



January 2018

Appalachian Trail Maintenance:
Remember, No First Saturday Work Trip
in January.

**Response to request for February
blowdown surveillance in NNF appreciated**
We have 4 volunteers now to help with
identification of blowdown locations between
Wesser and Fontana, our 30 miles of AT in the
Nantahala National Forest, during Feb. 2018.
This allows for more efficient planning of
chainsaw blowdown removal in March. If you
are interested in helping, please contact
petrillad@gmail.com and let me know. I will
email all participants after the Holidays so
everyone can coordinate with each other.

**Announcement of Chainsaw
Certification/Re-certification Class offered
through Nantahala National Forest**
We have received the following information from
Heath Emmons, Natural Resource Specialist, of the
Nantahala National Forest Service regarding a
Chainsaw Certification and Recertification class in
February, 2018:
“We are planning a chainsaw refresher class on the
Tusquitee Rd. [near Murphy, NC] on February 24,
2018 (and 25th if a second day is needed for field
evaluations). We can accommodate a maximum
class size of 20 people. First priority will be for
those folks whose saw cards will expire in 2018,
second priority is new sawyers wanting certification,
and third priority will be all others who expire after
2018. I will need a response no later than January
30th, 2018. The class is filling fast and is expected
to be full by the Jan. 30 deadline. **Regarding new
sawyers, please do not attempt to qualify if you
are not comfortable handling a chainsaw or if
you do not have any prior experience. Current
1st aid and CPR will be required prior to the
class.**” Ranger Emmons also provided a current
list of names he has, with expiration dates of their
certificates (if the certificate was originally obtained
through the NNF). If you have questions or are
interested, please contact Heath Emmons at:
heathemmons@fs.fed.us, 828-479-6431 x 4102

**Interest in Thru-hike of A.T. in GSMNP for
Shelter Assessment and Surveillance,
Summer, 2018**
Steve Dunkin has expressed an interest in hiking
the approximately 72 miles of Appalachian Trail in
the Great Smoky Mountains National Park this
coming summer, to do much needed Shelter
surveillance and measurements (to plan for repairs,
etc.) as well as light trail maintenance. The
tentative plan is to hike North (Davenport Gap) to
South (Fontana), taking about 6 days. If you are
interested in this effort, please contact Steve
Dunkin at jsdunkin@roaneschools.com.

Two visiting College Volunteer groups in March
We will have visiting volunteer student groups from
Warren Wilson College in NC. and Eckerd College
in FL. in March to work on accessible parts of the
A.T. More details to come!



2017 SMHC Recognition of Trail Maintainers

The following Award recognition appeared in the SMHC Installation Banquet Program this year. We know many maintainers could not be there, and want to acknowledge your work, with great appreciation, in the newsletter.

SMHC trail maintainers work without any thought of compensation and, as the ATC notes in their recognition program, "... some very dedicated volunteers reject the thought of formal recognition for their efforts." But the number of volunteers and their total hours are so impressive as to warrant special recognition by those who hike the trail and use the shelters. Here is a list of our SMHC maintainers who achieved special levels of performance.

<New awards are underlined; asterisks indicate awards in prior years; **bold** indicates they did it again this year.>

SMHC Awards – Hours for One Year Ending 9/30/17

Platinum Pulaski (200 hours)

Pete Berntsen*, **Don Dunning***, Edward Fleming*,
Phyllis Henry*
Tom Howard*, **Franklin LaFond***, Mac McNutt*, Ed
Peck*
Steve Reagan*, Janet Snyder, Mark Snyder, Stew
Taylor*

Gold Pulaski (100 hours)

Tony Bolt*, Greg Crandall*, Lynn DiFiore*, Steve
Dunkin*
Nancy Dunning*, Steven Epps*, Pamela Fleming*,
James Fondren*, David S. Gray*,
Billy Heaton*, Pete James*, **Dick Ketelle***
Keith Mertz*, Ed Owens*, "Hopeful" Powell*, Pam
Reddoch*
Philip Royer*, Brian Schloff*, Jimmy Smith*, Janet
Snyder*, Mark Snyder*,
Jerry Troxler*, Wayne Williams*, Mike Wood*

