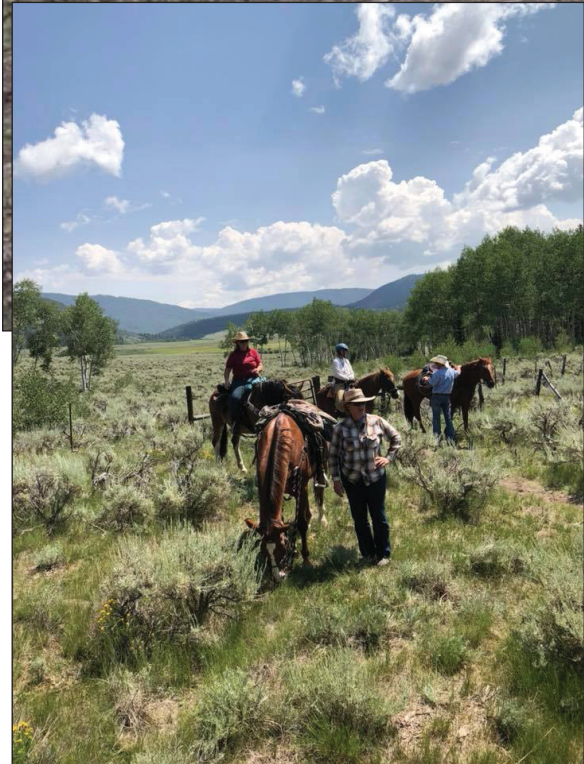


Wasatch Front Chapter of BCH Utah

All-Ladies Ride at Tasha Equestrian Campground

By Julie Heavirland



A tradition for the Wasatch Front Chapter is to host an all-ladies ride. Ladies of all ages have an opportunity to meet new friends, camp, and trail ride together. Events like this encourage women to build confidence handling their own rigs and equipment.

The event also provides a girls’ weekend away to recoup and enjoy the great outdoors with friends and horses. This year the ride was in the gem of horse campgrounds in Utah – Tasha Equestrian campground near Fish Lake in the Fish Lake National Forest. Nearly 30 ladies participated in three days of camping and riding. Most had never been to the Tasha campground and were glad to get out the heat and wild-fire smoke that has characterized the summer in Utah this year.

Each morning all the riders gathered to discuss the day’s trail options. With the help of nearby BCH members

serving as trail guides, riders chose between an adventurous trail or a less challenging trail. Rides were along the shores of Fish Lake and Johnson Valley Reservoir, beside streams and beaver ponds. The more adventurous routes went up to High Top at nearly 10,000 feet or to Crater Lake where there were some fantastic views of the area. After the rides, there was time to relax and socialize. The evening of the last day, the Wasatch Front Chapter hosted a burger barbecue dinner. Everyone gathered to celebrate the fun weekend and share stories.

A little bit more about the Tasha. The campground was built as a joint U.S.D.A./ U.S. Forest Service and BCH of Utah project. Completed in

August of 2005, the campground is set among beautiful evergreen and aspen trees. It is equipped with nice restrooms (with flush toilets) and potable water spigots. There are 11 individual campsites, each with two or three large corrals and a group site with 10 corrals. The group site and several individual sites can be reserved online at recreation.gov. The rest are designated ‘walk up’, meaning you can’t reserve them ahead of time. Tasha is a fee area and you must have a horse to use it. At approximately 9000 feet, the location is cool and afternoon and evening showers are possible. The area also has over 75 miles of non-motorized trails to explore. Trail maps are available, and the trails are well marked.



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Nag, Nag, Nag

By Leean Sahagun, Volunteer Hours Committee Chair

It's the Volunteer Hours continual reminder. Get those hours in!!

Actually, this is my first article as the Committee Chair for Volunteer Hours, so I would like to set the stage of what's to come. Is it the squeaky wheel? The braying mule? No, volunteer hours coordinator!

Just would like to re-iterate why these hours are so important. Well, actually I'll give you Randy Rassmussen's explanation to me, which is about the best I've heard. And most of you are very aware, and good at reporting; however, one of the things I've heard is that we are underreporting hours.

I asked Randy why and how these hours are used to support BCHA, here is Randy's answer.

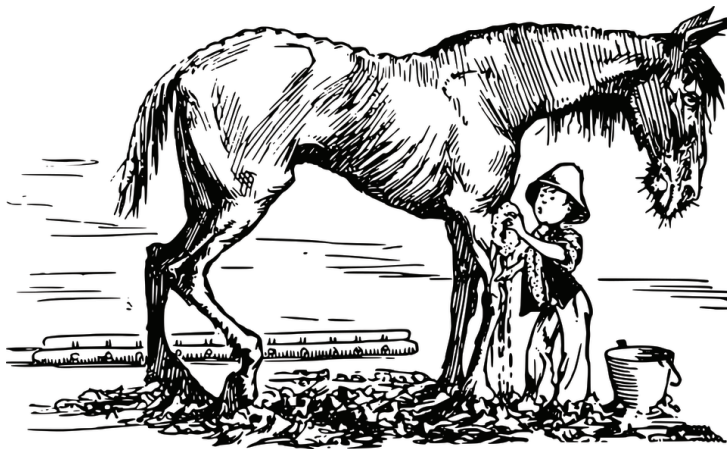
"In terms of how these numbers are used:

1. Each year's total is shown on BCHA's website: <https://www.bcha.org/about/who-we-are/>. I often steer allies and agency personnel to this overview. It speaks volumes of our work.

2. I share this information when introducing myself to agency leaders and members of Congress. I choose to put our "best foot forward" by describing--and quantifying--the lengths to which BCHA volunteers go to keep trails open. The data on current volunteer hours and their equivalent in-kind value are eye-opening.

3. I use these statistics in my public comment letters on land use and recreation plans to demonstrate that BCHA is a serious player that "gives back" generously to our trails and public lands. These statistics help to cement BCHA's "standing" in the planning process, including our right as an affected party to challenge poor agency decisions.

4. We share this information with donors and charitable foundations when seeking grants for BCHA. Again, the numbers speak volumes to the dedication of BCHA volunteers and how much work we collectively achieve across the nation.



That's a short summary of the importance of accurate record keeping by BCHA volunteers. In summary, those numbers provide us extra clout in negotiations to keep trails open and in our ability to ask for more trails by demonstrating that BCHA volunteers have a long and unparalleled history with respect to all the trail maintenance we've done.

Best,

Randy Rassmussen, M.S."

Now would be a good time to send in to your State Volunteer Hours Coordinator the hours you have already accumulated up until now, instead of trying to wrangle them up at the end of the year. It seems, at least around my neck of the woods, people forget what they did at the beginning of the year by the end of the year! You should get credit for those hours! BCH should get credit for the work you do.

Even though you don't do the work to get credit for the hours, the reporting is very important!

