



July 2018

**AT Maintenance Work Trip- Saturday July 14**

**[Note date change]**

This work trip will coincide with the AT's Konnarock Crew work in the Nantahala National Forest. This crew is typically made up of volunteers from across the country and often includes members of other trail associations. This annual crew builds treadway structures such as rock steps, log stairs, cribbing, and retaining walls. This year's project will be relocation of a trail section near Brown Fork. The hike to the worksite will be strenuous. Meet at Maryville Walmart <see list> at 8:00 am or Stecoah Gap parking lot at 9:00 am. Drive: 125 miles RT {@4¢ = \$5}. Please pre-register with trip leaders so that appropriate tools will be available.

Leaders: Franklin LaFond, [ox97game@aol.com](mailto:ox97game@aol.com). 678-464-3380; and Maury Hudson, [mihowe13@gmail.com](mailto:mihowe13@gmail.com). 540-629-1021.

**National Trails System Act 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service**

**Event: Invasive Species Removal- Saturday July 7 at Fontana Dam**

The ATC, in cooperation with TVA, REI, GSMNP and the USGFS is planning a work day to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NTSA on July 7. Leadership from the ATC will be present to coordinate activities. Volunteers will help to remove invasive species from the AT on both sides of Fontana Dam, where the National Forest meets the National Park. Work will occur between 9am and 1pm, and will be followed by a naturalist walk and other activities. REI will be contributing lunch and goodies and there will be musical entertainment swell! Participation is limited and preregistration is required. Please use this link to register and obtain further details:

<https://www.appalachiantrail.org/home/community/event/s/2018/07/07/default/50th-anniversary-service-at-dam>.

**New Section Leader Needed**

After many years of dedicated hard work, Don and Nancy Dunning would like to recruit new Section Leaders for their A.T. section, from Sweat Heifer to the Boulevard Trail. It is a 1.7 mile hike from Newfound Gap to Sweat Heifer, the start of their section, and the section itself is 1 mile long heading North on the A. T. from there. Section work of course includes cleaning waterbars, trimming vegetation and small limbs/small blowdowns, and other work. This is a great section to take on for a newcomer, since it is so close to road access. Please let me know ASAP if you are interested, and we can arrange some training! [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com). Many, many thanks to Don and Nancy for keeping this section so well maintained for so long!

**Have you seen wild hogs in your work?**

The GSMNP is interested on hearing from maintainers and hikers about wild hog sightings in the Park, as part of their continuing efforts to control this destructive, non-native population. If you do see any, please contact Bill Stiver, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, [bill\\_stiver@nps.gov](mailto:bill_stiver@nps.gov). It is important of course to report where they were seen, and rough numbers.

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



**Another Successful National Trails Day, Saturday  
June 2, 2018!**

June 2, 2018 marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Smoky Mountains Appalachian Trail Work Day, as part of National Trails day across the country. Over 75 people came out to work on a beautiful Saturday (although afternoon thunderstorms forced folks off the high elevations a bit early.) Eleven crews of approximately 6-8 people each, worked on sections of the AT from Davenport Gap (a separate dedicated crew!) to areas both north and south of Newfound Gap. We were pleased to see regular maintainers, loyal NTD participants from previous years, as well as new folks! Introductory remarks were made by the Superintendent of the GSMNP, Cassius Cash, Chief Backcountry Ranger Christine Hoyer, Morgan Summerville and Leanna Joyner from the ATC, and our own Don Dunning. Much regular maintenance was performed as the day progressed, as well as some larger projects. (see reports). At the end of the day, all enjoyed a wonderful picnic, provided by Froschauer Catering and great raffle door prizes donated by REI, Uncle Lem's Mercantile and Outfitters, Little River Trading Co, and River Sports Outfitters. All of the companies mentioned above were sponsors of NTD, along with Mainstay Suites and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee State Bank and Cash Hardware Co. in Sevierville and their support was *much* appreciated. This annual event was coordinated by the SMHC, ATC and NPS. A very special thanks to Don and Nancy Dunning who handled all registration work and organization, Cindy Spangler who arranged the fine picnic at Greenbriar, Pete Berntsen and Franklin La Fond who planned the crew work, and Steve Dunkin and Mac McNutt who prepared and delivered the tools. We also had another beautifully designed T-shirt this year, thanks to Karen Brackett's art and Phillip Royer's work. Special thanks to all Crew leaders, and their **Crews!** who again, by volunteering on NTD, contributed tremendously valuable maintenance work on the A.T.!



