



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

April 2011

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

Ian Powell, Steering Committee Chair

It will soon be warming up and more people will be spending time outside enjoying the trail and water. Have you thought about what you are going to make out of this spring and summer? Do you have a big trip planned? If you have an activity or trip that you have been putting off for awhile, waiting for the right time to take it, wait no more. Make the plans and make it happen. No one knows what the future will hold, so don't get caught regretting never hiking that trail or paddling that river. If you are looking for some company on this outing, I can guarantee that there is someone in the club who would be willing to go with you. So please consider posting your trip on the club's calendar.

Spring dinner meeting

Ian Powell reporting

The 2011 spring dinner meeting was well attended. Sun Dog Outfitters was onsite showing their wares and providing information on activities around Damascus. Vern Maddux and Terry Bowerman were on hand representing the Forest Service. The Girl Scouts from Troop 263 were on hand providing decorations inspired by the night's speaker and selling cookies. We had over 70 club members take part in the evening's activities.



The evening started out with a Happy Trails Hour that included refreshments. Next, dinner was catered and served by Phil's Dream Pit. After dinner a presentation was given to update the club on the year's initiatives and the new TEHCC wiki style trail/paddle database. There were a couple of raffle drawings where gift cards were given out. Vern and Terry then gave out Forest Service Awards to all club members for their previous year's

service contributions to the Appalachian Trail. The club presented special awards for Carl Fritz and Judy Allen. Howard and Faye Guinn were recognized for their completion of their hike of the A.T. Debbie Briscoe was recognized as Paddler of the Year, Kim Peters was recognized as Maintainer of the Year, and Bob Harvey as Hiker of the Year.

The floor was turned over to Mary Ellen Virost for the rest of the evening. She regaled the club with folklore, pictures, history and adventures from her and her husband Rick's recent trip to New Zealand. She took time after the presentation to answer questions before the meeting was called to a close. A big thanks to all that attended and all those that made the evening possible.

TEHCC's New Trail Wiki

Tim Schaefer reporting

Check out our new site! <http://tehcc.org/wiki>. Many might not know that we have non-AT trail information on our website. Even if you did, it was hard to find and only editable by a certain few. So I am very excited to introduce the club to a little project I've had in the works for quite some time now. It's our new Trail Wiki. Even though our website is just beginning, I myself am already finding out lots of information about trails very near my house that I wasn't even aware existed before Vic Hasler added them.

Maybe you're wondering exactly what a "trail wiki" is? The first part should clue you in to the fact that it's trail related. Maybe the "wiki" part is less clear. Well I could write a bunch about what a wiki is, but it's best just to go to the best wiki of them all, Wikipedia, [here's their definition](#). Essentially it's a site made for easy contributing, editing, and internal cross-referencing by anyone on the internet. The best part is that the 'engine' that runs Wikipedia, [MediaWiki](#), is free open-source software. So if you're familiar with Wikipedia viewing or editing, this site should be instantly familiar to you. Since amassing all of the relevant information about trails in this area is too much of a task for a few people, the system is open to everyone who would like to contribute.

We have several ways to help you find trails that suit your particular needs or desires. We have embedded interactive Google maps with pins at the trail heads. We also have lists that can be resorted alphabetically, by distance from Kingsport or Johnson City. There are also "use" categories like horseback riding, dog friendly, bicycling, etc...; and also "feature" categories like waterfalls, overlooks, difficulty, and more. Finding trails that match your desires should now be a lot simpler.

As I said before, this site is open to editing by anyone, so please do. We really need your help, because getting all of this information and adding it to the site is more than the current two primary people can do in a reasonable time frame. If someone inadvertently (or even intentionally) messes up a page, all revisions are kept, and rolling back to a prior one is extremely simple. Vic Hasler and I have been feverishly making edits and we keep an eye on the "Recent changes" list, so don't worry about messing something up. It can be fixed and I would much rather see a contribution we need to edit than to never receive a piece of information at all.

We are planning on having a 'trail wiki' topic at our May club meeting and I encourage all of you to attend. We will likely cover things like how to use the site to find trails that suit your needs and what information is needed from the community to populate the site. We will finish with some basic wiki editing to help get new comers started. Please check our schedule for the time and location of this meeting.

