Saturday
Trailwork 101: The Basics

Get out and play in the mud! Regardless of ground cover, we will spend some time to cover the basics: water control via simple drains, and brushing to keep a corridor. What might we see when hikers pass through an area where we’ve worked? What happens when drains fail? When something blocks the trail?

Our main focus will be to install new bog bridges along the Upper Nature Trail. Before beginning we will preview bog bridges installed a couple summers ago. Just what was done? Can you suggest improvements? What choices were made when planning? We will discuss options for situations beyond our capabilities or for when time runs out.

Hierarchy of trailwork within AMC (see illustration a few pages ahead)

Personal protective equipment
- Gloves
- Goggles / safety glasses
- Hard hat
- Other clothing

Tool identification and functions

Hand tool safety
- Carrying
- “Circle of death”
- Use

The pre-hike
- What do you want to accomplish?
- What sort of team will you have?
- What problems will you find?
- How will you prioritize the work?
- What will you put off for another day?
- What needs additional resources?
- Take notes!

Basic brushing
- Trail dimensions
- Stubs and punji sticks
- Think ahead (regrowth)

Basic drain clearing
- Shape
- Outflow
- Different types

LNT vs. LMT

Treadway

Hiker psychology

Our project along the Upper Nature Trail: new bog bridges and drains
Sunday
Trailwork 102: Building Bridges

What should you consider when a simple ditch or waterbar is not possible? What other structures will we see on a trail? How do different kinds of trails differ in their needs? What's in the future for this trail? The job isn't done until the paperwork is filed!

Dirt
Duff
Soil
Subsoil
Water diversion
Where to install
What type to install
Water crossings
Bog bridges
Bridges
Sidehilling
Rocks
Steps
Scree
Impediments
Hiker psychology
Trees
The "windswept" look
Think ahead by years
Blazing
Proper materials, color, shape
Placement
Cairns
Signs

Brushing in
Block unwanted trail or herd path
Trail delineation
Hiker psychology
Hiking trails vs. {ski | bike | equestrian | ADA accessible}
Trail dimensions
Drainage
Streams
Hardening
Surface
Rules and regulations
Organizational
Land owner
State
Federal
Reports
Take notes as you work!
Wrapping up
Tool care and maintenance
Power tools
Leadership skills
Becoming a NH trailwork leader
AMC trailwork opportunities
Adopting a trail
Other trailwork groups in NH
Advertise, evangelize, recruit!