

SILVER CREEK NEWSLETTER

Summer of 2017

TIPS FOR TRAILERING YOUR HORSE IN THE HEAT

Following are excerpts from article published on website: www.southernstates.com

When traveling with your horse this summer, you need to come up with a plan to safely get your horse to your destination. The heat and humidity of the summer can create oven-like conditions in your trailer. So what can you do?

•**If you don't currently own a trailer, consider buying a "cool" trailer to ship your horse(s) in.** Studies show that dark exterior colored trailers can be 20-30 degrees hotter inside than trailers that are white or silver in color.

•**Look for trailers that have large windows for maximum airflow and ceiling roof vents to draw air into the trailer.** If possible, take a test ride in the trailer yourself to see what the airflow and temperature conditions are like when temperatures rise.

•**Even when the weather is cool and humidity is low, traveling is work for a horse.** Riding in a trailer can fatigue a horse as they constantly have to work to balance themselves in the moving trailer. Add in warm tem-

peratures and you can easily have a horse that arrives to its destination dehydrated and fatigued.

•**To minimize fatigue, alter your travel schedule and transport your horse either in the evening or early in the morning, whatever is the coolest part of the day.** Before putting your horse on the trailer make sure you have opened all the windows and air vents to get cool air circulating prior to loading. If you have fans on your trailers, turn them on as well.

•**To minimize the impact of heat coming up from the road, place rubber mats on your trailer floor or bed the trailer down with shavings.** Not only does heat come from the sun beating down on the trailer, but it also comes up from the black asphalt the trailer is riding on.

•**Hose your horse off prior to loading, in an attempt to keep them cool.** Use a fan spray hose, like a watering wand, to make your horse happier.

By modifying your trailering routine you will be able to ensure your horse travels as comfortable as possible regardless of the weather.

UPCOMING RIDING EVENTS IN 2017



MiCMO (MI Competitive Mounted Orienteering) will be held at **ELY LAKE CAMPGROUND** the weekend of August 11 - 13, 2017. Contact Trudi Reurink at 616.813.6682, email: tl_reurink@yahoo.com for details.

Oak Leaf Run Endurance Ride will be on October 13 - 15, 2017. Please contact Barb Kurti at 616.896.6798 or email silverhearts-farm@yahoo.com for more info.

To make a camping reservation visit www.allegancounty.org/parks or call the Parks Office at 269.686.9088. If you come across an impassable trail or other trail issues, call the Parks Office at 269.686.9088.

BASIC PARK RULES

- Register before setting up camp
- Check-In/Out Time: 3pm
- Make check payable to Allegan County Parks
- All sites are available for equestrian use however at this time, sites 1-10 do NOT have picket posts
- Camping permits must be properly displayed
- Park quiet hours are 10pm to 7am
- Speed limit is 15mph
- Alcohol and fireworks are prohibited in AC Parks
- Use designated fire rings only
- Do not leave fires burning unattended
- All fires must be extinguished with water
- Tying of horses to trees is NOT PERMITTED
- Horse 'cribbing' or 'chewing' of trees is not allowed
- Pets **MUST BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES** no greater than 6 feet in length (State Law)
- Pets are not to be left unattended
- Leave campsite cleaner than how you found it by broadcasting manure/hay waste into wooded area away from the site
- All unused hay and straw must be removed when the campsite is vacated
- For complete rules read County Ordinance #1010

BASIC TRAIL RULES

- Day Riding permits must be properly displayed
- Respect all private property
- **RIDE ON MARKED TRAILS ONLY**
- Do not move or damage trail markers
- Practice "Leave No Trace" ethics
- **NO LOOSE DOGS** on the trails
- Trails are closed November 15—30 annually for firearm deer season
- Bright colored clothing always recommended when riding in the fall
- Respect other riders
- Leave parking area cleaner than how you found it by putting all droppings, hay, and garbage back onto your trailer

ATTENTION PARK USERS!

MANURE/HAY/STRAW

Broadcast into woods—do not leave in campsite or day ride areas!

FIRE PITS!

Do not burn or leave trash in the fire pits!

FIRES!

Use designated fire rings only and do not leave campfires unattended!

PICNIC TABLES!

Do not move the picnic tables from one site to another!

DOGS!

Must be kept on a 6 foot leash whether in the park or on the trails!

Fall Color Tour

Did you know the Heritage Trail self-guided tour which is a 122-mile route that virtually touches all four corners of the county, also makes a great fall color tour? To make your trip the most enjoyable and informative you'll want the free guidebook available at the Parks & Tourism Office and most county libraries. Free downloads of the guidebook, map and MP3 audios can be found at www.allegancountyheritage.com. Hope you enjoy your drive and don't forget your camera!



Allegan County Parks Recreation and Tourism

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Brandy Gildea – Parks Coordinator

The Allegan County Tourist Council is wanting photos of Allegan County. Photos should encompass the true character of the county and both amateur & professional photographers are welcome to participate. Photos may be used on the Tourist Council Facebook page, their website at www.VisitAlleganCounty.com or included in the annual *Inside Allegan County Visitor's Guide*.

Visit our website
for more information.

Happy Shooting!

