

BACK COUNTRY  
HORSEMEN



OF  
NORTH GEORGIA

# Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia Newsletter

Fall 2010

Susan Shedd, *Editor*

## *From Our President*

Dear Members,

The season of Fall is upon us which means many of us will be hitting the trails heavy for the next few weeks. This also means every user group, not just equestrians, will have an increase in trail activity as well, so please remember to be careful and considerate of others you encounter.

Fall of the year is my favorite season, I love the outdoors and for myself, there is not a better way to enjoy the beauty of the mountains than with my family, friends and an equine companion. It provides families with an opportunity to get outside and take in fresh air and gorgeous views. Cool, crisp nights are perfect to sit around a crackling campfire and talk about the day's ride and plan future rides. More importantly, it provides an opportunity to close the gap between our families and friends that work and everyday responsibilities have widened. There is no Internet or TV to occupy the kids, only tales and stories told around the campfire which nurtures healthy relationships and renews family bonds. By now you know, there is a point I am getting to, which is this, it is very important that we take the time out of our schedules to spend with our loved ones and by using the great outdoors as our therapist it is economical as well as fun.

I would like to encourage each and every member to sign up for at least one work day in 2011. Work days provide us, as equestrians, a way to show our dedication and concern for keeping trails on public lands open to equestrian access. I cannot stress enough the importance of contributing our time and efforts to this very worthy cause. There is work involved but nothing that is overwhelming, if it were I certainly wouldn't be doing it. I am an equestrian, hence, I ride, meaning I am too lazy to pedal. The more participants that turn out for a work day, the less everyone has to work and the more time we have for fun. The fellowship is great and there is knowledge to be gained as well by sharing ideas with our fellow trail users from various groups, not just equine.

As always, I look forward to seeing you on the trail and at our next meeting. Come on out and join us for an informative, entertaining and fun time!

Melinda Towe, BCHNG President  
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JOIN US @ CIRCLE E GUEST  
RANCH, BELVIDERE, TN &  
EXPLORE THE CUMBERLAND  
MOUNTAINS!

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**A horse is an angel  
without wings....  
well, some of them**

## ***PLEASE JOIN US DECEMBER 4 FOR OUR ELECTION/MEMBERSHIP/CHRISTMAS MEETING IN BLUE RIDGE!***

Our next meeting will be Friday, December 3, 2010 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Fannin County Senior Center in Blue Ridge. We will furnish delicious meats and we ask you to please bring a covered dish. Music will be provided by our own Nancy Chancey. After our business meeting & elections we will have several door prizes to give away. Don't miss the opportunity to visit with old friends, make new ones and plan your next ride!

**Directions:** From Hwy 515 in Blue Ridge @ McDonald's intersection, turn toward downtown, go through the 1st light & the Senior Center will be on the right just before city hall.



**Come explore new places  
with members & friends of  
Back Country Horsemen of  
North Georgia.**

**Catch the last of the color  
with us on a Fall Leaf Ride  
in Tennessee.**

**November 4-7, 2010**

**@Circle E Guest Ranch**

- **Circle E Guest Ranch is an easy haul just beyond Winchester, TN, about 1.5 hours west of Chattanooga**
- **Keeping it simple & prices low - bring your own food and beverages for the weekend**
- **Join in a pot luck supper on Saturday - bring your favorite dish to share**
- **Enjoy a riding weekend before winter sets in**
- **Call Circle E to reserve your campsite or cabin and stalls**
- **Reservations: 1-931-962-1790**
- **[www.circleeguestranch.com](http://www.circleeguestranch.com)**

Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia, P.O. Box 1471,  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513, [www.bchng.org](http://www.bchng.org), [info@bchng.org](mailto:info@bchng.org)

## BCHNG RECEIVES GRANT FROM AQHA & TRACTOR SUPPLY!

While attending the SETC conference in July, some members of BCHNG learned that AQHA, in partnership with Tractor Supply Company, was offering funding to groups and organizations that work with local land managers to increase trail stewardship. STEP - Stewards for Trails, Education and Partnerships is a new program under AQHA's wing that was formerly known as Trail Trotters. Trail Trotters was launched in November 2004 by the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource in partnership with the National Forest Foundation. The idea was to build a program that would increase participation in trail stewardship among equine enthusiasts while casting a positive light on horseback riders to land managers and other trail users.

