

May 2007

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

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

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<b><u>NEXT TWO MONTHS</u></b>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
May 3-5 (Thurs.-Sat.)	French Broad River Festival	Various, from I to IV	Bryan Hogan	276-393-4985
May 12-13(Sat./Sun.)	28th Anniversary Bluestone River Trip	II-III	Terry Dougherty	423-323-2647
May 18-20	Appalachian Trail Days, Damascus	Fun		<a href="#">Traildays Info</a>
May 20-21 (Sun./Mon.)	Hard Core	Maintenance	Carl Fritz	
May 26-28 (Sat.-Mon.)	APE's Memorial Day Soirée	Various, from II to IV	Bryan Hogan	276-393-4985
May 31-Jun 1	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-753-7263
Jun 2-3	Whitewater Kayaking Clinic		Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
Jun 9-10	Ocoee River	III-III+	Rebakah Morrow	
Jun 14-18	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe Deloach	423-753-7263
Jun 23	Pigeon River	II-III	Bryan Hogan	276-393-4985

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

## **Clemson University Survey on Forest Management Practices**

*Submitted by Joe DeLoach*

### **Your Opinion Needed On Forest Management Practices**

The US Forest Service has asked Clemson University to collect opinions from recreationists and conservationists interested in forests in the Southern Appalachians. The link below will take you to an on-line survey about different forest management practices being developed by forest scientists. Your responses to the survey will help them in making future decisions about whether to use some, all, or none of these experimental practices. Forest management is difficult. Because of this, the survey is not short but you should not find it complicated. You should expect to spend 20 minutes working on it. If you have a dial-up connection or prefer a paper survey please contact Chris Starker or 864-656-1647. [Clemson Survey](#)

## **Results of Spring 2007 Rental Equipment Auction**

*Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator,*

TEHCC was able to sell three used tents in auctions that all had multiple bids. Eugene Dobbs is the owner of the prior HT-8 Eureka Timberline 2 (with new rain fly). The club purchased an exact replacement tent at a good price in 2006. The former HT-11 Eureka Alpine Meadow tent went home with Seth Douthat. Finally, Nancy Wilson purchased the former HT-22 Diamond Free Spirit 4 to use the rainfly for her tent. A total of \$27 was deposited into the TEHCC account for future activities.

Ideas are being solicited for what to buy as a two or three-person backpacking tent that has space, but not too much weight. The next purchase after that will likely be replacement of a larger tent as these are popular rentals.

# **Learn to Kayak!!**

## **Intro to Whitewater Kayaking Clinic, June 2-3, 2007**



You know you want to. You've been thinking about it, how fun it might be. You see the occasional car with a couple boats on top or pass by one of the many great rivers in the area and think to yourself, "I think I could dig the whole kayaking thing." Well, now's your chance!! The 35<sup>th</sup> annual "Whitewater School", sponsored by the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, will be held

June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Tri-Cities area. The clinic is designed for anyone wanting to learn the fundamentals of whitewater kayaking—fundamentals that will ensure a fun and safe time on the river. No previous experience is necessary. Instruction will consist of one day on flat water and one day on the river. As in the past, there will continue to be a strong emphasis on river safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation, although loaner gear is available on a first come basis.

**Minimum required gear:** Whitewater kayak, double-bladed (kayak) paddle, helmet, spray skirt and PFD (life jacket). All boats must have air bags. Additionally, it is recommended that each student bring river shoes/sandals, a change of clothes in a waterproof bag and a rain jacket. Students are responsible for bringing their own lunch.

**Schedule:** June 2 (Sat) Lake instruction, 9am—4pm

Location: Warrior's Path State Park.

*Students must participate on Saturday to participate on Sunday.*

June 3 (Sun) River Trip, class II, 9am—4pm

Location: TBD.

**Note:** Instructors reserve the right to exclude anyone if they believe safety will be compromised.

**Cost:** \$50 per student payable by May 25<sup>th</sup> (make checks out to Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and mail to address below). Students will also be required to pay a \$10 ACA event membership fee and a \$20 APEs membership fee on the Saturday morning of class. If you are already a member of the American Canoe Association (ACA), please bring your membership card and member number.

**Registration:** Click [here](#) to open printable reservation form. Mail the form along with your check for \$50 made out to Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts by May 25<sup>th</sup> to:

**Scott Fisher**  
**104 S. Washington Dr.**  
**Jonesborough, TN, 37659**

**Questions:** Contact Scott Fisher at (276) 698-4644 or e-mail at



## **TEHCC Welcomes New Members**

Cathy Brown  
Gabriel Manis  
Rita Minor  
Sarah Travis

*Newmembers 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](#).

