

Greetings!!

There are a lot of great things happening this year at Ionia. We are REALLY hoping you are as excited about the plans as we are! Excited enough to renew your membership! As an incentive, if you were a member in 2017 and you renew for 2018, we are having a contest just for you! Get all your horse riding friends to join IHTA and write your name on the margin of their membership form. You will receive one entry in our drawing for each referral. We will have a drawing at the members only Forbidden Trail Ride on July 14, 2018, with the winner receiving two nights free camping at Ionia.

Campground News: In addition to the 7 sites with pipe corrals, we will be adding wooden corrals on two sites at our first work bee. We are also expanding our host site #138 to better facilitate our events, and that equine "campground host" we emailed our members about earlier this year. If you'd like more details about hosting, contact our park supervisor, Trevor McGinn, at mcginnt@michigan.gov. We have requested authorization to install a pavilion on site 138, and hope to get approval and get installation done before Memorial weekend. If that happens, we will have another project, and another workbee, to build a heavy duty rail around the pavilion.

Ok! We've dropped a few hints! Have you picked them up? We just received DNR authorization to build a new Skills Course trail around the campground. Our first workbee will include laying out the exact path, going out 17 and "Y-ing" off to the right hugging the campground all the way around to 18. Our approval includes extending it right on over to Day Staging, but we'll build one section at a time and get it operational. These will not be your backyard obstacles. We will have permanent landscaped in opportunities to raise you and your horse's skill level. We have not determined all of the obstacles yet, so this is your chance to get involved, share your ideas, and Please! come and help us build it.

*****If we build it, they will come!!

Workbee April 21 & 22:

Building two sets of two stall/corrals takes a lot of digging, a lot of post setting, a lot of assembly work. Clearing and expanding 138, campground clean up, not to mention normal trail clean-up work will be a LOT of work for one day! Actually, virtually impossible for one day, UNLESS we get lots of your help to make it happen. I know we put up 7 sets of corrals last year, but setting up pipe corrals is WAY faster than building wooden corrals. Word has it there are lots of trees down – and we will need at least five chainsaw teams again this year, like 2017. If we get enough help we may be able to get it done on Saturday, but ONLY with lots of Your Help!

As Always, IHTA will supply lunch at noon. Please let us know if you will be coming and what equipment you can bring. Even if you can only come for a few hours, we'd appreciate all the help we can get. Please call or text Kristie Walls at 616-915-6177 or email IHTApres@gmail.com.

Please feel to share this will all your friends who ride at Ionia! If everyone helps a little we can get So Much Accomplished!

Thanks so much,

And Happy Trails,

Kristie Walls, IHTA President