

May-2013 Trail Reports.

From: Herb MacDonald
Sent: May 19, 2013.
Subject: VA-623 to Jenkins Trail Report

I hiked the section from 623 to Jenkins Saturday, 8 hour day. Met three through hikers from Germany and one from Israel. The guy from Israel really liked Chestnut Knob Shelter, but said there was trash everywhere. Light rain all day, but no down pours. I counted 20 step over, chain saw size trees on the trail, most between the ridge top and Jenkins, but a few on the ridge top trail. I moved or sawed about dozen smaller limbs across the trail and lopped along the down slope. Trees were only half leaved out, many views still available. I didn't have much time at Jenkins, trying to get back before it rained hard. Water source looked good from a distance and the shelter and surrounding area were clean with little trash. The privy cone was within 6" from the seat. Sorry, didn't have the time, strength, energy, or experience to tackle it alone. I'll hike the section form 615 to Jenkins in June and let you know about taking either one. If I get some volunteers to go with me, we could work on the privy.

This section could benefit from some repair side hill work, where the trail has moved down hill. It also didn't show much erosion, but there are many opportunities for "dip" drainage work. Old rock water bars (some cut logs were laid across the trail, but not anchored) were all full and about covered with duff. Interesting rock formations all along the ridge, rock foot bed many places and "15" steps to pass between two rock formations. In coming years, you might consider the last 1/2 mile on the up slope before the ridge for trail re-lo and or a switch back. It is a steep, slow walk, up or down. Several places have large angled rocks a hiker must cross, that are very slippery in any kind of weather except a clear day. 1500" feet of climb from the bottom (past Jenkins) to ridge top. Much more of a lung buster/toe bruiser than my section at Partnership, South. Trail generally in good shape with no detours, Many water sources near Jenkins that you cross on the trail. The wood sign for the Davis Camp is covered with notes about no water and a steep switch back "don't go, was the consensus", so I didn't. Seen it a few years ago when I helped get a water sample for Bill. At that time the water source was actually on the North side of the down slope, across a fence and I believe on private property (pasture setting).

Herb

From: Dwight Levi
Sent: May 07, 2013.
Subject: Walker Gap Trail Report.

I was able to spent 2 solo volunteer days working at Walker Gap last week.

Wednesday was spent at the "Old House Spring" restoring the precious flow of water. The cistern was full of leaves silt and yuck. The pipe was clogged with the same. Rotten organic matter was piled around and creeping into the cistern. The first step was to clean up all that crap and clear the pipe with a plumbers snake. I used a pick to loosen the gravel aggregate above the cistern to encourage water to flow through, rather than over and around, it. Larger stone is placed above and around the cistern to protect it from encroaching crud. To the right side, a pool was constructed to allow hikers to access some of the water that still bypasses the system. The lid is repaired & replaced with a note written to keep it in place. I will try to get a donation of green Rust-oleum for the next trip. Before and after pictures are on the PATH gallery @ <http://www.path-at.org/gallery/index.php/PATH---2013?page=3>

Thursday was more laid back. I worked just south of Walker Gap toward Chestnut Knob. I reworked two more old waterbars into dips. The waterbars are left in place to support the repair. At a third site, I aggressively removed 15 to 20 feet of berm from the low side of the trail and used that material (with organics removed) to raise and regrade the out-slope of the tread. We use this method successfully in the MTB trail world. Further up minor side-hill work was done to put the tread back on stable ground. No pics of this work. I was too pooped to remember the camera.

Until next time.
Be safe, enjoy the walk,
Dwight

From: Andrew L Jones
Sent: May 20, 2013.
Subject: Trail report (May 18 - USFS-222 to Lynn Camp Creek).

Solo worktrip. Arrived Fri PM at Stony Fork. Sat AM, was at USFS 222 trailhead at 0800 and worked southbound to Lynn Camp Creek and back. Noticed some of the work Ed and "team" had done previously. I lopped pretty aggressively and cut a few small blowdowns. All is now clear. A couple of areas need work: One or two of the log bridges just N and S of Lick Cr. Will need to be replaced within a season (I think). Ends are rotted.

