

Hunting season reminder

If you work on your Trail section or are out hiking or camping this fall or winter, please be aware of local hunting seasons. Dates for hunting seasons vary from year to year and also vary by type of game hunted and weapon (such as rifle, bow, or muzzleloader).

Hunting is prohibited on approximately 100,000 acres of NPS-acquired Appalachian Trail corridor lands and in the national and state parks along the Trail. However, hunting is permitted on national forest lands, in national recreation areas, and on state forest and game lands through which the Trail passes. Corridor lands often are not posted, and hunters may not be able to distinguish between lands that are open and lands that are closed to hunting.

A permanent page, "Hunting and the A.T.," is on ATC's Web site at www.appalachiantrail.org/hike/hike_info/hunting.html. That page has links to the "State by State" section of the site, which lists hunting seasons for each Trail state and telephone numbers as well as Web site addresses for state fish and wildlife offices, where detailed hunting regulations may be obtained or viewed on-line.

Other recommendations:

- Wear blaze-orange apparel that is visible from both front and back. A blaze-orange hat is advisable.

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How much does one blowdown cost?

By David Mauldin

Last winter, a very large oak tree fell across the A.T. north of Blue Ridge Gap in Georgia. It fell across a sidehill section of the Trail. The terrain on the east side was uphill, and the west side was downhill. To make matters worse, the tree fell at a precarious angle. As that section of Trail is in the Southern Nantahala Wilderness, where no motorized or power tools can be used for Trail work, only hand tools could be used to clear it.

At 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, with the temperature between 10 and 15 degrees Fahrenheit, a group of seven individuals met at Blue Ridge Gap. All were unpaid volunteer maintainers with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club.

From the gap, they hiked about a mile to the blowdown, carrying all the tools they'd need. First, the large tree had to be secured with a Griphoist (a manually operated winch and cable system) to make it secure enough to work with. After assessing how the tree was to be cut, they used the Griphoist to pull the tree off the uphill section of Trail, directly onto the treadway. After that, volunteers used a two-person crosscut saw to make the first cut. The diameter of the tree was about 36 inches, and it took more than an hour of exhausting work.

Once the trunk was cut, they used the Griphoist again to move the cut portion of the tree off the Trail and down the hill, then repaired the treadway and "naturalized" the repaired Trail section. Within a few days, no one would be able to tell that they were ever there.

The actual work took about four hours. All the individuals who did the work have jobs and families. Considering that most of them drove 150 miles from Atlanta, the amount of donated time (work time plus round-trip driving time) for all seven was approximately 70 hours.

Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofit organizations, in 2001 established \$16.05 per hour as the rate by which to calculate the value of volunteer time. By that yardstick, the cost to the hiking public of removing the tree would have been about \$1,124. The out-of-pocket expense for the group (mostly gasoline for driving) was approximately \$100.

Direct cost to the hiking public or government agencies: \$0.

In addition, probably all seven members received scrapes and bruises and woke up the next morning with aches and pains that they didn't have the day before.

At least one hundred trees fall across the Georgia portion of the A.T. each year, and blowdown removal is only a portion of the total amount of Trail work performed. I would estimate that at least a thousand trees fall across the Trail each year between Georgia and Maine. We may wish to consider the efforts and expense that volunteers donate so that we all may have a pleasant hiking experience. The Trail can do without Web sites, Webmasters, information lists, Trail angels, hos-

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From the editor

The crowding of America

We have been living in a Recreational Vehicle (RV) park eight miles from Lander, Wyoming, for the past two months. Rockett and I have been taking our days off to day-hike, backpack, and travel to many of the scenic beauty spots of this part of our country. It's an awesome country—huge and wonderful. Trying to comprehend the natural forces that have shaped our world over millions of years makes one realize how small the human race really is and how insignificant in the face of the forces of nature.

Often, as I hike, I begin to mull over various ideas, as I imagine most of us who hike do. It's especially true when I am hiking alone, as I often do. I walk a bit faster than Rockett, and we each enjoy this "aloneness" for reflection. In this country, with its vast spaces, you can feel pretty small, while at the same time feeling filled with the wonder of good health and the ability to really get close to the natural world. I find, as the years pile on, that I do take more time, stopping to look, and trying to mentally store images to recall when I'm no longer able to put in the miles on a trail. One line of thinking that has repeatedly occurred to me is how a life is spent and enjoyed.

I count my years of involvement with the Appalachian Trail and the many friends I have made in working for the Trail to be one of the best things I have done. I know that I am in good company and that many, if not most, of the friends I have made in this connection share a similar feeling. My ideas of what the A.T. should be for everyone have changed a great deal. I'm now aware that it isn't possible for anyone to really know what someone else actually experiences from working or just hiking on the Trail. What really counts is that we have, together, worked successfully to provide an opportunity for each person to have his or her own experience. In the long run, that is the most important accomplishment.

In comparing the crowded situation in the East to the relatively uncrowded situation in the West, I have had another thought. Even out here, it is crowded at the treasures that have been set aside in various national parks—such as Yellowstone and the Tetons. Traffic in Yellowstone on a summer weekend is *heavy*. There are literally crowds at every visitors center and store, which makes the goal of getting away from a city existence very difficult, unless one is willing and able to walk down a trail for an hour or so. But, even with the crowds, what's important is that the parks have been saved for the people, for them to "oohhh" and "aaahhh" over, for each to have his or her own special experience—which may be just to drive through it.

Caring for these treasures—maintaining them in as much of their "natural" state as possible while at the same time keeping them available for people to enjoy in the face of the impact of all these people—is important, too. An ever-growing population will make this task even more demanding. I think, in the bottom of our hearts, we know that somehow these treasures won't be the same in 25, 50, or 100 years. Over time, they will gradually change. Even so, the experiences they provide will remain valuable and rewarding.

