



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

April 2012

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

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## From the Chair

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*Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair*

With the early arrival of spring weather, some thru-hikers are already passing through our region. (And I have even seen some “trail magic” in place.) Keeping the trail in good shape for everyone’s enjoyment needs many hands. Volunteering for a day to help with section maintenance is something that any hiker can do – even those with no prior experience. The section leaders will guide you on the needed tasks of that day which might include lopping back the growth, clearing out water bars and water sources, and ensuring shelters are in good shape. Interested? Contact Kim Peters ([atmaint@tehcc.org](mailto:atmaint@tehcc.org)) if you need to be matched up with a section leader. Contact Carl Fritz ([atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)) for the Tuesday maintenance trip.

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## Rental Equipment Checkout, March 26, 2012

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*Vic Hasler reporting*

The club’s backpacking equipment received its yearly inspection through the efforts of many (thanks also to Terry, Kim, Kent, Steve, Waylon, Barry, and Mary). All of the packs and sleeping pads were found to be in good shape. The tents were observed to be clean (great!) with the primary problem being small tears in the netting. Some of these holes have been patched in the past with duct tape, but this year we’re going to see if some netting can be sewn to repair. Discussion was held whether it was time to retire the big HT-26/27 (Eureka Base Camp Outfitter 6) tents due to extensive damage and odor. This pair has been rented 60 times since 2003, thus has had a long and useful life. The question for the club membership is whether another “six” (comfortable for four or five with small kids) person car-camping tent is needed beyond our HT-15 (REI Habitat 6)? Let me know. Otherwise, the equipment is ready for the upcoming outdoor seasons; so enjoy. If you find any problems or have suggestions on future purchases, please let me know at [rental@tehcc.org](mailto:rental@tehcc.org).

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## Spring Dinner Meeting, Friday March 23, 2012

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### *Vic Hasler reporting*

This year's spring dinner meeting was well attended with 75 having dinner of kabobs, baked potatoes, salad, rolls, and three different fruit cobblers (even "a la mode") thanks to Sugar & Spice Catering out of Nickelsville, VA. After the meal, program began highlighting several upcoming club activities (refer to other articles in this newsletter). A girl scout from Troop 263 gave a report about hiking the Appalachian Trail at Jane Bald and seeing the Baa-tany goats.

Reuben Potter, Trails Technician for the Watauga Ranger District, presented certificates and patches on behalf of the Forest Service to 38 people who working at least 50 hours on the Appalachian Trail. Nancy and Kent Wilson were recognized as having completed the Smokies 900 challenge in 2011, while Collins Chew was thanked for 51 years of service as a section maintenance leader.

Those presented with 2011 club awards were:

Hiker of the Year (with 27 outings) – **Olin Babb**

Paddler of the Year - **Jamie Aiello**

Maintainers of the Year - **Ken Buchanan** and **Joe DeLoach**

Stan Murray Award - **Carl Fritz**

Carl Fritz was recognized for his incredible job of providing leadership for trail maintenance over the years, including participation in many outings. The time commitment and direction he has brought to the club is outstanding. Carl is known for providing good advice regarding trail maintenance. He also does an excellent job of keeping the club tools, such as weed trimmers and chain saws, in good working order. Finally, Carl has the unique honor of being the only repeat recipient of the Stan Murray Award with prior recognition received in 2006.



*Carl Fritz on left with Tim "Mt. Squid" Stewart in back, and Bob Peoples on right.*

"Miss Janet" Hensley spoke on the background of the ATC Ambassador program as she is representing the efforts from Unicoi County.

The evening finished with Frank "denob" de Nobriga describing the challenges of his 2011 AT thru-hike. The photos provided a vivid story experience for the audience as we "hiked" northbound into Pennsylvania, and then flip-flopped to Maine back down. While fortunately sheltered each time in a hotel, Frank's trip did encounter the impact of three major storms: the April 27 tornado which came up I-81 in TN, Hurricane Irene effects in New England which shut down the trail in VT, and October snow storm in CT which brought down trees on the trail due to high leaf coverage. Ever the Eastman guy, the talk included several statistics, such as precipitation was experienced on roughly a third of the hiking days. Frank does plan completing the last 17.4 miles he missed in Vermont due to the trail closing, thus if anyone want to join him this summer, then let him know.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening an enjoyable fellowship of club members, family, and guests.

