



Annual Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

ZBE—BCH-Mn

President's Note

First BCH project

Trash Clean up day

National Trails Work Day

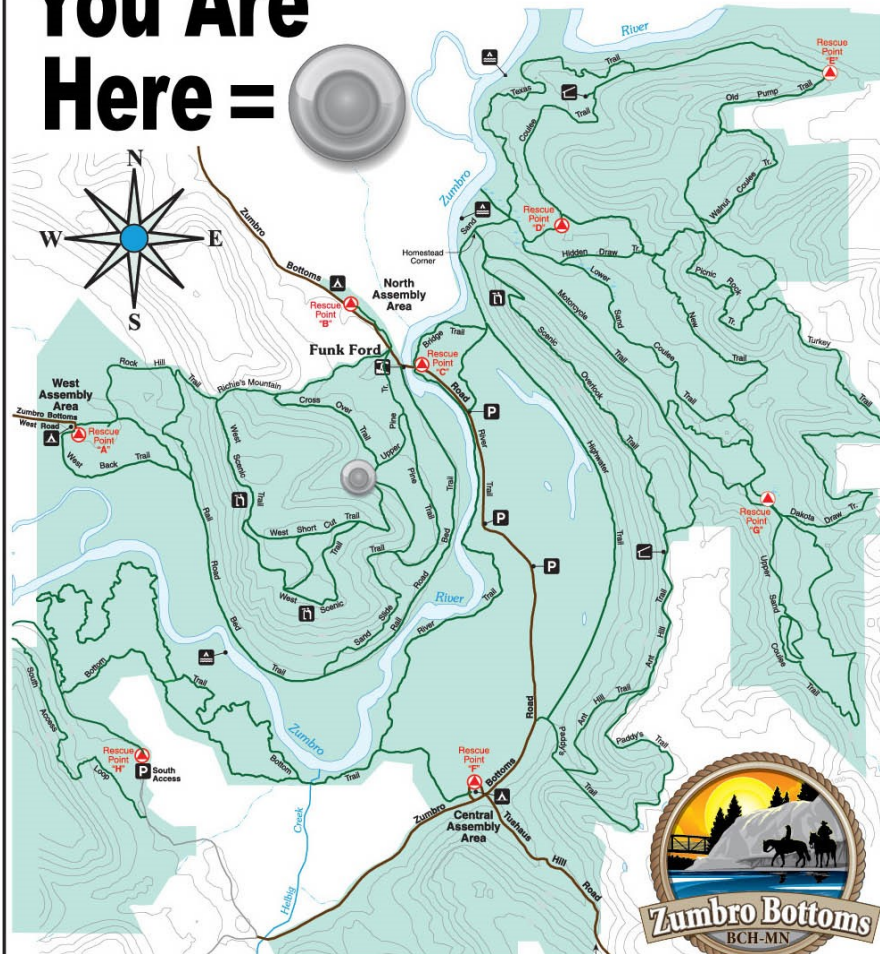
ZBE riding with DNR and local Legislators

Harold Dick Memorial

January 2018

Zumbro Bottoms Management Unit

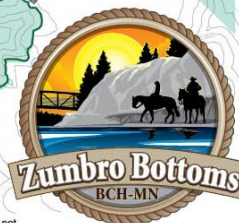
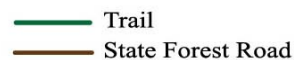
You Are Here =



Scale in Miles
0 0.5



This road is not recommended for rigs pulling horse trailers



Presidents Note 2017

What a good year we have had! The year started out with our 1st Annual Membership meeting, held at the Frontenac State Park shelter. We were pleasantly surprised by good participation. Several members took the opportunity to go snowshoeing and skiing. All the fresh air and exercise was followed by a short meeting and potluck.

Last winter, we voted to become a Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota Chapter. We now are part of a national organization. Part of our membership dues goes to the national organization, BCHA, to help fund horse interest at the national level. One of the main concerns now, “Public lands should remain public lands.” There is a movement at the national level to reduce the number of “publicly owned acres”. BCHA feels strongly that public lands should remain just that, public lands held in trust for future generations.

Becoming a chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota, also gave our group the 501c3 - non-profit status. Now that we have this non-profit status, we can legally have fund raisers. This year we chose the ZB Trail Map Hankie. The hankies come in a rainbow of different colors. 1 for \$6.00 – 2 for \$10.00. Big thanks to Midwest Signtech of Rochester for the artwork, design and creating the hankies for us. We asked different organizations if they would sponsor our group. All of those asked, willingly donated. Our sponsors are listed below. Please thank them! [See page 4 to check it out.](#)

- Midwest Sign Tech
- BJ's Bar & Grill – Whippoorwill Campground
- Stable Living Equine Massage
- The Equestrian Connection Horse Club
- Plainview Elgin Riders Saddle Club
- Cowpokes Western Shop
- Plainview Veterinary Clinic

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2017 Events and Workdays

- April 22 & 23 – Trash pickup day - we had great weather. 40 volunteers – 217 Volunteer work hours
- June 2 & 3 – National Trails Work Day - 28 volunteers – 153.5 Volunteer work hours
- June 12 - “Ride & Meet your DNR and Legislature” – 2 legislature guests, 2 DNR guests
- October 19 –Chainsaw Safety Training - 6 ZB BCH-MN volunteers took the class and are now certified to be able to run chainsaws on state property.