In the meantime here are some key links to get started:

- Main page (with trailhead map) - http://tehcc.org/wiki/Main_Page
- Sortable trails list - http://tehcc.org/wiki/ClubWiki:Trails_List
- Help page - <http://tehcc.org/wiki/Help:Contents>
- Good example of a trail page - http://tehcc.org/wiki/WPSP_Overlook

Events Coordinator Position Opening

Ian Powell reporting

There is currently a position opening for an Events Coordinator. The position entails the upkeep of the TEHCC calendar as well as soliciting hike and trip leaders to lead outings each month. The coordinator works hand in hand with the Steering Committee on the club's bigger events as well. If you are interested in learning more about the position, please feel free to contact Ian Powell at ipowell@eastman.com. If you've been looking for some way to be more active in the club and see how things work, this is your opportunity.

TEHCC Newsletters Again Searchable

Vic Hasler reporting

Want to find newsletter plans and reports for a specific hike? The settings have now been restored to allow search engines to index the club newsletters in PDF format, which exist on the TEHCC.org website back to 1993. For example, if you type the key words "Chimney Top" along with "site:tehcc.org" you will see that Collins Chew has led this hike eight times since 1994 with his hike plans and subsequent reports about the trail. This is great starting information for hike leaders to help plan their next outing. There is also a site-specific search tool under the "Other" tab from the club's main webpage.

Gathering Old Photos for a Book on the Appalachian Trail in TN, NC & GA

Steve Wilson reporting

On Saturday, January 29th, I hosted Leonard Adkins (www.habitualhiker.com) who is writing a book for Arcadia Publishing on the early days of the Appalachian Trail in TN, NC & GA. He has already authored a book on the Virginia section which shows pictures and detailed captions of the AT during 1960 and earlier (Images of America: Along Virginia's Appalachian Trail). We spent the afternoon reviewing the files in the club's work room in the basement of B-310. Although we found some newspaper clipping photos that were relevant, we didn't find any old prints from the 40's to 60's.

Leonard and I also visited with Collins Chew at his house, but unfortunately Collins had just purged some files which might have been relevant.

If anyone is aware of old club photos from the 1940s – 1960s where club members are shown on the AT, then Leonard would consider including them in the book. It's a good opportunity to record our club's history. His contact information is in the web site above.

Help Support the Appalachian Trail Trails to Every Classroom Program

Joe DeLoach reporting

Since 2006, the Trails to Every Classroom (TTEC) program has successfully engaged 230 teachers from all 14 states through which the Appalachian Trail passes. These include two teachers in Kingsport city schools, one in Unicoi County, and two in Bristol, Virginia. Other area teachers have expressed interest in the program. As a result of the high quality professional development opportunities that TTEC provides, this program has the potential to get young people along the AT corridor excited about learning and about the AT. These TTEC teachers and their students could potentially be the future members and leaders of Trail clubs like ours.

One of the goals of this initiative is to ensure that teachers have both the appropriate amount and type of support required to help them integrate the AT into the classroom experience they are attempting to provide their students. Much of that support can come from members of Trail clubs who would be willing to serve as a liaison or point of contact for TTEC teachers who are seeking assistance in connecting their students to the AT. Ideal volunteers include people with an education background or simply anyone interested in helping area schools get more involved with the Trail.

Another initiative seeking to build on the successes of TTEC is the formation of a TTEC Advisory Council. This council will serve as a working group whose focus is to provide relevant, useful feedback that ATC and National Park Service staff can use to enhance and build on the success of the Trail to Every Classroom program.

