



ALLEGAN COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

SILVER CREEK NEWSLETTER

Memorial Day Weekend 2010

Welcome to the park, stay safe, and enjoy!



THANK YOU TO OUR TROOPS!

We want to take the time to THANK all our armed forces for their courage, honor and sacrifice fighting for freedoms and protection in our country and in countries all over the world. God bless you and your loved ones!

April 17, 2010 Benefit Ride

Once again, we had really good weather on that Saturday! The group of campers and day riders were great! There was not one reported difficulty or upset rider...with that many campers and riders that is excellent. When inspecting the picket lines there were a few with a bit too much hay, but over all they were in really good shape. You were a great bunch of campers!

There were 252 riders that participated raising a record \$13,773...Great Job!! Grand prize went to Dana Kniss who won the English saddle donated by Pat Hopson. Meghan Nyboer won the Western saddle donated by the Allegan County Pleasure Riders and Millbrook Tack. Rick DeMull won the original pastel painting donated by the artist, Alex Hall. Denise Wentzel won the Adirondack chair set, which were donated by ACCE Hardware.

The three top donations came from Doug and Tracy Bolman raising \$1440, Meghan Nyboer with \$1200, and Fran Kempkers raised \$1120...Outstanding Work!! Thank you so much! The money donated went to the Wings of Hope Hospice in Allegan, and FACETS (Friends of the Allegan County Equestrian Trail System). Thank you all VERY MUCH!

The extra raffle drawing winners: Brenda Henrick won the campfire grilling outfit donated by J. Workman; Martha Meyer won (cont pg 2)



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2010 Benefit Ride

(cont from page 1) the portable picnic table, also donated by J. Workman. The 50/50 winner was T. Lynn from Hospice donating back to proceeds \$163; and the poker hand winner with AG942/diamonds was Sandy Plumb.

The youngest male at the event was 5 year old Zachary Miller; and the youngest female was 6 year old Ashley Vanderjack. Oldest riders, both 69, were Ruth Bruursema and

Larry Heyboer. The furthest traveled distance to come to the event was Yvonne Haas from Indiana.

The Pleasure Riders do such a good job with this event. The businesses in the area are so generous and the participants are great! Thank you all so much for the work and effort that goes into the ride – from all the horse back riders.



BUYING A SEASON PASS

If you are riding the trail system but do not trailer in to Silver Creek, Ely Lake or Pine Point Campgrounds, please be aware that you should still buy a season pass. That money, which is \$25.00, helps support the County's ability to maintain the parks and trail system. Please buy a \$25.00 season pass. Thank you for your support!!

CAMPING WITH HORSES

You are responsible for cleaning up all the unused hay and the manure in the campsite. We are scattering it 15 feet into the woods behind the site. Over the course of several years, campers have gotten better and better at taking care of the picket line areas.

Everyone appreciates coming into a site, unloading horses and tying them up in a completely clean area. Years and years ago, there were many times people had to clean for a half hour before tying their horses to the line. Remember the trash all over in the campsites? It is wonderful to see how people have cleaned up their act at the park!

UPCOMING RIDING EVENTS

The CMO (Competitive Mounted Orienteering) Ride will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, 2010. The contact people are Shelly Hochstetler at 574-536-4751 and Vicki Horsley at 269-244-9913.

The Oak Leaf Run Endurance Ride will be on Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18, 2010. The contact person is Bonnie Tobias at 269-792-3525.

Visit www.allegancounty.org/parks or call the Parks Office at 269-686-9088 for camping reservations.



Riding the Trails

It has been reported that two female riders, probably on bay horses, were riding near 40th Avenue in Allegan County. They were on trails that are not on the Designated Trail System. A DNRE officer asked them to stop. The riders decided to run instead of stopping. They were asked to stop again on



48th Avenue where the trail came out and the officer was waiting for them. Again they decided to run. This officer was not going to ticket but educate. Of course, as anyone

with a thinking mind would know, now that officer most likely will not just educate but ticket without question when coming across someone who may be unknowingly off the trail system. Respect is important when coming across people who are responsible for enforcing rules and law. They are doing their job just like when you are doing yours.

DO YOUR PART!

No matter where you park, camp and/or ride with horses, it is very important to clean up all hay and manure. Pick up hay and manure and put it in your trailer. The picket lines must be clean of hay and manure when you leave the campsite. Thank you for doing your part!

