2nd Quarter 2017

Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails Association

LRRETA News

A huge shout out to Neubauer Manufacturing for the quality design and construction of our covered pens, to Damon Brown Welding for completing the roofs AND to the loyal volunteers, without whose hard work, these beautiful covered pens could not have happened. *See article on page 7.*

LRRETA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TRAIL STEWARDS

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NEWSLETTER

Leah Fry	(972) 742-9019	mljintex@yahoo.com

NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH!

The trail from FM428 to FM455 is OPEN!

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Monthly Trail Ride

1st Saturday of the Month
Meet 9am at Isle du Bois,
Lake Ray Roberts Park
Call before you haul!
Michelle Ellis
214-491-7941

July 16 work day starts 8:30 a.m. NOTE: No trail ride or work day in August due to the heat.

Monthly Work Day

1st Sunday of the Month noon-4
Meet at Isle du Bois,
Lake Ray Roberts Park
Call Michelle Ellis 214-491-7941
or Chuck Manning 940-390-9188
to confirm plans.

Your purchases can help fund our trails

amazonsmile

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

Eureka! The FM428 trail is open! Thanks to LRRETA's perservance and financial resources and the hard work of Ranger Brad Barker and his assistant, Blake Prier, the trail between the Elm Fork trailhead at FM455 and the FM428 trailhead is open!

This section of trail has been closed to through traffic since 2010 and although the 'elevated walkway" was installed last August, the trail remained closed due to several severely eroded areas. This trail is in low lying areas, crosses several streams and is heavily shaded. It has a lot of 'ups and downs' and technical challenges, but is also easily eroded.

LRRETA spent TPWD 2014 grant money to clear the privet that had become invasive and purchase PVC pavers which were installed in muddy areas. Rangers Brad and Blake did a lot of work on fixing the eroded areas and did a great job mowing and limbing the trail.

We had planned to use this trail for the ETS Trail Challenge on June 24-25th but the 3" of RAIN the area received caused the trail challenge to be rerouted to the trail heading north out of Elm Fork trailhead. I ask that equestrians be cognizant of the damage we do to a trail when it is very muddy and that we refrain from riding the low lying trails until they dry out so that we will not have to keep reworking them. Please pick a trail that drains and dries out quickly after a big rain. It is great to have this trail open again since it is so shaded we can ride it in the summer!

We are also very excited to have the overnight pens at Little Blue Stem Trailhead covered! Welder Damon Brown has been flexible and worked hard to get this project finished. This project is nearly done, except for some staining of the wooden boards. It is great to have safe stalls for our horses that are shaded from the hot Texas sun. We hope that each of you will try them out by camping at Little Blue Stem. These overnight pens were part of the STEP grant that we received from the AQHA and Tractor Supply Company. They are a wonderful addition to that trailhead and they look wonderful!

Our spring fundraiser, which was RAINED out in April, RAINED out in early June, was finally held on June 24-25. Yes, it RAINED 3" on Friday the day prior and some on Saturday morning. Sam Noble, assisted by Traci Nelson once again planned a great field obstacle and trail challenge course and I thank them for their work. They went the 'extra mile' on Sunday morning since the course had to be reconstructed on the north trail due to the extremely wet conditions between FM455 and FM428 trail. Those who attended had a great time and won some wonderful prizes! A special thank you to Michelle Ellis as event secretary and our "Facebook Queen" of publicity, and to Laurie Grey who secured wonderful prizes for the event. Please see the article on pages 10-11 for the particulars on the event!

In terms of upcoming events and projects, we need to finish putting in the new signage posts from FM380 to the 'elevated walkway.' Then we will have teams work to affix the new decals to each of the signage posts. This job can be down on horseback! There will be more information regarding this at our annual meeting.

Please plan to come to the annual meeting and join all your fellow LRRETA members for an informative and fun social event.

There will be no trail ride the first Saturday of August or work day Sunday due to the heat.

Please put the GreenFest Texas Trail Challenge Club Event on your calendar for September 23-24, 2017. This is a fund raising event for LRRETA and I hope that you will support it by either planning to participate in the event or helping out at the event. This will be a little different that the ETS Trail Challenges that we have put on the in the past. We hope to attract riders from across the state but it is open to all who wish to join TTCC and register for the event. It will be two days of challenges out on the trails. For more information go to www.texastrailchallengeclub.com

Again I would like to thank Leah Fry for putting each issue of our outstanding newsletter together! Thanks, Leah. I would also like to thank all the members who help get this done by writing or securing articles for the newsletter.

