

AGATE from Stony Fork - August 2013

From: Sylvia Swain

Subject: PATH - AGATE from Stony Fork.

The 'Girls' from Stony Fork Campground were a very expectance crew:

Janet Gibbons: she was a ridge runner, she has worked on crew multiple weeks, was a Konnarock camp coordinator for several years, worked as an assistant crew leader at both K-Rock and Rocky Top. She was the first camp coordinator and assistant crew leader at Rocky Top. She is also an RN...just in case we run into a mishap!

Kathryn Herndon: Most of you know Kathryn, she is a thru hiker, she worked one season as a care taker on the trail (I think Vermont). She has been with the crew at Konnarock and Rock-Top for two years. She has just accepted a position with the ATC, working out of the Blacksburg Office at this time.

Sylvia Swain : (yours truly)...I section hiked the trail (completed in 2000). This year was my 23rd year with Konnarock, I worked multiple weeks at Mid-Atlantic for 15 years and 14 yrs of multiple weeks with Rocky Top.

We got a ride and hit the trail from Rt. 717 at 9:30 AM..we started lopping from the trail head...when we hit the old road bed, we took our cut the full width!! We felt if we cut back far enough it would not need to be cut back for a couple years. After over six hours of cutting...(we had not reached the end of the road bed) we needed to assist the rest of the trail, so started hiking toward the camp ground.

Assessment:

1. The full trail needs to be cut back....maybe weed-trimmers and loppers for the heavy stuff on the sides and over head for the bikers.
2. One tree that is a leaner...we think it will be safe for a few years...If the mountain bikers feel unsafe, they should take it out.
3. One down tree about a mile from the Stony Fork Campground is across the trail...easy step over for hikers. If the biker's want to remove it (?).

All the trees that were down last year have been removed. The up rooted tree that Stephen spoke of is not an issue...the bikers have filled it in and make a jump out of it...hikers can walk across.

Happy Trails to all....life is good.

Sylvia