

## THE MAIN TRAIL LOOP IN THE HUNTING FOREST - 9/8/2019



Sandy Blanchard gave Martha Butterfield a call on Sunday afternoon, September 8th, keeping her informed for her recordkeeping that Deb Eastman-Proulx and she had decided to do some trail blazing on the Hunting Forest Trails and were going to meet up at the parking lot to work on the main trail loop that day. They'd been eager to get going on that project, knowing that word would spread about the new trails that had recently been cut, and people would soon be interested in using them.

Sandy and Deb had arrived at the entrance at 1:40 pm and began the process of choosing the best trees along the way to apply white paint markers a reasonable distance apart. They brought with them a bucket with a tree scraper, a rag, a 2" wide brush and a jar of white paint. Having blazed the entire trail system in the Bachelor Town Forest the previous year, they'd had plenty of experience in blazing trails.



Martha had a few things to do before she was able to join them and arrived at the entrance over a half hour later. As she headed down the main trail, she recognized the neatly painted white markers on the trees. Soon she encountered a family who were on their way back from hiking there. She welcomed them and introduced herself as a member of the Loudon Trails Committee who'd recently cut the trail. The family thanked her and the other members of their group for making the trails available, and they enjoyed their experience walking the entire loop that day. They told her they lived

on the nearby Memory Lane housing area and were neighbors of Craig Mabie who had recently joined the Trails group.

After she met briefly with the family, Martha needed to walk quite a way before finally catching up with Sandy and Deb, as they'd made great progress marking a long distance along the trail, and they had a good system going between them. As was their custom, one of them would take the lead and walk just far enough ahead so the second one would help guide which tree would be the easiest one to be seen by a hiker. The lead walker would then use a narrow scraping tool to remove a thin layer of bark on the chosen tree and then move on ahead, while the second walker would wipe that spot with a rag, and with a single swipe of the narrow paintbrush would paint a slim, rectangular mark about the size of a dollar bill.

Martha Butterfield 9/12/19