



## BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

SEPT - OCT 2022

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The BTSC has experienced a difficult year to date. We have experienced event cancellations due to lack of response and also, members have not stepped forward to lead events. Some events have taken place with very few participants. The Executive Committee (EC) members have jumped in over and over when other members would not and as a result, they are burned out.

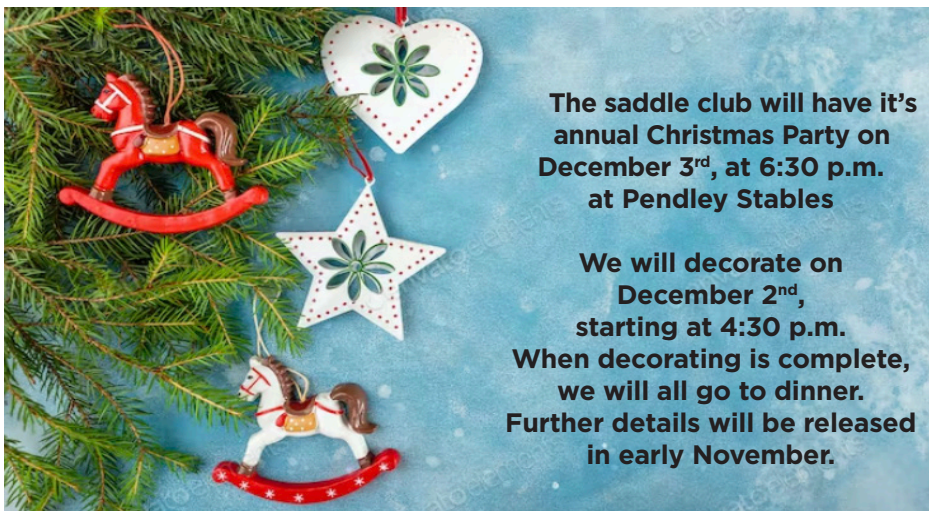
The EC does not want to see the BTSC disbanded and as a result, the EC has held 2 meetings where the future of the club was the main item on the agenda. Therefore, the committee has decided to go in a new direction. The EC is suggesting that BTSC will have 3 riding events a year. The rest will be social events; providing we can get the membership to step up and help with these events. This means a member must lead and recruit other members to help out. We are not asking any one member to do it all. Any one of the members we have now can handle this. Aging may mean an end to riding, but it does not necessarily mean you cannot organize a social event.

If a member wants to lead an additional riding event for any month (this means there could be 2 events in one month) then this can be done. However, the EC no longer desires to carry the entire burden.

This club has been struggling for the last 2 years. It can be saved. But what happens next is in the hands of the membership and your decision is to participate or not to participate. Please give this new direction your consideration and a decision will be made based upon your response at the Christmas party. So be prepared to make suggestions and discuss this and make a decision.

- Judie Uchitel

### 2022 BTSC CHRISTMAS PARTY



**The saddle club will have it's annual Christmas Party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at Pendley Stables**

**We will decorate on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 4:30 p.m. When decorating is complete, we will all go to dinner. Further details will be released in early November.**

Board members have received several inquiries regarding the BTSC web site. The BTSC web is found at [benttreesaddleclub.com](http://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
Appointee	Bobby DeLay

#### 2022 POSITIONS

Membership	Bob Crowl
Newsletter Editor	Christine Cobb
Email Distribution	Ronda Erway

### Treasurer Report

08/12/2022 - 10/12/2022

Previous balance:	\$ 2,728.24
Checks written:	(\$ 00000)
Deposits Total:	\$ 108.00
Refunds:	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$ 2,836.24

### NOV-DEC Newsletter - DEADLINE -

The deadline for updated event info, articles, and photos is **DECEMBER 16th.**

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 9/11/22

Meeting called to order by Judie Uchitel at 6:45pm

#### 1. Minutes

- Meeting mins reviewed and approved.

