**Sunflower BCHKS Annual Meeting**

**Green Acres Restaurant, Vassar**

**January 26, 2019**

The meeting was brought to order by Sunflower Chapter President Diana Skinner at 2pm. Diana welcomed 30 attendees and shared background on the Sunflower Chapter. She then asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Cheryl Thomas read minutes from the October Sunflower Chapter meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Sheila Watkins gave the Treasurer’s Report. The beginning balance was $856.88; expenses included promotional signs for panels; income included a $200 donation from Brushbusters, designated $100/ESP and $100/Clinton, and two memberships. The ending balance was $1,108.13. Treasurer’s report was approved. Cheryl will make a sign providing the correct information for writing membership checks, payable to Sunflower Chapter BCHKS.

Jim Thomas reported that Back Country Horsemen of America-Kansas and the Kansas Horse Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding designating BCHKS as the Trails Division of the Kansas Horse Council.

**Lake Reports**

Clinton –

* Diana reported on work days and other additional volunteer hours throughout 2018. Lots of deadfall was cleared following storms and high winds.
* The Rockhaven Benefit Trail Ride, April 12-14 will support Sunflower BCHKS. Utility sites can be booked through reservation.gov; primitive sites can be booked by contacting Diana. If the online reservation system shows campground closed, call the park office. Diana will be soliciting items for the ride auction. Volunteers are welcome to help with registration, dinner, auction, etc.
* Because campground improvements are completed at Rockhaven, Diana has closed out the Friends of Rockhaven account and replaced it with Sunflower BCHKS.

Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake -

* Jim deferred to Ranger Ted Craig for the ESP report. Ted reported that almost $3,700 was raised at the fall benefit ride, even though the weather was cold and damp and attendance was about half the usual number.
* Pipe, panels, and gates have been purchased from ride proceeds; two permanent pens will be added to West Point Campground, and Ted will schedule a work day in March to get them built. He also plans to purchase panels each year, until there are enough in the park to host large events without the need for borrowing.
* For the benefit rides at ESP, call the park directly for a campsite, as Ted blocks out the campground online for these events.
* He and Jim have been working on a new trail through wooded areas from Cowboy Camp to the north end of the park.

Perry State Park -

* Dewayne Burgess reported that major projects at Wild Horse Camp are nearing completion. Several organized work days were spent on trail maintenance and on trimming low hanging limbs at the campground. Some areas on the trail have been rerouted or have had switchbacks added to make them sustainable. Barriers blocking the more technical areas that were closed and rerouted will be reopened for riders who like the challenge; maintenance of those sections of trail will be left up to those users. The campground now has a total of 56 pens, including several in the primitive camping area. Park Manager Michelle Campbell would like to add a round pen. Plans for the shower/bath house and shelter house are still being finalized.
* The benefit ride will be Labor Day weekend with designations of proceeds to be determined. The Friends of Lake Perry account is in good shape financially.
* A work day is planned for March 9; alternative date is March 23.
* The newest utility sites at Wild Horse Camp are now available for reserving online; a few sites will be available for first come/first serve campers.
* A second day use area is being developed south of Rock Creek Road near Andy’s Overlook, which will be a midway point between Thompsonville and Wild Horse Campground.

Pomona Lake -

* Susan Johnson provided updates from the Blackhawk Trails at Pomona. The Corps closed the 110-Mile Campground and is supposed to provide a day parking area at that east end. The pens were moved to new primitive campsites at Cedar Park, and an improved day parking area will be provided there.
* The Corps of Engineers does no trail maintenance at Pomona, it’s all volunteer. A trail work day was spent at the west end rerouting portions and putting new blue and orange markers up. There is still a long list of projects that need work, and Susan welcomed any assistance at any time to work on trail maintenance.
* A benefit weekend is planned for June 8-9 with a trail ride and obstacle course competition; proceeds will be used to build an outdoor shower at Blackhawk Horse Camp. Ken & Susan own Blackhawk Horse Camp, which is located at a midway point of the Blackhawk Trail.
* Ken asked about liability coverage for volunteer trail workers. Diana replied that if a work day is sponsored by BCHA, there is liability insurance protection that takes over where individual insurance leaves off. Most youth groups, eg 4-H, will have liability insurance protection. Ken did add that the Corps requires a signed waiver for volunteers.

