

August 2013 Path Trail Report

From: Ed Martin

Subject: August-3, Trail Report - Chestnut Knob Shelter.

Brittany Martin Johnson, Nathan Wyatt, Tyler Dishmon, Nathan Iobst and I visited Chestnut Knob last Saturday (amazingly) between downpours. The trail in the shelter meadow has been mowed but the trail to the privy and around the shelter has not. When you are working on the outside of the shelter, you probably want to weed eat first. The privy roof is missing a 2 foot panel on the right as you face the throne. The floor was very wet. We duffed the privy and refilled the bucket as the last few users had not done so. We carried out the liquor bottle display on the mantel as well as the rest of the trash, but not the bedframe as we had no straps and weather was moving back in. The road to Walker gap is still rough and when the rain hit us on 6/23, I thought it would wash out. I guesstimate at least 3-5" fell in an hour.

Paul Clayton; 1 day each + Travel.

Ed Martin, Brittany Johnson, Nathan Wyatt & Tyler Dishmon.

From: Martha Emrey

Subject: August-4, Work Report

David and I did trail work on Sunday, 8/4. Picked up trash and trimmed growth at trailheads: Hwy 16, 622 from parking up to and at trailhead (someone, PATH I believe since vehicle had NC tags, had picked up parking pull-off), Hwy 11 @ gas station looked good, other side of I-81, at VA-617 road crossing around the corner (some trimming @ gate, this area mowed and picked up). Looks like Chris B. has been out working, and maybe some others. Citgo station in Atkins is kind enough to supply trash bags and allow us to toss full ones in their dumpster.

Over the mountain to Ceres. Visited with Jonan. Behind along the river to stile very overgrown. O'lysterly, cut back stinging nettles and other hand trimming. We plan to return with weedeater to cut back briars, weeds and nettles O'lysterly to stile behind Repass, all very overgrown.

A couple of places we think blazes could be improved: From trail on Hwy 11 to Barn restaurant, there are no blazes on south side of road. One in each direction might be helpful. Only blazes are on stop sign post.

On the other side of I-81, coming off the trail to road walk, there is a single blaze and an arrow on the guardrail across the road. No double blaze on post at trailhead, which we think would be helpful.

Paul Clayton: 1 day each + Travel.

Jim Writes:

As for blazing around I-81, I tried to blaze the left side of the road(hikers should walk facing traffic).

There is a northbound blaze on the utility pole(left side) between the Shell station & that stop sign on the south side of I-81.

On the north side of I-81, there should be blazes on the post @ trailhead, then one on the sign post just to the south going towards I-81(see attached picture).

This is a busy area with all the colors of commercial signs, highway guardrail reflectors(look just like our white blazes), etc.

Our blazes get lost in the clutter.

I have not heard of any hikers complaining of lack of blazes here. I guess they know to go under I-81 to continue their hike.

From: Dwight Levi

Subject: August-3 Trail Report - Garden Mountain

I walked and worked my section on Garden Mountain last weekend. I cut briars, blackberries and brush back once again. Drainage is touched up and several dips are added where needed. Two blow-downs had to be cut out. All in all the section is in good shape.

Both of the springs at Walker Gap are flowing at the typical summer rate, slow but adequate. I have renewed concerns at the road spring. The large drain and trail work done last fall are doing their job, but, a new drain has been cut directly above the spring box that is sending run off and silt down into our access area. I am considering an Ugly silt fence between the road and the spring again. I have the materials.

Paul Clayton: 1 day(10 hours), + Travel.

From: Tom Dillon

Subject: August-9, Trail Report, VA-670 to VA-601.

My friend Chuck Besaw from Piney Creek and I spent several hours on the trail south of Va. 601 Friday morning weedeating and swing blading. I had intended to hike all the way through to the river, but didn't because of the threatening weather, the wet trail and my eyesight problems. There are two or three trees down on the trail in the first mile south of 601. We cut branches with a bow saw, but couldn't get them all. It would probably be a good September or October job.

Va. 601 from Rye Valley to the trail is in terrible shape. We could barely get our Subaru up there. Then there was another gully washer that has made it even worse.

Paul Clayton:, I had six hours counting work and travel time on Friday.

From: Herb MacDonald

Subject: Trail Report Friday, August 16th. Partnership-south.

