

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

- [Next Two Months](#)
- [Hard Core 2006](#)
- [National Trails Day](#)
- [Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mountain Relocation](#)
- [Fun Fest Moonlight Hike](#)
- [Wilderness First Aid Course](#)
- [TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities \(Future\)](#)
- [Special Activity and Trip Reports \(Past\)](#)
- [A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports \(Past\)](#)

<u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
June 29-July 3	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-229-1602
July 6-10	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-229-1602
July 8-9	Mount LeConte Lodge, Smokies	B/3/B	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
July 14	A.T.: Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap (Anniversary Hike)	C/3/C	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
July 20	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike	C/3/D	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
July 20-24	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-229-1602
July 28	A.T.: Hughes Gap to Iron Mt. Gap (Anniversary Hike)	A/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Aug 3-7	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-229-1602
Aug 12-13	Wilderness First Aid Course		Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
Aug 12	F/B: Bays Mountain Park	C/3/C	Neil Dotson	423-323-3493

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

2006 Damascus Hard Core

Carl Fritz reporting



Everyone participating in the sixth annual Damascus Hard Core on Sunday, May 21, and Monday, May 22, exceeded expectations again. The first expectation exceeded was the number of hikers that showed up. Would you believe 143 hikers gave their time to help this year? In addition, 28 TEHCC members and affiliates also helped to pull off this major event. These 171 people donated 2209 hours of volunteer time to the Appalachian Trail. A major portion of work was on and around the new shelter about 1.5 miles south of Walnut Mountain Road. A secondary project was trail relocations near Low Gap on Unaka Mountain. We started out Sunday afternoon to carry the approximately three tons of materials for the new shelter via the mile and a half of the A.T. With so many anxious hands and legs, the materials quickly disappeared off the six trucks. A small crew was stacking the materials at the shelter site. Another small crew was erecting the shelter. This first day, the two sleeping platforms and the wall framing were built and erected.

“Camo” with a small band of men started work on the water stream to correct its flow. After removing a huge blowdown from the stream and rearranging some rocks, they were able to get the water flowing in its original channel. Mountaineer Falls is again a beautiful water fall. In addition, it cleared up the water problem where the stream crosses the A.T. The crew also improved the site for collecting water above the water falls.

On the second day, Monday, we still had 42 hikers and five club members working around the shelter. One crew continued building the shelter and got the rafters up plus a lot of the board and batten siding. (The shelter was open for business on May 29 and finished completely on June 6.) Another crew of hikers toed rocks and busted them with sledge hammers for crush and fill for the two ditches comprising 80 feet. These ditches divert water which is coming down the hill away from shelter. A third crew built a trail from the shelter to the water source.

Also on the second day, another crew of 46 hikers and nine club members built trail relocations just north of Low Gap on Unaka Mountain. The relocations were necessary to reduce erosion and decrease the slope of the trail. The hikers exceeded expectations again by installing over 2200 feet of sidehill trail on this single day.

Thanks to everyone for achieving these major trail improvements. All participants received a Damascus Hard Core patch. Several people deserve special mention for making this event a success.

- Bob Peoples not only motivated the hikers, but made most of the arrangements for this event including accommodating 62 of the hikers at Kincora Hostel. Pat Peoples not only helped with the accommodating but also coordinated with Baltimore Jack to prepare the meal on Monday evening.
- Kim Peters coordinated with Eastman Chemical Company to provide a 15 passenger van and two minivans 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, coleslaw, baked beans and fresh strawberry short cake for 165 people ramping up from 95 people on short notice! Bruce

transported hikers for three days in his minivan as did Tim Stewart in his truck.

- Ed Oliver engineered the design of the Mountaineer Falls Shelter.

