



# LRRETA NEWS

## Flooding Forces Trail Closings at Lake Ray Roberts



**OPEN**

Jordan Park FM1192 to Lost Lake (3.5 miles North of Lantana Resort)  
Greenbelt Corridor (Elm Fork on FM455) North to Chimney and Isle du bois.  
Greenbelt Corridor (Elm Fork on FM455) to 428

**CLOSED**

Isle du Bois (Bluestem) to Jordan Park (FM1192)  
Isle du bois (Bluestem) South to Chimney  
428 South to 380

**Please stay off closed trails to protect them as well as for your own safety – and your horse's!**

**There will be lots of work to do once everything dries out so watch Facebook and the website for updates.**

### IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message .....	2
New Member Highlight.....	3
Meet the Ranger.....	4
Outstanding Volunteer .....	4
Project/Grant Update.....	6
Christmas Party!.....	7
EPM.....	8
Fannin County Trails Update.....	9
Camp Clinic .....	10
Website Update .....	11
Where Have You Ridden? .....	12

### Monthly Trail Ride

1st Saturday of the Month  
June-November

Locations announced on Facebook.

Call before you haul!

Michelle Ellis  
214-491-7941

### Work Days

**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, the they donate .05% of the purchase price. It adds up!

## President's Message



I know we have all been looking forward to the fall riding weather but we have gotten a bit more rain than we need! Last week it seemed like we jumped from summer to winter

and skipped fall. On Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, the Ray Roberts Lake was four feet above flood stage and as a result the trail going north from Little Blue Stem to Jordan Park was under water and had to be closed. The trail from Elm Fork to Little Blue Stem is open. Watch for erosion on the trail and when the trails are reopened, please report conditions to our trail managers so we can see what needs to be done to fix the problem.

I am excited to report that we have just received delivery of the cargo container! The container was purchased with TPWD Recreational Trail Grant 2014 grant money. We now have a place to keep our equipment, supplies, prizes for trail challenges and our UTVs. Thank you to Container King, Sanger for a discount on the container and waiving the delivery fee. We will have volunteer opportunities in the near future to organize our equipment. We are currently waiting for our 2017 grant award so that we can purchase our trail trimming equipment and other needed items. Once it dries out, officials from TPWD Austin will come and inspect the work that we completed on our 2014 grant and we will then receive the last 5% of our funds that are withheld until all work is done.

On September 28-30<sup>th</sup>, LRRETA partnered with Cross Timbers Equestrian Trail Association (CTETA) to put on camping 101. We started the weekend with a great Dutch Oven demo by Ranger Rick Torres. We enjoyed some scrumptious peach cobbler. Then we put our skills to use and made blueberry and apple cobbler for the hamburger supper on Saturday night. The weather was a bit rainy on Saturday morning but we had a great demo by Dr. Susie Weisser on horse emergencies. We did get a ride in to the bridge. Steve Bradley with NRS Trailers brought a beautiful LQ trailer and talked about how to maintain these trailers. He answered lots of our questions. We thank NRS and Steve for their time. We all learned about bits and biting prior to our supper on Saturday evening with Shari Darnell. Lisa and Howard Broughten did a great job on the hamburgers which we all enjoyed.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Christmas

Party and trail ride, Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Gail Cotton Michaud has again agreed to organize it so watch Facebook for additional information. We will again have a gift exchange.

Our members have ridden at some interesting places lately so be sure to read about their adventures in this issue. It may be a ride that you want to do in the future.

We have received an invitation to the Pilot Point Chamber of Commerce Winter Festival on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. The LRRETA board of directors has nominated Carol Nichols for volunteer recognition. LRRETA would like to have table of members present to support our nominee and be recognized as "a community of volunteers for the lake." If you would like to attend, contact Linda Moore to reserve a seat; the cost is \$25 per person (LRRETA is covering the other half of the cost). This is a great opportunity for our organization to be recognized in the area. **Due to this event, we will not have our usual monthly meeting in December.**

We are also planning to sponsor an ETS trail challenge in the spring. This will be a fundraiser and we ask all members to plan to help work the event or support it by competing. We hope to use the trail south of FM 428 for part of the Spring Trail Challenge. Stay tuned for a date!