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

(May 31 - June 4, June 14-18, July 5-9, July 26-30, and August 9-13)

*Joe DeLoach reporting*

This year we have five weeks of Konnarock Crew time to continue work on the long relocation between the north side of Iron Mountain Gap and near the summit of Unaka Mountain. With the Konnarock Crew, we will work on the upper elevations that have some technical construction requirements where their skills can be most useful. Some of the work can be physically challenging, but other tasks such as lopping brush to clear the way for the digging is not so tough. With the five weeks of Crew time this year we hope to complete or come close to completing these upper portions. The Crew arrives on Thursdays and works until Monday morning, with the full days of Friday-Sunday being the ones we target most for Club support. Volunteers who work at least five days with the Konnarock Crew will be rewarded with the coveted Konnarock T-shirt. Please contact Joe DeLoach (423-753-7263) if you have any questions or would like to help.

## **Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains) July 7-8, 2007**

*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 \$102 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 <http://www.leconte-lodge.com/about.html>. Last year's trip report is here: <http://www.tehcc.org/news200608.htm>.

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

### **Hike Report, Grayson Highlands State Park, March 23-24, 2007**

*Jay and Megan Nelson, reporting*

The weather was perfect - warm, sunny, and clear with some cool refreshing wind in the evening and morning. Our hike deviated a little from our original plan. We started in Grayson Highlands State Park as planned, but hiked to Mount Rogers via the A.T. through Rhododendron Gap, instead of hiking the A.T. and Pine Mountain Loop Trail. We hiked 4 miles on a steady incline then set up our tents at a great camping spot just off of the A.T. a little before Thomas Knobb shelter on the balds overlooking the mountains. We camped near a "through hiker" who works in the South Pole and spends his year long breaks backpacking. We enjoyed hearing his stories while standing over the campfire. On Saturday, we hiked up to Mount Rogers and then backtracked to Grayson Highlands State Park, while two of the guys (Mike & Tom) continued on the A.T. to Damascus. The highlights of the trip were the beautiful balds, wild ponies, and massive rock formations. I think we all

could agree that this is one of our favorite sections to hike on the A.T. It is worth a return hike and definitely longer than a one-nighter. Hikers included: (see Mt. Rogers photo below, L to R) Tom Boyd, Greg Drone, Mike Rehart, Jay Nelson, and Megan Nelson.

*Click on Photo to enlarge*



On top of Mount Rogers, Virginia's highest mountain peak



Group photo along the A.T.



Wild ponies along the A.T.



Overlooking the mountains from our campsite



Sunset from our campsite

## **Backpack Report, Smokies 900 miler, Little River, March 23–25, 2007**

*G. S. Luttrell, reporting*

In February, when you plan a date in March for a backpack trip, it's just a roll of the dice for the weather. Well, March 23–25 was a winner: Sunny, 70s in the day, 40s at night, and a great bunch of hiking companions. This was an easy breakout trip with only 9.1 miles of backpacking and 14.4 miles of day hikes. The trails hiked included Little River to campsite # 30, Rough Creek, Sugarland Mountain, Huskey Gap (James hiked the entire length), and Cucumber Gap. This is a great area for wildflowers, including White Trillium, Trout Lilly, Phlox, Spring Beauty, Fringed Phacelia, Wood Anemone, Bloodroot, Hepatica, Rue-Anemone, and Fraser's Sedge. (See photos). Those enjoying this great long weekend: Taylor Pickard, Owen Holbrook, Randall Simpson, Kim Peters, James Foster, Nancy Wilson, Kent Wilson, Chuck Mather, and Garry Luttrell.

*Photos courtesy of Garry Luttrell and Kim Peters, click on an image to enlarge*



Group at start of hike



Lunchtime at campsite #24



Chuck negotiates a creek crossing



Taylor crossing creek on way to campsite #30



Owen almost falls into the creek! Just one wet foot.



Our fearless leader, Garry Luttrell



Tent camp



Hammock camp



Garry admires the view along the Sugarland Mountain trail



View from Sugarland Mountain Trail





Taking a break on the Rough Creek Trail



Rough Creek



Leaving campsite #24



Bloodroot



Fraser's Sedge



Hepatica



Rue Anemone



Trout Lily



White Trillium



Wild Turkey



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

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 24, 2007

**Purpose:** Trail Relocation

**Location:** Section 16b, North of Weedy Gap

**People:** Steve Banks, Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Bob Peoples, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Jeff Siirola, Dale Burns, Kevin O'Donnel, Jeff Peavers-Beck, Corey Bailey, Karyn Edwards, Phyllis Thompson, Shannon Hills, David Wood, Casandra Robinson, Caleb Denton, Claire Whitenack, Salamander, Reed Thomas, Travis Noah, Jeff Young, Harry Stenna, Addie Miller, Megan Bionn, Megan Preno, Sarah Maas, Mary Baker

**Summary:** Thanks to both the ASU and ETSU professors and students, plus a great turn out of TEHCC members, we built a significant quantity of sidehill trail.

