



October 2022

**Tribute to William “Mac” McNutt, Feb 8, 1938-
September 1, 2022**

William R. (Mac) McNutt age 84 of Maryville passed away on September 1, 2022. Mac was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years Gayle Holloway McNutt, son Jeffrey R. McNutt, and parents Mr. and Mrs. Hugh T. McNutt. Survivors include daughter Melissa McNutt Click (Rick), sons Tim McNutt (Rhonda Tindell) and Steven McNutt (Shawn McCormick), and 4 grandsons. Mac was an MHS graduate as were his wife and children, and he attended Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville. In addition to owning many businesses including McNutt Chrysler Plymouth Dodge, McNutt Good Times Kawasaki Yamaha, Knoxville Kawasaki BMW Suzuki, and the Mountain View Stables located on his farm in west Maryville. Mac was also an avid hiker and volunteer for the SMHC Appalachian Trail Maintainers. Maintainers who worked with him remember his wonderful sense of humor and sense of fun and camaraderie with many group gatherings. He also graciously allowed the ATMC to store tools at his barn in Maryville for many years. As a very gracious and generous gesture, the family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to: Appalachian Trail Maintainers, Smoky Mtns. Hiking Club PO Box 51592 Knoxville, TN 37950-1592. Thank you Mac; you are missed.



Greetings everyone! It's good to be back after traveling this summer. The Newsletter is long because you have been very busy this summer, and we didn't publish a September Newsletter. Please remember that we will submit our fiscal 2022 hours (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) on September 30 this year to the GRSM, NNF and ATC. Our volunteer hours are crucial for garnering federal funds that help all of those entities. **Please be sure to get all work trip reports in before September 30, 2022!** And as always, thank you so much for all of your hard work!

A.T. Maintenance Work Trip- Saturday October

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We will start working 0.6 miles north of Newfound Gap and then proceed back to the Parking Lot at NFG, with various projects along the way. No cleaning of water bars as that has already taken place. We need workers, be it man or woman or anyone else, who is willing to help rebuild the trail to a more aesthetic, safe and durable treadway. Tools will be provided; however, you may bring your favorite shovel, sledge hammer, pick-mattock, or rock bar. (The tools I bring are for right handed people, but they can adapt to lefties). We will meet at Newfound Gap at 9 a.m. I will also be at the Sugarlands rest room parking area at 8:20 AM to provide a ride for someone up the mountain, as my van can take three more workers up to the NFG, leaving at 8:30 AM. Register with leader, **Mark Snyder** at markandjanets@gmail.com, or 865-448-1183, or smhclub.org.



Road Closure Across Fontana Dam

The road across Fontana Dam will be closed to vehicle traffic 10/3/2022-3/31/2023 due to maintenance at the Dam. Foot traffic is permitted-hikers can follow walking path from TVA parking area across the dam to the AT and Lakeshore trailheads. The road will be closed to vehicle traffic in the immediate vicinity of the spillway gates; however, there will still be a walking path open for public use. The path will include using stairs leading to a walkway around the downstream face of the spillway gates. This walkway returns to the roadway outside the work zone. Please see diagram below.



Save the date! Fontana Lakeshore Clean-Up

The annual Fontana Lakeshore clean-up will be held the first weekend in November this year, November 4/5/6. Please mark your calendars- further information will be in the next ATMC newsletter.

A. T. Work Trips From 12/4/2021 to 9/15/2022

12/4/21 - Jack Bray, Josh Talley - Spence Field Shelter - Patched roof leak.

6/14/22 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Cleaned all water bars that needed skimmed out after June 11-12 downpour. Thanks, Rick Waggener, for indicating where the potentially dangerous side erosion is taking place, as we are aware of this and went specifically to make additional measurements. This horse hoof impression began the crumbling/erosion, and in 20 days and plenty of rain the crevasse has grown 3 inches inward.

6/30 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap - Cleared corridor and drains along Jacobs Ladder. Inspected privy and shelter, both in good condition. Noted that privy is near capacity, added leaves and filled leaf buckets.

