

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Horse Park Workday Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Our club workday at the arena is scheduled for Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. There is quite a lot to get done, so hopefully we will have a good turnout and good weather. We will need leaf rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, chainsaws and elbow grease. Start time will be at 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there.

*David*

### **Natural Horsemanship Clinic with Mike Evans Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>**

Natural horsemanship practitioner, Mike Evans, will be presenting a two-day clinic at the BTSC Horse Park exclusively for club members. Riding participants will be limited to 12, but all members of the club are invited to observe. No matter what discipline or level of riding you do, you will come away with some great riding tools while gaining a better understanding of how your horse thinks ... all in the great company of fellow saddle club members! The fee for each horse and rider is \$60 for both days. Slots are filling up fast, so please send or give me \$60 ASAP to hold your spot.

We will begin at 10:00 a.m. and finish up each day around 3:00 p.m. Bring your horse and a sack lunch or bring a chair and your lunch. Water will be provided.

Mike was fortunate enough to take one of Ray Hunt's last clinics before he passed away and has continued his Natural Horsemanship education with Tom Curtin. Mike will give us a brief introduction and history of horsemanship on the first morning. After that, we'll work on some groundwork before doing the same exercises under saddle ... finishing up by "counting cadence." Each day will end with a question and answer session for individual concerns.

If you would like to read Mike's full bio, go back to the e-mail that was sent out to everyone on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

If we need to change the date because of weather, you can either get your check back or apply it to the rain date.

Please let me know if you plan to join us at the arena on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. My home phone is 706-253-2693 or my cell is 706-331-8479 or just e-mail me at horsey1207@gmail.com.

*Elaine*

### **2010 O-Mok-See Season Begins! Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

Get excited! One of the club's most popular events is back, not once but THREE times!! The 2010 O-Mok-See season kicks off on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park. Weather and participation permitting, there will be a total of three O-Mok-Sees this year. Ribbons will be awarded to the top five contestants in each event. The club executive committee decided not to have year-end awards for 2010, so each O-Mok-See will be a stand-alone event this year. The format will remain the same as in years past with pole bending, tomahawk balls, baton race and two mystery events. You must be a current BTSC member to participate.

The dates and times of the O-Mok-Sees are as follows:

Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon

Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon

The back gate will open at noon for trucks and trailers. Please contact me at [jfin@tds.net](mailto:jfin@tds.net) if you plan to trailer through the back gate. The entry fee is \$10 per horse and rider. You may ride more than one horse but it is an additional \$10 per horse. You **MUST** present a current negative coggins to participate **NO EXCEPTIONS!** All BTSC members are encouraged to come out, enjoy the day and cheer for your favorite contestants! We'll also continue with the post-event BYOEEXC (bring your own everything except charcoal) cookouts.

Many of you chose theme songs last year, and we'll carry those over to this year. If you'd like to make a change or add a song, please just let me know. All you need to do is e-mail me the song(s) of your choice prior to the event, and we'll be sure to play it when it's your turn to ride.

Unlike Vigue at the Christmas party, we always need volunteers to make these events run smoothly, so if you're interested, please contact Val or me at 770-893-1752 or [jfin@tds.net](mailto:jfin@tds.net).

We look forward to seeing you.

*Jena & Val*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I write this column it is raining again. We had a few days off last week and things began to dry out a little. Yesterday was supposed to be the Prince Memorial Ride, but there was no way Martha could get her vehicle down to Twin Chimneys. Well, she probably could get down the trail to the cabin, but she'd never get the truck back out until there'd be some significant drying, so we had to reschedule the ride for March 21<sup>st</sup>. All the precipitation and cold has created a lot of problems, not just the potholes and bog and long days spent inside, but the fallen trees everywhere. The Houses have had a particular problem with this. Couple all that with the fact that most of our horses are not in shape for a ride up to Monument Road, I sent out an e-mail last week cancelling the All-Day Ride scheduled for Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. I'm getting good at cancelling rides. Not a skill that I'm proud of. Better days are ahead. We are on the down side of winter ... only a few more weeks.

