



Web address: [www.sftrdade.org](http://www.sftrdade.org)



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## SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS, INC.

P.O.Box 924946 Princeton, Florida 33092

VOLUME XLVII

ISSUE V

January, 2024



**Happy New Year!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE TRAIL RIDERS

Mon 1- Black Eye Pea Ride. TB Mike Maldonado  
Larry & Penny Thompson Park.

Tues 9- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW.  
Dinner 7pm, meeting 7:30

Thurs 11-15- Camping: Lt. Roger Haddock  
Mem. Trail Ride/Lake X (not SFTR)

Sat 20- East Everglades Ride, TB Ciro Fonseca.

Thurs 25- Books & Broncs Kids Day at the Rodeo,  
TB Bonny George Jr.

Thurs 25- SFTR Funnel Cake booth set-up at the  
Rodeo grounds – 3 pm. TB Patricia Perez

Fri 26- Homestead Rodeo – Funnel Cakes!!!

Sat 27- Rodeo Funnel Cakes!

Sun 28- Rodeo Funnel Cakes!

*See more inside...*

## OFFICERS

ALL AREA CODES ARE 305 UNLESS STATED

### President

Lisa Morgan 786-271-4933

### Vice President

Mike Maldonado 331-7599

### Treasurer

Michele Wright 793-1482

### Secretary

Helve Longoria 378-6829

### Board of Directors (in alphabetical order)

Dennys Cabrera 786-208-6001

Ciro Fonseca 786-326-4599

Michelle Goostree 546-5678

Belinda Hebert 786-298-7044

Susie Randolph 323-4038

### Alternate

Tyra Phillips 992-2769

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

### Camping

Renee Reynolds 338-8192

### Emergency Management

Belinda Hebert 786-298-7044

### Funnel Cakes

Patricia Perez 954-707-3331.

### Historian

Mike & Deda Maldonado 331-7599

### Hurricane Stalls

Debi Catarineau-Priest 775-1820

### Membership

Andrea Sante & Bill Guzman 216-2461

### Merchandise

Michele Wright 793-1482

### Newsletter

Deda & Mike Maldonado [sftr@watv.net](mailto:sftr@watv.net) 331-7599

Bonny George, Jr. & Carol Hakanson

### Parades

Lisa Morgan 786-271-4933

### Programs

Ben Kroner 245-2403

### Public Relations

Megan Barnes-Rego 304-0680

Open

### Sunshine

Open

### Junior Members Activities

Bonny George, Jr 233-1897

### Welcoming

Holly Thommes 338-4192

SFSPCA: Laurie Waggoner 825-8826

## These are the two closest equine hospitals:

Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital **561-383-5437**  
5320 South Shore Blvd. Wellington, Fla.

Palm Beach Equine Clinic **561-793-1599**  
13125 Southfields Rd. Wellington, Fla.

## HORSE CHARITIES

The SFTR donates to these charities once a year. These charities are badly in need of donations. Please try to send what you can to help them. Thanks from the SFTR.

### South Fla. SPCA

[www.helpthehorses.com](http://www.helpthehorses.com)

P.O. Box 924088

Homestead, Fl. 33092

### Horse Protection Association of Florida

[www.HPAF.org](http://www.HPAF.org)

20690 NW 130 Ave.

Micanopy, Fl. 32667

### F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

[www.eiahorses.org](http://www.eiahorses.org)

1840 NE 65 Ct.

Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33308

## TRAIL MANNERS

Good manners is the grease that helps people get along with each other, avoiding friction.

- **18 & UNDER MUST WEAR A HELMET.**
- Be aware of the effect **your** actions have on others, their horses and their property.
- Do not upset your co-riders' horses.
- Ride at a quiet, controlled pace.
- **NEVER PASS OTHERS AT A GALLOP.**
- Keep a safe distance... don't crowd others.
- **STAY WITH A DISMOUNTED RIDER**
- Respect the property of others. (ie: lawns, farm fields, crops, groves, livestock, etc.)
- Leave gates as you found them: Open gates should remain open. Closed gates should remain closed.
- **DO NOT PASS THE TRAIL BOSS or drop behind the drag rider.**
- Stay with the trail boss on the same side of the road. Do not split the road.
- Clean up after your horse. Pick up manure or spread it depending on where you are. Do not clean your trailers out when you unload.
- **NO PROFANITY AT ANY SFTR EVENTS.**

**REMEMBER!** If you mind your manners others won't mind when you and your horse return to ride.



# 2024

## Dates and Places

Call the Hot-line for any cancellations  
(305) 4-HORSES 446-7737

# 2024



Guest Passes are available for local trail rides. Each pass is \$5.00 One pass per person per trailride is required for non-members. This pass is not available for any beach rides, Team Penning or Parades. All area codes are (305) unless otherwise stated. TB=Trail Boss

### January 2024

Mon 1- Black Eye Pea Ride. TB Mike Maldonado 305-331-7599, Larry & Penny Thompson Park. Arr. 12noon, ride 1pm, contest & feast.

Tues 2- General Meeting rescheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup>!

Mon 8- SFTR Board Meeting, Bonny & Sonny George, Jr's home.  
7:30pm 16990 SW 170 Ave; 305-233-1897.

