

**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>	
Aug 3-7	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-229-1602
Aug 5	Roundtop Trail (SM900)	A/3/B	Garry Luttrell	423-239-9854
Aug 12	Bays Mt. Park (F/B)	C/3/C	Neil Dotson	423-323-3493
Sept 1-4	Southern Regional Multi-Club	Fun	Fred Haller	828-369-8727
Sept 8	A.T.: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	A/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Sept 22	A.T.: Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap ( <b>Anniversary Hike</b> )	A/2/A	Collins Chew	423-239-6237
Sept 29	Buckeye Falls on Clark Creek (60th Anniversary Hike)	B/2/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237

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

## **Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, July 20, 2006**

*Steve Falling reporting*

Once again this year, the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club was asked by the Bays Mountain Park staff to help with the Fun Fest Moonlight Hike. This 2.5-mile hike around the Bays Mountain reservoir began at 8:00 PM and ended in darkness at about 10:00 PM. Our volunteers counted the hikers at the starting and finishing points and were posted at trail junctions along the route to keep hikers from making a wrong turn. A total of 395 hikers made

the trip this year! The volunteer with the closest guess of the actual number of hikers (Gary Hartley with 399) won a prize from the Bays Mountain gift shop. Volunteers helping this year were Kim Peters, Steve Perri, Steve and Mary Banks, Terry Oldfield, Gary, Alex and Sidney Hartley, Neil, Daniel and Elizabeth Dotson, Randal, Matthew and Mark Dean, Kat Johnson, Ed Oliver, Steve and Julie Falling.





**2006 Southern Regional Multi-Club Campout  
September 1st thru 4th  
USFS Appletree Group Campground  
Nantahala, North Carolina**

*Hosted by the Nantahala Hiking Club*

**The Details:** An excellent opportunity for volunteers, hikers and lovers of the A.T. to gather at scenic Appletree Group Campground in Nantahala, NC for the **2006 A.T. Southern**

**Regional Multi-Club Campout.** This event will abound with great hikes, good conversation, and the option for catered meals so you can leave your camp stove at home and really relax. Tents and trailers are welcome, though no hook-ups are available. Hot showers, campfire, entertainment and other recreation opportunities are on site.

**Dates:** Friday, Sept 1 through Monday, Sept 4

Information and Registration forms can be found on the Nantahala Hiking Club web-site or the GATC website: [www.georgia-atclub.org/multiclub2006](http://www.georgia-atclub.org/multiclub2006).

**RSVP:** Direct your questions and registration forms to Fred Haller at 828-369-8727.

Completed registration forms can be mailed to 607 Rabbit Creek Rd. Franklin, NC 28734.

**Best Aspects of the Multi-Club:** It's a fun get-together for Southern Clubs to hike together, eat together, and talk together.

"I always look forward to it. I haven't missed one since 1991." Fred Haller, Nantahala Hiking Club

"It's a nice outing and simply a time to get together with other club people. My favorite memory is just sitting around and schmoozing. There is some business that goes on; representatives from clubs give little reports about what is happening with the club, but for the most part it is social. As for the food; it will be good. She (the caterer) is good!" Howard McDonald, Carolina Mountain Club.

"Once a favorite of GATC club members, this event hosts good hikes and generally, if there is entertainment, it's good, too. I like meeting with people. Sometimes with just talking with people you learn about circumstances other people face and figure out ways to handle similar situations in your own area." Herb Daniels, Georgia Appalachian Trail Club.

## **Doe River Gorge Cabin Trip** **Saturday-Sunday, October 21-22, 2006**

*Submitted by Steve Falling*

The Hiking Club has reservations for 20 overnight visitors in a riverside cabin at beautiful Doe River Gorge, Hampton, Tennessee. We are timing this trip to enjoy the autumn foliage. Doe River Gorge 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.







Here is what their website ( [www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities](http://www.doerivergorge.com/retreats/facilities) ) says about the cabin:  
"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."



Although the date has not been announced yet, the Doe River Gorge Open House is usually held on Sunday of this weekend every year. Last year, a number of hike participants enjoyed the open house festivities (rock climbing, tree climbing, mountain boarding, train rides into the gorge, etc.).

The lodging cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$16.00 for children under 13. This price only covers lodging (bring a sleeping bag or sheets/blankets and a pillow) so we will make arrangements for the preparation of supper and breakfast. We only have reservations for 20 people, so call in your request before sending money. To make a reservation or for more information call Steve Falling, 239-5502.



