



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2010

[tehcc.org](http://tehcc.org)

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To submit an article for the Newsletter, send an email to: [news@tehcc.org](mailto:news@tehcc.org). Articles should be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## From the Chair

*(Steering Committee Chair, Tim Schaefer)*

Summer is just about done. How about you, did you get to take your “big trip” yet? It looks like another summer is going by with me being too busy to take my dream outdoor trip this year. I also have family trip plans and love to take them, but there is something about those dreams of adventure trips. What’re yours? I can quickly rattle off four or five outdoor adventure trips that I dream about. First is the Wonderland Trail. It circumnavigates the base of Mt. Rainier near Seattle, WA. At just under 100 miles, it would probably be a two week trip including travel to and from Seattle plus some extra time to see the city where I used to live. A Google image search for the trail name will show you some amazing photos of mountain meadow hiking filled with wildflowers and picturesque lakes, all with a looming mountain in the back ground.

Another is Isle Royale National Park. It’s a 45-mile long by 9-mile wide, island in Lake Superior only accessible by boat or seaplane. The draw is the remoteness, the scenery, and a chance to visit Houghton, Michigan, home of my alma mater, Michigan Technological University. I haven’t visited

Michigan Tech since graduating 12 years ago. It’s not exactly an easy place to get back to; you definitely need deliberate plans.

My others don’t have such strong emotional ties, but I’m sure the fact that the first two I thought of, did was no coincidence. Now is the time to start the early planning for trips next year. It’s time for me to download some maps and start contacting friends to see if anyone is interested in some trips like these. Good luck with your plans!

## Hike Leaders Needed for 2011 Appalachian Trail Biennial Meeting!

Contact: [Joe DeLoach](mailto:Joe.DeLoach@tehcc.org) (423-753-7263)

The 2011 Biennial Appalachian Trail Conservancy meeting, "Virginia Journeys 2011," will be held from July 1-8 at Emory & Henry College, less than an hour from Kingsport near Abingdon. The hike organizers have planned hikes covering 190 miles of the AT from north of I-77 to Dennis Cove Road and hikes on trails other than the AT. Information on the hiking program can be found at this link: [Virginia Journeys 2011 Hikes](#), with more information on the meeting nearby on the ATC website. The seven Central/Southwest Virginia clubs which comprise the Virginia Regional Partnership Committee are the host clubs for this event; but we're the closest club to the venue other than the Mt. Rogers Appalachian Trail Club (MRATC). MRATC and other Virginians provided us with a lot of help when we co-hosted the 2005 Biennial meeting at ETSU, and this will be a good time to return the favor especially with the Tennessee hikes. The following Tennessee hikes are planned, 2-4 every day from July 2-8.

Laurel Fork Falls - three hikes

Highway 321 to Dennis Cove - two hikes

Wilbur Dam Road to Highway 321 - two hikes

Cross Mountain to Wilbur Dam Road - one hikes

Cross Mountain to Low Gap (Highway 421) - three hikes

Cross Mountain to McQueens Gap - two hikes

McQueens Gap to Damascus - two hikes

Backbone Rock Trail to AT then to Damascus - three hikes

Gentry Creek Falls - two hikes

Rogers Ridge Trail - one hike

If you'd like to show our area to attendees from throughout the East, this would be a great way to do it. To volunteer or for more information, please contact [Joe DeLoach](mailto:Joe.DeLoach@tehcc.org).

## Konnarock Crew - Beartown Mountain Relocation

*(Scheduled for Thursday-Monday, August 5-9, 2010)*

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

During our first two weeks of Konnarock this summer, we completed the final two relocations of our multi-year project between Grassy Ridge and Bradley Gap. We've already received numerous good comments about the project. We can now turn Konnarock loose on one of our two current major A. T. relocation projects, from Hughes Gap to Cloudland on Roan Mountain. In May, we started working between Hughes Gap and Beartown Mountain with Hard Core, and will be working with Konnarock on the next relocation below that one. It is a steep but relatively short walk in from Hughes Gap. The Konnarock projects are good training opportunities for volunteers who have interest but not a lot of experience with Trail construction. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are full work days for the Crew and are the days for which we focus our support. Please contact Joe if you'd like to help.

## Multi-Club Is Back!

*(Scheduled for Friday-Sunday, September 17-19, 2010)*

Now called "Multi-Club Lite" this popular event has been reborn!

