



The Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Paddling News

September 2012

tehcc.org

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From the Chair

Vic Hasler, Steering Committee Chair

Ready to put your skills to a different use? TEHCC is guided by a Steering Committee who informally manages the recreation club during lunchtime gatherings. Help decide what initiatives should the club pursue? We could use help figuring out how to best leverage technology. Have fun selecting a speaker and menu (yum!) for two dinner meetings. Interact with different groups to help increase our recreational opportunities. The time commitment is not big, but the difference you can make is! Contact a [current Steering Committee member](#) if you're available.

Appalachian Trail Community designation event in Abingdon

The Town of Abingdon joins the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club in cordially inviting you to participate in the official designation of Abingdon as an Appalachian Trail Community™. This event will take place in Abingdon, VA on September 11th at 6pm at the Abingdon Farmer's Market. Come out early to the Higher Education Center for a "Hikers and Bikers" presentation and hear from ATC's Executive Director, Mark Wenger, about his Appalachian Trail section hike. The presentation begins at 4pm. We'd love to celebrate with you and hope to see you on Tuesday, September 11th!



The Appalachian Trail Community™ program recognizes communities who are taking extra steps to promote and protect the Appalachian Trail. Designation as an Appalachian Trail Community™ is intended to:

- Engage community residents, Trail visitors, and stewards
- Thank communities for decades of service to hikers
- Catalyze sustainable economic development
- Aid local municipalities and regional areas with conservation planning
- Raise local awareness of the Trail as a community resource and asset

Please RSVP by September 1, 2012 to Tenille Montgomery (tmontgomery@abingdon-va.gov) 276-676-2282.

Fall Dinner Meeting – Friday, October 19th – See you there!

Starting at 5:30PM up at the Eastman Lodge, this evening will feature a meet and greet with the new ATC Executive Director Mark Wenger. Dinner will again be provided by Sugar & Spice Catering. Menu is spiral ham and jerk chicken, russet potatoes, grilled vegetables, salad, roll, cakes, and tea/coffee for \$15 inclusive. Reservation form will be in the October newsletter.

Relocation of Backbone Rock Trail with ASU

Carl Fritz reporting

The Watauga Global Community College of Appalachian State University (ASU) offers their incoming freshmen an optional orientation event to get acquainted with each other. For the twelfth consecutive year they have partnered with Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club (TEHCC) to do a trail maintenance event! Trail maintenance in groups provides many social opportunities in a work environment. On this Friday August 17, we started the first relocation of the Backbone Rock Trail just south of Damascus. Ninety seven students and five professors of Watauga College showed up in spite of a 70% prediction of rain (which did not materialize). And very importantly we had 17 club members and friends who helped acquaint the students with trail digging.

The trail relocation was about a half mile in from parking lot. We were somewhat unprepared for the many rocks encountered. Many were just under the duff. But everyone preserved within their physical capabilities to make a new trail. Except for a couple of random bee stings, we had a great day. Probably we completed the equivalent of about 1000 feet of trail. This first relocation totals over 2500 feet. 120 people put in 1085 hours.

Club members and friends participating were: Daryl Anderson, Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Richard Carter, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Pat Loven, Joe Morris, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, Kim Peters, Tim Stewart, India Watkins and Reuben Potter.

A Biennial Celebration at ATC Cullowhee 2013



Plans have been underway for over a year for the biennial celebration at ATC Cullowhee 2013. It will be held at Western Carolina University (WCU) July 19-26, 2013, in Cullowhee N.C. The five AT trail maintaining clubs in North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee have been working on all aspects of this event. TEHCC is responsible for organizing the workshops while other clubs are handling volunteers, hike selection, excursions, entertainment, housing, etc. We expect near 1000 people to attend this week long event.

Volunteering is fun. It is a great way to meet people, to learn something new, to really be a part of this event. You can volunteer to lead a hike or an excursion, moderate a workshop, or help at the information desk or registration to name just a few possibilities. Volunteering is easy, just complete the convenient online form at appalachiantrail.org/2013biennial and someone will contact you with more information.

On the same ATC web page, there is a list of all activities in the planning stages. As hikes, excursions, workshops and entertainment are finalized, this page will be updated with the latest info, so check back often.

