

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN

## HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

July 2003

www.tehcc.org

**Note** the deadline for submitting articles and photos for next month's newsletter is the 15th of the month!

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [Letters Needed to Support Continued Paddling on the Chattooga River](#)
- [Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities \(\*Future\*\)](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports \(\*Past\*\)](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(\*Past\*\)](#)

NEXT TWO MONTHS				
<u>Description</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Konnarock - White Rocks Mountain Relocation		Joe DeLoach	July 10-14	423-753-7903
Smokies 900 miler, Cataloochee Divide Trail	A/3/C	Garry Luttrell	July 12	423-239-9854
Old Timers Trip: Lower Watauga starting at Wilber Dam	II	Ed Montgomery	July 12	423-247-7795
LeConte Trail Hike (Smokies) (trip is full)	B/3/B	Steve Falling	July 12-13	423-239-5502
Third Saturday Maintenance		Joe DeLoach	July 19	423-753-7903
Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park		Steve Falling	July 24	423-239-5502
ATC Biennial Meeting		Steve Wilson	July 25 - August 1	
F/B Hike: Natural Tunnel State Park	C/4/C	Neil Dotson	August 2	423-245-6105
Konnarock - White Rocks Mountain		Joe DeLoach	August 7-11	423-753-7903

Relocation				
Smokies: Deep Creek Area (S900M)	-	Garry Luttrell	August 16	423-239-9854
Third Saturday Maintenance		Joe DeLoach	August 16	423-753-7903
Smokies Area hike - Maddron Bald Trail including Albright Grove	AA/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	August 23	423-239-7554

### TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Lance Houser   Marla G Kochelek   Lucy Van der Wolf

Each of these new members is eligible for a free dinner at the next Dinner Meeting!

### Letters Needed to Support Continued Paddling on the Chattooga River

Your right to paddle is at stake in the Chattooga headwaters. Currently, the U.S. Forest Service bans boating on the headwaters of the Chattooga above the Highway 28 bridge. Understand that by doing this the Forest Service has made boating illegal on land purchased with public money. This is the only land managed by the U.S. Forest Service where this is the case. Here is what you can do to help.

The Forest Service is drafting a new plan that will manage the area for the next 10-15 years. In the draft plan, legal boating in this area is mentioned as an alternative but is not the preferred alternative. Paddlers need to band together and flood the Forest Service with letters supporting American Whitewaters position on establishing legal boating on the headwaters of the Chattooga above the bridge on Highway 28.

Your letter needs to be HAND written and postmarked no later than July 3rd, 2003, and should include this [bullet list of points](#). It should only take 10 minutes to write a short letter of support. Send your letter to: Sumter National Forest, Content Analysis Team, PO Box 221150, Salt Lake City, UT 84122. The .pdf file has a form to use with the address.

The work AW and you did in the past on Amendment 14 brought us to this point. In the past, the Forest Service would not even consider boating as a legal option in the headwaters of the Chattooga. Thanks for your past help. But, we really need your help again. I realize that the Chattooga is not a river that is close to our area and that many of you will never paddle the headwaters. However, this issue needs nationwide support from all paddlers. The next fight might be for access on one of our Northeast Tennessee streams. And, helping people in other areas will go a long way to getting their support when we need it. If you do not think we have potential access issues, you are mistaken. I foresee a problem with access for a take-out on the lower Nolichucky. Currently, if you run the 9-mile lower run, the take-out is on private property on both sides. Current owners allow access but that can change. It already has on river right. Large boulders are blocking off the parking area and no trespassing signs are posted. At some point, I would like to see scheduled releases on the Dries of the Pigeon. For those of us lucky

enough to run this stretch, we know it is awesome. Imagine having scheduled summer releases!

So, please write a letter supporting AW's position on legal boating in the headwaters of the Chattooga. Remember, the letter **MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JULY 3rd, 2003** and be **HAND** written. Thanks in advance for your support. If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

S.Y.O.T.R.

Mike Morrow

## **Scheduled Hiking, Paddling and Trail Maintenance Opportunities (Future)**

**Upper Nolichucky Watershed Alliance - Water Quality Monitoring Training - June 28, 2003**

**Calling on Volunteers Who Cherish and Enjoy Your Water Resources**

- \$800,000 leveraged from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to restore degraded watersheds, install storm water pollution control technologies, and continue volunteer monitoring
- Protection of 27 miles of river and stream frontage along one of the best smallmouth bass fisheries in the southeast
- Economic development plans that balance concern for the environment with the need for jobs and financial investment that provide a sustainable, high quality of life.

These are but some of the very real and recent outcomes that volunteer monitoring activities have helped nurture in the southern Appalachians. If you are concerned about the current or even future health of streams and water quality in your neighborhood or community, exercise your democratic rights. Get involved. Join with other citizens in the Upper Nolichucky River Watershed who are monitoring water quality throughout Unicoi and Washington Counties and on the Appalachian Trail. **OUR NEXT TRAINING DATE IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 28 FROM 10 AM UNTIL 1 PM** on the Nolichucky River at the Cherokee National Forest's Chestoa Recreational Area near Erwin Tennessee. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

The Upper Nolichucky Watershed Alliance (UNWA) is a group of concerned citizens who are actively taking steps to help protect and enhance where necessary the water quality in the communities here. Members represent all walks of life - including the agricultural community, local government leaders, businesses and industry, students, average citizens, and environmental activists. Your participation is needed to help us maintain our monitoring stations and install additional monitoring stations where needed. There are 60,000 miles of streams in Tennessee, and the State has limited resources and cannot monitor them all.

Our simplest monitoring activity is taking water chemistry grab samples at certain stations in the watershed and sending them to a laboratory for analysis. In addition to stream sites, the UNWA also monitors 4 water sources at shelters on the Appalachian

Trail for microbiological and chemical parameters. Many of our volunteers also enjoy the biological sampling that we perform. This activity is more fun for most volunteers because it gives people a chance to get into the water and see firsthand the health of that stream. We collect aquatic insects that live on our stream bottoms, identify and separate them to order level, and calculate the tally of total insects into a scoring system which, when complete, gives the volunteer an immediate indication about the water quality at that location and immediately upstream. This activity takes about 2.5 hours, and we ask volunteers to monitor their sites 4 times per year.

