

Bay State Trail Riders Association Trails Report for 2013

This was another very good year for trail work by BSTRA members. We covered ten towns this year with a total of 310.8 volunteer hours that are worth \$26.84 per hour using the latest Massachusetts estimate for the value of non-skilled adult volunteer time.

Totaling up volunteer hours, cash, and grant money, we put in a Grand total of \$14,553.90

Douglas Trails March 3rd Cutting and brushing back off of the SNETT 3.3 \$88.57

Cormier Woods Volunteer Day- April 6th

Trustees of the Reservation property in Uxbridge MA One BSTRA member joined group of 26 volunteers to open up new trail connection. 3 hours \$80.52

West Hill Dam Trail Work Day April 13th

We cleaned out the very numerous water bars, did some light cutting and brushing back and some litter pick up. A grand total of 18 hours was spent on trails for a value of \$483.12!

Park Serve Day Southern New England Trunkline Trail Douglas MA-April 20th

We tackled the section of the Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT) in Douglas between Depot Street and

Martin Street. A total of .24 miles.

With two chainsaws, one brush cutter, and a pole saw, DCR really went to town. We were the "stackers". Our job was to stack all the trees, branches and brush in piles with the ends facing the trail on either side.

DCR came back on Sunday & Monday with the chipper to clean up everything that was stacked.

It looks so nice in that section right now; it's amazing the amount of work that got done thanks to DCR and BSTRA!

For our efforts, we put in 9 hours with a value of \$241.56. Plus \$42.03 for food

Annual Work Day at Upton State Forest April 27th

Six volunteers from BSTRA put in a total of 16.5 hours doing some cutting and brushing back. That's worth \$442.86

Assawompsett Pond Complex Trail Work Day-April 7th

We cleared trash and tree limbs from the fire roads from gates M6 to M4, which are also part of our marked Bridle Trail.

Six volunteers put in a total of 18 hours for a value of \$483.12.

Myles Standish State Forest Park Serve Day April 27th working on trails. Four hours. \$107.36

May 18th Brimfield Trail Work Day

four of us the committed to clearing out a section of trail called MBO Road in the Brimfield State Forest. This section was just over grown with a lot of low hemlock branches for horseback riders. The four of us put in a total of 12 hours of volunteer labor for a value of \$322.08

Upton Trails: July 18th & 21st. Cutting and brushing back 4.5 hours. July 22nd 1.5 hours, July 24th 5 hours, July 27th 3 hours Total 14 hours \$375.76

Mendon Trail Work Day Aug. 10th

We had 3 major trees down across the trails in Mendon. I am happy to report that not only did we get those trees cleaned up; we also did some trimming back on that section of the trail. A total of 20 hours of volunteer work was put in to improving the trails in Mendon. That work was worth \$536.80!

Mendon MA Aug. 15th clearing trails 8 hours \$214.72

Brimfield State Forest Aug. & Sept. 24 hours clearing trails. \$644.16

Partnership Grant done at Douglas State Forest

Finally, the partnership grant that we had applied for in 2010 with approval in March of 2011 was tackled this year.

The grant application was to improve a one-mile section of trail in the Douglas State Forest. The trail came off of the SNETT which is called the Midstate Trail & the Streeter Trail that goes out to Southwest Main St.

The grant was for a total of \$9,500. DCR's contribution was \$6,330. BSTRA contributed \$2,920 and a grant from the Douglas Octoberfest for \$250 completed the funding.

The sad news is that DCR spent the whole \$9,500 doing just the first .3 of a mile.

Needless to say, we did want to get this project done. So we had Speroni Excavating finish up the last .7 mile of the trail. The board approved spending \$3,000 to get this work done.

So, BSTRA has \$5,920 invested along with another \$250 from the grant to get this project done. Grand total is \$6,170.

Oxford MA Oct. 19th 5 hours clearing trail by lake (Hodges Village Dam) \$134.20

Dorothy Francis Rice WMA and Peru State Forest, Peru MA

Maintenance work done on trails all year long that included trail marking, trail clearing, mowing and weed whacking. A total of 144 hours were put in for a value of \$3,864.96

On a side note, DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) had hearings this year because of major changes to their Code of Massachusetts Regulation's (CMR's). The major issue for horseback riders was that DCR classified horses as pets. That along with some other smaller issues was a major concern for us.

As a result of research and testifying, BSTRA got horses correctly classified as livestock which eliminated a host of other problems that had cropped up because of the wrong classification.

All of our other concerns were also taken care of.

BSTRA also participated in the public hearings for the DCR Volunteers in Parks Program Guide.

