

## 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 2010

### Announcements Training for New Maintainers

There will be a work trip on Saturday, May 1st to instruct and train new maintainers. Please mark your calendar. Details will be provided in future notices.

### ATTENTION SMHC/ATMC MAINTAINERS ON SECTIONS FROM GREER KNOB TO WESSER

There are several groups of college students who would like to use part of their spring break to help work on the AT in or near the Nantahala NF this March and we need experienced maintainers to direct their activities. (These are in addition to the group from Warren-Wilson College that Mac is

managing 3/14 to 3/19 and the Hocking College Group that Pam is managing 3/22 and 3/23)  
3/15 - 7 students for one day  
3/16 - 10 students for one day  
3/? - 15 students for two days (We'll know the exact date soon. It's probably that same week.)

These new groups will arrange their own housing and food. If you can help, your job would be to meet them at a trailhead of your choice, bring tools, give them a safety talk at the trailhead, and then spread them out along your section to do whatever you need done. If all your spring waterbar cleanout and brush cutting is done there is usually some side hill digging needed.

The group that will be here two days does not need to work on the same section both days. So we could use at least four of you to manage these groups. **If you would like this help, please contact George Ritter.**

### Road Closure

Managers at Great Smoky Mountains National Park are preparing to close the Cades Cove Loop Road starting Monday, March 1, for a complete reconstruction of the road. They expect to reopen the 11-mile loop not later than May 21, 2010.

### Work Projects

**1/27 - Phyllis Henry, Steve Reagan, George Minnigh, Ed Peck, Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Jerry Troxler** - Davenport Gap to Lower Mt Cammerer Tr - Cleared many many blowdowns, checked Davenport Gap shelter, picked up small amount of trash.

**2/4 - Don Dunning, Jack Bray, Jimmy Bray** - Other Work - Visited mulch storage shelter at Elkmont with a Boy Scout who is interested in conducting an Eagle project to reenforce and improve the mulch shelter. We found the tent and the metal frame structure to be completely demolished and strewn around the site - apparently from a high wind event. (I last inspected the shelter on December 30 and it was in good shape at that time, so this event occurred sometime between 12/30/2009 and 2/4/2010.) Will conduct a more thorough analysis of the extent of the damages and evaluate alternatives for repair

or replacement. The Scout, Jimmy Bray, was not discouraged by the damages and is still interested in pursuing this project.

**2/4 - Ed Peck, Stewart Taylor** - Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Prong Trail - Ed and I cleared the trail of 6 blow downs ranging from 6-8" to as large as 24-30". Many of these trees had to be cut 2 or 3 times in order to remove them completely from the trail. In addition we cut many branches from trees leaning over the trail. All of this work was done with a crosscut saw, small hand saw and an axe. The trail is now completely open all the way from Newfound Gap to Indian Gap.

**2/4 - Franklin LaFond** - Russell Field to Doe Knob - On a 3-day trip, cleared blackberry briars around Russell Field shelter. Removed majority of storm damage blow downs and debris from the trail. 25 blowdowns required cutting with my bow saw. Gathered large blowdown information for April chainsaw crews for this area. Moved extra shelter register at Mollies to Russell as there was not one at Russell. A third register (full) from Mollies was packed out and will be turned in at the next SHMC meeting.

**2/20 - Steve Reagan, Ed Peck, Stewart Taylor** - Other Work - Split Locust Logs until we was wore out. Turned a few (50+) into many (150+) can be FUN for a while then it sorta wears off.

### **Helpers Needed**

The recent snows and wind have damaged many trees on the Appalachian Trail and ATMC needs to clear blowdowns as early as possible for the spring AT through-hikers. In March we will work in the Nantahala National Forest and in April we will work in the Park. The first work trip in March will take place **Friday, 3/5** and **Saturday, 3/6**. After that we'll know if additional trips to the Nantahala will be needed. We'll have certified chain sawyers and cross-cutter crews and we need two or three helpers with each crew to cut smaller stuff and drag sawn branches off the trail. We also need two or three drivers to deliver crews to a trailhead and then either pick them up at some other trailhead or leave a vehicle for them. If you can go along to help on **either Friday or Saturday or both**,

please Email George Ritter [geo\\_ritt@bellsouth.net](mailto:geo_ritt@bellsouth.net) and let him know. Pre-registration is important to allow adequate shuttle planning.

Crews will meet to leave at 7:30 AM on both days at the Ex Bi-Lo parking lot in Maryville, just south of where US 421 intersects US 129. We will have a second meeting place at the Ingles parking lot in Robbinsville, NC at 9:00 AM both days. Some folks going over Friday will be staying overnight and anyone wanting to do that can contact Phyllis Henry and find out how to make overnight arrangements. Those going for just one day can expect to be back to Maryville about 6 or 7 PM. A lot of people cannot handle the ride over US129 and we don't want them to try. But if you can handle that ride, or if you live in NC, please step up.

### **Late Information!**

Reports are that the snow is 2 to 3 feet deep all along the crest from Wesser to Fontana and that the damage is extreme. We will likely have to delay this trip until the snow melts, but when we go we will definitely need many helpers. We'll send out E-mails as soon as we know more.

