

Volume 12, Issue 3

March, 2018

President's Corner

We had yet another of our 2nd Saturday trail maintenance events cancelled for rain! Enough said. However, with some diligence we were able to conduct a very productive work day 2 weekends later.

As president I try to get out and immerse myself in the park's activities. As part of the goal I attended local historian Brad Quinlin's talk on black soldiers in the Atlanta campaign. I had no idea how many black people had enlisted in the union army and the roles they took on. The movie in the park's visitor center highlights the lives of a few black heros. The Union cemetery at Marietta tells the story of many more who fought to reunite our states and make this country free

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Out on the Trails: A Student Volunteer Perspective

Christina Woodrow (Kennesaw Mountain High School's Key Club President)

On some brisk mornings when I would normally be snoozing in bed, I find myself heading out to the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. For the past three years, as a member of Kennesaw Mountain High School's Key Club, I have had the great pleasure of being able to spend time at the Park as a volunteer - with a hefty pair of loppers by my side and in the presence of good company. I've been fortunate enough to work with Mr. Cam Graham and others from the Trail Club, and I have enjoyed my time at the Park so much that I want to encourage other young people to volunteer at their local parks.

During these work days, or "Trail Day" events, I have learned way more about the importance of controlling invasive species (particularly Chinese privet!) than I ever imagined I would. When I was in my AP Environmental Science class last semester, I was excited to share my Trail Day experiences and invited my classmates to join the Key Club as volunteers at the Park. It's been a fun collaboration, and at our last event on February 3rd, we had 17 students come brave the cold at Kolb Farm. We were able to provide 54 collective hours of service, and we all enjoyed chopping at

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Amazon, you can help support the



Trail Club! When making purchases at Amazon, simply log into www.amazon.com/smile! If this is your first time logging in, you'll be asked to designate a charity. Simply designate the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club(Search on Kemotrail Corps Inc), and each time you make a purchase via Amazon.com/smile, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Trail Club!

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for all.

Another event I attended was Trail Ambassador and KMTC board member Jay Haney's history walk at Cheatham Hill. Jay has studied the history of



that area and routinely conducts what the park calls "staff rides" for visiting military groups. I truly enjoyed being on the hike and learning the details of what occurred on this Battlefield back in 1864.

Earlier this month Crew leader Richard Kozicki discovered that Ward Creek had overwhelmed one of the trail bridges. (See page 7 for photos.) Trail work planner Bill Gurry and I hiked out to the site and started a damage assessment. Bill will be creating a plan to do some remediation in an effort to keep the bridge open for use. Longer range out, the plan calls for replacement of both bridges on this trail and installation of stronger footings. These are big dollar solutions needing big dollar funding. Personally, I wish our Congress could create a fiscally transparent budgeting plan that inherently eliminates waste and considers long term infrastructure investments as a good thing. Meanwhile, please consider donating to our "Think 2018" funding campaign. All donations directly support this park and its programs. KMTC is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to protecting, preserving and interpreting the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP). And, we have

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E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

potential for matching funds based on what we can show as local community support to our projects.

> Scott Mackay President, KMTC

Out On The Trails.... Continued From Page 1

privet while also learning about the historical significance of the Kolb Farm site from Mr. Graham.

Despite spending almost my whole life thus far here in Kennesaw, I was never able to fully appreciate this Park and all that it offers until I started volunteering there. My friends and I always joke now about how Trail Day is the best form of "stress relief", but it actually really is a rewarding experience that everyone, particularly students, should try out for themselves.



Thank you KMTC for hosting me and other students as volunteers; we're excited to continue working with you all!



Photos, above, and on page 1 by Cam Graham. Photo on the left by Bill Gurry.

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A Special Thanks!

Each year we have various groups who come out and help us. Henceforth, we will make every attempt to list your group here for the current/past fiscal year. If you are participating as a group, be sure to let us know when you are registering!

Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of the groups who participated during Fiscal 2017 (October 2016- September 2017 and Fiscal 2018 (October 2017- Present):

<u>FY 2017</u>

ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB



ALLATOONA HS BETA CLUB AUSTIN MIDDIF SCHOOL BENCHMARK PHYSICAL THERAPY BETA ALPHA PSI (KSU) BOY SCOUT TROOP 252 BOY SCOUT TROOP 540 - EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS BSA TROOP 703 - EAGLE SCOUL PROJECT CAMPBELL HS BETA CLUB CUB SCOUT PACK 11 CUB SCOUT PACK 405 CAMPBELL HIGH SCHOOL BETA CLUB HILLGROVE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC HOME DEPOT INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY (SMYRNA) KEEP COBB BEAUTIFUL KENNESAW MTN HS NJROTC KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS KEY CLUB KING'S ACADEMY JROTC KSII KSU DELTA SIGMA PI KSU HONORS BETA CLUB MCEACHERN HS BETA CLUB North Atlanta Church POPE HS HONOR SOCIETY RANSTAAD TEMPORARY STAFFING VENTURE CREW 75 VOLUNTEER KSU WOODSTOCK HS NJROTC



<u>FY 2018</u>

Kennesaw Mountain High School Key Club Kennesaw Mountain High School AP Magnet Environmental Science Class KSU Beta Alpha Psi KSU Phi Sigma Pi Volunteer KSU U.S. Army Training Class The following groups participated in our February work days: ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB ALLATOONA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR SOCIETY TROOP 17, ARAGON, GA VOLUNTEER KSU POPE HS HONOR SOCIETY

We had a total of 45 volunteers participate this month, along with approximately 25 crew leaders, Trail Ambassadors and Board Members.

Our Volunteers Are Amazing!

During our February 24th work day, I took the time to chat with a number of our volunteers. One is a septuagenarian, a little older than myself - she enjoys the outdoors and is becoming one of our "regulars." We had an international contingent from KSU -they haled from the Bahamas, India and Guyana. We had a Troop from Northwest GA come down for the morning. We had two sisters - one completing her "service" hours for high school graduation; the other was there to provide moral support. We had a family that "discovered" us, and plan to come out more often - to give back to the Park.

Yes, some came out to satisfy high school and college volunteer service requirements. But they came out to help us. And they worked hard at what they were doing. And they did a fine job regarding the tasks at hand. And they left with smiles on their faces and the satisfaction of a job well done, outdoors!

Thanks to all of our volunteers who come out each month to make the Park a better place to visit.

Fred Feltmann Newsletter Editor

March 10, 2018 Trail Work Day

We will once more be working on the main trail to Kennesaw Mountain, near the Visitor Center. Please register at <u>http://signup.com/go/VvavYQ.</u>

Parking/Registration will again be at the Old Highway 41 Parking lot. Registration will open at 8 am. Please arrive at the amphitheater next to the Visitor Center by 8:30 am. It takes approximately 10 minutes to walk from the Old Highway Parking lot to the Amphitheater.

Hope to see you on Saturday!

Bruce Rugg Trails Director

As noted on our Facebook page this week:

Trail Days are always fun.

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Trail Ambassadors Take A Hike!

At the request of NPS, Trail Ambassadors conducted guided hikes in the Park.

Cam Graham on Sunday, 11 February led three visitors on a guided hike to the 24 gun battery. The visitors were a Dad and his two elementary school aged girls. The girls are home schooled. The guided hike was part of a planned field trip to learn about the Civil War in Georgia.

The hiking experience included:

- Review of Artillery: Ordnance Rifle, Napoleon and Parrott
- Importance of the railroad in support of logistics and communications
- · Overview of the Atlanta Campaign
- Role played by the 24 Gun Battery in the battle for Kennesaw Mountain
- A short reading from research material provided by Phillip Whiteman (Letters from Soldiers posted with the 24 Gun Battery)
- Old forest vs. New forest and farming techniques of the 1860's
- Native Americans and the possibility that the Hightower Trail may have crossed the trail not far from the Battery
- Natural Resource Management practices in the Park and the role of volunteers to control invasive plants such as Chinese Privet.
- Directed visitors to KEMO website for additional educational resources

After the hike, the Dad promised to review our Junior Ranger materials available in the Visitor Center.

