



I am relating an abbreviated history of the development of the Silver River Equine Trails (now Silver Springs Equine Trails) to the best of my knowledge and memory.

In 2005 a couple of Friends of the Silver River were dedicated to opening horse trails on the north side of the river. Kathy Mattson and Carol Perez were instrumental in beginning the initiative to open the horse trails. They spent a great deal of time and effort into securing funds and support from the equine community to bring the trails from a vision to a reality. Sometime after the initiative had began I became aware of the project from Kathy who I rode with on occasion. Kathy retired and was moving out of state at which time I became more active in the project helping organize fund raising events.

When approval to proceed with laying out and mapping the trails was given, several horse clubs, Altoona Trail Riders, Sun Country Trails Blazers, Marion County Horsemen's Assoc. and SEDRA, as well as many area equine enthusiasts came together working hard to clean, trim brush and put markers on the trails. A plaque is in the kiosk at the trail head commemorating many that supported the project with funds or hard work.

In March of 2010 a guided trail ride was put on to raise funds. Mickey Summers guided the ride, complete with geological, archeological, historical and botanical commentary. Everyone enjoyed the ride and appreciated Mickey's sharing his knowledge. In May of 2010 a poker ride was put on the raise funds as well. Both events were successful filling the trailhead parking to capacity.

During this development and funding raising time the trails were not open to the general public. After the turn lane at the entrance to the trailhead on Hwy. 40 was completed, Park Manager Bob Lamont authorized a "soft opening" to the general public on September 20, 2010. Since the opening of the trails many trail riders have enjoyed the beauty of the trails and a occasional spotting of wildlife.

Joyce Tyson



<http://www.mchainc.org/>



<http://www.suncountrytrailblazers.com/sctb/index.cfm>



## **South Eastern Distance Riders Assn.**

**"...to educate, promote and encourage participation in equestrian competitive distance events throughout the southeastern United States..."**

<http://www.distanceriding.org/>