

Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club



June 2019

**23rd ANNUAL SMOKIES APPALACHIAN TRAIL
WORK DAY in celebration of AMERICAN HIKING
SOCIETY's NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
June 1- Saturday**

We will gather at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 7:30am for registration and T-shirt distribution, snacks and some brief words, before heading out in crews with great leaders! As usual, we will also have a crew working out of Davenport Gap. Our maintenance work will be on accessible sections on the Appalachian Trail that the SMHC maintains. Each year, this is an opportunity to help give back to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. After working, there will be a picnic at the Twin Creeks Pavilion, Cherokee Orchard Rd., Gatlinburg at 4:30pm. We have some great door prizes this year! ***By the time you are reading this newsletter, the May 15 registration deadline will have passed***, but if you are interested in participating, please contact Diane Petrilla at petrillad@gmail.com or 931-224-5149 to see if we can accommodate you. Registration is free. The event is co-sponsored by the SMHC, ATC, GSMNP and Friends of the Smokies.

at Cable Cove Campground or at the Fontana Hilton Shelter for any number of nights if you would like.

Participants will need to wear sturdy footwear and bring work gloves, lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. If you have a hardhat, shin guards, and/or safety glasses, please bring those as well.

Dates: June 6-8 and June 14-16.

For more details, contact: Franklin LaFond 678-464-3380 ox97GaMe@aol.com

S.W.E.A.T. Crew Dates in the GSMNP

Below is the Smokies Wilderness Elite Appalachian Trail crew schedule thus far planned, starting in June. S.W.E.A.T. helps us significantly in maintaining remote sections of the A.T. in the National Park- we could not take care of these parts of the Trail without them! Visits and participation by ATMC Maintainers are always welcome! Contact Stephen Eren at seren@appalachiantrail.org if you have any questions!

Konnorock Crew Dates in Nantahala National Forest

ATC's Konnorock Crew will be returning to the Nantahala National Forest soon. The crew is made up of volunteers from across the country and often includes members of other trail associations. This annual crew is utilized to build treadway structures, construct new trail segments, and perform extensive trail rehab. This is a great opportunity to learn or improve log and rock skills from trained ATC crew leaders and help improve this section of trail.

This year's project is a 1/4 mile long rehab project, 1 mile south of the Fontana Marina. The hike to the worksite is moderate. The crew will be on location the dates listed below. The crew will be leaving from the Marina around 8:30 each morning and returning around 4:00 each afternoon. You may car camp with the crew

Session	Date	Location	Alternate
1	6/6 - 6/11	Sec. 1: Doe Knob to Big Abrams Gap (Mollies Ridge Shelter)	Sec 2: Big Abrams to Rocky Top (hill behind Russell Field Shelter)
2	6/15 - 6/20	Sec 2: Big Abrams to Rocky Top (hill behind Russell Field Shelter)	Sec 3: Rocky Top to Starkey Gap (Spence Field Shelter)
3	6/27 - 7/2	Sec 3: Rocky Top to Starkey Gap (Spence Field Shelter)	Sec 5: Dry Sluice Trail to Laurel Top Summit (Icewater Shelter)
4	7/6 - 7/11	Sec 5: Dry Sluice Trail to Laurel Top Summit (Icewater Shelter)	Sec: 4: Starkey Gap to Welch Ridge Trail (Derek Knob Shelter)
5	7/18 - 7/23	Sec: 4: Starkey Gap to Welch Ridge Trail (Derek Knob Shelter)	Sec 6: Mt. Chapman to Laurel Top (Hughes Ridge Cabin)
6	7/27 - 8/1	Sec 6: Mt. Chapman to Laurel Top (Hughes Ridge Cabin)	Sec: 7: Mt. Chapman to Camel Gap (Tricorner Hitch Rack)
7	8/8 - 8/13	Sec: 7: Mt. Chapman to Camel Gap (Tricorner Hitch Rack)	Sec. 1: Doe Knob to Big Abrams Gap (Mollies Ridge Shelter)



A. T. Work Trips From 4/10/2019 to 5/15/201

4/10 - John H Gassler - **Davenport Gap to Mt**

Cammerer Side Tr - Cleared branches and small trees from trail. Cut away some large downed trees documented in Maury Hudson's 04/06/2019 Ridgerunner Report.

4/17 - Franklin LaFond - **Fontana Dam to High Pt E of Walker Gap**

Konnorock logistics walk-thru with the crew leaders to assess this year's project area near Bee Cove Lead. Cleaned out all water bars between rock staircase and Marina. Rehabbed approximately 100 ft of sidehill. Filled in 2 large rootball areas. Removed several trip rocks from treadway. Removed 1 blowdown.

Removed encroaching rhododendron from approximately 50 ft of trail. Found military ID on trail and was able to return it to its owner at Stecoah Gap.

