

July Volunteer Work Trip

We had 18 participants in our July Volunteer Work trip along with 8 participants from Konnarock. We had a very successful week of rehabbing with waterbars, steps, check dam and ditches the HIGH WATER TRAIL. Thanks to all the participants who endured the heat, humidity and rain.

First you all need to know there are 3 trails which are AT in this area. The Low Water Trail, High Water Trail and the middle trail.

When the Konnarock proposal was written up some 3-5 years ago it was never written up to decommission any trail. The High Water Trail was written up to save the trail as such by building dips, ditches and anything else to keep it from eroding and to work on the low water trail. Remember we are stewards of the land.

The low water trail had 12 or more stream crossings and was in flood plain on an old road bed. The stream crossings were not always visible and the banks were being destroyed. The area flooded quite often so there was a High Water Trail. I do not know when the middle trail was constructed. But it had to have been in the last 8 - 10 saasadddyears.

PATH or I asked to have a hydrologist and ATC to come in and offer us solutions to the problem. The Hydrologist and ATC immediately came in and closed the trail as an AT Corridor. It was considered unsustainable. It had never had a NEPA study done on it and should have never been placed there.

For whatever reason they have it was USFS decision to decommission the original High Water Trail. It was not a PATH decision and had not been written up as such.

The USFS had the paper work submitted by PATH several years ago for this project and it had been approved. Jim and Bill were blind sided at the Biennial meeting by the USFS decision to close the original High water Trail. PATH will continue to fight to keep it open. It was not closed off or decommissioned by Konnarock.

The following individuals earned the prestigious Konnarock T-shirt by working 5 days: Jim Houck, Bill Boudman and Andrew Sam.

The following individual worked along with the K-rock crew (in some capacity) and the above individuals to have a very successful week:
Chris Bracknell -1, Jeff Brown -1, Charlene & Walt Davis -3 each, Tony Freeze -2, Jim Houck -7, Bo Kopynec -2, Susan Kopynec -2, Marcia Cope -1, Dwight Levi -2, Libby Levi - 1, Devon McKim -2, Leo Nunnink -3, Andrew Sam -5, Mark Stanley -1, David Emrey -2, Martha Emrey -2, Bill Boudman -6.

Bill Boudman
PATH
Trail Supervisor