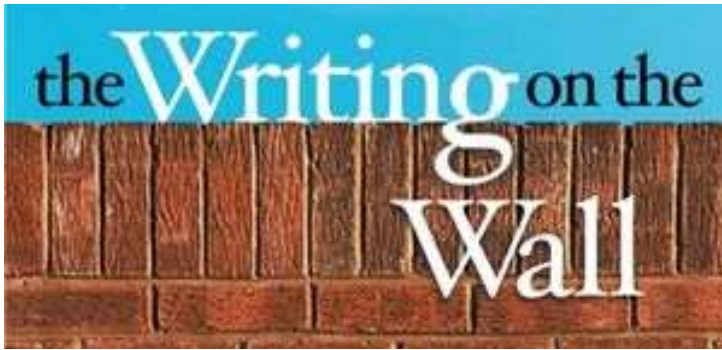


NEWSLETTER

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB



November 2025



It's that time of year to plan for the next. We have not had anyone step forward to be President for next year. That leaves our Executive Committee with some very difficult decisions to make. While we have 71 members, we truly only have about 20 participating members and even fewer riding members. How do we move ahead? Our by-laws allow for a committee of only three members with one being the President. The by-laws also outline the steps for dissolution of the Club. It was my goal and hope of adding riding members to our club and creating energy around our events that would invite more participation. I'm disappointed that I couldn't bring that to fruition. So again, what happens next?

As I see it, we have the following three options:

- 1) Dissolve the club per the by-laws.
- 2) A president comes forward and has

President's Column

two other volunteers to be on the committee. This committee can do as much or as little as it wants in terms of organizing events, creating newsletters or really anything. We can be a loosely-structured Club where members communicate and plan activities instead of the Executive Committee carrying the whole burden. I AM HOPING FOR THIS!

- 3) A President comes forward and recruits a full committee and moves forward as they want.

Unless we have volunteers by the end of November, we will have a vote at our General Meeting to dissolve the Club. In my opinion, if you vote "No" to dissolution, you are volunteering to serve on the committee. The current Executive Committee is not staying in place for next year. There are no guidelines in the by-laws about moving forward without an Executive Committee. I don't know how that can happen.

The Executive Committee is open to any other options you may have.

Julie



Come Ride With Me

2025 Ellen Stara Memorial Ride Saturday, Nov. 8th, 10 AM, Garland Mountain

One of my favorite Western singer/songwriters is Dave Stamey. I particularly like his song, *Come Ride with Me*. It is an upbeat song about riding with people you love. I've tried to play it at several O-Mok-Sees, but whenever it comes on, Claire immediately unplugs my cell and puts her stuff on. However, I shall not be deterred. I am leading two rides in November and plan on blasting that song at both events.

On Saturday, November 8th we will be doing the annual Ellen Stara Ride. Two notable differences this year are that we're not charging for the event and we're holding it on a Saturday. Details are available on the following page.

Feel free to contact me, if you have any questions about this ride.

Rich



**Contact Rich Vigue:
viguerich@gmail.com or 770-289-7272**

The Bent Tree Saddle Club
Chattahoochee Trail Horse Assn.
Friends of Garland Mountain
Are proud to sponsor the

2025 Ellen Stara Memorial Ride



Saturday, November 8th

Registration begins at 10am

We will ride from the Garland Mountain Trailhead to the Starland Nature Preserve. Maps to Starland will be available at registration and riders will travel at their own pace in groups of their choosing. Don't forget to pack a lunch.

Join us to remember this amazing woman, volunteer, and friend!

There is no charge to participate in this ride. However, please consider donating a new toy to the Marines' annual Toys for Tots campaign. We will have a collection box in the Pavilion.

No reservation required. Text Rich Vigue at 770-289-7272 or email at viguerich@gmail.com with any questions.

