



EARTHWORKS

Volume 14, Issue 9

September, 2020

Great American Outdoors Act Passed

The Great American Outdoors Act has passed both houses of Congress and has been signed into law. The Act charges fees for on-shore and off-shore energy development to provide funding for protection of Federal lands in several organizations including the National Park Service. The funds will be used to provide matching funds for government purchase of land and provide funds for working down the huge backlog of deferred maintenance. Hopefully this Act will benefit Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.



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24-Gun Battery Trail Bridge Repairs

By *Bill Curry*

In 2014 The KEMO trail club built the new 1½-mile 24-Gun Battery trail from the Environmental Trail out to the remote, well-preserved 24-Gun battery site to be ready for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. As part of the construction, Boy Scouts and the Trail Club built 5 foot bridges to cross small streams and ditches. The events out at the site were very successful. The bridges have helped make the 24-Gun Battery trail a popular one.

Although the bridges were well built, four of them were lower than the trails leading to the bridges. Water, dirt, duff, and leaves flowed down the trail and collected on the bridge decks and were causing the bridge decks to rot in places. The side rails tended to hold the water and muck on the bridges. Also, when the bridges were too muddy and flooded, hikers and runners sometimes tip-toed across on the slippery side rails. Attempts to divert the water off the trail and remove the rock berms bridges originally placed at the bridge approaches proved unsuccessful.

On August 26 and August 28, Crew Leaders met and repaired the bridges. First, Bruce and Andy with help from Bill and Bob lifted the bridges and added blocks under the bridge beams at the abutments to raise four of the bridges 3.6." Now, all the bridges are above the trail approaches, and water and duff from the trail won't be able to settle on the bridges (except for rain and leaves that will fall directly on the bridges).

Second, Donald, Bill, Jerry, Fred and Andy placed gravel mixed with dirt at the approaches to make a smooth transition onto the bridges, especially for the Gator.

Finally, skilled carpenters Eric, Coach Rich, and Geoff rebuilt the side rails by slicing the existing lower rails into "blocks" and laid another new side rail on top so that we still have a continuous rail all the way across. Now, under the new rail, there are openings all the way along the sides for water to run off. This crew also replaced about 6 or 8 rotted deck boards.

Next, we need to watch how hikers cross and how water flows off the sides of the trail rather than on the bridge. Then we need to return to groom the trails to make any corrections.

Continued on Page 3

KMTC Annual Business Meeting

The Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club's Annual Business Meeting is presently scheduled for September 19, 2020 at 9 am via Zoom. Voting on the slate of nominated officers for the coming year will be conducted by the Voting Members via email in the days prior to the meeting. They'll receive a separate note with voting instructions by mid-August. Additional information will be posted on the Club website as it becomes available.

Agenda

Election results will be announced. New Club Officers/Directors will be installed for the coming year. Select Officer/Directors will report on their activities for the year past. New changes/updates to the Club By-Laws will be presented as necessary for consideration/vote. A look-ahead to upcoming Club activities will be provided.

Per our current By-Laws, all Voting Members (Officers, Directors, Trail Ambassadors and Crew Leaders) and Community Volunteers (individuals who have participated in, at least, one club event/activity during the current calendar year) are welcome to attend the Annual Business Meeting.

The nominees for election to office for the 2020 – 2021 year are:

Officers

President - Donald Olds

Vice-President - Vacant

Secretary - Bob Brier

Treasurer - Tom Okerberg

Directors

Trails - Bill Gurry

Communications - Fred Feltmann

Community Volunteers - Rena Bailey

Trail Ambassadors - Janie Brier

Invasive Plants - Danny Leigh

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

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Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

24-Gun Trail Bridge Repairs Continued from Page 1

Previously, Danny and Eric corrected the water problem at the west side Old Mountain Road where the trail runs from the crosswalk to the stairs and back into the woods. The bridge crew fixed the same smaller problem on the east side of Old Mountain Road.

Thanks to all for a big job.

