



October 2018

AT Maintenance Work Trip- October 6, 2018

The October A.T. maintenance work trip will take place about 1.2 miles northeast of Newfound Gap. We will work to return the trail tread to its proper location and improve water drainage in the area. The work will require moving rocks and possibly adding steps. Participants will need to dress for the weather and bring work gloves, lunch, and water. Meet at Alcoa Food City at 7:30 am or at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 8:30 am. Drive: 90 miles RT {@5¢ = \$4.50}. Leader: Pete Berntsen, peteberntsen@gmail.com, 865-256-7896.

End-of-Year Work Documentation- SO important!

We are now preparing the end-of-year volunteer hours reports for the Great Smokie Mountains National Park, the Nantahala National Forest, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. If you have some work trips, training hours, trail assessment time, project planning time, outreach and education, or other activities related to the AT, please submit a Work Trip report. If you have **any** question about what might qualify, or how to submit, please e-mail me at petrillad@gmail.com or call me at 931-224-5149. The hours are critical to obtain federal funding for the entities above and help to preserve and protect the A.T.! The Park has requested the reports by September 24, and the others are due by September 30. We are preparing them now. Thank you for your work and your help with documentation!

Help Needed for Rocky Top!

At this time, there are 3 more sessions of Rocky Top, **with the October 4-11 session completely without volunteers.** For our newer maintainers, Rocky Top is a vital yearly series of sessions of trail work, with a group of volunteers, led by a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Typically they work on sections of Appalachian Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains NP that are more difficult for day-hiker maintainers to get to, and that need more in-depth work. I am sending this to ask if anyone would consider

volunteering for this session. The contact person is bbarry@appalachiantrail.org and **here is a link** to the on-line application. ALL folks are welcome, given the provisions on the application. Thank you for your consideration!

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=utVD0lb6O0SfRwscnhG1Slrlz5BiazZOr0YYdw36KEIUM0VSSEISR0tGNTk2T1JQOEJFSFZaWTdUUS4u>

Mulch Team Volunteers Needed!

With the retirement of Don Dunning from management of mulch operations, we are re-configuring the “system” to take care of re-supply of mulch to the privies on the AT in the GSMNP. Phillip Clarkson has generously volunteered to manage mulch at the preparation stage, at the Elkmot storage tent and to supply bags to the HQ maintainer shed. Later this winter (off-season) we hope to discuss more formal re-supply arrangements with equestrian clubs and the Park, for re-supply of mulch to Cosby, Tricorner and Pecks. We have a reliable horse rider who kindly supplies mulch to Spence. That leaves the 3 “hikable” shelters of Icewater, Mt. Collins and Double Spring Gap. We have filled the volunteer list for Mt. Collins. **Would you consider volunteering to carry 1-2 bags of mulch to Icewater or Double Spring every couple of months between April and December (starting 2019) and thus be on the IW or DS “team?”** We are hoping to develop teams of 3-5 people for each shelter. You can carry mulch at your convenience (don’t have to go with other folks necessarily). We supplement mulch resupply to shelters with trips by college groups, a team on National Trails Day, and an August Work Trip. At the peak of through-hiker season in the Spring, the need is the greatest. Once we have volunteers, I can explain all procedures, supply keys if needed, etc. Clearly Don was doing the work of about 10 people, since that’s what it’s going to take to assume his duties! We cannot thank him (and Nancy!) enough for their work in mulch operations! Please contact me at petrillad@gmail.com if you can help. Thank you!



Welcome to Matt Derrickson!

We'd like to welcome Matt Derrickson as our new AT Ridgerunner for the next 6 weeks. Christine Popp, the long-season RR, is leaving a bit early for a new job, and Matt has agreed to step in to cover the remaining Fall period. Matt grew up in New Hampshire, grew up loving the outdoors as he attended summer camp and eventually became a camp counselor. He attended Keene State and graduated with a Political Science/Economics major in 2015. He through-hiked the A.T. in 2016, and brings Ridgerunner experience with him, having served in that capacity on the New Jersey A.T. in 2017/2018. We are deeply grateful to Christine for all of her hard work, and wish her the best! Welcome Matt, and hopefully some of us will get to see you on the trail!