If you would like to participate in our next monitor training session on June 28, please contact the coordinators listed below and reserve your space. Training will be limited to 24 individuals. If you are only interested in chemical and microbiological monitoring of one of the Appalachian Trails sites you do not necessarily need to attend this training session for biological monitoring, just contact one of the coordinators below.

Richard Guinn ()

(423) 229-1863

Andy Brown ()

(828) 253-6856 or 674-8954

### **Konnarock Crew - White Rocks Mountain Relocation**

**(Scheduled for July 10-14 and August 7-11, 2003)**

*Leader: Joe DeLoach (Telephone 423-753-7903)*

In 2003 we have four weeks of Konnarock Crew time, two weeks in June, one in July, and one in August. We will work on several relocations of the Appalachian Trail on White Rocks Mountain. The Konnarock Crew arrives around noon on the Thursdays (July 10 and August 7) and works through around noon on the following Mondays. Club volunteers are sought for all those days but especially for the Fridays through Sundays, where we meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonald's and the bank at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and work gloves. Volunteers who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew earn the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. Our Club has been the leader for support of the Konnarock Crew, so let's keep that going in 2003!

### **Hike Notice: Smokies 900 miler, Cataloochee Divide Trail, July 12, 2003**

*Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854, A/3/C*

Cataloochee, from the Cherokee name Ga-da-lu-tsi meaning "standing up in ranks", referred to the seemingly endless stands of timber that lined the ridges. A lot of that timber was logged but there is one area of Cataloochee where one of the early residents, Robert "Boogerman" Palmer, refused to sell his land or timber rights to the lumber company, and as a result, a virgin forest remains. The Boogerman Trail loops through this forest. One day in school, when Robert was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he put his head down on his desk saying "The Boogerman", and the nickname stuck with him. His father was "Turkey" George Palmer (see link to photo below), another well known and colorful character. This initial 900 miler hike will start at Polls Gap (allegedly, Polly Moody's husband drove her favorite milk cow too hard up the steep climb to the gap, the cow gave birth to a premature calf, and both died. Polly threw such a fit over this loss, that her neighbors named the gap in her honor), and follow the Cataloochee Divide Trail for 11.9 mi. to Cove Creek Gap. We'll cross Hemphill Bald (named for Thomas Hemphill, who settled in Haywood County, North Carolina in 1792, and is believed to have built the first gristmill in that county), where we will hope for some

great views of Cataloochee Valley and the 6000 + ft. peaks in the eastern end of the Smokies. We'll leave from the usual Colonial Heights / McDonalds parking area at 7:30 am, and will stop for breakfast at the Waffle House in Newport. Round trip is 300 mi. or more, so expect a late return to Kingsport. You must contact the hike leader by phone or to reserve your spot for this hike: there could be a last minute change if a new grandbaby decides to come into this world later than the target date. Click on the small photo or link to see a larger photo:



[Turkey George Palmer](#) (118KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



[Cataloochee Valley and Mountains](#) (133KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*

### **APE's TEHCC 2003 Clinic Schedule**

*By Mike Morrow*

APE's and TEHCC will co-sponsor three clinics this summer; please see the related articles in this newsletter. Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- July 12th and 13th - SOLO Wilderness First Aid Course

- August 23rd and 24th - ACA Swiftwater Rescue Course

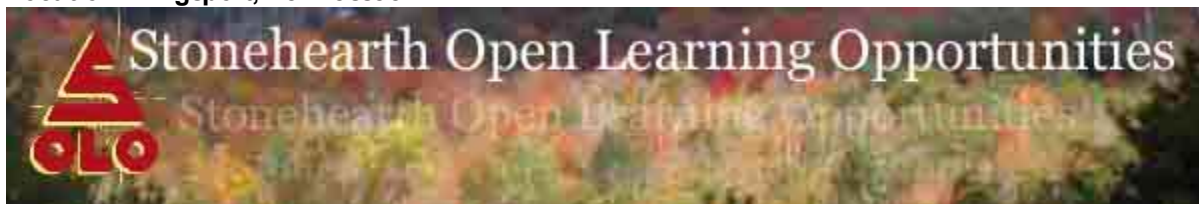
I am excited to be bringing these courses to you this year. I cannot do this without help from people in the club. I will need assistants to volunteer for the August course. So, please mark your (Students and assistants) calendars today. Watch for registration information in future newsletters.

S.Y.O.T.R.,

Mike Morrow

### **Wilderness First Aid Course - July 12-13, 2003**

**Location: Kingsport, Tennessee**



*By Mike Morrow*

### **July 12-13, 2003**

The APE's, TEHCC and I are sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid course taught by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO). The course will be tailored to the needs of the group. That is if the group paddles, hikes, etc. I believe there is a great need for this training in our local paddling, hiking and outdoors enthusiast community. Red Cross First Aid is not enough for the situations we place ourselves in for recreation. Below is an explanation of the course from SOLO's website ([www.stonehearth.com](http://www.stonehearth.com)).

*"Accidents can and do happen on ropes courses, along country roads, or in the backcountry, and all too often members of a group are not capable of dealing with the*

*emergency. Not only does this lead to improper care of the patient, but it also endangers the entire group.*

Studies have shown that many recreational accidents are preventable, and that improper care of trauma can compound even the simplest of injuries. Through our involvement in emergency medicine and rescue efforts, we at SOLO feel there is a need for training for all outdoorspeople - training which stresses preparedness and prevention; training which encompasses all phases of off-road emergencies; training which focuses on extended care issues and on prolonged transport situations. Very few first aid programs actually address the issues of providing emergency care in a rural, wilderness, or extended care setting.

