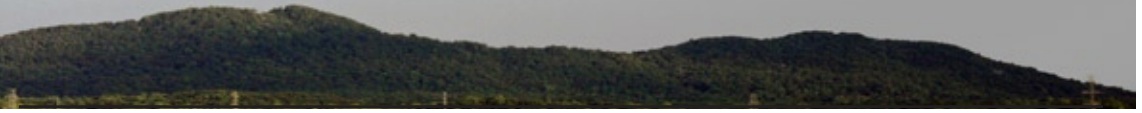




EARTHWORKS



Volume 3, Issue 8

December, 2009

Trail Ambassador Program Begins

Adding Trail Ambassadors at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to the mission of the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club has been a club goal for the last year. As of November, 2009, an initial group of trained Trail Ambassadors has been formed. The main purpose of the Trail Ambassadors is to assist the National Park Service in their interpretive and trail patrol functions. Their duties are to educate park users to respect and enjoy the historical aspects of the park by providing information and directions. They also inform visitors of park regulations and contact the NPS park rangers (or other law enforcement authorities) in case of violations or emergencies.

The first Trail Ambassador training was held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at the park Visitor Center, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. The new Trail Ambassadors are Leah Urben, David Strand, Anne Strand, Jay Haney, Anne Page Mosby, Alicia Gutierrez, Jay Dement, Kerry Sustak, and Ed Holsworth.

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Crew Leaders Needed in 2010 at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

If you've volunteered at Kennesaw Mountain in the past & know it's something you'll enjoy doing in the future, you should consider becoming a trained Crew Leader with the club! Before any volunteer is allowed to walk into the park with a shovel or rake, the National Park Service requires a trained Crew Leader be with them. Local community groups contact us regularly asking if there's a possibility their organization could do a project at the Park and it always depends on if any Crew Leader is available to supervise.

The next 2 years at the park are going to be exciting times for the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club! The park's new strategic trail plan will be implemented soon & create many new projects. For the majority of those projects, the Park staff will turn to the all-volunteer members of KMTTC to complete them.

Our next Crew Leader training course will be on Sat. Feb. 6th, and Sat. & Sun. Feb. 20-21. The 3-day course is offered once a year and covers topics of: Trail Design & Layout / Construction & Maintenance / Crew Leader Skills. Space is limited and the park will pay the course tuition for candidates who've volunteered at 2 trail club workdays in the past & who also agree to participate in at least 3 monthly trail club work days in 2010.

If you'd like to support Kennesaw Mountain NB Park as a trained Crew Leader, please drop us an e-mail at KMTCtrails@KennesawMountainTrailClub.org.



Trail Ambassador Program Begins

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The training began with a welcome by Retha Stephens, Park Volunteer Coordinator and the showing of a video on the national Volunteers in Parks programs of the National Park Service. Retha then provided an overview of folders that included a copy of the Trail Ambassador responsibilities; NPS brochures on Volunteers in Parks, Kennesaw Mountain and the CCC at Kennesaw Mountain; Key Phone Numbers; articles on national parks and trail etiquette; and the book by Dennis Kelly, former park historian, "**Kennesaw Mountain and the Atlanta Campaign.**"

Two of the park law enforcement rangers, Anthony and Rich, presented a briefing on their areas of responsibility in the park and some of the problems that they encounter. They stated that when the volunteer Ambassadors find a situation that should be investigated by the rangers, they should call the Visitor Center with the information. When, however, a situation is an immediate emergency, the Ambassador should call 911. If reporting an injury, the volunteer must be as specific as possible about the location of the injured person.

Retha Stephens stressed the need for the Trail Ambassadors to be familiar with the history of the battlefield and to know the roads and trails. She stressed that the Trail Ambassadors truly represent the National Park Service when they are on duty in the park. Each of the Trail Ambassadors has been issued a uniform of a khaki shirt with NPS volunteer and KMTC patches and a NPS volunteer cap. Waist packs with first aid kits will also be provided to Trail Ambassadors.

Anne Strand requested that the Trail Ambassadors keep notes on their hours of volunteer work, areas patrolled, comments and findings. At the end of each month, a summary report will be submitted.

It was determined that this initial group of Trail Ambassadors will meet again in January 2010. After the January program review, a strategy will be developed to recruit additional volunteer Trail Ambassadors in order to expand the program. The club hopes that this new initiative will assist the park staff and visitors and support further involvement of the community in the mission of the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club.