Join us at the Rock Creek Recreation Area Forest Service campground near Erwin, Tennessee, from Friday–Sunday, September 17-19, for some great hiking and fellowship! This event and all of the hikes will be held in Unicoi County, Tennessee, a newly designated Appalachian Trail Community partner, with more than 50 miles of the Appalachian Trail within its borders. Event participants will be responsible for providing their own food and beverages.

Potential hikes include:

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday (shorter hikes to allow for travel time home)</u>
AT: Spivey Gap to Sams Gap <i>14 miles; outstanding views from 5,516' Big Bald</i>	AT: Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River <i>8 miles; large, old-growth trees</i>
AT: Indian Grave Gap to Iron Mtn. Gap <i>11 miles; Beauty Spot and spruce-clad Unaka Mountain</i>	AT: Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap <i>9 miles; nice views from over 4,500' elevation</i>
AT: Spivey Gap to Nolichucky River <i>11 miles; great views into the Nolichucky Gorge</i>	Rock Creek Falls <i>6 miles; 50' waterfall in a natural, rugged amphitheater</i>
AT: Devil Fork Gap to Big Rocks <i>14 miles; rim of the newly protected Rocky Fork Tract</i>	AT: Indian Grave Gap to Beauty Spot <i>5 miles; a classic Southern Appalachian bald</i>
Rocky Fork interior hike <i>the heart of 10,000 acres of wild and scenic land</i>	AT: Sams Gap to Street Gap <i>4 miles; close-up views of Big Bald from a pastoral setting</i>

**Rock Creek Campground fees:** Tent site, no electric hook-ups—\$10/site/day; single site with electric hook-ups—\$15/site/day; double site with electric hook-ups—\$30/site/day; day use area fee—\$2/day/car.

*For more information and directions:*

[Unaka Mountain Recreation Zone](#)  
[Cherokee National Forest camping information](#)



## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Please welcome these new members to the club this month!

Debbie Briscoe  
Ramesh Munjal  
Mary Hall  
Brett Jones

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

For the latest, up-to-date information, see [tehcc.org/schedule](http://tehcc.org/schedule)

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Aug 5-9	Konnarock Crew – Beartown Mtn. Relocation	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
Aug 14	Pinnacle Natural Area Preserve Hike	<a href="#">Vic Hasler</a>	<a href="mailto:hvhasler@eastman.com">hvhasler@eastman.com</a>
Aug 21	Abram's Falls (Bristol)	<a href="#">Bill Tindall</a>	423-357 4850
Aug 21	Family/Beginner Hike for Berry Picking	<a href="#">Tim Schaefer</a>	423-302-0846
Sept 4-6	Backpack: AT, Atkins to Bland, VA	<a href="#">Kevin Barham</a>	<a href="mailto:kbarham@eastman.com">kbarham@eastman.com</a>
Sept 17-19	Multi-Club Lite	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	<a href="mailto:jodelo@eastman.com">jodelo@eastman.com</a>

## 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](mailto: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...). If you 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. 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

#### **Konnarock Crew, 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, contact AT Committee Chair Joe DeLoach ([atchair@tehcc.org](mailto:atchair@tehcc.org)).

## **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](mailto:hvhasler@eastman.com)).

## **Abram's Falls, August 21, 2010**

Leader: [Bill Tindall](#), 423-357-4850

What I think is the most beautiful falls in East TN is located just a few minutes from Exit 1 in Bristol, VA. If you Google "Abrams Falls" you can see pictures of the falls. The trail to the falls as well as the falls itself is on private property that has been posted for some time, so many have not seen this gem of a falls. There is an opportunity to hike to the falls August 21, with the blessing of the property owner. The deal is to carry a trash bag in and haul out some trash. If you want to participate, email or call [Bill Tindall](#), 357-4850. More information: I own some woodland near the falls and became acquainted with Susan Fiene, estate executor for the property. As a result of efforts by property owners to lessen some of the misuse of the area by 4-wheelers, etc., she wants to be rid of trash that has accumulated at the falls and I suggested she organize an Abrams Falls Clean-Up Day. Susan is a good organizer and she jumped right on the opportunity. The Falls are truly nice. They are tall, and horseshoe shaped, a straight veiled drop, with a series of shallow ledges below. The water is not deep below the falls, so good camera angles can be arranged for photographing it without getting ones knees wet. The "trail" to the falls is primitive, narrow, and traverses occasional ledges with drop-offs. This is not a trail for small children or those with unsure footing. My wife and I have no problem navigating the trail, but I can easily imagine that some might.