#### 2. Treasurers Report

- Joyce Delay reported that the current balance is \$2,916.55.

#### 3. Membership Report

- Bob Crowl report that there are 94 members. There are 1-2 riders interested in joining in October.

#### 4. Agenda Items

##### Update on Upcoming Events

- Prince Ride - changed to Songbird Ride September 25th.
- Omoksee
- Christmas Party - to be at Pendley Stables; Cost - \$200 + fuel. Supplies will be needed and activities will include awards, Christmas music and BTSC videos. Judie Uchitel has volunteered to purchase a tree. Those who wish to assist with tree trimming will gather Friday, December 2nd then have dinner together.

##### 2023 EC Committee Updates

- Officer Nominations and future of club.
- Many current EC members will consider keeping their positions. Bobby Delay volunteered to fill the past president position as Judie Uchitel has volunteered to remain President. The group questioned if there were more BTSC members who have expressed interest in becoming involved. Planning will continue until all positions are filled and scheduling started.
- Some streamlining ideas were brought up for discussion and consideration by Ronda Erway to ease the burdens placed on the EC each year as the club participation decreases. After initial discussion, members decided to postpone further discussion until 2023 planning begins.
- Club renewals will only be done by mail/email with reminders by email. Phone follow-ups should be limited.
- Finances need to cover insurance not activities.
- Look into VENMO/PayPal for payments to club to eliminate payment delays.
- Decrease newsletter to bi-monthly or quarterly.
- Limit activities to 1/month.
- Social activities are paid for by attendees. Club funds will only be used if membership fees exceed that of paying insurance.
- Limit group rides or change to ride on your own luncheons.
- Attendance at all activities must be done by reservation not by drop in for planning purposes.
- All active members must volunteer to assist with some activity even if they don't ride. Use of property for activity could also be considered volunteering.
- Combine EC & GM meetings to make quarterly requirement or change by-laws. EC meeting would be 1st 30min then GM to follow.
- Consider reducing number of EC positions.
- Newsletter Articles - September and October newsletter will be combined. Deadline for material to be sent to Christine Cobb is October 18th for a publication date of October 21st.

#### 5. New Business

- Non-member participation in Omoksee
- Insurance does not cover non-member participation in events. Although a liability form has been filed in the past, there is a question as to validity should there be an accident. By-laws state that members can bring up to 2 guests, but there is a question as to that being limited to social activities. This leads to the question of 'how to get others interested in the club'. One idea to be considered was a one-time 'activity membership' which would include liability form and a \$25 event fee instead of the std \$10 for full members.

Next meeting - October 12th or 13th, 2022 at 6:30 based on Cottage availability.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Ronda Erway, BTSC Secretary

## SONG BIRD RIDE

The weather forecast for the Song Bird Ride on September 25<sup>th</sup> looked good enough to go forward with the ride. We had a little drizzle as Judie Uchitel, Cathy Jones, Sandy Stephenson, Cindi McCleod, Keeve Krasner and myself gathered at the Horse Park. As we mounted our trusty steeds, Sandy decided to do a graceful unplanned dismount when she and her saddle slid off the side of her horse. Keeve, always the gentleman, dismounted and assisted Sandy with her saddle, making sure it was secure before he gave Sandy a gentle push up into the saddle. No harm done. Sometime during all of these happenings, Cathy decided to put on her rain gear, but her horse, Cimмерon, didn't much like it and took off cantering down the middle of the road. She managed to stop him after passing the trail leader and then he settled in. By this time, Keeve's horse, Ruby, decided she didn't like all the commotion and started to give Keeve fits. The next time I turned around to check on the group, I noticed that Keeve was not with us. I was told he decided to take Ruby back to the barn and put her in 'time-out'.

Despite the rocky start, the weather cleared and we had an awesome ride up through Bent Tree, passing the Erway's farm, across Fern Valley and Grandview Road, making the loop on Hellman's property and then back to the Horse Park where sandwiches from the Tavern were delivered to us by Jason Uchitel. A good time was had by all.