Hikers I met on N side of Lynn Camp Cr. Mtn complained of eroded tread that made it treacherous on the S side. Once I got to the that side, I agree. There are a few short sections that need some work. I did not have a pulaski but this should be addressed as all the rain has made it slick and pretty loose on a steep outslope on those sections (each is probably 15 ft).

I did not get up to Knot Maul but hikers reported some trash up there.

Paul Clayton: 8 hrs travel and 8 hrs of work.

Drew

From: Chris Bracknell

Sent: May 20, 2013.

Subject: May work Report
Rhonda and I worked on Tuesday doing maintenance on the mower and mowing from US-11 to the apple orchard south of the railroad.

On Saturday, Ed Martin and I got buckets from the tool shed and gravel from the forest service yard and hauled them to US-11. There were some bad mud areas from the road to just short of the old house ruins. We haul in about 35 or 40 bucket loads. Ed also did some significant trimming so hikers could walk on higher ground around the very wet spots (made worse by heavy traffic).

Hours: (work and drive)
Rhonda Bracknell - 8 hrs
Chris Bracknell - 16 hrs.
Ed Martin - 8hrs.

From: Martha Emrey
Sent: May 20, 2013.
Subject: May Trail Report

Saw no PATH workers at Stony Fork. Barry Morton hooked up with us, by chance, at Big Walker Lookout. The 3 of

us went to Ceres where David Emrey weed wacked from the bridge south to the stile along the river. On the north side of the bridge, from above the trail down to the river along the road is badly eroded. Barry and Martha Emrey gathered rocks and filled the hole on and below the trail. More work needed here, but DOT needs to clean out the ditch along the road, and would help to pipe runoff under the trail into the river. The 3 of us lopped briars, hawthorns, and anything else overgrowing the trail from the bridge north to the creek crossing before the meadow.

Visited with Jonan Repass.

While we didn't see Chris, saw evidence of his work at Hwy-11 down from The Barn restaurant.

The 3 of us weed wacked along the puncheons on the other side of I-81, and from road (VA-617) to woods, as well as from the stile to the woods at the other end. Lots of lopping along the trail, as heavy snows brought bushes low, and one had to duck under and around several, now clear. There is one blaze post between stile and woods that is completely hidden in a tree. The trail has been moved lower around tree some time ago, and might want to look at putting in new blaze post.

David and Martha picked up a small amount of trash at the Hwy-16 trail head. Trail head at 622 and pull off below, clear of trash. While we'd like to believe this is a result of the trash clean up we did last month, realistically, we figure someone else picked up trash, much appreciated.

We understand trail neighbor Charles Stowers died a couple of months ago. His wife, Ola, has been his caregiver for years, and his hospital looked out the window to Davis Cemetery.

Martha Emrey

From: Tom Dillon
Sent: May 30, 2013.
Subject: May Trail Report (VA-670 - VA-601).

I spent this past Monday on the lower half of my section sawing up two of those blowdowns with the help of some folks from Sparta. There's one left, which is easy to step over. It's too big for my bowsaw, about a foot thick. The trail seemed in really good shape with a dozen or more through-hikers on it. A campsite has been created above the railroad right-of-way portion and is so far being kept neat. I will keep an eye on it.

Tom Dillon

Thanks for the reports, PATH folks !!
Keep track of your hours and report to Paul Clayton: <claytonpm@bellsouth.net>
Easiest way to do this is to include Paul in your Trail Reports to Chris, Steve & Jim, showing hours.

This goes for ALL section maintainers, etc.
If you attend a volunteer weekend, those hours will be reported by the Club weekend leader.
If you are out on your own, report hours as above (this includes March & April-2013).

Remember to copy Jim Houck <houckjw@bellsouth.net>, Chris Bracknell <wbracknell@juno.com> & Steve Yonts <Mrzachsdad@aol.com> on your Trail Reports.

I'll compile your report with all other monthly reports & post on our web site @:
<http://www.path-at.org/mainhtml/nlcover.html>

Pictures are always good to see & have.

Thanks

Jim Houck
Club President
Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers(PATH)