

Appalachian Trail Maintainers Committee

Smoky Mountains Hiking Club



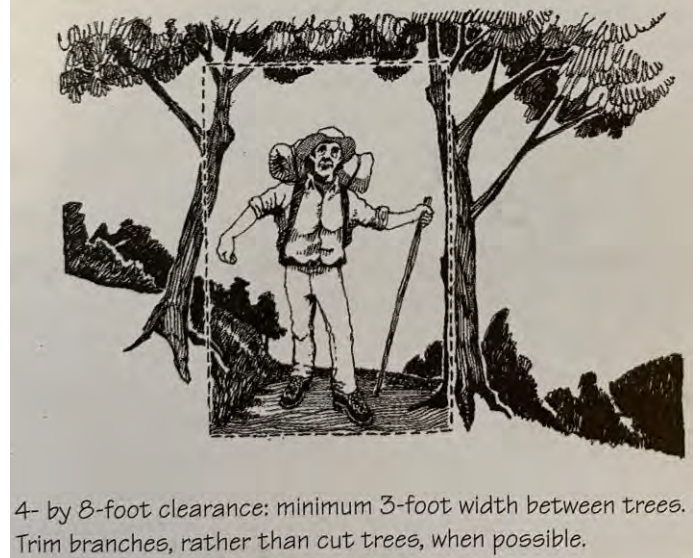
August 2023

A.T. Maintenance Work Trip- Mulch Haul- Saturday August 5

For this summer work trip, we will backpack mulch out to the Double Springs shelter storage bins and then stop by Mt Collins on the way back out Clingmans Dome Rd. to take some mulch in there. Mulch is pre-bagged in 20lb. bags (you're only expected to carry one!) and we have extra backpacking-style backpacks if needed. Although it doesn't sound very glamorous to carry mulch, it is a crucial part of backcountry waste management! Experienced and non-experienced mulch mules welcome! Hike to DS 6 miles RT, to Mt Collins 1.5 miles RT. Meet at Clingmans Dome parking lot at 8am, or if you'd like to carpool, meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center at 7:15 am. Pre-register at smhclub.org, so I know how much mulch to bring. Leader: Diane Petrilla, 931-224-5149, petrillad@gmail.com

Summer Trail Maintenance.....

If you haven't been out already, please remember to cut back vegetation on your section this summer. Focus especially on "uphill" vegetation trimming, which encourages hikers to avoid the outside or downhill section of the trail, and helps prevent erosion. The corridor for backpackers should be about 4 ft. wide by 8 ft. tall, so don't forget those overhead branches, too! Thank you for your work!



A. T. Work Trips From 6/16/2023 to 7/18/2023

6/16 - Stewart Taylor, Linda Milbradt - Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr - We put in 3 steps.

6/23 - Jim Rugh, Nancy Dailey - Sunup Knob to Low Gap - Cleared 41 water bars, cut back some vegetation, kicked "ankle buster" stones off trail.

6/24 - Keith Mertz - Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap - Brushed out the last one mile section south of Cody Gap.

6/25 - Charlie McDonald - Mulch Operations - Bagged and restocked mulch bins, currently have 35/20lb bags. Added 15/20lb bags to the current inventory at the Elkmont tent, we have 35/20lb bags available along with estimated 800lbs mulch drying out.

6/27 - Jim Rugh - Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr - Just checking status of this section of the AT. I have to say that it's in excellent shape! Only had to re-deepen 2 of the 153 water bars that we cleared on April 6.



6/27 - Pete Berntsen - False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap

- Removed small branches from trail. Trimmed vegetation from False Gap to 1.1-mile SW of False Gap. Trimmed three blackberry patches and surrounding high grass to Dry Sluice Gap. Cut three branches from bush that was leaning over trail tread located about 0.2-mile NE of Dry Sluice Gap.

6/27 - Stewart Taylor - Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr - installed 3 steps.

