

July 2010 Volunteer Trip Report

Thanks to the 14 volunteers that showed up for the July PATH Konnarock work trip. Jim and I were really appreciative of all the help we received in carrying in tools, Saturday Meal and carrying out of tools. It makes life a lot easier when we have Volunteers who take time out of their busy schedule to help. The Volunteers had 45 work days.

The Bridge at Laurel has stringers, walkway and were working on the handrail when we left.

It was a 5 mile hike in and out. One mile up hill, three miles across, and one mile down.

The days were hot and humid and we were blessed with rainfall on two of the days. It took Konnarock Crew about 5 hours to get in fully. Short work day for them and long day for Bill Sadler, John Jaskolka, Jim Houck, Aubrey Arrington, and Bill Boudman.

Many thanks to those VOLUNTEERS.

Wednesday: Bill, Jim, John J., Bill S. arrive at base camp and gather supplies for K-rock and Dawg Days.

Thursday: Bill loads the mower, and we caravan over to 615, Laurel Creek, ahead of K-rock and unload supplies for Dawg Days at Marcia's. Meet K-rock at trail head around 9:30-10:00. Aubrey is waiting for us. Hike in in the blistering heat with sweat pouring out. Unload tools and food and hike back out. Camp at Marcia's for the evening and throughout K-rock trip.

Bill S. and John J. cut Marcias lawn that evening with the DR Mower and hers.

Friday: The four of us leave early for Walker Gap to meet us with Buford Neal who is going to cut our awful, overgrown, and neglected meadow. We are fortunate to ride in a gator to the area below the pond. I can not tell or describe how awful the briars weeds and grass are. It is disgraceful and I hate to claim it as a section of our trail.

Buford tells us he hopes to get it cut, 2-4 swaths on either side of the trail. He will cut it with his sickle bar tractor which should take less time than with a bush hog. God Bless Buford when he gets it down. Incidentally Buford joins the club on the spot.

One lady hiker we met looked like she had been attacked by a bob wire fence.

Saturday: The four of us went to KFS and picked up 4 buckets of chicken, a case and half of beer, green beans and slaw, and 2 liters of wine from Paul H. along with 2 liters of Bobby's finest. We were followed by Drew Jones who met Paul, on injured reserve, who delivered what he promised.

David Faucette, David John and Jeff Brown arrived early and cut briars along with

lopping to the drop off into Jenkins. They turned back only to be passed by the 4 horsemen.

Upon depositing the food we sent John J. and Bill S. on there way S on the trail toward 623. We were going North, we had to take out 50 lbs of trash, 100 lbs of candy bars and granola, 1 fully packed back pack along with a tent. We had all of this to carry out and only two people. Thank God that Drew Jones came along with the wine and a big empty pack. After hiking out Bill drives over to 623 to pick up Bill S. and John J. who have managed to hitch hike to US-42. The driver was sold on PATH and may join later.

Sunday: Bill S., John J. were sent to Olystery to cut trail head and trail, Puncheons at Arten Repass's, and the puncheons behind Cumbows on US-11. Bill and Jim along with Diana Billups cut the trail N of 610 which was impassable and the went over to the Tilson Tract and cut more trail. Atilla was left bleeding.

Monday: The four horsemen hike in to Jenkins in the pouring rain and meet K-rock on the way out. We carry the left over tools and food out. We then transported to Sugar Grove and unloaded our stuff along with theirs.

Atilla drops a note to WJ on the condition of the meadow on the N side of 610. It was deplorable.

Tuesday: Bill and Chris cut the meadow S of Cumbows - US-11 and Chris continues on the N side of I-81. Jim and Bill stay at 623 Trail head that evening.

Wednesday: 7:30 AM Bill and Jim meet up with Stephen (invasive plants student). Leave his vehicle along with Atilla's at 623. Jim drives us all to Walker Gap Trail Head.

We find Colts Foot, Garlic Mustard and another invasive on this section of trail from the Gap to 623. Small patches.

Atilla transports Stephen to 615 so he can hike back to 623. He had a long day.

Atilla heads home, Jim to Narrows only to return for Dawg Days.

Volunteers:

Jim Houck 11, Bill Boudman 10, Bill Sadler 7, John Jaskolka 7, Paul Haag 1, Drew Jones 1, David Faucette 2, David John 2, Aubrey Arrington 1, Jeff Brown 1, Diana Billups 1, Chris Bracknell 1.

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