



# Trail Country News

Spring 2014 Issue

## *Chairman's Corner*

**Russell Martin**

As this very long and cold winter begins to draw to a end, it's time to start thinking about our trails. As we are all chomping at the bit to start riding, we need to think about the condition of the trails after this winter. We all know there are going to be trees and branches down over the trails. Are the trails still too muddy to ride? So when we are all getting that "Spring Fever" for that first ride, remember to take your hand saw and loppers with you. Please take a little extra time on your ride to help clear and clean up that trail. Remember to display your Show-Me BCH sticker on your truck or trailer and share what we do.

This year Federal Agencies (Mark Twain National Forest) cannot apply for a Recreational Trails Grant. If your chapter works with the Forest Service, they are going to be counting on you even more to help them obtain material, supplies for trails and trail heads. This only makes your TMI Projects even more important.

Not to beat a "dead dog" to death, however, over the last several months there has been a lot of confusion (or lack of education) over the National Park Service General Management Plan. Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen's official stand on the issue is supporting Alternative B of the GMP. The two main reasons for this decision is: 1) This will provide us (equestrians) with approximately 25 miles of "DESIGNATED" horse trails. This means trails that will always be there. Trails that can be put on a trail map. Trails that we can work on and maintain. Trails that are built to standards and in the right areas so they will stand up to equestrian use. 2) Plan B will environmentally help protect the park not just for us, but our kids, grandkids, great grandkids, so on and so on.

So many horse people I have spoke with can't get past the sentence of "65 miles of trail closer." Please remember this 65 miles of trails are "UNDESIGNATED" trails. They are social trails. Many can't with stand long term equestrian use. They were built straight up and down a hill, or in a flood plain. We can't maintain them or have them on a trail map. These trails were doomed from the start. They can't hold up to long term equestrian use and be a safe trail to ride. And they can be closed down at any given time.

Alternative B also refers to a new equestrian camp. To me this is just icing on the cake. Most important is to continue to work with the NPS to obtain as many miles of "DESIGNATED" trails as possible.

There are still several unanswered questions. Where will these "DESIGNATED" trails be built? How long will it be before they are in place? Will the "UNDESIGNATED" trails be closed before the new trails are open?

Sorry but I can't answer these questions. This is where SMMBCH will play a huge role in the NPS next step and will help to develop the NPS Horse Management Plan.

SMMBCH relationship with the NPS has strengthened so much over the last several years. I truly believe the Park Service will treat equestrian as fairly as any other user group in the big picture of making sure the OSNR will be there for all future generations for recreational use.

## Eastern Missouri Chapter-Larry Bast

On March 19th Larry Bast, Chapter Leader, met with Kelley Brent and Don Steir from Jefferson City as well as Park Superintendent, Joe Blum, to review a request for major improvements at the trailhead of St. Francis State Park. The state is going to mark the edge of the wilderness area so that we can identify the boundary of our work area. Larry is in the process of submitting a second master plan to the State for the total reconstruction and expansion of the parking lot and trailhead modifications. This would include separate parking for hikers, one way traffic thru the parking lot, new pull thru lanes approximately 55' long, to ease parking problems. This will eliminate the need to back trailers in the future.

Larry is also in the process of taking photos of trail conditions so the Chapter can work on solutions for problem areas. This work will require trails to be moved to avoid further deterioration. Joe Blum has ordered new trail markers and once they arrive the Chapter will install them.

Another planning meeting was scheduled for St Joe State Park, however, it has been postponed until April. Larry has met several times with Bill Bonnell and Sandy McCain on pending issues at this location. A new pavilion is being discussed for the parking area. This construction would require an archaeological study to take place for the disturbed area so Bill has agreed to start the paperwork. We are now waiting for wording and guidelines for sponsored structures in the park. The Chapter would like for the State to provide and maintain plaques on these future structures.

The next Chapter meeting is Monday, March 31st at 7:00PM at the Farmington Civic Center. Please attend and BRING a guest! Hope to see everyone there. Larry can be reached at 314-267-3650 or at [traildoctor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:traildoctor@sbcglobal.net)



NEMO Group Picture  
(see article on page 6)

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Renewed for 2014

Due to the 2013 Trail Maintenance Incentive (TMI) Program being a success, leading to improvements to equestrian trails and trail heads in five different areas of Missouri, the Board of Directors has approved the renewal of the program for 2014. Each of our eight chapters has the opportunity to participate. Chapters will have available \$1,000 to go toward a project in their area to improve trails or trail heads. The Chapter also pledges 64 hours of volunteer service toward the project, making it a \$2,000 incentive to land managers. The land manager and Chapter must agree on the project and follow through with an application. Chapter leaders have been sent the guidelines for the 2014 program. Deadline for application is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Members-at-Large are also eligible and may participate. For additional information contact: Russell Martin (417-777-0608) or Marsha Copeland (417-345-5753)