This is SOLO's twenty-fifth year offering its workshops in Wilderness First Aid. Designed specifically for groups and their leaders, this 16-hour program covers topics ranging from preparation and prevention to assessment and treatment. All SOLO instructors are experienced rescue personnel with extensive outdoor experience and have been selected not only for their expertise in emergency medicine and rescue, but also for their teaching skills.

Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem-solving exercises. The emphasis is always on hands-on experience. Scenarios are an important part of this training.

#### **Day 1:**

- ***Patient Assessment System***
- ***Shock***
- ***Long-Term Patient Care***
- ***Soft Tissue Injuries***

#### **Day 2:**

- ***Environmental Emergencies***
- ***Fractures/Dislocations***
- ***Splint Improvisation***
- ***Preparedness***

*While much of the material appears to be standard emergency care information, the backcountry emphasis with long-term care and evacuation complications makes this course unique. Course material can be somewhat modified to meet the specific needs of a group, i.e. cycling, kayaking, climbing, etc. Since the principles of first aid are taught, this program is really applicable to any emergency situation."*

The fee for the course is \$115.00. Please make checks payable to Mike Morrow. The fee includes the course registration fee, mailing and travel expenses for the instructor(s). Once I receive your course fee it is not refundable. You are responsible to find a replacement if you cannot attend for any reason. Of course, I will assist you in this situation in any way possible.

The course will be held all day Saturday, July 12th and Sunday July 13th. Plan on an early start and a long day. We will hold the course at the Eastman Lodge in Kingsport, Tennessee. An equipment list and other information will be sent out to each confirmed student about a month prior to the course.

You are confirmed for the course when I receive your payment. Please include the following items with your registration fee:

- List of outdoor activities you participate in

- Home mailing address
- Home phone number
- E-mail address, if available

I look forward to participating in this class with you. I am sure it will be fun and very educational. Obtaining this knowledge is a very important element in safety regardless of the activity you participate in. This information could help save your friends and your own life!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Mike Morrow

Phone (423) 245-1201 or email .

**Hike Notice: Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park -**

**Thursday, July 24, 2003**

*Leader: Steve Falling, phone 423-239-5502*

This year, we are again co-sponsoring the Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. This is a popular Fun Fest event with 300-400 participants taking the 2.5 mile hike around the lake. At least twelve volunteers are needed to count the hikers and keep them on the main trail. Volunteers need to be at the Bays Mountain Park dam at 7:30 pm for instructions. The hiking begins at 8:00 and finishes about 10:00. You should bring a flashlight, good shoes or boots and a raincoat if rain is a possibility. The volunteer with the closest guess of the number of hikers will win a Bays Mountain T-shirt. Please contact Steve Falling to sign up to help or for more info.



**ATC Biennial Meeting, July 25 - August 1, 2003**

*By Steve Wilson*

ATC Biennial Meeting - Waterville Valley, New Hampshire

This year's meeting location near the White Mountains in New Hampshire has a lot of promise for mixing trail interests with a family vacation.

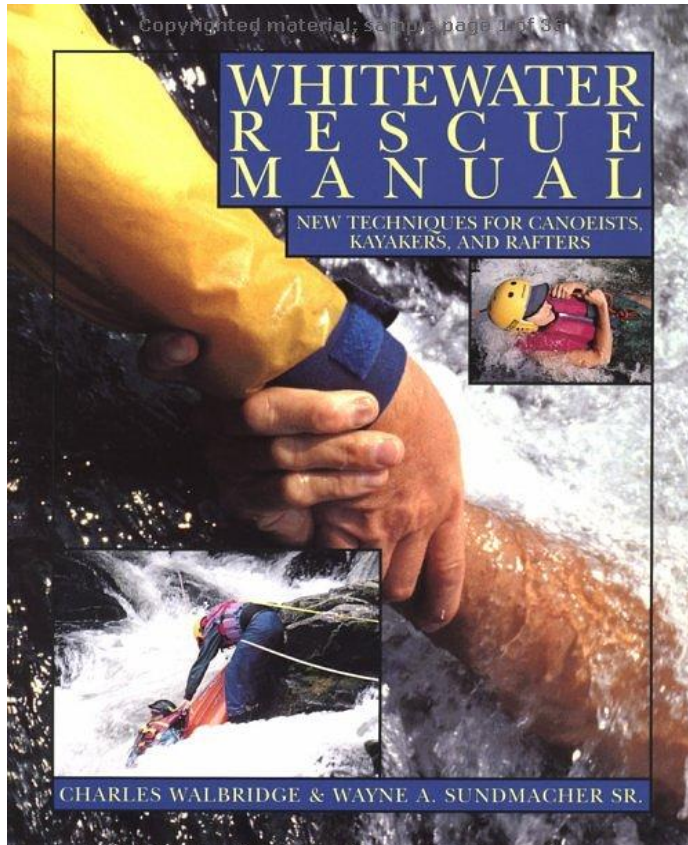
**Family/Beginner: Natural Tunnel State Park, August 2, 2003**

*Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-245-6105; Rating: C/4/C*

Natural Tunnel State Park in Virginia is very close to Kingsport, which makes it nice for a short hike. In addition to the attraction of the tunnel and steep cliffs surrounding, it has a few nice hiking trails. We will most likely take one of the longer ones, which means only something like 4 miles round trip, out on Purchase Ridge. There is a relatively steep climb at the end of the trail up the knob to the observation platform from which one can see the tunnel from the facing ridge (that is, if the trees haven't grown up too badly). With the increased train traffic through the tunnel, this would be a fun trip for families with children afflicted with train obsession (a common enough malady). We will meet in

Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank at 8:30 a.m. Please call for more information as the time approaches. Current plans are to return by lunchtime (between noon and 1:00). Dress appropriately for a summer hike and do bring water.

