

**Note:** To submit an article for the newsletter, send an email to:

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<u><b>NEXT TWO MONTHS</b></u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Apr 8	Smokies Dayhike: Cosby to Mt. Cammerer	A/2/A	Mary Ellen Ress	423-349-6536
Apr 18	A.T.: Dennis Cove to Watauga Dam Road ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	AA/2/B	Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Apr 19	A.T.: Bitter End to Dennis Cove ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	AA/2/B	Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Apr 20	A.T.: Cross Mountain to Watauga Dam Road ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	AA/2/B	Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
Apr 21	A.T.: Bitter End to US 19E ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	AA/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Apr 21-22	Trailfest, Hot Springs, NC	Fun	<a href="http://www.trailfest.net">www.trailfest.net</a>	
Apr 21-23	Backpack: Dripping Spring Mtn (SM900)	AA/3/A	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Apr 22	A.T.: Low Gap (US 421) to Damascus ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	AA/2/B	Kent Wilson	423-239-7554
Apr 23	A.T.: Cross Mountain (TN 91) to Low Gap (US 421) ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	B/3/C	Kent Wilson	423-239-7554
Apr 29	Spring Wildflower Hike: US 19E to Doll Flats, Hump Mountain	B/3/B	Joe Deloach	
Apr 29	TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting	Fun	Kent Wilson	
May 5	A.T.: Dennis Cove Road to	A/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237

	Shook Branch (US 321) (Anniversary Hike)			
May 6	F/B: Warriors Path State Park: Sinking Waters Trail	C/3/C	Neil Dotson	423-323-3493
May 13-14	27th Anniversary Bluestone River Trip	II-III	Terry Dougherty	423-323-2647
May 19	A.T.: Low Gap (US 421) to Damascus (Anniversary Hike)	AA/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
May 20	A.T.: Cross Mountain (Tenn 91) to Watauga Dam Road (Anniversary Hike)	AA/2/A	Kent Wilson	423-239-7554

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



## Spring Dinner Meeting, Saturday, April 29

Make your plans now to attend the Spring Dinner Meeting!

**When:** Saturday, April 29, 2006 starting at 6:00 pm

**Where:** Eastman Lodge, 404 Bays Mountain Road, Kingsport, TN

**Program:** The New ATC,  
presented by Morgan Sommerville,  
Regional Director for Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee

**Awards! Door Prizes!**

**Silent auction!**

Catered by Clark's Grocery,  
Kingsport, TN

Reservations need to be received  
by **April 26**.

Click [here](#) to open printable  
reservation form.



## In Memory of Frank Williams

*Joe DeLoach reporting*



On February 21 we lost another one of our longtime stalwart members. Frank Williams passed away after a lengthy illness. There are many happy ways we will remember Frank. He loved to hike and participated in many Club outings. He was one of our most dedicated Trail maintainers, with only one person surpassing his total of over 5000 hours of Trail maintenance between 1992 and 2004. Frank could work the hardest all day with few rests and no complaints. He was Maintainer of the Year for three consecutive years, 1994-6, and was recipient of the Stan Murray Award in 1999. Frank served several terms on the Steering Committee

and was always an active contributor. He also served as Club Historian for many years. We frequently asked Frank to take on special tasks, such as determining the impact of potential timber sales on the Appalachian Trail. He took on these tasks with enthusiasm and care, resulting in good outcomes. Perhaps we'll most remember Frank for his positive outlook and great sense of humor. My favorite story about Frank relates to a scolding we and other maintaining clubs received from an ATC Board member. The Board member felt that the primary purpose of the Konnarock Crew was to teach us skills and scolded us for using Konnarock for their labor rather than their teaching skills. I mentioned this to the A.T. Committee and later we discussed the need to get Konnarock's help to move some large rocks in Laurel Fork Gorge. Darrol Nickels said, "I can't move big rocks". Frank said, "They'll teach you how!"

It was a great privilege to know and work with Frank. We will miss him greatly.

## **Auction of Used TEHCC Rental Equipment**

*Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,*

Thanks to Steve Banks, Kim Peters, Kent and Nancy Wilson, Michael Ray, Dale Douthat, Steve Perri, and Ben Hasler for helping to set up almost all of the rental tents at the March work party.



