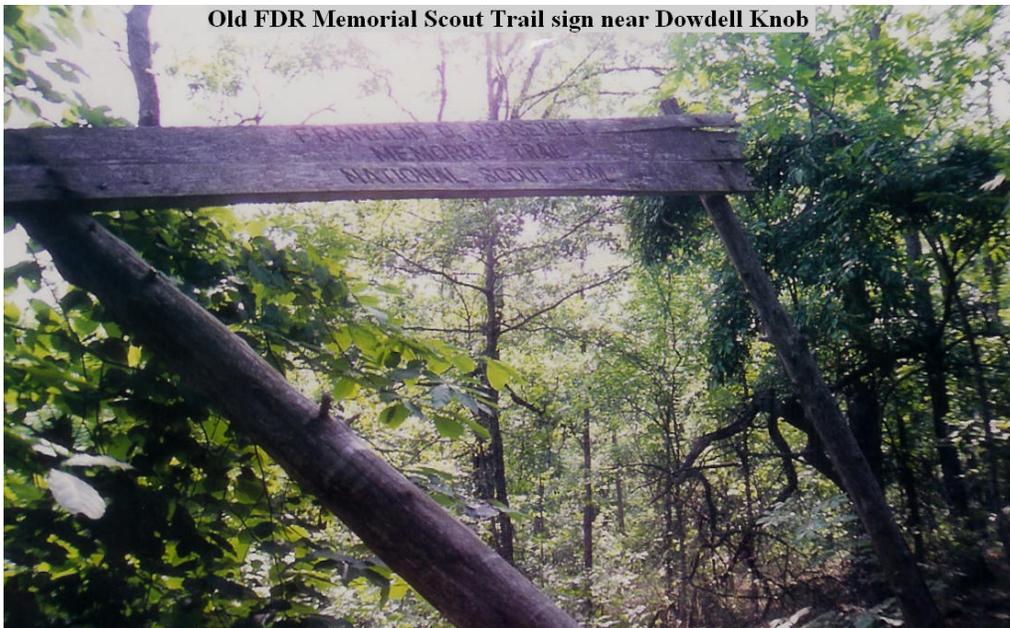


CODY KNIGHT- EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT 2018

Back when the Pine Mountain Trail was being laid out by D. Neal Wickham starting in 1975, the route he ended up getting approved followed some old Boy Scout trails. The trail sections he used from Dowdell's Knob east were first part of this old scout trail from just a couple years earlier (1974) Today less than two miles of those old trails are part of the main 23 mile Pine Mountain Trail. The start /entrance to the old Boy Scout trail was at Dowdell's Knob scenic area. It read

“FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL TRAIL - NATIONAL SCOUT TRAIL”

About 12 years ago I took a photo of the entrance gate way sign for the scout trail off Dowdell's Knob (which was falling down) and asked the park manager then (Ronnie Eakins) about the condition of the gateway as to if maybe it could be redone. Before I could get an answer, the sign for the gateway “disappeared” and the post were on the ground.



Years past and in 2007 when we were laying out a new access route from the main PMT up to the new kiosk and parking area at Dowdell's Knob Trailhead, we ended up using part of the path of the old scout trail leading off the PMT up to the new kiosk..

The old cedar post shown above are still beside the entrance to the access trail about 50' up from the PMT.

In early 2017 Local scout historian Bill Storey (and PMTA member) provided me with information that the gateway was done for a 1974 Eagle Scout Project. I talked with FDR State Park manager Desmond Timmons and he agreed, that a gateway reproduction by an Eagle Scout candidate would be a good project for a scout and the park.

