



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

June 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)

I am hoping as this newsletter goes out we can officially say “WE MADE IT!” Some may be asking, “What did we make?” An excellent answer is nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of new trail for the AT during this year’s Damascus Hardcore. What I was originally thinking of is meeting the 1000 plate minimum requirement to make the TN AT specialty plate a reality. As I write this, we are less than ten from our goal, making it everything but a done deal. Again the kudos for TEHCC members go out to Ed Montgomery, Joe DeLoach, and Jake Mitchell for seeing this through the last 2+ years. If all proceeds accordingly, we should have our new license plates by the end of the year.

Speaking of our Damascus Hardcore event, all I can say is WOW!!! We all go out hiking, not thinking much of it. “Eh, a path in the woods; these things

make themselves!” That is far from the truth. My crude calculations come up with over 1200 man (person) hours expended in those two days. An equally impressive number of hours went into planning the event, which much like the trail itself, doesn’t just happen. Approximately 3800 feet of new trail was added to the AT last month, retiring much needed sections. Since I’m an engineer, I love numbers, so I did more calculations. Each volunteer was responsible for building, on average, over 20 ft of trail each day. This involved everything from cutting trees, moving or breaking massive boulders, cutting roots, and moving lots of soil and small rock. Remember, that’s between hauling all needed gear (food, water, axes, rakes, loppers, rock pry bars, mattocks, pulaskis, etc...) to and from the work site, which on Sunday was quite a ways up Pond Mountain. Special thanks go to Carl Fritz and Bob Peoples for making this event happen as smoothly as it did this year.

Konnarock Crew - Roan Highlands Relocations

(Scheduled for June 10-14, July 8-12, and August 5-9)

Leaders: [Joe DeLoach](#) (423-753-7263) and [Carl Fritz](#) (423-477-4669)

For the last two years we’ve been working on relocating the Appalachian Trail between Grassy Ridge and Bradley Gap, replacing the route originally installed in the 1950’s which basically goes straight up and down every summit. Trail locations such as this, along the fall line, result in high erosion, especially in areas with heavy use, high precipitation, and soft soils, all characteristic of the Roan Highlands. We are nearing completion of this project with two relocations remaining, one on either side of the Stan Murray Shelter. We’ll first tackle one about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Trail south of the shelter. We hope the three weeks of the Konnarock Crew that we have this summer will be sufficient to complete this project, maybe even with some time to move on to another. The Crew arrives on Thursdays and will once again stay at the Overmountain Shelter. They finish up and break camp by Monday around lunchtime. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are the best days for volunteers to help as those are full work days. We’ll have organized trips those three days for each of the three weeks the Crew is here. The base meeting point is at [Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor](#) on South Roan Street in Johnson City at 8:20 AM. Please contact Joe or Carl in advance so we’ll know to look for you and have tools available. Sturdy boots and work gloves are mandatory. You should also bring a lunch and plenty of water as well as appropriate clothing. Remember it can be cool in the Roans even on warm days.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome the following new members for May:

Matthew Lowder

Nathan Kennedy

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

| Date | Description | Leader | Contact |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 3 | Paddle to the Grill | Debbie Briscoe | 423-534-3636 |
| 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 5 | Watauga River Class I-II | Debbie Briscoe | 423-534-3636 |
| June 10-14 | Konnarock Crew | Joe Deloach | atchair@tehcc.org |
| June 18-20 | Chota Canoe & Kayak School | Gary Kilpatrick | 423-914-4070 |
| June 26 | Family/Beginner Hike to Laurel Falls | Tim Schaefer | 423-302-0846 |
| June 26 | Nolichucky River Cleanup | Debbie Briscoe Anna & Toney Davis | 423-534-3636 423-747-9254 |
| July 3-5 | AT Backpack: Newfound Gap to I-40 (Smokies) | Jake Mitchell | 423-963-8654 |
| Jul 10-11 | Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains) | Steve Falling | 423-239-5502 |
| Jul 23-25 | South Holston Lake Full Moon Canoe/Kayak Camping Weekend | Debbie Briscoe | 423-534-3636 |
| Jul 30-Aug 1 | AT Backpack: Fontana Dam to Wesser | Jake Mitchell | 423-963-8654 |

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

Starting May 27 and occurring weekly during the summer on Thursdays at 6:30pm. Bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to meet with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and launch at Kinch Landing Boat Launch at Winged Deer Park to paddle to Sonny's Marina & Café for dinner & a social hour then paddle back.