In spite of the damp trail and threat of rain, the visitors had a great experience.

Jay Haney ably assisted by TAs Jack LaHue and Tim Poolos on Saturday, 17 February, led a group of 10 on a guided hike of the Assault Trail. Hike began and ended at the Illinois Monument using a loop route. Group included TA candidates Wyatt Burnette and Jeannine Hurst.

- The hiking experience included:
- Role of the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club in maintaining and developing trails in the Park as directed by NPS.
- · Old forest vs. New forest
- Role of the Civilian Conservation Corps in developing
 Park infrastructure
- Walking the route of the main attack in Cheatham Hill that took place on 27 June 1864
- Explanation of the impact of terrain on the battle
- Explanation of the role of COL McCook's men in creation of the Park
- · Impact of technology on the Civil War
- · Life of the soldier
- Directed visitors to KEMO website for additional educational resources and volunteering opportunities.





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2018 Fund Raising

Your volunteer hours help greatly for the many projects we do in the park and we greatly appreciate you contributing your "sweat equity" alongside our 40+ staff volunteers who routinely support each event. We are a non-profit all volunteer organization. However, like any business, we do have bills to pay.

Many of our projects are funded by the park or through grants we apply for. These funds are typically targeted for specific projects and do cover the big expenses such as rocks, stone dust, dirt, wood beams, bridges, fences, and such. But, after all the big stuff is paid for, we still have need to cover our day-to-day operating expenses for things like saw blade sharpening, fuel, tool repairs, equipment maintenance, work gloves, bug spray, drinking water, snacks, and porta-potties. For these expenses, we rely on your donations.

Each year we kick off a new round of fund raising and this is the 2018 big "ask". We need your help with this, even small donations help.

As we approach our 16th year in operation, we ask you to please think '18', like \$18.. \$36.. \$54..... \$180... \$1800. All donations to the Trail Club support our work at the park, and are tax deductible.

We are a nationally recognized club - having been presented the highest award in the National Park Service in 2014, "The Hartzog Award for Volunteer Group.". There are several ways to donate:

- Use Guidestar on the bottom of our home page on the Trail Club website <u>http://www.kennesawmoun-taintrailclub.org</u>
- Subscribe to Amazon "Smile" where they will donate to us based on your purchases
- Send a tax deductible contribution to:

Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club* Attn: Tom Okerberg Whitlock Accounting Services 739 Kennesaw Avenue NW Marietta, Ga. 30060

ALSO: Please check with employers about matching donations.

* Corporate name is KEMO Trail Corps, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.



Kennes <u>Date</u>	aw Mountair <u>Time</u>	n Trail Club Cal <u>Location</u>	endar <u>Event</u>
<u>March, 2018</u>			
3/10	8:00 am - 12 pm	Amphitheater near Visitor Center	Trail Work Day
<u>April, 2018</u>			
4/14	8:00 am - 12 pm	TBD	Trail Work Day

For additional Park events, see pages 11 and 12 herein!



Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Work Day Schedule:

Our trail work days are open to the public on the 2nd Saturday of each month and are a wonderful way to get outside & enjoy nature while helping preserve the national park for future visitors. Registration will open at 8:00 am at the new parking lot, .2 miles north of the Visitor Center on Old 41 and usually are finished by 12:00 p.m. It takes approximately 5 minutes to walk to the picnic area near the Visitor Center - please arrive there by 8:30 am. Activities usually include the use of shovels, rakes, picks, and other tools to fix erosion problems on the 20+ mile trail system. Please do not wear open-toed shoes. Long pants are recommended.

As winter comes to a close, weather conditions can change quickly. We value our volunteers' health, comfort and safety so to promote safer work conditions, we'll cancel work days if the temperature is below 40 degrees and/or there's a high probability of precipitation. If we must cancel a workday, we'll post an announcement on the front page of the KMTC website at: www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

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 <u>kmtctrails@</u> <u>kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</u> at least 4 weeks in advance. Trail work can be performed any day of the week.

