



# **Missouri State Report**

**For the Year 2024**

**BCHA National Board Meeting**

**April 13-16, 2025**

**Prescott, AZ**

Directors: Becki Krueger & Kathy Jaeger

Alternate Director: Janet Rettenmaier

**CHAPTER NAME:****LEADERS:**

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Brownfield

Robin Vaughan

Cuivre River

Jill Szczuka

Heartland

Tim Anderson/MaryLamar

Mountain Riders

Jennifer Wolf

NEMO

Becki Krueger/Gary Harrison

River Springs

Ruth Garner/Danny Gentles

Rockwoods Range

Julie Irwin/Vivian Regna

South Central

Maury Mertz/Jen Record

Southwest

Lynette Miller

Tornado Ridge

Jodi Hess-Schlup

Tri-Lakes

Larry Dishman/Leroy Raymond

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATES

**Chapter:**

**Director:**

**Alternate:**

Brownfield

Leslyn Randazzo

Phileta Rio

Cuivre River

Jill Szczuka

Kay Raterman

Heartland

Tim Anderson

Mary Lamar

Mountain Riders

Jennifer Wolf

Steve Assenmacher

NEMO

Gary Harrison

Pat Reinebach

River Springs

Ruth Garner

Ray Maynard

Rockwoods Range

Julie Irwin

Vivian Regna

South Central

Kathy Jaeger

Maury Mertz

Southwest

Lynette Miller

Kem McKinnis

Tornado Ridge

Janet Rettenmaier

Michelle Ragar

Tri-Lakes

Sherry Copeland

Marsha Copeland

## BCHMO OFFICERS

**Chairman – Becki Krueger (NEMO Chapter)**

**Vice Chairman – Jennifer Wolf (Mountain Riders Chapter)**

**Treasurer – Julie Irwin (Rockwoods Range Chapter)**

**Secretary – Kathy Jaeger (South Central Chapter)**

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Public Lands – Bob Wolf**

**Webpage – Ray Maynard**

**Volunteer Service Hours – Ray Maynard**

**Education/Expansion – Becki Krueger**

**Membership Coordinator – Sue Maynard**

**Publications – Cristlyn Randazzo**



## WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

- ❖ USFS (US FOREST SERVICE)
- ❖ USACE (U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS) ST. LOUIS AND  
KANSAS CITY DISTRICTS
- ❖ NPS (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)
- ❖ MDC (MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION)
- ❖ MISSOURI STATE PARKS
- ❖ L-A-D FOUNDATION
- ❖ OTHER CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE AGENCIES

# BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MISSOURI

## Volunteer Contributions by Year

### Monetary Value

2009 .....	\$266,104.98
2010 .....	\$177,260.83
2011 .....	\$203,389.88
2012 .....	\$341,790.68
2013 .....	\$268,531.04
2014 .....	\$263,914.69
2015 .....	\$339,961.51
2016 .....	\$348,691.29
2017 .....	\$392,259.73
2018 .....	\$350,937.25
2019 .....	\$347,893.70
2020 .....	\$342,224.98
2021 .....	\$262,808.47
2022 .....	\$297,507.85*
2023 .....	\$332,528.00*
2024 .....	\$445,740.15*

Submitted by Ray Maynard, Volunteer Service Coordinator

# Brownfield Chapter

by Robin Vaughan

**The Brownfield Chapter** was recognized on 27 July 2011 by Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen (SMMBCH) which was later renamed to Back Country Horsemen of Missouri (BCHMO). The main focus of the Brownfield Chapter volunteers is to improve the trail system at Cole Creek Trail (aka Brownfield) and work with the U.S. Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest, so the area can remain open to the public to enjoy.

The main projects in 2024 consisted of clearing the several trees (small and large) that were knocked down by high winds and storms throughout the year.



Handsaw and Clear Small Tree on the Trail



Chainsaw and Clear large Tree on the Trail



**The Brownfield Chapter** also accomplished several other tasks to maintain the Cole Creek Trail to include brush cutting thick low growth on the trails, mowing the trailhead several times, brush hogging the parking areas and field trails a few times, replacing nails in the diamond trail markers as needed and placing more diamonds to mark the trails better, painting the registration box and placing 'thank you' gifts in the box for those signing in, re-anchoring the fire pit that was pulled up, picking up trash on the trails and at the trailhead, plus along the gravel roads. Trail maps were created for apps to share with users of Cole Creek Trail along with printed maps.





