

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Upcoming Events

The Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at Pendley Creek Stables. The party will commence at 6:30 p.m. until ? As of the writing of this article we have 48 members and guests in attendance. The saddle club will provide ham, turkey and gravy. Members will be providing appetizers, side dishes, and desserts. Remember this is a BYOB event.

We are planning on decorating the barn at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1. After decorating we usually go to dinner. Please let me know if you can assist with the decorating.

JOIN US FOR A
BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB
Christmas Party
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD
6:30 PM
Pendley Creek Stables
210 Pendley Rd, Jasper, GA 30143
Please RSVP by November 27th
Judie Uchitel 404-226-0287
BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE.
BYOB

President’s Column

“For every time there is a season” and my season is over. This is my last President’s Column.

I would like to thank my wonderful Executive Committee, Ronda Erway, Joyce DeLay, Beyonca Padgett, Bob Crowl and Bobby Delay who have put up with me for 2 years. This includes Sandy Stephenson who has been the best appointee. They have helped me to achieve a few successes and they have put up with my bloopers. Most of all they have reined me in when they should.

The 2024 Executive Committee nominees are:

- President: Rich Vigue
- Vice-President: Lisa Sylvia
- Secretary: Beyonca Padgett
- Treasurer: Ronda Erway
- BT Liaison: Bob Crowl
- Past President: Judie Uchitel
- Appointee: Megan Mathisen

The election will be held at Sunday’s Christmas Party.

I would like to leave the membership with a couple of thoughts before I retire. My first thought is that we need to recruit new, younger members. If this means changing the by-laws then maybe we should. I hope the membership can get behind this endeavor. Our club is facing the same problems many saddle clubs are facing, members are aging out. This club has been going for 32 years and I would like to see it go for another 32 years. My other thought is the lack of “senior” members chairing social events. Please step forward and volunteer. The same few continue to do it all. Rich has taken on a challenge, and I would like to see the members support him this year in a way he so much deserves.

I wish you all a great and safe holiday and look forward to seeing all of you next year.

Judie



**Ellen Stara Memorial Ride Recap
Sunday, November 12th**

The Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association and the Bent Tree Saddle Club jointly hosted the second annual Ellen Stara Memorial Ride on Sunday, November 12th. It was a cloudy, cool day, but we managed to avoid the rain that plagued the previous several days. Forty-one people RSVPed for the event with it evenly split between riders and drivers.

The ride from the Garland Mountain trailhead to Staraland takes about 45 minutes using the Greenway which is Garland’s main trail. Riders started off between 10:30am and 11am with several of them taking the opportunity to explore the many secondary trails. Everyone met up at Staraland at approximately noon where they had a box lunch from Bigun’s Barbeque. Lunch was followed by a short ceremony at Ellen’s monument. For those of us who knew, loved, and respected Ellen for her dedication to horse trails, Staraland verges on hallowed ground. Our thanks go to Bill Stara and the Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land for allowing us to visit Staraland again this year.

Rich



Jodie Boyd, JoAnn Hartin, and Rita Boje socializing over lunch.



Susan Bruno, CTHA, saying a few words at Ellen’s monument.



Planning to host Garland Mountain trail riders, Ellen and Bill Stara placed these corrals on their property.

Obstacle Competition Recap Saturday, November 18th

We had a great day at the horse park for the November 18, 2023 Obstacle Course. The weather was beautiful for the event. Members were able to work the course before having lunch and before the event, which began at 1:00 p.m. Ten participants competed in the event: Bobby, Joyce, Kathy, Megan, Claire, Elise, Ronda, Sandy, Julie, and Rich (who had to leave early). The course this year was improved and different from the course last year and there were more obstacles. Everyone had a good time and the participants were such good sports that they urged one another on during their ride on the course. After everyone made a run, we had 4 participants who did a timed run to break the tie. Claire, Bobby, Kathy and Julie all participated in the timed run. They all made it clear without elimination of points so time decided placement. First place went to Claire; second place to Kathy; third place to Julie; fourth place to Bobby and Elise took fifth place.

I would like to thank those members who helped to set up the course. Bobby was a big help and spent an entire day building a great teeter-totter. This is permanently in place just outside the end of the arena by the horse statue. Rich came with his pickup truck and helped move the heavy objects. Jason was present and built the clock. He repaired and put up the waterfall. Sandy, Kathy, and I set up the rest of the course and tweaked it over the next several days. If I forgot anyone, I apologize. I look forward to planning a course for next year and adding new obstacles.

