

Rodeheavers Boys Ranch

May 2012

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**RANCH VOLUNTEERS  
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

Pictured below are 8 of our best full time resident volunteers. This group is not the entire force of volunteers, but they represent it well for our emphasis.

Left to right are Dick and Ruth Donaghy, Jerry and Joyce Flannery, Russ and Sharon Terjung, and Ray and Ginnie Dobbins. From North Carolina to New Jersey to Michigan, they are all from somewhere north and have a heart for the ranch during the cold winter climate each year.

For months they move in with their motor homes and set up shop. By shop, we mean Ray and Dick are excellent carpenters and keep our wood working area busy. Jerry is a metal shop craftsman and can do just about any simple repair. Russ works with computers, computer programs, and wifi challenges which are continuous in our rural setting.

Joyce, Ginnie, and Ruth help Patti in the kitchen in more ways than can be listed. Sharon helps with tutoring and reading, especially in Boeing Cottage. Wherever they are needed, they rush to help and for that, the ranch is better and "sweeter."



*"It's better to build boys than to mend men."*



## From the Executive Director:

*Dear Folks,*

*Greetings to all of our readers in this cooler time of the year. We hope all is well with each family and the blessings of God are being experienced and enjoyed in these great days of opportunity. To meet the challenge of needs and wants in our families, businesses, schools, and centers of worship requires a sobering attention to detail and, obviously, discipline.*

*We are fortunate to have many “disciplined” givers. That word – “discipline” – is certainly thought-provoking – to say the least. People who study the scriptures are very aware of Old Testament prophets and New Testament disciples. Prophets knew and told of the future. They were disciplined to speak and write the very words of God. Disciples (from root word, discipline) gravitate to a certain person with certain teachings in the New Testament days, which continue today and this certain person is Christ – and followers with influence may be called “disciples.”*

*One of the main attributes of a “disciple” is the discipline of giving. Persons who call themselves one of Jehovah’s servants or a follower of Christ and does not give are not realizing their potential – they say one thing and do quite another. Giving to a good cause is divine in nature.*

*After receiving a gift at a critical time the other day, we mused about how fortunate we are that many of our supporters are not “incidental” givers – it isn’t an after thought – it is a planned and disciplined act. With these folks, our work and its support is not incidental - it is paramount.*

*While it is a fact that no one will ever have the passion we have in the ministry and mission, it is more of a fact that each supporter has their own passion and mission as it relates to us.*

*Let’s take a little liberty here to add a beatitude to life that might go with the ones in the Scriptures. “Blessed is the man (mankind) that makes Rodeheaver Boys Ranch important in his thoughts, prayers, and gifts.” (Forgive the stretch here.)*

*The Psalmist in Psalm 119 spent 176 verses talking about the importance of the “word” ( laws, commandments, testimonies, statutes, precepts, judgments). The scriptures are God’s Word to us about history, doctrine, worship, and the future, but let’s don’t stop with just communicating with words. God said, “For God so loved the world that He gave ....” Christ was the foremost Gift ever given – heaven was closed to us without the Love Gift From God.*

*This Gift was not incidental - it was paramount – paramount to exclusive – the only way up. From Genesis to Malachai – from Matthew to Revelation – Old Testament mankind going up by believing a promise of the gift – New Testament mankind going up by believing the reality of that gift.*

*There is only one Creator God – His name is Jehovah and He is in the giving business from everlasting to everlasting. Giving is an attribute of God, perhaps the most important attribute.*

*Thank you for being a giver – to our mission – and others. Thank you for not treating us “incidentally.” The boys appreciate it also.*

*Thank you for caring the way you do.*

*Sincerely,  
Ken Johnson  
Executive Director*

## New Floating Dock

Glen and Joan Lester have been visiting the ranch for more than 15 years. Joan is Lois Johnson’s sister and they live in Carthage, Tennessee where Glen is a retired medical laboratory owner and operator. Joan is a registered nurse.

Their winter home is in Goodland, Florida where many of their friends reside also. Coming by the ranch, going and coming, is convenient for them, but they also help work special events on the ranch as needed. Glen serves on the ranch advisory board, also.

Their latest contribution is the engineering, building, and installation of a floating dock that parallels the existing large boat dock that has been there for more than 30 years.



The new unit is very accommodating for the launching, tying up, and loading of small crafts.

The most important part of this recent project is the safety factor. Handling small boats is now much safer and much easier than ever before.

