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“ It’s better to build boys than mend men.”
Greetings to all our dear friends, supporters, and new acquaintances. We are happy to say that you are now reading the first issue of the “Wrangler” Magazine – the most ambitious news communication lately from the Rodeheaver Boys Ranch.

Many of our older friends remember the Ranch Rambler newsletter of years gone by that was published in the early days of the ranch and for about 7 years in the late ‘90’s and early 2000’s. We published those issues with in – office machines and some local help when it was available. It was fun to do and God blessed our efforts.

Some time ago the decision was made to publish an appropriate magazine style product that our readers would possibly enjoy more and if along the way we experienced more readers, the better we would like it. The main thrust of this new endeavor, *The Ranch Wrangler*, is to take some additional care in making sure our message is heard and to hopefully expand the number of friends and supporters that help us keep the doors open and the lights on.

By policy, we do not accept government funds from either city, county, or federal tax dollars when it comes to child care. We operate solely on the gifts of private businesses, churches, civic organizations, and individuals (families) who have a heart for what we do.

Being the oldest boys ranch in the State of Florida is one of our claims with which we honor all those who helped our namesake founder, Homer Rodeheaver. For 60 years you have helped us stay afloat in the bad times and the good. We hope you like this new look.

Let me take this opportunity to introduce our Editor, Edie Kynard. She is new to our ranch family and brings with her the skills necessary to accomplish our goal of having a good publication. We already enjoy her enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

Some have questioned the timing of this idea due to the difficult economic and political climate. It was decided that this is the very time to keep our heads high and our faces set like a flint to not only help more boys, but to be a better encouragement to our supporters. The Lord has been good to us and our goal in our work is to show our thankfulness.

We welcome your comments and, of course, cherish your support as we take this next step in the ranch’s long successful history. Write us if you care to. E-mail us if you like the cyber – space route – we would love to hear from you. Come and see us when you can – We’ll leave the front light on.

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson
Executive Director
2010 has been an exciting year in scouting as we had the honor of sending eight young men and three adult leaders on a backpacking trip of a lifetime to Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico. There the group encountered all sorts of wildlife, walked beautiful meadows, crossed mountain streams, and hiked towering peaks.

The young men on this trip did an outstanding job. Eleven (11) days were spent on the trail in the tail end of the Rocky Mountains. Fellow supervisors Teddy Betonio and Charles Lajueness joined our scoutmaster, Greg Buchanan, on this great endeavor.

The scout crew leader, Cody Ball (Cody is 17 and has been at the ranch for 7 years), was in charge and responsible for directing each day’s trek and activities.

The boys enjoyed the opportunity to participate in shooting sports, work as a lumber jack, shoot 3-D archery, milk a goat, make brick mortar out of mud, experience an Indian sweat lodge, learn to fly fish, load their own ammo, hike over 60 miles, camp at 11,760 ft, and much, much more. It will be a trip remembered by all who went.

Scout Master Greg states, “Some ask why we participate at Philmont. You would have to go yourself to understand – the team building these young men learn is second only to the understanding of responsibility that comes with backpacking a long distance. Most young men looking up at the top of an 11,760 ft mountain (Mt Phillips) would think climbing to its peak would be an impossible feat.”

Greg goes on to say, “To accompany them on that journey of what seems to be a million steps and endless efforts, and to be with those young men as they break out on that summit – to at last stand on top of that mountain – look down and start to realize nothing is impossible - at that moment - I can tell you - all the planning and struggle it took to get there is worth the experience.”

Nestled in a hammock of oaks just next to the river woods over looking the St. Johns River is the Biggers Memorial Chapel or more widely known as Ranch Chapel.

The beautiful building was constructed after Helen Biggers made the funds available to the ranch in the early 1980's.

One side of the forked building is the educational wing and it is equipped with the tools necessary for boys to get their homework and receive needed tutoring. It also houses a reading library.

The other side is a beautiful chapel auditorium equipped with comfortable pews, organ, piano, platform furniture and ornate, but simple, stained glass windows depicting scenes of children from the Bible. The large front stained glass is an artist's interpretation of Jesus Christ, the master carpenter, teaching boys his trade.

The chapel is used on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings for worship services complete with a song service, special music, announcements, recognitions, preaching and counseling.