Matt Derrickson, new A.T. Ridgerunner

A reminder to all.....

This year has been one for heavy vegetation growth on the A.T. in many sections. Please set aside time to get to your section to take care of water bars and **trimming**, especially before the closure of Clingmans Dome Rd. on December 1. If you need any help, in any way, please contact me at petrillad@gmail.com.



A.T. Work Trips from 7/18/2018 to 9/15/2018

7/18 - Don Dunning, Jeff Cooper, Neil Snepp, Amanda Beal, Jean Gauger, Franklin LaFond, Pete Berntsen, Dick Ketelle, George Ritter, Phyllis Henry, Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder, Cindy Spangler - **Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - ATMC Meeting

7/28 - John H Gassler - **Davenport Gap to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI)** - Brushed annual growth where needed, trimmed vegetation on uphill side of trail S of Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail. Checked Davenport shelter, cleaned trash from inside and around shelter, checked water source, and carried out trash.

8/5 - John H Gassler - **Chestnut Br Trail to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI)** - Trimmed vegetation from trail on section; cleared one 10" diameter blowdown from trail between Chestnut Branch Trail and Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail.

8/7 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cleared brush/weeds to Sweat Heifer, also cleared waterbars the July rains had begun to fill-in.

8/12 - Diane Petrilla - **AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Attended ATC's Volunteer Leadership Meeting at National Conservation Training Center. Attended talks, roundtable discussions, and participated in peer group activities with representatives from all AT Maintaining Clubs in Eastern US, ATC representatives, National Forest and National Park representatives, and AT Community partners. Very informative especially around issues of volunteer recruitment and retention.

8/13 - Diane Petrilla - **AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Participated in telephone conference call with ATC, other Clubs, and a consulting firm regarding Maintainer Database management.

8/15 - Pete Berntsen - **Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr** - Trimmed vegetation and cleaned water control devices between Icwater Spring Shelter and west of Masa Knob. Completed drain from path leading from shelter toward spring and added an additional drain. Added mulch to three empty buckets in privy and swept. Completed vegetation trimming from Dry Sluice Gap to one mile beyond. Refurbished 211 feet of trail to include one carved rock step, eight rock steps, and two water grade dips.

8/22 - Neil Snepp, Ernie Wiles - **Russell Field Shelter** - Shelter Survey for the Russell Field Shelter with Ernie Wiles. Checked shelter condition, completed survey form, took photos of shelter and area. Scanned report, named photos according to defined convention, uploaded photos and report to Google Docs site.

8/23 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Began the project to rebuild the upper three courses of cribbing stone work that has been pushed over the side due to erosion and vandalism. Gathered many flat stones from the downhill side and relayed those stones to form a wall. Gathered numerous stones which became smaller due to the sledghammer. Mixed dirt in with the crush to raise the trail height 8-12 inches to run flush with the crib wall. Reclaimed about 10 feet of the 28 feet needed.

8/24 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Continued on the project about .45 mile from NFG. Set cribbing stone 2-3 courses high and filled in with crushed stone and dirt in a effort to reclaim to the original trail height. (We are still probably a foot lower than where it was originally.) Completed about 10 more feet of trail.

8/25 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Finished the project. Relayed about 1-2 courses of stone cribbing about 5 feet in length than filled the trail with dirt and crush to make ballast for a tread way. The dirt and crush has made a much smoother section of trail and hopefully has stopped the crib wall from deteriorating further.

8/25 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Boulevard Tr** - Filled mulch buckets and trimmed area around Icewater shelter. Dug hole deeper and re-seated shelter sign at NE side of trail. Cleaned sediment from two drains SW of shelter. Replaced rock step at 0.2 mile NE of shelter. Signs at Charlies Bunion were leaning so supported with additional rocks. At one mile NE of Dry Sluice Gap, cut roots from blow-down tree so that hikers do not need to leave the trail. Also refurbished 130 feet of trail in this area to include adding four new rock steps and four new reverse grade dips. Removed many trip-hazard rocks.

