

**Serps Stewardship Day Report**  
**Upper Chrome Barrens**  
**04/16/16**

**Participants:**

Kent Wagner (lead)  
Anna Hull  
Bill Whittaker  
Chris Hull  
David Ross

**Major accomplishments:**

- Prepared the North East Corner of Upper Chrome for mowing by:
  - Mowing and brushcutting boundaries around northeast corner
  - Marking research areas and stumps with orange flags.
  - Removing most stumps
- Used New Billy Goat bush hog and one brush cutter for first time
- Established that Billy Goat can be used along Northern trail.

**Recommendations for future workdays/mowing:**

- Bring chain saws to cut remaining stumps
- Remove all orange flags after mowing

**Outstanding issues:**

- Consider how large we want to make this area; cutting additional small trees and clearing greenbrier in northwestern part would expand the mowable area considerably
- What do we do with large brush and woodpiles in this area?

**Full report:**

The group assembled at 9:20 in the upper chrome parking under sunny skies and warm (60F?) temperatures. Pal Durborow was there to talk to us about trail re-routing and trash removal. It should be noted that this was the day for trash removal in many of the townships around the area including Elk township. Pal cleaned up much of the trash in the parking area and the vice chairman of the board of supervisor for Elk township – Estace Walters - removed large pieces of trash (mattresses, tires) later in the day.

We headed into the woods around 9:40 with Chris Hull driving the Billy Goat, Kent carrying his chain saw, Bill and David each with a brush cutter and Anna carrying manual equipment. The trails were fairly chewed up by horses and several areas were wet. Upon reaching the northeast corner, we went to work marking any stumps and Rachel's research sites with orange flags. David and Bill used brush cutters to clear around trees and in the research areas where it will be difficult to mow, as well as along trails. Chris used the new Billy Goat to clear all the grassland-woodland transitions of green briar. He also mowed the openings of many of the trails emanating from the northeast corner. Kent cut tree-stumps and a few trees with his chain saw and Anna helped mark and clear the tree-stumps for cutting. We took a brief lunch break around noon and continued to finish almost all the stump removal before we headed out along the northern trail.

We found that it is possible to use the Billy Goat to mow the new trail along the northern boundary although the many gullies posed a considerable challenge.  
We were back in the parking area around 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Hull 4/17/16