AbuZayda

Rolf Gehman

lhab

Jim Byler

Marion Howe

Marc E Dietrich Joel Faidley

Anita Jason

Jack Killman

## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Mzia Makharadze   Cliff McCrary   Stewart Millen   Robert York  
Michael Kenneth Watts

*Each newmember is 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](#).*

### **Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mountain Relocation**

**August 3-7, 2006**

*Joe DeLoach (229-1602), Ed Oliver (349-6668)*

This summer we had been granted four weeks of Konnarock Crew time, and were donated a fifth week by the Carolina Mountain Club. We can use all the time and help we can get for a series of difficult relocations beginning north of Iron Mountain Gap and continuing to near the summit of Unaka Mountain.

The Konnarock Crew will be back for their fifth week on August 3, to continue constructing sidehill trail on south side of Unaka Mountain. With their help, we are hoping to have this major trail relocation close to completion.

As usual the Club will support them on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Once again, volunteers who work at least five days with the Crew earn the highly coveted Konnarock T-shirt. We will meet at the parking lot below McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8 a.m.

Please contact Joe DeLoach (423-229-1602) or Ed Oliver (423-349-6668) with any questions or if you wish to help.

### **Roundtop Trail (S900M), Sat, August 5, 2006**

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

*Rating: A/3/B*

This hike will begin at the Metcalf Bottoms Picnic area and end with a refreshing wade of the Little River at the Wye. The route will pass the Little Greenbriar School and Walker Sisters home and will follow the Little Briar Gap, Little Greenbriar, and Roundtop Trails to the Wye. Hike distance is 11.5 miles with a 2,000-ft climb. Contact the hike leader, , or phone to get further details.

### **Family/Beginner: Bays Mountain Park, August 12, 2006**

*Leader: Neil Dotson, 423-323-3493*

*Rating: C/3/D*

This hike is pretty much a repeat of a hike Steve Falling led a few years back: a counterclockwise walk on the lakeside trail, with a spur up the side of the river mountain to the fire tower. (Depending on how the spirits of the children are doing, the spur up to the fire tower can be omitted or only done by some; we're nothing if not flexible.) After a snack and a descent back to the lakeside trail, we'll continue on to the zoo – a good motivation to keep the smaller feet moving. The hike is roughly 4 miles if we go up to the fire tower; 2.3 if not. We will meet at the park in front of the Nature Center at 9:30 a.m. Please call so I will have an idea of how many and who to expect. We should be back at the Nature Center around noon –

so no need to carry lunches, but snacks and water are recommended.

**Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River, Friday, Sept. 8, 2006, 11.2 miles, 2,000-foot climb.**

*Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237,*

*Rating: A/2/B*

This section features views of the Nolichucky River Gorge. 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, Sept 8. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.

**Anniversary Hike: A.T. - Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap, Friday, Sept. 22, 2006, 10.8 miles, 3,000-foot climb.**

*Leader: Collins Chew, 423-239-6237,*

*Rating: A/2/A*

The highlight of this hike is the new relocation over Unaka Mountain (we hope). 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, Sept 22. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing

**Buckeye Falls of Clark Creek, Friday, Sept. 29, 2006, 7 miles, 1,200-foot climb.**

*Leader: Collins Chew, 239-6237*

*Rating: B/2/B*

This is a difficult hike but is the Traditional Anniversary Hike of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club. Club founder, Frank Oglesby, led this in 1946 as the first hike of the club. He later led the same hike in 1986 and 1996 for the 40th and 50th anniversaries of the club. As one of the members with the longest activity in the club, I thought I would try to continue that tradition. The falls are claimed to be the highest in the East but are actually cascades. There are stream fords of Clark Creek and the last few hundred yards are up a steep boulder-filled gully. Clark Creek Road turns off Tenn. 107 a few miles south of Tenn. 81 at the Nolichucky River south of Jonesboro. Meet between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank on Tenn. 36 in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 29. Bring water, lunch, and appropriate clothing.

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

### **Trip Leader "Sings the Blues" on the 27th Anniversary Bluestone River Trip, May 12-14, 2006**

*(Ed Montgomery reporting without Trip Leader Approval)*

The annual Bluestone river trip is held every May and it is always a special trip for my family and many other paddlers. The trip leader, Terry Dougherty, works hard to put together just the right conditions to make this trip enjoyable every year. This year Terry provided some extra special entertainment on and off the river for the group. Terry is well known for his ability to

spin a tale, turn any situation into a colorful event and provide some helpful advice at the same time. Once again, we were very pleased with the trip leader's efforts in putting together another awesome trip.

