

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

July 2005

www.tehcc.org

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

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<b><u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u></b>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Jul 1-8	Biennial Meeting of the ATC	---	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Jul 9-10	Mount LeConte Lodge, Smokies	B/3/B	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
July 16	Curry Mtn & Meigs Creek Trails	B/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
July 21	Funfest Moonlight Hike	C/4/D	Terry Oldfield	423-288-7182
July 28-Aug 1	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
Aug 11-15	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Ed Oliver	423-349-6668
Aug 20	Little Stoney Creek Falls	C/3/B	Vic Hassler	423-239-0338

*For an explanation of the hike ratings, see [Hiking Schedule](#).*

**Don't Forget ... Appalachian Trail Conference,  
35th Biennial Meeting  
July 1 - 8, ETSU, Johnson City**



TEHCC is one of the host clubs for the 35th meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) to be held Friday, July 1, through Friday, July 8, at East Tennessee State University. We expect nearly 1,200 hikers, volunteer trail maintainers, ATC staff, and others interested in outdoor recreation, conservation, and the A.T. to attend. Many exciting activities are planned including daily hikes, excursions to nearby historical and recreational attractions, and a special children's program.

The planning committee is staffed by volunteers from TEHCC, Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, Carolina Mountain Club, Nantahala Hiking Club, and Georgia Appalachian Trail Club. There may still be time to offer your

help. For questions or to volunteer, please contact the following individuals:

Hikes: Collins Chew

Booths and logistics: Kim Peters

Registration: Van Hill

## **ATC Southern Region Multi-Club Conference Hosted by the Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club, September 2-5, 2005**

The September ATC Multi-Club Conference for the Southern Region will be held at Sherando Lake USFS Recreation Area over the Labor Day weekend, September 2-5, 2005. Sherando is located on the west side of the Blue Ridge and has easy access from Interstate 81 near Staunton, Virginia, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Sherando Recreation Area offers rustic camping with many trails for hiking coupled with all the conveniences of a State Park (2 lakes for fishing, hand powered boating, swimming beach with bathhouse and concessions pavilion). In addition, there is direct access to the Appalachian Trail and the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway via hiking trails or paved roads. There are many back roads (and the Blue Ridge Parkway) for bicycle riders. The area around Sherando abounds with interesting sites from Rocky's Antique Mall (largest discount jewelry store) in Harrisonburg to a Frontier Culture Museum or the Woodrow Wilson Historic Home in Staunton. The Rockbridge Vineyards, Buffalo Spring Herb Farm, Cyrus McCormick Farm, P. Buckley Moss Art Museum and Wintergreen Resort are all located within a 20 mile radius of Sherando. And, of course, there are many Civil War historic battlefields and sites in the local Shenandoah Valley area.

For those serious hikers, there are many hikes planned for Saturday and Sunday both on the AT and side trail areas. They will range from all day hikes to ½ day easy hikes with NBATC members as guides. There are many easy scenic hike areas on the Blue Ridge Parkway (Humpback Rocks, etc.) that are available for small children.

The Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club will be hosting the Multi-Club conference and intends to make it an enjoyable weekend for everyone. Dinners, entertainment hikes and tours are planned for participants on Saturday & Sunday. To obtain a printable registration form, click [here](#). For more detailed information click [here](#) or contact Laurie Foot at, .

## **Benton MacKaye Trail Grand Opening**

## July 16-17, 2005

*Submitted by: Diana Ristom, Publicity Director, BMTA*



The Benton MacKaye Trail Association ([www.BMTA.org](http://www.BMTA.org)) hope that TEHCC members will join them in celebrating the Trail Grand Opening on the weekend of July 16-17. Free camping will be provided, compliments of the Cheoah District, USFS, at Rattler Ford Group Campground near the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. The ribbon (vine) cutting will take place Saturday at 11:00 AM at Mud Gap on the Cherohala Skyway near the state line between Robbinsville, N.C. and Tellico Plains, Tenn. This will be followed by your choice of two Fun

Hikes - to Whigg Meadow or Beech Gap. Saturday evening activities include a group Chili Supper (hiker-friendly donation) followed by a bonfire and entertainment. Additional hikes are planned for Sunday in the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness, to Hooper Bald, and Maple Springs Observation Point.

