



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

July 2012

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

Would you go hiking wearing a jacket and tie? Back in 2010, Charles Maynard spoke at our Spring Dinner Meeting about some early 20th century hikers in the Smokies who traveled in such attire with wicker backpacks and a large box camera. How about carrying a canvas tent and cotton sleeping bag? Hauling water around in a large metal canteen? The improvements in camping gear during the past decades have been amazing. The club has been steadily replacing its rental gear too. We now have a Big Agnes Seedhouse which is a two-pound, one-person tent. Most of our other two-person tents also weigh less than six pounds. Almost all our sleeping pads are roughly one pound. With the other gear improvements, backpacks are smaller and lighter. The club's rental equipment program allows members to check out some newer gear to decide if it's right for their style of backpacking/camping. The Steering Committee also welcomes ideas for future purchases. Have fun outside and overnight this summer...

2012 Damascus Hard Core

Carl Fritz reporting

The Damascus Hard Core event was Sunday, May 20th and Monday, May 21st. This is the largest trail maintenance event involving hikers on the entire Appalachian Trail. In spite of the obstacles, the hikers, club members and friends stepped up and volunteered in numerous ways to make this 12th annual outing a huge success.

What was accomplished was impressive to say the least. You can check out the new trail sections for yourself. On Sunday, 1200 feet of new side-hill trail was built and the two final relocations on south side of Pond Mountain were opened! On Monday, about 1300 feet of new side-hill trail was built and a major relocation of over 800 feet was opened!

Building trail meant some side-hill digging, some side logs, but especially a lot of rock work. Significant parts of these trails are paved with large rocks or crushed rocks. "Camo" said it best, "This year we moved more rocks than we did in the last three years combined." And that is saying a lot!

To move those rocks and soil required many tools and we were still short of rock bars and sledges. But these were utilized:

- 180 lb of rock bars
- 60 lb of sledges
- 120 lb of pick mattocks
- 200 lb of cutter mattocks
- 250 lb of pulaskis
- 150 lb of rakes
- 40 lb of loppers
- plus shovels, buckets, etc.

Well over 1000 lb of equipment went up the mountain with 90 people on Sunday and about 80 people on Monday. Additional tools were available for more people.

Since much of the trail is built with rock, it should hold up for our lifetimes. Near Cloudland, with the wet conditions and poor soil, rock trails are about all that will hold up.

At noon on Monday at Cloudland, there appeared to be no way we could open up a relocation that day. But everyone buckled down and was determined to open some trail. Some regular "Hard Core!" chanting in the afternoon continued to inspire them. Finish and blaze a trail they did. A couple of other relocations had significant amounts of trail built, but they were not opened.

This wouldn't have been accomplished without all the volunteers who supported the effort. Volunteers provided rides for the hikers from Damascus, shuttled workers to and from the trail access, handed out and gathered tools and supplies including hard hats, cooked dinners on both Sunday and Monday evenings, provided snack lunches for hikers on both days, guarded vehicles and gates, and provided transportation to hikers back to as far as Pennsylvania.



Hard Core participants enjoying Sunday dinner at Watauga Point Recreation Area (photo courtesy of Steve Wilson)

The Tennessee AT License Plate program generously provided the funds for the Sunday dinner. It was coordinated by Ed Oliver and consisted of barbecue sandwiches, baked beans, tossed salad, pasta salad and brownies at Watauga Point Recreation Area. Oh, how we will miss Watauga Point Recreation Area reserved for us by U.S. Forest Service. Our future relocations will not be close enough to use this site.

The Monday dinner coordinated by "Baltimore Jack" consisted of soup, spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread and ice cream. It was funded by Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC).

The Appalachian Long-Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA) contributed \$200 which was used to purchase snack lunches and bottled water for the hikers primarily for Sunday. "One Pint" generously purchased snack lunches for the hikers on Monday and Hard Core 2012 tote bags for everyone.

The Tennessee AT License Plate program also provided patches for all the volunteers.

In total, 78 hikers and 36 club members and friends or 114 volunteers contributed 2120 hours to make this event a success!

