

Bay State Trail Riders Association Inc.



The Bugle May 2026

www.bstra.org

Our First Trail Work Day Thompson CT

This scheduled work day actually began before the official date. With so many trees down from this past winter, Becky Kalagher spent three hours out on the trails with the chainsaw, cutting everything into manageable pieces so volunteers could move them aside. Most of that time was devoted to clearing a massive double-trunk pine that had come down across the trail.



On April 11th, we welcomed 16 volunteers—and what a crew they were. Together, we made it through the entire trail system, clearing every downed branch and obstruction. Thanks to everyone's hard work and energy, we even got a jump start on a new trail that's currently in development.



After a solid morning workout, we gathered in the parking field for lunch from Nikki's Dog House Classics. Becky decided to try the honey garlic taco... and made it halfway through before a gust of wind sent it flying out of her lap and onto the ground. She assures us she was very brave and did not cry.

A huge thank-you to the following volunteers: Valerie Clark, Becky Kalagher, Joyce Sandvik, Brnedee Viens, MaryEllen Coyne, Angie & Bill Knott, Neil & Shirley Standing, Rita Ballou, Kathy Budrow, Louann Murphy, Kim Babcock, Barbara McCumber, and Sue Morrison.

All totaled we put in 42.2 hours worth \$1,785 and BSTR A paid \$94.62 for lunch.



Our Second Trail Work Day DCR's Douglas State Forest

A cool, crisp day greeted us on April 18th, perfect weather for trail work. Many thanks to Kim and Tim O'Brien for generously allowing us to park at their property, which put us closest to the sections we planned to tackle.



With 18 volunteers and two DCR personnel, we divided into two crews. One group headed to the Laurel Trail, while the other crossed Route 16 to work on the Eagle Bridge Trail. Both trails were heavily crowded with mountain laurel that had begun to encroach on the corridor.

On Eagle Bridge Trail, DCR Supervisor Joseph Taylor and Tom Giguere led the charge, each running brushcutters. Volunteers followed behind, clearing the cut brush and pruning back anything needed to restore the trail to good condition.

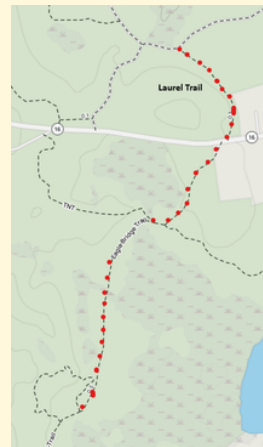


On Laurel Trail, Becky Kalagher started in with the brushcutter, with volunteers working ahead and behind to trim back what the machine couldn't reach. We were even joined by Cary VandenAkker, former Douglas State Forest Supervisor. Becky insists she's not dating herself by remembering when he first came to Douglas—but the rest of us might have our doubts.



Thanks to this impressive and hardworking crew, we completed the entire Laurel Trail (.3 mile) and .7 mile of the Eagle Bridge Trail—for a total of 1 full mile of trail improvements. Volunteers contributed 63 hours of labor, valued at \$2,646, with an additional 7 hours from DCR staff. BSTRA also provided lunch for our hardworking volunteers, totaling \$220.77.

A heartfelt thank-you to the following volunteers: Mary Wood (traveled from S. Yarmouth!), Barbara McCumber, Kathy Rich, Deb Carlson, Gloria Duhaime, Sue & Steve Sanders, Shirley & Neil Standring, Bill & Angie Knott, Kelly Berthiaume, MaryEllen Coyne, Denise Leonard, Patricia Chaudhuri, Valeri Clark, and Becky Kalagher.



May 17th BSTRA Live Lark Acres

Pleasure Ride

Mini clinic! We will have a trailer set up for horse camping along with an example packing list

Contact Valerie a
valerie.clark@snet.net
or 508-864-8432

J. F. Cove
Sponsored By: *Insurance Agency*
Uxbridge MA

The ride is mostly on private property which has parts of the former Thompson Raceway, located near, but not related in any way to the Speedway.

Check in: 9 am Length: 5 miles +/-, repeat for 10 +/- miles. NEHT Affiliated

Location: Baker Road, Thompson CT.

From route 193S (coming from Massachusetts), take the sharp, hairpin left downhill onto East Thompson road, heading toward the Speedway.

