

## 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

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May 2007

## May 5 Work Trip—Volunteer training

John Lankford, NP Division Leader, 865 774-1866, has scheduled a **training work trip on May 5<sup>th</sup>**. Meet at Sugarlands at 9:00. Call John to find which section of trail will benefit from the training session. Experienced maintainers are needed to help with training.

Last month's newsletter listed the May work trip as May 12 to roof Cable Gap shelter. Happily, our roofers are fully staffed and will need no additional help.

## Warren Wilson Spring Break March 18-24, 2007

Seven volunteers from Warren Wilson College assisted Jim Lowe, T. J. Tolnas and Lamar Powell (Hopeful) in building 2 stone stair cases; each case is approximately 10 feet in length and consists of 3 steps. One case also incorporates a crib wall. Crush and fill was used behind each step. Additionally, approximately 300 yards of side-hilling was dug to re-establish the path away from the trail edge. All side-hill areas were brushed in to direct foot traffic onto the re-established treadway.

## National Trails Day.

### Save the Date...SMHC Celebrates its 11<sup>th</sup> National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Join us to get some exercise, enjoy a day of camaraderie on the trail (RAIN OR SHINE), and receive a commemorative t-shirt, plus doughnuts, coffee & juice in the morning and a picnic in the evening.

The ATMC is looking for Volunteers to help host National Trails Day in the Smokies. Ladies and gentlemen, if you don't like getting dirty, can't do trail work, or just can't stay all day, we still have some important jobs you can do. We always need morning volunteers to set-up and register participants at Sugarlands Visitor Center starting about 7 AM. We need someone to help distribute and collect tools morning and afternoon. We also need volunteers to assist our food service chief, **Jim Huff**, by transporting, setting-up, serving and cleaning-up at the picnic, which will be held at the Metcalf Bottoms Pavilion, courtesy of Friends of the Smokies. How about it? Please help us make this annual event a success. Contact Philip Royer, (865) 694-0160 or [proyer@knology.net](mailto:proyer@knology.net) or George Ritter at (865) 483-9758, [geo-ritt@bellsouth.net](mailto:geo-ritt@bellsouth.net)

### Tip for clearing vegetation along trail

When trimming a 4 by 8 foot clearance along the trail, cut more on the uphill side of the trail while allowing brush on the downhill side to infringe slightly over the trail. This forces hikers to the uphill side of the tread and reduces damage to the outer side. See the illustration on page 30 of the Appalachian Trail Fieldbook.

## A.T. Work

3/2/07 **Brian Schloff** started at Wright Gap and hiked south for approximately 1 mile and cleared out a large garbage pile of used MRE boxes, cans and a small mess kit around a fire ring. Then he hiked North on A.T. from Wright Gap up to Jump Up and cleared out the leaves in the spring and a few Water bars. He spent the night at Jump Up and cleaned trash out of several fire rings. The next morning he hiked to Swim Bald and cut back a few Rhododendrons in the way. Found an entire campsite abandoned over a month ago approximately 60 feet from A.T. to include a vinyl tarp, Marlboro

sleeping bag, back pack, numerous articles of clothing, open food containers spread over a 15 foot area. The clothing was intact but everything else was shredded including a map of the A.T. Some type of animal must have been into it. He lined the ripped up pack with a trash bag and carried about 25 pounds of garbage back to Wright Gap.

**03/07/07 Mac McNutt, Phyllis Henry and Wayne Williams** delivered a spool of cable to Derrick Knob hog hunters cabin for food lines. They cleaned the shelter and policed the grounds.

**03/13/07 Bob Hutchins, Jim Smith, Manford Grote and Bill Woodrick** worked from Sweat Heifer Trail to the Boulevard.

**03/14/07 Mac McNutt and Phyllis Henry** hiked from Newfound to Mt. Collins to clean the privy and shelter.

**3/18/07 Mike and Kay Harrington** cleared waterbars between Lewellyn Branch trail crossing below Shuckstack Fire Tower and Lost Cove trail junction.

**4/2/07 Steve Higdon** pulled up and cut briers, pulled spruce sprouts, removed several trip hazards and picked up litter between Newfound Gap and Indian Gap.

**4/7/07 Susan Faidley, Jerry Wright, and Donald Box** walked from Sassafras Gap to Greer Knob for their first trip to inspect their section of the Trail. Susan reports: Three of us carried the tools given us in March by George and placed them in the box at the Birch Spring Gap campsite. We cleaned out all the water bars up to Greer Knob. Some could use a little extra work and we will do that on the next trip back. We cut down a couple of overhanging vines. We inspected the campsite and all 7 tent platforms.

**4/7/07 Tim Bigelow** walked from Davenport Gap to about one mile below Mt. Cammerer side trail. He checked the Davenport gap shelter for trash (it was very clean), removed light blowdowns, cleared waterbars and trimmed vegetation.

**4/9/05 Wes Chastain** started at Wright Gap and cleared two blow downs, pruned small limbs and briers from sides of trail, and picked up trash from makeshift campsite just south of Grassy Gap

**4/13/07 Ed Faulkner and Janet Murray** worked one mile north from the Spruce-Fir intersection. They cleared water bars, made and installed wooden steps, cut back fallen trees from the edge of trail, and removed some tree root ball to open the trail more.

## ATC Survey

As a first step in creating a new Trail-wide program for volunteers and volunteer managers, the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** (ATC) is examining the many ways volunteers support the Appalachian Trail. They are starting the planning process with a needs assessment so that they can learn more from volunteers – and supporters of the Trail - about what they might need/want to encourage volunteer engagement.

They've created a brief, user-friendly survey on the SurveyMonkey.com service. It will be open for response from **Monday, April 16** through **Friday, May 11**. In this survey, they'd like to capture information about **ALL** the ways people contribute their time – trail maintenance, outreach, administration, governance and more.

Simply **enter the link below** in your internet browser and begin:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=738613653002>