



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

February 2010

tehcc.org

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To submit an article for the Newsletter, send an email to: news@tehcc.org. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month.

From the Chair

(Steering Committee Chair Tim Schaefer)

Here we are in the dead of winter. Some back-off on outdoor activities during this time of the year; others welcome the extra level of challenge. Which one are you? We have a challenge in front of us for at least the first half of this year. Currently we are 350 applications short of the required 1,000 to make the TN AT plate happen. Have you heard about the plate? I am sure you have, and I hope we are not over saturating you on this topic; but we feel so passionately about finally having an option for a good looking license plate on our car... I mean how much do we want to bring support to the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee that we all love and enjoy! This will very likely be our last chance to get a specialty plate for the AT in TN and the window closes this June. To help us get there, the Eastman Chemical Company Foundation has very generously provided a grant; read more about it in this newsletter. In a nutshell, procrastination has paid off because now you can get your first year's plate for only \$15 instead of \$35 and we are extremely thankful for Eastman's support. So tell your friends, tell your relatives, tell your coworkers, because you don't need to work at Eastman for the reduced rate, you don't even need to live in Tennessee, you just need to be licensing a vehicle in TN. So get a tag for that muscle car you're working on in the garage, or trade in that smiling fish license plate you currently have and let's make this happen.

We had an excellent planning meeting in January and in my opinion 2010 is shaping up to be a great year. Other than our prime key initiative of the license plate, we have committed ourselves to two other tasks. The first is to have a more plentiful and varied event schedule. Keep an eye on our calendar; I think you'll be impressed. Event coordinator Jake Mitchell is doing a great job encouraging people to help fill out our schedule and is even planning some special events for this summer. We encourage all club members to volunteer to lead events. I personally would love to see a scheduled event nearly every Saturday. Will you please help us get there? Our last key initiative will hopefully make trip planning easier because we would like to start populating a local hike database somehow accessible from the website. Expect to hear more about that later as I've rambled enough already for this newsletter.

So be courageous! Get out to hike and paddle in the winter and sign up to get rid of that smiling fish on your license plate!

License plate fee has been reduced to \$15!



The TEHCC is pleased to announce that the initial fee for an AT license plate has been reduced from \$35 to \$15. In order to make the plate a reality, 1000 pre-paid applications must be received by June 2010. Normally, the cost of a standard specialty plate (no personalization) is \$35 in addition to your county fees. However, Eastman Chemical Company Foundation is offering a special matching grant – open to all Tennesseans - that allows you to purchase a plate for \$15. Don't wait for your tags to expire! When the plate is put into production, your fees will be prorated for the upcoming year.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy will receive \$15.56 per plate each year. The fee also includes a free one-year membership to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, a \$35 value!

To sign up for your plate, visit our website at www.tehcc.org. More details can be found at www.appalachiantrail.org/tnlicenseplate. If you have any questions, contact [Joe DeLoach](#), [Jake Mitchell](#) or [Ed Montgomery](#) - TELL ALL OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

[Appalachian Trail Conservancy Invasive Plant Control Workshops](#)

Joe DeLoach reporting

In February, we'll resume a series of workshops begun in late 2009 sponsored by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to combat the spread of invasive and exotic plants along the Trail. These workshops are being held in Wilderness areas and in areas where invasive plants are gaining a foothold. One such area on our Trail section is along the Nolichucky River near Chestoa. In that area, multiflora rose, privet, tree of heaven, princess tree, Japanese honeysuckle, and other invasive plants are found. Volunteers are encouraged to participate in two upcoming workshops starting at 9:00 AM on Saturdays, February 20 and 27, at the Chestoa Bridge. The following Saturday, March 6 may be used should weather force postponement of one of the workshops. At the workshop, we'll learn about the threats invasive plants pose to native species, learn how to identify 15 of the most threatening species in our region, and receive training on tools and techniques to eradicate them. Then we'll put our skills to work along the Trail. ATC and the Forest Service will provide equipment, though if you have telescoping loppers, those make ideal tools for the multiflora rose. Volunteers should bring lunch, water, and clothing appropriate for winter weather, definitely including a long sleeve shirt. For this event, volunteers must be over the age of 18. If you are interested or might be interested in volunteering at one or both of these workshops, please contact [Joe DeLoach](#).