Lyrics For Happy Trails To You At The Ellen Stara Memorial Ride

[Click Here To
Sing-A-Long](#)



Happy trails to you, until we meet again
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather
Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again

Some trails are happy ones
Others are blue
It's the way you ride the trail that counts
Here's a happy one for you



Happy trails to you, until we meet again
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather
Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again

Happy trails to you!



Come Ride With Me... Again

**Burnt Mountain Preserve Ride
Saturday, Nov. 22nd at 10 AM
Bent Tree Horse Park**



This ride is also on a Saturday and will be held on November 22nd.

This is a typical Saddle Club ride going to the Burnt Mountain Preserve located west of Sharptop Mountain. We'll meet at the Horse Park at 10 AM. Come enjoy and ride free of Joros and Yellow Jackets. Bobby Delay and I are planning a scouting/clearing mission prior to this ride to make it a little less rustic for the faint of heart.

Feel free to contact me, if you have any questions about this ride.

Rich



**Contact Rich Vigue:
viguerich@gmail.com or 770-289-7272**



SAVE THE DATE! *Year End Party*

Thursday, December 18th
61 Main, 49 S. Main St., Jasper, GA

Food | Friends | Fun!

Classic Live Music
Recognition & Awards
Photo Contest Prize
Ride Down Memory Lane
... And A Few Surprises!



Join Us For A Jolly Good Time!

Riding the Rim

Eleven of us saddled with spirits so high,
Four days of adventure beneath a clear sky.
The horses were frisky, the weather just right,
We rode through the mornings and laughed through the night.
The Cumberland Plateau spread wide and grand,
Twelve thousand acres of private land.
Through winding trails to the rim we'd climb,
Each overlook prettier than the last time.
Some made it down to Owen's Home Place,
Where the valley below wore a peaceful face.
Saturday brought challenges, courage, of course—
Three brave souls took on the obstacle course.
And Ronda showed up with Trausti in tow,
An Icelandic wonder, as sweet as they go.
"Like Frosty but with a T!" she'd say,
And even Randy "mounted" one day!
We rode to Apple Bag, Base of the Rock,
And Gwinn's Overlook—it was beauty in stock.
At Julie and Carol's we filled up on chili,
Then beer at Sawgrass made everyone silly.
Sunday night stories rolled out in a stream,
Of horses, of rides, and the trails of our dreams.
At Lisa and Jim's, under stars shining bright,
We shared appetizers and laughter all night.
So here's to the riders, the trails, and the cheer,
To horses and friendships that grow every year.
For miles may fade and sunsets dim,
But we'll always remember—**riding the rim.**

