

## MI-TRALE NEWS

P.O. Box 43

Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

June 2014

[www.mi-trale.org](http://www.mi-trale.org)

### BOARD of DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Don Helsel [dhelsel1@charter.net](mailto:dhelsel1@charter.net) VICE-PRESIDENT – Jim Altenburg [greenlandpitstop@gmail.com](mailto:greenlandpitstop@gmail.com)  
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### From Under the Presidents Helmet

It has been too long since we have sent an update out to you. I am sure you have heard or have experienced our rather challenging winter. We could not get on the trails until late May. That resulted in a lot of trail work to be done in a very short time to ensure that when you ride your trails they are safe and ready for you to enjoy.

It was a busy spring for your board as we not only work with you to get your trails ready, but we are also representing you at numerous meetings with our partners at the Michigan DNR, Ottawa National Forest and local, regional, and county units of government. These meetings are important, they allow us to represent you and our sport. The success of our relationship with our partners have resulted in the following:

1. The towns of Ontonagon, Rockland, and Bergland have identified critical ORV service routes into and within the towns. This is critical to ensure that you have access to fuel, food, and lodging. (Add photos of new signs)



2. The towns of Ontonagon, Bruce Crossing, South Range, Marenisco, Greenland, Iron River, and Bergland have identified trail heads for park and ride opportunities
3. Both the Baraga and Twin Lakes State Parks are open to ORVs and have a trail head location.
4. We are in the process of setting up a 10 year plan with the DNR to keep the Pioneer Trail maintained well keeping it's integrity

### (STEP) Grant

Once in a while you are proud to be involved with a project. In this case it was the 2014 "Stewards for Trails Education and Partnerships" (STEP) Grant from "The American Quarter Horse and Tractor Supply Company", that MI-TRALE submitted a request for, and was approved for \$3,875.00. This project was managed by our Equestrian director, Cathy Wainio, with support from Janet Miesbauer, Kim Simms, and Linda Schulz. The grant included both education and on the ground improvement sections. My involvement was zero, as this team jumped in and made it all work out. We will include some photos of the education portion as it involved class room and a great day outside at the Courtney Lake day use site. We need to thank the Ontonagon and Ewen Trout Creek schools for their support, and the great effort by the Ottawa National Forest team for providing the most interactive education I have seen.



### **Legislative Stuff**

As you know we are now required to purchase 2 stickers to use the DNR Designated trails and routes. The total cost is (\$26.25(license) + \$10.00(permit))=\$36.25. We are encouraging our members to purchase both as we have 250 miles of designated ORV routes in your trail system. We need to support these trails. The easy way to identify what you need to purchase is:

1. Your private property = None
2. Off your private property, but not on a DNR Designated trail/route = \$26.25
3. On a DNR Designated trail/route = \$26.25 + \$10.00= \$36.25

### **Signage**

This has been an interesting subject for many years, and MI-TRALE has been involved from the first by taking the lead not only in the discussions, but by installing better signing on the ground. With changes just approved by the DNR this spring, we will be upgrading all of our DNR Trail signs to the new standards. The good news is that the naming convention that MI-TRALE has used for many years was adopted by the DNR. The not so good news is that there is no DNR funding for the new signs and they currently are optional. The board feels that these signs (trail names, and reassurance markers) are key to your safety and are taking steps to install them this year on all of our designated trails/routes.

### **RAC (Secure Rural Schools Act) Grants for 2014**

This year MI-TRALE was fortunate to be awarded \$38,601 for the following projects:

1. Courtney Equestrian Trails \$10,340
2. Pioneer Multi-use trail \$11,261
3. Bluff Creek \$17,000

If you would like to be part of or work any of these important projects please contact me (dhelse11@charter.net)

**MI-TRALE Scholarships** - We had the pleasure to award two deserving students one from Ewen Trout Creek High School and the other from Ontonagon High School with the first two scholarships ever given from MI-TRALE. These 2 students had the highest number of Volunteered Community Hours Joseph Jarvi from Ewen Trout Creek High School and Molly Domitrovich from Ontonagon High School.

### **Membership**

Our – You-- members are our greatest asset. The trail system that we work so hard to develop and maintain is so you and your family and friends can enjoy our 5 county area. Enjoy our many points of interest, our outdoors wonder land, and of course relax and spend some money at our local advertisers, and services.

