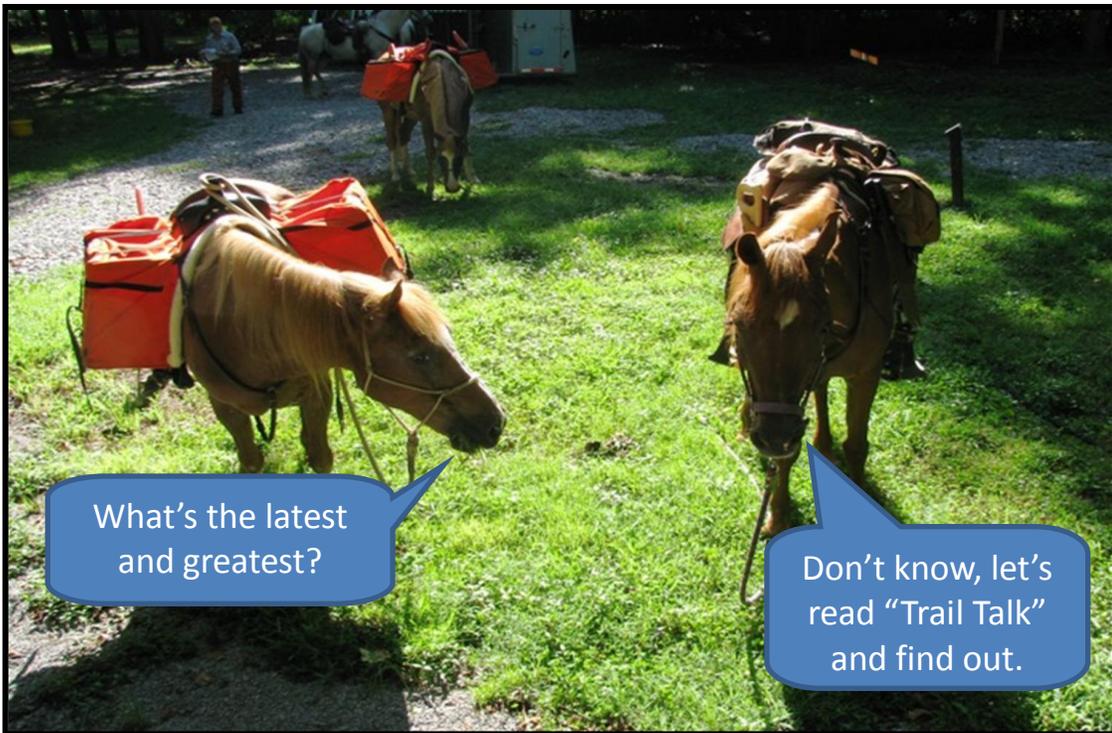


# Trail Talk

*Conasauga Ranger District*

*August 2012*



## **New Conasauga District Ranger Announced**

In September we will welcome **Jeff Gardner** to the Conasauga Ranger District. Jeff is coming from the Sanpete Ranger District on the Manti-Lasal NF in Utah where he is currently serving as District Ranger. Jeff is originally from northern Alabama and has worked on the Talledega NF. Jeff also did an Acting Ranger role here several months ago on the Chattooga River RD. Jeff brings a wealth of natural resource knowledge as well as proven management and leadership skills.