After about 1/2 mile, take the first paved right onto Alm Road. If you pass the Speedway, you've gone too far. Follow Alm Road to the end. Take a left onto Baker Road. There will be a BSTRA sign to direct you to the left turn into the field. **For GPS use: 165 Baker Road Thompson, CT will get you close.**

Registration fees: \$30 for BSTRA members, \$35 for non-members, Juniors 17 and under ride and eat free (free meal if they are pre-registered).

Pre-registration deadline is MAY 13th. Make check payable to BSTRA and mail with this form to:

S. Nicholas 96 Mountain Gate Road Ashland, MA 01721

Or register online at BSTRA.org/events

ENTRY INFORMATION	RIDER # 1	RIDER # 2
RIDER'S NAME		
HORSE'S NAME		
RIDER'S YEAR OF BIRTH		
STREET ADDRESS		
TOWN, STATE, ZIP		
BSTRA MEMBER YES or NO		
OPTIONAL TRAILS DONATION		
PHONE NUMBER		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
COGGINS # and DATE (within 1 year)		

Fort Hill Farms Ride

Sponsored by Bob Clark's Doggie Day Care & Crothers Tire Company

Our first ride of the season on April 25th could not have started off better. The weather had been dry enough that several of the fields were freshly harrowed, and ride day itself was clear and comfortable. The trails were well marked using our new system—and we're happy to report that no one got lost.

In preparation, Valerie and I cleared a short new section of trail leading from one of the fields to a cart road with a lovely overlook of Quaddick Reservoir. We hope everyone enjoyed that little addition to the route.

A good ride is one that goes off without a hitch, and that's exactly what we had. Lunch was full of conversation, laughter, and plenty of catching up—always a sure sign that we've all officially survived another New England winter.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Kies and her entire family for generously allowing us to use their beautiful farm for this ride. Their support makes this event possible year after year.

And of course, no event happens without volunteers. We are deeply grateful to the following individuals for giving their time and energy: Suzanne Nicholas, Joyce Sandvik, Valerie Clark, Kelly Berthiaume, Karen Harvey, Denise Leonard, Sam Ericson, Becky Kalagher, and Deb Deschenes.

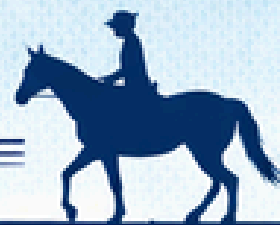
Your help—before, during, and after the ride—made the day smooth, safe, and enjoyable for everyone who joined us.





www.bstra.org
Inc. 1973

== **BSTRA** ==



National Trails Day Ride & Fundraiser

June 7 • North Brookfield Sportsmen's Club

20 Boynton Rd., North Brookfield, MA

NEHT Affiliated • 8 Miles

Sponsored by Whitehorse Truck & Trailer Service & Sales
• NTD Bags for the First 50 Registrants • Huge Raffle

Choose How to Participate in National Trails Day

1. Ride or Attend

Pre-registration required for lunch.
Pay registration fee & complete form.

2. Free Ride & Food

Collect \$100+ in donations —
Fee may be refunded.

3. Collect Donations but Unable to Attend

Support trails even if you can't be there.



Download NTD Sponsor
Collection Papers at
www.bstra.org

Registration Fees

BSTRA Members: \$40

Non-Members: \$50

17 & Under: Free
(if pre-registered)

Lunch Only: \$20

Pre-registration deadline:

June 3

== BIG PRIZE PACKAGES ==

Awarded to the **TOP 5 FUNDRAISERS** bringing in
the highest donations!!

You don't need to ride to participate!



National Trails Day Ride Form

Choose How to Participate in National Trails Day:

1. **Ride or Attend (Pre-Registration Required to receive lunch):**
Pay the registration fee and complete the form below.
2. **Free Ride and Food (Pre-Registration Required to receive lunch):**
Pay the registration fee and complete the form below. If you help with this year's NTD Fundraiser by collecting \$100 or more in contributions you can elect to have your registration fee refunded.
3. **Collect donations and unable to attend:**
We would love to have you support trails and our NTD event even if you can't attend. Please fill out the form below and check off collecting sponsors only.

Download "NTD Sponsor Collection Papers" at www.bstra.org under National Trails Day to participate.

