

TRAILWRITES

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TRAILWRIGHTS

SPRING-SUMMER 2011

Ray's Ramblings

Greetings,

Trailwrights is alive and well! Inside you'll see a report of our 2010 workshops compiled by Hal Graham one of the founders of our hard working trail crew. You will notice we focused our efforts in Franconia Notch State Park on our adopted trail Artists Bluff/Bald Mountain Loop and the Indian Head Mt. Pemigewassett trails. Some of the new construction occurred on the Short Circuit Trail completing a loop with the Artists' Bluff trail.

On National Trails Day we continued work on the Dan Doan Trail with members of the Doan family joining us for the day.

A new experience in October was two days of work at Mount Tom in Holyoke, Mass. I am pleased to report that while we are a small group, we completed more than 736.5 volunteer hours.

Check out the calendar as to the 2011 projects and where you might like to join us. We are scheduled to return to Mt. Tom in May to check on how the winter affected our work and continue onto the ridge area of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail.

Another new area, which is overdue, is giving back to the Fox Forest 30 mile trail system. The staff and administration have supported Trailwrights over the years for our annual meeting venue and the opportunity and space to prepare the trailer and tools for the upcoming trails season.

Cold River Camp in Chatham, New Hampshire is always a favorite for trail workers is again sponsoring several projects on Memorial Weekend and the first weekend in June. Be sure to register with them if you'll be attending.

Raynold Jackson
President



Cleaning the griphoist cable following a workday on the Short Circuit Trail. More on page 4.



Peggy Graham clearing the path at Artists Bluff.

Trailwrights Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 9, 10-4 pm
Fox Forest, Hillsboro, NH

Renew friendships, Renew memberships
Election of officers, Spring & Summer Planning
Slide show featuring highline work on the AT in Maine
Ice Cream and Potluck dinner

See Calendar for details

Calendar

Board Meetings - May -- June 21: Trailwrights Board of Directors meet on the third Monday of each month, at the home of Dan and Rita Blanchette in Concord, NH. Pizza is served at 6:30, meeting begins at 7 p.m. Call 603-226-0621 or knapsac@aol.com for directions and pizza reservation.

Sat., April 9. The Annual meeting of Trailwrights will be held at the events building at Fox Forest State Forest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our goal is to repair and sharpen the tools and inspect our cables and winches for wear. We will have access to the building for coffee and a Brown Bag lunch. As is our tradition the ice cream will be served before the business meeting and program. The business portion of the day will include the election of officers and the annual finance report. This year the program will feature a slide show of the Baxter State Park "Highliners", the optimum trail hardening, rock placement experience. Members and guests are welcome and encouraged to contribute their trail building comments. The day concludes with a potluck dinner. All are welcome to join us. Questions regarding the meal, program, tool repair and/or directions to Fox Forest should contact Ray Jackson at 978-597-8813, 603-891-1131 or rayjanejackson@aol.com.

May 20, 21 & 22, Mt Tom, Holyoke, MA: This Trailwrights workshop will again bring the Friends of the Mt. Tom Reservation, AMC Berkshire Chapter and Trailwrights to continue repair

Continued

Trailwrights Trail Work Report: 2010

by Hal Graham

June 5 - Dan Doan Trail, National Trails Day

With a poor weather report and smaller turn out, we concentrated on getting more of the badly needed erosion control rather than doing repair work. We did get in five rock reinforced water bars, and cleaned all water bars and drainage from the two previous years and continued adding to the trail side ditching on the lower road part. We had a great day after all and a special thanks to Cooperhill and Jason Berard for going ahead and cleaning out all the winter's blowdowns. Glenn S., Dick, Hal & Peggy, Thane, Hamish, Darrell and Ray for the hard work involved. I hope we can continue the saving of this very neglected trail named in honor of a man so dedicated to hiking and the outdoors, who by the way was very supportive and a member of Trailwrights in its formative early years. It is the least we can do. 10 people x 7 hr. = 70 hr.

June 26 - Artist's Bluff, Bald Mountain Loop, Franconia Notch State Park

Our adopted trail had 17 helpers to brush, blaze, remove blowdowns and move 13 large granite rocks after setting up a hi-line. All water bars and drainages on the loop were cleaned. Special thanks to the Pemi Valley Search and Rescue group with 10 members to complement the 7 Trailwrights. Also to Chief Allan for pizza. 17 people x 7 hr. = 119 hr.