When one gets a bit disillusioned by the crowds, even in the woods, it's best to put things in perspective. Accepting that change is inevitable and working to address it is what we need to do. One hundred years is barely a blink of an eye in the grand scheme of things. But, to humans, it is more than a lifetime, and we each have only one of those to spend. We can use it to do something that makes our world a wee bit better, be it faithfully recycling, using as few as possible of the Earth's resources, or dripping our sweat as we work to make something like the Appalachian Trail a reality.

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[NOTE: The outline of the masthead box above is the size of the official A.T. blaze, 2" x 6", for your reference.]

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A club president's message

By Mark Simpson

EDITOR'S NOTE: We reprint this with permission from The Mainetainer, newsletter of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club

It is September, and I am back at Mt. Blue Middle School for another exciting start-up of a school year. The excitement generated by 500 seventh- and eighth-graders crammed into the confines of a fifty-year-old school building is amazing. Every September, they help revitalize me and keep me young.

I teach fifty seventh-graders and fifty eighth-graders. Every year, I start off my seventh-grade curriculum with a study of the Appalachian Trail, which I teach intertwined with the geography of Maine and the East Coast of the United States. This unit generates a fair amount of excitement, since it culminates in a day-hike on the Appalachian Trail in the Bigelow Preserve. I set up this unit ten years ago to introduce middle-school students to the lifelong activity of hik-

ing and the great opportunities for it in our area.

A lot of people were initially skeptical about taking a bunch of Nintendo-playing couch potatoes out in the woods, hiking over very strenuous terrain. They said that there would be injuries and kids balking at the challenges, ruining it for entire groups. I was a bit skeptical too, but wanted to give it a shot and let the kids decide the outcome for themselves. I am very glad that I did. The unit has grown to be one of our most successful.

The kids, when faced with a full day of hiking to elevations between 3,200 feet and 4,200 feet, rise to that challenge with great energy. The groups of eight to ten kids seem to put differences aside and team together to get everyone to the top. I have seen kids from totally different socioeconomic groups share food and have conversations that would never take place in the school setting. As an

educator, I find those breakthroughs especially rewarding.

Every year, I lead a group up the Safford Brook Trail to the summit of Bigelow's Avery Peak. We have great lessons on the making of Flagstaff Lake and power generation, fir waves (the gray/brown bands of dead trees that alternate with growing bands on mountainsides), the timber-harvesting practices in the Maine woods, the trek of Benedict Arnold and his attack on Quebec, the glacial formations of the Maine terrain, and many, many others. There are also lessons of leadership and decision-making that come up spontaneously.

The real reward for me comes at the top. The minor aches and pains and any whining abruptly halt upon reaching the peak. The kids are amazed with views of Sugarloaf, Flagstaff Lake, and the other beautiful scenery that they witness.

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Presidential Volunteer Ranger Corps announced

After President George W. Bush's January "State of the Union" address to Congress, in which he asked each American to volunteer 4,000 hours of service over his or her lifetime, the National Park Service announced that its Presidential Volunteer Ranger Corps would recognize individuals who have met that standard doing work in parks.

As of September 7, said ATPO's Rita Hennessy, the park service had identified about 180 volunteers who already qualified for the award. Hennessy was able to confirm that at least 163 volunteers who are members of the Appalachian Trail Conference and its member clubs also easily qualified for this honor. She has forwarded names to the Washington office.

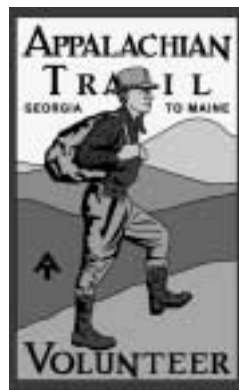
Thank you!

Park Office program recognizes A.T. volunteers

The Appalachian Trail Park Office (ATPO) in Harpers Ferry will sponsor a new component in its Trail-wide volunteer-recognition program, the National Park Service's Rita Hennessy and the USDA Forest Service's Peter Irvine announced. This program was established as a formal means for ATPO to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who devote their time toward management of the Appalachian Trail, they said.

The new part of the program is based on hours and years of service and complements the 25- and 50-year awards that will continue to be presented at biennial meetings of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

The components to the recognition



ATPO Volunteer Logo

program are as follows:

Hours of service—This is retroactive and is based on the cumulative hourly contributions of volunteers to the Appalachian Trail. It is administered by ATPO through the local Trail clubs. Each local Trail club decides whether or not to participate in this program and how to structure its participation within the ATPO guidelines.

Years of service—This is based on cumulative years of volunteer service to the Appalachian Trail and is administered directly by ATPO. A call for submissions for the 25- and 50-year awards will be made in January 2003 in preparation for the 34th ATC membership meeting scheduled

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A.T. VOLUNTEERS

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for July 25–August 1 at Waterville Valley, New Hampshire.

Clubs can decide if they wish to participate in the hours of service component, or if they wish to nominate members for the years of service component.

For hours of service, ATPO has identified four levels of awards based on a range of hours worked:

- A multicolor lapel pin, which clubs can hand out to volunteers who have put in up to 99 hours of volunteer service over the course of their Trail careers;

- A 2½" by 4" multicolor patch, that clubs can present to volunteers with between 100 and 499 hours of service;

- A ball cap with an embroidered logo, that clubs can present to volunteers who have put in between 500 and 1,000 hours of service;

- A fleece vest with an embroidered patch, that clubs can present to volunteers who have put in more than 1,000 hours of service.

