



LRRETA News



TPWD Amanda Parsons and Ben Fluery with Averie Moore and Linda Moore gathering wild flower seeds at Lake Ray Roberts on June 30th.

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IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
Meet the Ranger	3
Outstanding Volunteer	3
Annual Meeting	5
New Volunteer Opps	7
Where Have You Ridden	8
New Trail Association	9
Work Day Report	11
Snake Bite - Beware!	12
Heat Stress	13
<i>and LOTS MORE!</i>	

Monthly Trail Ride

1st Saturday of the Month

June-November

Locations announced on

Facebook.

Call before you haul!

Michelle Ellis

214-491-7941

Monthly Work Day

Announced on Facebook.

Call Michelle Ellis 214-491-7941

or Chuck Manning 940-390-9188

to confirm plans.

**Your purchases can help
fund our trails**



Visit <http://smile.amazon.com>
and designate Greenbelt Alliance
of Denton County as your charity.
Every time you make a purchase,
they donate .05% of the
purchase price. It adds up!

President's Message



Well, it looks like the "dog days of summer" are upon us and a bit earlier this year! Please be careful with your outdoor activities with your horses and be mindful of the heat index. When

it's above 120°, it can be harmful to man and beast. To use the horse heat index, add the current temperature (in Fahrenheit) and the relative humidity (in % RH) together. If Temp °F + % Relative Humidity = 120 > then caution should be exercised.

Also, be mindful of snakes on the trail, especially Copperheads, as several have been seen and my own horse managed to get snake bit!

It's been a productive spring season of trail work. We scheduled a trail work day for June 9th and we had 15 volunteers participate. We appreciate those who came out and helped to trim limbs, mow, and pull up privet on the trail from FM 428 to FM 380. Many members brought machinery as well to help with the job. Zimmerer Kabota loaned us two 4-seater UTVs to get trail workers down the trail. Thank you Zimmerer!

Bill Bensch was instrumental in getting the signage posts in the ground on the trail from FM 428 to FM 380. Bill, Kathy Milliger, and Linda Moore worked most of one day concreting in signage posts on that trail. Bill did all the heavy lifting with Kathy and Linda being the gofers. Bill and his wife Terri also worked hard on the trail work day in July. Bill and Terri are familiar faces at our monthly meetings and LRRETA appreciates their support! Bill and Terri are our 'Outstanding Volunteers' for Q2. (*see page 3*)

We were also excited to meet some DORBA people who came to help as well! We are working on that trail in hopes that it will opened this fall. It is my understanding that TPWD Infrastructure will be working on the last 3 miles close to FM 380 to raise the base of the hard surface trail to help prevent frequent flooding of that trail. LRRETA, with the help of the Greenbelt Corridor Manager, Daniel Rios, have worked to finish the signage posts along the trail from FM 428 to FM 380. The last five holes have been dug, and additional concrete purchased, so that the signage portion of the TPWD 2014 grant can be completed.

As soon as we can get a break in the scorching temperature, we will try to get a crew together to go

down it with a UTV with the water and concrete and put in the posts and attach the decals. Watch for posts on Facebook for this volunteer opportunity!

LRRETA is in the final stages of wrapping up the TPWD 2014 grant. We have a small amount of funds left, which the leadership team plans to spend on purchasing a cargo container for equipment and UTV storage, which are included in our next TPWD grant. We are placing required signage regarding the grant on the bridge and asking for inspection of our work from authorities in Austin so that TPWD grant 14013 can be closed out. Once it is closed, it will allow us to accept our next grant. Our next grant includes UTV rental, a horse rinse rack at Isle du Bois, funds for additional trail restoration, and tools for trail trimming and maintenance.

We had a very successful annual meeting at Rancho De La Rocha on July 12th with approximately 50 attendees. The meal was catered by Ernesto's and a review of the projects for the year was provided along with financials and plans for this next year. Let's give a big thank you to Tim and Tesh Beaty for sharing their beautiful facility with us. For more information on the annual meeting read the rest of the newsletter!

Watch for our new "horsepitality stations" at the Little Blue Stem, FM 455, and FM 428 trail heads. These wooden crates include equipment (rake, manure fork, shovel, wheel barrow, broom and dust pan, and old feed bags) to help horsemen pick up manure and hay left by their horses so we can be good users of the park and considerate of other trail users. This equipment is for use there at the trailhead and to be returned to the station. Manure and hay are to be put in the dumpster or "pack it in, pack it out" in your horse trailer. Please encourage all horsemen to pick up after their horses and return the equipment to the stations. Happy trails!