BEFORE



(Note footprints in mud on bridge)

AFTER



As an added feature, the original rails were notched to aid drainage and a top rail was added for safety. (see below)



The Lone Ranger Wore a Mask

As usual I'm showing my age; "Lone Ranger" who is that? Probably the best way to know who he is would be ask an older person (i.e. had black and white TV or they look like they Are One). Point is way back before we all started wearing a mask the "Lone Ranger" was a TV Western Show. Actually I seem to remember that it was only broadcast in black & white. Now don't stop reading and switch over to Wikipedia to check it out, just read along. Anyway, yes, he always wore a mask, unlike Batman; the Lone Ranger never revealed his true identity (maybe to his sidekick Tonto--that's a whole 'nother' story).

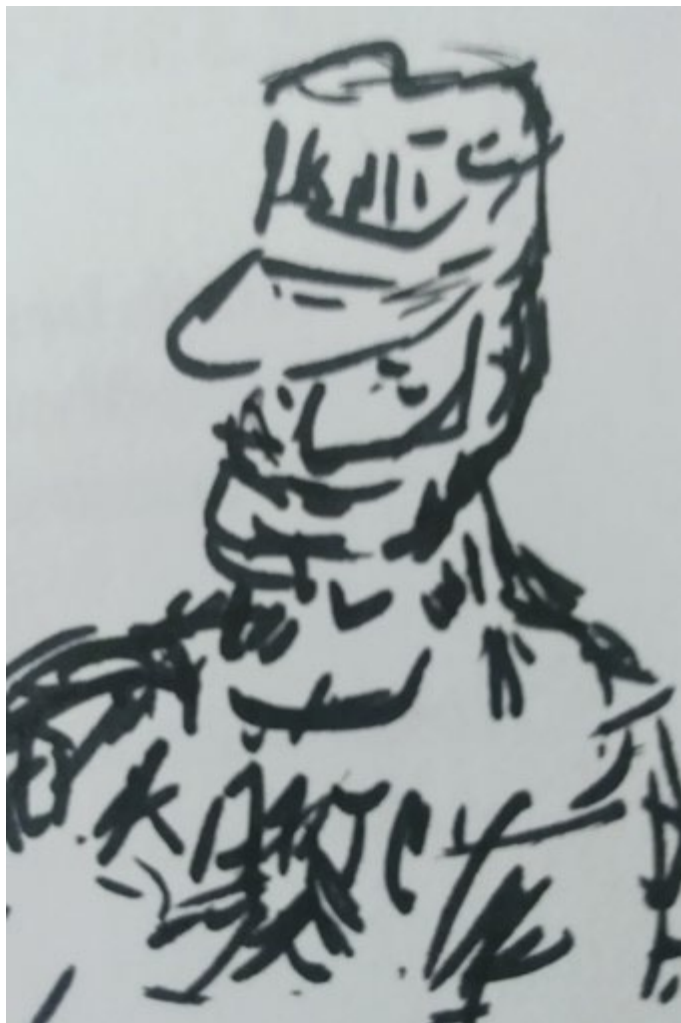
Ok, I know that you're thinking this old writer has really gone off the trail again. Well maybe so, I could be like thinking, "Hi Ho Silver....AWAY." No, but really....There are a lot of things that the Lone Ranger had in common with what is going on at the park. Now, if I could only remember, as I'm writing this just after breakfast and the aroma of toast is still in the air (Merita Bread sponsored the Lone Ranger and I used to frequently go by their factory bakery in West End Atlanta--and along with other youth, was convinced that "Silver" was quartered and kept inside that old gray block building).

One of the main tenets of the Lone Ranger was that he didn't shoot to kill, that's a bit harsh but that's the way it was. Certainly y'all don't do that at the park but you do your work and aid not to hurt anyone or destroy anything. Like Mr. Ranger you come to help, save the day, make things right, and lead folks on the straight and narrow (i.e. Stay on the Trail!). Another thing in common is that you work better as a team, maybe just two people, like having Tonto as a helper. That's the way it is now, work in a small unit; sort of your own posse. At least that's what I've been reading about how work is to be done now.

Then there is the wearing of the mask. Ah ha, you think that you have me now; The Lone Ranger's mask didn't cover his face. You got that right; but from what is prevalent now a mask covering nose & mouth should be used and maybe goggles or face shield. Heck the Lone Ranger's mask only covered his eyes, there were holes to see through. Why we now wear the mask for is safety, what the Lone Ranger wore it for was to hide his identity. There you go; even though your mask doesn't hide your identity for the most part the throngs of visitors don't know who you are. Like the Lone Ranger you don't destroy, you show up when needed, work as a team and ride off after the work is done (maybe on a gator instead of a horse); (and wear gloves.. he always wore gloves).

