

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN



www.BCHNG.org

2012 Spring-Summer NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THESE DATES!

Jun 30 – BCHNG in Blue Ridge July 4th Parade

Jul 12-15 – Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC), Lexington, KY

Jul 14 – Team Conasauga Workday on East Cowpen Trail

Jul – Sep – CoTrails Volunteer Trails Assessments (details to follow)

Jul – Nov – Workdays at Jacks River Fields (JRF) Campground & Trail– Look for updates on www.bchnng.org

Aug 7 – CoTrails General Meeting, Gainesville

Aug 10-11 – Team Conasauga Working Weekend – Hemptop & East Cowpen Trails with Camping at Jacks River Fields

Sep 15 – Team Conasauga Workday – Rough Ridge Trail

Sep / Oct – CoTrails Crew Leader Certification Courses

Nov – 3rd Annual Fall Leaf Ride (tentative)

Dec 7 – BCHNG Annual Meeting & Christmas Party

April 18-21, 2013 – 6th Annual BCHNG Benefit Ride at East Fork Stables, Jamestown, TN

WE LOVE A PARADE – HAPPY 4th OF JULY!

Horses and mules have played such an important role in our nation's history, so what better time to salute our equine friends than for BCHNG to take part in the 4th of July parade in downtown Blue Ridge. We will also show off our newly "branded & decorated" cargo and trail tools trailer. Come on down to Main Street in Blue Ridge at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 30 to cheer us on and help us raise awareness of the importance of volunteering and working together to protect, support and maintain trails on public lands.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fellow BCHNG Members,

Your BCH of North Georgia chapter has been busy since our last newsletter. The highlight was our 5th Annual BCHNG Benefit Ride at East Fork Stables, April 12-15. We were due for good weather and the weekend could not have been better! A BIG **Thank You** to all who attended and supported our event.

Also in April, our BCH of Georgia state organization chairman, Jim McGarvey, and I were honored to represent BCH in Georgia at the annual Back Country Horsemen of America National Directors Meeting in Eugene, Oregon (see our report later in this issue).

We continue to see improvement in our membership numbers, especially in the business membership category. We are very grateful to a number of area businesses who have joined BCHNG this year. Check them out on the sponsor page of the newsletter, and let's show our appreciation by doing business with them whenever possible. And when you visit them, take a moment to thank them for their support.

BCHNG has continued its close involvement and participation in the CoTrails Initiative, the volunteer partnership among the principal organizations representing recreational trails user groups and the Forest Service. After the launch of the CoTrails Strategic Plan and Trails 101 weekend at Unicoi State Park in January, where BCHNG members showed a strong presence, we have continued to be well represented at the CoTrails trail inventory workshops in February and the field demonstration sessions in April and May.

The professional assessment of 200+ miles of trails was completed in May and highlights of the results were presented at the CoTrails General Meeting on June 12, where BCHNG again had a strong representation with several members present. We will need the ongoing involvement of BCHNG volunteers as we embark on volunteer evaluations of another 250 miles of selected trails this summer. Look for more details in the CoTrails article in this issue of the newsletter.

BCHNG's volunteer commitments and contributions continue to be significant and widespread. Our volunteer hours are ahead of this time last year, with members participating in maintenance workdays on trails and at our adopted Jacks River Fields campground, the only horse camp on the

east side of the Conasauga Ranger District in the Cohutta mountains. Our volunteer hours are largely contributed by a small number of dedicated individuals. If we are to continue to enjoy access to the Forest and enhance recreational trail riding opportunities on public lands, we will have to increase the number of participants dedicated to maintaining them. We encourage all BCHNG members to contribute to this effort and join us during upcoming workdays as well as in the upcoming CoTrails evaluations this summer.

Volunteer contributions by BCHNG members were complemented by the recent completion of major repairs and upgrades on the South Fork Trail, near the JRF campground, by a professional trail building firm under a USFS contract. We appreciate the FS arranging for this work since there were a number of potentially hazardous areas on the trail that needed attention.

