



# MICHIGAN TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (MTAC)

## Meeting Minutes

Grayling Township Hall

2090 Viking Way

Grayling, MI 49738

Sept. 28, 2023

1 - 4:30 p.m.

## **Welcome – Roll Call**

### PRESENT FOR THE MICHIGAN TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Brian Beauchamp, Chairperson
- Kenneth Hopper, Vice Chairperson (virtual)
- Michael Maves (virtual)
- Mark Losey
- Ryan Laporte
- Jason Aric Jones (virtual)
- Richard Williamson
- Jenny Cook
- Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf (virtual)
- Karen Middendorp
- Tavon Brooks (virtual)

### PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

Tim Novak, Annalisa Centofanti, Greg Kinser, Ron Yesney, Peter Costa, Jill Sell, Paige Perry, Lee Maynard, Sage Hegdal, Nicole Hunt, Blake Gingrich, Doug Rich, Connor Landeck, Cody Stevens, Scott Pratt, Heather Durocher

## Meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Chair, Brian Beauchamp.

Council and DNR staff introductions.

### ACTION ITEMS

Motion was made to approve the June 27 meeting minutes by Karen Middendorp and seconded by Ryan Laporte, with all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve the Sept. 28 agenda by Rich Williamson and seconded by Ryan Laporte, with all in favor. Motion carried.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Shaffer, President of the Allegan County Snowmobile & ORV Association.

Mr. Shaffer brought to the committee's attention that due to an identified endangered species in the area, the Karner Blue Butterfly, the DNR recently sent the association a notice to vacate a portion of Trail LP592 that runs through the Allegan State Game Area. The notice stated that operating any motorized vehicle will destroy the butterfly's eggs. The planned reroute for this portion of the trail will place 6.5 miles on a roadway. Mr. Shaffer is looking for help on this matter and would like to partner with the DNR to fix it. See the attached document submitted by Mr. Shaffer with more details.

Jill Sell (DNR) talked to the snow & ORV association and discussed working together to create a trail along the roadway. Greg Kinser (DNR) suggested that the DNR gain additional background information to gain a better understanding and clarity of the message passed down from U.S. Wildlife regarding this trail and to establish communication between Jill and the association.

\*The committee suggested to add this topic to the December MTAC agenda. Jenny Cook mentioned it will be helpful to invite representatives from the DNR Wildlife Division.

### BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### **RIDE RIGHT SAFETY MESSAGE - NONMOTORIZED**

Greg Kinser (DNR) /Tim Novak (DNR)

The "Ride Right" campaign is thinking of expanding and the DNR is looking for ideas and thoughts on including nonmotorized trail use, more specific to multi use trails. The safe passing plan for equestrians is too elaborate for the simplicity of the ride right message. Over the last few years there has been a significant increase on nonmotorized trails including hikers and dogs. The Ride Right message is about returning home safely to your families.

Karen Middendorp sits on the Ride Right Committee and supports the message expanding across nonmotorized trail use. The Ride Right committee is discussing what are the best ways for placement of the signs for everyone to see. Jenny Cook would like to see this type of message plastered on all DNR public interactions.

Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf is in support of the messaging campaign and would like to see nonmotorized representation on the committee.

Jason Jones agrees with the concept, maybe not ride right, just use right. More important if we transition into a nonmotorized permit funding system, can there be a way the user groups can view a video or become educated and familiar with trail etiquette prior to using the trail systems.

Mark Losey strongly suggests utilizing social media and on DNR map sites that is already used by trail users and organizations, word will spread quickly.

Tim Novak pointed out that trails now have a dedicated communications person on board now, Heather Durocher (DNR).

Greg Kinser added that any ideas are welcome, what are the key messages for the nonmotorized trails that we want to convey. Multiple methods of delivery are best. We do embed the Ride Right message into our free snow and ORV weekends. The goal is to have the logo recognized across all user groups.

Brian Beauchamp suggested in adding Andrea LaFontaine, (Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup Chair) to the Ride Right committee for nonmotorized input.