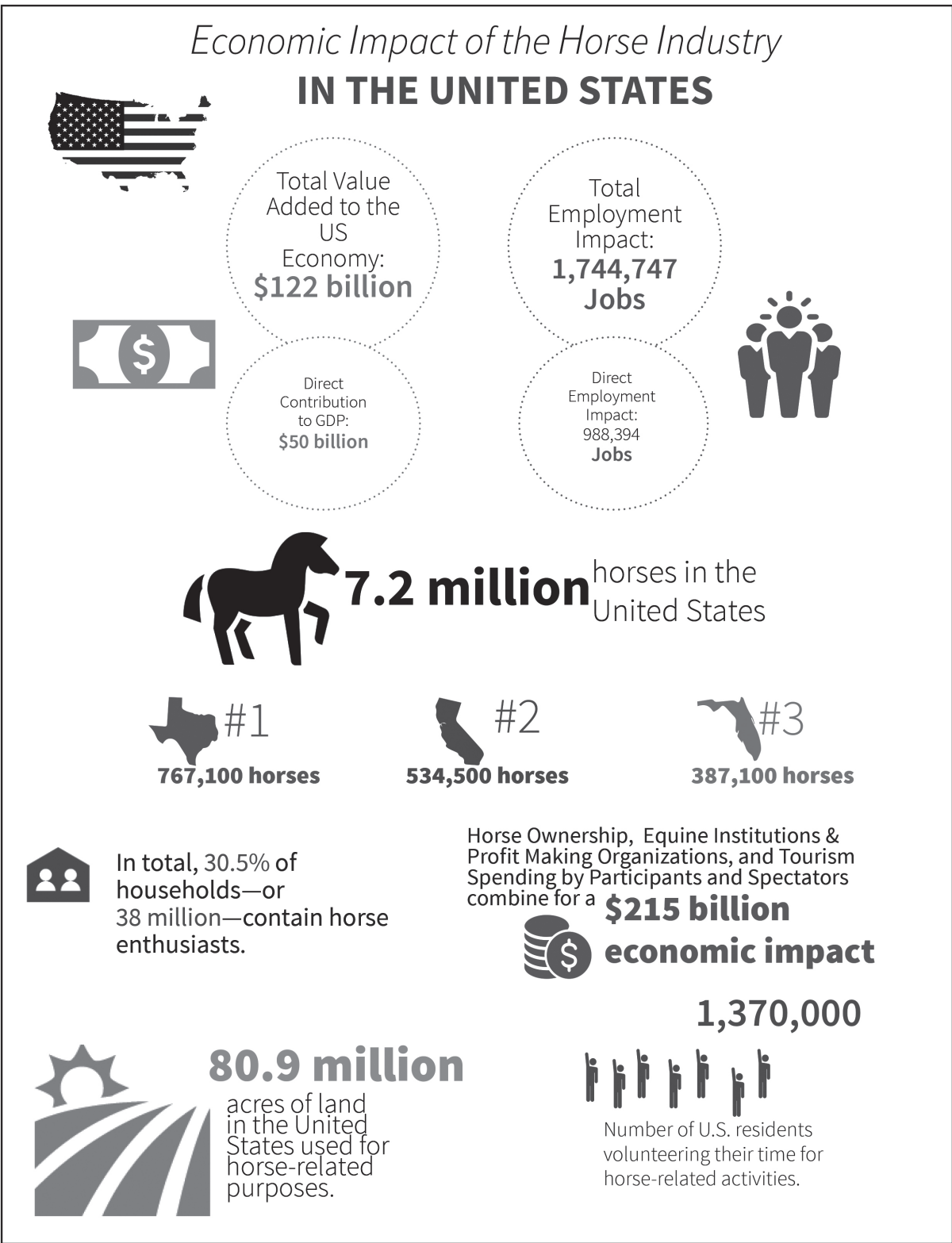
We are looking at different ways to input those hours to make it easier and dare I say fun.

And Remember! Keep thinking about projects that can qualify your chapter for the Double Diamond Award! And keep track as much as possible.

Leean Sahagun

BCHA Volunteer Hours Committee Chair

<https://www.bcha.org/get-involved/volunteering/hours/>



AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL FOUNDATION
Information provided by the American Horse Council Foundation. Copyright 2017.

View from the Chairman’s Saddle

By Freddy Dunn, BCHA National Chairman



BCHA in the NEWS!

By Chairman Freddy Dunn

Google alerts are a wonderful thing! Mine are set to see articles referencing Back Country Horsemen. It’s fantastic to see what our chapters and members are doing and recognition in the print and broadcast media. From trail work to clinics – to meetings with other trail groups and land managers – to just plain getting together for a trail ride, BCH members make news. We make the news because we’re a service organization that contributes a great deal to our local, state, and national outdoor recreational communities. We also contribute a lot to local charities and other community events. Below is a sampling of BCH in the news. These articles will give you lots of great reading while you’re sitting next to the fire during the winter!

I urge all of our chapters to get out and actively recruit new members. Remember that people who come to your events or see you in the news are already engaged with you. It doesn’t take much more to get them to become members! BCH Iowa did a Facebook campaign this summer around their state to recruit new members and create new chapters. Well done! Facebook and other social media, when used strategically, can be great recruitment tools for local chapters.

I want you all to know that even though it seems you are just a small, local group, please remember you are a part of a BIG organization and that your contribution counts. BCHA is a federation of states which are, in turn, a federation of chapters. As my friend, Tom Thomas in North Carolina says, TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you all for being BCHA. Be proud of your accomplishments, look to the future, have fun and be safe!

Fall Fair brings fun to Quesnel Aug. 25-26

Williams Lake Tribune

Rodeo and western aficionados will enjoy the Back Country Horsemen’s packing demo, which is expected to be phenomenal; and for a bit more action.

Roy Cornett named grand marshal of festival parade

News- Graphic

Roy Cornett’s love of horses began when he was 12 years old, and now at 66 he has been selected to serve as the grand marshal Festival of the...

Comments on forest road closures taken through Sept. 4

Peninsula Daily News

SEQUIM — Less than two weeks remain for local hikers and riders to ... As an effort between the Back Country Horsemen – Peninsula Chapter, Gray...

Back Country Horsemen to host Forest Service spokeswoman

The Durango Herald

The Four Corners Back Country Horsemen will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Florida Grange, 656 Highway 172. Gretchen Fitzgerald, public affairs

Plans Developing for Horse Riding Trail in McClellan

Tv24

Backcountry Horsemen of Alabama wants to create a shared trail for bikers, hikers and horse riders that will take up 800 acres of land on the....

Group mounts signs in national park

The Middlesboro Daily News

For the Back Country Horsemen (BCH) of Tennessee and Kentucky and staff at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (NHP), the day would be .

Bitterroot Outdoors

Ravalli Republic

On July 21, nine members of Bitter Root Back Country Horseman cleared Willow Creek Trail (FS #300). A group of riders and stock cleared all downed ..

Summit Knobs Equestrian Trail Opens at Enterprise South Nature Park

Chattanooga Magazine

Mitchell and her husband Bobby represent the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horseman Association that built the trail. “The trail is equipped...

Clubs & Interests: Out & About, Community Dances

The Daily Herald

Horses and trails: Back Country Horsemen of Washington help maintain trails on public lands and hold recreational rides. Local chapters include....

Bitterroot Outdoors: Go deep for the lunkers

Ravalli Republic

Eleven members of the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen along with 19 stock animals worked from Friday, July 6 to Sunday, July 8 clearing the ...

Horse riders resurrect public riding ring near Port Alberni

Alberni Valley News

Horse riders resurrect public riding ring near Port Alberni ... Five years ago, the Back Country Horsemen took on a project to replace...

Work parties spend five days maintaining Pasayten trails

Methow Valley News

A Washington state Back Country Horsemen trail work party finished five days of trail and bridge maintenance in the Pasayten Wilderness on July 4

BCHA Mission Statement

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America’s back country and wilderness areas.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen’s organizations.