### **APE's / TEHCC Swiftwater Rescue Course**



*By Mike Morrow*

**Course Dates:** Saturday and Sunday, August 23-24, 2003.

APE's and TEHCC are offering an ACA Format Swiftwater Rescue Course. This is a full weekend course and covers a lot of topics in Swiftwater Rescue tailored to recreational paddlers. This course should be a must take for anyone who regularly paddles our streams and rivers. The course is very physically demanding. So, you must be fit enough to participate. I guarantee that you will be tired and winded even if you think you are in shape.

**Location:** Saturday's session will be at Eastman Chemical Company's Lodge at Bay's Mountain. Sunday's river location will be determined Saturday and depends on water level.

**Description:** This is an intensive course involving classroom instruction, dry land practice and in water drills. The topics covered are: Accident Prevention, Rescue Philosophy, Rescue Equipment (ropes, carabineers, pulleys, rescue PFD, etc ), Swimming Skills in rapids (You will learn to ferry, catch eddies and peel out without your boat.), Wading Skills, Rope Handling, Foot Entrapment Release Techniques, Mechanical Advantage, Tag Lines, Stabilization Lines, Zip Lines, Releasing Boat Pins



and some useful Knots.

**Prerequisites:** The course is open to ADULT (18 years old or older) APE and TEHCC members. All paddling skill levels are welcome. Remember, this will not be a paddling weekend. It is a physically strenuous weekend so you must be fit and be able to swim competently. By the way, did I mention we are going to have a lot of fun! You will be amazed how much fun you can have swimming in rapids.

**How to Register:** Please mail information about yourself (name, address, phone numbers, e-mail) and a check made out to Mike Morrow for the amount of \$60.00. My address is: 1028 Surmount Ct., Kingsport, Tennessee, 37660. I am limiting the course to 10 students. I will start a waiting list if needed. If you do not get into the course, I will return your money. You are registered when I receive the items listed above. Also, provide me with information about your paddling history (number of times you paddle per year, do you paddle in the winter or warm weather only, class rivers you paddle). Also, include any health related information I need to be aware of while you are taking the course. I must have your registration information no later than 07/21/03.

About a month prior to the course, I will mail you a packet of information about the course. If you have any questions about the course, feel free to contact me, Mike Morrow, at (423) 245-1201 (evenings before 10:00pm, please) or by e-mail at . I am planning to be on a paddling trip in early August. So, I may not be able to contact you until a week prior to the course.



**Hike Notice: Big South Fork Overnight Hike to Charit Creek Lodge, Saturday-Sunday, October 25-26, 2003**

*Leader: Steve Falling, 239-5502*

*Rating: Easy to Moderate*

The Hiking Club has reservations for 12 overnight visitors to Charit Creek Lodge in the beautiful Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This park is on the Kentucky-Tennessee border north of Knoxville. We are timing this trip to enjoy the autumn foliage and cooler temperatures. We will hike in on Saturday, spend the night in two 12-person rooms in the lodge and hike back on Sunday. There are several hiking trails to choose from (0.8 to 11 miles one-way). The cost per person is \$62.00. This price covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We only have reservations for 12, so call in your request before sending money. Here is a little info from their website:



Charit Creek Lodge, located deep in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, is only accessible by horseback, foot or mountain bike. Well-maintained hiking and horse trails lead you through interesting and beautiful places on your way to the lodge. Located where Charit Creek and Station Camp Creek meet, the lodge rests in a beautiful pasture framed by magnificent bluffs. This valley has given shelter to travelers in the Big South Fork since the Indian hunting camps. A white hunter, Jonathan Blevins, built the first cabin here in 1817. His log structure still stands as part of the lodge.

Operated as a youth hostel from 1987 until mid 1989, management of the Charit Creek property was awarded to the operators of LeConte Lodge, a renowned wilderness accommodation in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The proprietors, Stokely Hospitality Enterprises, under the management of Tim and Lisa Line, have transformed the hostel into a full-service accommodation, while preserving its rustic integrity.

Let the pleasure you get from the wilderness continue long after the sun goes down. Charit Creek Lodge offers congenial accommodations and hearty meals without disturbing the nature you've come to enjoy.

After a true country dinner, sit back in your front porch rocker and see a sky full of stars, listen to the stream, and watch the firefly displays; no hum of machinery or bright electric lights to interfere. Each morning wake to the smell of fresh coffee on the stove.

### **Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)**

**Hike Report: National Trails Day Hike, Little Stony Creek Falls / Bush Mill, June 7, 2003**

*G. S. Luttrell reporting*

June 7th was National Trails Day, and I was planning to lead a hike to Little Stony Creek Falls, near Dungannon, Virginia, but it was a washout day. So, because of the rain, we had a Plan B, a visit to Fort Kilgore then Bush Mill, in Nickelsville, Virginia. On Saturdays, from 10 - 4, they are operating the mill, and local school students are there to give visitors a tour, history, and will actually grind some corn for you. One attached shot shows the three girls, two from Twin Springs and one from Nickelsville, who were the escorts last Saturday; one shows Garry, the Ruritan Mill Operator, Roger, and Beth; and, the other shows the mill - taken with raindrop spots on my lens. In a few weeks, they will be having Nickelsville Days and some special events will held at the mill. Some interesting history: on April 1 in the late 1800s, the mill was destroyed by fire, because the local farmers were reluctant to help put out the fire - they thought it was an April Fool's joke. Valentine Bush, first owner of the mill, had a son, George Bush, 27, who was shot and killed while sitting on his horse, watering it at Amos Creek. The assassin was never caught. Hikers, that is tourists, included Beth Barnett, Roger Barnett, and Garry Luttrell.