This structure provides the flexibility to complement existing recognition programs that clubs sponsor. For example, the attractive baseball-style cap recognizes volunteers with between 500 and 1,000 hours for service, but each club can determine exactly how many hours within that range qualifies a club volunteer for a cap. One club might settle on

500 hours; another club, 750 hours. A club that already has a program awarding volunteers for 500 hours of service might choose to also award that volunteer with a cap for that same number of hours, or might set another level.

Most award items are available to clubs as needed. Individual volunteers must track and report their hours of service to their clubs. To request most award items, each club must provide hours-of-service validation information to ATPO. Validation is not required to award pins, however—pins are available to clubs upon request to award at work trips and events, and can be used to recognize not only club members, but *anyone* the club would like to recognize. That can be for a day of service, or more. The park office will not keep track of who receives pins. Vests (for 1,000-plus work hours) are size-specific and will be ordered only

twice per year. Requests for the vests must be submitted by January 1 or June 1 of each year.

The logo for this program was adapted from the plaque marking the southern terminus of the A.T. on Springer Mountain, Georgia, with the permission of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC).

Club representatives at the presidents' retreat in June were told how to order the items from ATPO. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Rita Hennessy, NPS-ATPO outdoor recreation specialist, at (304) 535-6170, or by e-mail, <Rita_Hennessy@nps.gov>.



Dry summer increases fire dangers

Persistent drought conditions and fires caused Trail closures and fire bans this summer. Many springs and other water sources are low and sluggish or have dried up completely. Information on Trail conditions that has been provided to ATC by Trail clubs, government agencies, and hikers may be found on ATC's Web site at <www.appalachiantrail.org/hike/updates/index.html>. Use the "Quick Links" box to access the information available for each of the Trail states.

A ten-mile stretch of the A.T. in Virginia's James River Face Wilderness between the James River and Petites Gap was closed for ten days in June. The entire wilderness area and other trails also were closed. The USDA Forest Service provided shuttles for hikers around the closed section of the A.T. until it was reopened; the closure was strictly enforced, including one known arrest.

A section of the Trail in New York was closed for about two weeks in August by a fire in Fahnestock State Park. It burned in an area with difficult terrain and no vehicle access. Trails in the park remained closed for more than a week after the fire was contained due to extremely dry conditions, but were reopened after rains decreased the fire danger.

The A.T. between Lehigh Gap and Little Gap in Pennsyl-

vania was closed by fire for eleven days in August. The A.T. was used as access for fire fighters and equipment. Restoration efforts are underway.

Small fires were reported and extinguished near the Trail in Worthington State Forest in New Jersey and in Michaux State Forest south of Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania, where the Trail acted as a firebreak. Another small fire broke out about a mile from the A.T. in the Mt. Everett Reservation in Massachusetts in July.

Several fire bans along the Trail in the mid-Atlantic region went into effect in August. Open fires and smoking were banned on NPS lands along the A.T. in Pennsylvania. The ban did not affect the use of stoves. Burn bans were in effect in five of the eleven counties the Trail passes through in Pennsylvania: Monroe, Schuylkill, Berks, Cumberland, and Northampton. On August 15, the Michaux Forest District declared a ban on open fires (stoves were permitted), affecting the Trail roughly from the Pennsylvania–Maryland state line north to Boiling Springs. The state of Maryland also banned open fires; use of backpacking stoves was permitted. Those bans were likely to remain in effect until significant rainfall or snowfall lessened the fire danger in the region.

Help wanted

Come join us on a volunteer Trail crew. Looking for a good time in the great outdoors? Then, join the Appalachian Trail Conference's volunteer Trail crew program. Join us for 40 hours of hard work and great fun to earn a limited-edition crew T-shirt. Lend your hands and hearts to mending the famous footpath or building new routes. No experience required. Professional crew leaders instruct participants in state-of-the-art trail-building techniques. The crews are sponsored jointly by A.T. maintaining clubs, agency partners, and ATC. To learn more about the crew program and to request an application, send a postcard with your name and address to: ATC Crew Program, TR-03, P.O. Box 10, Newport, VA 24128; call (540) 544-7388; e-mail <crews@appalachiantrail.org>; or visit <www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/stewardship/crews.html>.



Paid seasonal staff positions available: Appalachian Trail crew leaders, assistant crew leaders, and camp coordinators needed for five 2003 volunteer Trail crew programs. Trail-building and outdoor supervisory experience required for crew leaders;

group cooking, logistics experience, and strong people skills for camp coordinators. Competitive pay, plus room and board. Contact us for an application or additional information (must apply by January 31): ATC Regional Office, TR-03/CL, P.O. Box 10, Newport, VA 24128; e-mail: <crews@appalachiantrail.org>, or call (540) 544-7388. Application available online at <www.appalachiantrail.org>.

Appalachian Trail ridgerunners and caretakers needed. Promote Leave No Trace principles and perform light Trail and shelter maintenance. Positions available Trailwide with varying salaries, responsibilities, and seasons.

Georgia—two positions: one starting in March, one in June

Great Smoky Mountains National Park—four positions: three starting in March, one in June

Virginia—five positions: one starting in April, four starting in May

Maryland—two positions, starting in April

Pennsylvania—three positions, starting in May

New Jersey—three positions, starting in May

Maine—five positions: one starting in May, three starting in June, one starting in July

Must be 18 or older, an experienced backpacker, personable, and self-reliant, with strong communications skills and familiarity with the A.T. First-aid certification, trail-maintenance experience helpful. Send for a job description and application, return by January 31 to: Ridgerunner, TR-03/RR, ATC Regional Office, P.O. Box 625, Boiling Springs, PA 17007. The seasonal-employment packet also may be downloaded from the ATC Web site at <www.appalachiantrail.org>.