Happy Trails,

Linda

LRRETA Board Meetings (Open to all members & Guests)

2nd Tuesday of the Month - 6:30pm.
Ernesto's (YUM!)
10279 FM 455 E. #100
Pilot Point, TX 76258

NO meeting July 11 due to annual meeting on the 13th

Please join LRRETA, TETRA & CTETA

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

LAKE RAY ROBERTS
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS
ASSOCIATION

Please join us for the Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails Association (LRRETA) Annual meeting at stunning, lake view, Rancho De La Roca!
We need your support to maintain our equestrian trails!

6:30 pm, Thursday, July 13
2459 W. Blackjack Road
Aubrey, TX

AGENDA

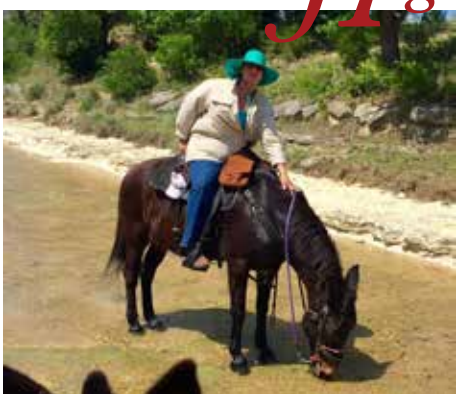
1) Treasurer, Membership
2) Bridge and Trails
3) Obstacles and Trail Challenge Competitions
4) Master Equestrian Plan
5) FM 428 Expansion – NCTCOG
6) North East Texas Trail update
7) Pilot Point trails initiative
8) Awards and Recognition

BBQ sandwiches and refreshments served for $10 donation

Please RSVP to moorelinda741@gmail.com or 940-206-9355

Linda Moore – President; Michelle Ellis – VP; Tim Beaty – Treasurer; Eileen Stecik – Secretary/Membership; Tracy Matern, Linda Moore – Grant Chairs; Leah Fry – Newsletter; Gail Cotton, Blair Kenley, Lynn Jaco, Chuck Manning, Susan Mendoza, Monica Millan-Barbera, Carol Nichols, Margaret Rabbit, Fred Rudsenske, James & Katherine Stone – Committee Chairs

New Member Highlight



Laurie Grey

Laurie started riding horses when she was 14. She joined the rodeo club in high school and rode bulls, until her dad finally agreed to buy her a horse to ride instead. Good strategy, Laurie!

As a youth,Laurie worked at a thoroughbred farm in Celina, TX, where she learned to ride race horses. She is a past member of the Frisco Mounted Patrol. Recently, she purchased her first mule, Olive, and they have been learning to take on new challenges together and are becoming a strong team. She looks forward to traveling many, many miles of trails together with both LRRETA and Olive.

Welcome, Laurie and Olive!

SCOOP YOUR POOP!

Whether you're parked on concrete or in the grassy areas, CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR EQUINE! Put manure back in your trailer or in the dumpster.

Meet the Ranger

Rick Torres

'Ranger Rick' is LRR's Park Ranger Interpreter. His responsibilities include environmental education and outreach for the park. He leads hikes, gives educational talks, does outdoor recreation workshops and visits schools, libraries, festivals and other outreach events.

A native Texan, Rick has a BS from UT Brownsville in Environmental Science with a concentration in biology. He got his start as a ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming before coming back to Texas.

Rick's favorite part of his job is interacting with park visitors, especially youngsters "inspiring the next generation of outdoor stewards."

And yes, that's a snake around his neck.