*Opening remarks by Superintendent Cash and Ranger Hoyer*





*Tim Bigelow's and Ed Fleming's awesome crew at Davenport Gap!*



*John Knox's crew from Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mountain Tr.*



*Same crew, working in the deluge!*



*Patti Grady's and Diane Petrilla's crew from Clingmans Dome to Mt. Love*



*Serious work from Newfound Gap to Sweat Heifer, Mark and Janet Snyder leading.*



*Same crew, working hard!*



*Billy Heaton's crew for Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong*



*Picnic at Greenbriar*

**Again, thanks to so many who sponsored, organized and participated in this great event!**

**A. T. Work Trips from 5/5/2018 to 6/15/2018**

**5/5 - Jack Bray, Lillian Bray - Spence Field Privy -** Surveyed privy dig site and took tool inventory. Picked up bag (10 lbs) of surface toilet paper from behind existing privy and carried out.

**5/12 - John H Gassler - Lower Mt Cammerer Tr to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI) -** Trimmed vegetation from uphill side of trail. Marked 15 sites for anticipated trail work for National Trails Day.

**5/13 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap -** Put ribbons on first half mile of trail for National Trails Day. Ribbons indicate work needed. Also, cut blackberry fronds along trail.



*And several crews got to see one of these non-maintainers while working on NTD!*

5/14 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cut an uprooted tree that had fallen toward trail, trunk of tree was near head height. Began to clear vistas(2) of hundreds of blackberry vines.

5/14 - Pete Berntsen - **Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr** - Cleaned all water control devices with exception of area within 0.05 mile SW of shelter. Reset one rock step and added one rock step 0.05 mile SW of shelter. Reset bottom step at spring that was completely dislodged. Reset one rock step and added one log step close to 0.2 mile NE of spring. Ridgerunner removed tarp from shelter and I dispersed all wood chips from the shelter. Picked up microtrash from the shelter.

5/15 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap**- Put ribbons on rest of trail that needs desired work for NTD. Broke off pointed rocks through an area of protruding rocks which create a trip hazard as well as dead roots. Removed three trees which were leaning down to trail. Cut numerous dead and low hanging limbs/branches above the trail. Put finishing touches to vistas.

5/19 - John H Gassler - **Lower Mt Cammerer Tr to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI)** - Trimmed vegetation and dead limbs from uphill side of trail and overhead. Cleared debris off trail.

5/19 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap**- Looked for tree that Pete B. told us about. Tree was a potential widow maker, however, when upper portion of tree fell to the ground it became settled/wedged in a non- threatening manner to the trail user. The fallen tree's upper branches were pulled off by tossing a rope over the loose branches and pulling to snap them off. Removed a tree that was pulling up the side of the trail. The tree was loosening original stone work holding the trail in place. Busted with sledge exposed sandstone and made smoother walking surface. The loose stonework was broken into smaller stones to be used as crush for the steps which will be made on NTD.

5/19 - Pete Berntsen - **Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Clingmans Dome** - Flagged work needed for National Trails Day.

5/20 - Steven Epps - **Cody Gap to Brown Fork Gap** - Cleared a couple of small blowdowns, recribbed this section that had sloped completely off, and lopped a lot of the trail, as well as identifying sections that need swingblading for my next trip.

5/21 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap**- Had to wait out a major downpour

when we arrived at NFG. (Mark took a nap) After the downpour we cut growth along the trail and cleared waterbars. Removed a small tree that the rain had brought down and added a flat rock to a waterbars' drainage to disperse run off in a less aggressive fashion. Widened the trail in two areas to about 2.5 feet, by busting upside sandstone. Removed stone was then smashed for fill for steps.

