

NEWSLETTER

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB February 2025



Baby, It's Cold Outside!



Woweeeeeee!! Caring for horses in sustained, below-freezing temperatures is a chore! Many have been breaking ice, throwing lots of hay, blanketing, and picking up rock-solid poops! I'm so happy to see warmer days in our forecast. I heard a rumor that the rest of the winter should have warmer than normal temperatures. We can only hope! Then we can get some great riding in. Check out the **Scavenger Hunt** planned for later this month.

There's not much to report at this time. March will be a busier month as temperatures begin to warm up and we prepare for the **1st O-Mok-See** on the 30th. I hope to see folks at our **Horse Park Workday** to clean up the facility and arena on March 8th with lunch to follow. On the 17th, we will cel-

ebtrate **St. Patrick's Day** with dinner at Rocco's. So, come on out and have some good ole Irish fun with us.

Future educational events include a **Maserson Method Demonstration** and a **Saddle Fitting Clinic**. People will have the opportunity to bring horses to both events. If you have some other ideas for educational events, please let me know. If anyone would like to host or lead an event, please step up. We have many talented and creative members in our Club, so bring us your ideas! Check out the **Annual Schedule** on page 13 for more info and tentative dates.

I just returned from the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (see p. 16). It was over the top, and I highly recommend going to this! Maybe it's a destination for our club next year? Happy Trails!

Julie



Happy Hunting!



Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, February 22nd, 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Bent Tree Horse Park and Horse Trails

Riders' itinerary for the day

- 10:30 AM Riders and horses check-in at Bent Tree horse park
- 11:00 AM Riders depart and ride the trails searching for items & solving clues
- 1:00 PM Lunch at the horse park
- 1:30 PM Prizes awarded - Grand Prize and Runner Up

Here's What You Need to Know

- ◆ Rules, map and clues will be given at the horse park
- ◆ Riders choose their own teams up to four people
- ◆ Teams go at their own pace
- ◆ Top two winners chosen based on accumulated points and fastest times for clues solved and items found.
- ◆ Bring your cell phone to take pictures and videos



Lunch provided for \$15 to pay at check-in - Ham & cheese sandwich, chips, oatmeal raisin cookie, and water. Let us know if you have a dietary restriction.

We need your creative mind - This event is a "test run" for a 2nd scavenger hunt that will take place later in the year at **Garland Mountain**. Are you a creative person, good at thinking up clever clues, or solving puzzles? We could sure use your help. If you can volunteer, let us know. We'll have a lot of fun planning an awesome riding experience!

RSVP - Rich Vigue, richvigue@ellijay.com
or 770-289-7272 by Feb. 19th

Roll Up Your Sleeves, Let's Get to Work

Horse Park Workday

**Saturday, March 8th at 10:30 AM
Bent Tree Arena**



Join us for our annual spring workday to clean up the horse park and get it ready for this year's events. The more hands and helpers we have the better. If you have gloves, shovels, rakes, clippers, chain saw, etc., please bring them along. Afterwards, we'll have lunch at the Tavern at the 19th Hole. Thank you for lending a helping hand! See you there!

**RSVP - Karie Kruse, kariokruse@gmail.com or
706-502-0212 by March 4th**

Get Your Irish on with Friends, Old and New!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

**Monday, March 17th at 6:30 PM
Rocco's Pub**



Join us for an evening of fun, food and drinks!

Everyone's Irish tonight!

The best joke or limerick wins a prize.

Do you feel lucky?



No RSVP necessary. There will be a room reserved for us.

Time for a “*Riding Big Dance*”!



1st O-Mok-See

**Sunday, March 30th at 11:00 AM
Bent Tree Arena**

**Bent Tree Saddle Club begins
2025 O-Mok-See Season!**

Mark your calendars, don't delay,
Our first O-Mok-See's on March 30th day!
Bring your game face, don't be shy,
We'll laugh, we'll play, our horses will fly!
So get ready, it's almost here!
Feel the rhythm, hear the tribes,
Creating music, catching vibes,
Can't ride, come and bring some Cheer!

For last year's final recap and the history of "O-Mok-See," check out the article [HERE](#) in the BTSC's January 2025 Newsletter (see pp. 4-6).

