



## The Bugle



January 2024

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### *Looking forward to our 51st year (continued)*

I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you're going. I have respect for the past, but I'm a person of the moment. I'm here, and I do my best to be completely centered at the place I'm at, then I go forward to the next place. - Maya Angelou

This quote fits BSTRA's membership perfectly. We've spent the last year looking back over our past to appreciate the magnitude of our 50th Anniversary. As equestrians, we strive to live in the moment and stay centered (in many ways!) We like being on the go, riding out to our next destination.

Becky has used this space in December to talk about the challenges facing us in 2024. For continued success in our mission to preserve, maintain, and develop trails for our community while ensuring equestrian access, we need to remain a vibrant, active organization.

Most importantly, we need to bestow the BSTRA legacy to future generations. We will best achieve our mission by fully engaging our membership to contribute their talents beyond attending rides. Bringing new people with fresh perspectives will help us plan future events that attract members. Staying connected through the newsletter and improving our website will improve communication. Fundraising and outreach with DCR, MARTB, Army Corps of Engineers, Mass Parks For All, and the many towns and land trusts that oversee the places we ride are essential. The more members we have contributing to these efforts, the better outcomes we gain!

Becky and the Board of Directors have succeeded by representing the core values of BSTRA membership. We need to hear from you more than ever in 2024 to best represent your interests. Please add your voice to our committees, meetings, and events. We welcome your participation.

*Edward Nobrega*

## *Red Pine Trail Project Overview*

It's hard to believe that this project actually started in 2020 with a Mass Trails Grant application. The application was for the Red Pine Trail improvements up to the wet area along with expanding and fixing the Wallis Street parking lot.

The grant was approved. Then legal reviewed it and said that since the Douglas State Forest was a Reserve, we couldn't expand the parking lot because it wasn't allowed.

I followed up with the following on two points.

1. Replacement of existing facilities, as needed will be allowed, but construction of new facilities where none previously existed is prohibited. Exceptions may include small-scale, low impact, context appropriate informational kiosks, universal access structures for trails, composting toilets, trailheads, parking areas and carefully designed boardwalks, or other projects that protect the integrity of the reserve interior by locating those facilities that are necessary at the edge of the reserve.



2. Since the grant was approved, could just the section of the Red Pine Trail improvements be awarded?

Absolute crickets. No one from DCR ever replied back to me about the exception section in the Reserves description and same for the ask about a partial award.

We decided to go ahead with the project on our own which of course took a lot longer with Covid hitting us and raising funds to complete the project.

This is what has gone into this project to date.

Project oversight time: 7.92 hours  
worth \$288.13

Volunteer time working on the project:  
109.4 hours worth \$3,979.97

Cash paid for this project: \$21,881.77  
This is for engineering and associated costs, material like gravel, bridge, erosion control, and machine/labor expenses.

Donated material (gravel from Pyne Sand & Gravel) & labor/machine (from CJM Construction): \$1,655.69

Grand total that this project is worth is  
\$27,805.56

The 6 foot wide and 12 foot long bridge is made completely out of fiber-reinforced polymer or FRP for short



Bridge frame and decking all out of fiber-reinforced polymer.

with geo-textile material and pea stone on top. We won't have to worry about it rotting out. The only thing left to do

*(Continued on page 3)*



(Continued from page 2)

is order a plaque to install on the curbing stating "This bridge donated and installed by Bay State Trail Riders Association 2023"

This was a long time coming to fruition, but definitely worth it. Thank you to all that helped make this project a reality! **BK**



### *Ideas we are tossing around*

At our last Board meeting we tossed around some different things to do.

One was a Equi Yoga workshop with Marty Whittle.

A brief outline of the workshop ~ 1 1/2 hr on the mats doing stretches and similar movements we'll do mounted as well as some pranayama ( breathing) and meditation. Then a little break and some water and snacks :) Then I split the group - 1/2 holds - walks and the other 1/2 ride. Then they switch . It's a good way to really absorb the movements watching and doing. It's a lot of fun and laughter which always does one good !

The second one was a paint night.