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## Appalachian Trail Community Program Ambassador for TEHCC

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The Appalachian Trail Communities Program has been designed to recognize communities that promote and protect the Appalachian Trail. The program serves to assist communities with local initiatives such as sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation, while preserving and protecting the A.T. This initiative began accepting applications from interested communities in 2006 and now has nearly twenty designated communities and over thirty communities in the application process!

The A.T. Community Ambassador opportunity is the first of its kind within the A.T. cooperative management partnership. Janet Hensley has been selected to serve as the volunteer ambassador to the designated Appalachian Trail (A.T.) Community of Unicoi County, Tennessee. In this role, she will serve as a community liaison to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club, to bolster volunteerism and stewardship of the Trail at the local level.

“The Appalachian Trail Conservancy is excited about building off its volunteer base by providing A.T. Ambassadors to designated A.T. Communities to help increase local stewardship of public lands and support healthy lifestyles for community citizens,” stated Julie Judkins, Community Program Manager of the ATC.

Janet Hensley has been involved with the A.T. in Erwin for a number of years, as the former owner of a hiker hostel and as the coordinator of A.T. Summit Seminars and other community events meant to generate greater understanding and positive relationships between hikers and the local business community.

“I am very interested in being able to work more closely with my community here in Unicoi County to promote the Appalachian Trail and to encourage others to get involved. I have always felt that we have some great resources in the people of this area and it would be very rewarding to be part of a program designed to get them involved,” said Hensley. “I am also excited to have the opportunity to work with the TEHCC volunteers who are responsible for the Appalachian Trail maintenance in our area. These volunteers are the heart of a huge partnership that makes the A.T. possible and I am so excited about this wonderful opportunity to work with the ATC and TEHCC as the Unicoi County Appalachian Trail Community Ambassador! I am really looking forward to talking to club leaders and learning more about ways I can be an asset to your efforts in maintaining and promoting the Appalachian Trail in our area”.

Miss Janet will coordinate a series of AT volunteer and stewardship events along with the ATC, TEHCC and interested individuals, organizations and businesses in the area. Her responsibilities will include recruitment for ATC volunteer opportunities including trail crews, rare plant monitoring, invasive species plant monitoring and control workshops, phenology monitoring, other trail maintenance projects as regionally prioritized; represent ATC and TEHCC at conferences, events and workshops and communicate community efforts by collecting and reporting projects, participants, volunteer hours and events.

Anyone wishing to get involved or wanting more information about these programs may contact Miss Janet directly at [themissjanet@gmail.com](mailto:themissjanet@gmail.com) or 423-743-0620 or Julie Judkins at [jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:jjudkins@appalachiantrail.org) or 828-254-3708.

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## Third Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!

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### *Joe DeLoach reporting*

Prior to the last few years, the great majority of the Appalachian Trail maintenance we did was on weekends. In the 1990's, we selected the third Saturday of each month as our Trail maintenance day. Now that we have a much larger and active contingent of retired folks, much of our work is done on Tuesdays, and we all should thank the Tuesday group for their hard work and dedication. We've recognized though that employed people have fewer opportunities to help with maintenance, and we need to provide such opportunities and encourage others, especially newer members, to participate. Therefore, we're reinstating the Third Saturday maintenance outings with our first trip in March. We will concentrate on "routine" section maintenance in these outings rather than relocations. Although section maintenance can be challenging, such as when large downed trees or plentiful annual growth that needs to be cut are encountered, there are always less strenuous tasks, such as lopping brush, painting blazes, and cleaning shelters and campsites. With a good-sized crew the work can be spread around and thus is much easier, so we'd love to see some volunteers come out! Please contact Joe or Kim if you're interested in helping. [Joe DeLoach](tel:423-753-7263) (423-753-7263), [Kim Peters](tel:423-538-7665) (423-538-7665)

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## Mount LeConte Lodge (Smoky Mountains), Sat-Sun, July 7-8, 2012

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For the past 35+ years TEHCC has organized a summer weekend trip to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This lodge (elevation 6593 ft) can only be reached by hiking trails. Even supplies are brought in by llama train once a week. The hiking distance to the lodge is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. The package price this year is \$133 per person which includes supper on Saturday, lodging for the night, and breakfast on Sunday. We have four reservations in a five-person cabin (double bunk beds and a single). If you are interested in one or more of these reservations, please contact Steve Falling, 423-239-5502, for availability. You must be a TEHCC member to participate in this outing. You can find out more about Mount LeConte Lodge at [www.leconte-lodge.com](http://www.leconte-lodge.com).

