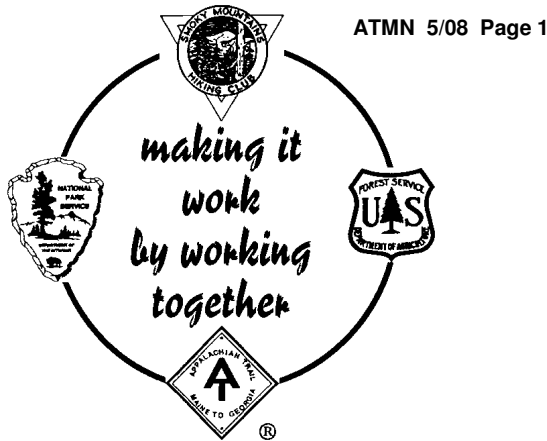


Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

*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;

May 2008

May 3 Work Trip

The work trip for May will be a training session for all maintainers who are unable to attend the ATMC training that same day at Warren Wilson College.

We will meet at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 3rd at the west end of the Sugarlands Visitor Center parking lot. Please contact Phyllis [(865) 577-2604 or phyllishenry@yahoo.com] or Mac [(865) 983-3237 or (865) 389-9636 or mcnuttfarm@aol.com] if you can attend so that we know how many tools to bring. Wear old clothes; bring water, lunch, work gloves and normal hiking gear.

We would like this to be a refresher course for existing Section Leaders and Crew members as well as an initial training session for new maintainers. There are ways to clear waterbars so that they will last longer before the next clearing is needed. Come and learn about it!

Pictures Please!!

Pack a camera on your maintaining trips and snap a photo of your friends at work. We will try to add pictures to the emailed letters.

Advanced Training for Maintainers

May 3rd and 4th

The ATC has arranged for a special two-day training session in trail design, construction and maintenance. The program is an excellent opportunity to learn the latest advanced techniques, and will spend very little time on basic tasks like clearing waterbars, etc. The course is free, and is open for all of our maintainers. There is no provision for overnight lodging, but there are some inexpensive motels near Warren Wilson College (Asheville, NC) where it will be held. Attendees will benefit most by attending both days, but openings may exist for those who can spend only one day.

Interested people should contact:

Andrew Downs

Associate Regional Representative

Deep South Regional Office

160A Zillicoa St

Asheville, NC 28801

Phone: (828) 254-3708 Fax: (828) 254-3754

adowns@appalachiantrail.org

A.T. Work

2/08 Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Jerry Troxler, Wayne Williams, and Mac McNutt assessed trail from Fork Ridge to Double Springs shelter for logs needed in case we were able to use the fire helicopter to fly them in to locations before April 1st. (Did not happen.) George Minnigh provided transport to Clingmans Dome.

3/7/08 Phyllis Henry bought supplies for Ridge Runners and delivered them to the Park.

3/16/08 Ron Beatty removed debris, removed small blow downs, and cut greenbrier from Yellow Creek Gap to High Point east of Walker Gap.

3/12/08 Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Mac McNutt, George Minnigh (GSMNP) and Stu Taylor moved and stacked 175 locust logs from the pile that belongs to the ATC at the Luftee maintenance area. We loaded them in a park service truck and then unloaded them in another area.

3/22/08 Dick Ketelle, Ed Peck, Jason King, and Don Dunning walked from Newfound Gap to Dry Sluice Gap, removing numerous leaning trees both dead and

alive as well as couple of blowdowns. And refilled mulch buckets at Icewater Privy.

3/24/08 Keith Mertz and Pam Reddoch cleared numerous greenbrier and other growth along side of trail, cleared a couple of pine blowdowns off trail, and cleaned the shelter from NC 28 to Fontana Dam, and from Stecoah Gap to a half mile past Brown Fork shelter.

3/27/08 Jerry Troxler and Stuart Taylor picked up trash around the Spence Field shelter and carried it out. They replaced a shovel that had been removed from the gear box, swept out the privy and filled up the mulch bucket. They cleaned out water bars between the shelter and almost to Mt. Squires.

3/28/08 Dick Ketelle, Craig Rightmire, Ed Peck and Tab Peryam removed blowdowns and did additional cutting of low-hanging leaning trees, limbs, etc left over from the spring 2007 storm damage from Collins Gap to Newfound Gap.

3/28-30/08 Philip Royer and Jim Lowe represented SMHC at the ATC Spring 2008 Regional Partnership Committee meeting in Mountain Lake, Virginia.

4/1/08 Ed Peck carried out abandoned plastic stored under the tool box, plus all the empty mulch bags, a grocery bag of bagged trash, another plastic sheet across the shelter front and all other visible leftovers from Mt. Collins shelter. He filled both mulch buckets.

4/5/08 Ed Peck cleared water bars from Goshen Prong Trail to SW of Jenkins Knob.

4/5-6/08 Donald Box, Susan Faidley, and Bill Kinnaman inspected the Birch Spring Campsite (#113). They cleaned/improved all 24 waterbars from Lost Cove Trail junction to the gap below Greer Knob. They built one rock step, used swing blades and loppers to cut back briars and other vegetation, and built a dirt covered log curb at one point to move traffic away from a soft edge of the trail.

4/6/08 (originally scheduled for 4/5 but rain delayed). **Jim Quick, Doris Gove, Lynda Bryan, Kathleen Kitzmiller, George Royster, Travis Miller, and Patrick Rose** cleaned all the waterbars, removed one very recent blowdown, and clipped vegetation from Clingmans Dome to Collins Gap. Note: both Travis

Miller and Patrick Rose were participating with the SMHC for the first time. Both young men were awesome workers and will be a big asset to the club.

4/9/08 Lucinda Turbeville, Jean Bangham, Carol Anderson, Terry Veldman, Christy Clauberg (a visitor), Elfie Beall, Ron Brandenburg, Michael Zielinski and Bobby Trotter (the Wednesday Hikers of SMHC) did spring maintenance on their section of the trail and cleaned Mt. Collins Shelter. "From the shelter we carried three large bags of trash out. One bag included the shredded plastic and tape from the winter covering of the shelter. The other bags were filled with clothing, bottles, cans, and other items left from the shelter campers. It was not a pretty sight. The fire pit and privy were cleaned and the mulch bucket filled. The remaining mulch is in good supply. On the trail work we cleaned all water bars, cut low limbs and trip hazards, and filled holes and wet areas. We left this section of trail in good shape."

4/9/08 Jerry Troxler, Phyllis Henry, Wayne Williams, Ed Peck, Art Barker, and Mac McNutt worked from Newfound Gap to Ice Water springs shelter. "We moved the privy to a new bin, swept it out, and filled the mulch buckets. Wayne repaired the privy door. We also picked 1.5 grocery bags of trash out of the compost as the new bin was emptied. There was a lot of trash in the shelter and we picked up another grocery bag of trash and carried it out. We also shoveled out the fire pit and picked up the non burnable trash. On the way back to Newfound Gap, we added another grocery bag of trash from cans and bottles picked up along the trail."

4/12/08 Rob Carter started at Sunup Knob and cleared waterbars (and thanks the person(s) who worked ahead of him from Low Gap southbound), cleared trash from the fire pit at Cosby shelter, and topped off mulch buckets.

4/12/08 Ed Faulkner and Janet Murray cleaned waterbars on the Spruce Fir section.

4/13/08 Trena Paulus and Jeanine Newman cleared the waterbars from Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap and picked up trash.