

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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June/ 2009

National Trails Day June 6

If you haven't registered for Trails Day 2009, please do it RIGHT AWAY. Crews are being formed for our big day of trail work. Information can be found at the website <http://www.smhclub.org/> or by calling George Ritter (865) 932-4794 or Holly Burcham with Friends of the Smokies (865) 983 4794.

Sierra Club service trip

June 9th, Tuesday, the Sierra Club will work from Wesser Station to Wright Gap. Nathan Boike will be the SMHC crew leader. One additional leader is needed for this crew of 12 to 15 people. Please call or E-mail George Ritter if you would like to help out geo_ritt@bellsouth.net or 483-9758

July Work Trips 7/11 and 7/18

Saturdays 7/11 and 7/18 we will be working with the Konnarock Crew on the Hogback relocation between Cody Gap and Browns Fork Gap in the National Forest. The SMHC crews will leave the Maryville ex Bi-Lo at 7:30 AM on both these days. Please call **Paul Tanquay** (865) 228-9355 and let him know if you plan to attend. The Konnarock crews will be working 7/9 -13 and 7/16 -/20.

A.T. Work

4/4/09 Doris Gove, Jim Quick, Lynda Bryan, Kathleen Kitzmiller, Jim Reynolds, and Christine Hoyer cleaned all waterbar drains except for a couple of frozen ones, clipped some branches and blackberries, removed two blowdowns, and tried to fix a mud hole between Collins Gap and Clingmans Dome.

4/9/09 Don Dunning packed and loaded mulch for horse packing to Cosby Knob shelter. Later, he dried mulch in the sun and repacked to reduce excess moisture weight.

4/15/09 Rob Carter transported a pulaski from Cosby Ranger Station to Cosby Knob shelter, cleaned the shelter grounds, fireplace, and firepit, refilled the mulch bucket, cleaned the privy area, and knocked down the cone.

4/16/09 Rob Carter hiked to Tricorner Knob, removed several small limbs from the trail and gathered up clothing items left on trail. Rob camped in the horse area and dug two waterbars on the path down to the shelter. He refilled mulch buckets and cleaned out the fire pit and shelter grounds

4/16/09 Don Dunning delivered **240** pounds of packaged mulch to Tom Connor and associates at Cosby Campground for horse-packing to Cosby Knob shelter.

4/17/09 Rob Carter dug out 45 waterbars, graded a groove along a parallel blowdown to drain a bog, and refilled two low areas collecting water from Tricorner to 600 meters north of Deer Creek Gap.

4/18/09 Rob Carter topped off mulch buckets and cleaned shelter grounds at Tricorner. He packed out a broken fecal shovel and returned to Cosby shelter. At Cosby shelter, he topped off the mulch bucket, cleaned the shelter grounds, drained blue barrel "trash can" and relocated it below the shelter area. He cleaned a few waterbars south of the shelter.

4/18/09 Bob Williams cleared minor blowdowns, cleared two snags, trimmed encroaching briars and inspected water bars between Stecoah Gap and Brown Fork Gap, and checked the Brown Fork Gap.

4/18/09 Steve Reagan cleaned waterbars and turnpikes from Spruce Fir junction to Tomahawk Prong Lead.

4/19/09 Rob Carter packed out trash and the broken shovel to Cosby campground.

4/19/09 Mark Shipley cleaned out waterbars between Cosby Knob Shelter and Camel Gap.

4/19/09 Don Dunning packaged and loaded mulch at the Elkmont mulch storage for future horse delivery to Spence Field shelter.

4/19/09 Dick Ketelle, Ann Farrar, Jim Russell, Jerry Troxler, and Stewart Taylor removed blowdowns from Clingmans to Derrick Knob with the crosscut saw on Saturday where they camped and enjoyed Ann's homemade spaghetti with salad and bread for supper. Sunday they hiked on over to Sugartree Gap to remove the last reported blowdown as rain drizzled on them. They descended to Tremont in steady rain. They removed all blowdowns reported by Ridge Runners in this section. Thanks to **Steve Ragan and Tony Bolt** for helping us with the car shuttle from Tremont to Clingmans.

4/22/09 Tim Ryan cleaned outflow ditches, removed debris, trimmed vegetation and cleared waterbars between Chestnut Branch Trail and Lower Mt. Cammerer.

4/22/09 Steve Reagan, Ed Peck, Stu Taylor, Jerry Troxler, and Phyllis Henry cleared two blow downs, cleaned water bars, reinforced turnpikes, and created rock steps from Spruce Fir junction to Tomahawk Prong gap.

4/26/09 Don Dunning cleaned all waterbars and drains from Sweat Heifer junction to Boulevard junction, checked mulch supplies (both bins full) and privy (closed due to full bin) at Icewater Springs shelter.

