

# Michigan Horse Council



## Important Dates:

**December 3—West Michigan Winter Horse Fest**  
DeltaPlex, Grand Rapids, MI  
9 a.m.—4 p.m.  
([www.westmichiganwinterhorsefst.com](http://www.westmichiganwinterhorsefst.com))

**December 6—MHC Meeting**  
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing, 7:30

**December 25—Merry Christmas**

**2012:**

**January 1—Happy New Year**

**January 3—MHC Meeting**  
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing, 7:30

**February 4—4-H Benefit Horse Clinic**, MSU Pavilion  
East Lansing, MI

**February 7—MHC Meeting**  
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing, 7:30

**February 19-20—MSU Rodeo Spartan Stampede**  
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing

**March 3-10—ANR Week**  
MSU, East Lansing

**March 6—MHC Meeting**  
MSU Pavilion, E. Lansing, 7:30

**March 9-11—MHC Horse Expo**  
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing  
([www.michiganhorsecouncil.com](http://www.michiganhorsecouncil.com))

## MHC News, November-December, 2011

### MHC's Meeting Scheduled for December 6th.....

The December meeting of the Michigan Horse Council will be held on December 6th at the MSU Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing, Michigan, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion will be held on House Bills HB 4684 (introduced by Rep. MacMaster) and HB 5175 (introduced by Rep. Foster), both of which seek to amend the "Right to Ride" legislation. MHC will have a position paper prepared regarding MHC's stand on these two bills, and will present it to the board for discussion and vote at this meeting.

There will be guest speakers at this meeting: Diane Ursu, Vice-president of the Michigan Mountain Bike Association; and Amy Trotter and Kent Wood, from Michigan United Conservation Clubs, will present their organizations position on both of these House Bills. Both bills have been introduced, and have been referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation. Neither bill has come out of committee yet.

These bills present many important ramifications to Michigan's equestrian community, therefore this will be a very important and information meeting.

Also...the Trails Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m., just prior to the regular board meeting, same date, same location.

### Deadline is Fast Approaching for MHC Member Scholarships

**January 7, 2012**, is the final deadline for all applications for the MHC Member Scholarships. The application form and information is on the MHC website: [www.michiganhorsecouncil.com](http://www.michiganhorsecouncil.com).

There are three MHC Member Scholarships (\$1,000 each) awarded each year to members of MHC member organizations and/or MHC individual members. Remember: If your organization is a member of Michigan Horse Council, ALL of your members are eligible to apply for these scholarships. The scholarships are not limited to high school seniors expecting to attend a college in the fall; but also students who are already college students, as well as those "older" folks that might be returning to college, either for an advanced degree, or training in a new field.

The applications on the website are easily accessible, and give a step-by-step procedure to follow in filling them out and sending them in.

Scholarship recipients will be notified in February if they have received one of the Member Scholarships, and these will be presented at the annual MHC Expo in March.

### Horse trail group develops statewide ride plan

By Victor Skinner, Chronicle News Service  
Muskegon Chronicle, October 9, 2011

LANSING -- A legislated review of equine trail use on state land has culminated in a lengthy list of recommendations that would greatly expand horse riding trailways and promote their use.

The recommendations could help to resolve disputes over areas where hunting and fishing activities have conflicted with horse riding, but state officials say questions remain about the feasibility of some suggestions and funding to implement the changes.

A draft report of the Equine Trailways Subcommittee was presented to the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council this summer and outlines 46 recommendations for expanding horse riding trails in Michigan.

The review is part of "Right to Ride" legislation enacted in 2010 to address areas like the Pigeon River Country State Forest and state game areas where DNR officials have

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curtailed equine use in an effort to comply with federal funding requirements.

"The vast majority of problems we've run into in a lot of these areas are more or less under (federal funding constraints)," said Mike Foote, president of the Michigan Horse Council and member of the ETS. "That doesn't mean people can't go into them with horses ... but what it does mean is that hunting and fishing is primary."

The recommendations task the state with developing new riding opportunities in or near areas purchased with federal wildlife funds, which include the Pigeon River Country State Forest, state game areas and others.

In the Pigeon River, the ETS urges the DNR to expedite efforts to improve equine trail access and camping on Elk Hill by May 2012.

