



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

May 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)

Have you been watching our event schedule? I'm really impressed with how well it's filling out. I still see some holes we need to fill but we are starting to have something for everyone every month. This month the paddling events begin with two weekend canoe and camping events, one on the Bluestone River, the other on the New River. As well as the weekly weekday "Paddle to the Grill" and the weekend class I/II Watauga River trips. I took my daughter out in our kayak last year for the last Paddle to the Grill, had lots of fun and spent time with some great people. I would also like to highlight Nancy Wilson's "Beginning Backpacking for Women" class in May and follow-up trip in early June. Nancy's class and trip look to be a great opportunity (if you're female) and are interested in trying backpacking. In a group setting like this, in combination with the club's rental equipment, you can quite often try out backpacking and the only specialty gear you need to supply yourself with is some semi-decent footwear and something to sleep in.

Speaking of events, we're going to try something new for hiking event descriptions. There was occasionally confusion over our rating system. The Steering Team discussed it and we decided that we're not really space

limited, so there's no need to codify the information. Going forward, if you submit an event, please note the distance, hiking time, driving time from Kingsport (or noted if otherwise), and elevation change as well as an overall easy/medium/hard assessment. We hope this will help you determine which hikes you are interested in attending. Once we start getting a hike/paddle database setup on the website, the event leaders should have an easier time finding this information, as well as being able to link you to it to see the details of the trail. Let me know your thoughts on this change (or anything else) at chair@tehcc.org.

May 12 to 16th is Trail Days in Damascus (the northern terminus of our AT responsibility), a five day event with the unique distinction of being the single largest gathering of AT hikers anywhere, with over 20,000 tourists in attendance (according to Wikipedia). Check out the website at traildays.us for information on the event's activities. The other importance of Trail Days is its coinciding activity, the Damascus Hardcore on the 16th and 17th. This is an annual event where AT maintainers, locals, and through hikers of all skill levels join together to accomplish amazing tasks for the AT. In years past, Hardcore has been responsible for building entire shelters, trail relocations, and more. This year it will be two relocations near Roan Mountain and Pond Mountain. Contact Joe DeLoach (atchair@tehcc.org), Carl Fritz (atvolunteer@tehcc.org), or Kim Peters (atmaint@tehcc.org), for more information on how you can help. All necessary tools will be supplied. Plus it's a great opportunity to meet, thank, and help a lot of the people that put in the hard work it takes to keep the AT in the condition we all enjoy it in.

Progress on the TN AT plate is going great. As it currently stands we are at 890 applications. With only 110 to go in two months, it looks like we're going to make it, but we're still not there without people signing up. So if you know of anyone interested tell them to check out the website and sign up today.

2010 Spring Dinner Meeting

Jake Mitchell reporting, photos courtesy of Casey Mitchell

More than 60 outdoor enthusiasts gathered at the Eastman Lodge on March 19th for good food and excellent fellowship. Happy Trails Hour began the evening with drinks provided by Marc Schurger and gear display from Mountain Sports. Early arrivals also got to check out the latest addition to TEHCC's rental equipment arsenal – the ultralight, one-person Tarptent. Dinner began promptly at 6:30 and was once again catered by the never disappointing Phil's Dream Pit. Following dinner, current TEHCC chair Tim Schaefer provided an update on the current key initiatives: AT License Plate, Club Events and a Hiking/paddling database. USFS Ranger Vern Maddux and presented Forest Service patches and Club awards were presented.

Club Award Recipients

- Hiker of the Year – Collins Chew
- Paddler of the Year – Deb Reynolds
- Maintainer of the Year – Ted Mowery
- Completion of Appalachian Trail – Judith Foster



Judith Foster receives AT Completion award from Tim Schaefer

Joe DeLoach followed by presenting Take Pride in America Presidential Service awards to four of our Club members with more than 4000 hours of service each.



Left to Right, Bob Peoples, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver and Bruce Cunningham receive the Take Pride in America Presidential Service Award



Charles Maynard tells a story

The evening's guest speaker was Jonesborough resident Charles Maynard. Charles is Director of Development for the United Methodist Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries, is on the ATC Board of Directors, is an accomplished storyteller and author, served as first Director of Friends of the Smokies, and about a dozen other amazing things. He spoke of early hikers of east Tennessee, their hike along the crest of the Smokies before there was an Appalachian Trail, and how those men influenced the creation of the Appalachian Trail. His storytelling abilities kept everyone captivated. The evening finished with Charles signing copies of his soon-to-be released book jointly published with area photographer Jerry Greer – *Blue Ridge: Ancient and Majestic*.

All of the event's photos can be seen [here](#).

If you have suggestions regarding the dinner meeting format or future guest speakers, send them to Tim Schaefer (chair@tehcc.org).

Renovations to Roan Mountain Day Use Facilities

Joe DeLoach reporting

The Pisgah National Forest has obtained Recovery Act funding for a number of projects on Roan Mountain which will cause the area to be closed for most of 2010. The Cloudland parking lot and the road leading to it will be repaved, the bathrooms at the Cloudland parking lot will be replaced, and the observation deck in the rhododendron gardens will be replaced. The trails in the rhododendron gardens will also be rehabilitated and resurfaced. Neither the Appalachian Trail nor Carvers Gap will be affected (although the Cherokee National Forest will also be replacing the pit toilets in Carvers Gap), but access from the Appalachian Trail to the Cloudland parking lot will be closed. This work will necessitate closure of all Roan Mountain Day Use facilities, including Cloudland and the rhododendron gardens out to Roan High Bluff, until the work is completed with temporary closure orders in effect into 2011. Except for the Cloudland parking area, the Roan Mountain Day Use Area will be open from June 6 through July 7, the rhododendron bloom season. Hikers should expect crowded conditions in Carvers Gap while this work is in progress and may wish to consider some of our many other outstanding hiking destinations. Recovery Act funds will also be used for restoration of the open areas in Bradley Gap and on Hump Mountain.