This event is open to everyone! Come spend the day or the entire weekend. Reservations are not required, but an RSVP would be appreciated at: . Be a part of Benton MacKaye Trail History! Put this weekend on your calendar now.

## Damascus Hard-Core 2005

*Submitted by Carl Fritz*

Are you willing to get out of your tent in the morning, drive a couple of hours, grab some digging tools, hike 1.5 miles, and then start digging trail? More importantly, are you willing to do all that in the pouring rain? That is exactly what about 74 hikers did on Sunday, May 15, 2005 as they left Damascus Trail Days and ventured to help TEHCC relocate steep and eroding trail just north of Bitter End. Nine Club members and affiliates joined the hikers, only we were lucky enough to rise from bed, rather than a sleeping bag. Fortunately, by early afternoon the rains tapered off and there was only an occasional light mist.

It was a menacing start to our club's fifth annual Damascus Hard Core project. This event is always planned for the Sunday and Monday following Damascus Trail Days. Even with the poor weather the turnout was only slightly less than expected. Over these two days we had 80 hikers and guests plus 23 club members and affiliates participate for a total of 1465 hours.

When this motivated and energetic group comes together, there are significant achievements. This year our expectations were exceeded! Over a half mile of difficult trail was built. This completed two relocations and about 70% of a third relocation. Eight rock steps were installed at a switchback. A twelve foot bridge was carried about 3 miles in towards Moreland Gap Shelter and was installed at the last stream crossing before the shelter. About seven feet of turnpike and two steps were also installed at the same location.

Camo with a band of about half dozen men, many of them ex-military, built a very impressive 50 foot bridge of rock on a stream crossing on one relocation. One rock they moved probably exceeded two tons. It was certainly not expected that they could complete

this rock work in a day and a half. They also opened up a view from the bridge of a small waterfall.

Everyone played a critical role in achieving these goals. Each participant received a Damascus Hard Core patch. Some hikers have attended each of the five Hard Core events. Several deserve special mention for making this event a success. Mountain Man brought 18 dozen eggs to the hikers at Kincora Hostel. Eastman Chemical Company provided two 15 passenger vans for transporting many of the hikers. Bruce and Mary Cunningham provided the entire supper for everyone on Sunday evening. Mary prepared the entire meal of barbecue, tossed salad, baked beans and fresh strawberry short cake for 100 people. Special thanks to Bob Peoples for arranging the logistics of this event. Also special thanks to both Bob and Pat Peoples for accommodating up to 60 hikers at Kincora Hostel. The men and women of Billville collected \$300 to cover the majority of the cost of dinner on Monday evening.

The following TEHCC members & affiliates participated this year: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Rick Culbertson, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Jim Foster, Jan Foster, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Peter King, Daryl Loyd, Garry Luttrell, Dave McMillin, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Pat Peoples, Steve Perri, Sandra Perry, and Kim Peters.

