



# 2020 Annual Newsletter

## 2019 Officers

**President:**

Bruce Kvittem  
kvranch@mail.com

**Vice President:**

Jodi Johannessen  
yohaybag@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:**

Angie Murphy  
cowpokes@wabasha.net

**Secretary:**

Rita Nesler  
Lena\_rollie@hotmail.com

**State Delegate:**

Barb Kvittem  
Bkvittem7@yahoo.com

**Alternate State Delegate**

Christine Snell  
christinemsnell@yahoo.com

**Membership Delegate:**

Carol Packer  
Carol-David@outlook.com

**Webmaster, Newsletter,  
Face Book, Emails:**

Angie Murphy  
cowpokes@wabasha.net

## 2019 Year In Review

January 2020



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## Note From The President

What a year we had trying to ride our horses. Between the rain, heat, bugs and fallen trees the summer was quite a challenge. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped ZB-BCHA-MN clear trails throughout the summer. Many times people were riding and I could see someone cleared a part of a trail. I know I clipped many branches while I was riding my horses on the trails.

Our Zumbro Bottoms chapter had a clean-up day scheduled in April and it wasn't nice weather, we did some clean up and repair work at West Camp and Central Camp. We cleaned trash along the road to West Camp and also along the road to Central Camp. Please be thoughtful and don't throw trash along the roads there are dumpsters at West Camp to dispose of the trash properly.

We did have a few members take the Chain saw certification class offered by MTRA, so they are certified for 2 years to use chain saws for clearing on the trails. Many people can assist by hauling the branches away while they use care in cutting branched off the trees. Please if you encounter blocked trails let the host know or try to clear them instead of making a trail around the blockage. The DNR prefers you not to make bypasses as they often cause erosion and other problems. We will plan a clean-up day for April or May and if weather permits we might be able to have ATV's to assist with trail clean up that day. As spring arrives keep in touch on Facebook or our web site for updates.

In June many of you heard of the rain and resulting flooding that happened. Barb and I were hosts that weekend and it rained big time upstream with the Zumbro River flooding the field along the drive and also the parking area next to the bridge. There were quite a few campers at West Camp and the DNR did their best to keep us informed of the impending chance of flooding near the camp. It was about 9pm that the DNR person came through and asked us to evacuate because the road into camp was flooding. With help from them and some neighbors every camper was safely moved to other places to spend the night. Where do you move to at 9pm? With the assistance from these neighbors they were safe and could continue their camping experience. The water flooded the field and was over the road in three places as we drove out that night, lucky the camp didn't flood.

However, the parking area by the bridge had a car parked there with the group camping somewhere out in the woods. They tried to get back to their car but the flooding prevented them, some concerned horse riders drove over to the bridge and heard them hollering for help. They returned to West Camp and we called the Sheriff from the emergency phone installed at West Camp. The local sheriff contacted the DNR and after some thought of how to rescue that group an air boat from St Paul was called and used to rescue them. The car was submerged and unable to be recovered for about 2 weeks, but the group was ok and safe. Thanks to the people that drove over to see the bridge, heard them and reported it to the camp hosts at West Camp.

In July we had a gathering of the Minnesota Back Country Horseman state chapter to showcase our trails to them. It was a very hot and rainy weekend and not many showed up to ride. We did host a potluck supper and meeting in the shelter at West Camp, including door prizes and other giveaways. On Sunday morning we had Cowboy Church service before we departed. What a great way to end the weekend.

There is currently a 10 year review of the Richard Dorer Forest use being conducted. We were invited along with many other user groups to the only meeting so far and will keep everyone informed of upcoming meeting. This review is a mandatory event for the DNR. Input on trail rerouting and/or adding will be discussed as the review is held to improve and protect the forest and its various uses. We hope to get some new trails designated as official trails along with some rerouting of a few eroded and hard to maintain trails. When it comes to the public input times we hope you will contribute helpful info to the process. We will notify you as input is requested.

