



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; Koni Helton, Newsletter Editor (865) 824-6189; Don Dunning, Mulch Operations; Phyllis Henry, Treasurer & Special Projects, (865) 577-2604; George Ritter, Recruiting & Regional Representative (865) 483-9758; Philip Royer, Shelter Design & Regional Representative (865) 694- 0160; Mac McNutt, Tools Manager, (865) 983-3237 and Committee Members Dick Ketelle, (865) 483-9345, George Minnigh, Ed Peck, Terry Elmore, Franklin LaFond, Steve Reagan, Tim Bigelow and Ed Fleming.

Upcoming Work Trip Opportunities

7/31 – Collins Gap to Clingman’s Dome. Jim Quick is planning a weed cutting/waterbar cleaning work trip on this section. The meeting place will be at Sugarlands VC at 8:30am that day. Anyone wishing to work should contact Jim at jghiker37@aol.com or 660-3351 so he will know how many tools to bring.

8/7 - Newfound Gap to Icewater Springs Shelter. We will finish the installation of log water bars south of the Boulevard Trail junction. There are approximately a dozen logs remaining that have been placed at the locations. We just need to sink them in the ground. Meeting place will be at the Sugarlands Visitor Center at 9am. A secondary meeting point will be at the parking lot at NewFound Gap at 9:30. Bring water, gloves, and lunch. Contact Franklin LaFond: home# 865-357-9908, cell# 678-464-3380, or email at Ox97GaMe@aol.com.

A. T. Work Trip Reports 6-15 to 7-14

6/16 - Jimmy Smith Brown Fork Privy

Carried some tools up to Brown Fork Gap from Green Gap Road and checked out the privy construction materials that had been air lifted by the Forest Service today. Stretched a line up the steep slope to help those climbing up Friday to bring other items from Green Gap road.

6/18 - Steve Reagan, Phyllis Henry Gap W of Masa Knob to Newfound Gap

Met with Mellisa Coburn and new prospect for AT Ridgerunner. Mellisa and Phyllis talked to him about qualifications, expectations, and commitment for the remainder of season. Pruned worst of vegetation from Newfound Gap to Icewater Shelter. Most of this section needs further attention soon. Removed remaining ribbons left behind from trails day. Placed Rock in needed areas due to muddy spots. Cleaned shelter area of trash, etc. Removed three blue tarps, broken tools, paint cans, garbage, and a pair of shoes from Trashy Tool box. Brushed trails around shelter and to privy. Phyllis found mulch bucket about 100 ft. from shelter in overgrowth. Appeared to have been removed by bear as mulch was dumped at privy entrance on step. Refilled with mulch and cleaned privy and dispersed cone. Privy at 50%. Anyone walking to shelter could take bucket or two, a shovel and 2 Pulaskis to be left in tool case. Fun day!! Phyllis carried Phillip’s loppers out. Good luck. I hope he sees them again.

6/20 - Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Steven Epps, Edward Fleming, Jimmy Smith, Terry Elmore, Wool Wol, Cory Johnson, Ethan Correll, Mark Miranda, Jack Bray, Jimmy Bray, Boy Scouts Group, Franklin LaFond, Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning, George Ritter Brown Fork Privy

Thursday through Sunday: constructed the new privy and replaced the shelter roof. Overcame a rain delay and delays due to missing tools and materials that the FS had apparently lost. The >100% slope up to the AT from Green Gap Road remained difficult even with the aid of ropes Jimmy Smith had strung. Both Jimmy and Steven Epps made 6 or 8 trips up that slope by the time all was done. The Friday afternoon and night rain made the slope even more difficult.



