

Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen (FHBCH)  
2009 Annual Report

Welcome to our first annual meeting! We've had a very exciting and productive year!

How we came to be

In March 2008, more than fifty (50) people gathered in Mercer County, KY for a public meeting held at the Mercer County Cooperative Extension Service Office for an educational session regarding developments at the state level in Kentucky that would affect horse trail users. Speakers included representatives from the Kentucky Horse Council, Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, Kentucky Back Country Horsemen, Trail Riding Equestrians in Kentucky, and the Center for Rural Development. Monthly public meetings continued in April and May. As a result of these meetings, in June 2008, the Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen, Inc. (Fort Harrod BCH) organized as a Kentucky non-profit corporation. Fort Harrod BCH is established for educational and charitable purposes. Our application for Recognition of Exemption under 501(c)(3) was approved by the IRS in May 2009.

Our year's accomplishments

In July 2008, Fort Harrod BCH completed an application for a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. The purpose of the grant, which was awarded to Fort Harrod BCH in October 2008, is to support efforts to maintain and preserve Eagles Nest Equestrian Trails, a 1,000 acre horsemen's retreat in Harrodsburg, Kentucky with over 30 miles of trails, on which the current owners, Michael and Carol Conover, permit the public to ride horses, hike, conduct family, church, and youth gatherings, and to camp in primitive conditions. Jane Beshear, First Lady of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Lieutenant Governor Daniel Mongiardo, the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Mercer County Cooperative Extension Service, Equestrian Land Conservation Resource, Kentucky Horse Council, Riding for the Son Ministries, and Boy Scout Troop 127 all supported the Fort Harrod BCH project proposal.

RTCA staff persons are assisting the Fort Harrod BCH to organize public workshops, develop public-private partnerships, identify funding sources and develop community-based visions and strategies for Eagles Nest Equestrian Trails.

In August 2008, Fort Harrod BCH held its first public trail cleanup project at Eagles Nest Equestrian Trails, making Eagles Nest the first public trail area to be adopted by Fort Harrod BCH for routine cleanup and maintenance. This event was characteristic of the efforts of the organization to engage trail riders to ride responsibly and be advocates for education and land conservation. At a membership meeting following the cleanup project, the general membership crafted and adopted the organization's mission statement, which is to educate the public and promote the proper development, maintenance, use and management of trail areas in central Kentucky.

In September 2008, the Fort Harrod BCH cleared a mile and a half section of the Shawnee Run Trail loop at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. Under the direction of board member Bob Cairns, twenty five trail enthusiasts of the Fort Harrod BCH and their horses worked the south section of the loop widening the trail and clearing limbs and debris. As a result of the trail work day and by the request of Village Naturalist Don Pelly, the Fort Harrod BCH decided to adopt the 5+ mile Shawnee Run Trail, which will assist the Friends of Shaker Village in providing ongoing maintenance to the wooded trail system which is enjoyed by horse riders and hikers.

In October 2008, after careful review and several revisions, the membership of Fort Harrod BCH approved organizational bylaws. Shortly thereafter, Fort Harrod BCH mailed its application for affiliation with the Back Country Horsemen of America.

In November 2008, Fort Harrod BCH hosted a natural hoof care clinic and demonstration free to the public at a local horseback riding stable, Big Red Stables. The clinic featured Beth Lanman, a certified natural hoof practitioner from Covington, Kentucky, who presented and performed live demonstrations. Approximately 25 people from 5 central Kentucky counties attended this event.

The newly appointed Public Land Issues Committee Chairman, John Bates, of the Fort Harrod BCH attended meetings in Taylorsville, KY to discuss the possibility of linking Taylorsville Lake State Park to Eagles Nest Equestrian Trails south to the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site and trail clearing work also continued at Shaker Village.

During the December 2008 regular membership meeting, Essie Rogers, Director of Education and Health & Welfare Programs for the Kentucky Horse Council (also a Director and Public Relations Officer for Fort Harrod BCH) presented an informative lecture on trail etiquette. On December 6, 2008, several volunteers assisted veterinarians by performing heart rate measurements and recording data at the Kentucky Diehard sponsored endurance race at Shaker Village. As of December 31, 2008, the Fort Harrod BCH had grown to 40 members. In addition to receiving conditional acceptance as a BCHA affiliate, the Fort Harrod BCH voted to remain associated with the Kentucky Horse Council in 2009.

January 2009 found Kentucky in a major ice storm with extensive property damage. Just prior to the storm, however, on January 17, 2009, Fort Harrod BCH volunteers continued work on the Shawnee Run Trail at Shaker Village.