Stay strong, be well and safe Hi HO Silver, Away !!!!!!!

Doug
(The Lone Writer)



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 2019 (October 2018- September 2019) and Fiscal 2020 (October 2019- Present):

FY 2019

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB (AOC)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 008 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 144 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 200 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 277 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (3 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 287 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 433 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 442 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 445 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 540
BOY SCOUT TROOP 540 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (3 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 545 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 700 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 797
BOY SCOUT TROOP 797 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) (2 PROJECTS)
BOY SCOUT TROOP 1011 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
BOY SCOUTS T 8880
BOY SCOUT TROOP 8880 (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT)
CUB SCOUT PACK 204, MARIETTA
CUMBERLAND SCHOOL
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
FLIGHTWORKS
FRIENDS TO THE FORLORN PITBULL RESCUE
GEORGIA TECH
HARRISON HS BETA CLUB
HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB
HARRISON NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS HOPE
KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HS NJROTC
KSU
KSU BETA ALPHA PSI
MARIETTA HS
MT PARAN CHURCH
PACESETTER STEEL
SCA



SPRAYBERRY HS HOPE
TRUST
US ARMY
VOLUNTEER KSU
WHEELER HS
WOODSTOCK HS NJROTC



FY 2020

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
BOY SCOUT TROOP 89
KING'S ACADEMY HS ARMY JROTC
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
POPE HS - NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
RIVER RIDGE HS
RIVER RIDGE HS ARMY JROTC
TRUST (KSU)
WALKER HS

Our scheduled August Work Day was cancelled because of the coronavirus. We did have 2 crew leader work days to work on the various bridges on the 24-Gun Battery Trail.

Wanted: Membership Chair!

“The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is looking for a personable, self-starting, take-charge volunteer to lead their membership team. Contact Scott Mackay at box2105@mindspring.com.”

Crew Leader & Trail Ambassador

Positions Available!

Contact Bill Gurry (regarding Crew Leader positions) or Janie Brier (Trail Ambassador positions) if interested.

Bill Gurry - trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Janie Brier - ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Trail Ambassador Updates

September 2020

2020 has been such an eventful year that I hardly know where to start! On August 8th we held the first Trail Ambassador Orientation in 8 months. Please welcome Jeanne Hayden, James Adkins, Keith Coe and Thomas Sullivan to our group!

Since June the Trail Ambassadors are now able to hike in the park and perform trail patrols. This is our primary duty. On the trails we are the "eyes and ears" for the park staff. We greet and assist visitors, answer questions, give advice on trails to hike (which includes helping the lost find their way back to their cars!), politely remind visitors of the rules and regulations, and report adverse trail conditions.

At this time, it is not known when Trail Ambassadors will have more volunteer opportunities such as providing registration

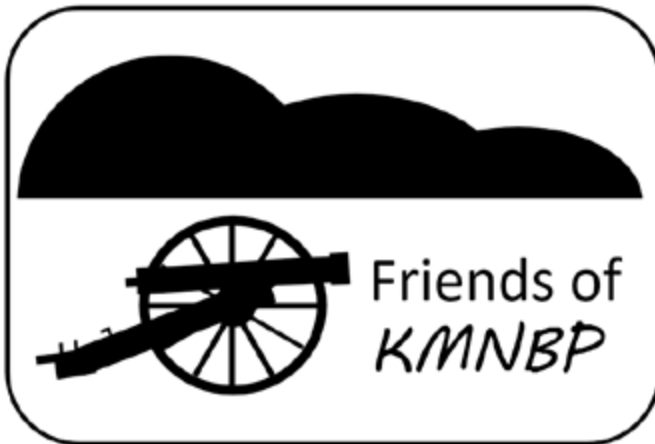
on second Saturday trail work days, assisting with Ranger led hikes, supporting interpretive events such as school field trips, artillery and infantry demonstrations.

Just a reminder, if you have not made an appointment with Ranger Amanda to sign a new volunteer agreement and the covid 19 information sheet, please do by before the end of September. Starting January 2021 all volunteers will be required to sign a volunteer agreement yearly. The time to sign the forms will be January 01 through the end of February. All of us will need to make an appointment to go into the Visitor Center to sign the paperwork. The paperwork will not be available on line or sent by e-mail.