## **Family/Beginner Hike for Berry Picking, August 21, 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 berries in the northern regions 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.

## **Multi-Club Lite, September 17-19, 2010**

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. 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"). 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 or 2 evening programs in the park amphitheatre; participants will be responsible for their own food. 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. For more information, see [article above](#).

## For the Record



### **Hike Report: F/B: National Trails Day – Grassy Ridge, June 5, 2010**

*Vic Hasler reporting*



The group skirted the Covered Bridge festival in Elizabethton and quickly arrived at Carvers Gap prior to the Roan Groan bike race, so we were able to head up the trail before crowds turned up later. The rhododendron and flame azaleas were in bloom, slightly ahead of peak. A steady, casual pace was taken to enjoy the views and flowers along the path. Clouds from the patchy skies occasionally engulfed the balds in a fog, while lunch was eaten on the lee side of a boulder to block the cool winds. Someone had recently trimmed along the Grassy Ridge spur trail, so the entire path was in great condition. Out for this day hike were Vic and Clark Hasler with Denise Hardin.

### **Friday Hikers: AT - Burkes Garden, June 25, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

There was perfect but warm weather for the hike on the AT along Garden Mountain. The views were nice into Burkes Garden. The group fragmented as is becoming usual with all starting from VA 623 and either going to the end of the cliffs, Walker Gap, or to Chestnut Knob and return. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Carol Broderson, Carol and Dave Dunham, Susan Ernecke, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, Eric Vrshansky, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT – Camp Creek Bald to Jerry Cabin, July 2, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful, if hazy, day with lower temperatures than we have been suffering through recently. We had an AT hike of about 9 miles from Jones Meadow near Camp Creek Bald to Jerry Cabin and return. Several rock overlooks and the spectacular, open, craggy Firescald Knob ridge were features. As is becoming normal, the group fragmented with groups going different distances and different speeds and taking more or less time to "smell the roses" and eat the delicious blueberries some of which were ripe. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Phyllis Cairnes, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Carol Dunham, Bob Harvey, Phil Hiatt, Carol Idol, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, Mary Ellen and Rick Virost, Eric Vrshansky and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT – Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap, July 9, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a pleasant 5-mile hike today on the AT from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap with side trips to the summit of Roan High Knob and to a small overlook. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Don Baker, Anne Cosby, Judith Hunt, first timer Marsha McGovern, Larry Miller, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT – Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, July 16, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a nice hike today from Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap, 9.1 miles and over Little Rock Knob. There were a number of nice summer wildflowers, some of which I misidentified. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Andrew Cleland, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Jerry Mayne, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, Eric Vrshansky, and Collins Chew

### **Friday Hikers: Yellow Mountain Gap and Overmountain Victory Trail, July 23, 2010**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a good work hike today and saw some new trail. Judith started the day well by giving us all a delicious candy which resembles a chocolate chip divinity with a tinge of butter. She didn't tell me what it was. We hiked from Carvers Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap and down the Overmountain Victory Trail to Hampton Cove State Natural Area, a total of 9.1 miles including some the new relocations which we measured by wheel and hopefully located with GPS. We (Eric) also blazed the section between the Stan Murray Shelter and Yellow Mountain Gap. By request, Eric also blazed a backpacker's tee-shirt while he wore it. Summer flowers

were out in force: coneflower, bee balm, bergamot, turtlehead, jewelweed, monkshood and more. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Anne Cosby, Carol Dunham, Peggy Duram, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Marsha McGovern, Larry Miller, Eric Vrshansky and Collins Chew.



## AT Maintenance Reports

**Reporting:** Waylon Jenkins

**Date:** May 8, 2010

**Purpose:** Annual maintenance

**Location:** Section 12c, Sugar Hollow Creek to Campbell Hollow Road

**People:** Marc Schurger, Carol Jenkins, Waylon Jenkins

**Summary:** We performed annual maintenance, with an emphasis on pruning and blazing. The trail was generally in good shape with no significant blowdowns. It was a beautiful day and we encountered about 15 hikers including a mix of through hikers, some hikers doing shorter backpacking trips, and some day hikers checking out Jones Falls.

