

HOOFPRINTS

MACKINAC HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

Mackinac Island, Michigan

April 2015

Mackinac Community Equestrian Center News



Expanded Box Stalls Highlight 2014 Improvements

Thanks to the sweat and generosity of many MHA members and donors, we have been able to complete interior flooring in the MCEC Education Center, convert standing stalls to box stalls, install doors and trim on interior areas of the stable, update The Mackinac Horse in History Museum, and more. Please feel free to stop by to see the changes firsthand.

The MCEC now has a total of 13 box stalls, and this summer there will be at least nine horses for lessons and lease, including several new horses. We invite you to stop by to see what's new!

Exciting 2015 Season

A big season is in store for us as the summer approaches. We are pleased to announce that MHA will begin the 2015 season by awarding our first educational scholarship to a recent Mackinac Island Public School graduate in May. The scholarship is for students pursuing ongoing studies in equine-related fields.

The Mackinac Trailblazers 4-H Club will be offering programs, a summer camp and lessons to children and families at the MCEC. The Trailblazers will kick off the season with a Youth Equine Education Expo on May 30. Mackinac Island youth as well as other Michigan 4-H clubs will be invited. The Trailblazers will be led by our Stable Manager Samantha Simmons, who has participated in 4-H in many capacities for the last 19 years. Samantha will be guided by our new Education Director Lisa Eckhardt, who brings with her decades of experience in the U.S. Pony Club and 4-H. This summer MHA will also offer free programs to Mackinac Island Public School students in horsemanship and riding.

Mark Saturday, June 13 on your calendar for the 2015 Horses, Hoofbeats & Hors D'oeuvres, our annual member appreciation party, at the MCEC. This year we will welcome the Eaton County Mounted Unit as they conduct a drill team demonstration. A flag dedication ceremony will be performed by American Legion Post 299. This party is open to all MHA members and anyone wishing to join. It is just a small token of our gratitude – our members make our mission possible.

There are also many other events in which we hope you can participate. Following are some dates to save, with further information about each on our website, www.mackinachorses.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 30, 10am-3pm: Youth Equine Education Expo at MCEC, sponsored by the Mackinac Trailblazers 4-H Club. Educational activities for youth and teens. Guests: Peggy Brown, Centered Riding & Driving; Greg Gray, Farrier. 4H members \$10, Non-4H \$12, parents free. Register at fcsfriesian@msn.com.

June 13, 5pm-7:30 pm: Horses, Hoofbeats and Hors D'oeuvres – the annual member appreciation party at the MCEC. American Legion Post 299 dedication ceremony, Eaton County Mounted Unit drill team. Free for all current members, newcomers welcome!

June 22-26, 9am-3pm: Summer Day Camp at MCEC, ages 5-18. A full week of basic and advanced horsemanship including grooming, saddling, health care. Horseback riding: basic and advanced saddle, bareback, western games, trail riding.

July 5, 9am-4pm: A one-day horse camp, ages 5-18. A full day of learning, from the beginner to seasoned equestrian.

July 18: Introduction to Carriage Driving, a beginning driving clinic. Limited availability, please pre-register.

August 2: The 45th Annual Mackinac Island Horse Show at MCEC. Open to Mackinac Island residents. Spectators welcome!

August 28-29: 7th Annual Festival of the Horse at the Borough Lot below the Grand Hotel.

Sept. 25-27: Carriage Driving Weekend, for any and all carriage enthusiasts.

The Mackinac Horse in History Museum

The photographic and historical documentation in the reception area of the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center was conceived and implemented by Kate Levy, a photographer, documentarian and seasonal resident on Mackinac Island.

When Steve Rilenge, then President of Mackinac Horsemen's Association, asked Kate Levy to create a photo exhibition on the wall at the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center (MCEC) she was willing and able. "We decided to create an ever-growing wall of photographs of people with horses on Mackinac from as early as cameras came to the island to the present day," said Kate. "Rather than create a linear timeline, we decided to present them in no particular order—similar to many other photo walls in barns around the Island."

Kate noted that if you visit any other equestrian barn on the island, you will find photos tacked up in a similar fashion. These photos reveal the lives of the people who have grown up in and around these spaces—in no particular order, but in a way that enables one, in looking at the photos, to make the connections themselves. "We thought the MCEC should have a wall like this," she said. Archives often exclude the most relevant parts of history, because the evidence is frequently only located in the shoeboxes of members of the community. Kate spent hours at the State Park Archives looking for lesser-seen photos from much earlier eras, but the majority of the collection process involved reaching out to each barn on the island and asking individuals for a look into their photo collections. This process wasn't perfect--photos are still trickling in. The criteria for selection was very simple—horses affecting everyday life on the island. It is hard to find one element of life on this island where horses play no role. One of the goals of the wall was to show this in as many forms as possible. "The social history of Mackinac is the equestrian history of Mackinac," noted Kate. She said that one of the best parts of collecting the images was speaking with people about the photos—images invoke stories, and hearing those stories and translating them to the viewer.

Each photo has a number with a corresponding caption, and information continues to flow in about the pictures. MHA has installed a box where people can add their stories to the existing photos on the wall, or add new photos to the exhibition.

