



BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There was not too much going on this windy, stormy April. We had our Play Day on April 13th, and the Dawson ride on April 23rd.

There will not be a Kentucky Derby Party this year.

The Board has added several items to the schedule beginning with a trail ride on Sharp Top Mountain to the Prince sign on April 30th. We also added a trail ride on Judy Heilman's incredibly beautiful property, Songbird, on May 21st. This will be the only ride at Songbird this year. I want to remind all BTSC members that you can ride on this property only after obtaining permission from Judy Heilman.

While I was pulling out our wooden bars and jump gates to be used for April's Play Day, I noticed the equipment is in very bad condition. I am having a second work day to repair, sand and repaint. This equipment is expensive to replace and we need to have it for future use. These items may go beyond repair, if something is not done now. Mark your calendar for June 18th, for this work/paint day. We will start at 10:30 a.m. I have found that completing a task such as this is satisfying and, yes, fun. The more volunteers we have the shorter time it will take to complete the project.

- Judie Uchitel

Board members have received several inquiries regarding the BTSC web site. The BTSC web is found at benttreesaddleclub.com. The password (all caps) is **BTSCMEM**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022

President	Judie Uchitel
Vice Pres.	Christine Cobb
Secretary	Ronda Erway
Treasurer	Joyce DeLay
Bent Tree Liaison	Bob Crowl
Past President	Kathy Hardin
Appointee	Rose Rhys
Appointnee	Bobby DeLay

2022 POSITIONS

Membership	Bob Crowl
Newsletter Editor	Christine Cobb
Email Distribution	Ronda Erway

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Horseback Riding Trail Beside the Road at Lake Tamarack Dam is CLOSED.

A recent State inspection of Bent Tree's Lake Tamarack dam addressed, among other things, the condition of the dirt horse/walking trail next to the paved road crossing the dam. The report noted that corrective action is needed to prevent further erosion. Until corrective action (path covered using crush n' run, wood chips, etc.) is taken that is satisfactory to the State, we must only ride on the pavement when crossing the dam. Bent Tree is working on a solution to this problem which will require the Board approving necessary funding. I will keep you posted as to when a corrective solution is in place and the trail is open for horseback riding. Remember, do not ride across any grass/dirt portion of the dam; ride on the pavement or use the Kentucky Derby trail in the woods. If you have any questions, please contact me.

- Bob Crowl

Treasurer Report

03/10/2022 - 04/12/2022

Previous balance:	\$ 4,231.89
Checks written:	(\$ 2,563.89)
Subtotal:	\$ 1,668.00
Deposits Total:	\$ 2,240.00
Refunds:	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$ 3,908.00

MAY Newsletter - DEADLINE -

The deadline for updated event info, articles, and photos is **May 21st**.

email to:
christine.cobb@aol.com

Articles can be pulled directly from an e-mail. No need to format.

Please put BTSC at the beginning of the subject line when e-mailed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bent Tree Saddle Club - Executive Committee Consolidated Meeting Minutes 4/12/22

Meeting called to order by Judie Uchitel at 6:40pm

1. **Minutes** - reviewed and approved.

2. **Treasurers Report**

- Joyce Delay reported that the current balance is \$3908.

3. **Membership Report**

- Bob Crowl report that there are 91 members. New application for Cindi McLeod reviewed. Judie Uchitel made a motion to approve the application; motion was seconded and approved.

4. **Agenda Items**

Upcoming Calendar Events

- **Play Day reminder** - tomorrow will be an obstacle event that Judie has already set up. Ronda has sent a reminder to help increase attendance.
- **Dawson Ride** - April 23rd is the Dawson ride led by Joann Hartin. Joann has sent a reminder note to be forwarded to the club by Ronda Erway.
- **Chickamauga Ride** - Ronda Erway volunteered to lead a Memorial Day weekend trailering ride Saturday, May 28th. A number of members have already expressed interest in attending. The date was added to the calendar and an article will be published in the next newsletter.
- **3rd Omoksee** - Judie Uchitel reported that the date for a 3rd Omoksee is still pending Claire Eubanks scheduling approval.

