



"Talk to the Hoof"

# Pinckney Trail Riders Association

Spring 2017

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

## Second Annual Blessing of the Horse and Rider By Ann Marie Price

The second annual "Blessing of the Horse and Rider" went off without a hitch. Well, . . . almost.

The PTRA had planned a wonderful camping weekend to include a comedian for entertainment on Friday night, a potluck dinner and a ride to Hell on Saturday, bonfires on both evenings and of course the blessing. As most know, make plans, especially outdoors, and hear God laugh.

Many hours of work and preparation went into the planning of this event. And, as always, a huge amount of thanks is owed to Ray and Sue Armstrong and Amy Scharmen-Burdgolf.

Sue negotiated with the DNR, the health department and insurance company to make this event even a consideration. After obtaining all the approvals, Sue then strongly encouraged the well contractors to see that the hand pump actually provided water when operated. In fact, she was able to get Buddy with Sebastian Well Drilling to donate his efforts for this much needed modification. Sue also made the arrangements for Friday's entertainment. As if that weren't enough, Sue obligated her husband Ray, with the help of Don Jesse, into erecting the donated, yet oversized, telephone poles in the over-flow area to serve as high line posts for the expected campers.

Amy Scharmen-Burdgolf coordinated and planned the spring work-bee. Seventeen volunteers cleared the overgrown trails making an enjoyable ride possible for this very special occasion.

Needless to say, things didn't go as planned but we did manage to hold the blessing on Saturday, May 6th with Pastor Vicky Lovell administering the invocation. Vicky is the Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, MI. On a side note, she will be celebrating her ordination on June 17th at 5pm at Shalom Lutheran Church in Pinckney. All are welcome!

Vicky has generously donated her time to this event for the past two years and is looking forward to the next. In fact, she stated, "My Bishop asked me to be his Assisting Minister at the Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly, which is a huge honor, and I said, sure, as long as it doesn't conflict with the Horse Blessing!"

(Continued on page 3)



Vicky Lovell, Associate Pastor  
Zion Lutheran Church



Brent Parker  
and Company  
Really cool guy  
and Solo Artist



## Now Introducing Our Newest Board Members Jennifer Gay and Mindy Naggy!



**Jenn Gay** is an active and lifetime member for the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) and the Girl Scouts. She has an educational background in business management, marketing, and has a professional background in teaching horseback riding, event planning, human resources, and volunteer organization. Jenn currently works full time for the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, helps manage programs out of Heavenly Horse Stables, and teaches wellness through Greenblood, LLC.

Before running the riding program at Heavenly Horse Stables, Jenn was at the Girl Scout Camp Innisfree in Howell. She worked there for over 13 years and held the directorship position for five months before its closing. Jenn helped manage 35 horses, enjoyed days of hosting 80 first-time riders, and helped train new riding instructors. After the camp closed, Jenn has continued to work for the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan. First, in outdoor education helping connect local stables in SE MI with Girl Scouts and now as a Troop Support, teaching the Girl Scout program to new volunteers while managing over 400 volunteer leaders from Dearborn to the Ohio boarder.

CHA is about providing safe experiences with horses and as the Michigan Representative. In this role, Jenn hopes to help bring more safe horning experiences to our local community. CHA also provides safety standards for programs and certifications for riding, vaulting, driving instructors and more. Jenn will be presenting Girl Scouts programs with horses at the CHA 50th Anniversary International Conference at the Kentucky Horse Park in October.



**Mindy Naggy**, like many little girls, loved horses from a young age. She began her riding adventures when she was eight years old at the Brighton Riding Stable horse camps. As Mindy grew as an equestrian, she explored different styles of riding including hunt seat, saddle seat, western, gaming and of course trail riding. As a young teen she showed quite a bit and soaked up as much knowledge about horses as anyone would give her.

Around the time Mindy was entering high school, she discovered the fantastic world of competitive trail riding (CTR) and endurance riding. This is where she found her horse sport of choice! The more trail competitions she entered, the less showing she did. Mindy fell in love with the beautiful trails around Michigan and the community/family of fellow competitors. During those competitions is where Mindy truly learned the meaning of caring for a horse and the bond that could be shared between rider and mount.

As she entered college, the adult world became a reality and Mindy found herself working more and more. Unfortunately, she was not able to dedicate enough time to conditioning her horse for the competitions she so loved, even though her parents vowed to keep her horses. For quite a few years, Mindy only rode her horses periodically when she could find the time.

In the last couple years, Mindy has reconnected with her trail riding community. Her horses now live on her farm, in Manchester, and she has plenty of time to ride! As Mindy entered into this stage of her life, she vowed to herself that she was going to be more involved in the local trail community and the trail competitions she loved as a young adult. And that is exactly where you will find her today! Mindy has been competing again doing CTR's with her 19 year old Half-Arabian, Bubba. She has been very active at work bees for a variety of different local trail riding groups, even sometimes clearing trails when there is not an organized event. Mindy can be found at various local trail events either riding, helping or taking photos which is also a much loved hobby of hers.

