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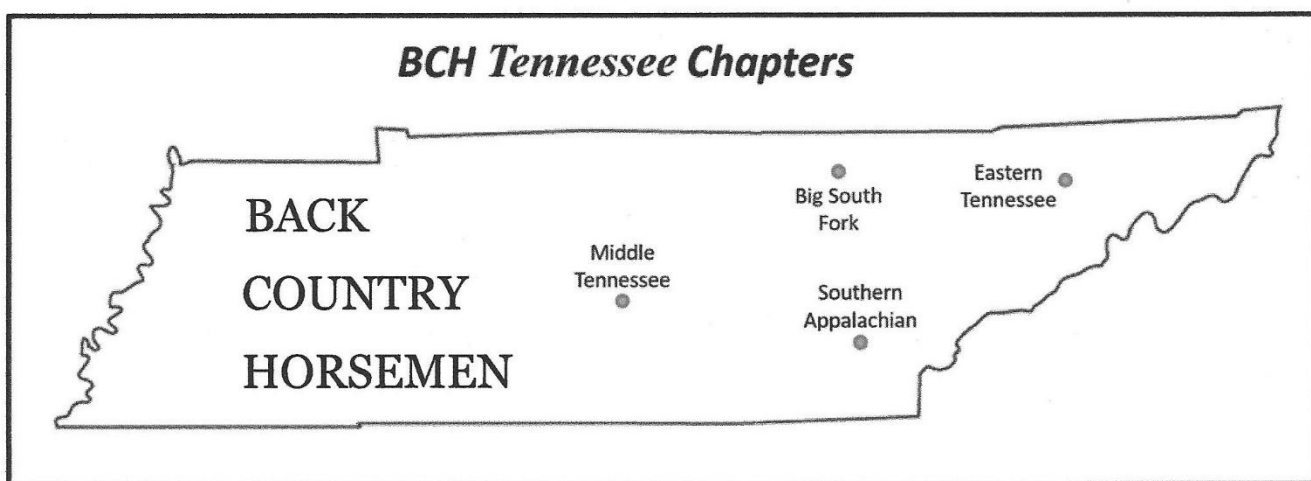
# BCH of Tennessee Report of 2024 events



The 52nd National Board Meeting, Prescott, AZ

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April 13-16, 2025



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## **STATE OF TENNESSEE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN (BCH-TN)-2024**

### **Organization & Outreach**

Tennessee has 4 current chapters, all located in the middle and eastern portions of the state. See the map on cover page.

Our annual state meeting was held Friday June 24, 2024 at the Department of Agriculture Extension office, west Knoxville.

### **Issues & Problems**

Lack of youth involvement; difficulty with chainsaw certification with the National Forest; and difficulty with the Forest Service in keeping and enlarging the equine trails.

### **Organization Details**

<b>Chapter Name</b>		<b>Primary public agency &amp; land</b>
Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee	BCHET	North Cherokee NF, northern two districts, Several State and County Parks
Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen	SABCH	USFS - Cherokee NF southern two districts, County Parks
Back Country Horsemen Big South Fork	BCHBSF	NPS – Big South Fork National and Recreation Area
Middle Tennessee BCH	MTBCH	Various State, City and County parks, No National Forests in Nashville area

### **State Total 2024 Tennessee Volunteer Hours**

<b>Tennessee Chapter</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Equivalent Value</b>
BCHET	1,143.0	\$59,612
SABCH	4,049.5	\$190,992.84
MTBCH	79.0	\$7,498.53
BSFBCH	1,357.5	\$45,462.68
<b>Tennessee Total</b>	<b>6,629.0</b>	<b>\$303,566.04</b>

### **BCH-TN Leadership**

Chairperson	Terri Haver	SABCH	Until December 31, 2025
Vice Chairperson	Michelle King	BCHET	Until December 31, 2024
Secretary	Kayla Swedberg	MTBCH	Until December 31, 2025
Treasurer	Steve Corley	BSFBCH	Until December 31, 2024
2025 National Directors	x (Alternate) Kayla Swedberg Terri Haver	Vacant MTBCH SABCH	Current
2024 National Directors	Steve Corley (Alternate) Deb McDonald Terri Haver	BSFBCH BCHET SABCH	Last Year
Saw Director	Richard Jamison	BCHET	Forever
Historian	Joanne Mitchell	SABCH	Forever
Volunteer Hours	Joanne Mitchell	SABCH	Forever
Website Committee	Joanne Mitchell Pam Corley	SABCH BSFBCH	Forever Forever
South East Public Lands	Bobby & Joanne Mitchell	SABCH	Forever