# Cuivre River

By Jill Szczuka

We began reforming the **Cuivre River chapter** in March of 2024. We have grown our chapter to 49 members. We work closely with the Cuivre River State Park staff primarily Jason Harrison, Park Superintendent. All of the park staff have been amazing to work with and we have a very strong alliance with them.

During our first year we have worked with Jason Harrison to get a special variance permit allowing us to use chainsaws in the preserve area. Thus, doing so enabled us to clear the trails from major storm damage. Two of our members (through BCHMO) are now First Aid, CPR, and Sawyer certified. Our volunteers and Park staff cleared over 455 obstacles from the trails. Over 160 of those were cleared by our chapter sawyers. This was all completed in a limited time frame per the variant. We are developing a youth group within our chapter. As of this moment we have six youths all under 12 years of age. We have been talking to the Lincoln County 4-H horsemanship members and have several more wanting to join.

So far in 2025 we have already grown our chapter by an additional 20%.







**Chainsaws make quick work of downed trees.**





**Remembering to always have first aid when chainsaws are in the area.**





**It takes teamwork.**



# Heartland Chapter

By Tim Anderson

**The Heartland Chapter** is proud to be recognized as the 11th chapter of Back Country Horsemen Missouri on April 1, 2017. The Heartland chapter works with the Missouri Department of Conservation, US Forest Service, and Missouri Park Service. Heartland also has strong partnership with the COMO Trail Association, a bicycle trail association in Columbia, Missouri.

In 2024 Heartland built mounting block inside Dry Fork Recreation area campground and began working with COMO Trail Association on some reroute projects on the Smith Creek section of Mark Twain National Forest as part of the COMO Trail Association Great American Outdoors Act funded project. Heartland worked with the USFS Recreation Specialist in 2024 outlined needs and partnership on moving the Moon Loop TH in Mark Twain National Forest off Ginn lane and creating new TH across from Paris Fork Church in order to ease parking pressure in the church parking lot. Preliminary discussion with USFS resulted in plan for USFS in-house projects for the two Trail Heads. Several members of COMO Trail Association and the USFS joined the Heartland Annual dinner and meeting in January to coordinate efforts of USFS, COMOTA, and Heartland on the Trail Head projects and the COMOTA GAOA funded project.



Trail skill day in Mark Twain National Forest Dry Fork Recreation area with USFS, COMOTA, and Heartland Chapter BCHMO





Cross cut saw demo from Wade, USFS staff.



**USFS Staff at Heartland annual meeting and dinner**





**Mounting Block Dry Fork USFS Trail Head**

# MOUNTAIN RIDER'S CHAPTER

## Celebrating 20 years as a Chapter of BCHMO

- Chapter was founded in 2005
- Founding Members are Paul Martin and Bob Burns of Ava, MO

### Keeping our trails maintained

Working with the U.S. Forest Service, the Back Country Horsemen of Missouri Mountain Riders Chapter worked preserving the trails throughout Douglas, Ozark, Christian, and Taney Counties.

- They participate in over 10 Clip and Clean Trail Rides, clearing over 72 miles of trails.



- 8 riders from the BCHMO Mountain Riders went out in 4 teams of two and covered 90 percent of the trails at Hercules Glades Wilderness Area (37 miles total) documenting and marking downed tree locations for the Forest Service.

# NEMO Chapter

By Becki Krueger

The NEMO Chapter was organized in 2007 by Mary K Church, who saw a need for maintained trails at Mark Twain Lake (MTL), near Monroe City, MO. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers was ready to partner with the chapter in order to have a group that was willing to build and maintain the trails and trail heads around the lake.

Over the years we have grown to over 40 miles of trails at Mark Twain Lake

In 2024 the Corps of Engineers hosted the Partnership Program and asked us to be a presenter, explaining how our chapter became involved with the Corps and how we have strengthened our partnership over the years. This was attended by Corps personnel and contractors from all over the United States.

One of our biggest accomplishments for 2024 was working with the Corps to formulate an E-Bike policy that will go into effect the spring of 2025. This involved research and meetings between the COE and chapter leadership to formulate a policy that would allow e-bike usage, but protect equestrians.

The Chapter was also asked to set up a booth at the Wildlife and Outdoors Expo in Bethel, MO. We also did a presentation on Leave No Trace with a focus on how long it takes trash to break down, if left unattended. This event is mainly focused on hunting and fishing, but the chapter has been there for the last 5 years and have always been well received.

The Chapter also helps the Corps by transporting 'fish habitats' and 'spiders' to area boat docks where they will later be sunk into the Mark Twain Lake. Those locations are shared with fishermen via GPS coordinates, so they can fish the areas throughout the year.

