



Trail Country News

Volume 6, Issue 2

Spring, 2008

Chairman's Corner

By: Bob Wagner

Elections are over, Officers, & Committee Chairpersons are in place so it appears that the Missouri Backcountry Horsemen are ready for another year of fighting for the backcountry. This year promises to be an exciting one for activities as the committee chairpersons are charged up and planning events. If you are called upon to participate on a committee, please consider doing so. The more we involve ourselves, the more unified we become.

I suppose this would be an opportune time for me, as Chairman, to once again remind everyone what this organization is about.

- TO PERPETUATE the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness areas.
- TO WORK to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- TO ASSIST the various government state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- TO EDUCATE, encourage and solicit active participation in the user of the back country resource by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- TO FOSTER and encourage the formation of new state organizations and BCHA.

Yes my friends, this is a political organization. We are in existence for reasons stated above. I sometimes think that we lose sight of what we are about. Our backgrounds are as varied as our individual horse use and range from ranching to mining to timber and agriculture. Many times, because of these backgrounds, and because of personalities in general we, as a group, don't always agree. The important thing to remember is what brought this diversified group of people together in the first place. Our love of the backcountry and our determination not lose it.

So what's all this mean? What I'm trying to say is simply this - we, as a group, should keep in mind our goals and support every activity to that end, and maybe, just maybe, our "fun things" will be more fun, and our unity and focus will become stronger on the things that originally brought us together.

Spring's around the corner. Time to start getting our horses in shape, our tack in good condition, and ourselves ready to ride. See you on the trail!

PUBLIC LANDS REPORT

Mary K. Church

Mark Twain National Forest will participate in the U.S. Forest Service's National Visitor Use Monitoring program through September, 2008. Various user groups, including equestrians, will have the opportunity to contribute. The survey, which will be used for local forest planning, state plans, Congressional information, and for local tourism planning is strictly voluntary and confidential; you will **not** be asked your name.

On approaching a survey point in Mark Twain National Forest, which may be on a trail or near a facility, you will see people wearing bright orange vests near a sign that reads "Traffic Survey Ahead". The Forest Service employees, contractors, and partners will be out in all kinds of weather conditions, waiting to interview visitors about their visit to Mark Twain National Forest. The interview will last about 8-10 minutes, and two out of three riders may be asked a few additional questions.

This is an opportunity for trail riders to have input in planning for the future of the Mark Twain National Forest, state plans and the local communities that are providing services to

us. So when you see the TRAFFIC SURVEY AHEAD sign, hopefully you will take advantage of the chance to drop the reins on your horse or mule, give him a ten minute breather, and provide some pertinent information for future planning for equestrians in Mark Twain National Forest.

MISSOURI SENATE BILL 1198 **“USE OF PUBLIC LAND”** **INTRODUCED IN SENATE**

Submitted by Allison Schottenhaml

Senate Bill 1198 “Use of Public Lands” was introduced into the Missouri Senate under the sponsorship of Senator Chuck Purgason and is identical to House Bill 1438. The Senate Bill has been read twice and referred to the Agriculture, Conservation, Parks & Natural Resources Committee. Please contact Senator Dan Clemens Committee Chair and ask him to put SB 1198 on the calendar as soon as possible for a public hearing, then contact all the committee members listed and ask them to support SB 1198 “Use of Public Lands”. It is very important that you also contact your State Senator and ask them to support this important legislation. Remind them of the economic impact that equine industry has on Missouri.

Senator Dan Clemens, Chair 866-242-0810
dan_clemens@senate.mo.gov

Senator Bill Stouffer, Vice-Chair 866 768-3987
bstouffer@senate.mo.gov

Senator Brad Lager 573-751-1415
brad.lager@senate.mo.gov

Senator Rob Mayer, 573- 751-3859
rob.mayer@senate.mo.gov

Senator Frank Barnitz, 573-751-2108
frank.barnitz @senate.mo.gov

Senator Maida Coleman, 573- 751-2606
maida_coleman@senate.mo.gov

Senator Chris Koster, 573-751-1430
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Senator Wes Shoemyer, 573-751-7852
wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov

Missouri horse industry produces a direct economic impact on the state of Missouri valued

at approximately \$718 million with the following activity distribution:

1. \$22 million from Horse Racing
2. \$238 million from Horse Showing
3. \$370 million from Horse Recreation (Trail Riding)
4. \$88 million from other Horse activities

The Missouri horse industry generates approximately \$9 million annual, of which \$2 million is paid to Missouri government and \$2 million to local government.

