



Rodeheaver Boys Ranch

January 2013

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



From the Executive Director:

Dear Friends,

*I hope this note finds you and yours in the best of health and the best of spirits. God has been good to all of us, and for that, let's be thankful during this special time of the year.*

*Lois and I recently had the opportunity to travel back to Winona Lake, Indiana, the home of Homer Rodeheaver and also the location of the sacred music publishing company he started. Our visit was to touch base with old friends and get a renewed sense of who our founder was and what he believed.*

*Accompanying us for most of the trip was Susan Brandenburg, a friend of the ranch. Susan has been commissioned to write the story of Rodeheaver Boys Ranch's 62 years of operation. One thing we certainly wanted to accomplish was to spend some quality time with Bruce and Ann Howe. Bruce is 92 years old and was Mr. Rodeheaver's personal assistant. Although he was mending after stomach surgery, Bruce was alert, in good spirits, and still driving his car to appointments. I was reminded of what the late Walt Pellicier, our former Sheriff of 34 years and board member, said about Bruce on one occasion, "That Bruce Howe is an energetic little stick of dynamite."*

*Knowing Bruce these past 15 years, I would have to agree with Walt. On this trip, we met Bruce at the museum where Mr. Rodeheaver's things are on display. It did not take Bruce long to get seated in Mr. Homer's chair behind his original desk in the original office which is part of the museum located in the old but restored Westminster Hotel. (Mr. Homer's things are roped off to the public, but not to Bruce.)*

*Bruce kept Susan busy writing her notes - or was it Susan who kept Bruce moving smoothly from subject to subject? Lois and I sat for awhile mesmerized by the story being told and considered ourselves honored to be present at such an historic moment. The afternoon went by fast - even when you think about the "tale being told" spanned 72 years. With Bruce, it was like yesterday.*

*Later we went to Bruce's home where the stories continued. Lois and Ann talked of family and life while Bruce, Susan, and I visited other parts of the estate. One of Bruce's last actions on this visit included sitting down with me and writing in his own hand a check to the Ranch. Then he sat back and explained where the ranch fit in his and Ann's estate which will be addressed in their charitable trust. Like Mr. Homer, Bruce was thinking of someone other than himself.*

*Later, Ann joined us as we went to the Boathouse Restaurant there in Winona and had a delicious meal. Bruce struggled with hearing in the crowded dinner house, but had no problem finding another story to expound upon. When we went outside, it was pretty chilly and Bruce was noticeably affected. Ann brought the car around and Bruce told us he loved us and he would see us the next visit or in heaven - whatever the Lord had for the days ahead.*

*Susan spent some more writer's time with Bruce on the next day. Lois and I had to leave early the next morning to catch a flight after we had breakfast with Susan. As we drove away that next morning, we spoke of and imagined the old days when Bruce was in his prime helping Homer Rodeheaver do the work of the ministry, the music business, and getting Rodeheaver Boys Ranch started.*

*Bruce is part of what Mr. Homer was part of - they truly were the greatest generation.*

Sincerely,  
Ken Johnson

## Spotlight On The Mitchems



Dr. Robert Mitchem and his wife Beverly are special friends of the ranch staff and boys. His volunteer efforts with events on ranch wildlife management, board member, and treasurer has benefited the ranch in many ways. His financial support has made much of a difference in our ability to help boys.

Robert and Beverly were married in 1956. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, Robert is a partial disabled U.S. Army veteran. He attended the medical college of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee and began his work in Orlando where he practiced for over 10 years.

In 1971, he moved his practice to Palatka where he worked (full time) until age 65. He continued to see patients for more than 9 years and then retired completely from practice at 74 years of age. His contact with the ranch was a sporadic beginning in

the early 70's, but he did not get active as a volunteer until the late 90s'.

He has served as teacher, deacon, and on various committees, and as a committee chair person for terms at First Baptist in Palatka. The outdoors have always had a hold on him, and his passion for hunting (especially turkey hunting) is a matter of record. After other invitations from neighbor Bill Huntley, Robert Mitchem visited the ranch on several occasions and has been a great friend working closely with the ranch administration ever since.

"Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is my favorite charity and one that I fully respect and want to help. The land that belongs to the ranch is fun to work and the fellowship of the boys and staff is second to none. Beverly and I are blessed to be associated with such a fine group and worthy work," states Robert.