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 45,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

We hope to see you at a work day soon!

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Rains Take Their Toll on The Park

The pictures of flood damage in Scott's photos are as a result of major flooding along John Ward Creek on 7 Feb and again on 11 Feb. Of particular concern is the undercutting of the concrete footer for "steel bridge" over John Ward Creek.

Below are the Barfield Bottom bridge and the small bridge near steel bridge. (Photos by Scott Mackay.)

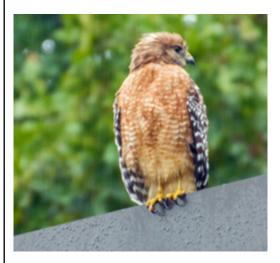


Flooding along John Ward Creek. Best Regards,





Photo, above, by Jay Haney.



A Rainy Day In Georgia Fred Feltmann - 10/11/15

It was a raining morning in GA, that day....

- And who should come a-calling in the parking lot, looking for a snack....
- "If I don't look at him, he'll go away, or at least not take my photo.
- Drenched I am! What a place to look for food only a duck would do this!

Wait, I'm not a duck...and I'm perched on this sign.... Where's lunch?

They don't come out in the rain?????"

Ah, a rainy day in GA.

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February 24, 2018 Work Day Photos by Fred Feltmann















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BEFORE AND AFTER

By Bill Gurry

This is the Mountain Trail just below the fire road, probably the most used trail in the Park, and the most eroded.

BEFORE

The trail here is supposed to be 6 to 10 feet wide or so, wider than other trails due to the heavy volume of hikers. Here, the trail had eroded to 25 feet wide. The real tread is on the left where the steps are. The "new" trail on the right is about a year old and is already eroding exposing roots and rocks. Note the exposed dead roots above the steps - these steered hikers away from the original trail, and hikers made the new one. We observed virtually no one going up or down was using the original trail.



<u>AFTER</u>

In November, we added a water diversion structure above to keep the water from flowing through here, cut the dead roots to smooth the trail, seriously trashed the "new" eroding trail back to a natural state, rebuilt the steps and added new steps. Work on the steps continued in February. All winter Bruce had his eye on a large flat rock that Geoff and his young strong friends hauled up the Mountain using Geoff's new rock net. Now, hikers are back using the original trail.



Photos, above, by Bill Gurry. Photo, left, by Fred Feltmann

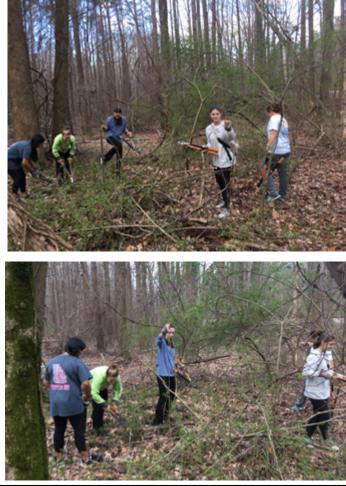
Pope High School National Honor Society Volunteer Service Project

We hosted 12 student volunteers for a total of 60 service hours. The result: our work day made a real "dent" in the privet population along the CSX rail tracks and Activity Field 2.

Cam Graham



Photos by Cam Graham.



Contact List - Updated 2/1/18 POSITION NAME

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Historian Director, Program Planning **Trails Director Community Volunteer Director** Director (Scouts) **Communications Director** Newsletter Editor Information/Technology Director Trail Ambassador Director Plants Director Fundraising Director Logistics Director

Website

Facebook Page Volunteer Sign-up website* * updated

NAME Scott Mackay

Donald Olds **Robert Brier*** Tom Okerberg Rusty Bradley Jay Haney Bruce Rugg Rena Bailey Donald Olds Fred Feltmann Fred Feltmann Jerry Givan Janie Brier Danny Leigh Peter Stell Paul Eubanks

E-MAIL

president@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org vp@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org secretary@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org treasurer@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org historian@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org programplanning@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org membership@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org director@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org fundraising@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org logistics@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/ http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Upcoming Interpretive Programs

**All park programming is free and open to the public. No registration required. Programs start at Visitor Center except when noted otherwise.

