



March 2017

AT Trail Maintenance March 4- Saturday

For this work trip, we will do general trail rehabilitation north of the Cable Gap Shelter in the Nantahala National Forest. We will be walking in approximately 2 miles to the work areas from the Yellow Creek Rd trailhead. Participants will need to wear sturdy footwear, bring work gloves, lunch, snacks and plenty of water. If you have a hardhat, ear protection, and/or safety glasses, please bring those as well. Please contact Franklin or Pam in advance so that we can determine number of crews and have appropriate tools available. Meet at the Maryville Walmart on Hwy 411 <2410 US Hgwy 411S> at 7:00 AM. Drive: 110 miles RT {@4¢=\$4.40}. If you prefer to meet the group in the National Forest, the group will start hiking North from the Yellow Creek Trailhead at 9:00 AM.

Leaders: Franklin LaFond, OX97game@aol.com, 678-464-3380 and Pam Reddoch, preddoch@comcast.net, 865-705-1923.

First Aid/ CPR and Cross-Cut Training

For those maintainers who have registered for First Aid/CPR classes and Cross-Cut training, please note the following dates and information:

First aid/ CPR Saturday March 4 class @Soak Ash at 9:00 AM. Class is not full yet.

First aid/CPR Sunday March 12 class @ Sugarlands Training Room 9:00 AM. We need more participants. Class will not take place unless there are 6 people.

E-mail Nicholas_Yarnell@nps.gov if you are interested. Pre-registration is required.

Cross-cut training will be held at Soak Ash, beginning at 5pm **Friday March 17** and continuing **Saturday March 18**. If you plan to stay at Soak Ash, please bring your own bedding or sleeping bag. Attendees should also plan on bringing their own food.

E-mail sogle@appalachiantrail.org if you plan to attend.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter below, and:

Please send any items of interest, photos, event notifications for the SMHC/ATMC Newsletter to Diane Petrilla at petrillad@gmail.com. Thank you for **ALL** of the work you do!

Wanted: Your Input !

In an effort to engage more of our maintainers in trail work and projects, we would love to hear your ideas (New and Veteran Maintainers!) on ways to do this. Have some "Training Only" trips? Pair a New Maintainer with a Section Leader to take on a work trip? Any and all thoughts are appreciated. Please e-mail to Diane Petrilla at petrillad@gmail.com or Franklin LaFond at OX97game@aol.com.



Work Trip Reports- 1/13/2017- 2/15/17

1/13 - **Crystal Gaddy, Katelyn Greer, Blake Lynch - Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap:** Cleared small blowdown about 0.75 miles in. Cleared another larger blowdown another half-mile from that. There are two more located about midway through the section that were too large for me to get with my handsaw. Cleared another small blowdown about 0.75 miles from Stecoah Gap. Cut many briars back throughout the entire section.

1/14 - **Alec Holtzclaw, Jack Bray, Josh Talley, Eric Mohn, Rob Mohn, Larry Lindsay, Dan Schmeising - Miry Ridge to Derrick Knob:** 5 large blowdowns cleared. All water bars on section cleaned out. Brought 4 fire rakes and 1 pulaski up to the Derrick Knob toolbox. [See photos below.]



After (Alec Holtzclaw)



Before



Before



After



The Crew (L to R): Larry Lindsay, Eric Mohn, Josh Talley

1/15 - **Bob Williams - Wright Gap to Wesser:** Trimmed vegetation, cleaned water bars, cleared fallen branches from trail.

1/15 - **Franklin LaFond, Rene Williams - Brown Fork Gap to Wesser:** Cleared 6 small blowdowns, noted location of remaining blowdowns. Added 6 ft of rock cribbing. Pruned back uphill vegetation along nearly 500 feet of trail. Removed a lot of small limb debris. Flagged relocation route options at Grassy Gap and at Brown Fork Gap. Inspected privies at Brown Fork and Sassafras Gap shelters. Filled mulch buckets at both locations. Removed 10 pounds of trash from Sassafras Gap Shelter. Installed new FS Leave No Trace sign inside shelter. Reset pipes at shelter springs to increase water flow.