**RSVP - Lisa Sylvia, lisasylvia3@gmail.com
or 770-401-8333 by March 23rd**

Kick-Off Party Recap - Sat., Feb. 1st

Let the Good Times Roll!

Our saddle club did just that at last night's **Kick-Off Party**. It was wonderful to see people engaged in conversation all evening and even better to hear their laughter.



My favorite part of the evening was awarding the super horse for 2024. **Elise Eubanks** took home the prize for her horse, **Lilly**. They make a formidable pair. Lilly is a smart, sensitive and willing partner for Elise. And Elise has a quiet determination to do the best she can. I can't wait to see what they accomplish this year!

Karie Kruse was the only entry to guess the winner of the Indian leg wrestling picture in the last newsletter. And fortunately for her, she guessed Lisa and was correct. To be fair to Rich, when he and Lisa did a second round using the opposite legs, he won. Sounds like we might need a best two-out-of-three contest.

The twist dance contest provided entertainment as members showed off their best moves for our two judges, **Janet Vigue and Mary Ellen Schultz**. Since our judges had different opinions on the winner, they chose two and asked them to dance together. Congrats go to **Joyce Delay and Roger Schultz**...and no, Mary Ellen did not pick Roger as her winner. What's up with that?



The general meeting was brief and we approved the changes to our by-laws.

Many people had a hand in making this event happen. Thank you so much for all the help. Our members care about the club and each other. How lucky are we that our shared love of horses has brought us together? Let's have some fun this year!!

Julie

Kick-Off ...



... Party!



From the Editor

I hope your New Year got off to a great start! The Club's sure did with a fantastic **Kick-Off Party** at Bent Tree. Thank you, Julie and Lisa, for organizing a super fun evening! The **Poker Ride** was canceled due to inclement weather. However, Ronda said that she'd like reschedule it for later in the year. So, keep a look out for that fun event.

In last month's issue, **Megan Mathisen** wrote a really interesting article about her horse, Romeo, and his eye injury which had to be treated with surgery. In case you missed it, click [HERE](#) to go to the January Newsletter (see p. 10) on the BTSC website. Thanks, Megan, for sharing your story, and we're happy to hear that Romeo is doing just fine.

Lorraine Donohue sent us an incredible story about her horse, Maverick, and the challenges that she endured to determine the cause of an unusual hoof ailment (see p. 9). You'll read what great lengths she went to in order to solve the mystery. We're relieved that Maverick is on the mend, and the Club sends him get well wishes. Thanks, Lorraine, for letting us know how everything turned out.

Our experiences and histories with horses are so diverse, so different, and your personal stories - both in and out of the saddle - help us understand, learn, and improve. It's interesting to see things from another's unique perspective and to share information with each other. If you have a story, a question or a problem, send it to: NewsletterBTSC@gmail.com. Let's use the Newsletter to better engage and network with other Club members. Have a great month.

Karie

Membership Report

Click [HERE](#) to Join or Renew Your Membership Online!

The Saddle Club has 60 member renewals and new members as we approach the end of January 2025. We welcome back **Arabella Wunn** and **Marc Ducharme** as members. We also welcome new members **Jenana Donohue** and **Emma Paterson**, family members of existing members. We look forward to seeing them at future events. I'm expecting more renewals before the end of January and hope to approach our year-end 2024 membership number of 81.

As conveyed in last month's newsletter, there are two ways to renew if you have not already done so. One way is to send me a completed 2025 membership application which is attached to this newsletter. The other way is to go to the Club's website at: www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com for a membership application. Click on the 'About' tab and then 'Download Print Application'. See the options for:

- (1) Saving the membership form on your computer and attaching it to an email to me, and
- (2) Using PayPal or a credit card for payment of dues.

If you know of someone interested in joining our Club, please have them complete an application and send it to me for processing. Or have them contact me at 770-757-8596 if they have any questions. We are planning a fun and exciting year. I am looking forward to seeing you at Club events this year.

Bob

Click [HERE](#) to pay with 

Member Gift Certificate Program

You can now give a membership as a gift to a family member or friend. For just \$40 each, he or she may participate in all of our rides, obstacle courses, trail challenges, and social events for the entire year 2025.

Go to the BTSC website. Print out and complete the certificate, and then give as your gift.