If you have interest in learning more about or supporting the Trails to Every Classroom program, please contact Joe DeLoach at joedelo@eastman.com or telephone 423-753-7263, or Appalachian Trail Conservancy Southern Region Community Programs Manager Julie Judkins at jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org or 828-254-3708.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Joseph Blessing

Troy Greenwald

Megan Miller

Sheila Shelton

Christopher Anderson

Shawn Wilson

Rachel Spurgeon

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
April 8-10	Fontana Lake Paddle/Camp	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
April 9	Trail Maintenance: ASU Outdoor Program	Carl Fritz	atvolunteer@tehcc.org
April 10	Doe River Gorge	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Apr 16	Spring Wildflower Hike - Rock Creek Falls	Joe DeLoach	423-753-7263
Apr 30	Friends of Warriors Path Work Day	Kevin Barham	kbarham@eastman.com
May 15-16	Hard Core 2011	Carl Fritz	atvolunteer@tehcc.org
May 27-30	AT: Atkins to Bland	Kevin Barham	kbarham@eastman.com
May 28	Buffalo Mountain Park Day	Brad Jones	423-283-5821

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 and for 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. provides 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!

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.

Scheduled Events

Fontana Lake Paddle/Camp, Friday-Sunday, April 8-10, 2011

Leader: [Debbie Briscoe](#) (telephone 423-534-3636)

We will launch at Cable Cove Campground and paddle to Hazel Creek, about 3.5 miles away. Hazel Creek is a back country campsite and historical area. Permits are required and can be obtained at Fontana Dam. This is a self contained trip so bring all that you need that will fit in your boat. Water or a filter is required. Please be prepared for rain and temperature changes. We hope to hike the Proctor Ruins and Bone Valley so don't forget your hiking boots and camera! For a history of the area visit:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazel_Creek_\(Great_Smoky_Mountains\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hazel_Creek_(Great_Smoky_Mountains))

Directions: From Bryson City, take Route 74 / 19 about 8 miles (over the Little Tennessee River). Exit northwest on Route 28 toward Almond. Follow Route 28 about 10 miles and turn into the Cable Cove park entry on the right (north). Follow the signs to the Fontana Lake boat ramp. (GPS: N 35 deg 26.262' W 083 deg 44.878')

Trail Maintenance with ASU Outdoor Program, Saturday, April 9, 2010

Leader: Carl Fritz

We will rehab the AT south of Dennis Cove with some students from ASU. Contact Carl (atvolunteer@tehcc.org) for more information.

Doe River Gorge, Sunday, April 10, 2011

Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)(423-239-0388)



This is an easy 4-5 mile hike following an old railroad bed up a slight grade which makes a perfect spring walk on a Sunday afternoon! Doe River Gorge is a relatively easy hike for beginners in a fairly secluded place. The trail is an old railroad route, which is mostly level as it proceeds along the Doe River. We'll check out early wildflowers, a couple of short tunnels, and overlook down into the river. Let's meet in Colonial Heights at 1 PM for the 45 minute drive to the Doe River Gorge Ministries youth camp. We'll walk as far as the group decides before turning around. We could also grab a bite to eat together along the way home or just head straight back to arrive between 6-7PM. (Sunset 8:05 PM) Each participant/family will need to sign a release wavier, which will be available at the start of the hike and dropped off at the camp office. Call the leader for more information.

Spring Wildflower Hike - Rock Creek Falls, Saturday, April 16, 2011

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



Our spring wildflower hikes are generally fairly short and easy, and suitable for all but very young children. That's the case as we resume them this year, to nearby and pretty Rock Creek Falls near Erwin. A trail of 2 miles (each way) with an elevation gain of 1000 feet leads from the swimming pool at the Cherokee National Forest Rock Creek Recreation Area into the Unaka Mountain Wilderness, passing several falls and cascades on the way to a beautiful amphitheater-like setting at the main falls, about 50' high. There are four, non-bridged, creek crossings along the way, so expect to get your feet wet; good to have a dry pair of shoes waiting at the car. The Forest Service limits group size in the Wilderness to 14, so pre-registration by contacting Joe is essential. In keeping with the wilderness character, this hike will be no dogs, please. We'll depart at 9:00 AM from the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights, and stop by Parkway Discount Wine and Liquor on South Roan Street in Johnson City at 9:30 for anyone who prefers to meet there. We plan to lunch at the falls. Bring clothing suitable for the occasionally wet and fickle early spring weather.

