

## *Upcoming Events*

### **All-Day Ride Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Since we had to cancel the first all-day ride originally scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>, this ride will cover the same territory. Departing from the BTSC Horse Park, we will be riding the high country with a later lunch stop at the Houses. Nickie is cooking chili for us, so just pack a mid-morning snack for you and your horse. The back gate will open at 9:00 a.m. with ride out at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Expect to return to the horse park around 4 p.m. Another option for some who do not enjoy the final leg of the ride through Bent Tree is to park your trailer up in front of the Houses' property on Monument Road. We might be able to do this as long as we don't delay the ride out time. Please let me know if you plan on riding and if you'd like to park your trailer up on Monument Road. You can reach me at 707-253-5822 or at rich-[rigue@ellijay.com](mailto:rigue@ellijay.com).

*Rich*

### **Spring Trip to Firefly Acres Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**

The April trailering trip to Firefly Acres is quickly approaching. Our final count is 32 people and 26 horses, a record high! Pete and I have dusted off our chaps and have cleaned up the pavilion for our annual gathering. We are excited to show off our two new cabins, as they turned out cuter than we imagined.

Just a quick reminder that lunch will be served at 12:00 Central Time on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup> (1:00 p.m. Jasper time). Be sure to allow time to get your horses settled into their weekend paddocks. We will hit the trail at 1:30 p.m. Sparta time.

Anyone who needs directions, please give me a call at 678-313-5611. For those who want to caravan to Firefly Acres, plan to be in the Jasper Ingles parking lot by 9:00 a.m. on Friday.

We are psyched to see everyone! Safe travels and don't forget your coggins and health certificate.

*Bambi and Pete*

### **General Meeting Beech Creek Farm Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Russ and Whit Wright will be hosting the club at their beautiful farm on Grandview Road on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. In addition to a stellar presentation by your president on matters of little interest, Dave Perkins with Southern States will be speaking to us on the latest in equine nutrition given these economic times. One of the specifics he'll cover is how to feed horses properly on less money. Now that's a topic we all should be interested in. I guarantee a fun, informative meeting.

61 Main is catering the dinner at the conclusion of the meeting. The 61 Main folks will be serving Lasagna, Caesar Salad and Tiramisu. After dinner Russ invites everyone to join in on a little friendly game of basketball.

This event is BYOB (including all beverages). The cost per person is \$15.

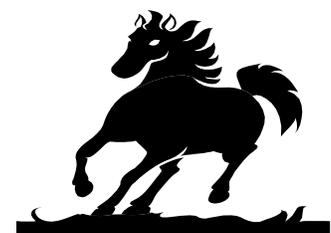
Prepaid reservations are required no later than Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Send your check made out to Bent Tree Saddle Club to Tami Tyson, 199 Moore Farms Lane, Jasper, Georgia 30143. Come look over Beech Creek Farm and enjoy an evening with some horse loving people.

*Rich*

### **Trailblazing Competition Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

We will meet at the BTSC Horse Park at noon, eat lunch and then head off on our ride. The number of groups will be determined when we have the number of participants. The theme is Cowboys and Indians, so I hope everyone dresses for the part they choose just for fun. The articles the riders will be retrieving must be brought back to the central meeting place. Someone in each group will need to be able to carry the articles retrieved, which will fit in a backpack or saddle bag. The hunt should take approximately three hours, and then we will meet back at the horse park where we will have some games for horses and riders. It should be lots of fun. There will be trivia questions to answer to get points, and then our riders will open directions to a new location. There will be prizes for the most points accumulated. If people want to hang around for a cookout, let me know and we could do that as well. Hope everyone will let me know if they are participating. Please RSVP to [deblondeau@hotmail.com](mailto:deblondeau@hotmail.com).

