



December 2022

No Regular First Saturday Work Trip in December

We take a break now from our regular first Saturday work trips for December, January and February. Clingmans Dome Rd. will close for the winter on Nov. 30. 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, healthy and warm!

2022 Fiscal Year Maintainer Hours Reporting

As we do every year, our 2022 volunteer hours were reported to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Nantahala National Forest, and Appalachian Trail Conservancy on October 1, 2022. Total Volunteer-in-the-Park hours plus Volunteer-in-the-Forest hours were 6886 (2021 total was 7474 hours.) Field work hours (actual work on the trail, shelters, mulch, etc.), was virtually the same as 2021 (4222 this year, 4188 last year) . The biggest difference in hours this year was in relation to "Other" hours which are meeting/ administrative/ organizational hours. Below is a Trail-wide summary of volunteer hours calculated by the ATC for 2022.

Your work is SO appreciated and SO important, on many levels. Thank you, thank you, for your work in 2022 and going forward!

Consolidated A.T. Maintaining Club Volunteer Hours FY 2022

Appalachian Trail Conservancy		2022 Volunteers in Parks and Volunteers in Forests Report										10/20/2022		
Trail Clubs/Trail Crews/ATC Offices	Volunteers in Parks (VIP)				Volunteers in Forests (VIF)				Worked Unduplicated Combined		Travel	Advocacy		
	Volunteers	Field/work	Other	Total VIP	Volunteers	Field/work	Other	Total VIF	both	workers			VIP and VIF	
Maine A.T. Club (includes Maine Trail Crew)	438	6825	5050	11,875						438	11,875	4501		
Appalachian Mountain Club					136	1980	120	2,100		136	2,100	361		
Randolph Mountain Club					1	20	55	75		1	75	61		
Dartmouth Outing Club					85	850	60	910		85	910	100		
Green Mountain Club					393	2996	150	3,146		393	3,146	1800		
AMC-Berkshire Chapter	135	5125	607	5,732.0						135	5,732	1386		
AMC-Connecticut Chapter	127	4985	1059	6,044.0						127	6,044	2176	6	
NY-NJ Trail Conference	318	3954	587	4,541.0						318	4,541	1332		
Batona Hiking Club	13	269	13	282						13	282	113	3	
AMC-Delaware Valley	62	469	74	543						62	543	235		
Keystone Trails Association	9	274	28	302						9	302	70		
Blue Mtn. Eagle Climbing Club	18	506	304	810						18	810			
Allentown Hiking Club	39	740	62	802						39	802	297		
Susquehanna A.T. Club	57	1700	702	2,402						57	2,402	467		
York Hiking Club	9	64	10	74						9	74	12		
Cumberland Valley A.T. Club	149	1452	811	2,263						149	2,263	333		
Mountain Club of Maryland	61	1962	267	2,229						61	2,229	267		
Potomac A.T. Club	704	32352	9835	42,187						704	42,187			
Old Dominion A.T. Club	49	1110	894	2,004	9	139	224	363	9	49	2,367	594		
Tidewater A.T. Club	4	20		20	65	1949	3403	5,352	4	65	5,372	732		
Natural Bridge A.T. Club	26	149	144	293	91	5080	1463	6,543	23	94	6,836	3020		
Roanoke A.T. Club + McAfee Knob Task Force	69	4448	1	4,449	124	3215	1	3,216	64	129	7,665			
Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech					138	639	45	684		138	684	184		
Piedmont A.T. Hikers					74	3212	545	3,757		74	3,757	1528		
Mount Rogers A.T. Club	29	203	5	208	94	1886	664	2,550	29	94	2,758	757		
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club					208	6142	1217	7,359		208	7,359	1994		
Carolina Mountain Club					171	5822	895	6,717		171	6,717	2106		
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club	182	3548	553	4,101	30	694	89	783	22	190	4,884	2022		
Nantahala Hiking Club					110	6579	3655	10,234		110	10,234			
Georgia A.T. Club					238	11815	4167	15,982		238	15,982	6324		
Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Crews, Councils, Board, A.T. Communities	307	2574	4607	7,181	142	2644	397	2,791	15	434	9,972	746		
TOTALS	2,805	72,729	25,613	98,342	2,109	55,662	17,150	72,562	166	4,748	170,904	33,518	9	
		VIP				VIF								
Total volunteers (minus duplicates)	4,748													
Total volunteer hours Trailwide	170,904													
Total hours, including Travel and Advocacy	204,431													
Value of A.T. Volunteerism (based on Independent Sector figure estimated April 2022)	\$5,118,574.80													