Friends of Warriors Path Work Day, April 30, 2011

Leader: [Kevin Barham](#)

Warriors Path is requesting help with their upcoming maintenance event, Friends of Warriors Path Work Day. FOWP is typically able to get a good numbers of volunteers at their work day events, but often need a few more experienced volunteers to help lead the pack. The projects for the day are still being determined, but will be on a hiking trail, bike trail or disc-golf trail. Please contact Kevin Barham, kbarham@eastman.com, if you have any questions or project requests.

Buffalo Mountain Park Day, May 28, 2011

Contact: [Brad Jones](#), 423-283-5821

Friends of Nature and the Johnson City Parks and Recreation Department present a "unique day of hiking" with local guest naturalists. Spring is a great time of year to enjoy nature at its finest. Come out and learn about the biology and natural history of Buffalo Mountain and take some great day hikes. The event features some great leaders. Wildflowers with Tim McDowell, Salamanders with Kevin Hamed, Birds with James Brooks, Geology with Jeremy Stout and Bob Whittemore, Aquatic Insects with Kathy Landy, and Butterflies with Brad Jones. The event starts with Birds at 7:00 am and ends with Butterflies at 5:00 pm. For more information, call Johnson City Parks and Recreation Park Naturalist at Winged Deer Park, 423-283-5821.



For the Record

Rental Equipment Checkout, March 3, 2011

Leader: [Vic Hasler](#)

Many thanks to all who came out (Deb, Terry, Kevin, Kent, Nancy, Steve, Tim, Ian, Waylon, Josh, David) to checkout the equipment. With so many participants, the checkout of a dozen tents and all backpacks was completed quickly. HT-21 (Hobitat 4) now has a new pole, thus back in service. A few minor rips and tears were repaired with duct tape. Someone left a yellow poncho in a backpack. We now have the equipment ready for the upcoming season; so enjoy. If you find any problems or have suggestions on future purchases, please let me know at rental@tehcc.org.

Friday Hikers: Pinnacle Mountain, March 4, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful day for our hike to the top of Pinnacle Mountain on the new USFS Trail. We started at the trailhead that is within sight of I-26 at the Unicoi exit. We agreed to say it was 8 miles round trip, but that probably would be a little much. The climb was about 1,400 feet. An observation platform has been constructed on the old fire tower steel and there is a great view in all directions with nothing as tall anywhere near; although it was quite breezy. The new trail is wide and well graded all the way to the ridge line and was not muddy. Hikers were: Olin Babb, June Donaldson, Bob Harvey, Heather Jacob, Jerry Jones, Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters, Leslie Padget, Susie Seiler, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Ripshin Mountain, March 11, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a nice, cool, sometimes breezy hike in snow from the Tiger Creek Road to Ripshin Mountain. The snow was beautiful with an occasional fall of a few fine flakes. The view from the rocks at the top was pretty close up, but the 3-inch long rime ice festooning the branches was beautiful and rare. The snow at the bottom was about 2 inches deep with perhaps 8 inches at the top. Snow and small blazes forced us to do a bit of bushwhacking on the way up, but we mostly stayed on the trail coming down. Susie Seilers guided us and arranged for a neighbor's dog to accompany us. We ate lunch by a lake near the bottom. The hike was about 4 miles round trip which fit the day pretty well. Hikers were: Susie Seilers and Collins Chew plus first timers Frank Sluder and Phil Gibson.

Friday Hikers: AT-Taylors Valley to Damascus, March 18, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a warm, overcast day for a pleasant 7-mile hike from Taylors Valley to the Ice Cream store in Damascus; mostly on the AT with a little Virginia Creeper at start and end. We saw our first thru-hikers of the year but almost no wildflowers. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Cathy Case, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Phil Gibson, Bob Harvey, Jerry Jones, Larry Miller, Jerry Sluder, Susie Seiler and Collins Chew.

