

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

Jan / Feb 2021

Upcoming Events

President's Corner

As the new president of the BTSC I am honored to have your trust to make 2021, though challenging, a full season of activities. Due to the uncertainties of COVID and the health and safety of our members many of our in-door social activities will take a wait and see attitude.

One of my plans for this season will be to increase the visibility of the saddle club and to bring in some new events, such as:

On 4/10 we will be taking a day trip to Chattahoochee Hills Equestrian Center, approximately 2 hour drive from BTSC to Fairburn Ga.. Chattahoochee Hills is a world class equestrian facility where they will be holding a 4 star level, 3 day eventing competition, one of many, for Olympic qualification. If you have never seen Olympic level horses and riders competing on a cross country course this is something you don't want to miss. Stay with us for further details.



(continued next column)

On 4/17 we are planning to have Karen Jones, a nationally known clinician in natural horsemanship and all things horses will lead a clinic at the horse park. The title of the clinic **Horses 101** will be very educational and fun. This will be a non-riding clinic so invite your family and friends to learn all about the majestic horse. Stay with us for further details.



Stay safe
Respectfully
Bill

2021 Executive Committee

President	Bill Klenk
Vice President	Judie Uchitel
Treasurer	Julia Jorns
Secretary	Ronda Erway
Bent Tree Liaison	Bob Crowl
Past President	Kathy Hardin
Past Past President	Leslie Elliot
Appointee Open	

2021 Positions

Membership	Bob Crowl
Newsletter Editor	Jim Sylvia
Email Distribution	Ronda Erway
Website Support	Jim Sylvia

Upcoming Play Days

LET'S PLAY!

Spring is just around the corner so clean up your boots and saddle and head over to the Horse Park on **March 10th** where we will have a rip roaring time with friends and horses. Everyone who attended the Play Days last year had a great time socializing their horses and catching up with other horse lovers.

The Play Days are very casual and a good way to introduce your horse to techniques shared by other Saddle Club members. If you like, we can start out with a little lunging for warm up. I decided to do drill team exercises at our first session which is a wonderful way to reintroduce your horses and a great exercise for practicing straight lines and bending.

This year I am asking other members to sponsor a Play Day and we already have Leslie Elliott and Judy Heilman signed up for the next two sessions so check the calendar for the dates. Let me know if you would like to lead a Play Day that does not yet have a leader.

There will be a Safety Officer to open the back gate at 10:00 and arena activities will start at 10:30.

Advise me if you are planning to use the back gate for entry. We will run until noon and then have lunch in the pavilion afterward or go on a trail ride if anyone wishes.

Please let me know if you plan to attend this fun activity.

Kathy Hardin
kathardin39@gmail.com
404-218-6360



Upcoming Events

Trail Ride

Ride the High Country Sunday, March 14th

The club is celebrating its 30th year this year and I can't think of a better way to remember rides of the past than by doing an all day ride. Mark your calendars now, so you can see some of the most spectacular views in Pickens County. We will leave the Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park at 9:30am and return by 4:00pm. The back gate will open at 9:00am for those who are trailering. This ride takes us through a stretch of Monument Road past Don and Nicki House's place, and finally down into Bent Tree where we end up back at the Horse Park. Due to new developments in the area, this may be the last time we'll be able to do this ride. Don't miss it. Eat a hearty breakfast and pack a lunch.

Watch for future emails with specifics about the ride. Let me know if you'll be riding that day by calling or texting me at 770-289-7272.

Rich



Horse Park Work Day

Kickin' and Pickin'

Kicking off the new season and Picking up around the Saddle Club Arena, that is.....

March 6th from 10am-1pm

March 6 is our annual work day to clean up and spruce up our wonderful arena, where we are planning to have lots of fun and activities this year! Please plan on volunteering for this project.

The Saddle Club will be providing lunch for the volunteers, so please let us know that you will be there! Below is a list of duties that need attending, and a list of tools that will be helpful in completing these tasks! We look forward to seeing everyone!

- Drag Arena
- Pick up sticks, rocks, etc. and clean around statue. This includes palettes, landscape ties. Bruce Elliott will have a landscape trailer on site to haul all away.
- Rake grassy areas
- Check all tie rings, we currently need 4 new ones
- Straighten the 2 storage rooms
- Prune/trim the lower branches on the pesky River Birches
- Organize jump poles and standards in an easily accessible yet safe spot in or near arena
- Clean Bathrooms
- Clean/sweep off picnic tables. The birdies have visited a lot over the winter!
- Dispose of logs currently residing on the wonderful grill!