By the way, Sandy survived her unplanned dismount with a scratch, but has since had another accident that caused a fractured vertebrae. It has been patched up and she plans to be back in the saddle real soon. A true horsewoman!!

- Kathy Hardin



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BTSC has 97 members.

The Saddle Club now has 97 members. We welcome Lance Cook and his daughter Maecy to our Club. We also welcome Mary Page to our Club. Mary lives in Big Canoe and boards her horse Inigo at the Bent Tree Stables. We look forward to seeing them at future events. 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**  
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Mon - Tues  
24-hour Advance Reservations

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- Riding Lessons • Group Events •
- Summer Camps •

[stables.bent-tree.com](http://stables.bent-tree.com)





## UPCOMING RIDES



**“The Gang on Top of Sharptop”**

L to R: Ronda Erway, Julie Heinsman, Lisa Sylvia, Elise Eubanks, Arabella Wunn, and Claire Eubanks

## SHARPTOP/YOUNG LIFE RIDE

Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Get ready for a fun ride through the Burnt Mountain Preserve and then into the Young Life property leading to the top of Sharptop Mountain. If you haven't been to the top of Sharptop, here's your chance. Thanks to Bent Tree Management we've received a one-time approval from Young Life to ride onto its property. Above is a picture from last year's ride that was taken at the top of Sharptop. We'll have the back gate opened at 10am sharp and leave from the Horse Park at 10:30am. We should be back at the Horse Park between 3:00 and 3:30pm. Don't forget to pack a lunch.

Please let me know if you plan on participating and if you will be coming through the back gate by calling or texting me at [770-289-7272](tel:770-289-7272). - Rich

