

March 2013 Path Trail Reports

From: Steven Fishback

Chestnut Knob

Sunday visited PATH shed:

I have the crosscut saw and battery powered drill.

Almost went back on Sunday to knock out door and trees but weather was nasty.

Sat March 16, 2013 - Walker Gap south to Chestnut ridge open meadow.

Trail:

1 - large nasty tree halfway up - we already discussed this one - passable underneath.

3 - small trees between walker gap south to chestnut knob - not on ground but all passable. I'll knock out next trip.

1 - small tree between jeep road south to open meadow - not on ground but passable. I'll cut next trip.

Water bars in good shape.

Spring on Jeep road flowing out pipe well. Cleaned up and made dam to pool water.

Fixed water drainage problem in three places caused by ATVs between Jeep and open meadow.

Various trimming, handsaw cutting and moving branches of trail.

Privy:

Dug out permafrost poo from last year and moved privy over by myself.

Moved steps halfway over. Didn't have good enough philips screw driver to move supporting boards over.

Attached new latches to move privy easier without screw driver being required.

Clear roof on privy 1/3 gone and loose. Didn't get dimensions.

Shelter:

Placed sign about water source locations in shelter.

Put new spring on door. Really doesn't help much when wind is strong. A rock on the outside or simple strap over nail is required to keep door shut in high winds.

Screws gone on bottom door hing. Will fix next trip using longer screws

Painted over graffiti on walls. Really not bad.

Nailed 2x2 boards over broken plexiglass window. Nails weren't long enough. Wind was strong enough to pop board off. Will fix next trip unless new window gets installed.

I loved the open view overlooking Burkes Garden.

From: Chris Bracknell

March Volunteers

Chris Bracknell -12hrs + 8hrs scouting (3/11 & 14)

Tom Dillon 8 hrs (3/14)

Will Merritt 8 hrs (3/15)

Mark Stanley 8 hrs ?

Greg Weaver -12 hrs

Kate Davis 12 hrs

Don Smyth 9 hrs

Jeff Brown 10 hrs

Dave Emrey 8 hrs

Martha Emrey 8hrs.

10 scouts and 4 leaders (Sanford, NC) Trail scouting, trim work & helped with camp clean up.

5 students and 4 teachers or support (Mooresville, NC)

Trail Reports by Section

Southern Section.

Section I

Va 670 (Teas Rd.) (South Fork of Holston to SR 601) Tom Dillon.

Trees down.

1 step over north of railroad grade.

1 walk around mile south of 601.

1 removed on railroad grade (14).

Section II

Va 601 to Hwy 16 - Herb McDonald.

Over growth trimmed and water bars cleaned.

1 small tree (5) removed between shelter and first stream crossing.

2 broken limb clusters removed south of power lines.

1 high leaner remains 1 mile north of 601.

Section IV

Va. 622 (Nicks Creek Rd) to FS 86 - Sylvia Swain.

1 down tree short distance south of FS-86.

Section V

FS 86 to Va 615(Rocky Hollow Rd.)(Settler's Museum) - Andrew and Kim Mitchell.

2 step overs within first half mile north of 86.

Cleared small down tree (just limbs) on flat area ridge.

1 tree crotch high 10' diameter between shelter and ridge.

1 head high walk under north of 644 between 1st creek crossing & next time creek is near trail.

Section VI

Va. 615 (Rocky Hollow Rd.) to US11 - Chris Bracknell & Bill Boudman.

Removed cluster of tree tops blocking trail south of 744.

Removed 1, 3 leaner north of 729 before old road bed.

Trimmed and cut with bow saw several apple trees that had fallen in the trail.

Removed section of a 18 locust south of orchard.

Trimmed several Russian Olives blocking trail just south of US-11.

Section VII

I-81 to Va. 617(Davis Valley Rd.) - Walt and Charlene Davis.

Minor trimming.

1 tree down south of boardwalk (walk around?).

Section VIII

Va. 617 to south of Gullion Mt. - Will Merritt and Jeff Brown.

Moved numerous small limbs and trimmed brush and Rhododendron.

1 small to medium (walk over?) across trail north of Davis Path tent pad.

Section IX to Crawfish Valley.

Removed sizeable rotten tree on summit of Gullion near horse trail with bow saw and brute force.

Notes on Northern Sections.

Need to work on tree north of Crawfish Valley between there and Tilson. Barry Morton, from Draper,

VA. said it is sizeable and needs removal. Plan to go in there from Crawfish Valley road in the next week or two. DONE.

From: Kay Laffoon.

Partnership-to-BA1 Crew

What a glorious day it was for everyone. First , I want to thank Greg Weaver for all his help, encouragement, and education he willingly provided to our students and their family who joined us Saturday. All the students loved working the trail and so did their Mom and Grandmother who walked with us.

We separated the boys who started at Partnership Shelter and went with Greg and Charlotte Lafon, a new PATH member, north to 601. They did most of the work on the water bars and some pruning. They loved doing the work and cannot wait until next month to join us again.

I & Kay, took the HS girls, Destiny's Mom and Grandmother, with me and we did lopping and removal of down rhodos and tree limbs starting at 601 toward Partnership Shelter. We cleared the hangover rhodos and any other tree limbs blocking the trail. They too, loved the work and said they are so excited about next month. The Grandmother is joining PATH and can't wait to get herself back to "hiking shape". I told her how proud we are of her walking and working the trail Saturday.

We found many down tree limbs but were able to clear most of the branches away from the trail. We even spotted a baby deer...they were thrilled!

They are all coming back to

complete their hours required for the Sr Project and liked the idea of camping Friday and Saturday night so they can go out with PATH on Saturday and stay for the potluck Sat night...they are already discussing what food they will bring. They also want to be able to interview some PATH people for their speeches they must make to pass the Sr Project. They could do this Saturday night during dinner and afterwards. This was a first for the Sr. projects and all will pass along to other students and teachers about the AT and PATH. Many pictures were taken and we will share them on the PATH website.

Thanks again to everyone who helped the kids out. We all look forward to April and sharing more fun times with everyone.

Kay Laffoon

From: David & Martha Emrey.

It was a gorgeous work day in the mountains!

David and I were only up for the day this month.

Worked from Olystery to the style the other side of the bridge behind Repass. Briars are aggressive. We'll need to stay on top of them with blade on weedeater. Both in the fence access from parking lot to trail on 42, as well as from 42 to the stream crossing. Cut a few blowdowns off the trail with bow saw. Some short stretches of trail in serious need of sidehilling. Some longer stretches in need of sidehilling, as well. We worked on one stretch in the woods near Repass, but will be ongoing to crib and sidehill to shore up trail.

There is a water source along this section, a pipe below trail brings water from a spring above. It was blue-blazed for several years. There were a couple of years where there was little water anywhere along the trail (Knot Maul was dry), and this water source, too dried up. But we have checked regularly the past several years, and this is a steady water source. (I could have filled my water bottle in 10-20 seconds.) Don't know what the guidelines are for marking a water source, as often in the middle of the summer a water source may be dry. Water available 20% of the time? 50%? 100%? I'd blue-blaze a trail to this water source.

Side-tripped to Wytheville to visit Jonan Repass in rehab. Had visited her in hospital in January. She's looking good and hopes to be home when we're up in April.

Ran out of time and didn't walk 622 to 16, but felt our visit with Jonan was more important.
Enjoyed the folks and potluck at Konnarock work camp. Glad to have Scouts with us. (They make great cobblers!) Then to Wytheville Community College for bluegrass and old-time music.
See you in April! Martha (and David) Emrey.