*Ben Hasler checks out the inside of a rental tent during the March work party*

The group recommended that three tents be put up for auction at the club's Spring Dinner Meeting. HT-16 is "no name" camel-colored three-person wall tent with fly in very good condition; but it is not freestanding. This tent requires ten stakes to hold it in place, so would be a good backyard shelter for kids over the summer.

HT-11 is a Eureka Alpine Meadow of gray color. This older tent is no longer manufactured in a 2-man configuration. It is an unusual A-frame design with a hoop over the midsection to increase interior room. The problem is that the fly is sticky because someone returned it wet. One poor decision ruined a \$200+ tent. The main tent is usable, but would require a light-weight tarp to cover the ventilation opening during rainy weather. Any bidders?

HT-2, a three-person Diamond Dome Expedition, is a green and yellow geodesic design. The main 157" pole needs to be replaced. Unfortunately, it has a problem similar to HT-11 – someone returned it wet and now it has an odor.

After the club gets all tents in good working condition, we will consider purchasing a two-person backpacking tent with this year's remaining equipment budget.



## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Michael Lee Britt

Joe F. Franklin

Kim B. Isbel

Michael Stoltz

All 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](#).

### **Mt. Cammerer from Cosby Campground, in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Saturday, April 8, 2006**

*Leader: Mary Ellen Ress, 423-349-6536; Rating: A/2/A*

We'll meet in Colonial Heights between the bank and McDonalds for a 7:30 a.m. departure. On this approximately 10.2 mile hike we'll hike to the 4,928' Mt. Cammerer, named after Arno Cammerer, director of the National Park Service in the 1930's. From the Cosby Campground area, we'll hike just under 3 miles on the Low Gap trail, which is a relentless climb but a beautiful trail through a mature hardwood forest. At Low Gap, we'll turn trail north on the A.T. for 2.1 miles. This is not as steep, but still a steady climb to the half-mile connector trail to the fire tower. From there we hike along a ridge to the very unique fire tower constructed by the CCC in 1939 and recently restored. The original wood, stone, and glass were hauled to the summit by horseback, on foot and in jeeps. If we're lucky and the weather is clear, we'll have spectacular views from the fire tower and the rocks it is perched on. Be sure to bring plenty of water and food and appropriate clothing for this rather strenuous hike. Contact the leader for more information and to let me know you are joining us in case there is a change of plans.

### **Anniversary Hike, A.T. - Dennis Cove to Watauga Dam Road, Tuesday, April 18, 2006**

*Leader: Nancy Wilson, 423-239-7554; Rating: AA/2/B*

This 13.1-mile hike on a Tuesday features Laurel Fork Falls, Pond Mountain, and Watauga Dam. Please call Nancy for details on the meeting place.

### **Anniversary Hike, A.T. - Bitter End to Dennis Cove, Wednesday, April 19, 2006**

*Leader: Nancy Wilson, 423-239-7554; Rating: A/2/B*

This is a Wednesday hike of 10.4 miles. Please call Nancy for details on the meeting place.

### **Anniversary Hike, A.T. - Cross Mountain to Watauga Dam Road, Thursday, April 20, 2006**

*Leader: Nancy Wilson, 423-239-7554; Rating: AA/2/B*

This 15.8-mile Thursday hike features the Nick Grindstaff monument and great views of Watauga Lake. Please call Nancy for details on the meeting place.

### **Anniversary Hike, A.T. Bitter End to U. S. 19E, Friday, April 21, 2006**

*Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237; Rating: AA/2/B*

This will be the fourth of a series of Friday hikes to cover all of the A.T. maintained by the TEHCC during 2006 and to celebrate the Club's 60th anniversary. Tee shirts will be awarded to members who complete all of the Eastman Section on reported hikes. See the newest long part of the local A.T. along the Elk River and construction activities on the new shelter. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (TN 36, just North of I-81) at 8:00 a.m. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.



### **Backpack: (SM900) Dripping Spring Mtn, April 21 - 23, 2006**

*Leader: Garry Luttrell, 423-239-9854; Rating: AA/2/A*

This will be a three day trip, starting at Elkmont and following the Jakes Creek Trail and Miry Ridge Trail to Campsite 26, Dripping Springs Mtn. We'll stay at this campsite two nights and dayhike Friday and Saturday on trails in the area such as Lynn Camp Prong, A.T., Greenbriar Ridge, Panther Creek (if there's not high water flow), and Middle Prong Trails. On Sunday, we'll hike down Middle Prong Trail to spotted vehicles in Tremont. Hikers will need to bring 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, snacks, and tents or hammocks for the primitive campsites; we can share water purification equipment, camp stoves, fuel, etc. Since we will be using campsites, the number of hikers is limited to eight. Contact me by phone or email to reserve your spot. The cost of high priced gas will be shared by all hikers.

