

# MI-TRALE NEWS

P.O. Box 43

Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

September 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)  
SECRETARY – Linda Schulz [lschulz@runningbearsort.com](mailto:lschulz@runningbearsort.com) TREASURER – Dave Bishop [mitrale49953@gmail.com](mailto:mitrale49953@gmail.com)

DIRECTORS - Russ Diethert [rfd403@aol.com](mailto:rfd403@aol.com) - Cindy Grams [peppermillgrams@charter.net](mailto:peppermillgrams@charter.net)  
Khrist Kennedy [kkennedy64@yahoo.com](mailto:kkennedy64@yahoo.com) - Kim Sims [southernbelleofmi6372@yahoo.com](mailto:southernbelleofmi6372@yahoo.com)  
Cathy Wainio [cndwainio@yahoo.com](mailto:cndwainio@yahoo.com)

## From Under the Presidents Helmet

Summer is coming to an end. “*How do you know?*” you ask. MI-TRALE had to the end of August to complete the required annual fall trail maintenance on our DNR designated trails. All 250 miles of them! It seems that as soon as we have some time to relax after a spring and summer full of projects, another project comes our way. We were able to complete the required maintenance on time. I encourage you to get involved with the maintenance of your trails. The designated trails must be completed twice a year. The first is end of May and the 2<sup>nd</sup> is the end of August. Please contact our Trail Manager if you would be willing to help.

“*What have you been doing that takes so much time?*” As most of you experienced, this past winter remained a challenge in the western UP until late May. There were several trails that we had to wait until June to complete our “spring” maintenance on, due to snow on the trail. Then there was the development of your new map that turned into a Western UP Multi-use Trails Guide. A one of a kind 142 page guide to recreation in the western UP, including 89 pages of detailed maps. This was a major load on our daylight hours. It took over 9 months and 1,000+ hours of time from our first meeting to final product. If you do not have one you should purchase one. If you already have one, then consider getting several as gifts for friends, and family. Go to our web page for purchasing information.

The board approved to install the newly adopted DNR trail identifiers (names) on all of your designated trails, all 250 miles of them. After over 5 years of working with the DNR to develop and approve this signage we felt that this was necessary to ensure your safety on the trail and to provide our riding guests with a more professional looking signs. This is another example of how your organization is making a difference in our sport. It is all part of making all of us proud to share our great trail system with others.

For those familiar with the challenging water holes on the west end of the Pioneer trail, near the Town of Bergland, they are gone. MI-TRALE worked with local contractors to restore the trail from old M28, east about 3 miles. We are working hard to remove the water holes near Victoria (east end of Pioneer) as well. For now, they remain a challenge. We have provided/signed an alternate route for those who would like to bypass these holes (challenges).

We have installed the 1<sup>st</sup> Responder signs in Gogebic County. We now have Ontonagon and Gogebic completed. We will work with the remaining counties this fall to complete the installation. Local snowmobile clubs have expressed an interest in installing the same signs on their trails. This is being led by MI-TRALE and is strongly supported by our local 1<sup>st</sup> responders.

The Equestrian Director and her team have been busy working on the MI-TRALE proposal for a new Multi-Use Equestrian friendly camp ground near the Courtney Equestrian Horse Trails. This is a major project with great benefits for all of us. It will become an economic draw for the western UP.

MI-TRALE is working with Ontonagon County local units of government to complete a proposal for an 800 acre Family Multi-Use Riding Park near Bruce Crossing. This is a beautiful area with room for many family recreational opportunities. We will keep you informed as this moves forward.

So, we have not been bored this summer. We have been working hard to build not only your trail systems, but the MI-TRALE image. We need your help in both of these areas. Help us locate new trail opportunities and new members. We rely on your to support to grow your organization.

“What can you do to help MI-TRALE?” You have taken the first step just by being a member. Our members help in 2 very important ways. First, your membership dollars are critical in helping us fund the projects that ensure that you have trails to ride and they are safe. Second, the larger your organization is, the more attention we can generate from not only our partners, but our local and State units of government. I ask that you ask a friend or 2 to join MI-TRALE. We have individual, family and business memberships available. Please make an effort to build your organization. You can join us at your annual banquet this year. Give you a chance to meet your board, but also meet several of your partners as well, and have some fun. Details will be included within the newsletter.

Do not forget the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Fall Color Ride. It is being held on September 25<sup>th</sup> this year. It is your chance to give back to the local community, and share with the local seniors the sport that we all care about. We are always looking for SxS for the ride. If you can bring a SxS and give a senior a ride, you are guaranteed a great time. You can also join the ride and have a great time. See details in the newsletter. Start thinking about the elections coming up in January. We are always looking for qualified individuals who enjoy our sport to get involved with MI-TRALE. There will be more details being released soon.