Rich Williamson said that motorized users have taken either a safety course or course for driving in order to operate those vehicles. Can this safety message and training be incorporated into these courses.

Jenny Cook has a thought to consider having a trail yielding signs with multiple icons. The sign would signal a yielding order, as who yields to who.

### **ETS/NAW THUNDER VALLEY TRAIL SEPARATION MEETING**

Brian Beauchamp

Brian is proposing contacting local trail and friends' groups in the area to provide feedback and how this is affecting trail users.

Tim Novak would like to schedule a meeting with the equestrians and bikers and have Brian mediate the discussions. Jenny Cook would like to see an equestrian representative from the U.P. (focus on Thunder Valley) invited to the meeting. Jenny and Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf want to be present. Tim is suggesting holding the meeting a month out for all Nonmotorized Advisory

Workgroup members and Equine Trails Subcommittee members. Also, Tim suggests that each committee chair is to determine who from outside the committees will be included. Brian and Tim will work together on a framework for the discussion. Anna Centofanti (DNR) will send out a meeting poll to determine meeting day and time.

## **NONMOTORIZED FUNDING REVENUE WORKGROUP**

Jenny Cook mentioned with the upcoming shore ride at Silver Lake State Park, the \$10 registration fee does not go back to the trail user, it goes towards the reservation system. Jenny is proposing increasing the registration fee and apply the extra dollars towards equine trail maintenance or needs during the shore ride, like manure removal. Jenny added that she believes the equestrian community is in support of bridle tag fees.

Jason Aric Jones believes the biking community would support a pay to play as long as the funds were coming back to the bike trail maintenance (not a slush fund) and funds are made transparent.

Brian Beauchamp asked if there is a need to identify members for a subcommittee.

Ryan Laporte suggested to create a workgroup focusing on writing legislative proposals presenting nonmotorized fees which in turn will provide grants to established trail groups.

Jason Aric Jones said it is important that all nonmotorized trail users are included for permits. Keep in mind the natural surface non-motorized trails are administered by park operations and not counties, which grants will not apply to park operations.

Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf is in support of creating a nonmotorized funding workgroup working towards a sustainable funding source.

## **UPDATES**

### **U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS)**

Connor Landeck, USFS

Connor reported that the Manistee National Forest has received recent complaints from public on the OHV road conditions. The USFS is working on fixing the issues. Some of these concerns may not happen if the message to stay on the trail and ride right message were followed. The Baldwin and White Cloud district are improving some equestrian trails by removing boardwalks and replacing with turnpikes. The Luzerne Boardwalk Phase II is in progress in coordination with stewardship and the Michigan Trail Riders Association, expect to see 50' of asphalt added to the Shore-to-Shore trail. No changes for snow personnel. USFS staff is working on maintaining trail signage.

## **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Equine Trails Subcommittee (ETS)** – Jenny Cook (report attached)

**Non-motorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW)** – Jason Aric Jones

The July NAW meeting included updating the NAW members with the information from the June MTAC meeting. A document outlining an idea to pollinate trailways for enhancement was proposed by a committee member. Updates were shared for the ebike subcommittee and Thunder Valley Separation. DNR staff provided a presentation overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding breakdown for trail projects.

**Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW)** – Karen Middendorp

Karen Middendorp made a recommendation to hold February 9 &10 for the free snowmobile weekend. This will be the second year for free snowmobile weekends, which was passed in legislation last year. The Wheeled Vehicle proposed legislation wants hard dates imposed. Snow and ORV users are not in agreement of the proposed wheeled vehicle legislation and cannot agree on the definition of a groomed trail. Hard dates may impact communities economically. Allowing multiple use on snow trails deters out of state users. It is not safe for snow trails to be shared with ORV's.

**Off Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVaw)** – Mike Maves (report attached)

## **MTAC RESTRUCTURE**

Brian Beauchamp/Tim Novak

Tim Novak said this topic will be on the agenda for the upcoming Trails summit in October. There have been discussions amongst the trails advisory boards about restructuring the MTAC board to be more inclusive for all trail users. There is legislation that establishes both MTAC and ETS. Those groups need to work with legislative liaisons to change/restructure the advisory groups. Tim supports Jason's initial thoughts to expand MTAC to include multiple users. Tim believes with all the meetings among the five boards that each group is not being as productive as they can be.