Fair, carnival, trek highlight day

Casper Star-Tribune Online

This trail trek should return in the late afternoon. ... The Back Country Horsemen will have mules on-site for the live packing demonstration.

Black Hills Back Country Horsemen of South Dakota Clears Old Baldy Trail of Tornado Damage

Drgnews

Twelve volunteers from the Black Hills Back Country Horsemen of South Dakota (BH BCH SD) spent last weekend clearing the Old Baldy trail located ...

FreddyPink, trails coalition host fundraiser for ODT

Peninsula Daily News

... outdoor associations including the Peninsula Trails Coalition, Back Country Horsemen, Cascade Mountain Biking Alliance and Cascade Bike Club.

Young volunteers help with projects on Shoshone Forest

Powell Tribune

The youths shared their dinner that night with the Shoshone Back Country Horsemen, a volunteer group that helps clear trails within the forest.

HORSEPLAY: Getting back in the saddle

Peninsula Daily News

“We help USFS staff remove hazard trees near trailheads and back country ... Back Country Horsemen Peninsula Chapter annual meeting and ..

Back Country trail ride Saturday

Monte Vista Journal

SOUTH FORK— Trailwise Back Country Horsemen will host a ride, Saturday, June 23. Riders will meet at 9 a.m. on Highway 160 and Willow Creek .

Wyoming Back Country Horsemen work to preserve tradition

Star Tribune

Bill Hackney showed a museum visitor how to wrap rope around a large canvas pack and secure it to a saddle with a basket hitch knot.

Freddy Dunn

Editor's note: The links to all of the articles can be found in the online version of the newsletter. Please visit: www.bcha.org/home/

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Advertising
To place an ad in the BCHA quarterly newsletter, please contact Deborah Schatz (406) 314-1084
[E-mail: deborah.bcha@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.bcha@gmail.com)

Chapter Cents

A resource center for improving your chapter or state’s financial standing.

By Ginny Grulke, Funding Committee Chairman

Is your BCH chapter always low on funds for the projects you’d like to do? Do you need new ideas and help to fundraise so you can do more? Welcome to CHAPTER CENTS, a resource for ideas.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Be sure to read the eligibility criteria for any grant. Here’s an example:

Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

The Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund is dedicated to enriching the quality of life in company communities, and fostering the understanding of the importance of sustainable working forests. Grants are provided to nonprofit organizations that serve communities with major Weyerhaeuser facilities in the U.S. and Canada. The Fund’s interest areas include Affordable Housing and Shelter; Education and Youth Development; Environmental Stewardship; and Human Services, Civic, and Cultural Growth. The application deadline is October 30, 2018. Visit the Weyerhaeuser website to review the funding guidelines and submit an online application.

<https://www.weyerhaeuser.com/sustainability/communities/community-investment/giving-fund/>

CHAPTER FUND-RAISING IDEAS – EVENTS

Most of these ideas have been gleaned from state and chapter reports that are sent in for the National Board meeting.

Social Events

- Fall Social Campout. Invite members and non-members, with a fee charged for the weekend. The schedule could include daily rides, Dutch oven cooking, live cowboy music and poetry. (Utah)
- New Year’s Day Waffle Brunch – at the trailhead! Food provided by chapter (some Dutch Oven Cooking), a big campfire, a brunch fee, and an optional winter ride. (Utah)

Educational Events

- Educational Seminars with food:** Charge a small fee, offer refreshments (provided by members), and invite both members and non-members. Novice trail riders are a great source for attendees and these are good ways to find new members. Some topics could be:
Large Animal Rescue
Body Condition Scoring

JOB LISTINGS

If you’d like to get involved at the National level, meet some great people across the country, and contribute to BCHA’s programs, give one of these volunteer jobs a try!

Job Available: EDUCATION COMMITTEE POSITION

Teachers and instructors are needed to identify content, develop courses and to present course material to BCHA members in the areas of BCHA organization and administration, working with public land managers (retired land management agency personnel are especially needed), and trail design, construction and maintenance skills. Contact Craig E. Allen, BCHA Education Committee Chairman, allenceco@msn.com

Job Available: FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS for the LEGACY SOCIETY FUND

The BCHA mission has a long-term and multi-generational component. Therefore, we are establishing a Legacy Society Fund to acknowledge BCHA has a commitment to sustain this mission in the future and to provide for the financial means to do so. The concept is that the Legacy Society Fund will evolve over time into an endowment type fund.

Financial consultants are needed who will be committee members, and develop policies, practices and procedures for the operations and gover-

- Bits and Hackamores
- Training your horse to cross water or large logs
- Introduction to the trails at _____ (your favorite public land site)
- How to safely highline
- How to safely hobble
- Trailer maintenance

Community Service

- Offer to work a sports event in exchange for a donation to the chapter. Soccer and tennis playoffs, marathons, Pony Club Competitions.

Other

- Annual “Tack n Stuff” auction.** Only accept new or very lightly used tack. Get gift cards from local stores, get donated activities such as canoe rentals, a few hours on indoor tennis courts, etc. Get donated gifts and food. Hold the auction on a weekend and provide (for a small fee) a chili supper in addition. (Kentucky)
- Annual Spring Vaccination Clinic.** This is where a vet comes to one location to vaccinate and pull blood for Coggins for a large number of people. The cost per person is lower. Invite members and non-members. Non-members pay an extra fee which goes to the chapter, but the extra fee still makes it a bargain if they have 2 or more horses. (Kentucky and Colorado).

MORE COMING IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

YES, Still COMING: Chapter Fundraising Starter Kits

(It’s been a busy summer...)
The Fundraising Committee is developing Starter Kits for chapters to download and use to start some specific fundraisers. The kits will contain files such as posters, pricing suggestions, templates, sample press releases.

How-To Booklet for Approaching Sponsors

MORE IDEAS ON FUND-RAISING??

If your chapter has done a unique fund-raiser, please send to the fundraising committee at ginny.grulke@gmail.com, so we can share with other states.

nance of the fund. The development of marketing materials will be involved — both print and digital. Anyone involved with, or with work experience in, non-profits, academic institutions, foundations, hospitals and medical organizations, financial institutions, and public sector organizations could help. Basic familiarity with wills and trusts, personal tax planning, financial planning, IRAs, stocks and bonds, legal, and investment advising is a big plus. Few of us have all this knowledge — people with a commitment— and good cheer — are what we are hoping for. Contact Edith Conyers, BCHA Kentucky (859) 221-6874 or ehconyers7900@gmail.com



BCHA – Members of Many Types

By Darrell Wallace, BCHA Vice-chair

As we near the Membership Recruitment and Retention season, I gave some thought to the types of members I know about – maybe you know some of them, and can add others?

- My good buddy Jason lives to keep trails open by sawing logs, fixing puncheon and trail tread, and building rock walls to let stock pass. He probably rides his mule more on work parties than for pleasure (and he loves the high hunt). I call him the trail-fixer type.
- My friend Jane constantly reminds me that we jeopardize our access to stock trails when we fail to practice Leave No Trace. She and her cadre of trainers and other volunteers work tirelessly to train and remind us all to practice LNT – she’s the LNT type.
- Our Chapter Chair Melissa is busy with the administrative business

of the chapter. She also vigorously pursues new members. She’s the leadership type.

- Some good friends Dave and Kris have pretty much retired from active chapter membership, but they insist on continuing their membership so that their dues and generous financial contributions will support the BCH mission. They are the pocketbook advocacy type.
- Another friend Jeff spends most nights on his computer, researching the latest developments regarding trails in our legislature and the congress. I refer to him as the supreme legislative advocacy type.
- Friend Steve succeeds at recruiting new BCH organizations. He’s the expansion type.
- Friend Bob spends hours work-

ing on relationships with land managers – an advocacy type.

