



November 2018

**A.T. MAINTENANCE WORK TRIP-
Saturday November 3**

This A.T. Maintenance trip will involve hiking up from Davenport Gap past the shelter. We will clear water bars, trim vegetation and check the shelter for trash and construction items that need to be hauled out following the recent Davenport Gap Shelter roof replacement project. Our efforts will involve pushing up past the trail intersections above the shelter in order to get portions of the trail closer to the Cammerer cutoff. We will meet at the Comcast parking lot at 8:00 am. Drive time approximately 1 hour. Bring a tool of your choice. If we need additional tools we will stop at the Cosby Ranger Station tool shed.

Leader: Steve Dunkin, jsdunkin1302@gmail.com, 865-202-3286.

Remember end-of-year Section Work to do please

At this time of year, especially before Clingmans Dome Rd closes on December 1, please remember to clear your waterbars of leaf debris to allow good drainage over the winter. This is very important! Thank you for taking the time to do this.

Maintainers Invited to SMHC Christmas Banquet and Annual Meeting

All maintainers, please consider attending the annual SMHC Christmas Banquet and Meeting! The event will be held on December 8 at Fox Den Country Club, 12284 N Fox Den Dr, Knoxville, TN. Social Hour is from 5-6pm followed by dinner, meeting. The cost for the event is \$25. Our guest speaker is Benny "Plug-it In" Braden. Benny is a native of Roane County, and holds the record for hiking all 900 miles of trails in the Smokies in the shortest period of time! He most certainly have some fascinating stories to tell. To make a reservation, watch for the posting on <http://www.smhclub.org/>. You can also pay on-line at that time. Deadline for registration is December 1, 2018.

Wanted: Co-manager for Nanatahala National Forest A.T. managed by SMHC

Maury Hudson recently stepped down as Co-manager of the Appalachian Trail volunteer Maintainers (part of our ATMC/SMHC) for the 30 miles of A.T. we manage in the NNF. Franklin LaFond remains as a manger, but we would like to recruit another person to help him. This volunteer position basically involves oversight on maintainer activities in the NNF on those 30 miles of trail, planning for projects going forward and how to fill maintenance needs in the NNF. If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact Franklin LaFond at OX97game@aol.com or 678-464-3380.

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!



Work Trip Reports 6/7/18- 10/15/18

6/7 - Steve Dunkin - Outreach & Education-

Introduced self to SWEAT Crew forming up and spoke about SMHC and trail maintenance efforts of SMHC ATMC.

6/17 - Steve Dunkin - Outreach & Education -

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9/18 - Phyllis Henry - Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin - Met with ATC, Park staff and new Ridgerunner.

9/21 - Jeff Cooper - Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer -

Trimmed a small amount of vegetation encroaching upon trail and removed small (1" to 3") branches blown down in recent storms. Trail was in very good condition.

9/22 - Mark Shipley - Thunderhead to Spence (Bote

Mt Tr) - Cleared vegetation around Spence Field Shelter, privy, and water source. Cleared vegetation north along AT to Jenkins Ridge (this had been recently cut back) and from Spence Field Shelter south for a total of roughly 2 hours of vegetation clearing.

10/1 - Dick Ketelle - Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob - Cleared drainage and cut back woody vegetation encroaching into trail corridor.

10/1 - Franklin LaFond - Davenport Gap to Lower Mt Cammerer Tr - Removed a couple of small blowdowns. Temporary fix to a log cribbing that horses had blown out.

10/1 - Franklin LaFond, Griz Hiker - Fontana Dam to Route 28 - Cut 2 large blowdowns from the trail.

10/1 - John H Gassler - Davenport Gap to 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI) - Assisted Franklin LaFond in moving downed tree and repairing small section of trail. Removed downed branches and debris from trail. Trimmed vegetation from uphill side of my section.

10/3 - Diane Petrilla - Other Work - Picked up Neil Snepp after he completed shelter survey for southern end of AT in the National Park and shuttled him back to his car at Tremont.