Brian Beauchamp indicated that we would revisit this topic and take a deeper dive at the Trails Summit in October. In referencing the MTAC resolution that was passed in 2022, Brian feels the decision date may not be feasible.

Mark Losey suggests more important topics should be brought to the table at MTAC, and the members should be making advisory decisions. Decide what projects are important to pursue. What funds are available for trail types/uses. Set objectives for MTAC.

Jason Aric Jones stated that trail use has evolved since the MTAC was created. There has been this explosion of ebikes, more ORV vehicles on trails, and in general trail use has increased overall. All these trail uses have to be included and considered, providing an outlet to find balance.

Tavon Brooks agrees that you need the right people at the table, but to be careful having too many people at the table.

Mike Maves mentioned from his general experience, that more action has happened at the subcommittee level than at the MTAC level. MTAC is more of a soap box level.

Jill Sell said it will be helpful for each subcommittee to identify what crucial functions they perform for the October Trails Summit.

Tim Novak will send out a problem statement to all committee members prior to the October summit so everyone can be prepared for the restructure discussion.

Brian Beauchamp feels the passion on this topic and his thoughts are that MTAC should be productive and contribute in a positive way.

#### POTENTIAL USER REPRESENTATION:

Cross country  
Snow shoeing  
Water trails  
Hiking  
Equine  
ORV  
Mountain bike  
Snowmobile  
Fat tire biking  
Ebike

#### **MICHIGAN DNR TRAIL WEEK (RECAP)**

#### **2023 MEETINGS**

Dec. 12 – RAM/Roscommon MI

#### CLOSING/ROUND ROBIN

Jenny Cook shared awareness of horse fatalities.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned Mark, Ryan 4:39p



9.19.23

To Whom it May Concern,

We need your help! Recently, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources sent us a notification (documents attached below) that we are to vacate the portion of trail, LP592, that runs along the gas pipeline through the Allegan State Game Area from 116<sup>th</sup> Ave through 124<sup>th</sup> Ave (M-89). This area is West of the Kalamazoo River and East of Fennville. The planned reroute puts the trail on 6.5 Miles of plowed road with no option to get off the road. The DNR's reasoning to reroute the trail is that the Karner Blue Butterfly (federally listed as "Endangered") has moved into the gas line right-of-way. According to the documents provided, operating snowmobiles or any other vehicle in the area will destroy their eggs, which are only laid on the Blue Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) plant and it is the only plant they eat. Other members of our club, that ride and maintain this portion of trail, and I (an ISA Certified Arborist, qualified in plant identification), after personally investigating, have come to a consensus that the blue lupine plant does not grow here and neither does the Karner Blue Butterfly. We believe the people that made this decision were misinformed and are not from the area to see for themselves.

Regardless of whether the butterfly is there or not, here are additional reasons why closing this trail is wrong...

- This species has been federally listed as endangered since 1992. Our trail system has occupied this right-of-way for almost 50 years. Since the species was listed as "endangered", according to the MDNR documents, on this section of pipeline, "the trail overlaps with one of our best Karner Blue sites" which apparently developed all while our snowmobile club has been maintaining and using the trail.
- If the butterfly has moved into this area, it is because the MDNR has not been doing their job to maintain other areas that have already been established to provide habitat for this species.
- It is possible that conservationists have been intentionally installing habitat on and around our long-known trail system to push our sport out.
- This land is naturally an oak forest. It is only clear enough to allow butterfly habitat because of the maintenance done by the pipeline and the Allegan County Snowmobile Club (ACSORVA).
- Our trail maintenance operations, which include brush mowing and cleaning up garbage are what are keeping the canopy open and the land clean allowing the lupine to grow.
- Our snowmobile trail is only 20 feet out of the 100 feet wide pipeline.