New TEHCC.org...again

Jake Mitchell reporting

If you are reading this online, you are using the newest version of TEHCC.org. This revision of the Club's website has replaced the management engine behind the scenes, which opens the door to thousands of future possibilities. You will be able to see that the site looks and feels more professional. That's the beauty of the new system because I (Jake) am anything but professional. The content in the new TEHCC.org is a basic replication of the last revision of the site with some tweaks. The navigation has changed very little. I will be systemically going through all old website materials and determining if/how they need to be integrated into the new site. The old site will be archived privately for emergency access only. You will see minor visual tweaks now and then, but the backend system is here to stay.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HT-11 – Tarptent Contrail Ultralight Shelter

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

The club has continued to expand its equipment range by purchasing an ultralight 1.5 pound one-person shelter. This shelter was a top item in the Backpacker Magazine 2009 Buyer's Guide.



Photo by Henry Shires at tarptent.com

The desire was to give solo backpackers a chance to check out this style of tent before making their own investment. (List price is \$199 at tarptent.com.) With experience, the nylon shelter is set up in less than a couple minutes to give roughly 6'x3' floor space. It is held up in the front with a trekking pole or use the thin pole purchased with the tent. This is not a free-standing tent and requires four stakes to hold out the corners. Many adjustments are possible to get the preferred degree of openness and stability against wind. A Tyvek™ groundsheet was purchased to protect the floor. The entire bundle rolls down into a 14"x4" bag.

Please be careful with this ultralight tent. It should dry out quickly if hung up. Keep the tent stakes out when returning to Bldg 310 so that they can be counted.

Paddling the Nolichucky

The Middle Nolichucky Watershed Alliance is currently attempting to create a blue-way (canoe path) on the Nolichucky. They would like some experienced paddlers to paddle parts of the Nolichucky and make notes on hazards in the water. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact William Nissley using the contact information listed to the right.

William Nissley, Americorps VISTA*
Middle Nolichucky Watershed Alliance
311 Tusculum Blvd.
Suite D
Greeneville, TN 37745
Email: wnissley@gmail.com
Office Ph: 423-525-4652
Cell Ph: 703-268-6969



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome the following new members for April:

Bob Mueller
Dean Baird
Christopher Minor
Bill Hendon
Eric & Trish Osborne

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Apr 30- May1	AT Backpack: Davenport Gap to Hot Springs	Jake Mitchell and Kevin Barham	jacobmmitchell@gmail.com , kbarham@eastman.com
May 14-16	Thirty-First Bluestone River Trip	Terry Dougherty	423-502-5177
May 20	Women's Backpacking Class	Nancy Wilson	nwilsonhiker@charter.net
May 20-23	Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Conference	Rick Harris	southeastfoottrails.org
May 22-23	New River Kayak/Canoe Camping Trip	Kim Peters	423-538-7665
May 27	Paddle to the Grill	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
May 29	Watauga River Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
May 28-31	AT Backpack: Damascus to Fox Creek, VA	Kevin Barham	kbarham@eastman.com
June 5-6	Women's Beginner Overnight Backpacking Trip	Nancy Wilson	nwilsonhiker@charter.net
June 5	National Trails Day Event, Hike to Grassy Ridge	Vic Hasler	hvhasler@eastman.com
June 10-14	Konnarock Crew	Joe Deloach	atchair@tehcc.org
June 12	Family/Beginner Hike to Laurel Falls	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846
June 18-20	Chota Canoe & Kayak School	Gary Kilpatrick	423-914-4070
June 26	Nolichucky River Cleanup	Debbie Briscoe Anna & Toney Davis	423-534-3636 423-747-9254

Description of Upcoming Events

Recurring Events

Most Tuesdays: Weekly AT Trail Maintenance

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

Tuesdays Evenings: 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!

Thursday evenings: Paddle to the Grill, May 27- Sept 4, 2010

This is an evening paddle on Boone Lake starting from Kinch Landing at Winged Deer Park to Sony's Marina for dinner and paddle back after dark. Contact [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:DebbieBriscoe), 423-534-3636, for more information.

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 farther away leave at 7:30 am. Contact [Collins Chew](mailto:CollinsChew) to be added to the distribution list.

Tentative Schedule:

May 7: Boogerman Trail in the Smokies

May 14: AT Yellow Mtn. Gap to U.S. 19E, Chuck Mather leads.

May 21: AT Low Gap to Cross Mtn.

Most Saturdays: Watauga River Class I-II, May 29- Sept 4, 2010

Contact [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:DebbieBriscoe), 423-534-3636. If there is water elsewhere, we may go there instead; so call first to check and see if it's on!

Scheduled Events

AT Backpack: Davenport Gap to Hot Springs, April 30 – May 1, 2010

Leaders: [Jake Mitchell](mailto:JakeMitchell) and [Kevin Barham](mailto:KevinBarham).

Distance is 35.8 miles. Contact Jake Mitchell or Kevin Barham if interested.