There is lots of good information in the newsletter and I hope you will enjoy reading it.

**\*SAVE THE DATE\***  
**LRRETA Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, Feb.9th**  
**Rancho de laRocha**  
**Time TBD.**

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



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

## LRRETA Board of Directors and Committee Members

### LRRETA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Moore, President, City and TPWD Liaison	(940) 206-9355	<a href="mailto:moorelinda741@gmail.com">moorelinda741@gmail.com</a>
Michelle Ellis, Vice President	(214) 491-7941	<a href="mailto:justme.always@ymail.com">justme.always@ymail.com</a>
Tim Beaty, Treasurer	(214) 212-1999	<a href="mailto:tbeaty@tbbuilders.com">tbeaty@tbbuilders.com</a>
Eileen Stecik, Secretary/Membership Chairperson	940-390-0393	<a href="mailto:texasles@juno.com">texasles@juno.com</a>

### MARKETING, PR AND MEMBERSHIP

Fred Rudsenske	(214) 417-3344	<a href="mailto:skiquest@sbcglobal.net">skiquest@sbcglobal.net</a>
Carol Nichols	(214) 507-9751	<a href="mailto:carolntexas@aol.com">carolntexas@aol.com</a>
Margaret Rabbitt	(214) 415-5527	<a href="mailto:marabbitt@gmail.com">marabbitt@gmail.com</a>
Monica Millan-Barbera	(817) 915-8455	<a href="mailto:monica@blackmustangranch.com">monica@blackmustangranch.com</a>
Tracy Matern	(214) 392-2288	<a href="mailto:tmatern1945@gmail.com">tmatern1945@gmail.com</a>
Susan Mendoza (Phone Tree)	(972) 475-9107	

### EVENTS

Chuck Manning	(940) 390-9188	<a href="mailto:chucksterman@hotmail.com">chucksterman@hotmail.com</a>
Linda Moore	(940) 206-9355	<a href="mailto:moorelinda741@gmail.com">moorelinda741@gmail.com</a>
Gail Cotton	(214) 356-8523	<a href="mailto:gailcotton@verizon.net">gailcotton@verizon.net</a>
Monica Millan-Barbera	(817) 915-8455	<a href="mailto:monica@blackmustangranch.com">monica@blackmustangranch.com</a>

### GRANTS

Linda Moore	(940) 206-9355	<a href="mailto:moorelinda741@gmail.com">moorelinda741@gmail.com</a>
Lynn Jaco	(214) 995-9215	<a href="mailto:lynnjaco@yahoo.com">lynnjaco@yahoo.com</a>
Tracy Matern	(214) 392-2288	<a href="mailto:tmatern1945@gmail.com">tmatern1945@gmail.com</a>

### TRAIL STEWARDS

Blair Kenley	(940) 536-8780	<a href="mailto:blairkenley@yahoo.com">blairkenley@yahoo.com</a>
Chuck Manning	(940) 390-9188	<a href="mailto:chucksterman@hotmail.com">chucksterman@hotmail.com</a>

FM380 to FM428 (CLOSED)

FM428 to Elm Fork

Margaret Rabbitt (214) 415-5527 [marabbitt@gmail.com](mailto:marabbitt@gmail.com)

Elm Fork to Little Bluestem-Isle du Bois

Maybeth Nunn (214) 356-0383 [maybeth.nunn@yahoo.com](mailto:maybeth.nunn@yahoo.com)

Little Bluestem-Isle du Bois to Jordan Park

Sara Sydnam (940) 600-8785 [sarajsydnam@yahoo.com](mailto:sarajsydnam@yahoo.com)

Jordan Park to Lost Lake

Michelle Ellis (214) 491-7941 [justme.always@ymail.com](mailto:justme.always@ymail.com)

### EQUIPMENT MANAGERS

Cliff Hemming		<a href="mailto:chemming3@pobox.com">chemming3@pobox.com</a>
Sam Noble	(903) 738-0556	<a href="mailto:ntxwildlifecontrol@gmail.com">ntxwildlifecontrol@gmail.com</a>

### NEWSLETTER

Leah Fry	(972) 742-9019	<a href="mailto:mljintex@yahoo.com">mljintex@yahoo.com</a>
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## Please join LRRETA, TETRA & CTETA 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 15)

