

Bay State Trail Riders Association's 2023 Annual Report

In 2023, our focus remained on implementing Board Governance procedures, with the aim of completing most of them by 2024. Our program services thrived, thanks to the unwavering support of our donors and volunteers. We gauge our success through several key metrics:

Volunteer Hours: A total of 480.13 hours, valued at \$18,816.

Donated Materials and Machine Work: Worth \$1,268.

Cash: \$10,208.

This cumulative effort resulted in a grand total investment of \$30,292 for Trails in 2023. We sincerely hope that you enjoy reading about our accomplishments, which would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors.

Sincerely, *Becky Kalagher, President*



What did we do in 2023?

- Trails were improved in the following towns by our volunteers: Douglas, Grafton, Hubbardston, Mendon, Oxford, Thompson (CT), Upton, Uxbridge, and Winchendon/Royalston.
- Public and written input submitted for the Ware River Watershed Public Access Plan to advocate for horseback riding trails.
- Public and written input submitted to DEM in RI concerning the Legrand Horsemen's Area to keep that as a horseback only camping area.
- Partnered with Mass Parks for All to help them fight for increased funding and resources for all Mass State Forest and Parks.
- Wrote letters of support for grant applications that helped Wyndham Land Trust receive \$24,000 for planning, design, construction, and outreach to establish trail parking at Bull Hill Preserve in Thompson CT. Parking will include room for a couple of truck/horse trailers.
- Feedback given on DCR Stewardship Council Finance Committee listening session that wanted input from users of the state forests and parks on what they would like to see budget money go towards for improvements. Our input was monies to go towards on the ground staffing, land acquisition (with protecting trail connections between protected parcels) and having a dedicated trail maintenance crew in each region.
- Air Line Trail (4.3-mile section) reconstruction & accessibility improvements public hearing (CT). Input given and submitted written information on how bollard spacing, and height will affect horses being able to safely pass between them.



We held:

17 rides with a total of 626 riders attending. 2 Campouts 13 Trail workdays

Celebrated our 50th anniversary. Received commendations from the Senate and House of Representatives.

Donated \$500 to Mass Parks For All, \$433 Friends of Upton State Forest, \$1,200 Wyndham Land Trust

Received grants from Athletic Brewing Company, Constellation and Whole Foods for a total of \$12,442.

Our Fundraising efforts for trail work in 2023 netted \$23,891

Volunteer Hours Breakdown (this is for those that reported them, there were hours that were not reported) The Independent Sector list volunteer hours for Massachusetts in 2023 are worth \$39.19 an hour.

- Events: BSTRA members 858.22 hours, non-members 73 hours. Total 932.22 hours worth \$36,494
- Meetings: BSTRA members 88.94 hours worth \$3,486
- Fundraising: BSTRA members 88.5 hours worth \$3,468
- Trail Projects: BSTRA members 44.58 hours worth \$1,747
- Trail Work: BSTRA members 378.55 hours, non-members 57 hours. Total 435.55 hours worth \$17,069
- Writing: BSTRA members 187.84 hours worth \$7,361



LeGrand Reynolds Horsemen's Area

Great volunteer effort from at least a dozen friends stopping in for an informal clean up on April 8th at LeGrand Reynolds horseman's area. Bay State Trail Riders Association, Moswansicut Riding & Driving Club, L&G (Ladies & Gents), and Cross State Trail Ride Inc. were represented. We moved a lot of fallen limbs, lopped and hand sawed away at hanging trees and larger trees that were hard to move.



Park Serve Day Douglas State Forest

BSTRA held a trail workday on DCR's Douglas State Forest trails. We tackled "Chicken Wing" Trail that needed brushing back and some tree trimming. That trail is .3 of a mile long.

We had 16 people joining together to improve this trail and a cool cloudy day, the absolute best for working! We had Becky running the brush cutter and Cheryl running the battery-operated hedge trimmers, both very effective in cutting back the brush.

The rest of the crew was armed with hand saws, pruners, long handled loppers, and a pole saw to target the rest of the trail work. We put in a total of 46.42 hours. Using the Independent Sector value rate for volunteer work in MA (\$39.19) our volunteer work has a value of \$1,819 and lunch was \$161.

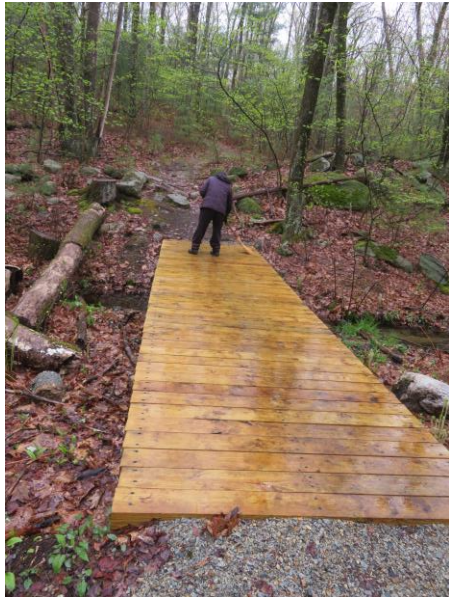


Park Serve Day Upton State Forest

With 23 people we broke into two crews. One crew stayed at the headquarters building to rake and clean up the grounds. The second crew headed to bridge #2 , the 23' rebuilt bridge last fall.