Thirty-First Bluestone River Trip, May 14-16, 2010

Leader: [Terry Dougherty](mailto:TerryDougherty), 423-502-5177

This year's trip will start on Friday night with check-in at Mt. Creek Lodge. We will be on the river Saturday and Sunday provided weather conditions permit. Saturday's trip will be on class III water and Sunday's trip will be pastoral. Be prepared for bad weather. The range of conditions over the years have included flood, drought, rain, snow, lightning, hail, hot, cold, high wind and sunshine.

I have reserved a block of rooms in the Mt. Creek Lodge for Eastman Canoe Club Members for \$72/night with a two night minimum. If you want to use one of these rooms, you can call Pipe Stem State Park at 304-466-1800 and make your reservation directly from this block. Camping is also available.

This is truly a unique canoe trip and I hope to see you there. Please feel free to call the leader for additional information.

We will meet at 9 am in the Mt. Creek Lodge parking lot to start Saturday's trip.

Women's Backpacking Class, May 20th, Eastman Employee Center Room 221, 6:30-8pm

Leader: [Nancy Wilson](mailto:NancyWilson), nwilsonhiker@charter.net.

Nancy Wilson will lead a beginner's backpacking class for women. Sorry guys. Basic gear and trip planning will be covered. A subsequent overnight trip will be planned for the weekend of June 5-6. For more information, contact Nancy.

Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Conference, May 20-23, 2010

southeastfoottrails.org

The Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition will hold its biennial conference in Tennessee the weekend of May 20 - 23, 2010. The conference will be based at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN.

Members of hiking and trail building organizations from across the southeastern United States, partners of the coalition and any other interested parties will gather in Tennessee for a weekend of hiking, education, fun and celebration of the foot trails experience. Several guided hikes of varying length and difficulty will be offered in nearby locations. Simultaneously, at DuBose Center, there will be a series of educational sessions of varying length on tracks which address needs and interests of the hiking and trails community. Social activities will provide opportunities to share in fun with other participants and make new friends in the "trails community".

New River Kayak/Canoe Camping Trip, May 22-23, 2010

Leader: [Kim Peters](#), 423-538-7665

This is an overnight trip down the New River in North Carolina. It is an easy paddle, Class I-II depending on water level. On Saturday, we will put in at the King's Creek road access and paddle to the Allegheny Access campsite about 5 river miles or 2.5 hrs of paddling. This primitive campsite has no road access and is only accessible by water. There are several trails in the area, so we can do some hiking either on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. On Sunday we will continue down the river about 4 miles or two hrs of paddling to the takeout at the NC Rt. 93 Bridge. Paddlers should be self contained. There is potable water at the campsite. Please contact the leader if you are interested in going on this trip.

AT Backpack: Damascus to Fox Creek, VA, May 28 – 31 2010

Leader: [Kevin Barham](#)

Distance is 40.7 miles. Contact Kevin Barham if interested (kbarham@eastman.com).

Women's Beginner Overnight Backpacking Trip, June 5-6, 2010

Leader: [Nancy Wilson](#)

As a follow up to the Women's Backpacking Class on May 20th, Nancy Wilson will lead a beginner's backpacking trip for women. Location and length will be determined based on the comfort and experience levels of those interested. For more information, contact Nancy Wilson (nwilsonhiker@charter.net).

National Trails Day – Grassy Ridge, June 5, 2010

Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)

Rating: *B/3/C (5 miles round trip, moderate pace, average elevation change for area)*



This hike is an official part of the National Trails Day sponsored by the [American Hiking Society](#). Grassy Ridge, a 6,160-foot summit, is the highest peak near the AT with a natural 360° view. The celebration's theme is "Find Your Happy Place ☺" so I'm hoping that the early warm spring will have the Catawba rhododendron in bloom. (The Roan Mountain festival and arrival of the Angora goats are not until later in the month.)

We will meet at the usual spot by McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8 AM for the 60 mile drive to Carvers Gap. We'll follow the AT to the spur trail up to Grassy Ridge. Bring a lunch to eat up on the ridge, plenty of water, camera, and be prepared for the weather (We will cancel if heavy rain). We should be back in town by mid-afternoon. Please contact Vic Hasler if you are interested (hvhasler@eastman.com).

Konnarock Crew, June 10–14, 2010

Konnarock is ATC's volunteer trail maintenance crew for the southern part of the AT. They spend several days at a major work site along side members of the local AT club. Club participation is encouraged. For more information, such as meeting times and location, contact AT Committee Chair Joe DeLoach (atchair@tehcc.org).

Family/Beginner Hike to Laurel Falls, June 12th, 2010

Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#) (chair@tehcc.org), 423-302-0846

Easy; Distance: 5 miles; Hiking Time: 4 hours; Elevation Gain: 670ft; Drive Time: 2.5 hours

Everybody loves waterfalls; Laurel Falls is a good one in this area. We'll leave Kingsport in the morning, hike out to the falls, eat lunch, and return. I'm thinking the rhododendrons, which line this trail, will be in bloom, thus this choice. I may also add a trip to another nearby waterfall that I missed when I backpacked this section a couple of years ago (I need to look up which one that was). We could also stop by and visit the ever friendly Bob Peoples and his AT hiker hostel Kincora, if anyone is interested to see what it

looks like. I marked this hike 'Easy' but there are some trail-stairs to get down to the falls if I remember correctly. Contact the hike leader for details.