## New Member Highlight



### Amber Muscianese

Amber lives in Sanger with her husband Chris and two Quarter Horses; faithful steed Brother, who has been-there-done-that on the ranch, and her two-year-old cow horse hopeful Matilda. She grew up on a ranch and enjoys long hours in the saddle and room to roam. "I always say 'I'm a cowgirl moonlighting as an accountant.' I lightly show in the cow horse world and dabble in dressage, but my heart is in the pasture and on the trail with the herd," she says. Shortly after they moved to Sanger, Amber began the search for nearby trails. She quickly linked up and found some wonderful people with LRRETA, and is looking forward to getting more involved.

## Welcome New Members!

Gabrielle Gordon  
Susan Chamber  
Cheryl Daugherty  
John Rutan  
Nancy Stewart  
Misty Whatley  
Patricia Wilmoth



## Successful LRRETA Membership Drive Held at D&L Sanger



LRRETA had a booth at the Grand Opening of D&L Sanger at their new location on Acker St. Michelle Ellis, Vicki Fraser, and Linda Moore manned the booth on Saturday, Nov. 10th. Information about LRR State Park and awareness of LRRETA support and projects at the lake were highlighted with posters and pamphlets.

New membership and business sponsorship brochures were "hot off the press" thanks to Margaret Rabbit. New member cards were created by Monica McMillian as well.



The day netted six new members and two membership renewals! A drawing was held for an Annual Pass Gift Card worth \$70! New member Misty Whatley was the winner! We also networked with a local non-profit offering



hippo-therapy and a local carriage company.

Welcome to new members: Susan Chamber, Cheryl Daugherty, John Rutan, Nancy Stewart, Misty Whatley, and Patricia Wilmoth. LRRETA members look forward to riding with you!

## Meet the Ranger



**Christa Watson**

Christa grew up in Southern California and loves camping and backpacking. She started at LRR State Park in 2017 and is currently an assistant office manager. She received her B.S. in Sociology and her Master's in Emergency Management and Homeland Security from Arizona State University. Christa is no stranger to horses, as she was competitive in barrel racing, team roping, and former Miss Rodeo Temecula (in southern California). She says the best part of her job is helping all of the "new to camping" families that come out. "It is always fun to see them having a great time together hiking or fishing for the first time. It is amazing to help them make those memories," she says.

## Outstanding Volunteer



**Leah Fry**

Leah was a horse crazy girl from the age of five but didn't realize her dream of owning a one until 12 years ago at the tender age of 54. Her noble steed is Jazu, a 19-year-old Arabian gelding and social butterfly who seems to enjoy being on the trails as much as his person does. Jaz's pasture buddy is a bossy miniature donkey named Donk who loves that she gets to go along on "glamping" trips to LBJ Grasslands with Jaz. Leah received fine arts training and holds a BA in English. She was a full-time graphic designer for more than 30 years and is currently a full-time staff writer at Torchmark Corporation in McKinney. Leah is the designer and editor of this newsletter.

## Lone Star Trail Building School: Building Better Trails Starts Here!



Learn the basics of trail building, including layout, construction, and maintenance, at the Lone Star Trail Building School at Lakeview Lodge on Sid Richardson Scout Ranch. Sponsored by Groundworks Dallas.

The Lone Star Trail Building School is a two day course that instructs students on the basics of trail building, including layout, construction, and maintenance.

The school offers two different courses; Basic trail building and Advanced trail building. Attendees are required to attend the Basic Trail Building Course before applying for the Advanced Trail Building Course.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
February 15-17th, 2019**

Interested? Please contact Tracy Matern.

## New storage container is here!



See President's Message on page 2 for more info.

## 'Horse-pitality' Stations Come to Lake Ray Roberts



New 'horse-pitality' stations have been placed the Bluestem Grove Equestrian Camping area of Isle du Bois and at the Elm Fork Trailhead on FM455 below the dam. Future stations will be set at FM428 & Jordan Park.