[Bush Mill](#) in Nickelsville, Virginia, June 7, 2003 (156KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



(L-R) Garry Luttrell, the Ruritan Mill Operator, Roger Barnett, and Beth Barnett in the [Bush Mill](#), June 7, 2003 (107KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



[Three girls](#), two from Twin Springs and one from Nickelsville, who were the escorts, June 7, 2003 (121KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*

## **Appalachian Trail Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (*Past*)**

**Name:** Bill Berry

**Date:** February 28, 2003

**Purpose:** Clearing blow downs

**Section:** 20 - Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

**Location:** Spivey Gap to half mile South of No Business Knob Shelter

**Number:** One

**Total hours:** 10

**People:** Bill Berry

**Individual hours:** 10

**Summary:** The Trail is clear from Spivey Gap to one half mile south (where the old bridge used to be) of No Business Knob Shelter. Will finish clearing section this coming weekend, March 8, 2003, I hope. I worked the section from Temple Hill to the Shelter on December 21, 2002, so it may or may not be too bad. We have had some high winds so there may be several blowdowns. On Friday, I had four big dead trees and many smaller ones along with lots of tree limbs.

**Name:** Bill Berry

**Date:** March 8, 2003

**Purpose:** Clearing blow downs

**Section:** 20 - Nolichucky River to Spivey Gap

**Location:** Spivey Gap from old bridge location to Temple Hill Gap

**Number:** One

**Total hours:** 8

**People:** Bill Berry

**Individual hours:** 8

**Summary:** I completed clearing the Trail from the old bridge location to Temple Hill Gap today. I had some trees down but not nearly as many as I had on the first half of the section. The Trail from Spivey Gap to Temple Hill Gap is clear and in good shape.

**Name:** C. B. Willis

**Date:** March 19, 2003

**Purpose:** Clearing blow downs

**Sections:** 17 and 18 - Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**Location:** Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**Number:** 14

**Total hours:** 50

**People:** Loretta Arnold, Rick Culbertson, Gil Derouen, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, David Ingram, Daryl Loyd, Glenn Marshall, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Sandra Perry, Ed Schell, Malcolm Wolf, C. B. Willis

**Individual hours:** Loretta - 5, Rick - 2, Gil - 7, Howard - 2, Mike - 2, David - 2, Daryl - 2, Glenn - 5, Bob - 5, Waymon - 2, Sandra - 2, Ed - 5, Malcolm - 7, C.B. - 2

**Summary:** We had gotten the key to the gates to Forest Service Road 230 from the Forest Service in Greeneville as the road was closed due to weather. We found the South gate property opened and the North gate caved in and the lock cut off. We reported this to the Forest Service. The road was reasonably clear and passable. One crew worked from Indian Grave Gap north to Deep Gap, 3.8 miles. They cleared 12 - 15 blow downs, all with bow saws. One of our members had bought the type hand saw shown at the maintainers dinner, and it worked very well. The other crew was to begin at Iron Mountain Gap and work south; however, the weather was very different there, rain, high winds, and cold. It was decided we would return non Monday, March 24th. We do expect to have sufficient people to finish a complete initial maintenance trip on Monday and do hope the weather will cooperate.

**Name:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** March 28, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear relocation around roots near the middle bridge in Laurel Fork Gorge

**Section:** 9 - U.S. 321 to Hampton trailhead

**Location:** Near the middle bridge in Laurel Fork Gorge

**Number:** 9

**Total Hours:** 45

**People:** Bob Peoples, Hikers Seiko, Nasty Man, Pawee, Mawee, Firewood, Stitch, Shaman, Mike Nango

**Individual Hours:** 9 x 5

**Summary:** Cleared trees and brush, as well as rough cutting a relocation around a steep, slippery rooted section just south of the bridge. The relocation needs to be dressed and blazed before opening.

**Name:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** April 7, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Section:** 10 - Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

**Location:** Relocation just south of Koonford Bridge

**Number:** 5

**Total Hours:** 25

**People:** Bob Peoples, Chaos, Dimples, Coffee, Crumbsnatcher, and dog Bear

**Individual Hours:** 5 x 5

**Summary:** Cleared 180 feet of trail for relocation just south of Koonford Bridge. Prepared relocation for Appalachian State University Earth Day group to dig side trail and finish relocation.

**Name:** Bob Peoples

**Date:** April 12, 2003

**Purpose:** Present maintenance workshop

**Section:** Other

**Location:** Trail Fest, Hot Springs, N.C.

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 7

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Individual Hours:** 1 x 7

**Summary:** Presented trail maintenance workshop at Trail Fest in Hot Springs, N.C. Explained about volunteering for trail maintenance and receiving the Club maintenance patch and the Hard Core patch. Passed out Elk River relocation information and map made by Ed Oliver. Northbound hikers were very grateful for the handouts.

**Name:** Glenn Marshall

**Date:** April 17, 2003

**Purpose:** Removing blow downs

**Section:** 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

**Location:** Between Hughes Gap and Greasy Creek Gap

**Number:** 7

**Total hours:** 7

**People:** Dave McMillin, Howard Guinn, David Ingram, Mike Hupko, Glenn Marshall

**Individual hours:** Dave - 3, Howard - 1, David - 1, Mike - 1, Glenn - 1

**Summary:** While on a pleasure hike, several of our hikers did some maintenance by removing a number of blow downs with bow saws.

**Name:** C. B. Willis

**Date:** April 28, 2003

**Purpose:** Clearing blow downs

**Sections:** 17 and 18 - Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**Location:** Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**Number:** 6

**Total hours:** 36

**People:** Rich Culbertson (leader), Gil Derouen, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Helga Mitchell, C. B. Willis

**Individual hours:** 6

**Summary:** TEHCC Member Ed Oliver had given us a list of new blow downs due to the early April snows. Today, we teamed in two person teams and covered our entire adoption where blow downs were indicated. We do appreciate Ed's report as without it, we would've had to go over the entire trail again and carry chain saws. All blow downs were cleared except the one at 1.2 hours north of Indian Grave Gap. This tree was 24 inches or more in diameter, a very large tree, too large for our chain saw. There was a well defined path around the tree, just 3 feet off the trail. We cleared the brush and branches off this path and fixed it so the large downed tree is a great resting or lunch place. We are satisfied this is best.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** May 2, 2003

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns along Jones Branch and near Chestoa

**Section:** 19 - Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**Location:** Trail north of Nolichucky River Campground and Trail south of river

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 4

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Individual Hours:** 4

**Summary:** Removed a large hemlock near the last bridge north on Jones Branch above the Nolichucky River and one in the first 100 yards heading up Cliff Ridge. One of the bridges on Jones Branch can use rocks piled around the footing as the stream has cut a channel running against the support.

