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<u>COMING EVENTS</u> <u>August-September</u>				
			<u>Leader</u>	
Jul 31-Aug 4	Konnarock Crew - Unaka Mt. Relocation	Maintenance	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Aug 8-9	Backpack AT: Carvers Gap to Iron Mt. Gap	AA/2/A	Jake Mitchell	423-963-8654
Aug 11(Mon)	TEHCC Lunch 'n Learn: Backpacking gear demonstration	Informative	Tim Schaefer	423-229-6244
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
Sept 12-13	Backpack AT: US19E to Dennis Cove	Rating	Jake Mitchell	423-963-8654
Sept 20	Sand Cave and White Rocks	B/3/B	Collins Chew	423-239-6237

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



2000th Hiker-Trail Volunteer Patch Issued

Carl Fritz reporting

TEHCC has a very active outreach program primarily with hikers and college students with the goal of winning their hearts and minds towards future trail and recreation work. Bob Peoples, who operates Kincora Hostel near Hampton, TN, has spearheaded much of this effort. Bill Stowell, who was the TEHCC A.T. Maintenance Coordinator in the late 90's, also helped establish important working relationships with local colleges. In 1998 thru-hiker Marty Allen, "The Artist" designed a "Hiker-Trail Volunteer" patch depicting a crossed crosscut saw and mattock superimposed over Laurel Fork Falls, which is located on the A.T. It was lettered by thru-hiker Sara Allen, "Rosey". We started issuing these patches in 1999 to any first-time, non Club member, who would work on A.T. maintenance for a day. In the first year 30 hikers contributed 160 hours of trail maintenance. In this our 10th year we reached a milestone by issuing our 2000th patch on June 15th, 2008. Two hikers, "Imfine" and "Blue" took time from their thru-hike to work with us and the Konnarock Crew as we dug sidehill trail to relocate the A.T. at Little Hump Mountain.



Imfine and Blue with their patches (click on image to enlarge)

Last year in 2007 we recruited 264 of these non-traditional trail volunteers who provided 2085 hours of volunteer time. 84% were college students from three universities, Appalachian State (ASU), East Tennessee State and Wright State. And 14% were hikers. In another outreach program we also recruited 94 hikers in May 2007 as part of Damascus Trail Days. (They earn a Damascus Hard Core patch.) For many of the college students this was their first exposure to the A.T. Likewise, most hikers and college students experienced trail maintenance for their first time. The hikers usually sew their patches on their pack that evening. The patch symbolizes their giving back to the trail. LL Bean provided us a grant of \$750 to purchase patches to continue this successful program in 2007. As signs of success in winning hearts, six hikers who worked with us in June actively sought other maintenance opportunities further north on the A.T. A couple of ASU students were so excited about their experience that they organized another group of students to come out with us about a month later. With these new recruits in 2007 we built 5600 feet of

new trail, did some routine trail maintenance, installed a new sleeping platform at Abingdon Gap Shelter and installed new bog bridges.

Another outgrowth of this program was the formation of an ASU Trail Crew several years ago. That crew has continued to participate with us several times a year in digging A.T. relocations. But maybe more importantly, they have taken on the responsibility of building new hiking trails in a state park close to Boone. Several from that trail crew are actively doing trail work in various parts of the country. And our program continues as we recently had 20 young adults from an Oklahoma Venturing Scout troop join us for a day in digging a sidehill trail relocation at Yellow Mountain Gap.

