staging area and park.

As you can see, there is value in joining an organization. We have awesome people leading this organization and joining is showing support that we are proud of what has been and will be accomplished.

Baltasar Gracion, Spanish Priest said, "The path to greatness is along with others."

Henry Ford stated that "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Dear Sue Armstrong,

I wanted to let you know that the last Equine Trailways Subcommittee (ETS) meeting, held on July 14th, was my last. I decided not to ask for another term. I will help to keep advancing trails and trail facilities as I can.

I also wanted to let you know that ETS recommended some funds (\$30,000) to come your way for a well, handpump and toilet. It should be a done deal. The staging area will remain as part of this year's Michigan Natural Trust Fund grant request from ETS.

Regards, Sandra Batie



One of Our Own Becomes A Published Author By Sue Armstrong

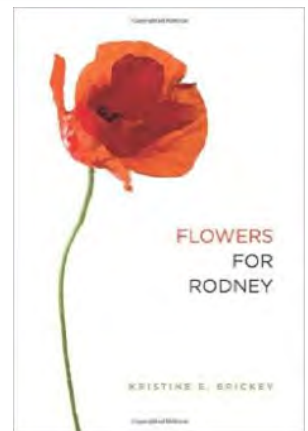
Our very own member, Kristine Brickey, who joined us a year ago has had her first book published entitled "Flowers for Rodney". The story is about a jaded 16 year old who thinks that his rap sheet is a to-do list that should be added to until an arrest happens while he is on parole. The judge takes a more serious view of his case and so does his mother. It's a wonderful story about peer pressure and learning to believe in yourself.

Kristine and her husband live in Mason with two dogs, donkeys and her horses, Snickers and Owen. The mother of two, she also spent 26 years teaching at the elementary and middle grade levels with a focus on language arts.

Brickey holds a master's degree in reading and is particularly interested in working with boys and literacy issues. She is always looking for ways to encourage young writers as well as young readers and started a middle school writing club to promote opportunities for her students.

Inspired by a conversation with her son, Brickey wrote the candid and poignant novel Flowers for Rodney to inspire teens and start an honest conversation that parents can engage in with their children.

You can order Kristine's novel on amazon.com and she would love to hear your feedback on her Facebook page; Kristine E. Brickey. She is also available to visit area schools and has a couple dates already set. CONGRATULATIONS KRISTINE! Loved the book.



A Victory for Treating Livestock in the Field

Thanks to Elsa Elmore, long-time PTRAs board member, Debbie Stabenow responds directly to the PTRAs about the progress made on the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act.

On July 18th, Stabenow Wrote:

Remembering your interest in fixing the law to allow veterinarians to treat livestock more easily, I am pleased to let you know that a bill I coauthored, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, passed in the Senate last week and awaits the President's signature to become law.

Passing this bill is a big win for animal health, public health, and rural communities across the country. By ensuring that veterinarians can travel to animals to administer safe, humane care, we can better serve animals and protect our nation's food supply.

Thank you again for contacting me. Please continue to keep me informed about issues of concern to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Jim Tuthill 248-756-5270
Sandra Tuthill 248-207-6201

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Thank You's

HUGE thanks to Sue Armstrong and Norm Klein for clearing the deadfall and brush hogging the trails the week of July 20th. They are in great shape to get out and enjoy!

Thanks too to Amy Scharmin for keeping PTRA members informed through the internet. Please make sure you are signed up to our Yahoo group at: Pinckneytrailriders@yahoo.com

Sincere appreciation goes out to all who made this year's Kid's Day a success. Thanks again to Don and Mickie Jesse, Amy Scharmin, and Lynn Perry for their sponsorships and to Elsa Elmore, Trish Ognian, Kathy Moffit, Lynn Perry, Sue Armstrong, and Sherry Richardson and her crew for all your help.

And last but not least, the PTRA would like to offer our "hats off" to Sandra Batie formerly with the Equine Trailways Subcommittee. We have appreciated all the hard work you have done on our behalf. We wish you well in your future endeavors and look forward to seeing you soon on the trail.

DNR Reminds ORV to Tread Lightly

With the increasing use of off-road vehicles as a fun, summer activity in Michigan, conservation officers with the Department of Natural Resources are encouraging riders to observe the "TREAD Lightly" program to promote responsible riding.

"The TREAD Lightly program promotes outdoor ethics for ORV riders," said Lt. Andrew Turner, who leads the DNR's recreation safety program. "Conservation officers are out on the trails on public land to enforce the ORV laws, and many of those laws and regulations are in place not only to protect the riders but to protect public land as well."

The program encourages riders to travel responsibly on roads and trails in permitted areas and to stay on designated trails; don't blaze new trails. Travel only in areas open to your type of vehicle. Drive over obstacles to avoid widening trails. Do not cross streams or operate in wetlands. Comply with all signs and respect barriers. Don't mix riding with alcohol or drugs.

Respect the rights of others, including private property owners and all recreational trail users, campers and others. Slow down around crowds and in camping areas. Never operate on private land without permission. Yield the right-of-way when you meet others on the trails. Steer clear of wild animals and avoid disturbing livestock. Minimize noise and avoid creating dust.

Educate yourself by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies and knowing how to use and operate your equipment safely. Get maps that show the area where you plan to ride. Learn about the regulations governing ORVs in the area. Make sure your ORV is properly licensed. If operating anywhere off private land, a MI ORV license is \$26.25 and if riding on state-designated trails, a \$10 trails permit also is required. Do your part to leave the area better than you found it by properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, restoring degraded areas and equipping your vehicle with a spark arrestor.

To legally operate an ORV in Michigan, drivers under the age of 16 are required to have a safety training certificate and be under the supervision of an adult.

Students who are unable to attend traditional ORV classroom instruction may take an online safety course. Michigan students have two options for an online course: www.atvcourse.com/usa/michigan/ or <http://www.offroad-ed.com/michigan/>. More details are available on each site.

REMINDER: ALL 13 MILES OF TRAIL IN THE PINCKNEY RECREATION AREA ARE RESTRICTED TO ORV USERS UNLESS PERMITTED BY THE DNR TO TEND TO TRAIL MAINTENANCE. NO OTHERS WILL BE TOLERATED!!

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