BIG PRIZE PACKAGES awarded to five participants bringing in the highest amount of donations with their NTD Sponsor Papers. You do not need to ride to participate. (Deadline to turn in sponsor papers: 11am the day of the ride.)



Our trails don't maintain themselves – we do. Join us on June 7th for National Trails Day and help fund the projects that keep our riding community strong.

REGISTRATION: Please make check payable to BSTRRA and mail with this form to: Joyce Sandvik, 103 Ariel Circle, Sutton MA 01590

NTD Ride Entry Form	RIDER # 1	RIDER # 2
PARTICIPANT'S NAME		
HORSE'S NAME		
RIDER'S YEAR OF BIRTH		
STREET ADDRESS		
TOWN, STATE, ZIP		
BSTRRA MEMBER YES or NO		
COGGINS # and DATE (within 1 year)		
PHONE NUMBER		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
Collecting Sponsors Only not riding		

BSTRA National Trails Day Benefit – June 7, 2026

Sponsored by Whitehorse Truck & Trailer Service & Sales, Northbridge

Sponsor Papers for _____ (name)

_____ (address)

The following people and/or businesses have made their tax-deductible contributions to sponsor me in the BSTRA National Trails Day Fundraising Event, June 7, 2026. Proceeds from this benefit will be used for Massachusetts trail improvement projects. **Make checks payable to: BSTRA, Inc.**

Submit completed form and collections by 11 am at the NTD Registration Table or mail to Karen Parlin, 92 Old Westboro Road, N. Grafton MA 01536 to be received by June 4th.

Name & Address	Donation
	\$
TOTAL COLLECTED	\$

NTD Ride June 7, 2026 Business Sponsors Sponsorship Form

Some things you should know regarding business sponsors are:

- * All donations are tax-deductible because BSTRA is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and 100% of ALL donations are used for local trail programs
 - * BSTRA has a sponsor rewards program to say thank you for donations of \$50 or more. It gives those sponsors various benefits.
 - * Business sponsors donating \$99 or less are listed in our newsletter and NTD handout.
 - * Business sponsors donating \$100 or more get one free business card sized ad in our newsletter in addition to being listed in Business Sponsor Directory on our website.
 - * Business sponsors donating \$250 or more receive “Blue Ribbon” designation, a free Banner Ad on the home page of our website, a listing in the Business Sponsor Directory, and three free business card sized ads in our newsletter, and are eligible to be named as an Event Co-Sponsor (1 of 2 sponsors).
 - * Deluxe Blue Ribbon business sponsors donating \$500 or more receive 6 business card sized ads in the newsletter, as well as the free website Banner Ad and listings in the Business Sponsor Directory, and are eligible to be named as an exclusive Event Sponsor for one of our events.
 - * Platinum business sponsors donating \$1,000 or more receive 12 business card sized ads in the newsletter, as well as the website Platinum Banner Ad and listings in the Business Sponsor Directory, and are eligible to be named as an exclusive Event Sponsor for two of our events.
- *Note: Listings in Business Sponsor Directory will expire as of June 2027. Please collect all contact/ mailing information. Please attach business card and/or ad copy to be used for free advertising as outlined above for each business



The Douglas Heritage and Honor Committee. We are planning a parade on Saturday June 27th at 11AM.

To celebrate the country's 250th. We would like to invite you to participate.

The parade will be staged at GBI parking lot on West St at 10AM. Trailers will be parked there. The parade will march down West Street, through downtown, take a left on Cook Street (between Goodness Store and Picket Fence) and end at Soldiers Field. The total is .8 miles.

Trailer logistics. Thoughts are once the horses are unloaded at GBI staging area, someone can drive the trailers down Grove Street which is off West Street and come up Manchaug Rd to the ball field. We can have designated parking for the trailers in the ball field parking lot.

And we had a cool idea as a parade opener that would involve someone in colonial dress (we could provide a Paul Revere like costume) ride down Main Street shouting the British are coming.

If people are interested in participating please let me know. And let me know if someone really wants to be Paul Revere!

BSTRA has been asked to participate and so far we have six people interested in riding. If you are interested in joining in please sign up using this link: [Parade](#) Or send an email to Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch.

May 9th: Hodges Village Dam, Oxford MA

Time: check in 8:30. Working 9am to 1pm.