2003 seasonal positions with the Maine Appalachian Trail Crew. Positions run from May 16 to August 22. To apply, send letter and résumé by January 2 to Lester C. Kenway, 15 Westwood Road, Bangor ME 04401.

Crew Leader—Teach and lead volunteers doing footpath reconstruction, including building rock steps, waterbars, and retaining walls. Project sites are in remote locations in northern and western Maine. Projects focus on teamwork and learning opportunities for volunteers. Training in stone-cutting, stone work, rigging systems, chain-saw safety, and outdoor leadership will be provided. Wilderness first-aid certification is available.

Qualifications: Minimum of two seasons of trail work experience, plus experience supervising people in an outdoor setting. Ability to teach trail skills and maintain a safe and enjoyable work environment is essential. Experience using power tools and building rock structures is required. Must be in good health and physically fit, with a valid driver's license and clean driving record. Job requires a durable sense of humor and the ability to motivate and work with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Camp Coordinator—Support the volunteer Trail crew by planning meals, purchasing food, maintaining the base camp, recruiting volunteers, assisting with transportation, and arranging leisure-time opportunities. Wilderness first-aid certification is available.

Qualifications: Minimum of two seasons working in an outdoor recreation setting. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Must be well-organized, with effective communications skills and the ability to function as a team member while maintaining a safe and enjoyable camp environment. Ability to maintain accurate records and petty cash is essential. Job requires a durable sense of humor and the ability to work with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Volunteers of the year

By Susan Daniels

For the eighth year, the American Hiking Society honored trail volunteers—including A.T. maintainers—as part of National Trails Day activities.

Individuals are nominated annually by trail advocates for their contributions to maintenance and improvement. One volunteer is chosen from each state by AHS and receives a certificate, a Volunteer of the Year T-shirt, a directory of volunteer opportunities across America, a compass, and other gifts. Four A.T. volunteers were recognized this year.

Olin Batchelor, Trail supervisor for the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, received the award for Georgia. According to AHS, he received more nominations than any other candidate. Last year, Bachelor worked more than 850 volunteer hours for the Trail—coordinating, managing, and participating in projects ranging from installing food-hoist cables at shelter sites to training and supervising students on spring-break work crews to relocating a section of the Trail. He also has worked with the state's natural heritage project, providing photographs of endangered plants and helping educate Trail maintainers to avoid harming the plants during maintenance activities. In addition to his role as Trail supervisor for the club, he maintains a section of the A.T. near Neels Gap. In 1998, Bachelor was selected as GATC Trail Maintainer of the Year.

Wayne Williams was honored for his work with the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club in Tennessee. Last year, he installed educational information at 13 shelters, which required hikes of up to 17 miles



Sherman Stambaugh (Photo courtesy of Carolina Mountain Club)

Thurston Griggs (ATC file photo)



a day while carrying in signs, a battery-operated drill, and other supplies weighing approximately 25 pounds on each trip. When the Great Smoky Mountains National Park decided to post new

shelter regulations, he made additional trips to each site to install those signs. He led college students from New England on an alternative spring-break program doing trail maintenance in the Nantahala National Forest. He led AmeriCorps volunteers, many of whom had never hiked before, on a 10-mile hike to clean up a rock pile where a shelter had been torn down earlier. Williams also is a section leader for three miles of the Trail in the Smokies and is a member of the SMHC Appalachian Trail maintainers committee.

Sherman Stambaugh, Carolina Mountain Club member since 1974, has logged thousands of volunteer hours of trail-work since joining the club in 1974. He maintains a three-mile section of the Mountain to Sea Trail, and, at age 81, regularly works on the A.T. with the all-day Friday Trail Crew.

Thurston Griggs of Maryland has served the Appalachian Trail in many capacities over many years. A two-time president of the Mountain Club of Maryland, he also served on ATC's Board of Managers, was for many years an A.T. ridgerunner for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Last year, he helped scout the area where a plane crashed near the A.T. in Maryland. He continues to work with the ATC Land Trust. Griggs also was the founding editor of *The Register* in April 1978 and was elected to honorary membership in ATC in 1989.

—Susan Daniels is Trail-management assistant at ATC headquarters and editorial assistant for *The Register*.