Lisa Sylvia, October 2025

East Fork Stables Club Trip — Oct. 2nd to Oct. 6th



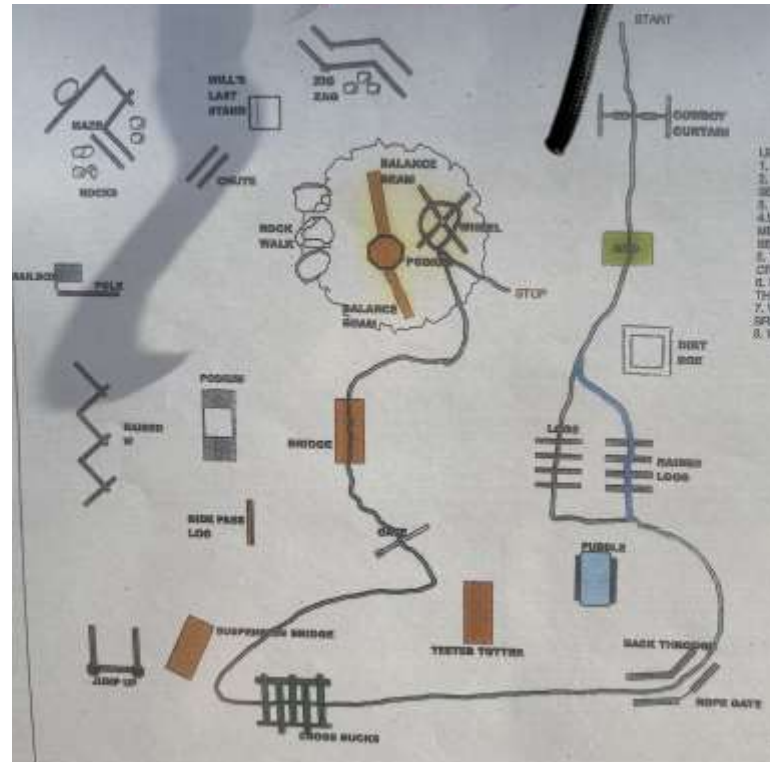
CHAPS Mountain Trail Challenge Recap



Our club had three competitors in this challenge: Ronda with her new mount, Trausti, Kathy with Poppy, and Lisa with Lexi. It was a long day with many class options, lots of riders, and a cheering section for the BTSC competitors. Everyone came away with ribbons in each class that they entered.

The obstacle course was recently built and was well done. The swinging bridge was the most unique and turned out not to be nearly as terrifying to the horses as it was to the riders. Kathy came away with a blue ribbon for the Adult In Hand – Level 2. She also earned a 9th place ribbon. Lisa raked in two 2nd place ribbons and a 4th place ribbon. Ronda and Trausti earned a 2nd place and an 8th place ribbon.

Jim, Randy, Bobby and Joyce were on hand to watch and provide moral support.





CHAPS Mountain Trail Challenge Recap

Carol and I caught the end of the competition and enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of our winners.

Best picture from this part of the trip must be Randy and Trausti in the stall together (see page 24). There was a missed picture opportunity of Randy with a ribbon but that's a story for "what happens in East Fork, stays in East Fork." This was a fun event and hopefully will be an annual event at East Fork and our Club. *Julie*



Chickamauga Battlefield Ride Recap — Oct. 18th



On Saturday, October 18th, 2025, five die-hard members trailered to Chickamauga Battlefield in Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

We started out the 9-mile ride together, but ended up separated early on due to Cindi McLeod's horse losing a boot. Joann Hartin, Rita Boje and Ronda Erway kept on going thinking Sandy Stephenson and Cindi would catch up quickly.

By our lunch stop (after many attempts to contact them), we finally heard from another rider that they had encountered hornets near the cannon they had stopped at to repair

the shoe. This led to run away horses, lost phones and bites to humans and horses alike! Both were finally able to get back on and do a short part of the

This led to
run away
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phones and
bites to
humans
and horses
alike!

“What a Ride” is part of the Club’s motto, and this trailering trip exemplified it!

ride before heading back to their trailer to take care of their bites.