Outstanding Volunteer

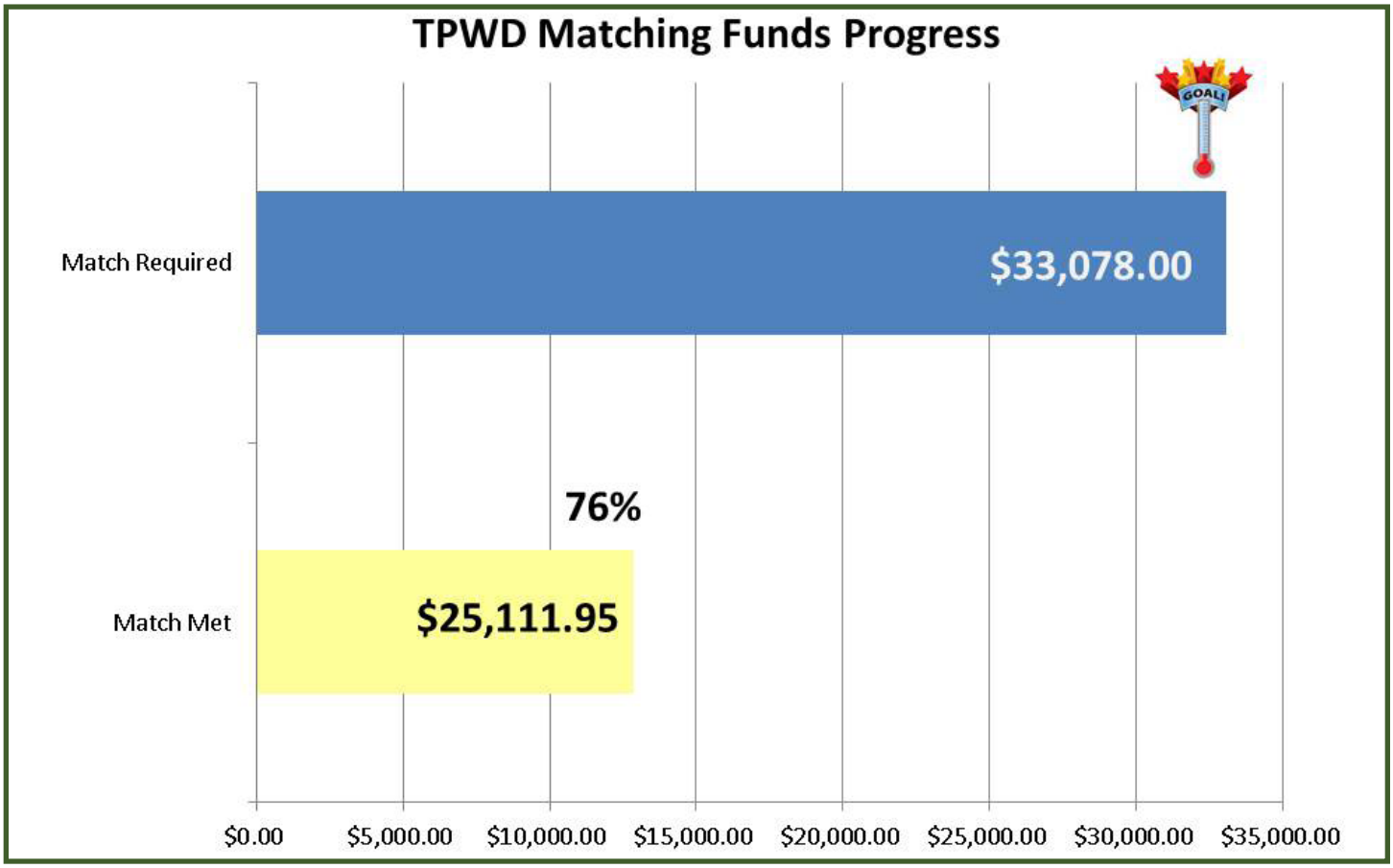
Tracy Matern

Tracy has loved horses since she was 3 years old and rides weekly with the North TX Saddlebags. She became passionate about horse trails after joining the Trinity Trail Preservation Assn. which maintains the trail on Lake Lavon. She served as their PR chairman, grant chairman, then president. She helped polarize the equestrian community when she heard the trails at Lake Ray Roberts might be threatened. She was appointed to the LRR Equestrian Trail Committee after equestrians showed up *en masse* to protest the possible closing of the section of trail south of Elm Fork Park. Tracy believes we must be vigilant about threats to our trails. She says securing grant funds is crucial to our state parks, which are struggling with employee freezes and reduced funding.

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

We NEED your volunteer hours to help us meet the grant match.

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



2017 Recreational Trails Grant

by Tracy Matern, Grant Co-Chairman

On January 31, 2017, we applied for another Recreational Trail Grant from Texas Parks & Wildlife. $38,570 was requested for materials and equipment for renovating the trail from the current closure point all the way to US 380. These sections of the trail are currently closed due to damage from flooding. We are using funds from our current 2014 grant to repair from the current closure point to the FM 428 trail head but if these funds are not sufficient we hope to use funds from this grant. With an eye towards long-term longevity, the Park Management has recommended materials which should help stabilize the trail from future erosion.