Chota Canoe & Kayak School, June 18-20, 2010

Contact: [Gary Kilpatrick](#), 423-914-4070

Chota's annual Canoe & Kayak School has been a great way to introduce our sport to newcomers for many years. We offer beginner classes in whitewater kayak and canoe, as well as touring kayak.

For those who are already into paddling, but wish to advance in skill level, our school also offers advanced beginner and intermediate whitewater kayaking classes.

Chota also provides the option of renting equipment from the club for this event. Following the school, the club offers free paddling trips every weekend throughout the summer! These trips are led by experienced boaters and are excellent opportunities to continue practicing and learning. Club gear will be available for these trips too! This way you can still come and learn even if you do not have your own gear.

Hope you can join us!

Nolichucky River Cleanup, June 26, 2010

[Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636; [Anna & Toney Davis](#), 423-747-9254

This worthwhile event is hosted by Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast's (APE's) at Riverpark Campground (formerly Big Rock Campground). Registration starts at 11:00 AM at the APE's Banner. Participants will be assigned into Clean Teams, provided maps of clean-up locations, and given trash bags and gloves. 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. FREE FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT!!!! for cleanup participants after the clean-up, Hickory Smoked Bar-B-Q and the fixin's will be served-up by the A.P.E.s in the Pavilion while you enjoy one of the area's finest bands... Bring a lawn chair, kick back with a cold one, and know that you did something good for the river we all enjoy so much! WIN PRIZES FROM OUR SPONSORS!!!! During the entertainment we will be drawing tickets for fantastic prizes. Prizes are being supplied by the following generous sponsors: Landmark Learning, Patagonia, Cherokee Adventures, Mahoney's Outfitters, Alpine Ski Shop, Mountain Sports Ltd., Astral, Black Dome Mountain Outfitters, NRS, Nolichucky Hostel, The Fly Shop of Tennessee, Dick's Sporting Goods and Jackson Kayak. Other Sponsors: TVA, USDA, Upper Nolichucky Watershed Alliance, Washington Co. Tire Recycling Ctr., White's Fresh Foods and Walmart. Helpful information: Showers and restrooms are on premises. Be prepared with appropriate footwear, sunscreen, bug repellent, etc. Rafts, pickup trucks, and trailers will be helpful and appreciated. Consider bringing a packed lunch, boating equipment, rain gear, chairs, family, and friends.

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

Leader: *Steve Falling*, 423-239-5502

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



Friday Hikers, Virginia Creeper Trail, March 26, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

The weather was better than anticipated with only occasional light rain and little wind for the 7 miles on the Virginia Creeper Trail from Damascus to Alvarado and a short mile to the Abingdon Vineyard and Winery. A few early, white wildflowers, probably hepatica, appeared in the woods. The South Fork of Holston River was rushing over rocks and a bit out of its banks. Warm and dry, we had a very pleasant lunch inside with wine tasting, crackers and cheese to supplement what we normally carry. Hikers were: Olin Babb, David and Debi Dula, Jan and Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, Keron and Chris Privon, Eric Vrsansky, and Collins Chew.

AT Backpack: Fox Creek to Atkins, March 26-28, 2010

Jake Mitchell reporting

We left my house at 7 am for the drive to Atkins, VA, followed by the half-hour trip to Fox Creek at the north end of Grayson Highlands for a 9:15 start.

Careful map study led us to believe that the hardest climb of the trip was the first 3 miles. That climb showed us that the MRATC had done an amazing job clearing the Trail. Evidence suggested that a chainsaw wielding mad man had been on the loose. The first landmark of note was Comer Falls - a good sized cascade. This is also where we met a Boy Scout troop leader who told us Dickey Gap was 1/4 mile away when in fact it was 1 mile away.

After the falls, we started walking the ridgeline, which gave us views through the trees of Pine Mountain, Wilburn Ridge and Mount Rogers. The next landmark was the South Fork Holston River Bridge which put us 8 miles out of Partnership Shelter and at 15 miles for the day. We arrived there around 3 pm and stopped for a short break before the final push.

The next 8 miles were, as Ryen would say, gruesome. Up and down, time after time, made us lose count of how many hills we had crossed and made us not know how far we were from the shelter. We pressed on and arrived at the Partnership Shelter behind Mount Rogers NRA's headquarters at 6:15 pm. We had one thing on our mind.



The Partnership Shelter has a special treat. It is close to the road and close to town which means the Pizza Hut in Marion delivers. We knew this ahead of time so we did not carry tents or stoves which lightened our loads for the long haul. We stuffed down the pizzas before 5 violators of 'hiker midnight' arrived.

Sunday was simple. Knock down 11 miles as fast as possible to beat the rain and get some grub. Since we hit the hay early and one of the late arrivals was sawing logs, we got up at 5:30 and were hiking by 6:15. More PUDs (pointless up and downs) ensued as we battled the strong winds on the narrow ridgeline. Eclipsing the last summit (Glade Mountain) was a relief because we knew it was 7 miles of downhill or flat trail to paydirt. We flew down the mountain, through the fields, under the power lines, over hills that weren't on the map, down dozens of inexplicably placed switchbacks, over the railroad tracks and into the gas station parking lot. We left the gas

stations and made a beeline for the Barn Restaurant. We left with full bellies for the trip back to Fox Creek to retrieve my truck.

Hikers on this 35-mile trek were Jake Mitchell, Ryen Minton, and Kevin Barham.

