

Trail Talk



Conasauga Ranger District

*Volunteer Awards 2010
Special Edition*



Congratulations 2010 Award Winners



Left to Right: Volunteer of the Year Troy Brown and "Top Guns" Wanda Brown, Amos Burrell & Jim Holland

Congratulations to all of our volunteers for a safe and productive Fiscal Year 2010. We applaud you for a job well done. Some 313 volunteers contributed **9,144 hours** to the Conasauga Ranger District this past year...the second highest total in the 20-year history of the volunteer program. We sincerely appreciate your outstanding efforts and we look forward to working with you this coming year.



20TH ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECT

It has been 20 years since the Conasauga Ranger District Volunteer Program, better known as Team Conasauga, began its amazing run. And what a run it has been so far. Since 1990, district volunteers have amassed 143,742 contributed hours in all district resource areas from recreation and wilderness management to fire suppression and controlled burning. Some 4,000 volunteers have participated in the program, and hundreds of thousands of national forest visitors have directly benefitted from your efforts both in our developed recreation areas and in our remote backcountry. We have celebrated 18 consecutive National Trails Days together, in other words, all of them since the idea of a National Trails Day was conceived. And we have enjoyed 57 Work Weekends together, car camps and backpacking treks alike. Team Conasauga has constructed some 115 miles of new trail and maintained literally thousands of miles of trail. This in every kind of weather condition imaginable...reminded of the postal service credo, we can claim, "neither rain, nor sleet, nor dark of night, can deter Team Conasauga from its appointed duties". Volunteer trail crews have done incredible work following hurricanes, floods and tornado events, and what is more amazing, much of this work has been done with primitive tools, like the axe and crosscut saw, in a remote wilderness environment. And, what is crazier still is the fact that you all love doing this! A favorite saying came from veteran trail volunteer David Mayne who stated, "A bad day in the woods is better than a good day in the office."

In the past 20 years, we have seen many volunteers come and go as people have kids, move away, take new jobs, or find other interests...that's life and that's natural. But the one constant has been the TEAM and what it stands for. It's the same constant that brought you here in the first place: love of the land and the desire to give something back. The achievements and long term success of Team Conasauga have gained the respect of the Forest, the Region and the Washington Office and of that we are proud. But as much as what we have gained on-the-ground, of more importance is what we have gained in our hearts, the love and respect of true friends.

Words cannot express how much you are appreciated for all that you do for our nation's natural areas. But remember, as we in the Forest Service agency know, that the work you are doing is highly valued and vitally important. Thank you volunteers for 20 memorable years. Here's to Team Conasauga and 20 more memorable years.

You're Simply the Best

2010 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

Memories are Made of this...



