

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

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<u>COMING EVENTS</u> <u>July-August</u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Jul 10-14	Konnarock Crew: Roan Highlands Relocation	Maintenance	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Jul 12-13	Mount Leconte Lodge, Smokies	B/3/B	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
July 12	Nolichucky River Cleanup	Worthwhile	Ed Montgomery	423-247-7795
Jul 17	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike	Rating	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
Jul 18-19	Backpack - AT: Big Pine/Walnut Mountain area	AA/2/B	Tim Schaefer	423-229-6244
Jul 19	Beginners Canoe and Kayak Trip		Ed Montgomery	423-247-7795
July 24-28	Konnarock Crew: Roan Highlands Relocation	Maintenance	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
July 26	Damascus Crawl (NEW DATE)	C/4D	Jake Mitchell	423-963-8654
Jul 31-Aug 4	Konnarock Crew: Unaka Mt. Relocation	Maintenance	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Aug 8-9	AT: Carvers Gap to Iron Mt. Gap	AA/2/A	Jake Mitchell	423-963-8654
Aug 11(Mon)	TEHCC Lunch 'n Learn: Backpacking gear	Informative	Tim Schaefer	423-229-6244

	demonstration			
Aug 23	Nolichucky Gorge 1st Timers Trip		Randy VanDerAa	423-245-9821
Aug 23	Carver's Gap Wild Berry Picking Hike	C/4/C	Tim Schaefer	423-229-6244

For more information, see: [TEHCC Schedule](#).



Kingsport Fun Fest Moonlight Hike Bays Mountain Park, Thursday, July 17, 2008

Steve Falling reporting

This year, Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club is again co-sponsoring the Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. This popular Fun Fest event attracts 300-500 participants who hike the 2.5 miles around the lake. We are seeking at least twelve volunteers to help count the hikers and keep them on the right trail. Volunteers will need to be at the Bays Mountain Park dam by 7:30 pm to receive instructions. The hike begins at 8:00 and finishes about 10:00 pm. Volunteers should bring a flashlight, good walking shoes or boots, and raingear if rain is a possibility. The volunteer who comes closest to guessing the number of hikers will win a free gift from the Bays Mountain Park gift shop. Please contact Steve Falling (423-239-5502) to sign up to help or for more information.

Calling all TEHCC Members – Help make the Tennessee Appalachian Trail License Plate a Reality!



The Tennessee legislature gave the nod for the creation of a Tennessee specialty license plate for the Appalachian Trail. Funds produced from the sale of the plate will be shared with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) for the support and management of the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee.

We are calling on all TEHCC members to step up and sign up for one or more Tennessee AT specialty license plates. We need 1,000 paid applications before the state will produce the plate.

ATC is collecting funds and applications for the Tennessee A.T. license plate. Information is available on their website at www.appalachiantrail.org/tnlicenseplate. ATC and volunteers from the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC), Smoky Mountain Hiking Club (SMHC), and Tennessee Trails Association are working hard to reach the goal of at least 1000 plates sold within the next year.

The license plates will cost \$35 for a standard A.T. license plate and \$70 for a personalized plate – in addition to the regular vehicle registration fee. ATC will receive

\$15.56 from each plate purchased or renewed. **ATC is thanking the first 1,000 applicants for a license plate who are not current ATC members by giving them a one-time annual membership to the Conservancy once the plates go into production.** The membership, valued at \$35, includes a subscription to ATC's bi-monthly magazine *A.T. Journeys*, and discounts at its Ultimate A.T. Store.

The design of the plate – featuring a hiker on the crest of a mountain and the contemporary logo of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy – was created by University of Tennessee graphic design student Matt Montgomery. While still subject to review by the state Department of Transportation, the organization and its volunteers anticipate that the design will be approved.

For information on obtaining an A.T license plate or to volunteer to spread the word, go to www.appalachiantrail.org/tnlicenseplate or contact the ATC regional office in Asheville N.C. at Tel: 828- 254-3708. TEHCC contacts Ed Montgomery, Jake Mitchell, and Joe DeLoach can also provide information and assistance.

Help Wanted: Membership Coordinator



The club is seeking one or two individuals to maintain our membership database. Duties include adding the names and contact info of new members to an Excel database, sending out email notices, and printing and mailing newsletters to members without internet access.

If you are interested in helping the club by taking on any or all of these responsibilities, please contact any member of the [Steering Committee](#).

Reminder to Potential Eastman Chemical Company Retirees

If you plan to retire from Eastman and would like to continue receiving the TEHCC newsletter, please send an e-mail note to with your home e-mail address (if you have e-mail at home) as well as your home street address. We prefer to send the newsletter via e-mail to save us time and money, and so you can receive it (and any late hike notices) in a more timely manner. However, we would also like your street address so we can still reach you if your e-mail address changes. Thanks.



Anita Natesh
James Malony
Sarah Hooker
Janice Greene

TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Brent Borden
Lindsey Thrash
Zachary Lee
Mitch Chastain

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

For more information see [TEHCC Schedule](#).

