

# Florida Sport Horse Club August 2021-July 2022 Year-End Report

Members are commended for their active participation and continual connection with each other during another challenging year. Weekend rides have been very well attended, and there have been an average of 2 to 3 pickup rides during the week.



*Susan Buchanon, Mike Charron, Janet Schneider, Karen Turbeville, & Del Jones*

## Members lost: (4)

- Linda Sue Denmark
- Rene Hollis
- Andrea Mason
- Donna Coquyt

## The club began the year with 59 memberships and ended with 64. We welcomed:

- Cindy Savage
- Debbie Spurlock
- Mike Woodard
- Gail Pieniak
- Riley Williamson
- Rochelle & Pat Collins
- Michele Armstrong
- Erik Lundquist
- Amanda & Georgia England
- Jerre Wilson

## Community Activities/Work Parties:

🐾 Identified a “Share the Trails” sign for Polk Parks; the signs have been deployed on the Panther Point trail at Marshall Hampton

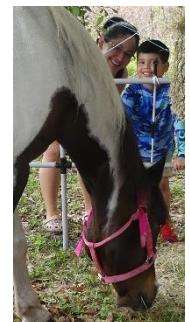
🐾 Celebrated the opening of the Colt Creek equestrian pavilion, inspired by member Maureen George. President Mike Charron, Karen Turbeville, and Janet Schneider gave short speeches. The club’s name is on the marquee beside the pavilion as a sponsor.

🐾 Twelve members trimmed trees and hauled tree limbs from Green Swamp West’s Ashley Campground at the request of SWFWMD in preparation for camping season.



🐾 Del Jones led Colt Creek’s first 2 moonlight rides, assisted by Molly Jones and Karen Turbeville. Several club members attended the rides.

🐾 Six members presented horses and their equipment at Tenoroc’s 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids’ Fishing Derby in April.



🐾 The club sponsored Colt Creek’s second Veterans Day Scavenger hunt, and has been asked to repeat the performance in November 2022.



Photo: Chancey with his human, Donna Fellers.

**Donna Fellers** grew up riding horses on her father's farm in Alberta, Canada. Throughout her life, Donna has become highly decorated, winning many trophies riding side saddle. Donna has been on many trail rides all over the country and is very active in many horse organizations. If you see Donna out enjoying the park, take the time to listen to some of her wonderful life experiences.



Photo: Luna with her human's dad, Del ready to ride the Colt Creek Trails.

**Del Jones** started riding horses in his teens and stopped when he joined the Army. Del served 8 years in the Army and 12 years in the Army National Guard and retired as a Sergeant. In 2014, Del started riding again when he adopted a rescue horse. Del now serves as the Vice President/ Trail Boss for the Florida Sport Horse club. If you see Del out riding, stop and ask him about his favorite trails or horse stories.



**Janet Schneider** fell in love with horses at age 5 when a neighbor's pony got loose and ran into her yard. She got her first horse at 17 and has had one (or 2) ever since with the exception of 5-6 years. Janet has ridden in many other states, and has a trip planned in July to ride in Iceland! Lakeland has been Janet's home for the past 41 years and she started riding at Colt Creek before there was even a ranger station. She got involved more with the park when the equestrian campground, and later the water project was implemented.

Janet selflessly offers her time and talents to our community. Notably, she has been a member of the Florida Sport Horse Club for about 15 years, and Secretary for most of that. We are very fortunate to have Janet serve as a volunteer for the Friends of Colt Creek State Park as a marketing and PR specialist.

Three club members (Donna Fellers, Del Jones and Janet Schneider) were featured on the "Horse Highlight" portion of Colt Creek's equestrian kiosk.



The club placed short hoses in strategic areas to enhance water access for horses in the Hampton Tract campground, Tenoroc, and Colt Creek's Middle Lakes, main equestrian campground, and equestrian expansion.

Submitted a club photo to the Friends of Colt Creek for consideration as the next equestrian shirt logo; it was accepted and the shirts are now for sale at the park.





## Other Activities:

- 🐾 Began indoor monthly meetings again
- 🐾 Increased Facebook followers to 1,313 on July 30, 2022. Each year has shown an increase:
  - 1,132 on July 31, 2021.
  - 830 on July 31, 2020, and
  - 513 on July 30, 2019
- 🐾 Reinstated the monthly club dine-arounds



- 🐾 Participated in a cow sorting clinic at JM Farms
- 🐾 Had an Obstacle Day with Audra Tyson
- 🐾 Added June Jansen to the Camping Committee
- 🐾 Held multiple campouts

- 🐾 Celebrated the Turbevilles' 50<sup>th</sup> and the Jones' 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries



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- 🐾 Implemented "Thanks for sharing trails" tokens to give to courteous hikers and bikers.

- 🐾 Placed a club ad, to run 4 times in the next year, in the Horse and Pony

Newspaper

Most importantly, club members came together to support each other in times of illness, surgeries, injuries, and catastrophic loss. The officers salute the caring nature and compassion of our people.



**Florida Sport Horse Club**

*Based in Polk County*

Dedicated to Trail Riding & the preservation of central Florida riding areas

<https://floridasporthorseclub.com>

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