### Program Benefits

- Help the National land managers recruit volunteers for trail stewardship
- Educate equestrians so they will be effective advocates for trail stewardship in the horse community
- Accomplish maintenance goals for trails and trailheads with land management
- Improve stewardship of land owned by horsemen that are adjacent to or critical to national land
- Build and/or strengthen relationships between local equestrian communities and land managers for the long-term stewardship of trails, trailheads and campgrounds

The board members of BCHNG met during the conference and decided to submit an application to AQHA for money to buy equipment to help maintain Jacks River Fields campground (JRF), including a riding mower and other trimming equipment and a trailer to haul equipment and tools to and from the campground.

Currently, members who volunteer their efforts at JRF also volunteer their personal equipment which must be hauled into and out of JRF on each workday. The deadline for submission was August 1<sup>st</sup> so the board quickly put together an application. The application consisted of several parts including a letter of support from Larry Thomas, Operations Team Leader, Conasauga

Ranger District, the history of JRF and the story of how BCHNG signed an MOU with the USFS to take over the maintenance of JRF which was in danger of being closed due to maintenance constraints. Photos of members working on JRF were included as well as a budget for tools & equipment.

Recently we received a check and a letter informing us we had been awarded a grant for the purchase of equipment and tools. First and foremost, we thank the **AQHA and Tractor Supply** for awarding BCHNG this grant. In addition, a special thanks to **Larry Thomas** for his letter of support, to BCHNG board members **Carol Upshaw and Jim McGarvey** for writing the STEP grant application and to all the others who helped pull together the information needed to support the application.

### BCHNG VOLUNTEER HOURS

BCHNG members are still hard at work volunteering their time and efforts to maintain and construct our equestrian trails in the north Georgia area.

#### Volunteer time reported thru 10/17 for 2010

**totals 770 hours**; as compared to 1,151 hours for all of 2009. Below is a breakdown for 2010's volunteer efforts.

Bear Creek	- 4.5 Hrs.
Bull Mountain	- 13.5 Hrs.
Cohutta Wilderness Area	- 7.0 Hrs.
Cottonwood Patch Area	- 9.0 Hrs.
East Cowpen/Rough Ridge	- 50.0 Hrs.
Dry Creek/Strawberry Area	- 4.0 Hrs.
Hemp Top Trail Area	- 36.0 Hrs.
Fort Mountain State Park.	- 78.0 Hrs.
Garland Mountain Trails	- 234.0 Hrs.
Jacks River Field Area.	- 167.0 Hrs.
Pinhoti Trail Area	- 11.5 Hrs.
Trail Design/Crew Leader Train.	- 155.5 Hrs.

Remember to report your volunteer time and efforts to Bob Goggins at: [rgoggins@tds.net](mailto:rgoggins@tds.net) or 706-838-4170. Please report your work time as soon as possible after the work date. Thank you for all your efforts!

### UPCOMING EVENT Save These Dates!

***4th Annual BCHNG—E. Fork Benefit  
Ride in Jamestown, TN April 14-17, 2011***

## UPCOMING BCHNG ELECTIONS

According to BCHNG's bylaws, elections for the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and 3 Directors will be held during the last meeting of 2010 (Dec.) The term for each office is two years. Bob Goggins is Chairman of the Nominations Committee. If you would like to nominate a member for one the above offices, please send their name to Bob no later than 11/15/10 at [rgoggins@tds.net](mailto:rgoggins@tds.net) , or by phone at 706-838-4170.

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## YOUR BCHNG HARD AT WORK IN GEORGIA

*BCHNG members are active participants in communities all over Georgia. Below are a number of BCHNG-related events which have taken place over the summer. Many of these activities, LNT workshops, saw certification, trail design and construction workshops and First Aid training, will be repeated next year. If you missed them in 2010, please keep an eye out for many of these and other important training opportunities made available through BCHNG. BCHNG is working hard to grow its team of well-trained, dedicated volunteers to help maintain horse trails on public lands in Georgia. And it is not all work and no play so please join us on horseback as we ride, care for and enjoy the trails in the forests of beautiful North Georgia.*

**Conducted an LNT Workshop** July 14 as part of the pre-conference activities for the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference. All three BCH chapters in Georgia joined together to help sponsor this major trails conference which drew nearly 200 people to Atlanta.

**Hosted Rick Lamb and his wife Diana** of "The Horse Show" on RFDTV and Road to the Horse fame on a trail ride in the Cohuttas following the SETC conference. The ride was captured on tape and is expected to air in 2011 on "The Horse Show" on RFD-TV.