(Continued on Page 3)



## And Now Introducing our newest Board Members

Jennifer Gay and Mindy Naggy! (cont.)

Just this last winter she was voted onto the Pinckney Trail Riders Association board where she has jumped right in to help organize events and hopes to help shape the future of PTRA.

Outside of the horse world, Mindy works at the University of Michigan as a Senior Research Technician. She is also a certified yoga instructor, not currently teaching anywhere but has most recently taught at Breathe Yoga in Chelsea, MI. She enjoys photography, craft beer, coffee and observing her collection of farm animals which includes mini donkeys, cats, dogs, chickens, ducks and of course, horses!

## Second Annual Blessing of the Horse and Rider (Cont.)

We were so honored that she dedicates herself to this event and look forward to next year's event. She enlists the help of Brent Parker, singer, to help make this occasion truly special.

A huge thank you goes out to both Vicky and Brent for making the "Blessing" special and memorable.

Please check our website and/or Facebook page for new dates if the camping event should be rescheduled.

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## 2017 Spring Flower Sale

This year's flower sales  
brought in \$674.25. Thank you  
all for your support through  
this fund raising event. We will  
look forward to another get  
sales event in 2018.



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## PTRA Spring Workbee



Our spring work-bee held on Saturday, April 30th was a successful one. A 17-member crew armed with chain saws, hand tools, and side-by-sides took care of downed trees and over grown areas along the trails and in the staging area.

The trails are reported to be in good condition this year and don't appear to need any major clearing. If you know of any areas that need trees cleared, please let us know.

Any future work-bees will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Thank you to Amy Scharmen and Dianne Martin for spearheading the work areas and a huge THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME OUT TO HELP!

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## What's New and What's Next? by Ann Marie Price

The PTRA is always looking out for the horse and rider. On that note, the board is planning to expand our trails to officially include those across the southern side of the Portage (Hell) Creek Bridge. You may have noticed that that bridge specifically has undergone some repairs. In a combined effort with the DNR, a cement apron has been laid as well as railings to each side. We will also be covering the bridge foundation to make it less slippery and more sound. Believe it or not, we have found that an old conveyor belt will be most useful for our needs not to mention our budget.



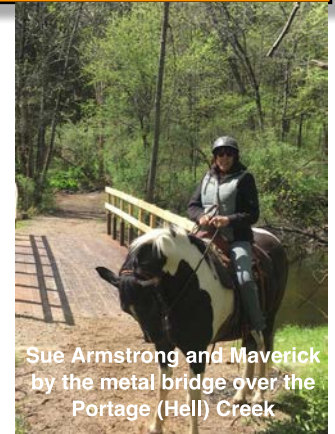
Small Bridge on #35

The other new addition you may have noticed is on trail #35 (towards #34 -or visa versa). The small land bridge that was eroding has been fortified with a more sound wooden structure thanks to the DNR.

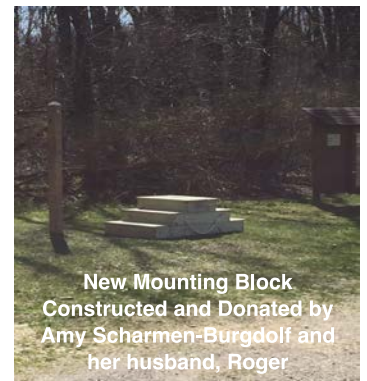
This effort is another example where the DNR supports those parks where volunteers show an interest their local park. Did you know that the PTRA has logged over 2,000 to date and that those hours reflect the interest in the Pinckney Recreation Area? Without your help, it is possible that the DNR may choose to redirect their attention and/or funds to a park with a greater interest. Rest assured, it is the PTRA's goal to always be considered a Friend of the DNR.

PTRA board member Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf and her husband Roger has added a new addition to the Monks Road staging area as well. Thanks to their efforts and donation, we now have a mounting block on the east side of the parking lot. Thank you both for making mounting more convenient.

Lastly, look for a new hitching post to be installed at the Hell Hole Bar in Hell, MI. The PTRA hopes that riders can enjoy a ride and a meal or beer at local restaurants. Enjoy!



Sue Armstrong and Maverick  
by the metal bridge over the  
Portage (Hell) Creek



New Mounting Block  
Constructed and Donated by  
Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf and  
her husband, Roger

## Attention Business Owners

If you are a business owner or know of one, please consider becoming a PTRA business member for \$50 annually. As a business member, you will be able to place an ad on our Facebook page which can then be directly linked to your business as well as an ad in our quarterly newsletters. Currently we have 195 Facebook friends and 57 members viewing our postings so this is a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about your business.

Interested parties should go on our website ([www.pinckneytrailriders.com](http://www.pinckneytrailriders.com)) and add this membership or call Ann Marie Price at 734-645-8958 for further instructions.

## Attention Amazon Shoppers

You can now choose Pinckney Trail Riders Association as the charitable organization your purchases will support when you shop at AmazonSmile <http://smile.amazon.com/>. We will receive 0.5% of your purchase price quarterly; it's a great way to give back. Just remember to always shop from smile.amazon.com instead of the regular amazon site to make your shopping count!