The Missouri horse industry generates approximately 42,200 direct jobs and 56,000 total jobs within the state with the primary activities as follows:

1. 700 direct jobs and 1,100 total jobs generated by Missouri Horse Racing
2. 2,100 direct jobs and 6,300 total jobs generated by Missouri Horse Showing
3. 35,900 direct jobs and 43,400 total jobs generated by Missouri Horse Recreation (trail riding)
4. 3,400 direct jobs and 5,300 total jobs generated by Missouri other horse activities

Missouri has approximately 281,000 horses with the following activities:

1. 9,700 Race Horses
2. 65,300 Show Horses
3. 145,700 Recreation Horses (trail horses)
4. 60,500 horse in other activities

REFERENCES: The Economic Impact of the Horse Industry on the United States. “Missouri Break-Out Report.” Deloitte Consulting LLP for the American Horse Council Foundation, 2005.

NAIS OPPOSITION **RESOLUTION: CINDI’S JOURNEY**

“Be it resolved on the 5th day of January 2008 that Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen supports the exclusion of all equine species from any and all aspects of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) including state and federal, voluntary and mandatory, etc.”

This Board of Directors action completed another step on a policy journey initiated by Cindi Davis,

Heart of the Ozarks Chapter. Cindi took her concerns to her chapter and then, the Trailmaster, Dave Talley, carried it forward to the Annual Membership Meeting. ALL in attendance wholeheartedly verbally supported opposition to NAIS. This resolution has been forwarded to Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) with the request that approval of a national version be considered at the BCHA National Board Meeting in April.

The total text of the resolution is available on our web page (www.showmebch.org), click on Advocacy to view. A summary of that material is as follows:

► Equestrian trail riders are noted as “*enthusiasts*” in recreational land use statistics for the sheer quantity of days spent in our activity. The cumbersome NAIS reporting requirements would restrict and complicate our pursuit.

► The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated species working groups; the Equine Species Working Group (ESWG) comprised of representatives from major breed and equine activity organizations has recommended that “*Equine movements will not be reported.*” This recommendation is incorrectly reported and/or ignored in the USDA draft “A Business Plan to Advance Animal Disease Traceability.”

► The distinction between mandatory and volunteer becomes blurred with the federal monies available.

► According to the Government Accounting Office (GAO), no cost-benefit analysis on NAIS has been accomplished.

► Mandatory microchip implantation has many unresolved issues.

► NAIS is a reactive system, contaminated food and/or disease outbreak must be reported before any back tracking within 48 hours can occurred. A proactive system, i.e. federal meat inspection, to protect our food system is already in place.

There is currently a bill in the Missouri Senate (SB931) sponsored by Senator Purgason that would limit the ability of Missouri government agencies to participate in any aspect of NAIS with legislative oversight. Call your State Senator for more information, remember “Speak now” or report every movement of your horse to the government. Call or email L.Gail Gartside, NAIS Opposition Coordinator,

at 417-491-4603 or onturnbackcreek75@gmail.com for more information.



Cindi Davis, the sparkplug behind SMMBCH NAIS opposition resolution.

Missouri Dept Of Conservation **(MDC) Survey of Missouri's** **Horseback Riders**

Allison Schottenhaml

The Missouri Department of Conservation is conducting a survey of Missouri's horseback riders. During February and March they will be mailing out surveys to randomly selected riders and working with equestrian organizations and trail riding clubs to distribute surveys to riders.

Your participation is voluntary and there is no right or wrong answers. Your answers remains strictly confidential and your name will never be included in any report. The surveys ask about where, when and how people ride on public lands.