As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat & PFD's are mandatory.

Contact [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636 for specific details.

**Boat lights:* With sundown at approx 8:30 in the evening, each boat should have as a minimum one white light that is easily visible when turned on (Coast Guard requirements for small craft without motors). An even better solution is to have typical running lights - red/green in the bow and white light in the stern.*

**Lights for this can be found [here](#).*

Fridays: Friday Hikers

Join members of the TEHCC and other hiking enthusiasts for Friday hikes in northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia. 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](#) to be added to the distribution list.

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

Contact [Debbie Briscoe](#), 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

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 starting at Low Gap and ending in Damascus with an overnight stay at Abingdon Gap Shelter. 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).

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!

Family/Beginner Hike to Laurel Falls, June 26, 2010 (rescheduled from June 12)

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.

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.

AT Backpack: Newfound Gap to I-40 (Smokies), July 3-5, 2010

Leader: Jake Mitchel (423-963-8654)

Jake Mitchell and Kevin Barham will hike the Appalachian Trail in the Smokies over the July 4th holiday weekend. Original plans were to do the AT all the way through the Smokies, but because of various conflicts, we decided to only do the northern half. Plans are to drop a car at Standing Bear Farm near I-40 and get shuttled or drive to Newfound Gap for a Saturday morning start. We will finish Monday afternoon/evening. Trip will also include the summit of several 6000-foot peaks. Contact Jake if you are interested.

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.

South Holston Lake Full Moon Canoe/Kayak Camping Weekend, July 23-25, 2010

Leader: Debbie Briscoe, 423-534-3636

This will be a self-contained trip. We will set up camp at an off-the-beaten-path location only accessible to boats and day trip and night paddle. Contact the leader for more details.

For the Record



Fontana Lake Kayak/Canoe Camping Weekend, April 23-25 2010

Debbie Briscoe reporting

On a beautiful sunny Friday, we met at mid-day at the Fontana Marina to pack our boats and paddle the four miles to Eagle Creek. As soon as we rounded the bend into the bluff, Robert pointed upwards for us all to see an eagle soaring above us! Wow, what a welcome, and fitting too since we were at Eagle Creek!!



After jumping out of our boats and scoping out our spots, we busied ourselves with setting up camp. Three backpackers came into camp later and set up theirs too. Not long after that, I was sitting by the creek thinking about taking a dip when I heard those fellows screaming from jumping in the cold water. Then I looked up and saw Robert walking toward me all wet. That was it, I'm going in, but I'm gonna do it smart. I pulled on my neoprene shorts and top and went for it! Oh boy was it COLD, but so very nice to wash away the day and then find a warm rock to lie on in the sun.

Supper was a treat. The beauty of paddle camping versus backpacking is on the first night you can have fresh food. Robert had brought a steak with some mushrooms to sauté in butter that he had chilling with drinks in that very cold creek! We even had some wonderful hummus!

The next morning was sunny and warm, but it soon faded to dark skies and rain clouds. We decided that a paddle would be better than a hike since we would be wet anyway and paddled toward the dam. Thunder and lightning came when we got about half way with some pretty fierce wind, so we dove into a cove and waited for the storm to pass. After that, it mainly rained with occasional gusts of wind; nothing too bad.