Tues 9- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW. Dinner 7pm,meeting 7:30

Thurs 11-15- Camping- DuPuis. Club event - canceled

Thurs 11-15- Camping: Lt. Roger Haddock Mem. Trail Ride/Lake X (not SFTR)

Sat 20- East Everglades Ride, TB Ciro Fonseca. 136 St. trail head.  
Arr 9am, ride 10am.

Thurs 25- Books & Broncs Kids Day at the Rodeo, TB Bonny George Jr. Arr 8-8:30am, starts 9am, end approx 12 noon.  
SFTR Funnel Cake booth set-up at the Rodeo grounds - 3pm.

Fri 26- Homestead Rodeo – Funnel Cakes!!! TB Patricia Perez

Sat 27- Rodeo Funnel Cakes!

Sun 28- Rodeo Funnel Cakes!

Fri 26-28- Camping : Great Fla. Cattle Drive Reunion Ride. New location near Live Oak, Fla. (not SFTR)

### February 2024

Sat 3- Autism Ride, TBs Sylvia Garcia & Robin Bramson;

Tues 6- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW. Dinner 7pm,meeting 7:30

Sat 10- Pine Lake Everglades Ride, TB Mike Maldonado 305-331-7599. Arr. 9am, ride 10.

Mon 12- SFTR Board Meeting; at Helve Longoria's home. 7:30pm

Thurs 15-18- Camping: Broward SFTR 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp Out, at Cecil Webb. Details coming.

Fri 16-25- Cracker Trail Ride. Bradenton, Fla to Ft. Pierce, Fla. (not SFTR event)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Trail Riders,

This year is ending and a new year is starting. I hope everyone during this festive time of year has the time to spend with family & friends. I chose not to have any meetings in December, so we have the time to be with family and friends.

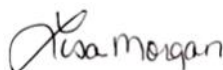
The parade season is over for the year and I truly want to thank everyone involved. It was unfortunate the Jingle Bell Jaunt was canceled due to rain, but the Toy Drive continued with success. We will have a summary from Michele Wright in the Feb. newsletter. Next stop ... the New Year!!!! That means the Black Eye Pea Ride to start off 2024 on horseback, with good friends & favorite B.E.Peas dishes! (see article)

This coming year starts with a bang! Just a reminder, the Books & Broncs Kids Day at the Rodeo and our awesome Funnel Cakes are coming at the end of Jan., and we need volunteers! The Funnel Cake booth is our yearly fund raiser & we need people to participate. Please consider a shift, or even a half shift (see articles). We could use some new volunteers as well. Remember this club is for you all, and your help is needed to keep everything going. Next Board meeting will be at Sonny & Bonny George, Jr.'s house. I encourage anyone with suggestions or wanting change to come to a Board meeting.

We want to hear from you!!!! We want more participation in the club. This means we need YOU! Please help us to help our club move into the future. My time as President is almost over and if there is something else I can do for this club during my time, I want to do it. We are a great group of people, all different, but our goals are the same. To have places to ride and have a good time with good friends.

Remember we have the Autism & St. Jude events coming, camping trips all planned out, and local rides for all levels of riders - even into the Everglades first with TB Ciro Fonseca (1/20) & then with TB Mike Maldonado (2/10). So have a Happy New Year, and see you out with us soon!

Thank you,  
Lisa Morgan  
President



Lisa Morgan

### Around the Paddock – Waiting for 2024 to Start

Just a few mentions as we close 2023. With the New Year will come camping, Funnel Cakes, Books & Broncs Kids Rodeo Day, Everglades rides and more. But looking back for a minute...

We heard how Deborah Brunson weathered 18 deg. weather in northern New Mexico recently. With no elect. or cell service, her family here couldn't reach her. So they called the police out west to go see if she was a popsicle. Deb was ok!! Meanwhile, Dee Dawson was taking in the sights in Vegas – including the world famous rodeo. Traveling can get exciting!

Really practicing hard now, we wish good luck to Daniella Nario, a FFA student at Felix Varela & on our SFTR Parade Team, as she is training to compete in the 2024 World Cup Equestrian Championships in Puerto Rico.

She trains with SFTR Coral Rodriguez at her Esperanza Equine Connections (across from Larry & Penny Park). Anyone interested in donating to her trip can do so through Coral. In barrels, poles, & goat tying, outstanding competitor Janelis Egozcue was selected to be a member of the Off-R-Rocker rodeo team! Way to go ladies!!

Want to see the Fla. Horse Pull? Lady Lake, Fla. is your place to be on Sat. Feb. 17. Or what about a cattle drive & jamboree in Immokalee, Fla. on Sat. Mar. 9. Equine activities in Florida are ramping up!

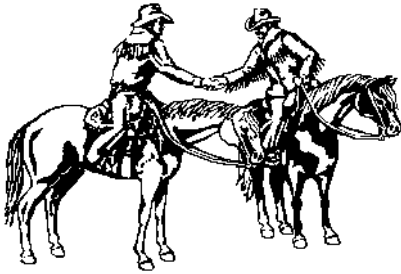
The weather here allows us to get out on the trails more this time of year. So saddle up or hitch your wagon, or go join events without a horse. It's fun for the family & keeps you active for 2024!

