

In the heart of our beloved Big Flat, nestled within the welcoming embrace of the community center, the Arkansas backcountry horsemen gathered for their annual state meeting on April 20, 2024. Representatives from each chapter convened, united by a shared passion for our noble cause.



District Ranger Ron Hollis stood before us, a beacon of wisdom and guidance. With unwavering resolve, he spoke of the sacred bonds we forge through partnerships, the lofty objectives we strive to achieve, and the intricate plans that pave the way forward. His words igniting a fire within each of us to protect and preserve the natural wonders of Arkansas.

With unity as our compass, led by State President Evelyn Mills, we collectively voted on crucial additions to our bylaws, laying the foundation for a brighter future. But our journey didn't end there. We focused on a trail safety campaign that transcends mere paths and routes. This campaign, born from a deep-seated commitment to safety and awareness, seeks to educate and inspire motorists, e-bike users, cyclists, and hikers alike, fostering a culture of mutual respect and responsibility.

Amidst the laughter and camaraderie, the Sylamore chapter graciously hosted a potluck dinner, nourishing both body and soul. And as we savored each bite, we reflected on the profound impact of our collective efforts. For it is through our dedication and generosity that equestrians contribute over \$11,363,835.47 annually to our economy, ensuring that trails remain open and accessible to all who seek solace in the great outdoors.

These past two years have seen ARBCH soar to new heights, breaking records and blazing trails in our quest to make history. And as we stand on the precipice of greatness, let us not forget the journey that brought us here, nor the countless souls whose tireless dedication paves the way for future generations of equestrians. Together, hand in hand, hoof by hoof, we are making history here in Arkansas, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all who call this land home.

Rhonda Kelly Duncan  
Information Officer BCHA