The hikers and guests included: Phil Abruzzese, Jody Adam, Richard Ahlf, Max Allen, □Baltimore Jack□, Tamara Bennett, Jennifer Berry, "Blisters Sister", Blake Bishop, Joe Borowski, Matt Bowler, Richard Boyd, John Bram, Joe Carlson, Anna Cavender, Laura Cavender, Ken Champney, "Chef Paul", Trey Crook, Tyler Damon, Scott Durth, Jim Eagleton, Tristan Eames, Sean Edmundson, Ernest Engman, Nick Eskellnen, Dave Fried, Taryn Friedman, Alden Garland, Celia Garland, Craig Garland, Marina Garland, Michelle Garland, Paul Garcia, Andrea Goepfrich, Peter Bryan Goyah, Brian Huntsinger, Nick Inman, Luke Jennings, Eric Jenness, Joe, Mark Jernigan, Dave Johnson, Jeanette Johnson, "Krispy", Julie Judkins, Dana Karkotsky, Charlie Kinney, Chip Kneavel, Jasoha Bowen Krener, Elizabeth Krepps, Matt Krepps, Franklin LaFajno, Susan Leitch, George Lockwood, "Lugnut", "Mad Hatter", Henry Martinat, Wyatt McGuire, Bill Miller, Susan Moreau, Lewis Moyers, John Noullet, "ODAC", "Otto", Joanne Paine, Patrick Peacock, Daniel Perkins, Craig Peterson, Mike Price, Ian Rees, Nathan Roberts, Leslie Rush, Steven Smith, Kara Smith, Amy Sternbern, Tony Stoltzfos, "Tea", Dan Winter, and Carol Woodland.

*Pictures from Hard-Core. Click on image to enlarge.*

*(Photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell and Kim Peters)*





The Damascus Hard-Core Crew, 2005.

## ASU Crew looks to improve Appalachian Trail

*(The following is reprinted with permission from "The Appalachian Online", student newspaper of Appalachian State University)*

by Millie Tolleson  
Staff Writer

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The officers of the Appalachian State University Trail Crew have been providing trail maintenance services to the Boone area for years. However, they just recently decided to make their hobby into a club and utilize other students who share their love for the outdoors. "We see a need for it because we're all hikers," junior recreation management major Ray Otto Douglas said. "This is a way to give back to the hiking community, the love of hiking and the love of the trail."

According to the Trail Crew's constitution, "the purpose of the ASU Trail Crew is to organize

students interested in the outdoors and to provide a labor force that will focus on maintaining and rebuilding regional trails.□

The Trail Crew, which received official club status in February, plans maintenance days throughout the semester to focus on whatever areas members feel need work. Junior recreation management major Dan B. Winters said the club does not meet regularly. Instead, they plan a few workdays in advance. "We would rather spend more time doing maintenance than having formal meetings,□ Winters said. Club officers stressed the club's flexibility. Students who have ideas of areas that need work should feel free to mention it to club officers. □We're real enthusiastic about the Appalachian Trail, but we're open to new ideas,□ senior recreation management major Chris L. Peckham said. □If someone knows of a place that needs to be worked on, sure, we would probably work on it.□

The Trail Crew currently works closely with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club to work on the Appalachian Trail. □The Tennessee Eastman Club is made up of hikers about age 64-94,□ Peckham said. □They are a great group, and with our help, they get a lot more done.□

The Trail Crew is in the process of getting tools donated from the Forest Service.

Winters said the club is interested in beginning a program in which club members would alternate walking trails and checking for damage.

□This club is about interaction between members,□ Douglas said. □It is a very social club to do a common, necessary job.□

## **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**

Pablo Bustamante

Carol Perkins

Polly Tjader

Roger

Jarnigan

New members are eligible for a free dinner at the next Dinner Meeting.

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

*For an explanation of the hike ratings, see [Hiking Schedule](#).*

### **Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains); July 9-10, 2005**

*Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)*

**Rating:** *B/3/B(Moderate)*

For the past 25+ years TEHCC has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way, depending on the route. The price this year is \$94.17 per person which covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night (double bunk beds!) and breakfast on Sunday. We still have a few openings so if you are interested in taking this trip please contact the hike leader for availability.

### **Hike: 900 miler, Curry Mtn and Meigs Creek Trails; Saturday, July 16, 2005**

*Leader: G. S. Luttrell, 423-239-9854*

**Rating:** *B/3/B*

We'll plan on leaving from McDonald's parking lot in Colonial Heights at 7:30 am on Sat. morning,. Then we'll drive down I-81 and I-40 to the Sevierville exit 407, HW 66, HW 338 (Boyd's Creek Rd) to Seymour, HW 411 to Little River, River Road, Elljoy Road, Old Walland Road to HW 321, then on to The Sinks to spot a car. Driving time is about 2 1/2

hr, and we'll plan on making a stop at the McDonalds in Seymour (You could get a quick breakfast here).