## **Chapter: BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF EAST TENNESSEE-2024 (BCHET)**

### Accomplishments

1. Trails & Facilities: Cherokee NF (Northern 2 Districts - Unaka Mountain and Watauga horse trails)
  - a. Existing trails: 2024 is a year none of us will ever forget. We spent hours clearing our established trails that had developed overgrowth or were blocked by blowdowns. We worked in both the Unaka and Watauga Districts on multiple work days. Our work days were successful and we were feeling quite accomplished when Hurricane Helene started her steady march toward East Tennessee and Western North Carolina leaving a wake of destruction along the way. Downgraded to a tropical storm, Helene parked over the mountains of Western NC and East TN dumping inches of rain and delivering landscape-altering winds and floodwaters. In a blink of an eye lives were lost, homes were washed away, land eroded and the rivers were reshaped forever. The Nolichucky River in Erwin, TN rose to nearly 34 feet. The Noli along with the Watauga River in Elizabethton, TN and the Elk River east of Roan Mountain flooded entire communities. It's hard to fathom the extent of the damage. In the days following this tragedy, heroes started to emerge. Phone calls, texts, and emails were firing in every direction. One of our members selflessly worked hours upon hours to coordinate supplies for our friends and neighbors. BCHET purchased a load of hay and delivered it to a local who lost all their hay in the flooding. This member worked with local distribution sites as they popped up in the affected areas to coordinate club volunteers to haul needed supplies to those that needed them most. Hay, feed, fencing supplies, buckets, and every imaginable farm item was donated and delivered either to an individual or a distribution site. We reached out to every single member by email, text and phone call to assess their needs and help in any way we could. Two of our chainsaw members removed trees off fencing for a member. Multiple donations of fencing supplies were donated to a member who lost her husband, her home, her pup and everything but her barn and her 6 broodmares and their foals. There are many stories of deep loss but there are also stories of survival. Communities came together to help one another and lend a hand when our local first responders were overwhelmed. BCHTN and our sister chapters collected funds from family and friends and donated over \$4k to our efforts. We offered the donated funds to anyone in need. A committee was formed to determine the best way to distribute the funds. As applications were received the committee made the decision on how much of the available fund each applicant would receive. To date all of those funds have been distributed. Our volunteers logged 196 hours in their Helene relief efforts.
  - b. During all of these efforts to help our community a small group of members began the process of assessing trails and getting to work on clearing them. We have a long way to go. We have many miles of trails left to clear. Trees are down in multiples, stacked on top of one another and under great tension. It's slow and tedious work. Creek crossings are washed out and, in some places, not safe to cross.

### 2. Collaborations with other Organizations

- a. USFS, Members of Holston Mtn Hiking Club, Department of Agriculture Extension Agency, Johnson Co Trail Association

### Organization

1. The chapter is a 501(c)(3) organization.
2. Website professionally maintained: [www.bchet.org](http://www.bchet.org)

3. Internal Communications

- a. Held 2 Chapter Meetings. This December 2024 we elected new officers to assume their new role on January 1. Normally elections are held in November but due to damage from Helene and efforts to aide in the relief efforts, elections were postponed.
- b. Email updates to membership about once a month.
- c. Held 2 Board of Directors Meetings.
- d. Chapter Website: [www.bchet.org](http://www.bchet.org). Webmaster is Mollie Ingle
- e. Chapter Facebook Page has 3.7k likes and gets about 27k in 90 days. The administrators are Michelle King and Mollie Ingle.
- f. Committees: Buckaroos Committee is chaired by Michelle King and Mollie Ingles.

4. Common Chapter membership expiration date is December 31

5. Online renewal now offers Pay Pal.

6. Annual Membership Dues

- a. \$35 Individual Membership
- b. \$45 Family Membership

7. Certifications

- a. 7 Members are certified chain sawyers.
- b. No member is currently certified as a sawcut sawyer.

