

# SKMHTA TRAIL TALK

Spring, 2011

SOUTHERN KETTLE MORAINES HORSE TRAIL ASSOCIATION



## A Note From Annette

### **Volunteerism:**

***“Giving time, energies, or talents to any individual or group for which [the individual] is not paid.”***

Last fall when Bill and I were camping at the Midwest Trail Ride, I talked to the president of their local trail group. The conversation came around to the frustrating fact that when it comes down to recruiting volunteers, it is STP (The Same Ten People).

The Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association is no exception. We have so many opportunities for people to help and have fun at the same time – there is literally something for everyone. Last year it was like pulling teeth to get enough people to volunteer for our events. I was even toying with getting my Master Gardening group to pitch in.

This year, our plate is full again with lots of fun things: a booth at the Midwest Horse Fair, a Fun Show at West 20, a Pig Roast, a Treasure Hunt, a camping weekend, the Holiday Gala and our trail cleanup days.

Here are some of the benefits of volunteering: self satisfaction, enjoying the forest, fresh air, forging relationships with like-minded people and a spiritual boost. We’ve even set up the membership structure so that those who help out pay a lower rate.

It is not all work! We have so much fun. After trail work days we go to the local restaurant and have beers, sandwiches and laughs.

So I urge everyone to volunteer. We had a fantastic year in 2010, raising over \$21,000 for our electricity project. This year we are planning on adding an “extreme riding” loop, putting in obstacles for people to try if they wish. This will be the first of its kind in a Wisconsin state park.

Our group is the sum of its members. If we don’t have people volunteering, our group will cease to exist. So I urge everyone to get involved with at least one of our events this year, and, oh yeah—we’ll have FUN!



## **Fun Show Raises Money For Trail Improvements, Helps Youth Horsemanship Skills, Too**

Our Open Fun Show Fundraiser last year was intended to help electrify campsites at Horseriders Campground, Palmyra, but it had another benefit, too. Parents thanked our group for sponsoring an event where their kids could not only have fun but also learn important horsemanship skills and broaden those skills through events beyond their usual discipline. Our club is truly helping shape the next generation of horsemen and horsewomen, and we're going to do it again this year! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 18. Julie Cyra, West 20's owner, has once again generously agreed to donate use of her facility and promotional support for the Saturday, June 18 Fun Show. Check out the show bill and plan to participate in this FUN event!

### **Pleasure Classes**

Gaited Breed at Halter  
Trail Horse at Halter  
Stock Horse at Halter  
Leadline  
Costume  
Pairs  
Open English Walk Trot  
Open English 2 Gait  
Jack Benny/Mae West Walk Trot  
Youth English Pleasure Open English Pleasure  
Gaited English Pleasure 3 Gait  
Non-Gaited English Pleasure  
Silver Fox Walk Trot  
Pairs Pattern  
Open Western Walk Trot  
Open Western 2 Gait  
Jack Benny/Mae West Open Pleasure  
Youth Western Pleasure  
Open Western Pleasure  
Gaited Western Pleasure  
Non-Gaited Western Pleasure  
Silver Fox Open Pleasure  
Group Relay (teams of 3)

### **Fun Classes**

M&Ms and Spoon  
Musical Feed Sacks  
Keyhole Race  
Ransom Race  
Catalog Race  
Plug Race  
Rescue Race  
Pants Race  
Bribe Your Horse  
Flag & Sand  
Outhouse Paper Race  
Tandem Bareback  
Trail In-Hand  
Trail Obstacle.  
Barrels  
Pony Express Run





## Logo Design Contest

### *Put on your thinking caps!*

SKMHTA is looking for a **new** club logo! The design winner will receive a one-year SKMHTA membership and two tickets to our September Pig Roast.

