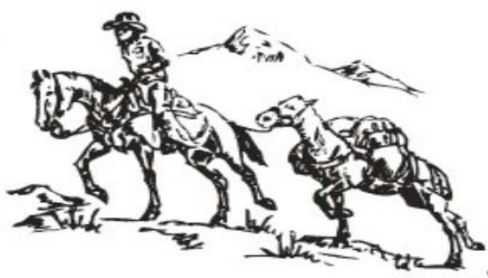




Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia

www.BCHSG.org



Winter 2010

Issue 5 Volume 1

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 and for those who will be renewing at the annual meeting, we appreciate you as well. 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 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!

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Silent Auction to Support BCHSG's Sponsorship of SETC 2010

The Georgia affiliates of BCHA have joined together to support the upcoming Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference being held in Georgia for 2010. Please help support this great conference by bringing items to donate to the auction. Last year we had a fantastic assortment of new and gently used items. While "equine" themed items do very well, items that are not "horsey" do well too! Take a look in your closets, tack rooms and horse trailer and bring anything you would like to donate!

Officers and Board for 2008-2009

President-Tina Maddox Owen

Cell-706-319-0239

Email-francis@athens.net

Vice President-Jack White

Home-706-769-9892

Email-kjwhite1@bellsouth.net

Treasurer-Adriane Altman

Home-478-986-4097

Email-adrianealtman@aol.com

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Tom Dixe

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Dayle Faulkner

Home-706-769-8500

Jimmy Johnson

Home-478-452-5340

Gene Owen

Home-770-482-2406

From the President

I hope to see a great number of our members and friends at the upcoming annual meeting. We moved the date from April to February to attempt to avoid conflicts with warmer and hopefully drier riding weather. The pavilion that we are using this year has heat and air-conditioning. I mention this as many will remember our annual meeting in 2008 when temperatures took an unseasonable dip.

We will hold a silent auction along with our business meeting to raise funds to help support SETC 2010 which will be held in Georgia this year. The affiliates of BCHA in Georgia have gathered together to sponsor this great event. I urge everyone to consider attending the conference in July.

We are working on a large fundraiser to be held Memorial Day Weekend. Put it on your calendar and look for more details as they unfold.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on the 20th.

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

From your last newsletter, you know the following BCHSG Officer positions will be open for nomination: Vice President, currently held by Jack White, and Treasurer, currently held by Adriane Altman. To date, I have not received any outside nominations for these positions. Both officers have kindly agreed to run again in the elections.

As for the BCHSG Director positions, we have four positions that will come up for election. Dayle Faulkner and Jimmy Johnson have both agreed to have their names on the nomination slate. Gerald Davis has asked his name not be submitted for nomination. I know all of you join me in THANKING Gerald for all he has done while being on the Board. We all hope he will remain active in supporting us. 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. Randy Brown has also asked to be removed from the slate of directors 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 at this time. We appreciate Randy's service and know that we will see him back out on the trail with a chainsaw in hand very soon!

Doyle Ivie of Farmington and Chrystal Sherwood of Kathleen have agreed to run for these two open positions. Please reference the BCHSG By-Laws if you have questions with regards to Officers and Directors. Duties and elections. Please remember that you must be a member in good standing to vote. Make sure your membership is up to date before elections. We will accept applications prior to the election.

These positions are instrumental to the survival of BCHSG. If you have questions or concerns please contact me at 706-769-9892 or kjwhite1@bellsouth.net.

Kathy White
Chairman, Nominations Committee

Leave No Trace Featured at Annual Meeting

Make sure to be present and on time at the Annual Meeting. Ron Cook and Jack White are on the agenda first thing to do a presentation on "Leave No Trace." 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. Their session will be short but very informative.

As equestrians you are aware of the concerns of the impact of trail riding, hiking, and camping in our private, state, and national facilities. In this presentation they will briefly cover "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.

Look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting.

Kathy White

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

US Rider Membership to Benefit BCHA

If you travel with your horse, USRider is the Equestrian Motor Plan for you since USRider is truly committed to the welfare and safety of their members and their horses.

It's every horse owner's greatest fear: having an accident or breaking down on the road while pulling a trailer loaded with horses. Traditionally, roadside assistance programs have been unable to help drivers who are transporting horses. To fill this need, USRider created the Equestrian Motor Plan. This unique plan provides roadside assistance and towing services along with other travel-related benefits to members **traveling with horses.**

"We took a unique approach to motor plans. USRider is a motor plan that was created from the horse and horse owner's perspective – not a motor plan that created something for horse people," says Mark Cole, managing member for USRider. With an annual fee comparable to that of other roadside assistance programs, USRider's plan offers service anywhere in the continental United States, Canada and Alaska and includes the typical flat-tire repair, battery assistance and lockout services. In addition, the Equestrian Motor Plan offers services designed with horse owners in mind, including 100 miles of free towing for the tow vehicle and/or horse trailer, emergency veterinary, stabling, and farrier referrals, and more, for just pennies a day.