**Welcomed** Dennis Dailey of Back Country Horsemen of America to discuss issues of national and regional importance to all trail riders on public lands.

**Met with** the new District Ranger staff in the Blue Ridge Ranger District to discuss horseback riding on that District and plans for trail assessments in that area.

**Participated with the USFS** in a Trail Design & Construction workshop and GPS training as a "next step" to capitalize on opportunities identified in the horse trails assessment in the Conasauga Ranger District.

**Celebrated National Trails Day** at Jacks River Fields with camping, cleaning, clipping, cutting and riding along South Fork Trail.

**Arranged and participated in** a First Aid/CPR Class as another positive step in preparedness, safety and dealing with emergencies on the trail or anywhere.

**Joined** a chain and crosscut saw certification class at the Blue Ridge Ranger District.

## GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS NEED YOUR HELP!

North Georgia's hemlocks are in danger of almost total extinction due to a rapidly spreading infestation of the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), an invasive insect from Asia with no local natural predator. Hemlock stands are of vital importance to wildlife, water and air quality, local economy, and basic quality of life, and their loss would create problems of enormous scope and dire consequences.

Private property owners have the option to save as many of their own hemlocks as they desire, but organized efforts to raise awareness, promote action, and provide assistance have been extremely limited in most North Georgia counties. **SAVE GEORGIA'S HEMLOCKS** has implemented the **Hemlock Help Program** -- a statewide initiative of education and charitable service -- to address this urgent need in all the counties where hemlocks are threatened. They are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To learn more attend one of their "Hemlock Help Clinics" and visit their website @ <http://www.savegeorgiashemlocks.org/>

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## 20th AMERICAN TRAILS NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM COMING TO CHATTANOOGA NOVEMBER 14-17

Network with the nationwide trails community and learn state of the art trail planning and management techniques. The symposium addresses both motorized and non-motorized issues and their vision for trails and greenways nationwide.

Jim McGarvey, BCHNG Director & BCHGA Chairman, will be attending and joining BCHA Chairman Terry Morrison and members from other chapters across the Southeast. For more information visit their website

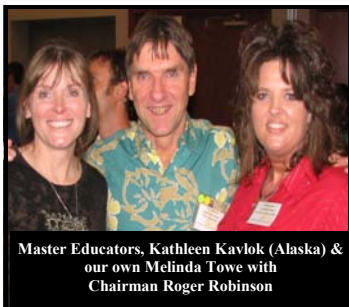
<http://www.americantrails.org/2010/index.html>

**EXIT STRATEGIES: MANAGING HUMAN WASTE IN THE WILD HELD IN GOLDEN, COLORADO-JULY 30 & 31**

*by Melinda Towe*

The American Alpine Club presented the first ever International conference on managing human waste in the wild, which they appropriately titled "Exit Strategies." Backcountry Horsemen, LNT program manager, Bob Wagner, felt it would be a unique learning opportunity to gain knowledge on how to successfully manage human waste in remote areas. After learning of this event from Mr. Wagner, I felt it would definitely benefit our organization. As backcountry horsemen, this is certainly an area we are concerned about, and welcome every chance to add information to our LNT program and teaching material.

A select group of nonprofit and government agencies came together to present this conference. The conference was limited to 100 attendees from around the world in order to maximize productivity and best utilize time. Experts spoke on topics such as: different types of waste systems, solar drying, surface dispersal analysis, case studies, public health issues, influencing human behavior and practical solutions.



Master Educators, Kathleen Kavlok (Alaska) & our own Melinda Towe with Chairman Roger Robinson

Roger Robinson, chairman of Exit Strategies Conference 2010, spoke on the evolution of Denali human waste practices and how they have changed over the past 30 years. Mr. Robinson has been a mountaineering Ranger with Denali

National Park for 31 seasons. He has been working on clean up climbs since 1975 and in 2000 began research on and development of the "Clean Mountain Can." Denali has adopted the CMC and has made it their standard since. Dedicated concern such as Mr. Robinson's has helped lead to the clean up of unsightly locations and the source of pollutants linked to gastrointestinal illnesses.

Ben Lawhon, Education Director for the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, spoke on catholes – history, research, current use and future application. Mr. Lawhon is a Natural Resources Management graduate of the University of Tennessee and a fountain of knowledge on LNT, their program, education and ethics.