Roaring Branch Trail up to High Butte, March 19th, 2011

Vic Hasler reporting



Located north of Big Stone Gap, VA, the Roaring Branch Trail is within the Jefferson National Forest. This hike ended up being 8 miles round trip with ~1400 ft elevation change requiring six and half hours to complete. The trail starts at the cascades (see photo), proceeds up the lush valley to the ridgeline, which is followed to the High Butte overlook. There are multiple stream crossings – mostly rock hopping, but one did end up needing to be waded. Blowdowns from the winter 2009 storms in the first 1.5 miles have been cleared by volunteers (per Forest Service ranger). The mid section, still along the creek, had not yet been maintained to remove several small tree falls plus trim back the rhododendron growth, thus required a few detours and lots of hand clipping. The upper section, emerging onto the ridge crest, changed to more open forest. At the overlook, lunch and the sunny day were enjoyed while peering down into Powell Valley. The return trip, downhill and with a more open path, was quick. Not much active wildlife was seen, except for several species of birds and a small snake on a rock in the trail. Out for the nearly spring day were Vic, Clark, and Ben Hasler. For more details, visit the [TEHCC Trail Wiki](#).



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: February 3, 2011

Purpose: Check trail for blowdowns

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to overhanging rock

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn

Summary: We cleared seven blowdowns from 4 to 6 inches and discovered a 16-inch blowdown just before the rock that will require a chain saw. The spring was running well. The orchard was covered with 6 to 8 inches of snow.

Reporting: Bill Berry
Date: February 26, 2011
Purpose: Clear trail
Location: Section 20b, From Devil Creek to Old Bridge
People: Bill Berry
Summary: I removed blowdowns and cut annual growth.

Reporting: Mike Hupko
Date: February 27, 2011
Purpose: Begin spring cleanup
Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap north about 2.2 miles
People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko
Summary: We removed eight trees from the trail, the largest over 12 inches in diameter. We cleaned several water bars, replaced the water sign post in the Apple Orchard, and checked the Apple Orchard spring. It was flowing very well.

Reporting: Kim Peters
Date: March 1, 2011
Purpose: Rehab Trail
Location: Section 19b, Chestoa to Nolichucky Expeditions
People: Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, John Beaudet, George Thorpe, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters
Summary: On a beautiful sunny day we rehabbed the trail between Chestoa and Nolichucky Expeditions. We attempted to drain the swamp that appeared near the railroad tracks after the recent rains, but decided that would have to wait until another day. We improved several stream crossings, installed some stone steps, and repaired about 100-ft of side-hill trail. One more day on this section and it will be perfect!



Ed surveys the swamp



Ed, Kim and Ted improve a stream crossing

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: March 2, 2011
Purpose: Cut blowdowns, repair shelter, lop annual growth
Location: Section 11b, Canute Place to Bitter End, plus Watauga Lake
People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, George Thorpe, Tim Stewart
Summary: We were able to cover the entire section. We cut ten blowdowns on the entire section; some up to 25 inches. These were mostly dead oaks. The section was lopped and most water bars cleaned. Ted and Paul stabilized the sleeping platform at Moreland Gap Shelter by installing three locust posts. They repaired a broken roof stringer and cleaned up the water sources near the shelter. Also, we took the opportunity to cut three problem blowdowns around Watauga Lake near Highway 321.

Reporting: Faye Guinn
Date: March 2, 2011
Purpose: Walk through and clean up
Location: Sections 16a and 16b, Hughes Gap to Iron Mt. Gap
People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Jim Foster, Bruce Darby, Susan Peters, Ernie Hartford, Gil Derouen, Jamie Wheeler, Richard Hulse, Lamar Adcox, Nancy Wilson, Melanie Horner
Summary: This was our first spring walk through Sections 16a and 16b. We cut 13 blowdowns with hand saws, clipped shrubs and generally cleaned up the trail. Jim and Howard checked the shelter and spring; Jim left a new journal at the shelter. We found two big blowdowns whose root balls had taken out the trail. Also one 30-inch tree across the trail will require a chain saw.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: March 2, 2011

Purpose: Take ATC Wilderness First Aid class

Location: Twin Creek Science and Education Center, Great Smokey Mountain Park

People: Daryel Anderson

Summary: I completed the two-day ATC Wilderness First Aid course

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 3, 2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Rd to Coon Den Falls Trail

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob cut many of the smaller blowdowns, but found a lot had come down recently.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 4, 2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Rd to Coon Den Falls Trail

People: Bob Peoples; Hikers: Petra Gerber, Nick Gerber, and Richard

Summary: Bob and the hikers finished clearing blowdowns from Dennis Cove to Coon Den Falls Trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 4, 2011