- Friend Sherry works like a slave keeping the bookkeeping and accounting straight, and in line with IRS regulations. She’s the administrative type.

These folks are examples, but what I want to illustrate is the importance of knowing your members. Members want to feel like you know them and value them. Although members contribute in many different ways, what makes each member unique is his or her own set of skills, talents, and interests. It’s important to help people match their skill sets with the organizational needs. Retention begins the day the member joins. The best way to keep members after the initial year is to make certain that they feel that, in addition to the programs

of the organization, there is a place for them to participate and provide input. Ask them what they’re looking to gain from their membership, and tell them how they can get started right away.

What makes it all work? Each individual in the organization has common goals described in the BCHA mission. Each and every one is a valued member of BCHA and we need to ensure we retain them as members. We also need to recruit any and all who support our mission. So as the membership season kicks off, let’s work at this. The easiest way to recruit is through your own events, publications, and member referrals. People who already engage with you are already buying into your chapter’s work, even if they haven’t yet joined.

BCHA Chapter Challenge Donations Provide Trips to Washington, DC

Earlier in 2018, a Chapter Challenge was issued from the Fort Harrod BCH of Kentucky. The purpose was to raise extra funds so Public Lands Director Randy Rasmussen could take additional trips to Washington, DC as needed. The Fort Harrod group felt now is a particularly important time for BCHA to be present and advocating for trails at the highest levels.

Thanks to seven chapters listed below, Randy’s travel budget will now include an additional \$3,500. The first trip will be the American Horse Council’s Fall Ride-In. This fall Ride-In is a new event for AHC and focuses on trail issues. Included in the agenda are the following activities:

- Briefing with House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) and his senior staff, discussing the Recreation Not Red Tape (RNR) Act, and the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (aka, the “back-log maintenance bill), and next steps.
 - Meeting with the office of Sen. Wyden (D-OR) to discuss the RNR Act and other trails items.
 - A meeting of the 26-member Congressional Horse Caucus, scheduled for Wednesday, September 26 advocating for trails issue items.
- BCHA’s presence at the national level continues to grow, thanks to the hard work, expertise, and intense networking that Randy has provided, and

now the generosity of these chapters. Being present in Washington, DC and meeting with legislators is critical to our success.

THANK YOU to the following Chapter Challenge donors who each donated \$500:

BCH Kentucky, Fort Harrod Chapter, Original Challenger

Meeting the Challenge

BCH Colorado, Trail Wise Chapter
BCH Idaho, Priest River Valley
BCH Kentucky, Mammoth Cave Chapter
BCH Utah, Wasatch Front Chapter
BCH Washington, Tahoma Chapter
BCH Washington, Whatscom Chapter

Get dressed for winter riding at the BCHA store!



<https://bcha.site-ym.com/store/>

Great merchandise is available in the BCHA store!

Rendezvous?

By Deirdre Perot

Woody Guthrie wrote:
*This land is your land and this land is my land
From the California to the New York island
From the Redwood Forest, to the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me*

BCH offers you unique opportunities to visit and see other places and be among friends. America is a vast and varied country. Wouldn’t it be great to get out and see how other folks do things and see some amazing different areas of the country? As more of us reach retirement age, we’re able to plan some longer trips with our horses and we have plenty of good places to go.

Most states and local chapters hold Rendezvous and other regular events. States and chapters: please share your event information with the BCHA webmaster, so your events can be listed on the calendar in the Members Only section. Your events could attract larger participation and you have the opportunity to welcome fresh new faces. As I read the articles in the newsletter, I know every state and chapter members are excited to share the natural beauty of their own public lands. What a great way to build understanding, share best practices and make new friends!

Distance Competitive Trail Riding

Cover a measured distance within a window of time while being evaluated by qualified veterinary and horsemanship judges.

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NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE





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BCH Washington Cascade Horse Club
rides with 4-H

By Susie Spencer

There is an aging problem in BCHW! We’ve certainly noticed most members have gray hair. The Cascade Horse Club (CHC) chapter of BCHW wants to include more youth into our ranks, mostly for their stronger backs. Well, yes, but on a serious note, we want to ensure this great organization doesn’t just age out. Also, BCHA encourages us to collaborate with other users to maximize our efforts in fulfilling our mission. As two CHC members pondered these deep problems, an idea formed. Why not invite a local 4-H equine group to join us for an activity and learn about trail riding? We heard about a grant from the BCHA Education Foundation and decided to give it a shot, never expecting to be awarded this grant. We came up with a fun activity plan to support our vision and grant request.

We invited the Burlington-Edison Road Runners 4-H group to come and join us for a day of trail riding and learning about BCH. This is a Skagit County 4-H group with over 35 members. We decided on a day at the beautiful Pilchuck tree farm in Snohomish County, where CHC holds rides and work parties. The day dawned just perfect – sunny and 70 degrees. The 4-H participants came early for cinnamon rolls for breakfast. Nine 4-H members, their parents, and club leaders participated. In total, there were 15 people from the 4-H program.

First, we had an introduction of the *Ten Essential Trail Items*. The program was interactive with 4-H members coming up with ideas and the educators pulling things out of their packs. This

was followed by a safety meeting about standard trail etiquette. We then broke up into three groups of seven to eight riders. Each group had CHC members riding lead and drag, with some members in the middle to assist. There was an equipment check with some excited horses and participants.

Off we went in our three groups in three different directions. Each group had a nice, two-hour trail ride. There are 5,000 acres and lots of trails to explore in this area and each group had a fun, but easy, trail in mind. We all made it back safely for a lunch provided by CHC and more fun. We taught the 4-H’ers about Leave-No-Trace and the kids all got a manure fork and a LNT bag to put in their trailers. We also invited the kids were to play a horse-themed jeopardy game. We ended the day with presentations of homemade jeweled bear bells and a poster.

The 4-H leader reported that the participants had “the best day ever” and were excited to do it again. Some of the parents were overheard talking about their future of getting back into riding when their kids age out of 4-H! There was great interest in providing this opportunity with more 4-H’ers and it seems a perfect fit to encourage our next generation of riders to ride safely while enjoying the trails and to learn about the importance of BCH’s mission to insure public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

Thank you to the Education Foundation for providing the seed money to make our vision happen.

BCH North Carolina LNT Grant Project

By Tom Thomas, Past President

Thank you to BCHA for the grant that made an LNT course possible. The course had seven attendees, five of which just graduated from high school and one that is a senior in high school. The latter student is an equestrian from Uwarrie National Forest. Back Country Specialist Smoky Mountain National Park Christine Hoyer and four others

led the training. Thanks to BCHA’s support, not only this LNT course, but also many more in the future will make both the front country and the back country resources safer and more enjoyable for all to travel.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Grants Spur Projects Nationwide in 2018

Report on BCHA Educational Grant to Sierra Freepackers BCH of California

By Mary Odell

During the summer months of 2018, members of the Sierra Freepackers used \$1000 BCHA Education Grant funds for our ongoing project on the Spring Cove and Goat Mountain Trails. We maintain these two trails through our volunteer service agreement with the Sierra National Forest/Bass Lake Ranger District. The two trails are in a part of the forest devastated by the drought and bug kill. Since September 2017, our unit has removed over 140 downed drought- and beetle-stricken trees on these two trails alone. We now have seven U.S. Forest Service Certified sawyers to continue our work in this area. According to the Forest Service, we can expect trees to continue to fall for another five years.

