



Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia

www.BCHSG.org



Spring 2007

Issue 2 Volume 1

2007 Annual Meeting Well Attended



These pictures are deceiving. It looks like we are having an enjoyable, leisurely meal in an open air pavilion. However, as the temperatures dipped into the 20's, there was nothing leisurely about the 2007 Annual Meeting! Nearly 40 brave souls attended the meeting on April 7th at Hard Labor Creek State Park and enjoyed a fantastic pot luck dinner.



Jim Gibby of Merial Ltd shared information on the latest Animal Health Products for deworming, West Nile and Equine Ulcers. He also brought us up to date on the Equine Commodity Commission that is new to Georgia as well as the availability of Equine Industry Tags for our automobiles!



We had a brief break for people to gather around the stove and Mr. Heaters then Tina Maddox had a slideshow covering what BCHSG accomplished in 2007. Elections were held for the Board of Directors with Tom Dixie making a motion that offers and Board remain the same for 2007. One bylaw change providing for membership to run for 12 months from payment rather than January-December was presented and approved as well. We then briefly discussed plans for 2007 and 2008 and adjourned.

We appreciate everyone who was able to attend and understand that there were many more who were unable to attend due to conflicts with the Easter holiday as well as the unusual weather. We look forward to a fantastic year in 2007!

Welcome New Members

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to the following new members!

Debbie Lowe & Gary Potts
Helen Wenner
Carlos & Debbie McDonald
James & Christina Raye
Gene Nipper & Lynn Woodruff
Kathy Corbin
Rachel Little

Thank you to the following for their renewals for 2007-2008

Jack & Kathy White
Ron Cook & Adriane Altman
Gerald Davis
Jimmy Johnson & Angie Henley
Maranda & Russell West
Darrell Martin
Randy Brown
Mary West
Joe Thompson
Gene Owen
Tina Maddox

Visit us Online at
www.BCHSG.org

Thank you for your support in 2006-2007

If you are listed below, your membership is now due for renewal

April Joanna Howe
April Debbie & Lamar Mullinax
April Jack Garber
April Chrystal & Ron Sherwood
April Susan White
April Laine, Bubba & Perry Dreher
April Randy & Penny Kesler
April Mary Sikes
April Margaret Brown
April Dan & Charlotte Strawn
April Sarah Ross
April Elizabeth Malcome
April Lauren Billings
April Charles Hyden

April Jon Lower
April Blaine Rankin
April Kathleen Baldwin
April Gary & Lori Janes
April Bruce & Tammy Coleman
April Tom Dixie
April Don Patton
April Deirdra Selph
April James Brantley
April Deb Hilty
April Allison Altman
May Jim & Laurie Underwood
May Donna Yawn
June Gail Wiley

Officers and Board for 2007-2008

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Membership is Important for BCHSG

You may think your membership is only important if you want to get the newsletter, if you want to be part of the workdays, or if you want to be a part of any of our events. Actually your membership is vital to being able to prove how important horse trails are to Georgians. We need for our membership number to reflect the number of horse people in Georgia who are interested in more and better trails and facilities in Georgia. Without these numbers we cannot accurately reflect our economic impact and earn the respect of our legislators.

No other organization can say that their members are specifically interested in trail riding on public lands like we can. We are able to say that our members are willing to work to help keep these public lands available and improving in Georgia. These are the things that public officials want to know and need to hear.

Please help us spread the word about BCHSG. The best way to increase our membership is by word of mouth. Please pass along your copy of the newsletter, share our website address and just tell people about the organization. We need to continue to grow in order to show the need for horse trails and facilities in Georgia.

State Wide State Parks Work Day

Back Country Horsemen made a difference all over the state on March 10th! Not only did BCHSG volunteer to head up the efforts at FDR state park, but BCHNG handled Fort Mountain State Park in Chatsworth. Many of our members worked at the other three parks, Watson Bridge, Hard Labor Creek and A. H. Stephens as well. This was the first time that Georgia trail riders attempted a coordinated effort to gather all trail riders together to work as volunteers. Many riding clubs and horse groups were represented across the state and with over 350 volunteers signed up to work before hand, it was a huge success.

This will become an annual event with the second Saturday in March reserved for the work day! Make your plans now to help out. Hopefully we can work at even more state parks next year!

(See our article in the national newsletter!)



Equine Day at the Capitol

More than 150 horse owning individuals, representing more than 800 horses, made their way to the Capitol on one of the coldest morning this year to learn about and discuss issues relating to the Equine Industry. Currently, horses rank 7th on the list of the state's agricultural commodities. Despite the high ranking, equestrians struggle to attain the same benefits afforded many other commodities. Many of the attendees on this day along with a host of others on Capitol Hill are working to correct that.

Dr. Lee Myers, State Veterinarian and Assistant State Agriculture Commissioner, explained how the newly formed Equine Commodity Commission will work to both educate horse owners and the general public



about the industry as well as serve as a voice for equestrians at the Capitol. Once members are appointed and the commission funded, programs to increase the presence of the horse owning population will be underway. One funding source for the

Commission will be the Equine Industry License Plate. The Equine Industry Tag will be designed under the guidance of the Equine Commodity Commission and become available as soon as 1000 are presold.