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### *Interested in Geocaching?*

Contact one of us:

Jim Altenburg - [greenlandpitstop@gmail.com](mailto:greenlandpitstop@gmail.com)

Janet Miesbauer - [MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM)

Cathy Wainio - [cndwainio@yahoo.com](mailto:cndwainio@yahoo.com)

**A BIG Thank You!** to all who helped keep our trails safe and maintained! We couldn't have the trails we do without all of you!  
Sincerely your Trail Manager,  
Mike Schulz [mike@runningbearresort.com](mailto:mike@runningbearresort.com)

## **MI-TRALE IS NOT JUST A NAME**

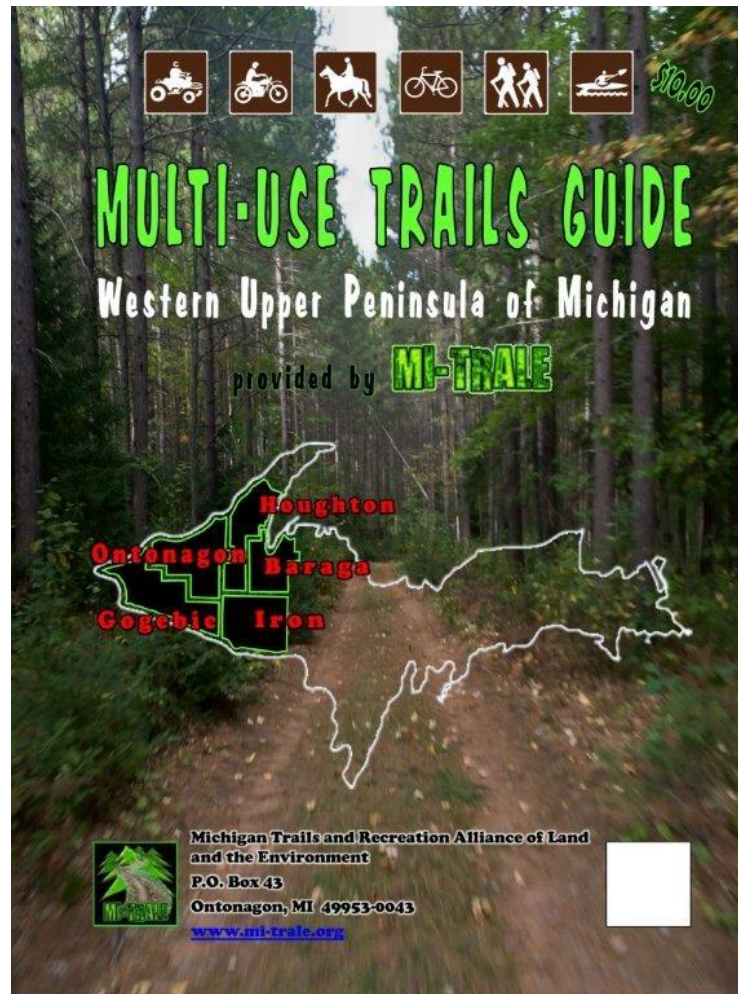
"MICHIGAN TRAILS AND RECREATION ALLIANCE OF LAND AND THE ENVIRONMENT".

Through hard physical work and volunteered time we support your trail interests:

- travel and meet with land managers, owners and legislators
- meet with other groups to collaborate our efforts
- working out details and enter into agreements
- maintain the trails
- post signs
- create our maps/guide books
- make the trails safer
- improve and repair the land and river banks
- protect the environment
- manage multiple grants

-CAN YOU HELP? Contact us and join the fun!

# IT'S HERE!! IT'S HERE!!



## Great Christmas Gift {hint, hint}

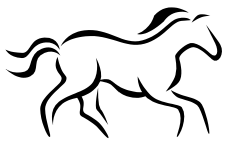
This is a 142 page guide for multiple types of trail users, of which 89 are detailed maps including Ottawa Forest trails, DNR Trails, club trails, horse trails, mountain bike, hiking and water trails! There is a list of sights to see along the trails, a trip planner with loops mapped out and information on lodging, dining and services and so much more. You will be proud to own one, and don't forget to purchase one as a fine Christmas present for the trail riders on your list.

We are taking mail orders now. 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:

### STEP GRANT NEWS:

MI-TRALE's STEP Grant Committee will be meeting soon to tie up loose ends on the Grade School Educational Events that took place the end of May. We all learned about Tread Lightly Principles and Invasive Species. What an exciting and fun time to work with the Forest Service, teachers in the Ewen and Ontonagon schools and the kids. Also, as a part of the grant we will begin plans involving teens, to work with MI-TRALE on the trails south of the Firesteel River.

As a reminder, here copied from The STEP Grant application, are the goals we face:

*MI-TRALE hopes to save important sections of the equestrian trails from erosion, bringing them back to safe trail standards. A low lying area needs brushing and a culvert replacement (mostly south of the Firesteel River). The trails need improved access to inlets and trail head, trail location signs and educational signs; Invasive Species, Tread Lightly and Leave no Trace.*

The STEP Grant trail work has begun. One Sunday in July between the rain drops; a few of us from MI-TRALE worked on the northern most inlet to the trails off of Dishneau Road. Prior to that Janet Miesbauer worked on other areas south of the Firesteel. This work was related to the grant's goals and will be recorded as part of MI-TRALE's in-kind work requirements.