[Save the date for the Spring Dinner Meeting!](#)

The TEHCC Spring Dinner Meeting will take place on **Friday, March 19th** at the Eastman Lodge. Happy Trails Hour will begin at 5:30 with dinner and program following. Details will be forthcoming via email and the newsletter. Hope to see you there!

[Eastman HealthE Dividends](#)

Marc Schurger reporting

Attention Eastman Employees and Spouses (covered by Eastman health insurance): You can now earn up to \$50 in HealthE Dividends by participating in physical activity programs of your choosing such as hiking and paddling. To receive credit you must self report 52 workouts in the program's Cardio Log between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2010.

Set up your account on www.healthEconnections.net and begin tracking your activity.

[New Volunteer Opportunities on the Appalachian Trail](#)

Carl Fritz reporting

TEHCC proudly maintains 135 miles of the AT from Damascus to Spivey Gap. It happens solely because of volunteers like you. In 2010 we are introducing two new opportunities for you to get outside and help with this effort without having to wield a Pulaski, scythe or saw. One opportunity is to pick up trash around Watauga Lake near Shook Branch several times a year. The other new opportunity is to monitor one of our sixteen shelters several times a year.

Compared to most of our trail, Watauga Lake has more trash during the summer because it is close to Route 321 and because non-hikers camp near the lake and Oliver Hollow Road. Dave and Carol Dunham and Brian Paley have maintained the trail from Shook Branch to Wilbur Dam Road for several years and have done a great job. However, it is difficult to pick up the trash as well as cut blowdowns, cut weeds, etc. on the same outing. Volunteers who are willing to pick up the trash several times, especially during the summer, would greatly enhance the appearance along the trail. Since the trash is fairly close to a road, it does not need to be toted far.

Likewise, our sixteen shelters are assigned to whoever has responsibility for that trail section. It would be highly desirable for a person or persons to act as shelter monitors to check specifically on the shelter several times during the hiking season. Some checklist items would include: checking for leaks, general condition of shelter, log book replacement, minor trash pickup, water source condition, etc. Many of these items the monitor could correct. For larger projects other volunteers would help.

Also we have needs for volunteers to take a trail section in 2010. Currently, our 135 miles of trail are divided into 34 sections. Some of these sections currently lack a person to be responsible to help cut blowdowns, trim back yearly growth, cut weeds, paint blazes, and clean waterbars. If we have extra willing maintainers we can reduce the length of some sections. Again, projects too large for the section maintainers can be handled by special crews.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities for 2010, please contact [Carl Fritz](#) via email or at 423-477-4669.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HB-28 – Kelty Slickrock Internal Frame Backpack

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

HB-28 is the club's largest internal frame backpack at 5500 cubic inches capacity – and the most popular, being rented six times each year. Its space will haul enough gear for multiday outings, but know your own weight limitation as can easily be stuffed over 40-50 pounds. The empty pack itself is almost seven pounds. Since this pack is shared among club members, a good recommendation is to make the initial adjustments at home, before hitting the trail, by loading a bag (or two) of cat litter and walking around the house (including stairs). Tighten the belt first so that it fits over your hip bone, then tighten the shoulder straps, and finally snug the load lifter straps. There is a sternum strap that can also be used, if desired.

The top lid will convert to a fanny pack if need to haul smaller items to another locations. The main con per reviewers is the lack of smaller external pockets on pack body. One person used small stuff sacks held under the compression lines.

Recommend that you reserve early since it is popular over the peak season in this area. This backpack was purchased in 2000. A competitive pack would be Granite Gear Access 5500.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome the following new members for January:

Robert Branch

Patty Jo Nachman

Sheri & Lou Nemeth

David DeBry

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Rating	Leader	Contact
Feb 6	F/B Hike to (hopefully) Frozen Waterfalls	C/4/C	Tim Schaefer	423-229-6244
Feb 13	Couples Hike: Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve	C/4/C	Ed Montgomery	emonty@eastman.com
Feb 20	ATC Invasive Plant Control Workshops	Worthwhile	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Feb 26	National Paddling Film Festival, Frankfurt, KY	Fun	Ed Montgomery	emonty@eastman.com
Feb 27	ATC Invasive Plant Control Workshops	Worthwhile	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Mar 19	Spring Dinner Meeting	Fun	Tim Schaefer	423-229-6244
Mar 20	Channels Natural Area Preserve	B/3/C	Vic Hasler	hvhasler@eastman.com
Mar 26-28	AT Backpack: Fox Creek to Atkins	AA/3/B	Jake Mitchell	jacobmmitchell@gmail.com

Description of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

Fridays: Friday Hikers

Join members of the TEHCC and other hiking enthusiasts for Friday hikes in the northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia area. Trips typically leave from the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 8 am. Trips to places further away leave at 7:30am. Contact [Collins Chew](#) to be added to the distribution list.