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## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
April 7	Spring Wildflower Hike, Margarett Falls	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
April 14	Outdoor Gear Swap	Vic Hasler	<a href="mailto:chair@tehcc.org">chair@tehcc.org</a>
April 20-23	Lake Santeetlah Paddle/Camp	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
April 21, 28	Relocation of AT at Hughes Gap with ASU Trail Crew	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
April 21	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a> <a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-538-7665 423-753-7263
May 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a>	423-538-7665
May 20,21	Annual Hard Core Event	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669

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## Details on Upcoming Events

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### Recurring Events

#### Most Tuesdays: Weekly AT Trail Maintenance

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Tuesdays. Contact Carl Fritz ([atvolunteer@tehcc.org](mailto:atvolunteer@tehcc.org)) for dates and meeting places.

#### Tuesdays Evenings: Johnson City Roll Practice

Come join the Jackson Action Wagon (J.A.W.), APEs, and other paddlers from around our region at the Freedom Hall Pool in Johnson City, TN from 7:10 to 9:10 pm every Tuesday for tips and tricks about basic kayaking 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 email 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 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.

### Scheduled Events

#### Spring Wildflower Hike – Margarett Falls, Saturday, April 7, 2012

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



The combination of wildflowers and waterfalls has led to some popular Club hikes, and we're hoping for the same with this short hike to Margarett Falls. One of our prettiest area waterfalls, Margarett Falls drops about 60 feet and descends through a rocky canyon adorned by many spring flowers. The Unaka Ranger District of the Cherokee National Forest has improved the trail with some relocation and a bridge, and the trail makes a great family hike suitable for young children. Round-trip distance is about 3 miles with an elevation gain of around 700 feet; see our listing in the [Trail Wiki](#) for more information. The flowers are early this year with all the warm weather, but early April can be cold, wet, and fickle so bring layers of clothes and good raingear. We'll meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights. A meeting point in Boones Creek can be arranged for people who live towards Johnson City. We'll plan on lunch at the falls and get you back in the early afternoon. Please contact Joe if you'd like to go or for more information.

## **Outdoor Gear Swap, April 14, 2012, 8 AM to Noon**

Contact: Vic Hasler, [chair@tehcc.org](mailto:chair@tehcc.org)

The Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club is again hosting an outdoor gear swap on Saturday, April 14th from 8 AM to noon in the Eastman Toy F. Reid Employee Center (400 South Wilcox Drive) parking lot. Most outdoor enthusiasts accumulate excess gear of one kind or another. This free event is intended to give folks a chance to trade, sell and/or buy surplus outdoor equipment in good condition. So go through your closet, basement, attic, or garage and pass some stuff along to a new owner. It also provides an opportunity to talk about gear, and swap stories and ideas about hiking, paddling and camping. For those wanting to reserve a 12'x12' display space in the parking lot, pre-registration is required by April 12th for event organization. There will also be a designated general area for trading – no pre-registration needed. For more information or to reserve a display area, visit <http://tehcc.org/news/gearswap/>.

## **Lake Santeetlah Paddle/Camp, April 20–22, 2012**

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

Lake Santeetlah near Robbinsville, N.C. is one of the finger lakes of NC and this one has many spots to camp on along the shores or on an island. We can meet sometime around noon on Friday at Cheoah Point and shove off to spend a couple of nights at any one of these spots on the lake. First night in we can bring things to grill because I'm bringing charcoal!

More Info: <http://www.greatcarolinaproperty.com/Outdoor-recreation/Santeetlah-lake.htm>

Map: [http://grahamchamber.com/maps/800maps/LakeSant\\_2011.gif](http://grahamchamber.com/maps/800maps/LakeSant_2011.gif)

## **AT Maintenance with ASU Trail Crew, April 21 & 28, 2012**

Contact: [Carl Fritz](#), 423-477-4669

We have the opportunity to work with ASU Trail Crew on this Saturday. They will probably bring 15 to 20 students and are a fun group to work with. We will work on the relocations at Hughes Gap. Naturally, site and times will be weather dependent. Exact plans will be communicated by email as we get closer to the events. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carl.