Here is what Bill related : *I totally agree with the idea to reproduce the historical sign near its original location! It should be a documented part of the Pine Mountain Trail history. The gateway was originally erected in 1974 by Mark Schultz, the Eagle Scout who developed the trail as his Eagle Project. It marked the trail head that was established by him from behind Roosevelt Rehab Center in Warm Springs to Dowdell's Knob. The attachments include a rough map of the trail, pictures, the Scout's narrative and an article from the paper. Part of the original trail follows some of the route of the Pine Mountain Trail today. I feel that Mark's Eagle Project is part of the foundation of what later became Neal Wickham's greater vision. There was a committee set up at the time of the project to oversee the trail after it was completed. There was a Ribbon Cutting ceremony when it opened that included Boy Scouts, Scout Leaders and Community Leaders, as seen in the attached pictures/articles.*

So in early 2018 Scout Cody Knight began work on the approved project. He and his Mom went with Bill Storey and me to Valley Fir and Redwood and picked out/bought uprights and a "sign board." The uprights had to be beveled on the ends and the sign board engraved then sealed.



While waiting on the engraving, Cody organized two work days to clear the trail paths near the sign site. There was a LOT of dead trees in the area that had to be cut and hauled off. Cody and his Dad came out the day before sign install and dug holes for the uprights.

Finally on April 28, Cody was able bring a volunteer crew in and install the sign. But that was not the end to the project...



The next day, Cody along with Bill & I worked to lay stone work around the base of each up right and install signs noting what the project was about.



Just as we finished the stonework, a group of family, friends and scouts gathered to dedicate the sign Cody had done, including Mark Schultz and his Dad (Dr. Schultz) and his brother.



Cody Knight, Dr. Schultz and Mark



Mark Schultz



Boy Scouts of America

Mark Schultz's Eagle Project created the FDR Memorial Trail that extended from Dowdell's Knob to FDR Rehab Center in Warm Springs. The present trail follows closely some of the original trail. This gateway is a replica of the original when the trail was dedicated on

April 12, 1974

Old Troop 104
Pine Mt. Valley, GA

Cody Knight



Boy Scouts of America

Eagle Project

Built replica of 1974
Historical Gateway



Troop 169
Midland, GA
2018

Many thanks to Bill and especially Cody for their work to preserve this historic part of trail history. To see the sign, head out from the Dowdell's Knob Trailhead kiosk down toward the main PMT.



The following are notes from Mark's original plans for the trail in early 1973.

MY EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

Introduction to the Project

The purpose of my project was to lay out a trail for the use of Scouts and other groups or persons that wished to use it. It was made through an area that contains most of the natural wildlife in this area of the State of Georgia.

The land the trail is on belongs to Roosevelt's Little White House and the Warm Springs Foundation. This area has many things of nature which have not been destroyed by man. There are many areas that have beautiful trees that have not been touched by humans. The scenery from many of the high areas is breathtaking and very beautiful. The streams coming from the mountain are pure and not polluted by man.

Preliminary Planning of the Project

I got permission from Mr. Allcorn, the Representative of the Little White House Commission, to make the trail on the Little White House property. I got permission from Mr. Calli from the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation to use the Foundation property.

The topographic maps I used were acquired from the U.S. Geological Survey and the forest maps from the Little White House. Some of the maps were photocopied so the trail could be marked on them.

I talked with Mr. Hugh Riley and Mr. George Stough, both excellent foresters, on what to look for and how to lay the trail so there would be no erosion on the trail. Also, so the trail would not interfere much with the natural wildlife by detouring around large trees and finding the best places to cross the streams.

Carrying Out the Project

I went to find various points of interest along the trail taking a partner to walk with me. I found that from the beginning all the way to the end there were places that would interest most anyone. Starting at Dowdell's Knob there is the open grill fireplace used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he went on picnics in the area. I next came to a spring with a wall-like structure around it built by the CCC during the depression. Next there is the old ranger's cabin which is in poor condition. The next two points of interest are the Wolf's Den and the Cascades, a beautiful waterfall along a stream on the trail. The last place of interest is an old fire tower which is ready to fall and is considered dangerous.

After finding the points of interest I walked the trail using a compass and photocopies of the maps so I could pencil in the approximate trail. Sometimes I would not be sure of where I was at and have to go back and start off from the last place I was sure of. I marked the trail with blue and red ribbon. It took approximately two weeks during Christmas holidays to do this (around 80 hours). I believe the trail is about 10 miles long.