**Name:** Mike Watts

**Date:** May 3, 2003

**Purpose:** Removing blow downs and spring weeding

**Section:** 6 - Turkey Pen Gap to Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary (north)

**Location:** Turkey Pen Gap to the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary

**Number:** 6

**Total hours:** 64

**People:** Mike Watts, Rick Lott, Scotty Myers, Missy Wright, and Susan Rook. Elizabeth Lott provided assistance with the shuttle.

**Individual hours:** Mike, Rick, Scotty, Missy and Susan - 12 each; Elizabeth - 4

**Summary:** On May 3, we did a trail maintenance trip from Turkey Pen Gap to the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary. We clipped, weeded, and removed a number of small to medium sized blow downs. There were a number of larger blow downs we couldn't handle with a bow saw. Except for these, the blow down count was less than I expected. Otherwise, most of the trail was in very good condition. We saw numerous through hikers, and none reported any problems.

Turkey Pen Gap is 6 miles south of Tenn. 91. In the guidebook, it describes a saddle with blackberry briars at 7.3 miles. On the rise past this saddle is a blow down I estimate at 24 inches. Beginning with this one, there are about a half dozen blow downs in the remainder of the section with the rest ranging from 14 to 18 inches. All are on or close to the ground.

**Name:** Jim Mann

**Date:** May 12, 2003

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

**Section:** 4 - U.S. 421 (Low Gap) to Tenn. 91.

**Location:** Highway 91 to Double Springs Shelter

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 8

**People:** Jim Mann, Patricia Mann

**Individual Hours:** 2 x 4

**Summary:** On May 12, my wife Patricia and I went to cut blowdowns on my adopted section (Highway 91 to Double Springs Shelter). My son and I had left 3 blowdowns from an earlier trip that we could not cut with a bow saw. My wife and I were surprised to find 2 more blowdowns in the same area. Cutting the five blowdowns with a chain saw was no problem. Total time spent was 4 hours each or a total of 8 hours on this project. We met several thru-hikers who reported that the trail south was in great shape.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** May 13, 2003

**Purpose:** Renovate Roan High Knob Shelter

**Section:** 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

**Location:** Roan High Knob Shelter

**Number:** 11

**Total Hours:** 103

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, David Gibson, Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels and HIKERS Elizabeth Sink "Skidmark" g, Doug Sink "Balog", Phillip Lafon "Winginit", Alison Ballbach "Nuts" g, Jen Eno "Twigs" g, and Allen Tye "Rumbler"

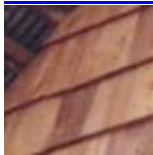
**Individual Hours:** 4x10 hours (David, Darrol, Ray, Carl) + 7x9 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** On a windy day when ladders blew away even amongst the trees at the shelter, we continued the 2003 renovation of Roan High Knob Shelter. Thanks to much planning by Ray and Darrol, we had plenty of tasks. "Winginit" and "Twigs" installed cedar shakes on the rear eave and did it very professionally. Darrol installed hardware cloth on both upper level windows. Darrol also removed the interior ladder to loft and built a new one with better rung spacing. The rest of us multitasked to cut all the limbs overhanging the roof, paint the logs on front of shelter, start installing treated shakes on front eave, and supported lower rotting log on south side.

Here are some photos from this trip - click on the small photo or link:



[Installing Cedar Shakes](#) on Roan High Knob Shelter - person is "Winginit", May 13, 2003 (110KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



[Completed Cedar Shakes](#) on Roan High Knob Shelter, May 13, 2003 (93KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



[Installing Treated Shakes](#) on Roan High Knob Shelter - people are "Rumbler", Ray Hunt, Paul Benfield, May 13, 2003 (109KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*

**Name:** C. B. Willis

**Date:** May 14, 2003

**Purpose:** Refreshing blazes

**Section:** 18 - Switchback in USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

**Location:** Beauty Spot Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**Number:** 3

**Total hours:** 21

**People:** Sandra Perry, Waymon Mumpower, C. B. Willis

**Individual hours:** 7 each

**Summary:** We refreshed the blazes, both north and south bound, and also took out some unnecessary blazes. We will finish this activity on all our adopted trail within the next two months.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** May 18-19, 2003

**Purpose:** Trail Relocation by Damascus Hard-Core

Additional photos from May 18 - click on small photo or link to view photo. See [June 2003 newsletter](#) for full report.



[Shoveling dirt](#) for fill, May 18, 2003 (170KB). *Photo courtesy of Paul Benfield.*



Bob Patterson (L) and Taro Narahashi [pondering](#) their next move, May 18, 2003 (148KB). *Photo courtesy of Paul Benfield.*



Cutting trail through a [rhododendron thicket](#), May 18, 2003 (155KB). *Photo courtesy of Paul Benfield.*

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** May 27, 2003

**Purpose:** Renovate Roan High Knob Shelter

**Section:** 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

**Location:** Roan High Knob Shelter

**Number:** 6

**Total Hours:** 52

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Ray Hunt, Darrol Nickels and HIKERS Shrek and Detour

**Individual Hours:** 2x10 hours (Bruce and Carl) + 9 hours (Ray) + 7 hours (Darrol) + 2x8 hours (Shrek and Detour)

**Summary:** It was definitely still sweatshirt weather on Roan Mountain. Shrek and Carl continued installing shakes on the front eave. We still need another full day to complete this task. Bruce and Detour wire brushed the outside of the shelter logs and put on preservative. This tack will take at least another day or two to complete. Ray and Darrol finished installing the rack around the ladder in the loft. It is now much safer to prevent falls through the opening as well as facilitating easy entry and exit. We also installed another sign at the A.T. indicating that Roan High Knob Shelter is 0.1 miles away. Paul Benfield routed this sign from redwood. An old piece of plywood was found at the shelter indicating that the CCC built this fire warden shelter in 1934 and it was renovated in 1980.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** May 28, 2003

**Purpose:** Meeting to Discuss Cherokee National Forest Plan

**Section:** Other

**Location:** Kingsport

**Number:** 2



**Total Hours:** 2

**People:** Ray Hunt, Steve Perri

**Individual Hours:** 1 hour each

**Summary:** Ray and I met Morgan Sommerville to review Alternative I of the Cherokee National Forest Plan. We discussed the A.T. corridor and adjacent prescriptions, A.T. guides, and the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness extension. We will exchange drafts of letters in early June.