A majority of the boaters arrived on Friday evening and had reservations at the Mountain Creek Lodge for the weekend. The lodge is located on the banks of the Bluestone and is only accessible by tram or boat. The lodge also serves as the ultimate take-out for the first day on the river. A couple of our cost conscious open boaters camped at the park campground under the family plan. Dave Ingram has previously established an agreement for boaters to camp under the family plan in order to obtain an excellent discount. This arrangement dates back to the days when the Coach, Cub, and Dave claimed to be brothers of different mothers and established the first ever APE family plan.

Several boaters met by chance on Friday evening at the beautiful Mountain Creek dining room which features fine dining each evening with gourmet specialties prepared by Chef Eric Stalnaker, a graduate of the Greenbrier Culinary School. This atmosphere provided an excellent environment for conversation and sharing. This was the first hint that the trip leader was getting ready to **"sing the blues"** on the home front due to a small packing problem. *It seems the trip leader had failed to pack his better half's PFD and she was ready to paddle. When your spousal unit is ready to paddle, you have got to have your equipment ready. Terry is well known for taking great pride in his paddling and equipment and I'm sure this was a once in a lifetime event. Don't worry Terry, it happens to most everyone, except for T. Pridgen. T. Pridgen spends many hours preparing his equipment and an equal amount of time planning for those special moments with his spousal unit.*

The next morning we meet at the Canyon Rim Center parking lot at 9am (regular time for 27 years running) for the 9 mile class II-III run on the wild and scenic Bluestone River. We picked up another trash boater, Mr Andrew Smith (not his real name since he was protecting his reputation). He was very excited to make his first descent on the Bluestone. The other trash boat (kayaker) was none other than famous attractive Mrs. Rebbeka Morrow. Other first timers included Jerry Tustin and his daughter Ann Marie. They were paddling a black 17' Bluehole OCA. The trip leader noted that there were not many black boats OCAs made during the Bluehole era. This trip actually featured five Bluehole canoes, 2 trash boaters and funyakker. Not sure where the funyak rates in the pecking order, but I believe you could carry beer in this boat so it would be somewhere between a canoe and trash boater. The Bluestone was 276 cfs which is a little low for normal folks. Tom Loveless likes a more technical run around 100 cfs so he decided to skip this trip.

The shuttle drive to the put-in was run without incident and we soon arrived under sunny skies with all boats in tow. Previous incidents include the famous "crap in the road" story, Cub's infamous lost PFD, trucks getting damaged and many more.

We launched fairly quickly and the first few rapids (including two borderline class IIIs) were run without incident. Andrew got hot on one of the next rapids and took a little swim. Water removal proved to be a challenge, but we soon were on our way. Everybody stayed in their boats until we arrived at the traditional lunch spot for the last 27 years. All paddlers except the trip leader (running sweep) had eddied out for lunch. The trip leader decided to sing a couple of lyrics from his favorite Blues song while taking a little unadvised short-cut over to the lunch spot. He had done some last minute calculations (bad math) and predicted his naked boat (no floatation) should just fit between two large rocks. As he made his move, he had a close encounter with one of the large rocks, got stuck and tried to get his boat off. The



Bluestone River seized control of the moment and quickly broached his canoe on the exposed rock. The trip leader was again **singing the blues** while standing waist deep in a rapid with his boat broached on a rock and his better half no where to be found. What was he thinking?

*To be continued...*

### **Anniversary Hike: Beauty Spot to Nolichucky River, June 11, 2006**

*Nancy Wilson reporting*

On Sunday afternoon, June 11, Nancy Wilson and Ginger Asel shuttled up to Beauty Spot and hiked back to the Nolichucky River. It was hot, but beautiful and clear. They enjoyed great views and lunch from Beauty Spot and a cold water hole on the way back to Erwin.

### **Anniversary Hike: Carvers Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap, June 30, 2006**

*Collins Chew reporting*

This hike was an Anniversary Hike on the A.T. from Carvers Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap and down Sugar Hollow on the Tennessee side. This was made possible by special arrangements and trail clearing by Nora Schubert of SAHC and courtesy of Mae Shell who allowed us to cross her land. It was partly cloudy, cool, and most pleasant. There were nice views to the middle distance and we made the side hike to Grassy Ridge. Special flowers of the day were prolific Gray's Lily and American Mountain Ash. The rare and endangered nodding avens seemed common if less than spectacular. Cow parsnip, ramp, sweet cicely, etc. were also nice. Fading flame azalea and rhododendron were quite a bit past their prime. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Don Baker, Lee Bockman, Ken Buchanan, Jerry and Kathy Case, Steve Darnell, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey, Chuck Mather, and Collins Chew. Larry Miller started from Carvers Gap with us, but took a speedier and different itinerary to Yellow Mountain Gap and back.