8. BCHET Committees

<u>Position or Committee</u>	<u>Individual(s)</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Webmaster	Mollie Ingle	Current
FB Administrators	Michelle King Mollie Ingled	Current Current
Nomination Committee	Deb McDonald Larry Jeffers	Current Current
Buckaroos Committed Chairperson	Michelle King Mollie Ingle	Current
Education	Deb McDonald	Current

## BCHET Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual(s)</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
President	Larry Jeffers Ron Rice	12/2024 12/2026
Vice President	Karen Isaacs	12/2025
Secretary	Michelle King **	12/2026
Treasurer	Theresa Symonds	12/2025
Chapter Board	Richard Jamison * Thomas Isaac Lisa Woodson Mollie Ingle Ron Rice	12/2026 12/2025 12/2026 12/2025 12/2025
Chapter Representatives	Richard Jamison Debra McDonald *** Michelle King	Current Current Current
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Ron Rice	2024 and 20254

\*State Saw Coordinator

\*\*State Vice Chair

\*\*\*2024 National Director, Education Committee

## Current & Future Projects (Goals)

1. Trails and or Facilities:
2. We continue to work closely with the USFS on area trails to clear downed trees and repair problematic trails. We schedule a once a month work day with the USFS Trail Tech Supervisor and his crew. Brandon Church with the USFS has been a huge asset to our region. We continue to work toward a connector trail in the Walnut Mtn trail system. NEPA Study has been APPROVED!!!
3. We were contacted by the Johnson County Trails Association to show our support for the redesignation of the Iron Mountain Trail to multi-use with BCHET providing labor to help maintain the trail. This multi use designation would offer a long distance ride through two states on the Iron Mountain Trail, the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail and the New River Trail. A letter was penned in support of this project. The Johnson Co Trail Association has paid out over 40k for environmental studies which are complete.
4. Clearing trails from the aftermath of Helene is a priority.

## Issues and Problems

1. Outside organizations
  - a. We continue to see trail use by off road vehicles in areas not open to motor vehicles. Lots of damage observed in the Limestone/ Dark Hollow area. Multiple trails on Holston Mtn have also been damaged by off road vehicles. Recently, bear hunters cut through the woods to go around a gate and access a forest service road closed to automobiles. Several gates have

had locks cut and removed, gates torn from the ground, and trail beds damaged by auto traffic.

We have observed the same user multiple times on the Holston Mtn trails with an E-bike.

2. Elemental:

- a. The FS conducted controlled burns in a few areas of the National Forest this year. Hurricane Helene raged into TN as a Tropical Storm dumping inches of rain and causing historical flooding across the region. Winds and wet conditions contributed to numerous blowdowns on a majority of our trails in the eastern part of the state.

