



# Down On The Farm

Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance Newsletter

July, August, September, 2010

## ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER TRAIL RIDE

by Wes Mueller

**D**id you miss it? On June 12, a parking area for horse trailers had been bush-hogged, the gates were unlocked, the directional signs were in place, and in came folks to see first hand what the Corps of Engineers had crafted as part of the Greenway Environmental Restoration Area. We started early to beat the heat and to experience some unusual ditch-crossings while catching scenic views of the Wolf River. This ride was designed to highlight a Greenway area that is just to the west of Collierville-Arlington Road (route 205) in Collierville Tennessee and is now open to horse-riders. For those people living in Shelby or Fayette counties, it's another place to add to your trail riding list with good trailer parking and firm footing.

The ride was jointly sponsored by the SFEA and the Wolf River Conservancy. Keith Kirkland, Director of Membership and Outreach Programs at the WRC, was on hand to provide riders with information about the river and provide a packet of information to each rider that included a detailed trail map which makes it easier for riders to return on their own in the future. In our planning meeting, I was smiling when Keith asked if we usually put some kind of manure-catcher on our horses. I told him they only do that in downtown Memphis!

The Greenway ride had a variety of terrain although the crushed limestone in some spots was sometimes uncom-

fortable for unshod horses. Those horses were glad to get to farm dirt roads which comprise about half of the ride. My horse is shod and had no trouble with any of the terrain. The wood-floored steel bridge and the low water crossings of poured concrete constructed over some deep ditches were not a problem for any of the horses on the ride. In fact, I think the ditch crossings look more difficult to the rider than to the horse. We went as far west as is currently allowed but we hope that some day a rider will be able to get all the way to Houston Levee Road and beyond on Greenway trails.

The gates to this riding area are usually open if the weather is good and anyone who wants to ride in this convenient location should come on down to try it out. It really comes in handy to have a place to ride with firm footing in the Spring when everywhere else is muddy and wet. Let's all keep our eye on the Greenway progress and support horses on the trails whenever we get the chance!

Thanks to the volunteers that helped put this ride together and provided drinks and a cool lunch spot after the ride: Brynda & Ron Read, Rick Richardson, Jan Reed, and Lou French. Also, thanks to Nathan Lubin for providing bush-hogging services. You can also read about this ride in the July issue of the Mid-South Horse Review.



# A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

**F**or a long time the SFEA Board has been aware of the fact that many people just call us the Equestrian Alliance. At the past Board meeting a suggestion was made to begin to call ourselves that in the coming year. We would still be the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance but sometimes that is a mouthful for people while Equestrian Alliance is short and sweet. For tax and legal reasons the name must remain the same on all legal and financial papers, however.

We started the Alliance in 1995 and received it's tax exempt status in 1996 so that makes the Alliance fourteen years old. Fourteen years of helping to get horses accepted in most of Shelby Farms that is open to the public. Twelve years of Equine Rescue Seminars. Years of working to keep the Show Place Arena an equestrian venue.

We also stepped out of Shelby Farms to help support the Meeman-Shelby Forest Trail Savers group in trying to establish equestrian trails in Shelby Forest including meeting with Commissioner Hamilton of the Commission for Conservation and Environment in Nashville, TN. We actively participate in the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conferences to insure that horse trails are available throughout the south.

**Y**ou may have noticed that the issues of "Down On The Farm" have advertisements in them. These advertisers have many places to spend their advertising dollars, yet they chose to support the Alliance and advertise in our newsletter. Let's thank them for their support by patronizing them. If you are looking for a product, try one of our advertisers first.

