



Allegheny Brambles

An informational article about the Allegheny National Forest

United States
Department of Agriculture

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HICKORY CREEK WILDERNESS TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS ON THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST ON OCTOBER 14TH-15TH

New Trailhead Needs a New Trail!

Friends of Allegheny Wilderness (FAW) and the U.S. Forest Service are looking for volunteers to help establish new trail from a new trailhead into the Hickory Creek Wilderness starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, October 14th-15th. The new trailhead is directly off Legislative Route (LR) 2002 approximately 15 miles south of Warren. The Bradford Ranger District recently constructed the new trailhead for the wilderness on the west side of LR 2002 (known as the Sheffield-Hearts Content Road) to provide better access.

In order to connect the new trailhead to the Hickory Creek Trail in the interior of the wilderness, approximately 1.5 miles of primitive trail will need to be established. The planned hiking trail from the new trailhead into the wilderness will provide a better 'sense of place' and wilderness aesthetics than the old trailhead at the Hearts Content National Scenic Area.

Kirk Johnson, Director of FAW (a non-profit, Warren-based wilderness advocacy organization) and Eric Flood, Wilderness Ranger for the Bradford Ranger District, have teamed together to provide a helpful work party to start construction of the new trail. The current project will be accomplished through the use of "primitive" tools such as axes and log carriers. A treadway will be established to connect the trailhead and existing trail. Volunteers will receive a free FAW/Hickory Creek Wilderness t-shirt. Work is planned to start at 9:00 a.m. both days and finish at 1:00 p.m. with a lunch. Please contact FAW at 723-0620 or alleghenyfriends@earthlink.net to register for this event so the appropriate number of tools and t-shirts can be arranged in advance.

You do not have to be of lumberjack proportions or of wrestling strength to volunteer your time. FAW has worked with the Forest Service before on trail maintenance, but your help will be needed as this is the most ambitious volunteer project FAW has planned to date. You should be steady on your feet and able to use hand tools without difficulty. Wear sturdy boots, preferably with rubber soles because of recent heavy rains, leather gloves to protect your hands, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and bring a lunch and beverage of your choice. The tag-team of Eric and Kirk will provide tools, hardhats, and an explanation of how to use the tools.



If some people indicate a willingness to brave the October nights and camp in the wilderness, FAW would like to know that in advance so a campout could be planned. Volunteers could also camp at the nearby Hearts Content Campground.

People are attracted to wilderness for many reasons. And with wilderness comes the need for wilderness stewardship. Visitors to wilderness unwittingly leave 'footprints of use,' intended or not. With designated wilderness comes the need to provide safe parking at a trailhead, information to enhance the wilderness experience and to minimize the number of lost hikers, and good walking access into the wilderness as mechanized travel is prohibited. Your vounteer time will help some of these objectives happen!

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