In February 2009, Alison Bullock, Program Coordinator of the National Park Service's Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program met with the membership of Fort Harrod BCH to discuss progress on the project. On same date, Fort Harrod BCH President Emily Dennis and Ms. Bullock met with John D. Overing, RC&D Coordinator for the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Kentucky Heritage RC&D Area to seek additional project partners for the Eagles Nest Equestrian Trails Project. On February 7, 2009, Fort Harrod BCH teamed up with the Woodford Hounds, a local foxhunting club, to work on trails at Shaker Village, which were badly clogged with fallen debris due to the late January ice storm in Kentucky. Work began at Eagles Nest to clear the roadway and pavilion area of

debris and to prepare for an all day trail event which would also include clearing of more than 50 tires from an old farm dump site using oxen as the means to drag tires off the site.

In March 2009, Fort Harrod BCH voted to become an equestrian partner with the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR). The Fort Harrod BCH's first fundraiser, a booth at a tack sale sponsored by the Riding for the Son Ministries, yielded \$130.00. All items sold were donated by members and independent parties. On March 21, 2009, 27 volunteers working at an event sponsored by the Fort Harrod BCH removed 65 tires from an old farm dump site at Eagles Nest Equestrian Trails with the help of a yoke of oxen owned by Fort Harrod BCH member Brian Rogers. The tires were removed from the dump and stacked at a more appropriate location where they will remain until Mercer County's tire amnesty day in June. Volunteers continued work by clearing downed trees and limbs from storm damaged trails. Eagles Nest Trail Boss and board member of Fort Harrod BCH Dennis Blackburn, estimated that more than 5 miles of trails at Eagles Nest were cleared during the workday. The team of oxen was also instrumental in pulling damaged trees from trail areas.

Organized events in April centered on yearly horse health care issues, in particular yearly vaccinations, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA/Coggins) testing, and health papers necessary to travel with horses and equine dentistry. On April 10, 2009, Dr. LeMayne Ellis, DVM held a Coggins clinic at Big Red Stables, 1605 Jackson Pike, Harrodsburg, KY 40330 to provide area horse owners a location to get Coggins tests, health papers, and necessary vaccinations without the necessity of taking the horse to the veterinarian's office or pay farm visit fee. On April 16, 2009, an equine dentistry clinic was held. It is anticipated that these events will be held yearly, with increased participation, as these are important aspects of horse health care.

During the last 6 months, John Bates, a member of the Fort Harrod BCH developed a comprehensive trail map of Eagles Nest. In May 2009 Fort Harrod BCH conducted a volunteer work day at Eagles Nest that focused on placing trail markers through out the property to aid in the use of the map. In preparations for National Trails and Adventure Day at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill members gathered at Shaker Village to clean and clear several miles of the Shawnee Trail. The Fort Harrod BCH in partnership with the Kentucky Horse Council hosted a guided trail ride and a lunch and learn session during the National Trail and Adventure Day at Shaker Village on June 6, 2009.

It is anticipated that a Natural Horsemanship clinic will held in conjunction with Riding for the Son Ministries later this year. Work on the grant with the National Park Service will continue at Eagles Nest Equestrian Trails and trail work at both Eagles Nest and the Trails of Shaker Village will continue. This organization has over 50 members as of May 2009 with new inquiries weekly. As we continue to grow, more educational and service opportunities will be available, all in keeping with our mission to educate the public and promote the proper development, maintenance, use and management of trail areas in central Kentucky.

## Financial Report

An internal audit was conducted by Carla Perry on June 1, 2009. No discrepancies were noted.

### July 2008 -- May 2009

#### Revenue

Dues:	\$940.00
Donations:	\$485.00
Grants:	\$ 0.0
Total	\$1425.00

#### Expenses

Fees:	\$530.69
Dues:	\$250.00
Gifts:	\$20.00
Total	\$800.69

Balance as of June 5, 2009                      \$624.31

## Volunteer Hours Report

From June 2008 to May 2009, Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen has logged 997 in volunteer hours, mileage totaled 106 miles, and 30 hours has been logged for livestock use in trail clean up.

Based on data provided by Independent Sector (Independent Sector is the leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporate giving programs committed to advancing the common good in America and around the world) the national valuation of volunteer work is \$20.25. According to the 2007 rates chart for the state of Kentucky volunteer work is valued at \$16.52.

National valuation of volunteer hours performed by the FH BCH this past year is **\$20,189.25**.  
Kentucky valuation according to the 2007 chart is **\$16,470.44**.

[http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)