



November 2019

**A.T. Maintenance Work Trip- Saturday November 2**

This A.T. maintenance trip will involve working on the trail around Road Prong Trail at Indian Gap on Clingman's Dome Rd. I will have tools at the Road Prong trailhead parking area where Road Prong connects to Clingman's Dome Rd. Meet at the trailhead parking area at 10:00 am for signup and tool issue. We will then split into teams and work both sides of the trail from Indian Gap, cleaning water bars and loping limbs. Teams will meet back at the trailhead at 1:00 pm. Anyone interested can then help haul mulch to Mt. Collins shelter via the Rough Fork manway. If you are interested in carpooling meet at Alcoa Food City at 8:00 am. Roundtrip approximately 100 miles.

Leader: Steve Dunkin, [jsdunkin1302@gmail.com](mailto:jsdunkin1302@gmail.com), 865-202-3286

**Second Annual Lake Fontana Clean-Up, November**

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**

G.R.E.A.T. (Graham Revitalization Economic Action Team) will participate with the town of Fontana Village in TRASH REMOVAL from the shoreline and open water on Lake Fontana this Fall. Last year they were successful in removing nearly 22,000 pounds of floating and shoreline trash from the Lake. With the help of G.R.E.A.T. and volunteers from Graham and Swain counties, they have a targeted goal of removing 50,000 pounds of debris. Please consider donating a few hours of your time and help make the county and lakeshore a more clean and natural destination! Several large dumpsters will be rented to facilitate the removal of collected trash.

Dates: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Time: 9AM-5PM (come when you can)

Where: Lake Fontana Marina (Franklin LaFond has relayed that work will be along the lake from Cable Cove boat launch to the Eagle Creek campsite.)

Bring with you: protective boots, rugged outerwear and grabber sticks if you have one.

Jim Baker, G.R.E.A.T. Chair NRRWQ committee.

For questions:

Contact: **Brandon Jones**, Captain Harbor Master, 828-498-2129, [brandon.jones@fontanavillage.com](mailto:brandon.jones@fontanavillage.com)

**Sabrina Garrison**, Marketing Director, 828-498-2103, [Sabrina.Garrison@fontanavillage.com](mailto:Sabrina.Garrison@fontanavillage.com)

**Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee Meeting**

There will be a meeting of the ATMC on Wednesday, October 30, at 6:30pm at TN Bank, 1311 W Lamar Alexander Pkwy, Maryville. Items to be discussed include locust log emplacement status N and S of Spence, status of mulch operations including pending tent re-location, issues around equestrian assistance for mulch operations, Rocky Top work, and more.

\*\*Maintainer T-shirts will be available for distribution! Please make plans to attend.

**ATC sponsored CPR and Wilderness First Aid Courses**

The ATC is hosting CPR and Wilderness First Aid courses at Soak Ash Base Camp (just outside of Gatlinburg, TN) **February 11-13, 2020**. We're grateful to have instructors from Landmark Learning teaching these courses since they are leading source for education and training in the southeast! And we're thrilled to be able to offer these two courses at a discounted price for A.T. volunteers, partners and the general public:

**Thank you 2019 Ridgerunners!**

We'd like to extend a BIG thank you to our 2019 Ridgerunners, Maury Hudson and David Schafer (short-season), and Rick Rozands (long-season). We are happy to report David will be back next year as the long-season RR, and Rick will return as one of the short-season RRs. We appreciate all of the hard work, education, and help the RRs provided this year on the A.T.!



- **Tues., Feb. 11= 1/2 day CPR**  
\$50/participant
- **Wed., Feb 12-Thurs. Feb 13= 2 full days of Wilderness First Aid**  
- \$185 for ATC partners/A.T. volunteers  
- \$215 for general public

**To Apply:**

1. **Email Chloë de Camara directly** at [cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:cdecamara@appalachiantrail.org) to specify which course (if not both) you want to sign up for (*WFR recerts possible*). Chloe will e-mail you the NOLS agreement and Landmark Learning Release and Health Form to complete.
2. **Payments can be accepted via check or card.** Checks should be mailed to: Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Attn: Chloe de Camara, 160 Zillicoa St., Asheville, NC, 28801. Credit cards may be taken over the phone by Chloe de Camara, Phone: 828-357-6542, Mobile: 828-545-8764.
3. **Specify if you'd like to stay on-site at Soak Ash Base Camp through the course.** There are limited sleeping accommodations available at Base Camp for partners and volunteers.

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**A. T. Work Trips from 10/1/2019 to 10/16/2019**

**10/1 - Jack Bray, Alec Holtzclaw - Miry Ridge to Thunderhead** - Cleared widow-makers (leaning trees) and blowdowns from Derrick Knob to Miry Ridge, and from Derrick Knob to Sugartree Gap. Remounted Sugartree Gap signage. Hiked out old tarp (tattered) from the Derrick Knob toolbox.

