

## Work trip coordinator duties

### Description of trail work

### Suggested Schedule

### Section Descriptions

## **Work trip coordinator duties**

1. Train potential work trip leaders to properly maintain the AT
2. Recruit volunteers to attend work trips
3. Recruit volunteers to attend chainsaw and WFA courses
4. Attend regional ATC meetings
5. Maintain tools including chainsaws

## **Description of trail work**

### A. Blowdowns

a. Blowdowns are large trees that have fallen and become obstructions on the trail. Blowdowns are typically more numerous in the spring after a few months of winter storms and trail maintenance inactivity. There will always be blowdowns that will appear throughout the summer and fall, but their obstruction is usually minimal during this time.

b. Gear Required:

- helmet
- 1. Small paint brush to clean air filter
- 2. Squenchy (combination screwdriver and wrench)
- 3. Plastic wedges
- 4. Other tools?
- i. Chainsaw
- ii. Fuel and oil
- iii. Chaps and
- iv. Toolkit
- v. Axe
- vi. Gloves
- vii. Proper clothing, sturdy shoes and pants.

c. To legally use a chainsaw as an ATC volunteer, the volunteer must be chainsaw certified and must be certified in first aid. Wilderness First Aid is recommended.

i. The Forest Service usually offers a chainsaw course each semester. It is a free 16 hour course that takes place over one weekend usually in Blacksburg.

ii. Once the volunteer has completed the chainsaw course, the ATC and OCVT will each pay half of the Wilderness First Aid course. The course is about \$150.

### B. Blazing

d. Blazes are the markers on trees or objects that indicate the trail's location. White blazes mark the Appalachian Trail. Blue and yellow blazes mark side trails to the AT. Red blazes usually mark private property. Typically, touching up blazes once a year is sufficient. Blazing is best done in the spring when the other trail duties are minimal.

- e. Tools Required:
  - i. Paint (exterior, high gloss)
  - ii. 2 inch brush
  - iii. 2" by 6" stencil
  - iv. Scraper to remove old or useless blazes. Also to remove bark for new blazes.
  - v. Small bucket to carry items
- C. Clearing
  - f. Removal of small growth, such as weeds and branches, from the trail. Typically a summer job once growth becomes aggressive.
  - g. Lopping and sickle – Rule of thumb is to clear the trail 4' by 8'.
    - i. Gear required:
      - 1. Large loppers
      - 2. Hedge clippers
      - 3. Small clippers
      - 4. Swizzle Stick
      - 5. Gloves
- D. Shelter Maintenance
  - h. Check conditions of shelter. Should be done in the spring and fall, before and after thru hiker season.
  - i. Duties include:
    - 1. Replace 'duff' in trashcan
    - ii. Stir privy
    - iii. Replace log
    - iv. Pick up trash
    - Clear trail to water source and privy
- E. Trailhead maintenance
  - j. Pick up trash
  - k. Weed eat entrances so they are visible from road

## Suggested Schedule

Trip	Month	Job Description	Location	Description	Miles
1	March	Blowdowns, Blazing, Shelter Maintenance	Bland	Entire section	8
2	April	Blowdowns, Blazing, Shelter Maintenance	Peter's Mtn	460 to Rice Fields powerlines	7.5
3	April	Blowdowns, Blazing	Peter's Mtn	Rice Field powerlines To Sym's Gap and back	10*
4	May	Blowdowns	Peter's Mtn	Groundhog	14*

		Blazing		to Sym's Gap and back	
5	May	Blowdowns** Blazing	Peter's Mtn	Pine Swamp to Groundhog and back	14* (?)
6	June	Clearing Trailhead Maintenance	Peter's Mtn powerlines	460 to Rice Fields	7.5
7	June	Clearing Trailhead Maintenance	Bland	Entire section	8
8	June	Clearing Trailhead Maintenance	Peter's Mtn To 460 trailhead	New River Bridge	4
9	July	Clearing	Peter's Mtn	Rice Field powerlines To Sym's Gap and back	10*
10	July	Clearing	Peter's Mtn	Groundhog to Sym's Gap and back	14*
11	August	Clearing	Peter's Mtn	Pine Swamp to Groundhog and back	14*
12	August	Clearing Trailhead Maintenance	Peter's Mtn Powerlines	460 to Rice Field's	7.5
13	September	General Maintenance	Wherever needed		
14	October	General Maintenance	Wherever needed		

#### Notes

\* These trips would need to be modified or add shuttles to shorten the mileage.

\*\* On trip 5, we can't use power tools within National Forest boundaries as we climb the ridge from Pine Swamp shelter.

## Section Descriptions

To be provided and modified later:

- A. Bland section
  - a. 8 miles, moderately easy
- B. Peter's Mtn
  - b. New River Bridge to 460 trailhead (as of now McClennan Rd).
    - i. 2 miles
    - ii. Moderate
  - c. 460 trailhead to Rice Fields
    - i. 5 miles to Rice Fields, 2 miles to hike down to the power lines on Pocahontas Rd.

- d. Rice Fields to Sym's Gap
    - ii. Difficult
    - i. 5 miles (not counting the power line hike).
    - ii. The hike on the ridge is fairly easy, but the 2 mile hike up the power lines from Pocahontas Rd is difficult.
  - e. Sym's Gap to Groundhog
    - i. 5 miles (not counting the hike up Groundhog trail)
    - ii. The ridge hiking is easy. To hike up Groundhog trail is an additional 2.5 miles and is moderately difficult.
  - f. Groundhog to Pine Swamp
    - i. I have no idea how many miles, a lot!
    - ii. Somewhat difficult?