$66,820.32 was requested for improvements to the Blue Stem trailhead. These include covered pens in the day use area, a rinse rack, and hitching posts. By far the most costly item in this section of the request is the cost of running water lines under the road and sidewalks to the pens and rinse rack.

$26,620 was requested for equipment to help us maintain the trail. This includes two UTVs with trailers, chainsaws, pole saws and safety education.

$1,000 was also budgeted for signage.

Trail Renovation	$38,570.00
Blue Stem Trail head Improvements	66,820.32
Trail Maintenance Equipment	26,620.00
Signage	1,000.00
Total	$133,010.32

Of this total, GBA and LRRETA will be responsible for a 20% match which is $26,602. We can earn this money by volunteering to help with the trail restoration, helping assemble and paint the pens, rinse rack and hitching rails or by donating materials and equipment. Each hour of volunteer time counts $21.35 towards our match.

We will be notified whether our application has been accepted for funding in late summer or early fall 2017. Actual trail building and renovation is scored higher than improvements to trail heads. There is no guarantee we will be funded, but keep your fingers crossed.

As part of this application process, GBA had to register on the US Federal Government's SAM system, the System for Account Management.

Recreational trail grants do not fund camping facilities so we are unable to apply to this program to add electric to our Blue Stem camping sites. We are searching for grants which might help us finance this. If you know of any such grants, please contact me at tmatern1945@gmail.com or 214-392-2288. As always, your membership and donations help us maintain the trail and provide facilities and we are very appreciative!

In addition to the grant we received, the NE Texas Trail *(see page 13)* received $200,000 to improve the section from Merit to Celeste.

Online UTV and Chain Saw SafetyTraining 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

Equine Master Plan

by Carol Nichols

Special thanks to Ken Podborny for drafting the Equine Master Plan and to committee members, Chuck Manning, Linda Moore, Carol Nichols, Tracy Matern and Leah Fry.

The committee met earlier this year with Park Rangers and the USACE to come up with key objectives for the Plan. Now that we have emerged from the drought in Texas, our trails require more annual maintaince. Having a Plan to engage the Park Rangers, USACE and volunteers in a coordinated manner will help keep trails open.

Stay tuned for a Master Plan report at the annual meeting July 13!

USACE Meeting

by Chuck Manning

The USACE employees work very hard making decisions and plans to best accomadate the general public using the lakes and the land around the lakes. Being good stewards of the natural resources and wildlife is a high priority

All of this while making sure the lakes are operated properly for their main purpose which is usually flood control and/or water supply.

The master plans are guidelines to help make all of this and more happen while predicting future develpment and changes in the area. A very challenging job.

We've Got You Covered!

LRRETA is proud to announce the overnight pens now have roofs! *See photo on page 1.*

These overnight pens are a great addition to the Little Blue Stem Equestrian area and are located at sites 174-179. These pens were achieved through the STEP grant (Stewards for Trails, Education and Partnership Grant) sponsored by the American Quarter horse Association and Tractor Supply Company.

This grant was a 75%-25% match grant with STEP providing $6,000. The round pen erected at Little Blue Stem (LBS) was a part of this grant as well. The stalls and the uprights were manufactured by Neubauer Mfg. and the roofs were installed by Damon Brown and his daughter Shanika Allen. These facilities are high quality and provide excellent cover for our horses. We thank both of these companies for their fine work and their in-kind donations of some of the labor.

Future plans for the area include water to each of these campsites. We hope that equestrians will enjoy these.

As with all campsites you must go online to secure at texas.reserveworld.com to make a camping reservation. Once you have a reservation then it is a first-come-first-serve system at this point in time.

A big thank you to AQHA and TSC for our STEP Grant!

How to Prepare Match Paperwork

A note on the "match:"

The Recreational Trails Program requires that the sponsoring organization put up 20% of the funds either in labor, materials and donations or in cash. To ensure this, TP&W withholds 20% of the money which we have actually spent for goods and services until we meet our match. For example, if we spend $100 on gravel, we will only get $80 back until we meet our match.

We do not get cash reimbursement for our volunteer hours but they count at the rate of $21.35 towards that 20%. In this grant, if we were to have to pay cash for our 20% we would have to come up with over $33,000. Since this is not easy for a small non-profit to do, using 'sweat equity' allows us to have access to funds which otherwise we could not afford. Look at it as if we are earning match 'credit' rather than cash.

Lastly, TP&W withholds 5% of our reimbursement until the project is completed and inspected.

