



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

May 2012

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

## In this Issue

[From the Chair](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities at the 2013 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference](#)

[Appalachian Trail Conservancy Hosting Environmental Monitoring](#)

[Beginner/Novice Whitewater Kayaking Clinic](#)

[Swiftwater Rescue Course](#)

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

[Event Schedule – Next Two Months](#)

[Details on Upcoming Events](#)

[For the Record](#)

[AT Maintenance Reports](#)

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## From the Chair

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*Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair*

Over the past several years, the club's calendar of scheduled hikes has dwindled to a bare minimum. The Friday Hikers provide a regular outing each week, but only a few other hikes were being planned. An opportunity has risen for the club to partner with the Mission Possible wellness program. During May through October, TEHCC will be hosting Sunday afternoon hikes open to all. The intent is to provide the required fitness activity through an easy to moderate 2 to 4 hour hike somewhere within an hour driving radius of Kingsport. The hikes will be announced in both the monthly TEHCC newsletter and biweekly Mission Possible bulletins. Note that this effort does not preclude Saturday hikes, which will also be held to allow further travel and/or longer trail distance. So come enjoy a local trail with your family (while earning some HDA dollars).

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## Volunteer Opportunities at the 2013 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference

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*(Joe DeLoach, [joedelo@eastman.com](mailto:joedelo@eastman.com), 423-753-7263, and Steve Perri, [sperri@eastman.com](mailto:sperri@eastman.com), reporting)*

In 2013 the five Deep-South Appalachian Trail-Maintaining clubs will host the biennial national meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The meeting will be held July 19-26 on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, about a 2½ hour drive from Kingsport. We are one of the host clubs along with the Carolina Mountain Club, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, Nantahala Hiking Club, and Georgia Appalachian Trail Club. More specifically, we are responsible for workshops at the conference. We'd welcome anyone who is interested in presenting a workshop, and we will need volunteers to moderate the workshop sessions which are currently scheduled for Saturday and Sunday July 20-21. Volunteers are also needed to lead hikes; around 170 hikes will be offered during the week, and a leader and a co-leader is needed for each hike. Bruce Bente from the Carolina Mountain Club is leading the hiking program. If you'd like to help with the hikes, please contact Bruce at [bbente@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbente@bellsouth.net). Any volunteers with interests in artwork and/or photography are invited to help organize and judge digital photography and children's artwork competitions. Finally, volunteers are needed to work at the registration, housing, hikes, excursion, and information desks. If you are willing to help in this fashion, please contact Peter Berntsen of Smoky Mountain Hiking Club ([rennur99@bellsouth.net](mailto:rennur99@bellsouth.net)) who is in charge of volunteer recruitment. It takes hundreds of volunteers to make a meeting like this happen. We certainly need more than two TEHCC people to help with the conference and with the workshops, so please consider volunteering. For questions about the Biennial meeting, contact [Joe](#) or [Steve](#).

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## **Appalachian Trail Conservancy Hosting Environmental Monitoring Workshop on May 26**

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On May 26, 2012 ATC will be hosting a training workshop for environmental monitoring efforts on the A.T. The workshop will be held at Chestoa, near Erwin, and will commence at 9 am. The morning session will provide an overview of ATC's efforts to monitor the seasonal life or phenological cycles of common plants including leaf-out, flowering, fruiting, and leaf-drop in the fall. The workshop will provide instruction on how to collect and report observations from established sites in the A.T. corridor. Phenology monitoring is a very intuitive exercise that does not require technical experience or botanical skills. People of all ages are encouraged to participate. The afternoon will be spent discussing rare plant monitoring. The workshop will serve as an introduction for new monitors and a refresher for past and current rare plant monitors. Participants will discuss how to locate monitoring sites using GPS technology, how to collect monitoring data, and how to report findings. For those interested in monitoring this field season, there will be a brief discussion of site assignments. There is no cost for the workshop and ATC will provide handouts and other training materials. Equipment will be provided by ATC staff, but participants are encouraged to bring their own GPS, binoculars, compass, or other equipment which may be used in the field. Participants are also asked to provide their own lunch and water, wear long-pants, boots, and layer appropriately for variable weather. To register for the workshop or get more information, please contact ATC's Resource Management Coordinator John Odell, telephone (828) 254-3708, [jodell@appalachiantrail.org](mailto:jodell@appalachiantrail.org).