In Memory of Pat Peoples

TEHCC and the Appalachian Trail community lost a great friend with the passing of Pat Peoples on July 25. A native of Massachusetts and a longtime resident of Vermont, Pat and her husband Bob moved to Dennis Cove and started the Kincora Hostel, and began working with us on our section of the AT in 1997. While we knew her best through that association, Pat was a woman of extraordinary talent and energy. Her educational background included a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, a Master's Degree in Education, and a Juris Doctorate. She was one of the first 100 women admitted to the Bar in the State of Vermont. She worked as a price economist for the U. S. Department of Labor, a senior citizen's advocate for the State of Vermont, a maritime lawyer for the Panama Canal Commission, and as a consulate for the Veterans Administration in Vermont. Pat's interests in horseback riding and her volunteer spirit led to her involvement as a National Handicap Riding Association Instructor with Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding in Kingsport. One of Pat's many talents was the kindness towards the many hikers who stayed at Kincora Hostel in Dennis Cove. Thanks to the hospitality of Bob and Pat, Kincora has become one of the most well-known hostels along the Appalachian Trail. This hospitality extended well beyond the hostel to hosting events such as Hard Core. We will greatly miss Pat, and let's please keep Bob and his family in our thoughts and prayers.



Tennessee Can Have an Appalachian Trail License Plate, but We Need Your Help!

Joe DeLoach reporting



Thanks to a lot of initiative from Ed Montgomery, support from others inside (particularly Jake Mitchell) and outside TEHCC, and good working relationships with State legislators, a bill enabling establishment of new specialty license plates including one for the Appalachian Trail was passed in the Tennessee legislature on June 20, 2008. These plates cost \$35.

From the sale of each plate, \$15.56 will go to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy for use in Tennessee and along the North Carolina border. **This can be a great financial and publicity benefit not just for ATC but also for trail maintaining clubs such as ours.**

We've been able to tap into the North Carolina AT license plate programs for tools, supplies, and support for our annual Hard Core event. Similar funding from Tennessee would allow us to add to those activities with more convenience than working through the North Carolina program, which mandates purchases be made within North Carolina.

Passage of this bill culminated a big effort but only marks the beginning of a bigger one – selling 1000 plates by June 19, 2009. Tennessee law governing sales of specialty license plates requires pre-selling of 1000 plates within one year after the legislation is enacted before they are officially accepted and produced. By the time you read this, we'll have 10 ½ months left to meet that requirement. Other organizations have been successful in meeting this challenge and we're confident that we Appalachian Trail enthusiasts can – but only with a lot of hard work. Here's what you can do to help.

- 1. Pay up and don't wait! The time is now to purchase plates.** A common question we've heard is how state vehicle registrations are handled. You need to maintain your registration as you always have outside of this program – don't send your annual vehicle registration renewal to ATC – but there's no need to wait until your registration expires before you purchase a plate. You will be notified when the plates are ready to be picked up at your county clerk's office, which will be several months after the 1000 plate threshold is met. You can either "prorate" your vehicle registration to reset to that date, or wait until your registration expires to renew as usual.
- 2. If you pledged to purchase a plate earlier this year, please follow through with your pledge.** Registration is not official until funds are received by ATC. We do greatly appreciate those who pledged, and especially appreciate those who have paid their specialty plate fees.
- 3. Spread the word!!** An effort like this needs ambassadors. Tell your friends, acquaintances, hiking companions, and fellow outdoor enthusiasts. As you're talking to them, you can remind any who are not current ATC members that they will receive a one-year membership to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy – which just happens to be a \$35 value! We can use some help in covering media outlets and local events in addition to the personal support that we hope every TEHCC member will provide. If you're willing to volunteer, please let us know.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is currently collecting applications and fees from those

interested in obtaining the new plates. Applications and information is available within ATC's website at www.appalachiantrail.org/tnlicenseplate, and , and also have forms and can answer any questions. We can do this – and we will be glad we did – with your help.