Friday Hikers: Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve, April 2, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful day for a walk in the Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve northeast of Lebanon, Va. The hike was about 6 miles with perhaps 800 feet of climbing. There were several connected trails and we hiked them all to visit waterfalls on the Big Cedar Creek, the Clinch River, the spectacular rock Pinnacle and a high overlook of several u-turns of the river and creek. The wildflowers were nice with purple and white hepatica most spectacular, but with bloodroot a close second. Rue anemone, trout lily, spice bush and a few others were nice also. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Don Baker, Lee Bockman, David and Debi Dula, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Allison Hewson, Carol Idol, Jerry Jones, Larry Miller, Patty Joe Nachman, Eric Vrsansky, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Natural Tunnel State Park, April 9, 2010

Olin Babb reporting

The weather was ideal with a cool morning warming up comfortably by near noon. Skies varied from partly cloudy to clear. We hiked over most of the trails, some new and unmarked, in Natural Tunnel State Park. Distance covered was about 7 miles. Several wildflowers and a hillside covered with trillium were viewed. We ate lunch at a brand new picnic table in the camping area. We also inspected some of the new rental cabins that are being built, one with six bedrooms. As we were making our way to the bottom of the tunnel and the railroad, we were met with a loaded coal train with pull and pusher engines. Hikers were Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Jerry Jones, John Parks, Taylor Pickard and Eric Vrsansky.

Trail Run, April 10, 2010

Tim Schaefer reporting

17 miles in 2½ hours. I was quite pleased. Since it had been a while for both me and Kevin Barham, for a 10+ mile run we decided to do the Creeper Trail. It's flatter, without worry of running up on a blowdown to jump over. I made it from Abingdon to Alvarado. I'm hoping for a future run soon on the AT. So again, if you're interested, contact me at chair@tehcc.org to help figure out future plans.

Camera Club and Hiking Club Combo Event, Laurel Run, April 10, 2010

Richard Siggins reporting

I wanted to let those of you know, who couldn't make it Saturday, that we had a great turn out. I lost count, but guess we had 25+ people, including five that hung out in the park and didn't go to the falls. That's a great turn-out, especially given it was about 35° when we started out that morning.

Most of us headed up to the falls. Some then went on looking for Kinner Creek Falls, but never really found it. One couple did venture a little farther up the trail and found it, but you really couldn't see it or get to it easily. We then headed back down the trail toward the park, stopping off to shoot the many wildflowers that were growing along the trail. Afterward, a few of us shot some more flowers along the bank next to the entrance road. If anyone has photos they want to share, they can add them to the Camera Club Facebook page or send them to me. I'll try to collect them and run a slide show at the next meeting.

I took a few people shots, but then got distracted by the flowers. Here's a link to some of mine: thesiggins.net.

Friday Hikers: Doe River Gorge, April 16, 2010

Olin Babb reporting

On this gorgeous day, 16 eager hikers set out to see the rails, the views, and pretty spring flowers at Doe River Gorge. There were about 25 different spring wildflowers seen today. We ate lunch at the old broken down bridge at the end of the rails. Lots of cross ties were piled up at this site. We weren't sure whether they were getting ready to repair the bridge or the railroad before the bridge. We did see one maintenance car with a couple of workers before we got to the bridge. The Doe River was running high and probably noisier than we have experienced before. Hiking distance was about 5.5 miles. Hikers were Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Lee Bachmann, Ken and Pat Buchanan, Jerry and Kathy Case, Anne Cosby, Debbi Dula, Dave and Carol Dunham, Judith Foster, Carol Idol, Bob Miller, Patty Jo Nachman and John Parks.

Friday Hikers: Laurel River, April 23, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

The weather was gorgeous today for our 7-mile, wildflower hike along the Laurel River in North Carolina. The wildflowers and blooming trees were both plentiful and varied with over 20 species in bloom. I have never seen so many purple phacelia; one very steep hillside just looked purple. Someone else said they had never seen so many silver bell trees in bloom. Another mentioned the huge bank of foamflowers. There were at least three species of trillium and four of violets. The wisteria was spectacular in the ruins of the ghost town of Runion. Hikers were: first timer Andrew Cleland, Carol and Dave Dunham, Heather Jacob, Carol Idol and her Houston sister and husband, Terry and Darell Etlinger (also first timers), and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: March 13, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Devil Creek

People: Bill Berry

Summary: There are many more trees down and lots of limbs on the ground now that the snow is gone. For good maybe!

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: March 20, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Devil Creek to one-mile north of Devil Creek

People: Bill Berry, Trevor Berry, Derek Berry

Summary: Two of my grandsons helped on this trip. Believe me they had a hard day cutting and digging. The hardest thing to believe is they want to go back this Saturday!!

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 24, 2010

Purpose: Install water bars and drainage

Location: Section 1, Primarily 2.5 miles south of Damascus

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Ethan Heppner, Ron Chandl, Allegra Kwang, Michael Hughes, Jordan Shkelnick

Summary: The Grinnell College students worked on the trail for their third consecutive day. Two and one-half miles south of Damascus, the old water bars were in bad shape, but still useable for the most part. Those were cleaned out and some were replaced. This entire hill was worked and it should be good for removing water.



