



FLORIDA FOXTROTTER ASSOCIATION
JUNE 2020
“HOT TO TROT”

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the FFTA Officers and Board.

We are now into June, 2020, the year that has made everyone's life a challenge. While the FFTA events are on hold until the COVID19 virus is under enough control that we can again have safe gatherings, we want to let you know that we are getting the FFTA up and going. Our secretary, Jan McDougald, has received the Association's materials from Ann Hays, and is in the process of learning the "ins-and-outs" of everything. Teresa Mikelson has taken charge of getting our records for the treasury in place which has been made difficult because of banks keeping their lobbies closed. Our website should be up again soon so that current FFTA information will be available.

For your reading enjoyment in these days of hiding from the virus, we are including the results of the FFTA Survey which was sent to all members. We thank you for giving us your input as this will provide us valuable information from which to plan future activities. Also, included in this issue is a small article about the early history of gaited horses.

As far as the MFTHBA (our national organization), they have had to alter schedules and plans, too. The MFTHBA Spring Show and 3 Year Old Futurity (traditionally held the first part of June) has been postponed and will be combined with the Mid-America show in mid-July. The show will be held at the outdoor national showground in Ava, MO, rather than in the indoor arena in Springfield (the traditional venue for the Mid-America). This will provide a bigger outdoor facility for safer distancing during this Pandemic.

Enjoy your horse and stay safe.

Kathie Woodward

Home phone: 386-734-8561/Mobile/text 386-747-9014

Email: southernrhythm@yahoo.com

Address: 4750 Blue Heron Place

DeLeon Springs, FL 32130

2020 BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Kathie Woodward	386-747-9014	southernrhythm@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jackie Peterson	651-775-6884	jackie13501@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jan McDougald	704-677*6010	jmaviatrix@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Teresa Mikelson	904-501-2811	foxtrottert@gmail.com
Board	Nancy Chretien	315-730-3471	nachretien@yahoo.com
Board:	Marty Ratliff	727-946-7411	martyratliff@knology.net
Board:	Dana Proeger	352-279-1286	dproeger@tampabay.rr.com

Website: www.floridafoxtrotters.org

2020 FFTA MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS



Trail riding:

- Almost everyone who responded loves to trail ride. More members prefer loosely organized rides with picnic lunches/pot luck dinners, campfires rather than organized rides with entertainment, trail guides, etc.
- Day riding and overnight campouts are both popular
- Almost everyone wants to explore Florida's parks/preserves as well as joining some of the riding clubs on the trail.
- A few are wanting to see a National Trail Ride in Florida

Clinics

Many members expressed interest in having the opportunity to learn more about horses and gaited horses in particular in the form of clinics.

- Mini-clinics combined with other events are more popular than day long clinics
- In regard to the gaited horses these are the clinics that most people want to attend:
 - ✓ Learning how gaited horses move and how they are different from other horses
 - ✓ Bits/bridles/saddles for gaited horses
 - ✓ Recognizing the gaited horses' gaits is quite popular
 - ✓ Many respondents are interested in training horses and horse tricks
 - ✓ Shoeing gaited horses and judging gaited classes are of interest
 - ✓ History of the gaited horse drew quite a few respondents
- Horse behavior and veterinary issues are quite popular topics
- Some other areas members would like to learn more about are dressage for gaited horses and natural horsemanship.
- The topics of least interest are cattle sorting, Florida history with the horse, camp cooking, and judging gaited classes.

Shows/Competitions/Other

Realizing that many members have not had experience with competitive events (including shows), it was surprising how many showed some interest in learning and participating in some sort of competition.

- The two events that are favorites are Formation (drill team) Riding and Obstacle competitions. The Formation Riding is a group endeavor and the Obstacle competition is an individual event.
- The next popular items are horseback games, demonstrations, and parades.
- For those who are interested in the more traditional shows in the arena, there is interest in participating in shows that already exist by both adding MFT classes to these shows and/or participating in the All-Breed classes. (TWHRH/Rocky MT Assoc./Open Shows). Also, of interest is learning more about using the gaited horse in the dressage arena.

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS



- Would like to see Western Dressage/Dressage Principles for Gaited Horses/Ranch riding/versatility classes for fun
- Want activities/events that are (1) varied – not all trail events, (2) inexpensive, (3) provide experiences for all level riders, (4) events that are easy for riders/horses to travel to, (5) provide something educational with each event – learn something new, (6) non-stressful (7) friendly to all levels of riding abilities.
- Thank you for doing this survey as well as keeping the club alive.
- I ride a friend's MFT – she is an older horse but still interested in anything with the group – Favorite is trail and beach riding. P.S. I'm a total novice!
- Brenda Imus made a 52 minute video on bits. I've watched it several times. It would help a lot of people to watch it. "Biting the Gaited Horse." / (1) obstacle clinics would be good for us and our horses and fun. (2) Camping with simple group meals. Pot luck or bring your own to a central location in the campground. (3) Camping with relaxed trail rides (4) Trail guides are okay if they're not QH slow.
- I like to trail ride and camp with my horses. That is my main focus. I'm glad the club is moving forward and will survive! It's really different belonging to a breed club and a trail riding club. I love my fox trotter. It's great to get together with other fox trotter owners. I'm looking forward to getting together with the fox trotter club again in the future. Central Florida is a great place to gather; however, I am not opposed to traveling to parts of Florida for get-togethers and gatherings.
- Over the years I have learned so much about the MFT, especially how unique it is among all the other gaited breeds. Continue to learn more about them all the time. /Also enjoy seeing all parts of Florida from the north, central, and south parts. Would really like to see the FFTA have activities in all these areas rather than just the same places every year.