In other areas where the DNR has curtailed riding, such as state game areas, "the ETS recommends that the DNR either reopen the lands for equine recreation or develop similar equine trail opportunities in close proximity ..."

Other major recommendations include a minimum 20 miles of trails at state parks with equine campgrounds, no net loss of equine trails on state lands, and a 15 percent increase in the number of trails and equine campgrounds on public lands by 2022.

The ETS recommends the state develop an across-the-U.P. trail, look for ways to expand equine trails in southern Michigan, and consider constructing two modern equine campground facilities in northern and southern Michigan.

The ETS would like the state to develop current and detailed GPS maps of all horse trails and use the information to build a marketing campaign to encourage their use.

Jim Radabough, the DNR's state trails coordinator, said "It's going to take about a year of vetting certain recommendations to understand what we're capable of doing.

"They kind of developed a wish list of things they would like to see," Radabough said. "There are some things that can be implemented, some things that probably can't be implemented, and some things that would require state or federal statute changes."

Radabough said potential issues remain in areas developed with federal wildlife funds, and the ETS recommendations could also conflict with habitat management efforts, timber harvest and other obligations.

ETS chairwoman Sandra Batie declined to discuss the details of the report, but said "I personally feel the ETS has made considerable progress in understanding the issues associated with equine use of state lands ..."

Foote said funding for the recommendations hasn't yet been discussed in detail by the ETS or state equine groups and likely will be the focus during the next year.

"There isn't a viable (funding) system that everyone has agreed upon," Foote said. "Somehow, we have to figure out the money end of it."

Representatives with the Pigeon River and Beyond chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of America, who were instrumental in promoting the "Right to Ride" legislation, refused to discuss the ETS recommendations.

## **Trail Expansion Dedication Ceremony at Sleepy Hollow State Park on Nov. 5**

The public was invited to join Sleepy Hollow State Park, along with the Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association, to celebrate the expansion of the park's trail system. The ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for noon on Saturday, Nov. 5. The event took place at the new South Loop trailhead adjacent to the equestrian staging area. The park is located at 7835 E. Price Rd. in Laingsburg in Clinton County.

A portion of the new trail is reserved for multiple non-motorized uses such as equestrian, mountain biking and hiking. A second lakeshore section of the new trail is restricted to equestrian use and hiking.

The trail addition will be open for winter activities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. A portion of the trail will be available for snowmobiling. The new trail is over three miles in length and connects to 6.5 miles of equestrian trails and 11 miles of biking and hiking trails. The new trails provide an expanded opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy all that Sleepy Hollow has to offer.

Both the multi-use and equestrian trail sections were developed and funded through the financial and volunteer support of the Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders Association ([www.shtra.org](http://www.shtra.org)).

Refreshments were served following the ceremony. Admission to the event was free; however, a Recreation Passport is required for vehicles entering Sleepy Hollow State Park.

The Recreation Passport has replaced motor vehicle permits for entry into Michigan state parks, recreation areas and state-administered boating access fee sites. This new way to fund Michigan's outdoor recreation opportunities also helps to preserve state forest campgrounds, trails, and historic and cultural sites in state parks, and provides park development grants to local communities. Michigan residents can purchase the Recreation Passport (\$10 for motor vehicles; \$5 for motorcycles) by checking "YES" on their license plate renewal forms, or at any state park or recreation area. Nonresident motor vehicles must still display a valid nonresident Recreation Passport (\$29 annual; \$8 daily) to enter a Michigan state park, recreation area or state-administered boating access fee site; these can be purchased at any state park or recreation area, or through the Michigan e-Store at [www.michigan.gov/estore](http://www.michigan.gov/estore). To learn more about the Recreation Passport, visit [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport) or call 517-241-7275.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## **MHC Horse Expo 2012 Shaping Up to be Another Great Event!**

The 29th annual MHC Horse Expo, slated for March 9, 10 and 11, 2012, at the MSU Livestock Pavilion is shaping up to be another memorable event. An exciting, weekend-long program has been planned, feature clinicians, speakers and demonstrations con-

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firmed, and the excitement is growing!