Robert and Beverly have three children-Debbie, Sherri, and Jerry. Debbie is married to Greg Bacon who is also a Rodeheaver Board Member. Sherri is married to Chad Evans. The Mitchems are blessed with 6 grandchildren for whom they are very proud.

At 82 years of age, Dr. Mitchem continues to make friends for the ranch by introducing others to the staff and boys.

"Dr. Mitchem and Beverly understand the heartbeat of the ranch and we are fortunate to have him as a volunteer worker and board member," states Ken Johnson, Executive Director.

## Planning For The Future Through Lessons Learned In The Past

As we begin a new year, the staff and boys at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch are once again reminded of what a privilege it is to live on the ranch and to also experience first hand the transformation of what an old-fashion, God-fearing, agricultural based, residential, working ranch can make in the lives of 50 rebellious, street-wise, hard-hearted, knot-headed, teenage boys. Because the Ranch is a faith-based Christian child-care agency, we are also mindful of how important our donors are to its survival.

Without the continued financial support of our many friends, the miraculous changes we see in the lives of the boys could become a thing of the past. Rodeheaver Boys Ranch has a rich heritage and a proven track record of helping disadvantaged young men get on the right track for a positive future. One of the administration's major concerns is that because of hard times nationally, and because of so much uncertainty about the future, our donors, either because they can't support the Ranch any more, or they are just plain afraid of the future, may stop sending their support.

Without the programs offered by the Ranch, these boys would have very little

hope for the future and without the support of our donors, the Ranch's care for the boys would have to be reduced or discontinued completely.

Over the last several years, some of the Ranch's most effective fundraising efforts have been on-ranch events that introduce the boys and staff to new groups of people. These are individuals who are very passionate about a particular hobby or a type of entertainment. Current examples of these groups are the Bluegrass Festivals, Good Sam's Rallies, Annual Meeting/BBQ, etc.

We have recently added two new on-ranch fund-raisers that we hope will attract new groups of people to the Ranch's mission. Our hope and prayer is that these new folks will appreciate the special atmosphere that exists here, and that some of them will start supporting the Ranch, just like many of its Bluegrass and Good Sam's friends have done.

This last October, Amanda Morgan and Cathy Watkins, who both manage the ranch horse-riding program, organized the inaugural "Ride For The Ranch" trail ride. They put on a good program and had 36 riders to participate. With all of the

horse enthusiasts who live within a 100-mile radius of the Ranch, we hope this special group of horse-lovers will band together once a year to help support the Ranch's mission. The other new event is scheduled for March 9, 2013. The Ranch will be hosting its inaugural "Rodeheaver Boys Ranch Classic Auto, Truck, and Motorcycle Show." There is already a considerable amount of momentum building for this show. There is a copy of the ad for the car show in this issue of the "Ranch Wrangler."

The reality is that the ranch needs additional support to survive. We believe the best way to accomplish that goal is to find new and creative ways to attract new people to the Ranch. After they have been here a while, we believe the changed lives of the boys, the excellent facilities, and the positive testimony of current donors will convert many of them to become regular contributors to the Ranch. If you currently support the Ranch, thank you. If you do not currently have Rodeheaver Boys Ranch included in your charitable giving portfolio, *come give us a look...we believe you will like what you see.*

Jeff King  
Development Director



### Woodworking - One of the Boys Favorite Activities.

Below and left is Scott Phillips who instructs the boys on choice of wood, cutting patterns, equipment, technique, and safety.





***“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 campaign:**

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.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Rodeheaver Foundation**

3400 Crill Avenue, Suite 1

Palatka, FL 32177



### First Baptist Church Picnic

Several hundred folks came out for the church's annual summer picnic. This year they decided to use the Ranch Pavilion for the activity. Tours were given. The food was great and the boys enjoyed mixing with the folks who came.



## Purchase Your Cookbooks Now!



Update: 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. Volume 5 is at the printer and will be for sale soon! For cookbook inquiries call: 386-328-1281

## Ranch Needs That Come To Mind

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

## Bitter End- Hunting Trip Highlights

Pictured is Carlton Spence, the host and sponsor of the trip, receiving a gift of a crossbow from the boys, guides, and guests.

Pictured below are boys receiving cash prizes for their success in the woods. You will also see some of the ladies who were present on the last evening; (L to R) Joan Lester, Lois Johnson, Sara Josephson, and Lisa Perallon.



## Dr. Richard Perallon - 2012 Wagonmaster Award

Richard Perallon was awarded the 2012 Wagonmaster Award this past season.