This month's advertisers are:

- Akin Equine Veterinary Services ..... p7
- Mid-South Horse Review ..... p7

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please Welcome Our **NEW MEMBERS** for 5/14/2010...8/8/2010

**NO NEW MEMBERS**

The following folks renewed their SFEA membership:

### INDIVIDUAL

Jan Reed

### FAMILY

Jeanne & Mark Arcelle  
Jack and Joan Bowman  
Jo & Kevin Kirchoff  
Rick Richardson  
Jerene Sykes  
Art & Bert Wolff

### SUPPORTER

Bill & Nancy Fay

### PATRON

Mary Leigh Keegan  
Harriet McFadden  
Karen Parker  
Gail & Rick Sievers

If you do not see your name on the list and paid between the dates shown, contact Jerry Rhodes, Membership@SFEAonline.org

We feel, however, that some horse people think that the only thing we do is benefit Shelby Farms and are not relevant or supportive of their type of equestrian activity. We would like your thoughts on this idea before our next Board meeting so drop a line to [talliho22@aol.com](mailto:talliho22@aol.com) and voice your opinion. Legally we will still be the SFEA but for convenience sake we will be called just the Equestrian Alliance. What do you think?



*Down On The Farm*, the official publication of the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance (SFEA), is published quarterly and sent to all current SFEA members.

Ads and articles are due by the 15th of the third month of each quarter.

SFEA is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to improving and promoting Shelby Farms and the Mid-South for all disciplines of equestrian sports.

To contact SFEA, (662) 851-7122 or write to SFEA, PO Box 423, Collierville, TN 38027-0423

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*Treasurer*

Wesley Mueller

*Newsletter Editor*

Jerry Rhodes

*Secretary*

Peggy C Hart

# RIDE IN SHELBY FARMS A LOT?

**F**or those of you who ride in Shelby Farms frequently and would like to do something for the park do we have an opportunity for you! Just fill out the following survey and send it to the park if you would like to participate. You may mail it to Sandee Daniels, 500 Pine Lake Dr., Memphis, TN 38134 or scan it and send a copy to [sdaniels@shelbyfarmspark.org](mailto:sdaniels@shelbyfarmspark.org).

## Survey Questionnaire for Equestrian Patrol at Shelby Farms Park

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you previously in a volunteer ranger position at the Park: **Yes No**

Patrols would be needed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Would you be able to work on those days? Pick a day \_\_\_\_\_

Consistency will be integral in our success. We need a core group of dedicated volunteers to achieve this. Would you be able to commit to 15-20 hours per month, 9 months out of the year? **Yes No**

Do you have your own horse, trailer, and tack that you would be willing to use for patrol? **Yes No**

Would you need to use Park supplied horses, stabling, and tack? **Yes No**

Would you be willing to pass certification tests (for both you and your horse if applicable) to demonstrate your ability to perform patrol duties safely and effectively? **Yes No**

Park patrollers will be ambassadors of information and assistance to Park guests. Do you have previous customer service experience or would you be willing to attend training on dealing with customers and handling disputes? **Yes No**

There may be times when a Park patroller is first on the scene of an accident which requires immediate attention. Are you CPR and first aid certified by the American Red Cross or would you be willing to undergo training for this certification? **Yes No**

Would you be willing to undergo a criminal background check, as well as, drug and alcohol testing if required for this position? **Yes No**

Other comments:

# EQUINE RESCUE – PICTURES

The Alliance added 12 more first responders to those already trained in equine rescue techniques on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The floods of May made it hard for the Fire Dept., our biggest supporter, to release many of it's men as they were short handed. However, we did train three new members of the Marshall County Humane Society and we are glad that we are reaching out into neighboring counties. Thanks to Brynda Read for the pictures and to all the volunteers and their horses for coming out and putting this on. Special thanks to Southwind Stables that provided four horses as well as volunteers.



*Adam and his human, Peggy Hart, arrive to begin teaching the course.*



*Tamara Shipley and Esmee show a Marshall County Animal Control Officer how to handle a horse's feet.*



*Another successful group of first responders ready to assist you and your horses should the need arise.*



*Shelby County firemen learn about trailer constructin.*



*Mission accomplished, Adam is ready to load up to go home.*

# LYNN PALM'S 40 TIPS FOR BETTER HORSEMANSHIP

To celebrate her fortieth year as a horse trainer, competitor and clinician, world champion Lynn Palm created "40 Fabulous Tips for Better Horsemanship" to share some of her knowledge of horsemanship and equine management.