*Deborah*





*And now,  
a few pithy and informative words  
from our esteemed "Pres" and his horse.*

### **Dawson Forest Ride Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

A trailering trip on Sunday, April 25th will be led by Claire and Dave Eubanks. We will be going to Dawson Forest. We will plan to leave the parking lot by 11:00 a.m. There is a \$5 fee per rider to use the facility. We will stop out on the trail to eat lunch. The ride should be about three- to three-and-a-half hours in length. Drop me a line via e-mail if you plan to join us at ceshuman51@hotmail.com. My cell number is 770-265-9425. Hope to see you all there!

*Claire*

### **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

At long last, we finally had a riding event actually take place and on the originally scheduled date to boot. Our first O-Mok-See of the year was held on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Jena, Val and their cadre of volunteers did an outstanding job. We had a good turnout of riders and onlookers and the event went smoothly.

With our horse events kicking into high gear, now is probably a good time to remind everyone that we have certain safety rules while participating in or just watching a horse event at the BTSC Horse Park. First and foremost, if you take a dog to a horse event at the horse park, that dog must be on a leash and you're expected to clean up after it. We keep a scooper in the storage room. Secondly, no drinking of any alcohol is permitted while competing in an event. Lastly, please do not run your horse outside the arena. Some of us older people are not as quick as we used to be. It is not the BTSC Executive Committee's desire to have us become laden with rules. Just use a little common sense and be considerate of others.

We discussed these rules at our most recent executive committee meeting. While most of the committee is in agreement on these rules, the issue of who is the enforcer is not as clear. No one wants to be the Officer at Arms, and it's probably not fair to place this responsibility on the event leader. For now, we'll leave it as self policing unless it becomes obvious that action needs to be taken.

The executive committee also discussed our membership status. As of March 26<sup>th</sup> we are at 133 members; 53 are Bent Tree property owners. Since our objective is 50 percent property owners, that means we are developing a waiting list for non-property owners. Keith Hunter has volunteered to chair a membership committee to keep track of memberships and to make recommendations concerning such. Keith will also look at ways in which back gate stickers might be made available to non-property owners for a fee. With all the events we have planned this year at the horse park, getting in and out of the back gate could be a real convenience to non-property owners. If you'd like to be part of this committee, please give Keith a call.

Au fin, Don House and the BTSC Scholarship Committee are in full swing. I personally am very excited about this effort. What a great way to show the community the kind of club we have. Don has an update on their progress included in this issue. We plan to use the "shootout" as a fundraiser again this year. Mark June 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. You'll not only relieve some frustration (I have some suggestions for target design), but you'll be contributing to something special.

*Rich*

### **Kentucky Derby Party Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

The Saddle Club's annual Kentucky Derby Party will be held at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole in Bent Tree. Hosted by Ann and Lee Burger, this event celebrates the high point of thoroughbred racing, the 136<sup>th</sup> Run for the Roses at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. Although post time is not until 6:00 p.m., you will want to arrive early to pick your horses and place your bets. There will be loads of food and a cash bar. We will also raffle off prizes and present a special award for the lady with the most outrageous Derby Day hat. Please call the Burgers at 770-893-4917 by Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to make your reservations. Your cost for dinner will be only \$15. Join us for fun, food and friendship!

*Lee and Ann*

### **BTSC Horse Park Workday Recap**

The weather could not have been more perfect for working. The sun was shining and the temperature was just right. We had a good turnout of volunteers, so a lot was accomplished in a short time. We sawed up and removed several trees that had blown down and even recycled one huge tree into several mounting blocks that were placed around the arena. Leaves were flying as Vickie and her Pony Club girls along with others raked and carried away debris from the arena. We reset a couple of broken fence posts and pulled out a rotted tree stump with the help of Jan's ATV. The bathroom that was vandalized is repaired, all but the broken window and that will be replaced in a few days.

Beth and Bubba Nixa deserve our special thanks because they came back on Monday and replaced the two hitching rails out front by themselves.

I have only mentioned a few who contributed but, there were many more. I would like to thank each and every one who helped get our arena ready for another year of fun.