Send an E-mail to Bob Crowl at:
 bobcrowl@etcmail.com with the recipient's name, E-mail address, and phone number.

Mail your check for \$40 to:
 Bent Tree Saddle Club, c/o Bob Crowl,
 181 Grassy Knob Ct. #20326, Jasper, GA 30143

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the program.



Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer, January 28, 2025

Beginning Balance		\$2,255.92
Debits		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	
1/9/25	BTCI	\$110.00
	(Kickoff deposit)	(\$110.00)
Total Debits		<u>(\$110.00)</u>
Deposits		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	
12/27/25	Membership Dues	\$80.04
1/9/25	Memberships	\$200.00
Total Deposits		<u>\$280.04</u>
Ending Balance		<u>\$2,425.96</u>

** Pending approved expenditures - Randy Taylor: Judge's stand repair for \$500.-

Maverick's Ordeal

Four years ago, I purchased my 16-hand Buckskin named Maverick. He came to me with scratches on his leg (i.e., pastern dermatitis) which I treated three times per week with a chlorohexidine wash until it healed. That was during the spring of 2021. As you all know, winters here in North Georgia can be very wet, and Maverick was living as a full-time pasture horse at the time. The condition returned the following winter. I had no way of keeping him in a dry area because I didn't yet have my barn.

As time went on, the dermatitis became worse and spread to all four of Maverick's hooves. He also became increasingly uncooperative to catch, ride or train. The next summer, I was so frustrated that I decided to send him to my trainer's facility in Cumming, where she could keep him in a dry lot and treat his dermatitis on a daily basis. At that point, he had very large scabs which we rubbed off until they bled, in order to treat and heal them. We would use every type of antifungal medicine, zinc oxide tinctures, and even apple cider vinegar. I felt like we tried everything to heal the cankers which looked extremely painful. We kept the leg wrapped and dry for a month. When he came back home, it was improved but not completely healed. Then another winter of wet weather came, and I still wasn't able to ride him. He acted very distant, cranky, and uncooperative.

I got the feeling that Maverick just hated me. However, deep down, the thought that he was in some kind of pain was keeping

Member's Corner

me from giving up completely on him. He really is my favorite horse to ride.

Fast forward to this past November. One day, he started showing sensitivity on his left hind foot. I thought an abscess was brewing, so, of course, I started soaking it. Nothing! I asked my farrier to check him out, and he found no sign of an abscess. In the meantime, it got to a point where Maverick wouldn't bear weight on that leg. So, I asked my vet to check him out. Again, after making some tests to try to find an abscess, still nothing!



Maverick's sensitivity on the left hind foot

That week, the vet came out to my place five times and still couldn't determine what was wrong with him. There was some swelling in his pastern, fetlock, and around the coronary band. They did blood work,

Maverick's Ordeal (cont.)

took X-rays, did ultrasounds, and tested for a coffin-joint infection.

On her last visit, my vet still had no idea what was wrong with him. She was out of options, and there were no other tests that could be performed. She also thought that a coffin-joint infection could lead to permanent lameness. So, she recommended that I take him to the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia.

I loaded Maverick into my trailer, and we headed off to Athens. I met with Dr. Erin Beasley, Clinical Teaching Professor, who was assigned to Maverick's case. X-rays showed that his coffin joint wasn't infected, thank goodness! She made a raft of tests to determine what was wrong, and, finally, Dr. Beasley diagnosed him with Coronary Band Dystrophy (CBD).

The coronary band is the area at the top of the horse's hoof that separates the hoof wall from the skin. Dystrophy in this case refers to a disorder that causes the tissue at the top of the hoof wall to weaken or waste away. The horse's hair above the coronary band sticks straight out instead of laying down against the skin. There is crusting, scaling, redness, and ulceration of the tissue.

Dr Beasley started a treatment of oral steroids, and she decided to keep him at the university for five days until he was comfortable enough to travel again. Back at home, I continued this treatment, in addition to applying topical steroids and keep-

ing his leg wrapped and dry until the canker was all gone. This lasted a month, but it was well worth it. Maverick is so happy now and has become very loving and obedient again.



Determining Maverick's ailment was difficult

It seems that CBD is an autoimmune disease that is most commonly found among draft horses. The staff at Horner and Nash were intrigued with Maverick's case, since they were unfamiliar with this type of hoof ailment. I am so grateful to them and to the staff at UGA for their help in treating and healing my boy. Now I know, if or when this condition comes back, how to treat him right away, so that he doesn't suffer the pain that he's been in for such a long time.