- If we stop maintaining this trail, the trees will grow back, and the habitat will go away.
- Our trail maintenance operations keep the pipeline clear and safe for wildlife and people to access the land safely.
- Other areas could be properly maintained and protected, and any Blue Lupine currently established on our trail system could be moved to those areas.
- This trail system draws in tourism and helps the economy of the already struggling, rural areas of Allegan County. The Karner Blue butterfly could bring ecotourism to these areas. If some regulations were changed, people could use our trails to see these butterflies.
- Having quality trails close to home saves trailering long distances to ride.
- Moving the trail onto 6.5 miles of plowed road greatly increases the chances of someone being killed or injured while navigating with automobile traffic.
- Our club members have volunteered countless hours and resources into maintaining this trail over the years.
- Increased maintenance of snowmobiles due to riding on bare road surfaces.
- Horse trails use the same right-of-way, which have not been moved.
- Most of our trail system is on private land, which is already very difficult to keep. We shouldn't have to now fight the State to keep this trail.
- This part of the trail is, in our opinion, one of the best parts of our trail system.

I have been riding snowmobiles for 28 years and I believe the Allegan Trail System is the best trail system in Southern Lower Michigan. We need to work together by pooling our knowledge and resources to stop this NOW. If we let the DNR take this away from us... what is to stop them from taking more of the trails, we love? Please help us by reaching out to your government leaders, state senators, congressional representatives, and to the MDNR. You can also help by providing knowledge and resources (financial or human). We need lawyers, lepidopterists, entomologists, botanists, and as many voices sharing this with anyone that will listen. Please help us save our trail system so that it will be around for our children and grandchildren. So, they can enjoy the freedom of riding in the beauty of God's creation like we have enjoyed for so many years.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Shaffer

