



November 2021

### **A.T. Maintenance Work Trip- Sun. November 7 Trail Tool Sharpening and Cleaning 9 am-12 noon**

Location-ATMC Tool Shed at Sugarlands Maintenance Area (at Gatlinburg Trail trailhead)

Anyone interested in helping clean and sharpen the trail tools stored in our new ATMC shed can come to the Sugarland's Maintenance Area and help out. We will provide all the items needed to clean and sharpen our clubs' tools as we prepare for the 2022 trail maintenance year. Drinks and snacks will be provided. This is a great chance to meet fellow maintainers and also an opportunity to see if you might be interested in joining the SMHC A.T. maintainers. Bring a pair of work gloves if you have them. Masks are required for this activity.

Pre-registration is required. Leader: Steve Dunkin. Contact, [jsdunkin1302@gmail.com](mailto:jsdunkin1302@gmail.com), 865-202-3286

### **Combination Locks on Tool and Mulch bins**

As many of you have noted, the combination locks installed on tool and mulch bins at various shelters, etc. have become more difficult to use. Where needed, they are gradually being replaced (the combination remains the same). Some are being lubricated by our RR, Amelia Cary before she ends her long season on October 31. ***If you oil a lock, you must use 3-in-1 lubricant, NOT WD-40.*** If a lock continues to cause problems, please notify [christine.hoyer@nps.gov](mailto:christine.hoyer@nps.gov). Thank you!

### **Leadership in Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee**

Below is an update of current leadership /committee chairs for the ATMC:

**Chair:** Franklin LaFond- [ox97game@aol.com](mailto:ox97game@aol.com)

**District Supervisor, National Park:** Phyllis Henry- [phyllishenry@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllishenry@yahoo.com)

**District Supervisor NNF:** Franklin LaFond- [ox97game@aol.com](mailto:ox97game@aol.com)

**Volunteer Recruitment (Interim):** Diane Petrilla- [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Database Manager:** Diane Petrilla- [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com)

**Finance Committee Chair:** Dick Ketelle- [rhketelle@comcast.net](mailto:rhketelle@comcast.net)

**Shelters/ Privies/ Assets Committee Chairs:** Ed Fleming- [edwrdfilm@aol.com](mailto:edwrdfilm@aol.com). and Philip Royer- [philip.royer@asgarch.com](mailto:philip.royer@asgarch.com).

**Sawyer Coordinators:** Dick Ketelle- [rhketelle@comcast.net](mailto:rhketelle@comcast.net) and Bill Pyle- [wcpyle@comcast.net](mailto:wcpyle@comcast.net)

**Mulch Ops:** Diane Petrilla- [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com) and Charlie McDonald- [charlie.mcdonald1900@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.mcdonald1900@gmail.com)

**Tools/ Maintenance Shed Manager:** Steve Dunkin- [jsdunkin1302@gmail.com](mailto:jsdunkin1302@gmail.com)

**Newsletter editor:** Diane Petrilla- [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com).

**NTD Committee Chair:** Diane Petrilla- [petrillad@gmail.com](mailto:petrillad@gmail.com).

**ATC Regional Partnership Committee Representatives:** Franklin LaFond- [ox97game@aol.com](mailto:ox97game@aol.com) and Taylor Weatherbee [tweatherbe@aol.com](mailto:tweatherbe@aol.com).



## Summary Report from ATC Volunteer-in-Park and Volunteer-in Forest Total Hours, Fiscal 2021

Below is the summary report from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy of total volunteer hours reported by all 31 maintaining clubs for the A.T. for fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021). If you look at the last column of combined VIP and VIF hours, you will see our (SMHC) hours total as 5520. We rank 8<sup>th</sup> in total number of volunteer hours reported. A lack of college or other volunteer groups (due to COVID) this year impacted us compared to previous years. Keep those reports rolling in, and thank you for ALL of this work!!