6/30 - Gene Desrosiers, Randy Mitchell, Melanie Harmon, Mike Harrington, Elizabeth Weikert, Craig Gustavson, Nicole Samu, Diane Petrilla - Mulch Operations - This group of 8 magnificent mulch mules came out early with an iffy weather forecast to backpack mulch to Double Springs and Mt Collins. The weather did not favor us, as it rained and thundered both to and from Double Springs. We had the privilege of meeting Chris Marshburn, our ATC Ridgerunner at DS; he was proceeding south on the AT. We deposited 180 lbs. of mulch at DS, then slogged back to CD, drove to the Fork Ridge pull-out, and carried 120 lbs into Mt Collins. By then the rain had stopped. We admired the new skylight roofing at Mt Collins! Working well, with no leaks!

7/1 - Kelly Conway, Bill Pyle - Collins Gap to Mt Love - Cleaned water bars.

7/6 - Randy Bullock, Cindy Mease, Sunaree Bullock - Yellow Creek Gap to Cody Gap - Cut large red oak blocking trail south of Cody Gap.

7/6 - Randy Mitchell - Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top - Trimmed summer growth from Low Gap to the top of Cosby Knob. Cleaned sleeping platform and fireplace at Cosby Knob Shelter. Picked up about 1 pint of trash from shelter. Brushed area around shelter, bear cables and fire ring. Filled mulch buckets. Noticed a lot of honey bee activity in the pit below the throne and that the cone was unusually wet. Suspect that someone had dumped food in the privy. Repaired the lower hinge on the privy door (again). Hinge pin was missing, so I replaced it with an electric fence post from the tool bin. Packed out 14 or 15 empty mulch bags. Met the Ridgerunner, Chris, on my way out and talked for a few minutes.

7/7 - Randy Bullock - Brown Fork Gap to Stecoah Gap - Cut back briars, weeds etc from construction corridor at Stecoah Gap north to power lines.

7/8 - Dick Ketelle - Dry Sluice Gap to Gap W of Masa Knob - Cut back weeds and small limbs.

7/8 - Janet Snyder, Mark Snyder, John Lee - Sweat Heifer to Newfound Gap - Welcomed John Lee as a new crew member on this section. Met at the Sugarlands tool shed to acclimate John to tool procurement. Cleaned water drainage, cut back vegetation, cut branches, and cut trip roots. Cut two small saplings leaning into trail.

7/8 - Randy Bullock, Franklin LaFond, Kelly Karr - High Pt E of Walker Gap to Yellow Creek Gap - Cleared the trail corridor, put a tarp on the roof of Cable Gap shelter pending future repairs at the request of forestry and ATC. Packed out trash and filled leaf buckets. Joined Konnarock crew at Fontana relo project, setting up tools and assisting with initial project work.

7/9 - Randy Bullock, Kelly Karr, Franklin LaFond - Fontana Dam to Route 28 - Assisted Konnarock Crew with second phase of relo. Continued sidehill and leveling of tread, placement and securing of cribbing.

7/12 - Peter Lloyd, Patricia Bryant, Harumi Tsuruoka, Ben Alford - Mt Love to Clingmans Dome - Cut back overhang from trees, brambles and undergrowth. Cleaned the water-bars on the trails. Reinforced some areas of side drainage. Needed to re-build the earth 'ramps' on three of the water-bars. Thanks to Harumi and Ben for joining us on this maintenance trip.

7/16 - Terry Martin - Mt Cammerer Side Tr to Sunup Knob - Cut one tree off Low Gap. Trimmed back vegetation and cleaned out waterbars in my section. Saw several day hikers and one NOBO. Helped a person try and find three hikers that came off AT down in Cosby campground. Never found the people and I believe they actually came out at Newfound Gap based on what I was being told.

7/18 - Charlie McDonald - Mulch Operations - Bagged 44/20lb mulch. Added 29 bags to existing mulch inventory for Christine's upcoming delivery, total of 60/20lb bags. Delivered 15/20lb bags to maintenance bins inventory, currently 35/20lb bags available.

**And Finally..... A few more photos from
National Trails Day!**

The photos below were taken of Peter Lloyd's crew,
who worked from Clingmans Dome to Mt Love.
Enjoy!



The crew, upper right, included Peter Lloyd, Ray Fuehrer, Bill Eversole, Ben Alford, Patricia Bryant and Christie Bruns.



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! And please be safe and careful!