

# THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

May 2009

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

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## Spring Dinner Meeting

*Tim Schaefer reporting*

TEHCC held its annual Spring Dinner Meeting at the Eastman Lodge on Friday, April 17th, with fifty people attending! Diana Niland's photos from her AT thru-hike adventure, Chad Tate's supply of refreshments, and the equipment display by Mount Rogers Outfitters made for a great social hour. Thanks go out to Troutdale for supplying yet another well-enjoyed dinner. A special thanks goes to Mount Rogers Outfitters for providing the gear display and supplying great gear door prizes.

The presentations began with Jake Mitchell thanking Neil Dotson and Richard Colberg for their years of service to TEHCC; Neil as schedule coordinator and Richard as membership coordinator and webmaster. Next the US Forest

Service handed out their annual volunteer service awards to 31 individuals who spent at least 50 hours doing trail maintenance last year. The club then handed out its cumulative volunteer awards to 13 individuals who have achieved significant volunteer-hour milestones this year. Most notably, Bruce Cunningham has now volunteered over 6000 hours for trail maintenance! The recipient of the Frank Oglesby Maintainer of the Year Award was Tim "Mountain Squid" Stewart for his dedication to supporting and maintaining our section of the AT. In a surprise presentation, Jake Mitchell was awarded "Hiker of the Year" for leading more than twice as many hikes last year as anyone else. The last award was presented to Garry Luttrell. Garry was awarded the Stan Murray Award for his 30- plus years of service and hike leadership. In the last 18 years he has led 77 hikes.



**Garry Luttrell, 2009 Stan Murray Award Recipient**

Last before the main presentation, Jake updated the group on the Key Initiatives for 2009 and handed out the last door prize. We continue to push for acceptance of the TN AT license plate by getting 1000 applications. There have been 410 applications received and although an extension has been filed, we need your help by telling others about it and the benefits it could bring to our state. The last of the Mount Rogers Outfitters random door prizes, a backpacking hammock, went to Kim Peters.

For the main presentation, Diana Niland, whose trail name is "Bigglesworth", chronicled the experiences of her March 18 to October 3, 2008 thru hike of the AT. She shared wonderful stories of her experiences of hunger, pain, companionship, and even more hunger. Her trip likely ended more adventurous than most because of a moose chase and a summit of Mount Katahdin on a day that quickly changed to conditions that closed the mountain for following hikers.

Mark your calendars now; the Fall Dinner Meeting is currently scheduled for Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>, with outdoor guide-book writer Johnny Molloy giving the main presentation.

## HardCore 2009 Hiker Trail Construction is scheduled for May 17-18

*Joe DeLoach reporting*

Soon after Bob Peoples moved to our area and opened Kincora Hostel, he began recruiting some of the thru-hikers for Trail maintenance. These started as local outings from Kincora. But in 2001 a chance encounter in the Nantahalas between our Maintenance Coordinator Bill Stowell and thru-hiker "Forest Phil," who had heard of work on Round Bald, led to something much bigger. That year, Forest Phil and Bob, with help from Club members, organized hikers to come out the Saturday and Sunday after Damascus Trail Days to work on hardening the Trail south of Carvers Gap. They formed a bucket brigade to haul and place 15 tons of gravel in two days. Twice as many hikers came out the following year to work on the Clyde Smith Shelter and Elk River Relocation, and the term "HardCore" was born. Tremendous accomplishments have been made on many projects since, and HardCore has become legendary throughout the length of the Trail and among its enthusiasts. Many of the hikers are repeaters who have acquired considerable trail-building skills. This year's installment will be Sunday May 17 on a relocation heading north of Wilbur Dam Road up Iron Mountain, and on Monday May 18 continuing our relocations between Yellow Mountain Gap and Grassy Ridge. We encourage TEHCC members to work with the hikers on these projects, but there are also special needs for Club volunteers. We may need help with transporting hikers from Damascus on Sunday and returning them to the Trail on Tuesday; Club members with vans would be especially valuable for that task. We also need a photographer to document the work. There are dinners both nights and volunteers to help with those are appreciated. Finally, club maintainers experienced in trail construction provide valuable supervision for new hiker volunteers and help take some of the load off the lead organizers. Please contact [Carl Fritz](mailto:Carl.Fritz@tehcc.org), 423-477-4669 or [Joe DeLoach](mailto:Joe.DeLoach@tehcc.org), 423-753-7263 if you're interested in helping.