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## **Learn to Kayak! Beginner/Novice Whitewater Kayak Clinic, July 14-15, 2012**

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You know you want to. You've been thinking about it, how fun it might be. You see the occasional car with boats on top or pass by one of the many great rivers in the area and think to yourself "I think I could dig the whole kayaking thing." Well, now's your chance!! The 40th annual "Whitewater School", sponsored by the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts (APEs) and the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club, will be held July 14th and 15th in the Tri-Cities area. The clinic is designed for anyone wanting to learn the fundamentals of whitewater kayaking—fundamentals that will ensure a fun and safe time on the river. No previous experience is necessary. Instruction will consist of one day on flat water and one day on the river. As in the past, there will continue to be a strong emphasis on safety. Participants will be responsible for providing their own gear and transportation, although loaner gear is available on a first come basis. For more information, contact Scott Fisher (276) 698-4644 or e-mail [tfisher1@its.jnj.com](mailto:tfisher1@its.jnj.com).

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## **Swiftwater Rescue Course**

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Date to be determined, sometime Friday-Sunday in late July, Tri-Cities, TN Area (Near or on Nolichucky River)

The Swiftwater Rescue Course teaches recognition and avoidance of common river hazards, execution of self-rescue techniques, and rescue techniques for paddlers in distress. Emphasis is placed both on personal safety and on simple, commonly used skills. Techniques for dealing with hazards that carry greater risks for both victim and rescuer, such as strainers, rescue vest applications, entrapments, and pins, also are practiced. Scenarios will provide an opportunity for participants to practice their skills both individually and within a team/group context. The course is being taught by American Canoe Association certified advanced swiftwater rescue instructors. Based on the 2011 course, cost will be \$85 for TEHCC members plus two nights camping at \$10 each paid to the campground. The TEHCC Steering Committee has approved a \$40 refund for club members upon successful completion of the safety training. Further details will be provided in the June newsletter or contact Scott Fisher at 276-698-4644 or [tfisher1@its.jnj.com](mailto:tfisher1@its.jnj.com).

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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
May 19	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with tools!	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-753-7263
May 20,21	Annual Hard Core Event	<a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-477-4669
May 20	Family/Beginner Hike – South Holston Spillway	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
May 26	ATC Workshop – Rare Plant Monitoring	<a href="#">John Odell</a>	828- 254-3708
May 27	Family/Beginner Hike - Bays Mountain Park – Leader’s Choice to Antennas	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676
May 31	Paddle to the Grill	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
June 2	Watauga River Class I-II	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
June 3	Family/Beginner Hike: Warrior’s Path State Park - Devil’s Backbone and Fall Creek Loop Trails	Ian Powell	423-217-8193
June 8-10	Konnarock Crew – Relo at Beartown Mt.	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a> <a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-753-7263 423-477-4669
June 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with tools!	<a href="#">Kim Peters</a> <a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a>	423-538-7665 423-753-7623
June 23	Nolichucky River Cleanup	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636

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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.

#### 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.

#### Bi-Weekly on Saturdays: Watauga River Class I-II

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

Launch at 3 pm unless there is water elsewhere. Call first to check and see if it’s on!

## Scheduled Events

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools! May 19, 2012

Contact: [Joe DeLoach](#) (423-753-7623)

Come out on a day hike and help us tackle some typical late spring maintenance needs, such as cutting annual growth and painting blazes. No experience required! Contact Joe for details and meeting time and place.

### F/B: South Holston Spillway – Sunday, May 20, 2012

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

Rating: *Easy three and half mile in/out hike with less than 300 ft elevation change*



Come for a nice walk in the forest along a firm gravel service road down to the lake. The gradually sloping path skirts along the southwest shore before ending at the spillway. Once we reach the lake, we'll have a rock skipping contest (say, number of skips and distance). Let's leave Colonial Heights promptly at 1 PM for 45 minute drive to near the South Holston Lake dam. We should be back by 5 PM. For more information, check the club's [trail wiki](#) or call the hike leader.

