



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 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)

As was assumed last month, we have achieved the required 1,000 applications for the TN AT license plate. It's the culmination of several years of effort by many people, both TEHCC members and not. We should be receiving the new plates by the end of the year. Stay tuned here for more information as to when they will be available and where you'll be able to get them. Again, not enough thanks can go out to TEHCC members Joe DeLoach, Ed Montgomery, and Jake Mitchell, as well as Leanna Joyner from ATC and Aurora Moldovanyi.

This is a bit of a hurried letter as I'm writing it well past the due date (sorry Kim and Terry!). I had a work trip to Estonia and its planning and execution consumed a bunch of my time in June. But it got me thinking. I've actually been there several times (~15) for work over the last 10 years and I have never really explored hiking, canoeing, or backpacking while I've been there. A quick search on the internet reveals that there are plenty of opportunities for outdoor Estonian adventures, so there are not too many good excuses to have not taken more advantage of being there. I suppose

it's mostly being a victim of routine, I had my routes, things I did, and never spent much time looking into other things to do. I have some more trips planned there for this summer; let's see if I can change some of that. How about you? Are you a victim of routine and not taking advantage of all of the potential adventures that this area or the places you travel, provide?

Lastly we recently found out Jake Mitchell, last year's chair, will be leaving Eastman and the area to pursue new opportunities. In Jake's short tenure, he has been instrumental in the aforementioned license plate, updating the look of the club, as well as many other additions. Please join me in wishing him well in his new pursuits.

2010 Damascus Hard Core

Carl Fritz reporting

The 10th annual Hard Core event became reality on Sunday, May 16, and Monday, May 17. It was a reunion for many of us, but we also welcomed many first timers. As usual, everyone had fun working hard.



Bob Peoples with his 10th anniversary of Hard Core award, surrounded by some of his biggest supporters and fans, from left, Morgan Sommerville of the ATC, Baltimore Jack, and Otto. Photo courtesy of Laurie Potteiger

To get a proper early start to the event, Bob Peoples was honored for his dedicated service to Hard Core at Damascus Trail Days. The Hard Core concept has caught on in several northern locations like Vermont and Maine and Bob has played a major role in encouraging those. "Otto," representing the American Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA), presented Bob with a beautiful polished rock about one foot in diameter with a glass plate engraved, "In appreciation of Bob Peoples, 10th Anniversary Hard Core." The logos of ATC, TEHCC and ALDHA are also engraved in the glass. This award is now placed strategically on Bob's mantel.

On Sunday the work project was to build trail relocation on the trail south side of Pond Mountain. This particular relocation was to eliminate the worst piece of the AT on Pond Mountain. The day greeted us with hot, humid weather. Therefore, the climb to Pond Mountain with tools took a lot of energy out of us. But Hard Core folks recovered and completed 1900 feet of trail by late

afternoon. There was a fair amount of rock to deal with. "Camo" and his crew naturally had the most rock work. Also, a considerable number of side logs were required to get by large trees on very steep hillside. The hikers were able to paint blazes on this new section of trail and open it as the AT.

We were able to retreat to Watauga Point Recreation Area before any significant rains hit. There we were treated to a barbecue dinner including tossed salad, baked beans, carrot salad, and strawberry shortcake. As usual the meal was coordinated and primarily provided by Mary Cunningham with the able assistance of other Club members.

Participants received patches, water bottles provided by "Otto" and ALDA, caps donated by "Hammer," and t-shirts provided by TEHCC and an NC license plate grant from ATC.

On the second day we started a relocation north of Hughes Gap to again replace a very steep area of the AT. The 2000-foot relocation is replacing a little more than 700 feet of existing AT. We found more rock challenges here than expected. But Hard Core jumped in and built a lot of rock cribbing. One span of rock was 30 feet long, four feet wide and about 2.5 feet high. "Camo" and his crew built some large rock steps at the switchback.

