HMCA Activities Update

by Diana Todd

for sharing at the July 2019 meeting of the HPC

A summary of what HMCA has been doing in the interval since the last submission in early May 2019.

* On May 25, the HMCA Trail Committee hosted a cleanup day on the north side trails, focusing on removing winter blowdowns and cutting back face-slappers growing into the trails. (The May 12 trail cleanup day for the south side trails got cancelled due to snow!)
* Marlboro Elementary School returned to Hogback for MES Day on May 31, marking the 10th year the school has been enjoying an all-school fun day on the mountain. Carol Berner led the HMCA organizational effort for the event, lining up a wide variety of fun (and surreptitiously educational) morning activities for the students. School staff organized the lunch and afternoon activities.
* A work day scheduled on June 8 for the Bishop homestead site had to be cancelled due to bad weather.
* About a dozen people came out for the June 22 “Ski Area Relics Exploration” hike. The group took shelter in “The Castle” when a brief thunderstorm hit the mountain in the middle of their hike. Everyone appreciated the shelter, and endorsed the plan to continue sprucing up the building by painting the interior and finishing the repairs of the benches and windows.
* In late June the Trail Committee weed-whacked the dense ferns obliterating the track of the Cross Mountain Trail and knocked back the blackberries and other growth encroaching on the Bishop Trail where it follows the former Meadow ski slope. On June 27, a small group returned to the Cross Mountain Trail with chain saws to clear a massive blowdown of an ancient standing dead maple that was blocking the trail.
* The ESH Committee recommended that the Sugar Slope and Ripperoo ski slopes be dropped from the ESH clearing project, based in part on suggestions in the Biodiversity Inventory prepared by Charlie Eiseman. At their July 1 meeting, the HMCA Board of Directors voted to support the recommendation. The recommendation has been submitted to the HPC for their review and approval.