Cullowhee is surrounded by beautiful mountains, with access to many hiking trails. There are opportunities for tent and RV camping, or you may stay in the air-conditioned dorms at WCU. There are also hotel and motel options nearby. Come for the whole week or the weekend or any number of days. Start planning a 2013 vacation at the biennial and plan to volunteer one of the days you are there.

And while you are thinking about the biennial, do you know a company that sells a product or service outdoor lovers use? Do you have a personal contact at a major corporation that is a potential sponsor for the biennial? If you have answered “yes” to both or either of those questions, you know a potential sponsor. Several sponsorship levels are available, each with different benefits. Let us know the future sponsor’s name by sending an email to Cullowhee2013sponsorship@gmail.com.

For more information, contact Joe DeLoach, joedelo@eastman.com or Steve Perri, sperry@eastman.com.



TEHCC Welcomes New Members

Sarah Bastian	Gary Elam	Hector Escobar
Becky Kinder	Christopher Osborne	Gayle Riddervold
Benjamin Barton	Dustin Nelson	Seth Pierson

Event Schedule

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

Date	Description	Leader	Contact
Sept 1	Watauga River Class I – II	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Sept 2	Warrior’s Path State Park - Devil's Backbone	Deb Reynolds	423-723-7017
Sept 6	Paddle to the Grill	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Sept 8	APE's Nolichucky Gorge 1st Timer's River Trip & Picnic	Wesley Bradley	423-647-1321
Sept 9	F/B: Persimmon Ridge Park	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388
Sept 15	French Broad Sec. 9 (Class II-III)	Debbie Briscoe	423-534-3636
Sept 15	Third Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!	Kim Peters	423-538-7665
Sept 23	Steele Creek Park, Bristol, TN – Trinkle Hollow Trails	Barry Griggs	423-239-5676
Oct 19	Fall Dinner Meeting	Vic Hasler	423-239-0388

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!

3rd Saturday Maintenance – Hiking with Tools!

Contact: [Kim Peters](#), 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.

Scheduled Events

Watauga Class I-II, September 1, 2012

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@trenton.org), 423-534-3636

The put-in is at Riverside Park in Elizabethton behind the Ballpark at 3PM unless there is water elsewhere. Call first to check and see if it's on!

Also we stop for a break about half way down, so don't forget your snacks! We are usually off the water by 7:00 pm or so and then we can go for Mexican Food in town.

Please be prepared for cold water and wear appropriate gear.

Warrior's Path State Park - Devil's Backbone, September 2, 2012

Contact: [Deb Reynolds](mailto:Deb.Reynolds@trenton.org), 423-723-7017

This is a great for a short hike with a good workout. It is used by locals to train for the AT to simulate the hills although on this hike the elevation is for short distances. It runs between the golf course and Patrick Henry Lake and has 2 very nice lookouts. We will only go as far as the bridge (0.8 miles) and turn around. We will meet at 1:30pm at the start on Fall Creek Road just after crossing the bridge over Patrick Henry Lake. Bring some water and hiking sticks if you have them. Leader will be Deb Reynolds, 423-723-7017 or debreynolds0@gmail.com.

Paddle to the Grill, September 6, 2012

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@trenton.org), 423-534-3636

Bring your recreation or touring kayak/canoe to meet with The Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts and TEHCC. We will launch at "Davis Dock" (641 Buffalo Road, Blountville) and paddle to "Boone Docks Restaurant" located at Boone Lake Marina in Piney Flats for dinner & a social hour then paddle back.

As we will be paddling back during low or no light, please have a stern light for your boat. PFD's are mandatory.

APE's Nolichucky Gorge 1st Timer's River Trip & Picnic, September 8, 2012

Contact: [Wesley Bradley](mailto:Wesley.Bradley@trenton.org), 423-647-1321

The APE's will be offering river trips on both the Gorge and the Lower Noli! We also have some tasty food being catered for the picnic and even a shuttle bus lined up for the Gorge Trip! This event will be a big boomin' fun that you don't want to miss. Click on this [link](#) for all the event info.