We maintain the 20 plus miles of trails at Deer Ridge Conservation area, which is managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Members of the NEMO Chapter are skilled at using clippers, loppers, heavy equipment and some members are Chainsaw Certified.

The NEMO Chapter takes great pride in being the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter in Missouri that was allowed to use spray for brush control on Conservation property and we now are able to control the Multi-Flora rose population.

Our chapter sets our work/ride schedule every January at our annual chapter meeting, allowing members to get the dates on their calendars. Work events include free camping, courtesy of the Corps; eating at local businesses; enjoying a campfire with other members; making new friends and getting reacquainted with old friends. Our mission is to 'Keep Trails Open'.





**The NEMO Chapter at our Annual Reorganizational Meeting.**



**Loading fish habitats in order to transport to area locations around Mark Twain Lake.**





Cleaning the stalls at Frank Russell Recreation area in preparation for camping season.





**Removing old fence line from the trail. Much of the fences are over 70 years old.**





**Clipping and lopping are never ending parts of trail maintenance.**

# River Springs Chapter

By Ruth Garner

The River Springs Chapter was formed in 2009.

We work with Mark Twain National Forest (USFS), the MDC, and the USCOE, mostly on the Ozark Trail. Our River Springs Chapter of BCHMO also works with the National Park Service at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Some of our chapter's major accomplishments in 2024 include over 50 miles of Ozark Trail cleared, and purchasing power equipment with allocated state BCHMO funds, which helped make the trail work go faster. We gladly met new management of Public Lands, and had active member involvement at state meetings. Our Chapter Fun Rides as well as multiple workdays provide great fellowship and sharing in common goals. We enjoy delicious campfire potlucks as well.







**Ready to hit the trails and do some serious cleaning.**

# Rockwoods Range

By Julie Irwin

Greetings from the Rockwoods Range chapter of BCHMO. We are coming up on our 2 year anniversary, having started the process of forming our new chapter in June of 2023.

We are located in St. Louis County and have ongoing projects with Greensfelder County Park, as well as helping to help maintain trails with our local State and MDC parks.

Our main project has been with St. Louis County's largest park, Greensfelder, which has a trail network of 25 miles on over 1700 acres, also offering an equestrian campground. In recent years the local mountain biking community has done many trail improvements in the park system, while the existing horse structures have slowly fallen apart, with very little equestrian presence in maintaining trails or structures. For this reason, we wanted to make a grand gesture and have the community feel and see our presence in a positive way, as we have been in fear of losing equestrian access to the park. Greensfelder's Eagle Valley Trail is a multiuse trail known for its 14 historic cross-country jumps, which have become a dilapidated eye sore over the last 30 years and our perfect grandiose project of improvement!

St. Louis County Parks Department has been happy to work with our chapter and have us tackle the old jumps. They also allowed us to build a new trail obstacle course for the entire horse community to enjoy. In addition to trim rides and trail cleanup at our State and MDC parks, our chapter has been hard at work completing the Eagle Valley Trail project for the last 2 years and we are set to complete that project this Spring. We tore out and removed all 14 old jump structures and replaced them with smaller new jumps that all riders can enjoy at the walk, trot or canter. We also designed and built a trail obstacle course with 10 obstacles and there have been many times I've seen kids and dogs playing on the course, so great for the whole community and a visual representation of our work for all to see! The County will also provide an official sign at site with information about BCHMO.

Next on our list of projects will be trail erosion repair for several sections of trail at Greensfelder that need re-routing and better footing created.





**Proudly displaying our chapter banner.**





New jump standards.





**We always have willing members to help on work days.**





Rockwoods Rockin' Horsefest

# South Central Chapter

By Maury Mertz and Carol Hildebrand

Originally formed in the fall of 2014, the **South Central Chapter** participated in 6 Chapter events and all State events including all board meetings. We participated in events every month except July and August.

A summary of our work load is: 5 trail systems totaling 84 miles, plus mowing three trailheads annually. We also participate in the Junior Ranger Day with the National Park Service where we educate 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders about trail courtesy and safety.

Our chapter size includes 52 members. During 2024 our co-leaders were Carol Hildebrand and Maury Mertz. Our delegate to the board of directors is Kathy Jaeger with Maury Mertz as the alternate. Kathy is also the board secretary.

The agencies our chapter participates with are the National Forest Service, National Park Service, LAD Foundation and the Missouri Department of Conservation.



Annual Chapter meeting.





**Junior Ranger Day setup.**





The youth always are attracted to horses. This is an easy way to hold their attention as we explain our mission.





Our annual food drive helps the less fortunate members of our community.



