



# Indiana Fox Trotter Association

Camping at Brown County September 20-22 was well attended. The camp was busy with many riders taking advantage of the warm and dry weather. Bees on trails were well marked and we were able to arrange small group rides and avoided the bees that are always a concern this time of year.

Saturday three small groups rode out and all met at Story Inn for lunch in the lower level bar area. The hitching rails had all been re-graded and new stone had just been put in place by the ITRA. The flowers out front of the inn were at their peak and the food was yummy.

Our potluck Saturday evening included smoked pork loin and ham provided by host, John Heldt. The dessert hit was the key lime pie provided by Pam Seifert.

Cheryl Gramling provided Watergate Salad which led to some talk about the origins of its name. It was also yummy. Watergate salad, is also referred to as Pistachio Delight or Shut the Gate salad. My family always called it Pistachio Delight so I've learned something new.

After dinner, we cleared the decks and had a nice campfire that wasn't needed for warmth but always leads to some good jokes and reminiscing. Some of the best parts of horse camping are the fires after the day's ride. Happy trails!

Susan Bannwart

*Below: A lovely head shot of Knox, whose person is Susan*



*Left: Carol R. (Hershey) and Brenda (Honey)*

*Lower Left: Carol H. (Blaze), Pam (Jett), Cheryl (Misty) and Kathy (Rocky)*



*Below: Shannon (Phil) and John (Rusty) a coming up 3 year old*



## NEW EQUINE ROUND UP INFORMATION

I have received the initial information concerning the Indiana Equine Round-up from Danisa Lewis for 2025

This year the Round Up will be held March 27, 28, 29

Equine clinics in both arenas throughout the entire event. A sip-n-shop on Thursday the 27th. A Ranch Rodeo on Friday at 7pm with a live band following after.

Saturday will have more clinicians till 4pm with a Ranch Rodeo at 4pm and **NEW THIS YEAR**, a Cowboy Olympics at 8pm.

I will bring more info to the December meeting for discussion.

The IFTA had its first annual campout and trail ride at Versailles State Park September 6-8.

Only four of us attended, but we had a great time! Tammy and I arrived on Thursday evening so we got a ride in on Friday morning. Storms were predicted for the afternoon but they went around us. Carol and Pam arrived on Friday afternoon.

Saturday was a beautiful, cool ride. We rode under the bridge that is highway 50. It is challenging at times because the horses can hear the vehicles go across over their heads and their hooves scho on the rocks, but we made it. We rode to a restaurant in a campground and had lunch. Several call and texts were made to Nancy Riehl who lives in the area to find the exact way to the place but it was worth the trip. The restaurant is inside a campground and has tie ups for horses. Saturday I made chili.

Sunday was another beautiful cool day! We rode the other side of the park and had lunch on the trails. Carol and Pam cut their ride short to head home and Tammy and I rode a little longer.

If you have never been there it's a really pretty park. There are only 9 equestrian sites available but they are very spacious with water and electric at each site. No shower house and a very clean pit updated pit toilet. The trails have been greatly improved and worked on by the ITRA. The map is easy to follow and trails are well marked. We'd like to make this an annual ride!

Submitted by Kathy Shafer



*Tunnel under Highway 50 ride*



*Carol (Blaze), Pam (Jett) and Kathy (Frosty)*

*Tammy (Sydney)*



Elkins Creek Trail Ride with NTR Pink Ride - October 13 to 17th

Our small group had a great time at this campground in Ohio. We had 6 registered riders for the NTR pink ride. The youngest registered rider was 12 years old, but we also had a little passenger enjoying the rides, as Cathleen Wilke brought her grand-daughters with her. 2 year old Veda was strapped to Cathleen and rode in front of her. She was such a trooper in the saddle and entertained us with her “WooHoo’s” and “Giddy-ups”.

Nivia rode on Cathleen’s older horse and we were impressed by her balance and adventurous spirit. She rode her horse very well and was a great addition to the trail.

We were also joined by Bill Cosby and his horse Beau. We enjoyed the skillset that Bill brought to the trails and helped manage a few work arounds where recent trees blocked the trails. He even got a banged up ear for his efforts as one work around that Carol led out got some bees riled up and the limbs of the tree on the opposite side of trail could not be seen from the approach. We had to slide a bit through an undergrowth and come back up, but a tree limb caught Bill’s ear and the back horses had to go through the area a little quicker.

Bill’s wife, Patty stayed back at the camper, and we enjoyed her company in the mornings and evenings. Bill’s truck had to be fixed during the trip but Rick, the owner of Elkins Creek took him to town to check on his vehicle.

Bill took Cathleen and the girls through another area when Kathy’s horse Rocky got caught up in a hanging ivy rope and as he was getting out it flipped back and caught Blaze’s back legs. We almost went down, but he caught himself. (Such a good boy)! Bill seen all this going on and steadfastly waited and dropped down a small ridge about 20 feet away with Cathleen and Niviia following. We thoroughly enjoyed having Bill and Patty with us, and look forward to more of his John Heldt stories! During the week we went into Ironton, Ohio and took in the murals that tell the city’s history. These are painted on the floodwalls around the city and you can tune in and listen as you drive and get the history of each panel. Very nice side trip.

Left: Leaves in Niviia’s hair.



Group 2024: Cathleen with Veda, Niviia, Pam, Carol, Bill, Kathy, Tammy and Cheryl. Thank You Cheryl, for being our Aunt on the trip and making sure we were all saddled and cinched up.



Left: Pam (Jett) and Carol (Blaze) in creekbed.



Right: Cheryl heading down into one of the many caves in the area.



Left: Tammy (Sydney) in a wash out cave.

## IMPORTANT MEETING

End of the year meeting will be held on  
Saturday, December 14th at Bird's BBQ  
9008 S. Walnut St. in Daleville, Indiana

11:00am

Plan to stay for lunch afterwards.

Day ride at  
Frances  
Slocum  
Recreation  
Area in  
Northern  
Indiana.

You can join  
the Frances  
Slocum Trail  
Riders and  
camp at their  
private  
campground  
just around  
the corner.  
Ask Kathy or  
Tammy on the  
process. It is a  
clean camp  
with hi-ties  
and the trails  
are great.



Top right: Tammy, Cheryl and Carol. The trails at Frances Slocum are challenging and beautiful. Like a northern Brown County.

Bottom right: Kathy at rest area. The Frances Slocum members have made a makeshift tie up area for horses.

Above: Cheryl and Carol at a road crossing with one of the largest trees recently taken down. This forest area is filled with these large trees.



If you have any of the following hacks or short cuts please forward for the next newsletter. Thank You!

- Barn Hacks
- Horse Hacks
- Tack Hacks
- Camper Hacks
- Truck Hacks
- Or anything that just makes having a horse easier.

Do you have something for sale?

We can put it in the newsletter!

Send your items and pictures to [heiny52@embarqmail.com](mailto:heiny52@embarqmail.com) or [cheingartner@gmail.com](mailto:cheingartner@gmail.com)

Thank You

Do you have a service to offer to other horse people?

Let me know and it will be included in the upcoming newsletters, samples can include the following or think outside the box of something you may be able to offer.

- Sewing or repairing of horse blankets, hay bags, bale bags.
  - Leather repair work or a special project.
  - Cleaning tack