

May 2008 Path Work trip report from Bill Boudman

Short report:

Jim and Andrew walked from settlers museum to above 644 and shelter. Found 4 pages of items to be worked on in June Summerfest. They also put in new post with reflective marker at the Kegley property and joyfully found a dump truck load of yard waste at the South side of trail. Bill, Paul, Matthew, David, Stephen and Mark Stanley cut from US-11 South to Stile. We removed about 5 feet of briars on each side of trail. Lots of material cut. Bright and sunny warm day. Michael Poore was camp sitter for the day.

If trailer is available in June we will move the shed. We will be camping in Sugar Grove for Summerfest. Hope for a better turn out then.

Bill & Jim

Longer report:

We had 14 PATH Club members in Attendance. They were: Bill Boudman - 6 days, Jim Houck - 7 days, Paul Haag - 2 days, Steven Fishback - 2 days, Matthew Fishback - 2 days, David Fishback - 2 days, Andrew Mitchell - 2 days, Mark Stanley - 2 days, Chris Bracknell - 1 day, Ted Wilson - 1 day, Jamie Hickman - 1 day, Michael Poore 4 days, Martha Emrey - 1 day, David Emrey - 1 day.

Tuesday and Wednesday Bill and Jim scouted out Davis Farm off of 623 for future work. We determined that the Locust beams around the tent pad will need to be replaced along with some railing surrounding the tent pad. We did find a short cut into the Farm which will cut over a mile off of the trip in the future. Since it was such a long trip we spent the night in isolation on 623. Not one single vehicle passed us in the night. We served refreshments to hikers we had met earlier in the week at Cumbows. They were all appreciative.

We did have an interesting encounter during the day with Valerie Hurts Aunt and Uncle. She is doing well and is still working at Lowes in Cedar Bluff near Tazewell. She still gets out on her section of trail.

On Thursday Bill and Jim hiked in to Trimpi shelter to scout out a reported abandoned school bus on the AT. Yes there is one. It is a beauty. USFS is waiting for someone to use it for a home and then serve notice that they can remove it. Just kidding!

Friday was a washout. The meadows were too wet to cut so we got tools ready for Saturday. While we were in our Green Shed we took turns using the router. Jim, Paul and Chris were pretty good at using it. It was concluded that Atilla could not use it. We did get a couple of PATH signs cut.

On Saturday we took 4 weed whackers and 1 sling blade in to the meadow behind Cumbows for strict Briar and wild rose bush removal. We cut it back about 8 - 10 feet on each side of the trail. It took two gallons of gas and a lot of sweat and blood. We

wore those cloth gloves that go up to you shoulder to protect us. Thank heavens for this addition to PATH's tools shed. We could use some more. The name of the Deliver of these items was off watching his daughter participate in some soccer tournament. I think it may of been the peach elixir salesman. Remember that ethanol fuel from Konnarock last year!!!!

Martha and David were over visiting Davis Cemetery and trimming the wild roses with delight. They probably visited the winery during there lunch break. They also visite with Jonan at the puncheons and did a little trimming of the plant life there.. Thanks Martha and David for taking care of our cemeteries.

Once again we had plenty of food on Saturday evening. We were the only ones in camp. Michael did a superb job of keeping the cavers out of the showers and rest rooms. Thanks Michael. We hope to see you in June at Summerfest.

Many thanks go out to Mark, Andrew and Michael for cleaning up and closing up the Konnarock Facility on Sunday. Jim and Bill took off for better parts early.

Report for the May Konnarock, by Bill Boudman

PATH was well represented at the May Konnarock. We had 7 club members in Attendance and 4 members were on the Konnarock work team. Path's 7 club members were: Bill Boudman - 7 days, Jim Houck - 8 days, Mark Stanley - 1 day, Tom Dillon - 2 days, Grace Mauney - 2 days, Harry Atkins - 5 days, and Bill Sadler - 4 days. Bill, Jim, and Harry earned T-Shirts. Also earning T-Shirts on the Konnarock team were John Jaskolka - 6 days, Sylvia Swain - 5 days and Will Merritt. As you can see we were more than well represented.

Jim, Bill and Mark were able to scout out the new site for the PATH Barn which we have to move from USFS Facility at Konnarock. This is not the Green Building but the tan shed behind where Atilla and Jim Park. This new site will be in Bland on Land owned by a club member. We will hopefully move it in June during Summerfest if a trailer big enough comes available.

The Shelter roof was removed in less than an hour. The wood had dry rotted and the nails came out by themselves. The roof was removed by noon on Thursday. The tin was hauled away by crew members at the end of the first day. Some of the crew (app. 18) was sent to work on side hilling on the South side of the trail approaching the shelter. Approximately 300 feet of side hill was completed. Cribbing was place next to the old blowdown (15 ft.) near the curve approaching the shelter.

The walls of the shelter proved to be a more formidable task. They were nailed with 10 inch spikes. Not even superman could remove them. The walls had to be chainsawed down log by log. The shelter walls were down and moved to below the shelter floor by Friday afternoon. Mission of shelter removal was complete in two days. Now we had to find new work.

Saturday we moved on to Gullion Mt. Jim and Bill had previously scouted the territory on Thursday and found two downed Locust trees to use in the continuing rehab of the Gully on Gullion Mt. We cut the locust and exchanged many check dams for water bars and added new check dams. We probably did about 20 in total. It could have been more. But Atilla can only count so high. Work completed on Saturday.

Grace and Tom worked on 601 to the river on Thursday and Friday. Grace attended the native plant presentation in Mt. Rogers. Saturday evening we had a Railroad presentation given by a USFS employee. It concerned to RR line that went from Marion to Mt. Rogers, Troutdale, Sugar Grove and the town of Konnarock. It held PATH's attention. Tom Dillon, Thanks for allowing us to attend this presentation.

Sunday we moved on to the south side of the stile behind Cumbows or US-11. We managed to put in 8 waterbars and check dams. We also pulled out many new and young Trees of Heaven. Many more to go. We also cleaned out the water bars and check dams previously installed in the area. Around lunch time we were inundated by a thunder storm and had to rush off of the Mt. No one was able to stay dry. We had to seek shelter on the new relo and keep of of the mts when the thunder and lightning became severe.

Monday was a total washout. It rained all night and Monday morning we had high wind warnings. We managed to clean out the PATH Barn, sharpen equipment, and played between the rain drops. We had an early supper and presentation of Konnarock T-shirts.