## New Steering Committee Member

*Jake Mitchell reporting*

Please join me in welcoming our newest member of the TEHCC Leadership Team – Tom Boyd. Tom will be taking Chad's spot on the Steering Committee through the end of 2010. Tom works in Worldwide Engineering and Construction, is an avid hiker and an even better guy!

## Reminder to Update Contact Info

*Judy Allen reporting*

Has your email address or contact information changed recently? If so, please send your information updates to [membership@tehcc.org](mailto:membership@tehcc.org) or call 423-229-4253. We need to maintain accurate database information to keep you from missing any notifications.

## Volunteers needed for Fun Fest Moonlight Hike!

*Jake Mitchell reporting*

TEHCC will once again co-sponsor the Kingsport Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. This popular event attracts 300-500 participants each year. The hike traverses 2.5 miles around the lake. We need at least twelve volunteers and one volunteer coordinator to assist the Bays Mountain Park Association with this event. The

responsibilities are minimal – show up 30 minutes early, stand at a trail junction with a flashlight or headlamp and make sure nobody gets lost. Contact Jake Mitchell if interested ([jake.mitchell@tehcc.org](mailto:jake.mitchell@tehcc.org), 423-963-8654).

## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Extend a welcome to our new members this month!

Davis N. Bradford, Kent Marsh, Deborah & Ray Matthews, Amber Sanderson, Robert & Blythe Edwards

## Event Schedule, next two months

For more information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule)

Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Contact
May 2-3	Cumberland Gap NHP - Ridge Trail	A/3/B	<a href="#">Tim Schaefer</a>	423-229-6244
May 2-3	Fontana Overnight Kayak Trip	Flatwater	<a href="#">Gary Kilpatrick</a>	423-914-4070
May 9	Mt. Sterling Loop, NC Side (S900M)	AA/3/A	<a href="#">Garry Luttrell</a>	423-239-9854
May 12	TEHCC Two-fer Tuesdays	Fun	Marc Schurger	<a href="mailto:marc.schurger@tehcc.org">marc.schurger@tehcc.org</a>
May 15-17	30 <sup>th</sup> Aniversary Bluestone River Trip	Class I-III	Terry Dougherty	423-323-2647
May 17-18	HardCore 2009	Maintenance	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
May 22-25	Smoky Mountain Backpack (S900M)	AA/2/B	<a href="#">Kent and Nancy Wilson</a>	423-239-7554
May 25	Plott Balsams (SB6K)	B/3/B	<a href="#">Jake Mitchell</a>	423-963-8654
May 29-31	ACA Basic Swiftwater Rescue Clinic	Educational	<a href="#">Mike Morrow</a>	423-292-3906
May 30	20 Miler on the Virginia Creeper	AA/1/C	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
June 4	Paddle to the Grill	Flatwater	Deb Reynolds	<a href="mailto:dlreynolds@eastman.com">dlreynolds@eastman.com</a>
June 6	Bays Mt. to Laurel Run	B/3/C	Ed Montgomery	<a href="mailto:Ed.Montgomery@tehcc.org">Ed.Montgomery@tehcc.org</a>
June 6	Local Warrior's Path Hiking Trails	Family	<a href="#">Tim Schaefer</a>	423-229-6244
June 9	TEHCC Two-fer Tuesdays	Fun	Marc Schurger	<a href="mailto:marc.schurger@tehcc.org">marc.schurger@tehcc.org</a>
June 13	Beginner Whitewater Kayak Clinic	Educational	<a href="#">Scott Fisher</a>	276-698-4644
June 13	Nolichucky River Cleanup	Worthwhile	<a href="#">Anna and Toney Davis</a>	423-743-7855
June 27	Lower Watauga	Class I-II	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
July 2-5	Smoky Mountain Backpack (S900M)	A/2/B	<a href="#">Kent and Nancy Wilson</a>	423-239-7554

## Descriptions of Upcoming Events

### Cumberland Gap NHP - Ridge Trail, May 2-3, 2009

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#), 423-229-6244

Rating: A/3/B (per day)

Join us for a trip to Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. It's turning into a "guys' night out" as we have 5 currently signed up to go and some of them are backpacking novices. With that count, we will likely do the original plan of the non-loop (car shuffling) 1-night, 20-mile backpacking trip up to the ridge from Ewing and heading to the KY-VA-TN Tri-State Peak, staying near the Hensley Settlement for the night. All indications are that this is a beautiful place with lots of good vistas. If you're interested, contact the hike leader.