The wooden crates were built and stocked by volunteer labor and donations of tools. They include equipment (rake, manure fork, shovel, wheel barrow, broom, dust pan, and old feed bags) to help equestrians pick up the manure and hay left by their equines to be thrown into dumpster. This is in an effort to be good stewards of the park and considerate of other trail users.

Overnight pens at Bluestem Grove Equestrian Camping area must be stripped clean of hay & manure before leaving.

- **ALL hay and manure it to be removed by user and thrown into the dumpster.**
- **NO SCATTERING of hay or manure allowed in the state park.**
- **This LOANER equipment is for use at the trailhead and to be returned to the station.** Manure and hay

**CLEAN UP  
AFTER YOUR  
HORSE**



are to be put in the dumpster or "pack it in, pack it out" in your horse trailer.

**Please encourage all equestrians to pick up after their equines and return the equipment to the stations  
Happy trails!**



**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.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Work to be Done</b>	<b>Projected Completion Date</b>
TPWD Grant 14013	Trailheads	Re-stain ramp	Jan. 1, 2019
	Elevated walkway	Hang plaque	Jan. 1, 2019
	Trail 380 to 428	Set signage posts (5) /stickers	When trail dries
	Maintenance yard	Container shelving/lighting	Dec. 1, 2018
	Maintenance yard	Organize container	Dec. 1, 2018
	Trailhead IDB	Overnight stalls - paint pipe	Jan. 1, 2019
New TPWD grant	Trail 380 to 428	Remove logs/trim trail	When trail dries
	Trailhead IDB	Construct day-use stalls (5)	June 2019
	Trailhead IDB	Construct rinse rack	June 2019
	Trailhead IDB	Construct overnight stalls (4)	June 2019
	Maintenance yard	Purchase trail equipment	March 2019

## Grant Update

by Tracy Matern

### 2014 TPWD Grant

We have completed this grant and submitted all bills and volunteer credits and are awaiting final inspection. No date has been set yet.

### 2017 TPWD Grant

On October 22, Trey Cooksey at TPWD inquired and found that a group of grants including ours are still pending Federal Highways' approval.

It turns out that Congress has only funded the US Department of Transportation for the first 68 days of the fiscal year which is through December 7, 2018.

The funding for the complete year has not yet been appropriated.

The Texas Department of Transportation has allocated the released funds to highway projects. The Recreational Trails Program is a very small portion of their budget and it does not have high priority. Therefore, our contract for the 2017 grant will be delayed until the DOT receives its remaining funding.

TPWD will process the agreement as it becomes available, but since it requires further processing on their end after

they receive federal approval, Trey anticipated that it will be at least two weeks after the Federal approval.

It appears that the grant process is now taking three years as contrasted with about two years in the past. We will still



**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>



# Please join us for the **LRRETA Annual Christmas Party**

<b>When:</b>	<b>Sunday, December 9, 2018</b>
<b>Where:</b>	<b>Isle de Bois Pavilion</b>
<b>Ride Out:</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>Lunch:</b>	<b>1pm</b>
<b>Gift Exchange:</b>	<b>2pm</b>

LRRETA provides meat so please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a gift. Feel free to invite any friends or family.

Any questions, please contact Gail Cotton Michaud at 214-356-8523 or [gailcotton@verizon.net](mailto:gailcotton@verizon.net).

**We look forward to seeing you!**

# No More Playing Possum with EPM

by Noah Grimes, DVM



EPM is one of the most dreaded acronyms by horse owners. And it's not even a long and ambiguous one like you find in human medicine. As with any acronym disease, there is a large amount of confusion circulating regarding EPM. This article aims to clear some of that up.

## Overview

EPM stands for Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis. EPM is caused by protozoa which invades the brain and spinal cord in affected horses. The most common protozoa causing this disease is *Sarcocystis neurona*, however in recent years, *Neospora hughesi* has been implicated in some cases, which will become important when it comes to getting an accurate diagnosis.

Horses become infected with *S. neurona* after consuming feed and/or hay that has been contaminated with opossum feces. A common misbelief held by horse owners is that their horses are contracting the parasite from their barn cats or other small mammals. Although barn cats are in fact susceptible to infection with *S. neurona*, the parasites encyst in their muscle tissue and are not passed in their feces, thus not infective to horses. However, barn cats can be infective to opossums if an opossum ingests muscle tissue containing the cysts.