Monday brought some drizzles during the morning. By mid afternoon, the rains started coming hard. The black oily soil of the Roans became a real problem for maneuvering when it became wet. We abandoned the work site early under these conditions. But we



Digging trail on Monday. Photo courtesy of Ken Buchanan

had essentially built another 1900 feet of trail. We also wanted this soil type to settle before the trail was opened to regular foot traffic. We literally slid down the existing steep trail to Hughes Gap. Several folks fell and slid a half-dozen to a dozen times. So mud prevailed at the end of the day.

Dinner was served as usual at Kincora Hostel. A majority of the food was purchased using a NC License Plate Grant from ATC. Long-time participants like "Baltimore Jack," "Chef Paul" and "Crispy Critter" organized the food purchase, preparation and serving. Dinner consisted of okra soup, spaghetti, tossed salad, and garlic bread. They even coerced Bob Peoples into baking the key lime pies for dessert.

This major giving back to the trail and socialization with like minded folks during the 10th annual Hard Core resulted in 3800 feet of new trail to bypass very steep and eroding sections of the AT on Pond Mountain and north of Hughes Gap. About 60 first-timers (50 hikers and 10 club members and local

friends) joined with 94 returnees (65 hikers and 29 club members and local friends). Overall, 115 hikers worked with 39 club members and local friends during the entire event. On Sunday, 109 hikers worked with 33 club members and local friends. On Monday, 94 hikers joined with 21 club members and local friends. Total man-hours for the event were 2512. Many folks played key support roles in providing food, transportation, and tools, including some from Appalachian State University Trail Club and the U.S. Forest Service. Also, thanks to U.S. Forest Service in reserving Watauga Point Recreation Area for Sunday's event. Thanks to all who made the 10th Hard Core a successful event.

These TEHCC members, program affiliates, and local friends participated:

Daryel Anderson, Greg Anderson, Juana Anderson, Donna Ashby, Curtis Baird, Dean Baird, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach, Andrew Downs, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Stuart Everett, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz, Seth Grindstaff, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko, Kat Johnson, David LaPorte, Jake Mitchell, Ted Moseyed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Laurie Pottieger, Brian Satterwhite, "Seiko," Susanne Seiler, George Summers, Tim Stewart.

Here are the hikers who participated:

Adam Ward, Alison Hudson, Amy McMenamin, Amy Sternheim, Andrew Gage, Andrew Goodman, Anthony Lang, Arlow Nichols, Jack Tarlin, Ben Lightowler, Bill Ristom, Bonnier Schneider, Brent Forbes, Brian Fleicher, Brian Wafford, Byron Norton, Carl Chenoweth, Casey Markham, Charles Kinney, Charles Lee, Christian Utendre, Christopher Mann, Clark Ward, Colin Zwanzieger, Dale Draves, Dan Walker, Daniel Ruggiero, Dave Foley, Diana Ristom, Doug Chenoweth, Eric Digenetic Faye, Erin Fuller, Franklin LaFond, Greg Lee, Hayden Wilson, Jack Carter Jar, Jaime Renaud, James Fritchman, James H. Jones, Janel Scharhag, JayDe Wilbur, Jeanine Kinney, Jeff Connor, Jeff Lambert, Jennifer Berry, Jennifer Lemieux, Jessica Gage, Jessica Lafortune, Jill Engeln, Joe Harrison, Joe Reeves, John