### F/B: Bays Mountain Park – Leader's Choice to Antennas - Sunday, May 27, 2012

Leader: [Barry Griggs](#) (423-239-5676)

Rating: *Easy 4-5 mile hike with ~400 ft elevation change*



You've seen them from Kingsport – the antennas up on Bays Mountain. Now imagine the view of looking back down into the city. It's leader's choice of which trails to take based on the group. Possible routes could involve Bays Mountain Road, Azalea Trail, Lake Road, and/or the new Chestnut Trail. Meet at 1:30 PM in Bays Mountain Park (\$4 entrance fee) near the front entrance to the Nature Center. We should be done by 4:30 PM, leaving time for further park enjoyment before the park closes at 8:00 PM. For more information, check the club's [trail wiki](#) or call the hike leader.

### F/B: Warrior's Path State Park - Devil's Backbone and Fall Creek Loop Trails, Sunday June 3

Leader: [Ian Powell](#) (423-217-8193)

Rating: *Moderate – Four miles with steep climb up and over Lone Cedar Overlook*

Enjoy a short local hike which provides views from overlooks, a stroll along a creek, and walk around open fields of a former farm. Anyone is welcome to attend. Meet at the north end of the Fall Creek Road bridge by the golf course in Warriors Path State Park at 1:00 PM. Dress appropriately for a summer hike and bring some drinking water for hydration. For further information, check the [trail wiki](#) or call the hike leader.



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## For the Record

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### 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 postponed either to bad weather or to 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.

## **Watauga Gorge, April 1, 2012**

*Ryan Sheely reporting*

Sunday April 1st I completed my first decent of the Watauga Gorge with success. I was accompanied by Wes Bradley, Doug K., and Josh R. Wes was my lead for the most of the lines, but I got to solo my first Class V ever- "Hydro" with success! I have to say there are lots of rocks to get caught up and turned around on but plenty of Boofs to send your boat flying. On this run you are surrounded by the beautiful gorge and its HUGE boulders. The geology of this gorge is amazing; I really don't think I have ever seen so many rocks on any river I have paddled before -Make them your friends should you find yourself on this river. We proceeded to stomp every rapid and drop we were challenged with. I would have to say that "Anaconda" was my favorite rapid of the run and it was BIG. We scouted "Stateline" and scoped the lines to set it up; I almost botched the line 20 ft from the drop when I was pushed against the rock up from the drop, but I was determined to recover. Josh R. came out of nowhere and grabbed my stern handle to help free me away and I setup and stomped the line, but traded paint with his boat at the bottom. Fun times! I was thankful for his assist! I found this run quite challenging and a rewarding experience! This run will make you step up your skills and experience as a boater. Paddle aggressively, focus your eyes on the next line and go for it!

## **Friday Hikers: Laurel River, NC April 6, 2012**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful day with early clouds for our annual 7-mile wildflower hike on Laurel River, NC. The night's rain had dropped the flowers in the morning, but they recovered well during the day. Lunch was at the abandoned site of Runion as usual. The river flow was heavy and we spent a fair amount of time watching kayakers and rafters going through the very impressive rapids. Hikers were: Kathy Case, Carol and Dave Dunham, Jerry Jones, Jan Mather, Susie Seiler, Shirley and Lowell Toof and Collins Chew.

## **Margaret Falls, April 7, 2012**

*Joe DeLoach reporting*

The most frequent question I received on this hike was "How far ahead did you plan it?" as it turned out to be a gorgeous day with lots of water and 17 species of wildflowers in bloom. Although the warm winter and spring resulted in the early spring flowers having already bloomed and gone, later spring flowers including vernal and crested dwarf iris, erect trilliums, foamflower, and a particularly nice patch of bleeding heart made for a very nice display. Seven of us hiked together up the 1.3-mile trail, which had been improved by the Forest Service with three of the former stream crossings removed by relocations and a new bridge. Everyone navigated the one remaining crossing without incident. The crossing of Dry Creek to reach the rough Phillips Hollow Trail at the former parking area is no longer evident. While having lunch at the falls, Ken Weakley and his family arrived; they had other plans which kept them from going with us, but used the route from the Trail Wiki to find the trail and us. Hikers included Donna Ashby, Rhoda Bliese, Alan Gamble, Chris Neglia and his 7-year old son Joe, Monika Wiedmann, and Joe DeLoach.

