



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2009

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

(Steering Committee Chair and Office Chair)

Thanks to all who participated in our participation survey. Our response rate was 13%. The Steering Committee has not had a chance to discuss the results yet so I cannot say exactly what we are going to do, but I can reveal some of the findings. About ¼ of the responses came from people who have never participated in a TEHCC event. This is good. We can determine what interests they have, to encourage participation. More than half indicated that their primary activity preference was day hiking. However, more than 15 people indicated that they would like more education in backpacking and paddling. About ¾ of the respondents indicated that they would be interested in social or educational events during the workday or evening.

Lower cost and varying speaker topics were great feedback points for the dinner meetings. We also were able to compile an updated list of event leaders and a list of those interested in serving in a Leadership Team position. The freeform text feedback also gave us lots of good ideas and opportunities for improvement. Stay tuned next month for specific actions we will be taking as a result of the survey. In the mean time, happy trails!

Jake Mitchell, 2009 TEHCC Steering Committee Chair, chair@tehcc.org

In Memory of John Thompson, 1915-2009

Joe DeLoach reporting

The passing of one of our longtime active Club members is always a sad event, but also provides an occasion to be thankful for all the contributions that person made and the joy they brought to others within TEHCC. Such is the case with John Thompson, who passed away on May 30, 2009 at the age of 94.

John was a native of Alabama and came to Eastman in 1946, upon retirement from the U. S. Army at the end of World War II. He spent his 34 years with Eastman as a research chemist, obtaining 25 patents while performing some of Eastman's pioneering work on stabilizers and antioxidants. John was an avid golfer, still playing three days a week into his 90's and shot two holes-in-one at age 70. Of course, most of us know him as an active hiker and Appalachian Trail maintainer.

In 1967 John joined a group of employees who were determined to hike the entire AT. Our records indicate that John was the first Club member to finish, soon after his retirement from Eastman in 1980.

John received the Hiker of the Year Award in 1970 and 1979 and the Stan Murray Award in 2001. Records show that John



worked over 1500 hours on AT maintenance since 1992, the year our modern record-keeping database began. His service started long before that, however, as he received a 25-year Silver Service award from ATC in 1993. One of John's greatest contributions was supervising construction of the Don Nelan Shelter in the early 1980's. I remember, as a college student, helping on this project and being told gently but clearly, after dropping a log on the stack for one of the walls, that "we all agreed that we needed to be careful not to bust the concrete foundation." It was a proud day for the Club when this shelter was completed and a very sad day to learn that it had been burned. John also enjoyed working with the Konnarock Crew. We sometimes wondered if John wanted to surpass Frank Oglesby's record of being the oldest person to earn a T-shirt by working five days with the Crew. When Frank earned a T-shirt at age 90, John, about three years Frank's junior, quipped "Frank Oglesby's an old man." John had the talent to make us laugh and make the work fun. At the same time, he pulled his share of the load and then some. John remained an active participant in the Club and on the AT Committee until breaking his hip just a couple of years before his passing. All of us who knew him are fortunate that we did.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is among the organizations to which memorial contributions can be made. Carl Fritz is collecting contributions from Club members for one pooled contribution to ATC from TEHCC. If you are interested in contributing, checks should be made out to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and sent to Carl at 555 Kinchloe Mill Rd, Jonesborough, TN 37659. ATC should recognize your individual contribution, but the memorial to John will be from TEHCC.

Konnarock Crew - Grassy Ridge Relocation,

July 2-6 and July 30-August 3, 2009

Leader: [Joe DeLoach](#), 423-753-7263

When our section of the Appalachian Trail was routed across the Roan Highlands in 1954, much of it was laid out to go straight up and down the ridges. This makes for steep hiking and bad erosion. We've been addressing these problems through relocations for many years. Probably our worst remaining section is between Yellow Mountain Gap south to the shoulder of Grassy Ridge. Hard Core and student groups have already made many improvements. This summer we'll work with the Konnarock Crew to relocate the longest remaining section, south of the Stan Murray Shelter towards Grassy Ridge. The Crew arrives on Thursday and works until Monday morning. Volunteers are sought for any of these days; however, the most productive days to volunteer are the full days of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Volunteers who work at least five days with Konnarock qualify for a T-shirt; which won't be easy with only two weeks this year. We'll meet at 8:30 AM at the parking lot near Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor on South Roan Street in Johnson City. Other meeting spots can be arranged on request. Bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Please contact Joe for more information or if you're interested in coming so we'll have tools ready.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-15 – REI Hobitat 6 Base Camp Tent