These TEHCC members, program affiliates and local friends participated:

Curtis Baird, Dean Baird, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Pat Buchanan, John Beaudet, Jennifer Berry, Rio Berry, Richard Carter, Donna Dean, Joe DeLoach, Carol Dunham, Dave Dunham, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mary Jane Fritz, Seth Grindstaff, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko, Kat Johnson, Charles LaPorte, David LaPorte, Ruth Ann Mowery, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Steve Perri, Kim Peters, "Seiko", George Summers, Tim Stewart, Bill Ristom, Diana Ristom, George Thorpe, Ben Trotter, and Steve Wilson.

These are the hikers who participated:

"Chef Paul", Amy Sternheim, Annalise Abruzzese, Anthony Venturini, Bethann Swartz, Brandon Blunderman, Brian Sutherland, Carl Doug Chenoweth, Cassandra Follett, Charlie Kinney, Charlie Tucker, Chris Hood, Daniel Gunter, Daniel Streif, Daniel Wilcox, David Lowe, David Miller, David Skelly, David Tador, Deb Tucker, Derick Lugo, Emily Egersdorf, Ethan Ellington, Frank Burley, George Mudge, Grady Garner, Harrison Garner, Jack Tarlin, Janel Scharhag, Jay Wilbur, Jeanine Kinney, Jeremy Isard, Jeremy Jones, Jessica Mastors, John Alexander, John Butts, John Cowart, Jolene Koby-Burley, Joshua Martin, Justin Goldman, Kathleen Krevatski, Kayce Wilbur, Keith Combs, Kendall Abruzzese, Kevin McDowell, Lamar Powell, Levi Johnson, Lewis Moyers, Lindy Wenner, LuAnne Anderson, Marcus Siu, Mark Agricola, Mason Murphy, Matthew Mason, Michael Aphemizteg, Michael Phemister, Mike Laude, Mike Price, Mitchell Murphy, Nate Gregory, Page Barker, Patrick Cochrane, Paul Heintzelman, Phil Abruzzese, Randy Anderson, Ray Douglas, Richard Evans, Rusty Packard, Ryan Stoneking, Sean Girfy, Sebastian Behnews, and Shirl Funderburle.

TEHCC Volunteers Needed for the 2013 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference!

[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 and are specifically responsible for workshops at the conference, most of which will be held on Saturday/Sunday July 20-21 with some on Monday and Tuesday evenings July 22-23. Though workshops may not sound like a major effort, when you tally up people needed to staff a Workshops Desk to provide information to attendees at the main registration area, people needed to staff the building where the workshops are held to direct attendees to the right locations and assist presenters in setting up, and moderators for most of the workshops, you will find that 50 or more volunteers could be needed

for these duties. So, we need some help from members of our Club!! People who can take just ½ day would help us a lot, and the more time you're willing to volunteer, the fewer volunteers we'll need. If you would like to help or if you have any questions about the Biennial meeting, please contact [Joe](#) or [Steve](#).

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](#) if interested, 423-229-5921.

Grants from Tennessee Appalachian Trail License Plate Revenue

Joe DeLoach reporting



A committee consisting of members of the Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club, the Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has been formed to advise the ATC on use of funds from the Tennessee Appalachian Trail license plate. Funds from this program must be used to support management of the Appalachian Trail in Tennessee and along the North Carolina border. One of the duties of this committee is to make recommendations on funding grant requests. The first round of requests have been

received and recommended by the committee. The first is for the Cherokee National Forest, to deter vehicle incursions onto Beauty Spot. The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will receive funding for rehabilitation near the Icewater Spring Shelter. TEHCC will receive funds for two activities. One is for dinner and recognition of the Hard Core hiker volunteers, who in their twelfth year with us completed relocations on Pond Mountain and made substantial progress between Cloudland and Hughes Gap. The second is to outfit our Trail maintainers with hard hats per the most recent Forest Service guidelines. These would have been significant expenditures for us. Thanks to the estimated 2000 or more Tennessee residents that have purchased Appalachian Trail license plates, the hard work to establish the plate is paying off!