Entry forms will be available at our Midwest Horse Fair booth S10 Exhibit Hall Sidewalk Area

## Rae Miller Finds Her Long-Lost Twin at Holiday Gala 2010!



A good time was had by all attending SKMHTA's Holiday Gala at the Duck Inn in Delavan. In addition to the great company and awesome food, we raised \$414 from the silent auction. There were so many excellent items donated, the bidding wars were intense, but order was (mostly) maintained. Proceeds were applied to the Horseriders Campground electrification project.



## Campsite Electrification Project

To date, we have raised more than \$21,000 for our Horseriders campsite electrification project! **Thanks** to all of you who worked so hard all of 2010 to make this possible.

Sadly, we lost our friend and electrical contractor, Roger Couch, and had to have the whole project rebid. Our trail coordinators (especially Bob Michaels) worked very hard

getting new bids, coordinating and communicating between our club, the DNR and WE Energies, and we have now selected a new electrical contractor. We are still planning to have the sites electrified for the Memorial Day weekend.

Horseriders Campground is already sold out for that entire holiday weekend!



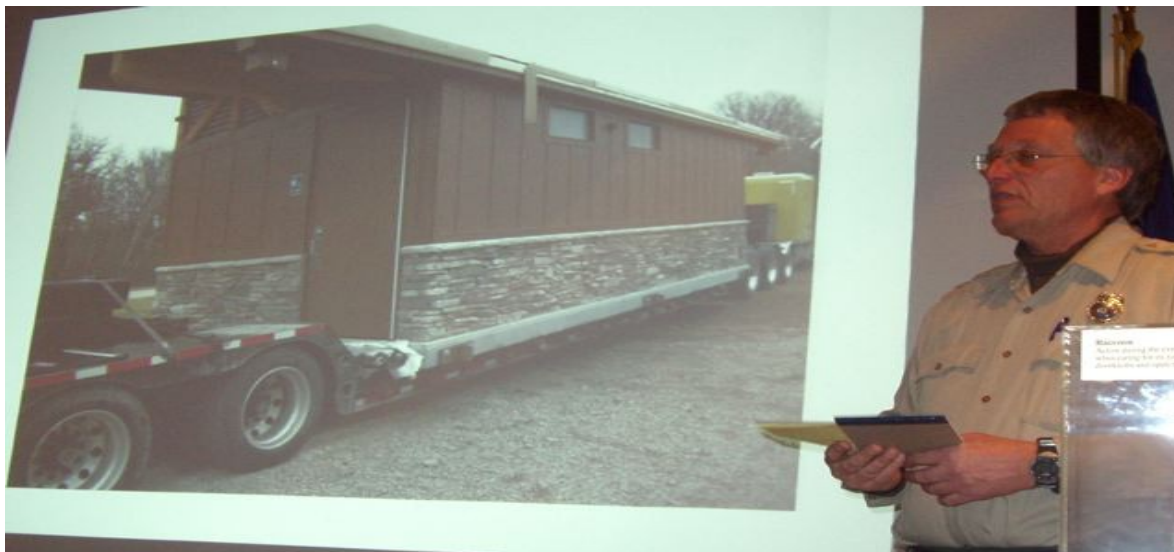
## Annual Meeting Hosts DNR Forest Supervisor

*(Excerpted from the Palmyra-Eagle Enterprise, 2/11/11; story by Rae Miller)*

The 22,000 acre Kettle Moraine State Forest's southern unit offers many recreational uses, but "making them all fit" is very challenging, Forest Supervisor Paul Sandgren told Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association members at their

annual meeting. Work on a new master plan to update a 1991 plan is expected to begin in 2012 to identify issues of forest use and needed changes, Sandgren said. He noted projects of interest to horse riders include redoing trail signage with installation of 165 posts and creation of a new rest stop along the main horse trail. Assistance from SKMHTA has been "a big

plus" in these efforts, he said. June is the completion date, Sandgren continued, for a new shower/toilet building at Horseriders Campground, Palmyra, where SKMHTA will electrify several campsites in spring after a year-long fundraising effort. The club has also been working on new trail signage, color-coding of trails and new trail maps, expected to aid emergency needs on the trails.