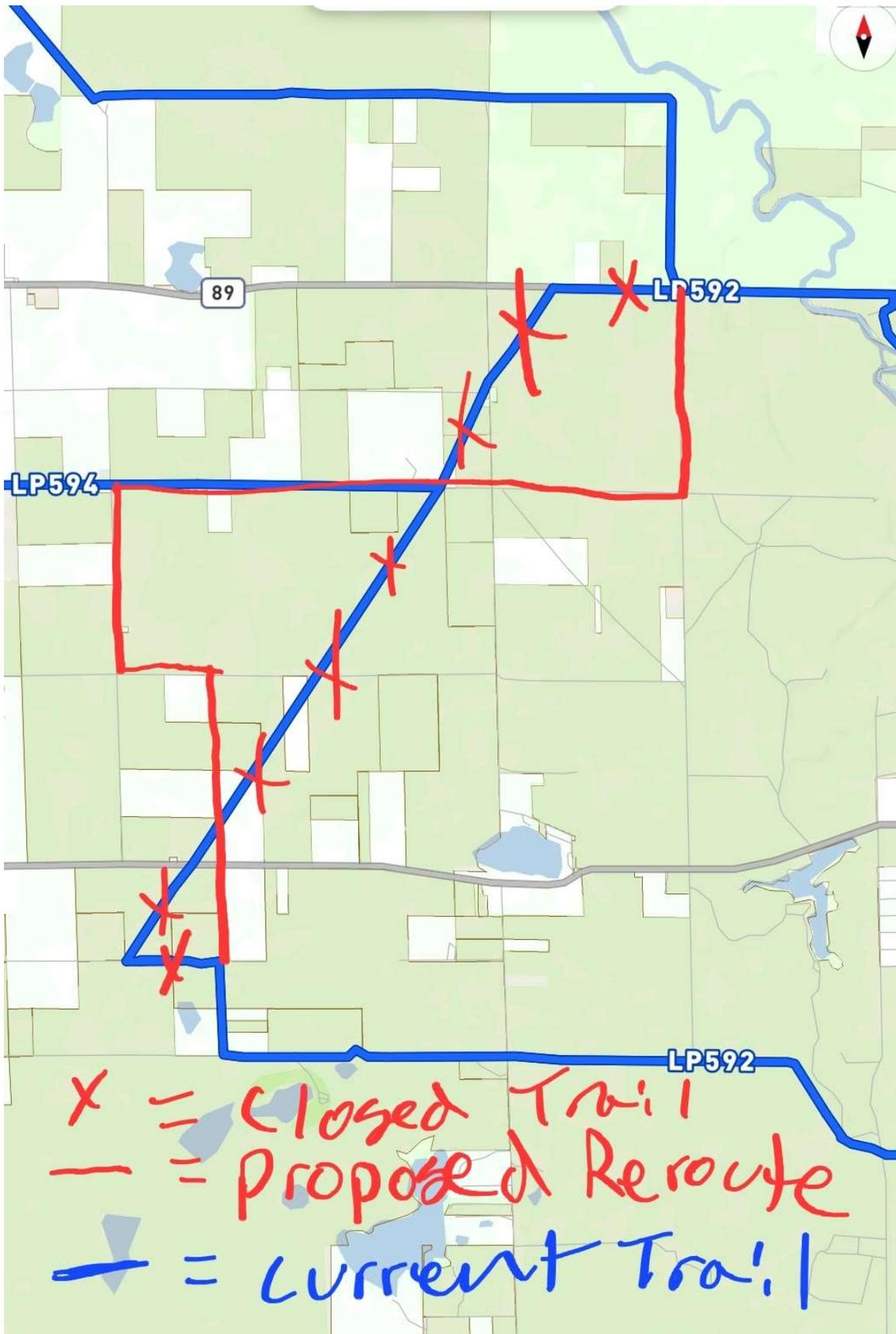
ISA Certified Arborist M-4184a

President Allegan County Snowmobile & ORV Association

616.265.6195

[president1697@gmail.com](mailto:president1697@gmail.com)





X = Closed Trail  
— = Proposed Reroute  
— = Current Trail

## MDNR DOCUMENTS:

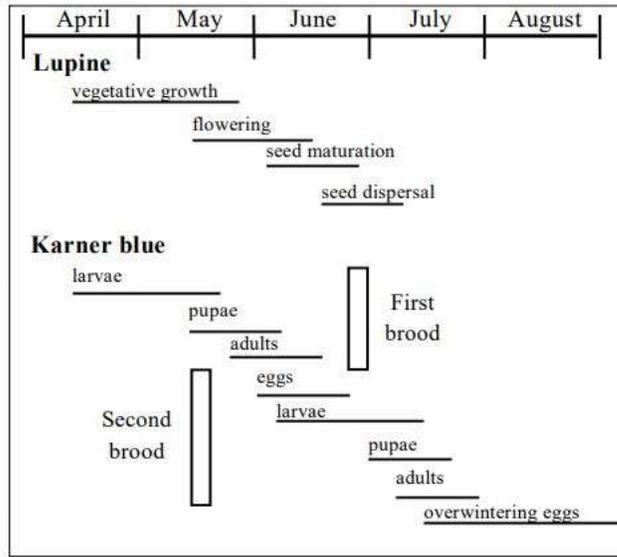
Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) is a Federally protected species under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The MIDNR actively manages KBB habitat for species protection through a statewide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) issued by the USFWS.

The HCP, and associated incidental take permit, is a partnership between state federal and private organizations and agencies to protect, enhance, and restore habitat in ways that will not negatively impact this endangered species. KBB habitat and presence has been identified within the Allegan State Game Area, and therefore manages and maintains state land under the HCP guidelines.

KBB populations are known to persist on the pipeline right-of-way between 116<sup>th</sup> and 124<sup>th</sup>. This portion of the pipeline is currently acknowledged as a portion of snowmobile trail that runs through the Allegan State Game Area. To protect species from activities that could result in incidental take, the snowmobile trail will be re-routed to will avoid areas of the pipeline road where KBB presence is known to occur, residential areas and Dairy-Doo trucking routes.

