

# Trail Talk

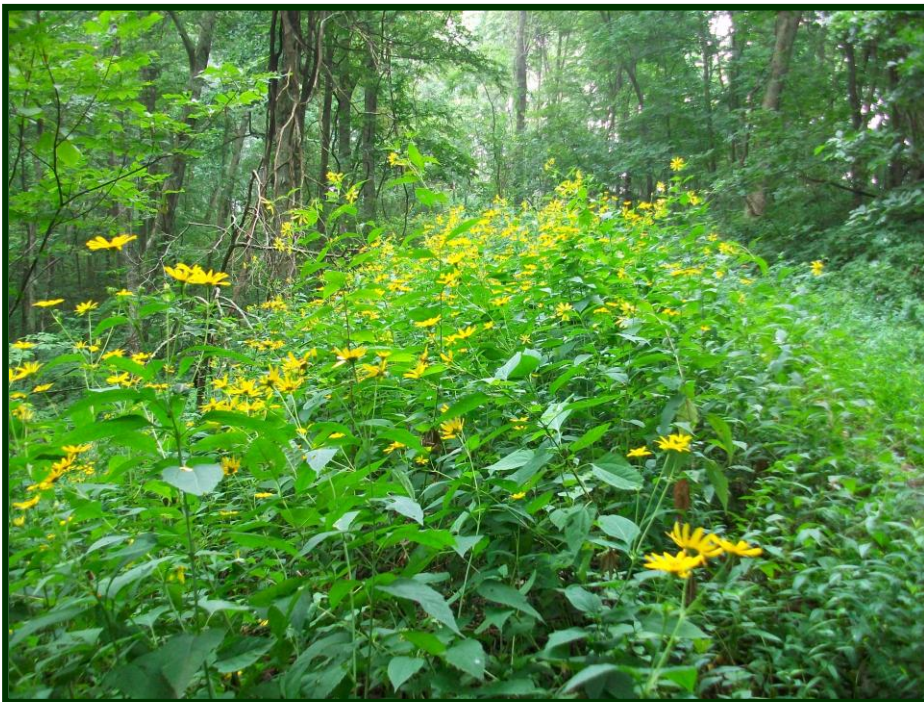
*Conasauga Ranger District*

*June - July 2010*



*“Keep close to Nature’s heart, yourself; and break away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”*

*-- John Muir*



**Common Sunflower**

Sunny days, blue sky, low humidity  
An abundance of late summer wildflowers  
A hint of Fall in the air  
No better time for a day in the woods



**Yellow Fringed Orchid**



**June** - The beginning of the month saw the trio of **Mike Cole, Rick Moon, and Phillip White of Northwest Georgia SORBA** complete a section of trail work on the Pinhoti Trail...the annual volunteer gathering for National Trails Day was a huge success thanks to the 38 people who attended to perform waterbar maintenance on the popular, multi-use Bear Creek Trail. Those that participated were **Shane Adams, Rhanes Aher, Tannis Blackwell, Chris Bolton, Jeremy Bordelon, Barrett Bourne, Troy Brown, Wanda Brown, Amos Burrell, Sharaten Chioheti, Bryan Clever, Mike Cole, Charlie Crider, Delaney Cullen, Jim Cullen, Kit Dameron, Larry Dameron, Gennie Dasinger, Steve Edwards, Andrew Gates, Bill Hester, Chris Hohol, Jason Kepley, Jim Leatherwood, Jim McGarvey, Gail Milner, Rick Moon, Melinda Neal, Terry Palmeri, Paula Schubert, Adam Scott, Aaron Scott, Bill Semsrott, Rhett Smith, John Traneto, Larry Vanden Bosch, Alan Wadsworth, Phillip White**...also on the same day saw a eager group from **BCHNG** engage in both maintenance of the South Fork Trail and a variety of campground maintenance duties at Jacks River Fields Campground with those members being **Dawn Anderson, Tommy Burke, Martha Fillingham, Debbe Kraemer, Junior Kyle, Carlos Martel, Carol Martel, Chuck Panter, Kim Panter, Bruce Shedd, Susan Shedd, Lakota Towe, and Melinda Towe**...the always dependable **Wanda Brown** keeps doing an outstanding job of putting in several hours worth of work keeping up with the volunteer database...**Jim Holland, Kathy Klenk, and Brian Skinner** put in their hard earned time removing blowdowns from the Hemptop Trail from Dally Gap Trailhead to Penitentiary Branch Trail...**Troy and Wanda Brown** spent a couple of days this month trying to finish up the waterbars on the middle section of the Hickory Creek Trail from what was left over from the previous volunteer trail workdays...**Neil Harrison, Carlos Martel, Carol Martel, Jim McGarvey, Bruce Shedd, Susan Shedd, Carolyn Touryniere, Martha Fillingham, Carol Upshaw and Melinda Towe of BCHNG** all spent two days in training learning trail design and layout concepts and construction and maintenance of trails...**Jim Holland and Linda Pringle** took their horses on the Hemptop Trail for a strenuous day clearing out the remaining blowdowns with a crosscut saw...**Jim Bishop, Troy Brown, Wanda Brown, Amos Burrell, Bob Korch, and Tom Owens** attended a Board of Directors meeting of the Conasauga District Trail Volunteers (CDTV) to hash out old and new business and to select new board members...**Jim Holland** attended three days of training to become a CPR and First Aid instructor...two high school students, **Connor Elrod and Austin Roland** gave several days of their time in helping Forest Service personnel in an array of recreation and wildlife maintenance projects...**Carlos Martel** devoted more time in the upkeep and maintenance at Jacks River Fields Campground...**Tim Woody** enthusiastically volunteered his time as the camp host overseeing the Lake Conasauga Campground...**Glenn Kirkland** took over the camp host duties at the Pocket Campground keeping everything in order. With the month of June in the books, the best volunteers in the business totaled an amazing **1,092.5 hours**. A big THANK YOU to all those who gave of their valuable time to make our trails, campgrounds, and wildlife habitat the best they can be.