4/20 - Adam Beal, Amanda Beal, Diane Petrilla -

Thunderhead to Spence (Bote Mt Tr) - Visited Spence shelter, checked privy, refilled mulch buckets. Mulch bins were 90% full. Spent about 2 hours cleaning water bars from the shelter to about half a mile before Rocky Top.

Water bars were very full of leaves and silt. Also trimmed a few branches of rhododendron that had grown into the path and removed loose rocks from trail. Around 2:30pm we stopped clearing bars and hiked out to Thunderhead to survey the rest of the section and see what issues were present. Trimmed back some minor branches and briars. Hiked back to Spence shelter, returned tools to bin.

4/20 - Franklin LaFond, Mark Buckles - **Doe Knob to**

Fontana Dam - Removed 14 large blowdowns from trail. Cut a notch in and removed a large amount of root/dirt from the large blowdown near the Shuckstack ledge so that hikers can step over tree rather than up and around the root ball. Cleaned out several waterbars. Cut 7 locust log segments from one of the large blowdown to use for future waterbars. Removed hiker carved graffiti from log .5 miles from Fontana trailhead.

4/22 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cleaned waterbars; after all the recent rain some waterbars needed cleaning again. Took notes and put ribbons where work will be needed on NTD. (8 total projects). Cleared new growth at the vistas, cut many berry vines, only a few drew blood.

4/22 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Newfound Gap to**

Clingmans Dome - Scouting trip for upcoming chainsaw clearing later in week. Used ax to clear 2 moderate sized trees, one just north of Fork Ridge access, and one just south of the Indian Gap access. Also one small tree removed just north of Indian Gap. Met Ed Peck near Collins Gap who was also scouting for Thursday's chainsaw clearing.

4/23 - Ernie Wiles - **Mulch Operations** - Hauled 120 lbs mulch to Mt Collins Shelter. Patched roof with caulk. Cleaned Shelter and hauled about 3 lbs of trash.

4/24 - Amanda Beal, Pete Berntsen, Jack Bray, Steve Dunkin, Don Dunning, Edward Fleming, Phyllis Henry, Dick Ketelle, Kristi Knight, Franklin LaFond, Terry Martin, Diane Petrilla, George Ritter, Philip Royer, Janet Snyder, Mark Snyder, Cindy Spangler, Taylor Weatherbee, Ernie Wiles - **Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Quarterly ATMC meeting to discuss multiple issues.

4/25 - Jerry Troxler, Paul Ruble, Randy Rainey -

Spence (Bote Mt Tr) to Russell Field - Took down the tarp at the Spence Field shelter. It was torn and unserviceable so we carried it out. We also carried out a bag of trash and unusable gear from the gear box. We caulked the roof to try to stop the reported leaks. Checked the privy, cleaned it and filled the mulch buckets. Cleaned all of the water bars.

4/25 - Taylor Weatherbee, Bob Merriman, Ed Peck -

Newfound Gap to Clingmans Dome - Cleared 9 blowdowns.

4/26 - Ed Peck - **Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong**

Tr - Removed dead leaner from trail 1/4 mi. N of Goshen Prong jct. Pruned 1 other dead crown.

4/27 - Franklin LaFond, Hiker, Susan - **Stekoah Gap to**

Swim Bald - Pruned back vegetation, removed 2 small blowdowns, rehab of 20 ft of sidehill, moved privy position, sanitized privy seat, carried out approximately 10 pounds of privy and shelter trash. Removed a large blowdown .5 South of Stecoah Gap that was reported by a group of hikers at the picnic area. One of the ladies was nice enough to walk uphill to the location so I could cut the tree.

4/27 - Jeff Cooper, Dick Ketelle, Diane Petrilla, Houston Phillips - **False Gap to Newfound Gap**

- Cleared about 6 blowdowns over trail, or projecting onto trail, of varying sizes. Filled in area of Trail at Sawteeth that had collapsed 2 years ago, with more heavy limbs and brush to deter walking near edge. After getting back to NFG, the 3 other kind work trip participants helped me carry 80lbs. of mulch to Mt. Collins privy storage box. Box is now about 60% full.

4/28 - Bill Pyle, Bill Alexander, Kelly Conway, Taylor

Weatherbee - Russell Field to Doe Knob - Cleared 3 blowdowns from Russell Field to Ekaneetlee Gap. Prior scouting and reports from thru-hikers we met seemed to indicate all was now clear to Doe Nob. Very long day took its toll on us but we were able to complete the work we set out to do. Bill and Bill are true warriors of the woods!



