



# Savannah Valley Railroad Trail Newsletter



February - March 2010

Our next work day is Saturday, March 6: 9 AM - 1 PM

We will meet at Willington Town Center SC-81 to divide into work crews. Volunteers please bring chain saws and/or hand tools to cut vegetation. Gloves necessary. Any questions please call Frank Clayton 864-391-3024 or Don Norton 864-391-4395.

Volunteers have cleared approximately nearly 8 miles with 0.6 miles to go in project's first phase (Barksdale Ferry Road to Willington Town Center). Once the initial clearing is completed we will need to go back to clear stumps, fill holes, fix drainage problems, remove thorns which puncture bike tires, install signs, etc. Thanks to all who are helping with the project.

## **SVRRT volunteers work on trail & meet SC officials in Columbia** Article by Bob Stockton published in McCormick Messenger February 11, 2010

New volunteer help from John De La Howe School and the Boys Scouts of America joined the usual band of Savannah Valley Railroad Trail (SVRRT) volunteers for a trail clearing morning last Saturday.

Perhaps even more important, McCormick County Councilman Bernie Hamby led a quartet of SVRRT steering committee members to a series of meetings with South Carolina officials in Columbia.

Twelve students and two leaders from De La Howe pulled and pushed brush off the trail as SVRRT volunteers cut brush and sawed down trees.



Reid Schuster, a First Class Scout from New Bordeaux, and his dad, Chip, pitched in, too. Chip, a member of the Lutheran Church By The Lake, learned about the SVRRT from Jerry Tracey of Savannah Lakes Village.



SVRRT has scheduled its next work day for 9 a.m., Sat., March 6, for volunteers to meet in Willington.

Hamby and Frank Clayton, Fred Muller and Don Norton met with State Senator Shane Massey and Representative Anne Parks last Wednesday.

"We showed them what we've accomplished and the issues we need to solve with the Departments of Commerce and Parks, Recreation & Tourism," Hamby said. "We told them that we had cleared nearly eight miles of roadbed and showed them pictures.



"We told them we had 40 volunteers who were participating in the work days and showed them pictures, including the trestle over Mill Creek. They were very interested, and the meeting went for more than an hour," Hamby said.

Clayton mentioned that he'd like to meet with the Department of Transportation, and Massey immediately called District Three DOT Commissioner Eddie Adams. Clayton hopes to meet with him in the near future. The group promised to update Massey and Parks in the future.

The quartet's second meeting was with Marshall Johnson, SC Parks, Recreation & Tourism's director of tourism & recreation, and Ronda Pratt, trail coordinator.

"We told and showed them the same thing," Hamby said. "They were very impressed with the amount of work we had done, the historical significance of the railroad and our photos. I feel very encouraged with our chances to get the grant for the Mill Creek trestle.

"This is a perfect match for Willington growth. The new Moss on Main store is a nice addition to the community and can be a part of the whole trail experience.

"I hope that more people get behind this project. I'm excited about what it can do for the quality of life in McCormick," Hamby said.

The third meeting was with two DOT staff members to discuss grant application. SVRRT is working with the South Carolina Heritage Corridor to enhance its chances for a favorable grant result. It is also working with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to network on trail building projects.

# # #

---

A public meeting:

The Ninety Six District RC&D will hold a public meeting to review progress on the Savannah Valley Railroad Trail, answer questions, and receive public comments. The meeting will be held on March 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the McCormick County Judicial Center, 211 West Augusta Street, McCormick.

---

[www.savannahlakes.com/](http://www.savannahlakes.com/)  
click on Living in SLV, click on Outdoor Sports, click on Savannah Valley Railroad Trail.

SVRR Trail Project Committee:

Brad Allen  
Elyse Benson  
Frank Clayton  
Bernie Hamby  
Sara & Dan Juengst  
Fred Muller  
Wendy Linaberry  
Don Norton  
George Selfridge  
Robert Stockton  
Ken Tinsley  
Wallace Wood

---

Contact: Elyse Benson, Coordinator, Ninety Six District RC&D, 115 Enterprise Ct. A-3,  
Greenwood, SC 29648; 864-229-2174 ext. 5; [elyse.benson@sc.usda.gov](mailto:elyse.benson@sc.usda.gov)  
Newsletter editor: Don Norton, [nortond29835@yahoo.com](mailto:nortond29835@yahoo.com)

Please forward to friends who may be interested in the trail. To subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email: [savannahvalleyrailroadtrail@gmail.com](mailto:savannahvalleyrailroadtrail@gmail.com)