Our last workday on June 2 and camping weekend at the Jacks River Fields campground and on Penitentiary Branch Trail in celebration of National Trails Day was a big success. We accomplished a lot as you will see from photos posted on our website at www.bchng.org. We appreciate the participation of many BCHNG members, other trail users and FS staff.

The past year has been a period of staff transitions in the USFS Conasauga Ranger District, most recently marked by the departure of District Ranger Michele Jones for a new assignment in her home state of Oregon. We'll miss her and wish her the best in her new post.

As always, thank you for your support of BCHNG and your dedication to preserving equestrian access to trails on public lands for today and tomorrow!

Carlos Martel,
President

**THANK YOU, FAREWELL & BEST WISHES
TO CONASAUGA DISTRICT RANGER
MICHELE JONES**

Michele Jones has been a good friend and strong partner, always supportive of BCHNG's efforts to maintain access to the Forest and in keeping the Jacks River Fields campground and horse camp open for our enjoyment with our horses.

In a farewell message to partners and volunteers Michele wrote:

Dear Dedicated and Amazing Volunteers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their dedication to this District for the last 5½ years that I've been privileged to serve as District Ranger. I have accepted the District Ranger position on the Central Coast Ranger District / Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area on the Siuslaw National Forest in Waldport, OR. Some of you know that I grew up in western Oregon and I am excited to be going home. However, it's definitely bittersweet because the people on this District, which includes all the volunteers, have touched my life in a very profound way. I am a better person for my experiences in Georgia. Thank you. I hope to run into some of you before I leave, which will be towards the middle of June.

*Michele Holman Jones
District Ranger, Conasauga Ranger District
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests*



Michele, we will miss you, wish you the best on your return home to family and lifelong friends, and much success in your new post where we know you will enjoy a great partnership and support from the Emerald Empire Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Oregon.

**WHAT A WEEKEND!!!! FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
BENEFIT RIDE AT EAST FORK**

BCHNG's 5th anniversary benefit ride took place at East Fork Stables in Jamestown, TN from April 12-15, 2012. The past two years unfortunately have been rather wet and windy, so we were overdue for a fine weather weekend and we finally got it! We had sunny days with temperatures in

the 60's---perfect for riding the miles and miles of trails at East Fork.

In celebration of our 5th anniversary, special vendors joined us for the weekend. Our participants and their horses had opportunities to train and readjust through clinics by Pete Dillingham, massage therapy (human and horse) and chiropractic sessions for the horses. And to add to the experience, a horse photographer took some great photos to make the ride even more memorable.

Several folks reduced the cost of their trips with their savings for a new trailer awning from our expert awning installer and repairman Paul. We were able to weigh our horses also – with or without riders – on the special scale provided by Seminole Feed for accuracy and advice in case a few extra pounds somehow showed up on the meter.

East Fork's cook "Smiley" got a new smoker over the winter and his famous prime rib was perhaps the best yet! Smiley is REALLY smiling now!

We had great items offered through the auction with a new "buy it now" option for those things we "had to have" before taking the chance somebody might outbid us. We are grateful to everyone who supported the weekend through your attendance, donations and purchases. Proceeds from the event will continue to provide BCHNG with the ability to protect, support and maintain trails on public lands. It also helps us offer LNT training, purchase trail maintenance tools and supplies for workdays, support youth education opportunities and community outreach and speak out on equestrian-related issues on behalf of trail riders.

We missed some of our "regulars" from prior years but welcomed a lot of new folks. For those who couldn't join us, we are sorry to say that you missed an incredible weekend of some of the best riding weather we have had in the Southeast this year. You never know in April, but it is worth taking a chance, even at the last minute to come out and join in. With that in mind, please put next year's dates on your calendar for our 6th annual ride at East Fork, April 18-21, 2013.

Special thanks go to Doramy Morgan, who organized this year's benefit ride and created a unique atmosphere with something for everyone to enjoy.

SPECIALLY DESIGNED ITEMS FOR SALE

In celebration of our 5th anniversary, Doramy worked with equine artists to create special artwork for many of our t-shirts, caps, stickers and equine signs. We still have some in stock for sale

or for special order online. Check for details on our website at www.bchng.org or order directly at www.cafepress.com/BCHNG. When you order online at cafepress, a small portion of the proceeds from your purchase benefit BCHNG.