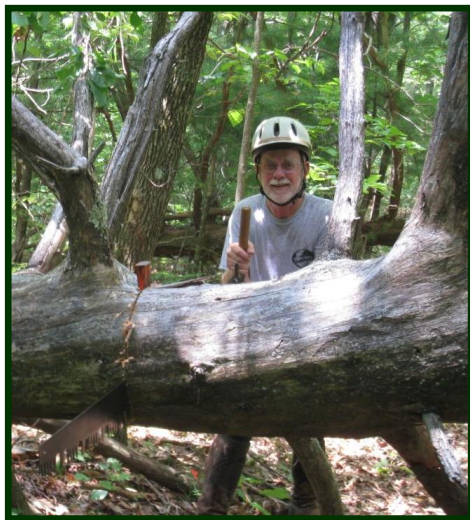
**Linda Pringle finishes a cut on the Hemptop Trail**



**July** - To get things going for the month, **BCHNG** members **Carlos and Carol Martel** took some of their time on Independence Day to help clean and maintain Jacks River Fields Campground...**Troy and Wanda Brown** hit the trail with their slingblades accomplishing a good portion of Hickory Creek Trail from Rice Camp to Thomas Creek...**Jim Holland and Linda Pringle** were back at it, this time on Jacks River Trail from the Dally Gap side cutting out the blowdowns to the first river crossing, and a few days later went on to finish up the blowdowns on Hemptop Trail...making their annual summer trip to spend several days on Hemptop Trail to slingblade away were **Tom and Tannis Blackwell**...members of **BMTA**, **David Blount, Walt Cook, Darcy Douglas, Ralph Heller, Ken Jones, Tom Keene, and Tom Mitchell** volunteered their time to slingblade from McKenny Gap to Fowler Mountain on the Benton MacKaye Trail...back on the trail crosscutting the blowdowns on the Hickory Creek Trail were **Troy and Wanda Brown**...**Bill Semsrott** of **SORBA** over a period of two days performed trail maintenance on sections of the Pinhoti Trail...our monthly volunteer workday saw **Jim Bishop, Tannis Blackwell, Tom Blackwell, Susan Boyle, Troy Brown, Wanda Brown, Amos Burrell, Anthony Emanuel, Patti Emanuel, John Franetic, Jim Leatherwood,**



**Taylor Slate slingblading the Hickory Ridge Trail**



**Jim Holland tackles another blowdown on Hemptop Trail**

**Nathan Norris, Tom Owens, Wayne Pattillo, and Taylor Slate** complete a large section of slingblading and trimming on the Hickory Ridge Trail from the Rice Camp Trail shortcut to East Cowpen Trail...**Bob Goggins, Sharon Goggins, Junior Kyle, Chuck Panter, Reese Panter, Lakota Towe and Martha Fillingham** of **BCHNG** were attentive to the upkeep and maintenance of Jacks River Fields Campground making it look in great shape...**Wanda Brown** put in some much needed time for the support of the volunteer database...**Larry Wheat, Carlos Martel, Carol Martel, Jim McGarvey, Bruce Shedd, Susan Shedd, Carolyn Touryniere, Melinda Towe, and Neil Harrison,** members of **BCHNG**, all took part in a seminar that taught trail crew leader


training...**Jim Holland and Linda Pringle** have been keeping busy these past couple of months abolishing blowdowns from the trail, this time on Penitentiary