This survey is for research that will help MDC provide better recreational opportunities. The results will be used to help MDC do a better job of planning, building, maintaining and managing public trails.

SMMBCH will be working with MDC to distribute surveys. Surveys will be given to chapter leaders for chapter members. We will also be distributing surveys at Horsefest and at our Annual Clean up on the Ozark Scenic River ways at Big Creek.

If you receive a survey by mail, at an organized trail ride or from your chapter leader it is important that you take a few minutes and express your opinions and base your answers on your own riding experiences. If you would like to see more equestrian trails and camping opportunities on MDC land now is the time to express your thoughts.

After you fill in the survey, please either drop it in the box provided by the trail ride or seal it closed and mail back to MDC, return postage is pre-paid.



MEMBERS TESTIFY AT CAPTIOL ON HOUSE BILL 1438

Five of our SMMBCH members made the trip to Jefferson City in February to testify before the House of Representatives “Special Committee on State Parks and Waterways” in support of House Bill 1438 “Use of Public Lands.” This bill was introduced by Representative Van Kelly (Representative District 144) after working closely with our Public Lands Committee. This bill states in part that no resident of the United States shall be denied access to any public land owned, managed, or funded by the state of Missouri for the purpose of riding horses or mules. Along with this comes the recognition of being responsible and ride only on trails that will withstand this activity without detriment to the land or current usage.

Those testifying were Bob Voyles, Board member; Allison Schottenhaml, President; Paul Martin, advisor; and Marsha Copeland, Education Chair. Two of our affiliates sent members to testify, Gene Donley and Jim Wood of the Missouri Fox

Trotting Breed Association and an affiliate member from the Farm Bureau. Board Chair Bob Wagner was also present, however, he did not testify. Especially pleasing and appreciated was the testimony of Representative Larry Wilson (Representative District 119).

It has been and will continue to be a real learning experience for all of us as we follow and push this bill. It was due to those of you who did your part by contacting your representatives and especially the members of the special committee that it was brought to the hearing stage. We are just getting started when it comes to involving ourselves in contacting our legislators. When a bill is voted out of committee after a hearing, it must be brought to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote. Get ready to contact Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House, to bring it to the floor of the House of Representatives to be voted on.

While at the capitol our troops visited other members of Congress asking for support of the bill as it hopefully moves through the hoops to become law. It is with great gratitude and thanks that while visiting Senator Chuck Purgason (Senate District 33) he agreed to file the bill in the Senate. Guess what? We get to start all over again with the calling, emailing, faxing and writing our Senators and follow the same path as with the House! Gee, I’m tired already just writing about it, let alone writing Jeff City!

All whining aside, this is what it is going to take – getting involved in the political process if we are going to protect the trails that we appreciate so much, not only for our own riding pleasure, but for our children and grandchildren. No one is interested in doing it for us. No one WILL do it for us. While we are pleased with the good support we are getting, there are forces just as intent on seeing this bill defeated. This is not something we can just wish into being. It is going to take all of us coming together, and working together, for this bill to become law. Our failures in the past can be laid at the feet of those of us that didn’t stand up, work together, and get involved in our own future.

NOTICE—Effectively Immediately

Volunteer Hours Report forms should **not** be sent to Marsha Copeland, as in the past, but to our new Service Committee Chair. All members, whether chapter or at-large, please send, or email,

reports of all logged hours/ mileage, etc. for SMMBCH to:

Mary K. Church
5132 County Rd. 277
Palmyra, MO 63461
mkchurch@adams.net

The procedure is exactly the same, just send forms to Mary K. instead of Marsha when you are ready to report volunteer hours. You can also find the contact information for Mary K. on the website.

Steps "USE OF PUBLIC LAND" Must Take to Become Law

Follow the progress and steps our current House Bill 1438 "Use of Public Land" must make to become law to protect and ensure we will have trails on which to ride our horses and mules. We must do this for ourselves and our future riders. Your participation is the only thing that can make this bill become the law of Missouri.