Konnarock Crew - Roan Highlands and Unaka Mountain Relocations

(Scheduled for July 10-14, July 24-28, and July 31-August 4, 2008)

Leaders: , (423-753-7263) and , (423-477-4669)

Rating: Maintenance

We are working on two projects with the Konnarock Crew in 2008 – beginning a series of Trail relocations in the Roan Highlands and completing a series of relocations near Unaka Mountain. Our first week of Konnarock in June of this year and the July 10-14 and July 24-28 weeks are on a relocation which will eliminate a steep set of steps descending Little Hump Mountain towards Bradley Gap. Hikers have bypassed these steps for many years, resulting in a slick, muddy section that is at best unpleasant and in bad weather can be a lot worse. We have flagged a relocation that preserves the great views from the summit of Little Hump, stays longer in the grassy meadows, then descends on a much more gentle side-hill grade into a saddle near the northern peak of Little Hump, Big Ridge. A second short relocation Trail north of the major one also bypasses some old steps which have become obstructing rocks. We hope to celebrate completion of these two relocations with everyone's favorite task, painting the blazes, during the last week. We also hope for what truly will be a celebration upon completion of the challenging Unaka Mountain Relocation during the week of July 31-August 4. Many weeks have already been spent building new Trail through this very rocky terrain. We believe the worst part of this relocation has been completed, and while for both projects much of the tasks involve physically demanding digging and rockwork, there are also less demanding tasks such as lopping and clearing brush. We'd love to have more volunteers come out and help. Konnarock arrives on Thursdays, but most of those days are used to haul in tools and set up; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are the main work days and we will have organized trips on those days. We meet at 8:00 in Colonial Heights and 8:30 in Johnson City for the work trips; bring lunch, work gloves, plenty of water, and bring sunscreen and/or wear a hat for protection in the open areas. Please contact Joe or Carl if you're interested in helping so we'll look for you, establish meeting locations, and have the tools needed.



Nolichucky River Cleanup and Celebration, July 12, 2008

Leader: Ed Montgomery, 423-247-7795

Rating: Worthwhile

The **Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts** are hosting the annual Nolichucky River cleanup at **Riverpark Campground** (formerly Big Rock Campground) on **Saturday, July 12**. Registration starts at 11:00 AM in the Gazebo. Sign in and receive your trash bags and gloves donated by the **Tennessee Valley Authority**. As in the past, we have

support from **Cherokee Adventures**. Participants will be assigned into Clean Teams and provided maps of clean-up locations. There are plenty of clean-up opportunities of key areas for non-boaters as well as areas designated for individuals with their own boats or rafts. Our friends with the **U.S. Forest Service** will once again dispose of the trash that is collected.

FREE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT!!!! After the clean-up, there will be food and live music at the **Riverpark Campground's Pavilion**. Bring a lawn chair, kick back with a cold one, and know that you did something good for the river we all enjoy so much.

WIN PRIZES FROM OUR SPONSORS!!!! During the entertainment, we will be drawing tickets for fantastic prizes. Prizes are being supplied by the following generous sponsors: **Landmark Learning, Patagonia, Cherokee Adventures, Mahoney's Outfitters, Alpine Ski Shop, Mountain Sports Ltd., Astral, Black Dome Mountain Outfitters, NRS, Nolichucky Hostel, and The Fly Shop of Tennessee**

For Camping Reservations Call:
Riverpark Campground
Bruce & Nancy Gantenbein
(423)753-5359

Helpful information: Showers and restrooms are on premises. Be prepared with appropriate footwear, sunscreen, bug repellent, etc. Rafts, pickup trucks, and trailers will be helpful and appreciated. Consider bringing a packed lunch, boating equipment, rain gear, chairs, family, and friends. During the post clean-up activities, please keep alcoholic beverages in coozies or cups.

For more information contact at 423-743-7855, or Ed Montgomery at 423-247-7795

Backpack: AT hike Big Pine/Walnut Mountain area, July 18th-19th, 2008

Leader: , 423-229-6244

Rating: AA/3/B

I've never seen the new Mountaineer Falls Shelter (it looks pretty nice in the pictures) so I've planned a trip to hike out, stay the night, run off on some side trails the next day and come back. The current plan is to leave Friday afternoon and hike from 19E on the AT trail north to the shelter. On Saturday I'm planning on a hike down to Elk River Falls, then return to the AT and back to 19E.

Ultimately, I'm interested in getting out for the weekend and would enjoy company so I am very open to make any changes to accommodate anyone interested in joining me. I'm flexible on everything from distance, starting points, direction, speed, starting Saturday instead of Friday, two nights out, etc... I am happy to hike with novices and or experienced. I have gear to share so the complete novice need only to rent a pack and bring sleep gear, shoes, clothes, and food. Try to respond soon as the closer we are to hiking and if people indicate they want to join me the harder it will be to change.

I will be bringing a very friendly Great Dane.

Please contact Tim Schaefer if you're interested and to discuss meeting and travel arrangements.