Steve Watkins, Ranch Life Director, states, “With boys skiing, boarding, swimming, and diving off the high dock, this addition became necessary as a further precaution as we continue to be concerned for their safety. It is a great addition that our guests, the boys, and the staff utilize. Fish and Wildlife Officers also enjoy the convenience.”

## Grape Vineyard, Grape Jelly and plans for Blueberry Plants...



The ranch vineyard was moved two years ago when replanting became necessary. It is now in the farm section of the ranch located behind the barns.

Last year, Lois Johnson and Barbara Rowland decided to take on the struggling new vines as a personal project. The University of Florida Extension Service had helped with the planning, financing, and building, but as the old timers know, a vineyard needs constant care in order to grow.

Barbara and Lois, with these thoughts in mind, signed up for a class in vineyard care. Together with their friends and the help of the boys, they have accomplished a successful vineyard operation.



Barbara mentioned, "Being in the vineyard early each morning is a good place to think and meditate on the goodness of the Lord. The Lord taught several lessons around vineyards in the Bible."

Lois shares "Nurturing a grapevine is much like working with the young men here. To plant a young vine, you must take it out of the previous soil, knock off the dirt and set it in a pail of clean water just long enough for it to pull in the amount of water to quench its thirst. Then, place it in its new home, set this new vine in a hole surrounded by good soil, place a straight and narrow stick by it so that it will have a guide to lead it upward. Next, fertilize and water as needed and constantly remove weeds and pests that would rob it of its nutrients. Then don't forget to check it daily to be sure all is well."

## Purchase Your Cookbooks Now!

Boys, ranch staff, and our many ranch friends contribute to the Ranch Cookbook. Volume 4 is on sale. The book can be purchased through the ranch office or at the ranch store during our on-ranch fund raising events.

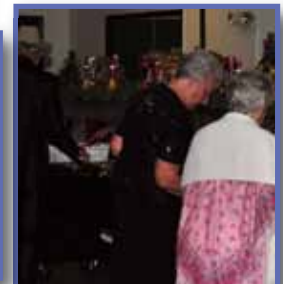
We are starting the next volume and need new recipes. Please send your recipes to the return address on the back of the magazine.



\$10.00 each.

## Staff Christmas Party And Guests

One evening each year since Rodeheaver Boys Ranch has boys all of the time arrangements are made for an evening at Christmas time for the staff along with invited guests. It is a fun time and enjoyed by all.





***“Only you  
can make my  
dreams come true.”***



# RODEHEAVER FOUNDATION



## **We Invite You to Take a Leadership Role by Investing in the Future as a Rodeheaver Dream Builder.**

Yes, I want to invest in the future of  
**Rodeheaver Boys Ranch.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate total gift/pledge to the capping:**

I/We wish to contribute a total gift/pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate payment options:**

I/We are enclosing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as payment in full.

I/We pledge the entire amount to be paid over :

1      2      3      4      5 years.

**Please bill:**      Quarterly      Annually

My/Our gift qualifies for a matching gift from:

(name of company) \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our gift is in honor/memory of:

I/We wish to remain anonymous (if this option is not selected I/We will be listed in campaign materials)

I/We would like information on naming opportunities.

**Rodeheaver Foundation**  
3400 Crill Avenue, Suite 1  
Palatka, FL 32177

## WORLD OF BLUEGRASS LOSES *FRIEND* AND *TOP SOUND ENGINEER*

On October 20th, 2011, the world of Bluegrass Music lost one of its greatest sound engineers. Since Norman Adams and Tony Anderson started the first Bluegrass Festival at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch over eight years ago, Gene Daniell, with the assistance of his wife Johnnie along with Madison Gibson, has always provided the sound. Gene was not only one of the top sound engineers in Bluegrass Music, he was a dear friend to the staff and boys at the ranch.

Gene's work as a sound engineer began at the long-running, popular Hamby Mountain Bluegrass Festival in Hamby Mountain, Georgia, produced by Charles and Betty Hamby. He has been a part of the Norman Adams and Tony Anderson Bluegrass Festivals for over 30 years.

We at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch will miss his presence at our future festivals, but we will always cherish the memories of the great sound he provided for the bands on stage and the fans in the audience. Our love and prayers go out to his beloved wife, Johnnie, as she tries to adjust to life without Gene.



