



Hello from the Northwoods,

The Outback Riders horse club has been busy this year working to bring fellow trail riders a clean and safe Machickanee Trail system. Because of the many seasonally wet areas of our trails, we have to work on some areas when they are frozen. A good number of volunteers donated over 200 hours of their time in January and February to cut the brush back and clear the trails of any obstacles.

By coordinating with the Oconto County Forestry Department, ATV's were allowed to assist in our efforts to traverse the deep snow on the trails. It wasn't all work, and some of our members enjoyed a toboggan ride when they could.

Our annual big spring clean-up was on April 30th, and even more volunteers were in attendance. With assistance from the Oconto County 4H Horse Project, we had over 40 volunteers marching through the woods to pick up litter and debris. The day ended with a potluck lunch for all of our volunteers. Some areas still need attention, but the wet weather has put a damper on them. We'll get to these areas as things dry up. Future trail updates include rest areas in various places along the trail. The rest areas will include a hitching rail for the horses and a bench for the weary rider. A gracious grant from the Wisconsin Horse Council will assist in funding this project. Keep your eyes open for these improvements to come.

The Outback Riders hosted three Friday Night Fun Speed Shows at Folkman Ranch. Held on May 20th, June 24th, and July 22nd, rain or shine; each show was a great success. The show bill was simple, with classes in poles, barrels, flag & plug. When time permitted, we also had a "surprise" class for our riders. At \$2.00 per entry, it sure was good, cheap, and fun.

The Annual 2-day Fun Show will be held on August 6th & 7th at Folkman Ranch. This is our largest fund raiser of the year and your support allows us to continue to bring the Machickanee Trail System to our fellow horsemen and women.

The Outback Riders are proud to manage the Machickanee Trail System and the Oconto River Trail in cooperation with the Oconto County Forestry Department. Through our volunteerism and fund raising efforts, we are happy to offer these trails, free of charge, as we have done since our inception.

Andy VanDenElzen, OBR President