



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2011

tehcc.org

In This Issue

[From the Chair](#)

[Konnarock Crew - Hughes Gap to Cloudland Relocations](#)

[TEHCC Rental Equipment: HA-1- Black Diamond Trail Ergo Cork Trekking Poles](#)

[TEHCC Welcomes New Members](#)

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details on Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[AT Maintenance Reports](#)

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

I hope everyone is having a nice summer. It's been a little rainy, but some really nice weekends none the less. I wanted to take a second and just remind everyone to be safe. On the trail and on the water, your environment can change quickly. Lightning storms have been abundant this season and can be very dangerous. In 2010 there were 29 lightning fatalities in the USA and for 2011 there are already 6. If you are outside on the trail or on the water during a storm, it is important to take appropriate actions to minimize the chance of being struck by lightning. Another summer safety concern is drowning. In 2007, 3939 fatal, unintentional drownings took place in the United States. We are blessed to have a number of lakes for recreational use in our area. Please be safe when you are on the water and look out for the person next to you. Make sure you know what the tell-tale signs of a drowning victim are. They won't be flailing around and screaming more than likely. If you haven't had a CPR course in a while, it may be time to

refresh your training. I hope everyone enjoys an accident free summer, but it is better to be prepared than to be sorry.

Konnarock Crew - Hughes Gap to Cloudland Relocations

Scheduled for July 8-10, and July 29-31, 2011

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

Last year, we began one of our most ambitious Appalachian Trail relocations ever, from Hughes Gap to Cloudland atop Roan Mountain. This formerly 2.6-mile section of Trail ascends 2200', with a 0.4-mile slight descent along the way, making it possibly the steepest section of the A. T. in the south. We've flagged numerous relocations to climb the mountain at a sustainable 10-12% side-hill grade, and built the first four with Hard Core, student groups, and Club outings in 2010. This year, we'll tackle some sections higher on the mountain with all our resources, including the Konnarock Crew, which will work near the midpoint of the section. The Konnarock Crew, in its 29th year, is managed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and works with the 12 southern clubs. We are fortunate to have them for five weeks this year, with plans to devote the first three weeks to these relocations and the final two weeks of July 29-31 and August 11-15 to putting more gravel on Round Bald. The Crew arrives on a Thursday afternoon, has three full days of work Friday-Sunday, and departs Monday afternoon; so the best days to work with them are Friday-Sunday. Volunteers who work at least 40 hours with the Crew receive a Konnarock T-shirt for their efforts. Please contact Joe DeLoach or Carl Fritz if you're interested in helping.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HA-1- Black Diamond Trail Ergo Cork Trekking Poles



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

A new type of equipment for the hiking club – trekking poles. Based on discussion held at the March Lunch & Learn, a pair of Black Diamond Trail Ergo Cork Poles was purchased for \$80 to allow members a chance to try them out before deciding to buy this type of equipment. These three-section poles were selected due to the ease of adjustment within 29-55 inches using the FlickLocks feature. Rental rate “D” (\$4 weekend, \$6 week-long) will be set for these poles. If popular, then another pair of a different style may be purchased to allow comparison.

They will also be demonstrated at Ian Powell’s “Trekking Poles 101” Lunch & Learn on July 21st, so come learn how to properly use them – including those wrist loops.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Jason Brake

Lori Garrett

Haley Werth

David Hite

Solange Adams

Eugene Halford

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
July 1-4	Backpack: AT – Bland to Pearisburg	Kevin Barham	kbarham@eastman.com
July 2	Watauga River Class I-II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 7	Paddle to the Grill	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 8-10	Konnarock Crew – Hughes Gap to Cloudland Relocations	Joe DeLoach Carl Fritz	423-753-7263 423-477-4669
July 9-10	Mt LeConte Lodge	Ian Powell	chair@tehcc.org
July 16	Explore the Holston River, Christian’s Bend to Phipps Bend	Deb Reynolds	423-723-7017
July 21	Lunch & Learn: Trekking Poles	Ian Powell	ipowell@eastman.com
July 29-31	Konnarock Crew – Hughes Gap to Cloudland Relocations	Joe DeLoach Carl Fritz	423-753-7263 423-477-4669
Aug 6	Explore the Holston River (flat water series)	Deb Reynolds	423-723-7017
Aug 12-14	AT: Newfound Gap to Fontana Dam	Kevin Barham	kbarham@eastman.com
Aug 18	Moonlight Paddle – Duck Island	Jamie Aiello	contactjamiehere@yahoo.com

Details on Upcoming Events

Meeting Locations for TEHCC Hikes

Over the years, TEHCC hikes have typically left from the following locations. Others can be prearranged with the hike leader.