**10/1 - Neil Snapp - Inadu Knob to Tricorner** - Hiked up Snake Den to Inadu Knob. Cut back vegetation, cleaned water bars where needed, removed debris (downed limbs, rotted logs etc.) from trail, filled mulch buckets, swept floor, and wiped down seats in privy at shelter. Collected and packed out trash in fireplace and fire pit. Spent the night at Tricorner shelter and hiked back out the next day.

**10/4 - Diane Petrilla, Virginia Tech Group - Mulch Operations** - With seven wonderful students from Virginia Tech, carried 180 lbs. of mulch to Double Springs privy. Discussed the ecology, biodiversity and challenges facing the GSMNP, discussed the A.T. and it's maintenance and partnerships, and many other topics! Filled mulch buckets at privy and swept out privy. Cleaned trash out of fireplace and microtrash at shelter.

Water source was dry. Note: one of the VT student this year, Rachel Hall, was on this trip last year and helped with Davenport Gap roof replacement project.



*Having some fun!*



*Great group of mulch mulch-haulers! L to R, Jakob, Lauren, Rachel H., Rachel Z., Diane, Anna, Cody, and Yezi*

**10/4 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Located work locations for Oct. 5 and 16 work trips; ribbons placed where work will take place and notes made as to work needed to be done. Sawed small overhanging branches that were encroaching on the trail as well as removed a 6 inch sapling that was uprooted and leaning across the trail.

**10/5 - Pete Berntsen, Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder, Terry Martin, Rick Waggener, Charlie McDonald, Diane Petrilla, Virginia Tech Group - Gap W of Masa Knob to Sweat Heifer** - We cleaned waterbars and drains to include improving many of the drains. Removed two very large rocks from the trail while we had such energetic volunteers and three rock bars. We improved about 40 feet of tread by removing protruding rocks and re-seating them or discarding them. We learned to be very careful

when discarding as one of the rocks disturbed a yellow-jacket nest. We moved on and returned at the end of the day to complete the area near the nest. The VT students did a superb job with all of our maintenance projects!



*Above, L to R, Rick, Pete, Rachel Z., Terry, Cody, Lauren, Anna, Jacob, Rachel H., Yezi, Mark, and Janet*



*Hokies at work! (Cody and Jakob)*



*Lauren and Yezi building a waterbar*

**10/8 - Mark Snyder, Charlie McDonald - Mulch Operations** - Met with new volunteer, Charlie McDonald, to introduce him to the steps in the process of preparing mulch in 20 lb. bags. Went to the Elkmont mulch tent to fill 25 bags of mulch and then to the shed to store them. Spent time familiarizing Charlie with the process of bagging mulch, as well as the pending move of the mulch tent. Put 7 wheelbarrow loads of mulch in the tent to dry, for future use.

**10/10 - Judy Wade, Keith Mertz - Fontana Dam to Route 28** - Hand sawed three fallen trees from the trail. Removed one tree that was partially blocking the trail and cut back vegetation/briers.



*Keith taking care of things*





*Judy in action!*

**10/13 - Dick Ketelle - Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob** - Cleared waterbars and trailside drains for winter rains.

**10/13 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Went to tool shed in Sugarlands to get tools for the scheduled work trip for Wed. 16th of Oct. with the college students from Warren Wilson. Drove to NFG and went to work site, split a log to be used for steps. Created a step at beginning of work site. Reviewed the process and the order in which the work will take place.

**10/15 - Don Dunning - Mulch Operations** - Refilled mulch storage bin at Mt. Collins shelter privy (6 bags). Cleaned privy and refilled mulch buckets in privy.

**10/15 - Mike Harrington, Steve Dickinson - Sassafras Gap (Pk) to Lewellyn Branch** - Trimmed vegetation and cleared water bars. Removed 1 blowdown.

**Leave No Trace Principle #5: Minimize Campfire Impacts**

- Minimize campfire impacts by using stoves and lanterns.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Use only sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coal to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter coal ashes.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The annual SMHC Installation Dinner will be held Saturday December 14, 2019, 5pm- 8:30pm Fox Den Country Club 12284 N. Fox Den Drive Knoxville, TN. 37934. **All maintainers are invited!**

5-6 pm Reception- Oak Ridge High School String Quartet

6-7:30 pm- Dinner and Business meeting

7:30- 8:30pm- Guest Speaker, Andrew Herrington. Mr. Herrington is head of the BUSAR (an all-hazard, all volunteer, non-profit, highly trained Search and Rescue team) who assist the GSMNP and NPS in search and rescue missions. BUSAR was founded by Andrew in 2015 and was recognized with the NPS Search and Rescue Award in 2018. He will be accompanied by two crew members, and will be talking about his experiences assisting the National Park, as well as best safety practices, even for the most experienced hikers!

8:30pm- Handbook distribution

Reservation information coming soon!

Remember, Clingmans Dome Rd. will close on December 1. If your section is accessed that way, please try to get out and clean out waterbars, etc. before winter. Thank you!

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!