New TEHCC Rental Equipment: Therm-a-rest® Z-Lite™ Pad (HP-2)

Submitted by Vic Hasler, Rental Equipment Coordinator

In continuing to replace older equipment, the well-worn Ridgerest pad which did not roll up tightly is now a folding Z-Lite pad. It is like HP-3 and HP-6 pads – although yet another color scheme of “coyote/grey.” The same old storage bag continues to be used, but skip taking it on the trip to save a few ounces. (Just return the pad to Bldg 310 in the bag.) It can be purchased for \$40 from Mahoney's using the 10% discount for club members (show your Recreation card).

And to be consistent, the rental rate for HP-3 was cut to \$2/weekend. As these pads are used 3-6 times per year, the cost of replacement will be covered after five years.

The July Trail Wiki Challenge

Tim Schaefer Reporting, 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.

This month we'll try Limestone Cove Trail ([http://tehcc.org/wiki/Limestone Cove Trail](http://tehcc.org/wiki/Limestone_Cove_Trail)) just south of Johnson City near Unicoi. Use the wiki to find out how to get there if you don't know where it is. This time I'm asking for some pictures and a GPS log. If you have either already or this inspires you to check it out, please send them to me and I'll get them incorporated. If you're interested in trying your hand at editing, we can work on that as well. Good luck and thanks for helping our Trail Wiki!



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Hank Woodward
Jared Hanson
Micah McFaddin

Thomas Gonzalez
Emilios Tahinci
Eric Antonson

Event Schedule – Next Two Months

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
July 1	F/B Hike: Steele Creek Park – Leaders Choice	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676
July 5	Paddle to the Grill (every Thursday evening)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 7	Class I-II Trips (bi-weekly on Saturdays)	Jerry Griffin	jgriffin@embargo.com
July 9-12	Special AT Gravel Project on Round Bald	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
July 14-15	Beginner/Novice Whitewater Kayak Clinic	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
July 19	Funfest Moonlight Hike	Marc Schurger	423-229-5921
July 21	Watauga River Class I-II (bi-weekly on Saturdays)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
July 21	Third Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-538-7665
July 27-29	Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course	Scott Fisher	276-698-4644
July 27-29	Konnarock Crew – Round Bald Rehab	Joe DeLoach Carl Fritz	423-753-7263 423-477-4669
July 29	F/B Hike: Little Stony Creek Falls	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Aug 10-12	Konnarock Crew - Beartown Mt. Relocation	Joe DeLoach Carl Fritz	423-753-7263 423-477-4669
Aug 17	ASU Watauga College - Backbone Rock Trail Relocation	Carl Fritz	423-477-4669
Aug 18	Third Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-538-7665

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) 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 to learn 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](mailto:Debbie), 423-534-3636 for more details.

3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Kim Peters](mailto:Kim), atmaint@tehcc.org, 423-538-7665

Come out for a day hike somewhere on our beautiful section of trail on the 3rd Saturday of each month and help out on some routine maintenance needs, such as cutting annual growth, cleaning out waterbars and painting blazes. All tools will be furnished and no prior experience is required! Contact Kim for details and meeting time and place.

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

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

Bi-Weekly on Saturdays starting June 9: Class I-II Trips

Jerry Griffin will hope to lead beginner trips bi-weekly where there is water, opposite of Debbie's bi-weekly Watauga trips. This will offer a wide range of rivers to those wanting to work on their skills or just to join us to have fun! Contact: [Jerry Griffin](mailto:Jerry).

Scheduled Events

F/B Hike: Steele Creek Park – Leaders Choice, July 1, 2012

Contact: [Barry Griggs](mailto:Barry), 423-239-5676

Steele Creek Park offers many hiking routes around the central reservoir. The leader will pick the path based on group experience and weather. Meet in the parking lot between McDonalds and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights for a 1pm departure. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, hat, and walking stick (if desired). For details about the park, see http://tehcc.org/wiki/Steele_Creek_Park.

F/B Hike: Erwin Linear Trail, Sunday, July 8, 2012

Leader: [Mary Fanslow](mailto:Mary) (423-707-5004)

Rating: Easy

Enjoy a stroll along the paved Erwin greenbelt that borders Indian Creek. While the total greenbelt length is 5 miles one way, we'll tailor the length of our walk to participant interest. We will meet in the parking lot between the Colonial Heights McDonald's and the bank at 1pm. Please let Mary know before 10pm Sat, July 7, if you plan to go on the walk. Bring plenty of water. Fishing is permitted for those 12 and under from a variety of venues from the trail.