BCHA NATIONAL BOARD MEETING REPORT

From April 24-28, our BCH of Georgia chairman, Jim McGarvey, and Carlos Martel, BCHGA secretary, were honored to represent BCH chapters and members in Georgia at the annual Back Country Horsemen of America National Directors Meeting held in Eugene, Oregon. We were joined by voting delegates from 26 other states, one of the largest gatherings of BCHA National Directors since our organization was founded nearly 40 years ago.

Today, BCHA has members in 47 states, a testament to the widespread influence and importance of our national organization. Traditionally, the core of BCHA members was concentrated in western states. However, in the past few years our expansion has been led by the creation of new chapters and affiliates in a number of states east of the Mississippi. BCHA's leadership is now also more widespread across the nation. Three of nine elected executive committee members are from states east of the Mississippi: Jim McGarvey (GA), Tom Thomas (NC) and Yvette Rollins (IN). Yvette is BCHA's vice-chairman.



BCHA 2012 Annual Board Meeting, Eugene, Oregon

BCHA's national influence and respect among land managers is reflected by the presence of high-level officials from public land agencies we deal with who accept invitations to participate in BCHA's annual National Directors Meeting. This year we had interesting presentations and updates by the Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Leslie Weldon, and the USFS Director of Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers, Leanne Marten. We also heard from representatives of the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. These land management partners joined our group for dinner the prior evening giving BCHA national directors the opportunity for informal conversations and discussions.

Also on the agenda were representatives of organizations that represent other recreational users as well as land stewardship groups. These included IMBA (International Mountain Bicycle Association), The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club. From their presentations and the questions and discussion that followed, we learned that we have much more in common than we thought, so it is important that we work together and collaborate to find solutions to common problems. At this year's meeting, BCHNG was asked to make a presentation of the CoTrails Initiative in Georgia (www.CoTrails.org). This provided an opportunity to discuss the possibilities envisioned and the accomplishments achieved under the CoTrails Strategic Plan since its official launch in January of this year. A number of BCH directors from other states were very interested in the plan and the process of collaboration represented by CoTrails and asked for copies of our presentation to share with their BCH chapters for consideration of a similar approach in their own states.

The formal BCHA national directors meeting was preceded by a Public Lands Day where current issues affecting national, state and local access to public lands and trails were discussed. Two recurring topics from the 2011 meeting in Butte, MT were the USFS National Trails Classification System, and Chain Saw Certification. BCH chapters across the country were urged to review the Trail Management Objectives for each of the equestrian trails in their areas to make sure their design parameters and maintenance expectations are current and in line with actual use. The plea from BCH members regarding chain saw certification is that the process be uniform and reciprocal across the country and between districts and regions.

This year's meeting host, BCH of Oregon (BCHO), its chapters, their members and volunteers did an amazing job in arranging all the events, in addressing every need effectively and graciously, and making everyone feel welcome.

BCHO's kick-off welcome event was an awesome trail ride on horses and mules on the beautiful wide beaches and enormous sand dunes of the Oregon coast, interrupted only by a fabulous Dutch-oven cookout at lunch at the campground. One could argue they rivaled our standards of Southern Hospitality!

The campground and the trails we rode are on the Central Coast Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest. As it happens, this will be the new Ranger District for Michele Jones, a native Oregonian, who has been District Ranger of the

Conasauga Ranger District, and our partner for the past six years. No doubt, in her new Ranger District, Michele will enjoy a similarly strong partnership and support from the Emerald Coast BCH chapter as BCHNG has enjoyed with her here in North Georgia.



Welcome to Oregon's Coast trail ride hosted by BCHO

The 2013 BCHA meeting will be hosted by BCH of South Dakota in Rapid City, April 22-27. In 2014, BCH of Tennessee will showcase homegrown Southern Hospitality as BCHA's host in Chattanooga. BHCNG and our sister chapters in Georgia stand ready to help our BCH counterparts in Tennessee to make the 2014 BCHA National Directors Meeting as memorable as the one in Oregon and the upcoming one in South Dakota. In 2015 the meeting will travel back west where BCH of California will be the host in Sacramento.