This is a scaled down explanation of the steps taken to make a bill a law. The "X" in front of numbers indicated that the step is completed. We have a LONG way to go!

Watch for the "X's" in each newsletter to track progress. For "X's" to be added, you must be ready to contact your House and Senate legislators to push for support.

1. Bill introduced into House of Representatives by Representative Van Kelly.
2. Assigned to "Special Committee on State Parks and Waterways for reading.
3. Public hearing held (SMMBCH testified at hearing in February.)
4. Vote out of committee by members of the Special Committee
5. Bill placed on "perfection calendar" to be debated on the House floor. The Speaker of the House, Mr. Rod Jetton, decides what is brought to the floor.
6. After perfection and reprinting, the bill goes on the calendar for third reading and final passage.
7. Bill is reported the other house, in this case the Senate, and the process is repeated unless the bill has already been filed by a Senator.

8. Bill introduced into Senate by Senator Chuck Purgason.

9. Repeat of #2-7.

10. Upon final passage in both houses, it is signed by the House speaker and Senate

President.

11. Bill sent to the Governor for final step to become law.

Our Older Horses, Kids, and Making Dreams Come True

Even in my "older" years I can recall the dreams I dreamed when I was a youngster and dreamed of my own horse. My horse was the fastest, most beautiful, and could speak to me clearly. I understood every nicker, snort, ear twitch, and whoosh of breath as if it were English. Come on now, you were the same way and you know it! Where am I going with this? I am going to a way some of us may be able to make this dream a reality for some youngster. Actually, I have seen it happen.

How many of us have an older horse that has devoted many wonderful years of service to us but now is just not capable of enduring our long and continuous trail riding. They become pasture ornaments but still have some good years left if ridden lightly. I would like to tell you about Paula Cazzato and her older horse Bai Kanda, a thoroughly experience, calm, and trustworthy Arabian bay gelding. This is also a story of eleven year old Kerstan Strickland, a horse crazy girl needing a horse such as Bai to take her for rides and teach her the ways of a horse in safety. These two, Paula and Kerstan, came together when Paula gave Bai to Kerstan to care for and use with strict conditions that he would be well cared for in the remaining years of his life. All the pieces fell together since Kerstan had a supporting family with the means to take care of Bai. It wasn't an easy decision for Paula to give up Bai. This gelding was a trusting partner to Paula for many years but the act of passing him on was done with love and the desire for Bai to have a job of importance, teaching a youth the love of horses and riding.

You might think about this if you have replaced your older horse with a newer model and are just watching your older horse get "older." However, this cannot be done lightly or without a real commitment to make sure all things are in place and

done for the right reasons. Only you would know if your horse is suited for a youth who is not experienced. Safety is all important. You also would want assurances that your old friend would be well cared for. If this type of give-away is done for the right reasons and with the desire of wanting what is best for both a child and your horse, you, too, could make some child's dream come true.



COME RIDE WITH US AT

Panther Creek

TRAIL RIDE

379 HUMPHREY CREEK RD.
TUSCUMBIA, MO. 65083
573-369-2655/573-369-2553

NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER

(NDD)

By: L.Gail Gartside

Twenty four hours ago, I had never heard this term and now, I wonder if I have it. My first glimpse came from reading some government recreational planning web pages: *"There are several reports about children today having "Nature Deficit Disorder" and with people in general being afraid to go outdoors because of tick-born illnesses, West Nile virus, etc."* One of the recommendations was that "interpreters" be hired to get people interested in nature again.

With a somewhat ironic sense of humor and grey hair, I initially found it amusing that there should be hired staff to acquaint children with nature. My mind took another left turn...and dredged up memories of my past psychiatric nursing experience. Perhaps, when my nephew and his wife bring their children "...out to play", we could change the language to "...treatment for Nature Deficit Disorder." Maybe, I could bill the government or insurance company.

Did clear up one point, I am too old for this disorder, it is children and young adults who are so afflicted. Recreational land managers, private and public, are very concerned about the overall drop in outside activities by this group. It is a sedentary group, couch potatoes, an urbanite problem with little or no family ties to the country life style. Rural and farm background are too far back in the family tree for any influence.