Handing out the Hat. Photo courtesy of Laurie Pottieger

Beaudet, John Flatt, John Noullet, John Slack, John Swart, Jonathan Saul, Joseph Carlson, Joseph Roouss, Justin Busbee, Karelyn Kressler, Kelli Hardin, Kelly Collins, Kelsey Costello, Kendall Abruzzese, Kevin Short, Lamar Powell, Laura Reed, Lewis Moyers, Lindsay Stockbridge, Lint Bunting, Lucy Parker, Mara Factor, Marty Seibert, Matthew Helf, Michael Laude, Mike Price, Nathan Hallman, Nathan Ventura, Patrick Warden, Paul Renaud, Peggy Smith, Peter Howard, Phil Abruzzese, Philip Malaskill, Ray Douglas, Rick Sako, Robert Moor, Ryan Hoffman-Wentling, Sarah Crozier, Scott Ourth, Scott Senger, Sinko Englisch, Smith Edwards, Stephen Buga, Tara Nicholson, Tara Soilikki, Tatyana Kozlouska, Ted Marks, Terry Hale, Thomas Cruson, Tony Lang, Troy Evans, Walter Martin, Warren Johnson, Wayne Krevetski, Will Chadwell, William Rhyne, Yudrue Anjaleih, "Freeman," "Chef Paul," "Crispy Critter," "Ma Fahmah," and "Restless."

More pictures can be seen on the ATC and TEHCC FaceBook pages.

Konnarock Crew - Roan Highlands Relocations

Scheduled for 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 one-half mile Trail south of the shelter. We hope that 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.

Fun Fest Moonlight Hike

Scheduled for July 22

TEHCC will once again co-sponsor the Kingsport Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park on Thursday, July 22nd. This popular event attracts 300-500 participants each year. The hike traverses 2.5 miles around the lake. We need at least twelve volunteers to assist the Bays Mountain Park Association with this event. The responsibilities are minimal - show up 30 minutes early, stand at a trail junction with a flashlight or headlamp and make sure nobody gets lost. Contact [Tom Boyd](#) if interested, 423-229-1395.

Multi-Club Meet

Scheduled for September 17-19

Contacts: [Joe DeLoach](#), 423-753-7263, [Ian Powell](#), and [Steve Perri](#)

For over 50 years, the AT-maintaining clubs south of Shenandoah National Park gathered for a weekend of hiking and fellowship called the Multi-Club Meet. The clubs took turns hosting this event, generally on Labor Day weekend; we hosted it several times most recently in 1995. Although some meetings drew over 100 participants, attendance dwindled in the 1990's and 2000's. Several years ago a decision was made to terminate the event because attendance didn't justify the work being put forth to host it; clubs were having catered dinners, providing entertainment, and offering excursions. Last year, the ATC Deep South Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) decided to try to resuscitate the meeting for the five southern clubs in 2010, in a less involved manner not requiring so much work by the host club (dubbed "Multi-Club Lite"). By coincidence, in 2009 Jake Mitchell had taken the initiative to invite the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club (SMHC) to come up for a weekend campout and hikes to Rocky Fork. This matched the goal of the Multi-Club Meet very well, and Jake, SMHC, and the RPC agreed to convert that event to a Multi-Club Meet. We'll base the meet out of the Forest Service Rock Creek Recreation Area campground near Erwin from Friday September 17 through Sunday September 19. In keeping with the Multi-Club Lite theme, we won't plan much other than hikes and maybe 1-2 evening programs in the park amphitheatre. Participants will be responsible for their own food. We do want to have hike leaders though, probably 5-6 on Saturday and 3-4 on Sunday. There are plenty of good hikes in Unicoi County, and since we'll be there and in the spirit of Unicoi County's recent designation as an A. T. Community Partner, we'll hike there. Hike leaders won't have to camp out, but are welcome to do so. If you have interest in leading a hike or helping with the event, please contact Joe, Ian, or Steve.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome Michael Muha to the club this month!

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Jul 3-5	AT Backpack: Newfound Gap to I-40 (Smokies)	Jake Mitchell	423-963-8654
Jul 8-12	Konnarock Crew – Roan Highlands Relo	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Jul 10-11	Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains)	Steve Falling	423-239-5502
Jul 22	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike	Tom Boyd	423-229-1395
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
Aug 5-9	Konnarock Crew – Roan Highlands Relo	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Aug 14	Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve Hike	Vic Hasler	hvhasler@eastman.com
Aug 28	Family/Beginner Hike for Berry Picking	Tim Schaefer	423-302-0846

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 thru Sept 4: Paddle to the Grill

This event occurs weekly during the summer each Thursday 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 and social hour, and 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 the northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia areas. 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

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

Hike Leader: [Jake Mitchell](#) (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 various conflicts have made us decide to only do the northern half. Plans will be 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. The trip will also include the summit of several 6000-foot peaks. Contact Jake if you are interested.