## New Conasauga Wilderness and Trails Technician Announced

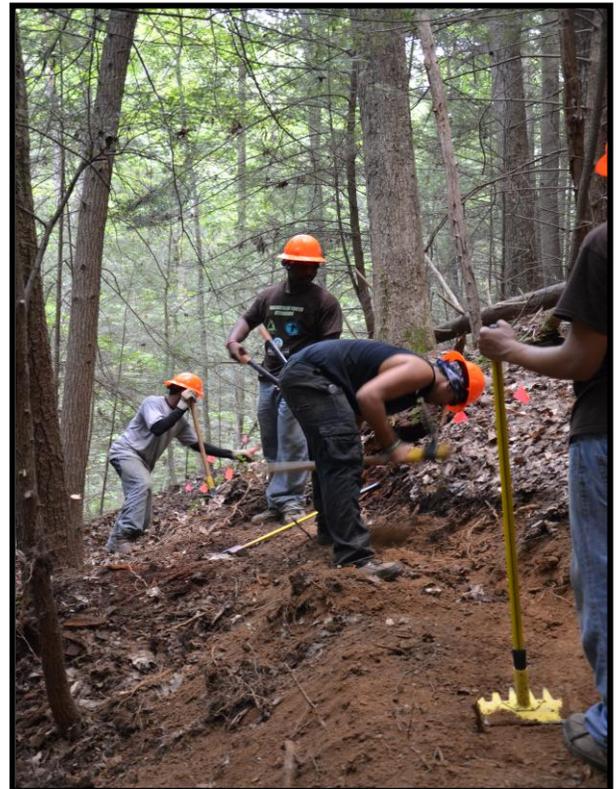
**Kevin Vasalinda** will be joining us to fill the Forestry Technician role that will serve as the Wilderness Ranger and Trails technician. He will also work closely with our Volunteers. Kevin is currently on the Shoal Creek Ranger District on the Talledega NF in Alabama. Kevin has worked in Yellowstone NP, Mt. Hood NF, and the Kenai NWR in Alaska to name a few. Kevin will join us in early October.

**SAWS** (Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards) Crews report that they managed to log-out the top 7.2 miles of the Jacks River Trail (17 trees). They also brushed with loppers, focusing on brushing the fords so that the blazes are obvious. They brushed the trail in general as well. They also removed several trees and did some brushing on Penitentiary Branch Trail. The crew from Yonkers, New York made progress on the Beech Bottom Trail re-route. They were able to construct some 200'-250' of trail. There is a considerable amount of trail to be completed in the near future. Both crews were on site in the wilderness the week of July 22nd.

**Carpooling**-Did you know that as you read this newsletter that another Trail Volunteer may be reading it just down the street? A number of our Volunteers live in the metro-Atlanta area and carpooling could be a great way to make it easier for you to join in on the fun on work days. The Team Conasauga website will be establishing a new "Blog" site to help you find a traveling partner to the Conasauga.

**Smokey Bear** celebrates the birthday of the famous fire prevention campaign on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Do you know how young Smokey Bear will be that day? Look for the answer elsewhere in this newsletter.

**What else?** Many of our readers are regulars; many may not have been out in a while. Is it time that you made a trip back to visit with us and build up some sweat equity in our wonderful natural resources? Your work truly counts for something and we appreciate all that you do. The August Working Weekend would be a great time to join us!





# *Zero in on Zero Accidents!*

Every time we go out as individuals or as a group please take the time, make the time to discuss the safety aspects of the day's work. We call it a "tailgate safety session". Work leaders should cover:

- Appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE)
- Who has first aid kits?
- Is anyone allergic to bee stings and do they have an EpiPen®, or are there other health related concerns?
- Common hazards such as sharp tools, spacing, and trips/slips and falls
- Environmental hazards such as poison ivy, snakes, and stinging insects
- Weather hazards such as extreme heat, extreme cold, thunderstorms, rain and snow
- Hydration needs
- Chainsaw and crosscut saw use deserves even more attention
- Question---what will we do if someone is injured, how will we get them out, and how long would it take to get to a hospital?

These are a few of the things one might cover for a work day-as a crew leader watch for signs of fatigue throughout the day. Normally 2pm is a good cutoff time-maybe earlier in hot weather. Our Conasauga Volunteer program has a remarkable safety record so let's keep up the good work. **Zero in and always focus on safety first!**





The month began with **Troy and Wanda Brown** taking on the swing blading of East Cowpen Trail via Rice Camp Trailhead. They gave us a head start for the following weekend's scheduled work day... **Amos Burrell, Dan Newman, Jim Bishop, Jim Leatherwood, Charlie Crider, Gail Milner,**



**July East Cowpen Work Day: Volunteers break for lunch at the Hickory Ridge Trail junction, where a cool breeze welcomed them at this 3200 foot elevation point**

