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## Chattahoochee Bend Workshop: 32 volunteers help to build equestrian area

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

news@newnan.com

Chattahoochee Bend State Park in western Coweta County saw a turnout of 32 volunteers at the annual Georgia State Parks Equestrian Workday Saturday — even though no horse trails are open yet.

Organizers used the annual state park workday as an opportunity to prepare to build new horse trails and trailer parking facilities at the park.

Following a safety orientation and a welcome by Chattahoochee Bend Park Manager Tim Banks, the volunteers were divided into three crews led by Tom Anderson, Joanne Mitchel and Larry Wheat. Wheat, a member of the Back Country Horsemen of Northwest Georgia and an experienced trail builder, has been intensively involved with laying out the trails and conducting hands-on training for creating sustainable trails at Chattahoochee Bend.

Earlier, in preparation for the volunteers, Ronny Jones of Newnan had donated the services of his company to prepare the area designated for parking and camping so the volunteers could work.

Volunteers came from around Georgia and from as far away as Tennessee to participate. They included Bobby and Joanne Mitchell, Betsy Gilman, Libby Parham, Cindy Vessell, Stephanie Tindle, Cathe McKinnon, Laurie Searle, Bobbie Danley, Pat Green, Diana Wilson, Tom Anderson, Debby Bishop, Leah Urben, Larry Wheat, Jan Pierce, Janell Jones, Lon and Cheryl Reed, Ted and Maribeth Wansley, Pete Edmondson, Dawn Andrel, Kay Piper, Cindy Collar, Cindy O'Neal, Olivia Boggs, Sylvia O'Neal, Becky Huffman, Heidi Hilgenberg and Joshua Casey.

Glenn Flake and Janell Jones cooked burgers and hot dogs for the after-work lunch provided by the Friends of Chattahoochee Bend State Park.

Visit http://bendfriend.com/index.html for more information about the trails and about upcoming guided rides, planned as a way of helping equestrians enjoy the park back roads while the trails are being constructed.

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