



THE GIFT HORSE



Exceptional Horseback Riders of Saginaw County

Equine partnerships for exceptional people.

Spring/Summer 2010

WHOS IN THE SADDLE?

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

My letter this time is directed toward the 'horse people' who have the 'horse fever' that we must have been born with...you know who you are! Maybe you were the horse crazy little kid who galloped around the living room on your hands and knees, tossing your head with a whinny and a snort. Or you played with a Barbie doll only because she had a horse with a saddle and bridle you could put on and take off. Maybe you went from plush horses to a rocking horse to Breyer horses. You dreamed of horses, drew horses, talked about horses with everyone, and could not understand when some would wrinkle their noses and say, "You like horses??" Those stinky old things?!!" Stink?? Were they talking about that WONDERFUL smell of horses? That smell of horseyness when you put your face up to their neck or muzzle to inhale the best perfume in the world! Even the manure (which is probably what they were referring to) wasn't that bad, because after all, it came from a HORSE! And you remember the excitement, nervousness, and maybe a little fear the first time you were able to sit on a real one, and the sense of accomplishment and exhilaration! Now you're grown, and know what you feel like when you interact with horses, that indescribable emotion that just bubbles up from somewhere, how you feel better physically, mentally, and emotionally. You may think that what you can offer may not really count much, or that you're just too busy, but your contribution of a little time will help so much! To bring the opportunity to these children, to learn and grow and achieve on horseback, to share that indescribable feeling that you recognize when you see their smile! Not only do our riders love the horses, therapeutic horseback riding offers so many benefits in every area of their lives, and to have to cut back our program due to lack of volunteers would be unfortunate. Horses help us all feel better, please consider giving a few hours of your time to help us share this and grow into so much more for everyone!

Happy Trails-Joann

No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle. ~Winston Churchill

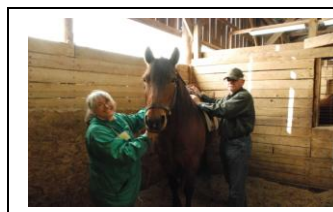
TINA'S REPORT

What a busy winter and spring!

There were 15 riders in our regular Monday evening classes. On Thursdays, we had 2 students in our newly up-and-running driving program. In addition, once a month on Monday afternoons, we have been hosting a Veterans program that will continue throughout the summer. So far, we have 5 veterans who have been participating and we can accommodate more! The horses love the grooming and all the special attention the veterans give them.

Our next step is to get prepared for the summer riding program. We will be looking for horse volunteers to help get the horses ready. First, we need people to regularly ride the horses in order to keep them in condition until July, both mentally and physically. Second, we NEED more horse leader volunteers during the actual summer program (and next fall). A horse leader is an experienced horse handler who is in control of the horse at all times during the class. They are responsible for making sure the horse is behaving. For example; watching that the horse's head is not too high or off to the side, as this will affect the rider's balance. A horse leader is required to have patience with the horse. Sometimes a horse will push the leader with its head or shoulder, or nip at your hand. The horse is reacting to something; a rider may be bouncing hard on their back, or a side walker may be tired and is resting their elbow on the horse's side. These types of things can make the horse uncomfortable, as they are sensitive to their environment and surroundings. The important part is that the horse cannot be sternly corrected in class. As a trained program horse leader, you will learn to recognize these situations and be able to remedy it or correct the horse in small ways that will have a big impact for the horse and the rider.

If you have time, patience and a love for kids and horses, please call me at 989-274-5466. I am happy to answer all your questions.



You will definitely find your role as a horse leader to be very rewarding.

Tina Bennett
Instructor

EHRSC MISSION

We, the Exceptional Horseback Riders of Saginaw County Inc., believe that all children/adults with any disability will benefit from therapeutic horseback riding with improvements in physical, cognitive, and emotional areas. We believe in providing a safe, fun riding environment that enhances self-esteem and encourages independence in riding skills.

Contact: Tina Bennett
EHRSC at P.O. Box 29
Freeland, MI. 48623
(989) 274-5466



FREELAND WALLEYE FESTIVAL GARAGE SALE



Our April 22-23-24 Garage/Barn Sale was a BIG HIT!! Thanks to all who volunteered to set up, work at, and clean up, and to those who donated the great items, and to all the buyers who helped us raise over \$1,500.00!! THANK YOU ALL!