BCHA's annual National Board Meeting is an incredible way to learn about BCH issues and activities in various parts of the U.S. It is no surprise that the issues vary widely, but they all point to the fact that BCHA continues to be the leading voice of equestrians and backcountry pack stock enthusiasts dealing with local, state and Federal land managers and other trail and backcountry user groups.

While only National Directors from each of the states have voting privileges at the annual meeting, all BCH members are welcome and encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing a large number of BCH'ers from southern states in Chattanooga in 2014.

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR LIFEBLOOD!
- WE NEED YOU!

Click here for a BCHNG 2012 membership form: <http://www.bchnng.org/2012membershipform.pdf> or click on the Membership button on our website at www.bchnng.org. Annual dues are \$30 for individual members, \$40 for family and \$60 for business sponsors, which includes an ad on the sponsor

page of our website, as well as the sponsor page of our newsletter. Please renew or join today!

A membership committee comprised of Paul Saunders, Nanci Tarrant (706) 455-1966 and Hanley Rose (706) 374-1045 is hard at work to increase and enhance our membership. Contact Paul at paul@suncoastsolutions.org or by phone at 706-258-2779, or other committee members with your ideas, to join and to volunteer!

VOLUNTEER TIME & TRAIL REPORTS

Thank you to all of you who have contributed time, effort & perspiration during workdays at the JRF campground and on the trails. Remember to report your volunteer time and efforts to Bob Goggins at: rgoggins@tds.net or 706-838-4170. Please report your work time as soon as possible after the work date so that accurate and current records are maintained. Volunteer time is reported to the Forest Service bi-monthly, and to BCHA National annually.

If you come across blow downs, other trail hazards, or notice trail problems that need to be corrected/fixed, please report those also to Bob Goggins so they can be addressed. Report the date when found, the trail name or number, and the location of the problem with a description of what has to be done. If you have a GPS, mark the location and send Bob the coordinates.

Remember, there are many ways to volunteer your services to BCHNG. We need help staffing our display board at local events, cleaning the campground & hauling away trash, reporting damage or blow downs on trails, clearing and maintaining trails, representing BCHNG at meetings and conferences, writing newsletter articles, providing lunch on special workdays or cooking for special events such as National Trails Day. Not everybody likes to work with a shovel or a rake so please let us know what you are interested in doing to support BCHNG. Every means of support helps.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY REPORT

On National Trails Day, June 2, 2012, members and friends of BCHNG joined together at Jacks River Fields Campground to clean the campground, mow the fields, replace the footing and ramps to the horse stalls, install a new fire ring and reposition the kiosk at the horse camp, install a new sign at the campground entrance and bush hog the Pinhoti trail section that connects FS Road 64 to the South Fork Trail.



BCHNG- NTD Crew: A good day's work & job well done

National Trails Day is always the first Saturday in June and is part of a nationwide call to action to help maintain trails and campgrounds on public lands. It is promoted by American Trails Association and is supported by numerous large corporate sponsors and the millions of hikers, bikers, equestrians, and families who enjoy their special choices of recreation on trails in the national forests and parks across America. Plan on joining us next year! We camp, work, ride, cookout and sit around the campfires and enjoy the beauty of nature around us.

COLLABORATIVE TRAILS INITIATIVE – CoTRAILS Update

The CoTrails professional assessment of 200+ miles of selected recreational trails that began earlier this year was completed in May. Highlights of the final report were presented at the last Co-Trails general meeting on June 12. The full report is now available online at <http://go.usa.gov/vcc>.



CoTrails Inventory Workshop in BR Ranger District

The next step in this process is for CoTrails volunteers to evaluate another 250 miles on approximately 100 system trails on the four CONF Ranger Districts during the summer. We need BCHNG members and friends to participate in this effort. Volunteer coordinators will organize, schedule and facilitate this work over the next few weeks with a goal to complete the evaluations by the end of the summer.

Volunteers will work in teams of at least two persons each. A mix of user group representatives in each team will be encouraged to benefit from the unique perspectives of the different trail users.

