



Upcoming Events

Prince Cabin Ride

Saturday,
April 22nd

The Bent Tree Back Gate will open at 10:30am and ride out will be at 11:00am. If you know the way to the cabin feel free to ride out on your own or with some friends. Otherwise, follow me and slow but steady Socks. We'll try out a recently cleared trail that hasn't been used in years. Pack a lunch.

We'll have lunch at the Prince Cabin at 1pm and might even follow it with a post-humous toast to Bruce Prince. Expect to be back to the Horse Park around 3:00pm. Let me know if you need access through the back gate by texting or calling me at 770-289-7272.

Rich

Kentucky Derby Party

Saturday, May 6th

The first Saturday in May is always Kentucky Derby time and we're going to celebrate it this year in traditional Saddle Club fashion.

The party will begin at **5pm in the Fireside Lounge of Bent Tree's Club Tamarack**. We'll have heavy hors d'oeuvres consistent with what is expected at the Derby and a cash bar that includes Mint Juleps. We'll also have a best hat contest judged by an anonymous group of your peers. In the spirit of equity which is so important these days, if a man would like to participate in the hat contest, please feel free to make an ass of yourself. Bring cash for the betting. We'll split the betting pool on a sliding scale basis among those who bet the horses that won, placed, or showed.

Prepaid Reservations are required by no later than April 28th. Guests are welcome and encouraged. The first 40 to sign up are in. The cost is \$18/person. Checks should be made to BTSC and mailed to BTSC c/o Rich Vigue, 1150 Old Talking Rock Highway, Talking Rock, GA 30175. Please call or text me at 770-289-7272 with any questions.

Rich

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The 2019 Kentucky Derby Best Hat Contest winner and defending champion. There's a certain smugness in that smile. Sources tell me she is already preparing a new hat. She must be dethroned! Wipe that smile off her face. Let's see some creativity here..

President's Column

The last couple of months have turned out to be very wet. Due to heavy rain the day before, the work day scheduled for March 18, was cancelled. Not only was the ground very wet but the day was cold and windy. Thankfully, the arena and surrounding area are in good condition. The work day will be rescheduled at a later date.

Be sure to watch the newsletter and/or check on-line at the BTSC site for upcoming activities. This is the year to participate in the activities of the BTSC.

We have numerous activities scheduled during the coming months where you can ride or drive to have lunch as a group. This provides a great opportunity for those members who no longer ride to socialize with those members who still do.

The Executive Committee is working hard to find events that will appeal to the entire membership. Please support the club by attending at least one if not more during the upcoming months. There is something for everyone in the calendar.

If you know of an upcoming event that is not scheduled and you believe this would be a good event with our Club, please notify a member of the Executive Committee.

Judie

Editorial

Under New Management

Lookout, there's a new editor in town. I recently offered to be the club's newsletter editor. When I fogged up the mirror that was put to my face, I was immediately declared qualified for the job. Proof of my worthiness for this position will be determined by how many club members actually read the newsletter. So I need your help.

I promise to publish a newsletter that you'll look forward to each month. Reading is good for the soul (I read that somewhere). Reading the club's newsletter isn't only good for the soul, it's good for the entire psyche and, for us, that includes our horses.

If you haven't been doing so, you need to start reading the newsletter. I'll take it as a personal affront if you don't. There are two things that you can be assured of when reading each edition. One, that it was created with a certain amount of wine. Two, there will be some humor in it. In regard the latter, it may not be funny to everyone, but you won't want to miss it. And, if you do miss it, just give me a call and I'll point it out.

Rich Vigue

P.S. This is the last time you'll see my last name associated with an article. We are a club of less than 100 members and everyone should be able to recognize other members by their first name. Unless, of course, there are multiple people with the same first name in which case I'll include the last name.

Back Gate Entrance to Horse Park

Good news!! A new procedure is in place for individual Saddle Club members to obtain entry into Bent Tree through the back gate. Members should provide notice to Public Safety at 770-893-2628 in advance that they want to enter Bent Tree through the back gate, preferably 24 hours before planned entry and their expected arrival time. Also provide your name and description of your truck (make, model and color). If your expected arrival time changes, please notify Public Safety. After turning to go up the hill toward the back gate members should pull off the road to the right and call Public Safety to advise that they have arrived at the back gate. Public Safety will raise the gate to allow entry. Please do not block the road.

At this time entry for planned events will remain the same. For these events, we will continue to provide Public Safety with a list of event participants and they will send an officer down to open the gate at the prescribed time.

We want to thank Public Safety for facilitating member entrance through the back gate.

Bob Crowl
Bent Tree Liaison



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2023 Kick-Off Dinner Recap Sunday, March 5th

Our Kick-Off Dinner and a General Meeting was held on Sunday, March 5. Thirty members were in attendance. See the minutes included in this newsletter. The event was held at Club Tamarack and catered by Chef Tulio. The food was delicious with a great menu of fiesta food. The decorations for the event were influenced by the menu were bright and bold. We sold tickets for a drawing to win items donated by members. Mark Miller was scheduled as our entertainment for the evening, unfortunately his daughter became ill, and he spent the evening in the ER with her. Club Tamarack does have a good sound system and we were able to dance to great music. Also, March 5, was my husband, Jason Uchitel's 80th Birthday. I brought in a cake to celebrate this milestone birthday.

Judie



A GREAT TIME TO RECONNECT!