Damascus Crawl, July 26, 2008 (Rescheduled from June 14, 2008)

Leader: , 423-963-8654

Rating: C/4/C

Do you know someone who doesn't enjoy seeking fellowship with the wilderness? The Damascus Crawl is the event for you! Consider it a very sneaky way to get that "someone" to hike the Appalachian Trail without ever leaving the comforts of the city life and for you to window shop some of the fine hiking retailers of Damascus. Plans are to meet at the standard Colonial Heights meeting spot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank at 3pm. From there, we will carpool to Damascus. Anyone interested in meeting somewhere along the way is welcome also. Upon arrival, we will park at the Water Street parking area beside the city park and commence the Crawl. We will leisurely stroll the AT through the city park, downtown Damascus and along US 58 until the AT ascends into the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. We will then retrace our steps back to downtown and patronize one of Damascus's fine eating establishments. Return time to Kingsport should be between 8 and 10pm. If you are interested in duping your "someone" into hiking the AT and enjoying a good meal, contact , 423-963-8654.

Backpack - AT: Carvers Gap to Iron Mt. Gap, August 8-9, 2008

Leader: , 423-963-8654

Rating: C/I/C

We will be hiking approximately 15 miles total. This will be a point to point trip from Carver's Gap to Iron Mountain Gap on the AT. We will have a detour to Roan High Bluff to satisfy SB6000 requirements. Hike will begin on Friday afternoon with the ascent of Roan High Knob from Carver's Gap after shuttling cars. Upon reaching the Roan High Knob shelter, the crew will enjoy a relaxing evening or go to Roan High Bluff. If Roan High Bluff isn't visited in the evening, it will be the first thing in the morning. From there we will make our way to Iron Mountain Gap and be home in time for supper.

Lunch & Learn - Backpacking Gear Demonstration

August 11, 2008, 11:30-1:00, B310 Eastman Toy Reid Center, Room 219

Leader: , 423-229-6244 and , 423-963-8654

Rating: Informative

If you've ever been out hiking and came across a campsite or shelter and thought "I would like to try backpacking but I don't know how to get started" or if you're just curious how others do it, join Jake and Tim for a discussion on overnight backpacking gear. They're going to bring in their loaded backpacks and lay everything out and talk about what they bring, why they bring it, and how much it costs to buy as well as possible alternatives. There will be some sample checklists with meal plans detailed for people to take. If there's time left over they'll move on to trip planning and backwoods safety. So please join us even if it's just to meet others in the club without committing a day for a hike.

Carver's Gap Wild Berry Picking, August 23, 2008

Leader: , 423-229-6244

Rating: C/I/C

We'll start at Carver's Gap and take the AT trail north towards Grassy Ridge as far as needed to keep filling baskets. The plan is to pick until our buckets are full, the berries are gone, or we just want to go home. Maybe we'll bring gear to make pancakes or a cobbler with fresh berries for lunch!

There will likely be a very friendly Great Dane dog, and a toddler, hopefully happy in a backpack, on this trip.

Please contact Tim Schaefer if you're interested.

For the Record, Activity and Trip Reports

29th Anniversary Bluestone River Trip Report, May 8-10, 2008

Ed Montgomery reporting

Our fearless trip leader, Terry Dougherty, and his super life / paddling partner coordinated and led another great Bluestone River trip. This year's trip was highlighted by an excellent river run on Saturday, field promotions, Happy Hour, top shelf meals, shuffle board playoffs, and outstanding fellowship. My kids have grown up making this trip for the past 18 and 21 years respectively. It is a family favorite and we look forward to it every year. Pipestem State Park is truly a special place and we enjoy all the activities (paddling, horseback riding, mountain biking, golf and more), tram ride, Mountain Creek Lodge, and the Bluestone River. We highly recommend this annual club trip or just a visit up to Pipestem for a family weekend getaway.

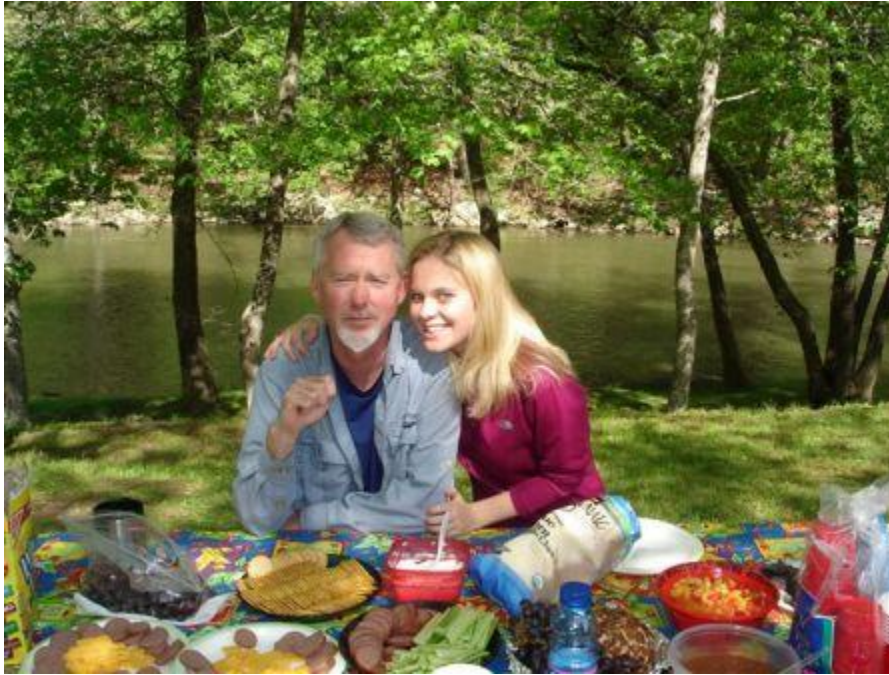
We arrived Friday night (May 9, 2008) and enjoyed an impromptu get together with the Loveless clan down by the river. It was good to have Tom Loveless and his family back on this trip. His son, Will, had just been accepted to NC State and he was on cloud 9.