Appalachian Trail Conservancy		2021 Volunteers in Parks and Volunteers in Forests Report								10/13/2021			
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)	429	5993	4355	10,348					429	10,348			
Appalachian Mountain Club					120	1120	132	1,252	120	1,252		536	
Randolph Mountain Club					4	20	64	84	4	84		8	
Dartmouth Outing Club					88	900	50	950	88	950		150	
Green Mountain Club					256	2879	100	2,979	256	2,979		1631	
AMC-Berkshire Chapter	124	4936	467	5,403.0					124	5,403		1188	
AMC-Connecticut Chapter	102	3527	588	4,115.0					102	4,115		1677	
NY-NJ Trail Conference	220	4564	709	5,273.0					220	5,273		1755	
Wilmington Trail Club	4	12	10	22.0					4	22		15	
Batona Hiking Club	14	283	20	303					14	303		136	
AMC-Delaware Valley	54	433	65	498					54	498		164	
Keystone Trails Association	9	178	36	214					9	214		38	
Blue Mtn. Eagle Climbing Club	92	2550	245	2,795					92	2,795		694	
Allentown Hiking Club	58	857	134	991					58	991		282	
Susquehanna A.T. Club	49	518	35	553					49	553		203	
York Hiking Club	11	123	15	138					11	138		36	
Cumberland Valley A.T. Club	58	1309	657	1,966					58	1,966		370	
Mountain Club of Maryland	47	1128	215	1,343					47	1,343		261	
Potomac A.T. Club	542	23777	8811	32,588					542	32,588		6935	
Old Dominion A.T. Club	36	953	612	1,565	4	59	108	167	3	37	1,732	438	
Tidewater A.T. Club	5	40	40	80	75	610	21	631	10	70	711	358	
Natural Bridge A.T. Club	21	244	0	244	97	5420	2710	8,130	17	101	8,374	2555	
Roanoke A.T. Club + McAfee Knob Task Force	87	4066	122	4,188	108	2340	83	2,423	23	172	6,611		
Outdoor Club at Virginia Tech					61	797	15	812		61	812	104	
Piedmont A.T. Hikers					53	2947	1345	4,292		53	4,292	936	
Mount Rogers A.T. Club	27	74	8	82	72	1660	433	2,093	27	72	2,175	615	
Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club					201	5573	272	5,845		201	5,845	1882	
Carolina Mountain Club					194	7207	502	7,709		194	7,709	2497	
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club	138	3472	1159	4,631	25	716	173	889	14	149	5,520	1954	
Nantahala Hiking Club					57	2543	2481	5,024		57	5,024	368	
Georgia A.T. Club					217	12170	3299	15,469		217	15,469	5500	
Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Crews, Councils, Bo:	64	1526	3853	5,379	30	1181	0	1,181	1	93	6,560	85	
A.T. Communities				0				0		0	0		
A.T. Educators & Student Service Learning				0				0		0	0		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>60,563</b>	<b>22,156</b>	<b>82,719</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>48,142</b>	<b>11,788</b>	<b>59,930</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>142,649</b>	<b>33,371</b>	<b>28</b>
		VIP				VIF							
<b>Total volunteers (minus duplicates)</b>				<b>3,758</b>									
<b>Total volunteer hours Trailwide</b>				<b>142,649</b>									
<b>Total hours, including Travel and Advocacy</b>				<b>176,048</b>									
<b>Value of A.T. Volunteerism</b> (based on Independent Sector figure estimated April 2021)				<b>\$4,071,202.46</b>									

**Saw Extension:** The US Forest Service issued an extension to sawyers that have expired or will expire so that their certifications remain in effect until December 31, 2022. ATC, with financial assistance from APPA, has been working to keep pace with saw safety training courses, and our USFS partners continue to assist with course delivery as possible given the continued constraints of COVID-19. ATC's aim is to reduce the backlog of recertification needs by continuing to coordinate workshops, provided it can be done so safely.