## **Fontana Overnight Kayak Trip - Great trip for first timers, May 2-3, 2009**

Leader: [Gary W. Kilpatrick](#), 423-914-4070

Rating: Flatwater

This event follows the workshop at Mountain Sports Ltd on April 23 which will provide instruction / advice on how to pack a kayak or canoe. This is excellent timing for first timers.

We are going to do a self-contained overnight at Fontana Lake. We will paddle over to Eagle Creek and camp. This will be an easy trip (I promise) and suitable for any first-time trip of this type. This is a short paddle, so skill and endurance is not a factor.

## **Mt. Sterling Loop, NC Side (S900M), May. 9, 2009**

Leader: [Garry S. Luttrell](#), 423-239-9854

Rating: AA/3/A

When you mention a Mt. Sterling loop hike, most people think of one on the TN side of the mountain, including the Big Creek trail. This loop will involve the NC side of the mountain and will include the Mt. Sterling, Pretty Hollow Gap, Little Cataloochee, and Long Bunk (also known as Pig Pen Trail) Trails. We'll get an early start on Saturday, have breakfast in Newport (still trying to decide where), and drive on to Mount Sterling Gap to begin the hike. This hike offers the best of the Smokies: great views from Mt. Sterling, lots of wildflowers, and historical sites of the early inhabitants of Little Cataloochee valley. That's the good news – the not so good: 16 miles of hiking, 2700 ft of climbing, and 4700 ft of descending. We will definitely stop and smell the roses quite often. Please let the hike leader know if you are coming, and to get further details on meeting time and place.

## **S900M - Smoky Mountain Backpack, May 22-25 2009**

Leaders: [Kent and Nancy Wilson](#), 423-239-7554

Rating: A/2/B

This is a change from the description in last month's newsletter since we could not get reservations at Peck's Corner Shelter. This hike will not require reservations, but we still need to know if you plan to hike with us.

Kent and Nancy Wilson will lead a Smoky Mountain 900-miler hike Memorial Day weekend. We will be leaving Kingsport around noon on Friday May 22 driving to Cades Cove. We'll hike the Gregory Ridge Trail from Forge Creek Road to campsite #12 (about 2.0 miles). On Saturday, we will hike the Gregory Ridge Trail and hike an optional out-and-back on the Doe Knob trail to the AT (4 mi RT), then we will hike the Gregory Ridge Trail across Parsons Branch Road and the Hannah Mountain Trail to campsite #14. The Saturday mileage is about 16 miles (12 miles if the out-and-back to the AT is deleted). On Sunday, we will take Hannah Mountain Trail to the Rabbit Creek Trail and the Abrams Falls parking area. (about 8.6 miles). We will then drive to Smokemont and camp there Sunday Night. On Monday, we will take Beech Gap Tr. II to Hyatt Ridge Trail (2.8 mi), then Hyatt to campsite #44 (1.8 mi), then Hyatt to Enloe Creek Trail to campsite #47 (1.7 mi), then Enloe Creek to campsite #47 (2.0 mi), then Hyatt to Straight Fork Road (1.8 mi). Total mileage is 10.1 mi. An optional out-and-back Beech Gap I to Balsam Mtn. trail (5.0 mi) can be added if desired. Hope you can join us.

## **SB6K: Plott Balsams, May 25, 2009**

Leader: [Jake Mitchell](#), 423-963-8654

Rating: B/3/B

Jake Mitchell will be leading a South Beyond 6000 hike to the Plott Balsams of western NC. The Plott Balsams are located about 45 minutes west of Asheville along the Blue Ridge Parkway. There are four 6000 footers in this area - Yellow Face, Waterrock Knob, Lyn Lowry and Plott Balsam. This hike requires some bushwhacking, so pants and sleeves would be a good idea. Total hiking is 8 miles and starts from the Waterrock Knob parking area on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We will go out to Plott Balsam and back, eat lunch at the parking area and then cross the road to do Yellow Face. The plan is to leave Kingsport at 8am and car pool since only one car is necessary. Contact Jake Mitchell if you are interested.