Another component of the exhibition was the site: the land on which the MCEC sits has had many lives, first as a grain farm which was a major supplier to the fort. Its first owner, Michael

Dousman, was captured by British forces during the War of 1812 and the Battle of 1814 was fought on his land. In the 1930s, the site was a Community Conservation Corps camp, part of President Roosevelt's initiative to revive the economy after the Great Depression by putting people to work. The left side of the exhibit elucidates some of the many functions of the land.

"I had been experimenting with wall-size prints in my own work, so we settled on a wall paper depicting what the view might have been like at some point before the MCEC barn was built," said Kate. "We finally decided on the wall paper of the road leading up to the barn because of the scale—the horse, carriage and road approach life-size, and the perspective of looking down the road creates depth. I really loved the grain of the old photograph. When blown up so large, it has a painterly quality."

One of the main challenges of putting together the exhibition was assessing the location where each photo was taken. Although some non-island photos from contributors were included because they were interesting and spoke to a part of island life—such as going off island with island horses in the winter—Levy noted it was a challenge to determine where each photo was taken. Phil Porter and Brian Jaeschke from the State Park and some island experts helped. In 2014 the exhibition was expanded to include old trail maps of the island from various eras, and a section about the more recent history of the MCEC is planned for the wall adjacent to the history wall.

"In the future, I hope this exhibit will become part of a triad of exhibitions with the Carriage Tours and Grand Hotel carriage museums," said Kate. "Ideally, people could tour all three spaces on the same day, learning all the functions horses serve on the island, viewing the elegant carriages of the island's past, and seeing the past and present of equestrian activity on the island."

Kate is also in the process of building an online archive for all of the photos. The photo exhibit and MCEC are open to the public from mid-May to mid-August.

Photo: Ralph Powers and Lura Keogh, submitted by Larry Keogh



Featured Horse: Fiona

Hello! My name is Fiona and I am a Welsh/Morgan mix. I am a beautiful bay mare, and people say I have a pretty face and a sweet personality!

I will be 19 this year and have been with MHA since Randy and Michelle Stuck donated me to the association in 2009. In the winter I go to central Michigan with trainer Sue Bellinger where I participate in the Central Michigan University Equestrian Team, and I am used for lessons and even some fox hunting at Sue's barn.

When I first came to Mackinac Island it was a little spooky with so many new things to see, but over the years I've gotten used to it. I'm pretty easy going and great with kids.



Bella riding Fiona in the Mackinac Island Horse Show

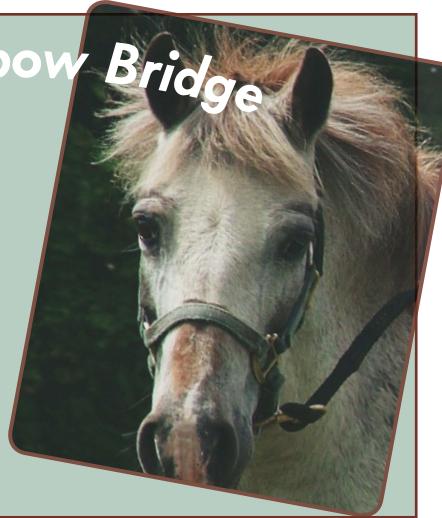


Fiona and friends participate in a drill team clinic, June 2014

**SEE FIONA AND ALL HER FRIENDS
AT THE MCEC.
LESSONS, LEASES, BOARDING.
VISITORS WELCOME!**



Over the Rainbow Bridge



Sweet little Gingersnap, an MHA horse for many a year, passed away at the Ostman farm in Mackinaw City on February 19. She was in her early 30s. Joe Ostman reported her passing, and had even stayed with her during her last night, making a stall within his workshop to help her stay warm and to see that she was drinking and attempting to eat. A Pony of the Americas, she was donated to MHA by Cathy Arribi who also generously paid for an equine dentist for Gingersnap.

"It was always fun to see the kids with her. She always gave them a bit of a run for their money!" said MHA president Lisa Brock.

A sincere thank you to the Ostman Family for caring for Gingersnap these last several years, asking nothing more than just the cost of her feed and vet/farrier expenses. Thanks, especially, for giving a good little retired horse a loving home.



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And anyone else who lent a hand,
said a kind word, recommended a
program, or supported Mackinac
Horsemen's Association in some other
way.

Make Someone Smile . . .

Whether it's a child learning about themselves, an adult facing a challenge, or a horse in need of a purpose, a donation to Mackinac Horsemen's Association can do just that. There are many ways to support the mission of Mackinac Horsemen's Association: memberships,

contributions, volunteering, to name a few. And MHA is now registered with Amazon Smile, which donates 0.5% of your purchases to a favorite charity at no additional cost to you. When shopping with Amazon, use the web address www.smile.amazon.com and search for Mackinac Horsemen's Association. Now that's worth a lot of smiles!



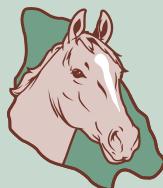
The Mackinac Horsemen's Association, in recognition of the unique ordinance of 1898 banning the "horseless" carriage on Mackinac Island, is dedicated to the promotion, education and future of horses and horsemanship on Mackinac Island and throughout the State of Michigan.

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