## **Third Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools! April 21, 2012**

Leaders: [Joe DeLoach](#) (423-753-7263) and [Kim Peters](#) (423-538-7665)

On this second outing in the 2012 revival of 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance we will check out the section between Campbell Hollow Road and Sugar Hollow Creek near the Elk River. This 2.8 mile section features Jones Falls which should be flowing well after the spring rains. Weather permitting we will paint the blazes along with clearing any blowdowns and clipping back woody growth. The wildflowers are blooming and it is a fine time for a walk in the woods - with tools! Contact either Joe or Kim if you are interested in helping.



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## **For the Record**

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### **Friday Hikers: Cumberland Gap National Park, March 16, 2012**

*Collins Chew reporting*

The third time was a charm. After cancelling twice for weather, we had a pleasant, warm day for our hike in Cumberland Gap National Park from the Wilderness Road Picnic Area to the Pinnacle and back with an added short jaunt along the ridgeline during the return. There were several very nice views with lunch at the Pinnacle, overlooking the Gap. Total hike was about 6.6 miles with a climb of close to 2,000 ft. The wildflowers are beginning to show with bloodroot, rue anemone, trailing arbutus, spicebush, chickweed, and violets in bloom. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Bob Harvey, Susie Seiler, Jane Whitson, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: AT – Chestoa to Curley Maple Gap Shelter, March 30, 2012**

*Bob Harvey reporting*

The hike of March 30 was on the Appalachian Trail from Chestoa to the shelter near Curley Maple Gap, where we ate lunch, and then returned to Chestoa. This hike was one that had been planned for quite a while, but was postponed due to either bad weather or expected bad weather. This time, though, we could hardly have had it any better. Spring flowers were making their appearances and the trail was in perfect condition. Ordinarily, the northbound through-hikers get to Erwin and vicinity about this time of the year, but we saw only two, both from Destin, Florida. The hikers were Olin Babb, Bob Harvey, Jerry Jones, Susie Seiler, Jerry Sluder and Lowell Toof.



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## AT Maintenance Reports

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**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 2/11/2012

**Purpose:** Clear Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Flat Top Mountain Road

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** The trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 02/18/2012

**Purpose:** Clear Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Flat Top Mountain Road

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** The trail in good shape.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 2/18/2012

**Purpose:** Pick up trash and lop branches

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Barn to Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Chris Huskins

**Summary:** We picked up trash at Overmountain Barn, did minor lopping along the trail, and picked up trash at Stan Murray Shelter.

**Reporting:** Bill Hodge, for the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS)

**Date:** 2/25/2012

**Purpose:** Log out Big Laurel WSA and other areas between shelters

**Location:** Section 6, Big Laurel Branch Wilderness and WSA

**People:** Bill Hodge, Scotty Bowman, Katelyn Morgan, Jon Wilkin, Chad Theodore

**Summary:** We hiked in on Saturday and started our work at the Iron Mountain Shelter. We removed ten trees from the trail over the two days, including one huge oak. We also did some brushing work along the way (rhodos). We camped for the night at the water source just south of Turkey Pen Gap. We worked two solid 8-hour days and met two north-bound thru-hikers. The section between shelters is now logged out.

**Reporting:** Phyllis Cairnes

**Date:** 3/3/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain Abingdon Gap Shelter

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

**People:** Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters, Mary Ellen Virost, Rick Virost

**Summary:** We picked up trash around the shelter, shoveled out the fire ring, cleaned out the gutter, placed a new shelter log, and carried out a broken rake and a tarp as well as the trash. It was a beautiful, sunny, cool day and this was a wonderful excuse to go hiking.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/3/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 9b, About 1.5 mile north of Hampton trailhead

**People:** Carl Fritz, Greg Kramer, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart; ETSU: Cody Ayers; ASU Trail Crew: Eva Cooper, Avery David, James Lautzenheiser, MJ O'Neal, Kasey Teifer, Zorch Vander Ploeg, Maura Weaver

