



# Belmead on The James

A Private Membership Riding Club

**Newsletter**

**Summer 2011**

Greetings Everyone!

This is the first of what we hope to be a regularly scheduled newsletter ... not yet sure if it will be quarterly, bi-monthly, or something different, so stay tuned. ☺

There are lots of exciting developments at Belmead, and more great things are on the horizon. Our Advisory Group has been extremely busy helping with internal organization, trail work, promotion plans, etc. Next time you see them on the trails, be sure to say “thank you” – all this good stuff wouldn’t be happening without them: Jesse Bennett, Marsha Poole, Mary Ann Massie and Sharon Madere.

As you may have noticed by the header on this page, we are re-christening our club: “Belmead on the James – A Private Membership Riding Club.” The full transition to our new name and look will take place over the remainder of this year.

We hope everyone had a chance to make it down to the River Trails in the past few weeks – the wildflowers are blooming, birds are abundant, and all is freshly mowed. The honey-suckle and wild white roses are amazing... one recent rider said it’s the ultimate aroma therapy experience!



*Multi-Flora Rose*



*Wild Honeysuckle*



*Wild Phlox*

## Lonesome Dove Benefit Ride –

Despite the semi-threatening skies, over 40 riders turned out on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> to support this worthy cause, and to enjoy a delightfully cool day on the trails at Belmead. The rain held off all day, and a great time was had by all.

**In fact, we're gonna do it again – June 18<sup>th</sup> – and hope you'll join us!**

For more info, go to [www.ldequestriancenter.com/content/events-calendar](http://www.ldequestriancenter.com/content/events-calendar).



*Cadets from the VA Civil Air Guard helped with parking.*



*Clint Arrington, Founder of Lonesome Dove, greets riders.*



*A lovely day to ride...*



*Pledge of Allegiance*



*Off we go!*



*Clint serves up BBQ*

## Mark Your Calendars...

**June 4 Saturday** – **Celebration on the James** – A family fun day (non-riding event, co-hosted by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and Belmead Riding Club). [discoverbelmead.com](http://discoverbelmead.com) *NOTE: This is the only day of the year where parking is not available for horse trailers in Pavilion Park/Unloading Area. Instead, you will need to park and unload by the Belmead boarding stables. Contact Marilyn for more information.*

**June 18 Saturday** – **Lonesome Dove Benefit Ride** [ldequestriancenter.com](http://ldequestriancenter.com) Open to all.

**July 23 Saturday** – **Morgan Horse Club Association Ride** sponsored by Mary Ann Massie.

**August 20 Saturday** – **Powhatan Riding Association** (along with “Poor Peoples’ Riding Club”), sponsored by Roberta Young.

**September 2, 3 & 4, Fri/Sat/Sun** – **Labor Day Poker Run, Cook Out & Camping.** Open to all. More information coming soon.

**September 3 Saturday** – **Tack Swap**, noon – 3:00 pm. Open to all. Clean out your barn, sheds and closets, and come buy/sell/swap your tack, equipment, clothing etc. \$10 fee to sell or swap, money goes to the Gulch Bridge Fund. More information coming soon.

**To host a special event or group ride, please contact Marilyn.**



*First fawn of the year...*



*A Hunt Club group from last season...*

## **Green, Green Everywhere!**

All the rain this spring has things green and gorgeous – and also GROWING... which means never-ending mowing. Each week we spend hours cutting grass. I'd love to have all the trails and roadways nicely mowed at all times, but there are only so many hours in the day. Thank you for your patience during the growing season. (By the way, if anyone out there has a hankerin' to spend a couple of hours on a zero-turn mower and/or a tractor with brush-hog, we can hook you up! ☺ )



*Your chariot awaits!*

## **Trail & Property Update:**

We've made great progress so far this year... here are some of the recent work highlights:

- Completed a new bridge mid-way along Swamp Trail, near the intersection with Bone Tree. (Note – the east end of the bridge is still muddier than we'd like... we'll be re-grading and/or installing a French drain soon... just need the rain to stop for a bit!)



- Cleared encroaching branches on Deep Creek, East & West River, Cattail and White Cross.
- Fixed major tire ruts on East River.
- Mowed little overlooks along the River Trails and Deep Creek.
- Cut back encroaching branches on main driveway entrance.
- Smoothed eroded areas on little road to the Pavilion.
- Begun placement of mounting block logs at scenic overlook areas.
- Extreme make-over of the inside of the Rider Registration shed.
- Additional trail signs posted (many more still needed... want to come out and help?)



- Continuing work along the boggy areas of Swamp Trail... Our advising civil engineer has determined that there's about 100 years worth of silt run off from the slopes above the trail. This silt has clogged the original and natural drainage channels, and contributed to those yucky areas of sticky mud. We're in the process of scraping and re-grading these sections. Several areas are already complete, and have dried out very nicely. Some of the remaining work will be delayed a bit longer until things dry out more. Fortunately, the work done to date has already made a tremendous difference, and the remaining muddy areas ride much better than they look. ☺



- **Loblolly Trail** - As some of you already know, the Sisters who own the property contracted to have some selective logging done on the southwest portion. Logging was completed at the end of April. The only trail impacted was the first third or so of Loblolly (the portion that begins at Owl, and extends to the west). It is open and ride-able, though we'll be doing some additional cosmetic cleaning and marking of it as soon as we can... in fact, if you can come out to help on Friday May 27, we'll get it done that much sooner! ☺

**Volunteer Trail Work Day** – With the hot summer fast approaching, chances are we won't schedule another work day until this fall. When the time arrives, we hope you will plan to pitch in. Whether you've can give the whole day, or even just a couple of hours, all help is greatly appreciated. There are things to do at all different levels – wielding a chain saw, posting trail signs, picking up fallen branches, building bridges, mowing, operating a grader, helping scope out a new trail, or simply serving lunch and drinks to the group. If you're interested in helping out a bit before our next scheduled work day, please contact Sharon Madere [smadere@premier.com](mailto:smadere@premier.com). She is usually out working on some aspect of the trails once or twice a month, and would definitely enjoy a little help.



*Volunteers from our last trail work day...*

## **This Part's For You!**

Email us with anything you'd like to post, and we'll include it in the next newsletter...

- Questions
- Announcements
- Stuff for Sale
- Things Wanted to Buy
- Riding Buddies Wanted
- Whatever else is on your mind...



*We hope to see you on the trails soon...*

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