### **Special Training Opportunity**

Andrew Downs of the ATC Southern Regional Office will conduct special training for trail maintainers on May 22nd and 23rd in the National Forest. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how to install waterbars, grade trails, and do other trail tasks. You can attend on both days or on Saturday only. Those attending both days will camp at the campground below Fontana Dam. If you would like to learn, visit the following website and register:

[http://atc.civcore.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Opporrtunities.View&Opportunity\\_ID=368](http://atc.civcore.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Opporrtunities.View&Opportunity_ID=368)

## SMHC/ATMC Meeting Minutes 2/16/10

Attendees: Mac McNutt, Phyllis Henry, Franklin LaFond, Ed Peck, Don Dunning, Dick Kettle, George Ritter, Philip Royer, and Steve Reagan

1. Plans for March 6<sup>th</sup> NF blowdown removal were set. Details were sent out separately.
2. Plans for April 3<sup>rd</sup> Park blowdown removal will be worked out at the Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> ATMC meeting
3. Mulch Shelter – Agreement was reached on a two-step plan for a better interim tent shelter in the near term and a possible permanent shelter. We will proceed to request approvals from the Park.
4. Brown Fork Gap privy plans remain unchanged although the project will need air support to get prefabricated materials up to the site. The Forest Service is evaluating the possibility for funding that.
5. Tricorner Knob Privy – The plan is at the Park for approval. Tentative construction date is May, 2011. A lot more discussion and planning will be required to bring this about because of the need for funding and staging an airlift and because we need to optimize the design. We will continue to work on the plan.
6. Long range plans to replace other Park privies starting in 2016 will be another continuing discussion.
7. Konnarock Projects – Dick and Morgan are planning a walk through to flag both the 2010 Bee Cove rehab and the 2011 Dam to Marina relocation.
8. Repair of slide near Pecks Corner – We are asking that Morgan proceed on the basis of hiring a crew leader and crew for this project because the work will require special skills.
9. Eagle Project – Nick Harris – Stekoah Gap - Nick has preliminary council approval and goes before the full council on 2/18. He is targeting the last weekend in March for the project.
10. Eagle Project – Jimmy Bray – Improve mulch shelter – Jimmy is being instructed to devise a plan with enough flexibility for several alternates. His project is part of the near-term plan
11. Spring Break – Warren Wilson College – March 14 to 19. They will stay at NOC and Mac, Stew, Steve and Phyllis will stay at NOC with them. Will work primarily in the 3 mile section going south from Rte 28.
12. Spring Break – Hocking College – This group will work March 22 and 23 (Mon and Tue) on the Section from Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap. Pam and Keith will be the Crew Leaders.
13. Sierra club service trip to NF June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> (two work days, Thu and Fri). They are staying in paid-for quarters at NOC so Mac, Stew and Steve will stay at the Hike Inn.
14. Russell Field shelter airlift is scheduled for 9/22-23 with 9/24 as bad weather day. Construction starts 9/24.
15. Fall Break – Nothing planned as yet, but funding is requested.
16. Next ATMC Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday**, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Maryville TN Bank at **6:30 PM**.

**SORO:** Southern Regional Office of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (Morgan Sommerville, Andrew Downs, Julie Judkins and Leanna Joiner)

**RPC:** Regional Partnership Committee – Partners are GATC (GA AT Club), NHC (Nantahala Hiking Club), SMHC, CMC (Carolina Mountain Club, TEHCC (TN Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club). You're on your own as to the rest of the initials.

**Thanks to Connie Tatgenhorst and Pam Reddoch for attending this Regional Partnership Committee meeting with Philip.**

FYI: Ed Fleming is attending the next RPC meeting with Philip Royer at Mountain Lake. Jennifer Grady and Mary Ann Hoskins are the SMHC reps for the 2013 biennial. Tim Bigelow will be the SMHC rep on the Climate Change and Energy Network. And Doris Gove is considering attending the 6/28 – 7/3/2010 Youth Summit in New Hampshire. Also, Morgan advised that another charity succeeded in getting the big grant that ATC had asked us to help obtain through Facebook. The successful organization's goals involved helping African Children and well deserved the assistance.

### **ATC License Plate Update**

ATC has experienced a few weeks of unprecedented sales of its license plate in Tennessee, and we have every reason to celebrate! Can our rising water help raise all boats?

Tennessee and Georgia have been neck and neck for the past few months in their respective efforts to reach the required 1,000 applications to initiate specialty A.T. license plates.

TN bolted ahead in the past two weeks and now stands at 721 to Georgia's 653.

Please consider helping Georgia narrow the margin by going through your Facebook and/or your e-mail account and letting your friends in Georgia know there's a license plate program for the Appalachian Trail in their state, too! After all, what's good for Tennessee is good for the whole Trail. The same can be said for Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia, too. License plate programs in North Carolina and Virginia are already established and benefiting the Trail. You can help by spreading the word about four plates in four states with as many friends as you like here:

<http://www.appalachiantrail.org/tellafriend>.

Thanks for bearing with this request. It seems like a good idea and should be a win-win all around. I appreciate your help!

Thanks!  
Leanna Joiner, SORO

**LOG SPLITTERS ED PECK, STEWART TAYLOR AND STEVE REAGAN**

