



EARTHWORKS



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National Trails Day Round-up

We had another very successful National Trails Day event on Saturday, June 5th, and an AMAZING amount of work got done on Big Kennesaw mountain! Superintendent Stan Bond & Tom Sparks, Park Facility Manager, were on hand to extend a sincere thanks to all 132 volunteers who participated in the event.

For the 132 volunteers at 5 hours of effort – this totals 660 man-hours of effort for the day! In addition to addressing 2 major problem spots on the main trail from the Visitor's Center to the top of Big K, numerous stone steps & dozens of rolling grade dips were installed to counteract the never-ending forces of erosion & pedestrian traffic on the trail. Much needed pruning was also done on the front & back of the mountain.

The Trail Club wishes to thank every single volunteer who showed up early on a Saturday morning to get hot, sweaty, and dirty in the park; but a very special thanks goes to Bank of America who showed up in force with over 70 employees & their families. The event wouldn't have been nearly as successful without their involvement. Booths representing the Audubon Society, Keep Cobb Beautiful,

and the American Hiking Society rounded out the activities with educational displays for the public.

Big thanks go to all the Trail Club crew leaders; registration staff; traffic control volunteers; and project planners who all spent hours preparing for the event long before June 6th arrived – a successful National Trails Day couldn't have happened without each one of you! And, of course, thanks goes to the AWESOME support the park staff provided!

Incidentally, the 660 volunteer hours earned the Trail Club \$16,500 hours of "sweat equity" which we'll use toward qualifying for various grants the Trail Club receives for the larger projects the club tackles. For example, several years ago we used this "sweat equity" to qualify for a \$30,000 grant to put in the bridge across John Ward Creek at Barfield Bottoms. Hopefully in about a year, we'll begin work on a new 6-mile trail & another bridge to access the 24-gun Union battery that's been out of sight of visitors for at least 50 years!

Remember, our normal monthly work days are the 2nd Saturday of every month starting at 8:30 am and EVERYONE is welcome to participate. We look forward to seeing you at a work day soon!

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Atlanta Audubon Society Booth at National Trails Day. Cynthia and Park Superintendent Dr. Stanley Bond. Photo by Victor Williams.

A Walk in History

Most of my adult life I have hiked at Kennesaw Mountain. Many of you have probably seen me out there on Sunday mornings making my 5-mile loop over the peaks and back through the valley. And this is often with a heavy backpack during the April to June time frame. It has long been my favorite place to keep in shape and to train for my annual family hike on the AT.

After being a regular volunteer with the Trail Club for several years now, earlier this year I made a resolution to hike every official trail in the Park and really get to know the middle and southern trails where I had rarely been.

For the past weekends I have been venturing out to explore new trails. As I hike each one I use my crew leader training to assess the trail condition and speculate where future trail work will be needed. I have also been meeting many new people. Just as I have always frequented only the north the section of the Park, there are people who only frequent the middle and/or southern sections.

This past weekend I hiked the Kolb Farm loop which completed my goal of hiking all of the trails. The whole quest took longer than I had estimated but I now feel that I know the Park much better. I have walked through the lowlands, over the peaks, along the ridges, and followed the almost 11 mile line of earthworks. I have gone over many bridges, on gravel trails, and on sandy trails, on wide trails, on narrow trails, on level trails and on steep rocky trails. I also walked through a tall surreal bamboo forest area, through many fields, and through many wooded areas. Along the way I saw many runners, many people on horseback, and lots of deer, including one that wears a bright orange tag on its ear. And, I now know where all the drinking fountains are.

It was more than just hiking and exploring for me on this quest. I also took the time to read every historical marking and spent time looking across open areas to visualize what it was like back in June of 1864 when it was muggy hot every day and rained frequently as soldiers worked for almost a month to dig in and prepare for the battle of their lives which came in spurts up until the biggest battle on June 27th.

If any of you have not taken the time to explore the Park in greater detail, I highly recommend doing it. Now that I have, I plan to do it again each year.

Scott MacKay

“Earthworks” is published monthly by the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Corps.

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Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

Special Thanks To This Year's National Trails Day Sponsors!

Special Thanks To This Year's National Trails Day Sponsors!

Many of the sponsors listed below have supported the Trail Club for years & some of the sponsors are new partners this year. Either way, these area merchants show they value the natural beauty of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park and the work the Trail Club does every month to preserve the Park.