7/1 - Franklin LaFond, Joseph ("Randy") Bullock - Brown Fork Gap to Stekoah Gap - Cleared Corridor, removed blowdown near trailhead.

7/8 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock - Cody Gap to Brown Fork Gap - This section of trail has been chosen for rehab and after many hours of hard work looks great compared to its former condition after 20 years of stress from wind and rain.

7/9 - Franklin LaFond, Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Sunaree Bullock, Mark Holmberg - Cody Gap to Brown Fork Gap - This was the First Saturday Club work trip. The team met with the Konnarock trail crew that was on location for several days. Work completed included addition of new rock steps, replacement of rotted locust log cribbing, and making a LOT of crushed rock for foundation and fill. Assisted the trail crew with getting all tools off the mountain, as this was the last day of their hitch. Despite heavy rain and wind on Friday night, the team was able to finish all marked projects within the work area. The renovated trail segment looks amazing.

7/10 - Dick Ketelle, Ann Farrar - Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob - Mowed trail edge and lopped branches to provide clearance in the trail corridor.

7/10 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Franklin LaFond - Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap - Cleared corridor, cut 9 trees across the trail today in 1.5 mile section ascending Stecoah Gap.

7/11 - Jim Rugh, Shari Jardina - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr - Re-painted blazes on the section.

7/11 - Pete Berntsen - Pecks Corner to False Gap - Cleaned one water drain located about 0.1 mile NE of Icewater to stop water from flowing down the trail in the area. Cut a 5-inch blowdown from across the trail located about 30-feet NE of the first sawtooth. Cut minor brush and cleared a few drains from Dry Sluice Gap to 1.5 miles NE of Dry Sluice Gap. Rehabilitated 48 feet of trail to include hammer and chisel of about 10 feet to re-establish trail from the edge of the mountain. I added three rock steps, cut a 4-inch diameter log leaning into the trail tread, and cleaned and improved three water drains.

7/13 - Rick Waggener - Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr - 1). Cut the briars back around the shelter & bear cables. 2). Dragged a couple dead trees off the trail that fell last night. 3). Spent most of the day removing large rocks from both trail & drains [from last night's storm]. 4). Reset a large stone step that was dislodged last night. 5). Unstuck a jammed bear cable. 6). Packed out a couple gallons of trash from the shelter + a small bag of trash in the tool box. 7). Used duct tape to effect a temporary repair to 3 small roof leaks pointed out by last night's occupants. 8). Dug out a couple drains that were buried last night - there are dozens more [all of them], jammed with stone & gravel.

7/14 - Randy Mitchell - Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top - Cut back vegetation encroaching on trail and around Cosby Shelter and privy. Filled mulch buckets at Cosby privy. Discovered a shovel on the sleeping platform in the shelter and moved it to the tool box. Packed out a ziplock bag of food left in shelter.

7/15 - Jim Rugh, Gaye Noe - Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr - In response to Rick Waggener's ATMC Work Report on Wednesday (7/13) we went to the AT around Icewater Springs to check on damage from the heavy rain Tuesday night. Wasn't as bad as we anticipated, but we did clear quite a few water bars and cut many roots on the trail, plus some branches.

7/16 - Dick Kettle, Ann Farrar - Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob - We picked up where the thunderstorms stopped us last Sunday. Mowed weeds and grass along trail corridor. Lopped encroaching shrubbery on the Bunion ledge trail, trimmed branches throughout the trail corridor, and cleared waterbars from accumulated rocks from last week's tremendous storm. Looked over the extensive erosion on the section from the spring down to the bottom of the Kephart side ridge. Much work is needed to put this section back into decent condition.

7/16 - Terry Martin - Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Sunup Knob - I cut back vegetation, cleaned waterbars, and cut up large branch that fell across trail. I met a nice family at Mt. Cammerer intersection where the father was trying to convince the family to do a loop back to Cosby by taking Lower Cammerer Trail. It was already after 12pm and it was clear they only had provisions for the hike out to the fire tower and back. I helped convince the father it would be better to go back the way they came. His wife and kids were happy.)