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Smoky Mountains Hiking Club Holiday Installation Banquet- Maintainers Invited/ Awards Given

Sunday, December 11, 2022, 4:30–8:30 p.m.

The Foundry, 747 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, TN (parking on-site)

We are pleased to be able to resume our Holiday Installation Banquet tradition this year in a lovely, spacious venue!

4:30–5:30 p.m.—Music, Cash Bar, and Snacks

5:30–6:30 p.m.—Welcome, Dinner, and Fellowship

6:30–7:00 p.m.—2023 Officer Installation, Awards

7:00–7:45 p.m.—Guest Speakers, Nancy East and Chris Ford

7:45 p.m.—8:00 p.m.—2023 Handbook Distribution

About our speakers: Nancy East and Chris Ford reestablished the Fastest Known Time to hike all the trails in the Smokies to support Preventive Search and Rescue in the Smokies. Their talk, however, is not just about establishing speed records but about their motivations, inspirations, and experiences on the trails, especially related to SAR issues. Nancy has written a book about their adventure called “*Chasing the Smokies Moon.*”

Reservations are required and due no later than December 5, 2022. You may register at smhclub.org, or use the form at the end of this Newsletter. We'd love to see you there!



A. T. Work Trips From 10/22/2022 to 11/20/2022

10/22 - Jim Rugh, Julia Wall, Reece Wall - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr - Cleared more water bars than we managed to count!

10/22 - Pete Berntsen - False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap - Cleared all water drains and removed berm where needed from Dry Sluice Gap to one mile NE. This completed drainage clearing in preparation for winter.

10/22 - Randy Bullock - AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin - Met with regional maintainers, land managers, ATC directors via zoom to discuss ATC experience analysis.

10/23 - Franklin LaFond - Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap - Inspected new flag line that was run this week by ATC staff for the proposed relocation south of Brown Fork Shelter in 2025. Inspected the Brown Fork shelter using ATC's draft Shelter Assessment Guide document. Assessed new steps that were installed on Jacobs ladder this past spring to see how they are holding up to the full season of hikers.



December 2022

10/23 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Worked from Sweat Heifer southbound cleaning waterbars. Along the way we repaired 2 rock waterbars. Also removed a large rock/boulder from up-hill side of trail that was working its' way free and could come crashing down at any moment. (took little effort to dislodge the large rock) Once down, the work began to get the boulder off the trail and placed in a location which will keep/prevent clowns from sending over the side. This large dislodged stone could be a future step. A small step-up was added below a locust log. Met a young family of 3 south bond thru hikers, and two flip-floppers heading south.

10/23 - Randy Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - **Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap** - Cleared corridor of minimal brush and a few small blow downs, made notes of all steps recently added and older, cataloging those needing repair and areas needing additional steps.

10/24 - Charlie McDonald, Debbie McDonald - **Mulch Operations** - Gathered all empty mulch bags. Bagged 8/40 lbs delivered to Sam Tillery for horse trip. Bagged and delivered 24/20lbs to the maintenance shed, currently there are 30/20lb bags available. Added estimated 400lbs mulch to the tent. As always, please let me know if mulch is taken from the boxes. Thanks.

10/24 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cleaned remaining .7 of mile of waterbars. Removed trip roots in two areas. Repaired one rock waterbar. Reset a locust step. Removed a locust log from an area, where the need was not as great, to a new location below a series of rock steps creating a step-landing with dirt and stone backfill. Met two SoBo's.

10/24 - Patti Grady, Diane Petrilla - **Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead** - Cleared 54 waterbars; still have about 38 to go.