New Business

- New Rules for riding horses over the BT Dam - Bob Crowl reported that due to some potential for erosion during a BT dam inspection, the BT administration had changed some rules. When riding horses over the dam, horses are to remain on the road and not use the trail adjacent to the road until modifications can be made to prevent trail erosion.
- ECHO articles - Kathy Hardin questioned who will do BTSC articles for the ECHO now that Julia Jorns is no longer a member. After discussion, Christine Cobb volunteered.
- Jump stands and post repair - Judie Uchitel reported that jump posts and rails are in need of repair; mostly paint. After discussion, a work day will be added to the calendar Saturday, June 18th to make these repairs. Kathy Hardin made a motion to spend up to \$100 on paint and supplies to repair the jump posts and rails. The motion was seconded and approved.
- PVC ground rails - Judie Uchitel reported that the PVC rails that were stored under the judge's stand are gone. They are not located in the barn or storage room. Should these not be located after further investigation, BT administration will be notified.
- Newsletter articles - due April 24th.
- BTSC sign repairs - Bobby Delay reported the sign for the arena is being repaired and should be reinstalled within the next week.
- EFS ride article - Kathy Hardin volunteered to write an article for the newsletter regarding a recent group doing a ride at the EFS.
- Addition of more local ride days - Kathy Hardin requested that a few more local rides be added to the calendar. After discussion, A Sharp Top ride was added for April 30th and a Songbird ride was added for May 21st. Both will be added to the calendar and a notice placed in the next newsletter.
- Summer Events - Potential summer events to be investigated are: a Kayaking Trip on the Chestatee River with DJ Suburk's help, a BT Lake Party and the 4th of July Parade. Rose Rhys is considering coordinating the Parade and will be contacting Judie Uchitel should she decide to take on this challenge.
- Next meeting - May 19th 6:30pm; location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Ronda Erway, BTSC Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD RIDE

On Saturday, May 28th, 2022, we will have a Trailering Event to Chickamauga Battlefield in Fort Oglethorpe, GA. We will meet in the horse parking area at 10:30 am and ride out at 11:00 am. This will be a great way to enjoy Memorial Day Weekend and reflect on the service of others in the name of freedom.



The nicely groomed 9-mile red trail around the park takes about three hours to ride. We will stop for lunch at one of the monuments so don't forget food and a beverage.

The park address is:
3370 Lafayette Rd,
Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742.

There is a parking lot for parking and unloading horses located on Lytle Road in the west-central section of the park.

A detailed map and directions can be located at:
<https://npplan.com/parks-by-state/georgia/at-a-glance-chickamauga-and-chattanooga-national-military-park/horseback-riding-chickamauga-battlefield/>

Please contact Ronda Erway at:
rerrerway@gmail.com or text 402-540-3338 if you wish to attend.

- Ronda Erway

HILLSIDE FARMS FIRST ANNUAL TRAIL CHALLENGE

- JUNE 4 (Rain date June 5th) -

As many of you know, Rich and Janet have hosted the Montana East Trail challenge for quite a few years now. It takes plenty of planning, preparation, and arduous work to pull that off! They have decided to retire (as least for now) from hosting this event and all it entails, and we owe them a HUGE thank you for their dedication and allowing us to enjoy their beautiful farm for previous events. *Thank you, Janet and Rich.*

Jim and I will attempt to provide the same hospitality. Hopefully we will do at least half as well as the Vigue's to make it a fun-filled day for all.

The course will be 2.5 to 2.7 miles. We have not finalized the exact path. This ride will be a combination of open pastures and woods. And we'll see what surprises we can throw in along the way!

