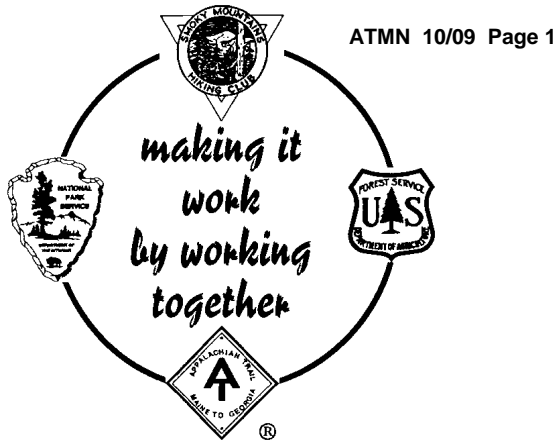


Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

*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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Oct/ 2009

This issue of ATMN is my last, as Cindy Spangler has agreed to edit the newsletter. I have enjoyed doing this work, and especially making many maintainer friends for the past seven years, but I am ready to pass it on. I know Cindy will bring new ideas, and I hope she enjoys the project as much as I have. — Dianne Gruber

Work Projects

Rocky Top crews are in the park from September 2 through October 31. They will be working from Cosby Knob to Camel Gap and beyond if possible, and repairing the hole near Sunup Knob. Your help is welcomed.

Sassafras Gap (NF) Privy is scheduled for construction October 19-22. Warren Wilson College Students will be doing this as a fall break project.

A.T. Work

8/8- Nathan Benedict, Alex Flesburg, Andy Ford, Jon Neilsen, Evan Sherbet, Frank Benedict, Duane Flesburg, Evan Ford. *Double Spring Gap shelter:* Swept privy and shelter. Cleared small amount

of brush around shelter. Could not find mulch for privy. Cleared leaves from water source, picked up trash. Cleared overhanging vegetation from uphill side of trail between Double Spring Gap and Silers Bald shelter. *Silers Bald shelter:* Swept shelter, cleared some brush, cleared water source, picked up trash and foil around fire area and in shelter.

8/15 - Franklin LaFond - Thunderhead to Russell Field - Hiked up to Spence Field shelter to meet SWEAT crew. Cleared weeds for about a 1 mile south of the shelter until SWEAT crew arrived around 4:30. Helped crew clear weeds from Bote Mtn junction to Rocky Top. Collected and packed out trash from ridgerunner and SWEAT crew.

8/16 - Jim Quick, Hiram Rogers, Jean Gauger, Franklin LaFond, David Lee, Doris Gove - Collins Gap to Clingmans Dome - We whacked weeds and clipped blackberries and branches. We also cleared a 15'/15' space in a somewhat flat blackberry patch in the hopes that locust logs will come out of the sky. And we repaired a few check dams, cleared some waterbar drains, and rearranged two rocky spots into steps.

8/20 - George Ritter, Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Jimmy Smith - Sassafras Gap Privy - With Morgan Sommerville and Cory (FS), scouted and planned the logistics for Sassafras Gap privy construction in October.

8/21 - Steve Reagan - Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir - Pruned trees and brushed from Fork Ridge entrance to Mt. Collins shelter. The park service has removed a large dead tree from the shelter area for rehab. Checked privy and mulch, both were good. Measured shelter and cooking area for tarp sizes to be used during rehab. Exited Fork Ridge and moved to Spruce Fir entrance where he mined and moved some good red dirt to some spots for steps and areas of standing water to improve drainage.

8/24 - Steve Higdon - Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr - Cut weeds and briars, cleaned the trail just in case the Secretary decides to take a hike.

8/25 - Karen Reagan, Steve Reagan - Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir - Cut and removed blow down debris in boggy area to create new drainage ditches, dug in two new steps, rocked and brushed trail bypass, and checked tarps at tool shed.

8/25 - Mac McNutt - Spence (Bote Mtn Tr) to Russell Field - Helped crew set up camp., cleaned privy, refilled mulch bucket, carried out a sleeping bag, assorted clothing and socks. Put two propane bottles in box, and carried out small bag of trash found in mulch box.

8/25-27 - Stewart Taylor, Ed Peck, Jerry Troxler - Spence (Bote Mtn Tr) to Russell Field - On Tuesday afternoon, we worked the area one mile south of Mt. Squires. We gathered materials for water bars and cleaned out several. On Wednesday, we put in 8 water bars and cleaned out and repaired several more. We were trying to run more water off the trail where it is "troughing out" the trail in that long down hill section on the south slope of Mt. Squires. We next added about 30' of crush and fill to raise the trail where several wet weather springs were running into the trail. This was a repair to an area we had worked on before. We proceeded on to a turnpike that needs several side logs replaced. We were able to find enough material to replace 38'. We will need to go back and replace about that much more. On Thursday morning, we worked on the section of Eagle Creek Trail leading down to the spring. There we added 1 water bar and reworked another, plus we added 3 steps.

8/29 - Ed Peck - Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr - Removed blowdown from trail 3/4 mi south of Newfound Gap.

8/31 - Stewart Taylor, Ed Peck - Goshen Prong Tr to Knob W of Jenkins Knob - Went to the Mt. Collins shelter and made three cuts of a log using a crosscut saw. This was in the area where there will be a tent site during the Mt. Collins shelter rehabilitation. We then went on the A.T. at Clingmans Dome almost to the Double Springs shelter and cut four "leaners."

9/2 - Brian Groenhout - Lower Mt Cammerer Tr to 1 mi N of Cam- Trimmed vegetation, cleared a few water bars, trimmed encroaching tree branches.

9/3 - Jimmy Smith, Bob Hustead, Rena Hustead - Sassafras Gap Privy - Mowed the FS road parking area about 4 miles from Sassafras Gap (just outside the second gate). Delivered supplies to the staging area below the gap.

9/3 - Wayne Williams, Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Ed Peck - Goshen Prong Tr to "Half way" - We went out from Double Springs to Silers Bald brushing the trail. We cleaned the shelters at both locations and cleaned the privy and refilled the mulch at Double Springs. Even with the new steps, it's a long haul up Mt. Buckley! A great day, however.

9/4 - Phyllis Henry, Steve Reagan - Mount Collins Shelter - Shelter project shopping trip to Sams. Purchased and packaged groceries for air transport from Luftee overlook to Mt. Collins

9/6 - Don Dunning - Bagged ~240 pounds mulch for Spence Field shelter privy and delivered to McNutt Farm for pickup by Trailrider Ronnie Boone to deliver

to Spence Field. Bagged additional mulch for backpack to Icewater Spring or Double Spring Gap as needed.

9/6 - Phyllis Henry, Steve Reagan - Mount Collins Shelter - Shelter project shopping trip to Walmart. Purchased and packaged groceries for air transport from Luftee overlook to Mt. Collins shelter. Packaged many tools also.