Volunteer Hours

Use the Trail Maintenance Volunteer Record

The Project is : RT 14013
Enter the date. Prepare one Volunteer Record for each date. Do not put multiple dates on one record.

Nature of Work: Please be specific.

Supervisor: Leave blank if you are working and supervising. You cannot sign as supervisor if you are one of the workers. The grant manager will sign as supervisor when she/he gets the paperwork.
Project Element: Project elements vary with the project.

For our bridge project RT 14013, these are:

- Engineering & Geotach
- Site Preparation
- Walkway Construction
- Freight & Installation
- Foundation & Access
- Ramp Plans
- Ramp Materials
- Dozer Rental/Delivery/Pickup
- Bulldozer Work
- Rip Rock
- Culverts
- Carsonite Markers/Freight
- Carsonite Post Driver
- Mile Marker Labels
- Freight for labels

Location: Where did this work take place?
Each volunteer should print his/her name and then write his/her signature in the last column.

Signatures are VERY important. TP&W will not give credit If there is no signature.

It would be helpful if the volunteer indicates the time he/she started work. The supervisor should keep track of hours and of any volunteers who leave earlier than others.

Equipment

Unit: What type of equipment? For example, if it is a pickup, is it a ½ ton, ¾ ton? If it is a tractor, what HP? If it is a welder, what kind? How big? The TP&W gives a match on equipment use donated according to FEMA rates and these rates are different for different size pieces of equipment.

The supervisor should request that the volunteer who owns the equipment send 'proof of ownership' to the Project Supervisor as soon as possible after the workday, unless is already on file with the Supervisor. In this case, send the Proof via email to Tracy Matern, tmatern1945@gmail.com. PDF files are preferred. We must submit proof of ownership for any piece of equipment shown as donated for use. This can be a truck registration or even a statement that you own this equipment signed by the you the owner.

The Project Supervisor will fill in the rate and cost.

Donation of Specialized Labor or Service

When an individual is donating labor or service in their specialized trade such as electrician, brick layer, carpenter, etc., a "Certification of Donated Labor or Service" must be completed and submitted with the signed work record for reimbursement.

LRRETA/Texas Trail Challenge Club (TTCC) Trail Challenge at

GreenFest on the Greenbelt

September 23-24, 2017
Elm Fork Trailhead, Lake Ray Roberts

This is a new TTCC location on the Greenbelt at Lake Ray Roberts State Park. Ride location is approximately 45 minutes north of DFW metroplex. Trails are heavily shaded with large trees and run beside the Elm Fork Branch of the Trinity River. The trails are mostly sandy with a few rocky areas (front boots/shoes may be advisable). Primitive camping will be in a large, open area. Trail will be approximately 9 miles and include 10 obstacles.

This event is to raise funds for trail restoration and trailhead improvements.

This event is organized by the Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails Association, a group of dedicated equestrians whose mission is to preserve and enhance the trails of the Greenbelt. LRRETA is a part of the Greenbelt Alliance of Denton County.

The Greenbelt Alliance of Denton County is a non-profit 501(c)3 community-based, volunteer organization that fosters awareness of the Greenbelt (trails south of the dam on road FM 455 in Pilot Point); generates public support; promotes recreational and educational opportunities; and encourages preservation of the Greenbelt for the benefit of all. The entire equestrian/multi-use trail is 26 miles.

Ride Managers: Linda Moore
Alanna Sommer

Ride Secretary: Michelle Ellis
Beverly Nix

General Information and Requirements:
Everyone must show proof of negative Coggins test. All dogs must be on a leash.

Meals:
Friday night- Potluck with meat and beverages provided by management.
Saturday night- dinner for purchase - $8.00

Ride Fees:
Rider

	One Day	Two Days
Adult	$67.00	$107.00
Junior	$47.00	$72.00
Buddy	$42.00	$52.00

There will be a $10 discount for prepaying by mailing a check payable to: Linda Moore, 6348 Stags Leap Rd, Sanger, TX 76266

If not a member of TTCC, must purchase a daily membership at $5 per day or an annual membership for $20.

Additional Fees: $15 per night camping fee.

Preregister through TexasTrailChallengeClub.com.

Directions to ride:

If you are camping or driving directly to the event at the Elm Fork Trailhead on the south fork of the Trinity, please note that is on the south side of FM 455 and south of the Lake Ray Roberts Dam on the Lake Ray Roberts Dam Road. This camping is FREE this weekend courtesy of TPWD for the GreenFest event.

