

December 7th-8th, 2013

Reported by Tommy Garback, Troop Historian

Blake Zimmerman's Eagle Scout Project

This weekend was Blake Zimmerman's Eagle Scout project at the Clark Nature Center in Newtown, Bucks County. About fifteen scouts and five adults attended on Saturday, December 7th, around 8:00 in the morning to clear away a path at the nature center. The main goal was to restore rhododendron plants by taking down dead ones and clearing away overgrowth for the live ones. We started off by having doughnuts, juice, water and apples for energy and then went off into the forest path. For the first few hours, everyone went into groups of two or three and trimmed, chopped, cleared away, raked, gathered and piled up vegetation. The group used a variety of shovels, post-hole diggers, what we call "Borgan Lancers", hedge trimmers, saws, pruning shears, chainsaws, rakes, wheelbarrows and the biggest one of all, a massive wood chipper. The weather early on was damp and wet, but soon dried up. It was a bit chilly but the hard work kept everyone warm.

Close to noon, the adults turned on the wood chipper and loaded it with the large pile of logs, sticks, twigs and vines, shredding them into a pile outlined with logs and Caution tape. After that, everyone headed back to the parking lot for lunch around 12:30, which included pizza varying from plain, pepperoni and Meat Lovers, which is made of bacon, sausage

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and pepperoni. Everyone also enjoyed chips, water and soda. After eating, everyone walked back to the path and dug holes with post-hole diggers for park signs on the trail. One was stationed at the entrance of the trail, and another by a worn stone structure that we cleared vines and thorns from. Aside from that, we gathered the mulch from the wood chipper in wheelbarrows to spread as a layer on the circular trail. By 2:15 or so, the trail was cleared away of vines, thorn bushes, overgrown grass, branches and dead trees.

The next day on Sunday, a few scouts and adults gathered for a few hours to clean up the trail and finish spreading the mulch onto the path, concluding around noon. By the end of it all, the Clark Nature Center had a neat and clean trail that many could easily walk through and embrace nature in the forest. This project served to be a nutritious source for service hours, hard work, and progress.