### *Butterfly Island Bat Houses Project*



When Cody Ball was deciding on what project to choose for his Boy Scout Eagle Scout Project, he knew very little about bats and their habitats. He did find out that bats eat more than 1,000 mosquitoes per hour each night.

With this fact as a launching pad, he set out on how to produce a bat habitat for the island pond area to encourage their presence thereby lessening the number of mosquitoes on that part of the ranch.

Cody states, "A prototype was acquired that reportedly was a favorite of bats and their colonies. We disassembled the unit into its components and then used each component as a pattern."

Ray Dobbins (and Dick) helped Cody as advisors and helpers. As carpenters, they were able to make him aware of the various tips that would insure the unit's long wear ability. From cedar wood to brass screws to traction material for their feet grippers (bats hang upside down while resting or sleeping), the houses, by design, are weather (rain) resistant and bat friendly.

Cody further states, "We built 7 units which have the capacity to house 100 bats each. If you do the math, that's a lot of mosquito control. These houses will be around a long time and I'm glad to make a difference."

## Ranch Needs That Come To Mind

1. Twin Mattresses
2. Cottage washers and dryers
3. Commercial Mowers
4. 40 to 50 hp tractor
5. Horse Hay
6. Tents (Camping & Shelter)
7. Bicycles
8. PC's running Windows 7
9. Cottage Water Treatment Systems
10. Sturdy Bedroom Furniture

## "A Little Love Goes A Long Way."

Several years ago; I had the privilege of working with the administration of a well-known organization that ministers to the needs of inmates.

While attending a series of meetings in a large institution in Michigan with several hundred inmates present, the leader of the group I was with introduced a young man and then asked him to give a word of testimony.

The young man was very awkward and visibly intimidated by the rough looking group. After stammering and stuttering for a few minutes, the young man asked the audience a question; "Have any of you ever felt like nobody really loves you?" Hands went up all over the facility.

Then the young man asked another question..."How many of you, when you were born, your mother dumped you in a trash can in a ladies' restroom?" All of a sudden, he had every one's attention. As he went on to describe how, when his mother was ready to give birth to him, she went into a ladies restroom, delivered him, stuffed him into the trash can and then left. Fortunately, a few minutes later, another lady came in, heard him

crying and called the police who helped get him to a hospital. Later on, when he was just a little fellow growing up in an orphanage, an elderly couple heard about his story and came to see him. The elderly couple decided they wanted to adopt him. The adoption officials told the couple that they were too old to adopt such a young child. The couple persisted until, finally, the adoption agency gave in and allowed them to go through the adoption process.

That day, as this shy, awkward but determined young speaker told his story of how he was raised by this loving grandma and grandpa, there was not a dry eye in the building. He said the elderly couple would always emphasize that his life was special and they chose to adopt him because his need was so great and they thanked God they could be the family he never had.

Of all the speakers who addressed the inmates that week, none had a greater impact than this young man. Over the last ten years it has been my privilege to tell the story of Rodeheaver Boys Ranch to prospective donors across America.

In some ways this young man reminds me of the boys who come to the ranch. Most of their stories are not as extreme as his, but there are some similarities.

Like him, most of the boys who come to the ranch have been abandoned by at least one of their parents. A good number of the ranch boys have spent a lot of time living in foster homes. Nearly all the boys arrive at the ranch distrustful of adults and truly believe they are not loved by anyone. They have no place to call their own and no real family to support them.

The major difference between the ranch and the elderly couple who adopted the boy is that they only raised one...we raise 50 at a time.

We are blessed to have a solid foundation of supporters who understand the challenge we face, and help us with the financial need. Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is a special place. Thank you for helping make a boy's dreams come true.

Jeff King  
Development Director

### Did Someone Say Tricycle Races?



Rodeheaver Boys Ranch Staff and boys enjoy a combined event when adults and boys tricycled to victory and defeat.

The event proved to some of the old timers that they could do "their thing"-but much slower than before. The boys had a blast *blasting the staff!*

### Living Up High

Don and Joan Inman take a moment to get a picture of their cottage tree house located in the back yard at Westbury Cottage.

The tree house was made possible by good ranch friends and a good bit of volunteer and boy labor.



# Madison Hobbs

Two years ago Madison Hobbs became one of the most favorite sweethearts of the boys on the ranch in a most uncharacteristic way of a young girl.

Bobby Cothren, long time member and past president of our board of directors, several years ago, developed a friendship with Sidney and Brenda Hobbs, originally due to a common interest in antique cars. As the friendship grew, Bobby learned of one of the family traditions since Madison was a girl of six.