Again I want to thank all the members and volunteers that were camp hosts and trail cleaners this past summer. Your help was appreciated by us and the DNR as they were short staffed and were busy due to the weather.

Memberships are due so please rejoin. Your membership in Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horseman also gets you a membership in the National BCH organization which helps promote horse trails throughout the nation.

See you on the trails in 2020,

Bruce Kvittem

President

Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horseman of Minnesota

## **BCH of MN Annual**

### **General Membership Meeting**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2020 – 11 AM – 2PM**

Pizza Ranch ~ 16995 Kenyon Ave ~ Lakeville MN

Please join us for the BCH-MN annual membership meeting

Agenda will include yearly summary, financial report, membership report, ratification of new by-laws, set 2020 membership dues and election of officers

**11:00 am Meeting      12 noon Lunch**

Lunch on your own. \$14 per person for buffet



### **Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen of MN Membership Meeting & Winter Gathering**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

Tailgators \* 30 Main Street \* Elgin MN

This is a great time to renew your membership and bring along friends that may be interested in joining or hearing about what the group is about.

- 11:30 am      Back room is open for social gathering
- 12 noon      Lunch (Taco Bar) \$12.95 per person. (Please RSVP for meal planning)
- 1:00 pm      Meeting ~ Includes yearend summary and election of officers

This meeting is open to everyone, members and non-members.

**PLEASE RSVP IF YOU WILL BE JOINING US FOR THE TACO BAR BY JAN 12, 2020.**

RSVP with Barb Kvittem at [Bkvittem7@yahoo.com](mailto:Bkvittem7@yahoo.com) or 507-259-6117.

## New 2019 ZB BCH MN Officers

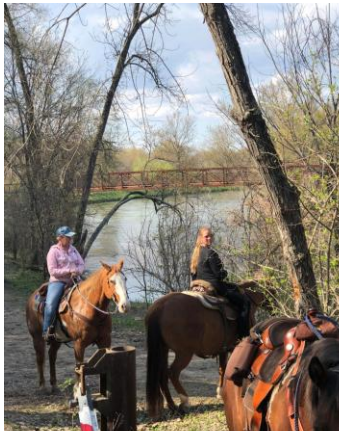


**President:** Bruce Kvittem  
**Vice President:** Jodi Johannessen (Not Pictured)  
**Treasurer:** Angie Murphy  
**Secretary:** Rita Nesler  
**State Delegate:** Barb Kvittem  
**Alternate State Delegate:** Christine Snell  
**Membership Delegate:** Carol Packer

## Trash Pick Up Day ~ May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

We had a beautiful day for cleaning up at the Zumbro Bottoms. We picked up trash around the camps, road ditches and trails.

Thank you so much to EVERYONE that came out to help.



## National Trail Day ~ June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Thank you to everyone that came out to make National Trail Day a great success. Without the volunteers our trails and camps would not be what they are today. The Zumbro Bottoms BCH MN was able to do some trail cleaning, tree trimming around the West Camp and repair some broken tie lines. Barb Partington was the winner for the drawing on a scabbard - donated by Dan Stussy and the nippers donated by Hills Hardware, Wabasha. Thank you so much for your generous donation!

Barb Partington the winner of the Scabbard and nippers



Linda Kaupa trimming trees in Camp

Replacing and repairing tie lines



## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®

This event takes place on the first Saturday in June. It is a day of public events aimed at advocacy and trail service. Thousands of hikers, bikers, rowers, horseback riders, trail clubs, federal and local agencies, land trusts, and businesses come together in partnership to advocate for, maintain, and clean up public lands and trails.

## Road Construction

2019 was full of road construction and detours.

County Road 4 was closed most of the summer for complete reconstruction. The road is done other than black topping which is due to be done the summer of 2020.

Highway 61 was closed throughout the summer for culvert repair and re-surfacing.

And the bridge on county 4 by Theilman was closed for about 3 weeks in September.

All this, did not stop us from riding the beautiful trails of the Zumbro Bottoms.



