



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

August 2011

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Ian Powell, Steering Committee Chair

We are more than halfway through the year and this is about the time that the steering committee starts to keep an eye open for prospective steering committee members. We will lose three members and add three new members at the end of the year. For those of you new to the club who may not know, we elect three new members to the steering committee each year as well as a new committee chair. The club votes on the new committee members and the steering committee votes on the new chair. The committee plans events like our dinner meetings and helps decide where funds from the club should go. If this sounds like something that would be of interest to you, please let me know by email at chair@tehcc.org.

2011 Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, Thursday, July 21, 2011

Tom Boyd reporting



The Fun Fest Moonlight Hike event went off well at Bays Mountain Park. We had a great group of volunteers from TEHCC. Many brought along family members and friends which made the hike that much more enjoyable. Although the day started out very hot and humid, the heat let up a little before the start of the hike. We counted 598 participants crossing the dam. In our contest to guess the number of participants, Matt Dean pulled a vintage "Price is Right" move and out-guessed his father (Randal) by one person to take home the \$25 Planetarium Gift Shop gift certificate. All participants were accounted for at the end of the hike and everyone seemed to have a good time in the woods.

Thank you to the following for making this a successful event: Josh Henri, Ian Powell, Glenda O'Neal and guest, Vic Hasler, Mark Selby and Jake, Chad Austin and family and friends; Jon Penney, Randal Dean and Matt, Alex, and Lucy; Neil Dotson and family, Rob Cole, the great staff at Bays Mountain Park, and the EMT crew.

Virginia Journeys 2011 - ATC's 38th Biennial Conference

Steve Perri reporting

The seven AT maintaining clubs between Old Dominion Appalachian Trail Club and the Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club co-hosted the 2011 ATC biennial conference at Emory and Henry College, July 1-8, 2011. Emory and Henry was an excellent location with a college that was motivated to work with the conference coordinators, as well as having excellent facilities for workshops, meetings, housing, camping, and exhibitions. Registered attendance was greater than 935, which is an excellent turnout.

For TEHCC, it was an opportunity to support the event with volunteers for hiking, helping with registration, and observing the dynamics and attendance of workshops, since we'll be co-hosting the conference in July 2013 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. For the 2013 conference, TEHCC's primary role will be to coordinate the workshops. For this year's conference, 80 workshops were originally scheduled for Saturday through Monday in a series of eight tracks with many workshops (typically 6 to 8) running in parallel and each lasting up to 2 hours. There were almost 2,300 attendees among the different workshops, even after five workshops were canceled. We have been gathering some data on attendance to help us discern what topics attendees are most interested in and how we might offer similar or new opportunities in 2013. The majority of the work is getting presenters' invitations, following up to get commitments, and filling slots in a manner such that people can attend workshops of interest without having conflicts with other workshops that occur simultaneously.

Hikes were a major draw for meeting attendees. The meeting organizers offered 65 different hikes with some of these offered up to five times! So as you can imagine, getting volunteers to lead more than 150 hikes over seven days takes a lot of volunteer capacity. Hikes along TEHCC's section were as far south as Dennis Cove. Many thanks to those trail maintainers who went out to ensure the sections were clear of blowdowns from the recent storms and for cutting the prolific weeds.

Other conference activities included excursions to local sites of interest, a trail maintenance event with inner-city youth coordinated by TEHCC, evening entertainment, evening photography programs, and the ATC business meeting. The ATC business meeting was an unusual event in that a tribute was held for soon-to-be retiring, Executive Director David Startzell. Dave has been with ATC for 34 years and Executive Director for 25 of those years. He certainly will be remembered for achieving a number of goals and initiatives to protect and preserve the trail. Most notably, Dave has been able to bolster many land acquisitions to protect the AT corridor. In honor of his contributions, a new trust is being established in Dave's name to provide funds for future land protection. The targeted amount for donations is ~ \$2.1M representing \$1,000/mile of trail. Also, Silver and Gold National Park Service awards were presented for 25 and 50 years of volunteer service. TEHCC member, Bruce Cunningham, was recognized for achieving 50 years of ATC voluntary service! Several other awards were presented to ATC staff for achieving 5, 10, 25 and 30 years service. The board had a few changes with Ken Honick stepping down as Treasurer and several new members being elected to the board.