Due to this ride being on private property and due to insurance issues, all competing riders must be current year Bent Tree Saddle Club members. All competitors must be 18 years of age or older. Children ages 10-18 may ride the course for fun at the end of the competition and must be escorted with an adult. Tentatively the plan is to arrive at 10:30 a.m. Someone will be at the drive entrance to direct you how to park. We will plan to start the first rider at 11:30 a.m. If it rains, the rain-date shall be the Sunday. Directions & further information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

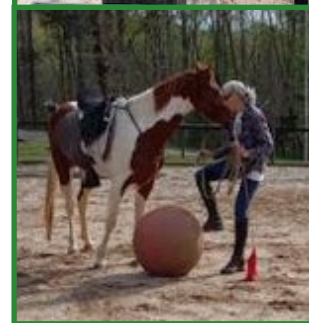
In closing, we are looking for several volunteers, so please let us know ASAP if you would like to be one of the volunteers. **Email me @ LisaSylvia3@gmail.com.** We would also like to have some spectators. I will have a few tables and chairs placed around the property that will provide a good view of most of the open portion of the course. Please come and enjoy the day with us. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW! See you all in June!

- Jim & Lisa Sylvia, Hillside Farm

PLAY DAY

We had a great Play Day in April. I researched obstacle courses and we set one up in the BTSC Arena. We had a good turnout for this event and everyone enjoyed the course. I learned a few things on how to make the it better and look forward to doing it again next year. The following were able to attend the event: Bobby and Joyce Delay, Rose Rhys, Kathy Hardin, Ronda Erway, Judy Heilman, Debra Meffert, and Judie Uchitel. The next Play Day is **May 11th**.

- Judie Uchitel



**April
Play Day Pics**

Top:
Rose Rhys &
Bobby DeLay

Bottom:
Kathy Hardin

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

APRIL 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 SHARP TOP MTN. PRINCE SIGN RIDE 10:30

MAY 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 PLAY DAY	12	13	14 PETE DILLINGHAM CLINIC
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 SONGBIRD RIDE 10:00 A.M
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 CHICKAMAUGA RIDE - 10:30
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

JUNE 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 PLAY DAY	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 PAINT & REPAIR WORK DAY 10:30
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

The Executive Board has added the following items to the schedule.

4/30 Trail ride up Sharp Top to the Prince sign led by Kathy Hardin. Plan to leave BTSC Horse Park at 10:30.

5/21 Songbird ride led by Leslie Elliott. Meet at BTSC Horse Park at 10:00 a.m and ride out at 10:30 a.m.

5/28 Chickamauga trail ride led by Ronda Erway. Meet at 10:30 and ride out at 11:00.

6/18 Paint work day at the BTSC Horse Park to repair jump posts and poles. Meet at BTSC Horse Park at 10:30 a.m.

PLAY DAY - MAY 11th

May 11th will be our next Play Day at the horse park at 10:30. We will have some fun with doing different drills that will help improve your horse's ability to maintain a constant speed while walking next to another horse and making better turns. We will do maneuvers that are both fun, and maybe for some, challenging. If there is anything in particular you would like to work on, please let me know.

Please inform me if you will need access through the back gate at Bent Tree which can be opened at 10:00. Bring a lunch if you would like to socialize for awhile after our session.

I'd like to know if you are coming, so please contact me at kathardin39@gmail.com
404-218-6360

- Kathy Hardin



FAUSETT FARMS RIDE

On April 2nd, 2022, we had our 1st Trailering Event to Fausett Farms Sunflower and Riding Trails. A tailgate style lunch was served from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at the lower parking lot (Sunflower side) building.

Lunch of sandwiches, chips, bottled water and cookies was served to the those who ventured out to ride or just came to socialize.

Of the eight attendees, five were riders who rode the trails before. After lunch everyone enjoyed the beautiful cool spring day.

A special 'thank you' to Randy Erway for bringing the food for everyone.

- Ronda Erway

Fausett Farm Ride from left to right:

Rich Vigue, John Wilder,
Randy Erway, Kathy Hardin,
Ronda Erway, Rita Boje,
Joann Hartin



THE RIDE OF A LIFETIME

Late March, several of our BTSC members, along with their horses, made a trip to EastFork Stables in Jamestown, TN. (Judie Uchitel, Ronda Erway, DJ Suberk, and Kathy Hardin) It was a 'ride of a lifetime' and the group is already planning their next visit.