Starting at Metcalf Bottoms we'll hike up the dry trail, Curry Mtn. Trail to Meigs Mtn. Trail, then over to the Meigs Creek Trail for a wet (20 creek crossings) descent to The Sinks. The creek crossings occur within a 1 1/2 mi. section of the trail, so rather than taking boots on and off so often, plan on bringing some aqua socks or tennis shoes for wading and rock-hopping. In low water conditions, the crossings are easy, but more tricky if there's lots of rain a few days earlier. So let me know by phone or if you plan to go, since there could be changes due to weather.

Bring lunch, snacks, water, and gear for creek crossings: aqua socks and hiking stick are recommended.

**Curry:** More than likely came from the Cherokee *guri-hi* for a salad green that grows in this area. Settlers later butchered the word to Curry. A Cherokee once pointed to a mountain and said "*guri-hi*" referring to the salad green, but a white settler misunderstood thinking he said curry he. So the mountain was named Curry He. Not to be outdone, a local woman named a nearby mountain Curry She.

**Meigs Creek:** Was logged by the Little River Lumber Company, and once had a swinging inclined suspension bridge, which some said was the only one of its kind in the world. Engines pulled the cars across using a steam powered winch.

**Fun Fest Moonlight Hike** □ **Bays Mountain Park; Thursday, July 21, 2004**

*Leaders: Terry Oldfield (423-288-7182, and Kim Peters )*

This year, we are again co-sponsoring the Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. This is a popular Fun Fest event with 400-500 participants taking the 2.5 mile hike around the lake. At least twelve volunteers are needed to keep the hikers on the main trail. Volunteers need to be at the Bays Mountain Park dam at 7:30 PM for instructions. The hike begins at 8:00 and finishes about 10:00. You should bring a flashlight, good shoes or boots, and a raincoat if rain is possible. The volunteer with the closest guess of the number of hikers will win a Bays Mountain T-shirt. Please contact Terry Oldfield or Kim Peters to sign up to help or for more information.

**Konnarock Crew; July 28 - August 1, and August 11-15, 2005**

*Leaders: Ed Oliver (423-349-6668) and Joe Deloach (423-753-7263)*

Generally, our club requests and receives 4-5 weeks of Konnarock Crew time each year to help with major Appalachian Trail projects. In 2005, with our host responsibilities for the ATC biennial conference, we reduced our request to three weeks but we have plenty of work to do. This summer we'll continue work on a series of trail relocations on White Rocks Mt. in Carter County, between Roan Mt. and Dennis Cove. This section is characterized by innumerable short, steep climbs in and out of wet areas which are prone to erosion. With much help from hikers, other groups, Konnarock, and Club volunteers, we have made great progress on these relocations which were begun in 2003. This summer we'll be working near Moreland Gap Shelter and we'll need some help. The Crew arrives on Thursdays around lunch and works until Monday around lunch. We typically have volunteers every day but the largest outings are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On those days we assemble at our normal location near McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. Please let us know in advance if you're coming and bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Volunteers who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew earn the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. We've historically had among the best support for Konnarock of any club and let's keep that up



even with a shorter schedule this summer. Please contact Ed or Joe for more information.

### **Doe River Gorge Overnight Trip; October 22-23, 2005**

*Leader: Steve Falling (423-239-5502)*

Rating: C/4/C(Easy)



The Hiking Club has reservations for 24 overnight visitors in two cabins at beautiful Doe River Gorge, Hampton, TN. We are timing this trip to enjoy the autumn foliage. DRG is an easy 60 minute drive from Kingsport. Since the cabins are only a short walk from the parking area it is hard to really call this an overnight hike. But the plan is to drop off our food and belongings at the cabin then take an easy hike up the gorge along an old railroad bed. Of course it is fine to do something else like relax at the cabin overlooking the river.