Palm's "Fabulous at 40" celebration includes 40 weeks of prizes from Palm Partnership Training and sponsors such as Wrangler and Professional's Choice.

"These are really useful tips that I use every day when I am out in the barn or traveling with my horses. My hope is that everyone will be able to find something useful in this list," Lynn says.

## 40 FABULOUS TIPS FOR BETTER HORSEMANSHIP

1. Always wear a helmet when riding. I can never emphasize this enough. Protect your head—you only get one.
2. Ask yourself: Is your horse suited to you? Do you feel safe working with him? Are you having fun with him? These are tough questions to ask yourself, but if you and your horse aren't a good match, it might be time to make a change.
3. Always check your girth for tightness before mounting your horse.
4. Mount your horse with correctness, which will encourage him to stand still.
5. Always have a "perfect practice" planned when you ride your horse.
6. Always keep your eyes, and thus your concentration, in front of your horse's head.
7. Always do some kind of stretching on the ground, exercises at home or on the horse to warm up and develop muscle and flexibility of your joints.
8. When trail riding, bring a cell phone and let someone know when you expect to be back.
9. If you are taking your horse on a trail he has never seen before, have a friend bring her horse along for moral support.
10. If your horse is spooky, it is OK to get off the horse and address the spooky obstacle. It is safer to deal with it on the ground than under saddle.
11. Take your horse in the show ring ONLY when he has the training and knowledge for what you are asking of him – this will give him a positive impression of the event, and he will like what he is doing.
12. Be light with your hands. We spend a lifetime in riding learning not to pull on the reins. Learn how to use an open rein and indirect or neck rein. Your horse will love the lightness and learn not to pull and resist you.
13. The more you squeeze, grip or kick your horse's sides, the more you give your horse all the tools to ignore your leg aids.
14. The more you change directions in practice, the more you encourage lateral suppleness.
15. The more you do transitions, the more you stretch and strengthen the longitudinal muscles and the hind leg joints.
16. Incorporating dressage exercises into your routine can improve your performance in any discipline.
17. Always communicate with your horse through the natural aids: seat, leg and hands. Artificial aids – crop, whip and spurs – should only assist your natural aids.
18. Always reward your horse with a pat, soft voice or treat when he responds positively – he will be more willing to give a positive response next time.
19. Learn from watching others ride.
20. Seek lessons from a professional who explains his or her methods and whose training program is based on common sense, not gimmicks.
21. Always practice loading your horse before you go to load for a trip. Open all the doors to give as much light as you can before loading your horse.
22. Always load a single horse in a side-by-side two-horse trailer on the left side to stay balanced with the high side of the road.
23. Always give your horse a hot bran-mineral oil dinner no more than 24 hours before travel that is going to last more than 10 hours.
24. Offer free-choice hay (some alfalfa is perfect) at all times while a horse is traveling. Be sure to offer water or hang a water bucket in the trailer, when you stop for gas or food.
25. Have your horse's hooves trimmed or shod every four to six weeks, depending on your farrier's recommendation.
26. Master "working in hand" ground training. Practice leading on either side of the horse on a loose lead without pulling.

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# SHELBY FARMS EQUESTRIAN ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail with your check to: Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance, PO Box 423, Collierville, TN 38027-0423

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Add me to the "e list" to receive meeting notices and other important SFEA related information via e-mail



Areas of Interest: \_\_\_ Trails \_\_\_ Cross Country \_\_\_ Dressage \_\_\_ Show Place Arena \_\_\_ Polo

\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_ Amateur/Hobby Rider \_\_\_ Equine Professional \_\_\_ Veterinarian \_\_\_ Equine Related Business

\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_ own horse(s) \_\_\_ do not own horse(s)

Other equine-related organizations I belong to: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Angel .....	\$500.00	Patron .....	100.00
Supporter .....	50.00	Business/Group	35.00
Family .....	25.00	Individual .....	15.00

**Dues** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Donation** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.

