



Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia

www.BCHSG.org



Spring 2010

Issue 5 Volume 2

Why am I getting this? Did I pay my dues in 2009?

The past two newsletters have gone out to our entire membership, past and present. We want to make sure that everyone knows what BCHSG has been doing and plans to do in the future. Of course, we hope that this will encourage you to renew your membership, showing your support of your right to ride on public lands!

To those who have renewed your membership for 2010, we appreciate your continued support. For those that haven't, well, we appreciate your support in the past and hope to have you as a member again in the future! Unfortunately, we cannot continue to mail out newsletters to unpaid members, so this will be your last newsletter until your membership is renewed.

Membership is very important to Back Country Horsemen. With membership numbers in hand, showing the strength of our organization, we can ask our elected officials for their support. Membership numbers turn into a way to show our financial impact on Georgia and our financial impact is large. We need to be able to justify our requests for continued support of our horse trails

and facilities in Georgia and this is one very strong way we can present our needs.

Volunteer hours also speak very loudly when we ask for maintenance dollars or new trails. Our volunteer efforts have grown from 169 hours valued at \$4,760.58 in 2006 to 1264.50 hours valued at \$42,918.90 in 2008. Our 2009 hours will be even more impressive! We have workdays in our National Forests both at Ocmulgee River Trails and Fallen Creek Trails and there is always something that you can do. We work regularly in our state parks and will be scheduling workdays throughout the year that you can participate in. We also work at county owned parks and other

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public areas....so no matter your skill level, or time available, we have something for you! Talk to a Board member, check our webpage and calendar here in the newsletter for upcoming events that you can be a part of. If everyone in our organization came to one workday every year, we would have enough help to make a difference!

**Please put April 17th on your calendar
Workday at Ocmulgee River Trails
Meet at the Ocmulgee Trailhead on Smith Mill Road
10 AM**

Look for details and confirmation on the webpage or call Ron Cook at 478-986-4097, Gene Owen 404-234-9993 or Jack White 706-769-9892

Silent Auction to Support BCHSG's Sponsorship of SETC 2010 a Great Success

Going once, going twice.....gone!! The silent auction held at our recent annual meeting was a great fund raiser and we have our wonderful donors to thank for it!! Members when you have a chance please thank and/or visit the stores and individuals, C. D. Maddox, Marsha Nash, Kendal Morris, Tina Maddox Owen, Jimmy Johnson, Wendell and Dayle Faulkner, Darcy LaPointe, Linda Kundell, Amy Rosen, Mary's Tack, Feed and Pet Store, Doyle Ivie, Hugh and Linda Murray, Adriane Altman Cook, Susie Preston, Jack and Kathy White, who made it possible.

Our goal was to cover our portion of the sponsorship for SETC 2010 to be held in Georgia. We raised \$ 702.00 which more than covered our portion of the sponsorship and we are excited to be a part of this great conference!

Thank you letters have gone out to all sponsors thanking them for their participation. Please be sure to add your personal thanks when you see these folks!

Respectfully, Kathy White

*Did you know... the Backcountry Horsemen of America
Annual Meeting will be held in Branson MS on April 21-24,
2010. For more information visit their webpage at
www.backcountryhorse.org*

Officers and Board for 2009-2010

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From the President

I was excited to see so many people at our annual meeting in February! As it turned out, it was the ONE pretty day we had in several months and many of our members rode the trails at HLC then joined us for the meeting! We switched the Annual meeting to February from April to try to avoid riding conflicts and make attendance easier. We want to thank our hosts, Friends of Hard Labor Creek, for providing the facility this year. Knowing that we had heat and air was a nice change of pace!

We also appreciate Daniel Hill, Manager of HLC, who updated us on the situation at our state parks. Bottom line is that volunteers and support are needed more than ever to ensure that we have access to horse trails!

We also heard from Jim McGarvey, the incoming President of BCH Georgia who gave us an overview of how the state chapter will work with affiliates to help strengthen our voice.

