

FRIENDS OF HAW RIDGE 7/9/09 Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's report:

- The bank account balance is \$5628.08 as of the June 30th, 2009.
- Friends of Haw Ridge awarded \$500 grant by Scripps Networks.
- Filed for and received official State tax-exempt certificate. YAY!

Maintenance Report

Since the April meeting, the re-route of Roller Coaster has been completed. Work Day was Sunday, May 24th. Nine volunteers came out on a steamy May day and worked for 3.5 hours. FoHR provided lunch for the volunteers.

Many downed trees since April. Big thanks to Tom, Larry, Monte, Alan, and Brad for cleaning up the deadfall.

Potential Fund Raisers - Benches and Buffs

Tom Dunigan mentioned the UT Arboretum new has 35 trail benches, pictured below. They report that the bench can be built for \$25. For design info see: <http://forestry.tennessee.edu/Trailbench.htm>

Group approved four of these benches for Haw Ridge.

Lois will contact Oak Ridge Scout group to build them.

Possible locations: top of Low Gap; level part of South Shore; Whiskey Bottle junction; top of Power Cut near Rainbow

\$100 donation will pay for a bench with a nameplate saying, "This bench was a donation from John Doe".

Finished Bench



Bufs! - <http://buffwear.com/> makes custom buffs. What's a buff? It's a multi-functional headwear. Check out the demo on how to wear it on their website. Since the socks went over so well, this may be a good fund raiser/volunteer reward. For a custom buff, they cost ~\$13 each. We could sell for \$20 to general public. Offer them at cost to volunteers. If we were to give away a certain number we'd need to decide on how many and why. Idea was tabled.

Monte will pursue a new t-shirt design with Wally Judy of Joe Shirt

Suggestion from Ron to sell color laminated maps at bike shops.

Socks - we still have 38 out of original 128 pairs. All Large.

Horse Signs: Since the “not recommended for horses” signs have not been effective. The City bought 50 “No Horse” signs for placement throughout the park. Placement of the signs is left to the FoHR.

Suggested trails to ban horses and number of signs needed: shoreline, bridges,

- West Shore
- Isthmus
- Twister
- Red Shore
- Rachel’s Landing/East Shore
- East Edge
- Low Gap
- Ridge Trail

Everyone will look for places to put signs. Steve White & Monte Jones will be in charge of putting up “No Horse” signs.

Miscellaneous Stuff:

A revised trail map has been mounted at the kiosk.

Lois ran into a videographer working for the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce on a TownCast video. Did a spontaneous interview. He was to return for more footage but the weather did not cooperate.

Haw Ridge is now on Twitter. www.twitter.com/HawRidge. We have over 30 followers and generated one membership so far. What do I twitter? Mainly meeting announcements, trail maintenance, etc. Did Tweet this: “Diggin’ the family of 5 out riding at The Ridge for 3+ hrs. Gave them stickers, water & soda when they got back. They looked happy.”

Thinking about a Facebook account as well. Any objections?

Melton Lake Phase IV Update: The City is scheduled for review by the TDOT Right-of-Way committee later this month. IF that actually occurs, and IF they have no problems there, the project will then move on to TDOT engineering review. This step in the process should be a quicker process than ROW. Once the engineering review is complete, the city should receive a notice-to-proceed to bid the project.

Maintenance Projects for a September or October maintenance day:

1. Mulch around picnic tables on Red Shore trail - plastic is showing
 - need an estimate on bags of mulch
 - would drop off by boat
 - have folks spread the mulch and pack out the empty bags
 - Need to estimate how many bags. Ten?
 - Easy project for either scouts or family

2. Trails with Chronic Mud Hole Issues
West Shore – fix mud hole leading up to beam.
Red Shore
 - At “Brian’s bridges”, someone has taken old bridge debris and tried to cover mud holes. Propose a few bog bridges in this area.
 - After crossing the cement bags, bare right - several braided, nasty mud sections that need re-routed or bridged. This is one of the most used shoreline trails and I don’t consider these mud areas to be Technical Trail Features (TTF). They must be resolved.
 - Will look at above problems on **Thursday, July 23th @ 6pm.**
3. Roller Coaster Reroute Closure - reroute is complete but we need to close the old section of trail

Long-Term Discussions

1. Rachael’s Landing
 - rotting logs at bottom
 - narrowing section
2. Replacing cement bags with elevated bridge similar to this but more flowy and not so high (similar to Shingle Mill Pathway in Michigan). Meeting at 7:00pm on July 23rd to discuss options.
3. Skills Area: Once Melton Lake Phase IV is complete, it would be very useful to have a skills area where the paved greenway terminates. This area would encourage riders new to Haw Ridge to practice these obstacles before venturing into the park. I would like to start sketching some plans and presenting to the city sooner than later so they can have this in mind for the termination area.
4. Isthmus - some day the dike will break. Abandon trail at that time? Bridge?
5. Contour 920 Trail.
6. Fall Festival Day 2010. Get runners, kayakers involved.
7. Leaning Kiosk. Melton Lake Phase IV will end near the parking lot and could affect the kiosk. Won’t know until the engineering phase is complete.

Next meeting is Thursday, October 8th at LDC at 7:30pm.