F/B: Persimmon Ridge Park, Sunday September 9, 2012

Leader: [Vic Hasler](mailto:Vic.Hasler@trenton.org) (423-239-0388)

Let's explore the trails in the Jonesborough city park. There are three routes which were constructed as Eagle Scout projects. There is no record in the club newsletters of TEHCC having hiked here, so a Sunday afternoon expedition is in order. The distance will be 3-4 miles depending on group preferences which is suitable for family/beginners – and dogs on leashes. There are a half dozen easy geocaches to find if interested. Hikers can either meet at 1PM in the parking lot below McDonalds in Colonial Heights to carpool – or at the park entrance by 1:30PM. Bring water, snack, and comfortable footwear. We should finish up by late afternoon. Please call or e-mail the hike leader to know of your interest and where you want to meet.

French Broad Sec. 9 (Class II-III), September 15, 2012

Contact: [Debbie Briscoe](mailto:Debbie.Briscoe@trenton.org), 423-534-3636

I will be camping in Hot Springs the whole weekend so anyone is welcome to join me. I'll be running the river with some friends on Saturday, Sept. 15th meeting at Stack House at 11:00AM. This is a little harder than the Lower Nolichucky but the water is warm. The most significant rapid is The Big Pillow that is a low Class III.

Steele Creek Park, Bristol, TN – Trinkle Hollow Trails, Sunday, September 23, 2012

Leader: [Barry Griggs](mailto:Barry.Griggs@trenton.org), 423-239-5676

Let's combine several park trails in the Trinkle Hollow area to enjoy a total distance of 4-5 miles. These trails are on the south side of the lake behind the Nature Center and are rated intermediate with lots of shade. The leaves may even be starting to change colors by the hike date. We'll meet between McDonald's and State of Franklin Bank in Colonial Heights at 1:00pm expecting to finish up by 4:00pm. Please call the hike leader to let him know you are coming or to arrange an alternate meeting location, such as at the park at a different time.



For the Record

Basic Swiftwater Rescue Course, July 27-29, 2012

Scott Fisher reporting

We had an exceptional SWR class out at Big Rock!! Congrats to the participants for doing the right thing by making the safety of their fellow paddlers and themselves a priority by taking this class. Please join me in congratulating Jeremiah Tomlinson, Steve Hagood, Stacey Lowe, Pema Olivia Bhutia, Nicolas Machi, Ian Watson, Todd Emma, Nathan Vannoy, Josh Lawson, Kim Lawson Hayden Blake, Aaron Hillman and Ben Carr. As always, the course was demanding, tiring and fun!

Big thanks go out to Wes Bradley, Dave Walters, Jeremy Gass and Jeff Vannoy for lending their time and expertise as assistant instructors! Without their help these courses wouldn't be possible.

Clinch River, August 8, 2012

Deb Reynolds reporting

I took advantage of one of the guided tours for the Highland Festivals to take a trip on the Clinch. The trip was led by [Clinch Valley Outfitters](#). Although, I used my own kayak, I wish I had paid the extra \$5 and used their equipment – less work getting there and getting out. I was impressed with the selection and quality of their kayaks. The river was high that day and very few rocks except at the put-in which was close to Fort Blackmore. We stopped several times for Bill to talk about how the diversity of the eco-system or specific historical events with an opportunity to get out and walk a bit if needed. Bill was raised in Scott County and loves sharing his knowledge of the ecosystem and the history surrounding the Clinch Valley. We saw several blue and green heron as well as the usual geese but not as many birds as I expected. As usual, the end of the trip came too fast and we were soon climbing out of the kayaks for the trip back. The trip out was quite a long haul up a mountain and probably required a 4-wheel or all-wheel drive, but we didn't have to drive it! We came out on Rt. 72 just a short distance from where we went down for the put-in with the Veterans Memorial in between. I was very impressed with this outfitter and will keep them in mind for a future shuttle.

Erwin Greenbelt, August 19, 2012

Mary Fanslow reporting



Sharon Burnett, Mary Fanslow and Pam McBride

Sharon Burnett, Pam McBride, Scott Thomsen, and Mary Fanslow enjoyed a six-mile stroll on the Erwin Linear Trail on Sunday, August 19. Dozens of snapping turtles at the bass ponds and a few great blue heron along Indian Creek also took advantage of the weather to sun themselves. We walked from the trail parking lot behind McDonald's to the park adjacent to the fish hatchery, then reversed course to the wooden bridge over the wetlands. One of us took occasional detours from the group to inspect "interesting non-wildlife" near the trail (mechanical equipment and machinery from nearby demolition and building sites). Another one stayed after the others left to jog eight miles on the path, continuing on out to the Riverwalk area. We all agreed the Linear Trail was worth a repeat visit.