CLUB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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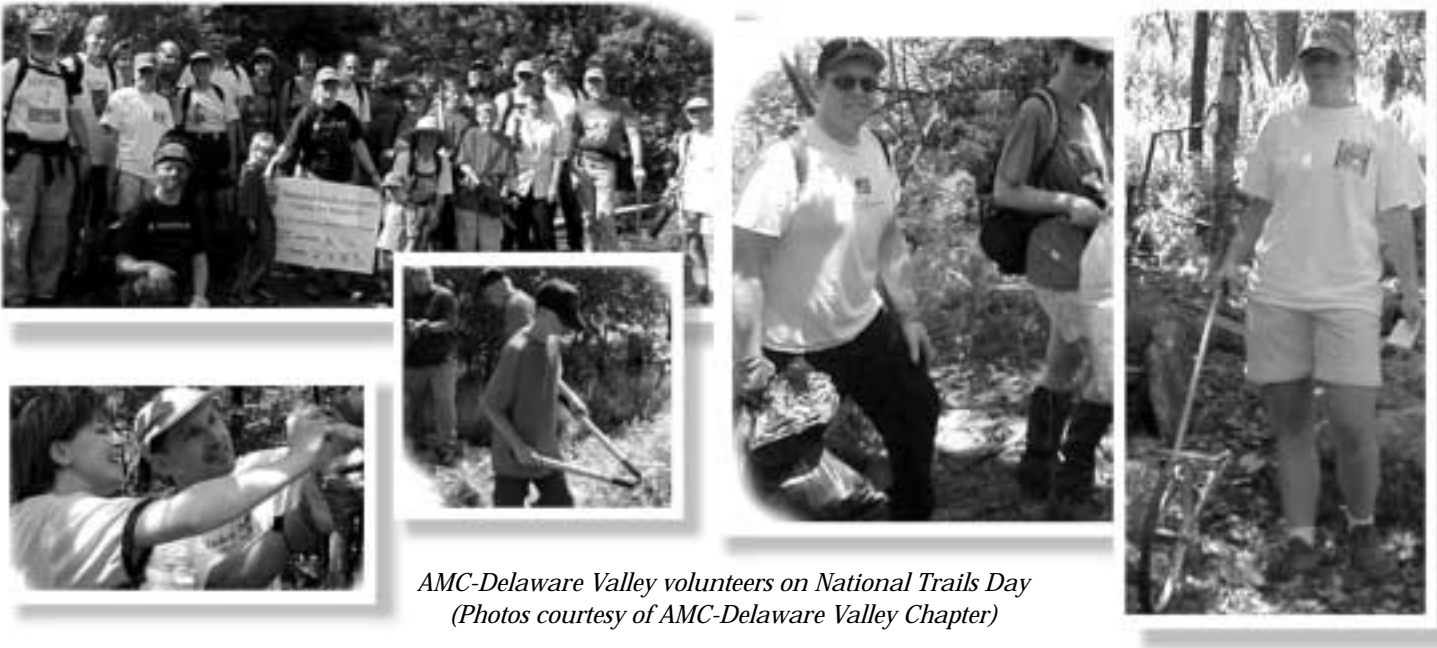
Even greater than the views for these young people is the great feeling of accomplishment that they made it to the top and met their goal for the day. This feeling can never be taken away from them and will be a source of pride and motivation for years to come. That type of real-life learning is what makes teaching the most rewarding career that I can think of.

If you ever get the opportunity to introduce a young person to the A.T., I urge you to do so. The rewards for that youngster and yourself will be immense. And, you may even be helping shape the next generation of Trail stewards. How important is that?

—Mark Simpson is the president of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. He teaches social studies at Mt. Blue Middle School in Farmington, Maine.

National Trails Day 2002

By Susan Daniels



*AMC-Delaware Valley volunteers on National Trails Day
(Photos courtesy of AMC-Delaware Valley Chapter)*

More than 600 events were held nationwide on National Trails Day, June 1, according to the American Hiking Society (AHS), which created this annual celebration in 1993. This year's theme was "Trails for Health."

According to the society, walking for 20 minutes a day at a pace of three miles per hour helps burn extra calories, promotes fat loss, preserves lean body mass, reduces the risk of heart disease, increases mental alertness and memory, increases energy levels, and enhances motor skills. Adding a ten- to fifteen-pound pack increases the amount of calories burned by ten to fifteen percent.

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton marked the event on May 31 by announcing the designation of 26 new national recreation trails. In a ceremony held at the C&O Canal National Historical Park and Capital Crescent Trail, Norton said, "We wanted to kick off the celebration early with an announcement of new trails and a special recognition of the crucial role of partnerships in promoting health through trails.... [These] partnerships build trails and trails build healthy Americans," she said. Attendees included National Park Service Director Fran Mainella, C&O Towpath National Historical Park Superintendent Doug Faris, and American Hiking Society President Mary Margaret Sloan.

Other National Trails Day events along the A.T. that were registered with the American Hiking Society included the following:

In New Hampshire, the **Appalachian Mountain Club** hosted a basic trail-maintenance workshop and a work weekend at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center.

The **Green Mountain Club's** Manchester section had a "pick-a-project" day, offering volunteers a choice of several

work projects to spruce up the Trail prior to the club's annual meeting the following weekend.

A "give back to the trails" day was held at the Mt. Greylock visitors center by the **AMC-Berkshire Chapter**, along with the Massachusetts Division of Forests and Parks, the Student Conservation Association, and AmeriCorps. Activities included hikes, workshops, and Trail maintenance.

In Connecticut's Bulls Bridge area, **AMC-Connecticut Chapter** volunteers led a hike to enjoy the wildflowers and views.

Twenty-nine people working with the **AMC-Delaware Valley Chapter** completed a 1,248-foot relocation near Little Gap, Pennsylvania. Many of the volunteers on the project had never done Trail work before. The relocation, which adds 213 feet to the length of the A.T., moves the footpath farther away from an expanding communications site.

Also in Pennsylvania, forty people came out for the **Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club's** dedication of the Victoria Trail, a newly relocated side trail to the A.T. Hikes were conducted using that trail, the A.T., and other trails in the adjacent conservation area.

The **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club** held a work trip in Washington Monument State Park, Maryland, followed by a catered meal for participants.

The **Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club**, most of whose members live in the Virginia Beach area, held an event at First Landing State Park that included a hike and opportunities for people to learn about the club and to become members.

Hundreds of hours of work by volunteers benefited the A.T. in projects sponsored by the **Smoky Mountains Hiking**

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Pennsylvania gameland regulation changes affect hikers, maintainers

By John Wright

Beginning February 1, 2003, the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania state game lands is restricted to foot traffic only. That new regulation is one among many regulation changes for recreation activities announced this spring by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Another regulation could affect individuals who charge for “shuttling” hikers on state game lands.

One of the challenges for volunteer maintainers and hikers of the Appalachian Trail is keeping track of changes to hiking regulations as land ownership changes. For example, in a national park, a hiker may be restricted to camping by reservation at shelters, and, on state forest lands hikers may be allowed to camp anywhere. Fires may be allowed in one area and banned in another. In at least one area of Pennsylvania, horses and mountain bikes may share the Trail with hikers. Not for long, though.

