

BCH of Virginia State Report for 2023- 3/25/2024



BCHVA CHAPTERS

Chapter Name	Abbreviation	Primary public agency and land
BCH of the Virginia Highlands	BCHVH	George Washington /Jefferson National Forest, Mt Rogers NRA
BCH Eastern Divide	BCHED	George Washington /Jefferson National Forest, Eastern Divide District, County and State Parks
Golden Horseshoe BCH	GHBCH	George Washington /Jefferson National Forest, St.Parks

BCHVA BOD & Officers-

Chairman - Kerry Beard- Eastern Divide

1st Vice Chairman- Jane Eckes- Golden Horseshoe

2nd Vice Chairman- Jeff Nelson- Virginia Highlands

Treasurer- Sandi Pennington- Eastern Divide

Secretary- Marge Lewter- Eastern Divide

National Director- Jeff Nelson- Virginia Highlands

National Director-Sally Farrell

Alternate National Director- Nancy Sluys

Board Member- Lorae McDonald- Golden Horseshoe

Past President- Nancy Sluys

Backcountry Horsemen of America Volunteer Hours Report

January 1 2023- Dec 31, 2023

	P1 Totals	Rate per hour/mile/day	Total Value	
Total Basic Hours	1652	\$31.80	\$52,533.60	Calculated per hour
Total Skilled Hours	839	\$47.70	\$40,020.30	Calculated per hour
Total Trail Recon Hours	962	\$31.80	\$30,591.60	Calculated per hour
Total LNT - Education	148	\$31.80	\$4,706.40	Calculated per hour
Total Public Meetings	0	\$31.80	\$0.00	Calculated per hour
Total Administrative Service	202	\$31.80	\$6,423.60	Calculated per hour
Total Travel Time	372	\$31.80	\$11,829.60	Calculated per hour
Total Hours	4175			
Wilderness Trail Miles	393			
Other Trail Miles	262			
Total Trail Miles	655			
Personal Vehicle	11436	\$0.62	\$7,090.32	Calculated per mile
Stock Hauling	2266	\$1.35	\$3,059.10	Calculated per mile
Total Travel Miles	13702			
Power Equipment	214	\$30.00	\$6,420.00	Calculated per hour
Heavy Equipment	819	\$110.00	\$90,090.00	Calculated per hour
Total Equipment Hours	1033			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	46			
Total Stock Days	46	\$100.00	\$4,600.00	Calculated per day
Total Donations	\$0.00		\$0.00	
		Total	\$257,364.52	



BCH of Virginia State News

Chapter Interaction-

All three Virginia chapters are active in their own districts of the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest. Virginia chapters also intermingle on a regular basis attending each other's work days and events and lending a hand where needed. This Spring all chapters gathered for a Camporee in Oriskany Virginia where they rode the trails of the Grace Furnace area, a parcel of old mining land newly acquired by the Forest Service. The Eastern Divide chapter has volunteered to scout the trails for loop opportunities and report to the Forest Service to assist in the creation of a new recreation area. The Camporee featured a chili cook-off and a trail clean up which netted over a dozen bags of trash off the trails.

The Horse and Hound Wine Festival offers BCHVA chapters a chance to volunteer to park cars in exchange for a donation, which in the past would go to each chapter. It was decided this year to put the donation into the state treasury.

members regularly attend each other's work days and camping events.

Several work days across Virginia were attended by members of all chapters.

A state wide packing clinic was hosted by the Golden Horseshoe Chapter.

Agency Interaction-

All Virginia chapters are very engaged with their land manager's offices.

The **Eastern Divide** chapter is very active in several county trail systems including Carvin's Cove near Roanoke where they help maintain trails. Three members are on the planning committee for the Botetourt Rail Trail. They have also been partnering with the town of Blacksburg, the US Forest Service and other user groups on the new McDonald Hollow Multi Use Trail System and also with the US Forest Service on the new Grace Furnace area.