**Old Business**

Diana reviewed 2018 activities and accomplishments for Sunflower BCHKS, which is the first local chapter formed in Kansas. Membership grew to 38 paid members in 2018. Quarterly meetings are typically held in conjunction with benefit rides at area lakes. Volunteer trail work from the Sunflower Chapter for 2018 totaled 2,459 hours, which was 52% of the total hours reported for Kansas BCHA. The four lakes that make up the Sunflower chapter include 200 miles of trail. The bchkansas.com website includes a link to the Sunflower Chapter and also includes information and trail maps for each of the lakes. Sunflower Chapter has established a Workhorse Award to recognize members who have contributed 100 hours of volunteer work. Promotional materials developed include signs that can be attached to panels that will be loaned out showing that those pens are donated by Sunflower BCHKS. Diana displayed some of the promotional materials that will be available. A box of 48 glasses was donated by Mike & Kristen Kratz, and both the BCHA and Sunflower logos were imprinted on them. Diana also has window clings and decals. Susan Johnson had prepared the insert explaining the formation of local chapters that will be included with the BCHKS brochure.

Diana and Jim represented Sunflower at a Friends of Lawrence Area Trails event held recently. A group will also attend the Sunflower Trails Appreciation Day, Jan 31, at the State Capitol to promote trails to state legislators.

Dewayne reported on panels that were purchased from Ernie Rodina following this year’s Dream Ride in Chase County. These panels were shared between Perry and Clinton for pens; Diana still has nine panels that can be loaned out as needed.

Diana provided updates on the website, bchkansas.com, and the Facebook page Back Country Horsemen of American Kansas Chapter. Events will be posted on those sites.

Cheryl provided a review of the process for collecting volunteer work hours and shared totals from 2018. Jim share this information with land managers and officials with KDWP&T. He read aloud an email he had received from Linda Lanterman, Director of Kansas State Parks, that expressed her appreciation for the volunteer work being done.

**New Business**

Cheryl provided updates on the BCHKS Annual Meeting, March 16, Salt Creek Ranch, Vassar. In addition to the meeting, the day’s agenda will include a live teeth floating demo by Ed McCarty; Ed will also take up to 10 appointments that day for anyone wanting to bring their horse. Lunch will be provided; a person from an Ottawa bike shop will visit with the group about sharing trails with horses; Delbert Skinner will do a saddle cleaning demo. Weather permitting, people can bring horses and ride a section of the Flint Hills Trail, which is very near Salt Creek Ranch. More details will be posted soon on FB and the website.

Diana reminded those in attendance to pay dues to Sheila Watkins and to make checks out to Sunflower Chapter BCHKS.

Workhorse Awards – Diana and Cheryl presented 2018 Workhorse Awards to those members who had individually contributed more than 100 hours of volunteer work. Recipients included: Jim & Cheryl Thomas, Dewayne Burgess & Jo Turner, Mike Milburn, Ken & Susan Johnson, Sheila Watkins, Delbert & Diana Skinner. Diana pointed out that the average age of these Workhorses is 65.8 years and that everyone has skills that they can contribute; if they’re not physically able to work on trails, assistance is always needed at benefit events, meal prep, help with social media, etc.

Election of Officers for 2019 - Diana asked for nominations from the floor. Receiving none, she referred to the By-Laws which allow officers to serve two-year terms. All current officers are in their first year. A motion was made to approve a unanimous ballot of the current officers for a second term. The motion passed, and current officers will continue their offices for 2019.

Jim Thomas reported on a KHC/BCHKS Promotional Spring Ride at Eisenhower State Park, April 27-28. Registration will be $25 for KHC or BCHA members; $35 for non-members. Camping reservations should be made by calling the ESP office directly. Details will be posted.

Diana reviewed a spring Calendar of Events:

* Jan 31 – Sunflower Trails Appreciation Day, State Capitol, 10am-3pm
* Feb 2 – KHC Annual Meeting, Manhattan, 11:30 am, lunch provided.
* Feb 22-24 – Equifest of Kansas. BCHKS will have a booth.
* March 9-10 – Nebraska Horse Trails Expo, Omaha. KHC/BCHKS will have a booth.
* March 16 – BCHA-Ks Annual Meeting, Salt Creek Ranch, Vassar. Lunch provided.
* April 12-14 – Rockhaven Benefit Trail Ride & Auction, Clinton Lake
* April 27-28 – KHC/BCHA-Ks Promotional Ride, ESP, Melvern Lake
* June 8-9 – Blackhawk Campground Benefit Ride & Obstacle Course Challenge, Pomona Lake

Events details will be posted at bchkansas.com and on the FB page, Back Country Horsemen of America Kansas Chapter.

The next meeting of the Sunflower BCHS-Ks meeting will be April 12, Rockhaven Park, Clinton Lake.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.