**Reporting:** Waylon Jenkins

**Date:** June 19, 2010

**Purpose:** Weeding trip

**Location:** Section 12c, Campbell Hollow end

**People:** Carol Jenkins, Waylon Jenkins

**Summary:** We cut weeds near the Campbell Hollow end of the trail between the Campbell Hollow Road and the first foot bridge. Many of the weeds were 2 to 4 feet high and were difficult to cut with the string trimmer we took.

**Reporting:** Faye Guinn

**Date:** June 19, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

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

**People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

**Summary:** We cut weeds from Iron Mt Gap to Weedy Gap. The orchard was really bad and someone had removed the post with the water signs. We think they burnt it.

**Reporting:** Tim McClain

**Date:** June 25, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut weeds

**Location:** Section 3b, Spring to US421

**People:** Tim McClain

**Summary:** I cut weeds and cleaned out the spring at the north end of my section. There is a significant new blowdown on this section, located about 3/4 mile north of US421. A tree with a trunk of about 36" diameter has fallen over the trail, along with the root ball. The root ball, as well as part of the trunk, is lying across the trail. I cut weeds and cleared a path on the high side, but this route involves scrambling up and down some large, potentially slippery rocks. So this needs some attention fairly soon.

**Reporting:** Steve Banks

**Date:** June 27, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut weeds, clear waterbars, paint blazes, cut back annual growth

**Location:** Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to Spring

**People:** Burts, Charlie, and Sam Compton; Steve Banks

**Summary:** We cut weeds, cleared waterbars, painted blazes, and lopped back annual growth on a very warm day. We also posted a new water sign at the south end of the section. The stinging nettle and jewelweed were prolific throughout the section. The top of a tree has fallen across the trail about one mile south of McQueens Gap, resulting in several blowdowns; I will remove on a future trip.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** June 28, 2010

**Purpose:** Check assigned section

**Location:** Section 12a, Walnut Mountain Road to Abby Hostel

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** I hiked in and took out two reported blowdowns at knee level. I carried loppers and cut back rhodos, laurels, and other trail overgrowth.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** June 29, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut weeds and lop

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We cut weeds, lopped tree growth, removed some minor blowdowns, and cleaned waterbars from Bradley Gap to Stan Murray shelter. Weed growth is the most it has been in several years. Because of some equipment and planning problems, we need to cut weeds a little more just north of Yellow Mt Gap or the rains will have the tall weeds on the trail again. Ted and Ed were able to get off the mountain early enough to purchase some of the supplies for repairing the Overmountain Shelter with money from a North Carolina License Plate grant.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 6, 2010

**Purpose:** Remove blowdown and rehab trail

**Location:** Section 3b, Spring to US421

**People:** Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Gerald Scott, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We were able to cut a section out of a 30" blowdown after supporting the trunk with rocks. We removed about a half mile of barb wire and woven wire that were just beside the trail and were a nuisance when cutting weeds. We installed about four new waterbars and cleaned about fourteen. About 2 miles north of 421, the trail had sloughed off and created a garland amongst the trees. We dug 375 feet of trail to move it back up about three to six feet higher. At the end of day, we were without water due to the record high temperature.

**Reporting:** Ed Oliver

**Date:** July 7 & 8, 2010

**Purpose:** Biological Survey of Trail Relocations

**Location:** Section 15, Cloudland to Ash Gap

**People:** Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Ed helped biologists inspect relocations north of Ash Gap. A couple of very rare spiders were found; therefore he moved the relocation away from the problem rocks. In essence these relocations will be approved as soon as the paperwork is executed.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 8, 2010

**Purpose:** Check out access to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**Location:** Section 19, Curley Maple Gap

**People:** Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz

**Summary:** Paul, Carl and Gray Buckles, Trails Technician, Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District, scouted access to Curley Maple Gap to transport shelter materials. All looks on schedule to rebuild the shelter this fall. Carl and Paul also walked out to Nolichucky Expeditions and cleared some immediate problems with a hand saw. The Trail is in fair shape. Closer to the shelter, rhododendron overhead are sagging into Trail in poor weather. Close to Nolichucky Expeditions is about an 8" pine blowdown that hikers are getting around. It can be cleared with a good hand saw.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** July 8, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut brush and briars