To help with this work and to answer any questions or provide additional information, send an email to carlosmartel@bellsouth.net or call him at 706-374-7075.

Also at the last CoTrails meeting we had an update from the Volunteer Engagement & Training Team that has been busy on a number of fronts, including the development of a Crew Leader Handbook for trail work and Crew Leader Certification Courses that will be offered late this summer and early fall. For more information on these, and to be notified when the course dates are set, contact Gary Monk at gmonk@bellsouth.net.



CoTrails Field Demonstration re-route in Oconee RD

The next CoTrails General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7 at 6:00 PM at the USFS-CONF Supervisor's Office in Gainesville. Check the events calendar regularly on the CoTrails.org website for all CoTrails events and for other volunteer opportunities, workdays, etc. Here's the link: <http://cotrails.org/events/month>.

If you have questions, suggestions, or want to volunteer for this or other CoTrails projects, use the "Contact" link (<http://cotrails.org/contact>) on the CoTrails.org website, or contact Carlos Martel at the email or phone listed above.

The success of the CoTrails Initiative and the future of recreational trails on the Forest are dependent on the participation of a growing number of volunteers. We need BCH members and other equestrians to continue to be a strong force in this effort. Let us know that we can count on your ongoing involvement and invite your trail riding friends to join us too!

SETC 2012 COMING SOON!

The 2012 Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference will be held this year in the "Horse Capital of the World" Lexington, Kentucky on July 12-14,

2012. SETC is the largest equestrian trails conference in the United States. Although initially founded as a regional conference, SETC is becoming increasingly national, with people now attending from several western and mid-western states in addition to all the southeastern states. The purpose of SETC is to bring people together who are concerned about the future of the natural and cultural heritage of the trail experience from horseback.

SETC strives through educational programs and workshops for the development of a conservation force that will influence land use policies at local, state, regional and national levels. As well as educational opportunities, there are networking possibilities with other states and organizations. BCHNG encourages members to attend this conference and has arranged a stipend program for interested members. Come to the center of America's thoroughbred country and join the premier conference in America with a focus on trails for equestrians. It is the place for equestrians in July 2012. To learn more visit:

www.southeasternequestriantrailsconference.com

APPLY NOW: NEW STIPEND POLICY TO ASSIST MEMBERS ATTEND WORKSHOPS, TRAINING CLASSES & CONFERENCES

During its May meeting, the BCHNG Board of Directors approved a new stipend policy that would make funds available to qualified members to attend relevant events that serve the mission of BCHNG. The stipends would cover or contribute toward the cost of attendance at equine-related conferences like SETC, trail design and maintenance workshops and certification seminars as well as *Leave No Trace* training.

Basic criteria include:

- Member must be in good standing
- Event's relevance supports BCHNG's mission
- Minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service to BCHNG in some capacity over past 18 months by applicant
- Willingness to act as an informed representative of BCHNG
- Application to Board of Directors and
- Report to Board following completion of event attended suitable for newsletter

For more information, send an email with your name and the event/activity in which you are interested to info@bchng.org.

BCHNG CARGO & TRAIL TOOLS TRAILER

Last year, BCHNG received a Tractor Supply/AQHA STEP grant to purchase a zero turn

mower, cargo trailer and trail tools to help volunteers maintain the campground at Jack's River Fields and nearby trails. The zero turn mower was purchased last summer from BCHNG business sponsor Mason Tractor in Blue Ridge and immediately put to use mowing the grass at the campground.



BCHNG Board Member & Volunteer, Hanley Rose at work on the new zero-turn mower in the big field at JRF

Over two dozen hand tools were donated by the Forest Service to help volunteers maintain the trails and campground. There was just enough grant money left to purchase a cargo trailer to store and carry all the equipment to and from the campground. The trick was finding a cargo trailer at the right price. Assigned to this task was BCHNG board member Hanley Rose, who tells the following tale.