GAITED HORSES – INTRODUCTION

The Real Hobby Horse



Those of us who ride Missouri Fox Trotters are often curious about the origins of gaited horses. People who ride QH, Arabs, Thoroughbreds and many other breeds of non-gaited horses seem to view gaited horses as oddities. So, what is meant by being “gaited.” The term “gaited” means that the horse does an “ambling” gait. In general, an “ambling horse” means an “easy gaited” horse whose foot-fall in all its gaits has at least one foot on the ground to “cushion” the ride – no “fly time.” (A hard-trotting horse has “fly time” – a time where all 4 feet are off the ground at the same time such as in a “hard” trot. This is what causes a rider to bounce up and down in the saddle.)

The history of the gaited (ambling) horses goes way back in time. Like many modern breeds, our ambling breeds go back to the Hobby Horse, some of whose ancestry goes back to the Middle and Far East. (Oh, yes, the Hobby was a real horse line—not just the easy rocking horse in our children’s collection of toys.) Some of these Hobby horses carried the prized trait for “ambling.” Many of the ancient chariot horses of King Ashurbanipal c.650 B.C. were amblers. Etruscan warriors rode ambler-pacers in c. 600 B.C. Some of these were the sire-line of the Hobby. There is evidence of “ambling” (Hobby ancestry) in the Ptolemaic Egypt, Roman Empire, and even in Carthage. Later in history we find “ambling” (Hobby ancestry) in Africa and Italy. Leonardo da Vinci has sketches of the Hobby ancestors. In the early Roman and Greece eras we find evidence ambling horses that are used not only for easy riding but also were bred for speed. A prized horse was one which could do both. Chaucer in medieval English literature mentions the “ambling” horse. Today we can see that diversity in our modern gaited breeds. We have gaited horses such as the MFT who are bred to traverse rough terrain with their unique Fox Trot. We have horses such as the “speed rackers” who are extremely fast. So, when our friends who ride non-gaited horses want to know if our “gaited” horses are something new, you can enlighten them a bit.

(An excellent source for the history and development of the horse is EQUUS magazine’s series of articles by Deb Bennett, PhD. Most of this information came from her article “The World’s Most Important Horse Breed -- the Hobby,” November 2014 Issue 446.)

Article for the Hot to Trot FFTA Newsletter. Kathie Woodward

FLORIDA FOX TROTTER ASSOCIATION

The Florida Affiliate of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association

Membership Application/Renewal 2020

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Other Family Members Wishing to Join _____ Birth Date _____

Other Family Members Wishing to Join _____ Birth Date _____

Other Family Members Wishing to Join _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

*****NOTE: The newsletter is sent via email. Initial here if you prefer a hard copy _____.*****

Your specific interests: Clinics _____ Shows _____ Trail Riding _____ Other _____

Member of MFTHBA? Name _____ yes _____ no _____ membership # _____
Name _____ yes _____ no _____ membership # _____
Name _____ yes _____ no _____ membership # _____

DUES: _____ Single Membership: \$15.00 _____ Family Membership: \$25.00

Please make your checks payable to the Florida Fox Trotter Association. Thank you.

Hold Harmless Release

For and in consideration of the activities, services and fees paid, Participant hereby does forever and finally release, remise, acquit, satisfy and forever discharge the Florida Fox Trotter Association (FFTA) of and from all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suit, debts, dues, sums of money, bonds, billings, contracts, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may arise for or against the FFTA for the activities of the Association. This document is meant to be a full and complete release from any and all liability that may arise from participating in the activities of the FFTA. This release is given freely and voluntarily by the Participant.

Signed (include legal guardian under 18 years of age)

Date

Other Family Member(s)

Date

Please submit this form and your membership fee to:

Florida Fox Trotter Association
c/o Teresa Mikelson
1133 Coral Farms Road
Florahome, FL 32140
foxtrottertm@gmail.com

Revised: March 2020



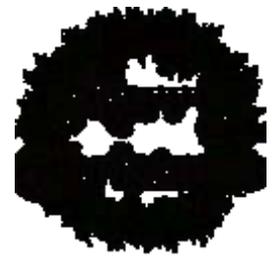
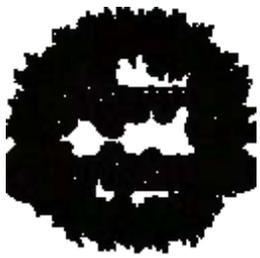
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC 5, 2020 - *FFTA Christmas 2020 (previously named The Christmas Gathering And The Gathering 2020)

*** See Flyer – next page***

*This event is subject to change as it was originally scheduled/planned as the FFTA's last event prior to the FFTA's planned disbanding. As the FFTA is no longer disbanding there may be considerations that will affect this event. Please have patience while the new Board considers the changes that may be necessary for this event considering the future of the FFTA.

More Events Coming Soon



*FFTA Christmas 2020

December 5, 2020

at

The Suwannee Music Park

386-364-1683

www.Musicliveshere.com

Call for reservations and let them know you are with FFTA and you'll get a discount. **Hope you can come whether you are bringing a horse or not.**

Fee's are:

Stalls: \$15.00 per night per horse

Paddocks: \$30.00 per night
(2 horse per paddock)

Full hook up \$30.00 .00 per night

Cabin – one bedroom - \$110.00 per night

Cabin – two bedroom - \$140.00 per night

Primitive camping and cabins available, call directly for price

Golf cart rental – \$35.00 per day must call directly to general store
386-364-4841

**FFTA Please RSVP by November 29th to Ann Hays (904-468-0081) or
Hays5671@yahoo.com. We will need a head count .**

*This event is subject to change as it was originally Scheduled and planned as the FFTA's last event prior to the FFTA's planned disbanding. As the FFTA is no longer disbanding there may be considerations that will affect this event. Thank you for your patience while the new Board considers the changes that may be necessary for this event considering the future of the FFTA.