



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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Upcoming Work Trip Opportunities

ATMC has no formal work trips planned until next year. If you do go up during the winter please take special precautions for snow, ice and cold. Here is the tentative schedule for 2011:

- Feb 25-26: Crosscut certification
- Mar 5: Help sawyers in National Forest – may need extra days
- Mar: Possible spring breaks
- Mar 18-20: Southern Partnership Mtg at Kanuga in Hendersonville
- Mar 25-26: Chainsaw certification at Franklin, NC
- Mar 26 – Apr 24: Park chainsaw window
- Apr 2: Help sawyers in the Park – may need extra days
- Apr 3-9: Possible Sierra Club work trip in NF
- By Apr 15: Finish tree cutting for Dam-Marina relo
- Apr: Do Tricorner privy preassembly
- May 7: Clear waterbars
- May: Modify Tricorner privy
- May 28: Tool refurbishment for NTD
- May 31 – June 1: Training on trail construction and maintenance (SWEAT Crew and others available)
- Jun 4: National Trails Day
- Jun – Aug: SWEAT Crew in the Park
- July 1-8: ATC 2011 bi-annual at Emory and Henry
- July: Help Konnarock Crew on Dam-Marina relo (training opportunity)
- Aug 6: Cut Vegetation or help SWEAT Crew
- Aug 27: Training on trail construction and maintenance
- Aug 28: Training on rigging and grip hoist
- Sep 3: Clear Waterbars and Cut Vegetation
- Oct: Fall RPC mtg
- Oct: Possible fall breaks
- Oct: Help Rocky Top Crew (training opportunity)
- Nov 5: Fall Waterbar Cleaning

ATC Executive Director Retiring

David Startzell, Appalachian Trail Conservancy Director has announced his intention to retire at the end of next year. He has been on the staff at ATC since 1978 and has been Executive Director since 1987. With Dave, the ATC has achieved one of the most successful land conservation undertakings in the history of the United States through the preservation of approximately 200,000 acres and more than 3,000 parcels of land in the 14 trail states. Also, the ATC organization has grown to the point that more than 6,000 volunteers now contribute more than 220,000 hours each year to the work of the Appalachian Trail project. Significantly, Dave has overseen the implementation of a unique cooperative management system for the Trail. Under this system, SMHC and 30 other maintaining clubs have primary responsibility for trail management with extensive support from "partners" like ATC, USFS and NPS. We are all grateful for Dave's achievements and wish him the best future.

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Annual Installation Dinner

Saturday December 11

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. - Social and Stroll around Grounds
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - Dinner and Program

Speaker: Dr. Mike Pelton, Professor Emeritus of Wildlife Science at University of Tennessee and Expert on Black Bears will present "A Bear for All Seasons"

In Addition: Opportunity to learn about and purchase Doris Gove's most recent book; view winning photos from the Photo Contest; enjoy the sounds of the Oak Ridge Madrigal Singers; and stroll the grounds and herb gardens overlooking the Tennessee River

Place: University of Tennessee Visitor's Center (formerly the UT Faculty Club), 2712 Neyland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37916 (I40 to Alcoa Highway to right on Kingston Pike and left on Neyland Drive - corner of Kingston Pike and Neyland Drive)

Cost: \$15.00 per person to be collected at the door (no charge for 50+ years members)

Entrée choices: Chicken Piccata w/Roasted Red Potatoes and Fresh Steamed Vegetables **or** Portobello Mushroom w/Spinach & Accordion Potatoes

Reservation deadline: Saturday, December 4th (no cancellations after Tuesday, December 7th) Register on the SMHC Web site (www.smhclub.org) or call/email with meal choice:

Jeanette Gilbert: 483-8774, corsica@nxs.net
Carol Kerr: 922-3920, kerr427@gmail.com
Priscilla Watts: 966-4142, sigmtngirl@earthlink.net

The Social Committee looks forward to seeing you at the new venue!
Debbie Goddard

A. T. Work Trip Reports 10/18 to 11/17

10/22 - Donna Higdon, Steve Higdon

Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr

Cut back briars and trimmed brush. Removed two small blowdowns.

