



November 30, 2018

Dear IHTA supporter,

2018 has been a busy year! We launched our new logo, added two wooden corrals on each of two campsites, built a pavilion on our host site, hosted Memorial Weekend riding activities, and also held our Second Annual Forbidden Trails Ride. We constructed beginning stations on our new Skills Course, but were unable to open it, as we simply did not have enough help to build some larger stations. Our 2018 Chili Cookoff was very successful and showed how, "if you build it, they will come!" We filled our pavilion with chili chefs and chili tasters. It was a lot of fun, and we hope you were there to share in it!

In late October we held a Pavilion Rails Workbee, and we were able to set 15 of the needed 25 posts before the auger belonging to one of our board members broke. If weather permits, we will hold another workbee to finish this project before the ground freezes.

The board of Ionia Horse Trails Association respectfully requests you consider renewing your membership for 2019. We need your help to continue our efforts to improve the camping and riding at Ionia State Recreation Area.

In 2019, our first activity will be our spring Workbee, planned for March 30 & 31, with rain dates planned for April 13 & 14. Once the campground is cleaned up for spring, and the trails are groomed, we will address the Skills Course. There will be much much work to do, requiring multiple chain saw crews on Saturday, and many strong backs with shovels, rakes, and pruning equipment on the Skills Course. **Please plan to come lend a hand!**

Our Third Annual Forbidden Trails Ride is planned for June 29th, a little earlier in the hopes of cooler weather. Come camp with us the entire weekend! We are getting creative to bring added interest to the Forbidden trail. If you have ideas, please come to meetings early in year to help us plan.

We haven't set a date yet, but we are planning a Grand Opening of our Skills Course. Along with this event, we are doing something new this summer. For all those riders who want to ride Ionia, but don't care to tackle unfamiliar trails unguided, the board will be camping the weekend TBD and will be here to show you around. Just swing by the pavilion when you arrive and we'll set you up with a trail guide.

The 2019 Chili Cookoff will be October 5th. Get your favorite recipe tested out and perfected! We can't wait to taste them all! Don't forget, come spring, to get your reservations made to camp all weekend with us.

Hope we get to see you this year!

Happy Trails!

Kristie Walls, IHTA President