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator (rental@tehcc.org)



After the equipment check-out earlier this year, the Steering Committee agreed to replace one of the large 6-person base camp tents which are among the most popular club rentals. A Hobitat 6 by REI and its footprint were purchased in May 2009 and designated as HT-15. Floor space is roughly 10' by 8'; thus five adult sleeping bags would fit in a row with a walking space at the bottom. (The sixth spot, if really needed, is in the walking path.) Alternatively, three camping cots would fit with some gear storage. A desirable feature is the 6'4" peak height allowing some standing room. Inside are hang loops and ten pockets to help keep items organized and off the floor. This tent would serve as an excellent base camp for hiking or paddling.

The tent comes in a large dark-brown zip bag that will be heavy and stuffed. Please read the instructions on the bag before starting to be efficient and avoid damage to the poles. This is a tent you do not want to set up for the first time in the dark or in a

hurry. The design uses four flexible snap poles to expand out the nylon walls into a big freestanding rectangular box. It will require two people and an open area twice the size of the tent. A footprint was purchased to protect the bottom as this tent is expected to get heavy use like our other big tents HT-26/27. There is a small bag of eight heavy-duty stakes. The corners should be staked, as wind will be more likely to affect this high profile design. There is a clear zip bag with the orange guylines, but these may only be needed in windy conditions or to pull out the fly for more air circulation.

Please take time to make sure the tent is dry and cleaned out, and that zippers are closed before folding. Pack a small whisk broom, if necessary. It may be a challenge to fit everything into the carrying bag (fold the tent into quarters), but please do so. Keep the tent stakes out when returning to Bldg 310 so that they can be counted. Finally, remember tents are for sleeping and not an all-day playroom. This situation is especially true on hot days, as the side vents may not be sufficient to displace the heat without a good breeze.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome the following new members for July:

Ryan Shealy	William Eric Matos Berrios
Dayana Cope	Angela Albert
Ryan Hogan	Anthony D. Carico

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see tehcc.org/schedule

Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Contact
July 1-5	S900M: Smokies Backpack	A/2/B	Kent and Nancy Wilson	423-239-7554
July 2	Paddle to the Grill (every Thursday in June)	Flatwater	Deb Reynolds	dlreynolds@eastman.com
July 2-6	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
July 4	Lower Watauga River (every Saturday)	Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 11-12	Mount LeConte Lodge	B/3/B	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
July 14	TEHCC Two-fer Tuesdays	Fun	Marc Schurger	marc.schurger@tehcc.org
July 16	FunFest Moonlight Hike	Fun	Tom Boyd	423-229-1395
July 17-25	ATC Biennial Conference	Various	Jake Mitchell	jacobmitchell@gmail.com
Jul 30-Aug 3	Konnarock Crew	Maintenance	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Aug 1	AT: Blackstack Cliffs	A/3/B	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Aug 22	Grassy Ridge Moonlight Hike	B/3/C	Jake Mitchell	jake.mitchell@tehcc.org

Description of Upcoming Events

S900M: Smokies Backpack, July 1-5, 2009

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

Rating: A/2/B

Kent and Nancy Wilson will lead a Smokies 900-Miler backpack 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 for the second night at campsite #82 (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 for anyone who wishes 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. 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, at 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.

Paddle to the Grill, Every Thursday in July

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

Rating: Flatwater

Each Thursday evening in July, bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to the second boat launch at Winged Deer Park to paddle to Sonny's Marina & Café for dinner and a social hour, then paddle back. We plan to launch at 6:30. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat; PFD's are mandatory. If you need a stern light, try the following link <http://www.boatbandit.com/portable-stern-light>. You can also search on-line for a portable stern light. A bow light is also recommended but not mandatory.

Lower Watauga River, Every Saturday in July

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

Rating: Class I-II

Debbie will lead Class I-II trips on the Lower Watauga River "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 3:00 PM. Bring cold-water gear and a snack. Check first to see if we are on, because in times of low water we may move the run to whatever is running.

Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains), July 11-12, 2009

Leader: [Steve Falling](#), 423-239-5502

Rating: B/3/B

For the past 30+ years the Hiking Club has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge (elevation 6593 ft) can only be reached by hiking trail. Supplies are brought in by llama train once a week. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way, depending on the route. The package price this year is \$121 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We have eight reservations in two five-person cabins (double bunk beds and a single). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations, please contact the hike leader for availability. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at leconte-lodge.com.