Congratulations to Will! Tom's sister, Jean, also made the trip and it was pleasure visiting with her, her son, and new daughter-in-law. Tom's Pop was smiling to see his son and grandson on the river and his Uncle Frank was happy to see his old Bluehole canoe make another run. This is the famous Dewey Fuller boat that is considered a hybrid because of the amount of fiberglass that has been added over the years.

The next morning at 9:00am sharp we all met at the parking lot for the annual river safety talk by the trip leader and a group photo. We moved a few boats around and proceeded to the put-in. After a little drive and call to Big Reese to check the river level (413 cfs), we arrived at a barricade blocking our access to the put-in due to a bridge being out. This is where I receive my first field promotion to Assistant Trip Leader in order to take the heat off the Trip Leader for not being aware of this obstruction. I cannot believe the State of West Virginia did not notify Terry about it. After a few jokes and a quick and easy carry, we were on the river. My boat was selected as lead boat, which put a little pressure on me and my paddling buddy, Eugene Dobbs. Our theme song after the first rapid was "Pinball Wizard." We are not sure if this is because we were bouncing off rocks or because we looked like we were paddling with poor vision. We were happy to survive this class III without an upset. We continued at a fast pace and had several open boaters leave beauty marks on rocks. We had four Bluehole canoes, one sit-on-top, and one kayak on the trip. Everybody paddled well and no one got into serious trouble. Luckily, Theresa carried Terry and kept him out of trouble. You may remember that last year he pinned his boat because Theresa could not paddle; someone had left her PFD at home. I hope bringing this up does not rekindle any old memories and result in harsh words for our Trip Leader.

Highlights of the trip were great weather, beautiful scenery, an eagle sighting, and an outstanding lunch. We arrived at the ultimate take-out (the lodge lawn below our rooms) where the trip leader informed us that we were 10 minutes shy of the all-time record (4 hours?). A great river flow, good paddling, no upsets, and fine weather made for a quick trip. We retired to our rooms for a quick beverage, shower, and a little rest before Happy

Hour.



Happy Hour has become a very important part of the trip and everyone looks forward to it. In fact, Terry has put the coordination of this important activity in my hands since he knows I'm fond of social gatherings with cool drinks, fine food, and embellished river stories. This one proved to be one of our best with everyone bringing drinks, food, and stories to share. We did miss my partner, Tom Pridgen, and the Haitian did forget Buster's

homemade appetizers. I heard the Haitian got a little lecture on packing and will not forget anything in the future. My partner plans to be back next year and we expect big things from him as always. We finished Happy Hour a little late with a few folks going for dessert and a few others for a light meal. We capped off the evening with a very enjoyable shuffle board championship match.

The next day the weather turned bad and we decided to tram the boats up and get ready for the drive home. Terry instructed the tram operators on how we have handled this unique portage over the last 29 years, as they seemed a little confused on the proper technique. We got the boats up top, loaded, and headed out before lunch. It was a great trip and we hope everyone gets to join us for the BIG ONE next year!!!

AT Backpack: Grayson Highlands, May 31-June 1, 2008

Jake Mitchell reporting

For all of you that considered going, but decided against it because of the chance of rain – YOU MISSED OUT! The forecast for the Saturday and Sunday trip was not promising, but we chanced it anyway and our gamble paid off. We started our trip by meeting at the VA 603 trail head at Fox Creek near Troutdale, VA around 10am on Saturday. From there, Bill Fuller and his wife Shannon Combs rode with me (Jake Mitchell) and Johnny Jobe to the Elk Garden trail head along VA 600. The trail head was very nice and reminded us of Carver's Gap. The AT ascended from the road towards Mount Rogers. After crossing Elk Garden and Briar Ridges and climbing the side of Mount Rogers, we arrived near the Thomas Knob Shelter at the Mount Rogers spur trail. The crew then got off the AT and walked the 0.5-mile spur trail to the not-so-glorious summit of Mount Rogers, where we were the highest people in Virginia for a few minutes while we ate lunch.

After leaving the summit, we checked out Thomas Knob Shelter and then started soaking in the beauty of the Grayson Highlands. We walked along Wilburn Ridge and were continually blown away by the phenomenal views. The Trail was very rocky, which made for

slow hiking, but the views made it all worth it. We laid out on many of the rock outcroppings soaking in the scenery. We were then excited to navigate the Fat Man's Squeeze, and were all skinny enough to make it through.