Reporting: Michael Ray

Date: March 24, 2010

Purpose: Check trail condition, cut back limbs

Location: Sections 9 and 9b, US Hwy 321 to Pond Flats, then to Hampton trailhead

People: Dale Douthat, Michael Ray

Summary: We started at the trail crossing at Hwy 321, then up Pond Mt. to Pond Flats. We cut many branches back and removed one medium size pine tree (12 to 14 in.) that was across the trail. There are no more blow downs; the trail is in good shape. Continuing our work day, we walked from Pond Flats down to the Hampton trailhead to the parking area on Hwy 321, cutting back many limbs and small branches all along the way. No blowdowns are in the path of the trail on this section.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: March 24, 2010

Purpose: Remove trash from Stan Murray shelter

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I hiked up from the jeep road after cutting several blowdowns to get the car up near the blue-blazed trailhead at Overmountain shelter. I picked up two large bags of trash from the shelter and left a new broom and a new shelter register. This took longer than expected due to patches of snow, three feet deep, and multitudinous blowdowns, the latter tearing the garbage bags open. I had to return to the car for more bags and return to retrieve and re-bag the garbage.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: March 25, 2010

Purpose: Check trail and clear small blowdowns

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: John Tomko, Jim Foster

Summary: We cleared the Trail of fallen tree limbs and cut several small blowdowns from Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter. We cleared the blue-blaze to the water source and checked it. The water is running well and the scout project is working well at the spring. There are probably 12 blowdowns that will need cutting with a chain saw. Most are of the step-over variety, but one is a large tangle and will take some time. We trimmed some smaller limbs off so you can get over it. We met a southbound hiking group that started at Hughes Gap; they said that there are more blowdowns between the shelter and Hughes Gap. Surprise, surprise.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: March 27, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Devil Creek to No-Business

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I cleared blowdowns.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 30, 2010

Purpose: Flag relocation

Location: Section 11a, Whiterocks North

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Kim Peters

Summary: We tried to flag the relo we scouted in mid January. We got trapped between two rock ridges and were unable to find an acceptable path without a series of switchbacks. Another plan will be developed.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: March 31, 2010

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 17, Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot Gap

People: Wayne Jones, John Parks, Andrew Cleland, Daryl Loyd, Harry Ford, Ruth Ann Willis, John Willis, Gil Derouen, Jerry Jones, Susan Peters, Lou Haase, Mike Hupko

Summary: We removed trees, tree limbs, and debris from the trail; cleaned water bars, and picked up trash.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: March 30, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

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

People: Bob Peoples, Phil Abruzzese, Greg Moore, Langdon Stone

Summary: After skipping the first mile of minor blowdowns, the crew started cutting. Before reaching Coon Den Falls Trail, the chainsaw broke. We continued on with loppers, a 13-inch hand saw and a hatchet. We were able to continue clearing blowdowns including even a 20-inch blowdown. In total we cleared eleven blowdowns.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: March 31, 2010

Purpose: Check Trail condition and remove brush

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob shuttled hikers to Carvers Gap and decided to check the AT to Cloudland; hikers had been reporting obstacles there. There is still two to three feet of snow. Once the snow melts, the little hemlocks will straighten up. There is one step-over about 2 feet high, ten minutes north of the shelter. When the snow melts, it may be more of an obstacle.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: March 31 and April 1, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to about 2 miles north of Vandeventer Shelter

People: Jeff Hunter, Bill Hodge, Rick Foster

Summary: Several organizations are interested in creating and expanding Wilderness areas within the Cherokee National Forest. These include the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, for which Jeff Hunter is Tennessee Field Organizer, and Tennessee Wild, a coalition of organizations advocating for Wilderness, for which Bill Hodge is Field Organizer. We have made our concerns known to these groups about the prohibition of power tools in Wilderness areas. They have tried a couple of times to cut blowdowns between TN 91 and Wilbur Dam Road, but the snows have deterred them. They were finally successful on an overnight backpack, cutting about 35 blowdowns using a crosscut and hand saws and lopping rhododendron. They report the Trail is now clear.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 1, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 13b, Doll Flats to Overmountain Shelter

People: Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Phil Abruzzese, Greg Moore

Summary: Phil and Greg stayed at Overmountain Shelter and spent the morning throwing limbs off the Trail until getting to the north side of Hump Mountain. They reported snow at Little Hump, and two to three feet of snow north of Grassy Ridge. Many trees were broken in the Trail. Once they arrived on the north side of Hump, they spent the afternoon helping Bob, Richard and Carl clear hundreds of broken trees and branches. Many were only 4 to 6 inches in diameter; some were about 10 inch, and a 14-inch tree had to be felled. The chainsaw ran for most of four hours. The Trail from Doll Flats to Hump is now clear.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 2, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek Gap to Temple Hill Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Joe DeLoach, Bruce Cunningham, and Carl Fritz

Summary: The combination of mid-80° temperatures, no shade, and 80 to 100 blowdowns made for an exhausting day. After receiving notice that there were only a few large blowdowns between Devils Creek Gap and the Nolichucky River, we left a vehicle at Chestoa and Bruce drove us to Can Lot with plans for Paul and Joe to clear everything from Devils Creek Gap to the river. We quickly learned that the report was in error. The two huge rootballs in the Trail about 1/4 mile north of Devils Creek Gap were just the start. In two other places, all within a mile north of Devils Creek Gap, huge trees blocked the Trail. Hikers have climbed above them and we will need to relocate the Trail accordingly. Many other blowdowns in the 18-28" range were removed in addition to countless smaller ones. After reaching No Business Knob Shelter about two hours later than we expected, we contacted Bruce who had dropped us off at Can Lot. Bruce and Carl, armed with a chainsaw to clear the road, drove in to the Temple Hill Gap access point and picked us up. Other than four large rootballs, this section is now clear. We met a southbound hiker at Temple Hill Gap who said there were only easy stepovers between there and the river. Sure hope that report is right!

