



# The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

June 2012

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

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## From the Chair

*Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair*

With the weather heading into summer heat, consider joining the many club activities on the region's rivers and lakes. Hands-on training is available for those want to learn how to kayak at the "Whitewater School" and for the experienced with the "Swiftwater Rescue Course." Practice time is offered Tuesday nights at the Freedom Hall pool in Johnson City. Ongoing events include paddling Boone Lake to a restaurant on Thursday evenings and on Watauga River many Saturdays. Some overnight trips are in the works. Do some good by cleaning up the Nolichucky - both on the river and from the shore. Check out the rest of this newsletter for further details. Have fun while staying safe!

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## Fun Fest Moonlight Hike, July 19, 2012

On Thursday, July 19, TEHCC will again co-sponsor the Kingsport Fun Fest Moonlight Hike at Bays Mountain Park. This popular event attracts 300-400 participants each year. The hike traverses 2.5 miles around the lake. We need at least twelve volunteers to assist the Bays Mountain Park Association with this event. The responsibilities are minimal - show up 30 minutes early (7:30 pm), stand at a trail junction with a flashlight or headlamp and help make sure nobody gets lost. Contact [Marc Schurger](mailto:Marc.Schurger@tehcc.org) if interested, 423-229-5921.

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## The June Trail Wiki Challenge

*Tim Schaefer Reporting, [webmaster@tehcc.org](mailto:webmaster@tehcc.org)*

Have you seen our [Trail Wiki](#) yet? You should; it's chock full of great information for whatever you need trail related in our area, whether it be a list of trails near [waterfalls](#), [hard trails](#), [trails near Kingsport](#), the [AT](#), or [more](#). Did you know it's a wiki just like Wikipedia, meaning we all can contribute? Well maybe it's a little daunting, so I'm going to try a new installment called the Monthly Trail Wiki Challenge. If you're not comfortable adding it yourself, just [send it to me](#) and I'll take care of it. Each month I'll ask for

something we are missing from the Trail Wiki. Maybe it's a picture of azaleas in bloom or a frozen waterfall, or a detailed description of a trail, or a GPS log for a trail; anything that would be helpful to others trying to decide their next outing in the future.

This month we'll begin with a nearby trail that most of us probably have pictures of already in our individual collections. The Trail Wiki is in desperate need of pictures for the [Bays Mountain River Mountain Road Trail](#). I can quickly think of three that we should have: (1) showing the nice wide trail, (2) a picture of the fire tower, and (3) a picture from the fire tower including Holston Defense. But feel free to send any that you think are appropriate. It's that easy! Send pictures you already have, or maybe this is enough to get you out there to get them. Good luck and thanks for helping our Trail Wiki!

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## Volunteer Opportunities at the 2013 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference

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*Joe DeLoach, 423-753-7263, and Steve Perri 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. Volunteers are also needed to work at the registration, housing, hikes, excursion, and information desks. If you are willing to help in this way, 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. If you have questions about the Biennial meeting, contact [Joe](#) or [Steve](#).

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## ATC 2012 Deep South Regional Club, Volunteer of the Year - Carl Fritz

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*Steve Perri Reporting*

Carl Fritz is the ATC 2012 Deep South Volunteer of the Year awardee. The selection committee recently selected Carl and announced the award at the Regional Partnership Committee Meeting at Mountain Lake Virginia on April 14th. While a few TEHCC people were aware of the selection, Carl wasn't informed of the award until the May 20th Sunday dinner during Hard Core. Carl has been the most prominent leader for TEHCC maintenance and special projects for the past eleven years. During this period, he has amassed over 7700 hours of volunteer time on the AT in 846 discrete events; almost all were work trips. This is almost two times the lifetime-hours recognized for the Presidential Service Award!