~Bonny George, Jr.

We have 206 family and single members that have joined or renewed for the year.

# Welcome New Members

WE WILL E-MAIL YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD IN 3 TO 4 WEEKS.



## PRICES FOR ADS ON OUR NEWSLETTER

### Camera Ready Material

-Business Card size  
\$60.00 per year

-Full page Ad \$80.00 per issue  
-1/2 Page Ad \$40.00 per issue  
-1/4 Page Ad \$30.00 per issue

### DISCOUNTS ARE OFFERED TO SFTR MEMBERS BY THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES.

Always ask Proprietor for amount of discount & availability.

Robbie's Feed and Supply  
Sunset Feed & Supply  
The VetteSmith Inc. Body shop

22390 SW 177th Ave. (Krome) Miami  
7650 S.W. 117 Ave. Kendall  
10750 SW 188 Street. Miami

247-1256  
271-0341  
252-1256

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Alexander Marin  
Andrea Caballero  
Andrew Bauta  
Angel Gonzalez  
Angela Perez  
Ben Kroner  
Bonny George Jr.  
Catherine Meggison  
Chris Septer  
Ciro J. Fonseca  
Crystal Schnebly  
Debby Fries Furton  
Dianne Peles

Dick Miller  
Emily Claro  
Fred Cox  
Glenn Hutton  
Iva Hegg  
Joy Gilpin  
Julia Woods  
Laurie Suits  
Lourdes Herrera  
Michael Da Cunha  
Natacha Duque  
Natalie Perlin  
Sona Tesarik

Stella Tesarik  
Susan Sereni  
Tonya Alvarez  
Tori Skinner  
William Guzman  
Yleana Escobar



## *Future Events*

### **General Meeting Highlights Happy New Year !**

For December, we had no General Meeting, but instead wished all our members a Happy Holiday Season, & (as always) encouraged our "Family First" belief. Hopefully everyone has spent a great holiday season with their loved ones.

Our next SFTR General Meeting will be on **Tues., Jan. 9, 2024** to kick off the New Year; at the **Homestead VFW post**, where we park for the Veteran's parade: 601 N.E. 2 Rd. (Campbell Dr./312 St. & then go south at the light at 1<sup>st</sup> Rd.; east of Krome, just west of

US1). Dine **7pm**, meeting **7:30pm**. Come spend some time with good friends, talk about recent events, & hear all about the exciting Rodeo, camping, Books & Broncs, Funnel Cakes, Autism & St. Jude rides and more happening in our winter months. We are currently trying to confirm a guest speaker also. Bring your family & friends. Put **Tues. Jan. 9** on your calendar to attend! The room is spacious, the food is good & reasonable.

*~Your Board*

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### **Be Part of the Fun - Funnel Cake City at the Rodeo is Almost Here!**

The Homestead Rodeo is at the end of this month! The SFTR will have our traditional Funnel Cake booth, which is our club's annual fundraiser. We are looking for volunteers to help. You can stay a whole shift or volunteer for half. Juniors are welcome & will receive community service letters for their school!

Volunteer schedule:

**Thurs. Jan. 25:** 3pm to 6 pm booth set up.

**Fri. Jan 26:** 5pm till close.

**Sat. Jan. 27:** 11am to 7pm.

**Sun. Jan. 28:** 11am- close  
and booth break down.

Last year we broke the record of funnel cakes sold, and hope to do even better this year! This event supports the SFTR events for the year, helps cover insurance, permits, etc. which benefit all members. Come out to have a good time, and support the SFTR.

Please call/text me, Patricia Perez: 954-707-3331 if you are interested in participating.

*~Patricia Perez*

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### **Ride the East Everglades - With Ciro Fonseca**

This is a special 2-3 hr ride into the east Everglades that is well worth it! **Arrive 9am** at the **136 St.** Trail Head. From Krome Ave. go west. Just past 187 Ave., slow down as you cross the bridge, because you **turn left** as you cross over the bridge! Trail Boss Ciro Fonseca will lead the herd to **ride out at 10am**. Bring your snacks, lunch, water, etc

with you for this no frills, but exciting adventure! You'll ride along the canal or up high on the levy. There are marshes & shallow water crossings, and pine woods on these outback trails. But best of all, there are good friends to share the time with along the way! Please RSVP in case plans change/weather, Ciro 786-326-4599.

*~Your Board*

## Save These Dates for 2024

**Jan. 1, 2024 – Black Eye Pea Ride:** Mark your calendar for Mon. Jan. 1, 2024 & join fellow SFTRs as we welcome in the New Year with our traditional Black Eye Pea Ride! Arrive 12noon at Larry & Penny Thompson Park, ride 1pm through the park. Bring your favorite dish of Black Eye Peas for the contest & lunch for all SFTRs after the ride. Junior friendly & in-hand equines welcome too.

**Jan. 20– East Everglades Ride:** Start at the 136 St. trail head just west of Krome on Sat. Jan. 20, as we roam the outback trails along the canals & Everglades marsh areas.

