



October 2023

AT Maintenance Work Trip- Saturday October 7

For this month's work trip, we plan to move large rock/boulders off the treadway. We will carry needed tools to 1.3 miles where our first efforts will take place. When we have completed this task, we will retreat back to the parking lot while attempting to clear or at least move many rocks/boulders to the side of the treadway. All participants will be asked to carry two tools, except anyone carrying the large rock bar. Tools are provided, unless you prefer to bring your own pick, shovel, sledge hammer or rock bar.

Meet at 8:25 at Sugarlands Visitor Center (restroom side) where Co-Leader John Lee will organize a carpool to drive to NFG. You can also drive directly to Newfound Gap on your own, arriving at 9 am for a tailgate safety meeting. Bring plenty to drink, snacks and/or lunch, sturdy footwear, gloves and rainwear as October's weather is unpredictable at high elevations. We hope to be back at the parking lot by 2pm.

Please call Leaders Mark and Janet Snyder at (865) 448-1183 or Co-Leader John Lee at (815) 549-5096, so we will know what tools to bring. *UT is not playing this weekend. 😊

Tarps going up on Shelters

Tarps will be going up on our A.T. shelters beginning the last week of September. Many thanks to Chris Marshburn, our ATC Ridgerunner, Steve Reagan and Taylor Weatherbee for help with this important task, which helps winter hikers and campers stay warm.

Annual Fiscal Reports

The last day to report hours for this fiscal year is September 30, 2023. **Remember, your volunteer hours help the GRSM, NNF and ATC get matching Federal funding!** Please submit any remaining 2023 work trip or administrative hours as soon as you can at <https://www.smhclub.org/Report-ATMC-Work>. Thank you!

2023 SAWS/USFS Opportunities

There are two crosscut Sawyer certification opportunities planned this Fall. These courses can each accommodate 15+ A/B participants. There is no cost to attend the courses. More information and an application form for each course can be found with the links below:

October 18-20

Virginia Crosscut: A/B only; camping options at training site. (MRNRA/ Volunteer Trail Camp, in the Mt. Rogers NRA)
<https://wildernessskillsinstitute.org/sawsi/2023-crosscut-a-b-course-in-sugar-grove-virginia/>. Anne Sentz, our new ATC Regional Manager will be attending this course, so if anyone is interested in carpooling, please contact: asentz@appalachiantrail.org.

November 13-17

Georgia crosscut: A/B/C certifications; camping options available at Lake Winfield Scott, near Blairsville, GA.
<https://wildernessskillsinstitute/sawsi2023/georgia-crosscut-saw-certification-course/>. Note: this course is almost full, so if you are interested, please register ASAP.



A. T. Work Trips From 8/18/2023 to 9/15/2023

8/18 - Randy Bullock, Mark Holmberg, Cindy Mease, Sunaree Bullock, Kelly Karr - **Wright Gap to Wesser** - Brushed out, cleared water bars, cleared large blowdown.

8/19 - Pete Berntsen - **False Gap to Dry Sluice Gap** - Removed blowdowns of up to 4-in in diameter from trail. Refurbished 210 ft of trail to include removal of 30 ft of berm to improve water flow, returned trail to proper width, and removed one rotted log water bar and replaced it with a rock water bar.

8/20 - Randy Bullock - **Fontana Dam to Route 28** - Cut 6 blowdowns, picked up a small amount of trash, cleared water bars.

9/2 - Cindy Mease - **Cody Gap to Brown Fork Gap** - Brushed trail.

9/2 - Jim Rugh, Candice Sarten - **Clingmans Dome to Goshen Prong Tr** - On 8-12-23 we "bushwhacked" what vegetation we could. Today we used a lopper to cut larger, woody plants (e.g. mountain laurel, fraser fir branches) that were getting too close to the trail corridor. Also, some more water bar clearing with a shovel.

9/6 - Taylor Weatherbee, Randy Mitchell - **Low Gap to Cosby Knob Top** - Repaired door on privy at Cosby Knob Shelter. Removed old hinges on the door and replaced with new more robust hinges. Added wooden braces to the door. Filled mulch buckets in privy. Repaired lock bracket on the mulch bin. Cut limbs from a 6 in diameter oak tree and moved it off Low Gap Trail. Packed out a small amount of trash from the shelter. Met a backpacker north of Cosby Shelter whose statements concerned two other hikers and both of us as well. He was asking for food although he had just gotten on the trail at Cosby. He said he had no food or money. The hiker had no knowledge of the trail yet wanted to hike south. Taylor planned to stop in at the backcountry office on his return home and relay what little information that we got from the hiker .

9/8 - Jonny Bruce - **Goshen Prong Tr to Welch Ridge Tr** - Cut back Vegetation from trail, refilled mulch buckets for privy. Mulch bins are 100% full.

9/8 - Karen Reagan, Steve Reagan - **Spruce Fir to Sugarland Mt Tr** - Cleaned privy at Mt. Collins used 15 gallons of mulch to fill buckets. The riser needs to be moved to center from right side. Center is empty. Left and right side are full. Trimmed needed vegetation. Removed fallen debris from waterbar that blowdown had filled.

9/9 - Mark Shipley, Randy Mitchell, Brian Groenhout, David Gall, Greg Wilson - **Low Gap to Camel Gap** - Cut vegetation and cleared water bars.



Left to right- Randy, David, Greg and Brian

9/12 - Diane Petrilla - **NL & Website** - Prep and publishing of ATMC Newsletter.

9/12 - Diane Petrilla - **Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Communications/ organizational work related to ATMC.

9/12 - Phyllis Henry - **AT Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - Interviews for Ridgerunners, interviews for crew leaders for SWEAT crew and Rocky Top, numerous phone calls with ATC and Park personnel, duties associated with Treasurer.

9/12 - Randy Bullock - **Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - NNF Coordinator management duties to include volunteer recruitment, communication, training materials.

9/13 - Jack Bray, John Lee, Lisa Sumter, Meg Gill, Franklin LaFond, Diane Petrilla, Ken Wise, Steve Dunkin, Terry Martin, Rick Waggener, Randy Mitchell, Taylor Weatherbee, Philip Royer, Pete Berntsen, Dick Ketelle - **Club Mgt, Mtgs & Admin** - 15 members of the ATMC as well as ATC regional manager Anne Sentz met to discuss multiple issues related to the ATMC and our work on the Trail.

9/15 - Karen Reagan, Steve Reagan - **Rd Prng/Tom Prng Lead to Spruce Fir** - Cleaned drainage. Trimmed overgrowth.

9/15 - Patricia Bryant, Peter Lloyd - **Mt Love to Clingmans Dome** - Cleaned out several water bars, cut back overhangs and vegetation encroachment on the trail section.