Special AT Gravel Project on Round Bald, July 9-12, 2012

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

Starting Monday, July 9 we will begin our probably-last big gravel project for the next decade. Last summer we moved about 37 tons of gravel to between Round Bald and Engine Gap. This year we want to move about 90 tons (5 truck loads) between Carver's Gap

and Round Bald. The concept is to use a tractor with a front end loader to load gravel into Yanmar C-12R rubber tracked vehicles that can haul 2500 Lb. We will have two transport vehicles. We will want to keep the machines running constantly during daylight hours and if no problems develop, we should finish on Wednesday, but need to plan for Thursday in case we have a delay. We will schedule two shifts, 8am to 2pm and 2pm to 8pm. The tasks per shift will be: 2 people to run Yanmar machines, 1 to run loading tractor, 2 to spot where gravel is dumped and crudely level with rakes so hikers can easily walk, and 1 or 2 to block traffic when the road is crossed with machines. So we need 6 to 7 people per shift. It is likely that you can switch jobs during your shift. About 52 work-slots need to be filled. Round Bald is such a great place to be that you might want to consider taking a day of vacation to help. Also, it will solve a lot of headaches if someone can stay with the machines over night. You can car camp or possibly even tent camp right at Carver's Gap. Anyone interested in star gazing from Carver's Gap for at least a night? Contact [Carl](#) if you are interested in helping with this huge project.

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



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 at Warrior's Path State Park and one day on the Lower Nolichucky River. The cost is \$75 which includes ACA event membership

(\$5) and APE membership (\$10). As in the past, there will be a strong emphasis on safety. Participants are responsible for providing their own gear and transportation, although loaner gear is available on a first-come basis. Click [here](#) for more information and the registration form. **Registration is due by July 6th.**

Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course, July 27-29, 2012

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. The cost is \$85 for TEHCC members plus two nights camping at \$10 each paid to Riverpark Campground. **The TEHCC Steering Committee has approved a \$40 refund for club members upon successful completion of this course.** The course will be held on the Nolichucky River. Click [here](#) for more information or to register. **The registration and payment deadline is July 20th.**

If there is enough interest, an Intermediate Whitewater Kayak Course and/or Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Course can be scheduled for August. If interested, please contact Scott Fisher, 276-698-4644 or tfisher1@its.jnj.com.

F/B Hike: Little Stony Creek Falls, Sunday July 29, 2012

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

Little Stony Creek Trail in the Jefferson National Forest near Dungannon, VA follows an old railroad bed up to a very nice plunge waterfall. The Friday Hikers reported in May that the trail is now passable after removal of many blowdowns from the Winter 2009 storm. I consider this hike to be one of my favorites in the area. Bring water, a snack, comfortable boots or sneakers, rain gear, bug spray, and towel if you plan on briefly wading at the falls. Let's leave at 1pm from the parking lot below McDonalds in Colonial Heights for the hour drive (40 miles). Trailhead sign says "2.6 mi" to the upper falls. We'll search for a few small geocaches, while also mapping and photographing the trail. For further information, check the [trail wiki](#) or call/e-mail the hike leader.



For the Record

F/B: Bays Mountain Park Antenna, May 27, 2012

Barry Griggs reporting

The warm sun filtered through the trees as our dedicated group of hikers made its way along this relatively easy 4.85-mile round-trip hike. Our hike started at the Bays Mountain Nature Center and ended with an overview of Kingsport from the antennas atop the mountain. We could identify places like Church Circle and Holston Valley Medical Center and of course, the Big "E." After a brief rest and snack on top, my five-year-old assistant hike leader, helped me lead the group back with a stopover at the animal pens. Hikers were: Serita Blankenbecler, Sharon Burnette and granddaughter Kayden, Beverly Griggs, Barry Griggs.