**Name:** Jim Mann

**Date:** May 28, 2003

**Purpose:** Routine clipping and blaze touch-up

**Section:** 5 - Tenn. 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

**Location:** Tenn. 91 to Double Springs Shelter

**Number:** 2

**Total hours:** 16

**People:** Jim Mann and David Mann

**Individual hours:** 8 each

**Summary:** We clipped and removed 6 blow downs (thru-hiker report on blow downs was definitely wrong). We had to leave 3 blow downs that my small bow saw would not cut - I will go back next week with my chainsaw. We enjoyed a beautiful day in the spring woods, but did not get to touch up some faded blazes (one of us forgot the paint). I will also go back and do this.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** May 29, 2003

**Purpose:** Inspect power line crossing of A.T. near Hurley Hollow on Iron Mountain

**Section:** 5 - Tenn. 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

**Location:** Section 5

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 5

**People:** Ray Hunt

**Individual Hours:** 5 hours

**Summary:** Ray accompanied the USFS and TVA representatives for a ride up Hurley Hollow to inspect power poles pecked away by woodpeckers. TVA will be replacing about 12 poles with steel poles late this summer or sometime next year. Ray convinced the TVA landscaper to plant some shrubs near the A.T. between the A.T. and the poles uphill from the A.T. The plan is to replace the poles by installing the new poles in the old holes. Moving the poles further away from the A.T. at the ridge of the mountain would not be an improvement from its current location. TVA will keep us updated on their administrative process and installation plan. They also plan on planting grass and smoothing over any exposed soil near the work they do.

**Name:** Steve Banks

**Date:** May 31, 2003

**Purpose:** Cut weeds, clean out waterbars, repair shelter roof

**Section:** 3 - Abingdon Gap Shelter to U.S. 421 (Low Gap)

**Location:** North and south of McQueens Gap

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 21

**People:** Carl Fritz, Steve Banks

**Individual Hours:** 2x10.5

**Summary:** We cut weeds and cleaned out the waterbars between Abingdon Gap Shelter and the spring 1.5 miles south of McQueens Gap. We also fixed a leak in the roof of Abingdon Gap Shelter. We met several thru-hikers, including 12 year old Chainsaw, the youngest thru-hiker on the A.T. this year.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** May 31, 2003

**Purpose:** Finish relocation north of Bitter End

**Section:** 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

**Location:** just north of Bitter End road

**Number:** 10

**Total Hours:** 79

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams, Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, Thru hikers Johnny Lamo, Matt Porter, Big Blue and Dog Sydney

**Individual Hours:** 9 hours (Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Hueston Fortner, Ed Oliver, Frank Williams) + 8 hours (Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, Johnny Lamo and Matt Porter) + 2 hours (Big Blue)

**Summary:** Finished the relocation and opened the trail, traversed by five thru hikers.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** June 1, 2003

**Purpose:** Paint Blazes and Cut Weeds and Briars

**Section:** 5 - Tenn. 91 to Turkey Pen Gap

**Location:** Cross Mountain Road to Turkey Pen Gap

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 26

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Individual Hours:** 13 hours each

**Summary:** We removed all the metal and plastic blazes and replaced them with paint blazes in both directions. In most places only about every third blaze need to be repainted, because this section was badly overblazed. We also painted the three blue-blazed water trails. We cut weeds and briars and were able to move without cutting the few small blowdowns. We familiarized ourselves with the rare plants on this section and did not see them while cutting. The approaches to the bog bridges are quite muddy and could use improvement; turnpiking would be great if you could find mineral soil. The temperature never exceeded 55 F.

**Name:** Kim Peters

**Date:** June 1, 2003

**Purpose:** Cut weeds, clear vegetation

**Section:** 16 - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap

**Location:** Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**Number:** 5

**Total Hours:** 35

**People:** Kim Peters, Mary Ellen Ress, Phyllis Cairnes, Lauren Huffman, Terry Oldfield

**Individual Hours:** 7 hours each

**Summary:** Cut weeds in the Orchard on the new relo and also down the blue blaze to the spring. Cleaned out around the spring. Clipped vegetation and removed one blowdown on the trail to within a half mile from Greasy Creek Gap, but had to turn back due to time constraints. The weeds are really healthy in the Orchard and will probably require another trip next month.



(L-R) [Mary Ellen Ress and Phyllis Cairnes](#) removing a blowdown, June 1, 2003 (160KB). *Photo courtesy of Kim Peters.*

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** June 5, 2003

**Purpose:** inspect possible camping and recreational vehicle areas for Southern Highlands 05

**Section:** Other

**Location:** within 20 miles of Johnson City

**Number:** 3

**Total Hours:** 18

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver

**Individual Hours:** 3x6 hours

**Summary:** Made personal visit to 6 campgrounds for tent camping and recreational vehicles. Will submit report to Steve Perri soon!!!!