Konnarock Crew, July 8-12 and Aug 5-9, 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 see the [article](#) in this newsletter. To confirm meeting times and location, contact AT Committee Chair Joe DeLoach (atchair@tehcc.org).

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 a off-the-beaten-path location only accessible to boats, and day trip and night paddle. Contact the leader for more details.

Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve, August 14, 2010

Hike Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)

Rating: F/B, roughly 5-6 miles round trip, moderate pace with several stops, limited elevation change



Come explore. The Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve has a swinging bridge, a pair of waterfalls, a creek, and a tall rock formation. Check out the [DCR website](#) including the link to additional photos.

Meet in Colonial Heights in the parking lot between McDonalds and the bank, to leave at 8:30AM for the 61 mile (80 minute) drive via Abingdon and Lebanon, VA to the preserve. Group choice on the trails to follow, but intention is to check out the swinging bridge, then follow the creek by the falls to see the pinnacle and Clinch River. Bring a lunch to eat half-mile in at the picnic tables (with bathrooms!). Also have plenty of water, camera, water shoes (if wading), and be prepared for weather (will cancel if high chance of heavy rain is forecasted). We should be back in Kingsport by late afternoon. Contact hike leader by email if interested (hvhasler@eastman.com).

Family/Beginner Hike for Berry Picking, August 28, 2010

Hike Leader: [Tim Schaefer](#), 423-302-0846

Easy; Distance: <3 miles; Hiking Time: 4 hours; Elevation Gain: 1000 ft; Drive Time: 3 hours

Everybody loves berries. August is when the northern regions berries ripen so it can be a good time to go out picking. In the past we've gone to Carver's Gap for blueberries and blackberries if we can beat the goats to them. This is a good default place to go unless anyone has any other suggestions. Contact hike leader Tim for more details.

For the Record



Women's Backpacking Class – May 20, 2010

Nancy Wilson reporting

Eleven ladies eager to learn more about backpacking skills attended the class. We covered food, equipment, clothing, going light, going inexpensively, cooking stoves and many more topics at the class. Participation was lively - many asked questions or shared knowledge they had gained on previous trips. There were 21 inquiries about the Women's Beginning Backpacking trip, so the interest is there and will build our club in a new way in the future. It has already been decided that we will have a fall backpacking trip from Carver's Gap to US 19E. We'll set a date later.

Friday Hikers May 21, 2010

Jerry and Kathy Case reporting

Friday Hikers had a beautiful hike on the AT from Elk Garden to the summit of Mt. Rogers and back. It is a distance of about 9 miles. We were treated to a cool breeze most of the day.

The lower slopes were covered with Golden Ragwort, Buttercups, Cinquefoil, and huge masses of violet colored Bluets---very pretty. Conifers, mosses, ferns and wood sorrels dominated the summit.

Hikers were: Judith Foster, Anne Cosby, Heather Jacob, Lee Bockman, Bob Harvey, Olin Babb, Larry Miller, Carol and Dave Dunham, Jan, Chuck and Bonnie Lou Mather, Eric Vrshansky, Jack Aaron, Susanne Seiler, Jerry and Kathy Case.