This area is a busy recreational area in the community of Bass Lake. There

are narrow single tracks with diminished visibility. We worked to avoid conflicts and accidents between hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. Our goal is to enhance safety and usability of this multi-use trail system.

Besides continuing work on the trails through our agreement with the Bass Lake Ranger District, we are partnering with the Yosemite South Gate Trail Collaborative (a local mountain bicycle group) to install a bell and bell box system to further enhance shared trail safety. They also have done trail work and sign installation along the trails.

Thank you to the BCHA Educational Foundation for providing the funding for this project!

Siskiyou County 4-H Youth Wilderness Experience

BCHC - Top of the State Unit Grant Project

By Kathryn Matthews, Co-Committee Chair

The U.S. Forest Service Scott Valley Ranger District reserved the Carter Meadow Group Camp for our 4-H Youth Wilderness camp. Helped by a BCHA Education Foundation Grant, our camp started on Sunday July 14 with nine campers. Our professional packer provided a live mule packing demonstration. After the demonstration, the group split into two. One group worked with the packer to practice packing an iron mule while the other half had riding lessons in preparation for the trail trials that afternoon. After a lunch break, with thunder clouds forming, the youth were split up once again for an afternoon of activities. A retired U.S. Forest Service employee demonstrated the art of map reading while the other group demonstrated their riding skills during the trail trial. During the day Sasquatch showed up with cookies for everyone.

At the beginning of the trail trials, the rider had to dismount on a large flat rock below camp, walk their horse around the rock while standing on the rock, then remount. Then after traveling down the trail, they came to a bucket hanging on the tree. They had to remove a bag of cookies for themselves and a carrot for their horse. After that, further down the trail, the riders encountered flags directing them the step over a series of four logs.

Monday morning thunder clouds were already forming, but the group stayed optimistic. After breakfast, the watershed stewards, from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, arrived for a hike with us to study the stream and meadows below camp. To start the hike, the group headed down to Trail Gulch Lake Trailhead. Along the way, they studied and learned the names of the different wildflowers, discussed the encroachment of cedar trees into the meadows, the importance

of the stream along the edge of the meadows, and the fungi growing on the rocks in the stream beds. During lunch at the Trail Gulch Lake Trailhead, we were able to capture and study a 4-inch salmon and a 6-inch salamander.

After lunch, we backtracked over to the inner trail on our way to Long Gulch Lake Trailhead as we continued identifying the different wildflower species and varieties of trees. Along our route, we met our fellow BCHC's who rode down for a visit and to teach the youth proper etiquette when hikers meet horses on the trail. It was a great lesson. At our last meadow, I was able to share my favorite tree which is an ancient cedar tree with a lot of personality. At the end of the hike, we stopped and played in the icy cold water at the Long Gulch Lake Trailhead. In between rain-showers, the youth were able to clean corrals, feed and water the

horses. After dinner, the youths put together a first aid kit and did emergency first aid training with the help of a registered nurse.

On Tuesday, our last day, it looked as if it was going to be a rain-free day. After breakfast, everyone was busy setting up their activities that were scheduled for that day and for the activities that were canceled because of all the rain earlier. The group was divided into thirds for a scavenger hunt. The youth had to follow flags to each station, identify the animal by its footprint and answer the questions regarding that animal. In addition, we had to identify two wildflowers and two trees. For a sun dying project, the youth collected leaves and/or grasses, painted handkerchiefs green, placed their findings on the fabric, and waited for the sun to dry the paint to see the design they created. Crafted emergency bracelets were a big hit and each youth made at least two of them.



Horse painting, trail trials, and stock packing.



Pecos Chapter of New Mexico BCH Awarded U.S. Forest Service's *Enduring Service Award* for 25 Years of Trail Work

By Amber Kingsbury

In May 2018, the BCH of New Mexico's Pecos Chapter was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Southwestern Region of the U.S. Forest Service. The award was submitted by Arlene Perea, Recreation Technician of the Mountainair Ranger District, Cibola National Forest. The award was submitted at the national level, where unfortunately, the Pecos Chapter was not selected. However, Regional Forester Calvin Joyner felt that the Pecos Chapter's contributions to the trails of the Manzano Mountains Wilderness was worthy of recognition.

The award reads: "United States Department of Agriculture Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to The Pecos

Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen ... Enduring Service ... The Southwestern Region recognizes your sustained support and engagement to volunteerism, service, and commitment to excellent work over many years to the USDA Forest Service. Thank you for your passion and dedication to our mission of 'Caring for the Land and Serving People.' Through your efforts, more people will be able access, enjoy, and love our national forests." – May 2018 – Signed Calvin N. Joyner, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region.

The Pecos Chapter of BCH has for the past several years served as the only regular trail crew for the Mountainair Ranger District. The Chapter, which

was incorporated in 1993, will continue to work on the trails of the Manzano Mountains Wilderness. In addition, the Pecos Chapter conducts trail projects in the Pecos Wilderness, Las Vegas-Pecos Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest. Chapter members and their stock can also be counted on to provide pack support for other volunteer groups working in both wilderness areas.



Arlene Perea (left) and Jay Turner (right, District Ranger of Mountainair Ranger District), present the award to Mary Ann Ende, President of the Pecos Chapter, at the Chapter's June 6, 2018 general membership meeting in Edgewood, New Mexico.

Back Country Horsemen of Idaho Squaw Butte Chapter National Trails Day Project – Peace Creek Trail Head

By Marybeth Conger

On June 2, the members divided into two trail crews. The first one was the Peace Creek Trail led by Lisa Griffith. The team covered a little over five miles of the trail and removed four downed trees. Sawyer training was provided during this project. The second team worked the lower Devil's Slide Trail. The second team completed over six miles of trail and removed 21 downed trees and some brush. Sawyer skills were improved and on Sunday during our "fun" ride we talked to a number of trail users about how to safely encounter horsemen on the trail and about volunteer teams working with the U.S. Forest Service to keep the trails open for their enjoyment.

Two areas of this lower trail need to be addressed by the Bitterroot National

Forest trail crew in the future. A section of trail that comes down a slope into the edge of a bog and then turns right back up the slope. This section of trail gets to be a real mud pit with very little traffic. The trail should be moved a bit up the slope and the mud issues would be corrected. We are talking about a couple hundred feet of new trail bed. Another section just below where Devil's Slide starts to climb the famous "slide" about a mile from the creek. The issue is water management and right now the trail is acting as a creek.

Project Statistics

Crews: Two trail crews with a total of 13 SBBCH members participating

Equipment and stock: 17 horses and mules, 4 chainsaws and associated



PPE, and other required trail maintenance equipment.

Sections covered: 11 miles of trail were ridden by both teams, 25 downed trees removed, and the sections were evaluated for future work.

For a map of the area, paste this link in your browser: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/boise/recreation/recarea/?recid=5068&actid=104>

The Kids Win Again!

By Nancy Deisch

The Arkansas BCH celebrated another successful (4th annual) Kids' Weekend of fun and games with horses June 22-24. The Lower Buffalo River BCH hosted all the Arkansas chapters at the Woolum primitive campground. President Bill Kenner and Treasurer Marjorie Heacock planned and ramrodded the entire four-day event.

