

## 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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### Attention All Trail Maintainers!

All are welcome to attend the SMHC Annual Banquet on December 12. George Minnigh will be the main speaker and will share insights from his years as a backcountry ranger.

**Place:** Church of the Good Samaritan, 425 North Cedar Bluff Road, Knoxville, 37923

**Time:** 5-6: Registration and Social  
6-6:45: Dinner and Welcome featuring Jeremy Lloyd, a naturalist with the GSMNP  
7-7:30: Main Speaker George Minnigh.

**Please RSVP no later than December 2** to  
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## November 2009

### Work Projects

**10/17 - Steve Reagan, Ed Peck** - Split and stacked locust logs to be used for future trails.

**10/18 - Hilary Smith** - Cosby Knob Shelter - Cleaned shelter and hauled out trash.

**10/21 - Scott Frei** - Mollies Ridge Shelter - Carried new tarp to Mollies Ridge shelter and installed for Winter use.

**10/22 - Warren Wilson College Group, Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Jimmy Smith, Jim Lowe, Edward Fleming, Franklin LaFond, George Ritter** - Sassafras Gap - Constructed new privy, built steps from shelter to AT, dug side hill, cut brush and removed some blowdowns. The students hauled building materials up the hill from the old forest road. Flu forced the students to depart two days early but virtually all work had been completed.

**10/24 - Ed Peck, Wayne Williams** - Collins Gap to Goshen Prong Trail - Cut a few blowdowns with crosscut saw. Started at the (foggy!) Dome and hiked south 1.2 & 1.7 miles to cut two blowdowns involving 3 trees, then drove to Collins Gap and hiked up about 1/2 mile to cut a blowdown.

**10/24 - Tim Bigelow** - 1 mile N of Cammerer (4250' El) to Mt Cammerer Side Trail - Trimmed vegetation, cleared waterbars.

**10/25 - Don Dunning** - Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Cosby Knob Top - Cleared blowdowns on Low Gap Trail and on AT between Mt. Cammerer Trail and Cosby Knob. One large blowdown approx 1/2 mile north of Low Gap still has main trunk lying on the ground across the trail, but is an easy step-over (~12-18"). All other blowdowns removed. Removal of blowdowns blocking Low Gap Trail as well as AT was needed in support of trail riders carrying mulch to Cosby Knob shelter, and helping to pack out Rocky Top Crew camp gear on 10/26. (Observed blowdowns blocking trail during the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary hike on 10/24, but alas no saw.

**10/25 - Ed Peck, Wayne Williams, Franklin LaFond**  
Other Work - Oconaluftee Overlook - Split locust logs (approximately 134!).

**10/25 - Franklin LaFond** - Indian Gap/Rd Prong Trail to Clingmans Dome -Collins Gap to Mt Love - Added 4 new steps, cleaned 6 water bars that were filled and non-functional. Lowered one water bar that was washing out under the log. Indian Gap to 1 mile South: Removed 3 blow downs and inventoried remaining blowdowns and leaners in this section. Took inventory of existing locust logs on this section. Cleaned out half a dozen waterbars that were filled and non-functional.

**10/26 - Don Dunning** - Cosby Knob Privy - Delivered mulch to trail riders Tom Connor et al. for transport to Cosby Knob shelter privy. These trailriders were going to the site to help pack out gear from the Rocky Top Crew camp.

**10/28 - Ed Peck** - Goshen Prong Trail to Knob W of Jenkins Knob - Finished waterbars for winter, carried in 1 bag privy mulch, filled mulch buckets.

**10/30 - Don Dunning** - Other Work - Prepared 300 pounds of mulch for delivery to Spence Field privy by trail riders Sam Tillery and friends. Prepared 360 pounds of mulch and delivered to Christine Hoyer for transport to Pecks Corner privy by NPS personnel. Prepared 180 pounds mulch for transport to backpack; supplied privy sites by maintainers (current inventory in storage shed is 8 bags).

**10/30 - Jimmy Smith and Jim Lowe.** Sassafras Gap Privy - Destroyed the old privy, covered the spot with earth, rerouted slightly the path going by there, and circled the spot with "Keep Out" tape.

**11/1-11/4 - Franklin LaFond and Lamar Powell.** Fontana Dam - Shuckstack Fire Tower. Cleaned all water bars. Installed 5 new steps. Added logs to 3 water bars. Cut and stacked 11 locust logs (3-5 ft length, various diameters) approx 1.5 miles north of trail head for use as needed in that area. Removed 6 blow downs. Cut step notch in a blowdown south of Shuckstack that was too large to remove with existing tools. Built temporary cribbing and backfilled trail in 2 locations where trees had uprooted and taken out treadway. Placed some step rocks on fire tower side trail which had collapsed. **Fontana Shelter – Marina.** Removed 4 blow downs. Walked the flag line for the proposed relocation. Worked with TVA crew to cut and haul 11 locust logs. Logs are staged beside the large concrete barricades where the trail leaves the road just south of the shelter.

**11/3 - Stewart Taylor, Steve Reagan** - Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead to Spruce Fir. Installed one new water bar. Carried good dirt to three steps that were pooling. Cleaned water bars and drainage.

