

## Mountain High Hikers Newsflash September 25, 2009

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### **Good News for Chunky Gal Lovers**

**By: Bobbi LeHoullier**

Land Trust for the Little Tennessee has once again come to the rescue! This time the heroic save came to the Chunky Gal Trail on a portion between Glade Gap and the AT. LTLT recently purchased a 53 acre tract of private land from Sid and Barbara Penland of Hayesville. The purchased property includes a portion of the hiking trail which traverses over the Riley Knob Natural Heritage Area. This tract had been previously considered for sale to the private sector for either development or even for the construction of a cell phone tower. It is through the generosity of donors that non-profit LTLT is able to step in and save these important pieces of our heritage and to protect hiking trails so important to us. The group was also recently involved in the conservation of property adjacent to Fires Creek Rim Trail. Thanks Phillip, for doing such a great job! For further information on LTLT contact [pmoore@lilt.org](mailto:pmoore@lilt.org)

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### **Trail Maintenance Plan**

**By: John Quinlan**

"October 09 trail maintenance schedule. 1 Oct; NC:Fires Creek Rim Trail; to/from Big Stamp and Short Branch access (end of FS 340C) Meet at Ingles in Hayesville at 0745. 15 Oct; GA: Wagon Train to/from Brasstown Bald and Young Harris College. Meet at Maryann's in Young Harris at 0745. All members are encouraged to give us a hand. No experience is required. All start times are 0800."

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### **Welcome New Members:**

**Information provided by: John Orr, Membership Chairman**

Margo Schneider  
Sylvia Purcupile  
Doris and Jim Pigneri  
Barbara Parker  
Donna Papazian  
Jim and Gayle Morgan  
Linda and Robert Kaempfer  
Dixie Hamilton

As of September 15, MHH has 172 members.

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## Bly Gap Excursion

**By: Bobbi LeHoullier**

On September 1, the long hike group trekked up a little known trail from the Shooting Creek area of NC to Bly Gap on the AT. As customary, a photo was taken at the gnarled tree at Bly Gap. The group then headed North on the AT, over Courthouse Bald to Sassafras Gap. This section of the AT is remote, steep, but especially beautiful. Along the trail we admired the work done this summer by the Konnarock Work Crew in connection with Nantahala Hiking Club members. The 10.4 mile hike climbed over 2000 feet. (The picture also appeared in the Sentinel Newspapers, so autographs may be in order.)



## **Web Site Problems:**

We are experiencing problems with our website as a lot of you know. We're trying to get this in order as quickly as possible and hopefully the problem will be resolved within the week. The trouble lies with our server /provider and Richard has been diligently asking that they correct the problems as soon as possible. He has not been able to log into the site to update it recently. Please bear with us. I did find that I could bring up the top portion of the page by going down the right front page and clicking recent Newsflashes which will bring up the top portion of the front page. From there I was able to navigate to different sections of the site such as Hiking Guidelines , Guidelines for Leaders, Hike Calendar, etc. So, you can still bring up and print a copy of a Waiver and Release Form if needed, and you can also read and review the information referred to below.

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## **Important Stuff:**

### **New Hiking Guidelines are Posted on MHH website (See how to get on the site in above article)**

Check out the revised Member/Guest Hiking Guidelines on the club's website. Excellent information concerning many facets of hiking is contained therein. A lot of hard work went into the formulation of the guidelines and the following club members spent many hours on this project.

Thank you: **Lanier Deal, Janet Faist, Jean Caputa, Ben Kennedy, George Jurand, George Radcliffe, and Johanne Kittle!**

The group also formulated the "Hike Leader Guidelines" which will be forwarded to hike leaders for next quarter. The guidelines offer practical advice to leaders on many levels—from practical management of incidents occurring during a hike to separating a group into lead and sweep groups to accommodate different hiking speeds and levels. These can also be viewed on our website.

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## **New Photo Viewing on Web Site: (See how to get on the site in above article)**

The Club now has a new and different way to view and share photo's from hiking trips. If you look on the hiking schedule for [Summer 2009](#) starting Sept 1st you will see a link for \*\*\*\*PHOTO"S\*\*\*\* for the hikes where pictures were submitted to me, click on the link to see the pictures, and clicking on the individual small images will enlarge them. So send the pictures on to me, and I will post them for all to enjoy.