LRRETA Board Meetings
(Open to all members & Guests)
2nd Tuesday of the Month



10279 FM 455 E. #100
Pilot Point, TX 76258
6:30pm.

Outstanding Volunteers



Bill & Terri Bensch

Bill and Teri moved to Decatur San Diego, CA, in 2016 following retirements from military service. They live close to the Grasslands and love trail riding. Their Rocking Bensch Ranch is home to 7 mules, 2 horses, 10 miniature donkeys, and 6 rescue dogs. Just this year, they discovered our lake. They met Carol Nichols, who introduced them to LRRETA. They believe strongly in community service and have greatly enjoyed working to support LRRETA in maintaining the trails. "If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot. There are a few dedicated individuals doing a majority of the work and we wanted to do our part to help LRRETA not only succeed but flourish."

Welcome New Members!

Debbie Adcock
Margi Stauver
Amber Muscianese
Marsha Howard
Mindy Passmore

Please join LRRETA, TETRA & CTETA

United, we are a powerful force for equestrian trails in Texas.

LRRETA/TETRA Dual Members

Chuck Manning, TETRA Region 4 Director; Linda Moore; Carol Nichols; Tracy Matern, Michelle Ellis

CTETA/TETRA Dual Members

Diana Hobbs, Linda Moore; Vicki Fraser, Robyn Pucci, Michelle Ellis, Carol Nichols

We encourage LRRETA members to also join TETRA & CTETA (see page 16)

Meet the Ranger



Ben Fleury

Ben is currently the LRR Parks Operations Trainee, which is a 2-3 year program to learn all aspects of park operations, in preparation for becoming a Park Superintendent. He grew up in Copper Canyon, Texas and received a BS in Animal Science from Texas A&M University. He previously worked as a veterinary technician. He also lived in Vail, Colorado for 5 years after college, exploring state parks all over Colorado. Ben's family lives in Argyle and their property touches the horse trail near Pilot Knoll Park. Ben is an avid outdoorsman, and enjoys running, hiking, camping, and fishing. Ben says he is blessed to have found his dream job.

SCOOP YOUR POOP!



Whether you're parked
on concrete or
in the grassy areas,

**CLEAN UP AFTER
YOUR EQUINE!**

Put manure and hay back in your trailer or in the dumpster.



There is MUCH to be done on our beloved trails, but many hands make for light work.

We NEED your volunteer hours to help meet our grant matches.

Project	Location	Work to be Done	Complete Date
TPWD Grant 14013	trailhead 428	stain ramp	14-Dec-16
	trail 380 to 428	set signage posts/stickers	August 2017
	trail 428 to 455	set signage posts/stickers	April 2018
	trail 455 to Isle	attach stickers	April 2018
	trail Isle to Jordan	attach stickers	April 2018
	Jordan to Lost Lake	attach stickers	April 2018
	trailhead Isle	stain ramp-2nd coat	March 2017
	trailhead Jordan	stain ramp-2nd coat	15-Feb-17
	Blair Kenley's	build 5th ramp	4-Dec-16
	trail 455 to 428	trim trail	April 2017
	trail 455 to 428	mow trail	June 2017
	trailhead Isle du Bois	stain stall boards	July 2017
Overnight Stalls		paint pipe	July 2017
		caps on poles	Feb 2017
		purchase c purlin & tubing	June 2017
		weld c purline & tubing	June 2017
		install roofs	July 2017
		caulk roof installed	August 2017

Grant Update

by Tracy Matern

2014 TPW Grant

All the holes for our mileage markers have now been augured and we only have 5 more posts to set and label. Project signs have been ordered and received and are ready for installation. Linda Moore, Carol Nichols, Assistant Park Superintendent Amanda Parsons and Park Superintendent Mark Stewart have been consulting with Rick Buckley of Groundwork Dallas on renovations to the section of trail between FM 428 and US 380. Rick submitted his recommendations and the Park Management replied that the proposal will need to go through the US Army Corps of Engineers approval process. This timeline takes the work out of the scope of this grant and places the work under the next grant. The remaining funds will be used to purchase equipment for our use on work days. We are in the process of submitting our remaining bills and match paperwork. When this is complete we will call for a final inspection to close out the grant.

2017 TPW Grant

After we close the 2014 Grant we will be able to start work on the 2017 Grant. Since we cannot purchase the UTVs we requested, we will be asking for an amendment to be able to rent some on a long-term basis. Linda has already

researched this possibility so we can hit the road running. We are also ahead of the game in renovating the FM 428 to 380 trail because we already have a proposed plan. It just has to proceed through proper planning channels.



Online UTV and Chain Saw Safety Training for trail work!