3. Goals for membership increase: Continue outreach and spreading the good word about BCHET and BCHA.

Membership and Volunteer Hours History

2000 - Incorporated as East TN Trail Riders

2001 - Joined BCHA; 367 Members; 335 hours

2013 - 85 Members; 1,225 hours

2014 - 94 Members; 1,672 hours

2015 - 94 Members; 1,286 hours

2016 - 115 Members 551 hours

2017 - 98 Members; 878 hours

2018 - 94 Members; 1,651 hours

2019 - 84 Members; 2,237 hours

2020 - 84 Members; 1,740 hours

2021 - 93 Members; 1,577 hours

2022 - 77 Members; 550 hours

2023- 865.35 hours

2024 - 1,143 hours

## **Chapter: SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN-2024**

### **1. Accomplishments**

- a. **Trails & Facilities:** We maintain trails in two districts of the Cherokee National Forest (Tellico and Ocoee-Hiwassee). We also help the BCH of North Georgia in the Chattahoochee National Forest. We work every Thursday, year-round.
  - i. Existing trails: In Cherokee National Forest South, we still had 3,540.5 volunteer hours for a dollar value of \$190,992.84.
    1. In 2024, we sawed out 947 total chainsaw trees. In Wilderness, 294 total crosscut trees. Combined chainsaw and crosscut total of 1,231 trees!
    2. We maintained the following horse trails: all horse trails on Starr's Mountain, (horse zone) in the Ocoee-Hiwassee District. We also work the Tellico District including Tavern Branch/Miller Ridge. In 2024, we had a National Trails Day event in the Citico area (more about that later). We maintain 66.6 miles in O/H and 48.2 miles in Tellico for about 125 miles total maintained to standard. We also work numerous hiking only trails with our partners.
    3. We started a new Adopt-A-Trail program in 2023. Some trails were worked almost every month. Others only three times and some not at all (since no hours were turned in).
  - ii. At Enterprise South Nature Park, a Hamilton County (Chattanooga) managed park, we secured a used picnic table on FB Marketplace for the equestrian trails "lunch spot". The park service placed the table on January 8, 2024. Enterprise South Summit Knobs has about 16 miles of equestrian trails.
  - iii. SABCH received a plaque from Region 8 in Atlanta stating "Presented to the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen For enduring service and volunteerism to the South Zone of the Cherokee National Forest seventeen years. SABCH has shown their dedication, tenacity and positive attitude towards maintaining our National Forest's trail systems. We thank you. May 2024.
- b. **SABCH Outreach Experiences**
  - i. We did not participate on Public Lands Day due to Hurricane Helene. We did not participate in National Trails Day 2024 at Citico in the Tellico Ranger District.
  - ii. We also participated in the Tellico River Cleanup and the Hiwassee River Cleanup sponsored by Trout Unlimited in the spring.
- c. **Collaboration with Other Organizations**
  - i. Our chapter often assist our partners, the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, a hiking association. We work on many hiking and multi-use trails.
  - ii. Had our annual meeting with the Forest Service meeting on February 28, 2024 at the Ranger Station. We also met Feb 5, 2025 for our annual meeting.
- d. **Membership:** Did a separate e-mail blast for the membership including a membership packet. Membership was \$35 Individual, \$40 family.



## 2. Organization

- a. # Chapter Meetings held: 6 (every other month) plus one “special” about Citico.
- b. # Board of Directors Meeting held: 2 (June and December) were held prior to the regular membership meetings.
- c. # Newsletters: 12
- d. Volunteer Hour Collector: 2024 and 2025-Joanne & Bobby Mitchell
- e. In 2024 we had 10 certified chain sawyers.
- f. We have 11 certified crosscut sawyers.
- g. We have two certified Trail Machine operators who have their own machines. (\$20kish)
- h. Website Name: [www.SABCH.org](http://www.SABCH.org) (Webmaster: Madison B.)
- i. We accomplished creating an on-line (PayPal) way to pay dues from our website
- j. Facebook Page # likes: 1.1k likes, 1.3k followers; Reached weekly: 606 (6 FB Administrators were Jim Holland, Barb Childress, Rick Harris, Joanne Mitchell, Larry Daugherty and Linda Norton. It is used to report downed trees or clear trail. Only Administrators can post. Anyone in the world can comment. Suspicious comments are deleted by Admins. Most posts are reported in the monthly newsletter since some members don't FB.
- k. Our weekly workdays are reported on our FB page (by FB administrators). Sometimes we have enough people to break into two or three teams, so each photographer goes with a different team. We always try to get a picture of the safety meeting before we start the day. This helps us fill out the required FS report.
- l. Committees
  - i. Nominations Committee - Linda Norton Chairperson
  - ii. Public Relations/Membership Committee – Linda Norton
  - iii. SE Public Land Committee - Bobby and Joanne Mitchell
  - iv. Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief: Terri Haver, Jenny Bennett, Madison Baldwin and Janey Lynch.

## 3. Current and Future Projects: (Goals)

- a. We still need to DOUBLE our volunteer hours in four years to meet the National Forest Stewardship Act requirements, signed into law in the fall of 2016.
- b. Working on incorporating the younger members at the working and administrative level.
- c. Specific Trails:
  - i. We need to reopen the closed section of Conasauga River Trail #61 which was burned out, over 6 years ago. It is a connector trail from the FS road down to the River on the West end. Applied for Legacy Grant but did not get it in 2022.
  - ii. The Blue Ridge Horse Trail #62 needs is logged out and is clear from Sheeds Creek Rd to #99.
  - iii. Sylco Tail #75, has healed itself and does not need another culvert due to Easter Flooding 2021, (totally washed out). The new carconite signage installed by SABCH was destroyed by a prescribed burn in Spring 2025. Some have been replaced by painted

blazes on trees left after the prescribed burn. Also, there is still a large sinkhole over a culvert on the old RR bed. The Forest Service is dragging their feet on this repair. It has been patched, not repaired.

- iv. Signage both parking and/or directional for most trails, including Miller Ridge, Cooper Gap, Yellow Creek, Bullet Creek, Sylco, Conasauga River Trail, Iron Mountain, Starr Mountain, and Tellico area.