## **American Canoe Association Basic Swiftwater Rescue Clinic, May 29-31, 2009**

Leader: [Mike Morrow](#), 423-292-3906

This is one in a series of swiftwater rescue courses offered through the American Canoe Association. The course, led by Mike Morrow and Scott Fischer, is designed to teach the recreational paddler basic swiftwater rescue techniques where limited personnel and/or safety gear is available. Together, Mike and Scott have combined teaching experience in excess of ten years providing instruction in whitewater paddling and swiftwater rescue. They've provided instruction to hundreds of individuals, including paddling clubs in Tennessee and Kentucky, staff of church youth camps, and local outfitter guides. The clinic will include classroom instruction and realistic scenarios. Successful completion of this course will prepare you to self-rescue and aid in the rescue of others in whitewater environments. Contact Mike for more information. Registration deadline is May 13, 2009.

## **20 Miler on the Virginia Creeper, May 30, 2009**

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388

Rating: AA/1/C

For the hiking merit badge, Boy Scouts must "take a hike of 20 continuous miles in one day." A scout from Troop 48 is working on this badge in pursuit of the Eagle rank this year and has selected the Virginia Creeper trail to achieve this longer distance. This hike notice is an invitation for club members and other scouts working toward this goal to join us. The actual hike will depend on the transportation options available to us that Saturday. (Proposed is Straight Branch to Abingdon.) Meet at the Colonial Heights McDonalds, ready to leave at 7AM (sun rises at 6:14) with proper clothing, plenty of water, and trail lunch/snacks for the 45-60 minute drive to the trailhead. This rare "1" speed hike will be at a fast pace in order to be done before dinner, which will be enjoyed at a group-choice location before returning home. (FYI, sunset is 8:42PM that day).

## **Paddle to the Grill, June 4, 2009**

Leaders: [Deb Reynolds](#) and [Debbie Briscoe](#)

Rating: Flatwater

Starting June 4 and occurring weekly on Thursdays during the summer, we will meet at an easy take-out point on Boone Lake and paddle to a local eatery. Our current choices are starting at Winged Deer Park and paddling to Sunny's Marina or starting at Boone Dam and paddling to the Marker 2 Grille at Lakeview Marina. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat. You can order from: <http://www.boatersworld.com>. We will be glad to add other locations. You can contact Debbie Brisco or Deb Reynolds for specific details as to time and which location for which week. We also plan to have the locations on the TEHCC schedule. The event will be cancelled in the event of thunder, high winds or hard rains. This event is in conjunction with the APES paddling club.

## **Family Hike: Local Warrior's Path Hiking Trails, June 6, 2009**

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#), 423-229-6244

Rating: C/4/C

Come and find some hiking trails that we have right in our collective backyard. My June edition of the family/toddler friendly hikes will be to the Warrior's Path hiking trails. We have several to choose from, my favorites being Devil's Backbone and Sinking Waters. I'll firm up the plans as we get closer to the date. Both are great for after (or before) work hikes, so come with us for some fun and to find these local and easily accessible trails. We will do either a late morning hike just before lunch, or an early afternoon hike depending on people's interest. Contact the hike leader for details.

## **Beginner Whitewater Kayak Clinic June 13-14**

Leader: [Scott Fisher](#), 276-698-4644

This is a reminder that the Beginner Whitewater Kayak Clinic is about 6 weeks away (see the [April Newsletter](#) for more details). If you are thinking about participating or know someone who might be interested, let Scott Fisher know. We've had several folks express an interest so far and still have spots available. It promises to be another fun weekend on the water, devoted to learning the fundamentals, strokes and river maneuvers that will provide the foundation for enjoyable and safe paddling. Contact the leader for more information.

## **Nolichucky River Cleanup and Celebration, June 13, 2009**

Contacts: [Anna or Toney Davis](#), 423-743-7855

The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast's are hosting the annual Nolichucky River cleanup at Riverpark Campground (formerly Big Rock Campground) on Saturday, June 13. Registration starts at 10:00 AM in the Gazebo. Participants will be assigned to 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. 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.

## **Lower Watauga, June 27, 2009**

Leader: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636

Rating: Class I-II

Debbie leads trips on the Lower Watauga River on "most" Saturday afternoons from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The meeting place is at Riverside Park behind the Carmen Dugger Sports Complex in Elizabethton, TN at 3:00P.M. Bring cold water gear and a snack. Check with Debbie first to see if we are on because in times of water we may move the run to whatever is running.