ROHVA Safety E-Course: UTV training

<https://cbt.rohva.org>

Chain Saw Safety

<https://www.stihlusa.com> <https://www.stihlusa.com/information/videos>

2018 LRRETA Annual Meeting Held at Rancho De La Rocha July 12

by Linda Moore



Approximately 50 members and friends attended the annual meeting which was catered by Ernesto's. The agenda was as follows:

- Greetings and Introductions
 - GBA Officers , LRRETA Officers, TPWD
 - Other trail association representatives
- Membership Report- Eileen Stecik, Secretary
 - 2017-2018 Increase in Membership
 - In progress-Brochure and Business Membership
- Treasurer's Report- Tim Beaty, Treasurer
 - Current balance and allocations
 - Smile Amazon donations
- Report from GBA- Richard Rogers
 - FM428 Expansion
 - GreenFest Run
- TPWD Report- Ben Fluery
- TPWD Grant 14013- Tracy Matern
 - Update on grant
 - Volunteer hours
 - Eagle Scout Project- Jake Wesson
- Trail Building School- Carol Nichols
- Lower Boise d'Arc Creek Reservoir-Carol Nichols
- Pilot Point Trails Initiative-Linda and Lisa
- Trail Rides- Michelle Ellis

- Awards and Recognitions-Linda Moore
- Opportunities for Engagement- New Positions
- Plans for 2018
 - TPWD Grant 2017
 - Little Blue Stem Amenities
- Suggestions

Officers remain unchanged for next year but several officer positions will be open next year. We would like to add some additional positions including equipment manager, website assistant, additional trail stewards and trail teams for each section of trail, and administrative assistant to assist with paperwork, and newsletter organizational assistance. There will be more information to come regarding these positions so think about being involved in one of these ways.

We had several other trail organizations represented at the meeting including: Cross Timbers Equestrian Trails Association (CTETA), Trinity Trails Association (TTA), Texas Equestrian Trails Association (TETRA) and Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association (FCETA). TPWD was represented by Ben Fluery. Greenbelt Alliance of Denton County, our 501(c)(3) parent organization, was represented by Richard Rogers, Chairman, and Tim Beaty, board member.

(continued on page 6)

6 Annual Meeting ... continued from page 5

Tim Beaty shared the following financial information for the year:

Fundraising Income Total	\$10,993.70
Total Fundraising Expenses	\$5,523.88
Net from Fundraising	\$5,469.82
Membership Income(2017-18)	\$1,030.00
TPWD Reimbursements	\$66,793.76
STEP Disbursements	\$13,828.39
TPWD Disbursements	\$30,461.83
Miscellaneous Disbursements	\$150.00
Bank charges	\$63.89

We are finishing up TPWD Grant 14013 and calling for final inspection. Once that is completed, we can accept the new grant that we were successful in securing in 2017 for \$133,010.32. We will have to raise 20% funds or in-kind sweat equity of \$26,602. Our current bank balance is \$33,979.45 which leaves us a balance of \$7,377.45 of unallocated funds.

Eileen Stecik, LRRETA secretary, provided a membership report indicating that we now have 110 members which reflects a 25% increase in membership in the last year. This is great! Keep up the recruiting!

Richard Rogers, Chairman of the Greenbelt Alliance, provided a report of the various stakeholder meetings regarding the TXDOT expansion of FM 428 and its impact on the Greenbelt Corridor. Our interests are well represented as this project progresses.

Ben Fluery, TPWD Ranger, provided an update on the progress of the work by TPWD Infrastructure to get the trail from FM 428 to FM 380 open. Bids have been let and the hope is that the work will be completed by this fall.

Tracy Matern provided an update on our various grants. We have approximately \$3600 left in our TPWD 14013 grant which we plan to spend on purchasing a cargo container for storage of trail equipment which we will secure on our next grant.

Jake Wesson and his dad Rick talked about his Eagle Scout project that was done in conjunction with the trail signage portion of the TPWD Grant 14013. Jake and his troop put in signage posts and decals on the posts from FM 455 to FM 428 trailhead and moved our 5th mounting ramp to FM 428 trailhead in preparation for placement at FM 380 trailhead.

Carol Nichols provided updates on LRRETA's participation in the Groundwork Dallas trail building school in February and our desire to have Groundwork Dallas repair some water crossings on the trails. Carol also has been very active in helping establish the Fannin



County Equestrian Trails Association in preparation for the new lake that is coming to that area.

LRRETA is working in conjunction with Cross Timbers Equestrian Trails Association to secure approvals from USACE to repair water crossing on the Elm Fork Trail in Corinth and water crossing on FM 455 to FM 428 and the concrete culverts on the trail going to FM 380.