#### 4. Issues and Problems

- a. The FS does not appear to want to maintain or add horse trails, and feels equestrians will age out in a few years. The weekly work crew works on more hiking than horse trails. They are not responsive to our email or calls.
  - b. Goals for membership increase: Hope to work more closely with the local McMinn County Saddle Club for recon purposes. McMinn Saddle Club have several rides in the Cherokee National Forest and know where trail problems are.
  - c. The new Tellico District Ranger, Andrew Connor just started at the end of January 2024. They have not hired a new Recreation Manager since Brandon Burke left in November 2023.
  - d. The FS is working with us on signage as much as possible. They have given us carsonite posts and stickers, AND the driver to put them in. We also now have a gate key. This is an accomplishment! We also have permission to paint correct blazes as well. (They really have tried since the controlling person has been reassigned.)
  - e. Hurricane Helene happened September 24-27, 2024. Devastation and Destruction. SABCH raised funds to assist the people of our sister chapter (BCHET) and beyond. This is huge the way we came together. We had several flatbed loads of hay, fencing and other farm equipment the destitute animal owners.
  - f. SABCH was presented with 2 USFS Scoping Letters to which we had members participate.
    - a. On July 7, 2024, SAARTAB, scoping letter which was "Southern Appalachian Aquatic Restoration Technical Advisory Board" for all of Region 8, best practices authority. We responded, but the membership had difficulty at large as the recommendations were vague and all inclusive.
    - b. On October 24, 2024 the Cherokee National Forest, Tellico Region, sent a scoping letter announcing it's intent to close Little Citico Trail #3 and #4, and Youngs Horse Camp to Horses. SABCH used our alliance partners and the local saddle club. We met at their meetings were able to leave them with talking points and explained the respect we needed to grant them. Per our contact at NEPA in Tellico, all 23 letters received were surprisingly polite, "powerful", some even helpful. Their deadline to answer has long past, so with Randy Rassmussen's help we may make some headway.
- 2) Our Adopt A Trail program is being managed much closer by a member who has interest and time. This creates awareness and a sense of purpose in the club. We purchased a new laptop when Tennessee had a tax free weekend for "back to school" purchases. Even though we are a 501c3, our local WalMart had restrictions-best to do a work around.
- 3) Signage: Finally, we were given another FS gate key, mostly for the purpose of putting up signage. We also were given by the CNFS, a set of carsonite posts, stickers to create the signs and a driver to slam the posts into the ground. We have now marked all of Sylco and Burkett Iven trails. Now we need more carsonite posts but the FS has no budget.

#### 5. Organization Details

- a. We have been a 501c3 since 2010

### SABCH Leadership (2025 current)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
President	Terri Haver	12/31/2026
Vice President	Jennifer Bennett	12/31/2025
Secretary	Janey Lynch	12/31/2026
Treasurer	Madison Baldwin	12/31/2025
Chapter Board (5)	Phil Hadorn	12/31/2025
	Larry Daugherty	12/31/2025
	Linda Norton	12/31/2026
	Barb Childress	12/31/2026
	Joanne Mitchell	12/31/2026
	Terri Haver	12/31/2024
	Jennice Dugan	12/31/2024
	Janice Butt	12/31/2024
Alternate Board (2)	vacant Judy Hadorn	Forever
Chapter Representatives	Steve Burtnett, Alt-2025 Joanne Mitchell-2026 Terri Haver-2025	Current
Forest Service Liaisons	Larry Daugherty Barb Childress	forever
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Joanne & Bobby Mitchell	forever

### Dues Cost and Structure

1. Common Chapter membership expiration date is December 31
2. We do have an online option for renewal, as of 2023. (PayPal)
3. Annual Membership Dues for 2024 was increased in June 2023 by \$5, anticipating National Increase.
  - a. \$35 Individual Membership
  - b. \$40 Family Membership

## SABCH History

### 1. Membership and Volunteer Hours History

- |                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. 2006 - Organization formed.    | 549 volunteer hours.                  |
| b. 2013 - 3,259 volunteer hours   | 80 Members                            |
| c. 2014 - 3,842 volunteer hours   | 74 Members                            |
| d. 2015 - 3,403 volunteer hours   | 65 Members                            |
| e. 2016 - 3,439 volunteer hours   | 44 Members                            |
| f. 2017 - 3,293 volunteer hours   | 49 Members                            |
| g. 2018 - 3,942 volunteer hours   | 53 Members                            |
| h. 2019 - 3,601 Volunteer Hours   | 44 Members (Federal Shutdown)         |
| i. 2020 - 3602 Volunteer Hours    | 41 Members (Pandemic year)            |
| j. 2021 - 4,374.5 Volunteer Hours | 65 Members                            |
| k. 2022 - 4,448.5 Volunteer hours | 65 Members                            |
| l. 2023 – 3,405 Volunteer Hours   | 60 Members                            |
| m. 2024—3,540.5 Volunteer Hours   | 57 members (29 Family, 28 Individual) |