Paul Sandgren, supervisor, Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit, shows part of a modular shower/toilet building being installed at Horseriders' Campground, Palmyra, one of several improvements noted at the SKMHTA annual meeting. *Photo by Rae Miller*

## New Color-Coded Trail Signage and Maps on the Way



Bob Michaels, in full safety regalia

Another project the club is working on is trail marking. The trails are in dire need for better marking and clarification. This will help all of the horse riders, snowmobilers, hikers and the DNR. The trail marking is a passion of Margaret and Bob Michaels and Bob and Annette Husske (SKMHTA's trail coordinators and members at large), and they have put in a TON of time and effort to this initiative.

In December of 2010 the 4"x4" posts were installed with the help of Don Dane, SKM Forest trails coordinator. To date, SKMHTA members Bob Michaels and Don Clemens have installed 165 posts on which trail signs will be affixed. We hope to have all of the signs installed by the end of June 2011. Our trail coordinators are also working with the DNR on re-coloring the trail maps.

All of the trails will have a color to designate which trail you are on and will also spell out the color for people who are color blind. The signs will also have the trail system indicated ( for example, Blue Trail Eagle loops). This will help not only horse riders, but also the DNR and Emergency personnel to find people who are hurt or in other critical situations.

## Calendar of Events 2011

### Trail Cleanup, Ottawa Trails

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sunday, March 27

### Midwest Horse Fair

Alliant Energy Center, Madison  
Booth S10—Exhibit Hall Sidewalk Area  
Friday—Sunday, April 15-17

### Trail Cleanup, Highway S Trails

1-4 p.m., Saturday, April 30

### Treasure Hunt Trail Ride, Potluck

Horseriders Campground  
Sunday, May 22

### Open Fun Show

West 20 Saddle Co., East Troy  
Saturday, June 18

### Pig Roast Fundraiser

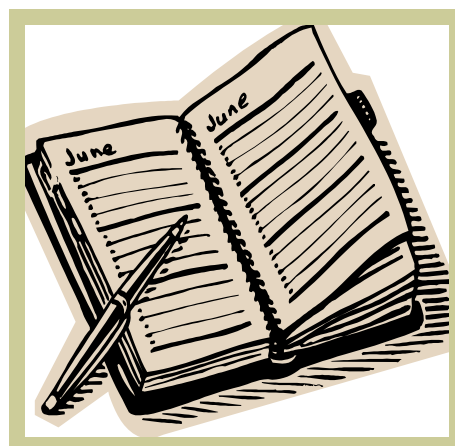
Horseriders Campground  
Saturday, September 10

### Group Trail Ride and Campout

Horseriders Campground  
Saturday, Sunday, October 22-23

### Holiday Gala

Saturday, November 12  
Location TBD  
6 p.m. Cash bar  
7 p.m. Dinner



## SKMHTA Trail Talk

### SOUTHERN KETTLE MORAINE HORSE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

#### Officer Information:

Annette Mayfield, President  
Deb Davis, Vice President &  
*SKMHTA Trail Talk* Editor-in-Chief  
Rae Miller, Secretary/Media  
Coordinator  
Sue Press, Treasurer  
Annette Husske and Bob Michaels  
Trail Coordinators  
Margaret Michaels and Bob  
Husske, Members at Large

#### **Who we are:**

Horse enthusiasts in southeastern Wisconsin, working with the DNR, dedicated to combining the fun of equestrian activities in a social setting with support for horse trails and campgrounds in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

**We're on the web:  
[www.skmhta.com](http://www.skmhta.com)  
and Facebook**



#### **Please note:**

Due to the rising costs of printing and postage, *SKMHTA Trail Talk* will be published in digital format only.

Our website is in the process of being redesigned, and issues will be posted there, as well as noted on our Facebook page with a link to our website.

***Stay tuned!***