### Tri Lakes Chapter Report

Tri-Lakes Chapter members held their winter meeting February 1<sup>st</sup> with over 50 members attending. In addition to the business of electing 2014 officers, many issues were discussed. The Ozark National Scenic Riverways comment period for the General Management Plan was discussed. The Alternatives were discussed and how it would affect the future of horse trails. All were encouraged to read the plan and make their personal comments. Information was given as to the meaning of designated trails and how it pertains to national parks.

Many other issues were discussed and plans were made for the coming year and goals set. The Chapter plans to apply for the 2014 Trail Maintenance Incentive Program to build upon the successful 2013 TMI project conducted at Lead Mine Conservation Area.

A committee was formed to set a calendar of events for the year. The committee met the following week; the event calendar was sent to members.

The chapter budget was discussed. Youth events, tools, and a membership drive were some of the items discussed on how to best use the funds.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, members placed orders for Tri-Lakes Chapter tee-shirts, long sleeve tees, and jackets.

The 2014 Officers elected: John Waitman and Larry Dishman - Chapter Leaders; Marsha Copeland—Secretary.



## Brownfield Chapter-Robin Vaughn

The Brownfield Chapter held their annual meeting February 20th and there was a good turnout. We appreciate everyone that came and missed those that could not make it. A huge thank you is given to the Oasis Westwood Café for allowing us to use their restaurant for our meeting. Lots of discussions were had along with visiting and eating good food!

Several members renewed their memberships for 2014 and a new addition was made. Welcome to Cynthia!



There were 3 dates selected for organized Brownfield Chapter Events to be held at Cole Creek Trail this year:

**April 26** Brownfield Chapter Work Day

**June 7** National Trails Day – Membership Drive/Fun Ride, ride out at 9:30

**September 27** Brownfield Chapter 4th Annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) Work Day

Details for these events will be posted on the Brownfield Chapter web and Facebook pages as the dates get closer and watch for postings of other spur of the moment events, too!

Come to Cole Creek Trail to see the area and ride the trails!

  
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# WHERE DO YOU RIDE?

## Part VII

The purpose of this series of articles is to acquaint our riders with background information on agencies where equestrian trails can be found and how their missions differ from one another.

"Trail Country News" 2012 Issue began a seven part series with the purpose of providing information to riders on Missouri's five major land management agencies. Each of these agencies supports horseback riding in differing degrees. What I hope readers have taken from this series is that "public land is not just public land." Each agency was created by law and with a specific mission. As trail users, we need to know how each agency supports a trail system and how horse trails fit into the system.

SUMMARY OF AGENCIES AND MISSIONS:  
For Detailed Information, Please Read Original Articles

**US Army Corps of Engineers:** (Federal) Mission – national defense, flood protection, hydroelectricity, potable water supply, conservation - somewhere in this huge mission comes recreation. Horseback riding is only one very small part of the many forms of recreation held in lake areas.

**National Park Service:** (Federal) Mission – to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and value. While preservation is its basic mission, recreation is allowed and governed by federal laws. Horseback riding is allowed on designated trails only. (See: *Trail Country News* "Spring 2013.")

**Mark Twain National Forest:** (Federal) Mission – Created by the Weeks Act permitting the federal government to purchase land for reestablishing forests and protecting watersheds. The Forest Service manages for the sustainability of our forests areas and protecting watersheds. The MTNF is the most generous of the agencies in supporting horse trails.

**Missouri Department of Conservation:** (State) Mission Statement – *"To protect and manage the forest, fish, and wildlife resources of the state and to facilitate and provide opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about these resources."* Recreation falls into citizens using and enjoying conservation land.