As always, if you left hungry, it was by choice! Thank you to all of our donors and to everyone who joined us at the meeting!

Tina Maddox Owen

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.

Elections for BCHSG Officers and Directors

Congratulations and thank you to the folks who have stepped up to provide leadership for this great organization! Your board works hard for you even when you don't see it! Typically, BCHSG has one board meeting a month along with at least one workday, often more. Often, planning meetings with public land managers take a half day or more commitment from board members. Luckily your board members are committed to providing the time it takes to make this organization strong.

Thank you to your current Vice President, Jack White, and Treasurer, Adriane Altman for accepting these positions for another two year term. We welcome Kathy White as our new secretary and appreciate her willingness to help no matter what is asked of her! Dayle Faulkner, Jimmy Johnson and Chrystal Sherwood have agreed to an additional term on the board and we appreciate their dedication and hard work. We welcome Doyle Ivie of Farmington to the Board. Doyle has been a strong volunteer at Fallen Creek and Heritage Park over the past year and we look forward to his expertise on the board.

I know all of you join me in thanking Gerald Davis for all he has done while serving on your Board. We know he will remain active in supporting the organization. He is a wealth of knowledge which I know we will need to call upon in future times. Judge, you were instrumental in the establishment of BCHSG and we appreciate your support and hard work over the years to make sure that trail riders everywhere have the opportunity to enjoy some great trails in Georgia and the South East!

Randy Brown has also stepped down from the board at this time. Randy has taken a new job that keeps him away from home for long stretches of time and he felt that he would not have the necessary time to devote to the position. We appreciate Randy's service and know that we will see him back out on the trail with a chainsaw in hand very soon!

We thank each and every one who has served or is serving on the board. We always need new volunteers and if you are interested in helping, please contact any of the board members listed!

Leave No Trace Featured at Annual Meeting

Members were treated to a short introduction to the principles of "Leave No Trace" at our recent Annual Meeting. As you know, BCHSG supported Ron and Jack in sending them to the "Leave No Trace Master Educator (Stock) Course" which was sponsored by Back Country Horsemen of America.

As equestrians you are aware of the concerns of the impact of trail riding, hiking, and camping in our private, state, and national facilities. Their presentation briefly covered "The Seven Leave No Trace Principles"

- 1. Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- 2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
- 3. Dispose of Waste Properly**
- 4. Leave What You Find**
- 5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**
- 6. Respect Wildlife**
- 7. Be Considerate of Visitors.**

It is imperative that we all know these standards and implement them daily so that our outdoor activities remain open to us today and the future. Thank you Ron and Jack for your time investment and for sharing what you learned! We look forward to more educational opportunities with these guys in the future!

For more information on the Principles of Leave No Trace, visit them online at www.LNT.org

State Wide State Parks Workdays Result in Many Accomplishments



It started off as a very iffy day at FDR State park in Warm Springs, but nine, brave souls arrived and took the plunge. BCHSG provided leadership and meals for this workday as we have for the past 3 years. BCHSG members, Debbie Lowe and Gary Potts were kind enough open their horse camp for our base of operations. We were met by Park Manager, Don McGhee, as we gathered at the overlook to begin our day. He expressed his appreciation for our volunteer work and we were all pleased that he was there for we had not been met by park officials in a few years.



We worked the Cowboy Trail on the opposite side of 190 from the barn, clearing trees, returning trails to their original routes and marking the trails. Debbie Lowe had a good idea to use orange ear tags designed for cattle as trail markers. This type of marker is a GOOD eye catcher. When you get a chance to ride the trails, let us know what you think of these markers! We appreciate Debbie and Gary's donation of the ear tags!