**Feb. 3 - Autism Ride:** Make a point to come to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Autism Ride, on Sat. Feb. 3. Always a great ride to benefit Whispering Manes programs which the SFTR originated & supports for Autistic & other special needs children to receive eq-

uine therapy lessons. Junior & cart friendly.

**Feb. 10 – Pine Lake Ride:** Start at Pine Lake inside the Everglades Natl. Park entrance & ride through pine lands, light marsh areas, ride up on the high deer mounds & through a python graveyard.

**Mar. 2 – St. Jude Ride:** Our longstanding benefit to fight childhood cancer will be on Sat. Mar. 2, as we ride to support & spread awareness in the community for this worthy cause. Junior & cart friendly.

**April – Virginia Key Beach Rides:** Sat. Apr. 6 & Sun. Apr. 28. From 9am-3pm you can walk along the beach & swim your horse in the ocean. Registration window will be announced & open just prior to each date. Space is limited to SFTR only. Junior & in-hand friendly.

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## The Pine Lake Ride Takes You Deep into the Everglades

Each year the SFTR rides deep into the Everglades Natl. Park, through narrow trails lined with palmettos, out into the high grasslands, through tall stands of pines & high up onto the deer mounds. There is even an old python boneyard from past elimination hunts! This is the **Pine Lake Ride**, an amazing horseback trek, & will be on **Sat., Feb. 10.**

To help travelers avoid getting lost, you can **meet 8:30-9am** at **Robert is Here** fruit stand in Fla. City, (192 Ave & SW 344 St). From Krome/177Av. or Redland Rd/187 Av.- go west on Palm Dr./344 St. The caravan will **leave at 9am.** Pine Lake is located **9mi inside** the park **after the toll booth** entrance. Set your odometer so that **at 9mi** you can **slow**

**down**, or you will miss the dirt road to the lake on your **left!** The main road is narrow with no place to turn a rig around...so don't miss the turn!! **Arrive at Pine Lake at 9:30am, ride out at 10:30am,** for approx 2hrs.

Be self-sufficient for this outback adventure. Bring your own water/snack/lunch/bug spray & wear your SFTR T-shirt in case we pass others on the trail! The ride is rocky, so equine boots/shoes are suggested. Juniors 18-under **must** wear a helmet. Water will be provided. This ride is special, so call a fellow SFTR to trailer with you & see the real Fla. as only we can – on horseback!

*~Mike Maldonado*

## 2024 Camping Calendar!

**Jan 11-15, 2024 SFTR Camping at DuPuis.** Canceled at this time. If anyone wishes to Trail Boss a ride there, contact Renee Reynolds. 305-338-8192.

**Jan 11-15, 2024 Lt. Roger Haddock Memorial Trial Ride**, commonly referred to as: **Lake X**, in St. Cloud, Fla. Sponsors: Osceola County Sheriffs Office, you camp on a small airplane runway & set your horse up at your site, on the grassy shoulder of the runway (bring your own horse containment). Many meals included. Ride thru pine lands & swamps. More info found on the Facebook page of Osceola County Sheriffs office. (Not a SFTR event.)

**Jan 26-28, 2024 Great Florida Cattle Drive Reunion Ride** at the Fla. Sheriffs Boys Ranch near Live Oak, Fla. (Not a SFTR event as it conflicts with our Rodeo activities.) Details: see Facebook pg.

**Feb 15-18 Broward SFTR 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp Out.** Cecil Webb Wildlife Management Area. Punta Gorda; FWC.com. Dual membership \$20, group use only. Primitive (no water, no elec.), picnic shelters, grills, restrooms, horse stable (limited stalls- plan to bring your own horse containment). Contact Tina West, Broward SFTR, at tinawest1@gmail.com

**Feb 17-24 Florida Cracker Trail-** Info found at [floridacrackertrail.org](http://floridacrackertrail.org). (Not a SFTR event.)

**Feb 21-26 Potts Preserve.** Combined event with the Suncoast Trail Riders. TB Dana Proeger will secure a group permit, but you must reserve with Dana in advance!! Info found at [sfwmd.state.fl.us](http://sfwmd.state.fl.us) Dana Proeger: 352-279-1286 or [dproeger@outlook.com](mailto:dproeger@outlook.com)

**Mar 22-25 Black Horse Resort Ranch**, Umatilla, Fla.,. Camp in the Ocala National Forest with full hook-ups (water & elec.), stalls, paddocks, bathhouse, swimming pool, dogs on leash permitted. Info found at [blackhorseresortranch.com](http://blackhorseresortranch.com) Reserve with Jo-Ann Cosgrove 352-434-1204 or 352-434-2526 and then notify TB Renee Reynolds, coconut\_ldy@hotmail.com that you have

reserved!

**April 12-15 Lower Wekiva River State Park/ Fechtelt Tract.** The best GPS address is 38015 Swift Road, Eustis, Fla. Camp with TB Donna Hakanson, but **reserve** thru the Wekiwa Springs ranger booth: 407-553-4383. Know your vehicle type, license plate number, & payment information. Be patient getting thru their system. Info found at [www.floridastateparks.org/learn/horseback-riding-fechtel](http://www.floridastateparks.org/learn/horseback-riding-fechtel). After you reserve, contact Donna Hakanson: 321-759-1605 & let her know you reserved!

