

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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August 2007

August 4 Work Trip

On August 4, section leaders and crew members are encouraged to spend the day cutting back vegetation on their own sections. Remember that the use of motorized weed cutting equipment is not allowed in the Park. Also, Section Leaders who would like one or more crew members to go along may send an E-mail to ExtraCrewList@smhclub.org asking for replies. There are many people on that list who would like to assist on a crew.

Konnarock

The Konnarock crew is coming to the Nantahala National Forest to work on the Cheoah Bald rehab from Thursday 7/26 to Monday 7/30. Contact Jim Lowe, the SMHC leader for the Nantahala forest section for more information at 828 479- 9271. Day helpers are always welcome.

Cable Gap Shelter

The roof of the Cable Gap shelter had long been in disrepair. On May 12 Jim Lowe led a crew of roofers in replacing the old roof with new cedar shingles. Jim's crew included Andrew Downes of the ATC, and two friends of Andrew, two National Forest Service workers, and A.T. maintainers Jimmy Smith and Bob Husted. Jim says the shelter looks beautiful.

A.T. Work

5/20/07 Ed Peck finished clearing water bars from Goshen Prong Trail to Double Springs Gap shelter, picked up inside and around shelter and at the water sources on both sides of AT.

5/29/07 Steve Higdon trimmed brush, briars, and branches, re-positioned and re-anchored three water bars or steps, removed trip hazards, and cut weeds at each end of the section between Indian and Newfound Gaps.

6/16/07 Charlie Klabunde cleaned some waterbars and whacked blackberries half way up to Shuckstack from the Fontana Dam trailhead.

6/19/07 Ray Payne blazed the trail between Indian Gap and Newfound Gap.

6/24/07 Dick Kettle and Ann Farrar cut vegetation from Dry Sluice Gap Trail Junction to the second saddle west of Masa Knob (0.93 mile). They also serviced the privy data logger at Icewater Shelter.

6/28/07 Pay Payne and Barbara Allen blazed the A.T. from Clingmans Dome to Silars Bald.

6/29-7/01/07 Rob Carter and Jordan Carter worked from Low Gap to 500 meters SW of Sunup Knob. They trimmed plant growth on the uphill side of Trail, replaced rock in waterbars, and trimmed low overhanging branches. They overnighted at Cosby Shelter. At the shelter they filled mulch in privy bucket, cleaned trash and debris out of fireplace, and raked up and removed trash from the shelter floor

6/30/07 Ray Payne and Barbara Allen painted blazes from Newfound Gap to False Gap and did some minor pruning.

6/30/07, a group from the Knoxville Area Thrivent Financial for Lutherans joined SMHC members to cut weeds, clip branches, and clean waterbar drains between Collins Gap and Clingmans Dome. They also collected mineral soil from recent blowdowns to fill and cap steps and moved a few more locust logs uptrail.

Jim Quick, Lynda Bryan, Kathleen Kitzmiller, Jennifer Kasten, and Doris Gove worked with 13 members of Thrivent's Join Hands Day. Thrivent provided water bottles, work gloves, food, and bottled water.

7/06/07 Ray Payne walked from Cades Cove to the junction of the A.T. with the Jenkins Ridge Trail (just east of the Bote Mountain Trail) and blazed the A.T. to the Russell Field Shelter, then walked back to Cades Cove.

7/07/07 Ed Faulkner and Janet Murray cut weeds, trimmed overgrowth, cleaned waterbars, and generally checked on conditions from Spruce Fir Nature Trail for one mile north toward New Found Gap. They report the work done on Trails day looks good and well drained.

7/07/07 Ed Fleming and Pam Brown cut vegetation and cleaned waterbars between Sunup Knob and Mt. Cammerer Side Trail.

7/07/07 Mac McNutt, Stew Taylor, Terry Elmore, Mike Woods, Ed Peck, Coy Blair, and Brian Groenhout cut brush and cleared waterbars from Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong.

7/09/07 Steve Higdon cut weeds, briars, and brush between Newfound and Indian Gaps. He reports the work done on Trails Day still looks good.

7/12/07 Ray Payne blazed the A.T. between Davenport Gap and Mt. Cammerer. He picked up trash at the Davenport Gap shelter.

7/13/07 Mac McNutt, Jerry Troxler, Ed Peck, George Ritter and Dick Kettle, in spite of repeated light rain showers, had a good time assembling and erecting the steel frame, vinyl cover mulch shelter near Elkmont. The shelter is the size of a one-car garage and came in the form of some 150 pieces, not including bolts, nuts, screws, and rivets. If we seemed confused at times, or if we got something wrong, it must have been because the instruction sheets were somewhat obliterated by the rain.

7/14/07 Mark Shipley cut blackberry bushes from Cosby Knob shelter to Camel Gap.