7/18 - Peter Lloyd, Patricia Bryant - Mt Love to Clingmans Dome - Cleaned 25 drains, created three drains to promote drainage in flat areas, cut back

numerous small overhangs. Shingled rock water bar installed last month under Leanna's and Rachel's guidance appears to be functioning well as that area is now not collecting water. Interior drain/improved waterbar drain again installed last month under Leanna's and Rachel's guidance is also functioning well, keeping that area dry. Through hiker from Fontana commented that he was impressed by how well the AT from that point had been maintained.

7/22 - Charlie McDonald, Debbie McDonald - Mulch Operations - Gathered empty mulch bags from the bins at Sugarlands maintenance shed. Planned on bagging at the Elkmont tent but a yellow jacket nest inside the tent changed that. We were stung about a dozen times. Planning on going back early sometime this weekend to dispose of the nest and bag mulch. We currently have no inventory in the bins at the shed.

7/22 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Prepped logs and stakes and placed them at site of side hill erosion. Split logs to use as a retaining wall.

7/22 - Taylor Weatherbee, Conner, Hiker - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Cut a blowdown measuring around 10" from just south of Mt Collins summit. Very nice GSMNP ranger Carson informed me of a blowdown south of Indian Gap that he thought would definitely require a chainsaw. Went down and found about a 12-14" dead tree that is a slightly difficult step over. I'll send a picture to Dick Kettle and Bill Pyle. Also, hikers coming north reported 4-5 large trees down between Spence and Derrick.

7/23 - Mark Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Trimmed vegetation and removed some debris from a few water bars.

7/23 - Pete Berntsen - False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap - 0.2 mile north of Newfound Gap - I added one rock step. At 0.1 mile north of Icewater Spring - rock step slid down trail about one foot so secured it in this new location. Performed minor corridor trimming from Dry Sluice Gap (DSG) to 1.5 mile NE of the gap. Found one 8-inch diameter log protruding about one-half of the trail width located 1.2 mile NE of DSG. I removed a few branches and managed to roll the log across the trail and down the outer embankment. In the area about 1.5 mile NE of DST, I rehabilitated 97 feet of trail to include adding three water drains. (Recent heavy rains provided evidence for the need.)

7/24 - Charlie McDonald - Mulch Operations - 35/20lb bags of mulch delivered to the mulch bins at the maintenance shed. While at the Elkmont tent I took care

of a Yellow Jacket nest as well as two Wasp nests that were inside the tent. Raked out the remaining mulch in the tent to aid in drying out. Estimated 800-1000lb of mulch under cover.

7/24 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap - Trail overall in good condition, this section has recently been taken on as a new section for Sunaree and I, so taking into consideration the work done in recent years by SMHC members and recent tree work by Franklin LaFond, it is in good shape. But, today we spent hours clearing about a mile and a half of briars and rhodo crowding the corridor. With a few more days of clearing, it will be in good shape for the Fall and into next Spring. Treadway rehab is needed in a few areas, and short areas needing cribbing to slow downhill erosion would be optimal. In two parts of the trail near Stekoah Gap, hikers have created shortcuts that are not at this time a problem, but brush can be put in place as a deterrent to prevent damage and prevent future erosion. One stopover noted and can be cut on the next work trip.

7/24 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Began to erect the cribbing at location of trail erosion. (Where Rick Waggener referenced the need for work to correct a hazardous area in the making.) Did some back fill with dirt from edge of trail near the steps going over the boulders. The rain came and forced us off the job as it wasn't safe to work when it was wet.

7/25 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Finished the cribbing on side of mountain and backfilled with dirt and stone. Added a large flat rock in drainage ditch that was beginning to become an escarpment due to the erosion created by this placement of the drainage ditch.

7/27 - Keith Mertz, Judy Wade, Susan Keener - Fontana Dam to Route 28 - Weeded and brushed out trail. Sawed out one blowdown.