Carl coordinated many of our weekly maintenance trips during his early days as a volunteer. Then in 2006, he became our Maintenance Coordinator. In this role, he accumulated over 5300 hours at 520 events. During the last 2 years, Carl has accumulated a record number of volunteer hours with 1137 in 2010 and 975 in 2011. Carl fills a number of roles; scheduling, planning, and participating in almost all the special project trips for TEHCC. These include Trail Tuesdays maintenance outings, student group trips (including our annual outing with Appalachian State), and perhaps the most productive two days of Trail work anywhere on the AT, the Hard Core hiker-volunteer trips. TEHCC has had about 500 individual volunteers for each of the last several years; Carl has recruited many of them and makes sure they are engaged in our outings. Carl is the go-to person for planning relocations and other major projects, working within TEHCC and with ATC and the Forest Service. Through these relationships, he ensures agreement on priorities, flags the route, and communicates the plans. He has taken the lead on funding, identifying needs and matching them with grant programs or other sources. He also recognizes the need to recruit and reinforce volunteers, handling the volunteer patches (over 2300 now). Carl is a regular participant in meetings with ATC and the Forest Service, including those related to capital planning, open areas, and a semiannual partnership meeting.

Carl has served TEHCC in many other roles, providing his talents and leadership beyond doing trail work. These roles include outreach, training new volunteers, and, in 2000, serving as the TEHCC Steering Committee Chair. Carl has not only touched the lives of many in the AT community, he also has been on the Board of Mountain Region Speech and Hearing. These roles and interfacing outside the club have been invaluable, allowing TEHCC to accomplish so much over the last ten years. Congratulations Carl!

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## Updating ATC Safety Policies and Procedures

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### *Steve Perri Reporting*

At the ATC Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) meeting in April, ATC reviewed significant changes to policies and procedures pertaining to volunteer trail safety. ATC and its federal agency partners re-emphasized training on safety practices, including First Aid certification, regular “tailgate safety sessions” at club work trips and meetings, regular review of Volunteers-in-the-Parks (VIP) and Volunteers-in-the-Forests (VIF) administration, and related improvements to ATC and club direction and planning. With its federal partners, ATC is planning a number of improvements to its joint safety programs. The National Park Service extends VIP protection on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail across all national park, state and municipal lands; and the US Forest Service provides VIF protection on all national forest lands. TEHCC volunteers are covered under VIF since the trail travels primarily through USFS land as opposed to national park land. Both federal agencies are now refining their volunteer-protection procedures. ATC will have more information to share with the RPCs in the near future from each of the federal partners.

A significant change that is occurring is the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) ATC has provided for trail clubs. For a number of years, ATC has had its own JHA for Trail work which focused specifically on volunteer trail work and recommended PPE. This JHA was “tailored” for trail work, whereas the USFS JHA was a broader list of activities and included many other requirements for USFS employees. As a result, the recommended PPE for specific tasks were significantly different between the two JHAs. Going forward, ATC will be making recommendations to bolster their JHA to bring it more in line with the USFS JHA. Currently, TEHCC is operating under these changes which are provided on our website. These policies are titled: ATC’s JHA (revised February 2012), “Trail Maintenance and Construction Tasks, Hazards and Recommended Safety Gear.” These are our new standards for trail work by our maintenance teams, and can be reviewed during tail gate sessions before trail work begins. **The most significant change in PPE requirements is the use of hard hats for trail work using digging tools being swung overhead and for work that involves cutting vegetation overhead.** As a result, TEHCC has purchased hard hats through the Tennessee License Plate Program (TNLP) that are available to trail volunteers. Hard hats are available to trail maintenance team leaders and routine maintainers, to keep and for dispensing at our large group outings. They are white and easy to use with four-point attachment and ratcheting adjustments. Many of our more active maintainers have hard hats already, but if you need a hard hat, contact Carl Fritz (423-477-4669) or Steve Perri (229-1484).

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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 or to register, contact Scott Fisher, 276-698-4644, [tfisher1@its.jnj.com](mailto:tfisher1@its.jnj.com).

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## Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course, July 27-29, 2012

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The Swiftwater Rescue Course teaches recognition and avoidance of common river hazards, as well as techniques for self-rescue and for rescue of other paddlers in distress. Emphasis is placed on personal safety and on simple, commonly-used skills. We will practice techniques for dealing with hazards that carry risks for both the victim and rescuer, such as strainers, rescue vest applications, entrapments, and pins. Scenarios will provide an opportunity for participants to practice their skills both individually and with a group. The course is taught by advanced swiftwater rescue instructors, certified by the American Canoe Association. Based on the 2011 course, the 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 this course.** The course will be held in the Tri-Cities area, on or near the Nolichucky River. For more information or to register, contact Scott Fisher, 276-698-4644 or [tfisher1@its.jnj.com](mailto:tfisher1@its.jnj.com).

