

Serps Stewardship Day Report
Goat Hill
3/25/16

Participants:

Chris Hoess,
Anna Hull,
Bill Kent (Henry's neighbor with tractor),
Tracy Raymond,
David Ross,
Rodney Stark,,
Kent Wagner
Rich Winner,
Henry Whitesel,
Bill Whittaker,

Major accomplishments:

- Cleared all brush and briars from around the TNC shed
- Cleaned out and hauled away all trash from the TNC shed
- Leveled and compacted the mud floor of the TNC shed
- Drilled wholes in walls and sliding doors of TNC shed to allow chain and pad-lock installation
- Cleared about half the 2nd scraped area of pitch pine saplings

Full report:

The group met in the Red Pump Road Parking area around 9:00 am under cloudy skies. After signing volunteer forms (FSLSB/PPFF and TNC 2016 forms) we headed down to the TNC shed. Everybody worked together to remove brush, briars and vines growing close to the shed and in the sliding doors. All trash was removed and eventually loaded in Henry's truck for disposal. We leveled and compacted the mud floor so that both doors can be fully opened. Wholes were drilled in both sliding doors and adjacent walls to allow us to lock the shed with heavy chains.

A fairly heavy rainstorm came through around 9:45 allowing us to examine the hydraulics around the shed. This resulted in several attendees attempting to create a trench and swale on the west side of the shed to prevent future rainstorms from flooding the shed. We also realized that some of the flooding of the shed probably comes from roof run-off – a trench was dug to direct the water around and away from, rather than into the shed.

No Gravel: The much anticipated gravel delivery did not take place, as the gravel delivery drivers were not able to safely access the shed in the wet and slippery conditions. Much deliberation resulted in a decision to postpone the delivery until conditions are very dry. Additionally, we will investigate the possibility of the shed being accessed through Elim King's driveway and field, as this would eliminate the need for the delivery to use the fairly steep tree-line road at the edge of the field. Henry will keep an eye on weather conditions and contact Anna to set up the delivery for a future, very dry day. **The shed is fully prepped for the gravel delivery.**

The Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens serve as educators and stewards to preserve the history and ensure sustainability of the globally rare state line serpentine barrens ecosystem

We re-gathered at the Red Pump parking area around 11:30, enjoyed our packed lunches, and headed over to the 2nd scraped area (first scraped area when entering the barrens). Chris, Bill, Tracy, Rich, Rodney and Anna used weed wrenches to clear about half of the scraped area.

Chris Hoess spotted some early flowering barrens chickweed, Rodney drew our attention to a salamander and Tracy identified numerous bird species.

The stewardship activities ended around 1:50 pm under partially sunny skies.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Hull 3/26/16