

## October 2009 Work Trip Report

The worktrip started for Bill & I **Sunday** afternoon on Whitetop Mountain. A great sunset, low clouds rolled in below us and cool temperatures followed. (did you see the pictures)

**Monday** we were off to Grayson's Highland State Park to meet with John Odell (ATC Asheville, N.C.) & others for the "Invasive Plant Workshop".

After the workshop, we hiked to Wise Shelter & looked for invasive plants.

**Tuesday & Wednesday**, Bill & I scouted several areas of the PATH trail section looking, discussing & pondering.

**Thursday** was our fall Agency Partners Meeting with FS, ATC & PATH.

Starting @ noonish with pizza lunch, 11 folks discussed many issues.

We were all quite talkative as we went thru the agenda.

Most items were answered satisfactorily with only a couple still pending.

Paul Haag did a great job as moderator, keeping us on track & moving.

I feel everyone came away with a renewed commitment to work together as a team for the good of our National Park, The Appalachian Trail.

**Friday**, Bill send our small group of workers to work on some scattered projects.

FS volunteers, Dean & Mississippi were in camp & it's always good to see them.

**Saturday**, Chris, Bill, Steve & Jim attended the RPC meeting & the 2011 Biennial Steering Committee Meeting at Emory & Henry College.

Very informative, free lunch & mingling with more great volunteers.

A tour of the campus was nice & we saw the college that our "Martha Emrey" called home for a while.

As we met, the PATH workers were out on various jobs along the trail, doing what they do so well.

Meanwhile back at Sugar Grove, Walt & Charlene were busy preparing for the crews potluck evening meal. & a wonderful meal it was. More than enough great food for all.

A safety meeting followed, then an open discussion period.

Jim Houck

Club President

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers (PATH)