Stew, Mac, Ed and Jimmy at Brown Fork Gap

6/22 - Paul Campbell, Dan Martin Camel Gap to Tricorner

On a three day trip, inventory of tool box and mulch at Cosby shelter. Filled mulch bucket in privy @ Cosby. Privy in good shape 24" pile. Very clean site almost no trash yeha! (one 5gal bucket mulch left in lockbox!!) Cleared brush from both sides of trail from Camel gap to Tricorner. Cleared 24 water bars Camel Gap-Inadu Knob...52 from Inadu and one root ball blowdown on down hill side of trail. Placed parallel support and filled hole from root blowdown - Tricorner. Mulched privy, 36"pile. Inventoried tool box. Mulch box full at tricorner. No key to park service box. Cut brush from shelter area and boxes. All is well.

**6/23 - Ed Peck, Don Dunning, Steve Reagan
Double Springs Gap Shelter**

Carried 150+ lbs. of mulch From Dome parking area to Dbl.Springs shelter/privy. Mulch bin is at 65-70% full. Cleaned and serviced privy. Privy is at 50-55% full. Removed several old tarps and plastic, one NEW tarp and general trash from tool box and shelter area. Weed wacked and lopped shelter area trail to privy and spring. Water flow is good 2-3 quarts per minute. Bear cables in good working order. Removed full shelter log that needs to be replaced. Tool bin is well stocked. Two each: Pulaskis, fire rakes, shovels, weed wackers, .5 buckets. hammers

One each: lame lopper, rock bar, pick mattock, post hole digger ,pliers ,vice grips, small wire cutter, crescent wrench, pint of bar oil.

Plenty of nails for next privy move.

NEED sanitary wipes for privy soon.

We determined tarp can make another winter with a little TLC.

**6/24 - Phyllis Henry, Ed Peck, Steve Reagan
Mount Collins Shelter**

Walked to Mt. Collins shelter to observe conditions and evaluate possible bear damage with Mellisa Coburn. Replaced broken hinges on privy. Cleaned and serviced privy. Mulch is at 90%.Removed light trash and plastic from area. Lopped and brushed. Cleaned up around a new blowdown that will need further attention near Spruce fir entrance.

**6/25 - Mac McNutt, Stewart Taylor, Sierra Club Group
Route 28 to Wright Gap**

On 6/24 Mac, Stew and 15 Sierra Club Service Trip workers repaired trail tread and constructed new tread over fallen root balls between Wright Gap and Sassafras Gap. On 6/25 they repaired tread going north from Yellow Creek Gap. This was the second Sierra Club work trip to this area in as many years.



Sierra Club Workers leveling tread, repairing root ball and installing steps



Sierra Club Workers leveling tread, repairing root ball and installing steps

**6/26 - Dick Ketelle
Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob**

Cut weeds between Dry Sluice Gap Jct and base of climb to Icewater

**6/27 - Bob Williams
Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap**

Did heavy trimming on vegetation from Stekoah Gap, heading north toward Brown Fork Shelter. Used sling blade and hedge shears to cut back out-of-control vegetation on both sides of the trail. Was able to complete 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile before a thunderstorm ran me off the mountain.

**6/27 - Ed Peck, Steve Reagan
Goshen Prong Tr to Knob W of Jenkins Knob**

Walked AT to Goshen Prong. Weed wacking, lopping and brushing from Goshen Prong to the end of Ed's section. Serviced privy and removed large amount of trash from shelter area.

**6/30 - Ed Peck
Goshen Prong Tr to Knob W of Jenkins Knob**

Trimmed trailside overgrowth. Carried mulch to mulch bin at Dbl Sp shelter.

**6/30 - Karen Bracket, Steven Epps
Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr**

Cleaned waterbars and cut back brush along trail. Cut tons of tall, tall blackberries around shelter, filled mulch bucket at privy, picked up trash from fire pit. Admired work done by crew on Trails Day. (Thanks!)

**6/30 - Phyllis Henry, Steve Reagan
Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Sugarland Mt Tr**

Delivered privy shovel and register to Mt. Collins shelter. Weeding,brushing and water bar cleaning from Sugarland MT.trail and Spruce fir section

**7/1 - Wayne Williams, Ed Peck
Knob W of Jenkins Knob to Welch Ridge Tr**

Ed and I got up early and headed out to Double Springs Shelter. We cleaned the shelter and privy and refilled the mulch buckets. We brushed from the shelter out to Welch Ridge. There's still a lot of work to get done, but we should have it done soon. Great day.