**Tom Blackwell, Tannis Blackwell, and Ali Mims** partnered with Forest Service employees **Mike Davis, Ryan Farr, and Karen Larsen** on East Cowpen as we worked our way past Buckeye Mountain to a good stopping point for the August work days.. Equestrian Volunteers **Jim McGarvey, Cindy McGarvey, Larry Wheat, Carlos Martel, Anthony Emanuel, Patti Nethery** and Forest Service employee **Ryan Farr** tackled blown down tree removal the entire length of Iron Mountain Trail. Ryan says "thank goodness for horses"...**Smokey Bear** turns **68** this year...**David Tanner** spent a day working on East Cowpen to help us expedite the swing blading chore

there...Campground Hosts **Tim Woody** (Lake Conasauga) and **Jerry Phurrough** (The Pocket) continue to hold the fort down at their respective sites... SORBA member **Bill Hester** tackled blowdown on the East Armuchee Trail in the Dry Creek Trail System ...Equestrian **Kimi Gregg** spent some quality time removing deadfalls and limbs from portions of the Dry Creek Trail system...Equestrian **Molly Herlong** conducted a trail monitoring ride on the Dry Creek Trail System... **Jackie Gallman, Vince Walker, and Shawn Colter** used packstock to carry supplies in for the SAWS crews over a two day period on the Beech Bottom trail project...Benton Mackaye Trail Association member **George Owens** assisted Forest Service employees on a survey of a proposed trail relocation near Dyer Gap...Equestrian Volunteers **Kimi Gregg, Angie McGhee, Susan Apeldoorn, and Larry Wheat** cleared deadfall along the Mount Joy Trail in the Dry Creek Trail System for a day... Cyclists and equestrians **Bill Hester, Steve Clayton, and Larry Wheat** worked to remove a very large blown down tree and debris from the "Red Trail" in the Dry Creek Trail System. Benton Mackaye Trail Association (BMTA) Volunteers **Tom Johnson, John Franetic, Connor Bayliss, Claire Broadwell, Steve Bayliss, Gracelyn Bayliss, Tom Keene, Ralph Heller, Debbie Tuten, Margaret Meadows, Ceri McCarron, and Eric McCarron** tackled trimming, swingblading, erosion control dip construction, and the removal of one large blown down oak tree. This was along the BMT between Bushy Head Gap and Hudson Gap...**Dan Newman** has been a great asset in working with Tim Woody at the Lake Conasauga Campground. Dan has provided valuable service with the maintenance needs "up there"... All in all a busy month on the Conasauga as Volunteers contributed over 525 hours to the cause. A thunderous round of applause goes out to you!

**Were you out and about in July?** Didn't see your name listed here this month? It may be that your name and hours were not turned in to us for the monthly report. It is very important that we as an agency capture this information---please help us with that if at all possible. We are working with *Team Conasauga* to look at ways to improve how individuals and groups can turn in this information.



**Iron Mountain Trail Volunteers tackle numerous blown down trees from recent thunderstorm events.**





- August 10-11 Working Weekend # 65, Hemp Top/East Cowpen (Three Forks trailhead), sling-blading. Equestrians needed. Camping at Jacks River Fields.
- September 15 Rough Ridge (Three Forks trailhead), sling-blading. Equestrians needed.
- October 20 Consauga Ranger District annual Volunteer Picnic
- Nov 16-17 Working Weekend # 66, Tearbitches/Chestnut Lead trails, drain dips and water bars. Car Camping at the Ball Field.
- December No trail workday. Enjoy the holidays!
- January Working Weekend #67, Beech Bottom trail relocation continues toward completion. Car camping at Cottonwood Patch.



If you are interested, please contact Karen Larsen at 706-695-6736 x 103 or e-mail [kalarsen@fs.fed.us](mailto:kalarsen@fs.fed.us)

**Note:** In addition to these scheduled workdays, we need Volunteers who are interested in working independently or with a small group to tackle projects.



[www.fs.usda.gov](http://www.fs.usda.gov)

<http://teamconasauga.org/>