### **Anniversary Hike: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, July 8, 2006**

*Kent and Nancy Wilson reporting*

Nancy, Carolyn, and Brenda dropped Kent off at Indian Grave Gap and then drove on up to Beauty Spot to start their hike. Kent then caught up with them as they were climbing Unaka Mountain. The weather was very pleasant for July and we enjoyed a day out on the trail especially the new relocations that lessened the grades. Making this hike were Carolyn Carter, Brenda Whit, and Nancy Wilson (from Beauty Spot to Iron Mountain Gap) and Kent Wilson (Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mountain Gap).

### **Mt. LeConte Trip, Saturday and Sunday, July 8th and 9th, 2006**

*Ellen Turner reporting*

Participants in the Eastman Hiking Club annual Mount LeConte hiking trip on July 8, 2006, were Chuck and Jan Mather, Rick and Vicki Lott, Stephen and Rebekah Stroupe, Laura Johnson, and Ellen Turner. Rick was the only one who had braved the trip before, but we all thoroughly enjoyed it. We started out by meeting in Kingsport and leaving at 8 AM. After making a stop on the road, we arrived at the Alum Cave trailhead and actually got ready to hike by 10:45AM. The trail was very easy for about half the way, and then we realized the rest of the trip would be an endurance test. We all survived, but I think at least two had to take a little Ibuprophen that night! Although the hike was very steep and strenuous, it provided views that were spectacular. We saw the "Eye of the Needle" and lots of wild azalea.



*Eye of the Needle from Alum Cave Trail*



*We made it to the top!*

*Left to right: Rick Lott, Jan Mather, Chuck Mather, Laura Johnson, Ellen Turner, Stephen Stroupe, Rebekah Stroupe, Vicki Lott.*



*We saw lots of rhododendron and wild azalea along the trail.*

We arrived about 3 PM, and found the camp to be very comfortable and quaint. The dining room was serving hot chocolate and coffee when we arrived. We would advise future travelers to minimize how much caffeine you drink in the high altitude or you could potentially stay up counting sheep all night and be afraid to go to the bathroom for fear you could run into a bear! There was a bear that evening in the camp, but the park ranger scared it off. None of us got to see it, though.

Dinner on Saturday night was delicious. It was roast beef and

gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, fried apples, cornbread, peaches, and BIG chocolate chip cookies. We were more than full. After dinner we hiked to Inspiration Point (very short walk) to see the overlook and hear the ranger talk about the Smoky Mountain National Park. The view was fantastic! The air was chilly, so everyone was glad to have a fleece or jacket.



*LeConte Lodge Office*

Half of the group got up at 5 AM to go to the sunrise service at another overlook. They actually saw a nice buck on the way. They were the only early risers in the whole camp. Breakfast was awesome! There were huge pancakes, a platter of scrambled eggs and Canadian bacon, a big bowl of grits, and basket full of biscuits with apple butter. After breakfast, the other half of the group went to the sunrise overlook before heading back down the mountain.

The group left camp about 10:45 AM, stopped for a snack on the way down the mountain, and arrived back at the cars at 2 PM. On the way out, we stopped at the National Parks Visitor Center before leaving for Kingsport.

Due to the 3500 ft. elevation change over 5.5 miles, the next few days were a bit painful, but we all agreed the trip was well worth it!





*We made it back to the trailhead.*

*Left to right: Ellen Turner, Rebekah Stroupe, Stephen Stroupe, Chuck Mather, Jan Mather, Laura Johnson, Vicki Lott, Rick Lott.*

### **Anniversary Hike: Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap, July 14, 2006**

*Collins Chewreporting*

We had a very nice, actually cool at times, anniversary hike on the A.T. from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap with side trips to Roan High Knob Shelter and to Roan High Bluff. There was a bit of rain just before the end. The hike was about 7.6 miles. Lunch was at the Cloudland Hotel site. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Pat and Ken Buchanan, Kathy and Jerry Case, Bob Harvey, Anne McKenna, Jan and Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, Sam Robinette, first timer Rick Virost, and Collins Chew.