USRider membership is one of the best values in the horse industry at just \$119 annually, plus a \$29 new member activation fee. Associate memberships for family members are available for just \$79 each. USRider waives the new member activation fee for members who add an associate member when they join. Join USRider today by calling 1-800-844-1409 or by



GREAT NEWS: Get something you want and benefit BCHA at the same time – at no extra cost to you! USRider has created a special limited-time program just for Back Country Horsemen of America members! For any member of BCHA who joins USRider between February 1 and February 28, 2010,

visiting www.usrider.org. "The Equestrian Motor Plan was born out of frustration; it's something that didn't exist but was definitely needed. Nine out of 10 people who travel with horses are confident they have enough coverage with their existing motor plan. However, when they have a breakdown,

they discover they don't. Most motor plans will not cover you if your vehicle is attached to a trailer – regardless of horses – and most do not cover vehicles with dual wheels."

According to Cole, in general, the most common call for assistance is vehicle mechanical problems with tow vehicles and flat tires on trailers. In

the event of an accident or breakdown, USRider contacts area towing or repair personnel who will try to fix the problem on the scene.

Cole says, "The main benefit for our members is now they have someone to call. They have a live situation they need to deal with – they call us and we take it from there." In addition, the program features numerous exclusive discounts from dozens of nationally recognized equestrian retailers through the Winner's Circle Advantage benefits program. As an added bonus, USRider's roadside assistance benefits are in full force even when members are not traveling with their horses.

USRider Membership helps those who help horses. Each year USRider donates a portion of its profits through the Leg-Up Fund to promote awareness and provide training for Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue initiatives.

For trailer maintenance and equine travel safety tips, including a vet-approved first aid kit, visit the USRider website at www.usrider.org.



Please join us for our next Statewide
**GA DNR and State Parks
 Equestrian Workday**

Saturday - March 13th, 2010 - 9:30 a.m.

Rain or Shine

Help show GA DNR personnel how much we appreciate and need these safe places to ride and camp with our horses. Please mark your calendars now to help with this event!

Note: You must sign up in advance with the appropriate contact so that we have an accurate count for lunch.

Volunteer at any one of these GA DNR locations on March 13th:

A.H. Stephens State Park Crawfordville, GA
 Linda Kundell 706-769-6395 or 706-338-4723 kundell@bellsouth.net

Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Area Mansfield, GA
 Joe Pierce 478-986-4113 piercegray@piercepartsandservice.com

F.D. Roosevelt State Park Pine Mountain, GA
 Tina Maddox Owen 706-319-0239 francis@athens.net

Fort Mountain State Park Chatsworth, GA
 Susan Shedd 706-838-0392 susan@BCHNG.org

General Coffee State Park Nicholls, GA
 Sonny Cooper 912-383-2034 jtcoper@windstream.net

Hard Labor Creek State Park Rutledge, GA
 Rick Jones 770-786-5535 ervinjones@hotmail.com
 Gloria English 404-210-9779 geandriplet@bigfoot.com

Watson Mill Bridge State Park Comer, GA
 Diane Ayres 770-653-1139 dmayres@windstream.net

Lunch and drinks will be provided for those who sign up.
 Please bring tools such as a shovel, gloves, pruners, etc.
 Spread the word and share this flyer with other equestrians and clubs!
 For more information contact Diane Ayres at:
 770-653-1139 or dmayres@windstream.net

In partnership with:

**Georgia
 State Parks
 & Historic Sites** 



If this sounds like you, then you need to be part of the organization whose mission statement is to ensure that public lands remain open to equine use.

Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia

Invites you to attend the

2010 Annual Meeting

February 20, 2010

beginning at 5:30

Hard Labor Creek State Park, Group Pavilion 1

Leave No Trace Awareness with LNT Masters Ron Cook & Jack White

Pot Luck Dinner with BCHSG cooking the meat

Silent Auction to Benefit SETC 2010

Volunteer Awards and Recognition

Business Meeting and Planning for 2010

Updates from our special guests:

Harold Hammonds - Friends of Hard Labor Creek State Park

Daniel Hill - Manager, Hard Labor Creek State Park

Jim McGarvey - President, BCH GA Pending acceptance by BCHA

For more information

www.BCHSG.org

706-319-0239

Everyone Welcome

You do not need to be a
member to attend



OF MIDDLE & SOUTH GEORGIA



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 at the **BCHSG Annual Meeting**

February 20, 2010

Hard Labor Creek State Park
Pavilion I

Begins at 5:30

Potluck Dinner with BCHSG
providing the meat

Visit us Online at
www.BCHSG.org

Upcoming Events

February 20—Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia Annual Meeting—Hard Labor Creek State Park Pavilion I. Begins at 5:30. Potluck dinner and silent auction. Everyone welcome, bring a friend.

March 13—State Wide State Parks Work Day—Six state parks with horse trails and facilities in Georgia. Support your favorite park or come experience a new one! See flyer elsewhere in newsletter.

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

May 28-31—Fundraiser for BCHSG—Trail Ride, fun competitive trail show and much more. Planning now. If you would like to be a part of planning for this event, contact Tina Owen at 706-319-0239.

BCHSG
P. O. Box 3535
Eatonton GA 31024



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