

BCH of Tennessee Report of 2020 events



National Board Meeting – via ZOOM – April 26-28, 2021

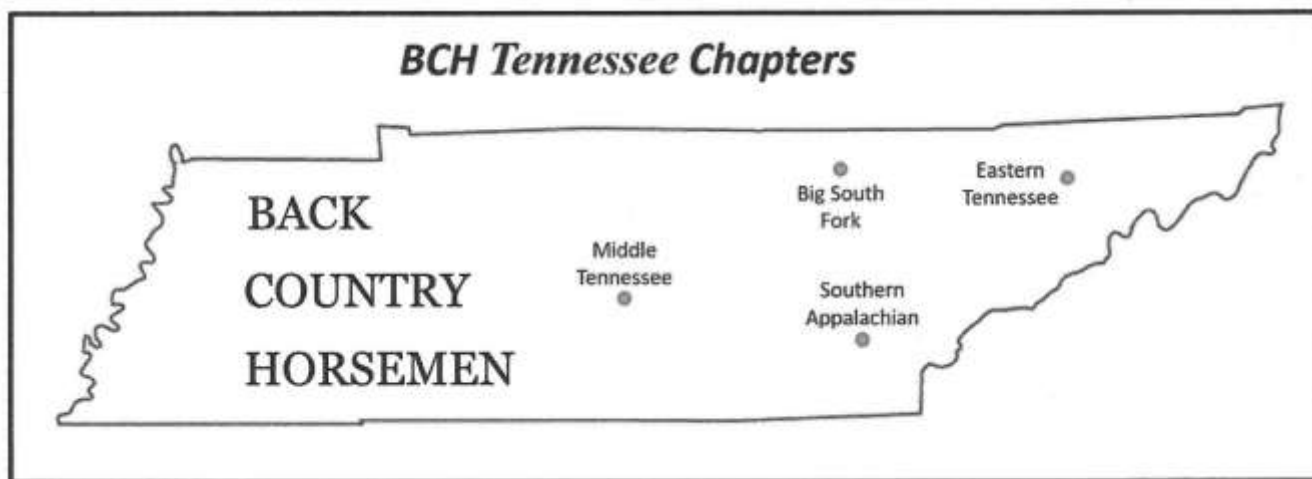


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State of Tennessee Back Country (BCHT) State Summary

Organization & Outreach

Tennessee has 4 current chapters, all located in the middle and east portions of the state. See the map on cover page.

Our annual meeting was held in September 2020 via Zoom. The main topics of discussion were 1) new BCH-TN website which would help new TN residents find their local chapter 2) new opportunity for BCH-TN to get back cover of proposed TN Equine Trail Guide done by TN Department of Agriculture 3) Electric Bikes and the Great American Outdoors Act 4) For nominations Michelle King to take VP from Tom Connor and Jerry Fenstermaker for another two-year term. Vedette Rice gave the NMB Zoom review. Adopting a social media policy and membership increase and retention. Made Joanne Mitchell chair of new volunteer hours collection committee officially. We are working on a BCH of Tennessee state website. Joanne Mitchell (SABCH) and Pam Corley (BSFBCH) to work on data input.

Issues & Problems

Communication between chapters and state; lack of youth involvement; difficulty with chainsaw certification with the National Forest; and declining membership. Website Committee: Pam Corley and Joanne Mitchell

Organization Details

Chapter Name		Primary public agency & land
Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee	BCHET	North Cherokee NF, northern two districts, Several State and County Parks
Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen	SABCH	USFS - Cherokee NF southern two districts, County Parks
Big South Fork Back Country Horsemen	BSFBCH	NPS – Big South Fork National and Recreation Area
Middle Tennessee BCH	MTBCH	Various State, City and County No National Forests in Nashville area