Dinner that night was done under the tarps of the two hangers. Now what I mean is that the latest thing in camping is "hammock hanging," with really nifty tarps designed to encase the hammock and provide lots of room for all your stuff. I fixed tortellini pasta on my super cat alcohol stove while sitting in a camp chair, totally dry, with it pouring rain just inches away beyond the tarp. It sure beat cooking in my vestibule all alone in my tent. Hmmm, there might be something to all this hanging around.

The rain on Saturday night brought an interesting surprise! It must have been time for all the bull frogs to mate. They were everywhere! Two hopped under our tarp and almost into the stove while I was cooking. When Robert went down to the lake to check the boats, he had to scoop several out of the way to move the boats up. After I went to my tent, there was even one that jumped up on my tent a couple times. I shoed it away, but it stayed close by and sang me to sleep.

I was the first one up the next morning and went down by the lake for a walk. The sky was clearing with patches of blue and a mist hanging over the trees. I spotted the eagle again as I neared the clearing and watched him circle farther and farther away until I couldn't see him anymore. It was beautiful there, with the magic of nature and the Smokey Mountains. We had paddled in and we saw a few who backpacked in on Friday night, but no one was there with us on Saturday night.

My tent weathered the rain just fine and the hammock hangers were snug in their cocoons; but Bob made the mistake of putting his tent up in a recess and got wet. He trenched it out and it all drained away. Then that night after he and Kim had dinner under her hammock tarp, he was too tired to put his food back up on the bear cable. Kim, thinking nothing would be out sniffing around on a night like this, figured he could get away with not going back out in the rain to hang it. So he put it in his tent. Well, when packing up the next day, he noticed that some of his food was missing, but he thought maybe he had misplaced it. He then found a small hole in his tent about the size of his fist where something had chewed its way in and stolen some of his food! Lessons we all have to learn when in the back country. That little mouse or chipmunk got a treat!!! Good thing it wasn't a bear.

The sun came out in full force before we got all packed up. Paddling back was a little windy, but it wasn't constant. When we got to the main channel, Robert "Speedy Gonzales" in his 18-foot sea kayak was waiting to lead us all to safety and back to our vehicles.

Robert and I took advantage of the free showers at Fontana Dam!!! Whoo Hoo!! Afterward we all went to the NOC for a little sightseeing and lunch at the Rivers Edge restaurant. What a great trip! Paddlers were: Debbie Briscoe, Robert Moore, Bob Bohlander and Kim Peters.

Friday Hikers, Max Patch, April 30, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful, warm day for our annual 6.2-mile AT hike over Max Patch. There were loads of wildflowers almost everywhere except on the bald itself. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Carol and Dave Dunham, Judith Foster, Allison Hewson, Patty Jo Nachman, Judy and Bill Tindell, Anne Yungmeyer, and Collins Chew. Carol Broderson joined us for the ride to the trailhead and backpacked. She joined us for lunch.

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

Jake Mitchell reporting

6 planned to go. 4 started. 2 finished.

The first climb was one we will never forget - Snowbird Mountain. We spent three hours climbing over six miles to the top of the beautiful bald. Along the way, we passed an army of Carolina Mountain Club maintainers laying waste to blowdowns. The top of Snowbird gave us the opportunity to inspect the FAA tower and take naps. The rest of day one was a slow grind as a result of the brutal start. Late in the afternoon, we relinquished our plans to spend the night on Max Patch and decided to stop early at Brown Gap for an eleven-mile day.



Saturday morning started off with Kevin arriving to meet us before breaking camp. He had spent the night at Groundhog Creek Shelter three miles from Brown Gap. It was at this point that Johnny and Stuart decided to get off the Trail for physical reasons. We arrived at Max Patch around 9am for a photo op, second breakfast and awe-inspiring views. This is the first time we saw Harriet, an older lady that hiked very fast. This wasn't her real name, but what we called her (after the famous running senior citizen of Kingsport).