Continued from page 5

27. Master the art of longeing and make a commitment to stop longeing with hundreds of circles that drill your horse to boredom.
  28. Master ponying your horse as you ride another – it is a great skill to control two at a time.
  29. Master ground driving or long lining. It is great to learn your horse's body alignment and balance while refining your hand and rein aids.
  30. Always have a first-aid kit available in your barn, trailer and vehicle. Make sure it is fully stocked at all times because you never know when you'll need it.
  31. Clean your stalls two times a day and paddocks once a week.
  32. Brush your horse every day. He will love you for this.
  33. Clean sheaths on male horses two to three times a year.
  34. Float teeth once a year or as directed by your veterinarian.
  35. Vaccinations are very important. Give your horse all of the veterinarian-recommended vaccines.
  36. Give your horses carrots and apples in their feed whenever you can.
  37. Keep all stall doors and gates closed on your farm at all times.
  38. Make sure your horse has clean, fresh water daily.
  39. Make sure you learn how to properly fit your saddle, pads, bridle and bit to your horse. Also, if you want to ride well, your saddles have to fit you.
  40. Remember, a horse knows every word you are thinking. Turn any negative thought or comment such as "I'll try" or "What if" to a positive thought: "I will" or "My horse will do well."
- From America's Horse Daily and the AQHA.

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**Sheri Monroe** – Manager of Events and  
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901-767-7275, ext 302

[smonroe@shelbyfarmspark.org](mailto:smonroe@shelbyfarmspark.org)



**Mark Akin, D.V.M.**

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**Mid-South Horse Review**

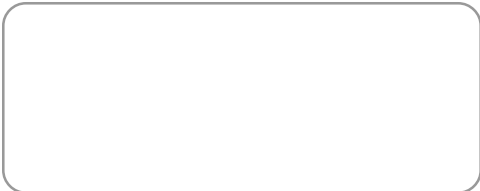
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**T**hinking about trying something new? Want to meet other people who enjoy horses? Here is your opportunity to meet and try something new with your horse while meeting people that like to talk horses as much as you do. Take time this year to visit some of the activities of our Member Organizations. We encourage groups to send us their calendar of events for inclusion in our newsletter.

**AUGUST**

17 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Rick Richardson, 901-262-4202.

**SEPTEMBER**

- 2-5 WTHJA Classic, Germantown Charity Horse Show Grounds, [www.wthja.com](http://www.wthja.com)
- 5 Polo, 2 P.M. <http://www.memphispoloclub.com>.
- 3-13 Delta Fair & Music Festival 901-757-7777 ext. 7106
- 13 First Cubbing, Oak Grove Hunt. Contact Debra 901.491.8188.
- 17-19 Fortune Five Barrel Race 901-757-7777 ext. 7106
- 21 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Rick Richardson, 901-262-4202.
- 24-5 Pony Club H/J show at the Charity Show Grounds.

**OCTOBER**

- 9 Oxford MS. Cedar Wind Farm Schooling Show CT, [www.cedarwindfarm.com](http://www.cedarwindfarm.com)
- 19 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Rick Richardson, 901-262-4202.
- 23 Moonlight Trail Ride  
[www.LUBENTINC@aol.com](mailto:www.LUBENTINC@aol.com), 901-262-4202
- 22-24 Nashoba Carriage Association Carriage Show.  
[www.nashobacarriage.org](http://www.nashobacarriage.org)

**NOVEMBER**

- 16 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Rick Richardson, 901-262-4202.
- 27 Trail Challenge. Alliance 901-828-4202