5/22 - Taylor Weatherbee, Kristi Knight - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Hauled locust wood from lower section up to area they will be used on National Trails Day. Found some nice large flat rocks to be used on NTD.

5/23 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap**- Walked the trail and noticed people had pulled ribbons off of trail. Probably were curious and pulled to read and resulted in a tearing the ribbons. Cut weeds and cleared waterbars.

5/24 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap**- Pulled locust log up the bank to trail. A hiker assisted with our efforts to get the log off the side. We split the log in half (now quartered). We carried the logs one at a time up the trail about three-fourths a mile to get it closer to the site of use. Made sure the rest of the trails waterbars were in good shape. We finished in a major cloud burst.

5/24 - Pete Berntsen - **Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer** - Inventoried number of invasive plants around Icewater Shelter and reported findings to Christine Hoyer. Fireplace was in excellent condition except for sections of a book that had been torn out and thrown into the fireplace. Picked up and carried out the book pages and microtrash picked up in the shelter. Cleaned long water drain located along the trail just south of the shelter area. Positioned tools (rock bars and mattocks) near National Trails Day work locations between Sweat Heifer trail and The Boulevard.

5/26 - Randy Mitchell, Russell Redden - **Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top** - Cut weeds and briars from Low Gap to top of Cosby Knob. Removed tree overhanging trail south of shelter. Cleared water bars in section. Inspected slide repair and noted that tread is now wider but that work by the stone masons may still be in process. There were buckets and a large amount of rebar still on site. Inspected the shelter and noted the signs posted that shelter was currently closed due to aggressive bear activity. Did not see the bear. The lower door hinge for the privy was damaged and the door was hanging by the upper hinge. Was able to repair the lower hinge with a claw hammer in the tool box and used

a large tent stake as a pin for the door hinge. Noted the tree reported by Don Dunning but did not do any further cutting due to heavy rain at the time.

**5/27 - Barbara Allen - Davenport Gap to Chestnut Br Trail** - Tagged work needed for National Trails Day on June 2. Cleaned Davenport Shelter and picked up trash around shelter. Checked water source. Informed tent camper at shelter about abiding by rules and LNT.

**5/27 - Ed Peck, Stewart Taylor - Davenport Gap to Lower Mt Cammerer Tr** - Using crosscut saw and axe we cut the tree that had fallen across the trail.



*The humble report above refers to this monster of a blowdown!*

**5/30 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap**- Re-ribboned the trail for NTD, depending on level of expertise of group/or size of work group. Got caught in another downpour, which indicated where work of water removal was still warranted. Flagged that area. Continued to carry the locust logs another .3 miles closer to the spot needed on NTD.

**6/1 - Mike Harrington - Sassafras Gap (Pk) to Lewellyn Branch** - Cut vegetation and cleared waterbars.

**6/2 - Adam Monroe, Leanna Joyner, Logan Bolden, Allison Belgarde, Bob Williams, Shannon O'Shaughnessy - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Established 4 rolling grade dips, knocked the berm off several sections of Trail, removed a step and added a drain on a set of steps, significantly improved several (6) existing

**6/2 - Billy Heaton, Davis Wax, Katie Oliver, Larry Van Dyke, Casey Cordy, Natisha Webb - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr** - Our team continuously rotated out loppers, grass and cane whackers and water bar

workers as we went. We cut back encroaching hemlock boughs and other tree limbs. One of our S.W.E.A.T. crew workers said that he counted 54 water bars and drains cleaned out/improved or created.

**6/2 - Diane Petrilla, Patti Grady, Eric Keller, Meg Mabbs, Bill Gooch, Marissa Hahn, Steven Hahn - Mt Love to Clingmans Dome** - This NTD crew of 7 worked hard to clear and re-route waterbars, create 1 new waterbar, fill in treadway dips with rock and dirt, remove trip roots, and place diversion logs in an area of trail that has been greatly widened around both sides of a tree. The weather was threatening, and loud thunder forced us to quit sooner than we would have liked, but much was accomplished!

