

Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club



June 2018

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 22nd ANNUAL GSMNP AT WORK DAY June 2 - Saturday

Please join us for the 22nd Annual AT Work Day in GSMNP in celebration of National Trails Day. Perform important trail maintenance, get some exercise, enjoy a day of camaraderie (RAIN OR SHINE), receive a commemorative t-shirt, and conclude your day with a picnic dinner at the Greenbrier Picnic Pavilion. Volunteers of all skill and experience levels are welcome – this is a great opportunity to learn trail maintenance techniques from experienced leaders. The staging area will be the Sugarlands Visitor Center (bus parking lot) at 7:30 AM. **Preregistration is required for this event.** Registration fee is \$25 (\$20 before May 15); funds go to support AT maintenance activities. Registration forms are available at area outdoor outfitters and on the SMHC website, www.smhclub.org. Leader: Don Dunning, ntdsmhc@aol.com, 865-705-2154.

S.W.E.A.T. Crew Dates

There are seven S.W.E.A.T. work trips scheduled this summer, with hard-working volunteers taking on trail projects on more remote sections of the A.T. in the GSMNP. Volunteers are chosen and organized by the ATC and stay at Soak Ash. It's always great if SMHC maintainers have a chance, to meet or hike up and visit the crews occasionally, and even work along-side. Exact locations for the work are TBD. Please contact Javier Salazar, jsalazar@appalachiantrail.org, if you are interested in connecting with one of the crews, either at Soak Ash, or on the Trail!

1. June 6 - 11 (Wed-Mon)
2. June 16- 21 (Sat-Thu)
3. June 26- July 1 (Tues-Sun)
4. July 6- 11 (Fri-Wed)
5. July 16- 21 (Fri-Wed)
6. July 26- 31 (Thu- Tue)
7. Aug 5- 10 (Sun- Fri)

Administrative Permits for GSMNP Shelter Use

Just a reminder, that maintainers may request an Administrative Permit (no fee) to use one of the shelters in the Park if they plan to camp overnight to do maintenance work on their section. The permit is only for use in the Shelter on/near the section where you are working. Please contact Christine Hoyer at christine_hoyer@nps.gov if you need one.

ATC will be instructing a [Leave No Trace Master Educator course](#) in the Park 9/6-9/10 (SUP# is SER-GRSM-2501-6241 for reference). This five day/four-night course is designed for individuals who are actively teaching others backcountry skills or providing recreation information to the public. Click the link for more information. Club Members fee will be the same as AT Members. To sign up for this course, please click the link above, or email ATC's Leave No Trace coordinator, Marian Orlousky, at morlousky@appalachiantrail.org.

A.T. Work Trips from 4/6/2018 to 5/12/2018

4/6 - Rich Crompton, Tyler Goff - Goshen Prong Tr to Welch Ridge Tr - Cleaned ~28 waterbars and cleared smaller overhead limbs along the trail. We cleaned the Double Springs Gap shelter area - picking up trash, sweeping the bunks, sweeping the privy, filling mulch buckets. One of the mulch bins at the DS shelter was empty, the other 100% full. We'll hike a few bags of mulch up on our next trip in

4/13 - Don Dunning - Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer - Cleaned all waterbars, turnpikes, and drainage features between Sweat Heifer trail junction and Boulevard trail junction. Removed small amounts of limb debris from trail and collected microtrash.

4/15 - James Fondren, Paul Ruble, Tom Howard - Tricorner to Pecks Corner - Cleared 13 blow downs Between Pecks Corner & Tricorner



4/20 - **Cindy Spangler** - **Mt Love to Clingmans**

Dome - Cleaned all waterbars; clipped encroaching briars; cleared brush from treadway.

4/21 - **John Knox** - **Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr**
- Cleaned out 77 water bars.

4/21 - **Levi McClure, Scott McClure** - **Road Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir** - Cleaned out all the water bars and removed Debris from the trail. Clipped back branches and briars to keep a clean corridor. Trail is in overall good shape. 6 Thru Hikers passed as we worked .

4/22 - **Don Dunning, Nancy Dunning** - **Mulch Operations** - Backpacked mulch to Cosby Knob shelter privy for emergency resupply, refilled mulch buckets, cleaned privy. Also removed one blowdown and other minor limb debris from trail.

4/22 - **Mark Shipley** - **Cosby Knob Top to Camel Gap** - Cleared waterbars and cut back some vegetation from Camel Gap to Cosby

4/29 - **Betty Royer, Philip Royer, Kristi Knight, Taylor Weatherbee** - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - We cleaned water bars, created 1 rock step, replaced 2 logs that were part of a Turnpike, and trimmed brush from the sides of the Trail. We also scouted projects for the upcoming AT day next month

5/1 - **Ed Peck** - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Removed blowdown 15 ft N of Meigs Post

5/2 - **Don Dunning** - **Mulch Operations** - Backpacked another 50+ lbs of mulch to Cosby Knob shelter privy - hopefully to cover short-term needs until trail repair is completed to allow complete resupply. Cleaned and serviced privy (knocked down cone, refilled mulch buckets, swept, etc.). Cut new deadfall blocking trail approximately 0.25 mile south of Low Gap (approx. mid-way between Low Gap and slide area) - large tree upslope with top extending across trail approximately waist-high, causing hikers to create bypass trail immediately below actual trail - was able to cut out portion blocking trail with small pack saw to allow hiker clearance, but may require additional uptrail cut to allow wider clearance for trailriders and pack-stock. Also need to watch for tree to continue to slide downslope over time.

5/3 - **Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder** - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Went to Mt.Collins shelter to check mulch status prior to working on our section. At the privy, filled all buckets of mulch, about 15 gallons total, swept the floor and picked up trash. On our section about 75 yards north of the Gap, we repaired a loose step log, had to lower it and secure as well as back fill. Cut a dislodged rodo which came down onto the trail as well as another branch at about 0.4 mile. Also cut numerous trip roots. Finally, was able to begin to chip away at

some rocks which impede hikers progress. This work was within the first half mile from NFG.

5/4 - **Dick Ketelle** - **Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob** - I found the location reported by Mark Snyder several weeks ago where the trail is beginning to fail. It is on the Bunion side trail loop near the southern end. I cut a birch tree to reduce weight and wind leverage that may be adding to this problem.

5/5 - **Tim Bigelow, Bill Boy, Steve Hill, Fawn Landrum, Peter Landrum**

- **Davenport Gap to Mt Cammerer Side Tr** - Cleaned Waterbars, removed minor blow downs, trimmed vegetation, checked Davenport Gap shelter

5/9 - **Don Dunning** - **Mulch Operations** - Backpacked 6 bags of mulch to refill Mt. Collins shelter privy mulch supply. Removed several fallen trees obstructing water drains.

5/9 - **Pete Berntsen** - **Dry Sluice Gap to Boulevard Tr** - Cleared four water bars between The Boulevard and West of Masa Knob. Reset pipe at spring and cleared drain from spring. At area on South approach to Charlies Bunion: 1. Widened 12-foot approach by four inches; 2. clipped birch branches that were protruding into trail; 3. carved rock that protruded about 12-inches to widen trail at its weakest point; 4. carved four rock steps going up small high area; 5. widened high area; and carved two steps and added one rock step going down from the high area. Filled mulch bucket and swept privy. Carried out a couple items of trash found in tool box.

5/11 - **Don Dunning** - **Mulch Operations** - Packaged and staged mulch for pack-stock transport to Cosby Knob shelter following trail slide repair. Packaged and staged mulch for backpack transport to other privy sites on NTD.



Pink Lady Slippers

Courtesy of Ridge Runner Carl Goodman

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