

DATE: August 3, 1997
TO: PATH Board Members
FROM: Parthena
RE: Update on Everything

1. Stony Fork Status Report

As of this past Friday, contractors were scheduled to start repairing the bridges on Monday, August 4th. The estimated time it will take to complete the job is 6 weeks. Right now, the 10 tent sites are still open. I couldn't get any information about whether they will be open for our worktrip the third weekend of August. I'll check again in a week.

2. Pulaskis

The pulaskis have arrived. If you ordered one, you can pick it up from Bill B. on Konnarock weekend or on the next worktrip.

3. Forest Service Keys

The Forest Service will not allow us to have more than 4 keys. Gordon and a few others are trying to figure out a system for sharing the keys among everyone who needs one.

4. Responses from last update:

a. Extending worktrips to Sunday.

I've received 6 responses to the last update I sent out a week or so ago. Of the 6, five people thought doing some amount of trail work on Sunday was a good idea. The sixth person didn't mention it. So far, no one has voiced opposition to it.

b. NC Wildlife Federation Tax Proposal.

Two people were in favor of it, two people were strongly opposed to it, and two were doubtful to lukewarm about the idea. The opposition and doubtfulness were mostly directed toward the amount of the tax (up to 5% of the manufacturer's cost), and the uses of the tax (mostly directed toward building nature centers, interpretative trails, publishing educational materials, etc.)

To answer some questions people brought up, here is more specific information. I'll bring the whole packet to the next worktrip for anyone who wants to read it.

Amount of tax: 0.25% to 5.0%. (No, Harrison, I didn't make a mistake in the last message, it really is 5%, not 0.5%.) This is calculated as a percent of the manufacturers cost, not the retail cost. An example given in the packet is: If the manufacturers cost of making a tent is \$50, 5% of \$50 is \$2.50. If the retail price of that tent is \$100, the actual cost of the tent will be \$100.00 + \$2.50, or \$102.50.

The revenue raised will be used for three kinds of programs:

a) conservation - conserving habitat for various kinds of species, taking inventories and tracking populations of species, etc.

b) recreation - establishing trails (walking, hiking, biking, canoeing, running, etc.), building wildlife viewing areas, etc.

c) education - building interpretative areas along roads, trails, wildlife viewing areas, picnic and campgrounds, establishing nature centers, offering educational programs to schools and community groups, etc.

5. Mt Rogers Shelter

Gordon, Paul, Marsha, Paul Dore and I met with Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin, and their daughter, Cheryl, and son Nelson yesterday at Mt. Rogers, and looked over the shelter plans and the site. It was an emotional moment for the family, and they want very much to be involved in the building. Given the distance they live from the site (the parents live in Pennsylvania), they would prefer to come down for a week in the fall to work on it, rather than a series of weekends. I'm going to call Mike Dawson, and see if he can schedule

something like that at some point in time after the construction gets started. They understand (I think) that this is a volunteer project, and that all the work will be done under the supervision of a construction supervisor, preferably Mike D.

Cheryl insisted on setting a date for the dedication ceremony, so we picked the weekend to coincide with National Trails Day next year. That doesn't mean all the work will have to be done by then - it might not be. But it will give the family a sense of completion.

6. Multiclub

The Forest Service will not allow us to use Hurricane, because it is in such high demand over Labor Day. So, while we were in the area yesterday, we roamed through Greater Southwest Virginia looking over campgrounds, and also talked to Paul Dore about where to have Multiclub. White Rock (NW of Blacksburg) would be a beautiful place, but is a 2.5 to 3 hr drive (one way) from most of our trail section, and the places where hikes are scheduled. The New River Campground, which the Forest Service offered to us, has pit toilets and no showers, which is a drawback for a 3-4 day event. We ended up going back to Rural Retreat Lake, and reserving tent and RV sites there, as well as one of the shelters, which we can use for the Saturday cookout and group meetings. The shelter is small, but Marsha thinks she can make it work.

Harrison: The total cost for all the sites plus the shelter for the group events, from Friday through Monday is \$758.67. I have paid a \$50.00 deposit on the reservation. Since a shelter is there, we won't have to rent a group tent, tables, and chairs separately. The manager is willing to move more tables into the shelter for us. We can also rent the pool and lifeguard for our use on Saturday night, for a total of \$120, if we want. Since most of the people who attend Multiclub don't seem to be pool-party types, we passed on that for the moment, but it's an option if we are interested.

We picked up a large stack of campground brochures, and Clint is making up a map and directions this afternoon.

7. Update on the personal lives of a few people

Betsy Truscott was in a bicycling accident, smashed her jaw, and now has her jaw wired together. I'm not sure of all the details, but I think it will have to stay wired for another month or so, and right now she can only eat through a straw. She would probably appreciate any greetings you want to send. Paul Dore (Mt. Rogers NRA) became a grandfather last week. When we saw him this weekend, he was still so happy he hadn't quite floated back down to earth. Mike Antalosky's father died last week. I've sent him a sympathy card from us. No one knows yet when he will get back to the Wythe district office.