Bill Alexander, Bill Pyle and Taylor Weatherbee
(photo courtesy of Kelly Conway)



Hard work, but what a beautiful day!
(photo courtesy of Bill Alexander)

4/28 - Bob Williams, Franklin LaFond - **Wright Gap to Wesser** - Left Wright Gap, walked north approximately .75 mile to large blowdown. Cleared tree/branches from trail and made area safe. Walked South to NOC, working as we went. Cleared a total of 6 trees from trail, also filled in large hole (5 feet deep) from rootball of fallen tree that took out main treadway.

4/28 - Mark Shipley - **Cosby Knob Top to Camel Gap** - Cut weeds and vegetation.

4/28 - Pete Berntsen - **Dry Sluice Gap to Newfound Gap** - Sign at Charlies Bunion was barely standing so removed it, cleaned dirt and rock from original hole and

reset sign to its upright position. Also stabilized signs at Icewater Shelter (3), The Boulevard, and Sweat Heifer. Reset water pipe at Icewater spring to improve water flow to four liters per minute. Reset two rock steps located about 150 feet north of the spring. Rebuilt two rock steps about 0.1 mile NE of spring. Bottom step in this set was replaced with ramp so total number of steps is reduced by one. Also removed top step and added ramp in area 0.2 mile NE of spring. Filled all four mulch buckets in the privy, swept privy, and dispersed cone. Cleaned drain between shelter and bear cables. Hammered down all rebar and stake supports for logs between Sweat Heifer trail and Newfound Gap.

5/1 - Steve Dunkin, Robert Burton - **Mount Collins Shelter** - Hiked by and picked up trash at shelter. Checked mulch in privy. Checked shelter.

5/4 - Franklin LaFond - **Fontana Dam to High Pt E of Walker Gap** - Met Konnorock crew to work on new rock steps in this area. Assisted crew with bringing tools off the mountain, as it was their last day for this crew week.

5/4 - Jeff Cooper, Diane Petrilla, Tim Bigelow, Alex Acree, Barbara Allen - **Davenport Gap to Mt Cammerer Side Tr** - Split into three crews and performed the following work: South from Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail - Trimmed lots of dog hobble and rhododendron. Cleared lots of water bars. Removed smaller blow down. Chestnut Branch Trail to Lower Mt. Cammerer Trail - Cleared and dug out lots of water bars. Removed one 5" blow down. Davenport Gap to Chestnut Branch Trail - Cleared lots of water bars.



L to R, Diane, Barbara, Jeff and Alex.
(photo courtesy of Tim Bigelow)



Jeff and Alex cleaning waterbars

5/4 - Terry Martin - Mulch Operations - Took mulch up to Cosby Shelter: 5/3 picked up mulch for 5/4 hike. On 5/4, two trips up and delivered 4 bags of mulch to Cosby.

5/5 - Ed Peck - Mulch Operations - Carried mulch to Cosby Knob privy.

5/5 - Eric Keller, Diane Petrilla - Mulch Operations - Transferred all remaining bagged mulch from Elkmont to Maintainers shed near Park HQ. Moved about 8 wheelbarrows full of mulch inside tent to dry for future bagging.

5/5 - Steve Hill, Terry Martin, Diane Petrilla, Ernie Wiles - Mulch Operations - Carried up 100 lbs of mulch to Cosby mulch bin. Filled all buckets in privy. Along with mulch carried up by Terry Martin the day before and Ed Peck on this day, bin is about 50% full now. Petrilla carried remaining mulch bags in car back to maintainers shed in Park.

5/6 - Will Skelton - Mulch Operations - Hauled 40 pounds of mulch to Icewater Springs Privy.



Below, Will starting up the A.T. Above, Spring beauties.

There is beauty even in hauling mulch!

(Photos courtesy of Will Skelton)

5/7 - Dick Ketelle - Silers Bald Shelter - Applied several tubes of caulk to the chimney flashing area at the Silers Bald Shelter to try to stop the chronic leak. Saw many thru hikers passing through the area throughout the day.

5/7 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Cleared water bars and built one very small turnpike in a boggy area.

5/10 - Pete Berntsen, Diane Petrilla - Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Clingmans Dome - Surveyed A.T. on this stretch in preparation for National Trails Day work.

5/13 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Mulch Operations - Hauled mulch to Double Springs Shelter (40 lbs. total). Removed 4 small blow downs along the way. Drained water at the shelter by trenching to allow existing water as well as future rain to escape. Hauled out junk and discarded in trash: a throw rug; jeans; cans- opened and unopened; large rain poncho; Coleman cookware for 4 people; an old stove and fuel in a can; lots of unopened MREs. This was not thru-hiker trash, but trash none the less. Note: Two long distance hikers took some of the food and a good waterproof stuff sack. Went to Mt.Collins with mulch (40 lbs. total). No trash to haul out today. All buckets were topped off with mulch and privies swept.

5/13 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Revised a short turnpike, cleaned out two long bunch of water bars.

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!