



SPRUCE CREEK TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER February/March 2009



NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR (BIG, BIG SHOES TO FILL)

The Dec/Jan issue was Joyce Pickard's last newsletter and this is my first. Many thanks to Joyce for the hard work she did and the wonderful newsletters she's sent out over the past year and a half. Many of you may remember that Joyce took it over from Ruth Watson. I've done newsletters for various horse and dog clubs over the years and I like to see participation from the membership, rather than writing the whole thing myself. If you come across an interesting article, a helpful hint, a great picture or something that you'd like to share, I hope you will email it to me for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Also, if you have something that you want to sell or an item that you are looking for, I think the newsletter is a great vehicle for letting people know so send that info along as well.



I work as a realtor with Realty One Group so many of you are already familiar with my signs throughout Spruce Creek. I have lived here for about 2 years, on Trailhead Lane, which is as far as you can go toward the park and still be in Spruce Creek! I put a watering trough at the end of my driveway, on the Spruce Creek Trail heading toward the Cumberland Trailhead, so that will help you to place it. Stop by and say "Hi" when you're passing by. Also, my trailer is usually hooked up so if you were planning to ride back to Spruce Creek from the Cumberland Trailhead but have a gimpy horse or a saddle sore, girth gall...overtired horse...or if you yourself have just "run out of gas," come on up the driveway and we'll give you a ride home in the horse taxi.

WELCOME, NEW NEIGHBORS

A big welcome to Renee and Denny Pearce who bought Rita Rosshirt's and Mary Jane Parris' cabin at 345 Spruce Creek Drive. They moved here from Wisconsin as full-time residents at the beginning of December.

Part-timers will include Jace and Orrin Miller from Maine who bought Bea and Jerry Worpell's cabin at 663 Spruce Creek Drive as well as Jan and Monty Welker from upstate New York who bought a cabin from Larry Willenborg at 875 Deer Haven Trail. You'll be seeing a lot of Susan McMahon who bought Gwen and Nick Frangias' cabin at 551 Evergreen Lane; she lives in Franklin TN and comes here often to ride.

Rita and Mary Jane are just down the road now, on Leatherwood Ford Road; Gwen and Nick are renting temporarily while they decide what and where to build and Bea and Jerry live at Ridge Top, not far away, so we've gained new neighbors without really losing old ones!

GOODBYE

Farewell and best of luck to Mary Warren, 529 Evergreen Lane, who moved back to southern California when she was offered a job opportunity that she couldn't refuse.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Your SCTA Board is getting ready for a new year. It is time to send out the dues notices but first we reviewed our situation for the year. Our work force is getting older and we just don't have the volunteer labor force we need. We will have to hire some work done.

The cost of rock/gravel has gone up. This all boils down to the fact that we need to increase our dues. I would like to know what you, the membership, think of increasing the dues to \$35 per year.

Our trails are an asset to all of us as property owners but it is a big job to maintain them.

**Please reply to me
by January 24
by email or phone.**

See the list of officers and directors on the last page of the newsletter for my email address and phone number.

I wish you and yours a very happy and prosperous new year. *Sharon*

DUES ARE GOING TO BE DUE

Membership in the Spruce Creek Trail Association runs from January to January so dues will be due shortly.

Emailed reminders in the past couple of years have resulted in a dwindling number of renewals so a membership application/renewal will most likely be mailed to all owners of property in Spruce Creek.

We have a lot of new neighbors now and will be sure that those names are included in the updated mailing.

The membership form is always available for download from the webpage so if you know of someone who would like to join, make sure they get one.



Photo by Joyce Pickard



Photo by Joyce Pickard



Photo by Joyce Pickard

DECEMBER FIRE BURNS CABIN ON DEER HAVEN TRAIL

The Division of Forestry said that a fire of undetermined origin was stirred by an unusually high wind and spread quickly through dry leaves. A cabin on Lot #126, owned by Diane and Ross Preville from Ellenton, Florida, was engulfed and burned to the ground. Lot #125 was also involved when owners Kay and Paul Nessler of Brooksville, Florida lost two four-wheelers and other items in a utility shed. A cabarn on Lot #127, owned by Robin and Raymond Cooper of Erwin, Tennessee, received minor fire damage as a result of the quick actions of watchful and diligent neighbors, who were also thoughtful enough to alert them by phone about the damage. The extremely high wind on that particular day seems to have been an act of nature. Many thanks to all the Spruce Creek residents who turned out with rakes and shovels to help and to the volunteer firefighters who responded so quickly.