10/3 - Diane Petrilla - Davenport Gap to Mt Cammerer Side Tr - This was a multiple section trail survey to find a suitable maintenance project for visiting NC student group. Did light maintenance as I hiked. Subsequently, given student group preferences and lack of easily accessible significant work, we did not take the NC

students to this area to work. Trail conditions were listed in report for section leaders to review.

10/3 - Mike Harrington - Sassafras Gap (Pk) to Lewellyn Branch - Trimmed vegetation, cleared water bars, removed a few minor blowdowns, and re-painted a few white blazes.

10/3 - Neil Snepp - Derrick Knob to Fontana Dam - Complete Survey of Shelter conditions for Spence Field and Mollies Ridge. Wrote reports, named photos, uploaded to Google Drive. Permit for overnight at shelters A225584.

10/4 - Don Dunning - Mulch Operations - Prepared mulch bags for backpacking to Icewater Spring shelter by students from North Carolina State University on 10/5. Travelled to Smokemont Campground to meet NC-State students and make final plans for the work-day. Thank you to Steve Dunkin and Franklin LaFond for meeting with these students earlier and inspiring them to support this project.

10/4 - Judy Wade, Keith Mertz - Fontana Dam to Route 28 - Cut back briars/vegetation. Removed two small blowdowns and refreshed several white blazes.

10/4 - Mark Shipley - Cosby Knob Top to Camel Gap - Re-stocked mulch at privy. Cut vegetation from Camel Gap to Cosby Knob Shelter.

10/4 - Pete Berntsen, Edward Fleming, Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Our team of four started the day by using a crosscut saw to remove the root-ball from a tree with a diameter of 20 inches. The trail was then restored to its previous condition. Our next project involved improving the trail at and around the large boulders about 0.2 mile from NFG. Trip rocks were removed from approach trail. Half of a large tree root-ball/stump was removed to increase the width of the trail to 24 inches. A rock and log wall was put up to encourage hikers to stay on the large boulder steps. The steps in the boulder were improved using hammer and chisel (brick-layer's hammer) to flatten two areas, one of which will have a fill rock added. Another area had two rock steps remaining from a previous work trip. We added a step between the two existing steps and a lower step to create four steps that are more evenly spaced with about eight-inch rise on each. Berm was removed from next to the steps to improve water flow. The last project involved making a step wider by knocking the top of a rock overhang out and adding a rock step.

10/4 - Steve Dunkin - Mulch Operations - Provided orientation and talk to 40+ college students on mulch

hauling in the Park. Had students complete Park Volunteer Service Agreement to work in Park one day.

10/5 - Diane Petrilla, Eric Keller - **Other Work** - On 10-1-18, picked up multiple tools at McNutt Farm and Park maintenance shed. Also obtained Volunteer Service Agreements and radios at Park Backcountry office. All in preparation for visiting student group from NC and anticipated group work trip. On 10-5-18 returned tools.

10/5 - Don Dunning, Pete Berntsen, GRSM Consortium Group - **Icewater Springs Privy** - Packed 600 pounds (!!!) of mulch to the Icewater Spring shelter privy with the help of 30 energetic and enthusiastic students from North Carolina State University. Special thanks to leader Maude Dinan for organizing this service project for these outstanding students from the National Parks Club and the Nature & You Club at NC-State during their fall break. We hope to see many of these students again in March as part of our annual Outdoor Recreation Consortium spring break service project. Thank you so much to each of these students for this important contribution to our mulch operations.

10/6 - Dick Ketelle, Diane Petrilla - **1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI) to Mt Cammerer Side Tr** - Pruned and cleared heavy vegetation growth, particularly S of CCC wall. Some additional swingblade work done on hike back to Low Gap.

10/6 - Franklin LaFond, "Hopeful" Powell - **Fontana Dam to Yellow Creek Gap** - Removed 11 blowdowns from the trail. Updated Bear closure/warning sheets at Fontana trailhead, marina, and shelter. Removed rogue lock at the Fontana trailhead kiosk.