Although all horses may be susceptible to infection by *S. neurona*, not all horses develop neurologic disease after ingesting infective organisms. Many are able to pass the infection without any clinical signs. Horses only develop neurologic dysfunction when the organism infects the brain and spinal cord. It is unknown why some horses develop antibodies and pass the parasite without any clinical signs or why the protozoa is able to infect the brain and spinal cord other horses causing neurologic dysfunction, however it is believed to be due to immune suppression related to stress.

## Clinical Signs

The clinical signs associated with EPM can vary widely between cases. Mildly affected horses may show minimal neurologic dysfunction such as difficulty swallowing, poor thrift or muscle weakness while more severely affected horses may be ataxic or may even be unable to stand. Most commonly, EPM presents itself as asymmetrical neurologic dysfunction, many times being mistaken for lameness. The onset of clinical signs also varies. In some horses it can be a gradual onset while others suddenly develop severe neurologic signs.

## Diagnosis

The first step in diagnosis of EPM is a neurologic exam. Determining the horse's neurologic status, as well as localizing the lesion within the brain or spinal cord are

important steps in making a diagnosis as they will help to rule out other differential diagnoses but may also help to tailor therapy.

Once EPM is established as the most likely diagnosis, selecting the correct confirmatory test is crucial. Currently, the gold standard diagnostic test for EPM uses both cerebrospinal fluid and serum to detect antibodies for the causative protozoa while providing a ratio of titers between spinal fluid and serum. Obtaining spinal fluid for this test is no small matter. It takes a high degree of practice and skill many practitioners lack. Often, general anesthesia is necessary, increasing the risk of this procedure.

A cheaper, more easily performed, and much less risky diagnostic test can sometimes be made using serum titers alone. Although this sounds like a great option, it comes with its own set of drawbacks. As previously mentioned, a horse can become infected with EPM without developing any nervous dysfunction. When this happens, the horse will develop antibodies to the protozoa, which circulate in the bloodstream. This scenario is the reason behind the high number of false positives that come with this diagnostic method. Sky-high serum titers coupled with neurologic dysfunction point strongly towards a diagnosis of EPM, however low titers or even middle of the road titers with this test can leave one guessing. False negatives are just as concerning as false positives.

Selecting a reputable lab may sound like an obvious point, however it is one worth mentioning. With the more recent implications of a second EPM causing protozoa, it is important to submit samples to labs that are able to test for both of the causative parasites.

## Treatment

In order to effectively treat an EPM infection, anti-protozoal drugs are required to kill the protozoa within the brain and spinal cord. Which is the most effective treatment is one of the most controversial facets of EPM. There are many treatments available on the market today, both FDA and some non-FDA approved. Some drugs offer more scientific data of their effectiveness than others, but many require multiple treatments to fully kill the protozoa and prevent relapse of clinical signs. As always, when using non-FDA approved drugs such as compounded medications, it is important to purchase from a reputable pharmacy to ensure adequate quality controls. Adding anti-inflammatories and neuro-protectants such as vitamin E to your treatment protocol may also help to get your horse feeling better quicker.

Ultimately, it is best to seek the help of your veterinarian in the diagnosis and treatment of EPM.

*Noah Grimes is a DVM Associate at Outlaw Equine Hospital in Decatur, TX*



# Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association Update

by Carol Nichols

Plans for a Master Trail Network in Fannin County are trotting along!

On October 2, the Fannin County Commissioners Court approved a proposal presented by Duke Monson to begin work on a Master Trail Plan. Thanks to Linda Moore, Margaret Rabbit, Vic Fraser and Michelle Ellis for joining us at various Commissioners Court meetings and Membership meetings.

The next step is to engage the community and town leadership and to gather intelligence on potential trail locations and trailheads.

Fannin County is a rural county, rich in recreational assets: lakes, abandoned rail roads, County Roads, US Forest Service land, mitigation acreage, excess acreage of water districts and solar farms, etc. — ideal for recreational trails.

The County Seat, Bonham, is 1 hour 15 minutes from Lake Ray Roberts. Long term planning can help to preserve the “rural feel,” green space, and trails for county residents, visitors and future generations. In addition, a trail network will attract eco-tourism which will benefit local businesses.