**June 11-24, Buffalo River, Tenn.** If you want to camp in Ala. on your way to Tenn. this summer, you **need to register now** for our annual SFTR big club camp out! Renee Reynolds will TB the trail ride through the hill country dotted with beautiful water crossings. Camp with good friends in the SFTR, the full trip is about 2 weeks, but you can join for any portion of the adventure. You can even stay longer at the Buffalo River, as daily rates apply. You have the dates & you **must reserve NOW**, so you won't be left out!!! **See article for specific info** on this Buffalo River camp out!!

### SUMMER BOARDING IN GEORGIA



Beautiful 2.5 acre pasture plus shelter per horse.  
Only 2 pastures available. May thru November.  
Full board \$450 month (plus)  
Great place to send your horse off for the summer hurricane season since it is too hot to ride.  
2 hours to Jacksonville airport.  
Cottage or hotels nearby to visit your horses.  
Call or text Andrea Sante 305-216-2461



## SFTR Summer Camping Trip to Buffalo River, Tenn.

Renee Reynolds will Trail Boss the caravan & extended camping trip up to beautiful Buffalo River, Tenn. & back this summer. Join from day #1 for the whole trip, or meet anywhere along the way, or shorten your trip as you need. Here is a tentative itinerary, as of now/Jan:

First night together will be in north Fla. at McCulley Farms on the way to Camp McClellan, Ala. See daily itinerary below. No McClellan on the way home. Instead it's Coldwater in NW Fla., with a layover in Ocala, (campground not far from I-75) on the way home.

The dates have changed a little to spend more time at Buffalo River in Waynesboro. Still arriving at Buffalo River on Sat. June 15. However, we leave Miami a day later.

You have the dates for Buffalo River, but you must **reserve NOW**, so you won't be left out!!! We are in the river campground in the **horseshoe**. When you **call to make your reservations**, leave a message with your name and number, you will be called back – **931-722-9170** or **877-654-3164**. In your message, tell them you want to be near Renee, Dana, or Karen, with the SFTR!

**Dates of June Trip to Buffalo River:** Day #1-Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> drive to McCulley Farms.

Wed 12<sup>th</sup>, ride.

Thurs. 13<sup>th</sup> drive to Camp McClellan.

Fri 14<sup>th</sup>, ride.

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> drive to Buffalo River Trail Ride. Ride: Sun 16<sup>th</sup>, Mon 17<sup>th</sup>, Tues 18<sup>th</sup>, Wed 19<sup>th</sup>, and Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> (moon rise 6:03pm).

Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> drive to Coldwater Equestrian Campground (Full Moon, rise 7:05pm). Ride Sat 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> drive to Hitching Post Trails **Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> drive Home.**

**McCulley Farms**, Jasper, Fla.  
3019 NW McCulley Farm Rd, Jasper,  
FL 32052

To **reserve**, text: 386-623-6090 Info  
only: 386-938-1147

<https://mcculleyfarms.com>

**Camp McClellan**, Anniston, Ala.  
(formerly FT McClellan Army Post)

**Camp McClellan Horse Trails**

**Campground - 150 Mud Hole Road - Anniston, Ala. 36205**

**256-954-1623 (must reserve thru website)**

[www.campmcclellanhorsetrailscampground.com](http://www.campmcclellanhorsetrailscampground.com)

**Buffalo River Trail Ride**, Waynesboro, Tenn.

**Buffalo River Trail Ride - 5929 Bromley Cemetery Rd. - Waynesboro, Tenn. 38485**

[www.brtr.com](http://www.brtr.com) Trail Boss: Guided Rides by facility. You choose your pace & join that group.

SFTR TB for other activities: Dana Proeger 352-279-1286,  
[dproeger@outlook.com](mailto:dproeger@outlook.com)

**Coldwater Equestrian Campground - Blackwater River State Forest**

8049 Horseshoe Loop Road; Milton, Fla. 32570

TB Renee Reynolds, coconut\_ldy@hotmail.com

[https://floridastateforests.reserveamerica.com/camping/coldwater-equestrian-campground-blackwater-river-state-forest/r/campgroundDetails.do?](https://floridastateforests.reserveamerica.com/camping/coldwater-equestrian-campground-blackwater-river-state-forest/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=FLFS&parkId=1120104)

[contractCode=FLFS&parkId=1120104](https://floridastateforests.reserveamerica.com/camping/coldwater-equestrian-campground-blackwater-river-state-forest/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=FLFS&parkId=1120104)

**Hitching Post Trails** (On the Spider Kingdom trails of the Cross Florida Greenway.)

10623 SE 19th Ct.; Ocala, Fla. 34480

352-551-4362 Barbara

[http://www.hitchingposttrails.com/hitching\\_post\\_trails\\_3a\\_004.html](http://www.hitchingposttrails.com/hitching_post_trails_3a_004.html)

This should be an awesome trip, & all SFTR are invited!

~Renee Reynolds

## Emergency Management – Don't Let Your Horse Eat These 6 Things

Be careful what treats & different foods to give a horse. Some foods seem attractive to a horse, but may be toxic & can make them very sick.. Treats are a good way of maintaining the bond between you & your horse. However, be careful about what treats/foods. Horses lack the awareness & discipline to reject certain foods, so it is up to us to monitor the type & quantity of food that a horse consumes.