8/5 - Dick Ketelle, Taylor Weatherbee - Indian Gap/Rd Pr Tr to Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead - Removed blowdown (approx 14 inch diameter) using crosscut saw.

8/5 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock - Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap - Continued corridor clearing on this 3 mile section, particularly in the half mile section narrowed by rhododendrons north of Locust Cove. Several trees fell in a concentrated tangle near this area, about 1 mile north of Locust Cove. These oaks have a circumference of approx. 40 inches. In three locations near Stekoah Gap, hikers had created rogue trails to shortcut switchbacks. To discourage further use, I

placed deadfall and saplings to obscure and block access to these side trails.

8/6 - Randy Mitchell, Dick Ketelle, Franklin LaFond, Rick Waggener - Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr - Today I learned that "Build Back Better" might work, after all. We rebuilt several drains large enough to hopefully resist flooding. A number of steps were repaired/added, also. We were able to address the two worst areas.

8/12 - Randy Mitchell - Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top - Cleaned water bars from Low Gap north to Cosby Knob Shelter. Someone had cut rhododendron and dog hobble in part of the section and had left the trimmings on the trail and in the water bars. This made clearing the water bars much more difficult. I am grateful that someone cut the encroaching vegetation but it would have been much more helpful if they had not left the trimmings jumbled up in the drains and wet areas. Also I briefly checked in on Cosby Knob Shelter. It has been closed again due to aggressive bear activity. Shelter and privy were clean. I did top off the mulch buckets.

8/13 - Amanda Beal - Training - Soak Ash/ Harmon Den- chainsaw certification training and fieldwork.

8/13 - Bill Pyle - Training - Harmon Den- chainsaw recert.

8/13 - Elizabeth Davis - Training - Soak Ash/ Harmon Den- chainsaw certification training and fieldwork.

8/13 - Dick Ketelle - Training - Harmon Den- chainsaw recert training.

8/13 - Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - Training - Soak Ash/ Harmon Den- chainsaw certification training and fieldwork.

8/14 - Dick Ketelle, Ann Farrar, Joseph ("Randy") Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - Stekoah Gap to Locust Cove Gap - We carried three crosscut saws in from the forest road below Locust Cove Gap to remove a complex jackstraw pile of limbs from a large fallen oak tree. There were 6 large limbs in the treetop that were criss-crossed across and over the trail. This was good skills practice in assessing cutting plans and we had fun working with different saws and an underbucking tool. There was a wild honeybee nest in one part of the branches that we temporarily plugged to the dismay of the bees but when our work was done we opened the entry up again so the bees can live happily to pollinate the area plants. Some video and still photography was done to add to our SMHC AT Maintainers collection of real people doing trailwork. (See photos next page).



Snarl of blowdowns when the crew began



Thankyou to this great group! L to R, Sunaree, Dick and Randy. (all photos courtesy of Ann Farrar)



In action!



After the work

8/14 - Peter Lloyd, Patricia Bryant - Mt Love to Clingmans Dome - Cleaned out waterbars. Trimmed back foliage. Reinforced one waterbar with rocks and built an internal drain to take waterflow off trail. Erosion had undercut the waterbar so that it was no longer effective. Reinforced another waterbar and cut a channel to facilitate water flow off the trail. Silt build-up and erosion of the waterbar itself at the leading edge had resulted in water flowing over the top of the waterbar. This waterbar has lost about half its original height due to erosion/decay. Three seeps are causing some pooling on the flat sections of the trail. Built internal drains to move the water to the side and eventually off the trail. Will have to monitor whether or not our efforts were effective.

8/18 - Rick Waggener - Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr - 1). Brushed out the entire stretch of trail [to postpone having to dig, lol]. 2). Added a large rock step just above the spring where a red cedar step was about 28" high. 3). Created 2 new rock drains. 4). Cleared several drains blocked by last month's storm. 5). Packed out small amount of trash from the shelter. 6). Buried 2 surface poops by the [closed] privy.