Purpose: Inspect future project and clear blowdowns

Location: Section 3b, North of US 421 and south of TN 91

People: Carl Fritz, Dave Lazor

Summary: We surveyed north of US 421 for a possible youth work trip in July. We also cut a couple nuisance blowdowns south of TN 91.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: March 5, 2011

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 6, 7a and 7b; Iron Mountain Shelter to Wilbur Dam Road

People: Daniel Newton, Russell Childers, Tom Waters, Rick Foster, Bill Hodge, Jeff Hunter, Mark Shelley

Summary: This group, representing Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards and Tennessee Wild, started at TN 91 and hiked to Iron Mountain Shelter. At that point they started their work. They wrapped up the first day making camp just inside the northern boundary of the WSA (Wilderness Study Area). Day two they started in a driving rain storm which eventually turned into a couple of inches of snow fall. They were able to complete the work to Wilbur Dam road. Because of reports of mostly small trees to remove, they carried a 32-inch, one-man bucking saw. However, just south of the Vandeventer Shelter, they encountered a large tree about waist-high across the trail, too large for the one-man saw. They managed to cut one end which brought the tree down to where a shorter person can easily step over it. Sometime on a future trip they plan to return with a two-man saw and finish removing the tree. North of the shelter they left a few other step-overs to help stop ATV incursion. The lopping crew emphasized brushing back the up-slope side to help reduce tread creep issues. All of the crew had full backpacks, so were unable to remove a pile of camping gear left at the campsite just inside the WSA. It appears to be the gear that was inside a full backpack found abandoned at this site last year.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 8, 2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 19b, Chestoa to Nolichucky Expeditions

People: Daryel Anderson, John Beaudet, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Duane Scarborough, Tim Stewart, Jack Tarlin, George Thorpe

Summary: We rehabbed about 300 feet of trail north of Chestoa. Much of the work was rock work with cribs as high as 3 feet and many steps or step-overs. The section between Chestoa and Nolichucky Expeditions is now in significantly better condition.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: March 8, 2011

Purpose: Flag relocation

Location: Section 19b, Trail one mile north of Nolichucky River

People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: Ed and I flagged approximately 2000 feet of new trail. The purpose of the relocation is to create a larger buffer between

the trail and USA Raft and road. The relo will also eliminate one wide (unbridged) creek crossing. A blue blaze trail will be open to accommodate those who wish to enter or exit from the road.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: March 9, 2011

Purpose: Attend Partnership Meeting for TEHCC, ATC, and USFS

Location: Unicoi District Office

People: ATC Attendees: Andrew Downs, John O'Dell, Morgan Sommerville; USFS Attendees: Terry Bowerman, Gray Buckles, Lynn Difiore, Matt Fusco, Brandon Jones, James Roper, Vern Maddux; TEHCC Attendees: Bruce Cunningham, Joe DeLoach, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, Duane Scarborough, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

Summary: We attended the Spring biannual partnership meeting at Unicoi District Ranger office. Notable info exchanged: TEHCC had a record year of 12,595 hrs with a large input from college students, trail adopters, and hikers in Hardcore. TEHCC will be working with Hardcore on Pond Mt relo for one day and on Beartown to Cloudland relo for another day. Major relos and work with Konnarock include relo north of Hughes Gap, June 3 – 5 and 17-19, July 8 – 10 and 29-31, and Aug 12-14; and gravel on Round Bald Aug 12 – 14. We will work with ASU dispersing the gravel on Aug 18. TEHCC has arranged for rental equipment to move gravel and help with delivery and loading. Konnarock will stay at end of Balsam Rd. The decision memos for approved relos include: Beartown section (granted) Feb 2011, NEPA completion for Little Rock Knob to Greasy Creek expected Spring 2012, White Rocks to Coon Den Trail relo decision expected April 1, and Turkey Pen Gap decision pending Aug 1. Access to Cloudland parking lot prior to June 1 opening may be available for Hardcore work May 16 with App. Ranger District approval. Vern is looking into providing access for Groundworks youth project to drive to Scott-Booher Pond on July 5. Koonford Bridge design pending approval from Morgan Lynn, Matt, Carl and Joe on cost and material of construction and design. Morgan suggested attaching one end of bridges in Laurel Fork Gorge to prevent bridge loss due to flood. TEHCC will provide samples of Eastman's Acetylated Wood as a possible demo project for a footbridge near Chestoa. TEHCC will flag Backbone Rock trail for relo request and submit proposal to Vern to allow loop hike from Iron Mountain. We might get field work done in 2011 and maybe begin work in 2013. Chain saw recertification may be available this Spring from Gray Buckles and other personnel. Open Areas management plan and funding are currently being reviewed by John O'Dell; expect mowing of Round Bald and Big Hump in 2011. ARRA is in 2nd year of 3-yr contract. Funding available for Beauty Spot is a little unclear. Funds for acquisitions are being requested for Rocky Fork; 3 others within TEHCC's section. Rocky Fork is lower in priority this year (#3).