Tools needed: Brooms, dust pans, rakes, work gloves, shovels, wheel barrow, screwdrivers (not the vodka kind), hammers.

Thanks! please contact either Leslie Elliott 770 355-5726 or Alicia Klenk for any other info or questions!



2021 Membership Report

The Club welcomes two new members, Beyonca Warkentien and Mia Arispe. Both recently moved to Bent Tree. Beyonca joined the Saddle Club in December 2020 and Mia joined in January 2021. Beyonca and Mia are frequently at the Bent Tree Stables. Beyonca is a volunteer there. Mia boards her horse Lewis at the Stables. We look forward to seeing them at Club events this year. We finished 2020 with 104 members. This year through early February we have 88 members. I understand there are several more membership renewal applications in the mail. I will be distributing our 2021 membership roster later this month. The 2021 roster can also be found on the Club website. If you know someone that is interested in joining our Club please have them contact me. I am looking forward to seeing you at 2021 Saddle Club events.
Bob

OMOKSEE
Sunday, March, 21st at 11am

The horse park is OPEN and ready for the 1st arena event of the year! We will start the event at 11am and the back gate will open at 10:30 to let trailers in.

This is a BYOE (Bring your own everything) event meaning please bring your lunch to eat between events as well as a chair if desired.

The cost to participate is \$10. We will run 5 events including the 3 standard runs (pole bending, batons, and tomahawk balls) as well as two mystery events.

Please bring a current coggins. Let me know if you plan to participate or have questions. I will also need at least two helpers to assist in the judges stand so that I can also ride. Contact info: text/call 770-265-9425 or ceshman51@hotmail.com.

A head count for the back gate is necessary prior to the event. See you in the saddle soon!

~Claire Eubanks

MARCH 24TH PLAY DAY

This Play Day will focus on learning the first 4 Classes of a Horse Show.

Halter Class
Gait Class (Walk, Trot, Canter)
Inspection. (Triangle Method)
Under Saddle

Looking forward to learning about Horse Show Instruction with Alicia Klenk.

See you then.
Leslie Elliott 770 355-5726

Why Does My Horse Spook?

When your horse spooks or shies at an object on the trail, you are better off continuing to ride past or slightly around the object, rather than trying to force the horse's nose into it. In other words, focus beyond the fearful object rather than on it — the horse will sense this.

When the horse rides past a scary object he feels a sense of relief and his confidence rises because it did not attack him. Next, ride a loop and go back past the object, slightly closer. Continue until you can ride close by with little or no reaction from the horse. In time, the horse will realize that he is made to do more work if he shies and will learn that an object is never as bad as he thought.

If you ride directly at the object and force the horse into it, you are setting yourself up for a battle. If the horse wins the battle it confirms for him that fighting was worth it because he was able to find a release by leaving the object. These types of battles also help to create a stiff-mouthed trail horse. If you feel that you need to bring him to the object, dismount, lead him to it, and spend some time there until he gets comfortable.

Many riders like a dominant horse up front on a trail ride. If the dominant horse has confidence and is a good lead horse then a horse following behind, who normally would have shied at an object, will often ride along with no fear. However, dominant horses with unreasonable fears can give their riders big battles when they spook because they are used to being in control.

The rider's body language is important when riding a spooky horse. A fearful rider is tense and the horse can sense this tension and fear. A horse looks for the rider to be relaxed and to provide control, direction, and security; he depends on you for confidence.

If you do not have confidence, the horse will become confused, lose confidence, lose trust, and may take control and react to fearful situations in an exaggerated manner.

Trail riders need to remember that the reason they trail ride is to enjoy the trails and not to problem solve with difficult horses, and work toward that goal. If the rider lacks confidence, then finding a confident trail horse is the ticket. Simply getting out regularly and riding on a reliable mount will do wonders.

Taking your horse on a week-long or longer pack trip can do great things for your trail horse. A riding horse will often lose many fears including the fear of crossing water and of strange objects, providing he is not simply high maintenance and foolish.

Happy Trails!

This article originally appeared in the April 2010 issue of Pacific & Prairie Horse Journal.



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2020

On December 12th, 14 members gathered at the Bent Tree Tavern to celebrate Christmas and to have our last General Meeting for the year. Although the group was small, everyone enjoyed the delicious meals that were served to us in the large room, allowing for social distancing.