**7/3 - Allison Reagan, Jake Reagan, Steve Reagan
Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir**

Cleaned water bars and drainage ditches. Weeding, Brushing and rocking. Carried dirt to fill steps.

AUGUST 2010

7/3 - Mike Barnes

Davenport Gap to Lower Mt Cammerer Tr

Cleared weeds, cleaned water bars, check shelter for trash and debris.

7/4 - Franklin LaFond

Spence (Bote Mt Tr) to Mollies Ridge

On an overnight trip, cut weeds and cleaned water bars from Russell Field to .25 N of Ekaneetlee Gap. Fixed 1 damaged water bar. Created small water source reservoir 100 yrs below Mollies Ridge water source as spring was dried out. Flagged route to this secondary water source for the hikers. Buried a lot of TP flowers at Mollies. Carried cat-hole shovel to Russell to replace damaged one. Inventoried tool boxes at Mollies, Russell, and Spence. Flagged 2 potential drop zones for logs in Sept. Inspected Spence privy for bear damage. Filled privy buckets with mulch. Carried out 30 pound of items left at shelters including machete, fuel canisters, books, rope, chainsaw, and trash.

7/5 - Don Dunning

Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer

Cleared brush/weeds from AT from Sweat Heifer Trail junction to Boulevard Trail junction. Carried in 1 pulaski for Icewater Spring toolbox in response to need indicated in previous report. Replaced 2 locks at Icewater Spring shelter (tool box and 1 mulch bin). Cleaned privy and restocked mulch in privy - only 1 mulch bucket remaining at privy, second bucket has gone missing. Shelter area very clean, picked up minimal amount of trash.

7/8 - Rob Carter

Sunup Knob to Cosby Knob Top

Slingblade brush. Topped off mulch container. Removed trash from shelter and firepits.

7/8 - Wayne Williams, Ed Peck

Goshen Prong Tr to Welch Ridge Tr

Ed & I worked from the Welch Ridge trailhead to Double Springs shelter cleaning out waterbars and lopping off branches. We cleaned and refilled the mulch buckets in the privy. We also gave a lecture to backpackers about hanging up their packs from the bear cables. Another hot, but great day.

7/9 - Karen Bracket, Steven Epps, Tim Ryan

Route 28 to High Pt E of Walker Gap

Over two days, worked with Konnarock crew and volunteers on sidehill digging to repair narrow trail. Two dead locusts were cut down for a rock and log crib installation near the top of Walker's Gap. Stones were crushed and hauled for the crib, logs were cut in lengths and notched for stacking

7/9 - Mac McNutt, Terry Elmore, Wool Wol, Brandon Webb, Marcus Moats, Tevin Webb

Top W of Sweat Heifer to Goshen Prong Tr

On 7/8 & 7/9, cleared vegetation from NG parking lot north 1/2 mile on the 8th. On the 9th cleared vegetation from Clingman's Dome south to Goshen Prong Trail. Note: Ridge Runner Caleb Gray helped our group clear vegetation on Clingman Dome Section south.

7/10 - Don Dunning

Other Work

Packaged and delivered 12 bags mulch (~40 pounds each) to trail-riders from the Back-Country Horsemen of North Carolina, led by Dale Sorrells, at the Big Creek Horse Camp for transport to the Cosby Knob Shelter privy. Special thanks to Dale and Jan Sorrells and Mike and Linda Milner from the BCHNC. Additional mulch packaged for future transport to backpack-supplied sites and staged in storage shed.

7/11 - Tom Howard, James Fondren

Pecks Corner to False Gap

On a three day trip, cleaned waterbars and cut vegetation. Cleaned privy and carried mulch from cabin to fill up mulch bin.

7/14 - Jimmy Smith

Browns Fork Gap Shelter

Finished installing remaining screws on shelter roof; installed door on privy; cut down old privy; filled mulch buckets and cleaned up around shelter area