



ALLEGAN COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

SILVER CREEK NEWSLETTER

Fourth of July 2010

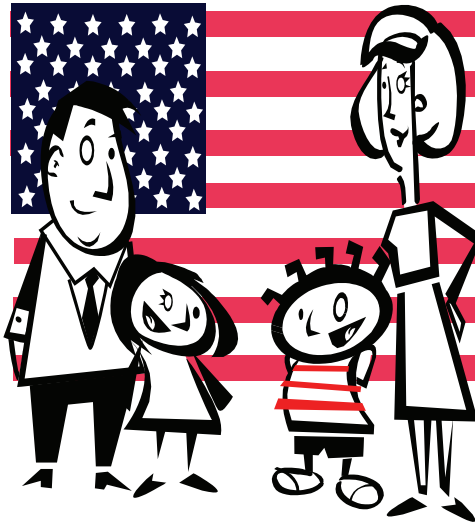
Welcome to the park, stay safe, and enjoy!



OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY!

By: Kris Allred

How do you feel about your country? I have heard so many negatives about how people feel about the United States. Young and old, people are saying this country is going down the tubes. Other country leaders are talking about how our United States is changing and it is for the worse. The economy, the government, the oil in the Gulf, and the elections; they have all been talked about at length. You hear so many negative things that erode confidence, and that sense of well being we love to feel has faded a bit. But what makes our country? Is it the government? Is it the economy? Or is it the disasters we encounter? I think it is we, the people. It seems often that the government agencies and we, the people, forget that we, the people, are the United States.



We fought for independence so long ago. Do we still fight for the rights of the people? Do you do your part to keep freedoms and keep the American way of thinking going strong? I heard a person say she had never voted. So many times people say they do not vote because it doesn't matter if they do. If we take that view, we are not free. We have sold and given away our independence to complacency, laziness, and the childish thought other people can do it. Other people can do it and they will do it, you can be sure of that. Will you enjoy the outcome?

This country was worth fighting for as our forefathers fought the British. Those men and women stepped forward to stand for beliefs of living free from the British law and wrongs. Do we still have what it takes to step forward to stand for beliefs of living free?



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WHAM Ride

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WHAM Judged Trail Ride

By: Tracy Bolman

The "Judged Trail Ride" of 2010 was a huge success. Not only did we get to celebrate the ribbon cutting ceremony of Allegan County Equestrian Trail System on Friday, May 21st, but we also had our biggest turn out yet for the "Judged Trail Ride" on Saturday May 22.

In the past we have had around 70 preregistered entries for the ride. This year we had 104 and the camp was fully booked. Although rain kept us from accomplishing anything the Friday before; we were all up early on Saturday to get everything done. As the trailers started streaming in we knew we were in for a big day with a total of 144 riders.

Every year we start coming up with obstacles months in advance to keep it fresh and challenging. This year was no

CMO—COMPETITIVE MOUNTED ORIENTING EVENT

The weather cleared long enough for the ride to happen without rain. Everyone was thankful for that. There were 41 riders on Saturday, June 12 and 15 riders on Sunday, June 13, totaling 51 riders all together. Many of the people had never been at Silver Creek before. They really liked the park and said they would be coming back, even with the wet trails.

If you would like to know more about them, go to, micmo.org, there are many in Indiana and Michigan.

different! Many of the riders really enjoyed the large "Teeter-Totter and the "Turn-Style", along with some interesting twists on some previous obstacles. We had over 50 volunteers helping us this year and we needed every one of them. Below are the names of our first prize winners:

Overall High Points: Janice Booy
2nd place overall: Wayne Stutzman
Youth Rider 12 and under: Olivia Ortiz
Youth Rider 13 - 17: Tessa Dahlhoff
Senior Rider: Grant Solomon
Young Horse 5 and under: Victoria Higgins
Mature Horse (6-10): Beth Solomon
Senior Horse 11 and over: Kerrie Barendse
TWH: Abby White

ZIPLOCK BAG—GOOD TIP!

Danielle Martin Says:

Fill a ziplock bag with water and 5 or 6 pennies and hang it in the area where you have a problem with flies or wasps. In my case it was a particular window in my home. It had a slight passageway for insects. Ever since I have done this, it has kept flies and wasps away. Some say that wasps and flies mistake the bag for some other insect nest and are threatened.