The lesson for all Spruce Creek property owners is twofold; it is best to douse a fire, even one in a firepit, and it would be wise keep leaves raked or blown away from all structures as a precaution.

NEW PARK SUPERINTENDENT

The New Superintendent of Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, headquartered in Oneida, will report for duty January 20, 2009. Stennis Young comes to BSF from his prior post as Assistant Superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway that traverses the states of Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. He brings 29 years of National Park Service knowledge and experience and will be a great asset to this wonderful park, its resources and the communities it serves.

Young began his 29-year NPS career after graduating from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor.

Young grew up in Mathiston, Mississippi, and is a second generation NPS employee. His father worked for more than 30 years in the Natchez Trace Parkway's Maintenance Division.

PARK PHONE NUMBERS

If you have a medical emergency or a serious problem in Big South Fork, call the SCOTT COUNTY Sheriff at 423-663-2245. **Write this number down and carry it with you.**

*I recommend that you put together a little packet with a list of emergency phone numbers including the Air Evac Lifeteam phone number and your member number, your emergency contact information, insurance information, a copy of your Coggins and some money. Make sure that your riding buddies know where it is and also where the keys to your vehicle are, especially if you have "hidden them" somewhere back at the trailhead.

To report trees that are blocking park trails or unsafe areas on the trail, call 423-569-9778, the park's main number. It is answered M-F from 8-4:30 Eastern time or you can leave a message. The park service has been very responsive in keeping trails passable.

SUPPORT BEST FRIENDS SANCTUARY

Best Friends is a humane society formed to assist abandoned, abused and homeless animals in our community by placing them in loving, responsible homes. I myself have gotten a great barn cat and a wonderful German Shepherd through Best Friends. Donna Drochak is our point of contact here in Spruce Creek; call her at 752-8388 if you have a home for a new pet or to join the "\$ 1 A Month Club" which helps to help defray expenses.

WORMING TIP

Do you have a horse that is hard to worm...a horse who raises his nose as high as it can go, making it as difficult for you to put the syringe in the corner of his mouth as possible? Well, you have probably heard of a "placebo," which is where you get a substitute instead of the real thing. Try this: wash an old de-wormer tube and put some apple juice or corn syrup in it and "worm" your horse as a treat. He won't know when he's getting the placebo or....ack...the real thing, so he's more likely to be more cooperative more of the time!

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BAN ON GUNS IN NATIONAL PARKS LIFTED

The U.S. Department of the Interior has published new regulations in The Federal Register that govern the carrying of concealed weapons in areas administered by the National Park Service and on U.S Fish and Wildlife Service refuges. These regulations became effective on January 9, 2009.

In Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, individuals who hold valid permits to carry a concealed weapon issued by the states of Tennessee or Kentucky, or by states which have reciprocal agreements with Tennessee or Kentucky, may also carry those weapons within the park. Hunting regulations within the park are not affected by this rule change. Guns may be carried in a saddlebag or otherwise concealed but it is illegal to display a weapon unless you are hunting. Violations will incur a \$ 250 fine.

Weapons are currently prohibited in Federal facilities under 18 USC Section 930. This includes Big South Fork NRRRA visitor centers, office buildings, and maintenance shops. The new regulations will not change this prohibition.

Please call the park at 423-569-9778 with any questions regarding the new regulations. Further information on the new regulations can be found at <http://www.doi.gov/issues>

INTERESTED IN IMPROVED CELL SERVICE IN SPRUCE CREEK?

A couple who is in the process of buying land here is concerned about the quality of cell service (aren't we all?!) They are exploring the possibility of getting improved Verizon cell coverage in Spruce Creek. This is what they have learned so far:

"Verizon Wireless receives thousands of inquiries each year from property owners, property managers and customers who offer property on which our communications facilities can be located. Land for tower sites should provide a leased area approximately 100' x 100' and should be no more than 100 to 500 feet from a major paved public street. The property should be within a zoning classification that allows communications structures and it must provide 24 hour access, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to all portions of the facility .

All properties would be evaluated by Verizon's team of Real Estate, Construction, and Radio-Frequency engineers for viability."

What would be needed is a candidate who would allow a cell tower on his property and that the property itself meet Verizon's criteria.

