

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

Gay Bryant, Webmail Coordinator; Dianne Gruber, newsletter editor, 865 977-0807; Don Dunning, Mulch operations; Phyllis Henry, Treasurer, Special Projects, 865 577-2604; George Ritter, Recruiting, (865) 483-9758; Ed Peck, Committee Member; Penny Lankford, Committee Member; Terry Elmore, Committee Member; Dick Ketelle, Committee Member, 865 483-9345; John Lankford, NP accessible sections Division Leader, 865 774-1866; Jim Lowe, Nantahala National Forest Division Leader 828 479- 9271; Mac McNutt, Tools Manager, 865 983-3237; Randy Puckett, Consultant; Philip Royer, Shelter and Campsite coordinator 865 694- 0160; Jim Lowe and Philip Royer, Regional Representatives.

July/ 2009

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 (less than 2 miles from the service road). The SMHC crews will leave the Maryville ex Bi-Lo at 7:30 AM on both these days. Please call **Paul Tanguay** (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.

National Trails Day Reports

Bill Gooch, Arlene Lynsky, Paul Tanguay, Jerry Jenkins, Meg Mabbs, Beth LaVoie, and Sharon Plescia rebuilt 20 waterbars, cleaned 35 other waterbars, filled 5 steps, and cleared vegetation from Indian Gap/Road Prong Trail to Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead.

Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning, Jim Tolbert, Nathan Tolbert, Michael Arms, Michael Trevor Arms, Brian O'Bannion, Joey O'Bannion, Norman Carlson, Jennifer Morgan, Brandon Jackson, Julie Jackson, Bobby McClure, JB McClure, and John McGill worked from Boulevard Trail to Sweat Heifer. Our crew built a new turnpike through a very boggy area, cleaned out and improved several existing turnpikes in other boggy areas,

constructed two new waterbars, rebuilt several waterbars with onsite materials where the existing logs were badly decayed, cleaned and improved 30+ waterbars and steps, and trimmed vegetation. It was a great NTD and a great crew. Special thanks to BSA Troop 213 for their hard work and dedicated service.

Doris Gove, Kathleen Kitzmiller, Ronnie McGaha, Jeff Mellor, Randy Mitchell, Kay Sandlin, Carolyn Williams, Franklin LaFond worked from Collins Gap to Clingmans Dome. We put in 16-18 log steps and improved several rocky areas. We sawed a reasonably solid fir log into five pieces for steps, dug up and rearranged rocks for steps, moved old step logs and waterbars into better and deeper positions, collected enough buckets of rocks and mineral soil to fill and cap all the new projects and to cap some old steps that were being undercut or were collecting water. We fixed a boot-grabbing cleft between two boulders by plugging both ends and building up a gravel-crush convenient step, and we solved another rock slope problem by installing a large step and shifting the tread away from the steepest rock face. Special thanks to Franklin for rock and step expertise.

The *All Women National Trails Day* crew had a glorious day cleaning and creating water bars (we tried to count but lost track), rocking muddy spots, and digging sidehill, talking, and laughing. Participants were **Dianne Gruber, Julie Labhart, Pat Janack, Theresa Baggett, Corinne Rovetti, Jacinda Cone, and Cherie Cone.**

Jim Mowbray's group of seven hauled logs, replaced/cleaned waterbars, installed steps, cleared boggy areas from Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Trail.

Wayne Williams reports that his group had a long haul in, working from the knob west of Jenkins Knob to Welch Ridge Trail, so we didn't get as much accomplished as hoped. We didn't get out until 6:00. I think we got 13 waterbars and one or two steps put in. The Narrows is pretty rocky, so it was very hard to do a lot.

Morgan Sommerville had a great, hard working, fun crew of about **23 people** working from Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Trail. We did not get done what I estimated (!), but we worked until the work wags finished and the crew (or at least this leader) was worn out, and the work we did was well done and will last.

Steve Higdon, Allen Schultz, Mary Schultz, Byron Mahan, George Schenk worked from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Prong Trail. They cleared waterbars and improved drainage in several areas. They removed two small blowdowns, widened trail in four places, and reset stakes and rebar at many of the steps.

Steve Reagan led a NTD maintainers group working from Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead to Spruce Fir. They cleaned drainage ditches, installed several new steps and water bars, busted rock for some extra muddy spots, and moved a lot of deadfall to create new drainage. They moved a lot of good red dirt and some black dirt too. They used a little rebar for reinforcement.

Stewart Taylor, Phil Bifulco, Gary Dykes, Sherri Dykes, Ann McMahon, Eddie Cook, Paul Hadala, Wayne McIntyre, and Jerry Troxler worked from Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Trail. They built 12 steps, repaired or replaced 13 water bars and cleaned out several water bars. This was a good crew of people that worked hard and was dedicated to improving the A.T.