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: April 3, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and work on Trail

Location: Section 20b, One mile north of Devil Creek

People: Derek Berry, Trevor Berry, Bill Berry

Summary: We worked on a relocation around two large blowdowns.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: April 3, 2010

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 17, From Beauty Spot Gap north about 1.5 miles

People: Mike Hupko, Jr, and Mike Hupko

Summary: We cut and removed many large and small tree branches from the Trail. There were at least 5 places where hikers were forced to leave the Trail to get around obstructions. We also cleaned the trail into Deep Gap spring which had several trees across the trail.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: April 5, 2010

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Greasy Creek Gap to Weedy Gap

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

Summary: We cut and removed nine large tree limbs and many smaller branches that littered the Trail. We cut five dead standing trees along the side of the Trail and cleaned water bars. This section of the Trail was not nearly as bad as expected.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: April 5, 2010

Purpose: Clear Trail of blowdowns

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

People: John Tomko, Jim Foster

Summary: We cleared the Trail of limbs and blowdowns, large and small. Two were too large to cut, but we were able to get them on the ground and they can be stepped over. The trail is now totally open with nothing to go around.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: April 6, 2010

Purpose: Relo Trail around blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, 0.5 to 0.75 mile north of Devil Creek Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Ted Mowery

Summary: We dug about 60 feet of relo, cut six steps, placed one step, and placed side logs. It will take one or two more trips to finish this project. The blowdown we were working on needs to be finished and there are one or two more blowdowns that need relos. The first two relos need touch-up and there is a blowdown between where we worked and Devil Creek Gap that needs to be filled in where the rootball took out part of the trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 6, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: McQueens Gap to Damascus

People: Daryl Anderson, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz

Summary: We picked a very hot day to make this 11-mile trek. So water for us and fuel for the saw were scarce before we got to Damascus. The Trail is clear except for stepovers, some good sized. There were a considerable number of branches in the Trail; most were removed. We cut about 38 blowdowns. Most were singles; several were tangles. The most interesting one was a 30-foot branch that had ended upside-down on a sidehill trail. It was supported by three branches and the trunk was vertical. Most hikers were walking through it. After some clearing at the ground, we were barely able to pull it over with a rope. Thanks to this persevering crew for clearing this major section of Trail.



Inverted blowdown



Great job guys!

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: April 7, 2010

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 17, South Unaka Switchback to Low Gap

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Andrew Cleland, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We removed more than 60 trees and large limbs from the Trail and lopped smaller branches leaning into the Trail. We relocated about 150 feet of Trail on top of Unaka where a number of fallen trees were too dense to cut out safely. There was still a trace of snow on Unaka. We have two places to repair where rootballs left holes in the Trail. The Trail was left passable.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: April 9, 2010

Purpose: Paint blazes

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

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I painted blazes and removed blowdowns and limbs from the Trail. I picked up refuse and removed all trash from the shelter. I also cleaned out all the springs.

Reporting: Bruce Cunningham

Date: April 9, 2010

Purpose: Prepare for Hardcore

Location: Section 9b and 15b

People: Ed Oliver, Ted Mowery, Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: We checked out the Watauga picnic shelter for an eating site, which is more than acceptable. We considered transportation challenges, moving Hardcore to the desired work site, and parking for Hardcore vehicles. We all agreed that Hardcore is doable on May 16 and 17. We will need some volunteers for specific jobs and some drivers with vehicles with lots of room for Hardcore hikers. Again, the group concluded that Hardcore is doable with the proper volunteer help.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: April 9, 2010

Purpose: Work on relocation

Location: Section 20b, one mile North of Devil Creek

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I worked on a relocation.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: April 10, 2010

Purpose: Maintain section

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

People: Tim Stewart

Summary: I trimmed rhododendrons and removed several blowdowns.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: April 10, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and clean water bars

Location: Section 13a, Doll Flats to one mile north

People: Steve and Jill Wilson

Summary: We hiked in from Doll Flats with the purpose of cutting the 14-inch blowdown that blocked the trail roughly one mile north (downhill) on a steep sidehill. A chainsaw made quick work of the two blowdowns found. This section is now clear of blowdowns.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 10, 2010

Purpose: AT Southern Partnership Meeting

Location: Mountain Lake, Virginia

People: Joe DeLoach, Steve Perri

Summary: The 12 clubs that maintain the AT south of Shenandoah National Park get together with ATC staff and agency partners once a year for a Southern Partnership Meeting. Jeanne Mahoney from ATC led a discussion of how to engage youth on the AT as our next generation of outdoor enthusiasts. A corps of volunteers could be established to take care of the AT in Wilderness areas. New Forest Service chainsaw and crosscut certification policies were reviewed by Kerry Wood of the Cherokee NF. A proposed ATC Trail Maintainers Advisory Forum was accepted by the Deep South clubs, but rejected by the Virginia clubs as being unnecessary; it will likely not go forward. The AT could be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, which could provide extra protection and funding; but unless carefully managed, could hamstring traditional management activities. At the ensuing Deep South Regional Partnership Committee meeting, reinstituting a Multi-Club Meet was endorsed, as were activities to provide Trail-related publicity and tourism to Unicoi County. We were told that Damascus is seeking to be designated as a Trail Community Partner, which we will want to discuss with the Mt. Rogers Appalachian Trail Club.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 11, 2010