If there is enough interest, an Intermediate Whitewater Kayak Course and/or Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Course can be scheduled for August. If either of these courses interests you, please contact Scott Fisher.



## TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Ed Ferber  
Chip Smith  
Robert C Johnson, Jr.

Barton Eskind  
Tyson Milligan  
David C Kossor

Lynn DiFiore  
Richard Benjamin  
Jeff King

Robert Meade  
Mark Anttila

## Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
June 2	Watauga River Class I-II (weekly on Saturdays)	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a> <a href="#">Jerry Griffin</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 7	Paddle to the Grill (weekly on Thursday evenings)	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
June 8-10	Konnarock Crew – Relo at Beartown Mountain	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a> <a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-753-7263 423-477-4669
June 10	Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge Hike	Steve Perri	423-349-5091
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 and Celebration	<a href="#">Debbie Briscoe</a>	423-534-3636
July 14-15	Beginner/Novice Whitewater Kayak Clinic	<a href="#">Scott Fisher</a>	276-698-4644
July 19	Fun Fest Moonlight Hike	<a href="#">Marc Schurger</a>	423-229-5921
July 27-29	Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course	<a href="#">Scott Fisher</a>	276-698-4644
July 27-29	Konnarock Crew – Round Bald Rehab	<a href="#">Joe DeLoach</a> <a href="#">Carl Fritz</a>	423-753-7263 423-477-4669

## Details on Upcoming Events

### Recurring Events

#### Most Tuesdays: Weekly AT Trail Maintenance

Join a group of maintainers who work somewhere on our 135-mile section each week, usually on Tuesdays. Contact Carl Fritz ([atvolunteer@tehcc.org](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!

## **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.

## **Weekly on Saturdays starting June 2: Watauga River Class I-II**

We will launch at 3 pm unless there is water elsewhere. Call first to check and see if it's on and where! Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](#), 423-534-3636; [Jerry Griffin](#)

## **Scheduled Events**

### **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.

### **Konnarock Crew - Beartown Mountain Relocation, June 7-11, 2012**

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

The steepest portion of the Appalachian Trail on our section, and by some accounts the steepest in the South, is between Hughes Gap and Cloudland on Roan Mountain. Prior to 2011, this section climbed 2200' in 2.6 miles, with 0.4 miles of that being downhill from Beartown Mountain to Ash Gap. It is not only a steep climb, the descent is rough and can be slippery in wet or icy conditions. We began work on this project in 2010 and have completed several relocations already, with much more to be done. With the Konnarock Crew in 2012, we'll be concentrating on some sections below Beartown Mountain. Routing through rocky areas makes for challenging Trail construction, but the feeling of accomplishment and the thanks from hikers makes it worthwhile. Our main outings with the Konnarock Crew will be on their full days of Friday-Sunday, June 8-10. Please contact Joe or Carl if you'd like to go or for more information.

### **Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge Hike, Sunday, June 10**

*Leader: Steve Perri (349-5091)*

This hike from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge is an easy-to-moderate hike, taking advantage of the warmer season we've had this year for a moderate family hike. The drive is a little farther than most of our Sunday hikes, but the destination is worth the extra time and distance. Round trip, the hike is a little over 4 miles depending on how much we choose to hike around on Grassy Ridge. The peak bloom for the rhododendrons is usually the third week in June, but they might be early this year. The club has been conducting gravel reinforcement in the area and the segment between Carvers Gap and Round Bald will be completed in July. We'll meet in Colonial Heights at 12:00 pm between McDonalds and the bank in front of Ingles for an afternoon outing. Bring water and hiking boots or good walking shoes. For more info about the hike, contact Steve Perri.

### **33rd Anniversary Bluestone River Trip, June 15-17, 2012**

*Leader: Terry Dougherty (423-502-5177)*

The 33rd annual Bluestone River Trip is scheduled for June 15-17, 2012. A block of six rooms have been reserved at the Mountain Creek Lodge and space is limited this year. Room reservations can be made by calling 1-800-CALLWVA; ask to be connected to the Pipestem Lodge. The block of rooms is under Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club. Room rates are \$87 per night plus tax.