Colonial Heights: The parking lot between McDonalds, State of Franklin Bank, and Ingles located north of Fort Henry Drive on the Kingsport side of I-81 Exit 59.

Johnson City: The parking lot behind Parkway Discount Wine & Liquor just off I-81 Exit 24 at intersection of University Parkway and South Roan Street.

Gate City: Up on the hill above US23/58/421 at the Kane Street intersection (traffic light) sits Food Lion, Advance auto parts, and Subway.

For more detail, check out the [TEHCC trail wiki](#).

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!

Thursday Evenings: Paddle to the Grill

Bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and TEHCC. The launch is at 6:30 pm at Davis Dock located in Blountville. We will paddle to Boone Docks Restaurant located at Boone Lake Marina in Piney Flats for dinner and a social hour, then paddle back. As we may be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat; PFDs are mandatory. Contact [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636 for more details.

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 McDonalds 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, June 11- Sept 3, 2011

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

Mt LeConte Lodge July 9 – 10, 2011

Though the trip is full for this year, there is a waiting list available. To be placed on the waiting list, please send requests to chair@tehcc.org.

July Lunch & Learn: Trekking Poles 101 - How to use, what to consider before buying and maintenance July 21, 11:30am-1:00pm, Building 150B, Room C

Leader: Ian Powell, ipowell@eastman.com

Never used a pair of trekking poles before? Not exactly sure how they are supposed to be used? Why do they have baskets on the bottom, it's not going to snow in July? Why are the pesky straps on the pole, should I cut them off? Trekking poles can be intimidating and sometimes a big ticket item to purchase. At this meeting we will go over the proper use, adjustment and maintenance of trekking poles. We will touch on the different options that the industry includes in their pole designs. This is your chance to try out a pair of poles and see if they are something you might be interested in.

Moonlight Paddle – Duck Island, August 13, 2011

Leader: [Jamie Aiello](#)

Paddling in the evening is a calm serene experience, especially with the moon lighting the sky. Join us at Duck Island, Warriors' State Park to experience the full moon. We will put in around 7pm and paddle up to 2.5 hours. Please bring lights for each boat. A white one for the back of the boat is mandatory, green/red light for front. PFDs are required. Contact Jamie by email if you are interested or have questions: contactjamiehere@yahoo.com



For the Record

Exploring the Holston (W Carters Valley Bridge to Netherland Inn Bridge), May 28, 2011

Deb Reynolds reporting

Memorial weekend was hot, but mid-day Saturday, the North Fork of the Holston River was calm, cool, and secluded, yet close to home. We had 4 women for this trip, 2 of whom have never paddled before on their own. The river is very quiet on this section with farmland, forest and some residential homes. We saw more blue herons and large turtles than I have seen anywhere else and we were even paddling with the cows that had come down to drink and cool off. There were trees for most of the section to provide shade with a nice breeze. The water had a few shoals, but nothing more than a class I, if even that. We had a short stop for a snack and were off the river in 2 hours with plans for all 4 of us to paddle together again. I followed up with another paddle on the same section on Memorial Day; the river level had dropped about a foot in 2 days. We had a few more shoals and dragged bottom a few times. I would not recommend a composite material kayak at a lower level than this. The drive for the shuttle was remarkably short and I will be doing this section quite often due to the location and scenery. I can't wait for the next sections of the Holston River to explore! (Attending: Deb, Jaime, Dianne and Sarah on Day 1; Deb and Paul on Day 2).

Friday Hikers: AT – Whitetop Mountain, June 3, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a beautiful day for our 7-mile hike on the AT over Whitetop. I have never seen the field so green. There were many wildflowers including flame azalea. Hikers were: Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Kathy and Jerry Case, Andrew Cleland, Anne Cosby, Carol and Dave Dunham, first timer Irma Graf, who was scouting for the ATC meeting next month, Bob Harvey, John and Helen Hoover, Carol Idol, Heather Jacob, Larry Miller, Susie Seiler, Jerry Sluder, Lowell Toof, and Collins Chew.