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: March 12, 2011

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 20b, From Old Bridge location to No Business Shelter

People: Bill Berry

Summary: The trail is clear from Devil Creek to No Business Shelter, and should be clear from Spivey Gap to Shelter.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: March 12, 2011

Purpose: Annual Spring Maintenance

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Kevin Cooper, Jim Morse, Steve Perri, Jeff Siirola

Summary: We conducted annual maintenance, lopping rhodos and overgrowth and painted blazes both directions. When we started, the Trail had 1-3 inches of snow that melted by the time we walked out. The bog bridges are experiencing some wear with torn metal grating forming sharp edges where the metal has been pushed down between boards. About one-third of the bridges have this type of wear. We might need to replace the grates on some of these. We cut briars encountered from just before Grindstaff Monument and almost to the shelter. The shelter shows no signs of leaking roof and the platform is okay. We carried in and dropped off a rake, shovel, and broom. We cleared about 15 blowdowns. We left one 14-inch diameter tree about one-quarter mile south of the junction of the AT with Iron Mountain Trail. It is an oak and can be stepped over, but inconvenient. We saw maybe four section hikers and two day hikers.

Reporting: Tim McClain

Date: March 13, 2011

Purpose: Clear water bars, paint blazes, cut annual growth, check for blowdowns

Location: Section 3b, Spring to US 421

People: Joe Herbert, Peggy McClain, Tim McClain

Summary: We performed early seasonal maintenance: cleared water bars, painted blazes both north and south, cut back woody growth, and cleared blowdowns. There were only two small blowdowns on this section and we were able to get them with a blow saw. We saw only one southbound hiker, out for a short weekend trip.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: March 13, 2011

Purpose: Maintain shelter

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Mountaineer Falls Shelter

People: Terry Oldfield, John Frey

Summary: We hiked to Mountaineer Falls Shelter from Walnut Mountain Road trimming branches as we went, mostly rhodos that had fallen or been pushed over through the winter. We picked up a small amount of trash from the campsites and around the shelter, and swept out the shelter. The log book placed last fall was still in good shape. The shovel that had lost its handle was replaced with a new shovel. The water source looked good. There are 4 or 5 blowdowns along the trail; 2 or 3 are easy stopovers; but a couple of them, about 1/2-mile and 1-mile from Walnut Mountain Road, should be removed. We saw no other hikers.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: March 16, 2011

Purpose: Paint blazes, clean water bars and clear storm debris

Location: Section 4a, From Low Gap to 2½ miles south

People: Larry Miller, Susie Seiler

Summary: Larry Miller painted blazes while Susie Seiler cleared water bars and some storm debris south for about 2½ miles from US 421, Low Gap on Holston Mountain.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 16, 2011

Purpose: Repair bog bridges and cut blowdown

Location: Section 5, North and one-mile south of TN 91

People: Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver

Summary: This crew repaired lathe on bog bridges south of TN 91. The bridges should remain in good condition for several years. Ted and Bill cut the 14-inch blowdown that was a little farther south. They also did some minor locust post repair north of TN 91.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 16, 2011

Purpose: Remove blowdowns, repair shelter, construct water diversions

Location: Section 4b and north end of Section 4a, Double Springs Shelter

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Donna Dean, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Roman Wall alias Lone Wolf