From there we started the descent into Grayson Highlands State Park. Since the weather was good and camping was not allowed at Wise Shelter, we went 0.3 miles past the shelter and just into Mount Rogers NRA to camp by Wilson Creek. We set up shop in a beautiful grove where several other hikers were also spending the night. We enjoyed a great couple of hours relaxing by the creek, talking about how to take cool pictures, and wondering if the rain was going to flood us overnight.

Upon a beautiful sunrise, we were all surprised to wake up to dry tents! We enjoyed a cool, windy evening of good rest listening to Wilson Creek. After eating breakfast and breaking camp, we started our ascent of Stone Mountain (not the one in Atlanta). It gave us even more spectacular views as we walked along its beautiful open fields before arriving at the Scales. At the Scales, we encountered Tony, the ridge runner for the area, who told us about the Scales and what we had left in store for us. After a brief history lesson, we crossed Pine Mountain – the last mountain before arriving at Fox Creek. On the top of Pine Mountain, we saw the fourth herd of ponies we had seen in 24 hours.

These were the last ponies and the last open area we encountered on our hike. After leaving Pine Mountain, we started tasting lunch, so we kicked it into high gear down to Fox Creek. We hiked the remaining three miles very quickly with a brief stop at Old Orchard Shelter before arriving at Fox Creek around 11:30am. Overall, we hiked about 18 miles (17 on AT and one on the Mount Rogers spur trail). We were all very thankful for the great weather and were convinced that we should visit the area often.

Photos courtesy of Jake Mitchell, click on photo to view full size



(L-R) Johnny, Jake, Shannon, Bill on summit of Mount Rogers



Shannon makes it through Fat Man's Squeeze



Johnny contemplates life and is thankful for bringing his crocs to wear in camp



Ponies on Pine Mountain

Lunch & Learn – The New TEHCC.org Website, June 10, 2008

Tim Schaefer reporting

This was the first, at least in recent memory, of what's shaping up to be more regular club meetings. In fact we've already scheduled one for August, check it out! The first one had a good turn out with nearly 20 attending. We began by discussing recent and upcoming trips and everyone's interest in being part of the club. From there we moved on to the main presentation. Jake walked everyone through the new website showing off all of the cool features that him and Bill Fuller worked very hard on (and continue to). Everything from advanced mapping to improved calendars. It's live so check it out, tehcc.org, and send a message to the webmasters, webmaster@tehcc.org, and let them know what you think.

Boys Club AT Hike to Grassy Ridge, June 16, 2008

Collins Chew reporting

The Kingsport Boys and Girls Club has a new, Summer enhancement program designed to give several boys more experience with adult men. They have fished, bicycled, done service, and, on June 16, hiked on the AT from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge and return, about 5 miles. They enjoyed the hike, particularly rolling a measuring wheel and establishing a track and waypoints with the club GPS Unit. A map was prepared for each, showing the GPS Track and waypoints on a topo map. It was a beautiful day with distant scenes and many flowers in bloom, particularly rhododendron and flame azalea. Not all the boys in the program were able to go. Hikers: Boys: Sean Jovens and Victor Ramirez. Adults: Jason Hinkle, Charles Nitschke, Bob Schrader, and Collins Chew.



A.T. Section Maintenance and Special Project Reports

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 18-19, 2008

Purpose: **Hard Core Event!**

Location: Little Bald Knob just south of Iron Mountain Gap, Cherry Gap, and Grassy Ridge

People: TEHCC members, affiliates and guests: Steven Banks, Steve Banks, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Daisy, Joe DeLoach, Otto, Andrew Downs, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Leanna Joyner, Julie Judkins, Jake Mitchell, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Pat Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Chad Tate, Ben Trotter.

Hikers: Forrest Phil, J-Dog, Yazzi, THDR, Shakedown Cruise, Gaia, Tangent, Colonel Mustard, The Professor, Hobo Joe, Just Jack, Lugnut, Leftfield, Karunamiel, Two Beers, Tank, Smiles Davis, Hotflashes, Windjammer, Poker, Cannibal, Slow Barbara, Jack Fahey, Bill Flowers, R&R, Cocoa, Monkey, Boo Boo, Vagabond, Just Mike, You Go Girl!, Mountain Dew, Feather, FedEx, Babu Simba, Honey Dew, Gra Squrl, Voo Doo, Red Blaze, George Joachim, Warren, Tailgate, Kathleen Kolos, Dragon Slayer, Pipesmoke, Mrs. Pipesmoke, Mad Hatter, Party Girl, Nest, Bilge Rat, Muldinda Linde, Chainsaw, Tony

Massey, Hot Tang, Gaited/Thickrod, Mouth, AquaMaria, Kirk, Genuine Draft, Camo, Snackies, Train Wreck, Pearl, Mule, Ox, Mrs. Ox, Daddy-O, Peacock, Robert Huey-Plavinski, Buttercup, Hopeful, Earthbound, Skittles, Luna, Feather, Marco Solo, Bearpaw, Baggins, The Brain, Dartman, Ramblin Man, Padre, Firefeet, Unknown, Crutch, Bookworm, Baltimore Jack, Zemora Terah, The General, Duck, Maw-ee, Okie Girl, Wing-Heart, Bag Lady, Chef Paul, Crispy, Dude, Wild Oats, Rambo, Wonder.

