

Susquehannock Trail Club News – 09-29-2022

By Bill Boyd

Finally! At long last we will begin erecting trail shelter #6, or #7 if you count the dynamite storage building, which we didn't erect, but repurposed. This one will be at Mile-17.8, known locally as Bolich Run. This may be a good location for those hikers/backpackers starting at Denton Hill, Mile-0. For some it will be just an average day's hike, only a couple of hills to climb, a couple of easy descents, and a nice stroll through Hogback Hollow. It's almost as if we planned it that way. We did have in mind that if we could space these shelters just right, backpackers could do the 84 miles without carrying a tent, and still have shelter for the night. We couldn't quite get that done due to different circumstances, but it's close.

For an easy hike there will be the D-Mag shelter (that's short for dynamite magazine, for which it was originally built in the CCC days). That is at Mile-10.5. Bolich Run shelter will be at 17.8, then Ole Bull State Park at 26.5, Spook Hollow shelter at 30.9, Scoval Branch shelter at 42.5, Cross Fork at 49 miles, and a place to refresh, restock, before the Hammersley Wild Area. Gravel Lick shelter at Mile-60, right at the end of the Hammersley, Wild Boy at 68.5, with any luck next year Ford Hollow shelter at 74.5, and the last shelter, Sunken Branch at 78.7, then the end of the loop at 84 miles- and DCNR another 4/10ths mile.

Attempting to negotiate the access road to Bolich Run has been one of our main holdups, with all the rainy weather we've had. But we sure aren't going to complain, as they are saying we are still in a drought situation - and without water none of us would probably even be here. So be thankful. As for our project, we finally decided to just go for it, and luckily, we made out OK - and now with 2-3 rain-free days we can make it happen.

What may be our last club dinner/meeting for the year, indeed until Spring, will be on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Lyman Run State Park. Again, it will be a noon picnic-style dinner, with the meeting around 1:00 PM. After the meeting we plan to place a small picnic table at the D-Mag shelter, in memory of the late Bob Bernhardt, who along with wife Helen, maintained this section.