



September 2018

**A.T. Maintenance Work Trip- Saturday**  
**September 8**

On this A.T. work-trip, participants will cut weeds and prune larger vegetation between the Lower Mount Cammerer Trail and the Mount Cammerer side trail. Participants are encouraged to bring appropriate clothing and gloves and to plan for a long day that, for those interested, will include a side trip to the Mount Cammerer fire tower. Please note- all volunteer help is greatly appreciated since vegetation overgrowth is significant this year! **Pre-registration with the leader is required so that needed tools will be available. As part of pre-registration, the leader will provide for a meeting time and place and any other pertinent information.** Leader: Mark Shipley, [shipleymark57@gmail.com](mailto:shipleymark57@gmail.com), or 865-388-5261.

**Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee**  
**Meeting**

The next meeting of the ATMC will be held on **September 4**, at 6:30 pm, at TnBank, 1311 W Lamar Alexander parkway, Maryville, TN. **Please note the date change from the last Newsletter.** There have been some changes in timelines for major projects including the Spence privy project and airlift, and the Davenport Gap shelter roof replacement. We will also continue discussion about plans going forward for Mulch Operations. Volunteers for all of these projects are needed and appreciated; please try to attend and see how you may be able to lend a hand!

**Leave No Trace Master Education Course**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is offering a Leave No Trace Master Educator Course from September 6-10, 2018. This five-day course will take place in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Participants will deepen their understanding of the seven principles of Leave No Trace. Master Educator Courses are designed for educators, guides, volunteers, agency employees, people who recreate, as well as outdoor professionals. Successful graduates of the Master Educator Course gain skills to teach Leave No Trace techniques and ethics to their clients, friends and family in a variety of settings - such as schools, camps, parks, wilderness and front country areas. Space is limited! There is also a discount for A.T. partners, such as maintainers, of \$580 (as compared to \$700 for the general public). Cost includes course materials, meals, and shared camping equipment. For more information contact Marian Orlousky: [morlousky@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:morlousky@appalachiantrail.org), or 717-260-3217



Leave No Trace



## **Why it's so Important to Document your Work!**

At the recent Volunteer Leadership Meeting at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, W.V., we learned how important it is that we submit an accurate tally of everyone's work hours at the end of the fiscal year (September 30, yearly). When you submit your hours through the SMHC website, please be sure to list all time you spent in A.T. related activities. Many of you are very modest about your work! But these hours translate very tangibly into funding from the Federal government for A.T. projects, help with land acquisition and preservation. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail volunteers, along the entire Trail, account annually for over 200,000 volunteer hours, second only to the Golden Gate National Park (comprised of several Parks). Please see the list below for activities ***performed for the A.T.*** that are reportable:

### **Examples of field work-**

- Trail construction and maintenance, boundary maintenance.
- Construction/maintenance of shelters, privies, bridges or other facilities.
- Trail assessments.
- Natural resource work, such as monitoring threatened and endangered species, managing invasive plants.

### **Examples of additional work-**

- A.T. management: local management planning, regional partnership committees, other A.T. committee meetings and preparation), biennial conference planning and on-site.
- Club management and administration: participating in meetings, accounting/bookkeeping, database management, newsletters, managing Websites, office work, etc. *[This includes ATMC meetings. We will start tracking your travel and meeting times in the Database]*

- Training/workshops: organizing, conducting, or participating in chainsaw certification and other Trail-related workshops.
- Outreach and education, including planning and leading hikes on the A.T., presentations at schools and community events, developing club brochures. *[This pertains to hikes led with a specific purpose about education regarding the A.T., and the leader's travel and work hours should be documented]*
- Volunteer ridgerunners, caretakers, Trail patrol. *[We currently do not have these programs]*
- Boundary encroachments and mitigation, researching deeds, legal work related to land protection, attending hearings and meetings on utility proposals or Trail threats.

### **Examples of activities that should not be reported-**

- Participating in (as opposed to leading) recreational hikes.
- Planning or attending social events, such as dinners and picnics.
- Activities not related to the Appalachian Trail or its side trails.

Please note, if you have any questions about or problems reporting your hours, please e-mail me at [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com). Your work counts for SO much!

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### **A.T. Work Trips from 5/24/2018 to 8/15/2018**

5/24 - Edward Fleming, Pamela Fleming - **Davenport Gap Shelter** - Measured roof of Davenport Gap Shelter, worked up a material list, and got an estimate on roofing materials.

6/12 - Edward Fleming - **Other Work** - Went to Sevierville and picked up a Jobsite Box for the Spence privy project, Delivered the box to Soak Ash, later picked up paint and other materials for the box.

**6/29 - Edward Fleming - Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Sunup Knob** - Trimmed back encroaching vegetation, cleared water bars and drainages, cut out one blowdown.

**7/11 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cut vegetation for .7 mile North of NFG. Also, selected tools from Sugarlands, which may be needed for the Sat. workday in North Carolina.