To ensure that these tags become a reality, please pre purchase a tag when it is time for you to renew. You will be asked to pay a \$25 manufacturing fee that is fully refunded if the tags are not manufactured. This is a unique opportunity to support the equine industry in Georgia. Since recreational riders make up the largest portion of this industry, we expect to profit from the creation of this Commission. Please support it by purchasing your tag.

AHC Study Finds Equestrian Recreation Industry Has Significant Economic Impact

The term "backyard horse" does not necessarily spark images of high spending and thousands of jobs. But a closer look reveals that the recreational segment of the horse industry, including the average pleasure rider on their "backyard horse," generates quite a bit of economic impact and employment opportunities.

The American Horse Council's *Economic Impact of the Horse Industry on the United States* study includes some impressive statistics that confirm the size and significant impact of the recreational horse industry.

The number of horses used primarily for recreational purposes is by far the largest segment of the horse population by more than one million. According to the *Economic Impact Study*, there are more than 1.4 million

Quarter Horses being used specifically for recreational activities. Another 228,290 Thoroughbreds and an astounding 2.3 million horses listed under "other breeds" are involved in equestrian recreation.

The resulting effect on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the recreation industry is equally impressive at \$32 billion - \$11.9 billion in direct effects and \$20 billion are indirect and induced effects.

We can break this information on the recreation industry down even further by specifying the effect by horse breed. Thoroughbreds have a \$1.3 billion direct effect and a \$3.4 billion total effect (including indirect and induced effects) on the GDP. Quarter Horses have an even larger impact with a \$4 billion direct effect and \$10.6 billion

total effect. The rest of the breeds - classified in the "other" category - have a \$6.6 billion direct effect and \$18 billion total effect.

While recreational events and activities may not always be as flashy as their racing and competition counterparts, recreation events require thousands of employees to keep all of the money flowing and these events running. The *Economic Impact Study* converts part-time and seasonal employees into a full-time equivalent basis to accurately determine the number of jobs generated by the horse industry. The recreational horse industry generates 128,324 full-time equivalent positions. Jobs associated with recreational Thoroughbreds equal 10,121, Quarter Horses 37,437 and "other" breeds 80,766.

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When you add the number of jobs generated directly by the industry and add indirect and induced employment, those numbers go even higher. Indirect employment represents jobs provided as a result of spending by industry providers and induced employment represents jobs provided as a result of spending by industry employees. The recreation industry has had a total effect on full-time equivalent employment of 435,082 jobs – the largest of any segment of the horse industry.

The American Horse Council's *Economic Impact of the Horse Industry in the United States* study contains all of these statistics and more. This comprehensive study also analyzes the racing and showing industries, as well as breaking down all of these numbers by state for the 15 states that participated in breakout studies.

The national and each individual state study are available for purchase from the American Horse Council at www.horsecouncil.org or by phone at 202-296-4031.

As the national association representing all segments of the horse industry in Washington, D.C., the American Horse Council works daily to represent equine interests and investments. Organized in 1969, the AHC promotes and protects the industry by communicating with Congress, federal agencies, the media and the industry on behalf of all horse related interests each and every day.

BCHSG Members Urged to Attend 2007 SETC July 19—21



The Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC) focuses on the issues surrounding the use of horses on trails in the southeastern United States and is open to anyone interested in natural resource conservation. People from outside the Southeast are encouraged to attend to share their perspectives with and to learn from those who value the opportunity for recreational use of horses on trails.

Participants and guest speakers include forestry and trail experts, and representatives from natural resource agencies, riding clubs and volunteer groups. SETC 2007 is being hosted by the Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee and the Blue Ridge Trail Riders.

For more information on SETC 2007, email Joanne Mitchell, Conference Planner or call 865-693-4308 or view their webpage at www.southeasternequestriantrails.com

From the President

Our organization has made some incredible strides during its first year of existence. There is a huge need for a group such as this and we need to push forward and work with land managers across middle and south Georgia. This will take members all over the area who are willing to be the contact person for a location.

Please consider working with a committee in your area to target public lands and provide us with information on how we can impact decision making to include horses. We will not know of local opportunities unless you let us know. **This organization will only succeed if you get involved.**

Think about how you can help and give us a call.

Tina Maddox

Mission Statement of BCHSG

The Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia is a non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating the common sense use and enjoyment of horses on Georgia's Public Lands. We work to ensure that public lands remain open to equine use and assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of those resources.

Volunteer

We need volunteers to help with trails projects. Work Days will be scheduled shortly but there are other tasks that need to be done in addition to physical work. If you want to help, call one of the Board and we will get you working!

Upcoming Work Days

Put these dates on your calendar

May 19—Oconee National Forest

June—TBA

July—TBA

August—TBA

For details call 706-319-0239

Membership Challenge Worth \$300

Membership should be our focus for 2007-08. At the recent annual meeting a challenge was issued. Gerald Davis and Joe Thompson put up \$100 to be paid to the person who brings the most new memberships to BCHSG by July 15th. Jim Gibby matched that with \$100 worth of BP Gas Cards and Gene Owen offered to match it with \$100 as well! That is \$300 for the person who is responsible for the most new memberships by July 15th!

You may use any membership application but just make sure to include your name on the application in order to be recognized for the membership challenge. This will only apply to new members and can be individual or family members! Applications are available online at www.BCHSG.org or if you need copies, give Tina or Laine a call and we will mail you copies. Good Luck and go out and talk about BCHSG!

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***Come On, Be a Part of the Solution!
Join BCHSG Today!***