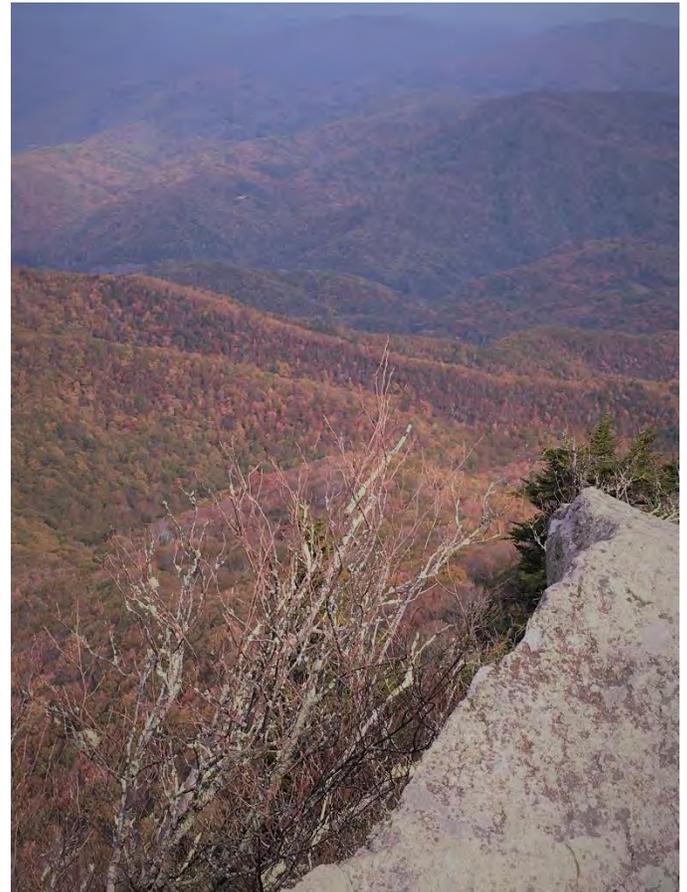
10/8 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - At .3 mile North we began to hammer a star drill in an extremely hard boulder to create a foot step. We plan to place a re-bar in the hole to hold a rock in place. We began to gather more gargoyles to force people up the steps we were working on. Hammered about 2 inches (need a minimum of 3 inches), had to leave as it began to rain.

10/9 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Finished the project started the day before. The hole was hammer drilled to about three inches deep, pounded a re-bar in boulder to hold step in place to enable the hiker a more natural/saver step up. This effort was to rectify the vandalism to the Rocky Top crews steps, the vandals removed the top step and forced it over the side. (Note the top step was not in place for 6 weeks) Added more gargoyles to sides of steps.

10/9 - Neil Snepp, Steve Dunkin - **Inadu Knob to Mt Sequoah** - Worked on AT north and south of Tri-corner shelter. Trimmed growth along trail, cleared water bars, cleared path of trip hazards, Filled some low muddy areas. At shelter: filled privy mulch buckets, cleared water channel for spring to avoid water spreading to adjacent areas, cleaned tool box, packed out trash.

10/13 - Scott McClure, Bert Emmerson, Noah Cantrell - **Rd Prng/TomPrng Lead to Spruce Fir** - Cleaned out water bars and clipped back vegetation that was growing in on the Corridor. Cleared 2 blow downs out of trail. We cut the corridor clear of overhanging limbs that will sag in the snow this winter.

10/14 - Scott McClure, Bert Emmerson, Noah Cantrell, Richard Hatch - **Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir** - Continued clipping back vegetation and cleaning water bars to the ends. Repainted all blazes on the trail. Bucketed dirt to fill steps that weren't draining and to cover roots that were exposed in some areas. We camped at Mt Collins Friday night shelter was full. Privy was in good shape with ample mulch.



Happy Fall to all!