We should always trust our gut when it comes to our horses. When something's wrong and they're hurting, they will try to tell us. We just have to listen!

Lorraine Donohue

A Beautiful Quarter Horse Looking For a Good Home



Eddie-O

- 16 year-old gelding
- AQHA registered
- Extremely well-trained
- Excellent to ride with a lot of trail time and experience
- Side passes to mounting block
- Affectionate personality +
- Great husband horse or first horse for a youngster. More whoa than go!
- Great value but above all interested in a finding a good home.

Contacts:

Barb Hutson (owner), 404-791-6610
Sandy Stephenson, 706-669-9021



Do you have an announcement? Are you searching for or selling something? Do you have a question our membership might help you with?

Send your request to the:

BTSC Marketplace

E-mail: NewsletterBTSC@gmail.com

Deadline: the 25th of each month in order to be included in the following issue.

Volunteers Needed

Please let us know if you can help at these upcoming Club events:

Horse Park Workday -

Sat., Mar. 8th, 10:30AM
(See page 4 for details)

1st O-Mok-See -

Sun., Mar. 30th, 11AM
(See page 5 for details)

- Announcer
- Scorekeeper
- Gatekeeper

Contact us at:
InfoBTSaddleClub@gmail.com

**Help Us Out, Have Some Fun,
And Thank you!**

Horseback Snack Attack

Cider Cookies (Horse Treats)

Ingredients

- 1 cup flour
- 3/4 cup apple cider
- 2 cups molasses
- 1 pound grain (recommended: Nutrena Stock and Stable 12% Sweet Feed)

Instructions

1. Pre-heat oven to 250°F.
2. In a large bowl, mix the flour, cider, and molasses thoroughly.
3. Next, add grain to the mixture slowly and mix well.
4. Oil a 12x15 inch pan. Pour the mixture into the 12x15 pan and put in the oven.
5. After 25-27 minutes, you'll notice that the mixture is a bit firmer and less liquid like.
6. Carefully, remove the pan from the oven.
7. Cut contents into small, treat-sized squares of your choosing using a knife or spatula (Tip: A pizza cutter works great!)
8. Then, put the pan back into the oven at 250°F and bake for an additional 40-45 minutes. The contents will be dry and firm.
9. Immediately remove the squares from the pan to cool on a cooling rack.
10. Leave out overnight or place in the fridge for 4-6 hours.

Courtesy of the AQHA

Send your favorite homemade horse treat or rider recipe to: NewsletterBTSC@gmail.com





Annual Schedule 2025 (Work in Progress)



Date	Event	Time	Place	Organizer
Sat., Jan. 18	Poker Ride	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Arena	Ronda Erway
Sat., Feb. 1	Kick-Off Party	6:00 PM	Club Tamarack, Bent Tree	Julie Heinsman, Lisa Sylvia
Sat., Feb. 22	Scavenger Hunt	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Horse Park	Rich Vigue
Sat., Mar. 8	Horse Park Workday	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Horse Park	Karie Kruse
Mon., Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Dinner	6:30 PM	Rocco's Pub	Lisa Sylvia
Sun., Mar. 30	1st O-Mok-See	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Sun., Apr. 6	Sharp Top Mtn Ride	TBD	Sharp Top Mtn	Rich Vigue
Sun., Apr. 27	Masterson Method Demonstration	TBD	Bent Tree Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., May 3	Kentucky Derby Party	TBD	2 Silos Hoedown and Party Barn	TBD
May TBD	Fun Show	TBD	TBD	Julie Heinsman
Sun., May 18	Western Pleasure Show	TBD	Bent Tree Arena	Megan Mathisen, Lorraine Donohue
Sat., June 7	Hillside Farm Trail Challenge	9:30 AM	Sylvia's Farm	Lisa & Jim Sylvia
Sat., June 21	2nd O-Mok-See	TBD	Bent Tree Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Fri., July 4	July 4th Parade	TBD	Downtown Jasper	TBD
Sept. TBD	Chickamauga Ride	TBD	TBD	Ronda Erway
Sat., Sept. 20	Educational	TBD	Bent Tree Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Sept. 27	3rd O-Mok-See	TBD	Bent Tree Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Oct. TBD	East Fork Trip	TBD	TBD	Julie Heinsman
TBD	Obstacle Course	TBD	Eubank's Farm	Claire Eubanks
Sun., Nov. 9	Educational	TBD	Bent Tree Arena	Julie Heinsman
Dec. TBD	Year-End Party	TBD	TBD	TBD