The boys appreciate the comfort of the facility and enjoy participating in the special effort to accomplish an actual worship atmosphere.

The chapel is used also for weddings and funerals as they fit into the ranch’s general scheme of things and schedule. The beautiful natural cedar-lined walls and ceiling, adorned with simple lantern – like chandeliers, add to the experience.

A large movie screen that is hidden by the woodwork can be extended down for training films and appropriate picture presentations.

“This facility compliments the overall program of what our founders envisioned in 1950. The boys and staff are fortunate to have this to remind us of our heritage and responsibility,” states Ken Johnson, Executive Director. He goes on to say,

"It is a place of reverence where the doors are never locked which lends itself to individuals using it for convenient reflection and prayer. Visitors are welcome."
Welcome to the first issue of Rodeheaver Boys Ranch’s newest publication, “The Ranch Wrangler.” The administration has felt the need to produce a quality magazine highlighting the lives and stories of the boys and staff for a long time. Thanks to the help and commitment of several interested parties, that desire has now become a reality.

We hope this new publication will provide our current donors with positive feedback as to the direct impact their contributions have made in the lives of our boys. We want those who give to the ranch to truly believe as we do that, “It Is Better To Build Boys Than Mend Men.” We also hope the articles and pictures of the boys will serve as a valuable tool for introducing new donors to the history and mission of the ranch. Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is an incorporated not for profit 501 (c) 3 charity and does not receive any federal, state or county funding.

All ranch income is received through private sources, requiring us to utilize a variety of methods to generate operating capital. One program we use to generate support is through soliciting donations through our Vehicle Program. The Vehicle Program solicits cars, trucks, RVs, boats, and farm equipment then sells them in monthly auctions held right here on the ranch. We do all the work ourselves without any middleman. All donations come to the ranch and all the money from the sale of the vehicles stays on the ranch. The auctions are for dealers-only and account for about 1/3 of the ranch’s monthly budget. The donor receives a valuable tax receipt and the ranch benefits from the cash needed to take care of the needs of the boys.

Another popular method of contributing to the ranch is by participating in our fund raising events. The ranch now hosts two Bluegrass Festivals that draw several thousands of people from all over America and even several foreign countries. The Bluegrass Festival Park includes 516 RV hookups and a large covered pavilion for the music area. Norman Adams and Tony Anderson promote the festivals. Adams and Anderson L.L.C. is the top promoter in the Bluegrass industry. Norman and Tony do a wonderful job promoting the needs of the Ranch as well as their Bluegrass Festivals.

Interested individuals can also help support the ranch by responding to our special appeal letters we send out requesting contributions for specific needs. These appeals include Membership, Summer Camp, Back To School, Harvest, and Christmas.

All contributions given by a donor from April to the end of March the next year qualify to determine his/her membership level. A fourth method of giving to the ranch is through Estate Planning. There are several financial products available that provide special tax advantages when they are included in an individual’s estate plan. We encourage donors interested in including the ranch in their estate to consult with their own tax professionals or we can refer potential donors to professionals who are qualified to answer their questions. This type of giving can be highly sophisticated requiring the advice of CPAs and/or Tax Attorneys, or can be as simple as adding Rodeheaver Boys Ranch as a beneficiary to a Life Insurance Policy.

Rodeheaver Boys Ranch has a solid history of helping troubled boys receive a chance for a new life. April of this year the Ranch began its 60th year of operation. If you are one of those who helped us get here...thanks, and if your are new to the ranch family, please let us know if you have any questions about the Ranch’s history or mission. Come see us any time; we would love the opportunity to show you around.

Jeff King, Development Director

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.

Deuteronomy 16:17
The ranch dining hall is a favorite of the boys... the reason being the culinary skills of Patti Mc Clure. Along with her husband, Rick, volunteers along the way, and, of course, the boys on her crew, delicious meals are prepared complete from the salad bar to the dessert table with all the good things in between.

The dining hall was remodeled in the last few years due to an unwelcome inebriated visitor in predawn darkness driving his pickup through the dining hall. The repairs were made possible by interested donors. Our newer tables, chairs, and food presentation counters were done to address our needs as well as handling larger crowds at our festivals.