The Master Trail network has the opportunity to link Lake Fannin in the northern part of the county to the Northeast Texas Trail (NETT) in the south, at the town of Ladonia. Along the way - there are many other opportunities for trails, including County Roads, field roads, new Lake Bois d’Arc, future Lake Ralph Hall, the Fannin and Old Bob Rail Road lines, Riverby Ranch, and parcels of US Forest Service land near Ladonia.

We are looking for “Town Trail Liaisons” to help promote the Master Trail Plan and organize a community trail meeting. Thanks to June Schilbach - Honey Grove, Melanie Stewart- Bailey and Randolph, and Tahni Nichols - Bonham for being Town and Mayor Liaisons. Please let Carol Nichols (214-507-9751) know if you would volunteer to be a Trail Liaison or you know someone to “volun-told” as Michelle Ellis does so well...

On November 13, FETA and Jan Cooper- Ladonia Mayor will host a meeting for the Mayors of Fannin County where Duke will present the Trail Plan.

With the rapid growth in Texas, we are losing trails and green space every day. It is such an exciting opportunity to help plan a future for Fannin County that will include trails to ride and sunsets to reflect on.

Join Fannin County Equestrian Trails Association on Face Book. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=fannin%20county%20equestrian%20trails%20association>

Let's Ride!



*Duke Monson, FETA President Tahni Nichols and daughter Amory, Carol Nichols, Debby Frey of the Ladonia Chamber of Commerce, and Ladonia Mayor Jan Cooper at Old Depot Trailhead in Ladonia*



*Margaret Rabbit and Carol Nichols on the NETT from Ladonia to Pecan Gap*

# Fall Camp Clinic: Camping, Horses, Trailers and Cooking

by Lisa Broughten, CTETA President



We had a marvelous turnout at our annual fall educational clinic and cookout. The event was Friday evening September, 28th to Sunday morning the 30th.

Our goal was to combine our annual education offering with something fun, informative and unusual; a whole hands-on approach to how to camp, cook, and off-grid with your horse. All horse pens at Lake Ray Roberts were full as well as picket line and camping spots. We had 25 campers and additional walk-ins who came for the event but, did not camp. All our spots filled up within a few days.

We had four guest speakers: Ranger Rick (Torres) on Friday evening

taught us how to campfire cook with cast iron Dutch ovens. He made a delicious cobbler for us to sample. Saturday morning, NRS Trailers of Decatur, Texas came with a new living quarter trailer for our campers to see. Their representative spent quality time discussing maintenance, repair quick fixes and annual recommended checkups.

Our evening speaker on Saturday was Greg Darnall Bit and Spurs. Shari Darnall did an excellent lecture on the importance of proper bit fitting and how poor knowledge and improper hands can fracture a horse's mouth. Specifically, why a snaffle is not always the answer for all horses.

Sunday morning, Dr. Susie Weisser discussed the importance of an equine medical first aid kit, a tackle box, filled with bandages, tape, stethoscope, scissors, and thermometer.

Our friends from LRRETA provided Saturday lunch, and CTETA provided Saturday night's hamburger cookout.

The bottom line for the weekend is that we camped through the rain, rode horses, ate fantastic food and learned a bunch of really cool camping tips. We made friendships that will last a lifetime.

We thank all those who attended!



## LRRETA Website Undergoes Makeover

Our LRRETA website webmaster, Monica Millan-Barbera, has been hard at work updating the look, feel, and functionality of the site.

One of the most exciting additions Monica has made is that those wishing to make a donation, become a member or renew an existing membership can now do so online via credit card or Paypal. You asked and we listened! Just click on the 'Join/Renew' tab and follow the prompts. Monies go directly into the LRRETA's Paypal account.

Monica has also added a tab called 'Equestrian trails and riding information' showing the status of the trails. It will include information on future events including seminars, clinics and excursions.

Hover your mouse over the 'Projects' tab and you will see sub-tabs for:

'Projects pending,' 'Projects finished' and 'Bridge construction South of Elm Fork.'

The 'More' tab also has multiple sub-tabs.

'In the news' is reserved for future use for related articles.

