

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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NEEDED: Newsletter editor.

Do you ever read this newsletter and think, hmmm—this could be done better? Please give it a try. This issue completes SEVEN YEARS for me of putting this together. I believe both the newsletter and I should move on. Please call me at 865 599 5165.
Dianne

August 1 Work Trips

The prodigious growth of vegetation this year means that **all section leaders** who have not recently done so should do a serious cutting and pruning expedition now. Helpers, please choose the section you would like to work in and give the leader a call.

A.T. Work

6/9 - Terry Elmore and Otters Shawn Eaves, Jonathan Webb, Tevin Webb, Wool Wol, Cheres Cobb, Matthew Martin, Justin LaForty, Joshua LaForty and Nelson Fauls replaced two rotten log steps with new locust logs pruned vegetation, repaired and installed a rock drainage trench in bend of trail

where water was standing, blocked downside trail at two locations with vegetation, rock, and large branches to keep hikers on the inside.

6/13- George Ritter, Jimmy Smith, Bob Husted and Bob Williams cut to size, temporarily pre-assembled and drilled components of the Cable Gap Privy. This included the bin, deck frame, deck, toilet riser, roof posts and roof frame. Remaining pre-assembly work of side panels, bin doors and entrance platform will be based on as-built dimensions of the bin and deck.

6/10 - Steve Higdon cut weeds and briars between Newfound Gap and Indian Gap.

6/16 - Steve Reagan and Bill Madore carried a lot of good dirt to turnpike and steps, carried rock to muddy spots, created one new water bar and increased drainage ditches from Road Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir.

6/17 - Karen Bracket, Kelly Bracket, and Franklin LaFond smoothed a half dozen sections of trail by removing large embedded rocks and installing about three steps, most notably at a heavily-rooted and rough section Gap W of near Masa Knob. They deeply trimmed back the "blueberry corridor" in the same area. Cut brush around Icewater Springs Shelter, and did heavy trimming and smoothing of the AT at that location with the purpose of making the main trail more obvious, to aid the confused hikers who unwittingly end up at the privy--as witnessed.

6/19 - Don Dunning bagged 450 pounds of mulch from the mulch storage pile at Elkmont for trailriders to transport to Cosby Knob Shelter on Saturday, June 20. He delivered mulch to McNutt Farm, along with two metal buckets to replace the plastic buckets that have become bear chew-toys.

6/19 - Jimmy Smith and George Ritter assisted forest service workers moving privy materials from Robbinsville to the staging area below Cable Gap.

6/19,20 - Mac McNutt, Terry Elmore, Franklin LaFond, Nelson Fauls, Shawn Eaves, Wool Wol, Joshua LaForty, Justin LaForty, George Ritter, Don Dunning, Bob Husted, Rena Husted, and Joseph Morris worked at the Cable Gap Privy. They hauled privy construction materials up to the shelter from the staging area, excavated the privy site and dug post holes, dug the trail from the shelter to the privy, constructed the privy bin, deck frame and deck. They hauled left-over materials back down the hill. Mac, Terry and the Otters also cleaned out the firepit at the shelter and installed four new water bars on the AT near the shelter.

6/21 - Clint Cable, Ronnie Boone, and Sam Wicker hauled 12 30lb bags of mulch to Cosby Knob, put one

metal bucket in the tool box. Filled the mulch bin by the toilet and put the other metal bucket full of mulch by the toilet. They packed out all of the plastic bags and one plastic bucket.

6/21 - Jimmy Smith picked up left over construction materials and tools from the Cable Gap privy project and took them home. He also constructed a log bridge to enable a turn-around on the FS.

6/24 - Don Dunning and Nancy Dunning worked from Boulevard Trail to Sweat Heifer. They cleaned out sediment from waterbars and drains, cut back vegetation, and continued work on new turnpike, including ongoing addition of soil fill and rock.

6/24 - Jimmy Smith, George Ritter, Franklin LaFond, and Edward Fleming precut and preassembled parts of the Cable Gap Privy sides, roof, bin doors and entrance ramp.

6/24 - Stewart Taylor, Ed Peck, Phyllis Henry, and Mac McNutt cut a large blowdown, brushed and lopped from Collins Gap to Clingmans Dome

6/26 - Jimmy Smith assisted forest service personnel in the delivery of materials to Cable Gap. **Jimmy Smith and George Ritter** finished precutting of additional material.

6/27- Ed Peck cut encroaching & overgrown vegetation, "mucked out" 2 stretches of mucky trail, bow-sawed a blowdown just past the trail sign, cleaned out several water bars, from Goshen Prong Trail to SW Jenkins Knob. He checked mulch buckets, carried a small bag of trash from shelter .

6/27-George Ritter, Ed Fleming, Jimmy Smith and FS firefighter Kenny Buckle finished all but the last two thirds of the shingle roof of the new privy. *The Venture Scouts, Jimmy Bray, Bryan Calloway, Sam McCahren, Isaac Huntoon, Jack Bray, Pete Carter, and Larry Lindsey* hauled all the material (some 50 loads) up from the FS road, demolished the old privy and filled/covered the hole, provided considerable help on the construction, and hauled most of the remainder of materials and tools back down to the FS road. Ed Fleming, Jimmy Smith and FS Firefighter Kenny Buckle each did about two days work in one day.

6/28- Mac McNutt, Stew Taylor, Jerry Troxler, and Phyllis Henry brushed and lopped for one mile north of Newfound Gap.

6/28 George Ritter and Betty Glenn assessed trail from Yellow Creek Gap to Rte 28.

6/29- Jimmy Smith, Ed Fleming, and George Ritter finished shingling the roof of the new privy plus several other miscellaneous tasks. They water sealed the privy roof and also water sealed the roof of the shelter.

SWEAT Crew Data

6/13 - Frank Copenhaver, Dale Smith, Benjamin H Baynton, Patrick Hall, Patrick Phipps, Sarah Bylen, Alan Johnson, Corey Wayne Hussey, Mike Williams - *Starkey Gap to Thunderhead* - 24 feet of scree added, 7 log steps built, 33ft of sidehill built, 1 rock waterbar built, 4 log waterbars built, 37 waterbars cleaned.

6/22 - Frank Copenhaver, Benjamin H Baynton, Jon Phipps, Daniel Weber, Spencer Reese, Michael Volino, Miriam Ash-Jones, Lamar Powell - *Davenport Gap to Newfound Gap* - 83 waterbars cleaned, 1 mile of brush cutting.

7/1 - Rick Ostenheimer, Alan Johnson, Ryan Wellborn, Daniel Weber, Jake Miller, Spencer Reese, Benjamin H Baynton, Jon Phipps - *Tricorner to Pecks Corner* - 180ft of sidehill, 345 waterbars cleaned, 30ft of drainage ditch added, 30ft of tread built, 1 log waterbar built, 6 blowdowns cleared, 8.9 miles of brush cut. 8 bags of mulch hauled to Pecks from Hughes Ridge Cabin.