

## 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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**November 2008**

## Work Trip Sat November 1

Bring gloves, lunch, water and plenty of muscle for a day of general trail maintenance. We will dig water bars, cut back briars and foliage, check the shelter and do miscellaneous maintenance to the trail. Tools will be provided. This is approximately 2.5 miles of the AT from Stecoah Gap, NC to just past Brown Fork Shelter.

Round trip mileage -- about 130 miles, hike 5 miles.

Leave from Maryville ex Bi-Lo at 7:30 am and this requires driving Highway 129 -- The Dragon

Please pre-register with Pam Reddoch at [preddoch@comcast.net](mailto:preddoch@comcast.net). I will need a head count for tools.

## Double Springs Shelter

This was my second year helping with the shelter renovation project. Last year I spent four days at Derrick Knob and the experience was so enjoyable that I took off from work this year to help for the duration. I arrived at the shelter on Monday evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Steve Reagan, Bill Clabough, and Wayne Williams had been there all day tearing out the old wood and preparing for the much needed masonry work on the fireplace. I brought in dinner for

everyone the first night (chicken wraps). I might add that Eddie Cook did an outstanding job on the masonry work and we were able to have the new ceiling beams in place and everything ready for the carpentry work to begin by Friday.

Our biggest initial challenge was dealing with the foggy wet weather. Our plans were to have all the supplies, storage boxes and equipment flown in by copter Tuesday and Wednesday from Luftee Overlook. However, we did not get all the shelter supplies flown in until Saturday afternoon and were not able to fly in any of the locust logs for the trails. We were able to saw up the old shelter beams to put in 23 new steps and 5 new water bars that were needed near the shelter, which is where I spent a lot of my time with Wayne Williams, Steve Regan, and Mac McNutt during the 9 days.

My hat goes off to Phyllis Henry for preparing excellent meals. My favorite (and it was hard to choose) was the blackened tuna pasta we had one evening. The Mexican and Italian dishes were also great. I brought Phyllis a new twin size air mattress for her tent to help ease her arthritis woes. Unfortunately, it went flat the first night she used it. Sorry Phyllis.



It was also great to see Mike Crabill again. He comes down every year from Indiana to help with shelter renovations and puts together a picture CD for everyone. We also had Dale Ditmanson, GSMNP Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald help out for a spell. We ended up finishing up ahead of schedule with everyone able to hike out on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to next year and hope that I'll be able to help with renovations at Mount Collins. I look forward to the good fellowship and comic relief provided by some of our friends around the evening campfire and at mealtimes. I also look forward to celebrating another birthday on the A.T., and I appreciate everyone who helped to make this year's experience a great one.

*Terry Elmore*

## Double Springs Credits

**Philip Royer** did the beautiful architectural design.

In July **Eddie Cook and Tom Howard** surveyed Double Springs shelter for masonry work.

In August, **Wayne Williams** worked two days helping **Morgan Sommerville** move locust logs at Luftee maintenance yard. **Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Mike Wood and Mac McNutt** helped with locust logs at Luftee. **Mac McNutt and Mike Wood** took GPS readings for logs to be flown to Mt. Buckley and to Goshen Prong Trail. **Ed Peck, Jerry Troxler, and Mac McNutt** bagged mulch, painted boxes, and debarked locust logs that were used as supports on shelter. **Phyllis Henry, Wayne Williams, Eddie Cook, and George Minnigh, GSMNP** backcountry specialist, prepared materials at McCarter Lumber Co. in Gatlinburg to be flown in for rehab of shelter.

The actual construction was done September 9-16. The helicopter lift was from September 9-13. **Morgan Sommerville** of the ATC provided the major management and coordination of the airlift, and **Andrew Downs** of the ATC managed the drop zone. **Jim Huff, Carolyn M. Williams, Fran (Carolyn's friend), Steve Higdon, Don Dunning, Ed Peck, George Ritter, and Art Barker** worked as road guards and material handlers at Luftee overlook helicopter staging site.

Those who worked at the Double Springs site were: **Bill Clabough, Tom Howard, Stewart Taylor, Jim Niemeyer, Mac McNutt, James Fondren, Mike Wood, Paul Ruble, Mike Burrell, Dick Ketelle, Mike Crabill, Wayne Williams, Steve Reagan, Terry Elmore, Phyllis Henry, and Eddie Cook.**

### A.T. Work

**6/20/08 Shawn Schwartz and Jim Lowe** walked from Fontana Dam to Walker Gap to assess the trail.

**8/2/08 Doris Gove** led a group of 18 students from Ecuador, Bolivia and Columbia, with their two advisors, hosted by the University of TN English Language Institute. The students carried all the remaining locust logs from Collins Gap up the trail to places where they could be installed. They also did some weeding and removed one blowdown.

**9/13-14 John Gassler** worked from Snake Den Trail to Tricorner Knob shelter. He cut tree branches, brushed most of the trail, cleaned the shelter, cleaned the fireplace and fire ring, swept privy, checked mulch buckets, sharpened tools, picked up and packed out trash. He says he ate lots of blackberries along the way.

**9/22/08 Steve Higdon** cut brush between Newfound to Indian Gaps. He also worked on a blowdown. Twelve inch log which was too high to climb over, too low to go under, so he bow-sawed it once and allowed it to drop to the trail, so that it can be stepped over, but it still needs some chainsaw action.

**9/29/08 Ed Peck and Wayne Williams** walked out to Double Springs Shelter to pick up tools and tent left when we worked on the shelter. We cleaned the privy and the shelter. Still no graffiti! We filled several steps that we had worked on before. We met only one person.

**10/4/08 Paul Tanguay, Jeanine Newman, and Jake Newman** cleaned fifty waterbars, repaired one waterbar, and cut back brush starting 0.2 miles NE of Newfound Gap and finishing at the Sweat Heifer intersection.

**10/10/08 Dick Ketelle, Craig Rightmire, and Jim Russell** used the crosscut saw to remove a large blowdown across trail between Chestnut Branch Jct. and Lower Mt Cammerer Jct., and removed other dead hazard trees in the vicinity.

**10/10-12/08 Ben Royer and Philip Royer** assisted the ATC Rocky Top Crew, making major trail repairs south of Cosby Knob.

The Warren Wilson College Fall Break work trip had to be cancelled this fall because we couldn't provide adult leadership for the group. A leader would need to be able to devote a Tuesday through Sunday staying at Nantahala to work with the college students. If you have the skills and time to assist in this project in the future, please contact Jim Lowe at 828-479-9271 or [jhlowejr@hotmail.com](mailto:jhlowejr@hotmail.com)