TEHCC Two-Fer Tuesdays, July 14, 2009

Leader: [Marc Schurger](#)

This is an informal after-work monthly get-together at Kingsport Grocery that takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. All TEHCC Members, Affiliates, and friends are invited to attend and get to know other members of the club, learn about their favorite (or secret) hike/paddle, swap trail stories, learn about upcoming activities and generally enjoy the company of like-minded hikers and paddlers. We will meet around 5 pm on the second floor of Kingsport Grocery.

(Kingsport Grocery offers \$2 drafts on Tuesday.) This is also a great opportunity to recruit new members and increase member participation in upcoming outings and events. For more details, contact either [Marc Schurger](#) or [Ed Montgomery](#).

2009 ATC Biennial Conference and Hiking Extravaganza, July 17-25, 2009

Leader: [Jake Mitchell](#)

NOTICE: There is one available spot left on this trip (unless you want to drive or fly). The next biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will be held from July 17-24, 2009 at Castleton State College near Rutland, Vermont. Information on the conference can be found at www.Vermont2009.org. TEHCC members interested in going should contact Jake Mitchell (jacobmmitchell@gmail.com). Transportation costs will be split evenly among the participants. We will be driving an Eastman 12-passenger van with the only cost being fuel. Conference costs will be determined by the attendees, depending on how many days are spent at the college. Current plan is to leave early Friday morning, July 17th from Kingsport and drive to Rutland. Saturday, Sunday and maybe Monday will be spent at the conference and in the immediate area. Monday through Friday will be spent hiking the AT prior to driving home. Exact hiking location is yet to be determined. This should be a relatively cheap week-long vacation that should be a great time for all that go!

AT: Blackstack Cliffs to Big Firescald Knob, August 1, 2009

Leader: Vic Hasler, 423-239-0388

Rating: A/3/B

This hike is for the great overlooking views up along a knife-edge ridge on the Bald Mountains in Greene County. Although the trail is not dangerous to walk, this hike will not be suitable for young children. In addition, the length is longer than the standard Viking Mountain out-and-back due a Boy Scout needing ten miles minimum. Plans are to meet at 7:30AM (Colonial Heights McDonalds) for the 1.5 hour drive to the Viking Mtn meadow (via dropping off a car at Allen Gap). The group will enjoy the view from the Blackstack Cliffs, and then head north to the Big Firescald Knob. Once done soaking up the vistas, we will return to the meadow for lunch with blueberries possibly being in season. If adequate transportation, some folks could call these five miles (B/3/C rating) enough for the day. At least the scout and I desire to continue south downhill on the AT past Little Laurel Shelter to Allen Gap to pick up another seven miles to meet the Hiking merit badge requirement. Bring clothing layers plus sunscreen and/or a hat, as the ridge is exposed to wind and elements. Also hiking stick/trekking poles, lunch/snacks, and plenty of water are needed. The group will stop for dinner on the way back at a location TBD. Please contact the hike leader during the week prior so that we know what transportation arrangements are available.

Grassy Ridge Moonlight Hike, August 22, 2009

Leader: [Jake Mitchell](#)

Rating: B/3/C

Jake Mitchell will be leading an easy moonlight hike to Grassy Ridge for some meteor watching (he hopes) from Carvers Gap. A sunset dinner is encouraged also. If you have never night hiked, this is your chance to find out what you have been missing. If the moon is clear, it is an exhilarating experience. Headlamps or flashlights are a must. Hot chocolate and fine beverages are good too. Contact Jake if interested (jake.mitchell@tehcc.org).

**For the
Record**



Memorial Day Weekend Hike, Smoky Mtn. 900 miler, May 22-25, 2009

Kent Wilson reporting

Kent and Nancy Wilson, Kim Peters and Chuck Mather enjoyed a weekend backpack in the Great Smoky Mtn. National Park. Friday evening, we hiked into Laurel Gap Shelter via the Balsam Mountain Trail 4.1 miles. It was an interesting evening at the traditional old shelter, complete with chain-link bear fence. We were joined by two ladies and four horses (who did a nice job mowing the grass). They were heavily loaded and out for a week, averaging about 25 miles per day. Later in the evening we were joined by Peter Barr, author of "Hiking North Carolina's Lookout Towers" and his wife, Allison out to bag 6000'ers. On Saturday, we hiked the Balsam Mountain Trail to the Mount Sterling Ridge Trail to Pretty Hollow