East Fork Stables, located on the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau is 12,000+ acres of privately-owned land with a trail system of over 100 miles of trails. It has five campgrounds with a total of 160 sites, 13 cabins, five barns with a total of 224 stalls, a pavilion with commercial kitchen, two bath houses and a 150' X 300' riding arena with obstacle course.

DAWSON FOREST RIDE

We had a fun ride to Angel Falls in Dawson Forest. GiGi, Rita, Ronda and JoAnn rode 8 miles round trip. We enjoyed lunch at the beautiful waterfall. I ride there a good bit and was happy to have y'all join me.

- JoAnn Hartin



*The world
is best seen
through the ears
of a horse.*



SUNDAY APRIL 24th - JUNI FISHER CONCERT FOR TRAILS - RECAP

Juni Fisher's fourth appearance in North Georgia was a huge success. We raised a little more than \$5,000 for our public horse trails. CTHA will start distributing the funds to the recipient venues heads in the next week or so.

Jim and Lisa Sylvia hosted a fundraising reception for Juni at their Hillside Farm the day before and they did it in classic Sylvia style not missing a thing. It was a great event and a perfect preliminary to the main event the following day at the Bowen Center for the Arts in Dawsonville. On Sunday, Juni entertained 85 attendees with her storytelling and singing skills doing songs from several different genres with a smattering of songs about horses from her past. She was introduced by octogenarian (almost) groupie, Jo West, who said that Juni never disappoints and how right she was. We witnessed a professional who knows her stuff. And Dave Eubanks graciously provided all the sound equipment which was considerable.



From left to right: Juni Fisher, Jo West, Jim & Lisa Sylvia, and Georgianna Hunter

For those of us who are trail riders, protecting and enhancing these trails needs to be a top priority or we'll lose them. My personal thanks to all the BTSC'ers who attended and helped to raise funds for our trails. We may be getting older, but we're not dead yet.

- Rich Vigue

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Saddle Club now has 92 members. We welcome new member Cindi McLeod into the Club and look forward to seeing her at future events. Sandy lives in Dawsonville. Our updated 2022 membership roster is on the Club website. Please let me know if any corrections are needed regarding your contact information contained in the roster. If you know of someone interested in joining our Club, please have them complete an application and provide it to me for processing. Or have them contact me at 770-757-8596 if they have any questions.

- Bob Crowl

Interested in becoming a member of Bent Tree Saddle Club? We'd love to have you! There is an application on page 7 of this newsletter.



Come Ride the Beautiful Trails of Bent Tree

Reservations by appointment only
706-692-6322

Wed - Sunday
Same Day Reservations
Mon - Tues
24-hour Advance Reservations

- Trail Rides • Arena Rides •
- Riding Lessons • Group Events •
- Summer Camps •

stables.bent-tree.com



2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2022 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 2022 dues are effective October 2021 through December 2022. Renewal dues apply to the calendar year. Mail application & check to: **Bent Tree Saddle Club, C/O Bob Crawl 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

Do you own a horse trailer? Yes No (please circle one)

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.



Need Bookkeeping Help?
Call Janet
770-893-8175

Lisa Sylvia
 Agent



PalmerHouse Properties
 5755 North Point Pkwy #16
 Alpharetta, GA 30022
 Office: 404-876-4901

Mobile: 770-401-8333
 LisaSylvia3@gmail.com
 WWW.SylviaTeam.Com
 fb: Sylvia Team Real Estate



SYLVIA Team Real Estate
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Bringing you and your horse together

Natural Horsemanship Training:
 Lessons, Spring & Fall Clinics.

Onsite Services:

Cozy Rooms w/Horse Lodging,

Trailer Hookups

Pete & Bambi Dillingham
 770-289-2569



Photography by Jena Finley

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Contact: Joan Heiser
 jcheiser@frontiernet.net



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 706-692-6604
 www.facebook/
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 MVPLodge@gmail.com

**PLACE
 YOUR
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