We have reserved the large riverside cabin and one small riverside cabin. Here is what their website, [www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities.php](http://www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities.php), says about the cabins: "A short walk across the footbridge leads to the large cabin nestled in a beautiful stand of mature hemlocks along the bank of the Doe River. This rustic, yet elegant log cabin, complete with central heat and air and fireplace, sleeps a total of 20 people in 2 rooms with comfortable bunk-style beds. Each bunk area has 2 private bathrooms. The cabin also includes a kitchen and a large, tastefully furnished living area suitable for group gatherings. Relax in a rocker on the large, covered porch overlooking the beautiful Doe River as it flows through the scenic gorge. Small Riverside Cabins (2 units): Near the large cabin, our small cabins also have central heat and air and sleep up to 10 people in comfortable bunk-style beds. Each cabin has a kitchenette, 2 full private bathrooms, living area with woodstove, and a porch overlooking the Doe River."



The cost per person is \$22.00. This price only covers lodging (bring sleeping bags or



sheets/blankets) so we will make arrangements for the preparation of supper and breakfast. We only have reservations for 24 people, so call in your request before sending money. To make a reservation or for more information call Steve Falling, 239-5502.

## Special Activity and Trip Reports (Past)

### Hike Report: Azalea Trail, Bays Mountain Park; June 11, 2005

*Neil Dotson reporting*

The eastern end of Bays Mountain is shaped like an oblong bowl, with the lake resting at the bottom of the bowl, and two ridges as the edges of the bowl, meeting at the end of the mountain where the towers are. The Azalea Trail runs from the lake, up the bowl to where the two ridges join. So, the trail is a peaceful hike up a narrowing hollow between two approaching ridges, with views increasingly closer at hand. The hikers scattered in this part - not all of us had legs the same length □ but that only increased the quiet of the trail. We regrouped at the end of the mountain. There, many of what have been good overlooks are grown up and no longer offer good views, though we had glimpses of the city here and there as we returned on Bays Mtn. Road, the southern lip of the bowl. The tree canopy tower near the end of the road still offers good views looking across to the northern ridge (River Mt.) where the firetower is. The most expansive views are from the observatory area, which we reached by way of the Pluto, Neptune *et al.* (longer hike than expected!) □ but the real pleasures of this hike were the things we saw nearby (some deer, a baby snake) and all the conversations had. Hikers were Chuck and Jan Mather (new members to the club □ welcome!), Molly Rayfield, Patrice Riesenberg, the Ekart family (Michael, Susan, Erin, Eric, Bradley and Daniel) and the Dotson family (Neil, Patricia, Elizabeth, Daniel and, sticking close by dad, Joseph Paul).

### Hike Report: Smokies 900 miler, Sugarland Mtn. Trail; June 18, 2005

*G. S. Luttrell reporting*

After spotting a car at Fighting Creek Gap, we drove to Clingmans Dome Road to begin this hike with cool, mostly sunny conditions. Just past Mt Collins shelter, we saw the unusual large yellow birch tree with red spruce trees growing out of its limbs and trunk, as mentioned in *Hiking Trails of the Smokies*. The trail follows the top of the narrow ridge for 8 miles with views to both the Mt. LeConte and Little River sides.

We saw rhododendron at the higher elevations; and, when we descended below 4000 ft elevation we saw flame azalea. Back at Fighting Creek Gap, we piled onto Emmett's truck for a short shuttle down to park headquarters to drop off the non-drivers, then back up to Clingmans Dome Road. Hikers shown on the truck photo from left to right: on the tailgate, Debi Berry and Emmett Dougherty. In the rear, Phillip Dougherty, Randall Simpson, Freda Kuo, Lisa Simpson, J. G. Campbell, and taking the picture, Garry Luttrell.