## **S900M - Smoky Mountain Backpack, July 2-5 2009**

Leaders: [Kent and Nancy Wilson](#), 423-239-7554

Rating: A/2/B

Kent and Nancy Wilson will lead a 900 Miler weekend backpack in the Smokies the 4th of July weekend. On Wed July 1 after work, we'll drive to Fontana, NC and spend the night at the "Fontana Hilton" (AT Shelter). On July 2, we'll take a boat across Fontana Lake to Campsite #81. We'll take the Lakeshore Trail to #86, then Hazel Creek Trail to #83, where we'll drop packs and do an out-and-back on the Bone Valley Trail. We'll continue on Hazel Creek to #82 where we'll set up camp (15.6 miles). On July 3, we'll day hike the Hazel Creek Trail, Welch Ridge Trail, out-and-back to High Rocks, the Cold Spring Gap Trail and return to campsite #82 for the second night where our camp will be waiting for us (16.8 miles). On July 4, we'll take the Hazel Creek Trail to the Jenkins Ridge Trail and spend the night at Spence Field Shelter (13.4 miles). On July 5, we'll take the Eagle Creek Trail, Lost Cove Trail and AT back to our cars at Fontana (15.1 miles). The mileage can be shortened by opting out of the Bone Valley hike, the long loop hike on the second day and taking Eagle Creek all the way to Fontana instead of Lost Cove and the AT, for anyone who wishes. This should be a fun and challenging weekend with lots of Smokies miles in a more remote area of the park. Since we need to make reservations at campsite #83 and Spence Field Shelter and for the boat ride across Fontana Lake pre-registration is a necessity. So please **let us know if you plan to join us by June 1**. We will try to have an alternate hike planned in case we cannot get reservations. Hope you can join us.

## **For the Record**

### **Grayson Highlands and the Ponies, April 18, 2009**

*Tim Schaefer reporting*

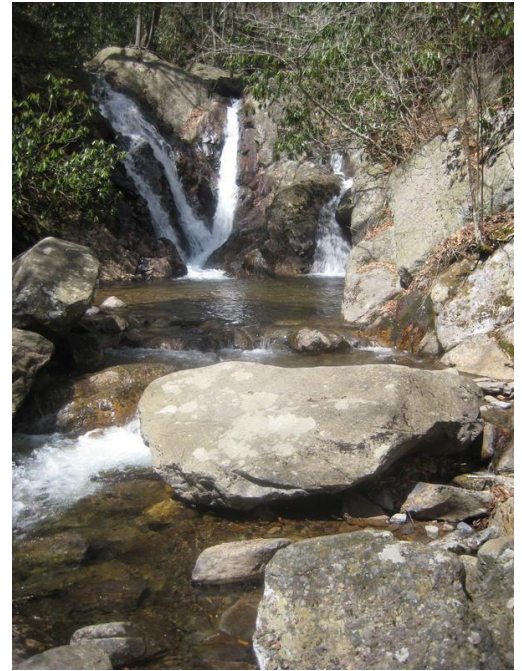
We had 10 people, including four club members, show up for this fun group hike. We hiked out on the



Rhododendron trail from Massie Gap and were soon in pony country as was quickly evident by all the droppings. Luckily we also saw ponies, eventually. There weren't the large herds of ponies like we saw last year, but I don't think anyone was disappointed. We saw a total of about 15 to 20 ponies. We did have a sighting of one baby pony with its mother, which everyone was happy to see. There was also a surprise finding of snow in a shady area of the trail. After some snow play, we headed back down towards the parking lot. We picked up the 2.1-mile Cabin Creek Trail to see the waterfall and ate lunch along the rocks in front of it. Attending were Tim Schaefer, his daughter Jamie, and dog Scooba; Chris Garrett and his two children, Paul and Lydia; Sharon Burnette, her husband, and son Scotty with friend Jordan; and Denise Hardin.