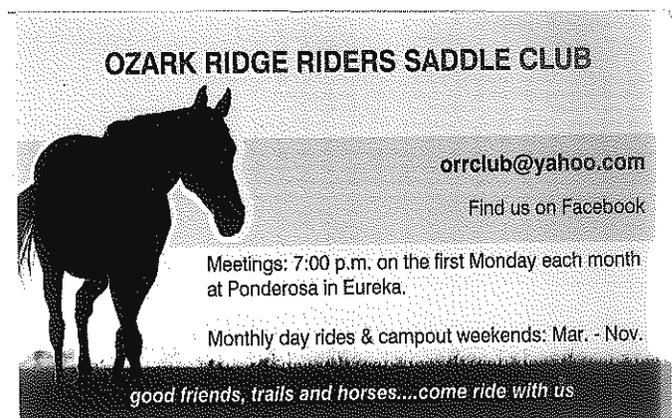
**Missouri State Parks:** (State Division of Department of Natural Resources) Mission – *Protection to park visitors, their property and the cultural and natural resources of Missouri's state parks and historic areas. Provide opportunities to understand, appreciate, and enjoy the cultural and natural heritage.*

So why do we as horseback riders need to know the differing missions of these five agencies? We must be knowledgeable of their mission mandated by law and know how we as equestrians fit into the mission. As citizens of this state we seek recognition as recreational equals with Missouri's trail user groups. We seek the same opportunities for use and trail development. We recognize and take responsibility that horses have an impact on the environment. All users create impact. We also recognize horse impact has often been misrepresented with opinion often taking precedence over scientific data. We, as SMMBCH members, support minimizing impact through service to each of these land managers. Our volunteer hours in helping maintain and plan for sustainable multiuse trails, has a place in all Missouri's land managers' missions. Horses not only historically and culturally belong on Missouri's trails; they have earned the privilege of being included.

Marsha Copeland  
SMMBCH Education Chair



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**OZARK RIDGE RIDERS SADDLE CLUB**  
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Meetings: 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday each month  
at Ponderosa in Eureka.  
Monthly day rides & campout weekends: Mar. - Nov.  
good friends, trails and horses...come ride with us

## NEMO River Valley Chapter-Mary K Church

We were fortunate to have scheduled our annual carry-in and chapter meeting on Jan. 11, one of the few winter weekends we did not have inclement weather. Over thirty members were in attendance to enjoy a bountiful meal, fellowship, and conduct the business of the chapter. The presiding officers were re-elected: Trail Master, Mary K Church; Assistant Trail Master, Wayne Lake; and Paper Trail Master, Becki Krueger. Shelly Howald, COE, brought us up to date on various projects and news of interest to our work. Von Pilkington, chapter member who serves as secretary on the FOREST council reviewed that organization's progress. Events were scheduled; a list can be found on NEMO River Valley Chapter Facebook page and SMMBCH website. .

The annual FOREST Council (Friends of Recreation and Environmental Stewardship) meeting was held on February 26, where nine members represented NEMO River Valley Chapter. We were surprised and pleased to be presented with three awards from the Corps of Engineers at the meeting. Mary K Church received a Certificate of Appreciation for "exceptional support in the coordination of all efforts provided by the NEMO River Valley Chapter of Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen". Wayne and Margaret Lake received a Certificate of Appreciation for "persistent work and maintenance at the Outdoor Adventure campground" which Wayne did the care-taking of, about single-handedly the entire 2014 season. Additionally, NEMO River Valley Chapter received the Commander's Award for Public Service for "excellent support and valued advocacy of the recreational trails at Mark Twain Lake since 2009...consistent supporter of three facility development grants...and persistent provision of maintenance of the Joanna Multi-Purpose Trail". We are appreciative to the Corps of Engineers for this recognition and are grateful to our local managers for promoting this mutually beneficial partnership.

Earth Day, April 26, is our first scheduled workday. Riders will leave Von's at 9:30, with Becki in leadership. Volunteers will work on the four additional new campsites at Frank Russell Trail Head on May 10, providing ground conditions are suitable. Youth Day and National Trails Day Membership Drive event are scheduled for May 31 and June 7, as well as impromptu and small group work that will be accomplished by volunteers who have adopted projects.



NEMO River Valley accepts  
Commanders Award for Public  
Service

L to R, Louis Del'Arco, Chief of Operations, St. Louis District; Margaret and Wayne Lake; Mary K Church; Becki Krueger; Donna and John Turner; Marguerite and David Jones; Sandra Spence, Mark Twain Lake Operations Manager. Von Pilkington was in her role as FOREST Council secretary and was too busy join the photo opp.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED, PLEASE RETURN THIS  
FORM WITH THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TODAY! OR,  
PASS THIS TO A FRIEND AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO  
JOIN OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION!

Show-Me Missouri Back Country Horsemen

[www.showmebch.org](http://www.showmebch.org)

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check One:

Individual-\$35.00

Family-\$40.00

Club or Business Membership-\$55.00-entitles you to business card ad in quarterly newsletter and link on website.

New Member joining after August 1<sup>st</sup> will receive the rest of that year and the following year for one year's membership fees.