Vice President, Michelle Ellis, discussed ideas for future trail rides and we are open to suggestions from our membership as to where you would like to ride and the type of rides. If you are interested in leading a ride, please contact Michelle Ellis.

The following awards were presented:

- Richard Rogers- best bookkeeper
- Tim Beaty- most number of volunteer hours on the grant
- Tracy Matern- amazing grant writer
- Carol Nichols- best ambassador for public relations
- Eileen Stecik- membership madness
- Leah Fry- newsletter wizard
- Michelle Ellis- the Face of LRRETA (Facebook)
- Cathy Milliger- outstanding Park Host volunteer
- Bill & Terri Bensch and John and Susan Hoefler- outstanding newcomer "volunteers"
- Jake Wesson- Eagle Scout Project

LRRETA looks forward to accepting the grant awarded in 2017 which will include a rinse rack and five day use covered stalls at Little Blue Stem, Isle du Bois, and trail equipment such as chain saws, pole saws, loppers, shovels, rakes and rental on two 4-passenger UTVs for transporting workers down the trail.

Big thanks to Tim and Tesh Beaty for the use of their wonderful facility at Rancho De La Rocha. We are fortunate to be able to hold our meetings there. Also, thank you to Jayme Wright who put together a great slide show of pictures of our work throughout this past year.

New Volunteer Opportunities with LRRETA

In July, prior to our annual meeting, a LRRETA leadership meeting was held at the home Linda Moore and attended by several officers.

The purpose of the meeting was to review grant status and needs for the upcoming year. One item discussed was the need for additional volunteers in some leadership roles.

Volunteers are needed to fill the following positions:

Trail Stewards for each section of the trail (5)

Since many hands make light work, we would like have trail stewards for each section of trail who would recruit "their people" who would be willing to keep the trails trimmed and updated on the conditions of the various trails.

The Trail Steward would be responsible for recruiting 3-4 volunteers who would officially check the condition of the trail at least twice per year (March and October) and report any problems. They would also do any trimming or restoration at those times.

If there are problems that require more resources and equipment, these would be brought back to the monthly LRRETA meetings.

These crews will have access to UTVs and LRRETA trail equipment that is to be purchased on our next grant.

1. Trail 380 to 428, Greenbelt Corridor
2. Trail 428 to 455, Greenbelt Corridor
3. Trail 455 to Little Blue Stem, Isle du Bois
4. Little Blue Stem, Isle du Bois to Jordan Park
5. Jordan Park to Lost Lake

The crews or trail stewards will need some volunteers who have taken the safety course and/or the power equipment training that will be scheduled in the fall.

In cases where entire sections of trail have been closed for some time or there is a major problem, these will be handled by the entire LRRETA group or in some cases we will contract with vendors.

Newsletter Assistant

If you prefer more of a desk job, "to help out, we could use more assistance in gathering articles for the newsletter. This mainly entails using email to send our requests for articles and then following up with reminder emails to those who are writing articles to get them in to Leah.

The newsletters are published quarterly so there is a about a two week period each quarter that you will be soliciting and gathering articles.

Website Assistant

This is another desk job and would entail helping to keep our website updated by assisting Monica who is our webmaster.

This would involve gathering information and sending it to Monica and sometimes perhaps meeting with her face-to-face. You do not have to know html to do this.

Equipment Manager

LRRETA will soon have two rental UTVs and a cargo container outside the maintenance area at Isle du Bois. Trail equipment will be purchased on the next grant and stored in the container as well along with any signage.

We need someone willing to keep an accurate inventory of our equipment and work out a system for using the equipment and well as a schedule for maintaining the equipment. The container will have a lock with a password. Living close to the lake would make accessibility easier for use of the equipment.

Expense Reimbursement Assistant

Assist with completing expense reimbursements and purchase orders

by entering information into a spreadsheet and collecting receipts for dispersal of funds. This work is done by computer and scanner. Again, a desk job! During event times, it's busy; other times of the year, when we are expending many funds, not so busy!

Please consider volunteering for these positions and if you are interested, email Linda Moore, moorelinda741@gmail.com

Top 10 Most Popular Horse Breeds in the World

Courtesy of Wide Open Pets

10. Andalusian
9. Warmblood
8. Miniature Horse
7. Appaloosa
6. Paint
5. Morgan
4. Tennessee Walker
3. Thoroughbred
2. Quarter Horse
1. Arabian

Although Quarter Horses are the most popular breed in the US, the Arabian is the favorite worldwide.

Other popular breeds: Rocky Mountain Horse, Morgan, Shetland Pony, Gypsy Vanner, and the Friesian.