So now that this meeting has passed, activities and planning are already upon us as we prepare for 2013. So if you want to learn how ATC works, help with workshops, or volunteer in any other capacity, let me or Joe DeLoach know as we continue organizing for 2013.

TEHCC Rental Equipment: HA-2 – Day Hiker First Aid Kit

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

To facilitate day hike leaders, the Steering Committee has decided to offer a small first aid kit that can be checked out at no charge. The intent is to cover basic first aid needs (cuts, blisters, stings, pain relief), thus a simple kit was purchased – and augmented with an ace bandage for sprains. The crammed-full pouch, which you will have to dump out to find what you need, weighs just under seven ounces. The back has two loops to slip on a belt.

Please let Bldg 310 staff know if anything is used out of the kit, so that it can be replaced. They can note the usage on the rental form.



Konnarock Crew – Gravel on Round Bald

Scheduled August 11 – 15, 2011

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

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 and we are down to the last week. The first three weeks were devoted to relocations from Hughes Gap to Cloudland atop Roan Mountain. The final two weeks of July 29-31 and August 11-15 will be spent putting more gravel on Round Bald. The Crew arrives on a Thursday afternoon, has three full days of work Friday through Sunday, and departs Monday afternoon; so the best days to work with them are Friday through 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.

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Aug 2	Johnson City Roll Practice (every Tuesday)	Wesley Bradley	dangerousdraftingman@hotmail.com
Aug 4	Paddle to the Grill (every Thursday)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 5	Friday Hikers (every Friday)	Collins Chew	vcchew@chartertn.net
Aug 6	Explore the Holston River (flat water series)	Jamie Aiello	contactjamiehere@yahoo.com
Aug 12-14	AT: Newfound Gap to Fontana Dam	Kevin Barham	kbarham@eastman.com
Aug 12-14	Konnarock Crew	Joe DeLoach Carl Fritz	423-753-7263 423-477-4669
Aug 13	Watauga Class I-II (most Saturdays)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Aug 13	Moonlight Paddle – Duck Island	Jamie Aiello	contactjamiehere@yahoo.com
Aug 18	Trail Maintenance with ASU Students	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Aug 20	Sand Cave/White Rocks Cliffs	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Aug 25	Lunch & Learn-Make Your Own Canoe Paddles	Ian Powell	chair@tehcc.org

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

Explore the Holston River (flat-water series) – South Holston at Beulah Church Road, August 6, 2011

Leader: [Jamie Aiello](#), 423-538-4443

Several Saturday events are scheduled this summer to explore the local Holston River including the North and South Fork. Most of these events will require a car shuttle, so advance notice is required for planning purposes. The trip length will vary, but will normally be between 2 and 4 hours. A lunch or snack will be desired. Fishing and bird watching are options as we will not be racing to see how quick we can get to the end. Bring a friend, a pole or camera, and an attitude for exploring. PFD's are required. This particular trip will be on the South Holston River at Beulah Church Road. Contact Jamie Aiello at contactjamiehere@yahoo.com or 423-538-4443.

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

Sand Cave/White Rocks Cliffs – Saturday, August 20, 2011

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

Rating: Moderate 8-9 mile hike with 1500-2000 ft elevation gain



Hike to a spectacular, large (estimated 1.5-4 acres), open cave located in the Cumberland Gap National Park, and then to overhanging cliffs for view of what Daniel Boone might have seen along his Wilderness Trail. The cave is reached via the well maintained Ewing Trail which is four miles of switchbacks up the side; then along a mile section of the Ridge Trail to short Sand Cave Trail. On the way back, we will detour to White Rocks Trail and down to the parking area. Meet in Colonial Heights (lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank) at 8 am to carpool for the 1.5-hour drive to the trailhead at Ewing, VA. We can pick up folks in Gate City, if desired. Bring a sack lunch, water, clothing appropriate for the weather, and a camera. For more information, check the [trail wiki](#), this [2006 Knoxville News story](#), another [trail review](#), or call the hike leader.