If you are camping at Lake Ray Roberts, Isle Du Bois, Little Blue Stem Equestrian Camping area, it located approximately 3 miles from the Elm Fork Trailhead on the north side of FM 455. Please note that this is a fee area and overnight camping is $15.00 and must be reserved online through the TPWD system.

Questions contact: Alanna Sommer trlridn4fun@gmail.com
940-367-2080

Proposed Legislation to Watch

Not "Just a Bill"

Why trail riders — and anyone who utilizes Texas State Parks — should care about HB 78

For those not familiar with state park funding or Texas House Bill 78, a bit of history is in order.

In 1993, the Texas Legislature created a sporting goods sales tax (technically "sale, storage, or use of sporting goods") that was intended to go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for maintenance and operation of state parks (94%) and historical sites (6%).

But, according to the Texas Tribune article, only 36% of the sporting goods sales tax went to state parks and historical sites since its creation 24 years ago.

A push to increase funding to state parks passed in 2015, but Texas Governor Greg Abbott later signed a bill that essentially repealed it. Abbott's legislation gave authority to state lawmakers to decide how to use the sporting tax revenue instead.

A House panel revisited the issue in May, 2017 in the form of HB 78, which would ensure that almost all of revenue generated by the sporting goods sales tax would go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to fund the operation and maintenance of all 103 state parks and historical sites in Texas.

HB 78 was left pending in Committee.

Meanwhile, the parks department faces a $100 million shortfall. State parks are "crumbling under the weight of decades of deferred maintenance." LRRETA members are well aware that budget shortfall is a primary impetus for many of our work days to maintain and improve equestrian facilities at Lake Ray Roberts.

One challenge, according to HB 78's author Rep. Guillen, is that most people aren't aware that Gov. Abbott killed the previous bill. They think it's already a done deal, so HB 78 is not getting the attention it deserves.

Passage of HB 78 is crucial for the future of our state park system. Lawmakers and state officials say they desperately need a funding boost from the 84th Legislature — and not just for the next two years.

Source: Polluck, Cassandra: *House panel debates state parks funding*. The Texas Tribune, May 4, 2017. www.texastribune.org/2017/05/04/house-panel-revisits-state-park-funding-boost [May 22, 2017]

Proposed Volunteer Act Would Help Protect LRRETTA

House Bill 2290/Senate Bill 1684, also known as "The Volunteer Organization Protection Act of 2015," is an amendment to the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997. The Bill would extend extend liability protection to volunteer groups and organizations. Individual volunteers already have such liability coverage except in cases of "willful misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct or flagrant indifference to safety." The proposed bill would give groups and organizations the same protections.

This is an important measure to protect groups and organizations including LRRETA from huge liability judgments. Many national organizations including Lions International, Kiwanis, Special Olympics, Toastmasters, the YMCA, etc. are backing the passage of this bill.

You can help protect LRRETA by contacting your federal lawmakers and encourage them to support House Bill 2290/Senate Bill 1684.

1. Go to www.lionsclubs.org
2. Under "How we serve" on the yellow bar, click "Lions Advocacy."
3. The Advocacy Kit at the bottom provides instructions on how to contact your senators and representatives and sample letters to personalize and download or mail.

Source: "Lions Rally Around Volunteer Act Proposed in Congress, www.lionsclubs.org (May 30, 2017]

Jeffrey A. Glover Equestrian Trail Fund

Jamie Erbes established the Jeffrey A. Glover Equestrian Trail Fund to continue Jeff's legacy and love of horseback riding. The fund will support development and maintenance of North Texas equestrian trails for the enjoyment of generations to come.

To donate online:
http://www.JeffGloverTrailFund.com

To donate by mail:
Jeffrey Glover Equestrian Trail Fund
CharitySmith Nonprofit Foundation
13100 Filly Lane
Truckee, CA 96161

This is a great way to honor our friend and help our trails!

LRRETA/Equine Trail Sports
Spring Obstacle and Trail Challenge

If you want a good rain, just ask LRRETA to schedule a trail challenge! Our 'spring' trail challenge was rained out in April, rained out in early June, and yes we got rain again for June 24-25th! However, we persevered! Fortunately, it stopped raining on Saturday prior to the event but we did have a rather soggy field.

Thank you to our judges Kirk and Vicki Fraser, Tracy Matern, Diana Hobbs, Holly Crancer, and Michelle Ellis for Saturday.