Brush Clearing in the Roan Highlands, August 28-29, 2008

Contact: , 423-753-7263

The longest and arguably most scenic stretch of grassy balds in the Appalachian Mountains is in our backyard, the Roan Highlands east of Carvers Gap. Debate about their origin has raged for years with no end in sight. What is clear though is that active management is required to keep them open, as succession from woody plants has encroached on these and many other balds, some of which are no longer bald at all. The open areas used to be “maintained” by large native animals such as woodland bison and elk, and when those were hunted out grazing by cattle and sheep did the job very effectively. These techniques are still used on Big Hump and Big Yellow Mountains, and goat grazing is back this year between Jane Bald and Grassy Ridge. However, once the more stout woody plants such as hawthorn and other trees take hold, it takes people to clear them. Our Club supports maintaining open areas along the Appalachian Trail, and here's a chance to show our support. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, which is recruiting help from all the southern clubs for this endeavor, and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy are sponsoring two days of lopping, cutting, snipping, and sawing on Round Bald on Thursday and Friday, August 28-29. As a bonus, the blueberries should be in fine form that weekend! Dinner will be provided for those interested on August 28, and camping is available at Roan Mountain State Park. If you wish to bring your own lopper and/or hand saw that's great, but otherwise please let Joe know if you'd like to attend so we can make tools available. Bring water, lunch, work gloves, and protection against the sun. For more information please contact Joe DeLoach.

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](#).



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

James and Jo Anne
Medlin

Jamie and Paul Aiello

Gary Kilpatrick

Curtis Antle

Gregory Smolen
Bradley Harris

Kapunza Kinunda
Timothy Davis

Scheduled Hiking, Paddling, and Trail Maintenance Opportunities

For more information see [Schedule](#)

Konnarock Crew – Unaka Mountain Relocation, July 31-August 4, 2008

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

Our fourth and final week of Konnarock Crew time this summer will be used to complete the uppermost of a series of AT relocations between Iron Mountain Gap and Unaka Mountain. When the AT was originally relocated off the roads in this area, it was routed straight up and down many knobs, leading to serious erosion problems which we are correcting with movement to a more gradual, sidehill grade. This relocation is at elevations above 4500' at the edge of the spruce forest which covers the top of Unaka Mountain, making for a beautiful, cool location in which to work. We have battled what has seemed to be a million rocks and black organic ooze as a sorry substitute for soil to construct this new Trail section, but believe we have cleared the worst of it to be able to complete the relocation this year. The Crew arrives on Thursday and works until Monday, with Friday-Sunday August 1-3 being full days where we concentrate our support. If you'd like to help or for more information, please contact Joe or Carl.

Backpack: AT Carver's Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, August 8-9, 2008

Leader: , 423-963-8654

Rating: AA/2/A

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. The 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/4/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.

Noli Gorge 1st Timers Trip

Leader: , 423-245-9821

The Nolichucky Gorge 1st Timers Trip is the perfect time to go down the Nolichucky after spending the summer working on your whitewater skills. Experienced Nolichucky Gorge kayakers will be on hand to explain lines. If you're not ready for the Noli Gorge yet, a group typically goes down the Lower Noli. Afterwards, we get together for some good food, drinks, and fellowship to celebrate our good and not-so-good lines! Contact the Leader for more details.

Backpack: AT US19E to Dennis Cove, Sept 12-13, 2008

Leader: , 423-963-8654

Rating: AA/2/A

This will be a Friday afternoon and Saturday trip with a distance around 22 miles. I know that fellow TEHCC member Tim Schaefer led the hike recently, but this is the only TEHCC section that I have not done and it was a goal of mine to do them all this year. The plan is to get a shuttle from Dennis Cove to 19E by Bob Peoples and then hike to Mountaineer Falls shelter for the evening. We will go from Mountaineer Falls to Dennis Cove on Saturday.