I reviewed the procedure for Club members to use the back gate when attending Horse Park events. Members need to contact the leader of the event to let them know that they will require the gate be opened for them and their trailer. The event leader will notify Bob Crowl, of the names and Public Safety will open the gate at the time designated by the leader. This procedure has worked out well during our fall events. I announced that we are still in need of volunteers to lead some of the events. Don't be shy!!

I recognized all members of the 2020 Executive Committee and thanked them for their tremendous efforts during a very challenging time. Although recipients of 2020 awards were not all in attendance, they were still recognized. Rich Vigue received the Founders Award for being President in 2019 and for all his contributions throughout his term and for all the years that he has been proactive with BTSC. The Volunteer Award went to DJ Suberk for producing the newsletter for so many years (a nonrewarding job) and for always making herself available whenever needed. Leslie Elliott was awarded the Spirit Award for not only being an Appointee to the Executive Committee but for stepping forward to fill in the vacant spot on the EC this last fall. She then also assisted Keith Hunter in recruiting 2021 officers by serving on the nominating committee. When Leslie first agreed to be an appointee she accepted with much hesitation but as time went on she jumped right in when the going got tough. That's the spirit!!

The board candidates were introduced or announced and general voting took place, accepting all the nominees as follows: Bill Klenk, President; Judie Uchitel, VP; Julia Jorner, Treasurer; Ronda Erway, Secretary; and last but not least, Bob Crowl, Bent Tree Liaison.

I applaud all our members who have continued to support our family of horse lovers by volunteering and attending the events that everyone works so hard to provide for your enjoyment.

So until next time, stay healthy and safe!

Your Immediate Past President,
Kathy Hardin



Kathy, with Bill and Alicia Klenk



Bobby and Joyce Delay



Herd of Buffalos in Montana 2020

Secretary's Report

BTSC Executive Committee Meeting Minute Summary 1/28/2021

Development of BTSC Goal for 2021

- Bill Klenk suggested developing a measurable goal for the Saddle Club. Some examples of goals brought up for discussion were: increasing membership, club visibility, membership participation, and strong equine and social activities all being discussed. The final decision made was to increase club visibility within BT. Having an information table and putting up a BTSC billboard on the arena during events were suggestions made to start this process.

Newsletter

- DJ Suberk has retired from publishing the newsletter. Jim Sylvia has agreed to become our new publisher. All required information has been transferred between the two at this time. Date for getting articles to Jim is pending.

ECHO Article

- Julia Jorns will be doing a monthly BTSC article for the BT ECHO.

2021 Calendar

- This year's calendar was discussed at length. Bill Klenk decided that due to COVID, there will be no kickoff party. Instead, there will be a push to get information out via email, website and BT ECHO to ensure that all members realize that the club is still up and running.
- All calendar events are based on COVID limitations, club interest and leadership availability. Bob Crawl has made horse park reservations based on the 2021 tentative calendar. He will wait for final calendar changes to be set before making final reservation changes.

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 1—31, 2021

Beginning Balance	\$ 2554
Donations Angels & GERL	- 500
Fun Show Proceeds	+130
Membership Fees	<u>+1780</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 3964

April Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for updated event info, articles and photos
is **March 24**

Newsletter will go out on **April 1**

Send to **Email** address: jim.sylvia3@gmail.com

Articles must be a WORD .doc,
and font must be Times new Roman, size 10

Photos must be in **.jpeg format**.



Cumberland Cabin—Tetons

PART-TIME POSITION at BENT TREE STABLES

Salary: \$10 / hour two days per week (negotiable but Wednesdays and Saturdays would be ideal). Full time opportunity possible in the future.

Qualifications:

- *Must have reliable transportation
- *Ability to pass both a background check and drug test
- *Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- *Experience working with horses is a HUGE plus, but we're willing to train an otherwise exceptional candidate.
- *Submit both personal and professional references, two to three of each is sufficient.

Physical and Personal Requirements:

The job is intensely physical and you will be working outdoors through all seasons and weather conditions. You must be able to walk 12,000+ steps per day, bend, push, pull, stoop, crouch, and lift a minimum of 50 pounds with or without assistance. You will need to be able to adapt quickly to changes in the daily routine and keep a keen eye on riders, horses, visitors, etc to maintain a safe environment. You must also possess excellent time management skills, be a self-starter, be able to conduct yourself in a professional manner while working with a wide variety of both human and animal personalities. You will be handling horses on a daily basis, you'll need the appropriate strength and personal awareness to interact with them in a safe and appropriate manner. Being a team-player is very important, as are honesty, personal accountability, and punctuality. Our stable is a welcoming, family friendly facility. We have a strict zero tolerance policy for bullying, discrimination, and drama.