**7/23 - Franklin LaFond - Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap** - Worked with Konnarock Crew on the Brown Fork relocation. Change privy position at Brown Fork Shelter. Cleared vegetation on shelter trail, and from shelter and Bushnell Knob. Removed 1 small blowdown. Added 1 log waterbar. Added 3 drainages. Rehab of 30 ft of sidehill in area of severe trail slippage.

**7/25 - Pete Berntsen - Dry Sluice Gap to Boulevard Tr** - Carried mulch to Icewater privy and filled 1.5 buckets. One bin approximately 0.75% full. Cut grass from trails around shelter. Added drain on trail NE end of shelter and used grass to fill in "shortcut" path to the AT. Following heavy rain, did minor brush trim and water drain improvements between The Boulevard and west of Masa Knob. Extensive brush and grass trim from Dry Sluice Gap to 0.8 mile NE of the gap.

**7/25 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - One log step, 2 stone steps, and one stone water bar. Cleaned a few water bars

**7/27 - Mark Shipley - Cosby Knob Top to Camel Gap** - Re-stocked mulch at Cosby Knob Shelter privy and cut weeds from Camel Gap to Cosby Knob Shelter

**8/4 - Diane Petrilla, Pete Berntsen, Taylor Weatherbee, Andy Zimmerman, Steve Hill, Arnold Guzman, Tony Anderson, Lori Anderson, Phillip Clarkson, Haley Ferguson - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr** - This incredible group of maintainers and volunteers backpacked 17, 20lb. bags of mulch to Double Springs shelter, filling both bins to 80%, filling the privy mulch buckets, then sweeping out the privy. After lunch (one visiting Trail Angel, Arnold, brought watermelon!) some water drains were cleared out to allow drainage of

large amount of standing water on the pathway to the privy. Trash was picked up around the shelter, including a large garbage bag of trash or food supply that had clearly been hauled down the trail a bit by a bear before being torn apart. On the 2.8 mile hike back to Clingmans Dome, heavy summer vegetation was safely cleared from both sides of the trail, with this group of volunteers doing heavy work with scythes, swingblades, shears and saws. One new volunteer earned the nickname of Haley "Sickle-chick" after watching her deftly clear overgrowth with Phillip's scythe! Near Clingmans Dome, two medium sized blowdowns were sawed through and removed using handsaws and strong arms. This group accomplished much this day; it was such a pleasure to work with them!



*From left to right, Steve, Haley, Phillip, Lori, Tony, Diane, Taylor, Andy, Pete, Arnold*

**8/4 - Dick Ketelle - Davenport Gap to Lower Mt Cammerer Tr** - Cut out several small obstacles in the trail with a hand saw

**8/5 - Jeff Cooper, Angela Cooper - Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer** - Cleared water bars, trimmed vegetation encroaching upon trail and picked up litter.

8/7 - Edward Fleming, George Minnigh - **Other Work** - Installed a hasp and other hardware on the new Spence job box, cut and installed Trex material in the lock cavities in the job box, painted the job box.

8/12 - Dick Kettle - **Davenport Gap to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI)** - I cut back years worth of rhododendron, blackberries, and wild hydrangea growth plus nettles in the switchback section below the big rock overlook at the CCC wall.

8/12 - Taylor Weatherbee, Kristi Knight - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Cleaned water bars, built a stone water bar, placed large stones as steps on a turnpike, Removed a fallen tree that was obstructing water exiting the trail, did a little trimming.

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**“National Parks Traveler” mentions Volunteers for the Appalachian Trail!**

The National Parks Traveler, a wonderful on-line newsletter devoted to our National Park System, <https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/> recently ran an article on how **Private Philanthropy Fills the Gaps of Deferred Maintenance** for many National Parks in our country. Large donors and philanthropists were mentioned, but so were the volunteers of the A.T.!

*“One regionally focused group that is grappling with similar issues is the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, a private membership organization devoted to protecting and maintaining the 2,180-mile Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which crosses 14 states from Maine to Georgia. ATC’s new president and CEO, Suzanne Dixon, has made it her mission to build support among a broad spectrum of trail lovers for both fundraising and volunteering purposes. The Appalachian Trail alone represents some \$20 million of the NPS backlog, she says, so the needs are great all along the footpath. She is hoping to broaden awareness of the trail’s natural, historical, and cultural value to private donors and members of Congress alike, frequently pointing out to audiences that the trail is the largest remaining tract of contiguous undeveloped land on the Eastern Seaboard.*

*“Private philanthropy is more important than ever, and we do enjoy a great deal of support, but that still doesn’t completely protect the trail from budget cuts, deferred maintenance, and government shutdowns,” Dixon says. “Private donations, corporate philanthropy, and our volunteers all play a massive role. Our power is in the networks we build.”*

*Although the trail benefits greatly from donations, Dixon says that the organization has calculated that their volunteers have contributed \$5.6 million worth of staff-hours to the trail annually (proving that you don’t have to be a Rockefeller or a Rubenstein to make a difference).”*

As Fall approaches, remember there still remains vegetation on your sections to cut back, and waterbars to be cleared, especially as leaves start to fall! *Thank you for getting out there!*



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!