*David*

## Club Launches Scholarship Program First Recipients to be Announced in June

The Bent Tree Saddle Club Scholarship Committee is now seeking your help to spread the word: The time to request an application for a \$500 or \$1,000 grant is here! One year ago, the BTSC membership resolved to develop a scholarship program aimed at students pursuing or interested in pursuing a career in the equine industry, who demonstrate financial need, academic success, hard work and determination. A committee, consisting of Charles Cates, Rosemary King, Val Jacobson and Don House as chairman, is finalizing the details for the launch of the program later in April and plans to announce a winner or co-winners in early June.

The Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$1,235. The inaugural Montana East Shootout held last June provided the initial \$600 of funding. In addition, based on the goodwill generated by the club's support of this initiative, several club members made donations totaling \$635.

For 2010, the committee has decided to distribute \$1,000. This could be awarded to one applicant or to two applicants at \$500 each. The official announcement will state "BTSC will award up to \$1,000 in scholarships with a minimum grant of \$500."

During 2010, the club will raise funds for awards in 2011. The second annual "shootout" in June will begin the fundraising for those awards.

Who is eligible? Seniors in high school graduating in 2010, or persons recently graduated from high school who are enrolling in college, enrolled college undergraduates and enrolled college professional school (veterinarian) students. For example, we are seeking candidates who are enrolled or plan to enroll in majors such as agri-business, agriculture, ecology, equine science, equine business management, equine therapy, pre-veterinarian or veterinarian school. Also acceptable would be an equine industry involvement regardless of major. For example, an education major who owns, rides or trains horses. College location is not restricted.

Publicity for the award will be initially directed to the Saddle Club, Bent Tree property owners and Pickens County High School. We are sending a press release to the Pickens Progress newspaper. Since we assume that some candidates may already be at UGA, the UGA Vet School or another two- or four-year college, we encourage family or friends of those students to contact them and provide information on how to apply. Please spread the word to eligible candidates!

Applicants may direct their requests for an application to the following address:

Bent Tree Saddle Club Scholarship Program  
40 Little Pine Mountain Road #20618  
Jasper, Georgia 30143

We will mail each applicant an application package that will be due back by May 21<sup>st</sup>. In addition to basic information and data on academic standing, the candidate will be asked to write an essay that states their interest in and commitment to the equine industry. Three references will also be required.

We hope you share our excitement about this new BTSC program. Everyone in this club cares about horses and recognizes the importance of encouraging young people to prepare to take roles serving the equine community. In addition, many of us worked our way through college and know how important any financial assistance can be. And, yes, we have great fun together in this club, but we are delighted to be in a position to share our good fortune with others in the community as well.

If you would like to discuss this subject, please contact me or another member of the committee.

*Don*

## Secretary's Report

As of March 28<sup>th</sup>, we have 133 members. I am still waiting for one more application to come in from a Bent Tree property owner, which would take us up to 134.

Our condolences, thoughts and prayers go out to Amy Smith in the loss of her father.

Betty Jo Dockery is recovering from knee replacement surgery and hopes to be riding again sometime in May. We're pulling for ya Betty Jo and hope to see you back in the saddle soon!

I would like to thank Elaine Kaiser for putting together the Natural Horsemanship Clinic that was held at the BTSC Horse Park yesterday. Mike Evans was the instructor along with two of his students, Courtney and Debbie. They did an excellent job putting up with us and teaching us how to work with our horses better, enjoy them and appreciate all that they can do given the right cues. I am sorry that more of you did not get to participate for whatever reasons, but hopefully they will come back and have another clinic that you might be able to attend. I think Rio benefited greatly from the clinic, and I am definitely feeling it today!

Thanks to all of you who sent cards, e-mails or called us about the loss of Dakota. It has been very difficult to lose part of our family here at K BAR K, and the support of friends in the BTSC has helped us through a very sad time.

By the time you get this newsletter you will have received an e-mail with the rough draft of the 2010 Membership List. Please take a moment and find your name to make sure all of the information is correct before I send out the final copy for you to print. Thanks for helping me with this.