Silver Pulaski (50 hours)

Jack Bray*, **Greg Crandall***, **Steve Dunkin***, **Nancy
Dunning***, **Ed Fleming***, **James Fondren*** Leonard
Gaddis, Crystal Gaddy*, John Gassler*, Jim Gehlhar,
Sam Georges, Tom Howard*, Keith Mertz*,
Randy Mitchell*, **Diane Petrilla***, **Russ Redden***, **Stew
Taylor***, **Jerry Troxler***, **Bob Williams***
Forty-one maintainers previously earned this award.

Bronze Pulaski (25 hours)

Amanda Beal, Tim Bigelow*, Karen Brackett*, Liam
Cavanaugh, Cindy Crandall*, Alexis Davis,
Steven Epps*, Jacob Fondren, Courtney Foney, Jimmy
Glascoc*,
Paul Glascoc*, **Patti Grady***, **Mike Harrington***, **Billy
Heaton*** Kyle Herrell, Larry Hines, Alec Holtzclaw*,

Maury Hudson, **John Knox***, Fawn Landrum, Peter
Landrum, Ayanna Lindsay, Niama McKinnie, **Ed Owens***,
Bob Palermo*, Sarah Paul, **Ed Peck***, "Hopeful Powell",
Pam Reddoch*, **Betty Royer***, **Philip Royer***, **Paul
Ruble***, **Tim Ryan***, **Dan Schmeising***, **Jay Schmid***,
Mark Shipley*, **Cindy Spangler***, Angel Tumminello,
Lizzie Lopez Vasquez, **Judy Wade***, Taylor Weatherbee,
Wayne Williams*

Sixty-nine maintainers previously earned this award.

ATC Awards – Hours since 10/1/2000 (Start of the Database)

ATC Vest (1000 hours)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION is greatly deserved by our
maintainers who have provided the greatest and
longest commitments over the history of our AT
involvement. We greatly appreciate the contribution of
these 1000-hour maintainers:

Pete Berntsen*, Don Dunning*, Ed Fleming*, James
Fondren*, Dennis Fulcher*, Jim Goddard*, Doris Gove*,
Phyllis Henry*, Steve Higdon*, Tom Howard*, Pete
James*, Bill Kerr*, Dick Ketelle*, Franklin LaFond*, Mac
McNutt*, Lou Murray*, Ed Peck*, Randy Puckett*,
Steve Reagan*, Philip Royer*, Stew Taylor, *Jerry
Troxler*, Wayne Williams*

ATC Cap (500 hours)

Jack Bray, Alan Duff*, Nancy Dunning*,
Ann Farrar*, Keith Mertz*, "Hopeful" Powell*, Jim
Quick*, Randy Rainey*,
Pam Reddoch*, Paul Ruble*, Janet Snyder, Mark
Snyder, Bob Williams*, Mike Wood*

ATC Patch (100 hours)

Bert Emerson, Crystal Gaddy, Tim Glascoc, John
Knox, Dan Martin,
Diane Petrilla, Cindy Spangler, Taylor Weatherbee
One-hundred-eighteen maintainers previously earned
the patch.

ATPO Awards (250 hours since eligibility date)

Thirty-five of our maintainers have earned this pass,
many of them more than once or twice.

The **SMHC Cap awards** are a one-time award, except
that a maintainer who works enough hours in a future
year to qualify for a higher-level award will receive an
additional cap in the higher category. Repeat awardees
in Platinum and Gold categories are given the option of
receiving a new cap with a small, circular ATC pin on the
visor, or just the pin. ***Please note: If your name is
underlined, you should have received a cap or patch. If
you have not, I may not have an address for you.
Please contact me at petrillad@gmail.com so we can
arrange to get your award to you!***

AT Work Trips from 11/11/17- 12/4/17

11/11 - Ed Owens, Matt Richardson, John Knox - Thunderhead to Spence (Bote Mt Tr) - Cleaned water bars from Bote Mtn to Rocky Top. Knocked down cone in privy. Shovel handle is broken, fire rake being used for privy. Filled mulch buckets. Hung bear cables. Matt Richardson used rope to get on top of shelter and sealed three known leaks and several more which were suspect. John Knox was not feeling well but started on trip. Got worse with a rough stomach bug and turned back. Thanks to John for his efforts.