What do you think? Are you interested? You have to let us know if you are!



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## Top Trail Affiliate Challenge

In 2024, BSTRA is excited to participate in the online Top Trail affiliate program. BSTRA members in good standing who are also Top Trail members will be eligible for a year end award for most trail miles!

Top Trail is a GPS-based online mileage program where trail riders can track miles ridden or driven. They offer challenges to encourage folks to get on the trails. Their mission is to build “a community of equestrians who are passionate about life on the trail, celebrating and recognizing our trail horses, helping and encouraging each other’s growth in horsemanship.”

This fits nicely with the BSTRA community.

Top Trail membership provides a way to record trail miles by uploading GPS tracks to your account. You can view annual and lifetime mileage and see where you rank against others. A bit of friendly competition—how fun is that? Annual membership fee is \$35. More details are available at <https://www.toptrailhorse.com/>



The BSTRA challenge will be most trail miles ridden or driven. This not only includes BSTRA rides— but any trail miles tracked via GPS. The program will run from January 1 to December 31, 2024, with the award given out at the 2025 AGM.

Rules for BSTRA’s affiliate program will follow general Top Trail rules. Tracks should be loaded to the site as near times as possible (Top Trail suggests within 72 hours), equines must be ridden or pulling a cart (not ponied). Duplicate tracks are not allowed. BSTRA members must meet the 4-hour volunteer requirement to be eligible for the award.

Top Trail will be adding a BSTRA affiliate link to their site early next year. We will let you know when that is live. Let the games begin! *Anna-Maria Paul*

## BSTRA in 2024

**BOARD MEMBERS:** We will have our election of officers at the AGM & Awards Banquet. We are looking for people that want to make a difference in the trails world for horseback riders. Contribute to our vision of a well maintained system of horseback riding trails with adequate parking, well marked, good maps, and safe trails.

**COMMITTEES:** Another way to contribute to our vision. We need people on our Fundraising Committee and Events Committee.

**Volunteers** to help with the website, newsletter, and Facebook.

We are only as good as the people helping us, join in to make us great.

BSTRA board meetings are usually on the first Thursday of the month. If you wish to attend one of our meetings, drop us an email and we will send you the meeting link.

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**TIME: 12 Noon to 4 PM**

**12:15 Election of Officers & Cash Bar Opens**  
**12:30 Lunch**

**Following lunch will be the Presentation of year end Awards and BSTRA raffle**

**LUNCHEON BUFFET:**

Tossed Garden Salad, Seasonal Fresh Fruit Salad, Warm Rolls & Butter, Penne Pasta with Marinara, Chicken Marsala, Sliced Sirloin, Chef's Medley of Vegetables, Herb Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes, Assorted Dessert Display, Freshly Brewed Coffee and Tea

**COST: Adults: \$32**  
**Age 12 & Under: \$15**

**DEADLINE: Paid reservations must be received by Feb. 8th at the latest.**

Members, please bring your friends and family — you don't need to be a member to come to this afternoon of fun, good food, awards, election of Officers and huge raffle!

Feb 18 AGM & Awards Banquet	Adult or Junior	Amount
Name		
Name		
Name		
Street Address		
Town, State, Zip		
Will Bring Something for the Raffle Table		

If registering by mail, send Registration Form and check payable to BSTRA, Inc. to:  
Becky Kalagher, 24 Glen Street, Douglas MA 01516

## *Red Pine Trail Project Work Days*

Trail work days to finish this project.

Nov. 4, 2023: Mark Manoogian of CJM Construction showed up at Wallis St. parking lot with his excavator to set the granite pieces that the bridge would be resting on. Many thanks to DCR Douglas State Forest for letting us use these from their stock pile and bringing them over to Wallis St. parking lot.

Becky Kalagher and Phil Rutledge helped Mark set them in place. Mark donated his machine/labor time for this job valued at \$800. Becky & Phil put in a total of 3.5 hours worth \$127.33.



Nov. 11, 2023: This work day entailed adding fill and rocks around the granite pieces. Phil Rutledge used his dump trailer to get a couple buckets of gravel stored at DCR Douglas State Forest. They were kind enough to load the dump trailer.