Lunch & Learn – Thursday, August 25, 12-1 pm, B-310, Rm 115

The Steel River Ontario Canoe Trail *and* Make Your Own Canoe Paddles

by Bill Tindall

The Steel River drains the area north of Lake Superior, specifically the area north of Terrace Bay, Ontario. This historical route was used by the Voyagers, and a trapper's cabin was still in use on this route the last time we were there.

The route begins on a lake just north of Lake Superior. A portage named Diabalo, for good reason, climbs to a small lake which is the beginning of one fork of the drainage. From there the route runs north for 50 miles in a combination of narrow lakes and rivers, makes a 180 degree hairpin, and joins the second fork to return 50 miles south to the lake at the beginning. A logging road near the north hairpin enables either of the 50-mile segments to be done separately. The remoteness of this trail ensures few people travel it each year.

I have made many of the paddles we use for canoeing. I have made both straight shaft paddles as well as the ergonomically superior bent shaft paddles. I will have paddles on display and discuss their construction and merits.



For the Record

New River Paddle Camp, June 25-26, 2011

Debbie Briscoe reporting



We had a sunny weekend with mild temperatures on the North Carolina /Virginia line of the New River last weekend. The humidity was down and the water was up on the river. This is a section of river that anyone can do; we saw recreational kayakers, tubers and lots of people in canoe rentals in the class I warm water.

We shoved off at Kings Crossing about noon after loading our boats with gear and running a shuttle vehicle down river to the 91 bridge. I was sporting a demo boat from Jackson Kayak called the Rouge that is designed for paddle camping in moving water. It is a large-volume whitewater boat, but equipped with a drop down skag. D.Bird was in a recreational boat and so was Grizzly Glen, but Professor D. was in his classic canoe.



There is only one ledge of any significance, a diagonal line forcing the new paddlers with us to paddle with conviction, but everyone shot through just fine. The rest were just ripples and moss covered rocks just under the surface that weren't hard to avoid in the slow-moving water.

We reached Alleghany Access around 2:00 and others were already pulling up to shore. I shoved my boat up, grabbed my dry bag, and quickly headed in to find a camp in the trees before any big tent invasion could take place. We found a superb spot to hang and the tent with us took the tent pad. Now I say "tenter" because I expected Glen, the young guy with us, to pull out a tent; but all he had was a piece of plastic and a wool blanket! We all looked at each other and then commented that he was really roughing it! Later that evening, while we were cooking dinner, he was using a very large knife with a really cool rabbit-fur sheath. He also had on moccasins. Well, that's when we gave him the name Grizzly! HA!



Dinner is always so nice when paddle camping, because you can bring MORE! Professor D. had steak, corn-on-the-cob, and even had a veggie tray with dip for an appetizer. He would disappear into his tent and reappear each time with a new surprise! Grizzly Glen had chicken and fresh veggies too! D. Bird had salmon and a delicious looking couscous. I did pepperoni pizza on my Bushbuddy as a new experiment that I can modify for the trail. Then the marshmallow roasting began and Professor D. did it again and pulled out chocolate and gram crackers for s'mores!



Naturally D. Bird and I encouraged both ground dwellers to test hang our hammocks. Both Glen and Professor D. were very surprised at the comfort. I regretted not bringing my spare hammock that I keep in the car for Glen. If I had only known he didn't have a shelter.

country boys are tough you know!

We had a starry night and Grizzly Glen laid out his blanket and wrapped up in it and the plastic by the fire to sleep. He was fine, he said, as long as the fire was going. Tennessee

Morning came early when some neighboring kids started horsing around about 7 am. I heard D.Bird start to unzip her hammock and that was it...I lost composure...I belted out, "HEY! PEOPLE ARE SLEEPING!!!" They all got quiet as mice. I heard a chuckle from D. Bird as she zipped back up. Then I rolled over in my hammock and went back to sleep. We slept late; no hurry because it only takes about an hour to float down stream to the take out. Breakfast was great with eggs, steak, bacon and oatmeal, and Baileys Irish Cream in the coffee! YUMMMMMM YUMMMMMM!