These TEHCC members, affiliates and guests participated this year:

Steven Banks, Steve Banks, Joseph Basconi, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Steve Falling, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Julie Judkins, Kat Johnson, Dave McMillin, Darrol Nickels, Terry Oldfield, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Pat Peoples, Kim Peters, Jeff Sirola, Tim Stewart, Steve Wilson, Paul Worsham

The hikers included:

Phil Abruzzese, Richard Ahlf, Stephanie Allard, David Allen, Randall Anderson, Greg Anderson, Adam B, Randy Baner, Al Barkley, Joseph Basconi, Brandon Behney, Sam Behney, Sara Behney, Greg Benson, Jennifer A Berry, Matt Bernstein, Chris Boggs, Charlotte Bretton, Martin Brodsky, Tom Broszert, Jessica Bruck, Joe Carlson, Anna Cavender, Laura Cavender, Doug Chenoweth, Sandra Christensen, Cathleen Close, Terry Croteau, Caroline Crum, Tom Cunningham, Ray Douglas, Nira Duvan, Tristan B Eames, Melissa Fleishman, Todd Francoeur, Christopher Frier, Michael Galacdi, Michelle Garland, Matthew Garry, Craig Garland, Mariha Garland, Celia Garland, Alden Garland, Patrick Gerard, James Gorman, Hank Graham, Kris Harman, Heidi Hawkins, Tom Hearn, Gabriel Heidt, Kathryn Herndon, Sara Hickman, Michael L Hill, , Katie Hodakievic, Bryan Hudsinger, Nick Iamon, Ben Ifshin, Jason Jacobs, Steve Jeanette, Tony Jenkins, Mark Jernigan, Chris Johnson, James Johnson, Eva Johnson, Chris Jones, Julie Jurkowski, Sarah Keister, Forrest Kimpel, John S Kluchonic, Wayne Krevetski, Denise Lacey, Franklin LaFond, Blair Lamb, Trevor Lamb, Michael Laude, Martin LeBreton, Matthew Lundin, Vincent R Maciani, Michael Magan, Kelly Malahy, Jordan McCarron, Wyatt McGuire, Ariama McKeown, Steven Medley, Jesse Melton, Charles Moffitt, Vicki Moffitt, Chris Moore, Jason Mosdicouski, Lewis Moyers, Loren Munligt, Mark Murawski, Scott Murawski, Mike Murphy, Jason Nettur, Greg O'Neil, Erin Ortman, Erin Ortman, Moe O'Hara, Scott Ourth, Mary Pantelias, Jake Pavisson, Kurt Peterson, Peter L Popplevell, Lamar Powell, Ian Rees, Roslynn Regnery, Lyndsey Reimer, Sommer Rentmeesters, Sunny Riggs, Nathan Roberts, Katrina Rogers, Patrick Rogers, Wayne Ross, Marcos Rucinski, Leslie Rush, Gregory C Schley, Marshall Sharpe, Elspeth Sharp, Erich Shellenberger, Laura Sirey, Brad Sisk, David Skelby, Josh Smoke, Andrew Snyder, John Sparger, David Tarasevich, Jack Tarlin, Colleen A Thomas, Kyle Tholen, Patrick Warden, Steven Werts, Dan Winter, Scott Wilson, Jeffrey Woodin, Carol Woodland, Margaret Worthington, Jean Zortman, Matthew Zowler, "Cuppa Joe", "Funkee Munkee", and "Pepperoni".

Click on an image to enlarge. Photos courtesy of Terry Oldfield and Kim Peters.

Logistics: Picking up the Hikers in Damascus and traveling to Walnut Mt. Road.



Carrying in the shelter materials



Building the Shelter



Working on the water source



Dinner and Awards at Roan Mt. State Park



Digging trail on Unaka Mountain



National Trails Day 2006

The 2006 National Trails Day Event took place on Saturday, June 3. This event was sponsored by TEHCC, Bays Mountain Park Association, and Cosmo Kiwanis. Twenty volunteers showed up and helped construct approximately 900 feet of side-hill trail on a proposed 1600 foot switchback on the Pretty Ridge Trail in Bays Mountain Park. When completed, this switchback will eliminate a steep section of trail and improve access to Laurel Run with its waterfalls. Approximately 500 feet remain to be constructed. Ed Oliver contributed his excellent leadership which resulted in very nice trail, constructed safely.