If you are a horse owner, or regularly feed horses, you should have a good understanding about what is ok & not ok to give a horse. Here are some of the main things to avoid giving a horse:

**Meat** - Horses are herbivores. Their entire digestive system is designed to **only** process a plant based diet. This means their digestive system cannot process meat & they do not have the necessary teeth to break it down. The exact affect of meat on their digestive system differs from horse to horse. If they are regularly given meat it will almost certainly have a negative effect on their health in the long term. There is no need to panic if a horse eats a scrap of meat that someone has dropped – the horse will not become instantly sick from a piece of meat.

**Large Amounts of Fruit and Vegetables** - Many people like to give horses treats, like apples. Horses love the sweet taste of fruit & will constantly look for more. Apples & some other fruits are ok in small quantities, but can be hazardous in large amounts. Too many apples/fruit could result in colic which can lead to more serious gastro issues, such as colonic ulcers. Long term effects of sugars can hasten Cushings/diabetes & related laminitis, founder & other issues. Take extra care if your horse resides in an agricultural area where they could potentially get access to sprayed crops or trees bearing fruit.

**Lawn Mower/Garden Clippings** - It's not uncommon for people to empty lawn mower or garden clippings in horse pastures. However, be careful to ensure that the horse never have access to mower or garden clippings. Lawn mower & garden clippings can be dangerous for a number of reasons. Fresh lawn clippings are often warm, meaning they are in a state of fermentation. This same thing happens in the horses stomach when they eat grass. However, when they are clipped they are already chopped up & the horse can swallow without chewing, breaking it down with saliva. This means the clippings are already fermenting when they reach the horses stomach. (Usually this happens much later in the digestive process). The fermenting grass in the stomach produces gas which then expands. This in turn can result in severe abdominal pain & colic (which can be fatal in some instances.) Garden clippings may be dangerous depending on the tree/plant they have been cut off. There are many plants & trees that are poisonous to horses! Horses may not separate potentially toxic clippings from other clippings when feeding, so there is a risk the horse could ingest something that could severely harm them.

**Poor Quality Hay** - When the quality of hay that a horse gets is consistently bad, it can have serious negative affects on their health. Hay that contains dust or mold spores can lead to breathing complications, which can severely impact their overall health & quality of life. Another danger from bad hay is that horses are less likely to consume sufficient quantities of it. As this happens they may miss out on key nutrients, such as fiber. If they don't get sufficient fiber they will not maintain their weight & their body may stop producing the same level of heat. This could result in them feeling cold & having reduced energy. Gastro-intestinal issues may also de-

velop. To avoid these problems, consistently check the quality of their hay.

**Cole Crops** - Cole crops are cruciferous vegetables, including kale, broccoli, brussel sprouts, & other similar green leaf vegetables. These vegetables can be quite gassy when consumed & the gas can then expand & put pressure on a horse's stomach. A horse may get a mild to severe bout of colic, depending on the quantity of cole crops consumed. Just like lawn/garden clippings, take care when disposing of large amounts of these vegetables.

**Cattle Feed** - It is commonplace to see horses & cattle grazing on the same pasture. They may also share the same hay & water. However they have very different

digestive systems & very different dietary needs. This means a horse should **never** be given grain based feed that is designed for cows. Urea is a non-protein nitrogen source that is commonly found in the diets of ruminant animals, such as cattle. Horses cannot break down urea into carbon dioxide & ammonia in the same way cattle do. This means it can remain in their system & become toxic. Urea can result in serious illness for horses & can even be fatal. Other ingredients found in cattle feed (such as Rumensin & Bovatex) are also poisonous to horses & can also result in serious illness and fatalities.

So avoid an emergency, be a knowledgeable horse care-giver, and help your equines live a wonderful life.

*~Belinda Hebert*



## SUNSHINE REPORT



We send our deepest condolences to David Ruiz, Carol & little Cody who said goodbye to David's mom, Gingi. May you all tell stories of her life throughout the years ahead, for little Cody.

The Rainbow Bridge saw a beautiful white mare move across, as Shelly Patterson had to say goodbye to Luna. Together for over 17yrs., the horse with huge personalities & a giving heart finally lost her battle with melanoma.

On the family scene: Melanie Adams Ippolito & hubby Martino cheered their 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary; while Alan Alvarez & wife Ana celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup>, and have little Andres Alvarez due to arrive Apr. 2024. Topping the love, patience & adventures chart, are Augie & Mayra Saavedra - who toasted their 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Amazing, & many more years

ahead for you both.

Congratulations to AnneMarie Morgan Myers & Wayne as they have a baby girl on the way in April 2024; & Lauren Moniz Starnes has a bun in the oven, due June 2024! Brittany Perets Lacayo & hubby David are proud parents of baby Luca. Grandparents Darlene & Norbert couldn't be happier!

We could use some help in gathering Sunshine news for the newsletter. It's easy & you'll have help!! Please, it's your newsletter & we know there is someone out there who might like to volunteer for a while. Let any Board member know you'll pitch in. Thanks in advance!!