Bits of rain and cold did not detour our efforts. We stayed on task and all felt good about the accomplishments. As always, we ate well and enjoyed the time to visit with friends and do something for one of our state parks that has equestrian trails. Thank you to all of our volunteers past and present! ~ Happy Trails, Kathy White

BCHSG Members Worked Across the State

O.K., I promised no rain, no snow, no sleet, no hail and no wind to anyone who worked at A.H. Stephens this year. I managed somehow to keep that promise. We have in the past had some horrible weather but this time we lucked out. We had 26 people show up for the work day at A.H. Stephens. Many of the Friends of A.H. Stephens group came to help us. They made lunch for us and served it. They worked on our trails and our camp sites. The oldest was 79 years old. She told me that she could keep working because she would rest a little and then work a little. I guess that it works because she was working when we were ready to quit. (By the way, she was baptized in the baptismal font that we ride past. She remembers coming to the Park as a teenager.) She is volunteering so that this Park will be here for the future. The rest of us were between 0 and 79. I can't even guess since most people wouldn't tell me!!

We started at about 9:00 and at 3:30 we still had people working. We got so much done. We built two camp sites and started on a third. We had a crew out working on the trail. The culverts are all running free now. I heard and saw that some people got a little muddy and a little wet (well, maybe everyone did!!). It seems that the ATV got stuck in the mud and had to be pushed out. They still had smiles on their faces when they were done.

We had three members from Back Country show up to work and work they did. Dayle and Wendell Faulkner were awesome building camp sites. And me? Well, I spend a lot of the time talking! André would tell me to get a crew together for something and I did it. I have to admit that I wasn't awesome, I wasn't even great, super, or terrific. But I really believe that this crew was. The people who work at A.H. Stephens year after year believe that this Park is becoming one of the best places to camp and ride.

By 3:00 they were slowing down. The people who worked on the camp sites were tired. The people who worked on the culverts were tired. Andre, Curtis and Michael, the crew from A.H. Stephens, were tired. As most of us left at about 3:30, the crew, with some volunteers, was still working. As Andre told me that morning, they were working until the last volunteer stopped (or maybe it was dropped!). ~ Linda Kundell



Come on, Be a Part of the Solution!
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2010

Membership is good for one year from date of application

Many important decisions have been made without input from horsemen and will continue to be made without us though often with input from those who prefer not to see horses or mules on any trail or in any backcountry areas. Don't you agree it's about time we all get involved?

Join BCHSG and help preserve our heritage!
 Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia (BCHSG)
 P. O. Box 3535
 Eatonton GA 31024 706-319-0239

Membership in this affiliate also gives you a national membership entitling you to the quarterly newsletter and all voting privileges in Back Country Horsemen of America

Please check one

- Individual - \$30.00**
- Family - \$40.00**
- Supporter - \$20.00** (This does not include the national membership and is intended for members of other affiliates who do not require the national membership)

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell/Work Phone:** _____ **City State Zip** _____

Email _____

Thank you for your support!

Amount Paid _____ **Check** **Cash** **Other (please circle one)**

Date _____ **Received by** _____



If this sounds like you, be sure to be a part of the **BCHSG**

BCHSG is your advocate for public trails in middle and south Georgia.

Join today to show your support of horse trails in state parks, national forests and parks and other publically owned lands.

Visit us Online at
www.BCHSG.org

Upcoming Events

April 17—Oconee National Forest Workday—
Ocmulgee River Trail. Work from Ocmulgee Trail head on Smith Mill Road beginning at 10AM. Weather permitting. Look for details and confirmation on the webpage or call Ron Cook at 478-986-4097, Gene Owen 404-234-9993 or Jack White 706-769-9892

May 8— Tentative Work Date Location TBA

June 26—Tentative Work Date Location TBA

July 10—Tentative Work Date Location TBA

Look for details and confirmation on the webpage or call Ron Cook at 478-986-4097, Gene Owen 404-234-9993 or Jack White 706-769-9892

Ongoing workdays at Hard Labor Creek in conjunction with the Rockdale Trail Blazers. For Information Tina Owen 706-319-0239 or francis@athens.net

Ongoing workdays at Fallen Creek Horse Trails for information Jack White 706-769-9892

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