For the Record, Activity and Trip Reports

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

Tim Schaefer reporting

I had a couple of people interested but no one could go due to conflicts. Maybe due to a weekend bustling with options between FunFest and other TEHCC events. So it was just me and Scooba (the friendly Great Dane). Instead of an in & out trip I changed it to a through hike on the AT from 19E to Dennis Cove Rd. I paid for a shuttle from Bob Peoples owner/operator of the Kincora Hikers Hostel on Dennis Cove Rd to drop me and Scooba off at 19E and got started Friday. After about 20 minutes I ran into Keith, an Englishman living in Sweden through hiking the AT until his visa runs out or he gets tired of it. Keith was great company. We had the same plan for the next two days so we mostly hiked together. We had conversations ranging from the state of health care to Cortez's defeat of the Aztecs. The hiking was great, the scenery wonderful, the shelter was neat (but Keith and I

agreed that the Overmountain barn has a superior view), and the people awesome. After arriving back at Kincora and a quick run to eat and a restocking trip for Keith, I loitered around Bob's place for a while to chat with Keith, Bob, and another hiker heading south. Kincora is a neat place and I can see why people who stop by always seem to rave online about Bob Peoples.



Holston River paddle – July 19, 2008

Deb Reynolds reporting

Ed Montgomery led an easy 6-hour paddle on the Holston River from Laurel Run Park (off Goshen Valley Rd) to just below Phipps Bend. It was a gorgeous sunny day with 3 canoes, 8 kayaks, and 13 folks ranging from age 17 to 81 with a wide range of experience. Paddlers included: Tom Dosser (81 and still paddling strong!), Clay Wilfert, Ed & MJ Montgomery, Debbie Cakes Briscoe, Jake Mitchell, Kim Peters, Kat Johnson, Barbara Hawley, Jamie & Paul Aiello, Deb Reynolds and Linda (a teenager from Berlin, Germany). Birds sighted included Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Night Heron, Kingfisher, Hawk, and others. Ed serendipitously found us a lunch spot just below the Christian Bend boat "ramp" at a lot where the owners had his & her bathrooms for use. They are considering making this a stop for fisherman and paddlers. We greatly encouraged this! Of course, Kim didn't hear about the bathrooms until she cleared out the nettles in an adjoining field. We thought we were going to paddle about 8 miles for 4 hours, but Ed was measuring by road. I was using a brand new GPS that day and didn't get the route cleared for about 500 yards; but what I did route was 14.6 miles, with a 3.8 mph moving speed, an average speed of 2.5 mph, and a maximum speed of 6.6 mph. We paddled ~ 4 hours with ~ 2 hours of stopped time. Ed was thoughtful to bring a white water canoe for Jake to use which enabled him to paddle about 3X what we were doing, but most of that in circles! We encouraged him to take out at Bill Tindall's dock just above our lunch spot where Bill met us and graciously agreed to take Jake back to his car. Good move, Jake! Debbie Cakes was available for stroke instruction. Most of the folks are looking to paddling more flat water rivers again as a group and we will be putting some trips together. The Clinch and New River (NC) were top spots discussed, with Watauga mentioned for those who wanted some Class I and II.

Photos courtesy of Kat Johnson, click on an image to enlarge



Ed Montgomery gives Jake Mitchell instructions while Bill Tindall looks on.



Tom Dosser paddling strong!



The lunch spot



Clay Wilfert and Kim Peters taking a break from paddling



Paul Aiello enjoying a break in the shade



The take-out at The Kramer Farm on the river



A.T. Maintenance and Special Project Reports

Miscellanea: Reported by Jeff Siirola
Since January 2000, TEHCC has conducted:
2,000 maintenance events, summing to
88,254 volunteer hours, involving
3,322 individual volunteers.

Reporting: David Dunham

Date: June 25, 2008

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Dam Road

People: Brian Paley, Benjamin Jack, Ken Buchanan, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham

Summary: We cut multiflora rose, trimmed weeds, cut blowdowns, painted blazes, lopped weeds and laurel, and cleaned trash and the shelter.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: June 27, 2008

Purpose: Measure and map relocations

Location: Indian Grave Gap to Unaka Mountain

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

Summary: Several relocations between Iron Mountain Gap and Cherry Gap and an almost completed relocation between Low Gap and Unaka Mountain were rolled with the measuring wheel and the route tracked by GPS. The first set added about 0.4 miles to the trail and the one under construction will add 0.6 miles to the trail so the entire section will be one mile longer. It was a fine day for the Friday Hikers.