Where have you ridden lately?

McCown Valley Park

by Gail Cotton Michaud



Linda Moore, JoAnn Edgar, Diane McLeod, Diane Tidwell and I camped and rode at Lake Whitney, McCown Valley Park (Equestrian Section). McCown Valley is located on Whitney Lake on the main channel of the Brazos River in Central Texas, West of Hillsboro.

You do not need shoes or boots on your horses due to soft footing and no rocky areas. Many of the trails are sandy providing a good workout for your horse. Many of the trails are heavily wooded with lots of shade and other trails are out in the open. Trails are mostly flat and are not marked very well at all, but you can manage. There are two ponds where it's safe to allow your horses to drink the water, however, we were warned NOT to ride near the lake due to mud bogs, especially when the lake is low. Cattle roam freely in places, and as usual, are harmless.

There are 39 campsites in the equestrian section, all with water, electricity, a picnic table, a fire ring, BBQ grill and two tie posts. There are 8 covered horse pens and 8 uncovered pens for the entire park and are on a first-come-first-served basis, located in the open space in the middle of the park with 8 pens at each end. When we were there, the park was not crowded at all. This facility is separate from the group campsite and the day use trailhead.

At the center of the campground is a restroom facility with flushing toilets, hot and cold running water, showers and a hitching post. There is a preponderance of those small very sticky grass burrs that seem to be unavoidable, mostly in the open camping areas. I, personally, did not want to camp in the open, direct sunlight but rather preferred the nice shady spots. Fees range from \$16-\$20 per night.

The website is detailed and helpful.

<http://www.whitney-lake.com/mccown-valley-campgrounds/>



Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association Established

by Carol Nichols

We have a new equestrian trail association in North Texas! The Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association (FETA) has been established with the mission "To create and preserve equestrian trails as part of a regional county trail network and to make the region a destination for Trail Riders."

Fannin County is 1 hour and 15 minutes east of Denton County. The county is very rural with many horses and cattle ranches. It is the home of the Caddo Trail Riders Association (CTRA) which has developed 28 miles of trails around Coffee Mill Lake and built 28 shaded, pull-through campsites. FETA, led by Tahni Nichols, is working closely with the CTRA, led by Phil and Cyndee Haley to create more trails in Fannin County.

Fannin is rich in recreational assets: Lake Fannin, the new Lake Bois d'Arc, future Lake Ralph Hall, County Roads, Northeast Texas Trail, Riverby Ranch, the Old Bob Railroad Line, etc.

The next objective is to re-clear the horse trail at Lake Fannin. Lake Fannin is surrounded by 2025 acres of US Forest Service land in Duplex, TX. Colin Walker, Duke Monson, Jill Korbelic, and Tahni Nichols explored this old horse trail on June 12. It has become overgrown but has lots of potential for beautiful trails. There is flat pasture land at the beginning of the trail that could be developed as a primitive horse camp.

Officers of FETA were elected at the 3rd Membership meeting on June 28 in Telephone, TX. Tahni Nichols was elected President. She is an avid Barrell racer, trail rider and Bonham High School Science teacher. Her daughter Amory frequently rides along side!



Top: Amory and Tahni Nichols – President, along with 6 other FETA members, including Silvia Harmon, riding in the Grand Entry. Bottom: Trail ride on Kueckelhan Ranch – Suzanne Gillin, Event Chair, in the lead.

Other officers and Committees are:

Vice President- Clay West
 Secretary/Treasurer - Cheryl Stroup
 Event Chair - Suzanne Gillian
 Trails - Duke Monson; Colin Walker; Tracy Matern
 Grants - Wendy Keeton
 Commissioner Relations - Pam Lynn
 Newsletter - Jeanette Fiveash
 Membership - Carol Nichols
 Social Media/PR - Jerry Jones, Tracy Matern, Michelle Ellis
 Organizational Support - Steve Hancock, TETRA; Cyndee Haley, Marty Kueckelhan

FETA's first fundraising event was on 7/28, a pre-Rodeo Trail Ride on the historic Kueckelhan Ranch. Several of the Riders rode in the Grand Entry (photo above)

Please support FETA on Facebook and watch for announcements of Lake Fannin trail clearing in the Fall. Happy Trails!

Cross Timbers Equestrian Trail Association Annual Camp Cookout & Education Event September 29

by Lisa Broughton, President CTETA

Fall is just around the corner. I'm already thinking of apple cider, colder days and camping with the horses.