PATTI'S SKILLS ARE THE "ICING ON THE CAKE"

Patti has a background in catering and we enjoy her skills as a chef. The dining hall also serves as the center of food purchasing and storage for the cottages that are equipped with their own kitchens and very qualified cottage mom cooks.

"We are fortunate to have a chef and food service supervisor of Patti’s caliber here on the ranch. The staff and boys, I’m sure, realize the blessing of having these facilities and Patti’s skills certainly are the icing on the cake," explains Steve Watkins, Director of Ranch Life.

The Ranch General Store adds a dimension to the ranch during special tours, visits and events. The store provides an appropriate method of making certain ranch-made wares, ranch logo items, and general stuff available to our guests.

This air-conditioned nook next door to the Ranch Food Concession area is popular with the guests as they take a break from the continuous music during a festival. It can also be a stop on one of the many tours given to folks by appointment.

Butterfly Island is a special eco-system inside what is called a “bay head” in Florida. It is simply a higher land area, accessed by a walk bridge surrounded by water on all sides. The island hosts rest area benches, bird houses, flowers, and a grassy yard. In season, butterflies, dragonflies and birds are ever present. Glimpses of fish, bullfrogs and occasional alligators provide material for discussion and stories later on.

Welcome to The Ranch General Store and Butterfly Island

Lois Johnson manages the Ranch General Store.

Words by: Homer Rodeheaver 1950

If the boys will raise the calves... the calves will raise the boys

Welcome to The Ranch General Store and Butterfly Island
At Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, we appreciate every donor regardless of the size of his or her gift. Our ranch partners are our lifeline. And since we do not receive any federal, state, or local government funding, we would have a difficult time keeping our doors open without their faithful support. The ranch is currently celebrating its 60th year in existence and we would like to express our appreciation for those who contributed generously from May 1st 2009 through April 30th 2010.

Lifetime Or Gold Star Donors

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[ROBERT O LAW FOUNDATION INC]
MR AND MRS W R (BILL) BASS JR
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Mr. And Mrs. James Hargrett
Mr. And Mrs. Steven Gracheck
Mr. And Mrs. Mickey Westbury
Mr. And Mrs. Ray Dobkins

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38 KJV).
There is nothing in this world that can compare to being a boy; it requires no experience, but it does require some help to be a good one. That is what we do at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch: we take socially challenged, sometimes angry boys and put them in an atmosphere of wholesomeness in the midst of God’s out-of-doors and watch them become happy, well-adjusted young men.

The truck in the picture is a 1950 Chevrolet Stake Bed pick-up. It, like the ranch, is celebrating its 60th year. The boys in the picture are some of our younger fellows. The smiles on their faces speak volumes about the change brought about in their lives through their experiences while living on the ranch.

Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is not a camp or a reform school. It is, in fact, a working ranch with a homelike, happy atmosphere maintained by cottage parents and other ranch staff. These little fellows take to ranch life like ducks to water. They learn to swim, fish, hunt, play ball, ride horses, take care of animals and develop positive self-esteem through honest hard work. It takes a lot of help from a lot of different sources to keep the doors open, but we believe you will agree they are worth the investment.

Our new activity building officially known as the Langdon – Newby Building will soon add a complete and newly energized dimension to the ranch.

The presence of 50 boys can make any average meeting room seem pretty small – and that is what happened with our old activity building – it became very small with the large group.

Pearl Langdon, and Jenn Newby who are Jack Langdon’s mother and aunt made provision in their estates for this facility on the ranch.

Jack is a long time friend and supporter of the ranch and his mother and aunt were givers long before their death.

These two ladies lived in Peru, Indiana where Jack grew up. (Jack has lived his whole career as an attorney here in Northwest Florida and visits the ranch frequently.) He introduced them to us and they visited from time to time.
And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 (KJV)
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.

Signature_________________________Date_________________

Rodeheaver Foundation
3400 Crill Avenue, Suite 1
Palatka, FL 32177
Over the last 60 years, thousands of visitors have made their way to Rodeheaver Boys Ranch, but few have had a bigger impact on the ranch’s future fundraising efforts than Donald and Ann Harper.

While visiting the ranch eight years ago, at the invitation of board member and past President Carlton Spence, Donald, who is also Carlton’s brother-in-law, made the comment that the ranch would be a great location to host a Bluegrass Festival.