Summary: We repaired the sleeping platform at Double Springs Shelter by replacing about 40% of the plywood on the front side and adding a 2x4 to the front edge. We cut two hazard trees at the shelter, but will need assistance from the Forest Service to cut a large white pine. We sealed the roof-ridge gap to prevent water from blowing in with high winds. We cleaned water diversions and created a number of various water diversions from rock and log water bars to ditches. We removed several minor blowdowns. Fortunately, Anne Maio hiked in from US 421, met us at shelter and reported blowdowns on Section 4a. We continued a mile north to cut two major blowdowns. The rest on that section are hand-saw size. We also cleaned water diversions and added water diversions. The trail was sloughing badly within a quarter mile of shelter and we redug about 120 feet of trail in a couple of places.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: March 17, 2011

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to about 3 miles north

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Malcolm Wolf, Ernie Hartford, Mike Hupko

Summary: We cut four trees from the trail; the largest was about 36 inches in diameter. We cleaned water bars and relocated about 100 feet of trail to bypass a large fallen tree blocking the trail.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: March 18, 2011

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 8, From US 321 to Watauga Shelter

People: Brian Paley, Alex Nichols

Summary: We cleared one blowdown and removed a large bagful of trash.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 19, 2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 1, About 0.1 mile north of Backbone Rock Trail

People: Paul Benfield and Ted Mowery

Summary: Paul and Ted redug 150 feet of trail to re-establish a sloughing section.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 19, 2011

Purpose: Rehab trail

Location: Section 2, Backbone Rock Trail to about 2 miles south

People: John Beaudet, Jim Chambers, Donna Dean, Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Gerald Scott, Jeff Siirola, Tim Stewart, Otto, Appalachian State: Maura Weaver, Anna McNamara, Michael John O'Neal, Kelly Perkins, James Lautzenheiser, Eric Frauman, Brian Satterwhite, Hayden Smith, Tucker Carringer

Summary: Thanks to the help of the ASU Trail Crew, club members and guests, we tackled a long desired rehab. The hardest part was accessing via Backbone Rock Trail. We dug several areas as far as almost two miles south of Backbone Rock Trail junction. Some areas required rock cribbing and side logs. In total we dug 850 feet. We also cut some minor blowdowns and installed three log water bars.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson

Date: March 22, 2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 1, 0.1 and 1.0 miles south of the Damascus Park

People: Anne Maio, Daryel Anderson

Summary: We cut 8-inch and 12-inch logs and removed them from the trail.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: March 22, 2011

Purpose: Prepare relo for Hard Core

Location: Section 9b, South of Pond Flats

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Ray Douglas, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We prepared for the relocation planned for Hard Core, south from Pond Flats. We lopped and cut out brush, measured distances and set pin flags. One more trip is required to cut some dead locust trees for construction. There does not appear to be any extremely difficult areas, but almost all of it is difficult. Overall it looks like the most difficult relocation we have built with Hard Core. We will need participation from the Club.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: March 23, 2011

Purpose: Spring maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to switchback on North Unaka Mountain

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Jim Robertson, John Parks, Dave McMillin, Gil Derouen, Lou Haase, Jerry Jones, Harry Ford, Mike Hupko

Summary: We removed 12 trees from across the trail including two that were at least 12 inches in diameter, cleaned water bars, lopped overhanging branches, and cleaned around Cherry Gap Shelter. We also cleared the access trail to AT.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: March 25, 2011

Purpose: Trail maintenance

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

People: Olin Babb, Cathy Case, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, George Dickert, Judith Foster, Phil Gibson, Jerry Jones, Larry Miller, Patty Jo Nachman, Susie Seiler, Duncan Sweeny, Lowell Toof

Summary: The Friday Hikers hiked from Cross Mountain to Low Gap and maintained the portion between Double Springs Shelter and Low Gap at US 421. Most of the route was in snow with twigs and vines outlined by fine rime ice at the high areas. The group cleaned water bars, cleared blowdowns and other storm debris, painted blazes south to north and to the water at the shelter, installed a new sign at the shelter, and clipped briars along the trail.