**Summary:** On a cool day we strolled up the south side of Pond Mountain. In this lower relocation we encountered many rock ledges just under the soil. We installed many side logs. One more really good day will finish this 950-ft section.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 3/3/2012

**Purpose:** Search for route

**Location:** Section 13a, Hwy 19E to Apple House Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** We followed the route the Forest Service uses to mow the apple orchard, searching for a vehicle route from Hwy 19E to Apple House Shelter.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 3/4/2012

**Purpose:** Clear Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Devil Creek

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** One tree was down below Flat Top Mountain Road, which I removed. The trail is now clear.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 3/5/2012

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns and other obstructions from trail

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

**People:** Bruce Darby, John Tomko, Greg Sterling, Jim Foster

**Summary:** The four of us walked and cleared the trail of six blowdowns using small hand saws. There are two blowdowns that will need a chainsaw to remove. We also checked the shelter and water source. I was able to identify the leaks in the shelter and will go back and caulk.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/7/2012

**Purpose:** Remove Apple House Shelter

**Location:** Section 13a, Apple House Shelter

**People:** Daryl Anderson, John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Joe Bucki, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Frank Klein, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We removed siding and two roofs before noon. After removing key bracing we pulled the shelter frame and roof over with a rope. The remaining roof and floor were harder to disassemble. We removed all the sheet metal and much of roll roofing. Also, we removed most of trash. We recovered some wood and most all the plywood. The floor beams and roof rafters were badly decayed mostly from carpenter ants. One 12" x 12" floor beam was almost totally decayed. We left much of the lumber for future disposal. Apple House Shelter is no more.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 3/8/2012

**Purpose:** Place sign at Overmountain, pick up trash

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Barn

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Chris Huskins

**Summary:** We posted signs for closure of Apple House Shelter and picked up trash at the barn.

**Reporting:** Michael Ray

**Date:** 3/8/2012

**Purpose:** Check trail condition

**Location:** Sections 19a and 19b, Indian Grave Gap to Nolichucky River

**People:** Dale Douthat, George Thorpe, John Beaudet, Carl Ray, Michael Ray

**Summary:** The five of us checked Section 19a from the gap to Curley Maple Gap Shelter. We cut out one blowdown. There were no others as of this date and this section is in very good condition. We picked up a small amount of trash at the shelter and put up a notice of the closing of Apple House Shelter for north-bound hikers. On Section 19b, we cleared several blowdowns; we got all cut and cleared off of the trail except for one. It was a larger single tree about 4 feet off the ground midway through the section. It was larger than what we wanted to get with our hand-saws.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 3/9/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter to Hwy TN-91

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We removed limbs from the trail and clipped green briars and yearly foliage from the side of the trail. We cleaned the shelter, the shelter gutter, fire pit, and the springs. We picked up trash from around the shelter and carried it out. We left a new shelter log. The Trail is now clear from TN-91 to Double Spring Shelter except for an 18-inch tree across the trail 200 yards north of

the rear fence of Osborne Farm.

**Reporting:** Gerald Scott

**Date:** 3/10/2012

**Purpose:** General maintenance

**Location:** Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Rd to Sugar Hollow Creek

**People:** Gerald Scott

**Summary:** I removed some branches and several minor blowdowns along the trail. The trail is in good condition. Tim Stewart and I met at the Mountaineer Falls Shelter, which is also in good condition. Tim covered up the reference to Apple House Shelter on the sign inside the shelter and wrote in the miles to Overmountain Shelter.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 3/10/2012

**Purpose:** Blaze trail both North and South

**Location:** Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Devil Creek

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** The trail is now clear and blazed.

**Reporting:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** 3/11/2012

**Purpose:** Clear blow downs and trim briars

**Location:** Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter to McQueen's Gap

**People:** Jill and Steve Wilson

**Summary:** We did spring cleaning on this section by clearing blow downs and lopping briars. We saw only one blowdown and used a hand saw to cut it, reducing it to a reasonable size to move. We cleared several water bars and plan to clean them again next month. We checked on the blue-blaze water trail at the shelter and found a lot of trail erosion due to the steepness down to the water source. During a future trip, we plan to add some water bars to redirect the water where possible.

