



Down On The Farm

Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance Newsletter October, November, December, 2009

TRAIL CHALLENGE

So you saw the article about the Trail Challenge last month in the newsletter and the Mid-South Horse Review and you read it to your horse and you are both interested in doing the challenge except neither one of you have ever done one before. So here we go with a brief description of what a Trail Challenge is all about and what it is going to cost

Now let's say you are out riding one of those really great trails at, oh, I don't know, Big South Fork, TN or Ozark National Forest, AR, or closer to home at Natchez Trace and it's a hot day so you want to cool your horse off. Will he let you do it by dropping a sponge in the water from his back and then wiping him down? Will he walk calmly through a narrow trail with privet hanging all over him and you?

What happens if you get caught in stuff you can't work your way through and have to back out? Will he? Can you? Will he stand quietly while you mount him in any way you have to do it and from either side? Will he step off over a drop on the trail? Go through that creek running with water from the last storm? Step up onto something?

Of course, we don't have a running creek at Shelby Farms just the Wolf River. Will he swim across for you? No! Just kidding that isn't on the challenge. What is in the challenge are obstacles that we have tried to create to simulate what you might find on a trail. Some may be stuff you would find in Shelby Farms Park. Some will be things you just might need anytime when you are out riding.

Still interested? The course is timed but not for speed and not for turtles either. We have to be out of there by sunset so each competitor will have a window of time to complete the obstacles. It is a reasonable time to do it all even if you have to convince your horse that that scary thing won't eat him. You can try three times to convince your horse he wants to go through it and then

you will need to move on and take a zero or if you are absolutely sure you are never going to get your horse to do one of the obstacles just go around it, take the zero and go home and teach him how to do it at home. What a great way to learn what your horse is calm about before you are 25 miles back in the wilderness and you find out he doesn't do water!

You may get an entry form by emailing rangerrick76@hotmail.com. Entries must be mailed to Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance, P. O. Box 423, Collierville, TN 38027. It is first come first serve and the post mark on your entry holds your spot! Entries will be accepted until midnight, Thurs. Nov. 26th with

competitors being notified of their acceptance on Friday Nov. 27th. Your check must accompany your entry for entry to be accepted.

Since this is our first time to try this we are guessing at how long it will take. Forty lucky people get to try the inaugural course of the first Trail Challenge at Shelby Farms. If you have children riding you may act as a spotter and walk with them but you may not touch the

ANNUAL MEETING

January 19, 2010, 7:00 P.M.

Colettas Restaurant
2850 Appling
 (Interstate 40, exit on Appling north, on the right approximately a mile from the Interstate and before Stage Road)

Recap of the Alliance events for 2009, hear about the Bridge from Hell and future projects, update on Shelby Farms Master Plan, election of Officers, and surprise speaker!

IN THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON

A REPORT ON THE MOONLIGHT TRAIL RIDE
by Nathan Lubin, Ride Chairman

This years' Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance Moonlight Ride took place on Halloween night. Funds from the ride enable the Alliance to maintain trails at the park and to create awareness for this wonderful equestrian resource. Once again, we had perfect weather for the ride and a brilliant full moon to light the way.

This year, a daytime ride was added as an optional activity. The event started at 3:00pm with participants arriving in horse trailers at the riding stables. Once everyone was saddled up, the group was lead on a day-time ride through the Pine Forest and surrounding fields. Many parts of the park were experienced for the first time.

Next was a meal at pavilion three. The temperature was just right for the bonfire. Live music by Van Duren added a nice touch as we enjoyed our meal and fellowship. Cookies and roasted marshmallows for desert help prepare the riders for the next ride. Astronomer and Park Volunteer, Bill Wilson provided viewings with his telescope.

Riding in the park at night is a special treat. Most people are pleasantly surprised at how well horses see at night. It was beautiful seeing the moonlight on the water as we rode around the many lakes at Shelby Farms Park.

Save the date and tell a friend about next year's Moonlight Ride, scheduled for October 23, 2010. Please join us for a great equestrian experience, good food and fellowship.

