

Kettle Moraine – Picnic Shelter – Wisconsin



In June 2015, Northern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association (NKMHTA) -- through fundraising efforts, donations, and a grant -- added a picnic shelter to the Group Sites area of the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest Horseriders Campground in New Prospect, Wisconsin.

The commercial-grade 24' x 36' shelter has a concrete floor, enclosed ceiling, lights, and plenty of electrical outlets for slow cookers and coffee makers. It will be shared by the three group sites and is conveniently located near the bathroom. Its brown color complements existing campground structures.

Doug Decker, NKMHTA member and project leader, said the undertaking went smoothly. Planning began in March and the project was completed by the end of June. He thanks Arch Electric, KP Concrete,

and Northland Builders for their professional work ethic and products. He also thanks the NKMHTA members who volunteered on this activity.

Doug said partnering with Jason Quast, Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest superintendent, on this endeavor was a pleasure. Jason and his crew were very helpful. Doug commented how good the shelter looks and knows it will be appreciated and used by horse enthusiasts for years to come.



Mike Komro, NKMHTA member, researched, wrote and applied for the AERC trails grant for the shelter. This grant greatly reduced what the club had to raise through other campaigns and donations. What part did the AERC grant play? I can't say just what part of the shelter it built but I do know that having a shelter there will greatly help the morale of ride management, crews and riders.

This also allows us to begin our next big project sooner -- to improve the actual trail. NKMHTA thanks all those who donated to this \$19,000 project.

Endurance riders in the Midwest have been riding this trail since 1967. That first year we had Dr. Matthew Makay-Smith from Delaware as control judge! Looking through the scrapbook that was diligently kept from 1967 until 1984, one can see many rider names that are still recognizable today. Some of those are still riding!

Over the years there have been several different endurance rides held on these trails. This year there are three: Kettles n' Bits, DRAWarama, and the Colorama Ride. The Colorama, with its 100-mile endurance ride, has been offered every year since 1967.

—Katie Bachhuber