*Dripping Spring Mtn:* Named for slate ledges on the side of the mountain opposite the trail that remain wet year round.

*Lynn Camp Prong:* "Lynn" is a nickname for the white basswood tree, one of the most favored to be logged.

*Middle Prong:* The last area to be logged in the Smokies, in 1939.

### **Anniversary Hike, A.T. - Low Gap (US 421) to Damascus, April 22, 2006**

*Leader: Kent and Nancy Wilson, 423-239-7554; Rating: AA/2/B*

This 14.8-mile hike is mostly downhill and covers the most northern end of our club's maintenance section. It passes over McQueens Knob (site of an old fire tower) and has some limited views of South Holston Lake. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights.

### **Anniversary Hike - Cross Mountain to Low Gap (US 421), April 23, 2006**

*Leaders: Kent and Nancy Wilson, 423-239-7554; Rating: B/2/C*

This 6.5-mile Sunday afternoon hike features the Osborne Farm tract and an easy walk along the ridge between Iron Mountain and Holston Mountain. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights.

### **Spring Wildflower Hike - A.T. from US 19E to Doll Flats, April 29, 2006**



*Leader: Joe DeLoach, 423-753-7263; Rating: B/3/B*

A few years ago we had a spring wildflower hike on the A.T. from US 19E to Hump Mountain and counted 40 different wildflower species! The rich woods and elevation difference, now easier to hike after several relocations, make this one of the region's best hikes for spring flowers, with the occasional morel and plentiful ramps thrown in as well.

We're offering this hike again as a joint outing between the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) and TEHCC. Along the way we'll view lands that SAHC has helped to protect and some being worked on. We'll also see the Trail relocations installed by TEHCC and the Konnarock Crew. Hikers will have the option to continue to Hump Mountain with its wonderful views or to join a slower contingent taking more time to enjoy the flowers. We'll plan to depart from the parking lot next to McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. (be there a few minutes early), and meet others at Schlotzky's Deli on the Milligan Highway just off Highway 321 in south Johnson City at 8:30. That should get us to the 19E trailhead around 9:15 for those who prefer to meet there. Last year there was a snowstorm on this weekend, which is quite unusual; but hikers should be prepared for cold and wet weather. Layers are always best; wear sturdy footwear; and bring lunch and water. Please let Joe know in advance that you're coming so we can plan driving/carpooling arrangements and so I can contact you if we get a repeat of last year's blizzard.



## **27th Anniversary Bluestone River Trip, May 13 & 14, 2006**

*Ed Montgomery Announcing Per Trip Leader's Request*

The annual Bluestone trip is scheduled for May 13 and 14, 2006. A majority of the boaters will arrive on Friday evening and will be resting their paddles at the ultimate take-out, the Pipestem Lodge. After a 9-mile class II-III run, we will pull out boats on shore, walk across the green grass to our rooms and enjoy happy hour on our decks overlooking the river. It doesn't get any better than this unless it is illegal or high fat, or involves sex.

Room reservations for May 12 and 13 can be made by calling 1-800-CALLWVA. Ask to be connected to the Pipestem Lodge and make your reservation under the Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club. Note that room rates are \$66 per night and should be charged to your personal credit card unless you can charge it to one of your friends that may be unaware of devious financial plans. If you need ideas on how to create some extra funds, my partner recommends the movie "The Accountant". This short film is excellent and is only second to Brokeback Canoe in regards to bonds that are made on the farm and on the river.

Please call the trip leader, Terry "Going for 30 years on the Bluestone" Dougherty at 423-323-2647 to sign up for the river run. We normally paddle both days (Saturday and Sunday), but you can always tram your boat out, if you're a weak neck or padding a kayak. The river is very scenic and passes through a deep West Virginia gorge. It is mostly class II with a couple of class III rapids sprinkled in to keep you on your toes. The second day is mostly class I and suitable for young paddlers, dogs, and winos.

