



Keeping Trails Open and Maintained - "we are the workers"

### **Minnesota Back Country *News and Notes***

At the 2019 BCH-MN Annual Meeting members said they'd like to hear more from the State Board of Directors and what was going on at the state level. There has been a newsletter once or twice a year but more frequent updates would be useful. I have volunteered as BCH-MN Secretary to put together a brief summary of recent activities and plans for future events. Eileen Menefee has offered to help.

The plan is to try a bi-monthly (every 2 months) email to members in a simple format. In order to keep the mailing list as up to date as possible, **Back Country *News and Notes*** will be sent to the secretaries of the Zumbro Bottoms and Southeast Minnesota Chapter secretaries who will forward them to their members. It will be emailed to all other state members directly. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to me directly at oakridgefarm244@gmail.com.

Ken Olson BCH-MN Secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*

**2019 Dues** - If you haven't renewed your membership for 2019 they are due now.

**National Directors Selected** - Diane Freese, Rochester, MN was selected to a second 2 year term as our National Director from MN to BCHA. Diane has served 1 previous term attending the past 2 National meetings. Thanks Diane for your dedication. Marv Breikreutz has 1 year remaining on his 2 year term as our second National Director.

**BCH-MN By-law Improvements** - In 2016 when BCH-MN was formed, a set of simple by-laws was adopted to set the rules for operating the organization. Recently the BCH-MN Board of directors and members have expressed a need to improve the by-laws as we grow. Following the 2019 Annual Meeting, the President appointed a 4 person committee to study the current by-laws and draft improvements. The committee of Bruce Kvittum and Dave Robson - the presidents of the 2 chapters, Marv Breikreutz - member at large and President, and Ken Olson - Secretary of the Board have met and drafted changes to be reviewed by the Board at their March 11th meeting. The plan is for the changes to be made available to members for final ratification later in 2019 or at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

**Member and Chapter Expansion** - Growing membership is important for BCH-MN. BCHA is 46 years old but BCH-MN is 3 years old. The biggest strength of the organization is in the chapters. Members "at large" across the state are also important for trail projects and the formation of new chapters.

Chapter and member expansion is currently being addressed by the Board by -

- Putting together a guide to help new chapters form.
- Organizing a display booth for a second year at the MN Horse Expo. If you are interested in working a shift in the display, please contact Barb Partington at [bpartington2014@gmail.com](mailto:bpartington2014@gmail.com)
- Always being available to talk to potential members or work with riders interested in forming a chapter.

#### **Calendar of Events/Activities -**

- March 11 - BCH-MN Board of Directors Conference call
- March 14 - Zumbro Bottoms Chapter Meeting - JJ Tailgators - Elgin
- March - SE Chapter Tree transplanting at Lake Louise when frost is out - (contact - Dave Robson)
- April 3 - SE Chapter - Forestville State Park work day - mounting blocks and other projects - (contact - Dave Robson)
- April 6 or 7 - Zumbro Bottoms Chapter Trash pickup (weather dependent) - (contact - Bruce Kvitem)
- April 12 & 13 - Zumbro Bottoms Chapter - Need volunteers for Zumbro Endurance Run (contact Bruce Kvitem)
- April 26 - 28 - BCH-MN - Display at MN Horse Expo - volunteers needed (contact Barb Partington)
- May 3 & 4 - BCH-MN - Trail and campground work day at Cut Foot Sioux Horse Camp - Chippewa National Forest (contact - Eileen Menefee)
- June 1 & 2 - Zumbro Bottoms Work Days (contact Bruce Kvitem)
- August 18 - Stoneybrooke/McCarthy Beach "Diversity Day" - McCarthy Beach State Park Picnic Shelter designed for persons with disabilities - hayrides/horse camping demos (contact - Eileen Menefee)

#### **BCH-MN Board of Directors -**

- President - Marvin Breitreutz - [mphorses43@gmail.com](mailto:mphorses43@gmail.com) (National Director)
- Vice President - Diane Freese - [freese.diane@outlook.com](mailto:freese.diane@outlook.com) (National Director)
- Secretary - Ken Olson - [oakridgefarm244@gmail.com](mailto:oakridgefarm244@gmail.com)
- Treasurer - Barb Partington - [bpartington2014@gmail.com](mailto:bpartington2014@gmail.com)
- Zumbro Bottoms Chapter Representative - Barb Kvitem - [bkvitem7@yahoo.com](mailto:bkvitem7@yahoo.com)
- Southeast MN Chapter Representative - Mark Fitting - [fittingsnuthouse@gmail.com](mailto:fittingsnuthouse@gmail.com)
- Northern MN Area Representative - Eileen Menefee - [eileenm56672@yahoo.com](mailto:eileenm56672@yahoo.com)

Be sure to visit the BCH-MN website at [www.bchmn.org](http://www.bchmn.org) - Steve Freese - Website Manager