After Max Patch, everything else was second rate. We experienced some confusion due to the discrepancies between our map and the new/old locations of Roaring Fork Shelter. We resolved our location when we arrived at Lemon Gap and had a fortuitous encounter with ATC's John O'Dell who was about to take inventory of some exotic invasives. We passed Harriet on the way up Walnut and she immediately passed us back while we were stopped at the shelter on the shoulder of the bald. Bluff Mountain was a long climb that was always steady, but never too difficult. We passed Harriet about a hundred feet from the top where we saw a fresh pile of bear scat. We stopped for water and food and she passed us again. A while later, on the never ending descent to Garenflo Gap we passed Harriet again. That was the last time we saw Go Go Grandma. The rest of the day was a blur because ice cream in Hot Springs was all that we had on our minds. We arrived in the river town at 6pm, splurged on ice cream and headed home.

Hikers were: Johnny Jobe and Stuart Everett who cleared 11 new AT miles; Jake Mitchell and Kevin Barham who each did 34 miles.

Friday Hikers, Boogerman Trail, May 7, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

Several said today's hike was one of the best ever, using part of Caldwell Fork Trail and all of the Boogerman Trail in the Smokies. It was 7.4 miles in beautiful, warm weather with a beautiful trail in good condition and many interesting sights. These included huge

old growth hemlocks and tulip poplars; stone walls from former settlers, horses splashing knee deep in rocky creeks, and a myriad of wildflowers with many showy orchids and pink ladies slipper the most showy and Canada Mayflower the most numerous. Hikers were Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Jerry and Kathy Case, Andrew Cleland, Carol and Dave Dunham, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers, Yellow Mountain Gap to Hump Mountain, May 14, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a delightful if hazy day for our 10.2-mile hike from Yellow Mountain Gap to U. S. 19E over Hump Mountain. We went through the season as the leaves had not emerged on the high points and trees were in full leaf low. This gave a great range of wildflowers. White fringe phacelia, lousewort, trillium, hawthorne, Jack-in-the-Pulpit were some that got special attention although there were many, many more. We saw a number of backpackers, some thru-hikers. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Phyllis Cairnes, Debbi Dula, Judith Foster, Robert Harvey, Heather Jacob, Chuck Mather, Kim Peters, Eric Vrshansky, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers, AT: Low Gap to Double Springs Shelter, May 21, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a successful if somewhat disorganized hike today with many participants. We didn't all see each other or hike the same trails, but the light, misty rain didn't hamper our enjoyment. Various things led to the disorganization: late arrivals, getting lost trying to find the trail head, wanting to hike alone, wanting to do trail maintenance or not. One family introduced themselves and almost joined us when they really wanted to go on a bus tour. I enhanced the confusion by taking the wrong exit off I-81, but everyone was tolerant and no one outside my car ever mentioned it to me. Most started at Low Gap where the AT intersects U. S. 421, but others started at Cross Mountain. Most ended the hike at Cross Mountain with others returning to Low Gap for various reasons. At any rate, we refreshed the blazes north to south, and cleared brush from Low Gap to Double Springs Shelter, where most (all but two) ate lunch more or less together. There were many backpackers, most expressing appreciation for our work. Clintonia was the major wildflower in bloom. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Kathey and Jerry Case, Andrew Cleland, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Robert Harvey, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Jan and Chuck Mather, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, first timer Debbie Stern, Eric Vrshansky, and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: March 24, 2010

Purpose: Attend semi-annual USFS/ATC/TEHCC Partnership Meeting

Location: Watauga Ranger District Office in Unicoi

People: Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters

Summary: Closure work has begun on the Roan Mountain Day Use Area with completion expected by the fall of 2011. Due to likely congestion at Carvers Gap, TEHCC will postpone graveling the AT on Round Bald until 2011. The Roaring Creek Road extension to near the Overmountain Shelter will be graded this year. The Watauga Ranger District will divert the terminus of the multi-use Holston Mountain Trail down to Snake Spur Road, rather than ending at the AT near Double Springs Shelter. They are working on getting GPS coordinates for all district trails. We will evaluate our trash pickup and campsite monitoring program around Watauga Lake before designating any official campsites and areas off limits to camping. The proposed Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Extension is no longer within Forest Service control and is now a legislative process. The Cherokee National Forest has procured and will install road crossing signs alerting motorists about the AT. The fall meeting is slated for September 8 at 1:00 PM.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: April 26, 2010