### **Anniversary Hike: Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, July 28, 2006**

*Collins Chewreporting*

We had a very nice hike of 9.1 miles from Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap in pleasant, cloudy weather. The views from Little Rock Knob and of Unaka Mountain and Pinnacle Mountain were quite good. There were a surprising number and variety of pretty wildflowers. When we went to retrieve our cars at Hughes Gap, it seemed like downtown Pigeon Forge with three vans blocking our cars while unloading hoards of teenage Alabama backpackers who were dodging at least five other cars and trucks crossing Hughes Gap. Otherwise we saw no other hikers. James Foster had done a great job preparing the trail for us as it was in excellent shape. I understand he recruited Ken Buchanan and his chain saw to get the trail in



top condition. We learned that Sam and Judith will leave Franconia Notch, NH, going north on the A.T. with separate groups on the same day the middle of next month. Ted and David did not get enough hiking and added 0.9 miles to complete a 10-mile requirement for Ted in Scouts. This was while the cars were being retrieved. Kathy provided her wonderful lemonade. Hikers were: Don Baker, (first timer) Melvia Bishop, Kathy and Jerry Case, (first timers) David and Ted Chew, Carol and Dave Dunham, James Foster, (no relation) Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Taylor Pickard, Sam Robinette, and Collins Chew.



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

A couple of factoids:

This July, Jeff Sirola reported that he has entered the 1500<sup>th</sup> maintenance event into the TEHCC Computerized A.T. Maintenance Database.

Since January 1, 2000...

- Total maintenance hours: 65,829.
- Total number of Individuals: 2251.
- Total Person-Events: 8,788.
- Section with most effort: 12, Bitter End to US19E, 18,681 hours.
- Section with least effort: 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock, 623 hours.

Also, a former ATC Headquarters volunteer, Charlie Paul, on his second thru-hike stopped in at Harpers Ferry for a visit. He had only good things to say about changes to the southern half of the Trail since his first thru-hike in 2001:

- Better treadway, including a lot more sidehill
- Lots of good relocations, specifically the Elk River relo in Tennessee and the Ovoka Farm relocations north of Sky Meadows, Virginia, and
- Removal of lots of pointless, steep ups and downs, especially in Tennessee.

**Name:**

Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** June 14, 2006

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and clear the trail where necessary

**Location:** Sections 17 and 18 to trail crossing with FS 230, 1.2 miles from Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Carl Kincheloe, Daryl Loyd, Mike Hupko, Marsha Hupko, CB Willis, Bob Miller, Malcolm Wolf, Dave McMillin, Gil Derouen, Lou Haase, Shelton Thompson, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn

**Summary:** We weeded from Iron Mountain Gap to A.T./FS 230 crossing leaving 1.2 miles to finish. The rest will be done July 3 along with cleaning water bars where needed. Weeds were the heaviest we have seen. We cleared 5 blowdowns we could cut with bowsaw. There were no other trail obstructions. We weeded trails to the springs and picked up litter at trail heads, shelter, and camp sites.

**Name:** Steve Perri

**Date:** June 24, 2006

**Purpose:** Maintenance of section and weed cutting

**Location:** Section 2, Backbone Rock Trail to 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:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** June 28, 2006

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and lop

**Location:** Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to 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 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 for this section for next year.

**Name:** Steve Banks

**Date:** July 1, 2006

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 3a, McQueens Gap to spring

**People:** Steve Banks

**Summary:** I cut the weeds between McQueens Gap and the spring, which completes weed cutting on my adopted section.

**Name:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** July 3, 2006

**Purpose:** Complete early summer trail maintenance

**Location:** Section 18, Deep Gap and Beauty Spot to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Mike Hupko, Bob Miller, Daryl Loyd, Malcolm Wolf, Tim Shipley, Walt Dodie, Gil Derouen, Dave McMillin, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, CB Willis

**Summary:** We repaired and dug out a dip at Deep Gap, weeded and clipped from the A.T./FS 230 crossing to Indian Grave Gap, refreshed and repaired blazes from the aforementioned crossing to Indian Grave Gap, and cleaned out all water bars and dips from the Beauty Spot to Indian Grave Gap. As far as we know, our trail is now clear and in good condition for its entire length.

**Name:** Jim Foster

**Date:** July 4, 2006

**Purpose:** Trim weeds and anything else that needs doing

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I cut weeds, trimmed back annual growth, and cut a couple of small blowdowns. Trail is in good shape except one place where a large tree has blown down and taken out the trail. I believe that I can dig it out and repair the treadway without any help. Right now it is still passable.