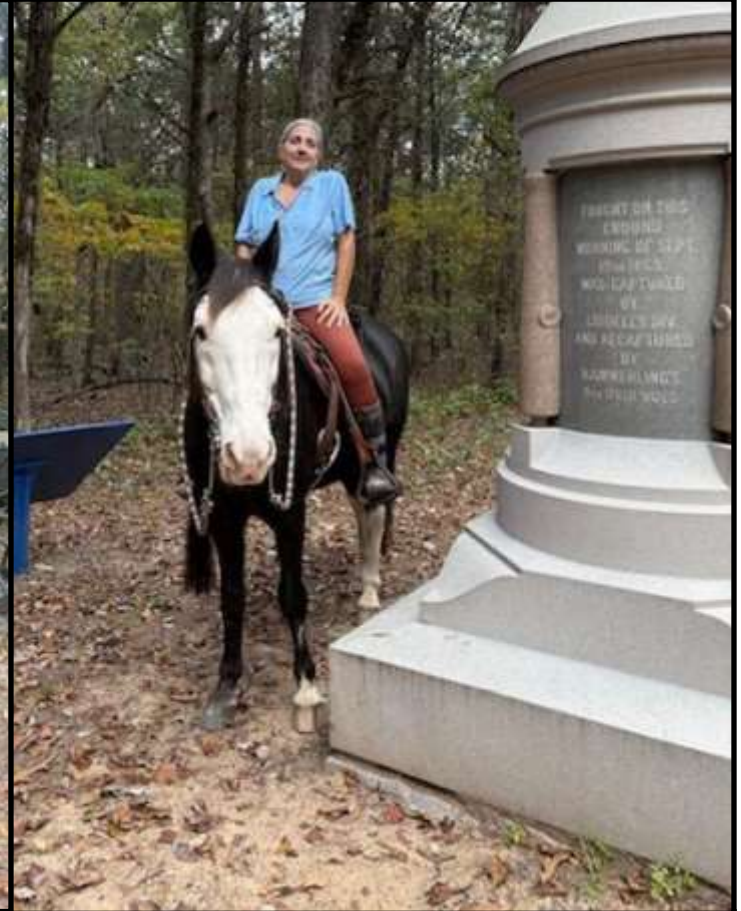
The other half of the group enjoyed the scenery but the dry conditions didn’t allow for much water for the horses. Ronda’s new ride, Trausti, got overheated and was led for much of the 2nd part of the ride.

“What a Ride” is part of the Club’s motto, and this trailering trip exemplified it! But we never gave up!

Thanks to all who joined me on this “adventure/misadventure”!

Please join me again in the future!
Ronda

Chickamauga Battlefield Ride Recap



Fun Show Recap — Oct. 25th



Big Fun!

The Fun Show took place on Saturday, Oct. 25th, and it definitely lived up to its name. Our competitors were game for anything, and they gave it their best!

Our contestants included:

- ♦ Claire Eubanks
- ♦ Elise Eubanks
- ♦ Abbey Benton
- ♦ Megan Mathisen
- ♦ Lorraine Donohue
- ♦ Debbie Dickinson
- ♦ Julie Heinsman

The first class was quite entertaining. Contestants had to ride over to a corner of the arena and eat a donut that was hanging from a string... with no hands allowed!

Once they “captured” the donut, they had to head over to a kiddie pool that was filled with apples floating in water. Here, their horses had to bob for apples.

Each rider was timed. Only two were able to get both a donut and an apple.

Congratulations to:

Winner: Elise and Lilly

2nd Place: Julie and Deuce

“Musical Cones” are always competitive and entertaining. You never know what’s going to happen and who’s going to get to the “last available” cone. This day it was the Club’s new member, Debbie Dickinson.

Fun Show Recap (cont.) — Oct. 25th

Congratulations to Debbie for taking home the blue. Welcome to the Club!

“Simon Says” was a challenge for the judges because the contestants were very good at listening to directions. Not only did they handle different maneuvers for their horses, they also had to move their arms, flap like a chicken and sing. Simon stopped the singing quickly! Congratulations to Claire for being the best listener!

The last class was “Holding Your Water.” Each contestant started with a full glass of water. They were then asked to walk, trot, stop, back and reverse. I’ve never seen such focus. It was very competitive. In the end Claire Eubanks had the most water in her glass. After the FUN classes, all of the contestants came back to the arena with their

horses dressed in costume. Our judge, Stephanie Gresham, had a very difficult decision. However, in the end she couldn’t resist and awarded the prize to Megan Mathisen’s lovely horse, Romeo, who was dressed up as Mickey Mouse. He was ridden by Lori Boulos who was dressed as a very pretty Minnie Mouse. Both of them were adorable.

Big shout out to Megan’s husband, Tommy, for firing up the grill. Many of us stayed afterwards and threw some burgers and dogs on the grill to cook. We shared our other goodies and enjoyed friendship over a meal. Good times and great memories!

Julie



Fun Show Recap (cont.)



Fun Show Recap (cont.)