I am continually amazed at the loyalty of our volunteers.
Thanks to all of you!!

Happy Trails,

Barb Partington

ZB BCH-MN President

Cover Page - This is the new trail signs designed by Midwest Signtech.
More information is on page 7.

The officers elected/volunteered at the Jan 28th meeting

Barb Partington - President

Diane Freese - Vice President

Cindy Fitting - Treasurer

Open - Secretary - “Secretary needed” - No experience needed

Diane Freese - Delegate #1 to the State BCH-MN Board

Mark Fitting - Delegate #2 to the State BCH-MN Board

Steve Freese - Webmaster (Newsletter, Facebook, Website)

Angie Murphy - Assistant Webmaster



Trail Map Hankie - 21.5 X 21.5"

2017 April 22/23 Trash Work Day

The Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen MN Annual trash pickup weekend was a success. Mother Nature treated us well.

We were issued a DNR Special Use permit to be able to ride horse on the trails to pickup trash. We had a mix of horseback riders and those on foot. Those on foot cleaned up the trails around the campground and road ditches. A few had shovels and cleaned up debris from the fire pits.

From West camp, the township road and DNR road were cleaned up. Including part of county road 86 (which really needed it).

We noticed this year that the trash collected was of a newer vintage. In the past, many aluminum cans were found that had the removable pull tab. The clear plastic water bottles are the hardest to find. The volunteers were getting really good at spotting the glimpse of a reflection of light, the clue that there may be a water bottle hidden amongst the fallen leaves.

40 Volunteers

217 volunteer work hours

82.5 volunteer drive hours

THANKS to all who helped make this cleanup day a success!

We were able to get all the trash into the dumpster at West campground. A few tires were also placed by the dumpsters.



Wylie Johansson and Cheri Moline



Miley and friend

Bat House Construction and Installation

In March of 2017 Lee Partington sponsored a Bat House build session at his place with Mark Fitting and Steve Freese. A design for the bat house was approved by the local DNR. Supplies for 4 houses were brought in by Mark and Lee supplied us with the paint. When completed the bat houses were installed at ZBE at the three camp areas. Two were installed at the West site.



2017 June 3 Work Day Thank-you

First off I would like to thank all the volunteers for your time and hard work!

ZB Back Country Horseman organized and sponsored the June 3, National Trails Work Day. They also provided lunch and refreshments. Deserts were provided by numerous volunteers. Tools and equipment was also provided by volunteers.

The to-do list got to be quite aggressive for a single day. With the great turn out, most everything was accomplished. This included installing 2 single and 1 double set of tie lines, 1 mounting block, 1 bat house, 27 out of 30 "You are Here" map signs, repaired 1 picnic table, cleared several large trees from trails, tightened cables on tie lines, cleaned fire pits and picked up trash at all three camp grounds, 1 post repaired by the shelter and trim boards were painted on the shelter. The manure in the pits was pushed to the back by Barry Saylor with his handy utility tractor. (Since the parks tractor would be unavailable for several weeks.) He also hauled and spread gravel under tie lines. Wow! Everyone was busy.

A special thank-you

Materials for the tie lines provided by Dawn Dick in memory of her husband Harold. Harold did countless hours of volunteer work at ZB long before ZB BCH-MN existed.

Christine and Shawn Snell of Midwest Sign Tech of Rochester provided the "You are Here" signs at cost.

The rest of the materials was provided by ZB BCH MN. Frontenac Park also provided Jarod for the day. Thanks Jarod.

The weather was hot and humid, the mosquitoes were hungry. Some of the tasks were unpleasant, but the day was a success!

The 28 volunteers donated a totaled of 153.5 hours, the vehicle mileage donated was 1590, equipment hours totaled 15.5 hours.

None of these things could have been done without you. Thanks again and enjoy looking for and using the improvements.

Mark Fitting
ZB BCH-MN Project manager

Work Day Photos



Thanks to Berry Saylor and tractor made this job easy



Russ and Terri Mettler



Larry Witt & Steve Fair-Pingree



Ken Olson hauling supplies up Old Pump Trail.



Dave Robson—More tie lines at Walnut Grove



Bruce and Barb Kvittum



Ken Olson and Karen Best working on a mounting block



Karen decided to test the new mounting block—it passed!



Dave and Nola Robson cleared a downed tree that blocked a trail

Ride with the DNR and Local Legislators

Monday June 12, 2017

ZB BCH-MN and our guests met at the Zumbro Bottoms West Campground. This event allows DNR and state legislators to learn first-hand about the horse trails and campgrounds at Zumbro Bottoms. It provides an opportunity to share information with horse riders and campers who use not only Zumbro Bottoms but all of Minnesota State Park and State Forest Trail systems.

