



BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

JAN - FEB 2023

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's a new year and the BTSC has some new event's up it's sleeve. A short list of upcoming events will now be on the front page of the newsletter. I have heard from too many members who missed an event because they didn't read the newsletter completely. The biggest upcoming event is the Kick-Off Dinner on March 5th. Please read about it in this newsletter. Thanks to Rich Vigue, we have made contact with CTHA and we have planned some joint events. Please make them welcome. I am looking into traveling to a ranch for those members who ride, to do so and those who do not, to socialize. I am hoping that those who no longer ride will come with us. Our membership count this year is down from last year and the EC is hoping to come up with ideas to bring in new membership.

- Judie Uchitel, BTSC president

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023

President	Judie Uchitel
Vice Pres.	Ronda Erway
Secretary	Beyonca Padgett
Treasurer	Joyce DeLay
Bent Tree Liaison	Bob Crowl
Past President	Bobby DeLay
Appointee	Sandy Stephenson

2023 POSITIONS

Membership	Bob Crowl
Newsletter Editor	Christine Cobb
Email Distribution	Ronda Erway

Mark your calendar for these exciting events!

See next page for more details



- 03/16 Bull Mountain Ride
- 03/18 BTSC Horse Park Work Day
- 03/25 St. Patricks' Day Ride
- 04/22 Prince Cabin Ride
- 05/06 Kentucky Derby Party
- 05/20 Prince Farm Ride
- 06/03 Sylvia's Trail Challenge
- 06/22 Jake Mountain Ride
- 07/04 4th of July Parade
- 07/23 Pot Luck Dinner
- 08/05 Chickamauga Ride
- 09/21 Jake Mtn./Bull Ride
- 10/07 CTHA Fun Horse Show
- 10/22 CTHA/Chuttga Ride
- 10/28 Fausset Farm Ride
- 11/05 Stara Ride
- 12/02 Christmas Party

Treasurer Report

12/12/2022 - 02/15/2023

Previous balance:	\$ 1,443.06
Checks written:	(\$ 100.00)
Deposits Total:	\$2,350.00
Refunds:	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$ 3,693.06

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**



Kick-Off Dinner - March 5th

The **Kick-Off Dinner** will be held at 6 pm, **March 5th**, at Club Tamarack in Bent Tree.

The menu is Chicken Fiesta, Salad, Latino Rice, Green Corn, and Churros for dessert. The cost is \$35.00 per person. Entertainment will be provided by Mark Miller. Mark entertained us at last year's Beach Party and in spite of the rainy weather, did a great job. A General Meeting will be held before dinner.

RSVP by **February 28th** to Judie Uchitel at wolferjudie@gmail.com or 404-226-0287. Checks should be made out to BTSC and sent to Judie at 330 Sharp Top Mountain Trail, #20087, Jasper, GA 30143.

2023 UPCOMING EVENTS - DETAILS

Below is a proposed agenda of events and is subject to change. Please keep and refer to it throughout the year. Each newsletter will highlight the upcoming events and give recaps (including pictures) of previous months' events.

Date:	Event:	Time:	Location:	Event Leader:	Details:
03/16	Bull Mountain Ride	11:00am	Bull Mtn.	Rich Vigue 770-289-7272	Meet at Bull Mtn. parking lot Lunch at no cost RSVP to Rich Vigue (required)
03/18	BTSC Horse Park Work Day	1:30am	Bent Tree	Judie Uchitel 404-226-0287	Meet at BTSC Horse Park Bring clippers, gloves, saws, rakes
03/25	St. Patricks' Day Ride	11:00am	Carter State Park	Erma McCain 706-867-7134	Meet in horse parking lot Lunch @ 1:00 pm - Cost \$7.00 Corned beef sandwich, chips, drink RSVP to Erma by 3/20 (required)
04/22	Prince Cabin Ride	10:30am	Prince Cabin	Rich Vigue 770-289-7272	Meet at cabin at 1:00 if you know the way, otherwise meet at BTSC Horse Park. Bent Tree back gate will open at 10:00am. Ride out at 10:30 CTHA is invited RSVP to Rich Vigue (required)
05/06	Kentucky Derby Party	tbd		Rich Vigue 770-289-7272	tbd
05/20	Prince Farm Ride	10:30am	Prince Farm	Kathy Hardin 404-218-6360	Meet at BTSC Horse Park Bent Tree back gate will open at 10:00am. Ride out at 10:30 CTHA is invited RSVP to Kathy Hardin (required)
06/03	Sylvia's Trail Challenge	tbd	Sylvia's Farm	Jim & Lisa Sylvia	tbd
06/22	Jake Mountain Ride	tbd	Jake Mtn.	Sandy Stephenson	Pack a lunch
07/04	4th of July Parade	tbd	tbd	tbd	Cookout & Fireworks
07/23	Pot Luck Dinner	tbd	Bent Tree	tbd	Meet at Bent Tree Pavilion CTHA is invited
09/05	EC & General Meeting	tbd	tbd	Judie Uchitel	tbd
09/16	Chickamauga Ride	11:00am	Chickamauga	Ronda Erway	Meet at Chickamauga Horse Park at 10:30am. Ride out at 11:00am Pack a lunch CTHA is invited
09/21	Jake Mtn./Bull Ride	tbd	Jake Mtn.	Sandy Stephenson	tba
10/07	CTHA Fun Horse Show	tbd	Tralyta Farms Dahlonega	CTHA	tba

continued on next page

2023 UPCOMING EVENTS - DETAILS

Date:	Event:	Time:	Location:	Event Leader:	Details:
10/22	CTHA/Chuttga Ride	tbd	Jake's River	Erma McCain	Time tbd Meet at Jake's River Parking Lot Fee tbd Lunch will be provided
10/28	Faussett Farm Ride	tbd	Faussett Farm	Ronda Erway	tbd
11/05	Stara Ride	tbd	tbd	Rich Vigue	tbd
12/02	Christmas Party	tbd	tbd	Judie Uchitel	tbd

SHARPTOP MTN. TRAIL WORK DAY



Judie Uchitel, Bobby Delay and I rode up behind Sharp Top Mountain toward the Prince cabin to clear out a few good sized trees last month. All went well as Bobby ponied a horse in addition to the one he was riding, carrying 2 saws. A lucky thing he brought two saws, as he couldn't get one to start.