Location: Greenbriar Recreation Area Rt. 12 Oxford MA. Entrance is right next to the 581 Main St. house.

Tools: hand saws, lopes, pole saws.

Objective: We will be cutting & brushing back, trimming up and cleaning up winter debris.

Please wear appropriate clothing like long pants, heavy duty sturdy work boots and wear gloves. Ticks are out, so use your tick spray.

Water will be available and lunch will be provided for our volunteers.

If you can join us please register via our website (www.bstra.org) or send an email to Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch so we have a head count and can plan accordingly.

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Park Serve Day DCR'S Upton State Forest

Upton State Forest Joint Work Day: Another Successful Collaboration

Our joint work day with the Friends of the Upton State Forest was another clear success, thanks to a terrific turnout of 26 volunteers and cool, comfortable weather that made the work move right along. The total hours of all volunteers was 80.5!

Trail Crews & Accomplishments

Crew 1 – Lackey Road Access (7 BSTRA members)

This team headed to the far end of the forest via Lackey Road and completed the Lackey Link Trail along with a portion of the Looper, totaling 0.31 mile of cleared trail. They also reported four downed trees requiring chainsaw work to the Upton State Forest supervisor.

Crew 2 – Headquarters to Middle Trail (3 BSTRA members)

This group worked from the headquarters building to Middle Trail, then continued onto sections of Swamp and Middle, completing approximately 0.2 mile of trail improvements.

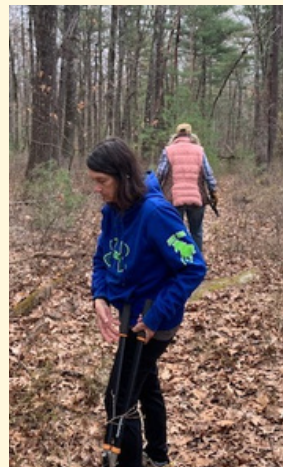
Volunteer Impact

Our 11 BSTRA volunteers contributed 40 hours of hands-on work—an in-kind value of \$1,680 supporting the stewardship of Upton State Forest.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

A heartfelt thank-you to the following BSTRA members for their time, energy, and dedication:

Cathie Hatrick-Anderson, Beth Story, Becky Kalagher, Angie Knott, MaryEllen Coyne, Anna-Maria Paul, Deb Carlson, Gloria Duhaime, Suzanne Nicholas, Joyce Sandvik, and Deb Deschenes — who also earned the unofficial award for longest distance traveled to join us.



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GREENHAWK
EQUESTRIAN SPORT

BSTRA 2026 Events Calendar

DATE	EVENT/LOCATION/SPONSOR	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL
May 9th	Trail Work Day, Oxford MA	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
May 17*	Livelark Acres Ride, Thompson CT <i>Ride Sponsored by J.F. Cove Insurance Agency</i>	Valerie	508-864-8432	valerie.clark@snet.net
May 23-25	Memorial Day Campout, Carver MA	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
June 7*	National Trails Day, N. Brookfield MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Whitehorse Truck & Trailer Sales & Service</i>	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com
June 14*	Poker Ride, Oxford MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Yered Trailers</i>	Kelly	508-341-8091	canderemastiffs@gmail.com
July 12*	Spirit of America Ride, Upton MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Milford Federal Bank & Koopman Lumber</i>	Suzanne	508-380-214	hc07645@gmail.com
July 18th	Goddard Brunch Ride, E. Greenwich RI <i>Ride Sponsored by United Ag & Turf/</i>	Rose	401-487-3190	rzariczny@verizon.net
Aug. 2*	Galloping Gourmet Ride, Royalston MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Bill & Angie Knott</i>	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
Aug. 22nd	Northfield Mt. Ride, Northfield MA	Suzanne	508-380-214	hc07645@gmail.com
Sept. 13th	Sue Brainard Memorial Hunter Pace, Douglas MA <i>Ride Sponsored by EquidDoc Veterinary Services</i>			
Oct. 4th	Wyndham Land Trust Ride for Open Space, CT			
Oct. 11th	Mt. Jefferson Pleasure Ride, Hubbardston MA	Becky	508-476-3960	Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch
Oct. 18*	Red Rail Farm Ride, Lincoln MA <i>Ride Sponsored by Yered Trailers</i>			
Oct. 25*	Big Pumpkin Ride, Upton MA <i>Ride Sponsored by EquidDoc Veterinary Services</i>	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com
Nov. 1*	Larry Underwood Classic, N. Brookfield MA	Joyce	617-429-1319	bstra.org@gmail.com

