

Trail Talk

Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District

October 2006



Before



After

Beech Bottom Campsite Rehabilitation Scenes

Volunteers continue to work at the Beech Bottom closure area in the Cohutta Wilderness. Numerous campsites have been cleared of old fire rings and debris. Some transplanting of trees and brush has occurred at some of these sites. After the autumn leaf fall occurs over the next couple of months we should begin to see some significant changes in the looks of this place. Recently we designated six campsites for the November 1st – March 31st winter camping season. These sites will be shown on a revised map on our forest website and at the trailhead as well. The entrance to the site is marked with a white blaze. The center of the campsite has a green fence post with a numbered plate on it. Campfires are still banned at these locations.





September saw **John Carey** continue to host at Lake Conasauga campground... **Mark Voykovic** worked with district employee Mike Davis for a day doing public contact work on Labor Day weekend at a busy Jacks River Falls... **Bob and Mary Korch** tackled swingblading along portions of the Emery Creek Trail... Equestrians **Kathy Hanson, Janet Brooks, Laura Smith and Heather Bourff** picked up litter along several Forest Service roads in the Dry Creek area... **Troy and Wanda Brown** worked on swingblading along the East Cowpen Trail... **Troy Brown** worked with district employees for a day on blowdown removal along the Pinhoti Trail between Turkey Mountain and Stillhouse... **Dean Ellis** has taken on mowing and overall care of the Cohutta Overlook off of Georgia Highway 52... Nine volunteers joined district employee Larry Thomas on the September work day at Beech Bottoms. Participants included **Amos Burrell, Jim Bishop, Bob Korch, Troy and Wanda Brown, Mike Plochinski, Tom Blackwell, Nathan Dennis and Tom Owens...** **Troy and Wanda Brown, Bob Korch, and Jim Cullen** continued swingblading along East Cowpen Trail... and **Troy Brown** spent an additional day there working to close the month out. Volunteers contributed nearly 500 hours to the district last month. As usual you did a great job last month and accomplished a lot of solid work. We appreciate it!



Trout Unlimited members on an October work day on Mountaintown Creek and Rock Creek.



Trout Unlimited Work Day



We saw our first frost of the season on October 14th – cold weather is just around the corner – will you be prepared for a day on the trail when it arrives? Here are a few things to think about:

- Do you layer your clothing? You should in order to deal with the changes in weather and temperatures.
- Do you have enough food and water for the calories spent in this type of weather? You need to keep the body fueled to deal with the colder temps.
- Remember to carry gloves, head gear, maybe a scarf. We lose a lot of heat from the hands, neck and head.
- The feet lose a lot of heat as well. Consider carrying extra socks and liners for warmth if you've been crossing one of our numerous stream fords that day.

Know before you go and stay prepared.



Volunteer Spotlight



In June of 1997 the district recruited an individual from the Roswell, Georgia area to participate in our trail maintenance program. **Jim Cullen** has played a key role in our Volunteer program since then. He is a part of the “core” group that you frequently read about. The ever athletic **Mr. Cullen** is a runner and mountain biker as well. He also participates in endurance events, often with his friend and fellow Volunteer **Kyle Glave**. Jim has logged 1,000 hours of volunteer

service here. A few years ago Jim became interested in blowdown removal and the use of crosscut saws. In 2004 he was certified in the use of the saw and ax. He is valued as one of our crosscut sawyers along with **Troy and Wanda Brown**. These sawyers are crucial to our wilderness trails program. Always a pleasure to see on a work day or at any time we celebrate nine year Volunteer veteran Jim Cullen.



Fiscal Year 2007 is off and running. Armuchee-Cohutta Volunteers contributed some **8,000+ hours** to the district last year.

What's next??

November 18th – Our next scheduled work day will be at *Keown Falls Loop Trail* and the adjoining *Johns Mountain Trail*. We'll tackle weed eating, water bar maintenance, erosion control dip construction and a few more things in the Keown Falls area.

Plan to meet at the Keown Falls Picnic Area parking lot off of the Pocket Road at **9:30am**.

Leaving Your Mark is Overrated.

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics

www.LNT.org