Summary: The traditions of Hard Core continued at the eighth annual Damascus Hard Core. The Club members and hikers exceeded expectations. Volunteering were 31 club members and 100 hikers for a total of 1975 hours, making this event very successful. On Sunday, 85 enthusiastic hikers and 26 Club members worked. On Monday there were even more hikers at 91 plus 18 Club members.

On Sunday we dug sidehill relocations near Little Bald Knob just south of Iron Mountain Gap. "Camo" with a small crew built a rock crib on the relocation at Cherry Gap. The new volunteers to this event learned the meaning of Hard Core when it rained and misted most of the day. A forty minute shower early in the work day tested their mettle and made everyone muddy. Fortunately, the heavy rain quit until supper time. The hikers painted blazes and opened the two relocations totaling 2000 feet near Little Bald Knob.

On Monday with clear skies, strong breezes and GREAT views, we dug sidehill relocations near Grassy Ridge heading toward Stan Murray Shelter. Some of the hikers remarked that the views were not visible when they hiked through this section, so they appreciated this opportunity. There was a lot more rock work here than we anticipated. The hikers were up to the challenge and many demonstrated their rock building skills. At least three major cribs and about twelve steps were installed. "Camo" led the major effort to get across a wet area with a huge rock crib. This new trail walks very smoothly. Again the hikers blazed these two sections totaling 1800 feet and opened them officially.

Thanks to everyone for achieving these major trail improvements to eliminate steep and eroding sections of the AT. All participants received a Damascus Hard Core patch or rocker. Most everyone received specially designed t-shirts and new participants received caps donated by several hikers.

As usual several people deserve special mention for making this Hard Core event a success.

- Bob Peoples is the motivator and logistics man, plus he finds or provides housing for all the hikers. A majority stayed at Kinora Hostel. Pat Peoples not only helped with the housing, but also coordinated with Baltimore Jack and Chef Paul to prepare the meal on Monday evening. Dinner included 31 pounds of spaghetti, soup, salad, garlic bread, and dessert.
- The North Carolina AT License Plate Fund provided the money to cover the Monday evening meal. If you live in North Carolina consider getting a specialty AT license plate.
- Bruce and Mary Cunningham provided most of the meal for everyone on Sunday evening. Mary prepared barbecue, coleslaw, baked beans and fresh strawberry short cake for about 110 people. Pat Peoples and Ed Oliver prepared salad and potato salad. Several also prepared strawberries.
- Tim Stewart and Bob Peoples signed up hikers at Damascus Trail Days.
- Mike Rice of USFS Watauga Ranger District loaned us some pulaskis and fire rakes. Mike Hupko coordinated the movement of these tools.
- Kim Peters and Joe DeLoach were prepared to transport hikers with a 12 passenger Eastman van kindly loaned by Eastman Chemical Company. Bruce Cunningham also had his van available on

Sunday. Tim Stewart and Ben Trotter transported hikers during the entire event. Limited transporting was needed because of all the personal vehicles again this year.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 28, 2008

Purpose: Cut blowdown and improve Trail relocations

Location: Little Rock Knob and Devils Creek Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: For the second week in a row, the "Drought Busters" took a half-inch of rain during the day while working on improving new trail south of Iron Mt. Gap. We added some water bars and steps and redug some trail sections. We cut the large dead tree standing at "Camo's" rock crib. Tim and Carl went to Devils Creek Gap. The large blowdown was in a burn area but appeared to be a natural fall. The Forest Service had cut this blowdown in the last 24 hours.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: May 29, 2008

Purpose: Clear blowdown and lop weeds

Location: Section 9b, Near the Railroad Grade on Pond Mountain

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I returned with a bigger crosscut saw to work some more on the large blowdown just above the railroad grade. I got one of the prongs cut out so that it's now clear enough to get around without having to leave the trail. I still have a little more work to do to get it completely off the trail. I also lopped some weeds on my way back to the car.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 2, 2008

Purpose: Dig trail relocation

Location: Section 14a, South of Yellow Mountain Gap

People: Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Liz Armstrong, Tim Grishkowsky, Melanie Armstrong, John Phillips, Brandon Smith, William Ryan, Shelby Murrell, Kate Muzijakovich, Grace Morris, Ben Johnson, Zach Sheffert, Andrew Romans, Sarah Moyer, Darla Black, Daniel Rajan, Heather Storm, Tyler Haga, Chrisian Oldham, Emily Maddox, E. Johnson

Summary: A Venturing Scout troop took a day from their 70-mile hike to build the AT. We met them at Overmountain Shelter and worked on the new trail relocation south of Yellow Mountain Gap. With these sixteen late teens and their four adult leaders being persistent, we were able to build 680 feet of trail. Some minor rock work was required, but the biggest task was removing all the beech roots and sprouts.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 4, 2008

Purpose: Complete blazing of our sections

Location: Section 18, Beauty Spot to Deep Gap

People: Bob Miller, CB Willis

Summary: We refreshed blazes on this section; so we have now completed the blazes from Indian Grave Gap to Deep Gap and will be working to finish our sections in the next two weeks. We found the trail in fine condition with the weeds immature. Two through-hikers were very complimentary of the trail condition.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: June 4, 2008

Purpose: Check blowdowns and trim back spring growth

Location: Section 12a, Hostel to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: I hiked half of my assigned section from hostel to Walnut Mountain Road, trimming back spring growth of branches, briars, and mountain laurel. Special attention was given to branches at eye level. I used a hand saw to cut about a half-dozen small blowdowns; fortunately nothing I couldn't handle myself. This section is now in good condition.