Please stop by these merchants & give them a big “Thank you!”

REI - door prizes - 2 Day Packs & two \$50 Gift Certificates
- 740 Ernest Barrett Pkwy

Big Peach Running Co. - \$50 Gift Certificate & many energy bars to keep us going - 1625 Ridenour Boulevard off Barrett Pkwy

Daily Grind Coffee – free coffee got our morning off to a delicious start! The Shops at Due West on Due West Road

Chik-Fil-A – Free sandwich coupons for all volunteers! - 830 Ernest Barrett Pkwy

Target - 740 Ernest Barrett Pkwy – energy bars for volunteers

Kroger – many area stores – many cases of bottled water

Costco – energy bars for volunteers and a \$25 gift certificate for Club expenses for the National Trails Day Event.

And the winners are.....

Congratulations to the volunteers who won the door prizes from our sponsors:

Tonya Tyler - Big Peach Running Co. - \$50 Gift Certificate

Kenyetta Riley – REI - \$50 Gift Certificate

Taylor Virgil – REI - \$50 Gift Certificate

Christen Ferguson – REI - women's day pack

Ralph Preddie – REI - men's day pack

Nikki Peebles – Trail Club - T-shirt

Doug Pittman – Trail Club - T-shirt

Sid Starke – Trail Club - T-shirt

Joseph Starke – Trail Club - T-shirt

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2ND SATURDAY WORKDAY, JULY, 10, 2010

PARK SERVICE AREA

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

PROJECTS:-- Stone Steps on the backside of Little Kennesaw
Problem spots on the backside of Little Kennesaw
-- Causeway south of John Ward Creek

2ND SATURDAY WORKDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010

PARK SERVICE AREA

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

PROJECTS:-- Fire road & trail south of Noses Creek

2ND SATURDAY WORKDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

PARK SERVICE AREA

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

PROJECTS: -- Stone Steps on the backside of Little Kennesaw
-- 2nd Project TBD

Kennesaw Mountain - A Historical Perspective

One of the missions of the Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club is to maintain hiking trails that “are protective of the historic features the Park was created to preserve.”

The trails in the park were originally laid out to allow visitors to view the areas of the heaviest fighting. At Cheatham Hill and Pigeon Hill, the Union forces were the attackers; at Kolb's Farm at the south end of the Park, the Confederate forces were the attackers. The most carnage occurred in the attacking formations in front of the defenders' trenches.

To view the areas of heaviest fighting, the trails were laid out to pass near the Confederate trenches in most of the park and in front of the Union lines at Kolb's Farm. Since the Confederate trenches were located on the best defensive positions, i.e., just below the crest of the slopes on the high ground throughout the Park, the trails generally pass over the most varied and interesting terrain. Consequently, it all worked out for the best for everyone – the history enthusiast can walk the trails and view the preserved earthworks, see the fields and woods where the most men were wounded and killed, and learn of the tactics employed by each side; the hiker is led through the most interesting terrain with the best vistas.

Local author Russell Bonds' excellent recent book, “*War Like a Thunderbolt, the Battle and Burning of Atlanta*,” quotes a letter by Georgia soldier Blanton Fortson written to his mother as the Confederates retreated south from Dalton towards the Kennesaw Mountain area. Fortson wrote: “We will leave walls of stone and earth which will be gazed upon by generations to come, as the earth which protected father and grandfather. Tread lightly, this is sacred ground, made so from the many gallons of Southern blood it has drunk

and the many mangled bodies it contains.”

At Kennesaw Mountain, of course, there's more northern blood in the soil than southern blood. In fact, the first battlefield land purchased and the first monument was erected in 1914 in remembrance of northerners, the Illinois monument. Later, the Park was set aside by the government for public inspection and interpretation of events that occurred in the Atlanta campaign. Our Trail Club's mission statement and our work in the Park support that purpose.

Bill Gurry

Mark Your 2010 Calendars!

Remaining 2010 Work Day Schedule

July	10th	trail work day
Aug.	14th	trail work day
Sept.	11th	trail work day
Oct.	2nd	Hands on Atlanta Day
Oct.	9th	trail work day
Nov.	13th	trail work day
Dec.	11th	trail work day

We realize as much as we'd like, that you can't make every one of our work days. However, please know that we appreciate whatever days that you can make, especially the Special days highlighted above.

The Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club is a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving the beauty & history of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. We work closely with the Park Service and assist the park staff by providing critically needed volunteer effort to install signs, build bridges, and maintain the 20+ miles of trails.

Since our beginning in 2002, the Trail Club has donated over 25,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

If your school, church, business, or community organization would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity, e-mail us at kmtctrails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org at least 4 weeks in advance.

Learn more about our monthly trail work days and other programs by visiting the KMTC website at: www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org.

We host trail work days open to the public on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We meet at the maintenance buildings up the hill from the Visitor Center at 8:30 a.m. and usually are finished by 1:00 p.m.

We hope to see you at a work day soon!

Jim Moylan

The Many Faces of Kennesaw Mountain



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY



Registration



Superintendent Dr. Stanley Bond & Maintenance Supervisor Tom Sparks



Alex Mattei, Environmental Program Specialist, Keep Cobb Beautiful



Jimmy Camp - Representing the American Hiking Association. Also pictured - Cynthia, a member of the Audubon Society.



Several of our many Crew Leaders for National Trails Day



Photos by Fred Feltmann

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY



Photos above by Scott MacKay

Photos below by Fred Feltmann



All work and no play....Volunteers from Bank of America enjoying a cook-out after putting in a very much appreciated 5 hours of service! Thanks, Bank of America!!!

A happy volunteer!

Trail Issues - Fall Line Trails

For those of you who have followed our endeavors at Kennesaw Mountain over these past 6 years, you may have noticed that we spend an inordinate amount of time in the northern section of the Park - specifically on the main section of trail that leads to the top of Kennesaw Mountain and in the gap between the Mountain Road to the top of Kennesaw Mountain and Little Kennesaw Mountain.

We have!!! The reason is that these two sections of trail are what we call "Fall Line" trails. Trails that essentially "charge" up the hill with few if any switchbacks.

As a consequence, the rain has free reign on these trails. No matter what we do, they continue to deteriorate. And once we put steps in an area, we are bound to keep putting in steps further down the hill every 6 months to a year. Just look at the steps we have put in, in the past 2 years! We have put additional steps in each location at least once, if not twice in that time! And the scree that has been put on the trail continues to wash to the side or further down the hill.

This is of particular concern on the trail that goes from the gap between Kennesaw and Little Kennesaw. As you rise from the gap to the top of Little Kennesaw, there are Earth Works on your right (north side of the trail). The scree and

other debris that wash down the trail inevitably ends up in the trenches. Not a good thing!!

The trail on the south side of the trail is higher than the trail itself in most places. We cannot channel the water off the trail in this direction - only toward the earthworks.

There is only one solution to this issue - and that will eventually be a re-route of the trail to take into account the earthworks and the natural lay of the mountain in this area. The good thing? It'll open up some interesting vistas and parts of the park that are infrequently seen. It will make the trail system longer with more switchbacks and will lessen the grade in this area, though not the overall elevation gain. This will be years in the planning, however. Environmental approval will have to be gained. The historical significance of the area will have to be determined. And approval will have to be gained from the various Indian tribes that once inhabited the region. Once that has been done, we can correct this section of trail, so that we don't have to invest so much of our time maintaining it and preserving the earthworks.

Fred Feltmann



The National Trails Day staff enjoys Lunch at Laredo's to celebrate another successful set of Work Day projects! We hope to see you all next year!

To be in this picture next year, come be on our staff!!! And enjoy the fellowship of a fantastic opportunity to help the National Park Service!!!



Trail Club Shirts and Merchandise Available

http://www.cafepress.com/kennesaw_trails

100% Cotton Denim Embroidered Shirt \$35.00



Support your club and Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park by showing the colors. We have a selection of shirts both long-sleeved and short-sleeved available in our online Gear Store. 20% of the purchase price of any of our products goes directly to support the park.

The yellow tee shirt (\$17.99) with the club logo on the back has become the default standard uniform shirt for trail workdays. The bright yellow color stands out in the woods, and the logo is clearly visible when you are bent over swinging a Pulaski or a McCloud.

If you would like to have one or more shirts at this price, e-mail **Jay Dement** at kmtctees@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org with your name, size, and quantity of shirts. The Yellow shirt is available at a special price of \$15.00 during Trail Maintenance on the second Saturday of the month.

Reporting Your Hours - An Important Aspect of Volunteering!

"TIME = Money for the Park - Each Volunteer is currently worth more than \$25.00/hr."