The hiking crew



Our lunch spot scenery

### **Workshop: Packing kayak/Canoe for Overnight Trips, April 23, 2009**

*Deb Reynolds reporting*

On April 23, Mark Schurger and Rich Ruhlen provided excellent instruction at Mtn. Sport Ltd on tips for packing a canoe or kayak for overnight trips. Both Mark and Rich have learned much on what not to do and were very willing to share with us some of the pain they have experienced. Handouts were provided and examples of dry bags and other useful items were shown. Tips were provided on things to consider, preparation, and specific packaging advice for each boat type. The class was attended by Paul and Deb Reynolds, Kent Marsh, Josh Noe, and Debbie Briscoe. An overnight trip on May 2 at Fontana Lake (Eagle Creek) is forth coming for an easy trip to try out what we have learned.

### **Grassy Ridge Overnighter, April 24-25**

*Jake Mitchel reporting*

This trip was all that we hoped it would be (except for one hour). The hiking party was Jake Mitchell (Cabin Fever), Chuck Mather (Chuckwagon), Bonnie (Dog), Buster (Dog), Jon Mather (Toothman), Johnny Jobe (Double J), Crystal Jobe and Joanne Sklodowski. We all arrived at Carvers Gap around 5:15pm on Friday afternoon. We hoisted our packs and became tourists long enough to take the standard Carvers Gap picture before ascending Round Bald. We then made our way up Round Bald and discovered that the 20% chance of rain was going to get us. There were storms brewing in North Carolina. We quickly went up and over Jane Bald with the intentions to duck off the ridge on the AT and wait out the storm, but the first cell blew over the Humps before we got to the Grassy Ridge/AT intersection. We decided to keep going and it paid off with phenomenal views. We didn't dally long because another storm was headed our way. We quickly pushed on to the saddle of the ridge and set up camp. We barely got our tents up before the next storm cell hit us. We all retreated to our tents and ate dinner while the storm blew over. Once it did, the clouds parted, and the stars came out for a great evening of conversation and lightning watching followed by bedtime.



(L-R) Jon, Chuck, Buster, Bonnie, Joanne, Crystal and Johnny



Chuck and his kids – Buster and Bonnie

Saturday morning arrived with perfect temps and typical wind gusts (that dried out our tents overnight). We ate breakfast (Jake cooked Apple Cobbler) and then followed the trail the rest of the way out the ridgeline until it drops off sharply towards the Christmas tree farm. We did a quick photo op, returned to camp and broke camp. We returned to Carvers Gap passing several thru hikers on the way. Apparently, it did not rain a drop at Roan High Knob Shelter and there was a large crowd there. Additional pictures can be seen [here](#). If you wanted to go, couldn't, but would like to get into backpacking, contact Jake Mitchell ([jake.mitchell@tehcc.org](mailto:jake.mitchell@tehcc.org)) and trip(s) can be scheduled.

## AT Maintenance Reports



**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 24, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns, blaze and flag

**Location:** Section 6, Hurley Hollow to Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Boundary

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We cleared about 10 blowdowns from Hurley Hollow to the wilderness boundary. The large blowdown near Wilderness was an inconvenient obstacle for hikers. Paul painted all blazes to Wilderness. We flagged about a half mile of relocations at Turkey Pen Gap north.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** March 24, 2009

**Purpose:** Reflag relocation in preparation for this year's trail construction

**Location:** Section 14b, Trail south of Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ed and I reflagged our relocation (someone had removed our flags) in preparation for this year's trail construction. We began about 0.4 mile trail north of Grassy Ridge cutoff and continued to Stan Murray Shelter. Ed cut one small blowdown from the trail; everything else looked good.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** March 31, 2009

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

**Location:** Section 17, North of Cherry Gap



**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, HIKERS Lyle Hawkyard and Larry Parker

**Summary:** We opened another large relocation by completing 500 feet of trail. This leaves one more relocation trail north of Cherry Gap and one trail south of Cherry Gap.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** April 1, 2009

**Purpose:** Clear winter debris and check trail

**Location:** Sections 17 and 18, Iron Mt Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Mike Hupko, Lamar Adcox, Ralph Bible, Jim Robinson, Eric Noblet, Harry Ford, Dave McMillin, Jerry Jones, Gil Derouen, Susan Peters, Kent Ganshirt, Lou Haase, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, CB Willis

**Summary:** We did a spring walk through both sections. We cleaned water bars, lopped branches where needed, removed branches and debris from trail, cut small trees and noted locations where large downed trees need to be cut with a chainsaw. We noted about 7 trees we plan to cut soon. We removed litter from the AT crossing of USFS 230.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** April 2, 2009