Reporting: Michael Ray

Date: June 4, 2008

Purpose: Mow and do general maintenance

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

People: Dale, Cheryl and Seth Douthat, Sam Robinette, Steve Poteat, Michael Ray

Summary: We used three string trimmers to mow the grass on our section. One small blowdown was cleared off the trail and we clipped several branches and limbs. One bag of trash was picked up at the Bear Branch Road crossing. There was no sign of recent ATV use on this section as has been in the past. At the end of our work day, we met six hikers at the Bear Branch Road crossing. The four I spoke with were through-hikers. A middle age couple had started their hike in mid March. Two early-twenties men had started their hike in early April. The relo on our section is very nice, thanks to all who worked on this.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 9, 2008

Purpose: Trim and lop summer weeds

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

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

Summary: The weeds don't seem as bad this year. However, Apple Orchard grass was thick. The spring at Apple Orchard is flowing well. We saw about 15 northbound hikers.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 10, 2008

Purpose: Cut weeds and blowdowns; paint blazes

Location: Iron Mt Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We did our annual maintenance on Iron Mt. from Iron Mt. Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter. We removed some minor blowdowns. Some step-overs or walk-arounds are still there. We did get most of the lopping done. Blazes were painted from Hurley Hollow to Iron Mt Shelter; the rest are fine. Water sources are drying, but active, except for the stream two miles south of Vandeventer Shelter. We cut weeds that seemed less than normal, but we were a little early. We got home before dark and did not get wet on the mountain. We met about 18 hikers; so traffic is still heavy. Thanks for the extra volunteer effort today.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 11, 2008

Purpose: Summer trail maintenance

Location: Section 18, From switchback 230 to Indian Grave Gap

People: Ralph Bible, Carol Carr, Gil Derouen, Harry Ford, Kent Gangshirt, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Lou Haase, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Carl Kincheloe, Jerry Mayne, Bob Miller, Susan Peters, Shelton Thompson, Fred Wetzel, CB Willis

Summary: We cut and lopped summer weeds. Trash was picked up at Beauty Spot and where the trail crosses FS230. We painted blazes 0.6 miles switchback on south side of Unaka to Deep Gap and refreshed blue markings to two springs. Approximately 350 feet of treadway was rebuilt just north of Indian Grave Gap.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 12, 2008

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Kingsport

People: Collins Chew, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, and Kim Peters

Summary: Konnarock will stay at the Yellow Mountain Barn while working in the Roan Highlands this summer. The relocation planned south of Damascus is still awaiting approval. We plan to use Appalachian State there for our annual big outing on October 4 and would like to start preliminary clearing in August or September. Joe will continue followup with W. J. Cober in the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has offered to install bear cables for hanging food at shelters north of the Smokies. The Carolina Mountain Club is already installing some, using a more robust and expensive system than used in the Smokies, with funding from the North Carolina AT license plate program. We are going to study their design and compare to those used elsewhere. CMC has had bear problems the last two years; we had some reports last year though none this year. We'll ask TWRA and the Forest Service about installing one set at the No Business Knob Shelter where we had the most reports in 2007. Most of our shelters are not in North Carolina and would not be eligible for the NC license plate grants, and in general we would like to start slow with this installation and see how they perform. The Club initiatives on the Tennessee AT license plate and new website were reviewed with the AT Committee, which had good comments about the new website design. We want to preserve on the new site information on the existing site; for example the photo gallery by Trail section. We learned from the Google map on the new site that what we have called Watauga Dam Road for at least 35 years is actually Wilbur Dam Road. Collins will change the name in the next data book and guidebook editions. The AT Committee agreed that some Club tools could be used for repair efforts at Buffalo Mountain after the fire there, and some members volunteered to help on trail rehabilitation.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 16, 2008

Purpose: Complete regular spring maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to switchback in USFS 230

People: Ralph Bible, Carol Carr, Gil Derouen, Kent Gangshirt, Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Lou Haase, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Daryl Loyd, Jerry Mayne, Franklin Montenegro, Bob Miller, Dave McMillin, CB Willis, John Willis

Summary: We trimmed and lopped summer weeds and rebuilt approximately 100 feet of

trail by removing roots and leveling the treadway. We removed trash from the shelter, removed several small trees from trail, and painted blazes on the new unopened section of trail being constructed by Konnarock on the north side of Unaka Mountain.