Part of his speech covered the use of the cathole and it being accepted as the standard method for human waste disposal in the wilderness and backcountry. With that said it is probably the most common use among backcountry users as well.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Lawhon were just two of many very informative speakers present at this conference who shared their knowledge on how to better deal with human waste in the backcountry. By attending conferences such as this, we are able to gain a better understanding of the consequences of improper disposal of human waste and the effect it has on our natural resources. The more information we acquire, the better we will be able to address such issues. It is a great opportunity to learn new remedies and ways to educate, and engage our members as well as the public on how to properly and safely dispose of human waste in remote areas. This serves more than one purpose, it decreases the chance of passing and catching illnesses and it keeps nature safe and pleasing to the eye, which is why we go there in the first place.

We strive constantly to expand and improve our skills, knowledge and training materials on topics that promote a sustainable and healthy ecosystem for ourselves, our children, grandchildren and generations to come.



**LEAVE NO TRACE CLASSES**

BCHNG is planning ongoing LNT "Train the Trainers" classes for adults, as well as day & weekend/overnight "Awareness Workshops" for kids.

If you would like to become a trainer or have a 4H, Saddle Club, scout or school group that would like to attend a workshop or class, please contact LNT Master Educators Susan Shedd @ 706-633-7041 or Melinda Towe @ 706-455-2921. We guarantee an educational and fun time for all.

The LNT Principles are making a difference in the way we and our children perceive our resources. Teaching future generations to respect and protect our environment & especially our forests and wildlands is of the utmost importance for their preservation. We look forward to teaching many classes in the future and helping others help our environment through education.

## Meet our Sponsors!

<p><i>Two Cedars Farm</i></p>  <p><b>Carlos &amp; Carol Martel</b></p>		<p><b>The Right Step</b></p>  <p>Tim Chancey, Certified Farrier Horse Training</p> <p><a href="http://www.therightstep.vpweb.com">www.therightstep.vpweb.com</a></p> <p><b>706-889-3291</b></p>	<p><b>BSI Mechanical</b></p> <p>Saddle Stands Custom Fabrication Grundfos Pumps Industrial Sales</p> <p>678-213-4026</p> <p><a href="http://www.BSImechanical.com">www.BSImechanical.com</a></p>		<p>Appalachian Realty LLC</p>  <p>North Georgia Mountain Real Estate</p> <p><a href="http://www.Appalachian-Realty.com">www.Appalachian-Realty.com</a></p> <p><b>706-838-4519</b></p>
 <p><b>Adventure Trail Rides</b></p> <p>Ride the mountains of beautiful Blue Ridge, GA</p> <p>706-258-2276</p> <p><a href="http://www.AdventureTrailRides.com">www.AdventureTrailRides.com</a></p>	<p><b>Become a Business Sponsor &amp;Your Ad Can Be Right Here!!</b></p>	<p>Laura J. Ray, LLC Attorney At Law</p>  <p>Blue Ridge, GA</p> <p><a href="mailto:LRay@LauraJRay.com">LRay@LauraJRay.com</a></p>		 <p>Quality Service &amp; Parts For All Brands Of Welding Equipment 24 HR Service</p> <p>770-207-5301</p> <p><a href="http://www.weldingmachinerepair.com">www.weldingmachinerepair.com</a> Wayne Schmitz - Owner</p>	<p><b>Become a Business Sponsor &amp;Your Ad Can Be Right Here!!</b></p>
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<p><b>The CAT CLINIC of COBB</b></p> <p>Patricia L Lane, DVM</p>  <p>2440 Sandy Plains Rd. Marietta, GA 30066</p> <p>770-973-5772</p>		<p><b>Bootlegger Stables</b></p>  <p>Joe &amp; Sharon Burk Training, Sales &amp; Farrier Service 570 Bootlegger Rd. Morganton, Ga.</p> <p>706-455-2247 706-455-9295</p>	<p><b>Become a Business Sponsor &amp;Your Ad Can Be Right Here!!</b></p>		<p><b>Cohutta Feed &amp; Country Store</b> Blue Ridge, GA Feed, Tack &amp; Farm Supplies of All Kinds</p> <p><b>706-946-6366</b></p>

*Your \$60 business sponsorship will include your 2010 membership in BCHNG AND BCHA, our newsletter and an ad like this in our newsletter and on our website. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO PROTECT YOUR "RIGHT TO RIDE."*



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Blue Ridge, GA 30513