

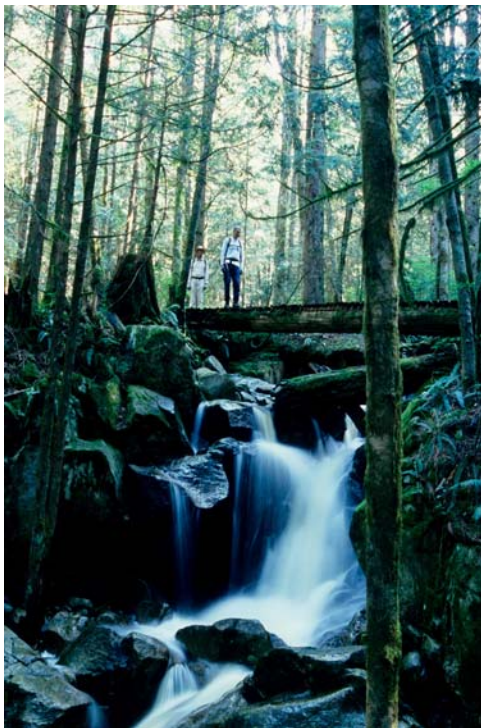
# BMN TRIP REPORT

## Trail Maintenance & Hike on “Woodland Walk” (May 31, 2008)

by Mark Johnston

On Saturday, May 31, which was by anyone’s standard a gorgeous day, we had our first trail maintenance outing of the year, readying the Woodland Walk for the annual BMN-hosted public hike on Burke Mountain held on June 8. There were seven of us, with an eighth potential labourer joining us late in the day (after the work was done!).

We found the trail to be in good shape for the most part. We sawed through some small-diameter windfall and did some minor brush-cutting, mostly on the upper portion of the loop section. We also took the time to drain a few puddles that had pooled here and there along the path.



**Ian and Mark above Pritchett Creek.**  
(Photo by Terrv Puls)

But our first and biggest project was to find a way to ease the crossing of a fairly-high Pritchett Creek. The original culverted crossing has been gone for several years, and we deemed the mountain bike “bridges” that have appeared both above and below the usual ford too dangerous. Previously, Ian had covered a couple of boards with a non-slip surface, and this, anchored between midstream rocks, had been sufficient to help people negotiate the trickiest part. Although, shortly after its inaugural use, the plank had gone missing, Ian had searched for it and discovered that mountain bikers were using it as a ramp some distance upstream. Now a year later, we relocated it and brought it back down to the ford. Then Ian, using a rope, was able to haul it back into place.

Of the seven who went as far as the falls, five of us continued steeply up in the open forest beside a wildly cascading Coho Creek to some rock bluffs that Paul (who was not on the present trip) and I had found the year before. It was still cool in the forest, so it felt good to be able to sit and eat our lunch in the sun. When Paul and I had visited the bluffs, cloud had obscured any possible views. But this time one could see the dam and lower part of Coquitlam Lake, the length of Eagle Ridge, and, in the distance, some high rise buildings, probably located in Burnaby. While we lunched, a small flock of pine siskins foraged in the tops of trees whose continued growth

will eventually reduce the scope of what one can see. Later, a hummingbird flew right up to us and then away.



**Ian at plank crossing of Prtichett Creek. (Photo by Faisel Beg)**

As there was less trail work to be done on the lower portion of the loop, we had time to botanize a bit. We noted a number of shrubs, such as thimbleberry, salmonberry, and salal. We found a few flowers—foamflower, miner’s lettuce, yellow wood violet—in bloom. And we identified several ferns, including bracken, lady, sword, and deer.

As for wildlife, besides the species mentioned above, we saw or heard robins, Pacific-slope flycatchers, and a grouse. Warblers, too. But our best sighting came near the end of the day, at the start of the Woodland Walk proper: a meadow vole!



**David doing some trail maintenance. (Photo by Faisel Beg)**

Once again, a good day. Great camaraderie, a bit of hard work, lots of opportunity to enjoy wild flora and fauna.