## **Friday Hikers: Max Patch, April 13, 2012**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful day with pleasant temperatures for our annual trillium hike over Max Patch. The veterans all think we saw more trillium this year than ever before, with at least four varieties/colors. There were a number of other flowers with a carpet of trout lily in one place. Hikers were Gary Bailey, Lee Bockman, Kathy and Jerry Case, Andy Gilbert, Ryan Sheeley, Jane Whitson, Laura Ward, and Collins Chew.

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

*Debbie Briscoe reporting*

I headed out on Thursday night right after work to drive the 3 hours to the campground at Cheoah Point. Islander had already arrived early that morning. I got there right at dark:30 as usual. With help from Islander and his incredibly bright flashlight (what was that thing?), I set up down in the woods. It was a really nice place with good bathrooms and hot showers! I pulled out my Bushbuddy and fixed a little coffee to wind down a bit before heading to my hammock.



The next morning I woke up to a beautiful morning. After breakfast and packing up we decided to drive up to Deals Gap to maybe grab a BBQ and look who we found! Rain Man and Stitch had just finished their lunch and they told us the line had gotten really long right after they got there. So we decided to wing it and have our packed lunches instead. We headed straight to the boat ramp and started loading, then shoved off about 2:00. We paddled past many beautiful homes and beautiful scenery too! We checked out a couple of possible camping spots and after a lot of exploring, Islander finally found us one! After getting our rigs set up, we settled into cooking dinner. We had charcoal so steaks and brats were thrown onto the barbie!

The second day we decided to tour the rest of the lake, go to the opposite boat dock and check out the District Rangers Station. It was closed, but we saw enough to see it is a very nice facility. All day long, clouds rolled in and out and storms threatened. We could hear thunder in the distance, but we didn't get anything more than sprinkles and short intervals of passing rain clouds. We were on the LUCKY side of the lake I think! After we got back, it was show and tell time, inspecting each other's rigs. I don't have a pic, but Rain Man had a really cool level on his ridge-line that I will be looking for in the mason line section of Home Depot. I got to show off my new custom made hammock by Detail Man in digital camo. And Stitch really liked my Molly Mac Hammock Sock. Islander had his Switchback under a Macat Deluxe and he let me try it out. When I'm ready to buy another hammock, it will be one of those!!! It was so comfortable and flat! Rain Man was in his Hennessy with a Macat Deluxe, and Stitch had an ENO Double Nest and a "Neo" Guide Gear 9x9 Camo. And yes my tarp is yet again another Macat, but the Ultra model with the pole mod added.



We had a fire the whole time as I brought some firewood from the wood shop and the Bob's Quick Saw. The fellows had a good time with it I think, because we left a lot of cut wood for the next campers! The next day was a little cooler; the temperature was dropping a degree every moment. We packed up early and headed back. With the weather rolling in, we had a strong headwind all the way back. I dipped in behind the points to get a break from the constant battering during the 4½-mile passage back to the vehicles. Rain Man and Stitch decided it was best for them to stop at the marina and have one of us come back for them in a vehicle. It was because their short boats with no skirts were getting pushed around a bit and water was being blown across their bows at times. Islander and I busted our tails to get back in record time. By the time we reached shore, I was cold and anxious to get on the dry clothes that were waiting for me in my car. I also had packed a shower bag and when we all got loaded up, we went back to

Cheoah Point to get cleaned up. That was a highlight of the day too! But I think what topped the day off was the stop at the Carolina Kitchen in Robbinsville for barbecue, local-caught trout, and deep-fried Oreos! "Yeah Honey... I Looove the South!" I want to thank everyone for coming and making the trip a success. I want to especially thank Rain Man for letting me borrow his pics to write this report. If you want to see his whole album, click [HERE](#).