Each day began with Bill's pancakes and all the fixin's for the energy needed to trail and wagon ride. Later, horses and riders all cooled off in the Buffalo National River. Some of those kids can be pretty acrobatic with their flips and dives from the backs of horses standing deep in the water!

Friday night Bill and Marjorie cooked BBQ pork and pulled chicken for sandwiches with delicious side dishes for everyone. On Saturday, after trail rides and wagon rides and swims, games on horses were played with ev-

eryone a winner at events such as Ride and Run, Toilet Paper Carry, Ball in the Basket, Apple Bob, Granny's Panties, Egg in a Spoon, Boot Scramble, and Water Balloon Toss. Okay, maybe you just had to be there to understand. Each participant went away with a grocery bag of prizes and lots of fun memories.

There were 15 children ranging in age from 1 to 17. Participants could ride alone, ride with someone, or ride with someone leading, so the skill level was not important. The young cowboys and cowgirls were Ashlyn and Tailyn Scott; Trinity Schelling; Remington, J.R., and Sebastian Watson; Torrye and Tennelle Kingston (returning pros); Robert Libbon; Leigha, Mikka, and Raegan Frame; Adrienne White; and Izzy Blake. Twenty-eight adults monitored, assisted, and cheered as the kids and their horses ran the field up-and-back numerous times.



Riverton, Wyoming Police Mounted Patrol 40-Hour Desensitization Clinics

By Marilyn Schurg



He approached in a threatening manner. His behavior was erratic. I went into self-defense mode. I shouted to him “Step away from my horse! Step away from my horse!” I turned my horse’s flank/backside to the stranger, not allowing him to reach my bridle or my leg. I side-stepped my horse at a quickening pace towards the stranger as he was coming closer and he soon learned I was not going to be an easy target, so he fled.

This was one of many maneuvers and obstacles at the 40-hour citizen de-

sensitization clinic. presented by the Riverton Police Mounted Patrol. The class was put on by Riverton’s Police Chief Eric Murphy, Cody Meyers, Charlie Marshal, and Gilbert Peck. Seven members of the Wind River BCH participated: Marydale Casey, Marilyn Schurg, Valerie Harris, Bill and Fay Kelly, and Sharon Warwick and Tom Benson. The clinic was instrumental in developing trust between horse and rider in difficult situations. Some of the challenges used were smoke bombs, fireworks, teetering bridges, a water box that squirted up at the horse’s bel-

ly, large objects that came at us, and the use of a stun gun that made a very loud continuous sound.

The Riverton Police Department trains on a yearly basis. The mounted unit participates in events such as Nights in the Park, County Fair, presenting colors for sporting events, and parades. Instructors also offer desensitization clinics for citizens and their horses throughout the year. The Riverton Police Department, in conjunction with Central Wyoming College, hosted three desensitization clinics based on training used by Mounted Police units

across the United States.

The clinics are five days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Three clinics are offered starting May, June, and July. There is no cost to attend the clinic. Donations are appreciated as the donations fund the unit and help with the maintenance of obstacles and other expenses incurred putting on these clinics.

Thank you Riverton Police Mounted Patrol for giving citizens this opportunity!

VA BCHA Helps with Cleanup

By Linda Meyer



Showing off of the 5' Diamondback rattler encountered and secured (ha, ha) are volunteers (left to right) Dan and Robby Rivardo, Candy Lansford (chapter pres.), Cathy Coffey, Larry Landsford, Jill and Don Horton.

In August, members of SWVA BCH spend more than 10 hours removing mid-story brush and weed-whacking the entrance road into Raven’s Cliff Recreation Area in the Washington/Jefferson National Forest. This is a public, multi-use area favored for fishing, camping, hiking, and riding. It is a historic area, with the old railway bed for the train from Galax to Speedwell to Crockett. A huge old lead furnace still

graces the property. Also, still standing are the huge cement buttresses for the bridge that spanned Cripple Creek. Completing the picturesque area is a huge pavilion with picnic tables adjacent to a huge playing field. For information about the SWVA chapter of BCH or join us on our Facebook page, Our motto is “Public Lands for Public Use.”

BCH East Tennessee and the Girl Scouts

By Robert Luster

Our chapter (BCHET) recently started a new program to help introduce children to the equestrian life. On Saturday June 23, in partnership with Renaissance Farm, BCHET hosted Girl Scout Troop 320 for an afternoon of Vaulting. Maria Blackstone and her daughter Arielle operate Renaissance Farm. The Blackstone family relocated to East Tennessee in 2004 from

Rhode Island. Maria and Arielle are both accomplished equestrians in many different disciplines. They founded the Transitional Vaulting Team in 2008. The team has won AVA Regional Championships. They compete at state, regional, national and international levels with a team of talented horses and equestrians.

Maria explained the sport of Vaulting and her students demonstrated many elements that are part of their routine in their upcoming competition. They made these moves look effortless all while aboard a moving

animal. Imagine a handstand or shoulder stand on the back of a cantering horse! The Girl Scouts got to meet the farm’s resident Lusitano Stallion, Espondoso. Oso, as he’s known around the barn, has a bright future ahead of him in Grand Prix Dressage and working equitation. He’s also one of only a thousand Lusitano left worldwide. Oso is fearless and has a strong work ethic. He is an impressive animal. All of the girls got to pose for a picture on the practice Vaulting barrel and had a great time trying their own moves on this non-moving piece of equipment. A great afternoon was had by all kids, both young and old.

For more on this story and photos visit our Facebook page at https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10157847831591840&id=272228441839

You can also visit our website at www.bchet.org.

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Lucky 13 - New Chapter for Back Country Horsemen of Missouri

By Paula Hull

Back Country Horsemen of Missouri (BCHMO) recently authorized its thirteenth chapter in the state. On March 31, the Board of Directors approved the application for the Ridge Runner Chapter. Located in the area near West Plains, this chapter will be working on public use trails in conjunction with the Mark Twain National Forest in the Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District.

The chapter wasted no time in meeting. On April 10, a good turnout of members got together to discuss their first project, the trailhead at the Devil's Backbone Wilderness. The trailhead is very overgrown with rotten hitching rails that are falling down. On May 8, the chapter met again, this time with Darla Rein, Natural Resource Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, to further talk about this project.

There was a significant number of members at the work evening at the trailhead on May 24, to start the clean-up of the area. Several more hitching rails were discovered, covered in brush.



Members cut, clipped, lopped and tackled the heavy overgrowth to enable use of three of the rails. The Forest Service will provide two metal hitching rails which the chapter will install at a later date.

The Wilderness Area takes its name from a long narrow ridge known to the early settlers as Devil's Backbone, characterized by rugged topography, springs and the North Fork River. There are 13 miles of moderate trail within the area with four trailheads, two of which are part of the Ozark Trail.

Virginia Chapters have a Win-Win

By Marge Lewter, DVM, President BCH Eastern Divide Chapter

The Virginia Highlands Chapter of BCH have a growing trail fund thanks to the efforts of members Nancy and Bill Sluys. They host the very popular Iron Mountain Jubilee Endurance Ride that draws riders from ten states. The riders adore the beautiful trails of the Jefferson National Forest and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. The proceeds of the event support the maintenance of these trails through the BCH VH trail fund.

What a win-win idea to benefit all who use the trails! Members from three Virginia chapters serve as volunteers for the ride and a few even compete in this sanctioned ride of the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC). The team of volunteers helps to mark trails before the event with colorful ribbons and signage the week before the ride. Others arrive for kitchen duty to provide breakfasts for the riders and bag lunches for the volunteers. Some ride out at dawn to be stationed in the rangelands to help with cattle and gates.