Yipes, this is serious business. *" One man who bears a large responsibility for breathing new life into back-to-nature efforts is Richard Low, author of 2005's "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder." The book,*

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which describes a generation so plugged into electronic diversions that it has lost its connection to the natural world, is helping drive a movement quickly flourishing across the nation.” (The Nation’s Health, publication of American Public Health Association, www.thenationshealth.org) Louv’s efforts have lead to a national NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE movement.

There is a movement in New Mexico for a special sale tax on televisions and other electronics that would be used to fund No Child Left Inside activities. What does that mean to us equestrians? Perhaps, being older, we should be thankful that we, as children, were able to be in nature and discover it on our own. And we might want to consider doing a bit extra to acquaint these urban youth with our magnificent creatures as a pathway to the woods. We are not an island.

Or maybe...I just need to go ride my horse in the woods. I have Trail Riding Deficit Disorder. See you out there.

(For more information, go to www.cnaturenet.org or www.nochildleftinside.org.)

Understanding Safety Protocol as a Volunteer

By: Kelly Pearson, Trails and Volunteer Coordinator, Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District

Why Do I need to wear a hard hat? I do this all the time. I’ve been doing this since I was a kid. Why won’t the Forest Service let me operate a chainsaw, it’s what I do all the time at my house. As a Forest Service Volunteer Coordinator and after many years of working with volunteers completing trail projects I have heard these questions many times. My experience has been that it is difficult for volunteers to understand why I must insist they wear or use personal protective equipment during our work days. I thought I would take this opportunity to explain why it is important for volunteers to follow these safety precautions.

Those of you who have been volunteering over the past several years have probably heard me or other Forest Service personnel talk about our tailgate safety forms, the Job Hazard Analysis and the

Health and Safety Code Handbook. Of course we have forms, we are the Government! But what do these things have to do with volunteers? Please allow me to explain these items and procedures and maybe in the end this all might make a little more sense.

A Tailgate Safety Form is completed by project leaders at the beginning of a project whether they are leading other Forest Service employees, volunteers or even contractors. This form asks us to identify those who are present for the day, what project we will be working on; what hazards might be present; how we will mitigate or minimize the risk of those hazards; what Job Hazard Analysis we will be working under; and what part of the Health and Safety Code Handbook we developed the Job Hazard Analysis from.

The Job Hazard Analysis is specific to projects that we do. These documents identify hazards of the project and how they will be mitigated or minimized and what personal protective equipment will be required to complete the project. This document is reviewed annually and is signed by the District Ranger.

The Health and Safety Code Handbook is often referred to as the Forest Service safety “Bible”. Every project that is or has been done by any one in the Forest Service and what safety mitigations are required are listed in the handbook. Any project or accident where someone has been seriously injured or where someone has lost their life is highlighted, and there are many. This handbook is a collection of lessons learned the hard way. The Occupational Safety and Health Association will refer to this Handbook during accident investigations to determine if the employee and employer have done everything they can to prevent the accident or injury. If during the investigation they find one step or piece of personal protective equipment were not followed they might deny any Workman’s Compensation claims.

What I have not mentioned yet is the Volunteer Agreement. This document identifies the group or individual who will participate in a volunteer work day; what the project will be; what personal protective equipment will be provided and any compensation that might be given. Signatures from

the individual or group liaison and the District Ranger make this a living document. By signing this agreement volunteers are agreeing to follow Forest Service standards for the project and to follow our safety procedures. Once signed by all parties the volunteers are for safety purposes treated like a federal employee. The standards that govern federal worker's safety apply to all volunteer activities.