Members may be a Chapter member or a member At Large, the dues are the same. Please indicate your chapter affiliation if applicable:

Brownfield Chapter-Lebanon/Waynesville area

Cuivre River Chapter-Troy area

Indian Trails Chapter-St. Clair area

Mountain Riders Chapter-Norwood area

Nemo River Valley Chapter-Palmyra area

Tri-Lakes Chapter-Bolivar area

River Springs Chapter-Winona area

At Large-(meaning you do not belong to a specific Chapter)

Mail application to Carol Mason, P O Box 131, Conway, MO 65632

Home 417-589-2010 Cell 417-413-6380 [ezgaits@yahoo.com](mailto:ezgaits@yahoo.com)

By joining SMMBCH I agree to hold harmless the SHOW-ME MISSOURI BCH organization, its directors, officers, and members from any and all liability, claims or demands for personal injury, sickness or death, property damages and expenses incurred by myself or family member while participating or attending a SMMBCH event except in the event of gross and willful negligence.

## Service Committee Report

Some chapter members have been busy attending public meetings with land managers and agencies, and chapter planning for 2014. A few hearty volunteers of the Brownfield and River Springs Chapters have been working on the trails, trail heads, and camp sites---in January and February, disagreeable as they were! It is amazing what "stir crazy" can do!

Total Hours	338
Total Travel Miles	2695
Total Equipment Hours	51
Total Stock Days	3
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>	<b>\$11,935</b>

Keep in mind that your volunteer hours do NOT have to be on an organized work day. Report your work to me, or to your Service Committee chapter member. **YOU CAN COUNT:**

- Trail work on public land or open private land (open to equestrian, but not commercial)
- Trail, trail head and road clean up (not after yourself!)
- On-site support for food prep for work parties
- Planning and preparation for future work parties

If you do skilled work (carpentry, bridge, fence, hitching post construction, GPS work, sawyer work, equipment operation, etc.), count your hours as SKILLED. Also count your equipment hours under SKILLED EQUIPMENT or HEAVY EQUIPMENT. If you have a riding mount for trail work, count him.

### SERVICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Robin Vaughn, Brownfield
- Janet Karrenbrock, Cuivre River
- Larry Bast, Eastern Missouri
- Kathy LaRue, Indian Trails
- Kate Assenmacher, Mountain Riders
- Becki Krueger, NEMO River Valley
- Carol Snell, NEMO River Valley
- Paula Hull, River Springs
- Marsha Copeland, Tri-Lakes
- Russell Martin, Tri-Lakes
- Mary K Church, SMMBCH Service Committee Chair, 573-406-2566 [mkchurch@centurylink.net](mailto:mkchurch@centurylink.net)



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## River Springs Chapter-Candace Hale

Snow, snow, and more snow all winter. We are beginning to think it will never end. The River Springs Chapter met on January 18<sup>th</sup> for our annual membership meeting at the Stray Dog BBQ and Pizza Restaurant in Van Buren, MO. Fourteen members attended to discuss our plans for 2014 and to elect our officers. One prospective member attended with our "Puxico girls" who are members. Jill Skunda of Glen Allen, MO, did decide to join our chapter. Welcome, Jill!

We discussed our schedule for 2014 and voted to continue having a workday/ride every third Saturday of every month. See our schedule on SMMBCH web site River Springs Chapter page and on the River Springs Chapter Facebook page. We also discussed the General Management Plan of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways and went over the minutes of the last SMMBCH Board Meeting. All former officers were re-elected and they are Candace Hale, President; Paula Hull, Vice President and Jean Vail, Secretary/Treasurer. The meeting was followed by a pizza lunch. Our first workday was February 15<sup>th</sup> when we met at Lazy C Campground to continue the work funded by our 2013

Trail Maintenance Incentive. There was snow on the ground and roads, but seven members showed up to erect two high lines. Attending were Mary Fielder, Bill Jenkins, Ruth and Gary Garner, Mark and Paula Hull and Candace Hale. Anthony Lee, our temporary replacement for Scotty Scott of the Mark Twain National Forest, who retired last year, had his AmeriCorps workers working at Greer Spring. They came over and dug the holes for the posts on the Thursday before our workday. We erected six posts in two different locations. Now all six campsites will have either a high line or a 16 X 16 corral for their horses when camping or day riding. We returned on February 21<sup>st</sup> to drill the holes and run the cable through the posts. We got one high line completed and must return again to finish the other high line since our donated cable was not quite long enough to do both high lines. We also are waiting on the pond to thaw to lay the geotextile on the bank with gravel so horses can be ridden into the pond to drink. Someone removed (stole) the bucket and rope we had attached to the old-fashion well and we decided not to replace it since it would probably go missing, too. We are planning on returning on March 7<sup>th</sup> to continue work, however, the weather is not cooperating.