BCHT Officers During 2020

Chairman: Terri Haver (SABCH)
 Vice Chairman: Michelle King (BCHET)
 Secretary: Donna Odom (BCHET)
 Treasurer: Jerry Fenstermaker (SABCH)
 National Directors: Terri Haver (SABCH) Vedette Rice (BCHET) Alternate: Joanne Mitchell (SABCH)
 Website Committee: Joanne Mitchell (SABCH), Pam Corley (BSFBCH) www.bchtn.org

2019 Total Chapters of Tennessee Volunteer Hours

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Value</u>
BCHET	1,740	\$ 84,801.60
SABCH.....	3,602	\$109,241.20
MTBCH.....	66	\$ 1,795.20
BSFBCH.....	<u>389</u>	<u>\$ 16,301.30</u>
	5,797	\$ 212,139.30

Total Value for the state of **TENNESSEE Volunteer Hours: \$ 212,139.88** (underestimated)

Back Country Horsemen of East Tennessee (BCHET)

Accomplishments

1. Trails & Facilities: We work in the Cherokee NF (northern 2 districts, Unaka, Watauga covering 152 miles of horse trails), Washington Co, Carter Co, Sullivan Co, Johnson Co, Unicoi Co, Hawkins Co, Greene Co, and Coker Co and in 3 TN State Parks.
 - a) Existing Trails: We continue to maintain 152 of miles of horse trails as needed. Outposts schedule riding and non-riding workdays based on area needs as damage reports are received. Large blow downs and work that requires chainsaws is reported to our chainsaw certified members to clear as they can.
 - b) We continue to work on Stamping Ground Trail which crosses into Wilderness area and therefore requires the use of non-motorized hand tools. This trail is problematic in that large areas have experienced loss of canopy and daylighting which has allowed the rhododendron, laurel, and briars to take off. We have requested the help of the US Forest Service in a 1.0-mile section that has nearly been swallowed by growth.
 - c) We have, with approval of the FS, marked and reclaimed designated horse use of Davis Creek trail in southern Greene County. After years of neglect, it required 3 workdays to restore creek bed crossings, rerouting the trail from wash outs, cutting down the many trees obstructing and rhododendron blocking the trail from providing access to Round Knob pavilion.
 - d) We completed a second trail head parking lot in Roan Mtn, TN. The Walnut Mtn Project opens 40 miles of trails for horseback riding, biking, hiking, etc. These trails are a combination of forest service roads and single-track trails.
 - e) We had our first annual Harvest Moon Ride. This was a short (5 mile) ride around Cherokee Lake at dusk to a point on the lake with a bonfire, cookout with hotdogs and smores, to watch the full moon at sunset. We had musical entertainment, fun with the kids and horses in the water and lots of laughs. The ride back by moonlight on horseback offered a fun and different experience with glow sticks hanging from the trees to mark the trail. The goal was to have a fun event ride where we could socialize, invite potential new members and members who are not riding as much anymore to come out. We had 25 in attendance and we are already planning one for next year.
2. Our Outreach Experiences:
 - a. The club scheduled a National Public Lands Day Ride. We had a parking lot clean up at the trailhead followed by a group ride. Our Buckaroo's Committee donated a total of \$600.00 to local county libraries. A total of 6 libraries received \$100.00 each to spend on horse related books.
 - b. Our Buckaroos Committee held a Christmas Essay Contest and awarded a First-place winner with four riding lessons. Our essay contest drew the interest of a local facility who contacted us and offered to donate lessons to a second-place winner. Both girls have started their lessons.
 - c. Outpost 1 scheduled a workday and partnered with students from Tusculum College to complete the installation of a tie rail and to paint the Meadow Creek Fire Tower to cover some less than desirable graffiti. These students were members of the football team and most had never spent any time in the mountains. Both club members and these young men worked alongside each other and completed the task. BCHA article was published in the Winter 2021 Publication with pics of the workday.
 - d. Members volunteered to organize, set up, and judge the 2020 Meadow Creek Horse Ranch Fall Festival Obstacle Challenge. There were lots of local youth riders participating in the Fall festival from area riding clubs that also participated in the obstacle challenge.