Donald and Ann were avid Bluegrass fans and as they began to explain to Mr. Spence the large crowds of people who follow the Bluegrass Festival circuit, Mr. Spence’s interest was aroused.

Shortly after Donald and Ann’s visit, Carlton and his wife Ruby attended a Bluegrass Festival with Donald and Ann. Carlton was impressed by what he saw, to the point where he was willing to present the concept of the ranch hosting a Bluegrass Festival to the rest of the board of directors.

The board agreed for Carlton to pursue the possibility of the ranch hosting a Bluegrass Festival.

Carlton asked Donald one simple question...who is the top Bluegrass promoter in the industry? Donald quickly answered Adams and Anderson. Norman Adams and Tony Anderson along with their wives, Judy and Susan are not only the most successful promoters in the Bluegrass Industry, but they also produce clean, family oriented festivals and they do not allow alcohol.

Their culture fit right in with the ranch, because Rodeheaver Boys Ranch is a Christian Childcare Agency.

Carlton contacted Adams and Anderson about the possibility of presenting a Bluegrass Festival at the ranch. Norman and Tony turned Carlton down at least a half-dozen times.

Finally, the two men and their wives agreed to come and visit the ranch. After touring the ranch and meeting the boys and staff, the wives helped Carlton convince Norman and Tony that they needed to add Rodeheaver Boys Ranch to their festival circuit.

The first festival held at the ranch was in February of 2005. The February Festival was such a success that in 2007, Norman announced from the stage that Adams and Anderson would be adding a second Bluegrass Festival starting in October 2008.

Both festivals have brought thousands of visitors to the ranch. Currently, some of the ranch’s most valued donors are those who fell in love with the ranch’s mission (and the boys) while attending the Bluegrass Festivals.

Eight years ago, no one at Rodeheaver Boys Ranch realized the passionate love Bluegrass fans have for their music.

What has been a great blessing to everyone connected to the ranch, is how that same love and passion is now directed towards supporting the young men who make the ranch their home.
Amos Betonio, son of Teddie and Elizabeth Betonio, chose for his Eagle Scout project the design, supervision, and building of a handicap ramp to service a dwelling inhabited by Stephanie Walker and her eight year old daughter, Mary.

Albert Walker, husband, an Air Force serviceman, is headed to the Afghanistan war front for more than a year. Stephanie has multiple sclerosis, which necessitated her need to be close to family and her moving to our area from Nevada where they own their home.

Amos was helped to accomplish a quality job by helpers Al Mathies and Randy Tillman. Money for the project was provided by friends who saw many reasons to offer help.

Eagle Scout Project Activity

Brett Buchanan, son of Greg and Lisa Buchanan, chose for his Eagle Scout project the design, supervision, and building of a nature walk bridge to easily access Butterfly Island.

Brett was helped to a successful finish by his dad, Scoutmaster Greg, with additional help from Al Mathies, Randy Tillman, and Ken Johnson.

Money for the project was provided by friends who joined in to make it all possible. The degree of difficulty with this Eagle Scout project was one of the highest in the history of Troop 337 here at the ranch.
**Front Cover Picture:** Dan and Katie Martinez stand together underneath the street sign designating the main paved circular drive as Martinez Circle. Dan and Katie have been donors to the ranch for over 30 years. Dan has served as *Rodeheaver Boys Ranch* president and presently serves as president of the *Rodeheaver Foundation*. Their large gift made our most recent phase of paving possible. The boys agree that bicycles and skateboards work much better on asphalt and certainly take advantage of the riding surface.

**RANCH WRANGLER MAGAZINE**

Edie Kynard, Editor
Ken Johnson – Executive Director
Steve Watkins – Director of Ranch Life
Jeff King – Development Director
Greg Buchannan – Vehicle Program/Activities Director
Marc Spalding – President RBR
Richard Perallon – Vice President RBR
Sam Taylor – Secretary RBR
Robert Mitchem – Treasurer RBR

Dan Martinez – President, Rodeheaver Foundation
Ben Bates – Treasurer, Rodeheaver Foundation
Ed Hedstrom – Secretary, Rodeheaver Foundation