

April 2009 Trip Report

First of all many THANKS to all those PATH club members that VOLUNTEER their time.

Atila received another Cortisone shot today to relieve his pain in his shoulder and arm. I am somewhat able to type without pain. Here it goes!

I heard from long lost PATH worker - Brent Forbis - today. He is now living and working in Central Florida and very much misses the Mts. and his trail section from Settlers Museum to FS-86. He is doing well and hopes to someday return. Brent is the one that originally installed the steps - where there were none - just south of Chatfield Shelter. He did this almost single handedly. Great work Brent. He is very impressed with the work that PATH, Andrew and Kim have done in and around the shelter.

Work Trip Report:

1. Saturday - John Hartpence, Margaret Wainwright, Walter Trogdon and Steve Lund led a group of 6 scouts and 2 of their leaders on a short excursion from US-16 to FS-86 eradicating briars and small . The only briars left are those within 1/2 mile south of FS-86 in the beautiful rock garden just north of the meadow. Thanks for work well done.

2. Saturday - Herb MacDonald went south from MRNRA and lopped, cut blow downs, cleaned water bars all the way to 601. He was welcomed on the return trip by the USFS burning the area just south of MRNRA. I know the smoke and ash in the air did wonders for him. USFS did not notify PATH of this burning to take place. The scouts and their leaders who parked their cars at MRNRA had fears of singed vehicles and peeling paint. Thanks Herb MacDonald.

3. Saturday - The rest of the PATH crew along with Kerry Wood and K-rock crew leaders went to Olystery to work. We put in a spiral staircase above the steps which already existed and cut the trail back another 2-3 feet with matching slope on the back side of trail. We were helped by 7 through hikers that had been recruited the day before. All through hikers were given PATH patches and were very appreciative of them. We are left with doing another 60 feet of trail at the tree in the trail. 3 steps to install and 60 feet of new cribbing is needed. Hope to get it completed when we have Summerfest in June (18-22). Thanks to those that worked on this. I know that Paul will like the work done.

4. Friday - Bill, Bobby, Aubrey and John worked on putting in new dips on the trail just north of the stile behind Cumbows. More are needed on that section to throw water off of the trail.

5. Sunday - Dwight Levi worked on the Garden Mt. section from 623 to Walker Gap. He returned weekend later to install rock water bars and fix 2 of the rock slabs walk overs. Thanks Dwight.

Dwight also got an air compressor for the club to use to clean our chainsaws with. Thanks Dwight.

6. Wednesday & Thursday - It was a washout so Bill and Bobby rode the country roads getting mileage for the 2011 Biannual meeting at Emory & Henry College. We (Aubrey, Bill, Bobby) also visited with Steve Yonts and got a tour of the Tilson Tract and Plaster Plank Road- new purchase.

Do to the rain we did not get to the flagging of the relo in Crawfish Valley or just above Desert Dog hunting Camp.

7. Saturday & the Buffet - Path once again under the watchful eye of Walt and Charlene Davis had another spectacular dinner spread enjoyed by everyone. Thanks Walt & Charlene!.

Thanks to all those that participated in the camp cleanup on Saturday evening and Sunday AM. We got another good report.

PATH Workers:

Aubrey Arrington - 2, Bobby Bass - 6, Jack Bookman - 1, Bill Boudman - 6, Chris Bracknell - 2, Dharlene and Walt Davis - 5, David and Martha Emrey - 1, John Hartpence - 3, Dwight Levi - 2, Steve Lund - 1, Brian Nalley - 1, Amy Roberts - 1, Scouts (Troop 926) -11, Sylvia Swain - 2, Walter Trogdon - 1, Margaret Wainwright - 1, Herb MacDonald - 1, Hikers - 8, Steve Yonts - 1.

Thanks to all of those PATH workers that made this a very successful trip. We got many compliment from the 17 through hikers on the excellent condition of our trail. Remember our trail conditions are directly influenced by the excellent workers that we have in PATH that contribute their time and effort to the trail FREE OF CHARGE.

Bill Boudman
PATH
Trail Supervisor