The Trails Day volunteers left to right: Jerry Griffin, Bruce Cunningham, Hal Yungmeyer, Nate Ware Mark Selby, Aeron Selby, Dave Bowers, Bob Harvey, Ed Oliver, Mary Cunningham, Collins Chew, Kat Johnson, Steve Kasten, Terry Oldfield, Bill Elderbrock, Kim Peters. Not pictured, Nancy and Kent Wilson, Vic Hasler and Chuck Mather.

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



Ed Oliver gives instructions to volunteers



Volunteers digging side-hill on Pretty Ridge



Nancy Wilson - first time using a pulaski



Nancy Wilson finishes her first section of trail!



Jerry Griffin and Bill Elderbrock on newly constructed stone bridge



Bob Harvey



Collins Chew and Mary
Cunningham



Kat Johnson, Terry Oldfield
and Nancy Wilson

Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mountain Relocation June 29-July 3, July 6-10, July 20-24, and August 3-7, 2006

Submitted by Joe Deloach

In June we had our first of five weeks with the Konnarock Crew on a long relocation of the A.T. stretching between Weedy Gap north of Iron Mt. Gap to near the summit of Unaka Mountain. In 2006 the Konnarock Crew is focusing on the upper, southernmost portion of this relocation. We had a good turnout of 16 Club volunteers working 176 hours with the Crew. We'd like to continue that through the summer which would help complete much of this portion of the relocation. The more volunteers we have, the more we can spread the work and see results, which is very gratifying. Volunteers who work at least five days with the Crew qualify for the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. One volunteer needs only one more day to accomplish this in the second week. The major trips will be on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday when the Crew is onsite for a full day. We meet at the parking lot between McDonald's and the bank at 8:00. Bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. It always helps if you contact us ahead of time if you plan to help. Please contact Joe, (423-229-1602), or Carl Fritz (423-477-4669) with any questions or if you wish to help.



Fun Fest Moonlight Hike Bays Mountain Park, Thursday, July 20, 2006

This year, TEHCC is 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 possible. The volunteer with the closest guess of the number of hikers will win a Bays Mountain T-shirt. Please contact Steve Falling (423-239-5502) to sign up to help or for more information.

Wilderness First Aid Course August 12 and 13, 2006



Submitted by Mike Morrow

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APE's) and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club (TEHCC) are sponsoring a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course taught by Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO). The course will be tailored to the needs of the class participants. For example, if the participants consist mainly of hiking enthusiasts, the instructor(s) will gear the class towards the needs of hikers. 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 outdoor enthusiast place themselves in for recreation. Below is an explanation of the course from SOLO's website. (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 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."

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!

The fee for the course is \$135.00. This includes the course registration, and mailing and travel expenses for the instructor(s). Once received, this fee is non-refundable. However, if an emergency arises, a substitute may be found to take your place in the class.

Location: The course will be held Saturday, August 12th and Sunday August 13th from 8:00 am until ~6:00 pm at the Eastman Lodge in Kingsport, TN.

How To Register: (Click [here](#) for a printable form.) Please mail the registration form along with a check made out to **Scott Fisher, 109 E. Main St., Ste 301, Jonesborough, TN, 37659**. The deadline for registration is **July 7th 2006**. 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 your payment has been received.

If you have any questions, you may contact:

Scott Fisher

By phone at: (276)698-4644

Or e-mail: .



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Josephine Bwawa

Stanford Dailey

Dana B. Koogler

Jeffrey L. White

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 8-9, 2006

Leader: Steve Falling, 423-239-5502

Rating: B/3/B (Moderate)

For the past 25+ years the Hiking Club has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge can only be reached by hiking trail. (Supplies are brought in by llama train once a week.) The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way, depending on the route. The package price this year is \$97.50 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We have eight reservations in two four/five-person cabins (double bunk beds!). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations please contact the hike leader for availability. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at leconte-lodge.com/about.

**Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap,
Friday, July 14, 2006, 4.8 miles, 820-foot climb.**

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237;

Rating: C/3/C

Another Anniversary Hike. The high point of the TEHCC Section with good views from the Cloudland Hotel Site and open spots in the gardens. We may have an option of a couple more miles along the Roan Crest to Roan High Bluff and return. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just North of I-81), at 8:00 A. M. on Friday, July 14, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing

**Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap,
Friday, July 28, 2006, 9.1 miles, 2,100-foot climb.**

Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237;

Rating: A/2/B

Another Anniversary Hike. A.T. - Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, Highlight, Little Rock Knob. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights (Tenn. Rte 36, just North of I-81), at 8:00 A. M. on Friday, July 28, 2006. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.

Special Activity and Trip Reports (*Past*)

Anniversary Hike: Dennis Cove to Shook Branch, May 5, 2006

Collins Chewreporting

After a misty morning, lunch and the hike were in pleasant weather from Dennis Cove to Shook Branch, 8.9 miles. Flower of the day was Carolina Rhododendron blooming throughout the Gorge. There were lots of other wildflowers in lesser quantity, most notable, Catawba rhododendron, bleeding heart, flame azalea, and pink ladies slipper. Through hikers are still coming through in throngs. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Ken Buchanan, Kathy and Jerry Case, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey and Collins Chew.

**Anniversary Hike: Cross Mountain to Watauga Dam Road, June 2,
2006**

Collins Chewreporting

We hiked the A.T. from Cross Mountain to Watauga Dam Road, 15.8 miles, today. It seemed the day for Canada Mayflower and False Solomon's seal but there were many other wildflowers including various rhododendron, laurel, and flame azalea. I don't think I ever saw so much sarsaparilla (in bloom) but that may have been because we passed a patch of, probably planted, ginseng which is very similar. The day was quite pleasant until about 2:00 P. M. when we had a short, hard rain followed by minor rain and wet trees. Significant lightning and thunder accompanied the rain but, fortunately, one storm crossed the trail in front and passed to the left and the other passed on the right and crossed behind us. Both died out before we reached Van de Venter Shelter where we had our second lunch. The shelter once was the scene of a fatal lightning stroke. Frances Lamberts, rare plant monitor for ATC accompanied us to the area where a tiny flower, kidney leafed twayblade, grows. She had found some rhododendron cuttings on top of them and wanted to show them to us so we wouldn't do that again. The cuttings were so dry, I doubt we cut them this year so I assume they were left over from someone else's work. Hikers were Carol Broderson, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Laverne Olney, Sam Robinette, and Collins Chew. Frances Lamberts and her dog walked with us about a mile.

Anniversary Hike: Bitter End to 19E, June 15, 2006

Kent Wilson reporting

I finally made this hike on the Elk River relocation (have planned to hike it several times but never made it before). I was dropped off at the closed gate at Bitter End to start hiking south. Ginger Asel was dropped at Walnut Mountain Road while Nancy Wilson took the car to 19E to hike back to meet us. It was a beautiful day for a hike. The new Mountaineer Falls Shelter is very nice (stopped in there for a snack break). I meet up with Ginger at the Elk River (after her swim) and Nancy joined us soon thereafter. After lunch at Jones Falls, we finished the hike.

Anniversary Hike: Yellow Mountain Gap to U. S. 19E, June 16, 2006

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful hike in very pleasant, mostly cool weather. We walked on the A.T. from Yellow Mountain Gap to U.S. 19E, 9.7 miles including the approach road. The distance was hazy but many mountains were a beautiful green with distinct ridges. I guess the featured flower was cow parsnip but there were many more. Most of the group also went out over a mile on Big Yellow while some skipped that for early return or to make the hour-long car shuttle while the others were enjoying Big Yellow. There were many other hikers, mostly backpackers, some through hikers. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Kathy Case, Anne Cosby, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey, Jan and Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, and Collins Chew. Sam Robinette and Steve Poteet walked with us some. They started earlier from Carver's Gap.