Rock Creek Falls (Erwin) – June 17, 2012

Vic Hasler reporting



A warm summer afternoon was enjoyed hiking up along the very shaded Rock Creek to view its two waterfalls. Being dry for the past week, the four stream crossings were easy “rock hoppers.” The trail was in very good condition. White rhododendron blooms filled some areas. The recreation area was very busy with Fathers’ Day gatherings with roughly a dozen folks of all ages hiking this “medium” difficulty trail. On this Sunday trek were Aaron Kelly and Vic Hasler.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 4/1/2012

Purpose: Clear fallen branches, remove trash from shelter

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I removed fallen branches and small trees from trail; nothing large, as it could all be handled with loppers and handsaw. I also removed a lot of trash from the barn.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 4/27/2012

Purpose: Cut brush and replace board in Overmountain Shelter

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Lyndsey Smith

Summary: Lyndsey and I replaced a missing board in Overmountain Shelter. I also used a string trimmer to cut brush, weeds and briars from the barn to Bradley Gap. The grasses are not too high despite the recent rains and warm temperatures, but it looks like it will be a banner year for briars!

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 5/1/2012

Purpose: Cut brush

Location: Section 14a, Stan Murray shelter to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I cut brush (mostly briars) through most of section, and also removed trash from the barn.

Reporting: Tim Stewart

Date: 5/1/2012

Purpose: Finish new trail

Location: Section 11a, Dennis Cove Rd

People: Tim Stewart, Bob Peoples

Summary: Bob and I made some final touches to the new relocation at Dennis Cove Road. We installed a waterbar, painted blazes, and placed leaf debris on the new trail. We also scraped the old blazes and trashed the old trail with limbs to prevent hikers from hiking on it.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 5/13/2012

Purpose: Cut brush

Location: Section 14a, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore, Shannon Carmichael

Summary: We cut brush (again, mostly briars!) over the entire section. We removed trash from the Stan Murray Shelter and the barn. It rained the entire time, but was still a good day out.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 5/25/2012

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 14b, Overmountain Shelter to Little Hump

People: Lynn DiFiore, Mike Brickell

Summary: We used a string trimmer and loppers to cut grass and other brush encroaching into the trail clearing limits. We hoped to make it all the way to Bradley Gap, but underestimated the amount of mixed fuel needed. A lot of hikers have been out as evidenced by the amount of trash removed from the barn.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 5/26/2012

Purpose: Clear trail

Location: Section 14a, Bradley Gap to Stan Murray

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: We used a string trimmer to complete brushing from Little Hump to Bradley Gap. We also cut from Overmountain to Stan Murray. The weeds have really taken off in this section. Many hikers have been out and two bags of trash were removed from the barn.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 5/29 and 5/31/2012

Purpose: Rehab treadway

Location: Section 20a, North end of section near road and Nolichucky River

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I removed hump in trail that results in dangerously steep descent going north.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 5/30/2012

Purpose: Fix shelter floor, move privy and clean waterbars

Location: Section 14a, Near Overmountain Shelter

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Joe Bucki, Jim Chambers, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: We replaced about 15 assorted floor boards in Overmountain Shelter with old barn boards. The picnic table was refastened with screws because the nails in the legs were almost free. We cleaned the waterbars north of the shelter and the water diversions south of the shelter. After six years it was necessary to convene the privy council. The privy was full to ground level and had to be relocated. Another 5' x 4' x 4' deep pit was dug. It was lined with old barn boards. Many screws in the floor had weakened or broken due to corrosion. Some of the boards were replaced and new screws were added. A new seat was added to top this creation.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 6/2/2012

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Section 12c, Just south of Jones Falls side-trail to north of the Elk River

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I cut five blowdowns, two of which were serious obstructions, one near the Jones Falls side trail and one just north of Sugar Hollow Creek. Thanks to Howard and Faye Guinn and Scott Vandam for reporting them. I also cut annual growth with a weed whacker. A powered weed trimmer is needed for more serious clearing along the Elk River.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 6/3/2012

Purpose: Clear trailside undergrowth

Location: Section 20b, South end of section near Spivey Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: The vegetative overgrowth was cleared for about 1/2 mile.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/4/2012

Purpose: Summer Maintenance

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

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

Summary: We mowed weeds and dug out waterbars from Iron Mountain Gap to Weedy Gap. We also painted blue blazes to the spring in the orchard.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/4/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 12c, Just north of Campbell Hollow Road

