

Upcoming Events

Ellen Stara Memorial Ride Sunday, November 10th

Get ready for the trail riding event of the year! It will be a BTSC/CTHA/Friends of Garland Mountain collaborative ride in memory of Ellen Stara, a long-time member of all three organizations.

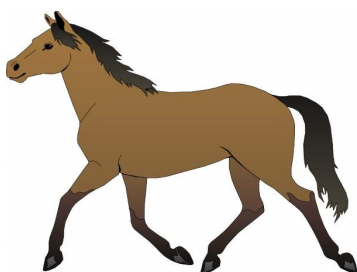
Thanks to Bill Stara, we have received permission from the Southeast Trust for Parks and Land to visit Staraland on Sunday, November 10th. The ride starts from the Garland Mountain Trailhead with registration at 10am and ride-out around 10:30am.

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.

Non-riders are welcome and can join us for lunch at Staraland at noon. Driving directions are available by contacting me.

The cost for all attendees is \$10. Payment may be made through PayPal at the CTHA website www.Ride-CTHA.org or by check or cash at the event.

Reservations are required by Monday, November 4th and can be made by texting 770-289-7272 or via email at richvigue@ellijay.com.



Year-End Bash Saturday, November 16th



YEAR-END BASH & GENERAL MEETING Saturday, November 16th The Tavern @ the 19th Hole Bent Tree, Jasper, GA

Event Details

Time: 6-9pm

Cocktails and General Meeting

Cash Bar

Future plans for the stables program will be discussed by two members of the Bent Tree Board of Directors

Hearty Italian Buffet

Two Meat (Beef & Sausage) Lasagna

Creamy Pasta Alfredo

House Salad

Garlic Rolls

Tiramisu

Beverages

Citrus Water, Sweet & Unsweet Tea, Coffee

Cash Bar

Entertainment

Bill Pound, vocalist and guitarist, will provide both background and dance music

Name That Tune Contest

Cost

\$25.00/Person (includes tax & gratuity)

Non-refundable after 11/7/24

Seating

Limited to the first 40 paid reservations for members & guests.

Reservations are confirmed upon receipt of payment which must be made by November 7th via the PayPal button on the BTSC website: www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com

President's Column

Writing the President's Column has its challenges. Especially in deciding what to write about. My first instinct is to write whatever comes into my mind as a stream of consciousness and not worry about my choice of words nor subject matter. Nobody reads this stuff anyways. But then my editor worries that I'll offend the entire Saddle Club in just one sentence. She is the only thing between me and all those people who have no sense of humor. I ascribe to what Kat Timf writes about in her book, *You Can't Joke About That*. She maintains that some of the most serious subjects are actually the most important to laugh about. That's me in a nutshell. I believe laughing is an escape valve for me.

Which brings me to the suspension of the Bent Tree Stables operation effective December 31st. That Bent Tree Board of Directors' vote and the unanimity of it is truly sad. However, it makes me laugh. Please don't tell me it's not a laughing matter - see the above paragraph.

The Executive Committee met this past Monday night. Among other things we discussed the situation at the Stables. Everyone is interested in the update we'll be getting at the Year-End Bash. We also tossed around what the club should be doing while we await a final Board resolution. After much discussion, the consensus reached is that we are moving ahead business as usual. While the temporary or permanent closing of the stables is of great concern, it doesn't really affect the club. We still have the Horse Park including the arena, pavilion, bathrooms, and storage facilities plus use of the Bent Tree trails. We are going to closeout the year with an O-Mok-See on Saturday, December 7th and we are continuing the search for next year's officers.

We need some new Executive Committee Members to help this club move forward next year. We need new brains that are unencumbered with old practices. The Executive Committee meets at most once a month. Usually over a dinner/meeting. While we discuss and vote on Saddle Club issues we also laugh quite a bit. We are friends foremost who share a love for horses. Please consider helping us to keep the Club vibrant.

Judie Uchitel did an amazing job with last week's Obstacle Competition. It was a throwback to the kind of Horse Park events we have had in the past. Please consider helping the Club to continue its legacy of camaraderie and fun between people who share a love of horses. The one thing I can guarantee is that if you have an open mind we will have a lot of laughs together along the way. Call me if you have a scintilla of willingness to join the Executive Committee. You won't regret it.

On a final note, you'll not want to miss the Year-End Bash (Flyer on the front page). This is your opportunity to speak directly with two members of the Bent Tree Board regarding the Stables situation. Also, Bill Pound will not only provide live music, but has agreed to do Name That Tune with us again. It was a big hit when we had our Kick-off at 61 Main a few years ago. It's our last social event of the year. **Paid reservations are due by 11/7 via PayPal.**

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Rich

Garland Mountain Ride Recap Sunday, October 13th

Our group ride at Garland Mountain was on a beautiful Sunday morning. We could not have asked for a more perfect day weather-wise. The well-maintained trails area lush landscape and when the leaves do fall, breathtaking views.

