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While a team of SMMBCH members rode their horses to the school and spent the day working that project, three other teams of SMMBCH members completed a different project by cleaning the county road that leads to the school and also the county road that leads into Big Creek Trail Ride. Many sacks of discarded aluminum cans, glass containers and other human trash was picked up and disposed of properly.

Big Creek Trail Ride—the Bob and Brett Howell Family—again hosted the spring clean-up event. SMMBCH appreciates being able to use the Big Creek Trail Ride campground as a base camp and greatly enjoyed the hospitality and great facilities Big Creek offers.

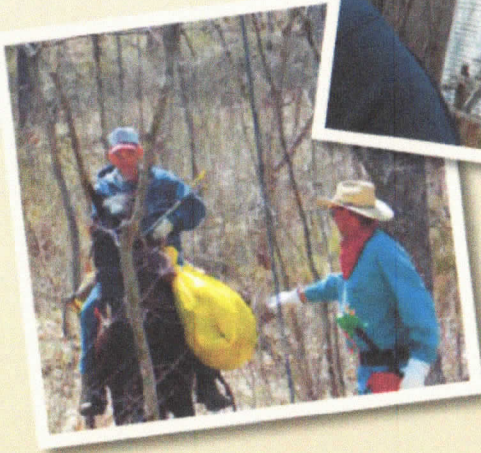
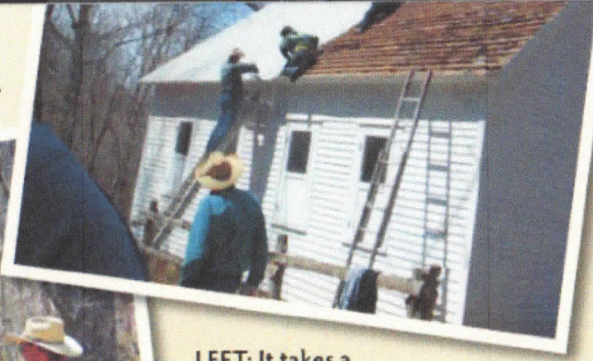
For more information, visit showmebch.org

Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association Members Make A Difference

It takes true dedication to get an organization off the ground and make huge strides in their state's trail system. Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (CTHA) started with a handful of volunteers more than 20 years ago to create and maintain horse trails in north-east Georgia. Thanks to Debbie Crowe, Ellen Stara and Larry Wheat, among many other longtime members, this area has some of the best trails in the southeastern United States.

Crowe is also involved in the 1,200-acre A. H. Stephens State Park, located in Crawfordsville, Georgia. After receiving \$65,000 in grant funds awarded for purchasing trail building equipment, the park plans to add another five-plus miles of trails, bringing the total amount of

the roof at a historic Bluff School House.

LEFT: It takes a steady horse to haul a bag full of trash back to the work camp area in Missouri.

trails to 20 miles.

CTHA members Diane Ayres Cochran and her husband Weyman are active with The Friends of Watson Mill Bridge State Park. Located close to Comer, Georgia, the 1,000-acre park has 15 miles of horse trails. When the DNR downgraded the state park to outdoor recreation status in 2011, Diane and Weyman helped secure funding from local county governments and The Friends group to get the park restored to state park status. Diane is planning this year's state park workday for the sixth consecutive year. Weyman continues to supply and operate his heavy equipment to support the trails.

Another CTHA member, C.J. Farmer, who is owner of the

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CTHA volunteers enjoy lunch break in the horse camp area of the Jake Mountain Trailhead, Georgia, during a recent workday.

Grove River Ranch, is involved in the 14-mile Frady Branch Trail System near Toccoa, Georgia. As part of the Chattooga River Ranger District of the Chattahoochee National Forest, Farmer will be working with volunteers using new grant money to rate and reroute significant portions of the trails.

CTHA has recently formed a committee, co-chaired by Vicki Holland and Shelley McGinness, to focus on establishing horse trails in the new Don Carter State Park. Opening this spring, the 1,000-acre park is located outside Gainesville, Georgia. Originally scheduled to offer horse trails, due to funding issues the state's DNR has delayed the trails to the later phases of development. With assistance from the CTHA, the DNR is looking at possible locations for horse trails.

For more information, visit www.ride-CTHA.org

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