**Location:** Section 15, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We lopped briars, encroaching trees and brush, and removed two blowdowns.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** July 8, 2010

**Purpose:** Clean up trail after July 4 celebrations

**Location:** Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to US321

**People:** Brian Paley

**Summary:** I picked up 3 large bags of trash, mainly from camp sites near Shook Branch.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam

**Date:** July 12, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut back growth

**Location:** Section 12a, Hostel to Bitter End

**People:** Scott VanDam

**Summary:** I hiked to Bitter End taking out a couple fallen blowdowns and trimming back rhodos and laurels.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** July 14, 2010

**Purpose:** Retrieve shelter register

**Location:** Section 8, Highway 321 to Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** I replaced the Watauga Lake Shelter register with a new one to check the old one for bear reports. The first bear report was May 1 and remained steady through May, tapering off in June with the most recent on June 28. Of course that corresponds to thru-hiker season. Reports said that bears were persistent and not easily run off, but no reports indicated they were aggressive. Several hikers reported seeing bears while camped along the lake. Some mentioned trash at or near the shelter, including dog food. Shelter and campsites were clean on this trip. I took a small saw, removed one blowdown and whacked a few briars and privet, but Trail is in great shape and rels look very good. The blockage of the gravel road leading from Shook Branch Road to the cemetery has been removed.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** July 14, 2010

**Purpose:** Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We cut grass on the accessible trail and the Appalachian Trail across the Osborne Farm. We cut two blowdowns and cut back some foilage on the Osborne Farm.

**Reporting:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** July 17, 2010

**Purpose:** Clear a large blown down tree

**Location:** Section 13a, Two miles trail south of Hwy 19E above Apple Barn Shelter

**People:** Steve and Jill Wilson

**Summary:** We hiked in from Hwy 19E towards Doll Flats with a chainsaw to cut a blown down tree. The blowdown was roughly two miles from the 19E trail head past Apple Barn Shelter on a steep side-hill section of trail. The large tree took 2-1/2 hours to clear and was a significant obstacle that had required hikers to take off their back packs and crawl through. We also cut weeds with a string trimmer in the open area near the trail head.



*Steve Wilson goes at it with a chain saw*

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** July 20, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut access to Curley Maple Gap Shelter

**Location:** Section 19, Above Curley Maple Gap

**People:** Daryel Anderson, Paul Benfield, Bill Elderbrock, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We started cutting out the access to Curley Maple Gap so we can deliver shelter materials. We were drenched in sweat as well as rain, but it mostly steamed off. We probably have about half of the access cut out.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** July 20, 2010

**Purpose:** Cut briars and annual growth

**Location:** Section 14b, Jane Bald to slightly south of Carvers Gap

**People:** Craig DeLoach and Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** After retrieving tools stashed when a thunderstorm interrupted SAHC balds clearing work on Grassy Ridge, we used them to cut briars alongside the Trail on the balds and the more profuse growth just south of Carvers Gap. The blueberries are ripe and tasty!



**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** July 20, 2010

**Purpose:** Annual maintenance

**Location:** Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We cut weeds from Wilbur Dam Road to spring about 3 miles north of road.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** July 21, 2010

**Purpose:** Annual maintenance (continued)

**Location:** Section 7, Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter

**People:** Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We continued to cut weeds and a few small blowdowns from spring 3 miles north of Wilbur Dam Road to Vandeventer Shelter. We picked up one large bag of trash at shelter, cleaned gutters and replaced log book. We also cut weeds to water source at shelter. The water is flowing well (there is also water at the spring). A large blowdown is on the trail to the water, consisting of about 4 trees with multiple trunks 12-14" in diameter, which requires crawling under and over to get around.

**Reporting:** Collins Chew

**Date:** July 23, 2010

**Purpose:** Measure relocations, refresh blazes

**Location:** Section 14a, Stan Murray Shelter to Yellow Mountain Gap

**People:** Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, Carol Dunham, Peggy Duram, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Larry Miller, Marsha McGovern, Eric Vrshansky.

**Summary:** We used the measuring wheel and GPS to measure the recent relocations between Grassy Ridge and Yellow Mountain Gap. Blazes were painted between the Stan Murray Shelter and Yellow Mountain Gap.