**Purpose:** Take shovel and broom to shelter and check trail

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** On my way to deliver the shovel and broom to the shelter, I removed several blowdowns from the trail. There were two that I'll have to go back and get. I removed a large bag of trash from behind the shelter and gathered another full bag from the trail head. I also scouted for future relocations and our options look good.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** April 2, 2009

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns discovered during Wednesday walk-through

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

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

**Summary:** We cleared the trail of 5 downed trees, the largest being about 36 inches across. We also cut one dead standing tree very near the trail and cleared several dips.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 4, 2009

**Purpose:** Repair fence

**Location:** Section 14b, Round Bald

**People:** Ed Oliver, Jake Mitchell

**Summary:** Ed and Jake repaired some barbed wire fencing and picked up trash.

**Reporting:** Michael Watts

**Date:** April 4, 2009

**Purpose:** Annual spring maintenance

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

**People:** Ken Chamness, Richard Cox, Vic Hasler, Marshall Holmes, Rick Lott, John Nypaver, Susan Rook, Mike Watts, Chelsea Williams, Missy Wright

**Summary:** This annual maintenance trip, included trimming, weeding, clearing blowdowns, painting blazes northward, and trash removal.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 5, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Bob cleared all blowdowns in Laurel Fork Gorge.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** April 6, 2009

**Purpose:** Spring clean-up

**Location:** Section 18, Deep Gap to AT crossing of USFS 230

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

**Summary:** We cut two trees that were across the trail, relocated a short section of trail blocked by a third tree, and cleaned several water bars.

**Reporting:** Benjamin Trotter

**Date:** April 8, 2009

**Purpose:** Check shelter tool inventory

**Location:** Section 4a, Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Benjamin Trotter

**Summary:** Even though Holston Mountain had 1 to 5 inches of snow on the trail, I walked to Double Springs Shelter to verify reports of extra shelter tools. The shelter had three shovels and no rake. I packed out one shovel head, since that was all I could carry. Other than graffiti, the shelter was in fine shape. There was one blowdown located about a quarter-mile north of Double Springs Shelter. I had to straddle over it. A good size rock is in the middle of the trail just north of the Shady Valley vista/berry fields; a possible tripping hazard that might need to be broken down with a small sledge.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** April 9, 2009

**Purpose:** Maintain section

**Location:** Section 12a, View-spot about midway between Bitter End and Walnut Mtn Road

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** I cut back poplar tree overgrowth in the old meadow to maintain the view. I also cut out briars where they like to grow in the higher open areas.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 9, 2009

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation

**Location:** Section 17, Cherry Gap

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Frank Nunziato "Mule"

**Summary:** We worked on the remaining northern-most relo in about 4 inches of snow. One more day should finish this one. One day with ETSU to do the relo south of Cherry Gap should finish all of these in this area.

**Reporting:** Garry Luttrell

**Date:** April 10, 2009

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 15, Hughes Gap to Ash Gap

**People:** Gether Irick, Don Baker, Garry Luttrell

**Summary:** Gether Irick, Don Baker, and Garry Luttrell started early at Hughes Gap and worked on the AT to the big blowdown just below Ash Gap (see photo). Although it is blocking the AT, it is easily bypassed; so I wouldn't recommend any further removal. The lower portion of the trunk still appears to be in tension. Thunder, high winds, and rain forced us to make a hasty retreat back to Hughes Gap. We talked with thru-hikers Turnaround, One Stick (heavy snorer), L-Train, and Downhill.



**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** April 11, 2009

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns, cut brush, and pick up trash

**Location:** Section 9b, Horseridge Gap

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I hiked up Pond Mountain from the Hampton blue-blaze carrying the crosscut saw and loppers. I cut brush along the way, and began working on a large blowdown on Horseridge Gap (just south of Pond Flats). Jake Mitchell, who hiked up from the Shook Branch side, soon joined me and we cleared the large blowdown. We then hiked back down into Laurel Fork Gorge - cutting more brush, removing another smaller blowdown on the railroad grade, and picking up trash on the blue-blaze, which is a never-ending battle.