Nolichucky River Clean-up and Celebration, June 4, 2011

Debbie Briscoe reporting



We had record attendance at the cleanup this year! But first let me say and I couldn't have done it without the support of our club officers Jerry, Cheryl, Wes, Jeff and Scott. Their assistance with organizing, getting the food, and picking up donations and TVA bags was a huge help! At sign-in, we had an exciting and overwhelming period of giving out location assignments and organizing clean teams. After getting everyone on their way to the specific focus points, I teamed up with a small band of merry volunteers and set off to the Saw Mill put in. The weather was perfect and the water was wonderful!

From this year's heavy rains there were a lot of debris piles full of bottles and other stuff. We found clothes, boots, cans, pipes, plastic, metal pieces, barbed wire, and even a microwave oven and stuffed animals! What was the name of that doll again Phyllis? Jerry reports that we cleaned up three truck loads of trash with several tires. And Michael took trailer loads of trash

too. I also have reports that many of you took your bags directly to the dump; so we really got a lot out of the river!

One participant who was new to the cleanup said it made her mad to find so much trash carelessly left in the river. That comment reminded me of when we started concentrating on these sections of river. It used to be much, much worse. I can't explain how bad it was through Bumpass Cove and across from the Saw Mill a decade ago. Heck, I can remember there being a mini-van in the river

that stayed there for two years before the County got it out!

At Chestoa Park, the Sheriff showed up with manpower to help out, and that was a total surprise! They will definitely get a letter of gratitude from us!

We timed our duties to be finished around 3:00pm and were all getting off the river and playing in the hole at the Big Rock about the same time. It's always such a pleasure to be at the Riverpark Campground. The atmosphere is so festive when the river is right and the boaters are there! Cheryl's pics reflect the good time had by all! Nancy and Brucie are heroes for letting us have free access to it for the cleanup!

The food was wonderful. Cheryl out did herself with BBQ from the best local restaurant and all the fixins and some WONDERFUL cookies! There weren't even crumbs left of those! I made the club-style beans that we look forward to each year and many others helped with the set up.

The Toluenes band was a big hit. They are an acoustic duo from Gatlinburg with really good stage presence, coming out into the crowd and working it for audience participation. They helped give away all the prizes donated by our sponsors, holding the grand prize for last, a scholarship for a swift water rescue course at Landmark Learning. The winners were a new couple who own property on the river and are boaters too! I won it one year and it is a really good course that has made me a safer boater!

I want to thank the volunteers from The Carolina Canoe Club, TEHCC, The Chota Club and The Johnson City Team River Runners. This was the first year TRR has participated. They were a big help with parking, driving a trash runner trailer and with shuttling; not to mention their hard work on the river!

Special thanks to Mahoney's this year. They were responsible for getting a monetary donation from Columbia Sportswear and then matched it! It completely covered our food and band expenses! On top of that, they sent a team to help with the cleanup!

Thanks to all! But in the grand finale of this report, it was such a pleasure to see so many APE's come out this year and give their ALL! Our work brings a smile to my face every time I paddle the Nolichucky and see how much better the river is looking!

Friday Hikers: AT – Braemar to Shook Branch, June 10, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We hiked from Braemar over Pond Mountain on the AT to Shook Branch to measure a new relocation near the top of Pond Mountain. The relocation measured 1851 feet long and the entire section ended up 0.1 miles shorter than the guide book distance. We walked about 7 miles including the mile on the blue-blaze trail from Braemar. There were a fair number of wildflowers with Mountain Laurel the showiest. I was also fascinated by the white and pink-flowered shrub at low elevations at both ends. I guess it is Corymbed Spirea. The flower spikes of Galax got the most comments. Some flame azalea was still blooming. Hikers were: Bob Harvey, Lowell Toof, and Collins Chew.