Everyday @ 1:00 pm Ranger Led Museum Tour

March

March 3 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 'Civil War Music Program'

Music during the Civil War served many functions. Not only did it help to organize and rally, but also went a long way to boost morale amongst the soldiers. Come join musician and living historian KD Sellers as she demonstrates this using the fife.

March 4 @ 11:00 am – 11:30 am 'Life of a Soldier'

Life for the common infantry soldier during the Atlanta Campaign was less than ideal. Come out and enjoy an interactive Ranger presentation that will utilize various reproduced props and personal items to illustrate how soldiers lived and fought on the campaign trail in 1864.

March 10 @ 11:00 am – 11:30 am @ 11:00 – 11:30 am 'Welcome to Kennesaw Mountain'

Come out and enjoy a Ranger led presentation on the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, the Atlanta Campaign, and how these events shaped our history and the park as it is today. This presentation will utilize various maps and artifacts to illustrate this portion of history. This program is free to attend and open to the public, and will be held at the Visitor Center.

March 10 @ 8:00 am – 12:30 pm 'Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club Work Day'

Volunteers are needed for each work day to help park staff maintain the 20-plus trails of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Parking and registration is at the overflow parking lot on Old Highway 41. The NPS Volunteer Services Agreement is required. A parent must sign the form is the student is under 18 years old. The form and directions to the registration site are available on the club's website.

March 17 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm 'Guided Assault Trail Hike'

Learn more about the fateful Union assault on Cheatham Hill during this ranger-led hike. This trail is one mile, round trip and is classified as moderate to easy. Hike will be begin from the Illinois Monument (at Cheatham Hill). This is an outdoor activity, so please dress and plan accordingly. The event will also be cancelled due to inclement weather.

*Please note this program is NOT at Visitor Center; parking is at Cheatham Hill Road.

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March 18 @ 11:00 am - 11:30 am 'Civil War Hygiene...Silent but Deadly'

Times were tough for the campaigning soldier in the 1860's. This 30 minute program focuses on the poor hygiene of the average soldier during the American Civil War and explores how this led to large casualty rates and widespread diseases.

March 18 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm 'Guided 24-Gun Battery Hike'

This program will consist of a guided 3 mile hike along the 24 – Gun Battery Trail and will focus on the importance of preservation, protection, and history within the national parks. This is an outdoor activity, so please dress and plan accordingly. Participants should meet in the Visitor Center lobby. This hike will be led by a member of the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club.

**The event will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

March 24 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm 'Civil War Music Program'

Music during the Civil War served many functions. Not only did it help to organize and rally, but also went a long way to boost morale amongst the soldiers. Come join musician and living historian KD Sellers as she demonstrates this using the fife.

March 25 @ 11:00 am – 11:30 am 'Kennesaw Mountain's Illinois Monument: Commemorating the Past, Honoring the Present and Inspiring the Future'

The story of Kennesaw Mountain did not end after the battle in 1864, but was continued by the veterans who fought on the battlefield. The ranger will discuss how Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park was established through efforts of Union veterans who fought at Cheatham Hill.

Please note this program is NOT at Visitor Center; parking is at Cheatham Hill Road.

March 31 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm 'Saturday Lecture Series: John Scales'

Author John Scales discusses and fields questions on his book, 'The Campaigns and Battles of General Nathan Bedford Forrest: Kentucky to Chickamauga, 1861-1863'. This book examines the campaigns and battles in which Forrest participated during the first two years of the war.

> ** Outdoor programs (Living History programs and hikes) may be cancelled in the occurrence of inclement weather).

*** For more program details, please contact Visitor Center at 770-427-4686, ext. 0, or visit our website at <u>www.nps.gov/kemo</u>

Sponsors/Partners Corner Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!





KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK **Trail Maintenance Map**

NESAW MOUNT