- e. Members participated in the White Pine and Mohawk Christmas Parades, dressing up their horses and themselves to pass out candy to the children and represent the club. This is an annual event we look forward to participating in every year, allowing the children and community to interact with our horses and our club.
 - f. We continue to build our relationship and partnership with Meadow Creek Horse Ranch in holding fundraising events and providing local trail maps in their gift shop. They give riders coming in to stay, our information when they are relocating to the area with horses.
3. Education:
- 1. We coordinated a CPR/First Aid class and a chainsaw certification class.

Organization

- 1. Structure: Relative to zip codes, the Membership is divided into 5 Outposts, covering 12 Counties that run the 113 mile stretch from Bristol to Knoxville.
- 2. Outpost Meetings: There were 15 Outpost meetings
- 3. Board of Director Meetings: There were two Board of Director Meetings in 2020.
- 4. Website: www.BCHET.org continues to show growth. 938 page views in the last 30 days.
- 5. Facebook: The site has 2,609 likes with an average weekly hit of 4,000.
- 6. Committees: Due to Covid-19 several of our events were canceled for the 2020 year. We were not able to encourage gathering during a pandemic and encouraged out members be cautious. Our Buckaroos Committee continues to focus on youth involvement through activities. The Christmas Essay was the best way to reach out to local youth without gathering in person. Large gathering events will continue to be on hold through the summer 2021, however our Outposts continue to engage membership through meetings, rides and workdays.

Current and Future Projects

- 1. Trails & Facilities:
 - a. The second parking lot at Walnut Mountain was cleared and leveled by the US Forest Service. BCHET covered the cost of spreading the gravel. This parking area gives access to many trails that were already in existence but had no parking suitable to reach them. We were able to fundraise roughly \$19,000 from the community members and local businesses as well as grant funds from BCHA. BCHET donated \$5,000 to this project. We continue to work in partnership with the US Forest Service to develop a connector trail that will create additional riding opportunities from this trail head.
 - b. We have continued to work on the redesignation of Sarvis Cove, a hiking trail to multi-use trail in cooperation with the US Forest Service. The cleanup and redesignation of this trail will create a loop connector accessing additional trails in the Horse Creek Trail system.
 - c. Outpost 1, through their continued working relationship with the US Forestry Service have been entrusted with remarking trails using the new reflective markers. To date 100 markers have been put up, with another 300 still to put out over the 18 trails in their coverage area.
 - d. Cocke County was awarded a \$6 million-dollar Appalachian Regional Commission grant to do market analysis, NEPA, and planning design of 50-70 miles of multi-use trails. The trail locations vary from the Hartford area all the way to Del Rio. Cocke County has hired a consulting firm out of Knoxville to complete the analysis and NEPA. They will be establishing a "stakeholder" or steering committee in the near future. The Forestry Service has asked for a representative from BCHET/Outpost 1 to be one of the stakeholders on the steering committee. That member will be Outpost 1 co-leader, Mamie Hopton.

Issues and Problems

- 1. Outside Organizations: No issues to report at this time. We have maintained an open dialogue with our local forest service agents and continue to work with them on several projects.

2. Natural Elements: Chainsaw use has been paused due to the strain our local hospitals are under with Covid-19. Once we can use chainsaws, we hope to work to clear the horse trails that have blow downs and remaining maintenance to open them for all users. We continue to keep an open dialogue with the Rocky Fork State Park staff in hopes that we will be able to increase our use of the area and possibly gain more trail miles within the park as well as several trails within the Cherokee NF.
3. Goals for more membership increase: We continue to see growth in memberships, including our coverage area, but have managed to remain neutral in number due to attrition (aging out). We are focused on post covid-19 to continue our outreach programs, holding more organized rides, fundraisers and events to attract members.