Hope to see you on the trails. Stay safe and well.

Janie Brier

Trail Ambassador Director



The Friends of KMNBP's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Your Membership helps to fund this mission.

Please join us.

Our website is FriendsOfKMNBP.org.

Visit to find out more info, to donate, or to sign up for one of our Board positions or to register as a member of the Friends organization.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Friends of KMNBP is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to raise annual funding for projects and activities in the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Programs supported:

- Outdoor Education
- KEMO Trail Club
- Living History
- Trail Ambassadors

2019/2020 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 80+ 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, along with basic business expenses - e.g. insurance. For these expenses, we rely on your donations.

Each year we kick off a new round of fund raising and this is the 2020 big “ask.” We need your help with this, even small donations help. We will conclude this drive at the end of FY 2020 (September, 2020).

As we approach our 18th year in operation, we ask you to please think ‘20’, like \$20.. \$40.. \$60..... \$200... \$2000. All donations to the Trail Club support our work at the park, and are tax deductible.

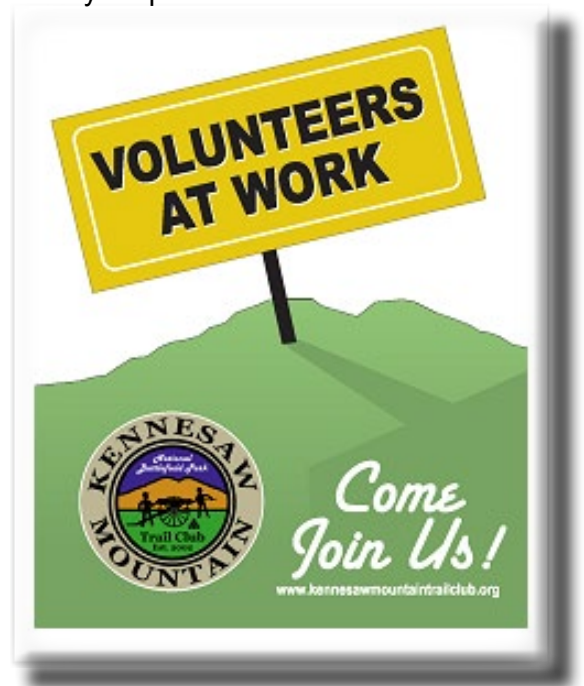
We are a nationally recognized club - having been presented the highest award in the National Park Service in 2014, “The Hartzog Award for Volunteer Group.”. There are several ways to donate:

- Use Guidestar on the bottom of our home page on the Trail Club website <http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>
- Subscribe to Amazon “Smile” where they will donate to us based on your purchases <https://smile.amazon.com/> - look for KEMO Trails Corps
- 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.



Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club Calendar

Date Time Location Event

All Work Days and events at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are cancelled indefinitely at this point.

All trails are now open. All parking lots, and the Mountain Rd, are now open. Visitor Center is now open.

The Park staff is conducting Virtual Events on their Facebook Page - https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP/posts/?ref=page_internal

We will send out an email when events warrant a restart of work days and events and when the Visitor Center reopens.

The Mountain Top Concession Stand is now open daily from 10 AM till 5 PM.

Register for Our Work Days!

Be sure to register online for our Work Days at [http://](http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj)

<http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj>. By registering, we can be better prepared with the amount of tools, bottled water, gloves, etc. on hand.



Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Work Day Schedule:

All planned work days for the upcoming months have been cancelled until further notice.

If your school, church, business, or community organization would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity once we resume our work day schedules, e-mail us at kmtctrails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org 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 as soon as we return to our normal work days.

The Continuing Saga Of The American Chestnut

On an August 2020 TA foot patrol along the Hardage Mill Trail, Anne Page Mosby and Jay Haney identified an American Chestnut tree using an app on their cell phone. During the Civil War, the American Chestnut tree was logged and cut into boards at the Hardage Mill located on Noses Creek.

The American chestnut tree reigned over 200 million acres of eastern woodlands from Maine to Florida, and from the Piedmont plateau in the Carolinas west to the Ohio Valley, until succumbing to a lethal fungus infestation, known as the chestnut blight, during the first half of the 20th century. An estimated 4 billion American chestnuts, up to 1/4 of the hardwood tree population, grew within this range.