**Reporting:** David Dunham

**Date:** March 27, 2007

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns, cut weeds, clean shelter, pick up trash

**Location:** Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** David Dunham, Carol Dunham

**Summary:** We removed 5 blowdowns, picked up trash around the lake, cleaned the shelter, and cut weeds from Shook Branch to Watauga Lake shelter.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** March 31, 2007

**Purpose:** ATC Southern Regional Management Committee meeting

**Location:** Blowing Rock, NC

**People:** Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** The ATC Southern Regional Management Committee is an annual meeting of the clubs, agency partners, and ATC staff that manage the AT south of Shenandoah National Park. The weekend began with a Partnership Hike showcasing our accessible relocation on the Osborne Tract. It received many good comments. The movie "A Walk in the Woods," which will be filmed this year for release in 2008, is expected to raise interest in the AT. The clubs could plan to lead numerous hikes around the time the movie comes out to enhance recruitment of new members and volunteers. The Deep South Regional Partnership Committee meeting coincides with SRMC. Bruce and Joe are members of that committee and participated in discussions about potential policies on wind energy facilities, geocaching, Trail Magic for thru-hikers, shelter and campsite design, and expanding the North Carolina AT license tag program to other states. Some of these topics are spearheaded by the ATC Stewardship Council. Bruce agreed to be a nominee for a two-year term on that council. Morgan Sommerville led a discussion on planning and staffing needs for the Deep South Regional Office over the next five years. On Sunday, the Konnarock Selection Committee decided on Konnarock projects for 2010 and 2011. We are slated to have 3 weeks of Konnarock in 2008, 2 weeks in 2009, 3 weeks in 2010, and 5 weeks in 2011.

**Reporting:** Bill Allen

**Date:** March 31, 2007

**Purpose:** Trail maintenance

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

**People:** Bill Allen, Judy Allen, Myra Grills

**Summary:** Judy and Myra were dropped off at the north end where Walnut Mountain Road crosses the AT and proceeded south. Bill drove around and went in by way of Elk River Falls and proceeded north. The trail was cleared of early growth and small limbs and trees that had fallen. Trash around the shelter was picked up and the old log book was replaced with a new one. Trail blazes look to be in good shape going both north and south. There were no large blowdowns blocking the trail.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 3, 2007

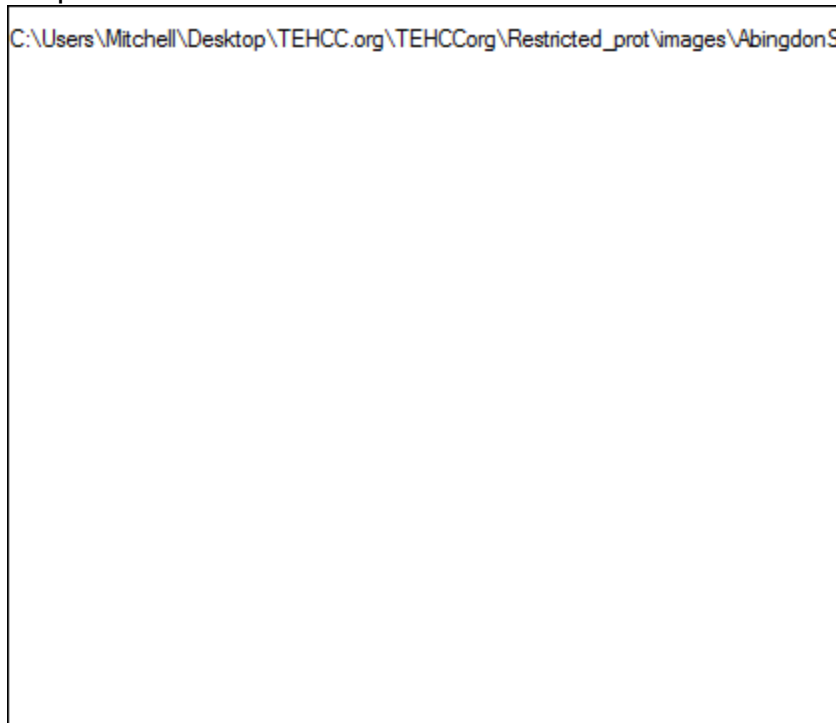
**Purpose:** Replace sleeping platform at Abingdon Gap Shelter



