

# Trail Times



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

Official Publication of the Gold Country Trails Council

GCTC is an organization committed to develop, maintain and advocate for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is membership renewal month. We have a new membership chair, Heidi Hansen. Thank you Heidi! I'm profoundly grateful to Cathy Chase for automating importing the membership information into an Excel spreadsheet when membership renewals are processed via online renewals.

The Little Lasier and Loney Meadow campouts and work days were wonderful as always. One of the major benefits of membership is the opportunity to camp, ride, and do trail work at Loney Meadow and Little Lasier Meadow. For the first time in many years, we were also able to have a work day at Robie Park. Adding Robie Park to our list of opportunities for trail work and camping was a major accomplishment. Jamie Canon spent a lot of time and energy to ensure the Robie park camp and work day could go forward.

As you may know, as part of Placer County Trails Coalition, we will have a booth at the Gold Country County fair to promote the Placer County Parks and Trails Master Plan and the Hidden Falls expansion. Again, GCTC members have stepped up and volunteered to staff the booth at the fair to inform the public about the expanded recreational possibilities incorporated in the Master Plan and ask people to sign a petition supporting the Master Plan and Hidden Falls.

I'm sure you saw that class 1 e-bikes are now allowed on non-motorized trails in Tahoe National Forest. This was accomplished by reclassifying class 1 e-bikes as non-motorized since the rider has to pedal. This action was taken without consulting stakeholders, and contrary to the broader Forest Service policy.

National conservation, hiking, and equestrian organizations are actively opposing this change. GCTC is also opposing this reclassification of class 1 e-bikes.

I hope you've all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to utilizing our beautiful trails in the Fall. Be sure to join us at our General Meeting in September; we love to see your smiling face.

**Helen Harvey, President**



**Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!**



- Danni Ballere
- Clare Binks
- Tracy Browne
- Cyndi Culp
- Gail Eatherly
- Angie Gaudy
- Monica & Thomas Harkins
- Becky Kidder & Daryl Barth
- Marty Mosman
- Patricia Ryan
- Bronwyn Sznarowitz

**MAY GCTC GENERAL MEETING!  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, 7 PM**

*(Everyone's Invited!)*

**GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE  
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley**



**SPEAKER-TOPIC:**  
Kelly Torrissi, DVM, from Auburn Equine will be talking to us about wound care, and what to do while waiting for the veterinarian.

Dr. Kelly completed her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Washington State University in 2007. She completed an internship in reproduction and a second internship in Medicine and surgery. She practiced before settling into the Auburn area and working for Dr. Larry Goss at Animal Medical Center Large Animal Services. Upon his retirement, he sold the practice to Dr. Kelly. She is a long time rider and horse owner.

<http://www.auburnequine.com/>

***REFRESHMENTS:  
super tasty, as always!***

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Place your business card size advertisement in the GCTC publications for just \$5 per issue, or \$25 for the entire calendar year (6 issues).

The Newsletter is distributed to all GCTC members, affiliate members, and appears on the GCTC website.

To place your ad contact GCTC Newsletter Editor:  
Pamela Warmack [cows2horses@gmail.com](mailto:cows2horses@gmail.com)

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

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**Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the  
current 2019 GCTC Events Calendar can be  
accessed on the GCTC Website  
[www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org)**



**SEPTEMBER**

- 5-8 Thurs.-Sun. Gold Country Fair Booth
- 10 Tue. General Meeting/ Membership renewal
- 14 Sat. Work Day
- 20-22 Fri.-Sun. Draft Horse Classic (non GCTC event)

**OCTOBER**

- 8 Tue. BOD meeting
- 12 Sat. United Trails Day
- 19 Sat. Ride/BBQ Lone Grave
- 26 Sat. Rain date Ride/BBQ

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**SKILLMAN GUIDED RIDES**



Skillman Horse Campground has been busy this season. Its popularity has increased with guided ride services offered by GCTC members on select dates during the summer.

Comments from campers and riders demonstrated how much they enjoyed the camping, appreciated the beautiful rides and learning the trails, and enjoyed our amazing GCTC guides.