One week before the clearing was to take place I went back and re-marked the trail, making sure the trail could easily be followed.

On December 8, a Saturday, Troops from the Creek District got together to clear the trail. The Troops split into 6 groups and started at various points and had the whole trail cleared by evening. The Troops were instructed to clear the brush, cutting it as close to and parallel to the ground to reduce hazards. The brush was taken at least 15 feet from the trail to make the trail neat. Various places on the trail had the top few layers of leaves raked from it to show where to go in the more open places.

Sticks and rocks were picked off the trail to cut down on hazards, the sticks being taken at least 15 feet from the trail and rocks set on the side to sort of line the trail. I was in charge of one of the clearing crews. I walked the trail afterwards and found the trail very impressive with just a few places that needed some touching up. The permanent markers were placed at places so you can follow the trail easily. They are made of square pieces of sheet metal painted red with a strip of reflective tape on them.

This trail is designed to be a Historical Trail, hopefully to be approved by the Georgia Historical Society. The trail will be open to the public for anyone who wishes to hike it. There will be a patch designed for the hikers of the trail, and there will be a map and brochure on the trail available. We hope to get a surveyor and measure the trail with his surveyor's equipment.

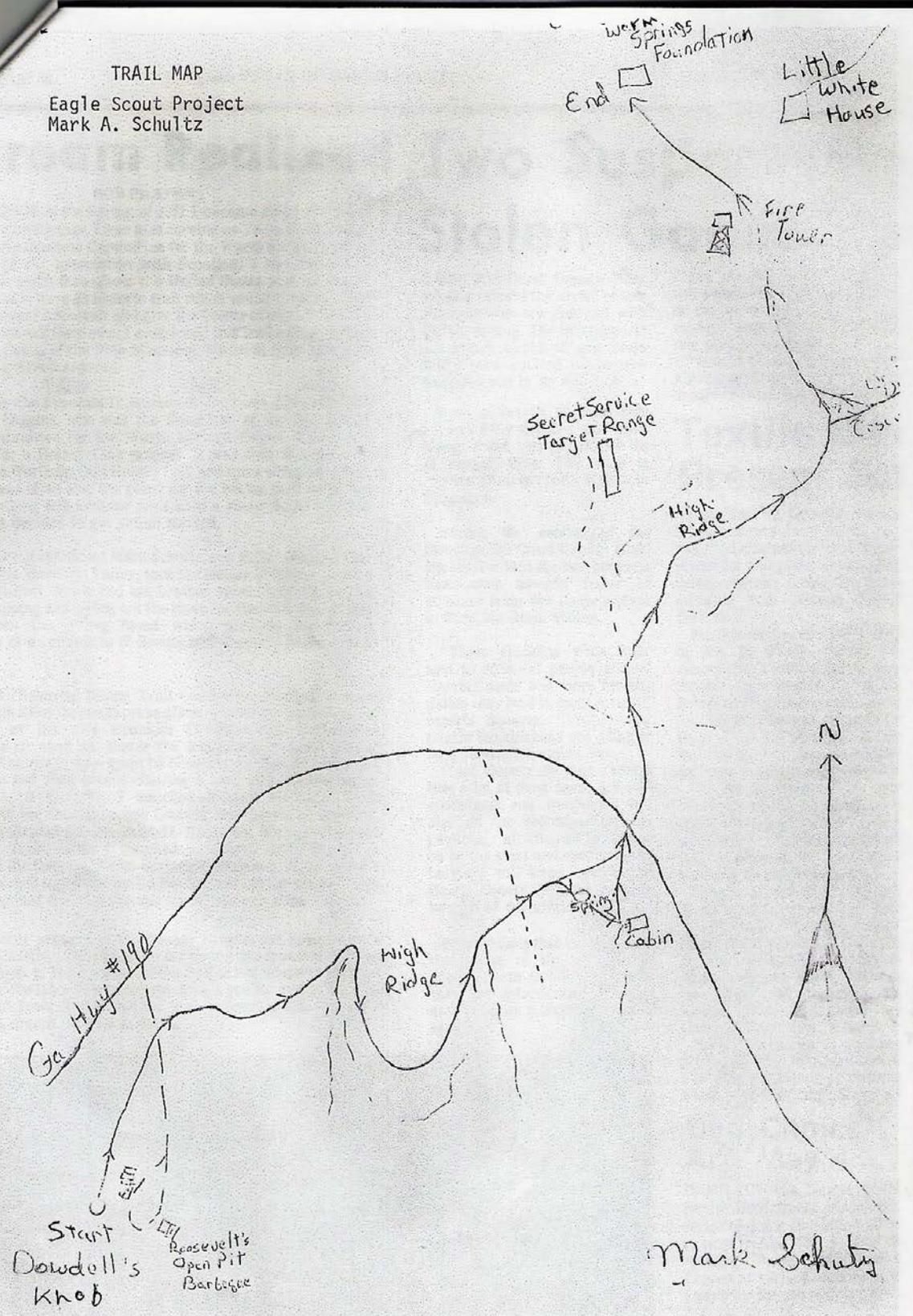
Future of the Project

We hope that in the future part of the trail will be set up for the blind with wire to guide them and braille signs on the various plants.

There will also be many opportunities for Scouts to do various projects on the trail to improve it.

Mark A. Schultz
Age 17
Troop 104
Pine Mountain Valley, Ga

TRAIL MAP
Eagle Scout Project
Mark A. Schultz



Mark Schultz

Apr 18, 1974

A Dream Realized

BOB PRATER

WARM SPRINGS-In the Spring of 1971 I became Scout Master of Troop 143, Warm Springs. I was also serving as Youth Chairman of the community Services Committee for the Warm Springs Rotary Club. Through my association with Scouting, I had learned of historic Scout trails throughout the United States and felt that it would be good to have an historic trail which would commemorate the late President Roosevelt and give the Scouts of this area a trail that they could call their own. I envisioned this trail going through many of the points of the Pine Mountain, Warm Springs area that President Roosevelt enjoyed.