*NEHT Affiliated Rides

1. Unless otherwise noted, all rides start at 10:00 am and trail workdays at 9:00 am.
2. Most rides require advance registration and payment to receive lunch.
3. Riders 17 and under, accompanied by a guardian, ride **free** (lunch included if pre-registered). (Some rides exempt.)
4. Alcohol is prohibited on State property. No smoking allowed while riding. A current Coggins within a year of the ride date is required.
5. Please leave the trail & parking areas better than you found them. Clean up your hay & manure at all rides. Be considerate of others.
6. Year end awards require a member in good standing to have a minimum of 4 hours of volunteer time completed.

Faith & Louis Perini III (508) 234-2678

Azrael Acres

Boarding Lessons 144 Williams St. Uxbridge, Ma. 01569

Betsey MacDonald

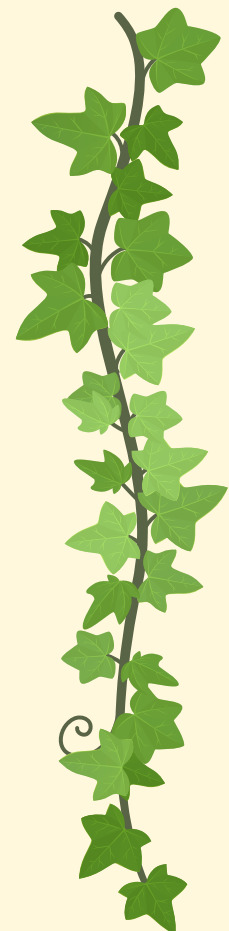
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Rough board stalls available . \$250.00 month. . Small private barn in Grafton with access to miles of trails . Shelters available for day and 24/7 turnout. . Large box stalls included, if you prefer to keep your horse in at night. Options include shared responsibilities with other boarders. You supply all food and supplements. Small outdoor ring available. Horses need to be up to date on Coggins and vaccines(or titers upon arrival). Contact Karen : 774-248-0587

For Sale: #1 SmartPak Rockin Classic medium weight waterproof turnout blanket. Navy with mint trim. 220 fill, 600 denier. Size 82. Has been cleaned. \$45. #2 Dover Saddlery lightweight blue/gray trim turnout blanket. 100 fill, 1,680 denier. Size 82. Just had it professionally cleaned. \$45. Contact Suzanne at HC07645@gmail.com

Saddle for Sale: Custom Circle Y. Older, but in great shape. The fully hand tooled saddle leather is a mahogany color. It is accented with a rope edge with silver lacing. The horn is braided rawhide with silver lacing. The gullet is 6-3/4" wide which is considered semi-quarter horse bars. Set up for double rigging. The sheepskin is really good. 15" seat. Floral engraved conchos and matching pieces on saddle. One of a kind saddle. \$1,000. Pictures available. Email Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch


Women's Lace Up Packer Boots: Size 8 M. Oil Resistant sole. Worn once. Golden tan color. \$50. Becky.BSTRA@protonmail.ch



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Horse Training, Horsemanship Lessons, Riding Lessons; Do you struggle with loading your horse onto the trailer? Want him to self-load? Need assistance with keeping your horse on the lunge line, overcoming stall or food aggression, catching a hard-to-catch horse, or improving your horse's whoa command? Enhance your relationship with your horse and develop new horsemanship and riding skills with our expert training. We offer versatile and liberty training, among other services, to help you and your horse achieve your goals. Call Cathie (508-479-5266) bobcatfarm.com and check us out on Facebook @ Bobcat Farm

Looking To Sell Or Buy Horse Property: I service Central and Western MA from backyard farms to full equestrian facilities helping you to create life long memories. Why not have a Realtor that has been in the horse community for over 30 years. Sharron Cochran 413-668-7606 Sharron@equinehomes.com

"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 to purchase a book, \$5.00 each plus shipping. You can also order the book on-line from Amazon at \$7.99.

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