“After many long hours spent on the internet looking for just the right trailer and two or three trips to dealers around the area and offers made on at least two trailers we finally struck gold in Willacoochee, GA. We found just the right trailer, a 7 x 12 tandem enclosed unit cargo trailer at a fair price. And where is Willacoochee you might ask? Almost to Albany, GA., about an hour off I-75 near the Cordele interchange. So with check in hand I took off one morning for the South Georgia flatlands. Unfortunately, when I got there it was after closing, so I lay over for the night and picked the trailer up in the morning. All went well the next morning. The trailer had what we needed, a vent, a ramp; the electrical systems checked out, and, at my urging, they threw a spare tire into the deal.

With money exchanged, title received and everything hooked up, off I went back to the mountains. The trailer needed a little customizing for shelves, hooks, brackets and tie downs, but now BCHNG has a state of the art cargo trailer set up for our mower and tools.”

SAFETY RIDING TIPS

Your trailer at the trailhead is the number one place where you might be attacked. Notice it as you approach for changes or strangers. Do not dismount if you see anything suspicious. Circle the trailer if possible. Check for flat tires (that were not flat when you left) and all connections to your truck: hitch, safety chains, breakaway switch for electric brakes and electrical connection. Your horse is your best weapon—keep him between you and danger, even when dismounted.

SNAKE BITE FIRST AID

I can share this with all BCHNG members thanks to the North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service. I share this with you because of an incident that occurred in the Smokies last month ... ask me about rattlesnakes! – Kathleen Corcoran

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, about 8,000 people a year receive venomous snakebites in the United States, and only 9 to 15 victims (.2%) die. In fact more people die from wasp and bee stings than from snakebites. Most of the fatalities received no medical treatment or first aid. The same simple care one takes around wasp nests and busy roads also suffices to keep the risk of snakebite to acceptable levels. Nonetheless venomous snakes must be considered dangerous and even non-fatal bites can cause severe pain and long-lasting tissue damage.

There have been many snakebite remedies offered over the years. Recent studies have concluded that the **following protocols are best:**

- Stay calm, get safely away from the snake, and have someone call 9-1-1 (or the emergency number in your area). The less the victim moves the bitten site, the less likely the venom will be spread through the body and cause damage.
- Have the victim lie down with the affected limb lower than the heart. Keep the limb immobilized. If practical, splint the limb.
- Treat for shock and preserve body heat.
- Remove any rings, bracelets, boots, or other restricting items from the bitten extremity. (It WILL swell.)
- Apply a light constricting band about 2" above and below the bite, however never place the bands on either side of a joint (such as above and below the knee or elbow). This band should be made up of wide, soft material, which could be a handkerchief or shredded clothing. The band should only be as tight as the band the nurse applies when taking a

blood test. **NOTE:** The purpose of constricting bands is to restrict lymphatic flow, not blood, so they should not be too tight. Check pulses below the bands and readjust the bands as necessary when they tighten due to swelling.

- Wash the bite with soap and water (if available).
- If the victim has to walk out, sit calmly for 20-30 minutes to let the venom localize at the site, then proceed calmly to the nearest source of help and try to avoid unnecessary exertion, which will stimulate circulation of the venom.
- Get the victim to definitive medical care for antivenin, which will provide the greatest relief from the toxic effects of the bite.

ACTIONS TO AVOID:

- DO NOT cut the bite. The additional tissue damage may actually increase the diffusion of the toxins throughout the body.
- DO NOT apply a tourniquet. Such action can result in the loss of the limb.
- NEVER try to suck out the venom by mouth. You can try the suction cup in a snakebite kit if it doesn't delay other needed treatment. Suctioning seldom provides any measurable advantages, however.
- Do not apply cold and/or ice packs. Recent studies indicate that application of cold or ice makes the injury much worse.

The recommended treatments presented are those published in the current edition of Brady's Emergency Care for the Sick and Injured, the standard training and procedures manual for Emergency Medical Technicians.

This article is for informational purposes and no liability is assumed in its use. Always consult with a competent medical professional regarding health related issues. Because of its rarity, some doctors know little or nothing about snakebite management so one should always request that they contact a Poison Control Center and ask to be placed in direct telephone contact/consultation with a physician who is experienced in this area. A number of tragic deaths have occurred due to ignorance and failure to obtain competent medical treatment.

KNOT OF THE MONTH

Slippery Half Hitch: Learn this camp staple for securing anything quickly and easily that needs to stay in one place. The half hitch should be a regular, anytime that you ride and camp with horses and mules.