11/15 - Wayne Powell, Bob Palermo, Ben Palermo, "Hopeful" Powell - Russell Field to Doe Knob - On a four-day work trip, we cleaned water bars, and water sources as well as removed blowdowns

11/18 - Pete Berntsen - False Gap to Boulevard Tr - Cleared water drains and did minor brush trimming between Dry Sluice Gap and False Gap. One leaning blowdown located 1.3-mile NE of DSG and is about ten feet above trail. Cleaned difficult water control devices from Icewater Spring to about 0.1-mile NE of the spring. Added one new step in this area and improved many existing steps. Filled two mulch buckets at privy leaving about 2/3 of one bin.

11/19 - Franklin LaFond, Maury Hudson - Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap - Inspected the 2 trail relocations near the shelter. Adjusted some flagging to comply with grade standards.

11/20 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Cleaned waterbars, widened some waterbars, raked leaves and cut dead trip roots, placed gargoyle on down slope of tree and reworked the waterbar away from the gargoyle. Cut small tree that was pulling up edge of trail.

11/24 - Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning - Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer - Packed 150 lbs mulch to Icewater Spring shelter privy (1 mulch storage bin 100+% full, other bin empty). Cleaned privy & restocked mulch buckets. Cleaned all waterbars and drainage features between Sweat Heifer trail junction and Boulevard trail junction, and cleaned drains in other sections where needed. This trail section is ready for the winter season and the annual transformation to a continuous sheet of ice.

11/26 - Bob Williams - Wright Gap to Wesser - Trimmed vegetation, cleaned water bars and drainage.

11/26 - Don Dunning - Mount Collins Privy - Packed 200 lbs mulch to Mt. Collins shelter privy (mulch storage bin 100% full). Cleaned privy & restocked mulch buckets. Cleaned waterbars and drainage features along access trail as needed.

Cleared 18-inch blowdown at Sugarland Mtn. trail junction.

11/28 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Completed all waterbar cleaning for winter, noticed some help was given on the last few waterbars. Always much appreciated when others pitch in to help out. Removed a large trip root from a dead tree. Took stock of what we can do come Spring.

11/29 - Phyllis Henry, John Knox, Ed Owens - Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr - Cleaned waterbars, drainage ditches, turnpike ditches, checked shelter and privy, filled mulch bucket. Cut back overhead and side vegetation.

12/1 - Phyllis Henry - AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin - Did Ridgerunner interviews with ATC staff and NPS staff by conference call.

12/2 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Cleaned out a few water bars. Located 4 large rocks to be used as steps in the spring. Located 3 locust logs to be used for steps. Had to hike in from Newfound Gap as the road to Clingmans Dome was closed. Saw one small tree across the AT north of the Fork Ridge trail junction by about 0.5 to 1 mile. About 12 inches diameter.

12/4 - Pete Berntsen - Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr - Carried mulch to Icewater Shelter privy, filled three mulch buckets for a total of four, dispersed privy cone, and swept privy. Finished cleaning all water control devices from below Icewater Spring to West of Masa Knob.

Maintenance 'Minders

Just a short reminder of suggestions on how to plan your yearly maintenance schedule! Happy New Year, 2018!!

Late winter or early Spring (or as soon as the snow melts)- Clear blowdowns and clean out drainage structures.

Mid-June- Cut annual growth, repaint blazes that need it.

August- Cut annual growth, repaint blazes that need it.

After leaf-fall- Clean out the drainage structures.

(Appalachian Trail Conference. *Appalachian Trail Fieldbook: Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Volunteers*. Harpers Ferry, WV: ATC, 2003. Print.)

Please send any items of interest, **photos**, and event notifications for the ATMC Newsletter to Diane Petrilla at petrillad@gmail.com. Thank you for **ALL** of the work you do!