Organization Details

1. Tax Status: We are a 501c3.
2. Officers -- Fiscal year ends November

President	Vedette Rice 2020 / Victor Mathis 2021			2020
Vice President	Bill Watson			2021
Secretary	Michelle King			2020
Treasurer	Jamie Fritsch			2021
Board Members	Richard Jamison	2020	Victor Mathis	2021
	Mamie Hopton	2020	Donna Odom	2021
	Teresa Symonds	2020	Lori Kegley	2021
			Jatana Norris	2021

* 2020 National Director- Vedette Rice
 2021 National Director-Victor Mathis
 State Chapter Directors– Richard Jamison, Bill Watson for 2020 and 2021
 State Saw Director—Richard Jamison
 SE Public Lands Committee: Bill Watson
 BCH-TN Secretary: Donna Odom
 BCH-TN Vice President Michelle King

3. Dues Structure (common expiration)
 - a. Individual Membership Annual Dues \$30
 - b. Family Membership Annual Dues \$40
4. All members were encouraged to write/email legislatures over the addition of e-bikes to non-motorized trails during the public comment period. We have submitted a request on behalf of the club for area trails needing GAO funding.
5. Miscellaneous Notes: We published three press releases to the Elizabethton Star and had two articles published in the BCHA Newsletter regarding our work on Meadow Creek Mountain and Walnut Mountain.

6. Membership and Volunteer Hours History

2000 -- Incorporated as East Tennessee Trail Riders
2001 -- Voted to join BCHA. 367 Members. 335 hours.
2002 -- Officially became BCHET. 427 Members. 1,783 hours.
2003 -- 467 Members 3,063 hours.
2004 -- 628 Members 3,243 hours.
2005 -- 564 Members 3,312.5 hours.
2006 -- 550 Members
2007 -- 443 Members 1,365 hours.
2008 -- 440 Members 1,059 hours.
2009 -- 323 Members 1,140 hours.
2010 -- 292 Members 1,743 hours.
2011 -- 133 Members 3,084 hours
2012 -- 101 Members 1,225 hours
2013 -- 85 Members 1,225 hours
2014 -- 94 Members 1,672 hours
2015 -- 94 Members 1,286 hours
2016 -- 115 Members 551 hours
2017 -- 98 Members 878 hours
2018 -- 94 Members 1,651 hours
2019 -- 84 Members 2,237 hours
2020 84 Members 1,740 hours

Volunteer Hours Committee Chair: Debra McDonald

2020 BCHET Chapter Volunteer Hours Total Value: \$ 84,801.60

Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen (SABCH)

I. Accomplishments

1. **Trails & Facilities:** We maintain trails In Cherokee National Forest-South Zone, and the Cohutta Wilderness in north Georgia. We work every Thursday, year-round.
 - A. Existing trails: In Cherokee National Forest South, during a pandemic we still had **3,602** volunteer hours for a dollar value of \$86,620.44. Dealing with total work shutdowns and chainsaw shutdowns. The southern districts were issued a Stop Work Order from April 1 until June 30 when we got the go ahead for our regular Thursday workdays. We had been working in groups of 2-3 during that time. Our FS shut down all volunteer chainsaw work starting on Dec 2, 2020 until present.
In 2020, we sawed out **792** total chainsaw trees. There were two Thursday workdays of note. The first workday of note got 102 chainsaw trees and the other workday had 143 chainsaw trees!. What a record!
Also in 2020, we sawed **267** total crosscut trees in Wilderness areas. Combined chainsaw and crosscut total of **1,059** trees!
Trail signage has been an issue, especially on the Sylco #75 trail in the Ocoee-Hiwassee district. The trees with the signs were logged out. We have had e-mail correspondence with Region 8 with better response than our own Districts. Turns out Region 8 has no signage standard, even if a trail went through a bordering National Forest. SABCH offered to pay and install the signs. Our districts said they would take it under advisement. In the meantime trail users get lost.
 2. **BCH Outreach Experiences:**