Purpose: Konnarock Selection Committee meeting

Location: Mountain Lake, Virginia

People: Joe DeLoach, Steve Perri

Summary: Steve represented TEHCC on this Committee which Joe chaired. Clubs have an opportunity to present their project proposals, then decisions are made as to which to grant. Most decisions were easy as the number of weeks requested matched perfectly with those available. We received all four weeks we requested for 2015.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 11, 2010

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 8, about 1.5 mile north of Shook Branch

People: Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Gerald Scott; ETSU: Issac Wilson, Even Townsend, Andrew Bowe; Hiker: Aaron Bennett; ASU: Ashleigh Lynch, Grant Bailey, Alex Schwartz, Danielle Clare, Mike Walter, Kate Prichard, Rachel Bennett, Kasey Zumwalt, Randolph Linhart, Zach Herman, Clay Sunding, Julie Browder, Nick Walter, Kelly McRell, David Hutchison, Shari Galiardi

Summary: Three ETSU students, one hiker, and sixteen from ASU Community Service Program joined with five club members to start the last relocation at Watauga Lake. We built about 550 feet of difficult trail due to minor rocks and vertical roots. It was a great work crew. We installed four major side logs to get over roots. We probably have two or three more days work; we will reserve it for groups that cannot get to more distant relocations.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: April 13, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

Summary: Ken and I cut several large blowdowns from Greasy Creek Gap to Clyde Smith Shelter. My section is currently free of all obstructions. Bad news: For some reason the Forest Service Gate was locked and we had to walk the 2+ miles to the Trail. Good news: Ken got to dig a few early ramps.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 13, 2010

Purpose: Rehab Trail

Location: Section 20b, about one mile north of Devil Creek Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples

Summary: We continued repair work on this section, badly damaged by blowdowns. Bill Berry has already done a tremendous amount of work. We repaired the damage from two blowdowns; then concentrated most of our effort on the largest rootball that we rerouted the trail above. Because of underlying rock, we installed eight steps and landings, plus a 25-foot side log and more rock cribbing. On the north side we had to remove up to four feet of soil, and we had to remove a 20-inch hemlock that was buried. In total we dug about 150 feet of trail. We think this section is now open, but Bill plans on checking it this weekend.



Bob, Carl, and Richard hard at work

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 13, 2010

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 7, North of Wilbur Dam Rd, near area of recent relocations

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Dave Dunham, Otto, Bob Peoples, and 7 hikers

Summary: On the old remaining trail near the new relocations, there were a couple of places that needed rehabbing. Seven hikers stopped their thru hike to help. About 170 feet of trail was reworked. Some rock work was required. Surprising!

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: April 15, 2010

Purpose: Paint blazes

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

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I painted blazes from Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 17, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 14a and 14b, Bradley Gap to Carvers Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Gerald Scott; ETSU: John Botts; ELIZ HS: David LaPorte; ASU: Ryn MacArthur, Maura Weaver, Tristan Rodahouser, Brian Satterfield, Meredith Allen, Allison Keene, Johnny Rowland

Summary: The snow is out of the Roans and we tackled all the tree tops and limbs that had broken into the Trail. But first we had to finish cutting blowdowns on the road to Overmountain Shelter. Fortunately, we had the ASU Trail Crew and a student from each ETSU and Elizabethton High School. With three chainsaws, loppers, and plenty of hands, we cleared everything from Carvers Gap to Bradley Gap. Many six-inch trees beside Trail had to be cut down to get their broken tops off the trail. The largest tree encountered was probably 20 inches, but most were limited to about 8 inches. Hikers should not have a problem staying on any part of this section of AT now.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: April 17, 2010

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and routine maintenance

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: After shuttling Richard Carter and Gerald Scott to windswept Carvers Gap for their section north, we headed south where patches of snow are still well over a foot deep near the top of Roan. There were enough blowdowns to keep us busy, but nothing terrible or out of the ordinary. We placed the shelter register and cleared the trail to the spring near Carvers Gap. We saw no signs of an alleged social trail between there and the Hack Line heading down the mountain. Work has begun at Cloudland, with much of the pavement in the parking lot already ripped up.

Reporting: Barry Griggs

Date: April 17, 2010

Purpose: Pick up trash

Location: Section 10, Trail from Shook Branch Recreation Area to fisherman camps

People: John Griggs, Barry Griggs

Summary: We picked up trash from the Shook Branch Recreation Area on Hwy 321 to the fisherman camps on the shore of Watauga Lake. Two full bags of trash (some of it quite intriguing - commode parts) were collected along with a small amount of poison ivy! It was an absolutely gorgeous day with great scenery around the lake. All the camps were occupied.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 20, 2010

Purpose: Flag relocation

Location: Section 11a, North of White Rocks Mountain

People: Jim Foster, Carl Fritz

Summary: Jim suggested that the third time flagging would be a charm. He was correct. We abandoned all the previous work because we could not get out of critically steep areas without running into major rocky spines. We instead tried flagging some switchbacks across the existing trail. Most of the switchbacks are hidden in the dense foliage including greenbrier. There will be some challenging trail building, but it looks buildable and certainly not as hard to build as north of Wilbur Dam Road nor on Unaka Mountain. We are ready to prepare the request to the Forest Service for approval.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: April 22, 2010

Purpose: Sharpen tools

Location: Carl's House

People: Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz

Summary: We sharpened many of the digging tools for Hardcore.