Friday Hikers: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, June 17, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had ideal weather for our 4.8-mile hike from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge and return and then another 0.5 mile (about) hike through the Rhododendron Gardens. Along the AT, the rhododendrons were upstaged by a nearly continuous, beautiful display of flame azalea with many colors showing. The rhododendrons were also very nice, particularly near the top of Grassy Ridge and in the Gardens. There were many other wildflowers, including American Mountain Ash, Grays Lily, bluets, ragwort, and more. Many others shared our enjoyment of the day. There was the usual stop for peaches as well. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Lee Bockman, Anne Cosby, Carol and Dave Dunham, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Jerry Sluder, Judy and Bill Tindall, Lowell Toof, first timers Rikki Rhoton and Sharon Trumley, and Collins Chew.

Explore the Holston River series - Wadlow Gap to Weber City, June 18, 2011

Deb Reynolds reporting



The flat water series continued on 6/18 with a new section for me and most others. We had a large group of eight folks who were looking for a relaxing paddle and new territory. Jamie and Eric decided to go upriver a bit as we only expected to cover two miles today and they added on a mile or so. The rest of us cruised on down to Weber City counting the times that I got stuck on the shoals. The river was lower today with quite a few shoals. I managed to show everyone how not to go down on the river. I did triumph at the end, as I was the only one in the front group not to get stuck on the last set of shoals, but only because Kent went first to show me where not to go. The river today was exceptionally clean and very very private. Just like last time, we had a protective blue heron that flew ahead of us, waiting patiently for us to catch up before starting off again. We just barely made it off the river before the

thunder started. I think Jamie and I were the only ones who were still strapping our kayaks on the cars when the sky opened up.

Next year I plan to do this run much earlier in the year since there are no dams controlling the flow and you are left with Mother Nature. Until we get much more rain, I plan on running the water-controlled sections only, unless someone just enjoys walking a few sections. On this run today were Jamie Aiello, Steve and Caroline Rochelle, Kent and Nancy Wilson, Sarah Dalcher, Eric Belsford and Deb Reynolds. By the way, Eric is from Knoxville and he found our group via the web prior to learning about any of the Knoxville groups such as CHOTA.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 5/30/2011

Purpose: Light clipping while geocaching

Location: Section 8, Watagua Dam area to Iron Mountain Gap

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: I hiked from Iron Mtn Gap to across Watagua Dam and a mile farther, then back. I did light clipping of growth along the trail path. (Recent blowdowns were already cleared - thanks!) Major action was cleaning up a campsite right along Watagua Lake after locals' Memorial Day weekend party. I hauled out a stuffed trash bag of flattened beer cans (for scouts to recycle) and a bag of food trash to leave the campsite ready for hikers to use.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 5/31/2011

Purpose: Prepare for Konnarock

Location: Section 15b, Beartown Mountain to Hughes Gap

People: Ken Buchannan, Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples, Josh Pophal, Michael Giasson, Ed Oliver, Geroge Thorpe, Jim Foster, Kim Peters

Summary: Jim and Ed checked out Roan High Knob Shelter for a reported leaky roof and found no leaks. The remainder of the group hiked south toward Hughes Gap and cut out the rels that Konnarock Crew will work on this week.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 5/31/2011

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 20b, One mile north of No Business Knob Shelter and Temple Hill Gap

People: Paul Benfield, John Beaudet

Summary: We bucked and removed about 15 blowdowns (between 3 and 24+ inches in diameter) near Temple Hill Gap.



Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 6/2/2011

Purpose: Trim weeds

Location: Section 8, US 321 to Watauga Dam

People: Brian Paley, Jeremy Paley

Summary: We trimmed weeds and picked up trash from Hwy 321 to Watauga Dam. We also completed the shelter status assessment and replaced the shelter log book.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 6/4/2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns, cut brush, paint blazes

Location: Section 6, Iron Mountain Shelter to Vandeventer Shelter

People: Bill Hodge, Danielle Bouchonnet, Scotty Bowman, Stephen Eren, David Cohen, Rick Foster, Aaron Sanford

Summary: Seven of us spent National Trails Day working on the AT between the Iron Mountain and Vandeventer Shelters. The weather was perfect, but the day was quite long because of the long hike. We freshened blazes between the two shelters (though we ran out of paint just short of Vandeventer), we brushed out the trail and removed several blow-downs. We also packed out some trash. The trail between the two shelters is in good shape. I assume another brushing trip might be in order later in the summer, and I will see about scheduling that trip.