If you would like to be a guide next season, please contact Jaede Miloslavich at [jaede@sbbmail.com](mailto:jaede@sbbmail.com).

**A huge thank you to our GCTC member ride guides, host & coordinator!**

- Alexis Brasier
- Cathy Chase
- Cathy Scott
- Lori Codey
- Pam Swartz
- Linda Lanzoni

- Laura Duncan, Guided Ride Coordinator
- Jaede Miloslavich, Guided Ride Coordinator
- Lori McIntosh, GCTC Camp Host





*Heidi Hansen has stepped forward to take over membership from Cathy Chase.*

*We welcome and thank Heidi for assuming this important position.*

### **SEPTEMBER IS RENEWAL MONTH FOR GCTC MEMBERS**

Have you ever wondered why we renew in September instead of on a calendar year (January-December)

basis? The answer is that according to the Bylaws of Gold Country Trails Council, GCTC was organized as a nonprofit public benefit corporation in the month of August. As a result, the membership period runs from September 1 to August 31 (of the following year).

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN GCTC HAS MANY BENEFITS: MOST OF ALL, WONDERFUL PEOPLE!**

GCTC's mission is to build and maintain safe trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users. We enjoy work days with great lunches, fun trail rides, an interesting speaker program at our meetings, social gatherings, an informative newsletter, postings via email of trail updates, activities, and items for sale, and opportunities to ride and camp with an engaged group of dedicated, fun-loving, hard-working riders and hikers.

The membership fee is \$25 for an individual. A household/family membership is also only \$25. Per the Bylaws a household/family membership is defined as: "One or two persons over the age of 18 and children up to the age of 18 sharing one address."

If you joined GCTC in 2019 on or after June 1, your membership extends through August 31, 2020 and you do not need to renew now. If any of your contact information has changed, however, please email changes to [heidiehansen@gmail.com](mailto:heidiehansen@gmail.com).

#### **THE BEST WAY TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS TO DO SO ONLINE.**

Go to [www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org](http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org) and click on the "JOIN US" tab. You can pay and sign the liability release online. Or download and print a membership form which can be mailed in if you prefer to pay by check.

Please send in your 2019-2020 renewal as soon as possible. **IF YOUR RENEWAL IS NOT RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2019, you will no longer receive GCTC benefits – among them the member-only email notifications since you will be removed from that list.** Don't miss out on the benefits, fun, and camaraderie of membership.

If you have questions about the status of your membership or anything else related to membership, do not hesitate to contact Heidi Hansen: 916-215-5162 or [heidiehansen@gmail.com](mailto:heidiehansen@gmail.com).

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**



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### FLY SPRAY SAVVY

**Q: Is fly spray effective if I fly spray my horse after I've rinsed him off?**

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The only potential for reduced efficacy is if the animal is dripping wet and product is carried off with the excess water.

*EQUUS Magazine, Summer 2019*



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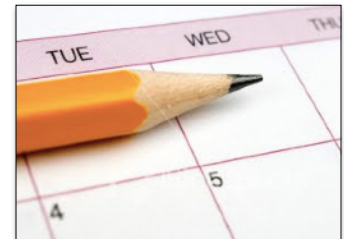
## Hidden Falls, Placer County Master Plan UPDATE

*By Jeff Foltz*

A group of trail users including horse, bike, hikers and trail runners has been meeting to coordinate support for Hidden Falls expansion and the overall trail master plan calling themselves “Placer Trails.” Towards this effort the Placer Land Trust (PLT) is coming out in support of the Hidden Falls expansion, with the recommendation that trail head facilities start small and are carefully phased in. PLT owns 2,500 acres of land and conservation easements within the Raccoon Creek and Bear River watershed amongst the blue oak woodlands and rangeland. The majority of the trails will be on PLT land, so having their support now is key.

The Supplemental EIR for the Hidden Falls expansion (2,500+ acres, 30-40 miles of trails, and additional parking) is scheduled for release August 29, 2019 and will start the 45-day review period, The GCTC Board will respond formally to the SEIR on our letter head.