Coming up in the next few months are several general meetings that you will not want to miss. April 24<sup>th</sup> we'll meet at Beech Creek Farm where we'll be hosted by Russ and Whit Wright. Thanks to Tami Tyson, Dave Perkins, Southern States Representative, will give a presentation on equine nutrition. May 15<sup>th</sup> we'll meet at the BTSC Horse Park where Becky King, a level 3 Par-elli instructor, will work with three or four of our horses and do a personality analysis on them. Becky's thought process is that different approaches should be used with your horse depending on its personality. This should be fun. June 19<sup>th</sup> we'll meet at Hillside Farm where we'll be hosted by the Nixas and Houses. Beth and Bubba will share their extensive knowledge on halter competition for stock-type horses (Paints and Quarter-type horses) and discuss what it was like doing the Southeast Paint Horse Show circuit. More educational programs are planned for later this year.

Lastly, next year will mark 20 years of our club's existence. Georgianna Hunter will be chairing a committee planning an appropriate celebration. If you have any thoughts on this give her a call.

If you printed the annual calendar and have already marked dates for the year, I recommend you review the current one that is at the end of this newsletter. Several dates and events have changed. You might also want to periodically visit our website at [www.btsc.info](http://www.btsc.info). I have a trivia question posted there and will pay \$10 to the first correct answer I get unless it's from the Hyzers. I already gave them the answer.

*Rich*



*Let me outta here!*

## Equestrian Workday Georgia Department of Natural Resources and State Parks Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

Help show GA DNR personnel how much we appreciate and need safe places to ride. Mark your calendar now to help with this event. We'll meet in the Ingles parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and caravan to Fort Mountain State Park in Chatsworth. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Please bring tools such as shovel, gloves, pruners, etc. I need to know if you'll be attending no later than Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. You can contact me at 770-289-7272 or via e-mail at [richvigue@ellijay.com](mailto:richvigue@ellijay.com)

*Rich*

## Prince Memorial Ride Rescheduled Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

Our fifth annual Bruce Prince Memorial Ride has been rescheduled to Sunday, March 21. We will leave from the Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park at 10:30 a.m. The back gate will open at 10:00 a.m. We will ride to the Prince cabin and have lunch there. This is a fairly demanding ride as there are some steep climbs and rocky areas. We will stop along the way several times to give the horses a break, including a stop at the Bruce Prince Memorial sign. There will be plenty of opportunities to reminisce about Bruce and recall our fond memories. The ride should last about 3 to 3½ hours.

Please let me know if you are coming. Martha will be serving lunch at the cabin (if the access road is passable for a vehicle to get to the cabin) so we need an accurate head count. If the access road is not passable, we will let you know so you can pack a lunch. Also, I need a head count for the back gate. Please advise me of your plans by calling 706-692-9825 or e-mailing [bobpeggy@windstream.net](mailto:bobpeggy@windstream.net) by Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be checking for negative Coggins at the horse park. Martha and I are looking forward to seeing you.

*Bob*

**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. We will be riding the high country with a late 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 4:00 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 no later than Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> 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 richvigue@ellijay.com.

*Rich*

**Super Bowl Party Recap**

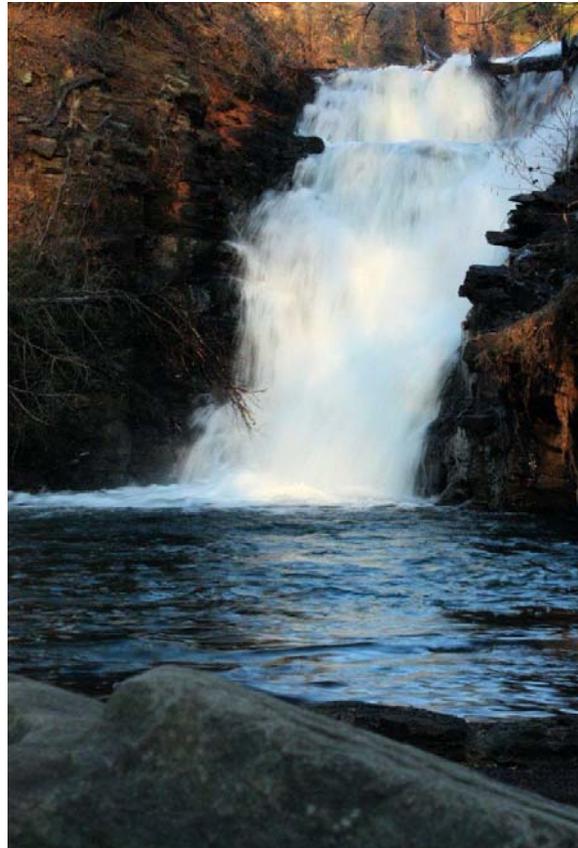
First of all, I'd like to thank Martha for the use of Pendley Creek Stables and Rich and Keith for their help. We had about 35 happy super bowl fans, they were even happier after Rich made his famous Frog Hollow bloody marys. I heard that some had more than just one. The food was great. The game was great. How bout them Saints – sorry Colts fans. I believe everyone had a good time. We need to do this again next year.