Reporting: Bruce Cunningham

Date: 6/4/2011

Purpose: Attend dedication program

Location: Roan Mountain

People: Mary Cunningham, Bruce Cunningham

Summary: We attended the grand reopening ceremony for the club--- opening of the re-done, updated Roan Mt. Recreation Park.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/5/2011

Purpose: Mow and cleanup

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

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

Summary: We mowed weeds and cut small branches along trail and mowed to the spring in the orchard. We removed a large portion of an apple tree blocking the trail in the orchard and removed part of a large cherry tree covering the spring to make the spring assessable. Also, a second large apple tree was blown over in the orchard. We plan to do some chainsaw work later in the orchard.

Reporting: Shane Hackler

Date: 6/5/2011

Purpose: Clean up trash

Location: Section 8, AT around Watauga Lake

People: Shane Hackler, Jon Holmes

Summary: We cleaned up LOTS of trash from parking area to the camping areas.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 6/6/2011

Purpose: Check for blowdowns and complete shelter status assessment

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I hiked the section checking for blowdowns, did the measurements, photos, etc. for the shelter status assessment, picked up a small bag of litter, checked the spring, and did some lopping of limbs and briars. Surprisingly, there were no significant blowdowns on the section.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/6/2011

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed the Accessible Trail and the AT across the Osborne Farm. We replaced one blazed post.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 6/7/2011

Purpose: Check flag lines for rare plants

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland to Ash Gap

People: Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: Ed Oliver and I walked several of the relocations between Ash Gap and Cloudland to locate and record the rare plants that are on or near the flag line. This information will be useful for future construction.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 6/9/2011

Purpose: Cut brush and briars

Location: Section 14b, Grassy Ridge side trail

People: Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We performed routine maintenance, cutting back blackberries and woody growth along the side trail to Grassy Ridge. Rhododendron and azalea on the balds are in peak bloom and spectacular this year.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/10/2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns and rehab trail

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

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: There were no blowdowns that needed to be cut, however we removed a stepover and one that was a little more than head high. We cut lots of yearly growth and snow breakdowns of rhododendrons. We dug about 60 feet of ditch to control water on the trail. We moved the trail at the first wet spot to the outside side of the trail on a small rise which should solve the problem there. At the second wet spot we removed silt from the ditch to allow the water to get to the culvert. We relocated about 30 feet of trail and rehabbed around 30 feet coming up the hill just trail north of the campsite at the end of the road.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 6/10/2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 11b, Moreland Gap to Bitter End

People: Ken Buchanan, Brian Paley, Tim Stewart

Summary: Ted and Paul shuttled us to Moreland Gap. We cut or removed from the trail 39 blowdowns and other obstructions. We also removed the huge blowdown at Moreland Gap Shelter water source. It was just before the water source and took about 1-1/2 hours to clear. There were 3 trees intertwined and they covered the blue blazer. Tim also completed the shelter status assessment.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/10/2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns

Location: Section 14a, Bradley Gap to Yellow Mountain Gap

People: Richard Carter, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

Summary: We cut two blowdowns plus a hazard tree at a water source. We painted blazes, cut a few weeds, cleared water bars, lopped, and had a beautiful day in the Roans.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: 6/10/2011

Purpose: Measure relocation

Location: Section 9b, Pond Mountain

People: Collins Chew, Robert harvey, Lowell Toof

Summary: The AT was "wheeled" from the blue-blazed trail from Braemar to U. S. 321. It was 6.1 miles or 0.1 mile less than the guidebook distance. The new relocation at the top of Pond Mountain measured 1851 feet long. The section from the blue-blazed trail at Braemar to the spring on Pond Mountain is 0.1 mile longer than the guidebook distance.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 6/14/2011

Purpose: Paint blazes and cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter to Carvers Gap

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I repainted the blazes for the section, then cut weeds for about a half-mile south of the shelter. I also did diplomatic duty by assisting several hikers to have their picture taken painting blazes.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 6/14/2011

Purpose: Trim back annual growth and clean water bars

Location: Section 16a, Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

People: Ed Oliver, Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

Summary: Ken and I worked from the Greasy Creek end of the section and Ed worked from Hughes Gap. We trimmed the trail, cleaned the water bars, and cut two medium-sized blowdowns. The trail is open and in good shape.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 6/15/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 11a, South of Dennis Cove Road

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob cut weeds primarily in the field south of Dennis Cove Road.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/16/2011

Purpose: Check relocations

Location: Section 15b, South of Beartown Mountain

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Morgan Sommerville

Summary: We inspected opened relocations as well as those remaining to be done below Beartown Mountain in preparation for Konnarock Crew.