The County has put out a tentative schedule for public comment:  
 Placer County Planning Commission September 26, 2019  
 Placer County Parks Commission November 21, 2019  
 And the **BIG DATE**, of **DECEMBER 3, 2019**, before the Board of Supervisors when **WE WILL NEED A BIG SHOWING OF SUPPORT** (put it on your calendars now).



Those who are opposed to the Hidden Falls expansion are working hard to STOP the expansion and additional parking. If you have not already signed up in support with the online petition iPetition, ‘Support Placer Trails’ <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/Support-Placer-Trails>, please do so today. If you have the paper petitions, get them filled out. You can mail them to Jeff Foltz, 2001 Shady Trail Lane, Rocklin, Ca. 95765, or bring them to the GCTC General Meeting on September 10th.

You can download a copy of the petition from the GCTC web site along with a map of the Hidden Falls expansion . **Encourage your friends, family members, and neighbors** to sign the paper petition, and the online iPetition. Encourage everyone to go on their individual social media sites encouraging support for Hidden Falls expansion and the natural wonder of this iconic foothill landscape. **The more support we have to show the Supervisors the better chance we have to get their approval.**



These Placer County Trails and open space are there for all of us and hopefully one day the trails will be interconnected to our trails in Nevada County. We need to continually support the non-motorized trails in our area which are constantly under attack, or risk having only arenas to ride in one day.

Once the SEIR comes out we will need to send out a new batch of letters to the Planning Commission, Parks Commission, and Board of Supervisors. A fact sheet and sample letters will be available highlighting the virtues of Hidden Falls expansion and the overall trail system from Tahoe to the Valley floor in Roseville and Lincoln, including the Pines to Mines Trail. It’s going to take all of us to get Hidden Falls expansion approved, **PLEASE** take a minute to sign a petition, send a letter.

**YOUR SIGNATURE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**



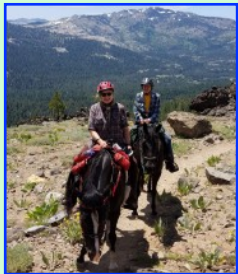
# Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp July 19-21, 2019



The scenic beauty of the area around Little Lasier Meadow captivated a record number of GCTC members this year. Seventeen rigs with 24 campers managed to comfortably fit into the 10 campsites. Our delightful camp host, Diana, welcomed everyone and also participated on the work day. Work time on Saturday was wonderfully productive! Major repair was made to the original wooden corrals. The campground maintenance crew leveled tables, scrapped, sanded and painted the ones needing paint, cleaned fire rings, trimmed low hanging branches, and replaced dirt in a corral. The tough connector trail crew worked on water bars and trimming. The Pass trail crew took a long 1.5-mile trail marking and clearing hike from camp to the bridge. Ed and Winston from the Tahoe National Forest Sierraville District cleared trees from the connector trail and camp ground. Several other odds and ends were accomplished too! Additional trips were made before and after the work weekend, bringing, then removing the 4 metal panel corrals that were approved by the forest service and purchased by GCTC, making a total of 14 corrals available at the camp ground. The 4 new corrals were dismantled and stored for the winter pending permanent placement next year.



Saturday pot luck dinner was awesome as usual. Savory BBQ chicken and tri-tip by grill guy Barry was complimented by all the talented GCTC chef's delicious salads, side dishes and desserts.



Riders traveled and enjoyed the many trails surrounding the campground throughout the weekend. The wildflowers were in spectacular abundance and snow banks lingered along the PCT. Long rides were accomplished both north and south on the PCT. Jamie and Suzanne rode to Wild Plumb (near Sierra City) and Jamie and Mary rode to Moscovice Meadow. After their stay at Lasier, Mike and Laurie drove past Webber Lake to Lacey Meadow and Creek for another great ride.