2024 SABCH Chapter Volunteer Hours Value total of \$190,992.84

## **Chapter: BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN BIG SOUTH FORK-2024**

### **1. Accomplishments**

Our members participated in *monitoring* the status of trails throughout the park as part of the park's Trail Keepers program. As part of this program, our members performed routine trail maintenance and sent reports to the park on trail conditions. The Big South Fork Superintendent will not allow volunteers to use power tools including chainsaws.

All of our monthly meetings are open to the public. The 2024 BCH-TN Rendezvous that we hosted was also open to the public. We often have people who are not members attend our meetings and events. We do a lot of outreach via our Facebook Group and one-on-one conversations following a contact made through our webpage or one of our officer's email addresses.

### **Education**

We regularly post educational material via our Facebook group. Sometimes we schedule special educational sessions. In 2024, we held a special session to address how one can track a horse that has become lost in a remote area such as BSF National River and Recreation Area.

### **2. BCHBSF Committees**

<u>Position or Committee</u>	<u>Individual(s)</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Webmaster	Susan Riggan	Forever
FB Administrator	Susan Riggan Robin Wilcox Steven Corley	Forever
Activities Committee	April Kapanowski	Forever
Trail Committee	Steven Corley	Forever

### 3. BCHBSF Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual(s)</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
President	Steven Corley ***	12/31/2024
Vice President	April Kapanowski	12/31/2024
Secretary	Susan Riggan	12/31/2024
Treasurer	Pam Corley	12/31/2024
Chapter Board	Steven Corley	12/31/2024
	April Kapanowski	12/31/2024
	Susan Riggan	12/31/2024
	Pam Corley	12/31/2024
	Robin Wilcox	12/31/2024
Chapter Representatives	Steve Corley **	12/31/2024
	Pam Corley **	12/31/2024
Member at Large	Robin Wilcox	12/31/2024
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Tamma Trump	Forever
** Attended state meeting		
*** National Director Alternate, State BCH Treasurer		

### Organization

1. We're a Tennessee 501(c)(3) corporation.
2. We had twelve chapter meetings.
3. We had twelve Board of Directors meetings held jointly with the chapter meetings.
4. Our elections are held at the December meeting. The new officers assume duties January 1.
5. We had 12 newsletters.
6. We now have two certified chain sawyers, even though the BSF Superintendent will not allow them to utilize their skills within the park.
7. The website is [www.bchbsf.org](http://www.bchbsf.org) which is not highly used except upon direct referral by one of our members.
8. We have a color brochure.
9. The Facebook has 10,991 likes and 1,804 members, active members per week around 450. The primary FB Administrator is Steven Corley

### Goals

1. A new leadership team was installed in November 2020. This team started with essentially a "blank slate" and has worked since then to rebuild and grow this chapter. A lot of things were tried, some of them worked. There is now a reasonable knowledge base regarding how to help the park and how to grow our membership. That knowledge

was acquired through an intensive, unsustainable level of effort by the 2020 to 2024 leadership team.

Now that some of the groundwork has been done it's time for a new leadership team. One that can bring new strengths and that can take this chapter to the next level. One that can maintain and grow our membership. One that can do more trail work in the park or on other public lands. One that provides additional value to our members.

A number of dramatic changes in our chapter practices are in order. These will maintain and add activities that have a high return for the time and money invested in them. Activities that have a limited return, perhaps because the new leadership team has a different skillset, will be reduced. Engagement by more members in chapter activities will be promoted.

The members of the new leadership team will work with the members of the old leadership team so that there's a larger pool of very active members and lessons learned in the prior four years are made available to the new leadership team.