Please call the trip leader, Terry Dougherty at 423-502-5177 to sign up for the river run. We normally paddle both days (Saturday and Sunday), but you can always tram your boat out to avoid paddling a second day. The river on day one is a very scenic 9-mile stretch that passes through a deep West Virginia gorge. It is mostly class II with a couple of borderline class III rapids. The first class III rapid can be easily portaged. The second day is mostly class I and suitable for families. I hope you can join us for this great trip!

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools! June 16, 2012**

*Contact: [Joe DeLoach](#) 423-753-7623 or [Kim Peters](#) 423-538-7665*

Come out for a day hike somewhere on our beautiful section of trail and help us tackle some typical late-spring maintenance needs, such as cutting annual growth and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience required! Contact Joe or Kim for details and meeting time and place.

## **Nolichucky River Cleanup and Celebration, Saturday, June 23, 2012**

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

The APE's are hosting this 11<sup>th</sup> annual event. Meet at the [Riverpark Campground](#) (3937 Hwy 81S, Jonesborough, TN) at 11 am. Participants will be assigned to teams and provided with maps, trash bags and gloves. There are clean-up opportunities for those with their own boats or rafts and for shore crews. Be prepared with appropriate footwear, sunscreen, bug repellent, etc. Rafts, pickup trucks, and trailers will be helpful and much appreciated. Consider bringing a packed lunch, boating equipment, rain gear, chairs, family, and friends. Showers and restrooms are available at the campground. For cleanup participants, a **free BBQ dinner** will be served at 6 pm in the Pavilion with live music and prize drawings. Bring a lawn chair, kick back with a cold tasty beverage, and know that you did something good for the river we all enjoy so much! For camping info, contact Bruce and Nancy Gantenbein, 423-753-5359.



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## **For the Record**

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### **Friday Hikers: Lake Keokee, in Lee County, Virginia, April 27, 2012**

*Bob Harvey reporting*



The hike of Friday, April 27, was in the vicinity of Lake Keokee, in Lee County, Virginia. The lake is 92 acres, according to Internet information, and it's for recreational purposes, with power boats (except electric) not allowed.

We began the hike at the parking lot, and walked clockwise around the lake on a well-marked and mostly-level trail. Along the way we crossed five or six deep gullies that were challenging but not impassable. After about 2.5 miles we reached the trail that took us up 400 feet to the crest of Stone Mountain at Olinger Gap. On a similar hike of last year we found a virtual mountain of empty beer cans at the gap, but on Friday there wasn't so much as a speck of trash. Taking a left on the Stone Mountain Trail, we walked a little over a half-mile, found a suitable

location and enjoyed a leisurely lunch hour. On our return we retraced our steps down to the lake, and then continued on the lakeside trail back to the parking lot. The weather was just about perfect, with sunny skies and a moderate temperature. Our total distance was about 6.6 miles. The hikers were Olin Babb, Kathy Case, Jerry Case, Bob Harvey and Jerry Sluder.

### **Friday Hikers: Mt. Rogers Trail, May 4, 2012**

*Collins Chew reporting*

The wildflowers just keep coming this year. We hiked the 6 mile combined AT and Mt. Rogers Trail starting in a cool temperature and with cloudy skies and ending in very pleasant temperatures with sun. The wildflowers were again spectacular. We had the large blanket of white fringed phacelia that I remembered from 30 years ago. We were rarely out of sight of yellow or red wake robin trillium with a few painted trillium. Also, I have never seen as large a field of trout lilies with many in bloom. Wood anemone was also out in force along with other flowers. Hikers were Gary Bailey, Bob Harvey, Susie Seiler, Lowell Toof, and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: Mt. LeConte, May 11, 2012**

*Collins Chew reporting*

We had a beautiful hike up Mt. LeConte. The temperature was pleasant and the air was unusually clear. All the distant ridges were sharp. Many other hikers of all shapes, sizes, and ages shared the trail with us. Only a few wildflowers were blooming: some rhododendron, sand myrtle, bluets and violets. Wildlife consisted of red squirrels, a hawk, and a garter snake. The trip fragmented at times, dividing into groups near the top to pursue different interests: the high point, Cliff Top, or the coffee shop at the LeConte Lodge. The 11 miles and about 3000-foot climb was more than we have done recently, but all handled it well. Hikers were: Gary Bailey, Kathy Case, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Jeremy, Susie Seiler, Ryan Sheeley, Lowell Toof and Collins Chew.

