This notebook describes techniques used to construct and maintain trails. It is written for trail crew workers and is intended to be taken along on work projects. Numerous illustrations help explain the main points. The notebook was printed in 1996 and has been revised slightly during three reprintings.

Tools for Brushing
pg 150

Bank blades and brush hooks are designed specifically for cutting through thickets of heavy brush or saplings. Use them for clearing work that is too heavy for a scythe and not suited for an ax. Lopping shears and pruning shears may be used to cut small stems and branches.

Something’s Gotta Go
pg 47

If time and budgets are tight, consider brushing only the uphill side of the trail. This approach keeps users off the trail’s downhill edge and keeps the trail in place.

TRAILS IN WET AREAS
What is the difference between a puncheon and corduroy?

A puncheon is a wooden walkway used when trails cross bogs, deep muskeg, large boulder fields or small streams. (pg. 82)

Corduroy is basically a primitive type of puncheon. It consists of 3 or more native logs laid on the ground as stringers with logs laid side-by-side across them and nailed in place. Corduroy should always be buried, with only the top rails exposed. (pg. 88)
**HORSEMEN MANNERS & ETTIQUETTE**

**Be Polite and Promote BCH**

It pays to be courteous so other trail users—bicyclists, hikers, dog walkers—won’t resent you. Offer the right of way to other riders, bikers, or hikers. If it’s too difficult to move your horse off a narrow trail when meeting hikers, politely ask them to step off on the downhill side.

If possible, take a moment to have a conversation with other users. They may be curious about stock use, or why you have a mule loaded down with tools and equipment! Educate them on the importance of trail maintenance and the use of stock in the back country. Create chapter business cards and carry them in your horn bags so other users may contact you with more questions, donations or an interest in joining your chapter.

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**HORSE HEALTH**

**Medicating the Eye**

If your horse gets an eye injury and you decide to grab the tube of eye medication out of your first aid kit or barn, make sure you know what is in it. Never put anything with a steroid in the eye (ex. Cortisone-nothing that ends in “sone”, or “zone”) because if the eyeball (cornea) is scratched, it will make it much worse.

Always check with your vet if you are not sure.

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**OLD TIMER TIPS**

When your horse gets up from a good roll, if he doesn’t shake, he’s not feeling good. If he shakes a lot, he’s ok!

Feed a little whole corn every so often to help float the teeth.

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**JUST FOR FUN**

**Horse Christmas Cannoli Treats**

Treat your horse to a something tasty for Christmas! Preheat oven 300°. Dice 1 apple and 2 carrots; mix 1 C molasses, 2 ½ C oats, 2 TBL oil, 1 C flour. Combine all and spoon onto cookie sheets-shape into bars. Bake 35 minutes until brown. Soak corn husks in water (15-20 min), cut them into 4”X4”squares, pat them dry; wrap one around each bar. Wrap the husks with rubber bands; dry them in 170° oven. Cut off the rubber band, and top the treats with icing and peppermints.

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**Theodore Roosevelt**

No other nation has the amount of National Forest, parks, monuments, rangeland, wilderness and natural rivers & streams as the United States. Most hunters, anglers, horseback riders and hikers don’t own a sprawling ranch or secluded canyon, but we all can enjoy an area four times the size of France.

Just by being a citizen of the US you own 565 million acres. We all owe this birthright to one man...a veteran and Medal of Honor winner- President Theodore Roosevelt. During his time as president he set aside over 125 million acres of land as the National Forest.

He established the first 21 forest preserves that are now the 192 million acre National Forests. He also established 5 national parks, 18 monuments, and 51 National Refuges. Without him, we would all be riding in small arenas in our back yards!