Job Responsibilities:

- *provide daily care for 20-25 horses: feeding, providing clean water, mucking stalls, turn-in & turn-out, distributing hay, blanketing, etc.
- *maintain a clean and organized work environment including restrooms, tack rooms, feed room, break room, etc.
- *groom and tack horses for trail rides, lessons, etc., provide cool-down procedures after rides if needed. Assist trail guides with adjusting tack and getting visitors acquainted with and properly mounted on their horses as well as safely dismounting upon their return.
- *collaborate with our service providers including veterinarians, farriers, and feed/hay suppliers. This includes administering medications and treating wounds or other injuries as directed, accepting/unloading/stocking feed, hay, and other supplies.

For more information or to apply please contact:

Keeve Krasner, Stable Master

Stable Phone: 706-692-6322

Cell Phone: 404-285-4848



Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2021 Membership Application

(Payable to Bent Tree Saddle Club)

Name: _____ Reg (\$40) _____ (First member must be a regular membership for \$40)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Birthday(MM/DD) _____

Bent Tree Affiliation

Are you a Bent Tree property owner? (Y) (N) Do you board a horse at Bent Tree Stables? (Y) (N)

Are you a Bent Tree Lot Designee? (Y) (N) Do you rent a home in Bent Tree? (Y) (N)

2nd: _____ Reg (\$40) _____ Social/Non-Rider (\$20) _____ Under 18 Youth Rider* (\$40) _____

3rd: _____ Reg (\$40) _____ Social/Non-Rider (\$20) _____ Under 18 Youth Rider* (\$40) _____

DUES AND SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT, NOTICE AND RELEASE (below) MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

New member 2021 dues are effective October 2020 through December 2021. Renewal dues apply to the calendar year. Mail application & check to: **Bent Tree Saddle Club, C/O Bob Crowl 181 Grassy Knob Ct. #20326, Jasper, GA 30143**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, NOTICE AND RELEASE

THE UNDERSIGNED does hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators acknowledge that the activities engaged in and/or participated in are covered by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 4-12-1 through 4-12-5 and that **Bent Tree Community, Incorporated and Bent Tree Saddle Club** are **Equine Activity Sponsors** as contemplate thereunder and further acknowledge that he has received the **Warning** as required in OCGA 4-12-4 (Warning required effect of failure to comply with notice requirement). The warning is as follows.

WARNING

Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activity, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 for the Official Code for Georgia Annotated.

I acknowledge and fully understand that Equine Activities and particularly "Trail Rides" and cross-country horseback riding over obstacles, steep and rough terrain and with unknown riders and horses can be dangerous activities. I wish to participate in these activities knowing they can be dangerous. I accept and assume all the risks of injury (including death) to my horse, my property and me. Members of the Bent Tree Saddle Club will not knowingly ride on private property without the property owner's prior consent. When I do ride on private property I do so at my own risk. Use of protective helmets is recommended. If I choose to ride without a helmet, it will be at my own risk.

Should I require medical assistance for any reason during any Equine Activity and not be in position to obtain, request or authorize such treatment at the time, I hereby authorize the Equine Activity Sponsors to obtain such medical treatment or emergency care as they may deem necessary or desirable and I agree to hold the Equine Activity Sponsors harmless with regard to any such emergency care or expenses arising therefrom.

The Equine Activity Sponsors do not condone the drinking of alcohol or taking of drugs at Equine Activities. If you are taking any drugs or medications that might affect your ability to participate in any Equine Activity or otherwise do not have the experience, knowledge, or ability to participate in any Equine Activity, please do not participate.

Club activities you are interested in leading/supporting. Please circle all that apply and include within circle the letter L (lead) or S (support) to indicate preferred role.

* Trail Rides *Social Events *Equestrian Events * Arena/Trail Workdays *Newsletter *Echo Articles
* Facebook Posts *Email Distribution

Acknowledged and agreed:

1: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

2: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Members' Signatures – 2 sponsors are required (only for new applicants who are not Bent Tree Affiliates)

1. _____

2. _____

*Youth Memberships are for those under the age of 18 as of the date of the application who are members of the household of a Full Member.