10/18 thru 10/22 - Warren Wilson College Group, Stewart Taylor, Mac McNutt

Cody Gap to Brown Fork Gap

Worked with 11 Warren Wilson College students in the National Forest at the above locations. While there we put in 25 new steps, 12 water bars, cleaned 6 water bars and dug side hill. We also finished the relo that had been started by the Rocky Top crew this summer. After finishing the relo we painted new AT trail markers

10/24 - Ed Peck

Goshen Prong Tr to Knob W of Jenkins Knob

Carried in privy mulch, cleared water bars, brought out small amount of trash, filled mulch bucket

10/27 - Wayne Williams, Ed Peck

Goshen Prong Tr to Welch Ridge Tr

Ed and I cleaned waterbars on my section and part of his. We went out in the fog and came back in the rain. We got completely soaked. Even after all the rain the trail had no standing water anywhere going out. On the way back there was a lot of running water, but the trail looks really great. We met several southbounders that really appreciated the work that was done

10/29 - Phyllis Henry, Pete James

Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr

Cleaned waterbars, lopped low hanging branches and removed one large, rotten blowdown with the help of three backpackers. Leaves are all down and waterbars need cleaning.

10/30 - Phyllis Henry

Conference

Attended end of season Rocky Top picnic to thank volunteers and trailriders for their support for work on the Appalachian Trail.

11/1 - Bob Williams

Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap

Cleared 4 blowdowns. Two completely blocked the trail and hikers had to go off-trail to avoid them. Two were passable but with difficulty. I was able to clear two of them completely. The other two were cleaned up so that passage is easy, and no longer required off-trail travel.

11/2 - Jimmy Smith

Locust Cove Gap to Cheoah Bald

Cleared several small blowdowns and dug some sidehill.

11/3 - Phyllis Henry

Conference

Attended end of the season ridge runner meeting with the ridge runner, ATC, and Park Staff. Picked up park chainsaws to have them serviced.

11/3 - Phyllis Henry, Stewart Taylor, Mac McNutt, Ed Peck, Steve Reagan

Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Collins Gap

Removed blowdowns, Cleared water bars and drainage ditches, Cleaned and serviced privy and shelter area at Mt. Collins. Brushed and weeded.

11/6 - Franklin LaFond

Davenport Gap to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI)

Cleaned waterbars between Davenport gap and the shelter. Removed 6 blowdowns and about 20 mtn laurel that were impeding the trail due to snow and/or ice. Pruned back vegetation. Removed approx 5 pounds of trash from shelter.

11/10 - Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Jerry Troxler

Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir

Filled mulch bucket at Mt. Collins privy and checked shelter. Someone had climbed onto roof of shelter and removed the snow from the sky lights. Cleaned some waterbars, did some lopping, and removed 3 blowdowns about 3/4 of a mile from Indian Gap that had come down years ago and had slipped further down onto the trail

11/13 - Jimmy Glascock, Bill Glascock, Paul Glascock, Henry Glascock, George Hovanec

Doe Knob to Sassafras Gap (Pk)

Cut Weeds and cleared waterbars from Birch Springs Gap to side of Greer Knob.

11/13 - Patti Grady, Steve Grady

Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead

Cleared waterbars

11/17 - Franklin LaFond

Boulevard Tr to Newfound Gap

Removed 5 small blowdowns. Cleaned all waterbars. Improved drainage around Icewater shelter.

11/17 - Stewart Taylor, Mac McNutt, John Klemski, Jerry Troxler Spence (Bote Mt Tr) to Russell Field

Picked up and carried out 1 bag of litter around the shelter. Fire pit was OK. Carried out old tarp. Cleaned water bars for 1.0 mile N. of the shelter. Picked up numerous tree limbs of all sizes from A.T. and Russell Field trail. Inventoried the tools.

11/19 - Steve Higdon

Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr

Widened approximately 30 yards of trail adjacent to Indian Gap. Onstructed one water bar. Trail at that location has always been a problem because of heavy grass and briar growth.

Have a safe and merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