July 17 - Mt. Pemigewasset Trail, Franconia Notch State Park

Thanks to all 20 workers who gave a day of their busy lives to help us begin the rebuilding of this trail that gets so much use and a great family hike. Badly eroded in many places. Together we installed 16 water bars made of 8 rock, 6 rock reinforced earth, and 2 earth. Installed 6 granite block steps, 5 regular rock steps and 5 rock steps to harden a wet area. A 25 sq. ft. wet area was drained. Also contributing to the efforts were the Cardigan Highlanders under the leadership of Craig Sanborn, installing 2 rock and 1 earth water bar as well as quarrying rock for future steps. 15 Trailwrights 20 x 7 hr. = 140 hr.

August 28 - North Twin Trail, White Mountain National Forest

5 Trailwrights members helped on one of our own on this adopted trail drain-

ing and hardening several wet areas. We accomplished a lot with a small crew and all were happy with the results. Together we installed 6 rock steps, hardened the wet areas with rock step stones, replaced 1 wood water bar with all rock. 5 Trailwrights 2 others 7 x 7 hr. = 49 hr.

Sept. 25 - Mt. Pemigewasset Trail, Franconia Notch State Park

Trailwrights had fun with 11 happy workers who came from many parts



of the area: Quebec, Maine, Massachusetts, and of course, NH. We chose a particularly eroded area to teach moving rock with a hi-line and place rock steps and build rock water bars and installing paving stones. Those interested in numbers: Installed 9 rock steps, 13 paver stones, 2 rock water bars, 2 earth water bars. 5 Trailwrights and 6 others 11 x 7.5 hr. = 82.5 hr. We also enjoyed a great meal provided by the Indian Head Resort to whom we are grateful, thanks to Gene Bouley.

Oct. 10 - Artist's Bluff/Bald Mountain Loop, Franconia Notch State Park

Back to our adopted trails for more fun. 5 Trailwrights and 2 PemiValley S&R worked together again. All water bars and drainages were cleaned and ready for spring. The rest of the day was spent on the Short Circuit Trail that connects the Loop. This work consisted of side hilling and crib construction. The numbers: Installed 13 rock steps, 15 Lin. Ft. of side hilling and 30 Lin. Ft. of Rock cribbing. 5 Trailwrights 2 PVSR 7 x 8 hr. = 56 hr.

October 30, 31 2010 - Mount Tom State Reservation, Holyoke, MA

Trailwrights members Mike and Sue

Zlogar, Dave Dick, Paul Chartier, Darrell Hamilton and Raynold Jackson, gathered at the Mount Tom Reservation in Holyoke, Mass with 23 volunteers recruited by the AMC Berkshire Chapter.

The Metacomet-Monadnock Trail Committee and the Friends of the Mount Tom Reservation requested help from Trailwrights to plan and lead a project to restore about 300 yards of trail that has been eroded. Trail adopter Elbert Bowler had identified this heavily used section as a priority based on hiker safety.

There is evidence that this section of trail was used by native Americans going back at least 1000 years. The advisory group and DCR wants to maintain this historic route. The trail also includes two sets of rock steps constructed by the CCC, a feature that is important to the historic trail.

In 2009 the trail was designated as a National Scenic Trail. The New England Scenic Trail (NET) includes the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail and the Massabeset Trail in CT

The trail is on a traprock ridge which provided abundant material (basalt and sandstone) from which to construct a durable tread way

During the two days we worked, the volunteers:

- Quarried large and small rocks to build crib walls to stabilize the trail
- Excavating and side-hilling were required the full length of the run to provide a safe tread way considering the severe drop off
- Installed 8 rock steps on the approximately 250 feet of trail that ascended at 25% grade
- Employed an AC powered hammer drill to establish the tread way in an area of bedrock
- Reconstructed a switchback, installing 4 steps and regarding the approaches
- About 100 feet of trail was side-hilled to rebuild the tread way
- At the lowest section, we widened, hardened, and reinstalled 5 rock steps for better stability.
- About 400 feet of tread way was graded to create an out slope for better drainage

The work, camaraderie and the food made for an ideal two day experience. Special thanks to the M & M Trail Committee for providing food for all the volunteers. We were greeted with a continental breakfast and provided snacks and lunch on the trail and ended with pizza at the end of the day. Thanks to Mike and Sue Zlogar for all the scouting and planning days which made the job easier. 2 days = 210 hours.°

736.5 HOURS!



North Twin Trail Work

submitted by Glenn S

Hal Graham suggested to me that we make a Trailwrights work trip on my and MtnDaves adopted trail, the North Twin Trail. That was like having Bill Belichick offering to coach your Pop Warner team. I quickly took him up on his offer. The only thing left to do was to scope the project, pick a date and assemble a crew. The objective for the day would be erosion control in the part of the trail between the second and third water crossings. Why that area? Well, it needs work and it's relative easy to get to. Easy is the key word. The thought of carrying a pack, an 18 lb rock bar and a shovel any higher on the NTT was enough to make me cry. So, I suggested that area.

