



Gaited Gatherings



Official Newsletter ~~ Midwest TrailGaiters ~~ June 2009

www.midwesttrailgaiters.com

Hello Gaiters! from Sharon B.

At last, some news from the rides to share with all TrailGaiters. It's hard to believe we're in the middle of summer already, and I sure don't feel like I've gotten in enough riding!

2009 Holiday Get-Together!

The annual TrailGaiter Holiday get-together and 2009 season ride planning party was very well attended, as usual. Several new members came to help plan this year's rides. The party was held on Saturday, February 7, from 11 am to about 3:30 pm at MOOSE JAW Pizza & Dells Brewing Co. in Wisconsin Dells. Several people extended the fun by staying overnight in the Dells area to enjoy some mid-winter water fun. Dan Catherman brought his laptop and we had all the planning details projected up on the wall. There were too many places we all wanted to go, and couldn't fit them all into the schedule. See the website EVENTS page for details.

MIDWEST HORSE FAIR

Once again the TrailGaiters had an informal gathering at the Horse Fair on Saturday afternoon. Several members met by the outdoor food court, enjoyed lunch and caught up on each others' activities since the last riding season.

Castle Rock Horse Trails, Ukarydee Campground, April 24-26, 2009

This weekend brought a lot of rain (pretty predictable April showers!) The Castle Rock Trails local group planned a trail work day for that Saturday morning. It rained all of Friday night and was still sprinkling on Saturday morning. Many campers pulled out, giving up on riding for that weekend. There were at least 2 TrailGaiters who stayed and worked on the trails - **Gail Seasor** and **Cheryl Terzen**. Good job "toughing it out" ladies! They say there was a pretty good turnout for the work day in spite of the weather and a lot was accomplished. Our thanks to all who worked so we can better enjoy the trails this year.

Popple Ridge, May 15-17, 2009

It was a slim turnout by the Gaiters for the Popple Ridge ride. Attendees were **Lori & Mike Scott** and **Cheryl Terzen** (way to go again, Cheryl). Lori reported on the nice rides they had on the Popple Ridge trails. The campground was great, but pretty empty. Enjoy these photos and ask Lori, Mike and Cheryl about these trails.



Mike & Lori's and Cheryl's campsites



Everyone else's campsites



Photo of the whole group enjoying the Popple Ridge trails !

Zumbro Bottoms, MN, June 5-7, 2009 by Sharon Bailey

There was a great turnout for the weekend at Zumbro Bottoms. Several members came on Thursday to ride the trails. It was great riding Thursday and Friday. We got to try out the new bridge which is quite high up over the river compared to the old one. There are large metal barriers at the bridge entrances that the horses must go through, but an ATV wouldn't be able to. Most of the horses were pretty wary, but once they went through and didn't get "eaten up", all was well.



Campground view from bluff



Zumbro River view



New bridge joining trails

Then the rains came. Saturday was drizzly on and off all day. And after all the rain on Friday night there weren't too many riders who wanted to hit the trails. We learned that a bus would come and pick us up to go to a bar & grill in the nearby town of Theilman for lunch. Many were game for that! A good time was had by all that went, and the Gaiters made lots of new friends who joined us on the trip. On the way back, one member who gets car sick got a chance to actually *drive the bus* - none other than **Cheryl Terzen**. Looks like she is game for about anything. Thanks to the driver for letting Cheryl drive - she had a blast.



Saturday: Linda, Ruth, Dan, Ted



Jeanne & Mike Fox



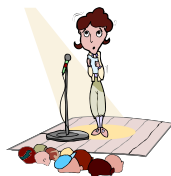
Way to go, Cheryl!

There was a well-attended potluck on Saturday night, which was held at the shelter in the campground. Wood was brought over for the campfire (supplied by coordinators Ruth & Roger). We invited other riders to attend, and they brought some great eats for dinner. We even had leg of lamb! When the weather didn't clear many riders pulled out on Sunday morning. If you can, make the drive to Zumbro Bottoms and enjoy these great trails. Just hope for drier weather. . .



Saturday evening potluck

Upcoming Ride at Happy Barn, June 26-28, 2009 Coordinator: Rhonda R
Our next TrailGaiter ride will be at the Happy Barn in Hollandale, Wisconsin. Check the EVENTS page and e-mails to get all the details on the ride and directions. This is a private campground, and not open to riding without permission. The Gaiters have arranged to use their campground for the weekend. Hope you can join us!



MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Note: In this column we highlight some of our members - new Gaiters, those unable to make it to many of the rides, and those with special news!

Sorry, no featured member for this newsletter. We'd love to have some volunteers to write up a little about themselves and their horses for our newsletters. Please contact Sharon if you'd like to let us know more about you, how you got into trail riding, and your other interests. Just e-mail

Sharon at sharon.bailey@deancare.com. No volunteers?? You could be drafted!! How about **Cheryl Terzen** for starters. Now everyone wants to know a lot more about you!

Gingerale Creek Wildlife Sanctuary by Sharon Bailey

Thought we'd share some interesting animal stories from our place. Every year there are robins that build their nest right under our deck, on the flat top of a lighting fixture. Pretty smart of them since they're out of the way and very sheltered by the deck boards. This year we spotted them right away and decided to take a photo of the baby birds in the nest. At first they were totally pink, featherless. This photo shows them a little more developed. Hard to tell - but there are 3 babies. We can watch them in between the deck boards. If Ma & Pa Robin are around, they usually have a fit, nearby with a worm meal for the babies, but not brave enough to fly in if we're too close. Looking at them just today, they're totally feathered and we're watching for them to leave the nest.



Home Sweet Home



Sleeping baby robins

That's a sweet story, along with our pair of ducks, wild turkey nest across the creek and family of bunnies under the front bushes. But a more *exciting* visitor showed up a week ago. He appeared sunning himself on the back driveway - Mr. Snapping Turtle - better than a foot across the back of his shell. When I neared to take a photo he pulled himself inside his shell. No problem. The next day I found him under the gate to the horse's dry lot. He didn't seem to mind them sniffing his shell and again pulled himself inside. Hmm, much more shy than I thought. A day later he was getting even more friendly and I almost stepped on him inside one of the horse stalls! OK, I'm thinking of what to do and how to get him out of there now. Another sniff from Mikki and she goes out the door. Chance spots him on his way outside and takes another sniff. Then - - Chance explodes, knocking into the walls and blasting out the door! His muzzle is bleeding so looks like he got a little too close to Mr. Turtle. Being the Mother Mare that I am I was immediately outraged - he has now outlived his welcome here. Taking the long-handled shovel I scooped underneath him and literally threw him out the barn door. Again and again . . . Onto his back, now flipping back over. I managed to get him a ways down the hill and out into pasture grass. And we haven't seen him since. Chance is fine, just a minor bite that I cleaned and medicated. But I can just imagine if that turtle hadn't let go . . .

If anyone has turtle exterminating experience, give me a call !!
Let us know about your horses' experiences with other critters.



That's all Folks !