AT Maintenance Reports

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 06/14/2012

Purpose: Pick up trash at Overmountain Shelter

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I removed trash from the Barn while taking some friends hiking. The battery recycling container is doing well as it was half

full of AAs. I've found a lot of empty fuel containers lately.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 06/29/2012

Purpose: Brushing

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

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: I used a swingblade and loppers to brush from the Barn to Stan Murray. I removed trash from both shelters.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 07/24/2012

Purpose: Remove trash from Overmountain Shelter

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain Shelter

People: Lynn DiFiore

Summary: Torrential rains kept us from doing any trail work, so I removed the last of the Fourth of July trash from the Barn.

Reporting: Lynn DiFiore

Date: 07/29/2012

Purpose: Lop and cut briars

Location: Section 14a, Overmountain shelter to Bradley Gap

People: Lynn DiFiore, Shawn Miller

Summary: We removed trash, including several shredded tarps, from the Barn. We lopped overhead branches, cleared three blowdowns (small trees and limbs), and pruned briar "trees."

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 07/29/2012

Purpose: Maintain section

Location: Section 15a, Carvers Gap to Cloudland

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I chose to maintain my section before working with the Konnarock Crew on rehab below Cloudland, and found plenty to do between Carvers Gap and the Hack Line. Even with a pretty early start I didn't get to the Hack Line until after noon. Fortunately there were no blowdowns, but lots of briars and other annual growth sticking into the Trail. I was told that the Roan High Knob Shelter and surrounding area was trashed, but was thrilled to find that Kent and Nancy Wilson had hauled out the trash the day before, leaving the shelter and area in excellent shape - thanks Kent and Nancy!!! The Konnarock Crew worked a long day and I finally made it to work with the Crew.

Reporting: Bill Hodge

Date: 07/30/2012

Purpose: Cut reported blow-downs from July 1st storm

Location: Section 6, Big Laurel Wilderness

People: Bobby Berry, Scotty Bowman, James Lautzenheiser

Summary: We removed about a dozen trees, including a few between Vandeventer Shelter and Wilbur Dam Road.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 08/01/2012

Purpose: Cut very large blowdown on the trail

Location: Section 1, One mile south of Backbone Rock Trail

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: Mount Rogers Outfitters reported to Carl Fritz that there was a very large blowdown obstructing the trail one mile south of the Backbone Rock intersection. I hiked up to see just how bad it was. There was a cluster of three large trees that had fallen across the trail, which was making things very tough on hikers. Carl informed me that we will remove these trees on Saturday. There were also some new blowdowns on the Backbone Rock Trail that I am sure we'll remove Saturday.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 08/02/2012

Purpose: Trail Maintenance

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm fence to Shelter

People: Paul Benfield

Summary: I removed six blowdowns from the trail and cut weeds along the trail on both sides. One stepover will be removed on the next trip. All springs and water sources are running full. I need to mow the trail through the back field at Osborne Farm next trip.

Reporting: Anna Hackler

Date: 08/03/2012

Purpose: Pick up trash and clip weeds

Location: Section 10, Hampton trailhead to Dennis Cove Road

People: Anna Hackler, Andrew Scott, Kelly Weaver

Summary: We gathered up two large bags of trash from the Hampton blue-blaze (HBB) area and the Shook Branch parking area. We clipped a lot of weeds on the HBB. We will go back to finish the trash pickup along the camp areas of Shook Branch. We had to stop because of a thunderstorm.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 08/03/2012

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 19a, Trail north of Curley Maple Gap Shelter

People: John Beaudet, Jim Foster

Summary: John and I scouted the trail from USA Raft to Indian Grave Gap and removed several small and one large blowdown. The trail is open and in good shape.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 08/04/2012

Purpose: Clear blowdowns

Location: Sections 2a and 2b, McQueen's Gap to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Tim Stewart

Summary: We cleared blowdowns from McQueen's Gap to almost Backbone Rock. Jim had scouted from Backbone Rock Trail on Wednesday to find the reported blowdowns. We found the local storm had caused a lot more damage. There were several large limbs broken onto the trail and about a mile north of Backbone Rock Trail there were a series of massive blowdowns. One mess of trees had completely blocked the trail and hikers were having to climb the sidehill about 50 feet to get around. We spent about 2½ hours sawing just in the concentrated area. We also cleaned some water bars. The trail is clear from McQueen's Gap to Backbone Rock Trail.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 08/04/2012

Purpose: Clean hardhats and deliver tools

Location: My house and Carl's

People: Joe DeLoach

Summary: I cleaned all the hardhats in my possession, including the brow bands. I also delivered tools from previous outings to Carl's house to get ready for the ASU outing.

