

# Winnies and Nickers

Pretty  
Pony  
Pastures

March 2009

Volume 4 Issue 3

## Could This be Spring?

March begins our Spring riding sessions, the return of the riders who opted out of winter riding, and, hopefully the return of all of our volunteers.



Although there are no time changes to our schedule, we plan on adding a 7:30 pm class on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, as we have had an increase in phone calls, which we hope will mean more riders now that the weather is getting warm. If needed, we will also add an 8:30 class on Saturday morning. If anyone is interested in moving to one these added time slots, please let me know. I may also be asking some riders to move to a different time slot, if it works with your schedule. I try, as much as possible, to group the riders by ability as riding skills improve.

Some of our volunteers have had life-changes that would no longer allow them to volunteer. We will miss them, but, we also need to add to our volunteer family. If you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering or needs community service hours for school or employment, please give them our phone number, a "pink" brochure, or Web site. Better yet, invite them to come with you when you come to ride or volunteer. We cannot do this program alone. We rely heavily on our volunteers. We are recruiting in schools, community groups and online, but we can still use more.

### Going Green

Not because it's St. Patrick's Day, but because this is the second time in my life that ecology, recycling, and carbon footprints have become an issue.



Whenever possible we will use less paper. In some areas we are required to have a paper trail—the sign in sheet, Release and Medical Forms, the Parent Handbook and Progression Sheets. This newsletter, registration for special events, and other communications will be electronic. If you do not have access to the Internet, we will provide a paper copy for you. Just let us know.

Well-seasoned manure is also available for your gardens by the bag, box, or pick-up truck. It's free, so you save, and it provides essential nutrients for your flowers and vegetables.

### Holly Schools

Patterson Elementary will be joining us again this spring. They have scheduled five Wednesdays, April 15th through May 13th, for their riding classes.

We are planning on the same schedule as last fall. The bus will bring the students at 10:00 am and pick them up at 1:00 pm. Unless there is an increase in the number of students, the schedule will remain four forty-five minute sessions, with one group riding, another doing a horse activity, the third playing a game outside and the fourth having a snack.

We will need a minimum of five volunteers for these classes. If you or someone you know can help, please contact us.

### Calendar of Events

**March 13—15— Michigan Horse Council Horse Expo 2009** (\$12/ 15 & over; \$6/ 14-6; under 6 free). Dollar off coupon and schedule in Saddle Up! Magazine.

**March 14—Girl Scout Saturday**  
Fun with Horses Workshop at 2:00  
I Love Horses Workshop at 4:00  
Registration and details on our Website  
[www.prettyponypastures.org/GSWeek.htm](http://www.prettyponypastures.org/GSWeek.htm)

**March 28—Educational Day—no classes**  
Sponsored by the Midwest Dressage Association at McPhail Equine Performance Center—MSU—cost is \$10 in advance or \$20 at the door. For more information go to—  
<http://www.alldressageassoc.org/events.htm>

**April 6—9—Horse Fever Week** is returning by popular demand. Spend Spring Break with riding lessons and horsemanship experiences. Register on-line at [www.prettyponypastures.org/HorseFever.htm](http://www.prettyponypastures.org/HorseFever.htm)

**April 11—Annual Easter Egg Hunt**  
Details on reverse side of this newsletter.

**April 12—Easter Sunday—No classes.**

### Horse Fever Week

We will have afternoon horse activities during Spring Break, April 6th—9th from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm and 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Each session will include on riding lesson plus a horsemanship class.

This year's topics include:

- Nutrition
- Conformation
- Dental health
- Bits and bridles

More information and registration is online at [www.prettyponypastures.org/HorseFever.htm](http://www.prettyponypastures.org/HorseFever.htm)



## Pretty Pony Pastures

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## Horses for Sale

We are often asked if we know of any Haflingers for sale. Most of the time we don't, but try to keep our ears open.

We now know of three mares and a stallion. I can speak for these horses and know that they are of good quality. Many of our horses are their offspring. More information is on our Website.  
[www.prettyponypastures.org/ForSale.htm](http://www.prettyponypastures.org/ForSale.htm)

## Girl Scout Saturday

If you know of any Daisy or Brownie Scouts who love horses, tell them about our Girl Scout Saturday celebration.



Daisies can earn a **Fun with Horses** patch at 2:00 pm and Brownies can earn an **I Love Horses** patch at 4:00 pm.

In both sessions the girls will learn about caring for horses as well as a short riding lesson. The workshop last for an hour and a half and cost \$12.50 per girl.



More information and registration is available on our web site—  
[www.prettyponypastures.org/GSWeek.htm](http://www.prettyponypastures.org/GSWeek.htm)

## March Birthdays

The following riders and volunteers have birthdays this month.

- Griffin Maloney
- Riley Redmond
- Susan Huebner
- Phil Martin
- Joshua Hickey
- Paul Markillie



Wishing you a happy birthday and a great year.

## Easter Eggs-travaganza

When: April 11, 2009

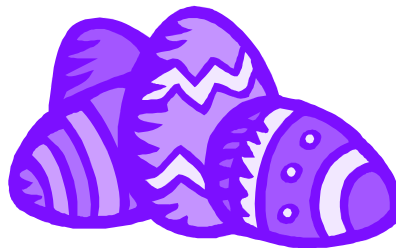
Where: Pretty Pony Pastures

Time: 2:00 pm till all the eggs are collected!

Let us know if you are coming by April 9th, so the Easter bunny will know how many eggs to hide.

The *entire* family is welcome to this event, as well as friends you may want to invite.

Please bring a dish to pass (salad or desert)



The festivities will take place in the arena unless it is bitterly cold. Watch for signs indicating the location.

Parking is always at the arena.

## Horse Show Season



**Mark your calendars!** The *Giddy-Up Go Horse Show* will be held on **Saturday, August 8, 2009**. Our judge will once again is Judy Muhn. The show will run similarly to last year's show with the equitation classes, followed by trail, then a few games. Somewhere in between we will have a Mom/Dad and Me class. This is where the designate parent rides and the child leads, if necessary. There will be a class for EVERY rider. This is a barn show that ALL riders are invited to participate in.

**4-H Shows** start on May 9th. The tentative dates are: May 9, May 16, May 30, June 27, August. 1, and August 15. The show bill can be found at [www.oakfair.org/horse.html](http://www.oakfair.org/horse.html). Then click on 2009 Oakland County Horse Show Circuit to download the pdf file.

Please refer to the *New Rider Handbook* for our policy on riding at the 4-H Shows. We will be participating in the shows with most of our horses in the Showmanship Classes. If your rider wants to show in the Showmanship Class, we can practice before or after a lesson, preferably with the horse that your rider uses during class. There is no charge for these lessons.

**Saturday riders**—there will be no classes on the day of the 4-H Shows, unless there are no participants going to the show. You will be informed a week before the show whether there will be classes on a show day.

We would like to encourage ALL riders who are at a Novice Level 2 or above to participate in the 4-H Shows. The charge is usually \$5.00 per class and it gives the rider a great opportunity to build their horsemanship skills.

