

## **Kennesaw Mountain Trail Maintenance Organizational Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2002**

Marion Harris and John Cissell welcomed the group and introduced Richard Angeli, who led the meeting. Those attending introduced themselves indicating that several groups were represented: GATC, Fun Hikes, Boy Scouts, Saddle Up Cobb, KSU, Atlanta Audubon Society, Cobb Land Trust, families, schools, and churches.

Richard stated that the purpose of the meeting was to form a committee to look at writing a charter and mission statement and setting up a board. GATC volunteers will provide training for the Kennesaw Mountain volunteers in trail maintenance.

The following ideas came from a brainstorming session lead by Richard Angeli.

- May need budget in the future
- May need fundraiser and/or grant writer expertise.
- Look into partnering with existing 501C3 organizations.
- Survey/inventory of trails and condition of trails. Set priorities.
- Conservation.
- Mountain biking group has equipment for maintaining trails/ trail-building equipment and expertise.
- Heavy use of Kennesaw Mountain was compared to that of Blood Mountain. May use same strategies that GATC used there.
- Education:
  - Trail building
  - Educate users on low impact use, etiquette, dog and horse wastes.
- Trash removal. Involve scouts.
- Scouts have Kennesaw Mountain patch to earn so may revive and promote this for reward and possibly sell for fundraiser.
- Historic preservation: keeping people on the trails will protect earthworks.
- Future planning may include a Leave No Trace program for park users.
- Look at road crossings.

It was noted that the park service has to approve projects this group proposes. Volunteers who officially sign on as park volunteers are covered by workman's compensation. Also, all volunteers should keep record of the hours worked as this helps the park's federal budget.

A committee was formed to look at writing a charter, by-laws, and mission statement and for organizing a board. The group will also contact schools and other organizations for partnering and will determine what leadership officers will be needed. (Suggested: President, Vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, trail supervisor.) Those volunteering for this committee are Cathy Neher, Leah Urben, Tom Okerberg ( will look into filing a 501C3 form), Richard Angeli, and Lewis Bramlett.

The park is sponsoring a cookout for volunteers on September 10. The next meeting is planned for September 26 at 7:00 p.m. and possibly for every fourth Thursday. The committee will set an agenda.