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: I cut weeds from Campbell Hollow Rd to bridge creek crossing.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/4/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 12d, Campbell Hollow Road to US19E

People: Joe Bucki, Carl Fritz, Ed Oliver, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart, Mike Tuttle

Summary: On a beautiful day with a high of 67°F, the Tuesday crew cut the weeds, multiflora rose, and briars on this entire section. ATV traffic appears significantly less than several years ago. One major blowdown containing green briar was removed above Bishop Hollow. The blazes are in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/4/2012

Purpose: Clean waterbars

Location: Section 13a, First mile south of US19E

People: Carl Fritz

Summary: I cleaned all the waterbars (31) on the 19E end of this section.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/5/2012

Purpose: Trail maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

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

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/5/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds

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

People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster, Pat Loven

Summary: Ken, Pat, and Jim cut the weeds on Jim's adopted section with swing blades. There is a large blowdown to be removed on a future trip.

Reporting: Craig Haire
Date: 6/5 and 6/8/2012
Purpose: Rehab treadway
Location: Section 20a, North end of section near road and Nolichucky River
People: Craig Haire
Summary: I leveled out about 200 feet of out-sloped trail.

Reporting: Bill Berry
Date: 6/8/2012
Purpose: Cut weeds, clear trail
Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek to half way to No Business Knob Shelter
People: Bill Berry
Summary: I cut weeds along the trail.

Reporting: Craig Haire
Date: 6/12/2012
Purpose: Rehab treadway
Location: Section 20b, North end of section near road and Nolichucky River
People: Craig Haire
Summary: I leveled out 100 more feet of trail, put in a turnout, and created steps on a steep section.

Reporting: Jim Foster
Date: 6/13/2012
Purpose: Cut blowdown
Location: Section 16a, 0.3 mile trail north of Greasy Creek Gap
People: Ken Buchanan, Jim Foster
Summary: Ken and I cut a large blowdown that was causing hikers to have to go off trail.

Reporting: Jim Chambers
Date: 6/14/2012
Purpose: Trail Maintenance
Location: Section 2a, Backbone Rock Trail to Abingdon Gap Shelter
People: Jim Chambers
Summary: I cut brush and lopped on the northern end of my section. I stayed primarily on the northern end of my section as I ran out of fuel for my brush cutter. I would really appreciate it if someone could email driving directions to McQueens Gap, so I could have better access to the southern end of my section without having to use the Backbone Rock Trail. Also, there is a huge blowdown at the top of the Backbone Rock Trail.

Reporting: Craig Haire
Date: 6/14/2012
Purpose: Rehab treadway
Location: Section 20a, North end of section near road
People: Craig Haire
Summary: I leveled out more trail and put in steps at top of the first short switchback.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach
Date: 6/15/2012
Purpose: Maintain Grassy Ridge Trail
Location: Section 14b, Grassy Ridge Trail and a bit on the AT
People: Joe DeLoach
Summary: I performed annual maintenance on the Grassy Ridge Trail, which consisted mostly of lopping alder, mountain ash, and blackberries. The sign at the junction with the AT is gone; rocks have been piled up to make a cairn. The rhododendrons were past their peak, but the flame azalea were beautiful and Gray's lilies are starting to bloom.

Reporting: Collins Chew
Date: 6/15/2012
Purpose: Measure relocation length

Location: Section 15b, Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap

People: Olin Babb, Collins Chew, Robert Harvey, Lowell Toof

Summary: We rolled the trail from Cloudland Hotel to Hughes Gap and mapped it with GPS to record the new relocation near the top. The mileage increased by about 0.1 mile.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: 6/15/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds and clear trail

Location: Section 20b, Devils Creek to No Business Knob Shelter

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I cut weeds and removed one blowdown.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 6/16/2012

Purpose: Third-Saturday Maintenance

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

People: Mary Fanslow, Lynn DiFiore, Gerald Scott, Lyndsey Smith, Harold Wexler, and Monika Wiedmann

Summary: With our best Third-Saturday Maintenance turnout so far this year we split into two groups, one heading south from Walnut Mountain Road and the other north from the Elk River. Both groups painted blazes, cut and lopped annual growth, and removed blowdowns with hand tools. A large bag of trash was carried out from the Mountaineer Falls Shelter, and more trash was picked up along Walnut Mountain Road. Thanks to everyone for helping maintain the AT!