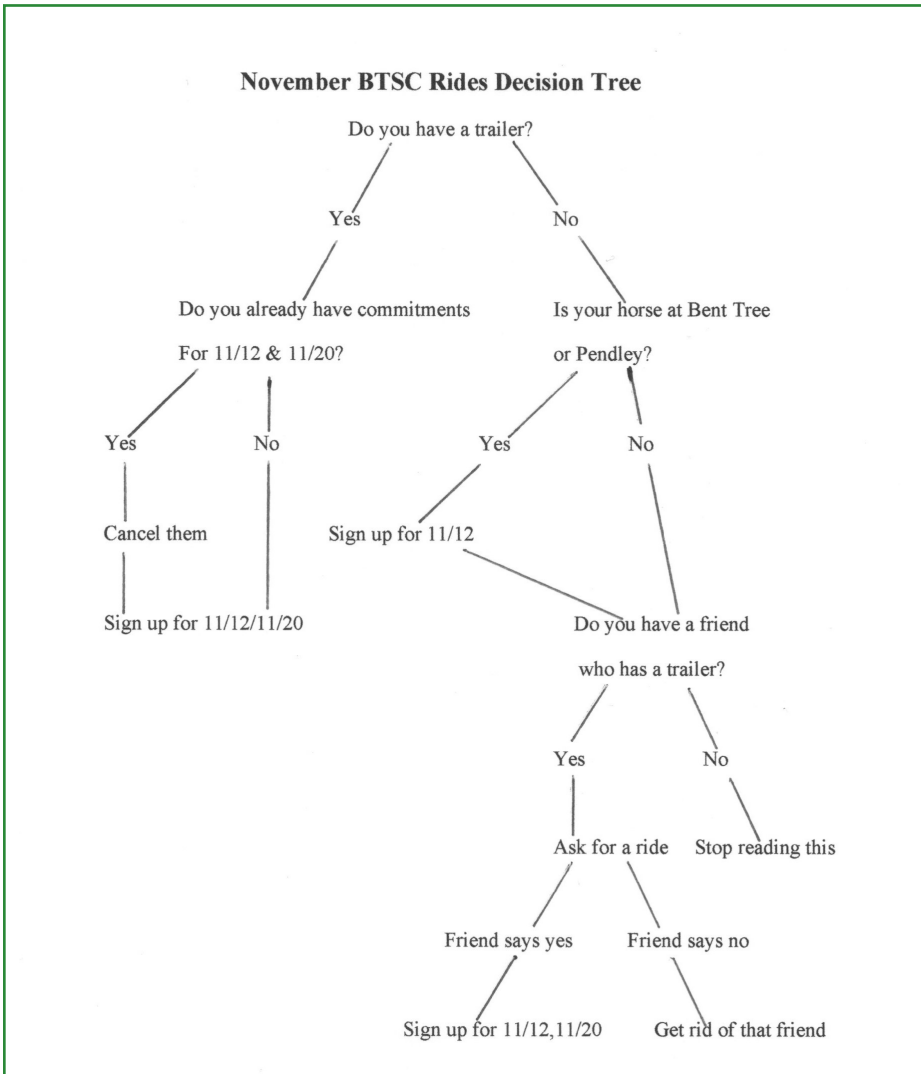


Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

**Get ready for the trail riding event of the year!** It will be a BTSC/CTHA collaborative ride in memory of Ellen Stara, a long-time member of both BTSC and CTHA. Thanks to Bill Stara, we have received permission from the Southeast Trust for Parks and Land to visit Staraland on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The ride starts from the Garland Mountain Trailhead with registration at 10am and ride-out around 10:30am. Maps to Staraland will be provided at the trailhead and, unlike most of our trail rides, riders will ride out in individual groups of their choosing and travel at their own pace. Box lunches and bottled water will be provided at Staraland.

The cost for the event is \$10.

Payment may be made by check or cash at the event or via PayPal through the [www.Ride-CTHA.org](http://www.Ride-CTHA.org) donation button. Reservations are required by Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and can be made by texting [770-289-7272](tel:770-289-7272) or via email at [richvigue@ellijay.com](mailto:richvigue@ellijay.com). - Rich



## RECAP OF HARMONY MOUNTAIN EQUINE TRIP



We had a “little” but “loud” group of horseback riders that traveled to Harmony Mountain this past weekend. The weather could not have possibly been better, the leaves were definitely at “peak”, and fun was had by all!

The things that Pete and I learned about our group this past weekend:

1. Julie can back a horse trailer like there is no tomorrow!!
2. Elise can tell jokes like no other!!
3. Leslie fits in with every group....and is a heck of a hiker!!
4. Claire will move mountains for my cooking!!
5. Pete fits in well with a gaggle of woman!
6. Bambi does not like playing Uno Flip....give me the regular Uno any day!!

But in all honesty, this was not only a fun group to hang out with...but so gracious helping us with barn chores and anything else that needed doing!! I'm smiling with all the memories from the weekend-and looking forward to the next time you all come again!!

- Pete Dillingham / Judie Uchitel



*“We will never have to tell our horse that we are sad, happy, confident, angry, or relaxed. He already knows – long before we do.”*

- Marijke de Jong

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

<b>NOVEMBER 2022</b>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <b>SHARP TOP RIDE</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <b>STARA MEMORIAL RIDE</b>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

- 11/12** Sharp Top Ride  
Departs: BTSC Horse Park  
10:30 a.m.
- 11/20** Ellen Stara Memorial Ride  
Departs from Garland Mountain  
Trailhead 10:30 a.m.



<b>DECEMBER 2022</b>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2 <b>CHRISTMAS PARTY Set-Up 4:30 pm</b>	3 <b>CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:30 pm</b>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 12/02** Christmas Party Set-Up  
Pendley Creek Stables  
4:30 pm
- 12/03** Christmas Party  
Pendley Creek Stables  
6:30 pm

## 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)

2<sup>nd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_ Social/Non-Rider (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Under 18 Youth Rider\* (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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

**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  
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**Pete & Bambi Dillingham**  
 770-289-2569



Photography by Jena Finley

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Contact: Joan Heiser  
 jcheiser@frontiernet.net



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