

2015 Trail Work Annual Report (Note: volunteer # is total estimate of all attending)

September: 130 volunteers: Cleaned ditch areas along the Brumby Trail (mid section), 12 work areas spread some 2 miles. Fixed culvert, dry creek area some ½ mile from CCC area. Also, teams Also, teams worked at the Visitor Center side area cutting massive amount of privet. (Later chipped, with rented chipper – thank you Danny)

October: 135 volunteers: Cut bamboo at Ward Creek. Removed the Telephone Pole Bridge which had deteriorated and was across the creek (later cut up and took debris to County Dump). Fixed washed out areas along the raised turnpike @ Ward Creek (used large rock –purchased- to Bolster the sides). Filled as needed, using left over material from previous work in the area. (Note: Got rain soaked @ end of trail day work, when exiting the area, stuck equipment!).

November: 135 volunteers: Repaired Piel Field section of Kolb Farm Trail. This area was deeply gouged with 3 to 4 separate trails. Combined into one smooth trail, used dirt that had been previously dumped in the area and covered with wood chips which were sourced from tree cutting's in the park. Added rock stairs to the trail entrance area @ Cheatham Hill Road (gate side). Also, added rolling grades for water diversion on trail section between Cheatham Hill Road and Piel Field.

December: 90 volunteers: Work along the Brumby Trail (some 2 ½ mile hike from Visitor Center). Performed filling to grade and rock repair to culvert area at base of up hill turn area. Repaired Trail where a large root crossed the trail, thus eliminating a one foot deep step (used flat stones, Dirt, crush & run and wood chips – sourced from park supplies). Built a three step entrance off Brumby Trail to Little Kennesaw cutoff trail. Performed trail de-berming and fill as needed, some 100 yard area. Did privet cutting to clear corner site line at Pigeon Hill cutoff trail. Note: Cindy Witt was Trail Boss for this trail day.

January: 100 volunteers: Was 17f at start of Trail Day only warmed to 40f!. Did cleaning of Mid Mountain Fire Road ditch in area close to the paved road. Added crib wall at intersection of Mid Mountain Fire Road and Rifle Pit Trail. Repaired to grade the intersection of the Brumby Cutoff Trail and paved mountain road. Also, started construction of the crib wall at Visitor Center Trail and Brumby Cutoff Trail. Note: all work this should be considered major repairs.

February: 135 volunteers: Worked at Ward Creek area. Did bamboo cutting; filled to grade the 'Lead in' section of raised trail (north toward bridge). Repaired & filled the deeply gouged area going up hill from the turnpike.(This was a severely gouged area and the repair is still holding). Also, added several rolling grades along this trail section for water diversion away from the downhill trail (these are rock armored grades).

Delta Chi Fraternity from Ga Tech (40 volunteers), performed clean up of the CCC work Sites; including weeding, shoveling and sweeping out debris, cutting invasive plants and pushing downed trees out of the way. Notably, Bruce used the large riding mower to cut both the grass field and library area, Cindy used the ditch witch to clear logs from CCC area. Danny & Harry worked with crews clearing brush and Bill cleaned the 'shower'). All this work was instrumental to the success of the Ticket To Ride Program.

March: 65 volunteers: (Misty, fog and Rainy weather) Performed work on the Mountain Trail

from concrete steps at Mtn Top parking lot to the Mid Mountain Fire Road. An armored grade diversion was made at the steps area (divert water off trail). Teams worked several areas of the trail to pull dirt built up at the trail edge back onto the trail. A team added stack rail fencing to narrow the trail along a flat area; another team moved and repositioned rock at the boulder area to minimize trail distortion. Additionally stack rail fencing was placed at the earthworks areas south of the Large Stone Staircase on the Mid Mtn Fire Rd. This was done to deter climbing on the earthworks or mistaking them for a trail.

Note: Cindy & Scott shared Trail Boss responsibility for this Trail Day.