After breakfast and breaking camp, some wanted to do the loop hike of the old homestead. I stayed behind to watch the boats and nurse my foot from a slight injury from the week before. As soon as they were gone, it started to sprinkle a little rain. I dragged my boat down to the river and turned it over, donned my rain gear, then headed back to camp to batten down anything that they had left open. About that time the sky opened up. I managed to get everything under cover about the time they all came back. We readied for the river, but about the time we all got in the water, the rain stopped. After that the skies cleared and it turned into a beautiful afternoon. We saw a river otter on the way down.



Loading up was quick and we headed back. One more stop on the way home was at Bella's in Abingdon for dinner. We all had a great time and will do this trip again, but maybe make it a two-day trip next time! Paddlers on this trip were: Debbie Stern aka D.Bird, Dave Dixon aka Professor D., Glen Greer aka Grizzly, and Debbie Briscoe aka Idakes.

Friday Hikers: AT – Flattop Mountain, July 1, 2011

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of July 1 was partly on the Appalachian Trail but mostly on old roads on Flattop Mountain. We began at Spivey Gap with a mile on the AT, took a shortcut up to Forest Service road 278, and then went along that road to a short trail that led us up to a rolling woodless field called Joe Lewis Field on the crest of Flattop. From there we had limited views of the Nolichucky Gorge below and a fine panoramic view of the mountains to the north. We were lucky in having almost haze-free air. By mistake, I led us up a side road that was headed for another crest of Flattop; but after awhile I realized my mistake and we backtracked. Including that extra bit, we did a total of 10.8 miles. The roads we walked on were mostly in the shade, so we didn't suffer much from the heat. The hikers were Olin Babb, Andrew Cleland, Bob Harvey, Steve Kasten, and Mary Ellen Virost.

Friday Hikers: AT – Fox Creek to the Scales, July 8, 2011

Bob Harvey reporting

The hike of July 8 was on the Appalachian Trail from Fox Creek, on VA Route 603 south to the scales on the edge of the Grayson Highlands, then back to the start.

We had a short conference in the parking lot at Colonial Heights before, agreeing to go ahead with the hike in spite of the unfavorable weather forecast, realizing that we'd probably get wet. We did get wet, but not drenched.

As it happened, we shared the trail with three or more southbound church groups of mainly young people, all from the North Carolina cities of Newton, Concord and Chapel Hill; all of them with bright and cheerful faces and all lugging heavy backpacks for their four-day hike.

We ate lunch on the hillside above where I suppose the cattle scales used to be, then headed back.

A few minutes after getting back into the woods, the rain began; but it lasted only a half-hour or so and was followed by some brilliant sunshine. The drive back home on the interstate was where we really found rain --- two cloudbursts, in fact. Luckily, they didn't last over a few minutes.

The hikers were Bob Harvey, Jerry Sluder, and Mary Ellen Virost. The distance we covered is open to question, since the trail signs and the description in the guidebook are at some variance, but I'll go with the guidebook figure of 9.6 miles.

Exploring the Holston: Church Hill to Christian's Bend, July 18, 2011

Deb Reynolds reporting



This stretch of the Holston River is a great stretch for both the beginner and the more advanced paddler. The water typically has enough current to allow you to drift and look around at God's creation, but enough water to get a workout if you want one. It is one I have traveled several times, but every paddle is different and thus worth repeating each year.

We had a completely new crew today with five solo kayaks and a canoe. I left my kayak on my car for the opportunity to canoe with Bill Tindall who lives on this stretch of the Holston River and

provided me a personalized tour. We started out about 9:30 am with a light rain that eventually disappeared and with the temperature in the high 60's to low 70's. After a week of hot humidity, this day was a gift.

This year we saw the results of the storms we have had, with many trees on the shore washed away and no sign of beaver slides. Bill took us around every island for the most scenic route, several of which I had not been around before. We skipped by one island as a small sandbar appeared blocking our way. Spencer was fishing for most of the trip and caught and released seven fish - a few bass and several small bluegill. We saw a very small fawn on the last island. We also saw blue heron, cormorants, tons of green heron (a first for me), kingfishers, Canada geese, many wood ducks, turkey buzzards, and LLB's (little brown birds), catfish, and turtles sunning on rocks. I think many of the group will be back after seeing several fishing spots they want to try. Present were Rick and Denise Wright, Eric and Trish Osborne, Spencer Gilliam, Bill Tindall, and Deb Reynolds.