4/26/09 Steve Reagan cleaned water bars and worked on turnpikes from Spruce fir junction to Tomahawk prong-Road prong.

4/27/09 Randy Puckett cleaned water bars from Bote Mtn to halfway up to Rocky Top (17 bars), checked the Spence shelter, and filled a bucket of mulch at the privy. The mulch box was almost empty, but he ran into two trail riders who reported that they brought up about a half box of mulch.

4/27/09 Jimmy Smith, George Ritter, Franklin LaFond, and Mac McNutt, with **A.T. rep Morgan Sommerville** selected a site for a moldering privy and measured slopes and distances needed for privy design at Cable Gap. They staked the site and flagged the route for a path to it from the shelter. They visited two Robbinsville lumber yards and obtained their E-mail addresses to use for soliciting quotes on materials. They visited Jimmy Smith's large RV storage building and agreed on a plan to do the prefab there.

4/28/09 Mike and Kay Harrington cleaned water bars, trimmed some vegetation between Lewellyn Branch and Sassafras Gap.

4/29/09 Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Wayne Williams, Mac McNutt, Jerry Troxler, and "Otter" **Shawn Eaves** emptied the composting bin at Icewater Springs, filled up two trash bags with various "things" from the bin, moved the privy, cleaned the privy, and filled mulch buckets. They took down the tarp from the shelter front and stored it for the summer, cut down all strings from shelter rafters, and picked up all trash from the area. As we hiked down the trail several of the volunteers went off trail and picked up cans, bottles, etc. that had been slung down the side of the trail. Ed Peck carried out a 30 gallon bag of trash.

5/1/09 Keith Mertz trimmed back greenbrier, blackberry canes, rhodo, and assorted shrubs hanging over the trail between Yellow Creek Gap and Cody Gap.

5/2/09 (scheduled **May work trip**) Eleven dedicated hikers, including seven students from Warren Wilson College, braved a rainy, windy day to work on the AT from Davenport Gap to the Mt. Cammerer tower. **Franklin LaFond, Justin Gardiner, Erin Pesut, and John Gordon Baugh IV** worked from the Gap up to the Lower Cammerer Trail junction. They trimmed vegetation, cleaned 60 waterbars, built two waterbars, and constructed 25 feet of cribbing to raise part of the trail damaged by an overturned root ball. **Tim Bigelow, Maura Huddleston, Bridget Moser, and Elizabeth Miller** worked from the Lower Cammerer Trail junction up to the "bunion." They trimmed vegetation, cleaned 30 waterbars, raked out three areas to even out the trail, and checked the rock wall reported to be damaged, only to find out it had already been repaired. **Paul Tanguay, Jim Clark, and Lily Walton** hiked up to the Mt. Cammerer tower and worked back to the bunion. They cleaned out 43 waterbars, rebuilt four waterbars, and cleared debris from the trail in two areas.

5/5/09 Steve Reagan, Stewart Taylor and Mac McNutt restored and reinforced turnpikes, and cleaned water bars from Spruce Fir junction to gap above Tomahawk Prong.

5/9/09 Ed Peck, Wayne Williams, Mac McNutt and Stewart Taylor went out to assess the needs for NTD south of Clingmans Dome, and flag areas to do work. Ed & Wayne hiked out nearly to Welch Ridge and flagged two log drops. They also cleaned the shelter and the privy and refilled the mulch. On the way back they got into a nice rain storm, and survived Buckley without a heart attack or being struck by lightning.

5/12/09 Doris Gove and Franklin LaFond flagged eight projects for National Trail Day, (most in the first mile north of Clingmans). They also removed several small blowdowns, made notes on a few available step logs, kicked at a couple of waterbar drains, noted where some locust logs might be useful if they become available, and discussed some rock work possibilities.

5/12-14/09 Jerry Troxler, Stu Taylor, Steve Reagan, and Mac McNutt cleaned and moved the Spence Field privy, and filled the mulch buckets and blue barrel. The shelter was in good shape. They cleaned out and repaired several water bars and filled in behind some steps with good dirt in the 1.5 mile section south of Spence Field. Five new water bars were added in the section just south of Mt. Squires in the recently relocated trail that had begun "troughing out" due to water erosion. Several places were brushed and rocked in where horses had begun walking around the trail. Crushed rocks were added to a mud hole that had needed repair for a long time.

5/16/09 Dick Ketelle and Don Dunning assessed trail conditions and outlined projects from Sweat Heifer junction to Boulevard Junction. They cleaned waterbars from Dry Sluice Trail junction to the bottom of hill below Ice Water Springs.