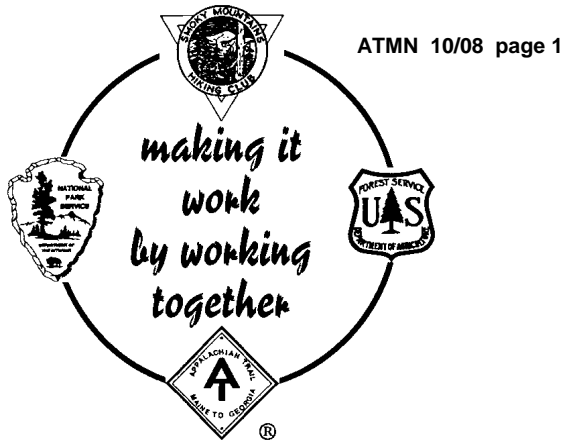


Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

*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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October 2008

Work Trip

The October 4th Saturday work trip will be a short trip to the Elkmont Pistol Range to move the mulch tent back over the mulch pile following the Park's having dumped a load of mulch for us. Also, we will need to move the tent off the current location on Saturday, September 27th. Both of these tasks will start at 9:00 AM and finish in one hour or less. If you can help on either or both days, please tell George Ritter, 483-9758 or geo_ritt@bellsouth.net and he will send you directions to the location.

Double Springs Shelter Rehab

The shelter rehab project this year is at Double Springs. Crews went up September 7, and hope to finish the work by September 18. Carolyn Williams reported it took three days to get the helicopter work done since it kept raining in the high country.

SWEAT Crew Funding

Great News! - The State of Tennessee chose to fund the ATC's Recreational Trails Program grant application for \$62,400. This grant is to fund the majority of the SWEAT crew for the next two years. As you may know, the SWEAT Crew helps our club by maintaining the remote sections of the AT in the Smokies. The TN State Department of Environment and Conservation uses a published priority ranking system for grant applications but it certainly didn't hurt things to have our cause supported by **State Senators Randy McNally of Oak Ridge and Tim Burchett of Knoxville**. We appreciate their actions on behalf of a good cause.

A.T. Work

March/08 Nathan Boike and Ernst Meyer cleared ten blow downs in the Wright Gap area.

July/08 Rachel Gramig reported that she carried out trash from shelters as she hiked the length of the park.

7/19/08 Nathan Boike, Leigh Boike, and Frank Godfrey cleared seven blow downs between Grassy Gap and Wesser.

7/25/08 Dick Ketelle replaced the memory module in the Icewater Spring privy use logger and filled mulch buckets.

8/02/08 Karen Brackett, Jessica Birdsong, and Clint Satler hiked to the Icewater Spring shelter on Friday evening and spent the night to get an early start. "By 10:30 a.m. we had cleared brush to the privy, refilled mulch buckets, widened/leveled the trail, and installed three additional steps! Clint cleared brush around the shelter and spring while we repaired the path to the bear cables so that it is no longer a gully. We rebuilt one rock water bar near Masa Knob. As we scouted the area for our next trip, Jessica couldn't resist a little lopping along the way."

8/16/08 Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning, and 11 Boy Scouts, adult leaders, and family members from **Boy Scout Troop 179** backpacked mulch to resupply the mulch storage bins for the privy at the Icewater Spring shelter. They also refilled mulch buckets in the privy, cleaned the fire-ring and fireplace at the shelter, and performed general cleanup at and around the shelter.

They also cut weeds and cleaned waterbars south of the Boulevard trail junction. **Participants from Troop 179 included Scoutmaster Gary Nunley, Assistant Scoutmaster Adrian Carr, Dick Dodson, Parker Dodson, Taylor Dodson, Clark Derrington, Barrett Darlington, William Berbas, Aaron Berbas, McLean Hornsby, and guest Rachel Carr.**

8/18/08 Ed Peck and Wayne Williams went to Mt. Collins shelter and repaired the roof on the shelter, where a bear had torn up several places. They then went up Clingmans Dome and out to Silers Bald marking GPS waypoints for log drops in conjunction with the rehab of Double Springs Shelter. They also did an inventory of the tool box at Double Springs, and serviced the privy.

8/22/08 Brian Groenhout cleared vegetation for one mile north of the Lower Mt Cammerer Trail junction.

8/23/08 Don and Nancy Dunning packed mulch to Mt. Collins and Icewater Spring privies. They cleaned and repaired waterbars and trimmed back vegetation on the A.T. between Sweat Heifer trail junction and Boulevard trail junction.

8/24/08 Ray Payne repainted blazes, and did minor pruning to improve visibility of blazes between Low Gap above Cosby Campground and Camel Gap. He also checked the Cosby Knob shelter and found it was clean, and water at the spring was adequate. He removed the rock fire ring and scattered ashes from an illegal campsite less than 100 yards above the shelter

8/26/08 Art Barker cleared flora with the sling blade, cleared water bars and observed the dynamics of rain fall on the section of the A.T. between Indian Gap and Road Prong.

8/29/08 Ed Peck and Wayne Williams each carried about 25 pounds of tools for the demolition of the roof and bear fence on the Double Springs Shelter. They also cleaned the privy, refilled the mulch buckets, and brushed from Double Springs to Clingmans Dome.

9/3/08 Jerry Troxler hiked to the Spence Field shelter. He picked up a small bag of litter, checked the fire pit, swept out the privy, filled the mulch buckets, and carried out a bag of trash found in the gear box.

9/6/08 Mark Shipley, Hiram Rogers, Claudia Dean, Paul Tanguay, Meg Mabbs, and Bill Gooch helped the Rocky Top crew build rock water bars between Low Gap and the Cosby Knob shelter.

9/6/08 Ron Beatty cut vegetation and removed one small blowdown between Yellow Creek Gap and the high point east of Walker Gap.