**Reporting:** Lynn DiFiore

**Date:** 3/11/2012

**Purpose:** Post signs and pick up trash

**Location:** Section 15a, Carvers Gap parking, Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Lynn DiFiore, Chris Huskins, Lyndsey Smith

**Summary:** At Carvers Gap we posted a sign of the Apple House Shelter closure. We picked up/hailed out trash from Roan High Knob and provided the number and size of down trees to the section maintainer.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 3/11/2012

**Purpose:** Spring Maintenance

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

**People:** Elizabeth Dukes, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** We cleared debris from the trail, cut several small trees and cleaned water bars. The Orchard spring is running good. There is one large tree to cut with a chainsaw at a later time.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/13/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, North of Hughes Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Frank Klein, Leigh Ann Laube, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe, Mike Tuttle

**Summary:** With the great turn out and even a little light rain in the morning, we dug 650 feet of trail. We are within about 500 feet of completing this major relocation. At the end of the day, a few walked down the existing AT and found out why we need this relocation - the slippery conditions. Kudos go out to Leigh Ann Laube, Kingsport Times-News, for her excellent article, "On the Trail," published in the Times-News on April 1, 2012. The article includes a description and photos of this work trip.

**Reporting:** Larry Miller

**Date:** 3/14/2012

**Purpose:** Scout and clear trail

**Location:** Section 4a, US421 south 1-1/2 miles

**People:** Larry and Sharon Miller



**Summary:** We removed small limbs and cut green briars. There are five 5-inch blowdowns that we will cut later with a chainsaw.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 3/14/2012

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

**Location:** Section 16a, Trail south of shelter to Greasy Creek

**People:** Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster

**Summary:** Ken and I cut one very large and one small blowdown. We were not able to work on the shelter because of an unforeseen doctor's appointment. We'll get it next time.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 3/14/2012

**Purpose:** Open Areas Meeting

**Location:** Watauga Ranger District Office, Unicoi

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** Representatives from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Forest Service, the Carolina Mountain Club, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, and TEHCC meet annually to determine priorities for management of open areas in Tennessee and North Carolina north of the Smokies. Available funds are tight this year with Big Bald coming up in the rotation, joined by other large balds including Hump Mountain, Round Bald, Beauty Spot, and Max Patch. We reached consensus that all these areas can be mowed with available funds during the remainder of this fiscal year (ending Sep 31). In addition, one mowing along the Elk River, treatment of the accessible Trail at the Osborne Farm on Cross Mountain, the Upper Laurel vista, and Doll Flats will all be done. The Forest Service will mow Bishop Hollow and clear brush at High Point through another funding source. If additional funds become available, the Berry Fields on Holston Mountain, second mowings of Beauty Spot and the Elk River, and the Canute Place on White Rocks Mountain are next in line. We pushed for the Berry Fields which haven't had any attention in awhile and are growing up.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 3/14/2012

**Purpose:** Semiannual AT Partnership Meeting

**Location:** Unicoi, TN

**People:** Matt Fusco, Don Palmer, Mike Rice, Brandon Jones, Reuben Potter, Cheryl Summers, Dave McFee, John Odell, Morgan Sommerville, Joe DeLoach, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Mike Hupko, Ted Mowery, Paul Benfield, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Tim Stewart, Steve Perri

**Summary:** TEHCC held the spring partnership meeting with ATC and the USFS in Unicoi on March 14th. TEHCC shared progress made on trail projects completed in 2011. In 2011 we had a record of 13,631 maintenance hours for the calendar year. A great deal of relo work was carried out since last October including: between No Business Knob Shelter and Spivey Gap, the area north of Hughes Gap, Cross to the VA state line, and a portion of trail south of Pond Flats with the ASU trail crew. We discussed some of the projects that will be undertaken this year with Konnarock, ASU students and Hardcore. South of Pond Mountain and trail north of Hughes Gap we plan to do with Hardcore. Additional trail relo work will be done with ALDHA, Wright State and ASU between Hughes Gap and Cloudland. We had a difficult time getting Konnarock scheduled among the other work groups we are coordinating, the holidays, and the Rhododendron Festival; but we have finalized plans to do the Round Bald graveling July 9-12 using two Yanmar machines. We discussed future funding options that might allow a naturalist in the Roan Highlands. TEHCC proposed a Ridgerunner for 2012, but funds are limited this year. We will work to ID matching funds and consider a new proposal in 2013. The next meeting is October 17, 2012.