*Randy*

**Treasurer's Report**

Beginning Balance	\$2954.08
Deposits (dues)	\$ 425.00
(more dues)	\$ 400.00
(deposit correction)	(\$ 40.00)
Checks written (Ins Premium)	\$ 712.50
(ribbons)	\$ 359.39
Ending Balance (2-22-10)	\$ 2667.19
Scholarship fund	\$1235.00

*Tami*



*The falls at the  
Bent Tree  
spillway*

*by  
Peter Kilpo  
February 27*

**Mount Rogers Update  
Monday to Sunday, June 21-27**

Judy Heilman has been researching lodging for both horse and rider. Some of these places will accommodate various lengths of stay. Come for the whole week or just an extended weekend, but get your name in as soon as possible. Mount Rogers has some of the best trail riding in the southeast and mid-June is a great time of year to visit the Blue Ridge Mountains. E-mail me as soon as possible, but **no later than March 8<sup>th</sup>** at richvigue@ellijay.com and let me know what day and time you plan to arrive and your people/horse lodging requirements. Judy and I will get back to you with possible options.

*Rich*

**Secretary's Report**

Thank you to everyone who got their membership renewal in on time. I appreciate your taking time to help me with this. As a result of your cooperation, we now have a total membership of 129 members as of February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Just a reminder as to what one of the duties of the secretary is: I am just the messenger; please don't shoot me! I forward correspondence that someone in the saddle club feels would be of interest to fellow saddle club members. If you are not interested in adopting a dog, a cat, or a horse, simply delete the e-mail. If you do not want to attend outside functions that may be of interest to horse enthusiasts, delete the e-mail. But if something does come your way that interests you, be glad that part of my function this year is to share that information.

Spring *is* coming, so if it is still too cold for you to ride, at least spend time with your critters brushing them, feeding them treats or bonding with them. And for those of you who simply own livestock, I just don't know what to say. Till next month ...

*Rosemary*

Byron Hutson  
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**2010 Officer**

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 Vice-President: Georgianna Hunter  
 Treasurer: Tami Tyson  
 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 March 2010 Fridge Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Horse Park Workday
7	8 RSVP due for Mt. Rogers, VA Trip	9	10 RSVP due State Parks Workday	11	12	13 GA State Parks Workday
14	15	16	17	18 RSVP due for Bruce Prince Memorial Ride	19	20 O-Mok-See #1
21 Bruce Prince Memorial Ride	22	23	24	25	26	27 Natural Horse- manship Clinic
28 Clinic continues	29	30	31 RSVP due for All-Day Ride			All-Day Ride

### 2010 Bent Tree Saddle Club Calendar

March	6	Horse Park Workday	David & Rosemary King
	13	GA State Parks Workday	Rich Vigue
	20	O-Mok-See #1	Jena/Val
	21	Bruce Prince Memorial Ride	Bob Crowl/Martha Prince
	27, 28	Horsemanship Clinic – HP	Elaine Kaiser
April	3	All-Day Ride	Rich Vigue/Don & Nickie House
	9, 10, 11	Firefly Acres	Pete & Bambi Dillingham
	18	Scavenger Hunt	Deborah Sorenson
	24	General Meeting	Russ & Whit Wright
	25	Dawson Forest Ride	Claire Eubanks
May	1	Kentucky Derby Party	Lee & Ann Burger
	15	General Meeting – HP	Rich Vigue
	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:  
 3/26, 4/16, 6/04, 8/06, 9/11, 10/08 at Horse Park  
 11/12 at Bent Tree Cottage