Preserve (a/k/a Sharp Top) Workday Recap Saturday, March 11th

Kicking butt in the big Preserve. We were five riders with two pack horses carrying chainsaws, and 2 heavily armed hikers doing our part during the Georgia Equine Trails Workday. It was a gorgeous, cool day perfect for working on trails. We cleared an old, severely damaged trail that hasn't been used in many years. This trail will open access to other areas of the Preserve increasing the number of options we have when riding there. Many thanks to our sawyers Bobby Delay, Jabo Patterson, and Jim Sylvia. Thanks also to Ronda Erway, Kathy Hardin, and Lisa Sylvia. The crew did a great job reclaiming this trail. FEMA couldn't have done any better. The only thing left to do is to ride it.

Rich



Don't let the above fool you. These people were there just for the picture taking.

**BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Judie Uchitel

Treasurer's Report

Joyce Delay reported that the current balance is \$2,376.03.

Membership Report

Bob Crowl reported there are currently 79 members.

A motion was made and passed for the approval of the General Meeting Minutes from the December 3, 2022 General Meeting.

Agenda Items

Judie Uchitel reported the pavilion roof will be repaired by Bent Tree. The one side that was damaged will be replaced not the entire roof.

Wind storm repairs to the Horse Park Arena were repaired by Allan Nock a volunteer at the Bent Tree Stables. Alan cut up the tree which fell on the arena fence and repaired the fence.

Judie Uchitel reported on the meeting arranged by Rich Vigue with CTHA. It was a productive meeting and it was found that both CTHA and BTSC are experiencing the same problems with regard to aging out and less participation. Several joint activities have been arranged between the 2 clubs. Please check this year's calendar for the dates.

A work date was scheduled for March 18 at the Horse Park.

Insurance for this year was obtained and the cost of the insurance was \$510.00 - \$23.00 less than last year. Rich Vigue discussed the Preserve Equestrian Work Day.

The meeting was adjourned.

Judie

Membership Report

The Saddle Club now has 79 members. We welcome new member Anna Gomez to the Club. Anna lives in Bent Tree. We look forward to seeing Anna at future Saddle Club events. 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 upcoming events.

Bob Crowl



Bent Tree Saddle Club Treasurer's Report

3/22/2023

Prepared by Joyce DeLay, Treasurer

Beginning Balance			\$2,673.06
Debits			
Date	Check #	Description	Amount
2/7/23	1166	Mountain Trust Conservatory Donation	(\$100.00)
2/15/23	1167	Joint Club Lunch	(\$175.00)
2/21/23	1168	Tamarack Club Rental for Kickoff	(\$335.00)
3/5/23	1170	Kick-Off Catering	(\$1,027.30)
3/5/23	1171	BT Insurance	(\$510.00)
3/5/23	1172	Kick-Off Flowers/Placemats	(\$84.38)
3/18/23	1173	BTSC Website	(\$48.88)
TOTAL Debits			(\$2,280.56)
Deposits			
2/20/23		BTSC Member dues	\$1,245.00
3/5/23		Kick-Off Dinner Fees	\$945.00
3/5/23		Raffle	\$95.00
3/8/23		BTSC Member dues	\$200.00
TOTAL Deposits			\$2,485.00
Ending Balance			\$2,877.50

2023 Executive Committee President: Judie Uchitel Vice-President: Ronda Erway Treasurer: Joyce Delay Secretary: Beyonca Padgett BT Liaison: Bob Crawl Past President: Bobby Delay Appointee: Sandy Stephenson	2023 Positions Membership: Bob Crawl Newsletter Ed.: Rich Vigue Email Distrib: Ronda Erway Website Admin: Jim Sylvia	Visit our website at www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com
	 Join our Group Page on Facebook	

April 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 John Wilder's Birthday 678-360-0213
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Prince Cabin Ride
23	24	25	26	27	28 RSVP Due For Kentucky Derby Party	29
30						6 Kentucky Derby Party

BTSC 2023 Calendar of Events

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>
April 22, Sat.	Prince Cabin Ride	Horse Park	Rich Vigue 770-289-7272
May 6, Sat.	Kentucky Derby Party	Fireside Lounge	Rich & Janet Vigue 770-289-7272
May 20, Sat.	Prince Farm Ride	Prince Farm	Kathy Hardin 404-218-6360
June 3, Sat.	Hillside Farm Challenge	Hillside Farm	Jim & Lisa Sylvia 770-401-8333
June 22, Thur.	Jake Mountain Ride	Jake Mountain	Sandy Stephenson 706-669-9021
July 4, Tue.	July 4 th Parade	Jasper	TBD
July 23, Sun.	Pot Luck Dinner	Horse Park	TBD
September 5, Tue.	EC & Gen'l Meeting	TBD	Judie Uchitel 404-226-0287
September 16, Sat.	Chickamauga Ride	Chickamauga M.P.	Ronda Erway 402-540-3338
September 21, Thur.	Jake/Bull Mtn Ride	Jake/Bull Mountain	Sandy Stephenson 706-669-9021
October 7, Sat.	CTHA Fun Horse Show	Tralyta Farms Dahlonga	CTHA
October 22, Sun.	CTHA/ Cohutta Ride	Jacks River	Erma McCain 706-867-7134
October 28, Sat.	Fausett Farm Ride	Fausett Farm	Ronda Erway 402-540-3338
November 5, Sun.	Stara Memorial Ride	Garland Mountain	Rich Vigue 770-289-7272
December 2, Sat.	BTSC Christmas Party	TBD	Judy Uchitel 404-226-0287

Lisa Sylvia

Agent

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Photography by Jena Finley

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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.