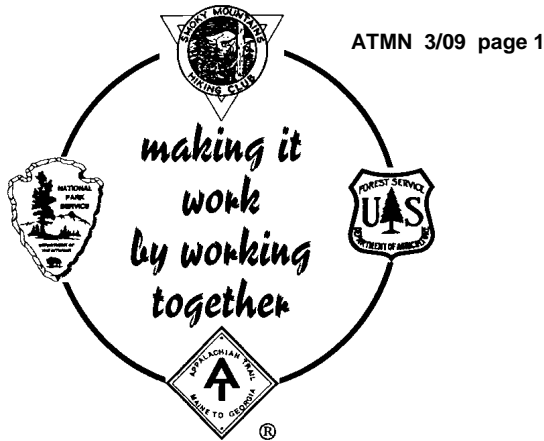


## Appalachian Trail Maintainers News

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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March/ 2009

### March 7<sup>th</sup> Work Trip

The Saturday, 3/7 work trip will be to remove blowdowns in the 30 miles of the AT between Fontana Dam and Wright Gap. We will need several teams of chain sawyers and helpers. Meet at the ex-Bi-Lo in Maryville, just south of where US 129 and US 411 join. Be there in time to leave at 7:30 AM. Please call or E-mail **Paul Tanguay** if you can go so he can plan accordingly.  
paul.a.tanguay@mepcom.army.mil or (865) 228-9355.

### March 14<sup>th</sup> Super Project - "ATMC Mule Team 2009"

We need about **fifteen able bodies** to haul a new tool box to Campsite 113 and bring out the old one that was badly damaged by a blowdown last year. Motorized equipment is not allowed in the park and the box is too big for a pack mule. So we will use wheeled portage dollies and a work team big enough to permit frequent changes and allow rests. The empty box weighs 180 pounds and it is a 5.8 mile climb from the Twenty Mile Ranger Station up to the campsite.

The trip is scheduled for Saturday March 14th and we will carpool from the ex-Bi-Lo in Maryville, just south of where US 129 and US 411 join. Be there in time to leave at 7:30 AM. If you prefer, meet us at the Twenty Mile Ranger Station

about 8:30 AM. If you can help, please E-mail **George Ritter** geo\_ritt@bellsouth.net or call 483-9758 as soon as possible.

### Spring Waterbar Cleaning

As soon as the weather and your schedule permit, please try to get out to your section and clear out the accumulated leaves and debris from the waterbars. Also clear any small trail obstructions that you can safely handle. In your work trip report, include information on any blowdowns or other problems that you find. Be as precise as you can on their locations.

### ATMC Scheduled Events in 2009

- Sat 2/28 CPR recertification at Maryville Red Cross
- Sat 3/7 Work trip clearing blowdowns in NF
- Sat 3/14 Birch Spring tool box replacement (3/21 alternate date)
- M-F 3/16 to 3/20 Warren Wilson spring break
- Sat 4/4 Work trip clearing blowdowns in GRSM (window is 4/1 through 5/3)
- TBD *Sassafras Gap privy construction project*
- Sat 5/2 Work trip at north end of park
- Sat 6/6 *National Trails Day*
- Sat 7/11 Work trip to assist Konnarock crew at Hogback Gap (replaces 7/4 trip)
- Sat 7/18 Work trip to assist Konnarock crew at Hogback Gap (replaces 8/1 trip)
- Tue-Tue 9/15 to 9/22 *Mt Collins shelter rehab*
- Sat 10/3 Work trip (Location TBD)
- Sat 11/1 Fall waterbar cleaning

### ATC Says Thanks

ATC would like to thank the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club for all the work you have done in 2008 to make your section of the Appalachian Trail a special place for recreation, inspiration, and renewal for the thousands of people who enjoyed it.

As ATC's liaison to the hiking community, I'd like to take this opportunity to share some words of appreciation we've received from hikers this year. Attached you will find a "thank you card" to your club signed by attendees of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association's annual "Gathering" this year.

Below, I've also added some words of thanks written by thru-hikers and section-hikers in 2,000-miler applications submitted this year. Every year we see

many such quotes, but this year I thought I'd share just a few.

*"For as long as I live I will never forget my times on the Trail. An infinite thank you to all the Trail maintainers."*

-- Greta Franklin, "Grettle" 2008

*"I owe a big, giant, super duper thank you ... to the volunteers who keep the trail alive and continue to make it what it is."*

-- Anthony Magee, "Chili Pepper" 2007-2008

*"The trail is maintained very well. The volunteers are doing a great job."*

-- Rex A. Hale, "Stumble Foot" 1999-2008

Thanks for all you do!

**Laurie Potteiger**

Information Services Manager

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

## Otters in the News

Great Smoky Mountains News Release

November 7, 2008

## YOUTH GROUP TAKES PART IN THE TRAILS FOREVER PROGRAM AS PART OF MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Volunteers from the Maryville Housing Authority's Youth Outdoor Recreation Program in Blount County, Tenn., responded to a call to assist Great Smoky Mountains National Park in improving trails during "Make a Difference Day" on October 25, the nation's largest single day of volunteerism. The group took part in a number of volunteer activities including working with the Park's Trails Forever crew to improve a section of the Forney Ridge Trail between Clingmans Dome and Andrews Bald. The work involved building water bars and check dams and stabilizing the surface of the trail by removing loose materials and rock.

"The volunteers braved cold and wet conditions to help mitigate resource impacts to one of the park's most popular high elevation trails, creating a better and safer experience for hikers," said Jeremy Sweat, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteer Coordinator. They worked long and hard making a positive difference in the Park and leaving a positive impression in their community which is the central theme of "Making a Difference Day"

## A.T. Work

11/11/08 Don Dunning cleaned and repaired waterbars from the Boulevard Trail junction to the Sweat Heifer Trail junction. He refilled mulch buckets and serviced the privy at Icewater Spring Shelter, and collected trash around the shelter.

11/16/08 Don Dunning bagged mulch to add to the planned airlift to Icewater Springs and Mt. Collins shelters.

11/21-22/08 Wayne Williams repaired privies at Icewater Springs and Mt. Collins and helped with the log drops.

11/23/08 Mark Shipley cleaned waterbars and did some pre-emptive vegetation removal from Cosby Knob shelter to Camel Gap

## TVA Upgrades Bathroom at Fontana AT Shelter

The bathroom facilities beside the "Fontana Hilton" A.T. Shelter have been upgraded, and we added hot/cold showers to better serve hikers of the A.T.

— S. Clay Guerry, Recreation Representative  
Tennessee Valley Authority

## A Gift from the Perschels

Derrick Knob shelter was a welcome sign on Tuesday, January 1, 2008. I like the horse shoe on the top rail. It reminded me to be thankful for your contributions. The weather was very cold with a low of 3 degrees. It was a very cold trip and I'm taking this year's winter trip off. Last March the Boy Scouts backpacked the Cataloochee area and had a great trip.

I'm looking forward to return in March. Thank you for making the trail experience better. Please accept this gift of \$6,000.00 to aid your efforts in maintaining the trails, shelters, and privies in your area.

I appreciate you allowing us to participate in your efforts, and sincerely Thank You for volunteering. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

— The Perschels: Mark Sr., Linda, Mark Jr.

SMHC is most appreciative of the Perschel family's ongoing support of our work.