Reporting: Benjamin Trotter

Date: July 1, 2008

Purpose: Roan balds goat-grazing project

Location: Section 14b, Jane Bald

People: Benjamin Trotter

Summary: Including myself, a number of representatives from Friends of the Roan Highlands, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Old Timers ATC, and Park Service showed up to help move a herd of angora goats to Jane Bald. Even though we were planning for complete chaos of wandering goats, the actual move was pretty easy. After entering the Round Bald meadows, we moved the goats up to the A.T. for the rest of the way. The goats had no problems jumping the rocks over on Jane Bald to their paddock area where they will feast on the berry bushes.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 1, 2008

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 12d, Primarily at Buck Mountain Road

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carole Dunham, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Zeke Scott ZEKE THE CARPENTER, Nicole Clark DAY TRIPPER, Patrick Getz GRUMPY GILLS

Summary: We started rehabbing trail south and primarily north of Buck Mt Road. We installed rock and log steps, as well as a number of side logs for ramps. Between High Point and Bishop Hollow an ATV trail intersects the AT. Because a critical blaze post had been pushed over, hikers were confused. We reset the post and added a second post as a backup. We will return for another rehab day at Buck Mt. Rd. We had to leave an hour early to pick blue berries.

Reporting: Garry Luttrell

Date: July 2, 2008

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15, Hughes Gap North

People: Garry Luttrell

Summary: After hiking to Grassy Ridge, I drove to Hughes Gap to check on the weed situation. I cut for a few hours trail north towards Ash Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 2, 2008

Purpose: Assess Trail

Location: Sections 3 and 4, Abingdon Gap Shelter to TN 91

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed shuttled Andrew Downs who did a trail assessment from Abingdon Gap Shelter to TN 91.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 2, 2008

Purpose: Assess Trail

Location: Sections 3 and 4, Abingdon Gap Shelter to TN 91

People: Andrew Downs, John Thomas Metrailer

Summary: Andrew and John did an official assessment of AT condition from Abingdon Gap Shelter to TN 91.

Reporting: Bob Graham and Mary Blevins of Raleigh, NC

Date: July 5, 2008

Purpose: Thank you and trash pick-up

Location: Section 17, Unaka Mountain

People: Bob Graham, Mary Blevins

Summary: Just a note to thank your club for the overall excellent condition of the Appalachian trail we hiked this weekend (Iron Mt Gap to Indian Grave Gap). There was some wash out on the steeper parts of Unaka Mt, but that certainly cannot be helped. All blazes are easy to see. We observed a double yellow blaze at the summit of Unaka Mt and assumed that was the "summit marker" referenced in our AT Conservancy guide book. The spring at Low Gap was dry on Friday, July 4. The spring on north side of Unaka Mt is running well. We picked up all the trash we found on our way, which wasn't very much. We observed several White Tail Deer and one very mad Eastern Diamondback Rattler on the south side of Unaka Mt. Thanks again for your excellent stewardship.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: July 6, 2008

Purpose: Cut overgrowth

Location: Bitter End to Roan Mountain view-spot

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: I hiked half of the section from hostel to Bitter end, checking for blowdowns, erosion, and graffiti; and trimmed back spring growth. This section is in good condition.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 7, 2008

Purpose: Biological survey of Trail relocations

Location: Sections 7 and 8, North of Wilbur Dam Rd and at Watauga Lake

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed covered all the proposed relocations with Joe McGuinness and an intern, Sam Marshall. No biological problems were found. Joe thinks we have some trail building challenges north of Wilbur Dam Road and Sam wants to participate in the trail building.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 8, 2008

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 12d, Buck Mt Rd and Bear Branch Road

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Ben Trotter

Summary: We completed the rehab of trail on north side of Buck Mountain Rd by

installing side logs and steps. This section is now in fairly good shape. We rehabbed 240 feet of trail between this week and last week. We also picked up 15 bags of trash that the Chicago scout troop had collected at Bear Branch Road. Probably only two or four of the bags came directly off the trail. Most came from along the road. We topped the day by picking blueberries.