8/28 - Steve Dunkin - Other Work - Tool box inventory at Cosby Ranger Station

8/29 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Boulevard Tr** - Carried mulch to Icewater Spring Shelter. Found new broom in tool box and used it to sweep out privy. Continued trail reconditioning (about 40 feet) to include one improved, hardened reverse grade dip. GPS indicates that I am now to 1.07 mile NE of Dry Sluice Gap.

8/29 - Wayne Williams - **Collins Gap to Mt Love** - Brushed the trail from Collins Gap tp Mt. Love.

9/2 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Boulevard Tr** - Carried mulch to Icewater Shelter privy. Swept privy and filled one mulch bucket. Used saw to remove two roots protruding from side of trail at locations close to 0.25 mile SW of Charlies Bunion entrance. Completed rehabilitation of 42 feet of trail to include one new rolling grade dip. GPS now indicates completed rehab to 1.08 mile NE of Dry Sluice Gap.

9/3 - Bob Williams - **Wright Gap to Wesser** - Cut back brush along entire length of section, especially close to Wright Gap. Also cleared water bars on section.

9/3 - Franklin LaFond - **Fontana Dam to Stekoah Gap** - Walked section to assess storm damage. Removed a lot of small limb debris. Removed 12 small blowdowns. Noted 4 large blowdowns that will require chainsaw. Cut vegetation between Stecoah Gap and Jacob's Ladder. Cleaned waterbars from Fontana Marina to 1 mile N. of Walker Gap.

9/3 - Jack Bray, Alec Holtzclaw - **Miry Ridge to Thunderhead** - Also cleared a short section south of the Thunderhead geological survey marker to the first bald. There is still heavy brush between Thunderhead and Spence Field. One blowdown still needs to be cut near Derrick Knob.

9/4 - George Ritter, Diane Petrilla, Pete Berntsen, Cindy Spangler, Don Dunning, Jeff Cooper, Jack Bray, Phillip Clarkson, Taylor Weatherbee, Phyllis Henry, Steve Dunkin, Neil Snepp, Dick Ketelle, Franklin LaFond, Philip Royer - **AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - ATMC Meeting to discuss multiple projects.

9/5 - Cindy Spangler - **Mt Love to Clingmans Dome** - Cut back weeds and swept the trail. Spent an hour+ clearing the side trail from the tower to the AT--It was barely visible.

9/6 - Taylor Weatherbee, Kristi Knight - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Cleaned water bars, installed 2 stone steps and one small turnpike.

9/8 - Mark Shipley, Cindy Spangler, Edward Fleming, Diane Petrilla, Arnold Guzman, Janet Snyder, Mark Snyder, Randy Mitchell, Russell Redden - **Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Low Gap** - Cleared vegetation along the trail, mostly from Low Gap to Sunop Knob. One member cleared vegetation roughly one-quarter mile north from the Mt. Cammerer access trail. Dug out some waterbars and improved drainage flow.



Getting ready at Cosby for hike up Low Gap



Improving drainage



Lots of brush clearing!

Maintenance 'Minders

Remember when trimming vegetation from the A.T., your clearance for hikers should be about 4 ft. wide by 8ft. high, without cutting any trees. Cut growth preferentially on the inside and upslope of a sidehill trail, to encourage preferential hiking away from the downhill slope, which worsens trail creep and erosion. Thank you!



Removing trail hazards!

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!

9/9 - Edward Fleming, Philip Royer - Davenport Gap Shelter - Hiked to Davenport Gap shelter and measured the roof for the reroofing project. Identified some hazardous trees in the area. Made photos of the trees and shelter.

9/12 - Edward Fleming - Davenport Gap Shelter - Drew a plan for the Davenport Gap Shelter roof. Made a material list for the roof. Ordered the materials.