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 6/16/2012

Purpose: Mow Trail through field

Location: Section 12c, Along the Elk River

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary:

After dropping off the other Third-Saturday maintainers for work between Sugar Hollow Creek and Walnut Mountain Road, I used a motorized weed trimmer to cut the grass along the Elk River. I met several hikers, one of whom was with a man who had fallen and was injured at Jones Branch Falls. I later gave them directions to return to Walnut Mountain Road and Mountaineer Falls Shelter. I was delayed on the way out for close to an hour with vehicles blocking the gate at Elk River Falls.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/16/2012

Purpose: Summer Maintenance

Location: Section 18, Deep Gap to Beauty Spot

People: Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds at Deep Gap and cut weeds to spring, mowed the open area at Beauty Spot Gap, and mowed from the fire ring on Beauty Spot to the spring just north of Beauty Spot. We also picked up trash at all three locations.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 6/17 and 6/19/2012

Purpose: Rehab treadway

Location: Section 20a, north end of section near road and Nolichucky River

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I reworked switchback 1000 feet from road.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/19/2012

Purpose: Cut Autumn Olive

Location: Section 11a, Trail south of Dennis Cove

People: Paul Benfield, John Botts, Jim Chambers, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Reuben Potter, Tim Stewart, Mike Tuttle

Summary: The Tuesday Crew and Reuben cut back the Autumn Olive, an invasive shrub, along the southern section of the AT. Reuben applied an herbicide to the cut shrubs. They also opened another short relocation. Since it was a hot day and blueberries were ripe, the club members exited the work area early to investigate the berries.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/20/2012

Purpose: Summer Mowing

Location: Section 17, Iron Mountain Gap to FS230 Switchback

People: Faye Guinn, Howard Guinn, Ernie Hartford, Tim Manning, Bruce Darby, David Douthat, Daryl Loyd, Lana Scott, David McMillin, Susan Peters, Jerry Jones, Lou Hasse, Sandie Burns, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds along trail, lopped branches, and picked up trash at camp sites and trail heads.

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 6/20/2012

Purpose: Rehab treadway

Location: Section 20a, south end of section near Temple Hill Gap

Summary: I leveled the treadway, installed steps in the steep sections, installed a turnout, and cleared out three turnouts.

Reporting: Jeff Hunter

Date: 6/22/2012

Purpose: Cut annual growth

Location: Section 6, Big Laurel Branch WSA from the southern boundary to just south of Iron Mountain Shelter

People: Jeff Hunter, Caara Stoney, Rick Foster, Kevin Dick, Amy Alexander, Ben Surface

Summary: We brushed out the Big Laurel Branch WSA today from the southern boundary of the WSA to the power line ROW just south of Iron Mtn Shelter. It looks great.

Reporting: Collins Chew

Date: 6/22/2012

Purpose: Measure relocations

Location: Section 9b, Hampton to Shook Branch

People: Collins Chew, Bob Harvey, Lowell Toof

Summary: We rolled and GPS'd the AT between the Braemar Blue Blaze Trail and Shook Branch to measure two relocations. The lower was 1207 feet and the upper was 1069 feet. The overall trail description need not be changed. We mapped the trail with the GPS.

Reporting: Phyllis Cairnes

Date: 6/23/2012

Purpose: Routine shelter maintenance

Location: Section 2b, Abingdon Gap Shelter

People: Phyllis Cairnes, Anna Sherrill

Summary: We checked water supply down the hill from the shelter; a stream about the size of a pencil was running constantly from the pipe. We picked up considerable trash stowed in several plastic bags and tossed a few feet from the shelter. We placed a new trail journal and attempted to shovel out the fire ring, but the ashes were still hot. Our noontime presence awakened a sleepy section-hiker languishing in his hammock inside the shelter.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 6/23/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: 13a, US19E to Doll Flats

People: Kevin Cooper, Jim Morse, Steve Perri

Summary: I was able to recruit a couple of people from church to cut weeds on my section. Both Jim and Kevin have been out before doing spring maintenance, but this was the first weed outing. We used scythes and cut up to Doll Flats. We also did minor lopping. Trail appears to be sloughing off in a few places above Wilder Mine Hollow. The Tuesday crew's work to clean out the waterbars was evident from the recent outing. We saw many section hikers on the trail this weekend and one thru-hiker.

