



January 2018

Appalachian Trail Maintenance:  
Remember, No First Saturday Work Trip  
in January.

**Response to request for February  
blowdown surveillance in NNF appreciated**

We have 4 volunteers now to help with identification of blowdown locations between Wesser and Fontana, our 30 miles of AT in the Nantahala National Forest, during Feb. 2018. This allows for more efficient planning of chainsaw blowdown removal in March. If you are interested in helping, please contact [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com) and let me know. I will email all participants after the Holidays so everyone can coordinate with each other.

**Announcement of Chainsaw  
Certification/Re-certification Class offered  
through Nantahala National Forest**

We have received the following information from Heath Emmons, Natural Resource Specialist, of the Nantahala National Forest Service regarding a Chainsaw Certification and Recertification class in February, 2018:

“We are planning a chainsaw refresher class on the Tusquitee Rd. [near Murphy, NC] on February 24, 2018 (and 25<sup>th</sup> if a second day is needed for field evaluations). We can accommodate a maximum class size of 20 people. First priority will be for those folks whose saw cards will expire in 2018, second priority is new sawyers wanting certification, and third priority will be all others who expire after 2018. I will need a response no later than January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The class is filling fast and is expected to be full by the Jan. 30 deadline. **Regarding new sawyers, please do not attempt to qualify if you are not comfortable handling a chainsaw or if you do not have any prior experience. Current 1<sup>st</sup> aid and CPR will be required prior to the class.**” Ranger Emmons also provided a current list of names he has, with expiration dates of their certificates (if the certificate was originally obtained through the NNF). If you have questions or are interested, please contact Heath Emmons at: [heathemmons@fs.fed.us](mailto:heathemmons@fs.fed.us), 828-479-6431 x 4102

**Interest in Thru-hike of A.T. in GSMNP for  
Shelter Assessment and Surveillance,  
Summer, 2018**

Steve Dunkin has expressed an interest in hiking the approximately 72 miles of Appalachian Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park this coming summer, to do much needed Shelter surveillance and measurements (to plan for repairs, etc.) as well as light trail maintenance. The tentative plan is to hike North (Davenport Gap) to South (Fontana), taking about 6 days. If you are interested in this effort, please contact Steve Dunkin at [jsdunkin@roaneschools.com](mailto:jsdunkin@roaneschools.com).

**Two visiting College Volunteer groups in March**

We will have visiting volunteer student groups from Warren Wilson College in NC. and Eckerd College in FL. in March to work on accessible parts of the A.T. More details to come!



## **2017 SMHC Recognition of Trail Maintainers**

***The following Award recognition appeared in the SMHC Installation Banquet Program this year. We know many maintainers could not be there, and want to acknowledge your work, with great appreciation, in the newsletter.***

SMHC trail maintainers work without any thought of compensation and, as the ATC notes in their recognition program, "... some very dedicated volunteers reject the thought of formal recognition for their efforts." But the number of volunteers and their total hours are so impressive as to warrant special recognition by those who hike the trail and use the shelters. Here is a list of our SMHC maintainers who achieved special levels of performance.

<New awards are underlined; asterisks indicate awards in prior years; **bold** indicates they did it again this year.>

### **SMHC Awards – Hours for One Year Ending 9/30/17**

#### **Platinum Pulaski (200 hours)**

**Pete Berntsen\***, **Don Dunning\***, Edward Fleming\*, Phyllis Henry\*  
Tom Howard\*, **Franklin LaFond\***, Mac McNutt\*, Ed Peck\*  
Steve Reagan\*, Janet Snyder, Mark Snyder, Stew Taylor\*

#### **Gold Pulaski (100 hours)**

Tony Bolt\*, Greg Crandall\*, Lynn DiFiore\*, Steve Dunkin\*  
Nancy Dunning\*, Steven Epps\*, Pamela Fleming\*, James Fondren\*, David S. Gray\*,  
Billy Heaton\*, Pete James\*, **Dick Ketelle\***  
Keith Mertz\*, Ed Owens\*, "Hopeful" Powell\*, Pam Reddoch\*  
Philip Royer\*, Brian Schloff\*, Jimmy Smith\*, Janet Snyder\*, Mark Snyder\*,  
Jerry Troxler\*, Wayne Williams\*, Mike Wood\*

