

APPALACHIAN TRAIL MAINTAINERS COMMITTEE SMOKY MOUNTAINS HIKING CLUB



January 2023

No Regular First Saturday Work Trip in January

There are no regular first Saturday work trips for December, January and February. As weather and Trail conditions allow, and of course as you desire, sections can always use work, no matter what time of year! **Stay safe, healthy and warm! Happy Holidays everyone, and thank you for all you do!!!**

Opportunity for Chainsaw certification or Re-certification

There will be a Sawyer certification class (with re-certification also available) on Friday/ Saturday March 24/25. Location is TBD (either Soak Ash or Harmon Den). Please contact Bill Pyle via text, ASAP, if you are interested. 865-368-0126.

Annual Maintainer Awards Announced

At the SMHC Installation Holiday dinner held at The Foundry in Knoxville, on December 11, annual maintainer awards were announced. They are as follows: (highlighted awards are brand new recipients of this particular award)

SMHC Awards- Hours for One Year Ending 9/30/2022

New awards are underlined

(*) indicates awards in prior years

Bold indicates they did it again this year

Platinum and Gold repeaters receive an ATC pin for their cap

Platinum (200 hours): Pete Berntsen*, Randy Bullock, Ed Fleming*, Tom Howard*, Dick Kettle*, **Franklin LaFond***, Diane Petrilla*, Bill Pyle*, Steve Reagan*, **Janet Snyder***, **Mark Snyder***, Stewart Taylor*, **Taylor Weatherbee***.

Gold (100 hours): Amanda Beal, Sunaree Bullock, Steve Dunkin*, **Rick Hughes***, **Terry Martin***, Keith Mertz*, **Randy Mitchell***, Philip Royer*, Brian Schloff*, Neil Snapp*, Jerry Troxler*, Rick Waggener.

Silver (50 hours): Adam Beal, Jonny Bruce, David Gall*, Kathy Gardner, Mike Harrington*, Charlie McDonald*, Jim Rugh. 54 maintainers have won this award previously.

Bronze (25 hours): Barbara Allen*, Debra Barton, Patricia Bryant, Kelly Conway, Elizabeth Davis, **Gene Desrosiers***, Dale Gerhardt, **Stefanie Gose***, Brian Groenhout, **Tracy Kressler***, Lynn Kzsos, Peter Lloyd, Debbie McDonald, **Randy Rainey***, Hiram Rogers, **Tim Ryan***, Nicole Samu, **Jay Schmid***, **Lisa Sumter***, Yugong Tan. 81 maintainers have won this award previously.

ATC Awards- Hours since 10/1/2000 (Start of the Database; only new awardee maintainers are listed)

ATC Vest (1000 cumulative hours): These maintainers have provided the greatest and longest commitments over the history of our A.T. involvement and have our deep gratitude: Keith Mertz, Diane Petrilla. 24 maintainers have previously earned the ATC Vest.

ATC Cap (500 cumulative hours): Terry Martin. 27 maintainers have previously earned the ATC cap.

ATC Patch (100 cumulative hours): Adam Beal, Sunaree Bullock, Crystal Burnes, Kelly Conway, Chris Darnold, David Gall, Lisa Sumter, Josh Talley. 132 maintainers have previously earned the ATC patch.

ATPO Awards- 250 hours since last eligibility date, to earn National Parks Pass for 1 year

Maintainers who have become eligible have been contacted individually to choose whether they want the Pass. 36 maintainers are eligible this year; many have earned this Pass more than once.

Franklin LaFond read maintainer names who have accumulated over 1000 volunteer hours since the inception of our database (10-1-2000). **Pete Berntsen** was the highest at 3540 work hours! **Franklin LaFond** and **Taylor Weatherbee** were presented with awards for their roles with the Regional Partnership Committees, by Drew Ball, ATC Southern Regional Director.



