

Trail Talk

Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District

December 2006



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



A superb November saw **Troy and Wanda Brown** begin blowdown removal along the northern portion of Hickory Creek Trail. Two frontal passages with strong winds left us with a large amount of work to do on several trails... The **Browns** started out on Friday, spent the night there and were joined by **Amos Burrell** and **Drew McCarley** the next day... the **Southeast Volkswagen Club** had eleven people participate in their second annual clean up of the Johns Creek area south of the Pocket Campground... **Troy Brown** spent a

weekday continuing the work along Hickory Creek removing fallen debris... **Troy and Wanda Brown** continued the relentless work this time on a Friday along the western portion of Hickory Creek Trail... The next day they were joined by **Tom and Tannis Blackwell, Jim Cullen, Estes Dennis, Drew McCarley,** and **Melanie Fulton**... Equestrians **Linda Norton** and **Sherry Niedich** cleared blowdown along Sumac Creek Trail... **Jim Holland** representing the group **Backcountry Horsemen of America** participated in a two day crosscut saw certification course... **Troy and Wanda Brown** began the blowdown removal work along Rice Camp Trail, clearing it to the eighth crossing... Twenty-eight people were involved in the work day at Keown Falls and Johns Mountain. A group from the **Northwest Georgia chapter of SORBA** (Southern Off Road Bicycling Association) also came out and worked on a section of the Pinhoti Trail at Snake Creek Gap. This work day also saw several members of the **Backcountry Horsemen of America** join us for the day's events. Participants included **Amos Burrell, Troy and Wanda Brown, Janet Brooks, Larry Wheat, Mike Plochinski, Bob and Mary Korch, Janet, Scott, and Zack Jordan, Jim Bishop, Tom Owens, Jeff and Maureen Krivo, Gail Milner, Joan Tipton, Jim Holland, Earl Eaves, Laura Smith, Susan and Bruce Shedd, Helen Chamberlain, Ava Lambert, Kate Talmadge, Carol Renion, James Marler, and Drew McCarley.** These folks worked shoulder to shoulder with district employees Lisa Blackmon and Larry Thomas. A great TEAM effort!... Dean Ellis continued his work at the Cohutta Overlook with trash pick-up. Thank you for the **500 Hours** of your precious time in November. We appreciate it!



Volunteers "putting their backs in it" on the Keown Falls Trail.



Volunteer Spotlight

This month our spotlight highlight a couple who have been volunteering with us since August, 1999. Their first work day was a long one on Hemp Top Trail. Swingblading on Hemp Tom in August? It's a wonder they came back! But Tom and Tannis Blackwell of the Marietta, Georgia area discovered something that day that has brought them back continuously every year since then. The Blackwells truly love the Cohuttas and you see it in



their attitudes on each and every outing. Tom has given the TEAM over 700 hours of his time and Tannis 600 plus. These two members of our "core" TEAM have also managed to bring in family members. Tannis' brother Estes and his son Nathan come down often from Athens, Tennessee to join us on trail endeavors.

Tannis is a nationally registered medical technologist with the highest credentials. She conducts medical laboratory tests ordered by physicians to aid in their diagnosis.

Tom is a part of an engineering support group at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Marietta. His group supports production of C-130J Hercules and F-22 Raptor Fighter aircraft.

Their shared interests include time with their family, including two grandsons, their local church which includes being active in the choir and The Georgia Festival Chorus, Appalachian culture, history, hiking and of course TEAM Armuchee-Cohutta.

Tom and Tannis have been a joy for us to work with and observe over the years. We've watched their love and knowledge for our area grow since that day in 1999 and with that we celebrate the Blackwells as some of our finest Volunteers.





Don't be an accident waiting to happen.

Be careful in all that you do while volunteering with us. From buckling that seatbelt before you leave home and driving defensively to the trailhead, to your hike and/or ride and work along the trail, to the trip back home ... always think safety first. There is a lot that can happen during the course of a day. After years of advising you about safety issues, all of you have done a tremendous job in preventing and avoiding injury. Continue to always remember ...

Safety Begins With YOU!

Remember your personal protective equipment, what we call PPE, especially the basics:

- Hardhat
- Leather Gloves
- Leather Boots
- Safety Glasses



Keown Falls Work Day...Still hard at it!!!

Things slow down a bit on our volunteer calendar during this most wonderful time of the year. We wish you a great Holiday Season.

Mark

Your



Calendars:

- What:** Working Weekend #46
- When:** Tentatively scheduled for February 2-3, 2007
- Where:** Pinhoti Trail
- Why:** To meet a variety of trail maintenance needs.
- How:** The winter working weekend is a Friday-Saturday event. Come for one or both days. We'll have car-camping opportunities on Friday night. This is often one of our best trips of the year so don't miss it!