*~Your Board*

## SFTR Asked to Parade at a Special Thanksgiving Event

After receiving a request from the Jewish Health Center, at Douglas Gardens in Miami, several SFTR Parade Team members decided to volunteer for this first-ever event. We donned our uniforms, shined up our equines, & walked within the confines of the center; weaving along the paved walkway of their tree laced spacious gardens. The mostly elderly patients were lined up under an overhang all along the inner perimeter of the buildings; many in their beds, some in wheelchairs & others in chairs with their canes or walkers beside. Some were still in their rooms overlooking the garden, too ill to come down.

Mike Maldonado lead us, carrying the USA flag, followed by Holly Thommes who volunteered to carry the center's Israeli/Jewish flag, specially bought by the facility for the parade. Rachel Shearing joined us on her majestic horse, Miami; & Tiffany Daly proudly rode Charlie. I paraded our kindly donkey Johnny,

in-hand, with Deda Maldonado along to help keep us all together & take photos. The parade had Miami Police on their motorcycles, two small school marching bands, holiday dressed clowns & a mime, a young camel, and staff from the facility as well. The parade filled the length of the walkway all through the garden, & we waved & greeted the crowd every step of the way. They were so very appreciative that we attended & brought our horses and clapped & cheered for us endlessly. We even waved to the patients in the windows of their rooms high above, & they returned the favor with big smiles. Some told of their own horses, long gone, & how they missed them. Of course, at the end we obliged & stood our equines quietly for them to pet. It was a mixture of smiles & tears and made us glad we could bring a little Thanksgiving holiday excitement to those so confined.

*~ Bonny George, Jr.*



## We Rode to Honor Our Veterans

We enjoy freedoms that those from other countries seek. Our patriots through the years have given part or full measure, to insure those freedoms for all of us. It was in the spirit of Veteran's Day that we paraded in their honor.

The line-up began with our banner, sporting our sponsors: Miami Medical Consultants, carried by FFA mom Meyling Jimenez & FFA student Abbygail Gregoire. Then our horses, both ridden (18) & in-hand, numbering a total of 24; including a junior rider, Diego Medina. Sporting the USA flag was Dennys Cabrera, and the POW & all the flags of our military branches were also carried by very capable riders, including Veteran Renee Reynolds. Three members of the Miami-Dade Mounted Police patrol rode with us, headed by their Sargent, Jason Rodriguez. We had

8 Felix Varela FFA student volunteers expertly leading their mini horses; and Michelle Goosetree, Veteran Darrell Clower & Abby Goosetree in the wagon, pulled by Odin – his first pull in a parade! Thank you to the numerous safety walkers, including FFA dad-son team Soto; & Veterans Phyllis McGrath & Dick Miller. The parade would not be complete without the 5 marvelous FFA moms who handled the Poop Patrol – they had the crowd cheering the whole way! And a thank you to Juana Cabrera for driving the safety truck – which came in handy this time.

We had an amazing turnout of SFTRs, with a lineup of horses that seemed endless – the crowd loved us! Thank you everyone for making the event a success, for us and our community.

*~Lisa Morgan*



## Jr. Orange Bowl Parade – A Night Under the Lights

Our last parade of this parade season and it went very well. I must say, Odin and the wagon were the biggest HIT! Leading us out with the USA flag was Michelle Goosetree up on the box, driving Odin, with Darrell Clower as assist. Despite having a broken finger & hand brace, Abigail Goosetree handled Odin from the ground to keep him calm. On board were past HRA Queens & princesses and this year's contestants; and the wagon was decorated in garlands & bows from harness to rear. What a beautiful sight for the crowds! I want to thank all the members who came out for this festive parade. Holly Thommes with the SFTR flag, Debi Catarineau-Priest with Hemi all festively decked out, Juan "Tato" Rodriguez riding tall & always a crowd pleaser, Renee Reynolds with Captain sporting glittered stars, & Dennys Cabrera with Blue in his holiday finest!

A special thank you to Helve Longoria for not only bringing Samantha Rotella to help with the Poop chores, but sisters: Susannah on banner with Michelle McDaniel; & Sarah Rotella as a safety

walker along with Abby Gregoire's grandmother Bernadette. Helve also brought the desserts for everyone on her own, & took photos - thank you! We also had Abbygail Gregoire, from the Felix Varela FFA, lead lining Johnny the donkey – all dressed in his garlands & jingle bells. This is part of her FFA project & thanks to Bonny George Jr. she was able to walk the donkey on her own. Next stop for Abby is to ride! She is definitely on her way & not afraid to do the hard work it takes to learn.

The crowd cheered for our Poop Scoop Team: Augie Saavedra, Samantha Rotella & myself/Lisa Morgan! Always a shout out to Juana Cabrera for driving our safety truck & assisting with the equipment & food; & to Bonny George Jr, who I greatly appreciate (& can't do this without). Bonny's dedication to the parade team as well as the SFTR is above & beyond - THANK YOU! Everyone in the parade, I thank you for getting us through another year. I know it can be hot, but it is the biggest way we, as SFTR, are seen in the community.