If you missed this trip last year (T. Pridgen, D. Ingram, R. Culberston and T. Loveless), you need to get your boat, gear, and accessories in order and make this great run. You are guaranteed to be entertained by outlandish stories from the trip leader, excellent camaraderie from your's truly and the best dang take-out this side of New Orleans.

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

### **Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Watauga Dam Road to US 321 and Return, March 3, 2006**

*Collins Chew reporting*

This was the first of a series of hikes to cover the A.T. section of TEHCC during 2006 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Club. It was a fine, cloudy, breezy, quite cool day. Much maintenance and full blazing was done since it was the Dunham's maintenance section. We had fine winter views through the trees and lunch at Shook Branch Recreation area. A few thought they didn't get enough and went a ways up Iron Mountain on the A.T. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Ken and Pat Buchanan, Kathy Case, Collins Chew, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Nancy and Joe Keys with two pups, Chuck Mather, Glenda O'Neal, and Dan Propst.

### **Rich Mountain, Smokies Dayhike, March 4, 2006**

*Neil Dotson reporting*

This hike had been scheduled 5 times since 2003, and cancelled or postponed four times. So it was quickly becoming the Hiking Club's version of Waiting for Godot; though not as funny. But when at last this hope was satisfied, it proved to be worth the wait.

The trees we hiked through were still bare, so we enjoyed the beauty peculiar to winter - better views. But we did so without the bitter winter weather. The day was relatively warm - at least on the south side of the mountain and off the ridgeline - and the sky clear. The first mile or so of the Rich Mountain Loop trail is flat, but past the John Oliver cabin is a steep climb up to Indian Grave Gap trail on Tater Ridge. (Only one 'blister moment' that I know of!) Shy of the intersection is a great view of the Cove; one that can also be had in summer, I think. At the trail intersection, we had deer for lunch: one doe (not pictured), grazing cautiously beside us while we dug into our non-venison lunches. After lunch we continued east on Indian Grave Gap Trail to the high point, Cerulean Knob, where there used to be a fire tower. Nice winter views from the top, north toward Townsend, and the deep blue overhead made the name appropriate, even if somewhat out of place just a short walk from 'Tater Ridge'. Similar views were had further along the trail, along with patches of snow remaining on the north side of the mountain. The descent down Crooked Arm Ridge was fast, but at the overlook we could see again Cades Cove before us, and in the distance smoke from a forest fire - past the west end of the park I reckoned.

It was great to share this hike with so many, and from so many different places. Below is a picture of the hikers; from left to right: Tyieesha Tayne, Braylynn Bobo, David Allen, Artis Mangum (all four from Memphis), Taylor Pickard, Neil Dotson, Eric and Michael Ekart, Kim Peters, Kat Johnson, and Owen Holbrook (from Chattanooga).



Click on small photo or hyperlink to see larger photo. Photos courtesy of Kim Peters.



[John Oliver](#) Cabin.



Investigating the [John Oliver Cabin](#)



The [deer](#) who joined us for lunch.



[Owen and Taylor](#) resting at lunchtime.



Admiring [the views](#) along the trail.



[View of Townsend](#) from along the trail.

## Smokies 900 miler, Little Greenbriar Trail, March 11, 2006

*G. S. Luttrell reporting*

The forecasted thunderstorm didn't materialize; and the record warm temperature was great for hiking in short sleeves. We spotted a car at Fighting Creek Gap, drove to Metcalf Bottoms to meet Owen, then drove on to the trailhead to start the climb up Little Greenbriar Trail. The higher we climbed, the better the views were of Wear Cove and beyond. After 4.3 miles and 2000 ft. of climbing, we arrived at the high point of the day at the Laurel Falls Trail, and it was time for lunch.



Sitting on a big log in the lunch break photo, left to right, are Kim Peters, Taylor Pickard, Kat Johnson, Kent Wilson, Nancy Wilson, Owen Holbrook, and Garry Luttrell. After lunch Owen hiked back down the way we came, then down the Little Briar Trail to his car at Metcalf Bottoms. (He had already done the Laurel Falls Trail). The other six of us hiked by crowded Laurel Falls and then on out to Fighting Creek Gap.



*Click on photo to see larger photo. Photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell.*



Nancy and Kent Wilson enjoying the falls.