Past President's Message

E-mail to BTSC Members sent on Friday, Oct. 17th, 2025



The above is a pictorial representation of a famous bronze sculpture done in the late 1800's. Appropriately titled, "*End of the Trail*," it depicts a totally worn out American Indian on his totally worn out horse. I thought of this bronze when starting to write this E-mail.

It is once again the time of year when our Saddle Club searches for a new President. As Past President, it is my job to find next year's Officers. The latest issues of our newsletter have had a call for 2026 Officers to no avail. Not a surprise.

This E-mail is our final call for 2026 officers.

The Executive Committee met last night and started making plans for next year in the event that no one came forward to lead the Club. If that is the case, and it appears likely, we are focusing in on two possible options:

- 1) Recommending dissolution of the Club prior to year-end or
- 2) Reducing the number of Officers to a few positions necessary for keeping the Club as an entity, eliminating the monthly newsletter, and suspending operations without formal dissolution.

It appears that the Executive Committee can do the latter without a vote of the membership. My limited experience with this kind of abeyance is that the or-

ganization never comes back.

With help from the EC, our current President, Julie Heinsman, has done an excellent job of providing a full calendar of events this year, creating some great memories for our participants. Next year's EC will decide how much it wants to do. All we need is one club member to step forward as President. I am confident we can fill the rest of next year's Executive Committee for a full slate of Officers.

Let's keep this Club going. Unlike the Indian above I don't think we are at the end of the trail. There are more memories to be made.

Rich

We Need You!

- **Do you have some free time to spare?**
- **Do you work hard, play hard and like to have fun?**
- **Are you a leader and want to make a difference?**



Join Our Team!

We are recruiting for the 2026 Executive Committee. There are several positions that need to be filled. You'll be part of a dynamic, creative, and passionate team of horse lovers and owners!

**If you're interested, please contact Julie Heinsman at:
mymtnpeace@gmail.com or 404-550-0270**

Support The Bent Tree Saddle Club!

Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer, October 31, 2025

Beginning Balance		\$2,194.01
Debits		
Date	Description	
	No Entries This Month	
Total Debits		\$0.00
Deposits		
Date	Description	
10/31	Withdrawal Correction	(30.00)
Total Deposits		\$30.00
Ending Balance Date		
10/31/25		\$2,164.01

A Picture Tells A Thousand Words



Once upon a time when I was working my day job in corporate sales, I attended our annual kickoff meeting in San Jose. A couple thousand employees, like me, were in attendance, all dressed in khaki pants and polo shirts and waiting with anticipation to brush elbows with the big enchilada and hear his keynote speech.

The start of the show was a big rah-rah with a lot of free merch and motivational rock-and-roll hits—“*Eye of the Tiger*” and “*Don’t Stop Believin’*” spring to mind—followed

by a promotional video with razzle-dazzle.

This particular year, the video began with the phrase, “*A Picture Tells A Thousand Words*,” and then continued with the usual corporate blah-blah.

Why I remember this video, especially, is because the narrator had a very thick Asian accent and said the line with a quirky pronunciation and a very choppy delivery, a bit like... “Uh pichuh tess uh thouzawuds.” When I heard this, I cracked up with laughter which was

From the Editor

probably not what the boys in the marketing department had intended. This funny tagline became a running joke between me and my husband who also worked for the same company at the time.

Long story short, this video became a worldwide advertising campaign, and we got plenty more laughs from it for years to come. It still makes us chuckle to this very day. But in all seriousness, the phrase is spot on — a picture *does* tell a thousand words! Just stare at the photo above, and you feel the energy and confusion!

While I was surfing the Internet, I came across an article titled, “*These 15 Majestic Photos Show Just Why Humans Adore Horses*,” published in Smithsonian’s online magazine last year. This article also commemorated National Day of the Horse on Dec. 13th, 2024 and featured a photo contest.

Photo Contest (cont.)

