

Black River Work weekend 2009

Location: Town Corner Lake Camp ground

Date: 08/7/09 – 08/09/09

Project: Black River Restoration

Workers :

Phil	Church
Mark	Green
Scott	Hummon
Daughter	Hummon
Frank	Lalone
Greg	Lalone
Dad	McKissen
Brian	McKissen
Frank	Penkala
Todd	Randall
Alex	Randall
Dave	Thomas
Brett	Walla
Jeff	Walla
Larry	Walla
Mat	Walla
Dave	Watson
Rich	Walla
Paul	Paske



It was great get back up North and work on the Black river again.

Deep in the beautiful Pigeon Forrest about 25 miles west of the I75 and Gaylord, lies Town Corner Lake camp ground.

Paul and Carol Rose had sent good maps to assist with a smooth journey through the Forrest to the camp ground.

Dave Thomas and Frank Penkala had driven up Thursday and prepared the camp for the rest of the work group arrival Friday.

They had also caught several good fish in the beautiful lake.

Vanguard occupied 3 large sites overlooking the lake which we discovered held several good size bass and huge blue gills.

Carol and Paul held a reception welcoming party armed with refreshments and snacks at the work site about ¼ mile from the camp site.

They had kindly reserved rustic sites for us in case the main site was full and if any preferred that kind of camping.

All 18 Vanguard workers made it safely to the camp site by Friday night.

Dave Thomas had set up his camper for the camp kitchen.

The next morning Larry and Jeff Walla and their sons Matt and Brett cooked a hearty breakfast for the well rested workers.

Afterwards we made our way to the work site by 9am to meet with Carol Rose and the guides for the Black River Restoration group.

Armed with Rebar .clamps, wrenches, duck anchors, and chain saws we waded down stream to the sections ear marked for improvement.

The plan was to create natural looking habitat and structure for the native fish.

We split up into several small groups, “Woody “a local teacher was our leader very experienced with this kind work. He did like beating up the rebar, with real enthusiasm hammering the duck anchors.

He selected the fallen timber to be positioned and anchored for the structures.

The rain did not dampen any enthusiasm; the tough leaders were wet wading anyway.

A group of local high school students and their teacher helped back fill the logs making 6 very useful natural looking structures.

At around 1200 noon with stopped for a great lunch, plenty of food and delicious locally grown cherries.

It was great to meet the local people TU members and land owners, they were grateful for our hard work and support. Fortified we returned to the river to finish off the structures working till about 4pm.

Pleased with our satisfying days work we returned to our lake side camps for a delicious steak dinner. After dinner some people tried their luck on the Black River and some on the lake for the evening session, some relaxed around the camp fire, entertained with Scott’s daughter playing her banjo.

The next day over break fast, reports of last nights fishing revealed good brook trout action in the Black River and large blue gills caught in the Lake.

Working on the Black River has always been a very satisfying experience and with help from Paul and Carol Rose of the Black River Restoration committee, the project went very smoothly.

Thanks to all the hard workers from Vanguard and for help with the meals and camp clean up.

Dave Watson President.