*Rosemary*

## Prince Memorial Ride Rescheduled Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

The Bruce Prince Memorial Ride is rescheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>. Details will be in the May newsletter.

*Bob*

## The O-Mok-See Season Opener!

The first O-Mok-See of 2010 was held on a beautiful sunny Saturday! Everyone was thrilled to be outside again after the long gloomy winter. The energy was running high, the horses were spirited and the music was rockin'! The Star Spangled Banner opened the day at exactly 1:00 p.m. with a goose-bump inspiring pas de deux by Hannah and Moe and Claire and Star. Thanks to both of you for always kicking off this event on the right hoof.

As always there were five events for this O-Mok-See; however, this time we accidentally gave out ribbons for every event this year, including the Horse Show, Moderate Trail Challenge and The Obstacle Course ... the blue ribbons were awarded to:

Pole Bending: Claire Eubanks and Star  
 Tomahawk Balls: Claire Eubanks and Star  
 Baton Race: Bubba Nixa and Jag  
 Mystery Event #1 The Barrels  
                   Keeve Krasner and Ruby  
 Mystery Event #2 The Keyhole  
                   Baylee Stanley and Cherokee Rose

Reserve Champion with a total of 13 points  
                   Claire Eubanks and Star  
 Grand Champion with a total of 17 points  
                   Bubba Nixa and Jag

A big shout out to Randy Taylor for grading the arena, Rich Vigue for opening the back gate for all those horse trailers, Janet Vigue for always helping out in the judges' stand, all of the volunteers who helped out in the arena during and between events, John Heinsman for starting the grill, and everyone who participated in the workday to get the horse park looking good for our first event of the year.

Finally, thanks to all of the competitors. It was fun to see familiar faces and new faces! For those of you who received the wrong ribbons, per our comment above, we will be re-issuing O-Mok-See ribbons to all of you. Sorry for the confusion.

See you next time on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>!

*Jena and Val*



## Mike Evans Horsemanship Clinic Recap

Although the day began cold and windy, it warmed up to be a gorgeous, sunny spring day for our clinic on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Bob, Doreen and Pete, Debbie D., Rosemary, Debbie M., Georgiana and Elaine all spent a great day in the company of our horses ... gaining a better connection and learning new tools for communicating better. Our auditors included Anne, Pam, Keith, David, Jan and the Shutterbugs!

Mike spent time in the morning giving us a brief history of horsemanship. He explained how men like Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt began what is now known as "resistance-free" or "natural horsemanship," and how these men influenced his understanding and working with horses.

After explaining the importance of groundwork and doing a few exercises with our horses, we mounted up for under-saddle work. With 11 horses in the arena (two of them were youngsters) it took awhile to get used to! Several times Mike had every other horse turn in the opposite direction. Then we began riding serpentine around each other at the walk and then trot. Later, Mike had us canter as a group and then he'd call out for us to cut across the arena. We had to maneuver our mounts so there was plenty of room to pass - quite a challenge for both the horses and us. It taught us how to think ahead and "lead" our horse where we wanted him to go!

After a short lunch break, we mounted up for more exercises. We "counted cadence" as we called out when a particular foot left the ground, worked on picking up the correct "lead", moved haunches and forehands, and finally, worked on "horsemanship patterns." Riding those perfect circles at a trot isn't as easy as you would think!

Congrats to Debbie Meffert and Luna for winning the "most improved" award from Mike and his team! We all had a great time, and Mike has agreed to come again when we're ready for another clinic!

*Elaine*

## Equestrian Workday Recap

Bobby Delay and I participated in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and State Parks Equestrian Workday. There were approximately 20 volunteers at Fort Mountain State Park on a wet, wet Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. It rained a little, sleeted a little, hailed a little and was generally miserable. I spent the morning trying to move an outhouse. Fortunately, it was new and had never been used since we tipped it over several times. We all know that when Bobby Delay says he's going to do something, it's going to happen. Bobby never shirks a task. Maybe, he should have this time.