Our Guests:

Craig Bloomer, DNR Parks and Trails Supervisor
Katie Foshay, DNR Frontenac State Park Assistant Manager
Steve Draskowski, State Representative – District 21B
Mike Coggin, State Senator – District 21

15 horses and riders enjoyed the trails.

ZB BCH-MN members provided the lunch. In the open forum meeting, we learned from each other.

Items discussed included:

1. Projects completed this year on the April and June workdays. This included trash and fire pit clean up, installation of a new tie line at the Sand Coulee shelter, an additional tie line at Walnut, foundation for bench to be installed by Dawn Dick in memory of her husband, Harry and the manufacture and installation of 4 bat houses at the camps. Also gravel was spread around tie lines at the west camp. Downed trees were cleared from trails.
2. Review of BCHA convention to emphasize state and national issues pertaining to protection of public lands.
3. Positive impact at Zumbro Bottoms from partnering with DNR and MTRA.
4. Discussion of issues surrounding changing dates for opening and closing trails to horses in this area.
5. History of the implementation of the Horse Trail Pass and benefits to horseback riding trails and camps.
6. Issues pertaining to motorized vehicles and bikes on the trails.
7. Plan for installation of land line phone at West Camp for emergencies.

Thanks to our volunteers who helped make this event happen!

A special thanks to those listed below for bringing calm, safe horses for our guests.

Ken and Lynn Olson Barb and Lee Partington
Mark and Cindy Fitting Gill Gage

Harold Dick Memorial Bench and Tie Lines

Submitted by Dawn Dick

As part of the annual National Trails Day, BCH of ZB was able to place 3 ties lines and the footings for a bench in memory of Harold Dick who passed unexpectedly in 2010. The Zumbro Bottoms were special to him and he volunteered a great amount of his spare time there for trail maintenance and improvements. He was a founding member of the Frostbite Fund Incorporated.

The Frostbite Ride Incorporated partnered with the MTRA on improvements at the Zumbro Bottoms using Federal Recreation Trail Grants. Utilizing the grants enabled him to effectively double the monies. Those monies were spent on wood chips, lumber, gravel, mulch, fire rings, burr oak trees for camp, rock, lime, and water bar supplies (gravel/lumber/rock). In addition, these funds were used to extend and improve horse tie lines in the North Camp, purchase materials for constructing a larger kiosk at Central and to repair manure bunkers at all camps. Monies were also used to purchase 12 more fire rings, 6 picnic tables for West Camp, and to buy a manure spreader for use in spreading composted manure rather than having to pay to have it hauled away. During the years of 2008 and 2009, these matching funds grants enabled an additional \$20,000 to be spent on trail maintenance. Due to Harold Dick's death, no monies went out of the account in 2010. In 2011, another \$2000.00 was given to the MTRA for the Federal Trails Grants. Other donations given to Frostbite Ride in previous years were used for maintenance and improvements at all camps and the trail systems. Also purchased was a 1000 gallon vault toilet in the Central Camp and tree protectors. In addition, \$1,000 went towards the purchase of a riding lawn mower. The Fund also put in the well at Central Camp. Those expenditures totaled \$14,000. All of this was done without any matching grants. The total amount raised by the Frostbite Fund Incorporated was \$56,000.

Another accomplishment of his was the establishment of the Rescue Points found throughout the Zumbro Bottoms. He worked with the local first responders and law enforcement to GPS locations that would be appropriate for the landing of a rescue helicopter. The bench was placed in one of those locations. It was also the location of where he fell and lost his ability to ride.



Logo Update

As you can see our logo has been changed thanks to Midwest Signtech.

Original logo



New logo



A phone has been installed at west camp near the kiosk. The phone number is **(651)565-8202** and will be for local Wabasha numbers only unless you use a calling card. The sign on post reads: Emergency dial - 911, Non-Emergency Sherriff 651-565-3361(Wabasha), 800 numbers may be dialed.



BCHA National Convention

Diane and Steve Freese reported on attending the April convention in Great Falls, MT. Two key points identified were protection of public lands and support of the federal forest service pertaining to the National Trails Act. Round table discussions included ideas from state groups of how to grow and support BCHA. Much of this information is on the website for those wishing to review. Overall Steve and Diane felt attending the conference was well worthwhile. The 2018 convention will be held in Spokane, Washington.

Minnesota Horse Expo 2018
April 27, 28, 29

Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota
will be at Minnesota Horse Expo
Cattle barn (booth location TBD)
Please visit us!



Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to:

Zumbro Bottoms BCH

In recognition of your generous contributions
of time, talent, and resources.

Kate Fisher Date 12/13/2017

To all those that have volunteered and helped keep the Zumbro Bottoms a beautiful place to ride. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed—Angie Murphy