Reporting: Steve Wilson

Date: 6/18/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds and paint blazes

Location: Section 12c, Campbell Hollow and Buck Mountain Roads

People: Jill Wilson, Steve Wilson

Summary: We cut weeds and painted blazes near the road crossings at Campbell Hollow and Buck Mountain Church.

Reporting: Chad Tate

Date: 6/18/2011

Purpose: Annual Maintenance

Location: Section 13b, Doll Flats to northern side of Big Hump

People: Chad Tate, Shannon Tate, Chris Harrison

Summary: The Doll Flats camping area, including the water trail, was trimmed with a string trimmer. The field heading South from Doll Flats had been previously mowed by the forestry service. The wooded section after the field to the opening to Big Hump was cleared with swing blades. There are no blow downs to report. The trail is adequately blazed.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 6/19/2011

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Eastman Employee Center

People: Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Ted Mowry, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Joe DeLoach, Paul Benfield, Paul Worsham, Jeff Siirola, Steve Perri

Summary: Hardcore work on Pond Mountain was extended another day to complete the segment of trail that was incomplete due to difficult digging amongst the rocks and roots, rather than spending day 2 on the Hughes Gap relo. Future work on Pond Mountain may require better easement access to minimize unhappy property owner. Friendly neighbors were thanked with gift certificates. Konnarock work on the Hughes Gap relo will focus on lower sections of trail this year. The 2 upper relos near Cloudland were deemed too steep and so these will need to be rerouted. The gravel project on Roan Mountain is planned for the last week of Konnarock (Aug 12-14) and for ASU to bucket-transfer gravel on Aug 18th. Thirty tons of gravel will be needed from top of Rd Bald to Engine Gap. TEHCC is proposing to use railroad ballast to provide a firm base along with locus logs which will be moved and others hopefully provided by the USFS. From Carvers Gap to Rd Bald crusher run will be used for the next phase of rehab in 2012. A meeting with Morgan, TEHCC, and the USFS is planned for June 24 to review logistics and plans. The bear pole at Watauga Lake shelter appears to have minimized bears coming to the shelter for food. The AT Committee approved the formal adoption of the AT in Big Laurel Branch Wilderness from Vanderventer Shelter to Iron Mountain Shelter by SAWS. A certificate will be provided to acknowledge the adoption. Joe DeLoach reviewed the structure of the NC license program and we proposed a structure for TN funds which will be split among TEHCC, SMHC and some with CMC. We reviewed a proposed long-term shelter plan which captures shelter age, materials of construction, capacity, and proximity to AT and other shelters. We discussed options to perhaps remove up to three shelters (Apple House, Stan Murray, and perhaps Laurel Fork) and renovate the remainder over an extended period of time. For

locations where shelters are removed, we will likely consider tent pads. July 5th TEHCC will be hosting an outing for an Inner City Youth project trail-north of 421 to install water bars.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/21/2011

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Rear fence of Osborne Farm to Double Springs Shelter

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I painted the sleeping platform of the shelter and cut the weeds from the rear fence to the shelter. I cutback the foliage and removed limbs and blowdowns. I need to return and mow and weedeat the Accessible Trail and the AT on the farm.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 6/21/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds and rehab trail

Location: Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob cut weeds as necessary on this section. The water source at Pond Flats is almost dry. He also rehabbed some trail and removed the dirt fill from a couple of sets of wood steps that had become ramps.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/22/2011

Purpose: Summer Maintenance

Location: Section 18, Deep Gap south to FS 230

People: Jerry Mayne, Howard Guinn, Dave McMillin, Jerry Jones, Lou Haase, Daryl Loyd, Ernie Hartford, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed the trail, lopped small branches, and removed limbs from the trail from Deep Gap south to FS 230.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/23/2011

Purpose: Review gravel project on Round Bald

Location: Section 14b, Engine Gap to Carvers Gap

People: Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

Summary: We did a field inspection of the gravel trail from Carvers Gap to Engine Gap. Vern Maddux, Matt Fusco and Brandon Jones from US Forest Service plus Morgan Sommerville from ATC joined us. The trail has been a great success over these ten years. We are planning to upgrqade it and agreed on the planned improvements. Bob, Ed and Carl also made a trip to Bakersville to the rock quarry to investiage gravel options.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 6/23/2011

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to just past Watauga Lake Shelter

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I cleared 5 major and 12 minor blowdowns from recent storms.