Friday Hikers: AT – Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap, July 22, 2011

Collins Chew reporting

We had a nice 8.5-mile hike on the AT from Sams Gap to Devil Fork Gap. The first climb was quite warm, but clouds appeared and the rest of the day was at a pleasant temperature. Storms appeared and sounded in the distance, but we only had a slight sprinkle toward the end. There were quite a few wildflowers: black cohosh, bee balm, tall bellwort, and spiderwort among the showiest. Hikers were: Bob Harvey, Melanie Horner, and Collins Chew.

Rankin Bottoms (near White Plain TN)

Deb Reynolds reporting



This touring op was not on the TEHCC calendar, but one I did with the CHOTA group out of Knoxville. It was so different than anything I have paddled near here that I am writing it up if anyone has a similar interest. Rankin Bottoms is located at the junction of French Broad and Nolichucky River (can you say Douglas Lake?) and is part of the 1,255-acre Rankin Wildlife Management Area. It is a large floodplain that is easily paddled in the summer and early fall but used for farming at other times. The numbers and types of birds are tremendous. We saw trees full of cormorants (similar to those just below Boone Dam), blue heron, many white heron, my first sand hill crane and several osprey nests. Most fun was paddling through the grass across what is normally a road to reach 'the pond'. See the directions on [Rankin Bottoms](#) and view area on [Google Map Link](#).



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: 6/27/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 18, From Indian Grave Gap to about a half-mile toward FS 230

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Ernie Hartford

Summary: We started cutting weeds at seven in the morning so we could finish and meet Mike at Cherry Gap to help cut weeds on that end. We had to saw one 4-inch blowdown out of the trail.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/27/2011

Purpose: Summer Maintenance

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Low Gap

People: Jerry Mayne, Lou Haase, Jim Robertson, Pete O'Hare, Wayne Jones, Jerry Jones, Dave McMillin, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds and lopped and removed tree limbs from Trail from Iron Mountain Gap to Low Gap. We cleaned up around Cherry Gap Shelter and completed the shelter survey. There are four trees in this section that will need to be removed with the chainsaw.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/28/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14a, Hump Mt to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Richard Carter, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Michael Laude, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Janel Scharhag, Mike Tuttle

Summary: Weeds have grown unbelievably in the Roans during the last two weeks. The section is in good shape. We ran out of fuel; so some grass in the first climb-out of Yellow Mt Gap was not cut. The grass on the south side of Hump Mt has become a major problem.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/28/2011

Purpose: Cut blowdowns, posts and rails for stile

Location: Section 5, TN 91 to just north of Grindstaff monument

People: Paul Benfield, George Thorpe, Alex Geisman, Bill Elderbrock

Summary: We cut four blowdowns. We also cut four posts and six rails for a new stile on the Accessible Trail.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 6/29/2011

Purpose: cut weeds, clear blowdowns

Location: Section 7b, Wilbur Dam Road to spring

People: Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

Summary: We cleared the blowdown near the road then hiked into the spring, removing a few small blowdowns on the way (which hadn't been there last Friday). Then we cleared the blowdown just north of the spring and worked our way back to the road cutting the weeds.

Reporting: Bob Peoples

Date: 6/30/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 10, Laurel Fork Gorge

People: Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob cleared Laurel Fork Gorge again. He had to clear two major tree blockages between the two bridges. This section of trail is ready for ATC hikes or storms, whichever comes first.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 7/1/2011

Purpose: Trim weeds and clear trail of obstructions

Location: Section 2, Backbone Rock Trail to McQueens Gap

People: Bob Peoples, Jim Foster

Summary: I dropped Bob off at McQueens Gap and he trimmed and cleared the trail going north. I went in from Backbone Rock Trail and trimmed trail south. It was a long day, but we were able to trim and clear the whole section.