Due to pandemic, did not participate in National Trails Day, National Get Outdoors Day or Public Lands Day like we have in the past. The Leave No Trace class in the Smokies was cancelled also. We did participate in the Tellico River Cleanup sponsored by Trout Unlimited in March prior to the real pandemic. A few of us worked World Cleanup Day, socially distanced with Mrs. Tennessee.
 3. **Other Organizations:**

Due to pandemic, we did not assist the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in the Great Pack In or Great Pack Out or resupplies. SABCH members did do some work with the Cherokee Indian Nation to repair the Trail of Tears in January 2020. We also assisted a Boy Scout troop on the Caney Creek Trail work in November. We frequently assist the Benton MacKaye Trail Association on the Saturday and other workdays.
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II. Education

1. No FS training was held in 2020, but there has been a one-year extension on crosscut and chainsaw cards in Region 8. (Not for First Aid and CPR which can be gotten online.) SABCH also cancelled the Mike Riter Crew Leader Certification course which we had hoped for an RTP Education grant to cover most of the expenses. We had even gotten the Title VI compliance done. There was an attempt to hold it elsewhere, but Covid concerns stopped it.

III. Organization

1. Chapter Meetings held: Only Two. January featured Member Tips and Tricks and the February meeting had a speaker from UT Vet Hospital about the new Asian Longhorned Tick in our area. We tried Zoom meetings twice with a pitiful response.
2. Board of Directors Meeting held-- one in the fall. Masks and social distancing. The Governor of TN issued an executive order in December limiting inside social gatherings to ten people or less. We plan to consider outside venues this spring and summer, after a vaccine is available.
3. Newsletters: 12. Sent out electronically by Secretary. Added at least one cartoon at the end, and a new monthly section of communication on ALL issues occurring at the national level, via the Zoom meetings between BCHA and the National Directors.
4. Website: [www.https://sites.google.com/view/sabch/home](https://sites.google.com/view/sabch/home) It is still a work in progress. We hope for Major update in 2021.

5. Facebook: Page has 798 likes 834 follows Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen Our weekly workdays are reported on our FB page by either Barb Childress or Brenda Harris (FB administrators). Sometimes we have enough people to break into two or three teams, so each photographer goes with a different team. We always try to get a picture of the safety meeting before we start the day. This helps the volunteer hours collector know who was there. Sometimes we don't get the sign-in sheet with the work hours and travel time for months from the FS representative.
6. Committees: Have one standing Nomination Committee and a Membership Committee (Terri Haver and Teresa Hanes), Volunteer Hours committee (Joanne and Bobby Mitchell), Others as needed. Website: Joanne Mitchell

IV. Current and Future Projects: (Goals)

1. We still need to DOUBLE our volunteer hours in four years to meet the National Forest Stewardship Act requirements, signed into law in the fall of 2016.
2. Hope for a better 2021. Many of our regular trailworkers are senior citizens or have had health related issues. Many plan to return after vaccine is readily available.
3. Specific Trails:
 - a. We need to reopen the section of Conasauga River Trail #61 which was burned out by the FS, in a runaway controlled burn, over 6 years ago.
 - b. The Blue Ridge Trail #62, center portion has been dangerously gullied out by severe rain.
 - c. Sylco Tail #75, needs large culverts replaced due to Easter Flooding, (totally washed out and worsening), many trees down (some over 30"dia), and desperate for signage.
 - d. Miller Ridge needs serious signage.

V. Issues and Problems:

1. Outside organizations: The FS does not return telephone calls or e-mails.
2. Elemental (natural disasters): On Easter weekend, horrible floods washed out culverts and some trails in the Ocoee-Hiwassee district.
3. Goals for membership increase: Hope to work more closely with the local McMinn County Saddle Club for recon purposes. McMinn Saddle Club have several rides in the Cherokee National Forest and know where trail problems are. The first week of November we sent out a dues renewal/election ballot letter with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Really made a difference. Double the postage but got 20% membership increase. In 2021 plan to also use old membership logs and offer lapsed members offers to renew. Goal to increase membership in 2021 by 30%.
4. Had our annual meeting with the Forest Service on February 13, 2020. Went over new FS positions/staff that we work with, our volunteer agreement (signed in February and returned back to us in July 2020), what new things to carry in the FA kit, trail work schedules, National Stewardship Act of 2016, revisions to the National Geographic Map, National Trails Day/Public Lands Day and specific trail issues.

