

## BLACK FOREST TRAILS ASSOCIATION NEWS

### President's Corner

by John Wallace

The number of people using our trails continues to increase and that is a good thing. The number of people misusing our trails also continues to increase and that is not good. Rogue trails and shortcuts seem to be multiplying and widening; multi-track trails are obvious. I suspect some of this is due to inexperienced new users who have not considered the effects of hundreds of users each slightly widening a trail because they have not been out on the trails long enough to witness the effects. Similarly, the effects of steep shortcuts bypassing the established trail gradients and switchbacks are apparent on our local trails and in the mountains. The determination of some rogue trail builders in reopening their path after generous, experienced walkers have piled the biggest logs and slash they can handle onto the rogue trail is remarkable! Thank you to all the users who help “keep the loonies on the path” as Pink Floyd put it.

I have been wondering if Leave No Trace and trail etiquette signage could help. City of Colorado Springs Parks, Trails and Open Spaces have put up such signage, as have many state and national parks. The County Parks administration is not ready to go there yet, so maybe the Black Forest Trails Association should take the initiative, with the county's consent of course.

### Annual Meeting-mark your calendars

Our annual meeting will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm at the Black Forest Fire and Rescue station Community room at 11445 Teachout Road. Gillian Rossi, Manitou Springs Parks Director, has agreed to speak on Leave No Trace signage examples and other groups' experiences with that program to reduce trail impacts. Members-please bring the attached ballot to the meeting and vote for your board. If anyone is interested in joining the board, please come and express your interest.

## 7 Principles of Leave No Trace

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

## Horseback Riding Emergency Kit

**By Donna Delladio Guest contributor**

I have done a lot of backwoods riding and have had things happen out there that were unexpected. Over the years, I have put items in my saddle bags that I needed which became my emergency kit. Below is the list of items that I keep with me on all rides from a ride around the block to multi-day, multi-mile rides.

- Canteen bag or saddle bags- make sure the weight is even if saddle bags
- Small first aid kit for humans- Band-Aids, gloves, small to 4x4 gauze pads, tape, antiseptic wipes, etc.
- Aspirin or Advil
- Wonder Dust- Stops the bleeding fast, dries up wounds quickly and controls tissue granulations
- Hoof Pick
- Multi Tool (think Leatherman)-must have wire cutters and screwdriver
- Vet wrap
- Shoestring and/or shoestring-like leather piece
- Chicago screws
- Cell phone-always keep your phone on you in case the horse runs off with your kit on the saddle

Wonder Dust is probably the one item I have used the most. On one ride, my horse cut a large vein just above his hoof. I applied Wonder Dust on it, and it stopped bleeding. I added a large gauze pad and wrapped it with Vet wrap. I rode 6 miles back to my truck and trailer, went home and didn't have to call the vet.

On a recent Wagon train ride, someone had their bridle fall apart. They lost a Chicago screw. I carry a few with me in different sizes. We used my Leatherman screwdriver and fixed his bridle. If you don't have a Chicago screw, you can use a shoestring. Shoestrings are great because they have a pointed end that will go into a leather hole where a piece of leather will not. So, keep an old long corded shoestring. I have also used my Leatherman for cutting barbed wire off horses' legs.

Here are some additional items I take for long backwoods trail rides

- Flint (to start a fire)
- Lighter (to start a fire in case the Flint doesn't work)
- Large bandana
- Emergency blanket (very small, opens big)
- Leather gloves
- Small thin zip ties
- Garmen (works off satellites not cell towers where phones do not work)

On your next ride, ask people what they carry in their saddle/horn bags. It is usually water and lunch. I hope this list helps you all put together your own kit. Better safe than sorry. Enjoy your ride!

## New Trails in Black Forest

by John Wallace, President, BFTA

Good News! The new short loop at the Pineries is essentially finished and should be open before the fall membership meeting. It will be a 3.7 mi loop following the existing trail south from the junction to the Frog Pond, then to near the southwest corner of the property and north along the fence line adjacent to Vollmer Road. This will provide a more reasonable walking distance than the full 8.4-mile loop, but it **WILL NOT** provide direct access to Section 16 from the Pineries. El Paso County Public Works claims to be planning a roundabout and tunnel for the Vollmer–Shoup intersection, but that is not yet scheduled.

More good news: BFTA has partially reopened a pre-fire trail from Herring Rd. to Pinery Dr. through private properties with easements. The BFTA Board of Directors supplied the volunteers for a morning of felling dead trees, picking up slash, and weed whacking. Thanks to all the board members and the Slash/Mulch Committee for letting us dump at no charge. Our next steps will be to clean up some of the trail west of Herring, fix gates, and post new signs. Then we will work on a trail following Forest Heights Circle east of Herring and ultimately connecting to existing trail easements along Sanctuary Pines, ending on Vollmer Rd close to the Pineries entrance.

We also want to investigate restoring some BFTA trails in the Park Forest Water District area. If any members can help locate the old trails, please contact me at [President.BFTA@gmail.com](mailto:President.BFTA@gmail.com), or via the BFTA website. I will send an email invitation to all current members for our future workdays.

## Section 16 cleanup – Volunteers welcome

by Nancy Reinhardt Black Forest Trails Association board member at large

We will be doing a trail cleanup on Saturday, September 28 at section 16. Let's meet at 9 AM in the parking lot at 8510 Burgess Rd, Please make sure to wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves, & water. We will also do a mile long section in Black Forest Regional Park if we have enough volunteers. For more information call or text [719-339-9319](tel:719-339-9319)

## Trail Companions

by John Wallace, President, BFTA

I lost my constant trail companion last spring. Lucy was a German/Aussie Sheperd mix who reached 14.5 years of age. We went for one-to-five-mile walks 4 or 5 times a week, mostly in Black Forest Regional Park, but also on camping road trips throughout the west and as far as Canada and the east coast. I often walked with my wife, Regina, and other friends or family members, but always with Lucy. She and I each saw the world differently and we covered fewer miles per hour than I would alone. But we each learned more about the land we were in than we could have independently. It was awesome to see her nose lift at a deer carcass a quarter mile away, then bring as much of it as she could lift back to the Jeep. And frustrating to let her in it after rolling in carrion or skunk spray on the ground.

I had taken her to the vet when she was 12 and could no longer walk more than two miles, thinking that was a normal expiration age for her breed. The vet surprised me when she said Lucy could have 3 more years of healthy activity with some minor surgery and regular medication. We continued our walks, and she got back up to 4 miles with more vigor and joy for the next two years. Then she began a more rapid decline to less than one-mile walks and the vet agreed it was time to let her go. The past six months have been the longest period in my life without a dog, other than several years at various universities. I have enjoyed easier travel arrangements and a few less chores at home but I miss her dearly and now only average twice a week walks. It must be time to find a new trail companion.

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## **BFTA Membership**

By supporting BFTA with your annual membership, you help provide the funding and support for a whole range of issues that affect Black Forest trails and the lifestyle we all want to protect. The Black Forest Trails Association is a non-profit organization under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). Donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by tax law.

There are 4 tiers of BFTA membership (Dues are tax deductible):

- 1) Individual / family (\$15 per year),
- 2) Business / club (\$30 per year),
- 3) Donor (\$50 per year)
- 4) Lifetime (\$150 one time).

Membership runs from April 1 to March 31, so if you become a member or renew now, your membership will be good through March 31, 2023. We use DonorBox, which is easy and secure, to accept online payments, or you can print out an application and mail your payment via US Postal service — either option can be completed via our website at <https://www.blackforesttrails.org/membership.html>