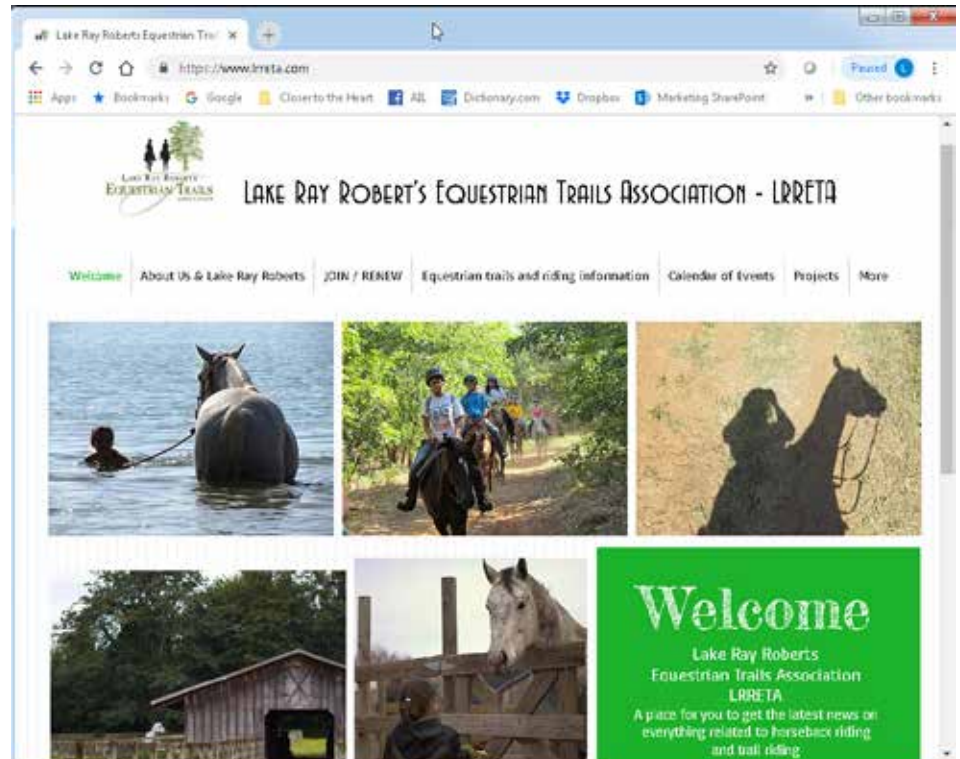
'Newsletters' is where archived issues of past newsletters live.

'Photos/Videos' will be a gallery of member-submitted photos, etc.

'Grants' will include the latest information on current and future LRRETA grants. 'Officers/Contact Us' gives info for who to contact and email links.

The 'Bulletin Board' tab houses information about events such as Greenfest and Trail Challenge events.

The website update is still in progress, so be patient and keep checking back. Thanks, Monica, for all your work; it looks great!



## NEW! LRRETA Membership Cards!

In addition to her work on the website, Monica has also designed and obtained LRRETA patron membership cards! Cards are currently made of card stock but may change in the future. Below is front and back:



PATRON MEMBERSHIP	
Single Patron	_____
Lifetime Single Patron	_____
Household Patron (up to 4)	_____
Lifetime Household Patron (up to 4)	_____
Name	_____
Name	_____
Name	_____
<p>Thank you for your valuable donation. People like you help us maintain the equestrian trails and make it a reality!</p> 	



## Where have you ridden lately?

### Shawnee National Forest and High Knob Campground by Tracy Matern



In October, a group of us traveled to the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois. We stayed at the High Knob campground because so many of the trails are accessible from and the River to River Trail runs right through it.

The campground spans more than 50 acres. It is unique in that temporary campers share the campground with those who have yearly leases to small plots of ground on which they have a trailer and/or a small RV, stalls with turnouts and sheds. Aside from these leased spaces, there are over 90 covered stalls. They have shower and toilet facilities, a coin-operated laundry, a great little store with ice, firewood, cold drinks, ice cream, hay, shavings, camping supplies, snacks and horse tack and T-shirts available, and coin-operated horse washing stations. They also have a few rental cabins/trailers and a small hotel.