From the Editor

This gave me the idea to have a photo contest at the Saddle Club. Just think about the diversity of our membership. We are all so unique—our horses, styles, stables, interests, experiences and backgrounds. I love the idea of highlighting our favorite images and sharing them with each other.

So, this is your last call. It's time to show how you

adore your horse. We need everyone's participation, so if you haven't sent in your photo yet, please do so now. See the following page for the contest rules and information on how to enter.

The winner will be announced at our Year End Party on Thursday, Dec. 18th. He or she will win a gift card valued at \$25.

I'd like to thank the mem-

bers who have already sent in their photos. They are all fabulous pictures, and the competition is fierce. Thanks for participating and best of luck!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Karie



Smithsonian *magazine*

Click [HERE](#) for the article:

"These 15 Majestic Photos Show Just Why Humans Adore Horses"

*Photos courtesy of
Smithsonianmag.com*

Love Is In The Hair!

Photo Contest!

Enter a sweet, funny, foxy or proud picture of your horse and you might...



Win A \$25 Gift Card!

Contest Rules

- Entry must include your horse(s) by itself or with you, your family/friends or with other animals.
- One photo per Club member in JPEG format.
- Please include a title or short description.
- Deadline is Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025.
- You may change your photo and re-enter another one at anytime prior to the cut off date above.

E-mail or Text Your Entry To:
karielkruse@gmail.com or 706-502-0212

Send In Your Entry Today!





UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

2025 Equine Exchange— Lunch & Learn Webinar

This Month's Topic: Winter Considerations for Equine Management

This free webinar will be held on:

Monday, Nov. 3rd at 12 Noon

To register for the session, click [HERE](#).

Last month, the discussion topic was about **Considerations For Buying A Horse**. If you couldn't join the discussion but would like to see it, the recording is available [HERE](#).

To view past sessions, click [this link](#).

Make a suggestion about future topics by sending a message to:
rlstew2@uga.edu



**Best Photo
From
East Fork!**

—
**Randy &
Trausti!**

Recruiting New Members for 2026!

Joining the Bent Tree Saddle Club is a great way to meet new people, practice your equestrian skills, go on group rides and trips, and get involved in the Pickens County horse community.

It's easy and affordable to become a member. Just complete an application and submit your \$40 payment for the year.

For new members who join after October 1st, your dues will cover the rest of 2025... and all of 2026!

See the flyer on the last page of this newsletter for information.

—

Visit Our Website:
www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com

Recipe Roundup

Apple Carrot Horse Treats

Ingredients

- 1 cup chopped apples (remove seeds)
- 1 cup grated carrots
- 1 cup oats
- 1 cup flour (whole wheat or oats)
- 1/2 cup molasses

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients until well combined.
3. Roll the mixture into small balls or flatten it and cut into shapes.
4. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes, or until golden brown.

Cool before serving to your horse.



Recipe courtesy of equestrianapp.com



November 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8 <i>Ellen Stara Memorial Ride</i>
9	10	11 	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Burnt Mountain Ride</i>
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29 <i>Photo Contest Deadline</i>
30						



