



FETA Newsletter

Summer 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Thanks to all who responded so promptly to our membership drive. New memberships and renewals are coming in at a fast pace so please have patience with our volunteer staff as we process these. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the June 14th party to welcome new members.

Membership time is a good time to remember that there are so many ways that FETA members can help to preserve and protect our amazing trail riding opportunities. This year has seen many new volunteers joining loyal trail enthusiasts in finding, reopening, repairing and marking equestrian trails. We have also been fortunate to recruit many of you to report problems and monitor trails. In a volunteer organization like ours, if it is going to get done, we have to do it! Our crack "Trails Team" and many landowners work hard to keep the trails in good shape but, ultimately, it is up to all of us working together.

One of the most important ways we can protect our riding opportunities is to observe the "Golden Rule". The FETA trails cover over 8,000 acres and approximately 100 miles, so you don't ever feel crowded out there. FETA has obtained landowners' permission to ride or drive for its members who agree to follow the rules, sign releases and help keep the trails in good shape. There are many situations where the rider's respect for the land can make the difference in a landowner's willingness to stay on the system. Tossing trash, smoking, and damaging wet ground is not acceptable. Tres-

passing on land you have not obtained permission to use rightly upsets the owners. Creating dangerous situations can lead to the loss of trails.

Landowners expect people to respect their wishes. It is not just my job, or the other board members' job, to make sure that happens. If we want to preserve our riding opportunities, we all need to take this obligation to landowners seriously. If you see rules violators, tell them to stop and tell us about it. If you know people are trespassing, let them know they are jeopardizing the system.

We are lucky to have one of the most unique and unusual trail systems in the country, located entirely on private property generously shared by landowners with a very large local public. It is the job of each one of us to preserve and protect that privilege.

Ride safe and ride friendly,

Dot Moyer 🐾



Sometimes it pays to act like you know what you are doing..... 🐾

*****NOTICE***
FENCE PARKING AREA**

Please note that, effective June 1st, more stringent monitoring of the FENCE parking area will go into effect. This parking area may be used by FETA members with the appropriate current parking decal on their back left window or, if that is darkened, on the front driver's side windshield. Guest passes should be prominently placed on the front driver's side dashboard. **VEHICLES WITHOUT TAGS OR PASSES WILL BE TOWED.**

Also, please note that this parking lot and the cross country course area will be closed on the following dates:

May 28th
July 16th
August 26th & 27th
September 23rd
October 22nd
November 12th

Remember to check the FETA voice mail for trail status before riding - 859-9021 (x21). 🐾

**HUGHES CREEK PRESERVE
JOINS FETA**

The former Champion Paper Little Mountain property was purchased in 2005 by Mike Stone and Bill Ennis, and is presently being developed into lovely equestrian properties and view lots. The 700 acre development of Hughes Creek Preserve will once again host FETA riders on what will ultimately be approximately 10 miles of beautiful carriage accessible trails.

We are thrilled that the trails will be re-established and better than ever, and look forward to working with Bill and Mike as they make this a premier equestrian property. Based on the work so far, it will be fabulous, with gentle pastures, long range mountain views and fantastic riding opportunities on site and the many adjoining FETA trails. Trails will be protected by permanent equestrian easements which will greatly enhance their value.

The trails are still under construction and are not yet open. We ask that you be patient and when trails do re-open stay to marked trails and off newly grassed pastures and verges. 🐾



TRAILS REPORT

Our Spring Clean Day on April 15th was a great success. We opened a new trail and cleaned a second one. I'd like to commend the volunteers for doing such a wonderful job!

Several trails have been worked, Burris Trail, Underpass Trail, Little Orchard Trail, Hays Hollow Trail, among others. Riders and land owners are asked to please notify me if they encounter a problem on the trails, or have concerns about the trails. Feedback is critical in maintaining the trail system.

River's Edge Trail is still closed. It is apparent that there is no easy fix in sight but several possibilities are being considered. All riders are reminded NOT to ride around any obstructions on any trail, but to please report them. Please report all violations you observe so that we can take steps to maintain safety on the trail system.

Please check the FETA trail status before riding at 859-9021 or the FETA website at www.fetatrails.org/index.htm

Dave Smith



FETA TRAILS WORK DAY

On Saturday, April 15th, a group of 'trailblazers' set out to clear new trails and clean up old ones on our fabulous Foothills Equestrian Trails Association (FETA) trail system. Thanks to the many generous landowners who allow us to enjoy their properties, and the work being done by the trails committee to expand connections across the area, these equestrian trails are, more and more, becoming a valuable resource for our community.

After several hours of sawing, clipping, clearing and raking a picnic lunch was enjoyed in the woods by all participants.



Photo by Dot Moyer

Back Row: Dean Gregory, Sandy Jobe, Gary Ten Broek, Ken Jobe, Bob Wetzel, Shirley Littlefield, David Smith, Bob Lesowitz, Nancy Pemberton, Lee Lindsay. Front Row: Pam Rider, Carol Ten Broek, Lisa Weiss, Holly Fisher 🐾

YOU ARE INVITED

- FETA members and spouses -
to a Pot Luck Dinner at FENCE
at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14th
to welcome new members

Please bring a side dish to share with others
RSVP by June 11th to Rhonda King, 859-9887
Meet new trail buddies/Volunteer signup/Look at the trail maps

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun 14 Pot Luck Dinner to welcome new members at FENCE 6 p.m.
- July 12 Safety Fair at FENCE
- Oct 7 Annual Meeting and BBQ at FENCE

FETA / FENCE

trail status

828-859-9021, X21

**To report trail problems
contact David Smith at
828-275-2873 or
smittyc7@alltel.net**

PARKING LOT CLOSINGS

Please note that the FENCE parking lot and the cross country course will be closed on the following days:

May 28th

July 16th

August 26th & 27th

September 23rd

October 22nd

November 12th

Call the FETA trails number to check status 🐾

