



# FETA Newsletter

## Spring 2008

*"Preserving the legacy trails of the Carolina Foothills Hunting Country"*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Picture this. You are riding your horse around the same old 10 miles of trails. Or trailering your horse an hour away to ride a different 10 miles - usually in a public, mixed use, trail system which can challenge the steadiest of horses. That is what many of our new residents describe. That is the reality of many trail riders throughout the country, if they are lucky.

Now think of what you, as members and supporters of FETA, have as your reality. Think what we have accomplished over the past 15 years. Spurred by the devastating ice storm of 1993, and concerned about the loss of trails to development, we acted together as a community. As a committed group, we were able to:

- Clean up the core trails from the devastating ice storm and restore most of the trails that were still being used;
- Establish an open membership organization to maintain and preserve the trails;
- Persuade landowners, two thirds of whom did not ride, to allow access to their property;
- Expand the system to reclaim most of the extensive hunting country trails of the Tryon Hounds' "old" hunting country, encompassing approximately 10,000 acres and 120 miles of trails (many which have been used for 100 years);
- Hammer out a set of rules for using private property for the benefit of all;
- Present educational and safety programs to benefit our members;
- Host fellowship functions to promote the sport and our community;
- Support the community which does so much to help us;
- Permanently protect almost 60 miles of the core connecting trails throughout the FETA system;

- Invest over \$100,000 in the maintenance, repair and stewardship of our trails; and

- Foster a quality of life and trail riding opportunities among the best in the country.

All on private property. All with a trail system open to the general membership of the residents of our community. All with substantial landowner protections and a budget devoted to maintaining the system of over \$50,000 annually.

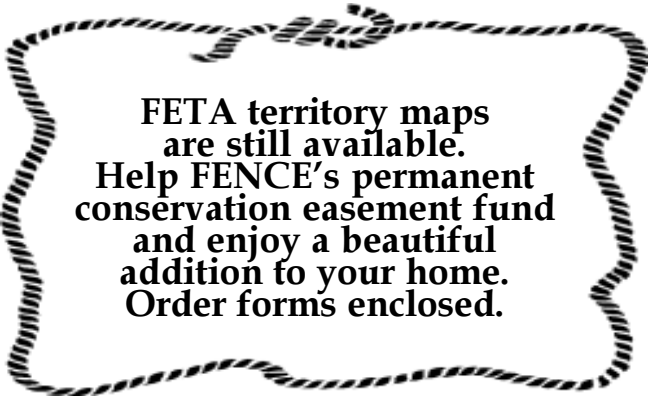
Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday, FETA. Thanks and congratulations to our founders, leaders, landowners, members and community. Best wishes for many, many, more years to come.

Working together we can accomplish so much. I hope we can count on your continued support. Who knows how much more we can accomplish?

Ride Friendly! Ride Safely!

*Dot Moyer  
President*

P.S. Renew early. Our overworked Membership Chair wants to ride too. And come to the Welcome Party on Thursday, June 12th. Bring your favorite dish to share, check out the newest maps and meet new riding partners. We always have fun. 🐾



**FETA territory maps  
are still available.  
Help FENCE's permanent  
conservation easement fund  
and enjoy a beautiful  
addition to your home.  
Order forms enclosed.**

## FENCE HORSE SHOW POLICY

The horse show season is upon us, and that means the human and equine population at FENCE will increase dramatically starting in March and continuing through November, most heavily on weekends. With the safety of FETA members in mind during this busy time, all of us at FENCE appreciate the opportunity to remind trail riders to avoid the show grounds during the show season. As we all know, the Equestrian Center during a busy show weekend brings considerable traffic, including visitors on mopeds and Gators, along with other unusual noises and sights that can startle horses not used to them. Staying on the trails during your ride and away from competition areas just makes sense.

If a show is in progress, you can safely view the proceedings from the hillside parking area on the far side of the steeplechase course, or from the top of Hoffman Hill on the opposite side of the course. Use of the warmup rings during shows is strictly prohibited. Keep in mind, too, that venturing onto the show grounds during certain events can actually have a undesirable results from a competitor's standpoint. Many events during the season, especially our FENCE Horse Trials and the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club's Horse Trials, are USEF-recognized events that impose strict regulations prohibiting horses not entered in competition from the show grounds. USEF stewards who may be on-site during these events can begin proceedings to remove USEF recognition if they observe repeated infractions of this rule. Further, certain United States Pony Club events at FENCE centering on stable management and horsemanship tests strictly forbid contact between entrants and outside parties, however coincidental those encounters may be.

We're all excited about our new covered arena, which goes into service starting this show season. But please remember that the covered arena is for use only during horse shows or other leased events. Please do not use the covered arena unless you are participating in one of these events, or even on weekdays where there's no event going on, tempting as it might be. We'd hate to do it, but FENCE reserves the right to request anyone using the covered arena without permission to leave the grounds.

If your horse is unused to a show environment, FETA riders are more than welcome to bring their equine companion to one of our

Tuesday Night Schooling Shows during the summer for a modest fee. These shows are especially designed to acclimate both horses and humans to a show environment (and it's lots of fun, to boot!). Dates and information for these schooling shows can be found at [www.fence.org](http://www.fence.org), by calling 828-859-9021, or by emailing [horseshows@fence.org](mailto:horseshows@fence.org). All of us at FENCE thank you for your cooperation.

Melissa LeRoy 🐾

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK

Ever wonder where the money goes? Even though four people cannot ride at Biltmore for the cost of maintaining a FETA family membership, (with unlimited riding for a full year, programs, parties and many other benefits of membership), sometimes people wonder "where is all that money going?"