Purpose: Cut brushy growth

Location: Section 10, Hampton blue-blaze trail junction to Laurel Falls

People: Craig Haire

Summary: Craig trimmed back overgrowth with a handsaw and clippers.

Reporting: Paul Benfield
Date: April 28, 2010
Purpose: Mow Osborne Farm
Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm
People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery
Summary: We mowed and cut weeds along the Trail across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Jim Foster
Date: April 28, 2010
Purpose: Reflag and re-adjust relocation flag line
Location: Section 16a, Trail south of Clyde Smith Shelter to south of Little Rock Knob
People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster
Summary: Ken and I found and reflagged (flags had been removed) a proposed relocation and adjusted another relocation north of the shelter to create one long switchback.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: April 29, 2010
Purpose: Prepare relo for Hardcore
Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Flats
People: Daryel Anderson, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart
Summary: We accessed Trail via shortcut we hoped to use with Hardcore. The lower flag lines were essentially gone due to natural and manmade causes. The major one was recreated. The two upper relos were found more easily. We set out some pin flags. At least one more preparation trip is needed to complete flagging and clear the proposed trail of major obstacles, such as a 20-inch blowdown.

Reporting: Steve Perri
Date: May 1, 2010
Purpose: Annual spring maintenance
Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek
People: Mike Nash, Jeff Siirola, Tisha Perri, Steve Perri
Summary: We conducted annual maintenance from Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek. We installed a foot-travel-only sign at Walnut Mt Road and painted blazes both ways, but mostly going Trail south. Several blowdowns were cut out with bow saws, but a few step-over trees were left in place. We lopped the rhodos heavily since the winter snows dropped other trees on the rhodo branches or the weight of the snows just lowered their height. The section of Trail on the old USFS roads had quite a bit of overgrowth that we cut back. Some wet spots remain where turnpikes had been constructed. We left a logbook in the shelter, even though another one was dropped off there about two weeks ago. We saw several groups of hikers and also a group fishing and camping at Jones Branch near Elk River.

Reporting: John Griggs
Date: May 1, 2010
Purpose: Trash pickup
Location: Section 8, Fisherman camps near Shook Branch Recreation Area
People: John Griggs, Luke Watson
Summary: We walked from the Shook Branch Recreation Area around the lake to the fisherman camps. We collected about one garbage bag full of trash.

Reporting: Tim Stewart
Date: May 1, 2010
Purpose: Checkout section
Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Canute Place
People: Tim Stewart
Summary: I went in via the Forest Service Road and then side trail and blue-blaze to Moreland Gap Shelter. I removed several small blowdowns and trimmed back rhododendrons to Canute Place.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach
Date: May 2, 2010
Purpose: Prepare for Konnarock Project
Location: Section 14a, Relocations north and south of Stan Murray Shelter
People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I showed the Konnarock Crew leaders and assistants, program managers from Virginia, and Morgan Sommerville and Andrew Downs from ATC, the two remaining relocations to complete between Grassy Ridge and Bradley Gap. One runs largely through an open field just north of the Stan Murray Shelter; the other is a switchback not far south of it. I re-tied a few ribbons and smoothed the transition to the existing Trail in a couple of locations. Morgan and Andrew coached the Crew leaders on proper Trail building and Crew motivation techniques. Morgan reinforced traditional expectations that, unless there are mitigating circumstances such as bad weather or challenging terrain and obstacles, the Crews should be able to construct 1200 feet of good quality Trail in a week.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 3, 2010

