

Backpacking • Yard work • Good company • Good food

Grassy Ridge Mow-Off 2010 **Roan Mountain**

July 16 - 18



If you like backpacking, yard work, good food with good company and breathtaking views you should join us for this year's Grassy Ridge Mow-Off!

Grassy Ridge Mow-off is always the third weekend in July--July 16 – 18th on the Roan Highlands.

This is an awesome weekend and a chance to contribute to sustaining the globally significant eco-system of the Roan Massif. Ecologists suspect that historically, grazing animals such as woolly mammoth, bison, elk, and then the cows of European settlers maintained the open Balds that characterize the Roan massif. After the USFS obtained the land with assistance from SAHC, grazing largely stopped, which may be one factor that has led to the encroachment of woody species on the balds. This is where you come in!

At camp, we all pitch in chopping, washing, rinsing and sharing our food & drink. In the evenings after dinner is done and dishes are put away we gather on 'The Rock' for drink, song and verse and stories of mountain adventure.

All of this in unparalleled volunteer spirit! You would be helping to restore a precious globally endangered resource--and making history in the process. You will see progress unfold in the next couple of years as the grasses, sedges and gray's lilies return to wave in the breeze. And you will know you had a hand in it.



Sara Fraser saving an endangered Roan Mountain Bluet.

Here's the real scoop:

There are multiple ways to volunteer and flexible hours.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Mowing blackberries with heavy-duty weed eaters
- Lopping and sawing shrubs & small trees with long-handled lopping shears & handsaws
- Helping out with cooking & clean-up
- Fetching water
- Carrying in some of the food

Sound like fun? It is!

Hours to volunteer:

- **Saturday, July 17, 9:00 a.m. - mid to late afternoon**
- **Sunday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Arrival Times/Camping Options:

- If you would like to backpack out for the whole weekend, I recommend that you come out on Friday evening, July 16, if it is at all possible for you to leave the Carvers Gap parking lot by no later than 6:00 p.m. Trust me, if a storm should come up, it gets dark earlier than usual. You don't want to have to walk that last mile or set up your tent in the dark!
- If you would like to backpack out for just Saturday night, arrive as early as you can on Saturday morning so you can set up your tent and then join the rest of the volunteers.
- If you would just like to come out for the day, arrive when you can on Saturday. Volunteering a half-day on Sunday is an option, but it's a long way to come for a short day.

What SAHC will provide:

- **Food:** Saturday supper and high-energy snacks. Vegetarians are accommodated.
- **Tools:** Weed eaters with 3-prong blades or plastic knife blades, fuel, lopping shears, saws, earplugs, goggles.

What you need to provide (here's your checklist):

- **Food:** Your own:
 - ___ Friday supper or eat before you come out.
 - ___ Breakfasts & lunches for Saturday & Sunday.
 - ___ Personal-favorite snacks.
- **Tools:** If you have favorite piece of work equipment outlined above, you may bring it if you wish. **No weed eaters with string attachments, please.**
- **Camp equipment & personal gear:**
 - ___ Tent, sleeping bag, etc.
 - ___ Eating utensils (cup, bowl, spoon)
 - ___ Personal water bottles
 - ___ Heavy-duty work gloves (leather is best)
 - ___ Long pants & long-sleeved shirt best for working
 - ___ Boots or sturdy work shoes
 - ___ Broad-brimmed hat & sunscreen (You'll be working on the open bald)

- ___ Rain gear
- ___ Warm clothes for evening, esp. fleece. A wool hat and gloves come in handy.
- ___ Comfortable camp shoes are nice
- ___ So is a backpack camp seat
- ___ Flashlight/head lamp

In order to plan equipment and food needs, could you begin to let me know if you plan to attend, number in your party, and your arrival & departure dates? Hope to see you all on the mountain next month!

**RSVP to Judy Murray, SAHC Roan
Stewardship Director
Roanwoman@aol.com
423-323-4993**



"How hard to realize that every camp of men or beast has this glorious starry firmament for a roof! In such places standing alone on the mountaintop it is easy to realize that whatever special nests we make -- leaves and moss like the marmots and birds, or tents or piled stone -- we all dwell in a house of one room -- the world with the firmament for its roof -- and are sailing the celestial spaces without leaving any track."

-John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838-1914)