Sunday judges included Linda Moore, Holly Crancer, Michelle Ellis, Kirk Fraser, and Tracy.

BIG THANKS to Sam Noble and Traci Nelson for developing the course.

Thanks to sponsors Pards's, Dennard's, Martindale Feed (Richard Stroup), Daniel Meegan and Denton Tractor Supply, and to Laurie Grey for rounding up all the prizes.

Other helpers included Eileen Stecik, Michelle Ellis, Maggie Fraser, Jayme Wright, Jeff Rupe and his son Jordan, and Sam's son, Justin Turner and his friend Cody Cooper. Vicki Fraser and Karen Stephens served as our safety riders. A big shout out to Kimmerer Kubota for the loan of the UTV for the weekend! Due to numerous reschedules and then the rain, attendance was low but a good time was had by all!

You will have another chance to test your equine's skills with the Greenfest Texas Trail Club Challenge on Sept. 23-24, 2017. This will be our fall fundraiser and will be two days of obstacles on the trails! Be sure save the date and plan to attend! Watch Facebook for more info!

Event Results

Field Obstacle Challenge

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Intermediate

1.	Candace Snow	Shiloh
2.	Jamie Erbes	Sierra
3.	Vicky Bullins	Diamond

Novice

1.	Kathleen Davis	Starman
2.	Karen Milan	Diva
3.	Laura MacDonald	Tim
4.	Maybeth Nunn	Sophie
5.	Luanne Williams	Woody
6.	Lili Mullins	Tango

Recognition

Senior Award (60+) Novice
Laura MacDonald — Tim
Equine Senior Award (16+) Intermediate
Vicky Bullins — Diamond
Newcomer Award Novice
Lili Mullins — Tango

Trail Challenge

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Advanced

1.	Sylvia Harmon	Brandi
2.	Candace Snow	Shiloh

Intermediate

1.	Sherry Woods	Monty
2.	James Featherston	Monkey
3.	Dieter Probson	Dom

Novice

1.	Laura MacDonald	Tim
2.	Vicky Bullins	Diamond
3.	Maybeth Nunn	Sophie
4.	Luanne Williams	Woody
5.	Jamie Erbes	Sierra
6.	Stephanie Kolner	Oh

Recognition

Senior Award (60+) Advanced
Sylvia Harmon — Brandi
Equine Senior Award (16+) Advanced
Sylvia Harmon — Brandi
Newcomer Award Intermediate
Sherry Woods — Monty

Photos courtesy of Michelle Ellis, Traci Nelson and Sam Noble. More on the LRRETA Facebook page.

Where have you ridden lately?

Parrie Haynes Equestrian Center

by Tracy Matern

LRRETA Members Carol Nichols, Linda Moore, TTPA Member Mary Whisler and I, traveled to the Parrie Haynes Equestrian Center in Killeen, TX, just south of Fort Hood. It is more than 4,000 acres with over 60 miles of trails and ranch roads.

The facilities at Parrie Haynes used to be rather primitive. When I was last there, it was managed by TPWD with help from TETRA. There were fewer pens and none were covered. The shower was rudimentary, at best. There was a rough clubhouse. There were one or two old cabins. TPWD didn't have the money to maintain this park and it showed.

They have now leased it to Ona (pronounced "on a") for 19 years. She has made many improvements. The clubhouse has been refurbished into a meeting room, kitchen, and museum. The museum details the history of the park, the land's founding families and its namesake, pioneer woman Parrie Haynes, and contains many old items discovered on the ranch. There are new cottages and several sites have covered pens. She explained her plans for additional hookup sites which will all have 50-amp service and accommodate big rigs. At build-out, pens will accommodate 75 horses.

There is a "cold" tub in a natural stone cone. There are modern showers and toilets, similar to TTPAs and other State Park facilities. There is electric and water at most sites. There are also some primitive sites. All sites have pens. There are multiple fire rings. There is a large corral where you can let your horse run a little and a smaller round pen. There is also an obstacle course for practice. Ona is currently adding another 16 sites, most of which will accommodate bigger rigs.

The office/check-in has items for sale including laminated maps, chocolate, T-shirts, knives, and flashlights. There are bags of ice for $3/bag. There is an honor box for payment if no one is around. Sites with hookups are $30/night plus a $10 Ranch fee.