KBB eggs overwinter on lupine plants. These eggs represent the population of Karner Blues that will emerge the following year in the Spring. Adults and larvae do not overwinter. Therefore, the survival of the egg is critical to the survival of the species. Major threats to the eggs include vehicle traffic, whether wheeled or snowmobile, that could crush the egg. Unfortunately, the snowmobile trail along the pipeline overlaps with one of our best Karner Blue sites. When the trail was laid out several years ago, the Karner Blue was not federally listed, and its presence was likely not considered in the original trail layout.

**Figure 2.** Phenology of the Karner blue and lupine. In colder (warmer) areas and years phenologies will be delayed (advanced).



**What Does a Karner Look Like?**

**Wing Characteristics:**

**Under Side**

Orange crescents (at least 4) along outer edge of fore and hind wings — more pronounced on hind wings.



**Top Side**



**Females:** Darker in color, with blue close to the body; orange crescents on the outer edge of hind wings



**Males:** Light blue, without any orange crescents

**Don't be fooled by look-alikes!**

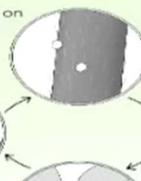


**Life Cycle of the Karner Blue Complete Metamorphosis**

Eggs are laid on stems of wild blue lupine plants.



Adults live for just 3 - 5 days. During this time, they drink nectar from a variety of flowers, mate, and lay eggs.



Pupae start out green and gradually turn dark blue over a period of 8-11 days.



Larvae eat leaves of wild blue lupine for 3-4 weeks. They are difficult to spot because they are the color of lupine leaves.

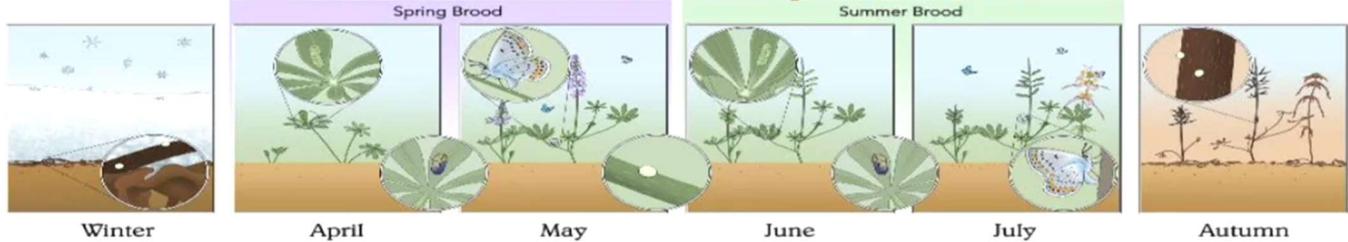
**Karner Blue Butterfly Facts**

- The Karner blue butterfly was first identified as a species by Russian novelist and lepidopterist Vladimir Nabokov in 1943.
- Its scientific name is *Plebejus samuelis*.
- The Karner blue was placed on the NYS endangered species list in 1977 and on the US endangered species list in 1992.
- They are also found in Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.
- It is threatened by habitat loss caused by humans. Climate change may lead to habitat loss in areas that are otherwise protected.
- Larvae eat only wild blue lupine leaves.
- Larvae are often "tended" by ants.
- They do not migrate and seldom travel further than 700 feet during their short lifetimes.
- They survive winter as eggs, aided by an insulating layer of snow.



Two generations (broods) of Karners complete their life cycles each year.

**Karner Blue Butterflies through the Seasons**



The alternative snowmobile trail route is as follows: Beginning at 51<sup>st</sup> & 116<sup>th</sup>, the trail will continue north on 51<sup>st</sup> for 2 miles until it reaches 120<sup>th</sup>. The route will turn west on 120<sup>th</sup> for 0.5 miles until it reached 52<sup>nd</sup>. At 52<sup>nd</sup> the trail will continue north for 1 mile until it reached 122<sup>nd</sup>. At 122<sup>nd</sup> the trail will head east for 2 miles until it reaches 46<sup>th</sup>. At 46<sup>th</sup> the trail will head north for 1 mile until reached 124<sup>th</sup> (M-89) where it will meet the existing route.