Rita Ballou drove her tractor over to move the gravel and some rocks. Some of the gravel was moved by buckets and a cart pulled by human power thanks to Sue & Steve Sanders. To round out the rest of our work crew hauling rocks and spreading gravel was Jane Rutledge, Deb Carlson, Becky Kalagher, and Joanne Podles. All totaled we put in 14.5 hours worth \$527.51



Dec. 8, 2023: Bob Hatch and Stephanie Frend delivered the bridge. Becky Kalagher drove her tractor from home to get the 6' x 12' bridge to the site. Our work crew installation, rock/gravel fill on one side for a ramp were Neil & Shirley Standring, Gloria Duhaime, Ann Marie Allaire, Phil Rutledge, Deb Carlson, and Rose Zariczny. All totaled we put in 50 hours worth \$1,819.

Dec. 9, 2023: Bob Hatch and Stephanie Frend showed up with some younger reinforcements Gemma Mullins and Sophia Hakkila. We finished anchoring the bridge to the granite, installed the geo-textile material, curb rails and finally the pea stone on top. While people were working on the bridge we had others setting stones on the sides approaching the bridge and filling in the path with gravel to create ramps up to the bridge. All totaled we put in 36.17 hours worth \$1,315.86



Dec. 26, 2023: Phil Rutledge, Sue Sanders and Becky Kalagher filled 26 buckets with gravel and brought them over to Wallis St. parking lot. Sue brought along the handy cart (much easier than a wheelbarrow!) to haul the buckets down to the bridge. We had to finish the ramp on the other side of the bridge again using stones to keep the gravel in place on the sides and filling it up to bridge level with the gravel. Once we were done that we also cleared up a downed tree (Phil was ambitious!) Total hours to finally finish is 5.25 worth \$191.

It took a village! **BK**



### POULIN GRAIN PROGRAM

When you buy Poulin grain for your animals, make sure to tell the clerk that you are a BSTR4 member. That's all you have to do! We get .25 for each bag you buy. The collected bag amounts are remitted to Poulin and they send us a check. Participating dealers: Mane Place (Uxbridge).

### EXCESS PERSONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

A \$1 million Excess Personal Liability Insurance policy is an optional member benefit. Become an individual or family member of BSTR4 and choose this valuable protection. Insurance Agent is Equisure. For details, please visit our website at [www.bstr4.org](http://www.bstr4.org) or email [rzariczny@verizon.net](mailto:rzariczny@verizon.net)

### BSTR4 CLOTHING

Please use this QR code to access our site to purchase BSTR4 clothing. Or go to our website, click on the Support tab in the top header, then click on Merchandise Sales. There will be a link on that page that takes you to the "store". **NEW ITEMS ADDED**



### SHOP iGIVE

When you log in & shop their 2,000+ stores (think Chewy, Walmart, Expedia and so many more), we'll earn donations at least TWICE what we earned through AmazonSmile. The average donation through an iGive store is about 3%, with some offering 25% or higher! Make it all automatic. Download the iGive Button & turn your browser into an automatic donation generating machine! Use the handy link on our website under the Support tab.

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

You can now submit your volunteer hours online from our website. Please make use of this throughout the year so you don't forget what you did.



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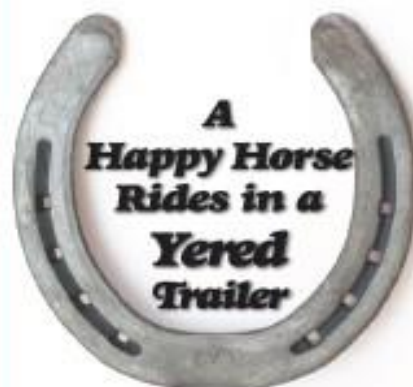
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Free ads are for members and their items only. Please contact the editor for advertising rates for non-member classified ads. Please submit your ad in writing (mail or e-mail) to the editor. Ads will only appear once unless you notify us to run it again. Ads must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