The primary purpose of Pennsylvania game lands is wildlife management and hunting. The current regulations do not mention “nontraditional” recreational activities, such as horseback riding or mountain-bike riding. State game officials say that unrestricted use of state game lands has led to unintended degradation of wildlife habitats and competition with lawful hunting seasons.

An *ad hoc* advisory committee was formed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to develop initial recommendations

for updating the recreation regulations. The committee was composed of nine representatives of recreational user groups, including hikers. The representatives worked with the Game Commission and the public to put together the new regulations, which were approved in May.

The new regulations include the following provisions:

- Anyone who rides a nonmotorized vehicle, conveyance, or animal on state game lands must do so only on designated routes.

- The Game Commission will designate routes for riding nonmotorized vehicles, conveyances, or animals, according to compatibility with the management plan for each unit. The public also may request the agency to consider other route designations. Essentially, those regulations mean that before trails can be used for horse-riding and mountain biking, they must be “positively signed” (marked with signs that specifically permit uses other than foot travel). That will protect the Appalachian Trail, which is marked for foot travel only, from horses and mountain bikes. ATVs are not allowed on game lands except by handicapped hunters.

- No one may use state game lands for personal, organizational, or commercial purposes other than the intended uses. “Commercial activities” include any activity in which a person directly or indirectly accepts consideration or value as compensation for the provision of goods or services—including transportation.

- No one may consume, possess, or transport alcoholic beverages or controlled substances on state game lands.

- No one may participate in an organized activity or event involving more than ten persons, except for hunting or trapping. Also, those not engaged in hunting, trapping, or fishing on state game lands from November 15 through December 15, except for Sundays, must wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on head, chest, or back combined, or a fluorescent orange hat.

The “organized activities” above would not generally include club-led day-hikes or backpacking trips, since they are not in conflict with the intended uses of the game lands. All hikers *will* be required to wear fluorescent orange clothing during deer-hunting season.

—John Wright is an associate regional representative in ATC’s mid-Atlantic regional office.

HUNTING SEASON REMINDER

Continued from page 1

- Be heard as well as seen—whistle, sing, or make other noises that won’t be mistaken for those of an animal moving through the woods.
- Be especially cautious within one-half mile of road crossings (both approaching and leaving) and in valley areas.

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We encourage readers to access *The Register* online. To subscribe to the “listserv” (e-mail announcement list) and be notified by e-mail when a new issue is posted on ATC’s Web site, e-mail <autoshare@atconf.org> with the following message in the body of the e-mail:

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Or, go to *The Register* page on ATC’s Web site at <appalachiantrail.org/about/pubs/register/index> and click on the links to subscribe or unsubscribe to the list. The current issue and other recent issues are posted at that site.

Maintainers, corridor managers, and ATC life members may receive printed subscriptions free-of-charge. Others may subscribe for a \$5.00 annual fee. Contact Susan Daniels at ATC headquarters (see masthead on page 2) for information.

Hard work at the “Hard-Core”

By David Gibson

From March to November, northbound and southbound long-distance hikers can be found packless along the Trail, pulaski and or clippers in hand for a day of weed-clipping, blowdown-clearing, trail digging, and, especially, new trail-building. It's no secret in the South: The man largely responsible for hiker recruitment to the cause of keeping the A.T. in tiptop shape is Kincora Hostel owner Bob Peoples.

For hikers passing through Kincora on their way to Katahdin, the work outing of work outings is an annual event that's become known as “Damascus Hard-Core,” a two-day work-fest right after Damascus Trail Days. The town celebration has long been famous for many things, and infamous for others, but recently this raucous gathering of hikers and thru-hiker alumni has begun to gain a reputation as a hotbed for Trail-maintenance activity.

“This year, the number of participants just about doubled from last year's outing,” reports Peoples. “If this trend keeps up, we're going to have to rent buses to move them all.”

While it's true that organizing that many hiker-volunteers is a monumental logistics nightmare, the hikers are hard-working and eager to make a difference. So, with the organizing efforts of Peoples and a handful of Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club members, all the hiker-volunteers end up exactly where they need to be, when they're needed, without a hitch.

This year's event was centered on the overhaul and expansion of Clyde Smith Shelter, with overflow volunteers being shifted to the club's ongoing Elk River relocation project. Day one saw 66 energetic volunteers arrive at the staging area in the early morning to portage two-and-a-half pickup-truck loads of building materials up the side of the mountain. Day two had 63 participants, with a total of 80 different individuals for the entire event putting in a total of 1,159 hours.

Excerpts from the trip report written by event record-keeper Carl Fritz best describe the first day's efforts: “By the time the volunteers arrived at the improvised Trailhead, all the materials (concrete, plywood, metal roofing, lumber, hardware, and tools) were awaiting them to be carried the two miles up the mountain to Clyde Smith Shelter—and carry the hikers did. Even 80-pound bags of concrete went right up that mountain on backs or shoulders. While awaiting the

materials, club members removed the old roof. The hikers then carried all the old shingles back down the hill before picking up a second load of materials to haul up the mountain. A welcome sight in mid-afternoon was two hikers carrying a large cooler of ice and soft drinks up that mountain. Since a limited number of skilled carpenters could work on the shelter, everyone else worked for a couple of hours installing about 30 waterbars along the Trail north and south of the Clyde Smith Shelter. At the shelter, the new rafters were installed for the new porch and holes dug for the benches. Thanks to the generosity of Bruce and Mary Cunningham and the catering

of Mary Cunningham, Pat Peoples, and Mrs. Benfield, the evening ended with a dinner of barbecue, pasta salad, baked beans, and strawberry shortcake complete with ice cream. Can you believe that probably fifty hikers stayed at Bob and Pat People's Kincora Hostel both Sunday and Monday evenings? Porches were full, as were fields and even truck beds.”