View of Mount Leconte,



Lunch.



Flame Azaleas,



End of hike, ready to shuttle.

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

**Name:** Darrol Nickels

**Date:** May 10, 2005

**Purpose:** Inspect trail, cut overhanging vegetation and paint blazes

**Location:** Section 8, Watauga Dam Rd past Watauga Lake Shelter to end of Oliver Hollow Rd near Shook Branch, US Hwy 321

**People:** Bill Elderbrock, John Thompson, Darrol Nickels

**Summary:** Starting at Watauga Dam Road, John painted blazes facing in both directions while Bill and Darroll cut mainly rhodos. We ate lunch at the shelter and John and Bill continued on toward Shook Branch while Darrol walked back to Watauga Dam Road and drove the car around to Oliver Hollow Road. An electrical storm began at 1:05 and rain started at 1:20. Fortunately, John and Bill were able to complete their work to the end of Oliver Hollow Road. Unfortunately, they had to stand in the rain for thirty minutes while waiting for Darrol.

**Name:** John Arwood

**Date:** May 27 - 30, 2005

**Purpose:** Renew Blazes

**Location:** Section 7, Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary (north) to Watauga Dam Road

**People:** Catherine Batts, John Arwood

**Summary:** While camping for four days in Big Laurel Branch Wilderness, we performed the following tasks. We white blazed the entire section, except from Watauga Dam Road north to the spring at 2.7 miles (we will complete this and the water trail blazing soon). The last three of the old plastic blazes were removed. Vandeventer Shelter was filled with hikers, but still fairly clean. We removed the small amount of trash and placed a new register. Four blowdowns were removed, as well as numerous rhododendron branches and green briar reaching into the trail. The weather was great, as well as the views. Mountain laurel, flame azalea, Catawba rhododendron and many other plants were in bloom.

**Name:** Jim Mann

**Date:** May 29, 2005

**Purpose:** Mow grass on trail in fields crossing the Osborne tract

**Location:** Section 4, north of TN 91 crossing the Osborne tract

**People:** Jim Mann

**Summary:** Went up to mow grass on AT where it crosses field on Osborne tract. Found man that had leased hay in process of cutting hay; he had already cut back section. With no grass to mow; I cut grass and weeds around gate and picked up large amounts of trash around gate.

**Name:** Steve Banks

**Date:** May 29, 2005

**Purpose:** Weed and clip from Abingdon Gap Shelter to spring south of McQueens Gap

**Location:** Section 3, Abingdon Gap Shelter to spring south of McQueens Gap

**People:** Steve Banks, Steven Banks

**Summary:** We weeded and clipped our adopted section of the A.T., and picked up trash and broke up a fire ring at McQueens Gap. We plan to weed again and blaze prior to the biennial conference. Steven reported three blowdowns on the blue-blazed trail from the shelter to the spring; will get them on a future trip.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** May 29, 2005

**Purpose:** Cutting Weeds and Painting Blazes

**Location:** Section 1, Backbone Rock Trail junction to Damascus

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut all the weeds, painted blazes in both directions, and cleared the few water bars on this section. There were no blowdowns. Weeds were starting to get high in a couple of sections.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** May 31, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Elk River to just south of 19E, Sections 12 & 13

**People:** Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Peter King, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Mike Alley

**Summary:** All weeds and grass were about two feet high in these areas. We cut all weeds along Elk River. Fortunately, U.S. Forest Service was in this area cutting the open area today and helped us out. We also cut weeds north of Campbell Hollow Road to the creek and lopped the pines in this area. We cut south of Campbell Hollow Rd. for probably 100 feet. We cut everything from Buck Mt. Rd to 19E. The blowdown at Issac's Cemetery was cut once to allow tree to drop on ground. It was not removed only because of lack of time and energy with small hand saw. (Section from Campbell Hollow to Buck Mt. can be safely entered from Campbell Hollow Rd). We also cut the small open field just south of 19E.