1/16 - **Steve Higdon, Donna Higdon - Newfound Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr:** Cleared all water bars. Trimmed brush. Removed trip hazards. Cleared one 5-inch blowdown from across trail. Removed two small boulders from the trail. They had come from same area as larger boulders had come several years ago, very close to tunnel. Attempted to provide way to cross serious Blowdown. Picked up litter.

1/26 - **Keith Mertz, Pam Reddoch - Yellow Creek Gap to Brown Fork Gap:** Checked 5.2 miles for blowdowns; cleaned water bars; cut back some areas of woody vegetation; repainted blazes from Cody Gap to Brown Fork Gap; removed numerous small blowdowns that could be cut with the handsaw; removed numerous fallen branches; worked on an area with 6 blowdowns to get it somewhat passable for hikers.

2/5 - **Pete Berntsen - False Gap to Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr:** Removed loose blow-down limbs/branches and a few trip-roots from 1 mile SW of Newfound Gap to False Gap. Cut 13 limbs that were 1 to 4 inch diameter. Cut two trees, 6-inch and 10-inch diameter that were across trail about 0.25 mile NE of Dry Sluice Gap. Cut one 6-inch tree trunk that protruded into trail SW of NFG. Reinforced AT sign across Hwy 441 at NFG.

2/8 - **Robert Palermo - Lewellyn Branch to Fontana Dam:** Cleared 54 water bars/diversion ditches. Removed 5 dangling roots (trip hazards). Cleared miscellaneous debris. Cut and moved one blow down.

2/11 - **John H Gassler - Davenport Gap to 1 mi N of Cam:** Cleared all downed trees, limbs, and sticks from trail except for one large pine tree. Cleared leaves and debris from several water bars.

2/12 - **Bob Williams - Wright Gap to Wesser:** Trimmed, cleared low/downed branches from trail cleaned & recut water bars and other drainages.

**JTEKY honors Cindy Crandall for
Volunteering in the Nantahala National
Forest**

JTEKT Automotive Tennessee Division in
Vonore, Tennessee promotes community

service completed by their employees. This program is entitled *Volunteer in Place* and for every 50 hours of service, the employee can designate an organization/charity to receive a check for \$250 honoring this employee. JTEKT also has two monthly drawings among employees who complete community service for a \$50 award each. Cindy Crandall, a maintainer in the Nantahala National Forest, has chosen the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club as her organization of choice to receive her award checks. To date, Cindy has donated two checks for 100 hours of volunteering her time on the A.T., as well as having won several of the \$50 awards. **Thank you, Cindy**, for your trail work and loyalty to the A.T.! **Thank you JTEKT Automotive** for honoring employees who complete community service

4. Renew or replace AT blazes, using only the minimal number needed.
5. Check signs for damage; repair or replace as needed.
6. Pick up and pack out litter along the Trail and at overnight areas; clean privies.
7. Break up illegal fire rings, scatter the rocks and ashes, and pack out any litter.
8. Eliminate shortcuts and walk-arounds
9. Remove loose rocks or roots from the Trail Treadway; bury (rather than cut) solid exposed roots in the Trail Treadway to prevent tree damage, erosion and tripping.
10. Clean out water sources.

(Appalachian Trail Conference. *Appalachian Trail Fieldbook: Maintenance and Rehabilitation Guidelines for Volunteers*. Harpers Ferry, WV: ATC, 2003. Print.)

Maintenance 'Minders

We are starting a new section in the ATMC Newsletter that will excerpt trail maintenance guidelines from the Appalachian Trail Fieldbook. We hope you find these useful as reminders of best practices for trail maintenance! We will start with ***fundamental*** maintainer tasks.

BASIC Maintenance Tasks

1. Clean the AT's drainage structures, including waterbars, grade dips, and drainage ditches.
2. Cut plant growth along the AT, including woody growth, such as branches, saplings, and blackberry canes, and soft annual growth.
3. Remove fallen trees that block the Trail.

Thank you Postcard from SoBo Flip-Flop Thru- Hiker "Bean"

We recently received this great thank you note from a Class of 2016 thru hiker. Your work as Maintainers is appreciated!!