## **Friday Hikers: AT - AT from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap, April 20, 2012**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a great hike on the AT over Roan Mountain today. The day started chilly and foggy but warmed and cleared. Until we started down from the top, we saw no wildflowers, but they began to show up as we descended toward Ash Gap. With each increment of descent, a different assemblage of flowers appeared. We ended up with a really great day of flowers with great diversity. There were carpets of various flowers at different places. The trout lilies were very large as well as numerous. We rolled the relocation with a wheel and mapped it with GPS. It was 0.4 miles longer because of a long switchback added recently. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, June Donaldson, Howard Guinn, Carol Idol, Lowell Toof, Jane Whitson and Collins Chew.

## **2012 Gear Swap (2nd Annual), April 21, 2012**

*Vic Hasler reporting*

In spite of delaying the Gear Swap until April, a chilly morning greeted the nearly dozen folks setting up booths for this year's event. However, plenty of hot coffee was available with friendly conversations and negotiations to warm the crowd looking at various camping, biking, backpacking, and paddling equipment. One person who brought a truckload of gear due to a planned home move was successful in finding buyers for three-quarters of the items. A kayak, mountain bike, A-frame tent, and bike rack also traded hands. Consensus was that 8-11 AM was adequate, thus the planned time for next year's event, likely on the same second weekend in April. See you then...



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## **AT Maintenance Reports**

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**Reporting:** Faye Guinn

**Date:** 3/20/2012

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

**Location:** Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek Gap

**People:** Howard Guinn, Faye Guinn, Ernie Hartford

**Summary:** We had nine blowdowns to clear out. The two biggest were 24 inches. There were 2 tents and several thru hikers at the orchard when we got there.

**Reporting:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** 3/31/2012

**Purpose:** Clear blow downs and clean water bars

**Location:** Section 3a and 3b, McQueen's Gap to Low Gap

**People:** Tim McClain, Steve Wilson

**Summary:** We did spring maintenance by removing blow downs, cleaning water bars, and cutting briars. We only carried handsaws, loppers, and a mattock, since we had heard that there were no significant blowdowns. Several blowdowns were found and removed with the hand saws and by dragging. Unfortunately, we found one fallen tree that was too big for the hand saws and will require a chainsaw to remove. This 12-inch diameter fallen tree, which is easily walked around, will be an easy cut for a chainsaw since it is waist high. There is a need to visit this section with a chainsaw to clean various tree limbs and remove a hazard tree and annoying branches. The chainsaw-worthy trees are within two miles of Low Gap. We saw six thru hikers, and a 13-member scout troop planning to camp at Abington Gap Shelter.



*Kat cuts a blowdown*

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 3/31/2012

**Purpose:** Spring Cleanup

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

**People:** Kat Johnson, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We cleaned water diversions, cut back rhodos, removed several blowdowns of all sizes, checked the shelter and picked up trash. We left a new log book and broom at the shelter. We met several groups of hikers and interestingly none of them asked why I was carrying a broom. We had some fun reading the old shelter log. There are lots of references to getting beer and pizza in Damascus, as well as numerous comments about the trail to the water. One of our favorites, "Stopped by for a break before heading to Iron Mountain. That trail to the water \*\*\*\*ed. I should have just died of dehydration." We had planned on painting blazes to the water source, but the threat of rain and the eventual rain changed our minds.

We met a hiker struggling up the hill from the water and asked about the trail condition. After he caught his breath, he said there were no obstructions and we took his word for it rather than go down that hill ourselves.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 4/1/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain section

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

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** Though this section usually can be cleared with hand saws, thanks to reports by other maintainers, we were ready with a chainsaw and put it to good use. We cleared 15 blowdowns between Carvers Gap and Toll House Gap, placed the shelter register, and removed a large amount of trash from the shelter and surrounding area.

