



Alabama Hiking Trail Society

Perdido River Chapter

January 30, 2021



Hikers on the Perdido River Hiking Trail now have a new addition to the system to guide them through the beautiful river corridor. Volunteers with the Alabama Hiking Trail Society "Gulf Coast Chapter" installed professionally-designed mileage signs at four milestone points along the trail system. Each sign details how many miles remains to the next landing or shelter. The addition to the trail makes it easier for hiking

beginners to learn what is next on the trail. Eight hardworking unpaid volunteers with the Gulf Coast Chapter installed the signs on Saturday morning, January 30th 2021. Trail coordinator Garland Kahl coordinated the work of the installation of the signs and in addition completed 3 miles of brush clearing south of Staples Fork Landing.

Volunteer coordinator Trey Gross says that this is a small work part of a larger goal to help beginners navigate the local trails. "We know that in the United States right now in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, people are flocking outside, and this unique outdoor revolution has brought many beginners to places that are quite isolated. I don't think this effect is temporary, because once people go outside and see how much beauty there is outside of the house, it compels you to come back. I think us outdoor enthusiasts have a responsibility to be open to

teaching and guiding them so they can enjoy the outdoors as well. I see these mileage signs as a small attempt to do this."



The work would not have been possible without the help of Condé Systems, Forever Wild and the State Lands Division. The president of Condé Systems in Mobile, AL David Gross freely offered the graphic design work needed to make the signs, and in addition coordinated with Universal Woods in Louisville, KY to have the metal donated.

Several iterations of engineering design went into the signs to ensure that the signs are aesthetically pleasing and minimizing any potential damage from ultra-violet (UV) light. Using sublimation technology developed by Condé Systems, the metal signs are incredibly tough against the effects of UV damage and vandalism, since the printed ink

is bonded underneath the surface of the metal through the sublimation process.

A dark green background with white text was chosen so that even with the minor effects of UV damage, the white text will always be readable against a fading background. In addition this style was used to align with the branding of other signs installed by the State Lands Division in the Perdido River Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

The Alabama Hiking Trail Society thanks Evan Lawrence with the State Lands Division for his support of the development of the signs, and the State Lands Division Communications and Marketing team for their support of receiving the logos for the signs.



The signs were installed at the following places:

- Gravel Landing (trail going south)
 - GPS Location: 30.78324, -87.55234
- Staples Fork Landing (trail going north)
 - GPS Location: 30.71603, -87.48605
- Staples Fork Landing (trail going south)
 - GPS Location: 30.71605, -87.48588
- Blue Lake Landing (trail going north)
 - GPS Location: 30.65819, -87.40459

If you would like to volunteer with the Alabama Hiking Trail Society, get newsletters from the group by adding your [email here](#).