Judie



Although not part of the Obstacle Competition, Sandy's horse shows some personality here.



Megan working her horse through the back-up obstacle.



Elise guiding her horse through the "ice" rink.



The five champions: Elise, Julie, Claire, Kathy, and Bobby.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
11/15/2023

ATTENDANCE:

President: Judie Uchitel, *Vice-President:* Ronda Erway, *Treasurer:* Joyce DeLay, *Bent Tree Liaison:* Bob Crowl, *Past President:* Bobby DeLay, *Appointee:* Sandy Stephenson. *Members:* Kathy Hardin, Rich Vigue, and Megan Mathisen.

The meeting was called to order by Judie Uchitel at 6:42pm.

MINUTES:

Motion #1-

(Judie) Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on 09/13/2023 and 10/14/2023.

All in favor-Motion Carries

TREASURY REPORT:

Joyce Delay reported that the current balance is \$1,130.54.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Bob Crowl reported that there are 82 members. Two new members, John and Lorraine Donohue, submitted their application in November.

Motion #2-

(Judie) Motion to approve John and Lorraine Donohue's membership application.

All in favor-Motion Carries

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Obstacle Course-

Bobby made a teeter-totter and Jason made a new waterfall with chains. They also fixed the clock and extended the arm.

We discussed the time change and how it may impact people being able to attend.

- Christmas Party-

We discussed the new date for the party and the cost for the food. The 19th Hole wants to charge \$28 per person for a complete meal, or \$9.58 for just turkey and ham. Judie is going to check with Ingles and Kroger to see if we can get a better price.

Rich suggested that we have a bar and live music, and that we invest what we can in the party so we can attract new members.

Megan volunteered to send out the Christmas party invitations.

- Lack of slate of officers for 2024-

It was suggested that we wait until after the Christmas party to discuss new officers. We will talk to our members during the party about our need for new leadership.

Kathy met a lady named Tammie Davis that might be interested in joining the committee. She has excellent organizational skills and is new to the area. She will be attending the Christmas party as Kathy's guest.

NEXT MEETING:

TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Megan Mathisen



Cheyenne Frontier Days July 19-28, 2024. See you there!

BTSC 2023 Calendar of Events

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Leader(s)</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| December 3, Sunday. | BTSC Christmas Party | Pendley Creek | Judie Uchitel 404-226-0287 |

Membership Report

The Saddle Club now has 85 members. We welcome new members Lorraine and John Donohue who live in Waleska. They own a horse boarding facility, Moonshine Acres, in west Pickens. We also welcome Karie Kruse. Karie lives in Jasper. Some of you might have met the three new members at a recent Club event. We look forward to seeing them at future Saddle Club events. A 2024 membership application is attached to this newsletter. As 2024 is just around the corner, I will be looking for 2024 membership renewals. 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. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas party and other upcoming events.

Bob

**Bent Tree Saddle Club
Treasurer's Report**

November 29, 2023
Prepared by Joyce Delay, Treasurer

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance | | \$1,367.92 |
| Debits | | |
| Date | Description | Amount |
| 11/1/2023 | #1190 Lumber | (\$137.76) |
| 11/15/2023 | #1191 Rubber Mats | (\$118.84) |
| 11/15/2023 | #Ribboms | (\$ 20.95) |
| 11/18/23 | #1193 Pendley Creek Rental | (\$300.00) |
| TOTAL Debits | | (\$577.55) |
| Deposits | | |
| 11/01/2023 | Horse Show | \$ 40.00 |
| 11/29/2023 | Deposit | \$ 80.00 |
| TOTAL Deposits | | \$120.00 |
| Ending Balance (as of November 29, 2023) | | \$ 910.37 |

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

December 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Christmas Party | 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 | | | | | | |

Lisa Sylvia

Agent

PalmerHouse Properties

5755 North Point Pkwy #16

Alpharetta, GA 30022

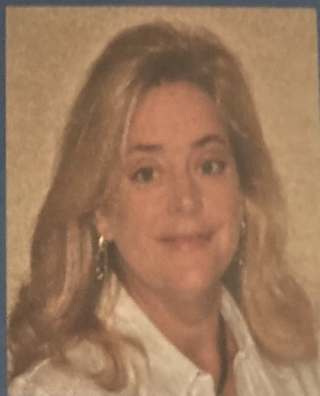
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Photography by Jena Finley

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Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2024 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 2024 dues are effective October 2023 through December 2024. 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.