See this link for The American Chestnut Foundations Strategic Plan to restore the tree to its natural range.

<https://www.acf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/WEB-Strategic-Plan-090617.pdf>

Jay Haney

In 2006, a stand of American Chestnuts were found in FDR State Park, near Pine Mountain, GA. Following are 4 articles related to this discovery.

http://archive.boston.com/news/science/articles/2006/05/19/rare_american_chestnut_trees_discovered/

https://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rare-american-chestnut-trees-discovered-at-pine-mountai-local-new/article_2dcfbb51-65b6-5685-bf4e-35fd47c37cf8.html

<https://newtribe.com/documents/chestnut.htm>

<https://www.acf.org/ga/> - American Chestnut Foundation, GA Chapter

Fred Feltmann



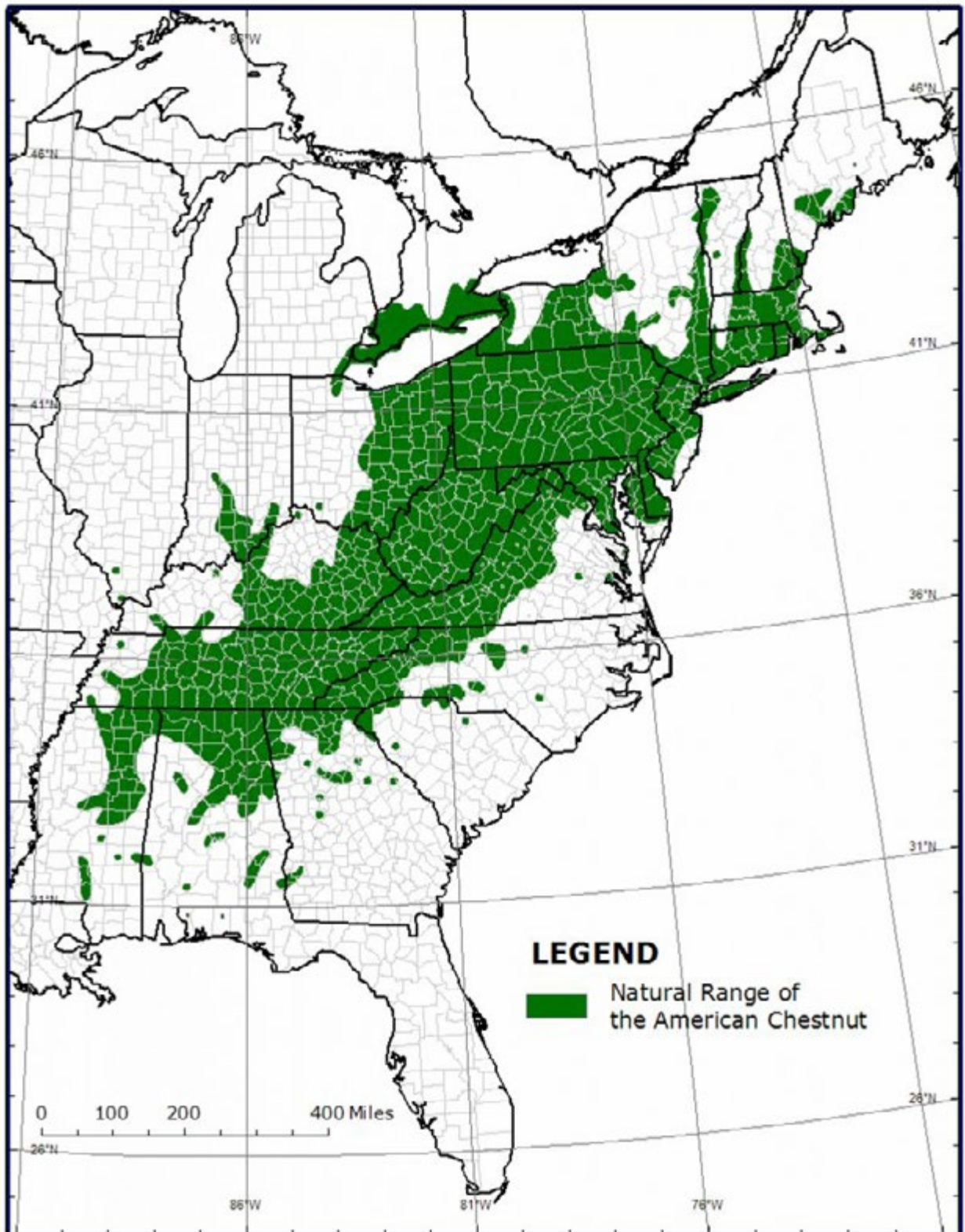
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<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>

