

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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July/ 2008

July 5 Work Trip

Let's show our support for the ATC-funded Konnarock Crew, as they work to improve the Appalachian Trail in Nantahala National Forest. This date is in the first of two weeks for Konnarock 2008 on SMHC-maintained trail. Don't miss the chance to work with skilled crew leaders and interesting volunteers to rehab a section of trail near Walker Gap and perform trail repairs (sidehill) and step and waterbar installations between Fontana Marina on NC 28 and Walker Gap. Tools will be provided. Bring gloves, lunch and plenty of water. Yes, driving the Dragon is a pain, but the more folks we pack in the car, the less sliding our backsides will do on the seats. We will show our appreciation by hosting the crew for dinner afterwards.

Leave from Maryville **ex-Bi-Lo** at 7 AM. It's just south of where US-129 & US-411 join, (SW corner at traffic light, just past Pilot/Conoco). Meet at front of lot. Round trip mileages: drive- 90 miles, hike 9 miles max.

Leaders: TN: Philip Royer 694-0160 proyer@knology.net
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National Trails Day Reports

June 7, 2008

Lucinda Turbeville, Gary Dykes, Sherri Dykes, Gary Perkins, Janet Snyder, Mark Snyder, and Lara Winner cleaned water bars, cut grass and low limbs, built stairs, turnpikes and added new water bars where needed between Mt Collins gap and Sugarland Mountain Trail. The day was cool and with thunder blasting at the end of the work day. Everyone worked hard and was glad to donate their day and be contributing to a good cause.

Lucinda Turbeville

Lee Barron, Dawn Beasley, Mary Ann Hoskins, and Tim Bigelow trimmed vegetation and built one new rock waterbar at a small creek crossing (kudos to Lee Barron) and cleared rocks.

Tim Bigelow

Phil Bifulco, Ann McMahon, Paul Tanguay, Chuck Janack, Sam Robinson, Pat Janack, Judy Wayman, and Tim Ryan cleaned waterbars and drainage areas, removed debris, and trimmed vegetation from Davenport Gap to Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail.

Tim Ryan

Susan Faidley, John Lankford, Penny Lankford, Heather Wright, Elizabeth O'Connor, Ellen Morer and Phil Loveless hiked from Cades Cove Ranger Station to Spence field. We carried one tool each and 26 lunches to feed not only ourselves but the 15 hungry people who had spent the night up there led by Phyllis Henry and Randy Puckett. My group spent the afternoon improving existing water bars and digging out the water bars' drainage ditches to quite a depth to get the necessary dirt to fill in quite a bit between the newly built steps. So we dug, shoveled and carried dirt and tamped it down. We also dug up some grass by the roots to replant it along the improved trail to narrow the trail a little. At the end of the afternoon, Spence Field had a very nice improved trail.

Susan Faidley

Theresa Baggett, Claudia Dean, Mae Quinn, Jim Burton, Jerry Jenkins, Laura Coppinger, Tom Johnson, Wimberly Thompson, and Mark Shipley worked from Sweat Heifer Trail to Icewater Springs shelter. We cleaned out waterbars, removed vegetation, and cleaned the shelter. Our group was very good and a pleasure to lead.

Mark Shipley

Terry Elmore, Joey Andrews, Shane Pery, John Latham, Tyler Martin, Jamal Brazan, Daniel Allen, and Daniel Jones, the Maryville Housing Authority's OTTER group, cleaned all water bars, and lopped where needed between Newfound Gap and Sweat Heifer trail. They also replaced the ramp to the privy at Icewater Shelter.

Terry Elmore

Stew Taylor, Mac McNutt, Tom Howard, Phyllis Henry, Eddie Cook, Laura Gearhiser, Doug Marquart, Troy Altaus, and Steve Reagan removed one large blowdown, shored up the sides of the turnpike with new logs, filled in the turnpike, and cut some vegetation from Spence Field to Russell Field.

Phyllis Henry

Steve Higdon, Lloyd Winebarger, Ed Winebarger, Jack Singleton, Marty Ziegler, and Kristi Knight cleaned all waterbars, reinforced two rock waterbars, performed about 50 yards of trail widening, cleaned a drainage ditch along side of trail, re-anchored steps and back-filled those in need, removed trip hazards, cut brush and briars, cleaned out area where tourists could easily sit to rest at a high point of the section and picked up litter from Newfound to Indian Gaps.

Steve Higdon

George Ritter and Betty Glenn brushed, widened, reworked waterbars, filled in behind stops, and dug a little sidehill from Indian Gap working south.

George Ritter.

Jim Quick, Lynda Bryan, Shannon May, Larry Scalf, Grant Scalf, Blake Gibson, Chris Smith, and Travis Akard cleaned all the waterbars and drainage turnouts, installed one new waterbar, reset one step, and installed four steps, swing sickled grass and weeds, and clipped vegetation from Clingmans Dome half way to Collins Gap.

Jim Quick

Joshua Cahill, Adrian Carr, Barrett Darlington, Jake Darlington, Hugh Friar, Tom Friar, Gary Honea, Johnny King, Ray Sellers, and Ed Peck filled the mulch bin, stored three extra 20 lb bags in the supply bin, filled mulch buckets, weed whacked around the shelter, and picked up trash around the Double Springs Shelter.

Ed Peck

Led by Glenn Daily: Dennis Laneman, Mary & Allen Schultz, and Charlie Klabunde cleaned 71 waterbars in the first mile above (i.e.- trail south from) the Lower Cammerer Trail junction, and did a little lopping.

Charlie Klabunde

> More NTD reports next month <

A.T. Work

5/18/08 Tim Bigelow and Ed Fleming picked up trash at Sassafras Gap shelter and hauled out one bag as well as doing some minor trail cleaning.

5/22/08 Mac McNutt, Ed Peck and Phyllis Henry cleared blow downs between Clingmans Dome and Newfound gap.

5/25/08 Mike and Kay Harrington cleared waterbars, cut weeds and repaired a section of trail damaged by a fallen tree between Lewellyn Branch and Sassafras Gap.

5/25/08 Rob Carter worked a sling blade from Sun Up Knob to the saddle past Cosby Knob to get an early start on the weedy growth. He cleaned up around the Cosby shelter and topped off the mulch buckets, replaced rock in every second triangular water bar, planning to finish the rest next month.

5/31/97 Ron Beatty cut vegetation and removed a blowdown between Yellow Creek Gap and the High Point east of Walker Gap.

6/8/08 Phyllis Henry, Mac McNutt, Stew Taylor, Tom Howard, and Steve Reagan emptied the Spence Field privy bin, moved privy and steps, cleaned privy and remulched buckets, cleaned the shelter, carried out all trash. Mac, Stew, and Tom get the award for the day (whatever that is - atta boys). They walked 12 miles after working very hard on Friday and Saturday carrying their heavy packs and chainsaw to remove a very large blowdown two miles south of Russell Field that had been reported by a thru-hiker. We are FINISHED moving all the privies this year. YEA!!!!

6/13/08 Dick Ketelle and Craig Rightmire downloaded data from the Icewater Springs data logger and added mulch to the privy bucket. They cut a blowdown beyond Dry Sluice, and looked unsuccessfully for another reported hazard tree. Then they relocated to the Mt. Collins data logger, downloaded data, and cut a recent overhead blowdown near Fork Ridge trail junction.