Reporting: Bill Berry

Date: 6/23/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds and clear trail

Location: Section 20b, Spivey Gap to Devils Creek

People: Bill Berry

Summary: I cut weeds and cut out one blow down. Trail is clear and in good shape from Spivey Gap to No Buisness Knob thanks to all the hard work put in by Carl and his crew. Thanks! I will cut from Temple Hill to No Buisness Knob on 6/30.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 6/24/2012

Purpose: Clip along Hampton blue blaze access trail

Location: Section 10, Hampton blue blaze to Laurel Fork Falls

People: Vic Hasler

Summary: The encroaching rhododendron, briars, and trees were hand clipped along the blue-blaze access trail from US321 Hampton to Laurel Fork Falls. I met Bob Peoples with family at the falls for a nice discussion and picked up a bag of trash to haul out. I headed up the steps to return by the High-Water route which had significant growth into the hiking path, thus greatly benefited from the clipping. I removed trash from the fire pit at Laurel Fork Shelter and incorrectly took the path to the water source, thus doubled back to the right return to the AT and then the blue-blazed access to the very busy parking lot.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 6/25/2012

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds on the AT and the Accessible trail across the Osborne Farm. The cattle have again been turned on the pasture that includes the Accessible trail and are littering the trail with refuse.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 6/25/2012

Purpose: Summer Mowing

Location: Section 18, FS230 Switchback to Indian Grave Gap

People: Tim Manning, David Douthat, Ernie Hartford, Lou Haase, Howard Guinn, Daryl Loyd, Susan Peters, David McMillin, Lana Scott, Andrew Clelend, Sandie Burns, John Parks, Jerry Jones, Marsha Hupko, Mike Hupko

Summary: We mowed weeds, lopped overhanging limbs, and removed small branches from the trail. We picked up litter from the fire rings and parking areas.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/26/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 7, Vandeventer Shelter to Wilbur Dam Rd

People: John Botts, Ken Buchanan, Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Pat Loven, Kim Peters, Tim Spiegel

Summary: We cut all the weeds on this section including those to water source at Vandeventer Shelter. The water source as well as spring were flowing reasonably well. There are some easy blowdown step-overs that do not need to be removed.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 6/26/2012

Purpose: Clear relocation

Location: Backbone Rock Trail

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

Summary: In preparation for ASU Watauga Global Community outing, Paul, Jim, Ted and Ed marked off some work sections on a primary relocation. They also removed the blowdowns and did some lopping. After four years without disturbance, someone has meanly removed the flagging since last summer. Another trip is required to prepare for the students.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 6/27/2012

Purpose: Install warning sign at Jones Falls

Location: Section 12c, Jones Falls

People: Steve Perri, Tisha Perri

Summary: We hiked in to Jones Falls after accessing the way in from Elk Falls. We installed two signs to warn hikers not to climb out onto the falls since we have had several reports of people being injured from doing so. While the water flow is non-threatening and the steepness of the rock face is not intimidating, several injuries have occurred this year as people tend to climb out onto the rocks to get closer to the upper falls or to refresh themselves. We installed the first sign in the approach to the water falls on the blue

blaze which is yellow with black letters: "Caution Slippery When Wet." The second sign is white with blue letters hung on a tree, visible as approaching the falls. Visitors should still be able to take pictures without the sign in the scene. It says: "WATERFALLS ARE DANGEROUS! Several Injuries Have Occurred Here DO NOT CLIMB OUT ON ROCKS TO ANY PART OF FALLS."

Reporting: Craig Haire

Date: 6/27/2012

Purpose: Rehab treadway and clear trailside overgrowth

Location: Section 20a, south end of section near Temple Hill Gap

People: Craig Haire

Summary: I cleared trailside overgrowth from Temple Hill Gap to ridgeline, leveled out the trail in same area, and opened up six turnouts.