#### **Silver Pulaski (50 hours)**

**Jack Bray\***, **Greg Crandall\***, **Steve Dunkin\***, **Nancy Dunning\***, **Ed Fleming\***, **James Fondren\*** Leonard Gaddis, Crystal Gaddy\*, John Gassler\*, Jim Gehlhar,  
Sam Georges, Tom Howard\*, Keith Mertz\*,  
**Randy Mitchell\***, **Diane Petrilla\***, **Russ Redden\***, **Stew Taylor\***, **Jerry Troxler\***, **Bob Williams\***  
Forty-one maintainers previously earned this award.

#### **Bronze Pulaski (25 hours)**

Amanda Beal, Tim Bigelow\*, Karen Brackett\*, Liam Cavanaugh, Cindy Crandall\*, Alexis Davis,  
**Steven Epps\***, Jacob Fondren, Courtney Foney, Jimmy Glascock\*,  
**Paul Glascock\***, **Patti Grady\***, **Mike Harrington\***, **Billy Heaton\*** Kyle Herrell, Larry Hines, Alec Holtzclaw\*,

Maury Hudson, **John Knox\***, Fawn Landrum, Peter Landrum, Ayanna Lindsay, Niama McKinnie, **Ed Owens\***, **Bob Palermo\***, Sarah Paul, **Ed Peck\***, "Hopeful Powell", **Pam Reddoch\***, **Betty Royer\***, **Philip Royer\***, **Paul Ruble\***, **Tim Ryan\***, **Dan Schmeising\***, **Jay Schmid\***, **Mark Shipley\***, **Cindy Spangler\***, Angel Tumminello, Lizzie Lopez Vasquez, **Judy Wade\***, Taylor Weatherbee,  
**Wayne Williams\***

Sixty-nine maintainers previously earned this award.

### **ATC Awards – Hours since 10/1/2000 (Start of the Database)**

#### **ATC Vest (1000 hours)**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION** is greatly deserved by our maintainers who have provided the greatest and longest commitments over the history of our AT involvement. We greatly appreciate the contribution of these 1000-hour maintainers:

Pete Berntsen\*, Don Dunning\*, Ed Fleming\*, James Fondren\*, Dennis Fulcher\*, Jim Goddard\*, Doris Gove\*, Phyllis Henry\*, Steve Higdon\*, Tom Howard\*, Pete James\*, Bill Kerr\*, Dick Ketelle\*, Franklin LaFond\*, Mac McNutt\*, Lou Murray\*, Ed Peck\*, Randy Puckett\*, Steve Reagan\*, Philip Royer\*, Stew Taylor, \*Jerry Troxler\*, Wayne Williams\*

#### **ATC Cap (500 hours)**

Jack Bray, Alan Duff\*, Nancy Dunning\*, Ann Farrar\*, Keith Mertz\*, "Hopeful" Powell\*, Jim Quick\*, Randy Rainey\*,  
Pam Reddoch\*, Paul Ruble\*, Janet Snyder, Mark Snyder, Bob Williams\*, Mike Wood\*

#### **ATC Patch (100 hours)**

Bert Emmerson, Crystal Gaddy, Tim Glascock, John Knox, Dan Martin,  
Diane Petrilla, Cindy Spangler, Taylor Weatherbee  
One-hundred-eighteen maintainers previously earned the patch.

#### **ATPO Awards (250 hours since eligibility date)**

Thirty-five of our maintainers have earned this pass, many of them more than once or twice.