VI. Organization Details

We have been a 501c3 since 2010

Officers and Directors: name	term expiration	2021 (current/same)
President: Bobby Mitchell	December 31, 2020	Judy Hadorn
Vice President: Tazz Reid	December 31, 2021	same
Secretary: Linda Norton	December 31, 2020	same
Treasurer: John Zardis	December 31, 2021	same

Chapter Board Members (5): Phil Hadorn (12/21) Larry Daugherty (12/21) Terri Haver* (12/20) Jenice Dugan (12/20) Janice Butt (12/20)

Alternate Chapter Directors: Sherry Landers, Kandi Childress
Chapter Representatives: Terri Haver and Jerry Fenstermaker, Bobby Mitchell-alternate

Two Chapter Representatives for 2020 annual state meeting: Terri Haver and Jerry Fenstermaker
Two Chapter Representatives for 2021 annual state meeting: Terri Haver and Jerry Fenstermaker
Two Forest Service Liasons: Tazz Reid and Bobby Mitchell

Dues Cost and Structure:	Common Chapter membership from Jan 1- to Dec 31	
Membership Type	Annual Dues	Multiyear (if applicable)
Individual	\$30/yr one vote	no
Family	\$35/yr two votes	no

1. BCHA Regional/State Committees: Bobby and Joanne Mitchell on SE Public Lands, Joanne Mitchell on State Volunteer Hours
2. BCHA National Committees: Joanne Mitchell on Legacy Fund committee and Volunteer Hours.
3. SABCH did the following official correspondence: Great American Outdoors Act, E-bikes, Pisgah National Forest planning, and the addition of National Forests to Senate Bill S500.

4. Membership and Volunteer Hours History

2006 -- Organization formed.	549 volunteer hours.
2007 --	575 volunteer hours
2008 --	1,341 volunteer hours
2009 --	2,200 volunteer hours
2010 --	3,133 volunteer hours 65 Members
2011 --	2,562 volunteer hours 64 Members
2012 --	3,130 volunteer hours 71 Members
2013 --	3,259 volunteer hours 80 Members
2014 --	3,842 volunteer hours 74 Members
2015 --	3,403 volunteer hours 65 Members
2016 --	3,439 volunteer hours 44 Members
2017 --	3,293 volunteer hours 49 Members
2018 --	3,942 volunteer hours 53 Members
2019 --	3,601 Volunteer Hours 44 Members (Federal shutdown affected hours in early 2019)
2020 --	3602 Volunteer Hours 41 Members Pandemic year

2020 SABCH Chapter Volunteer Hours Value total of \$86,620.44

Miscellaneous Notes:

- The National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map of the Southern Cherokee National Forest (Tellico and Ocoee-Hiwassee Districts) issued a new "revised" map in 2020 which was supposed to be updated from the 2012 edition. This should have included the 1) new Miller Ridge parking lot trailhead 2) the new Maple Springs Trailhead parking lot as well as 3) connector trails which were SABCH built. These trailheads were built using a Recreational Trail Program grant of \$250,000.00. SABCH provided the in kind (labor) matching grant. Neither trailheads, nor the new horse trails were included in the 2020 edition. It will probably be another 8 years before a new map edition.
- The Sutter trail machine (similar to a Sweco) which SABCH was also instrumental in getting for Cherokee National Forest was donated to another non-profit in upper east Tennessee.
- We did get a fairly big writeup in a magazine by the Chattanooga Times Free Press in Summer 2020. <https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/getout/departments/story/2020/jul/01/horse-trailexpert/526264/>
- Because we are a 501c3, we did wangle a free laptop from the Tellico Village Computer Club with a camera capable for Zoom meetings. Many of our officers and directors do not have this computer capability. It has the old newsletters as far back as we could find
- As of this writing, no members have died of Covid-19. Many have had the virus but were mostly mild cases fortunately