LEAVE NO TRACE TIP

BCHNG has two *LNT* Master Educators for Pack Stock Use. They offer *LNT* Awareness Workshops and *Train the Trainer* Programs to interested groups of Scouts, 4H, FFA, saddle clubs, etc. Please contact Melinda Towe (706-455-2921) or Susan Shedd (706-633-7041) for more information.

LNT Principle #2 –Travel and camp on Durable Surfaces:

1. *Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock gravel, dry grasses or snow.*
2. *Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet away from lakes, streams.*
3. *Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.*

In Popular areas:

1. *Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.*
2. *Walk single file in the middle of trail, even when wet or muddy.*
3. *Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.*

In Pristine areas:

1. *Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.*
2. *Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.*

TRAIL HORSE MAGAZINES

Trail Blazer is published 11 times a year & costs \$39/yr. FMI call 928-759-7045. Based in Prescott Valley, AZ www.trailblazermagazine.us

Trail Rider is published 8 times a year and costs \$24/yr. FMI call 1-866-343-1802. Based in San Francisco, CA. www.trailridermag.com

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Send news items to newsletter editor, Joanne Mitchell at JFGMhorse@gmail.com. Or call her at 423-337-6194 landline or 865-250-1645 cell. Newsletters will come out quarterly. Next newsletter issue will be late Summer / early Fall 2012.



Meet our Sponsors!

 <p>Car Clinic of Cobb www.CarClinicofCobb.com Professional Car Care & Detailing 2000 South Peachtree Atlanta, Ga 770-873-6269</p>	<p>Walls & Trench Concepts www.wallsandtrench.com</p>  <p>Use the industry's most advanced Methods, Tools & Robot Technology www.wallsandtrench.com</p>	<p>Parter's Construction Chuck Parter Owner</p>  <p>706-455-7300 www.parterconstruction.com chuck@parterconstruction.com</p>	 <p>United Community Bank The Bank For GRACE Bank</p>	<p>Appalachian Realty LLC Steve Hudd, Broker 2700 North Peachtree Atlanta, Georgia www.AppalachianRealty.com 706-838-4519</p>
 <p>Dewey Campbell Industrial Park Division of Disease Control Dept 706-871-6007</p>	<p>Become a Business Sponsor & Your Ad Can Be Right Here!!</p>	<p>Century 21 & Andy Walker Fast service to residential and professional standards! Call Me Now!</p>  <p>706-402-4296</p>		<p>KEY PLANAGEN Professional Farrier Blue Ridge, Ga. 706-258-7789</p>
<p>Mason Tractor Blue Ridge, Ga</p>  <p>www.MasonTractor.com 706-632-3777</p>	<p>Light to Plant Quality Staff</p>  <p>Food, Seed, Tools & Fertilizer 706-946-6366</p>	<p>Cybernetics Inc Blue Ridge, Ga "How can we help you?" 706-632-8682 www.CyberneticsInc.com</p>	 <p>www.Columbus.com Martha Fitzgerald 706-802-6208</p>	<p>Cowart's Tree Removal</p>  <p>Designing tree removal 706-845-0104 www.cowartstree.com</p>
<p>ATLANTA MOLD Mold Inspection Indoor Air Quality Mold Remediation www.atlantamold.biz 770-321-6652</p>	<p>Become a Business Sponsor & Your Ad Can Be Right Here!!</p>	<p>Sunbelt Nutrition, Inc. Food Services</p>  <p>941-228-3683 Food@sunbeltnutrition.org www.sunbeltnutrition.org</p>	<p>Two Cedars Farm</p>  <p>Carlos & Carol Mumf 706-874-7070</p>	<p>Fannin County Co-op Blue Ridge, Ga Food, Seed & Farm Supplies 706-632-5423</p>

Your \$50 Business sponsorship will include your 2012 membership in BCHNG AND BCRA, our newsletter and an ad like this in our newsletter and on our website. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT YOUR "RIGHT TO RISE." Become a Sponsor Today!!



P.O. Box 1471
Blue Ridge, Ga. 30513