10/24 - Randy Bullock, Cindy Meese, Sunaree Bullock - **Locust Cove Gap to Cheoah Bald** - Walked this section with new maintainer to look at current condition and consider future maintenance needed.

10/27 - Bill Pyle, Taylor Weatherbee - **Pecks Corner Shelter** - Replaced the tenuous hinges and the associated 2X4s on the door to the Pecks privy, as reported by Ricky Vandergriff. Filled 3 buckets with mulch.



Bill replacing that hinge (photo courtesy of Taylor Weatherbee)

10/27 - Jerry Troxler, Randy Rainey - **Spence (Bote Mt Tr) to Russell Field** - Cleaned all water bars and drains. Picked up litter around the shelter but it was in good condition. Cleaned the privy and knocked down the cone, filled all 4 buckets with leaves because there is no mulch in the mulch boxes.



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10/27 - Rick Hughes - Collins Gap to Mt Love - Cleared 43 waterbars. 15 of those were silted, and required digging out. At 20 of them, I cleared enough vegetation to be able to adequately access the end of the waterbar. The goal is to get all this section's waterbars "firerake" wide, and accessible through the vegetation.

10/28 - Ann Farrar, Dick Ketelle, Taylor Weatherbee, Kelly Conway, Bill Pyle - Davenport Gap to Lower Mt Cammerer Tr - The crosscut was sharpened, and the crew of five arrived at the AT trailhead near Davenport Gap early on this beautiful Fall day. We planned to remove a blowdown two-tenths of a mile south of the junction with Chestnut Branch Trail. When we arrived at the target, we found that it had been removed very neatly and needed no additional attention. The group went an extra mile to seek an alternate obstruction. Finding none, we trimmed vegetation and several limbs that were less obtrusive than the reported target. When a couple of horse riders passed us, we knew that our efforts had made their passage more friendly. It was a great day to be on the trail as the trees were in full color.

10/28 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Reset 6 log steps with the hopes of water draining over top and sediment staying behind the log. Only worked a short time in the evening, but got the work done as had very few interruptions in the evening.

10/28 - Patricia Bryant, Peter Lloyd - Mt Love to Clingmans Dome - Cleaned out all the water-bars on this section. Several of the water-bars are eroded and/or undercut. Built a raised grade packed with stones on some of the more adversely affected water-bars and dug side channels to divert water off the trail and down the side. One of the water-bars is becoming silted over, so dug a channel, reinforced with a rock water-bar, on the left side of the trail to divert water away from the eroding water bar. Overall, the section was quite dry despite the recent rain and some standing water in off-trail locations. An AT hiker coming up from Fontana commented how impressed he had been with the conditions of the water-bars and overall quality of the trail work. Naturally we commended the efforts of the AT Volunteer Maintainers and the SMHC in this regard. After trail maintenance, we stashed the tools and continued down to Newfound Gap. On the way met Jerry Troxler and Stew Taylor working on the AT Section by Road Prong. We plan to do a final inspection/maintenance before the Clingmans Dome Road closes at the end of November.

10/28 - Stewart Taylor, Jerry Troxler - Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr - cleaned water bars and added one step.

10/29 - Pete Berntsen - False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap - Refurbished 123 of trail located about 1.6 miles NE of Dry Sluice Gap. Improved two existing water drains, added five new water drains, and added two new rock steps.

10/29 - Tim Bigelow, Karen Johnson-Young, Diane Davis - 1 mi N of Cam (4250' EI) to Mt Cammerer Side Tr - Cleared several water bars and side drains; Trimmed brush including blackberries, rhododendron, dog hobble. Cleared branches from trail. This light work as part of a regular SMHC hike. Introduced AT trail maintenance to two new hikers.

11/3 - Jonny Bruce - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr - Cleaned and repaired waterbars, cut back vegetation near shelter to provide better view for Southbound blazes.

11/3 - Patti Grady - Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead - Cleared 17 water bars. Most needed to be dug out.

11/3 - Steve Reagan, Doug McFalls - Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr - Rebuilt 2 turnpikes that were in need of repair. Moved some good dirt to elevate trail. Worked on drainage.

11/4 - Dick Ketelle, Ann Farrar - Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob - Cleared leaves and sediment from water drainageways. Clipped a few woody limbs along edge of treadway.



