



CHATHAM TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Grove Place, Unit 29, Winchester, MA 01890

March 2009

Greetings CTA Members,

Spring is here! The winter snow pack is melting and the trees are starting to open their buds. The winter storms provided us with some good snowshoe hikes and cross country ski adventures. Fortunately the ice storm that impacted so much of New England did not have a significant impact on Evan's Notch.

While we hike a few more miles on snow covered trails, the CTA Board and our partners at the Forest Service started preparing for the 2009 trail maintenance season.

CTA has an important role in keeping Evans Notch and Cold River Camp a premier hiking destination. The work weekends are only one part of our trail stewardship, caring for about 40 miles of trails is a year round effort. The success of our work is not just achieved by the boots-in-the-mud, tools wielding crews but with the many hours of supportive work accomplished by members engaged in tool and sign maintenance, camp chores, office and administrative tasks. It is the team work that makes CTA the vital program it is today and I thank each of you for your contribution to this success.

2008 Season

The 2008 season started with adopters hitting the trails as soon as the trails dried. Over 40 volunteers gathered Memorial Day weekend to perform the basics of trail maintenance in the cleaning and repairing of waterbars and drainage ditches, removing blown down trees and cutting brush along the trails. Our friends from Trailwrights also joined us, providing support for the more technical aspects of projects.

The second weekend the number of volunteers was small, only 9 volunteers. The basic maintenance was complete and some trail improvement work done. The second weekend was registered as a National Trails Day event.

CTA reported 693 hours of trail work to the Forest Service; 535 hours on the two work weekends and 158 hours during the rest of the season.

For the second season, CTA volunteers joined CRC leaders leading a Trail Stewardship hike. These hikes are our opportunity to introduce CRC guests and hikers to trails construction and maintenance. Bob & Ellie Goeke led the hikes this year.

A rainy summer limited the participation of the Summit Achievement students who have contributed to our stewardship efforts.

Highlights for this year include approval by the IRS of our application for 501(c)3 non-profit status. Members designed and produced an embroidered CTA patch. The patch with a "Volunteer" rocker will be presented to participants in the work weekends. Ann Landers organized all the Association records and documents and with the help of Barbara Eastman have placed them in safe storage with the Chatham Historical Society. Copies of key documents have been placed in the CRC Library.

The dues and contributions from our 238 members is the principal source of funds. This year our expenses exceeded receipts by several hundred dollars; food for the work weekends is the most significant expense.

2009 Season

The 2009 season began in February, meeting with the Forest Service to review accomplishments and to explore ways to cooperatively assess trail conditions, complete basic maintenance and planning work projects. This collaboration is done in part by careful review of the previous year's work, reports turned in by trail adopters and the knowledge of damage sustained by the trails as a result of winter conditions. The USFS introduced new initiatives for skill training, project prioritization and cost-share opportunities.

Our first 2009 trail weekend will be Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25. The annual membership meeting will be held May 23. The second weekend, May 29-31, is listed as a National trails day event and hopefully will attract some new volunteers. After completing the basic maintenance, we will tackle some trail improvement projects.

Meals, lodging and work projects require preparation and planning, please register for the trail weekends as soon as you are able. You may register for the trail weekends at our website www.chathamtrails.org or by contacting volunteer coordinator Sandy Finn (603-232-1721, sandycta@comcast.net) or by returning the Volunteer Registration form by mail to: Sandy Finn, 1163 Island Pond Road, Manchester NH 03109.

In addition to basic trail maintenance and work weekends, other projects for 2009 include work with the Forest Service and CRC to staff and improve the Brickett Place Wilderness Information Center and leading Trail Stewardship hikes for CRC guests this summer.

As I look to future years I see some goals for CTA:

- Recruit new trail adopters
- Increase participation for the second work weekend
- Identifying members to serve on the Board
- Increase participation in tool, trail work planning and membership committees
- Improve the website and publicity
- Identify trainers (attend USFS skills day then train CTA volunteers) to attend one of the skill days:
May 23, June 6 or June 13
- Writers for American Hiking Society (AHS) grants and USFS Cooperative Project Proposals

We need the help of all our members. Consider throwing your hat in the ring as part of the membership or tool committees; perhaps working on the website or publicity is more up your alley? Is it time to adopt a trail, renew your membership or make a donation? Better yet, recruit a new member and introduce them to the fun and fellowship of CTA!

Your work and commitment to the trails are both noticed and appreciated. Hikers express their thanks as they pass, CRC hike leaders and hikers write notes of thanks in their trip reports and the USFS, who cannot do all the work required with their limited resources, recognizes our contribution to the quality of the WMNF.

Thank you for all your support for CTA, CRC and the WMNF. I look forward to seeing you this spring as we meet renew friendships, meet new friends and spend some time on the trails of Evans Notch. Please contact me and let me know how you can help keep CTA strong.

Happy hiking,

Michael V. Zlogar
CTA President
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Register early for the trail work weekends!
The annual meeting is Saturday May 23, 7:30 p.m. at Cold River Camp