The first day we took the Blue trail, which is 9.5 miles around the perimeter of the park. The terrain is classic hill country: sandy, rocky, with lots of cedars, some hardwoods, and grassy pastures. Some areas are good for gaiting and some are slightly rocky and a few are very rocky. The maps were good and trails were well marked. Any mistakes we made during our rides were the result of our misinterpretation not the maps. There are rattlesnakes and although we did not see any, you need to be aware.

The next day we rode the Red trail which was 6.5 miles. We wanted to continue riding and chose to ride the 3 1/2-mile Orange and Black "Trigger Trail." We ate lunch at the windmill area where we sat on the old stone water troughs while the horses grazed on lush grass. There are some good gaiting areas on this trail. We came to a sign for Yellow "Trigger Trail," which we thought would take us back to camp so we continued straight. Wrong! We should have turned at the sign. Then the Orange and Black trail splits with the left fork going back to camp and the right fork heading out.

We ended up on the Blue and rode it to where the Buggy Whip trail comes in, then we turned north again, past where Possum Paw comes in, then past the scenic overlook. This section of trail was very rocky and challenging downhill. Blue came out along the power lines and across the easement we picked up White into camp for a total of 9.2 miles.

On our last day, Linda, Carol and Mary rode down to the Lampasas River, where you can go out on a sandy gravel peninsula into the river.

On this trip, we only rode one side of the park and are looking forward to going back and riding the other section another time.

The only downside of going to Parrie Haynes is traveling south on I-35 and especially the construction in Waco and worse construction around Temple. However, you can find routes to avoid it entirely.

Visit their website at www.parriehaynesequestriancenter.com. To make reservations, email Ona at parriehaynesranch@gmail.com or call/text 254-394-0330.

Where have you ridden lately?

Northeast Texas Trail: 130 Miles of Awesome Trail!

by Carol Nichols

The Northeast Texas Trail is a trail that follows the old rail line from Farmersville to New Boston. When completed, it will be the longest Hike/Bike and Equestrian Trail in Texas and the 4th longest in the U.S.A.! Currently, more than 70 miles are open. Several LRRETA members have ridden sections of the trail from Farmersville to Merit and north from Celeste. The trail from Farmersville begins as a concrete trail - with the horse trail alongside on grass. After 2.5 miles, the trail evolves to lovely crushed granite to the border of Farmersville, then natural black dirt with a rock base -- ideal for long trots and canters. A canopy of trees shades the way. There are three or four "rail-less" bridges along the way -- stay in the middle and go slow or dismount. Horse trailer parking is available at the baseball field, off Murchison Street, Farmersville. The trail stays dry because it is on an old railroad bed.

https://www.traillink.com/trail/chaparral-rail-trail/

The trail traverses from Farmersville through 19 rural towns and 7 counties to New Boston (West Texarkana). The infrastructure for the NETT was made possible by the 1983 Federal Law called the National Trail Acts and the Rail Banking process. Rail banking is when a railroad company voluntarily sells, donates, or leases unprofitable or unwanted rail lines and tracks to a qualified public or private entity (the Rail bank entity). Via this Law, land for construction of the NETT project is provided at no cost.

In the late 1990's, 2 railroads, the Union Pacific and the Chaparral decided to cease active service and made their railroad corridors availability for rail banking. The Northeast Trail welcomes volunteers and donations to support the trail. See attached Link to get involved. http://netexastrail.org/

Where have YOU and your equine ridden lately? Send your story and high quality* photos to Leah at mljintex@yahoo.com.

*To get the best photos (ones that print well), go into your phone's camera settings and select the highest resolution (largest) image possible. Always have your flash set to Auto.

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

We encourage LRRETA members to also join TETRA & CTETA (see page 14)

LRRETA
Branded Merchandise

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

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

Call Linda with questions (940) 206-9355.

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

MEMBERSHIP and PATRONS - Membership in 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)*_____

Email_____

Additional Patrons (fill in if checking Household Patron):

FULL NAME _____

FULL NAME _____

FULL NAME _____

PLEASE MAIL CHECK WITH PATRON DUES OR DONATIONS TO:
Eileen Stecik, 219 Whispering Trails, Argyle, TX 76226

State and Federal grants for our trails require 20% to 50% private funds as a "match."
We need your dues and donations to access grant money!

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

LRRETA does not share member information.

Please also consider joining our sister trail groups:
Join Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association (TETRA) http://tetra.memberlodge.org/page-201911
Join Cross Timbers Equestrian Trails Association (CTETA) http://www.cteta.org/Form-Membership-2011.pdf