Last year was pretty representative. Most of your support (\$27,000) went to maintaining and opening trails. A big chunk (\$11,000) went to insurance coverage. Some went to membership expenses, such as saddle tags and membership mailing (\$6,500) and activities (\$3,000) and to many miscellaneous expenses like easement recording, donations to St. Lukes and EMS and FENCE, etc. (\$3,000). But a surprising \$2,000 went to printing and postage of *this newsletter*.

Which brings us (TA DA) to an announcement..... new newsletter options: if you want to save FETA money, save paper, postage and hassle for your overworked volunteers, sign up now to get your mailings on line. To receive your newsletter on line, send your request to [fetanews@aol.com](mailto:fetanews@aol.com). Write "subscribe" on the subject line, your name in the body, and send. That's all there is to it.

Also, if you want breaking information, the ability to network with other riders to set up rides, or generally want to "share", sign up with the new FETA Yahoo Group. This is a safe, closed-group communication. It is offered through invitation only to avoid spam and phishing. Send your email address to [faith.jorgenson@yahoo.com](mailto:faith.jorgenson@yahoo.com) and request your invitation to be included on the latest FETA happenings. The bigger the group, the more we have to share. Sign up and let's get connected!

Faith Jorgensen 🐾

## TRAIL MASTER'S CORNER

### Trail Manners

We have a beautiful trail system, and everyone knows it. It didn't get beautiful and doesn't stay beautiful without everyone exercising respect for the landowners and each other. That means trail manners, so here are a few things to do to make sure yours are good:

– Be polite and friendly to everyone you meet on the trail!!

– When meeting another rider or group of riders face to face, slow to a walk, and pass left shoulder to left shoulder. Do not let your horse invade another's space, and keep his rear end pointed away from fellow riders.

– When overtaking a slower rider, slow to a walk, call out that you are passing, wait for acknowledgment, then pass wide on their left. Riders being passed should move to the right and keep your horse's rear pointed away from the passing horses.

– You might encounter other people using the trail. Owners have the right to grant anyone personal use of their land. The age of the person doesn't matter. You do not own the trail, but the child you chide might be the owner's child or someone the owner has given permission to be there, and guess who will get 'grounded' first?

– If you walk on the trails, you must have the express permission of all the owners of the trails you will be on. FETA members only have permission to ride astride or carriage drive, when the trails are open and in compliance with the FETA rules. Nothing else.

– Please display your FETA tag properly, left side of the horse (remember passing left to left?) so that it can be seen. Anyone, trail worker, walker, rider, has the right to ask you for your number and you are required to show them. Another reason they are color coded, so we can see that you are a current member.

Please do not ride without checking the phone or web site first. I update both whenever there is any change. Sometimes there are special problems or dangerous things that you need to know about. You agreed to check, in the membership agreement you signed, so do it BEFORE EACH RIDE, no matter what the weather is or was. Don't just assume the trails are open.

Thanks, and let's all "mind our manners" to make our riding an enjoyable experience for everyone!

*Dave Smith*  
FETA Trails Chairman 🐾

## HI FROM MEMBERSHIP

**Applications** are about to go out for the **08/09 membership year**. Remember that the guest passes are the same as last year; this was done on purpose to save on printing and allow those who still had some left from last year to be able to use them. I want to thank you in advance for getting your application back to me **promptly with both forms signed and your new coggins and check included.** You have until July 1st to get them back to me without penalty.

Out of area riders who may not be currently riding, if you are on the fence about renewing this year you might want to try being a **supporting member** for a while so that you don't lose your possible grandfather status. For those out of the area, remember that the supporting membership receives the newsletter and invites to our socials.

I thank you so much for understanding the need to get our fiscal budget lined up by July 1<sup>st</sup> and for helping my volunteer job to be finished quickly so I can ride too. It's folks like yourselves who renew promptly and offer to help, who greet me at the meetings, who open up your hearts, hands and wallets to keep this the most incredible trail system on earth, that make this job so much fun!

See you at the next event!

*Randi Wetzel*  
Membership Chair 🐾

Mark your calendar for Thursday,  
June 12th, for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Welcome Party at 6 p.m. at FENCE.

Come greet new members, enjoy your  
neighbors and friends and meet new ones.

The maps, as always, will be available.

This year we will go all "pot luck", with a  
new experimental system. Last names  
starting A-J bring an entree dish, last  
names J-R a salad dish and S-Z a desert.  
FETA will provide soft drinks, but bring  
your own if you want something stronger.

Questions and RSVP to  
Rhonda King, 859-9887. 🐾

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Welcome Party - Thursday, June 12th  
at 6 p.m. at FENCE
- Safety Fair - Wednesday, July 23rd  
at 6 p.m. at FENCE 🐾

### **FETA PARKING LOT CLOSINGS**

Please note that FENCE and the parking lot will be closed on the following days:

- March 21- 23 – FENCE Horse Trials
- April 12-13 - XC Schooling & Clinic
- April 19 – Steeplechase

### **TRAIL CLOSINGS**

Stream restoration is in progress on the FENCE Cross Country side.  
Please avoid the work area and keep out of the way of heavy equipment. 🐾

**To report trail problems  
contact David Smith  
at 828-275-2873 or  
smittyc7@alltel.net**

**\*\* PLEASE \*\***

**\*\* PLEASE \*\***

phone for trail status  
BEFORE you ride

**828-894-0496** 🐾