

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Five-Star Horse Campground Rankings Released Heart of Dixie Trail Ride Earns Most Votes

Heart of Dixie Trail Ride, LLC, beat out more than 1,000 campgrounds to win the coveted 2012 "Five-Star" Award given annually by HorseTrailDirectory.com. Celebrating its tenth year in business, Heart of Dixie Trail Ride, located near Troy, AL, received 249 Five-Star ratings out of a total 266 trail riders' reviews.

Coming in second and third were Timber Ridge Horse Campground with 236 Five-Star votes and True West Campground and Stables with 103 Five-Star votes. Both Timber Ridge and True West are adjacent to The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Jamestown, TN. Rounding out the top five were Mammoth Cave Horse Camp, Mammoth Cave, KY, with 65 votes, and Flying-R-Ranch, West Plains, MO, with 22 votes.

According to John Thurow, proprietor of HorseTrailDirectory.com, the winning campground must earn the most Five-Star ratings from trail riders who post their ratings on HorseTrailDirectory.com during the year. In 2012, trail riders wrote reviews and recorded more than 1200 ratings, with 149 campgrounds receiving at least one 5-Star rating. For a complete listing of Five-Star campgrounds and trails, visit <http://www.horsetrailandirectory.com/fivestars>.

Heart of Dixie Trail Ride is a Class A campground with 75 sites with electric and water, 25 of which have sewer connections. They also have seven cabins for rent. Owned and operated by Richard and Pam Dunn and family, Heart of Dixie is located on a farm that has been in their family for five generations. The 35 miles of trails wind through Alabama's woodlands with bubbling brooks and quiet duck ponds along side the lovely Conecuh River. After the ride, there's plenty to do. Visitors can settle down at the swimming pool, hit a bucket of golf balls, fish for bass in nearby ponds, tune up their horses in the lighted arena or just relax around a campfire. Richard and Pam were avid trail riders themselves when they started Heart of Dixie 10 years ago. Richard says that this experience, plus listening to their visitors' ideas, were key in developing their campground into the success it is.

Thurow said that HorseTrailDirectory.com site has more than 1,000 trail and campground locations in its database. Most are in North America but there are also listings in countries around the globe, including Argentina, Spain, Hungary, and Russia. Each listing is described in a brief narrative, accompanied by information about the location, such as number of trail miles, trail difficulty, number of campsites, and directions to the location. After visiting a location, riders can comment on their experiences by posting reviews.

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