Park Day: 35 volunteers (had 55 cancel!): Weather was cold –at start. Performed work on the Environmental Trail, filled in areas where large roots were exposed, covered fill dirt areas with pine bark mulch. Removed trail side build up in several areas to aid in water drainage off the trail. Cleaned out the overgrowth of invasive plants which covered an area of agricultural significance from farming in this area (irrigation system coming down the mountain). Removed the dirt from root ball of a very large tree which had fallen adjacent to the trail and left a large hole exposed; hole is now filled. Added pine bark mulch to the trail close to intersection with the lead in trail.

Note: Developed a plan and recruited Trail Club Crew Leaders and Trail Ambassadors for a work, Study project for 360 University of Wisconsin @ River Falls Students to be completed in five hours. However, it started raining night before the event and rained all morning. The event was canceled and at their request no alternative plan was made. Thank you everyone who volunteered; we could have done it!

April: 80 volunteers: Completed the crib wall at Intersection of Brumby Connect Trail and Visitor Center Trail. Added fill dirt and wood chip mulch to the Visitor Center Trail area some 50 yards from and extending another 30 yards from Brumby Connect Trail intersection. Channeled both sides of Brumby Trail at the Hill section north of dry creek. Did privet cutting along lower section of the paved Mtn Rd. also, pulled garlic mustard.

May: 85 volunteers: Start work on the Pigeon Hill Trail (from Burnt Hickory Rd). Cleaned out the culvert at Burnt Hickory Rd trail head. Built level dirt platform area at trail head, proceeded up hill adding armored water diversions (to flow water off trail). Built rolling grade across Brumby Trail about 40 yards north of Burnt Hickory Rd. Dug out culvert entrance about 25 yards north of Burnt Hickory Rd. Improved the ditch along Brumby Trail from the newly added grade diversion to the cleared culvert. A team did invasive plant cutting in this area of Brumby Trail.

Phobio Company (14 volunteers) installed large rocks to form a platform at the base of concrete Stairs leading to Little Kennesaw Mtn. This was a difficult project that was safely accomplished; with much thanks to Larry's sled apparatus. (This was a big job for a small group- excellent work, thank you Geoff and 'strong arm' Donald)

Danny and Harry assisted in planning and worked with South East NPS Invasive Plant Team.(6) They were here for one week cutting and using herbicide on the bamboo across from Kolb Farm House also garlic mustard at the Mtn top parking lot area and 'tree of heaven' at the Mtn crest.

Danny And Cam hosted (35) a KSU Accounting Class perform community service at the park. They did grounds grooming around the visitor center. Then had a class session with Cam and Danny

explaining accounting practices used by the NPS. (A good addition to our club activities)

June: 110 volunteers: Hot weather! Pigeon Hill work. Assisted Boy Scouts getting material up and old material down the Hill for rebuilding of the raised wood walkway at viewing area of Pigeon Hill. We performed additional work on the water diversions along the Hill Trail. Also, started large rock fill in at the area beneath viewing platform. The rocks were rather large and had to be transported up the hill; very difficult due to treads coming off the diesel ditch witch. Also, a team performed work along Brumby Trail north of previous work; ditching and adding water diversion grade also clearing inlet for a culvert. Invasive plant cutting in that area of Brumby Trail. A group went on an interpretive hike to the New Salem Church site. The Delta 2 Team of AmeriCorps NCCC assisted with our Trail Day work; they were instrumental in monitoring traffic at the Burnt Hickory Road crossing. (Note: many buckets of dirt were carried Up the hill)

In June the AmeriCorps team (6) started a five week work program in the park. Their work was primarily performed along the Noses Creek Trail. They repaired structure around small creek culvert. Added grade modifications along the trail. Added rip rap material to fill gouged areas of the Trail. They channeled along the trail side and built crib wall to protect earthworks. Also reinforced and filled to grade the deeply gouged trail head on north side of the bridge at Hardage Mill Trail (also performed trail work on Hardage Mill Trail under direction of Jay Dement). Total of six Tandem Dump Trucks of material was put down. They also assisted with interpretive hikes and went on various educational trips and activities. (They utilized Kolb Farm House for their housing).