Gap Trail to Palmer Creek Trail, then on to Beech Gap Trail and Hyatt Ridge Trail up to Campsite #44 for a soggy night. There was a lot of elevation gain, which was more difficult with packs on. Chuck and Kim hiked 15.1 miles and Kent and Nancy added an out-and-back to Cataloochee for 16.7 miles. On Sunday we hiked the Hyatt Ridge Trail to Enloe Creek Trail, did an out-and-back and finished up the Hyatt Ridge Trail to Straight Fork Road. Kim decided to forego the extra on Enloe Creek and had 6.4 miles; the others did three more miles for 9.4. Chuck and Kim decided they had had enough fun, especially with some rain and headed back to Kingsport. Kent and Nancy stayed an extra night and hiked the other Beech Gap Trail out and back, Tow String Trail, and back to the car on Bradley Fork Trail and the Concession Horse Trail, which was a muddy mess for 9.5 miles. Total mileages for the weekend were Kim – 25.6, Chuck – 28.6, Kent and Nancy – 39.7 miles. Kent and Nancy have now completed over ¾ of the trails in the Smokies.

SB6K: Plott Balsams, May 25, 2009

Jake Mitchell reporting

Five people set out on a cool foggy Memorial Day morning from the Waterrock Knob parking lot along the Blue Ridge Parkway to summit four 6,000 footers. Hikers were Jake Mitchell, Tom Boyd, Jim Foster and Bruce (last name?) from the TEHCC and Jacob Cox from the Carolina Mountain Club. We began by quickly hiking up the established trail to the top of Waterrock Knob. There were no views due to the fog. We then started down the manway towards Browning Knob and got off the manway within 5 minutes, but realized it after a few yards. We followed the barely visible manway to the top of Browning Knob and continued on to a private home on the shoulder of Mount Lyn Lowry. That was the point that Jim and Bruce got to last time they tried the Plott Balsams. From there, we decided to hit the ridgeline and there we found where someone had flagged a path previously. We followed the flags all the way to the memorial cross and realized that the actual summit of Lyn Lowry was just a high spot in some evergreens. We then continued down Lyn Lowry on the very steep manway and soon hit a USFS road. This road led us to within 200 yards of the summit of Plott Balsam. We followed flagging to the top of Plott Balsam for an lackluster summit and quick lunch. We then hustled back down and quickly got back to the steep ascent of Lyn Lowry. We all made it back to the cross and that's where the fun began. We were convinced that the road to the cross was the same as the road to the house, but after walking the road a few hundred yards we decided it wasn't because it was descending too fast. At that point, we bushwhacked straight uphill where Jim, Jake and Tom got semi-lost because they inadvertently crossed the trail. Jake then went in the wrong direction, but Jim caught him quickly. The crew regrouped at the house and then set their sights on the Waterrock Knob parking lot. At 4:30, everyone was back to the parking lot. Jacob from CMC decided to go ahead and do Yellow Face and the TEHCC folks decided to call it a day. Amazingly we did not hit any heavy rain, but stayed soaked most of the day from bushwhacking. We arrived back in Johnson City at 7pm from a 7am start.

20 Miles on the Virginia Creeper, May 30, 2009

Vic Hasler reporting

To earn the Hiking merit badge, a Boy Scout must ultimately "take a hike of 20 continuous miles in one day". Matt McConnell, a Life rank scout from Troop 48, and I took up this challenge on Virginia Creeper Trail. Since only the two of us, we started out at 8AM from the Abingdon trailhead as this end is flatter and better covered in forest. Rest breaks allowed us to learn about the trail history at dedicated benches and nature information kiosks – and find several of the geocaches hidden along the route. The trail was actively being used by bikers, joggers, dog walkers, and several horse riders. We reached mile marker 10, took some photos, and then headed back. I learned that my nylon and wool sock system was not adequate this day to prevent blistering which finally caught up with us around mile 16. (A sock upgrade will be purchased before the next 12 mile hike in August.) Overall, we averaged just better than 2 mph with our more frequent stops to enjoy the trail sights.

Paddle to the Grill

Deb Reynolds reporting

For the first 2 weeks several folks have decided not to travel to Winged Deer Park to try the Paddle to the Grill. MISTAKE!

Yes, I punted the first week, but went last week and did not see a single raindrop even though a friend told me the airport was hit with a gusher. Remember, this is East TN, not the plains, so the weather on the other side of the hill may not match what you are currently seeing.

