



February 2020

**No First Saturday Work Trip in February**

As always, there is no regularly scheduled first Saturday work trip in February. However, regular first-Saturday - of-the-month work trips will resume on March 7, 2020 with blowdown removal in the Nantahala. Please mark your calendars and plan to help! Swampers to clear debris, as well as chainsaw folks will be needed! Details and contact info will be in the next ATMC Newsletter.

**Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee Meeting  
Wednesday January 29, 2020**

Our next ATMC meeting will be at TN Bank, 1311 W. Lamar Alexander Hgwy, Maryville, TN, at 6:30pm, on Wednesday January 29. As we begin another year, we have much to discuss, including blowdown removal plans this Spring, locust logs from Luftee and working on the Spence log emplacement project, section needs, status of equestrian relationship, and much more. Even if you are new, you are welcome to attend, to learn more about the general work of A.T. maintenance. If you have an item for the Agenda, please contact [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com)

**All Section Leaders on Work Trip Distribution List**

In the ongoing effort to share information with each other, all section leaders in the Park and NNF have been added to the work trip distribution list. You read about work trips in this newsletter, but we don't publish the "trail conditions" section on the report in this newsletter. Often one maintainer will notice something on another's section and report it. If you do not want to receive these, please notify Michael Vaughn at [mvaughn@knology.net](mailto:mvaughn@knology.net) or [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com). You can also elect to be on the ATC Ridgerunner report list; this was discussed last year. If you do not receive the RR reports, but would like to once the RRs start their work this year, please notify [cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org).

**Section Leaders need for two critical sections**

We are recruiting for Section Leader(s) for 2 sections just north of Newfound Gap:  
1. Sweat Heifer to Boulevard Tr (1.1 miles long) and  
2. Boulevard Tr to Gap W of Masa Knob (.8 miles long)  
These sections are fairly easy to access of course, from the Newfound Gap parking lot, hiking in 1.7 miles to the first, and then just the 1.1. miles beyond to the second. Both are highly trafficked sections, and the second includes oversight of Icewater shelter. Maintenance includes being sure erosion-prevention devices are kept clear (water bars and drainage ditches), vegetation trimming when needed, reporting blowdowns, removing small blowdowns and debris on the trail, and helping to keep Icewater clean. We have great maintainers who can teach/ mentor for both of these sections. If you have considered taking on a section, these are two of the easiest accessed ones. Recruit a friend to help! Please contact [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com) if interested or with questions.

**Heart Saver CPR & First Aid Classes offered to  
Volunteers**

Maintainers are eligible to register for the following Heart Saver classes offered by the GSMNP.  
**1. Date: Fri Jan 31, Location: Sugarlands Training Room, Time: 9:00am - 5:30pm \* Snow Date: Feb 7.**  
**2. Date: Thurs Feb 13, Location: Twin Creeks Science Center, Time: 9:00am - 5:30pm\* Snow Date: Feb 21.**  
To reserve: Please respond to [gsm\\_volunteer\\_office@nps.gov](mailto:gsm_volunteer_office@nps.gov) with an email that includes the following information:  
- Your name  
- Your VIP (Volunteer-In-the-Park) Position Title  
- Your email address  
- Date you wish to attend



**Maintainers can be part of S.W.E.A.T. and Rocky Top, too!**

The ATC works hard to fill S.W.E.A.T. and Rocky Top teams each summer, to do general maintenance on some of our most remote sections on A.T. in the National Park (S.W.E.A.T.) and to do trail re-hab and construction in the same areas (Rocky Top). S.W.E.A.T. crews are out for 6 days and 5 nights, and Rocky Top for 8 days and 7 nights. This is a great opportunity to participate in a very meaningful way, perhaps learn some new skills, and work with great leaders and crew. To find out more about S.W.E.A.T., go to [2020 SWEAT](#), or to find out more about Rocky Top, go to [2020 Rocky Top](#). You can also e-mail Stephen Eren of the ATC at [seren@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:seren@appalachiantrail.org) or calling 828-348-1911. Please consider joining in!

Session	Dates	2020 SWEAT Season
1	6/4 - 6/9	<a href="#">Sec. 1: Doe Knob to Big Abrams Gap</a>
2	6/13 - 6/18	<a href="#">Sec 2: Big Abrams to Rocky Top</a>
3	6/24 - 6/29	<a href="#">Sec 3: Rocky Top to Starkey Gap</a>
4	7/3 - 7/8	<a href="#">Sec 5: Dry Sluce Trail to Laurel Top Summit</a>
5	7/12 - 7/17	<a href="#">Sec: 4: Starky Gap to Welch Ridge Trail</a>
6	7/22 - 7/28	<a href="#">Sec 6: Mt. Chapman to Laurel Top</a>
7 	8/1 - 8/5	<a href="#">Sec: 7: Mt. Chapman to Camel Gap</a>
		<b>2020 Rocky Top Season</b>
1	8/21 - 8/28	<a href="#">South of Tricorner Knob</a>
2 	9/3 - 9/10	<a href="#">South of Tricorner Knob</a>
3	9/17 - 9/24	<a href="#">South of Tricorner Knob</a>
4 	10/1 - 10/8	<a href="#">South of Tricorner Knob</a>
5	10/15 - 10/21	<a href="#">South of Tricorner Knob</a>

