



Fort Custer Horse Friends Association

May-October 2020

It's been a long while since the last newsletter and part of that is that all our events were cancelled. However a lot of riding was done at the park this summer. The campground opened up June 22 and there have been a fair number of campers. Starting out it was not clear that the campground was for campers with horses only and that took a bit of straightening out with the DNR as that is what our approved original proposal stated. This same problem was occurring in other parks as well and folks from our Equine Trails subcommittee and others went to bat for us and for now only horse campers are allowed to camp in the equestrian campground. Several members have camped there and found it quite pleasant. A couple even stayed for about a week even though it was sort of rainy and cooler but really enjoyed every minute.

Trail maintenance is an ongoing job and volunteers were out all summer either working alone mowing or sawing or in small distanced groups for larger projects involving machinery and gravel distribution, or footbridge modification, etc.





Recent improvements involved stabilizing the creek banks and floor at G1 and on other trail sections. It is good to remember that FCHFA does virtually all trail maintenance. The gravel, signage, and equipment, etc., is either paid for or owned by the club or members. We rely on our volunteers, dues, donations and fundraisers to fund our efforts. We are fortunate to have several members with front loader tractor attachments, graters, and shovels who are gracious enough to haul them out to the park.



A photo shoot promoting Pure Michigan took place in October. This was arranged by Equine Trails Subcommittee member, Jenny Cook. Volunteer photographers took a lot of photos and video showing how great the trails are in Michigan. It was really just a perfect day, colors were just starting to change and it was gloriously sunny and mild. Equestrians are often overlooked in promos like this so we are excited to be included. Can't wait to see familiar faces in an as somewhere!



Our board meetings were held at the pavilion in the warm weather. At this point it is unknown if or where we will meet for further board meetings and the Christmas Party is under discussion, too. All other scheduled rides are still cancelled. Work days will be announced via email.

Harvest Fest, which is usually a time we volunteer at the Park with hayrides and festivities, is much modified this year and we will not be needed.



Fort Custer Park Staff is stretched thin and we are grateful for the things they can do for us. We are also grateful for our members who have put so much of their own time and equipment and our club's resources into maintenance of trails and the campground. Our trails are in excellent shape and keep getting better.

Happy Trails!!!
Judy Johnson
Communications Secretary
Fort Custer Horse Friends Association