Our goal was to install the geo-textile material, install the curb railing and spread the pea stone.

Once we were all packed up, we headed back to headquarter for lunch. Many thanks for the Friends of Upton State Forest for providing lunch and drinks. We also had a special cake commemorating the 90th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). A total of 46 hours worth \$1,803.



Trail Workday at Hodges Village Dam

One group tackled the trails parallel to the dike called Easier Way Up the Hill and Kestrel Hill. Not only did they get that done, but they also did the East Side-South as they headed back to our starting point doing a total of .8 of a mile of trail work

Second group tackled an un-named trail, the first right after the end of Rocky Hill Road that went up the pipeline and came out onto Trail #1. We hooked a right on Trail #1 and worked on that until we got to the Midstate Trail/East Side - North down to the Midstate Trail HDV link back to where we started. That group also did .8 of a mile of trail work.

18 people put in 57 hours worth \$2,234 plus lunch at \$228.



Grafton Land Trust Workday

Members of the Grafton Land Trust, Blackstone Valley NEMBA and BSTRA tackled a blocked stream to clean it, restore the flow, and reduce the mud zone back there. We got the job done in an hour plus on the way out we cleared out another small stream that was backed up on the trail creating a huge puddle. A total of 9.48 hours worth \$372.



Lake Dennison Trail Work

Located in Winchendon & Royalston MA 4 people rode in on horseback and using hand tools cleared ½ mile of Rockets Ext. Trail. We had a total of 6 hours worth \$235.



Installed straw wattles on BSTRA property

Our goal for the morning was to get the straw wattles installed at two stream crossings. They are a bit awkward to move, not heavy, but each bundle was a 25' of rolled up straw stocking. This is in preparation for the two bridges that are to be installed. Five people put in 12.5 hours worth \$490.



Red Pine Trail Nov. 4th Douglas State Forest

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 stockpile 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 \$137.



Red Pine Trail Nov. 11th

This workday 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. All totaled we put in 14.5 hours worth \$568.



Red Pine Trail Dec. 8th

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. Ten people started the bridge installation and rock/gravel fill on end of the bridge to bring trail grade level to the bridge. All totaled we put in 50 hours worth \$1,960.



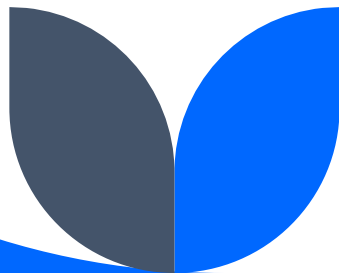
Red Pine Trail Dec. 9th

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 \$1,418.



Red Pine Trail Dec. 26th is finally finished!

We 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 \$206.



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Statement of Financial Position 12/31/2023

REVENUE

Contributions, gifts, grants	\$33,100
Additional Revenue	
Program service revenue	\$6,668
Membership Due	\$5,135
Net income from special events	\$20,653
Interest	\$91
Total Revenue	\$65,647

EXPENSES

Program	\$15,848
Administration	\$5,607
Fundraising	\$2,023
Special Event Fundraising	\$8,095
Total Expenses	\$31,573

NET ASSETS

Cash unrestricted	\$74,507
CD unrestricted	\$51,356
Cash:	
Restricted Lea MacInnis endowment	\$3,021
Restricted Lifetime memberships	\$6,355
Restricted CD's Trail Projects	\$167,920
Land	\$29,514
Net Assets	\$332,673

Thanks to our Volunteers in 2023

Aeva Snyder
Angela Authier
Angie Knott
Ann Marie Allaire
Anna-Maria Paul
Aurora Carriere
Ayla McCoskery
Barbara McCumber
Becky Kalagher
Bethani Chadbourne
Bill Knott
Bill Taylor
Bill Zariczny
Bud Anderson
Caila Hansen
Carolyn Weeks
Celeste Nobrega
Cheryl Fitzpatrick
Cheryl Young
Chris DiMasi
Christina Snyder
Crysanda Aloia
Darlene Falcone
Dave Clark
David Maenzo

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Denise Leonard
Diane Sullivan
Donna Johnson
Donna Michelson
Dylan McCoskery
Edward Nobrega
Elaine Whitney
Elizabeth Roussey
Ellen Arnold
Gemma Mullins
Gloria Duhaime
Harry Kalagher
Jane Rutledge
Janeen Rose
Janet Wornham
Jason Hakkila
Jassy Bratko
Jessee Samdahl
Jessica Wornham
Jim Shaw
Joan Adams

Joanne Podles
Joyce Sandvik
Julia Roussey
Julie McCoskery
Justin Roussey
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Sue Sanders
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Suzanne Nicholas
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Tom Bratko
Valerie Clark