We would like to offer many thanks to the Shelby Farms Park Conservancy and their wonderful staff for making this event possible.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please Welcome Our **NEW MEMBERS** for 8/20/2009...11/20/2009

INDIVIDUAL

John Douglas

FAMILY

Barbara Moore

SUPPORTER

Stennis Trueman

The following folks renewed their SFEA membership:

INDIVIDUAL

Barbara Henking

Susan Tobey

Dee Travis

Rebecca Wages

Glenda Yarbrough

FAMILY

Ray, Linda, & Shelby Butts

Jo & Kevin Kirchoff

FAMILY (CONT)

Jerry & Ann Rhodes

Vicky Rimstidt

Tamara Shipley

Jerene Sykes

SUPPORTER

Sheffield Worboys

PATRON

Peggy, Paul and Cary Hart

Joe & Jan Krisle

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

You 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 p5

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

President

Rick Richardson

Vice-President

Treasurer

Wesley Mueller

Newsletter Editor

Jerry Rhodes

Secretary

Peggy C Hart

HOLIDAY EATING TIPS

Submitted by Carolyn Dandurand

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Holiday spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.

2. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly. It's rare.. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn in to an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's almost Christmas!

3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Holiday party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?

6. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

7. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as

you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.

8. Same for pies. Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat. Have a slice of each. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?

9. Did someone mention fruitcake? Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some scruples.

10. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner. Remember this motto to live by:

"Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

*Have a very Merry
Christmas and
Happy New Year*

HELP

More Volunteers needed – Hey, we have people saying they want to see the City Slicker Endurance Ride back and they are actually looking into putting it together. We even have competitors emailing us from North Carolina saying they want to come back because they enjoyed City Slicker so much. So if you think you would be interested in helping put this on again just let Rick Richardson know at rangerrick76@hotmail.com. We can't promise it will happen but the more people who say they will help makes it much easier to recruit a Ride Manager. You know we can do this – what's a few ribbons to put up, Vets. to contact, P & R people to recruit? We have the experience now lets get 'er done! City Slicker rides again in 2010 – doesn't that sound like a great new start?



The Stars Return TO SHELBY FARMS PARK AFTER A DECADE OF DARKNESS!

SFPC proudly reintroduces Mid-South's favorite holiday light show. Starry Nights 2009 will feature more than a million and a half environmentally friendly LED lights illuminating dozens of all-new displays along with some of your old favorites. Check out the Starry Nights Web site for more details: www.starrynightsmemphis.org.

Starry Nights is a holiday light show like no other. Bring your family and drive the mile and half long, winding road through serene Shelby Farms Park to see the dazzling displays come to life. You can visit the Starry Nights Village at the end of the show to purchase the Starry Nights 2009 holiday CD, official merchandise, hot cocoa and more!

Shelby Farms Park is looking for a few good people to volunteer to help with the Starry Nights Event from Nov. 27- Jan 2. Volunteers are needed each night and groups are signing up to help. If you would like to help out at the park call 901-767-PARK. You may take admission fees, man the Visitors Center or work in the gift shop. Be sure and tell them that you are with the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance. If someone would like to coordinate putting together a group of Alliance members for one special night contact Rick Richardson at 901-262-4202 or rangerrick76@hotmail.com.

BASICS FOR EVERY TRAIL HORSE

In doubt about whether your horse can be ridden safely on the trail? If he won't do the following at home, stay there (and keep training) until he does!

He obeys "whoa", whether you're on the ground or in the saddle.)Your on-trail safety depends on his reliable brakes.)

He'll stand tied, without pulling back (You never know when you might need to tie up on even the shortest ride, and horse camping is hell with a halter uller.)

He's Controllable in the presence of other horses.

He'll cross water and other obstacles without a fight. If he balks, you'll be stuck, and if he dumps you, you could get hurt.)

He'll load willingly into a trailer.



Continued from page 1

horse or the obstacle in any way. The child must do it all. If we find we get through with it early anyone who is there and would like to enter may do so. You could come take a nice trail ride around the park and see what the trails are like then stop by the event to see if they can fit you in before they close the park.

If you have gone out and read this article to your horse and he is "chomping at the bit" as they say then sounds like this fun event is for you. The cost will be \$35.00 for Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance members, \$45.00 for non-members and if you join the day of the event (\$15.00 for individuals, or \$25.00 for families) you can enter at the lower rate. For more information you may call Rick Richardson at 901-262-4202 evenings, or email rangerrick76@hotmail.com.

