

Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

*Remote for detachment; Narrow for chosen company; Winding for leisure; Lonely for contemplation;
It beckons not merely north and south, but upward to the body, mind and soul of man...Harold Allen*



Published by the Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee of the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club

Gay Bryant, Webmail Coordinator; Dianne Gruber, newsletter editor, 865 977-0807; Phyllis Henry, Treasurer, Special Projects, 865 577-2604; Pete James, Volunteer Data Records, 865 977-0807; Dick Ketelle, Committee Member, 865 483-9345; John Lankford, NP Division Leader, 865 774-1866; ; Jim Lowe, Nantahela National Forest Division Leader 828 479- 9271; Mac McNutt, Tools Manager, 865 983-3237; Randy Puckett, Consultant; Philip Royer, Shelter and Campsite coordinator 865 694- 0160; John and Penny Lankford, Deep South Committee Representatives, 865 774-1866.

March 2007

Planned SMHC WORKTRIPS 2007 (all Saturdays)

March 3, 2007- Support for SMHC sawyers in Nantahala National Forest (See note)

April 7, 2007 - Support for SMHC sawyers in the Smokies

May 5, 2007 - Spring water bar cleaning

June 2, 2007 - Lead a National Trails Day crew or serve on NTD planning team

July 7, 2007 - Cutting vegetation in the Smokies

August 4, 2007 - Cutting vegetation in the Smokies (or the national forest if the trip leaders have a strong preference for working down there)

September 1 & 2, 2007 - Backpacking maintenance trip

September 22, 2007 - Support for SMHC shelter renovation crew

October 6, 2007 - Fall water bar cleaning

November 3, 2007 - Fall water bar cleaning

Note: All chain sawing is done by personnel who have been trained and qualified in that skill. They need our support in trimming small branches, disposing of cut branches and logs, cleanup, etc

March Trail Maintenance Trip

Spring Blowdown Removal in NF March 3, Saturday

Join this work trip to help with the smaller stuff while the chain saw guys clear large blowdowns in the Nantahala NF. Tennesseans meet at 7:00 AM at the ex-Bi-Lo in Maryville, just south of where US-129 & US-411 join (SW corner at traffic light, past Pilot/Conoco). Meet at front of lot. Carolinians contact Jim Lowe for meeting place and time. Bring all usual hike gear plus work gloves. Also, be thinking of a **restaurant in Robbinsville for supper and blister comparison**

TN Leader: George Ritter (865) 483-9758

NC Leader: Jim Lowe (828) 479-9271

A.T. Work

01/06/07 Pam Reddoch, Mark Hall, and Erik Hall cleared small blowdowns and removed small branches etc. from the trail starting at Stecoah Gap for 1.5 miles.

01/12/07 Dick Ketelle and Craig Rightmore removed a large blowdown from trail approximately 0.75 mile east of Newfound Gap.

01/12/07 Mac McNutt, Phyllis Henry, Stewart Taylor started to Ice Water to cut blowdown but ran into Dick who was also on his way to cut blowdown. Aborted trip

01/27/07 Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor and two Maryville College Students installed water source sign at Russell Field. Carried out 4 bags of trash and cleared 6 blowdowns.

01/ 20/07 Pam Reddoch and Tom Reddoch cut three blowdowns, removed loose rocks, small tree limbs and branches from the trail between Stecoah Gap and Brown Fork Shelter

02/11/07 Larry Ball worked from Low Gap-Mt. Cammerer junction (2.2 miles). He removed several limbs from the trail. The trail condition was good, with just a few ice patches encountered.

2/12/07 Steve Higdon picked up windblown debris along with a little trash between Newfound

and Indian Gaps, cleared two blowdowns including one of good size just east of the Beech Gap fencing.

One blowdown remains. It's about 100 yds in from Indian Gap, just past the big switchback. About a 10 inch log. It's low enough to allow hikers to step over. I trimmed it to make passing easier.

Trimmed brush in a number of areas and got a jumpstart on this season's briars. Ground was frozen with about two inches of packed snow and ice on most of the trail. Very quiet in the park. Not a single car in the Alum Cave parking lots. Don't know when I've seen that. Saw no hikers.

2/17/07 Dick Ketelle and Ann Farrer hiked to Spence Field (it was very cold ~20 degrees, windy, and snowing up there -- no day for lying around in the grass enjoying the views) and I serviced the "Crapper Counter" and refilled the mulch bucket.

GSMNP Permit System for "Trail Magic" Events

Great Smoky Mountains National park has a permit system for events which distribute gifts to hikers in the park .*Some* of the rules are listed below. For more details contact park information.

. Pursuant to 36 CFR 2.50(d), the following conditions are established for this activity:

- i) The sale of any materials is prohibited.
- ii) The collection or solicitation of money or other things of value is prohibited.
- iii) **The distribution of food or any other items other than those listed is prohibited. See 9 below.**

Foods and beverages will be restricted to items that are non-perishable, commercially prepackaged, ready-to-eat foods dispensed in their original containers/packages, e.g. individual servings of potato chips, candy bars, crackers, nuts, gorp, jerky, canned, bottled or boxed drinks, etc. Fresh fruit not requiring refrigeration will be permitted, if listed below, provided that it has been washed in potable water and is whole and uncut, i.e. a whole banana or apple.

- iv) The distribution of any foods or beverages prepared or cooked at home is prohibited, regardless of how prepared or packaged, e.g. hamburgers, sandwiches, boiled eggs, cookies, gorp, sports drink made from powder, etc.

v) The distribution of items shall be restricted to hikers only, and preferably limited to long distance (i.e. 50 miles or more) Appalachian Trail hikers.

vi) All litter and debris accumulated in conjunction with this activity shall be removed by the permittee to a site outside the park. The site used by the permittee will be restored to a condition acceptable to the National Park Service upon the conclusion of the activity. In order to prevent trail litter, drinks must be consumed on site or transferred by the hiker into their own container.

vii) The display of any signing is limited to two of the attached sign. The sign may be displayed on a vehicle or a table. Any other "advertising" or notice on behalf of the permittee and/or of a commercial nature is prohibited.

Remember to log your trail
maintenance activities through
SMHC website: smhc.org

Can't figure out how?? Call Dianne Gruber at
865 977 0807

PS—If you couldn't find the link recently, the
problem has been noticed and fixed. Please try
again.