Reporting: Garry S Luttrell

Date: July 11, 2008

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15, Hughes Gap to Ash Gap

People: Garry S Luttrell

Summary: I continued cutting weeds from Hughes Gap, and now have the trail clear to Ash Gap.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: July 11, 2008

Purpose: Roll and determine GPS coordinates of relocation under construction

Location: Section 14a, AT - Little Hump Mountain

People: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Collins Chew, Lee Bockman, Anne Cosby, Carol

Dunham, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Steve Kasten, Freda Kuo, Brian Paley, Anna Sherrill

Summary: The Friday Hikers measured and "GPSed" the relocation between Bradley Gap and Little Hump Mountain as it was being constructed by the Konnarock Crew and Carl Fritz. We also enjoyed a pleasant hike from Roaring Creek to Yellow Mountain Gap to the Hump and return. We saw many flowers and other hikers.

Reporting: Steve Banks

Date: July 13, 2008

Purpose: Cut blowdown and clean out waterbars

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

People: Steve Banks, Robert Mumford

Summary: We removed a large blowdown between McQueens Gap and Abingdon Gap Shelter, cleaned out the waterbars, and posted a "Don't Feed The Bears" sign at the shelter.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: July 14, 2008

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 8, Lookout Road to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley, Beverley Paley

Summary: We cleared a blowdown near Watauga shelter, re-painted blazes, and did some lopping.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 14, 2008

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 12c, Along Elk River

People: Mike Watts

Summary: Mike cut weeds along Elk River using a string trimmer.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 16, 2008

Purpose: Assess Trail

Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Bitter End

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: Carl shuttled Casey Reese of ATPO to Moreland Gap Shelter so he could assess the AT to Bitter End.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 18, 2008

Purpose: Biological survey of Trail relocations

Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Flats

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed and Carl accompanied the Forest Service to do a biological survey of the trail relocations just south of Pond Flats. We did not find any plants that would interfere with the trail relocations. However, we did encounter at least two bee nests. Both Forest Service people suffered about seven stings each. And we discovered a rattle snake at junction of blue blazed trail and AT. Almost certainly the Friday hikers passed it.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: July 18, 2008

Purpose: Mow Osborne Farm trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield and Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the accessible trail and the Appalachian Trail across the Osborne tract, and cut weeds with a string trimmer where needed. We removed one blowdown on the accessible trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: July 22, 2008

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 16b, Just trail north of Iron Mt Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ed Oliver, Ben Trotter

Summary: We completed the trail relocation just north of Iron Mountain Gap and opened it. We installed four sidelogs and backfilled to get over tree roots. Unlike on Unaka or Little Hump relocations, we were able to put in 620 feet of trail today.

Reporting: Michael Ray

Date: July 24, 2008

Purpose: General maintenance

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

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

Summary: A not too hot of a day to get out and work on our section again. On this third trip of the year we used four weed eaters to mow. Lots of branches were also cut and clipped back. One very large bag of trash was picked up at the Buck Mt. road crossing. Met two northbound hikers with two dogs. All of the new relo is in good shape, no signs of washing out anywhere.

Reporting: Randall Simpson

Date: July 26, 2008

Purpose: Cut weeds, trim brush

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob

People: Randall Simpson, Mathew Dickie

Summary: We started at Carvers Gap and cut weeds and briars to the Roan High Knob Shelter. We trimmed back all the new growth and checked the condition of the shelter. This was as far as we got, about one mile up the trail, before it started to rain. It started out easy and the closer we got to the shelter the harder it rained.