On day two of the event, most of the hikers headed off to the Elk River “relo” with supervising club members to spend the day digging almost 700 feet of technically difficult new trail. The remaining club members and hiker-volunteers headed back to Clyde Smith Shelter to continue with the remodeling effort.

The enthusiasm of the volunteers seems to be infectious, as the crew was joined by five new thru-hikers who had hiked into the shelter the night before but decided to stay to help with the project instead of hiking on. (They had offered to stay for a couple of hours in the morning but ended up working the entire day.)

With the help of the Damascus Hard-Core, Clyde Smith Shelter was stripped down, reassembled, expanded, and painted to within about 85 percent of completion in just two days. Nothing to sneeze at. Of course, any army marches on its stomach (hikers in particular), so the end of day two found us all lazing about the hostel filling our bellies with a lasagna feast. Enthusiastically, many of the thru-hikers were already planning how they could become involved in trail maintenance in their home states!

—David Gibson is a member of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club, the structures coordinator for the club's section of the Trail, and a 1994 A.T. thru-hiker.



Damascus Hard-Core crew reroofs the Clyde Smith Shelter and constructs a cooking-pavilion extension. (ATC photo by Laurie Potteiger)

Representatives of the Appalachian Trail Conference, the National Park Service, the **Potomac Appalachian Trail Club**, several Maryland state agencies, and Washington

County commissioners have signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) that assigns each organization its management responsibilities for the Trail in Maryland, where seventy percent of the footpath is on state land. Such agreements with states are an important means of institutionalizing the cooperative management system across the scores of governmental jurisdictions crossed by the Trail. The signing took place June 21 at the South Mountain Inn at Turners Gap. A number of the A.T.-maintaining club representatives who had gathered in Shepherdstown, W.Va., for ATC's biennial club presidents' retreat attended. The signing ceremony

ALONG THE TRAIL

was preceded by a review of archeological work underway at nearby Fox Gap, site of a significant Civil War battle, and the firing of a Civil War cannon.

The **Appalachian Mountain Club** (AMC) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service, has helped restore the population of Robbins' cinquefoil to a point that it has been proposed for removal from the federal list of threatened and endangered species. The small, yellow-flowered perennial is found only in the alpine zone of the **White Mountain National Forest** (WMNF). In 1983, AMC and the WMNF rerouted the A.T. away from the species habitat, built an enclosure to protect the population, and posted the area against admittance without a permit. Two additional populations of the plant were successfully established in the national forest. Even if the cinquefoil is "delisted," the plant will continue to be protected under an agreement between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the forest.

AMC held a groundbreaking ceremony on June 21 for the Highland Center at Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. The outdoor program center is expected

to be completed in 2003 and will host workshops, courses in outdoor skills and leadership training, guided hikes, and interpretive programs,

as well as provide lodging. The center will "lie lightly on the land," according to AMC Deputy Director Walter Graff. Most of its triple-glazed windows will face south, environmentally sensitive carpets, glues, and paints will be used, low-flow and composting toilets will be installed, and many recycled materials, including recycled steel, will be incorporated in the building.

The first two A.T. hikers of this year were ferried across the Kennebec River in Maine on May 22, according to ferryman Steve Longley of Rivers and Trails Northeast, Inc. The ferry will operate through October 14. More than 12,000 hikers have been ferried across the Kennebec at no charge since this service began in 1987. Last year saw the most users in a single season—1,416. The ferry, funded by ATC and the **Maine Appalachian Trail Club**, is the officially designated route of the Trail. Forging the river is dangerous and strongly discouraged, as releases of water from upstream hydroelectric facilities cause the depth and current of the river to rise unpredictably. Rivers and Trails Northeast will not be operating the ferry next year; ATC and MATC are seeking a new provider.

Wilderness First Aid

Wilderness first-aid courses, along with other training opportunities, are offered by ATC in conjunction with the local Trail-maintaining clubs. Contact your ATC regional office (see information on page 2) or visit ATC's Web site (<www.appalachiantrail.org>) for more information.

If you are unable to attend one of those courses, a number of other organizations offer wilderness first-aid training. Some of those that offer classes in A.T. states are listed below. Please contact them for information on courses that may be held in your area. Your local Red Cross may offer courses or referrals as well.

AMC Mohican Outdoor Center: <www.mohicanoutdoorcenter.com/programs.htm>; (908) 362-5670

Great Smokies Institute at Tremont: <www.gsmit.org/programs/schedule.html>; (865) 448-6709

Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities: <www.soloschools.com/wem.html>; (603) 447-6711

Wilderness Safety Council: <www.wfa.net>; (703) 836-8905



ATC's Dave Startzell (standing, back to camera) and management partners sign Maryland MOU. (ATC photo by Robert Rubin)

SIDE TRAILS

Researchers have begun a year-long study in the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** to measure the effects of

air pollution on respiratory function in day-hikers. From August through October of this year and May through July of next year, hikers over the age of 18 will be invited to participate by having their lung capacities measured before and after hiking eight miles round-trip to Charlies Bunion. The results will be compared later to ozone and particulate levels recorded at nearby monitoring stations. The study is funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. As of mid-August, ozone levels in the park had been rated as "unhealthy" on 33 days this year.

A biodiversity inventory underway in the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** has turned up 1,882 species never recorded in the Smokies and 289 species previously unknown to science.