8/20 - Mark Shipley, Katie Houghtlin - Sunup Knob to Camel Gap - Cut vegetation along trail

8/20 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Planned work for Oct. 1st work day. Much prep was put into the planning for this work day. Cleaned water bars to this point. Trimmed some vegetation.

8/21 - Franklin LaFond - **Other Work** - Picked up park communication devices for upcoming chainsaw worktrip. Cleaned out remaining items from old maintenance shed.

8/23 - Mark Snyder - **Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap** - Cleaned all water bars. Created a side ditch for water to exit trail in a flat location, this location was holding mud-silt like soup. Did some vegetation trimming.

8/23 - Taylor Weatherbee - **Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap** - Did light clearing of vegetation. Added few rocks to a boggy spot that will need a drainage ditch when I have 2 arms again.

8/24 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap** - Trimmed brush from entire 2.2 mile section. At section located 1.6 miles NE of Dry Sluice Gap, refurbished 55-foot of trail including adding two new water drains and improvement of an existing water drain.

8/25 - Tim Ryan, Jay Schmid, Ken Hughes - **Boulevard Tr to Sweat Heifer** - Completely rebuilt one stone water bar from recent storm damage. Repaired two others. Cleaned drainage areas, reset stones, used rebar to fortify several logs and painted blazes.

8/28 - Bill Pyle, Kelly Conway - **Collins Gap to Mt Love** - Removed blowdown from trail side (reported recently by Ricky) and filled hole in trail with rock.

8/28 - Franklin LaFond, Mark Holmberg, Joseph ("Randy") Bullock - **Wesser to NOC** - Cleared this section of overgrown section including 11 trees, two completely blocking the trail causing hikers to route precariously down trail. Evaluated several areas where tread way rehab is needed.

8/30 - Rick Waggener - **Gap W of Masa Knob to Boulevard Tr** - Repaired several rock steps washed out last month. Set a new, larger water bar. Dug out silted in drains.

8/31 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap** - At section located about 1.6 miles NE of Dry Sluice Gap, refurbished 77 feet of trail to include addition of one carved step, one improved step, three new water drains, and two improved water drains. About 200 feet past first sawtooth, filled 1-foot x 2-foot hole left by small rootball.

9/2 - Dick Kettle, Ann Farrar - **Sassafras Gap (Pk) to Fontana Dam** - This was a pleasure hike and we only snapped back a few branches and dragged off a couple of small fallen dead trees. We encountered one minor stepover blowdown and one significant blowdown at 2.25 miles that has several smallish branches making

hiking beneath a bit of an obstacle course. These could be safely and easily removed with a hand saw if anyone plans to hike up to Shuckstack soon.

9/4 - Adam Beal, Amanda Beal, Franklin LaFond - **Spence Project** - Cut locust logs to lengths as specified by ATC assessment, in preparation for Rocky Top Crew work beginning early Sept 2022. Also removed two blowdowns blocking the trail, one on Bote Mtn between Anthony Creek and Lead Cove trails, and another on Lead Cove about a quarter mile from the Bote intersection.

9/4 - Adam Beal, Amanda Beal, Franklin LaFond - **Thunderhead to Spence (Bote Mt Tr)** - Cleaned waterbeds, backfilled steps, discussed future work to be done and issues to keep an eye on.

9/4 - Charlie McDonald, Debbie McDonald - **Mulch Operations** - Inventory mulch, 35/20lb bags currently in the bins.

9/6 - Jim Rugh, Candace Sartin, Bethann Brown - **Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr** - Lots of de-vegging (cutting back bush and tree plant growth near trail corridor), cleaning out of water bar drains, and removing mud accumulated on trail (with mattock and by gloved hands).

9/11 - Jack Bray, Larry Lindsey, Josh Talley, Dan Schmeising - **Russell Field to Doe Knob** - Cleared brush.

9/12 - Keith Mertz, Melanie Harmon, Debra Barton, Paula Hemmerly, Bill Hemmerly - **Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap** - Cleaned water bars/brushed out trail/hand sawed 4 blowdowns off trail.

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