Present in a regular chapel service to help us with the presentation were pictured (L to R on right) Dr. Steve Chapman, Samuel Taylor, Bobby Cothren, Carlton Spence, Dr. Richard Perallon, Ben Bates, Judge Ed Hedstrom, and Marc Spalding.

These men were former recipients of the award and traditionally are asked back to help with the award event. Pictured also were a group shot of most of the boys; Carlton Spence presenting the award, Richard's wife Lisa, surrounded by Cathy Watkins (L) and Lois Johnson (R).





500 RV Camp Sites!  
\$25 per night  
For More Information  
Call: (386) 328-1281

Rodeheaverboys@gmail.com

# 1st Annual

## Classic Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show

Saturday: March 9th, 2013

380 Boys Ranch Road, Palatka, FL 32177

8 a.m - 3 p.m

Friday Dinner for Registered Cars  
(2 Adult & 2 Children Per Car)

### Top 30 & Best of Show

5 Awards for Motorcycles  
(Participant Judging)

Music      Goodie Bags      Cash Prizes  
Door Prizes      for 1st 100      50/50

Entertainment by  
**ShowTime USA**  
Starting @ 12:00  
on the stage under  
the pavilion

REFRESHMENTS  
INCLUDING  
**The Ranch's Famous BarBQ**  
served at the Country Store at  
the back of the pavilion

Presented By



Mail the registration form below to:

C/O Richard Wilson

15610 Tison Road - Jacksonville, FL 32218

Phone: (904) 757-8917 -or- (904) 591-6018 E-Mail: [rwilsonjax@aol.com](mailto:rwilsonjax@aol.com)

\$20 Pre-Registration

Entry Form

\$25 Day of Show

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

Vehicle Make / Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be attending the friday dinner? Yes  No  Will you be camping? Yes  No

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_

**Disclaimer:** Entrants and participants by execution of this entry form, release and discharge the Roadheaver Boy's Ranch, The First Coast F-100, and anyone else connected with the management of this show from any and all damages, injuries, losses, judgements and/or claims whatsoever that may be suffered by any entrant or participant to his person or property.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SHERRY BOYD, M.C.

Adams and Anderson, LLC Present:

"It is better to build boys than to mend men"

NO VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING

9th ANNUAL!



# PALATKA BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL



A FAMILY FESTIVAL

## FEBRUARY 21, 22 & 23, 2013

Sound by BLUE RIDGE SOUND

### RODEHEAVER BOYS' RANCH

"Queen of Bluegrass"

"2010 Country Legend of the Year"

380 BOYS' RANCH ROAD  
PALATKA, FLORIDA 32177  
(10 MILES S. FROM PALATKA ON STATE ROUTE 19)



**GENE WATSON**  
& The Farewell Party Band  
(Saturday, 23rd)



**DAILEY & VINCENT**  
"2008-2010 IBMA Entertainer of the Year"  
(Thursday 21st)



**THE SELDOM SCENE**  
(Friday, 22nd)



**THE GIBSON BROTHERS**  
IBMA-Vocal Group of the Year-2011  
(Friday, 22nd)



**RHONDA VINCENT & THE RAGE**  
(Saturday, 23rd)



**GOLDWING EXPRESS**  
(Friday, 22nd)



**THE MARKSMEN**  
SPBGMA - 7 Time Bluegrass Gospel Group of the Year  
CGMG - 4 Time Country Gospel Quartet of the Year  
(Friday, 22nd)



**THE GRASCALS**  
"IBMA Entertainer of the Year 2006-2007"  
(Thursday, 21st)



**THE LITTLE ROY & LIZZY SHOW**  
(Saturday, 23rd)



**DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD**  
(Friday & Saturday 22nd & 23rd)



**NOTHIN' FANCY**  
(Thursday, 21st)



**THE BLUEGRASS BROTHERS**  
(Thursday, 21st)



**TONY HOLT & THE WILDWOOD VALLEY BOYS**  
(Saturday, 23rd)



**THE JAMES KING BAND**  
(Thursday, 21st)



**ALECIA NUGENT**  
(Friday, 22nd)



**THE CROWE BROTHERS**  
(Thursday, 21st)

(Ticket Prices Do Not Include Camping)

SHOWTIMES:	GENERAL ADMISSION		
	ADVANCE	GATE	RESERVED
THURSDAY, 12 Noon - 10 p.m. (Open stage at 11 a.m.)	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
FRIDAY, 12 Noon - 10 p.m. (Open stage at 11 a.m.)	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
SATURDAY, 12 Noon - 10 p.m. (Open stage at 11 a.m.)	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
3-Day Advance (Weekend Ticket Special)*	\$75.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Children Ages 6-13, \$15.00 per day, 3 days	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Children Under 6			FREE with Parent