Ann Says:

I tried the ziplock bag and pennies this weekend...I have a horse trailer. The flies were bad while I was camping. I put the baggie with pennies above the door of the LO. NOT ONE FLY came in the trailer. The horse trailer part had many. Not sure why it works but it does!





RULES FOR CAMPING IN ALLEGAN COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS

County Ordinance #1010

Article VI – CAMPING

Section 1 – It shall be unlawful:

a) To camp except in areas provided and designated for such use. b) To camp without a permit. A person may camp in a designated campground or campsite only when established fee is paid. Unregistered campsite will be removed at the owner's expense. c) For more than one (1) immediate family unit consisting of two responsible adults and their unmarried children to occupy a single campsite. d) For more than four (4) unrelated persons to occupy a single campsite. e) For unsupervised children to occupy a campsite. Supervision must be provided by a parent or legal guardian eighteen (18) years of age or older. **f) For more than two (2) motor vehicles and one (1) major camping unit to occupy a single campsite.** g) For anyone between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM to create disturbance, to disrupt the peace, quiet and tranquility of the camping area. h) For person to wash dishes at pumps or drinking

fountains; to fail to clean campsites daily; or to discharge wastes of any type, except into designated containers, or pumping stations. I) To occupy a campsite after 3:00 PM on the last day covered by the permit. j) To occupy campsites contrary to assignments made by the Commission's authorized representatives. k) For unregistered campground visitors to enter or remain in a campground or day use areas between 10:PM and 8:00AM. l) For trailers to be parked with tongue facing center of campsite. Trailers tongues **MUST** face road for easy hook up and removal in case of fire. m) To dig a trench or make any excavation on any campsite. n) To camp within a County Campground for more than fifteen (15) days in a thirty- (30) day time span. o) To leave any campsite unattended for longer than 5 days. If a site is left unattended for five (5) days, equipment will be removed at the owner's expense. p) To use a campground for a permanent or semi-permanent residence or as a base for the operation of a business. q) To leave a registered campsite continuously unoccupied during the first 24 hours of the permit period.

PARK FEES CONFUSION

There seems to be confusion about the fee changes. It has come to our attention that the signs showing the changes on the bulletin boards are quite wordy and hard to get the information off. So, maybe if it is in the newsletter it will help. It is \$5.00 per horse per day to day ride. It is \$12.00 per night to camp. If horses are in the site camping, it is an additional \$3.00 per horse per night. If you **day ride with a camper and park in their site**, it is \$5.00 per horse per day. There is a \$25.00 season pass that covers your day ride horse trail fee and the overnight horse trail fee for each horse you are day riding or camping with.

Most of us do not really read the rules unless you need to because you or someone else has done something and you need to know exactly what they say. It is the f) rule which is being focused on. Because of safety reasons, State rules, and liability reasons, only one trailer can be in a campsite or major unit like motor home, living quarters horse trailer, truck camper and a horse trailer without living quarters. Any unit which has to be pulled or driven out of the campground in case of fire or other emergency. For years we have often put more than one trailer in a site that could support it. We have instead had no more than 4 adults in a site. Again, because of liability reasons, the rule will be enforced as it is. If you have any questions, please talk to your camp manager or call the office and ask for Kevin Ricco. Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENT!

The **AERC Oak Leaf Run Endurance Ride** will be on Saturday & Sunday, July 17 & 18, 2010.

Saturday: 50-Mile Endurance, 25-Limited Distance; 25-Mile Competitive, 15-Mile Novice

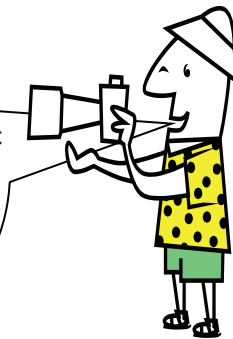
Sunday: 25-Mile Limited Distance; 25-Mile Competitive, 15-Mile Novice

Contact Barb Kurti at 616-896-6798 for fees or more information.

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

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!

TRAIL SYSTEM VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Are you thinking about adopting a trail? Please call Bob Kaarlie at 269-673-4106 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 online. 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!

Picket lines and Day riding

It is your responsibility to clean up after your horse both in the campsites and day ride areas. Please broadcast manure and small amounts of hay 15 feet into the wooded areas around or in back of campsites. Please remove any waste left by your animal when day riding. Thank you!

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Ronda Foreman – Parks and Tourism Clerk

Jim Hoover – Parks Coordinator

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