The **Golden Horseshoe** chapter near Lexington, VA maintains the Glenwood Horse Trail. BCHGH have modified their volunteer agreement with the Forest Service to include using mechanized equipment in the maintenance of trails so they can take over some of the backlog. Working with the Forest Service to repaint all the blazes on the Glenwood Horse Trail.

The **Virginia Highlands** chapter interacts frequently with the Forest Service in the Mount Rogers NRA and have formed a team approach to addressing problems in the forest. There has been some positive turnover in the Forest Service with a new Rec Manager, Jake Smith. BCHVH has partnered with the Forest Service on several significant grant opportunities along with other partner organizations such as the Appalachian Conservation Corps and Southern and Appalachian Wilderness Stewards.



CHAPTER REPORTS

Eastern Divide-

Hosted a statewide Camporee for BCH Virginia.

Partnered with the Golden Horseshoe chapter on an informational booth and membership drive at the Great American Trail Horse Sale in Lexington, VA.

Eastern Divide continues to do trail maintenance at White Cedar Horse Camp in Jefferson National Forest which they have adopted. They hold a yearly clean up of the campground and trails

The Carvins Cove Trail system is heavily used by bikers but several BCH members clear large trees from the trail whenever needed.

Several members volunteered on the Virginia Highlands Chapter's Legacy Grant Project.

Volunteered for the Iron Mountain Jubilee Endurance Ride hosted by the Virginia Highlands chapter.

Participated in a fundraiser at the Horse & Hound Wine Festival resulting in a large donation for BCHVA.

Eastern Divide continues to be active in local projects including the completed McDonald Hollow trail system. We have been asked to represent equestrians on the New Castle Botetourt Scenic Rail Trail committee. We took a horse and calves to the Newport Tree farm for their October Pumpkin patch event for educating children about horses and bicycles.

The Eastern Divide Chapter continues to be proactive in maintaining and creating trail systems that have the interests of equestrians included. They advocate for educating the public on sharing the trail with safety in mind.



Virginia Highlands-

BCHVH continues to maintain and host the Hussy Mountain Horse Camp as the Forest Service no longer has the resources to keep it open without assistance.

The big news for the year was the \$75,000.00 Legacy Trails Grant for rehabbing 8.5 miles of the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail and several compactors for a total of 13 miles. The BCHVH partnered with the Appalachian Conservation Corps to help achieve this monumental task. Members donated heavy equipment and hundreds of hours. AK Trails LLC was also hired to do some specialized mechanized work. Numerous drainage problems were solved with sustainable solutions. Members of all Virginia chapters volunteered to help on the project.

The Iron Mountain Jubilee Endurance Ride and Tide & Tie served as a fundraiser for the BCHVH Trail Fund. Members of all the Virginia chapters volunteered to help.

BCHVH continues to monitor the Ewing Mountain Vegetative Project, an extensive series of timber sales across the east end of the Mt Rogers National Recreation Area. BCHVH and the Forest Service are in conversation negotiating the most equitable ways to preserve access through active timber sites.



Golden Horseshoe-

Golden Horseshoe maintains the Glenwood Horse Trail. They hosted a trail blazing workshop to train members to properly mark the trail. They will be blazing the entire trail throughout the year.

The chapter organized several campouts along the Glenwood Horse Trail that were attended by members of other Virginia Chapters.

Golden Horseshoe divided the Glenwood Horse Trail into 11 sections and now have someone monitoring each section. Several work days resulted from the trail monitoring by these individuals.

The Golden Horseshoe chapter continues to be a voice for the Gunter Ridge Trail that has been taken over by hikers and bikers. The trail used to be a horse trail.

BCHGH Hosted a statewide packing clinic and taught members several styles of packing. They also added a Leave No Trace element to the clinic.

The chapter along with the Eastern Divide chapter manned an informational booth at the well attended Great American Trail Horse Sale.