Richard Sullivan, Webmaster

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## **Carolina Connections Publication has good article on Appletree Trails**

Check out the latest article on Appletree Trails located in the Andrews area of the Nantahala Forest. The club has hikes scheduled for that area next quarter!

[http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/connections/carolina\\_connections\\_09.pdf](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/recreation/connections/carolina_connections_09.pdf)

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## **Trail Maintenance Report**

**By: John Quinlan**

Thursday, 3 Sep 09 saw 14 MHH volunteers come to conduct trail maintenance on the Chunky Gal Trail. A fabulous turnout for which I am very appreciative and thankful. It was another really great day. Started with very supportive weather and well motivated folks. Given the number of workers we formed into three separate teams.

Team #1 headed by Richard Sullivan along with 5 members (Virgina Lane, Greg Lane, Don Chesbro, Jake Erhart, and Jacob Dorn) started working South from Perry Gap. Thanks to Bill Champion of the Forest Service they had two trail identifying signs to place which then marked the trail number and designated uses. They carried a chainsaw, brushcutter and a variety of hand tools as they worked their way to Boetler Peak (Shooting Creek Bald). It was slower going than expected due to the almost continous brushcutting required. They reached the Bald in sub teams and then enjoyed the view. Afterward they worked down to the upper stairs where Steve drove them back down to Glade to rendezvous with the other teams.

Team #2 headed by David Richardson and three other volunteers (Bob Stone, Steve Jersey, and Ralph Aanensen) started by placing a vehicle at Tusquittee Gap and then drove around to begin the actual work

from Perry Gap. They then worked their way North to Tusquittee Gap. David carried the chain saw and divided up the others to share in the use of the new brush cutter and alternate with the other hand tools. Once again the amount of growth since our last time (early March) through this stretch was a bit more than one might expect. After reaching they too drove back to Glade Gap.

Team #3 (Composed of Jim Morgan, Tom Shope, Steve Sutherlin, and John Quinlan) rode with Steve Sutherlin in his "big white diesel truck" on the FS road close within 1/3 mile to Boetler Peak. Steve repositioned his truck back at the upper stairs South of the Bald and then walked in to rejoin us. This team used a chain saw, two Swedish axes, and a lopper to clear debris and fallen tree branches from the access path to the top of the Bald. At the top we cleared much more of an opening than we had last year at the original opening and additionally cut down a whole lot of heavy growth and debris to open a second area looking back North. Now visitors can see all the way to Nantahala Lake and enjoy an outstanding view. This team, minus Steve, then completed the remainder of the trek down to Glade with some chainsawing and other hand tools.

At Glade all enjoyed the cold refreshments provided courtesy of MHH.

All in all a tremendous amount of work accomplished, and mileage covered, by your club. If the total mileage were added it would come to 9.2! As a result this may have been one of the greatest distances (tied with one day in Fires Creek) worked in a single day. A phenomenal amount of ground covered thanks to your volunteers! We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of trail workers and I, personally, am extremely grateful."

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## **Wildlife Wilderness Week, Pigeon Forge: January 9-16th 2010**

**From Pam Sullivan**

Just want everyone to know about this popular event. We usually have a good attendance from MHHs. Hikes, tours and classes are free. This year we will post a time and place for dinner every evening in the hotel lobby of the Music Road Inn for those who want to eat as a group.

You will need to **call** the Music Road Inn and Hotel and ask for the discount rate for Wilderness Wildlife Week. Last year it was \$59 for double queens, more for the weekend. Includes breakfast and mini fridge. The **inn** is the central station for hikes/ meals. The **hotel** is connected to the convention center. They are across the street from each other and rooms are comparable in both. The cheapest rooms fill quickly.

For even cheaper lodging, we've had members stay in the Motel 6 next door (may allow pets) and the Red Roof Inn (\$144 for 4 nights) a little further away.

For the 2009 list of classes and 2010 information:

[http://www.mypigeonforge.com/events\\_winterfest\\_wilderness.aspx](http://www.mypigeonforge.com/events_winterfest_wilderness.aspx)

To make reservations:

**Call** for the discount rooms at the Music Hall Inn and Hotel for WWW!!! (866) 429-8803

Make reservations on line ONLY if you want to pay more:

<http://www.musicroadinn.com/default.asp>

<http://www.musicroadhotel.com/>

<http://www.motel6-pigeonforge.com/>