Tuesdays: Johnson City Roll Practice

Come join the Jackson Action Wagon (J.A.W.), APEs, and other paddlers from around our region at the Freedom Hall Pool in Johnson City, TN from 7:10 to 9:10 pm every Tuesday for tips and tricks about basic kayaking skills and learning how to roll. Have you already mastered the basics and have a bomb proof roll? There is still a lot of fun to be had at our pool session by practicing your flat-water freestyle moves and fellowshiping with other paddlers in a nice warm water environment. Admission to the pool is \$2, rolling advice is free! Contact the pool office (423- 461-4872) for session confirmation or questions regarding the facility. Please note: The J.A.W. does provide the current fleet of boats for demo at the pool session, but neither the pool nor the J.A.W. provides paddling equipment (paddle, spray skirt, etc...) for these sessions. If you are just starting out in the sport and do not have your own equipment, please post a message on the APEs yahoo group site or send Wesley an e-mail asking other members to bring extra equipment if possible. We will try our best to get you outfitted for the night!

Weekly AT Trail Maintenance, Most Tuesdays

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Tuesdays. Contact Carl Fritz (atmaint@tehcc.org) for dates and meeting places.

Scheduled Events

F/B Hike to (Hopefully) Frozen Waterfalls, February 6, 2010

Leader: Tim Schaefer 423-229-6244

Rating: C/4/C

The plan is to go out and see some waterfalls. Last year we went to Elk River and Laurel Falls, this year I'm thinking of Margaret falls close to Greeneville, TN. It's hard to say if we'll see them iced over on this day but I bet there will be good flow with all of the precipitation we've been having this year. The plan is to leave Saturday morning and possibly stop for lunch somewhere while we're out. Contact trip leader Tim Schaefer, 423-229-6244, for details.

Couples Hike: Pinnacle Nature Preserve, February 13, 2010

Leader: [Ed Montgomery](#)

This will be a pleasant, easy 3-4 mile hike complete with swinging bridge, two waterfalls and the PINNACLE. The hike will include a big pre-Valentine's Day lunch stop (1/2 mile down the trail) at a designated picnic area, complete with picnic tables and bathrooms. This is a perfect hike for couples and could be considered a Valentine's Day gift for some. Note: Hike will be cancelled for extreme cold. Contact [Ed Montgomery](#) if interested.

Channels Natural Area Preserve, March 20, 2010

Leader: Vic Hasler

Rating: B/3/C

Per the club newsletters, this hike was last led in October 1994. It is to a rock outcropping called "Wind Tunnels" by the locals, but known as the "Crevices" by the Eastman Hiking Club. In 2008, the State of Virginia purchased the land to create The Channels Natural Area Preserve. We will meet at the usual Colonial Heights at 8 AM for the 75 minute drive up I-81 to Meadowview Exit 24, then VA80 to Hayter's Gap on Clinch Mountain. The hike is about 4 miles on gravel/dirt roads to fire tower, then a few hundred feet through some thickets to the rock formation. Bring a lunch, water, and be prepared for rain. The total trip time will be about 7 to 8 hours. Contact Vic Hasler if interested (hvhasler@eastman.com).

Rental Equipment Checkout, April 1, 2010 (11:00 am to 1:00 pm) at Eastman Employee Center (Building 310)

Leader: Vic Hasler

No April Fools! This event will be held at lunchtime again as we had better participation than in the evening. A pizza lunch will be provided again. We'll only check items that have been used in past year. A pair of folks will check out the packs and pads, and the rest will check out the tents. We need to make a list of needed repairs, and see what next items should be considered for purchase (in case a good sale is found). Please feel free to forward this meeting notice to others that you would think be interested in seeing what rental equipment the club has – and would like to see it set up. Contact Vic Hasler (rentals@tehcc.org) if you are interested in helping and to give your preference for pizza and beverage.

Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains), Saturday-Sunday, July 10-11, 2010

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 \$128 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). Please contact Steve Falling, 423-239-5502, if you are interested. You must be a TEHCC member to participate in this outing. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at www.leconte-lodge.com/about.html.

For the Record



AT: Around Iron Mountain Gap, October 10, 2009

Vic Hasler reporting

Since Boy Scouts hike rain or shine, Matt McConnell and I headed up to Iron Mtn Gap at the TN-NC border on TN107. The backside of a cold front provided a steady drizzle for the entire day. With no one joining us to have a shuttle, the hike became a double out-and-back from the gap with one mile southbound and four miles northbound to cover the required ten miles Matt needed to finish the BSA Hiking merit badge. This hike was also part of the effort by the Dartmouth Outing Club to hike the whole length of the AT on this Saturday (which ended up covering roughly 2000 of the 2176 miles).

While a wet day, both Matt and I enjoyed the walk along the ridge through the yellow leaves which had already begun falling. An early surprise was discovering that this location was very popular with bow hunters for deer (which we saw half dozen deer – some as close as 40 feet). We also helped a lost hunter figure out which side of the ridge was Tennessee. Finally, able to find all seven geocaches located along this section.

Friday Hikers: Chimney Top, January 1, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

The weather person missed again and we had ideal, cool weather for our hike to Chimney Top. Views were nice. We ran into at least three other groups who apparently consider Chimney Top as the standard New Years Day Hike and we enjoyed their company. Some steep, muddy, leafy sections did add a bit of excitement. The owners, Dane and Mary Faulkner, have provided some enhancements since we were there over two years ago. There were rock steps going up a particularly steep section beside a log and several large ropes provided handholds. The trail was more obvious and marked with flagging of various colors. The top ridge trail had been cleared recently to widen it so we really felt welcome. Several asked about the road that we saw to the northwest of the mountain. That is the valley of Beech Creek which empties into the Holston River near Rogersville. It heads at Blair Gap NNE of where we were. Hikers (with us) were: Ken Buchanan, Jud and Kevin Barry, first timers Craig and Joe DeLoach, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Chuck and John Mather, first timer Ryan Shealy, and Collins Chew. The holiday allowed some to be with us who normally would be at work.

Friday Hikers: AT Around Watauga Lake, January 15, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, cool day for our hike on the AT around Watauga Lake, about 10 miles. Much if not most of the hike was on snow, never very deep and quite powdery in the morning. There were great views with the leaves off the trees. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Don Baker, Anne Cosby, Debbi Dula, June Donaldson, Carol and Dave Dunham, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Jerry Jones, and Collins Chew.

Opportunity: I have cancelled more hikes for weather than usual this season. Larry Miller would like, in many cases, to go on and make a hike under the existing weather conditions and wants to know of others of like mind. If you would like Larry to contact you for hikes on days when I have cancelled them, contact him at miller3701@chartertn.net.

Friday Hikers: Laurel Fork Falls, January 22, 2010

Dave Dunham reporting

This Friday hike was on the AT from Hampton to Dennis Cove. The weather was overcast with just a few sprinkles at the beginning of the hike. The views of the creek in the gorge were great, and the falls were running with as much force as I have ever seen them. Everyone thought they were quite spectacular. We all walked from Dennis Cove to Kincora for lunch. Bob Peoples was a gracious host. All in all, it was a great hike. Hikers were: Hugh Thompson, Chuck and Jan Mather, Ken Buchanan, Debbi Dula, June Donaldson, Dick Orr, Dave and Carol Dunham.

SB6K – Great Balsams, Jan 23 – 24 2010

Jake Mitchell reporting

We left bright and early from Kingsport on Saturday morning for the 2+ hour drive to the Blue Ridge Parkway where the trails originate. The parkway was closed which wasn't posted on the website. Instead we parked at the Mountains-to-Sea trailhead just down from the parkway for a slightly modified itinerary. The first 30 minutes of the hike were a precursor to the entire trip - mud, snow, wind debris, and a hard-to-find trail. However, we were able to successfully summit Chestnut Bald, Black Balsam Knob, Tennent Mountain, and Grassy Cove Top. We returned to the Black Balsam parking area via the access trail and spent night under a large stand of hemlocks that protected us from the wind. Rain the entire night meant that the poor trail conditions from the day before would be even worse. We opted for the easiest route back to our vehicle - follow Black Balsam Road back to the parkway and

walk the parkway. So we packed everything up and started road marching by headlamp at 6:30 heading first into a driving rain storm. We hustled. We were fortunate that the bench-cut of the parkway into the mountainside kept the wind above us. We did have one break inside Devil's Courthouse Tunnel. A few minutes later we were driving home.