*~Lisa Morgan*



## The Parade of Elves – Always a Parade for the Kids

Of all our parades, the Elves parade seems the most fun. Leading our Parade Team were FFA mom Meyling Jimenez & FFA student Abbygail Gregorie carrying our banner, followed by Michelle Goostree driving Odin, as he pulled his splendidly decorated wagon & sported the USA flag. Helping her were Darrell Clower & Abbygail Goostree. Thankfully we had FFA dad & son, Elliot & Elias Soto with Michelle McDaniel as safety walkers, because we fielded 14 riders – including new junior Parade Team member, FFA Daniella Nario. Six more Felix Varela FFA students walked their minis, thrilling the children in the crowd with the cute mini horse costumes! Tagging up the rear was our festively bell & garland adorned donkey, Johnny, led by Bonny George, Jr. FFA Anthony Perez was a stand-up participant on the Poop Patrol, teamed with Lisa Morgan. Lastly was Juana Cabrera driving our safety truck, with daughter Nikki.

I am so appreciative for all the Parade Team members who came out to ride or walk their equines. It

was great having so many horses to amaze the children in the crowd! I'd like to sincerely thank all the FFA parents who brought their sons & daughters to parade with us. These parents fashioned the costumes, helped take photos, pitched in on the equipment, walked with us and gave great support a day! Thanks to all the FFA student volunteers for decorating their minis & showing them off for the kids along the way – you made their parade special! A special note of thanks to everyone who responded (back at the trailers) to the call "Loose Horse"! The FFA students jumped into action with many SFTRs to track one of our equines that decided he wanted to trot through the neighborhood! They headed the wily horse off along safe streets & with the police, escorted him back to the trailer. All safe! Their youthful athleticism & equine knowledge had them pass this real-world test with flying colors. This is part of being a SFTR – we are a family of independent units, but always come together as one ... and had an awesome day.

*~Lisa Morgan*



# SFSPCA Horse of the Month "Royal Harry"



**Royal Harry**  
**Breed** Thoroughbred  
**Sex** Gelding  
**Year of Birth** 2018  
**Height** 16.3 hands  
**Arrival to Farm** Nov 8, 2022

Royal Harry is an opinionated, but cooperative horse. Excellent at crossties, farrier work, and brushing. He showcases comfortable gaits, isn't spooky, easily rides uphill, and thrives when given a job. He requires a rider with experience and confidence.

Contact Laurie at

[Laurie@helpthehorses.com](mailto:Laurie@helpthehorses.com) for adoption info.

Donations can be made at

[www.helpthehorses.com](http://www.helpthehorses.com)

Winter Alban, last month's horse,  
still not adopted.



## PARADE TEAM NEWS

The parade season is over for the year. We can all take a rest now! I want to thank all the people who have joined the Parade Team & who paraded with us. We will have some changes next year & I am hoping it is for the best. A huge shout-out to Miami Medical Consultants, who have already generously agreed to continue as our sponsors for yet another year - we thank them for their amazing support!



Our new addition to the Parade Team was the wagon that Odin pulled. This was a hit every parade he was in! Michelle Goosetree at the lines, with Darrell Clower by her side; and daughter Abigail in back (who handled Odin from the ground at stops). This was Odin's first parades pulling the wagon this season, & he did fantastic!!!

I want to thank the Felix Varela FFA students for joining us & parading another year. They are always a hit for the crowd with their handsome ponies! You all did an excellent job decorating your ponies, & handled them very well under pressure. I encourage all SFTR to be part of something to help us more next year. It is our way of promoting our club & our club's involvement in riding & special events!

We are planning for something new for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade to help us with the heat. Let's hope it all works out.

Remember, if you have any suggestions or comments, please let me know. I am all ears to make it better next year from this past season. Please text me/Lisa at 786-271-4933, this is a best way for me to receive your suggestions. Again have a great time off from parades, enjoy the holiday season and we'll see you all very soon.

~Lisa Morgan

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- FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$35.00 PER YEAR)
- SINGLE MEMBERSHIP (\$30.00 PER YEAR)  
(Applicant Must Be 18 Years Of Age)
- DUAL MEMBERSHIP (\$20.00 PER YEAR)  
**Must be a full paying member of Broward SFTR**  
Membership runs from Sept. 1st through Aug. 31st of each year.

NAME (1) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ NAME (3) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (2) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ NAME (4) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ DO YOU WANT YOUR PHONE NUMBER PUBLISHED?  Y  N

NAME & DATE OF BIRTH OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) \_\_\_\_\_

HORSE INTERESTS:  TRAIL RIDING,  PARADES,  CAMPING,  SHOWS,  BREEDING

REFERRED BY? \_\_\_\_\_ HOW MANY HORSES DO YOU HAVE? \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE A TRAILER?  YES  NO, IF YES, WHAT IS THE TRAILER CAPACITY? \_\_\_\_\_

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP TRANSPORT OTHERS?  YES  NO

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING ON A COMMITTEE?  YES  NO

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?  YES

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DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.  
All listed names above must reside at the same address.

PLEASE MAIL TO: SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
P.O. Box 924946  
Princeton, Florida 33092

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PAYMENT TENDERED:  CASH  CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNTS \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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