Madison's mother, Brenda, explained, "When Madison was six years old, she had a party on her birthday. We were new to the St. Augustine area and Madison was excited to make new friends. We hosted the event and had a great time, but Madison did not respond to the nice gifts like most children do – she was concerned about getting so much that she did not need and others not having the opportunities she had."

"Her Dad and I sat down with Madison and she decided to continue the fellow-



ship, games, food, and cake with her friends. She also decided to ask her friends to come enjoy and bring a gift card to be given to a charity. We were thrilled with her unselfishness and plan as it unfolded from her young mind."

Enter Rodeheaver Boys Ranch. Two years ago after her 10th birthday, she visited the ranch with her parents and was given a tour by Bobby and met with ranch folks in the office. Sidney states, "We met with Ken Johnson and some of the staff and Madison's questions were answered. I think we all fell in love with the place and have always enjoyed our friendship with Bobby. Madison informed Ken that she wanted the ranch to be the recipient of the gifts given at her next party and we don't know who was the most excited – them or

# Ranch Sweetheart

us or Madison."

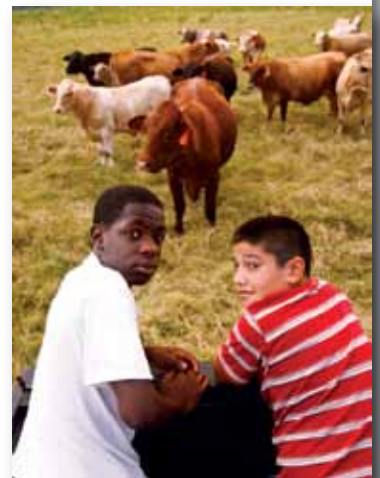
Madison states, "On my 11th birthday, we were able to give several hundred dollars in gift cards and donations and it was even more on my 12th birthday. I am thankful for my parents for their guidance and I enjoy giving to the boys."

Since Madison's birthday is so close to Christmas, the gift cards are forwarded to the ranch in time for Christmas for all the boys. "These gifts are, perhaps, the most unselfish gifts the boys receive each year. I am certain, that these gifts are from the youngest sponsor we have – especially those on this grand a scale."

"This young lady is one to watch as the years unfold," states Executive Director Ken Johnson.



## Around The Ranch



## These Piggies Went To Market



The Rocking R 4-H Club entered 17 pigs in the hog show this past March, and all went well. 4-H'ers were busy keeping their project logbooks current as they tracked their expenses and labor.

Improvements to the pig barn made the animals less apt to be affected by extreme temperatures. Added space for storing feed and tools made the responsibilities easier.



The ranch also experienced good numbers on the sale night when community individuals and businesses purchased each pig. Each pig project represented a business that the 4-H'er started and worked.

Each person saw a good year keeping expenses as low as possible and the sale prices were very generous from local interested friends.



## New Concrete Floor Upgrades Pavilion

Spence Memorial Pavilion received a huge face-lift as a new floor was installed that runs the entire course of the building.

Bluegrass fans, Good Sam's campers, boys ranch staff, and ranch boys never figured on the reality of a concrete floor in the event facility, but it's there – ready to be used and enjoyed.

Carlton and Ruby Spence of Jacksonville made the addition possible in its entirety. The need for the floor had grown as more older and handicapped folks added to our numbers that attend events. The prior existing floor was discarded mill web carpets, which were better than the sawdust of yesteryears, but not satisfactory to those who have to use extra care in being mobile, especially those in wheel or power chairs.

The area can also be used for the boys with semi – inside events such as archery, roller skating (blading) shuffleboard, tricycle races, and other activities.

Greg Buchanan, Activities Director, states, "The huge covered floor will serve in just about any capacity we can imagine. Large events will be just a fraction of the use in the days ahead. We are pleased to have yet another asset that makes life for the boys a little nicer and more exciting."

Jeff King, Development Director, relates, "The group most excited about the new floor is the bluegrassers that come see us twice a year. They are really motivated by the completion of this project. There will be some issues with the sound engineering during performances, but we're sure they can figure the echo out along the way."

Bobby Cothren, Past President and Facilities Chair for the ranch board, said, "Carlton Spence has a gift for being sensitive about what the ranch needs next when it comes to capital improvements and we are glad to serve with a man of his foresight and generosity. This facility is a grand improvement."



