

## **Chestnut Ridge Clean Up - July 2007**

Path spent 10 days on Chestnut Ridge and from Poor Valley to Lynn Camp Mountain. We had 21 Path members working during this week and were joined by Konnarock on Thursday . They had 5 workers and 2 crew leaders. Ted Wilson headed up the Konnarock team.

On Chestnut Ridge we cut the balds/meadows with a bush hog. The growth on the balds had almost enclosed the trail and in places was over 6 feet high. The team cut the trail from the shelter to the AT going into the woods(2 miles +). We had hoped to use the bush hog through Sunday, but on Friday one of the back tires came off the rim. Upon checking the "bald" tire, it had a 6 inch hole in it. David Hicks drove the bush hog back to camp by USFS 631. After cutting the balds we weedeated the Locust and Hawthorn stumps from the top meadow to the entrance into the woods. We also cut back any trees extending into the trail. We cut the area around the shelter. Mark Stanley came up early in the week and marked the milkweed so we did not cut it. The Monarch Butterflies use this for food. All week the meadow was full on Monarch Butterflies and various forms of Swallowtail butterflies. There was reports in the Register of the sighting of 2 bear cubs around the shelter, but we did not see them. We did see assorted snakes. On Saturday and Sunday-Karl Kunkel, Betsy Truscott, John Hartpence"John Boy"

worked under the guidance of David Hicks and opened 3 overlooks --Looking toward Walker Mt. and Mt. Rogers. On Saturday you could see Mt. Rogers and Whitetop Mt.(The two highest mountains in Virginia. During the week Carns were build on Chestnut Ridge to mark the trail. The Path to the Spring was cleared and the Spring box was cleaned out. Trail markers were put in place along the trail. David and Attila built one that is about 10 feet high. You will not miss that one!!

The Konnarock team worked from Poor Valley to Lynn Camp Mt. They were able to finish the Relo!! The following things were accomplished the following: Sidehilled-530', Rock Cribbing-88', Log Cribbing-44', Crush and fill-115', Log Steps-7, Rock Steps-5, Log Water Bar-1, Rock Water Bar-1, Rock Slab Work-25' with cribbing, and Coweta Dips-2. Thanks Ted for your leadership and hard work. The Konnarock team consisted of John Jaskolka(Path member), Jamie Hickman, Sylvia Swain(Path member), Bob " the spoon man" Reid, Jim Koloniar, Janet Gibbons(former Konnarock cook), Kelly Coxe and Ted Wilson.

Our base camp was maintained by Michael Poore. Thanks Mike for all your hard work. He acted as camp host and took care of the needs of our guests. We had many trail hikers visit Camp Attila. "Moving Target" spent Thursday night with us. The cooking was under the leadership of "Grip Hoist" Jim , International Chef Michael, and John Boy. We had

great meals that were enjoyed by all. Many Path members brought "goodies" from home. Thanks Mark Stanley for the cookies, Kelly for the Banana Bread, Libby for the cookies, Marcia for the Brownies and Vaughn for her first Tomato. On Saturday night we had a surprise birthday party for Attila the Young one and John boy the older. Thanks everyone for this. The cake and ice cream were wonderful. I will always remember this. Vaughn Thomas is working on the next issue of the Trail Guide and she share with us some of the new information in the book. Marcia Cope came by and delivered handouts for the upcoming 10th Annual Dawg Days. You can read about this on our web page. At night we were entertained by stories from Ted Wilson and Bob "the spoon man". We had a great week. The weather was great. We only had rain on Thursday night. From Friday through Monday the temperature was in the 40's when we got up. The Coffee( made by John boy and John Jaskolka at 5:30 am) was appreciated by all. Dexter had to put on his sweater he was so cold. He also found enough willing laps to keep him warm. One of the great meals was the Salmon Cakes made by our International Chef Michael.

Additional work done and fruitful news on work trip. We have found that the bobcat and brush hog make a beautiful gravel mix when it runs over cairns.

Seriously I want to thank Paul Haag for writing the grant for the bush hog, David Hicks for all the trips up 631 etc. and his endless time running the machine, Paul for his Attila driving lesson and his days in the

saddle. Thanks goes out to John, Jim and Michael for their endless hours planning meals. Thanks to all the club members that did show up for the worktrip and to help Konnarock.

Attila had a meeting with EMS in Burkes Garden and delivered Maps (topo & AT) to aid them in their course of Rescue work along Garden Mt. and Chestnut Ridge. They have a real nice facility in Burkes Garden next to the Grocery Store. We are invited at any time to use their facility when in Burkes Garden.

We finally after 3 years have finished our Lynn Camp project. Thanks to all who helped. Thanks to all who worked so hard clearing Chestnut Ridge. The view up there are fabulous.

The following are the Path workers on this trip and the days they worked. If I have them wrong let me know,

21 workers--Bill Boudman-13 Jim Houck-13, David Hicks-9, Michael Poore-9, John Hartpence-5, Betsy Truscott-5, Will Merritt-5, Paul Haag-3, Bob Normandy-3, Mark Stanley-3, Tom Dillon-3, Dwight Levi-3, Gray Hauser-3, James Hauser-3, Will Burke-3, Karl Kunkel-1, William "doc"Branham-1, Vaughn Thomas-1, Libby Levi-1, Josh Smith-1, and Jon Firebaugh-1.

In August we will have "Dawg Days"--August 3-5 at Marcia Cope's Hacienda. The August worktrip will be

at Stoney Fork Camp Ground on August 17-19. Hope that you all can attend these events.

Thanks again to all who contributed to the success of this worktrip.

Happy Trails,

John boy(Secretary) and Guard dog Dexter the wonder dog