Native range of the American chestnut tree (*castanea dentata*). Note: If you look closely at this map, you will note that there was a cluster of American Chestnuts in and around Cobb County - specifically in the area of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park! As an aside, there is a surviving grove of trees in FDR State Park, near Pine Mountain, GA - the map also shows this cluster as well. These trees are still susceptible to the blight, however. I last saw them about 4 years ago and they were still doing well then. Some of the trees were blight-free.

The range also extended into Canada as well.

Fred
Feltmann



The American Chestnut Planting Experiment - KMNBP

On March 25, 2011, an experimental planting of approximately 18 American Chestnut saplings was attempted at 3 locations in Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Unfortunately, the deer really liked them - all were lost over the course of a month or two.

Fred Feltmann



Park staff and Trail Club plant approximately 18 American Chestnut saplings. Photos by Fred Feltmann



Contact List - Updated 9/24/19

POSITION

President
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Trails Director
 Community Volunteer Director
 Communications Director
 Newsletter Editor
 Information/Technology Director
 Trail Ambassador Director
 Plants Director
 Fundraising Director

NAME

Donald Olds
 Robert Willoughby*
 Robert Brier
 Tom Okerberg
 Bill Gurry*
 Rena Bailey
 Fred Feltmann
 Fred Feltmann
 Jerry Givan
 Janie Brier
 Danny Leigh
 Scott Mackay

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volunteerdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org
fundraising@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Amazon Smile

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Website

<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/>

Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial>

Volunteer Sign-up website*

<http://signup.com/go/VvavYQj>

* updated

Visitor Center and Mountain Rd Now Open

The Visitor Center opened, effective Friday, August 28, 2020. The park film will not be showing as they are unable to properly prepare the space for social distancing. Otherwise, the rest of the Visitor Center will be open.

There will be a limited number of visitors allowed in the Visitor Center, so you may see an Interpretation Ranger counting visitors entering and leaving the building. Visitors will be guided to enter the building through the patio doors and will exit through the doors leading to the restroom area. There will be an information table located at the entrance to provide brochures, maps, and general park information to help limit the number of visitors looking for the basic information during their visit.

The Mountain Road is now open, effective Monday, August 31, 2020. This service will be offered Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm. The road will be closed to vehicular traffic, including bicycles, on weekends and there will be no shuttle service offered at this time, due to inability to social distance on the shuttle bus.

The park has reenacted their fees program. If you don't have a Park Pass, you will need to purchase your Park Pass online (<https://www.recreation.gov/sitepass/2788>) or at the Visitor Center.

In summary:

Beginning August 28, 2020, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park will reopen access to:

- The park's Visitor Center (including the museum),
- America's National Parks bookstore/gift shop, and
- Park pass purchases in the Visitor Center.

Beginning August 31, 2020 Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park will reopen vehicular access to (on weekdays, only):

- Mountain road and
- Mountain road parking lot.

With public health in mind, the following services remain inaccessible:

- Shuttle bus operation
- Theater inside the Visitor Center

Park patrons entering the Visitor Center will be encouraged to exercise social distancing, follow the designated traffic flow and wear masks in addition to following other Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

See the following 2 pages for the News Release.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30152

(770) 427-4686 phone
www.nps.gov/kemo

Kennesaw Mountain News Release

Release Date: Immediately

Contact: Marjorie Thomas, marjorie_thomas@nps.gov, 770-427-4686 x 231

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to increase access to park grounds and facilities

Kennesaw, GA – Following guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local public health authorities, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is increasing access and services. The National Park Service (NPS) is working servicewide with federal, state, and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a phased approach to increase access on a park-by-park basis.

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With public health in mind, the following service remains inaccessible:

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- Theater inside the Visitor Center

Park patrons entering the Visitor Center will be encouraged to exercise social distancing, follow the designated traffic flow and wear masks in addition to following other Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

The mountain road gate will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Monday – Friday to allow for vehicular traffic, which includes bicycles. No shuttle service will be in operation at this time due to social distancing concerns.

