

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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Nov/ 2009

Work Projects

National Trails Day Report / Heather Sable

National Trail Days events (1631) were registered with the American Hiking Society, an increase of 519 events from last year. Participants hiked or walked 3,515 miles and bikers rode 2,069 miles. To coincide with NTD 2009, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the designation of 22 new National Recreation Trails in 13 states. NTD reached more than 150 million people through extensive media coverage which represents a 63 percent increase in the average number of NTD events this decade; the average number of events from 2000 to 2004 was 760 events, while the average from 2005 to 2009 was 1,240 events! Save the date for the next National Trails Day: Saturday, June 5, 2010!

Notices

Fall Cleanup Needed

Section Leaders are reminded to get up there as soon as the leaves are down and clean out the waterbars for the winter. Many waterbars are already filling up.

Trail Sections Available

Several AT sections are in need of a Section Leader. If you are interested in adopting one of them please get in touch with George Ritter (865) 483-9758 or geo_ritt@bellsouth.net.

AT Work

9/22-T. J. Tolnas and Carl Smith: *Cody Gap to Hog Back Gap*--directed Rocky Top crew leaders to work site. Cut brush.

June-August 2009--Philip Royer: Design of renovations to *Mt. Collins AT Shelter*; assess estimate of materials; procurement of materials for the project.

8/2-- Bob Williams: *Brown Fork to Stekoah Gap:* Cleared parts of the trail that had become overgrown due to recent rains. Cleared 2 snags that had blown across the trail, but were still passable. Water bars and other structures were inspected and found to be in good shape. Also met up with Jim Lowe, who was showing the Stecoah Gap area to a young Eagle Scout and his father. Jim said the Scout intended to do some work on the trail in that vicinity as part of a merit badge program.

9/14-21 - Phyllis Henry, Dick Kettle, Steve Reagan, Philip Royer, Don Dunning, Terry Elmore, Ed Peck, Jerry Troxler, Mac McNutt, Carolyn M. Williams, Frances Hoffman, Wayne Williams, Tom Howard, Mike Crabill - Mount Collins Shelter - Worked in almost constant rain to demolish the old Mt Collins Shelter and build the new one. Supported the helicopter operations with material handling and road guarding. Spent long hours waiting for clear skies so the helicopter could fly. Assisted pack mule crews in bringing in materials when the rain kept the copter away. Worked on restoration of the trail after the mules had used it in the rain. Installed steps and logs to enable use of the shelter area in spite of the mud. And, in spite of all that, succeeded in construction of a beautiful new shelter!

9/22-23--Franklin LaFond: Hiked to *Mt. Collins Shelter* to check renovation status and see if any assistance was still needed. Cleaned out the drainage ditches around shelter. Leveled some of the muddy areas around shelter. Added stones to new steps installed between shelter and AT, drained out standing water, and leveled dirt. Hiked to Clingman's to see which drop zones had logs delivered. Removed 4 blow downs between Clingmans Dome and the Dome

Bypass. Brushed from Newfound Gap for 1/2 mile (end of log steps sections); rock work (crush/fill, steps, problem rock removal) between Newfound Gap and Sweat Heifer junction.

9/24—Jimmy Smith: Helped unload lumber for *Sassafras Gap privy*. Constructed table for camp kitchen.

9/24—Pamela Reddoch, Keith Mertz and Connie Tatgenhorst: *Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap:* Cut brush and woody vegetation; removed 7 blow downs; removed fallen sticks and branches from the trail; picked up litter.

9/26--Bob Williams, Ed Fleming, Jimmy Smith, Jim Lowe, Doug Weaver, George Ritter: Cut materials and pre-assembled the posts, bin, deck and rafters for the *Sassafras Gap privy*.

9/30--Keith Mertz: *NC Hwy 28 to Fontana Dam 28:* Trimmed back vegetation growing along and above trail. Removed dead pine trees from trail; tossed tree limbs off-trail.

9/30--Mike and Kay Harrington: Cleared water bars, chopped vegetation; unclogged inlet to the drain line that allows Lewellyn Branch to flow under the AT; cleared about a dozen water bars in section between Lewellyn Br and the dam.

10/3--Jim Lowe, George Ritter, Ed Fleming, Jimmy Smith: Finished remaining pre-assembly of the *Sassafras Gap privy*.

10-5-7—Mac McNutt, Francis Ayl, Stanley Allen, Joshua LaForty, Terry Elmore, Burt Emerson, Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Coy Blair, Randy Puckett, Franklin LaFond, Steve Reagan: Prepared drainage at *Mt. Collins Shelter* by ditching, sloping and installing bars; installed steps/bars to redirect water flow and improve walking conditions.

10/6--Steve Higdon: *Newfound Gap to India Gap--* Cleaned waterbars; improved drainage; rimmed brush.

10/9--Dick Ketelle and Craig Rightmire: Removed reported blow down on *AT 3/4 mile north of Low Gap*.

10/14-21—Mac McNutt: Rehab of *Mt. Collins Shelter*.

10/6-10/7—Jimmy Smith and Jim Lowe: Finished remaining work on *Sassafras Gap privy* materials; helped the FS load into a large enclosed, wire mesh trailer which the FS hauled to spot below *Sassafras Gap* and left parked for unloading by students 10/19.