Annual Membership Meeting



Lazy C Feb 2014



## Indian Trails Chapter-Allison Schottenhaml

In January, our Chapter met at the Junie Moon Cafe for the first time due to the closing of our previous meeting place. The Chapter approved the retention of our current officers for another year. Allison Schottenhaml is our trail boss, Earlyne Wagner is our assistant trail boss and Kathy LaRue is our secretary.

Our February meeting was well attended with four new members joining the Chapter. Allison reported on the progress of the proposed equestrian trail at Robertsville State Park. The Parks Department has not yet completed their feasibility study. Allison will continue to make calls to her contact in the Parks Department.

Larry Bast, leader of the Eastern Missouri Chapter SMMBCH attended our February meeting. He discussed with us his goals for the new chapter.

On June 27th, the Indian Trails Chapter in partnership with St Clair Saddle Club, will host a camp-out for the youth of the saddle club, featuring LNT principles, trail etiquette and safety.

The Chapter has a clean up day scheduled for March 29th at Little Indian Creek CA.

Our next Chapter meeting will be March 20, 7pm ,at Junie Moon Cafe in Union.

## Mountain Riders Chapter Spring Report-Bob Voyles

Mountain Riders members met with Douglas County Fox Trotting Horse Breeders Association (DCFTHBA) in January to schedule our work days and events for the first part of the year. I have the paperwork to apply for our grant with the U.S. Forest Service. I have a meeting scheduled Wednesday, March 19th at 11 a.m. with the U.S. Forest Service to fill out the paperwork for the grant.

We have scheduled our rides and our plans include clip and clean on some of the trails. There is a clip and clean ride scheduled at Bateman Ranch on May 14th at 10 a.m.. We also have a Bar K Wrangler clean-up ride only on the 17th of May. In August, we have a clip and clean ride at Willie Lee at 9 a.m. The next clip and clean is set for October 1st at Corbett Potters Field at 9 a.m. For a complete list of rides, go to [www.douglascountyfoxtrotters.com](http://www.douglascountyfoxtrotters.com) and click on the events button. It will give you directions to the trailheads.

There are trail rides scheduled March through November every Wednesday. On these rides there is always clipping being done. Also, if anyone is interested, we have a Bob Burns National trail ride scheduled for Friday, September 26th and Saturday, September 27th. There will be a cookout on the 27th at 5 p.m. Anyone is welcome and you may bring a side dish if you'd like. If you do come to ride, be sure and bring your horse registration and current cog-gins.

We will be assisting the Missouri Fox Trotters and Horse Breeders Association Trail Rides during the June Three-year-old Futurity Show and also during the September Celebration Show.

The Mountain Riders Chapter would like to welcome new members from River Springs Chapter, Ruth Thompson and Roger Swansen, Ted and Sharon Bailey; also Ginger Vanderkelen and Sonny Brown, who were members at large.

Hope to see everyone on our trail rides this year!

## Calendar

April 12th-Clean up ride at Big Creek. Come for the day or come for the weekend. Call Big Creek to make your reservations! 417-932-4846

June 12th to 15th-Membership Fun Ride at Brushy Creek Resort. Call Brushy Creek for reservations!  
573-269-4600

November 1st-Annual Meeting held at Brushy Creek. Come for the day or come early for the weekend. Call Brushy Creek for reservations!  
573-269-4600

Watch the website for local Chapter events which will be posted as each Chapter holds their planning meetings for 2014.



**Clark Co. Mule Festival**  
September 19 - 21, 2014  
Clark Co. Fairgrounds - Kahoka, Mo.  
Northeast corner of Missouri  
[www.clarkcountymulefestival.com](http://www.clarkcountymulefestival.com)  
Three day mule show, crafts, trail ride open to horses and mules,  
Rodeo on Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. Food, and camping.  
For information call - 660-866-2330 or 660-727-3295

## Board of Directors

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## Chapter Leaders

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Eastern Missouri-Larry Bast, 314-267-3650 [lbast@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbast@sbcglobal.net)



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## Trail Country News

Publications Committee- Janet Karrenbrock,  
Dana Esbensen, Kathy LaRue, Phyllis Rowe, Lois  
Dickherber, and Paula Cazzato.

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The views and opinions expressed in authored articles may not necessarily be those of SMMBCH. Please visit our website ([www.showmebch.org](http://www.showmebch.org)) and that of Back Country Horsemen of America ([www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com)) for additional information and articles.

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