Reporting: Steve Perri

Date: 08/05/2012

Purpose: AT Committee Meeting

Location: Kingsport

People: Joe DeLoach, Ted Mowery, Carl Fritz, Mike Hupko, Paul Benfield, Bob Peoples, Ed Oliver, Vic Hasler, Tim Stewart, Steve Perri

Summary: The AT Committee met to discuss project plans, grants, work logistics, upcoming meetings, training, and opportunities for replacing people who are rotating out of positions. We have one more week of Konnarock (8/11 and 8/12) for work trail-south of Cloudland. Next year we have four weeks assigned, but will consider donating one week if another trail club really needs one. We have submitted a Konnarock project for 2017 for Cross Mountain, but we may need to submit a BE for the USFS separately. We have a large project with ASU on Aug 17th working on Backbone Rock blue-blaze trail. We will not be cutting vertical trees in this relo. Working with the USFS, we will assist NC rescue orgs to identify access routes to the AT for emergencies. We'll also work with the USFS and ATC to get their input/recommendations for hospitals nearest to various road crossings for future projects. Hard Core in 2013 will be working on White Rocks Mountain one day and on Cloudland the next day. Bob Peoples offered his hostel for overnight accommodations. We reviewed our list of grant-funded projects and are working to reconcile remaining payments for reimbursements. We will provide recommendations to ATC through the Southern Regional Office for projects to fund in 2013. Our priority would be to have a Ridgerunner or Naturalist for the Roan Mtn area. We deferred doing Cherry Gap Shelter rehab another year. We would recommend consideration of funds in 2013 to purchase materials for the Koonford Bridge, but we think it will take more than a year to align the design and contract for supervision (maybe Dave Hardy of VTATC). Vic Hasler and Kim Peters will be attending the ATC Leadership Workshop in Shepherdstown, 8/10-8/12. They were provided with funds to attend through ATC. We are discussing with AT partners the proposal for TEHCC to turn over maintenance responsibilities from the VA state line into Damascus to simplify interactions. Planning for the biennial meeting at WCU in 2013 is ongoing. Joe reported progress on getting ideas, contacts and commitments for workshops. He has about 42 workshops in 7 tracks committed, out of a target of 72 workshops.

We made a list of agenda items for the partnership meeting on Oct 17th. Abingdon is the next nearby town to be designated as an AT Trail Community (Sept 11). We reviewed the trail reports for trail conditions due to recent storms bringing down trees. We need to assess impacts of blowdowns and growth of weeds. The committee agreed to use Mark Wenger's visit during the Fall dinner meeting, Oct 19th, for recognition of ATC's 75th anniversary. This year is TEHCC's 65th year of AT responsibility. We discussed the idea of purchasing T-shirts; synthetic shirts seem more popular than cotton. We have needs to ID a new field editor for the guidebook (to gather mileage, GPS and other data) to replace Collins and a new person to replace Joe on the RPC.

Recently, we received notification that the family of Dawn Cope requests that TEHCC help gather notations from shelter logbooks written by Dwight and Dagan Cope who drowned in Laurel Falls on July 4th. According to their trip plan, they hiked from Spivey Gap to Laurel Falls between June 26 and July 4th. Anyone who may be able to hike in and gather the logbooks or take a photo of their entries, please gather the info and turn it in to Steve Perri or Vic Hasler. Their trail names were Whitey (father) and Red Headed Stranger (son). The shelters we need data from are: No Business Knob, Cherry Gap, Curley Maple Gap, Clyde Smith, Roan High Knob, Stan Murray, Overmountain, Mountaineer Falls, and Moreland Gap.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 08/07/2012

Purpose: Repair steps and clear relocation

Location: Backbone Rock Trail

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Dave Clark, Jim Foster, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Ed Oliver, Bob Peoples, India Watkins

Summary: Dave, Bob, and Ken added some steps near the top of the rock steps by removing roots and breaking the underlying rocks plus installing some log steps. The others continued to lop and clear blowdowns from the relocation as well as from the existing trail.