Big South Fork Back Country Horsemen of Tennessee (BSFBCH)

Accomplishments:

1. Trails or Facilities: Territory is Big South Fork National Recreation Area
 - a. Our members spent many days working in small groups on routine trail maintenance on the trails in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
 - b. Several large projects to be completed in conjunction with the National Park Service were put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - c. One well attended work day with the park service was conducted on the Hippy Cave and Darrow Ridge trails. Our Chapter, nearly exclusively, and continually maintain the 50 miles of riding and multi-use trails in the Southern portion of the National Recreation Area, including the O&W Trail, Tar Kiln Trail, Long Ridge, Christian Cemetery, Proctor Ridge, Mill Creek Joes Branch and more. Includes chainsaw trees, clearing brush, and preventing trail wash out from an extremely wet year.
2. Outreach:

BSFBCH assisted the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association with the MFTHBA NATIONAL TRAIL RIDE held in Big South Fork in June 2020.
3. Organization:
 - a. 5 monthly meetings were held.
 - b. 1 newsletter
 - c. Active Facebook page. Have 4233 likes 390 reached weekly Social Events: Held a trail ride, lunch, and potluck supper with the local Ridge Rider group. Developing several new members from this group. Held a Christmas Party and moved our meeting location to Jamestown Courthouse to be more centrally located for our members.
 - d. There are several Facebook groups that support the Big South Fork trail riding community. We're very involved in supporting these groups and postings to our Facebook group are frequently shared with those groups.
 - e. Committees: BSFBCH initiated a major reorganization in our October 2020 meeting. Committees were formed with the intention that most of the work will be driven by the committees with the elected officers serving primarily to coordinate work between the committees and ensure they have the resources to be successful.

The previous membership committee was disbanded. Membership data will now be maintained by the treasurer since this is more efficient, more timely, and less error prone.

Membership recruitment and retention will be the responsibility of the entire leadership team, all officers and committee chairs. Effective work by the committees will go a long way towards building and maintaining our membership. Better communications through a newsletter, better meeting minutes and an improved Facebook presence started in Q4 2020 and we're already seeing the benefits.

Nomination Committee - Laura Steinke
Impact Committee - BJ Wilder
Trails Committee - Curt Steinke
Activities Committee - April Kapanowski
Facebook Committee - Laura Steinke
Volunteer Hours Coordinator - Laura Steinke

Current and Future Projects

1. There are a number of large trail maintenance projects that we're working with the park to get approved in 2021. Of particular importance to local riders are work on the O&W, Tar Kiln, Old Tar Kiln, Bluff House, Mill Seat, and Proctor Ridge trails. These trails require serious maintenance in several areas to deal with erosion and correct drainage issues. On the O&W trail, we're also trying to complete the installation of concrete planks for the Zenith Crossing. This work required an environmental impact statement that has now been completed.

2. We're increasing our focus on doing smaller projects this year. There's a lot of work that the park has authorized us to do on our own. We want to do as much work as we can with these kinds of projects to build our relationship with the park and also help to free up park resources so that they may have more time to work with us on the larger projects. The park has a program for volunteers to help monitor trails. We're working with the park to monitor the horse trails.

Issues & Problems:

1. The biggest hurdle we have historically had in completing large projects in the park has been the availability of park resources and park approval. We're hoping that with a better working relationship and some creative ideas we can get more large projects done.ost more social rides and lectures, discover more organizations to partner with.
2. We're working towards a 10% increase in membership in 2021.