Reporting: Anna Hackler

Date: 7/2/2011

Purpose: Pick up trash; clip weeds and branches

Location: Section 8, Around Watauga Lake; and Section 10, Hampton blue blaze to AT

People: Anna Hackler, Shane Hackler, Andrew Scott

Summary: We took literally a truck load of trash from the Watauga Lake section and did some clipping and maintenance on the Blue Blaze.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/5/2011

Purpose: Install water diversions

Location: Section 3b, South end of section at US 421

People: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Alex Geisman, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Angie Sheldon, George Thorpe; Groundworks: Curt Collier (Leader), Emily Eder (Leader), Jair Blackwell, Terry Robinson, Andres Valcarcel, Sebastian Valcarcel, Carlos Torres, Jose Arroyo, Kwaku Kodua, Roger Osorio, Melissa Guevara, Jasmine Chacko, Nana-Ama Anane, Gabrielle Stores, Ashley Pèrez, Brianna Rohlehr, Sade Balogun, Sabrina Rose

Summary: A youth group called Groundworks attended the ATC Biennial Conference at Emory and Henry. The 16 youth, ages 14 to 17, and their two leaders are from the Bronx. They accomplished much on this work project with some leadership from our Club! They installed 21 new water diversions on the old steep road. It will give us a chance to determine which type of diversion holds up the best. We broke for lunch at the Scott-Booher Pond.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/5/2011

Purpose: Create water diversions

Location: Section 4a, North end of section (just south of US 421)

People: Ray Douglas, Andrew Campbell, Pramod Dibble, Shannon Billings, Randy Pritchard, Erica, Lori Bob Sansom

Summary: Otto recruited some current hikers plus three locals to put in five water diversions on the old road just south of US 421. Several folks even hauled in some rocks to use in the diversions. They accomplished this task while Groundworks youth were doing similar work on the other side of US 421.

Reporting: Faye Guinn

Date: 7/5/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 17, FS 230 switchback to the top of Unaka and then toward the spring

People: Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Wayne Jones

Summary: We cut the weeds along the trail and lopped lots of shrubs that were growing into the trail. When we returned Ernie to his truck at Indian Grave Gap, someone had dumped a small bag of trash into his pickup bed???

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 7/5/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, South of Stan Murray Shelter

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds with a string trimmer from the shelter about a mile south.

Reporting: Gether Irick

Date: 7/8/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15b, North of Hughes Gap

People: Gether Irick

Summary: I made two trips to cut heavy weed growth on the trail south of Ash Gap.

Reporting: Scott Vandam

Date: 7/10/2011

Purpose: Cut back growth

Location: Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mtn Rd

People: Scott Vandam

Summary: I hiked my assigned section with handsaw and loppers; cut back rhodos, laurels, and removed a few small blowdowns

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/11/2011

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 15b, South of Beartown Mountain (Trail north of Hughes Gap)

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ray Douglas, Jim Foster, Mike Laude, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Janel Scharhag, George Thorpe

Summary: The Tuesday crew completed and opened the relocation worked on this past weekend with Konnarock Crew.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 7/13/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, North side of Grassy Ridge

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I cut weeds with a string trimmer for about 2/3 mile on the north slope of Grassy Ridge.

Reporting: Richard Carter

Date: 7/16/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 14b, Just north of Grassy Ridge trail junction

People: Richard Carter

Summary: I finished cutting weeds with a string trimmer southward to the junction of Grassy Ridge trail, completing the interval from there to Stan Murray Shelter.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 7/18/2011

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Entire section 12d (Campbell Hollow Rd to US 19E) and north end of section 13a

People: John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Mike Tuttle, "Lone Wolf"

Summary: Tuesday crew cut the weeds and multiflora rose. We also cut just south of 19E. Four of six trimmers need repair, but maybe not until winter. Some slackers picked berries!

Reporting: Gether Irick

Date: 7/22/2011

Purpose: Trail maintenance

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to south of Ash Gap

People: Gether Irick, Don Baker

Summary: We trimmed weeds, grass, and briars; and endured a massive thunderstorm during a rapid 1/2-mile run to the truck!

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 7/24/2011

Purpose: Mow trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and cut weeds from the Trail across the Osborne Farm.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 7/28/2011

Purpose: Cut back annual growth and do general trail maintenance

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

People: Jim Foster

Summary: I cut back annual growth, trimmed weeds, cleaned some water bars, and removed two small blowdowns from Hughes Gap to Greasy Creek Gap. The trail is free of obstructions and in good shape.