Crowds at the falls.



Laurel Falls.

## **Anniversary Hike, A.T. - Cross Mountain to Low Gap, US 421, March 17, 2006**

*Collins Chewreporting*

This was the second of a series of hikes to cover the TEHCC section of the A.T. during 2006 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Club. It was a cloudy, breezy, quite cool day. We had fine winter views of Shady Valley through the trees and at the Berry Fields. The breezy chill sped us along so that we ate lunch after the hike at US 421. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Kathy Case,

Collins Chew, June Donaldson, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Nancy and Joe Keys with two pups, Jan and Chuck Mather, Taylor Pickard, and Dan Propst.

## **Anniversary Hike, A.T. - Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River, March 18, 2006**

*Kent and Nancy Wilson reporting*

No one else showed up for this anniversary hike so Nancy and Kent went ahead themselves. It was a beautiful day for a hike with just enough cool wind to remind us that it was still winter, but enough sun to hint that spring is coming. We did a little light maintenance, clearing some brush from the trail and picking up trash. The views of the gorge were great. All in all it was a great day for hiking.



## **A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports (*Past*)**

**Name:** Jim Foster

**Date:** February 24, 2006

**Purpose:** Check for roof damage at the barn

**Location:** The barn on Section 13, between US 19E and Bradley Gap

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I hiked up to the barn and checked out the roof damage. The tin that's blown up is a cap piece. No leak yet but there could be if it completely blows off. I took a couple of pictures and sent them to Carl.

**Name:** Jim Foster

**Date:** February 24, 2006

**Purpose:** Check trail and shelter

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I hiked from Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter cutting blowdowns and removing debris from the trail. A couple of stepovers that I couldn't get with my little saw will be okay to get later. It was slow going because of snow on the trail. Everything else looked okay.

**Name:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** February 28, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear massive blowdowns

**Location:** Section 20b, about 2 miles north of Spivey Gap

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham, Bruce Cunningham

**Summary:** We went in at Devils Creek Gap. About 1/4 mile north of the gap, we removed what remained of a huge blowdown that we started to remove a few weeks ago. Then Dave and Ken decided to walk out to Spivey Gap while Bruce walked down and brought the car around to pick them up. Ken and Dave appeared about 2 hours later having cut about 12 blowdowns of varying sizes. Trail is now clear of all major obstructions; a few minor trees were left lying flat.

**Name:** Darrol Nickels

**Date:** February 28, 2006

**Purpose:** Expand orchard at weedy gap and fertilize young apple trees

**Location:** Section 16b, apple orchard north of Iron Mountain Gap

**People:** Bill Elderbrock, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn plus two Forest Service employees

**Summary:** While we walked to the orchard, the Forest Service people drove a bush-hog in. We cleared and pruned broken and fallen apple trees. Underbrush was sawn or mowed down around the trees at the edge of the orchard so that the open area was expanded by 15 to 20%. The young apple trees were fertilized and the grass and weeds were dug away from the roots. Additional stakes were driven to strengthen the deer-proof cages around the young trees. Bob cleaned the spring.

**Name:** Collins Chew

**Date:** March 3, 2006

**Purpose:** Recreational with maintenance interest

**Location:** Section 8, Watauga Dam Road to US 321

**People:** Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Pat and Ken Buchanan, Kathy Case, Collins Chew, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Bob Harvey, Nancy and Joe Keys, Chuck Mather, Glenda O'Neal, Dan Propst

**Summary:** Blazes were painted in both directions; brush was clipped; all but one blowdown cleared; and much trash picked up. A stretch of trail blocked by cuttings by a crew on an adjacent road was cleared.

**Name:** Steve Banks

**Date:** March 4, 2006

**Purpose:** Annual maintenance

**Location:** Section 3a, McQueens Gap to Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Steve Banks

**Summary:** On a sunny and cool day, I cleaned out all the water bars and ditches between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter. There were only a few blowdowns. Using hand tools I cut all but one near McQueens Gap, which can easily be stepped over. On the trail from the shelter to the spring, I cut all but one blowdown; it can also be stepped over.