## Scout Horsemanship Merit Badge

The Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen of MN is more than just clearing trails and helping maintain the Zumbro Bottoms. We are also about educating others about proper horsemanship skills. This year Barb Partington and Rita Nesler became Merit Badge Counselors and helped two young boys earn their Scout Horsemanship Merit Badge



Barb giving Max Instructions

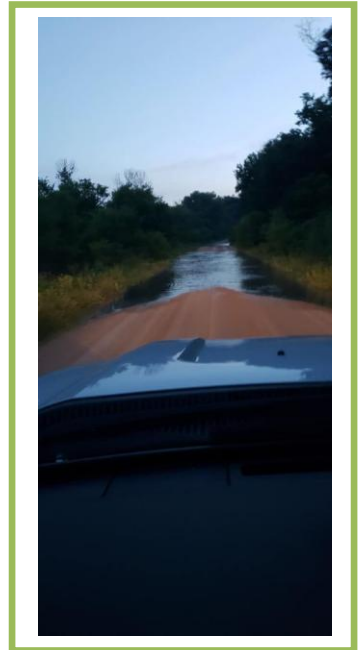


Isaiah, Barb and Rita

## Rain, Flooding and Lots of Trees Down

We definitely had our share of rain this year.

Thank you to everyone for helping us clear the down trees and for staying safe while riding the trails. The trails were full of wash outs and many flooded area.





## West Assembly Camp Host Station

Thank you to all those that volunteered your time, to be there, to help answer questions, assist in emergencies and report trail conditions.

With the help of all those that signed up for the camp host, we were able to have someone available every weekend from May 1<sup>st</sup> through Oct 31<sup>st</sup> this year.

## Donations & Fundraiser

The Zumbro Bottoms Back Country Horsemen of MN and Frostbite Inc are currently working on a project to add more tie lines at the West Assembly and at three of the rescue points.

This project will be done in stages as the funds become available.

We have can coolies as a Thank You to those that make a donation or they are available for purchase of \$5 each.



Any donation made to these two organizations will be used strictly for improving the Zumbro Bottoms.

Donations can be made by

- 1> Mailing a check to ZB BCH MN to Angie Murphy, 19631 596<sup>th</sup> St, Kellogg MN 55945
- 2> Donating through PayPal at <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme2/FrostBiteRideInc>

If you have any questions please contact Angie @ 507-767-4990

We are grateful to EVERYONE that has made a donation for this project.

# THANK YOU!

We turned in

## 1,035 volunteer hours

For the 2019 season.

That is Awesome!!!



*Our Mission: To promote recreational equestrian use of Zumbro Bottoms Management Unit of Richard J. Dorner Memorial Hardwood State Forest of SE Minnesota.*

## Zumbro Bottoms Back County Horsemen of Minnesota Membership Form



Zumbro Bottoms, located in SE Minnesota, is a special place. This group is about enhancing your equine riding and camping experience at the Zumbro Bottoms Unit of the Richard J Dorer State Forest and protecting this treasure for future generations of equine riders.

Check out our website at - <http://zumbrobottomsbchmn.weebly.com>

Email: [zumbrobottomsequestrians@gmail.com](mailto:zumbrobottomsequestrians@gmail.com) or Bruce Kvitem 507-259-6127

Please join today!!

Annual dues are \$25.00 individual or \$30.00 per family. Annual dues begin January of each year.

### ZB Back Country Horsemen - MN Membership/Renewal

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping - NO - YES - I can \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (Please circle) Individual \$25.00 Family \$30.00

Additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: ZB BCH MN

Mail to: Angie Murphy, 19631 - 596<sup>th</sup> Street, Kellogg, MN 55945

[www.zumbrobottomsbchmn.weebly.com](http://www.zumbrobottomsbchmn.weebly.com)

[zumbrobottomsequestrians@gmail.com](mailto:zumbrobottomsequestrians@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/ZumbroBottomsBackCountryHorsemenMinnesota/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ZumbroBottomsBackCountryHorsemenMinnesota/)