## FRIENDS FOR LIFE SISTERS AT WORK

Sisters Clara Richmond and Nola Green have a lot of reasons for visiting and working at the ranch. While they maintain they are retired and living in their latter years, you could not tell it by their work ethic.

Clara's daughter, Joan Inman, is the cottage mom in Westbury Cottage. Westbury Cottage gets most of Clara's attention and Nola can double the efforts when she is pres-

ent on ranch. Clara and Nola serve as special hostesses to keep the ladies cared for during Festival days when the Bluegrass performers and fans are on ranch.

Whether it is a good word of encouragement, keeping the restrooms presentable, or fetching something a visitor needs, they make people feel better about their visit.



Nola and Clara both lost their husbands some years ago. Nola lives in Grovetown, Georgia and Clara lives in Halifax, Virginia.

The ranch is fortunate to have this friendship with these ladies. Westbury Cottage and the ranch as a whole experience measurable improvement during their stays. We are thankful for their friendship.

## Palatka Bluegrass Festival February 16, 17 & 18, 2012



**Make Your Plans Now  
for the  
Fall Palatka Bluegrass Festival  
October 11, 12 & 13, 2012**



*Pictured is Robert Siemiatkoski. Robert lived at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch ranch during the years 1965-1972. Each year at the Seminole Christmas Party for the boys, Robert tells his story about his years at the ranch and the impact the ranch made on his life. It really gets the boys' attention every year to hear Robert's personal testimony of his years living on the ranch. Robert's current position at Seminole Electric is Electrical Maintenance Supervisor and he is a wonderful ambassador for the Ranch.*

### **Seminole Employees' Annual Christmas Pizza Party**

Approximately 13 years ago, the employees at Seminole Electric held their 1st annual Christmas party for Rodeheaver Boys Ranch. According to Beth Bailey, the Seminole Employee who currently coordinates the party with the ranch, "It all began when several employees got together and tried to think of a way the employees of Seminole Electric could help the children at the Boys Ranch. They decided to put up a tree decorated with an envelope for each child that the employees could put donations in. It went over so well, that by the end of the day, they had to redecorate the tree because so many people wanted to give. What started out as a hamburger and hot dog menu has changed over the years to a pizza party, 45 pizzas to be exact."

Beth also states, "Over the years, this has become an event that many Seminole employees look forward to... Held in the middle of December each year, we have on average 12-15 employees, plus some family members, who attend to help make the party a success. They volunteer by pouring soda, cutting cake, dishing out ice cream, and helping with all those toppings. Every year, we continue to be impressed by the courtesy, politeness, and gratitude of all the children who live at the Ranch and we hope to be able to continue this annual tradition for many years to come."



### **First Baptist Church Crescent City Christmas Party**

Bob Hughes invites his Sunday School Class out of First Baptist to fellowship with the staff and boys. Bob, a published author, always brings a fitting devotion at Easter and Christmas when they are with us.



### **Kiwanis Christmas Party**

Mr. and Mrs. Santa pose for a picture with some of our boys who still like the Santa kiddie attention.

### **Sorority Sisters Dinner And Donation**

Jeff and Ken accept a generous gift from Michelle Michael, President of ADK. Pictured are other members grouped around Karen Hughes, our contact person.



### **Jaycee Christmas Party**

The Jacksonville Jaycees come out each Christmas and actually host a field day of sports and games.

# Adams and Anderson Surprised as Recipients



Pictured left to right are Ken Johnson, Judy and Norm Adams, Susan and Tony Anderson, Jeff King, and Bobby Cothren. Norman and Tony (donning hats) were chosen as grand marshals for the October Palatka Bluegrass Festival last fall.

Judy and Susan are holding the Mare's Leg type "shooting irons" that were awarded as a gift to commemorate the occasion. After all, "marshals" need their "shooting irons."



*Coming Soon*

**Fall Palatka  
Bluegrass Festival  
October 11, 12 & 13, 2012**



## Rodeheaver Boys Ranch Vehicle Program

"Be a part of Rodeheaver history... your vehicle donation will help change a young man's life!"

### Donate Your Vehicles

- \* CARS
- \* Trucks
- \* Vans
- \* Motorhomes
- \* Campers
- \* Motorcycles
- \* Farm Equipment
- \* Boats



**It's Better To Build Boys Than Mend Men"**

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Holidays  
Around  
The  
Ranch



## **RANCH WRANGLER MAGAZINE**



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