## MTAC Equine Trails Report September 28, 2023

We had a wonderful, productive DNR/ETS meeting earlier this month. We visited the new and improved **horse friendly steps at Goose Creek** and campground. We are thankful for the positive momentum and collaboration with horse trail volunteers to improve our horse friendly trails across Michigan.



**Volunteer Friends Groups** continue to work in partnership with MDNR, USFS, and all public land managers. We are so thankful for our horseback riding opportunities. When people with horses are welcomed on public lands we can enjoy recreation, exercise, mental, emotional, and physical therapy for both riders and their horses.



People with horses are enjoying our public lands with many events and casual rides. Check out all our horse trails events on the **Michigan Horse Trails Directory**. <http://michiganhorsetrails.com/index.html>

#### **AUGUST**

- 5-12: [MTRA](#) August Family Ride
- 11-12: [GLDRA](#) Detroit Horse Power Distance Ride - Kensington and Proud Lake trail
- 19: [Hungerford Trail Riders](#) Poker Ride
- 19: [GLDRA](#) Mock Distance Riding Clinic Brighton Rec

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- 1-4: [Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders](#) Labor Day Weekend Camp
- 2: [Yankee Springs](#) Annual Meeting
- 2-4: [GLDRA](#) White River Labor Day Endurance Ride at Timber's Edge
- 7-18: [MTRA](#) Shore to Shore September Ride
- 8-10: [Highland Trail Riders](#) Horseshoe Hunt Fall Camp
- 9: [Ortonville Rec Eq Friends](#) Judged Trail Ride
- 9-10: [GLDRA](#) Keweenaw Endurance Ride at Marquette
- 9-10: [MICMO](#) Just for Fun CMO at Yankee Springs
- 14-17: [Fort Custer Horse Friends](#) Fall Camp
- 15-17: [Pontiac Lake Horseman](#) Tour the Trails Fall Camp
- 16: [Brighton Trail Riders](#) Poker Ride
- 16: [Hungerford Trail Riders](#) J+M Camp Picnic Ride
- 16: [Muskegon County Trail Riders](#) Horses for Hospice
- 23: [Cheff Ride-a-Thon](#) Benefit Ride
- 22-24: [Proud Lake Trail Riders/Kensington Trail Riders](#) Circle Ride
- 29-1: [MHC](#) Statewide Trail Ride Banquet at D bar D
- 30-1: [GLDRA](#) Distance Riding Clinic at Cedar Creek Crossings

#### **OCTOBER**

- 6-8: [MICMO](#) Mane 2 Tail Connection 4-H Club Pontiac Lake
- 7: [Ionia Horse Trails Association](#) Annual Chili Cookoff
- 7-15: [MTRA](#) October Color Ride
- 7: Autumn on the [Polly Ann Trail](#)
- 14: [Yankee Springs](#) Halloween Spooktacular
- 14-15: [GLDRA](#) Oak Leaf Run Endurance Ride at Silver Creek
- 14: [Hungerford Trail Riders](#) Spooktacular
- 22: [Maybury Trail Riders](#) Spooktacular
- 21: [Muskegon County Trail Riders](#) Fall Fun Ride
- 26-29: [Sleepy Hollow Trail Riders](#) Explore The Hollow Weekend Camp
- 26-29: [Addison Oaks Trail Riders](#) Camp 'N Ride
- 28: [Horses for Hope](#) Halloween Ride at Cummings Center

#### **November**

- 1-30: [Michigan Shoreline Horseback Riding Season](#) [For info on the DNR shoreline riding season](#)
- 3-5: [Waterloo Horseman](#) Turkey Trot
- 11: [Hungerford Trail Riders](#) Banquet