Yes, we all are guilty - forgetting/neglecting to report our hours for working. How many hours did we REALLY work for the Park last year? Was it 500 hours, 2000, or maybe 5000???? Have you spent time outside of our 2nd Saturday Workdays helping the Park - e.g. spent time picking up trash, fixing drainage, helping with events, or club administration?

If you signed the roster at an event, your time is recorded. Otherwise you need to report it through the form on the website.

Youth Service Project candidates need to report total hours for their project to the Trail Club and to the Park before their project is considered complete.

Help us out this coming year - Please enter your hours on the website - it's currently near the top of the first page - or go directly to <http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/formmail.html>.

Contact List - updated 5/10

POSITION	NAME	E-MAIL
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Sponsors/Partners Corner

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!

<http://americanhiking.org>



BARRETT PARKWAY AND TOWN CENTER AT COBB



Daily Grind

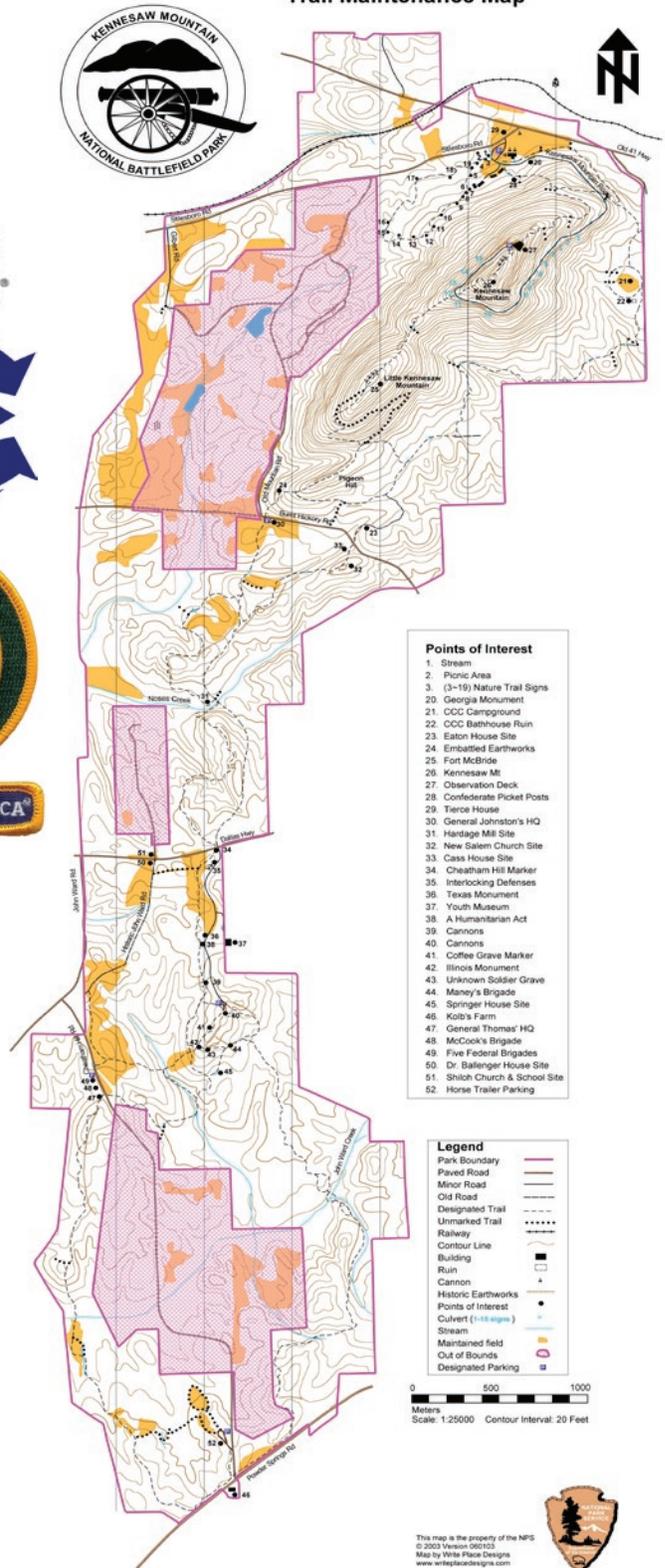


July Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the September Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than June 30th!

KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Trail Maintenance Map



Local in Touch, Global in Reach

HLB Gross Collins, P.C.