Annual Schedule of Events 2025



Date	Event	Time	Place	Organizer
Sat., Feb. 1	Kick-Off Party	6:00 PM	Tavern at the 19th Hole, Bent Tree	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Feb. 22	Scavenger Hunt	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Karie Kruse
Sat., Mar. 8	Horse Park Workday	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park & Arena	Karie Kruse
Mon., Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Dinner	6:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Karie Kruse
Sat., Mar. 22	Poker Ride	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park & Erway Farm	Ronda Erway
Sat., Apr. 5	O-Mok-See	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Sun., Apr. 13	Burnt Mount Preserve Ride	10:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Rich Vigue
Sun., Apr. 27	High Point Equine Bodywork, Masterson Method & Demo	1:00 PM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., May 3	Kentucky Derby Party	5:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Rich Vigue
Sat., May 10	Saddle Fitting Clinic, Cookout, General Meeting	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Julie Heinsman
Sun., May 18	Western Pleasure Event	Cancelled	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Megan Mathisen
Sat., May 31	Hillside Farm Trail Challenge	11:00 AM	Sylvia's Farm	Lisa & Jim Sylvia
Sat. Jun 7	Obstacle Trail Challenge	Cancelled	Eubanks' Farm	Claire Eubanks
Thur. Jun 12 - 16	Big South Fork Trip	-	Big South Fork National Pk Jamestown, TN	Julie Heinsman
Fri., July 4	Independence Day Parade	11:00 AM	Main St., Jasper, GA	Julie Heinsman
Sat., July 19	Texas Hold 'Em Tournament	Cancelled	Rocco's Pub	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Aug. 23rd	Garbage Can Cookout	6:30 PM	Julie's Mountain Peace Ranch	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Sept. 13	Garland Mountain Ride	10:30 AM	Garland Mountain Horse Trails	Julie Heinsman
Wed., Sept. 17	Equine Education Event First Aid and Nutrition	7:00 PM	Hinton Community House Jasper, GA	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Sept. 27	O-Mok-See	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Thur., Oct. 2 - 6	East Fork Stables Trip	-	East Fork Stables, Jamestown, TN	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Oct. 18	Chickamauga Battlefield Ride	11:00 AM	Chickamauga Battlefield, Fort Oglethorpe, GA	Ronda Erway
Sat., Oct. 25	Bent Tree Fun Show	1:00 PM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman & Megan Mathisen
Sat., Nov. 8	2025 Ellen Stara Memorial Ride	10:00 AM	Garland Mountain, Waleska, GA	Rich Vigue
Sat., Nov. 22	Burnt Mountain Preserve Ride	10:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Rich Vigue
Thur., Dec. 18	Year End Party	TBD	61 Main, 49 S. Main St., Jasper, GA	Karie Kruse

Bent Tree Saddle Club

2025 Executive Committee

President

Julie Heinsman
(404) 550-0270
mymtnpeace@gmail.com

Past President

Rich Vigue
(770) 289-7272
viguerich@gmail.com

Vice President

Karie Kruse
(706) 502-0212
kariekruse@gmail.com

Past Past President

Jim Sylvia
(770) 401-8332
jim.sylvia3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ronda Erway
(402) 540-3338
rrerway@gmail.com

Secretary

Lisa Sylvia
(770) 401-8333
lisasyvia3@gmail.com

Bent Tree Liaison

Bob Crawl
(770) 757-8596
bobcrawl@etcmail.com

Appointee

Megan Mathisen
(573) 528-3482
megank143@hotmail.com

2025 Positions

Membership
Bob Crawl

E-Mail Distribution
Lisa Sylvia

Website Support
Jim Sylvia

Newsletter Editor
Karie Kruse



Visit Our Website:
www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com





A Fun Place For Horse Lovers

Bent Tree Saddle Club



The Bent Tree Saddle Club is dedicated to promoting equestrian activities and fostering a vibrant community of horse enthusiasts. We organize group trail rides, horse shows, competitive events, and educational demonstrations to improve your knowledge and skills.

Would You Like To Join The Club?

Just fill out an application form and make a payment of only \$40 for an annual Club membership.

—

Visit our website:
BentTreeSaddleClub.com

Club Membership Benefits

- Access to our 100' x 200' arena, private riding trails, Lake Tamarack, picnic area & covered pavilion, bathrooms, and stone grill at the BTSC Horse Park in the Bent Tree Community
- Organized rides, horse shows, obstacle courses, trail challenges, and travel trips that take place at the BTSC Horse park, local farms, GA State forests, and beyond
- Educational events with local experts and professionals to learn about equine healthcare and horse management
- Friendship, socializing, and networking opportunities with horse owners and riders from the Jasper area

For QUESTIONS or to JOIN, contact Bob Crowl at:
bobcrowl@etcmail.com or 770-757-8596