

## **Equestrian Trail/Build It They Will Come - J. Strom Thurmond**

In 2005, equestrian volunteers entered into a Challenge Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers J. Strom Thurmond Project, to develop four large campsites with equestrian amenities at Bussey Point in Lincoln County, Georgia. The selected areas for development were previously primitive campsites.

Horseback riders were requesting an area for camping that was accessible by trucks with large horse trailers. Acquainted with volunteers of CSRA Equestrians through the club's efforts in the upkeep of the Bussey Point trails, Corps personnel approached the group regarding the proposed campground. Prior to the signing a Challenge Partnership Agreement, CSRA Equestrians maintained the existing six miles of horse trails within Bussey Point via verbal agreement. With guidance from Corps personnel, CSRA Equestrians marked and cleared six additional miles of trails. This provided the area with a total of twelve miles of trails through the woods. It also added numerous miles of natural surfaced roads available. Volunteers from the organization erected directional and mile markers along the trail.

As a result of their efforts, maps denoting the trails are available both in print and online. A formal Challenge Partnership Agreement was signed by both partners. The Corps, in cooperation with CSRA Equestrian Club and Georgia Horse Council volunteers, installed a water hand pump, primitive restroom, four individual campsites with gravel/crosstie impact areas, picnic tables, fire rings and highline areas for tethering horses. After completion of the equestrian sites in February 2006, the partnership with the Corps has continued to be successful with the CSRA Equestrians continuing to maintain the trails of Bussey Point on a regular basis and keeping them open for all riders and other users to enjoy.