

It is with heavy hearts, but in complete fairness to our equestrian public, and supporters, the board of directors, of Buckeye Horse Park Association, Inc. will cancel the schedule of events for 2019 at the location of 9260 West Akron-Canfield Road (Route 224)

Since 1994, the Buckeye Park Association, Inc. has leased the 47 acres at the 9260 W. Akron-Canfield Rd location. We have been excellent stewards of the property, and have followed our missions of equestrian education, environment and community development, sportsmanship in various styles of equestrian competition, and with charitable support to other non-profit organizations.

Many volunteer hours of literal blood, sweat, and tears, and generous donations, have lent themselves, to form the lovely equestrian facility we all enjoy today.

Within the 25 years, countless volunteer hours, have produced two show rings, a practice ring, three barns, a large covered pavilion, permanent restroom, Memorial Walkway, a moveable gazebo, bleachers, electrical, sound system upgrades, two storage facilities, a lovely obstacle course, the Dennison Building used both for the office, and the kitchen needs to support events.

Buckeye Horse Park, and Buckeye Horse Park Association, Inc. are not, and have never been supported by Mahoning County tax levies, or by Millcreek Metro Parks.

The Buckeye Horse Park Association, Inc. is a 501(3)c non-profit organization, that has solely been financially supported by annual memberships, fundraising, grants, park rental fees, donations, and clinics.

In 1994, the original twenty-five-year lease worked for our predecessors, and we are grateful for their vision, hard work, and dedication. However, as we are all keenly aware, the equestrian community, and its demographics, have changed dramatically.

To move forward, with wise business practices, Buckeye Horse Park Association, cannot commit to extend a lease, that is not cost effective, and is counter productive to our missions and operations.

The negotiations have yielded many restrictions, and barriers, that would not lend themselves to operate in a manner in alignment with our goals and principles.

The uniqueness of the Buckeye Horse Park Association, Inc. lies within its very fabric of incredibly experienced, and talented membership, volunteers, supporters, donors, and those brave individuals, both past, and present, who have stepped up, to sit on the board of directors.

The Buckeye Horse Park Association, Inc. will continue its mission, wherever it may call its future home base.

Sincerely,

Susan Smith-Gordon

President – Buckeye Horse Park Association, Inc.

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