### Charlie McDonald back in charge of mulch bagging

We are delighted to have Charlie McDonald back helping us with bagging mulch at the Elkmont tent. We are also extremely appreciative of the efforts of Jack Grant and Steve Hill who have helped for the last 6 months when Charlie was out with an injury. ***If you take mulch from the maintainer shed, please be sure to write how many bags in your work trip report so Charlie can keep up with our supply.*** Thankyou!

### **Help us make a movie!**

We are very fortunate to have **Ann Farrar** helping us make a short video about our work as maintainers, for future posting on our website, and to use to engage with service organizations, etc. to help with recruitment of volunteers. We have the following requests:

1. If you are planning a routine maintenance trip, would you consider letting Ann know so she can accompany you if she is available, to get some footage of your work?
2. When Ann is filming, she needs help carrying her equipment. If you are willing to help out (even if you are not maintaining a section), please let Ann know. We'd like to gather a few names of people she could call upon to assist with her equipment, if you are available when she plans to film.

Contact info for Ann: [ann@fandkphoto.com](mailto:ann@fandkphoto.com) or 865-850-6940.

Thank you!

### **Thank you Amelia Cary!!!**

Amelia Cary, our long-season Ridgerunner this year, will be ending her "shift" at the end of October. GREAT THANKS to Amelia for all of her hard work and great communication- we will miss you! Below is Amelia performing one of the more glamorous Ridgerunner tasks of emptying a "cooked" bin at the Icewater privy. Nick Yarnell of the GRSM BCO, assisted Amelia. Thank you both 😊



## A. T. Work Trips From 10/1/2021 to 10/13/2021

*(Please note: some of the earlier WTs below took place before 9-30-21 but were submitted after that date deadline for our fiscal 2021 volunteer hour submissions. In such a case, the report was dated 10-1-21 in order to be captured in the 2022 fiscal year report)*

**10/1 - Diane Petrilla - Mulch Operations** - Obtained radio from BCO, Elkmont gate key from maintainer shed box, then went to Elkmont mulch tent to load 8/ 40lb. mulch bags plus pack 4 more. Transported mulch to Big Creek Campground area for NC Backcountry Horsemen (Dave Michael and Terry Seebode) who will carry 500lbs. of mulch to Cosby tomorrow.

**10/1 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock - Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap** - Hiked Section while raining to access any erosion issues. Recognized that several short sections could benefit from preventative measures. Will address in the near future using water bars and short steps to divert downhill drainage path. Carried six locust logs to top of Jacobs Ladder for step building. Inspected shelter. Packed out minimal trash. Encountered two hikers out for a rainy day hike.

**10/1 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cleared all waterbars that needed cleaning, had to repair one waterbar and one step. Cleared smaller rocks off trail, cut numerous trip roots and sawed a 6 inch sapling that had fallen over and was being supported by a fir tree's bough. Snipped numerous branches to keep them from being eye pokers. Most time was spent at the sites of Saturdays work trip where some site preparation was being made.

**10/1 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Training** - Trail Building Workshop- Was introduced to two tools of the trade. A 'come along' and a 'grip hoist.'

**10/1 - Stewart Taylor - Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr** - I first went to the Mt. Collins Shelter. On the way I checked all the water bars and cleaned those that needed to be cleaned. After getting to the shelter I cut all the weeds around the shelter and cleaned out the ditches in front of the shelter. Shelter was clean as well as the area around the shelter. Then went north on the AT and cleaned out the he waterbars for approximately 1.5 miles. I found a log that I was able to cut into 2 steps that I moved up to the trail to put in later.