**Wanted:** Mini driving harness that will fit 34" mini. Call Alyse at 508-476-7593 Leads also appreciated.

**For Sale:** 20' hay elevator with motor. Located in Blackstone, MA \$800 firm. Rose Z (401) 487-3190

**"The Adventures of BB, the Wonder Pony"** is an illustrated, first chapter children's book that will be enjoyed by readers of all ages. My Connemara Pony "BB" tells his life story in his own pony voice. BB talks about life as a foal, learning to be ridden, going to a variety of shows and having adventures with his big brother Cody. The illustrations are by a 12-year-old artist – really cute, on every few pages. You can contact me at [sue.perry@charter.net](mailto:sue.perry@charter.net) to purchase a book, \$5.00 each plus shipping. You can also order the book on-line from Amazon at \$7.99.

## Business Classifieds

**Short Term/Vacation Boarding:** Walking High Farm has two run in sheds with separate fencing available for your short term needs. Going on vacation? We can take care of your horse, or both if you have two of them. Please call Becky for details at 508-476-3960 or [bstra@charter.net](mailto:bstra@charter.net)

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Date (raindate)	Event/Location/Sponsor	Contact	Phone #	email address
Feb. 18	AGM & Awards Banquet, Sutton MA	Becky	508-476-3960	bstra@charter.net
April 20	Park Serve Day Douglas State Forest	Becky	508-476-3960	bstra@charter.net
April 21	Park Serve Day Upton State Forest			
May 4	Trail Work Day Hodges Village Dam Oxford			
May 11	Trail Work Day Thompson CT			
May 19	Livelark Acres Ride Thompson CT			
June 9	National Trails Day			
June 23	Luau Ride Upton Ma			
June 30	Red Rail Farm Ride Lincoln MA			
Sept. 15	Sue Brainard Memorial Hunter Pace Douglas MA			
Oct. 27	Big Pumpkin Upton MA			



#### \*NEHT affiliated rides

1. Unless otherwise noted, all rides start at 10 am and trail work days at 9 am
2. In case of questionable weather, call before leaving home. You will NOT be called if the event is cancelled.
3. Most rides require advance registration and payment to receive lunch.
4. Riders 17 years old and under, accompanied by a guardian, ride **free** (includes lunch if pre-registered). (May be exceptions on some rides)
5. Alcohol is prohibited on State property. No smoking allowed while riding.
6. A current Coggins within a year of the ride date is required.
7. Please leave the trails and parking areas better than you found them and be considerate of others! Clean up your hay & manure at all rides!
8. Year end awards require a member in good standing to have a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer time completed.  
Divisions: Pleasure, Competitive, Accumulative. Age as of January 1st: Junior (17 and under), Adult (18-64), Senior (65 or older).  
For more Information, visit our website at [www.bstra.org](http://www.bstra.org)
9. PayPal payments for rides will no longer be transferred to another ride. Refunds will be made.

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# Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc.

24 Glen Street  
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JANUARY 2024

We are on the web!

[www.bstra.org](http://www.bstra.org)

## Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc. Membership Application (expires December 31st)

Mail this form with check payable to **BSTRA, Inc.** to: Rose Zariczny, 216 Grand Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: (\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Do NOT release my name for discounts or coupons to benefit BSTRA [ ]

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(# & street) (town/city) (state/zip)

Please check all that apply:

Single \$25 [ ] \$1m excess liability insurance (single), additional \$20 [ ] Individual Lifetime Membership \$400 [ ]

Family \$35 [ ] \$1m excess liability insurance (family), additional \$40 [ ]

Additional Barn Membership \$35 [ ] Barn Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donation to this 501(c)(3) corporation \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Your tax exempt donation will be acknowledged.

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(name of member)

- by volunteering for trail work days [ ]
- by sponsoring a trail ride (\$) [ ]
- by hosting/running a trail ride [ ]
- with other projects that might be needed [ ]
- by serving on the Board of Directors [ ] committee [ ]
- with \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? [rzariczny@verizon.net](mailto:rzariczny@verizon.net) or 401-487-3190

**Thank you for your support. Happy Trails!**