**Reporting:** Burts Compton

**Date:** 4/3/2012

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 20b, Whistling Gap to No Business Knob Shelter

**People:** Gary Robe, Lanny Treece, Charlie Compton, Sam Compton, Burts Compton

**Summary:** We cleared six blowdowns. Trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/3/2012

**Purpose:** Dig Relocation

**Location:** Section 15b, Just north of Hughes Gap

**People:** John Beaudet, Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Frank Klein, Matthew Mason, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We did a short relocation close to the road. This allows a better transition to the large relocation and eliminates more steep trail. The new trail opened last week and is holding up well in spite of the traffic and some rains.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 4/3/2012

**Purpose:** Repair shelter roof

**Location:** Section 16a, Clyde Smith Shelter

**People:** Jim Foster, Ken Buchanan, Kim Peters

**Summary:** We hiked to the shelter carrying a ladder so we could climb up on the roof and make another attempt to fix the leak. Ken climbed up on the roof and patched every nail hole and seam over the leaking area. Hopefully this will fix the problem. We talked with two young thru-hikers who stopped for lunch. They were very hopeful to meet Bob Peoples. We told them they would probably run into him at Hughes Gap; just look for the guy working with rocks. We carried out a bunch of trash that was left at the shelter. The spring is flowing well.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/4/2012

**Purpose:** Review property boundaries

**Location:** Section 9b, Hazelwood Hollow

**People:** Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples

**Summary:** We met Scotty Meyers, Dave Ferguson, and Matthew Gilbert to review easement boundaries to prepare for Hard Core.

**Reporting:** Burts Compton

**Date:** 4/4/2012

**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns

**Location:** Section 20a, No Business Knob shelter to Nolichucky River

**People:** Gary Robe, Lanny Treece, Charlie Compton, Sam Compton, Burts Compton

**Summary:** We cleared 13 blowdowns. Trail is in good shape.

**Reporting:** Richard Carter

**Date:** 4/7/2012

**Purpose:** Clean and maintain shelter

**Location:** Section 14b, Stan Murray Shelter

**People:** Richard Carter

**Summary:** I picked up trash and placed a new register at the shelter. I lopped, cleared (removed one blowdown), and painted new blue blazes on the trail to the spring. The spring is flowing nicely after two years of intermittently drying up.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/10/2012

**Purpose:** Cut Blowdowns

**Location:** Section 8, Heartbreak Hill between Wilbur Dam Road and US 321

**People:** Carl Fritz, Brian Paley

**Summary:** We cut three blowdowns. A large pine fell across the trail and took another crown with it. A third tree, an oak, had its broke crown suspended over the trail. Using a rope and making several strategic cuts, they were all safely removed.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 4/10/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain section

**Location:** Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US 19E

**People:** Tim Stewart, Jim Chambers

**Summary:** We walked the section south, clearing minor debris and lopping green briars as required. We also repainted a few blazes. Between Bear Branch Rd and 19E there were two blowdowns requiring a chainsaw for removal. They are easy to get around or over.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/10/2012

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

**Location:** Section 13a, US 19E to cliffs

**People:** Carl Fritz, Brian Paley

**Summary:** After we delivered Messrs. Chambers and Stewart to Campbell Hollow Rd, we walked about a mile south of 19E to cut two blowdowns. The old shelter site is amazingly clean.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/10/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation



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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Joe Bucki, Bill Hoag, Frank Klein, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, John Thompson, George Thorpe, Andersen Ward, Craig Ward

**Summary:** The Tuesday crew dug the water trail, dug some water diversions on the old trail so water cannot dump onto the new trail, and did some minor rehab just south of Hughes Gap. The new relays north of Hughes Gap are still holding up very well with all the thru hikers and some heavy rains.

**Reporting:** Tim Stewart

**Date:** 4/12/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain section

**Location:** Section 11b, Moreland Gap Shelter to Bitter End

**People:** Tim Stewart

**Summary:** I accessed the shelter from the Forest Service Road and placed a shovel, broom and register at the shelter. The shelter water source was flowing well. I continued hiking to Canute Place, lopping rhododendrons and green briars along the way. Canute Place looked good including the water source. I repainted some blazes on the return trip to the shelter. Back at the shelter, I removed two small bags of trash. The shelter looked okay.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 4/14/2012