Other volunteers are stationed at the two road crossings found on the 50-mile ride. Some members are veterinarians and help with vet checks or transporting horses who have pulled from the ride back to base camp in the New River. Some serve as safety riders, checking the trails for any problems.

President Diane Cherry of the Virginia chapter of BCH stated, "I know several folks who are into endurance riding, which is a great sport for those who can ride for miles. The reason I like to volunteer and help out at riding events is because of the company of like-minded folks who just love horses and riding. While some sports are very competitive, I find most folks involved in endurance are very helpful to each other. Some folks even share their horses with others, so they can ride in the event. It is almost like a big family where folks get to know each other quite well and help each other out a

lot. I think the ride held each August in Ivanhoe is a great ride because of the trails available in the area and the great camping area on the New River."

Simultaneously, Nancy and Bill hosted the East Coast Championship Ride and Tie race. The sport of Ride & Tie combines trail running, endurance riding, and most of all, strategy. The objective is to get all three team members (two humans and one horse) across a 20- to 100-mile cross-country course by alternating riding and running. One team member starts out running, the other starts on the horse and rides down the trail as far as they think their partner can run (or walk) and still keep up a decent pace. At that strategic point the rider stops, dismounts, ties the horse to a tree or fence post, and continues down the trail on foot. The team member who started on foot gets to the horse, unties it, mounts, and rides to catch their partner up ahead. When they get to their running team member they can either stop and exchange (which is called a "flying tie"), or ride further up the trail and tie the horse and then continue running. When, where, and how a team exchanges is up to them, and this is where the strategy lies. Every trail runner has their strengths and weaknesses, and the same is true for horses. Factor all this, along with weather conditions and the topography of the course, and you can understand why Ride & Tie is as much mental as physical.

The Virginia mountain trails can be rocky or muddy but the rolling blue ridge vistas are worth the effort. The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area covers 200,000 acres with over 500 miles of trails so it is very popular with horseback riders. The BCH VH prides itself on the close relationship with the U. S. Forest service and its commitment to keeping the horse trails clear for everyone to enjoy. It takes multiple work days each year to accomplish this task.

In addition to their work at the Devil's Backbone, the chapter will also be working on the Ridge Runner Trail, from which the chapter took its name, according to Chapter Leader Sally Williams. The Ridge Runner Trail – a National Recreation Trail – has two six-mile loops. One is located at Noblett Lake and the other loop is near the North Fork Recreation Area. There also is a 21-mile segment that extends from Noblett Lake in the north to the North Fork Recreation Area in the south.



Riders pass the historic iron furnace. Vet check makes sure everyone is in good shape.

After the endurance event is over, members of BCH must go and remove all the trail markers from the 50-mile route so as to leave no trace. The day-after provides an opportunity for those who just enjoy a leisurely ride to survey a portion of the route. The Iron Mountain Jubilee is a fundraiser and a fun-raiser because it fosters the teamwork needed to have a safe and successful ride for over a hundred horses and riders during the two-day event. Many of the endurance horses are Arabians, but there are a fair number of mules, Tennessee Walkers and other breeds represented. Endurance competitors range from 8 to 80. What a wonderful way to introduce youngsters to the sport of riding while taking excellent care of your mount. Everyone benefits when forest resources are well taken care of and shared with visitors to our area.

For information on the Iron Mountain Jubilee, see www.ironmountain-jubilee.com. For information on Ride & Tie, see www.rideandtie.org.

Zumbro Bottoms BCH Minnesota

By Cindy Fitting, Treasurer ZB BCH MN



Zumbro Bottoms BCH is the first Minnesota chapter of the BCHA and we have 57 active members. We are into our second successful year. Our chapter started out like many others, a group of concerned and caring horsemen sitting around a campfire trying to figure out how we can improve the campground and help sustain the trail system at Zumbro Bottoms Unit of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial State Forest in southeast Minnesota. The original members had been organized for about five years before becoming a chapter of BCHA. Those members saw numerous benefits to becoming a chapter.

In the first year, our non-profit status helped us gain sponsors for the costs of campground and trail improvements. One of our first projects was to work a sponsor to create Zumbro Bottoms trail map hankies and decals as a way to raise money to help fund projects. In the second year, we applied for a grant through our local power company People's Energy Cooperative. Local groups and individuals also saw that we were serious about the camp and trails and donated to our chapter.

Several large projects have been completed in the last couple of years thanks to additional funds and many volunteers. People from across the state volunteer their time, talents, skid loaders, tractors, gators, generators, power tools, and sweat. Each year we clean the campfire pits, trim trees, repair wheel barrows and spread gravel. The first year we replaced the You Are Here signs on the entire trail system. The old maps were very worn and unreadable. We improved the aesthetics and safety for all who use the trails.

This past year, in addition to repairing and installing additional tie lines in the campground, we added four sets of tie lines at strategic points along the trails where riders typically dismount for a break. With a grant from the Minnesota Trail Riders Association (MTRA), the Department of Natural Resources purchased additional cross

bars for the tie lines in the camp. A large group of volunteers worked on this project during the National Trail Day in early June. This added additional capacity to the tie lines and will aid in the safety of our equines.

Another group of volunteers worked to update our camp host site with the funds from a grant from People's Energy Cooperative. We were able to purchase new fence panels for the corral at the camp host site. We put up a hitching rail/high tie and re-graded the trailer pad site. These updates will now make it accessible and safer for larger trucks and trailers to park at this site. Several members cleaned up the kiosks, shelters, pit toilets and planted flowers along with the usual list. We totaled 247 volunteer hours, with 2323 miles driven and an additional 24 hours of professional service with large equipment operation volunteered.

Many groups contributed time and talent during National Trails Day that is the first Saturday of June to help clean up the Zumbro Bottoms campground and trails. We work directly with our State Forest, State Park, and DNR staff. Our chapter provides lunch for all participants.

For the last two years, our Work Day Coordinator Mark Fitting has been working hard to coordinate projects for these days. When the list is compiled Mark feels like he is overwhelming the ZB BCH MN members with his expectations. Every year he is amazed how everything on the list is usually completed. We have time to sit around the camp fire and talk about how hard everyone worked and know we're going to get a good night's sleep. Many thanks to all the volunteers for helping each and every large and small project that is completed at the Zumbro Bottoms. As an added reward for all who pitch in, WCCO-TV voted Zumbro Bottoms Unit of the Richard J. Dorer Memorial State Forest in southeast Minnesota as the #1 horse destination in the State of Minnesota.