Seven of us met at the North Twin Trail head on Saturday. At the trailhead, we meet a group from Hike-NH getting ready to head off for HardcoreIdiots NH 48 completion (Congratulations) We made good time to the work site making both crossings of the Little River with dry feet. Our intrepid crew quickly attacked several muddy areas. In what seemed like an instant, several areas were hardened with step stones.



Mount Tom Holyoke, Mass.



On the trails

Hiking chairman Dan Blanchette and Hal and Peggy Graham, lead hikes throughout the year and welcome Trailwrights and friends to join them.

Please e-mail or call to see what's on their schedule and signup.

We try to update the Trailwrights website on hiking opportunities as well.

Trailwrights Directory

www.Trailwrights.org ; • Trailwrights@pobox.com

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Artists' Bluff, Bald Mountain Loop



Near the Franconia Notch Short Circuit Trail Trailwrights and members of the PemiValley Search and Rescue attended to trail improvements.



Calendar

Continued

and new construction on the Metacomet Monadnock/New England National Scenic Trail. The trail work will include water bars, tread way reconstruction and steps above last years work area toward the ridge line and refurbishment below as needed. Lunch will be provided on the trail work site, dinner will be at a local restaurant after we finish work. Questions on work and logistics should be directed to Mike at 413-253-7522 or mzlogar@comcast.com.

Sat., May 28, Artist Bluff/ Bald Mtn. Loop, Franconia Notch State Park.

We will concentrate on our Adopted trail only. Bald Mtn. and the Bluff. We will be paint blazing the loop along with cleaning all water bars and drainages. This is an all day project. If time permits and enough help we can install more. We will know more after a patrol of the trails. Plans could change. Meet at the parking area across from the Peabody Slopes. 1/2 mile from The I-93 Parkway on NH 18, exit 34C. Just past the Tramway exit. Tools provided, bring lunch, water, gloves, etc. and plan on enjoying the views from the top of Bald Mtn. and the Bluff. Contact Hal 603-286-3506 or halpeg76@metrocast.net for more information.

Fri. - Mon., May 27-30 and June 3-5: Chatham, NH: Chatham Trails Work

Weekends provide a great opportunity to learn skills working on trails, but also to make new friends, enjoy good meals, lodging and hot showers too. Our Trailwrights' member Mike Zlogar is the CTA Trails Chair and will provide you with project information, call 413-253-7522 or mzlogar@comcast.net. Sandy Finn, the Volunteer Registrar is also a Trailwright. She looks forward to hearing from you as to when you'll be arriving, especially if attending Friday supper and how long you'll be staying. Contact her at www.chatham-trails.org or sandycta@comcast.net. For those new to this adventure - working two days in the US Forest with CTA, you'll receive a one year membership in CTA and a free pass to park/hike at White Mountain pay sites.

Sat., June 4, National Trails Day, Orford NH: The Dan Doan trail.

It is time again to continue the repair and maintenance started a few years ago. The work will consist of adding more water bars, cleaning existing structures and if enough help installing rock steps. Water bars is #1 priority to control the erosion and stabilize what is there now. It is hoped that we can get enough interest to form a local group that would adopt this trail and continue the repairs and assist the Doan family in preserving Dan's legacy. Just one day a year is not enough to get this trail protected. What has been done so far has helped the trail heal in areas that have improved somewhat but much more is needed. Tools provided, bring lunch, water, gloves etc. and a desire to help out. We meet at 8:30 at the junction of NH Rt. 25A and Quintown Rd. From NH Rt. 25 in Wentworth it is about 10.5 miles on 25A (on the left) From Rt.10 in Orford it is 3.9 miles on NH Rt. 25A to Quintown Rd.(on the right). Contact Hal at 603-286-3506 or halpeg76@metrocast.net. for more information.

Sat., June 18, Fox Forest, Hillsborough, NH: Trailwrights will work with

the Forest and Lands Property Manager Inga Seyboyer and Friends of Fox Forest volunteers to improve a segment of the 30-mile trail system We will work on drainage of approximately one half mile of trail that remains wet most of the year. For information contact Trailmaster Dave Dick at 603-464-4628 or ddick@cmcast.net or Ray Jackson at 978-597-8813 rayjanejackson@aol.com

Sat., July 16, New Hampshire Trails Day, Mt. Pemigewasset Trail Franconia Notch State Park:

Join Trailwrights for another day of fun, concentrating on much needed installation of water bars on the middle section of this trail. Rock work can be included if enough help and leadership joins us, but drainage is foremost. Meet at 8:30 in the Flume parking area at the beginning of the bike path. Tools are provided bring lunch, water, gloves etc. for the day. Contact Hal 603-286-3506 or halpeg76@metrocast.net for more information.