**6/2 - Dick Kettle, Pete Berntsen, Steven Epps, Alan Day, Ken Wise - Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer** - This National Trails Day team did tread improvement work trail north from Sweat Heifer Trail Junction to the top of the climb at the vista point that looks outover Thomas Divide. We put in 20+ feet of turnpike in a boggy section, built a strong rock waterbar, added one rock step to an existing step section, reinforced the waterbar, gargoyled bypass routes around the steps, added a locust step with rock fill where an existing waterbar was at risk of failure due to erosion, broke off rock "trippers" in the tread to improve the walkability, added crush and fill to a second sort of boggy area. Some of Don Dunning's crew joined us for the final couple of hours. They added momentum to our group. We were chased off the ridge top and back to the cars by the 2:00 o'clock thunderstorm.

**6/2 - Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning, Lee Barron, Brian Groenhout, Terry Martin, Mark Stanfill - Boulevard Tr to Newfound Gap** - Our outstanding National Trails Day team did an incredible job backpacking lots of much-needed mulch to resupply the Icewater Spring shelter privy. The mulch supply at Icewater Spring had become seriously depleted to a critically low level, and is now restored to provide an adequate mulch supply for near-term privy operations. After depositing mulch at Icewater, the team performed trail maintenance on the return to the trailhead, including cleaning of waterbars and drains, and repairing rock waterbars. Our team members also got to join in to assist other teams working back towards NFG, and we were able to admire the outstanding work done by these other teams as we were chased off the mountain by a thunderstorm.

**6/2 - John Knox, Kathleen Kitzmiller, Venture Crew 4 Group - Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr** - Removed water/mud and filled in trail in two areas towards the

Sugarland Mountain end. Cleaned and extended several water bars. Was very

6/2 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder, Natriefia Miller, Mark Buckles, Franklin LaFond - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - National Trail Day work! Carried the two locust logs for steps the final 300 yards to the work site. ( Actually Franklin carried them as the rest of us cheered him onward.) Reset an existing step, and added two more. Moved a very large rock/boulder to be used as a middle step, the lightning forced us to stop before the lower step could be put in place. Had created two new water bars prior to the rainstorm, as well as finished weed cutting. Not as much completed as hoped(rain), however, very proud of the work done.

6/2 - Philip Royer, Betty Royer, Kelly Bracket, Julie Labhart, Lynda Bryan, Jim Quick, Taylor Weatherbee - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Installed steps, some locust wood hauled up previously, 2 brought up from Fork Creek junction today. Also made some steps that were too high more comfortable using some large rocks. Got run off by thunder storm so left some work for another day.

6/2 - Scott McClure, Becky Emmerson, Bert Emmerson, Tracy Gray, Bucky Gray, Mike Waters - **Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir** - Cleaned out water bars and carried dirt to fill steps and back up logs. Clipped back briars and ferns that had grown over the trail . Trail is in good shape . Will need to go back and clip briars and ferns they are growing very fast due to heavy rains . Thunderstorms rained us off the mountain.

6/2 - Scott Medlyn, Chris Darnold, Jason Ensley, Brad Sites - **Goshen Prong Tr to Welch Ridge Tr** - We cleared 35 water bars, cleared vegetation, removed smaller debris and spoke with 15-18 hikers about NTD or LNT ethics on this NTD work trip.

6/2 - Tim Bigelow, Barbara Allen, Edward Fleming, John H Gassler, Blake Lawson, Hettie Manning, Christine Popp, Dennis U. Spjut - **Davenport Gap to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' E)** - Group 1: Extensive reworking of most waterbars up to Chestnut Ridge Trail . 2-3 new locust log waterbars installed. Davenport Gap Shelter checked. Vegetation trimmed. Some trail leveling. Waterbar cleanout during a downpour.Group 2: Clearing of waterbars between Chestnut Ridge to 1/2 mile past lower Mt Cammerer (most had been a month ago). Extensive vegetation removal between Chestnut Ridge and Lower Mt Cammerer. Above Mt Cammerer vegetation trimming and several waterbars reworked extensively Additional clearing of trail muck from lower

down waterbars during downpour. Minor blowdowns cleared.

