

August Volunteer Weekend Report

Wednesday-18th, evening. I took some time to clean up inside the Green Tool Barn.

Thursday-19th was rainy all day. I hiked into Chatfield and started the preparation for installing the sign at the shelter. Despite the rain I made progress.

I returned to Sugar Grove and spent several more hours cleaning up the tool barn, putting things in their proper place & doing an inventory.

Note: Snake skins are prevalent around the work bench area, & Hornets are building a nest inside the wall. The hornet entrance is outside, just around the corner from the walk-in door.

Friday-20th, Chris B., Harold A., Wayne Mosher(new member), & Jim H., Mowed & Lopped around the I-81 area.

We also attached the white blaze post to the stile on the North side of I-81.

Friday evening, Volunteers relaxed, sitting around Stony Fork campsite # 3, enjoying the company.

Note to Will Merritt: Your endeavor to control the "Tree of Heaven" is going well.

Well-sort-of. Trees at the old home site are gone, for now. Trees at the stile are back more than ever. Need to coordinate Will & several volunteers to go after this area asap!!! Constant oversight is necessary for these trees.

Saturday morning 6am, "HEY" I thought we were sleeping in since Attila left town!!

Off we go to Wytheville & the Virginia Heights Diner for breakfast.

The usual crowd shuffles in. Most order "the usual"(2-eggs,2-bacon,2-biscuits w/gravy,potatoes,Coffee) \$5.....humm

The waitress recognizes us as the "Trail Workers".

I did not try to explain that we are "volunteers" (this is fun, not work) as she was busy taking orders & bringing me ketchup.

After a photo opt. & a brief safety talk in the parking lot,

Chris Bracknell takes a crew of: Andrew Mitchell, Jeff Brown, Betsy Truscott & Danny Shields, back to the I-81 area to finish up mowing, etc.

David John, David Faucette & Beca Hughes clean water bars & check dams & lop from Crawfish Valley South.

Beca feels the boys are doing too much lopping & calls on them to keep it a "simple footpath". Beca has "section monitor" written all over her.

Harold, Drew, & Wayne meet Will & Chris Allison at highway # 42 trailhead & hike to Knot Maul Shelter to put a coat of water sealer on the new picnic table & clean water bars & check dams.

(Harold's trip report will follow).

Mark Stanley & Jim hike to Chestnut Ridge to look over the mowing, scout for "Gray's

lily", check the spring @ the pond & rebuild a cairn.
The Meadows look good & we came up with a basic plan for maintaining them.
Pictures to follow.

Marcia, Trudy Whitney & Greg Weaver do chores around the cabin preparing for the evening hungry volunteers & Dawg Day's 2011.

Saturday evening we rounded-up @ Marcia's cabin for pot-luck.
With full bellies & fresh beverages, we sat and enjoyed the conversation & camp fire.

Sunday-22 morning we relaxed at the Stony Fork cabin with Walt & Charlene & enjoyed coffee & conversation.
Andrew & Jim walked from Settlers Museum to Chatfield Shelter & back, mostly looking over projects for the 2011 Biennial.
Walt & Charlene returned the tools to the Sugar Grove tool barn.

Monday-23, I scouted for white blaze spots along the proposed A.T. South of Va-615.
The new bridge over Laurel Creek is in & appears open for hikers.
Looks Good. Pictures to follow.

Volunteers & Hours.

Chris Bracknell-3

Jeff Brown-1

Chris Allison-1 (new member-2010)

Jim Houck-5

Andrew Mitchell-2

Betsy Truscott-2

Mark Stanley-1

Danny Shields-1

Beca Hughes-1 (new member-2010)

Drew Jones-1

Wayne Mosher-2 (new member-2010 / 1st volunteer weekend)

David John-1

David Faucette-1

Walt Davis-1

Charlene Davis-1

Harold Atkins-3

Will Merritt-1

Greg Weaver-4

Marcia Cope-3

Trudy Whitney-2

E-me for corrections, etc.

Jim Houck
Club President

Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers (PATH)

Here is an August volunteer weekend report from hla, aka Harry, aka Harold Atkins.

Subject: Existing blowdowns & Aug worktrip per hla

Aug 20: Chris B & hla mowed both sides I81:Jim & Wayne other in area.

Aug 21: Will M & hla to top of LC Mtn from 42 to watch two copperheads mate. We cut or removed all blowdowns and cleaned or replaced all water bars. Drew, Wayne, & Chris ? worked at Knot Maul Shelter, including sealing the picnic table W/PU (Sun hla met hiker who stated the table was bubbly, gooey, sticky from rain). White blazes were well done. Need two new signs & posts at Lynn Camp Creek, intersection of FS 632.

Aug 22: Hla hiked trail south from 222 to mainly identify blowdowns. Cleaned all water bars. White blazes were fresh. Sign at old horse trail, trail south of LC bridge (1.25MM) should be replaced. (Big rock step trail north 222 needs repair from ditch scrapper incident)

BLOWDOWNS pending: Trail south to top of LC Mtn: After crossing Y creeks as you ascend up, two BD's (large stepover & head level): three more BD's after on the descend. THE massive BD's are 1.7 miles at the ascend of LC Mtn.(this is what hla has been watching since April). Three massive trees finally completed fell downing several other trees. Trail is blocked. While not considering relocating the trail to the east, Will, his son and hla will remove BD's at Will's schedule. Rather than a 36 bar for the 441, w/bring a 32 bar.

Hla's comment on the BD's in Lick Creek: Trail south, the bridge is west to east & creek is N-S. The large BD to the north of the bridge fell W-E, with the crown on east side bank. The BD has rotated to 110 degrees where the crown is approaching shallow water and a sand bar (more of the base is reachable on west bank, out of deep water).

As to the BD south of and along side of bridge, FS did little except to remove limbs on bridge which could have been done by bowsaw. Guess it's a catcher for bridge if the BD above comes down creek & also a diving platform. Will & hla will opine later, if necessary.

Please, no more wild goose chases, 3 is enough.