On Saturday, September 29th, 2018, Cross Timbers Equestrian Trails Association (CTETA) will be hosting their annual camp cookout and education event at Lake Ray Roberts, Isle Du Bois, Blue Stem. As last fall was such a success, we have decided to make this an annual gathering. Several folks that showed up had never camped with their horses. We demonstrated how to picket line, safety with various types of fencing and how to set-up your campsite for a fun and enjoyable evening, so let's do this again!

This year we have two special guests at our event: Greg Darnell and Susie Weisser. Saturday night at 5:00 PM, our dinner lecture, and education offering will be Greg Darnell of Greg Darnell Bits and Spurs. Greg is a leading bit maker, and he will discuss the importance of hands and what is the right bit for your horse. This discussion is interactive, and it will take place during our dinner, which is a hamburger cookout provided by CTETA! Sunday morning at 9:00 AM we will have Dr. Susie Weisser discuss what to bring with you in your horse trailer in case of emergencies. She will explain small emergency triage things you can do when you are away from home with your horse that don't require a veterinarian.

We look forward to an exciting weekend with trail riders who ride for the day, with those who are camping, or those who are visiting for the lectures!

Texas A&M Summer Horsemanship Program Held June 22-23

by Jayme Wright, Silver Saddle 4-H Manager

The Denton County Silver Saddle club hosted the Texas A&M Summer Horsemanship program for the 4th year at Jim-A-Dee Ranch in Sanger, Texas. Each summer, 4-H members, as well as non-members and adult riders, are offered this affordable and outstanding clinic. Two entire days are spent with two Texas A&M clinicians on groundwork, proper tack, as well as riding skills and drills.



Each day, 23-27 riders listened, learned, worked with each other and their horses to improve skills and confidence. The Denton County Silver Saddle club begins planning this clinic in February and opens registration to non-member youth and adults. This fun and educational opportunity strengthens the foundation of horsemanship and advances riding skills of youth and adults alike!

The Texas A&M Summer Horsemanship Schools celebrated its 46th year of advancing horsemanship in counties all over Texas.

LRRETA Trail Work Day June 9

by Michelle Ellis

Volunteers make the world go 'round and they definitely turn the wheels 'round for LRRETA! On June 9th, a heat-braving bunch of volunteers headed out with loppers and equipment to tackle the reclaiming of the overgrown section of trail located between FM428 South to 380.

The parking area was filled with pickups and trailers hauling in a Zimmerer-Kubota donated rental UTV, the Moore's tractor and box blade another UTV brought by the Hoeffler's as well as their Privet eradicating skid steer.



Lots of great teamwork made this a very productive day. DORBA members (Dallas Off-road Bicycle Association) even joined in to help edge us closer to our goal of getting this section completely open.

A great amount of gratitude goes out to LRRETA and DORBA members that lended their muscles for this effort: Page & Linda Moore, Margaret Rabbitt, Cathy Milliger, Cliff & Laurie Hemming, Will & Terri Bensch, David Starr, Michelle Ellis, Susan Torrie & John Hoeffler, Diane Tolles McLeod, Linda Coolidge, Jeff & Sandy LaQuey, Eileen Stecik and Gail Cotton Michaud.



Snake Bite - BEWARE!

by Carol Nichols

Snake bite in horses is serious and can be fatal if not treated immediately.



My horse was recently bitten by a water moccasin snake hidden in the grass near a wash rack. With all the rain we have had in past 3 years, the snake population is up significantly!

A snake bite may not be visible to the eye. A swollen face or limb should cause suspicion. Do not delay treatment from a vet — snake bites can be fatal if not treated. Check the horse's temperature and heart rate - if one or both are elevated, it's likely a snake bite!

If it is a snake bite, the area will start to swell. If bitten on the face, breathing may be impaired so you need to get to the vet quickly! You may need to insert a hose (with vet's instructions) into the horse's nostrils to keep air flowing.

If bitten on the leg, the leg will swell and may form a VERY painful abscess. If not treated, the pressure of the abscess can cause the hoof to come off - a fatal outcome for the horse.

Follow this link to see an article on Horse & Rider on snake bite.

<https://horseandrider.com/.amp/health/snakebite051103-20212>



PS - My horse, Wild About Annie, appears to be on the path to full recovery but the leg is still being treated and she wears a leg wrap 2 months after bite.

Photos of Venomous Snakes of Texas



Copperhead



Cottonmouth (Water Moccasin)



Diamondback Rattler



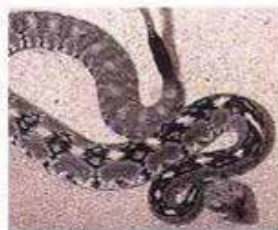
Rattlesnake



Timber Rattler



Mojave Rattlesnake



Blacktail Rattler



Western Rattler



Massasauga Rattler



Pygmy Rattlesnake



Coral Snake

Heat Stress in Horses

Heat Stress Infographics courtesy of HorseDVM.com

Heat stress occurs when the horse's body's means of controlling its internal temperature starts to fail. As a result, a number of clinical problems, including anhidrosis, rhabdomyolysis (tying up), synchronous diaphragmatic flutter, heat stroke, exhaustive disease syndrome, and sudden death can occur.