# Southwest Chapter

By Lynette Miller

**The Southwest Chapter** started in the spring of 2024. We had our first meeting and work day on March 19th at the Berry Bend Trailhead at Warsaw, Missouri. Nine members attended as well as Monica Fox with the Corps of Engineers. Clean up started from the equine parking lot and traveled down the blue trail. Many trees were trimmed and trash was cleaned up. There will be plenty of work to do in the future and our chapter is ready to meet the challenge.



Getting ready to hit the trails.



# Tornado Ridge

By Michelle Rager



**Tornado Ridge Chapter** formed in 2017 in southwest Missouri. We needed a chapter for years in this area and finally bit the bullet. Working with MDC, (Missouri Department of Conservation) has been

our primary action so far. We are surrounded by many awesome MDC areas that have miles of horse trails. Our strong but small chapter does its best to keep up with 6 different areas. We hope to be working with Mark Twain National Forest in the future as some of that land is close to us also.

Maintaining trails by cleaning up deadfall and damage from storms



has been our priority along with updating the markers.



In May of 2024 several of our Conservation areas were hit very hard, especially Huckleberry in McDonald County. Of course, growing our chapter and reaching out to the public through saddle clubs and high schools has remained one of our goals.



# Tri-Lakes Chapter

By Larry Dishman & Leroy Raymond

Tri-Lakes Chapter Established 2006

Tri-Lakes Chapter Officers:

- Co-Leader – Larry Dishman
- Co-Leader – Leroy Raymond
- Secretary & Volunteer Hours Coordinator – Marsha Copeland
- State Board Director - Sherry Copeland

Volunteer Service Hours:

Total Value: \$ 74,039.30

Agencies & Partners of Volunteer Service:

- Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
- United State Forest Service (USFS)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (COE)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- LAD Foundation (LAD)

Major Projects:

- Pomme de Ridge – Signage Replacement & Trail Repair (COE)
- Bluff School & Howell Cemetery – Weed Control (LAD) Lead Mine CA – Continued & Expanded Signage (MDC)
- Hulston Mill – Storm Damage Clean Up & Preparation for Public Event (MDC)

General Advocacy & Maintenance Projects:

- Lead Mine Conservation Area (MDC)
- Pleasant Hope Conservation Area (MDC)
- Busiek State Forest (MDC)
- Compton Hollow Conservation Area (MDC)
- Hulston Mills (MDC)
- Pomme de Ridge (COE)
- Berry Bend (COE)
- Wilsons Creek National Battlefield (NPS)
- Mark Twain National Forest (USFS) □ Ozark National Scenic Riverways (NPS)

### Major Events:

- National Trails Day - Poker Run
- Ice Cream Social & Dessert Auction
- Upper Current River Clean Up
- National Public Lands Day



Placing gravel along the tread of the trail.



A



**Annual Pace Race**



**Cooperative effort between partner groups.**





Replacing trail markers.

# 2024 Major Accomplishments

- **Annual Clean-Up Project on Upper Current River**

This annual event sees volunteers on designated trails of NPS Ozark National Scenic Riverways, trails on 'private open to public land' and county roads

- **Fund Raiser Ride**

Participation in fun events with proceeds going toward future projects in the state

- **Membership Appreciation Ride**

A refreshing weekend of riding to show appreciation to the members for a successful year.

- **Infrastructure Improvement Project Grant**

One Chapter received the IIP; requires collaboration between chapter leaders and agency managers; resulting in up to \$4500 funds and \$4500 in-kind labor for project.

- **Annual Membership Meeting**

Adoption of new By-laws, and conduct official business of the State organization.

- **Mark Twain National Forest/Ozark Trail Clean Up**

30+ volunteers on designated trails on USFS.



## 2024 Major Accomplishments, con't

- Tread Lightly Program

Signage for areas where there is interaction between equestrians and motorized vehicles, such as ATV's, UTV's, and Dirt bikes, in collaboration with the USFS and the Tread Lightly Program.



**THIS IS A  
SHARED USE AREA  
WHEN MEETING  
HORSEBACK RIDERS:**

- Please pull or step safely to the downhill side of the trail
- Shut your machine off and remove your helmet
- Speak to the horseback rider
- Allow the horseback rider to pass safely
- **OR** ask the horseback rider for instructions

**Please Respect the Rights of Others  
and take it upon yourself to keep all trail users safe!**

FIND MORE  
RESPONSIBLE RECREATION  
TIPS AT [TREADLIGHTLY.ORG](https://treadlightly.org)

  

PARTNERS MAKE THIS POSSIBLE