### **Friday Hikers: Hawksbill and Table Rock, May 18, 2012**

*Bob Harvey reporting*

The hike of Friday, May 18, was to Hawksbill, immediately followed by one to Table Rock, both of which are rocky prominences near

Linville, NC, overlooking the deep gorge of the Linville River.



*View from Table Rock*

The hike to Hawksbill is short but steep, much of it being in a deep trough that must have been used at an earlier time to skid logs down to a pickup point. The view from the top can be breathtaking, but not on Friday --- we were in a light mist that kept us from seeing much.

We then drove a little over a mile to the second hike, which was to Table Rock. Another steep hike, it was longer and had more elevation gain; so on our arrival at the top, we were plenty tired. By this time, though, the mist had lifted and we had fine views on all sides with a visibility of around fifteen to twenty miles. Our descent from Table Rock was via the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, which we found to be vastly better than the way we went up. According to the map, we hiked only five to six miles, although it felt like much more. Hikers were: Olin Babb, Gary Bailey, Kathy and Jerry Case, Bob Harvey, Carol Idol, Patty Jo Nachman, Ryan Sheely and Lowell Toof.

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

*Vic Hasler reporting*

My son Clark and I enjoyed the easy 3.5-mile hike down to the lake and back. While the day was sunny and warm, the forest canopy provided plenty of cool shade – and noise from the 17-year cicadas. The lake was filled with passing boat traffic as Clark won the rock skipping contest. Since just the two of us, we decided to go for a very challenging geocache hidden nearby. We were back in Kingsport after four hours with a stop for cool treats.

### **Friday Hikers: Little Stony Creek, May 25, 2012**

*Jerry Case reporting*

The Friday Hikers enjoyed a 6½ mile in/out hike up Little Stony Creek in Hanging Rock State Park near Dunganon, VA. The weather was perfect. Spring flowers have faded, but the Mountain Laurel (called Ivy by the early settlers) and Galax flowers were beautiful. Several orange salamanders, lots of millipedes, and a chorus of cicada were out. The trail was passable; much better than last year. Hikers were: Jan, Chuck and Bonnie Lou Mather (Bobbie Lou had great fun splashing in the stream), Carol Idol, Lee Bockman, Jack Aaron, Olin Babb, Taylor Pickard, Gary Bailey, and Jerry and Kathy Case.



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## **AT Maintenance Reports**

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**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 4/17/2012

**Purpose:** Attend Roan Mountain Stewardship Meeting

**People:** Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Ed attended the Roan Mountain Stewardship Meeting. He updated them on the relocations we are doing between Cloudland and Hughes Gap. He also provided our plans for adding more gravel to Trail between Carver's Gap and Round Bald this summer.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 4/28/2012

**Purpose:** Clear Trail

**Location:** Sections 9a and 9b, US 321 to Hampton Blueline Trail

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** Trail is clear except for large step-overs.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 4/30/2012

**Purpose:** Pick up trash at Double Springs Shelter

**Location:** Section 4b, Double Springs Shelter

**People:** Paul Benfield

**Summary:** I picked up all trash and removed it from Double Springs Shelter.

**Reporting:** Steve Perri

**Date:** 5/1/2012

**Purpose:** AT Committee Meeting

**Location:** Kingsport

**People:** Joe DeLoach, Kim Peters, Tim Stuart, Dave Dunham, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery, Steve Perri

