



January 2022

***Happy, Happy Holidays to Everyone!***

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**No Regular First Saturday Work Trip in January**

We continue to take a break from our regular first Saturday work trips for January and February. Clingmans Dome Rd. is closed for the winter. As weather and Trail conditions allow, and of course as you desire, sections can always use work, no matter what time of year! Stay safe and healthy!

**A. T. Work Trips From 10/14/2021 to 12/17/2021**

**10/14 - Tom Howard, Paul Ruble - Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr** - Cleaned waterbars and cut back vegetation.

**11/11 - Jerry Troxler, Randy Rainey, Terry Elmore - Spence (Bote Mt Tr) to Russell Field** - Cleaned and moved privy. Left the privy with two buckets of mulch. Cleaned all of the water bars and drains between Spence and Russell Field. Used one of the locust logs to put in a step (new) on the trail to the spring. Picked up a small amount of trash around the shelter and buried two poop piles behind the shelter. Carried out 5 lb. of unserviceable items from the gear box plus a plastic sheet.

**11/16 - Rick Hughes - Collins Gap to Mt Love** - Cleared all remaining water bars on the Collins Gap section, working today toward the West end of the section.

**11/17 - Mike Harrington - Sassafras Gap (Pk) to Lewellyn Branch** - Cleared leaves and twigs from waterbars. Moved a few blowdown branches from the trail corridor, worked on one 15" blowdown near Sassafras Gap to make it an easier step-over.

**11/19 - Franklin LaFond - Other Work** - Additional cleanup of Mac's tool shed area. Located 4 new pick heads and rebar. Cleaned out some of the trashed items and took to the Maryville Trash center. Took pick heads and rebar to Gatlinburg. Sorted and organized remaining items in the old tool shed, in prep for moving to the new shed. Had discussion with Christine regarding 5 unopened boxes in the old shed

**11/19 - Terry Martin - Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Sunup Knob** - Cleaned out waterbars. Beautiful, quiet, and cold day. Starting temp hiking up was 28 degrees and only a handful of hikers out for the whole time I was working.

**11/21 - Franklin LaFond, Edward Fleming - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cut locust logs and transported for erosion project north of Newfound Gap. Carried 2 8ft, 2 5ft, and 2 4ft logs to erosion location and dry stacked. Brushed rogue trail at the erosion location.

**11/22 - Bill Pyle, Kelly Conway - Collins Gap to Mt Love** - Cleared water bars, built a stone step, removed a hazard tree.

**11/22 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Cleaned leaves and debris out of water bars

**11/24 - Diane Petrilla- Indian Gap to Tom Prng Lead**- Cleared final leaf-fall debris from all 70-some water bars on the section. My effort was greatly aided by efforts of section co-leader Patti Grady earlier in the season, as well as Terry Martin, Randy Mitchell, and Ernie Wiles who helped earlier this Fall.



area. Looked at potential project areas for 2022 National Trail Days.

11/24 - Meg Gill, William Gill - **Chestnut Br Trail to Lower Mt Cammerer Tr** - Cleared water bars of fallen leaves, lopped several branches encroaching on the trail.

11/28 - Adam Beal, Amanda Beal - **Thunderhead to Spence (Bote Mt Tr)** - Cleaned 33 water bars, split 7 logs.



*Job well-done, Amanda and Adam Beal!*

*Excellent work on a very problematic spot!*

11/29 - Franklin LaFond, Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Carried large 8 ft locust log and staking materials for cribbing at eroded area roughly 1/4 mile N. of Newfound Gap. Built a 30 inch tall, 8 feet long locust log retaining wall and backfilled with crushed rock and soil. Added additional and trash logs to cover rogue trail that had been used to go around the rock staircase, thus resulting in the eroded

11/29 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr** - Chopped out around 25 frozen water bars/drainages.

12/1 - Charlie McDonald - **Mulch Operations** - Transferred existing mulch inventory from the old shed to the mulch bin boxes. Cleaned out the used mulch bags and delivered to the Elkmont Tent. While there I bagged 25/20lb and added estimated 500lbs of mulch under tent to dry. There is an estimated 60-70 bags worth of mulch drying under

the tent. Delivered the 25 bags back to Sugarlands and loaded into the bins. There are 35/20lb bags ready to go!

**12/3 - Franklin LaFond, Dick Ketelle, Phyllis Henry - Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin - Meeting with Christine Hoyer to discuss processes, communications, and short term and long planning related to overall trail maintenance of the trail.**

**12/3 - Tim Ryan, Jay Schmid - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Cleared drainage areas and water bars and extended some areas, removed debris from trail, reset some rocks used for diversion**

**12/4 - Kathy Gardner, Deborah Lockett - 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI) to Mt Cammerer Side Tr - Cleared small blowdowns and trimmed brush along trail. Cleaned out about 8 water bars and did a very novice job of replacing 1 step that had become totally dislodged (figure I'll learn by mistake as well as good instruction...)**

**12/12 - Lisa Sumter, Stephanie Gose, Barbara Allen, Henry Gass, Franklin LaFond - Davenport Gap to Chestnut Br Trail - We got the trail ready for the winter months. Cleared all water bars & drainages. Removed limbs, several had to be sawed. Removed & installed one new water bar. Additional stakes were added to several steps. Improved one 4x4 mucky area by removing leaves & mud then replacing & building up with dirt. A few trip hazard rocks were removed from middle of the trail. The shelter area was checked.**



*Lots of good work by this great crew today!*

**12/15 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap - Cleared trail corridor of blowdown from recent windstorm. Emptied compost at shelter price and packed our trash. Water source flowing. Reported large oak across trail approx. 1/2 mile from gap parking lot.**

**12/15 - Randy Mitchell, Aenan Fee - Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top - Cleared leaves and silt from water bars. Widened several water bars to reduce future clogging. Removed small branches from trail. Checked shelter and privy. Both very clean and mulch buckets were already full. Mulch supply is at 80 %. Spring at Cosby Shelter is flowing well. Two bear cables are not usable as the clip that is supposed to hook to the eye bolt at the tree is caught on the cable. Retrieved the black garbage bags from the bin. After carefully rolling them up and left the bags at the shelter trail junction to pick up on our way out. The bags were missing on our return! [later found they had been packed out by a ranger there to fix bear cables.]**

**12/16 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Franklin LaFond - Brown Fork Gap to Stecoah Gap - Cleared large oak reported previously. Also added 4 steps, 1.5 miles from Stecoah Gap to resolve a root-bound step down. Packed out a small amount of trash from the parking lot.**

**12/17 - Keith Mertz, Judy Wade, David Gall - Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap - Chain-sawed 3 blowdowns off trail. Dragged 3 others off trail. Re-blazed trail. Installed one step. Readjusted one step. Built 30' of cribbing.**