#### **DECEMBER**

- 2: [Fort Custer Horse Friends](#) Holiday Party

The equestrian community is gearing up for another fabulous **Michigan Shoreline Horseback Riding Season** at Silver Lake State Park for the month of November. There are currently over 2200 reservations allowing 125 people with horses per day. Check out the **Michigan Shoreline Horse Friends** website for more information, register to ride, volunteer, and horse camping with horse friendly trail options. We are so thankful for these opportunities. These are dream come true opportunities for many people. There are riders traveling from all over Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin indicating the great desire to experience shoreline horseback riding and to return again with more family members and friends for repeated visits. The three miles of sandy shoreline along the Lake Michigan fresh water and traversing the sand dunes makes these opportunities so unique. The fresh water of Lake Michigan offers a resource for our horses to get a drink while exercising. This is unique because all other shoreline horseback riding opportunities along the Pacific, Atlantic, Caribbean, etc. are all salt water and are not a resource for horses. <https://michiganshorelinehorsefriends.com/>



pc: Joel Marotti

Our public trails are **pathways of transportation** with opportunities for everyone. We are thankful for the separation of horse/hiking/hunting trails from biking/hiking trails in recreation areas. This provides optimal recreation and safer settings for all trail user groups.

**People with horses would like to be welcomed** on dirt/grass natural surfaces along paved destination/rail trails. This can be accomplished by posting **educational yielding signs** so there is a clear plan for what to do when we encounter other trail user groups. Having a safe trails passing plan would provide order and peace for all user groups, and it would welcome people with horses on public lands and trails where we currently are not allowed or comfortable due to safety to enjoy. Dirt/grass/natural surfaces are desirable for people who want to travel on softer surfaces instead of pavement, people with dogs who don't want to burn the pads on the bottoms of their dogs' feet, and people with horses as pavement can be slippery for horses. <https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/trails-safe-passing-plan-tspp.html>



**Please Remember  
The Trails Safe Passing Plan  
Stop! Speak and Stand Back**



**STOP:**  
Horses are prey animals and naturally can be afraid of unfamiliar people and objects. People with horses should pass at a walk while other trail users remain STOPPED, until passed. When approaching horses from behind, please STOP! SPEAK to announce your location and pass slowly when the people with horses are prepared. STOPPING allows TIME for everyone to prepare for safe trail passing.

**SPEAK:**  
Please ANNOUNCE your presence.  
Please SAY "Hi" when we pass by.  
Speaking helps horses identify you as a person and will help keep them calm.

**STAND BACK:**  
Please STAND BACK with your whole group on the same side of the trail.  
Please contain children and dogs.  
Please do not hide or stand behind a tree, as these actions may cause horses to fear you are a predator planning an attack.

**SMILE:**  
Enjoy the safe, happy trails! Please contact the Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council for the use of the Stop! Speak and Stand Back sign at: [RFVHC.Colorado@gmail.com](mailto:RFVHC.Colorado@gmail.com)

We want to express that **Michigan has some of the BEST horseback riding conditions in America** due to the abundant fresh water throughout in various locations, the shady, oxygen producing trees, the sandy soil which is favorable footing for our horses, the smooth rolling terrain which is desirable for our horse partners (it's not too steep, but still diverse to keep the riding interesting), and the large sections of public property.



pc: Kyle Gilmore

**Thank you for helping MICHIGAN be a great place to live, work, play, and travel!**

Jenny Cook

Michigan Trails Advisory Council Equestrian Representative (MTAC)

Michigan Equine Trails Subcommittee Representative (ETS)

Michigan Shoreline Horse Friends Volunteer

Bass River Horse Friends Volunteer Fort Custer Horse Friends Volunteer

[mi.trail.rep@gmail.com](mailto:mi.trail.rep@gmail.com)

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## ORVAW Report

- On the topic of purchasing equipment with trail improvement funds, it was deemed possible and legal one concern would be the orv fund pie is not getting bigger so funding could be an issue, a possible forming of a finance subcommittee may be needed
- Lake county has broken ground on a new orv training park
- Three new trails in the works from Sault Ste. Marie to Brimley still working on brushing
- ORV sunset bill has not moved at the time of the meeting.
- Possible ALPHA trail marking system expansion, western and central U.P. shows it working well and users are adjusting and catching on to the system

9/28/23

Michael Maves