Thank you to all GCTC members and especially the participants of this work day who help keep the equestrian camp grounds available for all to enjoy. Welcome to Rob and Cathy Chase, Rhonda Labernik and Sarah Hillar on their first visit to Little Lasier Meadow; and thank you to the returning campers, Mary & Worth Lundin, Barry & Suzanne Vaccaro, Willie & Sue Brusin, Gail Anderson, Beverly Milke-Hillar, Jamie Canon, Bill Dryden, Laura Duncan, Jeff Foltz, Lori Moniz, Tom Fletcher, Sharon Silver, Stacey Estrada, Laurie Sweeney, Mike Peckham, and Kathy Cahouette.




Submitted by Mary Johnson



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**A WINNER EVERY TIME**



GCTC member Joan Fowle took home blue ribbons and Best of Division awards at the 2019 Nevada County fair. Every year I make my way over to Evergreen Hall to check out the exhibits. Consistently Joan's entries are winners. Next time you see her, ask for some tips on what goes into creating a blue ribbon entry.

The super-talented Joan also makes time to support GCTC events. If you've ever wondered about the beautiful packaging of the GCTC raffle baskets, you can know it's another of Joan's lovely creations.

**Congratulations, and thank you, Joan!**




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## LONEY MEADOW REPORT



How pleased I was to see the number of people who showed up for this workday. It just shows how dedicated our members are to maintaining our trails.

I took the port-a-potty up on Thursday, then drove up with my two horses on Friday. Kathy Cahouette, and Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro, were already there, all set up. They had ridden some of the trails to check out what work was needed.



Last year I saw how much needed to be done on the trail from the Dairy to Bowman Mountain. Several members worked there for a few more hours after the rest of us had stopped on the other trails. Still, the overgrowth was horrendous. It reached across the trail and made passing through the gauntlet uncomfortable, to say the least! To clear this section became my mission for 2019!!

We all owe a big thank you to Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro, Tom Fletcher, Jeff and Michelle Harter, Kathy Cahouette, Willie and Sue Brusin, Janine Wolf, and Jamie Canon. We rode our horses to the work site, tied them to various bushes and trees, and set to work. The trail to the back of Bowman Mt. was badly overgrown.

There had been an incredible amount of work done last year and it just seemed to challenge the brush to encroach even farther into the trail.

Half the team started at the top and the other half began at the bottom. The air was alive with the sound of loppers, gas powered trimmers and my little battery-operated chain saw.



What a team!! Brush, you have met your match!! I was just hoping to clear one side of the trail all the way (about ¼-mile) but these industrious members cleared both sides, several feet to each side!! It's now like a freeway!!

Gosh, with all my accolades for my wonderful team, I almost forgot one guy who helped pull it all together!! Thank you, Scott Costa, for the loan of your panniers. We were able to load up my little chain saw, two hedge trimmers and 4 loppers so Willie Brusin's horse, Al, could carry them an hour to our work site and back to camp. We would have been exhausted walking and carrying them all that way. No way could we have carried them while riding our horses. Another one I call "one of my kids". Thank you, Scott Costa.



After such a strenuous day of work and then another hour to ride back to camp, we were definitely ready for dinner. To no one's surprise, once again Barry grilled up some wonderful entrees: chicken and tri-tip! Yum. As usual GCTC members showed their talent in the kitchen, as well as on the trail. Delicious salads and side dishes complimented Barry's fare. Then Sue Brusin

presented her fabulous blackberry pie. Fresh picked and fresh cooked, it was the perfect dessert to top off our meal. We invited our neighbors Richie and Jane Schluter to dinner. They live near the Carr Lake turnoff. Richie offered to take the port-a-potty to his property for safe keeping after we left, so I didn't have to come right back the next day to return it to Grass Valley. Thanks Richie.

*Teri Personeni, Workday Leader*





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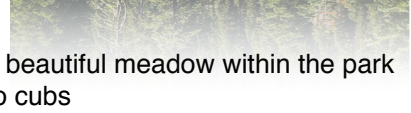
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# ROBIE PARK WORK/CAMP/RIDE REVIEW

~ Jamie Canon, Camp Coordinator

Our GCTC Robie Equestrian Park Work/Camp/Ride weekend was wonderful. Members Mary Johnson, Gail Plakos, Tom Fletcher and I arrived at Robie Park on Friday afternoon and got ourselves and our horses settled in. Later that afternoon we all stood at the edge of the beautiful meadow within the park and watched a mamma bear and her two cubs cross the meadow.