Reporting: Terry Oldfield

Date: 6/23/2011

Purpose: Maintain Mountaineer Falls Shelter

Location: Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Shelter

People: Kim Peters, Terry Oldfield

Summary: Kim and I hiked to the shelter in the rain, hoping it would stop raining by the time we headed back. It did. At the shelter, we completed the shelter status assessment (Kim took photos), replaced the log book, and picked up trash. We also hiked to the campsites beyond the falls to pick up trash, but overall found very little. We trimmed some overhanging rhodos on the way back. There is one new blowdown about 1 mile in from Walnut Mountain Rd that could be cleared with a hand-saw, which we didn't have with us.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 6/24/2011

Purpose: Trim weeds from the trail

Location: Section 3a, Abingdon Gap Shelter to US 421

People: Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield, Ed Oliver, Jim Foster

Summary: We trimmed the trail and removed one small blowdown from Abingdon Gap Shelter to US 421.

Reporting: Daryel Anderson
Date: 6/24/2011
Purpose: Trail Maintenance
Location: Section 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock Trail
People: Daryel Anderson, Bill Murdoch, Carl Fritz
Summary: We cleared and weeded the trail.

Reporting: Collins Chew
Date: 6/24/2011
Purpose: Clear trail
Location: Section 4a, Double Springs Shelter to US 421
People: Olin Babb, Carol Broderson, Collins Chew, Anne Cosby, Judith Foster, Bob Harvey, Melane Horton, Larry Miller, Jerry Sluder, Lowell Toof, Nancy Wilson
Summary: Brush was cut along the trail from Double Springs Shelter to US 421. The trail is in good shape. It was a very pleasant day with fog in the morning when we started from Cross Mountain. There were a fair number of nice flowers.

Reporting: Kim Peters
Date: 6/24/2011
Purpose: Cut weeds
Location: Section 7b, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd
People: Bob Peoples, Brian Paley, Richard Carter, Kim Peters
Summary: Richard and Kim cut weeds going south from the shelter as far as the spring, as well as the trail down to the water source. Bob and Brian started at Wilbur Dam road and after clearing several blowdowns and rehabbing a section of trail where a root ball had taken out part of the trail, they cut weeds heading north. Bob and Brian ran out of time, and Richard and Kim ran out of energy, so there is still about a mile of trail that needs weeding starting at the spring and going south. This will be done on a later trip. There is also one blowdown very near Wilbur Dam road which will be cleared on another trip.

Reporting: Faye Guinn
Date: 6/24/2011
Purpose: Cut weeds
Location: Section 18, Beauty Spot to Indian Grave Gap
People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Ernie Hartford
Summary: The bushes along the trail were so overgrown this year that we decided to use a blade.

Reporting: Paul Benfield
Date: 6/25/2011
Purpose: Mow grass
Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm
People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery
Summary: Ted and I took our push mowers and mowed the Accessible Trail and the AT to the fence where the cattle are located. We trimmed weeds as needed. Mike Rice needs to spray the Accessible Trail for weeds when they finish gathering hay.

Reporting: Steve Perri
Date: 6/25/2011
Purpose: Cut weeds
Location: Section 5, TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter
People: Steve Perri
Summary: I cut weeds from TN 91 to Iron Mountain Shelter with a scythe. I also picked up trash at the shelter and inspected the stile on the north side of TN 91. It was a nice day to be out cutting weeds.

Reporting: Carl Fritz
Date: 6/26/2011
Purpose: Cut weeds
Location: Section 9b, Pond Flats to Hampton parking lot
People: Bob Peoples
Summary: Bob lopped growth and cut weeds on blue-blaze trail and AT to Pond Flats. He cribbed an area where hikers had tried to avoid a blowdown and broke down the trail.