

October 2010 Path Trip Report

Thanks to all that attended to either work or hike. Special thanks to Walt and Charlene once again for the fine Saturday evening meal planning, thanks to Diana for the planning of the Saturday hike and thanks to the scout troop and their leaders.

Three items were attended to on this volunteer weekend. One was the hike to Chestnut Ridge and the pond on which a report has already been given. The second item was the blue blazing of a trail from the AT to a new water source at Walker Gap. The water source can be reached from the N and the S from the AT. It forms a loop. The third area worked from Poor Valley S to Lynn Camp Creek.

Bill, Jim and Dwight have been working (laying out and flagging) on this trail for the last year. It is 0.3 miles long from both the N and S approach. No limbs had to be cut or did we have to remove any soil or disturb any plants. I believe the new water source will be far better than the muddy spring on the road to Walker Gap.

Many thanks go out to those in the club that participated on this venture. They were Bill, Bobby Bass, Tom Dillon, Dwight Levi, Emily and Jeff Brown and Will Burke. Of course I must not omit the 5 scouts and their 5 leaders that participated in this event. They did an excellent job of removing the leaves and dead limbs from the trail. They also got to put up a few blazes where they were marked.

We cut all blazes with a draw knife and used Jim's wonderful stencil. They both worked very well.

We tried to have no tree with two blazes on it and we also tried to blaze on the right hand side going N and on the right hand side going S. The hiker will hopefully walk between the blazes where his feet and eyes tell him to go. We will see in the spring how this works.

There will need to be a sign post placed at the intersection of the Blue blazed and water source trail. It will mark N&S to the AT and direction to water source. It is a loop trail.

Andrew Mitchell worked from Poor Valley to Lynn Camp Creek putting in several blazes, cleaning out water bars, side hill work, etc.

Dwight after flagging on Friday walked his section and removed several blowdown and did trail maintenance.

Those attending the October Volunteer Worktrip were:

Bill Boudman - 3, Bobby Bass - 3, Tom Dillon -2, Walt & Charlene Davis - 2, Dwinght Levi - 2, 8 Scouts and parents, Emily & Jeff Brown -1, Drew Jones - 1, Will Burke - 2, Danny Shields - 2, Jim Houck - 3, Martha & David Emrey - 1.

Once again thanks to all that attended to either do volunteer work or hike. Please volunteer to lead a hike next July at the 2011 ATC Conference.

Bill Boudman
PATH Trail Supervisor

PATH has had a great year. We have over 6,900 volunteer hours on the AT this year. We had a great Summerfest IX. We were able to improve the trail along the North Holston River. We had Chestnut Ridge cut. We added the Tilson Farmstead to our section. The bridge at Laurel Creek was finished and the trail is opening to the old AT. Greg Weaver has done outstanding work with the teachers of our area. That work is growing and the Youth of the area are getting acquainted with the AT. We have received many compliments from hikers about the conditions of our trail. Harry Atkins, Will Merrit, Dwight Levi and Audbrey Arrington have cut most of the blown downs on our trail(including the big one at Lynn Camp). We do have a problem at Lick Creek with a tree down at the bridge and one farther up Lick Creek. We are working with the USFS with this problem. The house at Walker Gap was removed. This is just some of the things that we accomplished this year.

Jim Houck
Path President

It was a perfect autumn day for our hike to Chestnut Ridge. We started from Walkers Gap on the AT and veered off to follow the old Fire Tower access road. Intersecting the AT, we traveled South to the meadows. The view was enjoyed by all and several members of the group were delighted to recognize family homes and farms in the Ceres/Nebo Communities. A map of the area was used to pinpoint additional landmarks. The group continued on to the pond before returning to the upper meadow to eat lunch and enjoy the view. After lunch, the hike resumed to Chestnut Knob Shelter where we meet a family from Burkes Garden who had brought friends from Charlotte, NC to the shelter to enjoy the view. This family, in addition to a section hiker we meet, expressed their thanks to PATH for their dedication toward the upkeep of the trail. Also, the family from Charlotte expressed interest in participating in future hikes. From the shelter, the group return to Walkers Gap via the AT to conclude the hike.

After the hike, my car pool group decided to continue the day with a tour of Burkes Garden. We drove the loop around the Garden stopping at the General Store, the bridge at Gose Mill and to gawk at the camels grazing in meadows where surely only cows should be.

We had 14 participants including one canine companion. (PATH Members: Diana Billips and Maddie, Jim Houck, Barbara Council and Chris Allison. GUESTS: Returning guests, Melanie Cassell (3rd Hike), Greg and Ginny Smith (2nd Hike). First time guests, Linda Dillow, Ken Kestner, Terri and Brad Totten, Emily Cassell and Chad Totten.

Photos Posted - <http://www.path-at.org/gallery/Path-Photos-2010?page=33> Please check back as additional photos of this hike will be posted.

Diana Billips
PATH Hike Coordinator