Saturday morning after a leisurely breakfast in the shade of Jeffrey and Lodgepole pines, we met with the folks from the Wendell & Inez Robie Foundation (WIRF). Considering the trail work we are used to doing with GCTC, the job they had for us was a piece of cake! We stacked limbs from a few trees that were down and stacked up some firewood. Yep, that's it!



Mary, Gail and I were lead on a hike up the "Jack Veal Scenic Alpine Nature Trail" by Breann Sober, President of the Robie Foundation. At the top of the trail there were stunning views from Castle Peak to Squaw Valley and all peaks in between. After lunch, we headed out on a ride to Watson Lake. On Sunday, we rode on the Deer Creek Trail, then explored areas of the Robie Equestrian Park itself.

We are looking forward to returning there again next year. The WIRF members there truly appreciated our help, and it's a lovely place to be and explore. We have already started planning next year's work/camp/ride. Our tentative date is August 8, 2020. Check out their website for more information on the 160-acre equestrian park, and maps. The park is generally open from early July through mid-September. During the park season, it hosts various events such as the Start of the Western States Trail Ride (The Tevis Cup "100 Miles -- One Day" Ride.) [www.robiefoundation.org](http://www.robiefoundation.org)



*Hope to see y'all there next year!*



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## Inspect Your Horse Regularly to Find & Remove Ticks

Skin checks are particularly important for horses ridden on wooded trails or in deep grass areas. Use both hands and eyes to locate ticks on your horse. Look carefully along the belly, in the groin area, under, and in, the tail and mane, beneath the chin, within the armpits, and down the legs. Ticks can attach anywhere, but they particularly like the softer, less densely haired areas of the horse, which are often areas that are well-shielded from the environment.

In addition to controlling the environment in which horses live by minimizing exposure to tick habitat, certain direct measures can be taken to prevent tick infestations on horses. The most important is for you to inspect your horse daily so you can find and remove ticks in a timely fashion. The shorter time a tick is attached to the horse, the less risk for disease transmission; some reports say that tick removal within 24 hours is key to prevention of infection, especially of Lyme disease.

Insecticides, such as permethrin or cypermethrin wipe-on or spray products, shampoos, or powders applied to a horse's hair coat, are helpful. However, they aren't guaranteed to prevent ticks from attaching, biting and transmitting disease. Topical treatments are effective for as long as the insecticide acts as a repellent, which usually wears off within 4-8 hours.

We've all heard advice about the best way to take ticks off horses, from coating them with nail polish to "cauterizing" them with a smoldering match head. But these approaches aren't necessary effective and may be counterproductive, causing the tick to regurgitate its meal, possibly increasing a horse's exposure to disease-causing pathogens.



Instead, keep it simple when it comes to tick removal. Using tweezers, grab the tick near the horse's skin and gently but firmly pull it out at the angle of attachment. Drop the tick in a jar that contains rubbing alcohol to kill it, then wash your hands thoroughly. You may wish to keep the jar with the tick in it in the event you need to send it to a lab for testing for Lyme disease.

Many recommend you make sure to not leave any mouthparts embedded in the horse's skin. But, *Equus Magazine* writes, "Don't worry if the head of the tick remains embedded in the skin. The horse's body will mount an immune response and eventually reject it, forming a pimple in that location. If the pimple is easily accessible, you can squeeze the head out, but don't go reaching up into delicate areas – such as high up on the thigh – or you risk getting kicked."

After the tick is removed, keep an eye on the area around the bite for a day or two. A rash or swelling may signal a developing infection. Report your concerns to your veterinarian, who may come out for a farm call or may advise you to monitor your horse's temperature twice a day for several days. If there's an indication of systemic infection, an antibiotic might be necessary.

~ *Equus Magazine*, Summer 2019 & *Stable Management*, February 2018

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