The unprecedented inventory of all living species found in the park began in 1998 and is expected to take 15 years. It is being conducted by the Park Service in partnership with universities, non-profit associations, and volunteers.

The **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection** (NJ-DEP) has stepped up efforts to enforce off-road-vehicle regulations. DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell says, "Natural resources are being severely degraded, and we will not hesitate to take enforcement action against the illicit use of off-road vehicles in our parks and wildlife management areas. The number of ORV incidents on public lands is mounting, and the state's limited resources are being increasingly diverted to address

these damaging occurrences." Conservation officers and park rangers issued nearly 1,000 summonses and impounded 47 vehicles for unlawful use

on DEP lands during the first five months of this year. The department is currently developing a comprehensive policy for ORV use on lands under its jurisdiction.

The **American Discovery Trail** (ADT) which stretches from Delaware to California, has been officially measured at 6,830 miles, about five hundred miles longer than estimated more than 10 years ago when its route was initially defined. The revised length includes route changes and new trails that have been added and corrects a major measuring error in Colorado. For more information on the ADT, go to <www.discoverytrail.org>; write to American Discovery Trail, P.O. Box 20155, Washington, DC 20041-2155; or call (800) 663-2387.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Continued from page 7

Club (SMHC) over National Trails Day weekend. Volunteers joined the Rockin' Horse Trail Crew to improve Trail tread, installed bog turnpiking, completed 16 miles of tread maintenance and repair work, installed 35 new locust-wood steps, installed a moldering privy at Double Springs Gap Shelter, and painted tin roofs at Silers Bald, Icewater Spring, and Pecks Corner shelters to make them less conspicuous. Numerous corporate sponsors helped make the event successful. In addition, the Tennessee Valley Authority donated \$5,000 to support the ridgerunner program in the park, Food City made a \$2,000 donation to the club's A.T. maintenance program, and another \$1,500 was raised during the events. National Trails Day events sponsored by the club were selected by AHS for national recognition in 1997, 1998, and 2000.

The **Georgia Appalachian Trail Club** (GATC) and Amicalola Falls State Park hosted hikes, community-service projects in the park and on the A.T. (led by GATC section overseers), a children's program, a prospective-new-member

hike and orientation meeting, a seven-mile river cleanup, and workshops. Door prizes and other giveaways were distributed. In 1999 and 2000, GATC was selected as one of ten organizations nationwide to receive the "Trails for Tomorrow" award for its NTD events.

Six ATC headquarters staff members hosted an all-day information display in the center of the L.L. Bean store at Tysons Corner Center in northern Virginia.

The next National Trails Day, June 7, 2003, will celebrate the theme of "Healthy Trails, Healthy People." To find out more, or to register an event, go to the AHS Web site, <www.americanhiking.org>.

BLOWDOWNS

Continued from page 1

tels, bureaucrats, and politicians, but, without the unpaid Trail volunteers, the Trail would be unhikable within three to five years.

—*David Mauldin is a district leader with the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and hiked the A.T. in 1992. He is one of the administrators of the TrailQuest Web site, located at <www.trailquest.net>.*

FROM THE EDITOR

Continued from page 2

The crowds are growing and taking over much of the open space. Different recreational opportunities have developed that appeal to different tastes, which are often at odds with what others want, and so disagreement and conflict develop. What is significant to me is that we need to accept that there will always be change. Sometimes it will be good, sometimes, possibly, not. We need to deal with that change in a positive manner.

I'd like to believe that I have learned to accept this and will do what I am able to do to make things a bit better for others. I have found satisfaction and meaning from volunteering to help in the Appalachian Trail project. Now, even if it is just picking up litter in an RV park, I feel that I am continuing to do something to make the place a bit better for the next visitor. Isn't that what this life is all about?

—*John Morgan is volunteer editor of The Register. He invites your e-mail at <john.morgan9@worldnet.att.net>.*

ATC CALENDAR

- 2002**
- October 25 Deadline, Volunteers in Parks/Volunteers in Forests (VIP/VIF).
Numbers of workers and work-hours reports for FY 2002 due from clubs.
- October 25-27 New England Partner Hike and Regional Management Committee meeting, Hulbert Outdoor Center, Fairlee, Vermont
- October 27 Last Day ATC Information Center open for weekends and holidays.
- November 1-3 Board of Managers Meeting, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, W.Va.
- 2003**
- January 1 Deadline to order volunteer-recognition program vests from NPS-ATPO
- January 2 Copy Deadline, Spring Issue of *The Register*
- March 22-23 Southern Regional Management Committee meeting, Pinebridge Inn, Spruce Pine, N.C.
- April 1 Deadline to submit names of volunteers for 25-year and 50-year awards to NPS-ATPO.
- May 2-4 Board of Managers Meeting, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, W.Va.
- June 1 Deadline to order volunteer-recognition program vests from NPS-ATPO.
- July 25- August 1 ATC Biennial Membership Meeting, Waterville Valley, N.H.

ATC policies and Local Management Planning Guide online

Want to know ATC's policy on blazing? To bridge or not? The definition of "the Trail experience"? Appalachian Trail Conference policies are intended to guide ATC's Board of Managers and staff and to inform Trail clubs, agency partners, and the general public of ATC's position on matters concerning the Trail. Those policies are compiled into the *Local Management Planning Guide* (last updated in 1997), which serves as a reference document for A.T. managers and a model for Trail-maintaining clubs developing local management plans for their sections of the Trail. The complete guide and individual policies (including those adopted by ATC's Board since 1997) are now available on the ATC Web site at <www.appalachiantrail.org/protect/policies/index.html>, along with the official *Comprehensive Plan for the Appalachian Trail*.

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