**Reporting:** David Dunham

**Date:** 3/15/2012

**Purpose:** Routine maintenance

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

**People:** David Dunham, Pat Loven, Ken Buchanan

**Summary:** We removed numerous blowdowns and leaners across the trail and lopped a lot of mountain laurel. We painted blazes and cleaned out water bars from Wilbur Dam Road to the shelter. We cleaned out the gutter at the shelter and noticed that the register I placed there just 3 weeks ago is now gone. I think it was used as fire starter. I rearranged some blazes, removing several.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 3/16/2012

**Purpose:** Initial trail maintenance for my new section

**Location:** Section 2a, Backbone Rock Trail to Abingdon Gap Shelter

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I lopped and cut back brush from Backbone Rock Trail to the Shelter on Friday; then camped at the Shelter and removed

small blow downs from the Shelter back to Damascus on Saturday. I also took notes on further maintenance issues on my section....the blazing is in good shape; however, there could be a few more blazes on the southbound side of some trees. Although my section only has a hand full of water bars, I will need to clean those out soon. There are just a few small side-hill sections that could use a little "rehab" sometime in the future. I removed as many small blow downs as I could; however, I will definitely need someone with chainsaw credentials to help me get the big ones at some point this year; however, the big ones can be easily stepped over or walked around. My most immediate issue is going to be green briar, rhododendron, and other vegetation that is encroaching the trail. I will be going back this weekend with a weed wacker and loppers to do a more thorough job.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 3/16/2012

**Purpose:** Inspect trail

**Location:** Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

**People:** Tim Stewart

**Summary:** There were reports of motorcycle damage on the trail between Little Hump and Bradley Gap. I went to investigate. From Overmountain Shelter to the stile on Hump I saw no evidence of motorcycle damage. The trail was damaged some between Little Hump and Bradley Gap, but the damage appeared to be caused by water. The trail has eroded; trenches were 8-10 inches deep in some places. A blaze post was down just north of Bradley Gap (within view). I removed one blowdown and some trash. The shelter looked okay, but there was a hole in the floor of the second deck. Also the privy seat was broken.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 3/17/2012

**Purpose:** Spring cleanup

**Location:** Section 13b, Doll Flats to summit of Hump Mountain

**People:** Joe DeLoach, Kim Peters

**Summary:** First Third-Saturday Maintenance trip of 2012 – Hiking with Tools!

Joe and I hiked in from Doll Flats to the summit of Hump Mountain. We cleared numerous small blowdowns using hand saws. Of course there were no big trees down because Joe carried the chainsaw, but after all, this was a "hiking with tools" trip! We cleaned out water bars and did some minor treadway repair, mostly clearing roots from the trail which were a tripping hazard. We also re-set one post on the bald which had fallen down. Both stiles on the north side of Hump are in need of repair as the fence is leaning badly. I talked with some section hikers coming in from the Barn and they said the new stile on the south side of Hump is in good shape. The blazes on this section need to be painted on a later trip. We checked the water source at Doll Flats and the spring is flowing well. It was a great day to be out on one of the prettiest sections of the trail.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 3/17/2012

**Purpose:** Cut growth/blowdowns and clear Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Devil Creek to No Business Shelter

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** I cut growth and cleared the trail.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 3/19/2012

**Purpose:** Spring Maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Andrew Cleland, Bruce Darby, David Douthat, Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Lou Haase, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Jerry Jones, Wayne Jones, Tim Manning, Jerry Mayne, Dave McMillin, Peter O'Hare, Sandra Perry, Jim Robertson, Lana Scott

**Summary:** We removed debris from trail, cut several large trees from trail, lopped overhanging branches, cleaned water bars, picked up trash, and left a new log book at Cherry Gap Shelter (old log book was not in the shelter).