Purpose: Discover new trail access

Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Flats

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed Oliver worked with Dave Ferguson of the Forest Service to determine that a recent land purchase may allow us easy access to south of Pond Flats. It will be physically checked out later this week.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 05, 2010

Purpose: Prepare relo for Hardcore

Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Flats

People: Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Larry Parker; ASU: Maura Weaver, Brian Satterwhite; HIKERS: Ben Lightowler, Andrew Letson, Andrew Freet, Unknown

Summary: We finished locating relos and set out more pin flags. The planned work area has been divided into crew sections. The new access to the AT is more desirable. The crew, especially those on cross cut saw, really poured out sweat. They cleared all three of the lower relos!

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: May 6, 2010

Purpose: Prepare relo for Hardcore

Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Flats

People: Bob Peoples, Brian Satterwhite, Smith Edwards

Summary: Bob, Brian and Smith cut several locusts for side logs and did some more clearing for access to the AT.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: May 8, 2010

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters, Anna Sherrill

Summary: We picked up trash, cleaned the gutter, shoveled out the fire ring, and placed a log book, shovel, broom and rake. We also checked the water source. A thru-hiker, "Soul Patch," lunching at the shelter, kept us company telling stories about his 3 years in Seoul, Korea teaching English.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 11, 2010

Purpose: Prepare relo for Hardcore

Location: Section 15, North of Hughes Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Susanne Seiler, Tim Stewart, Brian Satterwhite, Smith Edwards, John Beaudet

Summary: We cut out the 2nd and 3rd major relos headed north. We also cut out the upper leg of the first relo. Since the 3rd relo is about 2000 feet, we will concentrate on it for Hardcore.

Reporting: Barry Griggs

Date: May 15, 2010

Purpose: Trash pickup

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch Recreation Area

People: Barry Griggs, John Griggs

Summary: We walked from the very busy Shook Branch Recreation Area around the lake to the fisherman camps. There wasn't a lot of trash to pick up, but we got about a bagful. We had to race back to the car from the other side of the lake in a thunderstorm.



Phyllis Cairnes cleaning the gutter

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: May 19, 2010

Purpose: Mow trail on Osborne Farm

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the Accessible Trail and the AT across the Osborne Farm. Thru hikers are still coming thru in groups. Mike Rice sprayed the Accessible trail and two other Forest Service employees were also there working. Mike said he would get us a blower to blow the grass off the trail if we wanted. He also said he would blow it off before he sprayed, as they would be there mowing hay. We were highly complimented on the appearance of the trail by the other two Forest Service personnel.

CONGRATULATIONS!

50 Years

Reporting: Collins Chew - Celebrating 50 years as a TEHCC AT maintenance team leader!

Date: May 21, 2010

Purpose: Refresh blazes, trim brush

Location: Section 4a, US Hwy 421 to Double Springs Shelter

People: Olin Babb, Collins Chew, Andrew Cleland, Jerry Case, Kathy Case, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Jan Mather, Jan Mather, Debbie Stern, Eric Vrshansky

Summary: We refreshed blazes north to south, cleared brush from the trail, checked signs, and picked up the very little litter on the section from US Hwy 421 to Double Springs Shelter. A number of thru hikers thanked us for the work.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 25, 2010

Purpose: Cut out Trail Relocation

Location: Section 16a, Just south of Hughes Gap

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Ed Oliver

Summary: Bruce, Bill, and Ed cut out the 1000-foot relocation just south of Hughes Gap. It is basically ready to dig.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: May 5, 2010

Purpose: Rehab trail and dig trail

Location: Section 15, North of Hughes Gap

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart; Hikers: Peggy Smith, Troy Evans, Tobasco, Burl

Summary: Part of the crew rehabbed Trail just north of Hughes Gap. It was very steep and sloping side to side. They installed steps and side logs for 180 feet. The rest of the crew did some refinishing work, especially on rock work built with Hardcore a week ago.