I thought we reserved covered stalls but when we got there I found out we had temporary Priefert pens. So, if you reserve, specify which you want. Be aware that they charge for changing any part of your reservations.

They put us in a field and set the pens up behind our rigs. The field sloped quite a bit so we had to use several blocks to level our rigs. The open pens were set up on grass which the horses loved and it was great until the rains came and everything turned to mud. On the other hand, the covered pens were only 10 x 10 and most had large holes in the middle so they weren't ideal either.

This whole shootin' match is managed by a woman named JoJo. You will either love or hate her and I am on the love side. She runs a tight ship! One of the rules is that you

can only wash your horse in one of the horse-washing stations. You get 4 minutes for each quarter and we found two quarters to be enough to wash one horse.

The riding has a little bit of everything. Most of the River to River Trail is wide and flat and good for gaiting. It runs from the Mississippi to the Ohio River. The other trails are winding and rocky and very pretty. They also are muddy in the rain. The Garden of the Gods had the most unique swirling, sedimentary rocks I've ever seen. The Knights of the Golden Circle rocks were large rock formations with openings into a center courtyard. The Buzzard Bluffs were amazing from the top with a great view and crevices stretching down below and very, very tall when looking up from down below. So here, the destinations are the reward.

We had a rainy day so we drove and took a ferry over the Ohio River to Kentucky and toured Amish businesses. This was not the Staten Island Ferry! We found an Amish grocery store and an Amish tack store. The owner of the tack store fashioned an adjustable over-the-neck strap for a breast collar for Duanna Hanners for \$8!

Toward the end of our trip, it rained at night and then then the last day after we got back from riding and continued through the next morning. We had trouble getting out of the field and needed a tractor to get us out and on the road. It was messy and then it took twice as much work at home to clean everything up. But that can happen anywhere.

All in all, it was a good trip. It probably would be better to plan to stay 5 days rather than four and it is better when there is no rain. From my house in Lucas, it was 675 miles away. We split it into two days of driving which made the trip more pleasant. We stayed at a horse hotel with hookups just off I40 about half-way between Little Rock and Memphis. The drive was mainly on Interstates and main highways. If I go back, I will probably try the other campground for contrast.





# Where have you ridden lately?

## Roman Nose Hills - Watonga, OK

by Margaret Rabbitt

A group of us did the Roman Nose Hills trail ride in Watonga, OK on Sept. 28-30. The link at the bottom gives a bunch of pictures you can use at your discretion.

On September 28-30th, several LRRETA and CTETA members (Carol Nichols, Vicki Frazer, Maybeth Nunn, John Rutan, Margaret Rabbitt) and other friends from the DFW area traveled up to Watonga, OK where they joined approximately 75 other riders for a Kiwanis sponsored trail ride at Roman Nose State Park.

This Kiwanis fundraiser is the longest running organized ride in Oklahoma! The beautiful trails provide canyons, woods, butes, prairie, and creeks. The ride is primarily on ranch land, and only available to the public during the ride. Also, the trail ride goes to Inspiration Point in the State Park. There was plenty of parking, a water tank for the horses, and room for portable electric fences for the horses. The remote camping provided plenty of space for live-in horse trailers, tents and motor homes to spread out comfortably.

Additionally, there was live music, a live auction, and cowboy church on Sunday. Food was provided Friday night through Sunday lunch (included in the \$75 ride fee)!

The various break-out rides provided varying levels of difficulty and speed in smaller groups bringing great fun and greater safety for the riders. They also had a group for gated horses.

To see more photos from the ride, go to <https://photos.app.goo.gl/4DzsbpScHjhVAVWe7>



This ride happens every April and September.

To learn more, go to their website at <https://www.romannosehillstrailride.com/>

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

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# 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.



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

MEMBERSHIP and PATRONS - Membership in LRRETTA 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!

- Single Patron \$25 annual
- Household Patron (max 4 people) \$75 annual
- Lifetime single Patron \$250 (one time)
- Lifetime Household \$750 (one time)
- Business \$100\*

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NAME (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone (optional)\* \_\_\_\_\_

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Additional Patrons (fill in if checking Household Patron):

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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.

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**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>**