

2005 Trail Skills Training

The 2005 Southern Region trail skills training calendar included several familiar offerings that attracted over 80 participants. Workshops held included First Aid/CPR certification, chainsaw certification, crosscut certification, intensive trail rehabilitation, and basic trail maintenance. Unfortunately, several workshops were postponed or cancelled due to a lack of enrollment or changes in staff priorities.

Workshop topics for 2006 are currently being solicited.

2005 Ridgerunner and Caretaker Program

There were a total of 4 Ridgerunners/Caretakers employed in the Deep South Region in 2005. Glenn Reynolds worked as the Georgia Ridgerunner and as the Smokies Summer Ridgerunner. Glenn was joined in the Smokies by Mark Tinkham (Spring Ridgerunner), Carl Goodman (Fontana Caretaker), and Jim Mowbray. Jim helped out immensely as a volunteer Ridgerunner during the late spring and summer and is continuing his patrols this fall and winter.

Together, these folks made contact with an estimate of 7,000+ A.T. visitors providing an LNT message, helping to manage backcountry facilities, reporting on trail conditions, and reducing user created impacts.

2005 SORO Trail Crews



Brush Busters Crew

The Brush Busters Crew was started in 2005 to help out with the basic maintenance functions on the A.T. sections that ATC has temporarily assumed responsibility for. During June and July the crew's 14 volunteers contributed over 611 VIP hours. Led by Bill Clabough and Randy Puckett, they worked on 11.25 miles of trail by cutting brush, cleaning waterbars, improving drainage, and re-digging failing sidehill.

Rocky Top Crew

The Rocky Top Crew continued their long march up towards Mt. Cammerer in 2005. This year the 43 volunteers completed rehabilitation work up to within 0.25 mile of the junction with the Upper Mt. Cammerer Trail. They also fixed a rock wall that had blown out and rehabilitated the trail down to Cosby Knob Shelter. Over 3,700 VIP hours were contributed during Rocky Top.

As in the past years, we received great support from the trail riders from the Backcountry Horsemen of North Carolina, Smoky Mountain Trail Riders, and Backcountry Horsemen of East Tennessee. This included the packing in of gear and tools and the Rockin' Horse Crew session during Rocky Top.

Smokies A.T. SCA Crew

For the first time, the Deep South ATC office hosted a Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew during August. The crew, made up of 6 high school student volunteers, worked on relocations between Siler's Bald Shelter and Buckeye Gap. They contributed over 1300 VIP hours.

Table 1 - 2005 Smokies Trail Crew Statistics

| Program | # of volunteers | % of Capacity | Total VIP Hours |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Brush Busters | 14 | 70% | 611.5 |
| Rocky Top | 43 | 82% | 3713 |
| SCA Crew | 6 | 100% | 1308 |
| Totals | 63 | 83% | 5632.5 |

Specific questions about the Deep South Region's seasonal programs may be sent to Matthew Davis at mdavis@appalachiantrail.org.