Reporting: Brian Paley

Date: 08/07/2012

Purpose: Maintenance

Location: Section 8, US321 Shook Branch to beyond campsites

People: Brian Paley

Summary: I trimmed weeds from US321 at Shook Branch to the Forestry Service gate. I also hauled out four large bags of trash from the campsites by the lake.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 08/07/2012

Purpose: Compact gravel

Location: Section 14b, Round Bald to Carvers Gap

People: Jim Chambers, Carl Fritz, Joe Morris, Tim Stewart

Summary: With David Quillen's advice and compactor, we double-pass compacted all of the new gravel. After hauling the compactor to Round Bald on a hand truck, we started the unit and did not shut it off except once to check fuel. The unit required two of us to operate and we had to alternate frequently because of the upward slope. The wider sections of trail required six to eight rounds. The gravel leveled and compacted very well. This completes the two-year Round Bald gravel project! Much of it was funded with North Carolina Appalachian Trail License Plate funds.

Reporting: David Dunham

Date: 08/09/2012

Purpose: Routine maintenance

Location: Section 8, Wilbur Dam Road to south of the Dam

People: David Dunham, Carol Dunham

Summary: We cut weeds just south of Watauga Dam and cut multiflora rose along that section of the trail. We inspected an enormous blowdown 0.4 miles south of Watauga Dam. We attempted to cut out some of it, but had to give up; it was much too thick for us to handle. I asked Carl to send a crew in to clean it up.

Reporting: Paul Benfield

Date: 08/09/2012

Purpose: Mow trail

Location: Section 4b, Osborne Farm

People: Paul Benfield, Ted Mowery

Summary: We mowed and trimmed weeds on the trail across the Osborne Farm, and removed one blowdown just north of the Osborne Farm rear fence. Mike Rice needs to spray the Accessible Trail by fall. The cows have broken three of the blazed posts on the Accessible Trail and loosened one on the rear field; all four need to be replaced. There is a short section of the Accessible Trail that is eroded and needs to be rehabbed.

Reporting: Jim Foster

Date: 08/11/2012

Purpose: Trim trail and check for blowdowns

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

People: Ed Oliver, Bruce Darby, Jim Foster

Summary: Bruce and I started at Greasy Creek Gap and cleared trail to Hughes Gap with the help of Ed who started at Hughes Gap. Some lopping and several small blowdowns were cleared. We also re-trimmed the weeds in several areas where they were coming back due to the recent heavy rains.

Reporting: Vic Hasler

Date: 08/11/2012

Purpose: ATC Leadership Conference

Location: Shepherdstown, WV

People: Vic Hasler, Kim Peters

Summary: We participated in ATC Leadership Conference, the first in ten years. Most of the maintaining clubs were represented. Various aspects of the trail and supporting programs were reviewed. A significant and active discussion was held on appealing to the values of different generations in recruiting volunteers. The ongoing and evolving roles of trail clubs were shared by the participants.

Reporting: David Dunham

Date: 08/13/2012

Purpose: Remove blowdowns

Location: Section 8, South of Watauga Dam

People: Brian Paley, Ken Buchanan, Dave Dunham

Summary: We removed a large blowdown that consisted of the tops of several trees approximately three-tenths mile from Watauga Dam. We picked up two large bags of trash from around Shook Branch.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 08/14/2012

Purpose: Repair steps at Backbone Rock

Location: Backbone Rock Trail at parking lot

People: Paul Benfield, Ken Buchanan, Ted Mowery, Brian Paley, Bob Peoples, Tim Stewart

Summary: The Tuesday crew finished major repairs to 130 steps at Backbone Rock parking lot. They added some steps with locust logs, rocks, or by chipping out existing rock.

Reporting: Jim Chambers

Date: 08/15/2012

Purpose: Check section

Location: Section 2, McQueen's Gap to Backbone Rock Trail

People: Jim Chambers

Summary: I hiked my section of trail to get a firm handle on things since we removed numerous blowdowns two weeks ago. Some lopping and weed whacking need to be done, and the downhill section just north of Abingdon Gap Shelter needs a water diversion or two. Also, I need to add a few more blazes. I removed beer cases and trash from the turnout at McQueen's Gap. Upon completion, I drove into Damascus whereupon the guys at MRO said that hikers reported a blowdown between the state line and Damascus.