*Rich*

Byron Hutson  
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 Secretary: Rosemary King  
 (Newsletter Editor: DJ Suberk)  
 Bent Tree Liaison: Jan Lorenzen  
 Board Appointees:  
 Don House  
 Barbara Hutson

**Saddle Club  
 Hotline and Website  
 770-893-1489  
 www.BTSC.info**

Check the hotline or  
 website if weather  
 threatens to interfere  
 with a scheduled event.

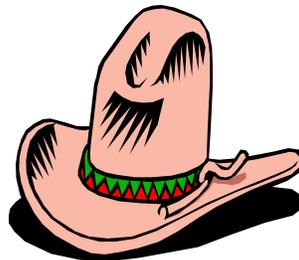
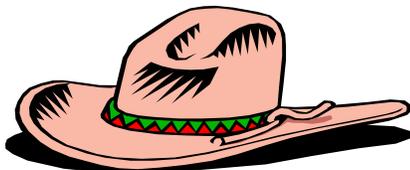
# BTSC April 2010 Fridge Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 All-Day Ride
4	5	6	7	8	9 Firefly Acres	10 Firefly Acres
11 Firefly Acres	12	13	14 RSVP due for General Meeting	15	16	17 General Membership Meeting
18 Trailblazing Competition	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Dawson Forest Ride	26	27	28 RSVP for Kentucky Derby Party	29	30	Kentucky Derby Party

### 2010 Bent Tree Saddle Club Calendar

April			
	3	All-Day Ride	Rich Vigue/Don & Nickie House
	9, 10, 11	Firefly Acres	Pete & Bambi Dillingham
	17	General Meeting	Russ & Whit Wright
	18	Trailblazing Competition	Deborah Sorenson
	25	Dawson Forest Ride	Claire Eubanks
May			
	1	Kentucky Derby Party	Lee & Ann Burger
	15	General Meeting – HP	Rich Vigue
	16	Bruce Prince Memorial Ride	Bob
	22	O-Mok-See #2	Jena/Val
	29	Fun Show & Memorial Day Picnic	Claire Eubanks/Julie Heinsman
June			
	5	Workday at Jake/Bull	Rich Vigue
	12	Shootout	Keith Hunter
	19	General Meeting	Bubba & Beth/Don & Nickie
	21-27	Mount Rogers, VA Trip	Judy Heilman
	27-7/3	Youth Fest	Keeve Krasner/Bob Crowl
July			
	4	BYOE Picnic & Fireworks HP & BT	
	17	Poker Night	John & Gail Heinsman
August			
	7	Golf Tournament	Charles Cates
	14	Movie Night	David & Rosemary King
September			
	4	Horse Show & Labor Day Picnic	Jan Lorenzen/Tami Tyson
	25	Obstacle Course	David & Rosemary King
October			
	9	Garbage Can Cookout & Gen. Mtg	Julie Heinsman
	23	O-Mok-See #3	Jena/Val
	27-31	Fall Trip	Julie Heinsman
November			
	13	Moderate Trail Challenge	Rich Vigue
	20	Thanksgiving Dinner & Meeting	Bob & Peggy Crowl
December			
	4	Top of the World Ride	Jena/Val
	10	Trim a Tree	Janet Vigue
	11	Christmas Party	Janet Vigue

BTSC Executive Committee Meetings:  
4/16, 6/04, 8/06, 9/11, 10/08 at Horse Park  
11/12 at Bent Tree Cottage



#### Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance General Funds	\$2667.19
Deposits (dues)	\$ 615.00
Checks written (hotline)	\$ 14.88
Arena repairs	
Hinton Milling	\$ 10.99
Hinton Milling	\$ 61.73
David King	\$ 40.38
Workday	
Rosemary King	\$ 16.71
Ending Balance General Funds	\$3137.50
Scholarship Fund	\$1235.00

Tami