There was a great turn-out of 13 riders. We divided into four groups based on gaited horses, and personal preferences. Kathy Hardin led one group of Ronda, Joann Hartin, Rita Boje. Bobby, Rose and a friend headed out on their own. Lig and Deb on their beautiful Paso Fino's headed out on their own. Lisa, Claire and Elise headed up the rear. And Rich was out there somewhere on his own.

The 3-hour ride was indeed a blissful escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The gentle sway of the horse beneath us and the fresh mountain air were rejuvenating. It was a delightful mix of adventure and tranquility, with every spot to trot and canter filling us with joy and freedom.

To cap off our day, we gathered in the parking lot around a second favorite club event - anything food related! Jim, Randy, and Joyce joined us as we spread our

cheese platters, dips and cookies out on a picnic table and shared food and camaraderie. The day ended with a lighthearted atmosphere as we loaded our steeds and headed for home.

Lisa

Obstacle Course Recap Saturday, October 26th

The Obstacle Course competition was held on October 26, 2024 at the Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park on a beautiful fall day. There were 14 competitors who participated in the Obstacle Course and Halloween Costume contest. The event kicked-off with participants given a time to practice. A short lunch period followed and then the fun began.

The creativity and work that went into the Halloween Costumes was amazing and the judges had a difficult time deciding on a winner, however, one costume stood out and Megan Mathisen took home 1st prize, with Lisa Sylvia earning 2nd.

I want to thank Janet Vigue, who agreed to judge the event. Some horses easily executed all 18 obstacles and some did not. The ribbons were awarded as follows: 1st - Clair Eubanks, 2nd - Julie Heinsman, 3rd - Lisa Sylvia, 4th - Kathy Hardin, and 5th Elise Eubanks.

At this time, I would like to make an honorable mention to Cindi McLeod. Cindi has participated in the Obstacle Course practice previously. However, she always walked the course. This year I was presented with a new Cindi who proudly rode the course and was able to complete more than half the obstacles. I want to congratulate Cindi on how far she has traveled on her road to horsemanship.

I want to thank Kathy Hardin and Sandy Stephenson who were part of my team who decided which of the final obstacles were to be used in the course and the crazy names for them. Sandy made all of the signs for the individual obstacles. Also, I want to thank everyone who showed up and helped to set-up the course. I could not have done this without you.

I hope everyone enjoys the beautiful fall weather that we are now enjoying along with the colors of fall.

Judie

Obstacle Competition Photos



Lisa swinging the mallet—Judie directing the effort



Lisa & Carol awaiting their turn



Megan, winner of the costume contest



The usual suspects hauling in all the ribbons

2024 BTSC Schedule of Events

Sunday, Nov. 10 th	Ellen Stara Memorial Ride	Garland Mountain	Rich Vigue
Saturday, Nov. 16 th	End of Year Bash/General Mtg	Bent Tree 19 th Hole	Rich & Janet Vigue

2025 Officers Wanted

“Since my phone still ain’t ringing, I assume it still ain’t you.”

That’s a line from an old Randy Travis song appropriately titled, *Is it over?*. Let’s keep the Saddle Club going. We need you to step forward and join the Executive Committee. Call me. Like Randy Travis’ phone, 770-289-7272 ain’t ringing.

BTSC Paraphernalia

The club has a couple items ready for distribution to club members. As part of the agreement struck with BCI we have ordered club identification tags to be placed on members’ tack when riding in Bent Tree. Also, recently we ordered new saddle club hats and gave them out to the participants of the Hillside Farm Trail Challenge. Both orders had minimum quantities. As a result, we have an excess amount. The Executive Committee has decided to give the tags free to members who need them and to sell the remaining hats for \$20 each. These items will be available at the November Year-End Bash and the December O-Mok-See on a first come first served basis. Come and get’em!



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

October 28, 2024

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer

Beginning Balance		\$1,531.60
Debits		
Date	Description	
10/3/24	Kathy Hardin (Teeter Totter Mats)	(\$ 125.00)
Total Debits		(\$ 125.00)
Deposits		
Date	Description	
10/03/24	Hat Sales	\$ 40.00
10/13/24	Hat Sales	\$ 40.00
10/28/24	Obstacle Challenge	\$ 255.00
Total Deposits		\$ 335.00
Ending Balance 10/28/2024		\$1,741.60



Membership

The 2025 Membership Application is on Page 7. Please renew your membership by 1/31/2025 at the latest.

2024 Executive Committee

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

2024 Positions

Membership: Bob Crowl
 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

November 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 2AM: Turn clocks back one hour!	4 RSVP Ellen Stara Memorial Ride	5	6	7 RSVP Year-End Bash	8	9
10 Ellen Stara Memorial Ride	11	12	13	14	15	16 Year-End Bash & General Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2025 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 2025 dues are effective October 2024 through December 2025. 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.