

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

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; Dick Ketelle, Committee Member, 865 483-9345; John Lankford, NP Division Leader, 865 774-1866; Jim Lowe, Nantahala 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; Jim Lowe and Philip Royer, Regional Representatives, Don Dunning, Mulch operations.

December/ 2008

Saturday, Nov 22 Work Trip

The trail section is from Sassafras Gap in GSMNP, northeast 1.7 miles to the gap just before Greer Knob. The trip over there includes the “dragon”, but the crotch rocket population should be at a lower, cold weather level. The hike to the section is a good climb up Shuckstack from Fontana Dam but the views should be spectacular with the leaves down!

If you would like to pitch in, please contact Paul at paul.a.tanguay@mepcom.army.mil or (865) 228-9355.

Airlift Note

The airlift to complete the Double Springs renovation work and carry logs in for Trails Day projects is scheduled for 11/21. All the volunteers who are helping with this work are being contacted directly.

“Sarge” Henry Recognized as ATC Volunteer of the Month

Our own Phyllis Henry has been honored by the ATC as the November, 2008, volunteer of the month. A very nice picture and article about Phyllis can be found on the ATC website. We all know what a wonder Phyllis is, and now the world knows also!!

www.appalachiantrail.org/volunteermonth

Volunteer Hours Oct 07-Sep 08

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club reported the following statistics to the A.T.C.

303 individuals worked 4508 field hours, plus 777 “other” (pro-rated administrative, etc.) hours, plus 2125 travel hours for a total of **7483** volunteer hours in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

59 individuals worked 1061 field hours, plus 150 “other” (pro-rated administrative, etc.) hours. Plus 223 travel hours for a total of **1433** volunteer hours in the Nantahala National Forest.

Our total reported volunteer hours was **8916**.

THANK YOU!!! to each person who gave of his/her time, skill, and energy contributing to our club’s effort at maintaining the Appalachian Trail this year. The Ridge Runners reports the trail in the park is in great shape.

A.T. Work

6/08 T.J. Tolnas and Ron Eglend cleared several blowdowns and did general maintenance work between Cody Gap and Brown Fork Gap.

8/08 T.J. Tolnas, Carlo Gorla, Gudrun Gorla, and Elke Narten cleared 3 large blowdowns and several small ones. They cut brush along entire section and cleaned water bars between Cody Gap and Brown Fork Gap on a two day trip.

10/7/08 Pam Reddoch started at Stecoah Gap and cut three small blow downs, cut back some brush and picked up lots of downed branches for 1.5 miles.

10/18/08 Ed Peck, Eric Troxler and Jerry Troxler cleaned all the water bars between Spence and Russell Field. We added several bucket loads of fill dirt behind steps at Spence. We picked up litter around the shelter. At the privy, we swept it out and filled the mulch buckets.

10/30/08 Mike and Kay Harrington cleared waterbars and cut vegetation on the A.T. between Lewellyn Branch and Sassafras Gap.

11/1/08 (the scheduled work trip) **Pam Reddoch, Keith Mertz, Ken Henry and Paul Tanguay** worked from Stecoah Gap to about 0.5 miles past Brown Fork Shelter They cut back brush and briars, cleaned 25 water bars, cleaned around shelter, and got one water source cleared of leaves and running again.

11/2/08 Steve Reagan, Bill Clabough and Phyllis Henry cleaned all waterbars, drainage ditches and turnpikes between Sugarland Mountain Trail junction and Spruce Fir Nature Trail. It's ready for the snow. YEA

11/3/08 Steve Higdon cleared waterbars as directed by senior management. He also cut remaining briars and trimmed brush, and removed a number of trip hazards on the trail between Newfound Gap and Indian Gap. He also widened approximately 30 feet of trail within the beech forest enclosure.

11/8-9/08 John Gassler worked between Snake Den Ridge Trail Junction and the peak of Mt. Sequoyah. He cleared all waterbars, cleaned the shelter and privy, and packed out trash. He also cleaned out a few waterbars on the Snake Den Ridge trail.

11/10/08 Keith Mertz and Pam Reddoch trimmed back limbs and brush hanging over the trail and cut back lots of greenbrier between NC 28 and Fontana Dam.