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** June 6-8, 2003

**Purpose:** Work with Konnarock Crew on White Rocks Mountain relocation

**Section:** 11 - Dennis Cove Road to Bitter End

**Location:** White Rocks Mountain

**Number:** waiting on trip report



(L-R) [David Gibson and Ed Oliver](#) studying the trail relocation, June 6, 2003 (95KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



[Konnarock Crew members and Craig DeLoach](#) digging trail, June 6, 2003 (107KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



[Bill Stowell and Garry Luttrell watching Bob Peoples work](#), June 6, 2003 (83KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



[End of Day Slowdown](#) - Ed Oliver, Joe DeLoach, Craig DeLoach, Peter Chapman, Winfred Bloodworth, Robert Nield, June 8, 2003 (91KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



[Steering Chairperson supervising](#) - Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, June 8, 2003 (112KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*

**Name:** Gary S. Luttrell

**Date:** June 7, 2003

**Purpose:** Maintenance

**Section:** 12 - Bitter End to U.S. 19E

**Location:** 19E to Campbell Hollow Road

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 9

**People:** Garry S. Luttrell

**Individual Hours:** 9 hours

**Summary:** Since I was unsuccessful in contacting Bob Peoples by email and phone about working with the Konnarock Crew on Monday, and considering it would only be 1/2 day of work with them, I decided to sharpen the swing blade and cut weeds on my section, U.S. 19E to Campbell Hollow. I started at 19E and cut through Bishop Hollow, on to the high point at 2.1 mi. In Bishop Hollow the briars and weeds were especially a problem, both in blocking the trail and also blocking hikers view of the blazes. Speaking of views, it was a very clear, cool day and the views were outstanding from the high point and open pasture just below. I just had one blowdown to clear but it was a critical one at the double blaze intersection just below the pasture, and it directed hikers away from the A.T. encouraging them to make a wrong turn (which happened with some scouts while I was working on its removal). A return trip will be needed to concentrate on the Campbell Hollow Road end of this section.



Shot from about 2 miles trail north of U.S. 19E, at the pasture just below the high point, looking at the [Roan Highlands](#), June 7, 2003 (269KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



Shot from the same [pasture](#), with horses, June 7, 2003 (165KB). *Photo courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** June 17, 2003

**Purpose:** Renovate Roan High Knob Shelter

**Section:** 15 - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

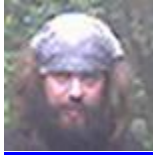
**Location:** Roan High Knob Shelter

**Number:** 9

**Total Hours:** 62

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ray Hunt, Carl Fritz, HIKERS Marty Kimmel "Nomad", Matt Howard "Shady Smurf", Ashley Green, Glen Moody, George Goetz, and Jim McInroe  
**Individual Hours:** 2x9 hours (Ray & Carl) + 2x2 hours (George & Jim) + 5x8 hours (everyone else)

**Summary:** On this third renovation trip, several tasks were completed. The shake installation on the front eave is now completed, finally. Also, the preservative was brushed on the two remaining exterior sides. Four of the hikers, Marty, Matt, Ashley and Glen with the leadership of Ashley dug a large trench over a foot deep around the south side and southwest corner. They then lined the dirt side with a rock wall. This should prevent dirt from getting against the lower logs. Because of this fine work, Ashley earned the trail name of "Trench Man". Ray completed some interior repairs and continued planning for future trips. *Click on small photo or link to see large photo.*



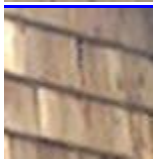
Rock wall construction at Roan High Knob Shelter: [Glen Moody and Ashley Green](#), June 17, 2003 (117KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



Trench at Roan Shelter: [Ashley Green "Trench Man"](#), June 17, 2003 (150KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



Erecting shakes on [Roan High Knob Shelter](#) front eave, June 17, 2003 (105KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*



[Completed shakes](#) on Roan High Knob Shelter rear eave, June 17, 2003 (97KB). *Photo courtesy of Carl Fritz.*

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** June 17, 2003

**Purpose:** Annual weed and trash clean-up maintenance

**Section:** 8 - Watauga Dam Road to U.S. 321

**Location:** south end of section plus north end of section 1

**Number:** 2

**Total Hours:** 16

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Frank Williams

**Individual Hours:** 2x8 hours

**Summary:** cut weeds, picked up 8 bags of trash, cleared-cut out two large blowdowns---Steve Wilson, took care of your request--Bob Peoples, if you haven't already, you need to check your section where the A.T. turns to go over Pond Mountain--blue blaze goes straight ahead--usual bad weeds and PI should be terrible this year until trail goes by rock ledges and up hill.

**Name:** OLD TIMERS HIKING CLUB

**Date:** June 18, 2003

**Purpose:** Annual weed cutting and clipping

**Section:** 17 - Iron Mountain Gap to switchback in USFS 230

**Location:** Also 18, Switchback on USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

**Number:** 14

**Total Hours:** 104

**People:** Carl Gil Derouen, Mike Hupko, David Ingram, Carl Kincheloe, Sam Lloyd, Connie McCall, Jim McCall, Al Meeks, Bob Miller, Waymon Mumpower, Sandra Perry, Pat Ramsey, Clyde Taylor, C.B. Willis

**Individual Hours:** Carl Kincheloe, 9 hours, Gil Derouen, 9 hours, Sam Lloyd, 9 hours; Everyone else 7 hours.

**Summary:** Did weeding and clipping for both sections. Picked up litter on trail, shelter, trail heads and the Beauty Spot. Weeded blue trail to spring. Cleared small blowdowns. Trimmed a larger tree across trail near Cherry Gap that you can easily step over. Made note of three areas needing rehab and will schedule these for work.

**Name:** Richard Colberg

**Date:** June 21, 2003

**Purpose:** Cut Weeds

**Section:** 1 - Damascus to Backbone Rock trail junction

**Location:** Damascus to Old Road on Holston Mountain

**Number:** 1

**Total Hours:** 5

**People:** Richard Colberg

**Individual Hours:** 5

**Summary:** Used scythe to cut weeds along trail until footpath reached old road along ridge of Holston Mountain. Also removed several small blowdowns.