Branch...crosscut saw enthusiasts **Troy and Wanda Brown** returned to the Rice Camp Trail to clear away blowdowns...**Bat Blitz 2010** was held this year on the Conasauga District over a three day period in which **56 volunteers** participated from all over the east in a bat survey...our young volunteers from Murray High School, **Connor Elrod and Austin Roland**, continued to do a superb job in a variety of Forest Service projects...Lake Conasauga host, **Tim Woody**, and the Pocket host, **Glenn Kirkland**, performed their day-to-day duties and provided support for Forest Service personnel managing the campgrounds...finally, **Amos Burrell, Dewey Campbell, Molly Ford, Jim Holland, and Thomas Puett** spent two days getting either certified or recertified in a crosscut saw training class. A mind-boggling **2,424 hours** were compiled during a very hot and humid July. **THANKS TEAM** for all your sweat!!! You're an incredible group of people!!!





This is a reprint of last year's hunting season discussion that bears repeating...

It is hunting season in the North Georgia Mountains and throughout the eastern United States. State Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) have hunting seasons that are generally much shorter than the general statewide season that applies to all huntable land outside of WMAs. Most of the east side of the Conasauga District, including the Cohutta Wilderness, falls within the Cohutta WMA. The John's Mountain WMA encompasses the John's Mountain area on the west side of the district. Refer to the official Georgia 2009 – 2010 Hunting Seasons & Regulations or go to: [www.gohuntgeorgia.com](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com) for more information. Regardless of whether you are a hunter or not, there are a number of things you can do to keep yourself safe in the woods at this time of year...

 Be aware! Learn when and where hunts are scheduled, particularly firearms hunts, and avoid these areas if possible. Consider letting the hunters have the woods for these short time periods.

 Plan your outing to start later and end earlier in the day. Most hunters hunt early morning and are out of the woods before noon. They often return late in the afternoon to continue their hunt.

 Wear bright colored clothing. Blaze orange is best. Do not wear white, black or brown colors which could be mistaken for a deer or bear.

 Stay on the trail. Avoid cross-country travel where you would most likely encounter a hunter.

 Travel in groups to be more recognizable.

## **2010-2011 Hunting Seasons**

### **Cohutta Wildlife Management Area**

Archery Season, deer and bear: September 11 - October 5, October 11 – 15

Firearms Season, deer and bear: October 7 – 10, December 1 - 5

Small Game Season: August 15 – September 10, October 16 – November 29, December 6 – February 28

Special Feral Hog Hunt: February 4 - 10

Turkey Season: March 26 – May 15

### **John's Mountain Wildlife Management Area**

Archery Season, deer and bear: September 11 – October 15

Adult/Child Firearms Hunt: October 29 – 31

Firearms Season: November 23 - 27

Small Game Season: August 15 – September 10, October 16 – 27, November 1 – 21, November 28 – February 28

Turkey Season: March 26 – April 1, April 2 – 8

### **Northern Zone Firearms Deer Season**

Land outside WMAs including National Forest: October 16 – January 1

## Seasonal Allergy Myths

Myth	Truth
<b>Flowers cause most seasonal allergies.</b>	In reality, wind-pollinated plants like grasses, trees, and weeds are the principal culprits in most allergies. Their tiny pollen particles can be blown hundreds of miles. Flowers are pollinated by insects, and their pollen particles are heavy and usually fall to the ground.
<b>Moving (especially to a drier climate) will relieve your allergies</b>	Moving might allow you to escape one cause of your allergies, only to find you're allergic to different plants in your new environment. If you do move, you may not show symptoms to new allergies for over a year.
<b>You can't develop allergies as an adult</b>	The truth is, adults can become allergic to things they weren't allergic to earlier in life. Moving from the West Coast to the East Coast, for example, may expose you to different sources of allergies.

(Source: American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology)



## LEAVE NO TRACE

- ❖ **PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE**
- ❖ **TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES**
- ❖ **DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY**
- ❖ **LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND**
- ❖ **MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS**
- ❖ **RESPECT WILDLIFE**
- ❖ **BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS**



In this issue, let's take a look at Principle #5:

### MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Nearly all of us have grown up with the tradition of campfires, but they can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Certainly campfires are no longer essential for food preparation. Before you decide to build a campfire, ask yourself, "Does a fire make sense in this situation?"

- Consider use of a lightweight, backpacking stove. Stoves provide an easier, cleaner, and "greener" way to cook.
- Check the wind, weather, location, and wood availability. Decide whether it is safe and responsible to build a campfire.
- Where fires are permitted, use an established fire ring.
- If your campsite does not have a fire ring, use a different fire technique: build a mound fire or use a fire pan.



- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coal to ash, put out the campfire completely, and then scatter the cool ashes. Half-burned logs present a disposal problem and a disagreeable sight for the next visitor.