2021 Executive Committee

President: Bill Klenk
 Vice-President: Judie Uchitel
 Treasurer: Julia Jorns
 Secretary: Ronda Erway
 BT Liaison: Bob Crowl
 Past President: Kathy Hardin
 Past Past Pres. Leslie Elliot
 Appointees: Open
 Open

2021 Positions

Membership: Bob Crowl
 Newsletter Ed.: Jim Sylvia
 Email Distribution: Ronda Erway
 Website Admin: Jim Sylvia

Visit our website

at

www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com

Password=**BTSCMEM**



Join our Group Page on Facebook

March 2021

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

	1	2	3	4	5	6 Horse Park Work Day
7	8	9	10 Play Day	11	12	13
14 All Day Local Ride Sharptop Mtn/ Monument Rd	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Omoksee	22	23	24 Play Day	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



BTSC 2021 Planned Calendar of Events (Page 1)

To add event or volunteer contact Kathy Hardin @kathardin39@gmail.com or 404-218-6360

2021 Date	Weekday	Event	Location	Leader
March 6*	Saturday	Horse Park Work Day	BT-HP	Alicia Klenk/ Leslie Elliott
March 10	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	Kathy Hardin
March 14	Sunday	All Day Local Ride: Sharp Top/Monument Rd/ Young Life	BT-HP	Rich Vigue
March 21	Sunday	Omoksee	BT-HP	Claire Eubanks
March 24	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	Leslie Elliott
April 3	Saturday	Horse Show	BT-HP	Claire Eubanks
April 7	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	Judy Heilman
April 10*	Saturday	Chattahoochee Hills 3-Day Eventing	Noonan	Alicia Klenk
April 17	Saturday	Horsemanship 101	BT-HP	Bill Klenk
April 21	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	
April 25	Sunday	Top of World Ride		Rich Vigue
May 1	Saturday	Derby Party	TBD	Judie Uchitel
May 5	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	
May 8	Saturday	Local Ride – Heilman Farm	BT-HP	Judy Heilman
May 15	Saturday	Prince Farm Brunch Ride		Kathy Hardin
May 19	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	
May 29	Saturday	Omoksee	BT-HP	Claire Eubanks

Continued on Next Page

BTSC 2021 Planned Calendar of Events (Page 2)

**To add event or volunteer contact Kathy Hardin @kathardin39@gmail.com
or 404-218-6360**

2021 Date	Weekday	Event	Location	Leader
June 5	Saturday	Trail Work Day – Sharp Top Loop	BT-HP	Rich Vigue
June 13	Sunday	Ground Work Instruction	BT-HP	Bill Klenk/Leslie Elliott
June 19	Saturday	Trailering Ride – Trail Challenge with CTHA	Montana East Talking Rock	Rich Vigue
June 26	Saturday	30 th Anniversary Party – Vintage Vixens	Beach Pavilion	
July 4	Sunday	4 th of July Parade/ Cookout		Keeve Kasner/ Leslie & Bruce Elliott
July 5-9	Monday-Friday	BT Stables Youth Fest	BT Stables	Keeve Kasner
August 14	Saturday	Lake Lanier Picnic with CTHA	Lake Lanier	Jo West
September 8	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	
September 19	Sunday	Omoksee	BT-HP	Claire Eubanks
September 22	Wednesday	Play Day	BT-HP	
September 24-26	Friday - Sunday	Firefly Acres Weekend	Sparta, TN	Bambi & Pete Dillingham
October 7-10	Thurs-Sunday	Camping Trip	TBD	
October 16	Saturday	Omoksee	BT-HP	Claire Eubanks
October 23	Saturday	Slims Obstacle Course Trip		
October 30	Saturday	Trailering Ride	Chickamauga	Janice Butt
November 6	Saturday	Local Ride	TBD	
December 4	Saturday	Christmas Party	TBD	Bill Klenk



Need Bookkeeping Help?
Call Janet
770-893-8175

HORSESHOEING



Doug Bell
(770) 928-9485



Bringing you and your horse together

Natural Horsemanship Training:
Lessons, Spring & Fall Clinics.

Onsite Services:
Cozy Cabins w/Horse Lodging,
Trailer Hookups, Great Meals.