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

Kim Peters reporting



Seven people with two canoes and four kayaks assembled at the King's Creek Road Access on the New River in North Carolina on Saturday mid-day under mostly cloudy skies. The sun came and went several times as we set up the shuttle for this trip. We loaded gear into boats, had a quick lunch and then were off down the river. Shortly after we all got on the water, the skies finally opened up and dumped rain on us. Visibility was reduced to near zero and thoughts of trying to paddle back up the river to the put-in were had by some. However, the deluge only lasted 5-10 very long minutes, then abated to a slight drizzle and finally to sun; so we were mostly dry by the time we reached the campground at Allegheny Access. The water level was higher than I have seen it in the recent past, which made for less rock dodging and a more pleasant although quicker trip down the river.

We were the first group to arrive at the campground, so we had our pick of campsites and chose one deep in the pine woods to accommodate the hammock hangers – there were two of us! Then we set about the reverse process of unloading all the gear from the boats and setting up camp. I come from a backpacking background where gear is kept to a minimum, so it is amazing to me the amount of stuff that paddlers can and do bring! The evening was spent admiring each other's set-ups, as some had new tents or hammocks, and some had old favorites. Comparing cooking methods, alcohol versus gas stoves, and discussing food choices (Dave

brought hot dogs and Steve and Noah had canned chicken - these facts will be important later), playing chess, building a fire and having pleasant conversation. One by one, we each retired to our respective tents or hammock for the evening. In the wee hours of the morning, I and several others were awakened by a loud crashing sound which turned out to be a raccoon removing the lid to the trash can situated at the edge of our camp site. This raccoon then proceeded to rummage through the trash to retrieve Dave's uneaten hot dog and finish cleaning out the can of chicken, making quite a ruckus in the process. He also inspected the rest of the campsite and finally was on his way after about an hour. Ironically, Dave, whose excess hot dogs helped attract the critter, slept through the raccoon's visit.

In the morning, Kathie treated us all to breakfast burritos as she had packed in a dozen eggs, cheese and a fry pan to cook them in! (Did I mention the amazing amount of stuff paddlers bring?) They were quite good and a welcome change from the standard oatmeal, pop-tarts or in Bob's case, cold ramen noodles. Since it was only a two hour paddle to the take-out, we decided to explore some of the trails in the area before again loading up the boats and heading down the river. We stopped to admire the cliffs right below the campground and attempted a group photo all in boats. Then it was an easy paddle with only a couple of class I rapids and very pleasant scenery on the way to the take-out. This trip is a definite do-over.



Paddlers were (L-R): Kathie Foster, Steve Davis, Bob Bohlander, Noah Davis, Debbie Briscoe, David Dixon, and Kim Peters (not pictured).

Friday Hikers, June 4, 2010

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of Friday, June 4, was entirely along the crest of Wallen Ridge, in Lee County, Virginia. We started at Lovelady Gap, where VA Rte 619 goes across the ridge, and walked along the Forest Service orange-blazed trail to our lunch location. This also happened to be the lunch location and turning point of last year's Wallen Ridge hike that came in from the other direction. The total distance we walked was ten miles, and this was probably the least-demanding ten miles we've ever done. The path varied in elevation only about a hundred feet from the 2700-foot level and the grades, with two or three exceptions, were easy. For some distance at the beginning we were in a sea of countless spiderwort flowers and we also saw two brilliant flame azaleas. To keep it from being a perfect hike, there was rain. It began at 1:30 and for fifteen or twenty minutes it came down in buckets. There was enough thunder to make us uneasy, but I don't think I heard any cloud-to-ground strikes. By the time we got back to the cars, it was sunny again, and plenty humid.

The hikers were Don Baker, Olin Babb, Andrew Cleland, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller, Claire Salvail and Susie Seiler.

Women's Backpacking Trip – June 5-6, 2010

Nancy Wilson reporting

Out of the nine that initially signed up for the trip, four ladies braved the forecast of rain and made the trip. The trip began at Low Gap. Overcast skies and cool breezes made hiking enjoyable. We ate lunch on McQueen's Knob and proceeded to Abingdon Gap Shelter area for the night. We camped in a flashlight style tent, a hammock, a bivy and a tarp – good variety. Only a few scattered raindrops interrupted the set up and dinner preparation. Kim Peters gave an interesting skill lesson on tying knots after dinner. We slept well in very windy conditions and hiked out on Saturday to Damascus for ice cream and a stop at Mt. Roger's Outfitters. Making the trip were Terry Oldfield, Debbie Stern, Kim Peters and the leader, Nancy Wilson. The hike distance was 15 miles.