**Name:** Tim McClain

**Date:** July 4, 2006

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 3b, spring to U.S. 421

**People:** Tim McClain, Joe Herbert

**Summary:** We cut weeds on the 2.5-mile section north of US 421 and removed litter at the parking area on the north side of 421 where the trail crosses the highway.

**Name:** John Arwood

**Date:** July 8 and 9, 2006

**Purpose:** To clear this section of blowdowns

**Location:** Section 7, north on the trail from Iron Mountain Gap at Watauga Dam Road

**People:** Catherine Batts, John Arwood

**Summary:** We came to whack weeds; but after talking to a group of south-bound hikers, we decided that blowdowns blocking the trail were a more pressing problem. We went back to our vehicle, retooled, and went looking for blowdowns. We cleared 6 major trees and tree tangles on Saturday and Sunday, camping out Saturday night. Vandeventer Shelter had quite a bit of trash, which we collected and packed out.

**Name:** Collins Chew

**Date:** July 12, 2006

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 5, Cross Mtn., Tenn. 91 to Nick Grindstaff Monument

**People:** Larry Miller, Sam Robinette, Collins Chew

**Summary:** Larry Miller used his chain saw to cut an amazing number of blowdowns since the trail was clear on June 21 when we blazed this section. There were probably 10 blowdowns, several of which were quite large and messy. Sam Robinette made his debut as a trail maintainer with loppers and by moving cut branches. We also clipped a few weeds.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 13, 2006

**Purpose:** Biological survey of trail relocation

**Location:** Section 12d, Bishop Hollow to U.S. 19E

**People:** Jim Foster, Ed Oliver, Dustin Thames, John Hull

**Summary:** Jim and Ed accompanied biology interns, Dustin Thames and John Hull, on an inspection of the proposed relocations between 19E and Bishop Hollow. The biological survey was completed and only minor changes in trail routing were required.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 14, 2006

**Purpose:** Flag trail relocation and pickup trash

**Location:** North of Stan Murray Shelter and at Bear Branch

**People:** Jim Foster, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Ed and Jim flagged two trail relocations just north of Stan Murray Shelter. Together they comprise about 3/4 mile of trail. Building new trail here looks very reasonable. They also picked up nine garbage bags of trash at Bear Branch. It seems that we have a new trasher since the character of the trash has changed.

**Name:** Collins Chew

**Date:** July 15, 2006

**Purpose:** Dig side-hill trail for new Pretty Ridge Trail , Bays Mountain Park

**Location:** Pretty Ridge, Bays Mountain Park

**People:** Collins Chew, Carol and Dave Dunham, Steve Kasten, Pat and Patrick Loven, Larry Miller, Ed Oliver, Tom Odom, Mark Selby, Nate Ware

**Summary:** We dug 150 yards of side-hill trail on a new switchback for Pretty Ridge Trail.

Also, some previously dug side-hill trail was improved. About 30 yards at the top and a 20-yard switchback at the bottom remain to be completed. This is scheduled for July 29.

**Name:** John Arwood

**Date:** July 16, 2006

**Purpose:** Weeding and pruning

**Location:** Section 7, north on the trail from Iron Mountain Gap at Watauga Dam Road

**People:** Catherine Batts, John Arwood

**Summary:** We weeded and pruned, concentrating on rhododendrons, greenbrier, and tree limbs intruding on the trail. We will return, soon, to finish the job.

**Name:** Jim Foster

**Date:** July 18, 2006

**Purpose:** Repair damage to trail caused by blowdown

**Location:** Section 16a, about a mile in from Hughes Gap

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I repaired a 15-foot section of trail that had collapsed because a blowdown had taken it out.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 18, 2006

**Purpose:** Cut out trail relocation

**Location:** Section 18, north side of Unaka Mt

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Darrol Nickels, Ed Oliver, Linda Proffit, Bob Peoples, and HIKER Brenna Biron

**Summary:** We took this opportunity to remove more of the trees and rhodos (laurel to some) on the trail relocation being done by Konnarock crews this summer. Even with two chainsaws, loppers, and a good crew, no end to rhodos is in sight. There should be enough trail cleared for two more weeks of Konnarock.

**Name:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 25, 2006

**Purpose:** Flag trail relocation

**Location:** Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Grassy Ridge

**People:** Jim Foster, Doug Hibshman, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Jim, Doug and Ed scouted new trail relocations between Stan Murray Shelter and Grassy Ridge. Some relocations that should be rather easy to install were flagged. Several other relocations need an additional day of investigation.