**Purpose:** Appalachian Trail Southern Partnership Meeting

**Location:** Mountain Lake, Virginia

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** Annually, representatives from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, agencies such as the Forest Service, and from the 12 southern clubs gather to discuss AT management issues. During this weekend there is also a meeting of the Deep South Regional Partnership Committee, where Steve Perri and Joe DeLoach represent TEHCC. Highlights from this year include volunteer agreements and safety, group and commercial use policies, environmental monitoring, Trail assessments, and sharing of activities within several Trail communities.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 4/15/2012

**Purpose:** Konnarock Selection Committee meeting

**Location:** Mountain Lake, Virginia

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** On the Sunday of the Southern Partnership Meeting, a committee meets to review clubs' requests for Konnarock Crew time, and to approve the project schedule. The Deep South clubs are represented on a rotating schedule and this was the last year of our three-year term. Our request for three weeks of Crew time in 2017 for relocations on Cross and Iron Mountains was approved. A recent court ruling affected several 2012 projects, but not ours on the Beartown Mountain relocation and graveling on Round Bald.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 4/16/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm and Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds along the trail across the Osborne Farm. We carried a board to the shelter and repaired the picnic table.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/16/2012

**Purpose:** Cut Blowdowns

**Location:** Section 9a, US 321 to Pond Flats

**People:** Bob Peoples and 5 hikers, one last name Flowers, girl called "Daisy"

**Summary:** Bob convinced five hikers who were slack packing to help him remove the blowdowns on the north side of Pond Mountain. They successfully cleared all the blowdowns on this section.

**Reporting:** Jim Chambers

**Date:** 4/19/2012

**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns

**Location:** Section 9b, South side of Pond Mountain

**People:** Jim Chambers, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

**Summary:** We removed a cluster of large blowdowns on the south side of Pond Mountain.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/19/2012

**Purpose:** Cut Blowdowns

**Location:** Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

**People:** Bob Peoples, "Nacho"

**Summary:** Bob and "Nacho" cleared a half-dozen blowdowns in the gorge with a hand saw.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/20/2012

**Purpose:** Sharpen digging tools

**Location:** Carl's House

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, George Thorpe

**Summary:** We sharpened cutter mattocks, pick mattocks, digging end of pulaskis, McLeods, and rogue hoes.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/20/2012

**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns

**Location:** Section 11a, Dennis Cove Road to Canute Place

**People:** Bob Peoples

**Summary:** Hikers had not been reporting any blowdowns; but Bob wore himself out with a large handsaw and he still left a half-dozen stepovers.

**Reporting:** Collins Chew

**Date:** 4/20/2012

**Purpose:** Measure trail relocation

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

**People:** Olin Babb, Kathy and Jerry Case, June Donaldson, Howard Guinn, Carol Idol, Lowell Toof, Jane Whitson, Collins Chew

**Summary:** We measured a recent relocation near Hughes Gap by rolling with a calibrated wheel and mapping it with GPS. The new trail is 0.4 miles farther than before and the distance from Carvers Gap to Hughes Gap is now 6.0 miles

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/21/2012

**Purpose:** Dig relocation

**Location:** Section 11a, North of Dennis Cove Road

**People:** Paul Benfield, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart; Hiker Vince Traffa; ASU: Shari Galiardi, Dana Passman, John Ribes, Christopher Crigui, Jodi Krause, Marc Dubin, Jeremiah Steff, Elizabeth Dinwiddie, Evan Huss, Alison Crossley, Sydney Hill

**Summary:** ASU ACT students and Shari helped us open a relocation starting at Dennis Cove Road and heading south. We basically finished trail just as a hard storm hit in mid afternoon. The students were also fulfilling a kayak requirement at Watauga Lake for their upcoming trip to Wales where they will kayak and do trail maintenance.