Submitted by

Anne Strand, KMTC Secretary

"Earthworks" is published monthly by the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Corps.

Editor: Fred Feltmann
770-516-9120

E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net

Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

Restoration?

One of the last steps we often perform as part of a trail maintenance project is "restoration" of the trail edges and corridor area. This can be as simple as spreading natural ground cover materials over areas we have exposed during our work or, more significant like blocking off old trails or "short cuts" made by the thousands of visitors we get in the park each year.

The goal of every trail maintenance project is to improve the trail while also leaving it looking like it had never been touched and providing deterrents that will prevent hikers from straying off the designated trail for a period of time long enough for new vegetation to grow up and protect the area naturally.

Although some deterrents built with rocks and dead trees might not look very natural at first, they are usually quickly hidden by new vegetation growing up between them. The job of scavenging and positioning of natural materials is often best suited for the younger volunteers; however many of the adults also enjoy the challenge of being artful in positioning materials along with the satisfaction of seeing the project looking great after it is finished. The true test is to be able to come back several months later and see the healthy new growth in place doing its job of guiding hikers down the trail's designated tread area.

Scott MacKay



Help Us Maintain the Trails at Kennesaw Mountain National Park Donate Online Now!

The Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club helps preserve the historic features and maintain the 20+ miles of trails throughout the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. It is a committed partner with the National Park Service in its mission to commemorate the history of the battlefield and protect its environmental features.

Since its beginnings in 2002, the club has provided only "sweat equity" volunteer hours to support the park. Now this new fund-raising initiative will support the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club's involvement in the new park strategic plan that opens up more areas of the park and adds miles to the trail system. 100% of the funds raised will support the Trail Club's mission of protecting the park and improving the trails.

Donate today to ensure that visitors and local residents alike can continue to enjoy a great, FREE, educational and recreational experience in one of the last areas of undeveloped land in Cobb County. By contributing, you'll help ensure future generations can enjoy a wilderness experience in the middle of metropolitan Atlanta!

Donate Online by using Guidestar on the Trail Club website <http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>. The Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club was incorporated as KEMOTrail Corps, Inc. as a nonprofit corporation and approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 C(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Matching Gifts

You can make your donation dollars go further by having your employer match your gift to the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club.

Monthly Participation

We invite you to continue to work with the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club on the monthly Trail Work Days every second Saturday of the month and join us for special events like the Garlic Mustard Pull in April and National Trail Day in June.



If you prefer, you may also give by mail:

Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club
Attn: Tom Okerberg, Treasurer
Whitlock Accounting Services
739 Kennesaw Ave. Ext. NE
Marietta, GA 30060

For more information, contact Jay Haney, Development Director
770-424-0635.



The Man is Ted Ragsdale, Age 86, when this was taken at our January 8, 2005, The unidentified cub scout is only 6. Together, they were part of our maintenance crew that day!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2ND SATURDAY WORKDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

PARK SERVICE AREA

TIME: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Projects: -- Backside of Little K. -- trail improvements
-- 2nd project -- TBD

2ND SATURDAY WORKDAY, JANUARY 9, 2010

PARK SERVICE AREA

TIME: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Projects -- Backside of Little K. -- trail improvements
-- 2nd project -- TBD

CREW LEADER TRAINING - SAT. FEB 6 FOR THE 1ST SESSION
SAT & SUN. FEB. 20 - 21 FOR SESSIONS 2 & 3

More details to follow!

2ND SATURDAY WORKDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

PARK SERVICE AREA

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Civil War Picket Writes About Us!

Phil Ghast, publisher of the *Civil War Picket*, is a fan of ours. He routinely walks the trails and has observed our efforts.

You can view his article at:

<http://civil-war-picket.blogspot.com/2009/11/trail-club-keeps-visitors-moving-safely.html>.

Donations - Matching Grants

For those of you who donate to our cause, as a reminder, please check with your employer as well. Companies, such as Lockheed and Bank of America have programs to either match employee donations or, in the case of Lockheed, will donate funds to a charitable organization for "sweat labor." Be sure to investigate it!

Mark Your 2010 Calendars!