Save the Date! A.T. Vista 2023

Early Registration Opens in January 2023

Wild & Free in Johnson City, Tennessee

www.atvista2023.org

Save the Date! August 4-7, 2023

The Northeast Tennessee Tourism Association and Visit Johnson City will host the inaugural in-person Appalachian Trail Vista 2023 program in the beautiful Johnson City, Tennessee area, with hikes, excursions, workshops and entertainment at the East Tennessee State University (ETSU) campus. The event is four days, Friday through Monday for a gathering with hundreds of hiking and outdoor enthusiasts!

A. T. Work Trips From 11/19/2022 to 12/15/2022

11/19 - Jim Rugh, Leanne Butler, Amy Webb - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr - Last opportunity to check my AT section before the Clingmans Dome Road closes for the winter.

11/21 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Cleaned out 35 water bars and drainage ditches. Also cleaned out 2 turnpikes, measuring 40 and 96 feet including their drainage ditches.

11/26 - Randy Bullock, Sunaree Bullock - Brown Fork Gap to Stecoah Gap - Strolling up this section on a beautiful winter day clearing water bars, several small blow downs. Walked proposed relocation route near Brown Fork Gap shelter.

11/26 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Cleaned out the last 18 water bar/drainages at south end of our section, then 19 water bars/drainages located between our section and the Bill Pyle/Rick Hughes section. Cleared one small blowdown and reset one stone step. Then relocated to the trail down to the Collins shelter and cleared all but around 6 water bars down near the shelter.

11/28 - Patricia Bryant, Peter Lloyd - Mt Love to Clingmans Dome - Cleaned out the diversion channels in front of the waterbars. Reinforced the front edge of several waterbars where erosion has taken place. Redug some diversion side-channels to divert water off the trail.

11/28 - Taylor Weatherbee - Sugarland Mt Tr to Collins Gap - Cleaned the rest of the water bars. Built a short turnpike in the lowest one near shelter that was boggy. Cleaned drainages around shelter.

11/29 - Keith Mertz, Melanie Harmon, David Gall, Debbie Waddell, Debra Barton - Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap - Five volunteers went over to Yellow Creek Gap and cleaned water bars, lopped lots of greenbrier, and removed two small blowdowns laying across trail.

11/30 - Rick Hughes - Collins Gap to Mt Love - Completed clearing all waterbars on the section, including some vegetation trimming to permit waterbar access.

12/4 - Ernie Wiles - Tricorner Knob Shelter - Cleaned shelter and filled mulch pails in shelter.

12/4 - Lisa Sumter - Davenport Gap to Chestnut Br Trail - Cleared around 60 waterbars/drainages between the shelter & Chestnut Gap trail. Removed downed branches from trail. Picked up micro trash.

12/10 - Lisa Sumter - Davenport Gap to Chestnut Br Trail - Cleaned out the waterbars & removed downed limbs from the first mile of trail. Sawed & removed a trip hazard of rhododendron branches which were a casualty of a blowdown. Checked shelter area.

12/11 - Diane Petrilla - Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin - Performed all database reports for calculation of annual ATMC maintainer awards from Club and ATC, as well as ATPO report. Ordered needed awards and assembled all for distribution, either in person or by mail. Distributed at banquet and mailed at PO.

12/12 - Franklin LaFond - Trail Assessments - Joined Heath from Forest Service, Morgan and Sara from ATC to run flag line and get GPS track for upcoming trail relocation south of Brown Fork Shelter. Inspected Brown Fork Shelter and noted a couple of potential issues that will need to be addressed in the future, but not immediate. We will continue to monitor these issues to determine rate of progress and establish a plan for addressing. Discussed current status of status of Cable Gap Shelter and next steps. Phase 1 work on road widening project near Stecoah Gap has started. Had an opportunity to talk with crew manager regarding schedule. The land bridge portion of the project is Phase 2, targeted to begin late 2023 or early 2024. Sarah has meeting this week with NCDOT to discuss project updates.

12/13 - Mark Snyder, Janet Snyder - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Cleaned all waterbars, for the third time in the lower portion of our section. Some of the drainage was full of leaves and twigs. Hopefully, today's rain will tamp the leaves down, thus the wind is less likely to blow them back into the waterbars.