Horses more at risk of heat stress



Older horses



Horses grazing on endophyte-infected fescue



Foals treated for *Rhodococcus equi* using a macrolide antibiotics



Horses recently moved from a cooler climate



Dehydrated horses



Horses with anhidrosis



Larger horses



Trailer horses



Overweight Horses



Darker colored horses



Out of shape horses



When the humidity index is >180

Signs

Skin is hot to touch

Rectal temperature above normal range of exercising horse (above 103.5°F)

Distressed appearance

Rapid, shallow breathing

Muscle tremor

Slow capillary refill

Dark mucous membranes

Profuse or no sweating

Decreased performance

Dark urine

Collapse

Contact a veterinarian immediately if your horse displays any signs of heat stress.

You'll need to rapidly cool the horse

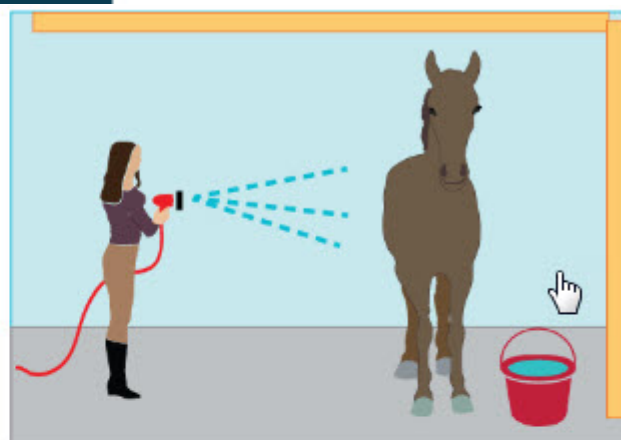
Move the horse into a shaded, well-ventilated area.

Apply cold water or ice over their body concentrating on the neck area. Use alcohol baths if cold water is not available.

Keep hosing and scraping off the water until the water is no longer heating up the horse or you take its temperature to confirm its back to its normal body temperature.

Stand the horse in front of a fan or misting fan if available.

Offer all three of the following: cold, lukewarm, and electrolyte-supplemented water. Do not withhold water.



Do not force the horse to walk although voluntary movement in the shade is fine.

Do not use wet towels or any fabric cover because these prevent heat convection.

If a horse is prone to tying up, do not directly apply ice water to the large gluteal muscles in the hind end, but focus on areas where blood vessels are more superficial (i.e. head, neck, back and rib area).

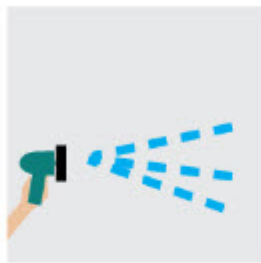
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Methods to prevent heat stress



WORK MODIFICATIONS

Keep horse in good condition. Reduce the length of time spent warming up. Take frequent breaks. Do not work horse beyond its fitness level. Keep work light in warm weather.



PRE-COOLING THE HORSE

Prior to starting any work, while the horse is still at its normal body temperature, hose the horse's body with cold water.



PROVIDE ELECTROLYTES

In sweating, a horse loses salt, potassium and magnesium from its body. Supplementing with electrolytes will help offset these losses.



LET THEM ROLL IN THE SAND

Rolling in sand helps redistribute the heat reserves from their gut and enhances heat shedding from their coat which increases the evaporative surface up to 100%.



FEEDING A HIGH-FAT DIET

Using fat as an energy source produces less metabolic heat for the energy produced, then carbohydrates. It results in the horse having less heat to dissipate.



ALLOW TIME TO ACCLIMATE

It takes 15 - 21 days for a horse to fully acclimate moving from a cool or drier climate to a hot, humid environment.



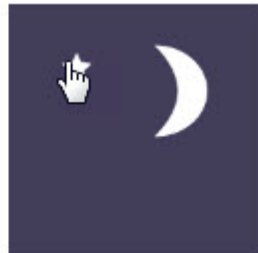
DON'T WORK IF TOO HOT

Don't ride in the middle of the day. Adjust your schedule to ride earlier in the morning or later in the evening when its cooler temperatures.