**A.T./ ATC Volunteer Newsletter & Special Offer**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has started publishing "[The Register](#)" newsletter and blog again for A.T. volunteers. The Register serves as a platform for sharing A.T. management information, reminders for A.T. maintainers, a support mechanism for sharing information between volunteers, and a notification system for upcoming volunteer training events. **In the current issue of the newsletter** <https://mailchi.mp/appalachiantrail/the-register-january-940279>, **A.T. volunteers will find an opportunity to get the [A.T. Guthook Guide](#) smartphone app for free when they sign up before February 14.** The Guthook guide is like having a map, a streamlined guidebook, and a place to find crowd-sourced information on the Trail. ATC Regional Director Morgan Somerville says of the app, "it's an asset that volunteers will find useful." People with interest in getting the bi-monthly The Register newsletter sent to their inbox in the future can use the subscribe button in the upper left corner of the current issue.

**Are you interested in Cross-cut Certification?**

*USFS/ SAWS CROSSCUT TRAINING*

**March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020**

George Washington & Jefferson National Forests  
Mount Rogers National Recreation Area  
Sugar Grove, Virginia

Work shop Objectives:

An opportunity for all crosscut sawyers who use crosscut saws on National Forests to learn about their roles and responsibilities in the program.

Have hands-on exposure to the latest Sawyer training techniques.

Gain an understanding of how human factors influence sawyers' decision making abilities.

Provide attendees the opportunity to build their knowledge and skills needed to be designated as crosscut Sawyer Instructors and/or Sawyer Evaluators.

**Space is limited-if you are interested in attending, please respond By Feb. 6th with current saw qualification to:**

**Ernie Wiltsie, USFS R8 & 9 Saw Program Manager**  
[ernest.wiltsie@usda.gov](mailto:ernest.wiltsie@usda.gov)

## A. T. Work Trip from 12/20/19 to 1/15/2020

12/20 - Tim Ryan, Jay Schmid, Eric Drumm - **Sunup Knob to Low Gap** - Cut and removed a 10" tree from the trail, cleared debris, cut green briars and limbs, cleared drainage areas and waterbars that were not completely frozen, reinforced a set of steps with rebar.

12/24 - Franklin LaFond, Benjamin Childers Hiker - **Fontana Dam to Route 28** - Removed 1 blowdown. Built 10 new log steps. Moved 7 remaining logs from that pile uphill 50 yds to next step work project location.

12/27 - Ed Peck - **Davenport Gap to Chestnut Br Trail** - Removed reported blowdown 1/2 mi S of D.Gap shelter plus accompanying fallout. Also removed blowdown 1/3 mi S of Davenport Gap trailhead.

12/28 - Amanda Beal - **Thunderhead to Spence (Bote Mt Tr)** - Cleaned about 40 waterbars and other drainages. Refilled mulch buckets at the privy and packed out some random items left behind in the shelter. Mulch bins are still at least half full, maybe 60% for the right one.

12/29 - Franklin LaFond - **Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap** - Installed 7 log steps, leveled up 3 rock steps. removed limb debris from a large blowdown 1/4 mile S of Stecoah Gap.

1/10 - Barbara Allen - **Davenport Gap to Chestnut Br Trail** - Assessment to see how many logs and steps needed for this section. Clear some water drainages but will be back this week to finish those. Cleaned shelter and carried out garbage.

1/10 - Charlie McDonald - **Mulch Operations** - Added new mulch to the tent inventory so as to dry out. Estimated 50-60 bags worth under the tent at Elkmont. This is in addition to the 34 bags at the Sugarland maintenance shed. I will plan on turning over the mulch every two weeks to aid in the drying out process. As a friendly reminder, please communicate your future needs as well as the bags taken from the shed. Thank you Diane and Don for your heads up this week.

1/12 - Franklin LaFond, Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - **Cody Gap to Stekoah Gap** -

Walked section with new maintainer prospects and discussed general maintenance tasks. Removed small limb debris and small blowdowns. Cut back some woody vegetation. Inspected Brown Fork Shelter and Privy.

1/14 - Michael Vaughn - **Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Per Diane Petrilla's request, I added all the current AT section leaders to the work reports forwarding. As this nearly tripled the number of forwarding recipients, I needed to submit a work report to make sure it forwards successfully. No need to let me know you received this report. As Diane said in her email of this past weekend, if any of you would prefer not to receive the work report forwarding emails, please let me know directly and I'll remove you. mvaughn@knology.net  
Michael V. SMHC/ATMC internet volunteer  
Knoxville, TN

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!



"Boots McFarland" cartoon by Geolyn Carvin  
<https://bootsmcfarland.com/>