When riding the trails, do not drop cans, bottles and bags along the way. Keep the trails clean!! Please report problems you come across on the trail system.

WHAT OWNING A HORSE MEANS:

*When you are tense, let me teach you to relax.
*When you are short sighted, let me teach you to see.
*When you are short tempered, let me teach you to be patient.
*When you are quick to react, let me teach you to be thoughtful.
*When you are angry, let me teach you to be serene.
*When you feel superior, let me teach you to be respectful.
*When you are self-absorbed, let me teach you to think of greater things.
*When you are arrogant, let me teach you humility.
*When you are lonely, let me be your companion.
*When you are tired, let me carry the load.
*When you need to learn, let me teach you.
After all, I am your horse.

And now... the REST of the STORY!

*When you are tense, let me teach you that there are dragons in the forest and we need to leave NOW!
*When you are shortsighted, let me teach you to figure out where exactly in the 40 acres I am hiding.
*When you are short-tempered, let me teach you how to slog around the pasture for an hour before you can catch me.
*When you are quick to react, let me teach you that herbivores kick MUCH faster than omnivores.
*When you are angry, let me teach you how well I can stand on my hind feet, because I don't FEEL like cantering on my right lead today.
*When you are worried, let me entertain you with my mystery lameness, GI complaint and skin disease.
*When you feel superior, let me teach you that, mostly, you are the maid service.
*When you are self-absorbed, let me teach you to PAY ATTENTION. I told you about those dragons in the forest.
*When you are arrogant, let me teach you what 1200 lbs of yipee-yahoo-gotta-go horse can do when suitably inspired.
*When you are lonely, let me be your companion. Let's do lunch. Breakfast and dinner sound good, too.
*When you are tired, don't forget about the 600 lbs of grain that needs to be unloaded.
*When you are feeling financially secure, let me teach you the meaning of "veterinary services".
*When you need to learn, hang around the barn, Bud, I'll learn ya. :-)

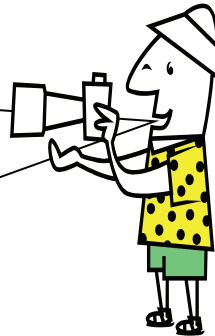


New Richmond Bridge County Park Grand Opening

Allegan County Parks invites you to join them in the celebration of the grand opening of New Richmond Bridge Park on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at 10:00am. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and special guest speakers, including Senator Patty Birkholz. A turning of the historic bridge, a special program by the Outdoor Discovery Center, and refreshments are also planned. New Richmond Bridge County Park is located at 3160 Old Allegan Road in Fennville. Please call the Parks Office for more information.

CALLING ALL SHUTTER BUGS!

Did you capture some great shots during your stay at Silver Creek or anywhere else in Allegan County? Submit your photo into the AC Tourist Council Photo Contest... summer contest entry deadline is September 1st. www.visitallegancounty.com or contact the Parks Office for complete rules!



2010 Camp Host Wanted

Are you interested in being a camp host at Silver Creek for the 2010 season? The job description is camping in the camp host site (49) on the weekends cost free, being available to take information from campers or day riders, and answering simple camping questions. Any question you do not feel comfortable answering would be brought to the park manager's attention. Any problems or concerns would also be directed to the park manager. You will be the eyes and ears of the manager when he/she is not available, but enforcing park rules would not be something you would be expected to do. Please see Kris if you are interested. Thank you!

ATTENTION PARK USERS!

PICNIC TABLES! Please do not move the picnic tables from one site to another!

Volunteering to Work on the Trail System The FACETS are organizing the workdays. Please call Bob Kaarlie at 269-673-4106 and/or Larry Rasmussen at 269-673-8336. Thank you!!

Maps of the Trails

Due to a very tight budget it would be quite helpful if when you come riding on the trail system, you print a map off line. If you can get it laminated it could be used for some time. We will have maps in the map boxes in the park but they will be limited. Thank you!

Interesting

It has been interesting to meet people coming in for day-rides for the purpose of getting to know the trail system and condition their horses for the Oak Leaf Run Endurance Ride. There are riders who are getting their horse and themselves ready to do a shore-to-shore ride too. It is good to see all the riders out and active.

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