We are planning to improve our Equestrian Trail Awareness and help protect the land by installing new signage at The Courtney Equestrian Trails: 1) Trail Location Signs on Hwy M-38, 2) Invasive Species Signs, specifically so we "Trail Buffs" can watch for invasive's and do our part the get rid of them, 3) Share the Trails Signs –important for safety and considering respect among users on Multi-Use Trails.

### **LOGGING on THE COURTNEY EQ TRAILS:**

There is still logging going on in that area, so please use caution.

### **WORK BEES AND RIDES:**

**Monday Sept. 8th 2:30pm, work bee from horse back- to check & repost signs/maps, do a little brushing and take notes for trail work.**

**Sunday Sept. 14th 2:30 pm, work bee from ATV or Truck to clear trails.**

**Saturday – Sunday SEPT. 20 & 21ST.** The "2014 CAMP-N-RIDE" at the Courtney Equestrian Trails.

Visit [www.mi-trale.org/horse-trails/area-events/](http://www.mi-trale.org/horse-trails/area-events/) for more information.

Work Bees - We will meet at the Courtney Trailhead on HWY M-38.

Please RSVP to Cathy Wainio EQ Director at 988-2232 or Email at [cndwainio@yahoo.com](mailto:cndwainio@yahoo.com)

In case of inclement weather, she will let you know of any changes in the rides.



Additional work bees & rides will be announced throughout the year. 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. I welcome anyone to contact me as needed. For those of you who cannot join us to work on the trails, but have input about trail needs or you would like to comment on trail issues, we would like to hear from you. Your input is important to us.

Cathy Wainio [cndwainio@yahoo.com](mailto:cndwainio@yahoo.com)



**IMPORTANT SAFETY TIP:**

It has been noticed some people are stopping at stop signs and then others are running through them. With the excessive weed growth this year; it may be hard for a vehicle's driver to see a 4 wheeler at some intersections. There also may not be any warning signs to alert a driver that there is an upcoming trail crossing. MI-TRALE would hate to see someone hurt because they did not heed a sign that was installed to protect them.



**MDNR Multi-Use Routes & Horses**

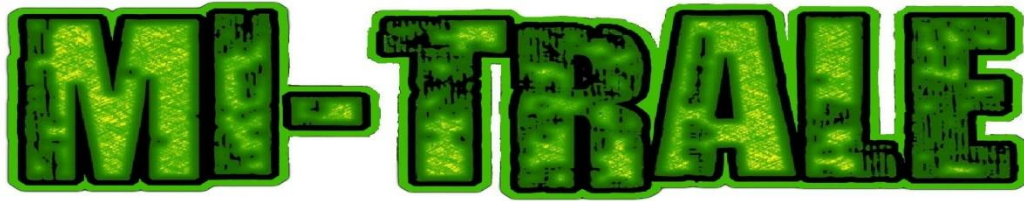
Equestrians have use of the multi-use routes maintained by MI-TRALE and are found in the trail guide book:

Bill Nicholls Route  
Ottawa East Connector Route  
Sidnaw-Bergland Route  
Iron River-Marenisco Route

These routes are open to other uses including motor vehicle travel, ATV's, ORV's, motorcycles, hikers and mountain bikes so be prepared and stay alert!  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

*Do you have some Cool Riding photos you'd like to share? MITRALE is in need of new photos for use in promotional items and the Newsletter. Send them to Janet at:*  
[MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM)





Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and The Environment

Come CELEBRATE the Club's 2014 accomplishments,  
enjoy dinner and the company of Club Members and Supporters at the  
2014 Annual Banquet

**WHERE:** Twillys Grill, Bruce Crossing  
MI

**WHEN:** SAT October 4<sup>th</sup> – Social Hour  
5:-6:pm EDT Dinner 6:pm EDT

**COST:** \$17.00

**MENU:** Steak, Potato, Salad, Dessert  
soda, milk & coffee  
Vegetarian Option also available

Cash Bar

RSVP: ASAP TO Linda (906) 827-3208 or  
[mi-trale@runningbearresort.com](mailto:mi-trale@runningbearresort.com)

Program – 7:pm  
Guest Speakers

Overview of MI-TRALE's Year

Trivia

Awards Presentation

Door Prizes

# 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

[www.mi-trale.org/horse-trails/area-events/](http://www.mi-trale.org/horse-trails/area-events/)

## November 4 Board Meeting Ewen Centennial Hall



All meeting dates can be found on our  
website at: [www.Mi-trale.org](http://www.Mi-trale.org)

## 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**



## MI-TRALE Newsletter has a new Editor!

Janet Miesbauer will be accepting your  
news & events at the new email address  
for the MI-TRALE Newsletter:  
[MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM)

Please send Janet your submissions.

## 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 two towns. We have other trails we need help with also, call Mike if you are interested  
906-827-3208