Jim Quick, Lynda Bryan, Andy Zimmerman, Nan Woodbury, Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder, and Hettie Manting reset and installed several waterbars & step, whacked weeds, lopped limbs, cleaned out all waterbars, and widened trail in several locations from Collins Gap halfway to Clingmans Dome.

A.T. Work

5/17 - Dick Ketelle replaced handles in three broken pulaskis.

5/20 - Phyllis Henry, Steve Reagan repaired turnpike and cleaned water bars from Indian Gap to Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead.

5/21 - Steve Reagan inventoried tools for trails day and purchased and bundled rebar from Reagan Steel CO.(no relation) for trails day.

5/22 - Charlie Klabunde worked from Lewellyn Branch to Fontana Dam, doing very minor touchup of water bars.

“Whoever has been maintaining this section in my delinquent absence has done a very good job, and left nothing that needed to be done.”

5/22 - Dick Ketelle hiked up Lead Cove/Bote Mtn Trail to the A.T., and then over Thunderhead and Brier Knob to Starkey Gap to remove a blowdown with the crosscut saw.

5/23 - Jason King cleared out between 15 and 20 water bars from False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap.

5/23 - Ron Beatty cut vegetation and removed one blowdown from the high point east of Walker Gap to Yellow Creek Gap, and replaced the binder on the Cable Gap shelter log.

5/24 -27 Franklin LaFond, on a three day backpack, cleaned all water bars and dips between Russell Field and Mollies Ridge shelter. He whacked weeds in heavy vegetation (higher than a foot tall) areas between Russell and Mollies, focusing on removal of all blackberry and thorn vines to 4 ft each side of trail. He added two new water bars in first mile north of Mollies Ridge and worked on a rocky area approx 0.5 miles north of Mollies. He removed problem rocks and rearranged rocks to widen the treadway and expanded step landing areas in this area. He inventoried tool bins at Russell Field and Mollies Ridge Shelters. Ridgerunner Carl Goodman and Franklin installed twelve feet of turnpike approximately 0.25 miles south of Russell Field Shelter.

5/24 - Philip Royer and Betty Royer measured and photographed Mt Collins Shelter for upcoming renovations. They re-installed two steps and cleaned waterbars in the area.

5/25 - Ed Peck worked from Goshen Prong Trail to the knob west of Jenkins Knob. He carried in some mulch, swing-bladed some weeds and brambles, cleaned leaves and debris out of shelter gutters, moved three logs from around the fire ring back to log-drop pile. Two logs were burned significantly, but are still very usable. He did some NTD prep, and carried out a small bag of shelter trash.

5/25 - Steve Reagan cleaned drainage ditches, worked on turnpikes, and removed small blowdowns from Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead to Spruce Fir. He delivered 3 shovels for shelter use to the tool shed lock box in the rear of the building

5/26 - Trena Paulus, David Adkins, Ernest Adkins, and Kate Adkins flagged from Sweat Heifer to top west of Sweat Heifer to identify projects for National Trails Day.

5/27 - Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, and Steve Reagan built a bridge and reinforced turnpike and cleaned water bars Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead to Spruce Fir.

5/29 - Philip Royer produced drawings for the new Cable Gap privy by adapting prototypical designs, and estimated lumber materials for the project.

5/29 - Steve Reagan, Mac McNutt, Tom Howard, Stewart Taylor, Jerry Troxler, Franklin LaFond, George Ritter, and Betty Glenn inventoried, cleaned and sharpened tools.

5/31 - Steve Reagan searched in tool shed at Sugarland and found twelve straps, gathered fuel containers, oil, chaps, chain saw blades, and delivered all to Macs place for use on trails day. INFO FOR SAWYERS-there are more chaps (three I think),several headwear and hearing protection items in the shed if sawyers don't have what they need. All remaining fuel cans in rear case are EMPTY. A couple of the large ones do have bar oil in the dual containers.

6/2 - Steve Higdon and Matthew Higdon walked from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Prong Trail, planning for NTD.

6/2 - Wayne Williams and Ed Peck went out from Goshen Prong Trail to Welch Ridge Trail to check on work that needed to be done for NTD. “All my flagging was gone, so I had to reflag it all. Ed moved a couple of logs where they needed to go. We cleaned out the shelter, cleaned the privy, and restocked the mulch. This section is in pretty good shape and I hope after NTD, that it will be easier to get up Mt. Buckley!”

6/3 - Steve Reagan and Stewart Taylor flagged projects for NTD from - Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead to Spruce Fir. They removed brush and debris in prep for the installation of new water bars and steps.

6/8 - Steve Reagan cleaned and expanded one drainage ditch, cleared an overgrown ditch at a turnpike and filled it with a lot of good red clay dirt, and moved a lot of rock to a very muddy spot from Road Prong/Tom Prong Lead to Spruce Fir.