#### Issues and Problems:

1. The new leadership team will seek to build on the relationship established with the park by the outgoing leadership team. There's very likely a way that we could assist the park with the work on the Kentucky Connector Trail. We've found that a great way to work with the park is as an embedded member of one of the park's trail crews. They provide transportation to and from the job site and make available equipment that volunteers aren't authorized to use.
2. The new leadership team adds expertise in packing and clearing using chainsaws and crosscut saws. There may not be an opportunity to use those skills in the park. We have other members who are able to do serious trail work but haven't been allowed to do that in the park. The new leadership team often works on other public lands. This could provide an opportunity for our chapter to do such work in public lands beyond the BSFNRR.
3. Outside organizations: From the superintendent down, the park is a very closed and tightly managed organized organization. No change in this is anticipated in 2024. We continue to explore ways that we can help the park that the park and our members will both accept. To be clearer about that, we have quite a few members who would be willing to do more but not under the severe constraints placed on them by the park. Many of those constraints are also placed on the park staff so, they may in fact be appropriate. They do however, limit the amount of volunteer participation in the park.
4. Our members tend to be older, retired, and female. We have few members that are willing and able to do a lot of volunteer work in the park. So, our volunteer hour contribution to BCHA is likely to be lower than the national average. Accepting this, our focus has shifted towards building an equestrian community that supports the park in other ways and that supports BCHA through membership dollars. We reached 120

memberships in 2024. This was a big push. We will try to maintain this level of membership in 2025.

Dues Structure:

1. Individual Dues are \$30/yr.
2. Family Dues are \$40/ yr.
3. All annual dues expire December 31. There is no online option. The 2025 board is looking into offering this in the future.

Membership and Volunteer Hours History

Year	Number of Members	Volunteer Hours
2010	31	
2011	35	
2012	35	
2013	35	
2014	35	100
2015	18	1,593
2016	17	107
2017	29	375
2018	44	446
2019	44	136
2020	44	389
2021	54	1,577
2022	74	1,296
2023	100	1885.50
2024	120	1298



## **Chapter: MIDDLE TENNESSEE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN-2024**

### **Accomplishments**

1. At the Twin Forks Horse Trail we have cleared fallen trees, cut back brush overgrowth, cleared and marked a new creek crossing.
2. At the East Fork Recreation Area, we cleaned up trash in the picnic area, cleared overgrown brush in the picnic area and nearby trails.
3. As an outreach experience, held an “open” public trail ride to provide information on purpose and function of BCHA.

### **Organization**

1. We are a 501(c)(3) Organization since we incorporated in 2015.
2. Internal Communications
  - a. Held 6 Chapter Meetings
  - b. Held 1 Board of Directors Meetings. Our annual meeting to elect new officers is in December. New officers start duties on January 1st.
  - c. Did produce 7 newsletters
  - d. Chapter Website: none
  - e. Chapter Facebook Page has 50 group members. The FB administrator is Kayla Snyder. In January 2024, revamped the entire FB page to be more user friendly.
  - f. Jesse Johnson and Kayla Snyder attended the 2024 annual state meeting.
  - g. Kayla Snyder is the State Secretary.
3. Certifications
  - a. No member is a certified chainsawyer.
  - b. No member is a certified crosscut sawyer.
4. MTBCH Committees

<u>Position or Committee</u>	<u>Individual(s)</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
FB Administrators	Kayla Snyder	forever
<u>Officers Position</u>	<u>Individual(s)</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
President	Kayla Snyder	Jan 2026
Vice President	Kimberly Reed-Tomlin	Jan 2026
Secretary	Rachel Hazzard	Jan 2026
Treasurer	Jesse Johnson	Jan 2026
Chapter Board		
Chapter Representatives	Jessee Johnson Kayla Snyder	2024 & 2025
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Rachel Hazzard	2024 & 2025

#### Current & Future Project (Goals)

1. There are no chainsaw classes nearby. Hope to get at least one members certified.
2. Hope to raise awareness by outreach at equine events.
3. Hope to raise monthly meeting attendance to over 15 members.

#### Issues & Problems

1. The arrest of our long-standing president, Jason Lancaster has caused some issue with people dissociating from our chapter.

#### Dues Cost and Structure

1. Common chapter membership expiration date is December 31. We elect officers at the December meeting. They assume their office on January 1.
2. We have an online option for renewal
3. Annual Membership Dues
  - a. \$40 Individual Membership
  - b. \$60 Family Membership

### MTBCH Membership and Volunteer Hours History

2015	28		2021	16	
2016	16		2022	16	\$ 522.00
2017	23	\$ 774.00	2023	28	\$1,897.40 value
2018	23	\$ 642.00	2024		79 hours at a
2019	23	\$ 362.00			value of \$7498.53
2020	15	\$ 1,795.20			