

April 2011 Path Work and Hike Report

We had a good week. Mon-Wed we got a lot of work done around basecamp. (USFS sign moved back, new gate posts installed, 2 pods painted and lot of leaf raking and general cleaning)

Thursday- Bill, Aubrey and Joe Parrish walked the new Walker Gap South relocation to the new water source. The trail looks like it is being well used. Water is now flowing freely in the spring box. Stopped up a little by debris from March cleaning out. I think everything went alright with ATC with us removing a pointless PUD -view in winter will be blue blazed- and establishing a new and much more reliable water source. I toured the Tilson Tract with Joe and Aubrey. Joe GPS all of the important spots we covered in our hikes last year. We will GPS more points later. Chris cleaned and put in water bars on the Cumbow property S of US-11.

On Thursday Jim Hanes (Hanes Industries- Winston-Salem) met us at Walker Gap. He had a question for Joe Parrish and I do hope we get a solution to the problem. Joe is taking care of it. Jim sold a lot of the land he and his family owned to USFS on Walker Gap to Chestnut Ridge.

Friday- Bill, Chris and Dwight cut locust wood and stakes to use for a turnpike on the Kegley property. Friday evening and Saturday Morning had very high winds. Atilla and his truck rocked in the wind.

Saturday- It was a wash out. High wind warnings were out along with heavy rain. Atilla did not want to put PATH workers in a dangerous situation so we did not go out. No official assignments. A couple went out on their own. One thing good about Saturday was the good BF that Atilla served and the PATH bonding around the wood burning stove.

Atilla left around noon. His ride home was interesting. He was on the tail wind of all the damage done by the storms. Many vehicles along side the road. They were single vehicles which I believe hydro planed or were forced over by the high winds. Atilla arrives home to find a yard covered with limbs and debris. No wind damage to house. We escaped the worst on the west side of Raleigh. There were 17 air plane diversions to RDU due to the storm.

Those working this week:

Boudman 7, Jeff Brown 1, Dwight Levi 3, Walt & Charlene Davis 2, Ann Ramsey 2, David Faucette 2, Steve Lund 2, Margaret Wainright 2, Aubrey Arrington 3, Chris Bracknell 2, Sylvia Swain 6, Ed Martin 1, Tyler Dishmon 1, Nathan Wyatt 1, Dustin Wyatt 1, Herb MacDonald 1, Barbara council 1, Josh Kloehn 1.

Bill Boudman
PATH
Trail Supervisor

Followup on Tornadoes

What a weekend in North Carolina. All week we watched the storms move from Oklahoma/Texas across the USA. Friday we saw the storms in Arkansas, Alabama and Georgia. We saw it hit Tuscaloosa. They were getting ready for the big Red/White football game on Saturday. The town was hit, but not much damage to the University of Alabama. It move toward the race track where NASCAR was having their races on Saturday and Sunday. 45,000 race fanatics were camped out and no where to go if it hit them. Fortunately, they were missed. Saturday the storms moved into NC. Between 12:30pm and 1:30pm the area around Salisbury was hit. Four miles from our house on US 601 two tornadoes came down. 601

had trees blown over the road and it was closed until after midnight. A development on Newport Road was hit and between 18 and 20 houses suffered major damage. However, no one was hurt. There was another tornado out US 70 near Cleveland. Damage was done to houses, but no one was hurt. The storms moved toward Greensboro and points east. Around 4pm the storms hit Sanford. A Lowes was totaled and a Home Depot across the street was destroyed. Fortunately the manager of the Lowes saw the storm coming and he moved 70 customers and the employees to the back of the store and no one was injured. The storm continued toward Raleigh. It hit over around South Saunders Street. Businesses and houses were destroyed. Shaw University took a hit destroying the cafeteria and a few other buildings. The windows were broken in the dorms. They decided to close the school for the year as only 2 weeks remained in the Spring semester. Unfortunately there was loss of life and injuries in Raleigh. The storms went toward the coast. Bertie County (a rural county near Elizabeth City) was hit hard. Over ten people were killed there. Sylvia Swain says a tornado hit Fayetteville destroying Pine Forest High School. Over 62 tornadoes hit NC and the death toll for these tornadoes (across the USA) is over 40. It is the most tornadoes (since 1984) in NC. The reports on the damage, injuries and deaths will be coming out soon. The rescue and damage teams still have a lot of work to do to get the final figures. I hope that you have been spared any damage to your property. Please keep us posted on your experiences with the storms this past weekend. We have returned to beautiful weather again---sunshine and temperatures in the Seventies.

Have a good week.

john hartpence---Secretary/PATH

Hike Report

After a cool start this morning with temperatures in the high 30s, the day warmed into the 60s and ended up being a perfect day to be out on the trail. We started at Mt Rogers Headquarters and took a few minutes to explore Partnership Shelter. Surprisingly we had it all to ourselves. We did meet a thru-hiker about half a mile up the trail who wanted to know how far to Partnership and that he'd heard he could order PIZZA and have it delivered? We assured him he could. He must have been thinking pizza for breakfast. Without the leaf cover we were able to enjoy good views of Rye Valley and so decided to stop for lunch before starting down off Brushy. We had several opportunities to partner some trail maintenance with our fun hike as the recent high high winds and storms and brought down a couple trees and lots of limbs. The hike concluded at VA670 at the South Fort of the Holston. Kevin graciously volunteered to shuttle us back to Mt Rogers Headquarters in 'Big Blue' which may have been the highlight of the hike for some of us! We had ten hikers and four canine companions. (Kevin Sharp, David Faucette, Donalee White, Steven Wright, Tonya McLaughlin, Tammy Lowry and Sienna, Margaret Wainwright and Mia, Chris Allison, Diana Billips and Maddie, Gary Taylor and Ruba)

Several signed up for the 70 Mile Club!

Check out the hike photos starting at photo 53. http://www.path-at.org/gallery/Path-Photos-2011/IMG_9046

Happy Hiking,
Diana
PATH Hike Coordinator