

# Group installs trail map box in Ivanhoe

## IMBCH slates 'Rendezvous' for October at horse show grounds

New for trail enthusiasts at the Ivanhoe Show Grounds and Campground on the New River is a mailbox holding the NEW Wythe County Trail Maps. The box was put up by IMBCH to hold the new, beautiful 18x32 full color trail maps recently released by the Wythe County Tourism committee.

The best news is that they are FREE. The map details the trails, trailheads and even elevation. The Ivanhoe Horse Show grounds are on the New River trail and are the crossroads of it (57 miles) and the Virginia Highlands Horse trail (86 miles).

Since this is a premier camping location with trails and allowing river access for fishing, a "Rendezvous" is planned for this fall.

The date is Oct. 10, 11 and 12, and this weekend will include all outdoor activities, demonstrations, food and music. So whether you ride your horse, bike, hike, fish or just enjoy camping in a beautiful location, come join us in the great outdoors in Virginia.

IMBCH gathered in May to do trail maintenance on area trails and enjoy a weekend of camping.

Iron Mountain Back Country Horsemen is the Southwest Virginia advocacy/trail maintenance group that puts in many hundreds of volunteer hours yearly to help the Forest Service maintain multi-use trails. For information about IMBCH or the Back Country Horsemen of America visit [www.ironmountainbch.org](http://www.ironmountainbch.org) or visit us on Facebook.

Linda Meyer, IMBCH member



Submitted photo  
Pictured, left to right, are Mr. Stephenson, Gina Hagis, Diane Cherry and Sandy Stephenson standing at the new installation.

## Southwest Virginia Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America put muscle in volunteer work

On May 31 the Iron Mountain Back Country Horsemen and the Eastern Divide Back Country Horsemen groups, both from Virginia, teamed up for a National Trails Day project in the eastern end of the Mount Rogers National Recreational Area. Fourteen members on foot and four on horseback with a pack horse set out to make repairs to

a switchback on the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail that had become washed out and dangerous and to clear deadfall from six miles of trail. The group included ranger Stephen Hmurciak from the Forest Service and two AERC (American Endurance Ride Conference) certified trail masters, Nancy Sluys and Gina Haggis, to advise in the best way to solve the problems on the trail. In five hours the group widened and repaired several hundred yards of trail tread and reworked the switchback. A tree was cut to form a cribbing which was filled with rock and soil to form a sturdy and wider trail bed making the dangerous area much safer. All work was done by hand using trail tools and a chain saw.

The Iron Mountain Back Country Horsemen (IMBCH) is a volunteer trail advocacy group that was formed in 2009 to maintain the trails in the



The group the fantastic volunteers pauses for a group shot.

Photo by Becky Pearman

actively seeking new members and encourages people to visit their website at [www.ironmountainbch.org](http://www.ironmountainbch.org). The IMBCH along with the Eastern Divide BCH, from Blacksburg, VA, will be holding a membership drive and fund raising event on the weekend of Oct. 10-12 at the Ivanhoe Horse Show and other events and is

er in Ivanhoe, VA. The event, called the New River Rendezvous, will include trail riding, cowboy challenge obstacle practice and trail challenge, food, music etc. The event has a Facebook page and additional information is available on the IMBCH website above.



Workers clear the way for a wider and safer trail. Photo by Nancy Sluys