Organization Details

1. We are not a registered nonprofit.
2. Board of Directors until November 2021

Officers: name	2020 term expiration	2021
President: Rob Andrys	11/20	Steven Corley
Vice President: Tom Lyons	11/20	Curt Steinke
Secretary: Pam Corley	11/20	Doreen Mendola
Treasurer: Sharon Lyons	11/20	Pam Corley

Directors: Robin Martenson, Bea Worpell

Public Issues Director Steven Corley

Chapter Representative for 2020 State Meeting: Rob Andrys

Chapter Representatives for 2021 State Meeting: Pam Corley and Steve Corley

3. Dues Structure (all membership dues expire 12/31)
 - a. Individual Membership Annual Dues \$25
 - b. Family Membership Annual Dues \$35

4. Membership and Volunteer Hours History

	<u>Memberships</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>
2010	31	
2011	35	
2012	35	
2013	35	
2014	35	100
2015	18	1,593
2016	17	107
2017	29	375
2018	44	446
2019	44	136
2020	44	389

2020 BSF BCH Chapter Volunteer Hours Value total \$ 16,301.30

New River Railroad Rail to Trail Conversion

TN BCH gave us a lead to follow up regarding a possible rail trail from Scott to Anderson county. Here's an update:

- *The Surface Transportation Board has a website that you can search for action on pending decisions.*
- *The Corman Rail line in question can be found by its docket number, AB-1296X.*
- *The latest update on this docket shows a decision made by the entire board on 12/1/2020. It's decision 50507.*
- *The decision denies an appeal by an organization that wants to purchase the line and use it commercially. The decision also requires mediation between Corman and the potential purchaser.*
- *Steve has established contact between BSFBCH and Tim Bigelow helping to organize the rail to trail effort.*

Tim said:

- *Things are in a holding pattern right now pending a final approval of the line abandonment by the surface transportation board.*
- *Tim said in his next phone call with the groups trying to bring about this trail, he would discuss getting BCH involved.*
- *Tim will get back to us if and when there's a chance of moving this forward.*

Middle Tennessee Back Country Horsemen (MTBCH)

Accomplishments

1. We are 4 years old and growing.
2. We are an established 501c3 organization.
 - a. Trails: We ride and work in the TN State Parks, Percy Warner, Peeler State Park.
3. We Cleared trails in Peeler State Park, Natchez Trace-Garrison Creek Trailhead, Franklin State Forest, East Fork and Cordell Hull and Cedars of Lebanon.

BCH Outreach Education

1. Had a small packing demo at the Mustang Heritage rendezvous at Circle E.

Organization:

1. Had 10 membership rides/membership drives on the third Saturday of the month. Each included a potluck.
2. We have established a Facebook page which we use primarily for nearly all our communications. We are Middle TN BCH, where all our rides, issues, and meetings are posted.

Current and Future Projects

1. We are eager to learn how to work with the State and Federal Park systems to help keep trails open to equine use. We are unique, in that we have no rideable national forests in the vicinity. We are learning our way through the systems of the state, trying to convince them how we can be of service. Possible work relationship with the College of Suwannee.

Issues & Problems

1. In our geographic location, state parks and state-owned lands. Our main problem is finding the right land manager(s) to work with. This is an on-going effort and we are beginning to make some in roads.

Organization Details

1. Board of Directors

President	Jesse Johnson (and Chapter Representative)
Vice President	Jason Lancaster (and Chapter Representative)
Secretary	Acting-Jesse Johnson
Treasurer	Acting-Jesse Johnson
Directors	none
* Chapter Representatives-Michelle Steffen (alternate state rep)	

2. Dues Structure

- a. Individual Membership Annual Dues \$35
- b. Family Membership Annual Dues \$40

	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
2015	28		
2016	16		
2017	23	35	\$ 774
2018	23	26	\$ 642
2019	23	15	\$ 362
2020	15	66	\$ 1,795.20

Website: [www.https://mstef61.wixsite.com/mtnbcha](https://mstef61.wixsite.com/mtnbcha)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TN.BCHA> Middle Tennessee Back Country Horsemen