**Name:** Ed Oliver

**Date:** June 3, 2005

**Purpose:** Finish a trail relocation

**Location:** Section 11, about 1.5 mile north of Bitter End

**People:** Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, HIKERS Baltimore Jack, Mike the Hike, Paul, Cory

**Summary:** Dug 170 feet of trail in area that rock bridge was installed by Hard Core. This section was opened.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** June 4, 2005

**Purpose:** maintenance, especially weed control

**Location:** Section 8, forest service gate to US 321

**People:** Ed Oliver, Bruce Cunningham

**Summary:** Regular maintenance of weed eating, clipping, painting. As usual plenty of opportunity, especially with weeds, grass, and poison ivy.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** June 7, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and blowdowns; plus blaze

**Location:** Section 1, TN 91 to Wilderness Boundary

**People:** Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Carl Fritz, Waylon Jenkins, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We accessed Turkey Pen Gap via Hurley Hollow. A nesting turkey hen was near the gap. Also, near the gap in the evening was a bear. Grass was unusually high, we assume, because of foliage coming out on trees so late this year. We successfully cut most weeds and even grass between Grindstaff Monument and wilderness boundary. We also cut the previously identified blowdowns plus some other minor ones. Blazing was completed from Turkey Pen Gap to wilderness. A few relic PVC blazes in vicinity of gap reminded me of the good old days. There are only minor weeds between Grindstaff and TN 91. Worst are at access road we used for bringing in bog bridges. We will try to get back here and cut these soon. It is safe to say we were all exhausted. Just as we returned to vehicles a thunderstorm hit. We tried to scurry off that mountain as fast as possible with forest service road running with 6 inches of water and mud. On TN 91 streams had overflowed with water a foot deep on road.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** June 15, 2005

**Purpose:** To do regular summer maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Deep Gap

**People:** Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Susan Peters, Shelton Thompson, Dave McMillin, Dave Ingram, Waymon Mumpower, Gil Derouen, Malcolm Wolf, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Cut weeds and did necessary pruning and litter pickup from Iron Mountain Gap to Deep Gap. We need a broom for the shelter and will leave one next trip. There are two trees that need to be cut; one just north of Cherry Gap and the other about 1000 ft south from the side trail switchback above Low Gap. We will schedule this work before July 1st. There was no sign of horse traffic this time.

**Name:** Jim Mann

**Date:** June 18 & 19, 2005

**Purpose:** Mow grass on my adopted section

**Location:** Section 4, Osborne tract

**People:** Jim Mann, Patricia Mann

**Summary:** Went to mow grass on trail where it crosses hayfields on Osborne tract. Work got interrupted by electrical storm. Not much rain, but lots of lightening. We went back the next day to finish. Mowed grass in fields and in middle of road; also had to cut grass and weeds along fence row so blazes on fence posts could be seen. Met some hikers that had driven down from Ontario to hike some of our sections.

**Name:** Tim McClain

**Date:** June 18, 2005

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 3, 2.5 miles north of US 421 (Low Gap)

**People:** Joe Herbert, Erika McClain, Peggy McClain, Tim McClain

**Summary:** Cut weeds, blazed north and south, and cleared water bars. Completed all

routine maintenance on this section. Trail is in good shape.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** June 18, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut briars and weeds; paint blazes

**Location:** Section 15, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** I cut weeds and briars, painted blazes in both directions, and cut one blowdown between Carvers Gap and Cloudland. Also placed a shelter register at the Roan High Knob Shelter. I had not seen the shelter since we worked on it, but there were several places where rocks that had been mortared around the foundation had pulled (or been pulled) loose and were laying on the ground. I don't know whether these rocks were supposed to be load bearing or merely to protect the underside of the shelter from deterioration and from critters moving in, but especially if it's the former we need to repair this soon. We didn't put nearly enough gravel down in some of the places near Cloudland and the geotextile is showing in numerous places. The lower part near Carvers Gap on the other hand looks good. Rhododendron are in full bloom at Carvers Gap, good year for them.

