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Trail volunteers plan work session

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LISBON — The local chapter of the North Country Trail Association is renewing efforts to get as much of the trail constructed through Columbiana County as possible. Local NCTA President Brad Bosley has scheduled a trail construction day for 9 a.m. Saturday at the Leslie Road campground at Beaver Creek State Park, the second work session held this spring. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:30 a.m. The North Country Trail is a 4,600-mile trail created by Congress in 1980, starting in upstate New York and ending in North Dakota, depending upon a traveler's starting point. The trail as designed passes through public and private lands in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The trail enters the county near Negley before working its way to Beaver Creek State Park. The trail passes through as many state and national parks and lands as possible but also traverses private property, with the landowner's permission. Bosley said they have a new volunteer who has undertaken the task of approaching private property owners about providing easements that allow the trail to cross their property, minimizing the need to route the trail along public roads. "We're still plugging along," he said. "We just have a bunch of short pieces scattered throughout the county" needed to complete the trail. The latest trail section they are working on is west of the primitive campground between Leslie Road and state Route 7. A work day was held last month, and others are to be scheduled every month between now and winter. Bosley said the trail is an excellent opportunity for youth groups and other organizations looking to perform community service, although clearing brush, grubbing and carving out a trail can be hard work. "We're open to anyone who wants to help. We provide the tools, but we find out some people don't want to get involved because it involves physical work," he said. Anyone intending to show up Saturday needs to pack his own lunch and take enough to drink. tgiambroni@mojonews.com

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