6/3 - Michael Vaughn - **NL & Website** - I have investigated the problem of the Work Done field text being transmitted to the recipients as one long line with no line breaks. This happens when the work done text is sent as a long paragraph, with no line breaks entered by the reporting party. The line breaks are inserted and appear in the work report emails before they are forwarded to the recipients, but then were being removed when the emails are forwarded. I have changed several settings, and tested them.

6/3 - Steve Dunkin - **Community Events** - Picked up tools for NTD at Mac's McNutt's barn day before NTD. Delivered tools to Sugarlands. June 3rd cleaned tools and returned them to Mac's.

6/4 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Set rock solidly in place that we had to leave loose when thunderstorm hit on NTD. Then placed 2 more large rock steps and one locust log step just below the first stone step.

6/7 - Don Dunning - **Pecks Corner to Newfound Gap** - Hiked NFG to Pecks/Hughes Ridge to join Steve Dunkin for planned maintenance activities. By arrival, it was evident that this old maintainer had bit off more than he could chew. We were unable to complete the planned chainsaw projects or carry mulch to Tricorner Knob. We did carry mulch from Hughes Ridge to Pecks Corner and cleared approximately 8 trees from the AT between Pecks Corner and Dry Sluice Gap, including 2 significant trail obstacles.

6/7 - Keith Mertz, Pam Reddoch - **Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap** - Cleaned water bars, cut back lots of vegetation and removed limbs from trail. Removed lots of trip hazard roots from the trail bed.

6/7 - Pete Berntsen - **Gap W of Masa Knob to Sweat Heifer** - Finished NTD projects (rain delay) including finishing work on turnpike, filling low area past turnpike, and removing two broken rock water bars and installing grade dips. Carried rock bar and mattock from work area to Icewater Shelter storage. Finished cleaning/refurbishing water control devices and painted blazes between The Boulevard and West of Masa Knob. Also repaired a few steps in this area. Added one water drain just SE of Icewater shelter on the AT and another next to the shelter. Swept privy floor and dispersed cone. Bin two is about 90% full. Carried rock bar and mattock from NTD work site to Newfound Gap.



*Beautiful rock step work by Pete.*

**6/7 - Steve Dunkin - Pecks Corner to Newfound Gap -**

Hiked from Newfound Gap to Peck's Corner to clear blow downs and haul mulch from storage area to Pecks privy. Spend June 5 at Icewater and filled privy mulch buckets. Note: Don Dunning has details of blow down work and mulch.

**6/9 - Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning - Boulevard Tr to Newfound Gap -**

Packed mulch to Icewater Spring shelter privy. Completed trail maintenance remaining from NTD, including cleaning waterbars/drains of sediment and cutting back vegetation between Sweat Heifer trail junction and Boulevard Trail junction.

**6/10 - Bob Williams - Wright Gap to Wesser -**

Trimmed vegetation; cleaned waterbars silted over from our recent rains; cleared trail about 1/2 mile S of Wright Gap. Blowdown report submitted.

**6/11 - Don Dunning - Mulch Operations -**

Many thanks to the S.W.E.A.T crew for helping to pack much-needed mulch to the Double Springs shelter privy, on this rainy day. We started out in a light rain and returned to the parking lot in a heavy rain, but enjoyed a break in the rain for most of the hike immersed in the clouds.

**6/13 - Pete Berntsen - Gap W of Masa Knob to**

**Newfound Gap -** Minor brush trimming from Newfound Gap to The Boulevard and full brush and grass trimming to West of Masa Knob. Trimmed grass around shelter and trimmed and cleaned long drain to bear cables. Dug drain from in front of shelter as grass had grown into drain to the point that it was no longer effective. Filled hole with rock and dirt at NE end of shelter where drip-line starts. Cleaned drain located about 20 feet NE of shelter. Added two buckets of mulch to privy leaving about one-half of one bin full. (Also relocated two mice from the mulch bin.)