**Name:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** March 4, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 13, US 19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut blowdowns, briars and brush from 19E to Doll Flats. There were two major blowdowns on this section. One was a root ball on the most recent short relocation just above Wilder Mine Hollow that took at least an hour to clean up; the other was a large tree close to Doll Flats. All in all there were not too many blowdowns and section is now clear. One of the water bars below the shelter had gotten dislodged by some unknown mechanism; we set it back in place. Shelter is in good shape and has a register; we carried out some trash. The spring could use a pipe, which we'll take care of on our next trip. A couple of stretches along this section, about one mile below Doll Flats and the last 0.4 miles up to Doll Flats, would be good candidates for rehab projects.

**Name:** Bill Berry

**Date:** March 4, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap beyond Devil Creek

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** New relocation North of Spivey Gap is excellent. Thanks to everyone!

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 8, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road

**People:** Paul Benfield, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** Paul and Mike took a chainsaw through this section and cut nineteen blowdowns including some leaners. They also kicked leaves out of the water bars. There were a few minor spots on trail that could use touchup with a pulaski. Otherwise, trail is in good shape.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 8, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns and prepare new shelter site

**Location:** Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls

**People:** Dave Dunham, Bob Fox, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We cleared four blowdowns off trail. Then we felled about a dozen trees at new shelter site. We also started digging to level site. Bob Fox is a Raleigh resident, who made a special effort to maintain with us. Although he has been an ATC member since 1980, this was his first time on the A.T.

**Name:** Randall Simpson

**Date:** March 10, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 15, Hughes Gap to Old Cloudland Motel

**People:** Randall Simpson

**Summary:** One large blow down and several small ones were cleared from trail. I also cleared debris, cleaned water bars, and cut back growth.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 10, 2006

**Purpose:** A.T. Maintenance Dinner and Meeting

**Location:** Eastman Lodge

**People:** Bill Allen, John Arwood, Steve Banks, Steven Banks, Catherine Batts, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Chew Collins, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Steve Falling, Doris Fortner, Hueston Fortner, Jan Foster, Jim Foster, Robert Fox, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Kat Johnson, Steve Krein, Garry Luttrell, Bob Miller, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Susann Seiler, Jeff Siirola, Randall Simpson, John Thompson, CB Willis, Steve Wilson

**Summary:** We kicked off the 2006 maintenance season with a great turnout of maintainers. Packets were provided to each adopter and section leader. Bob Peoples compiled a list of all major blowdowns from 19E to Iron Mt Gap and from Dennis Cove to Damascus as recorded by hikers. Steve Perri assembled all the signage for each trail section. We also enjoyed a great dinner prepared by Mary Cunningham and Ed Oliver. Thanks to everyone for showing up, and have an enjoyable and safe maintenance season.

**Name:** Bill Berry

**Date:** March 11, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** I walked the section after high winds on March 8, 9, and 10. Several trees and limbs were down. I cleared trail from Spivey Gap to No Business.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** March 12, 2006

**Purpose:** Spring maintenance

**Location:** Section 16b, near Weedy Gap

**People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

**Summary:** We cleared part of a large blowdown near Weedy Gap to make trail passable. A larger part will be cut with a chainsaw later.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 12, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 10, Dennis Cove to Hampton trailhead and blue blaze to Hampton

**People:** Bob Peoples, Baltimore Jack and Rick

**Summary:** Bob and the two hikers cleared multiple blowdowns in Laurel Fork Gorge and blue blaze trail to Hampton. The largest blowdown was 20 inches. They slept well that night.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** March 13, 2006

**Purpose:** Spring maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, between Beauty Spot and Deep Gap

**People:** Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

**Summary:** We filled in a hole in the trail created by a fallen tree and trimmed the root ball; so trail is in good shape. We also cut a large low hanging tree limb and reworked trail under the tree.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 14, 2006

**Purpose:** Repair shelter roof, move privy, and do some lopping

**Location:** Section 14a, Bradley Gap to 1 mile north of Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Baltimore Jack

**Summary:** Jim, Bruce and Bill lopped trail from Bradley Gap to one mile north of Stan Murray Shelter; then they joined rest of crew in moving privy at Overmountain Shelter. Rather than just dig a 3-foot diameter and 3-foot deep hole, we enlarged platform. We dug a 5x4x4 hole and lined sidewalls with rough sawn pine boards. We covered the old hole with soil and logs. Unfortunately, we could not repair the loose metal roof because of winds of at least 30 mph. On next trip we will also put plywood on sleeping platforms because current strand board is sagging and tearing.