Friday morning Jim, Herb, Kay and Charlotte met at the MR Visitor Center and surveyed the mile or so of this section. We talked about the history of this section in regards to work done. Jim and Herb gave detailed instructions and showed the ladies what to look for, how to evaluate work needed and how to go about doing the work. We stopped many times discussing specific spots in this section and what had been done and what needs to be done. Most of the work present had to do with drainage off the trail at already established structures. Most needed clearing, some repair and in a few cases expansion of what is there. We did discover a 5" tree that was up-rooted next to the trail about 20 minutes in from Partnership blocking the trail and causing a by pass and widening of the foot bed. It needs to be cut as soon as possible with a large bow saw or chain saw.

The ladies went on to walk more of the trail to the ridge. Jim went on to do other PATH related tasks and I drove to my other section at SR 615 South. On the way I visited the Sugar Grove tool shed to get a tool and met with Sylvia at Stony Fork to pick up another tool she had from last years project.

At the other section, I went in to plan a short stairs project for later this Fall, 30 minutes in from the trail head on 615. Twenty minutes in on the switch backs, I discovered a really recent blockage of the trail. Three 15" Oak trees all came down in a bunch (all in 5 feet of the trail length). They have created a "crawl through" situation with no easy way around. One of the trees was a double stem, I cut the smaller stem, to make the passage a "crawl over" passage, This needs cutting, it is difficult to get over and could cause an injury to a hiker. Let me know if someone

clears it so I can plan accordingly! The planned stair project is 13' long and about a 30" drop in elevation on a diagonal trail section. A good rock supply is only two minutes down the trail. I figure five 6" steps with a run out of about 40" between in four places should do it.

Paul Clayton: Herb MacDonald, Kay Laffoon & Charlotte Lafon credit with 10 hours of work on Friday, + travel.

Herb

From: **William Burke**

Subject: Trail report.

Aug. 15 PM Lop and swing blade trail north of I-81 to bridge. Worst part was between farm road and where you enter woods.

Aug. 16 all day. Lop, swing blade, and fire rake trail south of 617 to bridge. Worst part was Along boardwalk and steps up to bridge. I did not get this part finished.

Aug. 17 all day. Worked with you at Chestnut Knob shelter.

Safe trip back to Ohio. Home at dark. Rain Sunday.

Will from Ohio

Will Burke

Paul Clayton: Will Burkes hours are shown on my August-17th report.

From: **Martha Emrey**

Subject: Work Report-August 17

David and I only made it up for the day. Weeds between the bridge and stile off 610 were taller than we are, and just a sliver of space for a hiker to walk through. David did weedeating while I visited with Jonan. He visited with her while I did yard work for her. (She and Arten have done so much for both trail maintainers and hikers over the years, giving back.)

Picked up a few pieces of trash at 622 & 16 trailheads. Same Rt 11 & 617 (did I get it right this time?).

David weedeated narrow trail from creek to cemetery and perimeter of cemetery. I lopped to bridge. Not a lot. Enjoyed seeing the work of our compatriots, who are doing an outstanding job with the mower.

Hope y'all got the Stone Hut work completed. Martha (& David) Emrey

Paul Clayton: 1 day each for Martha & David + travel.

From: **Jim Houck**

Subject: August-17 vol Weekend.

The Saturday hike to Chestnut Knob Shelter was delayed a little, as the volunteers coming from Stony Fork campground had to cut a tree that had fallen across VA-623.

We rounded up at Walker Gap for the 1 hour hike, loaded with tools & materials for the shelter repairs.

Once on top(elev. 4409'), we went over the projects, talked safety, divided up into teams and went to work.

Projects included:

1) Repair windows: This job went well, with Jeff Brown & Drew Jones in charge. The windows are sturdy, stained

and rocking to open & close nicely.

2) Clean, prep & stain all exterior wood: Will Burke, Jenny Williams & Berry Hester got busy on this work.

3) Installed the New LNT sign & bulletin board: Dan Tito, Will Burke & Jim Houck.

Also:

Tin flashing was placed on the front roof peak fascia.

Stirred the privy & filled 3 duff pails.

Removed the asphalt shingles from to old privy roof.

With jobs well done & sprinkles starting to fall, we hiked out, cleaned up & went to Marcias cabin for Pot-Luck, relaxing & chit-chat around the camp fire.

See Pictures:

<http://www.path-at.org/gallery/index.php/PATH---2013?page=21>

Paul Clayton: Days worked shown below.

Jeff Brown.....1

Will Burke.....3

Marcia Cope.....1

Barry Hester.....2

Jim Houck.....3

Drew Jones.....1

Grace Shuping....1

Dan Tito.....1

Jenny Williams...1