The major source of our funding is from our membership fees, and grants. I ask that you rejoin and bring a friend or 2 with you. It is important to support your club so that we can not only maintain the trails you have, but grow them as well. We have many opportunities in the area, but we need funding to make it happen. Please realize that we support 525 miles of total trail/routes in 5 counties of which 250 miles are reimbursed by the DNR. That means that the remaining 275 miles are fully supported by MI-TRALE. That includes signing, brushing and any remediation of damage caused by ORV use. We ask for your support; Invite a friend to join.

### **CHAINSAW CERTIFICATION, CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING**

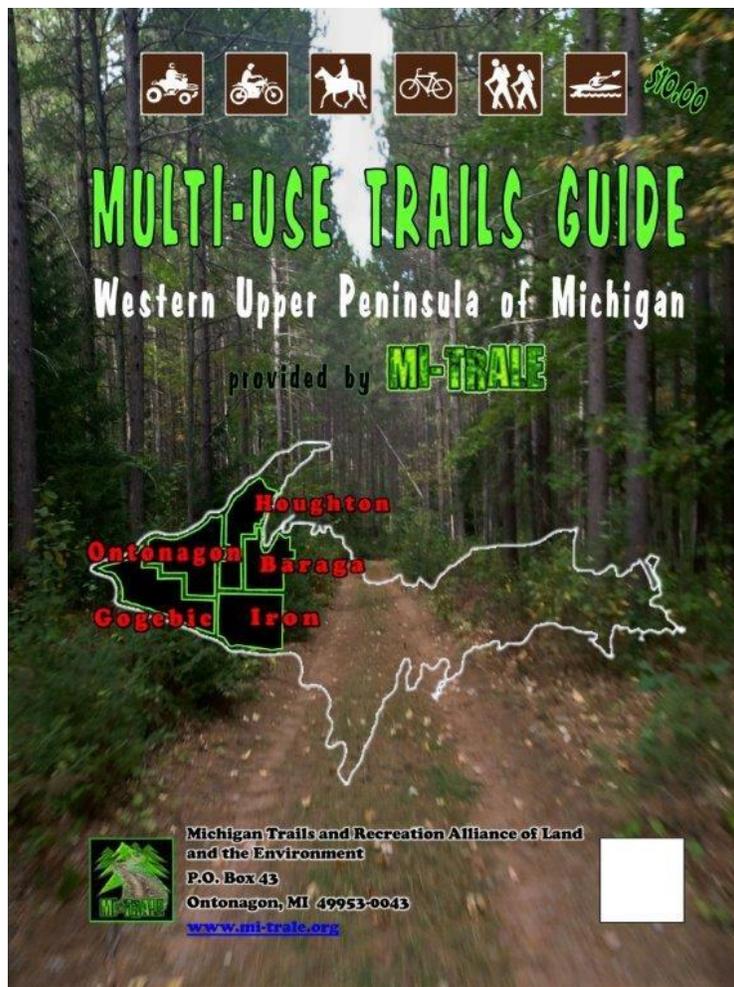
These three subjects go hand-in-hand on the Ottawa. Several of the MI-TRALE members are now certified at various levels of chainsaw certification. Some of us are skilled enough to fell trees safely, other can safely clear brush and buck limbs. We are also CPR and FIRST AID certified, helpful in all areas of life. We keep our certifications by attending an annual refresher course, which took place on May 8th.

### **In Closing**

On a personal note, I just purchased a RZR 570 this spring and would like to hear what options, modifications, things to look over, or accessories I should be considering. Appreciate your suggestions.

Thanks, Don

# Coming VERY Soon!!



## Our pick up date from the printer July 16th

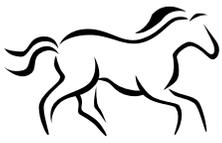
After much time and effort it was sent to the printers on June 18th. We'll have to admit it has grown beyond our expectations both in size and content. We renamed this issue a Trails Guide, as it is much more than a plain folded map. This is a 142 page guide for multiple types of trail users, of which 97 are detailed maps including Ottawa Forest trails, DNR Trails, club trails, horse trails, hiking and water trails! There is a list of sites to see along the trails, a trip planner with loops mapped out and information on lodging, dining and services and so much more. You will be proud to own one.