**Reporting:** Kim Peters

**Date:** 4/21/2012

**Purpose:** Spring Cleanup

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

**People:** Gerald Scott, Terry Oldfield, Kim Peters

**Summary:** Third Saturday Maintenance - Hiking with Tools! (and paint as Terry noted)

On this day when weather forecasters said 80% chance of rain, we started out in sunshine from Campbell Hollow Road heading trail north towards the Elk River. We painted blazes, clipped woody growth, and cleared a few blowdowns. We had a few sprinkles of rain just before lunch at Jones Falls. The falls were flowing well and we chatted with several thru-hikers who also stopped there for lunch or just to view the falls. We found the large reported blowdown just below the falls, but it turned out to be a hollow log and Gerald and I were able to clear it easily. We continued down to the river, cleaning waterbars and steps and painting blazes. The weeds at the river are 6-8" high and we will need to come back in a month or so to cut them. We met lots of thru-hikers hoping to make it to Mountaineer Falls Shelter before the rain. We turned around at Sugar Hollow Creek and hoped to beat the rain back to the car. We almost did too, but about a half-mile before the road, the clouds moved in and the rain started falling. At the first clap of thunder, we put on rain gear and high-tailed it to the car. Thankfully, we made it back before the rain and thunder started in earnest. The trail is now clear and well marked. Another fine third-Saturday outing.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach  
**Date:** 4/22/2012  
**Purpose:** Clear blowdowns  
**Location:** Section 12d, Bear Branch Road to US 19E  
**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach  
**Summary:** We cut the three blowdowns reported between Bear Branch Road and Highway 19E.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield  
**Date:** 4/23/2012  
**Purpose:** Cut blowdowns  
**Location:** Section 3b, Spring to US 421  
**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery  
**Summary:** We cut 3 blowdowns between Hwy 421 and the Spring.

**Reporting:** Scott VanDam  
**Date:** 4/25/2012  
**Purpose:** Check assigned section  
**Location:** Section 12a, Bitter End to Walnut Mountain Road  
**People:** Scott VanDam  
**Summary:** After heavy rains, high winds, and thru hiker traffic, I went to check the section. I cut and dragged four blowdowns out of the trail, cut back growth at the trail head, and picked up trash. This section is now clear of blowdowns, but some areas are quite muddy.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach  
**Date:** 4/25/2012  
**Purpose:** Inspect Beauty Spot incursions and determine preventative measures  
**Location:** Section 18, Beauty Spot  
**People:** Joe DeLoach  
**Summary:** The old, deteriorating fence at Beauty Spot no longer provides an effective barrier against people driving onto the bald. Resource damage has occurred and hikers were recently harassed by people in a truck. Large rocks have been effective in a few places, but the off-roaders are persistent and there is a lot fence to barricade. How to stop this was the subject of an on-site meeting with the Cherokee National Forest and Morgan Sommerville from ATC. A plan was developed which will include funding from the Tennessee AT license plate revenues.

**Reporting:** Larry and Sharon Miller  
**Date:** 4/27/2012  
**Purpose:** Remove blowdowns  
**Location:** Section 4a, US 421 to Double Springs Shelter  
**People:** Larry Miller, Sharon Miller  
**Summary:** We cleared 31 blowdowns; none are left.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz  
**Date:** 4/28/2012  
**Purpose:** Dig relocation  
**Location:** Section 9b, South Side of Pond Mountain  
**People:** Paul Benfield, Richard Carter, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Bob Peoples, Gerald Scott, Tim Stewart, George Thorpe; ASU Trail Crew: James Lautzenheiser, Kelly Perkins, MJ O'Neal, Megan Northcote, Jonathon Remean  
**Summary:** It was a hot day that sapped our energy. We made good progress on the lower relocation but could not finish it.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach  
**Date:** 4/28/2012  
**Purpose:** Put up sign and check water sources  
**Location:** Section 18, Beauty Spot and proximity  
**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach  
**Summary:** We put up a sign at the south end of Beauty Spot advising hikers to camp in the woods past the bald, not atop the bald, due to the recent vehicle incursions. After searching for quite awhile, we found an old diamond water sign pointing to a water source and campsite 0.5 miles north of Beauty Spot. This spring is mentioned in the current guidebook, but flow is very low and there is no sign of a trail leading to it. A spring across FR 230 from the AT, 0.2 miles north of Beauty Spot, is running well, has some old blue blazes, and is close to the campsites north of Beauty Spot. This spring was mentioned in older guidebooks, but not in the more recent ones. At an upcoming AT Committee meeting, we'll reconcile these two locations and which should be publicized.