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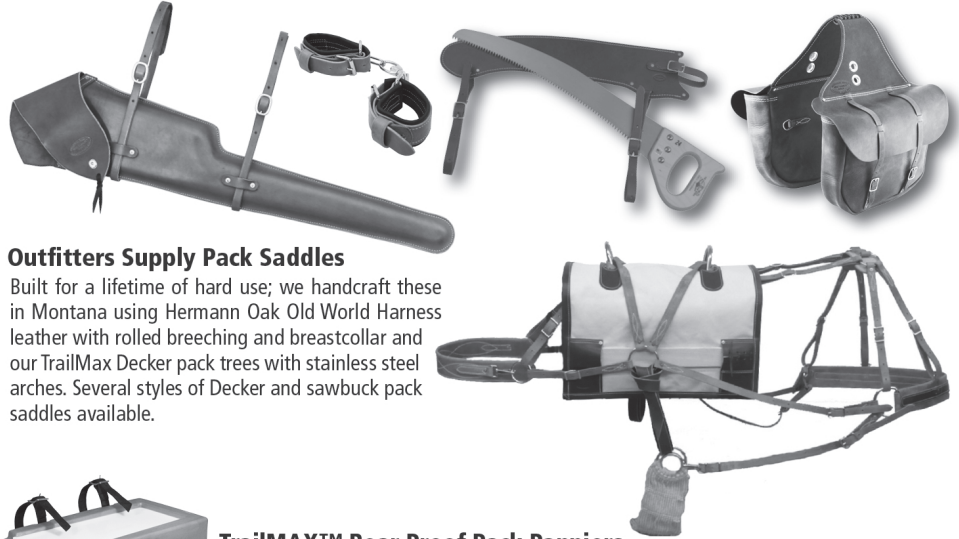
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One Thing Leads to Another: Wilderness Skills Institute to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

Two BCH states come together to complete the task

By Joanne Mitchell. Photos by Tom Thomas.

The Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (CGNHP) is located on the borders of three South-eastern states: Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. It's the historical gateway through the Central Appalachians for colonial America's drive to expand into western lands. In 1775, Daniel Boone blazed the Wilderness Road through the Gap and across what is now Kentucky to the Ohio River, opening up Kentucky's bluegrass plains to east coast settlers. Of the park's 24,000 acres, 14,000 are designated Wilderness. There are 85 miles of trail, 30 miles in Wilderness.

Gavin Monson, an AmeriCorps Tech for the CGNHP, took the Wilderness Skills Institute horse packing class this spring in North Carolina. Joanne and Bobby Mitchell of Tennessee BCH were assistants. Monson said CGNHP had only one horse, but had about 40 signs and posts to put in the Wilderness areas of the park. It would take forever to do it with one horse. The Mitchells thought that BCH could help by supplying horses, mules and people.

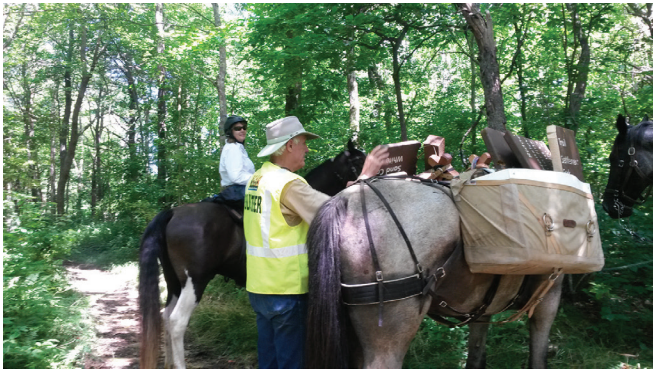
A meeting on June 26 with the Mitchells and the National Park Service (NPS) explored the potential packing project. The discussion included scheduling, distances, routes, water accessibility, horse and people camping, paperwork, parking issues, first aid kits, radio communication, emergency cell phone numbers, pack loads, weather plans, and local press coverage. Cumberland Gap NPS staff included the park superintendent, chief of maintenance, volunteer program lead, trail crew lead, resource protection lead and the trail crew intern. Joanne Mitchell of TN-BCH was the volunteer lead and the NPS contact was Darryl Day.

After the meeting they examined new burnt pop-

lar (hopefully bear resistant) pre-drilled signs and the 25-pound, 6-inch round and 8-foot long locust posts that would go in the Wilderness areas.

Despite the heat, the project was scheduled for July. CGNHP divided the loads for the two teams, and each team loaded their vehicles the evening before. CGNHP staff had also made sure the routes were free of downed timber. At dawn on July 18, the two teams headed out for the two destinations. Susan Kiley and Roy Cornett took three horses toward Hensley Settlement. Their job was to deliver three signs and their respective posts and pack out the old. Bobby and Joanne Mitchell, Edith Conyers and her sister Anne Husted, went to Pinnacle Outlook with three horses and two mules. Their job was to deliver five signs and their respective posts. Some of the old signs were actually made out of Styrofoam! In bear country? Really? New signs were assembled on-site using approved Wilderness methods. Old signs and posts were packed out.

After two years in the works, Bobby Mitchell, president of the BCH of Tennessee, was ecstatic about the volunteer day, "Our members, our horses and mules, park staff, and even the weather (78 degrees) all worked beautifully together to make this day a success." CGNHP lead Darryl Day shared, "the group travelled over 20 miles of trail and accomplished much more than park staff could on foot." Superintendent Sula Jacobs stated, "We're sincerely appreciative to the BCH for the tremendous work which the group completed utilizing some great horse power!" We also got a thank you note from the superintendent!



Southern Appalachian BCH Opens Three New Trails

By Joanne Mitchell

So far in 2018, the Southern Appalachian BCH (SABCH) in Tennessee has participated in THREE grand openings. This is a rarity in our neck of the woods and something to crow about!

The first was the Miller Ridge Horse Trail Head in the Tellico District of the Cherokee National Forest which was officially opened with a trail ride and cookout on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. The entire Tellico District project originally began when the first flagging was done by members Tazz Reid, Ken Jones and Jim Holland on September 6, 2007. Years of battles with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other environmental groups morphed into this particular project. The Miller Ridge project started back in 2012 and grew from there to be included in an RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant. In 2014, this district had its first Tri-Lock Block installed at a water access point on the new connector trail. The trailhead parking lot was finished by a private contractor two years ago, but not opened to the public.

Ten horses and 16 SABCH members were at the opening. Bobby Mitchell, president of SABCH said, "It is a welcomed addition to our trail system. Our organization worked closely with the Forest Service to help build this trail and install signage. SABCH has invested 3,293.55 hours of our time in work and travel in the past six years to see this particular trailhead come to opening."

The second grand opening was on Saturday, June 9 for the Maple Springs Trail Head with another trail ride and potluck cook out. Bobby Mitchell, SABCH President said, "We have invested 1,351.8 hours of our time in work and travel in the past two years to see this trailhead come to opening. Groundbreaking began back in 2016 with an RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant. We built trail, painted blazes, and survey wheeled all the Starr Mountain horse trails."

The third grand opening was on Monday, June

25 for the new Enterprise South Horse Trail System called Summit Knobs in Chattanooga for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation. Before the opening, the park superintendent asked me to give a short talk to some mountain bike camp kids about "meeting a horse on a trail." I obliged and worked in some LNT ethics, too. Bobby Mitchell did not have to do a speech this time but he was given the honor of cutting the ribbon! Several of the Chattanooga newspapers carried the story with pictures! We put the map of the new trail system on our FB page and boy howdy did that triple our outreach!

There were at least 31 horses (11 of them SABCH member horses) at the opening. SABCH invested 423.2 hours of our time in work and travel in the past eight years to see this trail come to opening. Early credit should go to Lynne Walsh and Mike Graves who attended planning meetings. Then in 2010, SABCH gave a trail building workshop at Enterprise South for the American Trails International Symposium in Chattanooga. Numerous County Commission and City Council meetings were held. There was a lull while management determined for which

type of grant we were eligible. There were also NEPA studies, threatened and endangered plants, not to mention the historic bunkers when the land was a dynamite plant. This past winter, SABCH worked with Trail Dynamics out of North Carolina, a professional trail builder to help build ten miles of new trail.

Photos by Doug Byerly and Jennice Duggan.

