

H O F P R I N T S

MACKINAC HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mackinac Island, Michigan

November 2017

President's Message for Mackinac Horsemen's Association

As the incoming president of the Mackinac Horsemen's Association, I would like to thank our three past board members who retired from the board in September for all the hard work they have done over the years to make MHA the success it has become.

Our outgoing president, Lisa Brock, has donated countless hours, funding, leadership, and a vision to continue to build MHA and the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center to be one of the most outstanding equestrian facilities in Michigan. I also want to thank Michelle Stuck, our past treasurer of many years, for her great job in keeping the "ship" heading in a positive financial position. Her accounting work has always been spot on, and her planning and budget control have been a huge key to our success. A big thank you to Kathryn Rado, our parliamentarian and long-time board member. Kathryn has been a key to our success at all of our MCEC events, horse shows, Festival of the Horse, and her leadership on the board.

As we say our final thank you to our great outgoing board members, I would like to introduce our new MHA board members and give you an update as to the full make up of our board. Earlier this year we added Paul Alexander, Loretta Helwig-Spitzer, Dr. Karen Waite, and John Gully to the board. At our September board meeting, we added Jeri-Lynn Bailey, Judy Bishop, Deb Egan, and Heather Huthwaite Martin. With the addition of these outstanding new board members and the continued leadership and support of Ann Levy, Tim Shea, Katie Novakoski, Ben Mosley, Sherry Plutchak, Jim Groat, and Bob Clogg we will continue to build relationships with our membership, community, and other organizations throughout the country.

The future is extremely bright for MHA and the MCEC. The economy is growing, the number of visitors to Mackinac Island continues to grow, there are more summer residents living on the island, and thanks to the success of last years Mackinac Island 4-H Club we have more kids and families using the facility than ever. A big thanks to Leanne Brodeur and Shelbie Mosley for doing such a great job in getting almost 20-23 kids a week into the 4-H program. Thanks again to Paul and Maryanke Alexander for the use of their ponies and donation of all the food for the weekly barbeques that were held each Thursday evening.

We had a tremendous staff this year at MCEC. Abby Martin did a great job as barn manager, as did Shaylyn O'Keefe as assistant barn manager, Monica Hessler as advertising director, and Sarah Growney for her continued effort and work. All did a fantastic job in caring for the 16 horses, the facility, and making our membership and visitors feel at home. We were extremely fortunate in hiring our instructor, Ashley Day, who did a fantastic job with the horses, staff, membership, and our visitors.



MHA board member Paul Alexander (left) and President Steve Rilege (right) serving food at one of the weekly barbeques held for the 4-H club members and their families this past summer.

MHA and the MCEC could not survive without the ongoing support of our community, our membership, our donors, and our friends. A huge THANK YOU to Marta Timmons for her continued support of our facility. We were truly honored this year by dedicating the "Anna May Timmons Education Center" for her mother. A huge thanks to Richard and Jane Manoogian for their continued support and for loaning us some of their fabulous artwork and bronzes for display in our Mackinac Horse in History Museum. Another thank you goes to the Mackinac Island Community Foundation for all of the grants and support we received this year. Thanks to Randy and Michelle Stuck for their generosity with the new lawn mower, my feet certainly appreciate it! THANKS to all the board members, members, donors, and friends who have been so kind and generous in keeping MHA and MCEC successful.

As for what our plans are for 2018? Glad you asked. We are going to build on the "what we did right" in 2017. We will make improvements to the MCEC facility and the grounds. We are working now on improving the number and quality of our horses. We will continue to host the Mackinac 4-H Horse Club at MCEC and look forward to working with Leanne and Shelbie. We will hold great camps and clinics, we will do more educational programs, and bring more events to the facility. We would also like to give the kids and our more advanced riders more time in the saddle, so our instructors will be working on plans to do just that.

Last but not least, we will provide a great staff for MHA and MCEC. We are pleased that many of our 2017 staff are already making plans to return next year. Ashley Day has accepted the position of Barn Manager and Instructor for 2018 and will be working on advertising ideas and social media work this fall and winter, as well as trying to build more revenue streams by utilizing the facility for more events and meetings.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon and anticipate a great, successful 2018.

Warmly, Steve Rilege

Mackinac Horsemen's Association 2018 Board of Directors

Steve Rilege, President	Bob Clogg	3800 British Landing Rd. P.O. Box 462 Mackinac Island, MI 49757 (906) 847-8034 mackinachorses.org
Tim Shea, Vice President	Deb Egan	
Ann Levy, Secretary	Jim Groat	
Jeri-Lynn Bailey, Treasurer	John Gully	
Katie Novakoski, Parliamentarian	Loretta Helwig Heather Martin	
Trustees:	Ben Mosley	
Paul Alexander	Sherri Plutchak	
Judy Bishop	Karen Waite	



Inaugural Dr. Edwin and Jean Deer Memorial Horse Show Hosted at The Mackinac Community Equestrian Center by Ashley Day



On the eve of Friday September 22nd, MHA staff marched twenty-two 4-H horses from the Mackinac Island boat docks to the Equestrian Center in preparation for the two-day inaugural Dr. Edwin and Jean Deer Memorial Horse Show. Riders that came to the island for this event included the Genesee County 4-H club, the Isabella County Drill Team, island students, and other private riders.

Samantha Moody, co-leader of the Genesee County 4-H club, founded this show as a dedication to her grandparents, Dr. Edwin and Jean Deer. Sam recollects spending summers on the island as a child. She spoke about how she learned to jump on Mackinac's trails, giving credit to the Swamp Jumping Trail that is nestled behind where the Equestrian Center stands now.

Classes featured in the show included: showmanship, hunt seat, equitation, western pleasure, jumping, reining, drill, and game classes.