2010 Work Day Schedule

Jan. 9th	trail work day
Feb. 13th	trail work day
Mar. 13th	trail work day
Apr. 3rd	Garlic Mustard Pull
Apr. 10th	trail work day
May 8th	trail work day
June 5th	National Trails Day
July 10th	trail work day
Aug. 14th	trail work day
Sept. 11th	trail work day
Oct. 2nd	Hands on Atlanta Day
Oct.. 9th	trail work day
Nov. 13th	trail work day
Dec. 11th	trail work day

We realize, as much as we'd like, that you can't make every one of our work days. However, please know that we appreciate whatever days that you can make, especially the Special days highlighted above.

The Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club is a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving the beauty & history of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. We work closely with the Park Service and assist the park staff by providing critically needed volunteer effort to install signs, build bridges, and maintain the 20+ miles of trails.

Since our beginning in 2002, the Trail Club has donated over 35,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

If your school, church, business, or community organization would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity, e-mail us at kmtctrails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org at least 4 weeks in advance.

Learn more about our monthly trail work days and other programs by visiting the KMTTC website at: www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org.

We host trail work days open to the public on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We meet at the maintenance buildings up the hill from the Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m. and usually are finished by 1:00 p.m.

We hope to see you at a work day soon!

Jim Moylan

November 14th Workday



*Problems fixed on November 14th on the backside of
Little Kennesaw Mountain.*

November 21, 2009 Workday



Some Park Visitors Enjoying a Day at the Park.

November 21st Workday was spent rectifying a drainage problem near the Cheatham Hill Parking Area.

Anatomy of the Fix -

Identify the problem - clogged drain causing water to overflow the trail.

Fix the drain and survey the erosion caused.

Repair the damage.

All in a day's work on a Trail Work Day.



Trail Club Shirts and Merchandise Available

http://www.cafepress.com/kennesaw_trails

100% Cotton Denim Embroidered Shirt \$35.00



Support your club and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park by showing the colors. We have a selection of shirts both long-sleeved and short-sleeved available in our online Gear Store. 20% of the purchase price of any of our products goes directly to support the park.

The yellow tee shirt (\$17.99) with the club logo on the back has become the default standard uniform shirt for trail workdays. The bright yellow color stands out in the woods, and the logo is clearly visible when you are bent over swinging a Pulaski or a MacCloud.

We can make bulk orders for 15+ of the yellow shirts. If you would like to have one or more shirts at this price, e-mail **Jay Dement** at kmtctees@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org with your name, size, and quantity of shirts. We'll place an order when we have 15 or more orders, and you can pay on delivery.

... I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself.

- Lone Man (Isna-la-wica)(Teton Sioux)

Reporting Your Hours - An Important Aspect of Volunteering!

"TIME = Money for the Park - Each Volunteer is currently worth more than \$20.00/hr."

Yes, we all are guilty - forgetting/neglecting to report our hours for working. How many hours did we REALLY work for the Park last year? Was it 500 hours, 2000, or maybe 5000???? Have you spent time outside of our 2nd Saturday Workdays helping the Park - e.g. spent time picking up trash, fixing drainage, helping with events, or club administration?

If you signed the roster at an event, your time is recorded. Otherwise you need to report it through the form on the website.

Youth Service Project candidates need to report total hours for their project to the Trail Club and to the Park before their project is considered complete.

Help us out this coming year - Please enter your hours on the website - it's currently near the top of the first page - or go directly to <http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/formmail.html>.

We, the great mass of the people think only of the love we have for our land, we do love the land where we were brought up. We will never let our hold to this land go, to let it go it will be like throwing away (our) mother that gave (us) birth.

Letter from Aitooweyah to John Ross,
Principal Chief of the Cherokees.

Contact List - Updated 10/08

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL
President	Jerry Givan	kmtcpresident@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
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Webmaster	Sue Crane	suecrane@mac.com
Website		http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/
T-Shirt Ordering	Jay Dement	kmtctees@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Work Continues On The Old Highway 41 Bridge

I visited the worksite on Sunday, December 6, 2009 to observe the progress on the new bridge. Looks like all of the earth work is approaching completion and the central pier will be poured soon.



Sponsors/Partners Corner

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!

<http://americanhiking.org>



BARRETT PARKWAY AND TOWN CENTER AT COBB



January Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the January Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than December 28th!

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Trail Maintenance Map