Another common question is why the Forest Service will not allow volunteers to operate equipment such as chainsaws? The Forest Service does recognize as a whole our volunteers are experienced in many different aspects of working out of doors and those skills make volunteers an invaluable asset to accomplishing work on the ground. The Forest Service is not trying to diminish your abilities by not allowing you to operate however we must insure that you have been qualified under Forest Service standards before operating equipment on volunteer projects. Again, this is for the volunteer's protection in case of an accident or injury. Attending Forest Service trainings for equipment operation is difficult for many volunteers. Often times there is no one on the Forest who is qualified to certify volunteers meaning volunteers might need to travel at their own expense to receive training. There is discussion at the national level and discussions here on the Forest level to determine how to standardize training for volunteers and how we can provide local trainings.

While the paperwork process seems over-complicated and the type of personal protective equipment required for seemingly harmless projects may seem like "over kill" it really is in the best interest of the volunteers and the Forest Service project leaders to follow safety protocol at all times during the project.

I hope this helps each of you to have a better understanding of why we ask you to wear a hard hat and gloves and why we can't just allow any one to operate a piece of equipment.

I look forward to working with many of you out on the trail in the future.

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Leave No Trace Awareness Tip: Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

By: Jerry Schottenhaml, Leave No Trace Master Educator

Spring time in Missouri means rain, a monthly average of about 2 ½ inches. Since spring time is one of the best trail riding seasons please take into consideration heavy rains when planning your ride. If possible ride at least 24 hours after it has rained an inch or more. If trails are not in shape to ride safely or unable to ride without damaging trails, plan your ride for another day. Stay on designated trails. Do Not avoid the mud puddle, travel through the mud puddle, which will keep the mud puddle from widening. Alert the Public Land Manager of dangerous hazards along trail routes. Do not create any new trails unless you have been authorized to do so by the land manager. Remember always travel and camp on durable surfaces.

Indian Trails Chapter

March 12th Chapter Meeting: located at the Pizza Shack as always. Our meeting will run as scheduled then after we will hold a short St. Patrick's Day parade update for those that wish to participate in rather it be with or without horse we welcome everyone. **P.S.** Can each family chapter member provide a bag of candy for the parade.

March 15th St. Patrick's Day Parade: Second year riding in the Parade. We will have a flat bed float, set up as a campsite with horses, riders and horse drawn carriages following the campsite, with a pooper scooper last. We will be handing out bags of candy to the crowd of over 200,000 spectators with

our chapter info and organization's mission statement attached. If you would like to ride your horse or ride on the float in the parade you must contact Stacy as we need a head count for the parade officials.

March 22nd Meramec Clean-Up: . We plan on the same clean up along with a Tail-Gate cook out to those that wish to donate a dish and maybe their time if needed.

April 4th - 6th: Paddy Creek Wilderness Area Campout and Ride. Paddy Creek is a beautiful Wilderness Area, lots of good riding. We will be camping at the trailhead which is primitive camping. Some will be coming down on Friday. (I heard some are going down on Thursday!) Gene our Trail Boss grew up in this area and knows these trails very well so we will have a good trail guide. He also has a friend who will have a 250 gallon water tank at the trailhead so we have plenty of water for stock. Be ready to ride by 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. For more information please contact Allison at wilber94@fidnet.com



SMMBCH MERCHANDISE

We now have a person who will be handling SMMBCH merchandise, hats, patches and decals. The contact person is Carole Sharp, member NEMO River Valley Chapter her contact info is phone 573-439-5582 and email cjsharp@marktwain.net. Display your colors proudly!!! Thanks Carole for taking on this volunteer job!

MAKE A DONATION TO BCHA EDUCATION FOUNDATION AND GET TAX DEDUCTION

Established in 1999, the Back Country Horsemen Education Foundation of America has received the IRS 501 (C) (3) recognition as a non-profit foundation. This structure allows the Foundation to receive grants and contributions from individuals and associations or corporations. In return, the donors may claim a tax deduction.

The Education Foundation provides support for the BCHA chapters that have planned educational projects that include recreational stock use on public lands. The grant/award program is designed to fund planned education projects. The education projects may be in the form of clinics, entry fees for is to benefit the recreational stock user by supporting projects that promote cooperative interaction with other user groups regarding the preservation of our back country resource.