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11/5 - Taylor Weatherbee - **AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Attended RPC fall meeting

11/5 - Terry Martin - **Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Sunup Knob** - I cleaned out waterbars and pull limbs off the trail. Dismantled illegal fire ring, only once this year in that location. Pulled more long logs to expand my log fencing to deter people from going back where the fire ring was. I found a bundle of rebar out in the middle of nowhere when searching for logs, trail maintainer booty that was a pleasant surprise. I wish I had a hammer with me as I can use them. Talked to several people. Mix of southbound, college students, campers hiking from one campsite to another, day hikers, and one full steam ahead trail runner. After a few minutes a group of day hikers came up on me and were joking you didn't get run over did you, we laughed.

11/7 - Patti Grady - **Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead** - Cleared the remaining 21 waterbars. All waterbars on this section have now been cleared and are ready for the winter. Installed 2 log check dams. Placed multiple rocks on the steeply sloped waterbars to slow the water flow. Moved downed limbs in two areas to prevent folks from walking out of the trail. Had conversations with multiple SOBO's, most of whom were very complimentary of the trail in the Park and offered their thanks.

11/7 - Taylor Weatherbee - **AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Zoom meeting to work on the National Forest visitor experience analysis with Randy Bullock, Morgan Sommerville, et al.

11/8 - Charlie McDonald - **Mulch Operations** - Turned over existing mulch under the tent to aid in drying. Added estimated 700-800lbs of wet mulch to the tent. Mulch boxes at the maintenance shed are full of 20lb bags. Next visit to the tent I'll need to do some patchwork on the top and entrance, a few rips and holes.

11/9 - Mike Harrington - **Sassafras Gap (Pk) to Lewellyn Branch** - Cleared water bars (24).

11/10 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap** - Removed small (less than 3-inch diameter) branches from trail. Rehabilitated about 40 feet of trail located 1.6 miles NE of Dry Sluice Gap. Added one rock step and three drains. Cut limbs from deadfall to clear the area for the third drain.

11/10 - Randy Mitchell - **Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top** - Cleared leaves and debris from all water bars and drains in the section. Filled mulch buckets in privy. Knocked down the cone in the in-use throne position. Talked with two south bound thru hikers and two section hikers. All had some concerns about the incoming storms and heavy rain forecast.

11/10 - Rick Hughes - **Collins Gap to Mt Love** - Waterbar clearing, including silt removal and access trimming.

11/14 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Walked the road up to the Fork Ridge entry. Cleaned out 65 water bars or drainage ditches, and dug out the ditch at the junction of the AT and the trail to the Collins shelter.

11/17 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Went up to the top of Mt Collins and worked south, chopping out 15 water bars and drainage ditches. Slow going due to the frozen ground. Had only a few hours to work between shoulder PT and a granddaughter's birthday dinner.

11/18 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Cleared out around 20 more frozen water bars.

11/20 - Mark Holmberg - **Wright Gap to Wesser** - Cleaned four waterbars, removed several large limbs, and a small blowdown.



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Reservations are required and due no later than December 5, 2022. Dinner is \$30 per person.

Name:

Phone number:

Email:

Choose one entrée: Chicken Marsala Macadamia Nut-Crusted Grouper Veggie Lasagna

Choose one dessert: Cherry Cobbler A La Mode Chocolate Fudge Cake A La Mode

Name:

Phone number:

Email:

Choose one entrée: Chicken Marsala Macadamia Nut-Crusted Grouper Veggie Lasagna

Choose one dessert: Cherry Cobbler A La Mode Chocolate Fudge Cake A La Mode

All dinners come with salad, sides, rolls, coffee, tea, and water.

Register and pay online at smhclub.org, OR print and mail form with check to Priscilla Clayton, 11005 Sonja Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934. You may pay at the door, but please note, we must know if your plans change by December 5, 2022, so the Club will not be charged for your dinner. Questions? Contact Priscilla Clayton at 865-966-4142/sigmtngirl@earthlink.net or Debbie Goddard at 865-382-3047/smhinstallationdinner@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!