**Summary:** The committee met to prepare for the upcoming Hard Core, Konnarock and Roan Gravel Project. Carl has a detailed plan for Hard Core (May 20 and 21). Similar logistics for Pond Mountain on Sunday with the meeting to be at the Watauga Point picnic shelter parking lot and volunteers to be shuttled to the trail head. On Monday the work site will be south of Cloudland; meeting locations to be worked out. A new policy that is part of the USFS volunteer services agreement requires hard hats for specific projects where trail activities could result in head injuries. We will ask ATC and the USFS how we might get PPE for our Hard Core outing in short order. We discussed ATC grants to clubs, NCLP, and TNLP, and LL Bean grants. TEHCC has been funded with ~\$4500 for Roan Mountain project and \$860 for trimmers from LL Bean. A recently implemented committee for the TNLP has approved funds to install rocks near Beauty Spot to block vehicle access to the bald. The initial amount approved is \$1500, but this could increase. The club will plan to use funds for Hard Core and other maintenance needs. The Round Bald project is planned for July 9-12. Dave Quillen's equipment is available again and the Yanmars are reserved. Konnarock will spread gravel July 26-30; the other 2 weeks, June 7-11 and Aug 9-13, they will work between Beartown and Cloudland. Funds for open-area maintenance have been removed from the 2012 budget as decided by the national park service. ATPO is working to restore them. Volunteers will be needed for the Cullowhee 2013 Biennial Conference. TEHCC is organizing the workshops and will need club members to provide onsite assistance, especially on the weekend. To volunteer, see Joe DeLoach or Steve Perri. TEHCC received two copies of the AT Trail Assessment database; to be used by Kim and Steve. Carl indicated we might want to find an alternate maintenance tool room custodian; someone wanting to spend time checking supplies and maintaining equipment in the B-310 tool room.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 5/3/2012

**Purpose:** Mow accessible trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds across the Osborne Farm.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** 5/5/2012

**Purpose:** Paint blazes and cut brush

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

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I painted some southbound blazes and cut brush to about three-fourths of the way up the mountain.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/5/2012

**Purpose:** Check relo project at Beartown Mountain

**Location:** Section 15b, Beartown Mountain

**People:** Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri

**Summary:** Together with four Konnarock Crew leaders, Andrew Downs and Morgan Sommerville, we inspected the three relocations just south of Beartown Mountain. The upper major relocation on the TN side needs more adjustments to the flag line. We have had some help at Beartown and at Cloudland with someone removing our flagging as well as some pin flags.

**Reporting:** Bill Fuller

**Date:** 5/6/2012

**Purpose:** Paint blazes and cut brush

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

**People:** Bill Fuller

**Summary:** I hiked up to Pond Flats, cutting brush on the way up; then painted northbound blazes on the way back down until getting caught by a thunderstorm. About 75% of the blazes are painted. I'll return soon to finish. I also cleared one small blowdown.



**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/10/2012

**Purpose:** Prepare for Hard Core and rehab Trail

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

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Joe Bucki, Richard Carter, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, Ralph Watkins

**Summary:** We flagged sections for Hard Core and spent most of the time rehabbing the relocations we opened last year. They are terribly muddy; so we added stepping stones or crush and fill. Water is moving down the hill, making muck in the organic soil rather than draining off.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 5/11/2012

**Purpose:** Check flooring in Overmountain Shelter

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

**People:** John Tomko, Jim Foster

**Summary:** John and I checked the upstairs flooring in the Barn. Some of the boards will need to be replaced. We measured the boards for future reference.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 5/11/2012

**Purpose:** Clip back brush and clear trail with chainsaw

**Location:** Section 20a, Nolichucky River to Temple Hill Gap

**People:** Craig Haire, Helga Mitchell

**Summary:** We cleared the trail and blocked off shortcuts taken at switchbacks. This section is now clear. We met several thru-hikers.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 5/12/2012

**Purpose:** Check Side Trail

**Location:** Section 19b, near Nolichucky outfitters

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We were told that one of the outfitters reported that an unofficial path from the AT to the camping area had been painted with blue blazes, leading hikers to use the facilities without paying. We walked the area and saw no sign of a blue-blazed trail.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 5/12/2012

**Purpose:** Inspect recently installed sign at Beauty Spot

**Location:** Section 18, South of Beauty Spot

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** After checking the side trail at the Nolichucky outfitters area, we went to Beauty Spot to assess any further incursion and to see if the sign we placed a few weeks ago is still there. It is, and we saw no evidence of more recent incursions since the Easter Sunday incident.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 5/12/2012

**Purpose:** Place signs and cut trees

**Location:** Section 16b, Iron Mountain Gap toward Apple Orchard, and Section 18, FS 230 to Indian Grave Gap

**People:** Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

**Summary:** On section 16b, we cut one large tree partially blocking the trail and several smaller ones near or across the trail. On section 18, we placed a mileage sign at Indian Grave Gap, cut one large tree across the trail and several smaller trees near the trail. We lopped branches along both sections.