February 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

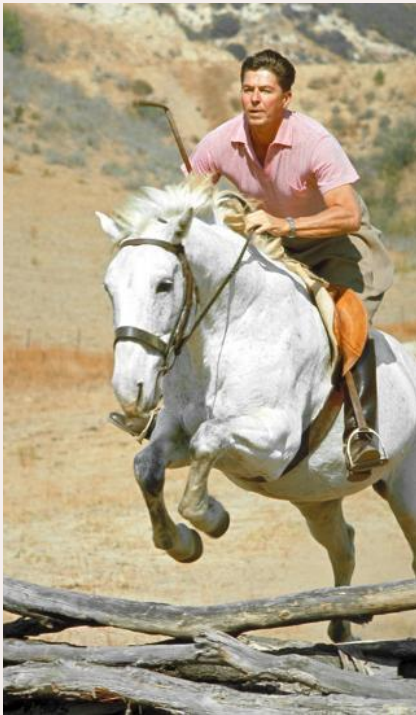
Sat

						1 Kick-off Party
2 Ground- Hog Day	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16	17 President's Day	18	19 RSVP Scavenger Hunt	20	21	22 Scavenger Hunt
23	24	25	26	27	28	

See you at our next event!

More Events of Interest

When	What	Who / Where
Feb. 21 - 23	Southern Equine Expo	Tennessee Miller Coliseum Murfreesboro, TN www.southernequineexpo.com
Feb. 27 - Mar. 2	Horse World Expo and Theatre Equus	Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA www.horseworldexpo.com
Mar. 7 - 9	Working Equitation Clinic with Betsy Fajen of Natural Horse Solutions	Brandreth Farms, Talking Rock, GA www.brandrethfarms.com
Mar. 13 - 15	Chris Cox Horsemanship Clinic	Brandreth Farms, Talking Rock, GA www.brandrethfarms.com
Mar. 21-23	Elite Show Jumping	Georgia Hunter Jumper Assoc. Wills Park Equestrian Center, Alpharetta, GA, www.ghja.org
Mar. 22	Introductory and Barrels/Poles Special Event, Speed Event, and Level 1 (Novice) Show Series	Georgia Quarter Horse Assoc. Conyers, GA, www.gqha.com
Mar. 28 - 30	Classical Stock Seat School of Arizona, Clinic with Ron McLoughlin	Brandreth Farms, Talking Rock, GA www.brandrethfarms.com
Mar. 29	2nd Annual Garland Mountain Trail Obstacle Challenge	Friends of Garland Mountain Trails Find info on their Facebook page



**“There’s something
about the outside
of a horse
that is good for
the inside of a man.”**

— *Ronald Reagan*

Just for Kicks - Elise, Julie, and Claire hang on tight during the Triple Tandem Stationary Bull Riding Competition at the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo!



Send your funny photo, joke, or cartoon to: NewsletterBTSC@gmail.com

2025 Executive Committee

President:	Julie Heinsman
Vice President:	Karie Kruse
Treasurer:	Ronda Erway
Secretary:	Lisa Sylvia
Bent Tree Liaison:	Bob Crowl
Past President:	Rich Vigue
Past Past President:	Jim Sylvia
Appointee	Megan Mathisen

2025 Positions

Membership:	Bob Crowl
E-mail Distribution:	Lisa Sylvia
Website Support:	Jim Sylvia
Newsletter Editor:	Karie Kruse

Visit Our Website:

www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com

Join our Group Page on Facebook



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 (not required, for informational purposes only)

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 Crawl 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

* Trail Rides *Social Events *Equestrian Events * Arena/Trail Workdays *Newsletter *Echo Articles

Do you own a horse? Yes No (please circle one) Do you own a horse trailer? Yes No (please circle one)

Acknowledged and agreed:

1: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

2: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

How did you hear about us

*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.