

On Thursday June 22, fourteen FOSM volunteers returned to the Challenge Trail extension along the old roadbed below the Crest Highway. The main goal for the day was to finish closing off the roadbed in areas where the trail alignment has been relocated onto the better-drained sideslope above it. This will encourage hikers, bikers and equestrians to use the new, more sustainable trail. Some of the volunteers spent their entire day on this task. Others switched gears later in the day, continuing work from previous weeks: benching in the new tread, which is coming along nicely. The weather? Hot and sunny. The crew? Full of fortitude.

The volunteers: Dan Benton, Jenny Blackmore, John Braly, Luis Cuadros, Byron Garner, Bruce Hansche, Jim Houle, **Laura Leon** **, Mike Madden, Pat Madden, Tony Pachelli, Bill Perkins, Eric Russell and Cleve Sharp.

** New to FOSM Thursdays! (However, she spent the day finding and hauling deadfall from below the old roadbed, where the photographer did not go... Sorry Laura!)

Photos by Jenny Blackmore unless otherwise noted.

Finding fodder to close off the roadbed: A good way to start is by clearing corridor along the new alignment. The crew brought their pruning saws.



See if you can spot the Byron



Cleve's going in!

Everyone grab big sticks!



Jim



Bill



John, Pat, Luis



Pat



Mike goes high



Eric goes low. Hmm, how to rubble it up without affecting drainage?

On to tread work...



Jenny, through the brush
Photo by John Braly



Luis works on drainage,
happy for a shovel



Eric and Bruce trade their picks in for rock bars



Same spot, from the other direction. Dan wonders just how much dirt can come from one bit of backslope.



Cleve, Tony, Bruce, Eric, Dan



Tony, Bruce, Eric, Dan, Luis

So does everyone else! Backslope brigade members vie for the shade. To the right of the new tread you can see the closed-off roadbed.