



APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAINTAINERS COMMITTEE  
SMOKY MOUNTAINS HIKING CLUB

February 2017

**APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAINTENANCE**  
**Reminder: No "First Saturday" February**  
**Work Trip**

**Crosscut Saw Training/Certification**

The ATMC plans to schedule a crosscut saw training and sawyer certification course during March 2017. We welcome all previously certified crosscut sawyers and any other volunteers who want to become proficient with crosscut saws. First Aid and CPR training is required to become a certified crosscut sawyer. That training is also being scheduled. Both training opportunities are provided at no cost to volunteer certified sawyers.

Crosscut saw training dates will be either March 17-18 or March 24-25.

Please reply to George Ritter at [rittergeo@gmail.com](mailto:rittergeo@gmail.com) with your training date preference to let us know that you are interested.



**A. T. Work Trips: From 12/3/2016 to 1/18/2017**

12/3 - **Cayce Moyer** - **Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap** - Cut back vegetation and cleared some areas of deep leaves on the trail. Checked for blowdowns.

12/28 - **Greg Crandall, Cindy Crandall** - **Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap** - Moved privy seat and cleaned out the composting bin; picked up a small amount of garbage from the shelter. Installed 4 new waterbars on the trail just south of the shelter; cleaned 27 water bars; worked 2 hours removing overgrown vegetation along the trail. Removed 4 blowdowns with a hand saw; removed a 5th blowdown which required rehabilitation of 10 feet of trail treadway from hikers walking around the blowdown.

12/28 - **Keith Mertz, Judy Wade** - **Fontana Dam to Route 28** - Sawed 3 blowdowns that were laying across the trail. Filled hole in trail caused by a fallen tree.

12/31 - **Jack Bray, Jimmy Bray, Stuart Morrison, Stevie Morrison** - **Derrick Knob to Thunderhead** -

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Check out a great article by Arnold "Bloodhound" Guzman, one of our ATMC members, which appears in The Trek, a wonderful on-line publication and resource for long distance hikers, with blogs, stories, tips, advice and much more. His article described one of our mulch-hauling trips, led by Don and Nancy Dunning on August 6, 2016.

Go to this link: [Trail Maintainers: Heavy-Lifting Trail Angels of the AT - The Trek](#) to read this great article!

Here is a picture of the maintainers involved:



Cleaned waterbars and cleared blowdowns. Filled mulch buckets at Spence Field. Hung tarps at Derrick Knob and Russell Field.

12/31 - **Randy Mitchell, Russell Redden - Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top** - Cleaned water bars on AT from Low Gap to Cosby Knob. Removed debris and limbs from trail. Cut and removed two large blow downs from Low Gap trail. Cut limbs from huge hemlock blocking Low Gap trail about 1 mile from Cosby Campground. Tree is too large to cut with hand saws. Limb removal allows easier crossing of the tree but it will be difficult for a horse to cross. Picked up a small amount of trash at shelter and filled mulch buckets in privy. Checked shelter and talked to some hikers there that had a well-established fire in fireplace. Bear cables looked OK as did the shelter. Spring is flowing. Cut a large hardwood blow down at the south end of section at Cosby Knob. Tree was at chest level. Ran out of time to finish removing tree, but now it can be stepped over.

1/8 - **Dick Ketelle - Chestnut Br Trail to Mt Cammerer Side Tr** - Cut fallen dead rhododendron, branches, and pine tree top to give hikers free passage. Inventoried larger blowdowns.

on other days as well. Contact Franklin LaFond (678-464-3380 [ox97Game@aol.com](mailto:ox97Game@aol.com)) if you would like to help SMHC support the fire recovery efforts in the NHC district.



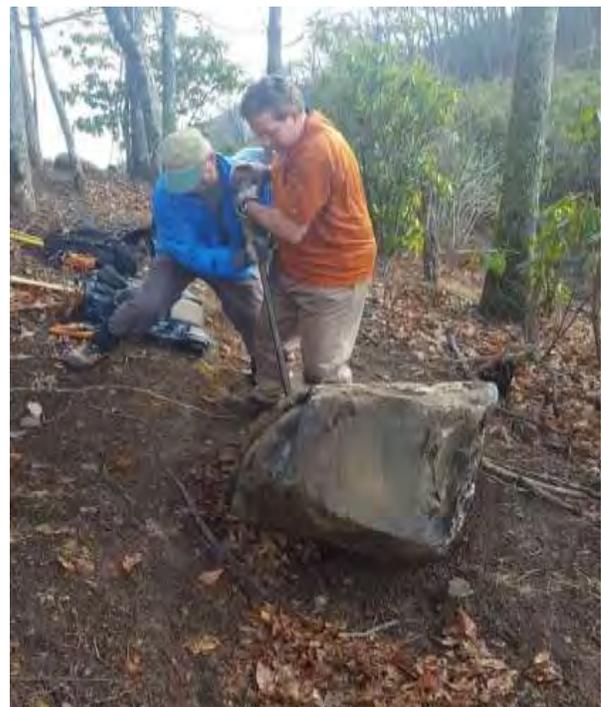
Group Photo

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## Partners Working to Repair Wildfire Damage

By Franklin LaFond

On Saturday, Jan 14, volunteers from the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Nantahala Hiking Club, Appalachian Long Distance Hiking Association, and attendees at the annual Southern Hiker RUCK came together to repair damage along the AT, caused by the wildfires in November. The section that was worked was near Tellico Gap NC, on the NHC section. The work included repairs to the Wesser Observation Tower and treadway repairs. This team of 17 volunteers carried in lumber, made repairs to the tower, and made significant repairs to nearly half a mile of treadway. Although a lot of work was completed, there is still a lot of work yet to be done. NHC will continue to work in this area during their club's Wednesday work trips, and will utilize any groups of volunteers that want to help



Moving Large Rocks



Burned Stump Hole



Crushing Rocks



Filling Holes with Rock



Finished Repair



THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE  
ATMC ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 8<sup>th</sup> AT  
6:30 PM AT THE TN BANK IN  
MARYVILLE, 1311 W. LAMAR  
ALEXANDER PKWAY.

Please send any items of interest, announcements,  
and/or trail maintenance photos to  
[petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com). Thank you to ALL who  
maintain and contribute to the ATMC!



Repairing Sidehill Damage and Building Rock Retaining  
Wall