**Name:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** June 18, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and enjoy the outdoors

**Location:** Section 16, Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Steve Perri, & Steve Wilson

**Summary:** We cut weeds and lopped branches on this 4-mile section. The weeds were the most overgrown in the Apple Orchard and Weedy Gap sections within 1.5 miles of Iron Mountain Gap. A heavy rain in the final mile made for a refreshing ending to a good day. The sign at Greasy Creek Gap had been replaced by Phil Edmondson ("Packrat"). The gap is a key landmark for hikers to know when to come off the trail to visit Greasy Creek ☐Friendly☐ Hostel (828-688-9948). We are also thankful to him for the shuttle back to Iron Mountain Gap at the end of the day.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** June 21, 2005

**Purpose:** TLC for new apple trees

**Location:** Section 16, apple orchard north of Iron Mt. Gap

**People:** Darrol Nickels, Bruce Cunningham

**Summary:** Cut grass, cleaned out weeds, added new red flags to mark trees so we won't lose trees to mowers (one was run over last year) -- 12 of 13 trees are still doing OK -- also spent some time making pathway wider where grass was really thick!

**Name:** Jim Foster

**Date:** June 21, 2005

**Purpose:** Trim back annual growth

**Location:** Section 16, Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** Trimmed weeds and cut one small blowdown from Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** June 21, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 14, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Russ Sommers

**Summary:** We had great weather to cut this beautiful section. All weeds and grass were cut and the wildflowers preserved. Five well built hikers reminded us that it was the summer solstice, since they were hiking nude.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** June 22, 2005

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 15, Hughes Gap to Ash Gap

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** When we left we thought we'd have time to cut weeds and paint blazes from Hughes Gap to Cloudland, but Joe forgot how bad the weeds can get in the first mile above Hughes Gap. We both cut weeds, partly because it looked like rain (and finally did) and we didn't want smeared paint, but mainly because cutting the weeds was more important. We got through the worst part from Beartown Mt down and will get the rest on Saturday. Saw 22 hikers in 1.4 miles. All were fully clothed.

**Name:** Michael Watts

**Date:** June 23, 2005

**Purpose:** Blowdowns and weeding

**Location:** Section 2, Backbone Rock trail junction to Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Michael Watts

**Summary:** Cleared over a dozen blowdowns and cut summer weeds. Encountered a couple late through hikers. One section of side-hill trail about a mile south of Backbone Rock trail will need some future attention. Great weather.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** June 24, 2005

**Purpose:** To complete early summer maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, The Cherry Gap Low Gap vicinity.

**People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Malcolm Wolf, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Removed one blowdown south of Low Gap. Cut a tangle of trees north of Cherry Gap. Took broom to shelter. Also cut two trees on the side trail (old AT) to Low Gap which were blocking this trail. We have completed the summer maintenance and the trail looks good as of right now. We are ready for the ATC hikes if we have no storms the next couple of weeks. We saw no evidence of horses in the Cherry Gap area. We need to do some work on the springs at Cherry Gap shelter. We will try to do spring work in August if we can find a way to dam up the flow and direct the flow of water through the pipes. Right now the flow through the pipes is very low. Most water bars look good except for those damaged by horses just south of Cherry Gap shelter.

**Name:** Steve Banks

**Date:** June 25, 2005

**Purpose:** Blazing and weeding

**Location:** Section 3, Abingdon Gap Shelter to Double Springs Gap

**People:** Steve Banks, Steven Banks



**Summary:** On a hot and partly cloudy day, we weeded and blazed our adopted section of the A.T., between Abingdon Gap Shelter and Double Springs Gap, including the blue-blazed trail between the shelter and the spring. There are several blowdowns on the spring trail that we will get on a future trip. We put a new register in the shelter, and put up a green and white hiking only sign north of McQueens Gap. We saw several hikers, all fully clothed.