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

**People:** Steve Banks, Steven Banks, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Ben Trotter, HIKERS Lady Bug, Natural High, Otto, Robert Davis, Adam Bounds, Garrett Tovey

**Summary:** Thanks to the LL Bean grant to pay for materials and great help from club members and hikers, we completely replaced the sleeping platform at Abingdon Gap Shelter. We cut out the old log structure, wire bunks, and plywood top. We patched the holes in concrete blocks with fast setting concrete. Six locust posts were set into the ground for the supports. After we built the 2x6 framing, we attached it to walls with concrete screws. We also attached 4x4 lumber onto ground with rebar and attached hardware cloth so entire front underneath platform is closed. Finally, we capped the platform with 3/4 inch plywood. A crew also repaired the water source by installing a new pipe and cleaning out the pools.



Bill, Bruce, Lady Bug, and Natural High repairing the water source.

**Reporting:** Randall Simpson

**Date:** April 4, 2007

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 15, Carvers to Old Cloudland Motel Site

**People:** Randall Simpson, Lisa Simpson

**Summary:** We hung a new sign at Hughes Gap and cleaned water bars for the first mile. We clipped back growth, cleaned the shelter, and hauled out trash. A new shelter register was placed in the shelter. There are a few trees across the trail, but they are passable at this time. It was very cold and snowy at the top. All the blazes are in good shape.

**Reporting:** Dale Douthat

**Date:** April 4, 2007

**Purpose:** Regular maintenance

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

**People:** Dale Douthat, Cheryl Douthat, Seth Douthat

**Summary:** We clipped briars and picked up litter.

**Reporting:** Bill Stowell

**Date:** April 6, 2007

**Purpose:** Spring maintenance

**Location:** Section 19, Indian Grave Gap to USA Raft

**People:** Bill Stowell, Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We cut blowdowns and lopped Rotos from Indian Grave Gap to the USA Rafting place. The shelter roof, partially hit by the tree that was cut over the shelter, is leaking. The whole roof probably needs replacing. Also the switch back where the trail leaves Jones Branch for the steep climb, needs dug down or steps put in. There are several places on the steep climb section that could use rehabbing.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 10, 2007

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

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

**People:** Steve Banks, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart, Ben Trotter, HIKERS Sardine, Noodles, Otto

**Summary:** We added some finishing touches to trail that we had dug this spring and last fall. We prepared for the upcoming Saturday outing. After lunch we even dug 200 feet of new trail. We also fertilized the recently planted apple trees in the orchard.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 14, 2007

**Purpose:** Build a bridge

**Location:** Section 12d, Several hundred feet south of Campbell Hollow Rd

**People:** Carl Fritz

**Summary:** LL Bean has given us a grant to install a bridge across a muddy stream south of Campbell Hollow Rd. Today I built the bridge from 2x4s, so it is ready to carry to the site.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 18, 2007

**Purpose:** Relocate Trail

**Location:** Section 11b, About one mile north of Moreland Gap Shelter

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Chuck Mather, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Ben Trotter, and HIKERS Pooch, Jew Dog and Quarter Moon

**Summary:** We worked on a new relocation north of the shelter. We were able to dig 320 feet. Possibly one more good work day will finish this the final relocation currently planned on White Rocks. Also, Bruce and Bill trimmed some tree branches at a vista on the south side of the shelter.

**Reporting:** Steve Banks

**Date:** April 19, 2007

**Purpose:** Remove wire bunks from Abingdon Gap Shelter area

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

**People:** Steve Banks, Dale Kennedy ("Stonekicker")

**Summary:** I arrived at the shelter about 11:30am to remove the wire cloth from the logs of the old sleeping platform. After lunch, section hiker "Stonekicker" showed up, and together we finished demolishing the old sleeping platform and removing it from the shelter area. I also placed a new broom in the shelter.