Debbie, Kim, Terry and Nancy take a break at the "Holiday Inn"

Friday Hikers, AT: Tanyard Gap to Allen Gap, June 11, 2010

Bob Harvey reporting

The high point of the hike was the Rich Mountain fire tower, which we reached via a short spur trail. At over 3600 feet, the tower has much potential for excellent views on all sides. On this day, though, because of the low cloud cover and distant haze we couldn't see much. Moving on along, we made it to Spring Mountain Shelter for a leisurely lunch. Except for a few short stretches with protruding roots and rocks, the trail had a remarkably good surface. Near Allen Gap we got to a blowdown that has been only partly alleviated, leaving a risky ten-foot section that took particular care to get by. There was much spiderwort along the fire tower trail and at other places we saw cardinal flower. Several of us spotted two indigo buntings. The hikers were Don Baker, Andrew Cleland, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Chuck Mather and Taylor Pickard. Including the side trip to the fire tower, we did a total of 9.2 miles.

Friday Hikers, June 18, 2010

Collins Chew reporting

We had a great day in lovely weather today, warm even at 6,000 feet. We hiked from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge and return, then to the overlook in the Rhododendron Gardens, to the Roan High Bluff overlook, and finally visited the peach stand on U. S. 19E. Patti Jo made a great call in that we were a little late on the flowers as it was (I was going to wait until next week), and she led well. The azaleas were very pretty, but also a little late. I don't think the rhododendron were really good this year any time, but there were lots of other flowers and it was a pretty day even if a bit hazy. We had lots of company on the trail. We hiked close to 7 miles. Hikers were: Andrew Cleland, Anne Cosby, Carol and Dave Dunham, Bob Harvey, Patti Jo Nachman, Jerry Jones, John Parks, Susie Seiler, Ryan Sheely, Patti Wargo, Eric Vrshansky, and Collins Chew.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: May 5, 2010

Purpose: Cut sign post and waterbar material

Location: Section 1, 3.5 miles south of Damascus

People: Anne Maio, Paul Benfield, Daryel Anderson

Summary: We ran into a large blowdown covering an entire switchback. The tree was removed and the Trail was repaired. We cut logs at the VA-TN state line for future signs and waterbars. A large area of wild flowers was observed at the state line that was worth the trip. I might go back to check this out same time next year.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: May 27, 2010

Purpose: Maintain Mountaineer Falls Shelter and check Trail

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Elk River

People: Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters

Summary: We hiked to Mountaineer Falls Shelter from Walnut Mountain Road; then picked up trash in and around the shelter and swept the sleeping areas. We checked the trail to the water source; all is well. We then hiked the AT until we came to the Elk River. Along the way, we noted a few very wet areas where waterbars need to be constructed and/or cleaned. We tried to clean a few of them, but didn't have the right tools for the job. Otherwise, the Trail was in good shape; step-overs were no problem. On the way back to Walnut Mountain Road, we picked up and carried out a large bag of trash that someone had left at the bottom of the trail to one of the camping areas. Wildlife sightings included a deer and black snake. We passed three thru-hikers, including Burl and Tobasco, who Kim recognized; they had helped rehab the Trail with the Tuesday group two days before.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: May 29, 2010