**10/2 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder, Pete Berntsen, Daniel Fotes, Neil Snapp, Nikki Reuter, Franklin LaFond - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap**- Widened the trail in one spot by moving 3 very large rocks (boulders in excess of 500 lbs. each) by first extracting them out of the uphill side of the trail. After removing each boulder from its secure lodging in the mountain, each rock was repositioned on the outer edge of the trail where hikers were creating a new trail over small rocks and roots. These repositioned boulders are now secured by their own weight, as they lay between tree roots that have become exposed due to excess foot traffic. If any person or persons moves these boulders I hope they are pacifists, otherwise lookout! After lunch three members finished the regrading of the trail where it was widened, and reset the water bar just uphill from this widened section. While this initial project was being worked on, Janet went to Icewater Spring Shelter to add mulch to the privy buckets. Two were empty and the third was almost empty. The line was well formed and Janet had to butt in to get to the buckets. The mulch bin closest to the privy could not be unlocked so Janet used the furthest bin to extract the mulch. ( Note: that bin is about 30-35% full.) After lunch the work crew that went up the trail, about 150 yards , began to make three very impressive steps. Much stone work was used to backfill the steps to provide the firm ballast that was needed to hold these steps in place. Along the way numerous trip roots were eliminated, thanks to Pete. As the workday came to a close and we walked back to NFG and smaller projects were completed. Smaller only in comparison to the first two monumental achievements of this work crew.

10/2 - **Stewart Taylor** - **Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr** - Started at end of my section and completed cleaning out the water bars. All water bars have now been cleaned. Also put in one rock step. I have located a log that can be cut into steps on next trip.

10/2 - **Terry Martin** - **Clingmans Dome to Miry Ridge** - I saw Peter did between Clingmans Dome and Clingmans Dome Bypass Trail. So, I went from Clingmans Dome Bypass Trail to Silers Bald shelter based off the comment of one thru- hiker from previous weekend. What Peter did was probably what the hiker was talking about as what I hiked was in great shape. I trimmed back a lot of tree branches (for us tall people), cleaned up tree debris off trail, trimmed back vegetation in some spots that was growing back from first cutting, and picked up trash off the trail.

10/10 - **Lisa Sumter, Stephanie Gose, Barbara Allen, Franklin LaFond, Jolynnda Gardner, Christine MacDonnell, Henry Gass** - **Davenport Gap to Chestnut Br Trail** - We installed 10 new steps and replaced 2 steps. Also added 1 new waterbar and replaced 2 waterbars.



*Thanks to this great group for the work out of Davenport Gap!*

10/11 - **Charlie McDonald** - **Mulch Operations** - Bagged 8/40lb of mulch, added estimated 200lbs of wet mulch to the tent, turned over the existing mulch undercover to aid in drying. Loaded 16/20lb transported to the shed, currently have 35/20lbs there. Delivered the 8/40lb to Sam Tillery for the upcoming horse trip. This is the remaining inventory for this year until the Park adds new mulch.

10/11 - Diane Petrilla - Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Rd Prng/Tom PrngLead - Cleaned waterbars, buried TP piles, cleaned up a large trash dump just off the Trail

10/12 - Dick Ketelle, Phyllis Henry, Franklin LaFond, Taylor Weatherbee, Philip Royer, Diane Petrilla - **Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - A.T. Finance Committee meeting to discuss budget planning for remainder 2021 and for 2022.

10/12 - Pete Berntsen - False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap - Installed two new rock steps. Cleared water drainage, cut back shrubs, and painted blazes along this section of trail.

10/13 - Taylor Weatherbee - Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Collins Gap - Removed 2 blowdowns Diane Petrilla reported between Indian Gap and Spruce Fir entry. Then went in at Collins Gap and went up to top of Mount Collins, then dug out and widened water bars to around halfway back. Waterbars can now be cleaned out this fall with a fire rake. There are still 57 water bars or drainage dips between where I left off and Collins Gap. Also installed one rock waterbar.

**Remember.....**

Clingmans Dome Rd. will close after Sunday 11-28-21. For folks who have sections out CD Rd., please be sure your section is as ready as possible for the winter months. The road usually re-opens on April 1.



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!