Reporting: Garry S Luttrell

Date: 08/15/2012

Purpose: Cut weeds

Location: Section 15b, Hughes Gap to Beartown Mtn

People: Emmet Dougherty, Gether Irick, Garry Luttrell

Summary: Reports of an over abundance of weeds in the lower part of Section 15b were true, even on the newer relocations. Emmet, Gether, and Garry spent the day cutting weeds from Hughes Gap to Beartown Mtn. There were no blowdowns and no other work to be done, except weed whacking. The relocations are great, but we'll need to keep our eye on the weeds.

Reporting: Joe Morris

Date: 08/16/2012

Purpose: Remove standing water

Location: Section 14b, Engine Gap

People: Joe Morris

Summary: I added additional drainage to the work done 07/27/2012 by the Konnarock Crew and TEHCC volunteers at Engine Gap. Also, I removed the berm created by the previous team and reworked that drainage outlet.

Reporting: Mike Hupko

Date: 08/16/2012

Purpose: Check trail for fall maintenance

Location: Section 17, Cherry Gap to Indian Grave Gap

People: Howard Guinn, Mike Hupko

Summary: We replaced the Cherry Gap Shelter register, cleaned out the ditch in front of the shelter and picked up trash. We removed six small trees from the trail and checked weed growth at Deep Gap, Beauty Spot Gap and Beauty Spot. Deep Gap and Beauty Spot Gap will need fall mowing. We removed trash at Beauty Spot. The berm/rockwork at the Beauty Spot parking area looked good.

Reporting: Kim Peters

Date: 08/18/2012

Purpose: 3rd Saturday Maintenance

Location: Section 9a and 9b, Hampton trailhead to US 321

People: Terry Oldfield, Phyllis Cairnes, Kim Peters, Lynn DiFiore, Vic Hasler

Summary: Another great 3rd Saturday trip! This one was over Pond Mountain. After leaving a car at Shook Branch, we started in at the Hampton blue-blaze and made our way to the intersection with the AT. Here we started refreshing blazes, clipping weeds and woody growth and clearing blowdowns. One large 18-20" blowdown was found just north of the Hampton blue-blaze which was too big for our saw and was hard to negotiate on steep side-hill. Lynn said she would contact Reuben Potter with the Forest Service about it and he went out later to clear that for us - thanks Reuben! We continued up to near where the last relo done by Hard Core started. Here Lynn and Vic had to turn back due to time constraints, but the rest of us continued on. The rock work done by Hard Core was spectacular! We worked to the top of Pond Mt. near the pond where we found a large amount of trash at a campsite. This included a discarded tarp or tent and clothing as well as a plastic 5 gallon bucket. We were not prepared to carry this out so left it for a later trip. The trail down the north side of Pond Mt. was in good shape so we made much better time hiking out only having to stop to clear a few small blowdowns.

Reporting: Joe DeLoach

Date: 08/19/2012

Purpose: Retrieve Shelter register and do routine maintenance

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

People: Lynn DiFiore, Joe DeLoach

Summary: We retrieved and replaced the Overmountain Shelter register and noticed that the first entry was from the hikers who drowned at Laurel Falls. Their family requested that we provide their register entries to them; reading it was poignant and sad. While at the Barn we encountered the Wright State students who will be working with us on Tuesday. We went on to Stan Murray Shelter, clipping briars and hawthorn along the way. There was no register in the Stan Murray Shelter; we left one. The Trail was in good shape. A huge house is being built on the slopes of Big Yellow Mountain and is plainly visible from the Barn.

Reporting: Carl Fritz

Date: 08/28/2012

Purpose: Dig relocation

Location: Section 15b, Near Cloudland

People: Joe Bucki, Richard Carter, Jim Foster, Carl Fritz, Frank Klein, Pat Loven, Ted Mowery, Bill Murdoch, Bob Peoples, "Roman Wall"

Summary: We added some crush and fill to relocation we opened during Hard Core. We also completed the small relocation just south of that and opened it.