This idea may be proposed at the next meeting of the SCTA Board of Directors for discussion. Possibly, Spruce Creek residents would be asked to sign a petition before proceeding. If you have any input or would like to make a suggestion, email Rich Giacalone at luckygtn@gmail.com

PRODUCT REVIEW

I had been told when I moved here that a lot of people, women especially, carry a gun when they ride. I have tried taking pictures from horseback and have not been able to frame a fabulous photo as I had wanted because of the movement of the horse so I have no doubt that the same thing would happen...no guarantee that I could get off an accurate shot. Then there's the issue that if I were foolish enough to fire from horseback, my horse would surely dump me and bolt....leaving me to confront whatever the problem was in the first place and in a far worse position. The solution was this TASER. It is silent and effective; carrying it provides protection and peace of mind! It is not considered a firearm by the U.S. government and can be legally carried, concealed or open, in 40+ states, including TN, KY and FL. To promote responsible ownership and prevent misuse, the TASER will function only after the owner completes a \$ 9.95 background check and receives an activation code. Each TASER has a unique serial number and disperses tiny ID tags upon deployment. This is just the thing to have with you when you are working alone in a remote area, hiking, camping, trail riding, mountain biking, four wheeling etc.

Where can you get one? Just so happens that my husband's mail-order catalog carries them and we have two in stock at the moment, one silver and this bright blue. \$ 349 retail but he will sell them at a very attractive price to members of the Spruce Creek Trail Assn. Call (800) 356-4953 or email ned@wingset.com for more info.



CLASSIFIEDS

TABLE & 4 CHAIRS; Round, walnut color, laminate, 42" with with leaf to extend.

TV STAND; black press-board with a swivel top and glass doors with a place for components.

COMPUTER TABLE; black press-board, on wheels and has a shelf on the bottom for tower etc.

TV; 13" with remote. Call Renee Pearce at (931) 879-4450.

ANNUAL DINNER/AUCTION FUNDRAISER FOR BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SANCTUARY, March 7th. Clean out your attics, basements, garages and closets; tax-deductible donations gratefully accepted to support animal rescue. Call 879-6806 and leave message.

OLD MACS BOOTS, size 6; fit TWH who wore size 2 shoes. Used twice; still in box. Retail \$ 145; will take 100. Leslie Helm (931) 752-8102

CAST IRON FIREPLACE, near new, \$ 150. Mary Warren (931) 704-0041.

ABETTA SADDLE, Western 14 or 15" seat, black w/horn. Bought new in May 2008; used once. Includes 30" neoprene girth, Reddi Stirrups and saddle cover. Paid \$ 320 + tax; will take \$ 200. Mary Warren (931) 704-0041.

ABETTA TRINITY ENDURANCE SADDLE w/Girth, Black, 16". Near New; Sold online at Stateline Tack for \$ 407; will take \$ 250. Mary Warren (931) 704-0041.

EMERGENCY HORSESHOEING; 15 years experience. Specializing in gaited horses. Call Rita Rosshirt, 931-879-6835.

CUSTOM SEWING. Embroidery, slipcovers, curtains and window treatments, cushions, trailer accessories. Call Joan; (931- 752-7643).

HELP WANTED...Part time farm help in Spruce Creek Acres. I need someone to care for my 8 horses, 2 dogs and cat while I am out of town working approximately 2 weeks out of the month. It requires 6 hours per day, Mon-Fri and feed the Sunday nite before my work week. The hours are 7am to 10am and 230pm to 530pm (winter hours)...I am flexible on this. Job requires some horse knowledge...feeding, turnout, stall cleaning, lifting bags of feed, shavings, bales of hay, running 4 wheeler with manure spreader, etc.

PAY...\$ 90 per day...that equals out to \$ 15.00 per hour...1099 position...you must pay your own taxes and I report income secondary to breeding farm expense. More time may be available. If interested, please call me, Jaime Whiteaker, at 931-879-6718 (home) or cell 941-416-3935 or email me.

EASYBOOT TRADE-IN OFFER

For those of you who don't care for cold weather and pull shoes and then wish you could ride on one of those miraculous 60-degree days that do sometimes occur during the winter in this part of the country, you may want to consider using boots on a barefoot horse for those occasions. If you have an old pair of boots languishing in your tack trunk from two-horses-ago, the Easyboot company is now offering a trade-in program and you can get new Easyboots for 50% off. Here's the link, if you're interested: http://www.easycareinc.com/Cool_Stuff/Upgrades.aspx You can trade in any brand of boot; it does not have to be an Easyboot!

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