The idea for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Trail was discussed with Dr. Connor Higgins, who was the Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the Warm Springs Rotary Club, as a suggestion for a Rotary Club project. It was then adopted as a project of the Warm Springs Rotary Club and some plans were laid. As many ideas often are, the plans for the hiking trail were laid aside and nothing was actively done until a young Scout heard of the idea and decided to get action started.

In December of 1973 Scout Mark Schultz, son of Dr. and Mrs. Don Schultz of Pine Mountain Valley, took the historical hiking trail for his Eagle Project. Mark and his brother spent their Christmas vacation mapping and laying out the route for the trail. It was this impetus from this young Scout which led to the formal organization of a committee of Scouts and Scouters in the Creek District.

The FDR Historical Hiking Trail Committee, headed by Scout Master Hugh Riley, began to make plans to have the trail ready for dedication at the 1974 Franklin D. Roosevelt Commission Ceremonies on April 12. Under the leadership of Scout Master Riley, two Saturdays were spent by Scouters and Scouts with saws, axes, rakes and sling blades clearing a trail and painting signs.

Today, April 12, 1974, I watched Russell McClean, Scout Executive of the Chattahoochee Council, Boy Scouts of America, formally dedicated the Franklin D. Roosevelt Historic National Boy Scout Trail. Later I watched as Albert Calli, Executive Director of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, stood under a beautiful arched sign made by Ed Nottke, and cut the ribbon which officially opened the trail for use by Scouts and other groups.

I feel deeply grateful to Dr. Connor Higgins for listening to a young man's folly, to Mark Schultz for taking this dream and laying the foundation, to Hugh Riley and the Scouts and Scouters of Creek District for the labor in making the trail a reality and to the past and present Scout Executives for their support of this dream.

Today, a dream became a reality.

Old Scout sign and new one put up on 4/29 2018

Old FDR Memorial Scout Trail sign near Dowdell Knob