Feature clinicians include **Sharon Camarillo**—Sharon Camarillo is a member of the Cowgirls Hall of Fame, a many times Champion Barrel Racer, holder of innumerable awards, as well as a well-respected educator. Sharon will present a series of participation clinics, as well as demonstration programs at the 2012 MHC Horse Expo. She will be assisted by her co-instructor, Donna Irwin, shown below. For additional information about Sharon, visit her website at: [www.sharoncamarillo.com](http://www.sharoncamarillo.com). Sharon will accompany by **Donna Irwin**, a noted Champion, Clinician and Trainer in her own right. Donna is a Professor of Equine Science and coaches the college's award winning National Intercollegiate Horse Show Team at Black Hawk College in Galva, Illinois.

**Dr. Lew Sterrett**—Dr. Lew served as the Executive Director of Miracle Mountain Ranch Missions, Inc.(MMRM) 1977-2010. MMRM, located in northwestern Pennsylvania, is home for a summer youth camp, and a leadership training center for youth, adult, and family groups. He has also promoted safety in public riding programs, serving as President of the Certified Horse Association for 7 years. A licensed pastor, certified Youth, Marriage and Family Counselor, he earned his PhD from North Tennessee Seminary in 2007. It is from this broad foundation of training and experience, that Dr. Sterrett has readily gained a hearing from audiences internationally. The center of Dr. Sterrett's presentation, is about basic relational principles which govern all human relationships. Sermon on the Mount® teaches "Lessons of Life from the Language of the Horse." Principle-Based Training® addresses the horse owner/trainer.

**Suzanne Myers**—With combined experience in academia and horsemanship, Suzanne Myers is a unique talent in the equine industry today. Suzanne has earned her place in the top tier of horse trainers nationally. With over 20 years of professional experience in training horses, Suzanne has been a competitor in many equine events including AQHA and NRHA sanctioned events.

The 2008 Midwest Mustang Challenge, Madison, WI, was won by Suzanne riding Jazz, a Mustang she had to gentle and train within 90 days, and then compete with other top trainers from across the country. She was the first woman to win this Challenge.

**Brooke Myers**, age 10, (shown below) has shadowed her mother, Suzanne Myers, Next Level Horsemanship™, since she was 3 years old. Now, she is a young horse trainer of her own. Brooke is a BIG talent in a SMALL package!

Brooke now uses her "lifetime" of experience with horses to train them in Next Level Horsemanship™ for clients. She also assists with both adult and youth lessons at clinics. She is active in marketing and promoting Next Level Horsemanship™ with her mother.

**Jim and Cindy Conant**—Jim & Cindy Conant, of Jackson MI, will present a program about their Mexico to Canada Trail Ride with "Best of America by Horseback". This Border to Border ride covered 2200 miles and took four and a half months. The route went through New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, South and North Dakota.

**Kim Cardeccia** – Kim presents motivational and educational sessions such as: ntrigued by Equine Assisted Healing?, Confidence Through Connection, and Using Goal Setting to Deepen the Bond with your Horse

**Julie Cyra** - will return with her very popular program, not only promoting her line of saddles, but those of many other vendors.

**Lakeshore Drill Team** – In a very nice thank you, the Lakeshore Mounted Drill Team would like to first thank all of you for the opportunity provided to us in 2011 to perform at the Stallion Expo in East Lansing. 2010 was the inaugural year for our team, and to culminate it with a performance at a venue like yours was a true honor.

We would love the have the opportunity to perform again at the 2012 Stallion Expo. Since our performance in East Lansing six months ago, our team has improved and expanded our skill set. We have added canter work to our routines, and all riders now carry flags during our performances. While we have lost some of our riders to graduation and going on to college, we have gained several new riders and have maintained the same high performance expectations for the team.

**Paso Fino Drill Team** – There are 6 participants, all will be on Puerto Rican Paso Fino horses. All participants will be wearing Puerto Rican attire, there are four females and two males.

**Trails – Personal Mobility Devices** – New ADA regulations allow all kinds of Personal Mobility Devices free access to all trails. These may range from regular wheelchairs to power chairs to scooters to golf carts and more. Many of these are electric, and therefore very quiet, causing them to easily "sneak up" on horses.

**Jeanne Weaver** – will provide a stock dog demonstration on Saturday

**Ruth Hill-Schorsch** – Has a wonderful pinto warmblood that she shows in 4th level and Prix St. George, and will present a special exhibition during the Saturday evening performance.