**Reporting:** Michael Watts

**Date:** April 21, 2007

**Purpose:** Annual trail maintenance

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

**People:** John Nypaver, Susan Rook, Michael Watts

**Summary:** It was a beautiful sunny day. We clipped brush, cleared a few small blowdowns (thanks to the professional chainsaw crew who cleared the large trees earlier in the year), and replaced the logbook at Apple House.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** April 21, 2007

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

**Location:** Section 19, Chestoa to outfitter site

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We lopped brush and briars, cut small blowdowns, and painted blazes. There is a large dead pine blowdown near the railroad track. Removal with a chainsaw or axe is needed, but it is easy to get around without causing erosion. Hikers did not report blowdown problems on the Spivey to Nolichucky section.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 21, 2007

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

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

**People:** Steve Banks, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Kim Peters, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, ETSU Kevin O'Donnell, Tara Sprouls, Shanna Goddard, Elizabeth Herrick, Megan Freyer, Natalie Davis, Megan Cleaveland, Clint Price, Shelley Thompson, Caleb Denton, Cassandra Robinson, Karyn Edwards, Amber Owens, ASU Jenny Thomas, Matt Parsons, Eric Wooldridge, Weston Jones, Tyler Reese, Henry Blackford, Chad DellaMonica, Andy Kruse, Tim Paylor

**Summary:** Thanks to a great turn out of ETSU students, ASU Trail Crew and TEHC members, we were able to complete the sidehill trail digging just north of Weedy Gap. The turn out was in spite of ASU starting finals in two days and ETSU in nine days. This completes the already approved relocations north of Iron Mt. Gap. Without too many obstacles, this crew dug about 1100 feet of trail! The day was a little longer than ideal to complete this relocation. But hikers were already using this new section by noon.

**Reporting:** CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** April 23, 2007

**Purpose:** To clear reported blowdowns and check trail

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

**People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Bill Mitchell, Daryl Loyd, Rick Culbertson, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cut 7 trees from the trail and 2 dead standing trees near the trail. We

repaired and cut roots from the treadway, cleaned waterbars, and lopped stemmy growth that was encroaching upon the trail.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 23, 2007

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Bob walked this section and cut out small blowdowns with a hand saw. Grass in Canute Place is only 3 inches high.

**Reporting:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** April 24, 2007

**Purpose:** Clear blowdown, explore better way to reach Section 2, and fix shelter floor

**Location:** Section 1 near Damascus; Dennis Cove

**People:** Bill Elderbrock, Bruce Cunningham

**Summary:** (1) We cut and cleared a big pine blowdown on trail Section 1 near Damascus. (2) In an attempt to find a better way to reach Section 2, we explored two forest service roads south of Backbone Rock. The first road crossed a stream, running full. We decided not to cross, but will come back and explore at a later date. It is probably a good way to access AT Section 2 if the dirt road is as good as the next road we found. We were able to explore the second road with no difficulty. We drove about 1.5 miles, parked in a field and walked about 1.5 miles up hill on an old road that could be driven with a little clearing work. We ran out of time before reaching the AT Section 2, but it couldn't have been far ahead. We will come back and establish a trail to Section 2. (3) We drove to Dennis Cove and walked back to the shelter with tools to repair the floor. We found only one hole where the floor had been fixed before. We brought the old broken patch out, will make a new patch, and return. The rest of the shelter and the surrounding area were in good shape.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 25, 2007

**Purpose:** Check trail junctions for clarity

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton trail head to Dennis Cove

**People:** Bob Peoples and HIKER Chico

**Summary:** It was reported that hikers were mistakenly taking blue blazed trail to shelter rather than white blazed trail to Laurel Fork falls. Everything seemed in order. There was a double white blaze before junction, a visible sign at junction, and blue blazes on the high water trail. At the bottom of the hill, Bob and Chico blue blazed the trail leading to falls. They also added white blazes to some rocks on the AT.

**Reporting:** CB Willis for the Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** April 27, 2007

**Purpose:** To refresh blazes

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap south

**People:** Sandra Perry, CB Willis

**Summary:** We refreshed blazes for the first mile of the trail and cleared debris. Through hikers advised they had seen no problems as to blowdowns, etc on our sections.

**Reporting:** Bruce Cunningham

**Date:** April 28, 2007

**Purpose:** Miscellaneous jobs

**Location:** Various (see Summary below)

**People:** Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham

**Summary:** (1) We walked in at Dennis Cove to the shelter and repaired the hole in the sleeping floor. Since we were there, we picked up trash (really in good shape, only half bag) and freshened all blue blazes. As we walked out we freshened the white blazes back to Dennis Cove. As we got in the car it started raining. (2) We drove to 19E and installed a new AT sign. (3) We picked up 12 bags of trash at Bear Branch crossing. The trail, between trail and road, and 5 feet to left of trail are OK; but there are still 4 to 5 bags down hill. We found something worse than picking up trash, and that is picking up WET TRASH in the rain! (4) We picked up trash between Isaacs Cemetery and road, and cut and removed 2 small blowdowns. There is one large blowdown just below the cemetery. (5) We drove the "Hard Core" motor route from 19E south to check the mileage, signs, etc. to make map for "hard core" days.