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners continues to be paramount. At Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, our operational approach continues to be centered on examining each facility function and service to ensure those operations comply with current public health guidance and are regularly monitored. We continue

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

to work closely with the NPS Office of Public Health using CDC guidance to ensure public areas and workspaces are safe and clean.

A safe and enjoyable park experience begins at home. The NPS encourages visitors to plan their visit by checking the park's website and social media for current conditions and travel tips. The [CDC has offered guidance](#) to help people recreating in parks and open spaces prevent the spread of infectious diseases. We ask the public to be our partner in [recreating responsibly](#), by following CDC and state and local guidance, social distancing, and wearing a face covering when social distance cannot be maintained.

Details and updates on park operations will continue to be posted on our website at www.nps.gov/kemo and social media channels. Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>

Sponsors/Partners Corner

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!

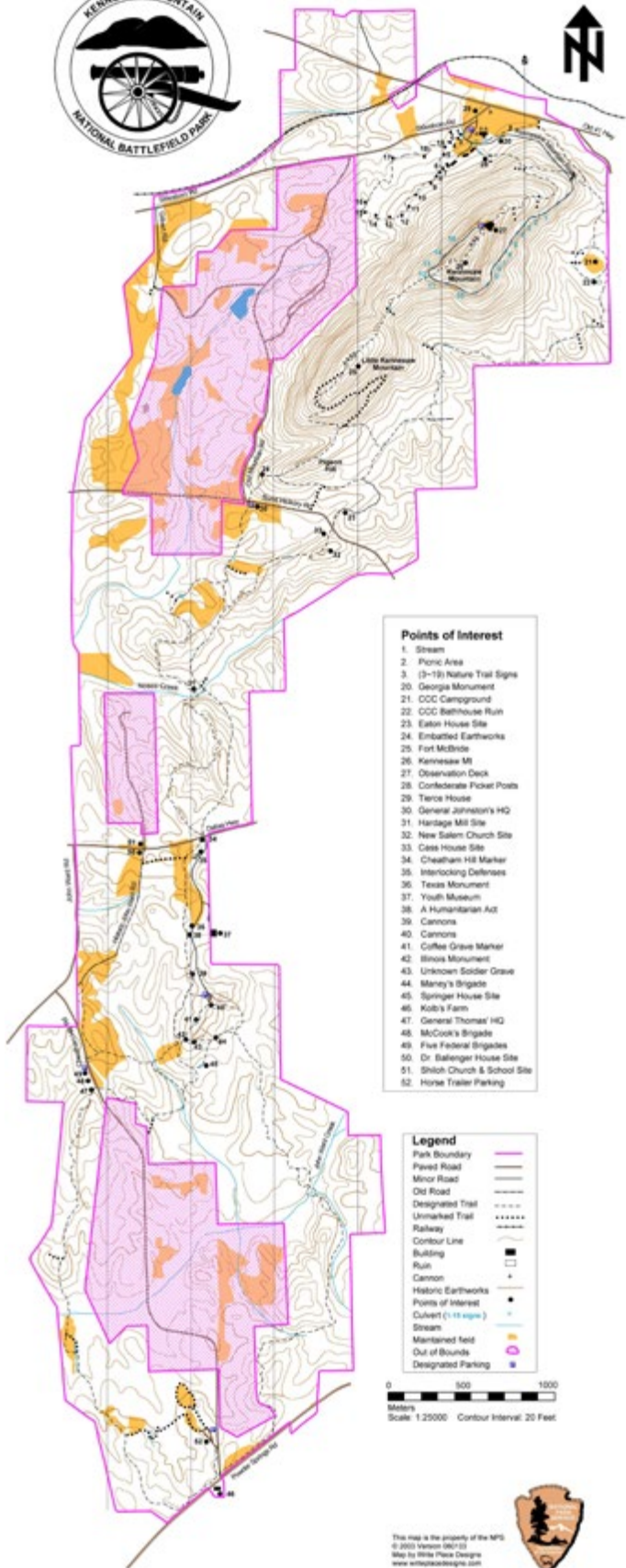


<http://americanhiking.org>



KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Trail Maintenance Map



October Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the October Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than September 20th!

PS Even if you're just a "volunteer," you can also present an article for publication - and you won't be the first!