

PATH March Worktrip Summary

This is a long report. Even though it appears we had a small group of 19 on Saturday we had 11 workers during the week at varying times. We had 12 individuals that had walked our section of trail and filed a report before we went up for the worktrip. That made the work on Saturday a lot easier. Lots of thanks and appreciation for the work that everyone did before hand. The whole trail has been walked except for one two mile section from 222 to Lynn Camp Mt. and I expect to get it walked in about two weeks on the way to Mt. Lake for a meeting

Several areas have trees down and Aubrey, Will and Harry have been volunteered to work on that. None of the trees appear to be a serious problem to get around, over, etc.

We had fairly good weather and only Atilla's group came in out of the rain and thunder. Of course, you are all aware of the fact that Atilla is highly allergic to water and thunder. Especially when he is in a hammock.

Plattsburg University arrived on Saturday morning for their annual St. Patrick's Day or week Spring Break. They had a group of 12 energetic students that Atilla immediately sent to bed in the main room while we went out to roam in the woods. While we were out and they slept, a group of 30 spelunkers came in and devastated the shower facilities. Thanks to Kenny Houck who graciously swabbed down the deck before the rest of us returned from our work sites. Thanks KENNY!

Atilla was able to talk the group from Plattsburg into filling the pot holes in the driveway. Thanks Plattsburg!!

PATH once again fed the masses (Plattsburg included) on Saturday evening. We had plenty left over. Linda and Walt did a superb job in the kitchen and left it in immaculate condition afterwards. There were plenty of cooks in the kitchen making their specialties. Atilla was not allowed in and got bruised knuckles from trying to test the food for safety reasons.

Atilla fed the early arrivals each morning a delicious breakfast. Andy Stoy, Jack Bookman and David John prepared evening meals. There was only one evening we went out to eat because of a rebellion of some kind over DUMP STEW.

The Thursday evening and Friday meetings went OK I guess. We still have to remove our beloved shed. But we did get some compromise. We will be allowed to store items in the shed under the BB goal. USFS is also looking for a large fire box to store equipment at the water storage tank in Stony Fork. Jim took notes and will send those when he returns to Florida in 3 weeks.

The rules for bridge building have changed. All bridges are to be handicap accessible. Any bridge over 17 feet in length and 3 feet high measured from the bottom of the stream has to be engineered by USFS.

Another rule change has to do with disturbance of the land and relocations of the trail. The old rule was if it was within 50 feet of the trail an environmental study was not needed. All disturbances of land will now have to be studied. The only problem is they are 5 years behind. This will somewhat change our plans for Davis Path shelter and the relo in Crawfish Valley this summer.

Our plans for Davis Path Shelter have changed. We will not be putting a roof on it in May but will instead dismantle it and use the floor base for a tent pad and the logs for cribbing for new dirt filled pads. (environmental study has been requested for this and Crawfish)

This may lead to some discussion but Jim and I made an executive decision based on the lack of use of the shelter, closeness to the trail, and the unsightly wear and tear on the area around the Shelter. Most hikers bypass the shelter and only eat lunch there. When the wooden floor deteriorates we will remove that portion. We do plan to crib around the shelter area and leave the picnic table.

While we are discussing the issue of shelter removal, we tentatively plan to remove Jenkins Shelter when it has to be repaired. It will hopefully in a short period of time be designated a Wilderness Area. The area around the shelter is showing excessive wear and tear from extensive use and very few new trees are appearing. We are in the process of looking for tent pad sites in the area both away from the stream and old shelter area. We will put the tent pads in the area but away from the stream. We will close the area of the shelter and post it.

Saturdays worktrip areas were:

86 - 222 lopped trail and cleared briars;

Georges Branch to MRNRA put in 9 water bars and 3 ditches;

617 to I-81 lopped roses and briars and cleared minor blowdowns;

Settlers Museum lopped trail, cleared minor blowdowns, and cleaned out waterbars;

I-77-615 lopped trail and cleared minor blowdowns;

Walker Gap to Pond lopped trail clear minor blowdowns, and fixed door to shelter;

Davis Cemetery has the posts around the grounds reset and debris in the cemetery removed;

222 to pond had the spring box cleaned out of sediment and a new overflow pipe installed.

Sunday Morning we were informed by Steve Yonts of a plane crash on Big

Walker Mt. As it turned out it was in the Crawfish Community of the west side of our trail near Bear Creek. Two individuals were killed and the plane is thought to have crashed due to icing.

Awards: Certificates of Appreciation from the USFS, for 1000 hours, It comes in a green folder, signed by Abigail Kimbel Chief of the Dept. of Agriculture: Those in Attendance received theirs. The others will have to wait till they attend a work weekend to have them issued.

PATH Club, Barry Hester, Bill Boudman, David Emrey, Jim Houck, and Vaughn Thomas received theirs at the Saturday evening meal.

I will mail Clint Kawanishi and Parthena Martin's theirs.
I have Bobby's, John's, Clint & Parthena's

Not in Attendance: Betsy Truscott, Bobby Bass, David John (left early), John Hartpence, Karl Kunkel, Marcia Cope, Paul Clayton, Paul Haag (chainsaw course), Walter Davis (left early)

Workers Attending:

Allen, Ed 1
Arrington, Aubrey 4
Bookman, Jack 3
Boudman, Bill 8
Brown, John 1
Council, Barbara 1
Davis, Walt 2
Dillon, Tom 4
Doty, Mark 3
Emrey, David 2
Emrey, Martha 2
Firebaugh, Jon 1
Firebaugh, Karen 1
Fishback, Steven 1
Fishback's son 1
Haag, Paul 3
Hicks, David 1
-----, Denise 1 Kenny Houck's friend
Houck, Jim 8
Houck, Kenny 1
Hurt, Valerie 1
John, David 3
Kanipe, Dean 1
Kunkel, Karl 1
Levi, Dwight 3
Maunie, Grace 1

Merritt, Will 5
Mitchell, Andrew 1
Pruitt, Michelle 2
Roberts, Amy 2
Robinson, Linda 2
Scott, Anita 2
Stanley, Mark 2
Stoy, Andy 3
Swain, Sylvia 2
Treski, Stan 1
Tysinger, Jeff 3
Yonts, Steve 2

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