The weather was great on Saturday, terrible on Sunday. The trails were in gruesome condition. We summited four 6000 footers and had a great time. We hiked almost 14 miles. Hikers – Jake Mitchell, Tom Boyd, Ian Powell



AT Maintenance Reports

AT Maintenance Factoid, reported by Jeff Sirola: Over this last decade (1 January 2000 through 31 December 2009), 3411 individual members, associates, and friends of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (including employees, retirees, family, college service groups, and through-hikers) contributed a recorded total of 104,570 volunteer hours to the construction, maintenance, and upkeep of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail between Spivey Gap NC and Damascus VA.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: December 27, 2009

Purpose: Cut minor blowdowns and lop

Location: Section 10, High water trail and loop on normal AT to Dennis Cove

People: Two hikers, Maggie and Matt

Summary: Maggie and Matt were at Kincora Hostel and volunteered to clear the trail to the falls and loop to Laurel Fork Shelter and back on high water trail.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: December 30, 2009

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 9b, Hampton trailhead to Shook Branch

People: Jake Mitchell, Ryen Minton, Tyler Minton

Summary: Our purpose was to clear blowdowns on Pond Mountain, enjoy the day before it gets cold again, and get out of the house. We cleared 10 blowdowns between the Hampton trailhead and the AT junction. The tree at the narrowest part of the rocks along the creek fell into the creek and lifted the root ball. This actually made the trail better. The railroad grade after the AT junction had the worst blowdowns. We cleared several, including a gigantic Hemlock that was well over the trail, but left a massive pile of limbs in the trail. There were still a couple inches of snow on Pond Flats and the pond was frozen with a few inches of water in it. The rest of the way down to Shook Branch was spent clearing a few limbs. We met Carl and company at Shook Branch as they finished their day along the lake with the Florida scouts.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: December 30, 2009

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 8, South of Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Bill Murdoch, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart; Scout Troop: James Cooksey, John Searcy, Will Richardson, Philip Kenney, David Kenney, John Wright; Hikers: Patrick Thompson and one unknown

Summary: Florida scout troop #35 was hiking in TN again this year and set up a maintenance trip with us. Fortunately, the weather turned out great for working on the relocation around Watauga Lake. With the crew spread out on the major relocation we were able to completely finish it. We built about 700 feet of trail. The scouts painted blazes and opened the section which is about a half mile in length. There is only one short relocation remaining on the southern end that we will work on as time permits.

Reporting: Scott VanDam

Date: December 30, 2009

Purpose: Check assigned Trail section after major snow storm

Location: Section 12a, Hostel to Walnut Mountain Road

People: Scott VanDam

Summary: I took advantage of the sunshiny day to check Trail following the major snowstorm. I cut some rhodos and blowdowns; this section is now in good condition

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: December 30, 2009

Purpose: Check Trail for blowdowns

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

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Ernie Hartford

Summary: We removed a dozen 4-to-8-inch blowdowns and found what we were looking for ...We found nine blowdowns that will require a chainsaw; one is completely blocking the Trail near the orchard. We only got a look at half the Trail because the 10 to 12 inches of snow that covered most of the Trail was hard to walk in.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: December 30, 2009

Purpose: Install two posts to help direct hikers on the blue-blaze trail

Location: Section 10, Trail leading from Hampton trailhead to AT

People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: Ed and I installed two posts at the beginning and end of a short switch back to keep hikers from continuing on the old, muddy path. The lower post had the word trail with arrows and blue blazes on it. The upper post will need blazing.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: January 6, 2010

Purpose: Check on future projects

Location: Section 9, Shook Branch to northern boundary of Pond Mountain Wilderness

People: Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

Summary: We explored some potential projects. We figured out how to rehab Trail near Shook Branch bridge to reduce the grade. Unfortunately, the five inches of snow prevented us from doing some preparatory work on the last planned relocation around Watauga Lake. On the south side of U.S. 321, the Forest Service has bought some additional land which may allow us to significantly improve the lower part of Trail and reduce the number of switchbacks. We will get the Forest Service to define the new boundaries. We also cut an 18" blowdown near the Wilderness boundary.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: January 9, 2010