Anniversary Hike: Dennis Cove to Watauga Dam Road, June 24, 2006

Kent Wilson reporting

Only one person expressed interest in hiking for the planned anniversary hike today. He just wanted to get some miles in and didn't care which section he did. Nancy had other plans so Gary Carty and I decided to change the planned hike one section South. We started at Dennis Cove and the hike in to Laurel Creek Falls was beautiful. The climb up Pond Mountain was brutal as normal with the break at Pond Flats greatly appreciated. We had

lunch at Watauga Lake. Making this hike were Kent Wilson and Gary Carty.



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

Name: Judy Allen

Date: May 20, 2006

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 12c, Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road & Side Trail to Jones Falls

People: Allen Crain, Joe DeLoach, Bill Allen, Judy Allen

Summary: There were a couple of minor blowdowns, and all obstructions were removed. Weeds along the Elk River were cut. There was no evidence of trail use by horses or four-wheelers. The only sign we saw was the cut wire where the trail leaves the river, which is a known problem.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: May 29, 2006

Purpose: Construct New Shelter

Location: Section 12b, Mountaineer Falls

People: Paul Benfield, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Jeff Siirola, Tim Stewart and HIKERS Diesel f, Cargo and Locomotive

Summary: We were able to finish a number of tasks at Mountaineer Falls Shelter including: trail to shelter, trail to water, trail signs and blazes, siding on shelter, and metal roof touchup. Eating area and much of shelter bracing is underway. The shelter is open. One more trip is required to complete some minor tasks.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: June 6, 2006

Purpose: Complete Mountaineer Falls Shelter

Location: Section 12b, Mountaineer Falls

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Steve Harvey, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Richard Smith, Tim Stewart, HIKERS AJ ICE, Steve Werts PUCK FINN, EDGE

Summary: Mountaineer Falls shelter is complete! Today we finished bracing the front of shelter, completed eating area and benches in shelter, cut firewood, cleaned up around shelter, installed fire pit with sitting rocks, dug ditches at drip line and installed crush and fill, and cut some log seats for outside shelter. We enjoyed lunch on the new eating area. Hikers have reported that there have been no leaks in the recent heavy showers.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: June 10, 2006

Purpose: Paint blazes, clipping

Location: Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter south to spring

People: Steve Banks

Summary: I painted the blazes and did some limited clipping on my adopted section. Also, I posted a mileage sign at Abingdon Gap Shelter, and removed a blowdown on the trail between the shelter and the spring. The weeds are already knee-high in places and I will cut them back on a future trip. On a sad note, the wooden sign I put on top of McQueens Knob several years ago is missing.

Name: David Dunham

Date: June 13, 2006

Purpose: Cut weeds and pick up trash

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch

People: David Dunham and Carol Dunham

Summary: We trimmed weeds and cut back multiflora rose from Shook Branch to the first campsite. We also picked up several bags of trash along the trail and at the campsite.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 13, 2006

Purpose: Early Summer weed cutting and clearing trail where needed

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

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

Summary: Trimmed weeds, lopped, cleaned water bars and re-worked dips.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: June 14, 2006

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Steve Banks, Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ron Lapp, and Ed Oliver

Summary: With a good turnout today, we decided to cut a difficult section. We had some mishaps that we overcame to have a good event. The morning started off wrong when our keys did not fit the Forest Service gate going to Overmountain Shelter. So we had to walk that extra distance. Then the sickle bar mower stretched the drive wheel belt on the way out. Fortunately, the shelter was in sight down the hill and the mower could be pushed or held back depending upon the slope. After the clouds finally lifted in early afternoon, there were some great views. Everyone worked hard to cut this entire section. I do not think anyone went dancing in the evening unless a cramp hit.