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

People: Jake Mitchell

Summary: I set out to walk the section for the first time since getting it. Rob Edwards who lives at the end of Campbell Hollow Road graciously shuttled me to the trailhead. I started at Campbell Hollow Road and cut weeds with a string trimmer at the trailheads. I removed a large blowdown from over the bog bridge just in from the road. The bog bridge closer to Buck Mountain Road needs a companion bridge or rocks in the muddy area. I continued to cut weeds in all open areas down to the southern edge of the woods in the upper open area (where you can see Grandfather and Roan), but ran out of gas before Bishop Hollow. I saw four hikers above the hollow and all of them had missed the turn in the hollow. I advised others at 19E to not miss the turn. The relocation north of Bear Branch is in excellent condition. The trash at Bear Branch is negligible.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: June 1, 2010

Purpose: Mow Trail through Osborne Farm

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We cut weeds with a string trimmer and mowed the Trail across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 3, 2010

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Kingsport

People: Paul Benfield, Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Morgan Sommerville, Tim Stewart, Paul Worsham

Summary: On June 9th, Senators Alexander and Corker introduced the "Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2010" that would expand five Wilderness areas in the Cherokee National Forest and create a new one. One of those proposed for expansion is along our Trail section, the Big Laurel Branch Wilderness. The current boundary is about a mile north of Vandeventer Shelter. The expansion would extend the northern boundary to include about three more miles of the AT, to about Turkeypen Gap ([see map](#)). We voted a preference that the boundary of that extension be moved to the west, preserving about 75% of the area most at risk of development while moving the AT outside the boundary. This preference was communicated to our federal legislators. We agreed to consider staging large group events such as Hard Core in developed facilities.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: June 3, 2010

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I trimmed weeds along the AT from the crossing on US 321 to the Watauga Shelter. I also picked up two large bags of trash, mainly from the campsites along the lake. The shelter log book indicated almost nightly visits by a bear.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: June 4, 2010

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I trimmed brush, cleaned out waterbars, and cleared away downed trees. The signage at the road and at the shelter needs to be updated as reported a few months ago.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: June 4, 2010

Purpose: Cut weeds, trim annual growth, and clear Trail

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

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I cut weeds and trimmed back annual growth from Hughes Gap to Little Rock Knob. I also cleared one fairly large blowdown (several limbs) that was completely blocking the trail. This section is open and in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 4, 2010

Purpose: Cut out Trail relocation and repair Trail

Location: Section 15, Close to Hughes Gap and more north

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: Paul and Ted almost completed cutting out the first relocation at Hughes Gap. The rest of us went up to the Hard Core relocation to do some finish work.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 4, 2010

Purpose: Clear Trail

Location: Section 14b, Grassy Ridge Trail

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We lopped blackberries and alder from the side trail to Grassy Ridge and a few along the AT leading to it from Carvers Gap. We even had a couple blowdowns to clear, mountain ash on Grassy Ridge.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: June 7, 2010

Purpose: Clear Trail

Location: Section 16a, Greasy Creek Gap to Little Rock Knob

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I cut weeds, trimmed back annual growth, and cleared the trail of one small blowdown from Greasy Creek Gap to Little Rock Knob. There is one blowdown just north of Clyde Smith Shelter that will have to be cut by chain saw.

Reporting: David Dunham

Date: June 8, 2010

Purpose: Set AT marking posts in Bishop Hollow

Location: Section 12d, Bishop Hollow

People: David Dunham, Carol Dunham, Ken Buchanan, Wayne Buchanan, Jonathan Buchanan

Summary: We cut two locust posts at Shook Branch. After spending quite a bit of time on Roby Miller Road, we finally found our way to Bishop Hollow. We set the two posts at the 90 degree turn so the trail could be more easily identified. We also up-righted an old post that had fallen over and repainted the AT symbol and arrows for north and south on a large rock near the turn. Weeds were trimmed as best we could without a string trimmer, so the turn would be easier to see.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 11, 2010

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 15, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We cut briars, encroaching woody growth, and five blowdowns between Cloudland and Carvers Gap. We also cleaned trash in and around Roan High Knob Shelter and inspected sites where concerns of impacts to rare plants have been raised; no impacts noted. The springs are running very well at the shelter and near Carvers Gap.