The show was in high attendance with over 300 visitors who came to see the festivities. On both Saturday and Sunday, the Isabella County Drill team performed for the audience of spectators honoring our country and flag. You can check out video streams of the performance and many more pictures on our facebook page at: www.facebook.com/mackinachorsemensassociation/.

We were very happy to host this inaugural show and look forward to having an even bigger turnout in 2018. Thank you to the Genesee County, Isabella County and other clubs involved in the logistics and success of this event. We also thank our members, donors, and volunteers who make events like this possible at the Equestrian Center. We look forward to next year and hope to see you there!



MCEC's 2017 season Barn Manager, Abby Martin, jumping her horse Gilligan.



Activities at the Dr. Edwin and Jean Deer Horse Show held at the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center Sept. 23-24. Three 4-H groups participated and all Mackinac Island riders were invited to attend.



Introducing Ashley Day - 2018 MCEC Barn Manager & Instructor

I am very excited to have accepted the position of Barn Manager and Instructor for the 2018 season. I look forward to pursuing the Mackinac Horsemen's Association's mission statement that is founded on bringing humans and horses together. Over the next few months, I will be traveling to different states and presenting about Mackinac Horsemen's Association at various equine expositions (dates listed at end of article). The goal of this outreach is to bring awareness to the general public of what we have to offer.

2018 is shaping up to be a very exciting year for the Horsemen's Association and its members. We will be celebrating the 20th year anniversary of MHA and have several fundraisers planned throughout the season including our own version of "Derby Day." We will be hosting different events for the Mackinac Island community throughout the season including: horse shows, exhibitions, trail challenges, 4-H lessons, discipline demonstrations, local clinicians, and more.

I would like to show appreciation to my coworkers of the 2017 season: Monica Hessler, Shaylyn O'Keefe, Sarah Growney, and Abby Martin. Your hard work and dedication to the Equestrian Center made the 2017 season successful. Good luck to each of you in each of your future endeavors and thank you for a season full of new insights and experiences. I would also like to thank outgoing members Lisa Brock, Katherine Rado, and Michelle Stuck for their commitment, education, and hours donated to the facility staff and to the Equestrian Center.

I am very excited as I look to the future of the Equestrian Center. We have many thriving programs already in place and I look forward to building upon those and making the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center truly an equine destination in America.

Best Regards,
Ashley Day, Barn Manager & Instructor

FOLLOW US:



UPCOMING DATES

- MCEC Opening May 1, 2018
- Cowboy Cookout and 20th Anniversary Celebration
June 28, 2018
- Youth Day Camps
July 9-13, 2018
July 30-August 2, 2018
- MHA Fun Show July 21, 2018 at MCEC
- Mary Milton Memorial Horse Show/Great Turtle Park
August 4, 2018
- 2nd Dr. Edwin & Jean Deer Memorial Horse Show
Sept. 22-23, 2018

Equine Bed and Breakfast – A Unique Mackinac Experience

by Ashley Day



Members of the American Curly Horse Association.



A group of trail riders ready to head out and explore the island.

As we move into the off-season at the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center, we reflect on our accomplishments and growth throughout the season. 2017 was successful for all of our programs, including our short-term boarding program. Our accommodations offered a "Bed and Breakfast" to many horses, filling over 140 stall nights throughout the season. This program is utilized by both individuals and groups, some of which have included the Eaton County Mounted Unit and the American Curly Horse Association.

Mackinac Island is a destination for trail riders, offering over 60 miles of trails to riders and their equine partners. As we begin to plan for the 2018 season, we are taking into consideration that our short-term boarding program has continued to grow. To accommodate this, we are making some updates to the facility to meet the needs of our clients. We have added another turnout to the facility and are creating a round pen for riders to exercise their horses. We are also creating guided trail maps and other materials that our island visitors will have access to. Our goal is to make short term boarders have an incredible Mackinac experience with seamless logistics. Stay tuned for more updates of what is to come!


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Genesee County 4-H Horse Club
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MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION

August 18, 2017

Dear Members of the Mackinac Horsemen's Association Board of Directors:

On behalf of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, I am pleased to share the following review of the condition and operations of Mackinac Community Equestrian Center operated by the Mackinac Horsemen's Association.

Based on visits to the property as well as a review of the website and conversations with members, volunteers, and employees, I am happy to see a thriving and successful operation. During a recent visit to the stable, I was greeted by friendly and helpful employees and found 14 well-cared for horses in five separate turnouts and the barn.

This summer the stable has hosted two well-attended Kids' Camps, provided 300 riding lessons, offered long and short-term boarding options for island residents, and supported the activities and programs of the Mackinac Island 4-H Club. Additionally, the property has served as a horse "bed and breakfast" for more than 100 horses, thereby allowing equestrian visitors to enjoy the unique experience of horseback riding on Mackinac Island. I am also pleased to see that the facility is very well maintained with additional improvements that have enhanced the property.

When the Commission decided to lease the property to the Horsemen's Association in 2008, it did so to "help preserve the island's unique horse culture." As director of Mackinac State Historic Parks and a third generation island horseman, I am pleased to report that you are succeeding in this goal and that the state of the Mackinac Community Equestrian Center is excellent. I congratulate you on your ongoing efforts and encourage your continued dedication to preserving Mackinac's horse culture.

Very Truly Yours,

Phil Porter

Phil Porter, Director
Mackinac State Historic Parks

**COMMUNITY
YOUTH CAMPS
CLINICS
LESSONS
HORSE SHOWS
TRAIL RIDES
BARN CHORES
FRIENDSHIP
4-H
BARBEQUES
EDUCATION
HORSE IS KING**



SUPPORT MHA

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

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.

Mackinac Horsemen's Association is pleased to share this letter received from the Mackinac State Historic Parks.