The **SMHC Cap awards** are a one-time award, except that a maintainer who works enough hours in a future year to qualify for a higher-level award will receive an additional cap in the higher category. Repeat awardees in Platinum and Gold categories are given the option of receiving a new cap with a small, circular ATC pin on the visor, or just the pin. ***Please note: If your name is underlined, you should have received a cap or patch. If you have not, I may not have an address for you. Please contact me at [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com) so we can arrange to get your award to you!***

## AT Work Trips from 11/11/17- 12/4/17

11/11 - Ed Owens, Matt Richardson, John Knox - **Thunderhead to Spence (Bote Mt Tr)** - Cleaned water bars from Bote Mtn to Rocky Top. Knocked down cone in privy. Shovel handle is broken, fire rake being used for privy. Filled mulch buckets. Hung bear cables. Matt Richardson used rope to get on top of shelter and sealed three known leaks and several more which were suspect. John Knox was not feeling well but started on trip. Got worse with a rough stomach bug and turned back. Thanks to John for his efforts.

11/15 - Wayne Powell, Bob Palermo, Ben Palermo, "Hopeful" Powell - **Russell Field to Doe Knob** - On a four-day work trip, we cleaned water bars, and water sources as well as removed blowdowns

11/18 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Boulevard Tr** - Cleared water drains and did minor brush trimming between Dry Sluice Gap and False Gap. One leaning blowdown located 1.3-mile NE of DSG and is about ten feet above trail. Cleaned difficult water control devices from Icewater Spring to about 0.1-mile NE of the spring. Added one new step in this area and improved many existing steps. Filled two mulch buckets at privy leaving about 2/3 of one bin.

11/19 - Franklin LaFond, Maury Hudson - **Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap** - Inspected the 2 trail relocations near the shelter. Adjusted some flagging to comply with grade standards.

11/20 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cleaned waterbars, widened some waterbars, raked leaves and cut dead trip roots, placed gargoyles on down slope of tree and reworked the waterbar away from the gargoyles. Cut small tree that was pulling up edge of trail.

11/24 - Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning - **Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer** - Packed 150 lbs mulch to Icewater Spring shelter privy (1 mulch storage bin 100+% full, other bin empty). Cleaned privy & restocked mulch buckets. Cleaned all waterbars and drainage features between Sweat Heifer trail junction and Boulevard trail junction, and cleaned drains in other sections where needed. This trail section is ready for the winter season and the annual transformation to a continuous sheet of ice.

11/26 - Bob Williams - **Wright Gap to Wesser** - Trimmed vegetation, cleaned water bars and drainage.

11/26 - Don Dunning - **Mount Collins Privy** - Packed 200 lbs mulch to Mt. Collins shelter privy (mulch storage bin 100% full). Cleaned privy & restocked mulch buckets. Cleaned waterbars and drainage features along access trail as needed.

Cleared 18-inch blowdown at Sugarland Mtn. trail junction.

11/28 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Completed all waterbar cleaning for winter, noticed some help was given on the last few waterbars. Always much appreciated when others pitch in to help out. Removed a large trip root from a dead tree. Took stock of what we can do come Spring.

11/29 - Phyllis Henry, John Knox, Ed Owens - **Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr** - Cleaned waterbars, drainage ditches, turnpike ditches, checked shelter and privy, filled mulch bucket. Cut back overhead and side vegetation.

12/1 - Phyllis Henry - **AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Did Ridgerunner interviews with ATC staff and NPS staff by conference call.

12/2 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Cleaned out a few water bars. Located 4 large rocks to be used as steps in the spring. Located 3 locust logs to be used for steps. Had to hike in from Newfound Gap as the road to Clingmans Dome was closed. Saw one small tree across the AT north of the Fork Ridge trail junction by about 0.5 to 1 mile. About 12 inches diameter.

12/4 - Pete Berntsen - **Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr** - Carried mulch to Icewater Shelter privy, filled three mulch buckets for a total of four, dispersed privy cone, and swept privy. Finished cleaning all water control devices from below Icewater Spring to West of Masa Knob.

### **Maintenance 'Minders**

*Just a short reminder of suggestions on how to plan your yearly maintenance schedule! Happy New Year, 2018!!*

**Late winter or early Spring** (or as soon as the snow melts)- Clear blowdowns and clean out drainage structures.

**Mid-June-** Cut annual growth, repaint blazes that need it.

**August-** Cut annual growth, repaint blazes that need it.

**After leaf-fall-** Clean out the drainage structures.

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

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!