WHO'S IN THE EHRSC CORRAL? *CODY*

Cody has been part of our riding program since Morgan Fladeboe donated him in 2006. As a retired reining horse, his great personality and steady attitude have been a terrific asset to our lineup! Now instead of performing sliding stops, rollbacks and spins, he calmly walks and trots around the arena or on the trail, carrying his riders as they develop their skills and confidence. We all love this easy-going fella with the backwards _B brand on his right hip; he is a real special gift that keeps on giving to us!

EHRSC PIG RAFFLE



Get your tickets now for our August 15th Pig Raffle!! For only \$5.00, you may be the lucky winner to fill your freezer with the best pork in town, cut, wrapped, smoked and frozen to your specifications! Tickets available from riders' families, volunteers, or call Joann Krzywosinski 989-865-6254. 4-H raised by Kim and donated by the Squanda family; don't miss out on the chance to **GO WHOLE HOG!!**

TEMPTATION FARM/SAGINAW VALLEY EQUINE CLINIC OPEN HOUSE

A BIG THANK YOU to our demonstrators and veterinarians for all they did at the March 6th, 2010 open house and chicken dinner to benefit our riding program! The seminars and demonstrations were GREAT!

- 🐾 Edie Chute - Show Jumping and Show Hunters
- 🐾 Janelle Tuck – Grand Prix Dressage
- 🐾 Tom Floer, Mike and JoAnn Shegan – Learning to Rope and Team Roping
- 🐾 Dr. Cumper DVM and Dr. Davis DVM – Equine First Aid, Foot Care and Navicular Treatments, and Respiratory diseases

We appreciate the generous sharing of your knowledge, skills and talents to further the care, comfort and usefulness of our horses.

THANK YOU also to the sponsors and visitors who supported our delicious chicken dinner, silent auction, 50-50 raffle, bake sale table, and contributed to our donation jar. We sincerely thank all of you for making our March Open House such a success!!



"If you approach each new person you meet in a spirit of adventure, you will find yourself endlessly fascinated by the new channels of thought and experience and personality that you encounter: I do not mean simply the famous people of the world, but people from every walk and condition of life." —Eleanor Roosevelt



Terrific teacher
Important
Nice
Always helps me

By: Jadyn Rogers
8 years old

Calendar 2010

EHRSC Summer Camp

July 19-23

EHRSC Open House

July 23

Saginaw County Fair

July 27-31

Fall Program

To be announced



EHRSC WISH LIST

Volunteers

- Office work
- Board members
- Horse maintenance
- Pasture maintenance
- Blacksmith

Sponsors:

- Horse (\$175 a month)
- Student (\$50 per lesson)
- Printing of Newsletter

Office Supplies:

- Stamps, copy paper, ink for printer: HP 74 & HP 75

Tax-deductible donations



P.O. Box 29
Freeland, MI 48623

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Dr. Steven and Kelli Jensen and Family

Saginaw Valley Equine Clinic

Dr. Brad Cumper DVM, Dr. Matt Davis DVM, & Staff

Volunteers and Musicians who supported the EHRSC booth at the February 12-13-14, 2010, Great Lakes Equine Classic at the Birch Run Expo Center

Volunteers and Demonstrators at the March 6th, 2010 Temptation Farm/Saginaw Valley Equine Clinic Open House and Dinner

The Staff of Temptation Farm

Pfizer Animal Health

Mid-west Veterinary Supply

Buckeye Feeds

Anthony Gushow & Sons
Excavating

Ferrellgas

Hemlock Elevator

Tom Armstrong

Johnny Burke's Childrens
Foundation

Tom's Western Store

Wire Horse

Compton's Auto

Golden Rose Acres

Michigan Sugar

S C Johnson

Mike, Nancy, and Kim Squanda

Judy Ann Rau

Cami Cumper

Nena Magalski

Theresa Pratt

Kathy Bicigo

John and Katrina Olson

Sharon and Hector Geddes

Our riders' families, volunteers, and all the folks who contributed to our Open House and Barn Sale

EHRSC thanks those of you who support us with your time, material donations and cash contributions. Time is priceless, and material and cash donations enable us to serve the children who ride with us. THANK YOU!

I want to support EHRSC!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

☐ Please accept a donation of \$ _____

☐ My check is enclosed.

☐ Please call me at _____

☐ Please call me about volunteering.

☐ My company would like to provide supplies, services and/or volunteers, please call me at _____.

☐ My company would like to recognize a valuable employee by making a contribution in their name.

Please contact:

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