**Reporting:** Paul Benfield

**Date:** 5/15/2012

**Purpose:** Mow accessible trail

**Location:** Section 4b, Osborne Farm

**People:** Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

**Summary:** We mowed and trimmed weeds along the accessible trail across Osborne Farm.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 5/16, 17, 18, and 19/2012

**Purpose:** Procure hard hats and elastic; Assemble hard hats

**Location:** Five Lowe's stores (From Greeneville to Elizabethton, and Bristol) and Hancock Fabrics (Johnson City); then home

**People:** Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** I purchased all the hard hats, along with elastic for chin straps, safety pins, and string. I put suspensions in the hard hats and attached chin straps. When finished, the hard hats were stored in fiber drums for transport to Hard Core.

**Reporting:** Carol Dunham

**Date:** 5/17/2012

**Purpose:** Routine trail maintenance

**Location:** Section 8, Shook Branch to Watauga Lake Shelter

**People:** Carol Dunham, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, Brian Paley

**Summary:** We cut back multiflora rose and poison ivy, lopped branches, cleaned up camp sites, inspected the shelter, and installed new signs.

**Reporting:** Craig Haire

**Date:** 5/18, 20, and 21/2012

**Purpose:** Rehab treadway and clear brush

**Location:** Section 20a, North end (Nolichucky River) near road

**People:** Craig Haire

**Summary:** The steps at the road are now more accessible. Also, hazardous sloping of the treadway was leveled out.

**Reporting:** Brian Paley

**Date:** 5/22/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain Trail

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

**People:** Brian Paley, Tom Brown

**Summary:** We replaced mileage signs at Wilbur Dam road and the shelter. We lopped and painted blazes.

**Reporting:** Jim Foster

**Date:** 5/25/2012

**Purpose:** Walk flag line with archaeologist

**Location:** Section 16a, Little Rock Knob south about two miles

**People:** Jim Foster

**Summary:** I walked with the USFS archaeologist along the flag line of the proposed four relocations for about 2 miles south of Little Rock Knob. With some minor changes everything checked out.

**Reporting:** Mike Hupko

**Date:** 5/25/2012

**Purpose:** Finish spring maintenance

**Location:** Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to Cherry Gap Shelter

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

**Summary:** We cut four large trees from the trail, cut one locust to be used for future steps at a switchback, lopped, cleaned water bars and dips, and placed a new sign at the shelter. Both springs at the shelter were flowing well.

**Reporting:** Joe DeLoach

**Date:** 5/26/2012

**Purpose:** Maintain and paint section

**Location:** Section 15a, Cloudland to Roan High Knob Shelter

**People:** Craig DeLoach, Joe DeLoach

**Summary:** We painted blazes on the AT from Cloudland to the side trail to Roan High Knob Shelter, and the blue blazes for the side trail to the shelter and on to the spring. The spring was flowing well and the shelter area was clean. We also painted the lettered signs leading from the Cloudland parking lot to the AT, and the signs pointing toward Carvers Gap and Hughes Gap at the AT. We cut briars and one blowdown on the way.

**Reporting:** Steve Wilson

**Date:** 5/26/2012

**Purpose:** Cut rhododendron

**Location:** Section 10, Dennis Cove to Laurel Falls

**People:** Jill and Steve Wilson

**Summary:** While visiting Laurel Falls, we cut back rhododendron and briars along the AT. There were forty visitors at the falls and

thirty-five vehicles at the trail head, which is typical during a holiday weekend. We explored the ridge line called Potato Top to enjoy the views.

**Reporting:** Carl Fritz

**Date:** 5/28/2012

**Purpose:** Repairs to Overmountain Shelter

**Location:** Carl's House (for Overmountain Shelter, Section 14a)

**People:** Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver

**Summary:** Ed and Carl sorted some old barn boards and cut them to proper length. They will be used to replace some floor boards in Overmountain Shelter and to line the hole for a privy.