

2009 Volunteer Training

The ATC has held one Sawyer training course this year and two more are either scheduled or planned in 2009. The most effective season for sawyer recertification continues to be the winter and courses are also planned for early 2010. No trail skills courses have been requested.

We continue to utilize Dennis Helton as our primary Sawyer instructor although progress is being made within the Forest Service to provide the ATC and its partner clubs with instructors. Kerry Wood, a new FS employee on the Watauga Ranger District has already offered to instruct a course this fall.

The biggest news in 2009 for volunteer training is that the State of North Carolina has awarded the ATC a \$10,000 grant to provide training and PPE for volunteers working on the North Carolina portion of the A.T.

2009 Facilities Management Software System (F.M.S.S.)

The FMSS program is a tool that helps to direct funding from the park service to the places on the A.T. where it is needed most. ATC employees must inventory the entire A.T. least once ever five years. The SORO region has a goal of 100 miles of FMSS inventory each year. Currently, 62.8 miles of trail have been assessed this year in the CMC, SMHC and GATC sections of the Trail and more is planned soon. If you are interested in this program or have questions please contact Andrew at the SORO office.



Rocky Top

The Rocky Top trail crew is just 2 sessions in and already there have been some major challenges. To combat the growing imminence of bears in the Park, Rocky Top expanded their Bear prevention practices by taking down their tents every day but to no avail. On day 2, a bear destroyed almost 350\$ worth of gear and the crew had to come off the Mountain. For the remainder of session 1, the crew completed day work and on session 2, the crew worked on the unfinished relocation on the TEHCC portion of the trail near Stan Murray. Session 3 brings the crew back to the SMHC section as they work to finish another trail relocation and by Session 4 we hope to be back in the park.