Pete & Bambi Dillingham
931-946-7383
www.FireflyAcres.com



Photography by Jena Finley

JRV Realty of North Georgia
Specializing in Horse Farms and Land

Rich Vigue, Broker
770-289-7272
www.RichVigue.com
Rich@RichVigue.com

PLACE
YOUR
FREE
AD
HERE



THISTLEDOWN FARM
EQUINE GIFTS
CUSTOM EMBROIDERY
HANDMADE SOAPS
BELGIAN CHOCOLATE
CUSTOM SADDLE PADS, FLY MASKS

Contact: Joan Heiser
jcheiser@frontiernet.net

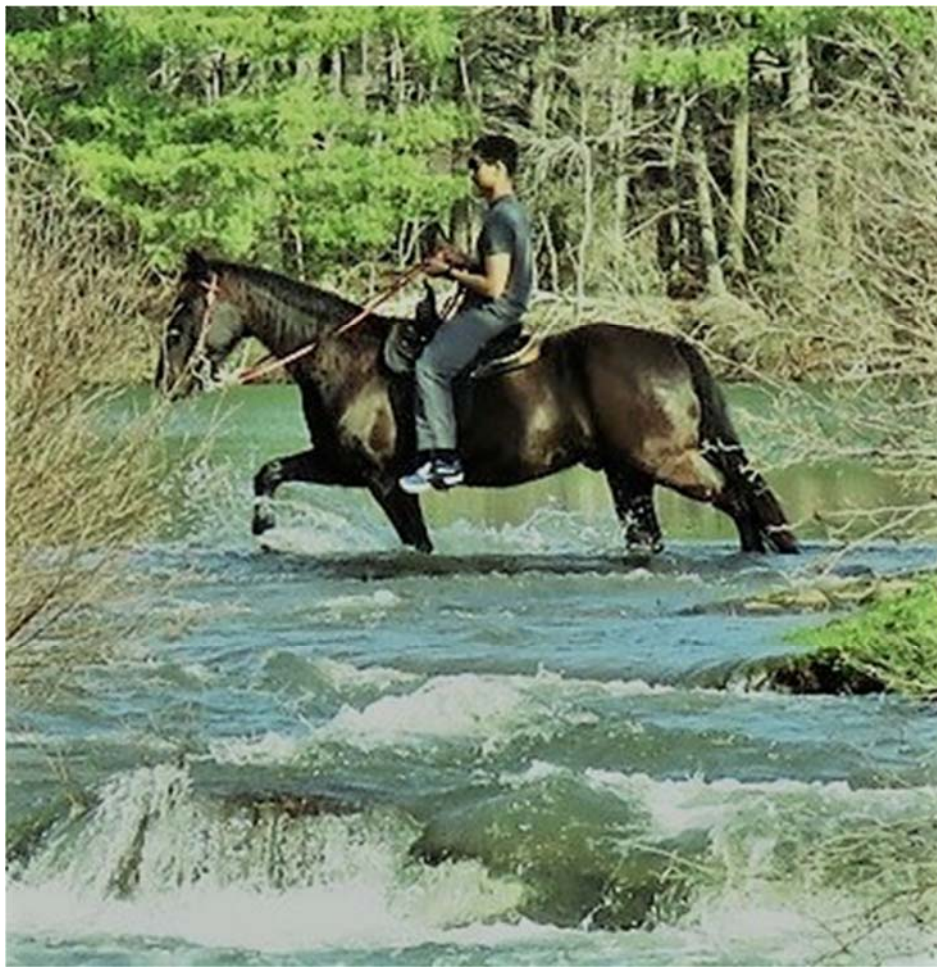


Mountain View Pet Lodge

Caring for pets since 1988
Pet Boarding and Grooming
Suites Available

Owned by **Joyce Delay**
706-692-6604
[www.facebook/
MountainViewPetLodge](http://www.facebook/MountainViewPetLodge)
MVPPLodge@gmail.com





Bent Tree Stables Horseback Riding

**Come Ride the beautiful trails
of Bent Tree**

Enjoy trail riding along clear crisp mountain streams, a rushing waterfall, cross the shoreline of Lake Tamarack, up and down gentle mountain slopes and through naturally preserved forests. Experience the outdoors as nature intended it to be.



Trail Rides

Arena Rides

Riding Lessons

Group Events

Summer
Camps

Reservations by
appointment only
706-692-6322

stables.bent-tree.com

Wed – Sun
same day reservations

Mon – Tues
24 hour advance resv.