Classes will include:

- Seniors (50 and older) with 12 obstacles
- Tweeners (between 49 and 18) 12 obstacles
- Juniors (18-12) 10 obstacles
- Tadpoles (11 and under) 8 obstacles
- Open Class – open to any competitor any age.
14 obstacles



INTERMODAL FACILITY FOR ROSSVILLE AREA

by Nancy Brannon

Dear folks, If you haven't seen the latest issue of the *Mid-South Horse Review* or our website, www.midsouthhorsereview.com, we have posted a request from TDOT for preliminary comments from citizens and groups for an Environmental Assessment on the proposed Norfolk Southern Regional Intermodal facility for Rossville area. I STRONGLY URGE you to write comments to TDOT about any/all of the categories they plan to investigate. I am adding a request that they investigate light pollution to my comments. If you love the former Twin Hill Ranch, believe in the need to preserve/conservate land for hunting, for wildlife, for ground water recharge, etc. then you should write to TDOT on this matter. The Sierra Club sent information describing in depth the request for comments and the site summary, summary of environmental & community issues, and maps of the location (this is also on our website). Some of you will be directly harmed by this. Others may think you are not affected, but you can be as this thing brings unprecedented and drastic changes to the area. Would any of you want to live in downtown Capleville? That's what the former Twin Hill Ranch and surrounding area (including the proposed Chickasaw Trails Industrial Park on Hwy 72) will look like in the future. More importantly - this will be located in a ground water recharge area, which can affect the drinking water source for the region. Please write soon.

Thank you for your consideration,
Nancy Brannon, Ph.D.



Mark Akin, D.V.M.

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24 Hr. Veterinary Service & Emergency Phone

P.O. Box 488

Collierville, TN 38027-0488

Telephone: 901-854-6773
(901-85H-ORSE)

WANTED:

Ride Manager for 2010 City Slicker Endurance Ride. Paid position. Must have experience. Contact Rick Richardson at 901-262-4202.

MORE HELP

The Trail Challenge challenges members to volunteer for two hours to help put this new event on. If you want to ride we can work you in if you get your entry in in time. Rick Richardson at rangerrick76@hotmail.com will send you an entry. So you can work then ride or ride then work. Jobs include Parking 9-11, 1-3. Registration 11-1, 1-3. Steward (making sure the right person is in the arena at the right time) all two hour shifts are open at this time. Runner/gopher - used where needed to help out. All session are open except 11-1.

We need set up volunteers on Friday so you can do that also if you want to see how we get theses obstacles together. Then there is clean up and take down on Sat. afternoon. We hope we don't have to go back on Sunday but you never can tell.

This is a new fund raiser for the Alliance and it will be a true challenge not only to the participants but to those of us who have never put one on before. So come give us moral support at least!

THE BRIDGE FROM HELL

On Martin Luther King's Birthday in January members of the Alliance began the work on the Jones Pond Bridge that was damaged during the 2003 Endurance Ride. Ride manager Terry Silver was extremely upset about this and felt that it was a project that the Alliance needed to take on to continue as good neighbors of Shelby Farms.

What became apparent as the bridge was pulled apart was that the Endurance Ride had not caused the problems but had only brought out that the bridge had been incorrectly built and was suffering from years of erosion and lack of maintenance. So we decided to fix that sucker like it should have been fixed!

Little did we know that this bridge only 28 feet long would take almost an entire year to finish. First we had to work with the park to get permission to fix it, then get them to help get the correct materials on the site which took several attempts. The weather, as you can imagine, was the biggest problem during the year and twice volunteers showed up only to be rained out. You cannot work with a generator when it is raining. At least none of us wanted to try it. So we would all troop desolately down to Perkins, sopping wet, and order pancakes. Pancakes made the whole wet day a little bearable.

Volunteers from the Alliance and the park worked to take the bridge apart and salvage any material they could. Rich Richardson was Team Leader on the project as he had experience at St. Katherine State Park in Arkansas building bridges and with Dr. Gene Wood putting in bridges at Shelby Forest.

Once we got the park to provide us with limestone we had to dig out trenches for headers, fasten them into the ground and each other with rebar and set them in pits of limestone. Community Service Workers and park volunteers helped with that.

Next we had to cut and move three telephone poles into position to span the creek with the help of the parks Kubota and volunteers from the Pay It Forward Tour 2009. Couldn't get to that until March But once that was done decking of 2 x 6's was put on over the telephone poles.