**Reporting:** Jake Mitchell

**Date:** April 11, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut back brush, clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 9, US 321 to intersection with Hampton blue blaze

**People:** Jake Mitchell

**Summary:** I set out to hike over Pond Mountain all the way to the Hampton trailhead cutting brush and clearing blowdowns. Plans were to meet Bill and Shannon sometime in the early afternoon at the BIG ONE - a very large blowdown on the northbound ascent of Pond. I cut brush back about 3/4 of the way to Pond Flats before running out of time to meet Bill. I cleared 2 blowdowns and low hanging brush in a couple of places on the way to the flats. I met Bill at the big one around 1:30 sans Shannon. He had just arrived. We cut out the big one and then went back down the mountain towards Hampton. I picked up a little trash on the way out. AT over Pond is clear except for a few ground level step-overs. The pond is almost gone, but the stream on the flats was flowing quite well.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** April 12, 2009

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 19, Between Chestoa and Nolichucky River outfitter

**People:** Joe DeLoach, Kat Johnson

**Summary:** A large blowdown was reported about ten minutes north of the railroad tracks, which was exactly where it was. It was chainsaw size and broken on the Trail, requiring two cuts.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 12, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

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

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Bob finished clearing this section of blowdowns.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** April 15, 2009

**Purpose:** Flag relocations and clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob

**People:** Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ed and I flagged relocations from Hughes Gap trail south to just beyond the first climb (about 0.2 mile). We also flagged a relocation around Little Rock Knob. This will take out about 0.2 mi. of badly eroded trail south of the knob and will come back in to the existing trail at the overlook. We also cut a blowdown or two and made a trail assessment for a future maintenance trip.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** April 15, 2009

**Purpose:** Make wooden signs for sections 1 and 15

**People:** Steve Perri

**Summary:** I cut, routed, stained and painted two signs for the AT. The first sign is the stateline sign for section 1 indicating the TN and VA border. The second sign is an information sign identifying the vista at Beartown Mountain.

**Reporting:** Old Timers Hiking Club

**Date:** April 17, 2009

**Purpose:** Spring maintenance and clean-up

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

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

**Summary:** We cut three trees from the trail and 8 dead standing trees near the trail. We also cleaned most of the waterbars on this section. The largest tree across the trail was about 24 inches in diameter and 40 inches above the trail. We removed trash from the trail and trail head at Iron Mtn Gap. We met about 30 hikers on the trail today.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 18, 2009

**Purpose:** Dig trail relocation and flag relocations

**Location:** Section 14a, about 1.5 miles north of Stan Murray Shelter and 1 mile south

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Dave Clark, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Jeff Siirola, Sarah Bradley, Maura Weaver, Brittney Poe, Matthew Scherder, Paul Philavong, Allen Gaddy, Melanie Jencirccli, Zach Vaughter, Ryn MacArthur, Tristan Rodenhauser, and 2 other students.

**Summary:** The ten ASU Trail Crew plus two students from Warren Wilson and fifteen club members opened another relocation north of Stan Murray shelter. They dug 950 feet of trail! Jim and Carl installed pin flags south of Stan Murray shelter in preparation for Hard Core. Carl and Ed purchased a couple of sledge hammers and three pick mattocks thanks to a grant from the North Carolina license plate program for ATC.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** April 18, 2009

**Purpose:** Inspect and clear trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Temple Hill Gap to Spivey Gap

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** I removed several small trees from the trail. Trail is in good shape and clear. I met 28 people going North.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** April 22, 2009

**Purpose:** Cut out relocation for Hard Core and normal trail maintenance

**Location:** North and south of Wilbur Dam Rd

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Bruce Cunningham, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, HIKERS Shane Sheldon, Angie Sullivan, Sarah Grady, Jennifer Grady, Duane Nicholson, Jennifer Weston, Revecca Hamilton, Ray Gessle, Peggy DuFosse, Paul DuFosse, Neal Hanlin, Dick Calkins, Eric McRoberts

**Summary:** Kim, Ken and Dave worked the south side of Wilbur Dam road to the top of the first hill south of the Dam. They rehabbed 6 different sections of trail and cut out 3 blowdowns (one was 5 feet high and 12 inches in diameter). They dug out numerous roots and dead stumps, and even rock-cribbed one of the rehab sections. The rest cut brush and trees out of the lower relocations north of Wilbur Dam Road. Two crosscut saws got hot. Enough trail is opened up for one day of Hard Core. Some limited preparation work is still needed because of the difficult sidehill. What a difference enthusiastic hikers can make to accomplishing the work.