If you or someone you know would like to get a tax deduction by making a donation to this BCHA Education Foundation they can earmark their donation for Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen Education project. Remember that one of the purposes of SMMBCH and BCHA is: To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the care and use of equestrian resources by trail riders and the general public commensurate with our heritage; To continue and expand the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Missouri public and private lands.

Ask some of the Equine business people in your area that you support to make a donation many companies look for education foundations to contribute to just for the tax deduction. If they are interested and need more info please have them contact me.

You can make a donation by going to www.backcountryhorse.com go to the link for REPORTS, go to the very bottom of the page and there will be another link for the Education Foundation, there you will find a form to fill out to make your donation. Make sure that you mark your donation for Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen Education Projects, this way the money

will be available only for the many educational projects SMMBCH has planned.

If you need more information or a donation form please contact Allison Schottenhaml 636-629-0796 or wilber94@fidnet.com

CUIVRE RIVER RIDERS CHAPTER

The Cuivre River group met on March 18th to discuss plans for this year. A clean up and informational ride is schedule for April 26th at Cuivre River Park at 10 AM. Along with checking out the trails after a long winter we will host a BBQ (hot dogs) and put up our banner. We plan to advertise in the local paper in an attempt to gain some additional members.

NEMO RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

NEMO River Valley Chapter members held their 2008 organizational meeting in the form of a soup supper and carry in on January 19. After much visiting, eating, and in some cases, getting acquainted, the meeting was called to order. Among others, issues discussed or acted upon were:

- **Welcome to new members!**
- Election of officers
 - Trail Master, Mary K. Church
 - Asst. Trail Master, Carol Snell
 - Paper Trail Master, Becki Krueger
- House Bill 1438
- NAIS
- How to contact legislators.
- Survey from MDC
- Shirts with our chapter name and the SMMBCH logo
- Rep. Kenny Hulshof or a representative from his office to discuss issues with us
- Possibly hosting 2009 annual membership meeting
- SMMBCH has applied to host 2010 BCHA annual meeting
- Future work and meeting dates:
 - April 26, Joanna Trail, **Spalding Trail Head**; 10 AM

- May 10, Route N portion of Joanna Trail, **Lot 11**; 10 AM*
- June 21, Route N portion of Joanna Trail, Camp out at **R & R Campground**; cook out Saturday evening*

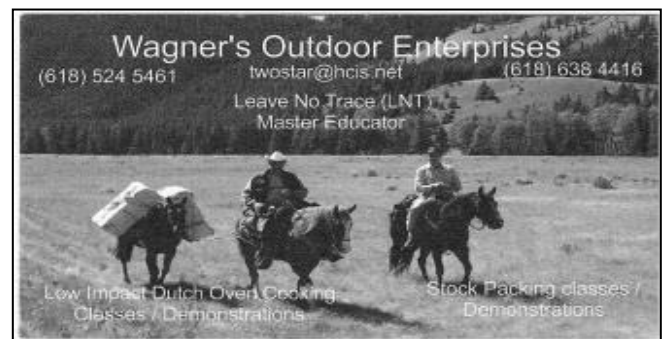
*** more details will be announced when closer to the date.**

Since that organizational meeting, a group of determined riders put on their long underwear and **did finish marking** the trail from Lot 11 to Lot 10, and back. Now that the trail is located and marked, we will focus on clearing and maintenance. There remains one six-mile stretch from Lot 11 going the other direction that we haven't started on!

OZARK FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

Diane Stratton-Trailmaster

The Mingo Saddle Club (member of the Foothills Chapter) will be hosting a Saddle-Up and Ride for St. Jude Children's Hospital at the Castor River Conservation Area on April 5th. This will be the second year that the Missouri Department of Conservation has allowed us to use the Castor River Conservation Area to host this event. Registration will be from 8AM-10AM on the 5th and rides will leave the trail head at 10AM. Again this year we will have 3 different rides (2 hr, 3 hr and 5 hr). If anyone is interested the area does offer primitive camping facilities. Call Diane Stratton 573/222-3973 for more information.



CHAPTER LEADERS

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Mountain Riders

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Indian Trails

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Nemo River Valley

Chapter

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