Lastly hand railings were constructed and bracing for them was bolted to the telephone poles. The railings included a bull rail on the bottom to keep a horse's hoof from sliding off the bridge in wet weather or a stroller wheel slipping off. As we left the site on Nov. 11 our last job was to concrete in the end railing posts. Minus a few cleaning up projects THIS BRIDGE IS DONE!

Our very heartfelt thanks go out to the volunteers both from the park and from the Alliance as well as to the Rangers at the park and Sandee Daniels, Volunteer Coordinator, who helped with this monster project. Special thanks go to Rick Richardson for having to put up with volunteers who though willing really had no clue as to how to build a safe bridge, Alma Huges, Rick's mom, who made sure we had the right tool, screw or bolt. Brynda Read for using her truck to haul materials from Lowes and Ron, her husband, for not divorcing her over all of this. Wes Mueller helped out and Louis French who tired to but always ended up there the days it rained. Did you plan that Lou? If I left someone out I am sorry but it has been a long year and I have an elderly memory.

While this bridge is in an area horses are not normally allowed to ride in I guarantee that the next Moonlight Trail Ride is going to definitely take a meander across it and if we get the City Slicker Endurance Ride going again and that is a possibility for next year every loop is going to cross that bridge.

So if you are in the park and near the visitor's center go for a walk over to Jones Pond, the small pond next to the VC, as you go north look in the trees and you will see an amazing bridge built by the wonderful hands of the volunteers of the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance.



THE MASTER PLAN

As most of you know, this is the first year implementing the Master Plan for Shelby Farms Park. As promised, the execution of the Master Plan will be a "work in progress". Now is the time, for all Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance members and interested parties to give their input and constructive suggestion toward improvements at this incredible resource. Your thoughts and ideas are needed and welcome as we address improvements that will benefit equestrian activities at the park. Horse lovers are fortunate that the leadership at the Park appreciates how much Park users enjoy horses being an integral part of the Park. Please be proactive in the development of Shelby Farms Park by sending your opinions and ideas concerning improvements at Shelby Farms Park to the Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance, P.O. Box 423, Collierville, TN 38027

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.

MOONLIGHT TRAIL RIDE

By Rick Richardson

On a beautiful crisp October afternoon, horses and people came together for the annual Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance Marilyn Lubin Memorial Moonlight Ride. At 3:00, the first ride trotted off into the distance as I stayed behind to be available for the preparations for the evening ride. As we readied the bonfire we were being watched by those little black and white creatures who, fortunately, kept their distance and a few curious deer wandered by. About 4:30, the riders returned with smiles of enjoyment and tales of the buck who hunkered down in the tall grass to watch them pass.

In a setting of a beautiful sunset a marvelous meal was enjoyed, catered by Garibaldi's, accompanied with music by Van Duren, marshmallows were toasted and a few took advantage of the telescope provided by Bill Wilson to bring the moon and the stars closer to the earth.

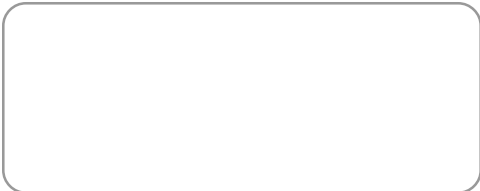
At 6:00 the second ride, many of whom had gone in the afternoon, left for the event of the occasion, a ride through Shelby Farms by moonlight. A wonderful end to a beautiful day

Please join us next year October 23, 2010 for the fourth annual Marilyn Memorial Moonlight Trail Ride.



Shelby Farms Equestrian Alliance
 PO Box 423
 Collierville, TN 38027-0423

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thinking 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.

NOVEMBER

28 Trail Challenge, Shelby Farms Park Rick
 901-262-4202 or rangerrick76@hotmail.com

DECEMBER

4-5 Alderwood Show, GCHS Arena.
 5 Mason TN Coyte Run Arena Donkey Penning
 Greg 910-484-5913
 8 Schooling Show Hunter's Edge. Contact Beanie
 Cone 901-831-3890 or barn 759-0450.

15 SFEA Monthly Meeting. Contact Rick Richardson,
 901-262-4202.
 22 Schooling Show Hunter's Edge. Contact Beanie
 Cone 901-831-3890 or barn 759-0450.
 25 Merry Christmas!
 30 Auto Zone Liberty Bowl Rodeo - Show Place
 Arena

JANUARY

1 Happy New Year!
 19 Annual Meeting, Coletta's Restaurant, Rick,
 901.262.4202