

2014 SATC Trailmaster's Report

We resumed trail maintenance activities this spring, after a long cold winter, working on projects at our Peters Mountain Shelter. At the end of March, a dozen volunteers braved a cold rain and wind to carry in two steel food storage boxes for overnight hikers to use at the shelter to protect their food from animals.

On a couple of work trips a few weeks later in April, volunteers helped carry in a tree service contractor's gear to the shelter. The contractor was hired by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) to cut down a few hazard trees surrounding the shelter that were dead or dying and posed a risk to the shelter and shelter users.

We also carried in and installed a new steel fire ring at the shelter which we hope will help control fire size and keep people from building other stone fire rings too close to the shelter. A new post and "spring" sign was installed to direct hikers to the spring trail, and seasonal privy maintenance was done by a few staunch volunteers to keep the composting privy serviceable.

Later this year, the Club will be installing a new roof on the shelter to replace the 20 year old asphalt shingles. This will require a lot of volunteers to help carry in new roofing materials and carry out the old shingles. The ATC will be providing some funding to help purchase new roofing materials along with club contributions.

On an early May work trip, SATC volunteers worked again with the PA Game Commission (PGC) to help plant white pine tree seedlings in state game lands. This was the third straight year we worked with the PGC to plant the seedlings along a trail the Club maintains. This year we planted the seedlings in State Game Lands #211 along the Cold Spring Trail and the Appalachian Trail on Sharp Mountain. The white pine tree

species is used to help replace dying hemlocks and provide wildlife cover.

We still need volunteers to regularly visit Peters Mountain Shelter and help keep the shelter cleaned up. You can help by sweeping the shelter and removing all trash. Volunteers can also break up and remove fire rings near the shelter or in adjacent tent camping areas. Let me know if you are interested in helping out.

Jeff Buehler
SATC Trailmaster