Name: Randall Simpson

Date: June 16 & 17, 2006

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap

People: Randall Simpson

Summary: I cut back lots of weeds and tree growth, cleaned water bars, and checked overall condition of the trail. I also checked the condition of the shelter. The shelter door hinges need work; also more of the shelter foundation has busted out. There were lots of hikers on the trail.

Name: Waylon Jenkins

Date: June 17, 2006

Purpose: Weeding

Location: Section 4a, U.S. 421 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Waylon Jenkins and David Powell

Summary: There was a definite need for weeding! Most of the weeds were between 421 and the small clearing with good views of Shady Valley. We used a gas weed-eater and a scythe. There appeared to be some poison ivy mixed in with other weeds in one short section of the trail that was relatively open and was not far trail north from the clearing, but we did not develop any symptoms. While hiking to the Double Springs shelter before working our way back to 421, we saw a couple of bear cubs at a distance about a hundred yards off the trail. They were moving away from us when we spotted them. The shelter appeared in good shape and was clean, but we removed some trash from a campsite about 50 yards below the spring.

Name: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 18, 2006

Purpose: Cut Weeds

Location: Section 13a, U.S. 19E to Doll Flats

People: Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

Summary: We spent a long hot day cutting annual growth which was pretty thick. We also cleared some waterbars and placed the shelter register. There were no blowdowns; there was evidence of ATV use at Doll Flats coming from the NC side. The vista below Doll Flats will need some clearing to restore the view; the plan is to do this in the fall.

Name: Steve Wilson

Date: June 20, 2006

Purpose: Cut weeds and enjoy the outdoors

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to U.S. 19E

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Steve Wilson, and Sue Hatch (Section Hiker)

Summary: We cut weeds and lopped branches on this 3.5-mile section. The weeds were the most overgrown in Bishop Hollow. It was nice day with many flowers in bloom.

Name: Steve Wilson

Date: June 20, 2006

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 13a, Doll Flats Area

People: Bruce Cunningham and Ed Oliver

Summary: Bruce and Ed cut weeds and provided transportation for another maintenance crew.

Name: Collins Chew

Date: June 21, 2006

Purpose: Blaze and maintain A.T.

Location: Section 5, Cross Mountain to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Larry Miller and Collins Chew

Summary: We blazed the trail in both directions, cut weeds, nettles, blackberry vines, intruding branches, etc. and cut the only two (small) blowdowns. The (tiny) endangered kidney leaf twayblade was in bloom. What I thought earlier to be a large patch of ginseng is actually sarsaparilla.

Name: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 23, 2006

Purpose: Routine early summer clean up

Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Weedy Gap

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, and Mike Hupko

Summary: We cleared weeds from trail and lopped woody growth encroaching on the trail.

Name: Steve Perri

Date: June 24, 2006

Purpose: Maintenance of Section and Weed Cutting

Location: Backbone Rock Trail - Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Steve Wilson, Steve Perri

Summary: Steve and I cut weeds and lopped the section of trail starting at Abingdon Gap heading north to the Backbone Rock Trail. We removed a dead cat from underneath the shelter to minimize the smell. The log book indicated it was there maybe about 4 or 5 days. The cat probably crawled under there to die. We made it all the way to the trail junction and cut weeds again heading south. Briars weren't too bad compared to the the weeds which were about knee high.

Name: Steve Banks

Date: June 25, 2006

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter south to McQueens Knob

People: Steve Banks

Summary: On a day with alternating rain and sunshine, I cut the weeds between McQueens Knob and Abingdon Gap Shelter. The weeds south of McQueens Knob will be cut on another trip.

Name: Carl Fritz

Date: June 28, 2006

Purpose: Cut weeds and lop

Location: Iron Mountain Shelter - Big Laurel Branch Wilderness boundary (north)

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Steve Harvey, Bill Murdock, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: We basically cut all the weeds on this section. There were not any unusual problems. Water source south of Turkey Pen Gap was in good shape. Based on results this year, we think we have a more efficient weed cutting strategy on this section for next year.