We are taking mail orders now, with availability the week of July 16<sup>th</sup>. We also will have a list of locations where you can buy the guide on the website.

### +++MEMBERSHIP MAP PURCHASE SPECIAL+++

All current memberships will have a 1 time opportunity to purchase one Guide Book for ½ price, that's right only \$5.00 plus shipping.

Contact Map Postmaster Dave Bishop @ 906-884-6617



## Courtney Equestrian Trails News

### Cathy Wainio EQ Director Reports:

With shared visions and our partnerships; MI-TRALE, Ottawa National Forest and the STEP Grant providers, can do allot. In addition to the grade school education events which President Helsel mentioned, we plan to ask area teens to join us while we work on STEP Grant funded repairs to The Courtney Equestrian Trails. These young adults will have the opportunity to build relationships with MI-TRALE and the Ottawa National Forest, while they learn the value of volunteering. We are taking care of trails and the natural resources, while fostering interest and creating experiences for the youth. We are optimistic that they will continue to serve their communities in the future.

### **LOGGING AND THE WATER HOLES on THE COURTNEY EQ TRAILS:**

The much talked about "water hole repair project" on Forest Road 1841 east of the lake, is complete. There is still logging going on in that area, so use caution.

### **OTHER EQ TRAILS ON "MDNR" MANAGED PROPERTY:**

There are several Multi-use trails in the Western U.P. on State Owned property which is managed by the MDNR. As Updated information will soon be available on their web, and those trails will also be featured in our upcoming MI-TRALE Trails Guide Book.

### **PROPOSED EQ CAMP GROUND ON THE SIMAR AND OTHER:**

Camp ground proposals are being considered, but currently there are no developed equestrian camp grounds, with latrine or water or developed sites, on Forest Service or MDNR property in our area. One of those proposals is for an EQ Camp Ground on the Old Simar Land Strip located across HWY M-38, from the Courtney EQ Trails. Both the Courtney EQ Trails and the proposed Simar Camp Ground will remain open to other users. Everyone is important.

### **WORK BEES AND RIDES**

Will be announced throughout the summer. Even if you cannot work on the trails, you could ride along. And please let MI-TRALE know if you find a problem or work that needs to be done.

MI-TRALE is now the proud owner  
of a Maintenance Vehicle  
thanks to your Support!

2002 Chevy ¾ ton Crew Cab Pickup



### **July 7<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting BBQ**

Our membership meeting this month it will be held at Running Bear Resort 4593 Old US 45, Paulding in their outdoor pavilion

**5PM EDT Ride** - we will go for a short hour ride so bring your ORV if you'd like to ride along

**6:30PM EDT Dinner/Meeting/Slide Show**

Bring your own meat, drink and something to share. We'll have the grill going!

# Dates to Remember, Volunteering & Fun!

**Camp-n-Ride**  
scheduled for  
**Sept 20-21<sup>st</sup>**  
at  
**Courtney EQ Trails**

Mass City M38, Simar Landing  
See website for more info

## **Independence Day Parade**

**5th of July - Bruce Crossing**

**We are always looking for people to  
join the group and be  
in the parade!**

**Bring your, 4-wheeler, Horse, Bike,  
side by side or just walk the more the  
merrier. Old Glory is the theme, so  
dress the part and bring flags to fly**

**Call, Linda 906-827-3208  
for more info**

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior  
Citizen Fall Color  
OHV Tour**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>.2014**

Side by Sides needed to  
transport the seniors!

*Spend the day sharing  
the fall colors from  
the trails  
with a senior*

**It's a day you  
won't forget!**

Contact Kim if you can  
help or for more info  
**(906) 884-2877**



## **Editor/Writer Needed**

We are looking for someone to take on the Newsletter  
and

Someone to write News articles and submit them to the papers

Keeping the area and members informed on what we're doing is  
very important to MI-TRALE

Please give it a thought, we need you! We have everything you'll  
need to be successful, so give Don a call if interested  
906-884-4546

## **WE NEED TRAIL SPOTTERS!**

A trail spotter is someone who will ride the trails throughout the season,  
especially after storms or strong winds and report back to us if there are  
downed trees or problem areas. The spotter can also remove the downed  
trees if they are capable. We need some one from the Iron River or  
Watersmeet area to check the IM trail which runs between these to towns.  
We have other trails we need help with also, call Mike if you are interested  
906-827-3208