**11/4 - Mark Shipley.** Cosby Knob Top to Camel Gap - Completed trail work from CNS to Camel Gap then made a quick side hike to Mt. Cammerer; filled both mulch buckets and bin on the south end of privy.



**Sassafras Gap Privy: Ed Fleming and Jimmy Smith (working on roof); Kenny Buckle.**

**11/5 - Stewart Taylor, Mac McNutt, Steve Reagan - Wayne Williams, Ed Peck** - Knob West of Jenkins Knob to Welch Ridge Trail. Moved the privy at Double Springs and carried out a lot of garbage. Ed and I went out to Welch Ridge and cleaned all waterbars on section.

**11/6 - Charlie Klabunde** - Fontana Dam, N-bound to Lewellyn Branch, halfway to Shuckstack. Cleared leaves from waterbars which were obviously recently cleaned (F. LaFond's extensive work in area 11/4).



**Sassafras Gap Privy**

**11/6 - Phyllis Henry, Stewart Taylor, Mac McNutt, Steve Reagan, Wayne Williams, Jerry Troxler, Tom Howard, James J. (Jim) Myers, James Fondren, Don Dunning** - Mount Collins Privy - Don picked up 7 bags of mulch, frame packs, flashing and tools needed to complete shelter project. Group met at trailhead and delivered mulch, moved privy, completed shelter work, improved drainage, installed rounds, water bars and drainage in shelter area and trail leading to shelter from AT. Removed all tools and Don returned all items to tool shed. **GREAT CREW!!!!**

**11/8 - Trena Paulus, Melissa Brenneman, Gina Phipps, Rhonda Marchand, Theresa Baggett, Tabitha Colter.** Sweat Heifer Junction-Newfound Gap-- Second Saturday Striders hiking group cleared all waterbars from Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap; packed out a bag of trash. Identified areas needing sidehill work. Rebar is sticking out from log steps and ready to trip hikers. Suggest flagging till it can be removed.

**11/8 – Jim Quick, Linda Bryan, Andy Zimmerman –** Clingman’s Dome to Collins Gap - Cleaned all waterbars; remarked drop zone for long drop.

**11/8-Philip and Betty Royer –** Collins Gap to Sugarlands Mountain Trial-- Cleaned all waterbars and ditches (85!). Reworked one waterbar that was not functioning well.

**11/11-Jerry Troxler, Phyllis Henry, Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Steve Reagan** - Collins Gap-Indian Gap. Cut blowdowns, cleaned water bars and drainage ditches, removed trash from shelter area at Mt.Collins, checked privy and added mulch.

**11/13 –Franklin LaFord, Jennifer Grady—**Indian Gap--Installed 2 new log steps, repaired 1 loose log step, removed 1 small blow down and 1 dead leaner. Cleaned out approximately 15 water bars. Walked entire section and noted items for future work trips.

**11/13-11/14 – Don and Nancy Dunning.** Newfound Gap to Ice Water Spring Shelter. Scouted drop site locations for airlift of locust logs. Cleaned Icewater Spring shelter privy; filled mulch buckets; consolidated remaining mulch supply into single storage bin. Cleaned/dug all waterbars and drains between Sweat Heiffer junction and Boulevard Junction plus others; installed 3 new waterbars. Removed hazard rebar approx .5 mile N from Newfound Gap reported by Trena last week.



**Mac McNutt and Warren Wilson Students at Sassafras Gap Shelter**

**11/14 – Dick Ketelle** – Newfound Gap. Cleared tread drainage features around Charlie’s Bunion to prepare for winter. Dug out 2 waterbars uptrail from Icewater Spring shelter to prevent winter runoff from gushing down the shelter access trail. These waterbars had not been excavated in awhile so there was much digging.

**11/15 – Don Dunning.** Packaged 450 pounds of mulch for Icewater Spring privy; packaged additional 100 pounds of mulch for topping off privy storage bins at Double Springs and/or Mt. Collins before winter road closure on Dec 1.

**11/16 – George Ritter, Ray Payne, Doris Gove, Steve Reagan, Stewart Taylor, Don Dunning, Ed Peck -** Luftee Overlook, Mt. Love, Mt. Collins, Newfound Gap to Icewater Spring Shelter. Airlifted logs from Luftee Overlook to points north and south of Newfound Gap. Airlifted 15 loads of logs, and the last load of the day was 450 pounds of mulch to Icewater Spring shelter for the privy. **Morgan Sommerville, Andrew Downs and George Minnigh** worked as unhookers and ground support with the helicopter operation.

**11/20 - George Ritter, Ed Peck -** Cosby Campground- Stopped what little traffic there was during 26 airlifts totaling 108 large logs to the AT between Camel Gap and Inadu. Ed then returned the radios and road signs to Park Headquarters.



**The Second Saturday Strider crew on their November work trip: From left are Tabitha Colter, Gina Phipps, Melissa Brenneman, Theresa Baggett, Rhonda Marchand and Trena Paulus**



**Mt. Collins Shelter Rehab, September 2009**



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