For more Leave No Trace information visit: [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

### How to Build a Mound Fire

When there is no existing fire ring, use this method to assure minimum impact.

**Step 1:** Once you have a piece of ground chosen for a fire, the first step is to cover the ground a fire proof piece of material (sold in many outdoor stores) or a fire pan. A flat rock can also be used. Remember having a small fire is better as it takes less wood to build thus conserving the wood supply and time spent gathering it.

**Step 2:** Cover the material/pan with several centimeters, or 1 1/2 inches, of mineral soil to insulate the material and ground. Mineral soil can be obtained from sandy beaches, gravel areas or by digging underneath the organic soil layer. Be careful to not disturb any vegetation while obtaining the mineral soil. The soil should not contain twigs or other biological matter that may burn once the fire is lit.

**Step 3:** Build your fire on top of the mineral soil and keep it small to conserve wood and prevent it from burning nearby vegetation.

**Step 4:** Light and Enjoy.

**Step 5:** Once the fire is finished burning and no large pieces of charcoal are left, douse the ashes with water. Be sure the fire is out and cool to the touch. The ashes can be scattered across a meadow or forest so that they are hidden from view. Return the mineral soil from where it was obtained and pack your material/pan away. What is left should be as good as before the fire with no trace of burned wood or scorched rocks. The remains of a properly built fire should not be visible after it is dismantled.

## The Civilian Conservation Corps (part 1)

Written by James Wettstaed,  
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Archeologist

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) existed for approximately nine years (1933-1942) and is one of the best known of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Programs. Roosevelt was elected president in 1932, in the depths of the Great Depression, and was determined to establish numerous programs to try to help people and end the Depression. From early in his life, Roosevelt had been exposed to a conservation ethos and had developed the "conviction that conservation of the nation's natural resources was essential to continued progress. The idea of the Civilian Conservation Corps embodied these two fundamental beliefs. The Corps would act as a catalyst, bringing together two wasting national assets, natural resources and idle young men in an attempt to reclaim both (Throop 1979:8)." The CCC accomplished both of these goals magnificently.



Enrollees were paid \$30 a month, with the requirement that \$25 be sent home to support their families. Those who showed a special aptitude were moved into leadership positions and received higher pay. Several eligibility requirements were established, including: U.S. citizens, of sound physical fitness, unmarried, unemployed, and aged 18-25. Some of these requirements were altered over the years (in 1935 the age range was changed to 17-28). It was stipulated by law that there be no discrimination by color, race, creed, or politics within the program, however, racial discrimination was an issue and camps were segregated. Approximately 45% of the enrollees had never held a job, while only 13% had graduated high school. Day to day

supervision of the work camps, and all logistical needs, was provided by the Army (Merrill 1981: 4, 11; Otis et al. 1986: 1, 7-8; Pasquill 2008: 14, 18, 23; Throop 1979: 10-14).

A requirement of the program was that the men do work that needed to be done, make-work projects were not permitted. Overall, forest conservation and protection work was the main goal of the CCC. Under this criterion, fire fighting and prevention was the number one priority, with other responsibilities including tree planting, timber stand improvement, and erosion control work. As part of this responsibility, the CCC constructed the infrastructure necessary to support this work, including roads, bridges, telephone lines, lookout towers, and other facilities. Additional work projects included forest development projects, and the recreation facilities fell under this category. Administrative facilities, such as ranger stations and work centers were built under both categories, and an effort was made to build for anticipated future needs, as well as immediate needs (Otis et al. 1986: 2, 10; Throop 1979: 27-29).

**Did you know?** In what is now the Cohutta Wilderness, the Hemptop Tower was a 70 ft. steel tower with a 7x7 ft cab built in 1938 by the CCCs and removed in 1972. It was located on the old Cohutta Ranger District, currently part of the Conasauga Ranger District.



## **Pinhoti Tattoo the new rage?**

Believe it or not, this tattoo of the famous Pinhoti Trail logo was seen on a young through-hiker recently.





## Mark Your Calendars...

- September 18 Rough Ridge (multi-use) Trail – slingblading & water bar maintenance. Equestrians needed.
- October 30 **Revised Date.** Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.
- Nov. 12-13 Working Weekend #58, Beech Bottom Trail – reroute construction and water bars. Equestrians needed.
- December No workday planned
- January 15 TBA
- February 18-19 TBA



**Note:** In addition to these scheduled workdays, we are trying to find some volunteers who are interested in working independently or with a small group to tackle smaller projects.

If you are interested, please contact Ed at 706-695-6736 x 118 or e-mail [elang@fs.fed.us](mailto:elang@fs.fed.us).



Volunteers take a break at the Hickory Ridge Trailhead