Working on the privy are Bruce Cunningham, Jim Foster (back turned), Dave Dunham, Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, and Bob Peoples (in the hole).

The almost finished product.



**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** March 17, 2006

**Purpose:** Spring maintenance

**Location:** Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap

**People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko

**Summary:** We cut a large cherry tree from trail near the apple orchard. We also cleaned out and/or repaired 15 water bars and installed two more; and replaced a step near the orchard.

**Name:** Jim Foster

**Date:** March 18, 2006

**Purpose:** Check trail and deliver new shelter register

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

**People:** Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

**Summary:** We cleared trail of several small blowdowns and checked water sources on our way to the shelter. At the shelter we delivered the new register and checked water source. Everything looked okay.

**Name:** Kim Peters

**Date:** March 18, 2006

**Purpose:** Spring clean up

**Location:** Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

**People:** Phyllis Cairns, Rolla Wade, Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We left a vehicle at Elk River recreation area, then proceeded to Walnut Mt. road to start. We clipped rhododendrons, cleaned out water bars and removed a few small blowdowns. I found the site for the new shelter. We met two section hikers who had started at Carvers Gap and they did not remember any blowdowns; so this section of trail is in good shape!



Phyllis and Rolla "supervising" Kat.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** March 18, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

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

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, John Thompson, Steve Wilson, Steve Perri

**Summary:** We hiked in from McQueens Gap lopping and cutting blowdowns. Steve and I walked ahead of the others to expedite the removal of blowdowns with a chain saw. We cut out about 8 on the A.T. and 2 on the Backbone Rock blue blaze. Mary, Bruce and John hiked in about 2.5 miles, then turned around and drove to Backbone Rock to pick us up. We noted some sloughing of the trail south of the blue blaze. Lopping was done fairly well. We will need to get briars cut later in the season.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** March 20, 2006

**Purpose:** Spring maintenance

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

**People:** Mike Hupko, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Carl Kincheloe, Gil Derouen, David McMillin, Bob Miller, CB Willis

**Summary:** We checked the entire length of trail from Iron Mt Gap to Low Gap and cleaned all water bars (around 80) from Low Gap to shelter. Four blowdowns were cleared. We also checked the shelter and springs (springs running very well). A new journal was installed in the shelter. We picked up litter at trail head and into hollow until snow covered and we were unable to proceed. We removed five large bags of litter.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 22, 2006

**Purpose:** Assess trail condition

**Location:** Sections 8, 9a, 9b and 10, Watauga Dam Road to Dennis Cove Road

**People:** Matt Davis, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** As part of Park Service requirement and our own use, we walked these four sections identifying all needed trail repairs and relocations. We also surveyed shelters, bridges, camping areas and most water sources. All information is in computer database with GPS locations and estimated labor. From a maintenance perspective, these sections are clear of all blowdowns. Some were removed during this hike or within hours after our passing. Two major relocations are needed on south side of Pond Flats to eliminate some very steep sections. Lower part of south side of Pond Mt also needs rehab. Halfway down between Pond Flats and Laurel Fork Gorge, we encountered three ATVs. They were working their way up hill with a chainsaw and loppers in the Wilderness. When they spotted us they reversed course almost rolling their machines. A detailed report will be sent to USFS Law Enforcement.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 23, 2006

**Purpose:** Assess trail condition

**Location:** Sections 12a, 12b, 12c, and 12d, Bitter End to 19E

**People:** Matt Davis, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We continued trail assessment from Bitter End to 19E on our four maintenance sections. Most major trail improvements needed are from High Point to 19E. Trail rehab as well as trail relocations are needed here. Ed did some more flagging of trail relocations here for submission this spring to USFS for approval. There are no chainsaw sized blowdowns remaining on any of these sections. We removed some blowdowns with hand saws. Trail is basically clear.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** March 23, 2006

**Purpose:** Spring cleanup

**Location:** Section 18, Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap

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

**Summary:** Upon receiving a report of a tree down just north of Beauty Spot, we checked the trail from Deep Gap back to Indian Grave Gap and found no tree down. While in the area we cut 27 dead standing pines between Indian Grave Gap and the power line. We also re-set two trail marker posts at Beauty Spot and placed an A.T. trail marker at Indian Grave Gap.