Reporting: Chad Tate

Date: June 12, 2010

Purpose: Annual maintenance

Location: Section 13b, Doll Flats to Big Hump

People: Chad Tate, Chris Harrison

Summary: Annual maintenance included swing blading and blazing the wooded section between Doll Flats and Big Hump. Additionally, the campsite at Doll Flats was trimmed with a string trimmer.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 13, 2010

Purpose: Dig Trail relocation

Location: Section 14a, Mile north of Stan Murray Shelter

People: Clyde Crane, Carter Chasey, Matthew Hart, Kyle Hart, Robb Koether, Rick Chassey

Summary: A Boy Scout troop that was hiking over 50 miles planned a stop with us, through Bob Peoples, to earn community service. Four club members worked with them and together we built about 300 feet of Trail. Club members' time will be recorded with Konnarock time.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: June 16, 2010

Purpose: Summer maintenance

Location: Section 17, Deep Gap to FS 230

People: Andrew Cleland, Gil Derouen, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Lou Haase, Jerry Jones, John Parks, Susan Peters, Jim Robertson, Fred Wetzel, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds and lopped branches from Deep Gap to FS 230. At least one vehicle has driven around the large rocks placed at the Beauty Spot parking area and driven up to the AT.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: June 17, 2010

Purpose: Remove excess webbing and close fence holes

Location: Section 14b, Round Bald

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We cut off some of the geoweb used during the graveling of the Trail across Round Bald which had become exposed to the point of serving no useful purpose. We also repaired geotextile where it had been put over a log and closed several places in the fence where people had cut holes or pulled the barbwire strands together.

Reporting: Jake Mitchell

Date: June 20, 2010

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 12d, Bishop Hollow

People: Jake Mitchell, Kevin Barham

Summary: For the first time, we took the backroads to the top of Bishop Hollow to trim weeds. We found it without getting lost and walked along Roby Miller road to where it intersects the Trail. We trimmed weeds with a string trimmer from there to the bottom of Bishop Hollow including around the blaze posts and the big rock with directions on it.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: June 21, 2010

Purpose: Maintain Trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

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

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: June 21, 2010

Purpose: Summer maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Low Gap

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Lou Haase, Jerry Jones, Dave McMillin, Jim Robertson, Fred Sparks, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cut weeds, lopped branches, and cut several small trees from the Trail from Iron Mountain Gap to Low Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 22, 2010

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 2, Two miles north of Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Carl Fritz, Kim Peters

Summary: On a hot day we went after a known, large, multi-limb, oak obstacle with a chain saw. One 14-inch cut plus a half-dozen 12-inch cuts solved the problem.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: June 22, 2010

Purpose: Inspect Koonford Bridge

Location: Section 10, North of Dennis Cove

People: Ed Oliver

Summary: Ed went with several US Forest Service personnel and Morgan Sommerville to inspect Koonford Bridge. They looked at the possibility of replacing the center span as well as some of the rest to improve the bridge's appearance. A USFS civil engineer is going to check on some existing bridge design plans and estimate material costs.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: June 22, 2010

Purpose: Maintain waterbars and install signs

Location: Section 1, From Damascus to state line

People: Daryel Anderson, David Dunham, Bill Elderbrock, Ken Buchanan, Anne Maio, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples



Summary: We hiked from Damascus to the TN-VA state line. On the way to the state line, we cleared a blowdown at about one-half mile. We observed barbwire fence encroachment very close to the trail about 1.5 miles south. There are metal posts on both sides of the trail with barbwire leading off in both directions. The main concern is that someone could interact with it. There was also a coil of wire on one of the posts that could easily be stretched across the trail. At the state line, we removed the old sign and posts. A new state-line sign, forest signs, and distance-to-Damascus sign were installed on a post made from nearby locust. On the return trip, we cleared waterbars.

New signs installed!

L to R, Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Bill Elderbrock, Dave Dunham, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart.

Photo courtesy of Tim Stewart