

## 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*

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**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; George Ritter, Recruiting, (865) 483-9758; 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.

**June 2007**

## National Trails Day June 2, 2007

Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Regional Office of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, are pleased to coordinate another Annual Appalachian Work Day on National Trails Day. Workers will receive a commemorative t-shirt, prizes, and a picnic following at the end of the workday. Any questions, call Holly Burcham with Friends of the Smokies at (865) 932-4794 or 1-800-845-5665, or George Ritter at (865) 483-9758.

## GATC Lends a Hand

The Georgia AT Club has cleared and repaired the A.T. between Tricorner Knob and Dry Sluice Gap. They also cleaned many waterbars. Good neighbors!!!

## Donation

Monte Swanson donated \$1,000 for the work on the trail. All A.T. users thank Mr. Swanson for his continued support.

## A.T. Work

**3/31/07 Keith Mertz, Debbie Goddard, and Ashley Goddard** trimmed overhanging trees, pulled out greenbrier, trimmed back bushes. And pulled 3 dead pine trees off the trail between NC Hwy 28 and the "Fontana Hilton"

**4/17/07 Steve Higdon** walked from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap. He went to the trail to determine if there was any wind damage after the weekend weather. He reports: "A very serious situation exists. Blowdowns galore. Probably 40-50 on my section alone. Thru Hikers told me that it's even worse west of Indian Gap. One hiker described it as "hundreds of trees". Heaviest damage extends to about Clingmans Dome. I spent my day trying to provide a route through the tangles. Many very large trees. Down in batches falling different directions. I was able to cut through many tangles but some were too dense or dangerous. Huge root balls have torn big holes in the trail in several areas. This is going to require an "Opal-like" effort with many chainsaw teams. Must be done quickly because hikers are suffering."

**4/21/07 Dwain Godfrey** cleaned out all the water bars from Silers Bald Shelter halfway to Miry Ridge.

**4/21/07 Dick Ketelle, Wayne Williams, Craig Rightmire, Alex McGrew, Nathan Felose, Tony Bolt, Susan Faidley, Donald Box, Charlie Piez, Steve Higdon Philip Royer, Jim Huff, and Jack Payne** removed blowdowns from a half mile trail south of Indian Gap to Newfound Gap

**4/21/07 Peter James, Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Randy Rainey, Coy Blair, and Sam Nice** cut out 24 blowdowns between Clingmans Dome and Double Springs Shelter. They also cleaned out the privy bin and moved the outhouse to the empty one, filled mulch buckets and checked the Mt Collins shelter, and carried out empty mulch bags.

**4/22/07 Dick Ketelle, Tony Bolt, Ed Peck, Ed Fleming, Craig Rightmire, and Doris Gove** removed blowdowns from Collins Gap to Mt. Love.

**4/23/07 Steve Higdon** worked from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap. He finished trimming after last week's blowdown removal, tidied up the area, reduced root balls to allow hikers to pass by more easily, cut some sidehill to open trail where restrictions now exist, removed some trip hazards.

“Talked to many thru hikers and one fellow who had just completed the Mountains to the Sea Trail in 72 days. Hikers heaped praise on us for being able to clear so many trees in two days. "Amazing" was the word used most. All expressed their appreciation.”

**4/23/07 Jim Huff** walked from Davenport Gap shelter to the intersection of Chestnut Branch trail. He inspected the trail for maintenance needs, and cleaned organic matter from waterbars.

**4/29/07 Mark and Heather Shipley** cleaned waterbars from Low Gap to Cosby shelter. They cleaned up around the shelter and replaced mulch and cleaned the privy.

**4/30/07 Pam Reddoch and Keith Mertz** walked the trail from Stecoah Gap to a half mile past Brown Fork shelter, and picked up fallen branches, sawed a few small branches that were protruding into the trail, cut back some plants and blackberries, pruned back branches from small trees. Cleaned the shelter and checked the water sources.

**5/1/07 Jim Huff** cleaned and improved all waterbars, drainage ditches, dips, and run-off ditches, lopped growth overhanging trail and briars, removed fallen trees blocking trail, removed loose rocks and other debris from treadway between Davenport Gap and Chestnut Branch trail.

**5/2/07 Phyllis Henry, Stew Taylor, and Jerry Troxler** cut out 7 blowdowns from Fork Ridge going south to Newfound Gap.

**5/6/07 Terry Elmore, Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Mac McNutt and Stew Taylor** hiked to Icewater Springs. They emptied the box of composted material, moved privy and steps, cleaned the privy, dug out 2 waterbars to keep water from privy and composting boxes, cleaned mulch boxes out and carried out all trash

**5/9/07** Team Turbeville cleaned Mt Collins shelter, and cleaned water-bars, trimmed low branches, fixed a couple of stairs from Mt. Collins shelter to Collins Gap and Newfound Gap to Indian Gap. Participants were: **Lucinda Turbeville, Carol Anderson, Nan Woodbury, Jim Quick, Steve Higdon, Angie Warren, Keith Mertz, Jean Bangham, Ron Shrieves, Nancy Biddle.**

## SWEAT CREW

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is seeking volunteers who are comfortable backpacking in the remote wilderness, like to hike long distances and aren't scared of a bit of good old-fashioned work to participate in its newest trail crew, the Smokies Wilderness Elite A.T. (SWEAT) Crew leaders will guide a team of 10 volunteers through these remote sections of the A.T. for six-day sessions. The ATC reports that the crew is only at 40 percent of volunteer capacity so far, so plenty of slots are open.

The conservancy will provide all the necessary tools and equipment—and training in their use—as well as three meals a day, snacks, off-day housing for multi-week volunteers, and transportation to and from the base camp. The crew will travel light and spend the nights along the way. This crew is run in close cooperation with the National Park Service and Smoky Mountains Hiking Club based in Knoxville.

Volunteers can choose from the following SWEAT Crew dates: **Week 1 (6/8-6/13); Week 2 (6/17-6/22); Week 3 (6/26-7/1); Week 4 (7/6-7/11); Week 5 (7/15-7/20); Week 6 (7/24-7/29); Week 7 (8/2-8/7); or Week 8 (8/12-8/16)**

An application for admission to the crew is available on the conservancy's Web site at [www.appalachiantrail.org/crews](http://www.appalachiantrail.org/crews). The southern regional Appalachian Trail Conservancy office in Asheville has further information and can be contacted by telephone at (828) 254-3708 or via electronic mail at [jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org)Crew. SWEAT Crew begins June 6, with six-day sessions that will focus on maintaining and rehabilitating the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) in one of America's favorite parks.