By the way, the paddle was wonderful. This second week, we had 8 boats (all different kinds) leave the dock at 6:50pm and paddled straight to



Sonny's. Only 3 of the 8 paddlers had been there the previous week when we had 6 boats. I left my GPS at home again, so we have estimates of 1.5 to 2.5 miles depending on who's guessing. I don't know when we got there, but I was paying at 8:50 and arrived back at the dock at 10pm. We had 2 paddlers whose families met them at Sonny's; so invite your family to do the same. Most food at Sonny's is about \$10 without a drink, so plan accordingly.

Coming back, you will need some light on the back of your boat to be seen by others; it is dark. However, it was also calm and seeing the docks and houses lighted up was a completely different experience than the paddle in. The free family movie at Winged Deer was playing last week and we could have paddled up closer and watched from the water. Parking is not a problem. So go ahead, pack the car, and be ready to paddle. If it is raining we will drive to a nice restaurant location, eat without the work and meet some other folks who like to paddle. Hope to see you there!



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: May 29, 2009

Purpose: Mow

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds on the Trail across the Osborne Farm. We also loaded 14 buckets of rock to be used at the Overmountain Shelter to fill a wet spot.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: May 30, 2009

Purpose: Walk section, cut back brush, and clear blowdowns

Location: Section 9, US Hwy 321 to Pond Flats

People: Jake Mitchell, Ryen Minton

Summary: We set out to walk to Pond Flats and back from the lake to cut brush and weeds, and to clear a few step-over blowdowns. We cleared five blowdowns and cut back lots of rhodies, laurel, and green briar. We also initiated Jake's pups, Samson and Jonah, to trail maintenance. On the next trip, we'll need to bring a tool to clear weeds and a crosscut saw to remove a couple of large, step-over blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 2, 2009

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 13a, US Hwy 19E south for about 2.5 miles

People: Dick Burow, Suzanne Burow

Summary: Dick Burow found three recent blowdowns south of Apple House shelter while hiking to meet a couple of hikers he had dropped off at Carver's Gap. He and his wife, Suzanne, went back to remove these 8-to-10-inch blowdowns. The upper blowdown had successfully blocked the trail. Dick was impressed with the trail relocations across Round Bald as well as those south of 19E.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 2, 2009

Purpose: Complete Trail relocations north of Grassy Ridge

Location: Section 14b, About one-half mile north of Grassy Ridge

People: Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Michael Laude, Janel Scharhag

Summary: We completed most of the finish work on the relocations opened with Hard Core. We scattered leaves on the Trail, installed about 12 rock steps, and put crush and fill in a number of places. It was a beautiful day, but we got caught in a hail and lightning storm that dropped temperatures 30° on the hike out.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 2, 2009

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: There has been a significant wet area on the Trail as you approach the Barn. This group installed a 15-inch culvert pipe, rebuilt the trail with geotextile and gravel, and dug long ditches to intersect and transport water. Ted also cut some of the weeds in the Barn area. A 200-foot water trail was built to improve access to the primary water source; and Bruce installed a 2-inch pipe that was running full volume with a stream shooting out 15 inches.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 6, 2009

Purpose: Install sign

Location: Section 14b, Grassy Ridge Trail junction

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: This junction has been without a sign for years now, causing many hikers to take a wrong turn no matter what their destination. To correct the problem, Steve Perri has made a new metal sign. We set an existing blazed post at the junction much deeper into the ground and fortified with post braces, sand, rock, plenty of dirt, and more rock. We will not be happy if this sign disappears.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 8, 2009

Purpose: Discuss strategy for maintaining Roan Highlands open areas

Location: Section 14b, Carvers Gap to Round Bald

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed met with representatives from many organizations (SAHC, ATC, USFS, Nature Conservancy, Fish & Wildlife, and others) to discuss maintaining the open areas on the balds on Roan Mtn. He also checked on the price and availability of rough sawn lumber for Curley Maple Gap Shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz for Ed

Date: June 9, 2009

Purpose: Cut brush and trees on planned relocation

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US Hwy 321

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Joe Herbert, Benjamin Jack, Chris Jack, Charles Long, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver and HIKERS: Sofia Berinstein, "Queen Becky"

Summary: We cut brush and trees from about 2000 feet of the AT relocation around Watauga Lake. Students from Watauga College, Appalachian State University, will work on this section in late August. Thanks to all the good help, we finished before the heat of the afternoon and before any thunderstorms.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 10, 2009

Purpose: Complete spring maintenance

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

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, John Willis, Ruth Ann Willis, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Susan Peters, Jerry Jones, Jerry Mayne, Andrew Cleland, Dave McMillin, Bill Mitchell, Lou Haase, Harry Ford, Gil Derouen, Daryl Loyd, CB Willis, Kent Ganshirt, Ernie Hartford, Franklin Montenegro, .

