

## **2008 Scout projects in review at Autrey Mill**

by John Guerin, Vice President

Past articles have helped to explain the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects – the capstone project management task for any Boy Scout to attain the rank of Eagle – and have detailed some of the projects which were ongoing. As has been related, we have had many projects performed here over the years which have had a lasting impact and have improved our park for all of its visitors. These visible, tangible service projects benefit Scouting and our community in countless ways.

As we begin 2009, it is helpful to relate what has transpired by way of these projects in the past year. As each project is completed and we turn our attention to other projects in the works, it is easy to lose perspective of the cumulative effect of these projects. So please thoughtfully digest the following statistics about our Eagle projects in 2008.

### ***In 2008, the cumulative results of the Eagle projects performed at Autrey Mill were:***

A total of **23 projects** were completed – almost 2 per month;

More than **4,635 man hours** were invested due to these projects.

At least **408 people** —got their hands dirty|| working on these projects.

Finally, **over \$12,250 were contributed** to Autrey Mill as a direct result of the materials and goods used to complete these projects.

NOTE: No labor charges were incurred for these projects. Furthermore, no —mark-up|| for the materials used in these projects was passed on. If both of these facts are taken into account, one can easily realize that the cost to Autrey Mill to have these projects completed commercially would easily double.

Finally, a couple of quick notes about recently completed projects of interest – we now have 2 animal observation stations along the trails. These are covered benches where if you remain quietly you may see some of our creatures who normally would be too shy to be seen! Our wetlands walkway now has over 250 continuous feet complete and has almost reached its terminus at the Forest Loop trail. We now have a safe and easily traversed flagstone sidewalk from the restrooms to the Summerour House. Finally, check out our owl house with closed circuit camera connected to a monitor in the Visitor's Center – it even has a microphone – we're just waiting for The Owl Family to move in!!

It is humbling for those of us on the Board of Directors to see the literal mountain of work which has been performed by these Scouts, one small step at a time. We are ever thankful for the efforts of these Scouts. Autrey Mill has ONLY ONE source of ongoing funding – that is what is directly contributed by our members, visitors, and thankfully these Scouts! We hope that you too will enjoy the fruits of their labor. If you visit Autrey Mill and see one of these projects underway, please remember to thank the Scouts investing their time!