We also cleared the trail that turns right just past the Bruce Prince sign heading back to the old barn. We need to do some clearing on that trail now that it is easier to get through. I will let you know when we plan a trail day. We need to ride up to the cabin also to make sure the trail is clear all the way there.

If the weather ever improves we may get a chance to ride again.

Happy Trails!

- Kathy Hardin

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Saddle Club finished 2022 with 97 members and with 2023 membership renewals now has 75 members. We are expecting several more renewals within the next week. We welcome Gary Pyott as an honorary member. Gary is Bent Tree Board of Director's liaison to the Bent Tree Stables Committee. A 2023 membership application is attached to this newsletter.

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 on 770-757-8596 if they have any questions. We have a fun year planned. I am looking forward to seeing you at our 2023 Kick-Off meeting in March and other Club events this year.

- Bob Crowl



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Reservations by appointment only

706-692-6322

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

stables.bent-tree.com



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bent Tree Saddle Club - GENERAL MEETING - Consolidated Meeting Minutes 01/25/23

Meeting called to order by Judie Uchitel at 6:34pm

MINUTES

EC Meeting mins from 11/2022 and General Meeting minutes from 12/2022 were reviewed and approved.

TREASURY REPORT

Joyce Delay reported that the current balance is \$1,443.06.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Bob Crowl reported there are 39 current members so far for 2023. He has verbal confirmation of several more renewals. We discussed sending a reminder email in a couple of days. Several people have mentioned they would like to be able to just send their check for renewal and not have to fill out the application each year. We are checking the administrative manual to see if that is required for liability and insurance.

AGENDA ITEMS

Update on Proposed 2023 Calendar:

- **Kickoff Dinner** (General Meeting included) – **March 5th** - We have reserved Club Tamarack. Entertainment will be by Mark Miller and food will be catered by Chef Tulio. Event will be from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- **Workday – March 25th** - Arena is looking to be in good shape thanks to Keeve arranging efforts and new equipment. We discussed possibly doing maintenance on the Bent Tree trails. Sharp Top trail also needs maintenance. We will look into doing that possibly another day.
- **Prince Cabin Ride – April 22nd** - Rich Vigue suggested hamburger/hot dog cookout at the cabin. Going out in smaller groups was discussed. Faster horses will be sent first, then groups with more leisurely horses.
- **Kentucky Derby Party** (General Meeting included) – **May 6th** - The Vignes have offered to host the party.
- **Prince Farm Ride** - Kathy Hardin leading. (Rain date is 5/21).
- **Sylvias' Bowl Challenge – June 3rd** - The Sylvias have volunteered to host.
- **4th of July** - Discussed having cookout at the BTSC Pavilion and then watching fireworks from there.
- **Summer Party** (General Meeting included) – **August 5th** - BTSC Pavilion – More details to come. Carry in dishes, then option to take horses in lake afterward.
- **Chickamauga Battlefield Trail Ride – September 10th** - Ronda Erway volunteered to lead.
- **Jack's River Trail Ride at Cohutta Wilderness – October 22nd** - Jake and Bull Mountain.
- **Fausett Farm Trail Ride and Tailgate – November 4th** - More details to come.
- **Christmas Party** (General Meeting included) – **December 2nd** - More details to come.

OLD BUSINESS

- **New Pavilion Roof** - Bob reported BT Maintenance is taking new GM around property Friday and he will discuss roof.
- **Two rides where access has been denied** - Bob will look into another route that can be used to avoid going on the property of the individual who doesn't want us crossing his land. Judy will contact Judy Heilman to discuss options for doing the Waterfall Ride without crossing property owned by someone who does not want us on his land. This could include talking to the individual and trying to persuade him into allowing us access once or twice a year.
- **Newsletter Articles** - Deadline for material to be sent to Christine Cobb is February 16th. Calendar of upcoming events will be moved to the first page.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Insurance** - Georgia Horse Council does not cover. Will reach out to previous insurance company.
- **2023 Calendar** - See above.
- **Mountain Conservation Trust of Georgia** - Requested donation. Ronda Erway made a motion to donate \$100 to MCTG. Motion was seconded and approved.
- **Spray Day at Arena** - Need to schedule around late August - have one more years' worth of application.
- **Sharp Top Trail Maintenance** - Recently several members cleared part of the trail of some low hanging branches. More work is needed.
- **Slim's Barnyard Equine Obstacle Course** - They have reopened. Judie will contact them for availability. CTHA - BTSC EC has a meeting with them February 3rd at noon to discuss possible joint events.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING- February 22nd, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. in the Cottage (if needed).

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Beyonca Padgett, BTSC Secretary

2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2023 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 2023 dues are effective October 2022 through December 2023. 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
WWW.SylviaTeam.Com
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