Summary: We trimmed weeds along the Trail and lopped branches where necessary from Iron Mt Gap to the switchback on the south side of Unaka Mt at USFS 230. We re-worked about 300 feet of Trail south of Low Gap and about 50 feet north of Low Gap. We also refreshed blazes from Low Gap to Cherry Gap and repainted blue blazes to the spring at Cherry Gap shelter.

Reporting: Bill Fuller

Date: June 14, 2009

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15, Hughes Gap

People: Bill Fuller

Summary: I cut weeds with a swing blade, a couple of feet on each side of the Trail in the overgrown area just north of

Hughes Gap. I went about 0.15 miles up the trail... a little past that first campsite on the left, and returned.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 14, 2009

Purpose: Cut briars and paint

Location: Section 15, Near Cloudland hotel site and near Carvers Gap

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: A few years ago we put up signs on a post above the site of the Cloudland hotel pointing the directions to Carvers Gap and Hughes Gap. These were repainted. It would be desirable to rout the small lettering, but they'll hold through the high-use period. Afterwards, I cut and pulled up briars in a sunny, thick-growth area about 100 yards south of Carvers Gap.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 15, 2009

Purpose: Summer maintenance, weeding, and clipping

Location: Section 18, Switchback USFS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Franklin Montenegro, Jerry Jones, Lou Haase, Ernie Hartford, Joan Smith, Andrew Cleland, Ruth Ann Willis, John Willis, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Bob Miller, CB Willis

Summary: We did summer weed trimming, lopped branches, and removed several small trees from the Trail. We painted blue blazes to Deep Gap spring and picked up litter. Most of the work today was done in continuous heavy showers, but our maintainers didn't quit until the job was finished.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: June 18, 2009

Purpose: Remove blowdown

Location: Section 12a, Just north of Laurel Fork crossing

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: High winds caused a large tree to fall across Trail just north of Laurel Fork creek crossing. I hiked in with a chainsaw and removed it. I also lopped some rhodo growth into trail. This section is muddy in spots, but otherwise in good condition.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 18, 2009

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Roan High Knob

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: A member of another Trail-maintaining club reported two blowdowns across the Trail and three more parallel to the Trail with branches sticking out between Carvers Gap and Roan High Knob. We removed the two across the Trail before lightning and storms chased us back to the car. A hiker we met said the others were very easy to get past. We also cut a few briars along the way.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 19, 2009

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14a, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Aaron Scott, Tim Stewart

Summary: Successfully missing all of this week's rain, we cut weeds from Bradley Gap to Stan Murray shelter. The new relocations reduced the necessary weed cutting.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: June 20, 2009

Purpose: Trim weeds

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

People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: Ed started at Hughes Gap and I started at Greasy Creek. We trimmed weeds and cleared some sticks over the entire 5 miles of trail. I also had a chance to clean a few waterbars. The trail is in good shape except for a little mud here and there.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: June 22, 2009

Purpose: Trail maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds on the Accessible Trail and on the AT across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 23, 2009

Purpose: Purchase and store rough-sawn lumber

Location: Section 19, For Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: Ted and Ed purchased two trailer loads of rough-sawn lumber for Curley Maple Gap Shelter. They stacked it for drying at Unicoi Work Center.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 23, 2009

Purpose: Cut brush and trees on planned relocation

Location: Section 8, One mile or so north of Shook Branch

People: Paul Benfield, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters, Aaron Scott, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cut brush and trees from another estimated 1800 feet of trail and are now past the homesteads. We are debating who will get to claim the trail sections having old roads when we later dig in this area.

Reporting: Old Timers Hiking Club

Date: June 25, 2009

Purpose: Complete maintenance for this section

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap

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

Summary: We mowed weeds from Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap, lopped limbs, removed two trees from the Trail, cleaned water bars and dips, painted blue blazes to the spring, and mowed around the Heritage apple trees in wire cages in the orchard. It looks like about 9 of the 12 new apple trees are surviving. We saw four hikers on the trip today. Four wheelers still plague the section from Weedy Gap south toward IMG, with most of the evidence around Weedy Gap and the apple orchard. Someone has removed the "AT Foot Traffic Only" sign near Weedy Gap.