Also in June the Student Conservation Assembly (SCA)(10) started their three week program at the park. They performed many work projects at the park; including bamboo and invasive plant cutting. Basic trail work and rock construction (see bench area at Little Kennesaw concrete steps and armored water diversion about 15 yards from base of steps). Also, installed new metal kiosks about the park. They water proofed all the recently built bridges and did many areas of trail grooming (including Hardage Mill Trail). They camped Outdoors off Old Mtn Rd. All this work was accomplished with the help of Key Crew Leaders that supervised various stages of their work.

June: Several of Trail Clubbers and Trail Ambassadors (10) went to Washington DC to receive the Hartzog Award.

July: 80 volunteers. A crew did addition of large rocks to area beneath the viewing platform on Pigeon Hill. Finishing work was performed on the armored grades crossing the Pigeon Hill Trail. A team did smoothing of the Brumby Trail (about 2/3 mile from Burnt Hickory Road), they added fill dirt and wood chip mulch. Also there was a team that did privet cutting in this area of the Brumby Trail. Note: Marietta Daily Journal took pictures and published a story in the next day Sunday Paper.

HDH Advisors (16 volunteers) came and did finish work on the rocks placed at Pigeon Hill viewing platform area. Also, they completed the fill in work on the Brumby Trail that was started on Trail Day. (this was a sad day, following death of LCpl Skip Wells)

Note: We were scheduled to march as a unit in Marietta's 4th of July Parade. It was canceled due to lightning in the area. However the SCA Group decorated the 4 seat gator for the parade; they along with several of the AmeriCorps Team and many of our Club Members were ready to participate

(even had New T Shirts made). – We were going to be right behind the canon crew, canon on the trailer. Sad that we missed the parade; but SCA and AmeriCorps enjoyed a big party and fireworks at the Square.

August: 170 volunteers: Big job was cutting privet from the uphill side of the mountain road. This greatly improved site line for vehicles and pedestrians. Also, teams were dispatched to Renew the ditch along the uphill side of Mid Mtn Fire Rd between the large rock steps and big curve. Two teams did ditching and trail cleaning along the Brumby Connect Trail.

Walker School Sophomore Class (130 volunteers) did a morning of community service by doing initial ditching along the sides of Brumby Trail from the CCC area to some 100 yards south. They also had several groups cutting privet and wisteria at the CCC north side of circle area. Also there was one rolling grade built across the Brumby Trail about 100 yards from CCC area.

Sogeti Company (10 volunteers) did trail grooming along the 24 Gun Trail at first bridge west of Old Mtn Rd. They also assisted in the cutting of invasive plants in the area and cutting and removing a large fallen tree which was blocking the view of a long / old farm retaining wall. (note: this job was mainly performed by crew leaders – thanks!)

September: 75 volunteers: Added fill dirt and wood chips to the Brumby Connect Trail (Section before Visitor Center Trail Intersection from Paved Rd.). Improved the ditching along Brumby Trail which was started by Walker School volunteers. Added four grade dips/ diversions along Brumby Trail From the 100 yard area from CCC extending to area around the curve. Added a drainage pipe to the inside of corner area, covered it with rip rap, then heavy gravel then fill dirt, then crush and run stone material and topped with wood chips. This was a major job and this curve area was some 30' and was deeply banked below the trail grade; so much so that it caused tread to roll of the ditch witch and would severely tilt a gator driving around this corner. Also, the surface was too steep for pedestrian traffic. Now very much improved, and water should drain in this area without erosion concerns.

Utilized the 'Assault Team' plan for first time, Danny and Harry took four volunteers and cut Privet at specific area about ¾ way up paved road. Bruce had three volunteers assist in cleaning out the inlet area of four culverts (area along level area of paved road by Little K). And Bruce's team repaired secure the rock work at the bench by Little K concrete steps, also added dry concrete which will set up naturally.

Before our work start Jay Haney gave a talk and answered questions about the CCC.

Trail Director set up display at KSU Volunteer Fair. Some 550 students visited the fair, many were interested in our presentation and mission at Kennesaw Mountain. (There frequently are a good Number of KSU students volunteering with us).