Others participating will include **Tom Guthrie**, MSU Extension, with a more detailed presentation on composting animal carcasses, than he did at the October MHC meeting; **Dr. Judy Martenuik**, MSU Veterinary College, will present a program on "Fitting and Preparing Your Horse for Exhibition"; Dr. Marcia Thibeault, authof of "*I Make Horse Calls*" will present an interesting program each day.

Of course, the Michigan High School Rodeo Association approved rodeo will take place on Friday evening, beginning at 7:30 p.m.; and the very popular Cross Winds Trainers Challenge will be held throughout the weekend. Other returning events will include the Combined Mounted Police Unit Color Presentations; Award Presentations and the even popular Stallion Presentations.

Stallion Avenue is very well filled this year, with a wide variety of breeds, including Quarter Horses, Paints and Pintos, Arabians, Mustangs, Burros, American Miniature Horses, Fell Pony, Missouri Foxtrotters, Friesians, Gypsy Vanners, Haflingers, Peruvian Paso Finos; Draft Horses, POAs, Appaloosas Oldenburgs, and more! Be sure to visit with the owners and see all these fine animals up close and personal!

As always, the trade show area will be filled with everything a horse lover could wish for, from horse trailers to barns, from saddles and tack to all types of clothing for horse folks; from gift items to jewelry, to fine art, and much, much more! If there's something you want for your horse, you are sure to find it here!

## **MSU Researchers Need Horses with Bad Ankles**

MSU is considering a research project seeking non-invasive and more precise techniques for evaluating arthritis and cartilage deterioration in fetlock joints. Twelve to fifteen horses would be required for this project. Donated horses may be of any age, but must have obvious symptoms of fetlock pathology. Donors can earn a tax deduction for including their horses in the project. As part of the research, horses will have to be euthanised to compare imaged results with actual pathology of the joint. For more information or to offer a horse, contact Dr. John Caron at (517) 353-9710.

## **Michigan Horse Council Honored by MSU Extension**

Earlier this year the Michigan Horse Council was nominated to be selected as a MSU Extension award recipient. The selection committee was impressed by MHC's commitment to MSU Extension and as a result honor MHC as one of MSU Extension's 2011 key partners.

The award was presented at the MSU Extension Key Partner Reception and Dinner, October 11 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Big Ten AB, in East Lansing as part of MSUE's statewide professional development conference.

During this reception and dinner MHC was among the supporters of MSU Extension who were honored for making outstanding contributions to MSU Extension. This also affords an opportunity to welcome individuals and organizations that may not be familiar with MSU Extension's work.



*LtoR: Karen Waite, Ann Louise Budd, Sherry White, Dr. Thomas Coon (MSUE Director), Marilyn Graff, Karyl Dunaway, Monya Graff, Ida Glassbrook*

Nominated for the award by Karen Waite, those attending to represent Michigan Horse Council were: Ann Louise Budd, Exec. Board; Sherry White, Secretary; Marilyn Graff, Expo Administrator; Karyl Dunaway, Treasurer; Monya Graff, Expo Assistant; and Ida Glassbrook, Exec. Board.

In presenting the award, MSUE stated:

“The Michigan Horse Council’s mission is to provide individuals and organizations with a central authority that will support, encourage, supplement and coordinate the efforts of those presently engaged in the constructive conservation, development and promotion of the horse industry and horse community in Michigan.

“The Michigan Horse Council is a long-time supporter of the Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Project, and the council has exercised that support in a variety of ways. For example, more than 10 years ago, they established a scholarship for Senior age attendees at the State 4-H Horse Show. The Horse Council generously provides two \$500 scholarships annually, for a total of more than \$10,000. In addition, they have provided financial support for individual programs such as the State 4-H Horse Jamboree, the Multi-state 4-H Horse Judges and Show Managers School, the American Youth Horse Council National Youth Leader’s Symposium, held in Michigan in 2011, and the Michigan Equine News website. An estimated \$9,000.00 has been contributed to these efforts in the past 10 years, supporting the education of both youth and adults.

“In addition to financial support, the Michigan Horse Council has been a staunch supporter of not only 4-H, but of all MSU Extension programs and activities for many years, advocating for MSUE in a variety of ways.”

**Don't forget the meeting December 6, 7:30 p.m., MSU Livestock Pavilion, East Lansing.**