Reporting: Kat Johnson

Date: June 16, 2008

Purpose: Flag relocation

Location: Section: 7, North of Wilbur Dam Road

People: Ed Oliver, Kat Johnson

Summary: We finished flagging the relocation north of Wilbur Dam Road

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: June 17, 2008

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley, Beverley Paley

Summary: We lopped weeds and cleared one blow down. We collected and hauled out six bags of trash, mainly from the campsites along the trail by the lake. The remainder of the trail from the shelter to Watauga Dam Road will have to wait for another day. Also the Shook Branch section could use a power weedwacker.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: June 17, 2008

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section: 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton trailhead

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I scouted my entire section while cutting weeds and removed one small blowdown. I spent some extra time with the swing blade in the railroad grade area of Pond Mtn. and also under the powerline cuts of the blue-blazed trail. The trail is in good shape.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: June 18, 2008

Purpose: Trail maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to TN 91

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield

Summary: We mowed accessible trail and trimmed weeds around the stiles. We cut back foliage and cut eight blowdowns and leaners from the trail.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: June 18, 2008

Purpose: Trim weeds and refresh blazes

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

People: Ed Oliver, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

Summary: Ed was dropped off at Hughes Gap and started trimming trail south while Ken and I went on to Greasy Creek Friendly hostel and walked to the trail from there. We trimmed trail north and met Ed at Little Rock Knob for lunch. We then repainted blazes back to Hughes Gap and Greasy Creek Gap respectively. There's one blowdown trail south from Hughes Gap. Ken and I plan on going out Monday afternoon to take care of it. It was a long, but beautiful, day. We met several hikers, four of whom got to paint blazes. They all thanked us for our hard work.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: June 20, 2008

Purpose: Measure relocation between Grassy Ridge and Stan Murray Shelter

Location: Section 14b, Between Grassy Ridge Side Trail and Stan Murray Shelter

People: Olin Babb, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, June Donaldson, Carol Dunham, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Freda Kuo, Brian Paley, Anna Sherrill

Summary: The Friday Hikers rolled the new AT relocation and made a GPS track between the side trail to Grassy Ridge and the Stan Murray Shelter. Brian Paley also snipped some crowding vegetation. The official distance is the same but the treadway is much more pleasant to walk. The flowers were beautiful for the hike and the temperature was ideal.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: June 21, 2008

Purpose: Clip weeds on AT between Low Gap and Double Springs Shelter

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

People: Collins Chew, Matthew Chew

Summary: Swing blades were used to clip weeds. The recent burn and possibly more rain resulted in much more growth than last year. The only blowdown was moved out of the trail. The Spring at the Shelter was flowing well. A logbook was removed and another remained, partly full. A log entry mentioned that a bear passed near the shelter on the evening of June 17 but caused no problem. Raccoons and mice have caused problems. Shelter and Trail are clean and in great shape. Several backpackers praised the condition of the TEHCC section.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: June 21, 2008

Purpose: Trail maintenance

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

People: Steve Perri, Jeff Sirola, Steve Wilson

Summary: We completed the weed cutting and rhodo trimming on this trip. We started at Doll Flats on a one-way trip to 19E with two cars to complete the trip. We used two scythes cutting on both sides of the trail. We also cleaned out the water bars with a pulaski. We posted the "Do not feed the bears" sign at Apple House Shelter and left the new log book as well. We chose not to blaze since the tool room was out of white paint with the exception of about one fourth of a peanut butter container. There is a junction above Apple House that should be blazed better since there were no blazes in either direction. The directions for rare plants were easily followed to avoid cutting in two areas. Water at Doll Flats is steady. A lot of hikers were heading trail south from 19E for the weekend.

Reporting: Chad Tate

Date: June 21-22, 2008

Purpose: Maintenance

Location: Section: 13b, Doll Flats to Bradley Gap

People: Chad Tate, Chris Craft, Joel Corley, Chris Harrison, Shannon Tate

Summary: Maintenance of section 13b included weed eating the Doll Flats Campsite, including the water trail, and along the AT leading to tree coverage. From this point, the trail was maintained with swing blades to the start of Hump Mountain. No maintenance is

needed from Hump Mountain to Bradley Gap. Signage, railing, and stiles were in good shape throughout the section. Doll Flats Campsite was basically litter free other than a few empty soup cans which we hiked out.

Reporting: Steve Banks

Date: June 22, 2008

Purpose: Weed and lop

Location: Section 3a, Between Abingdon Gap Shelter and Spring

People: Steve Banks, Steven Banks

Summary: We cut the weeds and lopped the annual growth on our adopted section, on a warm June day. We also left a new register at Abingdon Gap Shelter. There are several blowdowns south and north of McQueens Gap that we will remove on a future trip.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: June 23, 2008

Purpose: Cut blowdown

Location: Section 16a, Trail south from Hughes Gap about 1 mile

People: Paul Benfield, Jim Foster

Summary: Paul and I cut the large blowdown that Ed Oliver reported at last Wednesday's work trip. It was one of the bigger ones that I've seen on my section. Paul gave it his usual signature cut.



Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 24, 2008

Purpose: Cut weeds, lop, and blaze

Location: Section 14a, Little Hump to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, GAIA, OTTO

Summary: We cut all weeds from Little Hump to Stan Murray Shelter. We also cut the open field on the new relo at Little Hump. Gaia blazed from Yellow Mt Gap to Stan Murray Shelter. Everything was lopped and some minor blowdowns removed. Since weeds were cut from Little Hump to Bradley Gap about 10 days ago, this entire section is now in good shape.