WATER ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Always be sure to provide horses with fresh, clean and cool water so they don't become dehydrated. Also be aware horses drink more when its warmer.



TURNOUT HORSES AT NIGHT

If an indoor stable is available, allow horse to rest in a stall with a fan during the day and turn out at night.



PROVIDE SHADE OR SHELTER

Provide horses the option to get relief from the sun by allowing access to shade from trees or buildings.

NEW TPWD TRAIL GRANT COMING FALL 2018!

It's Tick Season

Courtesy of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Ticks are eight-legged arachnids more closely related to spiders than insects. While all tick species feed on blood, some feed on wild animals and rarely bite people. Other ticks readily hitch rides on, and bite humans.

The most common human diseases transmitted by Texas ticks include Rocky Mountain spotted fever, human ehrlichiosis, and Lyme disease. Lyme disease is caused by a bacterial spirochete. Although present in Texas, Lyme disease is not as prevalent as in the north central and northeastern US. It is thought to be carried by the deer tick. Rocky Mountain spotted fever is a rickettsial bacteria disease, and is carried by dog ticks and lone star ticks. It is potentially serious with a 20% fatality rate for people who go untreated. Ehrlichiosis is another bacterial disease, with less than 10 cases reported in Texas each year. It is less likely to have serious consequences than RMSF, but can still make you quite sick. Human ehrlichiosis in Texas is thought to be carried by the lone star tick.

If you know you've been bitten by a tick and develop a rash or flu-like symptoms, suspect the tick. If you find a tick attached to your skin, remove it right away. Put the tick in a jar or Ziploc bag and label with the date and place you think it came from. If you develop symptoms later, check with your doctor and be sure to bring your bagged sample.

How to Protect Yourself

- Wear light-colored, full-length clothing whenever possible and cover your exposed skin with DEET repellent (30%).
- Tuck pant legs into socks to keep crawling ticks atop of clothing where they are visible.
- Use repellents containing permethrin (e.g. Permanone®) for application to clothing, or buy clothing pre-treated with insecticide for protection against mosquitoes and ticks.
- Check yourself and your family for crawling or attached ticks. Look thoroughly on exposed skin, clothing and hair.
- When returning home, wash clothing, sleeping bags and blankets in hot water, or seal them inside a plastic garbage bag to kill any wandering ticks.

Please support businesses that support LRRETA.

MJ Arabians

- Breeders of Egyptian Arabian Horses
- Natural horsemanship methods in training all of our performance and halter horses.
- Exceptional family Arabians

Mjarabians@gmail.com

469.328.4675



1363 Welch School Rd. • Collinsville TX



Many thanks for loaning LRRETA two 4-seater UTVs to get workers down the trail!



Black Mustang Ranch

- Horse rentals
- Guided trail rides
- Summer camp
- Endurance training facility

1511 FM 1192
Pilot Point, TX 76258
817-915-8455 to book your ride or
monica@blackmustangranch.com

LRRETA

Branded Merchandise

LRRETA has paid to have our logo digitized. Supply your own clothing items and member Robyn Pucci will do embroidery for \$8 per item, or you can order shirts from the Norman Roscoe catalog available online or from Linda Moore.

Items can be brought to our meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month at Ernesto's in Pilot Point at 6:30.

Call Linda with questions (940) 206-9355.



Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails Association (LRRETA) Patron Application Form

MEMBERSHIP and PATRONS - Membership in LRRETA and Greenfest is complimentary. Supporters of the equestrian/hiking trail are PATRONS. Please support your trail by becoming a PATRON and attending the annual Greenfest events!

<input type="checkbox"/> Single Patron \$25 annual	<input type="checkbox"/> Household Patron (max 4 people) \$75 annual	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime single Patron \$250 (one time)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Household \$750 (one time)
<input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100*			

FULL NAME _____

BUSINESS NAME (optional) _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Cell Phone _____ Home phone (optional)* _____

Email _____

Additional Patrons (fill in if checking Household Patron):

FULL NAME _____

FULL NAME _____

FULL NAME _____

PLEASE MAIL CHECK WITH PATRON DUES OR DONATIONS TO:

Eileen Stecik, 219 Whispering Trails, Argyle, TX 76226

State and Federal grants for our trails require 20% to 50% private funds as a "match."

We need your dues and donations to access grant money!

*Business Membership includes a static ad each quarter in newsletter. Please provide a business card.

LRRETA does not share member information.

Please also consider joining our sister trail groups:

Join Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association (TETRA) <http://tetra.memberlodge.org/page-201911>

Join Cross Timbers Equestrian Trails Association (CTETA) <http://www.cteta.org/Form-Membership-2011.pdf>