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/20/2012

**Purpose:** Flag Trail Relocation

**Location:** Section 5, just south of TN 91

**People:** Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Ed flagged some relocations just south of TN 91 to eliminate a couple of minor steep sections and to move trail away from Cross Mountain Road and the sight-line to cabins.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 03/20/2012

**Purpose:** Clean up Apple House Shelter

**Location:** Section 13a, Apple House Shelter

**People:** Joe Bucki

**Summary:** Joe retrieved about three 70-lb bags of roll roofing from the demolition site of Apple House Shelter. He also captured a number of nails.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/20/2012

**Purpose:** Rehab trail

**Location:** Northern end of Section 19a, near Indian Grave Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Frank Klein, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe

**Summary:** On the first day of spring with record high temperatures in the 80's, we drank a lot of water and dug a lot of trail. Sloughing trail was redug and quite a few rock cribs and side logs were added. With Bodacious planning how to get us to work sites with little walking, we had a record day of rehabbing trail for the Tuesday Crew with 840 feet.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 3/21/2012

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 4b, Rear of the Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We cleared two blowdowns just north of Osborne Farm. Earlier in the winter I heard there was several blowdowns between Greasy Creek Gap and Iron Mountain Gap.

**Reporting:** Garry Luttrell

**Date:** 3/22/2012

**Purpose:** Spring Trail Maintenance

**Location:** Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap

**People:** Gether Irick, Garry Luttrell

**Summary:** From the Cloudland Hotel site, we headed towards Hughes Gap. We placed a temporary sign at the first intersection of the AT, advising hikers that the restroom facilities are closed for the season. The trail was clear down to Ash Gap; but shortly after leaving the Gap, we cleared the first of many blowdowns from the Trail. Within a mile of Ash Gap we had three blowdown sites that we weren't equipped to remove: a 9" walk-around; then, after 200 yards, an 11" walk-around; then, after 400 yards, two 7-8" more-difficult walk-arounds. We met one thru-hiker on the Trail named "Yogi." It was a great day to be on the Trail - on the cool side and sunny.

**Reporting:** Bill Berry

**Date:** 3/23/2012

**Purpose:** Cutting/Clearing Trail

**Location:** Section 20b, Devil Creek to No Business Shelter

**People:** Bill Berry

**Summary:** I cleared two blow downs. The Trail is clear to No Business Shelter. It rained off and on all day. I met eight hikers.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 3/24/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 2a, South of Backbone Rock Trail

**People:** Jim Chambers

**Summary:** I continued to cut back green briar and rhododendron from the trail; however, my work was cut short due to severe weather. I used the Backbone Rock Trail on this trip, and it is in very good shape with only a few small blowdowns.

**Reporting:** Gerald Scott

**Date:** 3/24/2012

**Purpose:** General Maintenance

**Location:** Section 12b, Walnut Mountain Road to Sugar Hollow Creek

**People:** Gerald Scott, Harold Wexler

**Summary:** We removed branches and several blowdowns (largest: 10 inches). We trimmed back low hanging rhododendrons, encroaching vines, and briars; cleaned water bars; and cleared leaves and branches from water sources.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 3/24/2012

**Purpose:** Spring Maintenance

**Location:** Section 13a, US-19E to Doll Flats

**People:** Kevin Cooper, Steve Perri

**Summary:** We removed four blowdowns, cleaned out water bars, lopped rhodos and briars, and painted blazes in both directions. We cleaned up some trash at Doll Flats. There were two blowdowns we couldn't cut out that were easy to step over between the old shelter location and the rock cliff.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 3/27/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, North of Hughes Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Frank Klein, Pat Loven, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Kim Peters, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe; Hikers: Jobi Ash, Bethann "Patches" Swartz, Brian "B-man" Hannan, "The Roaming Dude," Matt Mignone, Shawn Justice, Donald Smith

**Summary:** On a beautiful day with spring flowers opening, we opened the major relocation just north of Hughes Gap. Several folks worked all day to leaf in the new trail while the rest, including a welcome influx of hikers, built about 800 feet of trail. There is a very minor relo and switchback just south of this relo that needs to be completed to make the transition smoother. Brian and Jim also cut the four blowdowns close to Beartown Mountain.

**Reporting:** Daryel Anderson

**Date:** 3/28/2012

**Purpose:** Clear trail of down wood and service the trail

**Location:** Section 1, Damascus to Backbone Rock trail

**People:** Kim Peters, George Thorpe, Ed Oliver, Juana Quinones, Daryel Anderson

**Summary:** We cleared blowdowns, cleaned the spring, cleaned water bars, checked blazes, and cut back growth. The trail is now free and clear of dead material except step-overs. The blazes are in good shape. The spring is flowing with clear water. The work last year, diverting water off the trail on the steep sections, has paid off and the old road is healing.