Purpose: Check for and remove obstructions after recent snow

Location: Section 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Anne Maio, Richard Carter

Summary: We hiked south from Damascus to the VA/TN line. There were surprisingly only three significant new obstructions, which we cut. There remain several others which will require chain saw or crosscut saw removal. All are easily negotiable for hikers except one trunk about ¼-mile north of the state line about 20 inches in diameter, which is a chest high and a significant nuisance.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: January 10, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20a, Chestoa to Cliff Ridge

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: The section from the Nolichucky River to Cliff Ridge is one of our better winter hikes due to its scenery and ease of access; so we thought we would check conditions after the snow and high winds. We cut and removed more blowdowns than we could count from the river for about a mile to the first overlooks, beyond the first switchback. The lower half-mile was the worst; lots of downed pines including many in the first 200 yards. We cleared everything that was truly an obstruction, but left three large ones that are easy to step over, for a chainsaw day.

Reporting: David Dunham

Date: January 11, 2010

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to the Watauga Dam

People: David Dunham, Ken Buchanan

Summary: We removed six blowdowns, one spring pole, and one leaner between Shook Branch and Watauga Dam. We also checked the shelter. I was going to clean it, but someone stole the broom or burned it, I'm not sure which. We also did considerable lopping. We then drove around to Wilbur Dam Road to check the other side of the trail from Wilbur Dam Road to the Watauga Dam, but the road is closed, which is a good thing because my truck would not have made it up the hill.

Reporting: Chad Tate

Date: January 12, 2010

Purpose: Check for blowdowns

Location: Section 13a, U.S. Hwy 19E to Hump Mountain

People: Chad Tate

Summary: This morning I hiked south from Hwy 19E to about 1 mile south of Doll Flats. 19E to Doll Flats has a few down trees that will only require hand saws. There is one large pine that is across the trail about 100 yards from 19E. This fall-down will require a chainsaw. The wooded section between Doll Flats and Big Hump has several trees that have fallen over the trail. Most will require a chain saw. The snow was about 4 inches deep from 19E until the start up to Doll Flats. Doll Flats area had 10 inches. The snow in the wooded section toward Big Hump was knee deep and waist deep, when I had to go off the trail to get around fallen trees.

Reporting: David Dunham

Date: January 12, 2010

Purpose: Measure the new relocation; routine maintenance

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Wilbur Dam Road

People: David Dunham, Carol Dunham, Don Baker, Collins Chew, Judith Foster, Olin Babb

Summary: The trail was wheeled, including the new relocation to determine the change. The trail is now 0.1 mile shorter than before. We cleaned the Trail from the dam to Wilbur Dam Road. Many low hanging branches had to be cut, lots of brush had to be removed, and 2 small blowdowns were cut. We also checked the shelter for signs of any damage.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: January 15, 2010

Purpose: Maintain Trail

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cut blowdowns and snow breakdowns on the Trail. There were more than 15 trees down, a couple of them completely blocking the trail. We removed limbs from the trail and cleaned out the spring at the camping area 1 mile south of the shelter. There was deep snow in the lane thru the farm, about 6 inches on the ground. However we were lucky as someone had gone at least to the shelter with snowshoes packing down the trail in the woods.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: January 19, 2010

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 19, Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart

Summary: We sawed blowdowns and snow breakdowns from Nolichucky River to above the last bridge below Curley Maple Shelter. We removed limbs from the trail. A total of more than 40 trees were sawed and removed from the trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: January 19, 2010

Purpose: Remove blowdowns and locate shelter access

Location: Section 19, Indian Grave Gap to Curley Maple Gap

People: Bill Elderbrock, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Ray Douglas OTTO, Janel Scharhag BEAR PAW, Michael Laude MOOSE

Summary: The crew cut about 15 blowdowns to within a half-mile north of shelter. We also explored other possible access trails to the shelter.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: January 19, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

People: Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter

Summary: We hiked up from Chestoa to Temple Hill Gap, encountering 28 blowdowns. About 25 of them required chain sawing to remove. We also did some minor lopping, shears clearing, and hand clearing.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: January 23, 2010

Purpose: Clear trail of obstructions

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

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I removed several (too many to count) blowdowns and cleared the trail of a lot of down branches. The trail from Hughes Gap to Little Rock knob is clear and in good condition.