Tickets not mailed; processing fee on credit cards: (\$3.00 per 3-day ticket, \$2.00 per 1-day ticket)  
\*Order Tickets Online at: [adamsandersonbluegrass.com](http://adamsandersonbluegrass.com)

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Camper Hook-ups (Water & Electric)  
**For Camping Call: (386) 328-1281**  
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Quality Inn & Suites (386) 328-3481  
Crystal Cove Resort (386) 325-1055  
Sleep Inn & Suites (386) 325-8889  
Ask for Special Bluegrass Rates AT ALL MOTELS.



**THE MORON BROTHERS**  
(Saturday, 23rd)

**MUSIC RAIN OR SHINE!**  
(COVERED PROVIDED)

Security Guards On Duty  
NO Alcoholic Beverages, Smoking  
or Pets Allowed in Concert Area  
-Strictly Enforced-  
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE  
ADMISSION TO ANYONE.

PLEASE BRING LAWN CHAIRS.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
**No High Back or Lounge Chairs.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for \_\_\_\_\_ (specify day/s)  
at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (total) FL

For tickets, complete details and free mailing list, contact:  
**Adams and Anderson, LLC**  
P.O. Box 98  
Dahlonega, GA 30533  
**Phone: (706) 864-7203**  
[www.adamsandersonbluegrass.com](http://www.adamsandersonbluegrass.com)





## Hay Baling Time

Hay is baled and loaded for its removal to the storage area here on the ranch to feed the cows in the winter. We have 100 acres on the north side of ranch road that is cut and baled for hay each year.

### “Count Your Blessings, Stitch Them One By One.” Georgia Pacific Ranch Partner

In June, 2011, at the 37th Annual North Carolina State Bluegrass Festival in Marion, North Carolina, Betty Fulbright talked with staff at the Rodeheaver Boys Ranch booth.

After hearing the mission of the ranch announced at the festival by MC Sherry Boyd and talking to staff at the booth, Betty shared that she and a group of ladies in her sewing circle wanted to work on a fundraising project for the ranch by sewing a pieced, handmade quilt. She said that quilts they have made for other projects have raised hundreds of dollars.

During the 38th festival in June, 2012, the “Sassy Stitchers” and Betty presented to Jeff a beautiful hand-made patch-work quilt to be used in fundraising. The style of the block is “Nice and Easy” and the ladies stressed the fact that everything on the quilt was hand stitched. Twenty-five ladies worked on the quilt over approximately 30 hours.



Georgia Pacific’s Trisha Bowles presents a check to Executive Director Ken Johnson for the operations of the ranch. Georgia Pacific has been a supporter for many years.



Above-(Left to Right) “Sassy Stickers” from Conover, North Carolina: Janet Dixon, Doris Houser, Sheila Bradshaw, Betty Fulbright.

Left Photo -(Left to Right) Presentation of the “Nice and Easy” block quilt: Sheila Bradshaw, Betty Fulbright, Jeff King and Doris Houser.

# Annual Palatka Bluegrass Festival





## Bluegrass Grand Marshal Bobby Cothren

The 2012 Fall Bluegrass Festival grand marshal, Bobby Cothren, was awarded a Mare's Leg "Shooting Iron."

Carlton Spence represented the presentation delegation. Pictured in the group picture (L to R) are Judge Ed Hedstrom, Steve Watkins, Marc Spalding, Dr. Robert Mitchem, Bobby Cothren, Carlton Spence, Richard Perallon, MC Sherry Boyd, Ken Johnson, and Jeff King.



## 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 To Mend Men**

# ***Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, Inc.***

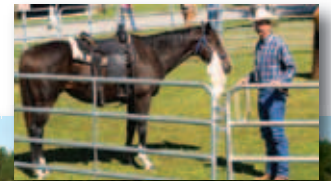
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Shots From Around  
The Ranch

## **Annual Horse Ride**



# **RANCH WRANGLER MAGAZINE**



Phone: 386-328-1281  
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Steve Watkins – Director of Ranch Life  
Jeff King – Development Director  
Greg Buchanan – Vehicle Program/Activities Director  
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Don Holmes – Vice President RBR  
Sam Taylor – Treasurer RBR  
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